Marine Management Organisation

An approach to seascape sensitivity assessment (MMO1204)

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS) (HM Government, 2011) states that when '*developing Marine Plans, marine plan authorities should consider at a strategic level visual, cultural, historical and archaeological impacts not just for those coastal areas that are particularly important for seascape, but for all coastal areas, liaising with terrestrial planning authorities as necessary. In addition, any wider social and economic impacts of a development or activity on coastal landscapes and seascapes should be considered.*' (HM Government, 2011, Section 2.6.5.2).

The MPS goes on to state that in '*considering the impact of an activity or development on seascape, the marine plan authority should take into account existing character and quality, how highly it is valued and its capacity to accommodate change specific to any development….'* (HM Government, 2011, Section 2.6.5.3).

Seascape and marine character assessments now cover all of the English marine plan areas through the implementation of project MMO1134 (MMO, 2018), along with the Seascape Characterisation for the East NECR106 (Natural England, 2012b) and South in MMO1037 (MMO, 2014) Marine Plan Areas. These fulfil the initial part of the Marine Policy Statement seascape requirements, namely *'character'.* This method now considers how to assess quality, value and capacity to accommodate change.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019), states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside (170, page 49).

An approach to landscape sensitivity assessment, Natural England (2019) has been prepared recently. This method developed herein is intended to complement the natural England document but supersedes it in relation to marine areas and where marine-related development affects the coast.

A technical report has informed the approach in this document and is published alongside it.

1.2 Uses of the method

The prime use for the approach to seascape sensitivity assessment (hereafter "the method") is to be the assessment of sensitivity of Marine Character Areas (MCAs) at a national level or Seascape Character Areas (SCAs) at a regional/local level for strategic purposes, in relation to potential defined development types. The uses of the method will likely relate to construction works which need a Marine Licence but are of a scale that are also likely to require environmental impact assessment or strategic environmental assessment. The sensitivity assessment can inform area-specific guidance on location and design and other mitigation measures.

A secondary use is that relevant elements of the method could be used as part of undertaking a wider Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment (SVIA) for a specific development. SVIA primarily uses the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA) 3 (LI and IEMA, 2013). A key principle in the GLVIA is proportionality – in effect, the scope and level of detail should be consistent with the size and complexity of a given development (GLVIA 3, 1.17, page 9).

1.3 Users of the method

The users of the method are expected to those who:

- commission an assessment
- carry out an assessment
- interrogate or review an assessment
- utilise an assessment to inform decision-making

The users of the method are expected to be primarily suitably qualified and experienced chartered landscape architects/seascape assessors working on behalf of statutory authorities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or private developers. As such, the method is technical, uses terms specific to seascape and landscape sensitivity and is to a suitable level of detail. It is also expected that the method would be used by those making and considering an application to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in line with a marine plan i.e. applicants, consultees and decision-makers. Therefore, both the technical report and the method/approach are written in plain English where possible, with a glossary of relevant technical terms and list of abbreviations. This method will also need to be considered in the preparation of the assessments themselves so that users can understand and easily access the findings without the loss of their core function.

1.4 Main objective and principles

The main objective of the method is to guide how to assess the sensitivity of MCAs/ SCAs to defined types and scales of change incorporating consideration of quality and value.

The main principles are:

- to be consistent with up-to-date Natural England approaches to seascape character (2012a) and landscape sensitivity (2019) as far as possible
- to use definitions consistent with existing approaches as far as possible but add definitions to aid clarity
- to be as straightforward, transparent and replicable as possible whilst reflecting the appropriate level of complexity of the seascape character and visual resource
- to be applicable to all types of marine-related development (including relevant coastal development)
- to be applicable at a range of spatial resolutions from national to local, including MCAs and local SCAs

- to take into account relevant landscape character as well as seascape character where this is relevant to the sensitivity assessment
- to be able to be carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced chartered landscape architect/seascape assessor.

1.5 Understanding seascape and sensitivity

The MPS notes the European Landscape Convention (ELC) (2000) definition of landscape (including seascape) as *'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is a result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'*. It states that, within the context of the MPS itself, seascapes 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'.* (2011, 2.6.5.1).

All inshore and offshore English waters have now been characterised at a national level and the majority have been named as MCAs. At a local level, studies have named units as SCAs, or local SCAs. In this document, units for assessment are referred to as 'seascape character areas' or SCAs which should be taken as encompassing the range of scales that may be encountered.

Seascape character areas are defined as single unique geographical areas each containing one or more seascape character types. Each character area has its own individual character and identity, even though its seascape character types share the same generic characteristics with those in other SCAs. Seascape character will be used as a term to encompass marine character. The seascape wheel in Figure 2 sets out the components that make up character.

This method considers how to assess quality, value and capacity to accommodate change. These are terms used in the MPS. This method is prepared within the context of current guidance from Natural England (2019) and the Landscape Institute (2013) (GLVIA 3). As such, the method considers that:

- quality relates to the physical state of the seascape including its condition and intactness and forms part of an assessment of susceptibility of an SCA to a particular type of development
- value contributes to an evaluation of sensitivity of an SCA
- capacity to accommodate change should now be interpreted for the purposes of this approach as the sensitivity of a given area to a defined type of development or change.

Seascape character **susceptibility** is defined as the degree to which a defined SCA and its associated visual qualities and attributes might respond to the specified types of development or change without undue negative effects on character and the visual resource.

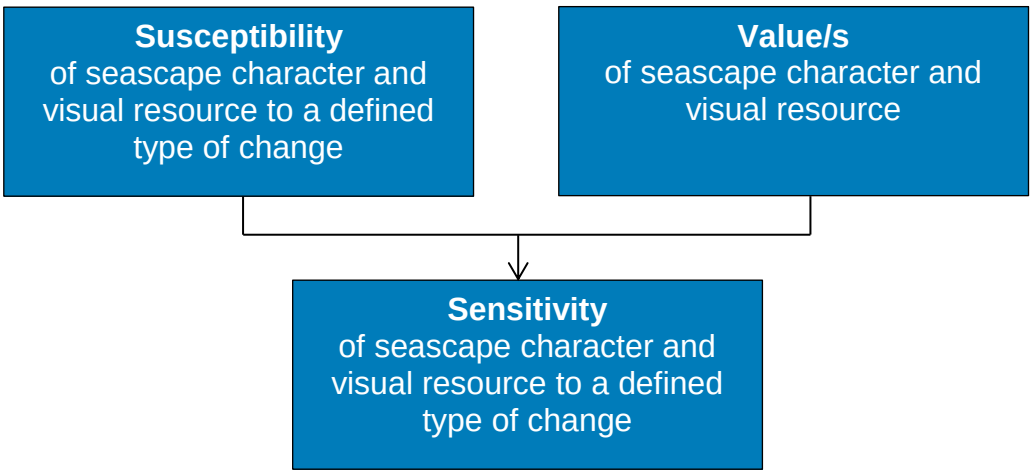
Seascape character **value** is defined as the relative value or importance attached to an SCA, which may express national or local consensus, because of its quality, its special qualities including perceptual aspects such as scenic beauty, tranquillity and

wildness, natural or historic attributes or features, cultural associations, or its relationship with designated or valued landscapes and coasts.

Seascape character **sensitivity** is a term applied to marine character and seascape and the associated visual resource, combining judgements of their susceptibility to a specific type of development / development scenario or other change being considered and the value(s) related to that seascape, marine character and visual resource.

