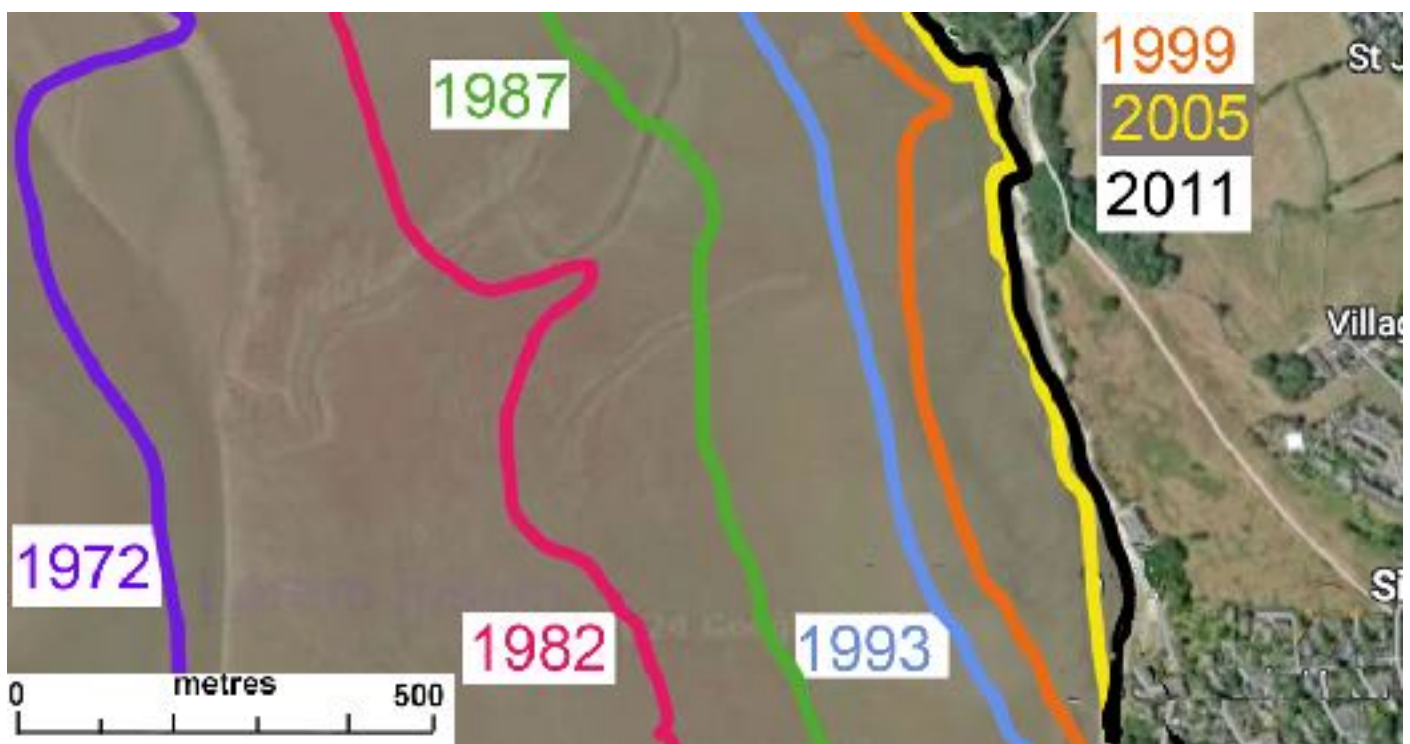


The Cove to Silverdale Shore SD 4575,

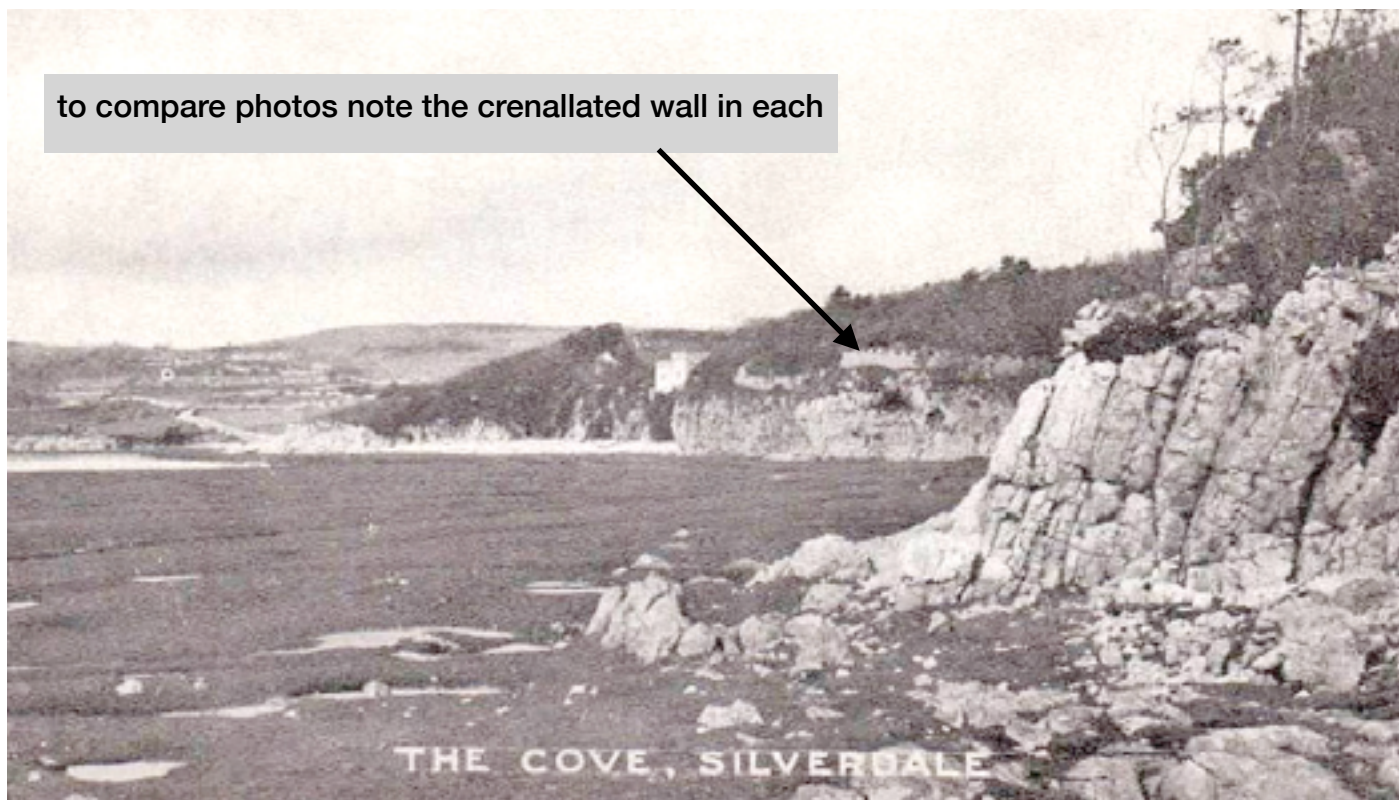
The area is mainly saltmarsh with shingle banks at the Cove and by Fisherman's cottages. The saltmarsh is affected by the periodic movement of the Kent from the northern to southern shores of the estuary. There is a periodic time of around 70 years. The map of the edge of the saltmarsh over time is based on a map by Dr Ada Pringle as well as photos of the area and a google map from 2022. The shingle banks stay in place and are not covered by the marsh.

As can be seen the flora changes from saltmarsh plants to algae and seaweeds and back again over time. Not only does the salt marsh wash away but when the river is right in to the shore the depth of the seabed is over 8 metres deeper than the original salt marsh. Then the river channel starts to move away from the shore and thousands of tons of sand and mud build up year by year until it reaches the height at which it is only covered at spring tides. At that point the salt marsh plants, starting with spartina begin to take hold. It reached that point in 2020. The images below give a good idea of the changes over time.

