

Appendix 7.1

Seascape Character Areas: Sensitivity Assessment

Seascape Character Area: 1 St Bees Head

Viewpoint Numbers within the SCA: 14, 16

Direct seascape effects: None

Indirect seascape effects: Moorside Site

Key Characteristics (as defined by the Seascape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015])

-) This SCA encompasses a cliff-top plateau of elevated sandstone headland which rises to a maximum elevation of 141 m AOD.
-) Land use comprises a patchwork of large, regular and open pastoral and arable fields, predominantly divided by hedges and kests. The relatively high proportion of arable fields is exceptional within the SCSA.
-) Settlement is limited to Tarn Flatt Hall (a working farm with holiday cottage and camping barn accommodation) and St. Bees Lighthouse both accessed via Hannahmoor Lane from Sandwith.
-) The fringes of the SCA include St. Bees Head SSSI. This nature conservation designation is primarily concentrated within SCA5 although with biological interest within SCA1 focussed on natural cliff-top grassland and heath.
-) **Recreational interest is notable and predominantly concentrated to a cliff edge path which forms part of Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk.** The area is a RSPB reserve and observation platforms on the North Head look out to the main seabird colony.
-) **The elevated headland provides frequent extensive and uninterrupted panoramic views in all directions including out to sea and along the coastline to the south towards the Sellafield Site and the distant fells of the Lake District beyond.**
-) The cliff-top plateau is vast in scale and has an exposed character. Proximity of the path to the cliff edge, temporal weather changes and the sea may be invigorating to some whilst unnerving to others. Pockets of more intimate character exist but these are infrequent.
-) **Scenic quality is notably higher than other parts of the coast within the SCSA which is reflected by its status as a defined Heritage Coast.**

*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	This SCA encompasses St Bees Head Heritage Coast, a defined landscape protected through paragraph 114 of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) and Policy ENV2 (Coastal Management) of the Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028. The area also forms part of the setting of the Lake District National Park (LDNP).	Very High
Condition/Quality	Landscape features, including the kests which are present across the headland are in good condition.	High
Scenic Quality	The SCA has high aesthetic appeal with frequent long distance sea views and views to the fells and summits within the Lake District. Vertical structures beyond the boundaries of the SCA including masts, pylons, wind turbines and the stacks and chimneys within the Sellafield Site may be considered by some to be detractive visual influences.	High
Rarity	St Bees head is the only stretch of Heritage Coast between the Welsh and Scottish borders.	High

Conservation Interests	The fringes of this SCA contain St Bees Head SSSI. Biological interest within this area is focussed on natural cliff-top grassland and heath. The area is also part of a RSPB reserve.	High
Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Recreation Value	Recreational interest is focussed on walkers drawn primarily from St Bees to the south and following the cliff top path, which also forms part of Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk. The greatest numbers of walkers were observed on the route along the southern and western sides of the headland, diminishing in numbers north of the lighthouse. Observation points for bird watching are also likely to draw public interest. The Whitehaven to Silecroft stretch of the England Coast Path was approved by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in September 2015 with new access rights along the route expected by late 2016/early 2017.	Very High
Perceptual Aspects	This is an exposed coastal location with frequent wide, open views. The proximity to the sea and influence of the weather exerts strong perceptions of naturalness which should be regarded as of higher value as indicated by the visitor numbers. Reference to CPREs tranquillity mapping indicates high levels of tranquillity along the coastal fringes reducing to moderate levels inland as a consequence of increasing proximity to Whitehaven. The light pollution map indicates a similar pattern with limited light intrusion present along the coastal edge increasing inland or close to settlements.	High
Associations	The area is recognised as the starting point of Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk.	High
Overall Value	The majority of the criteria indicate High value with Very High value indicated in terms of the designation and recreational value and Medium value indicated for perceptual qualities. The overall value is considered to be Very High.	Very High
Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)		Susceptibility
Physical Characteristics: There would be no physical changes to this SCA as a result of development within the Moorside Site.		N/A
Visual Characteristics: This is primarily a large-scale landscape possessing a sense of exposure where long distance views along the coastline to the south are a key characteristic. In these views Sellafield is already a small-scale but readily identifiable feature within the view. In views to the north-east/east numerous turbines, pylons and masts are common vertical visual components but are readily accommodated within the wide open views thereby reducing their role in the landscape. Similarly, any large-scale development such as the one proposed is also likely to be absorbed into the vast open backdrop and unlikely to over-dominate the wide views available. Whilst local light intrusion very low on the far western fringes, more distant light intrusion within Whitehaven to the north and St Bees influences the eastern part of this SCA and raise light intrusion levels to low.		Medium

Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)		Susceptibility				
<p>Perceptual Characteristics: This is an exposed seascape where the proximity to the sea and influence of the weather together with limited settlement within the SCA itself exerts strong perceptions of naturalness associated with those seaward views away from existing development on the coast. Despite the CPRE tranquillity mapping indicating localised high levels of tranquillity, field observations suggest more moderate levels in terms of both remoteness and tranquillity due to other developments inland. The light pollution map indicates a similar pattern with limited light intrusion present along the coastal edge increasing inland or close to settlements. These factors combine to indicate a High to Medium susceptibility in terms of the perceptual characteristics.</p>		High to Medium				
Overall Susceptibility	The perceptual and visual characteristics indicate a high to medium susceptibility to the Proposed Development due the levels of perceived naturalness and tranquillity. An overall assessment of High is concluded.	High				
Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

Seascape Character Area: 2a St Bees Beach

Viewpoint Numbers within the SCA: None

Direct seascape effects: None

Indirect seascape effects: Moorside Site

Key Characteristics (as defined by the Seascape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015])

-) Narrow strip of beach between the mean high water and mean low water marks defined by its linearity.
-) **Soft cliffs frequently restrict views inland.**
-) **Looking westwards, extensive long-distance sea views to an uncluttered, never-ending horizon creates a strong sense of openness and continuity.**
-) SCA covered by the Cumbria Coast Marine Conservation Zone.
-) Steep upper shingle/cobble beach fronted by a sandy foreshore fronts the holiday resort of St. Bees, defended by wooden groynes and a concrete seawall and promenade.
-) Moving south towards the golf course, till cliffs composed of glacial sediments dominated by local red sandstone average 10 m in height, reducing in height at the southern end where Pow Beck discharges.
-) St. Bees Head SSSI continues along this stretch of the coastline with the cliffs of the St. Bees golf course being of considerable importance for interpreting Late-Devensian glacial events and Late-glacial environmental conditions in northwest England.

