

**Appropriate Assessment Stage 2 of  
South Lakeland District Council's  
Core Strategy  
APPENDICES**

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**South Lakeland District Council**

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Issue 2

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## APPENDIX 1. LOCATIONS OF EUROPEAN SITES EXAMINED IN THE SCREENING STAGE

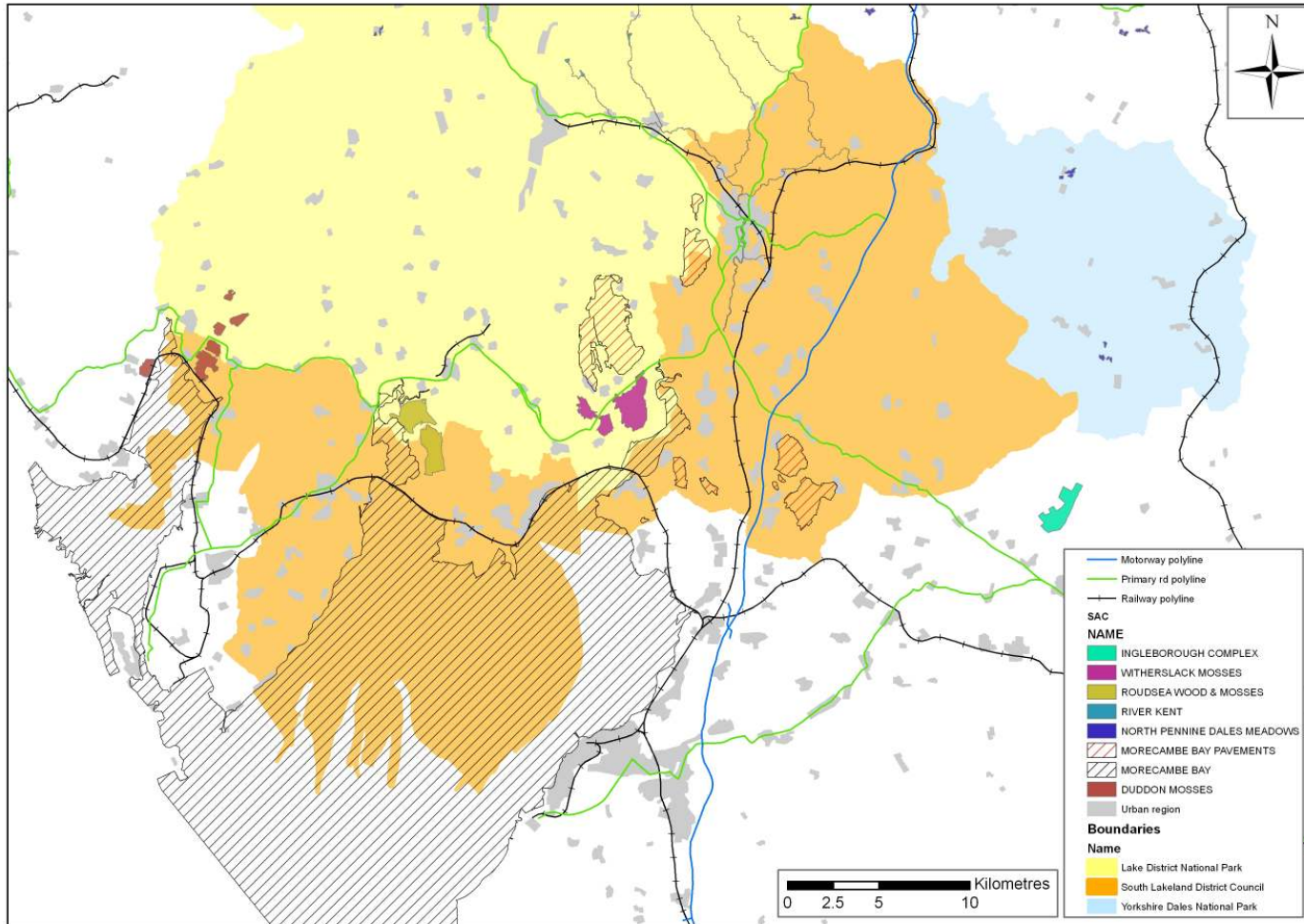


Figure 1. SACs

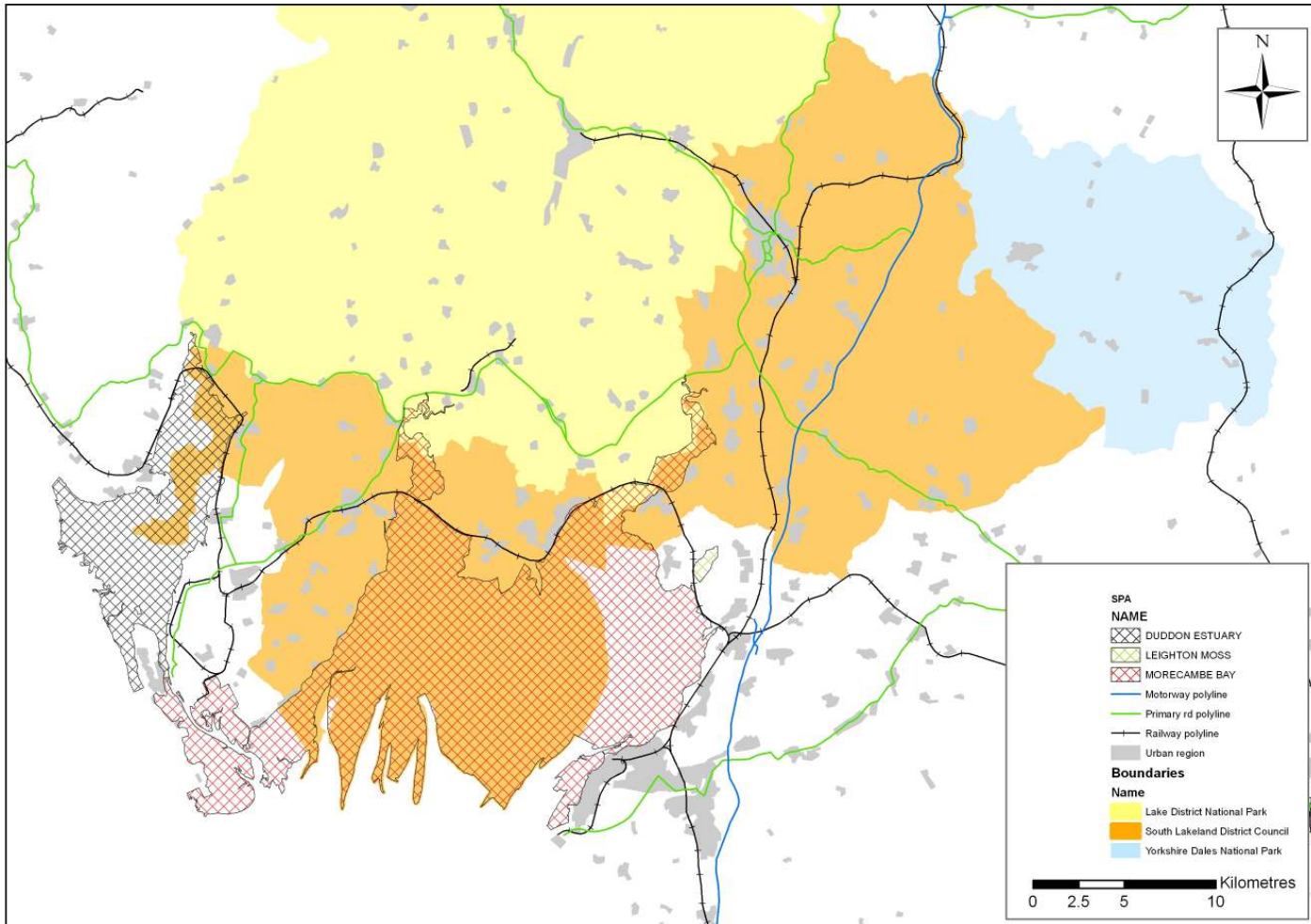


Figure 2. SPAs

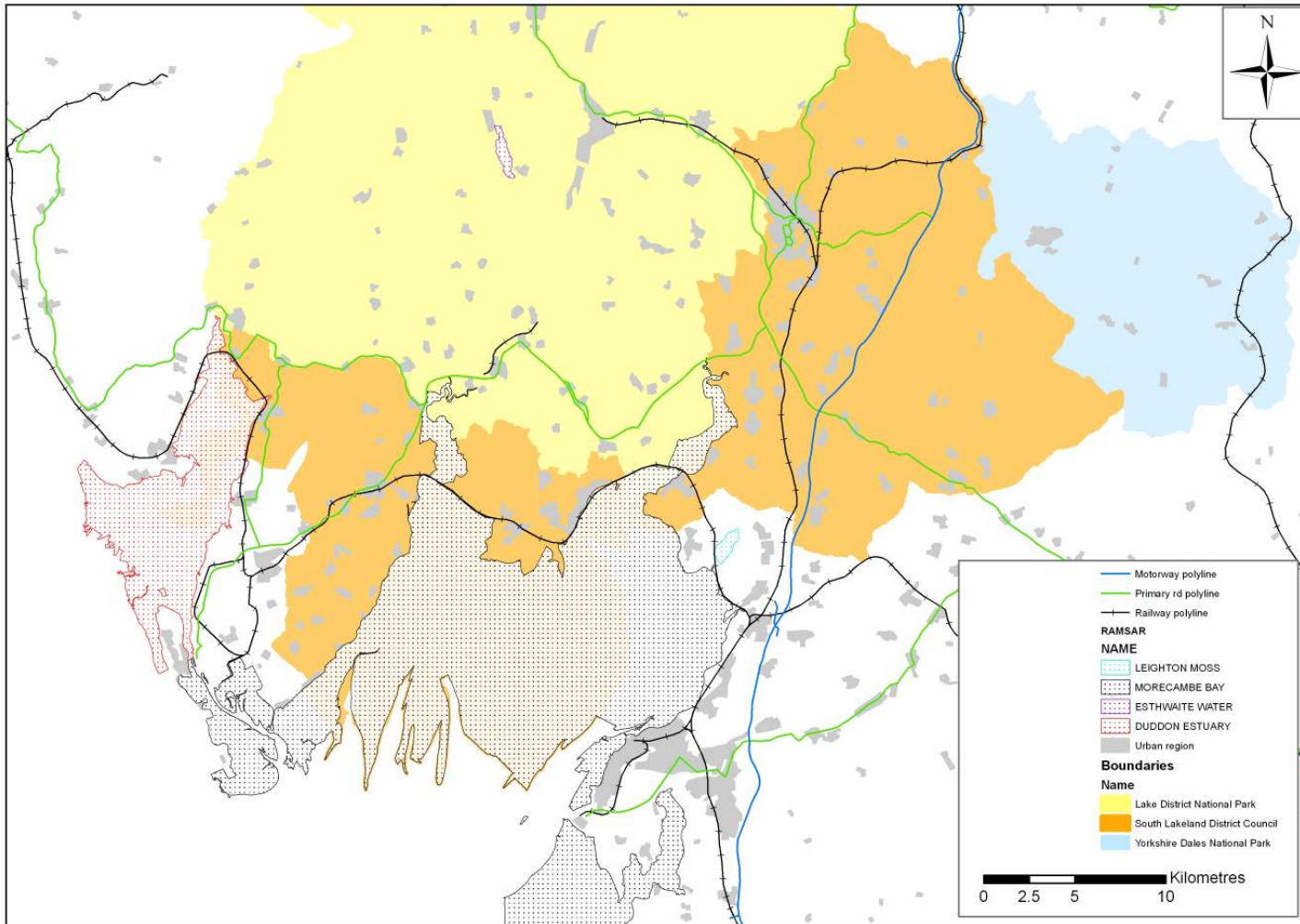


Figure 3. Ramsar Sites

**APPENDIX 2: APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT IMPACT MATRICES FOR SOUTH LAKELAND CORE STRATEGY**

