

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	199706
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
02 52 00 W	51 10 14 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK632	Somerset	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						
A052	<i>Anas crecca</i>		13307 I		B		C	
A037	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>		191 I		B		B	
A140	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>		3029 I		C		C	
A142	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		36316 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)	5.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	5.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	52.0
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	26.0
Other arable land	1.0
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	4.0
Coniferous woodland	
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	
Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, dehesas)	2.0
Inland rocks. Scree. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	5.0
Total habitat cover	100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Alluvium, Clay, Neutral, Peat

Geomorphology & landscape:

Floodplain, Lowland

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Cygnus columbianus bewickii
(Western Siberia/North-eastern & North-western Europe) 2.7% of the GB population
5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

Pluvialis apricaria
(North-western Europe - breeding) 1.2% of the GB population
5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Anas crecca 3.3% of the population
(North-western Europe) 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

Vanellus vanellus 0.5% of the population
(Europe - breeding) 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:

73014 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/04/1998)

Including:

Cygnus columbianus bewickii , *Anas crecca* , *Pluvialis apricaria* , *Vanellus vanellus* .

4.3 Vulnerability

The site lies within the flood plains of a number of large rivers and drains with many areas below high tide levels. Peat extraction occurs over part of the site. This is not currently thought to pose a risk, and future extraction will be subject to controls under the Habitats Regulations. The majority of land is farmed and under private ownership. Most farms have dairy or beef herds. Trends in agriculture and support schemes have a critical influence as improvement with conversion of grassland to arable, land drainage, increased applications of inorganic fertilisers and cutting of silage are major threats to vulnerable peat soils and the nature conservation value of the site. Less intensive practices are encouraged through the ESA scheme, WES and Section 15 agreements. Water Level Management is critical and is being addressed through the Water Level Management Plans process and the development of Raised Water Level Areas and Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA).

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	11.9
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0