

Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening of Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Lancaster City Council has prepared this screening report to support Slyne-with-Hest Parish Council in determining whether or not the contents of the proposed Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan is likely to require a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA).
- 1.2 Habitats and species of European nature conservation importance are protected by the European Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (The Habitats Directive). The Habitats Directive establishes a network of internationally important sites designated for their ecological value. These sites are often referred to as Natura 2000 sites or European sites and comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites. This is translated into UK law via the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.
- 1.3 Under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (and Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations), an assessment is required where a plan or project may give rise to significant effects upon a European site.
- 1.4 The overarching aim of HRA is to determine, in view of a site's conservation objectives and qualifying interests, whether a plan or project, either in isolation and/or in combination with other plans would have a significant adverse effect on a European site. If the screening concludes that a significant adverse effect is likely, then Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken to determine whether there will be adverse effects on site integrity.
- 1.5 There are 3 European site within the proposed neighbourhood boundary, a further 7 sites are noted to be within a 15km radius of the boundary and could potentially be affected by the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan. Further information on these designations is provided below.

2. HRA process

- 2.1 The requirements of the Habitats Directive comprises four distinct stages:

Stage 1: Screening.

This is the stage which initially identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts may have a significant effect on the integrity of the site's qualifying habitats and/or species. Where a significant effect is identified the assessment moves onto stage 2.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment.

This provides the detailed consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's conservation objectives and its structure and function. This is to determine whether or not there will be adverse effects on the integrity of the site. This stage also includes the development of mitigation measures to avoid or reduce any potential impacts.

Stage 3: Assessment of alternative solutions.

This examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan or project that would avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the European site, should avoidance or mitigation measures be unable to cancel out adverse effects.

Stage 4: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain.

In such circumstances it must be demonstrated that the development is necessary for imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

3. Background

- 3.1 Neighbourhood Planning gives local communities the opportunity to prepare planning documents for their area, enabling them to shape the future of where they live and giving them greater ownership of the plans and policies that affect them. Introduced under the Localism Act in 2011 Neighbourhood Plans provide a new tier of planning policy.
- 3.2 Current planning policy for the district is established in the Lancaster District Local Plan. This currently consists of saved policies within the 2004 adopted Lancaster District Local Plan as Saved by the Secretary of State under paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 8 to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (where not superseded by policies within the Core Strategy, Development Management Document or Morecambe Area Action Plan), the Core Strategy adopted in July 2008, the Development Management Document adopted in December 2014 and the Morecambe Area Action Plan adopted in December 2014.
- 3.3 The council is continuing to progress preparation of its new Local Plan, in the form of the Strategic Policies and Land Allocations DPD and the Review of the Development Management DPD. These documents were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in May 2018 with the examination hearing sessions currently scheduled to take place in late October.
- 3.4 The Neighbourhood plan area for Slyne-with-Hest Parish Council was formally designated in April 2016. This confirmed the Parish Council's commitment to preparing a Neighbourhood Plan and identified the proposed Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 3.5 Following on-going discussions with the city council Slyne-with-Hest Parish Council have submitted a draft plan for consideration (Appendix 1). Lancaster City Council have used this information to undertake initial HRA screening of the Neighbourhood Plan.

