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 J

1.2 Site code UK9008021

1.3 Compilation date 198803

1.4 Update 199902

1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

U	K	0	0	1	7	0	7	5

1.6 Respondent(s) International Designations, JNCC, Peterborough

1.7 Site name **The Wash**

1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	198803
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	**latitude**
00 17 12 E	52 56 16 N

2.2 Site area (ha) 62211.66

2.3 Site length (km)

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK33	Lincolnshire	28.00%
0	Marine	60.00%
UK402	Norfolk	12.00%

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

3.2 Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I

		Population				Site assessment			
		Resident	Migratory						
Code	Species name		Breed	Winter	Stage	Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
A054	*Anas acuta*			923 I		B		C	
A050	*Anas penelope*			3241 I		C		C	
A051	*Anas strepera*			71 I		C		C	
A040	*Anser brachyrhynchus*			33265 I		A		B	
A169	*Arenaria interpres*			717 I		C		C	
A046a	*Branta bernicla bernicla*			22248 I		A		C	
A067	*Bucephala clangula*			114 I		C		C	
A144	*Calidris alba*			355 I		C		C	
A149	*Calidris alpina alpina*			35620 I		B		C	
A143	*Calidris canutus*			186892 I		A		C	
A037	*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*			68 I		C		C	
A130	*Haematopus ostralegus*			25651 I		B		C	
A157	*Limosa lapponica*			11250 I		A		C	
A156	*Limosa limosa islandica*			859 I		B		C	
A065	*Melanitta nigra*			68 I		C		C	
A160	*Numenius arquata*			3835 I		B		C	
A141	*Pluvialis squatarola*			9708 I		A		C	
A195	*Sterna albifrons*		>33 P			C		C	
A193	*Sterna hirundo*		152 P			C		C	
A048	*Tadorna tadorna*			15981 I		A		C	
A162	*Tringa totanus*			2953 I		B		C	

4. Site description:

4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	55.0
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	39.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	6.0
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)	

Habitat classes	% cover
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, Neutral, Sand, Sedimentary, Shingle

Geomorphology & landscape:

Coastal, Enclosed coast (including embayment), Estuary, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Lowland, Subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank)

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Sterna albifrons (Eastern Atlantic - breeding)	at least 1.4% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1992-1996
Sterna hirundo (Northern/Eastern Europe - breeding)	1.2% of the GB breeding population Count, as at 1993

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Cygnus columbianus bewickii (Western Siberia/North-eastern & North-western Europe)	0.9% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Limosa lapponica (Western Palearctic - wintering)	21.4% 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:

Anas acuta (North-western Europe)	1.5% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Anas penelope (Western Siberia/North-western/North-eastern Europe)	1.2% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Anas strepera (North-western Europe)	0.9% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Anser brachyrhynchus (Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK)	14.8% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Arenaria interpres (Western Palearctic - wintering)	1.1% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Branta bernicla bernicla (Western Siberia/Western Europe)	7.4% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

Bucephala clangula (North-western/Central Europe)	0.7% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Calidris alba (Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa - wintering)	0.3% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Calidris alpina alpina (Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa)	2.6% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Calidris canutus (North-eastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/North-western Europe)	54.2% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Haematopus ostralegus (Europe & Northern/Western Africa)	2.9% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Limosa limosa islandica (Iceland - breeding)	11.6% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Melanitta nigra (Western Siberia/Western & Northern Europe/North-western Africa)	0.2% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Numenius arquata (Europe - breeding)	1.1% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Pluvialis squatarola (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	5.8% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Tadorna tadorna (North-western Europe)	5.3% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
Tringa totanus (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	1.7% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS

Over winter the area regularly supports:

400367 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/04/1998)

Including:

Cygnus columbianus bewickii , Anser brachyrhynchus , Branta bernicla bernicla , Tadorna tadorna , Anas penelope , Anas strepera , Anas acuta , Melanitta nigra , Bucephala clangula , Haematopus ostralegus , Pluvialis squatarola , Calidris canutus , Calidris alba , Calidris alpina alpina , Limosa limosa islandica , Limosa lapponica , Numenius arquata , Tringa totanus , Arenaria interpres .

4.3 Vulnerability

The biological richness of the Wash is largely dependant on the physical processes that dominate the natural systems and consequently the ecological vulnerability is closely linked to the physical environment. The intertidal zone is vulnerable to coastal squeeze as a result of land-claim, coastal defence works, sea-level rise, and storm surges. Intertidal habitats are potentially affected by changes in sediment budget caused by dredging and coastal protection, construction of river training walls and flood defence works. The site is also potentially vulnerable to gas exploration. Activities affecting sediment budget and anthropogenic causes of coastal squeeze will be addressed through the management scheme being developed jointly for the SAC/SPA on this site.
The estuary is fed by four large rivers which drain a substantial area of Eastern England. The volume and quality of water entering the Wash is dependent on the use made of these rivers for water abstraction and agricultural, and domestic effluents. Discharge consents and abstraction licenses will be reviewed under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations.

There are two Air Weapons Ranges within the site; activities on these ranges are covered by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence and Department of the Environment, a Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Defence and English Nature and by Site Management Statements with English Nature. There is a Nature Conservation Management Plan and Management Committee for one of the ranges.

These issues have been addressed in the Wash Estuary Management Plan and by Local Environment Agency Plans and will be extended through the Marine Scheme of Management which is now in progress.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	13.5
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0