

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	200910
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
05 02 03 W	57 07 18 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UKM42	Inverness and Nairn and West Moray, Badenoch and Strathspey	29.6%
UKM43	Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh, Arran & Cumbrae and Argyll & Bute	70.4%

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				
A002	<i>Gavia arctica</i>		7 P		B		C	
A065	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>		8 P		B		C	

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)	96.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	1.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	1.0
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	1.0
Coniferous woodland	1.0
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	
Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, dehesas)	
Inland rocks. Screes. 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, Metamorphic, Nutrient-poor, Peat

Geomorphology & landscape:

Upland

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Gavia arctica
(Western Siberia/Europe)

up to 3.4% of the population in Great Britain
between 1990 and 2005

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Melanitta nigra
(Western Siberia/Western & Northern
Europe/North-western Africa)

8.2% of the population in Great Britain
between 1994-2000 and 2004-2005

4.3 Vulnerability

West Inverness-shire Lochs SPA comprises a suite of upland freshwater lochs.

With the exception of several of the larger lochs which are components of a hydro-electricity scheme and are dammed, little active management of the lochs takes place. Water level controls for the hydro-electric generation can produce artificial fluctuations in water levels which can be pronounced. Floating rafts for black-throated divers to use as breeding platforms have been installed on three lochs to help protect black-throated diver nest sites and improve their breeding success.

Although most of the lochs are in a remote, upland area with few visitors, recreational angling takes place from both the shore and from boats and there is a salmon fish farm on one loch. However, at current levels of activity these interests are compatible with the requirements of the black-throated divers and common scoters.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	0.2
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0