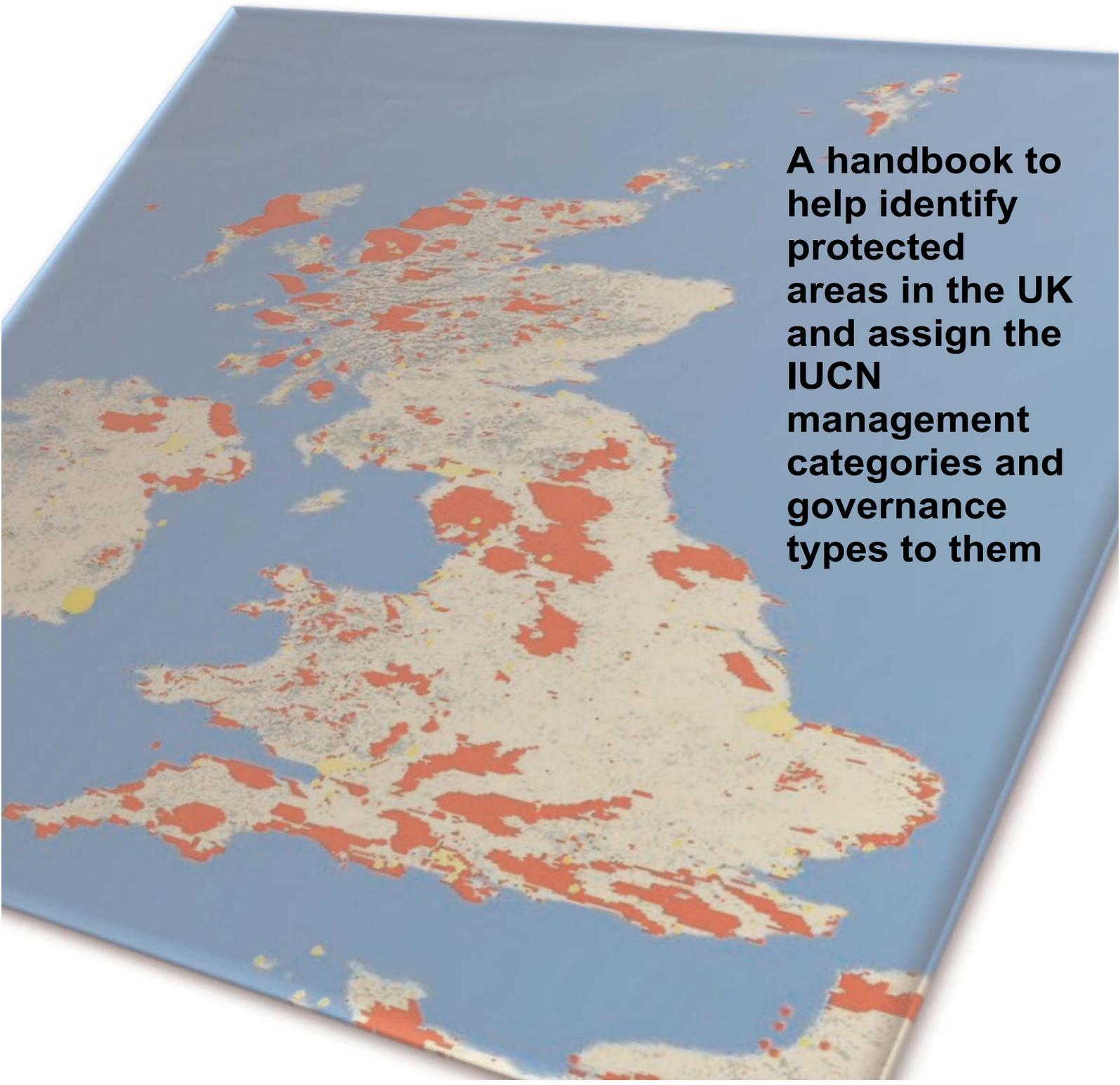


Putting Nature on the Map

IDENTIFYING PROTECTED AREAS IN THE UK



A handbook to help identify protected areas in the UK and assign the IUCN management categories and governance types to them

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IN THE UK**

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and assign the IUCN management categories and governance types to them**

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FOREWORD

There are thousands of places around the world where countries, communities and individuals have come together to protect nature: we call them “protected areas”. Through its World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), IUCN has set global standards for them. The most important way in which this is done is through the publication of international guidelines for protected area management categories and governance types. This guidance was revised in 2008, and since then WCPA has been promoting it in countries in every part of the world.

Applying the new guidelines to a long established national system of protected areas, such as exists in the United Kingdom, is not an easy exercise. But I believe it will be very rewarding, both within the country and by helping the UK to play an even stronger role in conservation at the international level. This is why I was so pleased to be in London two years ago to help launch *Putting Nature on the Map*.

This Handbook marks the completion of the first stage of the work. It takes as its starting point the global guidance developed by WCPA and explains what that means in the national context. The work done in putting the Handbook together confirms that this is indeed a pioneer project and that it has lessons to offer to other countries.

I congratulate the IUCN National Committee for the United Kingdom on developing the Handbook and believe it will provide a strong foundation for the data collection stage. WCPA will be ready to help share the experience that has been accumulated through this project in the UK with other countries embarking on similar initiatives to improve national and international understanding of their protected areas systems.



Nik Lopoukhine,

Chair, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas

February 2012

PREFACE

In 2008, IUCN published revised guidance on protected area management categories (Dudley, 2008)¹, replacing those of 1994 (IUCN, 1994). This includes a proposed process for assignment which should ideally “involve many stakeholders” and might be carried out through a “national task force reviewing data on protected areas ... a national committee for IUCN might be an obvious vehicle for this” (*page 40: all references in bold italics are to the 2008 Guidelines*).

There is a clear need to update the data on protected areas in the UK, which is made available to the international community on the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). So, in December 2009, the Chair of IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) requested the IUCN National Committee for the UK (IUCN NCUK) to apply the revised guidelines in the UK.

In response, IUCN NCUK convened a meeting in February 2010 of many of the key nature and landscape conservation organisations in the UK². This meeting examined how the IUCN categories could provide greater clarity about protected areas in the UK, and could be used for better reporting and communication. IUCN NCUK offered to take the lead in developing an assignment project, using the 2008 guidelines. The aim was to identify the full range of the UK’s protected areas according to the IUCN definition and assign to them a management category and governance type. The meeting welcomed this proposal and gave it unanimous support. Wider support was confirmed in April 2010 at an IUCN UK Conference in Edinburgh. The IUCN NCUK set up project Steering and Advisory Groups and commissioned Middlemarch Environmental³ to coordinate the initial stages of the project: entitled *Putting Nature on the Map*. This has been done through the preparation of this Handbook, which provides the guidance needed to help apply the categories in the UK. A draft text was prepared by Middlemarch, drawing on a twelve month period of extensive consultation involving the project’s Steering and Advisory Groups and two workshops.

The Handbook is in two parts:

- Part I: An introduction to the IUCN protected areas management categories system and its application in the UK.
- Part II: The recommended approach to assigning categories and governance types in the UK.

¹ The categories guidelines can be downloaded at:

http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa_puball/wcpa_pubsubject/wcpa_categoriespub/?1662/Guidelines-for-applying-protected-area-management-categories

² Bristol Zoo; Campaign for National Parks; Cotswolds ANOB; Countryside Council for Wales; English National Park Authorities Association; EUROPARC AI; Exmoor National Park; ICOMOS UK; International Centre for Protected Landscapes; John Muir Trust; National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; National Trust Scotland; Natural England; RSPB; Scottish Council for National Parks; Scottish Natural Heritage; The Wildlife Trusts; UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC); Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust; and WWF UK.

³ <http://www.middlemarch-environmental.com/>

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Middlemarch Environmental Ltd was commissioned to co-ordinate and deliver the first phase of the *Putting Nature on the Map* project on behalf of IUCN NCUK. Funding was generously provided by the Sibthorp Trust, Natural England and the John Muir Trust, and in-kind support came from the Countryside Council for Wales. The project was undertaken in close collaboration with the Cambridge-based United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).

The production of this Handbook would not have been achieved without much discussion and support from a number of sources, in particular:

1. The *Putting Nature on the Map* Steering Group:

Charles Besançon (UNEP-WCMC)
Stuart Brooks (John Muir Trust)
Roger Crofts (Sibthorp Trust)
Keith Davies (CCW)
Nigel Dudley (Equilibrium Research)
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Stewart Pritchard (SNH)
Sue Stolton (Equilibrium Research)

2. The project's Advisory Group and delegates of the workshops held in April and May 2011:

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
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| Roger Clarke | Stig Johansson | Peter Ogden | Andy Wilson |
| Liz Colmer | Andy John | Debbie Pain | Mark Wright |
| Kathryn Cook | John Kilner | Richard Partington | |
| Colleen Corrigan | Miles King | Gordon Patterson | |
| Roger Crofts | Keith Kirby | Adrian Phillips | |

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO THE IUCN PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES SYSTEM AND ITS APPLICATION IN THE UK

1. THE PUTTING NATURE ON THE MAP PROJECT

Many areas of land and sea in the UK are managed in order to protect nature and conserve landscapes and seascapes. However, there is no comprehensive, up-to-date, central record of all those sites whose management meets international protected area standards. Much is known about many of them individually, but it is not easy to establish how much land and sea is managed primarily for nature and landscape, nor the priorities for management. *Putting Nature on the Map* aims to fill these gaps in knowledge.

The aim of the project is to help identify all the places in the UK that meet the IUCN definition of a protected area and to help assign one of the six IUCN protected area management categories and one of the four protected area governance types to them.

The project involves two main steps:

1. Developing guidance on the use of the IUCN definition of a protected area and the assignment of the associated management categories and governance types (through this Handbook).
2. Collecting and collating data on the UK's protected areas drawn from:
 - Statutory agencies (Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Countryside Council for Wales and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency on behalf of the Department of Environment).
 - Key voluntary sector land owners, (including the National Trust, the National Trust for Scotland, RSPB, The Wildlife Trusts, Woodland Trust and the John Muir Trust).
 - Private sector and community land owners.

The process described in this Handbook fulfils step 1 of the project. Step 2 will be ongoing as protected areas data will need to be continually collected and reviewed in the years ahead.

1.1 BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

Although the work was initiated at the request of IUCN, its benefits will be far reaching. The data obtained through the *Putting Nature on the Map* project will assist in:

- defining what internationally recognised protected areas exist in the UK, and where they are, thus helping to meet the UK's international commitments (for example the Aichi targets set at the Nagoya session of the Convention on Biological Diversity [CBD], which called on countries to establish protected areas to cover in total at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10% of marine and coastal areas by 2020; and obligations set by the EU);

- meeting the UK Government's and devolved administrations' national nature conservation priorities; for example, within England, by identifying the key building blocks of Nature Improvement Areas, providing data for the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy for England (August 2011) and helping to build on the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (June 2011);
- raising the public profile of protected areas, especially by giving free public access to maps and interactive computer technology through the WDPA (see Section 1.2 below);
- providing better information for land use strategies, especially in relation to climate change;
- helping a wide range of stakeholders, from protected area managers to local people, to make better informed decisions about the designation and management of protected areas;
- showing a range of places that can attract tourists seeking contact with nature and landscape;
- identifying what needs to be done to bring the conservation and management of certain areas up to international protected area standards; and
- showcasing UK conservation experience abroad as a marketable service.

So this project is not just about data collection, but should form part of a wider strategy to reinforce the physical and conceptual, national and international connections between different kinds of protected areas, and between protected areas and the wider environment. It should also provide a basis for advocating policies for the improved management of nature and landscape within and outside protected areas.

1.2 PROTECTED AREAS DATA IN THE UK: CURRENT SITUATION

Within the UK⁴ there are many sites, both terrestrial and marine, that are managed for their nature and/or landscape conservation value. These represent the “universe” of sites that need to be examined to determine those which meet the IUCN definition of a protected area and can therefore be assigned a management category and governance type. Many such sites are listed in Table 1.1, although this is not an exhaustive list. They include places that are managed as nature reserves or under other forms of protection by voluntary conservation organisations (including Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, the National Trust, the National Trust for Scotland, the Woodland Trust, the John Muir Trust and the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust), as well as numerous local groups and thousands of individual or institutional private landowners who manage SSSIs etc. It should be noted that not all of the designation types listed in Table 1 will meet the IUCN definition of a protected area after detailed scrutiny.

