

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	1	2	1
U	K	9	0	2	0	2	8	2
U	K	9	0	2	0	2	8	4

1.6 Respondent(s)

1.7 Site name

1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	199601
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 21 59 W	52 41 29 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
0	Marine	95.54%
UK914	Powys	0.06%
UK912	Dyfed	1.06%
UK913	Gwynedd	3.34%

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	7.3	B	C	A	B
Estuaries	3.1	B	C	A	B
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	2.3	C	C	B	C
Coastal lagoons	0.05	C	C	B	B
Large shallow inlets and bays	28.3	B	B	A	B
Reefs	22.9	B	B	A	B
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	0.1	C	B	C	C
<i>Spartina</i> swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>)	0.6	D			
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	0.5	B	B	B	C
Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	0.1	C	C	A	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>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Present	-	-	-	C	B	C	C
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Present	-	-	-	D			
<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Present	-	-	-	C	B	C	C
<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	101-250	-	-	-	C	B	B	C

4. Site description

4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	92.6
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	5.4
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	1.2
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	0.5
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	0.2
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	0.1
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	

Habitat classes	% cover
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	
Total habitat cover	100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Biogenic reef, Boulder, Clay, Cobble, Gravel, Igneous, Maerl, Metamorphic, Mud, Peat, Pebble, Sand, Sedimentary, Shingle, Slate/shale

Geomorphology & landscape:

Basins, Cave/tunnel, Caves, Cliffs, Coastal, Estuary, Floodplain, Intertidal rock, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Island, Islands, Lagoon, Open coast (including bay), Sound/strait, Subtidal rock (including rocky reefs), Subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank), Surge gullies

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.

Estuaries

- 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 the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Coastal lagoons

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

Large shallow inlets and bays

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

Reefs

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

Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand

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

Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*)

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

Submerged or partially submerged sea caves

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

Tursiops truncatus

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

Lutra lutra

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

Halichoerus grypus

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

4.3 Vulnerability

The relevant authorities for the site have prepared a management plan and action plan addressing management issues relating to the reefs and estuaries. The additional site features are due to be incorporated into the plans by the end of 2004.

Construction, e.g. of slipways, coastal defence and marinas/harbours could cause disturbance to the estuarine, intertidal mudflat and sandflat, and reef habitats and disrupt physical processes essential for maintenance of these habitats. CCW is consulted by the local planning authorities and other statutory bodies over such developments. There is an increasing demand for additional facilities and/or upgrading existing facilities, and 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.

Certain reef communities are vulnerable to disturbance from specific fishing methods, in particular heavy bottom-fishing gear. CCW will liaise with the relevant Sea Fisheries Committee to identify ways of minimising impact on habitats as well as keeping a watching brief on the levels of such fishing activity. The potential impacts of heavy bottom-fishing gear on the subtidal sandbank and shallow inlet and bay habitats will need to be assessed.

There is the possibility of future drilling for oil and gas in Cardigan Bay and the Irish Sea as well as the possibility of offshore wind power developments – CCW is advising the Department of Trade and Industry on potential impacts and possible ways of minimising these.

Many of the marine wildlife communities in the cSAC are sensitive to oil pollution. The development of oil-wells and boat traffic in the Irish Sea 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
UK01 (NNR)	1.6
UK00 (N/A)	95.4
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	4.6