



Scottish Natural Heritage

**BORERAY
Site of Special Scientific Interest**

SITE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Site code: 1717

**Uists & Barra Office,
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South Uist
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Purpose



This is a public statement prepared by SNH for owners and occupiers of the SSSI. It outlines the reasons it is designated as an SSSI and provides guidance on how its special natural features should be conserved or enhanced.

This Statement does not affect or form part of the statutory notification and does not remove the need to apply for consent for operations requiring consent.

We welcome your views on this statement.

This Statement is available in Gaelic on request.

| Natural features of Boreray SSSI | Condition of feature (and date monitored) | Other relevant designations |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Greenland Barnacle goose (non-breeding) | Favourable maintained (March 2003) | SPA |
| Greylag goose (non-breeding) | Favourable maintained (February 2003) | SPA |

| Features of overlapping Natura sites that are not notified as SSSI natural features | Condition of feature (date monitored) | SPA or SAC |
|--|--|-------------------|
| Corncrake (breeding) | Favourable maintained (July 2002) | SPA |
| Dunlin (breeding) | Favourable maintained (June 2003) | SPA |
| Oystercatcher (breeding) | Favourable maintained (June 2003) | SPA |
| Purple sandpiper (non-breeding) | Favourable maintained (March 2004) | SPA |

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|
| Redshank (breeding) | Favourable maintained (June 2003) | SPA |
| Ringed plover (breeding) | Favourable maintained (June 2003) | SPA |
| Ringer plover (non-breeding) | Favourable maintained (March 2004) | SPA |
| Turnstone (non-breeding) | Favourable maintained (March 2004) | SPA |

Description of the site

Boreray SSSI is a small island situated in the south west corner of the Sound of Harris. It comprises of two low hills with a small area of machair, as well as two freshwater lochs, Mor and Beag. The hills' vegetation consists mainly of grassland, with some heath and marsh plant life, while the surrounding machair is salt influenced. Boreray is regularly used by wintering flocks of Greenland Barnacle geese for feeding and roosting. This is part of the flock which winters on the Sound of Harris islands and on the adjacent coast of North Uist. Survey work carried out on the SSSI in March 2003 indicated that Boreray continues to hold over 1% of the Greenland population of barnacle geese. The site also holds a population of non-breeding native greylag geese, which during the same survey period confirmed that Boreray continues to hold 1% of the British population of greylag geese. It is through these important numbers that each of these bird species has been notified as a natural feature of the site.

Furthermore, the island is designated as part of the North Uist Machair and Islands Special Protection Area for six species of breeding waders, including ringed plover and dunlin, whilst wintering waders include sanderling, ringed plover, turnstone and sandpiper.

Past and present management

Boreray has a long history of human settlement, and was inhabited until the 1950s/60s, with much of the island being used for crofting.

The island is currently owned by the Scottish Government RPID, who manages the island as crofting tenure. During recent years, one of the crofts has become inhabited, which has seen the refurbishment of the old classroom to a private house, as well as the erection of a wind turbine as a renewable energy source. The rest of the island is part of the common grazing of Borve Township on Berneray, who use the island for sheep grazing with stock all year round.

Objectives for Management (and key factors influencing the condition of natural features)

We wish to work with the owner and occupiers to protect the site and to maintain and where necessary enhance its natural features of special interest. SNH aims to carry out survey, monitoring and research as appropriate to increase our knowledge and understanding of the site and its natural features and monitor the effectiveness of the management.

The EU Habitats and Birds Directives oblige Government to avoid, in SACs and SPAs, the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species, as well as disturbance of the species for which the areas have been designated, in so far as such disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of these Directives. The objectives below have been assessed against these requirements. All authorities proposing to carry out or permit to be carried out operations likely to have a significant effect on the European interests of this SSSI must assess those operations against the relevant Natura conservation objectives (which are listed on our website through the SNHi - SiteLink facility).

1. To maintain the grassland habitat in a favourable condition.

Maintain suitable levels of grazing by sheep and cattle on a seasonal basis. This will provide a favourable sward height for wintering geese, as well as a variety of habitat for breeding waders.

Date last reviewed 10 March 2009