for birds
for people
for ever

Zoë Clelland

Conservation Officer

Ailsa Craig: The Clyde's Newest RSPB Reserve



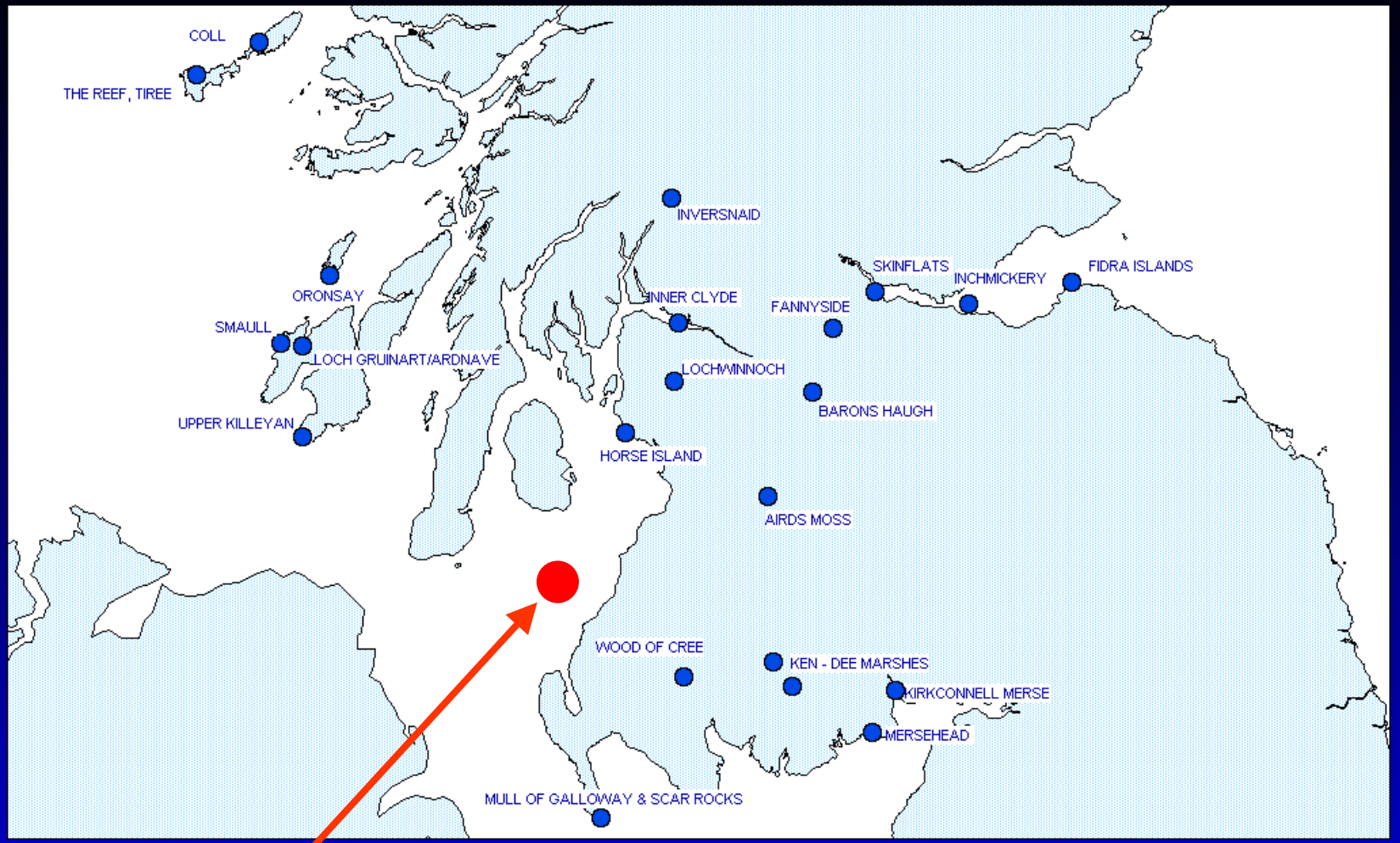




Alias Craig is RSPB Scotland's 72nd reserve: 15 year lease started in our centenary year

What is RSPB's?

