

STANDARD DATA FORM for sites within the 'UK national site network of European sites'

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are classified and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated under:

- the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales (including the adjacent territorial sea) and to a limited extent in Scotland (reserved matters) and Northern Ireland (excepted matters);
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) in Scotland;
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland; and
- the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in the UK offshore area.

Each SAC or SPA (forming part of the UK national site network of European sites) has its own Standard Data Form containing site-specific information. The information provided here generally follows the same documenting format for SACs and SPAs, as set out in the [Official Journal of the European Union recording the Commission Implementing Decision of 11 July 2011 \(2011/484/EU\)](#).

Please note that these forms contain a number of codes, all of which are explained either within the data forms themselves or in the end notes.

More general information on SPAs and SACs in the UK is available from the [SPA homepage](#) and [SAC homepage](#) on the JNCC website. These webpages also provide links to Standard Data Forms for all SAC and SPA sites in the UK.

<https://jncc.gov.uk/>



NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE UK9002891

SITENAME Switha

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.1 Type A | 1.2 Site code UK9002891 | Back to top |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|

1.3 Site name

| |
|--------|
| Switha |
|--------|

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1.4 First Compilation date 2000-03 | 1.5 Update date 2015-12 |
|--|-----------------------------------|

1.6 Respondent:

| |
|---|
| Name/Organisation: Joint Nature Conservation Committee |
| Address: Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House City Road Peterborough PE1 1JY |
| Email: |

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

| | |
|--|---|
| Date site classified as SPA: | 2000-03 |
| National legal reference of SPA designation | Regulations 9A and 11-15 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1994/2716/contents/made) as amended by the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2011/155/contents/made). |

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude

-3.1

Latitude

58.78555556

2.2 Area [ha]:

57.0

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

| | |
|------|-----------------------|
| UKM6 | Highlands and Islands |
|------|-----------------------|

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (100.0
%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

| Species | | | | Population in the site | | | | | | | Site assessment | |
|---------|------|---|---|------------------------|---|------|------|------|------|---------|-----------------|-------|
| G | Code | Scientific Name | S | NP | T | Size | | Unit | Cat. | D.qual. | A B C D | A B C |
| | | | | | | Min | Max | | | | Pop. | Con. |
| B | A045 | Branta leucopsis [Eastern Greenland/Scotland/Ireland] | | | w | 1120 | 1120 | i | | G | B | |

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see [reference portal](#))
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

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4.1 General site character

| Habitat class | % Cover |
|----------------------------|------------|
| N07 | 1.0 |
| N10 | 69.0 |
| N05 | 20.0 |
| N08 | 10.0 |
| Total Habitat Cover | 100 |

Other Site Characteristics

1 Terrestrial: Soil & Geology: nutrient-poor,igneous,peat,acidic,sandstone 2 Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: island,coastal,craggs/ledges 4 Marine: Geomorphology: intertidal rock,cliffs,open coast (including bay),geos (rocky inlets)

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) Over winter the area regularly supports: Branta leucopsis [Eastern Greenland/Scotland/Ireland] 4.1% of the GB population Five year peak mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

| Negative Impacts | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Rank | Threats and pressures [code] | Pollution (optional) [code] | inside/outside [i o b] |
| L | A04 | | i |

| Positive Impacts | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Rank | Activities, management [code] | Pollution (optional) [code] | inside/outside [i o b] |

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,

T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

Conservation Objectives - the Scottish Natural Heritage 'site link' below provides access to the Conservation Objectives for this site. See also the 'UK Approach' document for more information (link via the JNCC website).

Link(s): <https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/8583>

http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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| Code | Cover [%] | Code | Cover [%] | Code | Cover [%] |
|------|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|
| UK04 | 100.0 | | | | |

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

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| | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| Organisation: | Scottish Natural Heritage |
| Address: | |
| Email: | |

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

| |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No, but in preparation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

For available information, including on Conservation Objectives, see Section 4.5.

EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC) AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below generally follow those explained in the [official European Union guidelines for the Standard Data Form](#) (also referencing the relevant page number).

1.1 Site type

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO |
|------|--|---------|
| A | SPA (classified Special Protection Area) | 53 |
| B | cSAC, SCI or SAC (candidate Special Area of Conservation, Site of Community Importance, designated Special Area of Conservation) | 53 |
| C | SPA area/boundary is the same as the cSAC/SCI/SAC i.e. a co-classified/designated site (Note: this situation only occurs in Gibraltar) | 53 |