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## MORECAMBE BAY SAC

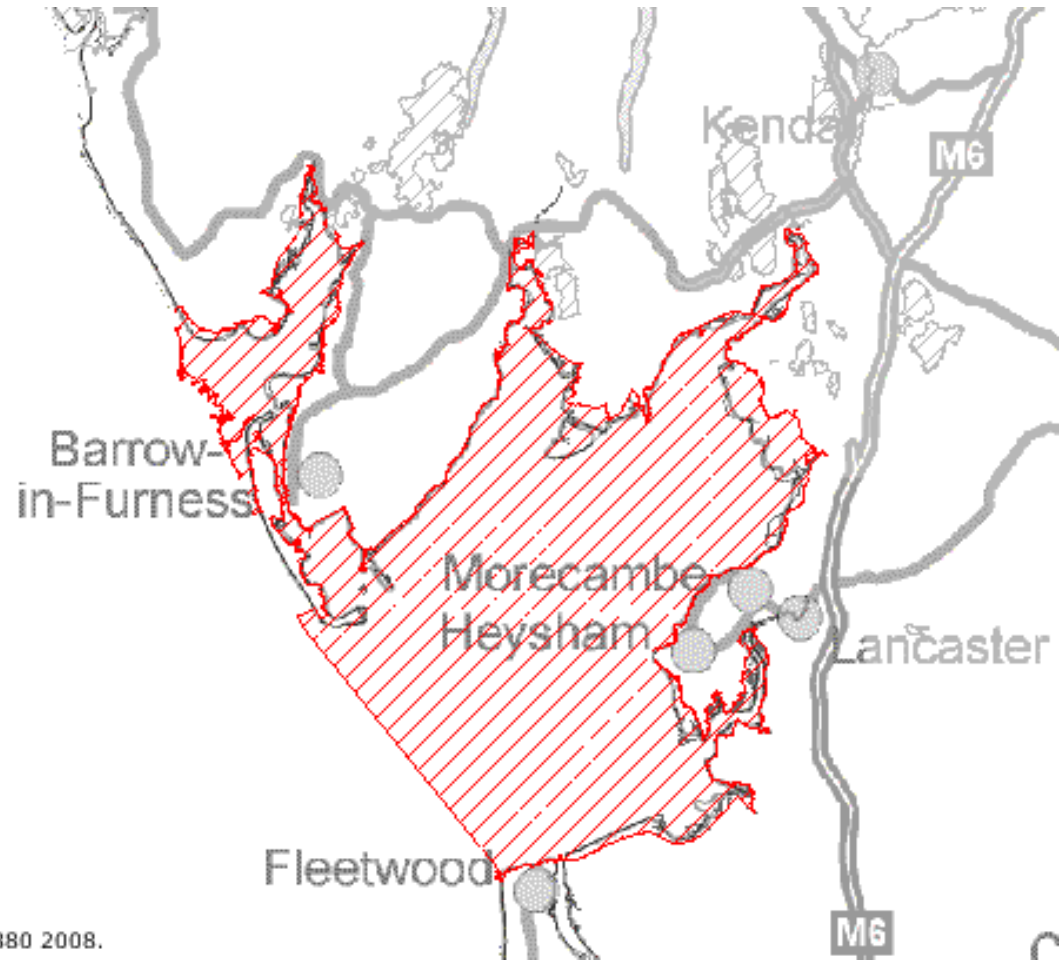
<b>Name and location</b>		Morecambe Bay – Site extends from Fleetwood in Lancashire across to Millom in Cumbria, incorporating the estuaries of the Lune, Duddon, Keer, Kent and Leven	
<b>Distance from plan area</b>		Partly within plan area	
<b>Reason(s) for designation</b>		Annex I habitats for which site designated SAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>• Large shallow inlets and bays</li> <li>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks</li> <li>• Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes')</li> <li>• Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes')</li> <li>• Humid dune slacks</li> </ul>	
<b>Conservation objectives</b>		Subject to natural change, to maintain, in favourable condition, the structure and function of the habitats for which the sites designated	
<b>Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site</b>		<b>Key factors affecting site integrity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintained structure and function of habitats for which the sites designated</li> <li>• No decrease in extent of habitats</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good water quality</li> <li>• No change in land use, habitat loss or fragmentation</li> <li>• The absence or control of invasive or introduced species</li> <li>• Lack of disturbance or erosion from tourism and recreation.</li> <li>• Appropriate management, including grazing, mowing, vegetation clearance, burning at an appropriate level, low nutrient input</li> <li>• Other potential threats include: commercial fisheries, aggregate extraction, gas exploration, adverse effects on interest features as a result of coastal and flood defences.</li> </ul>	
<b>Assessment of significance of effects:</b>			
<b>Nature of potential impact</b>	<b>LSE identified at the screening stage and potential adverse effect of the CS</b>	<b>Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies</b>	<b>Adverse Effect on integrity</b>
Tourism and recreational pressures	Screening identified that isolated parts of the site away from settlements may receive increasing visitors and damage as a result. NE have stated that measures are needed to ensure appropriate parking facilities at sensitive sites such as	Support for increasing numbers of tourists in the Tourism Strategy for Cumbria and NW RSS may add to this problem. Although both call for improved infrastructure for the visitor economy and for all activity	Possible adverse effect on integrity (AEOI) – mitigation required.  There is a risk that the incidence of damage to the site will be exacerbated through an increase in local population and tourism. Although the core of



	<p>Humphrey Head to ensure that vehicles are not used illegally on intertidal areas. There is still a risk that the CS may increase this problem. The core strategy allocates a similar quantum of new houses to the Cartmel Peninsula and Ulverston and so a rise in people living near these sensitive areas is expected.</p>	<p>related to tourism and the visitor economy to be based on the principles of sustainable development. The Morecambe Bay Strategy encourages the promotion of tourism and recreational around the Bay but recognises the conflicts between increasing recreation and protection the environmental suggests measures need to be taken to avoid deterioration and adverse effects on the European site.</p>	<p>the problem is from illegal vehicle use on the foreshore and the incidences of this do not directly relate to growth in housing and developments envisaged through the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Interpretation should be provided to encourage visitors to understand the special features of the protected sites. Responsible recreational use should be encouraged through positive information provision.</p>
<p>Changes to water levels, turbidity, reduced water quality and reduction in habitat extent</p>	<p>Not an issue identified at screening as this has been added following consultation on preferred options. Policy CS8.7 'Sustainable Construction, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy' updates the Preferred Options document by introducing a policy which supports nuclear and renewable energy generation. The Policy supports development of tidal schemes which will most definitely affect the habitat extent if developed in Morecambe Bay. The development of offshore windfarms could also have adverse effects depending on location and details of the project.</p>	<p>All Regions are currently supporting renewable energy in their RSSs, in line with the aspirations of the UK government. In the North West region there are already a significant number of energy projects that are operational, under construction, with planning permission, or under consideration.</p> <p>Bridge across Morecambe Bay and Solway Energy Gateway and Mersey Barrage have all been suggested as tidal schemes.</p>	<p>AEOI – the policy does not name projects or locations but mitigation required.</p>
<p>Mitigation proposed.</p>	<p><b>Tourism and recreational pressures.</b> Mitigation delivered to a degree through CS8.3b (Quantity Of Open Space, Sport And Recreation), CS8.4 Biodiversity &amp; Geodiversity and CS8.5 (Coast). Access to the beach and foreshore needs to be controlled to prevent damage to habitats and disturbance. The Morecambe Bay Strategy and the solutions to managing disturbance which are recommended there (e.g. zoning of activities) need to be referenced. The recommendations here could form the basis for discussion with developers on what is needed to increase handling capacity at sites without adverse effects. For example, better interpretation should be provided to encourage visitors to understand the special features of the protected sites. Responsible recreational use should be encouraged through positive</p>		

	<p>information provision. Natural England need to be involved in these discussions and delivery on the ground.</p> <p><b>Changes to water levels, turbidity, reduced water quality and reduction in habitat extent/ impacts from renewable energy infrastructure:</b>  Add addition text to CS7.7 to recognise the international importance of much of the coastline and upland areas and to highlight that Projects should avoid significant adverse effects on sites of international nature conservation importance by assessment under the Habitats Regulations.</p>
Comments from Natural England and Environment Agency	Confirmed results of assessment – no additional comments
Mitigation incorporated into the Core Strategy	<p><b>Tourism and recreational pressures.</b>  Reference to assessing the effects of increased visitors, solutions to managing disturbance proposed in the Morecambe Bay Strategy and need to engage with Natural England have been added to Policy CS8.4 (Biodiversity &amp; Geodiversity) and Policy CS8.5 Coast. The Core Strategy now supports stricter mitigation measures in terms of zoning and byelaw enforcement to protect Morecombe Bay SAC through the addition of specific text in CS8.5</p> <p><b>Changes to water levels, turbidity, reduced water quality and reduction in habitat extent/ impacts from renewable energy infrastructure:</b>  Suggested text added to CS7.7.</p>

Location of Morecambe Bay SAC. Images © MAGIC.



