

Table 1. Characteristics of the benthic environment at control stations in 1998-2009 (Stenton-Dozey & Brown 2009), 2015 (Stenton-Dozey 2015), 2016 (ADS 2016) and 2017 (ADS 2017a). 1 Note that for 2012-2015 the grab sizes may have been different so cannot compare with other years.

| Parameter/Site | Control at head of Bay | | | | | Control at mouth of Bay | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|------|------|------|----------------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|
| | 1998-2010 | 2012-2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 1998-2010 | 2012-2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
| Organic matter (%) | Over 10% most years and up to 18% | 4.2-5.7 | 4.4 | 6.3 | 6.5 | Generally around 5% and up to 9% | 6.3-7.4 | 6.6 | 8.4 | 9.1 |
| Mud content (%) | 36-96 | 38-85 (2013) | 34 | 63 | 66 | 18-65 | 50-57 | 36 | 35 | 37 |
| Sand content (%) | 36-96 | 12-56 | 60 | 35 | 31 | 20-73 | 31-46 | 53 | 57 | 53 |
| TOC (% of dry weight) | 2.9-17 | 1.1-1.3 | 0.9 | 2.5 | 1.2 | 3.8-8.9 | 1.2-2.2 | 1.8 | 2.3 | 2.2 |
| Mean # infauna species per grab | ns | 13-18 | 14 | 10 | 7 | ns | 9-18 | 12 | 11 | 12 |
| Numbers infauna/grab | ns | 50-100 | 12 | 12 | 12 | ns | 25-60 | 60 | 21 | 12 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|---------|-----|-----|-----|--|---------|-----|-----|-----|
| Species richness index (Margalef's d) | ns | 2.8-4.2 | 2.8 | 3.7 | 2.5 | | 2.2-4.4 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 4.3 |
| Copper (mg/kg DW) | | 5.5-9 | 7 | 9 | 9 | | 6.6-8.3 | 8 | 7 | 7 |
| Zinc (mg/kg DW) | | 27-34 | 34 | 37 | 32 | | 26-35 | 31 | 38 | 33 |