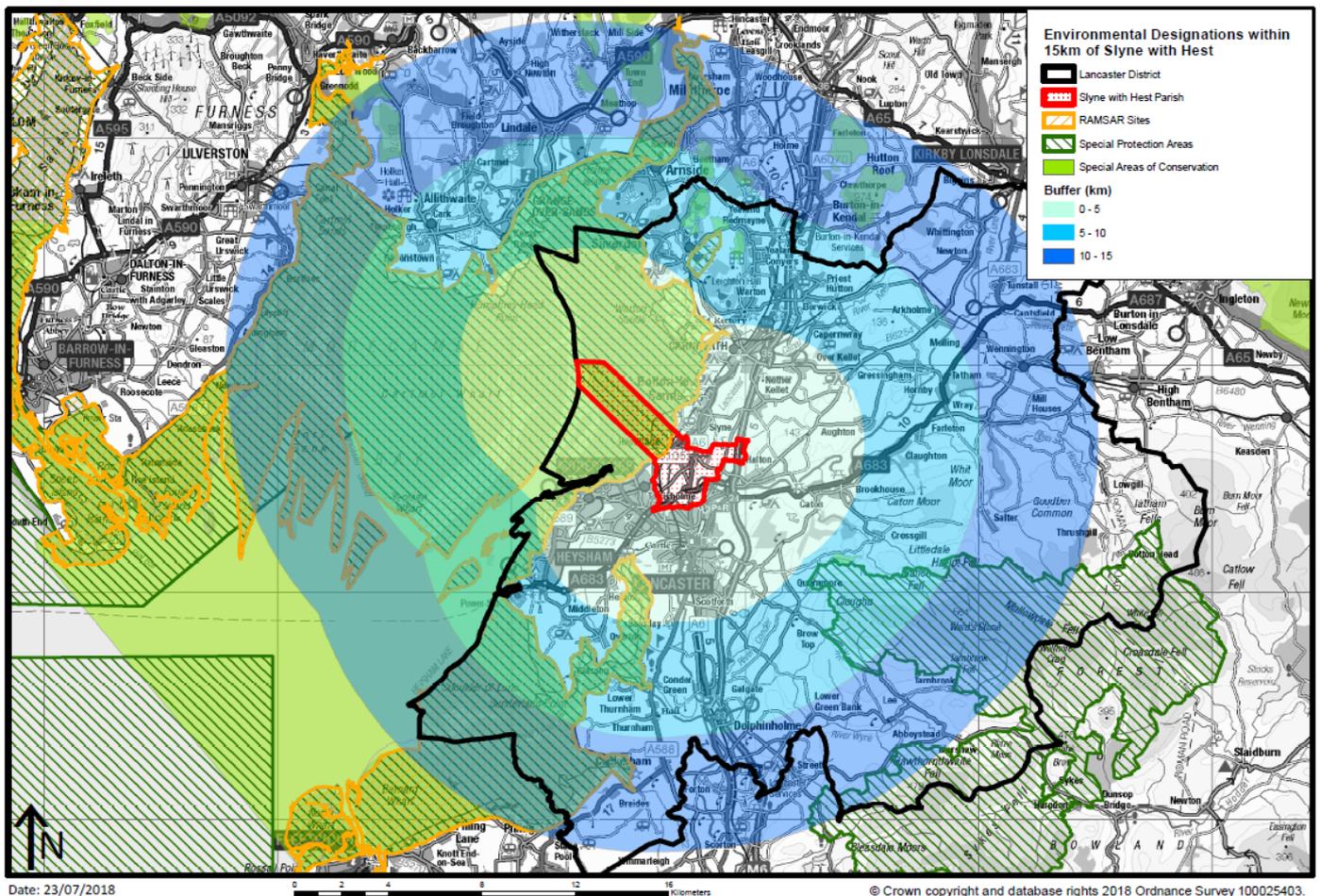
4. Relevant European Sites

- 4.1 There are a number of European designated sites that could potentially be affected by the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan. This includes sites within the plan boundary and a number outside of the boundary of the plan area. As a general rule of thumb best practice indicates that sites with pathways of 10-15km of the plan/project should be included within a HRA.

Table 1 – Summary of European Sites

Site Name	Identification Number	Approximate Distance from the Neighbourhood Plan Boundary (km)
Special Protection Areas		
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary	UK9020326	Within 5km Buffer (within the neighbourhood plan)
Bowland Fells	UK9005151	6km
Leighton Moss	UK9005091	6km
RAMSAR		
Morecambe Bay	UK11045	Within 5km Buffer (within the neighbourhood plan)
Leighton Moss	UK11035	8km
Special Areas of Conservation		
Morecambe Bay	UK0013027	Within 5km Buffer (within the neighbourhood plan)
Morecambe Bay Pavements	UK0014777	7km
Calf Hill & Cragg Woods	UK0030106	6km
Roudsea Wood & Mosses	UK0019834	13km
Witherslack Mosses	UK0030302	11.5km

Figure 1 – International and national environmental designations within 15km of Slyne-with-Hest Parish



4.2 Further details on the description and character of the European sites is provided below (appendix 2). The conservation of objections for the designations are also provided in appendix 2. This information was obtained from Natural England's website and also informed by the wider Local Plan HRA assessment.

5. HRA Screening

5.1 The location of a number of European sites within and within 15km of the Neighbourhood Plan boundary indicate that there could be potential for the plan, depending on its content, to have a significant adverse effect on a European site.

5.2 The draft Neighbourhood Plan has been screened for likely significant effects on European sites. During the HRA screening stage, the likely nature, magnitude, frequency, timing, duration, location and spatial extent of changes resulting from implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan was assessed. As part of this, mechanisms through which the plan could impact upon designated sites were considered.

5.3 The main impact pathways could be:

- Physical loss of habitat/damage to habitat
- Non-physical disturbance
- Recreational pressure
- Contamination
- Biological disturbance
- Loss of functionally linked land

5.4 The conclusions of the initial assessment are described in table 2 below.

5.5 Policies that were screened out were generally those that could not lead to a direct pathway to any of the identified designated sites. These were generally policies that looked to protect and enhance the natural environment, protection of historic assets, promotion of sustainable transport and the design of new development.

