

CITATION

**EILEAN NA MUICE DUIBHE
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**
Argyll and Bute

Site code: 604

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NR328558

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 60
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 352

AREA: 576.42 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Bogs : Blanket bog
Birds : Greenland white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*), non breeding.

DESCRIPTION

Eilean na Muice Duibhe Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is situated approximately 4 km south of Bowmore on the Hebridean Island of Islay. The site is of national and international importance for both its peatland habitat and for its significance as a roost site for Greenland white-fronted geese.

The SSSI is comprised of an extensive area of relatively undisturbed low-level blanket mire. The diverse nature of this peatland habitat includes hummocks, ridges and deep watershed pools as well as an unusual transition from blanket bog to raised mire habitats. Hummocks of the bog mosses *Sphagnum imbricatum* and *S. fuscum* are frequent on the extensive areas of level bog and are a feature of particular interest, as is the frequent occurrence of white beak-sedge *Rhynchospora alba*.

Eilean na Muice Duibhe is also one of the largest roost sites in the UK for Greenland white-fronted goose. The site supports over 900 wintering Greenland white-fronted geese which roost on the pool systems and surrounding blanket bog, many also use the area for nocturnal feeding. This number constitutes over 7% of the GB population and the site is one of the most important locations in Britain for this species.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 19 July 1984
Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 3 February 2011

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 574 ha).

Part of Eilean na Muice Duibhe SSSI is designated as Eilean na Muice Duibhe Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for the European habitats listed below.

Eilean na Muice Duibhe SSSI is also designated as Eilean na Muice Duibhe (Duich Moss), Islay Special Protection Area (SPA) for the birds listed below.

Habitats : Blanket bog
: Depressions on peat substrates

Birds : Greenland white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons flavirostris*), non-breeding