Stonestreet Green Solar

Information to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment (Tracked)

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APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)
Planning Act 2008
The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This report has been prepared by Lloydbore Ltd on behalf of EPL 001 Limited ('the Applicant') to provide information to inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment ('HRA') in relation to the Development Consent Order ('DCO') application for Stonestreet Green Solar ('the Project').

1.1.2 This report contains an assessment of the potential effects of the Project (defined in **Section 1.2** of this IHRA) upon European sites (defined in **Section 1.3** of this IHRA) and comprises an Information to inform Habitats Regulations Assessment report (subsequently referred to as 'IHRA').

1.2 The Project

1.2.1 The Project comprises the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of solar photovoltaic ('PV') arrays and energy storage, together with associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection to the existing National Grid Sellindge Substation.

1.2.2 The Project will include a generating station (incorporating solar arrays) with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts ('MW') and on-Site battery energy storage systems. The agreed grid connection for the Project will allow the export and import of up to 99.9 MWe of electricity to the grid. The Project will connect to the existing National Grid Sellindge Substation via a new 132 kilovolt ('kV') substation constructed as part of the Project and cable connection under the Network Rail and High Speed 1 ('HS1') railway.

1.2.3 The location of the Project is shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 1.1: Site Location Plan (Doc Ref. 5.3)**. The Project will be located within the Order limits (the land shown on the **Works Plans (Doc Ref. 2.3)** within which the Project can be carried out). The Order limits plan is provided as **ES Volume 3, Figure 1.2: Order Limits (Doc Ref. 5.3)**. Land within the Order limits is known as the 'Site'.

1.2.4 A DCO is required for the Project as it would involve the construction of an onshore generating station which has a capacity greater than 50 MW and would be located in England. It therefore falls within the definition and thresholds for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the PA 2008.

1.2.5 The scope and extent of this report has been determined by a combination of professional judgement, the **ES Volume 4, Appendix 1.2: EIA Scoping Opinion (Doc Ref. 5.4)** provided by the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') on behalf of the Secretary of State (the 'SoS') for Energy Security and Net Zero ('ESNZ'), and Section 42 and Section 47/48 responses to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR') and PEIR Addendum. Regard has also been given to

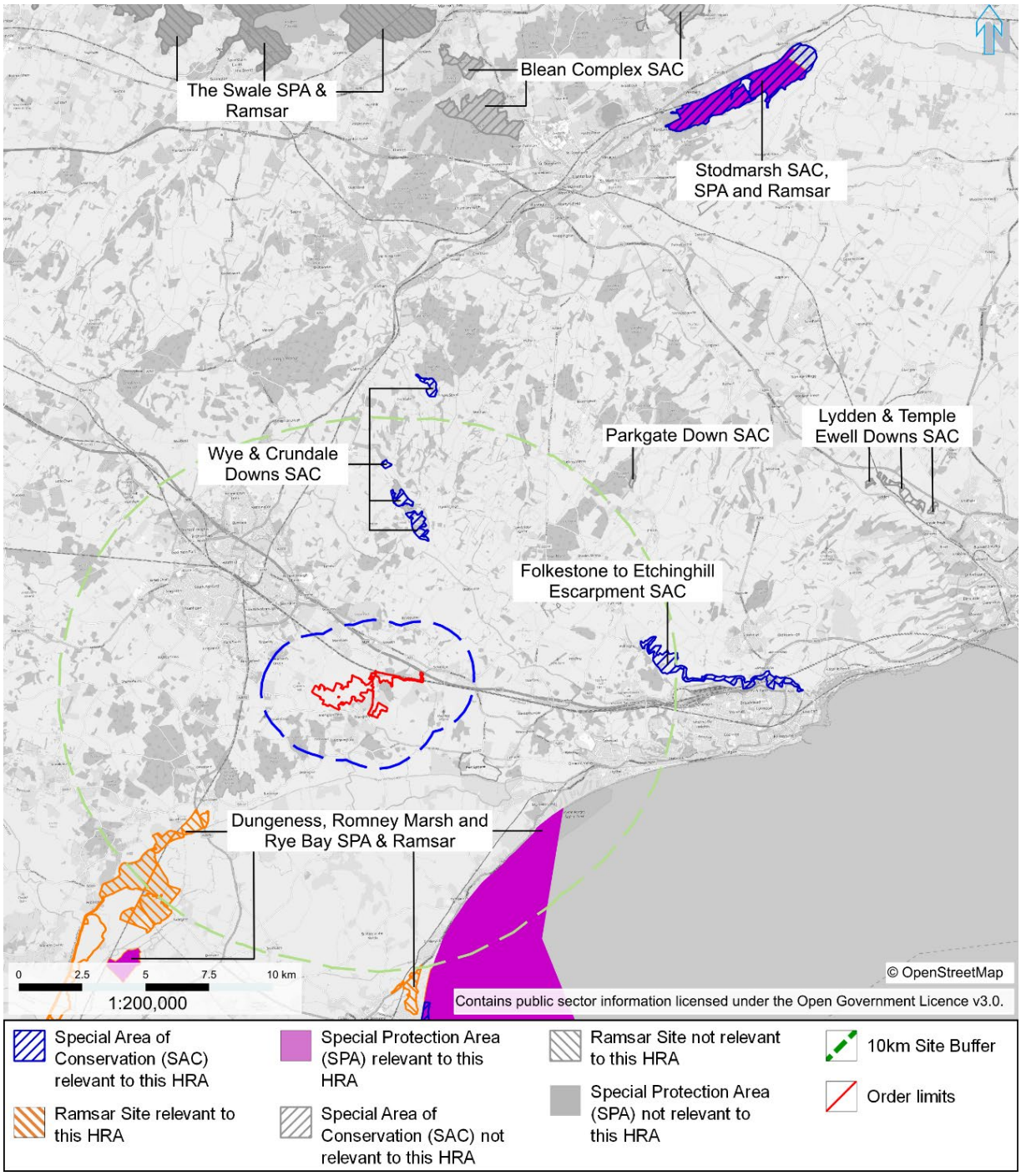
the PINS Advice Note Ten: Habitats Regulations Assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects, Version 9 (August 2022)[1].

Description of the Site

1.2.6 The Site is located approximately 6.5km to the south-east of Ashford Town Centre and approximately 13.7km to the west of Folkestone Town Centre, in the county of Kent. The Site is situated on land located to the north and west of the village of Aldington, centred at Ordnance Survey ('OS') National Grid Reference ('NGR') TR 05898 37766. The Site is approximately 192 hectares ('ha') in size.

1.2.7 The Site is within the administrative boundaries of Ashford Borough Council ('ABC') and Kent County Council ('KCC'). Figure 1 shows the location of the Site together with nearby designated sites of relevance to the IHRA.

Figure 1: Site location and nearby designated sites



1.2.8 The Site comprises primarily agricultural fields delineated by hedgerows and tree belts and is predominantly in agricultural use for arable crops and grazing. There are a number of unnamed ponds within the ~~Order limits.~~Site boundary. The East Stour River flows in an east to west direction within, and adjacent to, the northern part of the Site.

1.3 Purpose of report

1.3.1 The process of assessing the implications of development on internationally important designated nature conservation sites, as required by law in the UK, is known as HRA. This report aims to provide relevant technical information to help enable the competent authority to discharge their functions under Regulations 7 and 63 (requirement to carry out Appropriate Assessment) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in relation to the Project. See **Section 1.5** of this report for further details of the relevant legislation and case law.

1.3.2 The purpose of this IHRA is to identify any likely significant effects ('LSEs') on European sites that may result from the Project and, where such effects are identified, to determine if, with mitigation measures, adverse effects on the European sites' integrity can be ruled out. This is to inform the SoS's decision-making process.

1.3.3 This IHRA report sets out the contextual baseline for the Site, identifies the potential European sites within the ecological Zone of Influence ('ZoI') and the potential sources of effects upon those European Sites arising from the Project. These are then considered within Stage 1 of the HRA process, known as the 'Screening Stage', where LSEs are screened in or out.

1.3.4 LSEs screened in are then subject to further assessment as to whether the Project would have adverse effects upon the integrity of European sites during Stage 2 of the assessment: 'Appropriate Assessment'.

1.3.5 This IHRA considers the potential for effects on European designated nature conservation sites to arise ('European sites'), as a result of the Project alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

1.3.6 European sites are statutory designated sites of international importance which receive the highest level of protection in the UK. European sites are defined as Special Protection Areas ('SPA'), Special Areas of Conservation ('SAC') designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017[2] and sites designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance 1971[3] ('Ramsar sites'). Candidate SACs ('cSAC'), potential SPAs ('pSPA') and areas secured (through derogation) to compensate for damage to European sites are also considered.

1.3.7 Formerly part of the European Union's Natura 2000 network, SPAs and SACs now form part of the National Site Network in the UK.

1.3.8 Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention 1971. Whilst they are not directly protected by the Habitats Regulations, the National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF')[4] requires Ramsar sites to be given the same level of assessment and protection through planning as European sites.

1.4 Legislative Background

1.4.1 The source directive that led to European Community requirements for HRA originated from the European Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora ('the Habitats Directive') which are transposed into UK law by means of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. The 2017 Regulations have been amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019[5]. The effect of the 2019 amendments largely relates to wording; requirements and processes remain the same as protection levels remain unchanged. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) are subsequently referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations' in this document.

1.4.2 Prior to deciding to give any consent, permission or other authorisation for a plan or project which is: (a) likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and (b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site, the competent authority has a statutory duty under Regulation 63 of the Habitats Regulations to make an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan or project for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives. In this case, the SoS is the competent authority.

Case law

1.4.3 Government Circular 06/05 (HMSO,2005)6 reports upon the judgement from Case C-127/02 of the European Court of Justice (the Waddenzee Judgement), which makes it clear that determinations under Stage 1 (Screening) should be precautionary, and that an Appropriate Assessment should be carried out in relation to a plan or project:

''……if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that it will have a significant effect on that site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects''.

1.4.4 In relation to mitigation, a ruling made by the Court of Justice of the European Union ('CJEU') on the interpretation of the Habitats Directive in the 'People over Wind' case[7] is important. The case relates to the treatment of mitigation measures at the screening stage of an HRA when deciding whether an appropriate assessment of a plan/project is required. The Court's Ruling advised that any mitigation relating to sites protected under the Habitat Regulations should not be considered at the screening stage but rather taken forward and considered at the appropriate assessment stage to inform a decision as to whether no adverse effect on site integrity can be ascertained.

1.4.5 In relation to 'functionally-linked land' outside of a designated site's boundary, in 2018 the Holohan ruling[8] was handed down by the CJEU. Among other provisions, paragraph 40 of the ruling states that '*Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive must be interpreted as meaning that an 'appropriate assessment' must, on the one hand, catalogue the entirety of habitat types and species for which a site is protected, and, on the other, identify and examine both the implications of the proposed project for the species present on that site, and for which that site has not been listed,* ***and the implications for habitat types and species to be found outside the boundaries of that site, provided that those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site****'* [emphasis added].

1.4.6 The 'Boggis' case[9] helps to establish some principles about the requirement for the provision of credible evidence that there is a functional link between an area that may be affected by development and a European site. The ruling states: *'a claimant who alleges that there was a risk which should have been considered by the authorising authority so that it could decide whether that risk could be 'excluded on the basis of objective information', must produce credible evidence that there was a real, rather than a hypothetical, risk which should have been considered'.*

1.4.7 In 15 of the 24 cases of functionally linked land examined in detail by Chapman & Tyldesley (2016)[10], the researchers considered that there was a good level of survey or other evidence demonstrating a relatively clear (or even obvious) link to the SAC / SPA and its species. The authors also state that the identification of an area as functionally linked land in the terrestrial or coastal environment is *'generally relatively straightforward and readily recognised'.*

1.4.8 Although it is the duty of the SoS to undertake the HRA, the relevant information needs to be provided by the applicant to enable them, as the competent authority, to carry out their statutory duties under the Habitats Regulations. This derives from Regulation 63(2) of the Habitats Regulations which states*: 'A person applying for any such consent, permission or other authorisation must provide such information as the competent authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment to enable them to determine whether an appropriate assessment is required.'*

2 Assessment Methodology

2.1 Guidance

2.1.1 The guidance this IHRA has been informed by includes:

- *DEFRA. (2012) The Habitats and Wild Birds Directives in England and its seas - Core guidance for developers, regulators & land/marine managers (draft for public consultation)[11].*
- *Tyldesley D. & Chapman C. (2013) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, April 2021 edition UK: DTA Publications Limited[12].*
- *Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Advice Note Ten (Republished August 2022 (version 9): Habitats Regulations Assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects[1].*
- *Defra, Welsh Government, Natural England and Natural Resources Wales (2021) 'Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site'[13].*

2.1.2 PINS Advice Note Ten (paragraph 3.1) states that *'Anyone applying for development consent for a NSIP must, in accordance with the Habitats Regulations, provide the Competent Authority with such information as may reasonably be required 'for the purposes of the assessment' or 'to enable them to determine whether an appropriate assessment is required'. This information to be submitted with the DCO application normally takes the form of a No Significant Effects Report (NSER), where only Stage 1 screening has been undertaken and a conclusion of no LSE on a European site(s) has been reached, or an 'information to inform HRA Report' (hereafter referred to as an 'HRA Report' in this advice note) , which includes various stages of the HRA process, such as the information to inform an appropriate assessment and derogations (as relevant).'*

2.1.3 PINS Advice Note Ten (paragraph 3.2) states that '*Where Applicants' have concluded that there are no pathways which could lead to effects on a European site(s) from the Proposed Development, the Planning Inspectorate still expects Applicants to confirm this in a statement to be submitted with the application, and clearly signpost this statement from the DCO application form.'*

2.1.4 PINS Advice Note Ten (paragraph 2.1) explains that *'HRA is a multi-stage process which identifies LSE, assesses any AEoI (Adverse Effect on Integrity) of a European site, and considers the derogations (as appropriate). The joint Defra, Welsh Government, Natural England and Natural Resources Wales guidance (2021) 'Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site' (hereafter referred to as the 'joint guidance') identifies a three-stage process, as set out below. It may not be necessary to complete all stages, depending on what conclusion is reached at each stage. The stages are:*

Stage 1. Screening – check if the proposal is likely to have a significant effect on the European site(s)'s conservation objectives, both alone or in combination with other plans or projects. At this stage, and in accordance with case law (People Over Wind and Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (Case C-323/17)), mitigation measures proposed for the purpose of avoiding or minimising risk to a European site should not be taken into account. If a conclusion of no LSE is reached for all European sites and their qualifying features considered, it is not necessary to proceed to the next stages of HRA.

Stage 2. Appropriate assessment (AA) – assess the implications of the proposal for the qualifying features of the European site(s), in view of the site(s)' conservation objectives and identify ways to avoid or minimise any effects.

Stage 3. Derogation – consider if proposals that would have an AEoI of a European site(s) qualify for an exemption. There are three tests to this stage to be followed in order: consider alternative solutions; consider IROPI; and secure compensatory measures. Each test must be passed in sequence for a derogation to be granted.'

2.1.5 This report is concerned with Stages 1 and 2 of the HRA process. Stage 3 was found to be unnecessary because no residual AEoI was found at Stage 2, as evidenced by this report.

2.1.6 Paragraph 3.11 of PINS Advice Note Ten notes that *'A conclusion may be reached that the Proposed Development alone may have an effect on a European site(s) that is not significant. In this situation, the Applicant must then consider if this effect could combine with any other plan or project that affects the same European site(s) and qualifying feature(s), that on its own also does not have a significant effect. If, in combination, the Proposed Development could have a significant effect on the European site, HRA Stage 2 will be required.'* Other plans and projects that could act in combination with the Project were identified from the schemes included in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 9.8: Cumulative Assessment (Doc Ref. 5.4),** and where relevant, an in-combination assessment was conducted.

2.1.7 Screening decisions (Stage 1) need to be made on the basis of objective evidence, and at Stage 2 appropriate assessment decisions are made in the light of the best scientific knowledge in the field.

2.1.8 The UK and European Courts have recognised that Article 6(3) of the European Directive and Regulation 63 of the Habitats Regulations implicitly incorporate the 'precautionary principle' into HRA (Stages 1 and 2). If there is doubt about the effects on a European site, or a lack of information leading to uncertainty of effects, then precautionary decisions should be taken to protect relevant sites.

2.2 Consultation

2.2.1 Consultation undertaken to date with Natural England (the Appropriate Nature Conservation Body ('ANCB') in England) in relation to ecology and nature conservation is outlined in the **Consultation Report (Doc Ref. 6.1)** submitted with the DCO Application. **Table 2.1** outlines the relevant matters raised to date by

Natural England and Kent Wildlife Trust and how these have been addressed in relation to the HRA.

