

Seascape and Landscape - Effects on Seascape and Landscape

Baseline/issues: North West Plan Areas 10 11

(Please note that the figures in brackets refer to the SA scoping database. This is available on the MMO website)

- The Lake District National Park boundary runs down the west coast from Ravenglass to Silecroft, and part of the boundary is in the sea (Landscape_93)
- AONBs in the North West Plan Area that are adjacent / near to the coast are Solway Coast (also borders Scotland), Arnside and Silverdale. The Welsh Clwydian Range AONB may also be affected by activities in this area (Landscape_94)
- Views to the Isle of Man could be affected by activities in this area (Landscape_161)
- There is only one small area listed as a Heritage coasts - St Bees Head (Landscape_110)
- World Heritage Sites in the vicinity of the coast include Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall) (North East and North West) the settings of which need to be protected (Landscape_162)
- Liverpool Maritime Mercantile City is designated as a World Heritage Site. The docks are cited for being sites of innovation in construction and dock management (Landscape_83)
- The Lake District is on a tentative list of UK sites that are being considered for inclusion on the World Heritage List. If designated this site will become a World Heritage Site in the next 5-10 years (Landscape_84)

Baseline/issues: South West Plan Areas 8 9

- Exmoor National Park is adjacent to the coast (Landscape_118)
- AONBs in the South West Plan Area that are adjacent / near to the coast are South Devon, Tamar Valley, Cornwall, Isles of Scilly, North Devon, Quantock Hills, Wye Valley (partly in Wales). The Gower AONB (in Wales) could also be affected by development in the South West Plan Area (Landscape_119)
- Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape is designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO (Landscape_81)
- A significant amount of the South West plan area is designated as Heritage Coast. The Heritage Coasts are North Devon, Exmoor, Isles of Scilly, Lundy and a large proportion of Cornwall (Rame Head, Gribbin Head – Polperro, The Roseland, The Lizard, Penwith, Godrevy – Portreath, St Agnes, Trevoze Head, Pentire Point – Widemouth, Hartland) (Landscape_121)

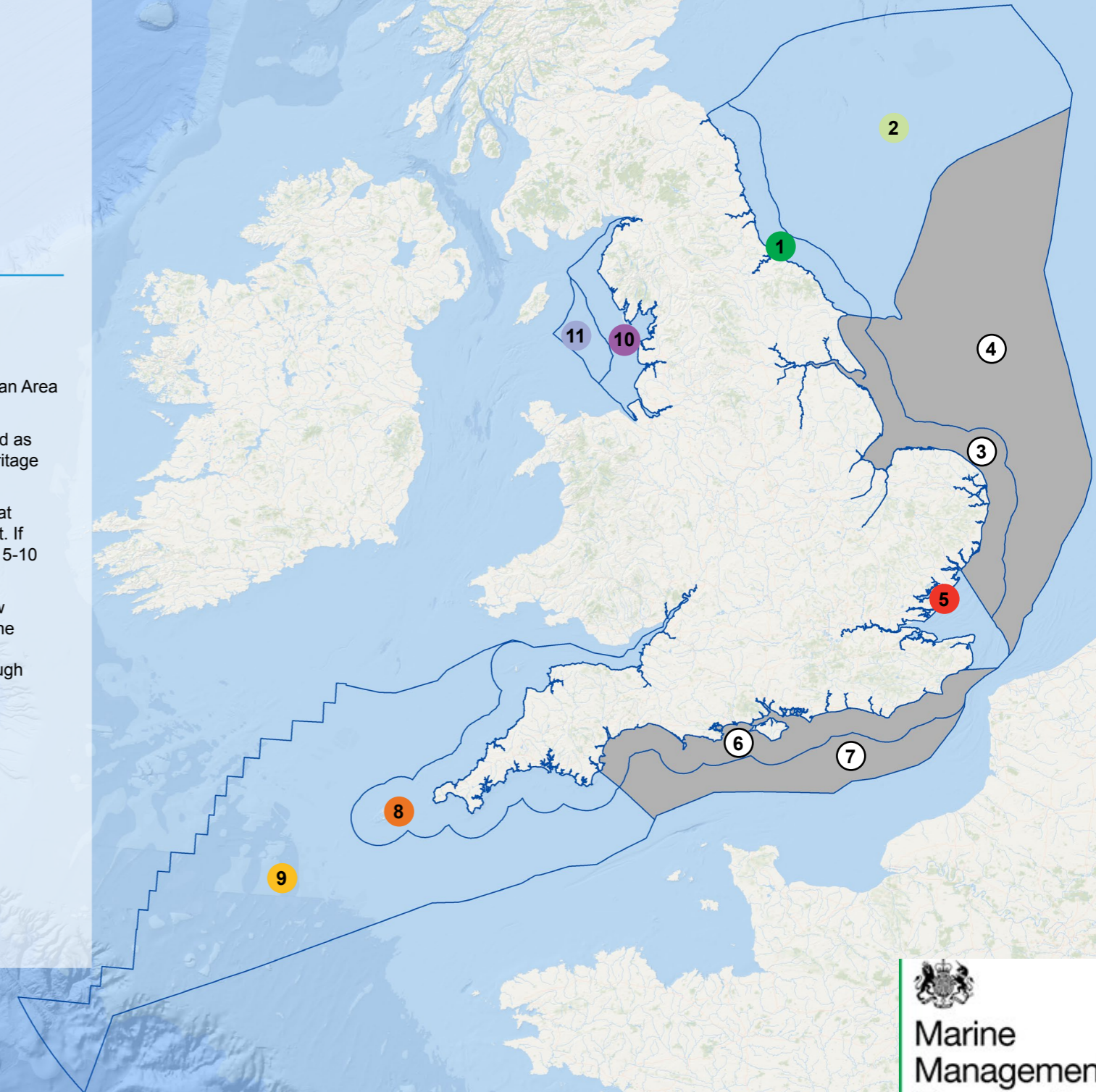
Baseline/issues: North East Plan Areas 1 2

