

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

U	K	0	0	1	3	0	7	7
U	K	0	0	1	3	1	0	7

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	199407
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
01 22 47 E	51 18 18 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK57	Kent	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						
A169	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		940 I		C		C	
A140	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>		411 I		C		C	
A195	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	6 P			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)	83.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	1.0
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	1.0
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	2.0
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	10.0
Other arable land	3.0
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)	
Total habitat cover	100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Alluvium, Basic, Clay, Cobble, Gravel, Limestone, Mud, Neutral, Nutrient-rich, Sand, Sedimentary, Shingle

Geomorphology & landscape:

Cave/tunnel, Caves, Cliffs, Coastal, Estuary, Floodplain, Intertidal rock, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Lagoon, Lowland, Open coast (including bay), Pools, Subtidal rock (including rocky reefs)

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Sterna albifrons 0.3% of the GB breeding population
(Eastern Atlantic - breeding) 5 year mean, 1992-1996

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Pluvialis apricaria 0.2% of the GB population
(North-western Europe - breeding) 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Arenaria interpres</i> (Western Palearctic - wintering)	1.4% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
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4.3 Vulnerability

The land adjacent to this site is either urban, agricultural, or managed as golf course with parts of the coast are being used for water sports such as personal water craft users, small boat users , wind surfing and bait digging. This leads to a high potential for disturbance both of wintering birds, especially of high tide roosts, and breeding colonies, especially of little tern. Recreational issues including watersports being addressed through the management scheme for the European marine site.

There is an active port at Ramsgate which requires development to its infrastructure. The current proposals for a new access road impinge marginally on the site, but should have a minimal impact on the birds that use the site.

There is the potential for oil spills on the SPA, both from vessels using the English Channel, and Port Ramsgate. Oil spill contingency plans therefore need to be kept updated.

Water diversion and pollution from domestic waste, fertilisers, pesticides and agricultural run-off offsite has lead to eutrophication within the SPA/Ramsar site. Where possible this is being addressed through the review of consents under the provisions of the Habitat Regulations and through Site Management Statements.

Much of the coast has extensive sea defences, such as groynes and sea walls, which occasionally need to be repaired. These activities need to be carefully timed to avoid disturbance to birds. Observed build up of shingle in front of the embryo dunes was throught to result from the beach- fed shingle used for sea defences along the Sandwich- Deal coastline but investigations undertaken by the Environment Agency have so far been inconclusive. The SPA overlaps with a marine cSAC. Together they are considered a single European marine site. The intertidal component of the SPA will be included in the management scheme which will address a number of these threats.

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