Table 2.1: Relevant Consultation to date

Comment	Response
Natural England - 24 November 2022	
'…..The PEIR concludes that the Site does not support significant numbers of wintering birds associated with the Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA and Ramsar Site and is therefore not considered to be functionally linked. The survey information informing this assessment does not appear to have been included within the PEIR or the appendices and as such, Natural England recommends that greater clarity is provided in the Environmental Statement to ensure that impacts to species associated with the designated sites do not result. *The PEIR concludes that as the current nitrogen deposition within the Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SSSI and SAC are not currently exceeding the site critical loads, there will be no impact from transport generated air quality during the construction phase…….. An increase in transport generated NOx or ammonia has the potential to impact the Conservation Objectives of the site and as such, an assessment of the potential for transport generated air quality impacts, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, should be included within the Environmental Statement.* *The PEIR has highlighted that there is the potential for an increase in nutrient discharges to the Stour Catchment and the impacts that this could have for the Stodmarsh SSSI, SAC, SPA and Ramsar Site.*	The full results of the wintering and breeding bird surveys are supplied as **ES Volume 4, Appendix 9.5f: Wintering Bird ~~Survey Report~~ Report and 9.5g: Breeding Bird ~~Survey~~ Report (Doc Ref. 5.4)**. These evidence the absence from the Site (as recorded during surveys) of any significant numbers of the qualifying bird species of the Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA and Ramsar. An updated breeding bird survey and winter bird survey has been completed (April-June 2023 and December 2023-March 2024) and an assessment of the findings of the update survey results demonstrates absence of qualifying species. This IHRA has been prepared. This includes a Stage 1 screening assessment of potential effects, including air quality, and, in relation to Stodmarsh only, a Stage 2 appropriate assessment of effects. **ES Volume 4, Appendix 9.6: Biodiversity Air Quality Screening Report (Doc Ref 5.4)** has been subject to review as part of this IHRA in relation to potential vehicle emission pathways for designated sites including Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment Downs Site of Special Scientific Interest ('SSSI') and SAC and Hatch Park SSSI. This concludes that the Project Annual Average Daily Traffic ('AADT') can be discounted as not significant based on ~~Decision Making Thresholds ('DMT') in JNNC Guidance[14]. The DMT for road traffic is set at 0.15% of~~ being significantly below the ~~existing AADT on roads within 200 m of a~~ relevant ~~designated site.~~screening criteria recommended within National Highways[15] ,

Comment	Response
	Natural England[16] and IAQM guidance[17] for determining a potentially significant effect as a result of air pollution.. The Project AADTs do not meet ~~this threshold~~these screening criteria. The Applicant has committed to ensure that all flows from welfare facilities will be collected and tankered from the Site for treatment and disposal at a suitably licenced facility outwith the Stour catchment. This is adopted as a precautionary approach to avoid any nutrient effects upon the Stodmarsh site complex. This commitment is secured via the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan ('CEMP') (Doc Ref. 7.8)**, **Outline Operational Management Plan ('OMP') (Doc Ref. 7.11),** and **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan ('DEMP') (Doc Ref. 7.12)** for construction, operational and decommissioning respectively. Later Section 42 consultation responses from Natural England (e-mail 17th August 2023 – see below) have specified that specific mitigation for nutrient impacts is not required for the Project (‘*Mitigation for nutrient impacts on the Stodmarsh sites is normally only required for development including new, overnight accommodation’*), tankering outside of the Stour catchment eliminates any potential pathways for nutrient impacts upon the Stodmarsh designated sites as a precautionary approach.
Natural England - 17 July 2023	
‘Stodmarsh SPA, SAC and Ramsar site: Both the original PEIR and the Addendum highlight that there is the potential for the development to result in an increase in nutrient discharges to the Stour Catchment and the impacts that this could have for the Stodmarsh SSSI, SAC, SPA and Ramsar	The proposed land use change, away from arable farming, will very likely result in a significant net reduction in nutrient loading to the East Stour River. Whilst no overnight accommodation is proposed, the Project will still generate some (albeit low volumes of) wastewater, which would normally be

Comment	Response
Site. …… Mitigation for nutrient impacts on the Stodmarsh sites is normally only required for development including new, overnight accommodation. Commercial development, not including overnight accommodation, will not normally require a nutrient assessment as set out in Section 4 'Plans and Projects Affected' on page 5 of the covering letter issued by Natural England to all relevant parties when Nutrient Neutrality became a national approach in March 2022.' *Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC:...Natural England's only concern would be around air quality impacts from construction / decommissioning traffic.* *Wye and Crundale Downs SAC… Given the nature of the proposal, the distance involved and the qualifying features of the SAC Natural England's only concern would be around air quality impacts from construction / decommissioning traffic* *In our response to the original PEIR we noted the conclusion that the Site does not support significant numbers of wintering birds associated with the Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA and Ramsar site and is therefore not considered to be functionally linked. We...can now advise that we are satisfied with both the robustness of the survey work and the conclusion drawn that the Site is not functionally linked to the Dungeness SPA and Ramsar site.* *Habitats Regulations Assessment...we would encourage you to engage with us on your 'Shadow HRA' as early as possible, particular if further works begins to indicate that some effects cannot be screened out. This would provide increased certainty prior to DCO Submission that impacts to Habitats Sites have been assessed appropriately.*	treated and discharged within the Stour catchment. Despite the low risk to the Stodmarsh SPA, SAC and Ramsar site, the Applicant wishes to adopt the cautious approach of tankering of wastewater to outside of the catchment as mitigation to ensure no adverse effects on water quality within the East Stour River and downstream habitats and designated sites such as the Stodmarsh designated site. This IHRA report fully addresses the risk of air quality effects upon Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC and Wye and Crundale Downs SAC.

Comment	Response
Kent Wildlife Trust - 17 July 2023	
Stodmarsh SPA, SAC, Ramsar and SSSI is also located some 23.6km from the Site. Stodmarsh is sensitive to nutrient related ecological effects arising from new development and is connected to the application Site via the Stour River catchment. *Regarding impacts to these statutory designated sites, Chapter 8 – Biodiversity of the PEIR concluded that the project during the construction phase has potential to cause adverse effect of international significance at Stodmarsh resulting from nutrient enrichment. Mitigation measures during the operational phase to reduce the impact to Stodmarsh include the tankering of foul water to a location beyond the Stour River catchment, and the implementation of protection and pollution prevention measures which will be outlined in a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP). At this stage there is not enough information to fully review the proposed mitigation for Stodmarsh. Likewise, the PEIR provides limited information about the potential threats to the remaining statutory designated sites and therefore KWT cannot comment further until a detailed impact assessment on all statutory designated sites is provided.* *A group of 36 lapwing were recorded roosting and foraging within survey Area C. The PEIR notes that this species is referenced within the Dungeness Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA citation and concluded that due to the small number of lapwings, the Site is not significant or functionally linked to the Dungeness Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA. However, we wish to highlight that lapwing are not actually listed as a feature of this SPA and that golden plover is one of the*	The necessary detail in relation to European sites is now provided here in this IHRA report and the associated documents to which it refers, and further information on the tankering mitigation is provided within this report. In relation to Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), during surveys only two individuals (not 36) were seen on the ground where they could be roosting and/or foraging, the others were only seen flying over the Site. The bird survey report will be updated to make this clearer. Furthermore, lapwing is not specifically listed as a qualifying feature of the Dungeness Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA but is a species that contributes to the wintering waterbird assemblage, and this overall assemblage of 20,000 waterbirds of varying species is a qualifying feature. The results of the winter bird surveys (**ES Volume ~~4~~,3, Appendix 9.5f: Wintering Bird ~~Survey~~ Report (Doc Ref. 5.4)**) were used to identify whether any additional surveys are required, noting that winter bird surveys would have recorded any daytime use of the Site by golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*). The general lack of wading species and waterfowl recorded during the winter surveys evidence a lack of use of the Site by birds from the Dungeness SPA and Ramsar (located over 6km away), noting that other species from this designated site were also absent. A general lack of wading / waterfowl / SPA species recorded during two survey seasons (2020/21 and 2021/22) and distance from the SPA to the Site makes use of the Site by golden plover unlikely. While golden plover can disperse large distances from SPAs, the extensive

Comment	Response
featured species of Dungeness Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA. Golden plover and lapwing are two species that are often referenced together in regard to functionally linked land (FLL) due to similar behaviours and use of agricultural fields. From reviewing the protected species reports it doesn't appear that golden plover has been recorded within the Site, however dedicated species-specific surveys have not been undertaken. If it is considered that the proposals have the potential to impact golden plover associated with the SPA, further surveys are recommended.	distribution of alternative habitat between the Site and SPA makes use of the Site unlikely with no evidence of presence recorded on either bird surveys or the extensive suite of other surveys conducted. So, the relative absence of golden plover on the Site, according to survey records, indicates that the Site is highly unlikely to provide functionally linked land for the SPA/Ramsar site in respect to this species.

2.3 Conceptual impact assessment model

2.3.1 The potential impact of a development project is not always limited to the boundaries of the site concerned. The development may also have the potential to impact on ecologically important sites, habitats or species beyond the Site boundaries. The area over which a development may impact ecologically valuable receptors is known as the Zone of Influence ('ZoI'). Only those European sites within the ZoI of this Project have been considered.

2.3.2 The 'source-pathway-receptor' concept provides a useful model for framing and objectively evaluating the mechanisms through which potential effects may occur. As such, this has been employed in the Stage 1 screening assessment. **Table 2.2** sets out the various parts of the model and how they relate to each other.

Table 2.2: Conceptual Impact Assessment Model

Source	Pathway	Receptor
Components of the Project that are likely to generate or contribute towards environmental effects or changes that may have implications for European Sites.	Potential changes in environmental conditions resulting from the Project that have the potential to affect a qualifying habitat or species population.	The qualifying habitats and/or species populations of each European site within the ZoI of the proposals and the environmental conditions that are required to support these.

2.3.3 In order for an impact to occur, there needs to be a source, pathway and a receptor. This assessment has therefore collated the relevant information associated with each component of the above model to establish whether or not a potentially viable

impact pathway exists between the Project (alone or in combination) and the associated qualifying features of the European Sites.

2.4 Conservation Objectives

2.4.1 Where an appropriate assessment is required, regulation 63(1) of the Habitats Regulations requires that it be of the implications of the plan or project for the European site in view of its conservation objectives. Government guidance (e.g. Defra 2012)[18] also recommends that in carrying out HRA screening, applicants must check if the proposal could have a significant effect on a protected site that could affect its conservation objectives.

2.4.2 Conservation objectives have been established by Natural England. Conservation objectives outline the desired state for a protected site, in terms of the qualifying features for which it has been designated. If these features are being managed in a way which maintains their nature conservation value, they are assessed as being in a 'favourable condition'. An adverse effect on integrity is likely to be one which prevents the Site from making the same contribution to favourable conservation status for the relevant feature as it did at the time of its designation. There are no set thresholds at which impacts on site integrity are considered adverse. This is a matter for interpretation on a site-by-site basis, depending on the qualifying feature and nature, scale, and significance of the impact.

2.4.3 For each European site in England, Natural England has issued overarching conservation objectives, which should be applied to each interest feature of the Site[19].

2.4.4 For SPAs, the overarching objective is to avoid the deterioration of the habitats of qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Habitats Regulations. This is achieved by, subject to natural change, maintaining and restoring:

- the extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- the structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- the supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
- the populations of the qualifying features; and
- the distribution of the qualifying features within the Site.

2.4.5 For SACs, the overarching objective is to avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving favourable conservation status of each of the qualifying features. This is achieved by, subject to natural change, maintaining and restoring:

- the extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- the structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats;
- the structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species;
- the supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- the populations of qualifying species; and
- the distribution of qualifying species within the site.

2.4.6 Supplementary advice on conservation objectives ('SACOs') for each site underpins these generic objectives to provide site-specific information and give greater clarity to what might constitute an adverse effect on a site interest feature. SACOs are subject to availability and are currently being updated on a rolling basis[19].

2.4.7 Conservation objectives have been fully considered when undertaking the HRA screening and informing the appropriate assessment in this IHRA.

2.5 Consideration of other consents and other administrations

2.5.1 PINS Advice Note Ten requires an evaluation of the potential for the Project to require other consents which could also require HRA by different competent authorities, and a statement which identifies whether significant effects are considered to be likely in respect of European sites in devolved administrations or within European Economic Area ('EEA') States.

2.5.2 The Site does not overlap with areas of devolved administrations or with those of other EEA States. No other consents are required for the Project which would require additional HRA to be carried out. The entirety of the Project is within Kent and there are no pathways arising from the Project that could results in significant effects to European sites in devolved administrations or other EEA States.

3 Relevant European Sites and Potential Effects

3.1 European Sites selected for HRA screening

3.1.1 The Site is not within a European site, and the nearest such site is over 5km away.

3.1.2 The **ES (Doc Ref. 5.1-5.4)** and this HRA have considered a distance of 10km to be a precautionary maximum ZoI for a development of this nature, based on likely impacts during construction, ~~operational phase~~operation and decommissioning of a solar farm. The exception to this is where a more distant impact pathway is identified such as downstream water impacts.

3.1.3 There are several international designations within a 10km radius of the Project. The locations of European Sites within 10km of the Site are shown in **Figure 1** ~~of this report.~~.

3.1.4 In addition to these, there is a potential downstream impact pathway to the more distant (c.23.5 km) Stodmarsh complex of European sites near Canterbury that are also shown in **Figure 1** ~~of this report~~.

3.1.5 The designations within the ecological ZoI of the Project, and a summary of their qualifying features, are described in **Table 3.1**. Further details of these sites are provided in the Standard Data Forms and Information Sheets contained in **Annex 1: Standard Data Forms and Information Sheets for European Sites** ~~of this report.~~. These designations are taken forward to the HRA Stage 1 screening described in **Section** ~~4 of this report~~**5**.

Table 3.1: European Sites selected for HRA screening and their qualifying features

European site	Distance from the Site	Summary of qualifying features
Wye and Crundale Downs SAC	5.2 km north	Semi-natural dry grassland and scrubland facies on calcareous substrate; an important orchid site.
Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC	c. 8.7 km east	Semi-natural dry grassland and scrubland facies on calcareous substrate; an important orchid site.
Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA	c. 7.3km south	Together these designations support:

European site	Distance from the Site	Summary of qualifying features
Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar site	c. 6.2 km south	Breeding and wintering birds including birds of prey, waterbirds, passage warbler and breeding sea birds; a network of wetland types and habitats that support vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered wetland species.
Stodmarsh SAC	c. 23.5km north	Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*
Stodmarsh SPA		Great bittern *Botaurus stellaris* (Non-breeding) Gadwall *Anas strepera* (Breeding and non-breeding) Northern shoveler *Anas clypeata* (Non-breeding) Hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* (Non-breeding) Waterbird assemblage Breeding bird assemblage
Stodmarsh Ramsar site		Six British Red Data Book wetland invertebrates. Two nationally rare plants, and Five nationally scarce species. A diverse assemblage of rare wetland birds, and specifically: ▪ Great bittern (Non-breeding) ▪ Gadwall (Breeding and non-breeding) ▪ Northern shoveler (Non-breeding) ▪ Hen harrier (Non-breeding)

3.1.6 Site Improvement Plans ('SIPs') have been developed for each SAC and SPA in England as part of the Improvement Programme for England's European Sites. The SIP provides a high-level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the features on the site(s).

3.1.7 **Table 3.2** summarises the potential sensitivities and vulnerabilities of each of the European sites. Only those vulnerabilities that are relevant to the potential impacts of the Project are listed.

Table 3.2: Summary of Application-relevant sensitivities of European Sites

International Site	Summary of Relevant Sensitivities
Wye and Crundale SAC	Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition
Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC	Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition
Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA	Changes in species distributions (relevant to off-site functionally-linked land)
Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar site	Water Pollution Surface Water run-off
Stodmarsh SAC	Water Pollution (nutrients)
Stodmarsh SPA	
Stodmarsh Ramsar site	

3.2 Potential Impacts

3.2.1 Types of potential impact that will be screened for during construction, ~~operational phase~~operation and decommissioning of the Project include the following:

- Direct and indirect habitat loss (e.g. removal during Site clearance);
- Direct and indirect habitat damage/deterioration (e.g. from pollution, physical damage, hydrological change);
- Direct and indirect habitat fragmentation (e.g. severance of wildlife corridors);
- Species disturbance (e.g. from noise, lighting, human presence);
- Species mortality (e.g. through direct injury); and
- Biological disruption (e.g. from invasive non-native species introduction).

