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 F **1.2 Site code** UK9010081

1.3 Compilation date 199203 **1.4 Update** 199902

1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

U	K	0	0	3	0	1	3	0

1.6 Respondent(s) International Designations, JNCC, Peterborough

1.7 Site name **Exe Estuary**

1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	199203
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	**latitude**
03 26 32 W	50 38 50 N

2.2 Site area (ha) 2345.71 **2.3 Site length (km)**

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK622	Devon	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*			1905 I		C		C	
A149	*Calidris alpina alpina*			5740 I		C		C	
A130	*Haematopus ostralegus*			4265 I		C		C	
A156	*Limosa limosa islandica*			533 I		B		C	
A141	*Pluvialis squatarola*			471 I		C		C	
A007	*Podiceps auritus*			20 I		B		C	
A132	*Recurvirostra avosetta*			359 I		A		B	

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)	80.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	5.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	5.0
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	10.0
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:

Alluvium, Gravel, Mud, Neutral, Sand, Sandstone, Sedimentary, Shingle

Geomorphology & landscape:

Coastal, Estuary, Floodplain, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Lowland, Subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank)

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Podiceps auritus	5% of the GB population
(North-western Europe)	5 year peak mean 1984/85-1988/9

Recurvirostra avosetta (Western Europe/Western Mediterranean - breeding)	28.3% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Branta bernicla bernicla (Western Siberia/Western Europe)	0.6% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Calidris alpina alpina (Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa)	1.1% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Haematopus ostralegus (Europe & Northern/Western Africa)	1.2% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Limosa limosa islandica (Iceland - breeding)	7.2% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Pluvialis squatarola (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	1.1% of the population in Great Britain 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:

23811 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/04/1998)

Including:

Podiceps auritus , Branta bernicla bernicla , Haematopus ostralegus , Recurvirostra avosetta , Pluvialis squatarola , Calidris alpina alpina , Limosa limosa islandica .

4.3 Vulnerability

The Exe comprises a variety of habitats which together provide one of the most important sites for wintering and passage waterfowl in the south-west. The area is subject to a variety of recreational uses which has potential for disturbance to waterfowl. Dredging takes place in the approach channel which could have an adverse effect on the Dawlish Warren Sandspit and sediment movement patterns. The Exe Estuary Management Plan addresses the recreational, disturbance and potential oil spill issues whilst dredging operations and mussel bed proposals are subject to the provisions of the Habitats Regulations which require assessment of any plans or projects which may affect the site. A Regulatory Order is proposed which would make further mariculture projects licenceable and English Nature would then be fully consulted. Substantial areas are managed as nature reserves by the RSPB, local wildlife Trust and local authorities.

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