

Appendix D.5: Technical Report National Vegetation Classification Survey – Longhaven Cliffs SWT Nature Reserve



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TECHNICAL REPORT

NORTH CONNECT ECOLOGICAL SURVEYS LONGHAVEN CLIFFS SWT NATURE RESERVE

NATIONAL VEGETATION CLASSIFICATION SURVEY

REPORT REF: 17/048B/AFF/R01

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Tracks Ecology was commissioned by Affric Limited to undertake habitat surveys following the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) methodology across a section of the site of the North Connect scheme; a joint venture project involving the construction of a high voltage direct current (HVDC) power interconnector between Norway and the United Kingdom. For the purposes of this report the 'Site' consists of the Longhaven Cliffs Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) Nature Reserve, hereafter referred to as the 'SWT Reserve' (Figure 1).

The survey is required to support a planning application and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the onshore works and was identified as necessary following an initial extended Phase 1 survey and subsequent consultations following the scoping report.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

This ecological survey and report aims to establish the baseline distribution of habitats of the SWT Reserve by undertaking a National Vegetation Classification survey, identifying habitats to community level and producing a detailed annotated vegetation map using the Phase 1 classification to identify and map the habitats. This is supported by NVC data for communities present within each Phase 1 habitat polygon, habitat descriptions and target notes.

This survey forms a re-survey of the SWT Reserve, with the most recent survey undertaken in July 2015 by Peter Matthews on behalf of SWT (Matthews 2015). Additional historical NVC surveys of the SWT Reserve have been undertaken but these are not considered further in this report. The results of a wider NVC survey including the entire HDVC site is presented in a separate report (Tracks Ecology 2017). A comparison of the 2015 survey data and that collected as part of this survey was also undertaken.

1.3 SITE DESCRIPTION

The Site is located approximately 5km south of Peterhead, Aberdeenshire with the HVDC cable route running from the Converter Station at Fourfields (NK 120414) to beneath the coastline south of Long Haven Bay.

The SWT Reserve encompasses a narrow strip of coastline approximately two kilometers in length, from just north of Longhaven Bay (NK127407) southward to just north of North Haven Bay (NK114386). The reserve includes areas of maritime heath and grassland, cliff vegetation, scrub and grassland communities. The area has been subject to quarrying in the past, and there are several small inland rock outcrops and associated ponds. An additional area of the reserve lies inland between the coast and the A90 public road, near Longhaven. This area comprises heath, scrub and grassland vegetation and is hereafter referred to as the 'inland area'.

Also present, covering much of the SWT Reserve, are sections of the following designated sites (Figure 1).

Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast SPA

The SPA qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds for supporting an internationally important assemblage of birds during the breeding season. Species include herring gull, fulmar, guillemot, kittiwake and Eurasian shag.

Buchan Ness to Collieston SAC

The SAC supports the Annex 1 habitat Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coast. The sea cliffs support a wide range of semi-natural plant communities including maritime heath, acid peatland and brackish flushes which are now rare on the coast of north-east Scotland and this section of coastline has some of the best remaining examples.

Bullers of Buchan Coast SSSI

This SSSI comprises of sea cliffs and inshore stacks which are of special geological and biological interest. The breeding seabird colony is the largest in north-east Scotland. The sea cliffs also support a wide range of maritime plant communities with good examples of coastal dwarf-shrub heath and brackish flushes.

2 METHODOLOGY

Semi-natural habitats across the site were mapped using the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) (Rodwell, 1991a; b, 1992, 1995, 2000), and the Phase I Habitat Classification (Joint Nature Conservation Committee 2010). Habitat polygons were delineated based on the composition of NVC communities and sub-communities. Where areas were considered to comprise mosaics or complexes of different habitat communities, the proportion of each was estimated in percentage terms. Where communities do not constitute a community as described in the NVC, dominant species codes have been attributed as per Phase I Habitat Classification, to indicate the makeup of the vegetation community.

Polygons were latterly assigned a Phase I Habitat Classification, according to the relationships described in Phase I Habitat Classification. For the purposes of creating a visual representation of habitat types, the dominant Phase I Habitat Classification for each polygon is reflected.

Also, identifying the habitat community allows the habitat to be given a score appropriate to its potential dependency on groundwater as listed in the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) document Land Use Planning System (LUPS) Guidance Note 31 (Scottish Environment Protection Agency 2014).

More widely, target notes were also collected to provide an overview of the habitat types present, features of interest and to place the proposed development in the context of site.

Nomenclature for vascular plants follows Stace (2010), bryophytes and liverworts follow Atherton et al (2010) and for lichens Dobson (2011). Additional reference material in relation to species identification and habitat composition was also used (Averis *et al.* 2004; Cheffings *et al.* 2005; Hodgetts 2011; Prescott 2016). Phase 1 habitat maps were digitised using both Quantum GIS 2.16.1-Nødebo and ArcView 10.1 GIS package.

Fieldwork was carried out on the 19th-20th September 2017 by Adam Fraser (MCIEEM) an experienced habitat surveyor, familiar with the habitats of the Site.

2.1 LIMITATIONS

The surveys were undertaken within the latter part of the field survey season and as such it is possible that a number of early flowering species could be overlooked. However, taking into account the experience and skill of the surveyor this is not considered a limitation.

Much of the Site is located along the high steep cliffs. All survey work adjacent to the cliff edges was undertaken with due care and attention to health and safety with no lone working. Small areas were not safely accessible, but these could be viewed using binoculars from

suitable vantage points and combined with the use of detailed aerial imaging this did not result in any significant limitation. As a result of access issues on the cliffs, species assemblages may be under-recorded to some degree. Furthermore, the highly variable topography results in the two dimensional area calculations under-recording the habitats on steep ground.

3 RESULTS

Habitat types and NVC communities identified within the survey area have been mapped and are presented in Figures 2a-g: NVC Survey results. Table 1 lists the NVC communities identified within the SWT Reserve.

Table 1: NVC Communities present within the Site.

| Woodlands and scrub W1x Salix cinerea-Galium palustre woodland, variant sub-community W21a Crataegus monogyna-Hedera helix scrub W23a Ulex europaeus-Rubus fruticosus scrub, Anthoxanthum odoratum sub-community W24a Rubus fruticosus-Holcus lanatus underscrub, Cirsium arvense-Cirsium vulgare sub-community Mires and heaths H7c Calluna vulgaris-Scilla verna heath, Erica tetralix sub-community H7d Calluna vulgaris-Scilla verna heath, Elipetrum nigrum ssp. nigrum sub-community H7e Calluna vulgaris-Scilla verna heath, Calluna vulgaris sub-community M6a Carex echinata-Sphagnum recurvum/auriculatum mire, Carex echinata sub-community M6a Carex echinata-Sphagnum recurvum/auriculatum mire, Carex echinata sub-community M27a Filipendula ulmaria-Angelica sylvestris mire, Valeriana officinalis-Rumex acetosa sub-community M27a Filipendula ulmaria-Angelica sylvestris mire, Holcus lanatus-Juncus effusus sub-community M27c Filipendula ulmaria-Angelica sylvestris mire, Holcus lanatus-Juncus effusus sub-community M61a Arrhenatherum elatius grassland, Festuca rubra sub-community M61b Arrhenatherum elatius grassland, Festuca rubra sub-community M610a Holcus lanatus-Juncus effusus rush-pasture, typical sub-community </th <th>Code</th> <th>Community/sub-community name</th> | Code | Community/sub-community name | | | |
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| OV25b Urtica dioica-Cirsium arvense community, Rumex obtusifolius-Artemisia vulgaris | | of open habitats | | | |
| | OV25 | Urtica dioica-Cirsium arvense community | | | |
| sub-community | OV25b | Urtica dioica-Cirsium arvense community, Rumex obtusifolius-Artemisia vulgaris | | | |
| | | sub-community | | | |

| Code | Community/sub-community name |
|-------|---|
| OV27b | Epilobium angustifolium community, Urtica dioica-Cirsium arvense sub- |
| | community |

Table 2: Phase I habitat community areas.