⁴ While this Handbook does not draw on examples from the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the UK Overseas Territories, the approach detailed here is relevant to their protected areas.

Table 1.1 UK protected areas that may meet the IUCN definition of a protected area

| Type of site | Geographical occurrence | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------|----------|-------|------------------|
| | UK | England | Scotland | Wales | Northern Ireland |
| International Sites (Global and EU) | | | | | |
| Biosphere Reserves | ✓ | | | | |
| Ramsar (wetland) sites | ✓ | | | | |
| Special Area of Conservation (SAC) | ✓ | | | | |
| Special Protection Area (SPA) | ✓ | | | | |
| World Heritage sites (Natural and Mixed) | ✓ | | | | |
| National or Country Level Sites | | | | | |
| Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) | | | | | ✓ |
| Heritage Coast (HC) | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Local Nature Reserve (LNR) | ✓ | | | | |
| Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) | ✓ | | | | |
| Marine Consultation Area (MCA) | ✓ | | | | |
| Marine Nature Reserve (MNR) | ✓ | | | | |
| National Nature Reserve (NNR) | ✓ | | | | |
| National Park (NP) | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| National Scenic Areas (NSA) | | | ✓ | | |
| Regional Park (RP) | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Local Sites (not usually officially designated) | | | | | |
| Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS) | | | ✓ | | |
| Local Wildlife Site, Ecosite, Site of Interest to Nature Conservation (SINC) etc. | ✓ | | | | |
| Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS) | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Sites of Local Nature Conservation Interest (SLNCI) | | | | | ✓ |
| NGOs, Private sites etc with nature conservation as the main objective | | | | | |
| John Muir Trust | | | ✓ | | |
| National Trust | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| National Trust for Scotland | | | ✓ | | |
| Wildlife organisations, e.g. RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, Butterfly Conservation etc | ✓ | | | | |
| Woodland Trust | ✓ | | | | |
| Land owned by other NGOs for nature conservation | ✓ | | | | |

Existing data about protected areas within the UK is held by UNEP-WCMC in the WDPA⁵. The data base is "...the most comprehensive global spatial dataset on terrestrial and marine protected areas. It contains crucial information on protected areas from national governments, non-governmental organisations, academic institutions, international biodiversity convention secretariats and many others. It is used for ecological gap analysis and environmental impact analysis and is increasingly used for private sector decision-making" (UNEP-WCMC, 2011). The WDPA is a joint project between UNEP and IUCN, hosted and maintained at UNEP-WCMC in Cambridge, UK. Using the IUCN 1994 guidelines, nearly 8,900 sites in the UK have already been assigned to the IUCN management categories and entered on the database⁶. The data currently held in the WDPA is summarised in Appendix 1.

⁵ Data held in the WDPA is accessible at www.protectedplanet.net

⁶ see http://www.protectedplanet.net/search?country_id=231&q=united+kingdom

However, data currently available on the WDPA for the UK is deficient in several ways:

- it has not been collected using the IUCN 2008 guidelines;
- it is not comprehensive (e.g. many sites owned and managed by conservation NGOs are missing);
- it includes some areas that might not meet the current definition of a protected area; and
- sites are classified generically (i.e. all SSSIs are considered to be category IV) without regard to the different purposes for which sites are managed.

The current project will be used to improve the database and strengthen its reliability as a source of information.

1.3 PROTECTED AREAS DATA FLOW IN THE UK

At present, data on UK protected areas is collected by the country agencies and submitted to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), as the focal point for the European Environment Agency (EEA). JNCC transmits the data to the EEA for inclusion in the European Common Database on Designated Areas (ECDDA), from where it goes to UNEP-WCMC for inclusion in the WDPA. The data gathered by JNCC covers 'official' protected areas only, i.e. those that are designated under UK legislation and Natura 2000 sites. It excludes other sites (such as Wildlife Trust reserves that are not SSSIs) and internationally designated protected areas, (notably those designated under the World Heritage and Ramsar Conventions and UNESCO Biosphere Reserves).

JNCC will remain the national focal point for the inclusion of official UK data in the WDPA. However, the project aims to:

- provide more accurate, and verifiable protected area data in accordance with IUCN standards; and
- extend the types of sites on the WDPA to include all those meeting IUCN standards, even if they are not designated under legislation.

This requires some adjustments to current practice:

- country agency data providers should consider following the advice in this Handbook in deciding how to categorise their protected areas, and recording their data on the data forms in Appendix 3;
- other data providers should likewise aim to familiarise themselves with the guidance in the Handbook before collecting data on their protected areas, and recording their data on the data forms in Appendix 3;
- based on the advice in this Handbook, data providers are also encouraged to prepare Statements of Compliance (see Box 3.3 below) for each type of designated area/site (a proposal that came from the project workshops);

- Finally, to ensure that *all* data that is collected on protected areas data is accurate, it is proposed to set up an independent panel of UK-based WCPA members who are familiar with the IUCN management categories system and its application, to assess the material collected, including the Statements of Compliance. The proposal has been developed under the aegis of IUCN NCUK and is seen as a way to meet IUCN's requirement for reliable, accurate data. For a fuller explanation of how the panel would work, see box below.

Proposed WCPA UK Categories Assessment Panel

How will the panel be constituted?

The members of the WCPA UK Categories Assessment Panel would be formally appointed by the WCPA Regional Vice-Chair for Europe and the Head of the IUCN Protected Areas Programme on the nomination of the WCPA UK Focal Point in close consultation with other members of IUCN NCUK, including statutory bodies. The membership of the panel will be small, and drawn from those UK WCPA members who are very familiar with the IUCN category system and its application.

How will the panel work?

The panel will review the statements of compliance, make any changes considered necessary and circulate the results to all participating organisations. A key part of this step is to establish whether a site or area – or type of site or area – is to be considered a protected area under the IUCN definition.

All participating organisations will then be invited to submit their draft assignment of protected areas, IUCN Categories and governance types to the panel. The panel will review these draft assignments.

Three outcomes are possible:

1 If content, data on official protected areas will be passed to JNCC for suggested onward transmission via the ECDDA to WDPA. For other types of protected area, see diagram below.

2: If there is disagreement on the assignment, a member of the Assessment Panel will discuss this with the providing organisation. If there is then agreement, the results will be passed to JNCC etc.

3: If there is no agreement, the case will be sent to the WCPA Focal Point for the UK for advice and onwards submission to JNCC etc.

The panel will be *advisory*: final decisions on protected areas rest with JNCC as a representative of the UK government

Once the verification process is complete, with protected areas identified and categorised using the guidance in this Handbook (and recorded on the data forms in Appendix 3), the data will be transmitted to the WDPA by one of three routes:

1. As now, data on officially designated national protected areas and Natura 2000 sites will go to JNCC, thence to EEA (for inclusion in the ECDDA), and finally to UNEP-WCMC (for inclusion in the WDPA).
2. As now, data on internationally designated protected areas will go to the respective global secretariats, and thence to UNEP-WCMC.
3. As an innovation, data collected by non-governmental bodies and community groups on their protected areas should go direct to UNEP-WCMC for inclusion in the “Community” version of the WDPA. This is being developed alongside the official “Authority” version of the WDPA and will help greatly to extend the scope of the WDPA, so that it better reflects the full range of community-based and other approaches to setting up and managing protected areas. (It is hoped that the need for this separate route for non-governmental and other data will be only temporary and that all protected areas data will soon be submitted to the WDPA via JNCC and the EEA).

The effect of these changes is summarised in Figure 1.1 below

Protected areas data flow

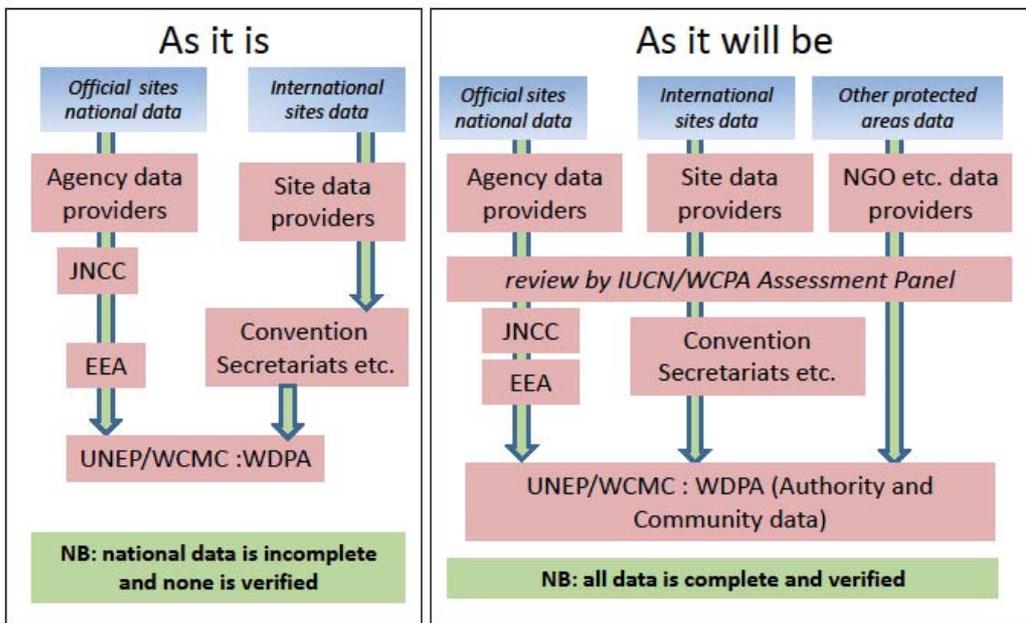


Figure 1.1: How the project will impact on protected areas data flow

Annex 2 provides links to sources of further advice.

1.4 THE *PUTTING NATURE ON THE MAP* UK HANDBOOK

1.4.1 The purpose of the UK Handbook

This Handbook aims to assist the reader in interpreting IUCN’s international guidelines on the definition of a protected area and its management categories and governance types in the UK context, and then sets out a process through which the guidelines can be applied consistently and with confidence.

The Handbook has been presented in such a way that, should a site not currently meet the criteria for recognition as a ‘protected area’ in IUCN terms, it will be possible to see where it ‘fails’ and how, with appropriate changes of management for example, the area might eventually be recognised as such.

1.4.2 Key definitions

For clarity, the words ‘protected area’ are used throughout to refer to sites that meet the IUCN criteria for protected areas. The term ‘site’ is used more generally to describe any geographical area.

‘Nature’ and ‘nature conservation’: the IUCN guidelines (**page 9**) explain that ‘nature’ *always* refers to biodiversity, at genetic, species and ecosystem levels, and often also refers to geodiversity, landform and broader natural values. It applies in both terrestrial and aquatic situations and at a range of scales, i.e. from a small site up to an entire landscape or seascape. Nature conservation is a dynamic process which needs to allow for change in response to global phenomena, such as climate change.

Further definitions are provided throughout the Handbook where clarification is required.

1.4.3 Recommended approach for defining and categorising UK protected areas

The Handbook recommends:

1. a series of sequential steps to establish if an area can be considered as a protected area in IUCN terms, and
2. an approach (both systematic and descriptive) that can be used to help assign a protected area to its management category and governance type.

This sequence is shown in flow-chart form in Figure 1.2 with further detailed explanations later.

