

LDĀ DESIGN

Seascape Character Assessment

Dorset Coast Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment & Draft SCA Guidance - An Introduction to Work in Progress

C-Scope Workshop: The Road Towards a Marine Spatial Plan

18th February 2011
Zebrstraat 32
9000 Gent, Belgium

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A photograph of a coastal landscape featuring a prominent, layered cliff face on the left, a sandy beach, and waves crashing against rocks in the foreground. In the background, another cliff is visible under a clear blue sky.

Dorset Coast Landscape & Seascape Character Assessment

The Brief

- Establish seamless integrated approach to *protection, management and planning* in the land-sea interface
- Classify and describe *character* of coastal and marine environments as basis for *informed decision making*
- Identify *forces for change* acting on coastal and marine areas and identify measures to plan and manage change



Deciding on the Approach to Take

- Existing approaches to assessing and describing seascape character reviewed
- No existing methods for seascape assessment are fully fit for purpose
- Dorset will need to pioneer a new approach
- First task – go back to ‘first principals’



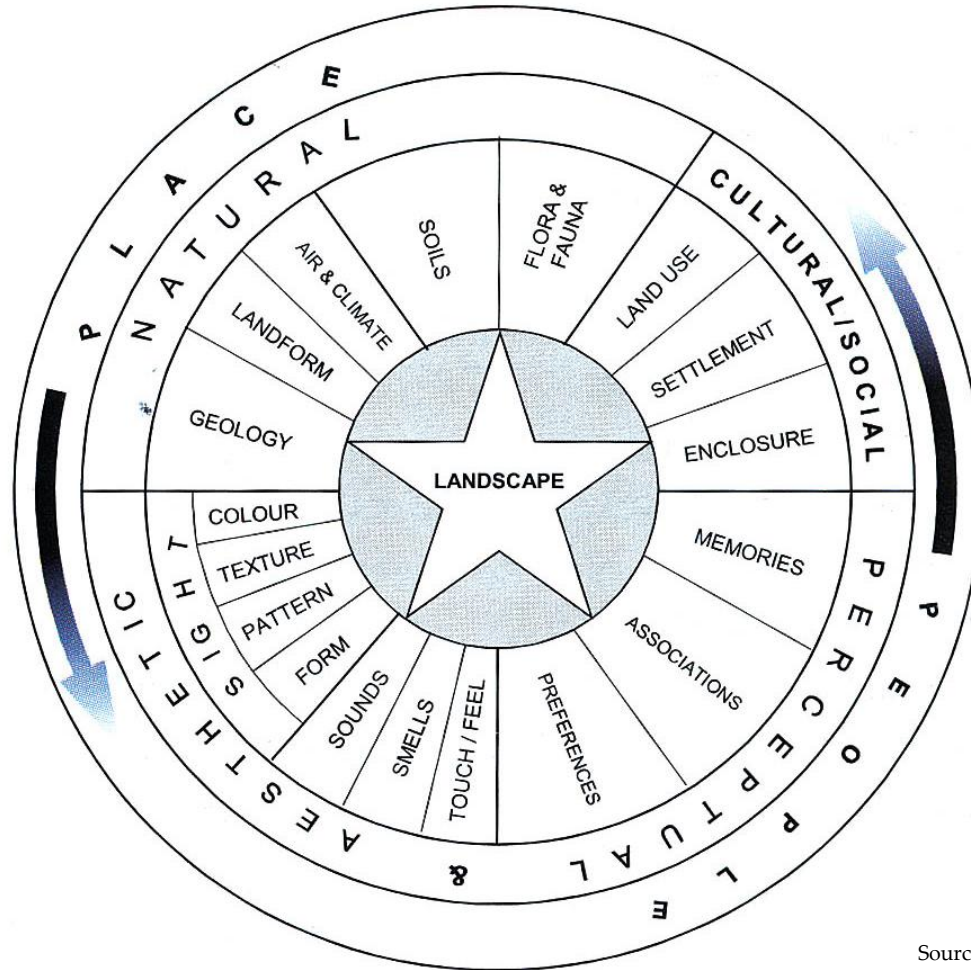
What is Landscape?

■■■■■ The **European Landscape Convention (ELC)** was signed by UK Government in February 2006 and ratified in November 2006. It came into effect in March 2007. Its definition states:

*“Landscape means an area, as **perceived by people**, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of **natural and/or human factors**” (Article 1).*

The aims of the Convention are *“to promote landscape **protection, management and planning**, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues” (Article 3).*



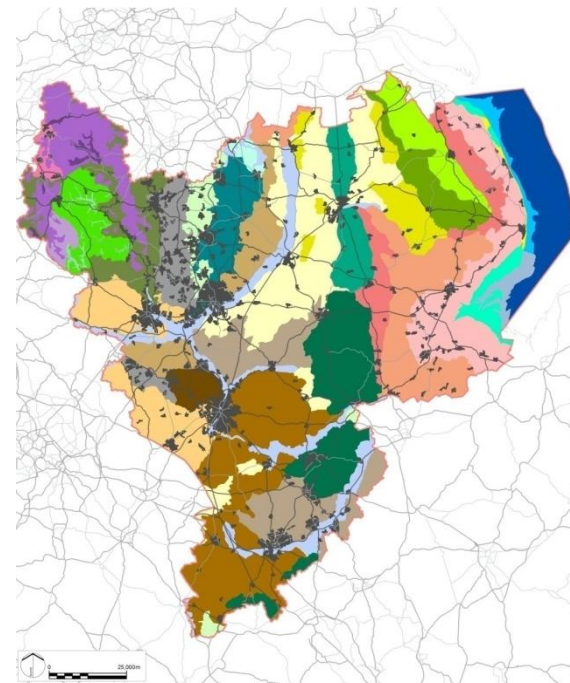


Source: CA/SNH – 2002 LCA Guidance

**Limestone Hills
(Ruardean Hills)**

**Wooded Syncline and Settled Forest Margin
(Lynbrook and Ruardean Woodside)**





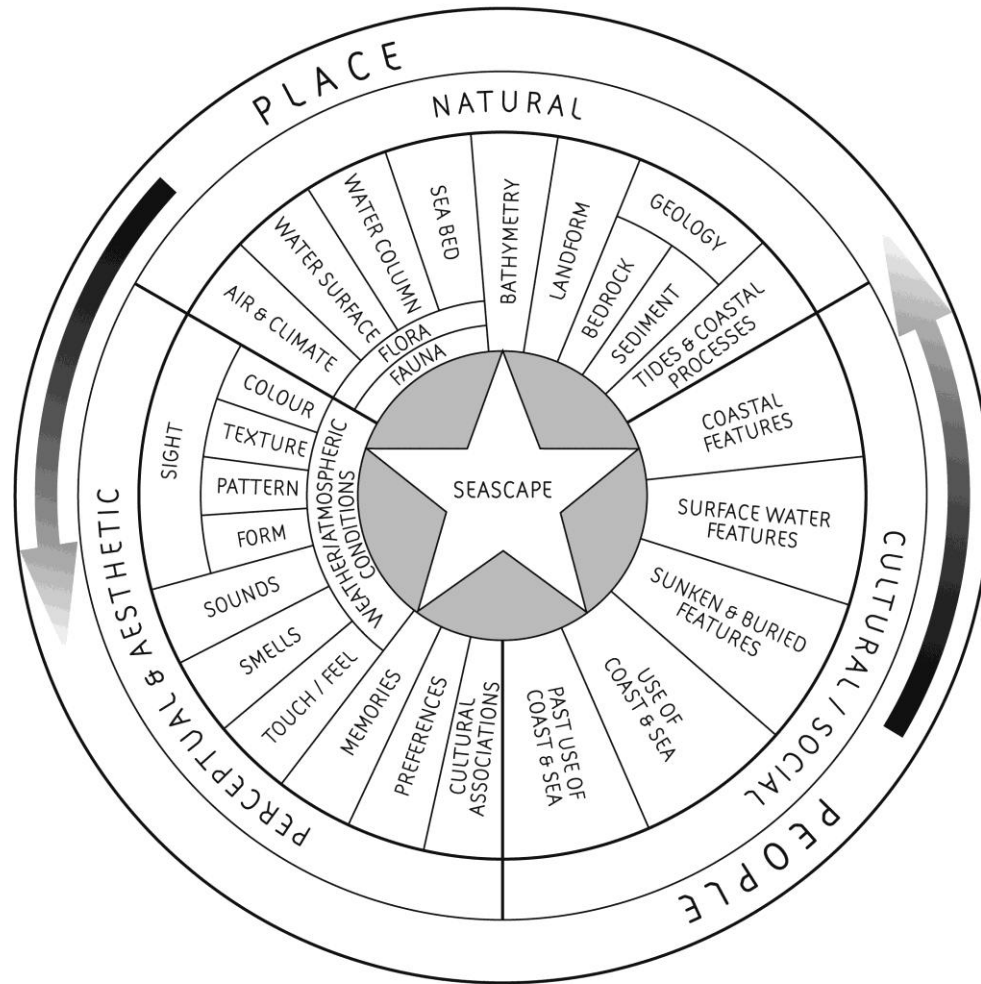
What is Seascape?

■■■■■ The scope of the European Landscape Convention specifically includes “*marine areas*” as well as land and inland water (Article 2).

However, whilst sharing the same overall ELC definition, **marine areas** are influenced by some **natural, human and perceptual** factors not relevant to the land.

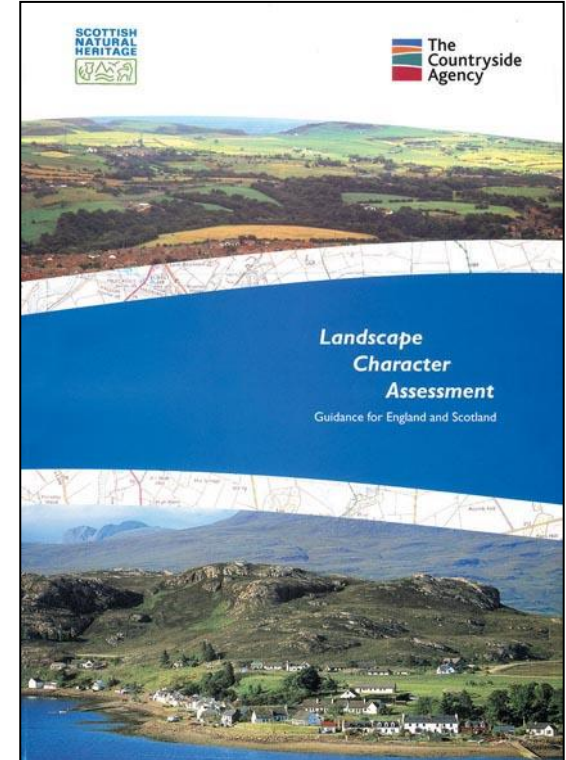
The term ‘**seascape**’ adopted to differentiate marine areas from terrestrial areas in the assessment process.



