

# 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

U	K	9	0	0	1	6	2	2
U	K	9	0	0	1	6	2	3

1.6 Respondent(s)

1.7 Site name

#### 1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	199610
date confirmed as SCI	200412
date site classified as SPA	
date site designated as SAC	200503

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
03 43 32 W	57 49 01 N

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

#### 2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
0	Marine	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
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	30	C	B	C	C
Estuaries	2	D			
Large shallow inlets and bays	44.4	D			

#### 3.2 Annex II species

Species name	Population				Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory			Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
		Breed	Winter	Stage				
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	101-250	-	-	-	A	B	C	B
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			
<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			
<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			
<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	501-1000	-	-	-	D			

### 4. Site description

#### 4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	100.0
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)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
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)	
Inland rocks. Screes. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	
<b>Total habitat cover</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 4.1 Other site characteristics

### Soil & geology:

Biogenic reef, Boulder, Cobble, Gravel, Mud, Pebble, Sand, Sandstone/mudstone, Sedimentary, Shingle, Slate/shale

### Geomorphology & landscape:

Enclosed coast (including embayment), Estuary, Intertidal rock, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Open coast (including bay), Subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank)

## 4.2 Quality and importance

Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

*Tursiops truncatus*

- for which this is one of only two known outstanding localities in the United Kingdom.

## 4.3 Vulnerability

Under the auspices of the Moray Firth Partnership, a SAC management group was set up in October 1999 with EC LIFE Project funding. The group aims to develop management measures to restore and maintain the bottlenose dolphin population at a viable level. The dolphin population is monitored by Aberdeen University. A number of initiatives are already underway including an accreditation scheme for dolphin-watching cruise boats and codes of conduct for recreational pleasure craft. A strategy for dumping and dredging activities is also being developed to address these very localised activities adjacent to the coastline.

## 5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK00 (N/A)	100.0