

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 | 199506 |
| date confirmed as SCI | |
| date site classified as SPA | |
| date site designated as SAC | |

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

| | |
|------------|------------|
| longitude | latitude |
| 07 30 12 W | 54 12 39 N |

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

2.5 Administrative region

| NUTS code | Region name | % cover |
|-----------|------------------|---------|
| UKB | Northern Ireland | 100.0% |

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 |
|---|---------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> -type vegetation | 67 | A | A | B | A |

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|---|---|----------|
| <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) | 0 | D | | | |
| Alkaline fens | 0 | D | | | |
| Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles | 4.8 | A | C | A | B |
| Bog woodland | 0 | D | | | |
| Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion alvae</i>) | 2.3 | A | B | A | B |

3.2 Annex II species

| Species name | Population | | | | Site assessment | | | |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|--------|-------|-----------------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| | Resident | Migratory | | | Population | Conservation | Isolation | Global |
| | | Breed | Winter | Stage | | | | |
| <i>Salmo salar</i> | Rare | - | - | - | D | | | |
| <i>Lutra lutra</i> | Present | - | - | - | C | A | C | B |

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) | |
| Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes | |
| Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair | |
| Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets | |
| Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) | 67.0 |
| Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens | 9.0 |
| Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana | |
| Dry grassland. Steppes | |
| Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland | 17.0 |
| Alpine and sub-alpine grassland | |
| Improved grassland | |
| Other arable land | |
| Broad-leaved deciduous woodland | 7.0 |
| Coniferous 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, Limestone, Nutrient-rich, Peat, Sandstone

Geomorphology & landscape:

Floodplain, Island, Lowland

4.2 Quality and importance

Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition*-type vegetation

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

Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles

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

Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion alvae*)

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

Lutra lutra

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

4.3 Vulnerability

This is a large site with a number of interest features. Much of the best-quality woodland is owned by EHS and the National Trust and is currently managed for nature conservation. Excessive eutrophication is a potential threat to the main water body and the satellite lakes which comprise the site. The problem is being addressed through a cross-border water quality management strategy. For many of the smaller satellite lakes, ASSI and ESA management agreements will continue to offer some control of nutrient enrichment from agriculture. Water quality will be subject to regular monitoring.

Agricultural change (both intensification and abandonment) and developments (particularly tourist-related) could have an effect on the structure and function of the eutrophic lake or other populations. These pressures will be controlled through management agreements and planning policy.

The Conservation Plan for the site is currently being updated. It should be noted that a substantial part of the site is in the Republic of Ireland.

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 |