

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

J

1.2 Site code

UK9004171

1.3 Compilation date

199004

1.4 Update

200910

1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U | K | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 2 |
| U | K | 9 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 1 |

1.6 Respondent(s)

International Designations, JNCC, Peterborough

1.7 Site name

Forth Islands

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

02 46 07 W

56 06 03 N

2.2 Site area (ha)

9796.98

2.3 Site length (km)

2.5 Administrative region

| NUTS code | Region name | % cover |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---------|
| 0 | Marine | 99.2% |
| UKM22 | Clackmannanshire and Fife | 0.8% |
| UKM23 | East Lothian and Midlothian | 0.1% |

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 | | | | |
| A200 | <i>Alca torda</i> | | 1400 P | | | C | | C | |
| A204 | <i>Fratercula arctica</i> | | 14000 P | | | B | | C | |
| A009 | <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> | | 798 P | | | C | | C | |
| A184 | <i>Larus argentatus</i> | | 6600 P | | | B | | C | |
| A183 | <i>Larus fuscus</i> | | 1500 P | | | C | | C | |
| A016 | <i>Morus bassanus</i> | | 21600 P | | | B | | C | |
| A018 | <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> | | 2400 P | | | B | | C | |
| A017 | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | | 200 P | | | B | | C | |
| A188 | <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> | | 8400 P | | | C | | C | |
| A192 | <i>Sterna dougallii</i> | | 8 P | | | B | | B | |
| A193 | <i>Sterna hirundo</i> | | 334 P | | | B | | C | |
| A194 | <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> | | 540 P | | | C | | C | |
| A191 | <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> | | 440 P | | | B | | C | |
| A199 | <i>Uria aalge</i> | | 16000 P | | | B | | C | |

4. Site description:

4.1 General site character

| Habitat classes | % cover |
|--|---------|
| Marine areas. Sea inlets | 99.0 |
| Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins) | |
| Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes | |
| Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair | 0.0 |
| Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets | 0.3 |
| Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) | 0.1 |
| Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens | |
| Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana | 0.0 |
| Dry grassland. Steppes | 0.4 |
| Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland | 0.1 |
| 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) | |

| Habitat classes | % cover |
|--|-------------|
| Inland rocks. Scree. Sands. Permanent snow and ice | |
| Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites) | 0.0 |
| Total habitat cover | 100% |

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Acidic, Gravel, Igneous, Mud

Geomorphology & landscape:

Cave/tunnel, Cliffs, Coastal, Crag/ledges, Geos (rocky inlets), Intertidal rock, Islands

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Sterna dougallii</i> (Europe - breeding) | 13% of the GB breeding population 1997-2001 |
| <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Northern/Eastern Europe - breeding) | 3% of the GB breeding population 1997-2001 |
| <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> (Arctic - breeding/Southern Oceans - wintering) | 1.2% of the GB breeding population Mean 1992 to 1996 |
| <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (Western Europe/Western Africa) | 3% of the GB breeding population SCRC 1985-1988 |

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>Fratercula arctica</i> | 1.5% of the breeding population SCRC 1985-1988 |
| <i>Larus fuscus</i> (Western Europe/Mediterranean/Western Africa) | 1.2% of the breeding population SCRC 1985-1988 |
| <i>Morus bassanus</i> | 8.2% of the breeding population SCRC 1985-1988 |
| <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> (Northern Europe) | 1.9% 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:

90000 seabirds - SCRC 1985-1988

Including:

Alca torda, *Fratercula arctica*, *Fulmarus glacialis*, *Larus argentatus*, *Larus fuscus*, *Morus bassanus*, *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*, *Phalacrocorax carbo*, *Rissa tridactyla*, *Sterna dougallii*, *Sterna hirundo*, *Sterna paradisaea*, *Sterna sandvicensis*, *Uria aalge*.

4.3 Vulnerability

There are few threats to the interest of the site. The Isle of May is a National Nature Reserve managed for its nature conservation interest by Scottish Natural Heritage. Fidra, The Lamb and Inchmickery are managed for their nature conservation interest by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds while Long Craig Island is managed by the Fife Bird Club and the Scottish Wildlife Trust. The tern population has declined, probably because of the expansion in gull numbers combined with the natural mobility of tern colonies. SNH and RSPB are undertaking management initiatives to encourage a recovery in the tern population. The Scottish Seabird Centre has raised awareness of the colonies on the East Lothian islands. Measures to prevent disturbance to breeding birds by increased visitor numbers have been taken, e.g. remotely-operated cameras give close-up views of birds without causing disturbance.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

| Code | % cover |
|------------------|---------|
| UK01 (NNR) | 0.7 |
| UK04 (SSSI/ASSI) | 1.1 |