4 HRA Stage 1: Screening

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This report assesses the potential effects in two stages. The first of these stages is screening for likely significant effects in the absence of impact mitigation measures (HRA Stage 1). This section presents Stage 1 of the assessment.

4.1.2 **Table 4.1** provides the HRA screening assessment for the Project, which is also summarised in Paragraphs **4.2.1** to **4.7.~~7~~4** of this IHRA.

4.2 Direct effects during construction and decommissioning

4.2.1 The Project is located over 5km away from the nearest point of any European site. Therefore, there will be no direct impacts to such sites, for example from habitat loss, habitat damage or injury to species within the European sites' boundaries. Direct effects are therefore screened out.

4.3 Indirect effects on Wye and Crundale SAC during construction and decommissioning

4.3.1 There are no apparent impact pathways for indirect construction and decommissioning effects from the Site to Wye and Crundale SAC. Notably, there is no downstream water connectivity, and no additional traffic will be generated within 200m of this designated site. The Department for Transport's[20] and Natural England's[21] guidance on air quality impacts state that beyond 200m the impacts from traffic-generated pollutants are negligible. Furthermore, a specialist report has been prepared to inform this IHRA by Air Quality Consultants Ltd (see **ES Volume 4, Appendix 9.6: Biodiversity Air Quality Screening Report (Doc Ref. ~~5.4)~~5.4)** **Error! Bookmark not defined.** that screens out all such effects on European sites from the Project alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

4.3.2 Therefore, construction and decommissioning effects on Wye and Crundale SAC, both from the Project alone and in combination with other plans and projects, have been screened out.

4.4 Indirect effects on Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA and Ramsar site during construction and decommissioning

4.4.1 The Site (aside from the southern half of Field 8 which is within the Romney Marsh catchment) is not located in the same surface water catchment as Dungeness and Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA and Ramsar site. There are several unnamed drains, which flow through the wooded areas (e.g., Poulton Wood, Handen Wood and Park Wood) to the south of the Site within the Romney Marsh between Appledore and West Hythe surface water catchment. A surface drain within

Hamden Wood receives flows from the southern part of the Site and coveys these southwards towards Romney Marsh.

4.4.2 In respect of water pollution incidents, Dungeness Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar and SPA is located at a significant distance from the Site (6.5km away). In addition, only runoff from the southern half of Field 8 would drain in this direction. Any pollution incidents derived from this part of the Site could potentially connect to Dungeness Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar and SPA via surface watercourses at which point small volumes of pollutant would be significantly diluted and thus undetectable at the designated site. However, these effects would have minimal effect on water chemistry at the receptor. It is therefore considered that there will be no likely significant effects on the Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA and Ramsar site relating to pollution deriving from the construction or decommissioning phases of the Project.

4.4.3 There will be no likely significant effects on the Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA and Ramsar site relating to surface runoff deriving from the construction or decommissioning phases of the Project.

4.4.4 As confirmed above, there are no likely significant water pollution or surface water runoff effects on the Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA and Ramsar site and these have therefore been screened out of this assessment.

4.4.5 No additional traffic will be generated within 200m of these designations. The Department for Transport's[20] and Natural England's[21] guidance on air quality impacts state that beyond 200m the impacts from traffic-generated pollutants are negligible.

4.4.6 As indicated in **Table 3.2**, the only other impact pathway for indirect construction and decommissioning effects from the Site to Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA and Ramsar site is the Site's potential to provide functionally-linked land for qualifying bird species (see Holohan ruling[8]).

4.4.7 Wintering and breeding bird surveys conducted by Lloydbore at the Site (winter surveys during November 2020 to February 2021 and November 2021 to March 2022 and breeding surveys May to June 2020, and April to June 2022, as reported in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 9.5f: Wintering Bird ~~Survey~~ Report and Appendix 9.5g: Breeding Bird ~~Survey~~ Report (Doc Ref. 5.4~~) of ES Volume 2, Chapter 9 'Biodiversity' (Doc Ref. 5.2~~)**) have shown that none of the specifically-named qualifying bird species of the SPA and Ramsar site use the Site. The results of an update breeding bird survey in April to June 2023 and winter bird survey in December 2023 to March 2024 have been subject to review and again demonstrates absence of qualifying species.

4.4.8 Lapwing was recorded during the wintering bird surveys on the Site but mainly as a fly-over species (passing the Site but not alighting on it). This species is only referenced within the Dungeness Romney Marsh SPA citation as a species within the overall waterbird assemblage that contributes to the designated site being regularly used by over 20,000 waterbirds; lapwing is not a standalone qualifying

species. The maximum count of lapwing seen on the ground (potentially roosting or foraging) on Site during any survey visit in winter was only two lapwing. This is 0.01% of the 20,000 waterbird assemblage criteria, a portion often recognised in HRA screening practice as being 'de minimus' or 'nugatory', and there is no way of knowing whether these two birds use the SPA/Ramsar to form part of that assemblage.

4.4.9 Furthermore, golden plover is a bird species often associated with farmland use, in arable habitats similar to those used by lapwing. It is notable that the wintering bird survey did not record golden plover using the Site, suggesting the on-Site habitat is not of particular importance for either species.

4.4.10 Given the very small numbers of lapwing recorded within the Site (with no other waterbird aggregations recorded), it is assessed that, even if these same birds use both the Site and the Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA and Ramsar site, the numbers of lapwing recorded on Site do not form a significant percentage of the number of waterbirds covered by the assemblage criteria (20,000 waterbirds).

4.4.11 Furthermore, the arable habitat that the small number of (two) lapwing were recorded as using on Site is very common and widespread throughout the region. There is an abundance of such habitat situated in the >6km distance between the Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA and Ramsar site and the Site. As such, this intervening land in closer proximity to the SPA/Ramsar site is much more likely to contain any farmland that has functional linkage (i.e. is regularly used by significant numbers of the qualifying bird species / assemblage).

4.4.12 As a result, it is assessed that the Site is highly unlikely to provide functionally-linked land for Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA and Ramsar site. Such indirect effects from the Project in isolation on SPA/Ramsar qualifying birds are therefore screened out.

4.4.13 As the Site has been ruled out as being functionally linked land for Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA and Ramsar site, impacts to its habitats cannot logically contribute to an in-combination effect on functionally linked land. Therefore, in-combination effects on these designated sites have also been screened out.

4.5 Indirect effects on Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC during construction and decommissioning

4.5.1 As indicated in **Table 3.2**, there are no apparent impact pathways for indirect construction and decommissioning effects from the Site to Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC other than the Site's potential to receive vehicle emissions from increased Project-generated traffic along the M20 motorway. Notably, there is no downstream water connectivity, and the Site does not have potential to provide functionally-linked land.

4.5.2 For potential air quality effects on designated sites, a specialist report has been prepared to inform this IHRA by Air Quality Consultants Ltd **(see ES Volume 4, Appendix 9.6: Biodiversity Air Quality Screening Report (Doc Ref. 5.4)** that

screens out all such effects on European sites from the Project alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

4.5.3 **ES Volume 4, Appendix 9.6: Biodiversity Air Quality Screening Report,** Section 2: Assessment Criteria (Doc Ref. ~~**5.4)** references the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Decision-Making Thresholds (DMTs) for air pollution[14] ('JNCC Guidance'). The thresholds define changes~~5.4) references the relevant screening criteria recommended within National Highways[15] , Natural England[16] and IAQM guidance[17] for determining a potentially significant air quality effect as a result of a project .. The guidance defines AADT levels caused by individual projects which can be discounted as not significant without the need for further assessment. The ~~DMT~~screening criteria thresholds referenced are 1,000 AADT for ~~road~~all traffic ~~is set at 0.15% of the existing AADT~~and 200 AADT for Heavy Duty Vehicles ('HDVs') on roads within 200m of a relevant designated site. No further assessment is needed whenever a development generates less traffic than this. The predicted AADT figures as a result of the Project are well below these screening criteria for all traffic and for HDVs.

~~4.5.4 The JNCC Guidance also makes clear that the study area for the assessment of impacts from road traffic should not extend more than 10km from a plan boundary and, furthermore, that impacts alongside the Strategic Road Network ('SRN') such as the M20 / A20 only require consideration for road infrastructure schemes. This reflects the fact that development-generated traffic which reaches the SRN is likely to be broadly similar irrespective of precisely where in a region that development is located. Such traffic growth is thus more effectively considered at a strategic level than in individual planning decisions.~~

~~4.5.5~~4.5.4 Therefore, any construction or decommissioning traffic on the M20/A20 that falls within 200m of Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC does not require consideration in this assessment ~~as this forms part of the SRN.~~, as AADT and HDV levels fall below published screening criteria.

~~4.5.6~~4.5.5 **ES Volume 4, Appendix 9.6: Biodiversity Air Quality Screening Report (Doc Ref. 5.4)** also explains that because of the small volumes of generated traffic, there would be no significant effects for European sites alongside any of the identified construction routes, even if the SRN was included in the assessment.

~~4.5.7~~4.5.6 Therefore, significant air quality effects on European Sites including Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC, both from the Project alone and in combination with other plans and projects are considered unlikely and can be screened out.

4.6 Indirect effects on Stodmarsh SPA, SAC, and Ramsar site during construction and decommissioning

4.6.1 Whilst the Stodmarsh SPA, SAC, and Ramsar complex is located beyond the normal 10km search radius from the Site, being located c.23.5km distant (in a direct line). No potential impact pathways for indirect effects, other than from changes in water quality, have been identified.

4.6.2 The Stodmarsh complex is sensitive to nutrient driven ecological effects arising from new development and is connected to the Site via the Stour catchment (including the East Stour River). Developments that are located within the Stour catchment, and that will result in a net increase in nutrients entering the Stodmarsh designated site complex, are required by Natural England and competent authorities, in line with their duties under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, to achieve nutrient neutrality.

4.6.3 In relation to nutrient effects upon Stodmarsh, the construction of the Project is unlikely to pose an elevated risk of nutrient runoff to the East Stour River or the local ditch and stream network that feeds it. This is when compared with current intensive agricultural activity on the Site, which includes ploughing, direct nutrient application through fertilisers and extended periods of bare earth cover in proximity to these watercourses. It is normal and integral to the Project's construction phase (and indeed legally necessary for the health and safety of staff) that all human waste generated on Site will be contained in portable welfare facilities that are highly unlikely to suffer significant leakage and will be collected at appropriately frequent intervals. Therefore, there is no likely significant effect from accidental release of nutrient-laden waste to the nearby watercourses and onward towards Stodmarsh. This effect can therefore be screened out.

4.6.4 For the construction and decommissioning phases of the Project temporary welfare facilities (e.g. portable toilets) will be provided which will be collected for off-site disposal. The demand for foul water disposal during the construction and decommissioning phases is anticipated to be low and easily managed via use of tankers.

4.6.5 Ordinarily, the wastewater treatment works (WwTW) used as a destination for the collected wastewater would be within the Stour catchment due to this being the closest destination for tankers. The foul water discharge, if taken to the Stour catchment, would impact the Stodmarsh site, as foul water discharge is a known source of nutrient input to the catchment. Therefore, in the absence of mitigation, a likely significant effect could be concluded.

4.6.6 However, in their response to the 2023 Statutory Consultation dated 17 July 2023 (p 2 – 3), Natural England states that: *'…mitigation for nutrient impacts on the Stodmarsh sites is normally only required for development including new, overnight accommodation. Commercial development, not including overnight accommodation, will not normally require a nutrient assessment as set out …on page 5 of the covering letter issued by Natural England to all relevant parties when Nutrient Neutrality became a national approach in March 2022. We have checked with relevant national colleagues and are aware of no other examples where solar farms have been scoped in and required to provide nutrient mitigation. We have not seen anything in either the PEIR or Addendum to make us think this proposal warrants special treatment for any reason. Therefore, you may wish to consider whether the impact of the development through the pathway of reduced water quality on the Stodmarsh sites can be screened out in your forthcoming Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) as not likely to have a significant effect.'*

4.6.7 On the basis of this advice, one might reasonably screen out foul water disposal from being a likely significant effect on the Stodmarsh sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, even if the wastewater was taken to a wastewater treatment works within the Stour catchment as would ordinarily be the case. However, despite this advice from Natural England, it is recognised that disposal of even very small amounts of additional nutrients from non-residential wastewater into the Stour catchment can contribute to what is an existing adverse effect at Stodmarsh and thus undermine the designated sites' conservation objectives. No nutrient budget calculation has been carried out to demonstrate that the Project will achieve nutrient neutrality. Therefore, adopting a precautionary approach, a likely significant effect cannot be ruled out, and this issue will need to be examined through appropriate assessment (see **Section 5** of this report).

4.6.8 As there is a likely significant waterborne nutrient effect on the Stodmarsh sites from the Project alone, no in-combination screening of this effect is required, as the issue will need to be examined through appropriate assessment in any case where any residual low-level effect (after mitigation) that could act in combination will be considered.

4.6.9 With regards to waterborne chemical contaminants (other than nutrients) and silt-laden runoff, the Stodmarsh designated sites are not considered to be at particular risk from these according to the SIP (see Table 3.2), especially from such a distant source as the Site (more than 40km upstream).

4.6.10 Although silt in surface runoff from construction sites can contain nutrients, this is an existing baseline risk from farming operations on Site that already has potential to regularly expose and mobilise silts (e.g. through ploughing). Farming also adds fertilisers (nutrients) to these regularly exposed soils, which is not the case with construction sites, so any construction phase silt-laden runoff from the Site is likely to be less of a nutrient risk to downstream European sites than the current (baseline) situation, alone or in combination.

4.6.11 **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Water Environment (Doc Ref. 5.2)** states that: '*A pollution incident to the East Stour River, either via chemical spill or sediment laden runoff, would likely be a temporary impact (i.e., following a spillage or extreme heavy rainfall resulting in unmanageable runoff). This is a short-term impact limited to the construction phase and, due to extensive pollution control measures in the Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8), the risk is minimised and would result in a Low magnitude of change. Main rivers are considered a Medium sensitivity receptor and therefore the significance of the effect is assessed to be Minor Adverse (not significant)'.* Such control measures can be considered at HRA screening stage as they are not specific to protecting a European site and would be implemented in any case.

4.6.12 Given the minimised risk and the predicted low-magnitude effect on the East Stour River adjacent to the Site, the likelihood of a significant non-nutrient effect occurring over 40km downstream (where the Great Stour River reaches Stodmarsh) is very low. At that distance and with the number of intervening confluences, small volumes of pollutant arising from the Site would be significantly diluted and thus undetectable at the Stodmarsh designated sites. For this reason, an in-combination effect from

non-nutrient pollution is also highly unlikely, as the Project would make a negligible contribution to this. This effect can therefore be screened out.

4.7 Effects during operation

4.7.1 Given the nature of the Project and the distances to European sites as explained above, no potential direct or indirect likely significant effects on European sites during the ~~operational phase~~operation of the Project have been identified, apart from a potential downstream water quality effect on Stodmarsh SAC, SPA and Ramsar site. Maintenance of the Site infrastructure during the ~~operational~~operation phase of the Project will generate de minimus annual levels of road traffic (AADT) that will be less that those screened out for the construction and decommissioning phases. Therefore, there will be no effects on the designated sites, and so this has been screened out of the assessment.

4.7.2 For the ~~operational phase~~operation of the Project, a cess tank will be installed within the Project Substation to collect foul water (mainly from staff welfare facilities such as toilets and hand-wash basins). The contents of the cess tank will be transferred via road tanker to a licensed treatment facility at relatively low frequency.

4.7.3 As with wastewater tankering in the construction and decommissioning phases (see above), the wastewater treatment works used as a destination for the collected wastewater would ordinarily be within the Stour catchment due to this being the closest destination for tankers. If the ordinary course of action was taken whereby the wastewater was taken to a wastewater treatment works within the Stour catchment, it could contribute to what is an existing adverse effect at Stodmarsh and thus undermine the designated sites' conservation objectives. No nutrient budget calculation has been carried out to demonstrate that the Project will achieve nutrient neutrality. Therefore, adopting a precautionary approach, a likely significant effect from the Project alone during ~~the operational phase~~operation cannot be ruled out, and this issue will need to be examined through appropriate assessment.

4.7.4 As there is a likely significant effect from the Project alone, no in-combination screening of this effect is required, as the issue will need to be examined through appropriate assessment in any case where any residual low-level effect (after mitigation) that could act in combination will be considered.

