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 UK0013027

1.3 Compilation date 199610

1.4 Update 200305

1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

U	K	9	0	0	5	0	3	1
U	K	9	0	0	5	0	8	1

1.6 Respondent(s) International Designations, JNCC, Peterborough

1.7 Site name **Morecambe Bay**

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**
02 57 42 W	54 07 09 N

2.2 Site area (ha) 61506.22

2.3 Site length (km)

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
0	Marine	30.52%
UK83	Lancashire	23.50%
UK12	Cumbria	45.99%

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	28.87	C	C	B	**C**
Estuaries	10	B	B	C	**B**
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	34.2	A	B	A	**A**
Coastal lagoons	0.02	C	C	B	**C**
Large shallow inlets and bays	92.6	A	B	B	**A**
Reefs	1.03	B	C	B	**C**
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	0.09	B	C	B	**B**
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	0.09	B	B	B	**B**
Spartina swards (*Spartinion maritimae*)	0	D			
Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)	2.99	B	B	B	**B**
Embryonic shifting dunes	0.01	B	C	B	**C**
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes")	0.03	B	C	B	**B**
Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	0.28	A	C	B	**A**
Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*)	0.03	B	C	B	**C**
Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*)	0.01	B	C	B	**C**
Humid dune slacks	0.01	A	C	B	**B**

3.2 Annex II species

		Population			Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory						
Species name		Breed	Winter	Stage	Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
Petromyzon marinus	Present	-	-	-	D			
Alosa fallax	Present	-	-	-	D			
Triturus cristatus	1001-10,000	-	-	-	C	A	C	**B**
Halichoerus grypus	11-50	-	-	-	D			

4. Site description

4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	99.1
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	0.8
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	0.1
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	

Habitat classes	% cover
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:

Biogenic reef, Boulder, Clay, Cobble, Gravel, Limestone, Mud, Neutral, Pebble, Sand, Sandstone, Sedimentary, Shingle

Geomorphology & landscape:

Coastal, Enclosed coast (including embayment), Estuary, Floodplain, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Island, Lagoon, Lowland, Open coast (including bay), Pools, Shingle bar, Subtidal rock (including rocky reefs), 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.

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.

Perennial vegetation of stony banks
- for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

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

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 this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (“grey dunes”)
- for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*)
- 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.

Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*)
- 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.

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

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

4.3 Vulnerability

There are a wide range of pressures on Morecambe Bay but the site is relatively robust and many of these pressures have only slight or local effects on its interests. The interests depend largely upon the coastal processes operating within the Bay, which have been affected historically by human activities including coastal protection and flood defence works. Opportunities to reverse coastal squeeze are being explored. The saltmarsh is traditionally grazed and is generally in favourable condition for its bird interest. Most of the saltmarsh is traditionally grazed and is utilised by breeding, wintering and migrating birds for feeding, roosting and nesting purposes. Positive management is being secured through NGO reserve management plans, English Nature's Site Management Statements and Coastal Wildlife Enhancement Scheme, the European Marine Site Management Schemes for the Duddon Estuary and Morecambe Bay, and the Duddon Estuary and Morecambe Bay Partnerships. These aim for sustainable use of the site, taking account of other potential threats including commercial fisheries, aggregate extraction, gas exploration, recreation and other activities.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	1.4
UK00 (N/A)	29.4
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	70.6