

# 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

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1.6 Respondent(s)

1.7 Site name

### 1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	200101
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
02 28 31 W	53 24 23 N

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

#### 2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK81	Cheshire	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

### 3.2 Annex II species

Species name	Population				Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory			Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
		Breed	Winter	Stage				
<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	1001-10,000	-	-	-	C	B	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)	20.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	25.0
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	55.0
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. 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

<p><b>Soil &amp; geology:</b> Basic, Clay, Shingle</p> <p><b>Geomorphology &amp; landscape:</b> Lowland</p>
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### 4.2 Quality and importance

<p><i>Triturus cristatus</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.</li> </ul>
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### 4.3 Vulnerability

<p>The site comprises parts of an extensive disused brickworks quarry excavated in glacial boulder-clay deposits east of Warrington. It is of importance for its calcareous grassland communities and because the site supports a large breeding population of great crested newts. Extraction of clay at different periods up to 1965 has left a mosaic of water-filled hollows and clay banks which now support a diversity of habitats of varying maturity. Warrington Borough Council owns and manages the site, and has a ranger based on-site. A possible conflict between grassland management and great crested newts has been identified; this is being addressed through contract research on the site. However, the great crested newt population is increasing at the site.</p>
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## 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