

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	200810
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
03 54 10 W	55 56 44 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UKM26	Falkirk	14.0%
UKM36	North Lanarkshire	86.0%

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						
A039a	<i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>			221 I	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)	5.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	50.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	25.0
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	20.0
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)	
Total habitat cover	100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Acidic, Peat, Sedimentary

Geomorphology & landscape:

Lowland

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Anser fabalis fabalis

Over 53% of the population in Great Britain

Five year mean for 2000/2001 to 2004/2005 of 221 individuals

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

4.3 Vulnerability

The boundary of the Slamannan Plateau SPA includes most of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Fannyside Reserve (59.18Ha), which is managed mainly for bean geese.

The SPA is subject to steady development pressure. Recent proposals have included housing, wind turbines, and sewage sludge deposition. Several areas of forestry were planted in the past directly reducing the area available for feeding geese and influencing remaining feeding areas through enclosure and increased risk of predation. Fortunately, in more recent years applications to plant new forests have decreased. Some of the goose resting and roosting areas have been subject to peat milling operations, although these have now stopped. If the production of peat from these areas becomes commercially viable the operations may recommence. An extant planning permission for peat extraction at the main roost site is currently being reviewed by the competent authority, North Lanarkshire Council. The removal of peat is unlikely to be compatible with the Conservation Objectives of the SPA.

Recreational use is not high, nevertheless walking, cycling, horse riding and bird watching take place. If the level of use by these activities was to increase in an unplanned manner, then it may result in disturbance to the geese. To reduce the instances of bird watchers causing disturbance, a website has been developed which gives details of suitable places from which to view the geese.

While damaging changes in land management can be controlled in part through the provisions of The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, applying to the Slamannan Plateau and West Fannyside Moss Sites of Special Scientific Interest, they are also addressed through the 'Slamannan Plateau Bean Goose Management Scheme.' This scheme was developed by Scottish Natural Heritage to support land managers to maintain suitable habitat conditions for bean geese within the SPA. The scheme is now closed to new entrants, having run between 1 March 2006 and April 2008, but it is hoped that the prescriptions of the scheme will be incorporated in the Scotland Rural Development Programme.

Ongoing monitoring of the bean goose population is conducted by the Bean Goose Action Group, and should help to inform best management practice.

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