

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	199506
date confirmed as SCI	200412
date site classified as SPA	
date site designated as SAC	200505

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
07 29 40 W	54 12 00 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UKB	Northern Ireland	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
Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> -type vegetation	67	A	A	B	A

<i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)	0.02	D			
Alkaline fens	0.02	D			
Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	4.79	A	C	A	B
Bog woodland	0.01	D			
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>)	2.27	A	B	A	B

3.2 Annex II species

Species name	Population				Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory			Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
		Breed	Winter	Stage				
<i>Salmo salar</i>	Rare	-	-	-	D			
<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Present	-	-	-	C	A	C	B

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)	67.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	9.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	17.0
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	7.0
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

<p>Soil & geology: Alluvium, Basic, Clay, Limestone, Nutrient-rich, Peat, Sandstone</p> <p>Geomorphology & landscape: Floodplain, Island, Lowland</p>

4.2 Quality and importance

<p>Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i>-type vegetation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. <p>Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</p>
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- for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.
Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)
- for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.
Lutra lutra
- for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

4.3 Vulnerability

This is a large site with a number of interest features. Much of the best-quality woodland is owned by EHS and the National Trust and is currently managed for nature conservation. Excessive eutrophication is a potential threat to the main water body and the satellite lakes which comprise the site. The problem is being addressed through a cross-border water quality management strategy. For many of the smaller satellite lakes, ASSI and ESA management agreements will continue to offer some control of nutrient enrichment from agriculture. Water quality will be subject to regular monitoring.

Agricultural change (both intensification and abandonment) and developments (particularly tourist-related) could have an effect on the structure and function of the eutrophic lake or other populations. These pressures will be controlled through management agreements and planning policy.

The Conservation Plan for the site is currently being updated. It should be noted that a substantial part of the site is in the Republic of Ireland.

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