The basic process for undertaking a sensitivity assessment in Figure 1 reflects the guidance mentioned above:

Figure 1: Assessing seascape character sensitivity



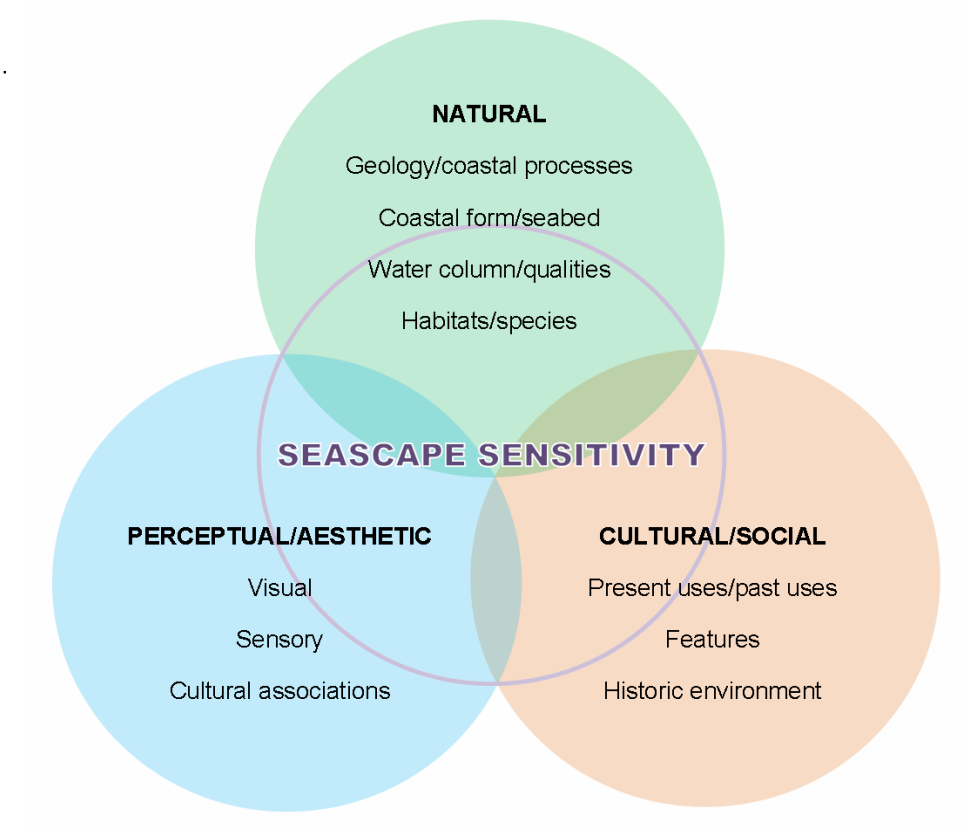
(Adapted from Natural England, 2019)

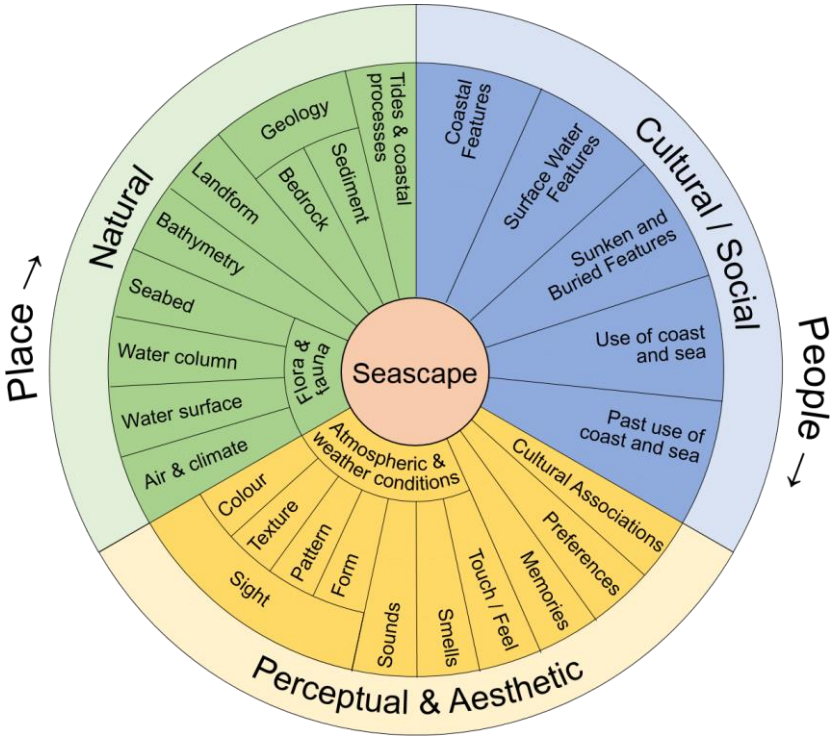
The potential for **cumulative effects** may need to be considered for certain types of development. This is where the combined cumulative effects of existing, consented and potential development may significantly change the character of an area in an adverse way. The standard characterisation approach will record if existing development forms part of the current baseline character and this may be defined as a key characteristic. It could be argued that more development would be in character in this situation. Whilst this may be the case, judgement on the potential overall intensity and extent of development within an area and whether this is a significant and positive or negative effect may need to be considered.

Usually, the assessment of cumulative effects on seascape is confined to the effects of a particular type of development, such as wind farms, or at least of developments with a similar characteristic, such as large vertical elements. However, as the marine and coastal environments become more intensively used, consideration of the cumulative effects caused by a variety of development types and uses may be required, and recommendations made to locate and design development appropriately (see Annex D)

Figure 2 shows the relationship between sensitivity factors and the ‘seascape wheel’ which summarises seascape character.

Figure 2: Relationship between elements contributing to a sensitivity assessment and the Seascape wheel





(Adapted from Natural England (2012), Figure 1, page 9)

2 Process

2.1 Process summary

The suggested process for carrying out a seascape character sensitivity assessment consists of four stages:

1. Define purpose and scope.
2. Gather the information to inform the sensitivity assessment.
3. Assess seascape sensitivity of the assessment units.
4. Reporting.

The process is illustrated in Figure 3: **Seascape character and visual sensitivity process**

Stage 1 of the process will be carried out by the client. It is important that sufficient time is allowed for brief preparation and the tender process in order that the study itself has sufficient time to be carried out to a high standard.

Stages 2 to 4 will be carried out by the consultant/internal specialists.

