



# Berwickshire & Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership



## Progress Report January 2016 – March 2020

## 1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership. It covers the period from January 2016, when our last annual report was published, till the end of March 2020. We intend that future reports will be produced on an annual basis. The period since our last report has seen some major developments, not least a change in name for the partnership and an expansion of the area that we cover.

The report reviews some key developments and activities which have taken place since the last report, with a particular focus on the last 18-months. It also summarises the information currently available on the condition of our inshore marine protected areas and assesses progress towards achieving a well-managed network of marine protected areas.

## 2. Key changes since the last report

### 2.1 From EMS to MNP

The Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast EMS Partnership was formed in 2000 to produce a Management Scheme that would help organisations coordinate their activities within the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the intertidal areas of the Lindisfarne Special Protection Area (SPA). In early 2016, the EMS Partnership officially became the Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership. Although our core functions remained the same, the Marine Nature Partnership increased the number of inshore marine protected areas<sup>1</sup> that we work on extended the geographic range that we cover. These changes are summarised in Table 1.



*Sea slug (Janolus cristatus) at St Abbs Head (Photo: Paula Lightfoot)*

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<sup>1</sup> In this report the term 'marine protected area' or MPA is used as an umbrella term to refer to marine areas designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)

**Table 1:** Summary of differences in remit between the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC and the Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EMS Partnership</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Marine Nature Partnership</b></p> 
<p><b>Geographical Extent:</b></p> <p>Fast Castle Head down to Alnmouth</p>	<p><b>Geographical Extent:</b></p> <p>Fast Castle Head down to the Tyne</p>
<p><b>MPAs covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC</li> <li>● Lindisfarne SPA</li> </ul>	<p><b>MPAs covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● St Abb’s Head to Fast Castle SPA</li> <li>● Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC</li> <li>● Tweed Estuary SAC</li> <li>● Northumbria Coast SPA (down to the River Tyne)</li> <li>● Lindisfarne SPA</li> <li>● Farne Islands SPA</li> <li>● Coquet Island SPA</li> <li>● Aln Estuary MCZ</li> <li>● Coquet to St Mary’s MCZ</li> <li>● Northumberland Marine SPA</li> <li>● Berwick to St Mary’s MCZ</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Additional partners added to MNP:</b> North Tyneside Council, Port of Blyth, Warkworth Harbour Commission.</p>

## 2.2 New Site Designations

The period since our previous report in 2016 has seen the designation of three new inshore marine protected areas:

**The Coquet to St Mary’s MCZ** was designated in January 2016 in recognition of the nationally important examples of tidal and subtidal habitats found along the coast.

**The Northumberland Marine SPA** was designated in January 2017 to protect the feeding areas of the internationally significant populations of breeding seabirds found at locations such as Coquet Island, Lindisfarne and the Farne Islands.

**The Berwick to St Mary's MCZ** was designated in May 2019 in recognition of the nationally important breeding and wintering populations of eider duck found on the Northumberland coast.

In January 2017, two existing SPAs were amended to include additional interest features: the Northumbria Coast SPA was amended to include breeding arctic tern and the Coquet Island SPA was amended to include its seabird assemblage.

In 2017, SNH consulted on a **proposed Outer Forth and St Andrews Bay SPA**. If designated this site would stretch from Arbroath down to St Abbs Head, with a small area falling within our partnership boundary. The proposed interest features of the site include twenty-one species of seabird, including breeding populations of arctic tern, kittiwake and common guillemot, and non-breeding populations of eider, razorbill and scoter. As yet there have been no further public announcements on the proposed designation of the site.

### ***2.3 Changes in policy and legislation***

The period since the last report has seen important developments in policy and legislation around marine protected areas. Not least of these is the UK's exit from the EU, although the full implications of this for environmental protection are not yet known. At present, the Habitats Regulations (which deal with the creation and management of SACs and SPAs) remain in force. A new Environment Bill has been published and is progressing through Parliament.

The UK Government's 25-year Environment Plan<sup>2</sup> was published in 2018 and deals with England and non-devolved UK matters. It includes commitments to reversing the loss of marine biodiversity, increasing the proportion of protected and well-managed seas, better management of existing protected sites, and ensuring seafloor habitats are productive and sufficiently extensive to support healthy, sustainable ecosystems.

