

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)

NORTH UIST MACHAIR AND ISLANDS (UK9001051)

Site Description:

North Uist Machair and Islands SPA is a coastal site encompassing areas of rocky shore, sandy beaches and dunes, cultivated machair, saltmarsh, calcareous coastal plains and acid grassland. There are also important freshwater wetlands including eutrophic machair lochs, marshes and fens, and wet machair. These areas are important for both large numbers and high densities of breeding waders as well as Corncrake.

The boundary of the SPA overlaps wholly with Pabbay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Boreray SSSI, Baleshare and Kirkibost SSSI, Machairs Robach and Newton SSSI, Vallay SSSI, Berneray SSSI, Balranald Bog and Loch nam Feithean SSSI.

The North Uist Machair and Islands SPA was previously composed of Balranald Bog and Loch nam Feithean SSSI, Machairs Robach and Newton SSSI and Tigharry (a non-SSSI extension for corncrakes), classified on the 29 March 1999.

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

The North Uist Machair and Islands SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **Annex 1** species: **corncrake** *Crex crex* (1993 to 1997, 25 pairs, 4% of the GB population); **Greenland barnacle goose** *Branta leucopsis* (1993/94 and 1994/95, winter peak count of 1,500 individuals, 5% of the GB population) and **dunlin** *Calidris alpina schinzii* (1993 and 1995, 240 pairs, 2.6% of the GB population).

The North Uist Machair and Islands SPA further qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **migratory** species: **ringed plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* (1993 and 1995, 280 pairs, 2% of the Europe/Northern Africa biogeographic population; 1994/95, winter peak count of 590 individuals, 1% of the same biogeographic population); **turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* (1994/95, winter peak count of 670 individuals, 1% of the Western Palearctic biogeographic population); **purple sandpiper** *Calidris maritima* (2004, 440 wintering individuals, 1.8% of the Eastern Atlantic biogeographic population); **redshank** *Tringa totanus* (2007, 510 pairs, 1.8% of the Eastern Atlantic biogeographic population) and **oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* (2007, 600 pairs, 0.2% of the Europe & Northern/Western Africa biogeographic population and selected as one of the most suitable sites for oystercatcher in GB with 0.5% of the GB population,)

Area: 4873.53 ha
National Grid Reference: NF788610
OS Sheets 1:50,000 – 18, 22

Classified on 29 March 1999; extended 13 October 2000

This (amended) citation adopted on 26 April 2018.