

## CITATION

**WEST COLONSAY SEABIRD CLIFFS  
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**  
Argyll and Bute

Site code: 1606

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NR 370970

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 61  
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 354

AREA: 43.3 hectares

## NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

<b>Biological:</b>	<b>Coastlands:</b>	<b>Maritime cliff</b>
	<b>Birds:</b>	<b>Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>), breeding</b>
		<b>Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>), breeding</b>
		<b>Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>), breeding</b>
		<b>Seabird colony, breeding</b>

## DESCRIPTION

West Colonsay Seabird Cliffs SSSI lies approximately 4 km north-west of Scalasaig on the island of Colonsay. The site contains one of the best examples of maritime cliff in Islay, Jura and Colonsay, supporting the largest populations of guillemot, kittiwake and razorbill in the area and a seabird colony of national importance.

The nationally-important maritime cliff feature contains a mosaic of coastal heath and maritime cliff grassland. The close-grazed maritime grassland on steep slopes above the cliffs is herb-rich and contains abundant spring squill *Scilla verna*.

Near-vertical cliffs support internationally-important numbers of breeding guillemot (approximately 1% of GB population) and kittiwake (approximately 2% of GB population) and a nationally-important population of breeding razorbill (approximately 1% of GB population). The seabird breeding colony feature is of national and international importance. It includes; fulmar, guillemot, black guillemot, common gull, great black-backed gull, herring gull, lesser black-backed gull, kittiwake, razorbill, shag, and Arctic tern.

## NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 15 June 1984  
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 9 March 2011

## REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 48.5 ha)

North Colonsay SSSI is also part of North Colonsay and Western Cliffs Special Protection Area (SPA) designated for the birds listed below.

<b>Birds:</b>	Chough ( <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> ), breeding
	Chough ( <i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> ), non-breeding
	Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ), breeding
	Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ), breeding
	Seabird assemblage, breeding