At a local level, there have been a number of new fisheries bylaws have been made by Northumberland IFCA<sup>3</sup> and the Environment Agency<sup>4</sup>, including bylaws relating to crustacean conservation and the protection of salmon and sea trout.

### ***2.4 Marine Planning***

A draft North East Marine Plan has been published by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and was consulted upon between 14th January and 20th April 2020, with formal adaptation planned for the Autumn. The North East Marine Plan is intended to inform and guide marine users. Work on the Plan started in 2016 and the Marine Nature Partnership has

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<sup>2</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nifca.gov.uk/byelaws/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fisheries/proposed-national-salmon-byelaws/results/salmonandseatroutprotectionbyelaws2018.pdf>

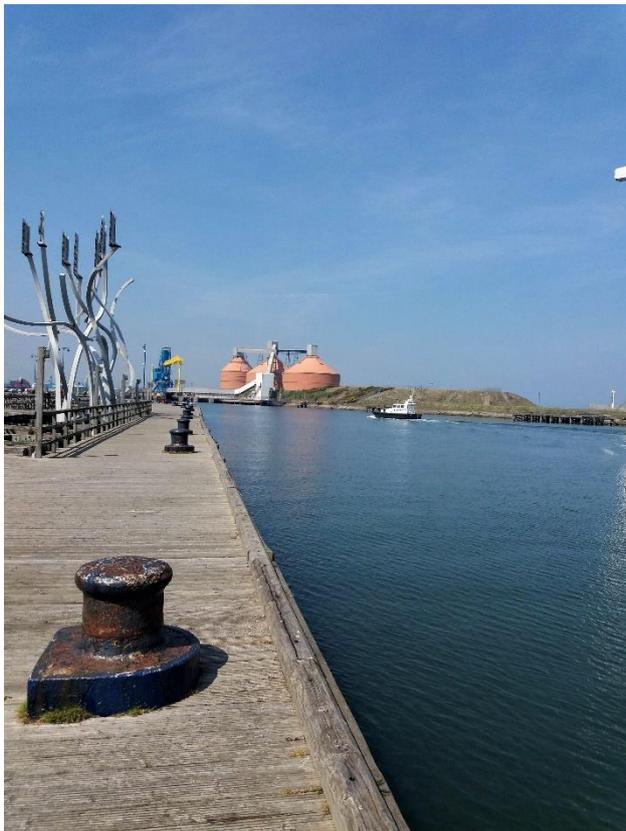
provided responses to the MMO at all stages and assisted with the facilitation of an engagement workshop in January 2019.

Marine Planning in Scotland is being delivered through the creation of a number of marine regions. No work has yet commenced on the creation of a marine plan for the area covering the Berwickshire Coast.

## ***2.5 Publication of Conservation advice***

Natural England has a statutory responsibility to provide conservation advice for all Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) within English waters. This advice is produced in the form of Conservation Advice packages which are published online and contain up to date information about sites, including high level conservation objectives and supplementary advice; and advice on operations, including how an activity can affect a protected site feature on the site.

Formal conservation advice is now available for nine of the eleven marine protected areas on the Berwickshire and Northumberland coast, including the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC (published jointly with Scottish Natural Heritage). Only the Berwick to St Mary's MCZ and the St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA remain without published advice.



*Images of a) Port of Blyth and b) Long Nanny tern colony, Beadnell Bay (Photos Nick Brodin)*

### **3. The Management Scheme**

The current Management Scheme was last revised in 2016 and deals solely with the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast European Marine Site rather than the full range of sites now covered by the Marine Nature Partnership. The partnership Steering Group has approved an updating of the Scheme which will encompass all of the eleven inshore MPAs which now fall within our remit. One-to-one meetings with partnership members were due to take place in the first half of 2020 to collect information to inform this but have been postponed due to Covid-19. Work to inform the revised Management Scheme has already taken place through our Data, Monitoring and Research sub-group and through a south-east Northumberland stakeholder engagement project for which we received funding from Natural England.

A revised action plan will be produced to accompany the new Management Scheme.

