

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	199908
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
00 44 59 E	50 55 50 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK531	East Sussex	58.00%
UK57	Kent	42.00%

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						
A056	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		395 I		C		C	
A037	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>		179 I		B		C	
A176	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		>2 P				C	
A195	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>		35 P		C		C	
A193	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		266 P		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)	15.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	1.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	15.0
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	12.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	5.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	4.0
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	35.0
Other arable land	9.5
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	0.5
Coniferous woodland	
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	
Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, dehesas)	
Inland rocks. Scree. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	3.0
Total habitat cover	100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Alluvium, Clay, Mud, Neutral, Nutrient-poor, Nutrient-rich, Peat, Sand, Shingle

Geomorphology & landscape:

Coastal, Floodplain, Lowland

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Larus melanocephalus

at least 9.1% of the GB breeding population
5 year mean, 1993-1997

Sterna albifrons
(Eastern Atlantic - breeding)

1.5% of the GB breeding population
5 year mean, 1993-1997

<i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Northern/Eastern Europe - breeding)	2.2% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1993-1997
Over winter the area regularly supports:	
<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> (Western Siberia/North-eastern & North-western Europe)	2.5% of the GB population 5 year peak mean, 1992/3-1996/7

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)	
Over winter the area regularly supports:	
<i>Anas clypeata</i> (North-western/Central Europe)	1% of the population 5 year peak mean 1992/3-1996/7

4.3 Vulnerability

This site is vulnerable to coastal erosion, particularly the areas of coastal shingle at Dungeness and Rye Harbour, which are likely to erode in the longer term due to natural processes.

Breeding bird populations are at serious risk of predation by species such as fox, badger and mink. There is a localised programme of pest control on part of the site. The site is reasonably well protected from visitor disturbance, although the possible disturbance from aircraft using a nearby airfield is being investigated. Recreational and leisure activities are a problem in some areas, particularly at North Point Pit which is used for wind surfing. The area is zoned to try and control this activity.

Much of the shingle is uncultivated and is either nature reserve or open land. The site is vulnerable to changing agricultural practices, particularly ploughing of grassland for arable crops, or changes to turf production on adjacent land, which may influence the site's bird population. These practices could be controlled by management agreements. Most of the grassland within the SPA is heavily grazed and there is a continuing problem of lowering water levels; both problems are being addressed through management agreements and water level management plans.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0