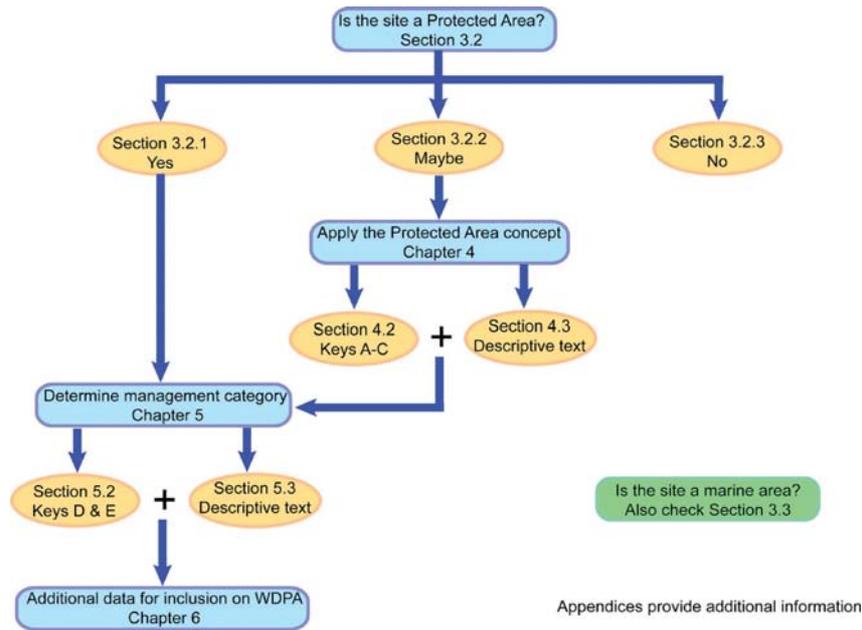


Fig. 1.2: Flow Chart for Decision Making

Chapter 2 introduces the main features of the guidance from IUCN, while Chapter 3 discusses geographically-based conservation protection in the UK. Part II of the Handbook details a methodology by which potential protected areas can be identified and then classified into the IUCN protected area management categories and governance types.

2. IUCN GUIDANCE ABOUT PROTECTED AREAS

2.1 THE IUCN GUIDELINES ON PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES

IUCN sets international standards through its protected areas management categories system. It is a global framework, recognised by the CBD, for categorising the variety of protected area types around the world. The purposes of the system are to:

- facilitate the planning and management of protected areas;
- improve information about their management; and
- help regulate activities in protected areas.

The IUCN’s category system has evolved over time: it originated in 1978, and was revised in 1994 and 2008. The 2008 guidelines provide the foundations for this Handbook and they are referenced or quoted throughout the text. The reader is referred to the IUCN 2008 guidelines for more detailed information on the categories system, including its history and the international status that it now has as a global standard.

2.2 WHAT IS A PROTECTED AREA?

At the core of the system is the definition of a “protected area”. Only places that meet this definition can be considered as protected areas in IUCN terms, assigned a management category and a governance type, and be recorded on the WDPA.

The IUCN definition of a protected area is:

“A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values” (page 8).

A detailed explanation of this definition, word by word, is provided in the IUCN guidelines, which also note that the above definition should be applied in the context of the following principles:

- For IUCN, only those areas where the main objective is conserving nature can be considered protected areas; this can include many areas with other goals as well, at the same level, but in the case of conflict, nature conservation will be the priority;*
- Protected areas must prevent, or eliminate where necessary, any exploitation or management practice that will be harmful to the objectives of designation;*
- The choice of category should be based on the primary objective(s) stated for each protected area;*
- The system is not intended to be hierarchical;*
- All categories make a contribution to conservation but objectives must be chosen with respect to the particular situation; not all categories are equally useful in every situation;*
- Any category can exist under any governance type and vice versa;*
- A diversity of management approaches is desirable and should be encouraged, as it reflects the many ways in which communities around the world have expressed the universal value of the protected area concept;*
- The category should be changed if assessment shows that the stated, long-term management objectives do not match those of the category assigned;*
- However, the category is not a reflection of management effectiveness;*
- Protected areas should usually aim to maintain or, ideally, increase the degree of naturalness of the ecosystem being protected;*
- The definition and categories of protected areas should not be used as an excuse for dispossessing people of their land (page 10).*

The guidelines also advise that “*the categories should be applied in the context of national or other protected area systems and as part of the ecosystem approach*” (page 10).

2.3 MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES AND GOVERNANCE TYPES

IUCN identifies six management categories of protected areas and four governance types as follows:

Management Categories

1. Category Ia: Strict nature reserve; and category Ib: Wilderness area
2. Category II: National park
3. Category III: Natural monument or feature
4. Category IV: Habitats/species management area
5. Category V: Protected landscape/seascape
6. Category VI: Protected Area with sustainable use of natural resources

The names of the categories used by IUCN do not necessarily reflect the names used at national or sub-national levels. For example, category II is called “National Park” by IUCN, but the UK National Parks are unlikely to fall within this category. To avoid confusion, therefore, reference to the IUCN category names has been omitted from the rest of this report. For a fuller description, see the Guidelines (**pages 13-24**).

Governance Types

1. Governance by government
2. Shared governance
3. Private governance
4. Governance by indigenous peoples and local communities.

For a fuller description, see the Guidelines (**pages 26-32**).

2.4 APPLYING THE PROTECTED AREA CATEGORIES: GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The IUCN guidelines offer detailed advice on how to apply the categories in practice and should always be consulted where questions arise. However, the main points are these:

- The category should be based on the primary management objectives of the protected area (**pages 34-5**).
- The primary management objective must be applicable to at least 75% of the protected area, (and the use made of the remaining area must be compatible with the primary purpose of conservation) (**pages 34-5**).
- There are no hard and fast rules as to size (**page 36**).
- Different zones in larger protected areas can have their own categories, but only if the zones are mapped, described and fixed in law (**pages 36-37**).
- Different protected areas making up trans-boundary protected areas may have different categories (**pages 36-37**).
- The category is not affected by ownership or governance (**page 37**).
- Buffer zones, biological corridors etc. may or may not also be protected areas depending on the form of management and their recognition at the national level (**page 37**).

- Distinct protected areas nested within larger protected areas can have their own category, in which case each should be separately identified (**pages 36-37**).

This last point needs a little further explanation. Within a UK context, for example, a nested relationship between protected areas could be as shown in Figure 2.1.

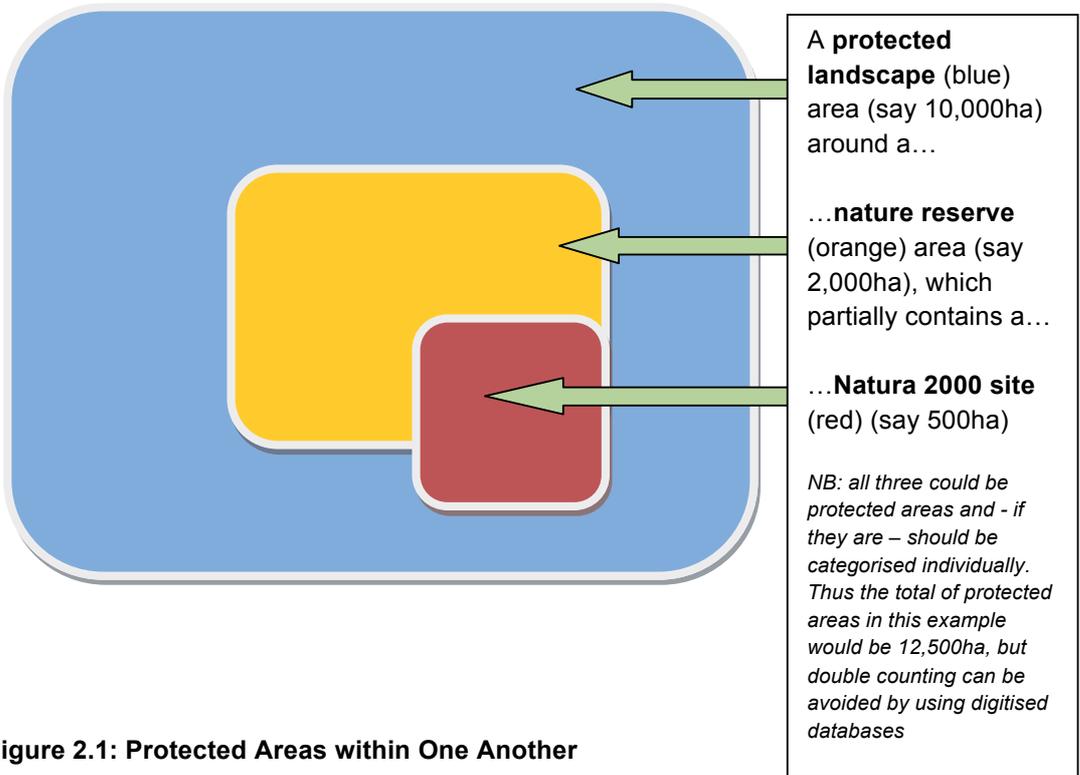


Figure 2.1: Protected Areas within One Another

3. UK SPECIFIC GUIDANCE ABOUT PROTECTED AREAS

3.1 PROTECTED AREAS IN THE UK

The UK comprises four countries (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), as well as the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies which are not covered by the Handbook.

Each country operates under a devolved administration, and so different legislation may apply to protected areas depending on their geographic location. However, there are also situations (e.g. EU and other international obligations) which apply to the UK as a whole. So, as Table 1.1 shows, some sites (e.g. international sites) occur throughout the UK, whilst others are specific to certain countries. Also certain types (e.g. NPs, AONBs and LNRs) exist in different parts of the UK under different legislation with different purposes, powers and governance arrangements. In Northern Ireland, some AONBs exist under legislation of 1965; others under that of 1985. Furthermore, arrangements for designation differ between countries (see Table 3.1).

Table 3.1 Arrangements for national protected area designation in each country

| Country | Designating Agency/Ministries | Role |
|---|--|---|
| England | Natural England | Power to designate sites such as AONB and SSSI etc |
| Northern Ireland | Northern Ireland Environment Agency on behalf of the Department of the Environment | Power to designate ASSI etc |
| Scotland | Scottish Natural Heritage | Power to designate SSSI, NNR, LNR |
| | Scottish Government | Power to designate NSA, MPA and NP, with approval from Scottish Parliament, |
| Wales | Countryside Council for Wales | Power to designate SSSI, NNR, LNR |
| | Welsh Government | Power to designate NP, AONB |
| Note: Devolved administrations have a role in proposing and overseeing the management of European designations | | |

3.2 WHAT IS, WHAT IS NOT, AND WHAT MAY BE A PROTECTED AREA WITHIN THE UK

In the UK, determining whether or not a site is actually a protected area, in the sense recognised by IUCN, will sometimes be more difficult than determining its category. Section 2.2 noted that one of the principles of IUCN protected areas is that *“Protected areas must prevent, or eliminate where necessary, any exploitation or management practice that will be harmful to the objectives of designation”*. However, it is a fact that in the UK (as indeed in many countries) there may exceptionally be circumstances where damage to a protected area is permissible in cases of overriding public interest (for example, the development within a site that is declared essential for the purposes of national security).

Section 1.2 outlined the current situation of protected areas within the UK and Table 1.1 listed UK sites that may meet the IUCN protected area definition. Sites other than statutory and non-statutory designations may also be identified as protected areas, and then categorised, if they meet the criteria.

Following much debate during the workshops undertaken as part of the project, the following advice (Sections 3.2.1 – 3.2.3, and boxes 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3) has been developed to assist conservation agencies and nature conservation NGOs to determine (i) what are *likely* to be, (ii) what *may* be, and (iii) what should *not* be, considered as a protected area in the UK context. Institutions with multiple objectives, like the National Trusts, will need to consider which of their areas fit the IUCN definition of a protected area.

3.2.1 UK sites that ARE likely to meet the IUCN protected areas definition

The following UK designations probably meet the IUCN definition of a protected area through the purposes set for them in legislation or international agreements:

- AONBs (excluding those in Northern Ireland)
- Biosphere Reserves (core areas only; other areas on their merits)
- MNRs
- National Parks in England and Wales
- National Parks in Scotland

- NNRs
- SSSIs and ASSIs
- Other designations (e.g. Ramsar, LNRs) *where they are also SSSIs or ASSIs*

As stated in Section 1.3, the approach for assigning categories advocated by IUCN-WCPA requires all of the above to develop a Statement of Compliance (See Box 3.3). The Statement of Compliance helps establish that the site meets the IUCN definition of a protected area. While some statements may apply to a generic group of sites, there will also be situations where sites will need to be considered on an individual basis.

