

**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

ANGLESEY

THE SKERRIES

Date of notification: 1957, 1984

National Grid Reference: SH269949

O.S. Maps: 1:50000 Sheet number: 114
1:25000 Sheet number: SH29

Site Area: 17 ha

Description:

A group of small rocky islets used by seabirds and grey seals. The Skerries used to be one of the major breeding sites for terns particularly arctic terns in the British Isles. Numbers declined from the several thousand pairs recorded in 1905 to being completely deserted in the 1960s. However arctic terns have returned and 150 pairs bred there in 1983. A gullery principally of herring and lesser black-backed gulls - 650/700 pairs in 1983 is also present. Other breeding species include puffin (150 pairs), shag oystercatcher, red-breasted merganser and rock pipit. Bird migration studies have shown that the islands are a significant station for autumn migrants. Grey seals use the islands principally as a hauling out place.

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