

MPA Conservation Advice – Package Updates March 2019



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Introduction

This document aims to summarise the updates that are being made to existing MPA Conservation Advice packages as part of the March 2019 publication. It does not include information on new ‘draft’ packages.

It does not detail every individual change/update that has taken place since the packages were last updated but highlights key changes – for example, changes to targets, or where feature descriptions have been revised.

We have endeavoured to include all amendments to packages made by area teams, however it is possible that not all are accurately reflected in this document.

It can be used, alongside the ‘last updated’ dates visible on the Designated Sites System (DSS) to provide additional details of what has changed.

All packages - Advice on Operations

Sensitivity assessments

The sensitivity assessments for a number of biotopes have been updated. This has resulted in the sensitivity assessments for numerous habitat features having also been updated. In particular, those assessments for a number of chemical pressures have been changed from ‘Not Sensitive (at benchmark)’ to ‘Not assessed’ in order to reflect ongoing work to review these benchmarks and to avoid confusion over whether or not a feature is sensitive to a contaminant.

General

Various other changes have been implemented in the underlying data tables, which has resulted in all Advice on Operations having been updated to reflect the best available evidence. Species names have also been updated where necessary to reflect current classifications.

All packages – Site maps

This document doesn’t include reference to any updates to the site-specific feature maps or underlying evidence. We will endeavour to provide further detail in future updates.

Alde-Ore Estuary SPA (UK9009112)Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Avocet	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer
Sandwich tern		
Little tern		

Benacre to Easton Bavents Lagoons SAC (UK0013104)Package status

Changed to formal, no updates have been made to the content of the package

Blackwater Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 4) SPA (UK9009245)Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Little tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer

Breydon Water SPA (UK9009181)Package status

Changed to formal

General

Corrected typos throughout advice.

Removed Latin names from the text as these are already included in the Feature name.

Various corrections to common names – such as “bewicks swan” changed to “Bewick’s swan”, “common Tern” changed to “common tern”, “black headed gulls” changed to “black-headed gulls”.

In the ‘Background Information and Geography’, replaced reference to “Annex 1 species” with “bird species”.

Feature Description

Feature / Subfeature	Details
Common tern	Updated sentence to say “The decline in numbers using this site is potentially due to black-headed gulls using the tern rafts and more recently peregrine falcons have been observed.”
Golden plover	Corrected “these species” to “this” species
Lapwing	Updated sentence to say “When the site was classified in 1996, a baseline population of 24,940 wintering individuals was recorded at the site.”

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Common tern	Breeding population: abundance Supporting habitat: extent and distribution of supporting habitat for the breeding season Supporting habitat: landform	Added information on tern rafts being used by black-headed gulls and peregrine falcons.
Common tern	Disturbance caused by human activity	Removed paragraph on wildfowling.
Common tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer
Ruff	Supporting habitat: water depth	Updated target to "Restore..." was previously "Ruff..."
Golden plover Bewick's swan	Non-breeding population: abundance	Added text on supplementary counts
Waterbird assemblage	Assemblage of species: abundance	Added "The RSPB hold detailed information on seasonal occurrence of the assemblage species, they can be contacted for further information"
Golden plover	Non-breeding population: abundance	Updated wording to "using the Generalised Additive Model (GAM)"

Chesil Beach and The Fleet SPA (UK9010091)Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Little tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer

Seasonality

Feature / Subfeature	Details
Little tern	Updated underlying information. No change in months present.

Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA (UK9011011)Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Common tern Little tern Sandwich tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer

Coquet Island SPA (UK9006031)Package status

Changed to formal

General

Basic updates to both Feature Descriptions and the SACOs but no significant changes (i.e. no changes to targets)

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Arctic tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer
Common tern		
Sandwich tern		

Deben Estuary SPA (UK9009261)Package status

Changed to formal, no updates have been made to the content of the package

Farne Islands SPA (UK9006021)Package status

Changed to formal

General

Basic updates to both Feature Descriptions and the SACOs but no significant changes (i.e. no changes to targets)

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Arctic tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer
Common tern		
Sandwich tern		

Foulness (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 5) SPA (UK9009246)Package status

Package remains draft

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Avocet	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer
Common tern		
Little tern		
Sandwich tern		

Gibraltar Point SPA (UK9008022)Package status

Package remains formal

General

Removed the supporting habitats Intertidal biogenic reef: mussel beds (SF_SH_5) and Freshwater and coastal grazing marsh (SH_2) from the site.

