

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	200306
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
04 29 11 W	51 38 48 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
0	Marine	99.9%
UKL14	South West Wales	0.1%

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						
A065	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>		16946	I	C		C	

4. Site description:

4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	100.0
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	
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. Scree. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	
Total habitat cover	100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Gravel, Mud, Sand, Sedimentary

Geomorphology & landscape:

Enclosed coast (including embayment), Estuary, Open coast (including bay), Subtidal rock (including rocky reefs), Subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank)

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Melanitta nigra

(Western Siberia/Western & Northern
Europe/North-western Africa)

1.0% of the population

5 year peak mean 1997/98 - 2001/02

4.3 Vulnerability

Carmarthen Bay is both a fisheries resource and important fish nursery ground. Developments / changes in fishing practices, targeting new species and/or increases in fisheries effort could threaten the integrity of both the sea-duck population and the benthic communities on which the population depends for food. CCW maintains close liaison with fisheries managers, primarily the South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee, regarding fisheries development and management.

Major oil pollution incidents in the vicinity of the site have impacted the scoter population in the past and, despite improvements in shipping management, pollution response and contingency planning, hydrocarbon pollution remain a risk to the sea-duck feature. Continuing improvements in shipping management, especially at the major oil-port of Milford Haven, management of the wider environment of the Carmarthen Bay & Estuaries and nearby Pembrokeshire Marine cSACs, together with CCW's close involvement in the formulation of marine pollution contingency plans should help to further reduce the likelihood and impact of pollution incidents at sea.

Sea-surface or aerial activity creating significant disturbance of feeding and/or resting scoter flocks would adversely affect the population by stimulating additional energy expenditure. Significant increases in recreational, commercial or military water-surface or aerial activities during winter months, and during late summer, when moulting birds are particularly vulnerable, could result in such risk.

Major infrastructure developments, such as for offshore energy generation, would generate a significant risk of disturbance during both construction and operation if sited inappropriately. CCW has been working with members of the offshore wind energy industry to collect data on numbers and distribution of scoter in areas where development is being focused. CCW will continue to promote this partnership approach as the offshore energy industry expands, hopefully ensuring that future development needs can be balanced with the avoidance of any significant impact on scoter populations.

Significant changes to the sediment structures or sediment transport regime in the Bay could indirectly threaten the integrity of the scoter population through impacts to benthic communities containing the birds' food source. Management of seabed aggregate exploitation is being enhanced, with zoning of the exploitation to avoid sensitive areas of nature conservation importance, and CCW is consulted over applications to dredge aggregates. CCW also encourages extensive monitoring and further research to determine impacts of aggregate extraction. Current harbour maintenance regimes are considered unlikely to have significant impact on sediment processes; however, major changes to harbour infrastructure and consequential maintenance regimes would need to be carefully considered in terms of their impacts on sediment processes.

The integrity of the scoter population using Carmarthen Bay is also vulnerable to risk factors outside the site, for example at breeding grounds, and broad-scale factors such as long-term climatic change.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	4.2