

Appendix F.6 Citations for the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Designated Sites

Site name: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits **County:** Northamptonshire

District: East Northamptonshire, Northampton, South Northamptonshire, Wellingborough

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under section 28C of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as inserted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Local Planning Authority: East Northamptonshire District Council, Borough Council of Wellingborough, Northampton Borough Council, South Northamptonshire District Council, Northamptonshire County Council

National Grid reference: SP 966717 **Area:** 1381.87 ha

Ordnance Survey sheet: **1:50,000** 141, 152 **1:10,000:** TL07NW; TL08SW; SP98SE; SP97SE/NE; SP96NW/NE/SW; SP86SE/NE/SW

Notification date: 24 November 2005

Reasons for notification:

The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SSSI is a nationally important site for its breeding bird assemblage of lowland open waters and their margins (including the largest nesting colony of grey herons *Ardea cinerea* in Northamptonshire), wintering waterbird species, an assemblage of over 20,000 waterbirds in the non-breeding season and a rare example of wet floodplain woodland.

General description:

This chain of both active and exhausted sand and gravel pits extends for approximately 35 kilometres along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene floodplain from Clifford Hill on the southern outskirts of Northampton, downstream to Thorpe Waterville, north of Thrapston. They form an extensive series of shallow and deep open waters which occur in association with a wide range of marginal features, such as sparsely-vegetated islands, gravel bars and shorelines, and habitats including reedswamp, marsh, wet ditches, rush pasture, rough grassland and scattered scrub. This range of habitat and the varied topography of the lagoons provide valuable nesting, resting and feeding conditions to sustain nationally important numbers and assemblages of breeding and wintering birds.

The extensive open waters of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits collectively form one of the most important inland localities in England for waterbirds in the non-breeding season. The lagoons associated with the six pit complexes at Thrapston, Ringstead, Stanwick, Ditchford, Earls Barton and Clifford Hill are all particularly significant as waterfowl refuges, together regularly supporting peak numbers of birds in excess of 20,000 individuals, comprising more than forty species. As well as the waterbird species listed below, which individually occur in nationally important numbers, this assemblage regularly includes large numbers (greater than 2,000

individuals) of mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* and lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. Eleven species of waterbird regularly winter here in nationally important numbers: mute swan *Cygnus olor*, wigeon *Anas penelope*, gadwall *A. strepera*, shoveler *A. clypeata*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, pochard *A. ferina*, great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, coot *Fulica atra* and golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*.

The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits are considered to be of exceptional significance for the variety and quality of breeding birds associated with their open water and marginal habitats. The pit complexes at Earls Barton, Stanwick and Ditchford are of particular importance for this assemblage, although many of the species occur throughout the SSSI. At least 21 species comprise a regular breeding assemblage which includes mute swan, gadwall, shoveler, pochard, tufted duck, little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, great crested grebe and wading birds such as redshank *Tringa totanus*, which have suffered a steady population decline across the region. Exposed shoreline margins, banks and sparsely-vegetated gravel islands within the lagoons provide nesting sites for little ringed plover *Charadrius dubius*, ringed plover *C. hiaticula*, kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, and colonies of common tern *Sterna hirundo*, including the largest two in the county at Earls Barton and Stanwick. Breeding reed warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*, sedge warbler *A. schoenobaenus* and the rare Cetti's warbler *Cettia cetti*, along with water rail *Rallus aquaticus*, cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*, yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava*, grey wagtail *M. cinerea* and reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*, are associated with damp grassland, scattered scrub and stands of marginal vegetation at the lagoon edges. This assemblage also includes the largest breeding colony of grey herons in the county at a former duck decoy at Titchmarsh within the Thrapston gravel pit complex. These tree-nesting birds utilise woodland around the disused decoy pond which consists of several different species of trees and shrubs including silver birch *Betula pendula*, crack willow *Salix fragilis*, Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* and alder *Alnus glutinosa*.

