

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

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	199110
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
00 39 54 W	52 38 52 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK321	Leicestershire	100.00%

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						
A056	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		526 I		B		C	
A052	<i>Anas crecca</i>		1420 I		C		C	
A050	<i>Anas penelope</i>		4236 I		C		C	
A051	<i>Anas strepera</i>		1156 I		B		C	
A061	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		2289 I		B		C	
A067	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>		399 I		B		C	
A036	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		285 I		C		C	
A125	<i>Fulica atra</i>		3962 I		B		C	
A070	<i>Mergus merganser</i>		48 I		C		C	
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		762 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)	
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	80.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	0.1
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	9.9
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	
Coniferous woodland	
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	10.0
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:

Clay, Mud, Neutral, Nutrient-rich, Sedimentary

Geomorphology & landscape:

Lowland, Valley

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Anas clypeata</i> (North-western/Central Europe)	1.3% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Anas crecca</i> (North-western Europe)	1% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Anas penelope</i> (Western Siberia/North-western/North-eastern Europe)	1.5% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Anas strepera</i> (North-western Europe)	3.9% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Aythya fuligula</i> (North-western Europe)	3.8% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Bucephala clangula</i> (North-western/Central Europe)	2.3% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Cygnus olor</i> (Britain)	1.1% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Fulica atra</i> (North-western Europe - wintering)	3.5% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Mergus merganser</i> (North-western/Central Europe)	0.5% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i> (North-western Europe - wintering)	7.8% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS	
Over winter the area regularly supports:	
25037 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/04/1998)	
Including:	
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i> , <i>Anas penelope</i> , <i>Anas strepera</i> , <i>Anas crecca</i> , <i>Anas clypeata</i> , <i>Aythya fuligula</i> , <i>Bucephala clangula</i> , <i>Mergus merganser</i> , <i>Fulica atra</i> .	

4.3 Vulnerability

The SPA is vulnerable to pressures from recreation, nutrient inputs, and changes in water level. The site is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the East Midlands. Fishing, walking water sports and cycling currently take place and the reservoir has been zoned to allow this to take place. Management of the site for its SPA interests is currently compatible with these recreation uses except in periods of drawdown. A revised strategy with Anglian Water Supplies (AWS) is intended to address this problem.

The reservoir is filled from the River Nene and the River Welland. In the past phosphate levels have led to algal blooms. Although these have currently had little visible effects on the wildfowl, continued eutrophication could lead to an algal dominated system that may reduce the value of the area for both plant feeding and invertebrate feeding wildfowl. Phosphate inputs are being tackled through implementation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive in the Nene catchment which contributes the major phosphate load to the reservoir. If necessary, monitoring will be introduced to show if the reduction in phosphate level is adequate and to investigate the contribution of agricultural sources to this problem.

Rutland water is a major source of urban water supply. Increased abstraction in the summer up to the current licensed limit may cause further and more extensive periods of drawdown which can effect populations of invertebrates on which some species depend, whilst rapid filling can render other food sources unavailable for dabbling ducks. Drawdown may also increase disturbance through recreation uses. These issues will be tackled through discussions with AWS and the Environment Agency.

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