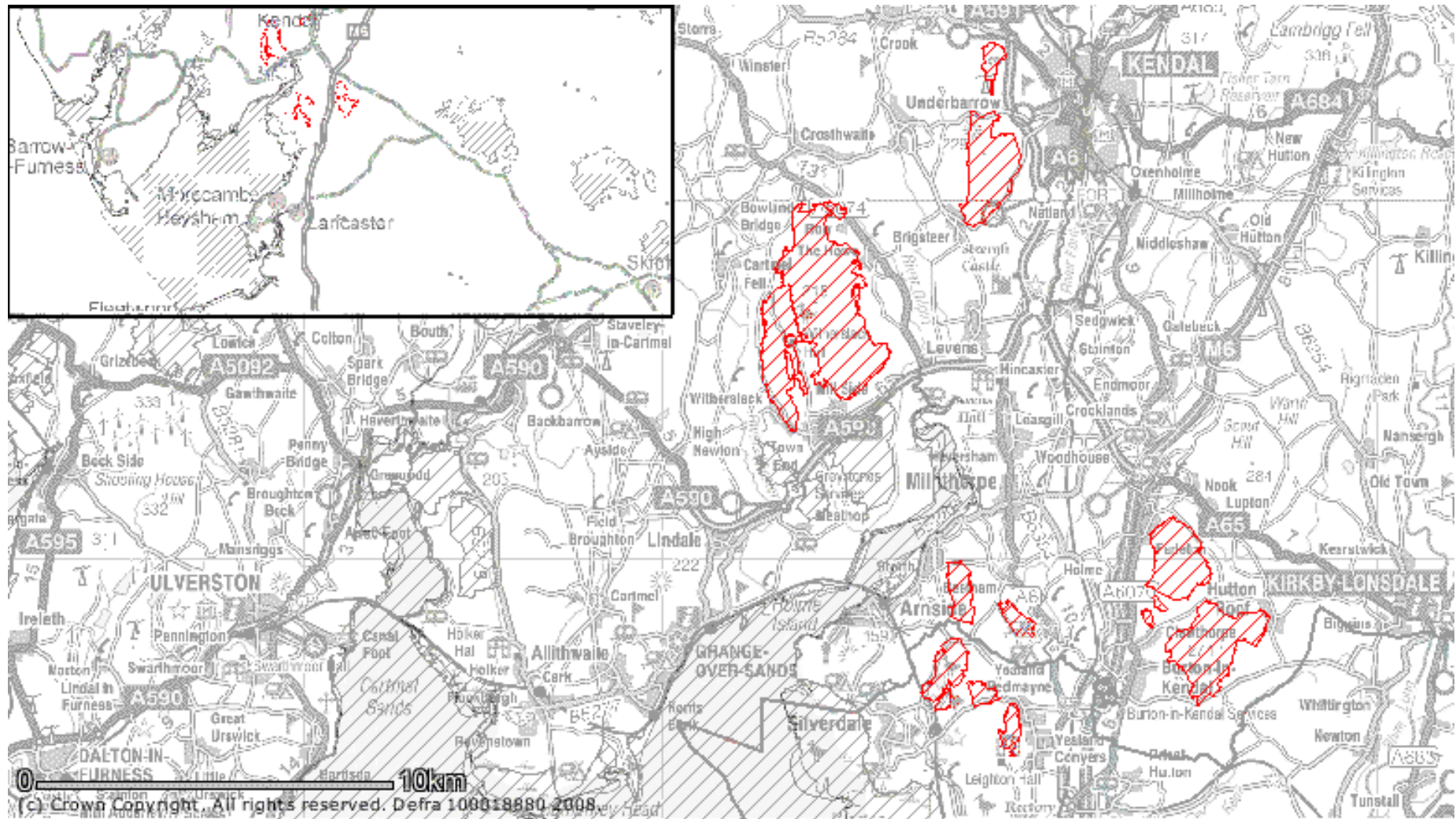
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## MORECAMBE BAY PAVEMENTS SAC

<b>Name and location</b>		Morecambe Bay Pavements	
<b>Reason(s) for designation</b>		<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.</li> <li>• <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands</li> <li>• Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)</li> <li>• Limestone pavements</li> <li>• <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines</li> <li>• <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles</li> </ul> <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature; for which site designated SAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European dry heaths</li> <li>• Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> (found at Halswater, Lancaster)</li> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</li> </ul> <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrow-mouthed whorl snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (found at Gait Barrows, Lancaster).</li> </ul>	
<b>Conservation objectives</b>		<p>Subject to natural change, to maintain the habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features.</p> <p>To maintain the surface Karst, Limestone pavement, calcareous grassland, woodland and <i>Juniperus communis</i> habitat at this site in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features.</p>	
<b>Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site</b>		<b>Key factors affecting site integrity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintained structure and function of habitats for which the sites designated</li> <li>• No loss in habitat extent</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate land management</li> <li>• Low nutrient input</li> <li>• Limited air pollution</li> </ul>	
<b>Assessment of significance of effects:</b>			
<b>Nature of potential impact</b>	<b>LSE identified at the screening stage and potential adverse effect of the CS</b>	<b>Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies</b>	<b>Effect on integrity</b>
Damage to plant communities	The part of the site to the West of Kendal receives high visitor numbers mostly parking at Scout Scar. This is resulting in localised erosion from trampling and pollution from dog facies. The screening	Majority of pressure at site from local residents' dog walking. Other users of the site may increase as the Cumbria Tourism Strategy and RSS prompt an	There is a risk of adverse effect on integrity. It is impossible to say with certainty how many of the new residents will use the site on a regular basis and how this translates to impact on the site. A 21% increase in homes in Kendal by 2026 may

	<p>identified that further housing on the West of Kendal (PO11) is likely to exacerbate this issue.</p> <p>The Core Strategy maintains a similar increase in housing in Kendal which represents a 21% in total housing stock by 2025. The core strategy does not indicate where in Kendal this housing should go in the same way as the PO document so it is more difficult to try and assess how many extra homes will be sited on the West of Kendal. However, as it appears that most of the users of Scout Scar travel there by car they could easily make the journey from any location in Kendal.</p>	<p>increase in tourism. The site is easy to access and the car park advertised.</p> <p>The agricultural management regime has been cited as the main issue to be addressed. The new management agreements should restore the SSSI at least to a favourable condition</p>	<p>result in increased visitors at the site and Scout Scar in particular. Mitigation should be taken to minimise the risk and so that the plan actively objectives to improving conditions at this European site and securing its viability in the long term.</p>
Mitigation proposed.	<p>It will be impossible to altogether avoid additional recreational impacts through changes to the Core Strategy, unless 1. no additional housing is permitted, and 2. no support is given to outdoor recreation. Neither is acceptable nationally. As such, the best the core strategy can do is mitigate recreational impacts.</p> <p>Possible mitigation measures are access management, habitat management and provision of alternative recreational space. CS8.3b should help to reduce an increase in daily numbers to the site by providing locally accessible open space for new and existing residents.</p> <p>In addition, some of the money from developer contributions should be allocated to improving existing open space (including at European sites) where maintenance and improvements are needed. This could be added to policy CS8.3b or policy CS8.4.</p> <p>Access management possibilities could include fencing to close of parts of the site. Habitat management might include surfacing and maintenance of paths. Provision of sites and dog bins to encourage walkers to remove dog faeces would help. All these measures are difficult to deliver with certainty through the Core Strategy but the issue should be highlighted.</p>		
Comments from Natural England and Environment Agency	Confirmed results of assessment – no additional comments		
Mitigation incorporated into the Core Strategy	Text has been added to CS8.3b to require developers to improve existing open space. And the issue of visitor pressure on European sites and the need to assess it has been incorporated within CS8.4		

Location of Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC. Images © MAGIC.



