

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	7	0	7	6
U	K	0	0	1	9	8	6	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	198507
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
02 31 10 W	50 36 40 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

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						
A046a	<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>		3182	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)	48.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	4.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	46.0
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	2.0
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. Screes. 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:

Chert/flint, Clay, Gravel, Mud, Nutrient-rich, Peat, Pebble, Sand, Sedimentary, Shingle

Geomorphology & landscape:

Barrier beach, Coastal, Enclosed coast (including embayment), Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Lagoon, Lowland, Open coast (including bay), Shingle bar, Subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank)

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Branta bernicla bernicla
(Western Siberia/Western Europe)

1.1% of the population
5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

4.3 Vulnerability

The Fleet and much of Chesil bank are privately owned and managed as a nature reserve. Part of Chesil is Crown Common land. Whilst the majority of the site is largely inaccessible to casual visitors, the south western part of the site known as Ferrybridge is subject to considerable visitor recreational pressure. An MOD firing range is also located within the site. The adjacent Portland Harbour through which much of the water exchange for the Fleet takes place is the site of a new commercial port and is also subject to increasing recreational pressures - waterborne sports in particular. Routine or accidental discharges arising from activities within the Harbour could affect water quality in the Fleet and there is potential for recreational use to 'spill over' into the Fleet. The Harbour Authority are represented on the SAC Management group and the scheme of management for the marine SAC will address these issues. The land use of the Fleet hinterland is largely intensive agriculture and agricultural run-off is a potential source of eutrophication within the Fleet itself. There are also small domestic sewage discharges into the Fleet. The Environment Agency carry out water quality sampling throughout the year with a view to identifying and controlling problem discharges. There is a shellfish farm within the Fleet which cultivates oysters and cleanses mussels and other species. This does not present serious concerns provided it remains at the present scale. However introduction of non-native species remains a potential concern. Japanese seaweed is cut on an annual basis. The site is close to one of the world's busiest shipping lanes and consequently there is a risk of accidental oil pollution. Contingency plans exist for dealing with oil spills.

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