

**NATURAL AREA M5 :
SKEGNESS TO OLD HUNSTANTON**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL
SIGNIFICANCE :**

OUTSTANDING

General ornithological character: This natural area is dominated by the Wash, a huge intertidal embayment, unique in a British context, that consistently supports greater numbers of wintering and passage waterfowl than any other area of the country (usually over 340,000). The Wash is therefore one of the most important staging and wintering sites on the East Atlantic Flyway network. The Wash also supports large numbers of breeding waterfowl and (during the winter months) harbours possibly the entire population of Twite that breeds in the S Pennines. The low chalk cliffs at Hunstanton support regionally significant numbers of breeding Fulmars.

Internationally important species	Wintering Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Grey Plover, Knot, Dunlin, Pink-footed Goose, Shelduck, Pintail, Oystercatcher, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Turnstone.	
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i> Dark-bellied Brent Goose Grey Plover Knot Dunlin Bewick's Swan Gadwall Black-tailed Godwit Avocet	<i>List 2</i> Pink-footed Goose Shelduck Pintail Oystercatcher Bar-tailed Godwit Curlew Redshank Turnstone Wigeon Sanderling Twite
Other notable species	Breeding Redshank, Common Tern (and Little Tern in small numbers). Wintering raptors, seaduck, Avocet and other waders. Passage waders.	
'Core Area' species	Breeding and wintering Shelduck and Redshank. Wintering Pink-footed Goose, Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Pintail, Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Knot, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit.	
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Avocet.	
Key bird habitats	Intertidal mud- and sandflats, saltmarsh, grazing marsh, flooded gravel pits.	
Species specific action		
Additional monitoring required		

Key issues:

- Relative sea-level rise and coastal defence policies.
- Recreational disturbance to wintering waterfowl, especially from wildfowling and bait digging.
- Commercial exploitation of shellfish and other marine animals (eg bait digging).
- Pollution/water quality.
- Future land claim for a variety of uses (ports/power stations etc?)
- Disposal of dredgings.
- Construction of a Wash barrage?
- Low flying of military aircraft and the effect of military firing ranges.

Key objectives:

1. Ongoing preparation and implementation of a Wash Management Strategy.
2. Ensure there are no net losses in intertidal mud- and sandflats or saltmarsh due to relative sea-level rise or land claim.
3. Minimise disturbance to wintering, passage and breeding birds from a variety of recreational, commercial and military sources, particularly high tide roosts and refuges.
4. Maintain populations of key species within the natural area. Increase populations of selected species, following recommendations in Species Action Plans.

General ornithological character: Probably the most ornithologically rich natural area in Britain, supporting an outstanding assemblage of internationally important, rare and/or vulnerable species. The north Norfolk coast is characterised by the close juxtaposition of species typical of a number of different habitats, including inshore waters, saltmarsh, shingle, sand and mudflats, sand dunes, freshwater and saline lagoons, reedbeds and grazing marsh.

Internationally important species	Breeding Sandwich Tern, Little Tern.	
	Wintering Pink-footed Goose, Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Wigeon, Pintail, Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit.	
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Bittern Brent Goose Garganey Gadwall Marsh Harrier Avocet Grey Plover Knot	Dunlin Ruff Black-tailed Godwit Sandwich Tern Little Tern Bearded Tit
		Pintail Curlew Common Scoter Redshank Lapwing Turnstone Oystercatcher Twite Ringed Plover Barn Owl Sanderling Bar-tailed Godwit
Other notable species	Breeding Kingfisher, Redshank, Yellow Wagtail, Snipe, Common Tern, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, wintering raptors in small numbers, and Shorelark.	
'Core Area' species	Breeding Bittern, Bearded Tit, Marsh Harrier, Avocet, Sandwich Tern, Common Tern, Little Tern. Wintering Pink-footed Goose, European White-fronted Goose, Dark-bellied Brent Goose.	
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Arctic Tern	
Key bird habitats	Grazing marsh and reedbeds, saltmarsh, mudflats, sand and shingle beaches, coastal lagoons, inshore waters.	
Species specific action	Sandwich Tern and Little Tern - wardening to limit recreational disturbance and predation. Manage alternative feeding areas for geese.	
Additional monitoring required	Breeding Bearded Tit, Avocet, Sandwich Tern, Little Tern, Hen Harrier roosts, and wintering Twite numbers.	

Key issues:

- Threats and opportunities resulting from relative sea level rise.
- Recreational disturbance.
- Predation of ground nesting birds.
- Pollution/water quality.
- Commercial exploitation of marine animals.

Key objectives:

1. Ensure there are no net losses in coastal habitats (both saline and freshwater) resulting from coastal squeeze. Promote and assist with the preparation of a strategy for the conservation of coastal habitats within the cell.
2. Maintain populations of key species within the natural area.
3. Increase the number of breeding pairs of Bittern, Marsh Harrier and Bearded Tit, and the number of reedbeds supporting these species.
4. Increase the extent of appropriately managed grazing marsh supporting typical breeding birds of the NA.
5. Increase productivity of ground nesting birds by the appropriate species-specific and habitat-based management measures.
6. Minimise disturbance to breeding and non-breeding birds.

**NATURAL AREA M7:
SHERINGHAM TO LOWESTOFT**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL
SIGNIFICANCE :**

CONSIDERABLE

General ornithological character: A rather species-poor natural area, with small numbers of cliff-nesting seabirds, irregular concentrations of wintering birds in inshore waters and on sandflats, and an internationally important Little Tern colony. It includes the Breydon Water intertidal area, which supports internationally important numbers of Bewick's Swan.

