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9 Designated Nature Conservation Sites

9.1 Introduction

1 This chapter provides a description of existing and proposed designated nature conservation sites and associated qualifying habitats and species where there is a potential for "connectivity" between the conservation feature and the Project. Relevant designations are listed in Table 9.2 to Table 9.6 along with relevant qualifying features and cross referenced to the relevant assessment within this Environmental Statement (ES). For assessment of potential impacts upon qualifying or notifying features of a designated site refer to the relevant ES chapter. Potential impacts upon designated sites and their features are assessed in detail in the following chapters:

- *Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes;*
- *Chapter 12: Benthic Ecology;*
- *Chapter 13: Natural Fish and Shellfish;*
- *Chapter 14: Marine Mammals; and*
- *Chapter 15: Ornithology.*

2 Within the United Kingdom (UK) and Scotland, legislation outlined in *Chapter 3: Regulatory Requirements* has been implemented to designate and protect conservation features of international, national and local importance (see *Section 9.2*).

9.1.1 Consultations and Information Sources

Development Area

3 A Scoping Report for the Wind Farm was submitted in August 2010. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) provided advice relating to designated sites that could potentially be affected by the Wind Farm and Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs) (see Table 9.1). SNH/JNCC also provided advice with regards to the scope of the Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) (see Table 14.1 and Table 15.1. Information on designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) included within the Designated Sites baseline is relevant to the HRA. Species that are a qualifying feature of an SPA or SAC as well as being assessed through the EIA, in relevant technical chapters, are also subject to consideration as part of the HRA process.

Table 9.1: Scoping Responses and Actions

Consultees	Scoping Response	Project Response
Marine Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Consider the on-going Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) process.	The most recent reported areas of search and potential MPA sites have been considered so far as they are relevant (see <i>Section 9.3.4</i>).
	Include Upper Solway Flats and Marshes SPA, Slamannan Plateau SPA.	Included and considered in this chapter (see <i>Section 9.3.2</i>) and in <i>Chapter 15: Ornithology</i> .
	Refer to Sitelink for protected areas information.	Sitelink was used as a reference source to identify relevant protected areas.
	Expand scope of designated sites to include Farne Islands SPA.	Following provision of further information in the HRA Screening Report (<i>Annex 15B.1</i>) it was agreed with SNH that all SPAs with potential connectivity were identified. Note: this agreed list does not include the Farne Isles SPA. Connectivity with SPAs are considered fully in <i>Section 15.12</i> .
	Include River Tay SAC, River Teith SAC and South Esk SACs for diadromous fish and freshwater pearl mussel.	Included and considered in this chapter (see <i>Section 9.3.3</i>) and in <i>Chapter 13: Natural Fish and Shellfish</i> .

Offshore Transmission Works

- Informal consultation has been undertaken with the relevant stakeholders for the Offshore Transmission Works (OfTW) which, along with recognised best practice, has informed the methodology and scope for the assessment of the OfTW. Desktop feasibility assessments were undertaken to define the Offshore Export Cable Corridor and the Offshore Export Cable Landfall (*Appendix 6A: Export Cable Feasibility Study* and *Appendix 6B: Landfall Feasibility Study*), and include consideration of potential effects on designated sites.

Information Sources

- The following information sources have been used to identify and describe those designated sites and their features relevant to the EIA and HRA:
 - Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm – Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report* (Sea Energy Renewables Ltd, 2010).
 - Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm HRA Screening Report (Annex 15B.1(Ornithology))*.

- *Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm HRA Screening Report (Marine Mammals; Inch Cape Offshore Limited, 2012).*
- *Inch Cape Scoping Opinion (Marine Scotland, 2011).*
- *East Coast Discussion Document: Cumulative Impacts (Royal Haskoning, 2009).*
- Scottish Natural Heritage website.
- Scottish Natural Heritage – Sitelink website.
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website.
- *Advice to the Scottish Government on the selection of Nature Conservation Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) for the development of the Scottish MPA Network (Scottish Natural Heritage and Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2012).*

9.2 Conservation Designations

9.2.1 International Designations

Natura 2000 Sites (also known as European Sites)

- 6 Sites designated for their European importance for nature conservation value include SPAs and SACs. These internationally important designations form the Natura network and are protected under legislation as described in *Section 3.3*. The process for an HRA is described in *Section 3.3.3* and information to inform an Appropriate Assessment is presented within the relevant chapter sign-posted within Table 9.2 and Table 9.3 for SPA's and SAC's respectively.

Ramsar Sites

- 7 Ramsar sites are created to protect wetland habitats and are also either designated as SPAs or SACs (see Figure 9.1) see *Section 3.3.4* for further information on the Ramsar Convention. The assessment of potential effects of the Project on Natura 2000 sites includes an assessment of the effects on the habitats for which the relevant Ramsar sites are designated and is therefore directly relevant to the assessment of effects on Ramsar sites.

9.2.2 National Designations

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

- 8 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are notified for terrestrial and intertidal wildlife, geology or landforms. SSSIs are afforded a level of protection against potentially damaging activities in order to preserve their natural heritage interests, while allowing traditional land use to continue.

National Nature Reserves

- 9 National Nature Reserves (NNRs) provide examples of some of the most important natural terrestrial and coastal habitats, communities and species. All NNRs relevant to the current assessment overlap with SSSIs, SPAs or SACs.

Scottish Marine Protected Areas

- 10 JNCC and SNH submitted their formal advice on the selection of nature conservation MPAs to the Scottish Ministers and MS on 1 November 2012. Their report details the outputs of stakeholder led workshops and a review of evidence to identify a suite of 33 nature conservation MPAs and also presents four additional search areas which are still under assessment. Those nature conservation MPA's identified in the report and any search areas with potential connectivity have been scoped into the EIA. Scottish Ministers have produced a progress report on the designation process to date and will decide which of the MPA proposals will be taken forward to public consultation commencing in summer 2013.

