

# MPA Conservation Advice – Package Updates March 2020



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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 2020 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.

### 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.

## **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.

## **Advice on Seasonality**

The Advice on Seasonality was reviewed for a number of sites. All updates have undergone QA’d by a Senior Ornithologist for compliance with the appropriate criteria. The review included standardising the Advice on

Seasonality for little tern across a number of sites in close vicinity to ensure consistency across the packages. Full details are provided for each site below.

### Alde-Ore Estuary SPA (UK9009112)

#### Package status

Package remains formal

#### Seasonality

Feature	Details
<b>Avocet - Breeding</b>	Updated underlying information (changed March to 'wintering', was previously 'breeding'). No change in months present.

### Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC (UK0017072)

#### Package status

Changed to formal

#### General

Corrected typos within the advice.

#### SACO

Feature	Attribute	Details of change
<b>Grey seal</b>	Supporting habitat: food availability	Added reference to site-specific text

### Chesil and the Fleet SAC (UK0017076)

#### Package status

Package remains formal

#### Feature Description

Feature	Details
<b>Coastal Lagoon</b>	Re-jigged some text but didn't remove or re-write any

#### SACO

Feature	Attribute	Details of change
<b>Perennial vegetation of stony banks</b>	Extent of the feature within the site	<p>Changed target from Maintain to Restore and corrected the baseline ha. Based on updated evidence.</p> <p>Changed target justification.</p> <p>Added text and reference to SSSN.</p>
<b>Perennial vegetation of stony banks</b>	Distribution of the feature, including associated transitional habitats, within the site	<p>Changed target from Maintain to Restore. Based on updated evidence.</p> <p>Changed target justification.</p> <p>Added text and reference to SSSN.</p>

<b>Perennial vegetation of stony banks</b>	Future extent of habitat within the site and ability to respond to seasonal changes	Changed target from Maintain to Restore. Based on updated evidence.  Changed target justification.  Added text and reference to SSSN.
<b>Perennial vegetation of stony banks</b>	Structure and function (including its typical species): key structural, influential and distinctive species	Changed target from Maintain to Restore. Based on updated evidence.  Added Sea campion <i>Silene uniflora</i> and Herb-robert <i>Geranium robertianum</i> to the species list in unquantified target.  Changed target justification.
<b>Perennial vegetation of stony banks</b>	Structure and function: vegetation community composition	Changed area of SD1-SD10 communities in unquantified target.  Changed target justification.  Added text and reference to SSSN.
<b>Perennial vegetation of stony banks</b>	Supporting processes: conservation measures	Changed text slightly and added HTML tagging to hyperlink to SIP.
<b>Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae)</b>	Extent of the feature within the site	Added text and reference to SSSN.
<b>Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae)</b>	Future extent of habitat within the site and ability to respond to seasonal changes	Added text and reference to SSSN.
<b>Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae)</b>	Structure and function: vegetation community composition	Added NVC community to target.  Added text and reference to SSSN.
<b>Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae)</b>	Supporting processes: conservation measures	Changed text slightly and added HTML tagging to hyperlink to SIP.
<b>Coastal lagoons</b>	Structure: species composition of component communities	Added text and reference to SSSN.
<b>Coastal lagoons</b>	Supporting processes: physico-chemical properties	Added text and reference to SSSN.
<b>Coastal lagoons</b>	Supporting processes: sediment contaminants	Added text and reference to SSSN.
<b>Annual vegetation of drift lines</b>	Extent of the feature within the site	Changed target from Maintain to Restore and corrected the baseline ha. Based on updated evidence.  Changed target justification.  Added text and reference to SSSN.

