

Appendix 2: Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Wirral Summary of Performance

Wirral has 12 SSSIs. Not all Wirral SSSIs are on Council owned land and therefore responsibility for SSSI condition falls to the respective landowner. A table of all SSSIs in Wirral, their current condition status, and details of ownership is provided below. The survey year has been provided for information.

Table 1: Wirral SSSI condition assessment scores

Site	Description	Condition	Survey Year*	Ownership
Dee Cliffs	Supralittoral Rock – Maritime Slope and Cliffs (clay cliffs and bank habitat), marl pits, and neutral grassland (lowland)	Favourable (87%)	2012, Site Check 2015	Wirral Council owns and manages this site (Units 1 & 2)
		Unfavourable – No Change (13%)		
Dee Estuary	Littoral Sediment – Mudflats, reedbeds, coastal saltmarsh	Favourable (100%)	2010, Hilbre Island 2019	Wirral Council owns and manages part of Units 3 (Intertidal) and Unit 4 (Hilbre Island). Units 1, 2 and the remainder of Unit 3 are not owned or managed by Wirral Council.
Dibbinsdale	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland (lowland), reed swamp, fen pasture, and neutral grassland	Favourable (8%)	2005 (U1 – Site Check 2018), 2014 (U5), 2015 (U2, U3), 2020 (U4, U6)	Wirral Council owns and manages Units 4 & 6. Units 1, 2, 3 and 5 are not owned or managed by Wirral Council.
		Unfavourable Recovering (22%)		
		Unfavourable No Change (22%)		
		Unfavourable Declining (48%)		
Heswall Dales	Dwarf shrub heath (lowland)	Unfavourable Recovering (100%)	2020	Wirral Council owns and manages this site.
Meols Meadows	Neutral Grassland (lowland)	Unfavourable No Change (100%)	2012 (U1, U3), 2022 (U2)	This SSSI is not owned by Wirral Council.
Mersey Estuary (Unit 011 – Bromborough, Eastham, Ellesmere Port)	Littoral Sediment – mudflats and saltmarsh	Favourable (100%)	2020	This SSSI is not owned by Wirral Council.
Mersey Narrows (Unit 002 –	Littoral Sediment – open water, saltmarsh and grassland	Unfavourable Recovering (100%)	2010	Wirral Council owns and manages Units

Site	Description	Condition	Survey Year*	Ownership
Egremont Foreshore and Unit 003 – Seacombe)				2 (Egremont Foreshore) & 3 (Seacombe). Unit 1 (Seaforth) is not owned or managed by Wirral Council.
New Ferry	Littoral Sediment – intertidal sand, mudflats, saltmarsh	Unfavourable Recovering (100%)	2020	This SSSI is not owned by Wirral Council.
North Wirral Foreshore	Littoral sediment – intertidal sand, mudflats and embryonic dune	Unfavourable Declining (100%)	2012 (U2, U3), 2021 (U1)	Wirral Council owns and manages this site (Units 1, 2 & 3).
Red Rocks	Supralittoral sediment – sand dunes, brackish dune slack, reedbeds	Unfavourable Recovering (72%) Unfavourable Declining (28%)	2012 (U1), 2014 (U2, U3)	This SSSI is not owned by Wirral Council.
The Dungeon	Earth Heritage – Triassic siltstone formation	Favourable (100%)	2011	Wirral Council owns and manages this site.
Thurstaston Common	Dwarf shrub heath (lowland)	Unfavourable Recovering (100%)	2011, Site Check 2021	Wirral Council owns and manages Unit 6. Units 3, 4, 5 & 7 which represent the remainder of the SSSI are not owned or managed by Wirral Council.

*sub-divided sites may have different survey years for different units.

Natural England is responsible for the ongoing monitoring and condition assessments of SSSIs in England. The main objective of these assessments is to achieve 'favourable condition' status for all SSSIs. Condition scores that SSSI sites can achieve include:

- Favourable: The SSSI is adequately conserved, meeting conservation objectives, but with scope for enhancement.
- Unfavourable Recovering: Necessary management measures are in place, and with sustained effort, the SSSI will reach a favourable condition.
- Unfavourable No Change: Without changes in management or external pressures, the SSSI won't reach a favourable condition.
- Unfavourable Declining: The SSSI's condition is worsening due to inadequate conservation.

- Part Destroyed: Lasting damage has occurred to part of the SSSI, with some parts irretrievably lost.
- Destroyed: The entire SSSI has suffered lasting damage and is irretrievably lost

All condition data is available on NE's site check database → [Site Search \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://www.naturalengland.org.uk)