

**European Site Conservation Objectives for  
Upper Solway Flats and Marshes Special Protection  
Area & Solway Firth  
potential Special Protection Area  
Site Code: UK9005012**



With regard to the SPA and pSPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been or may be classified (the 'Qualifying Features' and 'additional Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

**Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;**

- **The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely**
- **The population of each of the qualifying features, and,**
- **The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Conservation Advice document (where available), which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

**Qualifying Features:**

- A038 *Cygnus cygnus*; Whooper swan (Non-breeding)
- A040 *Anser brachyrhynchus*; Pink-footed goose (Non-breeding)
- A045b *Branta leucopsis*; Barnacle goose (Non-breeding)
- A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)
- A062 *Aythya marila*; Scaup (Non-breeding)
- A130 *Haematopus ostralegus*; Eurasian oystercatcher (Non-breeding)
- A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Non-breeding)
- A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (Non-breeding)
- A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)
- A160 *Numenius arquata*; Eurasian curlew (Non-breeding)
- A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)
- Waterbird assemblage

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## Additional Qualifying Features\*

- A001. *Gavia stellata*; Red-throated diver (Non-breeding)
- A017. *Phalacrocorax carbo*; Great cormorant (Non-breeding)
- A065. *Melanitta nigra*; Common scoter (Non-breeding)
- A070. *Mergus merganser*; Goosander (Non-breeding)
- A137. *Charadrius hiaticula*; Ringed plover (Non-breeding)
- A142. *Vanellus vanellus*; Northern lapwing (Non-breeding)
- A179. *Larus ridibundus*; Black-headed gull (non-breeding)
- A182. *Larus canus*; Common gull (non-breeding)
- A184. *Larus argentatus*; Herring gull (Non-breeding)

\*Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for the classification of these features as part of this Special Protection Area (SPA) (see <https://www.snh.scot/solway-firth-proposed-marine-spa-supporting-documents>)

## Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) ('the Habitats Regulations'). They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives, and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available), will also provide a framework to inform the management of the European Site and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#).

Where these objectives are being met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

### **This is a cross border site**

This site crosses the border between England and Scotland. Some features may only occur in one Country. The advice of [Scottish Natural Heritage](#) should therefore be sought separately.

### **This is a European Marine Site**

This site is a part of the Solway Firth European Marine Site ('EMS'). These Conservation Objectives should be used in conjunction with the Conservation Advice document for the EMS.

Natural England's formal Conservation Advice for European Marine Sites can be found via [GOV.UK](#).

### **This is a potential Special Protection Area (pSPA)**

This is also a site on which Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for the classification of additional land, sea and qualifying features as part of this Special Protection Area (SPA). Should these changes be approved, these two sites would be merged to become the Solway Firth SPA.

As a matter of Government policy, potential SPAs and their features are treated as if they are formally classified. The provisions of the Habitats Regulations therefore apply to them (see below).

**Publication date:** 21 February 2019 (Version 6). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 30 June 2014 to reflect the consolidation of the Habitats Regulations in 2017.