Internationally important species	Breeding Little Tern. Wintering Bewick's Swan.	
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i> Little Tern Bewick's Swan	<i>List 2</i> Red-throated diver Shoveler Ringed Plover Sanderling Bar-tailed Godwit Redshank
Other notable species	Breeding Stonechat. Wintering European White-fronted Goose and small numbers of Bean Goose and Ruff.	
'Core Area' species	Little Tern.	
Extinct/very rare breeding species		
Key bird habitats	Sand dunes and sandflats, inshore waters.	
Species specific action	Little Tern wardening to limit recreational disturbance and predation.	
Additional monitoring required	Little Tern productivity and numbers.	

Key issues:

- Recreational disturbance and predation of ground nesting birds.
- Relative sea level rise and coastal defence.
- Pollution/water quality.
- Commercial exploitation of marine organisms.
- Aggregate extraction.

Key objectives:

1. Maintain numbers and breeding productivity of the internationally important Little Tern colony.
2. Increase the number of Little Tern colonies.
3. Maintain populations of key species within the natural area, in particular, ground-nesting Ringed Plover in all suitable habitat.
4. Retain the capacity of sandflats and inshore waters to sustain wintering and passage bird populations. Protect crucial roosts and refuges from disturbance at the sensitive times.

**NATURAL AREA M8 :
LOWESTOFT TO LANGUARD POINT**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL
SIGNIFICANCE :**

OUTSTANDING

General ornithological character: The outstanding ornithological importance of this coastal natural area reflects the close proximity of a succession of saline and freshwater wetland habitats. Together, these habitats support a range of internationally important, rare and/or vulnerable species, and form a core area for breeding reedbed birds and Avocets.

Internationally important species	Breeding Little Tern. Wintering Redshank.	
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i> Bittern Marsh Harrier Avocet Little Tern Sandwich Tern Bewick's Swan Gadwall Bearded Tit Cetti's Warbler Savi's Warbler Dark-bellied Brent Goose Black-tailed Godwit	<i>List 2</i> Shoveler Shelduck Wigeon Ringed Plover Redshank
Other notable species	Breeding Redshank, Common Tern.	
'Core Area' species	Bittern, Bearded Tit, Marsh Harrier, Avocet.	
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Garganey, Savi's Warbler, Short-eared Owl.	
Key bird habitats	Reedbeds, mudflats, saltmarsh, shingle, open freshwaters and coastal lagoons.	
Species specific action	Little Tern - wardening to limit disturbance and predation.	
Additional monitoring required		

Key issues:

- Threats and opportunities from relative sea-level rise and coastal defence issues.
- Pressure for development on coastal habitats.
- Recreational disturbance and predation of ground-nesting species.
- Pollution/water quality.
- Commercial exploitation of marine organisms.

Key objectives:

1. Maintain and, where appropriate, increase the populations of key breeding birds of reedbeds, coastal lagoons and shingle, with the appropriate species-specific and habitat based management following recommendations of Species Action Plans.
2. Ensure there are no net losses in freshwater habitats adjacent to the coast as a result of coastal retreat/set-back.
3. Encourage creation of additional freshwater wetlands behind the sea wall in appropriate areas along the coast.

General ornithological character: A maritime natural area of outstanding ornithological significance, particularly for wintering and breeding waterfowl. It includes no less than seven SPAs: Stour-Orwell, Hamford Water, mid-Essex Coast (comprising the Colne, Blackwater, Dengie, Foulness and Crouch), Southend and Benfleet Marshes, Thames Estuary and Marshes, Medway and Swale. The area's vast intertidal habitats support many species of wader and wildfowl in internationally important numbers during the winter months and the grazing marshes of the Greater Thames estuary support huge numbers of breeding waders. A succession of tern colonies adds to the significance of the area.

Internationally important species	Breeding Sandwich Tern, Little Tern. Wintering Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Redshank, Knot, Shelduck, Oystercatcher, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Turnstone, Wigeon, Gadwall, Shoveler, Pintail.	
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i> Dark-bellied Brent Goose Knot Grey Plover Dunlin Black-tailed Godwit Pochard Avocet Sandwich Tern Gadwall Little Tern	<i>List 2</i> Shelduck Twite Pintail Oystercatcher Wigeon Teal Ringed Plover Shoveler Curlew Golden Plover Redshank Lapwing Turnstone Sanderling
Other notable species	Breeding Common Tern, Redshank, Snipe, Yellow Wagtail. Wintering Hen Harrier, Merlin, Short-eared Owl, Lapland Bunting.	
'Core Area' species	Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Shelduck, Pintail, Wigeon, Gadwall, Shoveler, Oystercatcher, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit, Turnstone, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Redshank. Breeding Little Tern and waders of grazing marsh.	
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Garganey.	
Key bird habitats	Mudflats, saltmarsh, grazing marsh, shingle.	
Species specific action	Sandwich Tern and Little Tern - wardening to limit disturbance and predation.	
Additional monitoring required	Low-tide counts of intertidal areas, particularly the Thames estuary.	

Key issues:

- Threats to coastal habitats from relative sea level rise and coastal defence policies.
- Pressure for development on coastal habitats along the East Thames Corridor.
- Pollution/water quality.
- Commercial exploitation of marine organisms.
- Aggregate extraction.
- Dredging and the disposal of dredged material.
- Recreational disturbance to shingle-nesting species and wintering waterfowl.
- Implementation of Essex Coast and North Kent Marshes ESAs.

Key objectives:

1. Maintain and, where possible, enhance the management of grazing marsh habitats to benefit breeding and wintering waterfowl.
2. Create new freshwater wetland habitats on farmland of low existing wildlife value adjacent to the coast.
3. Ensure there are no net losses in coastal habitat (particularly grazing marsh) as a result of coastal retreat/set back.
4. Maintain and, where possible, increase the populations of key species which breed on shingle and coastal lagoons (terns, Ringed Plover, Oystercatcher, Avocet, etc) following recommendations of Species Action Plans.
5. Maximise benefits to both breeding and wintering birds of the Essex Coast and North Kent Marshes ESAs.

