
RAMSAR INFORMATION SHEET

FOR WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

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Site reference number 7UK
1 Compilation date October 2001
2 Country UK (Scotland)
3 Name of wetland Sleibhtean agus Cladach Thiriodh (Tiree Wetlands and Coast)
4 Site centre location: Latitude: 56 30 00 N Longitude: 06 52 00 W
5 Altitude (m) **Min: 0 Max: 20 Mean 0**
6 Area (ha) 1938.59

7 Overview

The site is comprised of 2 sectors, an intertidal sector comprising of rocky shore, sandy bays and shingle shore. A second, inland sector consists of machair plain, marsh, and wet moorland with several small lochs and numerous pools, and also one large freshwater loch. The inland areas provide roost sites for internationally important numbers of wintering geese from Greenland and breeding sites for a variety of wader species, while the intertidal sectors support internationally important numbers of wintering wader populations. Several of the lochs are of international importance for their rich aquatic plant communities which include a range of nationally scarce and nationally rare species, while the site provides excellent representation of dune and machair habitats, also of international importance.

8 Wetland type Inland wetland, Marine/coastal wetland

Code	Name	% Area
D	Rocky shores	19
E	Sand / shingle shores (including dune systems)	29
O	Freshwater lakes: permanent	11
Tp	Freshwater marshes / pools: permanent	41

9 Ramsar Criteria 1, 6
10 Map of the site ✓
11 Compiler **Joint Nature Conservation Committee**
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12 Justification of criteria

Criteria 1. The site supports substantial areas of freshwater loch, freshwater marsh, wet machair and maritime grassland all of which are in near-natural condition. One of the lochs is of international importance as an example of a eutrophic machair loch; this and several other lochs are of international importance for their rich aquatic plant communities which include the nationally rare Shetland pondweed *Potamogeton rutilus* and a range of nationally scarce aquatic vascular plants and charophytes. The site provides one of the best examples in Britain of machair habitat (including the associated machair loch) which has a very restricted world distribution.

Ramsar criterion 6

During the Breeding Season the site regularly supports internationally important populations of:

Dunlin *Calidris alpina schinzii*

Over winter the site regularly supports internationally important populations of: Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

13 General location

On the Island of Tiree in the Inner Hebrides

Administrative Region: Strathclyde

14 Physical Features

Soil & Geology	acidic, alluvium, basic, cobble, gravel, metamorphic, mud, nutrient-poor, nutrient-rich, sand, shingle
Geomorphology and Landscape	intertidal rock, intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), open coast (including bay), pools
Nutrient status	eutrophic, oligotrophic
pH	acidic, alkaline, strongly alkaline
Salinity	fresh, saline / euhaline
Soil	mainly organic
Water permanence	usually permanent
Summary of main climatic features	"Rainy, temperate climate with a mild winter and periodic frost. Mean minimum temperature approximately 5.8°C. Mean maximum temperature approximately 13.6°C. Mean annual precipitation approximately 961.6mm, with a winter maximum." "

15 Hydrological values

Recharge and discharge of groundwater

16 Ecological features

The intertidal sector comprises of rocky shore, shingle shore and sandy shore.

The inland sector is largely moorland with frequent pools and lochans. The predominant vegetation is wet heathland with abundant *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica tetralix* and *Scirpus caespitosus*; there are also areas of marsh and fen. The substrate is generally wet and locally boggy. There is also an area of machair plain grading from low dune into wet machair. There is one large eutrophic freshwater loch (Loch a'Phuill) with high pH levels, and several smaller lochs. Several of the lochs support diverse communities of aquatic plants including a variety of Potamogeton species.

17 Noteworthy flora

Species occurring at levels of International Importance:

Habitat Type

Embryonic shifting dunes

Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)

Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)

Humid dune slacks

Machairs

Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition*-type vegetation

Species occurring at levels of National Importance:

Higher Plants

Potamogeton rutilis

Potamogeton filiformis
Potamogeton coloratus
Dactylorhiza traunsteineri
Elatine hexandra
Isoetes echinospora
Juncus balticus
Deschampsia setacea
Lower Plants
Chara aspera (a stonewort)
Tolypella glomerata (a stonewort)

18 Noteworthy fauna

Birds

Species occurring at levels of international importance (as identified at designation):

