

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX.22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 16 February 1995

3. Country:

UK (England)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Ribble and Alt Estuaries

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for: Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. **For RIS updates only**, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area:

**** Important note:** If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

7. Map of site included:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ☐;
- ii) **an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) *Yes*
- iii) **a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ☐;

b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The site boundary is the same as, or falls within, an existing protected area.

For precise boundary details, please refer to paper map provided at designation

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

53 42 41 N 02 58 44 W

9. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Nearest town/city: Preston

The site occupies a stretch of coastline between Liverpool and Preston on the north-west coast of England. It lies between the Mersey estuary and Morecambe Bay.

Administrative region: Lancashire; Merseyside; Sefton

10. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres): **11. Area** (hectares): 13464.1

Min. -2
Max. 19
Mean 1

12. General overview of the site:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

A large area including two estuaries which form part of the chain of west coast sites which fringe the Irish Sea. The site is formed by extensive sand and mudflats backed, in the north, by the saltmarsh of the Ribble Estuary and, to the south, the sand dunes of the Sefton Coast. The tidal flats and saltmarsh support internationally important populations of waterfowl in winter and the sand dunes support vegetation communities and amphibian populations of international importance.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

2, 5, 6

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Ramsar criterion 2

This site supports up to 40% of the Great Britain population of natterjack toads *Bufo calamita*.

Ramsar criterion 5

Assemblages of international importance:

Species with peak counts in winter:

222038 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)

Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):

Species regularly supported during the breeding season:

Lesser black-backed gull , <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i> , W Europe/Mediterranean/W Africa	4108 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 2.7% of the breeding population (Seabird 2000 Census)
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Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:

Ringed plover , <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> , Europe/Northwest Africa	3761 individuals, representing an average of 5.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak)
Grey plover , <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> , E Atlantic/W Africa -wintering	11021 individuals, representing an average of 4.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak)
Red knot , <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i> , W & Southern Africa (wintering)	42692 individuals, representing an average of 9.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Sanderling , <i>Calidris alba</i> , Eastern Atlantic	7401 individuals, representing an average of 6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak)
Dunlin , <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> , W Siberia/W Europe	38196 individuals, representing an average of 2.8% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak)
Black-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> , Iceland/W Europe	3323 individuals, representing an average of 9.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Common redshank , <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i> ,	4465 individuals, representing an average of 1.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Lesser black-backed gull , <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i> ,	1747 individuals, representing an average of 2.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Species with peak counts in winter:

Tundra swan , <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> , NW Europe	230 individuals, representing an average of 2.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Whooper swan , <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> , Iceland/UK/Ireland	211 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Pink-footed goose , <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> , Greenland, Iceland/UK	6552 individuals, representing an average of 2.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Common shelduck , <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> , NW Europe	2944 individuals, representing an average of 3.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Eurasian wigeon , <i>Anas penelope</i> , NW Europe	69841 individuals, representing an average of 4.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Eurasian teal , <i>Anas crecca</i> , NW Europe	5107 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Northern pintail , <i>Anas acuta</i> , NW Europe	1497 individuals, representing an average of 2.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Eurasian oystercatcher , <i>Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus</i> , Europe & NW Africa -wintering	18926 individuals, representing an average of 1.8% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Bar-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i> , W Palearctic	13935 individuals, representing an average of 11.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Contemporary data and information on waterbird trends at this site and their regional (sub-national) and national contexts can be found in the Wetland Bird Survey report, which is updated annually. See www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm .	
Details of bird species occurring at levels of National importance are given in Section 22	

15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region:

Atlantic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

16. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Soil & geology	basic, neutral, sand, alluvium, sedimentary
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, coastal, intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), open coast (including bay), estuary
Nutrient status	mesotrophic
pH	alkaline, circumneutral
Salinity	brackish / mixosaline, saline / euhaline
Soil	mainly mineral
Water permanence	usually permanent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Blackpool, 1971–2000) (www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/blackpool.html) Max. daily temperature: 12.9° C Min. daily temperature: 6.4° C Days of air frost: 40.3 Rainfall: 871.3 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1540.3

General description of the Physical Features:

The Ribble and Alt Estuaries lie on the Irish Sea coast of north-west England. The site comprises two estuaries, of which the Ribble Estuary is by far the larger, together with an extensive area of sandy foreshore along the Sefton Coast. The site consists of extensive sand- and mud-flats and, particularly in the Ribble Estuary, large areas of saltmarsh. There are also areas of coastal grazing marsh located behind the sea embankments.