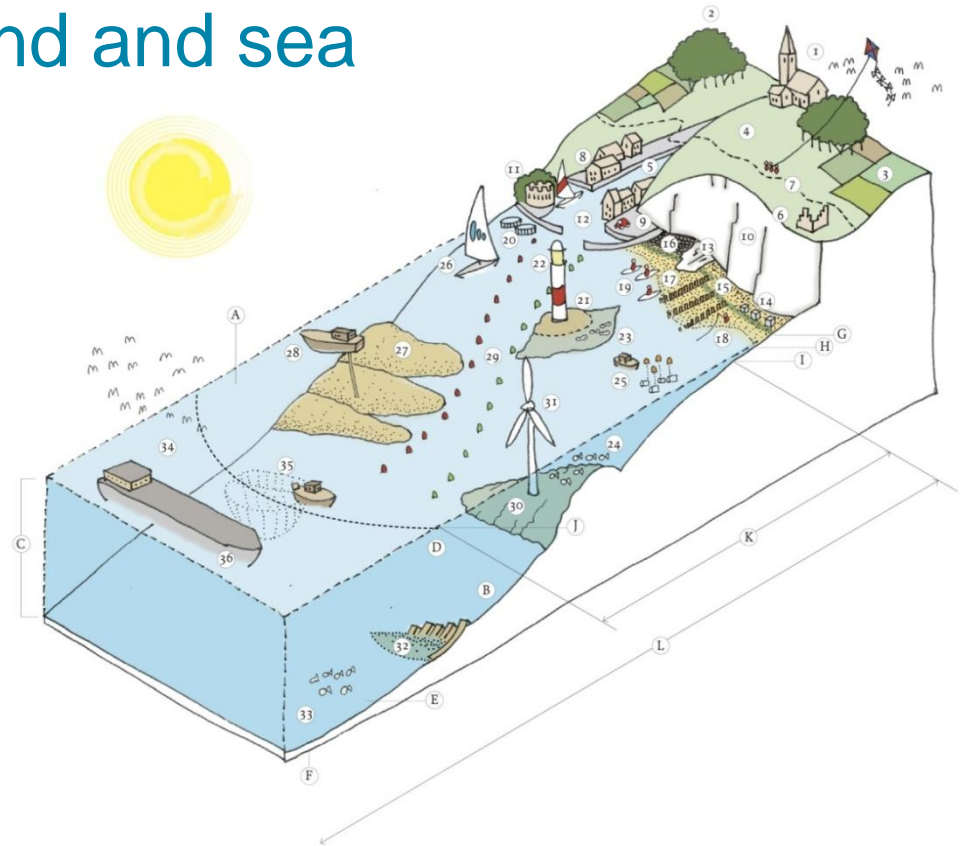


A New Approach for Dorset

- Based on 2002 Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland

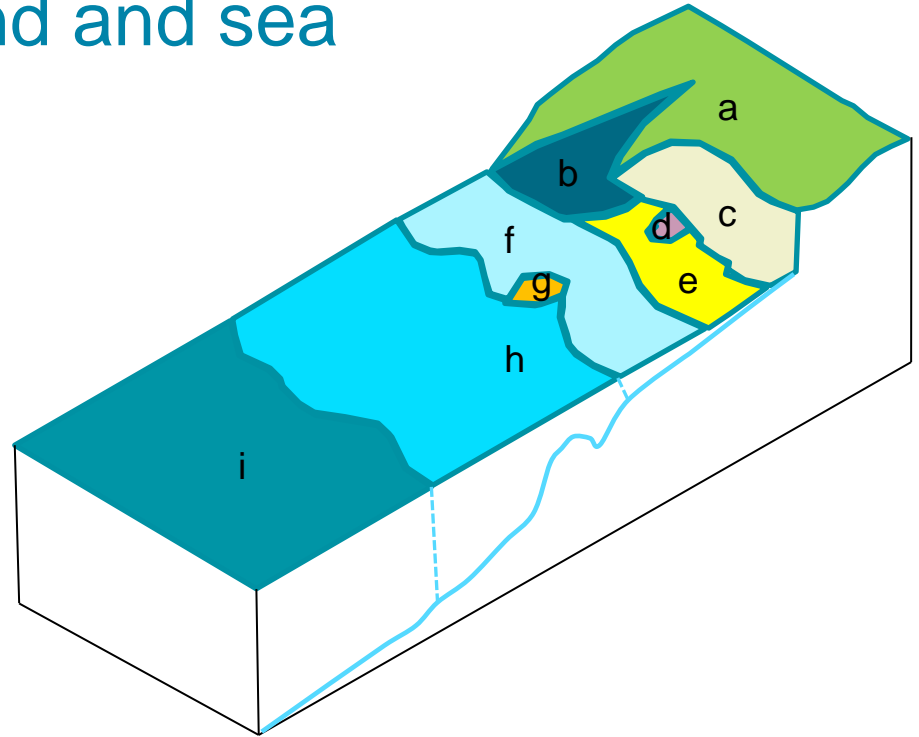


Approach delivers a consistent approach to the assessment of land and sea

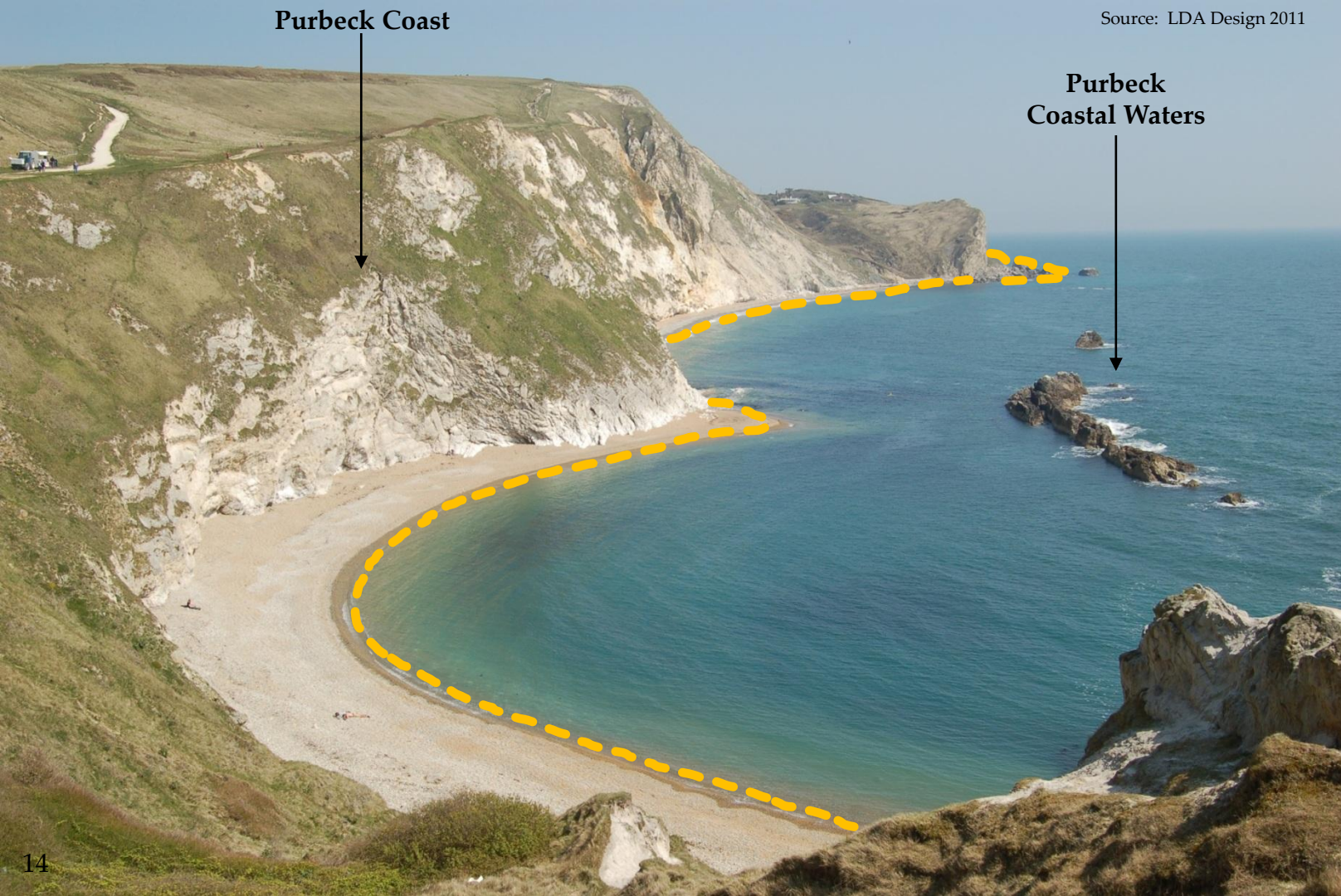


Approach delivers a consistent approach to the assessment of land and sea

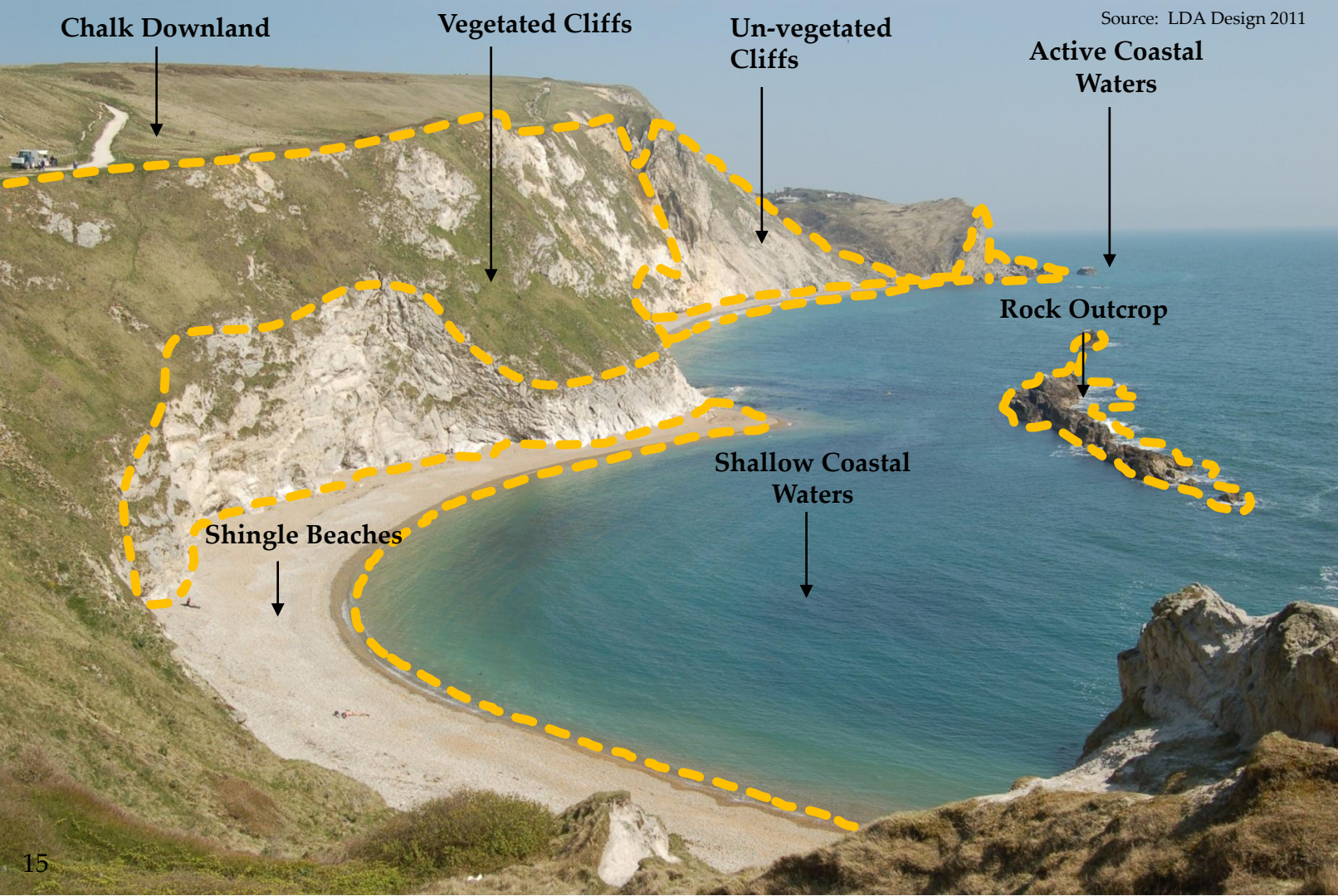
- a) Coastal Downs
- b) Man-Made Harbour & Village
- c) Chalk Cliff
- d) Rock Shelf
- e) Sandy Beach
- f) Shallow Coastal Waters
- g) Rocky Outcrop with Lighthouse
- h) Intermediate Waters
- i) Deep Sea Navigation