### **4. Key partnership activity since the last report**

#### ***4.1 Online Toolkit and HLF Resilient Heritage Project***

In December 2017 the partnership was awarded a capacity building grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund through their Resilient Heritage programme. The grant was kindly administered by Northumberland IFCA on behalf of the partnership.

The grant was primarily used to create a new online toolkit as a working tool for partnership members. The toolkit is intended to bring together in one place all of the disparate information about the inshore marine protected areas in Berwickshire and Northumberland and to provide technical information to support decision making on management. The toolkit went live in January 2019 and can be found at [www.xbordercurrents.co.uk](http://www.xbordercurrents.co.uk)

As part of this project we also held two training sessions for partnership members to cover the basics about marine protected areas. A live training event was held in Newcastle in November 2018 and a webinar was held in June 2019. Slides from these events are available on our website. Further training events can be arranged on demand.

#### ***4.2 Eider Aware North East***

Following the designation of the Berwick to St Mary's MCZ in May 2019 a need was identified for greater public understanding of the importance of the Northumberland Coast for eider ducks. Eider Aware North East was created as a project that would celebrate eider while also promoting messages about the pressures that the species are under. We were successful in securing project funding from Northumbrian Water's Branch Out fund and from the Northumberland Coast AONB's Sustainable Development Fund. Project outputs included a public events programme, a public participation survey, creation of an eider recording app (produced for us by ERIC North East), a project leaflet, and the commissioning of a short film

about Northumberland's eiders. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 lockdown in March coincided with the planned start of most of the project activity. Timescales have been adjusted and we plan to deliver as many of the project outputs as possible once restrictions are eased and where necessary altering proposals to comply with any ongoing social distancing measures. Project pages for Eider Aware can be found at [www.xbordercurrents.co.uk/projects/](http://www.xbordercurrents.co.uk/projects/)



*Male eider duck (Photo: Tom Cadwallender)*

### **4.3 Data, Monitoring and Research Needs**

As part of the preparation for updating the Management Scheme we have been looking more closely at the data collection and monitoring that takes place on the Berwickshire and Northumberland coast and at the gaps that exist in our knowledge. In 2019 we held two workshops specifically to look at knowledge gaps and to identify actions to fill these. Several follow-on actions have been identified. This has included looking into the feasibility of creating a local sea temperature monitoring network. As part of this work we will also be creating a Data, Monitoring and Research sub-group to exchange intelligence about activities taking place on the Berwickshire and Northumberland coast, provide advice on priorities, and to develop joint activities.

### **4.4 South East Northumberland/North Tyneside Coast**

During the early part of 2019, the partnership undertook work commissioned by Nature England to engage with stakeholders in the southern part of our area. This included a workshop to look at specific management affecting this section of the coast. Issues identified included recreational disturbance, bait collection, mine water pollution, coastal infrastructure and the need for greater public engagement. The discussions from this workshop will be used to inform the revision of the Management Scheme and future project development.

## 5. Condition of sites

Robust information about the current condition of marine protected areas is needed to assess whether sites are meeting their conservation objectives and to inform management decisions. The condition of the designated features of protected sites is assessed on a rolling programme by Scottish Natural Heritage and by Natural England in their respective areas of operation and made available online at <https://sitelink.nature.scot/> and <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/> respectively.

A full breakdown of the available information about their condition of individual interest features of marine protected areas is given in **Annex 1**. Information for individual sites is summarised below:

**St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA:** Assessments of SPA features were undertaken in 2013 and 2014. SPA bird features are mostly unfavourable declining with the exception of guillemot and razorbill.

**Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC:** SAC feature assessments for grey seal and sea caves were made in the Scottish section of the site in 2014. No assessments are available of SAC features in English section, although some partial information exists about the condition of features in the underpinning Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). While some features, such as sea caves, appear to be favourable the picture is mixed for other features such as intertidal mudflats.

**Tweed Estuary SAC:** Condition assessments of the SAC features have yet to be published. Partial information is available for condition assessments of the underpinning SSSI units from 2010, which indicate likely favourable condition of at least some of the interest features of the marine protected area.

