

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	200712
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
06 13 00 W	56 01 45 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UKM43	Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh and Argyll and the Islands	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						
A122	<i>Crex crex</i>		16 P		C		B	
A346	<i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>		4 P		C		B	
A346	<i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>			47 I	B		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)	13.1
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	1.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	48.1
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	5.3
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	1.5
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	25.4
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	5.7
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. 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, Basic, Igneous, Metamorphic, Peat, Sand, Sedimentary, Shingle

Geomorphology & landscape:

Coastal, Crags/ledges, Hilly, Island, Lowland

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Crex crex More than 1.9% of the population in Great Britain
(Europe/Africa/Western Asia) Five year mean for 2000 to 2004

Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax More than 1.2% of the population in Great Britain
Five year mean for 2001 to 2005

Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	More than 5% of the population in Great Britain Between 2000/2001 and 2004/2005
-------------------------------	--

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

4.3 Vulnerability

Oronsay and South Colonsay SPA is mostly a mixed livestock farming area. The Oronsay part of the site is an RSPB nature reserve managed mainly for chough and corncrake. The Colonsay part of the site includes two farms which have areas of inbye grassland and hill and coastal grasslands which are extensively grazed.

Parts of the site are popular with walkers, and recreational activity largely focuses on the more easily accessible beaches, but it is unlikely that these activities result in disturbance to chough or corncrake.

The chough 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 in place for Oronsay which maintains a grazing regime to manage the dune grassland and machair in a condition suitable for feeding chough. On Colonsay there are no management agreements currently in place but SNH are exploring appropriate grassland management options under the SRDP Rural Priorities Scheme to maintain cattle management for the benefit of chough.

Chough generally nest in natural sites within the SPA. There is one artificial nest within a building which is currently disused.

Corncrake may be vulnerable to changes in farming practice, particularly changes in mowing regimes on improved grassland and a reduction in the areas of early and late cover due to grazing changes. RSPB manage the inbye grassland on Oronsay for corncrake and work with another farmer, on the part of Colonsay which supports most of the corncrake, to manage corncrake habitat. There are also options under the SRDP Rural Priorities Scheme to encourage management for the benefit of corncrake

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