

# 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	198507
date site designated as SAC	

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
03 11 02 W	53 18 39 N

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

#### 2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK81	Cheshire	11.01%
UK911	Clwyd	41.82%
UK84	Merseyside	28.96%

#### 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				
A054	<i>Anas acuta</i>		5319	I	A		C	
A143	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		17564	I	B		C	
A130	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		18915	I	B		C	
A157	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		1177	I	B		C	
A048	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		3203	I	B		C	
A162	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		3594	I	B		C	

### 4. Site description:

#### 4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	14.0
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	69.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	16.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	1.0
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	
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	
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. Screes. 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, Mud, Sand, Sandstone, Sandstone/mudstone, Sedimentary, Shingle

##### Geomorphology & landscape:

Cliffs, Coastal, Estuary, Intertidal rock, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Islands, Lowland, Shingle bar, Subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank)

## 4.2 Quality and importance

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

**Over winter the area regularly supports:**

<i>Limosa lapponica</i> (Western Palearctic - wintering)	2.2% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
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### ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

**Over winter the area regularly supports:**

<i>Anas acuta</i> (North-western Europe)	8.9% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
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<i>Calidris canutus</i> (North-eastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/North-western Europe)	5.1% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
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<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> (Europe & Northern/Western Africa)	2.2% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
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<i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (North-western Europe)	1.1% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
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<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	2% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
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### ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS

**Over winter the area regularly supports:**

90518 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/04/1998)

Including:

*Tadorna tadorna* , *Anas acuta* , *Haematopus ostralegus* , *Calidris canutus* , *Limosa lapponica* , *Tringa totanus* .

## 4.3 Vulnerability

Parts of the shoreline have been heavily industrialised and/or urbanised. This has led to a legacy of waste tips around the estuary and discharges into it. Remediation of tips is under way and discharges are being improved.

Overall the estuary would benefit from improvements in water quality. Investment by water companies is being undertaken and existing consents are being reviewed.

Wildfowling occurs but at lower levels than in the recent past. An estuary-wide study of wildfowling activities has been prepared which will be followed by a more detailed management plan.

Cockle beds have suffered from over-exploitation. New bylaws and code of practice have been introduced to control this.

There have been some small scale developments (e.g. port infrastructure at Mostyn).

Sizeable parts of the estuary are in conservation management or are subject to management agreements. The Dee Estuary Strategy contributes to the positive management of the estuary through its well established and effective management framework and its voluntary user groups which represent all estuarine interests.

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

### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	99,9