## RIVER KENT SAC

<b>Name and location</b>	River Kent SAC		
<b>Reason(s) for designation</b>	<p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation</li> </ul> <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></li> </ul> <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i></li> <li>Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Conservation objectives</b>	Subject to natural change, to maintain, in favourable condition, the structure and function of the habitats for which the sites designated and for the Annex II species for which site designated		
<b>Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site</b>		<b>Key factors affecting site integrity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintained structure and function of habitats for which the sites designated</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The absence of invasive non-native species, non-native fish species, parasites and diseases, particularly signal crayfish, and individuals infected with crayfish plague</li> <li>Good water and habitat quality – all water discharges should ensure favourable condition targets for water quality, flow and habitat quality are maintained</li> <li>Adequate water supply to streams and margins -Water abstractions should ensure favourable condition targets for water quality, flow and habitat are maintained</li> </ul>	
<b>Assessment of significance of effects:</b>			
<b>Nature of potential impact</b>	<b>LSE identified at the screening stage and potential adverse effect of the CS</b>	<b>Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies</b>	<b>Effect on integrity</b>
Appropriate water levels	<p>The screening report identified that further development in South Lakeland and surrounding area may lead to unsustainable abstractions from the River Kent. Of particular concern was the potential abstraction needed for the restoration of the Kendal Canal Head.</p> <p>Lower water levels in the River Kent could adversely affect white-clawed crayfish populations and populations of freshwater</p>	The Draft RSS provides for 411,160 new homes (net of clearance replacement) over the period 2003 to 2021 (Policy L4). Water resources exploited by United Utilities include reservoirs in the Lake District, Pennines and North Wales (more than 66%); rivers (25%); and groundwaters (less than 9%).	<p>South Lakeland DC have confirmed that United Utilities do not take water from the River Water for public water supply. An increase in homes, offices will not increase the draw of water from this resource. No AEOI</p> <p>The question of whether abstraction from the River Kent has an adverse effect is being explored through the AAP. The EA have stated that the water resources modelling carried out for the Draft Appropriate Assessment of the Kendal</p>

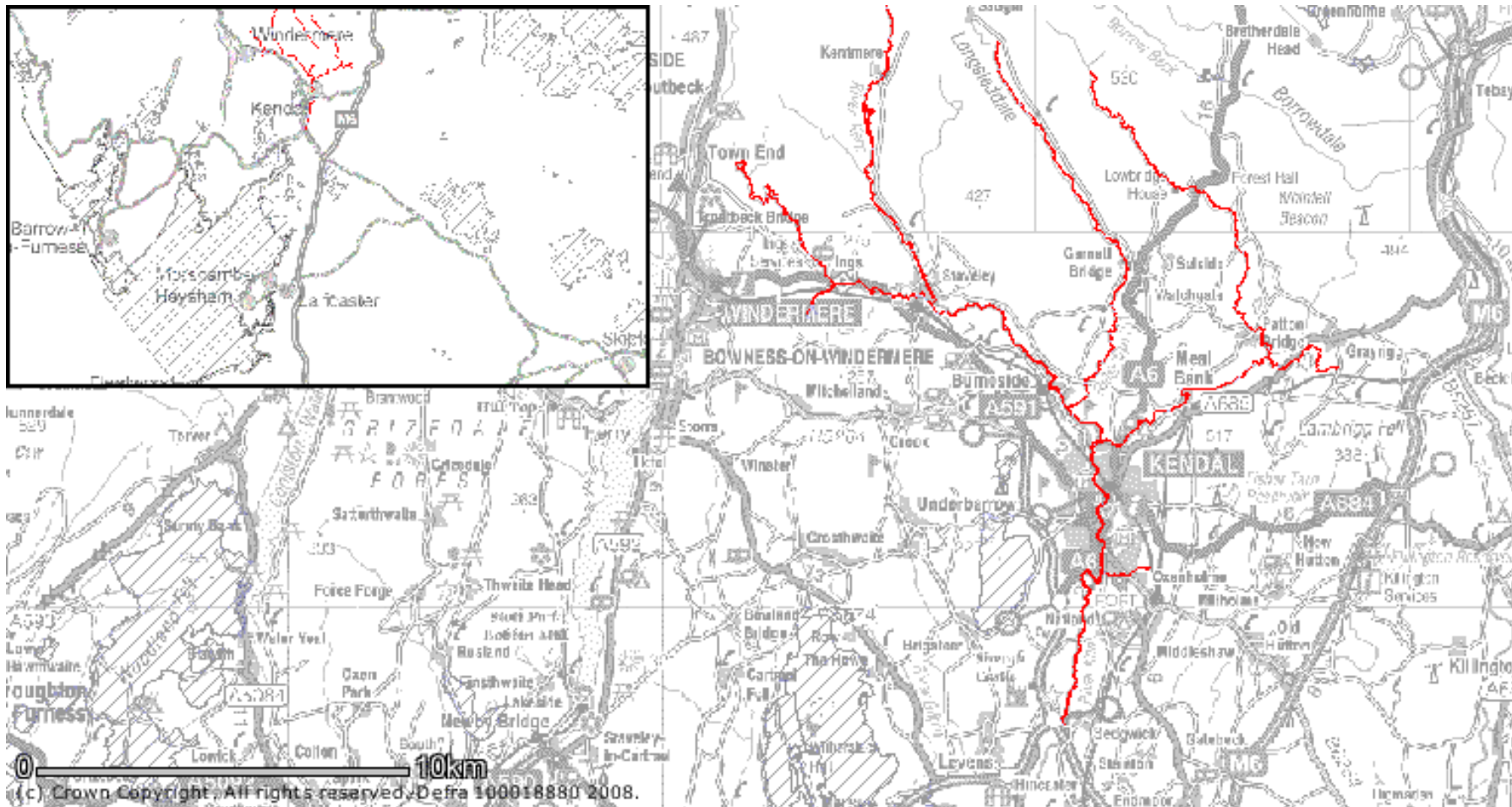
	<p>pearl mussels - affected by reduced flows both directly (changes in extent of bed and type of substrate) and indirectly (through changes in brown trout on which the mussels depend);</p> <p>With regards to abstraction of water for public water supply, further information has been obtained that Kendal receives its water from Haweswater Reservoir and Thirlmere Reservoirs in the Lake District. So an increase in homes in Kendal won't lead to an increase in abstraction from the River Kent to feed domestic demand.</p> <p>The impact of the possible abstraction for development of the 'Restoration of the Northern Reaches of the Lancaster Canal' (RNRLC) is still being assessed and explored further amongst Consultees and tested in the production of the AAP. This may have an adverse effect on integrity</p>	<p>The CAMS currently states that the majority of the River Kent has a 'water available' status, however under the Habitats Directive, abstraction licences are under current review, and these statuses may alter. The Review of Consent process operated by the Environment Agency should help ensure the abstractions and discharges consented do not adversely affect the integrity of the Kent River SAC</p>	<p>Canal Head AAP and Phase 1 RNRLC is insufficient and further work is needed to establish the effects. We cannot conclude No AEOL. Change are needed to the Core Strategy</p>
Water pollution	<p>The screening report identified that the increases in housing in Kendal may put pressure on the existing wastewater treatment works. The proposal to discharge water from Kendal Canal Head to the River Kent SAC may also have adverse impacts on water quality, flow and habitats</p> <p>The Core Strategy allocates a similar number of homes for Kendal. The EA have set out there concerns regarding sewer capacity at Kentrigg Walk, Steeles Row in Burneside, with general sewer capacity in Kendal and with the capacity of the Waste water Treatment Works (WwTW).</p>	<p>Other agriculture and private discharges into the River Kent. The Review of Consent process operated by the Environment Agency should help ensure the abstractions and discharges consented do not adversely affect the integrity of the Kent River SAC.</p> <p>Other development in Kendal which could potentially lead to an increase polluted surface water runoff River Kent K-village site and Beeson Road site.</p>	<p>We cannot conclude no AEOL – mitigation needed.</p>