| Habitat | Area (ha) | Area % of Total |
|---|-----------|-----------------|
| Coastal grassland | 10.77 | 29.45 |
| Maritime cliff | 10.59 | 28.97 |
| Coastal heathland | 4.24 | 11.59 |
| Marsh/marshy grassland | 2.48 | 6.78 |
| Neutral grassland - unimproved | 2.00 | 5.48 |
| Crevice/ledge vegetation | 1.67 | 4.56 |
| Scrub - continuous | 1.36 | 3.71 |
| Other tall herb and fern - non-ruderal | 1.35 | 3.69 |
| Broadleaved woodland/Scrub | 0.56 | 1.52 |
| Open water | 0.25 | 0.68 |
| Saltmarsh | 0.23 | 0.62 |
| Quarry | 0.20 | 0.54 |
| Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural | 0.18 | 0.49 |
| Shingle/gravel above high-tide mark | 0.15 | 0.40 |
| Bare ground | 0.13 | 0.36 |
| Other tall herb and fern - tall ruderal | 0.13 | 0.34 |
| Scrub - scattered | 0.12 | 0.34 |
| Rock exposure | 0.09 | 0.24 |
| Bracken - continuous | 0.04 | 0.11 |
| Bare peat | 0.03 | 0.08 |
| Scree | 0.02 | 0.04 |
| Buildings and gardens | 0.00 | 0.01 |
| Grand Total | 36.57 | 100.00 |

3.1 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTIONS

3.1.1 WOODLANDS AND SCRUB

W23a Ulex europaeus-Rubus fruticosus scrub, Anthoxanthum odoratum sub-community

Scrub communities dominated by European gorse, *Ulex europeaus* are scattered throughout coastal areas along field margins. The majority of these scrub areas are homogenous stands of gorse, with a scattering of bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and grasses sweet-vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and red fescue *Festuca rubra* at the fringes. Often stands of gorse are occupied by common rabbit *Orctyolagus cuniculus* with numerous burrows. As a result, grasses are often heavily grazed in the vicinity.

3.1.2 OTHER WOODLAND AND SCRUB COMMUNITIES

In addition to European gorse dominated scrub, scrub communities dominated by one of Hawthorn (W21 Crataegus monogyna-Hedera helix scrub) or Bramble (W23a Ulex europaeus-Rubus fruticosus scrub, Anthoxanthum odoratum sub-community or W24a Rubus fruticosus-Holcus lanatus underscrub, Cirsium arvense-Cirsium vulgare sub-community) are present within the inland section of the SWT Reserve, often in mosaic with stands of broadleaved trees or gorse scrub. Willow dominated woodland or scrub (W1 Salix cinerea-Galium palustre woodland) is also present within this area, with grey willow Salix cinerea and sometimes creeping willow Salix repens dominant.

3.1.3 MIRES AND HEATHS

H7 Calluna vulgaris-Scilla verna heath

This is the dominant heath community throughout the site, and two sub-communities are represented. The vegetation is typically short, being wind-clipped, and form rather open stands often transitional to other communities — particularly grasslands. In most cases throughout the survey area bell heather *Erica cinerea* and heather *Calluna vulgaris* were constant with crowberry *Empetrum nigrum* often co-dominant or abundant. Sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, heath grass *Danthonia decumbens*, sweet vernal grass and Yorkshire fog are commonly present. Herb species typically include ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata* with less frequent coverage of thrift, *Armeria maritima* and sea plantain *Plantago maritima*.

The H7c *Erica tetralix* sub-community is found in wetter areas of heathland across the site, typically slightly inland on deeper soils and has higher coverage of the cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris* and mat-grass *Nardus stricta*.

The H7d *Empetrum nigrum* ssp. *nigrum* sub-community is the most common across the site, found on cliff tops and edges, often in exposed conditions or on dry soils. In this sub-community crowberry can be dominant or co-dominant and typical grasses frequent. In the inland area of the SWT Reserve this community is found in pioneer form, with very short vegetation and co-dominant with early hair-grass *Aira praecox*.

The H7e *Calluna vulgaris* sub-community is an impoverished form of the community and is typically dominated by heather and sheep's fescue. This is typical of drier, flatter areas of the site often in mosaic with grassland and on rockier soils.

M27 Filipendula ulmaria-Angelica sylvestris mire, Valeriana officinalis-Rumex acetosa subcommunity

The dominant mire community present within the survey area and is dominated by meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* forming the M27a *Filipendula ulmaria*—Angelica sylvestris mire, *Valeriana officinalis-Rumex acetosa* sub-community. This community is most frequent where natural drainage flows over cliffs from vegetation communities above. Typically this vegetation is quite rich across the site, and whilst meadowsweet and wild angelica, *Angelica sylvestris* are abundant, soft rush *Juncus effusus*, marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre,m* hawk's beard *Crepis paludosa*, marsh woundwort *Stachys palustris*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, and curled dock *Rumex crispus* form a dense canopy of herbs. Marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, water mint *Mentha aquatica* and cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis* are all present within this community at varying levels of coverage. A second sub-community is present in Longhaven Bay and is grassier with higher cover of soft rush. This reflects the M27c *Holcus lanatus-Juncus effusus* sub-community.

3.1.4 OTHER HEATH AND MIRE COMMUNITIES

A small area of M6a *Carex echinata-Sphagnum fallax/denticulatum* mire is present within a wider mosaic of marshy grassland in survey area 2 – inland area. This is not considered to be a discrete community and is in mosaic with rush-pasture vegetation, noticeable only by an increased coverage of Star sedge *Carex echinata* and some *Sphagna*.

3.1.5 GRASSLAND AND MONTANE COMMUNITIES

MG1 Arrhenatherum elatius grassland

This grassland community is generally present in mosaic with other grassland and tall-ruderal communities and is present throughout the survey area, typically at field edges and in some open areas co-dominant or transitional with other communities. False oat-grass Arrhenatherum elatius and cock's foot Dactylis glomerata are the dominant graminoids and the community is present as both grassy form, with other grass species-co-dominant, and a weedy form, with common nettle and hogweed Heracleum sphondylium frequent in the sward. These communities tend to be ungrazed but occasionally MG1 grasslands are transitional to semi-improved MG6 Lolium perenne-Cynosurus cristatus grassland at the fringes of some arable fields.

MG5a Cynosurus cristatus-Centaurea nigra grassland Lathyrus pratensis sub-community

This community is frequent in the zone between agricultural field systems and coastal grassland or heathland communities. It frequently forms transitional or co-dominant communities with other grasslands. However, commonly the community is reflected by high abundance of red fescue, crested dog's-tail, common bent, sweet-vernal grass and cock's foot. Ribwort plantain is generally frequent along with red clover *Trifolium pretense*, knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris* and yarrow *Achillea millefolium*. In the sub-community reflected across the site, patchy coverage of meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis* and bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* is common. Meadowsweet is also present at low coverage and often the grassland community transitions to M27 mire communities where there is a higher water table.

MG10 Holcus lanatus-Juncus effusus rush-pasture

MG10 rush-pastures are frequent in damper ungrazed fields and around areas of open water. Here soft rush is co-dominant with Yorkshire-fog, with varying abundance of meadow buttercup, common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, creeping buttercup, white clover *Trifolium repens*, ribwort plantain and field thistle *Cirsium arvense*.

U17x Luzula sylvatica-Geum rivale tall-herb community, variant sub-community

On cliffs along the coast, particularly to the north of the SWT Reserve, stands of greater woodrush *Luzula sylvatica* are frequent, often punctuated by abundant lady fern *Athyrium filix-femina*, male fern *Dryopteris filix-mas* and scaly male-fern *Dryopteris affinis* agg. Wild angelica is occasional through the sward and primrose *Primula vulgaris* and roseroot *Sedum rosea* are notable, but scarce, within a scattered sward on steeper slopes.

U20 Pteridium aquilinum-Galium saxatile community, Anthoxanthum odoratum sub-community

Small stands of this habitat are present within the SWT Reserve and where present bracken is dominant with few other species present.

3.1.6 OTHER GRASSLAND COMMUNITIES

Other grassland communities are infrequent within the survey area but small areas dominated by certain species heath-rush (U6 *Juncus squarrosus-Festuca ovina* grassland, *Vaccinium myrtillus* sub-community) and silverweed (MG11 Festuca rubra-Agrostis stolonifera-Potentilla anserina grassland), reflect transitions to other grassland communities which are not fully reflected as discrete communities.

3.1.7 AQUATIC COMMUNITIES

True aquatic communities are not present within the survey area, however a small area within an area of marshy grassland within the inland area of the SWT Reserve was dominated by bulbous rush loosely reflects the A24 *Juncus bulbosus* community.