**NATURAL AREA M10 :
WHITSTABLE TO NORTH FORELAND**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL
SIGNIFICANCE :**

NOTABLE

General ornithological character: The majority of this natural area is backed by the built-up areas of Whitstable, Herne Bay and Margate. Between Reculver and Minnis Bay, former grazing marches have generally been agriculturally improved and are of generally low importance for birds. Intertidal stretches of mud, sand and rocky shore support moderate numbers of wintering waders, notably Sanderling and Turnstone and generally low numbers of wildfowl. Breeding birds include low numbers of Shelduck, Ringed Plover and, at Reculver, a few pairs of Little Tern.

Internationally important species		
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i> Shelduck Sanderling Turnstone
Other notable species	Small numbers of breeding Herring Gull, Shelduck, Ringed Plover and Little Tern. Low numbers of wintering Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Grey Plover, Dunlin and Twite.	
'Core Area' species		
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Little Tern.	
Key bird habitats	Intertidal sand, mud, shingle and rocky shore, improved farmland.	
Species specific action	Prevent disturbance to the small Little Tern colony at Reculver.	
Additional monitoring required		

Key issues:

- Recreational disturbance on intertidal areas.

Key objectives:

1. Maintain numbers of breeding Little Tern and Ringed Plover by controlling levels of recreational disturbance.

**NATURAL AREA M11 :
NORTH FORELAND TO FOLKESTONE**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL
SIGNIFICANCE:**

NOTABLE

General ornithological character: This comparatively small maritime natural area consists of a variety of coastal habitats, with most ornithological interest centred on the rocky coastline of the Thanet coast and towards Dover; such habitats are scarce in south-east England. Other habitats include brackish lagoons, shingle beaches, intertidal mud and sand, fringed by saltmarsh, and some grazing marsh. Much of the coastline is, however, composed of hard coastal defence structures.

Internationally important species	Breeding Little Tern. Wintering Turnstone.	
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i> Little Tern Grey Plover	<i>List 2</i> Turnstone Ringed Plover Golden Plover Sanderling
Other notable species	Breeding Stonechat, Whinchat. Wintering Lapland Bunting and Purple Sandpiper.	
'Core Area' species		
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Peregrine.	
Key bird habitats	Rocky shore, saltmarsh, shingle, mud/sand flats, coastal lagoons, grazing marsh.	
Species specific action	Maintain and increase numbers of breeding Little Tern through the appropriate habitat management and species protection measures.	
Additional monitoring required		

Key issues:

- Pressure for development of coastal habitats.
- Relative sea-level rise and coastal defence.
- Recreational disturbance to Little Terns.

Key objectives:

1. Maintain and, if possible, increase the area's Little Tern (and Ringed Plover) breeding population with the appropriate species protection measures, following recommendations in Species Action Plans.
2. Ensure there are no net losses in semi-natural coastal habitats resulting from coastal retreat/set-back or built developments.
3. Where appropriate, encourage the creation of coastal semi-natural habitats, particularly freshwater wetlands.

General ornithological character: A long stretch of coast of varying material, but with some notable areas of high ornithological interest mainly associated with the sections of 'soft' coast. These include extensive shingle habitats at Dungeness (unique in Britain) and Rye Harbour, an estuarine basin of international importance for wintering waterfowl at Pagham Harbour (which also includes some areas of reedswamp), and grazing marsh on the Pett Levels. The extraction of shingle has led to the creation of areas of open freshwater which are important for both breeding and wintering waterbirds. Small numbers of cliff-nesting seabirds and Peregrine breed along the stretches of hard coast. Large numbers of divers, wildfowl, waders and seabirds pass through the natural area during the spring passage period.

Internationally important species	Breeding Little Tern, Sandwich Tern. Wintering Bewick's Swan, Dark-bellied Brent Goose.	
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i> Bewick's Swan Dark-bellied Brent Goose Grey Plover Black-tailed Godwit Little Tern Sandwich Tern	<i>List 2</i> Pintail Shoveler Pochard Ringed Plover Sanderling Redshank Lapwing Peregrine
Other notable species	Breeding Common Tern, Redshank, Snipe, Yellow Wagtail, Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Stonechat, Wheatear, Black Redstart and small numbers of Herring Gull, Common Gull, Kittiwake and Bearded Tit. Wintering Ruff, Smew, scoters, Hen Harrier, Golden Plover, Oystercatcher, Turnstone.	
'Core Area' species	Little Tern, Mediterranean Gull.	
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Marsh Harrier, Garganey, Stone Curlew, Mediterranean Gull, Roseate Tern, Barn Owl, Marsh Warbler, Cirl Bunting.	
Key bird habitats	Mudflats, shingle, flooded gravel pits, reedswamp/fen/carr, saltmarsh, grazing marsh, cliffs, inshore waters.	
Species specific action	Wardening/species protection measures to limit disturbance and predation to breeding terns and other rare breeders, as appropriate.	
Additional monitoring required		

Key issues:

- Relative sea-level rise and coastal defence.
- Recreational disturbance to breeding terns and wintering waterfowl.
- Expansion of Lydd Airport.

Key objectives:

1. Maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the management of grazing marsh to benefit breeding and wintering waterfowl.
2. Ensure there are no net losses in semi-natural coastal habitats, particularly grazing marsh and other freshwater habitats, resulting from coastal retreat/set-back. Where appropriate, encourage the creation of semi-natural habitats along the coast.
3. Maintain and, where possible, increase breeding tern populations by the appropriate species protection measures and habitat management (particularly management of gravel islands).
4. Increase populations of rare breeding species and seek to regain extinct species through implementation of appropriate Species Action Plans.