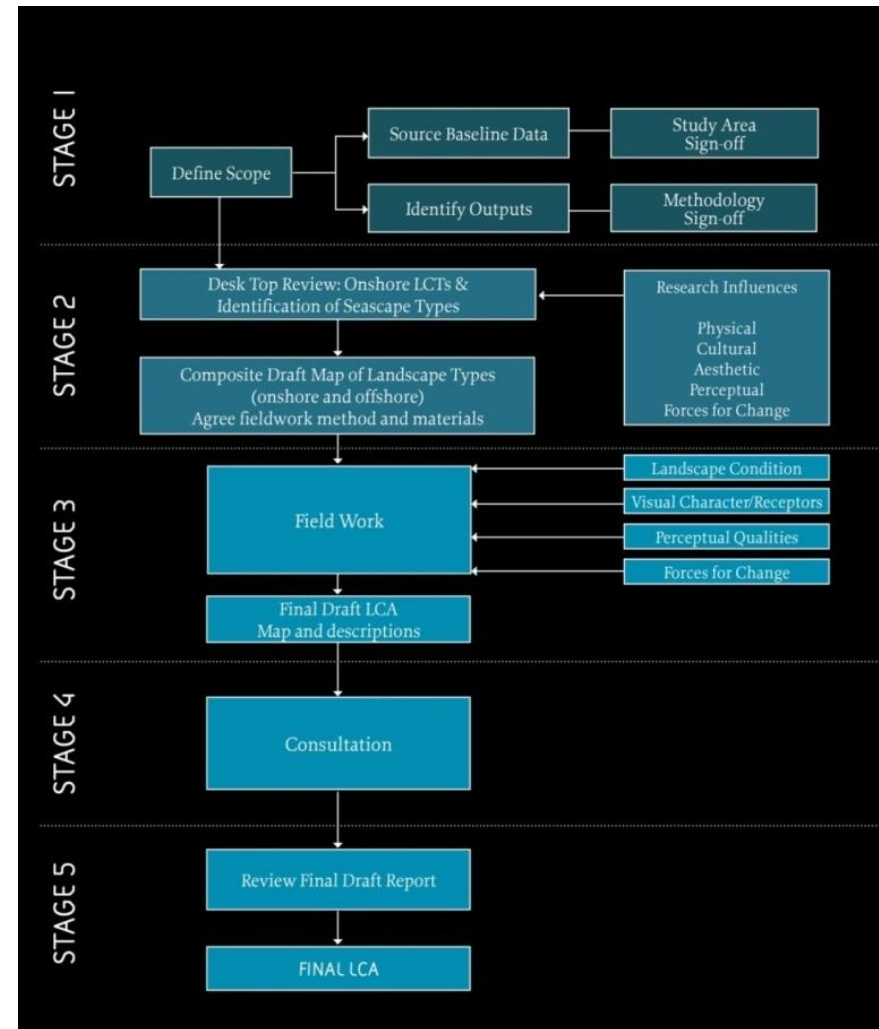
Regional Scale Seascape Character Areas



County Scale Seascape Character Types

The Dorset Method

- Define Scope
- Desk Study
- Field Survey
- Consultation
- Report Preparation



Stage 1 – Define Scope



Study Area

Extent of Study Area agreed at outset with Steering Group.

- Extends to cover *inland areas* assessed and described in the existing Dorset Landscape Character Assessment
- Includes review of *coastal areas* such as beaches and cliffs, adding additional layers of detail to existing LCA
- *Extends offshore* 60km to border with French waters



Boundaries

Boundaries are not fixed, hard delineations of a landscape or seascape character type or area.

- Landscape and seascape character boundaries should be regarded as *transitional* with neighbouring types and areas sharing some of the same characteristics.
- In some instances the *zone of transition* will be narrow (such as a boundary defining the top of a scarp slope). Elsewhere a boundary marking the transition from a vale landscape to undulating farmlands might be wider and harder to define.
- Boundaries at sea are particularly difficult to define, and much depends on identifying characteristics that are *not immediately apparent* on the surface.
- The accuracy of boundaries should *be appropriate for the scale* of the assessment.

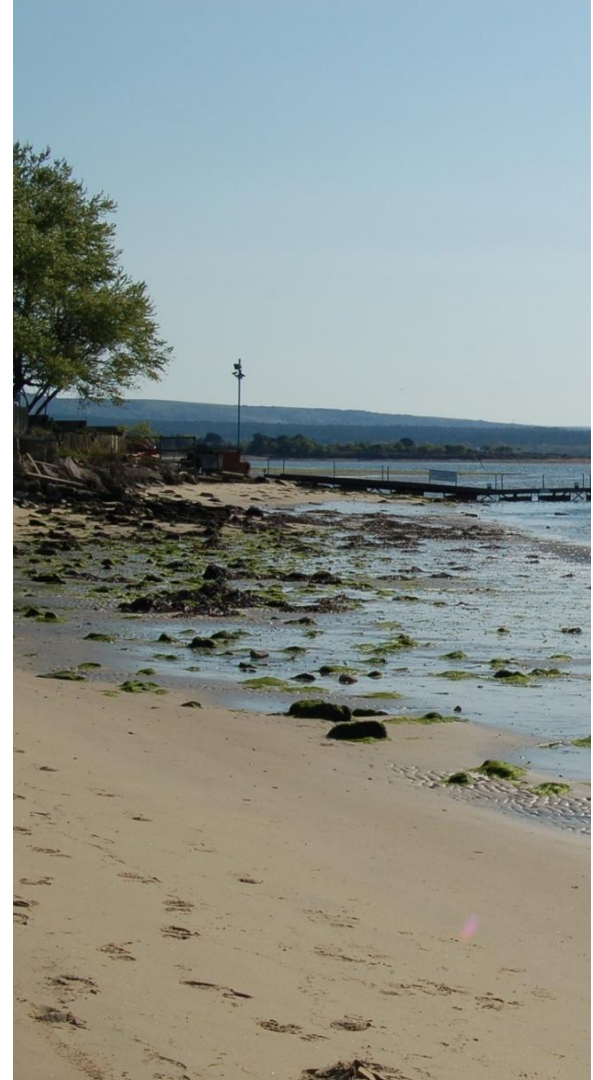


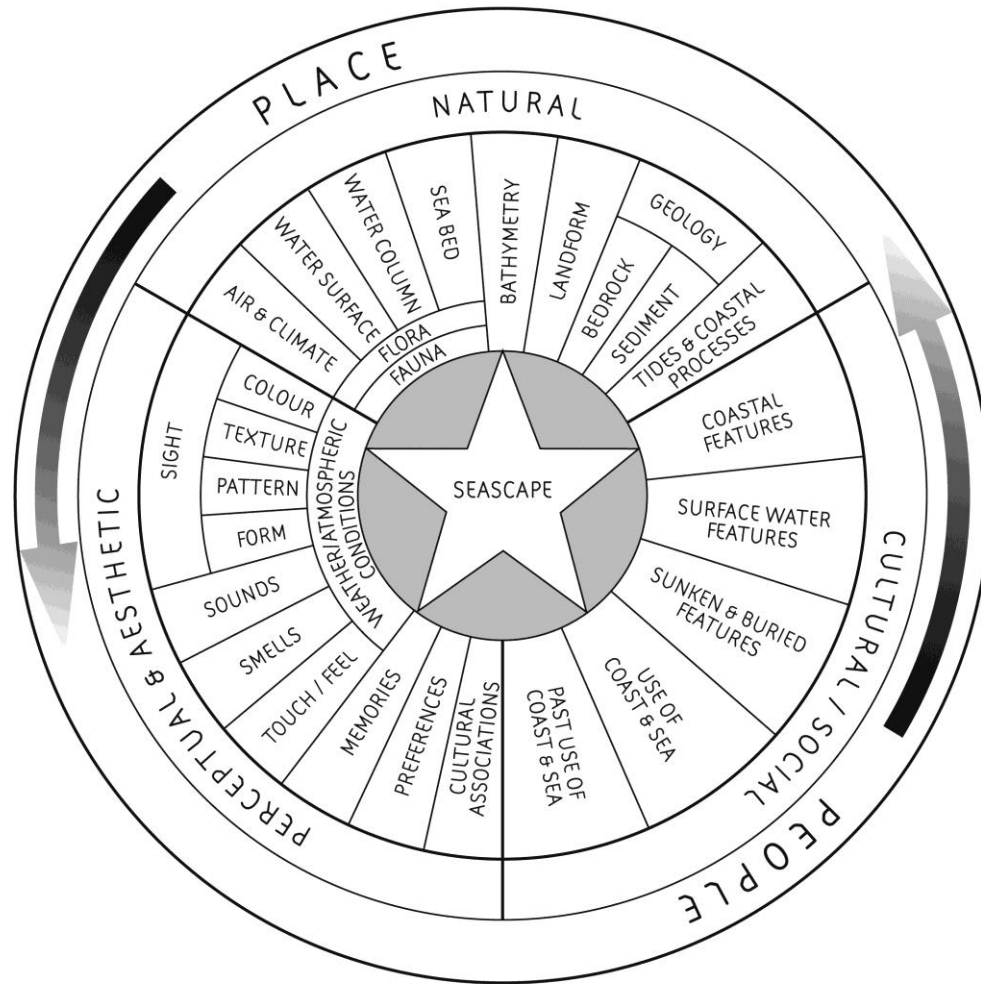
Stage 2 – Desk Study

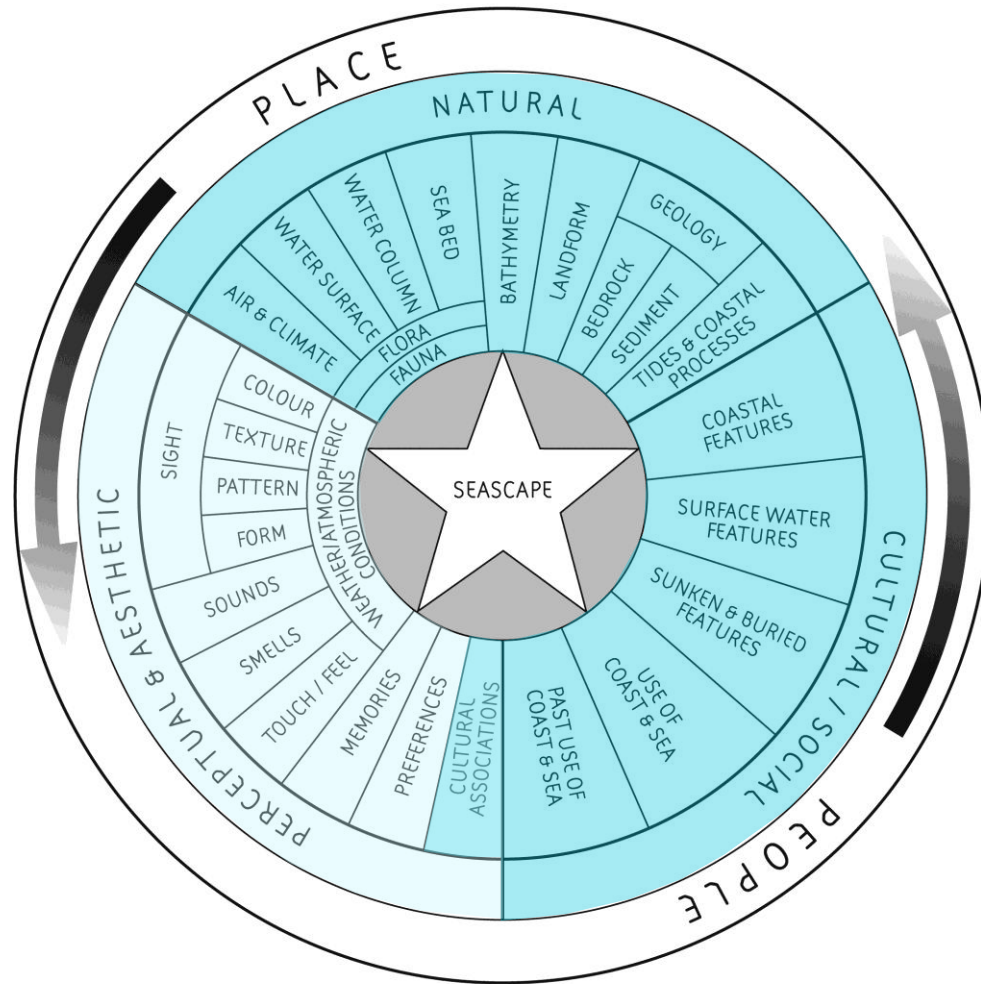


Desk Study Process

- Review key publications.
- Ordering and overlaying datasets:
 - existing character assessments
 - designations: heritage, landscape, biodiversity and geology
 - physical influences: geology, topography / bathymetry
 - Biodiversity (BAP habitats)
 - marine heritage
 - activities (influences): fisheries, tourism, industry, shipping, military
- Mapping and describing draft Landscape and Seascape Character Types







National Landscape Character Assessment



Terrestrial, Coastal and Marine Natural Areas



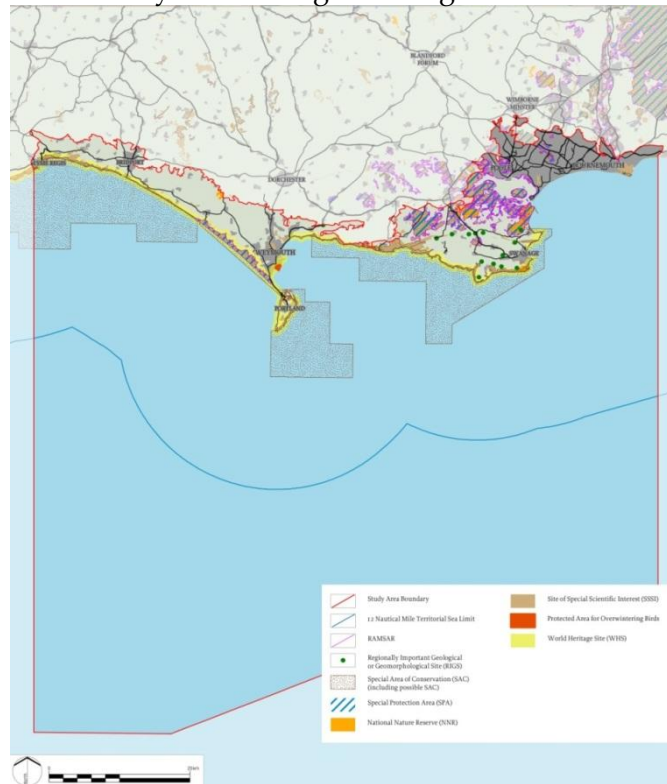
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Designations

Landscape Designations



Biodiversity and Geological Designations



Cultural Heritage Designation and Features



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[illegible]

The map displays the study area boundary in the San Francisco Bay region. The land area is color-coded by elevation in feet above sea level (ASL), ranging from 0 to 2000. The sea area is color-coded by depth in feet, ranging from 0 to over 900. The map also shows the 12 Nautical Mile Territorial Sea Limit. Key locations labeled include Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco, and the Golden Gate Bridge. The map includes a scale bar and a north arrow.

