

Register entry UK9020011 under regulation 10 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995.

This is the register entry for the European site known as Rathlin Island Special Protection Area. The site has been classified by the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland pursuant to Article 4(1) and/or 4(2) of Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds as a Special Protection Area.

The register reference number for this European site is UK9020011 and a folder, kept under this reference as part of the register, contains a map of the European site and a citation giving the reasons for the classification of the site as a Special Protection Area. The map and citation are identified by the register reference number and signed by me on the date of registration.

Other details of the European site are as follows:

Date of classification: 25 February 1999

Site centre location (1):

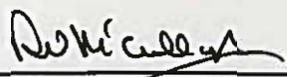
longitude: 06° 13' 30" W
latitude : 55° 17' 30" N

Area: 3344.62 hectares

Priority status(2): N/A

Date of registration: 1 March 1999

Sealed with the Official Seal
of the Department of the Environment
for Northern Ireland on 4th March 1999

Signed: 
on behalf of the Department of the
Environment for Northern Ireland

J. Cleary,
Civil Servant,
Clarence Court.

1. This indicates the approximate centre of the site. Where the European site consists of several distinct areas, the co-ordinates of the most important sub-area are entered.
2. Indicates if the site has been identified under Article 4.2 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora as hosting one or more priority natural habitat types or priority species.

S033_LMC

EC DIRECTIVE 79/409 ON THE CONSERVATION OF WILD BIRDS

RATHLIN ISLAND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA

Area: 3344.62 hectares

Geographic co-ordinates: 06° 13' 30" W
55° 17' 30" N

The Rathlin Island Special Protection Area (SPA) is classified as an extension to, and renaming of, a previously classified SPA ie Rathlin Island Cliffs SPA. The new site includes the area of coast previously covered by the Rathlin Island Cliffs SPA plus an area of sea around the island and the new site boundary is now entirely coincident with the boundary of the Rathlin Island Special Area of Conservation.

The extension includes an area of sea around the island which is used by many of those seabirds which occur the island's coast.

Rathlin Island is a large inhabited marine island situated some 4km from the north Antrim coast of Northern Ireland. There are basalt and chalk cliffs, some as high as 100 metres, as well as several sea stacks on the north and west shores of the island. The south and east shores are more gently sloping with areas of maritime grassland and rocky shore. The length of the coastline is approximately 30km.

Rathlin Island Special Protection Area qualifies under Article 4.1 of EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds by supporting nationally important numbers of the Annex 1 species Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*. The mean for years 1992-1996 is 6 breeding pairs (2% of the Irish population).

Recently up to 5 pairs of the Annex 1 species Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* have also bred on the site and the site contributes to the maintenance of the Chough range in the UK.

The site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive by supporting internationally important breeding numbers of the following migratory species: Razorbill *Alca torda*, Guillemot *Uria aalge* and Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*. The most recent complete seabird census was carried out in 1985 and the following numbers of individuals of the above species were recorded: Razorbill 8,922 (4.8% International population, 17.8% of the Irish population) and Guillemot 41,887 (3.4%, 41.8%). A total of 6,822 pairs of Kittiwake were also recorded representing 1.2% of the international population and 15.1% of the Irish population.

The site also qualifies under Article 4.2 by regularly supporting over 20,000 breeding seabirds. The 1985 census indicated an assemblage of approximately 66,000 breeding birds on Rathlin Island.

The 1985 census also indicated the following breeding species as being of All-Ireland importance: Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* (1,482 pairs – 7.4% of the Irish population), Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (109 prs. – 3.6%), Eider *Somateria mollissima* (40 prs. – 16%), Common Gull *Larus canus* (64 prs. – 1.8%), Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (4,037 prs. – 9.4%), Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* (155 prs. – 2.3%), Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle* (144 individuals – 8.2%) and Puffin *Fratercula arctica* (2,398 ind. – 5.3%).

The sites also regularly supports breeding Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*.

The Register of European Sites in Northern Ireland

Register reference number UK9020011

Date of registration 1 March 1995

Signed 
on behalf of the Department of the Environment
for Northern Ireland

Rathlin Island Cliffs
EC Site Code: UK9020011

Special Protection Area
Directive 79/409/EEC

Shown thus.... 