**Berwick to St Mary's MCZ:** No information on feature condition is available.

**Northumbria Coast SPA:** No assessment of the condition of SPA features has been undertaken. 2009 assessments for the underpinning Northumberland Shore SSSI are available which cover the majority of SPA species. These record the site as being in favourable condition based on bird numbers, although they note declines in purple sandpiper numbers (one of the key SPA species).

**Lindisfarne SPA:** No assessment of the condition of SPA features has been undertaken. Condition assessments of underpinning SSSI units based on 5-year mean (2009/10-2013/14) are available, which include many of the SPA bird species. The SSSI units are assessed as being in unfavourable condition for bird populations with nine species having declined against baselines.

**Northumberland Marine SPA:** No information on feature condition is available.

**Farne Islands SPA:** No assessment of the condition of SPA features has been undertaken. Condition assessments of the underpinning SSSI units are available, most recently from 2014, with SSSI assessed as being in unfavourable recovering condition.

**Aln Estuary MCZ:** No condition assessment of the MCZ is available. The condition of underpinning SSSI units was assessed in 2009 and found the saltmarsh features to be in favourable condition.

**Coquet Island SPA:** No assessment of the condition of SPA features has been undertaken. Condition assessments of the underpinning SSSI were carried out in 2013 and found the SSSI to be in unfavourable recovering condition.

**Coquet to St Mary's MCZ:** No information on feature condition is available.



*Saltmarsh survey at Warkworth (Photo: Nick Brodin)*

## 6. Progress towards achieving a well-managed network of MPAs

### 6.1 Defining a well-managed network of MPAs

The goal of ensuring that individual marine protected areas achieve their conservation objectives is underpinned by the need for effective governance of individual sites and of the network of sites as a whole. This need for good management is recognised by international agreements, such as the OSPAR Convention and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. As a signatory to these agreements, the UK is committed to delivering a well-managed network of MPAs.

In the absence of any national guidance on how to achieve and monitor a well-managed network of MPAs, a set of principles were developed in 2016 by the Marine Nature Partnership as part of their transition from the EMS. The principles were designed around the tools that management partners need to enable them to manage their local MPAs in the most effective way and are listed as outputs from collaboration in the Memorandum of Understanding for the partnership. They are listed in Table 2.

**Table 2:** Principles of a well-manged network of marine protected areas

<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Site mapping available</li><li>2. Conservation Objectives available for sites</li><li>3. Advice on pressures and threats to sites is available</li><li>4. Advice on site/feature condition is available</li></ol>	Statutory duty on Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage to provide this information
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. The responsible authorities operating on sites have been identified</li><li>6. Management tools for addressing pressures and threats on sites have been identified</li><li>7. Existing management activity has been documented</li><li>8. Gaps in management have been identified</li><li>9. Monitoring/data/information collection taking place on sites has been identified</li><li>10. Web-hub to hold information has been created and maintained</li><li>11. Inclusive and effective governance</li><li>12. Partnership management through employment of a project officer</li></ol>	Delivered by project officer through partnership collaboration

In the period since these principles were developed, alternative methods for evaluating management effectiveness of marine protected areas have been developed, most notably The

Compass<sup>5</sup>, which was created by the UK Seas Project. No assessment of performance against these alternative frameworks has been attempted at this stage but this may be looked at in future.

## 6.2 Progress against principles of a well-managed network of MPAs

Table 3 below summarises the overall progress across the whole network. Progress is assessed as being either red (significant progress still required), amber (requires further action), and green (good progress). **Annex 2** contains individual assessments of progress for each of the 11 sites within the partnership area.

**Table 3:** Summary of overall progress with achieving a well-managed network of marine protected areas. Red = significant progress still required; Amber = requires further; Green = good progress

Principle of a well-managed MPA network	Current Assessment	Outlook for next year
1. Site mapping available	Green	Green
2. Conservation objectives available for sites	Amber	Amber
3. Advice on pressures and threats	Amber	Amber
4. Site and feature condition is documented	Red	Red
5. Responsible Authorities have been identified	Green	Green
6. Management tools have been identified	Green	Green
7. Existing management activity has been documented	Amber	Green
8. Gaps in management have been identified	Amber	Green
9. Inventory of monitoring activity has been produced	Amber	Green
10. Web-hub to hold information has been created and maintained	Green	Green
11. Inclusive and effective governance	Green	Green
12. Partnership management	Green	Amber

<sup>5</sup> The Compass consists of 38 separate criteria. Further information can be found at <https://ukseasproject.org.uk/marine-governance>

A rationale for the assessment of progress against each of the criteria is set out below:

**1. *Site mapping available***

Boundary maps are available for all eleven of the inshore marine protected areas. Habitat mapping is available through [www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk) for all sites. Additional mapping work is signposted through our online toolkit. This will be added to as other local data sets are identified/become available.

