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 J **1.2 Site code** UK9009244

1.3 Compilation date 199806 **1.4 Update**

1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

U	K	0	0	1	3	6	9	0

1.6 Respondent(s) International Designations, JNCC, Peterborough

1.7 Site name **Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3)**

1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	199806
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	**latitude**
00 43 06 E	51 38 23 N

2.2 Site area (ha) 1735.58 **2.3 Site length (km)**

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK54	Essex	100.00%

2.6 Biogeographic region

Alpine	Atlantic	Boreal	Continental	Macaronesia	Mediterranean
	X				

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

		Population				Site assessment			
		Resident	Migratory						
Code	Species name		Breed	Winter	Stage	Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
A046a	*Branta bernicla bernicla*			3074 I		B		C	
A082	*Circus cyaneus*			<19 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)	25.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	35.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	10.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	5.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	5.0
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	20.0
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:

Acidic, Alluvium, Clay, Gravel, Mud, Neutral, Nutrient-rich, Sand, Sedimentary, Shingle

Geomorphology & landscape:

Cliffs, Coastal, Estuary, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Islands, Lagoon, Lowland, Subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank), Valley

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Circus cyaneus	up to 2.5% of the GB population 5 year mean, 1987-1991

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Branta bernicla bernicla (Western Siberia/Western Europe)	1% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

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

Over winter the area regularly supports:

18607 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 30/06/1999)

Including:

Branta bernicla bernicla .

4.3 Vulnerability

The site is vulnerable to coastal squeeze and changes to the sediment budget. A hydraulic numerical model study of the Crouch and Roach Estuaries is being initiated to explore the various options, including managed retreat.

Some disturbance of feeding and roosting waterfowl is likely through recreational use of sea wall footpaths by dog walkers, bird watchers etc but this and other recreational issues will be tackled through the management scheme for this European marine site. Water-skiing is largely controlled by the Crouch Harbour Authority. Most grazing marshes are managed under ESA/Countryside Stewardship Agreements and/or management agreements with English Nature. Low water levels caused by abstraction will be tackled through the provisions for reviews of licenses under the Habitats Regulations. Many borrow dykes and drainage ditches remain vulnerable to run off and seepage of chemicals from adjacent farm land. Wherever possible arable farmers are being encouraged into Countryside Stewardship schemes to control the application of these chemicals, whilst on most of the adjacent grassland it is controlled by ESA or Stewardship agreements. Sea wall management by mowing may be potentially damaging and this is being addressed through consultation with the Environment Agency and individual owners. To secure protection of the site, the Marine Scheme of Management is in preparation, which will work alongside the Essex Shoreline Management Plan and various management plans and Site Management Statements for parts of the site.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	0.1
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0