

# 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

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

1.6 Respondent(s)

1.7 Site name

### 1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	199004
date site designated as SAC	

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
05 12 09 W	58 22 55 N

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

#### 2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
0	Marine	99.3%
UKM41	Caithness and Sutherland and Ross and Cromarty	0.7%

#### 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

### 3.2 Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I

Code	Species name	Population			Site assessment				
		Resident	Breed	Winter	Stage	Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
A200	<i>Alca torda</i>		16394 I			B		C	
A175	<i>Catharacta skua</i>		66 P			C		C	
A009	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		3500 P			C		C	
A188	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		10732 P			B		C	
A199	<i>Uria aalge</i>		98686 I			B		C	

## 4. Site description:

### 4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	88.5
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	0.2
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	1.7
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	0.3
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	8.8
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	0.5
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	
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)	
<b>Total habitat cover</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4.1 Other site characteristics

#### Soil & geology:

Acidic, Gravel, Nutrient-poor, Peat, Sandstone, Sandstone/mudstone, Sedimentary

#### Geomorphology & landscape:

Cave/tunnel, Cliffs, Geos (rocky inlets), Intertidal rock, Islands, Open coast (including bay)

### 4.2 Quality and importance

#### ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

#### During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

*Alca torda*

1.9% of the breeding population  
SCRC 1985-1988

*Uria aalge*  
(East Atlantic)

2.9% of the breeding population  
SCRC 1985-1988

**ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS**

**During the breeding season the area regularly supports:**

200000 seabirds - SCRC 1985-1988

Including:

*Alca torda*, *Catharacta skua*, *Fulmarus glacialis*, *Rissa tridactyla*, *Uria aalge*.

### 4.3 Vulnerability

Handa Island is managed as a nature reserve by the Scottish Wildlife Trust. In 1997, the Trust eradicated the rat population to prevent predation on nesting seabirds. The island is visited by birdwatchers in the summer but visitors are managed to prevent disturbance to the breeding seabirds.

## 5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	11.48