

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

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	201008
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
03 12 34 W	53 36 10 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
0	Marine	99.9%
UKL13	Conwy and Denbighshire	0.1%

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
A001	<i>Gavia stellata</i>			922 I		C		C	
A065	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>			54675 I		C		C	

4. Site description:

4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	100.0
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	
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)	
Total habitat cover	100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Clay, Mud, Sand, Sandstone/mudstone, Sedimentary, Shingle

Geomorphology & landscape:

Glacial sediments, Intertidal rock, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Open coast (including bay), Sedimentary rocks, Subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank)

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Gavia stellata</i> (North-western Europe - wintering)	5.4% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 2001/02 - 2006/07 (nb Insufficient data recorded for period 2003/2004)
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ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Melanitta nigra</i> (Western Siberia/Western & Northern Europe/North-western Africa)	3.4% of the population 5 year peak mean 2001/02 - 2006/07 (nb Insufficient data recorded for period 2003/2004)
ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS	
In the non-breeding season the area regularly supports:	
55597 waterfowl 5 year peak mean 2001/02 - 2006/07 (nb Insufficient data recorded for period 2003/2004)	
Including:	
<i>Gavia stellata</i> , <i>Melanitta nigra</i> .	

4.3 Vulnerability

The site is subject to commercial fishing. The sandbanks of Liverpool Bay support the nursery and feeding grounds for many fish species. The distribution and concentrations of red-throated divers will at least partly be determined by the presence, abundance, and availability of their prey species. The site holds various fish of commercial importance, and extraction of the red-throated diver's main fish prey, as either target and/or by-catch species, or through recreational fishing could impact the population. Entanglement in static fishing nets is an important cause of death for red-throated divers in the UK waters however the extent of this impact in Liverpool Bay is not known.

Commercial and recreational fishing could directly affect both the food source and feeding grounds used by common scoters and in addition a number of ports undertake navigational dredging and disposal both in, and adjacent to, the site. Dredging for bivalves has been shown to have significant negative effects on their benthic habitat.

Red throated divers and common scoters are sensitive to non physical, (noise and visual) disturbance by both commercial and recreational activities, for example disturbance by moving vessels - the larger the vessel, the greater disturbance distance expected.

Aggregate extraction presents some risks of disturbance and also changes to sediment structures which may, in particular, impact on common scoter through changes to their benthic feeding grounds. However, aggregate extraction tends to be temporary and localised and so is not anticipated that moderate and targeted extraction will present a significant risk to either of the qualifying species.

Liverpool Bay is an attractive location for the off-shore renewal energy industry and there is evidence that red-throated divers and common scoters are displaced by the presence of the turbines and the associated activities of construction and maintenance vessels. A number of wind farms in the site are currently in operation, under construction or consented.

There are a number of areas along the coast where marine tourism and leisure activities are common, with existing marinas and partially completed and proposed marina developments. As a result of these leisure users of the area, in combination with the whole suite of commercial activities, including those outlined above, the site is a very active boating and shipping site. However, most vessel activity is restricted to well-established areas which the birds already tend to avoid.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	0.05