**Overall assessment of progress: Green**

**Outlook: Green**

**2. *Conservation objectives available for sites***

Formal conservation objectives have been produced for all sites. Conservation Advice packages and Supplementary Advice on conservation objectives is available in final or draft form for nine out of the eleven of our MPAs. This Supplementary Advice describes the range of ecological attributes that are most likely to contribute to a site's overall integrity. The sites currently without conservation advice packages are the St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA and the Berwick to St Mary's MCZ. Progress will be assessed as green once Conservation Advice is available for all sites in the network.

**Overall assessment of progress: Amber**

**Outlook: Amber**

**3. *Advice on pressures and threats***

Advice on pressures and threats is available through published conservation advice packages for nine out of eleven of our inshore MPAs but is still outstanding for the St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA and Berwick to St Mary's MCZ. Additional information on pressures and threats is also available through our online toolkit. Progress will be assessed as green once Conservation Advice is available for all sites in the network.

**Overall assessment of progress: Amber**

**Outlook: Amber**

**4. *Site and feature condition is documented***

There is limited information available about the condition of most of our inshore marine protected areas and the features for which they are notified (**Annex 1**). Much of the information that is available is more than 6-years old and derives from assessments underlying areas of SSSI rather than from the full extent of the marine protected areas themselves. At present it is not clear to what extent sites are meeting their conservation objectives.

**Overall assessment of progress: Red**

**Outlook: Red**

**5. *The responsible authorities operating on sites have been identified***

This has been done for the areas covered by the current EMS Management Scheme and for other sites through our online toolkit.

**Overall assessment of progress: Green**

**Outlook: Green**

**6. *Management tools for addressing pressures and threats on sites have been identified***

This information is identified as part of our online toolkit and will be kept under review.

**Overall assessment of progress: Green**

**Outlook: Green**

**7. *Existing management activity has been documented***

Current information about the management measures in place for activities are set out on our online toolkit. These require reviewing and updating, particularly for sites outside of the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast EMS, hence the current assessment as amber. Information about management measures will be reviewed as part of the Management Scheme update and it is anticipated that progress will be assessed as green before the end of 2020.

**Overall assessment of progress: Amber**

**Outlook: Green**

**8. *Gaps in management have been identified***

Management gaps for activities across the whole of the partnership area have been identified as part of the online toolkit. More work is needed to relate management gaps to individual marine protected areas, hence the current assessment as amber. These will be identified as part of the Management Scheme review process and it is anticipated that progress will be assessed as green before the end of 2020.

**Overall assessment of progress: Amber**

**Outlook: Green**

**9. *Inventory of monitoring activity has been produced***

Monitoring activity is currently being reviewed as part of the Management Scheme process. A workshop in 2019 looked at this issue and the creation of a Data, Monitoring and Research sub-group will help to ensure that information is kept up to date. An inventory of monitoring will form part of the revised Management Scheme. It is anticipated that progress will be assessed as green before the end of 2020.

**Overall assessment of progress: Amber**

**Outlook: Green**

***10. Web-hub to hold information has been created and maintained***

Our new website/online toolkit went live in January 2019 and is being updated regularly.

**Overall assessment of progress: Green**

**Outlook: Green**

***11. Inclusive and effective governance***

Governance structure in place with regular meetings of the Steering Group and annual meetings of the full partnership.

**Overall assessment of progress: Green**

**Outlook: Green**

***12. Partnership Management***

Project Officer employed on behalf of the partnership to provide coordination and deliver work. The number of funding partners has continued to drop year by year and in the medium term this could affect ability to keep an officer in post. For this reason, the outlook has been assessed as amber.