BOX 3.1: AONBs and National Parks

The following conclusions were arrived at in the course of a workshop on these landscape designations held in Bristol in May 2011. They were subsequently tested and refined in discussion with key agencies and protected area managers.

English and Welsh AONBs and National Parks can probably be considered as a family in terms of meeting the IUCN definition of a protected area, and being categorised as category V. However, separate Statements of Compliance are desirable for each designation. The National Association of AONBs has indicated that it will conduct a review in co-operation with individual AONBs and that compliance may require some changes to management objectives. These Statements of Compliance for AONBs and National Parks should emphasise the commitment to conservation, and partnerships for that purpose, within the areas. However, because the relevant legislation for AONBs in Northern Ireland is different, they cannot be considered as part of the AONB family for this purpose, and will need to be examined separately.

Reviewing management objectives in line with the IUCN management categories provides an opportunity to strengthen and develop policy on nature conservation in AONBs and National Parks and therefore could help to further their importance in contributing to UK biodiversity targets. The IUCN categorisation encourages a closer examination of nature conservation goals within AONBs and National Parks, and development of strategies that can be linked to places beyond their borders, e.g. sub-regional strategies to respond to climate change.

Within the boundaries of both AONBs and National Parks, there may be other protected areas with different management categories (such as SSSIs and nature reserves). Such sites should be identified as separate protected areas only if they each meet the IUCN criteria in their own right. Management zones within National Parks and AONBs should *not* be considered as separate protected areas. Figure 2.1 in Section 2.4 shows such nested examples.

BOX 3.2: SSSIs and ASSIs

The following conclusions were arrived at in the course of a workshop on these nature conservation designations held in Cardiff in March 2011. They were subsequently refined in consultation with NE, SNH and CCW with regards to the treatment of SSSIs.

1. All SSSI/ASSIs are considered to be protected areas. Protected area status and categorisation can only be applied to the entire SSSI/ASSI, i.e. sub-unit boundaries (applicable in England and Wales) cannot be used as these are not legally fixed.
2. All SSSIs/ASSIs will be categorised according to the features of interest that they are designated for (their 'reasons for notification'), rather than any additional features that may be present but not legally or formally recognised.
3. We make the following working assumption for SSSIs in England, Wales and Scotland:
 - a. all SSSIs that are primarily designated for geological or geomorphological features can be categorised as category III.
 - b. all SSSIs that are primarily designated for biological features can be categorised as category IV (but see notes below).
 - c. a process to help categorise sites with a combination of geological/geomorphological and biological features should be developed,

But it is essential that these categorisations are only regarded as generic guidance, as the precise category to which each SSSI will be assigned will depend on the defined management objectives and the longevity of nature conservation aims (which are in part determined by ownership and the degree of legal burden placed on the site irrespective of the owner and remains even though the site may change ownership). In undertaking these specific assessments it is recommended that:

- d. for both geological and biological sites, the process will commence at Question 1 in Key D (Chapter 5).
- e. for mixed geological-biological sites, the 75% rule will be applied – the exact process of application is under discussion.

Although the consensus during the workshop was that ASSIs meet the IUCN protected area definition, further consideration is required to determine the relevant management category.

BOX 3.3: Statements Of Compliance

The proposal to develop Statements of Compliance emerged from the landscape designation workshop and had the support of those present.

A Statement of Compliance is a succinct (2-3 pages) but authoritative justification for a site, or group of sites, to be considered as protected areas according to the IUCN definition. The statement would normally consist of five sections:

1. A critical review of the legislation affecting the area(s) in question, especially on the priority given to nature conservation in the long-term.
2. Identification of the significance for nature conservation of any relevant public policy positions that specifically affect the area, e.g. planning policy or government policy towards nature conservation.
3. An overview of current management objectives affecting the area(s), including those in management plans and what they have to say about prioritising nature conservation.
4. A summary account of examples of current management practice that demonstrate the priority given to nature conservation.
5. A look forward with a summary of the ambition and vision for nature conservation in the area(s).

3.2.2 UK sites that MAY meet the IUCN protected areas definition

Sites that remain less clear cut are AONBs in Northern Ireland, private nature reserves, sites fully in private ownership, community-owned sites (e.g. Community Conserved Areas) and LNRs. It is confusing that the term 'nature reserve' is informal and to a degree subjective. The current situation for private and community nature reserves in the UK can be summarised as follows; unless the sites are separately designated (e.g. as SSSIs) they will qualify as IUCN protected areas only if:

- there is legislation to protect them (although legislation is not an essential prerequisite of being a protected area, its presence strengthens the case),
- there is a central record of such places, and
- there is a guarantee of long-term commitment to nature conservation (we take long-term to mean at least 25 years).

Having established that a private reserve or community site meets the IUCN criteria, the owner's wishes may be significant when considering whether it should then be categorised. Some owners may not want their land entered onto a publicly-accessible international database – and this wish should be respected.

Often the most challenging criteria for private reserves and community sites to meet is that concerning long-term protection and management. If the owner is keen to see the protected area included in the WDPA, there may be ways to meet the requirements of the definition, for instance in making continuation of protection a prerequisite in inheritance. This criterion may alternatively be satisfied by the land being dedicated to nature conservation in the long-term, (for example by being owned by, held under a long-term lease from, or managed under agreement with, a suitably constituted Trust). In short, where the owner is agreeable, private and community reserves that are not designated will need to be considered on an individual basis using the advice in Chapters 4 and 5.

Although gaining some protection through the necessary controlling interests of the local authority and its reserve management, possibly including bye-laws, LNR sites do not have guaranteed long term protection (of course if they are also SSSIs, they will qualify; see Section 3.2.1). However, in some situations LNRs may qualify, provided that long-term security is assured through legal or other effective means. In England an LNR is defined as “*a protected area of land designated by a local authority because of its local special natural interest and, where possible, educational and community value*”; and 'nature reserve' is as defined by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006), i.e. “*land managed solely for a conservation purpose, or land managed not only for a conservation purpose but also for a recreational purpose, if the management of the land for the recreational purpose does not compromise its management for the conservation purpose...Land is managed for a conservation purpose if it is managed for:*

- *providing, under suitable conditions and control, special opportunities for the study of, and research into, matters relating to the fauna and flora of Great Britain and the physical conditions in which they live, and for the study of geological and physiographical features of special interest in the area; or*

- *preserving flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features of special interest in the area or for both these purposes.*

Land is managed for a recreational purpose if it is managed for the purpose of providing opportunities for the enjoyment of nature or for open-air recreation.”

This definition does not refer to long term protection and LNRs may be de-declared to allow development to proceed. So a cautious approach is recommended towards treating LNRs as protected areas according to the IUCN definition. Other types of designation which are not self-evidently protected areas include National Scenic Areas, Heritage Coasts and Regional Parks. All should be examined on their merits in line with the guidance in Chapters 4 and 5, and – if advanced as a protected area - supported with a Statement of Compliance.

3.2.3 Sites that do NOT meet the IUCN protected areas definition

IUCN WCPA considers that the following places within the UK do *not* meet the IUCN definition of a protected area (unless also designated by other legislation, e.g. as an SSSI) and as such should not be categorised under the IUCN management categories:

- Planning designations, such as Green Belt or Areas of Landscape Value. Although these policies often support nature conservation, it is not their main intent, so they will not meet the IUCN definition of a protected area.
- Agri-environmental and rural development instruments, such as Environmentally Sensitive Areas or areas covered by Higher Level Stewardship or Rural Development Contracts-Rural Priorities. Though these schemes bring important benefits to nature and landscape, they are essentially temporary measures to encourage environmentally sustainable farming and land-use.
- Measures to protect the built environment, such as Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Conservation Areas. Again, nature may benefit from such protection, but it is not the prime focus of conservation effort.
- NERC Act/Section 42 Priority habitats. Although such areas may be mapped (e.g. marine sites in Wales) and could be considered as being recognised for nature conservation, there is no legislation in place that protects their long-term nature conservation value. There is also no certainty as to their management for nature conservation, and the protection of associated ecosystems and cultural values.
- Local sites (e.g. EcoSites, Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation and similar) which are not protected by legislation (or other effective means) may, through being listed in Local Plans, be afforded some significance in, for example, planning decisions. But as this does not commit their management to nature conservation and as Local Plans are subject to change, these sites are not considered to meet the IUCN definition of a protected area.
- All National Trust sites that do NOT have inalienable status, and all those that are NOT primarily managed for nature conservation.

3.3 APPLYING THE CATEGORIES TO MARINE AREAS IN THE UK

The categories system is intended to apply to all types of protected areas, whether terrestrial or marine. To increase the accuracy and consistency of assignment and reporting of the IUCN categories, IUCN WCPA is developing supplementary marine guidelines⁷. These supplementary guidelines have been developed through a process of guidance and comment from Marine Protected Areas (MPA) practitioners throughout the world and a final draft has been released for field testing. They can be downloaded from www.protectplanetoocean.org/.

At the core of the supplementary guidelines is advice on what, and what is not, likely to be considered an MPA by IUCN, based on the IUCN definition of a protected area (see Section 2.2) and what activities are likely to be allowed in the different categories.

The categorisation of MPAs adjoining coastal protected areas in the UK should take into consideration, therefore, both the guidance provided in this Handbook and the supplementary marine guidelines referred to here.

⁷ IUCN WCPA (forthcoming). Guidelines for applying the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories to Marine Protected Areas (supplementary to the 2008 Guidelines), IUCN, Gland. Download from: http://iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/marine_our_work/marine_mpas/?8857/PAmangementcategoriesforMPAs

PART II: IDENTIFYING AND CATEGORISING UK PROTECTED AREAS

4. APPLYING THE CONCEPT OF A PROTECTED AREA IN THE UK

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Confirming whether a site meets the IUCN definition is the first and essential part of the process – only if a site meets the definition can it go forward to be classified into one of the six management categories (Chapter 5) and one of the four governance Types (Chapter 6). To recap, the IUCN definition of a protected area is: ***A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values (pages 8-10).***

For many sites in the UK the meeting of this definition is fairly assured (particularly if Statements of Compliance are developed). As discussed in Section 3.2.1, a number UK protected areas will usually be expected to meet the IUCN definition as a result of their purposes, which ideally should be outlined in the Statements of Compliance (see box 3.3). These are:

- AONBs (excluding those in Northern Ireland)
- Biosphere Reserves (core areas only; other areas on their merits)
- MNRs
- National Parks in England and Wales
- National Parks in Scotland
- NNRs
- SSSIs and ASSIs
- Other designations (e.g. Ramsar, LNRs) *where they are also SSSI or ASSI*

Similarly Section 3.2.3 identified a number of sites and protected areas that will not meet the IUCN definition of a protected area (unless any of them are also SSSIs/ASSIs):

- Planning designations
- Agri-environmental and rural development instruments
- Measures to protect the built environment
- NERC Act/Section 42 Priority habitats
- Local sites (not statutorily protected), EcoSites, SINCs etc.
- National Trust sites WITHOUT inalienable status and NOT primarily managed for nature conservation.

There are two further types of site that, in certain situations, can also by-pass the first step (i.e. determining if a site meets the IUCN definition of a protected area):

- Sites owner/managed by a nature conservation NGO (see box 4.1)
- National Trust and National Trust for Scotland sites (see box 4.2)

BOX 4.1: Sites owner/managed by a nature conservation NGO

In order to meet the IUCN protected area definition and fast-track to Chapter 5 – Categorising Protected Areas – the following must be true:

1. The organisation can demonstrate its commitment to nature conservation through an established history, e.g. been in existence for at least 25 years, AND has a mission statement that clearly shows long-term commitment to nature conservation on clearly delineated sites under its ownership
- AND/OR**
2. The management of the site is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund with the inclusion of a clause demonstrating long-term management commitment (i.e. 25 years or more) to nature conservation

If neither of these statements apply, then all keys and descriptions (starting at Section 4.2) must be followed and reviewed to ascertain whether the site is a protected area or not and which management category is most applicable.

