

Glossary of Terms

Abbreviation	Term in Full	Definition
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Designated by the Countryside Commission. The purpose of the AONB designation is to identify areas of national importance and to promote the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty. This includes protecting its flora, fauna, geological and landscape features. This is a statutory designation.
cSAC	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	This designation aims to protect habitats or species of European importance and can include Marine Areas. SACs are designated under the EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and will form part of the Natura 2000 site network. All SACs sites are also protected as SSSI, except those in the marine environment below the Mean Low Water (MLW).
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area,	This is an area where special land management payments are available through agreement with DEFRA to provide farming practices which are beneficial to the environment. This is a non-statutory designation.
Feature		Something tangible. This will be of a specific geographical location and specific to the SMP.
Heritage Coast	Heritage Coast	These are coasts designated by the Countryside Commission for their scenic quality, their largely undeveloped nature and their special wildlife and historic interest. Local authorities assist with the management of Heritage Coasts often with Heritage Coast officers. This is a non-statutory designation
Issue		All issues and aspirations are related to flood and coastal defence and grouped or categorised under the three main themes: Technical; Environmental; or Socio-economic
LLA	Local Landscape Areas	An area identified by the local authority as being important to the appearance and environment of the local area.
LNR	Local Nature Reserves	These are established by local authorities in consultation with English Nature. These sites are generally of local significance and also provide important opportunities for public enjoyment, recreation and interpretation. This is a statutory designation
Location		A discrete point on the coast or a length of coastline between two defined points
MHW	Mean High Water	
MLW	Mean Low Water	
NNR	National Nature Reserves	Designated by English Nature. These represent some of the most important natural and semi-natural ecosystems in Great Britain, and are managed to protect the conservation value of the habitats that occur on these sites. This is a statutory designation

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Ramsar		Designated under the, "Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat." 1971. The objective of this designation it to stem the progressive encroachment onto, and loss of wetlands.
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites	These are Identified by locally developed criteria, and are currently the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected land such as SSSIs. This is a non-statutory designation
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monuments	The main legislation concerning archaeology in the UK is the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. This Act, building on legislation dating back to 1882, provides for nationally important archaeological sites to be statutorily protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
SLA	Special Landscape Area	An area identified as having a strategic landscape importance
SMA	Sensitive Marine Area	A generic term used to describe nationally important locations around our coast which require a cautious and detailed approach to management. They are identified by English Nature for their important benthic populations, spawning or nursery areas for fish, fragile intertidal communities, or breeding, feeding, and roosting areas for birds and sea mammals. This is a non-statutory designation
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan	It provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes and presents a policy framework to reduce these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner.
SNCI	Site of Nature Conservation Importance	These sites are defined by the Wildlife Trusts and Local Authorities as sites of local nature conservation interest. These are non-statutory but form an integral part of the formulation of planning policies relating to nature conservation issues.
SPA	Special Protection Area (SPA	These are internationally important sites, being set up to establish a network of protected areas of birds
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest	These sites, notified by English Nature, represent some of the best examples of Britain's natural features including flora, fauna, and geology. This is a statutory designation
STW	Sewage Treatment Works	
SWS	Storm Water System	
VMCA	Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas	Their purpose is to protect the marine conservation importance of the site and to provide a focus for liaison, co-operation and education for a sustainable marine environment. This is a statutory designation.