9.2.3 Local Designations

Local Nature Reserves

- 11 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are areas of locally important natural heritage, designated to give people better opportunities to learn about and enjoy nature close to where they live. All LNR's relevant to the current assessment overlap with SSSIs, SPAs or SACs.

9.3 Baseline Environment

9.3.1 Identification of Designated Sites

- 12 The following section identifies those qualifying habitats and species associated with designated sites that could potentially interact with the Development Area and Offshore Export Cable Corridor. Table 9.2 to Table 9.6 cross reference the relevant chapter within this ES where each qualifying or notifying feature is assessed in the context of EIA or HRA. The location of the Development Area and Offshore Export Cable Corridor relative to the identified designated sites is presented in Figure 9.1 to Figure 9.5.
- 13 Sites screened into the HRA process are assessed in relevant chapters (see *Section 13.13*, *Section 14.13* and *Section 15.12*).

9.3.2 Special Protection Areas

- 14 Through the response received to the HRA Screening Report (*Appendix 15B, Annex 15B.1*) and ongoing consultation SNH has confirmed those SPAs supporting species that have the potential to interact with the Project (*Table 15.1 and Section 15.2*). Species listed as a component of an SPA under Article 4.1 and Article 4.2 of the *Birds Directive* (Directive 2009/147/EC) have been assessed for connectivity to both the Development Area and the Offshore Export Cable Corridor (*Table 9.2 and Figure 9.1 below*). An assessment has also

been undertaken of the effects on migratory bird species which may be part of an SPA population and are likely to pass through the Development Area while travelling between breeding and wintering areas. This assessment has been undertaken to assess whether there would be any likely significant impact on the conservation objective of maintaining the population of the bird species as a viable component of any of the SPAs of which that species is a qualifying feature. Determination of connectivity and assessment for Likely Significant Effect are fully described in Annex 15B.1.

Table 9.2: Special Protection Areas with Connectivity to the Project

SPA	Overlapping Designations	Qualifying Conservation Interest (JNCC, 2013a)	Distance from Development Area (km)	Sensitive Receptors Scoped into HRA	Relevant ES Chapter
Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast	None	Regularly supports 95,000 individual seabirds including: guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>), kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>), herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>), shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>), fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>).	82.0	Guillemot, kittiwake, herring gull, fulmar.	Chapter 15: Ornithology from Section 15.12
Firth of Forth	Firth of Forth Ramsar, Firth of Forth SSSI, Aberlady Bay LNR.	<p>Supports populations of Annex I species: Sandwich tern, bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>), golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>), red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>), Slavonian grebe (<i>Podiceps auritus</i>).</p> <p>Supports populations of European importance of the following migratory species: knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>), pink-footed goose, redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>), shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>).</p> <p>Regularly supports 86,067 individual waterfowl including: scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>), slavonian grebe, golden plover, bar-tailed godwit, pink-footed goose, shelduck, knot, redshank, turnstone, great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>), cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>), red-throated diver, mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>), curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>), eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>), long-tailed duck (<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>), common scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>), velvet scoter (<i>Melanitta fusca</i>), goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>), red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>), oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>), ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>), grey plover, lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>), dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>), wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>).</p>	27.1	Bar-tailed godwit, red-throated diver, Slavonian grebe, turnstone, common scoter, cormorant, eider, great crested grebe, grey plover, long-tailed duck, red-breasted merganser, velvet scoter, goldeneye.	Chapter 15: Ornithology from Section 15.12

SPA	Overlapping Designations	Qualifying Conservation Interest (JNCC, 2013a)	Distance from Development Area (km)	Sensitive Receptors Scoped into HRA	Relevant ES Chapter
Forth Islands	Isle of May SAC, Isle of May SSSI, Isle of May NNR.	Supports populations of Annex I species: Arctic tern, common tern, roseate tern, Sandwich tern. Supports populations of European importance of the following migratory species: gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>), lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) puffin, shag. Regularly supports 90,000 individual seabirds including: razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>), guillemot, kittiwake, herring gull, cormorant, fulmar, puffin, lesser black-backed gull, shag, gannet, Arctic tern, common tern, roseate tern, Sandwich tern.	Five islands, in order of distance from Inch Cape 29 to 86 (mean 56.14)	Arctic tern, common tern, gannet, lesser black-backed gull, puffin, guillemot, razorbill, kittiwake, herring gull, fulmar.	<i>Chapter 15: Ornithology from Section 15.12</i>
Fowlsheugh	None	Supports populations of European importance of the following migratory species: guillemot, kittiwake. Regularly supports 170,000 individual seabirds including: razorbill, herring gull, fulmar, guillemot, kittiwake.	33.0	Guillemot, kittiwake, razorbill, herring gull, fulmar.	<i>Chapter 15: Ornithology from Section 15.12</i>
Slamannan Plateau	None	Regularly supports a population of the Annex I species bean goose (<i>Anser fablis fablis</i>).	113.0	Taiga bean goose.	<i>Chapter 15: Ornithology from Section 15.12</i>
St Abb's to Fast Castle	Berwickshire and Northumberland Coast SAC, St Abb's to Fast Castle SSSI.	Regularly supports 79,560 individual seabirds including: razorbill, guillemot, kittiwake, herring gull, shag.	53.0	Razorbill, guillemot, kittiwake, herring gull	<i>Chapter 15: Ornithology from Section 15.12</i>

