



# Habitats Regulations Assessment

## Morecambe Area Action Plan

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### Screening Report



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# Lancaster City Council

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# ABBREVIATIONS

AAP	Area Action Plan
cSAC	Candidate Special Area of Conservation
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
SPA	Special Protection Area

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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 preparation of a Land Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD), Development Management DPD and the Adopted Core Strategy (adopted 2008) 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 period of the Core Strategy). 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 significant adverse impacts on protected sites of international importance.

## 1.2 Background to the Habitats Regulations Assessment

Under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (and Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations), an assessment is required where a plan or project may give rise to significant effects upon a 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 2010<sup>1</sup>.

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 adverse 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

## 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 guidance<sup>2</sup> 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
Government Office for the North West	North West of England Plan - Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021 (Published September 2008) (soon to be abolished).
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).

<sup>2</sup>

[http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/epc/planning/403821/403827/40382/860788/Final\\_Copy\\_Consultation\\_Doc1.pdf?lang=en](http://new.wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/epc/planning/403821/403827/40382/860788/Final_Copy_Consultation_Doc1.pdf?lang=en)

Authority	Relevant Plan/Project
Wyre Borough Council	Wyre Borough Local Plan (Adopted 1999) (Core Strategy in preparation).
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 floorspace of 2,052sqm (tradeable) 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 floorspace 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 floorspace 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 floorspace 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 floorspace
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 floorspace.
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 floorspace
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

Authority	Relevant Plan/Project
Planning Application	Former Pontin's Holiday Camp, 579 new homes
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
-	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.

## 2.5 Mitigation Measures

In preparing this report, consideration has been given to potential avoidance and mitigation measures which would serve to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of European sites, for example the provision of specific clauses within the AAP that may prevent effects occurring.

### 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 3-1 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

Under Regulation 35(3) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 the appropriate statutory nature conservation body (in this case Natural England) has a duty to communicate the conservation objectives for a European site to the relevant/competent authority responsible for that site. The information provided under Regulation 35 must also include advice on any operations which may cause deterioration of the features for which the site is designated.

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 Commission<sup>3</sup> 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 website<sup>4</sup>. They are summarised in Appendix A.

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

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



Table 3-2 European Sites that could be adversely affected by Morecambe's Morecambe AAP

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Conditions and Threats <sup>5</sup>	Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey
	Habitats	Species		
<b>Morecambe Bay Ramsar Site</b>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ramsar criterion 4: The site is a staging area for migratory waterfowl including internationally important numbers of passage ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>.</li> <li>▪ Ramsar criterion 5 Assemblages of international importance with peak counts in the winter: 223709 waterfowl</li> <li>▪ Ramsar criterion 6 Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance during the breeding season: Lesser black-backed gull, <i>Larus fuscus graellisi</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></li> </ul>	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>

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

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Conditions and Threats <sup>5</sup>	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> European golden plover, <i>Pluvialis</i>		

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Conditions and Threats <sup>5</sup>	Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey
	Habitats	Species		
		<p><i>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><b>During the breeding season;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i></li> <li>▪ Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Over winter;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i></li> <li>▪ Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i></li> </ul> <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><b>During the breeding season;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i></li> <li>▪ Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i></li> </ul> <p><b>On passage;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i></li> <li>▪ Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i></li> </ul>	<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 <sup>5</sup>	Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey
	Habitats	Species		
		<p><b>Over winter;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i></li> <li>▪ Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i></li> <li>▪ Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i></li> <li>▪ Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i></li> <li>▪ Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i></li> <li>▪ Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i></li> <li>▪ Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i></li> <li>▪ Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i></li> <li>▪ Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i></li> <li>▪ Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i></li> </ul> <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>		
<b>Morecambe Bay SAC</b>	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Estuaries</li> <li>▪ Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>▪ Large shallow inlets and bays</li> <li>▪ Perennial vegetation of stony banks</li> <li>▪ <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals</li> </ul>	<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></li> </ul>	<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>Current pressures include fisheries, aggregate extraction, gas exploration, recreation and other activities.</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 <sup>5</sup>	Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey
	Habitats	Species		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>colonising mud and sand</li> <li>▪ Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</li> <li>▪ Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (`white dunes`)</li> <li>▪ Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (`grey dunes`) <b>*Priority feature</b></li> <li>▪ Humid dune slacks</li> </ul> <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"> <li>▪ Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</li> <li>▪ Coastal lagoons <b>*Priority feature</b></li> <li>▪ Reefs</li> <li>▪ Embryonic shifting dunes</li> <li>▪ Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>) <b>*Priority feature</b></li> <li>▪ Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>)</li> </ul>			
<b>Bowland Fells SPA</b>	N/A	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	The expansive blanket bog and heather dominated moorland provides suitable habitat for a diverse range of upland breeding birds. Favourable nature conservation status of the site depends on appropriate	<p>Area favourable 5.50%</p> <p>Area unfavourable but recovering 94.40%</p> <p>Area unfavourable no</p>

