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 B

1.2 Site code UK0030382

1.3 Compilation date 201208

1.4 Update

1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

1.6 Respondent(s) International Designations, JNCC, Peterborough

1.7 Site name **Studland to Portland**

1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	201208
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	**latitude**
02 10 03 W	50 33 17 N

2.2 Site area (ha) 33191.09

2.3 Site length (km)

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
0	Marine	100.00%

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
Reefs	58.32	A	C	A	**A**

3.2 Annex II species

	Population				Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory						
Species name		Breed	Winter	Stage	Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global

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

Physical site characteristics:

The Studland to Portland SAC lies off the south coast of the county of Dorset in England. The site comprises a mosaic of two areas containing Annex I reef habitat. The areas are described as (from east to west):

- Studland Bay to Ringstead Bay Reefs; and
- Portland Reefs

Studland Bay to Ringstead Bay Reefs

Numerous areas of reef (in many forms) exist within the Studland Bay to Ringstead Bay area. The reefs exhibit a large amount of geological variety, ranging from exposed chalk bedrock east of Ringstead Bay, through to exposed shales and clays, limestone and cementstone ledges, and boulders around Kimmeridge to Durlston, and back to exposed chalk bedrock between Ballard Cliffs and Handfast Point in the east of the site. A number of features of particular interest are present within this area including:

- A series of limestone ledges (up to 15m across) protruding from a shelly gravel in Worbarrow Bay;
- St Albans ledge, which is a unique reef feature extending out over 10km offshore. The feature is subject to strong tidal action, which has scoured holes down to 60m in some areas;
- An area of large limestone blocks known as the "seabed caves" located east of St Albans ledge;
- Evan's Rock, which is a gently sloping mound in the outer limits of Swanage Bay. The mound has a flat top covered with small, slab-like boulders and cobbles, separated by small areas of shelly sand.

Portland Reefs

The Portland Reefs area lies off the south, east and west coasts of Portland Bill and is characterised by flat bedrock, limestone ledges (Portland stone), large boulders and cobbles. Diver surveys on the western side of Portland Bill have recorded rugged limestone boulders providing deep gullies and overhangs. These occur where the coastal cliffs extend underwater and are clearly visible as 20m drop offs. *Mytilus edulis* beds are found to occur in very high densities on bedrock associated with strong currents off Portland Bill.

4.2 Quality and importance

Reefs

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

4.3 Vulnerability

Operations likely to affect the habitats are:
i) Physical loss by removal and/or smothering;
ii) Physical damage by siltation and/or abrasion;
iii) Toxic contamination by introduction of synthetic and/or non-synthetic compounds;
iv) Non-toxic contamination from changes in nutrient loading and/or organic loading;
v) Changes in turbidity;
vi) Biological disturbance by Introduction of microbial pathogens, introduction of non-native species and translocation, or selective extraction of species.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK00 (N/A)	100.0