5.6 Of the ten designated sites, two were ruled out completely on the basis that there are no potential impact pathways which are likely to give rise to significant effects on the sites. These are:

- Roudsea Wood and Mosses SAC
- Witherslack Mosses SAC

5.7 Whilst considered unlikely significant effects on the Bolwand Fells SPA, Leighton Moss SPA, Leighton Moss Ramsar, Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC and Calf Hill and Crag Woods SAC cannot be ruled out at this stage.

5.8 6 policies can also not be ruled out at this stage: Policies 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11.

5.9 A more detailed assessment of the screened policies is provided in table 3.

Table 2 – Initial Screening Assessment													
Designated Site	Policy												Comments
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Bowland Fells SPA	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Further assessment is required to determine whether policies 3, 5, 6 and 7 would lead to likely significant effects on the identified designated sites
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Further assessment is required to determine whether policies 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11 would lead to likely significant effects on the identified designated sites
Leighton Moss SPA	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Further assessment is required to determine whether policies 3, 5, 6 and 7 would lead to likely significant effects on the identified designated sites
Morecambe Bay SPA	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Further assessment is required to determine whether policies 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11 would lead to likely significant effects on the identified designated sites
Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Further assessment is required to determine whether policies 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11 would lead to likely significant effects on the identified designated sites
Calf Hill and Craggs Wood SAC	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Further assessment is required to determine whether policies 3, 5, 6 and 7 would lead to likely significant effects on the identified designated sites
Roudea Wood & Mosses SAC	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Witherslack Mosses SAC	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Morecambe Bay Ramsar	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Further assessment is required to determine whether policies 3, 5, 6 and 7 would lead to likely significant effects on the identified designated sites
Leighton Moss Ramsar	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Further assessment is required to determine whether policies 3, 5, 6 and 7 would lead to likely significant effects on the identified designated sites

Table 3 – Detailed screening of policies

Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Designated Site Potentially affected	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	Recommendation/Conclusion
3	Bowland Fells SPA Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Leighton Moss SPA Morecambe Bay SAC Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC and Calf Hill and Craggs Wood SAC Morecambe Bay Ramsar Leighton Moss Ramsar	Policy 3 states that new development will be supported where it contributes to the identified needs of the Parish. New development has the potential to impact on designated sites through increased recreational pressure, loss of habitat, disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/operational stage, changes in water quality where there are hydrological links to the Designated Site.	The Policy is concerned with meeting the development needs of the village and on that basis is unlikely to lead to significant levels of development. That said development of any level does have the potential to impact on designated sites. Compliance with the wider Local Plan ensures safeguards for protecting designated sites. There is however currently no wording within this Policy relating to protection of Designated sites.	We are unable at this point to conclude for certain that the policy would not have a significant effect on designated sites. It is therefore recommended that this policy be taken forward to the next stage of HRA to ensure no likely significant effects on designated sites. The policy would benefit from additional wording being included to ensure the protection of the designated sites. This could be a cross-reference to the relevant policy in the Development Management document.
Policy 5	Bowland Fells SPA Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Leighton Moss SPA	The Policy proposes a number of allocations within the village. New development has the potential to impact on the designated site through increased recreational pressure, loss of habitat, disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/operational stage, changes in	The Plan would be required to be read alongside the wider Local Plan for the area. This together with improved wording to other areas of the Neighbourhood Plan would help to ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place for the protection of Designated Sites.	We are unable at this point to conclude for certain that the policy would not have a significant effect on designated sites. On this basis it is recommended that the policy be taken forward to the next stage of HRA assessment. The policy would benefit from additional wording being

	<p>Morecambe Bay SAC Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC and Calf Hill and Craggs Wood SAC Morecambe Bay Ramsar Leighton Moss Ramsar</p>	<p>water quality where there are hydrological links to the Designated Site.</p>	<p>There is however currently no wording within this Policy relating to protection of Designated sites or non-designated ecological assets.</p>	<p>included to ensure the protection of the designated sites. This could be a cross-reference to the relevant policy in the Development Management document.</p>
<p>Policy 6</p>	<p>Bowland Fells SPA Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Leighton Moss SPA Morecambe Bay SAC Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC and Calf Hill and Craggs Wood SAC Morecambe Bay Ramsar Leighton Moss Ramsar</p>	<p>The Policy sets out the policy for economic development. Development has the potential to impact on the designated site through loss of habitat, disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/operational stage, changes in water quality where there are hydrological links to the Designated Site.</p>	<p>The Plan would be required to be read alongside the wider Local Plan for the area. This together with improved wording in the Neighbourhood Plan itself would help to ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place for the protection of Designated Sites. There is however currently no wording within this Policy relating to protection of Designated sites or non-designated ecological assets.</p>	<p>We are unable at this point to conclude for certain that the policy would not have a significant effect on designated sites. On this basis it is recommended that the policy be taken forward to the next stage of HRA assessment. The policy would benefit from additional wording being included to ensure the protection of the designated sites. This could be a cross-reference to the relevant policy in the Development Management document.</p>
<p>Policy 7</p>	<p>Bowland Fells</p>	<p>The policy seeks to protect land</p>	<p>The Plan would be required to be</p>	<p>We are unable at this point to</p>