*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	A very narrow strip of this SCA between the high water mark and the inland boundary of the Seascape Characterisation Study Area is designated by Copeland Borough Council as a Landscape of County Importance (designated originally under Cumbria County Council's Structure Plan). The majority of the SCA is undesignated.	High to Medium
Condition/Quality	Landscape features are generally in good condition.	High
Scenic Quality	The SCA has moderate aesthetic appeal. The southern head of St Bees Head is a distinctive feature enclosing views to the north although inland views contain detractive elements such as extensive caravan parks along the cliff tops.	Medium
Rarity	St Bees Head SSSI continues along this stretch of the coastline with the cliffs of the St Bees golf course being of considerable importance for interpreting Late-Devensian glacial events and Late-glacial environmental conditions in northwest England.	High
Conservation Interests	Nature conservation interests are focussed on St Bees Head SSSI and the Cumbria Coast Marine Conservation Zone.	High

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value				
Recreation Value	The Seacote beach at St Bees is popular with holiday makers and readily accessible from the nearby public car park with visitor facilities including play areas, caravan parks and beach cafe and shop. The area is also recognised as the starting point of Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk. The Whitehaven to Silecroft stretch of the England Coast Path was approved by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in September 2015 with new access rights along the route expected by late 2016/early 2017.	Very High				
Perceptual Aspects	The popularity of this beach (particularly during the summer months) and proximity to the village of St Bees and neighbouring caravan parks reduces levels of remoteness and tranquillity	Medium				
Associations	The area is recognised as the starting point of Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk	High				
Overall Value	The criteria indicate a largely High value, with Very High recreational value noted and more Medium scenic and perceptual qualities. An overall assessment of High is provided.	High				
Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)		Susceptibility				
Physical Characteristics: There would be no physical changes to this SCA as a result of development within the Moorside Site.		N/A				
Visual Characteristics: Views are primarily focused either seaward or south along the coastline and are more contained inland and to the north by natural features such as the soft cliffs or sandstone cliffs of St Bees Head. There is very limited intervisibility with the Sellafield Site and landmarks have a limited role in the landscape. To the south/south-east (i.e. towards the proposed development within the Moorside Site) and west views are expansive with simple, uncluttered skylines. Reference to the light pollution map for the UK indicates generally low levels of light intrusion generated from the nearby St Bees.		Medium				
Perceptual Characteristics: This is a seascape with moderate to low levels of remoteness and tranquillity due to the seasonally high numbers of visitors and proximity to the settlement of St Bees, with some examples of visual intrusion locally from the cliff top caravan sites.		Medium				
Overall Susceptibility	The visual and perceptual characteristics are all assessed as being of medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed and therefore the overall susceptibility is assessed as Medium.	Medium				
Overall Sensitivity	Susceptibility					
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

Seascape Character Area: 2b St Bees to Braystones Beach

Viewpoint Numbers within the SCA: 8

Direct seascape effects: None

Indirect seascape effects: Moorside Site

Key Characteristics (as defined by the Seascape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015])

- Narrow strip of beach between the mean high water and mean low water marks defined by its linearity.
- **Soft cliffs frequently restrict views inland.**
- **Looking westwards, extensive long-distance sea views to an uncluttered, never-ending horizon creates a strong sense of openness and continuity.**
- SCA covered by the Cumbria Coast Marine Conservation Zone.
- Characterised by the railway embankment which runs along the top or in front of the till cliff face effectively cutting off the cliff from the beach system.
- Sand cover along the foreshore is thinner along this stretch with the coarse boulders beds of the scars making public access more challenging.
-) Small clusters of informal beach settlement are present commencing south of Pow Beck and continuing intermittently as far as Braystones.

*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	A very narrow strip of this SCA between the high water mark and the inland boundary of the Seascape Characterisation Study Area is designated by Copeland Borough Council as a Landscape of County Importance (designated originally under Cumbria County Council's Structure Plan). The majority of the SCA is undesignated.	High to Medium
Condition/Quality	Seascape features along this stretch of coast are in moderate condition. North of Nethertown the soft cliffs have been reinforced with a combination of red brickwork, concrete and the placement of large boulders.	Medium
Scenic Quality	This is a seascape of moderate aesthetic appeal. There are a number of detractors including the railway line which follows the eastern boundary of the SCA and occasional views of the taller stacks within Sellafield. Where views of Sellafield do occur (such as around the beach at Nethertown) the stacks are prominent vertical features. Long distance views are available along the coast (with views to Black Combe within the Lake District possible in good visibility) and out to a generally featureless seaward horizon with the Isle of Man only discernible in optimum viewing conditions. Inland views are foreshortened by the soft cliffs.	Medium
Rarity	This SCA contains some distinctive features such as the soft cliffs and clusters of properties sited on the beach at the foot of the soft cliffs.	Medium
Conservation Interests	There are some nature conservation features associated with the Cumbria Coast Marine Conservation Zone.	Medium

