

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	
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	200704
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
06 18 34 W	55 35 46 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UKA22	Strathclyde	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

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						
A346	<i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>		8 P		C		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	2.0
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	7.0
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	25.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	23.0
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	27.0
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	15.0
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	1.0
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

Soil & geology:

Sand, Sedimentary

Geomorphology & landscape:

Cliffs, Coastal, Crags/ledges, Lowland, Slope, Upland

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax

2.2% of the GB breeding population
2001 – 2005 (mean figure)

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

4.3 Vulnerability

The Oa SPA is mostly a mixed livestock farming area. Most of the site is a RSPB nature reserve managed for the chough.

Parts of the site are popular with walkers, and recreational activity largely focuses on footpaths and the more easily accessible beaches and caves, although breeding chough are potentially vulnerable where informal recreational activity takes place close to their cave/building nest sites. However, these sites lie within the RSPB-managed land where visitors are encouraged to use other areas.

The choughs may be vulnerable to alterations in the grazing regime resulting in changes to sward height and composition, and potential reduction in animal dung, important for the invertebrate populations on which chough feed. A RSPB reserve management plan is being developed by RSPB and SNH and a management agreement currently exists with a further owner-occupier to support cattle management for the benefit of chough.

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