NATURAL AREA M13 :
SELSEY BILL TO STUDLAND CLIFFS

ORNITHOLOGICAL
SIGNIFICANCE:

OUTSTANDING

General ornithological character: A maritime natural area of outstanding ornithological significance. It is characterised by a succession of estuarine basins, including one of the largest natural harbours in the world at Poole. These are internationally important for wintering and passage waterfowl. There are extensive mudflats and saltmarsh, shingle and sandy beaches, several islands, and stretches of hard coast with small numbers of cliff-nesting seabirds in some areas. The coastal habitats are accompanied by brackish and freshwater marshes and lagoons in several areas, with associated reedswamp, fen and carr habitats.

Internationally important species	Breeding Sandwich Tern, Little Tern. Wintering Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Grey Plover, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Shelduck, Ringed Plover, Redshank.	
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i> Dark-bellied Brent Goose Grey Plover Dunlin Black-tailed Godwit Little Tern Sandwich Tern Avocet Pochard Cetti's Warbler Bearded Tit	<i>List 2</i> Shelduck Pintail Shoveler Ringed Plover Golden Plover Sanderling Bar-tailed Godwit Curlew Redshank Teal
Other notable species	Small numbers of breeding Puffins, Herring Gull, Guillemot and Razorbill. Breeding Common Tern, Redshank, Stonechat, Mediterranean Gull. Wintering divers, grebes, sawbills and Goldeneye in harbours and inshore waters.	
'Core Area' species	Little Tern, Dark-Bellied Brent Goose, Bearded Tit.	
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Mediterranean Gull.	
Key bird habitats	Mudflats, shingle, grazing marsh, brackish lagoons, saltmarsh, sandflats, reedswamp/fen/carr, islands.	
Species specific action	Wardening/species protection measures to limit disturbance and predation to breeding Terns.	
Additional monitoring required		

Key issues:

- Recreational disturbance to breeding seabirds and wintering waterfowl.
- Pressure for the development of coastal habitats from a variety of sources.
- Oil exploration/exploitation and pollution/water quality.
- Commercial exploitation of marine organisms.

Key objectives:

1. Ensure there are no net losses in semi-natural habitats along the coast. Where appropriate, encourage the creation of new semi-natural habitats, particularly those associated with freshwater.
2. Maintain populations of key species within the natural area. Increase population of selected species following recommendations in appropriate Species Action Plans. In particular, increase the breeding tern populations with the appropriate species protection measures and habitat management.
3. Ensure that the development of new or existing recreational activities will not have a significant impact upon wintering waterfowl or breeding seabird populations.

General ornithological character: A maritime natural area of some ornithological interest, the characteristic bird populations reflecting the dearth of inter-tidal mudflats and saltmarsh, and freshwater wetlands along the coast. Portland Harbour supports small numbers of wintering marine birds, notably grebes, and the Purbeck Cliffs and Isle of Portland supports some cliff-nesting seabirds, with the three species of auk occurring near the southern edge of their range.

Internationally important species		
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i> Black throated Diver Great Northern Diver Black-necked Grebe
Other notable species	Breeding Herring Gull, Guillemot, Razorbill, Puffin, Stonechat. (Small numbers of Peregrine). Wintering Red-necked Grebe, Red-breasted Merganser, Scaup and Common Scoter.	
'Core Area' species		
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Peregrine, Common Tern, Roscate Tern, Puffin.	
Key bird habitats	Coastal cliffs, inshore waters.	
Species specific action		
Additional monitoring required		

Key issues:

- Recreational disturbance to wintering marine birds and cliff-nesting seabirds.
- Offshore oil development.
- Chronic oil pollution in the English Channel.
- Declines in the numbers of breeding seabirds over the last 60-70 years.

Key objectives:

1. Enhance small breeding colonies of cliff-nesting seabirds on the Purbeck Cliffs and Isle of Portland.
2. Maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the suitability of Portland Harbour for wintering marine birds.

**NATURAL AREA M15 :
PORTLAND BILL TO START POINT (LYME BAY)**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL
SIGNIFICANCE :**

CONSIDERABLE

General ornithological character: A maritime natural area of considerable ornithological interest, reflecting the varied coastal habitats that are present. These include a succession of fairly narrow estuaries, with associated saltmarsh, lagoons, shingle and sandy beaches, rocky shores and coastal cliffs. There is also some coastal grazing marsh and reedbeds. The Exe Estuary and the Fleet (the country's largest saline lagoon) support internationally important populations of wintering waterfowl. This stretch of coast is also important for passage birds, and regularly supports up to 20 Little Egret, which are likely to begin breeding in the next few years.

Internationally important species	Breeding Little Tern. Wintering Dark-bellied Brent Goose.	
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i> Dark-bellied Brent Goose Avocet Grey Plover Dunlin Black-tailed Godwit Little Tern Cetti's Warbler Cirl Bunting	<i>List 2</i> Oystercatcher Wigeon Lapwing Bar-tailed Godwit Curlew Redshank Guillemot
Other notable species	Small numbers of breeding Shelduck, Ringed Plover, Razorbill, Puffin, Kittiwake, Fulmar, Herring Gull and Common Tern, Short-eared Owl, Kingfisher, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler. Wintering divers, raptors, Golden Plover and Turnstone.	
'Core Area' species	Wintering Avocet, Guillemots (largest stable breeding colony along south coast at Berry Head).	
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Peregrine, Gadwall, Garganey, Shoveler, Savi's Warbler, Cetti's Warbler, Bearded Tit, Yellow Wagtail.	
Key bird habitats	Intertidal flats, shingle beaches, coastal cliffs, grazing marsh, lagoons, reedbeds.	
Species specific action	Little Tern - wardening to limit disturbance and predation.	
Additional monitoring required		

Key issues:

- Increasing recreational disturbance to wintering waterfowl and shingle and cliff-nesting birds.
- Pressure for development on coastal habitats from a variety of sources.
- Pollution/water quality, particularly problems with oil.