**Overall assessment of progress: Green**

**Outlook: Amber**



*Lobster pot at St Abbs (Photo:Paula Lightfoot)*

## ANNEX 1 SUMMARY OF CONDITION ASSESSMENT INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

**Table 4:** Summary of condition of marine protected area features

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
St. Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA	Seabird assemblage, breeding	Unfavourable Declining	SPA assessment (14/6/2014)	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.scot/data/data-analysis/protected-nature-sites/?pagenumber=1&amp;resetmap=true&amp;siteid=8579">https://www.environment.gov.scot/data/data-analysis/protected-nature-sites/?pagenumber=1&amp;resetmap=true&amp;siteid=8579</a>
	Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ), breeding	Favourable	SPA assessment (22/6/2013)	
	Herring gull ( <i>Larus argentatus</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable Declining	SPA assessment (31/5/2013)	
	Kittiwake ( <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable Declining	SPA assessment (14/6/2014)	
	Razorbill ( <i>Alca torda</i> ), breeding	Favourable	SPA assessment (22/6/2013)	
	Shag ( <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable Declining	SPA assessment (31/5/2014)	
Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC	Reefs	Favourable?	Based on condition assessment of some) of the underlying SSSI units. See Table 5 below	<a href="https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSACFeaturesMatrix.aspx?SiteCode=UK0017072&amp;SiteName=Berwickshire%20and%20North%20Northumberland%20Coast%20SAC">https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSACFeaturesMatrix.aspx?SiteCode=UK0017072&amp;SiteName=Berwickshire%20and%20North%20Northumberland%20Coast%20SAC</a>

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
	Submerged and Partially Submerged Sea Caves	Favourable (Scotland) Favourable? (England)	SAC Assessment in Scotland (28/8/2014)  English assessment based on condition assessment of some) of the underlying SSSI units. See Table 5 below	<a href="https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/8207#features">https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/8207#features</a>
	Intertidal Sand and Mud Flats	See Table in Annex 1b	Mixed picture based on SSSI assessments. See table 5 below	
	Large Shallow Inlets and Bays	See Table in Annex 1b	Mixed picture based on SSSI assessments. See table 5 below	
	Grey Seal ( <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> )	Favourable (Scotland)	SAC Assessment in Scotland (19/11/14)	<a href="https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/8207#features">https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/8207#features</a>
		Unfavourable Recovering? (England)	English assessment based on condition assessment of some) of the underlying SSSI units. See Table 5 below	<a href="https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSACFeaturesMatrix.aspx?SiteCode=UK0017072&amp;SiteName=Berwickshire%20and%20North%20Northumberland%20Coast%20SAC">https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSACFeaturesMatrix.aspx?SiteCode=UK0017072&amp;SiteName=Berwickshire%20and%20North%20Northumberland%20Coast%20SAC</a>
Tweed Estuary SAC	Estuaries	Favourable?	Based on condition assessment of one of the two monitoring units on the	<a href="https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSACFeaturesMatrix.aspx?SiteCode=UK0030292&amp;SiteName=Tweed">https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSACFeaturesMatrix.aspx?SiteCode=UK0030292&amp;SiteName=Tweed</a>
	River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> )			

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
	Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> )		underpinning SSSI (20/12/2010)	<a href="#">%20Estuary%20SAC</a>
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by water at low tide	Not assessed		
Berwick to St Mary's MCZ	Eider duck ( <i>Somateria mollissima</i> )	Not assessed		
Northumbria Marine SPA	Sandwich tern	Not assessed		
	Common tern	Not assessed		
	Arctic tern	Not assessed		
	Roseate tern	Not assessed		
	Little tern ( <i>Sternula albifrons</i> )	Not assessed		
	Puffin	Not assessed		
	Guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> )	Not assessed		
	Seabird assemblage	Not assessed		
Lindisfarne SPA	Bar-tailed godwit ( <i>Limosa lapponica</i> ), non-breeding	Not assessed	Comparative bird data using the 5-year peak means (2009/10-2013/14 show that	<a href="https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportUnitCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S10">https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportUnitCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S10</a>

