

# 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	
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	199403
date site designated as SAC	

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
00 57 34 E	51 41 26 N

2.2 Site area (ha)  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

### 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>		2308 I		B		C	
A143	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		8393 I		B		C	
A082	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		<19 I		B		C	
A141	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		2411 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)	90.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	5.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	1.0
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	2.0
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	2.0
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. 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:

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

#### Geomorphology & landscape:

Coastal, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Lowland, Open coast (including bay), Shingle bar, Subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank)

### 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:

<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Western Siberia/Western Europe)	0.8% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Calidris canutus</i> (North-eastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/North-western Europe)	2.4% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	1.4% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<b>ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS</b>	
<b>Over winter the area regularly supports:</b>	
31454 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/04/1998)	
Including:	
<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> , <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> , <i>Calidris canutus</i> .	

### 4.3 Vulnerability

The main threat to the site is erosion of intertidal habitats due to a combination of sea level rise and isostatic forces operating on the land mass of Great Britain. The situation is worsened with increasing winter storm events, whilst the hard sea walls along this coastline are preventing the saltmarsh and intertidal areas from migrating inland. This situation is starting to be addressed by alternative flood defence techniques. A shoreline management plan has been prepared for the Essex coast which seeks to provide a blueprint for managing the coastline sustainably.

The Thames Fishery is coming under increased pressure from boats that previously fished the Wash for cockles. Controls over the fishery have been put in place by Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee.

A management plan for English Nature details a policy of non-intervention to prevent damage to the site from human intervention. This and other management issues will be addressed through the European marine site management scheme.

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

### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	81.1
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0