

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds

CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)

**FLANNAN ISLES
(UK9001021)**

INCLUDING MARINE EXTENSION

Site Description:

The Flannan Isles SPA consists of a group of seven rocky islands, outlying skerries and adjacent coastal waters lying approximately 30km west of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides off the north-west coast of Scotland. The islands provide a strategically placed nesting locality for seabirds, which feed in the rich waters off the Western Isles. The vegetation of the islands is predominantly maritime grassland.

The boundary of the Special Protection Area overlaps with the boundary of the Flannan Isles SSSI, and 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):

The Flannan Isles SPA qualify under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **Annex 1** species: **Leach's storm-petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* (100-1,000 pairs, 1-10% of the British and EC breeding populations).

The Flannan Isles SPA further qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting **in excess of 20,000 individual seabirds**. It regularly supports 50,000 seabirds including nationally important populations of the following species: common guillemot *Uria aalge* (21,930 individuals, 2% of the GB population), razorbill *Alca torda* (3,160 individuals, 2% of the GB population), Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica* (4,400 pairs, 1% of the GB population), Northern fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* (4,730 pairs, 0.9% of the GB population) and black-legged kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (2,780 pairs, 0.6% of the GB population).

Area: 5,832.82 Ha

National Grid References: NA 727463

OS sheet 1:50,000 – 13

Classified on 31st August 1992, with marine extension classified on 25th September 2009

**Scottish Natural Heritage
September 2009**