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

The Ribble and Alt Estuaries lie on the Irish Sea coast of north-west England. The site comprises two estuaries, of which the Ribble Estuary is by far the larger, together with an extensive area of sandy foreshore along the Sefton Coast. The site consists of extensive sand- and mud-flats and, particularly in the Ribble Estuary, large areas of saltmarsh. There are also areas of coastal grazing marsh located behind the sea embankments.

18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

Shoreline stabilisation and dissipation of erosive forces, Sediment trapping

19. Wetland types:

Marine/coastal wetland

Code	Name	% Area
G	Tidal flats	75
H	Salt marshes	16
E	Sand / shingle shores (including dune systems)	8
Ts	Freshwater marshes / pools: seasonal / intermittent	1

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The Ribble and Alt Estuaries contain extensive areas of intertidal sand and mudflats. These are backed by, on the Ribble, one of the most extensive areas of grazed saltmarsh in Britain and, along the Sefton Coast, the largest calcareous dune complex in north-western England.

The intertidal flats support internationally important populations of waterfowl which feed on a rich invertebrate fauna and *Enteromorpha* beds.

The saltmarsh supports a range of vegetation communities typical of north-west England maintained by stable grazing regimes. However, the estuary is accreting in response to large-scale land-claim, with *Spartina anglica* dominant in the pioneer stages with *Festuca rubra* and *Puccinellia maritima* dominating the grazed sward. Natural transitions are prevented by coastal defence structures. Small areas of saltmarsh also occur in discrete locations along the Sefton Coast.

The sand dunes display a full range of plant communities and habitat types from embryo to grey dunes with transitions to dune grassland and heath. Numerous species-rich slacks can be found throughout the dune transition but generally the extent of vegetation cover and species diversity increases with distance from the sea. *Elytrigia juncea* and *Elymus arenarius* dominate the embryo dunes (NVC SD5&7), being replaced by *Ammophila arenaria* in the mobile yellow dunes (SD6); large areas of bare sand are still present. Two distinct types of vegetation dominate the extensive grey dunes, the first a *Festuca rubra*/*Rubus caesius* dune pasture and a *Salix repens*/*R. caesius*/dwarf shrub (SD9

variants). These dunes also support two large coniferous plantations which support a distinctive flora. Elsewhere, and in the absence of management, smaller areas of secondary deciduous scrub/woodland remain including *Hippophae rhamnoides* and various *Populus* spp. Dune slacks are regularly found throughout the dune complex. Normally dominated by creeping willow, they also support a diverse flora including the nationally rare liverwort, *Petalophyllum ralfsii* and dune helleborine *Epipactis dunensis* (SD15&16). Dune grassland and heath occupy fragmented locations on the extreme eastern edge of the system with *Calluna vulgaris* and *Carex arenaria* both strong characteristics.

The dune system is a candidate Special Area of Conservation for the following Annex I habitats: dunes with creeping willow; shifting dunes; humid dune slacks; shifting dunes with marram; petalwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii*; great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*; coastal dune heathland; and dune grassland ('grey dunes'). The last two are priority habitat types under the EC Habitats Directive.