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
			numbers have declined	<a href="#">00140&amp;ReportTitle=Lindisfarne%20SSSI</a>
	Common scoter ( <i>Melanitta nigra</i> ), non-breeding	Not assessed	Comparative bird data using the 5-year peak means (2009/10-2013/14 show that numbers have declined)	
	Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> ), non-breeding	Not assessed		
	Eider ( <i>Somateria mollissima</i> ), non-breeding	Not assessed	Comparative bird data using the 5-year peak means (2009/10-2013/14 show that numbers have declined)	
	Golden plover ( <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> ), non-breeding	Not assessed	Comparative bird data using the 5-year peak means (2009/10-2013/14 show that numbers have increased)	
	Grey plover ( <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> ), non-breeding	Not assessed	Comparative bird data using the 5-year peak means (2009/10-2013/14 show that numbers have declined)	
	Greylag goose ( <i>Anser anser</i> ), non-breeding	Not assessed	Comparative bird data using the 5-year peak means (2009/10-2013/14 show that numbers have declined)	

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
	Light-bellied brent goose ( <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> ), non-breeding	Not assessed	Comparative bird data using the 5-year peak means (2009/10-2013/14 show that numbers have increased)	
	Little tern ( <i>Sternula albifrons</i> ), breeding	Not assessed		
	Long-tailed duck ( <i>Clangula hyemalis</i> ), non-breeding	Not assessed		
	Red-breasted merganser ( <i>Mergus serrator</i> ), non-breeding	Not assessed		
	Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ), non-breeding	Not assessed		
	Ringed plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ), non-breeding	Not assessed	Comparative bird data using the 5-year peak means (2009/10-2013/14 show that numbers have declined)	
	Roseate tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ), breeding	Not assessed	No longer breeds on site	
	Sanderling ( <i>Calidris alba</i> ), non-breeding	Not assessed	Comparative bird data using the 5-year peak means (2009/10-2013/14 show that numbers have increased)	

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
	Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> ), non-breeding	Not assessed	Comparative bird data using the 5-year peak means (2009/10-2013/14 show that numbers have increased)	
	Waterbird assemblage	Unfavourable Declining	Based on SSSI unit assessment (7/9/2018) looking at WeBS data for overwintering bird assemblage for 2009/10-2013/14.	
	Whooper swan ( <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> ), non-breeding	Not assessed	Comparative bird data using the 5-year peak means (2009/10-2013/14 show that numbers have declined)	
	Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> ), non-breeding	Not assessed	Comparative bird data using the 5-year peak means (2009/10-2013/14 show that numbers have declined)	
Northumbria Coast SPA	Purple sandpiper ( <i>Calidris maritima</i> ), wintering	Favourable?	Condition assessments for the Northumberland Shore SSSI (8/1/2009), which underpins this SPA, concluded that it was in favourable condition based on bird numbers for the	<a href="https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportUnitCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S2000134&amp;ReportTitle=Northumberland%20Shore%20SSSI">https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportUnitCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S2000134&amp;ReportTitle=Northumberland%20Shore%20SSSI</a>
	Turnstone ( <i>Arenaria interpres</i> ), wintering	Favourable?		

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
	Little tern ( <i>Sternula albifrons</i> ), breeding	Favourable?	period 2002/3 to 2007/8. The assessment note declines in purple sandpiper numbers in line with national trends.	
	Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ), breeding	Not assessed	Interest feature only added to site in 2017	
Farne Islands SPA	Sandwich tern ( <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable recovering?	Condition assessment of the underpinning SSSI units are assessed as unfavourable recovering (28/03/2014) and notes declines in tern species. Assessment based on mean peaks, 2009-13. No information provided in assessment about how the conclusion of recovering was reached.	<a href="https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportUnitCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S1000660&amp;ReportTitle=Farne%20Islands%20SSSI">https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportUnitCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S1000660&amp;ReportTitle=Farne%20Islands%20SSSI</a>
	Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ), breeding			
	Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ), breeding			
	Roseate tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ), breeding			
	Common guillemot ( <i>Uria aalge</i> ), breeding			