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Recreation Value	<p>This stretch of beach is not as readily accessible as the beaches at the northern and southern ends of this seascape type. There are limited public car parks and the coarse boulders beds of the scars makes public access more challenging.</p> <p>The Whitehaven to Silecroft stretch of the England Coast Path was approved by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in September 2015 with new access rights along the route expected by late 2016/early 2017. Mapping indicates that route of the path is expected to run along the top of the soft cliffs (and therefore the boundary of the SCA).</p>	Medium
Perceptual Aspects	This is a large-scale landscape with a moderate level of tranquillity and remoteness, reduced by the periodic sound and movement of trains along the adjacent line and presence of properties along the beach.	Medium
Associations	There are no known historic or cultural associations within this SCA.	Low
Overall Value	The criteria indicate a largely Medium value with High Value indicated for the landscape designation alone with this applying only to a very small area of this SCA. An overall assessment of Medium is provided in comparison to other areas within the SCSA.	Medium
Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)		Susceptibility
Physical Characteristics: There would be no physical changes to this SCA as a result of development within the Moorside Site.		N/A
Visual Characteristics: Views are primarily focused either seaward or north/south along the coastline and are substantially enclosed and foreshortened inland by the continuous presence of soft cliffs thereby limiting intervisibility with landscapes that lie immediately inland. Sellafield is rarely visible and where views of the infrastructure do occur it is typically only the taller stacks which are prominent visual components. To the west views are expansive with simple, uncluttered skylines. Reference to the light pollution map for the UK indicates generally very limited levels of light intrusion in the northern part of this SCA increasing to low levels around and south of Nethertown as a result of the increasing proximity to the Sellafield Site and its associated high levels of lighting.		Medium
Perceptual Characteristics: Reference to CPREs tranquillity mapping indicates moderately high levels of tranquillity. There are localised areas where visual intrusion occurs and the taller stacks within the Sellafield Site are prominent; elsewhere there are limited examples of visual intrusion. Whilst public access is more challenging when compared to other stretches of this coastline, the clusters of properties along the seafront and periodic audible and visual presence of trains along the railway line reduce feelings of remoteness.		Medium
Overall Susceptibility	The visual and perceptual characteristics are all assessed as being of medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed and therefore the overall susceptibility is assessed as Medium.	Medium

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

Seascape Character Area: 2c Braystones Beach

Viewpoint Numbers within the SCA: None

Direct seascape effects: Moorside Site

Indirect seascape effects: Moorside Site

Key Characteristics (as defined by the Seascape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015])

-) Narrow strip of beach between the mean high water and mean low water marks defined by its linearity.
-) **SCA continues to be characterised by the railway embankment which runs along the top or in front of the till cliff face. These soft cliffs frequently restrict views inland.**
-) An informal motocross circuit has been 'moulded' within the dunes between the railway and the River Ehen at the southern extent of this SCA just north of Sellafield. This contributes to reduced perceptions of tranquillity.
-) **The beach contains a large proportion of debris deposited by the sea and litter and has considerable scope for enhancement.**
-) **Looking westwards, extensive long-distance sea views to an uncluttered, never-ending horizon creates a strong sense of openness and continuity.**
-) SCA covered by the Cumbria Coast Marine Conservation Zone.

*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	A very narrow strip of this SCA between the high water mark and the inland boundary of the Seascape Characterisation Study Area is designated by Copeland Borough Council as a Landscape of County Importance (designated originally under Cumbria County Council's Structure Plan). The majority of the SCA is undesignated.	High to Medium
Condition/Quality	Condition is poor with a high degree of litter and sea debris and considerable scope for enhancement.	Low
Scenic Quality	This is a landscape of generally low aesthetic appeal. There are a number of detractors including the railway line which follows the eastern boundary of the SCA, caravan parks along the cliffs at Braystones and the high degree of litter and debris. Long distance views are available along the coast (with views to Black Combe within the Lake District possible in good visibility) and out to a generally featureless seaward horizon (with the Isle of Man only discernible in optimum viewing conditions). Inland views are frequently foreshortened by the soft cliffs which continue along this stretch of coast.	Low
Rarity	This SCA contains some distinctive features such as the soft cliffs and clusters of properties sited on the beach at the foot of the soft cliffs. Whilst these are uncommon in a local context, they are not particularly valued or supported through designated.	Medium
Conservation Interests	There are some nature conservation features associated with the Cumbria Coast MCZ.	Medium

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Recreation Value	This stretch of beach is not as readily accessible as the beaches at the northern and southern ends of this seascape type. There are limited public car parks. The Whitehaven to Silecroft stretch of the England Coast Path was approved by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in September 2015 with new access rights along the route expected by late 2016/early 2017.	Medium
Perceptual Aspects	Whilst reference to CPREs tranquillity mapping indicates a SCA with moderately high levels of tranquillity, field observations note that levels of tranquillity within this large-scale landscape are reduced by the periodic sound and movement of trains along the adjacent line and presence of properties along the beach and caravans along the cliff tops. The informal motocross circuit and high levels of litter and debris contribute to a sense of neglect and unease.	Low
Associations	There are no known historic or cultural associations within this SCA.	Low
Overall Value	The criteria indicate a locally designated landscape of limited or low value in terms of a number of criteria with some medium conservation and recreational value. An overall assessment of Medium is concluded.	Medium
Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)		Susceptibility
Physical Characteristics: This is a degraded seascape in poor condition which offers considerable scope for enhancement. The large-scale and open nature of the SCA, indicates a seascape that may have some capacity to accommodate development.		Low
Visual Characteristics: Views are primarily focused either seaward or along the coastline and are often enclosed and foreshortened inland by the presence of soft cliffs limiting intervisibility with the landscape which lies immediately inland. The Sellafield Site is a prominent visual component in views from the southern part of this area whilst to the west views are expansive with simple, uncluttered skylines. Reference to the light pollution map for the UK indicates generally increased levels of light intrusion a result of the increasing proximity to the Sellafield Site and the influence of its associated high levels of lighting.		Low
Perceptual Characteristics: Reference to CPREs tranquillity mapping indicates moderately high levels of tranquillity although field observations note that much of this area has lower tranquillity due to the presence of the railway line and Sellafield in the southern half of the SCA which is a prominent visual component. The periodic audible and visual presence of trains along the railway line, presence of properties along the beach and caravans along the cliff tops all combine to reduce feelings of remoteness.		Medium to Low

Overall Susceptibility		The physical, visual and perceptual characteristics indicate a Low overall susceptibility.				Low
Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

Seascape Character Area: 2d Sellafield Beach

Viewpoint Numbers within the SCA: None

Direct seascape effects: Moorside Site

Indirect seascape effects: Moorside Site

Key Characteristics (as defined by the Seascape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015])

-) Narrow strip of beach between the mean high water and mean low water marks defined by its linearity.
-) The River Ehen (which converges with the River Calder) discharges into the sea at Sellafield within this SCA. Seaward of the River Ehen lies a strip of land known as the Ehen Spit upon which sits a dune system reaching 10 m in height.
-) **A number of manmade modifications are apparent including the Sellafield Marine Pipeline. The proximity of the Sellafield Site dominates some but not all inland views; screening is often provided by the foreground dunes.**
-) **Looking westwards, extensive long-distance sea views to an uncluttered, never-ending horizon creates a strong sense of openness and continuity.**
-) SCA covered by the Cumbria Coast Marine Conservation Zone.