As a result these are no longer listed as potential supporting habitats under the Feature Description and no longer appear in the Advice on Operations.

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Little tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer

Humber Estuary SPA (UK9006111)Package status

Package remains draft

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Avocet	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer
Little tern		

Lindisfarne SPA (UK9006011)Package status

Package remains draft

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Common scoter	Supporting habitat: water depth	All targets changed to: "Maintain the depth of inshore waters currently used as feeding or moulting sites."
Eider		
Long-tailed duck		
Little tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer

Lundy SAC (UK0013114)Package status

Package remains formal

Seasonality

Feature / Subfeature	Details
Grey seal	Updated underlying information. No change in months present.

Medway Estuary and Marshes SPA (UK9012031)Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Avocet Little tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer

Mersey Estuary SPA (UK9005131)Package status

Package remains formal

General

Inclusion of current abundance information, for each Feature, in the Site Information and SACO supporting notes. Minor updates throughout including correcting typos and addition of information where helpful.

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Shelduck	Non-breeding population: abundance	Target changed from "Restore..." to "Maintain..."
Teal	Supporting habitat: food availability	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..."
Pintail	Supporting habitat: food availability	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..."
Black-tailed godwit	Non-breeding population: abundance	Target includes revised baseline. Baseline has been revised upwards from 976 to 2,384 to reflect elevated numbers in site since classification
All Features	Disturbance caused by human activity attribute	Additional information added to site specific supporting notes

Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore SPA (UK9020287)Package status

Package remains formal

General

Inclusion of current abundance information, for each Feature, in the Site Information and SACO supporting notes. Minor updates throughout including correcting typos and addition of information where helpful.

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Bar-tailed godwit	Non-breeding population: abundance	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..."
Little gull	Non-breeding population: abundance	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..."
Common tern (Breeding)	Breeding population: abundance	Target includes revised baseline. Baseline has been revised upwards to match more recent SPA citation for same population (from 177 to 180)

		pairs). Additional information added to site information and site specific supporting notes in relation to the common tern metapopulation.
Bar-tailed godwit	Disturbance caused by human activity attribute	Targets changed from "Restrict..." to "Reduce..."
Knot		Additional information added to site specific supporting notes
Waterbird assemblage		
Common tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer

Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA (UK9020326)Package status

Package remains draft

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Common tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer
Little tern		
Sandwich tern		

North Norfolk Coast SPA (UK9009031)Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Avocet	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer
Common tern		
Little tern		
Sandwich tern		

Northumberland Marine SPA (UK9020325)Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Arctic tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer
Common tern		
Little tern		
Sandwich tern		

Northumbria Coast SPA (UK9006131)Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Arctic tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer
Little tern		

Pagham Harbour SPA (UK9012041)Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Common tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer
Little tern		

Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC (UK0013111)Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Subtidal seagrass beds	Extent and distribution	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..." Site-specific supporting notes updated
Subtidal seagrass beds	Distribution: presence and spatial distribution of subtidal seagrass bed communities	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..." Site-specific supporting notes updated
Subtidal seagrass beds	Structure: biomass	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..." Site-specific supporting notes updated
Subtidal seagrass beds	Structure: rhizome structure and reproduction	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..." Site-specific supporting notes updated
Estuaries	Distribution: presence and spatial distribution of biological communities	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..." Site-specific supporting notes and Target Justification updated
Estuaries	Structure: species composition of component communities	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..." Site-specific supporting notes and Target Justification updated
Subtidal sand	Distribution: presence and spatial distribution	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..."

	of biological communities	Site-specific supporting notes and Target Justification updated
Large shallow inlets and bays	Distribution: presence and spatial distribution of biological communities	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..." Site-specific supporting notes and Target Justification updated
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Distribution: presence and spatial distribution of biological communities	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..." Site-specific supporting notes updated
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Structure: sediment total organic carbon content	Site-specific supporting notes updated
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Structure: species composition of component communities	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..." Site-specific supporting notes updated
Intertidal coarse sediment	Distribution: presence and spatial distribution of biological communities	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..." Site-specific supporting notes updated
Intertidal coarse sediment	Structure: sediment total organic carbon content	Site-specific supporting notes updated
Intertidal coarse sediment	Structure: species composition of component communities	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..." Site-specific supporting notes updated
Intertidal coarse sediment	Structure: topography	Site-specific supporting notes updated
Intertidal coarse sediment	Supporting processes: energy / exposure	Site-specific supporting notes updated
Intertidal coarse sediment	Supporting processes: sediment movement and hydrodynamic regime	Site-specific supporting notes updated
Intertidal mud	Distribution: presence and spatial distribution of biological communities	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..." Site-specific supporting notes updated
Intertidal mud	Structure: species composition of component communities	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..." Site-specific supporting notes updated
Intertidal mud	Structure: topography	Site-specific supporting notes updated
Intertidal mud	Supporting processes: energy / exposure	Site-specific supporting notes updated
Intertidal mud	Supporting processes: sediment movement and hydrodynamic regime	Site-specific supporting notes updated
Intertidal mixed sediments	Distribution: presence and spatial distribution of biological communities	Target changed from "Maintain..." to "Restore..." Site-specific supporting notes updated

