

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	199912
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
00 31 40 W	50 55 05 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK533	West Sussex	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						
A037	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>			1151				

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)	2.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	2.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	95.0
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	1.0
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)	
Total habitat cover	100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Acidic, Alluvium, Clay, Neutral, Nutrient-poor, Peat, Sand, Sandstone, Sedimentary

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)

1.6% of the population in Great Britain

5 year peak mean for 1992/93 to 1996/7

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS

Over winter the area regularly supports:

27241 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 30/06/1999)

Including:

Cygnus columbianus bewickii .

4.3 Vulnerability

Sympathetic management of lowland wet grassland/grazing marsh is essential to achieving favourable conservation status of the Arun Valley SPA. Much of the site is currently under appropriate management through organisations such as the Sussex Wildlife Trust and the RSPB. Nonetheless, influencing private landowners and their management will continue to be important, particularly with regard to areas used for wildfowling (the terms of which are currently under re-negotiation).

Appropriate summer grazing, control of fertilizer applications and ditch management are the key elements of management within the valley. Another vital facet of management is the hydrology of the area. For example, the impact of water abstraction, river maintenance, and ensuring that winter flooding can continue as part of the existing management of the site.

Water Level Management Plans exist for both Amberley Wildbrooks and Waltham Brooks. A WLMP will be pursued for Pulborough in due course. The area is not within an ESA, however, much of the site would qualify for Countryside Stewardship funding under the Waterside Land category.

The Arun Valley is a Prime Biodiversity Area and a management plan was produced by the Arun Valley Countryside Project for the valley in 1996 as a result of widespread consultation. Nature conservation is one of the main aims of the Project and much useful survey, practical work and liaison has been carried out.

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