

Conservation objectives for Geikie Slide and Hebridean Slope Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area

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What the conservation advice package includes

The information provided in this document sets out the site's conservation objectives. This forms part of JNCC's formal conservation advice package for the site and must be read in conjunction with all parts of the package as listed below:

- [Background Document](#) explaining where to find the advice package, JNCC's role in the provision of conservation advice, how the advice has been prepared, when to refer to it and how to apply it;
- Conservation Objectives setting out the broad ecological aims for the site (this document);
- [Statements](#) on:
 - the site's protected feature condition;
 - conservation benefits that the site can provide; and
 - conservation measures needed to further the conservation objectives stated for the site. This includes information on those human activities that, if taking place within or near the site, can impact it and hinder the achievement of the conservation objectives stated for the site; and
- [Supplementary Advice on Conservation Objectives](#) (SACO) providing more detailed and site-specific information on the conservation objectives.

The most up-to-date conservation advice for this site can be downloaded from the conservation advice tab in the [Site Information Centre](#) (SIC) accessible on JNCC's website.

JNCC provide supplementary advice on the conservation objectives in the SACO document (see link in the box above). The SACO is essential reading to support interpretation of these conservation objectives set out below.

The Conservation Objective for the Geikie Slide and Hebridean Slope Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NCMPA) is that the protected features listed below -

- so far as already in favourable condition, remain in such condition; and
- so far as not already in favourable condition, be brought into such condition, and remain in such condition.

With respect to **Burrowed mud, Offshore subtidal sands and gravels** and **Offshore deep sea muds**, this means that:

- Extent is stable or increasing; and
- Structures and functions, quality, and the composition of characteristic biological communities (which includes a reference to the diversity and abundance of marine fauna and flora forming part of or inhabiting each habitat) are such as to ensure that they remain in a condition which is healthy and not deteriorating.

Any temporary deterioration in condition is to be disregarded if the habitats are sufficiently healthy and resilient to enable recovery from such deterioration. Any alteration to that feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.

With respect to the **slide deposits** and **slide scars** representative of the **Geikie Slide Key Geodiversity Area**, this means that:

- Extent, component elements and integrity are maintained;
- Structure and functioning are unimpaired; and
- Surface remains sufficiently unobscured for the purposes of determining whether the criteria in the above points are satisfied.

Any obscuring of that feature entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded. Any alteration to that feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.

With respect to the area of the Hebridean **continental slope** within the site included as a protected **large-scale feature**, this means that:

- Extent, distribution and structure is maintained;
- Function is maintained so as to ensure that it continues to support its characteristic biological communities (which includes a reference to the diversity of any species associated with the large scale feature) and their use of the site for, but not restricted to, feeding, courtship, spawning, or use as nursery grounds; and
- The processes supporting it are maintained.

Any alteration brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.