

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds
CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)

**AILSA CRAIG
(UK9003091)**

INCLUDING MARINE EXTENSION

Site Description:

Ailsa Craig SPA is an island rising to 338 metres, situated in the outer part of the Firth of Clyde. Cliffs up to 100 metres encircle the island and provide nesting sites for a variety of seabirds, notably one of the largest Northern gannet colonies in the world.

The boundary of Ailsa Craig SPA is coincident with Ailsa Craig SSSI. The seaward extension extends approximately 2 km into the marine environment to include the seabed, water column and surface.

Qualifying Interest (N.B. All figures relate to numbers at the time of classification except where amended by the 2001 SPA Review):

Ailsa Craig SPA qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **migratory** species; **Northern gannet** *Morus bassanus* (23,000 pairs 8.7% of the world biogeographic population) and **lesser black-backed gull** *Larus fuscus* (1,800 pairs, 1.4% of the total *L.f. greallsii* biogeographic population).

Ailsa Craig SPA also qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting **in excess of 20,000 individual seabirds**. It regularly supports 65,000 seabirds including nationally important populations of the following species: common guillemot *Uria aalge* (3,350 pairs, 0.5% of the GB population), black-legged kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (3,100 pairs, 0.6% of the GB population) and herring gull *Larus argentatus* (2,250 pairs, 1.4% of the GB population).

Area: 2,759.57ha
National Grid Reference: NX 019 998
OS Sheet 1:50,000 – 76

Classified on 25th April 1990, with marine extension classified on 25th September 2009

**Scottish Natural Heritage
September 2009**