

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	199512
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
02 49 25 W	53 18 51 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK81	Cheshire	46.38%
UK84	Merseyside	53.62%

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	Breed	Winter	Stage	Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
A054	<i>Anas acuta</i>			1169 I		B		C	
A052	<i>Anas crecca</i>			11723 I		B		C	
A050	<i>Anas penelope</i>			11886 I		B		C	
A149	<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>			48789 I		B		C	
A137	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				505 I	C		C	
A156	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>			976 I		B		C	
A160	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			1300 I		C		C	
A140	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>			3040 I		C		C	
A141	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			1010 I		B		C	
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			136 I		C		C	
A048	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			6746 I		B		C	
A162	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				4513 I	B		C	
A162	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			4993 I		B		C	
A142	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			10544 I		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)	89.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	11.0
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

Soil & geology:

Mud, Sand, Sandstone/mudstone

Geomorphology & landscape:

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

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (North-western Europe - breeding)	1.2% of the GB population 5-year peak mean, 1993/94–1997/98
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ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Anas acuta</i> (North-western Europe)	1.9% of the population 5-year peak mean, 1993/94–1997/98
<i>Anas crecca</i> (North-western Europe)	2.9% of the population 5-year peak mean, 1993/94–1997/98
<i>Anas penelope</i> (Western Siberia/North-western/North-eastern Europe)	4.2% of the population in Great Britain 5-year peak mean, 1993/94–1997/98
<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> (Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa)	3.6% of the population 5-year peak mean, 1993/94–1997/98
<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (Iceland - breeding)	1.6% of the population 5-year peak mean, 1993/94–1997/98
<i>Numenius arquata</i> (Europe - breeding)	1.1% of the population in Great Britain 5-year peak mean, 1993/94–1997/98
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	2.3% of the population in Great Britain 5-year peak mean, 1993/94–1997/98
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i> (North-western Europe - wintering)	1.4% of the population in Great Britain 5-year peak mean, 1993/94–1997/98
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (North-western Europe)	2.2% of the population 5-year peak mean, 1993/94–1997/98
<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	2.8% of the population 5-year peak mean, 1993/94–1997/98
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i> (Europe - breeding)	0.7% of the population in Great Britain 5-year peak mean, 1993/94–1997/98
On passage the area regularly supports:	
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (Europe/Northern Africa - wintering)	1.7% of the population in Great Britain 5-year peak mean, 1993–1997
<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	3.8% of the population 5-year peak mean, 1993–1997

4.3 Vulnerability

Wintering bird numbers and associated intertidal flats are robust to day-to-day change. Nevertheless, the estuary is subject to multiple uses; it is heavily industrialised, a substantial urban conurbation, has multiple transport requirements and increasing recreational activities. The site is vulnerable to physical loss through land-claim and development, physical damage caused by navigation capital and maintenance dredging, agricultural requirements, non-physical loss, toxic and non-toxic contamination and biological disturbance by wildfowling. The Special Protection Area status, requirements for Environmental Impact Assessment and the estuary management plan should, however, safeguard the site.

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