

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)

SOUTH UIST MACHAIR AND LOCHS (UK9001082)

Site Description:

South Uist Machair and Lochs SPA is a complex site along the west coast of South Uist. The west coast of South Uist is of outstanding importance for its transition of habitats from the acidic moorland to the calcareous coastal plain, and for the transition from freshwater habitats to saltwater habitats. This complex includes outstanding examples of (moving seawards), relict woodland, moorland and blanket bog, large oligotrophic lochs, acidic blacklands, wet and dry machair with eutrophic machair lochs, freshwater marsh, saltmarsh, coastal dunes and sandy and rocky shores. These areas are of outstanding importance for their populations of wintering and breeding waterfowl and for their breeding population of corncrakes associated with traditional crofting practices.

The boundary of the SPA follows that of the following Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): Loch Bee; Loch Bee Machair; Loch Druidibeg; Howmore Estuary, Lochs Roag and Fada; Bornish and Ormiclate Machairs; and Loch Hallan.

The Loch Druidibeg SSSI section of the South Uist Machair and Lochs SPA was previously classified as Loch Druidibeg, Loch a'Machair and Loch Stilligarry SPA on 31 August 1982.

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 (oystercatcher, redshank and sanderling):

South Uist Machair and Lochs SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **Annex 1** species: **corncrake** *Crex crex* (1992 to 1994, 20 calling males, 4% of the GB population); **little tern** *Sternula albifrons* (1986 to 1990, 31 pairs, 1% of the GB population) and **dunlin** *Calidris alpina schinzii* (1995, 357 pairs, 4% of the GB population).

South Uist Machair and Lochs SPA further qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **migratory** species: **ringed plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* (1995, 393 pairs, 3% of the Europe/Northern Africa biogeographic population; and, during 1993/94 and 1994/95, up to 490 wintering individuals, 1% of the same biogeographic population); **redshank** *Tringa totanus* (2007, 379 pairs, 1.3% of the Eastern Atlantic biogeographic population); **oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* (2007, 629 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 0.6% of the GB population) and **sanderling** *Calidris alba* (2004, 667 wintering individuals, 0.6% of the Eastern

Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa biogeographic population, and selected as one of the most suitable sites for sanderling in GB with 4% of the GB population).

Area: 5027.31ha

National Grid Reference: NF764380

OS Sheets 1:50,000 - 22, 31

Classified on 31 August 1982; extended 1 December 1997

This (amended) citation adopted on 27 April 2018.