SPA	Overlapping Designations	Qualifying Conservation Interest (JNCC, 2013a)	Distance from Development Area (km)	Sensitive Receptors Scoped into HRA	Relevant ES Chapter
Upper Solway Flats and Marshes	Upper Solway Flats and Marshes Ramsar, Upper Solway Flats and Marshes SSSI.	<p>Supports populations of the Annex I species: bar-tailed godwit, barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>), golden plover, whooper swan.</p> <p>Supports population of European importance of the following migratory species: ringed plover, curlew, dunlin, knot, oystercatcher, pink-footed goose, pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>), redshank.</p> <p>Regularly supports 133,322 individual waterfowl including: redshank, barnacle goose, golden plover, bar-tailed godwit, pink-footed goose, pintail, oystercatcher, knot, whooper swan, curlew, lapwing, great crested grebe, cormorant, shelduck, mallard, scaup, goldeneye, ringed plover, grey plover, dunlin.</p>	168.6	Svalbard Barnacle goose	<i>Chapter 15: Ornithology from Section 15.12</i>

9.3.3 Special Areas of Conservation

- 15 Through the formal scoping process SNH identified SACs along the east coast of Scotland and England that support qualifying interest features that have the potential to interact with the Development Area or Offshore Export Cable Corridor (Table 9.3 and Figure 9.2). There are no designated Annex I habitats within the Development Area or Offshore Export Cable Corridor. However, there are a number of Annex II species within the SACs listed in Table 9.3 that may interact with the Development Area or Offshore Export Cable Corridor.
- 16 In addition to the SACs identified above, the screening stage also highlighted other SACs along the north-east coast of Britain that were identified through consultation with fisheries organisations, to reflect the migratory patterns and foraging range of some of the Annex II species considered, namely:
- River Dee SAC; and
 - River Tweed SAC.

Table 9.3: Special Areas of Conservation with Potential Connectivity to the Project

SAC	Overlapping Designations	Qualifying Conservation Interest (JNCC, 2013b)	Distance from Development Area (km)	Sensitive Receptors Scoped into HRA	Relevant ES Chapter
Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast	Lindisfarne SPA, St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA.	Annex I habitats: sea inlets; tidal rivers; estuaries; mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; reefs and sea caves; lagoons; and several coastal/terrestrial habitats including salt marshes, pastures, steppes, dunes, sea cliffs and machair. Annex II species: grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>).	52.0	Grey seal	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes,</i> <i>Chapter 14: Marine Mammals from Section 14.13</i>
Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary	Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA, Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary Ramsar, Tayport - Tentsmuir Coast SSSI, Eden Estuary SSSI, Inner Tay Estuary SSSI, Eden Estuary, Inner Tay Estuary LNR.	Annex I habitats: estuaries. Annex II species: common seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>). Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time*; and, mudflats and sandflats slightly covered with seawater all the time*.	25.0	Common seal	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes,</i> <i>Chapter 14: Marine Mammals from Section 14.13</i>
Isle of May	Forth Islands SPA, Isle of May SSSI.	Annex I habitats: reef. Annex II species: grey seal.	32.0	Grey seal	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes,</i> <i>Chapter 12: Benthic Ecology,</i> <i>Chapter 14: Marine Mammals from Section 14.13</i>

SAC	Overlapping Designations	Qualifying Conservation Interest (JNCC, 2013b)	Distance from Development Area (km)	Sensitive Receptors Scoped into HRA	Relevant ES Chapter
Moray Firth	None	Annex I habitats: sandbanks which are slightly covered with seawater all the time. Annex II species: bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>).	142.1	Bottlenose dolphin	<i>Chapter 14: Marine Mammals from Section 14.13</i>
River South Esk	None	Annex II species: freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>); Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>).	24.0	Freshwater pearl mussel; Atlantic salmon.	<i>Chapter 13: Natural Fish and Shellfish from Section 13.13</i>
River Tay	None	Other Annex I habitats: oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters*. Annex II species: Atlantic salmon. Annex II species: sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>)*; brook lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>)*; river lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>)*; and otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)*.	37.3	Atlantic salmon; sea lamprey; river lamprey.	<i>Chapter 13: Natural Fish and Shellfish from Section 13.13</i>
River Teith	None	Annex II species: sea lamprey; brook lamprey; river lamprey. Annex II species: Atlantic salmon*.	109.2	Sea lamprey; river lamprey; and Atlantic salmon.	<i>Chapter 13: Natural Fish and Shellfish from Section 13.13</i>

SAC	Overlapping Designations	Qualifying Conservation Interest (JNCC, 2013b)	Distance from Development Area (km)	Sensitive Receptors Scoped into HRA	Relevant ES Chapter
River Dee	None	Annex II species: freshwater pearl mussel; Atlantic salmon; and otter.	45.4	Atlantic salmon; Freshwater pearl mussel.	<i>Chapter 13: Natural Fish and Shellfish from Section 13.13</i>
River Tweed	None	Annex I habitats: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation Annex II species: Atlantic salmon; Otter Annex II species: Sea lamprey*; Brook lamprey*; River lamprey*	62.8	Atlantic salmon; River lamprey; Sea lamprey.	<i>Chapter 13: Natural Fish and Shellfish from Section 13.13</i>
(*) indicates those species or habitats that are a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason, for selection of the site.					