Site Name	Qualifying Features		Current Conditions and Threats <sup>5</sup>	Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey
	Habitats	Species		
		<p>Directive:</p> <p><b>During the breeding season;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i></li> <li>▪ Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i></li> </ul> <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><b>During the breeding season;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i></li> </ul>	<p>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>change 0%</p> <p>Area unfavourable declining 0.10%</p> <p>Area destroyed / part destroyed 0%</p>
<b>Calf Hill and Cragg Woods SAC</b>	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</li> </ul> <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"> <li>▪ Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) *<b>Priority feature</b></li> </ul>	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 (&lt;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 <sup>5</sup>	Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey
	Habitats	Species		
<b>Leighton Moss Ramsar site</b>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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>.</li> <li>▪ 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></li> </ul>	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>
<b>Leighton Moss SPA</b>	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><b>During the breeding season;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i></li> <li>▪ Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Over winter;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i></li> </ul>	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 <sup>5</sup>	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.	
<b>Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC</b>	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara spp.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands</li> <li>▪ Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)</li> <li>▪ Limestone pavements * Priority feature</li> <li>▪ <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines * Priority feature</li> <li>▪ <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles * Priority feature</li> </ul> <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"> <li>▪ European dry heaths</li> <li>▪ Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> * Priority feature</li> </ul>	<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Narrow-mouthed whorl snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i></li> </ul>	<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 <sup>5</sup>	Results of April 2012 SSSI Condition Survey
	Habitats	Species		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</li> </ul>			

# 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 Core Strategy, Land Allocations DPD and the Development Management DPD and 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 4-1 Elements of the Morecambe AAP**

Morecambe AAP Policy Groups	Policy Name / Action Set
Spatial Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A focus on quality and good care of all aspects of the environment.</li> <li>▪ The environment at the central seafront protected and further enhanced and animated, with the potential to use and enjoy the seafront environment along its length clearly explained.</li> <li>▪ The town centre integrating well with the seafront with as seamless a join between town and seafront as possible to ensure the provision for pedestrians to move between the two areas is made much easier, more pleasant and inviting. As a priority improving connections between the Eric Morecambe statue and Euston Road, between the Midland and the Winter Gardens and by the former Frontierland site.</li> <li>▪ Better places at the seafront for Morecambe to host and stage festivals and events and making that these bring much more to the town.</li> <li>▪ The bay between the Midland and the Battery improved through new sea defences and with new opportunities for enjoyment of the coastal setting including for active recreation.</li> <li>▪ Footfall of visitors on the seafront feeding into the town centre and the town centre becoming an integral element in and asset to the visitor experience.</li> <li>▪ A well defined town centre, comprising the established centre of the Arndale and traditional streets around improved and enhanced, augmented by land to the east of Northumberland Street redeveloped to a clear urban structure.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ Victoria Street improved and effectively extended west to link through to the Festival Market and so making for a clear axis to the</li> </ul>

