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 B

1.2 Site code UK0013112

1.3 Compilation date 199610

1.4 Update 200105

1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

1.6 Respondent(s) International Designations, JNCC, Peterborough

1.7 Site name **Fal and Helford**

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**
05 09 01 W	50 05 30 N

2.2 Site area (ha) 6387.8

2.3 Site length (km)

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
0	Marine	83.77%
UK621	Cornwall	16.23%

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
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	39.7	A	C	A	**A**
Estuaries	30	B	C	C	**C**
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	19.8	B	C	A	**B**
Large shallow inlets and bays	59.5	B	C	B	**B**
Reefs	10	B	C	B	**C**
Annual vegetation of drift lines	0	D			
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	0	D			
Spartina swards (*Spartinion maritimae*)	0	D			
Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)	1.1	B	C	A	**B**
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	0	D			

3.2 Annex II species

		Population			Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory						
Species name		Breed	Winter	Stage	Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
Petromyzon marinus	Present	-	-	-	D			
Alosa alosa	Present	-	-	-	D			
Alosa fallax	Present	-	-	-	D			
Tursiops truncatus	Present	-	-	-	D			
Phocoena phocoena	Present	-	-	-	D			
Lutra lutra	Present	-	-	-	D			
Halichoerus grypus	6-10	-	-	-	D			
Rumex rupestris	11-50	-	-	-	C	A	C	**B**

4. Site description

4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	60.0
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	35.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	3.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	1.0
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	1.0
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. Screes. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	

Habitat classes	% cover
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	
Total habitat cover	**100%**

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Acidic, Alluvium, Boulder, Granite, Igneous, Maerl, Mud, Sand, Shingle

Geomorphology & landscape:

Cave/tunnel, Cliffs, Coastal, Enclosed coast (including embayment), Estuary, Intertidal rock, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Open coast (including bay), Ria, Subtidal rock (including rocky reefs), Subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank), Valley

4.2 Quality and importance

Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time
- for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Estuaries
- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
- for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Large shallow inlets and bays
- for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Reefs
- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)
- for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Rumex rupestris
- for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

4.3 Vulnerability

The ria systems of the Fal and Helford Rivers and adjacent Falmouth Bay attract visitors and accommodate many commercial and recreational activities. Potential threats therefore include: additional usage of the area for deep water moorings; deep-water oil rig lay-up in Carrick Roads; increased pressure for recreational moorings and associated facilities; port development; oil pollution. A single scheme of management will address these issues. The oil pollution plan has recently been successfully tested. Water quality issues arising from the effects of sewage discharges into this SAC, for example, will be addressed through the review procedures under the Habitats Regulations.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK00 (N/A)	86.4
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	13.6