Ecosystem services

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

International importance

Lower plants

Petalophyllum ralfsii Petalwort (Conservation status: European Red List: Vulnerable; Habitats Directive Annex II species (S1395))

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Birds

Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:

Species regularly supported during the breeding season:

Black-headed gull , <i>Larus ridibundus</i> , N & C Europe	14888 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 11.6% of the GB population (Seabird 2000 Census)
Common tern , <i>Sterna hirundo hirundo</i> , N & E Europe	182 pairs, representing an average of 1.7% of the GB population (1996)

Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:

Ruff , <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> , Europe/W Africa	60 individuals, representing an average of 8.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Eurasian curlew , <i>Numenius arquata arquata</i> , N. a. <i>arquata</i> Europe (breeding)	2502 individuals, representing an average of 1.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Common greenshank , <i>Tringa nebularia</i> , Europe/W Africa	9 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Species with peak counts in winter:

Red-throated diver , <i>Gavia stellata</i> , NW Europe	56 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
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Great cormorant , <i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i> , NW Europe	463 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)
Northern shoveler , <i>Anas clypeata</i> , NW & C Europe	200 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)
Black (common) scoter , <i>Melanitta nigra nigra</i> ,	691 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)
European golden plover , <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> <i>apricaria</i> , P. a. <i>altifrons</i> Iceland & Faroes/E Atlantic	3588 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)
Spotted redshank , <i>Tringa erythropus</i> , Europe/W Africa	2 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)
Black-headed gull , <i>Larus ridibundus</i> , N & C Europe	16849 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)

Species Information

Species occurring at levels of national importance:

Natterjack toad *Bufo calamita* (Habitats Directive Annex IV species (S1202)) (c. 40% GB
population)

23. Social and cultural values:

Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

Aesthetic
Archaeological/historical site
Environmental education/ interpretation
Fisheries production
Livestock grazing
Non-consumptive recreation
Scientific research
Sport fishing
Sport hunting
Tourism
Transportation/navigation

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning? No

If Yes, describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:

- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	+	+
Local authority, municipality etc.	+	+
National/Crown Estate	+	+
Private	+	+
Public/communal	+	+

25. Current land (including water) use:

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	+
Tourism	+	+
Recreation	+	+
Current scientific research	+	
Fishing: commercial	+	+
Fishing: recreational/sport	+	+
Gathering of shellfish	+	
Bait collection	+	
Permanent arable agriculture		+
Grazing (unspecified)	+	
Hunting: recreational/sport	+	
Industry	+	
Sewage treatment/disposal	+	+
Harbour/port		+
Flood control	+	+
Irrigation (incl. agricultural water supply)		+
Mineral exploration (excl. hydrocarbons)	+	
Oil/gas exploration		+
Oil/gas production		+
Transport route	+	+
Urban development		+
Military activities		+

26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

Explanation of reporting category:

1. Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.
2. Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)	On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
Erosion	2	Coastal erosion is a factor at Formby Point with an estimated loss of 4 metres per year. It is a concern because pine woodland on the sand dunes is causing coastal squeeze and therefore preventing sand dune habitats from rolling back; as such dune slack habitats for natterjack toads are declining/being lost.	+		+

For category 2 factors only.

What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?
Erosion - At Ainsdale Sand Dunes National Nature Reserve English Nature have made efforts to restore dune habitat; an Environmental Impact Assessment has been carried out with a view to submitting a tree-felling application in February 2005.

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? NO

27. Conservation measures taken:

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ASSI)	+	+
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	+	
Special Protection Area (SPA)	+	
Land owned by a non-governmental organisation for nature conservation	+	
Management agreement	+	
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	+	
Management plan in preparation	+	

b) Describe any other current management practices:

The management of Ramsar sites in the UK is determined by either a formal management plan or through other management planning processes, and is overseen by the relevant statutory conservation agency. Details of the precise management practises are given in these documents.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

No information available

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g. details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Contemporary.

Fauna.

Numbers of migratory and wintering wildfowl and waders are monitored annually as part of the national Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS) organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Annual natterjack toad monitoring programme: Leisure Services, Metropolitan Borough of Sefton and English Nature Ainsdale NNR.

Completed.

Flora.