Classified by the Minister for the
Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland

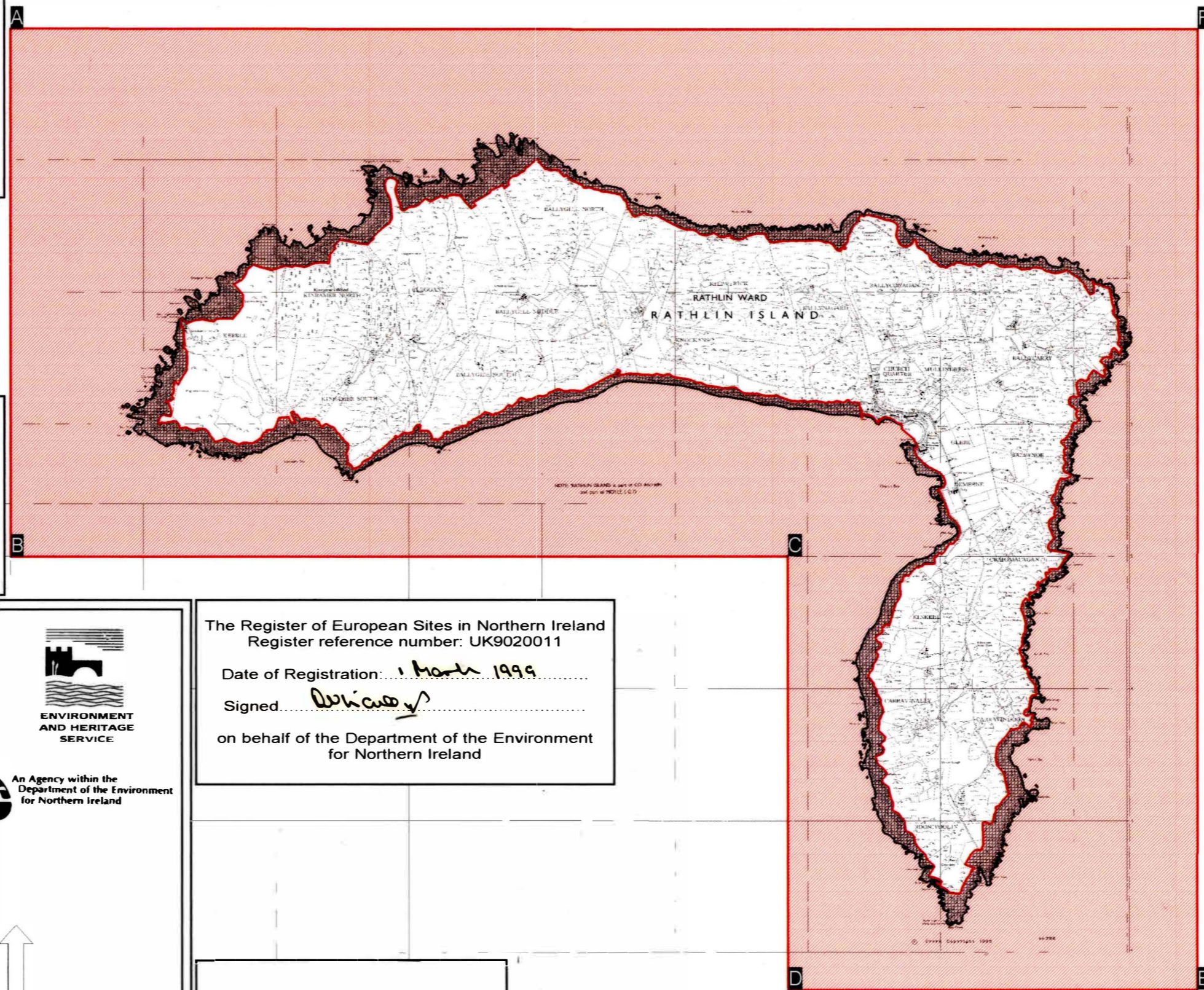
Date: 4 March 1997

Rathlin Island
EC Site Code: UK9020011

Special Protection Area
Directive 79/409/EEC


Classified by the Minister for the
Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland

Date: 25 FEBRUARY 1999



Rathlin Island

EC Site Code: UK9020011

Special Protection Area (SPA)
shown thus: 

This site is an extension to, and renaming of,
Rathlin Island Cliffs SPA.
The SPA includes all lands, intertidal areas,
islands and sea stacks within the shaded area.
Marine areas below mean low water are also included.

Longitude: 6° 13' 30" W

Latitude: 55° 17' 30" N

Area of SPA: 3344.62 ha.

Map 1 of 1

Version number: 2 (12/2/99)

Projection: Irish National Grid

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The Register of European Sites in Northern Ireland
Register reference number: UK9020011

Date of Registration: 1 March 1999

Signed: *Devinney*

on behalf of the Department of the Environment
for Northern Ireland

Locations of Marked Points

Point A: 006° 17' 52" W 055° 19' 17" N
Point B: 006° 17' 58" W 055° 17' 08" N
Point C: 006° 12' 26" W 055° 17' 03" N
Point D: 006° 12' 31" W 055° 15' 17" N
Point E: 006° 09' 37" W 055° 15' 14" N
Point F: 006° 09' 26" W 055° 19' 10" N

Scale 1:35000
Centre (311754, 449988)
metres
0 200 400 600 800 1000
yards
0 200 400 600 800 1000