2.2 Stage 1: Preparing a brief – purpose and scope

2.2.1 Stage 1A: Define the purpose of assessment

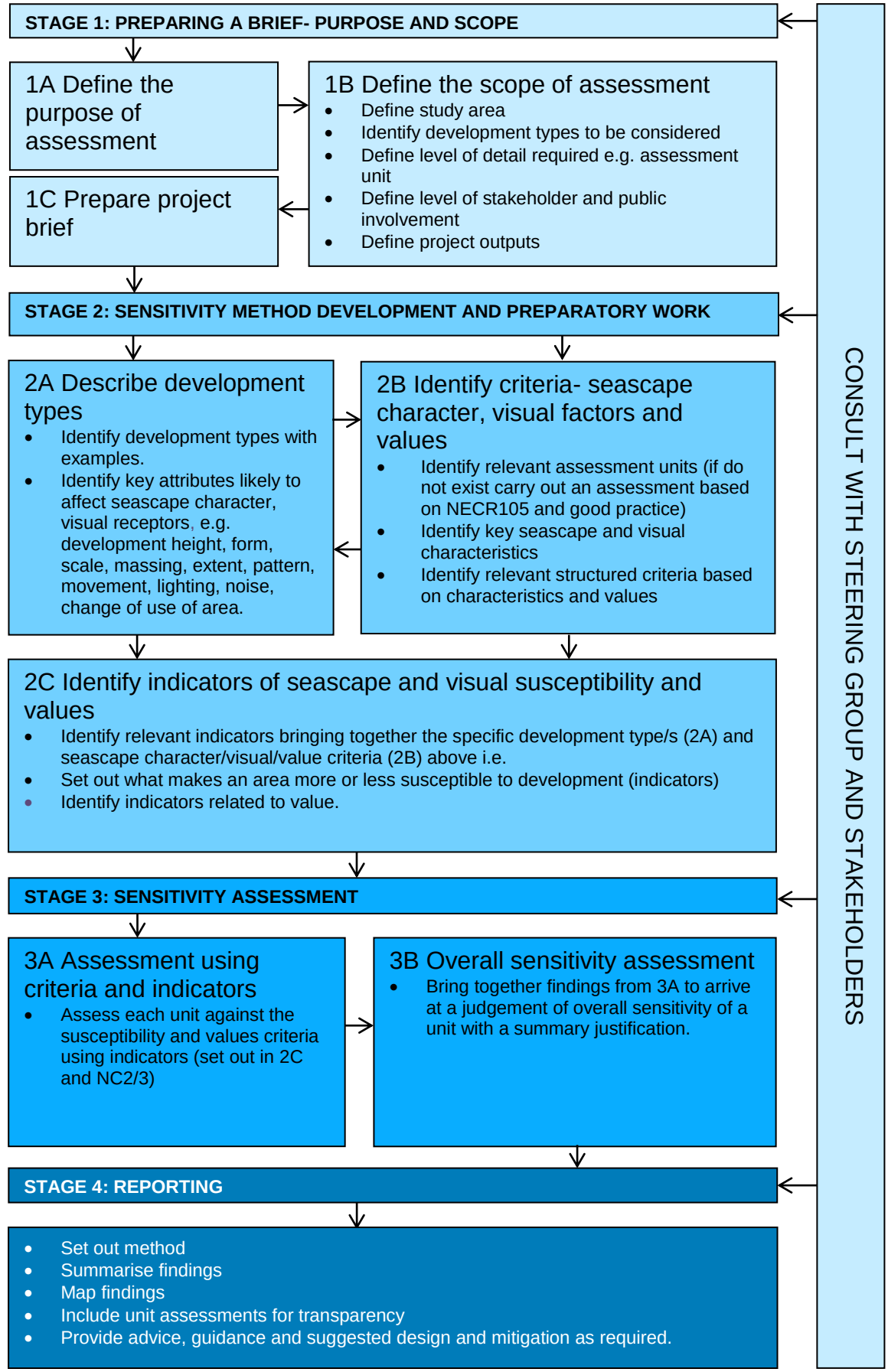
The client will need to carefully consider the purpose and scope of the assessment. In order to inform this process a Steering Group of interested parties, some with specialist knowledge, may be helpful to ensure that the study optimises usefulness and support.

The purpose should appropriately balance the contribution of natural, cultural/social and perceptual/ aesthetic aspects of seascape sensitivity. The natural environment is important to health and wellbeing as well as economies, although how it supports them can be complex.

The purpose should define:

- the anticipated uses of the study including planning, design or management objectives or guidance
- how the results or outcomes will be used and by whom
- how the outputs will be accessed e.g. websites, GIS data layers, hardcopy.

Figure 3: Seascape character and visual sensitivity process
(Note: informed by Natural England (2019) Figure 3 p 12).



2.2.2 Stage 1B: Define the scope of assessment

The scope should cover:

- The focus or emphasis of the study - for example, identifying types and scales of development or change that need to be considered and the level of detail with which these need to be defined. In some situations a range of scales of the same type of development may need to be explored. The need for the assessment of cumulative effects may also be considered.
- The extent of the study area (or geographic scope) - for example national, regional, or a local area.
- The scale of assessment - should the assessment be broad-brush or more detailed? The broad level may consider MCAs or larger units as the appropriate size of unit. More detailed assessments may use local SCAs. There may be a case for the assessment to define new units which are more fit for purpose either at a broad or detailed scale. This is likely to be driven by the type and scale of development.
- Expected baseline date for assessment (temporal scope) - is likely to be the time of the letting of the study but may include consented developments which will change the baseline.
- Any requirement for stakeholder or public engagement.
- The required outputs - for example the method, level of explanatory and descriptive text, level of detail in sensitivity criteria, resulting strategy, guidance such as recommended design measures and mitigation, the mapping, GIS data and other illustrative material required.

2.2.3 Stage 1C: Prepare the project brief

The brief should bring the purpose and scope together and determine the appropriate resources that should be made available for the work. Financial resources should be adequate for the required scope in order to meet the study's purpose and objectives. It should set out the background to the project, including policy and information available, to ensure that bidders understand the context.

The need for reference to a steering group or stakeholder group or for community engagement should be set out. The latter may be dependent on the degree of public engagement and input into underpinning character information, the focus of the output, timescale, budget and the likelihood of future consultation on the study as part of a wider planning process.

The brief should set out the preferred programme for the work, allowing a reasonable time for the tasks required, including consideration of any seasonal work needed. This should include any stages where client approval is needed, such as approval of the method including the identification of criteria and indicators.

The range of subject areas that need to be taken into account such consideration of historic seascape character data if it has not sufficiently underpinned the baseline seascape character assessments. The associated skills and specialisms required should be stated where known. The level of site survey work in addition to desk study should be stated.

2.3 Stage 2: Sensitivity method development and preparatory work

This stage involves an iterative process of defining development types, establishing the appropriate size of assessment units and identifying criteria and indicators of susceptibility related to the development types.

2.3.1 Stage 2A: Describe development types

The development types that need to be considered drive the seascape sensitivity process.

The nature of development including its likely height, size, extent, density, arrangement, pattern, massing, colour, movement, lighting and noise should be defined. Types of marine and coastal development and uses that may need marine licensing and SEA or EIA may include (in alphabetical order):

- aggregate dredging
- carbon storage facilities
- coastal defences
- defence and military practice
- fish farms and aquaculture
- marinas and moorings
- nuclear-power stations
- offshore wind farms
- oil and gas exploration and extraction
- ports
- tidal lagoon, stream or barrage developments
- waste disposal
- wave energy developments.

The above list is not definitive or necessarily comprehensive. Some may not need a seascape sensitivity assessment, such as those where only the movement and action of vessels are apparent, without permanent or temporary structures in place.

Hypothetical scenarios may need to be considered including a range of development sizes e.g. small offshore windfarms with small turbines to large offshore windfarms with large turbines. These need to be future proofed a far as possible, considering, for instance, the largest types of development that may come forward over the next 10 years. Consideration may also need to be given to multiple use developments in future. A balance needs to be struck between specific scenarios which may be more easily measurable but less widely applicable and generic descriptions of development which may be more difficult to assess but more widely representative.