<b>Annual vegetation of drift lines</b>	Distribution of the feature, including associated transitional habitats, within the site	Changed target from Maintain to Restore. Based on updated evidence.  Changed target justification.  Added text and reference to SSSN.
<b>Annual vegetation of drift lines</b>	Future extent of habitat within the site and ability to respond to seasonal changes	Changed target from Maintain to Restore. Based on updated evidence.  Changed target justification.  Added text to SSSN.
<b>Annual vegetation of drift lines</b>	Structure and function (including its typical species): key structural, influential and distinctive species	Changed target from Maintain to Restore. Based on updated evidence.  Changed target justification.
<b>Annual vegetation of drift lines</b>	Structure and function: vegetation community composition	Added text to target.  Changed target justification.  Added text and reference to SSSN.
<b>Annual vegetation of drift lines</b>	Supporting processes: conservation measures	Changed text slightly and added HTML tagging to hyperlink to SIP.
<b>Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)</b>	Extent of the feature within the site	Added text and reference to SSSN.
<b>Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)</b>	Future extent of habitat within the site and ability to respond to seasonal changes	Added text and reference to SSSN.
<b>Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)</b>	Structure and function: vegetation community composition	Added text and reference to SSSN.
<b>Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)</b>	Supporting processes: conservation measures	Changed text slightly and added HTML tagging to hyperlink to SIP.

### Chesil Beach and The Fleet SPA (UK9010091)

#### Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature	Attribute	Details
<b>Wigeon</b>	Supporting habitat: food availability	Amended typo - inserted 'Knap' after 'Berry' as it was missing from the place name.
<b>Wigeon</b>	Supporting processes: conservation measures	Changed text slightly and added HTML tagging to hyperlink to SIP.
<b>Little tern</b>	Supporting processes: conservation measures	Changed text slightly and added HTML tagging to hyperlink to SIP.

**Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA (UK9011011)**Package status

Package remains formal

Seasonality

Feature	Details
<b>Sanderling</b>	Updated to include presence in September

**Coquet to St Mary's MCZ (UKMCZ0030)**Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature	Attribute	Details
<b>Subtidal coarse sediment</b>	Distribution: presence and spatial distribution of biological communities	Added site-specific text for this attribute.

**Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2) SPA (UK9009243)**Package status

Changed to formal

Seasonality

Feature	Details
<b>Little tern</b>	Updated to include presence in April

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
<b>Ringed plover - breeding</b>	Breeding population: abundance	Target justification text updated – text moved from supporting notes section to justification section.
<b>Waterbird assemblage – non breeding</b>	Assemblage of species: diversity	Corrected grammar in site specific text

**Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3) SPA (UK9009244)**



Package status

Package remains formal

Site InformationBackground info and geography edited to make *Branta bernicla bernicla* italicised in 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph.SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
<b>Waterbird assemblage – non breeding</b>	Supporting habitat: extent and distribution of supporting habitat for the non-breeding season.	Site specific text edited to make salt marsh one word.
<b>Waterbird assemblage – non breeding</b>	Supporting habitat: quality of supporting non-breeding habitat	Site specific text edited to make <i>Glauco-puccinellietalia maritimae</i> italics.
<b>Dark-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>), Non-breeding</b>	Supporting habitat: extent and distribution of supporting habitat for the non-breeding season.	Site specific text edited to make salt marsh one word.

**Essex Estuaries SAC (UK0013690)**Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
<b>Estuaries</b>	Structure: tidal regime	Site specific text edited to correct spelling mistake
<b>Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)</b>	Structure and function: sediment size and availability	Site specific text edited to correct spelling mistake
<b>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</b>	Distribution of the feature, including associated transitional habitats, within the site	Site specific text edited to correct spelling mistake
<b>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</b>	Extent of the feature within the site	Site specific text edited to correct spelling mistake

**Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA (UK9006101)**

Package status

Changed to formal

Feature Description

Feature	Details
<b>Gannet</b>	Added word – “gannet are ‘currently’ restricted...”
<b>Guillemot</b>	Changed pSPA to ‘SPA’
<b>Kittiwake</b>	Changed pSPA to SPA and removed ‘No site specific information is available’ as this is no longer the case.
<b>Seabird assemblage</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> paragraph, removed ‘and rocky and grassy islands’ from the section on habitat preference. These are not present at the site.