Stands of wet floodplain woodland occur on past gravel workings and include those at Earls Barton which form the largest example of this now scarce woodland type in the county. Mature stands are largely dominated by white willow *Salix alba* with crack willow *S. fragilis* and occasionally ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Osier *S. viminalis* and grey willow *S. cinerea* dominate a dense and varied shrub layer amongst an abundance of fallen decaying timber, occurring with others such as almond willow *S. triandra*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, buckthorn *Rhamnus carthaticus* and blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*. The field layer of this woodland is generally species-poor but characteristic of these seasonally inundated stands, with frequent common nettle *Urtica dioica*, skullcap *Sculletaria galericulata*, cleavers *Galium aparine*, marsh bedstraw *G. palustre*, rough meadow-grass *Poa trivialis* and fen species such as lesser pond sedge *Carex acutiformis* and reed canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*. More open areas of carr are dominated by young stands of willow scrub and reedswamp which fringe a number of open ponds and pools.

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) – 2009-2012 version

Available for download from http://www.ramsar.org/ris/key_ris_index.htm.

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 and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 14, 3rd edition). A 4th edition of the Handbook is in preparation and will be available in 2009.
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:

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

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DD MM YY

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 7 April 2011

3. Country:

UK (England)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

The precise name of the designated site in one of the three official languages (English, French or Spanish) of the Convention. Alternative names, including in local language(s), should be given in parentheses after the precise name.

Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits

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

This RIS is for (tick one box only):

a) Designation of a new Ramsar site ; or

b) 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

The Ramsar site boundary and site area are unchanged:

or

If the site boundary has changed:

- i) the boundary has been delineated more accurately ; or
- ii) the boundary has been extended ; or
- iii) the boundary has been restricted**

and/or

If the site area has changed:

- i) the area has been measured more accurately ; or
- ii) the area has been extended ; or
- iii) the area has been reduced**

** **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:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Note 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) a **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): ;
- ii) an **electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) ;
- iii) a **GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** .

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 boundary follows the same boundary as Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and encompasses most of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SSSI. For further details please see the maps provided at designation.

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

Longitude: 00 34 56 W

Latitude: 52 20 04 N

9. General location:

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

Nearest town / city: Wellingborough and Northampton

The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits are located in the East Midlands region which is situated towards the centre of England in the county of Northamptonshire. The site extends for approximately 35 kilometres

along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene floodplain on the southern outskirts of Northampton, downstream to Thorpe Waterville, north of Thrapston.

10. Elevation: (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)

Min: 24m Max: 59m Mean: 37.77m

11. Area: (in hectares) 1,357.67

12. General overview of the site:

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

This chain of both active and disused sand and gravel pits form an extensive series of shallow and deep open waters which occur in association with a wide range of marginal features, such as sparsely-vegetated islands, gravel bars and shorelines and habitats including reedswamp, marsh, wet ditches, rush pasture, rough grassland and scattered scrub.

This range of habitats and the varied topography of the lagoons provide valuable resting and feeding conditions for concentrations of wintering waterbirds, especially ducks and waders. Species such as golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* also spend time feeding and roosting on surrounding agricultural land outside the Ramsar site.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Tick the box under 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). All Criteria which apply should be ticked.

1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 8 • 9

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).

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

In the non-breeding season, the site regularly supports 23,821 individual waterbirds (5 year peak mean 1999/2000 – 2003/04).

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 subspecies/population
Mute swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>	629 individuals - wintering	5 year peak mean 1999/2000 – 2003/04	1.7% Britain
Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i>	773 individuals – wintering	5 year peak mean 1999/2000 – 2003/04	2.0% <i>strepera</i> , NW Europe (breeding)

Bird counts from: Denton Wood Associates. 2005. *Wintering waterbirds in the Upper Nene Valley – supplementary data analysis in relation to possible SSSI, SPA and Ramsar site designation*. Unpublished report to English Nature. Copies available from Natural England on request.

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:**

b) **biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):

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	Alluvium, basic, neutral
Geomorphology & landscape	Floodplain, excavations
Nutrient Status	Eutrophic
pH	Circumneutral
Salinity	Fresh
Soil	Mainly organic
Water permanence	Permanent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Bedford 1971 – 2000) http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/bedford.html Max. daily temperature: 13.5 °C Min daily temperature: 5.6 °C Days of air frost: 50.5 Rainfall: 584.4mm Hrs of sunshine: 1523.6

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

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

The River Nene Catchment is 631 square miles (1,630km²).

The key characteristics of the wider Nene Valley - broad, flat and predominantly wide floodplain surrounded by rising landform of adjacent landscape types; deep, alluvial clay and silt with sand and gravel, masking the underlying geology; river channel with slow flowing watercourse with limited bank side vegetation in areas.

