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Habitats Regulations Assessment

Morecambe Area Action Plan

Screening Report

Lancaster City Council

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ABBREVIATIONS

AAP	Area Action Plan
AS	Action Set
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
cSAC	Candidate Special Area of Conservation
DO	Development Opportunity
DPD	Development Plan Document
FCS	Favourable Conservation Status
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
pSPA	Potential Special Protection Area
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCI	Sites of Community Importance
SMP2	Shoreline Management Plan 2
SPA	Special Protection Area
WeBS	Wetland Bird Surveys

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1 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

1.1 Introduction

Lancaster City Council is currently preparing its Morecambe Area Action Plan (AAP) as part of its Local Plan. The Local Plan provides guidance for planning within the district of Lancaster. The preparation of the Morecambe AAP, along with the Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) and preparation of a Land Allocations DPD, will eventually replace the existing Lancaster District Local Plan which was adopted for planning purposes in April 2004.

The Morecambe AAP is a spatial plan for central Morecambe and covers an area that extends the length of the main promenade from the Battery in the west almost to the Town Hall in the east and landward takes in the main central parts of the town (see Figure 2 of Appendix B). The Morecambe AAP provides a framework to facilitate and manage development and change within central Morecambe to 2021. The Morecambe AAP is the document through which the vision and objectives for the area have been developed, considered and co-ordinated for implementation. It identifies key infrastructure projects that will contribute to the regeneration of central Morecambe. It directs investment, provides increased certainty to potential investors, builds confidence and assists the Council in securing funding and facilitating new development. It is acknowledged that economic circumstances will affect the pace of regeneration, however, bringing forward the AAP will ensure that central Morecambe is well placed to capture and benefit from an economic upturn.

This Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening document has been produced during the preparation of the Morecambe AAP. This approach ensures that the AAP avoids likely significant effects on protected sites of international importance.

1.2 Background to the Habitats Regulations Assessment

Under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (and Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations), an assessment is required where a plan or project may give rise to significant effects upon a Natura 2000 site (also known as 'European site').

Adjacent to the Morecambe AAP boundary lies the Morecambe Bay Special Protection Area (SPA), SAC (Special Area of Conservation) and Ramsar site. However, within a 15km radius of the Morecambe AAP boundary there are an additional five sites which form part of the Natura 2000 network that could potentially be affected by the Morecambe AAP (European sites are shown on Figure 1 of Appendix B). Natura 2000 is a network of areas designated to conserve natural habitats and species that are rare, endangered, vulnerable or endemic within the European Community. This includes SACs, designated under the Habitats Directive for their habitats and/or species of European importance, and SPAs, classified under Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended) for rare, vulnerable and regularly occurring migratory bird species and internationally important wetlands.

In addition, it is a matter of law that candidate SACs (cSACs) and Sites of Community Importance (SCI) are considered in this process; furthermore, it is Government policy that sites designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention for their internationally important wetlands (Ramsar sites) and potential SPAs (pSPAs) are also considered.

The requirements of the Habitats Directive are transposed into UK law by means of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010¹.

Paragraph 3, Article 6 of the Habitats Directive states that:

‘Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to paragraph 4 (see below), the competent national authority shall agree to the plan or project only having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public’.

Paragraph 4, Article 6 of the Habitats Directive states that:

‘If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.’

The overarching aim of HRA is to determine, in view of a site’s conservation objectives and qualifying interests, whether a plan, either in isolation and/or in combination with other plans, would have a significant adverse effect on the European site. If the Screening (the first stage of the process, see section 2.1 for details) concludes that significant effects are likely, then Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken to determine whether there will be adverse effects on site integrity.

1.3 Legislation and Guidance

This HRA screening report has drawn upon the following legislation and guidance:

- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.
- Department for Communities and Local Government (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment. Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents.
- European Commission, Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
- European Commission, Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

1.4 Update Following Consultation

The Morecambe AAP was released for consultation with the general public and stakeholders, during late 2012 and early 2013. Numerous responses were received and some have resulted in amendments to the document. As a result, it has been necessary to revisit this Habitats Regulations Assessment in light of these changes and assess whether any additionally

¹ SI 2010/490

identified impacts are evident. This document was originally completed in October 2012 and has now been updated to include responses up to July 2013.

Natural England has commented on the draft HRA Screening Report and this Final version has been produced to incorporate these comments.

2 THE HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT PROCESS

This section provides an outline of the stages involved in HRA and the specific methods that have been used in preparing this report.

2.1 Stages in HRA

The requirements of the Habitats Directive comprise four distinct stages:

Stage 1: Screening is the process 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. It is important to note that the burden of evidence is to show, on the basis of objective information, that there will be no significant effect; if the effect may be significant, or is not known, that would trigger the need for an Appropriate Assessment. There is European Court of Justice case law to the effect that unless the likelihood of a significant effect can be ruled out on the basis of objective information, and adopting the precautionary principle, then an Appropriate Assessment must be made.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment is 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 possible impacts.

Stage 3: Assessment of alternative solutions is the process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan 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. At Stage 4, an assessment is made with regard to whether or not the development is necessary for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI). If it is, this stage also involves detailed assessment of the compensatory measures needed to protect and maintain the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network.

2.2 Applying HRA to the Morecambe AAP

The HRA process should be applied to all policies which could have potential impacts upon a European site.

All policies within the Morecambe AAP should be subject to the process outlined in Section 2.1. The SA process which is being undertaken in parallel to this HRA will also consider effects on European sites in order to avoid potential damaging policies being brought forward.

Screening of the likely significant effects of the policies is provided in Section 4.

2.3 Definition of Significant Effects

The critical part of the HRA screening process is determining whether the Morecambe AAP is likely to have a significant effect on European sites and, therefore, if it will require an Appropriate Assessment. Judgements regarding significance should be made in relation to the qualifying interests for which the site is of European importance and also its conservation objectives. A useful definition of significant effects is provided in Welsh planning guidance² which can be drawn upon in this case:

‘...likely means readily foreseeable not merely a fanciful possibility; significant means not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that is potentially relevant to the site’s conservation objectives’.

2.4 In-Combination Effects

As outlined in Section 2.1, it is necessary for HRA to consider in-combination effects with other plans and projects. Plans under consideration may range from neighbouring authorities’ Local Plan Documents down to sector specific strategic plans on such topics as regeneration. A review has been undertaken of plans and projects with the potential for an in-combination effect with the Morecambe AAP which are listed in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1 Plans and Projects Considered for In-Combination Effects

Authority	Relevant Plan/Project
United Utilities	Water Resources Management Plan (2009).
Environment Agency	The Lune Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (2004).
Lancashire County Council	Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2021: A Strategy for Lancashire May 2011.
Lancashire County Council	Local Transport Plan 2011-2021: Delivering our Priorities A Draft Implementation Plan for 2011/12 – 13/14 August 2011.
Lancashire County Council	Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Development framework Core Strategy (2009) (Site Allocations document in preparation).
Lancaster City Council	Core Strategy (adopted 2008)
Lancaster City Council	Land Allocations DPD (currently in preparation)
Lancaster City Council	Development Management DPD (currently in preparation)
Craven District Council	Saved policies from the 1999 Local Plan (currently preparing their Local Development Plan).
South Lakeland District Council	South Lakeland Core Strategy (adopted October 2010).
Ribble Valley Council	Districtwide Local Plan (Adopted 1998) (Core Strategy in preparation).
Wyre Borough Council	Wyre Borough Local Plan (Adopted 1999) (Core Strategy in preparation).

Authority	Relevant Plan/Project
Various	North West and North Wales - Shoreline Management Plan 2 (2011).
Planning Application	Land at Lawson's Bridge, Scotforth Road, Lancaster: Erection of a new supermarket, construction of a new access and servicing and parking areas, footways, cycling facilities and landscaping. Once completed it would create a retail floor space of 2,052sqm (tradable) and 3,230sqm (gross).
Planning Application	Unit 1, Bulk Road, Lancaster - Creation of a Mezzanine floor to create extra retail space within the existing Curry's unit. Once completed this would create extra retail floor space of 617sqm.
Planning Application	Norman Jackson Ltd, Scotland Road, Carnforth - Outline application for the redevelopment of existing builders yard to provide retail, business and industrial units and associated car parking. Once completed it would create a retail floor space of 1,509sqm.
Planning Application	Vuflex, Thetis Road, Lune Industrial Estate, Lancaster - Erection of two new industrial units for Classes B2 & B8 to extend existing business use on site. This would increase the level of employment floor space by 1,070sqm
Planning Application	Mellishaw North, Mellishaw Lane, Morecambe - Amended access to development site for mixed use development incorporating B1, B2 and B8 uses, four motor dealerships, motor accessories store and fast food outlet. This would create circa 10,000sqm of employment floor space
Planning Application	Units 41, 43 & 45 Nortgate, White Lund Employment Area - erection of three two storey office buildings. This would create a further 812sqm of employment floor space.
Planning Application	Land off Scotland Road, Warton - Erection of a proposed new workshop, parts store, display areas and associated landscaping access, car parking and drainage works. This proposal would create 950sqm of employment floorspace.
Planning Application	Hybrid Application for the development of Carnforth Business Park on land off Kellet road, Carnforth for use classes B1, B2 and D1. Full application for the development of plots 1-6, access, new road, infrastructure and landscaping. Outline application for plots 7-16. Once completed this will create 12,855sqm of employment floor space
Planning Application	Luneside East (Land off Long Marsh Lane), 350 new homes
Planning Application	Nightingale Hall Farm, 164 new homes
Planning Application	Luneside West, 356 new homes
Planning Application	Lancaster Moor Hospital, 440 new homes
Planning Application	Wheatfield Street, 62 new homes
Planning Application	Mossgate, 209 new homes
Planning Application	Former Pontin's Holiday Camp, 579 new homes

