

Coastal sand dunes

Full report outputted on the 30/07/2003 16:18:01

1. Status of the habitat / species

Please give your most accurate assessment of the status of your species or habitat for the UK and for each country. Leave the row blank where the species or habitat does not occur in that country.

	Amount:	Units:	Year:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
S	50002	<input type="text"/>	2000	Full survey	Dargie for SNH
W	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Information originally entered by Stewart Angus on 06 January 2003

2. Trend in Biological Status

Please give your best estimate of the current trend for your species or habitat for the UK, and each appropriate country, using the following categories. Please give an estimate unless there is absolutely no information on which to assess status.

	Trend:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
W	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3. Status of knowledge

To what extent is our scientific knowledge of the habitat / species (e.g research information, autecological knowledge, knowledge for effective re-introduction or habitat restoration/re-creation) sufficient to deliver the plan targets?

Please give an assessment for the UK overall but if there is significant difference in knowledge between different countries this should be noted.

Status of knowledge:	<input type="text"/>
Notes:	<input type="text"/>

4. Progress on targets

Each of the revised targets from the 2001 Targets Review is listed below.

For each one please give a qualitative assessment of progress for the UK and each country. You can also enter quantitative information on progress by entering data in each of the target boxes and entering the current amount in the amount box. For more information see Help.

T1: Protect the existing sand dune resource of about 54,500 ha from further losses to anthropogenic factors, whether caused directly or indirectly (eg by sea defence schemes affecting coastal processes).

Target start date:	<input type="text" value="1999"/>
Target end date:	<input type="text" value="ongoing"/>
Target units:	<input type="text"/>

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
W	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

T2: Offset the expected net losses due to natural causes of about 2% of the dune habitat resource over 20 years by encouraging new dunes to accrete and where possible by allowing mobile dune systems to move inland.

Target start date:	<input type="text" value="1999"/>
Target end date:	<input type="text" value="2020"/>
Target units:	<input type="text"/>

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
W	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

T3: Seek opportunities for restoration of sand dune habitat lost to forestry, agriculture or other human uses. A target figure of up to 1000 ha to be reinstated by 2010 (to be reviewed as a result of the inventory proposed in 5.5.1) is

suggested.

Target start date:

Target end date:

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
W	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

T4: Encourage natural movement and development of dune systems, and control natural succession to scrub and woodland where necessary.

Target start date: 1999

Target end date:

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK					
E					
NI					
S					
W					

T5: Maintain dune grassland, heath and lichen communities on the majority of dune systems.

Target start date: 1999

Target end date: ongoing

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
W	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

T6: Create Atlantic dune woodland on five carefully selected sites.

Target start date:

Target end date:

Target units:

Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
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UK	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
W	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

5. Current factors affecting the habitat

When your plan was published the factors (threats) that were thought to be causing loss or decline were listed (in section 2). Re-assessing the current situation may help prioritise actions for your species or habitat. In addition, this enables identification of the main threats to biodiversity across all plans. It is useful to assess whether the importance of different factors is changing and whether there are new issues emerging.

The threat section from the original plan is duplicated below, and a first attempt at categorising the threats has been made. Please confirm that you agree with the categorisation of the original threats identified in the plan (by deleting any wrongly categorised threats and adding the correct category). Please also add to the list any significant threats that have emerged recently, being mindful of environmental issues that have increased in profile or been recognised since plan publication (e.g. climate change). Once you are happy that the list contains all the threats identified in the published plan together with any new ones, please rank them in order of severity (1= highest threat). If the situation has changed and one of the published threats is no longer significant, please leave this in the list but give this rank = 0.

Current factors affecting the habitat from the original publication:

2.1 Erosion and progradation. Unless artificially constrained, the seaward edges of sand dunes can be a highly mobile feature, though there is a natural trend to greater stability further inland. Very few dune systems are in overall equilibrium, and a majority of those in the UK demonstrate net erosion rather than net progradation; insufficient sand supply is frequently the underlying cause. There is no particular geographical distribution of either trend, both normally

being present along any one stretch of coastline, and often within individual sites. Changes may be cyclical, both seasonally and over longer periods of time. Landward movement of mobile dunes often entails loss of fixed dune and dune heath habitat, as the latter are usually stable, or retreat may be impeded by development; in a few cases dune systems may move inland where not artificially constrained. The net loss of dune habitat in England to erosion has been estimated as not more than 2% of the resource over the next 20 years.