3.1.8 MARITIME COMMUNITIES

MC8 Festuca rubra-Armeria maritima maritime grassland

This grassland community is present along the very edge of cliffs, forming a low, closed sward with a thick mat of red fescue, thrift, sea plantain, and creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*. Generally, these grasslands are species poor and reflect the typical sub-community. On steeper cliffs and ledges increased cover of thrift along with Scot's lovage *Ligusticum scoticum* and Yorkshire fog reflects a transition to the M8c *Ligusticum scoticum* sub-community. In NVC mapping areas with higher coverage of bare rock and the MC8c sub-community have been mapped as crevice/ledge vegetation to reflect the increased fragmentation of the community on steeper cliffs and ledges. A third sub-community is present in small amounts in Longhaven Bay, with higher coverage of Yorkshire fog in the sward and reflects the M8d *Holcus lanatus* sub-community.

MC9 Festuca rubra-Holcus lanatus maritime grassland

This coastal grassland community is frequent in the zone between the neutral grasslands and coastal heaths that typically occupy higher cliff tops and ledges and the species-poor MC8 maritime grasslands. All MC9 maritime grasslands present within the survey area have been classified as being of the *Anthoxanthum odoratum* sub-community but the sub-community itself is very variable. Thrift is present at low coverage, if at all and grasses tend to dominate with common sorrel, tormentil, bird's-foot trefoil, meadow buttercup frequent in the sward at varying coverage. Occasionally there is cover of crowberry and the community often forms mosaics with coastal heathland H7 communities. Additionally, the community is found within field boundaries and is often transitional to either semi-improved grasslands or to poorly drained rush-pastures.

3.1.9 SALTMARSH COMMUNITIES

Small brackish slacks and flushed areas reflect some forms of saltmarsh. None present within the survey area are fully described within the NVC and as such have been accorded coding SMx, SMy and SMz. The first, SMx is dominated by common saltmarsh grass *Puccinellia maritima* and little else bar some bare earth and stands of pooled water. The second and third SMy and SMx are found in mosaic at the very southern end of the SWT Reserve. SMy is dominated by common cotton-grass *Eriophorum angustifolium* and saltmarsh rush *Juncus gerardii*, whilst the second SMz is dominated by common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*. In this area marsh pennywort, grass of parnassus *Parnassia palustris* and wild angelica are frequent and sea arrowgrass *Triglochin maritima* is also present.

3.1.10 VEGETATION OF OPEN HABITATS

OV25 Urtica dioica-Cirsium arvense community

This is the most common community within the survey area, present at woodland and field boundaries, along drainage channels, verges and occasionally as larger stands in open areas. The community is dominated by the two constants – common nettle and field thistle – and the most frequent *Rumex obtusifolius-Artemesia vulgaris* sub-community throughout the survey area has higher cover of cock's foot, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius* and hogweed. This second sub-community frequently transitions to MG1 neutral grassland

communities where common nettle and field thistle become less dominant than constituent grasses.

OV27 Chamerion angustifolium community

Open habitat communities dominated by rosebay willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium* are frequent throughout the survey area and are typically dominated by the community constant in mosaic with common nettle, field thistle, cock's foot, Yorkshire-fog and tufted hair-grass.

3.1.11 OTHER COMMUNITIES

A number of communities recorded do not fit with those described in NVC. Typically, these communities are fragmented woodlands where only one or two tree species may be present, or where trees have been planted and species composition does not reflect semi-natural vegetation. In all cases the dominant vegetation type or species code has been annotated within NVC data provided below. Arable fields which have been cut for silage are not recorded to NVC level.

3.2 COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

The survey undertaken for the purposes of this report in part updates a survey of SWT Reserve undertaken by Peter Matthews in July 2015. Comparison of the two surveys shows no major differences in classification and location mapping of recorded vegetation communities.

There are minor differences in the survey approach between the two time periods, with the survey undertaken for this report providing more detail by way of recording NVC mosaic proportions for each mapped polygon and aiming to map smaller community polygons (eg. M27 *Filipendula ulmaria-Angelica sylvestris* mires, referenced but not mapped in the 2015 survey).

An additional difference in approach is in those communities poorly or not described in the NVC. Within this current survey, attempt has been made to describe the communities and loosely attribute them to broader NVC groups or communities, providing variant community codes to illustrate their unique attributes. In the 2015 survey each polygon was attributed an NVC code according to the 'best-fit' or most likely community. An example of this is the area of saltmarsh to the very south of the SWT Reserve. In this current survey there have been three communities identified, none of which are described in NVC – SMx, SMy and SMz, whilst in the 2015 survey these were attributed to SM16 and SD17 communities.

Lastly, surveys were completed at different times of the year (September 2017 and July 2015) and as such species lists compiled vary slightly with a handful of species 'missing' from either survey.

Overall, it is considered that the surveys complement each other and are not contradictory to any significant degree. This is not unexpected as the separation of the field surveys is only two years. Differences in total area of each habitat will be present due to the minor variations in mapping habitats at this scale and any small differences should not necessarily be attributed to change in habitat distribution. A summary of differences between surveys has been outlined in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary of survey comparisons

| Community ID/Species ID | July 2015 NVC survey | September 2017 NVC survey | |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|
| M27 | Filipendula ulmaria-Angelica sylvestris mires recorded | Filipendula ulmaria-Angela recorded as mosaics where | • |
| Saltmarsh Communities | SM16 and SM17 recorded in south of reserve. | At the same location (TN10 assigned to three non NVC and SMz to provide bett habitats. | categories: SMx, SMy |
| Species | Species present but not identified during 2017: | Species present but not ider | ntified during 2015: |
| | Anthyllis vulneraria Carex nigra Carex viridula Dactylorhiza sp. (hybrid) Geranium pratense Hypericum perforatum Koeleria macrantha Leondoton autumnalis Rosa spinosissima Sonchus arvensis Trientalis europaea Vicia sativa | Anemone nemorosa Arctium minus Callitriche stagnalis Caltha palustris Cardamine pratensis Carex demissa Carex echinata Carex leporina Centaurea nigra Cerastium glomeratum Chamerion angustifolium Cirsium arvense Conopodium majus Cortaderia selloana Cotoneaster sp. Crataegus monogyna Crepis capillaris Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora Digitalis purpurea Dryopteris affinis Epilobium montanum Equisetum palustre Glyceria fluitans Hieracium agg. | Hypericum pulchrum Juncus bufonius Leucanthemum vulgare Lolium perenne Lonicera periclymenum Matricaria discoidea Plantago major Poa humilis Potamogeton polygonifolius Prunus spinosa Quercus sp. Rosa canina Salix aurita Salix caprea Salix cinerea Scorzoneroides autumnalis Senecio vulgaris Stellaria alsine Trifolium medium Viola palustris |

4 CONSERVATION EVALUATION

Conservation interest within the site is defined as:

- A habitat or species listed on the EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/32/EEC), the EU Habitats Directive;
- A habitat forming a qualifying feature of a site designated for habitat and/or fauna and flora interests under the EU Habitats Directive;
- A habitat and/or species forming a qualifying feature of national or local designations (eg. Sites of Special Scientific Interest);
- A habitat and/or species listed on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and Scottish Biodiversity List; and

• A species listed on its relevant UK red data list as being vulnerable to or under threat.

The following vegetation communities recorded within the site are identified as of conservation interest:

- MC8 Festuca rubra-Armeria maritima maritime grassland TN13 Figure 2c and Figure 4
- MC9 Festuca rubra-Holcus lanatus maritime grassland Figure 4
- H7 Calluna vulgaris-Scilla verna heath Figure 4

All three communities are listed under Annex 1 habitat type H1230: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts. All three communities also form component parts of Maritime cliff and slope vegetation, listed under UK BAP and Scottish Biodiversity List priority habitats.

No individual flowering or lower plant species of conservation concern were recorded i.e., rare, threatened, or nationally scarce conservation status.

4.1 NON-NATIVE AND INVASIVE SPECIES

Three non-native species were recorded within the Site:

- Monbretia, Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora TN14 Figure 2b and Figure 4
- Pampas grass, Cortaderia selloana TN12 Figure 2b and Figure 4
- Cotoneaster, Cotoneaster sp. TN15 Figure 2b and Figure 4

No species were recorded that are listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside act 1981 (as amended) (where relevant to Scotland), which makes it an offence to release or spread any plant or animal that is identified as a potential threat to native biodiversity. Species listed on Schedule 9 may not be released or introduced without a license, allowed to escape into the wild, or caused to be spread in the wild. No species were recorded within the survey area identified as invasive 'alien' species on the Water Framework Directive alien species list or on the Scottish Natural Heritage Species Action Framework as being target species for management to limit their spread. As a result, based on the survey findings no specific action in relation non-native species is likely to be required, although the spread of non-natives, not identified on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act should also be avoided.