Authority	Relevant Plan/Project
Planning Application	Heysham Depot, 39 new homes
Planning Application	Frontierland, Morecambe, 218 new homes
Planning Application	Broadway Hotel, 47 new homes
Planning Application	Halton Mills, 135 new homes
Planning Application	Halton Co-housing scheme, 41 new homes
Planning Application	Moor Platt, 36 new homes
Planning Application	Castle Hotel, 49 Main Street, Hornby, 7 new homes
Planning Application	Sunacre Court, Maple Avenue, Heysham, Morecambe, 6 new homes
Planning Application	Toll Bar Garage, Scotforth Road, Lane, 34 new homes
Planning Application	87-89 Marine Road West, Morecambe, 8 new homes
Planning Application	Police Station, Heysham Road, Heysham, 10 new homes
Planning Application	20 Emesgate Lane, Silverdale, Carnforth, 6 new homes
Planning Application	119 Main Road, Bolton Le Sands, Carnforth, 14 new homes
Planning Application	Cove House, Cove Road, Silverdale, 14 new homes
Planning Application	Elms Hotel, Elms Road, Morecambe, 48 new homes
Planning Application	26 Marine Road West, Morecambe, 5 new homes
Planning Application	98 St Leonards Gate, Lancaster, 9 new homes
Planning Application	Development Site, Land off Ashbourne Road, Lancaster, 27 new homes
Planning Application	Ellel House, Chapel Lane, Galgate, 13 new homes
Planning Application	Land adjacent to the Bungalow, Westcliffe, Morecambe, 8 new homes
Planning Application	Ship Hotel, Main Street, Overton, 5 new homes
Planning Application	North West Water Reservoir, Seymour Grove, Heysham, 9 new homes
Planning Application	8 Back Morecambe Street, Morecambe, 8 new homes
Highways Agency	The proposed Heysham M6 link
Lancaster City Council	Wave Return Wall
-	Large canal corridor retail proposal within the city centre
-	A possible third nuclear power station at Heysham
National Grid	National grid upgrades with potential power lines crossing the district

Only the Local Plans and Core Strategies of districts adjacent to Lancaster's boundary have been examined. It should be noted that in-combination effects only require consideration where the plan or project being assessed has an impact, whether significant or not. A conclusion of 'Zero Effects' negates the possibility of in-combination effects.

3 THE EUROPEAN SITES

Eight European sites have been identified adjacent to the Morecambe AAP boundary and within 15km. A list of the sites together with their status and location is presented in Table 3-1. Figure 1, Appendix B also shows the locations of the European sites identified in Table 3-1.

Table 3-2 Summary of European Sites

Name of Site	Identification Number	Status	Distance from Morecambe AAP boundary (approximate km)
Morecambe Bay	UK11045	Ramsar	Directly adjacent
Morecambe Bay	UK9005081	SPA	Directly adjacent
Morecambe Bay	UK0013027	SAC	Directly adjacent
Bowland Fells	UK9005151	SPA	Approximately 9.8km south east
Morecambe Bay Pavements	UK0014777	SAC	Approximately 11.3km north east
Calf Hill and Cragg Woods	UK0030106	SAC	Approximately 10.2km south east
Leighton Moss	UK11035	Ramsar	Approximately 10.1km north east
Leighton Moss	UK9005091	SPA	Approximately 10.1km north east

Table 3-2 provides further information regarding the European sites including current conditions, threats and the results of the April 2012 condition survey.

3.1 Conservation Objectives of the European Sites

Natural England has a duty to communicate the conservation objectives for a European site to the relevant/competent authority responsible for that site. The conservation objectives for a European site are intended to represent the aims of the Habitats and Birds Directives in relation to that site. To this end, habitats and species of European Community importance should be maintained or restored to 'favourable conservation status' (FCS), as defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive below:

The conservation status of a natural habitat will be taken as 'favourable' when:

- Its natural range and the area it covers within that range are stable or increasing;
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future;
- Conservation status of typical species is favourable as defined in Article 1(i).

The conservation status of a species will be taken as favourable when:

- Population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats;

- The natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future;
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Guidance from the European Commission³ indicates that the Habitats Directive intends FCS to be applied at the level of an individual site, as well as to habitats and species across their European range. Therefore, in order to properly express the aims of the Habitats Directive for an individual site, the conservation objectives for a site are essentially to maintain (or restore) the habitats and species of the site at (or to) FCS.

Conservation Objectives for the Morecambe Bay SPA, SAC and Ramsar site were obtained from Natural England's website⁴. They are summarised in Appendix A. Conservation Objectives for the Bowland Fells SPA, Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC, Calf Hill and Cragg Woods SAC, Leighton Moss Ramsar site and Leighton Moss SPA can be found on Natural England's website at: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designations/sac/northwest.aspx>

³ Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. (European Commission 2000)

⁴ <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/sac/northwest.aspx>

Table 3-3 European Sites that could be adversely affected by Morecambe's Morecambe AAP

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Conditions and Threats ⁵	Results of April 2012 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> 	No factors reported adversely affecting the sites ecological character (past, present or potential).	<p>Area favourable 93.81%</p> <p>Area unfavourable but recovering 6.19%</p> <p>Area unfavourable no change 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable declining 0%</p> <p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>

⁵ Taken from Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms (SAC and SPA) and Ramsar Information Sheets.

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Conditions and Threats ⁵	Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey
	Habitats	Species		
		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> 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>		

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Conditions and Threats ⁵	Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey
	Habitats	Species		
		<p>European golden plover, <i>Pluvialis apricaria apricaria</i></p> <p>Northern lapwing, <i>Vanellus vanellus</i></p> <p>Red knot, <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i></p> <p>Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i></p> <p>Bar-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i></p>		
Morecambe Bay 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:</p> <p>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> <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> 	<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 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.</p>	<p>Area favourable 93.81%</p> <p>Area unfavourable but recovering 6.19%</p> <p>Area unfavourable no change 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable declining 0%</p> <p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Conditions and Threats ⁵	Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey
	Habitats	Species		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.</p> <p>The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl.</p>		
Morecambe Bay SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <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 	<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> 	<p>There are a wide range of pressures on Morecambe Bay but the site is relatively robust and many 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.</p>	<p>Area favourable 93.81%</p> <p>Area unfavourable but recovering 6.19%</p> <p>Area unfavourable no change 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable declining 0%</p>

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Conditions and Threats ⁵	Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey
	Habitats	Species		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Salicornia</i> 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 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>) 		Current pressures include fisheries, aggregate extraction, gas exploration, recreation and other activities.	Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Bowland Fells SPA	N/A	This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the	The expansive blanket bog and heather dominated moorland provides suitable habitat for a diverse range of upland breeding birds. Favourable nature	Area favourable 5.50% Area unfavourable but recovering 94.40%

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Conditions and Threats ⁵	Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey
	Habitats	Species		
		<p>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>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 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 Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in conjunction with North West Water, Natural England and Lancashire Constabulary.</p>	<p>Area unfavourable no change 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable declining 0.10%</p> <p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>
Calf Hill and Cragg Woods SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) *Priority feature 	N/A	<p>Currently there is limited intervention in land-use/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>

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Conditions and Threats ⁵	Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey
	Habitats	Species		
Leighton Moss Ramsar site	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ramsar criterion 1 An example of large reedbed habitat characteristic of the biogeographical region. The reedbeds are of particular importance as a northern outpost for breeding populations of great bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>, Eurasian marsh harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> and bearded tit <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>. Ramsar criterion 3 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> 	The site is currently vulnerable to sedimentation / siltation and pollution – pesticides / agricultural runoff.	<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 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> 	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 Morecambe Bay. This is potentially one of	<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>

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Conditions and Threats ⁵	Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey
	Habitats	Species		
			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	<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 <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 ▪ <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles * Priority feature <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, 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 <i>Caricion davallianae</i> * Priority 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>	See Appendix C

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Conditions and Threats ⁵	Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey
	Habitats	Species		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles 			

4 SCREENING

4.1 Context

The Morecambe AAP includes policies which will assist with determining future planning applications within a defined boundary in Morecambe (see Figure 1 of Appendix B). The AAP supplements the Development Management Policies DPD and will eventually reflect the Land Allocations DPD. The AAP provides further detailed policy guidance on a range of planning matters including environmental, social and economic issues. The AAP is of key importance to facilitate the regeneration of Morecambe.

The AAP is applicable to all proposed development in central Morecambe within the AAP boundary.

4.2 Morecambe AAP

The elements of the Morecambe AAP used in the screening assessment are listed in Table 4-1.

Table 4-4 Elements of the Morecambe AAP

Morecambe AAP Policy Groups	Policy Name / Action Set
Plan Vision and Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Well considered, clear signage of vehicle routes to and from Morecambe▪ A welcoming arrival (and pleasant departure) experience▪ Changes to highways and parking▪ Much improved signage for pedestrians throughout central Morecambe▪ Continuing protection and effective conservation of the bay and shoreline environments▪ A focus on quality and good care of all aspects of the built environment▪ The environment at the central seafront protected and further enhanced and animated▪ A tighter defined town centre▪ As seamless a join as possible between the town centre and the seafront▪ Footfall of visitors on the seafront feeding into a town centre▪ The Arndale and area around one anchor to the town centre, the other the Festival Market / Platform / Apollo complex as rejuvenated to make for an indoor entertainment hub▪ Queen and Pedder streets better integrated▪ Victoria Street functioning much as a traditional high street▪ Investment, development and change in the Festival Market/Platform/Apollo area▪ An increasing resident population within central Morecambe▪ The seafront headland at the central promenade made Morecambe's lead leisure destination▪ At the seafront better opportunities to host and stage festivals

Morecambe AAP Policy Groups	Policy Name / Action Set
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The edge of centre retail park existing south of Central Drive at Morrison's and around relating well to the tighter centre and feeding footfall into it ▪ The bay between the Midland and the Battery ▪ Development of the former Frontierland site predominantly for housing ▪ Functionality further supported by improved connections for pedestrians to and from adjacent residential areas ▪ Visitor accommodation and including that just outside central Morecambe that is readily found by vehicle and on foot
Managing the Environment	Action Set (AS)1: Managing and maintaining streets and spaces
	AS2: Improve the condition of buildings and encourage beneficial occupancy
Managing Development	Policy SP1: Key Pedestrian Routes and Spaces
	AS3: Improve Key Routes and Spaces for Pedestrians and Cyclists
Further encouraging business investment and development	Policy SP2: Investment Incentives
	AS4: Further encourage business investment and development
Morecambe's Main Seafront and Promenade	Policy SP3: Morecambe Main Seafront and Promenade
	AS5: Central Seafront and Main Beach
	Policy Development Opportunity (DO)1: The Battery
	AS6: Western Seafront and Beach
	Policy DO2: Strategic Leisure – Seafront Headland, Central Promenade
	AS7: Seafront Headland, Central Promenade
The Town Centre	Policy SP4: Town Centre
	Policy DO3: The Arndale and Area
	Policy DO4: West View and Northumberland Street
	Policy DO5: Festival Market and Area
	Action Set AS8: The Town Centre
South of the Town Centre	AS9: Edge of Centre Retail Park
	Policy DO6: Former Frontierland Site
Travel and Transport	AS10: Traffic route signage to and from central Morecambe
	AS11: Transport, Parking Provision and Management
	AS12: Bus Services
	AS13: Rail Services
Marketing to Investors and Visitors	AS14: Investor Marketing Strategy
	AS15: Visitor Marketing Strategy

4.3 Screening of the Morecambe AAP

The screening process has been split into two distinct stages, initial screening and detailed screening. The initial screening stage provides a high level screening 'matrix style' assessment to determine if the Morecambe AAP could possibly lead to significant adverse effects on European sites identified in Table 3-1. The purpose of this was to eliminate those sites from the assessment which very clearly would not be affected by the AAP in order to focus on those sites where there was potential or uncertainty. The European sites that were identified to be potentially at risk due to potential development associated with the Morecambe AAP or those sites for which impacts were uncertain, were carried forward into a more detailed screening assessment.