<p>Introduced or invasive species, non-native fish species, parasites and diseases</p>	<p>The PO document supported the regeneration of the Canal Head Area including the restoration of the former canal. Natural England stated their concerns regarding the potential spread of signal crayfish and associated plague from the Lancaster Canal to the River Kent. Once the former canal is restored, introduction of signal crayfish could come from terrestrial migration or water discharge, while the plague could come from recreational user accidentally carrying infected water between the two water bodies.</p> <p>Water transfer or discharge from the canal to the River Kent may also carry non-native fish species, parasites and diseases that may effect or infect Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> and the host Salmonids that are necessary for the Mussel's parasitic larvae.</p> <p>The Core Strategy now contains less reference to the RNRLC and the focus in on the regeneration of the Kendal Canal Head Areas with will be explored through the AAP. However that are still reference to canal being restored.</p>	<p>The Kendal Canal Head AAP sets out the details of the regeneration scheme – this is likely to include restoration of the canal and may require abstraction from and discharge to the river.</p>	<p>RNRLC is likely to increase the risk of introduction of signal crayfish and crayfish plague. Introduction of signal crayfish to an area with white-clawed crayfish typically results in 100% mortality of white-clawed crayfish</p> <p>It is not possible to conclude no AEOI whilst the core strategy supports the development of this untested option.</p>
<p>Mitigation proposed.</p>	<p><b>Water quantity and issues regarding Introduced or invasive species</b>  To remove the ambiguity that the Core Strategy is providing consent for the canal restoration, the text under CS2 that refers to regeneration of this area should refer simply to the regeneration of the 'Kendal Canal Head area' and not the restoration of the canal. If support for the RNRLC is removed from the Core Strategy and only the regeneration of the area backed then is issue and tall the alternatives can be appropriately tested through the AAP.</p> <p><b>Water quality issues related to sewage capacity</b>  Until the problems at Kentrigg Walk and Steeles Row Burneside are resolved the core strategy needs to set out that there should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No further development above these sewer bottlenecks that adds additional flow to the sewer above these bottlenecks.</li> </ul>		

	<p>For the general sewage capacity and the capacity of the WwTW, until UU can demonstrate that further development can be accommodated the Core Strategy should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make clear the need for new waste-water treatment infrastructure;</li> <li>• Emphasise the need for development to incorporate sustainable drainage systems; and</li> </ul> <p>Emphasise the timing implications associated with the provision of new resource infrastructure, and consequent implications for the phasing of new housing and other development.</p>
<p>Comments from Natural England and Environment Agency</p>	<p>Also add reference to the potential for the introduction of non-native fish species, parasites and diseases to the River Kent – This has been included.</p>
<p>Mitigation incorporated into the Core Strategy</p>	<p><b>Water quantity and issues regarding Introduced or invasive species</b>  Suitable information added to supporting text under CS2 to make clear that the Core Strategy does not consent the development of the canal and that issues including the adverse effects on the SAC mean that alternatives to canal restoration may need to be brought forward.</p> <p><b>Water quality issues related to sewage capacity</b></p> <p>Text added to CS2 which incorporates mitigation  Reference to requirement for SUDS and the pressure on the existing sewage network and wastewater treatment works in Kendal also included in supporting text for policy CS2</p>

Location of River Kent SAC. Images © MAGIC.



## MORECAMBE BAY SPA

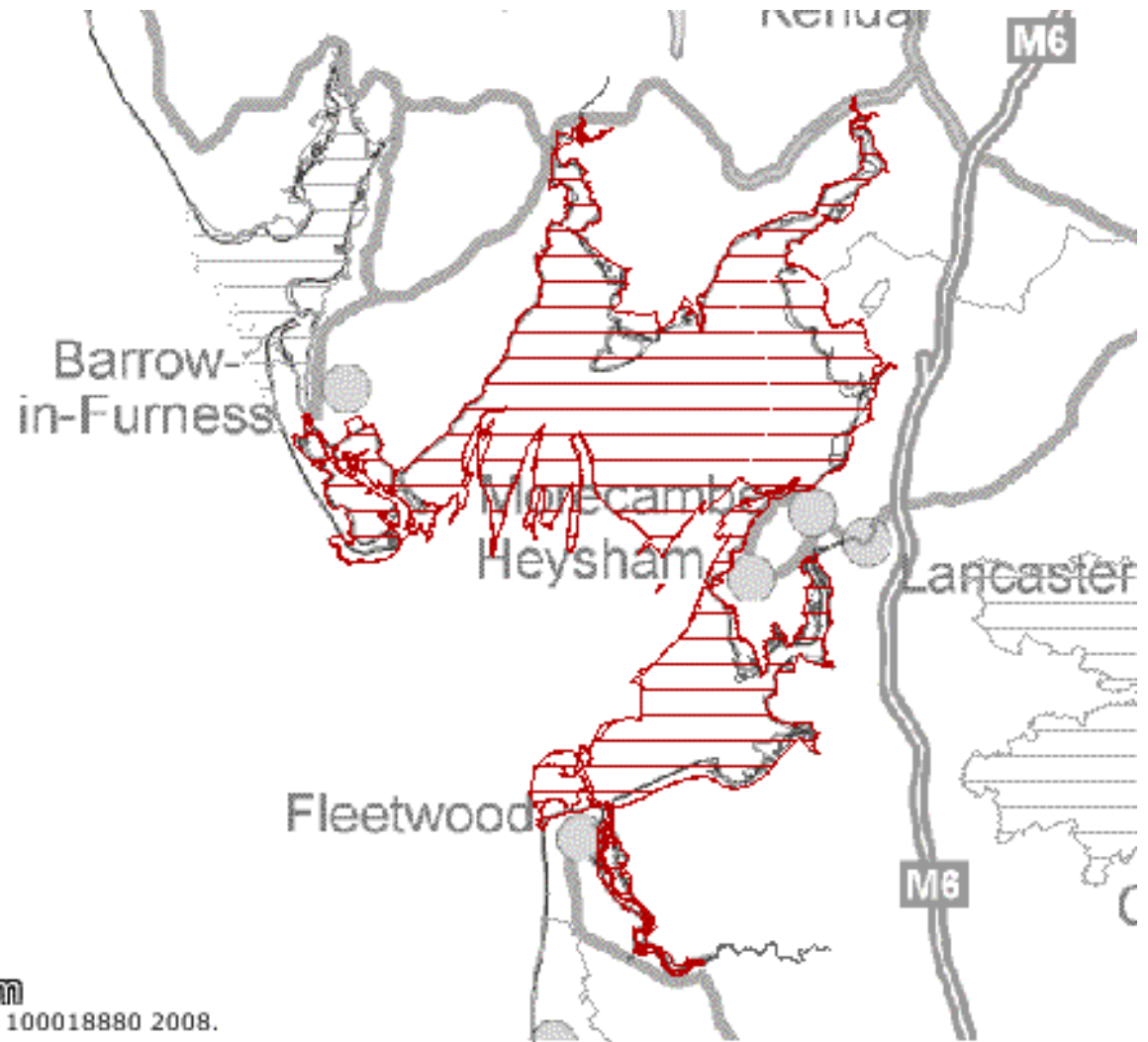
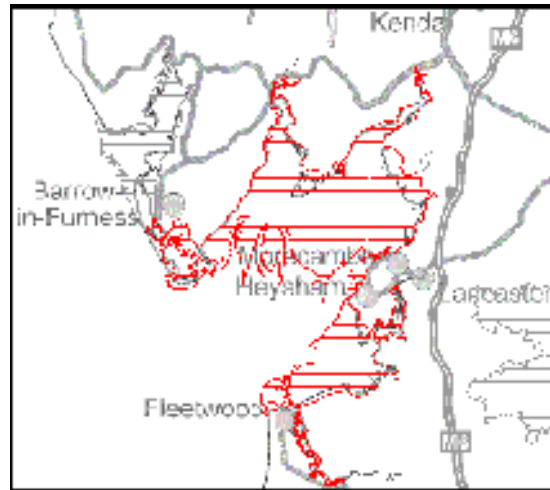
<b>Name and location</b>	Morecambe Bay SPA (Morecambe Bay SPA largely overlaps with Morecambe Bay SAC, with the exception of the Duddon Estuary which is the subject of a separate SPA designation)
<b>Distance from plan area</b>	Partly within plan area
<b>Reason(s) for designation</b>	<p>Annex I species that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> Sandwich Tern</li> </ul> <p>It also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the EU Birds Directive in that it supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An internationally important assemblage of waterfowl and seabirds; and</li> <li>• Internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory species.</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation objectives</b>	<p>Subject to natural change, to maintain in favourable condition the habitats of the internationally important populations of regularly occurring bird species listed on Annex 1 bird species, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shingle areas</li> </ul> <p>Favourable condition for this feature means that there is little deviation from the established baseline for the following attributes, subject to natural change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent of shingle areas</li> <li>• Ratio of vegetated to bare ground should not exceed 10% during the breeding season</li> </ul> <p>Subject to natural change, to maintain in favourable condition the habitats of the internationally important assemblage of waterfowl and seabirds and the internationally important populations of regularly occurring migratory species, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intertidal mudflat and sandflat communities, intertidal and subtidal boulder and cobble skear communities, saltmarsh communities, coastal lagoon communities</li> </ul> <p>Favourable condition for these features is defined as little deviation from the established baseline, subject to natural change, for the following attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent of habitat features</li> <li>• Presence and abundance of animal and plant prey species</li> <li>• Presence and abundance of preferred plant species (saltmarsh)</li> <li>• Range of vegetation heights (saltmarsh)</li> </ul>

