

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds

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

**KNAPDALE LOCHS  
ARGYLL & BUTE (UK9003301)**

**Site Description:**

Knapdale Lochs Special Protection Area (SPA) comprises a group of four small oligotrophic and mesotrophic lochs in the Knapdale area of Argyll & Bute in southwest Scotland. These lochs are: Loch Clachaig, Dubh Loch, Loch Fuar-Bheinne, and Loch nan Torran. The boundary of Knapdale Lochs SPA follows that of the Knapdale Lochs SSSI.

**Qualifying Interest:**

Knapdale Lochs SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting a breeding population of European importance of the **Annex 1** species **black-throated diver** *Gavia arctica* (four pairs, 2% of GB).

These are the southernmost regular black-throated diver territories in Britain, and the most southwesterly in Europe. They are also productive territories. From 1986 to 1998, Knapdale Lochs SPA produced an average of 0.35 fledged chicks per pair per year in comparison with a national average of 0.29 chicks. The combination of a large population size, high productivity and a location at the edge of the European range make this an extremely valuable site. Knapdale Lochs SPA currently ranks as the ninth most important site for the species in Britain.

Area: 112.39 ha

National grid references: NR813870, NR763808, NR813784, NR757685.

OS 1:50,000 sheets - 55 & 62

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Natura 2000 Project

Scottish Natural Heritage