

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds  
**CITATION FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA)**

**HOY**  
**(UK 9002141)**

**INCLUDING MARINE EXTENSION**

**Site description:**

Hoy is a mountainous island at the south-western end of the Orkney archipelago. Hoy SPA covers the northern and western two-thirds of Hoy island, which is formed of Old Red Sandstone and contains Orkney's highest hills, and adjacent coastal waters. The SPA supports an extremely diverse mixture of mire, heath and alpine vegetation and Britain's most northerly native woodland. These upland areas and the high sea cliffs at the coast support an important assemblage of moorland breeding birds and breeding seabirds.

The boundary of Hoy SPA overlaps with that of Hoy SSSI, and the seaward extension extends approximately 2 km into the marine environment to include the seabed, water column and surface.

**Qualifying Interest** (N.B. All figures relate to numbers at the time of classification except where amended by the 2001 SPA Review):

Hoy SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the Annex 1 species: **red-throated diver** *Gavia stellata* (58 territories, 6% of the GB population) and **peregrine** *Falco peregrinus* (6 pairs, 0.5% of the GB population).

Hoy SPA further qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the migratory species: **great skua** *Stercorarius skua* (1,900 pairs, 14% of the world biogeographic population).

Hoy SPA also qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting **in excess of 20,000 individual seabirds**. It regularly supports 120,000 seabirds including nationally important populations of the following species: **Atlantic puffin** *Fratercula arctica* (3,500 pairs, 0.7% of the GB population); **black-legged kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* (3,000 pairs, 0.6% of the GB population); **Arctic skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus* (59 pairs, 2% of the GB population); **Northern fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis* (35,000 pairs, 6% of the GB population); **great black-backed gull** *Larus marinus* (570 pairs, 3% of the GB population); **common guillemot** *Uria aalge* (13,400 pairs, 2% of the GB population).

Area: 18,122.17 Ha  
National Grid References: HY 225010  
OS Sheet 1:50,000 – 6, 7

Classified on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2000, with marine extension classified on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009

**Scottish Natural Heritage**  
**September 2009**