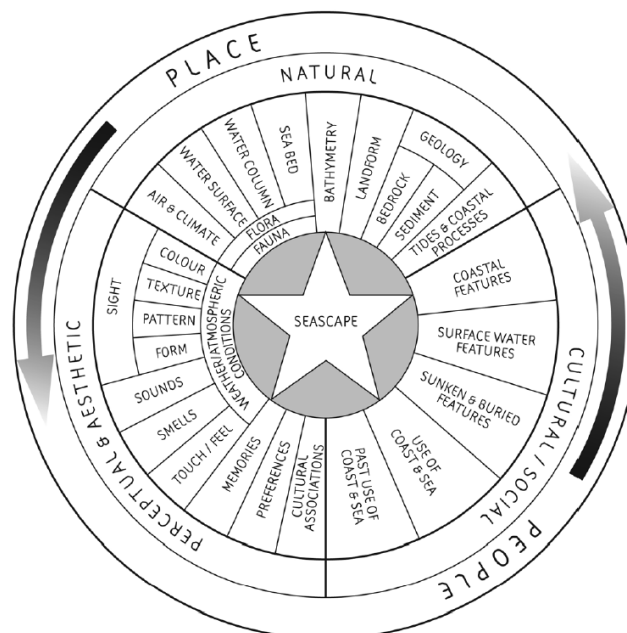


Appendix 1c: Landscape and Seascape

A1c.1 Introduction

Landscape and/or seascape can be defined as, "An area¹, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors" (from Article 1 of the European Landscape Convention), or alternatively as defined in the Marine Policy Statement (MPS), "landscapes with views of the coast or seas, and coasts and the adjacent marine environment with cultural, historical and archaeological links with each other". These interactions have been graphically represented by Natural England (2012a, 2019) in their seascape assessment methodologies (Figure A1c.1).

Figure A1c.1: Overview of influences on seascape



Source: Natural England (2012a)

The study of seascape is not only concerned with the physical changes in a given view but the interaction of that view with individuals and how it affects both overall visual amenity and the character of an area, which may go beyond just “visual” aspects of seascape. Seascapes and coastal environments (including the sea itself) are extensively used as part of people’s living and working environment, and also for recreation which is connected to tourism on which many coastal communities are dependent. Changes to a particular landscape or seascape can therefore be emotive, and can also strongly conflict with commercial and industrial activity (Hill *et al.* 2001). Seascape and landscape character assessment attempts to identify areas of the coast and adjacent seas based on broadly defining areas of distinctive physical and cultural form. These can be used at a strategic level as input to the consideration of the potential effects of a plan, and as the basis for considering potential impacts of an a given development based on a number of interacting factors (e.g. see DTI 2005 and Scott *et al.* 2005, Landscape

¹ Natural England (2012a) modify this to “an area of sea, coastland and land” when describing seascape.

Institute & IEMA 2013, Natural England 2019, MMO 2019), however developments will need to undertake site specific assessment.

A1c.2 UK Context

The "value" placed on landscape may in part be gauged on the presence of designated sites protected for their natural and cultural aesthetics. The coastal fringe of each Regional Sea contains a range of designations which relate in whole or in part to the landscape of that area and these are categorised in the sections which follow. The characterisation and designation of landscapes and seascapes is undertaken at a range of spatial scales, from strategic level characterisation (e.g. regional scale seascape and landscape character assessment), to local assessment at the council level, large areas in whole or part designated for their landscapes (e.g. National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and highly localised sites (e.g. Local Landscape Designations).

At the highest level, the European Landscape Convention (ELC) seeks to "*promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues*" (Ch. 1 Art. 2), and encompasses "*the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes.*" (Ch. 1 Art. 1), and therefore considers that all landscapes are important, not just the outstanding but also the everyday landscapes where most people live, work and spend much of their time. Many of the current landscape designations for the UK satisfy the articles set out in the convention (Defra 2007), though it can be generally accepted that the treatment of landscape in countryside environments is better than that in urban areas (Defra 2005, also see the Glover Landscapes Review 2019).

The ELC requires, "*landscape to be integrated into regional and town planning policies and in cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as any other policies with possible direct or indirect impacts on landscape*" (Article 5 (d)), and Natural England commissioned guidance on how to integrate the principles of the ELC into plans, policies and strategies (NE 2009). The ELC has been acknowledged in policy including the Marine Policy Statement (MPS) which states that all coastal landscapes should be considered when developing marine plans, not just those which are protected through designations. Consistent with the MPS, England's marine plans, Scotland's National Marine Plan and the Welsh National Marine Plan all recognise that planners and developers generally take landscape and seascape into account, without restricting policy to designated areas. As part of the marine planning process for English and Welsh waters, seascape character assessments have been undertaken for all marine plan areas following guidance (NE 2012a) commissioned as part of the English marine planning process (Figure A1c.3). The Welsh seascape character areas (LUC 2015) complement a number of local studies including the Pembrokeshire Seascape Character Assessment, Landscape and seascapes of Eryri (Snowdonia) and Anglesey seascape character assessment. Northern Ireland's Regional Seascape Character Assessment² defines 24 character areas, which complement coastal landscape character areas identified below.

In addition to seascape characterisation, viewshed analysis was undertaken for the coast of England and Wales as part of the marine planning process and more recently as part of The

² <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-regional-seascape-character-assessment>

Crown Estate's Round 4 leasing round. This allows for the mapping of areas of sea visible from land and land with sea views, and for Round 4, was focussed on the potential views of the sea from specific landscape designations in England and Wales (Figure A1c.2). This does not reflect the limits of potential visibility of projects, or other influences on visibility which are relevant to this plan/programme including atmospheric conditions (e.g. contrast and haze), the chromatic contrast of structures at sea and their surroundings (i.e. sea and sky), the arrangement/complexity of offshore activities, and also the structure height (dipping height) of offshore objects which may be above the level of a given horizon. Similarly, the topography on which they are based assumes a completely open landscape with no obstructing views by the onshore built environment or other forms of screening such as by trees. These can influence the visibility of activities from specific locations, and may influence the effect of new developments such as offshore wind. This is considered in more detail in Section 5.8 of the Environmental Report.

Landscapes with coastal views are also captured through a number of other national initiatives, including the National Character Area (NCA) network in England (Figure A1c.3, note that many of the description associated with these are now some years old), Scotland's Landscape Character Types (LCTs – not mapped)³ (Figure A1c.6), National Landscape Character Areas in Wales (Figure A1c.6)⁴, and the Northern Ireland Landscape Character Areas and Regional Landscape Character Assessment⁵. These form part of a hierarchy of landscape and seascape characterisation, with a range of other landscape and seascape character assessments having been undertaken at the local to regional level. These regional scale characterisations, along with Historic Landscape and Seascape Characterisations (below), generally also consider changes to landscape/seascape and forces for landscape/seascape change (i.e. what the drivers of these changes are). The characterisations reflect a snapshot in time, and while the general character and trend of change may remain the same now as when they were first produced, there is the possibility that the character of some areas has been affected at a strategic level. Of relevance is the deployment of offshore wind farms in the last 10-15 years, which have largely been within territorial waters and, therefore, viewable from land. This is discussed further in Section 5.8 of the Environmental Report. The above character areas cover both terrestrial aspects of the landscape which may have little or no intervisibility with the coast, but also coastal areas, and it is also recognised that character and associations with the coast and seas may go beyond visual components of landscape and seascape.

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) has been carried out as part of a country-wide initiative in Wales, administered by each Welsh archaeological trust, and in Scotland by Historic Environment Scotland⁶. Similarly, English Heritage supported the preparation of HLC reports in association with local authorities and councils, with over 99% of the country covered⁷. These are presented either in themed report form (e.g. Woodland, Industry) and/or interactive online GIS environments. This approach was modified (see Tapper 2009, Tapper & Hooley 2010) in the production of Historic Seascape Characterisation (HSC) which was piloted in five locations (Liverpool Bay and waters off the Fylde, The Solent and waters off the Isle of

³ <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/scottish-landscape-character-types-map-and-descriptions>

⁴ <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/nlca/?lang=en>

⁵ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/regional-landscape-character-areas-map-viewer> also see Northern Ireland's Landscape Character: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland>

⁶ <https://hlamap.org.uk/content/about-hla>

⁷ <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/methods/characterisation/historic-landscape-characterisation/> and <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/HLC/>

Wight, Southwold to Clacton, Withernsea to Skegness and Scarborough to Hartlepool) resulting in an updated approach, and has now been completed for all English inshore and offshore waters⁸. The method has the aim of mapping the historic character of an area which has developed over time through interactions with human activity, and uses historical charts, maps, documentary sources and modern data to generate mapped outputs. The characterisations cover the period up to the present, and as noted above in relation to changes to landscape character areas, reflect recent offshore changes such as the deployment of marine renewables. Areas are defined by “type” where they share historic characteristics. The maps produced account for a range of character types which may relate to seabed, water column or sea surface features. Each of the studies has both mapped outputs and extensive character area descriptions.

White Consultants (2020) were commissioned as part of the OESEA4 process to undertake analysis of Seascape Visual Impact Assessments (SVIAs) produced for wind farms with larger turbine sizes since the first offshore energy SEA in 2009. Additionally, a wireline analysis to evaluate wind farm scenarios at varying distances from the coast of larger turbine sizes with a blade tip of up to 400m was undertaken. The report also considered a range of visibility modifiers (e.g. haze, lighting effects) that affect the distance at which wind farms are visible from the coast. White Consultants (2019a, b) have conducted a similar seascape and visual sensitivity assessment for offshore wind farms in Wales. The reports provide a comprehensive baseline on current policy and guidance on seascape in relation to offshore wind developments in England and Wales, and for Wales, also an indication of the potential sensitivity of certain areas of the coast to these. The outputs from these studies have been used to inform the assessment provided in Section 5.8 of the Environmental Report.

⁸ https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/seascape_he_2018/index.cfm

Figure A1c.2: Visibility of sea from principal landscape designations

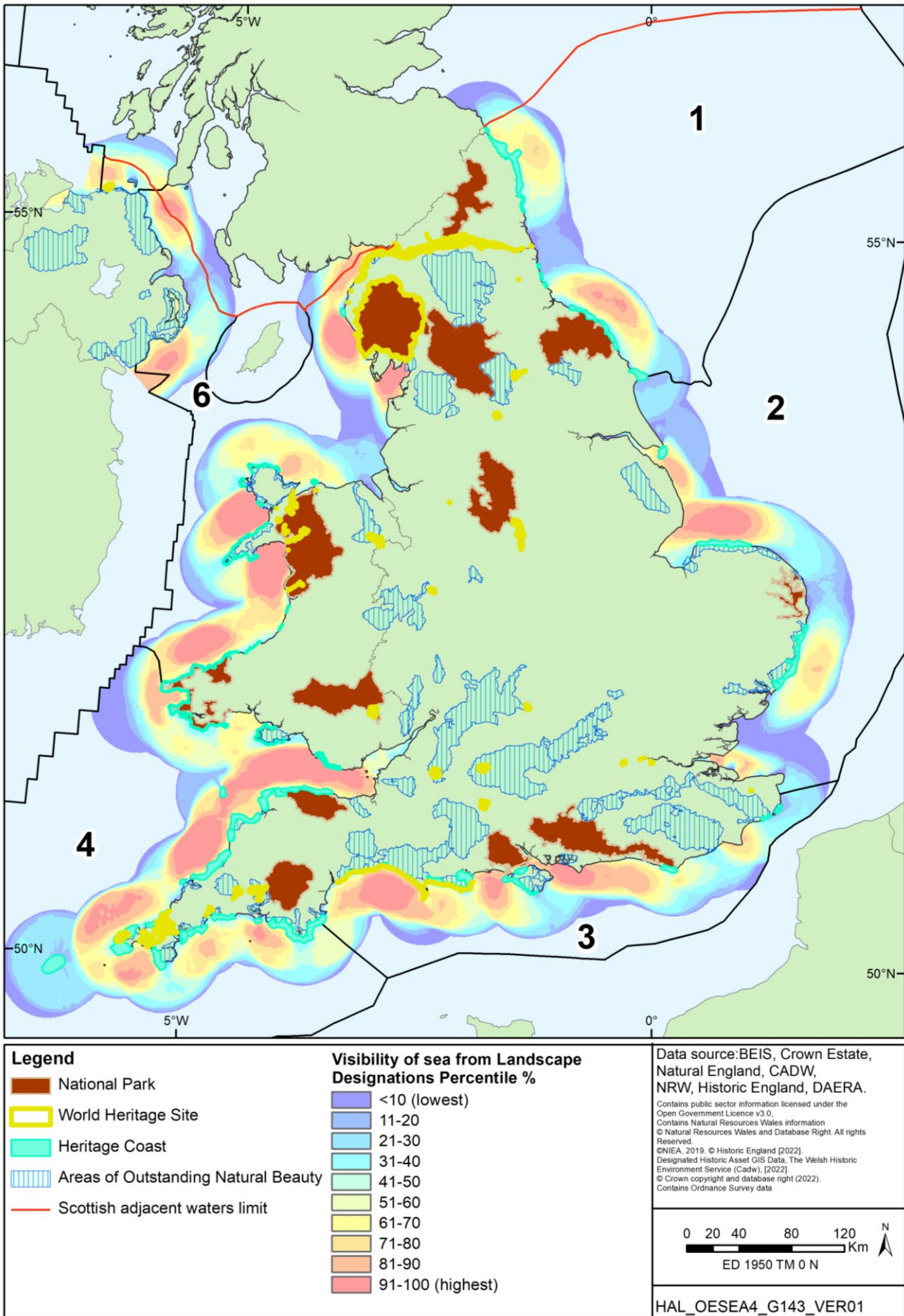
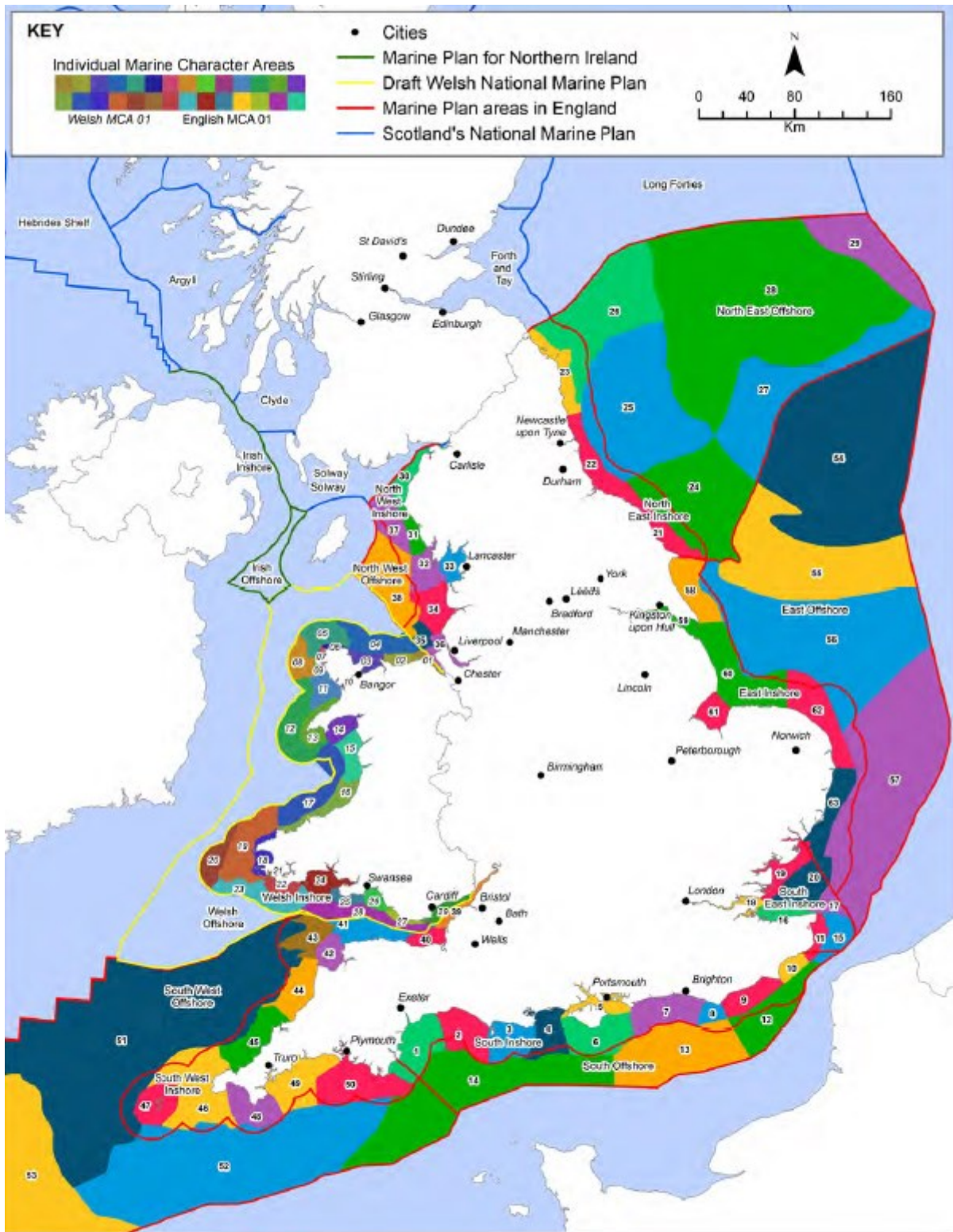


Figure A1c.3: Regional seascape character areas and related marine plan areas



white
CONSULTANTS
www.whiteconsultants.co.uk

Figure 4.2
Marine plan areas - Marine character areas

Contains public sector information, licenced under the Open Government Licence v3.0, from UKHO, MMO, Natural England and Natural Resources Wales. Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown copyright and database right (2019). The Crown Estate © Crown copyright (2019).
27/09/19 | v1 | Drawn: HK | Checked SW

A1c.3 Landscape designations and classifications

The following provides an overview of the main landscape types found in the UK. These are made up of statutory designations and non-statutory classifications but which are often material planning considerations, such as Heritage Coasts or the register of historical landscapes in Wales (also refer to Appendix 1j Conservation). Others, such as national trails, though not principally landscape designations, may be affected by changes to views. Most are shown in Figure A1c.4. National trails are mapped and discussed further in Appendix 1h.