	<p>SPA Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Leighton Moss SPA Morecambe Bay SAC Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC and Calf Hill and Craggs Wood SAC Morecambe Bay Ramsar Leighton Moss Ramsar</p>	<p>between the sea and the west coast rail line noting that development will be resisted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that any threat of damage or negative impact on the undeveloped coastal area and its ecosystems are identified and mitigated. Whilst looking to restrict development the policy would potentially allow some development in exceptional circumstances at this location. On this basis there is potential for development to impact on the designated site through loss of habitat, disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/operational stage, changes in water quality where there are hydrological links to the Designated Site and recreational pressure as a result of increased visitors.</p>	<p>read alongside the wider Local Plan for the area. This together with improved wording in the Neighbourhood Plan itself would help to ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place for the protection of Designated Sites.</p> <p>The policy should be amended to recognise the statutory protection that the designated sites benefit from.</p>	<p>conclude for certain that the policy would not have a significant effect on designated sites. On this basis it is recommended that the policy be taken forward to the next stage of HRA assessment. The policy would benefit from additional wording being included to ensure the protection of the designated sites. This should also include cross-reference to the relevant policy in the Development Management document.</p>
Policy 8	<p>Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay SAC Morecambe Bay Ramsar</p>	<p>The policy states that sites identified for development will be required to work with the parish council in the provision and future maintenance of additional signage/information boards showing all known local and national footpaths, the canal towpath, cycle tracks and bridleways. Whilst this is supported there is potential unless correctly managed to result in increased recreational disturbance to the designated sites through increased</p>	<p>The Plan would be required to be read alongside the wider Local Plan for the area. This together with improved wording in the Neighbourhood Plan itself would help to ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place for the protection of Designated Sites.</p>	<p>Through improved wording to the policy officers are satisfied that this policy is unlikely to result in significant effects on designated sites.</p>

		visitors.		
Policy 11	Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA Morecambe Bay SAC Morecambe Bay Ramsar	The policy states that improvements to existing outdoor recreational facilities and the provision of new outdoor recreational space will be supported. On this basis there is potential for development to impact on the designated site through loss of habitat, disturbance to species as a result of construction activities/operational stage, changes in water quality where there are hydrological links to the Designated Site and recreational pressure as a result of increased visitors.	The Plan would be required to be read alongside the wider Local Plan for the area. This together with improved wording in the Neighbourhood Plan itself would help to ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place for the protection of Designated Sites.	Through improved wording to the policy officers are satisfied that this policy is unlikely to result in significant effects on designated sites.

6. Screening Conclusion

- 6.1 The initial screening of the Slyne-with-Hest Neighbourhood Plan has considered the potential implications for European designated sites within and near the Neighbourhood Plan area boundary.
- 6.2 The screening of policies has indicated the potential for a number of suggested policies and allocations to have a significant effect on designated sites. On this basis it is recommended that a more detailed assessment is required.
- 6.3 Whilst identifying potential for significant effects it is felt that with improved wording the concerns raised may be addressed. This would include greater cross-referencing to the district wide Local Plan and improved recognition of the designated sites within the Plan.
- 6.4 The views of the three statutory bodies is required to confirm this conclusion.

Appendix 2 - Description and character of identified European Sites

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Conditions and Threats	Results of SSSI Condition Survey
	Habitats	Species		
Morecambe Bay Ramsar site	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramsar criterion 4: The site is a staging area for migratory waterfowl including internationally important numbers of passage ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>. • Ramsar criterion 5 Assemblages of international importance with peak counts in the winter: 223709 waterfowl • Ramsar criterion 6 Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance during the breeding season: Lesser black-backed gull , <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i> Herring gull, <i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i> Sandwich tern, <i>Sterna (Thalasseus) sandvicensis sandvicensis</i> Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: Great cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i> Common shelduck , <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> Northern pintail, <i>Anas acuta</i> Common eider, <i>Somateria mollissima mollissima</i> Eurasian oystercatcher, <i>Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus</i> Ringed plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> 	No factors reported adversely affecting the sites ecological character (past, present or potential).	<p>Area favourable 94.31% Area unfavourable but recovering 5.69% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>