Key objectives:

1. Manage estuaries to at least maintain their wintering waterfowl populations.
2. Maintain and, where possible, increase the populations of important breeding birds of shingle, coastal cliffs, lagoons and reedbeds by the appropriate species-specific and habitat-based measures.
3. Encourage the creation of freshwater wetlands adjacent to the coast in the appropriate areas.
4. Maintain water quality within Lyme Bay.

NATURAL AREA M16 :
START POINT (LYME BAY) TO LAND'S END

**ORNITHOLOGICAL
SIGNIFICANCE :**

NOTABLE

General ornithological character: A maritime natural area of notable ornithological interest, centred mainly on a succession of small to medium-sized estuarine complexes along the coast, the largest and most important being the Tamar complex. These form a core area for Britain's wintering Avocet and Black-tailed Godwit (and several other wader species which winter on the edge of their range in Britain in small numbers). The cliffs and islands along this stretch of coastline support a range of breeding seabirds in small numbers.

Internationally important species		
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Avocet Black-tailed Godwit Grey Plover Dunlin	Guillemot Razorbill Red-throated Diver Black-throated Diver Great Northern Diver Shelduck Curlew Redshank Peregrine Shelduck
Other notable species	Breeding Herring Gull, Kittiwake, Stonechat. Nationally important numbers of wintering Spotted Redshank, Greenshank and Common Sandpiper, and small numbers of Wigeon, Teal, Common Scoter, Oystercatcher and Green Sandpiper.	
'Core Area' species	Avocet and Black-tailed Godwit (wintering).	
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Cetti's Warbler.	
Key bird habitats	Intertidal mudflats, coastal cliffs and islands, saltmarsh.	
Species specific action		
Additional monitoring required		

Key issues:

- Recreational disturbance to wintering waders and breeding seabirds.
- Pressure for development of coastal habitats from a variety of sources.

Key objectives:

1. Maintain estuaries as a core area for wintering Avocet and Black-tailed Godwit.
2. Maintain small colonies of breeding seabirds along the coast.

General ornithological character: This maritime natural area consists of an oceanic archipelago of considerable ornithological interest, mainly due to the diversity of seabirds that breed on the islands (15 species). Their coastlines also support important populations of wintering waders, including Turnstone in internationally important numbers. The islands also provide crucial staging posts for thousands of migratory birds during the spring and autumn, and is a renowned location for the occurrence at rare vagrants, particularly from North America.

Internationally important species	Breeding Roseate Tern, Sandwich Tern. Wintering Turnstone.	
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i> Sandwich Tern	<i>List 2</i> Manx Shearwater Guillemot Roseate Tern Razorbill Storm Petrel Ringed Plover Sanderling Turnstone
Other notable species	Breeding Herring Gull, Kittiwake, Common Tern, Puffin, Stonechat.	
'Core Area' species	Roseate Tern, Manx Shearwater, Storm Petrel (only breeding site in England).	
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Roseate Tern.	
Key bird habitats	Coastal cliffs, rocky shores and islets, shingle and sandy beaches.	
Species specific action	Predator control to maintain/enhance productivity and numbers of terns and burrow-nesting seabirds.	
Additional monitoring required	Effect of predator control on seabird populations.	

Key issues:

- Recreational disturbance to breeding seabirds.
- Designation of the SPA.
- Local fisheries, particularly the use of gill-nets.
- Predation of terns and burrow-nesting seabirds by non-native mammalian predators.

Key objectives:

1. Maintain and, if possible, increase the productivity and numbers of terns and burrow-nesting seabirds using the appropriate species-specific actions, following recommendations in Species Action Plans.
2. Maintain other seabird colonies.
3. Maintain suitability of coastline for wintering waders.
4. Designation of the SPA.

**NATURAL AREA M18 :
LAND'S END TO MINEHEAD**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL
SIGNIFICANCE :**

NOTABLE

General ornithological character: A maritime natural area of notable ornithological interest, centred mainly on the succession of regionally important seabird colonies that occur along the coastal cliffs and on offshore islands (including Lundy, which supports 10 species of breeding seabird), together with two main estuary complexes, the Taw/Torridge and Camel. In addition, the Hayle estuary (the most south-westerly estuary in Britain) supports nationally important waterfowl populations in the non-breeding season. This feeds into St Ives Bay which, along with the adjacent inshore waters, support wintering marine birds, such as divers and seaduck.

Internationally important species		
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Grey Plover Dunlin	Peregrine Curlew Black-throated Diver Great Northern Diver Red-throated Diver Manx Shearwater Guillemot Razorbill
Other notable species	Breeding Stonechat, Rock Dove, Puffin, Herring Gull, Kittiwake, Raven and small numbers of Shelduck, and wintering waterfowl (Wigeon, Teal and Oystercatcher) (+ Little Egret).	
'Core Area' species	Manx Shearwater (only other breeding site in England is the Isles of Scilly).	
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Storm Petrel, Cetti's Warbler, Tree Sparrow, Chough, Corn Bunting.	
Key bird habitats	Coastal cliffs, rocky shores, inshore waters, marine islands, intertidal mud/sand flats, saltmarsh.	
Species specific action	Predator control on Lundy to maintain productivity and numbers of burrow-nesting seabirds.	
Additional monitoring required	Effect of predator control on seabird populations.	

Key issues:

- Recreational disturbance to breeding seabirds and wintering waterfowl.
- Pressure for development on coastal habitats, particularly tourism.
- Pollution of inshore waters.
- Predation of burrow-nesting seabirds by mammalian predators.