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Dunlin, *Calidris alpina schinzii* 114 pairs, representing an average of 1% of the
(Baltic/UK/Ireland) breeding population (1994-1995)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* 1456 individuals, representing an average of 5%
(Eastern Greenland/Scotland/Ireland) of the population (1995/96 - 1999/00)

Ringed Plover, *Charadrius hiaticula* 653 individuals, representing an average of 1% of
(Europe/Northern Africa (wintering)) the population (1995, 1998, 1999)

Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres* 873 individuals, representing an average of 1% of
(Western Palearctic (wintering)) the population (1995, 1998, 1999)

White-fronted Goose, *Anser albifrons* 1419 individuals, representing an average of 5%
of the population (1995/96 - 1999/00)

Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Oystercatcher, *Haematopus ostralegus* 151 pairs, representing an average of <1% of the
(Europe & Northern/Western Africa) GB population (1994 - 1995)

Redshank, *Tringa totanus* 139 pairs, representing an average of <1% of the
(Eastern Atlantic (wintering)) GB population (1994 - 1995)

Ringed Plover, *Charadrius hiaticula* 96 pairs, representing an average of 1% of the GB
(Europe/Northern Africa (wintering)) population (1994 - 1995)

19 Social and Cultural Values

Archaeological/historical site
Current scientific research
Livestock grazing
Non-consumptive recreation
Sport fishing
Sport hunting
Tourism
Traditional cultural

Transportation/navigation

20 Land tenure/ownership

Ownership category	On-Site	Off-Site
Non-governmental organisation	+	+
Local authority, municipality etc.		+
Private	+	+

21 Current land use

Activity	On-Site	Off-Site	Scale
Nature conservation	+	+	Small-Scale
Tourism	+	+	Large-Scale
Recreation	+	+	Large-Scale
Collection of non-timber natural products: (unspecified)	+	+	Small-Scale
Fishing: recreational/sport	+		Small-Scale
Livestock watering hole/pond	+		Small-Scale
Rough or shifting grazing	+	+	Large-Scale
Permanent pastoral agriculture	+	+	Large-Scale
Hunting: recreational/sport	+	+	Small-Scale
Mineral exploration		+	Small-Scale
Domestic water supply	+	+	Small-Scale
Non-urbanised settlements		+	Small-Scale
Other		+	Small-Scale

22 Adverse factors affecting the ecological character of the site

Activity	On-Site	Off-Site	Scale
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23 Conservation measures taken

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
SSSI	+	+
SPA	+	+
Land owned by a NGO for nature conservation	+	+
ESA	+	+
SAC	+	+

24 Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented

see below

Site vulnerability and management statement

Sheep and/or cattle grazing is the main land use over most of the site; the continuation of low-intensity grazing regimes will help to maintain the special interest of the site. Crofters undertake occasional ditch creation or clearance on the wet moorland areas, and in some cases this is likely to affect the qualifying interests. However this will continue to be addressed through management agreements or agri-environment schemes as necessary. Groundwater extraction for public use takes place from Loch a'Phuill and its vicinity and could have a localised impact on the qualifying interests, this issue is addressed through discussion with the local water authority. Small-scale sand and gravel extraction takes place from intertidal and machair areas, and is locally impacting on the qualifying interest. However, this issue is being addressed through the development of an aggregates strategy by a partnership between SNH, the local authority and islanders. Much of the site is entered into an agri-environment scheme which promotes overall conservation management.

25 Current scientific research/survey/monitoring and facilities

- Monitoring of bird populations at the Reef sector of the site is undertaken by RSPB.
- Monitoring of qualifying features will be undertaken by SNH as part of its Site Condition Monitoring programme.

26 Current conservation education

27 Current recreation and tourism

Parts of the site used for informal recreation (walking, wildlife watching, etc) by locals and visitors, particularly in summer. Wind-surfing takes place on several of the beaches, mainly in autumn. There is occasional freshwater fishing on Loch a'Phuill. Wildfowling takes place in season.

28 Functional jurisdiction

Scottish Office, Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries Department

29 Management authority

Scottish Natural Heritage
Argyll and Stirling Area Office
Glencruitten Road
Barcaldine
Oban
Argyll
PA34 4DN
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Reference should also be made to Country Agencies Management Plans for sites that are within National Nature Reserves.

Specific References