Appendix 15.3.1

SLVIA Landscape Character Types
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCTs (total area within the Study Area)</th>
<th>Landform</th>
<th>Land Use and Landscape Pattern</th>
<th>Man-made Features</th>
<th>Number of incidences of LCT in the Study Area/ Percentage coverage of entire Core Study Area/ Percentage coverage of Study Area excluding the sea.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Cliff Landscapes</td>
<td>Eroding coastal features – cliffs, stacks, caves, and arches</td>
<td>Rough grassland up to cliff edge</td>
<td>stone walls which often emphasise the topographic variation</td>
<td>No. of incidences in the Study Area : 4 Total area of LCT: 7.145km² Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.096% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.151%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>elevated coastal hills</td>
<td>improved pasture</td>
<td>archaeological ritual and burial sites</td>
<td>No. of incidences in the Study Area : 1 Total area of LCT: 4.607km² Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.062% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.097%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Coastal Granite Pastures</td>
<td>elevated position allows views</td>
<td>Rough and improved grassland</td>
<td>No. of incidences in the Study Area : 1 Total area of LCT: 16.641km² Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.225% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.352%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>along the coast</td>
<td>Maritime heath with a range of green hues and grass textures</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small rock outcrops – ‘harmars’</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Large scale field enclosures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sheep and cattle grazing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Coastal Hills and Heath</td>
<td>Hills with strong relief</td>
<td>Rough and improved grassland</td>
<td>No. of incidences in the Study Area : 18 Total area of LCT: 3.993km² Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.054% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.085%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Subtle topographic features visible on hillsides – terraces and low crags</td>
<td>Maritime heath with a range of green hues and grass textures</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sheep and cattle grazing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Coastal Island</td>
<td>No description</td>
<td>No description</td>
<td>No description</td>
<td>No. of incidences in the Study Area : 79 Total area of LCT: 314.845 km² Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 6.666% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 4.252%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Coniferous Woodland Plantation</td>
<td>No description</td>
<td>No description</td>
<td>No description</td>
<td>No. of incidences in the Study Area : 2 Total area of LCT: 1.886km² Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.025% Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.040%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Enclosed Bay Landscapes</td>
<td>Low lying, sheltered coastal basins</td>
<td>Sand or shingle bays</td>
<td>Popular with tourists</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Typically enclosed</td>
<td>Predominantly improved grassland</td>
<td>Enclosures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small water courses draining into bays</td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>7. Flat Peatland</td>
<td>Flat or gently undulating, Vast openness on plateau</td>
<td>Dominance of sky with extreme exposure and panoramic visibility, Few visual foci except distant hills on horizon, Water forms a dominant element with lochs, water channels, dubh lochans, and wet, spongy vegetation, Cloths of coniferous plantation, Inhabited by distinct flora and fauna (esp. insects and birds)</td>
<td>Historic features, Snow barriers, Railway</td>
<td>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%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Glaciated Valley</td>
<td>broad U-shaped valley, glaciated hill sides</td>
<td>wet heath vegetation</td>
<td>lack of enclosures</td>
<td>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%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Harbour</td>
<td>Located where a glen intersects the coastline or at the edge of a bay, Partly enclosing slopes</td>
<td>Wooded slopes result in a favourable microclimate and sense of shelter, Predominantly man made</td>
<td>Focus within its surroundings comprising an area of concentrated buildings, Residential, industrial and service related, Elements arranged around harbour walls that contain deep waters, Busy activity both land and sea based</td>
<td>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%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. High Cliffs and Sheltered Bays</td>
<td>Long stretches of high cliff interrupted by the location of a bay, Strong linear edge</td>
<td>Dominated by sea/land edge, Stacks, caves, pebbles, and collapsing cliffs, Sandy, sheltered bays, Short mat of vegetation – grazing and walking, Soaring and nesting seabirds, Wandering sheep</td>
<td>Rigs, boats, Prominent cliff top buildings – lighthouse, Harbours, Roads and tracks, Small settlements and local facilities, Car parks and tourist/visitor facilities</td>
<td>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%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Holmes</td>
<td>Smooth, domed, oval shaped islands, Wave cut platforms and occasional low cliffs</td>
<td>Rough grassland with heather, Grazed by sheep, Valuable sites for wildlife - seals and seabirds</td>
<td>Remnants of former crofts or fishing stations, Cairns and tumuli, Beacons and wartime structures</td>
