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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
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’
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