The sections below outline the initial and detailed screening of the Morecambe AAP.

4.3.1 Initial Screening of the Morecambe AAP

The initial screening of the Morecambe AAP is presented in Table 4-2 below.

The overarching AAP policy groups were initially examined to determine their need for further detailed assessment. The notations below were used to indicate if further detailed assessment is required:

- ✓ Further detailed assessment is required to determine the nature of effects on the European site.
- ✗ No further assessment is required as no effects are predicted on the European site.

Table 4-5 Initial Screening of the Morecambe AAP Policy Groups

European Sites	Morecambe AAP Policy Groups (Further assessment required: ✖/✓)									Comments
	Plan Vision and Approach	Managing the Environment	Managing Development	Encouraging Development and Investment	Seafront	Town Centre	South of the Town Centre	Transport	Marketing	
Morecambe Bay SPA	✖	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	It is unlikely that elements within the Plan Vision and Approach would lead to likely significant effects on the European sites due to their high level nature and commitment to the continuing protection and effective conservation of the bay / shoreline environments within Morecambe. Therefore the Vision and Approach are not considered further in the assessment. Action sets within the Managing the Environment policy group are not considered further in the assessment. This is because AS1 directly seeks to remedy the appearance of land in poor condition and enliven the street environment and refresh green space areas, which would only benefit European sites. There is no link between AS2 and the Europeans sites as the action set seeks to improve the external appearance and occupancy of buildings within Morecambe. Further assessment is required as to whether policies / action sets within policy groups, Managing Development, Further encouraging business investment and development, Morecambe's Main Seafront and Promenade, The Town Centre, South of the Town Centre and Travel and Transport would lead to likely significant effects on the Morecambe Bay SPA / Ramsar / SAC due to the designated sites lying directly adjacent to the Morecambe AAP's western boundary and the nature of development the policies are likely to lead to i.e. retail, leisure, employment, transport and housing development. Action sets within the marketing policy group are not considered further in the assessment as there is no clear link between the European sites and the action sets. Whilst the installations of coastal defences are referenced to within SP3, the plan does not propose new sea defences or amendments. This will be covered in the relevant Shoreline Management Plan and delivered via relevant strategies and schemes which would be subject to HRA separately. Coastal defences are therefore not considered further in this report.
Morecambe Bay Ramsar site	✖	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	
Morecambe Bay SAC	✖	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	
Bowland Fells SPA	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	The Bowland Fells SPA is located approximately 9.8km south east of the AAP boundary. The qualifying species are Hen Harrier, Merlin and Lesser Black-backed Gull. Although the species within the Bowland Fells are mobile, due to the distance of the SPA from the AAP boundary and the nature of development the AAP no direct or indirect likely significant effects are considered feasible as there are no clear impact pathways.
Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	The SAC is located approximately 11.3km north east of the AAP boundary. The SAC's qualifying features include hard oligo-mesotrophic waters, semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies, <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines, limestone pavements, <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods, European dry heaths, calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and <i>Caricion davallianae</i> , old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> and the narrow-mouthed whorl snail. Due to the distance of the SAC from the AAP boundary and the nature of the qualifying features no direct or indirect likely significant effects are considered feasible as there are no clear impact pathways.
Calf Hill and Cragg Woods SAC	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	No likely significant effects are predicted on the SAC's qualifying habitats (old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> and alluvial forests) due to the approximate 10.2km distance of the SAC from the AAP boundary. No direct or indirect likely significant effects are considered feasible on the SAC as there are no clear impact pathways.
Leighton Moss SPA	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	The sites are located approximately 10.1km north east of the AAP boundary. No likely significant effects are predicted on either the SPA or Ramsar site as a result of the Morecambe AAP as the plan boundary's distance sites make it highly unlikely any proposals would affect the qualifying species (Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Bearded Tit, Shoveler and Water Rail). Although the qualifying species are mobile, they all favour reed bed habitats which are not present within the AAP boundary. No direct or indirect likely significant effects are considered feasible on the SPA or Ramsar as there are no clear impact pathways.
Leighton Moss Ramsar site	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	

Following the initial screening of the Morecambe AAP policies five of the European sites have been screened out of the remainder of this assessment. Table 4-2 shows that a clear impact pathway (either direct or indirect) could not be established for five of the European sites originally identified, hence significant effects from the implementation of the AAP are unlikely. Similarly impact pathways could not be established between the European sites and three of the policy groups.

4.3.2 Detailed Screening of the Morecambe AAP

The detailed screening of the Morecambe AAP is presented in Tables 4-3 – 4-5 below and is based on the findings of the initial screening exercise.

Policy groups Managing Development, Encouraging Development and Investment, Seafront, Town Centre, South of the Town Centre and Transport as set out in the Morecambe AAP were examined in detail to determine the need for Appropriate Assessment.

The notations below were used to indicate if the policy should be taken forward to the Appropriate Assessment stage:

✓ Appropriate Assessment required

✗ No further assessment required

Table 4-6 Screening the Morecambe AAP: Morecambe Bay SPA

Morecambe Bay SPA				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (✘/✓)
Managing Development				
Policy SP1: Key Pedestrian Routes and Spaces	<p>This policy seeks to facilitate pedestrian movement around Morecambe and ensure that new development relates well to the pedestrian network. Although the Morecambe Bay SPA is located directly adjacent to Morecambe's promenade (a key pedestrian route) the policy would not result in any direct land take within the SPA.</p> <p>The policy is likely to lead to limited new development on previously developed sites, therefore is unlikely to significantly increase surface water run-off.</p>	<p>Although no likely significant effects were anticipated on the SPA, the policy includes a specific cross reference to the Development Management DPD, stating that new development would be expected to comply with all relevant policy within the Development Management DPD. Policy EN2.1 of the Development Management DPD ensures new development does not lead to an adverse effect on the integrity of a site of international importance for biodiversity either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The policy also ensures sites that could be functionally linked to European designated wildlife sites are not affected by new development proposals and where necessary require that proposals are accompanied by a project specific HRA Screening Report.</p> <p>The pollution of water courses would be controlled by adherence to the Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention Guidelines, a Construction Environmental Management Plan and the Development Management DPD. Policy EN5.3 of the Development Management DPD ensures water resources are protected through resisting developments which would pose an unacceptable threat to surface water and groundwater quantity and quality. This also includes pollution caused by water run-off from developments into nearby waterways. All of which would ensure likely significant effects are avoided.</p>	N/A	✘

Morecambe Bay SPA				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (✗/✓)
AS3: Improving Key Routes for Pedestrians and Cyclists	The action set seeks to improve the public realm within the AAP boundary. Public realm improvements such as reductions in clutter, traffic calming would only benefit the qualifying species of the SPA, therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated.	N/A	N/A	✗
Further Encouraging Business Investment and Development				
Policy SP2: Investment Incentives	The Morecambe Bay SPA is located directly adjacent to the Morecambe AAP boundary, however, the policy and associated action set are likely to lead to development on brownfield land within the existing urban area. Therefore the policy (and action set) would not result in any direct land take within the SPA. No possible impact pathways have been identified and it is very unlikely the qualifying species use the available brownfield sites within Morecambe as they are not considered to contain favourable habitats.	N/A	N/A	✗
AS4: Further encourage business investment and development		N/A	N/A	✗
Morecambe's Main Seafront and Promenade				
Policy SP3: Morecambe Main Seafront and Promenade	The purpose of the policy and action set is to facilitate development for informal recreation and enjoyment directly adjacent to the SPA. Although the policy seeks to ensure new development is of high quality design there is a risk that over time new recreation facilities and an increase in informal recreation could lead to	The policies state that the council will not permit any proposals that result in a significant adverse effect on Bay environment and its interest features as a European Wildlife Site. Therefore this would guard against any likely significant effects. The pollution of water courses would be controlled by adherence to the Environment Agency's Pollution	Refer to Section 4.5	✗
AS5: Central Seafront and Main Beach			Refer to Section 4.5	✗

Morecambe Bay SPA				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (* / ✓)
	disturbance of the SPA's qualifying species, as more people may access the beach. Although, the Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for the SPA does not list recreational pressure as a current issue risks are considered further in Section 4.4.	Prevention Guidelines and a Construction Environmental Management Plan both of which would guard against likely significant effects. National legislation and guidance would also prevent inappropriate development within and adjacent to the SPA.		
Policy DO1: The Battery	The policy and associated action set seek to facilitate the development of leisure and recreation facilities (and some retail and food / drink outlets) within the Battery area of Morecambe which is located directly adjacent to the SPA. No direct land take within the SPA is proposed.		Refer to Section 4.5	✗
AS6: Western Seafront and Beach	<p>The SPA supports an internationally important seabird assemblage of at least 20,000 birds and a wetland that supports at least 20,000 waterfowl therefore an increase in leisure and recreation in the area (including water sports within the SPA) could lead to disturbance (and increased recreational pressure) of qualifying species within the SPA. Although the site is considered to be relatively robust as stated in the Natura Standard Data Form for the site, this is discussed further in Section 4.4.</p> <p>Although the policy supports new development on brownfield land there remains an element of risk that new development in this area may lead</p>		Refer to Section 4.5	✗