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
Coquet Island SPA	Sandwich tern ( <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable recovering?	Condition of the underpinning SSSI has been assessed unfavourable recovering (23/01/2013). Assessment notes that all species-specific targets are being met with the exception of eider	<a href="https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportUnitCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S1004492&amp;ReportTitle=Coquet%20Island%20SSSI">https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportUnitCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S1004492&amp;ReportTitle=Coquet%20Island%20SSSI</a>
	Roseate tern ( <i>Sterna dougallii</i> ), breeding			
	Common tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ), breeding			
	Arctic tern ( <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> ), breeding			
	Seabird assemblage	Not assessed	Seabird assemblage added as an interest feature of the SPA in 2017	
Aln Estuary MCZ	Coastal saltmarsh and saline reedbeds	Favourable?	Condition assessment of the underpinning SSSI has saltmarsh features in favourable condition (24/07/2009)	<a href="https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportUnitCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S1002309&amp;ReportTitle=Alnmouth%20Saltmarsh%20and%20Dunes%20SSSI">https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ReportUnitCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S1002309&amp;ReportTitle=Alnmouth%20Saltmarsh%20and%20Dunes%20SSSI</a>
	Intertidal mud	Not assessed		
	Estuarine rocky habitats	Not assessed		
	Sheltered muddy gravels	Not assessed		
Coquet to St Mary's MCZ	Low energy intertidal rock	Not assessed		

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
	Moderate energy intertidal rock	Not assessed		
	High energy intertidal rock	Not assessed		
	Intertidal mixed sediments	Not assessed		
	Intertidal coarse sediment	Not assessed		
	Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Not assessed		
	Intertidal mud	Not assessed		
	Intertidal underboulder communities	Not assessed		
	Peat and clay exposures	Not assessed		
	Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Not assessed		
	High energy infralittoral rock	Not assessed		
	Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Not assessed		
	Subtidal coarse sediment	Not assessed		

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
	Subtidal sand	Not assessed		
	Subtidal mixed sediments	Not assessed		
	Subtidal mud	Not assessed		

**Table 5:** Condition summary of Berwickshire and Northumberland Coast SAC based on underlying SSSIs. Taken from [www.designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk)

Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC

Feature	Bamburgh Coast and Hills SSSI	Castle Point to Cullernose Point SSSI		Farne Islands SSSI		Lindisfarne SSSI					Newton Links SSSI	Northumberland Shore SSSI							
	002	003	005	001	002	001	002	005	007	009	011	003	001	002	003	004	005	006	007
H1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide?	?					UR	?	UR		?		F				?			?
H1160 Large shallow inlets and bays						UR	?	UR		?		F				?			?
H1170 Reefs		?	F	F	F				?	?	?		?	?	?	?	?	?	?
H8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves				F	F					?	?		?						?
S1364 Grey seal, <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>				UR	UR														

Key:	
F	Favourable
UR	Unfavourable recovering
UN	Unfavourable no change
UD	Unfavourable declining
PD	Partially destroyed
D	Destroyed
?	Not recorded

## ANNEX 2 Individual site assessments against the principles of a well-managed network of marine protected areas

Principles of a well-managed MPA network	MPAs in Berwickshire and Northumberland										
	St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA	Tweed Estuary SAC	BNNC SAC	Lindisfarne SPA	Farne Islands SPA	Northumbria Coast SPA	Coquet Island SPA	Aln Estuary MCZ	Coquet to St Mary's MCZ	Northumberland Marine SPA	Berwick to St Mary's MCZ
1. Site mapping available	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
2. Conservation Objectives available for sites	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Amber
3. Advice on pressures and threats to sites is available	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red
4. Advice on site/feature condition is available <sup>6</sup>	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Red	Amber	Red	Red	Red	Red
5. The responsible authorities operating on sites have been identified	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
6. Management tools for addressing pressures and threats on sites have been identified	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
7. Existing management activity has been documented	Amber	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber
8. Gaps in management have been identified	Amber	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber
9. Monitoring/data/information collection taking place on sites has been identified	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber
10. Web-hub	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
11. Effective Governance	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
12. Partnership Officer	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green

<sup>6</sup> The following criteria have been used to assess individual sites:

**Green:** Assessments of all MPA features within the last 6-years (no sites met this criteria)

**Amber:** Partial assessments of features **or** assessments of MPA features which are between 6 and 10 years old

**Red:** Sites without MPA feature assessments **or** with feature assessments which are more than 10-years old