

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	198507
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
03 12 56 W	53 18 08 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UKD2	Cheshire	10.6%
0	Marine	16.7%
UKL23	Flintshire and Wrexham	44.4%
UKL13	Conwy and Denbighshire	1.9%
UKD54	Wirral	26.3%

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				
A054	<i>Anas acuta</i>		5407 I		A		C	
A052	<i>Anas crecca</i>		5251 I		C		C	
A149	<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>		27769 I		C		C	
A143	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		12394 I		B		C	
A130	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		22677 I		B		C	
A157	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		1150 I		B		C	
A156	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>		1747 I		B		C	
A160	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		3899 I		C		C	
A141	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		1643 I		C		C	
A195	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	69 P			B		C	
A193	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	392 P			B		C	
A191	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>			957 I	B		C	
A048	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		7725 I		B		C	
A162	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		5293 I		B		C	
A162	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			8795 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)	76.7
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	17.9
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	0.6
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	0.1
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	0.2
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	0.5
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	0.7
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	0.1
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	2.7
Other arable land	0.1
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	0.1
Coniferous woodland	
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	0.1
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)	0.2
Total habitat cover	100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

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

Geomorphology & landscape:

Cliffs, Coastal, Estuary, Intertidal rock, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Islands, Lowland, Shingle bar, 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:

<i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Eastern Atlantic - breeding)	2.9% of the GB breeding population 5 year peak mean 1995-1999
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<i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Northern/Eastern Europe - breeding)	3.2% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1995-1999
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Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Limosa lapponica</i> (Western Palearctic - wintering)	2.2% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99
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On passage the area regularly supports:

<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (Western Europe/Western Africa)	2.3% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1995-1999
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ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Anas acuta</i> (North-western Europe)	9.0% of the population 5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99
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<i>Anas crecca</i> (North-western Europe)	1.3% of the population 5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99
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<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> (Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa)	2% of the population 5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99
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<i>Calidris canutus</i> (North-eastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/North-western Europe)	3.5% of the population 5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99
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<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> (Europe & Northern/Western Africa)	2.5% of the population 5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99
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<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (Iceland - breeding)	2.5% of the population 5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99
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<i>Numenius arquata</i> (Europe - breeding)	1.1% of the population 5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99
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<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	1.1% of the population 5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99
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<i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (North-western Europe)	2.6% of the population 5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99
<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	3.5% of the population 5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99
On passage the area regularly supports:	
<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	5.9% of the population 5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99
ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS	
In the non-breeding season the area regularly supports:	
120726 waterfowl 5 year peak mean 1994/95-1998/99	
Including:	
<i>Podiceps cristatus, Phalacrocorax carbo, Tadorna tadorna, Anas penelope, Anas crecca, Anas acuta, Haematopus ostralegus, Pluvialis squatarola, Vanellus vanellus, Calidris canutus, Calidris alba, Calidris alpina, Limosa limosa islandica, Limosa lapponica, Numenius arquata and Tringa totanus.</i>	

4.3 Vulnerability

The majority of the site is in the ownership and sympathetic management of public bodies and voluntary conservation organisations. Unlike most western estuaries, sizeable areas of the Dee saltmarshes remain ungrazed and therefore plant species that are susceptible to grazing are widespread. This distinctive flora would therefore be sensitive to increase in grazing pressure. The intertidal and subtidal habitats of the estuary are broadly subject to natural successional change and the Dee Estuary continues to show annual net sediment accretion. Saltmarshes on the English side of the estuary continue to accrete overall whilst on the Welsh shoreline the main river channel has moved onshore leading to localised erosion of the saltmarshes

Threats to the estuary's conservation come from its industrialised shorelines on the Welsh side and the impact of adjacent historic industrial use including waste disposal from former manufacturing industry such as chemical and steel manufacture. Permitted development by Welsh Assembly Government has taken place at Mostyn Dock and by DEFRA at West Kirby marine lake within the site boundary.

Contemporary issues relate to dock development and navigational dredging, coastal defence works and their impact on coastal process, regulation of fisheries, and the recreational use of intertidal, sand dunes and saltmarshes.

The statutory agencies are working with landowners and regulatory bodies towards the further remediation of historic threats and the reconciliation of conservation management with human and commercial pressures

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.00