

## LANCASHIRE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE

## SAND AND MUDFLATS

### Definition:

The extensive sand and mudflats around the Lancashire coast are a product of the region's large tidal range, indeed the largest in Britain. These have been the site of activity in the past from the provision of resources such as fish, salt production and up to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century coaches commonly traversed the mudflats of Morecambe bay.

### Typical historical and archaeological components

Lines of abandoned brushwood fencing and other structures associated with fishing can be seen (including traps and platforms), often unrelated to other visible features. The type may also include shipwreck sites, groynes, baulks, tide mills, piers, jetties, beacons, lighthouses, channel walls, stone banks, sewage outfalls, shell middens, artificial oyster and mussel beds, trackways and causeways. Environmental information may be contained within submerged surfaces and forests (such as those off the coast to the north of Fleetwood and by Heysham). In addition the nature of the type is such that occasional finds are made of artefacts washed up from elsewhere.

### Enhancing and safeguarding the type

- Assess carefully the impact of any sand winning or other measures, such as offshore windfarms and tidal barriers, which would potentially cause disturbance of the deposits. Assessment should take account of impact on the existence of the type itself, but more importantly should assess the impact on the potential archaeology within these deposits.
- *Ensure* that known and potential archaeological components of the type are taken into consideration in the preparation of the 11b (Formby Point to River Wyre) and 11c (River Wyre to Walney Island) Shoreline Management Plans, and are integrated with natural interests.
- *Protect and enhance* known archaeological sites and structures through the Morecambe Bay Strategy (policy HL-5) and the Ribble Estuary Strategy (policy NRH3), and ensure that the potential for new sites is recognised in the implementation of action plans.
- *Conduct* more research into the archaeology of this HLC type and its distribution within the coastal zone. Full assessment of the type may be forthcoming in a proposed *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey* for the north west.
- There are limited measures that could be taken to protect, enhance or conserve this HLC type as natural forces remain the biggest influence both in its creation and in its destruction.