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 UK0013030

1.3 Compilation date 200708

1.4 Update

1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

U	K	9	0	1	5	0	2	2

1.6 Respondent(s) International Designations, JNCC, Peterborough

1.7 Site name **Severn Estuary/ Môr Hafren**

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	201012

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	**latitude**
02 58 41 W	51 28 07 N

2.2 Site area (ha) 73715.4

2.3 Site length (km)

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UKL22	Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan	1.02%
UKL21	Monmouthshire and Newport	8.39%
UKK13	Gloucestershire	6.10%
UKK11	Bristol, City of	16.92%
UKK12	North and North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire	8.12%
UKK23	Somerset	7.27%
0	Marine	52.18%

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	15.98	C	C	B	**C**
Estuaries	99.95	A	A	B	**B**
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	27.5	A	B	B	**B**
Reefs	2	C	C	A	**C**
Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	0	D			
Spartina swards (*Spartinion maritimae*)	0.26	D			
Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)	0.89	A	B	B	**A**
Embryonic shifting dunes	0	D			

3.2 Annex II species

		Population			Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory						
Species name		Breed	Winter	Stage	Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
Petromyzon marinus	Common	-	-	-	C	A	C	**B**
Lampetra fluviatilis	Common	-	-	-	C	B	C	**B**
Alosa alosa	Very rare	-	-	-	D			
Alosa fallax	Common	-	-	-	A	B	C	**A**

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)	99.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	1.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
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	
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	

Habitat classes	% cover
Total habitat cover	**100%**

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Biogenic reef, Clay, Cobble, Gravel, Limestone/chalk, Mud, Peat, Pebble, Sand, Sandstone/mudstone, Sedimentary, Shingle

Geomorphology & landscape:

Cliffs, Coastal, Estuary, Intertidal rock, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Islands, Open coast (including bay), Pools, Subtidal rock (including rocky reefs), Subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank), Tidal rapids

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.

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.

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

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

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

4.3 Vulnerability

The conservation of the site features is dependent on the tidal regime. The tidal range in the Severn Estuary is the second-highest in the world and the scouring of the seabed and strong tidal streams result in natural erosion of the habitats and the presence of high sediment loads. The estuary is therefore vulnerable to large-scale interference, mainly as a result of human actions. These include land-claim, aggregate extraction, physical developments such as barrage construction and other commercial construction activities, flood defences, industrial pollution, oil spillage and tourism-based activities and disturbance.
There are several management mechanisms that seek to secure sustainable management of the Severn Estuary and its wildlife interest. Under the 1994 Habitats Regulations, a management scheme under Regulation 34 was established in 2004 in relation to the international bird interest that underpins designation as a Special Protection Area (SPA). Conservation advice has been provided under Regulation 33 for the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), SPA and Ramsar site. Under the 2010 Habitat Regulations the management scheme previously produced is being reviewed and expanded to cover the not only the SPA but also the SAC and Ramsar site. The Severn Estuary Partnership is a long-standing partnership whose remit and membership extends beyond the designated area. It predates the European designations and seeks to deliver holistic management of the uses of the estuary. In Wales, Community Strategies and Local Biodiversity Action Plans also contribute to achieiving the conservation aims for the Estuary.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	3.4

UK00 (N/A)	77.3
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	22.7