Background information and geography

Corrected various typos/capitalising place names. 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph added that colony is largest ‘mainland’ colony in England.

SACO

Feature	Attribute	Details
<b>Gannet</b>	Population and Connectivity	Removed outdated reference. Changed typo – ‘a’ to ‘an.
<b>Guillemot</b>	Conservation measures and supporting habitat.	Removed the word ‘salmon’ as the fishery no longer includes this species. Decapitalised ‘vegetated sea cliffs.’
<b>Seabird assemblage</b>	Abundance	Typo – ‘shoud’ to ‘should’

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

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
<b>Avocet, Common tern, Little tern, Grey plover</b>	Disturbance caused by human activity	Site specific text edited to correct spelling mistake.
<b>Common tern</b>	Breeding: population abundance	Site specific text edited to correct grammar mistake.
<b>Grey plover</b>	Supporting habitat: landscape	Site specific text edited to correct spelling mistake.
<b>Ringed plover</b>	Supporting habitat: food availability	Site specific text edited to correct italics issue – whole sentences showing in italics.

**Gibraltar Point SPA (UK9008022)**Package status

Package remains formal

Seasonality

Feature	Details
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<b>Little tern</b>	Updated to include presence in August
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**Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA (UK9009271)**Package status

Package remains formal

Seasonality

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Little tern</b>	Updated to include presence in April

**Hamford Water SPA (UK9009131)**Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

<b>Feature / Subfeature</b>	<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Black-tailed Godwit</b>	Supporting habitat: water quality - nutrients	Updated site specific supporting notes to delete duplicated text.

**Margate and Long Sands SAC (UK0030371)**Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

<b>Feature / Subfeature</b>	<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</b>	Supporting processes: sediment movement and hydrodynamic regime	Updated site specific text to include references within sentence rather than bullet points as commas and full stops were occurring at the beginning of paragraphs after bullet list.

**Minsmere-Walberswick SPA (UK9009101)**Package status

Package remains formal

Seasonality

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Little tern</b>	Updated to include presence in April

**Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA (UK9020326)**Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
Seabird assemblage	Assemblage of species: abundance	Site specific text changed from “aggregation of 13,250 breeding pairs” to “aggregation of 6,625 breeding pairs”.  Typos corrected

**North Norfolk Coast SPA (UK9009031)**Package status

Package remains formal

Seasonality

Feature	Details
Marsh harrier	Updated presence to March – October only. Previously was January – December.

**Northumberland Marine SPA (UK9020325)**Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Minor typos corrected.

**Poole Harbour SPA (UK9010111)**Package status

Package remains formal

Seasonality

Feature	Details
Mediterranean gull	Updated presence to include February and March

**Poole Rocks MCZ (UKMCZ0014)**Package status

Draft advice added for new feature black seabream (*Spondyliosoma cantharus*). For all other features the advice remain remains formal.

General

Site Overview amended to include new feature: black seabream (*Spondyliosoma cantharus*).

Feature description, SACO and Advice on Seasonality updated to include advice for new feature: black seabream (*Spondyliosoma cantharus*).

**Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA (UK9005103)**

Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
<b>Lesser black-backed gull</b>	Breeding population: abundance	Target updated to read "8,097 pairs" for clarity.
<b>Seabird assemblage</b>	Assemblage of species: abundance	Target updated to read "29, 236 individuals" for clarity.