Key objectives:

1. Maintain and, if possible, increase the productivity and numbers of high priority seabirds on Lundy using the appropriate species-specific action. Maintain other colonies of breeding seabirds along the coast.
2. Maintain suitability of the Taw/Torridge, Camel and Hayle estuaries, St Ives Bay and the adjacent inshore waters for wintering birds.

**NATURAL AREA M19 :
MINEHEAD TO BREAN DOWN**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL
SIGNIFICANCE :**

SOME

General ornithological character: A maritime natural area of some ornithological interest, it consists largely of low cliffs and marks the transition between the hard, high cliffs of Devon and Cornwall, and the 'soft' coast habitats of the Severn Estuary. The main exception are the intertidal habitats of Bridgwater Bay (NNR), which marks the beginning of the Greater Severn Estuary. The Bay supports significant numbers of wintering and passage wildfowl and waders, and is the largest European moulting site for Shelduck outside the Waddensea (regularly over 2,000 birds).

Internationally important species		
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Dunlin	Shelduck Wigeon
Other notable species	Small numbers of breeding Herring Gull. Notable numbers of wintering Curlew, Redshank, Knot, Grey Plover, Oystercatcher, Teal.	
'Core Area' species		
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Peregrine.	
Key bird habitats	Intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, low cliffs.	
Species specific action		
Additional monitoring required		

Key issues:

- Recreational disturbance.
- Coastal squeeze.

Key objectives:

1. Ensure no net losses in intertidal habitats due to coastal squeeze.
2. Minimise disturbance to wintering and passage waterfowl, especially roosts and refuges, and moulting Shelduck.

**NATURAL AREA M20 :
BREAN DOWN TO SOUTHERN WELSH BORDER**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL
SIGNIFICANCE :**

OUTSTANDING

General ornithological character: This maritime natural area consists of a large and complex coastal plain estuary of outstanding ornithological significance. The Severn estuary can support in excess of 80,000 waterfowl during the non-breeding season. Six species are regularly supported in internationally important numbers during the winter months. Whimbrel and Ringed Plover occur on passage in internationally important numbers. The estuary also supports significant breeding and passage bird populations.

Internationally important species	Wintering Bewick's Swan, Gadwall, Dunlin, European White-fronted Goose, Shelduck, Redshank.	
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Bewick's Swan Dunlin Pochard Grey Plover	Peregrine Shelduck (also breeding) Gadwall Redshank Wigeon Teal Pintail Shoveler Ringed Plover Curlew Golden Plover
Other notable species	Breeding Redshank, Herring Gull, Nightingale, Stonechat (Lesser Black-backed Gull).	
'Core Area' species	Shelduck, Bewick's Swan, Dunlin, European White-fronted Goose (Passage Whimbrel).	
Extinct/very rare breeding species		
Key bird habitats	Intertidal mudflats and sandbanks, shingle, saltmarsh, islands.	
Species specific action		
Additional monitoring required		

Key issues:

- Disturbance to waterfowl from a variety of sources, both recreational and industrial/commercial.
- Future land claim for a variety of uses.
- Commercial exploitation of marine organisms and deposits.
- Construction of barrage.
- Water quality.
- Disposal of dredgings.
- Designation of SPA/Ramsar site.

Key objectives:

1. Ensure no net losses in intertidal feeding areas or saltmarsh due to coastal squeeze.
2. Maintain population of key species within the natural area.
3. Minimise disturbance to waterfowl during both the breeding and non-breeding season, especially roosts and refuges.
4. Maximise the opportunities for habitat creation due to coastal retreat at the appropriate locations.

**NATURAL AREA M21 :
NORTHERN WELSH BORDER TO ROSSALL POINT,
FLEETWOOD**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL
SIGNIFICANCE :**

OUTSTANDING

General ornithological character: A maritime natural area of outstanding ornithological significance, containing four of the most important estuaries for wintering and passage waterfowl in the UK. The Ribble (>222,000 waterfowl), Mersey (>75,000), Alt (>50,000) and Dee (>130,000, shared with Wales) estuaries support huge populations of wildfowl and wader during the non-breeding season, with many species regularly exceeding numbers of international significance. This stretch of coastline is therefore one of the most important within the East Atlantic Flyway network. Nationally important Tern colonies are also supported at several sites.

Internationally important species	Breeding Little Tern. Wintering Bewick's Swan, Whooper Swan, Pink-footed Goose, Shelduck, Wigeon, Teal, Pintail, Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Redshank, Curlew.	
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i> Little Tern Bewick's Swan Grey Plover Knot Dunlin Black-tailed Godwit	<i>List 2</i> Whooper Swan Pink-footed Goose Shelduck Wigeon Teal Pintail Common Scoter Oystercatcher Lapwing Golden Plover Sanderling Bar-tailed Godwit Curlew Redshank Turnstone
Other notable species	Breeding Common Tern.	
'Core Area' species	Bewick's Swan, Whooper Swan, Pink-footed Goose, Shelduck, Wigeon, Teal, Pintail, Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Redshank.	
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff.	
Key bird habitats	Intertidal mud- and sandflats, saltmarsh, small islands, shingle and sand dunes, some rocky shore.	
Species specific action	Species protection measures and appropriate habitat management for tern colonies and rare breeders.	
Additional monitoring required	Monitor occurrence and breeding success of rare breeders on the Ribble Marshes, and survey marine birds in inshore waters.	

Key issues:

- Coastal squeeze.
- Recreational, commercial and industrial disturbance.
- Commercial exploitation of marine organisms, particularly shellfish.
- Pollution/water quality.
- Sand winning.
- Disposal of dredgings.
- Construction of barrages?