*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national (National Park/Heritage Coast) or local (Landscapes of County Importance) landscape designations within this SCA.	Low
Condition/Quality	Condition is poor with a moderate to low degree of litter along the top of the Ehen Spit increasing to high levels of sea and windblown debris along the beach with considerable scope for enhancement.	Low
Scenic Quality	Scenic quality is generally low with the Sellafield Site a dominant component of inland views. Seaward views are out to a generally featureless horizon with the Isle of Man only discernible in optimum viewing conditions.	Low
Rarity	Some landscape elements such as the Ehen spit are distinctive/uncommon features but in general this SCA does not represent a rare seascape.	Low
Conservation Interests	There are some nature conservation features associated with the Cumbria Coast MCZ.	Medium
Recreation Value	This is unlikely to be a stretch of beach which recreational users value highly given its proximity to Sellafield, high levels of surveillance and limited public car parking opportunities. The Whitehaven to Silecroft stretch of the England Coast Path was approved by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in September 2015 with new access rights along the route expected by late 2016/early 2017.	Low
Perceptual Aspects	The proximity of this SCA to the large-scale feature of Sellafield means that levels of tranquillity and remoteness are low.	Low

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Associations	There are no known historic or cultural associations within this SCA.	Low
Overall Value	All of the criterial (with the exception of nature conservation interest) indicate Low value overall.	Low
Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)		Susceptibility
Physical Characteristics: The large-scale and open nature of the SCA on its seaward side and the nearby presence of similar large-scale development which already forms part of the baseline, indicates a seascape that may have some capacity to accommodate development.		Low
Visual Characteristics: Views are primarily focused either seaward or along the coastline to the north and south. Inland views tend to be dominated by the close proximity of Sellafield. Reference to the light pollution map for the UK indicates generally moderate to high levels of light intrusion a result of the Sellafield Site.		Very Low
Perceptual Characteristics: Reference to CPREs tranquillity mapping indicates moderately high levels of tranquillity although in reality, field observations note that this is very much reduced by the close proximity of the Sellafield Site together with the periodic audible and visual presence of trains along the railway line.		Low
Overall Susceptibility	The criteria indicate an overall Low susceptibility to the Proposed Development with the visual characteristics indicating very low susceptibility.	Low
Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility
		Very High High Medium Low Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High Very High High High Medium
	High	Very High High High Medium Low
	Medium	High High Medium Low Low
	Low	High Medium Low Low Very Low
	Very Low	Medium Low Low Very Low Very Low

Seascape Character Area: 2e Seascale Beach

Viewpoint Numbers within the SCA: None

Direct seascape effects: None

Indirect seascape effects: Moorside Site

Key Characteristics (as defined by the Seascape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015])

-) Short stretch of coast characterised by the low dunes of Seascale Banks/railway embankment fronted by a shingle upper beach and sandy lower beach.
-) Along the southern section of the town, till cliffs are exposed and here the foreshore is characterised by Whitriggs Scar.
-) The small seaside resort of Seascale fronts the landward side of the beach, with seafront buildings limiting views further inland.
-) **Looking westwards, extensive long-distance sea views to an uncluttered, never-ending horizon creates a strong sense of openness and continuity.**
-) SCA covered by the Cumbria Coast Marine Conservation Zone.

*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national (National Park/Heritage Coast) or local (Landscapes of County Importance) landscape designations within this SCA.	Medium
Condition/Quality	Landscape features are generally in good condition.	Medium
Scenic Quality	The SCA has moderate aesthetic appeal. There are a number of detractors including the railway line which follows the eastern boundary of the SCA. Inland views are typically foreshortened by the seafront buildings within Seascale whilst seaward views are out to a generally featureless horizon with the Isle of Man only discernible in optimum viewing conditions. Long distance views are available along the coastline to the south whilst in those to the north, buildings and stacks within the Sellafield Site are partially discernible.	Medium
Rarity	This SCA contains some distinctive features such as the soft cliffs but overall is representative of a typical seaside resort, replicated elsewhere along the Cumbrian Coast.	Medium
Conservation Interests	There are some nature conservation features associated with the Cumbria Coast MCZ. The southern end of the SCA is covered by the Drigg Coast SSSI and SAC.	High
Recreation Value	The beach at Seascale is popular with holiday makers and readily accessible from the nearby public car park. The Whitehaven to Silecroft stretch of the England Coast Path was approved by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in September 2015 with new access rights along the route expected by late 2016/early 2017.	High

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value				
Perceptual Aspects	The popularity of this beach (particularly during the summer months), proximity to the village of Seascale and the periodic audible and visual presence of trains along the railway line reduces levels of remoteness and tranquillity	Medium				
Associations	There are no known cultural or historic associations.	Low				
Overall Value	The majority of the criteria indicate a Medium overall value with high value noted in respect of conservation and recreational interests.	Medium				
Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)		Susceptibility				
Physical Characteristics: There would be no physical changes to this SCA as a result of development within the Moorside Site.		N/A				
Visual Characteristics: Views are primarily focused either seaward or northwest/southeast along the coastline and are substantially enclosed and foreshortened inland by natural features or man-made structures. Sellafield is partially visible with the larger buildings and stacks moderately prominent visual components. Reference to the light pollution map for the UK indicates generally moderate levels of light intrusion as a result of the influence of the Sellafield Site and neighbouring town of Seascale.		Low				
Perceptual Characteristics: This is a large-scale seascape which CPRE's tranquillity mapping indicates as having moderately high levels of tranquillity. In reality, the seasonally high numbers of visitors and the periodic audible and visual presence of trains along the railway line reduces both tranquillity and any feeling of remoteness. The SCA displays some examples of visual intrusion from Sellafield.		Medium				
Overall Susceptibility	The criteria indicate a Low to Medium susceptibility to the Proposed Development and an overall assessment of Medium susceptibility has been concluded.	Medium				
Susceptibility						
Overall Sensitivity		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

