

**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**

F

**1.2 Site code**

UK9001231

**1.3 Compilation date**

199603

**1.4 Update**

200910

**1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites**

U K 0 0 3 0 1 0 8

**1.6 Respondent(s)**

International Designations, JNCC, Peterborough

**1.7 Site name**

Cape Wrath

**1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates**

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	199603
date site designated as SAC	

**2. Site location:****2.1 Site centre location****longitude****latitude**

04 56 32 W

58 36 49 N

**2.2 Site area (ha)**

6737.26

**2.3 Site length (km)****2.5 Administrative region**

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
0	Marine	85.7%
UKM41	Caithness and Sutherland and Ross and Cromarty	14.3%

**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
A200	<i>Alca torda</i>		Breed 1800 I	Winter	Stage	C		C	
A204	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		Breed 5900 P	Winter	Stage	C		C	
A009	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		Breed 2300 P	Winter	Stage	C		C	
A188	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		Breed 9700 P	Winter	Stage	C		C	
A199	<i>Uria aalge</i>		Breed 13700 I	Winter	Stage	C		C	

## 4. Site description:

### 4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	84.9
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	0.1
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	2.1
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	0.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	9.7
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	1.8
Dry grassland. Steppes	1.3
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	0.2
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)	
<b>Total habitat cover</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4.1 Other site characteristics

#### Soil & geology:

Acidic, Alluvium, Boulder, Gravel, Limestone, Limestone/chalk, Metamorphic, Nutrient-poor, Peat, Quartzite, Sand, Sandstone, Sandstone/mudstone, Sedimentary

#### Geomorphology & landscape:

Cave/tunnel, Caves, Cliffs, Coastal, Crags/ledges, Geos (rocky inlets), Hilly, Intertidal rock, Montane, Open coast (including bay), Slope, Surge gullies, Upland

### 4.2 Quality and importance

**ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS**

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

50000 seabirds - 1985-1988 Seabird Colony Register Census

Including:

*Alca torda*, *Fratercula arctica*, *Fulmarus glacialis*, *Rissa tridactyla*, *Uria aalge*.

## 4.3 Vulnerability

Annual military exercises held in mid-June on the nearby Cape Wrath Naval Bombardment Range may have an impact on seabird breeding success on the SPA. SNH will monitor the breeding productivity of kittiwakes on this site over the next three years to assess the significance of disturbance caused by bombing. The Ministry of Defence has indicated a willingness to reschedule the exercises should an adverse effect be proven.

At present, there is no evidence of damage from fishing or pollution in the surrounding waters. SNH will liaise with Competent Authorities responsible for fisheries and pollution control should a threat become apparent.

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

### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	15.0