18. Hydrological values:

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

Flood water storage

19. Wetland Types

a) presence:

Circle or underline the applicable codes for the wetland types of the Ramsar “Classification System for Wetland Type” present in the Ramsar site. Descriptions of each wetland type code are provided in Annex I of the *Explanatory Notes & Guidelines*.

Marine/coastal: A • B • C • D • E • F • G • H • I • J • K • Zk(a)

Inland: L • M • N • O • P • Q • R • Sp • Ss • Tp Ts • U • Va •
Vt • W • Xf • Xp • Y • Zg • Zk(b)

Human-made: 1 • 2 • 3 • 4 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 8 • 9 • Zk(c)

b) dominance:

List the wetland types identified in a) above in order of their dominance (by area) in the Ramsar site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

Code	Name	% Area
7 (Human-made)	Excavations	49%
4 (Human-made)	Seasonally flooded agricultural land	26%
Other	Other	18%
6 (Human-made)	Water storage areas	5%
Ts (Inland)	Seasonal / intermittent freshwater marshes / pools on inorganic soils	1%
Xf (Inland)	Freshwater, tree dominated wetlands	1%

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.

Open water, with associated wetland habitats including reedbeds, fen grassland and woodland which support a number of wetland plant and animal species including internationally important numbers of wintering and breeding wildfowl.

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, 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.*

Invasive plants present on site:

- Floating pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*
- New Zealand Pigmy Weed *Crassula helmsii*
- Nuttall's Pondweed *Elodea nuttallii*

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 14, 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 occurring at levels of European importance (as identified at designation):

Over winter the area regularly supports:

Annex 1 species	Count and season	Period	% of GB population
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	2 individuals – wintering	5 year peak mean 1999/2000 – 2003/04	2.0%
Golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	5,790 individuals – wintering	5 year peak mean 1999/2000 – 2003/04	2.3%

**Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:
Over winter the area regularly supports:**

Species	Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SSSI (individual birds)	Period	% of GB population
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	5,001	5 year peak mean 1999/2000 – 2003/04	1.2%
Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>	178		1.2%
Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>	625		1.1%
Tufted duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	1,187		1.3%
Great crested grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	288		1.8%
Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	285		1.2%
Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	2,323		1.3%

23. Social and cultural values:

a) 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:

- Aesthetic
- Conservation education
- Environmental education/ interpretation
- Livestock grazing
- Non-consumptive recreation
- Scientific research
- Sport fishing
- Tourism
- Transportation/navigation

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, tick the box and 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:

a) within the Ramsar site:

b) in the surrounding area:

Ownership category	a) On-site	b) Off-site
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	+	+
Local authority, municipality etc.	+	+
Private	+	+
Other	+	+

25. Current land (including water) use:

a) within the Ramsar site:

b) in the surroundings/catchment:

Activity	a) On-Site	b) Off-Site
Nature conservation	+	+
Tourism	+	+
Recreation	+	+
Current scientific research	+	+
Fishing: recreational / sport	+	+
Grazing	+	+
Flood control	+	
Transport route		+
Domestic water supply		+
Urban development		+
Non-urbanised settlements		+
Agriculture	+	+

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

a) within the Ramsar site:

b) in the surrounding area:

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of problem	a) On Site	b) Off Site	Major impact
Unspecified development: urban use	1	Activities connected with ongoing urban development cause significant disturbance to wintering birds if unmanaged.		+	
Vegetation succession	2	Lack of grazing is leading to succession from short grassland to rank grassland, scrub / woodland. Whilst this is desirable in certain areas, widespread vegetation succession will result in a decrease in the availability of suitable habitat for key species.	+		+
Introduction / invasion of non-native plant species	2	<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i> and <i>Crassula helmsii</i> present in small areas of the site	+		
Recreation / tourism disturbance	2	Access by people and dogs both on and off of public rights of way is a significant cause of disturbance in some areas. The site is also subject to a variety of recreational activities including fishing & watersports. Demand for access and formal / informal recreational activities within the Nene Valley are increasing; development of facilities / opportunities is often in an uncoordinated manner.	+	+	+

For category 2 factors only.

What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?