A1c.3.1 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

AONB designations are made by Natural England (NE), Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), and these bodies also advise on policies for their protection. Provision is made to preserve not only the natural environment but traditional agriculture, forestry and industry. AONB designations are made under the *National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949* amended by the *Environment Act 1995* in England and Wales; and the *Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) Act 1985* (as amended) in Northern Ireland. The *Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000* clarifies the procedure and purpose of AONB designations.

The Glover Review⁹ indicated that, though having different purposes, finances and pressures, duplication between AONBs and National Parks wastes resources and diminished ambition, and it was recommended that these designations be brought together and be served by a shared National Landscapes Service –the Government response indicated that a national landscapes partnership will be formed building on existing collaborations. It was also recommended that the cumbersome title be simplified to “National Landscapes”, which is being considered, and that the designations are strengthened through greater funding and reform. It was also recommended that AONBs become statutory consultees in planning, which is being considered as part of a consultation on implementing the outcomes of the review¹⁰. Natural England is considering a number of areas for designation as new AONBs or extensions to existing designations, which are:

- Yorkshire Wolds AONB – a tranquil landscape of rolling hills, valleys and open plateaux interspersed with ancient woodland, chalk streams, farm holdings and historic villages, extending north from the River Humber.
- Cheshire Sandstone Ridge AONB – a diverse, distinctive, and celebrated landscape located in the heart of Cheshire, in close proximity to the large populations of NW England, rich in heritage, archaeology, wildlife, and culture.
- An extension to the Surrey Hills AONB – to consider including areas of high scenic quality including chalk grassland, parkland and historic features adjacent to the existing AONB.
- An extension to the Chilterns AONB – to consider many special features including chalk streams, magnificent beechwoods, native woodland and wildflower-rich hills, bringing nature closer to populations in North London.

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review#full-publication-update-history>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/landscapes-review-national-parks-and-aonbs-government-response/landscapes-review-national-parks-and-aonbs-government-response>

A1c.3.2 National Parks

The primary objective of National Parks is to preserve and enhance the landscape, while promoting public enjoyment, particularly of those residing within the park. They have a statutory purpose and duty, which is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park, to promote opportunities for public enjoyment and understanding of the special qualities of the National Park, and to foster the economic and social well-being of communities living within the Park (see Appendix 1j). The *National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949* established the National Park designation in England and Wales, and in Scotland by the *National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000*. In addition, the *Environment Act 1995* requires relevant authorities to have regard for nature conservation. Note also that the Government has indicated it will more closely align the statutory purposes of National Parks and AONBs to give greater consistency to how these are managed and protected.

A1c.3.3 Heritage Coasts (England and Wales)

Heritage coasts comprise areas of coast more than 1 mile in length which are of exceptional scenic value and which are largely undeveloped. Their purpose is to protect and enhance the coast and their heritage features including architecture and archaeology. These are a non-statutory landscape designation. Though these sites are not afforded the same protection as National Parks or AONB, most are located within areas with such designations (Figure A1c.4).

A1c.3.4 Country Parks

Statutorily declared under the *Countryside Act 1968*, or the *Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967*, Country Parks are intended for recreation and leisure close to population centres and need not have any nature conservation importance, though some form semi-natural environments. Country Parks are created if they fulfil certain requirements provided by Natural England¹¹. Additionally, in Scotland there are three Regional Parks (Clyde Muirshiel, Pentland Hills and Lomond Hills, though the latter is subsumed into the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park), also made under the *Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967*, containing regionally important landscapes, and providing important areas for wildlife and outdoor recreation close to large towns or cities.

A1c.3.5 Register of Landscape of Historic Interest in Wales and historic parks and gardens

The Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales provides information on the most important and best-surviving historic landscapes. The areas defined in the register do not have a “statutory” basis but are included as a planning consideration in Planning Policy Wales (2021). There are 58 historic landscapes on the register (see Cadw 2007)¹². Additionally, historic parks and gardens are listed on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales, for which there are presently around 400 entries¹³.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-accreditation-for-your-country-park>, also see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/accredited-country-parks-in-england/accredited-country-parks-in-england>

¹² <https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/historic-assets/conservation-areas-and-other-historic-assets/other-historic-assets-0>

¹³ <https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/historic-assets/registered-historic-parks-gardens/managing-registered-historic-parks>

A1c.3.6 World Heritage Sites

These sites are designated by UNESCO according to their natural (physical, biological, geological) or cultural (historic, aesthetic, archaeological monuments and structures) attributes, and should be considered to be of outstanding universal value, in addition to fulfilling at least one of six cultural and/or four natural criteria¹⁴.

A1c.3.7 National Scenic Areas (Scotland)

National Scenic Areas (NSAs) are Scotland's only national landscape designation, made under *The Town and Country Planning (National Scenic Areas) (Scotland) Designation Directions 2010*. They are those areas of land considered of national significance on the basis of their outstanding scenic interest which must be conserved as part of the country's natural heritage. They have been selected for their characteristic features of scenery comprising a mixture of richly diverse landscapes including prominent landforms, coastline, sea and freshwater lochs, rivers, woodlands and moorlands.

A1c.3.8 Local Landscape Designations

Termed Local Landscape Areas (LLAs) in Scotland are defined by local authorities with the aim of protecting the aesthetic appeal of an area while helping guide change in the planning process. Nearly a third of the Scottish landscape is covered by such designations. Local landscapes in England may be designated at the local authority level and may include designations such as Areas of Great Landscape Value.

A1c.3.9 Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings

In addition to those designations outlined above, the setting of heritage assets¹⁵, defined in the Marine Policy Statement as "buildings, monuments, sites or landscapes – that have been positively identified as holding a degree of significance meriting consideration", are also considered in this section. These may include, among other things, scheduled monuments, listed buildings and parks and gardens of special historic interest. Relevant coastal monuments and buildings are mapped in Appendix A1j. Additionally, a number of historic landscape and seascape character assessments have been undertaken across the UK and these will be highlighted in the relevant section below.

A1c.3.10 Wild Land Areas (Scotland)

SNH, now NatureScot, defined 42 wild land areas, which are extensive areas of wilderness identified as nationally important in Scottish Planning Policy. The areas supersede earlier work on search areas for wild land in Scotland (2012), and were selected following consultation on the 2013 "core areas" wild land map. The areas, totalling over 1.5 million hectares or 19.5% of Scotland, have a largely western distribution¹⁶, much like NSAs. SNH provide advice to Government detailing the methods used to derive the wild land map and how it should be used.

¹⁴ <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/has/whs/> and <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/gb>

¹⁵ This is also a consideration of the National Planning Policy Framework.

¹⁶ <https://www.nature.scot/doc/wild-land-areas-map-and-descriptions-2014>

Figure A1c.4: Landscape related designations in the UK

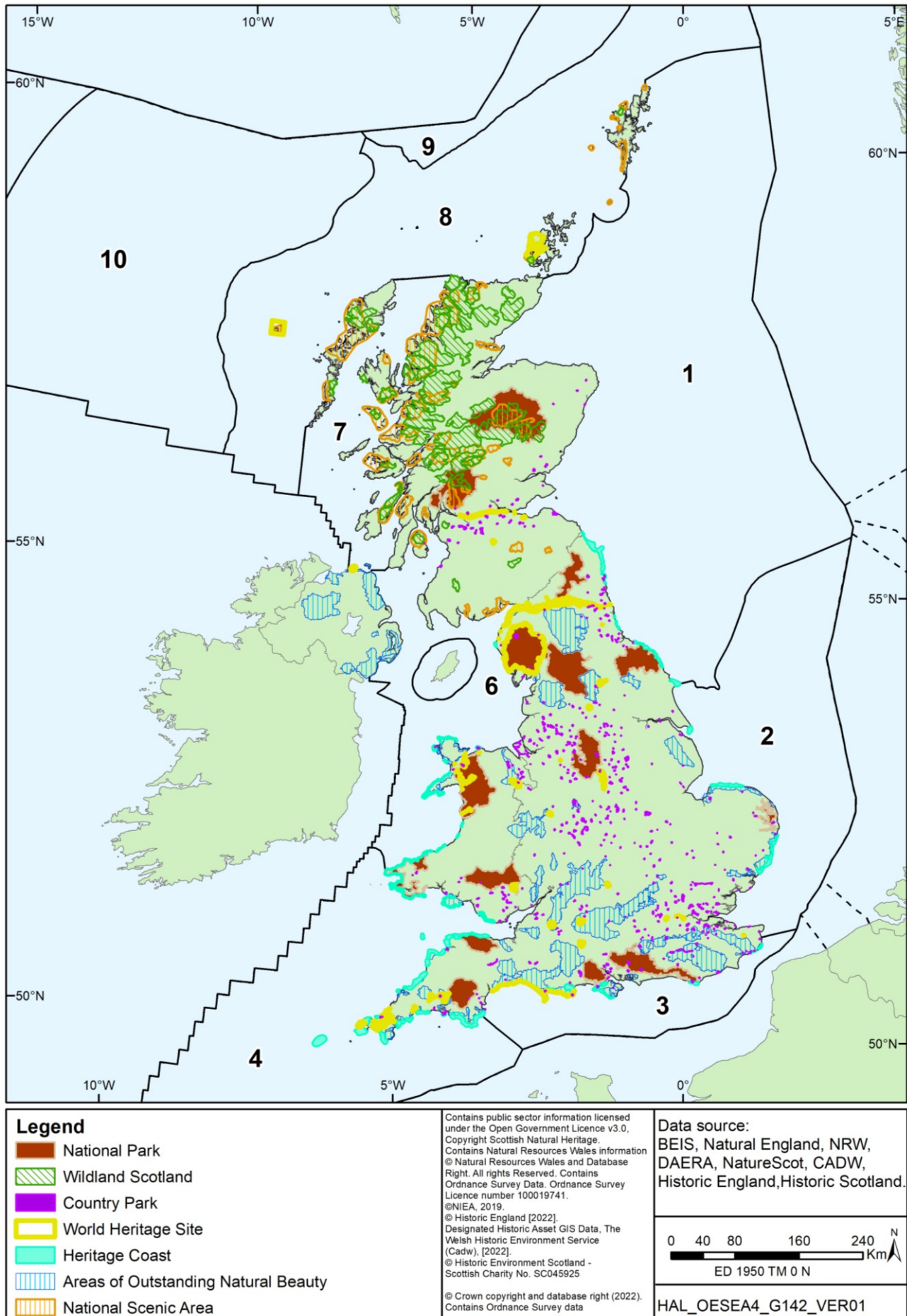
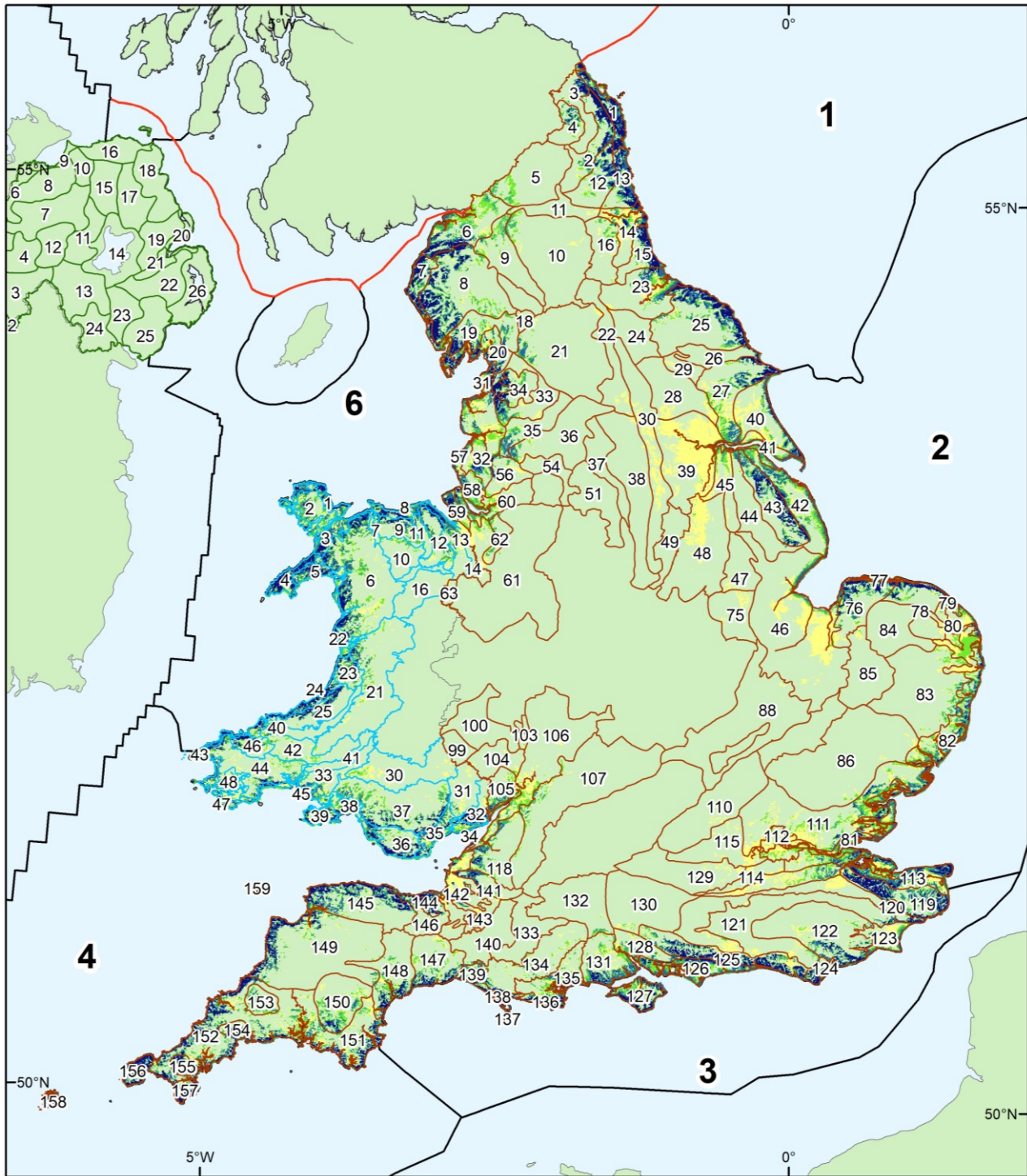


Figure A1c.6: National Character Areas in England, selected on the basis of potentially having areas with sea views as defined by the methods used in MMO (2014)



| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Character Areas England National Character Areas Wales Regional Character Areas Northern Ireland Scottish adjacent waters limit | <p>Land with sea views</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #000080; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #0000FF; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #008000; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #00FF00; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFFF00;"></div> </div> <div style="margin-left: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>High</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Low</p> </div> </div> | <p>Data source: BEIS, MMO, NRW, Natural England, DAERA.</p> <p><small>Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right. All rights Reserved. Contains Ordnance Survey Data. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019741. Crown Copyright and Database Right.</small></p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>0 25 50 100 Km</p> <p>ED 1950 TM 0 N</p> </div> <p>HAL_OESE4_G154_VER01</p> |
|--|--|---|

A1c.4 Overview of designations and other landscape initiatives

The above initiatives and studies have been used to provide an overview of the character of the coasts and seas and UK at a scale appropriate to help inform the SEA. The following sections provide an overview of designated areas and wider landscape and seascape character as defined in regional scale considerations where these are available. A detailed overview of the content of each of the character area descriptions (e.g. those National Character Areas of England and Wales, Regional Character Areas of Northern Ireland, and the Landscape Character Types of Scotland (not mapped)) is beyond the scope of this section, but these have informed the high level baseline description given in this SEA, and the assessment in Section 5.8. The seascape character areas as shown in Figure A1c.3 were also consulted, though national coverage is lacking.

