

# 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	
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	199303
date site designated as SAC	

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
00 12 19 E	52 28 34 N

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

#### 2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK401	Cambridgeshire	70.00%
UK402	Norfolk	30.00%

#### 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	Breed	Winter	Stage	Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
A054	<i>Anas acuta</i>			1755 I		B		C	
A056	<i>Anas clypeata</i>			681 I		B		C	
A056	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		155 P			A		C	
A052	<i>Anas crecca</i>			3085 I		B		C	
A050	<i>Anas penelope</i>			29713 I		B		C	
A053	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		850 P			C		C	
A055	<i>Anas querquedula</i>		14 P			A		C	
A051	<i>Anas strepera</i>		111 P			B		C	
A051	<i>Anas strepera</i>			342 I		B		C	
A059	<i>Aythya ferina</i>			3135 I		B		C	
A061	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>			986 I		C		C	
A082	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>			12 I		C		C	
A037	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>			4639 I		A		C	
A038	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>			963 I		A		C	
A036	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			611 I		B		C	
A125	<i>Fulica atra</i>			2201 I		C		C	
A156a	<i>Limosa limosa limosa</i>		26 P			A		B	
A017	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			259 I		C		C	
A151	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>			137 I		A		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)	50.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	49.0
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	1.0
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)	
<b>Total habitat cover</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 4.1 Other site characteristics

### Soil & geology:

Acidic, Alluvium, Basic, Peat

### Geomorphology & landscape:

Floodplain, Lowland

## 4.2 Quality and importance

### ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

#### Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	1.6% of the GB population 6 year mean, 1982-1987
<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> (Western Siberia/North-eastern & North-western Europe)	64.4% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Cygnus cygnus</i> (Iceland/UK/Ireland)	17.2% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i> (Western Africa - wintering)	19.6% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

### ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

#### During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

<i>Anas clypeata</i> (North-western/Central Europe)	15.5% of the population in Great Britain Count, as at late 1980s-early 1990s
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> (North-western Europe)	0.9% of the population in Great Britain Count, as at late 1980s-early 1990s
<i>Anas querquedula</i> (Western Siberia/Europe/Western Africa )	93.3% of the population in Great Britain Count, as at late 1980s-early 1990s
<i>Anas strepera</i> (North-western Europe)	14.4% of the population in Great Britain No count period specified.
<i>Limosa limosa limosa</i> (Western Europe/W Africa)	89.7% of the population in Great Britain Count, as at late 1980s-early 1990s

#### Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Anas acuta</i> (North-western Europe)	2.9% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Anas clypeata</i> (North-western/Central Europe)	1.7% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Anas crecca</i> (North-western Europe)	0.8% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Anas penelope</i> (Western Siberia/North-western/North-eastern Europe)	2.4% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

<i>Anas strepera</i> (North-western Europe)	4.2% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Aythya ferina</i> (North-western/North-eastern Europe)	7.2% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Aythya fuligula</i> (North-western Europe)	1.6% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Cygnus olor</i> (Britain)	2.4% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Fulica atra</i> (North-western Europe - wintering)	1.9% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> (North-western Europe)	2% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<b>ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS</b>	
<b>During the breeding season the area regularly supports:</b>	
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i> , <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> , <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> , <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> , <i>Tringa totanus</i> , <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> .	
<b>Over winter the area regularly supports:</b>	
64428 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/04/1998)	
Including:	
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> , <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> , <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> , <i>Anas penelope</i> , <i>Anas strepera</i> , <i>Anas crecca</i> , <i>Anas acuta</i> , <i>Anas clypeata</i> , <i>Aythya ferina</i> , <i>Aythya fuligula</i> , <i>Fulica atra</i> , <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> .	

### 4.3 Vulnerability

Much of the conservation importance of the Ouse Washes is due to its continued use as functional washland, with extensive winter flooding and traditional forms of agricultural management, including grazing and mowing of permanent grassland and rotational ditch clearance. In recent years, summer flooding (April-May) has adversely affected both the breeding birds and the traditional washland management regime. It also results in *Glyceria* competing with the other grasses and herbs which may affect food availability for wintering waterfowl. This problem is now being addressed by the Environment Agency and by other bodies with a major interest in managing the washes, through the Ouse Washes Management Strategy. Severe siltation in the Great Ouse River is a factor affecting the drainage of the Ouse Washes. Nutrient enrichment continues to be a problem, possibly resulting in some plant species as well as some fish and invertebrate species declining. These issues are currently being investigated by the Environment Agency.

Wildfowling takes place on the site but it is not considered to cause significant disturbance at current levels. Any proposals for increased wildfowling will be regulated through the Habitat Regulations.

## 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