9.3.4 Scottish Marine Protected Areas

- 17 JNCC and SNH have identified one potential nature conservation MPA in the vicinity of the Development Area, the Firth of Forth Banks Complex (Table 9.4 and Figure 9.3). Alternative potential nature conservation MPAs have also been identified that contain the Priority Marine Features (PMFs) identified within the Firth of Forth Banks Complex possible MPA. They are the Turbot Bank, proposed for sandeels and which also contains 'subtidal sands and gravels' and 'shelf banks and mounds', and the Norwegian boundary sediment plains also proposed for 'offshore subtidal sands and gravels' and 'ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*) aggregations'. Neither of the two alternative sites have potential connectivity to the Development Area or the Offshore Export Cable Corridor. JNCC consider that the alternative sites are of lower value with regards to the PMFs than the Firth of Forth Banks Complex proposed MPA. Therefore, the Firth of Forth Banks Complex has been scoped into the EIA process as if it's already fully designated in relation to the Development Area.

Table 9.4: Potential MPAs and Areas of Search with Potential Connectivity to the Project

MPA (SNH and JNCC, 2012; Scottish Government, 2013)	Overlapping Designations	Priority Marine Features	Distance from Development Area (km)	Sensitive Receptors Scoped into EIA	Relevant ES Chapter
Firth of Forth Banks Complex	None	Offshore subtidal sands and gravels, ocean quahog (<i>Arctica islandica</i>) aggregations, shelf banks and mounds.	1.2	Offshore subtidal sands and gravels, shelf banks and mounds.	<p><i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 12: Benthic Ecology</i></p>

9.3.5 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

- 18 Notified features of SSSIs do not extend below the low water mark. Therefore, with the exception of the Firth of Forth SSSI at both of the Offshore Export Cable landfall options, coastal receptors are considered under *Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes* to determine interactions with the Development Area. Other mobile notified features, for example grey seals at the Isle of May SSSI and the Tayport – Tentsmuir Coast SSSI are also designated within the Natura 2000 network as qualifying interest features of the Isle of May SAC and the Firth of Tay, Eden Estuary SAC and St Abb's Head to Fast Castle SPA. Therefore assessment of the effects on grey seals and relevant bird species through the HRA process is directly applicable to the assessment of the effects on the Isle of May, St Abb's Head to Fast Castle and Tayport to Tentsmuir SSSIs. See Table 9.5 below for SSSIs between Montrose and St Abb's Head and Figure 9.4 for Designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Table 9.5: SSSIs between Montrose and St Abb's Head

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SNH, 2013a)	Overlapping Designations	Qualifying Conservation Interest	Distance to the Development Area (km)	Sensitive Receptors Scoped into EIA	Relevant ES Chapter
Barns Ness Coast	None	Saltmarsh, lower carboniferous, sand dunes and shingle.	49.7	Coastal receptors	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes</i>
Barnsmuir Coast	None	Saltmarsh, maritime cliff and shingle.	31.9	Coastal receptors	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes</i>
Eden Estuary	Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA	Birds – aggregations of non-breeding birds, scrub, saltmarsh, mudflats and sand dunes.	33.2	Coastal receptors	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes</i>
Elliott Links	None	Transition sand dunes and sand dunes.	20.3	Coastal receptors	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes</i>
Fife Ness Coast	None	Saltmarsh, lower carboniferous and maritime cliff.	26.2	Coastal receptors	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes</i>
Firth of Forth	Firth of Forth SPA, Aberlady Bay LNR	Birds – aggregations of non-breeding birds, northern brown argus (<i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>) butterfly, arthropoda, paleozoic-palaeobotany, Permian- carboniferous fish/amphibian, upper carboniferous, lower carboniferous, maritime cliff, sand dunes, vascular plant assemblage.	28.3	Coastal Receptors	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes</i>
Inner Tay Estuary	Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA	Birds – aggregations of non-breeding birds, breeding bird assemblage, transition saltmarsh, saltmarsh.	43.2	Coastal Receptors	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes</i>

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SNH, 2013a)	Overlapping Designations	Qualifying Conservation Interest	Distance to the Development Area (km)	Sensitive Receptors Scoped into EIA	Relevant ES Chapter
Isle of May	Isle of May SAC, Forth Islands SPA	Birds – aggregations of non-breeding birds, grey seal and maritime cliff.	32.9	Coastal Receptors, Grey seal, Ornithological Receptors (see Table 9.2 Forth Islands)	Considered as part of assessment on Isle of May SAC in <i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes</i> , <i>Chapter 14: Marine Mammals</i> and <i>Chapter 15: Ornithology</i>
Montrose Basin	SPA	Birds – aggregations of non-breeding birds, transition saltmarsh, mudflats, quaternary of Scotland.	19.6	Coastal Receptors	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes</i>
Pease Bay Coast	None	Silurian-devonian chordate, lower carboniferous, maritime cliff.	53.7	Coastal Receptors	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes</i>
Rickle Craig - Scurdie Ness	None	Old red sandstone igneous, saltmarsh, mineralogy of Scotland, mollusc assemblage, maritime cliff.	16.6	Coastal Receptors	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes</i>
Sands of Forvie and Ythan Estuary	SPA (Ythan Estuary, Sand of Forvie and Meikle Loch)	Birds – aggregations of breeding birds.	79.8	Coastal Receptors	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes</i>
Siccar Point	None	Non-marine devonian, Caledonian structures.	54.8	Coastal Receptors	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes</i>

