

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds :  
Special Protection Area

LINDISFARNE (NORTHUMBERLAND)

Lindisfarne encompasses a wide range of coastal habitats, including intertidal mudflats and saltmarshes, sand dunes and rocky shore. The proposed international site is virtually coincident with the Lindisfarne SSSI.

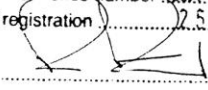
The site qualifies under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting in summer nationally important breeding populations of two Annex 1 species: 4 pairs of roseate terns Sterna dougallii (5% British), and up to 42 pairs of little terns S. albifrons (2% of British).

In winter the site qualifies under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting about 95 whooper swans Cygnus cygnus cygnus (2% British) and about 2,350 golden plovers Pluvialis apricaria (1% British), also Annex 1 species.

Lindisfarne qualifies under Article 4.2 by regularly supporting in winter the following internationally or nationally important numbers of waterfowl (average peak counts for the five-winter period 1985/86 to 1989/90) : 3,500 greylag geese Anser anser (3% of the total population, all of which winters in Britain); 2,700 light-bellied brent geese Branta bernicla hrota (68% of the total population, 77% of the British wintering population); 900 shelduck Tadorna tadorna (1% of British); 16,400 wigeon Anas penelope (2% of the north west European population, 7% of British); 2,500 eider Somateria mollissima (5% of British); 370 long-tailed duck Clanula hyemalis; 670 common scoter Melanitta nigra (2% of British); 110 red-breasted merganser Mergus serrator (1% British); 490 ringed plover Charadrius hiaticula (1% of the East Atlantic Flyway population, 2% of British); 1,500 grey plover Pluvialis squatarola (7% of British); 160 sanderling Calidris alba (1% of British); 9,000 dunlin Calidris alpina (2% of British); 7,500 bar-tailed godwits Limosa lapponica (7% of EAF, 12% of British); and 3,600 redshank Tringa totanus (5% East Atlantic Flyway, 3% British).

As well as its importance for the individual species listed above, the site is also of strong scientific interest for its exceptionally diverse assemblage of wintering waterfowl. These occur at very high density on the site.

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GPM/HTR  
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