

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	0	0	1	6	4	1	2
U	K	0	0	1	9	8	1	1
U	K	0	0	3	0	2	5	1

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	199709
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
03 38 30 W	57 04 30 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UKA4	Grampian	53.16%
UKA31	Highland	46.84%

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
A091	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		12 P			B		C	
A139	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>		240 P			A		B	
A098	<i>Falco columbarius</i>		14 P			C		C	
A103	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		12 P			C		C	
A451	<i>Loxia scotica</i>		100 I			A		B	
A094	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		4 I			B		B	
A108	<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	130 I				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)	2.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	16.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	44.0
Dry grassland. Steppes	2.0
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	1.0
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	14.0
Improved grassland	1.0
Other arable land	1.0
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	1.0
Coniferous woodland	6.0
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	1.0
Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, dehesas)	
Inland rocks. Scree. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	10.0
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	1.0
Total habitat cover	100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Acidic, Granite, Igneous, Nutrient-poor, Peat, Sedimentary

Geomorphology & landscape:

Crags/ledges, Escarpment, Montane, Slope, Upland, Valley

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	3% of the GB breeding population Count, as at 1995
<i>Charadrius morinellus</i> (Europe - breeding)	28% of the GB breeding population Count, as at 1995
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	1% of the GB breeding population Count, as at 1995
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1% of the GB breeding population Count, as at 1995
<i>Loxia scotica</i>	10% of the GB breeding population No count period specified.
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	2% of the GB breeding population Count, as at early 1990s
During the year the area regularly supports:	
<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	12.1% of the GB breeding population Estimated using distance sampling analysis on March 1997 transect data

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

4.3 Vulnerability

This is a very extensive site where pressures vary with location. In the core area there are three National Nature Reserves covering the montane and woodland habitats and their associated specialised bird species, and the site is contained within the Cairngorms National Park. In addition, non-governmental conservation bodies own and manage large tracts of land for nature conservation. Most of the remaining area is managed for sports shooting or forestry. Locally high deer numbers have previously prevented tree regeneration but initiatives are now in hand to remedy this.

This is a popular area for a number of outdoor pursuits including hill walking, skiing, mountain biking and bird watching. The large number of visitors can cause damage to the more vulnerable areas and a combination of strategies for visitor management and ongoing repair and maintenance to footpaths is being used to address this issue. Wider countryside measures are in place which also have a role in maintaining the population levels for which the site was classified.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	51.0
UK00 (N/A)	0.6
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	99.4