2.3.2 Stage 2B: Identify units, characteristics and criteria

The units for assessment need to be appropriate for assessing the seascape sensitivity to the nature and scale of potential development or change and take into account the policy driving change. Units may be those defined in the brief or they may be different. They may be existing units such as MCAs or SCAs at a national or local level. Alternatively, new units may need to be identified as part of the study at a larger or smaller scale. For instance, assessing the sensitivity to marinas at MCA

level is likely to be inappropriate. The method for defining any new units should take into account NECR105 (Natural England, 2012a) and best practice in subsequent seascape assessment studies.

Where there are existing assessments, the underlying seascape characteristics, elements and features and associated visual qualities should be used to define a series of criteria which will structure the assessment of susceptibility. Those selected will be most likely to be affected by the defined development type. If more than one development type is being assessed then different lists of criteria will need to be prepared. The values attached to the area will also need to be ascertained. For new units this information will need to be gathered in a focused way relevant to the study.

A long list of seascape sensitivity criteria are set out in Annex B. These are divided into those which relate to susceptibility to a particular type of development and values, and should be organised under the main headings as follows:

- Natural
- Cultural/social
- Quality/condition
- Aesthetic and perceptual
- Visual characteristics
- Relationship between seascape and coast (if not covered above)
- Potential for cumulative effects
- Values.

The list is long and disaggregated in parts and therefore should be treated primarily as an indicative checklist. Some criteria may be able to be combined to make an assessment feasible within the constraints of the type of development being assessed and the study resource available. In some cases, criteria may be omitted due to lack of relevance to a development type. It is important that assessors prepare their own criteria and satisfy themselves, with appropriate justification, that these cover the relevant range of factors affecting sensitivity for any given study area and development type. Nevertheless, the criteria should cover all appropriate elements which make up seascape character, value and the related visual resource.

It is important that the value and the values society places on seascape character and its attributes and visual qualities are taken into consideration. Whilst national and marine planning policy give greatest weight to nationally designated landscapes other values should be explored and taken into consideration. Values derived from community engagement are likely to be relevant either as part of the study or from existing evidence, such as inputs into the MCA descriptions.

2.3.3 Stage 2C: Identify indicators of seascape and visual susceptibility and values

For each criteria, indicators should set out what makes a seascape or visual resource more or less susceptible to a particular type of development. This provides the basic systematic framework and justification for subsequent judgements made on susceptibility and value. The assessor will need to set out these indicators for each development type. They may vary for each study depending on the area and the complexity of assessment but should be clear, consistent and justifiable.

Examples of indicative indicators for different types of development (offshore wind farms and marinas) are set out in Annex C. However these exemplars are generic, to prompt thought on likely indicators for those development scenarios, not to replace assessors' need to define indicators according with the specific circumstances of their assessment.

It is likely to be helpful to agree the criteria and indicators with the client to ensure that the study fulfils its purpose.

2.4 Stage 3: Sensitivity assessment

2.4.1 Stage 3A: Assessment using criteria and indicators

The sensitivity assessment should be prepared for each unit/area being assessed related to each relevant type of development or change. This should consider all the factors influencing susceptibility and value and arrive at an overall judgement on sensitivity.

A comprehensive assessment proforma would set out the criteria in a table and make an individual judgement against each based on the indicators. Ideally this should be on a five point scale for susceptibility and value in order to reflect the complexity and nuance of seascape character and the associated visual resource. These can be, for instance:

- High, high/medium, medium, medium/low, low OR
- Very high, high, medium, low, very low

The detail of the assessment will be driven by the resource and time made available for the project.

2.4.2 Stage 3B: Overall sensitivity assessment

An essential component of any assessment is a summary and justification of seascape susceptibility, value and overall sensitivity. There should be a clear connection between the criteria, indicators and sensitivity judgements. The sensitivity judgement should not be just a 'mathematical' adding up of the aggregated 'scores' but be based on a judgement on the relative importance of the factors considered.

The levels of sensitivity should be defined incorporating the thresholds of susceptibility to a type of development or change, value and relationship with character. As with the component assessment, a five-point scale should be used. An example from NRW (2019) which considered large-scale offshore windfarms in Wales gives an indication of how these levels can be defined (see Table 3).

Table 1: Definition of levels of sensitivity- example

Level	Definition
Low	Seascape and/or visual characteristics of the zone are robust or degraded and/or its values are low and it can accommodate the relevant type of development without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are very high.
Medium/ low	Seascape and/or visual characteristics of the zone are resilient to change and/or its values are medium/low or low and it can accommodate the relevant type of development in many situations without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are high.
Medium	Seascape and/or visual characteristics of the zone are moderately susceptible to change and/or its values are medium/low through to high/medium and/or it *may* have some potential to accommodate the relevant type of development in some *defined* situations without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are intermediate.
High/ medium	Seascape and/or visual characteristics of the zone are susceptible to change and/or its values are medium through to high. The seascape zone may be able accommodate the relevant type of development but only in limited situations without significant character change or adverse effects if defined in the relevant zone summary. Thresholds for significant change are low.
High	Seascape and/or visual characteristics of the zone are very susceptible to change and/or its values are high or high/medium and it is unable to accommodate the relevant type of development without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are very low.

The assessment can be used to inform recommendations on the location and design of development in order to avoid or mitigate effects or, preferably, to create a positive benefit. This may include consideration of the relationship between developments themselves as well as with inherent seascape character and visual receptors. Assessment proformas can include this as an additional consideration. From this, it may be possible to develop overall generic guidelines for different types of development, but this would be separate from the core sensitivity assessment.

2.5 Stage 4: Reporting

Reporting will be dictated by the Brief but should include the method and sufficient analysis from Stages 2 and 3 so that it can be used as a robust evidence base. There should be a summary of conclusions and recommendations and an indication of how the information should inform future decision-making. Project outputs may include:

- method
- analysis including proformas with concise explanatory text and justifications
- overall summary
- recommendations on potential mitigation

- guidance, such as on design if required
- associated mapping and GIS data illustrating sensitivity
- illustrations including diagrams and photographs if required
- caveats regarding how the information provided should be used
- glossary of terms and abbreviations

Consideration of cumulative effects may be needed as an additional output where development/s are beginning, or have the potential, to significantly change the character of an area. The output could include a structured proforma as an addition to the sensitivity assessment or separate and/or a summary and recommendations. More detail is located in Annex D.

The report should be clearly structured and written in plain English.

A separate, non-technical summary may be prepared aimed at either decision-makers and/or a non-technical audience.

