

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	200003
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
00 35 47 E	51 29 08 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK54	Essex	10.00%
UK57	Kent	90.00%

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						
A149	<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>		29646 I		B		C	
A143	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		4848 I		C		C	
A137	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			1324 I	B		C	
A082	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		7 I		C		C	
A156	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>		1699 I		B		C	
A141	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		2593 I		C		C	
A132	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		283 I		A		C	
A162	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		3251 I		B		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)	57.3
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	1.5
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	0.9
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	5.6
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	3.7
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	1.9
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	29.1
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

Soil & geology:

Alluvium, Mud, Shingle

Geomorphology & landscape:

Coastal, Estuary, Floodplain, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat)

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Circus cyaneus

1% of the population in Great Britain
Five year peak mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98

<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (Western Europe/Western Mediterranean - breeding)	28.3% of the population in Great Britain Five year peak mean for 1993/93 to 1997/98
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ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)	
Over winter the area regularly supports:	
<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> (Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa)	2.1% of the population Five year peak mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98
<i>Calidris canutus</i> (North-eastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/North-western Europe)	1.4% of the population Five year peak mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98
<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (Iceland - breeding)	2.4% of the population Five year peak mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	1.7% of the population Five year peak mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98
<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	2.2% of the population Five year peak mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98
On passage the area regularly supports:	
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (Europe/Northern Africa - wintering)	2.6% of the population Five year peak mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98
ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS	
Over winter the area regularly supports:	
75019 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 21/03/2000)	
Including:	
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> , <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> , <i>Calidris canutus</i> , <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> , <i>Tringa totanus</i> .	

4.3 Vulnerability

There is evidence of coastal squeeze and erosion of intertidal habitat within the site. English Nature is in discussion with the port authority on the role of port dredging in intertidal habitat loss. The intertidal area is also vulnerable to disturbance from water borne recreation. This is being addressed by information dissemination as part of an estuary management plan.

The terrestrial part of the site depends on appropriate grazing and management of water. The availability of livestock may be affected by changes in agricultural markets. Evidence suggests that the water supply to grazing marsh has decreased. A water level management plan may address this.

There has been great development pressure in recent years. Current implications of development include both direct landtake from the site and indirect disturbance and hydrological effects. These effects will be addressed through the Habitats Regulations 1994.

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