

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	0	0	1	9	8	5	7
U	K	0	0	3	0	0	3	8

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	199810
date site designated as SAC	

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
02 09 33W	50 39 00N

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

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK631	Dorset	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							
A224	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>		>436 P			B		C	
A082	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>			20 I		B		C	
A098	<i>Falco columbarius</i>			15 I		C		C	
A246	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		>41 P			B		B	
A302	<i>Sylvia undata</i>		>418 P			A		B	

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	1.0
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	1.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	6.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	83.0
Dry grassland. Steppes	4.0
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	1.0
Coniferous woodland	4.0
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:

Acidic, Clay, Nutrient-poor, Peat, Sand, Sedimentary

Geomorphology & landscape:

Coastal, Lowland, Slope, Valley

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Caprimulgus europaeus

at least 12.8% of the GB breeding population
Two year mean, 1991-1992

Lullula arborea

at least 6.8% of the GB breeding population
Three count mean, 1991-2 & 1994

<i>Sylvia undata</i>	at least 26.1% of the GB breeding population Three count mean, 1991-2 & 1994
Over winter the area regularly supports:	
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	2.7% of the GB population Count, as at 1991/2
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	1.2% of the GB population Count, as at 1991/2

ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

4.3 Vulnerability

The Dorset Heathlands have become a fragmented heathland area through extensive losses to agriculture, forestry and urban development. In recent years these land use changes have been almost halted through changes in national and local policy. However, the scale of previous fragmentation and development has left a number of adverse pressures and many heaths in or near urban areas suffer recreational use pressure and a high incidence of wildfires, and are sometimes also disturbed by infrastructure works.

The heaths are affected by several old mineral extraction permissions, some still active. These will require review under the Habitats Regulations to ensure no adverse effect on integrity. Agreement has already been reached on drawing back the possible working of some permissions. In and around the urban areas there are now well established initiatives to manage and contain recreation uses, and to more effectively control the occurrence and spread of fires. At two old waste sites within the Heathlands leaching has occurred. This has been addressed through re-capping.

The decline in use for traditional agriculture has resulted in a successional trend to scrub and woodland together with invasion by conifer and introduced scrub species, especially *Rhododendron*. Financial support schemes and management initiatives, which aid the removal of scrub and encourage the re-establishment of traditional management in the form of extensive grazing, now cover much of the heath area. About 43% of the site is now held as National Nature Reserves, Local Nature Reserves and non-statutory nature reserves.

Fragmentation has increased edge and patch size effects on the heathland ecology. This is being addressed through re-creation projects to expand and link heath fragments by removing areas of conifer plantation and converting some agricultural land back to heathland.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	18.9
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0