

# 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	198208
date site designated as SAC	

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
00 50 21 E	51 21 39 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						
A046a	<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>		1961 I		C		C	
A149	<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>		12394 I		B		C	
A162	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		1640 I		C		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)	39.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	5.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	1.0
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	2.0
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	47.0
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)	6.0
<b>Total habitat cover</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4.1 Other site characteristics

#### Soil & geology:

Clay, Mud, Sand, Shingle

#### Geomorphology & landscape:

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

### 4.2 Quality and importance

#### ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

#### Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Western Siberia/Western Europe)	0.7% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> (Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa)	2.3% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

*Tringa totanus*  
(Eastern Atlantic - wintering)

0.9% 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:**

*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, *Anas crecca*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Anas strepera*, *Charadrius hiaticula*, *Emberiza schoeniclus*, *Fulica atra*, *Gallinula chloropus*, *Haematopus ostralegus*, *Numenius arquata*, *Pluvialis squatarola*, *Tadorna tadorna*, *Tringa totanus*, *Vanellus vanellus*.

**Over winter the area regularly supports:**

65588 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/04/1998)

Including:

*Branta bernicla bernicla*, *Anas strepera*, *Anas crecca*, *Haematopus ostralegus*, *Charadrius hiaticula*, *Pluvialis squatarola*, *Calidris alpina alpina*, *Numenius arquata*, *Tringa totanus*.

### 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 quality and quantity. 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 for other land uses and drainage for arable cultivation will be addressed through the consent review process 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)	16.1
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0