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Annex A: Glossary

Term	Definition
Marine character	See seascape character.
Marine character area	See seascape character area. (Term used for national/regional scale units).
Seascape	Landscapes with views of the coast or seas, and coasts and the adjacent marine environment with cultural, historical and archaeological links with each other. (MPS) European Landscape Convention (ELC) (2000) definition of landscape (including seascape) as *'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is a result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'*.
Seascape character	Seascape character is a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements in the seascape that makes one seascape different from another, rather than better or worse. (NECR105)
Seascape character area	Seascape character areas are defined as single unique geographical areas each containing one or more seascape character types. Each character area has its own individual character and identity, even though its seascape character types may share the same generic characteristics with those in other seascape character areas.
Seascape character capacity	Seascape capacity refers to the amount of specified development or change which a particular marine or local seascape character area and the associated visual resource is able to accommodate without undue negative effects on its character and qualities. (Adapted from Natural England, 2019)
Seascape character sensitivity	Term applied to marine character and seascape and the associated visual resource, combining judgements of their susceptibility to a specific type of development / development scenario or other change being considered and the value(s) related to that seascape, marine character and visual resource. (Derived from Natural England, 2019)
Seascape character susceptibility	The degree to which a defined seascape character area and its associated visual qualities and attributes might respond to the specified types of development or change without undue negative effects on character and the visual resource. (Adapted from Natural England, 2019)
Seascape character type	These are distinct types of seascape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different locations but wherever they occur they share

	broadly similar combinations of geology, bathymetry, ecology, human influences and perceptual and aesthetic attributes. (NECR105)
Seascape character value	The relative value or importance attached to a seascape character area, which may express national or local consensus, because of its quality, its qualities including perceptual aspects such as scenic beauty, tranquillity and wildness, its natural or historic attributes or features, cultural associations, or its relationship with designated or valued landscapes and coasts and their defined special qualities. (Adapted from Natural England, 2019) seascape
Seascape quality	The physical state of the seascape. It includes the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, sometimes referred to as strength of character, the intactness of the seascape from visual, functional and ecological perspectives and the condition or state of repair of individual elements of the seascape. (NECR105)

For other definitions, NECR105 (Natural England, 2012) or Natural England (2019) should be referred to.

Abbreviations used in the text

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
GLVIA	Guidelines for landscape and visual impact assessment
GIS	Geographic information system
HSC	Historic Seascape Characterisation
HWM	High water mark
km	Kilometres
LCA	Landscape character assessment *or* landscape character area
LVIA	Landscape and visual impact assessment
LWM	Low water mark
m	Metres
MCA	Marine Character Area
MPA	Marine Planning Area
MPS	Marine Policy Statement
MHW	Mean high water
nm	nautical miles
NE	Natural England
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
SM	Scheduled Monument
SCA	Seascape character assessment / seascape character area
SCT	Seascape character type
SEA	Strategic environment assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area

SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SVIA	Seascape, (landscape) and visual impact assessment
WHS	World Heritage Site

Annex B: Susceptibility and value criteria – long list

Indicative factors affecting sensitivity – seascape and visual susceptibility criteria

Main criteria- long list	Sub-criteria
Natural	
Coastal edge	Cliffs, rocky coasts, upper beach, dunes etc
Coastal edge	Intertidal
Coastal edge	Subtidal/ sub littoral
Water column depth and qualities	Bathymetry range and nature of water/water qualities e.g. Blue Flag, suspended sediment etc.
Tidal range/ currents	Tidal range, direction and speed of currents
Seabed	Seabed/ sedimentary geology and form.
Coastal processes	Deposition or erosion of sediments and direction.
Sea surface	Waviness/ exposure.
Key habitats, features and species	Marine, intertidal, coastal edge
Cultural/Social	
Use of the sea	Navigation, fishing, leisure, energy production, mineral extraction etc.
Use of the coast	Settlement, industry, marine related development such as ports or harbours, coastal defences/infrastructure, leisure/tourism, agriculture, semi-natural, dunes etc.
Historic features at sea surface, on seabed or buried below, areas of particular interest	For example, wrecks, paleo-landscapes
Historic features/areas on coast	For example, coastal forts, castles, lighthouses, historic parks
Cultural associations	For example, former use of the sea or coast, boatmaking, former trade routes, associations with artists and writers, food traditions, spiritual connections, education and interpretation etc.
Quality/ Condition	
Intactness	Degree of completeness or fragmentation or area character or elements, presence of detractors and extent.
State of repair	Condition of coastal natural and built features/ elements; maintained or not maintained.

Main criteria- long list	Sub-criteria
Aesthetic and Perceptual	
Scale	Of sea in relation to coastal form or offshore.
Openness and enclosure	Degree and nature of enclosure of sea by land, framing of views.
Exposure	Sheltered, calm, exposed.
Aspect	Relationship with sun.
Seascape pattern and foci	Features and elements on/above the sea surface.
Seascape pattern and foci - coast and hinterland	For example, headlands, cliffs, high hills or landmarks such as forts or castles.
Tranquillity	Defined by movement, presence of man-made structures, dark skies/ lighting, noise.
Naturalness / Wildness	Sense of natural /semi-natural character uninfluenced by man.
Remoteness	Perceived distance from centres of population.
Visual Characteristics	
Key views- land to sea sea to land sea to sea	Including nature of views and elevation, perhaps including iconic features. Views from within area and from outside.
Intervisibility of the area with important receptors	Amount/length/ extent /nature of coastal views and distance away from unit/ development. For example, remote areas of coast, coastal topography influences e.g. elevation and form- plateau, slopes etc.
Typical receptors – type and number	For example, coast walkers, visitors to coast/features, beach visitors, residents, leisure sailors, ferries, shipping, urban areas etc.
How the seascape is experienced	Summarise whether experienced mainly from coast or sea, from remote/ secluded areas or populated areas, from elevated or low positions etc
Relationship between seascape area and adjacent coast or character area	
Relationship between components of seascape character	Key relationships between hinterland, coastal edge, intertidal area and sea
Contribution to setting	Summarise contribution of seascape to the setting of a coast/ hinterland Summarise contribution to the setting of a an adjacent seascape character area

Main criteria- long list	Sub-criteria
Potential for cumulative effects	
Potential for cumulative effects	Would combined cumulative effects between existing and potential developments cause a significant change in character?

Indicative factors affecting sensitivity – seascape value criteria

Main criteria	Sub-criteria
Landscape designations- national, regional, local	For example, National Parks, AONBs, Heritage Coast, local countryside designations, (distance, relationship, extent of role as setting).
Nature conservation designations	Marine and coastal e.g. MCZ, RAMSAR, SAC, SPA, SSSI etc (if relevant).
Heritage designations	Marine and coastal- for example, WHS, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens, Conservation Areas, and their settings (if relevant).
Relevant special qualities	If landscape/ coastal designation overlooks area. (List and define the degree to which the area contributes to these).
Other valued attributes	Scenic quality Perceptual aspects. For example, wildness, tranquillity. Non-designated cultural or natural features Cultural associations Rarity or representativeness Other
Strength of character and sense of place	Distinctiveness of area, features or elements.
Community values	Value associated with area or features/elements by people- communities of interest and place, public attitudes.
Recreational value	Use for leisure or sport on sea, intertidal, coast.

Annex C: Sample sensitivity criteria and indicators

Offshore wind farms
Factors affecting sensitivity- seascape susceptibility criteria and indicators

Main criteria seascape- long list	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher susceptibility	Indicators of lower susceptibility
Natural			
Hinterland	Form/ topography/ character (relevant landscape character area).	Mountainous or hilly hinterland i.e. long slopes rising from coast, high elevation	Plateau or flat hinterland. Highly enclosed by topography or land cover
Coastal edge	Cliffs, rocky coasts, upper beach, dunes etc	Intricate, complex, rugged forms and dramatic headlands/ends of peninsulas Where great simplicity is the key characteristic and introduction of structures into very horizontal composition would compromise this.	Flat, horizontal or gently undulating or largely straight coast. Simple forms
Coastal edge	Intertidal	Intricate, complex, rugged forms Simple large beaches	Man-made interventions/ structures in area
Seabed	Seabed/ sedimentary geology and form.	Highly distinctive or rare type of seabed with special natural features in development location.	Seabed with no special natural features in development location.