Study Area Boundary

12 Nautical Mile Territorial Sea Limit

Elevation (in ASL)

- 0 - 100
- 100 - 200
- 200 - 300
- 300 - 400
- 400 - 500
- 500 - 600
- 600 - 700
- 700 - 800
- 800 - 900
- 900 - 1000
- 1000 - 1100
- 1100 - 1200
- 1200 - 1300
- 1300 - 1400
- 1400 - 1500
- 1500 - 1600
- 1600 - 1700
- 1700 - 1800
- 1800 - 1900
- 1900 - 2000

Sea Depth (in ASL)

- 0 - 10
- 10 - 20
- 20 - 30
- 30 - 40
- 40 - 50
- 50 - 60
- 60 - 70
- 70 - 80
- 80 - 90
- 90 - 100
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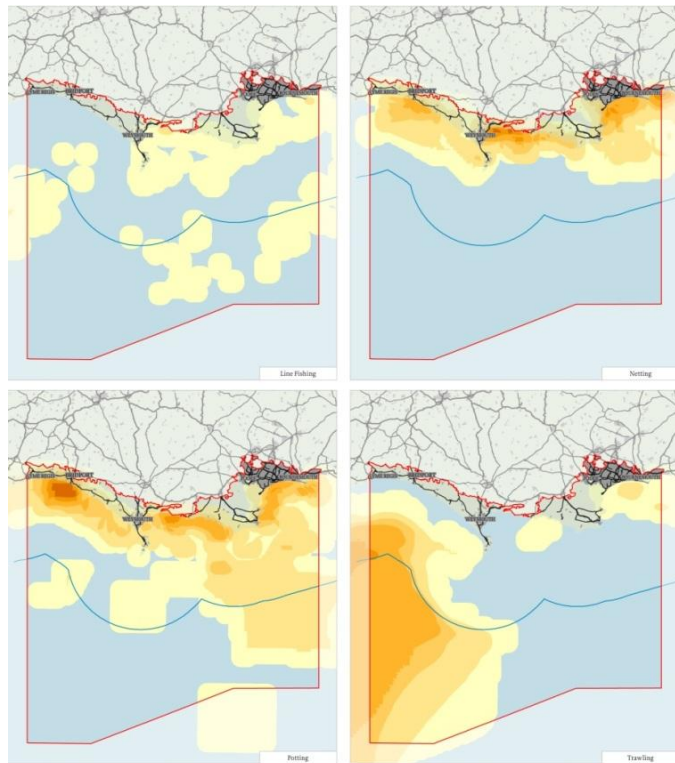
Biodiversity - BAP Habitats



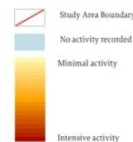
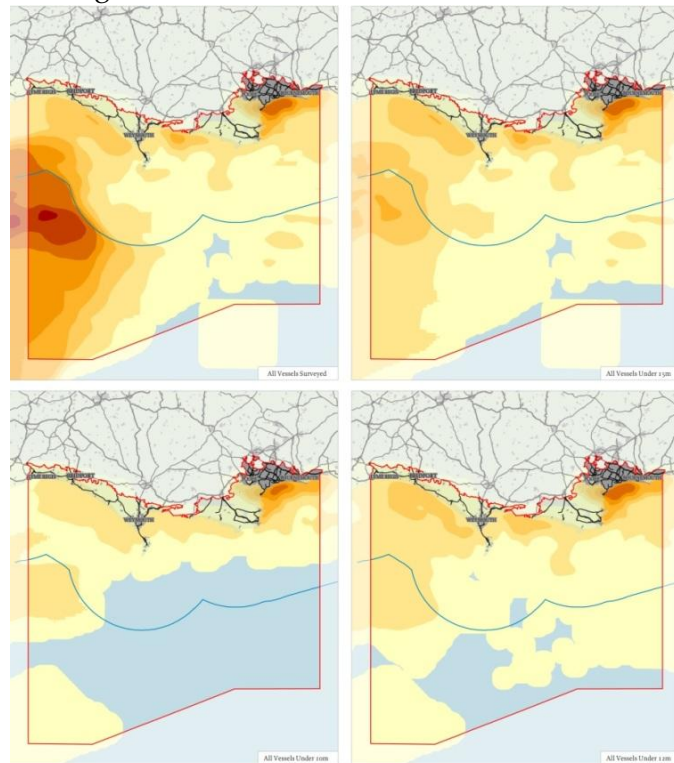
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Cultural Influences

