



Berwickshire & Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership



Progress Report March 2020 to December 2023

1. Introduction

This report covers the period from the end of March 2020 to December 2023 and provides an overview of key activity relevant to the Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership in. In particular, it provides details of:

- Progress with implementation of the Management Scheme for the eleven marine Protected Areas in the inshore waters between the Tyne and Fast Castle Head.
- Work undertaken by the Marine Nature Partnership since March 2020
- Current information on the condition of our inshore marine protected areas
- An assessment of progress towards achieving a well-managed network of marine protected areas
- Changes to the legislative and policy framework around marine management since [our last report](#)

2. Implementation of the Management Scheme for inshore MPAs

The [Management Scheme](#) for the inshore Marine Protected Areas found between the Tyne and Fast Castle Head was published in July 2021. This replaced the previous Management Scheme for the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast European Marine Site. A Delivery Plan was also produced to accompany the Scheme.

2.1 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 NatureScot 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.



Blue mussel bed, Lindisfarne

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. During 2022, Natural England trialled survey methods for rocky shores with stakeholders which will be rolled out further in 2023.

2.2 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 NatureScot). Only the Berwick to St Mary's MCZ and the St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA remain without published advice.



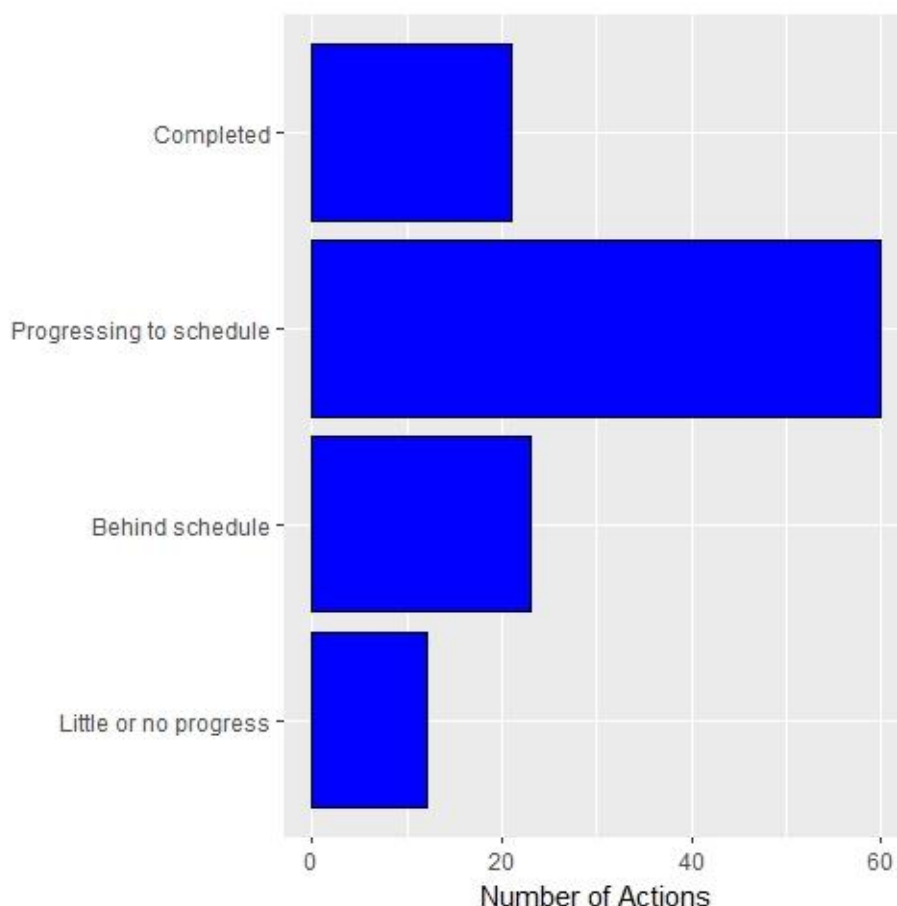
St Abbs Harbour

2.3 Progress with 2021 Delivery Plan

The Management Scheme Delivery Plan published in 2021 identifies 112 actions across 4 overarching management themes and 29 human activities.