Morecambe AAP Policy Groups	Policy Name / Action Set
	<p>town centre landward of Marine Road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The seafront headland at the central promenade made Morecambe's lead leisure destination, with a high quality of public realm and relating well to the town centre landward. Uses to include significant leisure / recreation elements complementary to that of the mixed town centre but not competitive with its retail elements.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ Development of the former Frontierland site predominantly for housing to help activate central Morecambe with an increased residential population and to improve connectivity for pedestrians to / from the West End.</li> <li>▪ Functionality further supported by improved connections for pedestrians to and from adjacent residential areas (including the West End) so these feed footfall and activity into the centre. Increased pedestrian activity spinning west along an improved seafront and along Marine Road West through to the West End.</li> <li>▪ A welcoming arrival (and pleasant departure) experience including at the railway station and bus halts, for people walking and cycling and for people travelling by motor vehicle with ready, pleasant onward connections for pedestrian routes serving the town centre and helping concentrate footfall and activity in the tighter town centre.</li> <li>▪ Changes to highways and parking arrangements to make traffic circulation more efficient and reduce excess traffic circulation and with parking located and managed in such a way as to feed footfall into the town centre.</li> <li>▪ Good signage for pedestrians throughout central Morecambe with information / interpretation points.</li> <li>▪ Visitor accommodation and including that just outside central Morecambe that is readily found by vehicle and on foot.</li> <li>▪ Well considered, clear signage of vehicle routes to and from Morecambe on all route approaches including via Lancaster and Carnforth and well located long and short stay parking options in central Morecambe.</li> </ul>
Managing the Environment	<p>Action Set (AS)1: Managing and maintaining streets and spaces</p> <p>AS2: Improving the condition of buildings and encouraging beneficial occupancy</p>
Managing Development	<p>Policy SP1: Key Pedestrian Routes and Spaces</p> <p>AS3: Improving Key Routes for Pedestrians and Cyclists</p>
Further encouraging business investment and development	<p>Policy SP2: Investment Exemptions</p> <p>AS4: Further encourage business investment and development</p>
Morecambe's Main Seafront and Promenade	<p>Policy SP3: Morecambe Main Seafront and Promenade</p> <p>AS5: Central Seafront and Main Beach</p>

Morecambe AAP Policy Groups	Policy Name / Action Set
	Policy DO1: 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 Andale and Area
	Policy DO4: West View
	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: 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 4-2 Initial Screening of the Morecambe AAP Policy Groups

European Sites	Morecambe AAP Policy Groups (Further assessment required: ✘/✔)									Comments
	Spatial 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 Spatial Approach would lead to significant effects on the European sites due to their high level nature and commitment to co-ordinated management of the natural environment within Morecambe. Therefore elements of the Spatial 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 green 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 protect heritage resources 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 significant adverse 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.
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 is likely to result in, no direct or indirect 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 effects are considered feasible as there are no clear impact pathways.
Calf Hill and Cragg Woods SAC	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	No 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 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 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 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 4-3 Screening the Morecambe AAP: Morecambe Bay SPA

Morecambe Bay SPA				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (✘/✓)
<b>Managing Development</b>				
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 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 could mitigate adverse effects.</p>	N/A	✘



Morecambe Bay SPA				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation 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 and Greenways within the AAP boundary. Public realm and Greenway improvements would only benefit the qualifying species of the SPA, therefore no effects are anticipated.	N/A	N/A	✗
Further Encouraging Business Investment and Development				
Policy SP2: Investment Exemptions	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 disturbance of the SPA's qualifying species, as	The policies state that the council will not permit any proposals that would result in significant adverse effects on Morecambe Bay. Therefore this would offer protection against adverse effects.	N/A	✗
AS5: Central Seafront and Main Beach		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 mitigate against	N/A	✗

**Morecambe Bay SPA**

Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/√)
AS5: Central Seafront and Main Beach	<p>more people may access the beach. However, this is not a current issue for the SPA and assemblages of qualifying interests are located in areas at distance from the immediate shoreline. Risks are therefore considered to be negligible as the SPA 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 significant effects on the qualifying species.</p> <p>There is the potential for essential coastal defence works to lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the SPA and its qualifying species, particularly through aquatic contamination during construction works.</p>	<p>adverse effects.</p> <p>National legislation and guidance would also prevent inappropriate development within and adjacent to the SPA.</p>	N/A	✘
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 SPA. No direct land take within the SPA is proposed.</p>		N/A	✘
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 of qualifying species within the SPA (although the</p>		N/A	✘

Morecambe Bay SPA			
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential
			Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/✓)
	<p>site is considered to be relatively robust and cover a large enough area for carefully controlled recreation activities to avoid the bird assemblages).</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 to the contamination of the SPA, particularly during construction works.</p>		
<p>Policy DO2: Strategic Leisure – Seafront Headland, Central Promenade</p>	<p>It is unlikely that the policy / action set would lead to any significant impacts 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.</p>		N/A
<p>AS7: Seafront Headland, Central Promenade</p>	<p>It is very unlikely that the site is used by the qualifying species outside the designation as the habitats on the site are not considered to be favourable.</p>		N/A
<b>The Town Centre</b>			

