

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

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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	199312
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
00 40 38 E	51 24 02 N

2.2 Site area (ha) 2.3 Site length (km)

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK57	Kent	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						
A054	<i>Anas acuta</i>		697 I		B		C	
A056	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		76 I		C		C	
A052	<i>Anas crecca</i>		1824 I		C		C	
A050	<i>Anas penelope</i>		4346 I		C		C	
A169	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		561 I		C		C	
A046a	<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>		3205 I		B		C	
A149	<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>		25936 I		B		C	
A143	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		541 I		C		C	
A137	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		768 I		B		C	
A037	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>		16 I		C		B	
A130	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		3672 I		C		C	
A156	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>		957 I		B		C	
A160	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		1900 I		C		C	
A141	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		3406 I		B		C	
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		67 I		C		C	
A132	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	28 P			B		B	
A132	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		314 I		A		B	
A195	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	28 P			C		C	
A193	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	77 P			C		C	
A048	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		4465 I		B		C	
A164	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		10 I		B		C	
A162	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		3690 I		B		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)	67.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	15.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	1.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	1.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	1.0
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	15.0
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:

Alluvium, Mud, Shingle

Geomorphology & landscape:

Coastal, Estuary, Floodplain, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat)

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)	6.2% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1988-1992
<i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Eastern Atlantic - breeding)	1.2% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1991-1995
<i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Northern/Eastern Europe - breeding)	0.6% of the GB breeding population Count, as at 1994

Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> (Western Siberia/North-eastern & North-western Europe)	0.2% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (Western Europe/Western Mediterranean - breeding)	24.7% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Anas acuta</i> (North-western Europe)	1.2% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Anas clypeata</i> (North-western/Central Europe)	0.8% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Anas crecca</i> (North-western Europe)	1.3% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Anas penelope</i> (Western Siberia/North-western/North-eastern Europe)	1.6% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Arenaria interpres</i> (Western Palearctic - wintering)	0.9% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Western Siberia/Western Europe)	1.1% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> (Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa)	1.9% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

<i>Calidris canutus</i> (North-eastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/North-western Europe)	0.2% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (Europe/Northern Africa - wintering)	1.6% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> (Europe & Northern/Western Africa)	1% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (Iceland - breeding)	12.9% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Numenius arquata</i> (Europe - breeding)	1.7% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	2% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (North-western Europe)	1.5% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Tringa nebularia</i> (Europe/Western Africa)	2.6% of the population in Great Britain No count period specified.
<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	2.1% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS	
During the breeding season the area regularly supports:	
<i>Alcedo atthis, Anas platyrhynchos, Asio flammeus, Aythya ferina, Circus cyaneus, Falco columbarius, Gavia stellata, Phalacrocorax carbo, Vanellus vanellus.</i>	
Over winter the area regularly supports:	
65496 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/04/1998)	
Including:	
<i>Gavia stellata, Podiceps cristatus, Phalacrocorax carbo, Cygnus columbianus bewickii, Branta bernicla bernicla, Tadorna tadorna, Anas penelope, Anas crecca, Anas platyrhynchos, Anas acuta, Anas clypeata, Aythya ferina, Haematopus ostralegus, Recurvirostra avosetta, Charadrius hiaticula, Pluvialis squatarola, Vanellus vanellus, Calidris canutus, Calidris alpina alpina, Limosa limosa islandica, Numenius arquata, Tringa totanus, Tringa nebularia, Arenaria interpres.</i>	

4.3 Vulnerability

There is evidence of rapid erosion of intertidal habitat within the site due to natural processes and the effects of sea defences and clay extraction. Research on mudflat recharge using dredging spoil is being investigated as a means of countering the erosion.

The intertidal area is also vulnerable to disturbance from water borne recreation. This is being addressed as part of an estuary management plan.

The terrestrial part of the site depends on appropriate grazing and management of water. The availability of livestock may be affected by policy on BSE and there will be a need to investigate how this may be addressed through management agreements. The effects of abstraction on the availability of water through abstraction for other land uses and drainage for arable cultivation will be addressed through the consent review process under the Habitats Regulations. Pressures from proposed transport and industrial developments are being addressed through the planning system and under the provisions of the Habitat Regulations.

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