The area is part of the Morecambe Bay SSSI/SAC/Ramsar site and is owned by the RSPB.



to compare photos note the crenallated wall in each



I don't have any photos from the 1970's but this postcard shows the marsh in the early 1900's 70 years before

View looking towards the Cove from the shore in 2011 showing the shingle bank when the saltmarsh was at is minimum.

Inset shows Spiral Wrack, one of the seaweeds growing at the base of the cliffs





The Cove January 2020. The mud is now high enough to only be covered at spring tides.



The Cove February 2024. Note the spartina has started to colonise the mud.



View from Silverdale shore in 2011. The rocks are all covered with various seaweeds.

I didn't have a photo of the shore when the saltmarsh was at its maximum in the 1970's



**View from edge of Silverdale shore car park towards the Cove, February 2024
Once the grasses have stabilised the mud, each spring tide will add more mud
and the marsh will build up for a further metre or so in the next 5 years.**

Seaweeds seen in 2011

taxa	common name		taxa	common name	
Fucus spiralis	Spiral Wrack		Pelvetia canaliculata	Channelled Wrack	
Ulva intestinalis	Gutweed		Ulva lactua	Sea Lettuce	
Halidrys sisquosa	Sea Oak		Fucus vesiculosus	Baldder Wrack	
Ascophyllum nodosum	Egg Wrack				

These will probably not be found here for the next 30 years.

Species were listed from The Cove along the shore to Silverdale Shore car park. Recording began at the end of June 2023 and 54 species were recorded by our recorders, Kathy Chandler, Lucy Thirlwell and Pam McInnes. In 2024 the recorders were Pam McInnes, Hilary Smith and Lucy Thirlwell and the total reached 104.

We had a group visit in August which produced a lot of finds especially a Black Spleenwort high on the cliffs.. The sands are really starting to firm and the grasses and sedges are starting to colonise well.





Grasses colonising August 2024



The Cove to Silverdale shore

Feb 2025

Species seen in 2023 and 2024

taxa	common name	2023	2024	numbers	comment
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent grass		15/5/24	quite a bit	Throughout saltmarsh
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard		11/4/24	lots	Cove and Shore Road foreshore
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	Marram Grass	8/30/23	15/5/24	Lots	Lower saltmarsh
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley		11/4/24	several plants	Foreshore
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Thrift	7/14/23	15/5/24	quite a bit	Throughout saltmarsh (not rooted)
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat Grass		13/8/24	lots	saltmarsh edge
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords And Ladies		11/4/24	a few	Foreshore
<i>Ascophyllum nodosum</i>	Egg Wrack		13/8/24	Quite a bit	Raised areas of saltmarsh
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort		13/8/24	one clump	High on cliff edge under bramble towards Cove
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall Rue		15/5/24	a few clumps	On cliffs
<i>Aster tripolium</i>	Sea Aster	7/14/23	16/7/24	lots	Saltmarsh
<i>Atriplex hastata</i>	Orache species		13/8/24	lots	Throughout
<i>Atriplex patula</i>	Common Orache	7/14/23	15/7/24	quite a bit	Throughout saltmarsh
<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>	Sea Purslane		15/5/24	quite a lot	Everywhere
<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	Sea Beet	7/14/23	28/3/24	patches	upper saltmarsh
<i>Cakile maritima</i>	Sea Rocket		13/8/24	a bit	Upper saltmarsh/forehore
<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	Common Bindweed	7/14/23	15/7/24	small clump	Upper saltmarsh
<i>Campanula rotifundifolia</i>	Harebell	7/14/23	15/7/24	patches	Edge of saltmarsh
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	7/14/23	13/8/24	a few plants	Foreshore
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	7/14/23	15/7/24	lots	Mainly near Cove
<i>Cochlearia officinales</i>	Common Scurvy Grass	7/14/23	11/4/24	lots	Upper foreshore
<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	Wall Cotoneaster	8/30/23	13/8/24	a couple	Along cliffs
<i>Cotoneaster microphyllus</i>	Small-leaved Cotoneaster		13/8/24	a few	Base of cliffs
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	7/14/23	15/5/24	one tree	Base of cliffs
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort		11/4/24	large patches	Cove
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax		15/5/24	quite a bit	Shore and Cove