Morecambe Bay SPA				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (✘/✔)
	to the contamination of the SPA, particularly during construction works.			
Policy DO2: Strategic Leisure – Seafront Headland, Central Promenade	It is unlikely that the policy / action set would lead to any potential effects on the SPA. The policy and action set seek to facilitate low impact leisure development (e.g. multi-games space, crazy golf, outdoor gym etc) over the short to medium-term and additional visitor / residential accommodation in the long-term on the brownfield site (located directly adjacent to the SPA). Although no direct land take would be required within the SPA there is a small risk that the SPA may become contaminated during the construction works associated with the visitor / residential accommodation. It is very unlikely that the site itself is used by the qualifying species outside the designation as the habitats on the site are not considered to be favourable. There is however, the potential for the policy to result in an increased number of people using the beach. This is discussed further in Section 4.4.		Refer to Section 4.5	✘
AS7: Seafront Headland, Central Promenade			Refer to Section 4.5	✘
The Town Centre				
Policy SP4: Town Centre	Guiding town centre development to a defined town centre boundary within an existing urban area would not have any likely significant effects on the SPA. Although the allocation is located approximately 37m from the SPA no impact	N/A	N/A	✘

Morecambe Bay SPA				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (* / ✓)
	pathways have been identified and likely significant effects are considered feasible.			
Policy DO3: The Arndale and Area	This policy would not have any likely significant effects on the qualifying species of the SPA, as the policy would lead to new development within an existing urban area, approximately 95m from the SPA.	N/A	N/A	✗
Policy DO4: West View and Northumberland Street	Policy DO4 is a brownfield allocation situated approximately 65m from the SPA boundary. However, it is unlikely that proposed town centre development would lead to likely significant effects on the SPA's qualifying species. This is because no possible impact pathways have been identified (the site is situated behind the promenade and Marine Road Central and is a previously developed site (a car park) - therefore is unlikely to significantly increase surface water run-off) and it is very unlikely that the qualifying species use this site as it is not considered to contain favourable habitats.	N/A	N/A	✗
Policy DO5: Festival Market and Area	Policy DO5 is a large brownfield allocation located approximately 36m from the SPA boundary. The site is allocated for opportunities for investment and the development of town centre uses. No land take within the SPA would be required, no potential impact pathways are considered feasible (the site is situated behind the promenade and Marine Road Central) and it	N/A	N/A	✗

Morecambe Bay SPA				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/√)
	is very unlikely that the qualifying mobile species use this site as it is not considered to contain favourable habitats. No likely significant effects considered feasible.			
Action Set AS8: The Town Centre	AS8 seeks to improve the public realm within Morecambe Town Centre. It includes provisions such as improving road / pavement surfaces, revising traffic arrangements, improving lighting, signage etc. It is very unlikely that any of the provisions set out in the action set would affect the integrity of the SPA as all improvements would be undertaken within an existing urban environment. No likely significant effects considered feasible.	N/A	N/A	✗
South of the Town Centre				
AS9: Edge of Centre Retail Park	AS9 seeks to improve the appearance and connectivity to the existing retail park south of the town centre. As the action set would lead to very limited development within an existing retail park. No likely significant effects considered feasible on the SPA.	N/A	N/A	✗
Policy DO6: Former Frontierland Site	Policy DO6 is a brownfield site located approximately 25m from the SPA and allocated for residential development. Although the site is currently vacant and derelict within close proximity of the SPA it is unlikely that the SPA's qualifying species (although mobile) use the site as it is not considered to contain favourable	The pollution of water courses would be controlled by adherence to the Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention Guidelines and a Construction Environmental Management Plan both of which would guard against likely significant effects.	Refer to Section 4.5	✗

Morecambe Bay SPA				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/√)
	habitats. In addition, as the allocation is located on previously developed land it is unlikely to significantly increase the risk of surface water run-off entering the SPA. This aside there is the potential for the policy to result in an increased number of people using the beach due to an increase in population. This is discussed further in Section 4.4.			
Travel and Transport				
AS10: Traffic route signage to and from central Morecambe	The action sets would not lead to any large scale infrastructure improvements within Morecambe. The action sets seek to ensure opportunities to maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport are sought in new development and adequate parking provision is provided along with appropriate signage. No likely significant effects considered feasible.	N/A	N/A	✗
AS11: Transport, Parking Provision and Management		N/A	N/A	✗
AS12: Bus services		N/A	N/A	✗
AS13: Rail services		N/A	N/A	✗

Table 4-7 Screening the Morecambe AAP: Morecambe Bay Ramsar Site

Morecambe Bay Ramsar site				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (✘/✓)
Managing Development				
Policy SP1: Key Pedestrian Routes and Spaces	<p>This policy seeks to facilitate pedestrian movement around Morecambe and ensure that new development relates well to the pedestrian network. Although the Morecambe Bay Ramsar site is located directly adjacent to Morecambe's promenade (a key pedestrian route) the policy would not result in any direct land take within the Ramsar site.</p> <p>The policy is likely to lead to limited new development on previously developed sites, therefore is unlikely to significantly increase surface water run-off.</p>	<p>Although no likely significant effects were anticipated on the Ramsar site, the policy includes a specific cross reference to the Development Management DPD, stating that new development would be expected to comply with all relevant policy within the Development Management DPD. Policy EN2.1 of the Development Management DPD ensures new development does not lead to an adverse effect on the integrity of a site of international importance for biodiversity either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The policy also ensures sites that could be functionally linked to European designated wildlife sites are not affected by new development proposals and where necessary require that proposals are accompanied by a project specific HRA Screening Report.</p> <p>The pollution of water courses would be controlled by adherence to the Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention Guidelines, a Construction Environmental Management Plan and the Development Management DPD. Policy EN5.3 of the Development Management DPD ensures water resources are protected through resisting developments which would pose an unacceptable threat to surface water and groundwater quantity and quality. This also includes pollution caused by water run-off from developments into nearby waterways would ensure likely significant effects are avoided.</p>	N/A	✘

Morecambe Bay Ramsar site				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (✗/✓)
AS3: Improving Key Routes for Pedestrians and Cyclists	The action set seeks to improve the public realm within the AAP boundary. Public realm improvements such as reductions in clutter, traffic calming would only benefit the qualifying species of the Ramsar site, therefore no likely significant effects are anticipated.	N/A	N/A	✗
Further Encouraging Business Investment and Development				
Policy SP2: Investment Exemptions	The Morecambe Bay Ramsar site is located directly adjacent to the Morecambe AAP boundary, however, the policy and associated action set are likely to lead to development on brownfield land within the existing urban area. Therefore the policy (and action set) would not result in any direct land take within the Ramsar site. No possible impact pathways have been identified and it is very unlikely the qualifying species use the available brownfield sites within Morecambe as they are not considered to contain favourable habitats.	N/A	N/A	✗
AS4: Further encourage business investment and development		N/A	N/A	✗
Morecambe's Main Seafront and Promenade				
Policy SP3: Morecambe Main Seafront and Promenade	The purpose of the policy and action set is to facilitate development for informal recreation and enjoyment directly adjacent to the Ramsar site. Although the policy seeks to ensure new development is of high quality design there is a risk that over time new recreation facilities and an increase in informal recreation could lead to	The policies state that the council will not permit any proposals that result in a significant adverse effect on Bay environment and its interest features as a European Wildlife Site. Therefore this would guard against any likely significant effects. The pollution of water courses would be controlled by adherence to the Environment Agency's Pollution	Refer to Section 4.5	✗
AS5: Central Seafront and Main Beach			Refer to Section 4.5	✗

Morecambe Bay Ramsar site				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/√)
	disturbance of the Ramsar's qualifying species, as more people may access the beach. Although the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands site does not identify recreational pressure as adversely affecting the site's ecological character risks are considered further in Section 4.4.	Prevention Guidelines and a Construction Environmental Management Plan both of which would guard against likely significant effects. National legislation and guidance would also prevent inappropriate development within and adjacent to the Ramsar site.		
Policy DO1: The Battery	The policy and associated action set seek to facilitate the development of leisure and recreation facilities (and some retail and food / drink outlets) within the Battery area of Morecambe which is located directly adjacent to the Ramsar site. No direct land take within the Ramsar site is proposed.		Refer to Section 4.5	✗
AS6: Western Seafront and Beach	The Ramsar site supports an internationally important bird assemblage over winter and during the spring / summer therefore an increase in leisure and recreation in the area (including water sports within the Ramsar site) could lead to disturbance of qualifying species within the Ramsar site. This is discussed further in Section 4.4. The site is located within Flood Zone 2 and although new development is proposed on brownfield land there remains an element of risk that new development in this area may lead to the contamination of the Ramsar site, particularly during construction works.		Refer to Section 4.5	✗

Morecambe Bay Ramsar site				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (✗/✓)
Policy DO2: Strategic Leisure – Seafront Headland, Central Promenade	It is unlikely that the policy / action set would lead to any potential effects on the Ramsar site. The policy and action set seek to facilitate low impact leisure development (e.g. multi-games space, crazy golf, outdoor gym etc) over the short to medium-term and additional visitor / residential accommodation in the long-term on the brownfield site (located directly adjacent to the Ramsar site). Although no direct land take would be required within the Ramsar site there is a small risk that the Ramsar site may become contaminated during the construction works associated with new visitor / residential development. It is very unlikely that the site itself is used by the qualifying species outside the designation as the habitats on the site are not considered to be favourable. There is however, the potential for the policy to result in an increased number of people using the beach. This is discussed further in Section 4.4.		Refer to Section 4.5	✗
AS7: Seafront Headland, Central Promenade			Refer to Section 4.5	✗
The Town Centre				
Policy SP4: Town Centre	Guiding town centre development to a defined town centre boundary within an existing urban area would not have any likely significant effects on the Ramsar site. Although the allocation is located approximately 37m from the Ramsar site	N/A	N/A	✗

Morecambe Bay Ramsar site				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (* / ✓)
	no impact pathways have been identified and no likely significant effects are considered feasible.			
Policy DO3: The Arndale and Area	This policy would not have any likely significant effects on the qualifying species of the Ramsar site, as the policy would lead to new development within an existing urban area, approximately 95m from the Ramsar.	N/A	N/A	✗
Policy DO4: West View and Northumberland Street	Policy DO4 is a brownfield allocation situated approximately 65m from the Ramsar site boundary. However, it is unlikely that proposed town centre development would lead to likely significant effects on the Ramsar's qualifying species. This is because no possible impact pathways have been identified (the site is situated behind the promenade and Marine Road Central and is a previously developed site (a car park) - therefore is unlikely to significantly increase surface water run-off) and it is very unlikely that the qualifying species use this site as it is not considered to contain favourable habitats.	N/A	N/A	✗
Policy DO5: Festival Market and Area	Policy DO5 is a large brownfield allocation located approximately 36m from the Ramsar site boundary. The site is allocated for opportunities for investment and the development of town centre uses. No land take within the Ramsar site would be required, no potential impact pathways are considered feasible (the site is situated	N/A	N/A	✗

