

# 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	199311
date site designated as SAC	

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
01 53 11 W	51 15 14 N

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

#### 2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK561	Hampshire	1.00%
UK613	Wiltshire	99.00%

#### 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
A133	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>		24 P			B		B	
A082	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>			5 I		C		C	
A113	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		19 I			A		C	
A099	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		6 P			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)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	56.8
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	9.3
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	15.6
Other arable land	8.3
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	4.0
Coniferous woodland	1.0
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	3.7
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)	1.3
<b>Total habitat cover</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4.1 Other site characteristics

#### Soil & geology:

Basic, Clay, Limestone, Neutral, Nutrient-poor, Nutrient-rich

#### Geomorphology & landscape:

Escarpment, Hilly, Lowland, Slope, Valley

### 4.2 Quality and importance

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

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

*Burhinus oedicnemus* 14.5% of the GB breeding population  
(Western Europe - breeding) Count, as at 1997

#### Over winter the area regularly supports:

*Circus cyaneus* 0.7% of the GB population  
Count, as at 1993

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

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

<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	20% of the population in Great Britain Count, as at 1986
<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	1.2% of the population in Great Britain Count, as at 1990

**4.3 Vulnerability**

Salisbury Plain SPA (also cSAC) is the largest area of open chalk grassland in north-west Europe. It is owned by the Ministry of Defence and used intensively for military training. The grassland is robust and when dry is able to sustain considerable training pressure. Other land uses include agriculture, forestry and recreation. Military training requirements constrain ideal conservation management (including grazing and scrub management) and have led to the establishment of extensive plantations which, over time, may pose a threat to the open grassland landscape and its ecology. An additional threat is stone road construction: this has replaced rutted tracks with engineered stone roads over many kilometres. Any further road construction or development will be subject to stringent Environmental Assessments. The military training requirements, conservation management requirements and other land use issues have been brought together in an Integrated Land Management Plan (ILMP). This seeks to optimise military training whilst sustaining and enhancing nature conservation and other heritage interests. English Nature has been instrumental in the development of the Plan (presently in preparation), and will be closely involved in its usage, monitoring and refinement.

The ILMP will address many issues including sustainability of military activities and management such as more extensive grazing, scrub management and removal of plantations not essential for military training. To achieve the objectives of the ILMP further sources of funding are likely to be required in the future.

**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