

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	199610
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
00 55 17 E	51 34 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>		13075 I		B		C	
A143	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		40429 I		B		C	
A137	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		<135 P		C		C	
A082	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		<19 I		B		C	
A130	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		11756 I		B		C	
A157	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		7639 I		B		C	
A141	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		4209 I		B		C	
A132	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		100 I		B		B	
A132	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		26 P		B		B	
A195	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>		>24 P		C		C	
A193	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		220 P		C		C	
A191	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>		320 P		B		C	
A162	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		1369 I		C		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)	92.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	5.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	3.0
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:

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

Geomorphology & landscape:

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

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (Western Europe/Western Mediterranean - breeding)	5.8% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1987-1991
<i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Eastern Atlantic - breeding)	at least 1% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1992-1996
<i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Northern/Eastern Europe - breeding)	1.8% of the GB breeding population Count, as at 1996
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (Western Europe/Western Africa)	2.3% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1992-1996

Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	up to 2.5% of the GB population 5 year mean, 1987/8-1991/2
<i>Limosa lapponica</i> (Western Palearctic - wintering)	14.6% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (Western Europe/Western Mediterranean - breeding)	7.9% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (Europe/Northern Africa - wintering)	up to 1.6% of the population in Great Britain 5 year mean, 1987/8-1991/2
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Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Western Siberia/Western Europe)	4.4% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Calidris canutus</i> (North-eastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/North-western Europe)	11.7% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> (Europe & Northern/Western Africa)	1.3% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	2.5% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	0.8% 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:

107999 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/04/1998)

Including:

Branta bernicla bernicla , *Haematopus ostralegus* , *Recurvirostra avosetta* , *Pluvialis squatarola* , *Calidris canutus* , *Limosa lapponica* , *Tringa totanus* .

4.3 Vulnerability

Much of the area is owned by the Ministry of Defence and is not, therefore, subject to development pressures or public disturbance. Offshore aggregate dredging and seismic surveys, which could possibly adversely affect the Maplin sands, will be addressed through the Essex Estuaries marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) management scheme, of which Foulness is part.

Natural processes are adversely affecting the south-east coastline and saltmarshes are being eroded.

Maintenance of the integrity of the intertidal and saltmarsh habitats of the Mid-Essex Coast Ramsar sites as a whole is being addressed by soft sea defence measures, managed retreat and foreshore recharge.

The cockel beds on the Maplin Sands support internationally important numbers of wading birds: the Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee control the cockle fishery through regulatory orders.

The site includes areas of grazing marsh and ditches. These areas are low lying, protected by sea walls and surrounded by areas of arable land. The main ditches that run through these marshes are saline and are fed from sea water which floods through sluices. The combination of lower rainfall and improved drainage to facilitate arable production means that the grazing marshes are becoming too dry. The rainfall has been too low in recent years to enable maintenance of the waterlevels by selecting damming ditches. To offset this the main ditch is deliberately fed with sea water to keep it topped up. This operation has increased in frequency in the past 8-10 years.

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