		<p>Grey plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> Sanderling, <i>Calidris alba</i> Eurasian curlew, <i>Numenius arquata arquata</i> Common redshank, <i>Tringa totanus tetanus</i> Ruddy turnstone, <i>Arenaria interpres interpres</i> Lesser black-backed gull, <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i> Species with peak counts in winter: Great crested grebe, <i>Podiceps cristatus cristatus</i> Pink-footed goose, <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> Eurasian wigeon, <i>Anas penelope</i> Common goldeneye, <i>Bucephala clangula clangula</i> Red-breasted merganser, <i>Mergus serrator</i> European golden plover, <i>Pluvialis apricaria apricaria</i> Northern lapwing, <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> Red knot, <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i> Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> Bar-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i></p>		
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA	N/A	<p>The site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive: During the breeding season;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> ▪ Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> <p>Over winter;</p>	<p>The site is subject to a wide range of pressures such as land-claim for agriculture, overgrazing, dredging, overfishing, industrial uses and unspecified pollution. However, overall the site is relatively robust and many of those pressures have only slight to local effects and are</p>	<p>Area favourable 94.31% Area unfavourable but recovering 5.69% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ▪ Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> <p>The site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:</p> <p>During the breeding season;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> ▪ Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> <p>On passage;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ▪ Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i> <p>Over winter;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> • Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> ▪ Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ▪ Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> ▪ Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> ▪ Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> ▪ Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> ▪ Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> ▪ Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ▪ Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> <p>The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 seabirds. The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl.</p>	<p>being addressed through Management Plans. The breeding tern interest is very vulnerable and the colony has recently moved to the adjacent Duddon Estuary. Positive management is being secured through management plans for non-governmental organisation reserves, Natural England, Site Management Statements, European Marine Site Management Scheme, and the Morecambe Bay Partnership. There are plans to combine Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA with the Duddon SPA (Morecambe and Duddon pSPA) to further protect breeding terns.</p>	
Morecambe Bay SAC	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> 	There are a wide range of pressures on Morecambe Bay but the site is relatively robust and many	Area favourable 94.31% Area unfavourable but recovering 5.69% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • Large shallow inlets and bays • Perennial vegetation of stony banks • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (`white dunes`) • Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (`grey dunes`) *Priority feature • Humid dune slacks <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection</p>		<p>of these pressures have only slight or local effects on its interests. The interests depend largely upon the coastal processes operating within the Bay, which have been affected historically by human activities including coastal protection and flood defence works. Current pressures include fisheries, aggregate extraction, gas exploration, recreation and other activities.</p>	<p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>
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	<p>of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time • Coastal lagoons *Priority feature • Reefs • Embryonic shifting dunes • Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) *Priority feature • Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>) 			
Bowland Fells SPA	N/A	<p>This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:</p> <p>During the breeding season;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> _ Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> <p>This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:</p> <p>During the breeding season;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> 	<p>The expansive blanket bog and heather dominated moorland provides suitable habitat for a diverse range of upland breeding birds. Favourable nature conservation status of the site depends on appropriate levels of sheep grazing, sympathetic moorland burning practice, sensitive water catchment land management practices and ongoing species</p>	<p>Area favourable 5.29% Area unfavourable but recovering 85.39% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 14.61% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>

			<p>protection. Since designation as an SPA, many localised problems of over-grazing have been controlled through management agreements or the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. To date approximately 20% of SPA is under Section 15 management agreements and Countryside Stewardship to stimulate heather regeneration in order to produce better moorland for grouse and raptors alike. Burning plans and stocking levels have also been agreed for all other areas of the SPA through Site Management Statements, whilst problems of raptor persecution continues to be addressed by the RSPB in conjunction with North West Water, Natural England and Lancashire Constabulary.</p>	
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Calf Hill and Cragg Woods SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <p>_ Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</p> <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <p>_ Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)</p> <p>*Priority feature</p>	N/A	<p>Currently there is limited intervention in landuse/ management terms. There is also no immediate need for woodland management in order to safeguard the interest of the site. However, in the long-term it would be desirable to repair some of the walls/fences at the far eastern most end of Calf Hill Wood in order to control sheep grazing from the adjacent fell. In addition, since the canopy of the oak woodland is fairly dense and natural regeneration is quite limited, it would be desirable over the long-term to instigate small-scale selective fellings/silvicultural thinning, whilst felling a small stand of planted larch/pine (<0.5 ha) and replacing it with oak/birch.</p>	<p>Area favourable 100%</p> <p>Area unfavourable but recovering 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable no change 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable declining 0%</p> <p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>
Leighton Moss Ramsar site	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramsar criterion 1 <p>An example of large reedbed habitat characteristic of the biogeographical region. The reedbeds are of particular importance as a northern outpost for</p>	<p>The site is currently vulnerable to sedimentation / siltation and pollution – pesticides / agricultural runoff.</p>	<p>Area favourable 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable but recovering 100%</p> <p>Area unfavourable no change 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable declining 0%</p> <p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>