- The North York Moors National Park is adjacent to the coast (Landscape_87)
- The Northumberland Coast AONB is adjacent to the coast (Landscape_88)
- A large part of the North East Plan Area coastline is designated as Heritage Coast. The Heritage Coasts in the area are North Northumberland, Durham, North Yorkshire and Cleveland and Flamborough Headland (Landscape_89)
- Monkwearmouth and Jarrow monastic sites are on a tentative list of UK sites that are being considered for inclusion on the World Heritage List. If designated this site will become a World Heritage Site in next 5-10 years (Landscape_85)
- World Heritage Sites in the vicinity of marine plan areas include Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall) (North East and North West) the settings of which need to be protected (Landscape_162)

Baseline/issues: South East Plan Areas 5

- There are no National Parks adjacent / near to the coast (Landscape_111)
- The Kent Downs AONB is adjacent to the coast in the SE Plan Area (Landscape_112)
- There is a small area of the South East Plan Area designated as Heritage Coast, South Foreland and Dover - Folkestone Heritage Coasts (Landscape_116)
- Chatham Naval Dockyard is on a tentative list of UK sites that are being considered for inclusion on the World Heritage List. If inscribed this site will become a World Heritage Site in next 5-10 years (Landscape_82)
- Southend on Sea has a planning policy which does not allow tall and large buildings which could adversely impact upon the skyline of Southend as viewed from the foreshore and other important viewpoints and vistas within and outside the Borough (Landscape_160)

- 1 North East inshore
- 2 North East offshore
- 3 East Inshore
- 4 East Offshore
- 5 South East inshore
- 6 South inshore
- 7 South offshore
- 8 South West inshore
- 9 South west offshore
- 10 North West inshore
- 11 North West offshore



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Summary of the legislative / policy context

