

## **Appendix 15.3.1**

### **SLVIA Landscape Character Types**

<b>APPENDIX 15.3.1 Landscape Character Types</b>				
<b>LCTs</b> (total area within the Study Area)	<b>Landform</b>	<b>Land Use and Landscape Pattern</b>	<b>Man-made Features</b>	<b>Number of incidences of LCT in the Study Area/ Percentage coverage of entire Core Study Area/ Percentage coverage of Study Area excluding the sea.</b>
<b>1. Cliff Landscapes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eroding coastal features – cliffs, stacks, caves, and arches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rough grassland up to cliff edge</li> <li>Montane and peatland</li> <li>Wildlife interest of salt tolerant flora</li> <li>Sea bird colonies</li> </ul>		No. of incidences in the Study Area : 4 Total area of LCT: 7.145km <sup>2</sup> Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.096% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.151%
<b>2. Coastal Granite Pastures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>elevated coastal hills</li> <li>elevated position allows views</li> <li>along the coast</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>improved pasture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>stone walls which often emphasise the topographic variation</li> <li>archaeological ritual and burial sites</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 1 Total area of LCT: 4.607km <sup>2</sup> Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.062% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.097%
<b>3. Coastal Hills and Heath</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hills with strong relief</li> <li>Subtle topographic features visible on hillsides – terraces and low crags</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rough and improved grassland</li> <li>Maritime heath with a range of green hues and grass textures</li> <li>Small rock outcrops – ‘harmars’</li> <li>Large scale field enclosures</li> <li>Sheep and cattle grazing</li> </ul>		No. of incidences in the Study Area : 1 Total area of LCT: 16.641km <sup>2</sup> Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.225% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.352%
<b>4. Coastal Island</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No description</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No description</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No description</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 18 Total area of LCT: 3.993km <sup>2</sup> Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.054% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.085%
<b>5. Coniferous Woodland Plantation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No description</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No description</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No description</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 79 Total area of LCT: 314.845 km <sup>2</sup> Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 6.666% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 4.252%
<b>6. Enclosed Bay Landscapes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low lying, sheltered coastal basins</li> <li>Typically enclosed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sand or shingle bays</li> <li>Predominantly improved grassland</li> <li>Small water courses draining into bays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Popular with tourists</li> <li>Enclosures</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 2 Total area of LCT: 1.886km <sup>2</sup> Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.025% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.040%

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<b>7. Flat Peatland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flat or gently undulating</li> <li>Vast openness on plateau</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dominance of sky with extreme exposure and panoramic visibility</li> <li>Few visual foci except distant hills on horizon</li> <li>Water forms a dominant element with lochs, water channels, dubh lochans, and wet, spongy vegetation</li> <li>Cloths of coniferous plantation</li> <li>Inhabited by distinct flora and fauna (esp. insects and birds)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic features</li> <li>Snow barriers</li> <li>Railway</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 16 Total area of LCT: 393.396 km2 Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 5.313% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 8.328%
<b>8. Glaciated Valley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>broad U-shaped valley</li> <li>glaciated hill sides</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>wet heath vegetation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lack of enclosures</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 1 Total area of LCT: 10.394 km2 Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.140% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.220%
<b>9. Harbour</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located where a glen intersects the coastline or at the edge of a bay</li> <li>Partly enclosing slopes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wooded slopes result in a favourable microclimate and sense of shelter</li> <li>Predominantly man made</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus within its surroundings comprising an area of concentrated buildings</li> <li>Residential, industrial and service related</li> <li>Elements arranged around harbour walls that contain deep waters</li> <li>Busy activity both land and sea based</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 1 Total area of LCT: 0.328 km2 Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.004% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.007%
<b>10. High Cliffs and Sheltered Bays</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long stretches of high cliff interrupted by the location of a bay</li> <li>Strong linear edge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dominated by sea/land edge</li> <li>Stacks, caves, pebbles, and collapsing cliffs</li> <li>Sandy, sheltered bays</li> <li>Short mat of vegetation – grazing and walking</li> <li>Soaring and nesting seabirds</li> <li>Wandering sheep</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rigs, boats</li> <li>Prominent cliff top buildings – lighthouse</li> <li>Harbours</li> <li>Roads and tracks</li> <li>Small settlements and local facilities</li> <li>Car parks and tourist/visitor facilities</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 50 Total area of LCT: 15.146 km2 Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.205% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.321%
<b>11. Holmes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smooth, domed, oval shaped islands</li> <li>Wave cut platforms and occasional low cliffs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rough grassland with heather</li> <li>Grazed by sheep</li> <li>Valuable sites for wildlife - seals and sea birds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remnants of former crofts or fishing stations</li> <li>Cairns and tumuli</li> <li>Beacons and wartime structures</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 5 Total area of LCT: 2.757 km2 Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.037% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.058%