4.7.5 With regard to non-nutrient sources of pollution during the operational phase of the Project, the only potentially significant risk is from contaminated fire suppression water ('firewater') in the unlikely event a Battery Energy Storage System ('BESS') unit ignites. Battery fires can start for a number of reasons including physical damage, overcharging, over discharging, short circuiting and exposure to high temperatures. Battery failure causes an increase in internal temperatures created by heating and/or chemical processes within cells which results in the release of gas.

4.7.6 The BESS Units will include an automatic fire suppression system, likely to be a water sprinkler or gaseous based system which will cool the cells and extinguish any fire that may ignite as a result. External fire suppression using water may also

be required. The BESS Unit locations are designed to ensure any firewater used is contained within a bunded enclosure such that there will be no leakage of polluted water into the surrounding area following a fire event.

4.7.7 Potentially contaminated firewater contained within the bunded compound area will be pumped to tanker and removed from Site for treatment and disposal at a suitable specialist facility that is licenced to take and treat such contaminated water, thus making it ecologically safe before release to the environment. Such control measures can be considered at HRA screening stage, as they are not specific to protecting a European site and would be required in any case. Therefore, there is no likely significant effect on downstream European sites from non-nutrient pollution, and this effect can be screened out.

Table 4.1: HRA Stage 1 Screening for Likely Significant Effects (LSE)

European site	Distance from the Site	Summary of qualifying features	Potential pathway of effect	LSE in isolation?	LSE in combination with other plans or projects?	HRA screening conclusion
Construction and Decommissioning Phases						
Wye and Crundale Downs SAC	5.2 km	Semi-natural dry grassland and scrubland facies on calcareous substrate; an important orchid site.	No conceivable direct effects (e.g., habitat loss, damage) on the qualifying habitat due to distance from the Site. No conceivable indirect hydrological effects due to lack of any hydrological connection. No conceivable indirect air quality effects. Information provided by Prime Transport Planning confirms that roads within 200m of the SAC will not be used by construction and decommissioning traffic (construction routing will be secured through an **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan ('CTMP') (Doc Ref. 7.9)**.	No	No	No LSE – screened out.
Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC	8.7 km	Semi-natural dry grassland and scrubland facies on calcareous substrate; an	No conceivable direct effects (e.g., habitat loss, damage) on the qualifying habitat due to distance from the Site.	No	No	No LSE – screened out.

European site	Distance from the Site	Summary of qualifying features	Potential pathway of effect	LSE in isolation?	LSE in combination with other plans or projects?	HRA screening conclusion
		important orchid site.	No conceivable indirect hydrological effects due to lack of any hydrological connection. ~~JNCC Guidance (2021)[5] confirms that air quality impacts alongside the Strategic Road Network (SRN) such as the M20 / A20 only require consideration for road infrastructure schemes.~~Predicted AADT figures as a result of the Project are well below the relevant screening criteria of 1,000 AADT for all traffic and 200 AADT for HDVs recommended within National Highways, Natural England and IAQM guidance for determining a potentially significant air quality effect. No further assessment is needed whenever a project generates less traffic than this.			
Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA	7.3 km	Together these designations support: Breeding and wintering birds including birds of prey, waterbirds,	No conceivable direct effects (e.g., habitat loss, damage) on the qualifying habitats and species due to distance from the Order limits. The limited hydrological connectivity and potential for water pollution and surface water effects have been	No	No	No LSE – screened out.

European site	Distance from the Site	Summary of qualifying features	Potential pathway of effect	LSE in isolation?	LSE in combination with other plans or projects?	HRA screening conclusion
		passage warbler and breeding sea birds; A network of wetland types and habitats that support vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered wetland species.	screened out in accordance with the assessment within **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Water Environment (Doc Ref. 5.2)** stating that even if a pollution effect was to occur it would be undetectable at Dungeness, Romey Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar site and SPA. No conceivable indirect air quality effects. Information provided within **ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Traffic and Access (Doc Ref. 5.2)** confirms that roads within 200m of the SAC will not be used by construction and decommissioning traffic. No significant indirect effect caused by impacts to functionally-linked land beyond the designations' boundaries. Of the qualifying features, only a very small number of overwintering birds (2 lapwing) that might contribute to the designations' assemblage of 20,000 waterbirds were recorded on the ground on Site. This does not form a significant percentage of the number of waterbirds covered by the assemblage criteria			

European site	Distance from the Site	Summary of qualifying features	Potential pathway of effect	LSE in isolation?	LSE in combination with other plans or projects?	HRA screening conclusion
			(20,000 waterbirds), especially given the distance between the Site and the SPA/Ramsar site.			
Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar site	6.2 km	As per the Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA above.				No LSE – screened out
Stodmarsh SAC	23.5 km	Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*	No conceivable direct effects (e.g., habitat loss, damage) on the qualifying habitats and species due to distance from the Site. No conceivable indirect air quality effects. Information provided within **ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Traffic and Access (Doc Ref. 5.2)** confirms that roads within 200m of the SAC will not be used by construction and decommissioning traffic. No significant indirect effect caused by impacts to functionally-linked land beyond the designations' boundaries due to distance and lack of wintering	Yes (on water quality)	N/A	LSE identified for downstream waterborne nutrient effects. Appropriate assessment required. (see **Section 5** of this IHRA)
Stodmarsh SPA		Great bittern *Botaurus stellaris* (Non-breeding) Gadwall *Anas strepera*				

European site	Distance from the Site	Summary of qualifying features	Potential pathway of effect	LSE in isolation?	LSE in combination with other plans or projects?	HRA screening conclusion
		(Breeding and non-breeding) Northern shoveler *Anas clypeata* (Non-breeding) Hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* (Non-breeding) Waterbird assemblage Breeding bird assemblage	wetland birds using the Site. Only a very small number of overwintering birds (2 lapwing) that might contribute to the designations' assemblage of 20,000 waterbirds were recorded on the ground on Site. This does not form a significant percentage of the number of waterbirds covered by the assemblage criteria (20,000 waterbirds), especially given the distance between the Site and the SPA/Ramsar site. In relation to indirect water quality effects on qualifying species, Natural England has advised that mitigation for nutrient impacts on the Stodmarsh sites is normally only required for development that includes new, overnight accommodation. Commercial development not including overnight accommodation will not normally require a nutrient assessment, and Natural England are unaware of other examples where solar farms have been screened in and required to provide nutrient mitigation.			
Stodmarsh Ramsar site		Six British Red Data Book wetland invertebrates. Two nationally rare and five nationally scarce plant species. A diverse assemblage of				

European site	Distance from the Site	Summary of qualifying features	Potential pathway of effect	LSE in isolation?	LSE in combination with other plans or projects?	HRA screening conclusion
		rare wetland birds, and specifically: Great bittern (Non-breeding) Gadwall (Breeding and non-breeding) Northern shoveler (Non-breeding) Hen harrier (Non-breeding)	However, for the construction and decommissioning phases of the Project, portable welfare facilities will be installed on Site. If the waste arising from these were to be transported to a nearby licenced treatment works within the Stour catchment, as would ordinarily be the case, it could contribute in a very small way to an existing adverse nutrient effect. This is assessed as being unlikely to pose an elevated risk of nutrient inputs to the Stour catchment when compared with current intensive agricultural activity on the Site, which includes ploughing, direct nutrient application through fertilisers and extended periods of bare earth cover in proximity to these watercourses. However, no nutrient budget calculation has been done and due to this residual uncertainty a likely significant effect on the already damaged Stodmarsh sites cannot be confidently ruled out. Non-nutrient pollution is a potential short-term impact limited to the construction phase and, due to extensive pollution control measures in			

European site	Distance from the Site	Summary of qualifying features	Potential pathway of effect	LSE in isolation?	LSE in combination with other plans or projects?	HRA screening conclusion
			the **Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)**, the risk, even to the immediately adjacent river, is considered to be minimal. Stodmarsh is over 40km downstream and non-nutrient pollution is not noted as being a current threat in the SIP.			
Operational Phase						
Wye and Crundale Downs SAC Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA Dungeness, Romney Marsh and	(see above for each site)	(see above for each site)	Once the Project is operational, no significant impact pathways to these European sites. Maintenance of the Site infrastructure during the ~~operational phase~~operation phase will generate *de minimus* annual levels of road traffic (AADT) that will be less that those screened out for the construction and decommissioning phases. The limited hydrological connectivity and potential for water pollution effects have been screened out in accordance with the assessment within **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Water Environment (Doc Ref. 5.2)** stating that even if a pollution effect was to occur it would be undetectable at Dungeness and Romey	No	No	No LSE – screened out

European site	Distance from the Site	Summary of qualifying features	Potential pathway of effect	LSE in isolation?	LSE in combination with other plans or projects?	HRA screening conclusion
Rye Bay Ramsar site			Marsh and Rye Bay Ramsar site and SPA.			
Stodmarsh SAC Stodmarsh SPA Stodmarsh Ramsar site	(see above for each site)	(see above for each site)	No conceivable direct effects (e.g., habitat loss, damage) on the qualifying habitats and species due to distance from the Site. No conceivable indirect air quality effects. Information provided by Prime Transport Planning confirms that roads within 200m of the SAC will not be used by construction and decommissioning traffic. No significant indirect effect caused by impacts to functionally-linked land beyond the designations' boundaries due to distance and lack of wintering birds using the Site. Only a very small number of overwintering birds (2 lapwing) that might contribute to the designations' assemblage of 20,000 waterbirds were recorded on the ground on Site. This does not form a significant percentage of the number of waterbirds	Yes (on water quality, via nutrients)	N/A	LSE identified for downstream waterborne nutrient effects. Appropriate assessment required. (see **Section 5** of this IHRA)

European site	Distance from the Site	Summary of qualifying features	Potential pathway of effect	LSE in isolation?	LSE in combination with other plans or projects?	HRA screening conclusion
			covered by the assemblage criteria (20,000 waterbirds), especially given the distance between the Site and the SPA/Ramsar site. Fire suppression water for any BESS fires will be contained within a bunded enclosure and tankered to a specialist licensed facility where it will be fully treated. A cess tank will be installed on Site to collect foul water from operational staff welfare facilities such as toilets and hand-wash basins. Ordinarily this would be transported to a licensed treatment works within the Stour catchment where it could, in theory, contribute in a very small way to an existing adverse nutrient-driven effect upon Stodmarsh. This is assessed as being unlikely to pose an elevated risk of nutrient inputs to the Stour catchment when compared with current intensive agricultural activity on the Site, which includes ploughing, direct nutrient application through fertilisers and extended periods of bare earth cover in proximity to these			

European site	Distance from the Site	Summary of qualifying features	Potential pathway of effect	LSE in isolation?	LSE in combination with other plans or projects?	HRA screening conclusion
			watercourses. However, no nutrient budget calculation has been done and due to this residual uncertainty a likely significant effect on the already damaged Stodmarsh sites cannot be confidently ruled out.			

5 HRA Stage 2: Information to Inform an Appropriate Assessment (Precautionary)

5.1.1 The Project has been subject to HRA screening (above) to determine if there are likely significant effects on European Sites arising from the proposals, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. This screening has identified a likely significant effect (in the absence of mitigation) on the Stodmarsh SAC, SPA and Ramsar site arising from treated foul water discharge upstream during the construction, ~~operational~~operation and decommissioning phases of the development.

5.1.2 In their response to the 2023 Statutory consultation dated 17 July 2023 (p 2 – 3), Natural England states that: *'…mitigation for nutrient impacts on the Stodmarsh sites is normally only required for development including new, overnight accommodation. Commercial development, not including overnight accommodation, will not normally require a nutrient assessment as set out …on page 5 of the covering letter issued by Natural England to all relevant parties when Nutrient Neutrality became a national approach in March 2022.[1] We have checked with relevant national colleagues and are aware of no other examples where solar farms have been scoped in and required to provide nutrient mitigation. We have not seen anything in either the PEIR or Addendum to make us think this proposal warrants special treatment for any reason. Therefore, you may wish to consider whether the impact of the development through the pathway of reduced water quality on the Stodmarsh sites can be screened out in your forthcoming Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) as not likely to have a significant effect.'*

5.1.3 On the basis of this advice, one might reasonably have screened out foul water disposal from being a likely significant effect on the Stodmarsh sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. However, even very small amounts of additional nutrients from non-residential projects in the Stour catchment can contribute to what is an existing adverse effect at Stodmarsh and thus undermine the designated sites' conservation objectives. No nutrient budget calculation has been carried out to demonstrate that the Project will achieve nutrient neutrality.

5.1.4 To mitigate this risk of the Project contributing (albeit a very small amount) to an existing nutrient effect at Stodmarsh, foul water generated at all stages of the Project will not be taken to a nearby WwTW that discharges to the Stour catchment, as would ordinarily be the case. Instead, the wastewater will be transported further afield for treatment and final discharge entirely outside of the Stour catchment (i.e., outside of any watercourse or groundwater body that connects to the Stodmarsh designated sites). This will eliminate any risk of increased nutrients in the Stodmarsh designates sites arising from the Project in isolation. Requirements in the **Draft Development Consent Order (Doc Ref. 3.1)** will secure the measures set out in

[1] https://www.ashford.gov.uk/media/0jabvost/ne-march-2022-letter-water-quality-and-nutrient[1]neutrality-advice.pdf

the **Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8), Outline OMP (Doc Ref. 7.11)** and **Outline DEMP (Doc Ref. 7.12)**.

5.1.5 With all wastewater thus removed from the Stour catchment, there can be no contribution by the Project to a potential in-combination effect either.

5.1.6 The potential wastewater treatment destinations for the wastewater generated on Site are shown in **Table 5.1**. These are selected based on their discharge locations being outside of the Stour catchment but still within reasonable road transport distance of the Site.

Table 5.1: List of potential treatment destinations for wastewater generated by the Project

WwTW name	Location detail	Approximate distance from Site (Approx.)	Capacity to take expected volumes of wastewater?*	Discharges to Stour catchment?
Southern Water treatment plant New Romney	50°58'41.02'N 0°57'8.16'E	14km	Yes	No
Southern Water treatment plant Sittingbourne	51°21'2.65'N 0°44'36.89'E	30km	Yes	No
Southern Water treatment plant Aylesford	51°18'27.09'N 0°28'1.70'E	41km	Yes	No
Southern Water treatment plant Snodland	51°19'17.48'N 0°26'50.86'E	42km	Yes	No

*At the time of writing.

5.1.7 The risk of this mitigation leading to significant water quality effects on other European sites, located in or downstream of other river catchments, is very low. The discharges from the WwTW listed in **Table 5.1** that drain towards European sites only drain to European sites that are not considered sensitive to such low levels of nutrient inputs (alone or in combination with other sources). Stodmarsh is recognised nationally as a relatively exceptional case with regards to the need for very restrictive nutrient control throughout its river catchment.

5.1.8 In support of this view, it is useful to note that the predicted amounts of wastewater arising from the Site are so low that Natural England is seemingly unconcerned about their effect, even on the highly sensitive Stodmarsh designations (as evidenced by their response to the 2023 Statutory consultation dated 17 July 2023

(p 2 – 3), as quoted above). It is therefore highly unlikely that this wastewater would be a significant concern for any other European site within the catchments that the tankers will deliver to (**Table 5.1**).

5.1.9 With this mitigation measure in place, it is considered that there will not be an adverse effect on the integrity of the Stodmarsh European sites, alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

6 Conclusion

6.1.1 This IHRA considers the potential effects of the Project on all relevant European sites and features to determine whether there is a likely significant effect from the Project either alone or in combination with other relevant plans and projects. The Applicant considers that sufficient information has been provided to inform the Secretary of State's robust assessment in line with their duties under the Habitats Regulations.

6.1.2 All European sites apart from those at Stodmarsh were screened out at Stage 1 as no likely significant effects were identified alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

6.1.3 With regard to the Stodmarsh SAC/SPA/Ramsar site, the ordinary course of action, during construction, ~~operational phase~~operation and decommissioning of the Project, would be to use the closest treatment works in the Stour catchment for Project-generated wastewater, which is likely to have a significant effect on the Stodmarsh European site(s)'s conservation objectives.

6.1.4 This potential water quality (nutrient) effect on Stodmarsh SAC/SPA/Ramsar site was taken forward to Stage 2: appropriate assessment and, with the commitments secured via the **Outline CEMP (Doc Ref. 7.8)**, **Outline OMP (Doc Ref. 7.11)** and **Outline DEMP (Doc Ref. 7.12)** for construction, ~~operational phase~~operation and decommissioning respectively, was found to not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Stodmarsh SAC/SPA/Ramsar site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

6.1.5 Only the competent authority can make an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Regulations, and so it will be for that authority to adopt these conclusions or make their own separate assessment using this information as appropriate.