- Owned by The Marquiss of Ailsa
- Leased by RSPB in 2004 for 15 years
- Total area 104 ha, RSPB reserve 102 ha
- Curling stone company maintain restricted minerals lease
- Lighthouse & pier not leased by RSPB


COLL
THE REEF, TIREE
INVERSNAID
ORONSAY
SKINFLATS
INCHMICKERY
FIDRA ISLANDS
INNER CLYDE
FANNYSIDE
SMAULL
LOCH GRUINART/ARDNAVE
LOCHWINNOCH
BARONS HAUGH
UPPER KILLEYAN
HORSE ISLAND
AIRDS MOSS
WOOD OF CREE
KEN - DEE MARSHES
KIRKCONNELL MERSE
MERSEHEAD
MULL OF GALLOWAY & SCAR ROCKS

Ailsa Craig

Inner Clyde









Seabird populations

Most famous for the

27,000+ pairs of gannets


12,000 pairs of
guillemots


8,000 pairs of
kittiwakes

Puffins back… 20+ pairs in 2004





Biggest slow worms in Britain


Basking sharks now rare but some seen around the island in 2004

Plans & progress

- Appoint warden
- Write management plan
- Baseline survey
- Install signage (H&S and disturbance)
- Assess ways to show people wildlife:
  - Liaison with local boat owners
  - Waverley cruises
  - Girvan community

Challenges in showing people wildlife

- Ailsa is remote
- Poor landing facilities and other hazards
- Seabirds sensitive to disturbance
- Best views from sea
- Boat operators limited



The Ailsa Craig Centre









GCDL Vision

- *'Award winning environmental building boasting spectacular views across the Clyde*

- *'Must-do' family friendly experience for anyone visiting the south west of Scotland focused on RSPB Ailsa Craig Nature Reserve and marine wildlife.*

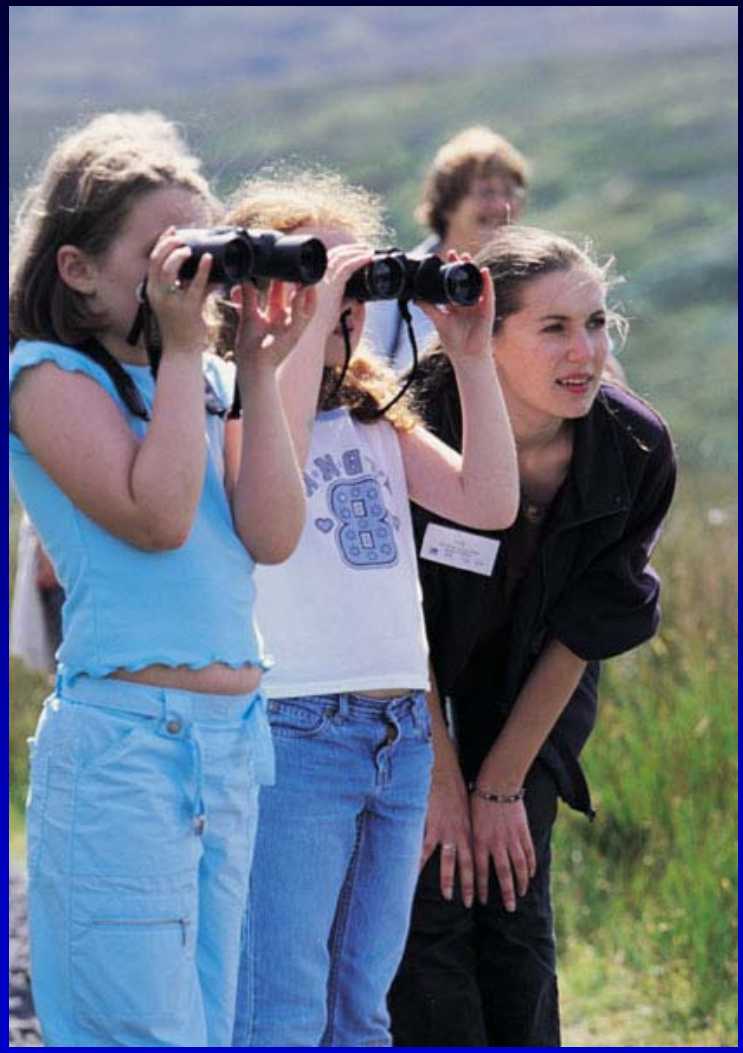
- *Focal point for local community- sports facilities, theatre space, exhibition areas, a licensed café and a children's indoor play area. Employment and volunteering opportunities.*

- *Essential stopping point for anyone passing through the town or exploring the region'*


6 3.7m
SM
57
Ppg Sta
Bollards
48
Works
87
Shelter
Car Park
1 HECTARES
40
BM 3.49m
Bollards
Mean High
Water Springs
Sand
Pipe Line
109
Sand
Promenade
Beach Pavilion
BC
Harbour Office
87
Swimming Pool
TCB
28
Fountain
111
Posts
BM 5.92m
Boating Pond
Playground
LOUISA DRIVE
HARBOUR STREET

Inspiring people





- promote Ailsa Craig as world class natural act
- enthuse people about seabirds and marine environment

Memorable Experience





Create a unique and unforgettable visitor experience