

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	200303
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
03 46 56 W	52 58 38 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK911	Clwyd	1.5%
UK913	Gwynedd	98.5%

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						
A082	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		>10 P		B		B	
A098	<i>Falco columbarius</i>		>9 P		C		B	
A103	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		>12 P		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)	
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	0.8
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	51.9
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	16.3
Dry grassland. Steppes	14.8
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	12.9
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	0.1
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	0.4
Coniferous woodland	2.2
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	
Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, dehesas)	
Inland rocks. Screes. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	0.4
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	0.2
Total habitat cover	100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Acidic, Basic, Granite, Igneous, Peat, Sandstone, Sandstone/mudstone, Sedimentary, Slate/shale

Geomorphology & landscape:

Crags/ledges, Montane, Upland, Valley

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	at least 2.1% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean 1993/94 to 1997/98
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	at least 0.7% of the population in Great Britain 5 year mean for 1993/94 to 1997/98

<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	at least 1% of the population in Great Britain 5 year mean 1993/94 to 1997/98 5 year mean 1993/94 to 1997/8
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ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

4.3 Vulnerability

Inappropriate grazing/burning/drainage management has damaged the feeding/breeding habitat of hen harrier and merlin, and damaged the feeding habitat of peregrine falcon, the three SPA features. This is being addressed in some areas through S15 Management Agreements and Tir Cymen/Tir Gofal agreements. Afforestation of blanket bog has also reduced breeding/feeding habitat in the past, but this is being addressed to some extent by a joint RSPB/Forestry Commission/CCW habitat restoration project.

The feeding/breeding habitats of all three species are also vulnerable to acidification due to atmospheric pollution being compounded by the high rainfall and acidic geology/pedology of the site.

This site has also been significantly affected in the past by quarrying operations which have resulted in the destruction of habitats used by breeding birds, including the three SPA species.

The recreational pressure from walkers is currently fairly low and diffused across the site, but the SPA features could be affected if usage were to increase significantly close to breeding sites, for example following the implementation of CROW Act legislation or increased publicity through guidebooks. Persecution has been a problem in the recent past, with birds being shot at the nest. It is hoped that this threat will be reduced by greater vigilance and by raising public awareness.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	99.5