- Under [European Landscape Convention](#) (ratified in UK 2006) it is acknowledged that all landscape can be important in the formation of local cultures and quality of life, these can be in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas. Consequently, it is necessary to include considerations of impact on seascape and landscape in all development and not just areas designated for particular features. It specifically includes marine areas in its scope. (Landscape_7)
- [The Marine Policy Statement](#) (MPS) states there is no legal definition for seascape in the UK but the European Landscape Convention (ELC) defines landscape as “an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”. In the context of this document, references to seascape should be taken as meaning landscapes with views of the coast or seas, and coasts and the adjacent marine environment with cultural, historical and archaeological links with each other. Ensuring a strong healthy and just society is a high level objective of the MPS, which includes people’s appreciation of its seascapes. (Landscape_1) The MPS acknowledges the national economic and social benefits of seascapes as well as their contribution of quality of life and well-being of coastal communities. With respect to seascape the NPPF states that local planning authorities should ‘maintain the character of undeveloped coast, protecting and enhancing its distinctive landscapes.....and improve public access to and enjoyment of the coast.’ (Landscape_6)
- [The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009](#) allows for the creation of continuous, managed route around entirety of English (& Welsh) coastline. (Landscape_5)
- [The National Planning Policy Framework](#) sets out that in and adjacent to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and undeveloped coast, developments would not be allowed except in exceptional circumstances and should generally be very small scale. (Landscape_9)
- The [National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949](#) established the National Park designation in England. National Parks are run by National Park Authorities for the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and to provide opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the Park by the public. National Park Authorities also grant planning consents within their National Parks.
- To deliver UK Government objectives of energy security and decarbonisation, DECC believes that nuclear should be free to contribute as much as possible towards meeting future need for non-renewable capacity. [The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy \(EN-1\)](#) also states that ‘...in principle, new nuclear power should be free to contribute as much as possible towards meeting the need for around 18 GW of new non-renewable capacity by 2025’. Although there can be no certainty of development consent being obtained, the Government does not believe there are any alternative sites to those listed in [National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generations](#) (volume I). Volume II provides details of each potential location including potential seascape impacts.

Key cross cutting baseline / issues across all plan areas

- Seascape encompasses landscapes with views of the coast or seas, and coasts and the adjacent marine environment with cultural, historical and archaeological links with each other (Landscape_166)
- Any potential development in the marine environment which is inter-visible with the coast (or coastal developments themselves) may influence views in different ways depending on structure type, size, number, type of movement and orientation, coastal form, lighting, aspect and scale, settlement pattern and type. Attitudes of people observing the change and the resultant development typically also vary widely (Landscape_132)
- Visual impacts may arise from developments which are built directly at the coast (such as harbours) or at some distance from the coast, such as offshore wind turbines. With regards to the latter, the visual impact of offshore developments which have surface infrastructure above sea level is generally a function of their visibility from the coast which is dependent on their size, distance from a viewpoint, and the atmospheric conditions (such as contrast and haze) at the time of viewing (Landscape_133)
- All the marine plan areas have overlapping designations that affect the coast and these include National Parks, AONB's and Heritage Coasts) (Landscape_176).
- Several existing and nominated new sites for nuclear power stations within marine area plans under consideration including Hartlepool (NE inshore), Bradwell (SE inshore), Hinkley Point and Oldbury (SW inshore), Heysham and Sellafield (NW inshore). All UK nuclear power stations are located at marine/estuarine sites and hence have a significant impact on seascape. The National Policy statement makes specific reference to Sellafield's impact due to its proximity to Lake District National Park (Landscape_150)

The likely evolution of the environment over the plan duration

- Climate change is likely to have an impact on coastal landscapes and this could particularly affect protected landscapes
- There may be several new World Heritage Sites within the inshore plan areas over the next 5-10 years including Chatham Naval Dockyard, The Lake District, and Monkwearmouth and Jarrow monastic sites
- The seascape and coastal landscape will continue to be subject to change resulting from development including in relation to energy, industrial and ports developments

Potential interactions with other topics

There are potential inter-relationships between most if not all sectors but specifically heritage, climate change, economy, geology, tourism and recreation and energy developments. Seascape and landscape are intrinsically linked to other issues including, but not limited to, archaeological sites, heritage sites, historic landscapes including prehistoric sites

Potential transboundary issues

Adverse impacts on seascape could affect neighbouring receptors including in Wales, Isle of Man, Scotland and other Marine Plan Areas (East Inshore and Offshore plan areas and South Plan inshore and offshore plan areas)

Key data gaps

The Seascape assessments for the South East, North East, North West and the North East areas have been produced to desk study stage (stakeholder engagement and field study outstanding) and the work does not yet appear to be in the public domain. The South West Seascape assessment will be available in Summer 2016.

