

Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of wild birds (this is the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended)

CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)

GRUINART FLATS, ISLAY (UK9003051)

Site Description:

Gruinart Flats, Islay SPA is located on the Hebridean island of Islay on the west coast of Scotland. The SPA comprises a diverse array of coastal habitats typical of western Scotland. The main features are a sheltered estuarine and intertidal sea loch, holding sand and mud-flats as well as an extensive saltmarsh and sand dunes. The sea loch is surrounded by pastoral farmland and backed by semi-natural upland habitats, including peatlands.

The boundary of the SPA is coincident with that of Gruinart Flats Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Qualifying Interest N.B All figures relate to numbers at the time of classification except where amended by the 2001 SPA Review and/or subsequent surveys (chough, as well as qualification of Canadian light-bellied brent goose reaffirmed):

Gruinart Flats, Islay SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **Annex 1** species: **Greenland barnacle goose** *Branta leucopsis* (winter 1984/85, up to 20,000 individuals, 64.5% of the GB population); **Greenland white-fronted goose** *Anser albifrons flavirostris* (winter 1985, up to 500 individuals, 3.6% of the GB population) and **chough** *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax* (2001/02 to 2003/04, a mean of over 42 individuals roosting and over 43 individuals feeding, more than 4.4% and 4.5% of the GB population respectively and between 2000 to 2004, an average 4.6 pairs, over 1.3% of the GB population).

Gruinart Flats, Islay SPA further qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **migratory** species: **Canadian light-bellied brent goose** *Branta bernicla hrota* during the passage period (1985, 300 individuals, 2% of the East Canadian/High Arctic biogeographic population).

Area: 3262.13 ha
National Grid Reference: NR292701
OS Sheet 1:50 000 – 60

Classified on the 14 July 1988

This (amended) citation adopted on 25 April 2018.