



# 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 BE2217310  
SITENAME Bocholt, Hechtel-Eksel, Meeuwen-Gruitrode, Neerpelt en Peer

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## 1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type	1.2 Site code	<a href="#">Back to top</a>
A	BE2217310	

### 1.3 Site name

Bocholt, Hechtel-Eksel, Meeuwen-Gruitrode, Neerpelt en Peer

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
1986-12	2021-02

### 1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation:	Research Institute for Nature and Forest
Address:	Havenlaan 88 bus 75, 1000 Brussels
Email:	natura2000@inbo.be

### 1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

Date site classified as SPA:	1988-10
National legal reference of SPA designation	BVR 17.10.1988 aanwijzing van SPA in de zin van artikel 4 van de Richtlijn 79/409/EEG inzake het behoud van de vogelstand. Belgisch Staatsblad 29/10/1988, p. 15066.BVR 10.03.2017 houdende definitieve vaststelling van de instandhoudingsdoelstellingen en prioriteiten voor de met toepassing van de Vogelrichtlijn aangewezen speciale beschermingszone 'BE2217310 Bocholt, Hechtel-Eksel, Meeuwen-Gruitrode, Neerpelt en Peer'
Date site proposed as SCI:	1900-01
Date site confirmed as SCI:	No data
Date site designated as SAC:	1900-01
National legal reference of SAC designation:	No data

## 2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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**Longitude**

5.4167

**Latitude**

51.1167

**2.2 Area [ha]:**

9863.0

**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**

BE22

Prov. Limburg (B)

**2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)**Atlantic (100.0  
%)

### 3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

[Back to top](#)**3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them****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			
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
B	A229	<a href="#">Alcedo atthis</a>			r	7	9	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A224	<a href="#">Caprimulgus europaeus</a>			r	12	15	p		G	C	B	C	B
B	A082	<a href="#">Circus cyaneus</a>			w	0	0	i	P	DD	D			
B	A084	<a href="#">Circus pygargus</a>		X	r	0	0	p		G	D			
B	A236	<a href="#">Dryocopus martius</a>			r	4	5	p		M	C	B	C	C
B	A379	<a href="#">Emberiza hortulana</a>		X	r	0	0	p		G	D			
B	A022	<a href="#">Ixobrychus minutus</a>			r	0	1	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A246	<a href="#">Lullula arborea</a>			r	8	11	p		G	C	B	C	C
B	A272	<a href="#">Luscinia svecica</a>			r	5	7	p		M	C	B	C	C
B	A072	<a href="#">Pernis apivorus</a>			r	5	7	p		G	C	B	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
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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	A156	<a href="#">Limosa limosa</a>			5	27	p								X
B	A160	<a href="#">Numenius arquata</a>			3	7	p								X
A	1197	<a href="#">Pelobates fuscus</a>			12	15	cmales	R	X						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

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Habitat class	% Cover
N20	3.0
N19	3.0
N06	0.6
N08	2.0
N16	4.0
N15	34.0
N07	0.3
N10	4.3
N21	1.0
N23	21.1
N17	6.0
N14	20.0
N09	0.7
<b>Total Habitat Cover</b>	<b>99.99999999999999</b>

### Other Site Characteristics

Area with extensive arable land, meadows, alluvial wet woodland and wetlands. Sharp decline in habitat area and quality during the last decades. N08 stand for heath and thorn, pioneer and willow tickets, N09 mostly for dry grassland, but also for pioneer and rough vegetation.

### 4.2 Quality and importance

The transition from poor heathland to more nutrient-rich pastures, together with small-scale and woody edged arable land, made this area very species-rich when classified as SPA in 1988. But species such as Lyrurus tetrix, Philomachus pugnax, Anthus campestris, and Emberiza hortulana have disappeared, and e.g. Limosa limosa is about to become locally extinct, due to the loss of habitat, mainly as result of agricultural intensification. Nevertheless, the SPA remains particularly valuable due to its open, not urbanized character and its location between the SAC's 'Kamp van Beverlo' and 'Schietveld van Houthalen-Helchteren'. Provided that certain zones can be redesigned, the chances for the designated species increase again significantly. The SPA determines the outer limit of the range of Pelobates fuscus.

### 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]

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside /outside [i o b]

M	G01		i
H	A02		b
M	H01		i
M	A07		b
H	J03.01		i
M	J02		i

H	B02		i
H	J		b
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

#### 4.4 Ownership (optional)

#### 4.5 Documentation

### 5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

#### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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#### 5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

#### 5.3 Site designation (optional)

### 6. SITE MANAGEMENT

#### 6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

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Organisation:	NGO: Natuurpunt Beheer vzw
Address:	Coxiestraat 11, 2800 Mechelen
Email:	info@natuurpunt.be

Organisation:	Agency for Nature and Forest (ANB)
Address:	Havenlaan 88 bus 75, 1000 Brussels
Email:	anb@vlaanderen.be

Organisation:	NGO: Limburgs Landschap v.z.w.
Address:	Dekenstraat 39, 3550 Zolder
Email:	info@limburgs-landschap.be

#### 6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Name: in preparation Link: _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, but in preparation	
<input type="checkbox"/> No	

#### 6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

J Natural System modifications stands for: 1) conservation and restoration of the habitat of the target species (e.g. permanent grasslands, swamps, open water, small landscape elements, ...); 2) restoring / improving the hydrological regime (zones with high water levels during the breeding season); 3) restoration of good water quality of surface waters (sufficient surface of clear water of good water quality). B02 Forest and Plantation management & use stands for: 1) restoring / improving (open) forest habitats to maintain and enlarge breeding habitat for e.g. Pernis apivorus, Dryocopus martius and Lullula arborea; 2) maintain / restore open landscape of valley areas. A02 modification of cultivation practices stands for: 1) restoring / improving the habitat of e.g. Circus pygargus, C. cyaneus, Emberiza hortulana (large area of extensively managed field edges, e.g. mixed duo or trio strips around the existing field parcels), crop rotation and set-aside; 2) preservation and restoration of nutrient-rich grasslands in the SPA and its surroundings (e.g. by using management agreements with farmers). Additional conservation measures are: 1) reduction of disturbances due to recreational activities and specifically for wintering prey birds of the use of remote-controlled aircraft, micro light aircraft and paramotors in core areas for these species; 2) reducing the use of pesticides in field margins.

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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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).