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<b>12. Inclined Coastal Pastures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gently sloping land down to the sea</li> <li>Bay coastlines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved pastures/ grassland</li> <li>Rectilinear field patterns</li> <li>Fields appear to drop away and merge with the sea giving clear views out to sea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clusters of small scale crofts</li> <li>Less developed, geometric landscape of estate farms</li> <li>Stone walls</li> <li>Roads running parallel to coast</li> <li>Occasional large houses and farms with tree frameworks</li> <li>Rich coastal archaeology - brochs and coastal defences from WWII</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 5 Total area of LCT: 37.148 km2 Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.502% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.786%
<b>13. Inland Loch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No description</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No description</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No description</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 178 Total area of LCT: 75.933 km2 Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 1.025% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 1.608 %
<b>14. Loch Island</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No description</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No description</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No description</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 57 Total area of LCT: 0.182 km2 Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.002% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.004%
<b>15. Lone Mountains</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>highest areas of the study area, rising from 300 to 700m in altitude.</li> <li>Forming isolated 'islands' and linear bulks of steep high ground, often with irregular and distinctive profiles, within Sweeping Moorland and Moorland Slopes and Hills Character Areas.</li> <li>The geology that forms them often outcrops at their summits.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vegetation changes from moorland heather, grasses and mosses to tundra vegetation types, and eventually rock at higher altitudes.</li> <li>Outcropping rocks at summits give the character type a distinctive profile which is visible from most parts of the landscape.</li> <li>Streams draining the tops of the mountains have eroded vertical channels which are particularly visible in some lights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human access is limited to occasional footpaths.</li> <li>Otherwise the only evidence of human activity is the occasional cairn at the top of mountains.</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 7 Total area of LCT: 138.574 km2 Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 1.871% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 2.934%

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<b>16. Long Beaches, Dunes and Links</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soft linear edge with smooth surface and gentle curve</li> <li>• Wide open space with extensive visibility and exposure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple composition of sky/sea/land</li> <li>• Inter-relationship between sea, weather and light patterns create dynamic landscape</li> <li>• Exposed sand dunes and marram grass</li> <li>• Areas of short grazed and trampled grass</li> <li>• Wetland and scrub occasionally in hollows</li> <li>• Edge of beach often covered by woodland or merging into rich agricultural land</li> <li>• Seabirds are intrinsic characters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Golf links</li> <li>• Recreational landscape - walkers</li> <li>• Visitor facilities</li> <li>• Camp and caravan sites</li> <li>• Hotels and B&amp;B's</li> <li>• Settlements</li> <li>• Roads, rail, and airstrips</li> <li>• Industrial units</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 8 Total area of LCT: 7.878 km2 Coverage of entire Core Study Area : .106% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.167%
<b>17. Low Island Pastures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low and flat with open and extensive views</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large, regular fields</li> <li>• Machair</li> <li>• Links grasslands</li> <li>• Coastal dunes</li> <li>• Wetlands</li> <li>• Dominant skies and feeling of vulnerable exposure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prominent built features</li> <li>• Farm mounds, Treb-dykes, settlements and farmsteads</li> <li>• Mobile landscape</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 2 Total area of LCT: 4.957 km2 Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.067% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.105%
<b>18. Low Moorland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low moorland often isolated from higher moorland hills</li> <li>• Low undulating hill areas or convex headlands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Un-enclosed heather moorland</li> <li>• Maritime heath at the coast</li> <li>• Abundance of sea birds</li> <li>• Little grazing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal cairns and brochs</li> <li>• Peat cutting</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 1 Total area of LCT: 3.057 km2 Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.041% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.065%
<b>19. Mixed Agriculture and Settlement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gently sloping landform</li> <li>• Low hills, basins and shallow glens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetland</li> <li>• River, loch</li> <li>• Grassland and bracken</li> <li>• Arable fields and rough grazing</li> <li>• Mature broadleaf and mixed woodland</li> <li>• Rich habitat for birds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruined crofts</li> <li>• Dykes and stone walls</li> <li>• Flagstone fences</li> <li>• Settlements and isolated villages/housing estates</li> <li>• Isolated 'kit' housing</li> <li>• Estate properties</li> <li>• Roads and power lines</li> <li>• Historic features</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 6 Total area of LCT: 407.397 km2 Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 5.502% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 8.624%

