

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	199004
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
05 07 00 W	55 15 15 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UKA22	Strathclyde	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							
A200	<i>Alca torda</i>		1000 I			C		C	
A183	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		1800 P			B		C	
A016	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		32460 P			A		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	51.8
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	0.2
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	28.5
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	19.5
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. 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:

Acidic, Granite

Geomorphology & landscape:

Cliffs, Coastal, Crag/ledges, Intertidal rock, Island

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Alca torda 0.7% of the population in Great Britain
Count, as at 1987

Larus fuscus 2.2% of the population in Great Britain
(Western Europe/Mediterranean/Western Africa) Count, as at 1987

<i>Morus bassanus</i>	12.3% of the breeding population Count, as at 1995
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4.3 Vulnerability

There is no significant threat to the interest at present.
The site is subject to a Management Agreement (initially for one year, but running from year to year so long as necessary) to reduce and control the brown rat population which currently discourage ground-nesting birds.

SNH are in discussion with the owners of Ailsa Craig regarding Management Undertakings to protect biological, geological and landscape features of the site. It is proposed that numbers of visitors to the island are maintained at the present level with seasonal restrictions to protect the colonies of breeding birds from disturbance. Grazing pressure by rabbits may be causing erosion, and it is proposed that this is monitored and if found to be a problem will be addressed through the Management Statement.

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