Annex 1: Standard Data Forms and Information Sheets for European Sites

Ramsar Convention on
Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat

Name: Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay

Unitary Authority/County: East Sussex, Kent

Boundary of the Ramsar site: The Ramsar site boundary is coincident with the boundaries of the Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Site description: Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay is located on the south coast of England, on the border of East Sussex and Kent between Hastings and New Romney. This is a large area with a diverse coastal landscape comprising a number of habitats, which appear to be unrelated to each other. However, all of them exist today because coastal processes have formed and continue to shape a barrier of extensive shingle beaches and sand dunes across an area of intertidal mud and sand flats. The site includes the largest and most diverse area of shingle beach in Britain, with low-lying hollows in the shingle providing nationally important saline lagoons, natural freshwater pits and basin fens. Rivers draining the Weald to the north were diverted by the barrier beaches, creating a sheltered saltmarsh and mudflat environment, which was gradually in-filled by sedimentation, and then reclaimed on a piecemeal basis by man. Today this area is still fringed by important intertidal habitats, and contains relict areas of saltmarsh, extensive grazing marshes and reedbeds. Human activities have further modified the site, resulting in the creation of extensive areas of wetland habitat due to gravel extraction. As a whole, Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay is important for breeding, wintering and passage waterbirds, wetland plants, bryophytes and invertebrates, and natural or near-natural wetland habitats. In addition to the internationally important wetland habitats and species, the Ramsar site and adjacent areas are also of national and international importance for a variety of non-wetland habitats and species.

Size of Ramsar site: 6377.63 ha.

International importance of Ramsar site: The Ramsar site is a Wetland of International Importance because (Kampala 2005 Criteria):

The site qualifies under **Criterion 1** because it contains representative, rare, or unique examples of natural or near-natural wetland types:

- Annual vegetation of drift lines and the coastal fringes of perennial vegetation of stony banks (Ramsar wetland type E – sand, shingle or pebble shores).

  Dungeness and Rye Harbour comprise the largest cuspate foreland (a low-lying triangular foreland) in Britain and form part of a system of shingle barrier beaches that can be traced 40 km from Fairlight in East Sussex to Hythe in Kent. This is ideal habitat for annual vegetation of drift lines, which occurs on naturally functioning shingle beaches. It is one of the scarcest habitats in the UK. The frontage at Rye Harbour and Dungeness is one of the most important areas in the country for this habitat, with approximately 15 km of shingle foreshore. The annual vegetation of drift lines grows on the seaward and landward sides of the beach ridge where waves deposit seed. The habitat grades into and overlaps with the more stable perennial vegetation of stony banks that grows on ridges inland from the beach.

- Natural shingle wetlands: saline lagoons (Ramsar wetland type J – coastal brackish/saline lagoons), freshwater pits (Ramsar wetland type K – coastal freshwater lagoons) and basin fens (Ramsar wetland type U – non-forested peatlands).

  The vast shingle beach at Dungeness contains a number of natural wetlands, referred to as the Open and Fossil Pits, within Dungeness RSPB Reserve and Lydd Ranges. These wetlands have been subject to colonisation by vegetation and display stages of a classic hydroseral succession, from open water and marginal reed-swamp, through a form of marsh or fen, to grey willow *Salix cinerea* carr. Some of the pits have reached a stage in the hydroseral succession where they have little or no open water. Most have floating rafts of vegetation, varying in the degree to which they have stabilised. These floating rafts of vegetation are typical of the “Schwingmoor” type of basin fen, where layers of peat are separated by lenses of water. The pits contain a range of fen types from nutrient-rich to poor fen, with vegetation ranging from single species swamps to more complex communities. The oldest of the pits are now on the eroding south coast of Dungeness (in Lydd Ranges) and have reverted to saline conditions. They are typical, relatively stable, shingle

percolation lagoons. There is at least one natural shingle wetland at Rye Harbour, which is much younger than those at Dungeness and still retains a brackish character. It complements the older examples at Dungeness by displaying an earlier stage in the evolution and succession of these unique natural wetlands.

The site qualifies under **Criterion 2** because it supports threatened ecological communities:

The consists of a complex network of wetland habitats including saltmarsh, natural freshwater pits, fens, ponds, gravel pits, and grazing marsh and ditches. They support rich and diverse assemblages of bryophytes, vascular plants and invertebrates that are rare, threatened, listed as priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) or specially protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Important areas for these assemblages include the gravel pits, ditches and shingle wetlands at Dungeness and Rye Harbour, the grazing marsh and ditches of Walland Marsh, Dengemarsh and Pett Level, ponds throughout the site, the Royal Military Canal, and the saltmarshes of the River Rother.

- Bryophytes
  The bryophyte flora includes an assemblage of wetland thread-mosses *Bryum* species. These mosses are colonists of unshaded calcareous sand that must be persistently damp all year but not inundated by standing water. They occur on wet sand beside large freshwater gravel pits and small pools in Dungeness RSPB Reserve.

- Vascular plants
  Foremost amongst the assemblage are the suites of species associated with grazing marsh and saltmarsh (including brackish ditches and wetlands associated with low-lying depressions within shingle areas). Saltmarshes and other brackish wetlands are particularly rich, with at least eight nationally scarce species, including the vulnerable sea barley *Hordeum marinum,* Borrer's saltmarsh-grass *Puccinellia fasciculata* and slender hare's-ear *Bupleurum tenuissimum*, and the near-threatened sea-heath *Frankenia laevis*. Grazing marshes support the nationally rare (and critically endangered) sharp-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton acutifolius* and at least six nationally scarce species, including the vulnerable divided sedge *Carex divisa* and rootless duckweed *Wolffia arrhiza*. The remaining species are chiefly associated with gravel pits and their margins, saline lagoons, shingle beaches and fens.

- Invertebrates
  The freshwater wetlands (with the exception of the deep, cold and largely sterile open waters of the main gravel pits) exhibit a number of similar characteristics. Shallow open water and emergent vegetation, largely comprising common reed *Phragmites australis* and bulrush *Typha latifolia*, supports a rich water beetle assemblage. Other noteworthy aspects of the invertebrate assemblage include a suite of reed beetles *Donacia*, snail-killing flies (Sciomyzidae) and soldier-flies (Stratiomyidae) that are typical of coastal marshes. Much of this assemblage is found within the ditch systems. The saline and brackish gradients of the saltmarsh, saline lagoons, brackish ditches and damp brackish hollows in the shingle beaches also share many characteristics in terms of the habitats they provide for invertebrates.

The site further qualifies under **Criterion 2** because it supports vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered species:

In addition to the threatened ecological communities, the site is of international importance for nine individual wetland species:

- greater water-parsnip *Sium latifolium* – an endangered UK BAP priority species of wet ditches and tall-herb fens and swamps. The site supports several populations, chiefly in the northern areas of Walland Marsh.

- Warne's thread-moss *Bryum warneum* – a vulnerable UK BAP priority species. A colonist on wet sand beside the margins of freshwater gravel pits in Dungeness RSPB Reserve.

- water vole *Arvicola amphibius* – a UK BAP priority species and is also listed in Schedule 5 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Ramsar site contains the core of an extensive distribution of water voles dependent on the network of ditches that drain the grazing marsh and arable habitats of the Romney Marsh and Rye Bay area.

- aquatic warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* – a globally vulnerable and declining UK BAP priority species. Between 2004 and 2008 the Ramsar site supported an average of two aquatic warblers

during autumn passage, which represents 6.1% of the GB passage population. Aquatic warblers occur on Pett Level, where they are recorded by bird ringers.

- great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* - a UK BAP priority species that is listed in Schedule 5 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Annex II to the EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The particular combination and distribution of aquatic and terrestrial habitats in the site provide exceptional breeding, foraging and hibernation conditions for great crested newts. The site contains three metapopulations; two in the Dungeness area and one at Romney Warren.
- medicinal leech *Hirudo medicinalis* – a rare (Red Data Book category 3) species that is listed in Schedule 5 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Medicinal leech is found at a wide range of localities between Dungeness and Rye, and the site is a stronghold for the species in Great Britain. The range of shallow, well-vegetated waterbodies, including ponds, ditches and shallow areas in flooded gravel pits, provide ideal conditions for medicinal leeches.
- a ground beetle *Omophron limbatum* – an endangered (Red Data Book category 1) species living in burrows in sand at the margins of freshwater, where it is active at dusk and at night. It has been recorded from the margins of waterbodies at Dungeness and Rye Harbour and, except for recent records in Suffolk, is not known from any other site in Great Britain.
- marsh mallow moth *Hydraecia osseola hucherardi* – an endangered (provisional Red Data Book category 1) UK BAP priority species, restricted to two main population centres: one on the River Medway south of Rochester, Kent; the other in and around Walland Marsh. The Walland Marsh population centre comprises three discrete colonies at Moneypenny Farm near Rye, Old Cheyne Court near Brookland, and Woodruff's Farm, Fairfield. Marsh mallow moth is associated with the nationally scarce marsh-mallow *Althaea officinalis*, which is the larval food plant.
- De Folin's lagoon snail *Caecum amoricum* – listed in Schedule 5 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Until recently, its only known locality in the UK was the Fleet in Dorset. Now the species has been discovered at a further two locations, one of which is the saline lagoons at the seaward end of Lydd Ranges.

The site qualifies under **Criterion 5** because it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds:

- In the non-breeding season, the site regularly supports 34,957 individual waterbirds (5 year peak mean 2002/3 – 2006/7).

The site qualifies under **Criterion 6** because it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in the populations of the following species or subspecies of waterbird in any season:

Species	Count and season	Period	% of population
Mute swan *Cygnus olor*	348 individuals – wintering	5 year peak mean 2002/3 – 2006/7	1.1% Britain
Shoveler *Anas clypeata*	485 individuals – wintering	5 year peak mean 2002/3 – 2006/7	1.2% NW & C Europe (non-breeding)

Bird counts from: 1) Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS database)
2) Innogy. 2004. *Little Cheyne Court Wind Farm – Ornithological Assessment: update on wintering birds.* Report to Npower Renewables Ltd, Kent

The site excludes permanent structures such as buildings, roads, bridges, culverts, slipways, jetties and houseboats. However the site does include any exposed bankside, intertidal, subtidal or other wetland habitats beneath the aforementioned structures.

NOTE:
The boundary shown is derived from larger scale mapping (Ordnance Survey Mastermap) and may not match the background detail on this map

Between A-B and C-D the boundary follows the Lowest Astronomical Tide and is liable to change

Ramsar
Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay
Kent, East Sussex

Ramsar
6377.63 Hectares

Ramsar Site Code: UK1000000
Version Number: 1
Longitude: 0° 44' 59" E
Latitude: 50° 55' 46" N
Projection: British National Grid
Area of Ramsar: 6377.63 Hectares

Theme ID: 1460497
Grid Ref.: TQ933180
Version: 20140821
Plotted: 08/09/2014

Scale 1:50,000 at A3

Map 1 of 3

Grid North

0 1 2 3km
0 2500 5000 7500ft.

Wetland of International Importance, Ramsar Convention
Designated by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Date: 30 March 2016

NATURAL ENGLAND

The site excludes permanent structures such as buildings, roads, bridges, culverts, slipways, jetties and houseboats. However the site does include any exposed bankside, intertidal, subtidal or other wetland habitats beneath the aforementioned structures.

NOTE:
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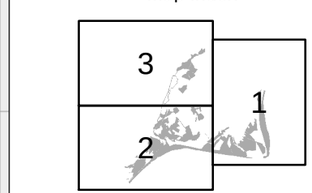
Between A-B, C-D and E-F the boundary follows the Lowest Astronomical Tide and is liable to change

Map Index



Ramsar

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Scale 1:50,000 at A3

Map 2 of 3

0 1 2 3km
0 2500 5000 7500ft.

Grid North

Wetland of International Importance, Ramsar Convention
Designated by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Date: 30 Matrch 2016

NATURAL ENGLAND

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Map 3 of 3

0 1 2 3km
0 2500 5000 7500ft.

Grid North

Wetland of International Importance, Ramsar Convention
Designated by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Date: 30 March 2016

NATURAL ENGLAND

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.

2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.

3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

Designation date | Site Reference Number

Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Monkstone House
City Road
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire PE1 1JY
UK
Telephone/Fax: +44 (0)1733 – 562 626 / +44 (0)1733 – 555 948
Email: RIS@JNCC.gov.uk

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 16 December 1993

3. Country:

UK (England)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Stodmarsh

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for: Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area:

** Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

7. Map of site included:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

i) **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): *yes* ✓ -or- *no* □;
ii**) an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) Yes
iii) **a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** *yes* ✓ -or- *no* □;

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The site boundary is the same as, or falls within, an existing protected area.

For precise boundary details, please refer to paper map provided at designation

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

51 18 18 N 01 10 19 E

9. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Nearest town/city: Canterbury

The site lies along the flood plain of the Great Stour just to the east of Canterbury.

Administrative region: Kent

10. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres): 11. Area (hectares): 481.33

Min. 1
Max. 2
Mean 1

12. General overview of the site:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

Stodmarsh is a wetland site resulting in part from subsidence under the valley of the Great Stour in Kent and aggregate extraction but lies within the natural floodplain of the river. There are a range of wetland habitats including open water, reedbeds, grazing marsh and alder *Alnus glutinosa* carr. The site supports a number of uncommon wetland invertebrates and plants, and provides breeding and wintering habitats for important assemblages of wetland bird species, particularly waterfowl.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

2

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Ramsar criterion 2

Six British Red Data Book wetland invertebrates. Two nationally rare plants, and five nationally scarce species. A diverse assemblage of rare wetland birds.

Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):

Species regularly supported during the breeding season:

Gadwall , *Anas strepera strepera*, NW Europe	6 pairs, representing an average of 1% of the GB population (1988-92)

Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:

Gadwall , *Anas strepera strepera*, NW Europe	267 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Species with peak counts in winter:

Great bittern , *Botaurus stellaris stellaris*, W Europe, NW Africa	2 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Northern shoveler , *Anas clypeata*, NW & C Europe	274 individuals, representing an average of 1.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Hen harrier, *Circus cyaneus*, Europe	9 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the GB population (5 winter period peak count 1987/8-1991/2)

15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region:

Atlantic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

16. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Soil & geology	neutral, sand, mud, clay, alluvium, peat, gravel
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, valley, floodplain
Nutrient status	eutrophic
pH	circumneutral
Salinity	brackish / mixosaline, fresh
Soil	mainly mineral
Water permanence	usually permanent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Wye, 1971–2000) (www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/wye.html) Max. daily temperature: 13.8° C Min. daily temperature: 6.3° C Days of air frost: 43.9 Rainfall: 727.9 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1603.2

General description of the Physical Features:

Stodmarsh is a wetland resulting from coal mining subsidence under the valley of the Great Stour. The range of wetland habitats include open water, extensive reedbeds, grazing marsh and alder *Alnus glutinosa* carr.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

Stodmarsh is a wetland resulting from coal mining subsidence under the valley of the Great Stour. The Great Stour is a major watercourse, originating above Ashford and entering the sea at Pegwell Bay. The Kentish Stour catchment covers most of east Kent, including parts of the South Downs, The Weald and the lowlands downstream of Canterbury. The Stour is largely spring-fed by two major aquifers: the Lower Greensand and most significantly, the Chalk. Changes in groundwater level affect river flow, and in recent years there have been episodes of both extreme low flows and severe flooding.

18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

No special values known, Flood water storage / desynchronisation of flood peaks

19. Wetland types:

Inland wetland, Marine/coastal wetland

Code	Name	% Area
U	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)	33.2
O	Freshwater lakes: permanent	25.6
Other	Other	16.9
Tp	Freshwater marshes / pools: permanent	12.7
Q	Saline / brackish lakes: permanent	3.5
W	Shrub-dominated wetlands	2.9
M	Rivers / streams / creeks: permanent	2.7
Xf	Freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands	2.5

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

Woodland: The most mature areas of woodland are patches of alder *Alnus glutinosa* carr growing over nettles *Urtica dioica*. There are also patches of osier *Salix viminalis* growing over nettles, yellow flag *Iris pseudacorus* ladies smock *Cardamine pratensis* and marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*. There are also patches of goat willow *Salix caprea* and crack willows *Salix fragilis* invading the reedbed. Overall these habitats are not the main reason for declaration of the site, although they add to the diversity, but in larger quantities would damage the interest of the site.