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SNH, 2013a)	Overlapping Designations	Qualifying Conservation Interest	Distance to the Development Area (km)	Sensitive Receptors Scoped into EIA	Relevant ES Chapter
St Abb's Head to Fast Castle	SAC (Berwickshire and Northumberland Coast), SPA	Birds – aggregations of breeding birds, coastal geomorphology of Scotland, old red sandstone igneous, maritime cliff.	54.5	Coastal Receptors, Aggregation of Birds.	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes</i> <i>Chapter 15: Ornithology</i>
St Andrews - Craig Hartle	None	Springs (including flushes), transition saltmarsh, saltmarsh, lowland neutral grassland, lower carboniferous, maritime cliff.	29.5	Coastal Receptors	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes</i>
Tayport - Tentsmuir Coast	Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC	Birds-aggregations of non-breeding birds, Coastal geomorphology of Scotland, mudflats, common seal, beetle assemblage, sand dunes, vascular plant assemblage.	25.9	Common seal	Considered as part of assessment on Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC in <i>Chapter 14: Marine Mammals</i>
Whiting Ness - Ethie Haven	None	Birds-aggregations of breeding and non-breeding birds, Small blue butterfly (<i>Cupido minimus</i>), old red sandstone igneous, lowland neutral grassland, non-marine Devonian, maritime cliff.	15.1	Coastal Receptors	<i>Chapter 10: Metocean and Coastal Processes</i>

9.3.6 National and Local Nature Reserves

- 19 One NNR and two LNRs (see Figure 9.5) have been identified on the east coast of Scotland. All National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Local Nature Reserve (LNR) sites relevant to the EIA for the Development Area and Offshore Export Cable Corridor are protected by other national or international designations (see Table 9.2, Table 9.3, Table 9.4 and Table 9.5). The conservation interests of the reserves with potential connectivity to the Project are all also qualifying features of Natura 2000 sites or notifying features of SSSIs. See Table 9.6 below National and Local Nature Reserves with potential connectivity to the Project.

Table 9.6: National and Local Nature Reserves with Potential Connectivity to the Project

LNR or NNR	Overlapping Designations	Features of interest Present on Site (SNH, 2013b; Scotland's National Nature Reserves, 2011)	Distance from Development Area (km)	Sensitive Receptors Scoped into EIA	Relevant ES Chapter
Aberlady Bay LNR	Firth of Forth SPA, Firth of Forth SSSI	Tidal mudflats, saltmarsh, sand dunes and bird assemblages.	57.8	Bird Assemblages	<i>Chapter 15: Ornithology</i>
Eden Estuary LNR	Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA, Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC, Eden Estuary SSSI	Mudflats, sandbanks, saltmarsh, common seals and bird assemblages.	33.2	Common seals	<i>Chapter 14: Marine Mammals</i>
Isle of May NNR	Forth Islands SPA, Isle of May SAC, Isle of May SSSI	Seals and Seabirds.	32.8	Seals Seabirds	<i>Chapter 14: Marine Mammals</i> <i>Chapter 15: Ornithology</i>