**Solent and Southampton Water SPA (UK9011061)**Package status

Package remains formal

Seasonality

Feature	Details
<b>Common tern</b>	Updated presence to include September

**Solent Maritime SAC (UK0030059)**Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
<b>Intertidal sand and muddy sand</b>	Structure: species composition of component communities	Updated text in target, <b>changed</b> target to 'restore'.  Updated site specific supporting notes to detail the decline in ecological status from Good to Moderate following change in Infaunal Quality Index.
<b>Subtidal coarse sediment</b>	Structure: species composition of component communities	Updated text in target, changed target to 'restore'.  Updated site specific supporting notes to detail the change decline in ecological status from Good to Moderate following change in Infaunal Quality Index.
<b>Intertidal seagrass beds</b>	Structure: rhizome structure and reproduction	Updated text in target and <b>changed</b> target to 'restore' following condition assessment  Updated site specific supporting notes to provide detail of anthropogenic pressures on site.
<b>Subtidal seagrass beds</b>	Structure: rhizome structure and reproduction	Updated text in target and <b>changed</b> target to 'restore' following condition assessment  Updated site specific supporting notes to provide detail of anthropogenic pressures on site.
<b>Intertidal seagrass beds</b>	Structure: biomass	Updated text in target and <b>changed</b> target to 'restore' following condition assessment.

		Updated site specific supporting notes to provide detail of anthropogenic pressures on site.
<b>Subtidal seagrass beds</b>	Structure: biomass	Updated text in target and <b>changed</b> target to 'restore' following condition assessment  Updated site specific supporting notes to provide detail of anthropogenic pressures on site.
<b>Intertidal coarse sediment</b>	Structure: non-native species and pathogens	Updated text in target and <b>changed</b> target to 'reduce' following condition assessment.  Updated site specific supporting notes to provide details of non-native species that have been recorded with Solent Maritime SAC.
<b>Estuaries</b>	Distribution: presence and spatial distribution of biological communities	Updated text in target and <b>changed</b> target to 'restore' following condition assessment.  Updated site specific supporting notes to detail loss of presence and spatial distribution of some sub-features.
<b>Intertidal mud</b> <b>Intertidal mixed sediment</b>	Structure: non-native species and pathogens	Updated site-specific supporting notes by changing "Crassostrea gigas" to "Magallana gigas".
<b>Subtidal sand</b> <b>Subtidal seagrass beds</b> <b>Subtidal coarse sediment</b> <b>Subtidal mixed sediment</b> <b>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</b>	Structure: non-native species and pathogens	Updated site-specific supporting notes by changing "Crassostrea gigas" to "Magallana gigas" and "Elminius modestus" to "Austrominius modestus"
<b>Coastal lagoons</b>	Structure: species composition of component communities	Updated site-specific supporting notes by changing "Ventricosia ventrosa" to "Ecrobia ventrosa".
<b>Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)</b>	Distribution of the feature, including associated transitional habitats, within the site	Minor tweaks to site supporting notes to tidy it up.
<b>Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)</b> <b>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</b>	Extent of the feature within the site	Minor tweaks to site supporting notes to tidy it up.

<b>Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)</b>		
<b>Annual vegetation of drift lines</b>		
<b>Perennial vegetation of stony banks</b>		
<b>Desmoulin's whorl snail (Vertigo moulinsiana)</b>	Population: population abundance	Minor tweaks to site supporting notes to change "m" to "m <sup>2</sup> ".
<b>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("White dunes")</b>	Structure and function: topography of shifting dune ridge	Minor tweaks to site supporting notes to tidy it up.

**South Dorset MCZ (UKMCZ0022)**Package status

Package remains draft

Background information and geography

Added 'high energy circalittoral rock' to the existing text, to include this new feature.

**Studland to Portland SAC (UK0030382)**Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature/subfeature	Attribute	Details
<b>Reefs</b>	Distribution: presence and spatial distribution of biological communities	Inserted missing HTML tagging to show genera for barnacles and keel worm.

**Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA (UK9006061)**Package status

Package remains draft

Site information

Introductory text updated to reflect change in SPA status.

