

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	199508
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
01 07 07 W	54 37 50 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK111	Cleveland	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						
A143	<i>Calidris canutus</i>			5509 I	C		C	
A195	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>		40 P		C		C	
A191	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>			1900 I	B		C	
A162	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			1648 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)	54.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	7.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	14.0
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	3.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	20.0
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. Scree. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	2.0
Total habitat cover	100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Alluvium, Basic, Boulder, Clay, Mud, Neutral, Peat, Sand, Sandstone, Sandstone/mudstone, Sedimentary, Shingle

Geomorphology & landscape:

Coastal, Enclosed coast (including embayment), Estuary, Floodplain, Intertidal rock, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Lagoon, Lowland, Open coast (including bay), Pools, 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:

Sterna albifrons
(Eastern Atlantic - breeding)

1.7% of the population in Great Britain
Four year mean for 1995 to 1998

On passage the area regularly supports:

<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (Western Europe/Western Africa)	6.8% of the population in Great Britain Five year mean for 1988 to 1992
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ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)	
Over winter the area regularly supports:	
<i>Calidris canutus</i> (North-eastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/North-western Europe)	1.6% of the population Five year peak mean for 1991/92 to 1995/96
On passage the area regularly supports:	
<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	1.1% of the East Atlantic Flyway population 5 year peak mean, 1987 - 1991
ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS	
Over winter the area regularly supports:	
21312 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/03/2000)	
Including:	
<i>Calidris canutus</i> .	

4.3 Vulnerability

The natural incursion of coarse marine sediments into the estuary and the eutrophication of sheltered mudflats leading to the spread of dense Enteromorpha beds may impact on invertebrate density and abundance, and hence on waterfowl numbers. Indications are that the observed sediment changes derive from the reassertion of natural coastal processes within the context of an estuary much modified by human activity. An extensive long-term monitoring programme is investigating the effects of the Tees Barrage, while nutrient enrichment from sewage discharges should be ameliorated by the planned introduction of improved treatment facilities and the Environment Agency's acceptance of Seal Sands as a candidate Sensitive Area to Eutrophication. Aside from the eutrophication issue, water quality has shown considerable and sustained improvement, leading to the re-establishment of migratory fish populations and the growth of cormorant and common seal populations. The future development of port facilities in areas adjacent to the site, and in particular of deep water frontages with associated capital dredging, has the potential to cause adverse effect; these issues will be addressed through the planning system/Habitats Regulations, as will incompatible coastal defence schemes. Other issues on this relatively robust site include scrub encroachment on dunes (addressed by Site Management Statements with owners) and recreational, bait-gathering and other disturbance/damage to habitats/species (addressed by WCA 1981, NNR Byelaws and the Tees Estuary Management Plan).

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	8.0
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0