		<p>breeding populations of great bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>, Eurasian marsh harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> and bearded tit <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramsar criterion 3 <p>The site supports a range of breeding birds including great bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>, Eurasian marsh harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> and bearded tit <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>. Species occurring in nationally important numbers outside the breeding season include northern shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> and water rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i></p>		
Leighton Moss SPA	N/A	<p>This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:</p> <p>During the breeding season;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> _ Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> <p>Over winter;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> 	<p>Leighton Moss is vulnerable to changes in water quality and water levels. The maintenance of a high quality spring fed water supply is important and although there are few opportunities for this to become polluted within the catchment agricultural run-off from land immediately adjacent to the reserve has been identified as a potential hazard in recent years. Initiatives are currently being initiated to reduce/remove this threat by the EA. The Moss is also susceptible to saline intrusion upstream of its tidal sluice from</p>	<p>Area favourable 0% Area unfavourable but recovering 100% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>

			Morecambe Bay. This is potentially one of the most damaging threats to the reserve, there having been three inundations since 1964 caused by gales pushing in unusually high 10 metre tides	
Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of the site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara spp.</i> _ <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands _ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) _ Limestone pavements * Priority feature _ <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines * Priority feature 	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> _ Narrow-mouthed whorl snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i> 	The under-grazing of grasslands and decline of traditional cattle grazing is leading to the loss of sward diversity and scrub encroachment problems. Localised overgrazing (sheep-dominated) has impoverished the pavement flora on one of the component sites. A decline of traditional coppice management has reduced the interest of some of the woodland sites. The planting of non-native conifer crops on some of the sites has led to localised declines in condition.	Further details on this can be found in appendix 2.

	<p>_ <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles * Priority feature Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of the site: _ European dry heaths _ Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium</i></p>			
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Witherslack Mosses SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active raised bogs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Priority feature • Degraded raised bog • Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration 	N/A	<p>Past drainage for peat extraction and forestry has lowered the water table and allowed scrub to spread across the mosses. A programme of restoration works is in place on two of the mosses, and a management plan has been completed for major works on the third</p>	<p>Foulshaw Moss SSSI Area favourable 0% Area unfavourable but recovering 91.31% Area unfavourable no change 6.11% Area unfavourable declining 2.59% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p> <p>Meathop Moss SSSI Area favourable 0% Area unfavourable but recovering 100% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p> <p>Nichols Moss SSSI Area favourable 20.63% Area unfavourable but recovering 0% Area unfavourable no change 8.17% Area unfavourable declining 70.65% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>
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<p>Morecambe Bay Pavement SAC</p>	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. • Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands • Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) • Limestone pavements * Priority feature • Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines * Priority feature • Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles * Priority feature • Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, 	<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Narrow-mouthed whorl snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i> 	<p>The under-grazing of grasslands and decline of traditional cattle grazing is leading to the loss of sward diversity and scrub encroachment problems. Localised overgrazing (sheep-dominated) has impoverished the pavement flora on one of the component sites. A decline of traditional coppice management has reduced the interest of some of the woodland sites. The planting of non-native conifer crops on some of the sites has led to localised declines in condition.</p>	<p>Whitbarrow SSSI</p> <p>Underlaid Wood SSSI</p> <p>Marble Quarry And Hale Fell SSSI</p>	<p>Area favourable 34.44%</p> <p>Area unfavourable but recovering 58.17%</p> <p>Area unfavourable no change 7.39%</p> <p>Area unfavourable declining 0%</p> <p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p> <p>Area favourable 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable but recovering 100%</p> <p>Area unfavourable no change 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable declining 0%</p> <p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p> <p>Area favourable 4.99%</p> <p>Area unfavourable but recovering 95.01%</p> <p>Area unfavourable no change 0%</p> <p>Area</p>
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	<p>but not a primary reason for selection of the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European dry heaths • Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion <i>davallianae</i> * Priority feature • Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles 			<p>Gait Barrows SSSI</p> <p>unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0% Area favourable 92.50% Area unfavourable but recovering 7.5% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p> <p>Thrang End And Yealand Hall Allotment SSSI</p> <p>Area favourable 0% Area unfavourable but recovering 100% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>
Roudsea Wood and Mosses SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active raised bogs* 	N/A	In the latter part of the 20th century, coppicing of the woodland ceased and lower water tables on the bogs, caused by drainage for peat-	<p>Area favourable 2.35% Area unfavourable but recovering 56.55% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 41.10%</p>

	<p>Priority feature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration • Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines* Priority feature • Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles* Priority feature 		<p>cutting, had allowed scrub to spread across them. Most of the site is now managed as a National Nature Reserve. Woodland management is carried out and much scrub has been cleared from Deer Dike Moss and ditches blocked to allow regeneration of the bog vegetation. Management of the southern bog, added to the National Nature Reserve, has been addressed in the management plan.</p>	<p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>
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European Site Conservation Objectives for Morecambe Bay Special Area of Conservation Site Code: UK0013027