BOX 4.2: National Trust and National Trust Scotland sites

In order to meet the IUCN protected area definition and fast-track to Chapter 5 – Categorising Protected Areas – the following must be true:

1. The site has inalienable status
- AND**
2. Is primarily managed for nature conservation

If neither or only one of these statements apply, then all keys and descriptions (starting at Section 4.2) must be followed and reviewed to ascertain whether the site is a protected area or not and which management category is most applicable.

For sites where the situation is less clear, two complementary approaches are suggested.

- The systematic approach (Section 4.2) translates the definition above and the principles listed in Section 2.4 into a series of questions to help determine if the area meets the definition (Key A, Section 4.2.1). The outcome is then validated through questions based on the 'common set of objectives', identified in the IUCN Guidelines, which are likely to be applicable to protected areas (Keys B and C, Section 4.2.2).
- The descriptive approach (Section 4.3) considers the significance of each question posed in Key A and examines them in a UK context explaining key terms.

4.2 SYSTEMATIC APPROACH FOR DETERMINING A PROTECTED AREA

4.2.1 Does the site meet the IUCN definition of a protected area?

The process is summarised in Key A and then each step is discussed within a UK context in Sections 4.3.1 to 4.3.6. Additionally, if the assessment is still not clear, and further explanation of terms is required refer to the 2008 guidelines (*pages 8-10*).

Key A

| | | | |
|---|---|-----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Is the site a clearly defined geographical area? | Yes | Go to 2 |
| | | No | FAIL – Not a protected area |
| 2 | Is it recognised, dedicated and managed to achieve the long-term conservation of nature? NB 'nature' includes all levels of biodiversity as well as geodiversity, landforms and broader natural values (see Appendix 4 for detailed definition) | Yes | Go to 3 |
| | | No | FAIL – Not a protected area |
| 3 | Is the main management objective nature conservation? Other objectives of equal standing may be present but they do not cause conflict, i.e. nature conservation is the priority | Yes | Go to 4 |
| | | No | FAIL – Not a protected area |
| 4 | Does the designation of the site aim to prevent, or eliminate where necessary, any exploitation or management practice that will be harmful to the objectives of designation? | Yes | Go to 5 |
| | | No | FAIL – not a protected area |
| | | No | FAIL – Not a protected area |
| 5 | Is the long-term nature conservation ensured through legal or other effective means? E.g. national or international statutory law/ agreement/convention, traditional rules or NGO policy. | Yes | PASS Go to Key B |
| | | No | FAIL – Not a protected area |

4.2.2. Aims common to all protected areas

The IUCN Guidelines (*page 12*) note that the definition of a protected area implies “a common set of objectives” (whilst the categories subsequently “define differences in management approaches”).

These common objectives are split into two groups in the IUCN Guidelines:

1. Those that protected areas should aim to achieve; and
2. Those that they should aim to achieve where appropriate. The guidelines note that the “*distinction is made because not all protected areas will contain significant geology, ecosystem services, opportunities for local livelihoods etc., so such objectives are not universal, but are appropriate whenever the opportunity occurs.*”

If a site meets the criteria in Key A, it is almost certain that several of the objectives in group 1 are met and probable that some in group 2 will also be met. The objectives from these two groups have been transposed into questions (Key B and Key C) to validate the result in Key A. These objectives are not mandatory but they will help determine if a site can be considered as a protected area in IUCN terms. These keys also have the added advantage that they can provide guidance on determining appropriate management for existing and potential protected areas.

Key B

| | Common Objectives (page 12) | Yes/No |
|--|--|---------------|
| 1 | Does the site conserve the composition, structure, function and evolutionary potential of biodiversity? | |
| 2 | Does the site contribute to regional conservation strategies (as core reserves, buffer zones, corridors, stepping stones for migratory species etc)? | |
| 3 | Does the site maintain diversity of landscape or habitat and of associated species and ecosystems? | |
| 4 | Is the site of sufficient size to ensure the integrity and long-term maintenance of the specified conservation targets? | |
| 5 | Is the site capable of being increased to achieve the integrity and long-term maintenance of the specified conservation targets? | |
| 6 | Does the site maintain the values for which it was assigned in perpetuity? | |
| 7 | Does the site operate under the guidance of a management plan, and a monitoring and evaluation programme that supports adaptive management? | |
| 8 | Does the site possess a clear and equitable governance system? | |
| Number of common objectives met | | |

Key C

| | Optional Additional Criteria (page 12) | Yes/No |
|---|---|---------------|
| 9 | Does the site conserve significant landscape features, geomorphology and geology? | |
| 10 | Does the site provide regulatory ecosystem services, including buffering against the impacts of climate change? | |
| 11 | Does the site conserve nature and scenic areas of national and international significance for cultural, spiritual and scientific purposes? | |
| 12 | Does the site deliver benefits to resident and local communities consistent with the other objectives of management? | |
| 13 | Does the site deliver recreational benefits consistent with the other objectives of management? | |
| 14 | Does the site facilitate low-impact scientific research activities and ecological monitoring related to and consistent with the values of the site? | |
| 15 | Does the site use adaptive management strategies to improve management effectiveness and governance quality over time? | |
| 16 | Does the site help to provide educational opportunities (inc. about management approaches)? | |
| 17 | Does the site help to develop public support for protection? | |
| Number of additional optional criteria met | | |

Any total score of more than half, say, would seem to confirm that the site meets the common and/or additional criteria of a protected area.

4.3 DESCRIPTIVE DETERMINATION OF A PROTECTED AREA

4.3.1 Is it a clearly defined geographical space?

Each individually designated or otherwise identified area that is geographically and cartographically defined should be considered separately. The geographic boundary defines the site which is being considered as a protected area. In the UK, if the boundaries of a site are not clearly defined, it would be most unlikely that it could be considered as a protected area. Note that sites may be 'nested' one within another, in which case each must be considered separately (see Section 2.4).

4.3.2 Is it recognised, dedicated and managed to achieve the long-term conservation of nature?

There are several issues here. The phrase '*recognised, dedicated and managed*' must imply a precise commitment to conservation. In the UK context, in many cases this is done through a statutory designation. However recognition, dedication and management can be achieved in other ways, for example: through conservation ownership (e.g. by a conservation NGO), through a long-term agreement (e.g. a covenant), or through a definition in a development plan where this is intended to be permanent (as is the case with Heritage Coasts). The test is that there should be robust arrangements in place to ensure that the site is specifically identified as one that will receive special measures of protection and management.

IUCN explains that the conservation of 'nature' *always* refers to biodiversity, at genetic, species and ecosystem levels, and often also refers to geodiversity, landform and broader natural values. Such a broad view of nature will be familiar to many in the UK and includes all the *natural* concepts embodied in the term 'landscape' as well as 'seascape'. However this commentary should be read in conjunction with other guidance below.

The long term conservation of nature applies in the marine as well as the terrestrial environment. Since comprehensive marine conservation legislation is relatively recent in the UK, there is not as yet much experience of applying the categories to marine conservation sites. However, preliminary guidance on this is given in Section 3.3.

4.3.3 Is the main management objective nature conservation?

This question arises because of the principle (see Section 2.2) that: "*for IUCN, only those areas where the main objective is conserving nature can be considered protected areas; this can include many areas with other goals as well, at the same level, but in the case of conflict, nature conservation will be the priority*" (emphasis added). This poses difficult questions in the UK context.

Different designations (notably those designated under international agreement or national legislation) afford different levels of legal protection to ensure sites are managed for nature conservation. For a site to be considered as a protected area the legislative intent should unambiguously include nature conservation as a priority.

'Nature' has already been defined in broad terms to include all the natural elements of landscape. But establishing whether priority is given to nature, however defined, will require examining a range of sources: statutory purposes, legal texts, management plans, management practices and so forth. Even the idea of "priority" is not entirely clear cut – it could mean *always* and *everywhere*, or it could be a general rule. (Note that IUCN requires that at least 75% of a site should be managed for the primary purpose of conservation, providing that the use made of the rest of it does not conflict with that prime conservation purpose). For further guidance pertaining to nature conservation management in AONBs and National Parks, see Box 3.1.

4.3.4 Does the designation of the site prevent, or eliminate harmful exploitation or management practice?

To answer this in the UK context, reference should be made to management objectives, management plans, planning policies and past practice. As far as preventing harmful new development is concerned, a strongly supportive planning policy will be particularly important and one would look for a firm statement that such development is unacceptable. In reality it may not always be possible to remove an existing, offending land use or activity at short notice, but the long term intent should be there and the willingness to use powers and resources to bring about the elimination of an existing activity that conflicts with conservation objectives.

4.3.5 Is long-term nature conservation ensured through legal or other effective means?

There are two critical ideas here – long-term, and effective means of management.

'Long-term' is defined as "*in perpetuity and not short term or temporary*" in the guidelines (**pages 8-9**). In the UK, a reasonable interpretation of 'long-term' would be a firm commitment of at least 25 years, and it should normally be the case that it is intended to maintain conservation measures thereafter.

In the UK context, the following may also be taken to be '*other effective means*':

- Land that is owned/managed by an NGO and dedicated in perpetuity to nature conservation.
- Inalienable land held by the National Trusts and managed primarily for nature conservation purposes. (Among forms of legal protection, the National Trusts enjoy a unique power: they can declare land to be 'inalienable', which must then be conserved in perpetuity and cannot be voluntarily sold or mortgaged by the Trust, under The National Trust Act 1907 (England and Wales) and The National Trust for Scotland Order Confirmation Acts (1935, 1938, 1947, 1952, 1961 and 1973)).
- Land with a management agreement with a statutory body or a local planning authority that binds the owner/manager to long-term nature conservation management.
- Privately owned land where there is a long-term, public and documented commitment to nature conservation.
- Crown Land, most of which is held by the Crown Estate with its own governing statute. There is a Memorandum of Understanding between the Crown Estate and the Treasury, which essentially treats crown lands as a public asset.

- Some other areas where there are unequivocal, long term, documented commitments to nature conservation, such as some common land.

In the UK, critical considerations in determining effectiveness of long-term nature conservation – where there are no legal powers – are the existence of public declarations of commitment to conservation that are documented and accompanied by means of verification.

4.3.6 Does the designation of the site aim to maintain or increase the degree of naturalness of the ecosystem?

Although it is not an absolute requirement, this is a highly desirable management objective in terms of achieving recognition as a protected area. Reference should be made to the management plan to see if there are proposals, for example, to restore wetland or limestone grassland habitats, to reintroduce species or to improve the ecological connectivity across the landscape. With the increasing interest now being taken in habitat restoration and the recovery of ecosystem functions, this should be an issue of growing importance in many protected areas.

4.3.7 What importance should be attached to associated ecosystem services and cultural values?

The IUCN protected area definition includes the phrase "*with associated ecosystem services and cultural values*". While this is a useful clarification of the meaning of a protected area and shows that they are intended to achieve much more than the protection of biodiversity, in the UK context it is of rather limited value as it is probably relevant to nearly every protected area, and many other sites, in the country. Since this phrase is therefore not diagnostic, it is not included in the assessment process – however, National Parks and AONBs have an especially high value in contributing to both components of this element of the IUCN definition, and many nature conservation sites (NNRs, SSSIS etc.) contribute to the protection of associated ecosystem services. Greater recognition of this would be useful and might help build public and government support for protected areas in the UK.

5. DETERMINING PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES FOR UK PROTECTED AREAS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Once it has been confirmed that a site meets the IUCN definition of a protected area, the appropriate IUCN protected area management category can be determined. As previously discussed in Section 1.2, currently all UK protected areas which do meet this definition are categorised as either IV or V (see Appendix 1). It is likely though that a broader spectrum of management categories is present in the UK areas: exploring these options will reflect (and hopefully stimulate) thinking on protected area management approaches within the broader context of landscape and seascape-scale conservation. Assignment of a category requires a full understanding of the characteristics of the protected area. Many sites will fall naturally into one category but others will be more complicated or challenging to assign – see the three examples in the Box 5.1.

As noted in Section 2.3, IUCN identifies six categories. Full category descriptions are provided in IUCN's 2008 Guidelines (*pages 12-23*).