Morecambe Bay Ramsar site				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/√)
	behind the promenade and Marine Road Central) and it is very unlikely that the qualifying mobile species use this site as it is not considered to contain favourable habitats. No likely significant effects considered feasible.			
Action Set AS8: The Town Centre	AS8 seeks to improve the public realm within Morecambe Town Centre. It includes provisions such as improving road / pavement surfaces, revising traffic arrangements, improving lighting, signage etc. It is very unlikely that any of the provisions set out in the action set would affect the integrity of the Ramsar site as all improvements would be undertaken on previously developed brownfield land within an existing urban environment. No likely significant effects considered feasible.	N/A	N/A	✗
South of the Town Centre				
AS9: Edge of Centre Retail Park	AS9 seeks to improve the appearance and connectivity to the existing retail park south of the town centre. As the action set would lead to very limited development within an existing retail park no likely significant effects are considered feasible on the Ramsar site.	N/A	N/A	✗
Policy DO6: Former Frontierland Site	Policy DO6 is a brownfield site located approximately 25m from the Ramsar site and allocated for residential development. Although the site is currently vacant and derelict within close proximity of the Ramsar site it is unlikely	The pollution of water courses would be controlled by adherence to the Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention Guidelines and a Construction Environmental	Refer to Section 4.5	✗

Morecambe Bay Ramsar site				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/√)
	that the Ramsar's qualifying species (although mobile) use the site as it is not considered to contain favourable habitats. In addition, as the allocation is located on previously developed land it is unlikely to significantly increase the risk of surface water run-off entering the Ramsar site. This aside there is the potential for the policy to result in an increased number of people using the beach due to an increase in population. This is discussed further in Section 4.4.	Management Plan both of which would guard against likely significant effects.		
Travel and Transport				
AS10: Traffic route signage to and from central Morecambe	The action sets would not lead to any large scale infrastructure improvements within Morecambe. The action sets seek to ensure opportunities to maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport are sought in new development and adequate parking provision is provided along with appropriate signage. No likely significant effects considered feasible.	N/A	N/A	✗
AS11: Transport, Parking Provision and Management		N/A	N/A	✗
AS12: Bus services		N/A	N/A	✗
AS13: Rail services		N/A	N/A	✗

Table 4-8 Screening the Morecambe AAP: Morecambe Bay SAC

Morecambe Bay SAC				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (✗/✓)
Managing Development				
Policy SP1: Key Pedestrian Routes and Spaces	The policy seeks to facilitate pedestrian movement around Morecambe and ensure that new development relates well to the pedestrian network. Although the Morecambe Bay SAC is located directly adjacent to the Morecambe's promenade (a key pedestrian route) the policy would not result in any direct land take within the SAC. In addition, the policy is likely to lead to limited new development on previously developed sites, therefore unlikely to significantly increase surface water run-off which may pollute the SAC.	Although no likely significant effects were anticipated on the SAC, the policy includes a specific cross reference to the Development Management DPD, stating that new development would be expected to comply with all relevant policy within the Development Management DPD. Policy EN2.1 of the Development Management DPD ensures new development does not lead to an adverse effect on the integrity of a site of international importance for biodiversity either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The pollution of water courses would be controlled by the Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention Guidelines, a Construction Environmental Management Plan and the Development Management DPD. Policy EN5.3 of the Development Management DPD ensures water resources are protected through resisting developments which would pose an unacceptable threat to surface water and groundwater quantity and quality. This also includes pollution caused by water run-off from developments into nearby waterways would ensure likely significant effects are avoided.	N/A	✗
AS3: Improving Key Routes for Pedestrians and Cyclists	The action set seeks to improve the public realm within the AAP boundary. No improvements would be undertaken within the SAC, therefore no impact pathways have been identified and no likely significant direct / indirect effects are	N/A	N/A	✗

Morecambe Bay SAC				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (* / ✓)
	considered feasible on the SAC's qualifying features.			
Further Encouraging Business Investment and Development				
Policy SP2: Investment Exemptions	The Morecambe Bay SAC is located directly adjacent to the Morecambe AAP boundary, however, the policy and associated action set are likely to lead to development on brownfield land within the existing urban area. Therefore the policy (and action set) would not result in any direct land take within the SAC. No possible impact pathways have been identified and no direct / indirect effects are considered feasible on the SAC's qualifying features.	N/A	N/A	✗
AS4: Further encourage business investment and development		N/A	N/A	✗
Morecambe's Main Seafront and Promenade				
Policy SP3: Morecambe Main Seafront and Promenade	The purpose of the policy and action set is to facilitate development for informal recreation and enjoyment directly adjacent to the SAC. Although the policy seeks to ensure new development is of high quality design there is a risk that over time new recreation facilities and an increase in informal recreation could lead to increased pressure within the SAC, as more people may access the beach. Recreational pressure is identified on the UK SAC data form as a potential threat to the site. Recreational pressure is discussed further in Section 4.4.	The policies state that the council will not permit any proposals that result in a significant adverse effect on Bay environment and its interest features as a European Wildlife Site. Therefore this would guard against any likely significant effects. Increased recreational pressure within the SAC could be guarded against through good management practice. In addition, the Morecambe Bay SAC is considered to cover a large enough area (see Figure 1 of Appendix B) that facilitating the enjoyment of the bay would not lead to	Refer to Section 4.5	✗
AS5: Central Seafront and Main Beach			Refer to Section 4.5	✗

Morecambe Bay SAC				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/√)
Policy DO1: The Battery	<p>The policy and associated action set seek to facilitate the development of leisure and recreation facilities (and some retail and food / drink outlets) within the Battery area of Morecambe which is located directly adjacent to the SAC. No direct land take within the SAC is proposed. However, an increase in leisure and recreation in the area (including water sports within the SAC) may lead to likely effects on the mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide. Although the site is considered to be relatively robust, recreational pressure is identified on the UK SAC data form as a potential threat to the site. Recreational pressure is discussed further in Section 4.4.</p> <p>Although new development is proposed on brownfield land there remains an element of risk that new development in this area may lead to the contamination of the SAC, particularly during construction works.</p>	<p>significant effects on the qualifying habitats such as mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide.</p> <p>The pollution of water courses would be controlled by adherence to the Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention Guidelines and a Construction Environmental Management Plan both of which would guard against likely significant effects.</p> <p>National legislation and guidance would also prevent inappropriate development within and adjacent to the SAC.</p>	Refer to Section 4.5	✗
AS6: Western Seafront and Beach			Refer to Section 4.5	✗
Policy DO2: Strategic Leisure – Seafront Headland, Central Promenade			Refer to Section 4.5	✗
AS7: Seafront Headland, Central Promenade			Refer to Section 4.5	✗

Morecambe Bay SAC				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (* / ✓)
	required within the SAC there is a small risk that the SAC may become contaminated during visitor / residential accommodation construction works. In addition, the policies may lead to increased recreational pressure within the SAC, this is discussed further in Section 4.4.			
The Town Centre				
Policy SP4: Town Centre	Guiding town centre development to a defined town centre boundary within an existing urban area would lead to likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the SAC. Although the allocation is located approximately 37m from the SAC no impact pathways have been identified and no likely significant effects are considered feasible.	N/A	N/A	✗
Policy DO3: The Arndale and Area	This policy would not lead to any likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the SAC, as the policy would lead to new development within an existing urban area, approximately 95m from the European designation.	N/A	N/A	✗
Policy DO4: West View and Northumberland Street	Policy DO4 is a brownfield allocation situated approximately 65m from the SAC boundary. However, it is unlikely proposed town centre development would lead to any likely significant effects on the SAC's qualifying features. This is because no possible impact pathways have been identified (the site is situated behind the	N/A	N/A	✗

Morecambe Bay SAC				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/√)
	promenade and Marine Road Central and is a previously developed site (a car park) - therefore is unlikely to significantly increase surface water run-off).			
Policy DO5: Festival Market and Area	Policy DO5 is a large brownfield allocation located approximately 36m from the SAC boundary. The site is allocated for opportunities for investment and the development of town centre uses. No land take within the SAC would be required, no potential impact pathways are considered feasible (the site is situated behind the promenade and Marine Road Central). Therefore no likely significant effects are considered feasible.	N/A	N/A	✗
Action Set AS8: The Town Centre	AS8 seeks to improve the public realm within Morecambe Town Centre. It includes provisions such as improving road / pavement surfaces, revising traffic arrangements, improving lighting, signage etc. It is very unlikely any of the provisions set out in the action set would lead to any likely significant effects on the SAC as all improvements would be undertaken within an existing urban environment.	N/A	N/A	✗
South of the Town Centre				
AS9: Edge of Centre Retail Park	AS9 seeks to improve the appearance and connectivity to the existing retail park south of the town centre. As the action set would lead to very limited development within an existing retail	N/A	N/A	✗

Morecambe Bay SAC				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/√)
	park no likely significant effects considered feasible on the SAC.			
Policy DO6: Former Frontierland Site	Policy DO6 is a brownfield site located approximately 25m from the SAC and allocated for residential development. Although the site is currently vacant and derelict within close proximity of the SAC its location on previously developed land make it very unlikely that new development would significantly increase the risk of surface water run-off entering the SAC. This aside there is the potential for the policy to result in an increased number of people using the beach due to an increase in population. This is discussed further in Section 4.4.	The pollution of water courses would be controlled by adherence to the Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention Guidelines and a Construction Environmental Management Plan both of which would guard against likely significant effects.	Refer to Section 4.5	✗
Travel and Transport				
AS10: Traffic route signage to and from central Morecambe	The action sets would not lead to any large scale infrastructure improvements within Morecambe. The action sets seek to ensure opportunities to maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport are sought in new development and adequate parking provision is provided along with appropriate signage. No likely significant effects are considered feasible.	N/A	N/A	✗
AS11: Transport, Parking Provision and Management		N/A	N/A	✗
AS12: Bus services		N/A	N/A	✗
AS13: Rail services		N/A	N/A	✗