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 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 the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of 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:

H1110. Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Subtidal sandbanks

H1130. Estuaries

H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats

H1150. Coastal lagoons*

H1160. Large shallow inlets and bays

H1170. Reefs

H1220. Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves

H1310. *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand

H1330. Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

H2110. Embryonic shifting dunes

H2120. Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes"); Shifting dunes with marram
H2130. Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland*
H2150. Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*); Coastal dune heathland*
H2170. Dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*); Dunes with creeping willow
H2190. Humid dune slacks
S1166. *Triturus cristatus*; Great crested newt

* denotes a priority natural habitat or species (supporting explanatory text on following page)

This is a European Marine Site

This site is a part of the Morecambe Bay European Marine Site. These conservation objectives should be used in conjunction with the Regulation 35 Conservation Advice Package, for further details please contact Natural England's enquiry service at enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk, or by phone on 0845 600 3078, or visit the Natural England website at: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/europeansites.aspx>

* Priority natural habitats or species

Some of the natural habitats and species listed in the Habitats Directive and for which SACs have been selected are considered to be particular priorities for conservation at a European scale and are subject to special provisions in the Directive and the Habitats Regulations. These priority natural habitats and species are denoted by an asterisk (*) in Annex I and II of the Directive. The term 'priority' is also used in other contexts, for example with reference to particular habitats or species that are prioritised in UK Biodiversity Action Plans. It is important to note however that these are not necessarily the priority natural habitats or species within the meaning of the Habitats Directive or the Habitats Regulations.

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. 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 as required by the provisions of Article 6(1) and 6(2) of the Directive.

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 Article 1 of the Habitats Directive.

Publication date: 30 June 2014 – version 2. This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014.



European Site Conservation Objectives for Bowland Fells Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9005151

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:

A082 *Circus cyaneus*; Hen harrier (Breeding)

A098 *Falco columbarius*; Merlin (Breeding)

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. 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 under the provisions of Articles 4(1) and 4(2) of the Wild Birds Directive, and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features required under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). Where the objectives are 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: 30 June 2014 (Version 2). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014. Previous references to additional features identified in the 2001 UK SPA Review have also been removed.



European Site Conservation Objectives for Calf Hill and Cragg Woods Special Area of Conservation Site code: UK0030106

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 qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely

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:

H91A0. Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles; Western acidic oak woodland

H91E0. Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*); Alder woodland on floodplains*

* Priority natural habitats or species

Some of the natural habitats and species listed in the Habitats Directive and for which SACs have been selected are considered to be particular priorities for conservation at a European scale and are subject to special provisions in the Directive and the Habitats Regulations. These priority natural habitats and species are denoted by an asterisk (*) in Annex I and II of the Directive. The term 'priority' is also used in other contexts, for example with reference to particular habitats or species that are prioritised in UK Biodiversity Action Plans. It is important to note however that these are not necessarily the priority natural habitats or species within the meaning of the Habitats Directive or the Habitats Regulations.

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. 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 as required by the provisions of Article 6(1) and 6(2) of the Directive.

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 Article 1 of the Habitats Directive.

Publication date: 30 June 2014 (version 2). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014.



European Site Conservation Objectives for Morecambe Bay Pavements Special Area of Conservation Site Code: UK0014777

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 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 the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of 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:

H3140. Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp.; Calcium-rich nutrient-poor lakes, lochs and pools

H4030. European dry heaths

H5130. *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands

H6210. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone

H7210. Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*; Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge)*

H8240. Limestone pavements*

H9180. *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines; Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes*

H91A0. Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles; Western acidic oak woodland
H91J0. *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles; Yew-dominated woodland*
S1014. *Vertigo angustior*; Narrow-mouthed whorl snail

* denotes a priority natural habitat or species (supporting explanatory text on following page)

* Priority natural habitats or species

Some of the natural habitats and species listed in the Habitats Directive and for which SACs have been selected are considered to be particular priorities for conservation at a European scale and are subject to special provisions in the Directive and the Habitats Regulations. These priority natural habitats and species are denoted by an asterisk (*) in Annex I and II of the Directive. The term 'priority' is also used in other contexts, for example with reference to particular habitats or species that are prioritised in UK Biodiversity Action Plans. It is important to note however that these are not necessarily the priority natural habitats or species within the meaning of the Habitats Directive or the Habitats Regulations.

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. 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 as required by the provisions of Article 6(1) and 6(2) of the Directive.

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 Article 1 of the Habitats Directive.

Publication date: 30 June 2014 – version 2. This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014.



European Site Conservation Objectives for Leighton Moss Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9005091

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 (Breeding)

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. 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 under the provisions of Articles 4(1) and 4(2) of the Wild Birds Directive, and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features required under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). Where the objectives are 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: 30 June 2014 (Version 2). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014. Previous references to features listed in the 2001 UK SPA Review have also been removed.