Morecambe Bay SPA				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/✓)
Policy SP4: Town Centre	Guiding town centre development to a defined town centre boundary within an existing urban area would not affect the qualifying features of the SPA. Although the allocation is located approximately 37m from the SPA no impact pathways have been identified and no effects are considered feasible.	N/A	N/A	✗
Policy DO3: The Andale and Area	This policy would not affect 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	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 significant adverse 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	N/A	N/A	✗

Morecambe Bay SPA				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/√)
	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 is very unlikely that the qualifying mobile species use this site as it is not considered to contain favourable habitats.			
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.	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 effects are 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	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 mitigate against	N/A	✘

**Morecambe Bay SPA**

Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (✘/✔)
	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 SPA.	adverse effects.		

**Travel and Transport**

AS10: Traffic route signage to and from central Morecambe	The action sets within this policy group 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.	N/A	N/A	✘
AS11: Parking provision and management		N/A	N/A	✘
AS12: Bus services		N/A	N/A	✘
AS13: Rail services		N/A	N/A	✘

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

Morecambe Bay Ramsar site			
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential
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 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. All of which could mitigate adverse effects.</p>	N/A
			✘

Morecambe Bay Ramsar site				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation 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 and Greenways within the AAP boundary. Public realm and Greenway improvements would only benefit the qualifying species of the Ramsar site, therefore no effects are anticipated.	N/A	N/A	✓
<b>Further Encouraging Business Investment and Development</b>				
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	✓
<b>Morecambe's Main Seafront and Promenade</b>				
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 disturbance of the Ramsar's qualifying species,	The policies state that the council will not permit any proposals that would result in significant adverse effects on Morecambe Bay. Therefore this would offer protection against adverse effects.  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 mitigate against	N/A	✓
AS5: Central Seafront and Main Beach			N/A	✓



**Morecambe Bay Ramsar site**

Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (* / ✓)
AS5: Central Seafront and Main Beach	<p>as more people may access the beach. However, this is not a current issue for the site and assemblages of qualifying interests are located in areas at distance from the immediate shoreline. Risks are therefore considered to be negligible as the site 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 significant effects on the qualifying species..</p> <p>There is the potential for essential coastal defence works to lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the Ramsar site and its qualifying species, particularly through aquatic contamination during construction works.</p>	<p>adverse effects.</p> <p>National legislation and guidance would also prevent inappropriate development within and adjacent to the Ramsar site.</p>	N/A	✗
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 Ramsar site. No direct land take within the Ramsar site is proposed.</p>		N/A	✗
AS6: Western Seafront and Beach	<p>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 (although the site is considered to</p>		N/A	✗

**Morecambe Bay Ramsar site**

Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (✘/✔)
	<p>be relatively robust and cover a large enough area that this would not be an issue).</p> <p>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.</p>			
<p>Policy DO2: Strategic Leisure – Seafront Headland, Central Promenade</p>	<p>It is unlikely that the policy / action set would lead to any significant impacts 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.</p>		<p>N/A</p>	<p>✘</p>
<p>AS7: Seafront Headland, Central Promenade</p>	<p>It is very unlikely that the site is used by the qualifying species outside the designation as the habitats on the site are not considered to be favourable.</p>		<p>N/A</p>	<p>✘</p>

**The Town Centre**

Morecambe Bay Ramsar site				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/✓)
Policy SP4: Town Centre	Guiding town centre development to a defined town centre boundary within an existing urban area would not affect the qualifying species of the Ramsar site. Although the allocation is located approximately 37m from the Ramsar site no impact pathways have been identified and no effects are considered feasible.	N/A	N/A	✗
Policy DO3: The Andale and Area	This policy would not affect 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	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 significant adverse 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	Policy DO5 is a large brownfield allocation located approximately 36m from the Ramsar site	N/A	N/A	✗

Morecambe Bay Ramsar site				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/√)
and Area	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 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.			
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.	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 effects are considered feasible on the Ramsar site.	N/A	N/A	✗
Policy DO6: Former	Policy DO6 is a brownfield site located approximately 25m from the Ramsar site and	The pollution of water courses would be controlled by adherence to the Environment Agency's Pollution	N/A	✗

