

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	201008
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
03 12 14 W	53 51 50 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
0	Marine	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
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	84.16	A	C	A	A

Reefs	2.9	B	C	B	B
-------	-----	---	---	---	---

3.2 Annex II species

Species name	Population			Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory		Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
		Breed	Winter				

4. Site description

4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	100.0
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	
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. 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

Physical site characteristics:

The Shell Flat component of the Shell Flat and Lune Deep SAC is a crescent shaped sandbank comprising a range of mud and sand sediments. Shell Flat has a typical sandy substrate biological community. Shell Flat is the only sandbank feature identified within the outer Shell Flat site and is known to provide important habitat for commercial fish species and bird populations.

Lune Deep and the area immediately to the north support mixed faunal turf communities over a cobble/rock substrate. These areas provide habitat for erect hydroids and bryozoans with some areas having erect sponges which form the biotope *Flustra foliacea* and *Haliclona oculata* with a rich faunal turf on tide-swept circalittoral mixed substrata. The reef habitat present in the area represents a good example of boulder and bedrock reef, with the largest proportions of rock found along the unique kettle hole feature known as Lune Deep. The northern edges of Lune Deep are characterised by heavily silted cobble and boulder slopes, subject to strong tidal currents with a dense hydroid and bryozoan turf. This unique enclosed deep hole provides a contrasting habitat to the surrounding muddy communities of the Eastern Irish Mudbelt. Data from a 2004 survey show that the northern flanks of Lune Deep are composed of exposed bedrock with a rugged seabed physiography. In contrast, the southern flank consists of a smooth seabed which is a sink for muddy sands.

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

4.3 Vulnerability

Operations likely to affect the habitats are:

- i) Physical loss by smothering;
- ii) Physical damage by siltation or abrasion;
- iii) Toxic contamination by introduction of synthetic or non-synthetic compounds;
- iv) Non-toxic contamination from changes in nutrient loading, organic loading, or changes in turbidity;
- v) Changes in salinity;
- vi) Biological disturbance by Introduction of microbial pathogens, introduction of non-native species and translocation, or selective extraction of species.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK00 (N/A)	100.0