<b>Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site</b>		<b>Key factors affecting site integrity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintained populations of species and structure and function of habitats for which the sites designated</li> <li>Bird communities are highly mobile and exhibit patterns of activity related to tidal water movements and many other factors. Different bird species exploit different parts of an intertidal area and different prey species. Changes in the habitat may therefore affect their prey availability. The important bird populations therefore require a functional embayment, which is capable of supporting intertidal habitat for feeding and roosting.</li> <li>Note: Bird usage of the site varies seasonally, with different areas being favoured over others at certain times of the year</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate management, including grazing, mowing, vegetation clearance an appropriate level</li> <li>The absence or control of introduced or invasive species</li> <li>Current extent and distribution of suitable feeding and roosting habitat (e.g. saltmarsh, mudflats);</li> <li>Sufficient prey availability (e.g. small fish, crustaceans and worms);</li> <li>Minimal levels of disturbance;</li> <li>Water quality necessary to maintain intertidal plant and animal communities; and</li> <li>Water quantity and salinity gradients necessary to maintain saltmarsh conditions suitable for bird feeding and roosting.</li> </ul>	
<b>Assessment of significance of effects:</b>			
<b>Nature of potential impact</b>	<b>LSE identified at the screening stage and potential adverse effect of the CS</b>	<b>Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies</b>	<b>Adverse effect on integrity</b>
Tourism and recreational pressures	<p>The screening stage identified that a number of policies could be considered to increase levels of disturbance around the site.</p> <p>Breeding terns &amp; wintering, breeding and passage waterfowl and seabirds are vulnerable to disturbance from noise and/or physical activities.</p> <p>CS1.2, CS2, CS3, CS4 are comparable with PO1, PO3, PO4, PO11 and PO12. These policies set out the spatial strategy and area visions and will increase the number of local residents.</p> <p>7 Settlements within 1km of the Morecambe Bay European marine site which will receive additional development under the Core Strategy</p>	<p>The Marine and Coastal Access Bill aims to secure a long distance route (“the English coastal route”) and land for open-air recreation accessible to the public around the coast of England;</p> <p>Policy W6 of the RSS advocates tourism development adjacent to National parks and AONBs – this applies to this site and could lead to increased visitor pressure.</p> <p>Morecambe Bay falls within North West coast area of search for a regional park and parts of Morecambe Bay are planned to be part of it. A North West Coastal Trail is being considered. Dependent on selection of area, and proposed</p>	AEOI – mitigation measures needed.

		uses (e.g. leisure, tourism) there is potential for increased visitor pressure. 2700 new homes planned for Barrow-in-Furness. Regeneration of waterfront Barrow is a priority.	
Changes to water levels, turbidity, reduced water quality, reduction in habitat extent, disturbance of roosting and feeding areas	Not an issue identified at screening as this has been added following consultation on preferred options. Policy CS8.7 'Sustainable Construction, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy' updates the Preferred Options document by introducing a policy which supports nuclear and renewable energy generation. The Policy supports development of tidal schemes which will most definitely affect the habitat extent if developed in Morecambe Bay. The development of offshore, foreshore and onshore windfarms could also have adverse effects depending on location and details of the project.	All Regions are currently supporting renewable energy in their RSSs, in line with the aspirations of the UK government. In the North West region there are already a significant number of energy projects that are operational, under construction, with planning permission, or under consideration.  Bridge across Morecambe Bay and Solway Energy Gateway and Mersey Barrage have all been suggested as tidal schemes.	AEOI – the policy does not name projects or locations but adverse effects possible alone or in combination mitigation required.
Mitigation proposed.	<p><b>Tourism and recreational pressures</b> Possible mitigation measures are access management, habitat management and provision of alternative recreational space. CS8.3b should help to reduce an increase in daily numbers to the site by providing locally accessible open space for new and existing residents.</p> <p>Core Strategy should make reference to the Morecambe Bay Strategy and the solutions to managing disturbance which are recommended there as these have been developed by a wide range of stakeholders. These solutions should be considered as measures that might be considered as planning conditions when granting permissions for developments in and around the Morecambe Bay European site. Natural England need to be involved in these discussions and delivery on the ground.</p> <p>The capacity of European sites to receive and increase in visitors without a corresponding increase in level of impact needs to be examined. The text to CS8.4 should make reference to this issue as a problem that requires attention by all development proposals.</p>		

	<p><b>Changes to water levels, turbidity, reduced water quality, reduction in habitat extent, disturbance of roosting and feeding areas / impacts from renewable energy infrastructure:</b>  Add addition text to CS8.7 to recognise the international importance of much of the coastline and upland areas and to highlight that Projects should avoid significant adverse effects on sites of international nature conservation importance by assessment under the Habitats Regulations.</p>
Comments from Natural England and Environment Agency	Confirmed results of assessment – no additional comments
Mitigation incorporated into the Core Strategy	<p><b>Tourism and recreational pressures.</b>  Reference to assessing the effects of increased visitors, solutions to managing disturbance proposed in the Morecambe Bay Strategy and need to engage with Natural England have been added to Policy CS8.4 (Biodiversity &amp; Geodiversity) and Policy CS8.5 Coast. The Core Strategy now supports stricter mitigation measures in terms of zoning and byelaw enforcement to protect Morecombe Bay SPA through the addition of specific text in CS8.5</p> <p><b>Changes to water levels, turbidity, reduced water quality and reduction in habitat extent/ impacts from renewable energy infrastructure:</b>  Suggested text added to CS7.7.</p>

Location of Morecambe Bay SPA. Images © Magic.