Figure 1 summarises progress with these actions. The majority of actions are showing progress or have been completed, with a small number showing no progress.

Figure 1: Progress with Delivery Plan for Management Scheme



The Delivery Plan will be revised and updated in 2024. Progress on this will be reported in the next report.

3. Progress towards achieving a well-managed network of MPAs

3.1 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 1.

Table 1: Principles of a well-manged network of marine protected areas

1. Site mapping available 2. Conservation Objectives available for sites 3. Advice on pressures and threats to sites is available 4. Advice on site/feature condition is available	Statutory duty on Natural England and NatureScot to provide this information
5. The responsible authorities operating on sites have been identified 6. Management tools for addressing pressures and threats on sites have been identified 7. Existing management activity has been documented 8. Gaps in management have been identified 9. Monitoring/data/information collection taking place on sites has been identified 10. Web-hub to hold information has been created and maintained 11. Inclusive and effective governance 12. Partnership management through employment of a project officer	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 Compass¹, 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.

¹ The Compass consists of 38 separate criteria. Further information can be found at <https://ukseasproject.org.uk/marine-governance>

3.2 Progress against principles of a well-managed network of MPAs

Table 2 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 2: 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; upward arrows represent an improving situation

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

A rationale for the assessment of progress against each of the criteria is set out in Annex 3.

4. Key partnership activity since the last report

4.1 Championing Coastal Coordination (3Cs) and habitat recovery planning

Championing Coastal Coordination (3Cs) is an Environment Agency programme which aims to enhance and coordination for coastal sustainability and resilience in England. The Berwickshire and Northumberland Marine Nature Partnership has been working with our neighbours the Durham Heritage Coast Partnership (DHC) to provide one of several regional demonstration projects within [a larger 3Cs-funded project led by the Coastal Partnerships Network \(CPN\)](#).

Initial work took place in early 2022 when four separate online workshops were held to look at a regional response to predicted climate change impacts on our coast. The workshops involved 68 stakeholders from 41 organisations and led to the production of a final Action Plan. Outputs from the project can be viewed at <https://www.xbordercurrents.co.uk/projects/championing-coastal-coordination-3cs/> This initial stage also led to the creation of a Regional Coastal Network for Berwickshire and North East England, which the Marine Nature Partnership facilitates jointly with DHC. During 2023 additional 3C's-funded workshops have been held to bring partners together to discuss local aspirations for the restoration and recovery of coastal habitats and discuss how we can work collaboratively to realise these. This work is ongoing and the current phase of the project will end in March 2024.



Participants at 3Cs workshop in Newcastle, March 2022. Photo credit: The Blooming Platypus

4.2 Wild Recreation Guide

Our new [Wildlife Recreation Guide](#) was published as an e-document in 2023. It brings together good practice guidelines for a range of recreational activities on the coast and signposts to existing Codes of Conduct. Work is ongoing to promote the key messages contained in the Guide. This will include the production of some short films based around the content. The first of these, about how to recognise the signs of wildlife disturbance, should be available in early 2024.

4.3 Marine Invasive Non-Native Species Plan (INNS) Strategy

During the period covered by this report we have consultation on and published a [Marine INNS Strategy](#) for our partnership areas. The Strategy describes the biosecurity issues of the coastal and estuarine waters of the Berwickshire, Northumberland and North Tyneside coast and presents actions for the prevention, early detection, control and mitigation of the introduction and spread of Marine Invasive Non-Native Species.

Resources are being sought for implementation of some elements of the Strategy, including additional work on surveillance for the presence of marine INNS, and for providing of training on marine biosecurity to stakeholders.

4.4 Eider Aware North East

Eider Aware is our project to celebrate the cultural and environmental importance of Eider Duck to our coast. It was initiated as a result of the designation of the Berwick to St Mary's MCZ in May 2019. It initially launched 2020 with initial support from the Northumberland Coast AONB and from Northumbrian Water's Branch Out fund with subsequent additional funding from Natural England.