Box 5.1: Examples of the questions that can arise when categorising a Protected Area

Example 1: Island of Rum, Scotland

This island was originally bought by the government for its geological richness (category III?). It is now managed as a strict nature reserve with a strong research component (category Ia?), but is large enough and with so few roads to be considered as a wilderness (category Ib?) or even a protected ecosystem (category II?). Efforts to establish an independent community on part of the island around Kinloch Castle means that some people might argue that the developed and settled area is a protected landscape (category V?). Final decision (in this case by SNH in liaison with stakeholders) will depend on what is considered to be the primary purpose of the area.

Example 2: St Kilda archipelago, Scotland

It is not easy to assign a single category to the entire St Kilda archipelago (as the guidelines require) because the degree of protection and the degree of human impact varies between the isolated stacks and islands on one hand and the partly settled and visited main island of Hirta on the other. Most parts of the archipelago, being rarely visited, are remote and inaccessible and can reasonably be classified as category Ia or Ib. But the main island of Hirta, with its military installations and semi permanent workers on behalf of the military, make it difficult to categorise. And there are also some unknowns at present, such as: will the residents currently working for the military depart? do the limited number of people who stay overnight, or who visit on cruise ships, significantly affect the natural values of the island? While a case might well be made by SNH and NTS for category II status for Hirta, there are issues to be examined.

Example 3: Wytham Woods near Oxford, England

Wytham Woods near Oxford is a remarkable ancient woodland extending over 400 ha. It belongs to Oxford University and may well be the most researched woodland in the world (Charles Elton, the father of modern ecology, began studies here in the 1920s). Many organisations apart from the University undertake research here, mainly government bodies, the Environmental Change Network and other universities. Is it then a category Ia site? Or does the management practice of allowing (indeed welcoming) public access - albeit controlled by permit - conflict with this and indicate category IV?

To help answer the kinds of questions detailed in Box 5.1, which will occur in different forms in many protected areas throughout the UK, we suggest two parallel approaches can be used to help determine the IUCN management categories of UK protected areas:

1. a systematic approach using a key system which translates the category descriptions and associated Primary Objectives into a series of questions to help assign categories (Section 5.2), and
2. a descriptive approach which considers, in a preliminary way, how the six categories could be applied in the UK (Section 5.3).

5.2 SYSTEMATIC APPROACH FOR DETERMINING THE MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

Several keys are offered, in this and subsequent Sections, as an objective way of assigning protected areas to the categories. Key D (Section 5.2.1) sets out an approach using ‘yes’ and ‘no’ questions; Key E (Section 5.2.2) provides a means to check this. These keys present many of the questions that need to be asked in order to categorise a protected area accurately. Since the categories are **not intended to be hierarchical**, it is important to follow through **all** categories in the key for any given site, as a site may appear to be in more than one category at this point.

5.2.1 Determining an appropriate management category to protected areas

Use Key D to work through all questions to determine the appropriate management category for each protected area. Remember the primary management objective must be applicable to at least 75% of the protected area (*pages 34-5*).

Key D

| Category | | Question | Y/N | Action |
|--|---|--|-----|--|
| 1a | 1 | Is the site strictly protected and set aside to protect biodiversity and also possibly geological/geomorphological features? | Yes | Go to 2 |
| | | | No | Not 1a - go to 7 |
| | 2 | Are human visitation, use and impacts strictly controlled and limited to ensure protection of the conservation values? | Yes | Go to 3 |
| | | | No | Not 1a - go to 7 |
| | 3 | Does the site conserve features above local level (i.e. regional, national, global)? | Yes | Go to 4 |
| | | | No | Not 1a – go to 7 |
| | 4 | Is at least one of the following conserved in the area? Outstanding ecosystem; species (occurrence/aggregation); geodiversity feature? | Yes | Go to 5 |
| | | | No | Not 1a – go to 7 |
| | 5 | Are any of the features listed in 4 formed mostly/entirely by non-human forces? | Yes | Go to 6 |
| | | | No | Review |
| | 6 | Will any of the features listed in 4 be degraded or destroyed when subjected to all but very light human impact? | Yes | Category 1a may be met Go to 7 to check suitability of other categories |
| | | | No | Not 1a - go to 7 |
| <p>Primary Objective of category 1a: To conserve regionally, nationally or globally outstanding ecosystems, species (occurrences or aggregations) and/or geodiversity features: these attributes will have been formed mostly or entirely by non-human forces and will be degraded or destroyed when subjected to all but very light human impact.</p> <p>1a notes: Area may serve as indispensable reference for scientific research and monitoring; this category often covers a small area.</p> | | | | <p>If NO, not 1a – go to 7</p> |

| Category | | Question | Y/N | Action |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Ib | 7 | Is the site unmodified or slightly modified, and does it retain its natural character and influence? | Yes | Go to 8 |
| | | | No | Not Ib - go to 15 |
| | 8 | Is there permanent or significant human habitation? | Yes | Not Ib - go to 15 |
| | | | No | Go to 9 |
| | 9 | Is the site protected and managed so as to preserve the natural condition? | Yes | Go to 10 |
| | | | No | Not Ib - go to 15 |
| | 10 | Is the site undisturbed by significant human activity? | Yes | Go to 11 |
| | | | No | Not Ib – go to 15 |
| | 11 | Does the site provide protection for its long-term ecological integrity? | Yes | Go to 12 |
| | | | No | Not Ib - go to 15 |
| | 12 | Is the site free from modern infrastructure? | Yes | Go to 13 |
| | | | No | Review |
| | 13 | Do natural forces and processes predominate? | Yes | Go to 14 |
| | | | No | Review |
| 14 | Does the site provide current and future generations the opportunity to experience such areas? | Yes | Category Ib may be met Go to 15 to check suitability of other categories | |
| | | No | Not Ib - go to 15 | |
| Primary Objective of category Ib: To protect the long-term ecological integrity of natural areas that are undisturbed by significant human activity, free of modern infrastructure and where natural forces and processes predominate, so that current and future generations have the opportunity to experience such areas. | | | | If NO, not Ib – go to 15 |
| Ib notes: This category often covers a large area | | | | |
| II | 15 | Is the site large, natural or near natural and set aside to protect large-scale ecological processes, along with the complement of species and ecosystems characteristic of the area? | Yes | Go to 16 |
| | | | No | Not II - go to 19 |
| | 16 | Does the site provide a foundation for environmentally and culturally compatible spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational and visitor opportunities? | Yes | Go to 17 |
| | | | No | Not II - go to 19 |
| | 17 | Does the site protect natural biodiversity along with its underlying ecological structure and supporting environmental processes? | Yes | Go to 18 |
| | | | No | Not II – go to 19 |
| | 18 | Does the site use the features described in 16 to promote education and recreation? | Yes | Category II may be met Go to 19 to check suitability of other categories |
| | | | No | Not II – go to 19 |
| Primary Objective of category II: To protect natural biodiversity along with its underlying ecological structure and supporting environmental processes, and to promote education and recreation. | | | | If NO, not II – go to 19 |
| II notes: This category often covers a large area | | | | |
| III | 19 | Does the site protect a specific natural monument? E.g. a landform, sea mount, submarine cavern, geological feature such as a cave or even a living feature such as an ancient grove. | Yes | Go to 20 |
| | | | No | Not III - go to 21 |
| | 20 | Does the site protect a specific outstanding natural feature and associated biodiversity & habitats? | Yes | Category III may be met Go to 21 to check suitability of other categories |
| | | | No | Not III – go to 21 |
| Primary Objective of category III: To protect specific outstanding natural features and their associated biodiversity and habitats. | | | | If NO, not III – go to 21 |
| III notes: Area may have high visitor value. This category often covers a small area. | | | | |
| IV | 21 | Does the site protect particular species or habitats? | Yes | Go to 22 |
| | | | No | Not IV - go to 24 |

| Category | | Question | Y/N | Action |
|---|----|--|-----|---|
| | 22 | Does the management site reflect a species/habitat priority that helps preserve the natural conditions of the site? | Yes | Go to 23 |
| | | | No | Not IV - go to 24 |
| | 23 | Does the site maintain, conserve and restore species and habitats? | Yes | Category IV may be met Go to 24 to check suitability of other categories |
| | | | No | Not IV- go to 24 |
| Primary Objective of category IV: To maintain, conserve and restore species and habitats. IV notes: area may need regular, active interventions to address the requirements of particular species or to maintain habitats, but this is not a requirement of the category. This category often covers a small area. | | | | If NO, not IV – go to 24 |
| V | 24 | Has the interaction of people and nature over time produced a site of distinct character with significant ecological, biological, cultural and scenic value? | Yes | Go to 25 |
| | | | No | Not V - go to 28 |
| | 25 | Is safeguarding the integrity of the interaction in 24 vital to the protection and sustainability of the site and its associated nature conservation and other values? | Yes | Go to 26 |
| | | | No | Not V - go to 28 |
| | 26 | Does the site protect and sustain important landscapes/seascapes and the associated nature conservation values? | Yes | Go to 27 |
| | | | No | Not V - go to 28 |
| | 27 | Are other values, created by interactions with humans through traditional management practices, also protected/sustained? | Yes | Category V may be met Go to 28 to check suitability of other categories |
| | | | No | Not V - go to 28 |
| Primary Objective of category V: To protect and sustain important landscapes/seascapes and the associated nature conservation and other values created by interactions with humans through traditional management V notes: This category often covers a large area. | | | | If NO, not V – go to 28 |
| VI | 28 | Does the site conserve ecosystems and habitats, together with associated cultural values and traditional natural resource management systems? | Yes | Go to 29 |
| | | | No | Not VI |
| | 29 | Is most of the site in a natural condition, where a proportion is under sustainable natural resource management? | Yes | Go to 30 |
| | | | No | Not VI |
| | 30 | Is low-level non-industrial use of natural resources compatible with nature conservation within the site? | Yes | Go to 31 |
| | | | No | Not VI |
| | 31 | Does the management of the site protect natural ecosystems? | Yes | Go to 32 |
| | | | No | Not VI |
| | 32 | Does the management of the site use natural resources sustainably? | Yes | Go to 33 |
| | | | No | Not VI |
| | 33 | Are conservation and sustainable uses mutually beneficial? | Yes | Category VI may be met Go to Key E to validate |
| | | | No | Not VI |
| Primary Objective of category VI: To protect natural ecosystems and use natural resources sustainably, when conservation and sustainable use can be mutually beneficial. VI notes: this category usually covers a large area. | | | | If NO, Not VI |

Note: conceptually, all protected areas must fit into one or other of the categories above, i.e. if a site is identified as a protected area, then it ought to be possible to assign a category to it; however, applying the categories is voluntary and IUCN therefore recognises that there may be occasions when some protected areas are not categorised.

5.2.2 Validating the category assignment

Judgement will be needed to identify the most appropriate category. When two or more seem possible, the validation process (Key E below) can help confirm the best fit for any given site. The essence of the validation process is to answer the following question: **Do the long-term objectives of the site match those of the assigned category?**

The IUCN protected area management categories include ‘Other Objectives’ which provide guidance on the management of areas and help define and separate the six categories. These have been used for the validation process (Key E, below). To use Key E, go through the questions and determine which of the possible categories has the highest percentage score.

If the set of ‘Other Objectives’ that correspond to the category determined in Key D are applicable to the area, then it is most likely that the correct IUCN protected area management category has been assigned to it through Key D. If, however, a number of ‘Other Objectives’ from more than one category are applicable to the area, further consideration of the area’s characteristics is needed to determine which category is most appropriate - or whether the site should be reconsidered by returning to Key D (Section 5.2.1). IUCN recommends that mining should not take place in categories I-IV. Where categories I-IV have been confirmed and mining is found to occur within an area’s boundaries, it is recommended that the IUCN guidelines are consulted (**page 48**).