Seascape Character Area: 3 Drigg Dunes

Viewpoint Numbers within the SCA: 12

Direct seascape effects: None

Indirect seascape effects: Moorside Site

Key Characteristics (as defined by the Seascape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015])

-) SCA characterised by a dune system which sits upon an extensive sand -shingle spit which protrudes into the estuary of the Rivers Esk, Mite and Irt. Inland limit of the dune system is marked by the River Irt and its associated intertidal mudflats and saltmarsh.
-) Dunes are fronted by a mainly sandy beach with a thin veneer of shingle.
-) Vast, expansive seascape to the west which influences the aural experience.
-) **Views are variable ranging from highly contained and enclosed views from locations low down within the dune system to open expansive views along the coastline, out to sea and inland to the high fells of the Lake District from the tops of individual dunes.**
-) **Human influence is limited and restricted to intermittent outward views of settlement, farmsteads, pylons located within adjacent areas beyond the boundaries of the SCA. The Sellafield Site is a recognisable feature in views to the north.**
-) Access by road is limited within the SCA and restricted to a single narrow lane which connects the area to the B5344 and A595. No public rights of way are present and access is served by open access land, the Drigg Dunes and Gullery Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and sandy beach.
-) **The area has a strong sense of remoteness and seclusion with a perception of naturalness of the coast. The lack of noise (with the exception of the sea and birdsong) and human influence leads to a strong sense of tranquillity.**
-) Highly valued in terms of nature conservation with the SCA covered by the Drigg Coast SSSI and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The intertidal land lies within the Cumbria Coast Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) and the Drigg Dunes and Gullery LNR also falls within the SCA.
-) The southern half of this SCA lies within the LDNP.

*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	This SCA encompasses part of the LDNP and its immediate setting with the SCA extending beyond the boundary of the LDNP.	Very High
Condition/Quality	Landscape features are intact and in good condition.	High
Scenic Quality	Scenic quality is generally high with long distance views available along the coast to St Bees Head in the north from the top of dunes and out to a generally featureless seaward horizon (with the Isle of Man only discernible in optimum viewing conditions). Views inland are set against a backdrop of distant fells and summits within the Lake District National Park. Visual detractors are limited but include the Sellafield Site as a moderately prominent visual component in northerly views.	High
Rarity	Pockets of coastal dunes are present around the coast of Cumbria and therefore whilst the dune system is distinctive, it is replicated elsewhere on a county level.	Medium
Conservation Interests	Highly valued in terms of nature conservation with the SCA covered by the Drigg Coast SSSI and SAC. The intertidal land lies within the Cumbria Coast MCZ and the Drigg Dunes and Gullery LNR also falls within the SCA.	Very High

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Recreation Value	Recreational value is assessed as high with public car parking facilitating access to the dune system (classified as open access land) and beach with public access also available across the Drigg Dunes and Gullery Nature Reserve. Hadrian's Coastal Route, a long distance walking route also passes through the SCA. Its route coincides with the Cumbrian Coastal Way although this route is no longer being promoted by Cumbria County Council. The Whitehaven to Silecroft stretch of the England Coast Path was approved by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in September 2015 with new access rights along the route expected by late 2016/early 2017.	High
Perceptual Aspects	The area has a strong sense of remoteness and seclusion with a perception of naturalness of the coast. The absence of noise (with the exception of the sea and birdsong) and human influence leads to a strong sense of tranquillity. This is reflected in CPREs tranquillity mapping which shows high levels but not the highest levels of tranquillity.	High
Associations	There are no known historic or cultural associations within this SCA.	Low
Overall Value	The criteria indicate a combined or overall value of Very High, with Very High value indicated in respect of the LDNP and conservation interests.	Very High
Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)		Susceptibility
Physical Characteristics: There would be no physical changes to this SCA as a result of development within the Moorside Site.		N/A
Visual Characteristics: Views are highly variable within this SCA ranging from highly contained and enclosed views from locations low down within the dune system to open expansive views along the coastline, out to sea and inland to the high fells of the Lake District from the tops of individual dunes with correspondingly strong visual relationships with surrounding landscapes. The Sellafield Site forms once of the few examples of visual intrusion. Light intrusion is generally very limited although low levels occur around the northern part of this SCA as a result of the proximity to Drigg.		High
Perceptual Characteristics: CPRE tranquillity mapping indicates high levels of tranquillity across this SCA and this is supported by field survey observations which demonstrates high levels of remoteness and tranquillity. The qualities of naturalness and of being largely undeveloped are vulnerable to intrusion from large-scale infrastructure in adjacent landscapes.		High
Overall Susceptibility	The characteristics all indicate High overall susceptibility.	High

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

Seascape Character Area: 4 Ravenglass Intertidal

Viewpoint Numbers within the SCA: None

Direct seascape effects: None

Indirect seascape effects: Moorside Site

Key Characteristics (as defined by the Seascape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015])

-) Open, flat expanses of mud flats and saltmarsh with an abrupt and readily apparent boundary between Drigg Dunes to the west and agricultural land to the north and east.
-) A dynamic character influenced by the state of the tide: large parts of the area are at times under water, at others exposed to reveal expanses of fine sands and mudflats dissected by the channels of the Rivers Irt, Mite and Esk.
-) **Large scale landscape with open skies and a sense of space.**
-) **Connections with the sea are limited with seaward views foreshortened by the intervening dune system which also diminish the aural experience of the sea. Long distance views are available inland.**
-) The sounds of birds are a notable aural characteristic.
-) **An undeveloped landscape, with the influences of man confined to the occasional presence of the Sellafield Site as a small scale component to the north and the scattered farmsteads and pylons which can be seen within the adjacent farmland and against the backdrop of the distant high fells of the Lake District.**
-) The saltmarshes which fringe the estuary comprise flat, open, green areas of fine grasses and saline tolerant species, which are often grazed by sheep.
-) Recreational interest is concentrated towards Ravenglass, a small historic medieval market centre and port which overlooks the estuary. Moored boats are present in the estuary close to the settlement.
-) Sustrans Cycle Route 72 passes along the boundary of this SCA.
-) The area is of high conservation value with Drigg Coast SSSI and SAC in terms of nature conservation and heritage assets including, Ravenglass Roman Fort SAM and WHS which lie close to the boundaries of the SCA Muncaster Castle Historic Park and Garden lies just beyond the boundaries of the SCA south of Ravenglass.
-) The majority of this SCA lies within the LDNP.

