

# a manifesto for coasts and seascapes



## the background

- The coastal landscapes and seascapes of the UK are some of the most varied and interesting in the world. They hold a strong sway in the popular imagination of our seafaring nation and are a key component of our national heritage. Some seascapes are of note for their outstanding natural features, others for their culture and history, but more often it is a mix of the two. They are more than just a view.
- People care strongly about our coasts and seascapes. Access to them is important to our health and well-being and they make a fundamental contribution to the economy and culture of our coastal communities. The character and qualities of coastal landscapes and seascapes need to be positively managed if they are to be maintained for the benefit of current and future generations.
- The national importance of coastal land is recognised through the designation of protected landscapes. They derive many of their special qualities from their association with the marine environment. However, there is no means of recognising through designation the national importance of this association in spatial terms\*, nor of recognising the national importance of particular seascapes.
- Our coastal landscapes and seascapes are under considerable pressure, from both human activities – such as conventional and renewable energy, port development, recreation and tourism – and from changes in the natural world associated with sea-level rise leading to increased coastal flooding and erosion.
- The introduction of the new UK marine planning system provides a unique opportunity to address the future of our seascapes and coastal protected landscapes in an integrated fashion – enabling recognition to be given to the importance of treating land and sea as a continuum.
- Protected landscapes are in a good position to optimise the links between the land and sea as a result of the integrative approach to their management plans and the way in which they bring stakeholders together in partnership as a matter of course.

## the manifesto

The organisations promoting this manifesto call on the UK Government, the devolved administrations, marine planning authorities, national agencies and coastal local authorities to ensure that their policies for delivering a sustainable future for the coastal and marine environment embrace coasts and seascapes and the role that protected landscapes and seascapes can play in this process. To do so, they should recognise:

### the importance of coastal landscapes and seascapes

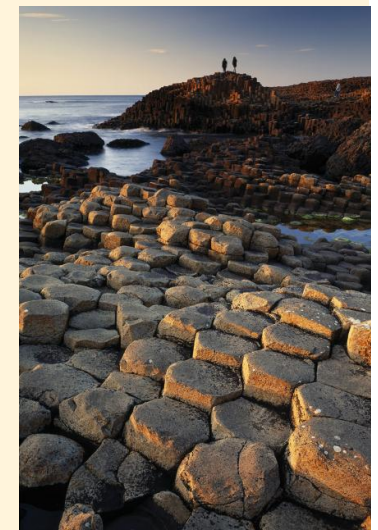
1. by adopting the following definition of a seascape derived from the European Landscape Convention definition of landscape: 'an area, as perceived by people, of sea, coastline and land whose character results from actions and interactions of land with sea by natural and/or human factors'
2. by promoting seascapes as a key resource in the marine environment and as a framework to underpin a sustainable approach to its planning and management
3. by identifying the character and distinctiveness of coasts and seascapes and the means by which they should be conserved through the marine planning process
4. by developing and deploying the established principles of landscape characterisation and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment in the marine environment as an essential building block of marine planning
5. by identifying areas of seascape which, by virtue of their outstanding aesthetic, ecological and/or cultural qualities, are of national importance and the means by which they should be conserved through the marine planning process.

Furthermore, the Government, agencies and authorities should also recognise that:

### coastal protected landscapes are a key tool for managing coasts and seascapes

6. by promoting them as a nationally important component of the seascape
7. by ensuring that the protection and enjoyment of their special qualities, as set out in their management plans, are a key consideration in any marine plan or partnership embracing the coast or surrounding sea
8. by enhancing the role that coastal protected landscapes can play in integrating land and sea through the extension of the scope of their management plans and partnerships and the development of joint approaches to management with stakeholders who have interests in adjacent marine protected areas.

**a seascape is  
'an area, as  
perceived by  
people, of sea,  
coastline and land  
whose character  
results from actions  
and interactions  
of land with sea  
by natural and/or  
human factors'**

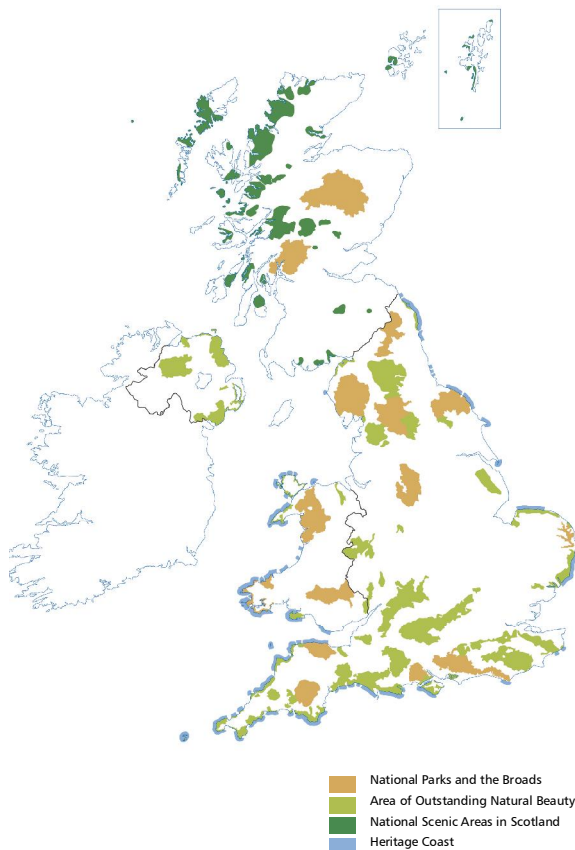


\* The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 enables combined coastal and marine national parks to be designated



## the UK's protected landscapes

The majority of UK's protected landscapes have a coastline – 9 out of 15 National Parks, 25 out of 46 AONBs and 27 out of 40 NSAs in Scotland. These protected landscapes have a marine dimension and are part of the seascape even though the marine environment below mean low water mark (MLW) is not included in the designation.



## this manifesto is promoted by



## for further information

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