

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	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
00 59 38 E	52 43 04 N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK402	Norfolk	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
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation	20	B	C	B	B
Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>	0.5	D			
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>)	0.5	D			

3.2 Annex II species

Species name	Population				Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory			Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
		Breed	Winter	Stage				
<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>	Common	-	-	-	C	B	C	C
<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	Common	-	-	-	C	B	B	B
<i>Lampetra planeri</i>	Common	-	-	-	C	B	C	C
<i>Cottus gobio</i>	Common	-	-	-	C	B	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)	42.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	12.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	40.0
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	6.0
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:

Alluvium, Basic, Clay, Neutral, Nutrient-rich, Peat, Sand, Sedimentary

Geomorphology & landscape:

Floodplain, Lowland, Valley

4.2 Quality and importance

Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation

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

Vertigo moulinsiana

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

Austropotamobius pallipes

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

Lampetra planeri

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

Cottus gobio

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

4.3 Vulnerability

A stepped profile, with alternating fast- and slow-moving reaches, was imposed on the river with the construction of water-mills. Habitat diversity has been reduced by the modification of the channel form. The input of silt and agricultural chemicals as a result of arable farming practices are a concern and the reversion of arable fields to low-input grassland should be encouraged. A strategy should be devised for silt management in the river and catchment to minimise disturbance to the channel and bankside. Further development on the flood plain might alter the flow regime of the river.

More detailed studies on groundwater resources should be carried out so as to determine suitable flow objectives to ensure that the river's ecology is not threatened by water abstraction. At adjacent sewage treatment works, phosphorous removal will be a statutory requirement by 2004. However, a holistic strategy is needed to identify further mechanisms for the control of eutrophication.

Any increase in the distribution of *Pacifastacus leniusculus* within the catchment would threaten the long-term viability of *Austropotamobius pallipes*. Populations of *Lampetra planeri* and *Cottus gobio* are dependent on the maintenance of riffle habitats and might also be vulnerable to the introduction of non-native fish species. Populations of *Vertigo moulinsiana* are susceptible to interference with the emergent bank-side vegetation in which they occur.

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