

# 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

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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	199903
date site designated as SAC	

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
04 21 15 W	56 50 25 N

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

#### 2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UKA31	Highland	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						
A043a	<i>Anser anser</i>		2651 I		B		B	
A157	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		1090 I		C		B	
A069	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		1184 I		B		B	
A094	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		>2 I		C		C	
A193	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		310 P		C		C	
A162	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		1621 I		C		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)	75.7
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	6.6
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	11.3
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	1.3
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	2.7
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	0.9
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	1.3
Coniferous woodland	0.2
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)	
<b>Total habitat cover</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4.1 Other site characteristics

#### Soil & geology:

Alluvium, Metamorphic, Mud, Sand, Sedimentary, Shingle

#### Geomorphology & landscape:

Coastal, Lowland

### 4.2 Quality and importance

#### ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

#### During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

*Pandion haliaetus*

at least 2% of the GB breeding population  
Count, as at early 1990s

*Sterna hirundo*

(Northern/Eastern Europe - breeding)

2% of the GB breeding population  
Seabird Census Register

<b>Over winter the area regularly supports:</b>	
<i>Limosa lapponica</i> (Western Palearctic - wintering)	1% of the GB population 5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7

<b>ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)</b>	
<b>Over winter the area regularly supports:</b>	
<i>Anser anser</i> (Iceland/UK/Ireland)	3% of the population 5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7
<i>Mergus serrator</i> (North-western/Central Europe)	1% of the population 5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7
<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	1% of the population 5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7

### 4.3 Vulnerability

Parts of the Inner Moray Firth SPA are vulnerable to developmental pressures including land-claim and waste disposal. SNH has a Management Agreement with the fabrication yard adjacent to Whiteness Head. This Agreement will be reviewed during 1999. The Highland Council's Waste Management Strategy is looking at sustainable long-term options for waste disposal in the Highland area in consultation with SNH. There is disturbance to the interest through the cumulative impacts of a range of small-scale activities including bait-digging and wildfowling. The Moray Firth Partnership, an integrated management forum, provides a mechanism through which a range of interested parties can address the wide range of threats to this site.

## 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