Reedbed: Extensive areas of reed occur, with varying quantities of scrub. When the reed is cut other species thrive including bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, greater spearwort *Ranunculus lingua*, and in the ditches that cross the reedbed greater bladderwort *Utricularia vulgaris*. Where the reedbeds are relatively dry the marsh sow thistle *Sonchus palustris* can be found. There are also stands of other emergent plants such as the great pond sedge *Carex riparia* and lesser pond sedge *Carex acutiformis*.

Grazing marsh: Small blocks of grazing marsh with a diverse flora that includes the rare sharp leaved pondweed *Potamogeton acutifolius*, flat-stalked pondweed *Potamogeton friesii*, frogbit *Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*, the nationally scarce whorled water-milfoil *Myriophyllum verticillatum*, and rootless duckweed *Wolffia arrhiza*.

Tidal river and adjacent lakes: The tidal habitats support a much less diverse flora with species such as the pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus* in the tidal lake. The banks of the river support the nationally scarce plant dittander *Lepidium latifolium*.

Ecosystem services

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in **12**. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Nationally important species occurring on the site.

Higher Plants.– nationally scarce unless otherwise stated.

Potamogeton acutifolius (Vulnerable), *Taraxacum hygrophilum, Myriophyllum verticillatum, Wolffia arrhiza, Carex divisa, Lepidium latifolium, Sonchus palustris*.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in **12**. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Birds

Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:

Species with peak counts in winter:

Water rail , *Rallus aquaticus*, Europe	28 individuals, representing an average of 6.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Ruff , *Philomachus pugnax*, Europe/W Africa	19 individuals, representing an average of 2.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Species Information

Nationally important species occurring on the site.

Invertebrates.

Eight British Red Data Book species of wetland invertebrates have been recorded on the site: *Segmentina nitida, Grammotaulius nitidus, Deltote banksianna, Polistichus connexus, Cercyon granarius, Haliplus mucronatus, Hydrophilus piceus* and *Vertigo moulinsiana* (RDB3).

23. Social and cultural values:

Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

Environmental education/ interpretation
Livestock grazing
Non-consumptive recreation
Scientific research
Sport fishing
Sport hunting

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning? No

If Yes, describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:

ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:

iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:

iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
National/Crown Estate	+	
Private	+	
Public/communal	+	

25. Current land (including water) use:

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	
Recreation	+	
Current scientific research	+	
Fishing: (unspecified)	+	
Fishing: recreational/sport	+	
Freshwater aquaculture		+
Arable agriculture (unspecified)		+
Permanent arable agriculture		+
Grazing (unspecified)	+	
Permanent pastoral agriculture	+	
Hunting: recreational/sport	+	
Sewage treatment/disposal		+
Irrigation (incl. agricultural water supply)		+
Mineral exploration (excl. hydrocarbons)	+	
Non-urbanised settlements		+

26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

Explanation of reporting category:

1. *Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.*
2. *Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.*

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)	On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
No factors reported	NA				

For category 2 factors only. What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?
Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? NO

27. Conservation measures taken:

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ASSI)	+	
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	+	+
Special Protection Area (SPA)	+	
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	+	

b) Describe any other current management practices:

The management of Ramsar sites in the UK is determined by either a formal management plan or through other management planning processes, and is overseen by the relevant statutory conservation agency. Details of the precise management practises are given in these documents.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

No information available

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g. details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Fauna.

Numbers of migratory and wintering wildfowl and waders are monitored annually as part of the national Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS) organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl &

Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.
Other wintering birds: Numbers of wintering hen harrier and bearded tit are recorded each year by EN.
Bird ringing: A BTO constant effort site is maintained by volunteers at the Westbere reedbed with additional ringing activities undertaken elsewhere within the site.
Breeding birds: These are monitored by English Nature as a CBC recent surveys have been undertaken as part of national schemes for water rail and nightingale. Key species such as Cetti's warbler are monitored.
The site is surveyed regularly for otter and water vole.
Molluscs: The site has been surveyed for molluscs under English Nature's recovery programme for the rare snail *Segmentina nitida*. Survey work has recently been carried out for *Vertigo moulinsiana*.
Lepidoptera: Some monitoring is undertaken by volunteers.

Flora.
Aquatic plants have been surveyed by English Nature to establish a baseline for future monitoring of the site.

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

e.g. visitor centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

English Nature provides regular guided walks. There are interpretation boards on the National Nature Reserve, and reserve leaflets available. There is a small amount of use by schools and universities.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

Activities, Facilities provided and Seasonality.
Shooting: part of the site is used for wildfowling.
Fishing: A number of lakes within the site are used for coarse fishing.
Bird watching: a very popular activity on the National Nature Reserve with nature trails and facilities for the disabled.

32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Head, Natura 2000 and Ramsar Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, European Wildlife Division, Zone 1/07, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EB

33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Site Designations Manager, English Nature, Sites and Surveillance Team, Northminster House, Northminster Road, Peterborough, PE1 1UA, UK

34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see **15** above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Site-relevant references

Bratton, JH (ed.) (1991) *British Red Data Books: 3. Invertebrates other than insects*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough

Cranswick, PA, Waters, RJ, Musgrove, AJ & Pollitt, MS (1997) *The Wetland Bird Survey 1995–96: wildfowl and wader counts*. British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds & Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge

English Nature (1993) *Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve management plan*. English Nature

Hodge, PJ (1996) *A survey of the insects of the turf fields at Stodmarsh NNR*. Unpublished report

Killeen, IJ (2000) A survey of the east Kent grazing marshes for the freshwater snail *Segmentina nitida*. *English Nature Research Reports*, No. **356**

McLeod, CR, Yeo, M, Brown, AE, Burn, AJ, Hopkins, JJ & Way, SF (eds.) (2004) *The Habitats Directive: selection of Special Areas of Conservation in the UK*. 2nd edn. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection

Musgrove, AJ, Pollitt, MS, Hall, C, Hearn, RD, Holloway, SJ, Marshall, PE, Robinson, JA & Cranswick, PA (2001) *The Wetland Bird Survey 1999–2000: wildfowl and wader counts*. British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds & Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge. www.wwt.org.uk/publications/default.asp?PubID=14

Ratcliffe, DA (ed.) (1977) *A Nature Conservation Review. The selection of biological sites of national importance to nature conservation in Britain*. Cambridge University Press (for the Natural Environment Research Council and the Nature Conservancy Council), Cambridge (2 vols.)

Shirt, DB (ed.) (1987) *British Red Data Books: 2. Insects*. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough

Stroud, DA, Chambers, D, Cook, S, Buxton, N, Fraser, B, Clement, P, Lewis, P, McLean, I, Baker, H & Whitehead, S (eds.) (2001) *The UK SPA network: its scope and content*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough (3 vols.) www.jncc.gov.uk/UKSPA/default.htm

Watson, AM & Ormerod, SJ (2004) The distribution of three uncommon freshwater gastropods in the drainage ditches of British grazing marshes. *Biological Conservation*, **118**(4), 455–466

Wiggington, M (1999) *British Red Data Books. 1. Vascular plants*. 3rd edn. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough

Williams, P (1996) *A survey of the ditch flora at Stodmarsh SSSI/NNR 1996*. English Nature, unpublished report

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Please return to: **Ramsar Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**

[redacted]

STANDARD DATA FORM for sites within the ‘UK national site network of European sites’

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are classified and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated under:

- the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales (including the adjacent territorial sea) and to a limited extent in Scotland (reserved matters) and Northern Ireland (excepted matters);
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) in Scotland;
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland; and
- the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in the UK offshore area.

Each SAC or SPA (forming part of the UK national site network of European sites) has its own Standard Data Form containing site-specific information. The information provided here generally follows the same documenting format for SACs and SPAs, as set out in the Official Journal of the European Union recording the Commission Implementing Decision of 11 July 2011 (2011/484/EU).

Please note that these forms contain a number of codes, all of which are explained either within the data forms themselves or in the end notes.

More general information on SPAs and SACs in the UK is available from the SPA homepage and SAC homepage on the JNCC website. These webpages also provide links to Standard Data Forms for all SAC and SPA sites in the UK.

https://jncc.gov.uk/

NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE **UK9012091**

SITENAME **Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
A	UK9012091

1.3 Site name

Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
1999-08	2017-11

1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation:	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Address:	Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House City Road Peterborough PE1 1JY
Email:	

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

Date site classified as SPA:	1999-08
National legal reference of SPA designation	Regulations 12A and 13-15 of the Conservation Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made) as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/625/contents/made).

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude	Latitude
0.835	50.891

2.2 Area [ha]:

42417.53

2.3 Marine area [%]

93.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code	Region Name
UKJ2	Surrey, East and West Sussex
UKZZ	Extra-Regio
UKJ4	Kent

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (100.0 %)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

Species					Population in the site						Site assessment			
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D.qual.	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo
B	A294	Acrocephalus paludicola			c	2	2	i		G	B		B	
B	A056	Anas clypeata			w	485	485	i		G	C		C	
B	A021	Botaurus stellaris			w	5	5	i		G	B		C	
B	A081	Circus aeruginosus			r	4	4	p		G	B		B	
B	A082	Circus cyaneus			w	11	11	i		G	C		C	
B	A037	Cygnus columbianus bewickii			w	155	155	i		G	C		C	
B	A176	Larus melanocephalus			r	56	56	p		G	A		C	
		Philomachus												

B	A151	pugnax			w	51	51	i		G	B		C
B	A140	Pluvialis apricaria			w	4050	4050	i		G	C		C
B	A132	Recurvirostra avosetta			r	31	31	p		G	B		B
B	A195	Sterna albifrons			r	35	35	p		G	C		C
B	A193	Sterna hirundo			r	188	188	p		G	C		C
B	A191	Sterna sandvicensis			r	420	420	p		G	B		C

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see reference portal)
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

3.3 Other important species of flora and fauna (optional)

Species					Population in the site				Motivation					
Group	CODE	Scientific Name	S	NP	Size		Unit	Cat.	Species Annex		Other categories			
					Min	Max		C|R|V|P	IV	V	A	B	C	D
B	WATR	Waterbird assemblage			34625	34625	i							X

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, Fu = Fungi, I = Invertebrates, L = Lichens, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **CODE:** for Birds, Annex IV and V species the code as provided in the reference portal should be used in addition to the scientific name
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting, (see reference portal)
- **Cat.:** Abundance categories: C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present
- **Motivation categories: IV, V:** Annex Species (Habitats Directive), **A:** National Red List data; **B:** Endemics; **C:** International Conventions; **D:** other reasons

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

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4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N06	1.0

N01	93.0
N02	4.0
N05	2.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

1. Terrestrial: Soil & Geology: clay,alluvium, nutrient-rich, nutrient-poor, peat, sand, neutral, shingle. 2. Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: lowland, floodplain, coastal. 3. Marine: Geology: saltmarsh, coastal lagoons, grazing marsh, intertidal mixed sediments, intertidal sand and muddy sand, water column.

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports: Circus aeruginosus at least 2% of the GB population 5 year mean, 2004-2008 Recurvirostra avosetta at least 3.5% of the GB population 5 year mean, 2004-2008 Larus melanocephalus at least 52.2% of the GB population 5 year mean, 2004-2008 Sterna albifrons (Eastern Atlantic - breeding) 1.5% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1992-1996 Sterna hirundo (Northern/Eastern Europe - breeding) 1.9% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 2011-2015 Sterna sandvicensis 3.8% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 2011-2015. Over winter the area regularly supports: Cygnus columbianus bewickii (Western Siberia/North-eastern & North-western Europe) 1.9% of the GB population, 5 year peak mean, 2002/03-2006/07 Botaurus stellaris 5.0% of GB population, 5 year peak mean, 2002/03-2006/07 Circus cyaneus 1.5% of GB population, 5 year peak mean, 2002/03-2006/07 Pluvialis apricaria 1.6% of GB population, 5 year peak mean, 2002/03-2006/07 Philomachus pugnax 7.3% of GB population, 5 year peak mean, 2002/03-2006/07 Anas clypeata 485 individuals (no national population estimate). On autumn passage the area regularly supports: Acrocephalus paludicola 6.1% of GB population 5 year peak mean 2004-2008. ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) Over winter the area regularly supports: Anas clypeata 485 individuals (no national population estimate). In the non-breeding season, the area is regularly used by 34,625 individual waterbirds (5 year peak mean 2002/3 – 2006/7), including (but not limited to) Cygnus columbianus bewickii, Anser albifrons albifrons, Anas penelope, A. strepera, A. clypeata, Aythya ferina, Tachybaptus ruficollis, Podiceps cristatus, Phalacrocorax carbo, Botaurus stellaris, Fulica atra, Pluvialis apricaria, Vanellus vanellus, Calidris alba, Philomachus pugnax, Numenius phaeopus and Actitis hypoleucos.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
H	I01		B
H	M02		B
H	K03		b
H	G04		i
H	G05		I

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
H	D05		I
H	G03		I
H	A04		I
H	A02		I

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,

T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

Conservation Objectives - the Natural England links below provide access to the Conservation Objectives (and other site-related information) for its terrestrial and inshore Natura 2000 sites, including conservation advice packages and supporting documents for European Marine Sites within English waters and for cross-border sites. See also the 'UK Approach' document for more information (link via the JNCC website).

Link(s): http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216

http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/3212324
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
UK01	1.0	UK00	87.0	UK04	12.0

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Natural England, Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, Kent County Council.
Address:	
Email:	

Organisation:	East Sussex County Council, Shepway District Council, Hastings Borough Council, Rother District Council.
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No, but in preparation
- [X] No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

For available information, including on Conservation Objectives, see Section 4.5.

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format (optional)

- [ ] Yes
- [X] No

Reference(s) to the original map used for the digitalisation of the electronic boundaries (optional).

EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC) AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below generally follow those explained in the official European Union guidelines for the Standard Data Form (also referencing the relevant page number).

1.1 Site type

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	SPA (classified Special Protection Area)	53
B	cSAC, SCI or SAC (candidate Special Area of Conservation, Site of Community Importance, designated Special Area of Conservation)	53
C	SPA area/boundary is the same as the cSAC/SCI/SAC i.e. a co-classified/designated site (Note: this situation only occurs in Gibraltar)	53

3.1 Habitat code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	57
1130	Estuaries	57
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	57
1150	Coastal lagoons	57
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	57
1170	Reefs	57
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	57
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	57
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	57
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	57
1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	57
1320	Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)	57
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	57
1340	Inland salt meadows	57
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)	57
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	57
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")	57
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	57
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with Empetrum nigrum	57
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea)	57
2160	Dunes with Hippopha• rhamnoides	57
2170	Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae)	57
2190	Humid dune slacks	57
21A0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	57
2250	Coastal dunes with Juniperus spp.	57
2330	Inland dunes with open Corynephorus and Agrostis grasslands	57
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)	57
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea	57
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.	57
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4020	Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix	57
4030	European dry heaths	57
4040	Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with Erica vagans	57
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	57
4080	Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub	57
5110	Stable xerothermophilous formations with Buxus sempervirens on rock slopes (Berberidion p.p.)	57
5130	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	57
6130	Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae	57
6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	57
6170	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	57
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	57
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91D0	Bog woodland	57
91E0	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	57
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B	Good representatively	57
C	Significant representatively	57
D	Non-significant presence representatively	57

3.1 Relative surface

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
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B	> 2%-15%	58
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3.1 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Conservation' in data form)

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B	Good conservation	59
C	Average or reduced conservation	59

3.1 Global assessment (abbreviated to 'Global' in data form)

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3.2 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Con.' in data form)

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3.2 Global Grade (abbreviated to 'Glo.' or 'G.' in data form)

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3.3 Other species – essentially covers bird assemblage types

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
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SBA	Breeding seabird assemblage	UK specific code

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N03	Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes	65
N04	Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair	65
N05	Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	65
N06	Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	65
N07	Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	65
N08	Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	65
N09	Dry grassland, Steppes	65
N10	Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	65
N11	Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	65
N14	Improved grassland	65
N15	Other arable land	65
N16	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	65
N17	Coniferous woodland	65
N19	Mixed woodland	65
N21	Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas)	65
N22	Inland rocks, Screes, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	65
N23	Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites)	65
N25	Grassland and scrub habitats (general)	65
N26	Woodland habitats (general)	65

4.3 Threats code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A01	Cultivation	65
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	65
A03	Mowing / cutting of grassland	65
A04	Grazing	65
A05	Livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing)	65
A06	Annual and perennial non-timber crops	65
A07	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals	65
A08	Fertilisation	65
A10	Restructuring agricultural land holding	65
A11	Agriculture activities not referred to above	65
B01	Forest planting on open ground	65
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use	65
B03	Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth	65
B04	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry)	65
B06	Grazing in forests/ woodland	65
B07	Forestry activities not referred to above	65
C01	Mining and quarrying	65
C02	Exploration and extraction of oil or gas	65
C03	Renewable abiotic energy use	65
D01	Roads, paths and railroads	65
D02	Utility and service lines	65
D03	Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions	65
D04	Airports, flightpaths	65
D05	Improved access to site	65
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation	65
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	65

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
E03	Discharges	65
E04	Structures, buildings in the landscape	65
E06	Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities	65
F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture	65
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources	65
F03	Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.)	65
F04	Taking / Removal of terrestrial plants, general	65
F05	Illegal taking/ removal of marine fauna	65
F06	Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above	65
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities	65
G02	Sport and leisure structures	65
G03	Interpretative centres	65
G04	Military use and civil unrest	65
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	65
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)	65
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	65
H03	Marine water pollution	65
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	65
H05	Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges)	65
H06	Excess energy	65
H07	Other forms of pollution	65
I01	Invasive non-native species	65
I02	Problematic native species	65
I03	Introduced genetic material, GMO	65
J01	Fire and fire suppression	65
J02	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	65
J03	Other ecosystem modifications	65
K01	Abiotic (slow) natural processes	65
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession	65
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	65
K04	Interspecific floral relations	65
K05	Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression	65
L05	Collapse of terrain, landslide	65
L07	Storm, cyclone	65
L08	Inundation (natural processes)	65
L10	Other natural catastrophes	65
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions	65
M02	Changes in biotic conditions	65
U	Unknown threat or pressure	65
XO	Threats and pressures from outside the Member State	65

5.1 Designation type codes

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
UK00	No Protection Status	67
UK01	National Nature Reserve	67
UK04	Site of Special Scientific Interest (GB)	67
UK05	Marine Conservation Zone	67
UK06	Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area	67
UK86	Special Area (Channel Islands)	67
UK98	Area of Special Scientific Interest (NI)	67
IN00	Ramsar Convention site	67
IN08	Special Protection Area	67
IN09	Special Area of Conservation	67

STANDARD DATA FORM for sites within the ‘UK national site network of European sites’

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are classified and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated under:

- the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales (including the adjacent territorial sea) and to a limited extent in Scotland (reserved matters) and Northern Ireland (excepted matters);
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) in Scotland;
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland; and
- the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in the UK offshore area.

