

# 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

U  K  9  0  1  1  0  9  1

1.6 Respondent(s)

1.7 Site name

#### 1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	199803
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	
date site designated as SAC	

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
01 49 24 W	51 06 14 N

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

#### 2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK613	Wiltshire	62.3%
UK561	Hampshire	26.1%
UK631	Dorset	11.4%

#### 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
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation	95	A	B	B	A
Alkaline fens	2	D			
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion alvae</i> )	1	D			

#### 3.2 Annex II species

Species name	Population				Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory			Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
		Breed	Winter	Stage				
<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>	>10,000	-	-	-	B	B	C	A
<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	Very rare	-	-	-	D			
<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	Present	-	-	-	C	B	C	B
<i>Lampetra planeri</i>	Common	-	-	-	C	B	C	B
<i>Salmo salar</i>	501-1000	-	-	-	C	C	C	B
<i>Cottus gobio</i>	Common	-	-	-	C	A	C	B
<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Rare	-	-	-	D			

### 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)	95.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	2.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	2.0
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	1.0
Coniferous 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:**

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

**Geomorphology & landscape:**

Floodplain, Island, Lowland, Valley

#### 4.2 Quality and importance

Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation

- for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

*Vertigo moulinsiana*

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*Petromyzon marinus*

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*Lampetra planeri*

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*Salmo salar*

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*Cottus gobio*

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#### 4.3 Vulnerability

The main factors influencing the river system are: historical modifications for mills, water meadows and more recently land drainage; land use in the catchment, abstraction of water for public supply and agricultural uses, disposal of sewage effluents and management of the water courses for fishery, agricultural and other uses. Currently much of the system is considered to be at risk from reduced flows, elevated nutrient levels and changes to sediment processes resulting from previous channel modifications.

Full restoration of the conservation status of the qualifying features will be a long-term process addressing major land use activities on a catchment scale through Local Environment Action Plans, Catchment Abstraction Plans and Water Level Management Plans as well as through management agreements with landowners/occupiers. Research is required to develop a fuller understanding of the relationships between the influential factors and the qualifying features in order to effectively address the key issues. A LIFE UK Rivers project has been started (1999) to enhance understanding and trial remedial treatments.

Reviews of abstraction licences and discharge consents under the Habitats Regulations will help to address some of the water quality and quantity issues. Several projects are being undertaken to address these issues, including modification of abstraction and discharges through the 1999 UK Water Company Price Review, and a Landcare Project to address diffuse pollution issues.

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

#### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	99.8