

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	199712
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
04 53 30 W	57 36 10 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						
A166	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		3 P		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)	56.7
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	23.3
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	0.9
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	14.0
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	
Coniferous woodland	5.1
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:

Alluvium, Neutral, Nutrient-poor, Nutrient-rich, Peat, Shingle

Geomorphology & landscape:

Floodplain, Lowland, Valley

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Tringa glareola
(Europe- breeding)

100% of the GB breeding population
5 year mean, 1991-1995

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

4.3 Vulnerability

Around half of the site is owned by an estate with whom SNH has a management agreement and this area is also a RSPB reserve managed for its nature conservation interest. Achanalt Marshes are maintained by natural processes, an important aspect of which is annual flooding by the River Bran. The presence of a small dam immediately downstream of the site could threaten the interest by maintaining unsuitably high water levels in the summer. Discussions are being held with relevant parties to reach agreements which reduce this threat. Generally the site and features of interest are thought to be in good condition except for an area damaged by forestry in the late 1960s. The management of this damaged area is the subject of discussion with the owner and it is very likely that its condition will improve in the long term. The site is vulnerable to disturbance from visitors as a result of informal recreation and these activities are discouraged by SNH and RSPB.

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