Each SAC or SPA (forming part of the UK national site network of European sites) has its own Standard Data Form containing site-specific information. The information provided here generally follows the same documenting format for SACs and SPAs, as set out in the Official Journal of the European Union recording the Commission Implementing Decision of 11 July 2011 (2011/484/EU).

Please note that these forms contain a number of codes, all of which are explained either within the data forms themselves or in the end notes.

More general information on SPAs and SACs in the UK is available from the SPA homepage and SAC homepage on the JNCC website. These webpages also provide links to Standard Data Forms for all SAC and SPA sites in the UK.

https://jncc.gov.uk/

NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE **UK0012835**

SITENAME **Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

Back to top

1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
B	UK0012835

1.3 Site name

Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
1996-01	2015-12

1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation: Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Address: Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House City Road Peterborough PE1 1JY

Email:

Date site proposed as SCI:	1996-01
Date site confirmed as SCI:	2004-12
Date site designated as SAC:	2005-04
National legal reference of SAC designation:	Regulations 11 and 13-15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made).

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude	Latitude
1.118333333	51.10611111

2.2 Area [ha]:

187.02

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code	Region Name
UKJ4	Kent

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (100.0 %)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
6210	X		123.43	0	G	B	C	A	B

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered
- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation)

3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

Species					Population in the site					Site assessment			
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size	Unit	Cat.	D.qual.	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		

						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
A	1166	Triturus cristatus			p				P	DD	D			

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see reference portal)
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

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4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N14	10.0
N16	10.0
N09	70.0
N08	10.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

1 Terrestrial: Soil & Geology: clay,basic 2 Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: slope,lowland,escarpment

4.2 Quality and importance

Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. which is considered to be the priority sub-type: ?important orchid sites?.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
H	K02		I
H	H04		B
H	A04		I

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
H	A04		I
H	A02		I

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low
Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,
T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions
i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

Conservation Objectives - the Natural England links below provide access to the Conservation Objectives (and other site-related information) for its terrestrial and inshore Natura 2000 sites, including conservation advice packages and supporting documents for European Marine Sites within English waters and for cross-border sites. See also the 'UK Approach' document for more information (link via the JNCC website).

Link(s): http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216

http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/3212324
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
UK04	100.0				

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Natural England
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No, but in preparation
- [X] No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

For available information, including on Conservation Objectives, see Section 4.5.

EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC) AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below generally follow those explained in the official European Union guidelines for the Standard Data Form (also referencing the relevant page number).

1.1 Site type

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	SPA (classified Special Protection Area)	53
B	cSAC, SCI or SAC (candidate Special Area of Conservation, Site of Community Importance, designated Special Area of Conservation)	53
C	SPA area/boundary is the same as the cSAC/SCI/SAC i.e. a co-classified/designated site (Note: this situation only occurs in Gibraltar)	53

3.1 Habitat code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	57
1130	Estuaries	57
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	57
1150	Coastal lagoons	57
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	57
1170	Reefs	57
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	57
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	57
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	57
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	57
1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	57
1320	Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)	57
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	57
1340	Inland salt meadows	57
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)	57
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	57
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")	57
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	57
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with Empetrum nigrum	57
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea)	57
2160	Dunes with Hippopha• rhamnoides	57
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N02	Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	65
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N04	Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair	65
N05	Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	65
N06	Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	65
N07	Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	65
N08	Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	65
N09	Dry grassland, Steppes	65
N10	Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	65
N11	Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	65
N14	Improved grassland	65
N15	Other arable land	65
N16	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	65
N17	Coniferous woodland	65
N19	Mixed woodland	65
N21	Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas)	65
N22	Inland rocks, Screes, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	65
N23	Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites)	65
N25	Grassland and scrub habitats (general)	65
N26	Woodland habitats (general)	65

4.3 Threats code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A01	Cultivation	65
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	65
A03	Mowing / cutting of grassland	65
A04	Grazing	65
A05	Livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing)	65
A06	Annual and perennial non-timber crops	65
A07	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals	65
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A10	Restructuring agricultural land holding	65
A11	Agriculture activities not referred to above	65
B01	Forest planting on open ground	65
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use	65
B03	Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth	65
B04	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry)	65
B06	Grazing in forests/ woodland	65
B07	Forestry activities not referred to above	65
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E04	Structures, buildings in the landscape	65
E06	Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities	65
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F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources	65
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F04	Taking / Removal of terrestrial plants, general	65
F05	Illegal taking/ removal of marine fauna	65
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H05	Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges)	65
H06	Excess energy	65
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I03	Introduced genetic material, GMO	65
J01	Fire and fire suppression	65
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K01	Abiotic (slow) natural processes	65
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession	65
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	65
K04	Interspecific floral relations	65
K05	Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression	65
L05	Collapse of terrain, landslide	65
L07	Storm, cyclone	65
L08	Inundation (natural processes)	65
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M01	Changes in abiotic conditions	65
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U	Unknown threat or pressure	65
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NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE **UK0030283**

SITENAME **Stodmarsh**

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
B	UK0030283

1.3 Site name

Stodmarsh

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
2001-03	2015-12

1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation: Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Address: Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House City Road Peterborough PE1 1JY

Email:

Date site proposed as SCI:	2001-03
Date site confirmed as SCI:	2004-12
Date site designated as SAC:	2005-04
National legal reference of SAC designation:	Regulations 11 and 13-15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made).

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude	Latitude
1.1725	51.30638889

2.2 Area [ha]:

563.27

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code	Region Name
UKJ4	Kent

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (100.0 %)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
91E0	X		1.41	0	G	D			

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered
- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation)

3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

Species					Population in the site					Site assessment			
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size	Unit	Cat.	D.qual.	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		

						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
I	1016	Vertigo moulinsiana			p				C	DD	C	B	B	B

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see reference portal)
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

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4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N23	5.0
N08	6.0
N06	38.0
N16	1.0
N07	50.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

1 Terrestrial: Soil & Geology: nutrient-poor,alluvium,neutral 2 Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: floodplain,lowland

4.2 Quality and importance

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

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
H	H04		B
H	K02		I
H	H02		B
H	I01		B

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
H	A02		I
H	D05		I
H	A04		I

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low
Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,
T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions
i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

Conservation Objectives - the Natural England links below provide access to the Conservation Objectives (and other site-related information) for its terrestrial and inshore Natura 2000 sites, including conservation advice packages and supporting documents for European Marine Sites within English waters and for cross-border sites. See also the 'UK Approach' document for more information (link via the JNCC website).

Link(s): http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216

http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/3212324
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
UK04	100.0	UK01	41.7		

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Natural England
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

☐	Yes
☐	No, but in preparation
☒	No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

For available information, including on Conservation Objectives, see Section 4.5.

EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC) AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below generally follow those explained in the official European Union guidelines for the Standard Data Form (also referencing the relevant page number).

1.1 Site type

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	SPA (classified Special Protection Area)	53
B	cSAC, SCI or SAC (candidate Special Area of Conservation, Site of Community Importance, designated Special Area of Conservation)	53
C	SPA area/boundary is the same as the cSAC/SCI/SAC i.e. a co-classified/designated site (Note: this situation only occurs in Gibraltar)	53

3.1 Habitat code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	57
1130	Estuaries	57
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	57
1150	Coastal lagoons	57
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	57
1170	Reefs	57
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	57
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	57
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	57
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	57
1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	57
1320	Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)	57
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	57
1340	Inland salt meadows	57
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)	57
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	57
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")	57
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	57
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with Empetrum nigrum	57
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea)	57
2160	Dunes with Hippopha• rhamnoides	57
2170	Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae)	57
2190	Humid dune slacks	57
21A0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	57
2250	Coastal dunes with Juniperus spp.	57
2330	Inland dunes with open Corynephorus and Agrostis grasslands	57
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)	57
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea	57
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.	57
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	57

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	57
3170	Mediterranean temporary ponds	57
3180	Turloughs	57
3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation	57
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	57
4020	Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix	57
4030	European dry heaths	57
4040	Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with Erica vagans	57
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	57
4080	Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub	57
5110	Stable xerothermophilous formations with Buxus sempervirens on rock slopes (Berberidion p.p.)	57
5130	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	57
6130	Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae	57
6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	57
6170	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	57
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	57
6230	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)	57
6410	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	57
6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	57
6510	Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)	57
6520	Mountain hay meadows	57
7110	Active raised bogs	57
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	57
7130	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	57
7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	57
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	57
7210	Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae	57
7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	57
7230	Alkaline fens	57
7240	Alpine pioneer formations of the Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae	57
8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	57
8120	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii)	57
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8240	Limestone pavements	57
8310	Caves not open to the public	57
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	57
9120	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)	57
9130	Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests	57
9160	Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the Carpinion betuli	57
9180	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	57
9190	Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains	57
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	57
91C0	Caledonian forest	57
91D0	Bog woodland	57
91E0	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	57
91J0	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	57

3.1 Habitat representativity (abbreviated to 'Representativity' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent representatively	57
B	Good representatively	57
C	Significant representatively	57
D	Non-significant presence representatively	57

3.1 Relative surface

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	58
B	> 2%-15%	58
C	≤ 2%	58

3.1 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Conservation' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	59
B	Good conservation	59
C	Average or reduced conservation	59

3.1 Global assessment (abbreviated to 'Global' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	59
B	Good value	59
C	Significant value	59

3.2 Population (abbreviated to 'Pop.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	62
B	> 2%-15%	62
C	≤ 2%	62
D	Non-significant population	62

3.2 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Con.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	63
B	Good conservation	63
C	Average or reduced conservation	63

3.2 Isolation (abbreviated to 'Iso.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Population (almost) Isolated	63
B	Population not-isolated, but on margins of area of distribution	63
C	Population not-isolated within extended distribution range	63

3.2 Global Grade (abbreviated to 'Glo.' or 'G.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	63
B	Good value	63
C	Significant value	63

3.3 Other species – essentially covers bird assemblage types

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
WATR	Non-breeding waterbird assemblage	UK specific code
SBA	Breeding seabird assemblage	UK specific code

BBA	Breeding bird assemblage (applies only to sites classified pre 2000)	UK specific code

4.1 Habitat class code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
N01	Marine areas, Sea inlets	65
N02	Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	65
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https://jncc.gov.uk/

NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE **UK9012121**

SITENAME **Stodmarsh**

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
A	UK9012121

1.3 Site name

Stodmarsh

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
1993-12	2015-12

1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation:	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Address:	Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House City Road Peterborough PE1 1JY
Email:	

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

Date site classified as SPA:	1993-12
National legal reference of SPA designation	Regulations 12A and 13-15 of the Conservation Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made) as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/625/contents/made).

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude	Latitude
1.171944444	51.305

2.2 Area [ha]:

481.32

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code	Region Name
UKJ4	Kent

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (100.0 %)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

Species					Population in the site					Site assessment			
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D.qual.	A|B|C|D	A|B|C	
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo
B	A056	Anas clypeata			w	191	191	i		G	C		C	
B	A050	Anas penelope			w				P	DD	C		C	
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			w	897	897	i		G	C		C	
B	A051	Anas strepera			w	148	148	i		G	C		C	
B	A051	Anas strepera			r	6	6	p		G	C		C	
B	A394	Anser albifrons albifrons			w				P	DD	C		B	
B	A059	Aythya ferina			w	264	264	cmales		G	C		C	
B	A061	Aythya fuligula			w	186	186	i		G	C		C	
B	A021	Botaurus stellaris			w	2	2	i		G	B		C	
B	A082	Circus cyaneus			w	9	9	i		G	C		C	

B	A153	Gallinago gallinago			w	329	329	i		G				
B	A118	Rallus aquaticus			w				P	DD			C	
B	A142	Vanellus vanellus			w	1128	1128	i		G	C		C	

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see reference portal)
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

3.3 Other important species of flora and fauna (optional)

Species					Population in the site				Motivation					
Group	CODE	Scientific Name	S	NP	Size		Unit	Cat.	Species Annex		Other categories			
					Min	Max		C|R|V|P	IV	V	A	B	C	D
B	BBA	Breeding bird assemblage												X

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, Fu = Fungi, I = Invertebrates, L = Lichens, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **CODE:** for Birds, Annex IV and V species the code as provided in the reference portal should be used in addition to the scientific name
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting, (see reference portal)
- **Cat.:** Abundance categories: C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present
- **Motivation categories: IV, V:** Annex Species (Habitats Directive), **A:** National Red List data; **B:** Endemics; **C:** International Conventions; **D:** other reasons

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

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4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N16	5.3
N14	17.5
N02	2.7
N06	28.9

N07	45.6
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

1 Terrestrial: Soil & Geology: mud,peat,neutral 2 Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: valley,floodplain,lowland

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) Over winter the area regularly supports: Botaurus stellaris (Europe - breeding) 4% of the GB population 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 (North-western Europe) 0.8% of the population in Great Britain 5 year mean, 1988-1992 Over winter the area regularly supports: Anas clypeata (North-western/Central Europe) 1.9% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 Anas strepera (North-western Europe) 1.8% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96 ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
H	H02		B
H	I01		B
H	H04		B
H	K02		I

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
H	A04		I
H	D05		I
H	A02		I

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low
Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,
T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions
i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

Conservation Objectives - the Natural England links below provide access to the Conservation Objectives (and other site-related information) for its terrestrial and inshore Natura 2000 sites, including conservation advice packages and supporting documents for European Marine Sites within English waters and for cross-border sites. See also the 'UK Approach' document for more information (link via the JNCC website).

Link(s): http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216

http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/3212324
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
UK04	100.0	UK01	31.5		

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Natural England
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

☐	Yes
☐	No, but in preparation
☒	No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

For available information, including on Conservation Objectives, see Section 4.5.

EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC) AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below generally follow those explained in the official European Union guidelines for the Standard Data Form (also referencing the relevant page number).

