

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	200504

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
00 44 42 E	52 31 08 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK403	Suffolk	20.12%
UK402	Norfolk	80.48%

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
Inland dunes with open <i>Corynephorus</i> and <i>Agrostis</i> grasslands	1.6	A	A	A	A
Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> -type vegetation	0.5	A	C	A	B
European dry heaths	10.1	A	C	A	B
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)	28.17	A	B	A	A
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>)	0.5	C	C	B	C

3.2 Annex II species

Species name	Population				Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory			Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
		Breed	Winter	Stage				
<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Present	-	-	-	C	B	B	C
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Very 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)	0.5
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	1.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	20.0
Dry grassland. Steppes	59.4
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	0.2
Other arable land	0.1
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	9.0
Coniferous woodland	5.0
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	4.0
Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, dehesas)	
Inland rocks. Scree. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	0.5
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	0.3
Total habitat cover	100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Acidic, Basic, Limestone, Nutrient-poor, Sand

Geomorphology & landscape:

Lowland

4.2 Quality and importance

Inland dunes with open *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands

- for which this is the only known outstanding locality in the United Kingdom.
- which is considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 1000 hectares.

Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition*-type vegetation

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

European dry heaths

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

Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*)

- 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 the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Triturus cristatus

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

4.3 Vulnerability

Grazing by sheep/cattle is essential to the maintenance of habitats. Problems include nutrient deposition from the atmosphere and adjacent arable land, invasion by self-sown trees/shrubs, and uncontrolled and inappropriate recreational activities.

In recent decades, scrub and woodland have spread at the expense of the heathland and chalk grassland vegetation due to the cessation of traditional cutting and grazing management. Management agreements and particularly Environmentally Sensitive Area payments go part of the way towards re-introducing this largely uneconomic traditional management, and controlling the scrub. Strong populations of rabbits are important in maintaining the Breckland swards.

Local ground water abstraction has a deleterious impact on the natural eutrophic lakes, the Breckland meres, and is the subject of active liaison between English Nature and the Environment Agency.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	1.2
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0