

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds: Citation for Special Protection Area (SPA)

Name: Isles of Scilly

Unitary Authority/County: Isles of Scilly

Consultation proposal: Annet SSSI, Big Pool and Browarth Point (St Agnes) SSSI, Castle Down (Tresco) SSSI, Chapel Down (St Martin's) SSSI, Eastern Isles SSSI, Gugh SSSI, Norrard Rocks SSSI, Pentle Bay, Merrick and Round Islands SSSI, Shipman Head and Shipman Down (Bryher) SSSI, St Helen's (with Northwethel and Men-a-vaur) SSSI, Samson (with Green, White, Puffin and Stony Islands) SSSI, Tean SSSI, Western Rocks SSSI, and White Island (off St Martin's) SSSI have been recommended as a Special Protection Area because together they support breeding seabirds in numbers of European importance. The boundary of the SPA is coincident with the above SSSIs.

Site description: The Isles of Scilly is an archipelago of over 200 low-lying granite islands and rocks situated in the South-West Approaches, 28 miles (45 km) south-west of Land's End. The islands included within the SPA support a breeding seabird assemblage of European importance. The isolated nature of the islands and rocks with their low levels of disturbance and predation, makes them particularly suitable for nesting seabirds such as Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* and Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graellsii*. It should be noted that the SPA boundary only encompasses those areas used for nesting. The vast majority of the feeding areas used by the seabirds are marine waters outside the SPA.

Size of SPA: The area of the SPA is 401.64 ha.

Qualifying species:

The site qualifies under **article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain population of a species listed in Annex I in any season:

Annex I species	Count and Season	Period	% of GB population
Storm Petrel <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	5,406-8,798 pairs - breeding	Count as at 1999	6.4 - 10.4%

The site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the biogeographical population of a regularly occurring migratory species (other than those listed in Annex I) in any season:

Migratory species	Count and Season	Period	% of population
Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>	3,608 pairs - breeding	Count as at 1999	2.9% Western Europe/ Med/W Africa

Bird figures from:

Robinson, P. 1999(a). *Distribution of European Storm Petrel Hydrobates pelagicus in the Isles of Scilly with probable abundance*. Unpublished report to English Nature.

Assemblage qualification: The site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by over 20,000 seabirds in any season:

In the breeding season, the area regularly supports 26,478 individual seabirds (count as at 1999), including: Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*, Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graellsii* and Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*.

Non-qualifying species of interest: The site supports small numbers of breeding Common Terns *Sterna hirundo* and formerly held nationally important numbers of breeding Roseate Terns *Sterna dougallii*, both of which are Annex I species.

Status of SPA

Isles of Scilly was classified as a Special Protection Area on 10 August 2001.