



An Agency within the
Department of the Environment
for Northern Ireland



ENVIRONMENT
AND HERITAGE
SERVICE

**SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA UNDER THE TERMS OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY DIRECTIVE 79/409/EEC ON THE CONSERVATION OF WILD BIRDS**

IRISH GRID REFERENCE D 048459

Area: 3.5 hectares

Sheep Island Special Protection Area (SPA) incorporates and coincides with the Sheep Island Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) boundary. The 3.5ha island is located 0.5km off the North Antrim Coast. The island is almost circular, with a lower promontory to the north west, a near vertical cliff face rising between 20m to 30m above the High Water Mark Mean Tide and a domed top overlaid with a thin layer of soil.

Sheep Island qualifies under article 4.2 by regularly supporting, in summer, a nationally important breeding population of the Northern European Sub-species of Cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo carbo (5% of the British Isles breeding population and 7% of the Irish breeding population). In addition the population is the largest in the North of Ireland and thus makes an important contribution to the range of the Sub-species.

The Register of European Sites in Northern Ireland
Register reference number UK9020021
Date of registration 17 February 1998

Signed *Pauline Cullen*
on behalf of the Department of the Environment
for Northern Ireland

