

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	200103
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
01 46 59 W	53 27 37 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK24	West Yorkshire	28.13%
UK81	Cheshire	1.35%
UK722	Staffordshire	2.93%
UK82	Greater Manchester	6.59%
UK22	North Yorkshire	1.25%
UK311	Derbyshire	38.27%
UK83	Lancashire	4.78%
UK23	South Yorkshire	16.70%

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
Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	6.7	C	C	C	C
European dry heaths	38.8	C	B	C	B
Blanket bogs	42.2	C	C	C	B
Transition mires and quaking bogs	0.5	C	B	C	C
Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	1	C	C	C	B

3.2 Annex II species

Species name	Population				Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory			Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
		Breed	Winter	Stage				

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)	1.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	42.7
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	45.5
Dry grassland. Steppes	4.8
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	4.8
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	1.0
Coniferous woodland	
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	0.1
Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, dehesas)	0.1
Inland rocks. Screes. 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:

Acidic, Basic, Nutrient-poor, Peat, Sandstone, Sedimentary

Geomorphology & landscape:

Crags/ledges, Hilly, Slope, Upland, Valley

4.2 Quality and importance

Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*

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

European dry heaths

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

Blanket bogs

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

Transition mires and quaking bogs

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

Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles

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

4.3 Vulnerability

The South Pennine Moors SAC is largely enclosed on two sides by large industrial urban areas, which means that large numbers of people use the area for recreational activities. Around two-thirds is within the Peak District National Park. Land management is primarily driven by agriculture, rough grazing for sheep, and grouse-shooting.

Access management has been a key issue, and with proposals under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, will continue as such. Mechanisms for addressing access management issues include a range of fora, research and the role of organisations such as the Peak District National Park and its Ranger Service. Accidental fires can cause extensive damage to vegetation. The National Park Authority has produced a strategic Fire Plan and areas are closed to the public at times of high fire risk.

Maintenance of the ecosystems relies primarily on appropriate grazing levels and burning regimes. There are a number of key pressures upon the site; these include overgrazing by sheep, burning as a tool for grouse moor management and inappropriate drainage through moor-gripping. All these issues are being tackled, and an integrated management strategy and conservation action programme has been produced as part of an EU-funded LIFE project for the area to the north of the National Park. Within the Park, the MAFF-funded North Peak and South West Peak Environmentally Sensitive Areas are important mechanisms in attempts to achieve balanced management. MAFF's Countryside Stewardship Scheme and English Nature's Wildlife Enhancement Scheme (WES) are also being used to achieve favourable management. Management of the site, especially north of the National Park, is further complicated by the large number of commons. The National Park Authority owns a significant area of moorland, as does the National Trust.

Atmospheric pollution over the last few hundred years has depleted the lichen and bryophyte flora and may be affecting dwarf-shrubs. The impact has arguably been greatest on blanket bog, wet heath and transition mire where the bog-building *Sphagnum* mosses have been largely lost. Combined with historical overgrazing, burning (accidental and deliberate), drainage and locally trampling, large areas of blanket bog have become de-vegetated and eroded. It is unclear at this stage whether the effects are irreversible. Attempts over recent decades to reverse these processes have achieved mixed and limited results. The combination of these effects means that most if not all of the blanket bog will not be classed as favourable according to English Nature's condition assessment criteria. Whilst all efforts can be made to control current factors such as current grazing and burning patterns, current atmospheric pollutant levels and access impacts, it is unclear whether this can fully mitigate the long-term influence of the historical factors such as atmospheric pollution, past burning and overgrazing. The situation is further complicated by a view that some erosion features can be considered natural phenomena of intrinsic interest. It may not therefore always be appropriate to try and revegetate bare peat even if suitable techniques exist.

The former extensive cover of woodland has declined over many centuries to the point that it is fragmented, relatively small-scale and largely restricted to steeper valley sides. There is no woodland included in the site to the north of the National Park. Remaining woods are often unfenced and open to grazing which restricts tree regeneration. In some *Rhododendron* has invaded, choking out native flora. These issues are being tackled through the Forestry Commission's Woodland Grant Scheme and Challenge Fund for creating new native woodland, MAFF's North Peak ESA and English Nature's WES though more incentive and resources are needed. As well as restoring existing stands of woodland there is an emphasis on re-creation to expand and link fragments which inevitably involves changing existing habitats. This will raise questions over the balance of vegetation types we wish to see on the site but given woodland would naturally have covered much of the area we need to treat it's expansion seriously. The flora of woodlands, quality as with bog and heath, has suffered from poor air quality. Again, it is less clear what can be done to reverse this situation other than to try and ensure continued improvements in air quality to allow affected species to recolonise if they can.

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