

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	199601
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
05 35 40 W	54 26 40 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
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	3.25	D			

Estuaries	0.84	D			
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	12.99	B	C	B	B
Coastal lagoons	0.29	B	C	C	B
Large shallow inlets and bays	98	A	B	B	A
Reefs	32.47	B	C	B	B
Annual vegetation of drift lines	0.08	C	B	C	C
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	0.19	C	C	C	C
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	0.65	C	B	C	C
<i>Spartina</i> swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>)	0.16	D			
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	0.49	C	C	C	C
Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	0.16	D			

3.2 Annex II species

Species name	Population				Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory			Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
		Breed	Winter	Stage				
<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			
<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			
<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	210	-	-	-	C	C	B	C

4. Site description

4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	65.0
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	33.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	0.5
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	0.5
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	1.0
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:

Biogenic reef, Boulder, Clay, Cobble, Gravel, Limestone/chalk, Mud, Pebble, Sand, Sandstone, Sandstone/mudstone, Sedimentary, Shingle, Slate/shale

Geomorphology & landscape:

Coastal, Enclosed coast (including embayment), Estuary, Intertidal rock, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Islands, Lagoon, Lowland, Ob (fjord), Pools, Sealoch (fjord), Shingle bar, Sound/strait, Subtidal rock (including rocky reefs), Subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank), Tidal rapids

4.2 Quality and importance

Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

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

Coastal lagoons

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

Large shallow inlets and bays

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

Reefs

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

Annual vegetation of drift lines

- which is considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 100 hectares.

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Perennial vegetation of stony banks

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*)

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Phoca vitulina

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

4.3 Vulnerability

Commercial fishing and mariculture activities continue to pose a potential threat to the Lough. In particular, bottom-dredging has had an impact on *Modiolus* communities. Seaweed harvesting, shellfish collection and bait-digging could pose a potential threat in the future. Pollution loadings present significant potential threats. The colonisation and spread of aggressive non-native species such as *Spartina* or *Sargassum muticum* are both current problems and pose potential threats in the future.

All of the above issues are addressed in a Marine Nature Reserve management plan or in Nature Reserve management plans. An existing Conservation Plan for Strangford Lough is now under review to produce a Management Scheme for the site. This review will update existing management prescriptions and refine existing conservation objectives.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK02 (MNR)	98.0
UK01 (NNR)	12.5
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	28.0