Intertidal mixed sediments	Structure: sediment total organic carbon content	Site-specific supporting notes updated
Intertidal mixed sediments	Structure: species composition of component communities	Target changed from “Maintain...” to “Restore...” Site-specific supporting notes updated
Intertidal mixed sediments	Structure: topography	Site-specific supporting notes updated
Intertidal mixed sediments	Supporting processes: energy / exposure	Site-specific supporting notes updated
Intertidal mixed sediments	Supporting processes: sediment movement and hydrodynamic regime	Site-specific supporting notes updated

Poole Harbour SPA (UK9010111)

Package status

Changed to formal

Feature Description

Feature / Subfeature	Details
Little egret	Corrected a typo - ‘a’ changed to ‘an’. Added ‘over-wintering’ to first paragraph.
Sandwich tern	Added ‘breeding’ to 1 st paragraph
Common tern	Added ‘breeding’ to 1 st para, changed numerical ‘5’ to ‘five’.
Spoonbill	Added ‘over-wintering’ to 1 st paragraph, removed ‘non-breeding’ from 2 nd paragraph (reference to summer birds at North Norfolk Coast).
Waterbird assemblage	Added ‘over-’ to ‘wintering’ in 1 st paragraph

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
All Features	Connectivity with supporting habitats	Corrected typo – ““Foreshore developments, such as the construction of jetties and slipways, is carefully managed” – “is” changed to “are”.
Common tern	Disturbance caused by human activity	Removed second sentence of the first paragraph, referring to disturbance of waders and wildfowl.
Sandwich tern	Breeding population: abundance	Site-specific Supporting Notes updated
Waterbird assemblage	Assemblage of species: diversity	Target changed from “Restore...” to “Maintain...” Site-specific Supporting Notes and Target Justification updated and re-arranged.
Common tern Sandwich tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer

Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA (UK9005103)

Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Common tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer

Solent and Southampton Water SPA (UK9011061)Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Common tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer
Little tern		
Sandwich tern		

Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA (UK9009121)Package status

Changed to formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Avocet	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer

Seasonality

Feature / Subfeature	Details
Dark-bellied brent goose	Added presence in July
Black-tailed godwit	Added presence in May

The Wash SPA (UK9008021)Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Common tern	Supporting habitat: landform	Updated target wording to make the target clearer
Little tern		

The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC (UK0017075)Package status

Package remains formal

General

Removed the subfeature Subtidal biogenic reefs: mussel beds (SF_SH_6) from both the Large shallow inlets and bays (H1160) and Reefs (H1170) Features. As a result the subfeature is no longer listed in the Feature Description Supplementary Advice on Conservation Objectives and Advice on Operations.

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time Subtidal mixed sediments Large shallow inlets and bays	Distribution: presence and spatial distribution of biological communities	Added the respective paragraphs starting: “Subtidal blue mussel beds on The Wash and North Norfolk coast are ephemeral, often persisting for only 1 to 3 years...”
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	Structure: species composition of component communities	Added the paragraph starting: “The subtidal sandbanks provide important nursery grounds...”
Harbour (common) seal (Phoca vitulina)	Supporting habitat: food availability	Added the paragraph starting: “Harbour seals feed on a range of prey species...”

Tweed Estuary SAC (UK0030292)Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Intertidal mixed sediments Intertidal mud Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Extent and distribution	Corrected reference to wrong subfeature. For example, corrected “To view the current distribution of intertidal coarse sediment within the site, please refer to the MAGIC map application.” to “To view the current distribution of intertidal mixed sediments within the site, please refer to the MAGIC map application.”