Key objectives:

1. Ensure there are no net losses in intertidal habitats due to coastal squeeze, particularly land claim for major built developments.
2. Ongoing preparation and implementation of estuary management plans.
3. Maintain population of key species within the natural area.
4. Minimise disturbance to both non-breeding and breeding birds from a variety of recreational and commercial/industrial sources, particularly high tide roosts and refuges.

**NATURAL AREA M22 :
ROSSALL POINT, FLEETWOOD TO WALNEY
ISLAND (MID POINT)**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL
SIGNIFICANCE :**

OUTSTANDING

General ornithological character: This maritime natural area is dominated by Morecambe Bay, one of the largest estuarine systems in the UK and of international significance for birds. No less than five main rivers flow into the bay (Leven, Kent, Keer, Lune and Wyre) which consists of extensive mud and sandflats, with associated saltmarshes, shingle beaches and other coastal habitats. Morecambe Bay regularly supports >220,000 wintering waterfowl, and is also important for passage birds (including an internationally significant spring passage of Ringed Plover and Sanderling), and breeding waterfowl and terns.

Internationally important species	Breeding Sandwich Tern. Wintering Pink-footed Goose, Shelduck, Pintail, Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Knot, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Turnstone.	
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i> Little Tern Sandwich Tern Grey Plover Knot Dunlin Black-tailed Godwit	<i>List 2</i> Guillemot Razorbill Pink-footed Goose Shelduck Wigeon Teal Pintail Oystercatcher Ringed Plover Lapwing Golden Plover Bar-tailed Godwit Curlew Sanderling Redshank Turnstone
Other notable species	Breeding Common Tern, Arctic Tern, Herring Gull and most southerly site for breeding Eider on the west coast. (Wintering Cormorant, Goldeneye, Eider, Red-breasted Merganser.)	
'Core Area' species	Breeding Sandwich Tern, Eider, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Herring Gull. Wintering Pink-footed Goose, Shelduck, Pintail, Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Knot, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Eider.	
Extinct/very rare breeding species		
Key bird habitats	Intertidal mud- and sandflats, saltmarsh, shingle, coastal lagoons, sand dunes.	
Species specific action	Species protection measures at tern colonies.	
Additional monitoring required		

Key issues:

- Coastal squeeze, particularly for built developments and new coastal defences.
- Recreational and commercial/industrial disturbance.
- Commercial exploitation of marine animals.
- Pollution/water quality.
- Construction of barrages.
- Aggregate extraction.
- Dredging/spoil dumping.
- Cord grass invasion of mudflats, reducing feeding areas for waterfowl.

Key objectives:

1. Maintain populations of key species within the natural area. Increase populations of selected species following recommendations in the appropriate Species Action Plans. In particular, maintain and, if possible, increase the productivity and numbers of breeding terns and other seabirds using the appropriate species protection measures.
2. Ensure no net losses in intertidal habitats due to coastal squeeze.
3. Ongoing preparation and implementation of estuary management plans.
4. Minimise disturbance to breeding seabirds and wintering waterfowl, particularly roosts and refuges.

**NATURAL AREA M23 :
WALNEY ISLAND (MID POINT) TO MARYPORT**

**ORNITHOLOGICAL
SIGNIFICANCE : **CONSIDERABLE****

General ornithological character: A maritime natural area of considerable ornithological importance, centred mainly on the Duddon estuary which is of international significance for passage and wintering waterfowl. It regularly supports >34,000 waterfowl and is also important for breeding terns and, to a lesser extent, breeding waterfowl. The area also includes St Bees Head, the only extensive tract of cliffs and rocky shore along the Cumbrian coast, which supports a number of breeding seabirds, adding to the ornithological interest of the area. The remainder of the natural area consists of a rather narrow coastal strip.

Internationally important species	Wintering Pintail, Knot.	
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Sandwich Tern Little Tern Grey Plover Knot Dunlin Black-tailed Godwit	Guillemot Ringed Plover Razorbill Lapwing Pink-footed Goose Bar-tailed Godwit Shelduck Curlew Wigeon Sanderling Pintail Redshank Oystercatcher Turnstone
Other notable species	Breeding Kittiwake, Puffin, Common Tern, Arctic Tern, Herring Gull, Rock Dove, Raven, Herring Gull (St Bees Head is the only site in England for breeding Black Guillemot). Wintering raptors.	
'Core Area' species	Pintail.	
Extinct/very rare breeding species		
Key bird habitats	Intertidal mud- and sandflats, saltmarsh, shingle, coastal lagoons, sand dunes.	
Species specific action	Species protection measures at tern colonies.	
Additional monitoring required		

Key issues:

- Coastal squeeze, particularly for built developments and new coastal defences.
- Recreational and commercial/industrial disturbance.
- Commercial exploitation of marine animals.
- Pollution/water quality.
- Construction of barrages/estuary crossings.
- Aggregate extraction and extraction of slag banks (Little Tern nest sites).
- Dredging/spoil dumping.

Key objectives:

1. Maintain populations of key species within the natural area. Increase populations of selected species following recommendations in the appropriate Species Action Plans. In particular, maintain and, if possible, increase the productivity and numbers of breeding terns and other seabirds using the appropriate species protection measures.
2. Ensure no net losses in intertidal habitats due to coastal squeeze.
3. Ongoing preparation and implementation of estuary management plans.
4. Minimise disturbance to breeding seabirds and wintering waterfowl, particularly roosts and refuges.
5. Manage adjacent grazing marsh and farmland to benefit breeding waders.

General ornithological character: This maritime natural area is dominated by the Solway, a large estuary complex, shared with Scotland, and of outstanding ornithological interest for wintering and passage waterfowl. The estuary regularly supports over 120,000 wildfowl and waders during the non-breeding season, with many species present in internationally important numbers, including the entire population of Barnacle Geese that breed in Svalbard and the largest UK assembly of Scaup. The Solway is therefore a vital part of the chain of estuaries along the west coast of Britain which make up a crucial area within the East Atlantic Flyway network. The grazed saltmarshes at Rockcliffe and Caerlaverock also support important populations of breeding waders and seabirds. There are also tern colonies at Grune Point, Dubmill Point and Siddick.