Fisheries – Fishing Types

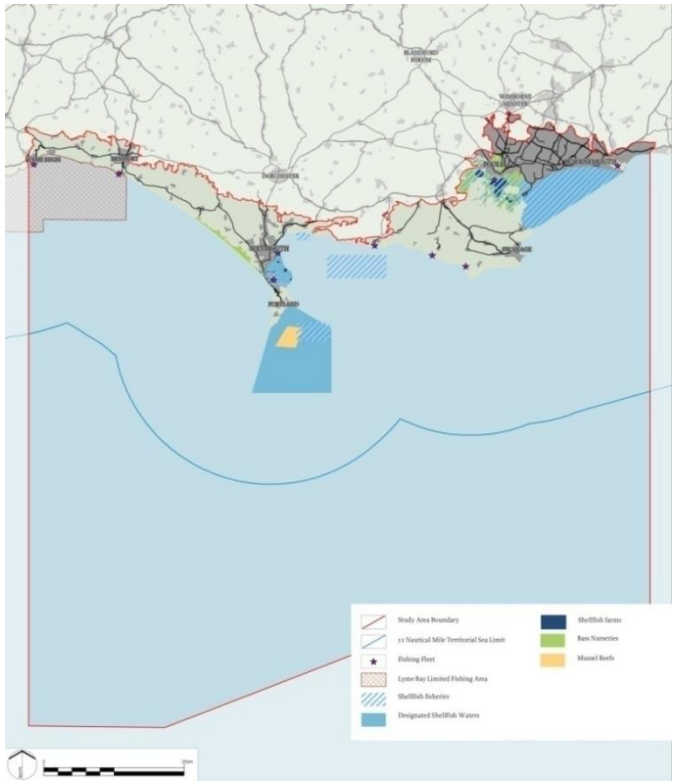


Fishing Vessels

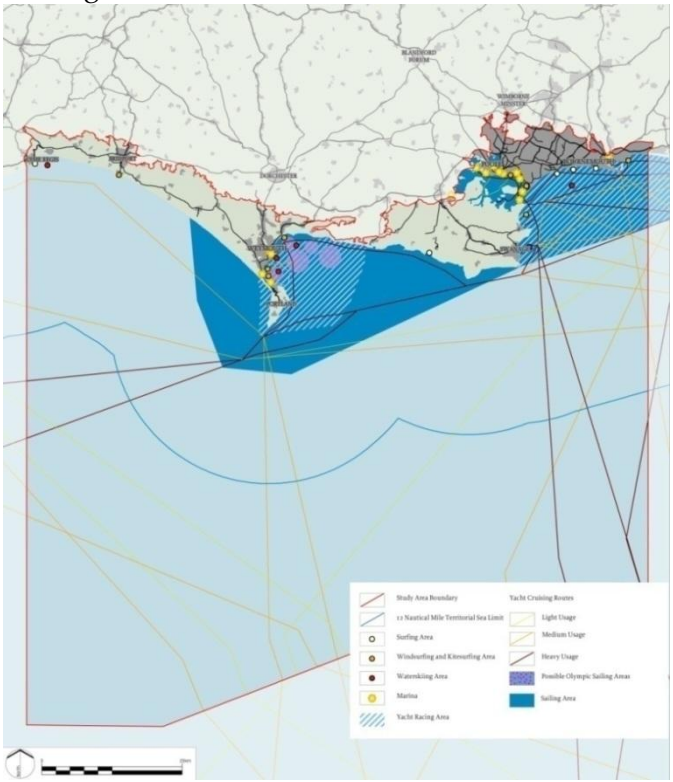


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Fisheries

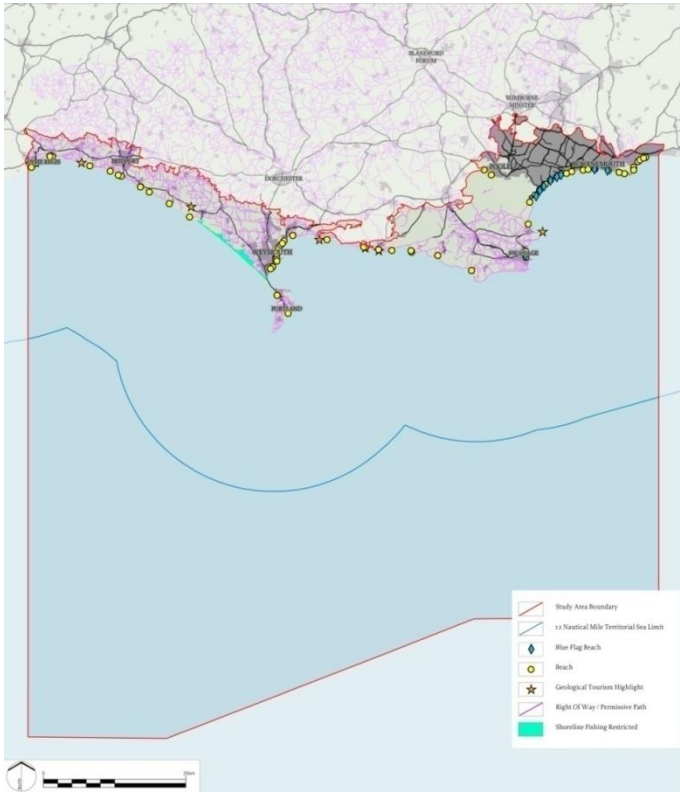


Sailing / Outdoor Tourism

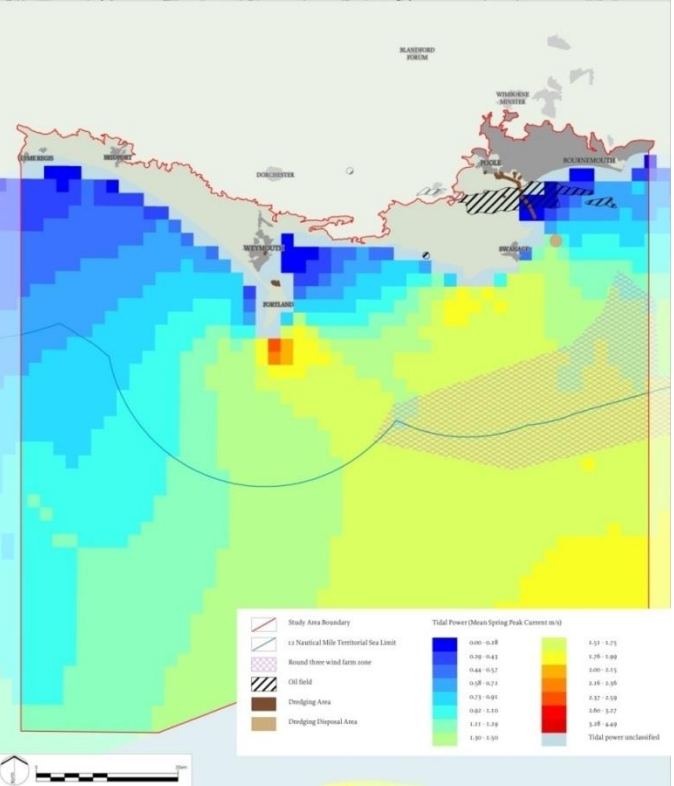


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Coastal Tourism

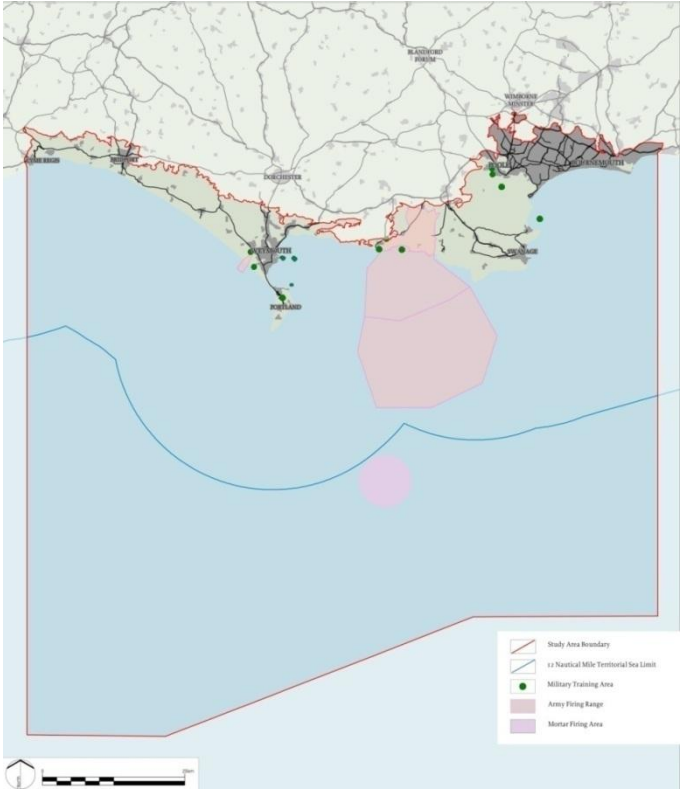


Industry and Renewable Energy

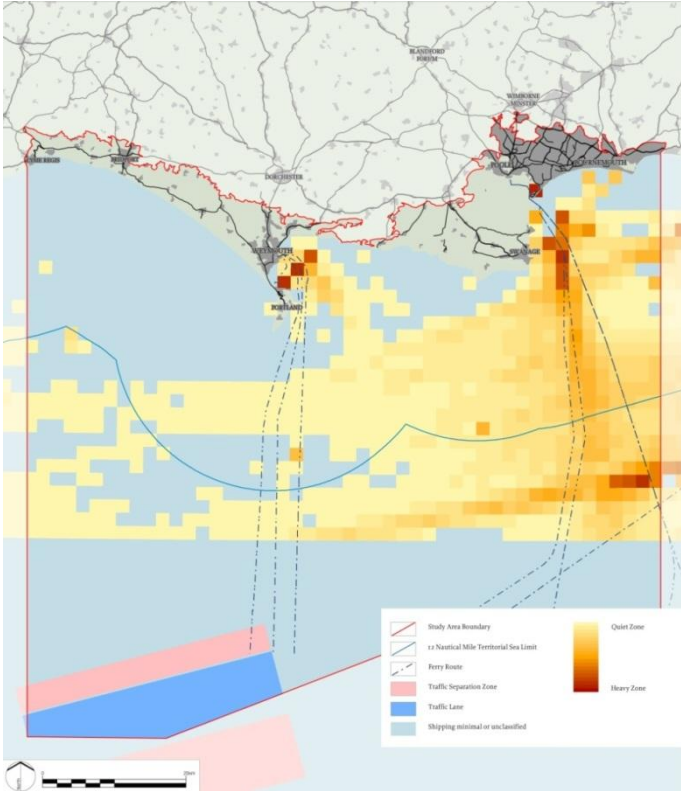


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Military



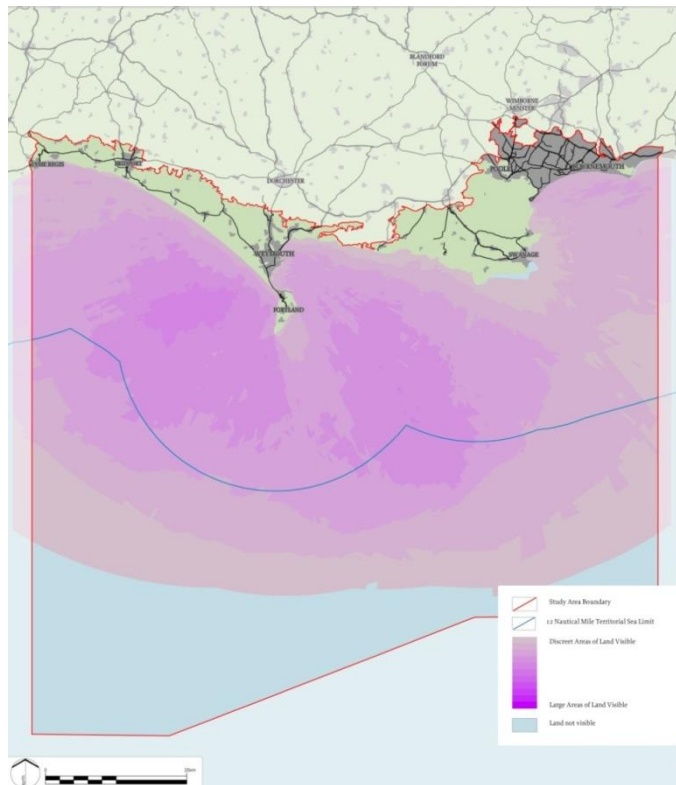
Shipping



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Visual

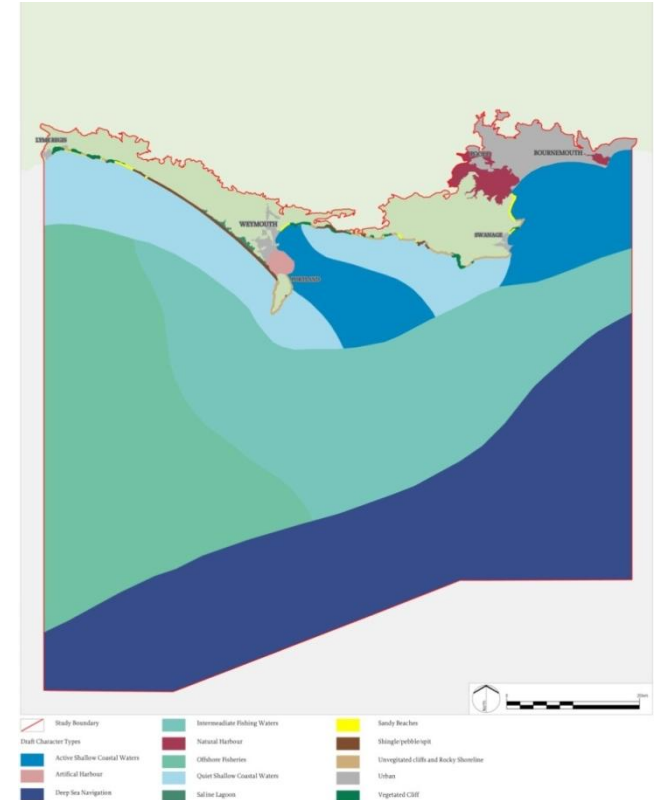
Zone of Theoretical Visibility



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Desk Study Output

Draft Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment Types and Descriptions.