Male and female Eider. Photo credit: Space for Shorebirds

An Eider recording app was created for us by the Environmental Records Information Centre (ERIC) North East as part of the initial outreach aspect of the project. The app allows the public to report sighting of Eider but also allows reports of instances of disturbance to Eider from human activity. This later is particularly important as it allows us to gather evidence on the extent of the problem of human disturbance for Eider and to target awareness raising. The app was used in work the Partnership undertook with Natural England in Spring and Summer 2023 where public records were compared against the results of aerial surveys to help build up a picture of Eider usage of the Berwick to St Mary's Marine Conservation Zone. In the period from March 2020 to December 2023 the app received over one thousand records of Eider sightings.

As part of the Eider Aware project the Marine Nature Partnership has held an annual 'Eider Duck Day' celebration on the 20th March. This date is also the Feast Day of St Cuthbert and was chosen to highlight the links between the Eider ducks of the Northumberland coast and the wider culture and history of the area. Online outputs from Eider Duck Day, including presentations and short films, can be found on [our YouTube channel](#).

4.5 CoastSnap

CoastSnap is a Citizen Science project which will monitor coast change through publicly submitted fixed-point photography. The project was originally scheduled for a start in 2020 but after delays the first Coast Snap post was installed at Sandstell Point at Tweedmouth in November. Additional posts will be installed along the coast during 2024.



CoastSnap post at Tweedmouth. Photos from the post will be used to monitor changes in the sand spit at Sandstell Point

4.6 Coastal Infrastructure Project

In summer of 2023 we launched a new project with funding from the Environment Agency's Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF). The project will look at the scope for retrofitting ecological enhancements to hard coastal infrastructure such as sea walls and revetments. The first phase of the project comprises an initial feasibility study and will complete in March 2024. We hope this will be followed by a second phase which will implement some of the opportunities identified.



4.7 Rocky Shore Condition Monitoring

With funding from Natural England, the Marine Nature Partnership is working to coordinate citizen science rocky shore surveys, which will help to inform site condition monitoring on the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC and the Coquet to St Mary's MCZ. The surveys involve a targeted indicator species searches focusing on species that are subject to recreational and commercial harvesting (e.g. periwinkles and crabs) and indicators of condition (e.g. opportunistic macroalgae).

5. Key changes in Policy and Legislation since the last report

5.2 Changes in policy and legislation since March 2020

[The Fisheries Act 2020](#) – this came into Law in November 2020 and sets out the UK's underpin the UK's management of fisheries as an independent coastal state following exit from the EU. The Fisheries Act lists eight fisheries objectives, which set out the overall aims of the Act. As part of the requirements of the Act, the UK's four national fisheries policy authorities published a [Joint Fisheries Statement](#) which sets out policies for achieving these eight objectives.

[Schedule 9](#) of the Act came into force on the 1st March 2021 and made it an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injures or takes a seal. Individual seals can no longer be controlled under the 'netsman's defence' as this defence.

[Fisheries Management Plans](#) – as part of the Fisheries Act 2020, national fisheries policy authorities are required to publish fisheries management plans (FMPs) to help deliver sustainable fisheries. [Consultations](#) for the first six FMPs ran from July to October 2023.

New Fisheries Bylaws – at a local level Northumberland IFCA have updated their [fisheries bylaws](#) in the period since the last report. These include a new bylaw introduced in 2022 which prohibits dredging fishing in the NIFCA district.

[The Environment Act 2021](#) – the Act new framework of environmental protection. The majority of the Act applies to England only although it also contains some provisions which relate to the UK devolved administrations and to UK reserved matters. Among the provisions of the act are powers for the Government to set legally binding environmental targets, requirement for the preparation and publication of Local Nature Recovery Strategies in England, and the mandatory introduction of Biodiversity Net Gain for developments.

