

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds

**SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) CITATION
FOR PUBLIC ISSUE**

KINTYRE GOOSE ROOSTS, STRATHCLYDE (307A)

The Kintyre Goose Roosts SPA comprises a series of hill lochs (Loch Garasdale, Loch an Fhraoich, Loch Lussa, Tangy Loch & Black Loch) and an area of grassland and heath at Rhunahaorine Point on the Kintyre peninsula in South-west Scotland. The boundaries of the SPA are within those of Rhunahaorine Point SSSI and Tangy Loch SSSI and are coincident with those of Kintyre Goose Lochs SSSI.

The EC 'Birds' Directive aims to protect wild birds and their habitats within the European Community. Those birds that require most protection are listed in Annex I of the 'Birds' Directive. One of these is the Greenland white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* whose entire population of 30,000 winters in Great Britain and Ireland. The 14,000 birds which winter in Great Britain are mainly found on the south-west coast of Scotland.

Kintyre Goose Roosts SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the EC 'Birds' Directive by regularly supporting an internationally important wintering population of Greenland white-fronted goose (1991/92-95/96 winter peak mean of 2,300, 8% of Total world population; 16% of GB). The geese roost on the various lochs included in the SPA and on the grassland and heath at Rhunahaorine Point. These roosts all held internationally or nationally important numbers during the mid-1990s. The geese use several other roosts on Kintyre but their use is more sporadic and the geese are not present in nationally important numbers.

There are two main populations, one which feeds on improved agricultural land around Rhunahaorine Point with significant roosts on Rhunahaorine Point, Loch an Fhraoich and Loch Garasdale; and another which feeds on improved agricultural land in the Laggan area with significant roosts on Loch Lussa, Tangy Loch and Black Loch.

Area: 412.4 ha

Grid refs.: NR 766510, 705495, 747472, 710300, 695280, 737246

OS 1:50,000 sheets - 62,68

Scottish Natural Heritage
SPA Classified 28 October 1998