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 UK0013111

1.3 Compilation date 199610

1.4 Update 200103

1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

U	K	9	0	1	0	1	4	1

1.6 Respondent(s) International Designations, JNCC, Peterborough

1.7 Site name **Plymouth Sound and Estuaries**

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**
04 08 51 W	50 20 06 N

2.2 Site area (ha) 6402.03

2.3 Site length (km)

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK622	Devon	18.00%
0	Marine	58.00%
UK621	Cornwall	24.00%

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
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	25	B	C	B	**B**
Estuaries	25	A	C	B	**B**
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	15	A	C	B	**C**
Large shallow inlets and bays	50	B	C	B	**B**
Reefs	5	A	C	B	**B**
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	0.1	D			
Spartina swards (*Spartinion maritimae*)	0	D			
Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)	3	B	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			
Lampetra fluviatilis	Present	-	-	-	D			
Alosa alosa	Present	-	-	-	C	B	C	**C**
Alosa fallax	Present	-	-	-	D			
Tursiops truncatus	Present	-	-	-	D			
Phocoena phocoena	Present	-	-	-	D			
Lutra lutra	Present	-	-	-	D			
Halichoerus grypus	Present	-	-	-	D			
Rumex rupestris	11-50	-	-	-	B	C	C	**B**

4. Site description

4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	50.0
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	40.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	5.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	2.0
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	3.0
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:

Boulder, Cobble, Gravel, Igneous, Limestone/chalk, Mud, Sand, Sandstone, Sedimentary, Slate/shale

Geomorphology & landscape:

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), Surge gullies, 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 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 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 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.

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

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

4.3 Vulnerability

The complex ria system and wide rocky inlet of Plymouth Sound are popular with visitors, close to a large population, and accommodate military and commercial shipping. Potential threats therefore include: increased pressure for recreational moorings and associated facilities; port development; ongoing maintenance dredging. A single scheme of management has been drafted to address these issues. Both the geology and geography of Plymouth Sound make it very sensitive to oil pollution. A review of the oil contingency strategy has been completed, along with appropriate training.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK00 (N/A)	58.0
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	42.0