[Cooperation Agreement between the Scottish Government and the Scottish Green Party Parliamentary Group](#) - **following** elections to the Scottish Parliament in 2021, the Scottish Green Party and the Scottish Government signed a cooperation agreement and [shared policy programme](#) setting out how they would work together. The shared policy programme covered a number of areas relevant to marine management in Scotland, including fisheries protection and Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs)

5.2 Marine Planning

The [North East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans](#) were published by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in June 2021 and provides guidance for sustainable development from the Scottish Border to Flamborough Head in Yorkshire.

In Scotland, Regional Marine Plans will be prepared for 11 marine regions by statutory Marine Planning Partnerships. The Berwickshire coast falls within the Forth and Tay marine region. As yet no Marine Planning Partnership is in place for the area.

5.3 Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs)

During 2022 Defra consulted on the potential designation of a suite of [Highly Protected Marine Areas](#) in English waters. One of the candidate sites, at Lindisfarne, was within the boundary of the Marine Nature Partnership. Earlier in 2023, Defra confirmed that, following the consultation, this site would not be designated.

The North East of Farnes Deep, an offshore site located approximately 55km from Berwick upon Tweed was designated as a HPMA on the 14th June 2023.

The Scottish Government had proposed to implement Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) across 10% of Scotland's seas by 2026 [will not be progressed](#).

ANNEX 1 SUMMARY OF CONDITION ASSESSMENT INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

Table A1: 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)	https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/8579
	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	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSACFeaturesMatrix.aspx?SiteCode=UK0017072&SiteName=Berwic

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
				kshire%20and%20North%20Northumberland%20Coast%20OSAC
	Submerged and Partially Submerged Sea Caves	Favourable (Scotland)	SAC Assessment in Scotland (28/8/2014)	https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/8207
		Favourable? (England)	English assessment based on condition assessment of some) of the underlying SSSI units. See Table 5 below	
	Intertidal Sand and Mud Flats	Mixed. See Table 5	Mixed picture based on SSSI assessments. See table 5 below	
	Large Shallow Inlets and Bays	Mixed. See Table 5	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)	https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/8207
		Unfavourable Recovering? (England)	English assessment based on condition assessment of some) of the underlying SSSI units. See Table 5 below	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSACFeaturesMatrix.aspx?SiteCode=UK0017072&SiteName=Berwic

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
				kshire%20and%20North%20Northumberland%20Coast%20SAC
Tweed Estuary SAC	Estuaries	Favourable – 25% Unfavourable recovering – 41% Not assessed – 34%	Assessed 20/7/2020 (Table 6)	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineFeatureConditionDirect.aspx?SiteCode=UK0030292&SiteName=Tweed&SiteNameDisplay=Tweed%20Estuary%20SAC&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=7
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by water at low tide	Favourable	Assessed on 12/3/2020 (Table 6)	
	River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)	Not assessed		
	Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)	Not assessed		
Berwick to St Mary's MCZ	Eider duck (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)	Not assessed [NB: WeBS counts for coast show a decline in Eider numbers over the last 5-years]		

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
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	Unfavourable 02/11/2018	SSSI assessment	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteFeatureCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S1000140&SiteName=Lindisfarne%20SSSI
	Common scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>), non-breeding	Unfavourable 02/11/2018	SSSI assessment	
	Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>), non-breeding	Unfavourable 02/11/2018	SSSI assessment	

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
	Eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>), non-breeding	Not assessed but SSSI assessment notes that numbers are following national trends	SSSI assessment	
	Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>), non-breeding	Favourable 08/05/2019	SSSI assessment	
	Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>), non-breeding	Favourable 08/05/2019	SSSI assessment	
	Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>), non-breeding	Unfavourable 02/11/2018	SSSI assessment	
	Light-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>), non-breeding	Favourable 08/05/2019	SSSI assessment	
	Little tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>), breeding	Favourable 08/05/2019	SSSI assessment	
	Long-tailed duck (<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>), non-breeding	Not assessed		
	Red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>), non-breeding	Not assessed		

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
	Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>), non-breeding	Unfavourable 02/11/2018	SSSI assessment	
	Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>), non-breeding	Unfavourable 03/11/2018	SSSI assessment	
	Roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>), breeding	Not assessed	SSSI assessment No longer breeds on site	
	Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>), non-breeding	Favourable 08/05/2019	SSSI assessment	
	Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), non-breeding	Favourable 08/05/2019	SSSI assessment	
	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	Unfavourable 02/11/2018	SSSI assessment	