*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	This SCA encompasses part of the Lake District National Park.	Very High
Condition/Quality	Landscape/seascape features within this SCA are generally intact and in good condition.	High
Scenic Quality	This is a dynamic seascape of high aesthetic appeal. The caravan park at Saltcoats and the top of the tallest stacks within the Sellafield Site are examples of the few visual detractors.	High
Rarity	A very small proportion of this SCA contains cultural heritage features (Ravenglass Roman Fort SM and WHS) that a rare in a national context.	Very High
Conservation Interests	This SCA includes part of the Drigg Coast SSSI and SAC and a small proportion of the Drigg Dunes and Gullery Local Nature Reserve.	Very High

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Recreation Value	Recreational interest is focussed on tourist attractions in and around Ravenglass, including Muncaster Castle and the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway just beyond the SCA boundary. Sustrans National Cycle Route 72 follows part of the eastern boundary of this SCA. A small parcel of open access land is present within the SCA and connects to Drigg Dunes.	High
Perceptual Aspects	This is a large-scale seascape with generally high levels of tranquillity indicated by CPRE's tranquillity mapping. In reality tranquillity, together with the feeling of remoteness are reduced by the periodic sound and movement of trains along the adjacent line and intervisibility with Ravenglass. Overall there is a sense of naturalness.	High to Medium
Associations	This SCA and its immediate environs to the north has a high level of historic and cultural associations with evidence suggesting that the Romans made use of the natural safe-harbour formed by the triple confluence of the Rivers Irt, Mite and Esk with a fort being positioned between the protecting banks (and beyond the SCA boundary).	Very High
Overall Value	An overall value of Very High is indicated by the LDNP designation, rarity, conservation interests and cultural heritage interests.	Very High
Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)		Susceptibility
Physical Characteristics: There would be no physical changes to this SCA as a result of development within the Moorside Site.		N/A
Visual Characteristics: Long distance and often scenic views are available inland to the fells and north along the coastal fringes in which the Sellafield Site is already a small-scale industrial component and one of the very few examples of visual intrusion. This SCA has strong visual relationships with surrounding landscapes. Reference to the light pollution map indicates that light intrusion is minimal, with a low levels concentrated around Ravenglass.		High
Perceptual Characteristics: This is a large-scale seascape with large open skies and moderate to high levels of remoteness and tranquillity. It displays only limited examples of visual intrusion and light intrusion is minimal increasing slightly around Ravenglass. The qualities of naturalness and of being largely undeveloped are vulnerable to intrusion from large-scale infrastructure in adjacent landscapes.		High

Overall Susceptibility		The visual and perceptual characteristics of this seascape indicate High susceptibility.				High
Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

Seascape Character Area: 5 St Bees Cliffs and Waters

Viewpoint Numbers within the SCA: Offshore VP 1

Direct seascape effects: None

Indirect seascape effects: Moorside Site

Key Characteristics (as defined by the Seascape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015])

-) The SCA extends ~5 km offshore to include all areas where the cliff faces are a dominant influence both close to and across more distant waters. The scale of the towering cliffs and St. Bees Head as a whole is emphasised by the very small scale of the lighthouse in more distant views.
-) Near vertical red sandstone cliff faces reach heights of 90 m and fronted by a narrow shore platform strewn with rock debris as a result of the erosion of the cliffs.
-) Fleswick Bay separates the north and south headlands and consists of a shingle beach on a wave cut platform. Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk descends to the bay en-route to the North Head.
-) Both headlands are popular amongst experienced climbers for climbing and bouldering on the platform below the cliffs.
-) Highly valued in terms of nature conservation with both St. Bees Head SSSI and Cumbria Coast Marine Conservation Zone located within the SCA. The cliffs just before the lighthouse are an internationally important breeding site for sea birds.
-) The SCA encompasses the offshore area of the defined St. Bees Head Heritage Coast.
-) Rich textural and colourful landscape with red cliffs and green vegetation visible along the shoreline. Erosion of the cliffs is visible suggesting a temperamental marine character.
-) A small proportion of this SCA is classified as a fishery zone with occasional vessels present in the area.

*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	This SCA encompasses St Bees Head Heritage Coast, a defined landscape protected through paragraph 114 of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) and Policy ENV2 (Coastal Management) of the Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028	Very High
Condition/Quality	Not applicable - the sea is not a managed landscape.	N/A
Scenic Quality	This is a seascape of high aesthetic appeal. Visual detractors include the Sellafield Site in long distance views from the water and in views from the southern-most cliff faces.	High
Rarity	The sandstone cliffs are a distinctive seascape feature and rare in a regional context.	High
Conservation Interests	The inland fringes of this SCA contain St Bees Head SSSI whilst the Cumbrian Coast MCZ also covers parts of this area. The cliff faces are an importance part of a RSPB reserve supporting large numbers of breeding birds.	High
Recreation Value	Recreational interest is focussed on climbing the cliff faces and bouldering on the platform below. Some limited recreational interest may also be experienced by pleasure boats using the stretch of water below the cliffs and to access Fleswick Bay. Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk descends from the cliff tops as the only other access to the Bay.	Very High

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value				
Perceptual Aspects	This is an exposed coastal location where the sheer cliff faces offer a sense of exhilaration and wide, open views are available. Levels of tranquillity and remoteness are high.	High				
Associations	The area is recognised as the starting point of Wainwright's Coast to Coast Walk.	High				
Overall Value	The majority of the value criteria indicate high value with very high value indicated in respect of the designation and recreational value. The overall value is assessed as Very High.	Very High				
Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)		Susceptibility				
Physical Characteristics: There would be no physical changes to this SCA as a result of development within the Moorside Site.		N/A				
Visual Characteristics: This is primarily a large-scale seascape possessing a sense of exposure where long distance views along the coastline to the south are a key characteristic. Any large-scale development such as the one proposed is likely to be absorbed into the vast open backdrop and unlikely to over-dominate the wide views available. Reference to the light pollution map for the UK indicates that light intrusion is minimal with the exception of a low level of light intrusion concentrated across the shallow waters directly offshore from St Bees.		Medium				
Perceptual Characteristics: This is a seascape with high levels of remoteness and tranquillity where light intrusion is minimal and there is a strong perception of naturalness.		High				
Overall Susceptibility	The perceptual and visual characteristics indicate a High to Medium susceptibility to the Proposed Development. An overall assessment of High is concluded.	High				
Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

