

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7, as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Note for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers are strongly urged to provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:**Joint Nature Conservation Committee**

Monkstone House

City Road

Peterborough

Cambridgeshire PE1 1JY

UK

Telephone/Fax: +44 (0)1733 – 562 626 / +44 (0)1733 – 555 948

Email: RIS@JNCC.gov.uk

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 31 March 1995 / updated 12 May 2005

3. Country:

UK (Scotland)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Coll

5. Map of site included:Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps.**a) hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): *yes* -or- *no* **b) digital (electronic) format** (optional): Yes

6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

56 39 16 N

06 30 05 W

7. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Nearest town/city: Oban

Coll Ramsar site occupies the north end of Coll, an Inner Hebridean island west of Mull.

Administrative region: Argyll and Bute

8. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres): **9. Area** (hectares): 2208.52

Min. 18

Max. 59

Mean 29

10. Overview:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

The site supports substantial areas of maritime heath, blanket mire and open water. The occurrence and botanical composition reflect the long interaction between landforms and low-intensity agriculture. The site supports internationally important numbers of geese, together with several nationally rare and nationally scarce wetland plant species.

11. Ramsar Criteria:

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

3, 6

Secretariat comment: The RIS provides information requiring the application of Criterion 4. This needs to be included in the next update.

12. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Ramsar criterion 3

The site qualifies by supporting a diverse community of wetland plants including several nationally rare and nationally scarce higher plant species. (see section 19)

Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

Qualifying Species/populations:

Species with peak counts in winter:

Greenland white-fronted goose, <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> , W Greenland (br)	991 individuals, representing an average of 3.3% of the flyway population (5 year peak mean for 1996/7-2000/01)
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Species/populations identified subsequent to designation

Species with peak counts in winter:

Barnacle goose, <i>Branta leucopsis</i> , E Greenland (br), Ireland, UK	711 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the population (5 year peak mean for 1996/7-2000/01)
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Contemporary data and information on waterbird trends at this site and their regional (sub-national) and national contexts can be found in the Wetland Bird Survey report, which is updated annually. See www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm.

See Sections 19/20 for details of noteworthy species

13. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region:

Atlantic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

14. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Soil & geology	acidic, basic, sand, peat, nutrient-poor, sedimentary, metamorphic, calc-schists
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, island, coastal, hilly
Nutrient status	oligotrophic
pH	acidic, alkaline
Salinity	no information
Soil	mainly organic
Water permanence	usually permanent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Tiree, 1971–2000) (www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/tiree.html) Max. daily temperature: 11.6° C Min. daily temperature: 6.6° C Days of air frost: 14.0 Rainfall: 1236.4 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1399.0

General description of the Physical Features:

The site includes an extensive area of maritime heath, blanket mire and open water in the north-east of the island of Coll.

15. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

The site includes an extensive area of maritime heath, blanket mire and open water in the north-east of the island of Coll.

16. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

Maintenance of water quality (removal of nutrients)

17. Wetland types

Inland wetland, Marine/coastal wetland

Code	Name	% Area
D	Rocky shores	10
E	Sand / shingle shores (including dune systems)	5
O	Freshwater lakes: permanent	10
U	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)	55
Other	Other	20

18. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site.

The site contains substantial areas of rich maritime heath, *Sphagnum*-rich blanket mire and wet heath, and many lochs, some with unusual plant communities. There are smaller amounts of sand dune and associated grassland, marshy grassland and dry coastal heath.

19. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Nationally important species occurring on the site.**Higher Plants.**

Najas flexilis, Spiranthes romanzoffiana, Isoetes echinospora, Subularia aquatica, Deschampsia setacea, Eriocaulon aquaticum.

20. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Birds**Species Information**

None reported

21. Social and cultural values:

e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

Aesthetic

Aquatic vegetation (e.g. reeds, willows, seaweed)

Livestock grazing

Non-consumptive recreation

Scientific research

Sport fishing

Tourism

Traditional cultural

22. Land tenure/ownership:

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
National/Crown Estate	+	+
Private	+	+

23. Current land (including water) use:

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	+
Tourism	+	+
Recreation	+	+
Current scientific research	+	+
Fishing: recreational/sport	+	
Livestock watering hole/pond	+	+
Rough or shifting grazing	+	
Permanent pastoral agriculture		+
Hay meadows		+
Hunting: recreational/sport	+	+
Domestic water supply	+	

24. Factors adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

Explanation of reporting category:

1. Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.
2. Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)	On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
No factors reported	NA				

For category 2 factors only.

What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? NO

25. Conservation measures taken:

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ASSI)	+	
Special Protection Area (SPA)	+	
Management agreement	+	+
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA)	+	+

26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

No information available

27. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g. details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Flora.

Ericaulon aquaticum monitoring.

Najas flexilis monitoring.

Fauna.

Goose counts.

28. Current conservation education:

e.g. visitor centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

None reported

29. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

Informal walking, wildlife watching and occasional sport fishing on some of the lochs within the site.

30. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Scottish Executive, Environment and Rural Affairs Department

31. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Scottish Natural Heritage, 2 Anderson Place, Edinburgh, EH6 5NP

32. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 13 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Site-relevant references

Barne, JH, Robson, CF, Kaznowska, SS, Doody, JP, Davidson, NC & Buck, AL (eds.) (1997) *Coasts and seas of the United Kingdom. Regions 15 & 16. North-west Scotland: the Western Isles and west Highland*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. (Coastal Directories Series.)

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Stroud, DA (1992) Crofting and bird conservation on Coll and Tiree. *British Wildlife*, **3**(6), 340-349

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www.jncc.gov.uk/UKSPA/default.htm

Weighell, AJ, Donnelly, AP & Calder, K (eds.) (2000) *Directory of the Celtic coasts and seas*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough

Please return to: **Ramsar Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**

Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • email: ramsar@ramsar.org