Figure 9.1: Designated Special Protection Areas and Ramsar Sites

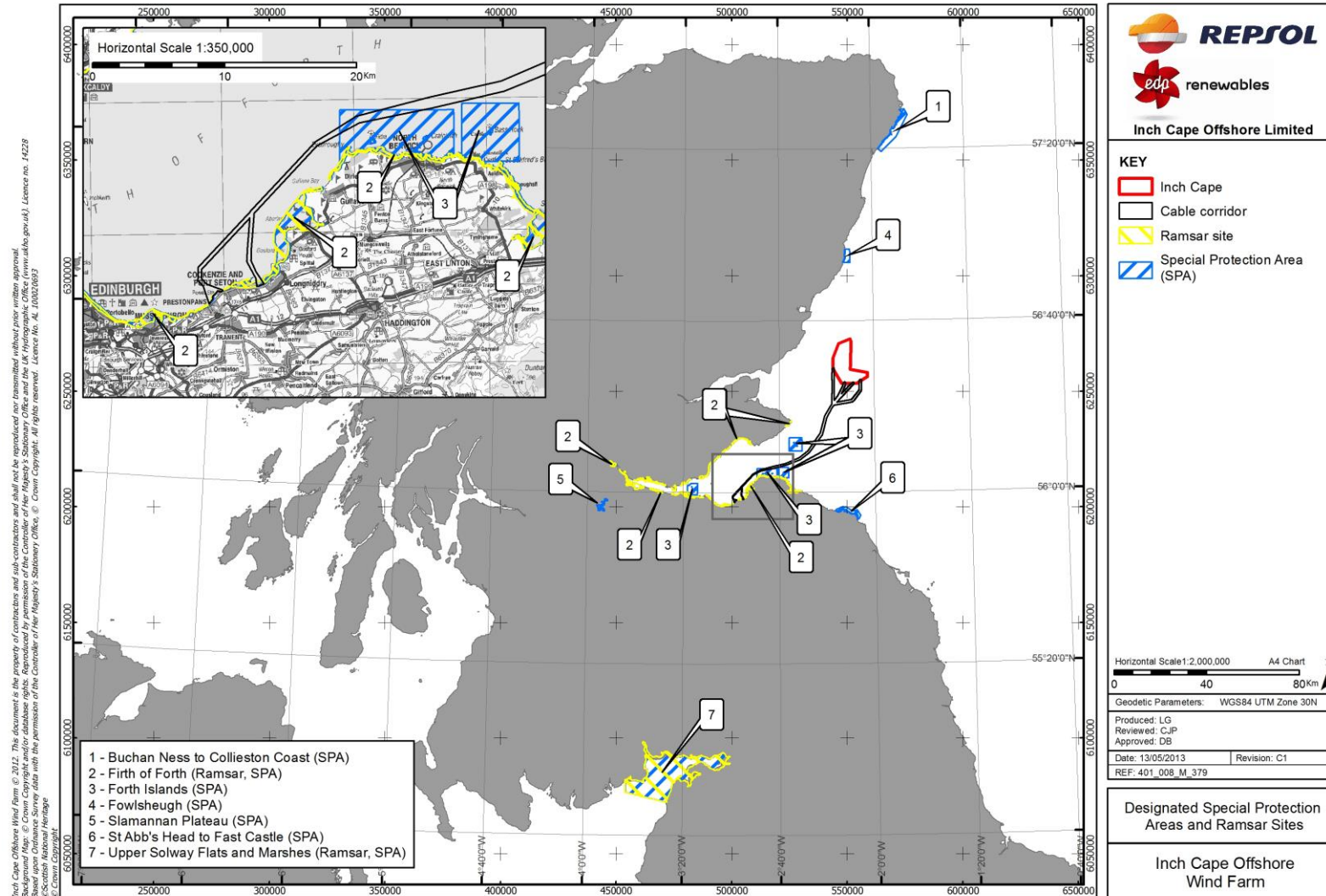


Figure 9.2: Designated Special Areas of Conservation

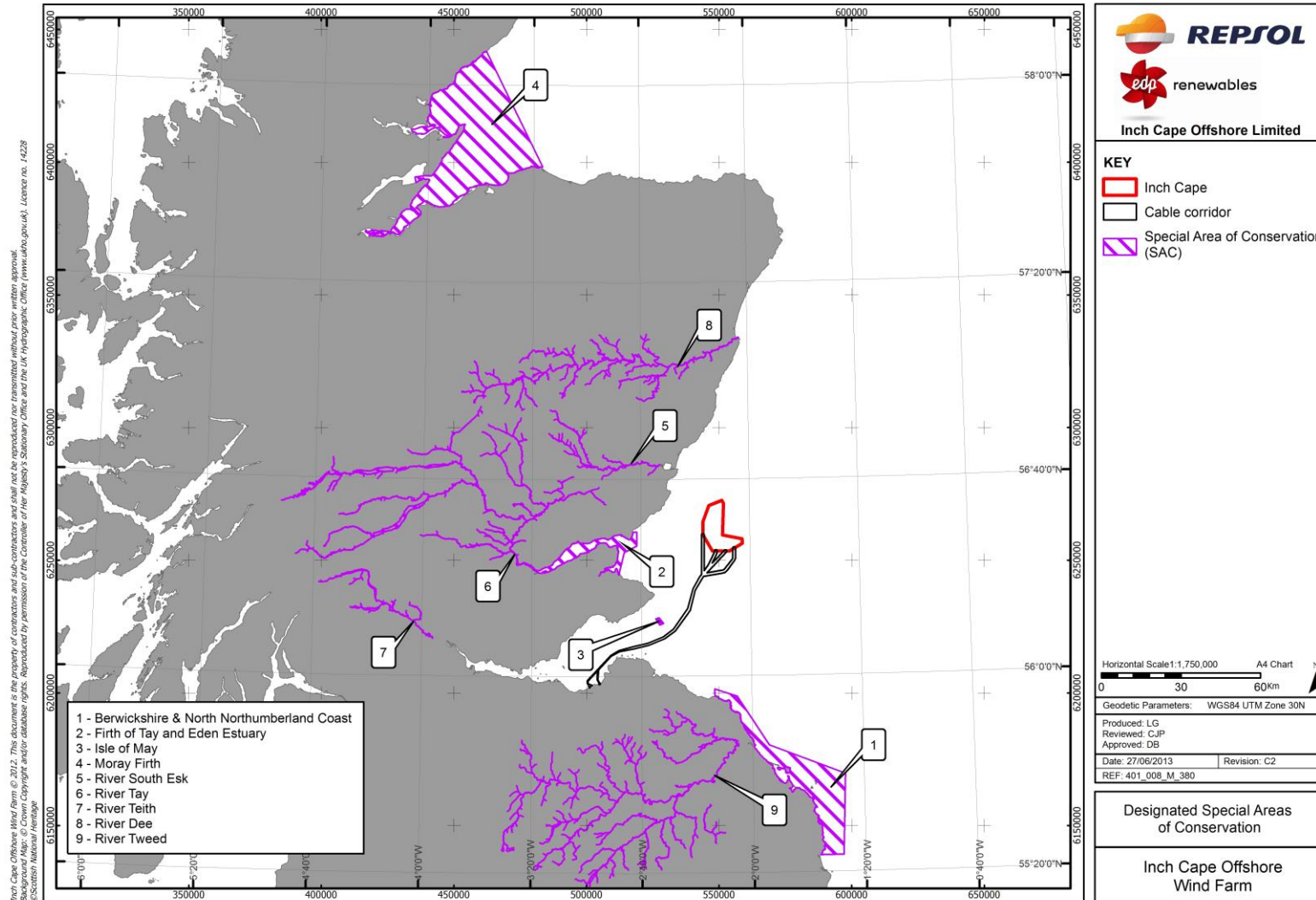