Vegetation succession: This is principally being addressed through agri-environment schemes, predominantly HLS. This is only relevant where large areas of grassland are involved. The scope of agri-environment schemes mean that much of the land is not eligible and there are no alternative sources of funding for the small scale landowners / occupiers to undertake positive management works associated with marginal / aquatic habitats e.g. willow clearance around edge of a lake. Alternative sources for funding e.g. local grant schemes should be investigated. Issues leading to vegetation succession are also to be addressed through enhanced liaison with landowners/occupiers, management agreements and management plans; assisted by powers under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, as amended.

Introduction / invasion of non-native plant species: Invasion of lakeside edges by invasive non-native plants is to be addressed through enhanced liaison with landowners / occupiers and The Environment Agency.

Recreation / tourism disturbance: The intensity and location of recreational activities taking place just prior to SSSI notification on 24 November 2005 was considered compatible with maintaining appropriate population levels. This is managed through voluntary agreements assisted by powers within Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 as amended and The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010.

The development of future recreational opportunities is to be addressed through valley-wide tourism and recreational strategies to provide a coordinated approach; including the development of access

management plans for key sites and that appropriate planning policies are incorporated within strategic planning documents to ensure developments take account of direct and indirect recreational disturbance. Natural England intend to support and work in partnership with the following initiatives: The Wildlife Trust's Nene Valley Vision, RSPB Futurescapes and River Nene Regional Park projects.

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? Yes

27. Conservation measures taken:

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site:

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	+	+
Special Protection Area (SPA)	+	+
Land owned by a non-governmental organisation for nature conservation	+	+

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV ; V ; VI

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

No

d) 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 practices 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.

- Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) Counts
- Ongoing SSSI unit monitoring
- Various local Wildlife Trust monitoring and research projects

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

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

The Wildlife Trust for Northamptonshire and Rockingham Forest Trust make use of the site for environmental educational purposes, both formal and informal. The Wildlife Trust have also established an Ecology Group within the Nene Valley aimed at increasing the number of local people with wildlife monitoring skills and involvement with local reserves.

Within the wider Ramsar site, bird hides exist at Summer Leys Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and Titchmarsh LNR, both managed by the Wildlife Trust and at Stanwick Lakes, managed by Rockingham

Forest Trust. There is a visitor centre at Stanwick Lakes, managed by Rockingham Forest Trust which has interpretation facilities and an events programme relating to Stanwick Lakes; there is no wider Nene Valley focussed visitor centre.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

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

Recreational activities: bird-watching, walking, fishing, sailing, canoeing, water-skiing, cycling

Facilities provided: visitor centre, interpretation, bird hides, cafe

These activities / facilities are spread across the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits

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, Natural England, 3rd Floor, Touthill Close, City Road, Peterborough PE1 1XN, UK

34. Bibliographical references:

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

Brayshaw, S. 2004. *Biodiversity and conservation assessment of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits in relation to possible SPA, Ramsar site and SSSI designation.* RSPB, unpublished report.

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Kershaw, M. & Cranswick, P.A. 2003. Numbers of Wintering Waterbirds in Great Britain and the Isle of Man, 1994/1995 – 1998/1999): I. Wildfowl and selected waterbirds. *Biological Conservation* **111**: 91 – 104.

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Wetlands International. 2002. *Waterbird Population Estimates – Third Edition*. Wetlands International Global Series No. 12. Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Please return to: **Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • e-mail: ramsar@ramsar.org

NATURA 2000 – STANDARD DATA FORM

Special Protection Areas under the EC Birds Directive.

Each Natura 2000 site in the United Kingdom has its own Standard Data Form containing site-specific information. The data form for this site has been generated from the Natura 2000 Database submitted to the European Commission on the following date:

22/12/2015

The information provided here, follows the officially agreed site information format for Natura 2000 sites, as set out in the [Official Journal of the European Union recording the Commission Implementing Decision of 11 July 2011](#) (2011/484/EU).

The Standard Data Forms are generated automatically for all of the UK's Natura 2000 sites using the European Environment Agency's Natura 2000 software. The structure and format of these forms is exactly as produced by the EEA's Natura 2000 software (except for the addition of this coversheet and the end notes). The content matches exactly the data submitted to the European Commission.

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.

Further technical documentation may be found here
http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Natura_2000/reference_portal

As part of the December 2015 submission, several sections of the UK's previously published Standard Data Forms have been updated. For details of the approach taken by the UK in this submission please refer to the following document:

http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

More general information on Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the United Kingdom is available from the [SPA home page on the JNCC website](#). This webpage also provides links to Standard Data Forms for all SPAs in the UK.

