

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	3	0	3	1
U	K	9	0	2	0	2	8	5

1.6 Respondent(s)

1.7 Site name

1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	200103
date confirmed as SCI	200412
date site classified as SPA	
date site designated as SAC	200412

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
04 03 18 W	53 14 04 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK913	Gwynedd	11.74%
0	Marine	88.25%

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	39.9	B	C	A	B
Estuaries	0.96	D			
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	18.5	B	C	B	B
Large shallow inlets and bays	69.4	C	B	B	C
Reefs	1.8	B	C	A	A
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	0.48	D			
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	0.1	C	C	B	C

3.2 Annex II species

Species name	Population				Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory			Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
		Breed	Winter	Stage				
<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			
<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			
<i>Alosa alosa</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			
<i>Alosa fallax</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			
<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			

4. Site description

4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	80.0
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	19.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	0.5
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	0.5
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
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:

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

Geomorphology & landscape:

Cave/tunnel, Cliffs, Coastal, Estuary, Intertidal rock, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Islands, Lagoon, Lowland, Open coast (including bay), Pools, Sound/strait, Subtidal rock (including rocky reefs), Subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank), Tidal rapids

4.2 Quality and importance

Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time

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

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.

Large shallow inlets and bays

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

Reefs

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

Submerged or partially submerged sea caves

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

4.3 Vulnerability

Construction, e.g. of slipways, coastal defence and marinas/harbours could cause disturbance to the European habitats and disrupt physical processes essential for the maintenance of these habitats. CCW is consulted by the local planning authorities and other statutory bodies over such developments

Although the level of commercial fishing (excluding shellfish) is relatively low, trawling occurs in some areas. The potential impacts of heavy bottom-fishing gear on the subtidal sandbank and shallow inlet and bay habitats will need to be assessed. There are relatively extensive mussel lays in the eastern end of the Menai Strait, and CCW will be working with the fishing industry and the local fisheries regulator (the North Western & North Wales Sea Fisheries committee) to assess the potential impacts of this fishery on the features of the cSAC.

There are many boat moorings present in the Menai Strait and a demand for additional facilities (moorings and marina developments) to accommodate more craft. CCW will need to work with the other relevant authorities to assess the implications of all proposed developments of this sort for the SAC features.

Disposal of dredged material may be contributing to increasing turbidity, which affects the distribution and composition of subtidal algal communities. Appropriate assessment of the significance of future proposed activities is required.

Many of the marine wildlife communities in the cSAC are sensitive to oil pollution. The development of oil wells and frequent boat traffic in Liverpool Bay present potential pollution sources. CCW is working with the oil companies and with other statutory organisations so that adequate safety measures are in place to try and prevent pollution incidents. Also, CCW is a member of the North Wales Standing Environment Group which is preparing a regional contingency plan to help coordinate response to try and minimise environmental impacts in the event of a pollution incident.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK00 (N/A)	87.7
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	12.3