Main criteria seascape-long list	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher susceptibility	Indicators of lower susceptibility
Tidal range/ streams	Tidal range, direction and speed of tidal streams	Where tidal range or streams add to the seascape qualities.	The tidal range or streams make a limited contribution to seascape qualities
Coastal processes	Deposition or erosion of sediments and direction.	-	-
Sea surface	Waviness/ exposure.	See exposure	See exposure
Key habitats, features and species	Marine, intertidal, coastal edge (if relevant).	Presence of marine habitats with high biodiversity in area of search.	Limited range and extent of biodiverse areas in area of search.
Cultural/Social			
Use of the sea	Navigation, fishing, leisure, energy production, mineral extraction etc.	Uses with limited infrastructure.	Presence of energy production and large shipping vessels/trade routes nearby (not through area).
Use of the coast/ hinterland if relevant	Settlement, industry, marine related development such as ports or harbours, industry, leisure/tourism, agriculture, dunes etc.	Uses with limited infrastructure. Rural uses or semi-natural land. Small scale, traditional, historic settlements and harbours.	Presence of industry/energy production/dock infrastructure. Urban form

Main criteria seascape-long list	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher susceptibility	Indicators of lower susceptibility
Historic features at sea surface, on seabed or buried below	For example, forts, wrecks, paleoland-scapes	Substantial presence of surface features such as sea forts, wrecks on the seabed and other submerged historic features which have significance as a group or make it difficult to microsite turbines.	Limited number or no heritage features.
Historic features on coast (if relevant)	For example, coastal forts, castles, lighthouses	Presence of coastal and island historic features such as forts, castles, chapels, monasteries, other buildings and structures and other heritage features which have a strong relationship with the coast and sea visually, physically or culturally.	Limited number or no heritage features
Cultural associations	For example, former use of the sea or coast, boatmaking, former trade routes, associations with artists and writers, food traditions, spiritual connections, education and interpretation etc	Where there are strong collective cultural associations with the sea and coast through people and events and their expression through literature, art, music or other media. These can include religious connections, legends, books and poems, pictures, music, films, plays and other cultural media.	Limited or no cultural associations, or cultural associations which are compatible with development, possibly relating to industry, current military infrastructure and trade.

Main criteria seascape-long list	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher susceptibility	Indicators of lower susceptibility
Quality/ Condition			
Intactness	Degree of completeness or fragmentation visually, functionally or ecologically of area character or elements, presence of detractors.	Intact and consistent character of seascape. Few or no detractors.	Seascape character fragmented. Presence of detractors.
State of repair	Condition of coastal natural and built features/ elements, maintained or not maintained.	Well maintained seascape or landscape character at coast.	Poorly maintained seascape or landscape character at coast. Presence of dereliction/neglect.
Aesthetic and Perceptual			
Scale	Of sea in relation to coastal form or offshore.	Small scale, enclosed, views to horizon limited by landform Introduction of an element of scale into previously un-scaled area	Large scale views
Openness and enclosure	Degree and nature of enclosure of sea by land, framing of views.	Where openness is a key characteristic and introduction of built elements would compromise this.	Unframed open views unimpeded by natural elements or features.

Main criteria seascape-long list	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher susceptibility	Indicators of lower susceptibility
Exposure	Sheltered, calm, exposed.	Sheltered and calm seascapes Where seascape is extremely exposed such that the perceived wild, elemental nature is a key characteristic and development would significantly change this perception.	Open, exposed seascapes which does not provide a perception of elemental or wild seascape character and development would be perceived as relating to these characteristics.
Aspect	Relationship with sun.	Development would interfere with notable views of sunrises and particularly sunsets. Where turbines would be highlighted in contrast to their background by sun light or be highlighted in silhouette from backlighting, thereby increasing visual prominence. Development seen from higher level views, particularly where viewer elevation results in development, and its geometric layout pattern, being seen much closer than on the horizon line.	Development located away from sunrise and sunset positions

Main criteria seascape-long list	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher susceptibility	Indicators of lower susceptibility
Seascape pattern and foci	Features and elements on/above the sea surface.	Complex or unified pattern which would be disrupted by development.	Presence of existing vertical or other elements at sea including shipping/ferries. (Note that cumulative effects may need to be considered separately to balance this judgement)
Seascape pattern and foci - coast and hinterland (if relevant)	For example, headlands, cliffs, high hills, mountains or landmarks such as forts or castles.	Important focal points e.g. islands, islets, headlands, distinctive sweeping beaches, and high hills. Open unspoilt views of the sea with no signs of development offshore.	Lack of intact pattern Lack of natural or historic feature focal points
Tranquillity	Movement	Where stillness is a key feature either naturally (e.g. through aspect or tidal conditions) or due to lack of movement associated with transport, development or people. Where/when movement is highly natural, irregular or dramatic (currents, tidal streams, waves crashing on exposed coastlines) and regular mechanical movement or presence of development would detract.	In busier areas where development movement relates to other forms of mechanical movement present e.g. commercial shipping, ferries, boats, cars, lorries, aircraft or to a lesser extent other movement e.g. crowded swimming and surfing beaches Where/when waves are gentler and slow, regular movement of development could complement lapping of waves. Where clear current gives meaning/purpose to tidal renewable energy.

Main criteria seascape-long list	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher susceptibility	Indicators of lower susceptibility
Tranquillity	Presence of man-made structures	Presence of industrial/semi-industrial structures especially at sea, or on coast	Very limited or no industrial/semi-industrial structures
Tranquillity	Dark skies/ lighting	Where the area is unlit at night and is classified as such in a dark skies study. Little impact of lights from sea and land traffic. Where lighting is from scattered small settlements, lighthouses etc, and is minimal and isolated, and where larger scale, more geometric patterns of lighting from marine development would change this character	Coast is already well lit at night Lights of sea and land traffic or installations present.
Naturalness Wildness	Sense of natural /semi-natural character uninfluenced by man.	Undeveloped seascape Wild character Highly natural, semi-natural, unmanaged	Highly developed seascape Highly modified / managed.
Remoteness	Perceived distance from centres of population and human interventions.	Remote or isolated	Not remote

Main criteria seascape-long list	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher susceptibility	Indicators of lower susceptibility
Visual Characteristics			
Key views- **land to sea** **sea to land** **sea to sea**	Including nature of views and elevation, perhaps including iconic features. Views from within area and from outside.	Open or framed views from key viewpoints. Views to key features e.g. islands, other coasts, headlands. Views from well used sea area for leisure focussed on seascape/ scenic quality.	Few or no views from key viewpoints. Sea not used for leisure sailing.
Intervisibility of the area with important receptors	Amount/length/ extent /nature of intervisibility and distance away from unit/ development. For example, relationship in terms of angle of view, topography influences e.g. elevation and form- plateau, slopes etc.	Strong intervisibility with coast in terms of length and/or area and/or relatively close to.	Poor intervisibility with coast in terms of length and/or area and/or relatively far away.
Typical receptors – type and number	For example, coast walkers, visitors to coast/features, beach visitors, residents, leisure sailors, ferries, shipping, urban areas etc.	Coast path and users of paths and access land. Visitors to heritage features. Promenade and pier users. Leisure sailors.	Users of ferries. Shipping. People in urban areas at work. Users of roads (unless corniche). Users of railways.