4.2 GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

Habitat classifications in line with current guidance (Scottish Environment Protection Agency 2014) are detailed in Figures 3a-g. Only a single habitat which is recognized as being potentially highly dependent on groundwater (Scottish Environment Protection Agency 2014) is U17 *Luzula sylvatica-Geum rivale* tall-herb community. This community is located along the cliffs and is not located further inland. The community tends to develop where there is protection from grazing and burning with more base-rich and mesotrophic soils and a degree of dampness which results in the community being identified as potentially dependent on groundwater. These communities are likely to have some influence from base-rich water present where soils become thin on the cliff tops but significant influence from groundwater at these locations is assessed as unlikely although in some locations surface water flow is likely to influence the habitats distribution.

4.3 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

It is considered that the proposed development will not directly impact on sensitive habitats or habitats dependent on the integrity of hydrological systems within the SWT Reserve. All works within this area will be subterranean and at a significant depth beneath the SWT

Reserve with no permanent alterations to land within or immediately adjacent to the SWT Reserve proposed.

However, if construction activities are required for the purpose of surveying or temporary access then potential impacts on habitats from the proposed development include the following:

- Temporary direct habitat loss and fragmentation of habitat as a result of installation of temporary access and use of laydown/working areas;
- Construction-related effects: pollution from materials used or generated from the construction phase have potential to enter hydrological features (inclusive of artificial drainage); and
- Alteration to site hydrology through installation of permanent structures outwith the area and temporary infrastructure.
- Potential for impacts on groundwater due to horizontal directional drilling.

Proposed mitigation should include the following:

- Vehicular access to be restricted, avoiding streams, mires, flushes and soaks where possible;
- Where possible, temporary access shall be 'floated' over sensitive habitats (streams, mires, flushes and soaks) to minimise disruption to hydrology, soil structure and vegetative material;
- Access and working areas adjacent to watercourses should be set back from banks by a minimum distance of 10 m (Scottish Environment Protection Agency 2007, 2012);
- Appropriate protective measures (fencing and signage) should be installed to ensure
 the banks and inundation zone of watercourses are kept free from litter, dust and
 debris;
- No permanent or temporary storage of materials should be undertaken within the SWT Reserve.
- The extent of all excavations across the development should be kept to a minimum and during construction activities, surface water flows should be captured through a series of cut off drains to prevent water entering excavations or eroding exposed surfaces. If dewatering of excavations is required, pumped discharges should be passed through silt/sediment control measures and directed towards least sensitive habitats;
- Pipes/culverts should be specified where required to manage and control all watercourses across the site, employed according to SEPA guidelines, with care taken to minimise disturbance to bed and banks of watercourses; and
- Although impacts on the GWDTEs is assessed to be unlikely due to the distance of highly or moderately/highly dependent ecosystems from the proposed surface works, it is recommended that appropriate hydro-geological assessments are undertaken with respect to impacts on groundwater from the horizontal directional drilling.

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APPENDIX A: NVC POLYGON DATA

| ID | NVC Community and % | Phase 1 Community | GWDTE | Comment |
|----|---|---|----------|--|
| 1 | MG10a 75: MG1a 15: | Marsh/marshy grassland | Moderate | Comment |
| 1 | OV27b 10 | | Moderate | |
| 2 | MG1a 40: OV27b 40: W23a 10: W24a 8: MG10a 2 | Other tall herb and fern - tall ruderal | Low | Mosaic with frequent Cha |
| 3 | W24a 40: OV27b 20: MG10a 20: Ag 10: W23a 10 | Scrub - scattered | Low | Mosaic of scrub and tall herb and fern |
| 4 | MG10a 100 | Marsh/marshy grassland | Moderate | |
| 5 | W23a 80: W24 20 | Scrub - continuous | Low | |
| 6 | MC9e 100 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 7 | A1.1 100 | Broadleaved woodland/Scrub | Low | Mosaic of planted broadleaves and seminatural scrub woodland. Ag dominant. |
| 8 | SMy 90: SMz 10 | Saltmarsh | Low | Area dominated by Eriophorum angustifolium, Juncus gerardii |
| 9 | H7e 100 | Coastal heathland | Low | Pioneer phase heath |
| 10 | MG5a 100 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 11 | SMz 75: SMy 25 | Saltmarsh | Low | Area dominated by Eleocharis palustris, Juncus gerardii, Hydrocotlye vulgaris |
| 12 | H7d 88: MG10a 6: W23a 6 | Coastal heathland | Low | Grassy heath, with pioneer Cv, En |
| 13 | Ag 50: W21 50 | Scrub - continuous | Low | Mosaic of Ag and Cm scrub |
| 14 | H7e 65: H7d 30: MC9e 5 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 15 | H7d 100 | Coastal heathland | Low | Pioneer phase heath |
| 16 | W24a 40: W23a 30: OV27b 20: MG10a 10 | Scrub - continuous | Low | Mosaic of scrub communities and tall herb and fern communities |
| 17 | W23a 90: MG10a 5: MG5a 5 | Scrub - continuous | Low | Ue |
| 18 | W1x 100 | Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural | Moderate | Sxci |
| 19 | OV27b 60: MG10a 20: W1x 20 | Other tall herb and fern - tall ruderal | Low | |
| 20 | MG10a 70: A24x 30 | Marsh/marshy grassland | Low | Juncus bulbosus dominated |
| 21 | Ag 100 | Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural | Low | Ag dominated woodland cover |
| 22 | H7d 100 | Coastal heathland | Low | Transitional to grassland, with Crc, Ao, Ju, As in sward and pioneer heath |
| 23 | W23a 100 | Scrub - continuous | Low | Ue |
| 24 | Bare rock 60: H7d 40 | Coastal heathland | Low | Heath amongst scatttered boulders |

| 25 | J4 100 | Bare ground | Low | Access track |
|----------------|--|---|-------------------|---|
| 26 | Mc9e 100 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 27 | H7e 70: H7d 22: MC9e 8 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 28 | H7d 75: MGx 25 | Coastal heathland | Low | En dominant, with mosaic of grasses |
| 29 | H7d 100 | Coastal heathland | Low | Pioneer phase heath |
| 30 | MC9e 90: H7d 10 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 31 | MG10a 70:U6 10:W1x 4: M6a 4:H7d 4:MG11 4: W23a 4 | Marsh/marshy grassland | Moderate | |
| 32 | MC9e 96: H7d 2: Bare rock 2 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 33 | H7d 90: MG10a 10 | Coastal heathland | Low | Grassy heath, with pioneer Cv, En |
| 34 | H7d 75: MGx 25 | Coastal heathland | Low | En dominant, with mosaic of grasses |
| 35 | W23a 100 | Scrub - continuous | Low | Ue |
| 36 | H7d 100 | Coastal heathland | Low | Pioneer phase heath |
| 37 | MG1b 80: MG10a 20 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 38 | Ag 55: Sxc 15: W21 10: W24a 10: W23a 10 | Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural | Low | Ag, Sxc, Cm dominated scrub woodland |
| 39 | MG1a 70: OV27b 30 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 40 | W21 100 | Scrub - continuous | Low | Domianted by Cm |
| 41 | W23a 100 | Scrub - continuous | Low | |
| 42 | MG5a 75: MG10a 20: MG1b 5 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 43 | MG10a 80: MG5a 20 | Marsh/marshy grassland | Moderate | |
| 44 | Bare peat 65: H7d 30: MC9e 5 | Bare peat | Low | Eroded peats exposed |
| 45 | Bare rock 100 | Maritime cliff | Low | |
| 46 | H7d 80: MC9e 20 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 47 | MG10a 55: MG1b 30: OV27b 15 | Marsh/marshy grassland | Moderate | |
| 48 | H7d 65: MG10a 20: MG1b 15 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 49 | J4 100 | Bare ground | Low | Access track |
| 50 | SMx | Saltmarsh | Low | Brackish slack dominated by <i>Puccinellia maritima</i> |
| 51 | H7d 65: MC9e 35 | Coastal heathland | Low | Mosaic of heath and grass communities |
| 52 | | | | |
| F 2 | MC9e 90: H7d 10 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 53 | MC9e 90: H7d 10 MC9e 100 | Coastal grassland Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 54 | | | | |
| | MC9e 100 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 54 | MC9e 100 H7d 100 MC8a 70: Bare rock 26: | Coastal grassland Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 54 55 | MC9e 100 H7d 100 MC8a 70: Bare rock 26: MC8c 4 | Coastal grassland Coastal heathland Coastal grassland | Low Low | |
| 54 55 56 | MC9e 100 H7d 100 MC8a 70: Bare rock 26: MC8c 4 H7e 78: MC9e 22 | Coastal grassland Coastal heathland Coastal grassland Coastal heathland | Low Low Low | |