Internationally important species	Wintering Whooper Swan, Pink-footed Goose, Barnacle Goose, Pintail, Scaup, Oystercatcher, Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank.	
EN high priority	<i>List 1</i>	<i>List 2</i>
	Little Tern Knot Grey Plover Dunlin	Whooper Swan Oystercatcher Pink-footed Goose Golden Plover Barnacle Goose Bar-tailed Godwit Shelduck Curlew Pintail Redshank Scaup Arctic Tern
Other notable species	Breeding waders (Oystercatcher, Lapwing and Redshank), Herring Gull, Common Tern. Notable numbers of wintering Bewick's Swan, Wigeon, Lapwing and Turnstone, and passage Ringed Plover and Sanderling.	
'Core Area' species	Whooper Swan, Pink-footed Goose, Barnacle Goose, Scaup, Oystercatcher, Curlew.	
Extinct/very rare breeding species	Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit, Dunlin.	
Key bird habitats	Intertidal flats (predominantly sand flats), saltmarsh (much of which is grazed).	
Species specific action		
Additional monitoring required		

Key issues:

- Coastal squeeze.
- Recreational disturbance from a variety of sources, including bait digging and, potentially, the Cumbria Coastal Way.
- Shellfish exploitation (both cockle and mussel fisheries).
- Pollution.
- Wildfowling.
- Wind farms.
- Road crossing (?)
- Oil/gas exploitation.

Key objectives:

1. Ensure no net losses of intertidal habitat due to coastal squeeze.
2. Maintain populations of key bird species within the natural area.
3. Maintain and, if possible, enhance value of grazed saltmarsh to breeding birds.
4. Minimise disturbance to passage, wintering and breeding birds from recreation and commercial activities, particularly roosts and refuges.
5. Ongoing preparation and implementation of Solway Management Plan.

APPENDIX I: ORNITHOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE & KEY ISSUES IN UPLAND NATURAL AREAS

ORNITHOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE	2	3	7	9	12	58	61	63	73	76	77	78	80	83	84	85	88	89	TOTALS
Outstanding		✓	✓		✓														3
Considerable	✓			✓											✓	✓	✓	✓	6
Notable						✓	✓	✓			✓								4
Some									✓	✓		✓	✓	✓					5
KEY ISSUE																			
Agricultural intensification	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	17
Overgrazing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓	✓	✓	13
Recreational disturbance		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	13
Implementation of ESAs		✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	10
Persecution	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		9
Habitat loss/conversion & fragmentation									✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓	6
Inappropriate moorland management	✓	✓	✓								✓	✓			✓				6
Water quality on running waters							✓			✓	✓			✓		✓			5
Bracken control				✓	✓			✓									✓		4
Unclear management objectives			✓	✓	✓												✓		4
Burning							✓											✓	2
Woodland management							✓						✓						2
Predator control				✓	✓														2

Key issues identified in only one upland area included afforestation, rhododendron invasion, dependence on sheep carrion, designation of SPAs and fish-eating birds.

APPENDIX II (cont)

ORNITHOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE	62	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	74	75	79	81	82	86	87	90	91	92	TOTALS	
Outstanding					✓																	6
Considerable																	✓					8
Notable	✓					✓		✓								✓					✓	18
Some		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		42
KEY ISSUE																						
Lack of/inappropriate management of semi-natural habitats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		63
Habitat (re-)creation		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		44
Pressure for land-use change on semi-natural habitats	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			36
Disturbance	✓					✓	✓					✓	✓			✓					✓	29
Hydrological threats to wetlands					✓			✓			✓		✓	✓			✓	✓				19
Water quality/quantity issues on running waters	✓								✓		✓		✓		✓				✓	✓		14
Intensification of farming practices																	✓					13
Implementation of ESAs					✓																	12
Declines in farmland birds				✓																	✓	8
Mineral extraction					✓															✓		7
Relative sea-level rise/coastal defence																						5
Wildfowl-farmer conflicts																					✓	4
Scrub 'bashing'																						4
Species protection/management																	✓					4
Persecution																		✓	✓			3
Opportunities for 'showing birds to people'																		✓				2
Afforestation																						2

Key issues identified in only one lowland natural area included windfarms, maximising the benefits of national park status, the need for monitoring, birds nesting in artificial habitats and notification of river pSSSIs.

APPENDIX III: ORNITHOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE & KEY ISSUES IN MARITIME NATURAL AREAS

ORNITHOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12	M13	M14	M15	M16	M17	M18	M19	M20	M21	M22	M23	M24	TOTAL	
Outstanding	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓							✓	✓	✓		✓	12	
Considerable		✓	✓				✓								✓		✓						✓		6	
Notable										✓	✓					✓		✓							4	
Some														✓					✓						2	
KEY ISSUES																										
Disturbance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	24
Pollution/water quality	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	18
Coastal development	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓			✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	17
Commercial exploitation of marine organisms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	16
Relative sea-level rise/coastal defence				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓										✓	✓	✓	11
Aggregate extraction	✓		✓				✓		✓													✓	✓	✓		7
Barrage/estuary crossing				✓	✓															✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Disposal of dredgings					✓				✓											✓	✓	✓	✓			6
Predation						✓	✓	✓									✓	✓								5
Fossil fuel exploitation			✓										✓	✓										✓		4
Cord grass invasion	✓																					✓				2
SPA designation																	✓			✓						2

Key issues identified in only one maritime natural area included airport expansion, windfarms, seabird population declines, implementation of ESAs and low-flying aircraft and the effect of military firing ranges.