A1c.5 Features of Regional Sea 1

The following provides a brief overview of the coast covered by Regional Sea 1 and has been informed by the initiatives mentioned in Section A1c.2. Major statutory and non-statutory designations are shown in Table A1c.1 and Figure A1c.7.

Regional Sea 1 has a varied landscape and seascape, ranging from the dramatic coastlines of Shetland with fjords, arches, stacks, beaches and tombolos and low-lying Orkney, to the wide and open landscape of Caithness and extensive moorland and mountains of Ross. Further south, the Moray Firth has a diverse range of cliffs, rocky shores and sandy bays, with sheltered inner firths backed by large-scale forestry plantation. Landscape designations are sparse in the north east, restricted to the Dornoch Firth National Scenic Area (NSA). The area of Banff and Buchan is low-lying and agricultural, and from here and to the south, there are major port facilities at Peterhead, Aberdeen and Dundee. The Firths of Tay and Forth have varied coasts which include beaches, dunes, golf courses and more industrialised uses including power stations and petrochemical plants. The Lothian and Borders area has a coastline of cliffs, sandy and rocky shores, with numerous cultural influences including small fishing ports and harbours, promontory forts and castles, and Victorian seaside resorts.

The Northumberland section of the coast is low-lying and undeveloped in the north, having an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) designation. The coast becomes progressively more urban and industrial further south, and includes the modern city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The area includes historic landmarks such as St Mary's lighthouse and Tynemouth Priory, and also the heavily modified Tynemouth estuary. To the south, the Durham coast is dramatic, with exposed cliffs of limestone and boulder clay, alternating series of small, sheltered bays and headlands. The area is also recognised as a Heritage Coast, having been transformed following restoration from despoiling caused by former colliery waste dumping. The coast becomes more rural and less industrial to the south, with Jurassic sandstones, mudstones and limestone forming a dramatic coastal landscape of high cliffs, high vegetated maritime slopes, and small coves and bays which characterise the North Yorkshire coast with its coastal towns and fishing villages. To the south, the coastal form becomes dominated by the chalk cliffs of Flamborough Head.

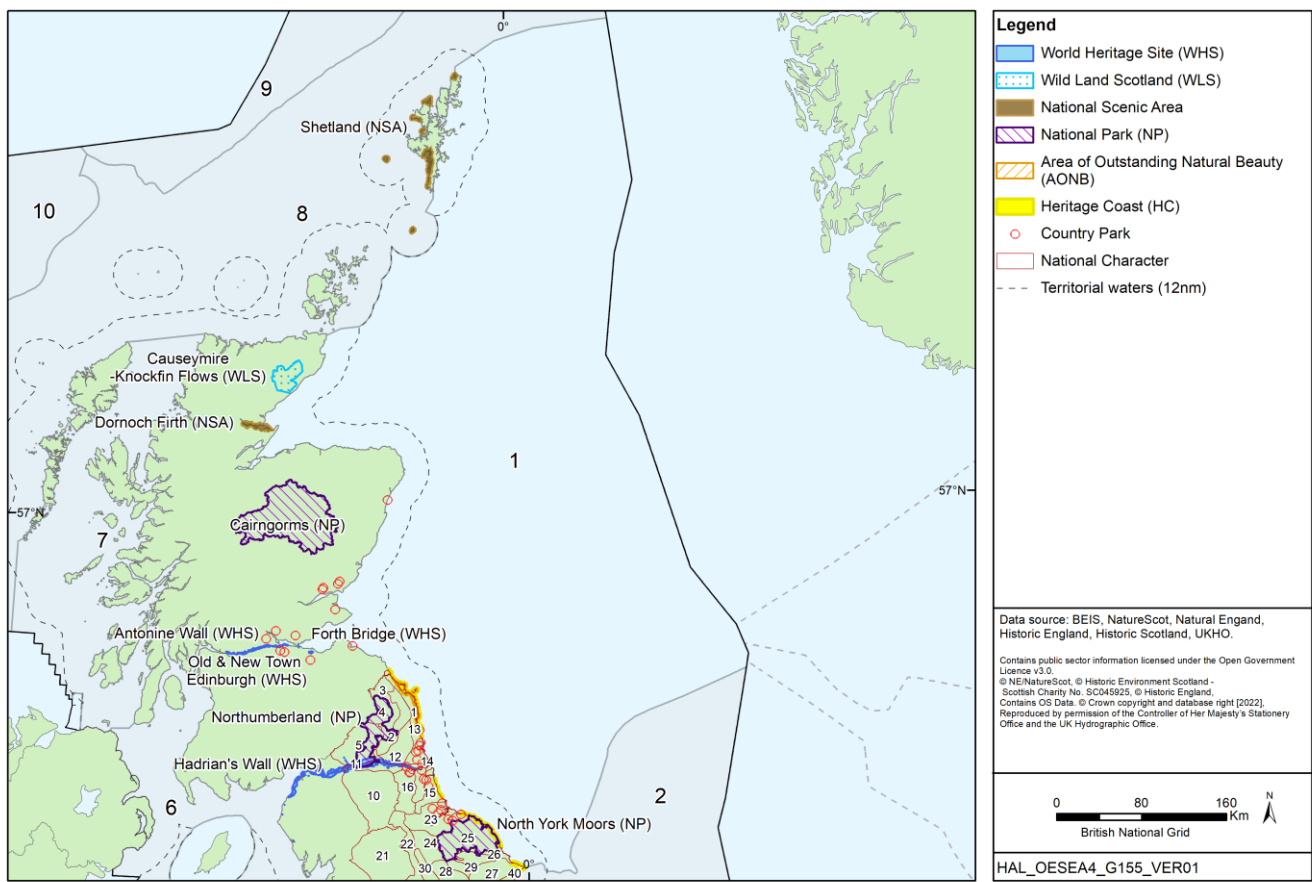
Table A1c.1: Relevant landscape conservation designations in Regional Sea 1

| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|---|------------------|--|
| Scotland | | |
| Dornoch Firth | NSA | <p>The Dornoch Firth exhibits a surprising variety of landscapes: to the east there is expansiveness where offshore views lead out to sea and a limitless horizon which contrasts with the west where there is a sinuous firth and a sense of enclosure, where inland views are bounded by opposing shores against a backcloth of hills. The firth itself, with its innumerable bays, sands, flats, shallows and promontories presents a constantly changing scene.</p> <p>A horizon of wilder hills contrasts markedly with the mosaic of farms and woods on the coastal flats, and the interplay of open ground, trees and woods results in a landscape mosaic of great beauty. The firth lacks major industry and possesses great tranquillity.</p> |
| Cairngorms | NP | The Cairngorms National Park has a large mountain range at its centre with diverse communities around it, covering an area of 4,528 km ² . It is home to 18,000 people and 25% of Britain's threatened species. It includes unique mountainous areas of wild land, moorlands, forests, rivers, lochs and glens. Natura 2000 sites cover 49% of the park and 25% is designated as a SSSI. |
| Old & New Towns of Edinburgh Criteria: ii and iv | WHS | Edinburgh has been the Scottish capital since the 15 th century. It has two distinct areas: the Old Town, dominated by a medieval fortress; and the neoclassical New Town, whose development from the 18th century onwards had a far-reaching influence on European urban planning. The harmonious juxtaposition of these two contrasting historic areas, each with many important buildings, is what gives the city its unique character. |
| The Forth Bridge Criteria: i and iv | | The Forth bridge, was the world's earliest great multispan cantilever bridge, and at 2,529 m remains one of the longest. It opened in 1890 and continues to carry passengers and freight. Its distinctive industrial aesthetic is the result of a forthright and unadorned display of its structural components. Innovative in style, materials and scale, the Forth Bridge is an important milestone in bridge design and construction during the period when railways came to dominate long-distance land travel. |
| England | | |
| Northumberland Coast | AONB | Stretches from Berwick-upon-Tweed to Amble. A low-lying coast with long views. Coastal dunes are broken by low rocky headlands and coves of Whin Sill basalt. The dunes marshes and mud-flats are important for their waterfowl and are recognised in conservation designations (e.g. Northumbria Coast SPA). The coast is largely undeveloped and a lack of coastal infrastructure contributes to its remoteness, though tourist pressure is rising. |
| North Northumberland | HC | Stretches between Tyne and Wear and Teesside, characterised by magnesian limestone grasslands cliffs, pebble and sandy beaches. Designated in 2001 after a substantial transformation of the coastline following a legacy of colliery waste dumping. The area has renewed tourist potential. |
| Durham | | |

| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|--|------------------|--|
| North Yorkshire & Cleveland | | The seaward edge of the North York Moors National Park. High cliffs cut by bays characterise the coast. The area is a SSSI and is of special geological interest. |
| Flamborough Head | | Probably the finest line of chalk cliffs in the country, rising at Bempton to 130 metres. Clay and chalk geology home to a distinct flora and a gannet colony. |
| North York Moors | NP | Holds the largest expanse of heather moorland in England. Red pantile roofs and sandstone give the cottages of the park a distinctive character. |
| Northumberland | | The National Park stretches from Hadrian's Wall through the valleys of Tyne and Rede to the Cheviot Hills on Scotland's border. |
| Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Hadrian's Wall Criteria: i, iii & iv | WHS | Hadrian's Wall was built on the orders of the Emperor Hadrian ca. AD 122 at the northernmost limits of the Roman province of Britannia. It is a striking example of the organization of a military zone and illustrates the defensive techniques and geopolitical strategies of ancient Rome. |
| Antonine Wall Criteria: ii, iii & iv | | The Antonine Wall is the most substantial and important Roman monument in Scotland. Built on the orders of the Emperor Antoninus Pius in the years following 140 AD, it extends for some 60 kilometres across central Scotland from Bo'ness on the River Forth to Old Kilpatrick on the River Clyde and marked the north western frontier of the Roman Empire. |

Key: AONB=Area of outstanding Natural Beauty, HC=Heritage Coast, NP=National Park, NSA=National Scenic Area, WHS=World Heritage Site, criterion i: to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius; ii: to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design; iii: to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared; iv: to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history. Sources: NatureScot website <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/protected-areas/national-designations/national-scenic-areas/nsa-special-qualities> (accessed: 01/03/22), UNESCO world heritage site website: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/gb> (accessed: 01/03/22), <http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/>, <https://www.nationalparks.uk/>

Figure A1c.7: Designated and other landscape areas in Regional Sea 1



A1c.6 Features of Regional Sea 2

The following provides a brief overview of the coast covered by Regional Sea 2 and has been informed by the initiatives mentioned in Section A1c.2. Major statutory and non-statutory designations are shown in Table A1c.2 and Figure A1c.8.

The chalk cliffs of Flamborough Head falls away to the flatter Holderness coast, characterised by generally low sand and glacial till cliffs which are being quickly eroded. The area has fragmented, remnant semi-natural carr, swamp and moist grassland environments, and is lightly settled. Numerous caravan sites maintain clifftop positions. Holderness terminates at the Spurn peninsula (which is also a Heritage Coast), which comprises a low sand and shingle spit, inland and south of which the Humber Estuary opens, containing internationally important mudflats, wetland and coastal habitats, but also the industrial influences around Hull and the south bank. The Lincolnshire coast to the south of the Humber contains vast areas of mudflats, major dune systems (such as at Gibraltar Point), but also extensive lengths of artificial sea defences, with larger settlement concentrated on the coast which include resort towns, and also holiday resorts and caravan parks. Both onshore and offshore wind farms are visible in this area of coast.

The area of the Fens and The Wash are low lying, the former often below sea-level, being largely reclaimed peatland drained between the 17th and 19th centuries. The Wash contains significant saltmarsh and mudflats, along with internationally important populations of seals, waders and wildfowl. On the south side of The Wash, cliffs provide views across to Skegness in the Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes. A distinctive scarp slope separates a low west-east

trending Chalk escarpment from the coast and inland the landscape is rolling and arable with remnant heath and mixed woodland. This landscape continues along the North Norfolk Coast, where low-lying intertidal sand and mudflats, sand dunes, shingle beaches, saltmarsh, reed beds, tidal creeks and harbours are backed by rural, arable land, but with a significant tourist industry.

Further around the Norfolk Coast, the Broads are an area of fen and marsh surrounding an artificial channel system dating back to the Medieval period, which is also a National Park with an additional statutory purpose in relation to navigation. The Suffolk coast extends in a narrow band of shingle and sand, with estuaries, mudflats, marshes and arable land dominating its southern extent. Built features are various and include the Sizewell power stations and associated cables and pylons in an otherwise undeveloped section of coast. The greater Thames Estuary is defined by estuaries, mudflats and broad tracts of tidal salt marsh and sand and shingle beaches set in an area with few large settlements. The area of Kent set between the Thames Estuary in the north and Kent Downs in the south is open, low and agriculturally productive. The coast contains chalk cliffs at Thanet and Pegwell Bay, sand dunes (e.g. at Sandwich Bay) as well as shingle beaches and saltmarsh. The coast is heavily developed around Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate with tall buildings, tower blocks and power stations.

Offshore, the seascapes range from open expansive areas with few surface features such as Dogger Bank, to areas which are characterised by human activities which include gas field infrastructure and associated vessel movements, and more recently, offshore wind farms. There are strong associations with the fishing industry including around the Dogger Bank, and the potting which takes place off Holderness, and almost every coast is influenced by a relatively dense concentration of shipping, which in some areas such as the Thames, is formalised into designated routes. The area also has strong historical associations going back to the prehistoric occupation of the southern North Sea, to the more recent defence of Britain during World Wars 1 and 2, and the associated coastal defence structures and aviation and maritime losses.

