

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	200012
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 55 06 W	52 42 04 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK913	Gwynedd	100.3%

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
Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>	0.3	A	C	A	A
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	4.6	C	C	B	C
European dry heaths	17	B	C	B	C
Alpine and Boreal heaths	0.8	D			
Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	0.1	D			
Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grassland, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in continental Europe)	0.1	D			
<i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)	0.1	B	C	B	C
Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	0.1	C	C	B	C
Blanket bogs	6.4	C	C	C	C
Transition mires and quaking bogs	0.1	D			
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)	0.1	D			
Alkaline fens	0.1	C	C	B	C
Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (<i>Androsacetalia alpinae</i> and <i>Galeopsietalia ladani</i>)	3.7	B	C	B	B
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	0.3	B	B	A	B
Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	1.7	B	C	A	B
Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	0.8	C	C	B	C

3.2 Annex II species

Species name	Population				Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory			Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
		Breed	Winter	Stage				
<i>Euphydrias</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i> , <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i>	Present	-	-	-	C	B	A	C
<i>Lampetra planeri</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			
<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			
<i>Salmo salar</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			
<i>Drepanocladus</i> (<i>Hamatocaulis</i>) <i>vernicosus</i>	Present	-	-	-	C	B	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)	
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	0.3
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	11.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	23.0
Dry grassland. Steppes	46.0

Habitat classes	% cover
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	0.1
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	1.3
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	3.0
Coniferous woodland	0.3
Mixed woodland	1.4
Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, dehesas)	
Inland rocks. Scree. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	13.0
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	0.6
Total habitat cover	100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Acidic, Basic, Igneous, Metamorphic, Neutral, Nutrient-poor, Nutrient-rich, Peat

Geomorphology & landscape:

Crags/ledges, Hilly, Montane, Slope, Upland, Valley

4.2 Quality and importance

Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea*

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

Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

European dry heaths

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels

- which is considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 1000 hectares.
- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Blanket bogs

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Alkaline fens

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (*Androsacetalia alpinae* and *Galeopsietalia ladani*)

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

Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation

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Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation

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

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

4.3 Vulnerability

The area is very popular for walking, with heavy visitor pressure causing localised damage to the vegetation. However this problem is being addressed by the Snowdonia Upland Path Partnership (CCW/SNPA/NT). The moorland has been grazed and burnt heavily in some areas leading to an increase in the grassland component. However CCW is discussing management agreements with owners on the site in order to reduce the grazing levels to an appropriate level, and to restrict heather burning. The NNR section of the site is managed according to a CCW management plan, but suffers from the fact that CCW does not own the grazing rights.

The high rainfall renders the site vulnerable to acidification.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	11.5
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0