Main criteria seascape-long list	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher susceptibility	Indicators of lower susceptibility
How seascape is experienced	Summarise whether experienced mainly from coast or sea, from remote/ secluded areas or populated areas, from elevated or low positions etc	From remote or little used stretch of sea with little shipping or boat use. From secluded coastline, intimate coastal roads and footpaths. From important viewpoints and elevated positions where the focus is the view and not the activity. Popular beaches where the focus is fully or partly on seascape views, qualities and character.	From ferry/shipping. From main coastal, busy roads. Crowded beaches where focus is on beach activities (rather than enjoyment of seascape character).
Relationship between seascape area and adjacent coast or character area			
Relationship between components of seascape character (if relevant)	Key relationships between hinterland, coastal edge, intertidal area and sea	-	-
Contribution to setting	Contribution of seascape to the setting of an important coast/ hinterland Contribution to the setting of a an adjacent seascape character area	Is perceived from, and forms the setting of, a sensitive coast or seascape character area within the limits of visual perception.	Is perceived from a less sensitive coast or seascape character area. Is beyond the limits of visual perception.

Factors affecting sensitivity- seascape value criteria and indicators

Main criteria	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher value	Indicators of lower value
Landscape designations- National, regional, local	E.g. National Parks, AONBs, Heritage Coast, local countryside designations, (distance, relationship, extent of role as setting).	Presence of National Parks, AONBs, especially if combined with Heritage Coast, overlooking area. Perceived as lying within seascape setting of a designation.	Absence of landscape designations. Not within seascape setting of a landscape designation.
Nature conservation designations	Marine and coastal For example, MCZ, RAMSAR, SAC, SPA, SSSI etc (if relevant).	Presence of nature conservation designations within or potentially affected by area of potential development.	Absence of nature conservation designations within or potentially affected by area of potential development
Heritage designations	Marine and coastal- For example, WHS, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens, Conservation Areas, and their settings (if relevant).	Presence of heritage designations overlooking or within area of potential development. Perceived as lying within seascape setting of a designation.	Absence of heritage designations overlooking or within area of potential development
Relevant special qualities	If landscape/ coastal designation overlooks area. (List and define the degree to which the area contributes to these).	Area contributes to special qualities.	Area does not contribute to special qualities.
Other valued attributes	Scenic quality	Area has a high scenic quality.	Area has low scenic quality.

Main criteria	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher value	Indicators of lower value
Other valued attributes	Perceptual aspects - For example, wildness, tranquillity,	Area as high tranquillity and a high level of perceived wildness.	Area has low tranquillity and limited/no apparent wildness.
Other valued attributes	Non-designated cultural or natural features	Presence of notable cultural or natural features.	Lack of notable cultural or natural features.
Other valued attributes	Cultural associations	Area with rich cultural associations.	Area with limited cultural associations.
Other valued attributes	Rarity, representativeness	Rare seascape character or visitors or representative character or features.	Lack of rarity or representativeness of seascape character features.
Strength of character and sense of place	Distinctiveness of area, features or elements.	Has a strong character and distinctiveness or contributes to adjacent seascape area or coast.	Has a weak character and limited distinctiveness or does not contribute to adjacent seascape area or coast.
Community values	Value associated with area or features/elements by people- communities of interest and place, public attitudes.	Area or features highly valued by people.	Area or features with attributed limited value by people.
Recreational value	Use for leisure or sport on sea, intertidal, coast.	Area used extensively for leisure especially related to enjoying seascape character and views.	Area with limited use for leisure, or where leisure relates to motorised pursuits/speed.

Marinas
Factors affecting sensitivity- seascape susceptibility criteria and indicators
Note that the main criteria can be combined, or omitted if irrelevant to development type.

Main criteria seascape- long list	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher susceptibility	Indicators of lower susceptibility
Natural			
Coastal edge	Cliffs, rocky coasts, upper beach, dunes etc	Intricate, complex, rugged forms and dramatic headlands/ends of peninsulas or intimate bays/coves. Where great simplicity is the key characteristic and introduction of structures into very horizontal composition would compromise this. Simple large beaches	Flat, horizontal or gently undulating coast or coast with some indentations/variation. Simple forms
Coastal edge	Intertidal Subtidal/ sub littoral	Intricate, complex, rugged, biodiverse areas Reefs, biodiverse areas	Man-made interventions/ structures in area Moderate simplicity of form and seafloor
Water column depth and qualities	Bathymetry range and nature of water/water qualities e.g. Blue Flag, suspended sediment etc.	High water quality, rich biodiversity which enhance seascape character	Lower water quality which detracts from seascape character Navigable water
Tidal range/ streams	Tidal range, direction and speed of tidal streams	Where tidal range or streams add to the seascape qualities.	The tidal range or streams make a limited contribution to seascape qualities

Main criteria seascape-long list	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher susceptibility	Indicators of lower susceptibility
Coastal processes	Deposition or erosion of sediments and direction.	Where there are notable coastal processes which may be disrupted by the development leading to changes in deposition or erosion patterns e.g. along the coast	Where coastal processes are limited and/or on/off shore which may not be disrupted by the development.
Sea surface	Waviness/ exposure.	Exposed coasts	Sheltered coasts
Key habitats, features and species	Marine, intertidal, coastal edge	Rich biodiversity/ range of habitats particularly relating to the coastal edge and intertidal areas	Limited biodiversity
Cultural/Social			
Use of the sea	Navigation, fishing, leisure, energy production, mineral extraction etc.	Limited use of the sea for navigation or other apparent uses.	Substantial use of the sea including leisure sailing/boating and commercial uses.
Use of the coast	Settlement, industry, marine related development such as ports or harbours, industry, leisure/tourism, agriculture, semi-natural, dunes etc.	Very limited or no settlement Semi-natural coastal edge	Presence of settlement on the coast Presence of marine related development such as ports or harbours. Presence of leisure development focussed on the coast

Main criteria seascape-long list	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher susceptibility	Indicators of lower susceptibility
Historic features at sea surface, on seabed or buried below	For example, forts, wrecks, paleoland-scapes	Substantial presence of surface features such as sea forts, wrecks on the seabed and other submerged historic features which have significance as a group or make it difficult to microsite turbines.	Limited number or no heritage features.
Historic features on coast	For example, coastal forts, castles, lighthouses	Presence of historic coastal features with potentially sensitive settings.	Limited or no historic coastal features.
Cultural associations	For example, former use of the sea or coast, boatmaking, former trade routes, associations with artists and writers, food traditions, spiritual connections, education and interpretation etc	Cultural associations with artists/poets/writers with focus on natural /unspoilt coast or seascape. Area with spiritual associations.	Few or very limited cultural associations. Cultural associations associated with sailing/leisure.
Quality/ Condition			
Intactness	Degree of completeness or fragmentation visually, functionally or ecologically of area character or elements, presence of detractors.	Intact and consistent character of seascape. Few or no detractors.	Seascape character fragmented. Presence of detractors.