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
	Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>), non-breeding	Unfavourable 02/11/2018	SSSI assessment	
Northumbria Coast SPA	Purple sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>), wintering	Favourable 29/11/2010	Condition assessment for Northumberland Shore SSSI	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=S2000134&SiteName=Northumbria%20Coast&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&unitId=&SeaArea=&IFCAAArea=
	Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>), wintering	Favourable 21/03/2022	Condition assessment for Northumberland Shore SSSI	
	Little tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>), breeding	Unfavourable Recovering 20/07/2012	Condition assessment for Newton Links SSSI	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteFeatureCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S1002860&SiteName=Newton%20Links%20SSSI
	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 16/01/2014	Condition assessments of the Farne Islands SSSI	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteFeatureCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S1000660&SiteName=Farne%20Islands%20SSSI
	Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>), breeding			

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
	Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>), breeding			
	Roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>), breeding			
	Common guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>), breeding			
Coquet Island SPA	Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>), breeding	Favourable 23/01/2013	Condition assessment of the Coquet Island SSSI	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteFeatureCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S1004492&SiteName=Coquet%20Island%20SSSI
	Roseate tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>), breeding			
	Common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>), breeding			
	Arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>), breeding			

Site	Feature	Condition	Source of Information	Link
	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)	https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteFeatureCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S1002309&SiteName=Alnmouth%20Saltmarsh%20and%20Dunes%20SSSI
	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		
	Moderate energy intertidal rock	Not assessed		
	High energy intertidal rock	Not assessed		
	Intertidal mixed sediments	Not assessed		
	Intertidal coarse sediment	Not assessed		

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

Table A1.1: Condition summary of Berwickshire and Northumberland Coast SAC based on underlying SSSIs. Taken from www.designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk

Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC

	Bamburgh Coast and Hills SSSI	Castle Point to Cullernose Point SSSI		Farne Islands SSSI		Lindisfarne SSSI						Newton Links SSSI	Northumberland Shore SSSI						
Feature	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, Halichoerus grypus				UR	UR														

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

Table A1.2: Condition Summary for Tweed Estuary SAC. Taken from www.designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk

Feature		Most recent assessment	Favourable	Unfavourable Recovering	Unfavourable NoChange	Unfavourable Declining	Partially Destroyed	Destroyed	Not Assessed
H1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide		12/03/2020		100%					
H1130 Estuaries		20/07/2020	25%	41%					34%
S1099 River lamprey, <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	*								
S1095 Sea lamprey, <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	*								

* Features that are not included in the current Marine Condition Assessment

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											
2. Conservation Objectives available for sites											
3. Advice on pressures and threats to sites is available											
4. Advice on site/feature condition is available ²											
5. The responsible authorities operating on sites have been identified											
6. Management tools for addressing pressures and threats on sites have been identified											
7. Existing management activity has been documented											
8. Gaps in management have been identified											
9. Monitoring/data/information collection taking place on sites has been identified											
10. Web-hub											
11. Effective Governance											
12. Partnership Officer											

² 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

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 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 and formal Conservation Advice packages are available for nine out of the eleven of our inshore MPAs. 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. Advice for Berwick to St Mary's is planned but no timescale is available from NatureScot for the production of advice for the St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA. 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. However, additional monitoring work is in progress which has yet to be incorporated into formal assessments. At present it is not clear to what extent sites are meeting their conservation objectives. This includes trials of rocky shore surveys conducted in 2022 by Natural England.

Overall assessment of progress: Amber

Outlook: Amber

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

This has been done for the areas covered by the current 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 and were reviewed as part of the last update of the Management Scheme for our inshore MPAs.

Overall assessment of progress: Green

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 and were reviewed as part of the last update of the Management Scheme for our inshore MPAs.

Overall assessment of progress: Green

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..

Overall assessment of progress: Green

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