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

Package remains formal

SACO

Feature / Subfeature	Attribute	Details
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<b>Large shallow inlets and bays</b>	Extent and distribution	Site-specific supporting notes updated to include information about the two large shallow inlets and bays features present along the North Norfolk coast, as shown on MAGIC.
<b>Large shallow inlets and bays</b>	Distribution: presence and spatial distribution of biological communities	Site-specific supporting notes updated to include information about the two large shallow inlets and bays features present along the North Norfolk coast, as shown on MAGIC.
<b>Large shallow inlets and bays</b>	Structure: sediment movement, sources and sinks	Site-specific supporting notes updated to include information about the two large shallow inlets and bays features present along the North Norfolk coast, as shown on MAGIC.
<b>Large shallow inlets and bays</b>	Structure: substrate composition and distribution	Site-specific supporting notes updated to include information about the two large shallow inlets and bays features present along the North Norfolk coast, as shown on MAGIC.
<b>Large shallow inlets and bays</b>	Structure: non-native species and pathogens	Target changed from “Restrict...” to “Reduce the introduction and spread of non-native species and pathogens, and their impacts” to reflect records of the invasive non-native species <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> reported in Quinn, E.S. 2018.  Target justification text updated.  Site-specific supporting notes updated, with additional references.
<b>Large shallow inlets and bays</b>	Structure: morphology	Site-specific supporting notes updated to include information about the two large shallow inlets and bays features present along the North Norfolk coast, as shown on MAGIC.
<b>Large shallow inlets and bays</b>	Structure: tidal regime	Site-specific supporting notes updated to include information about the two large shallow inlets and bays features present along the North Norfolk coast, as shown on MAGIC.
<b>Large shallow inlets and bays</b>	Structure: topography	Site-specific supporting notes updated to include information about the two large shallow inlets and bays features present along the North Norfolk coast, as shown on MAGIC.
<b>Large shallow inlets and bays</b>	Function: connectivity	Site-specific supporting notes updated to include information about the two large shallow inlets and bays features present along the North Norfolk coast, as shown on MAGIC.
<b>Large shallow inlets and bays</b>	Supporting processes: energy / exposure	Site-specific supporting notes updated to include information about the two large shallow inlets and bays features present along the North Norfolk coast, as shown on MAGIC.
<b>Large shallow inlets and bays</b>	Supporting processes: water quality - turbidity	Site-specific supporting notes updated to include information about the two large shallow inlets and bays features present along the North Norfolk coast, as shown on MAGIC.
<b>Intertidal sand and muddy sand</b> <b>Intertidal mud</b> <b>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</b> <b>Reefs</b>	Structure: non-native species and pathogens	Target changed from “Restrict...” to “Reduce the introduction and spread of non-native species and pathogens, and their impacts” to reflect records of the invasive non-native species <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> reported by Quinn, E.S. 2018.  Target justification text updated.  Site-specific supporting notes updated, with additional references.



<b>Intertidal coarse sediment</b> <b>Intertidal rock</b> <b>Intertidal mixed sediments</b> <b>Intertidal seagrass beds</b> <b>Intertidal biogenic reef: Sabellaria spp.</b> <b>Circolittoral rock</b> <b>Subtidal coarse sediment</b> <b>Subtidal sand</b> <b>Subtidal mud</b> <b>Subtidal mixed sediments</b> <b>Subtidal biogenic reefs: Sabellaria spp.</b> <b>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</b> <b>Subtidal stony reef</b> <b>Intertidal biogenic reef: mussel beds</b>	Structure: non-native species and pathogens	Target justification text updated.  Site-specific supporting notes updated, with additional references.
<b>Coastal lagoons</b> <b>Harbour (common) seal</b>	Structure: non-native species and pathogens	Target justification text updated.

### Torbay MCZ (UKMCZ0019)

#### Package status

Changed to formal

#### General

Added (Amendment) Designation Order 2016 and 2019 for additional features

**Tweed Estuary SAC - UK0030292**

Package status

Package remains formal

SACO

Tweaked target for clarity: "Supporting processes: water quality – nutrients".

**Whitsand and Looe Bay MCZ (UKMCZ0021)**

Package status

Changed to formal

General

Corrected minor formatting within the advice.

Added (Amendment) Designation Order 2019 for additional features