<td>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%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCTs (total area within the Study Area)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Inclined Coastal Pastures</td>
<td>• Gently sloping land down to the sea • Bay coastlines</td>
<td>• Improved pastures/ grassland • Rectilinear field patterns • Fields appear to drop away and merge with the sea giving clear views out to sea</td>
<td>• Clusters of small scale crofts • Less developed, geometric landscape of estate farms • Stone walls • Roads running parallel to coast • Occasional large houses and farms with tree frameworks • Rich coastal archaeology - brochs and coastal defences from WWII</td>
<td>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%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Inland Loch</td>
<td>• No description</td>
<td>• No description</td>
<td>• No description</td>
<td>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 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Loch Island</td>
<td>• No description</td>
<td>• No description</td>
<td>• No description</td>
<td>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%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Lone Mountains</td>
<td>• highest areas of the study area, rising from 300 to 700m in altitude. • 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. • The geology that forms them often outcrops at their summits.</td>
<td>• Vegetation changes from moorland heather, grasses and mosses to tundra vegetation types, and eventually rock at higher altitudes. • Outcropping rocks at summits give the character type a distinctive profile which is visible from most parts of the landscape. • Streams draining the tops of the mountains have eroded vertical channels which are particularly visible in some lights.</td>
<td>• Human access is limited to occasional footpaths. • Otherwise the only evidence of human activity is the occasional cairn at the top of mountains.</td>
<td>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%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## APPENDIX 15.3.1 Landscape Character Types

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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
</table>
| 16. Long Beaches, Dunes and Links      | - Soft linear edge with smooth surface and gentle curve  
- Wide open space with extensive visibility and exposure  
| - Simple composition of sky/sea/land  
- Inter-relationship between sea, weather and light patterns create dynamic landscape  
- Exposed sand dunes and marram grass  
- Areas of short grazed and trampled grass  
- Wetland and scrub occasionally in hollows  
- Edge of beach often covered by woodland or merging into rich agricultural land  
- Seabirds are intrinsic characters      | - Golf links  
- Recreational landscape - walkers  
- Visitor facilities  
- Camp and caravan sites  
- Hotels and B&B's  
- Settlements  
- Roads, rail, and airstrips  
- Industrial units  | 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% |
| 17. Low Island Pastures                | - Low and flat with open and extensive views  
| - Large, regular fields  
- Machair  
- Links grasslands  
- Coastal dunes  
- Wetlands  
- Dominant skies and feeling of vulnerable exposure  | - Prominent built features  
- Farm mounds, Treb-dykes, settlements and farmsteads  
- Mobile landscape  | 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% |
| 18. Low Moorland                      | - Low moorland often isolated from higher moorland hills  
- Low undulating hill areas or convex headlands  
| - Un-enclosed heather moorland  
- Maritime heath at the coast  
- Abundance of sea birds  
- Little grazing  | - Coastal cairns and brochs  
- Peat cutting  | 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% |
| 19. Mixed Agriculture and Settlement  | - Gently sloping landform  
- Low hills, basins and shallow glens  
| - Wetland  
- River, loch  
- Grassland and bracken  
- Arable fields and rough grazing  
- Mature broadleaf and mixed woodland  
- Rich habitat for birds  | - Ruined crofts  
- Dykes and stone walls  
- Flagstone fences  
- Settlements and isolated villages/housing estates  
- Isolated ‘k’ housing  
- Estate properties  
- Roads and power lines  
- Historic features  | 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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</table>
| 20. Moorland Hills                      | • Undulating hill land – steep to gentle | • Peat and heather moorland mostly un-enclosed  
• Montane species at higher altitude | • Few isolated farmsteads and tracks  
• Small fenced grazings  
• Active and redundant peat cutting sites  
• Occasional hill dykes and signs of sub-peat archaeological farmsteads and field systems  
• Bronze age barrows on skyline  
• Vertical structures – telecommunications, hydro poles and wind power generation are an obvious human influence | 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% |
| 21. Moorland Slopes and Hills           | • Sloping, open moorland gradually undulating and rising to form broad hills.  
• The convex character of the slopes limits distant visibility and views of the hill tops from their base.  
• 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.  
• The sloping landform sometimes creates plateau, shelves and basins.  
• Varied ground cover relating to geology, drainage patterns and microclimates.  
• Ground cover ranges from rock to dense heather cover to moorland grasses and bog - peat hagging.  
• Rocky crags and outcrops on hilltops and glen sides with deposits on lower slopes.  
• Lochs and dubh lochans.  
• Fragments of dense, wind pruned broadleaf woodland associated with inaccessible and ungrazed locations.  
• Coniferous plantations located close to access routes and on foot slopes.  
• Towns, estates, crofts and farms, and infrastructure routes tend to be concentrated along the straths and coastline and at the edge of this LCT.  