Morecambe Bay Ramsar site				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/✓)
Frontierland Site	allocated for residential development. Although the site is currently vacant and derelict within close proximity of the Ramsar site it is unlikely 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.	Prevention Guidelines and a Construction Environmental Management Plan both of which would mitigate against adverse effects.		
<b>Travel and Transport</b>				
AS10: Traffic route signage to and from central Morecambe	The action sets within this policy group 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.	N/A	N/A	✗
AS11: Parking provision and management		N/A	N/A	✗
AS12: Bus services		N/A	N/A	✗
AS13: Rail services		N/A	N/A	✗

Table 4-5 Screening the Morecambe AAP: Morecambe Bay SAC

Morecambe Bay SAC				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (✘/✓)
<b>Managing Development</b>				
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 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. All of which could mitigate adverse effects.	N/A	✘
AS3: Improving Key Routes for Pedestrians and Cyclists	The action set seeks to improve the public realm and Greenways within the AAP boundary. No improvements would be undertaken within the SAC, therefore no impact pathways have been identified and no direct / indirect effects are considered feasible on the SAC's qualifying	N/A	N/A	✘

Morecambe Bay SAC				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/✓)
	features.			
<b>Further Encouraging Business Investment and Development</b>				
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	✗
<b>Morecambe's Main Seafront and Promenade</b>				
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. However, the qualifying interests of the site are located at distance from the Morecambe seafront so significant effects are not considered likely as a	The policies state that the council will not permit any proposals that would result in significant adverse effects on Morecambe Bay. Therefore this would offer protection against adverse effects.  Increased recreational pressure within the SAC could be mitigated 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 significant effects on the qualifying habitats such as mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide.  The pollution of water courses would be controlled by adherence to the Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention Guidelines and a Construction Environmental	N/A	✗
AS5: Central Seafront and Main Beach			N/A	✗

Morecambe Bay SAC			
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential
AS5: Central Seafront and Main Beach	<p>result of greater use of the beachfront area. There is the potential for essential coastal defence works to lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the SAC and its qualifying species, particularly through aquatic contamination during construction works (although the SAC is considered to be a robust site).</p>	<p>Management Plan both of which would mitigate against adverse effects.</p> <p>National legislation and guidance would also prevent inappropriate development within and adjacent to the SAC.</p>	N/A
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 direct impacts 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. However, the qualifying interests of the site are located at distance from the Morecambe seafront so significant effects are not considered likely as a result of greater use of the beachfront area.</p>		N/A
AS6: Western Seafront and Beach	<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</p>		N/A



Morecambe Bay SAC			
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential
			Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/✓)
	construction works.		
Policy DO2: Strategic Leisure – Seafront Headland, Central Promenade	It is unlikely that the policy or action set would lead to any significant impacts on the SAC. 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 SAC). Although no direct land take would be required within the SAC there is a small risk that the SAC may become contaminated during visitor / residential accommodation construction works.		N/A
AS7: Seafront Headland, Central Promenade			N/A
			✗
			✗
The Town Centre			
Policy SP4: Town Centre	Guiding town centre development to a defined town centre boundary within an existing urban area would not affect the qualifying features of the SAC. Although the allocation is located approximately 37m from the SAC no impact pathways have been identified and no effects are considered feasible.	N/A	N/A
Policy DO3: The Andale and Area	This policy would not affect 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
			✗

**Morecambe Bay SAC**

Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (✘/✔)
Policy DO4: West View	Policy DO4 is a brownfield allocation situated approximately 65m from the SAC boundary. However, it is unlikely proposed town centre development would lead to significant adverse effects on the SAC's qualifying features. 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).	N/A	N/A	✘
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).	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 affect the integrity of the SAC as all improvements would be undertaken within an existing urban environment.	N/A	N/A	✘

Morecambe Bay SAC				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/√)
<b>South of the Town Centre</b>				
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 effects considered feasible on the SAC.	N/A	N/A	✘
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.	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 mitigate against adverse effects.	N/A	✘
<b>Travel and Transport</b>				
AS10: Traffic route signage to and from central Morecambe	The action sets within this policy group 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.	N/A	N/A	✘
AS11: Parking provision and management		N/A	N/A	✘
AS12: Bus services		N/A	N/A	✘

Morecambe Bay SAC				
Morecambe AAP Policy	Development and Land Use Change and Potential Effects	Avoidance and Mitigation Potential	In-combination Effects Potential	Appropriate Assessment Required? (*/✓)
AS13: Rail services		N/A	N/A	✗

## 4.4 In-Combination Effects

The HRA needs to consider not only the strategies and policies within the Morecambe AAP that may lead to significant impacts upon European sites on their own but also those that may have a 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 significant adverse effects upon the European sites identified. Furthermore, it has been determined that the Morecambe AAP will have zero effects upon these sites not merely no significant effects, and as such it would therefore not be possible to result in an in-combination effect with any other plans or projects.

