

# 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

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	199608
date site designated as SAC	

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
04 16 48 W	57 19 54 N

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

#### 2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UKA31	Highland	100.0%

#### 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	Migratory		Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global	
Breed	Winter	Stage							
A007	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>		14 P			A		B	

## 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)	70.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	5.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	10.0
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	15.0
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)	
<b>Total habitat cover</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 4.1 Other site characteristics

**Soil & geology:**

Metamorphic, Nutrient-poor, Peat

**Geomorphology & landscape:**

Crag/ledges, Hilly, Upland, Valley

## 4.2 Quality and importance

**ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)****During the breeding season the area regularly supports:***Podiceps auritus*  
(North-western Europe)20% of the GB breeding population  
5 year mean, 1989-1993**ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)**

### 4.3 Vulnerability

Part of Loch Ruthven is owned by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds which manages the reserve for the benefit of breeding *Podiceps auritus*. The loch ecosystem is relatively stable although there are potential threats from acidification associated with conifer plantations and from the possible management of the loch as a public water supply. These specific proposals would be addressed if and when they become relevant.

## 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