

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	
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	199312
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
01 10 19 E	51 18 18 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK57	Kent	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 I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I

Code	Species name	Population			Site assessment			
		Resident	Migratory		Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
Breed	Winter	Stage						
A056	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		191 I		C		C	
A051	<i>Anas strepera</i>	6 P			C		C	
A051	<i>Anas strepera</i>		148 I		C		C	
A021	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		2 I		B		C	
A082	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		9 I		C		C	

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)	2.7
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	28.9
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	45.6
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	17.5
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	5.3
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:

Mud, Neutral, Peat

Geomorphology & landscape:

Floodplain, Lowland, Valley

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Botaurus stellaris 4% of the GB population
(Europe - breeding) 5 year peak count, 1987/8-1991/2

Circus cyaneus 1.2% of the GB population
5 year peak count, 1987/8-1991/2

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Anas strepera 0.8% of the population in Great Britain
(North-western Europe) 5 year mean, 1988-1992

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Anas clypeata 1.9% of the population in Great Britain
(North-western/Central Europe) 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

Anas strepera 1.8% of the population in Great Britain
(North-western Europe) 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus, Acrocephalus scirpaceus, Anas penelope, Anas platyrhynchos, Anser albifrons albifrons, Aythya ferina, Aythya fuligula, Gallinago gallinago, Gallinago gallinago, Locustella luscinioides, Locustella naevia, Podiceps cristatus, Rallus aquaticus, Tringa totanus, Vanellus vanellus, Vanellus vanellus.

Over winter the area regularly supports:

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4.3 Vulnerability

Much of Stodmarsh is a National Nature Reserve, and is therefore relatively secure and well managed. The area of habitat has recently been expanded, improving the situation for wetland birds by acquiring an area of turf fields adjacent to the SPA/ Ramsar site for conversion to reedbed, open water and grazing marsh. Continued maintenance of the reedbeds is essential to control the invasion of scrub.

Privately owned parts of the site are affected by disturbance. The western end of the SPA is used by wildfowling and fishermen, both of which cause disturbance to the birds and is being addressed through Site Management Statements.

The other significant problem relates to water supply, and in drought years abstraction for other water users can affect the supply of water to about 70% of the site. Abstraction licences will be reviewed under the relevant provisions of the Habitat Regulations.

Management of parts of the site owned by private land owners is being addressed by the production of Site Management Statements which aim to encourage land managers to improve their management of wildlife habitats. Landowners are being encouraged to put land into the Countryside Stewardship Scheme in order to address problems arising from neglect of wetland habitats.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	31.5
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0