Stage 3 – Field Survey



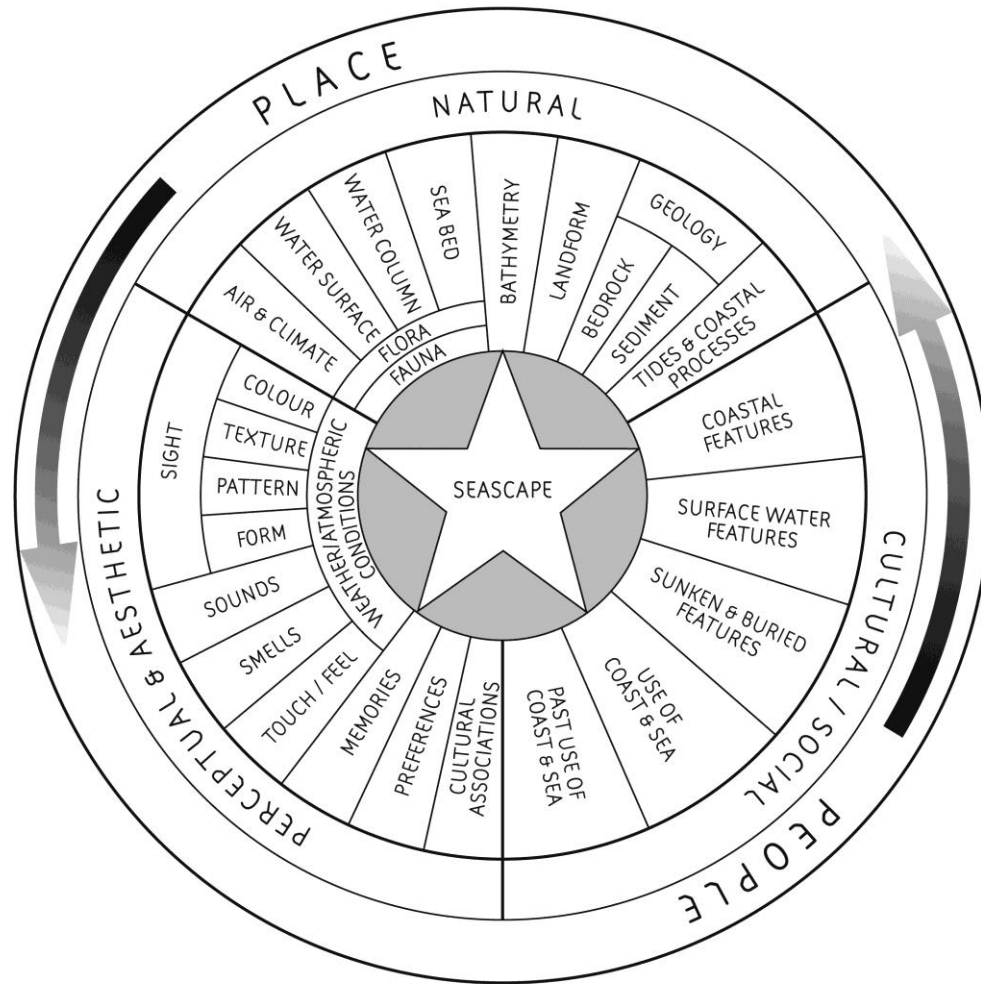
Fieldwork

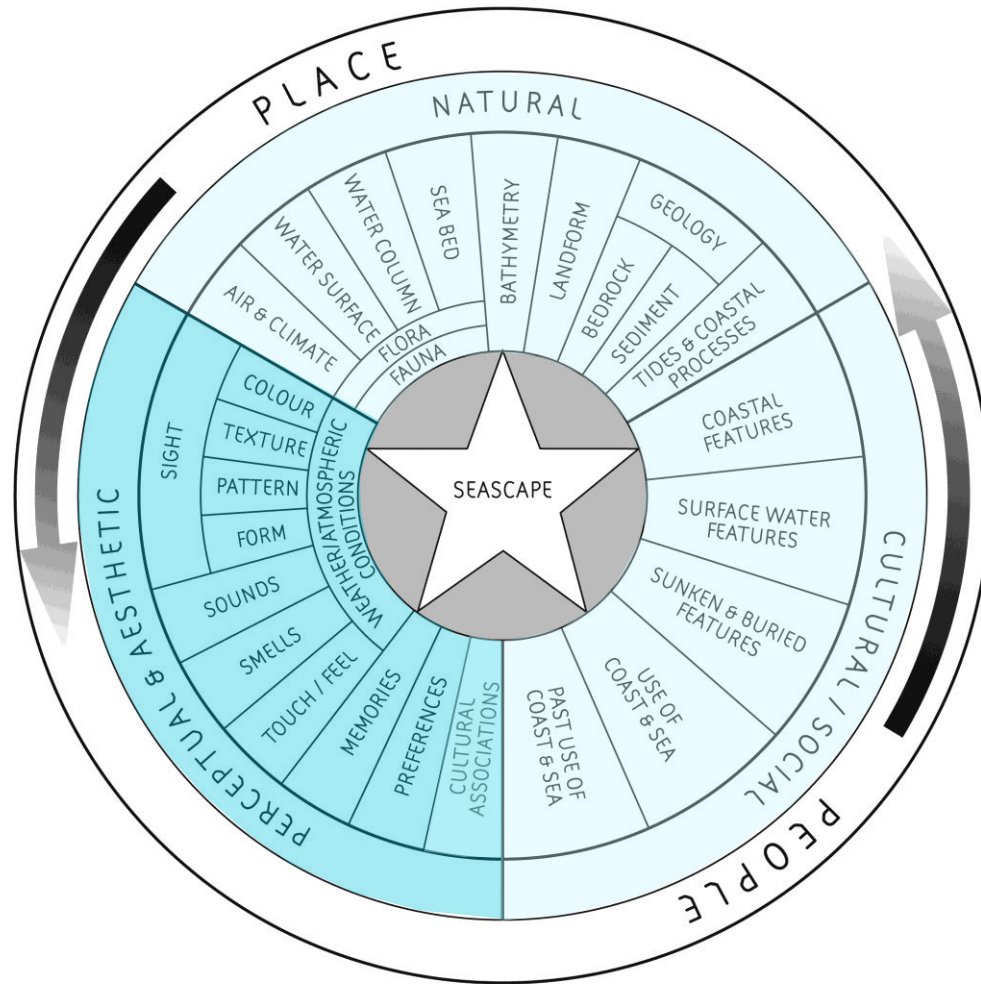
Purpose: - establish aesthetic / perceptual qualities
- verify key characteristics
- verify boundaries
- verify condition & existing pressures

For each draft Character Type

- Assess and describe aesthetic and perceptual qualities
- Record general condition and evidence of forces for change
- Assess and describe views from land to sea, sea to land and along the coast
- Prepare photographic record for each location.
- Secure GPS co-ordinates for each location







Fieldwork Tools

Technology

- Digital Field Survey Forms
- Viewpoint Record Sheets
- GPS Device
- Digital Camera



Stage 4 - Consultation



Consultation

Critical part of the process, helped us to:

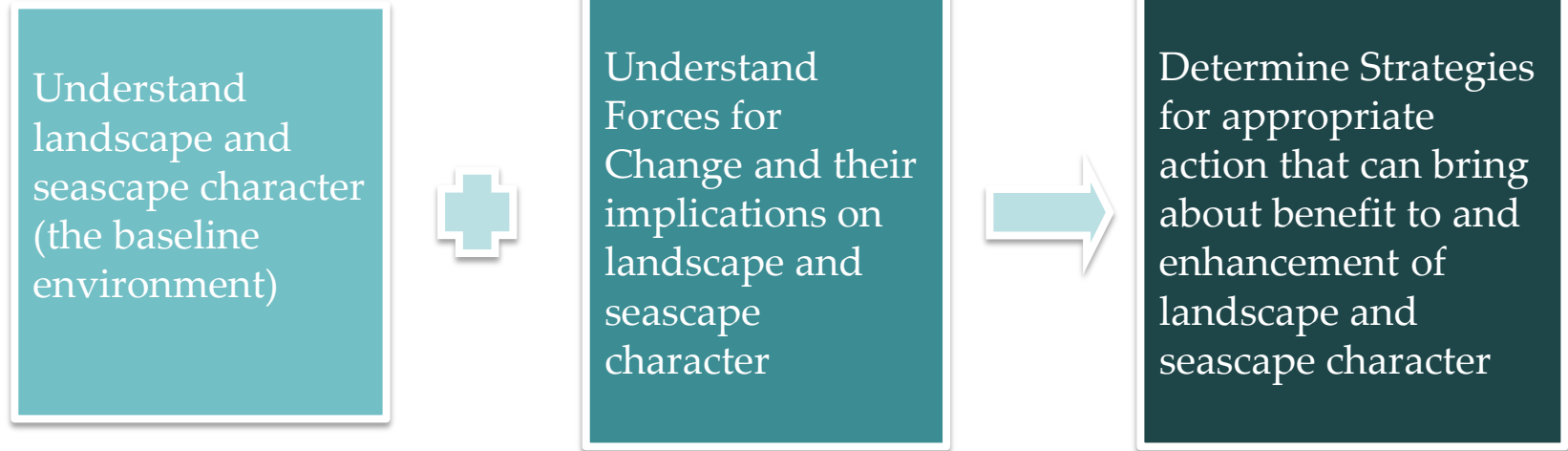
- Understand wider perceptions of the landscape and seascape
- Identify forces for change acting on landscape and seascape character
- Establish strategies that can be used to manage the process of change



Consultation Process

- Presentation followed by workshop with Dorset Coast Forum members
- Four questions addressed in facilitated group workshops to gain insights into perceptions, cultural associations and forces for change and to review boundaries of draft landscape and seascape character types
- Feedback session





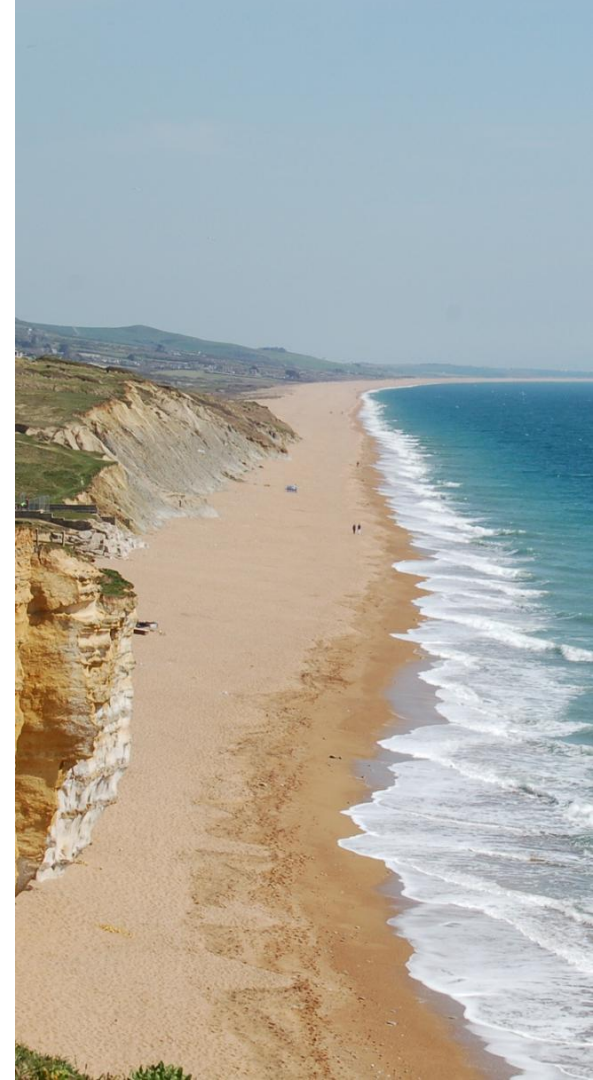
What are the Principal Forces for Change?

- Built Development
- Infrastructure
- Minerals and Waste
- Fishing, Agricultural and Land Management
- Tourism and Leisure
- Environmental Processes and Climate Change



Shaping the Future Seascape

- Plan (enhance, restore or create)
- Protect (actions to conserve and maintain)
- Manage (guide and harmonise change)



Stage 5 – Prepare Project Outputs

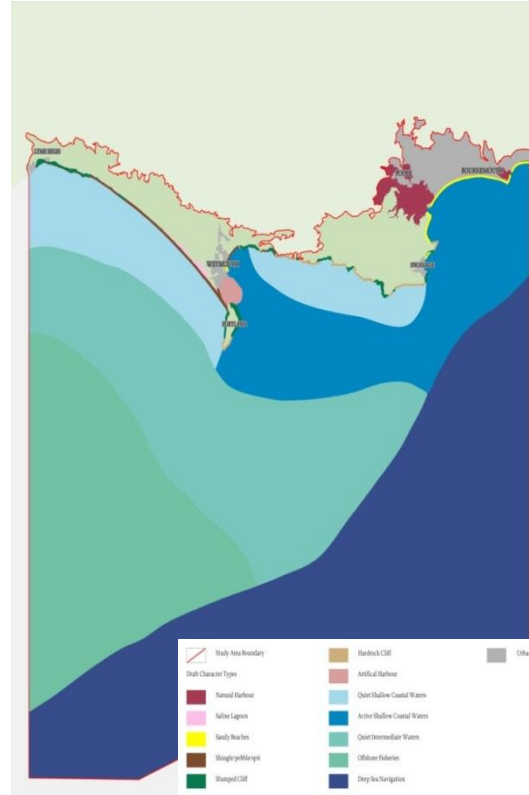


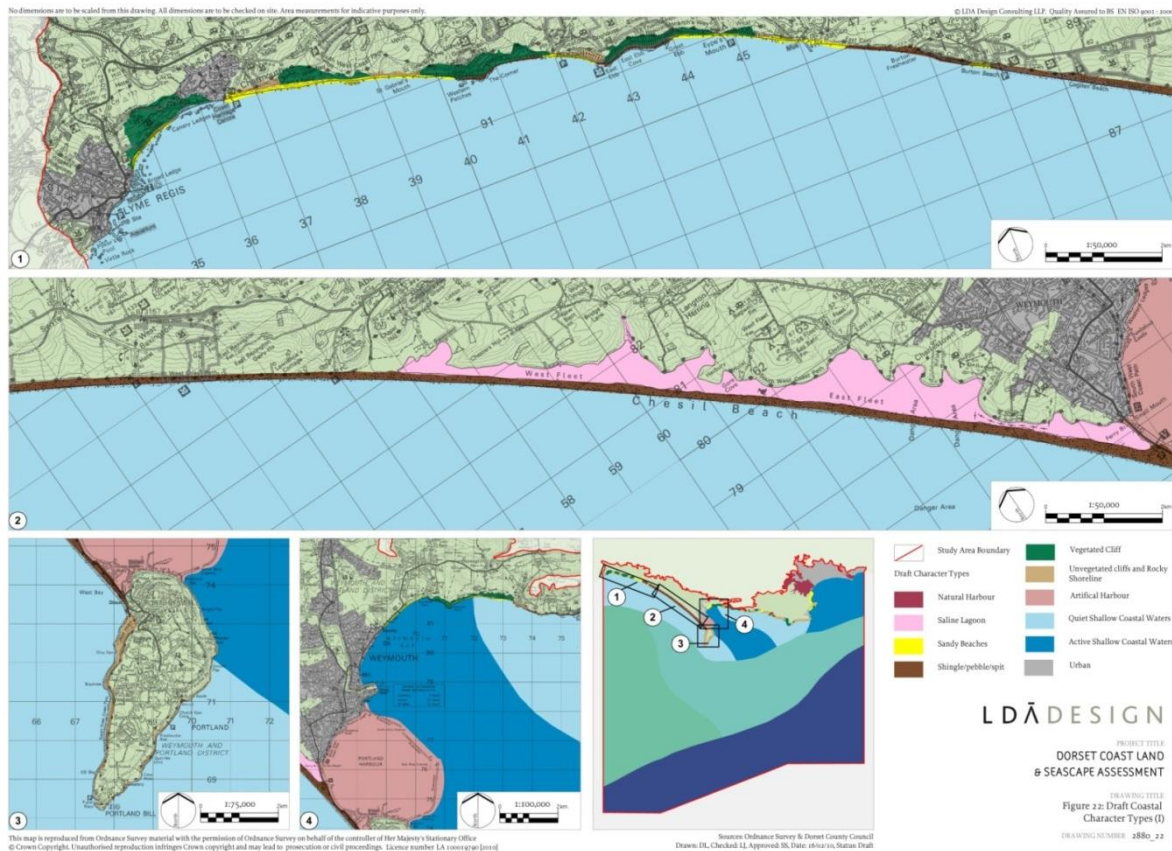
Final Report Includes:

- Methodology.
- Baseline Review and Thematic Mapping.
- Landscape / Seascape Character Types:
 - Physical Influences
 - Cultural Influences
 - Biodiversity
 - Aesthetic and Perceptual Qualities
 - Condition
 - Forces for Change
 - Management Actions
 - Target Strategies
- Appendices include consultation findings.
- Database of fieldwork notes and photos.