4.4 Recreational Pressure

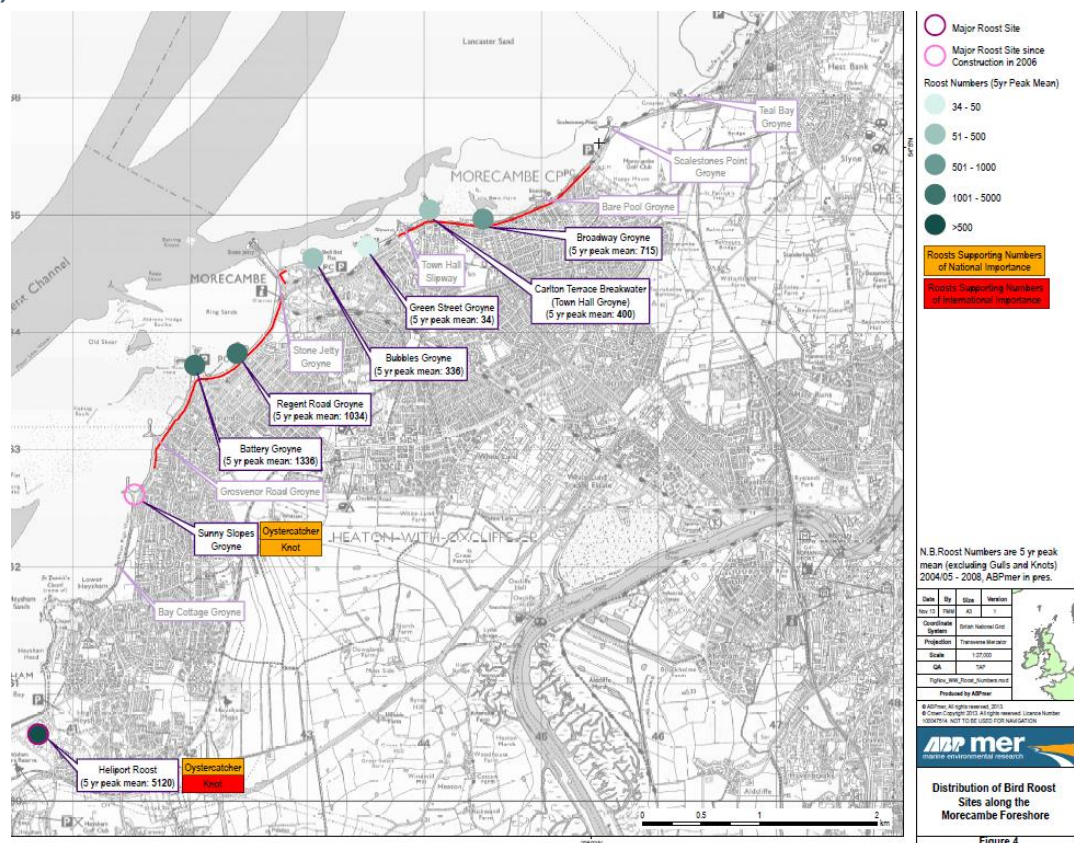
4.4.1 Baseline

The following paragraphs detailing the ornithological character of the Morecambe foreshore have been taken from ABPmer's, *Information for an Appropriate Assessment for the proposed Morecambe Wave Return Wall*. The report was prepared in November 2013 therefore provides an up-to-date baseline of current conditions in Morecambe.

Intertidal banks within Morecambe Bay are dynamic with migration of channels across the Bay which significantly alter the amount of wave energy at the shoreline, therefore potentially driving changes in sediment transport, erosion and deposition rates across the expansive intertidal areas. The fishtail shaped breakwaters that have been constructed along the Morecambe frontage divert tidal streams offshore and intercept incident waves at their specific locations, thereby reducing the level of wave energy arriving at the shoreline, and providing added protection to the upper beaches (ABPmer 2013). As a result of the beach morphology, changing shoreline aspect and the presence of the breakwaters on the uppershore, there are three main dominant intertidal habitat types across Morecambe: these being mudflats, sandflats and areas of scar or 'skear' (comprise a mixed substratum of cobbles, pebbles, boulders and shells along with finer sediment).

A number of bird assemblages (including those for which the Bay is designated) use these breakwaters as roost sites. The foreshore at Morecambe is characterised by 'major' roosts to the north and south (i.e. outside the area the Morecambe AAP would influence) and smaller roosts on the breakwaters that lie along the length of the foreshore. These are presented on Figure 4-1.

Figure 4-1 Location of Roost Sites and Groynes along Morecambe Foreshore (ABPmer 2013)



Until, recently the Heysham Heliport (see Figure 4-1) site has been the largest major high water bird roost site on the Morecambe foreshore, supporting consistently larger numbers of birds (predominantly Oystercatcher and knot) than other roost sites. The site is no longer operated as a Heliport, however, bird numbers at this roost site have dropped in recent years due to a lack of strict security and increased presence of dog walkers (Marsh *et al*, 2012). The number of Knot using the Heliport site has declined from regular to only occasional numbers of international importance. A significant number of Oystercatcher still use the Heliport site, often reaching numbers of national importance. The Teal Bay Breakwater to the north of Morecambe is another major site for roosting birds (both sites are not located within the immediate vicinity of the MAAP policy areas).

In recent years birds from the Heliport site now preferentially use the Sunnyslopes Breakwater as a roosting site. This breakwater was constructed as part of the Phase VI Morecambe coastal defence works and was completed in 2006 (Peter Marsh, pers comm to ABPmer). This site now supports numbers of Knot and Oystercatcher of national importance and is usually the most important breakwater for roosting birds along the Morecambe foreshore. The importance of retaining it as 'disturbance free' has therefore been stressed (Marsh *et al* 2012). Disturbance at the Grosvenor Road and Battery Breakwaters due to a public access path and windsurfing activity, limits their use as suitable roosting areas (Peter Marsh, pers comm to ABPmer).

Roost sites (albeit smaller) also occur on other breakwaters along the foreshore such as the Battery, Regent Road, Bubbles, Green Street, Calton Terrace, Broadway and Hest Bank breakwaters. The Bubbles and Green Street Breakwaters at the centre of the town are the least used which is probably because they are smaller and subject to disturbance from the increased presence of human activity on the adjacent promenade.

Windsurfing activities also cause disturbance at the Battery Breakwater and the nearby Regent Road site. Roosting is therefore irregular at these sites, depending upon the level of human presence. The disturbance tends to cause the birds to temporarily move to another location and then return once the activity has ceased for the day. Where roosts have been irregularly disturbed and limited by wind-surfing activity in the vicinity of the Battery Groyne it does not appear to deter feeding birds on the skear habitat as it remains to support significant numbers (1,000 – 3,000) of feeding waterfowl (ABPmer 2013). The Regent Road site is used irregularly by Redshank from the north that are part of a distinct group from those that use the Heliport and Sunnyslopes Breakwater. Bird feeding in the area between the Battery and Regent Road Breakwaters is also disturbed by dog walkers on the exposed sandflats (Peter Marsh, pers comm to ABPmer).

A significant number of birds use the upper shore habitats as a sub-roost once the lower shores become submerged during a flood tide or as an intermediate feeding ground before the lower shore becomes exposed during an ebb tide. The vast majority of birds feed on the large skear habitats that are located in the middle and lower shore areas.

Low water counts have shown that the extensive skear habitat in the vicinity of Sandylands Breakwater is the most important feeding area on the Morecambe foreshore, providing a valuable food resource and supporting around 20,000 birds annually. Other expanses of skear habitat such as the area in front of the Battery Breakwater also support significant numbers (1,000 – 3,000) of feeding waterfowl.

Monitoring results have shown association between feeding behaviour throughout the tide and roosting on the adjacent breakwaters. The data indicate that birds use skear habitat as both a sub-roost and feeding area and significant numbers will utilise a nearby breakwater as a high water roost. This is particularly evidenced at the more recently constructed Sunnyslopes Breakwater where artificial skear habitat was created as mitigation for the loss of this habitat along the upper shore under the footprint of the breakwater.

4.4.2 Impact Review

Policies SP3, AS5, DO2 and AS7 – Promenade areas

The purpose of policies SP3, AS5, DO2 and AS7 is to support the development of informal recreation along with low impact leisure development (e.g. multi-games space crazy golf, outdoor gym etc) with a view of providing additional visitor / residential accommodation over the long term on Morecambe's promenade (which lies directly adjacent to the SPA/ Ramsar / SAC site). The risk of these policies is that they could result in an increase in recreational pressure, particularly to the qualifying bird species of the SPA / Ramsar i.e. through more activity / noise on the promenade and more people accessing the beach.

Regarding more activity / noise on the promenade ABPmer's report for the proposed Morecambe Wave Return Wall shows that there are no major roost sites within 250m⁶ of the policy areas although some smaller roosts exist. . In addition, there are no roosts of national or international importance directly adjacent to the areas the policies apply to. This is because Stone Jetty, Green Street Groyne Bubbles Groyne and Regent Road Groyne are all already subject to varying levels of disturbance by human activity on the adjacent promenade (ABPmer 2013). Nevertheless, it is important to consider the smaller roosts.

Considering the potential for more people accessing the beach it should be noted that the main feeding grounds are on the middle and low shore areas - a much greater distance than 250m from the shore and there is very little, if any feeding within 250m of the promenade to the south of Stone Jetty (ABPmer 2013). The main zone of potential effect is where the birds feed closer inshore in areas to the north of Stone Jetty i.e. Teal Bay Breakwaters outside of Morecambe at Hest Bank (ABPmer 2013). People accessing the beach associated with policies SP3, AS5, DO2 and AS7 are unlikely to venture much greater than 250m from the shore onto the skewer habitats due to safety issues (note the 2004 Morecambe Bay cockling disaster at Hest Bank). Nevertheless some evidence (see above) has shown that dog-walking between the nearby Battery and Regent Road Breakwaters has caused disturbance in the past.

Morecambe currently experiences many of the problems associated with the decline of British seaside resort and has some significant areas of deprivation within its core urban centre. It should be noted that development as proposed within the policies is aspirational and therefore change would be slow / experienced over the lifetime of the AAP and as such is not expected to have more than a small impact.

Policies SP3, DO1 and DO2 all actively seek to guard against any proposals that would result in a negative impact on the environment of the Bay as a Natura 2000 site and European Marine Site i.e. would ensure where appropriate individual projects when required would be subject to their own HRA.

Nevertheless, it is possible that levels of recreation may increase to a small extent as a result of Policies SP3, AS5, DO2 and AS7 therefore there is potential to increase disturbance to the European site although there is a degree of uncertainty surrounding this. Due to this uncertainty a number of avoidance measures have been proposed on a precautionary basis that relate to the positive management of the European site - these measures are discussed below.