Seascape Character Areas: 6a and 6b Inshore Waters

Viewpoint Numbers within the SCA: None

Direct seascape effects: Moorside Site

Indirect seascape effects: Moorside Site

Key Characteristics (as defined by the Seascape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015])

-) Extends along two sections of coastline (6a and 6b): northern part between Nethertown and the mouth of the River Ehen and the southern part from north of Seascale to the southern edge of the study area
-) Band of shallow waters (typically less than 10 m in depth increasing along the western boundary to 20 m in depth) typically running parallel to the shore and extending to a distance of ~2.5 km from the mean high water mark.
-) **Character influenced by proximity the shoreline, itself backed by eroding glacial soft-cliffs and presence of on-shore settlement, agricultural land and taller vertical features such as pylons.**
-) **On-shore colours, textures and details are all apparent which together with vehicular and rail movements adds interest and diversity along the coast.**
-) Subtle changes are apparent at the southern end where the hummocky dunes at Drigg can be seen against the backdrop of the Lake District fells and the absence of the railway and settlement in inland views lend a more natural feel.
-) **This is a large-scale and open seascape with a featureless seaward horizon. The outline of the Isle of Man is visible in good viewing conditions.**

*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	A very small part of the Lake District National Park extends into this SCA at its southern end between Drigg and Ravenglass. The remainder of the SCA and that part to the north of Sellafield is undesignated.	Very High to Medium
Condition/Quality	Not applicable - the sea is not a managed landscape.	N/A
Scenic Quality	Scenic quality is medium to high with inland views set against a backdrop of the western fells and summits within the Lake District National Park, although there are some visual detractors which are present closer to the shore and some movement. Seaward views are out to a generally featureless horizon with the Isle of Man discernible in good viewing conditions.	High to Medium
Rarity	This SCA is replicated elsewhere along the Cumbrian Coast.	Low
Conservation Interests	A seascape with limited cultural or nature conservation interests.	Low
Recreation Value	Some limited recreational interest may be experienced by pleasure boats using this stretch of water and holiday makers using the shallow waters.	Medium
Perceptual Aspects	The proximity of this SCA to the shore and the associated movement and intervisibility with built form and the railway line reduces the sense of tranquillity and remoteness.	Medium

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value				
Associations	There are no known cultural or historic associations.	Low				
Overall Value	The value criteria range from very high to low with high value indicated for the landscape designation alone with this applying only to a very small area of this SCA. A Medium overall value is concluded taking account of the designations, scenic quality and recreational value.	Medium				
Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)		Susceptibility				
Physical Characteristics: This is a seascape of simple composition.		Medium				
Visual Characteristics: This is a large-scale open seascape where its character is in part derived from its proximity and intervisibility with the shoreline and immediate landscape beyond. Reference to the light pollution map for the UK indicates that there are likely to be some pockets of shallow water covered by low levels of light intrusion extending out from the Sellafield Site, which itself contains high levels of lighting. Elsewhere within the SCA light intrusion would be minimal to none.		Medium				
Perceptual Characteristics: This is a seascape with typically moderate levels of tranquillity and remoteness with moderate levels of visual intrusion from on-shore activities.		Medium				
Overall Susceptibility	All of the characteristics indicate Medium susceptibility to the Proposed Development and an overall assessment of Medium is concluded.	Medium				
Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
Value	Very High	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
	High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	Medium	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Low	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Very Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

Seascape Character Area: 7 Sellafield Waters

Viewpoint Numbers within the SCA: Offshore VP2

Direct seascape effects: None

Indirect seascape effects: Moorside Site

Key Characteristics (as defined by the Seascape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015])

-) This covers the area of open water from the low tide mark to a distance of ~4 km offshore extending outwards from the Sellafield Site.
-) **The Sellafield Site is a dominant/prominent industrial visual element in views inland with infrastructure which rises above the backdrop of the distant fells within the Lake District.**
-) **This is a large-scale and open seascape with a featureless seaward horizon. The outline of the Isle of Man is visible only in optimal viewing conditions.**
-) A small proportion of this SCA is classified as a fishery zone and occasional vessels may trawl the area.

*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national (National Park/Heritage Coast) or local (Landscapes of County Importance) landscape designations within this SCA.	Low
Condition/Quality	Not applicable - the sea is not a managed landscape.	N/A
Scenic Quality	Scenic quality is generally low with the Sellafield Site a dominant/prominent component of inland views with its stacks rising above a backdrop of the distant Lake District fells. Seaward views are out to a generally featureless horizon with the Isle of Man only discernible in optimum viewing conditions.	Low
Rarity	A seascape which is specific to this location close to Sellafield, but not valued for its uniqueness in relation to Sellafield.	Low
Conservation Interests	A seascape with limited cultural or nature conservation interests.	Low
Recreation Value	Some limited recreational interest may be experienced by pleasure boats using this stretch of water.	Low
Perceptual Aspects	The proximity of this SCA to shore and the large-scale industrial on-shore detractive feature which defines this seascape means that levels of tranquillity and remoteness are generally low.	Low
Associations	There are no known historic or cultural associations within this SCA.	Low
Overall Value	All of the applicable criteria indicate an overall Low value.	Low

Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)		Susceptibility				
Physical Characteristics: This is a seascape of simple composition large scale landscape where the Sellafield site is already immediately apparent.		Low				
Visual Characteristics: This is a large-scale open seascape with a consistent degree of visibility. Landmarks have a prominent role from within this SCA. The light pollution map for the UK indicates moderate levels of light intrusion from Sellafield across the shallow waters decreasing to lower levels across the remainder of the SCA.		Very Low				
Perceptual Characteristics: This is a seascape with limited levels of tranquillity and remoteness with high levels of visual intrusion from the Sellafield Site to the point where this infrastructure becomes the defining characteristic.		Low				
Overall Susceptibility		All of the criteria indicate Low to Very Low Susceptibility and a Low overall Susceptibility is concluded.				Low
Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