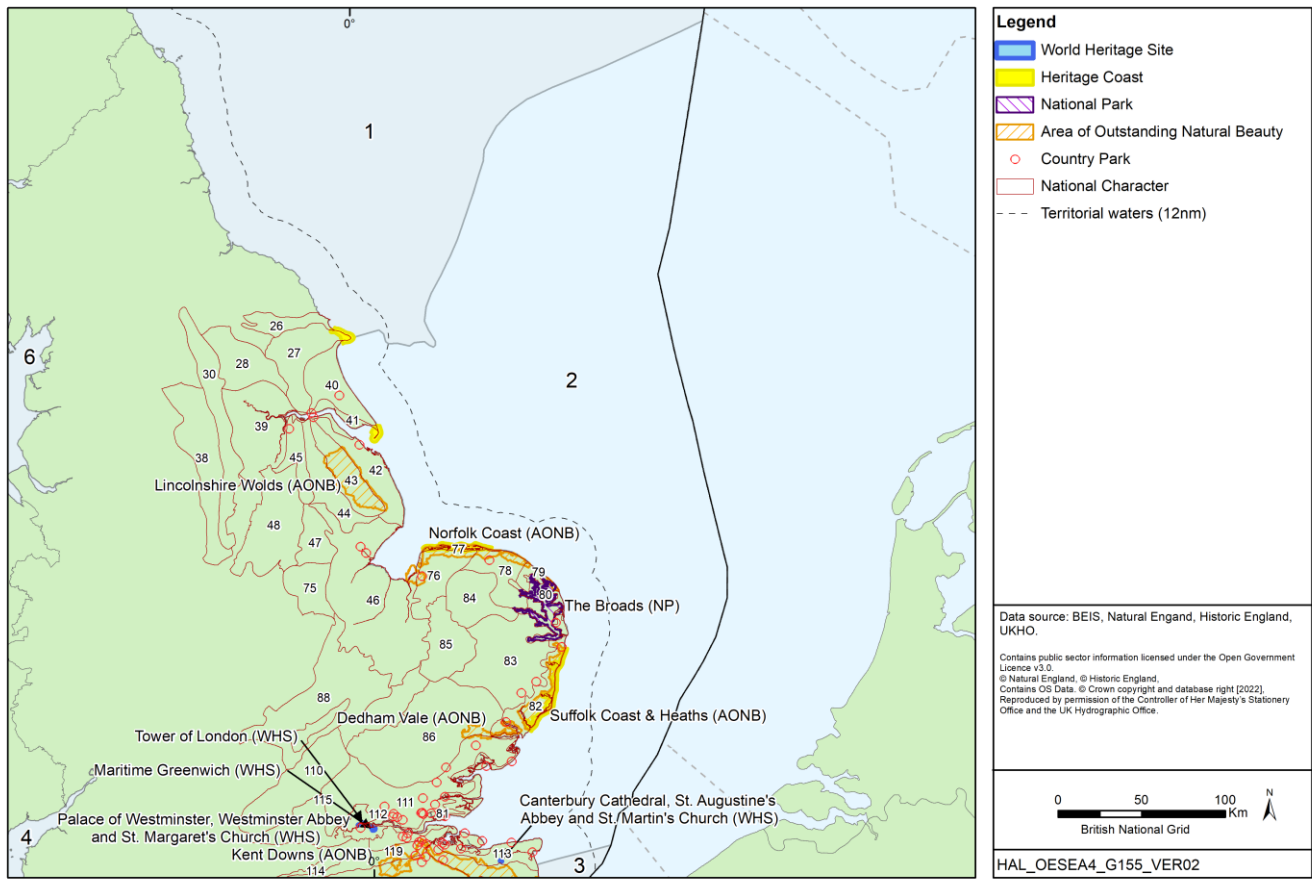
Table A1c.2: Relevant landscape conservation designations in Regional Sea 2

| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|--------------------------|------------------|---|
| Norfolk Coast | AONB, HC | Consists of sand and mud flats, dunes, shingle, saltmarsh, reedbeds and grazing marsh in addition to soft, eroding cliffs of glacial sands and gravels east of Weybourne and the farmland, estates and woodland of the coastal hinterland, with important areas of heathland. |
| Suffolk Coast and Heaths | AONB, HC | A mosaic of different habitats: farmland, heathland, ancient woodland, commercial forestry, reed beds, estuaries, grazing marsh, small towns and villages, low crumbling cliffs and shingle beaches. |
| Kent Downs | AONB | This area includes the southeast's outcrop of chalk. Dip slopes and dry valleys of the chalk ridge are of wildlife importance and include unimproved grassland, scrub communities and broadleaved woodland. Kentish hop gardens, orchards and historic parklands are also important features. |
| Dedham Vale | | This area includes an exceptional lowland river valley, which is characterised by hedged water meadows, copses and riverbank willows. An exceptional example of pastoral land. |

| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|---|------------------|--|
| Lincolnshire Wolds | | A dissected chalk tableland sloping gently to the east, the abandoned chalk pits and grasslands provide areas for rare plants and insects. Mixed managed woodland includes oak, ash and coppiced hazel. |
| Spurn | HC | This area comprises the curving hook of shingle and sand which makes up the tip of the eastern part of the mouth of the Humber and is home to many migratory bird species in spring and autumn. |
| The Broads | NP | This area was designated under its own Act of Parliament in 1989. The broads consist of peat-pits dug in the medieval period, connected to interior lakes by dykes, allowing lock-free navigation. Fen and carr woodland and drained marshland are characteristic of the area. |
| Maritime Greenwich Criteria: i, ii, iv, vi | WHS | Symmetrically arranged alongside the River Thames, the ensemble of the 17 th century Queen's House, part of the last Royal Palace at Greenwich, the palatial Baroque complex of the Royal Hospital for Seamen, and the Royal Observatory founded in 1675 and surrounded by the Royal Park laid out in the 1660s by André Le Nôtre, reflects two centuries of Royal patronage and represents a high point of the work of the architects Inigo Jones (1573-1652) and Christopher Wren (1632-1723), and more widely European architecture at an important stage in its evolution. It also symbolises English artistic and scientific endeavour in the 17 th and 18 th centuries. |
| Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey, and St Martin's Church Criteria: i, ii, vi | | Christ Church Cathedral Canterbury in Kent, South East England, a breath-taking mixture of Romanesque and Gothic architecture, has been the seat of the spiritual head of the Church of England for nearly five centuries. Following the murder of Archbishop Thomas Becket in 1170 AD and his subsequent canonisation it became a place of pilgrimage. St Martin's church and the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey form the other main elements of the Property. |
| Tower of London Criteria ii, iv | | The massive White Tower is a typical example of Norman military architecture, whose influence was felt throughout the kingdom. It was built on the Thames by William the Conqueror to protect London and assert his power. The Tower of London – an imposing fortress with many layers of history, which has become one of the symbols of royalty – was built around the White Tower. |
| Palace of Westminster, Westminster Abbey and St. Margaret's Church Criteria i, ii, iv | | Westminster Palace, rebuilt from the year 1840 on the site of important medieval remains, is a fine example of neo-Gothic architecture. The site – which also comprises the small medieval Church of Saint Margaret, built in Perpendicular Gothic style, and Westminster Abbey, where all the sovereigns since the 11th century have been crowned – is of great historic and symbolic significance. |

Key: AONB=Area of outstanding Natural Beauty, HC=Heritage Coast, NP=National Park, WHS=World Heritage Site, criterion i: to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius; ii: to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design; iv: to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history; vi: to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria). Source: <http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/>, <http://www.nationalparksengland.org.uk/>, UNESCO world heritage site website: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/gb> (accessed: 01/03/22)

Figure A1c.8: Designated and other landscape areas in Regional Sea 2



A1c.7 Features of Regional Sea 3

The following provides a brief overview of the coast covered by Regional Sea 3 and has been informed by the initiatives mentioned in Section A1c.2. Major statutory and non-statutory designations are shown in Table A1c.3 and Figure A1c.9.

The cliffs of Dover characterise the east of Regional Sea 3, rising to some 240m in height, and characterises the coastal section of the Kent Downs AONB – the Dover-Folkestone and South Foreland Heritage Coasts include sections of the cliffs, being the first of such sites to be designated. To the west, mudflats, sand-dunes, and shingle ridges of Dungeness characterise the coast, along with the Dungeness nuclear power station situated in the south of the feature. The High Weald AONB is largely located inland, but meets the coast at Hastings, and includes eroded sandstone and clay cliffs at Fairlight. The South Downs National Park meets the coast at Beachy Head and the Seven Sisters, which also coincides with the Sussex Heritage Coast.

The area between Brighton and Southampton comprises an intensively farmed, open, flat coastal plain, and inlets contain a diversity of features including tidal creeks, mudflats, shingle beaches, dunes, grazing marshes and paddocks. The area includes the Chichester Harbour AONB and includes intervisibility with aspects of the Isle of Wight AONB and New Forest National Park. The areas of Chichester and Langstone Harbour, Pagham Harbour, The Solent and Southampton Water are both natural harbours and also contain internationally important conservation sites for habitats and bird species. The area has strong maritime associations of sailing, boat building and fishing.

The Isle of Wight is a small island encompassing many features of the mainland southern English coast. Wooded dairy pastures and arable farming meet the coast at steep chalk cliffs, stacks and estuarine seascapes, with salt marsh, mudflats and creeks, which are numerous on the north coast. Coastal “chines”¹⁷ are a unique feature of the area.

To the west, population is centred on the Poole-Bournemouth conurbation. The Dorset AONB covers an extensive area, and includes the Purbeck Heritage Coast and the East Devon and Dorset World Heritage Site. The latter site, also known as the Jurassic Coast, is geologically important, being the only World Heritage Site in England to be selected on the basis of its natural features. It also includes distinctive features such as Durdle Door and Lulworth Cove. The western extent of Regional Sea 3 is characterised by Lyme Bay. In the east, the area includes the extensive shingle beach of Chesil which connects the mainland to the Isle of Portland by a shingle tombolo, also acting as a barrier beach for the brackish lagoon of The Fleet. In the north of the bay, the Blackdowns contain a distinctive coastal landscape of erosional cliffs interrupted by a small number of estuaries (e.g. the Axe) with associated saltmarsh and shingle ridges. Settlement characterises the coast in the west, including Exmouth and also the towns of Tor Bay (e.g. Torquay) which are extremely popular tourist destinations. The westernmost extent of Regional Sea 3 terminates at the headland of Start Point.

Offshore, the character of Regional Sea 3 is heavily influenced by maritime culture, from the intensive shipping channels of the Dover Strait and central English Channel, to the sheltered area of the Solent which is commercially important and also attracts a large number of recreational users, has a high number of yacht clubs and marinas and attracts international sailing events. Numerous wrecks record the treacherous nature of some waters, and also losses during the last two world wars. The Rampion wind farm is visible offshore from the South Downs National Park and Brighton.

Table A1c.3: Relevant landscape conservation designations in Regional Sea 3

| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|--------------------|------------------|---|
| Isle of Wight | AONB | There are five separate areas of land across the island constituting the AONB, representing different attributes of the island. These include: chalk and sandstone cliffs, saltmarsh and mud-flats, chalk farmland, wooded dairy pasture, heathland, hay meadows and distinctive ‘chines’. |
| Chichester Harbour | | Features range from tidal inlets and creeks, salt-marsh, intertidal mudflats, orchards and historic harbour settlements with a distinctive vernacular. The tidal flats and saltings in the area are extensive, and host wildfowl, waders and a rich plant and invertebrate diversity. |
| High Weald | | Much of this AONB is located inland and consists of a hilly area of ridges and valleys with the highest proportion of ancient woodland in the country. The area meets the sea at Hastings. The built environment is characterised by brick, tile and weatherboard houses, oasthouses, and traces of the Wealden iron industry. |
| Kent Downs | | The area meets the coast at the prominent cliffs of Dover and extends inland behind the Weald to an elevation of 240m. This AONB includes unimproved chalk grassland, scrub and broadleaved woodland communities. Orchards, hop gardens, horticulture and arable farming, ancient lanes and historic parklands all add to the visual amenity of the area. |

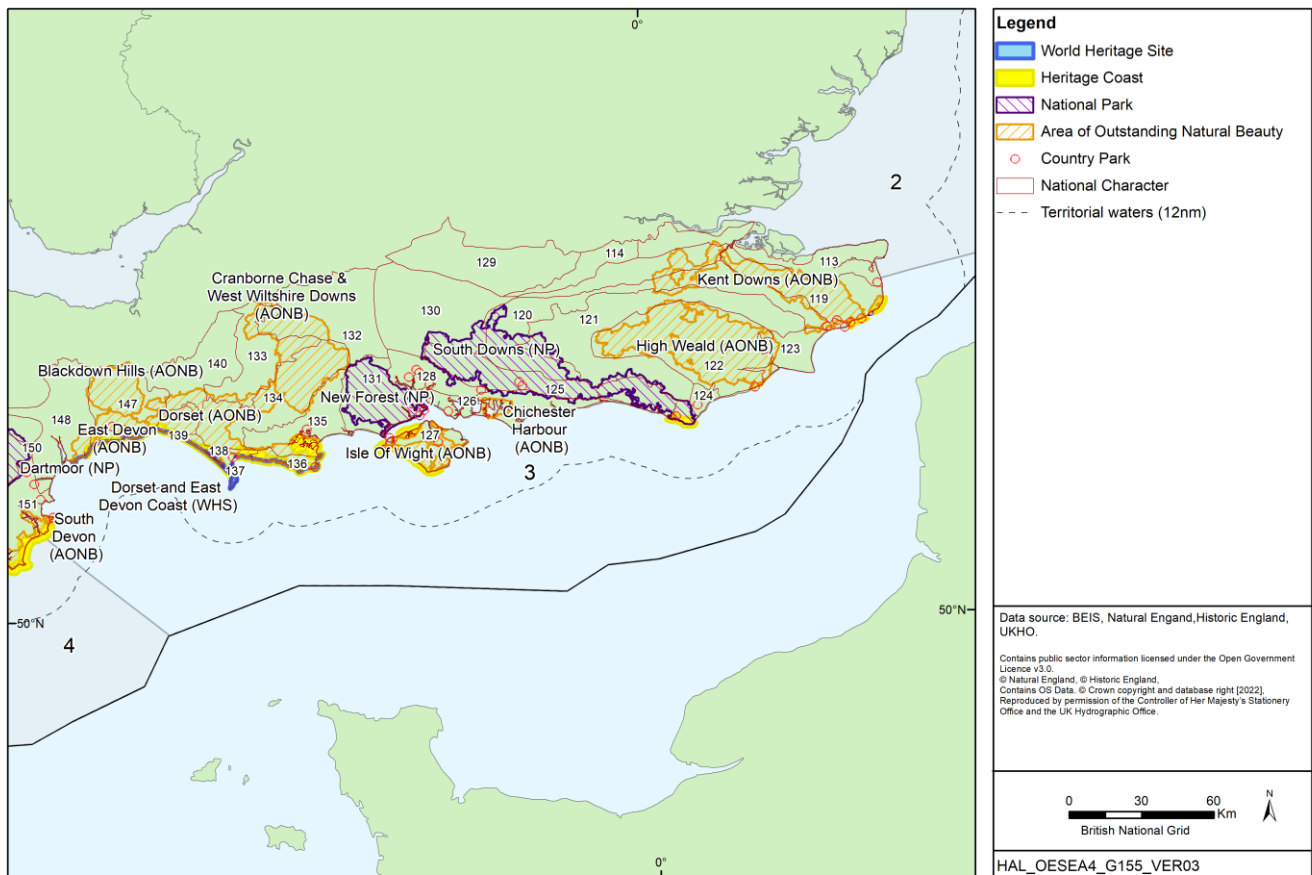
¹⁷ Steep sided river valleys where the river flows through coastal cliffs to the sea (<http://www.iwchines.org.uk/>)

| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|------------------|------------------|--|
| Dorset | | The Dorset AONB is underpinned by a curving chalk ridge which runs from the upland Axe, east to the Stour Valley and a southern section circles Dorchester and reaches the Isle of Purbeck. The area has downland and heath the likes of which are now diminished in southern England. |
| East Devon | | East Devon, from Lyme Regis to Exmouth, is characterised at the coast by red sandstone cliffs, broken by chalk at Beer Head. Inland the area rises to a high flat plateau incised by the rivers Axe, Sid and Otter. |
| Blackdown Hills | | The Blackdown Hills are best known for the dramatic, steep, wooded scarp face they present to the north. To the south the land dips away gently as a plateau, deeply dissected by valleys. On top of the plateau there are wide open windswept spaces; in the valleys nestle villages and hamlets surrounded by ancient and intricate patterns of small enclosed fields and a maze of winding high-hedged lanes. |
| South Devon | | The South Devon AONB stretches from Torbay to the outskirts of Plymouth. The coast ranges from cliffs (Bolt Head), sandy beaches (Slapton Sands) and wooded estuaries (Dart, Kingsbridge) and some of Britain's best ria coastline. |
| New Forest | NP | Ancient woodland, bog, heathland and unspoilt coastline with views of the Solent and Isle of Wight. The area uniquely supports a medieval forest and pastoral system. The National Park is of nature conservation interest in addition to being a working and recreational landscape. |
| South Downs | | The South Downs was formally designated in 2009. The National Park reaches the coast in its eastern extent in east Sussex at Beachy Head and the Seven Sisters between Seaford and Eastbourne, and also for a stretch to the east of Brighton. |
| Dartmoor | | Dartmoor consists of two, high, boggy plateaux divided by the River Dart. Surrounding them is rocky land which has dramatic stone outcrops (tors). The softer river valleys, with their ancient clapper bridges, provide a contrast to the stark magnificence of the moors. There are many standing stones, Bronze and Iron Age hut circles and hillforts as well as tin mining remains. The last mine closed in 1939. |
| Purbeck | HC | The area ranges between Poole Harbour and Studland. The area includes excellent examples of chalk and limestone cliffs. |
| Hamstead | | Contains the drowned estuary of Newtown River. The area includes saltmarsh and mudflats which harbour overwintering birds. The clay and limestone cliffs are rich in fossils unique to this area of Britain. |
| Tenyson | | This area includes 'The Needles', high chalk cliffs and 'chines' (steep chalk gullies) unique to the Isle of Wight. |
| Sussex | | Comprises the eastern end of the South Downs, terminating at the coast in the chalk cliffs of Beachy Head and the Seven Sisters. |
| Dover-Folkestone | | 7.2km in length, the area encompasses a section of the white chalk cliffs at Dover and part of the Saxon Shore Way. |
| South Foreland | | Includes a section of the white cliffs of Dover and the Saxon Shore Way along St Margaret's Bay. Covers 6.9km from Dover to Kingsdown near Deal. |
| South Devon | | The coastal scenery includes reedbeds, sand dunes, shingle ridges, mud flats, salt marshes, and the freshwater lake of Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve. |

| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--|
| East Devon | | Red sandstone cliffs with pebble beaches contrast markedly with the white chalk cliffs which outcrop at Beer. The coast forms part of Britain's longest national trail, the 'South West Coast Path'. Tourist pressures have made screening and landscaping of facilities an important management issue. |
| West Dorset | | This area includes the vast shingle beach at Chesil, which forms a tombolo at its eastern end, joining the island of Portland to the mainland. |
| Dorset and East Devon Coast | WHS | Known as The Jurassic Coast, this site covers over 150km of coastline from East Devon to Dorset, with rocks recording 185 million years of the Earth's history, and is the only World Heritage Site in England to be selected on the basis of its natural features. The site includes a number of other designations such as the East Devon AONB, West Dorset Heritage Coast, as well as a number of SSSIs and numerous Geological Conservation Review sites related to both the coastal geomorphology of the area and underlying geology, including Jurassic-Cretaceous Reptilia. |
| Criteria: viii | | |