## MORECAMBE BAY RAMSAR

<b>Name and location</b>	Morecambe Bay	
<b>Distance from plan area</b>	Morecambe Bay lies between the coasts of South Cumbria and Lancashire, and represents the largest continuous intertidal area in Britain. Morecambe Bay comprises the estuaries of five rivers and the accretion of mudflats behind Walney Island. The area is of intertidal mud and sandflats, with associated saltmarsh, shingle beaches and other coastal habitats. It is a component in the chain of west coast estuaries of outstanding importance for passage and overwintering waterfowl (supporting the third-largest number of wintering waterfowl in Britain), and breeding waterfowl, gulls and terns.	
<b>Reason(s) for designation</b>	<p>Designated under Ramsar <b>criteria 4, 5 and 6</b> for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is a staging area for migratory waterfowl including internationally important numbers of passage ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>.</li> <li>• Assemblages of international importance (peak counts in winter - 223709 waterfowl)</li> <li>• Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance: Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Sandwich Tern, Great Cormorant, Common Shelduck, Northern Pintail, Common Eider, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Sanderling, Eurasian Curlew, Common Redshank, Ruddy Turnstone, Great Crested Grebe, Pink-footed Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, European Golden Plover, Northern Lapwing, Red Knot, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit.</li> <li>• Species occurring at levels of national importance: Black-headed Gull, Ruff, Whimbrel, Spotted Redshank, Common Greenshank, Eurasian Teal, Black-tailed Godwit.</li> </ul>	
<b>Conservation objectives</b>	To maintain populations of those species for which this site is considered to be of European importance	
<b>Requirements to maintain favourable condition status of site</b>	<b>Key factors affecting site integrity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintained populations of species and structure and function of habitats for which the sites designated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate management, including grazing, mowing, vegetation clearance an appropriate level</li> <li>• The absence or control of introduced or invasive species</li> <li>• Current extent and distribution of suitable feeding and roosting habitat (e.g. saltmarsh, mudflats);</li> <li>• Sufficient prey availability (e.g. small fish, crustaceans and worms);</li> <li>• Minimal levels of disturbance;</li> <li>• Water quality necessary to maintain intertidal plant and animal communities; and</li> <li>• Water quantity and salinity gradients necessary to maintain saltmarsh conditions suitable for bird feeding and roosting.</li> </ul>	
<b>Assessment of significance of effects:</b>		

<b>Nature of potential impact</b>	<b>LSE identified at the screening stage and potential adverse effect of the CS</b>	<b>Possible effects in combination with other plans and policies</b>	<b>Adverse effect on integrity</b>
Tourism and recreational pressures	<p>The screening stage identified that a number of policies could be considered to increase levels of disturbance around the site.</p> <p>Breeding terns &amp; wintering, breeding and passage waterfowl and seabirds are vulnerable to disturbance from noise and/or physical activities.</p> <p>CS1.2, CS2, CS3, CS4 are comparable with PO1, PO3, PO4, PO11 and PO12. These policies set out the spatial strategy and area visions and will increase the number of local residents.</p> <p>7 Settlements within 1km of the Morecambe Bay European marine site which will receive additional development under the Core Strategy</p>	<p>The Marine and Coastal Access Bill aims to secure a long distance route (“the English coastal route”) and land for open-air recreation accessible to the public around the coast of England;</p> <p>Policy W6 of the RSS advocates tourism development adjacent to National parks and AONBs – this applies to this site and could lead to increased visitor pressure.</p> <p>Morecambe Bay falls within North West coast area of search for a regional park and parts of Morecambe Bay are planned to be part of it. A North West Coastal Trail is being considered. Dependent on selection of area, and proposed uses (e.g. leisure, tourism) there is potential for increased visitor pressure.</p> <p>2700 new homes planned for Barrow-in-Furness. Regeneration of waterfront Barrow is a priority.</p>	AEOI – mitigation measures needed.
Changes to water levels, turbidity, reduced water quality, reduction in habitat extent, disturbance of roosting and feeding areas	Not an issue identified at screening as this has been added following consultation on preferred options. Policy CS8.7 ‘Sustainable Construction, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy’ updates the Preferred Options document by introducing a policy which supports nuclear and renewable energy	All Regions are currently supporting renewable energy in their RSSs, in line with the aspirations of the UK government. In the North West region there are already a significant number of energy projects that are operational, under construction, with planning	AEOI – the policy does not name projects or locations but adverse effects possible alone or in combination mitigation required.

	<p>generation. The Policy supports development of tidal schemes which will most definitely affect the habitat extent if developed in Morecambe Bay. The development of offshore, foreshore and onshore windfarms could also have adverse effects depending on location and details of the project.</p>	<p>permission, or under consideration.</p> <p>Bridge across Morecambe Bay and Solway Energy Gateway and Mersey Barrage have all been suggested as tidal schemes.</p>	
Mitigation proposed.	<p><b>Tourism and recreational pressures</b> Possible mitigation measures are access management, habitat management and provision of alternative recreational space. CS8.3b should help to reduce an increase in daily numbers to the site by providing locally accessible open space for new and existing residents.</p> <p>Core Strategy should make reference to the Morecambe Bay Strategy and the solutions to managing disturbance which are recommended there as these have been developed by a wide range of stakeholders. These solutions should be considered as measures that might be considered as planning conditions when granting permissions for developments in and around the Morecambe Bay European site. Natural England need to be involved in these discussions and delivery on the ground.</p> <p>The capacity of European sites to receive and increase in visitors without a corresponding increase in level of impact needs to be examined. The text to CS8.4 should make reference to this issue as a problem that requires attention by all development proposals.</p> <p><b>Changes to water levels, turbidity, reduced water quality, reduction in habitat extent, disturbance of roosting and feeding areas / impacts from renewable energy infrastructure:</b> Add addition text to CS8.7 to recognise the international importance of much of the coastline and upland areas and to highlight that Projects should avoid significant adverse effects on sites of international nature conservation importance by assessment under the Habitats Regulations.</p>		
Comments from Natural England and Environment Agency	Confirmed results of assessment – no additional comments		
Mitigation incorporated into the Core Strategy	<p><b>Tourism and recreational pressures.</b> Reference to assessing the effects of increased visitors, solutions to managing disturbance proposed in the Morecambe Bay Strategy and need to engage with Natural England have been added to Policy CS8.4 (Biodiversity &amp; Geodiversity) and Policy CS8.5 Coast. The Core Strategy now supports stricter mitigation measures in terms of zoning and byelaw enforcement to protect Morecombe Bay Ramsar through the addition of specific text in CS8.5</p>		

	<p><b>Changes to water levels, turbidity, reduced water quality and reduction in habitat extent/ impacts from renewable energy infrastructure:</b> Suggested text added to CS7.7.</p>
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Location of Morecambe Bay Ramsar site. Images © Magic.