Date form generated by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee
25 January 2016.



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 UK9020296
SITENAME Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [1. SITE IDENTIFICATION](#)
- [2. SITE LOCATION](#)
- [3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION](#)
- [4. SITE DESCRIPTION](#)
- [5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS AND RELATION WITH CORINE BIOTOPES](#)
- [6. SITE MANAGEMENT](#)
- [7. MAP OF THE SITE](#)

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type A	1.2 Site code UK9020296	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits

1.4 First Compilation date 2011-04	1.5 Update date 2015-12
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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:	2011-04
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

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude

-0.5822

Latitude

52.3344

2.2 Area [ha]:

1357.68

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

35.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

UKF2

Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (100.0
%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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.	C
B	A056	Anas clypeata			w	178	178	i		G	C			C
B	A050	Anas penelope			w	5001	5001	i		G	C			C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			w	2312	2312	i		G	C			C
B	A051	Anas strepera			w	12	12	Bfemales		G	B			C
B	A059	Aythya ferina			w	625	625	i		G	C			C
B	A061	Aythya fuligula			w	1187	1187	i		G	C			C
B	A021	Botaurus stellaris			w	2	2	i		G	B			C
B	A125	Fulica atra			w	2323	2323	i		G	C			C
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			w	285	285	i		G	C			C
B	A140	Pluvialis apricaria			w	5790	5790	i		G	B			C

B	A005	Podiceps cristatus		w	288	288	i		G	C		C
B	A142	Vanellus vanellus		w	3349	3349	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	WATR	Waterfowl assemblage			23821	23821	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

4.1 General site character

[Back to top](#)

Habitat class	% Cover
N07	19.0
N16	5.0
N06	49.0
N14	27.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

4.2 Quality and importance

ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) Over winter the area regularly supports: Botaurus stellaris (Europe - breeding) 2% of the GB population 5-year peak mean 1999/2000 ? 2003/04 Pluvialis apricaria [North-western Europe - breeding] 2.3% of the GB population 5-year peak mean 1999/2000 ? 2003/04 ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) Over winter the area regularly supports: Anas strepera (North-western Europe) 2% of the population 5-year peak mean 1999/2000 ? 2003/04 ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS Over winter the area regularly supports: 23821 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96) Including: Podiceps cristatus , Phalacrocorax carbo , Botaurus stellaris , Anas penelope , Anas strepera , Anas platyrhynchos , Anas clypeata , Aythya ferina , Aythya fuligula , Fulica atra , Pluvialis apricaria [North-western Europe - breeding], Vanellus vanellus

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	F02		I
H	E06		B
H	A02		I
H	G01		I

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	A04		I
H	A02		I
H	A06		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/3212324>
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216>

http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

[Back to top](#)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

[Back to top](#)

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Natural England
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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.

7. MAP OF THE SITES

[Back to top](#)

INSPIRE ID: _____

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format (optional)

- Yes No

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

EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE NATURA 2000 STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below are also explained in the [official European Union guidelines for the Standard Data Form](#). The relevant page is shown in the table below.

1.1 Site type

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Designated Special Protection Area	53
B	SAC (includes candidates Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance and designated SAC)	53
C	SAC area the same as SPA. Note in the UK Natura 2000 submission this is only used for Gibraltar	53

3.1 Habitat representativity

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

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 (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>)	57
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	57
1340	Inland salt meadows	57
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)	57
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	57
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")	57
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	57
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	57
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>)	57
2160	Dunes with <i>Hippopharagmum rhamnoides</i>	57
2170	Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>)	57
2190	Humid dune slacks	57
21A0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	57
2250	Coastal dunes with <i>Juniperus</i> spp.	57
2330	Inland dunes with open <i>Corynephorus</i> and <i>Agrostis</i> grasslands	57
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)	57
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>	57
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.	57
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - 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 Callitriche-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 Relative surface

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

3.1 Conservation status habitat

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

3.1 Global grade habitat

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 Conservation status species (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 Assemblages types

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
WATR	Non breeding waterfowl 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 resources	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
UK02	Marine Nature Reserve	67
UK04	Site of Special Scientific Interest (UK)	67