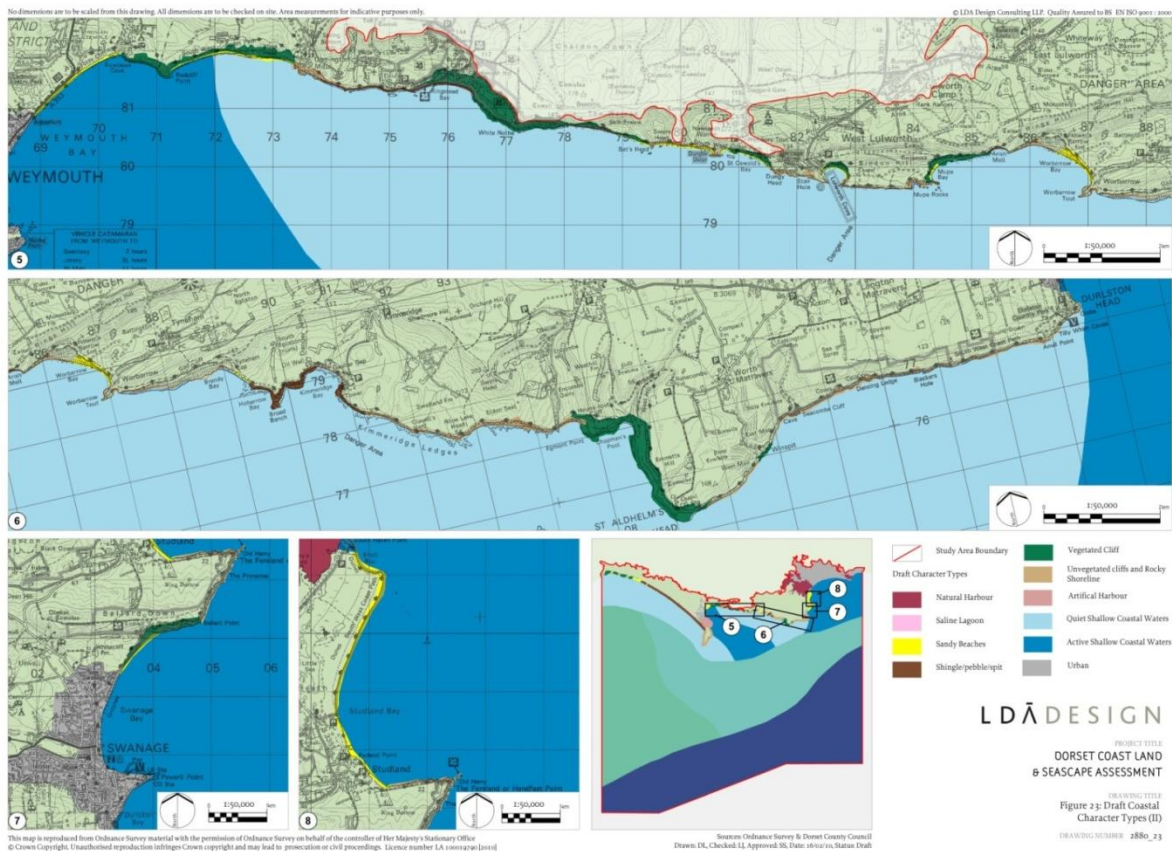


Coastal and Seascape Character Types





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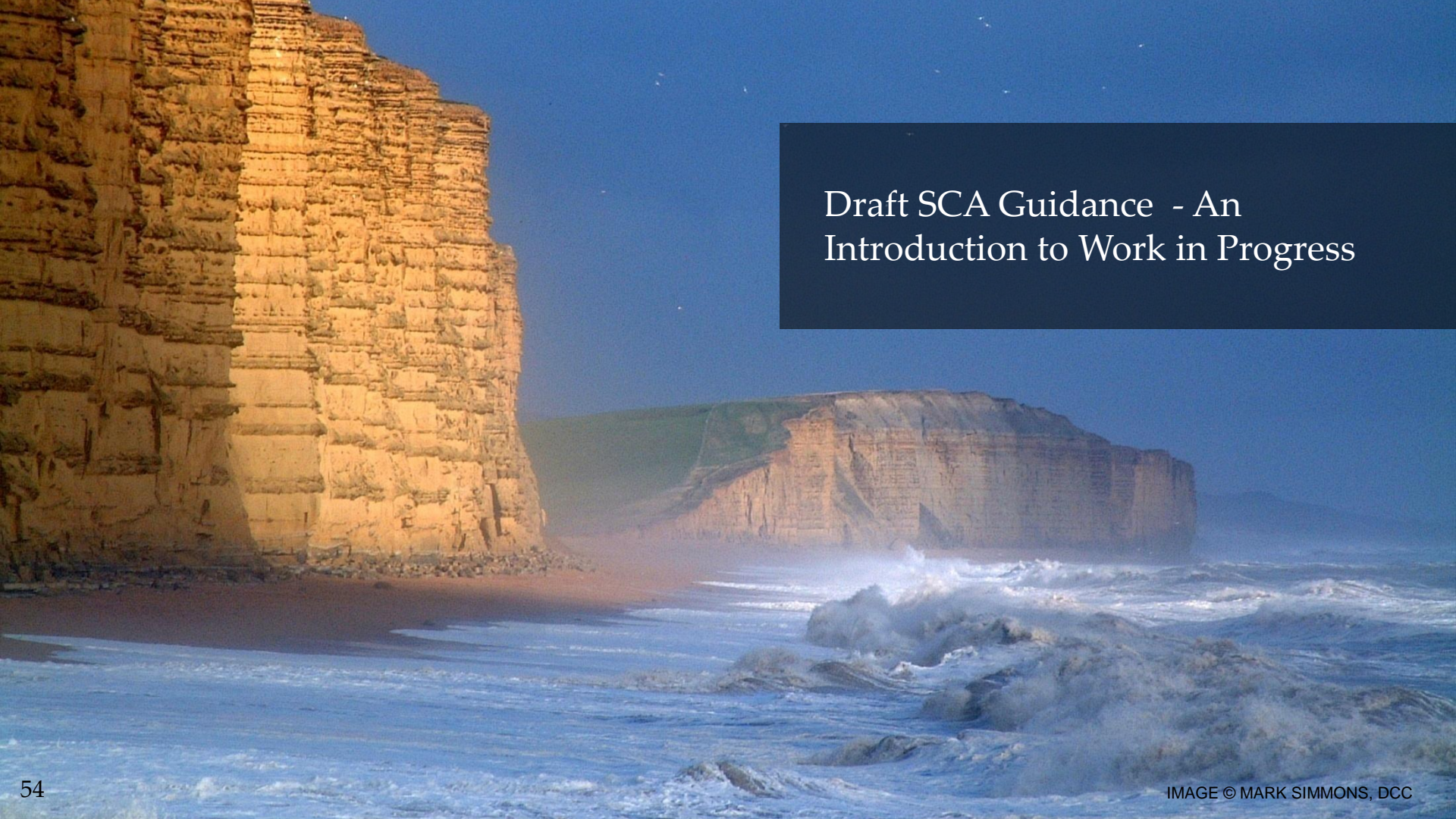
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Application



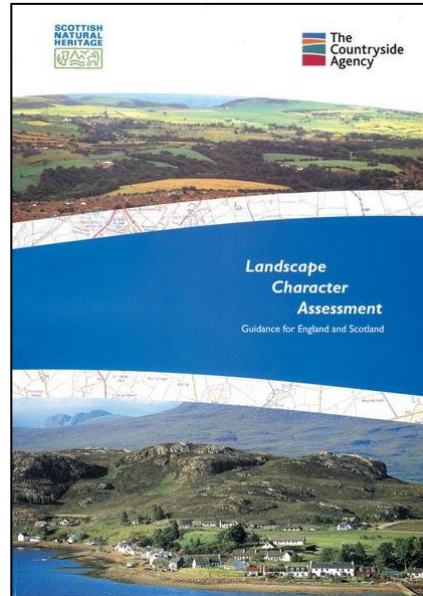
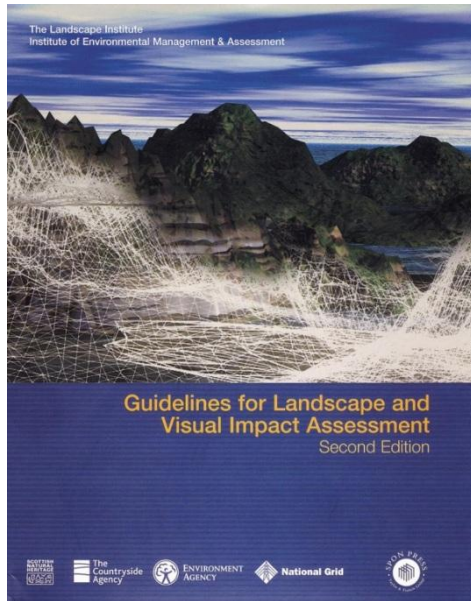
Application-to-date

- Baseline Review (desk study) has fed into Marine Management Area description and Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA)/Strategic Assessment (SA)
- Forces for Change, Management Actions and Target Strategies will be used to help inform policy making
- Document will also be part of the evidence base for future planning decisions
- Helps to fulfil AONB and Dorset & East Devon World Heritage Site Management Plans
- Referenced in the Jurassic Coast Public Art Code of Practice

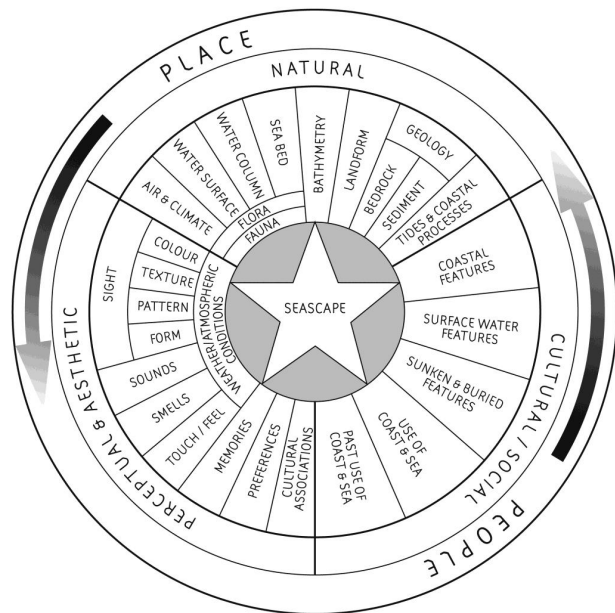


Draft SCA Guidance - An Introduction to Work in Progress

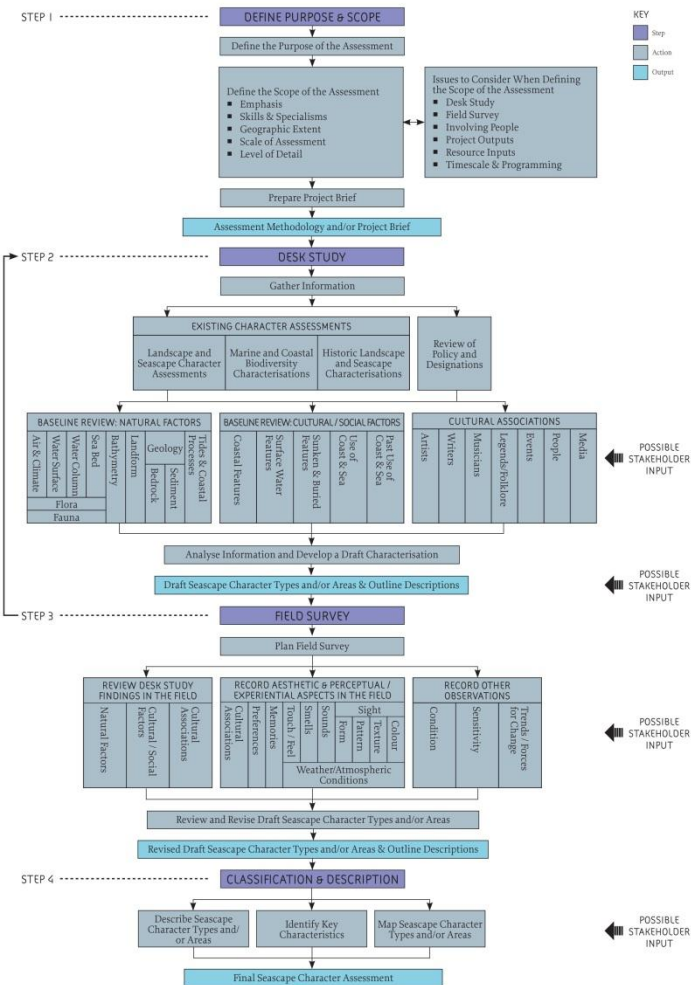
- Development of SCA Guidance parallels revised and updated guidance for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and Landscape Character Assessment



