

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

1.6 Respondent(s)

1.7 Site name

1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	199610
date confirmed as SCI	200412
date site classified as SPA	
date site designated as SAC	200504

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
02 31 22 W	50 36 47 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK631	Dorset	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
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	3.1	D			

Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	5.5	D			
Coastal lagoons	30	A	B	A	A
Annual vegetation of drift lines	0.9	B	B	A	A
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	5	A	C	A	B
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	0.1	D			
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	0.6	D			
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	1	C	C	B	C
Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)	0.3	A	B	A	A

3.2 Annex II species

Species name	Population				Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory			Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
		Breed	Winter	Stage				

4. Site description

4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	35.5
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	30.5
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	2.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	32.0
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
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

<p>Soil & geology: Sedimentary, Shingle</p> <p>Geomorphology & landscape: Barrier beach, Cliffs, Coastal, Lagoon, Shingle bar</p>

4.2 Quality and importance

<p>Coastal lagoons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.
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<p>Annual vegetation of drift lines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for which this is one of only four known outstanding localities in the United Kingdom. • which is considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 100 hectares. <p>Perennial vegetation of stony banks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. <p>Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for which this is one of only four known outstanding localities in the United Kingdom. • which is considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 1000 hectares.
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4.3 Vulnerability

The Fleet and much of Chesil Beach are privately-owned and managed as a nature reserve. The shingle beach and its plant communities may be sensitive to changes in natural coastal processes, e.g. through sea defences. The main concern for the Fleet is water quality; blooms of blue green algae occur, and this is being investigated by the Environment Agency.

The site is close to one of the world's busiest shipping lanes and consequently there is a risk of accidental oil pollution, to which the communities would be particularly sensitive. Licence has been given for offshore oil exploration nearby; this is carried out under strict guidelines that take account of nature conservation interests. Recreational pressure on the Fleet is small and locally there is cultivation of shellfish. These activities are not thought to be serious concerns provided they remain at their present scale.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK00 (N/A)	42.6
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	57.4