3.1 Habitat code

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO |
|------|--|---------|
| 1110 | Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time | 57 |
| 1130 | Estuaries | 57 |
| 1140 | Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide | 57 |
| 1150 | Coastal lagoons | 57 |
| 1160 | Large shallow inlets and bays | 57 |
| 1170 | Reefs | 57 |
| 1180 | Submarine structures made by leaking gases | 57 |
| 1210 | Annual vegetation of drift lines | 57 |
| 1220 | Perennial vegetation of stony banks | 57 |
| 1230 | Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts | 57 |
| 1310 | Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand | 57 |
| 1320 | Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>) | 57 |
| 1330 | Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) | 57 |
| 1340 | Inland salt meadows | 57 |
| 1420 | Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>) | 57 |
| 2110 | Embryonic shifting dunes | 57 |
| 2120 | Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") | 57 |
| 2130 | Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") | 57 |
| 2140 | Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> | 57 |
| 2150 | Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) | 57 |
| 2160 | Dunes with <i>Hippophya rhamnoides</i> | 57 |
| 2170 | Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) | 57 |
| 2190 | Humid dune slacks | 57 |
| 21A0 | Machairs (* in Ireland) | 57 |
| 2250 | Coastal dunes with <i>Juniperus</i> spp. | 57 |
| 2330 | Inland dunes with open <i>Corynephorus</i> and <i>Agrostis</i> grasslands | 57 |
| 3110 | Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) | 57 |
| 3130 | Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> | 57 |
| 3140 | Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. | 57 |
| 3150 | Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation | 57 |

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO |
|------|---|---------|
| 3160 | Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds | 57 |
| 3170 | Mediterranean temporary ponds | 57 |
| 3180 | Turloughs | 57 |
| 3260 | Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation | 57 |
| 4010 | Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix | 57 |
| 4020 | Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix | 57 |
| 4030 | European dry heaths | 57 |
| 4040 | Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with Erica vagans | 57 |
| 4060 | Alpine and Boreal heaths | 57 |
| 4080 | Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub | 57 |
| 5110 | Stable xerothermophilous formations with Buxus sempervirens on rock slopes (Berberidion p.p.) | 57 |
| 5130 | Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands | 57 |
| 6130 | Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae | 57 |
| 6150 | Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands | 57 |
| 6170 | Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands | 57 |
| 6210 | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) | 57 |
| 6230 | Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe) | 57 |
| 6410 | Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) | 57 |
| 6430 | Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels | 57 |
| 6510 | Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis) | 57 |
| 6520 | Mountain hay meadows | 57 |
| 7110 | Active raised bogs | 57 |
| 7120 | Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration | 57 |
| 7130 | Blanket bogs (* if active bog) | 57 |
| 7140 | Transition mires and quaking bogs | 57 |
| 7150 | Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion | 57 |
| 7210 | Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae | 57 |
| 7220 | Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) | 57 |
| 7230 | Alkaline fens | 57 |
| 7240 | Alpine pioneer formations of the Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae | 57 |
| 8110 | Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani) | 57 |
| 8120 | Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii) | 57 |
| 8210 | Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation | 57 |
| 8220 | Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation | 57 |
| 8240 | Limestone pavements | 57 |
| 8310 | Caves not open to the public | 57 |
| 8330 | Submerged or partially submerged sea caves | 57 |
| 9120 | Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion) | 57 |
| 9130 | Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests | 57 |
| 9160 | Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the Carpinion betuli | 57 |
| 9180 | Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines | 57 |
| 9190 | Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains | 57 |
| 91A0 | Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles | 57 |
| 91C0 | Caledonian forest | 57 |
| 91D0 | Bog woodland | 57 |
| 91E0 | Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) | 57 |
| 91J0 | Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles | 57 |

3.1 Habitat representativity (abbreviated to 'Representativity' in data form)

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO |
|------|---|---------|
| A | Excellent representativity | 57 |
| B | Good representativity | 57 |
| C | Significant representativity | 57 |
| D | Non-significant presence representativity | 57 |

3.1 Relative surface

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO |
|------|-------------|---------|
| A | > 15%-100% | 58 |
| B | > 2%-15% | 58 |
| C | ≤ 2% | 58 |

3.1 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Conservation' in data form)

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO |
|------|---------------------------------|---------|
| A | Excellent conservation | 59 |
| B | Good conservation | 59 |
| C | Average or reduced conservation | 59 |

3.1 Global assessment (abbreviated to 'Global' in data form)

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO |
|------|-------------------|---------|
| A | Excellent value | 59 |
| B | Good value | 59 |
| C | Significant value | 59 |

3.2 Population (abbreviated to 'Pop.' in data form)

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO |
|------|----------------------------|---------|
| A | > 15%-100% | 62 |
| B | > 2%-15% | 62 |
| C | ≤ 2% | 62 |
| D | Non-significant population | 62 |

3.2 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Con.' in data form)

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO |
|------|---------------------------------|---------|
| A | Excellent conservation | 63 |
| B | Good conservation | 63 |
| C | Average or reduced conservation | 63 |

3.2 Isolation (abbreviated to 'Iso.' in data form)

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO |
|------|---|---------|
| A | Population (almost) Isolated | 63 |
| B | Population not-isolated, but on margins of area of distribution | 63 |
| C | Population not-isolated within extended distribution range | 63 |

3.2 Global Grade (abbreviated to 'Glo.' or 'G.' in data form)

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO |
|------|-------------------|---------|
| A | Excellent value | 63 |
| B | Good value | 63 |
| C | Significant value | 63 |

