

CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)

MORAY AND NAIRN COAST (UK9001625)

Site Description:

Moray and Nairn Coast SPA comprises the Culbin Bars, Findhorn Bay and Spey Bay which, together, form the easternmost estuarine component of the Moray Basin ecosystem. It supports a diverse assemblage of wintering waterfowl of outstanding nature conservation and scientific importance.

The boundary of the SPA generally follows the shoreline within the Culbin Sands, Culbin Forest and Findhorn Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), the estuarine limit of Spey Bay SSSI, the whole of the Lower River Spey SSSI and part of the River Spey SSSI.

Qualifying Interest N.B All figures relate to numbers at the time of classification except where amended by the 2001 SPA Review (osprey, dunlin, oystercatcher, wigeon) and/or subsequent surveys (foraging osprey):

Moray and Nairn Coast SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **Annex 1** species: **osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* forage throughout the SPA (2008 to 2012, five year mean of up to 9 territories within feeding range, 4.5% of the GB population and 7 pairs breeding within the site, 7% of the GB population) and **bar-tailed godwit** *Limosa lapponica* (five year winter peak mean 1989/90 to 1993/94 of 899 individuals, 2% of the GB population).

Moray and Nairn Coast SPA further qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **migratory** species: **pink-footed goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus* (1988/89 to 1992/93, winter peak mean of 7,538 individuals, 4% of the Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK biogeographic population); **greylag goose** *Anser anser* (1988/89 to 1992/93, winter peak mean of 3,023 individuals, 3% of the Iceland/UK/Ireland biogeographic population) and **redshank** *Tringa totanus* (1989/90 to 1993/94, winter peak mean of 1,690 individuals, 1% of the Eastern Atlantic biogeographic population).

Moray and Nairn Coast SPA also qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting **in excess of 20,000 individual waterfowl**. In the five-year period 1989/90 to 1993/94, a winter peak mean of 24,000 individual waterfowl was recorded comprising 14,500 wildfowl and 9,500 waders including nationally important populations of the following species: **bar-tailed godwit** (899 individuals); **pink-footed goose** (7,538 individuals, 4% of the GB population); **greylag goose** (3,023 individuals, 3% of the GB population); **redshank** (1,690 individuals, 2% of the GB population); **red-breasted merganser** *Mergus serrator* (102 individuals, 1% of the GB population). A winter peak mean of 20,250 individual waterfowl was recorded, including nationally important populations in the five year period 1991/92 to 1995/96, greater than 2,000 individuals of the following species: **dunlin** *Calidris alpina alpina* (2,689 individuals, 0.5% of the GB population); **oystercatcher** *Haematopus*

ostralegus (2,171 individuals, 0.6% of the GB population); and **wigeon** *Anas penelope* (2,600 individuals, 0.9% of the GB population).

Area: 2,325.67 ha

National Grid Reference: NH999647

OS Sheets 1:50,000 - 27, 28

Classified on 2 February 1997

This (amended) citation adopted on 26 April 2018.