

# 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	199610
date confirmed as SCI	200412
date site classified as SPA	
date site designated as SAC	200504

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
03 20 12 W	54 58 15 N

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

#### 2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK12	Cumbria	31.14%
UKA21	Dumfries and Galloway	68.97%

#### 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
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	30.04	A	C	A	A
Estuaries	97.01	A	B	A	A
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	60.07	A	B	B	B
Reefs	0.81	B	C	A	C
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	0.02	C	C	C	C
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	1.7	A	A	A	A
<i>Spartina</i> swards ( <i>Spartinion maritimae</i> )	0.01	D			
Atlantic salt meadows ( <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i> )	9.7	A	B	A	A
Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	0.07	C	C	C	C

#### 3.2 Annex II species

Species name	Population				Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory			Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
		Breed	Winter	Stage				
<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	Present	-	-	-	C	A	C	B
<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	Present	-	-	-	C	A	C	B
<i>Alosa alosa</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			
<i>Alosa fallax</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			
<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			
<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			

### 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)	90.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	10.0
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)	
Inland rocks. Screes. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	

<b>Habitat classes</b>	<b>% cover</b>
<b>Total habitat cover</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 4.1 Other site characteristics

##### Soil & geology:

Biogenic reef, Boulder, Clay, Cobble, Granite, Gravel, Igneous, Limestone, Limestone/chalk, Metamorphic, Mud, Pebble, Sand, Sandstone, Sandstone/mudstone, Sedimentary, Shingle

##### Geomorphology & landscape:

Cliffs, Coastal, Enclosed coast (including embayment), Estuary, Intertidal rock, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Open coast (including bay), Pools, Shingle bar, Subtidal rock (including rocky reefs), Subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank)

#### 4.2 Quality and importance

Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time

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

Estuaries

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

Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

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

Reefs

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Perennial vegetation of stony banks

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

*Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand

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

Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

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

Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

*Petromyzon marinus*

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

*Lampetra fluviatilis*

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

#### 4.3 Vulnerability

This large site is subject to a number of activities. These include flood defence and coastal erosion work, fishing and shellfisheries (including a cockle fishery which is currently closed to allow stocks to recover), saltmarsh/ merse grazing, oil and gas exploration (outwith the site), and industrial development. A management strategy to consider and co-ordinate these activities is being produced by the Solway Firth Partnership. This will set out the means by which it is proposed to secure the sustainable use of the estuary.

### 5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

#### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	16.9
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0