3.3 Other species – essentially covers bird assemblage types

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO |
|------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| WATR | Non-breeding waterbird assemblage | UK specific code |
| SBA | Breeding seabird assemblage | UK specific code |

| | | |
|-----|--|------------------|
| BBA | Breeding bird assemblage (applies only to sites classified pre 2000) | UK specific code |
|-----|--|------------------|

4.1 Habitat class code

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO |
|------|--|---------|
| N01 | Marine areas, Sea inlets | 65 |
| N02 | Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins) | 65 |
| N03 | Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes | 65 |
| N04 | Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair | 65 |
| N05 | Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets | 65 |
| N06 | Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) | 65 |
| N07 | Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens | 65 |
| N08 | Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana | 65 |
| N09 | Dry grassland, Steppes | 65 |
| N10 | Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland | 65 |
| N11 | Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland | 65 |
| N14 | Improved grassland | 65 |
| N15 | Other arable land | 65 |
| N16 | Broad-leaved deciduous woodland | 65 |
| N17 | Coniferous woodland | 65 |
| N19 | Mixed woodland | 65 |
| N21 | Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas) | 65 |
| N22 | Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice | 65 |
| N23 | Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites) | 65 |
| N25 | Grassland and scrub habitats (general) | 65 |
| N26 | Woodland habitats (general) | 65 |

4.3 Threats code

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO |
|------|--|---------|
| A01 | Cultivation | 65 |
| A02 | Modification of cultivation practices | 65 |
| A03 | Mowing / cutting of grassland | 65 |
| A04 | Grazing | 65 |
| A05 | Livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing) | 65 |
| A06 | Annual and perennial non-timber crops | 65 |
| A07 | Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals | 65 |
| A08 | Fertilisation | 65 |
| A10 | Restructuring agricultural land holding | 65 |
| A11 | Agriculture activities not referred to above | 65 |
| B01 | Forest planting on open ground | 65 |
| B02 | Forest and Plantation management & use | 65 |
| B03 | Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth | 65 |
| B04 | Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry) | 65 |
| B06 | Grazing in forests/ woodland | 65 |
| B07 | Forestry activities not referred to above | 65 |
| C01 | Mining and quarrying | 65 |
| C02 | Exploration and extraction of oil or gas | 65 |
| C03 | Renewable abiotic energy use | 65 |
| D01 | Roads, paths and railroads | 65 |
| D02 | Utility and service lines | 65 |
| D03 | Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions | 65 |
| D04 | Airports, flightpaths | 65 |
| D05 | Improved access to site | 65 |
| E01 | Urbanised areas, human habitation | 65 |
| E02 | Industrial or commercial areas | 65 |

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO |
|------|---|---------|
| E03 | Discharges | 65 |
| E04 | Structures, buildings in the landscape | 65 |
| E06 | Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities | 65 |
| F01 | Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture | 65 |
| F02 | Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources | 65 |
| F03 | Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.) | 65 |
| F04 | Taking / Removal of terrestrial plants, general | 65 |
| F05 | Illegal taking/ removal of marine fauna | 65 |
| F06 | Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above | 65 |
| G01 | Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities | 65 |
| G02 | Sport and leisure structures | 65 |
| G03 | Interpretative centres | 65 |
| G04 | Military use and civil unrest | 65 |
| G05 | Other human intrusions and disturbances | 65 |
| H01 | Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish) | 65 |
| H02 | Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources) | 65 |
| H03 | Marine water pollution | 65 |
| H04 | Air pollution, air-borne pollutants | 65 |
| H05 | Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges) | 65 |
| H06 | Excess energy | 65 |
| H07 | Other forms of pollution | 65 |
| I01 | Invasive non-native species | 65 |
| I02 | Problematic native species | 65 |
| I03 | Introduced genetic material, GMO | 65 |
| J01 | Fire and fire suppression | 65 |
| J02 | Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions | 65 |
| J03 | Other ecosystem modifications | 65 |
| K01 | Abiotic (slow) natural processes | 65 |
| K02 | Biocenotic evolution, succession | 65 |
| K03 | Interspecific faunal relations | 65 |
| K04 | Interspecific floral relations | 65 |
| K05 | Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression | 65 |
| L05 | Collapse of terrain, landslide | 65 |
| L07 | Storm, cyclone | 65 |
| L08 | Inundation (natural processes) | 65 |
| L10 | Other natural catastrophes | 65 |
| M01 | Changes in abiotic conditions | 65 |
| M02 | Changes in biotic conditions | 65 |
| U | Unknown threat or pressure | 65 |
| XO | Threats and pressures from outside the Member State | 65 |

5.1 Designation type codes

| CODE | DESCRIPTION | PAGE NO |
|-------------|---|----------------|
| UK00 | No Protection Status | 67 |
| UK01 | National Nature Reserve | 67 |
| UK04 | Site of Special Scientific Interest (GB) | 67 |
| UK05 | Marine Conservation Zone | 67 |
| UK06 | Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area | 67 |
| UK86 | Special Area (Channel Islands) | 67 |
| UK98 | Area of Special Scientific Interest (NI) | 67 |
| IN00 | Ramsar Convention site | 67 |
| IN08 | Special Protection Area | 67 |
| IN09 | Special Area of Conservation | 67 |