

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)

LEWIS PEATLANDS (UK9001571)

Site Description:

Lewis Peatlands SPA is located on the island of Lewis, the northernmost of the main islands of the Outer Hebrides off the north-west coast of Scotland. The site comprises an extensive area of deep blanket bog, interspersed with bog pool complexes and freshwater lochs. Within Britain, the Lewis peatlands are second in extent only to the Caithness and Sutherland peatlands and represent the extreme north-west part of the range of variation.

The boundary of the SPA contains Loch Laxavat Ard and Loch Laxavat Iorach Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Loch nan Eilean Valley Bog SSSI, Achmore Bog SSSI and Loch Scarrasdale Valley Bog SSSI.

Qualifying Interest N.B All figures relate to numbers at the time of classification:

Lewis Peatlands SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **Annex 1** species (1994 to 1996): **red-throated diver** *Gavia stellata* (80 pairs, 9% of the GB population); **black-throated diver** *Gavia arctica* (13 pairs, 8% of the GB population); **golden eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos* (5 pairs, 1% of the GB population); **merlin** *Falco columbarius* (20 pairs, 2% of the GB population); **golden plover** *Pluvialis apricaria* (1,800 pairs, 8% of the GB population) and **dunlin** *Calidris alpina schinzii* (3,400 pairs, 37% of the GB population).

Lewis Peatlands SPA further qualifies under **Article 4.2**, by regularly supporting a population of the **migratory** species: **greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* (1994 to 1996, 140 pairs, <0.1% of the Europe/Western Africa biogeographic population and 10.4% of the GB population).

Area: 58959.87 ha
National Grid Reference: NB326379
OS Sheets 1:50 000 – 8, 13, 14

Classified on the 7 December 2000

This (amended) citation adopted on 25 April 2018.