

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

U	K	0	0	1	9	8	1	1
U	K	0	0	1	9	8	1	2

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	199702
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
03 59 48 W	57 05 23 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						
A082	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		11 I		C		B	
A038	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>		190 I		B		C	
A094	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	8 I			B		B	
A119	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	3 I			A		A	
A166	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	2 P			A		A	

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)	15.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	43.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	8.0
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	25.0
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	1.0
Other arable land	5.0
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	2.0
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	1.0
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	
Total habitat cover	100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Alluvium, Neutral, Peat, Shingle

Geomorphology & landscape:

Floodplain, Valley

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Pandion haliaetus

8.1% of the GB breeding population
Count, as at early 1990s

Porzana porzana
(Europe/Africa)

18.8% of the GB breeding population
5 year mean, 1990-1995

<i>Tringa glareola</i> (Europe- breeding)	100% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1990-1995
Over winter the area regularly supports:	
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	1.5% of the GB population 5 year mean, 1990/1-1994/5
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i> (Iceland/UK/Ireland)	3.4% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/2-1995/6

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

4.3 Vulnerability

The Insh Marshes are a large floodplain mire lying either side of the River Spey upstream of Loch Insh. The Special Protection Area also includes the river and its margins between Newtonmore and Kingussie together with Loch Insh and the Feshie-Spey confluence. A large proportion of the site is owned or leased by the RSPB and managed as a bird reserve under an agreement with Scottish Natural Heritage, ensuring compatibility with the European interests. Many areas are grazed by stock in the summer months and this helps contain scrub development. Any changes in current acceptable levels of shooting or commercial watersports would require consultation with Scottish Natural Heritage under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.

Flooding occurs annually on the site. Abnormal flooding can affect neighbouring areas and in the past there have been proposals for flood prevention/alleviation works and agricultural drainage which would be damaging to the Special Protection Area. One proposal resulted in the making of a Nature Conservation Order which is still in force. Any future proposals would be subject to planning controls.

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