

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds

CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)

HANDA (UK9001241)

INCLUDING MARINE EXTENSION

Site Description:

Handa SPA consists of an island surrounded by high sea-cliffs and adjacent coastal waters lying a short distance from the west coast of Sutherland in Scotland. It provides a strategic nesting locality for seabirds that feed in the productive waters of the northern Minch, outside the SPA. Most of the island is vegetated with sub-maritime grasslands and heaths. The SPA's principal ornithological importance is for its breeding seabirds.

The boundary of the SPA overlaps with the boundary of Handa Island 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):

Handa SPA qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **migratory** species: **common guillemot** *Uria aalge* (98,686 individuals, 2.9% of the North Atlantic biogeographic population) and **razorbill** *Alca torda* (16,394 individuals, 1.9% of the *A.t. islandica* biogeographic population)

Handa SPA also qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting **in excess of 20,000 individual seabirds**. It regularly supports 200,000 seabirds including nationally important populations of the following species: great skua *Stercorarius skua* (66 pairs, 0.8% of the GB population); black-legged kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (10,732 pairs, 2.2% of the GB population), Northern fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* (3,500 pairs, 0.7% of the GB population), razorbill (16,394 individuals, 11.0% of the GB population) and common guillemot (98,686 individuals, 9.3% of the GB population).

Area: 3,205.61 ha

National Grid Reference: NC 136480

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

Scottish Natural Heritage
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