Key E

| Category | Other Objectives | Yes/no |
|---|--|--------|
| Ia | Does the site preserve ecosystems, species and geodiversity features in a state as undisturbed by recent human activity as possible? | |
| | Does the site secure examples of the natural environment for scientific studies, environmental monitoring and education, including baseline areas from which all avoidable access is excluded? | |
| | Does the site minimize disturbance through careful planning and implementation of research and other approved activities? | |
| | Does the site conserve cultural and spiritual values associated with nature? | |
| Percentage of Other Objectives for Category Ia met | | |
| Ib | Does the site provide for public access at levels and of a type which will maintain the wilderness qualities of the area for present and future generations? | |
| | Does the site protect the relevant cultural and spiritual values and non-material benefits to human populations, such as solitude, respect for sacred sites, respect for ancestors etc? | |
| | Does the site allow for low-impact minimally invasive educational and scientific research activities, when such activities cannot be conducted outside the wilderness area? | |
| Percentage of Other Objectives for Category Ib met | | |
| II | Is the site managed in order to perpetuate, in as natural a state as possible, representative examples of physiographic regions, biotic communities, genetic resources and unimpaired natural processes? | |
| | Does the site maintain viable and ecologically functional populations and assemblages of native species at densities sufficient to conserve ecosystem integrity and resilience in the long term? | |
| | Does the site contribute in particular to conservation of wide-ranging species, regional ecological processes and migration routes? | |
| | Is visitor use managed for inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational purposes at a level which will not cause significant biological or ecological degradation to the natural resources? | |

| Category | Other Objectives | Yes/no |
|--|---|--------|
| | Does the site take into account the needs of local communities, including subsistence resource use, in so far as these will not adversely affect the primary management objective? | |
| | Does the site contribute to local economies through tourism? | |
| Percentage of Other Objectives for Category II met | | |
| Category | Other Objectives | Yes/no |
| III | Does the site provide biodiversity protection in landscapes or seascapes that have otherwise undergone major changes? | |
| | Does the site protect specific natural sites with spiritual and/or cultural values where these also have biodiversity values? | |
| | Does the site conserve traditional spiritual and cultural values of the site? | |
| Percentage of Other Objectives for Category III met | | |
| IV | Does the site protect vegetation patterns or other biological features through traditional management approaches? | |
| | Does the site protect fragments of habitats as components of landscape or seascape-scale conservation strategies? | |
| | Does the site develop public education and appreciation of the species and/or habitats concerned? | |
| | Does the site provide a means by which the urban residents may obtain regular contact with nature? | |
| Percentage of Other Objectives for Category IV met | | |
| V | Does the site maintain a balanced interaction of nature and culture through the protection of landscape and/or seascape and associated traditional management approaches, societies, cultures and spiritual values? | |
| | Does the site contribute to broad-scale conservation by maintaining species associated with cultural landscapes and/or by providing conservation opportunities in heavily used landscapes? | |
| | Does the site provide opportunities for enjoyment, well-being and socio-economic activity through recreation and tourism? | |
| | Does the site provide natural products and environmental services? | |
| | Does the site provide a framework to underpin active involvement by the community in the management of valued landscapes or seascapes and the natural and cultural heritage that they contain? | |
| | Does the site encourage the conservation of agrobiodiversity and aquatic biodiversity? | |
| | Does the site act as a model of sustainability so that lessons can be learnt for wider application? | |
| Percentage of Other Objectives for Category V met | | |
| VI | Does the site promote sustainable use of natural resources, considering ecological, economic and social dimensions? | |
| | Does the site promote social and economic benefits to local communities where relevant? | |
| | Does the site facilitate inter-generational security for local communities' livelihoods – therefore ensuring that such livelihoods are sustainable? | |
| | Does the site integrate other cultural approaches, belief systems and world-views within a range of social and economic approaches to nature conservation? | |
| | Does the site contribute to developing and/or maintaining a more balanced relationship between humans and the rest of nature? | |
| | Does the site contribute to sustainable development at national, regional and local level (in the last case mainly to local communities depending on the protected natural resources)? | |
| | Does the site facilitate scientific research and environmental monitoring, mainly related to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources? | |
| | Does the site collaborate in the delivery of benefits to people, mostly local communities, living in or near to the designated Protected Area? | |
| | Does the site facilitate recreation and appropriate small-scale tourism? | |
| Percentage of Other Objectives for Category VI met | | |

5.3 DESCRIPTIVE APPROACH FOR DETERMINING THE MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

While Section 5.2 provided objective systematic approach, the following Section, *whilst only indicative*, gives an idea of the types of categories that might be selected for particular protected areas in the UK.

5.3.1 Category Ia

This is aimed at more-or-less natural areas managed strictly for conservation and probably also for science, which are so fragile that public access is strictly controlled. In the UK situation they will probably be fairly small in size and number. However, *category Ia is almost certainly under-used* or under-recognised at the moment. Examples might include:

- Raised bog areas, including blanket mires, with access banned or limited to boardwalks.
- Offshore islands with nesting seabird colonies and strictly controlled access.
- Wetland areas for birds where access is legally controlled or public confined to a hide on the edge, for example through the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.
- Geological sites where access is banned (although see category III below).
- Areas of natural land or water owned and managed almost exclusively for scientific research (e.g. woods used for long-term research) with no, or very restricted, public access.
- Some private reserves which meet rigorous criteria: for example land in private ownership where access (perhaps even by the owners) is restricted and where strict protection of the status quo and scientific research are the principal objectives.

5.3.2 Category Ib

These are mainly very large and very natural areas. At present the UK has no areas categorised as Ib. It will be interesting to see whether this remains the case after a more detailed assignment of the categories in the UK but we can be fairly sure that *there will not be many sites designated as Ib*. Efforts to promote wilderness conservation in Scotland might fall under Ib (but there are hardly any areas that have not undergone significant modification of natural climax habitats) and decisions will depend *largely on the aims of management plans*. Category Ib areas do not need to be entirely free of past human influence – very few are – but should not have significant permanent settlement, nor should they have much in the way of road access; or, if any such developments are present, then there should be firm proposals to remove them. Such recreation access as there is should be on nature's terms. Some potential "wilderness areas" in the UK will probably fall more comfortably into category II below.

5.3.3 Category II

Despite the name used by IUCN to describe this category, these are *not* national parks in the UK sense, but large, mainly natural areas managed to protect ecosystems and to encourage responsible tourism. Again *there will be few UK category II* protected areas but examples might include:

- Some larger offshore islands, if they fit a rather loose definition of an ecosystem and if a significant part of their management is aimed at encouraging responsible tourism.

- Larger mainland areas set up to preserve or recover natural ecosystem processes, for example blanket bogs managed primarily for ecological restoration.
- Marine Protected Areas where fishing and boat access are controlled and/or limited to managed tourism access.

5.3.4 Category III

This category is generally the least developed in terms of philosophy and management approaches. Although on a global scale there are relatively few category III sites, and this will also be true in the UK, this category, whilst fairly minor, *is an important and as yet unused category* in the UK. However, the UK has a strong track record in conservation of geodiversity, particularly through the Geological Conservation Review which is the most systematic approach to identification and designation of geological and geomorphological sites in the world.

Examples might include:

- Sites primarily of geological or geomorphological interest such as important chrono-stratigraphic sites marking key stages in the Earth's history, unusual or distinctive mineral deposits, special classic or distinctive landforms such as glacial features, geological and geomorphological sites that are important in the understanding of Earth evolution such as rock outcrops and fossil beds, and key sites for research and teaching on earth sciences.
- Natural sites that have an important cultural or sacred value that is of equal importance to their biological value – e.g. places that were formerly sacred lakes or wells.
- *Potentially* some marine reserves built around particular features such as cold-water coral outcrops (see Section 3.3).

5.3.5 Category IV

Category IV protected areas are likely to be (at least in the UK context) relatively small reserves, conserving a particular habitat or species and often requiring a degree of management intervention to maintain the current mix of biodiversity or to restore degraded or damaged habitats, restore or re-introduce species previously lost or persecuted, or to improve ecosystem functioning. This will be *one of the commonest categories, although there is a tendency to use it as a default* and some sites currently designated as IV probably need to change. Examples of category IV protected areas in the UK might include:

- Many small-scale National Nature Reserves on private or state-owned land with a mixture of conservation and other land management and with access to visitors.
- Marine Nature Reserves.
- Many of the reserves run by Wildlife Trusts, the RSPB, the National Trust and National Trust for Scotland, and many other NGOs for species and habitat conservation and restoration.
- Some state or privately-owned forestry areas set aside and managed for particular species (e.g. raptor breeding, dormice conservation, lichens and other lower plant species).

- Some (but not all) commons areas which are locally owned nature reserves (e.g. woodlands owned and managed as nature reserves by Parish Councils) – NB here as elsewhere, this would only apply if the sites are already recognised as protected areas.
- Some SSSIs, see Box 3.2 (Section 3.2.1) for discussion on SSSIs.

Some traditionally managed areas, such as coppice woodland and managed reedbeds, might qualify but only if there are *specific* conservation aims: most commonly when such management approaches are used within nature reserves.

5.3.6 Category V

This category has been used to classify National Parks in England and Wales, AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, National Scenic Areas in Scotland, the two Scottish National Parks and some other landscape designations. (See Box 3.1 (Section 3.2.1) for discussion on AONBs and National Parks). Some current category V protected areas may need to re-examine their management plans in light of the revised IUCN definition of a protected area and its greater emphasis on nature conservation. The proposed Statements of Compliance for AONBs and National Parks would provide a good basis for this. With this caveat in mind, potential sites include:

- Probably most if not all National Parks.
- Probably many if not all Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (in England and Wales).
- Probably some, possibly all Heritage Coasts.
- Probably National Scenic Areas.
- Possibly some of the larger common land areas.
- Possibly some Marine Protected Areas with multiple use.

5.3.7 Category VI

There are currently no category VI protected areas in mainland UK and *it is unlikely to be a common designation*, because it implies large areas of semi-natural landscape with a limited amount of resource-use based on natural resources. Intensive sheep grazing in upland pastures does not qualify as category VI, nor does large-scale commercial forestry. This is likely to be used, if at all, in places such as:

- Marine Protected Areas with limited and controlled fish catch (e.g. a fishery in an MPA that has Marine Stewardship Council certification) – see Section 3.3.
- Possibly some common lands, protected as SSSIs etc. and with a mainly natural habitat and limited extractive uses.
- Possibly some areas in community ownership where the sustainable use of natural resources is the primary objective.

6. PROTECTED AREA GOVERNANCE TYPES

6.1 GOVERNANCE TYPES

IUCN encourages application of the categories to include both the management category and one of four governance types. IUCN defines governance as “*the interactions among structures, processes and traditions that determine how power is exercised, how decisions are taken on issues of public concern, and how citizens or other stakeholders have their say*” (Borrini-Feyerabend, 2004).

Governance arrangements are expressed through legal and policy frameworks, strategies, and management plans; they include the organisational arrangements for following up on policies and plans and monitoring performance.

Governance is not necessarily the same as ownership; nor is it necessarily the same as management responsibility. The body that owns and/or manages a protected area is often that which exercises governance but it could be a different body.

As noted in Section 2.3, the 2008 IUCN Guidelines identify four governance types for protected areas (which are described in more detail in the Guidelines, **pages 26-32**): Governance by government; Shared governance; Private governance; and Governance by indigenous peoples and local communities.

The following are examples of each of these governance types in the UK:

- **Governance by government:** governance by a statutory body, e.g. National Park authorities and statutory countryside agencies. All landscape designations are primarily owned and/or managed by other parties. This may also be true of nationally designated nature reserves, e.g. an NNR managed by an approved body.
- **Shared governance:** decisions regarding the area are made by representatives from more than one organisation, e.g. a Local Wildlife Site may be owned by a local authority but management is implemented through an agreement that requires a partnership with a local community-based ‘Friends of’ group in association with the local Wildlife Trust. Shared governance may also occur where a site crosses administrative boundaries, and thus involves co-operation between more than one body. There are NNRs with shared governance between the statutory agency and an approved body, the latter usually undertaking the management of the site.
- **Private governance:** sites under the control of NGOs, individuals or private companies, and either managed for profit or on a not-for-profit basis.
- **Governance by local communities:** Governance by local communities may well become more important in the light of current government policy to empower local groups to manage heritage assets. Some protected areas that might be included are designated common land that is managed by commoners, and community-owned sites acquired under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (NB such cases are only relevant, of course, if the area has already been identified as a protected area in IUCN terms).