| 60 | MC9e 85: H7d 10: MG5a 5 | Coastal grassland | Low | Overgrown track within polygon |
|----|---|-----------------------------------|----------|---|
| 61 | Bare rock 100 | Maritime cliff | Low | |
| 62 | MC9e 96: Bare rock 4 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 63 | MC8a 55: Bare rock 35: MC8c 10 | Crevice/ledge vegetation | Low | |
| 64 | Bare rock 50: MC8a 20: H7d 15: W23a 15 | Rock exposure | Low | |
| 65 | MC8a 75: Bare rock 25 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 66 | W23a 100 | Scrub - continuous | Low | Ue |
| 67 | H7e 66: MC9e 34 | Coastal heathland | Low | Mosaic of heath and grassland communities |
| 68 | G1 | Open water | n/a | |
| 69 | Bare rock 90: MC8c 8: MC8a 2 | Maritime cliff | Low | |
| 70 | MC8a 60: Bare rock 30: MC8c 10 | Crevice/ledge vegetation | Low | |
| 71 | MG5a 72: MC9e 20: H7d 8 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 72 | Mc8a 70: MC8c 20: Bare rock 10 | Crevice/ledge vegetation | Low | |
| 73 | W23a 100 | Scrub - continuous | Low | |
| 74 | MC8a 70: Bare rock 30 | Crevice/ledge vegetation | Low | |
| 75 | H7d 86: W23a 8: MC8a 6 | Coastal heathland | Low | Scattered Ue |
| 76 | Bare rock 90: MC8c 8: MC8a 2 | Maritime cliff | Low | |
| 77 | H7e 100 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 78 | MC9e 100 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 79 | Bare rock 100 | Quarry | Low | |
| 80 | MC9e 65: MG5a 25: MC8a 10 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 81 | H7d 100 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 82 | H7e 65: H7d 20: W23a 10: Bare rock 5 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 83 | MC9e 78: H7e 22 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 84 | MG5a 65: MC9e 35 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 85 | M27a 100 | Marsh/marshy grassland | Moderate | Scattered Tff |
| 36 | Bare rock 100 | Maritime cliff | Low | |
| 87 | H7e 80: MC9e 20 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 88 | H7d 100 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 89 | H7d 72: MC8a 28 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 90 | Bare rock 90: MC8a 10 | Quarry | Low | |
| 91 | MC8a 85: H7d 15 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 92 | Bare rock 100 | Maritime cliff | Low | |
| 93 | MC8a 66: H7d 20: MC8c 14 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 94 | M27a 90: MC8a 10 | Marsh/marshy grassland | Moderate | |
| | | | | |
| 95 | H7e 75: H7d 20: MG5 5 | Coastal heathland | Low | |

| 97 | MC8a 100 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
|-----|--|---|------------|---|
| 98 | M27a 100 | Marsh/marshy grassland | Moderate | |
| 99 | MG5a 90: MC8a 10 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 100 | H7d 100 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 101 | H7d 60: U17x 25: MC8a 15 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 102 | H7d 75: U17x 25 | Coastal heathland | Low | Scattered patches of Ls |
| 103 | Mc8a 70: H7e 20: H7d 10 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 104 | Bare rock 100 | Maritime cliff | Low | |
| 105 | H7d 100 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 106 | Bare rock 100 | Maritime cliff | Low | |
| 107 | H7d 100 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 108 | MG5a 100 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 109 | H7d 100 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 110 | MC8a 100 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 111 | M27a 100 | Marsh/marshy grassland | Moderate | |
| 112 | MC8a 100 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 113 | OV25b 70: J3.6 30 | Other tall herb and fern - tall ruderal | Low | Ruin covered in Ud dominated vegetation |
| 114 | MC8a 55: MC8c 20: H7d 20: Bare rock 5 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 115 | MG5a 80: M27a 20 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low-modera | ate |
| 116 | W23a 100 | Scrub - continuous | Low | |
| 117 | MC8a 75: MG5a 15: M27b 10 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 118 | W23a 100 | Scrub - continuous | Low | |
| 119 | MG5a 90: M27a 10 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 120 | MG5a 90: MC8a 10 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 121 | Mc8a 70: MC8c20: Bare rock 10 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 122 | U17x 100 | Other tall herb and fern - non-ruderal | High | Dominated by Ls |
| 123 | W23a 100 | Scrub - continuous | Low | |
| 124 | MC8a 100 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 125 | MC8a 90: MG5a 10 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 126 | MG5a 70: MG11 30 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | High cover Pans |
| 127 | MG5a 100 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 128 | U17x 70: M27a 15: MG5a 8: MC8a 7 | Other tall herb and fern - non-ruderal | High | Dominated by Ls/Aff |
| 129 | MG5a 100 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 130 | U17x 60: MC8a 20: MG5a 18: M27b 2 | Other tall herb and fern - non-ruderal | High | Dominated by Ls |
| | | | | |

| 131 | W23a 100 | Scrub - continuous | Low | |
|-----|--|---|----------|--|
| 132 | U17x 100 | Other tall herb and fern - non-ruderal | High | Dominated by Ls |
| 133 | M27a 65: M27c 35 | Marsh/marshy grassland | Moderate | |
| 134 | MC8a 100 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 135 | MG5a 90: M9e 10 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 136 | MC8a 85: Dr 15 | Coastal grassland | Low | Stand of <i>Dryopteris affinis</i> |
| 137 | MC9e 100 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 138 | MG5a 100 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 139 | M27a 65: U17x 20: Bare rock 15 | Marsh/marshy grassland | Moderate | |
| 140 | W23a 100 | Scrub - continuous | Low | |
| 141 | Bare rock 50: W23a 30: MC8a 10: U17x 10 | Quarry | Low | Wall of quarry |
| 142 | MC8a 78: Bare rock 22 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 143 | M27a 100 | Marsh/marshy grassland | Moderate | |
| 144 | MG5a 65: MC9e 35 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 145 | W23a 100 | Scrub - continuous | Low | |
| 146 | MC8a 92: U17x 8 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 147 | U17x 100 | Other tall herb and fern - non-ruderal | High | Dominated by Ls |
| 148 | M27a 100 | Marsh/marshy grassland | Moderate | Dominated by Caltha palustris, Hydrocotyle vulgaris |
| 149 | MC9e 80: M27a 20 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 150 | W23a 100 | Scrub - continuous | Low | |
| 151 | G1 | Open water | n/a | |
| 152 | M27a 100 | Marsh/marshy grassland | Moderate | |
| 153 | M27a 100 | Marsh/marshy grassland | Moderate | Dominated by <i>Crepis</i> paludosa, Stachys palustris |
| 154 | MC8d 100 | Coastal grassland | Low | High % cover HI |
| 155 | OV27b 100 | Other tall herb and fern - tall ruderal | Low | |
| 156 | MG5a 80: MC9e 20 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 157 | OV25b 100 | Other tall herb and fern - tall ruderal | Low | Dominated by Ud |
| 158 | Bare rock 100 | Maritime cliff | Low | |
| 159 | MG5a 60: MG11 40 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | High % cover Crc and Pans |
| 160 | Mc8a 60: MC9e 30: MC8d 10 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 161 | 11.2.1 100 | Scree | Low | Artificial scree from quarrying |
| 162 | MC8a 100 | Coastal grassland | Low | -1 10 |
| 163 | MG5a 90: MC9e 10 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| | | | | |

