

UPDATE - CURRENT MANAGEMENT OF SPARTINA

Grange Over Sands Foreshore Working Party

South Lakeland District and Grange Town Councils, English Nature and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology form the Grange Over Sands foreshore working party. These representatives recently met to discuss Spartina management at Grange Over Sands.

On the Agenda was how to progress enhancement and management of the foreshore, primarily between Blawith Point and the old baths.

A number of key conclusions and decisions were reached or confirmed:

- Eradication of Spartina was not realistic, as sedimentation (accretion) is continuing at 100-150mm (4-6) inches annually.
- Pockets of secondary grasses were superseding Spartina in some areas, most noticeably near the level crossing off Morecambe Bank.
- The area within 25-50 metres of the promenade remains unstable/soft because of freshwater springs. Use of mechanical equipment (tractors/quad bikes) will not be possible in the band.
- A draft Management Plan is to be prepared for consultation in late Summer/early Autumn.
- Trials on the Management of Spartina will be carried out over the summer aimed at reducing its dominance in the Saltmarsh and identifying an optimum mowing/trimming regime. This will either be by a single 'mowing' in September or preferably monthly 'mowing' trimming from June.
- A series of interpretation panels will be prepared highlighting progress and the history/flora and fauna/and features of Morecambe Bay.

The Working Party's long term objectives are to work with nature and to encourage the development of a Saltmarsh which:

- Develops and retains a high biodiversity of wildlife
- Is visually attractive to people using the Promenade
- May at some stage in the future enable increased access to the foreshore.

The Working Party wish to enlist the support of residents and visitors in developing the foreshore sympathetically for mutual benefit.

For further information, or to register an offer of assistance please contact Chris Fidler or Tony Naylor at Contract Services Group, South Lakeland District Council, South Lakeland House, Lowther Street, Kendal, LA9 4UD, 01539 733333.