⁶ ABPmer undertook a detailed scientific review in 2013 regarding bird disturbance and noise / visual stimuli. Their evidence indicated that displacement behaviour is not typically observed when activities occur more than 200-250m away from a source (ABPmer (November 2013) Morecambe Wave Return Wall: Information for Appropriate Assessment).

Policies DO1 and AS6 – Battery

Policies DO1 and AS6 together seek to facilitate the development of leisure and recreational facilities (with some retail and food / drink outlets) within the Battery area of Morecambe which is located directly adjacent to the European site. The policies also support opportunities for water sports (non-motorised) within the European site. Therefore the risk of these policies is that they could result in some degree of increase in recreational disturbance to the qualifying bird species i.e. through more activity / noise at the Battery and lead to more people accessing / enjoying the beach / sea. The AAP does not actively propose new water sport activity; rather it supports the principle of such activity in the area subject to controls. Whilst this is considered to be a small increase the actual extent is difficult to quantify – note comments above about these policies being aspirational and likely to be slow to take effect.

At the Battery and Regent Road Groynes (the latter of which is used irregularly by Redshank from the north) there are already high levels of disturbance (Marsh *et al* 2012). Human presence, dog walkers and wind surfing irregularly disturb roosting birds (Peter Marsh, pers. Comm to ABPmer) therefore limit their use. Birds that are disturbed tend to temporarily move to another location and then return once the activity has ceased for the day. Even though the area is already subject to high levels of disturbance with limited roosts this does not appear to affect the expanse of skewer habitat in front of the Battery Groyne that supports significant numbers (1,000 – 3,000) of feeding waterfowl (ABPmer 2013). It should also be noted that optimal sailing is on mid to high tides (Forces of Nature Beach Guide) as low tides present a long walk to the water and present greater safety concerns therefore any activity is only occasional and not permanent. The AAP does not seek to develop the Battery Groyne as a major new centre for wind- surfing rather it supports low impact non- motorised recreation.

Policies DO1 and AS6 all actively seek to guard against any proposals that would result in a negative impact on the environment of the Bay as a Natura 2000 site and European Marine Site i.e. would ensure where appropriate individual projects when required would be subject to their own HRA.

Nevertheless, it is possible that levels of recreation may increase to a small extent as a result of Policies DO1 and AS7 therefore there is potential to increase disturbance to the birds using the Battery Groyne area although there is a degree of uncertainty surrounding this. Due to this uncertainty a number of avoidance measures have been proposed that relate to the positive management of the European site - these measures are discussed below.

Policy DO6 - Frontierland

Policy DO6 relates to a brownfield site located approximately 25m from the European site and allocated for residential development in the Morecambe AAP; 'Former Frontierland site'. Lancaster City Council has indicated the site would accommodate up to 218 new homes (a worst case scenario), a majority of which would likely be flats. The risk of this policy is that it could increase recreational pressure on the beach, through increased walking and an increased number of dog walkers. However, it is unlikely that all the site's residents would be new to the immediate area or that a high number of new residents would own dogs (flats are not considered ideal homes for dogs). Also not all new residents would regularly be interested in accessing the beach, therefore it is considered that the actual likely increase in individuals accessing the beach areas for recreation as a result of the development at the Former Frontierland Site is likely to be fairly small. Furthermore, the paragraphs above regarding the likely effects of human disturbance within this environment also directly relate to Policy DO6 together with the need to manage recreational pressure within the bay.

To summarise the actual increase in recreational activity as a result of new homes on the Former Frontierland site is considered to be very small although there is some uncertainty regarding the actual extent. Due to this uncertainty a number of avoidance measures have been

proposed that relate to the positive management of the European site - these measures are outlined below.

Avoidance Measures

The SPA / Ramsar / SAC habitat closest to the areas where informal recreation is predicted to increase is already subject to disturbance from recreational activity. Therefore, in order to avoid any further adverse impacts, the council will seek to work closely with its partners to develop collaborative measures to reduce any further potential impacts. For example, the Morecambe Bay Partnership (of which Lancaster City Council is a member) are initiating a study of recreational disturbance of breeding and roosting birds within Morecambe Bay which should lead to a clearer identification of issues and recommendations to reduce/control any potentially disruptive activities.

Example measures might include: proactive management of water-sports, a code of conduct for dog-walkers, active signing for alternative walking routes (such as those proposed as part of the AAP's access and movement policies) and consideration of zoning for activities although note that further research will be required by partners if zoning were to be an option.

The Council is also encouraged to ensure that, through the AAP, future applications should consider management measures proposed by organisations such as the Morecambe Bay Partnership and opportunities to enhance and contribute towards improved management of the site, to ensure Morecambe Bay is protected and that development does not result in adverse effects on its interest features. The following text has been included in AS5 and policies SP3, DO1, DO2 and DO6:

'The council will not permit any proposals that result in a significant adverse impact on the Bay environment and its interest features as a European Wildlife Site. Specifically, it will require that development proposals make proper consideration of any effects that might arise for this environment, both direct and indirect and including in how any potential adverse effects can be mitigated through appropriate management measures. As part of this it will provide for any appropriate management measures that the Morecambe Bay Partnership and its successor organisations might proposes.'

Conclusions

In conclusion, the Morecambe AAP supports the sustainable use of the Bay through the promotion of sustainable recreation. Whilst some of the policies have potential to result in a small increase in disturbance, likely significant effects would be avoided through close collaboration with its partners such as the Morecambe Bay Partnership to develop measures that reduce any further potential impacts as a result of recreational pressure. It should be noted that recreational pressure is not just an issue for the Morecambe AAP but is of a wider concern in relation to increased growth and tourism in Lancashire and as such the AAP has a role to play within a much wider network of planning and protection.

4.4.3 References

ABPmer (2013) Morecambe Wave Return Wall: Information for Appropriate Assessment

ABPmer (2009) and YA (2002) Phase VI and VII Coastal Defences Monitoring Work

Marsh *et al* (2012) The Morecambe Bay Wader Roost Study

Scott, F.E. (1989) Human Disturbance of wading birds on the Ythan Estuary. Unpublished BSc, thesis, Department of Zoology, University of Aberdeen.

A study looking at disturbance to birds on the Stour and Orwell Estuary (Ravenscroft et al (2007) Disturbance to waterbirds wintering in the Stour – Orwel estuaries SPA. Report from Wildside Ecology for the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Unit

Regular Bird Surveys Carried out during Wetland Bird Surveys (WeBS) by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)

J.S. Kirby, C. Clee and V. Seager (1993) Impact and extent of recreational disturbance to wader roosts on the Dee estuary: some preliminary results

4.5 In-Combination Effects

The HRA needs to consider not only the strategies and policies within the Morecambe AAP that may lead to likely significant impacts upon European sites on their own but also those that may have a likely significant impact in-combination with other plans and projects. These may be spatial planning documents produced by the neighbouring authorities or major developments anticipated within the Lancaster. Table 2-1 outlines relevant plans and projects that were considered in-combination with the Morecambe AAP.

Tables 4-3 to 4-5 identify that the Morecambe AAP would not result in any likely significant effects upon the European sites identified. However, the potential for in-combination effects was unclear following the screening stage (largely due to cumulative recreational pressure). The in-combination assessment has been broken down into three distinct stages that were recommended by Natural England:

‘Stage 1: Identify all aspects of the plan which would have no effect on a European site, so that that they can be eliminated from further consideration in respect of this and other plans;

Stage 2: Identify all aspects of the plan which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site (i.e. would have some effect, but minor residual), either alone or in-combination with other aspects of the same plan or other plans or projects, which therefore do not require ‘appropriate assessment’; and

Stage 3: Identify those aspects of the plan where it is not possible to rule out the risk of significant effects on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.’

4.5.1 Stage 1

Table 4-6 identifies all areas of the Morecambe AAP which would have no effect on a European site either alone or in-combination with other aspects of the Morecambe AAP or other plans or projects.

Table 4-9 Areas of the Morecambe AAP that would have no effects in-combination with other plans / projects on a European site

Area of the Morecambe AAP	Comments
Plan Vision and Approach	The Vision and Approach are very high level statements that ensure the continuing protection and effective conservation of the bay / shoreline environments co-ordinated management of the natural environment within Morecambe. Therefore not considered further in the assessment.

Area of the Morecambe AAP	Comments
AS1: Manage and maintain streets and spaces	AS1 directly seeks to improve the appearance of land in poor condition and enliven the street environment and refresh green space areas – both of which would only benefit European sites. Therefore not considered further in the assessment.
AS2: Improve the condition of buildings and encourage beneficial occupancy	There is no link between AS2 and the Europeans sites as the action set seeks to improve the external appearance and occupancy of buildings within Morecambe. Therefore not considered further in the assessment.
Policy SP1: Key Pedestrian Routes and Spaces	The focus of this policy is to improve the connectivity of key routes and spaces in Morecambe, therefore is likely to lead to limited new development on previously developed sites, Therefore not considered further in the assessment.
AS3: Improve Key Routes and Spaces for Pedestrians and Cyclists	The action set seeks to improve the public realm within the AAP boundary. Public realm improvements such as reductions in clutter, traffic calming would only benefit the European site. Therefore not considered further in the assessment.
Policy SP2: Investment Incentives	The policy and action set outline financial exemptions in order to support new development in Morecambe. Ultimately they are likely to lead to development on brownfield land within the existing urban area. However, as they do not directly allocate opportunities for development they are not considered further in the assessment.
AS4: Further encourage business investment and development	
Policy SP4: Town Centre	The policy seeks to guide town centre development to a defined town centre boundary within an existing urban area. Therefore not considered further in the assessment.
Policy DO3: The Arndale and Area	The policy would lead to development within an existing built up urban area. Therefore not considered further in the assessment.
Policy DO4: West View and Northumberland Street	Policy DO4 is a small brownfield allocation (currently a car park) bound by an existing urban environment. Therefore not considered further in the assessment.
Policy DO5: Festival Market and Area	Policy DO5 is a large brownfield allocation that is currently occupies by Festival Market and a cinema. As the site is already developed and set back from the promenade it is not considered further in the assessment.
Action Set AS8: The Town Centre	The action set seeks to improve the public realm within Morecambe Town Centre. It includes provisions such as improving road / pavement surfaces, revising traffic arrangements, improving lighting, signage etc. As only minor modifications within an existing urban area are proposed the action set is not considered further in the assessment.
AS9: Edge of Centre Retail Park	The action set seeks to improve the appearance and connectivity to the existing retail park south of the town centre. As the action set would lead to very limited development within an existing retail park it is not considered further in the assessment.
AS10: Traffic route signage to and from central Morecambe	The action sets would not lead to any large scale infrastructure improvements within Morecambe. The action sets seek to ensure opportunities to maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport are sought in new development and

Area of the Morecambe AAP	Comments
AS11: Transport, parking Provision and Management	adequate parking provision is provided along with appropriate signage. Therefore not considered further in the assessment.
AS12: Bus Services	
AS13: Rail Services	
AS14: Investor Marketing Strategy	These action sets are not considered further in the assessment as there is no clear link to the European sites.
AS15: Visitor Marketing Strategy	

4.5.2 Stage 2

Table 4-7 identifies all areas of the Morecambe AAP which would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site (i.e. but would have some effect, but minor residual), either alone or in-combination with other aspects of the Morecambe AAP or other plans or projects.