| 164 | MC8a 65: H7d 20: Bare rock 15 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|---|----------|--|
| 165 | U17x 80: MC8a 20 | Other tall herb and fern - non-ruderal | High | Domianted by Ls |
| 166 | MG5a 60: W23a 15: H7c 15: U17x 10 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | Mosaic of grassland and other heath/scrub habitats |
| 167 | H7d 100 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 168 | H7d 70: U17x 20: M27a 10 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 169 | Bare rock 100 | Shingle/gravel above hightide mark | Low | |
| 170 | H7c 70: H7d 25: MG5a 5 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 171 | H7d 100 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 172 | W23a 85: MG5a 15 | Scrub - continuous | Low | |
| 173 | MC9e 90: MC8a 10 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 174 | MG5a 100 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 175 | U17x 100 | Other tall herb and fern - non-ruderal | High | Dominated by Ls/Aff |
| 176 | U17x 75: M27a 15: MC9e 10 | Other tall herb and fern - non-ruderal | Low | Dominated by Ls/Aff |
| 177 | MC8a | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 178 | M27a 100 | Marsh/marshy grassland | Moderate | |
| 179 | H7d 100 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 180 | MC8a 65: MC8c 25: Bare rock 10 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 181 | MG5a 70: SMx 20: H7c 10 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | Area dominated by MG5a with brackish slacks domianted by Juncus bulbosus, Puccinellia maritima, Carex flacca |
| 182 | U17x 100 | Other tall herb and fern - non-ruderal | High | Dominated by Ls/Aff |
| 183 | U17x 100 | Other tall herb and fern - non-ruderal | High | Dominated by Ls |
| 184 | W23a 100 | Scrub - continuous | Low | Ue |
| 185 | H7d 100 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 186 | W23a 100 | Scrub - continuous | Low | Ue |
| 187 | MC8a | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 188 | MC8a 100 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 189 | MG5a 80: U20a 20 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | Scattered Pt |
| 190 | MC8a 40: Bare rock 40: H7e 20 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 191 | J3.6 100 | Buildings and gardens | n/a | Ruin |
| 192 | MG5a 100 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 193 | U17x 100 | Other tall herb and fern - | High | Dominated by Ls |
| 193 | | non-ruderal | | |

| 195 | MC8a 100 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
|-----|---|---|----------|--|
| 196 | W23a 100 | Scrub - continuous | Low | |
| 197 | U17x 80: M27a 20 | Other tall herb and fern - non-ruderal | High | Dominated by Ls/Aff |
| 198 | MC9e 90: SMx 10 | Coastal grassland | Low | Area dominated by coastal grassland with brackish slacks dominated by Puccinellia maritima |
| 199 | H7 90: Puc 10 | Coastal heathland | Low | Vegetation domianted by Puccinellia maritima and Carex flacca |
| 200 | Bare rock 100 | Maritime cliff | Low | |
| 201 | MG5a 100 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | |
| 202 | MC9e 65: MC8a 20: H7d 10: MG5a 5 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 203 | H7d 65: MC9e 20: Ros 15 | Coastal heathland | Low | Scattered Rosa canina |
| 204 | Bare rock 80: MC8a/c 10 U17x 10 | Maritime cliff | Low | Some crevice/ledge vegetation |
| 205 | H7d 90: MG5a 10 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 206 | MC8a 80: U17x 10: H7d 8: Bare rock 2 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 207 | M27a 80: MG5a 20 | Marsh/marshy grassland | Moderate | |
| 208 | U17x 75: MC9e 20: MC8a 5 | Other tall herb and fern - non-ruderal | High | |
| 209 | MC8a 78: Bare rock 22 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 210 | MC8a 60: MC8c 20: Bare rock 20 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 211 | U17x 100 | Other tall herb and fern - non-ruderal | High | Dominated by Ls |
| 212 | MC8a 75: MC9e 25 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 213 | Mc9e 100 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 214 | U17x 88: H7d 12 | Other tall herb and fern - non-ruderal | High | Dominated by Ls |
| 215 | MC8a 88: Bare rock 12 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 216 | H7d 100 | Coastal heathland | Low | |
| 217 | MC9e 85: MC9a 12 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 218 | MC8a 75: H7d 15: Bare rock 10 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 219 | MC8a 60: Bare rock 40 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 220 | MC8a 90: MC8c 10 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 221 | W23a 80: MC8a 20 | Scrub - continuous | Low | |
| 222 | Bare rock 100 | Maritime cliff | Low | |
| 223 | W23a 100 | Scrub - continuous | Low | Ue |
| 224 | MG5a 80: MC8a 20 | Neutral grassland - unimproved | Low | Bank of MC8a runs through grassland area |
| 225 | MC9e 90: MC8a 10 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 226 | MC9e 100 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| 227 | MC9e 100 | Coastal grassland | Low | |
| | | Maritime cliff | Low | |

| 229 | MC8a 100 | Coastal grassland | Low |
|-----|---|--------------------------|-----|
| 230 | MC8a 75: Bare rock 25 | Coastal grassland | Low |
| 231 | MC8a 66: Bare rock 24: MC8c 10 | Crevice/ledge vegetation | Low |
| 232 | MC8e 80: MC9e 20 | Coastal grassland | Low |
| 233 | U20c 100 | Bracken - continuous | Low |
| 234 | MC9e 90: MC8a 10 | Coastal grassland | Low |
| 235 | U20c 100 | Bracken - continuous | Low |
| 236 | MC8a 88: Bare rock 12 | Coastal grassland | Low |
| 237 | MC9e 86: MC8a 14 | Coastal grassland | Low |
| 238 | MC8a 85: Bare rock 15 | Coastal grassland | Low |
| 239 | Bare rock 100 | Maritime cliff | Low |
| 240 | Bare rock 100 | Maritime cliff | Low |
| 241 | MC8c 65: Bare rock 25: MC8a 10 | Crevice/ledge vegetation | Low |
| 242 | H7d 100 | Coastal heathland | Low |
| 243 | MC8a 95: Bare rock 5 | Coastal grassland | Low |
| 244 | MC8a 55: Bare rock 20: MC9e 20: MC8c 5 | Coastal grassland | Low |
| 245 | MC9e 90: MC8a 10 | Coastal grassland | Low |
| 246 | Bare rock 100 | Maritime cliff | Low |
| 247 | MC8a 70: H7d 25: U17x 5 | Coastal grassland | Low |
| 248 | MC8a 70: MC8c 15: Bare rock 15 | Crevice/ledge vegetation | Low |
| 249 | MC9e 70: MC8a 15: H7d 10: MG5a 5 | Coastal grassland | Low |
| 250 | MC8c 40: MC8a 30: Bare rock 30 | Crevice/ledge vegetation | Low |
| 251 | MC9e 100 | Coastal grassland | Low |
| 252 | MC8a 70: MC8c 15: Bare rock 15 | Crevice/ledge vegetation | Low |
| 253 | Bare rock 90: MC8c 10 | Maritime cliff | Low |
| 254 | Bare rock 100 | Maritime cliff | Low |

| Abbreviation | Species | Common name |
|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Aff | Athyrium filix-femina | Lady fern |
| Ag | Alnus glutinosa | Alder |
| Ao | Anthoxanthum odoratum | Sweet-vernal grass |
| As | Angelica sylvestris | Wild angelica |
| Car | Cirsium arvense | Field thistle |
| Cha | Chamerion angustifolium | Rosebay willowherb |
| Cm | Crataegus monogyna | Hawthorn |
| Crc | Crepis capillaris | Smooth hawk's-beard |
| Cv | Calluna vulgaris | Heather |
| Cxn | Carex nigra | Common sedge |
| En | Empetrum nigrum | Crowberry |
| | | |

| Je | Juncus effusus | Soft rush |
|-----|-----------------------|--------------|
| Ju | Juncus sp(p) | Rush species |
| Lpc | Lonicera periclymenum | Honeysuckle |

Ls Luzula sylvatica Greater woodrush

PansPotentilla anserinaSilverweedPtPteridium aquilinumBrackenSxcSalix capreaGoat willowSxciSalix cinereaGrey willowTffTussilago farfaraColt's foot

UdUrtica dioicaCommon nettleUeUlex europaeusEuropean gorse

APPENDIX B: TARGET NOTES

| Target Note | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|-------------|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | NK | 11900 | 40384 |
| 2 | NK | 12019 | 40368 |
| 3 | NK | 12023 | 40340 |
| 4 | NK | 12013 | 40382 |
| 5 | NK | 12069 | 40301 |
| 6 | NK | 12079 | 40128 |
| 7 | NK | 12021 | 40132 |
| 8 | NK | 12111 | 39691 |
| 9 | NK | 11496 | 38791 |
| 10 | NK | 11340 | 38702 |
| 11 | NK | 11417 | 39739 |
| 12 | NK | 11396 | 39886 |
| 13 | NK | 11467 | 39810 |
| 14 | NK | 11875 | 40373 |
| 15 | NK | 11451 | 39656 |



Target Note 1: Large expanse of M27 *Fillipendula ulmaria-Angelica sylvestris* tall-herb fen running downslope to Longhaven Bay. In upper areas the sward is dominated by a thick cover of meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, soft rush *Juncus effusus*, wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris* and grassy species including Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*. Further downslope the sward becomes less grassy and more herb-rich with marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*, marsh hawksbeard *Crepis paludosa*, marsh woundwort *Stachys palustris* and marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre*.