Key: AONB=Area of outstanding Natural Beauty, HC=Heritage Coast, NP=National Park, WHS=World Heritage Site, criterion **viii**: outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features. Source: <http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/> (accessed 01/03/22), <http://www.nationalparksengland.org.uk/> (accessed (01/03/22))

Figure A1c.9: Designated and other landscape areas in Regional Sea 3



A1c.8 Features of Regional Seas 4

The following provides a brief overview of the coast covered by Regional Sea 4 and has been informed by the initiatives mentioned in Section A1c.2. Major statutory and non-statutory designations are shown in Table A1c.4 and Figure A1c.10.

The area of south Devon is characterised by large wooded rias which extend inland and contain extensive mudflats and saltmarsh, and elsewhere there are sand and shingle beaches and cliffs of sandstone and slate which make up the headlands of Start Point, Prawl Point, Bolt Tail and Bolt Head. The area of the Lizard is surrounded by a coastline of cliffs and coves, with several fishing villages retaining their old character of white-washed buildings with slate or thatch roof. The northern extent of the Lizard (which is also an AONB) includes Tintagel and St Agnes Head, and the southern coast is indented by the oak-fringed estuaries of the Fal, Fowey and Helford Rivers. Much of the Cornish coast consists of an undulating plateau utilised for mixed farming, and numerous broadleaved valleys which are narrower in the north than the south where they meet the sea as rias with wide estuaries. The coast is typically formed by steep cliffs up to 100m in height with little access to the sea and broad sandy bays, particularly in the north which has numerous dramatically sited ruins from 19th century mining buildings to Tintagel Castle, which contrasts strongly with the more sheltered south coast. In the west, the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site contains a number of 18th and 19th century mining sites, which in some cases remains largely intact.

Offshore to the south west, the Isles of Scilly are low-lying, largely treeless and windswept. Coastlines range from sandy beaches, sand dunes, distinctive granite tors, coastal heaths and grasslands. The islands have been settled since prehistoric times and there is an extensive Bronze Age record.

The Exmoor coast includes a complex coastline of headlands, cliffs and coves which border the Bristol Channel. Offshore, Lundy is a small, isolated granite island which is a prominent landmark when viewed from the mainland. The island consists of a relatively flat plateau with steeply sloping sides which provides unobstructed views of the sea.

The expansive funnel-shaped Severn Estuary sits at the mouth of four major rivers (the Severn, Wye, Usk and Avon), and is strongly characterised by its tidal regime, the range of which is the second largest in the world and includes the Severn Bore feature. The open character of the Severn Estuary affords uninterrupted views between England and Wales. The Mendip Hills rise above the adjoining flat Somerset Levels, and there are longer distance views to the Quantocks, moorlands of Exmoor and foothills of the Brecon Beacons that provide an enclosed and upland setting to the inner Severn. The shore is largely defined by extensive tidal flats, and there is a long history of coastal reclamation such as at the Gwent and Wentlooge levels. Along with the southern North Sea, the Bristol Channel has strong archaeological associations, having a long settlement history and likely being formerly settled during periods of reduced sea-level, and more recently has strong historical and current associations with maritime trade and transport.

The northern coast of the Severn includes a series of bays (Swansea, Carmarthen and Milford Haven). The coast varies between large settlements such as Swansea, and also Llanelli, Neath and Port Talbot with associated heavy industry, to the rugged coastline of cliffs and sandy bays of the Gower and Helwick Coastal. The Gower coast became the first AONB in 1956, and includes a number of spectacular views including Rhossili Bay, Three Cliffs Bay and Worms Head. The north western extent of Regional Sea 4 includes part of the Pembrokeshire

Coast National Park and Heritage Coast, the southern edge of which includes sections, steep cliffs, arches and stacks interspersed with small coves, scalloped bays and sandy beaches.

Table A1c.4: Relevant landscape conservation designations in Regional Sea 4

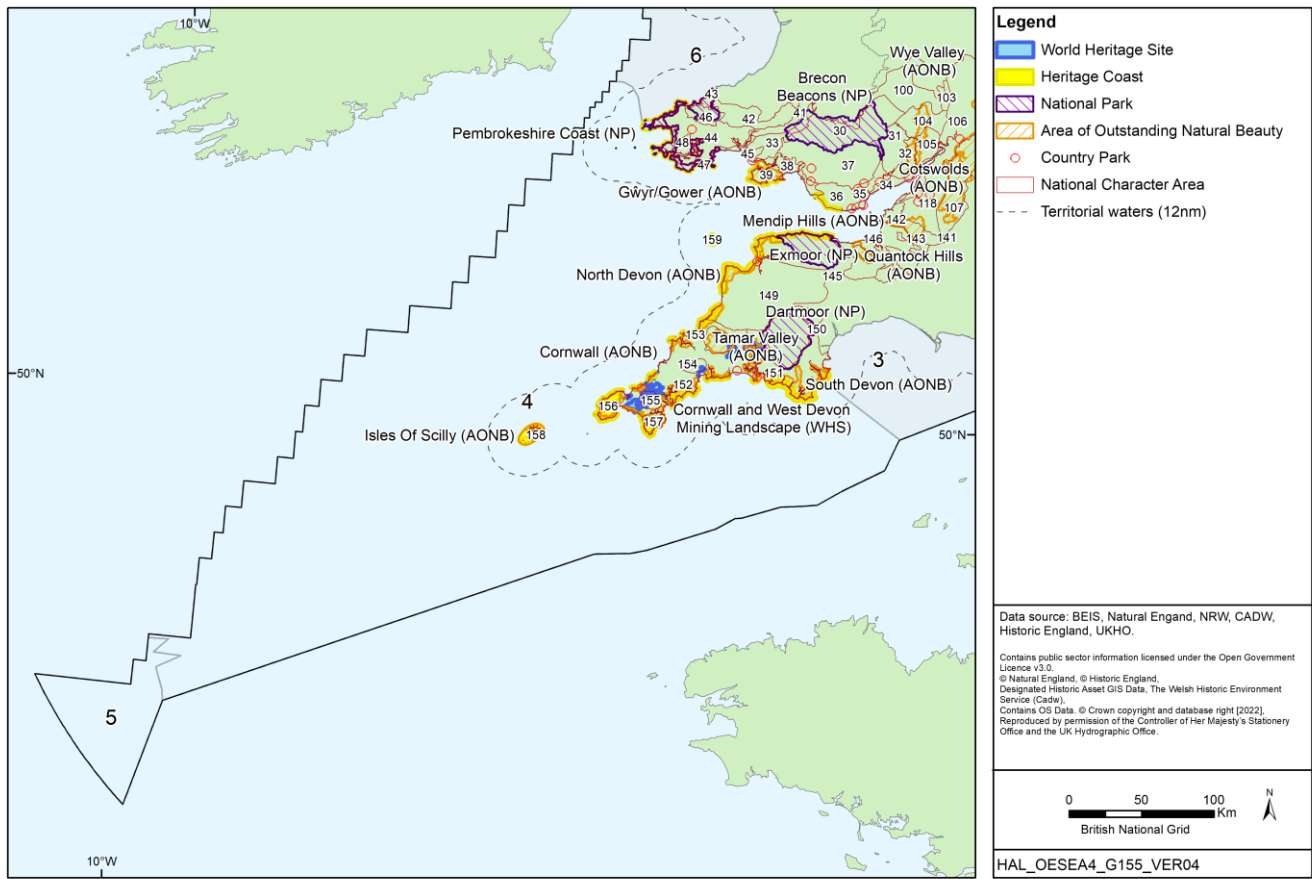
| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|----------------|------------------|---|
| Gwyr AoHNE | AONB | The area varies from Carboniferous limestone scenery at Worms Head and Oxwich Bay to the salt-marshes and dune systems in the north. Heath, grassland, fresh and saltwater marshland, dunes and oak woodland provide a varied landscape. |
| Wye Valley | | This AONB reaches substantially inland from the coast. Riparian limestone scenery is made up of sheer wooded cliffs as the river has cut down into the rock. Open valley reaches with rounded hills and bluffs make up much of the intervening countryside. |
| Mendip Hills | | The area has Britain's most southerly example of Carboniferous limestone scenery, with gorges, dry valleys and sink holes being prominent features - Cheddar Gorge and Wookey Hole Caves being excellent examples of such features. |
| Quantock Hills | | The area runs north-west from the Vale of Taunton Deane to the Bristol Channel coast. The ridge which makes up this area is surrounded by an agricultural plain, and has elements of heathland and sessile oak which are diminished in southern England. |
| North Devon | | An area of cliff scenery reaching inland to take in the cliff top plateau around Hartland. Valleys come down to the coast, truncated by cliffs often terminating in waterfalls. The area also includes the dune systems at Braunton Burrows on the Taw and Torridge Estuary. |
| Cornwall | | Includes Lands End and the Lizard Peninsula. The northern area includes Tintagel and St Agnes Head, and some of the highest cliffs in Britain. The south coast is less dramatic and is indented by the oak-fringed estuaries of the Fal, Fowey and Helford Rivers. The Camel Estuary, Bodmin Moor and heath plateau of the Lizard and Penwith moorland all feature in this AONB. |
| South Devon | | The South Devon AONB stretches from Torbay to the outskirts of Plymouth. The coast ranges from cliffs (Bolt Head), sandy beaches (Slapton Sands) and wooded estuaries (Dart, Kingsbridge) and some of Britain's best ria coastline. |
| Exmoor | NP | The moorland plateau terminates with the tallest cliffs in England, overlooking the Bristol Channel coast. Inland, the grass moorland of the former Royal Forest is surrounded by heather-covered moors, intersected by round-sided combs. Lynton and Lynmouth form the largest settlement, and have traditional stone and slate buildings which contrast with more ornate Victorian structures. The Vale of Porlock villages have colour-washed cob, stone and thatched cottages. Bronze Age burial mounds and stone circles, Iron Age hillforts, Roman fortlets, medieval castles, bridges, farmsteads, and unique rural industrial sites are preserved within the agricultural and moorland landscape. |
| Dartmoor | | Dartmoor consists of two, high, boggy plateaux divided by the River Dart. Surrounding them is rocky land which has dramatic stone outcrops (tors). The softer river valleys, with their ancient clapper bridges, provide a contrast to the stark magnificence of the moors. There are many standing stones, Bronze and Iron Age hut circles and hillforts as well as tin mining remains. The last mine closed in 1939. |

| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|-------------------------|------------------|---|
| Brecon Beacons | | The Brecon Beacons is a remote part of Wales with contrasting woodlands, reservoirs, waterfalls, caves and windswept uplands. The area supports a diverse array of natural and cultural heritage features and provides recreational access. A section of the park is part of the European Geopark network, which aims to preserve geological heritage. |
| Pembrokeshire | | The coast varies from the upland area of Carningli, Newport, in the north to the cliffs and broad sandy beaches of St Brides Bay, which span between the islands of Ramsey and Skomer. Further south Carboniferous limestone plateaus are present on the Castlemartin Peninsula. North of the peninsula, Daugleddau Estuary is a sheltered, wooded, deep water harbour which forms the area of Milford Haven. |
| Exmoor | HC | Managed within the Exmoor National Park, the area includes England's highest sea cliffs interspersed with wooded 'combes' dominated by oak, which reach right down to the shore which is lined by a pebble beach. |
| St David's Peninsula | | This area stretches for 80km of the Pembrokeshire coast from St Bride's Bay to Fishguard. The coast is varied but mainly consists of cliffs and small bays backed by sandy beaches, for instance at Whitesands Bay. |
| St Bride's Bay | | An area of high cliffs and broad sandy beaches (e.g. Broad Haven, Newgate, Druidston Haven) between St David's and Marloes headlands. |
| North Devon | | Sand and sand dunes, open-cliffed headlands, softer wooded cliffs and several villages characterise this coastline which is part of the North Devon AONB. The coastline forms part of the South West Coast Path, Britain's longest National Trail. |
| Lundy | | A massive granite island with rugged 120m cliffs. The island is host to a vast seabird colony. |
| Hartland | | At 48km long this area includes sections of both Devon and Cornwall. Sheer cliffs, reefs and waterfalls descending from hanging valleys characterise the coast, with views as far as Lundy Island. |
| Pentire Point-Widemouth | | These sections of heritage coast are modified by storms which have attributed to dramatic coastal erosion in the formation of blowholes, stacks and caves. Lighthouses and redundant mine chimneys around St Agnes indicate historically recent anthropogenic activity at the coast |
| Trevoise Head | | |
| St Agnes | | |
| Godrevy-Portreath | | |
| Penwith | | |
| Isles of Scilly | | A heritage coast of extreme variety, the coast has cliff as well as beach and sand dune environments, the interior consist of a bare heathland plateau. The islands are home to rare migratory bird species, as well as a rare flora contained in sub-tropical gardens. Lagoons between the islands are warm and clear, and home to seals and porpoise. |
| The Lizard | | Green serpentine rock supports a rare heathland habitat. Small coves, beaches and fishing villages are scattered along the coast. |
| The Roseland | | A gentle coastline dominated by cliffs with coastal heath and scrub, and small sandy bays broken by rocky areas such as Dodman and Chapple Points. |

| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|--|------------------|--|
| Gribbin Head-Polperro | | Steep sloped, wooded valleys reach the coast, defined by the Fowey Estuary. The picturesque harbours of Fowey and Polperro nestle on steep slopes at the mouth of wooded valleys. |
| Rame Head | | Lies on the western tip of the entrance to Plymouth Sound. A treeless conical headland which has a wooded, sheltered east side and an exposed west side. |
| South Devon | | The coastal scenery includes reedbeds, sand dunes, shingle ridges, mud flats, salt marshes, and the freshwater lake of Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve. |
| Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape Criteria: i, iii, iv | WHS | This designation consists of a number of sites of 18 th and 19 th century mining heritage, signifying the variations in mining technology and related impacts which occurred over time. During the expansion of mining, infrastructure and settlements rapidly expanded in what was prior to this, a very rural landscape, which in many areas generated wholesale landscape change. In some areas evidence of this change survives essentially intact and it is possible to visualise how these areas looked and functioned a century and more ago. |

Key: AONB=Area of outstanding Natural Beauty, HC=Heritage Coast, NP=National Park, WHS=World Heritage Site, criterion **i**: to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius; **iii**: to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared; **iv**: to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history. Source: <http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/> (accessed 22/12/15), <http://www.nationalparksengland.org.uk/>, <https://www.nationalparks.uk/> (01/03/22), UNESCO world heritage site website: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/gb> (accessed: 01/03/22),

Figure A1c.10: Designated and other landscape areas in Regional Sea 4



A1c.9 Features of Regional Sea 6

The following provides a brief overview of the coast covered by Regional Sea 6 and has been informed by the initiatives mentioned in Section A1c.2. Major statutory and non-statutory designations are shown in Table A1c.5 and Figure A1c.11.

