

July 2025:

Walberswick Common Lands Charity (WCLC) owns around two hectares of saltmarsh, much of which can be trusted to look more closely at this ecosystem, especially the vegetation. It mostly looks brown and muddy from the bridge, but on closer inspection, sea lavender, samphire and thrift were amongst the plants which were recorded.

Saltmarshes are usually restricted to comparatively sheltered locations in five main physiographic situations: in estuaries, in saline lagoons, behind barrier islands, at the heads of sea lochs, and on beach plains. The development of saltmarsh vegetation is dependent on the presence of intertidal mudflats.

WCLC's focus is to "Maintain coastal saltmarsh in good condition and restore saltmarsh in unfavourable condition where vegetation management is a key factor." It is a site where the best management is low intervention. One thing anyone can do is to avoid disturbance of the site, and reflect on the moon, sun and tides creating conditions in which these plants have developed a variety of tolerance levels to salt, resulting in a mosaic of flora and fauna. Amazing!