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 K

1.2 Site code UK0030170

1.3 Compilation date 200708

1.4 Update

1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

U	K	9	0	0	6	1	1	1

1.6 Respondent(s) International Designations, JNCC, Peterborough

1.7 Site name **Humber Estuary**

1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	200708
date confirmed as SCI	200812
date site classified as SPA	
date site designated as SAC	200912

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	**latitude**
00 44 05 W	53 35 21 N

2.2 Site area (ha) 36657.15

2.3 Site length (km)

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UKE13	North and North East Lincolnshire	12.03%
UKE12	East Riding of Yorkshire	23.69%
UKE11	Kingston upon Hull, City of	2.67%
0	Marine	52.01%
UKF3	Lincolnshire	9.59%

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	4.52	C	A	C	**C**
Estuaries	100	B	B	B	**B**
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	25.6	B	B	B	**B**
Coastal lagoons	0.02	C	C	B	**C**
Annual vegetation of drift lines	0	D			
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	0.13	C	C	B	**C**
Spartina swards (*Spartinion maritimae*)	0.37	D			
Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)	2.14	C	B	C	**C**
Embryonic shifting dunes	0.05	C	A	C	**C**
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes")	0.04	C	B	C	**C**
Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	0.04	C	C	C	**C**
Dunes with *Hippophae rhamnoides*	0.18	C	B	C	**C**

3.2 Annex II species

	Population				Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory						
Species name		Breed	Winter	Stage	Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
Petromyzon marinus	251-500	-	-	-	B	C	C	**C**
Lampetra fluviatilis	>10,000	-	-	-	A	B	C	**C**
Alosa alosa	Present	-	-	-	D			
Alosa fallax	Present	-	-	-	D			
Halichoerus grypus	1800	-	-	-	C	B	B	**C**
Phoca vitulina	Present	-	-	-	D			

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)	94.9
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	4.4
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	0.4
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	0.4
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)	

Habitat classes	% cover
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, Clay, Gravel, Limestone/chalk, Mud, Neutral, Sand, Sandstone, Sandstone/mudstone, Sedimentary, Shingle

Geomorphology & landscape:

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

4.2 Quality and importance

Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time
- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

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

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.

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

Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)
- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Embryonic shifting dunes
- which is considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 1000 hectares.
- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (“white dunes”)
- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (“grey dunes”)
- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Dunes with *Hippophae rhamnoides*
- which is considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 1000 hectares.
- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

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

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

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

4.3 Vulnerability

The Humber Estuary is subject to the impacts of human activities (past and present) as well as ongoing processes such as sea level rise and climate change. Management intervention is therefore necessary to enable the estuary to recover and to secure the ecological resilience required to respond to both natural and anthropogenic change. Key issues include coastal squeeze, impacts on the sediment budget, and geomorphological structure and function of the estuary (due to sea level rise, flood defence works, dredging, and the construction, operation and maintenance of ports, pipelines and other infrastructure), changes in water quality and flows, pressure from additional built development, and damage and disturbance arising from access, recreation and other activities.
Coastal squeeze is being addressed through the development and implementation of the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy. All proposals for flood defence, development, dredging, abstractions and discharges which require consent from any statutory body, and land use plans which may have impacts upon the site are subject to assessment under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (the "Habitats Regulations"). Diffuse pollution will be addressed through a range of measures including implementation of the Waste Water Framework Directive and Catchment Sensitive Farming initiatives.
Other issues are addressed via a range of measures including regulation of on-site land management activities and implementation of the Humber Management Scheme, developed by all relevant statutory bodies to assist in the delivery of their duties under the Habitats Regulations.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	1.8
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0