APPENDICES, REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDIX 1: UK PROTECTED AREA DATA CURRENTLY HELD BY UNEP-WCMC

Table A1.1 provides a summary of the data held by the WDPA on UK protected areas as of January 2011. The WDPA classifies 169 of the sites included in Table A1.1 as 'marine', of which 97 are category IV Protected Areas and 72 are category V Protected Areas⁸.

Table A1.1 Summary of Protected Area data held by the WDPA (October, 2011)

| National description | Geographical area | Number of sites on database | Present IUCN category |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) | England and Wales; NI | 49 | V |
| Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) | NI | 226 | IV |
| Heritage Coast (HC) | England and Wales | 32 | V |
| Local Nature Reserve (LNR) | UK | 1372 | IV |
| Marine Consultation Area (MCA) | UK | 2 | unknown |
| Marine Nature Reserve (MNR) | UK | 3 | IV |
| National Nature Reserve (NNR) | UK | 403 | IV |
| National Park (NP) | England, Wales and Scotland | 14 | V |
| National Scenic Areas (NSA) | Scotland | 40 | V |
| Regional Park (RP) | Scotland | 4 | V |
| Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) | England, Wales and Scotland | 6586 | IV |
| UNESCO MAB BR | UK | 9 | not classified |
| Ramsar | UK | 158 | not classified |
| World Heritage sites | UK | 3 | not classified |

⁸ The WDPA also includes sites on the UK list from the UK Dependent Territories and the Channel Islands, which are not included in the table below.

APPENDIX 2: WEB SOURCES OF FURTHER ADVICE

Data use and access (source WCMC)

Any protected area that meets the IUCN definition (see Section 2.2) will be included in ECDDA and WDPA. For any dataset to enter into the WDPA, it should be provided free of restrictions according to the terms and conditions of the WDPA.

For further details as to how the data are utilised and accessed refer to the relevant organisation, e.g.

- UNEP-WCMC – For the WDPA Terms and Conditions , go to <http://protectedplanet.net/termsandconditions>
- UNEP-WCMC – For WDPA Data Standards and Guidance on using Protected Planet, go to <http://protectedplanet.net>
- JNCC – For the Terms and Conditions of the JNCC dataset, go to http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/SACselection/gis_data/terms_conditions.asp
- EEA – For information on ECDDA and the partnership with UNEP-WCMC, go to <http://biodiversity-chm.eea.europa.eu/stories/story615203>
- EEA – To download the ECDDA data and metadata and for information on ECDDA standard-use rights, go to <http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/nationally-designated-areas-national-cdda-4>
- IUCN – For information on the IUCN Guidelines for Applying Protected Areas Management Categories, go to <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/PAPS-016.pdf>
- North Devon Coast and Countryside Service, go to <http://www.unesco.org/mabdb/br/brdir/directory/contact.asp?code=UKM>
<http://www.ukmab.net/>
- DEFRA, Administrative authority for UK Ramsar, go to <http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-contacts-nfps-administrative/main/ramsar/>

APPENDIX 3: DATA COLLECTION PROFORMA

Protected Area Status and Management Category

| A. Does the site meet the IUCN definition of a protected area? Tick 'Yes' or 'No' | | |
|---|------------|-----------------------|
| If 'YES' either attached a statement of compliance (See Box 3.3) or provide answers to the six questions below to explain/justify your decision, providing evidence where necessary, e.g. management agreement, mission statement of the organisation owning/managing the site. | Yes | No |
| 1. Is the site a clearly defined geographical area? Provide an explanation as to how the it is defined, e.g. fencing, distinct features, demarcated on a map etc. | | |
| | | |
| 2. Is it recognised, dedicated and managed to achieve the long-term conservation of nature? NB 'nature' includes all levels of biodiversity as well as geodiversity, landforms and broader natural values. Provide an explanation and evidence | | |
| | | |
| 3. Is the main management objective nature conservation? Other objectives of equal standing may be present but they do not cause conflict, i.e. nature conservation is the priority. Provide an explanation and evidence | | |
| | | |
| 4. Does the designation of the site prevent, or eliminate where necessary, any exploitation or management practice that will be harmful to the objectives of designation? Provide an explanation and evidence | | |
| | | |
| 5. Does the designation of the site aim to maintain, or ideally, increase the degree of naturalness of the ecosystem being protected? Provide an explanation and evidence | | |
| | | |
| 6. Is the long-term nature conservation ensured through legal or other effective means? E.g. national or international statutory law/agreement/convention, traditional rules or NGO policy. Provide an explanation and evidence | | |
| | | |
| B. What management category is most applicable to the site? | | Category |
| Explanation/Justification of choice | | |
| | | |
| C. Notes/comments | | |
| | | |

APPENDIX 4: WDPA DATA REQUIREMENTS

A range of data is recorded on the WDPA to provide a comprehensive understanding of each protected area. As well as the IUCN category and governance type other data requirements are listed below (as of June 2011). Please refer to the website www.protectedplanet.net for the most recent update to the WDPA data standard; for a fuller explanation of the attributes and data requirements of the WDPA, see <http://www.wdpa.org/PDF/WDPA%20Data%20Standard.pdf>.

Table A4.1 WDPA data requirements

| Data | Description | |
|---|--|--|
| Required data (minimum) | | |
| Name | The original name of the protected area, i.e. site name in English | |
| Country | The country, territory or other administrative unit of geographical interest that a protected area jurisdictionally resides within, as given by its ISO 3166-1 alpha-3 code, i.e. use ISO3 character 'GBR' | |
| Designation | The type of protected area as legally/officially established or recognised (e.g. National Park, World Heritage Site (use full terms, not acronyms e.g. National Nature Reserve) | |
| Marine | Given by a "1" for True or "0" for False. Marine sites as defined for the WDPA encompass any portion of the marine environment in whole or in part according to geographic location and management strategy. | |
| Reported Area (km ²) | Total protected area extent, cumulative of both marine and terrestrial areas | |
| Reported Marine Area (km ²) | N.B.: Skip if Marine is '0' False. Total marine extent of the protected area (square kilometres) as reported to UNEP-WCMC by the data provider | |
| Status | Current legal or "official" standing of the site, e.g. proposed or designated | |
| Status year | Year in which the current status was officially decreed, e.g. year proposed or designated | |
| Essential data (core) | | |
| Original Name | The original name of the protected area in any character set supported by UTF 8. e.g. alternate site name in Welsh | |
| Sub-national Location | The principle subdivision that a protected area geographically resides within, given by an ISO 3166-2 sub-national code (a list can be provided that we can use for the WDPA.) | |
| English Designation | The type of protected area as legally/officially established or recognized translated into English. This will be the same as Designation. | |
| Designation Type | Please write 'national' when providing information for nationally designated sites or 'international' when providing information for a protected area recognized under an international convention | |
| IUCN Management category (I-VI) | In this field please report on the classification of IUCN category (Ia, Ib, II, III, IV, V or VI) adopted for national protected areas | |
| Other data (enhanced) | | |
| Governance Type | A description of the governance structure of a protected area, conforming to the governance matrix described in the IUCN Guidelines on protected areas | |
| | Primary Type | Sub-Type |
| | a. Governance by government | Federal or national ministry or agency in charge |
| | | Sub-national ministry or agency in charge |
| | | Government delegated management |
| | b. Shared governance | Transboundary Management |
| | | Collaborative Management |
| | | Joint management |
| | c. Private governance | Declared and run by individual landowners |
| | | Declared and run by non-profit organisation |
| Declared and run by for-profit Organisations | | |
| d. Governance by indigenous peoples and local communities | Established and run by indigenous peoples | |
| | Declared and run by local communities | |
| Management Authority | The organisation(s) or agency/ies responsible for management of the protected area. | |
| International Criteria | Applicable to international sites where a set of criteria is used to define the protected area designation, e.g. for World Heritage Sites this could be a combination of X, IX, VIII, VII, VI. | |
| Management Plan | A reference to an official management plan for the protected area. This could represent a hyperlink to the document(s) on-line or a legal reference to where the documents can be found | |

Table A4.2 (source: WCMC) details source information requirements, based on ISO mandatory metadata standards, as provided by the WCMC is reproduced below

(<http://www.wdpa.org/PDF/WDPData%20Standard.pdf>)

Table A4.2 Source information requirements, based on ISO mandatory metadata standards

| Title | Definition |
|---|--|
| Ownership/Authorship Entity | The organisation, consultancy, national government, private company or other entity that claims ownership/authorship of the data. If Authorship/Ownership is shared please complete two or more WDPa Metadata Tables reflecting the shared nature of the data. |
| Ownership/Authorship Contact E-mail | General e-mail that an interested user should use to contact the Ownership/Authorship Entity. |
| Responsible Party | Name of person providing data to the WDPa on behalf of the Ownership/Authorship Entity |
| Responsible Party Title | Job Title of person providing data to the WDPa on behalf of the Ownership/Authorship Entity |
| Responsible Party Contact E-mail | Contact e-mail of person providing data to the WDPa on behalf of the Ownership/Authorship Entity |
| Responsible Party Affiliation (if applicable) | If a data provider is an individual, please provide the affiliation (if any) to any organization, government, consultancy, private company or other entity. |
| Reference Date | Please post the date that the data was created or last updated. In other words, the date the data is current to. This field is very important in helping to assess the quality of the data. |
| Delivery Date | Please list the date that the data was delivered to UNEP-WCMC or uploaded to the WDPa. |
| Spatial Reference System | The Geographic Coordinate System and/or Projection the data was created in. This is important to account for any shifts in the data when transformed to the Geographic Coordinate System of the WDPa which is based on Geographic Coordinate System: World Geodetic Survey 1984. |
| Scale of the Dataset | If known, the scale of the dataset should be given as the scale that was used when the data was originally created. Scale gives an indication of the resolution of the data and therefore its accuracy. |
| Lineage | Please describe any known history of how the data was created and describe any updates to the data. |
| Language | Original language of the dataset (before translation into English or transliteration into Latin characters). |
| Language Character Encoding | If known, please provide the language character encoding originally associated with the data. Please provide the data in UTF-8. Coordination of language character encoding is the responsibility of the |

Appendix 5: GLOSSARY

| Abbreviation | In full |
|--------------|--|
| AONB | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty |
| ASSI | Area of Special Scientific Interest |
| CBD | Convention on Biological Diversity |
| CCW | Countryside Commission for Wales |
| CDDA | Common Database on Designated Areas |
| ECDDA | European Common Database on Designated Areas |
| EEA | European Environment Agency |
| EIONET | European Environment Information and Observation Network |
| IUCN | International Union for Conservation of Nature |
| JMT | John Muir Trust |
| JNCC | Joint Nature Conservation Committee |
| LNCS | Local Nature Conservation Site |
| LNR | Local Nature Reserve |
| LWS | Local Wildlife Site |
| MAB | UNESCO Man in the Biosphere sites |
| MCA | Marine Consultation Area |
| MCZ | Marine Conservation Zone |
| MNR | Marine Nature Reserve |
| MPA | Marine Protected Area |
| Natura 2000 | Europe-wide network of sites (SPAs + SACs) |
| NE | Natural England |
| NIEA | Northern Ireland Environment Agency |
| NNR | National Nature Reserve |
| NP | National Park |
| NSA | National Scenic Area |
| RP | Regional Park |
| RSPB | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds |
| SAC | Special Area for Conservation |
| SINC | Site of Interest to Nature Conservation |
| SLA | Special (local) landscape areas |
| SLNCI | Sites of Local Nature Conservation Interest |
| SNH | Scottish Natural Heritage |
| SPA | Special Protection Area |
| SRDP | Scottish Rural Development Programme |
| SSSI | Site of Special Scientific Interest |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation |
| WCMC | World Conservation Monitoring Centre |
| WCPA | World Commission on Protected Areas |
| WDPA | World Database on Protected Areas |
| WHS | World Heritage Site |

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