

Tees Protected Sites Strategy.

Tees Bay Sand Dunes Management Plan: 2025/S 000-073917

Clarifying Questions.

	Question	Response
Q1:	Has any work been done to identify and quantify the extent to which pressures affect the dune system?	Some work has been undertaken to identify and quantify the extent to which pressures affect the dunes system. This work is not complete and will need to be addressed as part of the project delivery.
Q2:	If pressures are location specific, do we have a map clearly outlining them? Maybe something like a heat map?	Some pressures are location specific. No formal mapping has been undertaken.
Q3:	How much is known about the bio-physical nature of the dunes? Has any local NGO's or universities looked into the temporal movement patterns of the dunes (if they are mobile)?	Information about the bio-physical nature of the dunes can be found in local Shoreline Management Plans. The North East Coastal Observatory deliver the Northeast Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme which includes walk-over surveys of dunes. This management plan will collate existing data into the plan and identify gaps in data/knowledge.
Q4:	Have the Tees Estuary Nature Recovery Partnership discussed the dune system in any meetings? Are there concerns across the board? What do those concerns look like? Are there plans in place already to improve or protect the dune system?	Yes. The Tees estuary NRP has discussed the dunes systems in previous meetings. Natural England has also had discussions with key landowners regarding the pressures on the dunes. There are concerns across the board, these include: climate change, storm impacts, erosion, air quality, recreational overuse. Some plans are already in place to improve or protect the dunes, however, to have these fully documented in one cohesive and comprehensive long-term management plan for the Tees Bay Dunes system will enable landowners to deliver dunes work that benefits the whole system.

Q5:	Please confirm the extent of the study extends only to the area shown in Appendix 1, and not any further east towards Saltburn by the Sea where sand dunes are also mapped?	The study includes Redcar Sands and Marske Sands only (as shown in Appendix 1 map). The study does not extend further east towards Saltburn by the Sea where sand dunes are also mapped. The study does not extend further north towards Crimdon beach where sand dunes are also mapped.
Q6:	Can a list of previous/current management plans or ecological surveys be provided for review prior to the submission deadline?	No
Q7:	Is recent hydrological or geomorphological/topographic survey data available for the sites?	LIDAR data is readily available via the Environment Agency website. No up-to-date hydrological studies are available.
Q8:	Is there a requirement to undertake updated field surveys over the course of the study to map the extent of sand dunes/dune types, or presence of protected/priority species or invasive scrub species?	Some field surveys may need to be undertaken if key data gaps are identified, however this is likely to be minimal. Extensive habitat and species data currently exists, for example, NVC vegetation maps, various species surveys, surveying data for the SSSI Conditions Assessment, and other sources.
Q9:	Please confirm what biological records/survey information Natural England holds for the study area and will be able to provide to the appointed consultant	Extensive habitat and species data is held by Natural England and other organisations (including landowners). This includes (but is not limited to) the 2024 SSSI Condition Assessment data, species surveys (for example, invertebrate surveys for condition assessment and for notification, spider surveys, butterfly surveys on Teesmouth NNR, amphibian data) and NVC Flora surveys. Natural England will be able to provide access to biological data it holds for the dunes system.
Q10:	Does Natural England have a Service Level Agreement with the local biological records centre (ERIC) which would enable transfer of data at no charge or would the appointed consultant have to purchase the data from ERIC?	Natural England does not hold a SLA with ERIC. The appointed consultant may have to purchase data from ERIC if it is not otherwise freely available.

Q11:	How many landowners/occupiers own the sand dunes in question? Please provide a plan of ownership parcels, can be anonymised at this stage.	Currently, eight landowners/occupiers of the sand dunes have been identified. A plan of ownership parcels will be provided at the start of the project.
Q12:	What level of engagement has Natural England or its partners had with the landowners regarding this management/improvement plan? Will contact details be provided to the appointed consultant?	Natural England has engaged all landowners regarding this project. Most landowners have expressed an active interest and want to be part of the project; we are expecting engagement from all landowners by the start of this project in January 2026. Contact details will be provided to the appointed consultant. Natural England can help facilitate engagement with landowners.
Q13:	What level of engagement/collaboration with the various landowners be expected from the appointed contractor/consultant during the course of the work?	The appointed consultants will work with a project steering group over the lifespan of the contract. The steering group will include landowners and land managers. It is also expected that the appointed consultant will meet with landowners at the start of the project, to present draft plan and for final discussions.
Q14:	Is any engagement with other external stakeholders required to be undertaken by the appointed contractor/consultant? If so, please provide a list of key stakeholders to be engaged.	No
Q15:	Will Natural England be able to share Ordnance Survey GIS base mapping (including MasterMap or National Geographic Database) for the project?	The Natural England team will work with Natural England's national Data Services if OS GIS base mapping is required for the project.
Q16:	Is the main focus to develop a set of interventions to restore and then maintain the extent/populations of key species/communities or is there also a requirement to develop interventions to focus on the dune habitats themselves ie increase the extent of early-succession habitats/habitat rejuvenation?	The focus is to develop a set of interventions to restore and then maintain both key species and dune habitats.

Q17:	Is there an initial list of interventions that have been identified?	Yes, an initial list of interventions has been identified. However, we want this to be reviewed as part of the development of the management. We are also seeking specific intervention recommendations for sections of the dunes that are particularly eroded.
Q18:	Is there a set format required for the management / improvement plan?	No set format is required for the management / improvement plan. However, please present your findings in a way that are readily understandable and will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide local planners with evidenced-based information to inform decision-making. • Support and enable Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) commitments and other potential investment opportunities.
Q19:	Please expand on the expectations for quantifying the economic benefits of well-functioning dune ecosystems? Could this be in the form of a literature review drawing on evidence from other studies or academic research?	The management plan would draw on relevant evidence to provide a cost-benefit analysis of the natural capital / ecosystems services provided by the dunes system at the Tees estuary.
Q20:	If required, what is the likelihood of a possible extension for the project to 31 May 2026?	There is likelihood of a possible extension until 30 th April 2026. All potential extension requests beyond this will be reviewed during contract delivery.
Q21:	Regarding potential investment opportunities our understanding that SSSI land cannot be used as BNG habitat banks. Please confirm.	SSSI land cannot be used as statutory BNG habitat banks. SSSI land can be used for Environmental Social Governance (ESG) investment and informal BNG enhancements that are in addition to statutory BNG requirements.
Q22:	Are there any word or page limits on tender returns?	No. Although please ensure that word and/or page limits are proportionate to the contract size whilst meeting the required RFQ criteria.