- 2.2 Falling water tables. Dune slacks support characteristic communities dependent on a seasonally high water table, including the formation of temporary or even permanent ponds. There may be considerable variation in the behaviour of the water table from year to year, resulting in a stressed ecosystem where only specialised species can survive. However in some dune systems with important slacks, a long term fall in the water table has led to loss of the specialist slack flora and invasion by coarse vegetation and scrub. While unusually dry summers may have contributed to this problem, the long-term causes are believed to be local extraction of water and/or drainage of adjacent land used for agriculture or housing.
- 2.3 Grazing. In the absence of human interference, most stable dunes, with the exception of those experiencing severe exposure, would develop into scrub and woodland. The preponderance of grassland and heath vegetation on British dunes is due to a long history of grazing by livestock. Continued grazing is normally necessary to maintain the typical fixed dune communities, but over-grazing, particularly when combined with the provision of imported feedstuffs, can have damaging effects. A more widespread problem is under-grazing, leading to invasion by coarse grasses and scrub, though rabbits are locally effective in maintaining a short turf. Parts of some stabilised dune systems have been entirely converted to agricultural use, resulting in almost total loss of the conservation interest.
- 2.4 Recreation. Recreation is a major land use on sand dunes. Many dune systems are used extensively by holiday-makers, mostly on foot but also for parking cars and in some cases for driving four-wheel-drive vehicles or motorcycles. Moderate pressure by pedestrians may cause little damage, and may even help to counteract the effects of abandonment of grazing. However, excessive pedestrian use, as on routes between car parks and beaches, and vehicular use in particular, have caused unacceptable erosion on many dune sites. Many dune systems also support one or more golf courses. Here much of the original vegetation may be retained in the rough, but the communities of the fairways, and particularly the greens and tees, are often severely modified by mowing, fertilising and re-seeding. Fragmentation of dune systems by golf courses makes grazing management much more difficult.
- 2.5 Sea defence and stabilisation. Many dune systems are affected by sea defence works or artificial stabilisation measures such as sand fencing and marram planting. These practices are particularly prevalent on the more developed coastlines where drifting sand may be perceived as a threat to urban or holiday developments. While carefully applied dune management measures can help to counteract severe erosion which may threaten the existence of a dune, engineered defence systems usually reduce the biodiversity inherent in the natural dynamism of dune systems, and may cause sediment starvation down-drift. UK dunes as a whole suffer from over-stabilisation and poor representation of the mobile phases.
- 2.6 Beach management. The seaward accretion of dune systems takes place through the accumulation of wind-blown sand caught by plants or debris along the driftline; the initial accumulations are colonised by pioneer plant species and form embryo dunes. On some heavily used beaches this process is inhibited by pressure of pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or by beach cleaning using mechanical methods, where the organic nuclei for sand deposition may be removed. These factors may remove the minor obstacles which would catch the sand initially, or destroy the embryo dunes at an early stage in their

formation. In either case a dune system in a location where the physical conditions exist for accretion may actually be static or eroding.

- 2.7 Forestry. Afforestation of dunes is not as prevalent in Britain as it is in parts of continental Europe, but in a few locations it has had a major effect on large areas of dune landscape. Some sites hold large conifer plantations which have the effect of suppressing the dune vegetation communities and lowering the water table. However, both routine fellings and permanent removal of conifers have shown that vegetation close to the original can be restored in a relatively short time.
- 2.8 Military use. During the Second World War the majority of dune systems were used for the construction of defensive installations, for military training or both. The resultant widespread erosion had a severe effect on dune vegetation which has since been reversed by protective measures and natural recovery. A significant number of major dune systems, particularly in Scotland, are still used for military training, but fortunately most retain good dune habitat. Military use can be beneficial in restricting other activities or developments.
- 2.9 Ownership. A substantial proportion of the UK coast is in the ownership of Government Departments/Agencies or voluntary conservation bodies, though the degree of influence over management is variable due to legal complexities.
- 2.1 Other human influences. Sand dunes have also been affected in the past by housing developments, industrial development, waste tips on or adjacent to them, fly tipping and sand extraction. Indirect effects on dunes include atmospheric nutrient deposition, and coastal squeeze due to rising sea levels and increased storminess. The potential for dredging and marine aggregate extraction, through the disruption of coastal processes, to have cumulative and long-term effects on sand dunes is an area for further investigation.