Target Note 2: As ground flattens above Longhaven Bay wetter areas dominated by wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris* and meadowsweet *Fililpendula ulmaria* have a more open sward with abundant marsh hawksbeard *Crepis paludosa*, marshy pennywort *Hydrocotlye vulgaris* and water mint *Mentha aquatica*.



Target Note 3: Steep, wet cliffs in Longhaven Bay have scattered roseroot *Sedum rosea* amongst stands of greater woodrush *Luzula sylvatica*, lady-fern *Athyrium filix-femina* and red fescue *Festuca rubra*.



Target Note 4: View across to north slopes of Longhaven Bay displaying dominance of MC8 *Festuca rubra-Armeria maritima* maritime grassland on steep cliff slopes. Stands of M27 *Filipendula ulmaria-Angelica sylvestris* mire and U17x *Luzula sylvatica-Geum rivale* community – typically dominated by greater woodrush *Luzula sylvatica* and/or *Athyrium filix-femina* are present on lower slopes, likely where there is movement of water through the slope. On upper slope heathier maritime communities and gorse *Ulex europaeus* dominated scrub are more prevalent.



Target Note 5: Communities on cliff-tops around Longhaven Bay are frequently dominated by a thick carpet of greater woodrush *Luzula sylvatica* with little else in the sward. These communities have been coded as U17x *Luzula sylvatica-Geum rivale* community variant sub-community and are typically concentrated around Longhaven Bay.



Target Note 6: Areas of coastal heathland are frequent throughout the SWT Reserve, typically dominated by bell heath *Erica cinerea*, heather *Calluna vulgaris* and crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*. The sward also contains a high cover of grasses, typically sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, heath grass *Danthonia decumbens* and sweet-vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*. Heath communities occupy cliff edges and ledges, flatter areas on shallow soils on cliff tops and are also found inland on peatier substrate. The dominant heath community across the site is H7d *Calluna vulgaris-Scilla verna* heath *Empetrum nigrum* ssp. *nigrum* sub-community where crowberry is co-dominant with dwarf shrubs.



Target Note 7: Areas of quarrying (now abandoned) are present throughout the SWT Reserve, and there are several areas of open water within quarries. Vegetation communities around quarry cliffs is typically diverse – here reflecting a mosaic of mire, scrub, maritime grassland and tall herb and fern communities (M27, U17x, W23a, OV27b).



Target Note 8: Area of glaucous sedge *Carex flacca* in wetter depression within grassy coastal heath community. This reflects a variation of H7 *Calluna vulgaris-Scilla verna* heath and is described in the NVC where such sedges favour free-draining and more base-rich soils.



Target Note 9: Area of cliff-top dominated by common saltmarsh grass *Puccinellia maritima*, bare ground and pools of open water. This is not typical of saltmarsh communities described in NVC and has been accorded a SMx Saltmarsh community coding.



Target Note 10: Area of wet, flushed, saltmarsh community with abundant common cotton-grass *Eriophorum angustifolium* (in upper areas) and common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris* (in lower areas), both frequently associating with marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris, bog* pondweed *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, saltmarsh rush *Juncus gerardii*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* and wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris*. Grass of parnassus *Parnassia palustris*, sea arrowgrass *Triglochin maritima* and northern marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza purpurella* are located in this area. These communities are not described in NVC and result from flushing of brackish water from a small lochan inland and to the west, and reflect some variant of saltmarsh communities. These have been coded as SMy (common cotton-grass dominated) and SMz (common spike-rush dominated) saltmarsh communities.



Target Note 11: In survey area 2 – inland area, expanses of H7d *Calluna vulgaris-Scilla verna* heath *Empetrum nigrum* ssp. *nigrum* sub-community are frequent in the southern half of the compartment. Dwarf shrub species are young, and short and reflect pioneer growth of heath. Often these are punctuated with pioneer grasses including Early hair grass *Aira praecox*.



Target Note 12: Marshy areas in survey area 2 – inland area are dominated by soft rush *Juncus effusus* rush-pastures. Here pampas grass *Cortaderia selloana* is present as a non-native species within the sward.



Target Note 13: The north and eastern areas of survey area 2 – inland area, are dominated by soft rush *Juncus effusus* rush-pasture communities, and are commonly species-poor. These areas are punctuated by areas of other grassland, heath and scrub communities too small to be mapped and often transitional rather than discrete communities. These communities are reflected in the NVC mosaic for the area.

Target Note 14: Monbretia *Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora* – single plant located by old ruin

Target Note 15: Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster* sp. scrub co-dominant with alder.

APPENDIX C: FLORAL SPECIES LISTS

| Scientific name | Common name | Family | Origin |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------|
| Achillea millefolium | Yarrow | Asteraceae | N |
| Achillea ptarmica | Sneezewort | Asteraceae | N |
| Agrostis canina | Velvet Bent | Poaceae | N |
| Agrostis capillaris | Common Bent | Poaceae | N |
| Agrostis stolonifera | Creeping Bent | Poaceae | N |
| Aira praecox | Early Hair-grass | Poaceae | N |
| Ajuga reptans | Bugle | Lamiaceae | N |
| Anemone nemorosa | Wood Anemone | Ranunculaceae | N |
| Angelica sylvestris | Wild Angelica | Apiaceae | N |
| Anthoxanthum odoratum | Sweet Vernal-grass | Poaceae | N |
| Anthriscus sylvestris | Cow Parsley | Apiaceae | N |
| Arctium minus | Lesser Burdock | Asteraceae | N |
| Armeria maritima ssp. maritima | Thrift | Plumbaginaceae | N |
| Arrhenatherum elatius | False Oat-grass | Poaceae | N |
| Athyrium filix-femina | Lady-fern | Woodsiaceae | N |
| Bellis perennis | Daisy | Asteraceae | N |
| Callitriche stagnalis | Common Water-starwort | Callitrichaceae | N |
| Calluna vulgaris | Heather | Ericaceae | N |
| Caltha palustris | Marsh-marigold | Ranunculaceae | N |
| Campanula rotundifolia | Harebell | Campanulaceae | N |
| Cardamine pratensis | Cuckooflower | Brassicaceae | N |
| Carex binervis | Green-ribbed Sedge | Cyperaceae | N |
| Carex demissa | Common Yellow-sedge | Cyperaceae | N |
| Carex echinata | Star Sedge | Cyperaceae | N |
| Carex flacca | Glaucous Sedge | Cyperaceae | N |
| Carex leporina | Oval Sedge | Cyperaceae | N |
| Carex panicea | Carnation Sedge | Cyperaceae | N |
| Centaurea nigra | Common Knapweed | Asteraceae | N |
| Cerastium glomeratum | Sticky Mouse-ear | Caryophyllaceae | N |
| Chamerion angustifolium | Rosebay Willowherb | Onagraceae | N |
| Cirsium arvense | Creeping Thistle | Asteraceae | N |
| Cirsium palustre | Marsh Thistle | Asteraceae | N |
| Cirsium vulgare | Spear Thistle | Asteraceae | N |
| Cochlearia officinalis | Common Scurvygrass | Brassicaceae | N |
| Conopodium majus | Pignut | Apiaceae | N |
| Cortaderia selloana | Pampas grass | Poaceae | IN |
| Cotoneaster sp. | Cotoneaster sp. | Rosaceae | IN |
| Crataegus monogyna | Hawthorn | Rosaceae | N |
| Crepis capillaris | Smooth Hawk's-beard | Asteraceae | N |
| Crepis paludosa | Marsh Hawk's-beard | Asteraceae | N |
| Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora | Monbretia | Ixioidaea | IN |