Seascape Character Area: 8 St Bees to Drigg Mid Waters

Viewpoint Numbers within the SCA: Offshore VP3

Direct seascape effects: Moorside Site

Indirect seascape effects: Moorside Site

Key Characteristics (as defined by the Seascape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015])

-) Narrow band (2-3 km in width) of open water extending from St. Bees Head to Drigg. Inland boundary of this SCA lies ~2.5 km to 5 km offshore from the mean high water mark.
-) **This SCA covers a zone within which readily identifiable on-shore natural and man-made features (such as St. Bees Head and the Sellafield Site) are co-prominent with the backdrop of the distant fells of the Lake District.**
-) **Onshore colours become muted and details more difficult to discern at these distances. Typically on-shore activity along the shore line has limited influence on the character of this SCA.**
-) **This is a large-scale and open seascape with a featureless seaward horizon. The outline of the Isle of Man is visible in moderate and good viewing conditions.**
-) Much of this SCA is classified as a fishery zone and occasional vessels may be present in the area.

*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national (National Park/Heritage Coast) or local (Landscapes of County Importance) landscape designations within this SCA.	Low
Condition/Quality	Not applicable - the sea is not a managed landscape.	N/A
Scenic Quality	Scenic quality is high with inland views set against a backdrop of the western fells and summits within the Lake District National Park. Seaward views are out to a generally featureless horizon, but with the Isle of Man discernible in moderate and good viewing conditions.	High
Rarity	A seascape which is replicated elsewhere along the Cumbrian coast.	Medium
Conservation Interests	A seascape with limited cultural or nature conservation interests.	Low
Recreation Value	Some limited recreational interest may be experienced by pleasure boats using this stretch of water.	Low
Perceptual Aspects	A vast, large-scale and open seascape with high levels of tranquillity and remoteness given its distance to shore.	High
Associations	There are no known historic or cultural associations within this SCA.	Low
Overall Value	The criteria indicate a range of values from high to low value with high value indicated in respect of the scenic and perceptual qualities. The overall value is assessed as Medium.	Medium

Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)		Susceptibility
Physical Characteristics: There would be no physical changes to this SCA as a result of development within the Moorside Site.		N/A
Visual Characteristics: This is a large-scale open seascape with a consistent degree of visibility in which landmarks have only a limited role and share a co-prominence with the distant fells and summits within the Lake District. Light intrusion is likely to be minimal to none.		High
Perceptual Characteristics: This is a seascape with high levels of remoteness and tranquillity, where dark skies are present and there is a lower sense of visual intrusion from large on-shore features such as Sellafield.		High
Overall Susceptibility	The perceptual and visual characteristics all indicate a High susceptibility to the Proposed Development. An overall assessment of High is concluded.	High

Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low

Seascape Character Area: 9 Open Sea

Viewpoint Numbers within the SCA: Offshore VP4, Offshore VP5

Direct seascape effects: None

Indirect seascape effects: Moorside Site

Key Characteristics (as defined by the Seascape Characterisation Study [Amec Foster Wheeler, 2015])

-) This SCA covers open water at depths of 10-50 m at distances in excess of 6 km to 8 km from the mean high water mark.
-) Two wrecks are present within the area; both are fully submerged.
-) The southern part of the SCA falls within the MOD Eskmeals range whilst the remaining area of open water is categorised as a military practice area and therefore may be subject to periodic disturbance.
-) **Inland views are set against a scenic backdrop of the distant fells of the Lake District against which readily identifiable on-shore natural and man-made features (such as St. Bees Head and the Sellafield Site) are subordinate.**
-) Large and featureless seaward horizon. The outline of the Isle of Man is visible in moderate and good viewing conditions.
-) **Aesthetic qualities include a simple, unspoilt and unified marine character with a limited number of visual elements.**
-) **This SCA contains a strong sense of openness, tranquillity and remoteness created by land appearing at a distance with muted and more uniform colours and limited detail apparent.**
-) The majority of this SCA is classified as a fishery zone and occasional vessels may trawl the area.

*Those characteristics which are highlighted in **Bold** may be susceptible to change as a result of development within the Moorside Site

Value Criteria	Commentary	Value
Landscape Designations	There are no national (National Park/Heritage Coast) or local (Landscapes of County Importance) landscape designations within this SCA.	Low
Condition/Quality	Not applicable - the sea is not a managed landscape.	N/A
Scenic Quality	Scenic quality is high with inland views set against a backdrop of the western fells and summits within the Lake District National Park. Seaward views are out to a generally featureless horizon, but with the Isle of Man discernible in moderate and good viewing conditions).	High
Rarity	A seascape which is replicated elsewhere along the Cumbrian coast.	Medium
Conservation Interests	A seascape with limited cultural or nature conservation interests.	Low
Recreation Value	Some limited recreational interest may be experienced by pleasure boats using this stretch of water.	Low
Perceptual Aspects	A vast, large-scale and open seascape with very high levels of tranquillity and remoteness given its distance to shore.	Very High

Value Criteria	Commentary		Value			
Associations	There are no known historic or cultural associations within this SCA.		Low			
Overall Value	The criteria indicate a range of values from very high to low value with very high to high value indicated in respect of the perceptual and scenic qualities respectively. Other criteria are assessed as indicating low value. The overall value is assessed as Medium.		Medium			
Susceptibility Commentary (to development within the Moorside Site)			Susceptibility			
Physical Characteristics: There would be no physical changes to this SCA as a result of development within the Moorside Site.			N/A			
Visual Characteristics: This is a large-scale open and exposed seascape within which landmarks have minimal role. The distant fells provide a scenic backdrop to inland views. Light intrusion is likely to be minimal to none.			High			
Perceptual Characteristics: This is a seascape with high levels of remoteness and tranquillity, where dark skies are present and there is little sense of visual intrusion from large on-shore features such as the Sellafeld Site.			High			
Overall Susceptibility	The perceptual and visual characteristics all indicate a High susceptibility to the Proposed Development. An overall assessment of High is concluded.		High			
Overall Sensitivity		Susceptibility				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Value	Very High	Very High	Very High	High	High	Medium
	High	Very High	High	High	Medium	Low
	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low
	Low	High	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low