

## The Ship Inn to the Bela SD 4780, SD4781 and SD 4881

The area is covered by a new saltmarsh. Until 2017 there was no vegetation at all. The sand/mud went all the way up to the wall at the edge of the road as shown by the photo below taken in 2014.



View northeast towards Park Road in July 2014 (from point A on map)

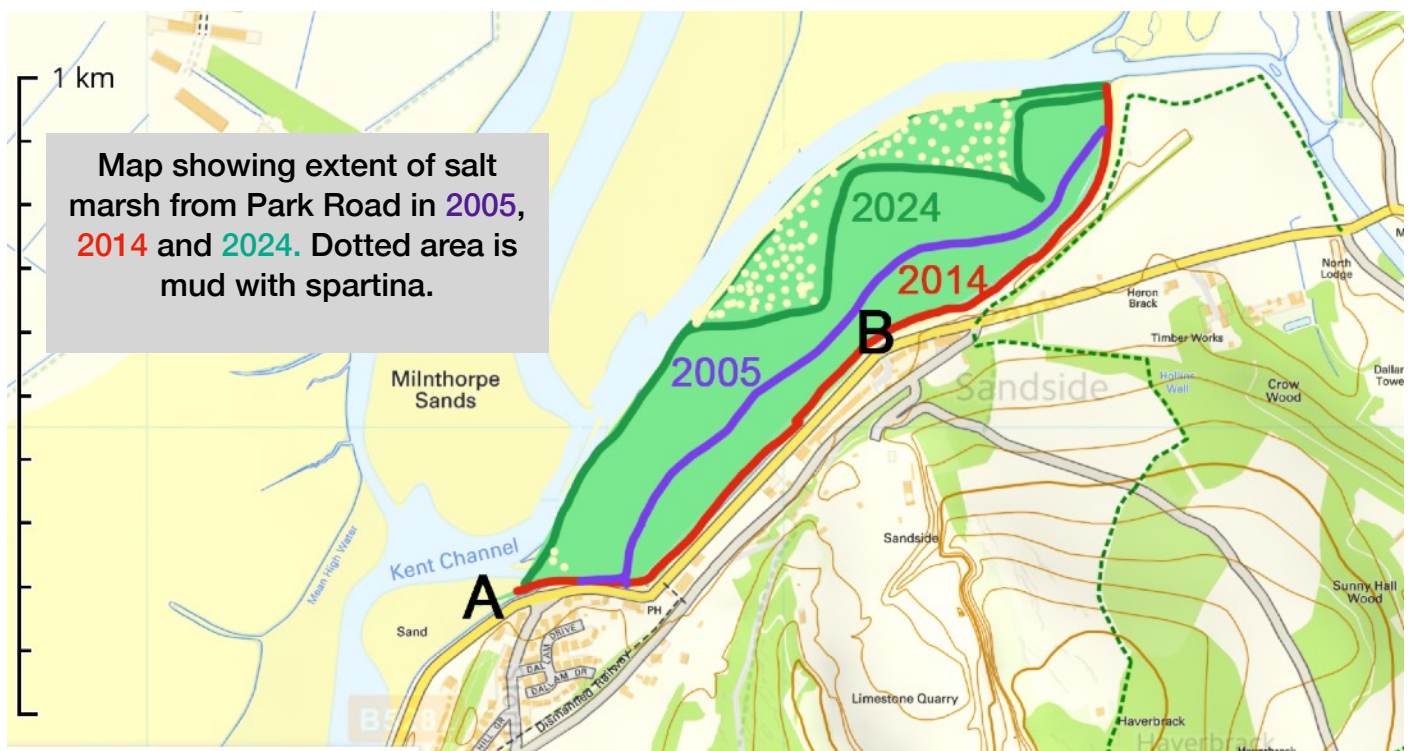
From 2018 onwards it was first colonised by *Spartina anglica*, followed by *Salicornia europaea*, the *Atriplexes*, rushes and sedges and as the ground gets drier the *Spartina* will die out and be replaced by all the rest of the plants found around the bay. This is similar to the 70 year cycle in Morecambe Bay when the sands move from the north of the Kent and then back south again. However here the cycle is shorter and more unpredictable. The rivers Bela and Kent join up and the viaduct at Arnside also alters the river flows. A spring tide and a storm in the hills can see large chunks of salt marsh washed away in a single night.



View northeast towards Park Road in February 2024 (from point A on map)

The salt marsh was half its present size in 2005. It continued washing away til it almost vanished completely between 2010 and 2015. It is now in an accretional phase.

The land between Park Road and the Bela was sold in 2017 by British Rail to the Dallam Estate. It was only a small sliver of marsh then but is now much larger. If the usual pattern continues the area will slowly diversify with grassland building up nearest the wall and salt-loving plants predominating along the waters edge.



The area is part of the Kent Estuary SSSI/SAC/Ramsar site.



View northeast from point B in February 2024





The drone shot looking towards the Ship Inn ( 2023) shows how quickly the land accretes. Note the mud flats on the RHS where the spartina is starting to stabilise the soil.



Looking towards the Ship Inn from B ( February 2024)  
This shows clearly the different plant types as the soil stabilises.