Table 4-10 Areas of the Morecambe AAP which would not be likely to have a significant effect in-combination effect with other plans / projects on a European site

Area of the Morecambe AAP	Comments
Policy SP3: Morecambe Main Seafront and Promenade	The policies and action sets all seek to increase informal / formal recreation at the promenade within Morecambe. Policy DO1 specifically encourages the enjoyment of the Bay including non-motorised water sports within the European site itself and Policy DO6 seeks to increase residential development by a maximum of 218 new homes. These policies / action sets could increase recreational pressure within Morecambe Bay SPA / Ramsar site /SAC although as discussed in section 4.4 these effects are considered to be negligible and not significant.
AS5: Central Seafront and Main Beach	
Policy DO1: The Battery	
AS6: Western Seafront and Beach	The Plans and Projects considered for in-combination effects identified on Table 2-1 are largely considered irrelevant as they would not affect the seafront at Morecambe. The Shoreline Management Plan 2 (SMP2) is considered to be the only plan listed that could also affect recreation in the Morecambe AAP policy areas by providing general encouragement of this. However, it is not considered that the SMP2's encouragement of recreation is likely to add to the pressure over and above the parallel provisions of the Morecambe AAP, primarily because they would be encouraging the same target audience. Furthermore, the evidence and findings described in Section 4.4 would still apply equally in this instance so it is not considered that there would be a likely significant effect in-combination with this plan.
Policy DO2: Strategic Leisure – Seafront Headland, Central Promenade	
AS7: Seafront Headland, Central Promenade	
Policy DO6: Former Frontierland Site	The Wave Return Wall would also be constructed within the Morecambe AAP area. However, the Appropriate Assessment for this project concluded that it would not adversely affect the Morecambe Bay European Site either alone in-combination with other plans / projects or activities. This is primarily because the works would be short-term, temporary and would occur more than 250m away from the main roost areas. Consequently it is also not considered that there would be a likely significant effect in-combination with this project.

Area of the Morecambe AAP	Comments
	It is therefore concluded that any in-combination effects would be negligible / minor residual and not likely to be significant. Appropriate Assessment with regard to in-combination effects is not required.

4.5.3 Stage 3

There are not considered to be any elements of the plan where it is not possible to rule out the risk of significant effects on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

5 CONCLUSION

It has been concluded that the Morecambe AAP (as long as positive management is secured) would not have any likely significant effects on the European Sites identified, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. **As such, it is not proposed to undertake Appropriate Assessment.** This conclusion is still valid after the consultation process with the public and stakeholders. The responses received have not resulted in any changes to the conclusions or assessments made within this document.

Appendix A

Conservation Objectives



European Site Conservation Objectives for Morecambe Bay Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9005081

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

Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

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

Qualifying Features:

- A040 *Anser brachyrhynchus*; Pink-footed goose (Non-breeding)
A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)
A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)
A063 *Somateria mollissima*; Common eider (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)
A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (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)
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

www.naturalengland.org.uk

Additional Qualifying Features Identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review:

A144 *Calidris alba*; Sanderling (Non-breeding)

Seabird assemblage

**European Site Conservation Objectives for
Morecambe Bay Special Area of Conservation
Site code: UK0013027**



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

Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

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

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)

Conservation Objective	Comments
Morecambe Bay and the Duddon Estuary European Marine Site (SPA, SAC and Ramsar) Regulation 35 Package	
<p>Subject to natural change, maintain the large shallow inlets and bays in favourable condition , in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intertidal boulder and cobble skear communities ▪ Subtidal boulder and cobble skear communities ▪ Brittlestar bed communities ▪ Intertidal boulder clay communities ▪ Coastal lagoon communities ▪ Intertidal mudflat and sandflat communities ▪ Pioneer saltmarsh communities ▪ Saltmarsh communities 	<p>In pursuit of the conservation objective for estuaries, the relevant and competent authorities for the Morecambe Bay European marine site are advised to manage human activities within their remit such that they do not result in deterioration or disturbance to habitats or species, for which the site has been selected, through any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Removal and/or smothering of embayment habitats. ▪ Physical damage resulting from siltation, abrasion and/or selective extraction. ▪ Increased synthetic, non synthetic toxic and/or radionuclide contamination. ▪ Nutrient and/or organic enrichment. ▪ Increases in turbidity. ▪ Introduction of microbial pathogens, introduction of non-native species and/or selective extraction of species for which the site has been selected or which form important food sources for such species.
<p>Subject to natural change, maintain the estuaries in favourable condition, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Estuaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Removal and/or smothering of estuarine habitats. <p>(bullet points for large shallow inlets and bays also relevant)</p>
<p>Subject to natural change, maintain the mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (intertidal mudflats and sandflats) in favourable condition, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mud communities ▪ Sand communities ▪ Eelgrass bed communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Removal and/or smothering of intertidal mudflats and sandflats. <p>(bullet points for large shallow inlets and bays also relevant)</p>
<p>Subject to natural change, maintain the sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time in favourable condition, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sandbanks slightly covered by seawater all the time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Removal and/or smothering of sandbanks covered by seawater all the time. <p>(bullet points for large shallow inlets and bays also relevant)</p>
<p>Subject to natural change, maintain reefs in favourable condition, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cobble and boulder skears ▪ Mussel beds ▪ <i>Sabellaria aveolata</i> reefs 	<p>In pursuit of the conservation objective for reefs, the relevant and competent authorities for the Morecambe Bay European marine site are advised to manage human activities within their remit such that they do not result in deterioration or disturbance to habitats or species, for which the site has been selected, through any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Removal and/or smothering of reefs. <p>(bullet points for large shallow inlets and bays also relevant)</p>
<p>Subject to natural change, maintain the Glasswort <i>Salicornia spp</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand (pioneer saltmarsh) in favourable condition, in particular:</p>	<p>In pursuit of the conservation objective for the pioneer saltmarsh, the relevant and competent authorities for Morecambe Bay European marine site are advised to manage human activities within their remit such that they do not result in deterioration or disturbance to habitats or species</p>

Conservation Objective	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The glasswort <i>Salicornia spp</i> communities 	<p>for which the site has been selected, through any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of pioneer saltmarsh habitats. Physical damage resulting from abrasion. Increased synthetic and/or non synthetic toxic contamination and/or radionuclides. Translocation of species.
<p>Subject to natural change, maintain the Atlantic salt meadows <i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia</i> (saltmarsh) in favourable condition, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low marsh communities Mid marsh communities High marsh communities Transitional high marsh communities 	<p>In pursuit of the conservation objective for the saltmarsh, the relevant and competent authorities for Morecambe Bay European marine site are advised to manage human activities within their remit such that they do not result in deterioration or disturbance to habitats or species, for which the site has been selected, through any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above except for the substitution of saltmarsh habitats instead of pioneer saltmarsh habitats.
<p>Subject to natural change, to maintain in favourable condition the habitats of the internationally important populations of regularly occurring bird species listed on Annex 1 of the Birds Directive, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shingle areas 	<p>In pursuit of the conservation objective for habitats supporting internationally important populations of regularly occurring species listed on Annex 1 of the Birds Directive, the relevant and competent authorities for Morecambe Bay European marine site are advised to manage human activities within their remit such that they do not result in deterioration or disturbance to habitats or species, for which the site has been selected, through any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of habitats. Physical damage from abrasion and or selective extraction. Disturbance from noise and/or visual activities.
<p>Subject to natural change, to maintain in favourable condition the habitats of the internationally important assemblage of waterfowl and seabirds and the internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory species, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intertidal mudflat and sandflat communities Intertidal and subtidal boulder and cobble skear communities Saltmarsh communities Coastal lagoon communities 	<p>In pursuit of the conservation objective for habitats supporting the internationally important assemblages of waterfowl and seabirds including internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory species, the relevant and competent authorities for Morecambe Bay European marine site are advised to manage human activities within their remit such that they do not result in deterioration or disturbance to habitats or species, for which the site has been selected, through any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of habitats. Physical damage from selective extraction. Disturbance from noise and/or visual activities. Nutrient and/or organic enrichment and/or changes in thermal regime. Changes in salinity and turbidity. Increased synthetic and/or non synthetic toxic contamination and/or radionuclides. Biological disturbance through introduction of microbial pathogens and/or selective extraction of species.

Appendix B

Figures

Appendix C

Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC - Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey

Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC	
SSSI	Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey
Whitbarrow SSSI	Area favourable 34.88% Area unfavourable but recovering 61.09% Area unfavourable no change 4.03% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Underlaid Wood SSSI	Area favourable 0% Area unfavourable but recovering 88.38% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 11.62% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Marble Quarry And Hale Fell SSSI	Area favourable 4.99% Area unfavourable but recovering 95.01% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Gait Barrows SSSI	Area favourable 81.52% Area unfavourable but recovering 18.48% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Thrang End And Yealand Hall Allotment SSSI	Area favourable 0% Area unfavourable but recovering 100% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Hawes Water SSSI	Area favourable 18.20% Area unfavourable but recovering 80.98% Area unfavourable no change 0.82% Area unfavourable declining 0% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Middlebarrow SSSI	Area favourable 4.58% Area unfavourable but recovering 54.86% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 40.56% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Scout and Cunswick Scars SSSI	Area favourable 70.92% Area unfavourable but recovering 28.71% Area unfavourable no change 0%

Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC	
SSSI	Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey
	Area unfavourable declining 0.36% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Farleton Knott SSSI	Area favourable 46.71% Area unfavourable but recovering 36.35% Area unfavourable no change 0% Area unfavourable declining 16.94% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%
Hutton Roof Craggs SSSI	Area favourable 17.63% Area unfavourable but recovering 53.93% Area unfavourable no change 3.84% Area unfavourable declining 24.60% Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%