Keyworded factors:

To add factors click the add button, to delete factors check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Rank:	Keyword:
<input type="checkbox"/>	0	Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture Inappropriate grazing (due to timing or livestock type)
<input type="checkbox"/>	0	Habitat loss / degradation - extraction/drainage Aggregate extraction - land

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Habitat loss / degradation - extraction/drainage Water abstraction (from water bodies)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Habitat loss / degradation - infrastructure development Coastal defence works
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Habitat loss / degradation - infrastructure development Housing infrastructure
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Habitat loss / degradation - woodlands/forestry Tree / wood planting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Habitat loss / degradation Erosion (coastal)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Human disturbance Military use / disturbance
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Human disturbance Other recreation / tourism
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Human disturbance Trampling (physical damage)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Pollution - atmospheric Acid precipitation
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Pollution - land Domestic waste disposal

6. Constraints (optional)

Select the three most significant constraints to achieving the targets of the plan, and indicate the order of priority (1-3 with 1 being the most significant constraint). Only include constraints that are acting as a real blockage to delivering the plan targets or leading to a substantial delay in their delivery. For each constraint, please indicate whether you feel that it is within the ability of the lead partner or steering group to resolve the constraint.

Constraint 1:

Constraint keyword:

Country:

UK E NI S
 W

Solution:

Solution type:

Able to resolve:

Constraint 2:

Constraint keyword:

Country:

UK E NI S
 W

Solution:

Solution type:

Able to resolve:

Constraint 3:

Constraint keyword:

Country:

<input type="checkbox"/>	UK	<input type="checkbox"/>	E	<input type="checkbox"/>	NI	<input type="checkbox"/>	S
<input type="checkbox"/>	W						

Solution:

Solution type:

Able to resolve:

7. Steering Group

Please list all organisations that are represented on the steering group for your species/habitat (include all organisations that have contributed either directly or by correspondence within the last 3 years). Where a steering group does not exist please leave this form blank.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

8. Other Groups/Organisations

Please list any additional groups/organisations that are actively involved in implementing your action plan. (This is to try to assess which groups are involved where there is no steering group and any additional contributors). If you do not have any other organisations involved, click [here](#).

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

9. Linkages to LBAPs

a) Which of the following most accurately describes your interaction with LBAPs, up to now?

b) If you have been in contact with LBAPs how was it initiated?

c) Irrespective of current contact, how important do you consider LBAP co-ordinated action will be in achieving the targets of the plan? Select from category:

d) If you consider LBAP action to be anything other than unimportant, which of the following forms of engagement do you think would be appropriate? (Note, you may tick more than one category.)

- Indirect contact (e.g. posting information on UKBAP website, sharing work programmes, meeting schedules, articles in Biodiversity News, newsletter)
- Provision of generic information on habitat and/or species (e.g. advice and guidance on habitat/species ecology and management)

- Direct provision of advice (e.g. proactive approach to LBAP, response to consultations from LBAPs, advice on LBAP target setting)
- Reciprocal attendance at meetings
- Development of collaborative projects

Other (please specify):

>

10. Successes (optional)

Have there been key successes in the implementation of your plan that should be drawn to the attention of government, the wider BAP partnership, or the public? Please give a brief description (i.e. 2-3 sentences) of up to three successes and allocate a topic area to each of them:

Success 1:

Description:	Country:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W
Keyword:	
<input type="text"/>	

Success 2:

Description:	Country:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W
Keyword:	
<input type="text"/>	

Success 3:

Description:	Country:
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W
Keyword:	
<input type="text"/>	

Thankyou for answering the questions. You have not yet completed all of the questions. You can go back and answer the additional ones or edit the ones you have already answered whenever you want.

Sign-off:

When you have completed all of the questions that you are able to, you must sign off your reporting.

I agree that the steering group (if present) have agreed the information in this report and that the following contact point has also signed it off:

Contact point: <input type="text"/>	email: <input type="text"/>
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Your name:	<input type="text"/>
Date:	<input type="text"/>