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<b>20. Moorland Hills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undulating hill land – steep to gentle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peat and heather moorland mostly un-enclosed</li> <li>• Montane species at higher altitude</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few isolated farmsteads and tracks</li> <li>• Small fenced grazings</li> <li>• Active and redundant peat cutting sites</li> <li>• Occasional hill dykes and signs of sub-peat archaeological farmsteads and field systems</li> <li>• Bronze age barrows on skyline</li> <li>• Vertical structures – telecommunications, hydro poles and wind power generation are an obvious human influence</li> </ul>	<p>No. of incidences in the Study Area : 1  Total area of LCT: 79.270 km2  Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 1.070%  Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 1.678%</p>
<b>21. Moorland Slopes and Hills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sloping, open moorland gradually undulating and rising to form broad hills.</li> <li>• The convex character of the slopes limits distant visibility and views of the hill tops from their base.</li> <li>• The tops of hills or plateau tend to be spaced far apart and of a similar height with massive proportions - their bases appearing wider than their height.</li> <li>• The sloping landform sometimes creates plateau, shelves and basins.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Varied ground cover relating to geology, drainage patterns and microclimates.</li> <li>• Ground cover ranges from rock to dense heather cover to moorland grasses and bog - peat haggings.</li> <li>• Rocky crags and outcrops on hilltops and glen sides with deposits on lower slopes.</li> <li>• Lochs and dubh lochans.</li> <li>• Fragments of dense, wind pruned broadleaf woodland associated with inaccessible and ungrazed locations.</li> <li>• Coniferous plantations located close to access routes and on foot slopes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Towns, estates, crofts and farms, and infrastructure routes tend to be concentrated along the straths and coastline and at the edge of this LCT.</li> <li>• The interior is largely uninhabited, typically inaccessible to vehicles and grazed by deer.</li> </ul>	<p>No. of incidences in the Study Area : 26  Total area of LCT: 1440.497 km2  Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 19.454%  Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 30.496%</p>
<b>22. Open Intensive Farmland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wide plain of simple ordered landscape</li> <li>• Open and flat or gently undulating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extreme exposure and extensive visibility</li> <li>• Smooth, open sky above agricultural land</li> <li>• Ordered pattern of fields</li> <li>• Shelterbelts and hedgerows</li> <li>• Wetlands and lochs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roads and access tracks</li> <li>• Fence lines and dykes</li> <li>• Buildings</li> <li>• Historic features</li> <li>• People and machinery</li> <li>• Large commercial farms</li> <li>• Estate properties</li> </ul>	<p>No. of incidences in the Study Area : 9  Total area of LCT: 63.210 km2  Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.854%  Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 1.338%</p>
<b>23. Rolling Hill Fringe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rolling border between low-lying and upland landscapes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rich improved pasture on lower slopes</li> <li>• Rough grassland on higher ground</li> <li>• Un-enclosed moorland hills</li> <li>• Cattle and sheep</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scattered settlements and farmsteads</li> <li>• Roads, minor roads and tracks</li> <li>• Fenced fields</li> <li>• Stone walled fields</li> <li>• Archaeological interest – tumuli, burnt mounds and brochs</li> </ul>	<p>No. of incidences in the Study Area : 3  Total area of LCT: 13.433 km2  Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.181%  Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.284%</p>

