

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds

CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)

**COPINSAY
(UK9002151)**

INCLUDING MARINE EXTENSION

Site description:

The Copinsay Special Protection Area comprises a group of islands 4km off the east coast of Orkney Mainland. The islands have a cliffed rocky coastline and maritime vegetation that support large colonies of breeding seabirds.

The boundary of the SPA encompasses Copinsay SSSI, and the seaward extension extends approximately 2 km into the marine environment to include the seabed, water column and surface.

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

Copinsay qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting **in excess of 20,000 individual seabirds**. It regularly supports 70,000 seabirds including nationally important populations of the following species: **common guillemot** *Uria aalge* (29,450 individuals, 3% of the GB population), **black-legged kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* (9,550 pairs, 2% of the GB population) **greater black-backed gull** *Larus marinus* (490 pairs, 3% of the GB population) and **Northern fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis* (1,615 pairs, 0.3% of the GB population).

Area: 3,607.70 ha

National Grid Reference: HY 611014

OS Sheet 1:50,000 - 6

Classified on 29th March 1994, with marine extension classified on 25th September 2009

**Scottish Natural Heritage
September 2009**