European Site Conservation Objectives for Morecambe Bay & Duddon Estuary Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9020326

With regard to this SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features'), 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 Conservation Advice document which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

Qualifying Features

- A026 *Egretta garzetta*; Little egret (Non-breeding)
- A038 *Cygnus cygnus*; Whooper swan (Non-breeding)
- A040 *Anser brachyrhynchus*; Pink-footed goose (Non-breeding)
- A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)
- A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)
- A130 *Haematopus ostralegus*; Eurasian oystercatcher (Non-breeding)
- A137 *Charadrius hiaticula*; Ringed plover (Non-breeding)
- A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Non-breeding)
- A141 *Pluvialis squatarola*; Grey plover (Non-breeding)
- A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (Non-breeding)
- A144 *Calidris alba*; Sanderling (Non-breeding)
- A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding)

Contd/

A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (Non-breeding)
A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)
A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)
A160 *Numenius arquata*; Eurasian curlew (Non-breeding)
A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)
A169 *Arenaria interpres*; Ruddy turnstone (Non-breeding)
A176 *Larus melanocephalus*; Mediterranean gull (Non-breeding)
A183 *Larus fuscus*; Lesser black-backed gull (Non-breeding)
A183 *Larus fuscus*; Lesser black-backed gull (Breeding)
A184 *Larus argentatus*; Herring gull (Breeding)
A191 *Sterna sandvicensis*; Sandwich tern (Breeding)
A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)
A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)

Waterbird assemblage

Seabird assemblage

This is a European Marine Site

This SPA is a part of the Morecambe Bay European Marine Site ('EMS'). These Conservation Objectives should be used in conjunction with the current Conservation Advice document for the EMS.

For further details about this please visit the Natural England website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/conservation-advice-packages-for-marine-protected-areas> or contact Natural England's enquiry service at enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk or by phone on 0845 600 3078.

This is a new combined site

This SPA replaces two individual sites – Morecambe Bay SPA (UK9005081) and Duddon Estuary SPA (UK9005031).

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. 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 under the provisions of Articles 4(1) and 4(2) of the Wild Birds Directive, and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features required under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a Special Protection Area (SPA). Where the objectives are 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: 13 September 2017 (version 5). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 January 2016 following the classification of the SPA. It replaces similar documents previously published for Morecambe Bay SPA (UK9005081) and Duddon Estuary SPA (UK9005031)

European Site Conservation Objectives for Roudsea Wood and Mosses Special Area of Conservation

Site Code: UK0019834

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 qualifying natural habitats**
- **The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and**
- **The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely**

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:

H7110. Active raised bogs*

H7120. Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration

H9180. *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines; Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes*

H91J0. *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles; Yew-dominated woodland*

* denotes a priority natural habitat or species (supporting explanatory text on following page)

*** Priority natural habitats or species**

Some of the natural habitats and species listed in the Habitats Directive and for which SACs have been selected are considered to be particular priorities for conservation at a European scale and are subject to special provisions in the Directive and the Habitats Regulations.

These priority natural habitats and species are denoted by an asterisk (*) in Annex I and II of the Directive. The term 'priority' is also used in other contexts, for example with reference to particular habitats or species that are prioritised in UK Biodiversity Action Plans. It is important to note however that these are not necessarily the priority natural habitats or species within the meaning of the Habitats Directive or the Habitats Regulations.

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. 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 as required by the provisions of Article 6(1) and 6(2) of the Directive.

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 Article 1 of the Habitats Directive.

Publication date: 30 June 2014 – version 2. This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014.

European Site Conservation Objectives for Witherslack Mosses Special Area of Conservation

Site code: UK0030302

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 qualifying natural habitats**
- **The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats, and,**
- **The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely**

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:

H7110. Active raised bogs*

H7120. Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration

* denotes a priority natural habitat or species (supporting explanatory text on following page)

*** Priority natural habitats or species**

Some of the natural habitats and species listed in the Habitats Directive and for which SACs have been selected are considered to be particular priorities for conservation at a European scale and are subject to special provisions in the Directive and the Habitats Regulations.

These priority natural habitats and species are denoted by an asterisk (*) in Annex I and II of the Directive. The term 'priority' is also used in other contexts, for example with reference to particular habitats or species that are prioritised in UK Biodiversity Action Plans. It is important to note however that these are not necessarily the priority natural habitats or species within the meaning of the Habitats Directive or the Habitats Regulations.

Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. 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 measures needed to conserve or restore the European Site and the prevention of deterioration or significant disturbance of its qualifying features as required by the provisions of Article 6(1) and 6(2) of the Directive.

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 Article 1 of the Habitats Directive.

Publication date: 30 June 2014 – version 2. This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014.