

EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds

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

**ROUSAY  
(UK9002371)**

**INCLUDING MARINE EXTENSION**

**Site Description:**

Rousay is an island off the north-east coast of Mainland, Orkney. The SPA consists of sea cliffs and areas of maritime heath and grassland in the northwest and north-east of the island.

The boundary of the Special Protection Area overlaps with the boundary of Rousay 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 Review.)

Rousay qualifies under **Article 4.1** by regularly supporting a population of European importance of the **Annex 1** species **Arctic tern** *Sterna paradisaea* (average of 790 pairs in the five year period between 1991 and 1995; 2% of the GB population).

Rousay SPA also qualifies under **Article 4.2** by regularly supporting **in excess of 20,000 individual seabirds**. The site regularly supports about 30,000 seabirds including nationally important populations of **Arctic tern** (790 pairs, 2% of the GB population), **Arctic skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus* (130 pairs; 4% of the GB population), **black-legged kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* (4,900 pairs; 1% of the GB population), **common guillemot** *Uria aalge* (10,600 individuals, 1% of the GB population) and **Northern fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis* (1,240 pairs, 0.2% of GB population).

Area: 5,483.37 Ha

National Grid Reference: HY 400310

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Classified on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2000, with marine extension classified on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009

**Scottish Natural Heritage  
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