taxa	common name	2023	2024	numbers	comment
Dactylis glomerata	Cock's Foot Grass		15/5/24	lots	Edge of saltmarsh
Elymus pungens	Sea Couch Grass		13/8/24	patches	upper foreshore
Elymus repens	Couch Grass		13/8/24	lots	Throughout saltmarsh
Euphorbia peplus	Petty Spurge	8/30/23	15/7/24	several clumps	Cliffs by Cove
Festuca rubra	Red Fescue		15/7/24	patches	Cliffs by Cove
Fucus spiralis	Spiral Flat Wrack		13/8/24	some	Along strand line
Fucus vesiculosus	Bladder Wrack		13/8/24	clumps	Shore, Cove and cliffs
Galium aparine	Cleavers	7/14/23	8/4/24	a few plants	Upper foreshore
Galium sternerii	Limestone Bedstraw		13/8/24	small patch	Cliffs
Galium verum	Lady's Bedstraw	8/30/23	15/5/24	lots	Shore and Cove
Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Geranium		15/5/24	a couple of plants	Cove
Geranium molle	Dovesfoot Geranium		13/8/24	1 plants	Shingle near cliffs
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	7/14/23	11/4/24	a few	Cove and cliffs
Geum urbanum	Herb Bennet		15/5/24	a few plants	Shore and Cove
Glaux maritima	Sea Milkwort	7/14/23	15/5/24	lots	lower to upper saltmarsh
Hedera helix	Ivy	7/14/23	8/4/24	few plants	Cove and Shore Raod
Helianthemum nummularium	Common Rock Rose		15/5/24	several patches	Cliffs near Cove
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	7/14/23	15/5/24	Lots	Cove
Hippocrepis comosa	Horseshoe Vetch		13/8/24	2 plants	Cliffs
Honckenya peploides	Sea Sandwort		15/5/24	small patch	Mid saltmarsh
Hyacinthoides hispanica	Bluebells non-native		15/5/24	several plants	Foreshore
Inula cozyae	Ploughman's Spikenard		13/8/24	1 plant	Cliffs by Cove
Leontodon hispidus	Rough Hawkbit		13/8/24	a bit	Opposite end cottage near Cove
Lepidium didymum	Lesser Swine Cress	8/30/23	13/8/24	a few patches	Upper saltmarsh/ shingle near cliffs
Limonium humile	Lax-flowered Sea Lavender	7/14/23	15/7/24	quite a lot	Mid saltmarsh
Limonium vulgare	Common Sea Lavender	7/14/23	30/7/24	lots	Throughout
Lolium perenne	Perennial Rye Grass		15/7/24	lots	Cliffs by Cove

