

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

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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	199306
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
01 14 29 E	51 52 46 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK54	Essex	100.00%

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						
A052	<i>Anas crecca</i>		3631 I		B		C	
A046a	<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>		6892 I		B		C	
A137	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		520 I		C		C	
A156	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>		1121 I		A		C	
A141	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		3251 I		B		C	
A132	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		317 I		A		B	
A195	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	55 P			B		C	
A048	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		1629 I		B		C	
A162	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		1461 I		C		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)	70.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	25.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	1.0
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	1.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	2.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	1.0
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. Scree. 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:

Alluvium, Clay, Mud, Neutral, Sand

Geomorphology & landscape:

Barrier beach, Coastal, Enclosed coast (including embayment), Estuary, Floodplain, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Islands, Lagoon, Lowland, Open coast (including bay), 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)	2.3% of the GB breeding population 4 year mean 1992-1995
Over winter the area regularly supports:	
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (Western Europe/Western Mediterranean - breeding)	25% 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:	
<i>Anas crecca</i> (North-western Europe)	2.7% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Western Siberia/Western Europe)	2.3% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (Europe/Northern Africa - wintering)	1.1% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (Iceland - breeding)	1.7% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	7.5% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (North-western Europe)	2.2% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	0.8% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

4.3 Vulnerability

The main vulnerability is due to natural changes in sea level, leading to accelerated erosion of saltmarshes. The problem is being addressed in two ways; use of sand and gravels from dredging in Harwich harbour to reinforce existing beaches and protecting grazing marsh areas by reinforcing seawall toe with these materials in the most aggressive areas. The option of managed realignment may be considered in the future.

The nature of the site leads to potential water quality problems due to discharge from boats and from local sewage works as well as small industrial discharges. English Nature is addressing this problem with Water Quality Control officers of the Environment Agency (monitoring) and any authorised discharges will be reviewed under the provisions of the Habitat Regulations.

Although a secluded backwater the site attracts a large number of yachts and accompanying watersports. There is occasional disturbance to the site by water and jet skiers. This is controlled by a wardening scheme.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	64.8
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0

