

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds

**SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) CITATION
FOR PUBLIC ISSUE**

RAMNA STACKS AND GRUNEY, SHETLAND (202A)

Ramna Stacks and Gruney are a group of small rocky islets 2 km off the northernmost tip of Mainland Shetland. Gruney supports seabird-enriched maritime grassland but the Ramna Stacks are largely bare of vegetation. The boundary of the international site is coincident with that of Ramna Stacks and Gruney SSSI.

Ramna Stacks and Gruney qualifies under Article 4.1 as a site of international importance for its colony of Leach's petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* (20 pairs), one of only seven colonies in Britain, and one of only eight in the European Community (one colony in Eire). Thus the conservation of this colony is of vital importance for the maintenance of the restricted breeding range of this species within Britain and the European Community.

As well as its importance for Leach's petrel, the site is also of strong scientific and nature conservation interest for its' diverse overall assemblage of breeding seabirds, with 9 species present in total.

Area: 10.76 Ha

National Grid Reference: HU 380970

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Research and Advisory Services Directorate

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RJ/GPM