| Scientific name | Common name | Family | Origin |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| Cynosurus cristatus | Crested Dog's-tail | Poaceae | N |
| Cytisus scoparius ssp. scoparius | Broom | Fabaceae | N |
| Dactylis glomerata | Cock's-foot | Poaceae | N |
| Dactylorhiza purpurella | Northern Marsh-orchid | Orchidaceae | N |
| Danthonia decumbens | Heath-grass | Poaceae | N |
| Deschampsia cespitosa ssp. cespitosa | Tufted Hair-grass | Poaceae | N |
| Deschampsia flexuosa | Wavy Hair-grass | Poaceae | N |
| Digitalis purpurea | Foxglove | Veronicaceae | N |
| Dryopteris affinis | Golden-scaled Male-fern | Dryopteridaceae | N |
| Dryopteris filix-mas | Male-fern | Dryopteridaceae | N |
| Eleocharis palustris | Common Spike-rush | Cyperaceae | N |
| Empetrum nigrum ssp. nigrum | Crowberry | Ericaceae | N |
| Epilobium montanum | Broad-leaved Willowherb | Onagraceae | N |
| Epilobium palustre | Marsh Willowherb | Onagraceae | N |
| Equisetum arvense | Field Horsetail | Equisetaceae | N |
| Equisetum palustre | Marsh Horsetail | Equisetaceae | N |
| Equisetum sylvaticum | Wood Horsetail | Equisetaceae | N |
| Erica cinerea | Bell Heather | Ericaceae | N |
| Erica tetralix | Cross-leaved Heath | Ericaceae | N |
| Eriophorum angustifolium | Common Cottongrass | Cyperaceae | N |
| Euphrasia sp. | Eyebright | Orobanchaceae | N |
| Festuca ovina | Sheep's-fescue | Poaceae | N |
| Festuca rubra | Red Fescue | Poaceae | N |
| Filipendula ulmaria | Meadowsweet | Rosaceae | N |
| Galium aparine | Cleavers | Rubiaceae | N |
| Galium saxatile | Heath Bedstraw | Rubiaceae | N |
| Galium verum | Lady's Bedstraw | Rubiaceae | N |
| Glyceria fluitans | Floating sweet-grass | Poaceae | N |
| Heracleum sphondylium | Hogweed | Apiaceae | N |
| Hieracium agg. | Hawkweed | Asteraceae | N |
| Holcus lanatus | Yorkshire-fog | Poaceae | N |
| Holcus mollis | Creeping Soft-grass | Poaceae | N |
| Hydrocotyle vulgaris | Marsh Pennywort | Apiaceae | N |
| Hypericum pulchrum | Slender St John's-wort | Hypericaceae | N |
| Hypochaeris radicata | Cat's-ear | Asteraceae | N |
| Juncus articulatus | Jointed Rush | Juncaceae | N |
| Juncus bufonius | Toad Rush | Juncaceae | N |
| Juncus conglomeratus | Compact Rush | Juncaceae | N |
| Juncus effusus | Soft-rush | Juncaceae | N |
| Juncus gerardii | Saltmarsh Rush | Juncaceae | N |
| Juncus squarrosus | Heath Rush | Juncaceae | N |
| Lathyrus pratensis | Meadow Vetchling | Fabaceae | N |
| Leucanthemum vulgare | Oxeye Daisy | Asteraceae | N |

| Scientific name | Common name | Family | Origin |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------|
| Ligusticum scoticum | Scot's Lovage | Apiaceae | N |
| Litorella uniflora | Shoreweed | Plantaginaceae | N |
| Lolium perenne | Perennial Rye-grass | Poaceae | N |
| Lonicera periclymenum | Honeysuckle | Caprifoliaceae | N |
| Lotus corniculatus | Common Bird's-foot-trefoil | Fabaceae | N |
| Luzula multiflora ssp. congesta | Heath Wood-rush | Juncaceae | N |
| Luzula multiflora ssp. multiflora | Heath Wood-rush | Juncaceae | N |
| Luzula sylvatica | Great Wood-rush | Juncaceae | N |
| Matricaria discoidea | Pineappleweed | Asteraceae | IN |
| Nardus stricta | Mat-grass | Poaceae | N |
| Parnassus palustris | Grass-of-Parnassus | Parnassiaceae | N |
| Pedicularis sylvatica | Lousewort | Orobanchaceae | N |
| Plantago lanceolata | Ribwort Plantain | Plantaginaceae | N |
| Plantago major | Greater Plantain | Plantaginaceae | N |
| Plantago maritima | Sea Plantain | Plantaginaceae | N |
| Poa humilis | Spreading Meadow-grass | Poaceae | N |
| Poa pratensis | Smooth Meadow-grass | Poaceae | N |
| Polygala serpyllifolia | Heath Milkwort | Polygalaceae | N |
| Polypodium vulgare | Polypody | Polypoiaceae | N |
| Potamogeton polygonifolius | Bog Pondweed | Potamogetonaeae | N |
| Potentilla anserina | Silverweed | Rosaceae | N |
| Potentilla erecta | Tormentil | Rosaceae | N |
| Primula vulgaris | Primrose | Primulaceae | N |
| Prunus spinosa | Blackthorn | Rosaceae | N |
| Pteridium aquilinum ssp. aquilinum | Bracken | Dennstaedtiaceae | N |
| Puccinellia maritima | Common Saltmarsh-grass | Poaceae | N |
| Quercus sp. | Oak sp. | Fagaceae | N |
| Ranunculus acris | Meadow Buttercup | Ranunculaceae | N |
| Ranunculus flammula ssp. flammula | Lesser Spearwort | Ranunculaceae | N |
| Ranunculus repens | Creeping Buttercup | Ranunculaceae | N |
| Rhinanthus minor | Yellow-rattle | Orobanchaceae | N |
| Rosa canina | Dog-rose | Rosaceae | N |
| Rubus fruticosus agg. | Bramble | Rosaceae | N |
| Rumex acetosa | Common Sorrel | Polygonaceae | N |
| Rumex acetosella | Sheep's Sorrel | Polygonaceae | N |
| Rumex crispus ssp. crispus | Curled Dock | Polygonaceae | N |
| Rumex obtusifolius | Broad-leaved Dock | Polygonaceae | N |
| Salix aurita | Eared Willow | Salicaceae | N |
| Salix caprea | Goat Willow | Salicaceae | N |
| Salix cinerea | Grey Willow | Salicaceae | N |
| Salix repens | Creeping Willow | Salicaceae | N |
| Scorzoneroides autumnalis | Autumn Hawkbit | Asteraceae | N |
| Sedum rosea | Roseroot | Crassulaceae | N |

| Scientific name | Common name | Family | Origin |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------|
| Senecio jacobaea | Common Ragwort | Asteraceae | N |
| Senecio sylvaticus | Heath Groundsel | Asteraceae | N |
| Senecio vulgaris | Groundsel | Asteraceae | N |
| Silene dioica | Red Campion | Caryophyllaceae | N |
| Silene uniflora | Sea Campion | Caryophyllaceae | N |
| Solidago virgaurea | Goldenrod | Asteraceae | N |
| Sonchus asper | Prickly Sowthistle | Asteraceae | N |
| Stachys palustris | Marsh Woundwort | Lamiaceae | N |
| Stellaria alsine | Bog Stitchwort | Caryophyllaceae | N |
| Succisa pratensis | Devil's-bit Scabious | Dipsacaeae | N |
| Trifolium medium | Zigzag Clover | Fabaceae | N |
| Trifolium pratense | Red Clover | Fabaceae | N |
| Trifolium repens | White Clover | Fabaceae | N |
| Triglochin maritima | Sea Arrowgrass | Juncaginaceae | N |
| Tripleurospermum maritimum | Sea Mayweed | Asteraceae | N |
| Tussilago farfara | Colt's-foot | Asteraceae | N |
| Ulex europaeus | Gorse | Fabaceae | N |
| Urtica dioica ssp. dioica | Common Nettle | Urticaceae | N |
| Vicia cracca | Tufted Vetch | Fabaceae | N |
| Vicia sepium | Bush Vetch | Fabaceae | N |
| Viola palustris | Marsh Violet | Violaceae | N |
| Viola riviniana | Common Dog-violet | Violaceae | N |

^{&#}x27;N' – Native, 'IN' – Introduced

NB. No species of conservation concern were identified.

APPENDIX D: FIGURES

































