

NATURA 2000

STANDARD DATA FORM

FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA)
FOR SITES ELIGIBLE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCI)
AND
FOR SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

1. Site identification:

1.1 Type 1.2 Site code

1.3 Compilation date 1.4 Update

1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

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1.6 Respondent(s)

1.7 Site name

1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	200210
date confirmed as SCI	200412
date site classified as SPA	
date site designated as SAC	200503

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
02 14 00 W	57 02 10 N

2.2 Site area (ha) 2.3 Site length (km)

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UKA4	Grampian	100.00%

2.6 Biogeographic region

Alpine

Atlantic

Boreal

Continental

Macaronesia

Mediterranean

3. Ecological information:

3.1 Annex I habitats

Habitat types present on the site and the site assessment for them:

Annex I habitat	% cover	Representativity	Relative surface	Conservation status	Global assessment
Active raised bogs	30	B	C	C	B

Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	30	C	C	C	C
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3.2 Annex II species

Species name	Population			Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory		Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
		Breed	Winter				

4. Site description

4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	80.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	10.0
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	10.0
Coniferous woodland	
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	
Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, dehesas)	
Inland rocks. Scree. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	
Total habitat cover	100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

<p>Soil & geology: Acidic, Metamorphic, Nutrient-poor, Peat</p> <p>Geomorphology & landscape:</p>

4.2 Quality and importance

<p>Active raised bogs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. <p>Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

4.3 Vulnerability

The bog was drained and extensively cut-over in the past, resulting in a lowered water table, local loss of bog vegetation and encroachment of open mire by scrub. Additional activities that may have caused damage to the site in the past include muirburn, grazing by livestock and prospecting for minerals (diatomite), but these are no longer a threat. A few major drains remain along the site's margins and in a more central part of it, and although these are no longer maintained, they are still active. An ongoing problem on parts of the site is scrub encroachment. A large part of the site (47 ha) was recently purchased by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, which is developing a management plan for the site to include restorative management such as ditch-blocking. It is expected that restoration work will also include scrub clearance. A detailed hydrological study, jointly funded by SWT and Scottish Natural Heritage, will commence in autumn 2002 and will inform plans for restoration management.

The site has been identified as appropriate to receive funding for management under the proposed SNH *Natural Care* Grampian Lowland Bog Scheme

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0