

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

**SULE SKERRY AND SULE STACK (UK9002181)**

**INCLUDING MARINE EXTENSION**

**Site Description:**

Sule Skerry and Sule Stack are isolated islets 60 km west of Mainland, Orkney. Sule Skerry is larger, low-lying and vegetated whereas Sule Stack is a higher, bare rock stack with no vascular plants.

The boundary of the SPA overlaps with those of Sule Skerry SSSI and Sule Stack 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):

Sule Skerry and Sule Stack SPA qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **Annex 1** species: **European storm petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus* (500 - 5000 pairs, 1 - 6% of the GB population); and **Leach's storm petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* (5 pairs, <0.1% of the GB population).

Sule Skerry and Sule Stack SPA further qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting populations of European importance of the **migratory** species: **Northern gannet** *Morus bassanus* (5,900 pairs, 2.2% of the world biogeographic population); and **Atlantic puffin** *Fratercula arctica* (46,900 pairs, 5% of the *F.a.grabae* biogeographic population).

Sule Skerry and Sule Stack SPA also qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting **in excess of 20,000 individual seabirds**. The site regularly supports 100,000 seabirds including nationally important populations of the following species: common guillemot *Uria aalge* (6,298, 0.9% of the GB population); European shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* (874 pairs, 2.3% of the GB population); Atlantic puffin (46,900 pairs, 10.4% of the GB population); Northern gannet (5,900 pairs, 4.0% of the GB population); European storm petrel (5,000 pairs); and Leach's storm petrel (5 pairs).

Area: 3,909.45 Ha

National Grid References: Sule Skerry HX 623241, Sule Stack NL 560800

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Classified on 29th March 1994, with marine extension classified on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009

**Scottish Natural Heritage**  
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