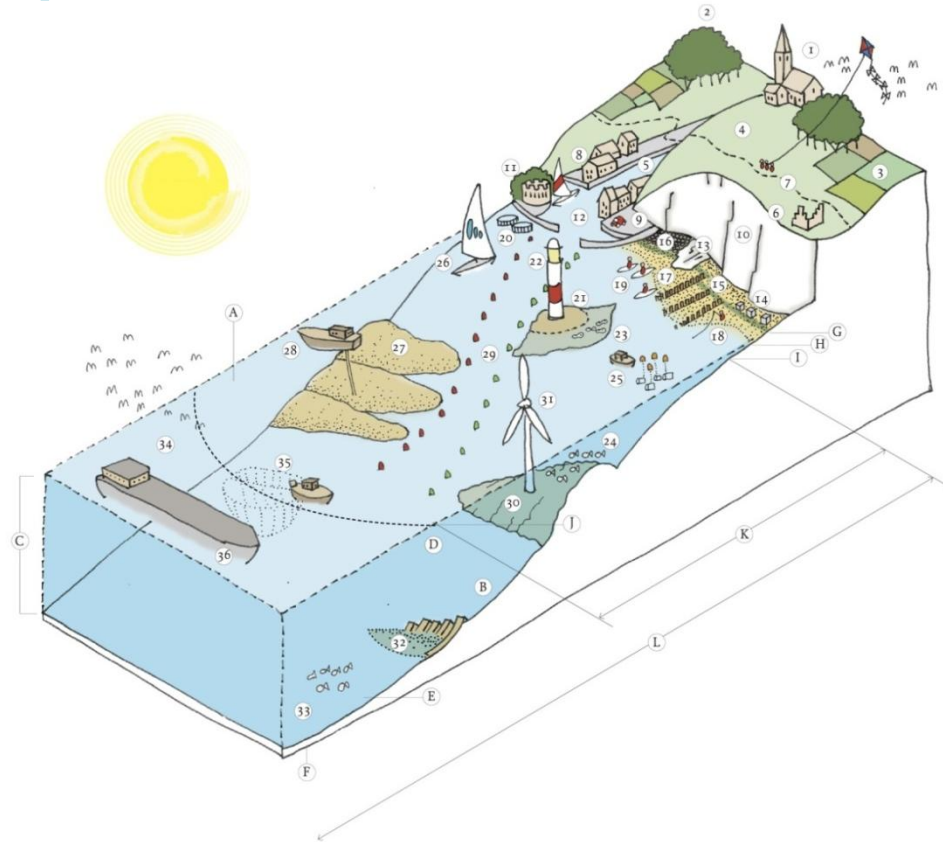
A Staged Approach



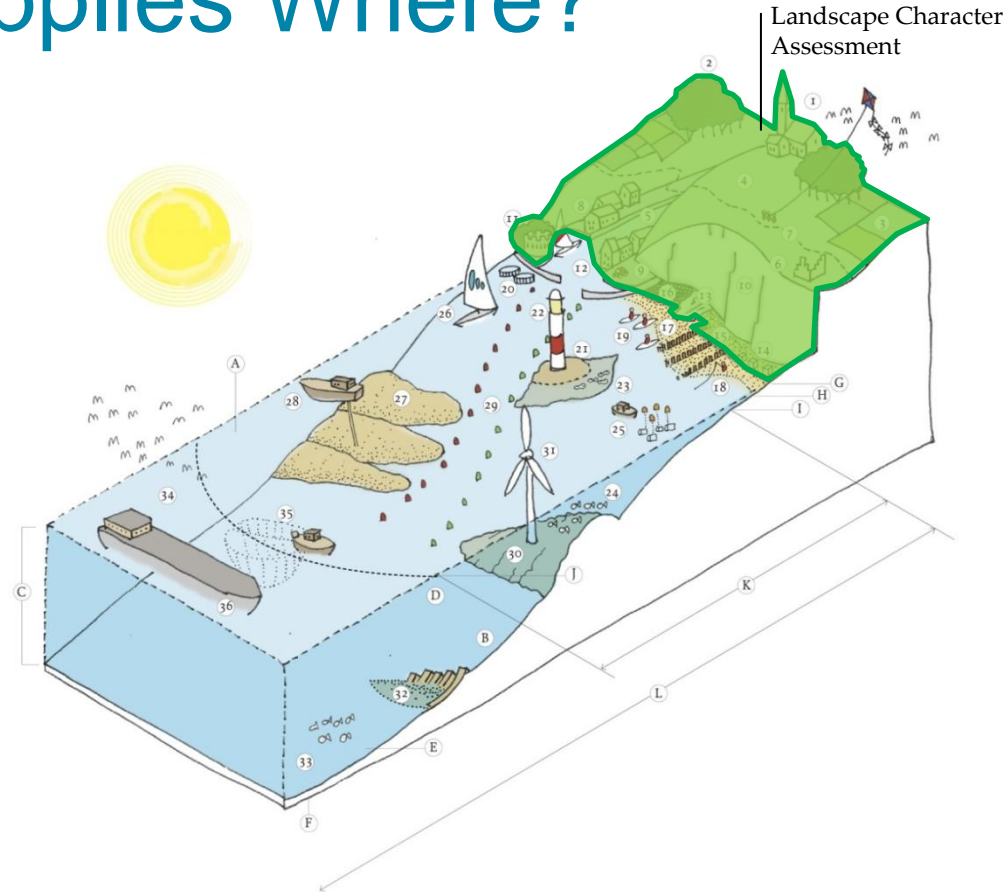
Source: LDA Design 2011



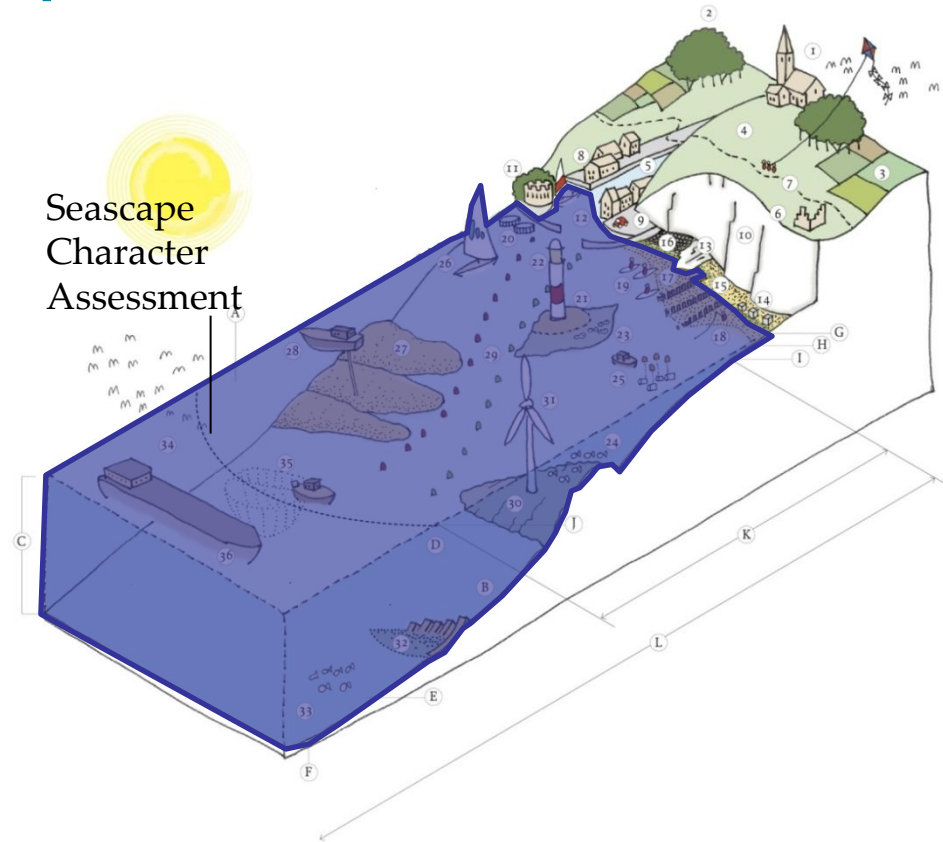
What Applies Where?



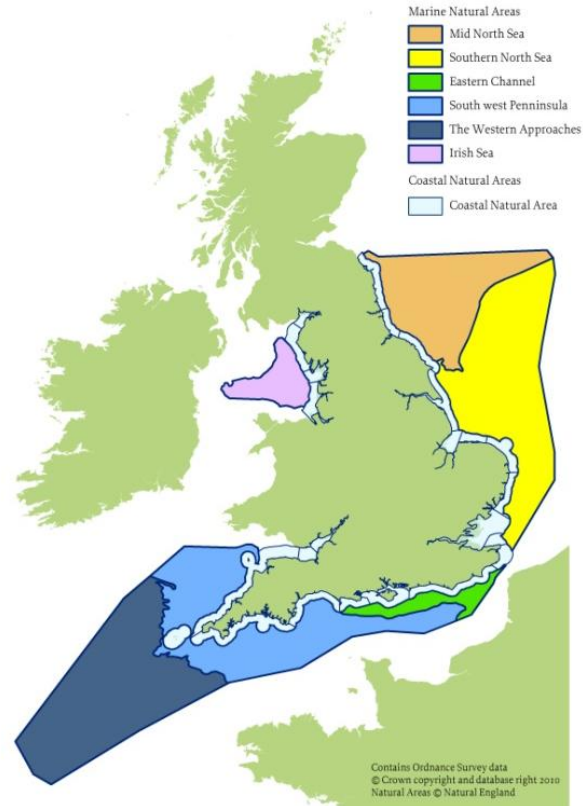
What Applies Where?



What Applies Where?

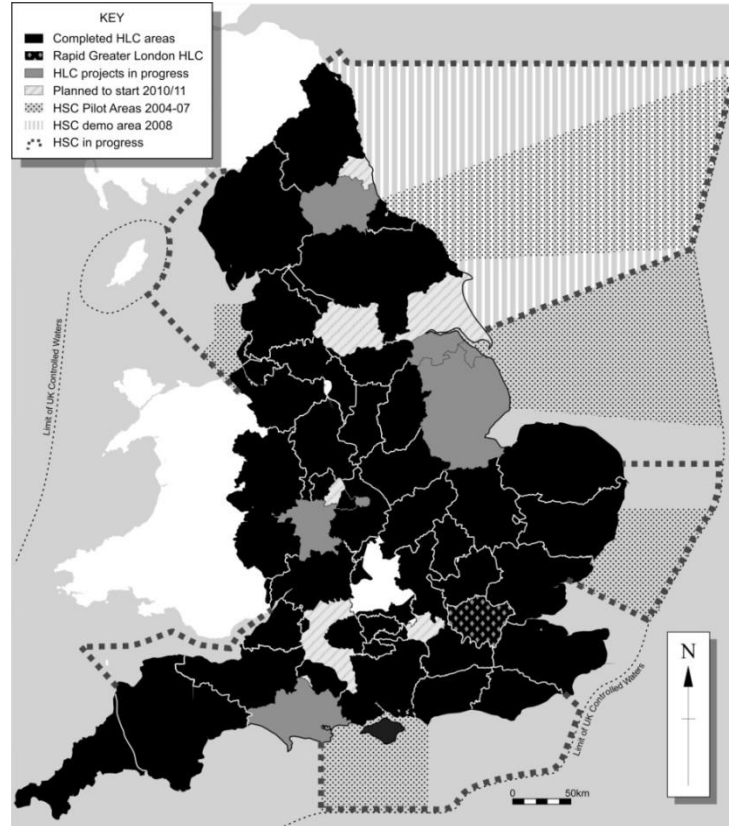


Coastal & Marine Natural Areas



Source: Natural England 2010

Historic Seascape Characterisation



Source: English Heritage 2010

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