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<b>24. Rugged Glaciated Hills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>steep hills with craggy cliff faces and quite rounded summits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>moorland and montane vegetation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no settlements or roads</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 2 Total area of LCT: 17.716 km2 Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.239% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.375 %
<b>25. Small Farms and Crofts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Variable</li> <li>Moorland or coastal areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open moorland</li> <li>Fragments of broadleaf woodland</li> <li>Woodlots</li> <li>Single trees</li> <li>Cultivated fields and grazing land</li> <li>Grassland</li> <li>Coastal areas/harbours</li> <li>Open space and dominance of sky</li> <li>Rough grassland</li> <li>Grazing land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ordered crofts</li> <li>Open and fairly rich, small farms</li> <li>New 'kit' housing/holiday homes</li> <li>Ruined properties</li> <li>Roads and access tracks</li> <li>Fences, walls</li> <li>Power lines</li> <li>Machinery</li> <li>Local facilities</li> <li>Sparse habitation</li> <li>Croft ruins</li> <li>Ancient structures</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 33 Total area of LCT: 183.827 km2 Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 2.483% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 3.892%
<b>26. Strath</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Linear space - typically open floor with a central river or loch.</li> <li>Dominant views passing along between opposite slopes.</li> <li>Height and steepness of side slopes vary - sometimes the strath curves, restricting visibility and resulting in surprise.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water is a key characteristic - loch, river, wetland, and tributaries.</li> <li>Various land uses - woodland, agriculture, pastureland.</li> <li>Landscape pattern tends to relate to distinct linear space.</li> <li>Broadleaf woodland along the shores of rivers or lochs and sometimes reaching up the strath slopes and tributaries.</li> <li>Coniferous plantations usually on strath slopes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic character inherited from tradition of settlement - ancient brochs, patches of mature woodland, old walled enclosures, neglected land drains, abandoned crofts.</li> <li>Access routes to settlements and rural estates.</li> <li>Power lines.</li> <li>Settlements concentrated at bridging points, at the confluence of river courses, or at the mouth of straths.</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 6 Total area of LCT: 91.443 km2 Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 1.235% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 1.936%

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<b>27. Sweeping Moorland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wide open and flat landscape</li> <li>• Gently sloping or undulating landforms eroded by watercourses to form shallow glens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Predominantly grouse and upland species, lacking in distinctive features</li> <li>• Influenced by weather and light conditions</li> <li>• Punctuated by watercourses - lochs, juvenile streams, and mature, meandering rivers</li> <li>• Peatland, coarse, damp and mossy vegetation cover</li> <li>• Ribbons of broadleaf woodland</li> <li>• Coniferous plantations</li> <li>• Pockets of improved grazing land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruined buildings</li> <li>• Field boundaries and drainage channels</li> <li>• Small settlements</li> <li>• Estates</li> <li>• Roads, rail, vehicle tracks and wheel markings</li> <li>• Power lines</li> <li>• Peat cuttings and haggings</li> <li>• Grouse management</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 38 Total area of LCT: 1345.380 km <sup>2</sup> Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 18.170% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 28.482%
<b>28. Town</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variable</li> <li>• Positioned near to the sea or river estuary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built form</li> <li>• Human activity</li> <li>• Complex and experiential core radiating out to less dense character or</li> <li>• Variable core with 'out of town' facilities</li> <li>• Woodland, parkland and common ground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roads, footpaths</li> <li>• Buildings</li> <li>• Walls, fences</li> <li>• Signs and lighting</li> <li>• Car parks and cars</li> <li>• Tourist facilities</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 2 Total area of LCT: 23.617 km <sup>2</sup> Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.319% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.500%
<b>29. Urban and Rural Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban and Rural Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Often situated within shallow basins and sheltered bays</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defined by its urban or industrial land use</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 1 Total area of LCT: 1.336 km <sup>2</sup> Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.018% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.028%
<b>30. Whaleback Island Landscapes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gentle, domed shaped islands</li> <li>• Un-dramatic coastline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved pastures</li> <li>• Rough grass and heath land</li> <li>• Rock platforms and shingle beaches</li> <li>• Feeling of isolation and solitude</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stone wall enclosures</li> <li>• Scattered settlements</li> <li>• Roads, tracks</li> <li>• Abandoned crofts and small farms</li> </ul>	No. of incidences in the Study Area : 3 Total area of LCT: 17.576 km <sup>2</sup> Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.237% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.372%