The southernmost extent of Regional Sea 6 includes the northern most part of the Pembrokeshire coast and related National Park and Heritage Coast, and further north the area of Cardigan Bay contains exposed rugged cliffs, rocky headlands, small coves and estuaries, and includes a number of Heritage Coasts. Promontory forts on headlands and Norman castles attest to a historical association with defence in addition to maritime trade and shipbuilding. Aberystwyth is a centre of activity in the area which is a University town and classic Victorian seaside resort. Some areas of the coast have a strong sense of remoteness and exposure, but this can be broken by periods of live military training. The Wales Coast Path allows access to much of the coast, there are open views out to sea across Cardigan Bay, with views from the south to Snowdonia National Park, Llŷn AONB and Bardsey Island. Llŷn peninsula separates Cardigan Bay from the area of north Wales, formed of erosionally resistant igneous rocks, there are a number of rocky headlands, cliffs and coves, but also localised softer coasts formed of glacial material. The area is sparsely populated, with settlement concentrated on the coast, and there is a significant tourist presence.

Anglesey is an island situated off the North Wales coast, separated by the Menai Strait and connected by two bridges, including the Menai Suspension Bridge. The coastline of the island is complex from sheer cliffs and rocky headlands, to small sandy coves, low lying dunes and

estuaries. The island has a striking windswept heathland landscape, but also a number of coastal settlements relating to former industry including mining and there are a number of prominent manmade landmarks including Beaumaris Castle World Heritage Site, Wylfa Nuclear Power Station and the Aluminium works on Holy Island.

The North Wales coast includes Conwy Bay and Colwyn Bay; limestone hills back the coast which has developed for tourism including planned Victorian seaside resorts (e.g. Llandudno, Colwyn Bay, Rhyl) and more recent less formal development including caravan parks. The coastline is generally engineered (e.g. with groynes and sea walls), but the limestone forms the distinctive Great Orme's Head and Little Orme's Head at Llandudno, which has a natural setting between these headlands. Offshore, commercial shipping is visible, as are other industrial components of seascape including the Douglas field, offshore wind farms and associated navigational markings for shipping lanes and structures. In the east, the Dee Estuary forms a natural border between Wales and England, backed by the rising foothills of the Clwydian Range AONB.

The Wirral separates the Dee and Mersey estuaries, and has a strong urban character to its northern edge and views across to Liverpool. To the north, the Sefton coast is characterised by intertidal sands, silts and muds, dune systems, dune heath and salt marshes along the Ribble Estuary. The Sefton coast remains rural with the exception of Formby, Hightown, Southport and Ainsdale, and golf courses are prominent along the coast. To the north, Morecambe Bay is bound by Fleetwood to the south and Walney Island to the north. The coast consists of shifting intertidal sandflats and saltmarsh backed by low limestone cliffs which rise into hills. Salt marshes, reclaimed marshland, sand and shingle beaches and sandstone cliffs feature at the coast towards the Lune estuary, and Heysham power station and caravan parks characterise the developed areas of the coast, interspersed with pastoral farming. The Arnside and Silverdale AONB stretches inland to the east. The Cumbrian coast includes pasture and agriculture which strongly contrasts with the historically industrial nature of the coast – the Lake District National Park meets the coast approximately between Seascale and Millom.

The Solway has a diverse coast of intertidal mudflats and saltmarshes, raised beaches, dunes, pebble and sandy beaches and has a host to wintering and migrating waders and wildfowl, and further inland raised bogs and lowland mires are of conservation interest and has both AONB and NSA designations. To the north, the Scottish coastline is characterised by the indented coastline of bays with islands of the Stewartry Coast, the low Ayr Plain which has views west across the island-strewn Firth of Clyde and the high coastal moorland of Clyde Muirshiel. The north of Regional Sea 6 reaches Kintyre which provides dramatic views across the sounds to the islands of Arran, Gigha and Islay.

Table A1c.5: Relevant landscape conservation designations in Regional Sea 6

| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|--------------|------------------|---|
| North Arran | NSA | Arran's northern extent consists of a dissected granitic massif with peaks reaching almost 900m, leaving only a narrow coastal plain where there are raised beaches supporting clachan style settlements. |
| Nith Estuary | | An area of extensive flats unusual to Scotland. The area is enhanced by Criffell, a granite hill rising to 569m and the long well-wooded ridge extending back to Marthrown Hill. The Nith at this point is broad and bordered by open fields, marshes and riverside trees in some places. |

| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|------------------------|------------------|---|
| Fleet Estuary | | Dominated to the west by Cairnharrow (456m), the relief to the east is less pronounced consisting of a ridge ending at Bar Hill, south of Gatehouse. Woodland dominates the valley sides opening into moorland and eventually pasture on lower ground by the riverside. |
| East Stewartry Coast | | The area comprises Auchencairn Bay, Orchardton Bay, Rough Firth, Sandyhills Bay, the Mersehead Sands and their immediate hinterlands. An area characterised by wide tidal flats, dunes, woodland and bays. |
| Knapdale | | A glacially overdeepened landscape now heavily wooded, with a distinctive north-west south-east axis of parallel ridges and glens. Loch Sween has many parallel channels, meeting land at the Forest of Knapdale. This is in contrast to the more open Loch Caolisport. To the north there is moor, meadow and arable land, the meandering River Add and the hills of Dunadd and Cnoc na Moine. |
| Kyles of Bute | | Includes Bute, mainland Cowal and Loch Ruel. The loch is markedly tidal, with mixed woodland shores and frequent rocky outcrops on surrounding hills. There are views to north Bute and mainland hills afford views of the kyles below. |
| Loch Lomond | | The largest water body in Great Britain. Straddling the highland boundary fault, and thus has a variety of scenery stretching from the lowland character of the south shore to the deeply entrenched fjord-like northern head of the loch at Ardlui. There is a large amount of deciduous woodland and on the east side extensive coniferous plantations forming part of the Forestry Commission's Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. North of Ross Point the loch is dominated by the summit of Ben Lomond (974m). |
| Solway Coast | AONB | Stretching along the Cumbrian shore of the Solway Firth this is a low, open and windswept area with wide views across to the hills of Galloway. Its characteristic feature is a 7.6m raised beach. Siltation has left the foreshore strip with a marine terrace of lowscrub covered cliffs or dunes. |
| Arnside and Silverdale | | Consists of small scale limestone hills and agricultural land sheltered by deciduous woodlands and valleys. A diverse landscape juxtaposing salt marsh, limestone cliffs and reclaimed mosses, with limestone pasture, rock outcrop and limestone pavements at higher altitudes. |
| Forest of Bowland | | Geologically part of the Pennines, this area has a central core of incised gritstone fells and large areas of heather moorland. The fell's fringe of foothills is dissected by 'cloughs', steep-sided valleys which open out into the rich green lowlands of the Ribble, Hodder, Wyre and Lune Valleys. |
| Ynys Mon AoHNE | | Consists of almost the entire Anglesey coast. The designated area includes low ridges and shallow valleys at the coastal plateau, with Holyhead Mountain its highest point at 219m. The east coast has limestone cliffs interspersed with sandy beaches, whereas sand dunes are more prominent to the south. |
| Llyn AoHNE | | A low peninsula consisting of a marine eroded platform with complex geology affording varied coastal landscapes from the steep craggy cliffs around Aberdaron Bay to sandy bays and headlands and fine dune systems. The area also has an upland component in the form of volcanic peaks dominated by the granite crags of Yr Eifl (564m). |
| Bryniau Clwyd AoHNE | | The Clwydian Range is a 35 km long chain of undulating hills rising between the Vale of Clwyd to the west and the Dee Estuary to the east. In the uplands heather moorland dominates, and lower down hedged field and coppice woodland becomes prominent. |

| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Strangford Lough and Lecale, NI | | Strangford Lough is an almost landlocked inlet of the sea set within a diverse lowland topography. Within the lough, tips of drowned drumlin hills create a spectacular myriad of islands, while on shore the hills form a pleasant rolling landscape. |
| Mourne, NI | | The twelve peaks in this area include Slieve Donard, which at 850m is Northern Ireland's highest mountain. Mountain slopes descend through moorland, woodland, field and farm before meeting the coast. |
| Lagan Valley, NI | | Focused on the course of the River Lagan. The area has a rich heritage, not only through its impressive monuments such as the Giant's Ring, its Early Christian raths and the remnants of fine estates, but also its important industrial archaeology related to linen production and the old Lagan Canal and its towpath. |
| Causeway Coast, NI | | Encompasses 29km of coastal scenery including cliffs and headlands broken by the wide sweep of sandy beaches backed by dunes. Volcanic rocks and white chalk eroded by the North Atlantic form geological features including the Giant's Causeway and Carrick-a-Rede. Small harbours, fisheries and farms are found along the coast. A varied wildlife thrives on the offshore islands and rocks, amid the cliffs, sand dunes and hinterland. |
| Antrim Coast and Glens, NI | | The coastline of County Antrim from Ballycastle to Larne and the Glens of Antrim contain some of the most beautiful and varied scenery in Northern Ireland. The area is dominated by a high undulating plateau cut by deep glens which open north and eastwards to the sea. Gentle bays are separated by blunt headlands; exposed moorland gives way to sheltered valleys; wide open expanses to enclosed farmland. Rathlin Island is rich in historical, geological and botanical interest. |
| Binevenagh, NI | | Covers the area between the Roe Estuary and Magilligan, the cliffs of Binevenagh, the Bann Estuary and Portstewart sand dunes. The skyline of the cliffs at Binevenagh makes a breath-taking contrast with the outstanding expanse of Magilligan Strand. The steep, round-topped grassland hills and the sandy shoreline are the dominant features, separated from the rocky shore of Donegal by just one kilometre of sea. |
| Lake District | NP | Much of the lake district consists of moorland and fell. The 16 lakes, the largest of which is Windemere, were formed by glacial meltwater. Around Skiddaw and in the south of the Park there are angular and rounded hills. Neolithic stone circles, like Castlerigg and Roman forts, like Hardknott, reflect Lakeland's long history. Townend at Troutbeck is an example of a local yeoman farmer's house. Former iron workings and more modern slate quarrying have also left their marks. The park was extended to the south east through a variation which took effect in August 2016. |
| Snowdonia | | This is the highest upland area in England and Wales, supporting upland heath and river, wooded valleys and even parts of the Welsh coast. 20% of the area is designated as either a SAC or Ramsar site, in addition to 17 NNRs and 56 SSSIs. The area has remnant features of extensive mining, particularly for slate, in addition to old abandoned agricultural buildings. |
| Pembrokeshire | | The coast varies from the upland area of Carningli, Newport, in the north to the cliffs and broad sandy beaches of St Brides Bay, which span between the islands of Ramsey and Skomer. Further south Carboniferous limestone plateaus are present on the Castlemartin Peninsula. North of the peninsula, Daugleddau Estuary is a sheltered, wooded, deep water harbour which forms the area of Milford Haven. |

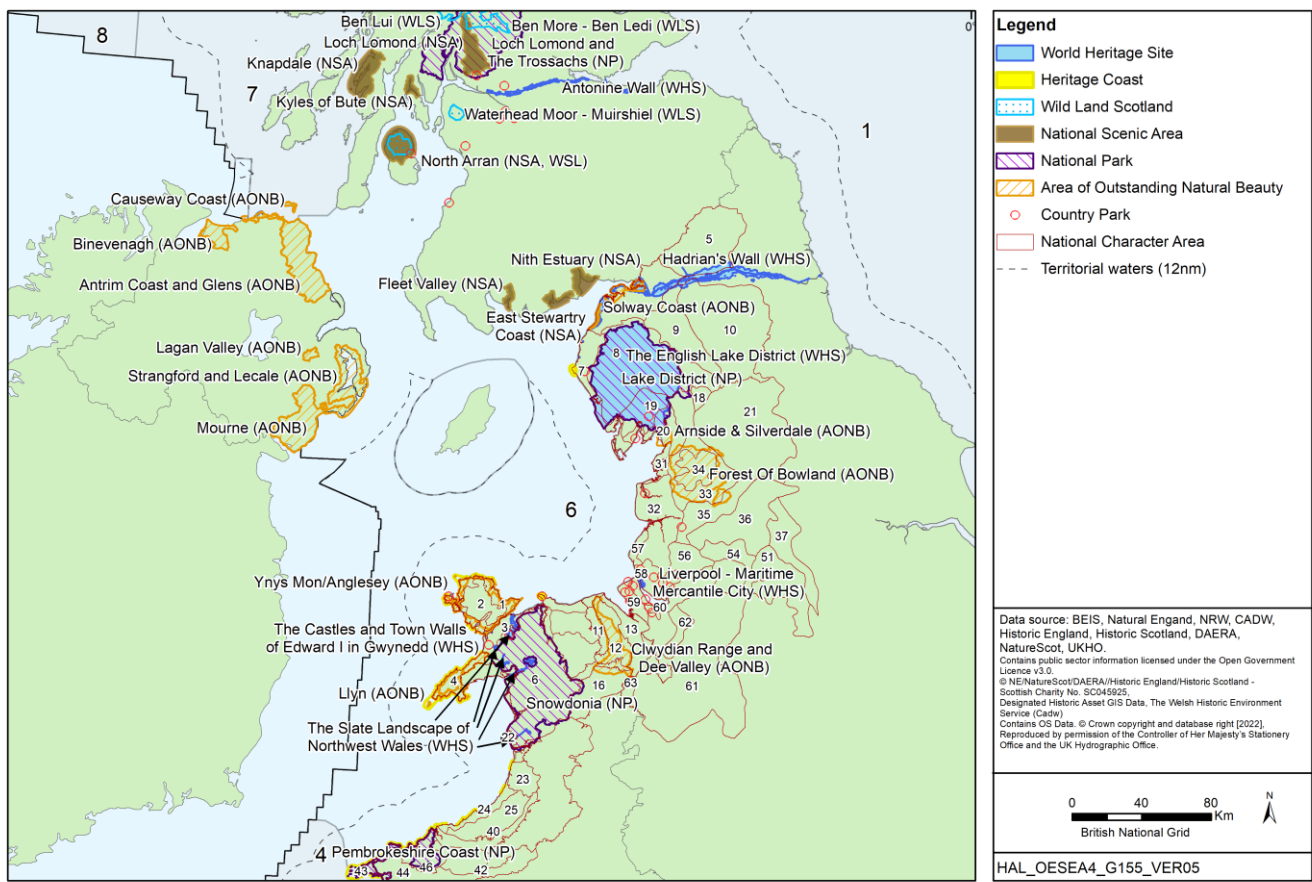
| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|--|------------------|---|
| Loch Lomond and the Trossachs | | Centred on Loch Lomond and the hills and glens of the Trossachs. The park straddles the Highland Boundary Fault, which divides it into two distinct regions – lowland and highland. With varied scenery of rolling lowland landscapes, tranquil lochs and rugged mountains to the north. These landscapes create a diverse range of habitats for a variety of wildlife. |
| St Bees Head | HC | The area is formed by a red sandstone cliff which spans between Scotland and North Wales. A cliff edge path forms part of the Cumbria Coastal Way and Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk. Coastal cliffs rise to 300ft providing excellent views to the north, south and offshore to the Isle of Man. |
| Ceredigion Coast | | Consists of four sections totalling 21 miles of coast, the area includes cliffs which line the coast from Aberystwyth to Borth where an extensive sandy beach extends to the mouth of the River Teifi. Similarly, to the south of Aberystwyth, cliffs dominate the coastal scenery. This heritage coast had its designation extended into the offshore area by 1 mile with the intention of protecting marine heritage through management measures a code of conduct for seafarers and marine and coastal recreational users. |
| Great Orme | | A small peninsula by Llandudno, this heritage coast is relatively undeveloped compared with the surrounding countryside. Rising to 209m, the site comprises cliffs, calcareous grassland, limestone heath, scrub and woodland on lower slopes. Limestone pavement and several scheduled ancient monuments also characterise the Orme. |
| St David's Peninsula | | This area stretches for 50 miles of the Pembrokeshire coast from St Bride's Bay to Fishguard. The coast is varied but mainly consists of cliffs and small bays backed by sandy beaches, for instance at Whitesands Bay. |
| St Bride's Bay | | An area of high cliffs and broad sandy beaches (e.g. Broad Haven, Newgate, Druidston Haven) between St David's and Marloes headlands. |
| Frontiers of the Roman Empire: Hadrian's Wall Criteria: i, iii & iv | WHS | Hadrian's Wall was built on the orders of the Emperor Hadrian ca. AD 122 at the northernmost limits of the Roman province of Britannia. It is a striking example of the organization of a military zone and illustrates the defensive techniques and geopolitical strategies of ancient Rome. |
| Liverpool: Maritime Mercantile City Criteria: ii, iii & iv | | Six areas in the historic centre and docklands of the maritime mercantile City of Liverpool bear witness to the development of one of the world's major trading centres in the 18 th and 19 th centuries. Liverpool played an important role in the growth of the British Empire and became the major port for the mass movement of people, e.g. slaves and emigrants from northern Europe to America. Liverpool was a pioneer in the development of modern dock technology, transport systems and port management. |
| Antonine Wall Criteria: ii, iii & iv | | The Antonine Wall is the most substantial and important Roman monument in Scotland. Built on the orders of the Emperor Antoninus Pius in the years following 140 AD, it extends for some 60 kilometres across central Scotland from Bo'ness on the River Forth to Old Kilpatrick on the River Clyde and marked the north western frontier of the Roman Empire. |

| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|--|------------------|---|
| Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd Criteria: i, iii, iv | | The castles of Beaumaris and Harlech (largely the work of the greatest military engineer of the time, James of St George) and the fortified complexes of Caernarfon and Conwy are located in the former principality of Gwynedd, in north Wales. These extremely well-preserved monuments are examples of the colonization and defence works carried out throughout the reign of Edward I (1272–1307) and the military architecture of the time. |
| The Slate Landscapes of Northwest Wales Criteria ii, iv | | The area illustrates the transformation that industrial slate quarrying and mining brought about in the traditional rural environment of the mountains and valleys of the Snowdon massif. Six areas together represent an exceptional example of an industrial landscape which was profoundly shaped by quarrying and mining slate. From 1780 to 1940 this industry dominated world production of roofing slates, transforming both the environment and the communities who lived and worked here. The quarries and mines are monumental in scale, comprising stepped hillside workings, deep pits and cavernous underground chambers, massive cascading tips, ingenious water systems, and a range of industrial buildings. |

Key: NSA=National Scenic Area, AONB=Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, NP=National Park, HC=Heritage Coast, WHS=World Heritage Site, criterion **ii**: to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design; **iii**: to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared; **iv**: to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.

Sources: NatureScot website <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/protected-areas/national-designations/national-scenic-areas/nsa-special-qualities> (accessed: 01/03/22), UNESCO world heritage site website: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/gb> (accessed: 01/03/22), <http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/>, <https://www.nationalparks.uk/>

Figure A1c.11: Designated and other landscape areas in Regional Sea 6



A1c.10 Features of Regional Sea 7

The following provides a brief overview of the coast covered by Regional Sea 7 and has been informed by the initiatives mentioned in Section A1c.2. Major statutory and non-statutory designations are shown in Table A1c.6 and Figure A1c.12.

The southern extent of Regional Sea 7 includes the northern coast of Northern Ireland, which has a large number of AONBs (Causeway Coast & Glens, Antrim Coast and Glens and Binevenagh) and the Giant’s Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site. The area of the Causeway Coast, which includes the geologically and culturally important Giant’s Causeway, has a prevailing undeveloped character and a strong sense of remoteness. Seaward views include that of Rathlin, the Kintyre Peninsula, Jura, Islay and Arran. Rathlin is a small island off the Northern Irish Coast, and contains vertical cliffs, sea caves, steep vegetated slopes, and headlands with lighthouses. The island affords views to Scotland, including to the Rhins of Galloway and back to the Antrim coast, and includes isolated farmsteads or dwellings.

The Scottish section of coast covered by Regional Sea 7 includes an area from the Kintyre Peninsula to Cape Wrath, and those islands within the Malin and Inner Hebrides (including Islay, Jura, Mull, Rum and Skye). The islands are individually distinctive (e.g. the generally low-lying nature of Islay and more mountainous terrain of Skye), and the coastline highly indented and diverse. Population density is low in these areas and there is a general absence of large-scale development, with fishing and farming prominent uses of the land and sea. There are a large number of National Scenic Area designations, representing the bulk of the

area designated for landscape in Scotland. These largely coincide with areas identified as “wild land”, and therefore represent some of the best natural and semi-natural areas in Scotland.

Table A1c.6: Relevant landscape conservation designations in Regional Sea 7

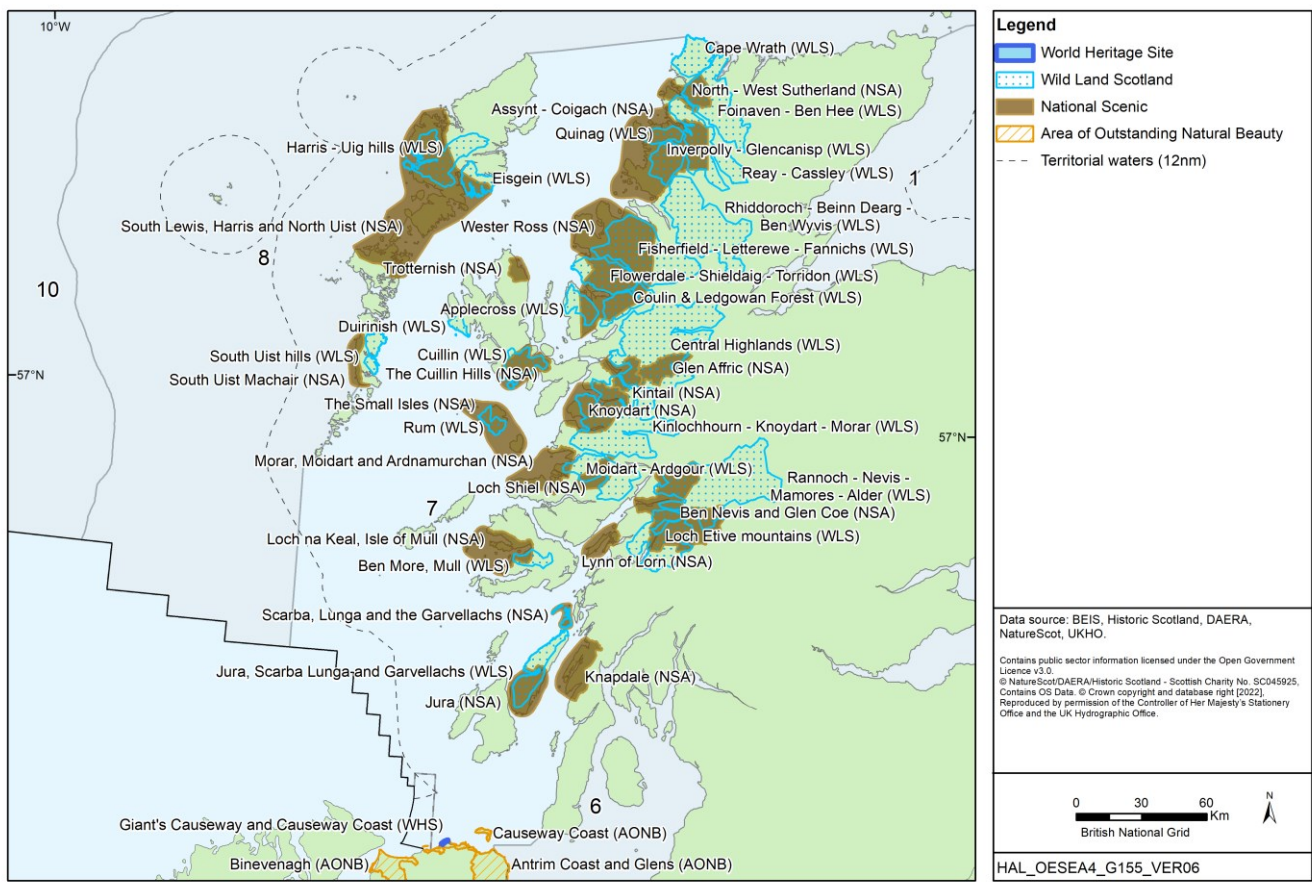
| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| South Lewis, Harris and North Uist | NSA | A rocky indented coast with wide sandy beaches between rocky headlands, numerous stacks and deep sea lochs. Harris has the highest peaks of the Outer Hebrides. |
| South Uist Machair | | A flat area of machair dune formations and diverse vegetation with lime-rich lochans. Cultivated machair the largest in Scotland, extending 2km inland. |
| Wester Ross | | The largest of all the NSAs, comprising a diverse range of landscapes including the Applecross Forest, Ben Damph Forest, Torridon Mountains and Loch Maree. Along the coast, Gruinard Bay, Loch Ewe and Loch Gairloch present a mixture of beaches, islands, headlands, inlets, woodlands and crofting settlements. |
| Trotternish | | This area extends from Flodigarry in the north to Grealin in the south and includes the Quirang. The coastal edge comprises columnar basaltic cliffs or 'kilt rocks' which have spectacular views over the south of Raasay to the mainland. |
| The Small Islands | | A small archipelago in the inner Hebrides. The four main islands include Rum, Eigg, Muck and Canna, while several other small islands and skerries are also present. Rum is now an important study site for research into the ecology of red deer, while Canna is well known for its populations of puffins and Manx shearwaters. |
| The Cuillin Hills | | The area includes the Black and Red Cuillin Hills, Loch Scavaig and the Island of Soay. These mountains dominate the island seaboard of north-west Scotland. |
| North West Sutherland | | Characterised by a bare, rugged and occasionally mountainous landscape, attributable to Lewisian gneiss geology – one of the oldest known formations in the world. The Clo Mor cliffs near Cape Wrath in the north are the highest on the Scottish mainland. |
| Morar, Moidart and Ardnamurchan | | Extends from the south shore of the Morar Peninsula to include the Sound of Arisaig, Loch Moidart, Kentra Bay and the northern shore of Ardnamurchan. There are numerous unspoilt sandy beaches with mountainous backdrops, the deepest lake in Britain at Loch Morar, and the most western point on mainland Britain at Ardnamurchan Point. |
| Knoydart | | A remote peninsula only accessible by boat or a 26km walk across mountains and moorland. It includes four Munros and several lesser peaks, separated by broad glens, rivers and high lochs. |
| Kintail | | Three long mountain ranges terminate in this area, and it is home to one of Britain's highest waterfalls, the Falls of Glomach. The coastline is dominated by mountains dropping sharply into sea lochs. |
| Assynt-Coigach | | Located in the north-west of Scotland, north of Ullapool. Inland, there are spectacularly shaped steep hills, rising from moorland and lochs. The coastline presents a diverse landscape of inlets, sandy bays, rivers, lochs and native woodland. |

| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---|
| Knapdale | | Situated on the west coast of Scotland. Its landscape is dominated by the dense Knapdale Forest, covering many hills and providing scenic views across the Western Isles. |
| Jura | | Jura is an island in the Inner Hebrides adjacent and to the northeast of Islay. It is dominated by three steep-sided conical mountains (the Paps of Jura), which rise to 762m above sea level. Jura also has a large population of red deer. |
| Loch na Keal, Mull | | Comprises the sea lochs of Loch na Keal and Loch Tuath, and the several small islands amongst them. A variety of landscapes exist, including island-studded seascape, various cliff forms, hills and woodland. |
| Lynne of Lorn | | Includes the island of Lismore and its surrounding islets and skerries. It presents an island-studded waterway dominated by parallel limestone ridges both on land and partially submerged. These ridges support rich vegetation, varying from green, lush meadows to dense oaks and conifers. |
| Scarba, Lunga and the Garvellachs | | Located to the north of the island of Jura. It includes the islands of Scarba, Lunga, the four Garvellach islands and many smaller islands and skerries. Scarba rises from the sea to a pyramid peak of 449m, while the Garvellachs are smaller and lower in elevation, but sharply angular with vertical cliffs to the north-west. The landscape is visually enhanced by the strong tidal currents which cause water to race amongst the islands. |
| Glen Affric | | An area of varied glen scenery from remnants of Caledonian Pine Forest to heather, blaeberry and open moor. |
| Loch Shiel | | Has the appearance of a deep fjord dissected into a mountainous terrain with lower slopes comprising woodland, grassland or rocky material. The character of the area is enhanced by Eilean Fhianain, the narrows of Linne Gorm and Loch Doilet in Glenhurich. |
| Ben Nevis and Glen Coe | | The variety of scenery throughout the area is witnessed in hills that may be smooth or jagged, rounded or precipitous, grass or heather covered. The glens may contain moorland, meadow, arable or forest, and swift streams or calm lochs. The sea shore may be wooded and bayed as in outer Loch Leven, or fjord-like as in the inner loch and Loch Etive. |
| Loch Lomond, Argyll & Stirling | | Loch Lomond is the largest water body in Great Britain. The loch straddles the highland boundary fault, and thus has a variety of scenery stretching from the lowland character of the south shore to the deeply entrenched fjord-like northern head of the loch at Ardlui. The seminatural woodlands of the islands are complemented by the plantations on the shore. The summit of Ben Nevis dominates some of the views around the Loch north of Ross Point. |
| Causeway Coast, NI | AONB | Encompasses 29km of coastal scenery including cliffs and headlands broken by the wide sweep of sandy beaches backed by dunes. Volcanic rocks and white chalk eroded by the North Atlantic form geological features including the Giant's Causeway and Carrick-a-Rede. Small harbours, fisheries and farms are found along the coast. A varied wildlife thrives on the offshore islands and rocks, amid the cliffs, sand dunes and hinterland. |

| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|--|------------------|--|
| Antrim Coast and Glens, NI | | The coastline of County Antrim from Ballycastle to Larne and the Glens of Antrim contain some of the most beautiful and varied scenery in Northern Ireland. The area is dominated by a high undulating plateau cut by deep glens which open north and eastwards to the sea. Gentle bays are separated by blunt headlands; exposed moorland gives way to sheltered valleys; wide open expanses to enclosed farmland. Rathlin Island is rich in historical, geological and botanical interest. |
| Binevenagh, NI | | Covers the area between the Roe Estuary and Magilligan, the cliffs of Binevenagh, the Bann Estuary and Portstewart sand dunes. The skyline of the cliffs at Binevenagh makes a breathtaking contrast with the outstanding expanse of Magilligan Strand. The steep, round-topped grassland hills and the sandy shoreline are the dominant features, separated from the rocky shore of Donegal by just one kilometre of sea. |
| Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast, NI Criteria: vii, viii | WHS | The Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast is a spectacular area of global geological importance on the sea coast at the edge of the Antrim plateau in Northern Ireland. The most characteristic and unique feature of the site is the exposure of some 40,000 large, regularly shaped polygonal columns of basalt in perfect horizontal sections, forming a pavement. This dramatic sight has inspired legends of giants striding over the sea to Scotland. Celebrated in the arts and in science, it has been a visitor attraction for at least 300 years and has come to be regarded as a symbol for Northern Ireland. |

Key: NSA=National Scenic Area, AONB=Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, WHS=World Heritage Site, criterion **vii**: to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance; **viii**: to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features. Sources: NatureScot website <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/protected-areas/national-designations/national-scenic-areas/nsa-special-qualities> (accessed: 01/03/22), UNESCO world heritage site website: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/gb> (accessed: 01/03/22)

Figure A1c.12: Designated and other landscape areas in Regional Sea 7



A1c.11 Features of Regional Sea 8

The following provides a brief overview of the coast covered by Regional Sea 8 and has been informed by the initiatives mentioned in Section A1c.2. Major statutory and non-statutory designations are shown in Table A1c.7 and Figure A1c.13.