## 5 CONCLUSION

It has been concluded that the Morecambe AAP is unlikely to have any 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.

We seek Natural England's opinion and agreement or otherwise with this conclusion.



# Appendix A

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## 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](http://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-Uliceteta*); 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
<b>Morecambe Bay and the Duddon Estuary European Marine Site (SPA, SAC and Ramsar) Regulation 35 Package</b>	
<p>Subject to natural change, maintain the large shallow inlets and bays in favourable condition , in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Intertidal boulder and cobble skear communities</li> <li>▪ Subtidal boulder and cobble skear communities</li> <li>▪ Brittlestar bed communities</li> <li>▪ Intertidal boulder clay communities</li> <li>▪ Coastal lagoon communities</li> <li>▪ Intertidal mudflat and sandflat communities</li> <li>▪ Pioneer saltmarsh communities</li> <li>▪ Saltmarsh communities</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>▪ Removal and/or smothering of embayment habitats.</li> <li>▪ Physical damage resulting from siltation, abrasion and/or selective extraction.</li> <li>▪ Increased synthetic, non synthetic toxic and/or radionuclide contamination.</li> <li>▪ Nutrient and/or organic enrichment.</li> <li>▪ Increases in turbidity.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> </ul>
<p>Subject to natural change, maintain the estuaries in favourable condition, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Estuaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Removal and/or smothering of estuarine habitats. (bullet points for large shallow inlets and bays also relevant)</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>▪ Mud communities</li> <li>▪ Sand communities</li> <li>▪ Eelgrass bed communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Removal and/or smothering of intertidal mudflats and sandflats. (bullet points for large shallow inlets and bays also relevant)</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>▪ Sandbanks slightly covered by seawater all the time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Removal and/or smothering of sandbanks covered by seawater all the time. (bullet points for large shallow inlets and bays also relevant)</li> </ul>
<p>Subject to natural change, maintain reefs in favourable condition, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cobble and boulder skears</li> <li>▪ Mussel beds</li> <li>▪ <i>Sabellaria aveolata</i> reefs</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>▪ Removal and/or smothering of reefs. (bullet points for large shallow inlets and bays also relevant)</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>▪ The glasswort <i>Salicornia spp</i> communities</li> </ul>	<p>for which the site has been selected, through any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Removal of pioneer saltmarsh habitats.</li> <li>▪ Physical damage resulting from abrasion.</li> <li>▪ Increased synthetic and/or non synthetic toxic contamination and/or radionuclides.</li> <li>▪ Translocation of species.</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>▪ Low marsh communities</li> <li>▪ Mid marsh communities</li> <li>▪ High marsh communities</li> <li>▪ Transitional high marsh communities</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>▪ As above except for the substitution of saltmarsh habitats instead of pioneer saltmarsh habitats.</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>▪ Shingle areas</li> </ul>	<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>
<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"> <li>▪ Intertidal mudflat and sandflat communities</li> <li>▪ Intertidal and subtidal boulder and cobble skew communities</li> <li>▪ Saltmarsh communities</li> <li>▪ Coastal lagoon communities</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>▪ Removal of habitats.</li> <li>▪ Physical damage from abrasion and or selective extraction.</li> <li>▪ Disturbance from noise and/or visual activities.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>▪ Removal of habitats.</li> <li>▪ Physical damage from selective extraction.</li> <li>▪ Disturbance from noise and/or visual activities.</li> <li>▪ Nutrient and/or organic enrichment and/or changes in thermal regime.</li> <li>▪ Changes in salinity and turbidity.</li> <li>▪ Increased synthetic and/or non synthetic toxic contamination and/or radionuclides.</li> <li>▪ Biological disturbance through introduction of microbial pathogens and/or selective extraction of species.</li> </ul>

# Appendix B

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## Figures



## Appendix C

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# 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%