Main criteria seascape-long list	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher susceptibility	Indicators of lower susceptibility
State of repair	Condition of coastal natural and built features/ elements, maintained or not maintained.	Well maintained seascape or landscape character at coast.	Poorly maintained seascape or landscape character at coast. Presence of dereliction/neglect.
Aesthetic and Perceptual			
Scale, **openness and enclosure**	Of sea in relation to coastal form or offshore. Degree and nature of enclosure of sea by land, framing of views.	Very small scale, enclosed coastal form enclosing sea and framing of views. Very large scale open seascape, either straight or convex coastal form Introduction of an element of scale into previously un-scaled area	Intermediate scale. Moderate enclosure which tends not to frame views.
Exposure	Sheltered, calm, exposed.	Exposed	Sheltered
Seascape pattern and foci	Features and elements on/above the sea surface.	Complex or unified pattern which would be disrupted by development. Few features on or above the sea surface. Presence of islands, islets and reefs.	Presence of man-made features and elements on or above the sea surface e.g. shipping, boats, buoys, markers etc

Main criteria seascape-long list	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher susceptibility	Indicators of lower susceptibility
Seascape pattern and foci - coast and hinterland	For example, headlands, cliffs, high hills/mountains or landmarks such as forts or castles.	Notable coastal features such as headlands, cliffs, islands, historic features. Open unspoilt views of the sea and coast with no signs of development.	Lack of intact pattern Few notable natural or man-made features.
Tranquillity	Defined by movement, presence of man-made structures, dark skies/ lighting, noise.	Tranquil with limited movement and noise, limited presence of man-made structures or lighting. Dark skies evident. Limited settlement or offshore development.	Limited tranquillity with evidence of movement and noise on the coast and at sea, presence of man-made structures on the coast and at sea, substantial lighting on the coast and from structures at sea. E.g. urban coastal areas, intensive leisure use of the sea, structures at sea such as wind farms.
Naturalness Wildness	Sense of natural /semi-natural character uninfluenced by man.	Undeveloped seascape Wild character Highly natural, semi-natural, unmanaged	Highly developed seascape Highly modified / managed.
Remoteness	Perceived distance from centres of population and human interventions.	Remote or isolated	Not remote

Main criteria seascape-long list	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher susceptibility	Indicators of lower susceptibility
Visual Characteristics			
Key views- **land to sea** **sea to land**	Including nature of views and elevation, perhaps including iconic features. Views from within area and from outside.	Open or framed views from key viewpoints. Views to key features e.g. islands, other coasts, headlands. Sea views towards key coastal features.	Few or no views from key viewpoints.
Intervisibility of the area with important receptors	Amount/length/ extent /nature of coastal views and distance away from unit/ development. For example, remote areas of coast, coastal topography influences e.g. elevation and form-plateau, slopes etc.	Coastal and hinterland form allows large degree of intervisibility with coast/water's edge.	Coastal and hinterland form allows limited degree of intervisibility with coast/water's edge.
Typical receptors – type and number	For example, coast walkers, visitors to coast/features, beach visitors, residents, leisure sailors, ferries, shipping, urban areas etc.	Coast path and users of paths and access land. Visitors to heritage features. Sea canoeists.	Users of ferries. Shipping. People in urban areas at work. Users of roads (unless corniche). Users of railways. Promenade and pier users. Leisure sailors.

Main criteria seascape-long list	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher susceptibility	Indicators of lower susceptibility
How the seascape is experienced	Summarise whether experienced mainly from coast or sea, from remote/ secluded areas or populated areas, from elevated or low positions etc	From remote or little used stretch of sea with little shipping or leisure sailing use. From secluded coastline, intimate coastal roads and footpaths. From important viewpoints and elevated positions where the focus is the view and not the activity. Popular beaches where the focus is fully or partly on seascape views, qualities and character.	From ferry/shipping or leisure sailors. From main coastal, busy roads. Crowded beaches where focus is on beach activities (rather than enjoyment of seascape character).
Relationship between seascape area and adjacent coast or character area			
Relationship between components of seascape character	Key relationships between hinterland, coastal edge, intertidal area and sea	As above	As above
Contribution to setting	Summarise contribution of seascape to the setting of a coast/ hinterland Summarise contribution to the setting of a an adjacent seascape character area	Is perceived from, and forms the setting of, a sensitive coast or seascape character area.	Is perceived from a less sensitive coast or seascape character area.

Factors affecting sensitivity- seascape value criteria and indicators

Main criteria	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher value	Indicators of lower value
Landscape designations- National, regional, local	E.g. National Parks, AONBs, Heritage Coast, local countryside designations, (distance, relationship, extent of role as setting).	Presence of National Parks, AONBs, especially if combined with Heritage Coast. Perceived as lying within seascape setting of a designation.	Absence of landscape designations. Not within seascape setting of a landscape designation.
Nature conservation designations	Marine and coastal e.g. MCZ, RAMSAR, SAC, SPA, SSSI etc (if relevant).	Presence of nature conservation designations within or potentially affected by area of potential development.	Absence of nature conservation designations within or potentially affected by area of potential development
Heritage designations	Marine and coastal- e.g. WHS, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens, Conservation Areas, and their settings (if relevant).	Presence of heritage designations overlooking or within area of potential development. Perceived as lying within seascape setting of a designation.	Absence of heritage designations overlooking or within area of potential development
Relevant special qualities	If landscape/ coastal designation overlooks area. (List and define the degree to which the area contributes to these).	Area contributes to special qualities.	Area does not contribute to special qualities.
Other valued attributes	Scenic quality	Area has a high scenic quality.	Area has low scenic quality.

Main criteria	Sub-criteria	Indicators of higher value	Indicators of lower value
Other valued attributes	Perceptual aspects - For example, wildness, tranquillity,	Area as high tranquillity and a high level of perceived wildness.	Area has low tranquillity and limited/no apparent wildness.
Other valued attributes	Non-designated cultural or natural features	Presence of notable cultural or natural features.	Lack of notable cultural or natural features.
Other valued attributes	Cultural associations	Area with rich cultural associations.	Area with limited cultural associations.
Other valued attributes	Rarity, representativeness	Rare seascape character or visitors or representative character or features.	Lack of rarity or representativeness of seascape character features.
Strength of character and sense of place	Distinctiveness of area, features or elements.	Has a strong character and distinctiveness or contributes to adjacent seascape area or coast.	Has a weak character and limited distinctiveness or does not contribute to adjacent seascape area or coast.
Community values	Value associated with area or features/elements by people-communities of interest and place, public attitudes.	Area or features highly valued by people.	Area or features with attributed limited value by people.
Recreational value	Use for leisure or sport on sea, intertidal, coast.	Area used extensively for leisure especially related to enjoying seascape character and views.	Area with limited use for leisure, or where leisure relates to sailing or other boating.

Annex D: Cumulative effects

The assessment of cumulative effects for strategic planning may be needed where development/s are beginning, or have the potential, to significantly change the character of an area, possibly becoming key characteristics. This may be particularly relevant to large and/or tall developments which are intervisible, such as offshore windfarms. GLVIA 3 (Chapter 7) considers approaches to cumulative effects for LVIAs. For strategic planning, the purpose of an assessment would be to inform if an area can accommodate more development or not, and if so, how? As such, it should be an assessment of the *combined* effect of a set of developments taken together (SNH (2012), 7, p4). Considerations are likely to include:

- types of development to be assessed - this may be one type of development or multiple types of developments with associated activities.
- whether the developments considered are existing and consented, or another combination of developments with differing status.
- assessment of the baseline situation in terms of seascape character and visual contribution to setting of any relevant designations (using the sensitivity assessment information).
- review of combined cumulative effects of the developments on the baseline situation.
- assess compatibility of combined effects with existing or proposed seascape policies for the area.
- make recommendations for opportunities or constraint, setting out the most suitable locations for development with appropriate design, scale and spacing in order to provide benefits and/or mitigate and minimise effects.

The above considerations can form an addition to the sensitivity assessment proforma and/or a separate proforma with summary discussion and recommendations.