Regional Sea 8 characterised by the western shores of the Outer Hebrides, including Uist and Barra, Harris and Lewis, the north coast of Scotland from Cape Wrath to Duncansby Head and also includes Orkney, the western coast of Shetland and St Kilda. There is a strong sense of exposure on the coasts of all the islands. The Atlantic coasts of the Outer Hebrides include distinctive sandy beaches backed by extensive machair grassland, and Harris has mountainous terrain which contrasts with the lower lying isles to the south and north. The area is sparsely populated, and the landscape is also influenced by the Gaelic language.

The north coast of Scotland is sparsely populated and has a coast with a diverse and dramatic predominantly rocky coastline with high cliffs. The eastern end of the coast includes views to Orkney and Hoy. Dounreay nuclear power station forms a prominent landmark. To the north, Orkney is a group of small and diverse islands located around a larger mainland. The islands are low lying and generally meet the coast at rocky headlands or sandy beaches. The islands have a long settlement history which has contributed to the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site designation. More recently, the remains of WWII infrastructure and a number of protected wreck sites indicate the strategic role the islands played in war-time. To the north, Shetland is an elongated group of islands with an extremely varied coastline which is often low

and rocky but at times having cliffs 200m. The islands have well preserved archaeological remains (e.g. at Mousa) and a strong sense of Nordic culture.

To the far west of Regional Sea 8, St Kilda is both a National Scenic Area and World Heritage Site. The now uninhabited islands comprise an archipelago (includes Hirta, Soay, Boreray and Dun) is made of the rim of an ancient volcano, with the Village Bay on the previously occupied island of Hirta being amphitheatrical, and backed by steep cliffs. Seabirds dominate the landscape and the area is designated as internationally important in this regard.

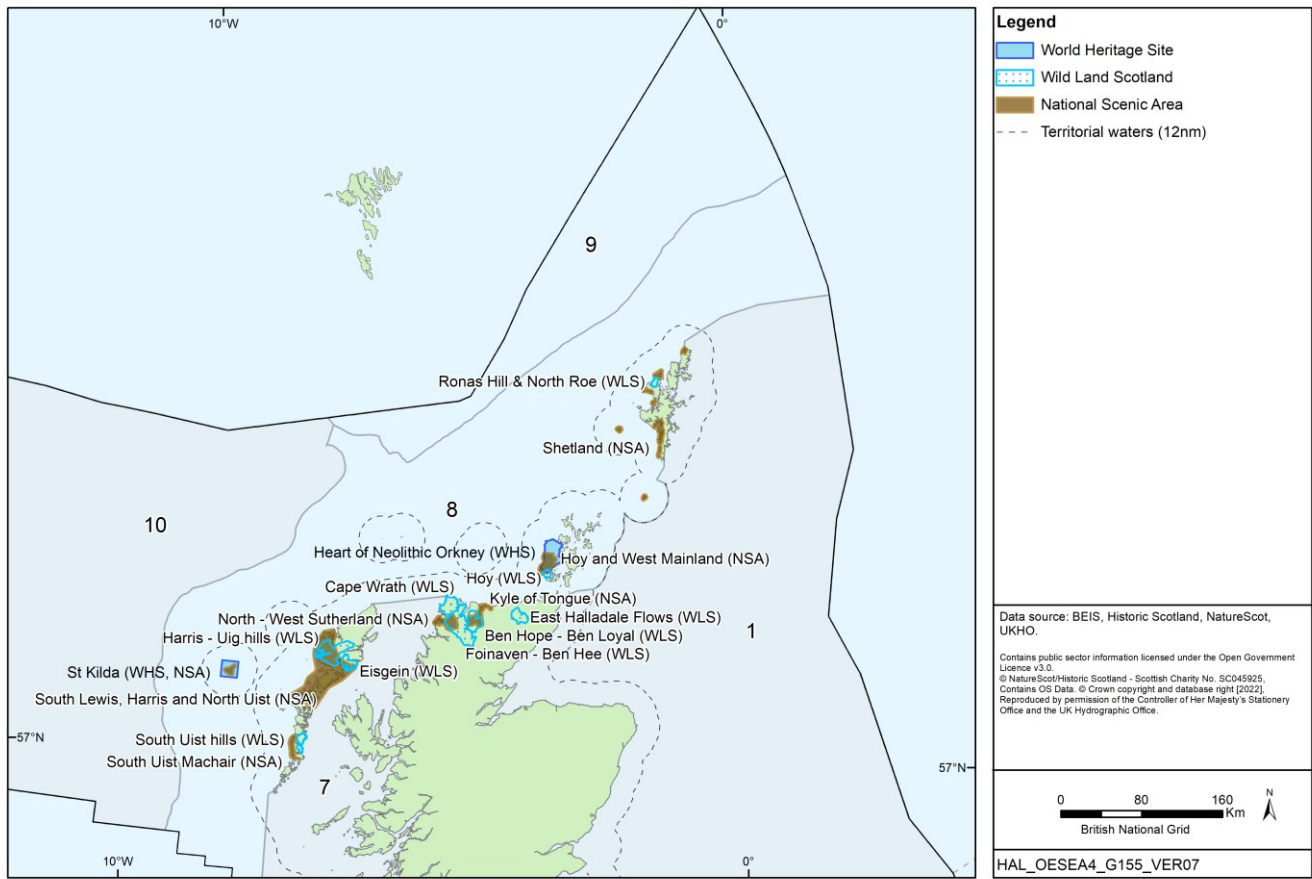
Table A1c.7: Relevant landscape conservation designations in Regional Sea 8

| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Hoy and West Mainland, Orkney | NSA | Coastal Hoy is made up of soaring cliffs and headlands and the famous stack, the Old Man of Hoy. The area has a strong visual interrelationship with the west mainland. The landscape is noticeably open due to the lack of trees, and supports abundant relics of former occupation. |
| South Lewis, Harris and North Uist | | A rocky indented coast with wide sandy beaches between rocky headlands, numerous stacks and deep sea lochs. Harris has the highest peaks of the Outer Hebrides. |
| South Uist Machair | | A flat area of machair dune formations and diverse vegetation with lime-rich lochans. Cultivated machair the largest in Scotland, extending 2km inland. |
| Kyle of Tongue | | This area extends from the east shore of Torrisdale Bay in the east, westwards along the coast of Sutherland including Neave Island, Eilean nan Ron and the Rabbit Islands to Port Vasgo in the west, and southwards to include Ben Hope and Ben Loyal. |
| Foula, Shetland | | Foula contributes to Shetland's scenery of the mainland and is characterised by stacks, cliffs, arches and caves. |
| South West Mainland, Shetland | | The southern mainland varies from open cliff coasts to fjord-like indentations. Numerous stacks and small islands give the western seascape a distinctive character. |
| Muckle Roe, Shetland | | Remarkable high red sandstone cliffs make a significant contribution to the wider coastal scene of St Magnus Bay. |
| Esha Ness, Shetland | | Consists of fine headlands, cliffs, skerries and stacks. |
| Fethaland, Shetland | | The roads from Burgo Taing to Greenfield on the northern side of the village of North Roe and the summits of Hill of Sandvoe, Saefti Hill, Heogel of the Moor and Fugla Ness define the southern limit. To the north, the peninsula, Ramna Stacks and Uyea Isle are included in the scenic area. |
| Hermaness, Shetland | | A broad coastal strip from Uyea to Burravoe in Northmavine. |
| St Kilda | NSA | Comprises the entire archipelago (Hirta, Soay, Boreray and Dun). The landscape consists of steep cliffs, stacks and steep grassy valley slopes. The islands are home to internationally important seabird colonies. |

| Site name | Designation type | Summary |
|---|------------------|--|
| Criteria: iii, v, vii, ix, x | WHS | The tiny archipelago of St Kilda, lying off the west coast of mainland Scotland, is breathtaking. Formed from the rim of an ancient volcano associated with the opening up of the North Atlantic some 65-52 million years ago, the intensely dramatic, jagged landscape of towering cliffs – some of the highest sea cliffs in Europe – and sea stacks present stark black precipitous faces plunging from steep grass-green slopes in excess of 375m. Scenically, every element appears vertical, except the smooth amphitheatre of Village Bay on Hirta with its relict historic landscape. Exposure to some of the greatest wave heights and strongest wind speeds in Europe plays a major role in shaping the coastal ecology. |
| Heart of Neolithic Orkney Criteria: i, ii, iii, iv | WHS | The group of Neolithic monuments on Orkney consists of a large chambered tomb (Maes Howe), two ceremonial stone circles (the Stones of Stenness and the Ring of Brodgar) and a settlement (Skara Brae), together with a number of unexcavated burial, ceremonial and settlement sites. The group constitutes a major prehistoric cultural landscape which gives a graphic depiction of life in this remote archipelago in the far north of Scotland some 5,000 years ago. |

Key: NSA=National Scenic Area, WHS=World Heritage Site, criterion i: to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius; ii: to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design; iii: to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared; iv: to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history; vii: to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance; ix: to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals; x: to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation. Sources: NatureScot website <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/protected-areas/national-designations/national-scenic-areas/nsa-special-qualities> (accessed: 01/03/22), UNESCO world heritage site website: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/gb> (accessed: 01/03/22)

Figure A1c.13: Designated and other landscape areas in Regional Sea 8



A1c.12 Regional Seas 9, 10 & 11

Regional Seas 9, 10 and 11 do not contain any designated areas or seascape characterisations. The remote seascapes of these areas may in time be subject to such assessment, though with the exception of Rockall (Regional Sea 10), do not contain any areas of land.

A1c.13 Evolution of the baseline and environmental issues

Coastal landscapes and seascapes are influenced by natural (e.g. flooding, coastal erosion) and anthropogenic (e.g. development) sources of change. Climate change has the potential to result in changes to coastal landform through changes to sediment budgets (erosion and accretion rates) and wider seascape change through sea-level rise and how the coast responds, which is also linked to coastal policy such as that contained in shoreline management plans and past anthropogenic influences (e.g. in relation to coastal squeeze) – see Appendix 1b Geology, substrates and coastal processes. Erosion and changes to the coast can have cultural effects as well as effects on the natural environment, for instance the loss of scheduled monuments and listed buildings¹⁸ which are key components to the coastal landscape. A linked factor is potential future changes at the coast from sea-level rise (e.g. loss of intertidal area and beach steepening, changes in shoreline protection in the form of defence,

¹⁸e.g. see: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/>, <https://scapetrust.org/>

retreat and realignment, and associated changes in habitats, species and patterns of use). Agricultural land use change (including forestry) and continued expansion or changes to settlement and onshore infrastructure projects continue to be forces for change in many areas, and for which cumulative or in-combination effects are possible between onshore and offshore landscape/seascape changes.

Prior to the development of offshore renewables, offshore developments in UK waters have primarily been in relation to North Sea oil and gas developments where the only representation of such developments at the coast or on land was generally in the form of cable and pipe landfall and associated infrastructure (e.g. former fabrication and maintenance yards such as that at Nigg and Ardersier) and terminals (e.g. Easington, Bacton). Drilling activity and production platforms have in the most part (with the exception of Beatrice and Jacky in the Moray Firth, exploration wells sites off Dorset and Cardigan Bay, structures in the east Irish Sea and those associated with the Cromarty Firth and Firth of Tay rig support industry) been too far from shore to be visible from the coast, but now define the seascapes of some offshore areas (e.g. as described in MMO 2012, and in the character area descriptions along the North Wales coast). The majority of offshore hydrocarbon basins on the UKCS are at a mature stage of development, and decommissioning is being planned or undertaken for a number of oil and gas fields. While new development may make use of existing surface or subsea infrastructure (e.g. through carbon capture and storage, see Appendix 1h) or result in entirely new structures, UKCS hydrocarbon production is in decline, and the character of some offshore and coastal areas with strong associations with the industry may change in the coming decades, including as part of a transition to supporting the renewables industry.

The more recent development of offshore renewables, namely offshore wind farms, wave and tidal devices, has led to a greater consideration of landscape/seascape issues in addition to other potential environmental effects primarily due to their proximity to the coast, and therefore visibility from land compared to the life of many offshore oil and gas facilities which have been outside of visible range from the coast. Up until recently offshore wind farms tended to be restricted on technical and economic grounds to water depths of between 30 and 60m which in most instances other than some areas of the southern North Sea (e.g. Dogger Bank), has led to such developments or proposed developments being visible from the shore. Floating offshore wind farms now extend the feasible economic depth ranges of wind turbines, which may lead to a change in offshore seascapes, but also reduce further changes to nearshore and coastal landscapes and seascapes. Renewables developments also require landfall and other onshore infrastructure for operation and maintenance, and ports presently or formerly used by the offshore oil and gas industry are now also servicing the renewables sector, perpetuating their connection with the offshore energy industry, however some new port developments may be required to provide capacity for renewables deployment (see Appendix 1h). In Scotland, aquaculture continues to develop and the changes in the coastal landscape/seascape this can generate have been the subject of guidance (SNH 2008, ASH design + assessment 2011).

The coastal access duty created by the *Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009*, and equivalent coastal trails and access in the devolved administrations, has the potential to result in enhanced use of the coast for recreation with a related increase in the number of receptors experiencing the coast and its seascapes.

References

- ASH design + assessment (2011). Landscape/seascape capacity for aquaculture: Outer Hebrides pilot study. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No.460, 74pp.
- Cadw (2007). Guide to good practice on using the register of landscapes of historic interest in Wales in the planning and development process. Revised (2nd) edition including revisions to the assessment process, Cadw, 32pp.
- Defra (2005). Regulatory Impact Assessment: Council of Europe European Landscape Convention. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 12pp.
- Defra (2007). European Landscape Convention: A Framework for Implementation. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 11pp.
- DTI (2005). Guidance on the assessment of the impact of offshore wind farms: Seascape and visual impact report. Department of Trade and Industry, London, 127pp.
- Hill M, Briggs J, Minto P, Bagnall D, Foley K and Williams A (2001). Guide to Best Practice in Seascape Assessment. INTERREG Programme (Contract EU/100/10), 28pp.
- LI & IEMA (2013). Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition). The Landscape Institute & the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 169pp.
- LUC (2015). National Seascape Assessment for Wales. NRW Evidence Report 80, Natural Resources Wales, Bangor (Wales), 78pp.
- MMO (2014). Seascape Assessment for the South Marine Plan Areas: Technical Report. A report produced for the Marine Management Organisation, pp 88. MMO Project No: 1037.
- MMO (2019). Seascapes sensitivity assessment (MMO1204) Technical report. A report produced for the Marine Management Organisation, MMO Project No: 1204, December 2019, 83pp.
- Natural England (2009). Guidelines for Implementing the European Landscape Convention. Part 2: Integrating the Intent of the ELC into Plans, Policies and Strategies. Prepared by Land Use Consultants for Natural England. 16pp + Appendices.
- Natural England (2012a). An approach to Seascape Character Assessment. Natural England Commissioned Report NECR105, 47pp.
- Natural England (2019). An approach to landscape sensitivity assessment – to inform spatial planning and land management. 47pp.
- Scott KE, Anderson C, Dunsford H, Benson JF & MacFarlane R (2005). An assessment of the sensitivity and capacity of the Scottish seascape in relation to offshore windfarms. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No.103 (ROAME No. F03AA06), 193pp.
- Scottish Natural Heritage (2008). Guidance on Landscape/Seascape Capacity for Aquaculture. Scottish Natural Heritage, 83pp.
- Tapper B & Hooley D (2010). Historic Seascape Characterisation (HSC). National HSC Method Statement. Revised Working Draft. Report for English Heritage: Historic Environment Service, Cornwall Council.
- Tapper B (2008). Historic Seascape Characterisation (HSC). National HSC Method Statement. Report for English Heritage: Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council.
- White Consultants (2019a). Seascape and visual sensitivity to offshore wind farms in Wales: Strategic assessment and guidance. Stage 1- Ready reckoner of visual effects related to turbine size. Report No 315, 94pp.
- White Consultants (2019b). Seascape and visual sensitivity to offshore wind farms in Wales: Strategic assessment and guidance. Stage 3- Seascape and visual sensitivity assessment for offshore wind farms. Report No 331, 118pp.
- White Consultants (2020). Review and update of Seascape and Visual Buffer study for Offshore Wind farms. White Consultants, 121pp. plus appendices.