taxa	common name	2023	2024	numbers	comment
Lotus corniculatus	Bird'sFoot Trefoil	7/14/23	15/7/24	quite a lot	Shore and cliffs near Cove
Maticaria discoidea	Pineapple Mayweed	7/14/23	11/4/24	lots	near cliffs by Cove
Medicago lupulina	Black Medick	8/30/23	30/7/24	a few clumps	Foreshore
Myosotis	Forget-me-not species		15/5/24	lots	Foreshore at Cove
Parietaria judaica	Pellitory-of-the-wall	8/30/23	11/4/24	few plants	Cliffs by Cove
Persicaria maculosa	Redshank	7/14/23	15/7/24	quite a bit	Throughout
Plantago cornopus	Buck's-horn Plantain	8/30/23	15/7/24	quite a bit	Throughout
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	7/14/23	11/5/24	lots	Throughout
Plantago major	Greater Plantain	7/14/23	15/5/24	quite a bit	Throughout foreshore/ shingle
Plantago maritima	Sea Plantain	7/14/23	15/5/24	quite a bit	mid to upper saltmarsh
Poa annua	Annual Meadow Grass		15/5/24	plentiful	Foreshore
Polygonum arenastrum	Equal leaved Knotgrass		13/8/24	couple of clumps	Shingle near cottages
Polygonum aviculare	Common Knotgrass	7/14/23	16/7/24	Plentiful throughout	Upper saltmarsh
Potentilla anserine	Silverweed	7/14/23	8/4/24	quite a bit	Upper saltmarsh/ foreshore
Poterium sanguisorba	Salad Burnet	7/14/23	13/8/24	quite a bit	Cliffs by Cove
Puccinellia maritima	Common Saltmarsh Grass		13/8/24	lots	Throughout saltmarsh
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	7/14/23	11/4/24	Lots	Mainly shore near Cove.
Raphanus raphanistrum	Sea Radish	7/14/23	11/4/24	lots	Foreshore
Roas sp	Wild Rose Species	7/14/23	15/5/24	a couple of plants	Foreshore/ cliffs
Rubus fruticosus	Bramble	7/14/23	8/4/24	lots	Foreshore and cliffs
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock		11/4/24	few clumps	Lower saltmarsh
Saragassum muticum	Japweed		13/8/24	quite a bit	Along the strand line
Sedum acre	Biting Stonecrop		15/7/24	several clumps	Cliffs
Sedum sp	Stonecrop (white)		15/5/24	several clumps	On cliffs
Senecio jacobaea	Common Ragwort	7/14/23	11/4/24	patches	Shore and Cove by wall/cliffs
Senecio vulgaris	Common Groundsel	8/30/23	19/8/24	a few plants	
Sesleria caerulea	Blue Moor Grass		15/5/24	quite a lot	Foreshore and cliffs

taxa	common name	2023	2024	numbers	comment
Silene uniflora	Sea Campion		15/7/24	quite a lot	Cliffs
Silene vulgaris	Bladder Campion	7/14/23			
Sonchus arvensis	Perennial Sowthistle		15/5/24	lots	Cliffs by Cove and Shore Rd
Sonchus asper	Prickly Sowthistle		15/7/24	a few plants	Cliffs by Cove
Sonchus oleraceus	Smooth Sowthistle	7/14/23	13/8/24	quite a bit	Upper saltmarsh
Sorbus crocecaea	Lancastrian Whitebeam		13/8/24	a couple	Cliffs
Sorbus rupicola	Rock Whitebeam		13/8/24	a couple	half way up cliffs
Spartina anglica	Common Cord Grass	7/14/23	15/5/24	Lots	Lower saltmarsh and across the gully
Spergularia europaea	Glasswort species	7/14/23	15/5/24	lots	Throughout and across gully onto mud flats
Spergularia marina	Lesser Sea Spurrey	7/14/23	15/7/24	lots	Edge of saltmarsh
Spergularia media	Greater Sea Spurrey	7/14/23	15/7/24	few clumps	Marsh by Cove and Shore Road
Stachys sylvatica	Hedge Woundwort	7/14/23	15/7/24	several plants	Shore and Cove
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed		13/8/24	small clump	Upper saltmarsh
Suaeda maritima	Annual Sea-blite		15/7/24	several plants	Mid saltmarsh
Taraxacum officianale	Common Dandelion	7/14/23	8/4/24	patches	Foreshore
Thymus drucei	Wild Thyme		15/5/24	small patches	On cliffs
Trifolium repens	White Clover	7/14/23	15/7/24	quite a bit	Upper saltmarsh
Triglochin maritima	Sea Arrow Grass		15/5/24	Lots	Mid saltmarsh
Tripleurospermum maritimum	Sea Mayweed	7/14/23	15/7/24	lots	Foreshore
Ulex europaeus	Gorse		15/5/24	several bushes	Base of cliffs
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle	7/14/23	8/4/24	lots	Foreshore
Valerianella locusta	Corn Salad Species		15/5/24	a few clumps	Cliffs by the Cove
Veronica sp	Speedwell species		15/5/24	one plant	Shingle near cottages
Vicia lathyroides	Spring Vetch		15/5/24	lots	Throughout
Vicia sepium	Bush Vetch		15/5/24	lots	Foreshore