• The interior is largely uninhabited, typically inaccessible to vehicles and grazed by deer. | 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% |
| 22. Open Intensive Farmland              | • Wide plain of simple ordered landscape  
• Open and flat or gently undulating | • Extreme exposure and extensive visibility  
• Smooth, open sky above agricultural land  
• Ordered pattern of fields  
• Shelterbelts and hedgerows  
• Wetlands and lochs | • Roads and access tracks  
• Fence lines and dykes  
• Buildings  
• Historic features  
• People and machinery  
• Large commercial farms  
• Estate properties | 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% |
| 23. Rolling Hill Fringe                  | • Rolling border between low-lying and upland landscapes | • Rich improved pasture on lower slopes  
• Rough grassland on higher ground  
• Un-enclosed moorland hills  
• Cattle and sheep | • Scattered settlements and farmsteads  
• Roads, minor roads and tracks  
• Fenced fields  
• Stone walled fields  
• Archaeological interest – tumuli, burnt mounds and brochs | 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% |
<table>
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<tr>
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</table>
| 24. Rugged Glaciated Hills            | • steep hills with craggy cliff faces and quite rounded summits | • moorland and montane vegetation | • no settlements or roads | 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 % |
| 25. Small Farms and Crofts           | • Variable  
• Moorland or coastal areas | • Open moorland  
• Fragments of broadleaf woodland  
• Woodlots  
• Single trees  
• Cultivated fields and grazing land  
• Grassland  
• Coastal areas/harbours  
• Open space and dominance of sky  
• Rough grassland  
• Grazing land | • Ordered crofts  
• Open and fairly rich, small farms  
• New ‘kit’ housing/holiday homes  
• Ruined properties  
• Roads and access tracks  
• Fences, walls  
• Power lines  
• Machinery  
• Local facilities  
• Sparse habitation  
• Croft ruins  
• Ancient structures | 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 % |
| 26. Strath                           | • Linear space - typically open floor with a central river or loch.  
• Dominant views passing along between opposite slopes.  
• Height and steepness of side slopes vary - sometimes the strath curves, restricting visibility and resulting in surprise.  
• Water is a key characteristic - loch, river, wetland, and tributaries.  
• Various land uses - woodland, agriculture, pastureland.  
• Landscape pattern tends to relate to distinct linear space.  
• Broadleaf woodland along the shores of rivers or lochs and sometimes reaching up the strath slopes and tributaries.  
• Coniferous plantations usually on strath slopes | • Historic character inherited from tradition of settlement - ancient brochs, patches of mature woodland, old walled enclosures, neglected land drains, abandoned crofts.  
• Access routes to settlements and rural estates.  
• Power lines.  
• Settlements concentrated at bridging points, at the confluence of river courses, or at the mouth of straths. | 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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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 27. Sweeping Moorland | • Wide open and flat landscape  
                   • Gently sloping or undulating landforms eroded by watercourses to form shallow glens | • Predominantly grouse and upland species, lacking in distinctive features  
                   • Influenced by weather and light conditions  
                   • Punctuated by watercourses - lochs, juvenile streams, and mature, meandering rivers  
                   • Peatland, coarse, damp and mossy vegetation cover  
                   • Ribbons of broadleaf woodland  
                   • Coniferous plantations  
                   • Pockets of improved grazing land | • Ruined buildings  
                   • Field boundaries and drainage channels  
                   • Small settlements  
                   • Estates  
                   • Roads, rail, vehicle tracks and wheel markings  
                   • Power lines  
                   • Peat cuttings and hagging  
                   • Grouse management | No. of incidences in the Study Area : 38  
Total area of LCT: 1345.380 km\(^2\)  
Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 18.170%  
Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 28.482% |
| 28. Town | • Variable  
                   • Positioned near to the sea or river estuary | • Built form  
                   • Human activity  
                   • Complex and experiential core radiating out to less dense character or  
                   • Variable core with ‘out of town’ facilities  
                   • Woodland, parkland and common ground | • Roads, footpaths  
                   • Buildings  
                   • Walls, fences  
                   • Signs and lighting  
                   • Car parks and cars  
                   • Tourist facilities | No. of incidences in the Study Area : 2  
Total area of LCT: 23.617 km\(^2\)  
Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.319%  
Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.500% |
| 29. Urban and Rural Development | • Urban and Rural Development | • Often situated within shallow basins and sheltered bays  
                   • Defined by its urban or industrial land use | | No. of incidences in the Study Area : 1  
Total area of LCT: 1.336 km\(^2\)  
Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.018%  
Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.028% |
| 30. Whaleback Island Landscapes | • Gentle, domed shaped islands  
                   • Un-dramatic coastline | • Improved pastures  
                   • Rough grass and heath land  
                   • Rock platforms and shingle beaches  
                   • Feeling of isolation and solitude | • Stone wall enclosures  
                   • Scattered settlements  
                   • Roads, tracks  
                   • Abandoned crofts and small farms | No. of incidences in the Study Area : 3  
Total area of LCT: 17.576 km\(^2\)  
Coverage of entire Core Study Area : 0.237%  
Coverage of Study Area excluding the sea : 0.372% |