

CITATION

NORTH RONA AND SULA SGEIR SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Western Isles

Site code: 1240

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: HW 810324, HW 620305

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 8
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer Series 460

AREA: 138.79 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological

Birds (breeding): **Seabird colony**
 Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*)
 Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)
 Great black-backed gull (*Larus marinus*)
 Guillemot (*Uria aalge*)
 Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)
 Leach's petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)
 Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*)
 Razorbill (*Alca torda*)
 Storm petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*)

Mammals (marine): **Grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*)**

DESCRIPTION:

The islands of North Rona and Sula Sgeir are of international importance for the breeding sea bird colonies on both islands and the breeding grey seal population on Rona. North Rona lies 71 kilometres (44 miles) north-north east of Butt of Lewis and 18 kilometres (11 miles) east of Sula Sgeir.

North Rona has an area of 109 hectares (270 acres) and a maximum height of 108 metres (350 ft). The vegetation is mainly subarctic grassland, which is modified in places to saltmarsh by the effects of sea spray, seabirds and seals. Large numbers of grey seals produce their offspring on North Rona.

The island also supports large colonies of guillemots, razorbills, puffins and kittiwake nesting on the cliffs. Fulmar and other petrels occupy old ruins and rocky places, and on the north and south promontories there are large great black-backed gull colonies.

Sula Sgeir is an isolated sea stack notable for its large colony of breeding gannets.

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1949 Act: 1960 and 1974 as North Rona and Sula Sgeir NNR

Renotified under the 1981 Act: 22 December 1983 as North Rona and Sula Sgeir SSSI

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: [11 June 2010](#)

REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 130 ha).

Part of North Rona and Sula Sgeir SSSI is part of North Rona Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designated for the European habitats and species listed below.

North Rona and Sula Sgeir SSSI is part of North Rona and Sula Sgeir Special Protection Area (SPA) designated for the birds listed below.

Habitats: Reefs
 Sea caves
 Vegetated sea cliffs

Species: Grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*)

Birds (breeding): Breeding seabird assemblage
 Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*)
 Gannet (*Morus bassanus*)
 Great black-backed gull (*Larus marinus*)
 Guillemot (*Uria aalge*)
 Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)
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