National sand dune survey. Sefton coast NCC Report (Edmondson *et al.* 1989)

Bryophyte surveys (various) of Sefton Coast (M Newton).

Ribble and Alt NVC saltmarsh survey 2002 (The Environment Partnership 2003)

Fauna.

Invertebrate surveys (numerous)

Documents held by various authorities on the coast including English Nature & Metropolitan Borough of Sefton.

For a full account of reports, papers etc, reference should be made to:

The sand dunes of the Sefton Coast (Atkinson & Houston 1993).

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

e.g. visitor centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

The Metropolitan Borough of Sefton, English Nature, National Trust and RSPB all lead guided walks onto suitable areas of the coast at all times of the year.

The entire site is reasonably well provided with fixed interpretation panels at many of the main public access points around the site.

The RSPB is developing educational/visitor facilities at its Reserve.

Southport Pier is developing into a major wildlife interpretation centre. English Nature, RSPB and Sefton Council are working on the project.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

Activities, Facilities provided and Seasonality.

Infrastructure developments

There are caravan parks adjacent to the site at Formby and moorings in the Alt. No major expansion anticipated.

Land-based recreation

There is intensive recreational use of the northern beaches (Southport & Ainsdale) where traditional activities are concentrated. These include beach car parking, and, during the summer months several large-scale events. Elsewhere, recreation is more informal and less intensive - but all beach activities

on the Sefton Coast are managed by the Beach Management Plan. The golf courses are heavily used; Royal Birkdale hosted the British Open Golf Championship in 1998.

Water-based recreation

Mainly a summer activity based on the beach at Southport. Becoming more common but has, in the past, included pleasure trips on hovercraft.

Airborne recreation

Some disturbance in winter months by micro-lights, particularly to pink-footed goose populations.

Wildfowling

Occurs on extensive areas of the Ribble including the NNR. Usually controlled by agreement.

32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Head, Natura 2000 and Ramsar Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,
European Wildlife Division, Zone 1/07, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol,
BS1 6EB

33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Site Designations Manager, English Nature, Sites and Surveillance Team, Northminster House,
Northminster Road, Peterborough, PE1 1UA, UK

34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Site-relevant references

- Atkinson, D & Houston, J (eds.) (1993) *The sand dunes of the Sefton coast. Proceedings of the Sefton Coast Research Seminar, Liverpool, 31st May 1991*. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, Liverpool
- Barne, JH, Robson, CF, Kaznowska, SS, Doody, JP & Davidson, NC (eds.) (1996) *Coasts and seas of the United Kingdom. Region 13. Northern Irish Sea: Colwyn Bay to Stranraer, including the Isle of Man*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. (Coastal Directories Series.)
- Batten, LA, Bibby, CJ, Clement, P, Elliot, GD & Porter, RF (1990) *Red Data Birds in Britain. Action for rare, threatened and important species*. Poyser, London, for Nature Conservancy Council and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Buck, AL (ed.) (1993) *An inventory of UK estuaries. Volume 3. North-west Britain*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough
- Burd, F (1989) *The saltmarsh survey of Great Britain. An inventory of British saltmarshes*. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough (Research & Survey in Nature Conservation, No. 17)
- Covey, R (1998) *Marine Nature Conservation Review Sector 11. Liverpool Bay and the Solway Firth: area summaries*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough (Coasts and seas of the United Kingdom. MNCR series)
- Cranswick, PA, Waters, RJ, Musgrove, AJ & Pollitt, MS (1997) *The Wetland Bird Survey 1995–96: wildfowl and wader counts*. British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds & Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge
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- May, VJ & Hansom, JD (eds.) (2003) *Coastal geomorphology of Great Britain*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough (Geological Conservation Review Series, No. 28)

- McLeod, CR, Yeo, M, Brown, AE, Burn, AJ, Hopkins, JJ & Way, SF (eds.) (2004) *The Habitats Directive: selection of Special Areas of Conservation in the UK*. 2nd edn. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.
www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection
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