

# 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"/>
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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	199112
date site designated as SAC	

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
00 52 22 E	51 49 37 N

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

#### 2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK54	Essex	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>			654 I		B		C	
A052	<i>Anas crecca</i>			3412 I		B		C	
A050	<i>Anas penelope</i>			2888 I		C		C	
A051	<i>Anas strepera</i>			518 I		B		C	
A059	<i>Aythya ferina</i>			1901 I		B		C	
A061	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>			1864 I		B		C	
A067	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>			463 I		B		C	
A036	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			496 I		C		C	
A125	<i>Fulica atra</i>			12602 I		B		C	
A017	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		490 P			B		C	
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			132 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)	
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	90.0
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	10.0
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)	
<b>Total habitat cover</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4.1 Other site characteristics

#### Soil & geology:

Clay, Neutral

#### Geomorphology & landscape:

Lowland, Valley

### 4.2 Quality and importance

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

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> (North-western Europe)	7% of the population in Great Britain 5 year mean, 1993-1997
<b>Over winter the area regularly supports:</b>	
<i>Anas clypeata</i> (North-western/Central Europe)	1.6% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Anas crecca</i> (North-western Europe)	2.5% 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)	0.2% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Anas strepera</i> (North-western Europe)	1.7% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Aythya ferina</i> (North-western/North-eastern Europe)	4.4% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Aythya fuligula</i> (North-western Europe)	3.1% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Bucephala clangula</i> (North-western/Central Europe)	2.7% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Cygnus olor</i> (Britain)	1.9% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Fulica atra</i> (North-western Europe - wintering)	11% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i> (North-western Europe - wintering)	1.3% 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>Over winter the area regularly supports:</b>	
39763 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 ferina</i> , <i>Aythya fuligula</i> , <i>Bucephala clangula</i> , <i>Fulica atra</i> .	

### 4.3 Vulnerability

Abberton Reservoir is a public water supply reservoir. Reduced water availability, and increased demand, in recent years has led to generally low water levels; greater numbers of waders therefore use the site, and as a result no decrease in wildfowl has been attributed to low water levels. The possibility of raising the reservoir level to secure water supply is under consideration, and the requirement of waterfowl are a primary consideration of the EIA. Water entering the site has elevated nitrate levels, leading in most summers to algal blooms, but there is no evidence of impacts on wildlife. The Water Company has a consultative committee which addresses conservation issues at all its sites, and the Abberton Reserve Committee (involving Essex Wildlife Trust and EN) addresses local issues.

## 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