1.1 Site type

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	SPA (classified Special Protection Area)	53
B	cSAC, SCI or SAC (candidate Special Area of Conservation, Site of Community Importance, designated Special Area of Conservation)	53
C	SPA area/boundary is the same as the cSAC/SCI/SAC i.e. a co-classified/designated site (Note: this situation only occurs in Gibraltar)	53

3.1 Habitat code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	57
1130	Estuaries	57
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	57
1150	Coastal lagoons	57
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	57
1170	Reefs	57
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	57
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	57
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	57
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	57
1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	57
1320	Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)	57
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	57
1340	Inland salt meadows	57
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)	57
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	57
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")	57
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	57
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with Empetrum nigrum	57
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea)	57
2160	Dunes with Hippopha• rhamnoides	57
2170	Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae)	57
2190	Humid dune slacks	57
21A0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	57
2250	Coastal dunes with Juniperus spp.	57
2330	Inland dunes with open Corynephorus and Agrostis grasslands	57
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)	57
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea	57
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.	57
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	57

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	57
3170	Mediterranean temporary ponds	57
3180	Turloughs	57
3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation	57
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	57
4020	Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix	57
4030	European dry heaths	57
4040	Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with Erica vagans	57
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	57
4080	Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub	57
5110	Stable xerothermophilous formations with Buxus sempervirens on rock slopes (Berberidion p.p.)	57
5130	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	57
6130	Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae	57
6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	57
6170	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	57
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	57
6230	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)	57
6410	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	57
6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	57
6510	Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)	57
6520	Mountain hay meadows	57
7110	Active raised bogs	57
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	57
7130	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	57
7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	57
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	57
7210	Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae	57
7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	57
7230	Alkaline fens	57
7240	Alpine pioneer formations of the Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae	57
8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	57
8120	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii)	57
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8240	Limestone pavements	57
8310	Caves not open to the public	57
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	57
9120	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)	57
9130	Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests	57
9160	Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the Carpinion betuli	57
9180	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	57
9190	Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains	57
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	57
91C0	Caledonian forest	57
91D0	Bog woodland	57
91E0	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	57
91J0	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	57

3.1 Habitat representativity (abbreviated to 'Representativity' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent representatively	57
B	Good representatively	57
C	Significant representatively	57
D	Non-significant presence representatively	57

3.1 Relative surface

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	58
B	> 2%-15%	58
C	≤ 2%	58

3.1 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Conservation' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	59
B	Good conservation	59
C	Average or reduced conservation	59

3.1 Global assessment (abbreviated to 'Global' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	59
B	Good value	59
C	Significant value	59

3.2 Population (abbreviated to 'Pop.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	62
B	> 2%-15%	62
C	≤ 2%	62
D	Non-significant population	62

3.2 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Con.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	63
B	Good conservation	63
C	Average or reduced conservation	63

3.2 Isolation (abbreviated to 'Iso.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Population (almost) Isolated	63
B	Population not-isolated, but on margins of area of distribution	63
C	Population not-isolated within extended distribution range	63

3.2 Global Grade (abbreviated to 'Glo.' or 'G.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	63
B	Good value	63
C	Significant value	63

3.3 Other species – essentially covers bird assemblage types

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
WATR	Non-breeding waterbird assemblage	UK specific code
SBA	Breeding seabird assemblage	UK specific code

BBA	Breeding bird assemblage (applies only to sites classified pre 2000)	UK specific code

4.1 Habitat class code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
N01	Marine areas, Sea inlets	65
N02	Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	65
N03	Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes	65
N04	Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair	65
N05	Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	65
N06	Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	65
N07	Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	65
N08	Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	65
N09	Dry grassland, Steppes	65
N10	Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	65
N11	Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	65
N14	Improved grassland	65
N15	Other arable land	65
N16	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	65
N17	Coniferous woodland	65
N19	Mixed woodland	65
N21	Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas)	65
N22	Inland rocks, Screes, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	65
N23	Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites)	65
N25	Grassland and scrub habitats (general)	65
N26	Woodland habitats (general)	65

4.3 Threats code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A01	Cultivation	65
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	65
A03	Mowing / cutting of grassland	65
A04	Grazing	65
A05	Livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing)	65
A06	Annual and perennial non-timber crops	65
A07	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals	65
A08	Fertilisation	65
A10	Restructuring agricultural land holding	65
A11	Agriculture activities not referred to above	65
B01	Forest planting on open ground	65
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use	65
B03	Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth	65
B04	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry)	65
B06	Grazing in forests/ woodland	65
B07	Forestry activities not referred to above	65
C01	Mining and quarrying	65
C02	Exploration and extraction of oil or gas	65
C03	Renewable abiotic energy use	65
D01	Roads, paths and railroads	65
D02	Utility and service lines	65
D03	Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions	65
D04	Airports, flightpaths	65
D05	Improved access to site	65
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation	65
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	65

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
E03	Discharges	65
E04	Structures, buildings in the landscape	65
E06	Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities	65
F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture	65
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources	65
F03	Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.)	65
F04	Taking / Removal of terrestrial plants, general	65
F05	Illegal taking/ removal of marine fauna	65
F06	Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above	65
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities	65
G02	Sport and leisure structures	65
G03	Interpretative centres	65
G04	Military use and civil unrest	65
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	65
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)	65
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	65
H03	Marine water pollution	65
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	65
H05	Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges)	65
H06	Excess energy	65
H07	Other forms of pollution	65
I01	Invasive non-native species	65
I02	Problematic native species	65
I03	Introduced genetic material, GMO	65
J01	Fire and fire suppression	65
J02	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	65
J03	Other ecosystem modifications	65
K01	Abiotic (slow) natural processes	65
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession	65
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	65
K04	Interspecific floral relations	65
K05	Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression	65
L05	Collapse of terrain, landslide	65
L07	Storm, cyclone	65
L08	Inundation (natural processes)	65
L10	Other natural catastrophes	65
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions	65
M02	Changes in biotic conditions	65
U	Unknown threat or pressure	65
XO	Threats and pressures from outside the Member State	65

5.1 Designation type codes

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
UK00	No Protection Status	67
UK01	National Nature Reserve	67
UK04	Site of Special Scientific Interest (GB)	67
UK05	Marine Conservation Zone	67
UK06	Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area	67
UK86	Special Area (Channel Islands)	67
UK98	Area of Special Scientific Interest (NI)	67
IN00	Ramsar Convention site	67
IN08	Special Protection Area	67
IN09	Special Area of Conservation	67

STANDARD DATA FORM for sites within the ‘UK national site network of European sites’

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are classified and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated under:

- the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales (including the adjacent territorial sea) and to a limited extent in Scotland (reserved matters) and Northern Ireland (excepted matters);
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) in Scotland;
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland; and
- the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in the UK offshore area.

Each SAC or SPA (forming part of the UK national site network of European sites) has its own Standard Data Form containing site-specific information. The information provided here generally follows the same documenting format for SACs and SPAs, as set out in the Official Journal of the European Union recording the Commission Implementing Decision of 11 July 2011 (2011/484/EU).

Please note that these forms contain a number of codes, all of which are explained either within the data forms themselves or in the end notes.

More general information on SPAs and SACs in the UK is available from the SPA homepage and SAC homepage on the JNCC website. These webpages also provide links to Standard Data Forms for all SAC and SPA sites in the UK.

https://jncc.gov.uk/

NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE	**UK0012831**
SITENAME	**Wye and Crundale Downs**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
B	UK0012831

1.3 Site name

Wye and Crundale Downs

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
1995-06	2015-12

1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation:	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Address:	Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House City Road Peterborough PE1 1JY
Email:	

Date site proposed as SCI:	1995-06
Date site confirmed as SCI:	2004-12
Date site designated as SAC:	2005-04
National legal reference of SAC designation:	Regulations 11 and 13-15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made).

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude	Latitude
0.981111111	51.16

2.2 Area [ha]:

111.32

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code	Region Name
UKJ4	Kent

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (100.0 %)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
6210	X		57.54	0	G	A	C	A	B
9130			2.0	0	G	D			

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered
- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

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4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N08	5.0
N16	20.0
N14	15.0
N09	60.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

1 Terrestrial: Soil & Geology: nutrient-poor,limestone,basic,sedimentary 2 Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: escarpment,hilly,lowland,slope

4.2 Quality and importance

Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. which is considered to be the priority sub-type: ?important orchid sites?.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
H	K02		I
H	H04		B
H	A04		I

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
H	A02		I
H	A04		I
H	B02		I
H	D05		I

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low
Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,
T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions
i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

Conservation Objectives - the Natural England links below provide access to the Conservation Objectives (and other site-related information) for its terrestrial and inshore Natura 2000 sites, including conservation advice packages and supporting documents for European Marine Sites within English waters and for cross-border sites. See also the 'UK Approach' document for more information (link via the JNCC website).

Link(s): http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216

http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/3212324
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
UK01	94.0	UK04	100.0		

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Natural England
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

X	Yes	Name: Wye and Crundale Downs: The Wye National Nature Reserve (NNR) Management Plan provides management infomation related to this site. This is available from Natural England. Link:
	No, but in preparation	
	No	

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

For available information, including on Conservation Objectives, see Section 4.5.

EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC) AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below generally follow those explained in the official European Union guidelines for the Standard Data Form (also referencing the relevant page number).

1.1 Site type

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	SPA (classified Special Protection Area)	53
B	cSAC, SCI or SAC (candidate Special Area of Conservation, Site of Community Importance, designated Special Area of Conservation)	53
C	SPA area/boundary is the same as the cSAC/SCI/SAC i.e. a co-classified/designated site (Note: this situation only occurs in Gibraltar)	53

3.1 Habitat code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	57
1130	Estuaries	57
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	57
1150	Coastal lagoons	57
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	57
1170	Reefs	57
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	57
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	57
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	57
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	57
1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	57
1320	Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)	57
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	57
1340	Inland salt meadows	57
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)	57
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	57
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")	57
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	57
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with Empetrum nigrum	57
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea)	57
2160	Dunes with Hippopha• rhamnoides	57
2170	Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae)	57
2190	Humid dune slacks	57
21A0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	57
2250	Coastal dunes with Juniperus spp.	57
2330	Inland dunes with open Corynephorus and Agrostis grasslands	57
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)	57
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea	57
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.	57
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	57

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	57
3170	Mediterranean temporary ponds	57
3180	Turloughs	57
3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation	57
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	57
4020	Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix	57
4030	European dry heaths	57
4040	Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with Erica vagans	57
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	57
4080	Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub	57
5110	Stable xerothermophilous formations with Buxus sempervirens on rock slopes (Berberidion p.p.)	57
5130	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	57
6130	Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae	57
6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	57
6170	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	57
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	57
6230	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)	57
6410	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	57
6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	57
6510	Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)	57
6520	Mountain hay meadows	57
7110	Active raised bogs	57
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	57
7130	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	57
7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	57
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	57
7210	Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae	57
7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	57
7230	Alkaline fens	57
7240	Alpine pioneer formations of the Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae	57
8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	57
8120	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii)	57
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8240	Limestone pavements	57
8310	Caves not open to the public	57
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	57
9120	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)	57
9130	Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests	57
9160	Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the Carpinion betuli	57
9180	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	57
9190	Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains	57
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	57
91C0	Caledonian forest	57
91D0	Bog woodland	57
91E0	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	57
91J0	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	57

3.1 Habitat representativity (abbreviated to 'Representativity' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent representatively	57
B	Good representatively	57
C	Significant representatively	57
D	Non-significant presence representatively	57

3.1 Relative surface

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	58
B	> 2%-15%	58
C	≤ 2%	58

3.1 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Conservation' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	59
B	Good conservation	59
C	Average or reduced conservation	59

3.1 Global assessment (abbreviated to 'Global' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	59
B	Good value	59
C	Significant value	59

3.2 Population (abbreviated to 'Pop.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	62
B	> 2%-15%	62
C	≤ 2%	62
D	Non-significant population	62

3.2 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Con.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	63
B	Good conservation	63
C	Average or reduced conservation	63

3.2 Isolation (abbreviated to 'Iso.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Population (almost) Isolated	63
B	Population not-isolated, but on margins of area of distribution	63
C	Population not-isolated within extended distribution range	63

3.2 Global Grade (abbreviated to 'Glo.' or 'G.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	63
B	Good value	63
C	Significant value	63

3.3 Other species – essentially covers bird assemblage types

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
WATR	Non-breeding waterbird assemblage	UK specific code
SBA	Breeding seabird assemblage	UK specific code

BBA	Breeding bird assemblage (applies only to sites classified pre 2000)	UK specific code

4.1 Habitat class code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
N01	Marine areas, Sea inlets	65
N02	Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	65
N03	Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes	65
N04	Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair	65
N05	Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	65
N06	Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	65
N07	Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	65
N08	Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	65
N09	Dry grassland, Steppes	65
N10	Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	65
N11	Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	65
N14	Improved grassland	65
N15	Other arable land	65
N16	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	65
N17	Coniferous woodland	65
N19	Mixed woodland	65
N21	Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas)	65
N22	Inland rocks, Screes, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	65
N23	Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites)	65
N25	Grassland and scrub habitats (general)	65
N26	Woodland habitats (general)	65

4.3 Threats code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A01	Cultivation	65
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	65
A03	Mowing / cutting of grassland	65
A04	Grazing	65
A05	Livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing)	65
A06	Annual and perennial non-timber crops	65
A07	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals	65
A08	Fertilisation	65
A10	Restructuring agricultural land holding	65
A11	Agriculture activities not referred to above	65
B01	Forest planting on open ground	65
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use	65
B03	Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth	65
B04	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry)	65
B06	Grazing in forests/ woodland	65
B07	Forestry activities not referred to above	65
C01	Mining and quarrying	65
C02	Exploration and extraction of oil or gas	65
C03	Renewable abiotic energy use	65
D01	Roads, paths and railroads	65
D02	Utility and service lines	65
D03	Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions	65
D04	Airports, flightpaths	65
D05	Improved access to site	65
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation	65
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	65

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
E03	Discharges	65
E04	Structures, buildings in the landscape	65
E06	Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities	65
F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture	65
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic ressources	65
F03	Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.)	65
F04	Taking / Removal of terrestrial plants, general	65
F05	Illegal taking/ removal of marine fauna	65
F06	Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above	65
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities	65
G02	Sport and leisure structures	65
G03	Interpretative centres	65
G04	Military use and civil unrest	65
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	65
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)	65
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	65
H03	Marine water pollution	65
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	65
H05	Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges)	65
H06	Excess energy	65
H07	Other forms of pollution	65
I01	Invasive non-native species	65
I02	Problematic native species	65
I03	Introduced genetic material, GMO	65
J01	Fire and fire suppression	65
J02	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	65
J03	Other ecosystem modifications	65
K01	Abiotic (slow) natural processes	65
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession	65
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	65
K04	Interspecific floral relations	65
K05	Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression	65
L05	Collapse of terrain, landslide	65
L07	Storm, cyclone	65
L08	Inundation (natural processes)	65
L10	Other natural catastrophes	65
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions	65
M02	Changes in biotic conditions	65
U	Unknown threat or pressure	65
XO	Threats and pressures from outside the Member State	65

5.1 Designation type codes

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
UK00	No Protection Status	67
UK01	National Nature Reserve	67
UK04	Site of Special Scientific Interest (GB)	67
UK05	Marine Conservation Zone	67
UK06	Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area	67
UK86	Special Area (Channel Islands)	67
UK98	Area of Special Scientific Interest (NI)	67
IN00	Ramsar Convention site	67
IN08	Special Protection Area	67
IN09	Special Area of Conservation	67

Annex 2: Conservation Objectives for Stodmarsh SAC and SPA

European Site Conservation Objectives for Stodmarsh Special Area of Conservation Site code: UK0030283

With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- **The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species**
- **The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species**
- **The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely**
- **The populations of the qualifying species, and,**
- **The distribution of the qualifying species within the site.**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

Qualifying Features:

S1016. *Vertigo moulinsiana*; Desmoulin`s whorl snail

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as amended from time to time (the "Habitats Regulations"). They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment', including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where available) will also provide a framework to inform the measures needed to conserve or restore the European Site and the prevention of deterioration or significant disturbance of its qualifying features.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each habitat or species of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving Favourable Conservation Status for that species or habitat type at a UK level. The term 'favourable conservation status' is defined in regulation 3 of the Habitats Regulations.

Publication date: 27 November 2018 (version 3). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 30 June 2014 to reflect the consolidation of the Habitats Regulations in 2017.

European Site Conservation Objectives for Stodmarsh Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9012121

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

- **The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely**
- **The population of each of the qualifying features, and,**
- **The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

Qualifying Features:

A021 *Botaurus stellaris*; Great bittern (Non-breeding)
A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Breeding)
A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Non-breeding)
A056 *Anas clypeata*; Northern shoveler (Non-breeding)
A082 *Circus cyaneus*; Hen harrier (Non-breeding)
Waterbird assemblage
Breeding bird assemblage

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) ('the Habitats Regulations'). They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives, and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available), will also provide a framework to inform the management of the European Site and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a Special Protection Area (SPA).

Where these objectives are being met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

Publication date: 21 February 2019 (version 3). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 30 June 2014 to reflect the consolidation of the Habitats Regulations in 2017.

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