Looking towards the Ship Inn  
( July 2005)  
This is the remnants of the more mature saltmarsh before it was last washed away. It was populated by *Armeria maritima* and *Aster tripodium*, *Plantago maritima* and *Plantago coronopus* as well as the finer grasses,



This area is especially interesting as it shows how saltmarsh regenerates.

The plants in the area between the red and green lines on the map on page 2 are being surveyed.

The recorder is Lynne Farrell who is sometimes accompanied by one of our other recorders. Great care is taken to avoid disturbing breeding birds although this area is heavily walked at the moment by dog owners.

In 2024 the sand continued to accrete and stabilise. The number of tides where the water covered the area decreased. The site was recorded by Lynne in May and October.



Looking towards the Ship Inn in June

Taxon	common name	date	Taxon	common name	date
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	2024	Lolium perenne	Rye-Grass, Perennial	2024
Agrostis stolonifera	Bent, Creeping	2024	Lotus corniculatus	Birdsfoot Trefoil	2024
Alliaria petiolata	Garlic Mustard or Jack by the Hedge	2024	Lysimachia punctata	Loosestrife, Dotted	2024
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow Parsley	2024	Mycelis muralis	Wall Lettuce	2024
Arrhenatherum elatius	Oat Grass, False	2024	Myriophyllum spicatum	Water-milfoil, Spiked	2024
Asplenium ruta-muraria	Wall Rue	2024	Oenanthe crocata	Waterdropwort, Hemlock	2024
Aster tripolium	Aster, Sea	2024	Oenanthe lachenalii	Waterdropwort, Parsley	2024
Atriplex glabriuscular	Orache, Babbington's	2024	Parapholis strigosa	Hard Grass, Sea	2024
Atriplex longipes	Orache, long stalked	2024	Plantago lanceolata	Plantain, Ribwort	2024
Atriplex patula	Orache, common	2024	Plantago major	Plantain, Greater	2024
Beta vulgaris subsp. maritima	Sea Beet	2024	Plantago maritima	Plantain, Sea	2024
Bolboschoenus maritimus	Club-rush, Sea	2024	Poa humilis	Meadow Grass, Spreading	2024
Buddleja davidii	Butterfly Bush	2024	Poa trivialis	Meadow Grass, Rough	2024
Calystegia sepium	Bindweed, Hedge	2024	Polypodium vulgare	Polypody, Common	2024
Cardamine hirsuta	Bittercress, Hairy	2024	Potentilla anglica	Tormentil, Trailing	2024
Carex distans	Sedge, Distant	2024	Puccinellia maritima	Saltmarsh grass, Common	2024
Carex otrubae	Sedge, Birdsfoot	2024	Raphanus raphanistrum subsp. maritimus	Radish, Sea	2024
Centaurea nigra	Knapweed (Black), Common	2024	Rorippa sylvestris	Yellowcress, Creeping	2024
Centranthus ruber	Valerian, Red	2024	Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble agg.	2024
Cirsium vulgare	Thistle, Spear	2024	Rumex acetosa	Sorrel, Common	2024
Cochlearia officinalis	Scurvy Grass, Common	2024	Rumex crispus	Dock, Curled	2024
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	2024	Salix caprea	Willow, Goat (Pussy Willow)	2024
Cymbalaria muralis	Toadflax, Ivyleaved	2024	Salix cinerea subsp. oleifolia	Sallow, Common	2024
Dactylis glomerata	Cocksfoot	2024	Scorzoneroideis autumnalis (Leontodon)	Hawkbit, Autumn	2024
Elytrigia repens	Couch (Twitch)	2024	Sedum anglicum	English Stonecrop	2024
Epilobium hirsutum	Willowherb, Great	2024	Senecio aquaticus	Ragwort, Marsh	2024
Epilobium montanum	Willowherb, Broadleaved	2024	Senecio jacobaea	Ragwort, Common	2024
Festuca arundinacea	Fescue, Tall	2024	Sonchus arvensis	Sowthistle, Perennial	2024
Festuca rubra	Fescue, Red	2024	Sonchus asper	Sowthistle, Prickly	2024

Taxon	common name	date	Taxon	common name	date
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	2024	Sonchus oleraceus	Sowthistle, Smooth	2024
Galium aparine	Cleavers	2024	Spartina anglica	Cord-grass, Common	2024
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	2024	Spergularia media	Spurrey, Greater Sea	2024
Glaux maritima	Sea Milkwort	2024	Taraxacum agg	Dandelion	2024
Heracleum sphondylium	Hogweed	2024	Trifolium repens	Clover, White	2024
Hieracium sp.	Hawkweed sp	2024	Trifolium squamosum	Sea Clover	2024
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire Fog	2024	Triglochin maritimum	Arrow Grass, Sea	2024
Juncus maritimus	Rush, Sea	2024	Tripleurospermum maritimum	Mayweed, Sea	2024
Leucanthemum vulgare	Daisy, Ox eye	2024	Urtica dioica	Nettle, Common	2024
Limonium vulgare	Sea Lavender, Common	2024	Vicia sepium	Vetch, Bush	2024