Figure 9.3: Potential Scottish Marine Protected Areas

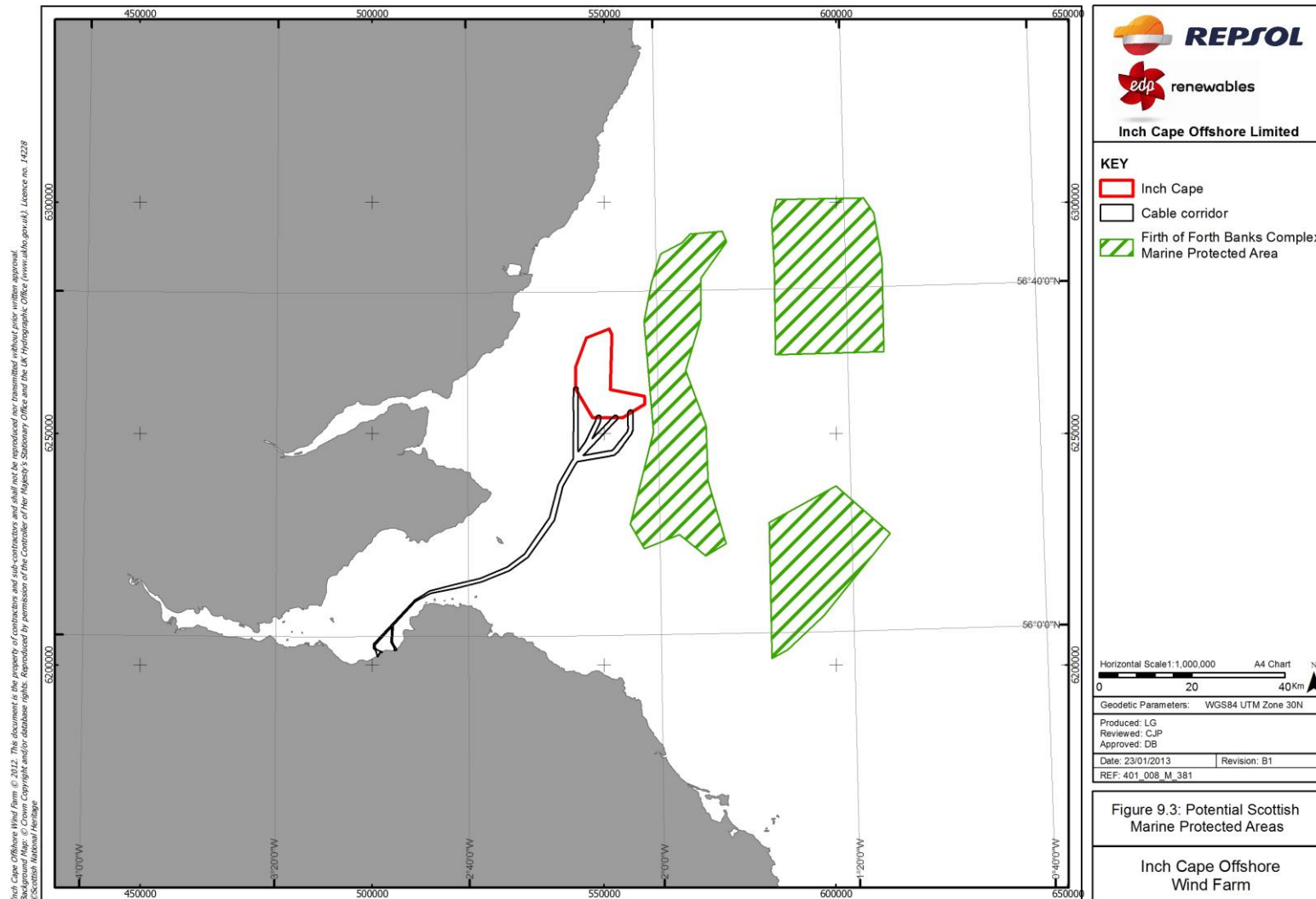


Figure 9.4: Designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest

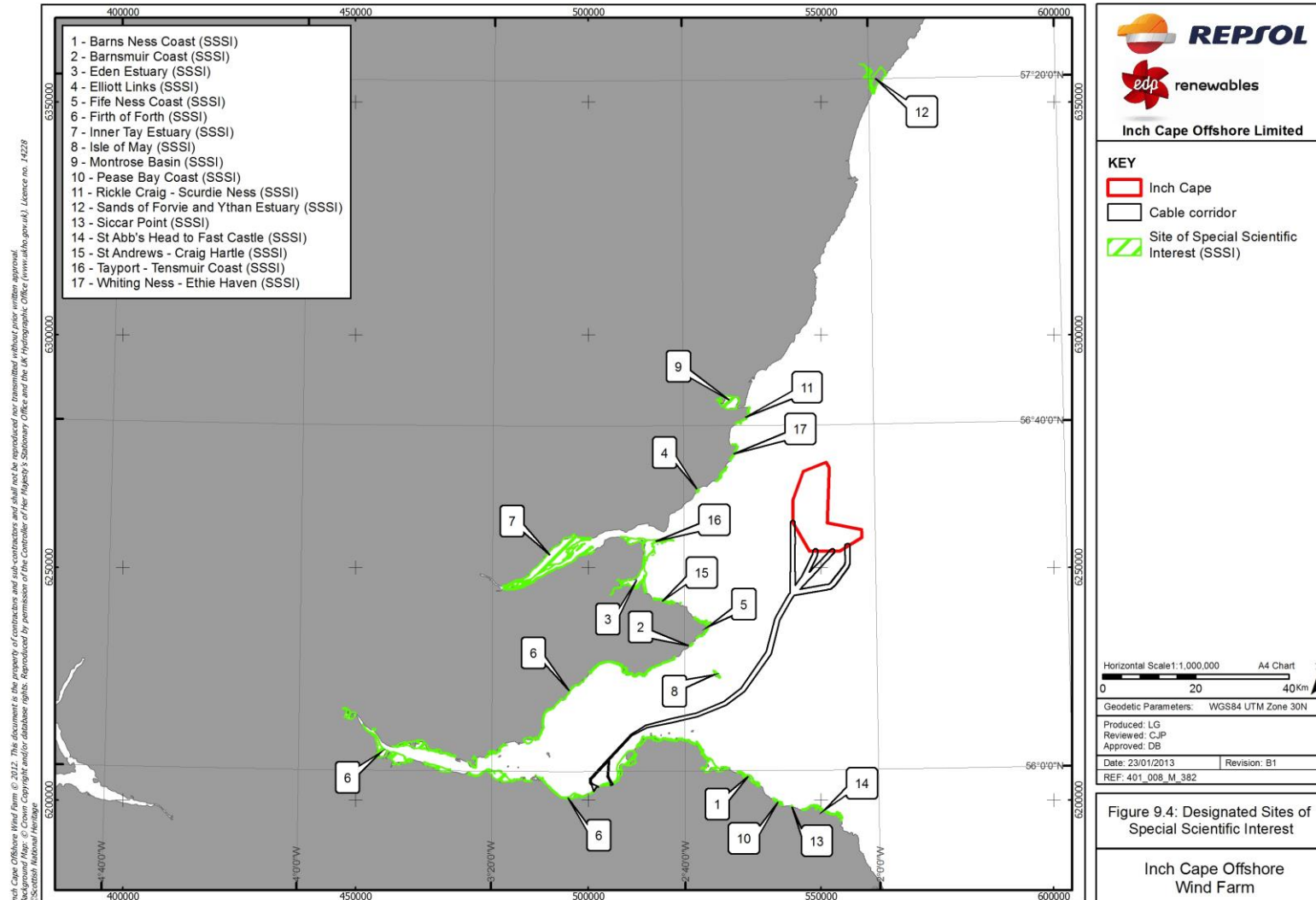
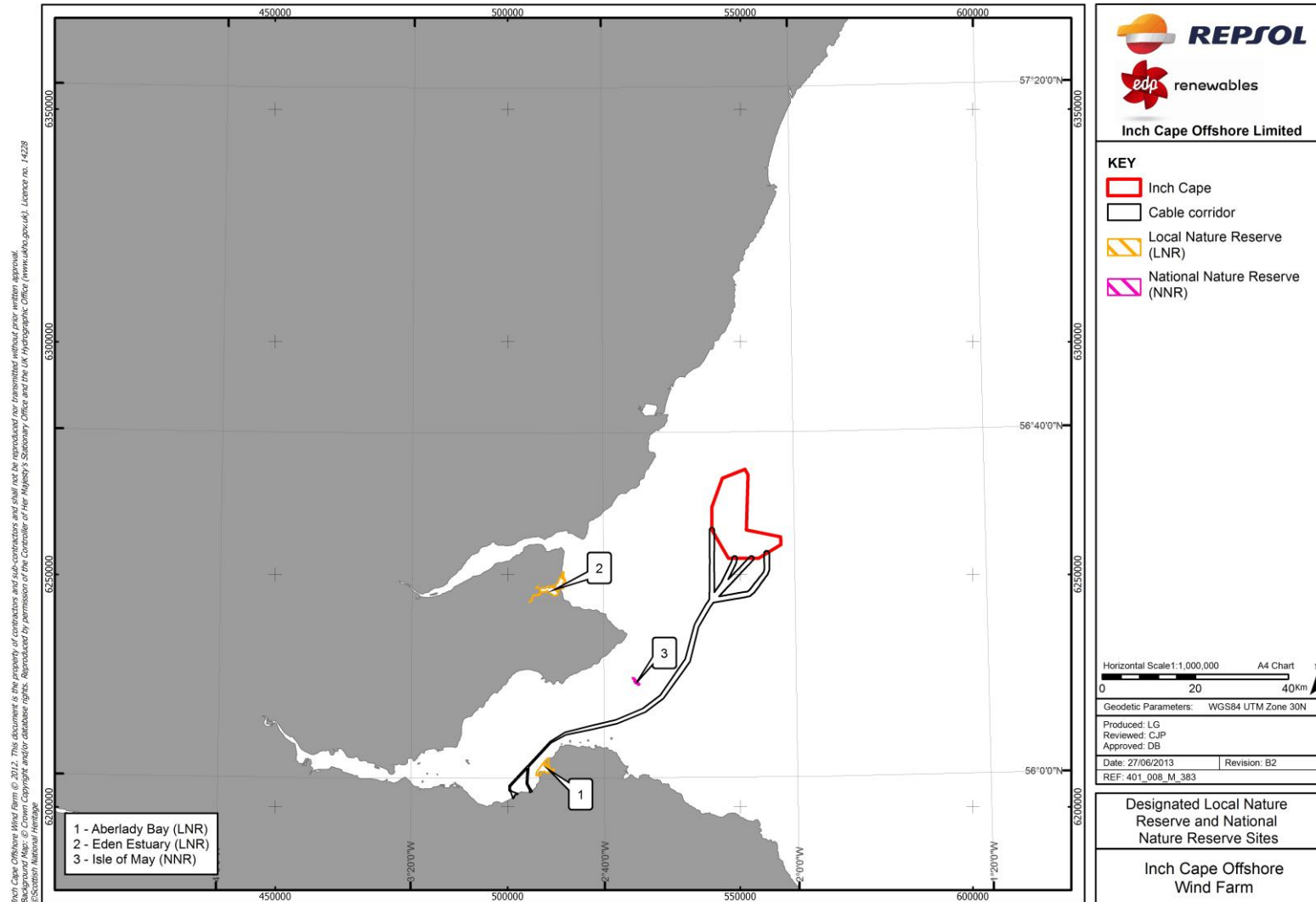


Figure 9.5: Designated Local Nature Reserve and National Nature Reserve Sites



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