

# 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           | 199409 |
| date site designated as SAC           |        |

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| longitude  | latitude   |
| 01 36 00 E | 52 43 56 N |

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

#### 2.5 Administrative region

| NUTS code | Region name | % cover |
|-----------|-------------|---------|
| UK402     | Norfolk     | 99.00%  |
| UK403     | Suffolk     | 1.00%   |

#### 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 |
| A056 | <i>Anas clypeata</i>               |            |       | 231 I   |                 | B          |              | C         |        |
| A050 | <i>Anas penelope</i>               |            |       | 10071 I |                 | C          |              | C         |        |
| A051 | <i>Anas strepera</i>               |            |       | 240 I   |                 | B          |              | C         |        |
| A021 | <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>          |            | >2 I  |         |                 | B          |              | B         |        |
| A081 | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>          |            | 16 P  |         |                 | B          |              | B         |        |
| A082 | <i>Circus cyaneus</i>              |            |       | 22 I    |                 | B          |              | C         |        |
| A037 | <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> |            |       | >600 I  |                 | B          |              | B         |        |
| A038 | <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>               |            |       | 100 I   |                 | C          |              | C         |        |
| A151 | <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>          |            |       | 96 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)            | 2.5         |
| Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes  |             |
| Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair  |             |
| Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets  |             |
| Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)  | 10.0        |
| Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens  | 25.0        |
| Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana  | 13.0        |
| Dry grassland. Steppes   |             |
| Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland   | 41.0        |
| Alpine and sub-alpine grassland  |             |
| Improved grassland   |             |
| Other arable land  |             |
| Broad-leaved deciduous woodland  | 8.5         |
| 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:

Basic, Clay, Nutrient-rich, Peat, Sedimentary

#### Geomorphology & landscape:

Floodplain, Lowland, Valley

### 4.2 Quality and importance

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

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

*Botaurus stellaris*  
(Europe - breeding)

at least 10% of the GB breeding population  
Three year mean 1996-1998

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>  | 10.2% of the GB breeding population<br>5 year mean, 1987/8-1991/2 |
| <b>Over winter the area regularly supports:</b>  |   |
| <i>Circus cyaneus</i>  | 2.9% of the GB population<br>5 year peak mean 1987/8-1991/2       |
| <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i><br>(Western Siberia/North-eastern & North-western Europe) | at least 8.2% of the GB population<br>Count, as at 1996/7         |
| <i>Cygnus cygnus</i><br>(Iceland/UK/Ireland)   | 1.8% of the GB population<br>Count, as at 1996/7                  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)</b>   |   |
| <b>Over winter the area regularly supports:</b> |   |
| <i>Anas strepera</i><br>(North-western Europe)  | 0.8% of the population<br>5 year peak mean, 1991/2-1995/6 |

### 4.3 Vulnerability

The site has suffered from management neglect and natural succession during this century. This is slowly being reversed via conservation and other management works undertaken through a number of bodies. Sea level rise and reduced summer flows in the river Bure brought about by abstraction are resulting in increasing saline intrusion into the site and generally drier summer conditions. The Environment Agency, Broads Authority and English Nature are proceeding with a project, to investigate options to remedy this situation. The site also suffers from eutrophication, brought through the build up of nutrients over a long period, primarily through sewage outfalls and, to a lesser degree, agriculture. Some of the sewage works are now stripping phosphorus and there is a programme of mud pumping to remove enriched material from lakes.

The region as a whole is a centre for tourism and recreation, however this pressure is now starting to be brought under control by the Broads Authority via the Broads Plan. Efficient drainage within much of the reclaimed parts of the wetland has reduced the wildlife value. Water Level Management Plans and the ESA scheme are starting to raise water levels, revert arable areas back to grass and encourage sensitive management, particularly of the ditches. Flood defence works are carried out in accordance with the Environmental Agency Broads Strategy.

## 5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

| Code             | % cover |
|------------------|---------|
| UK01 (NNR)       | 39.8    |
| UK04 (SSSI/ASSI) | 100.0   |