

Table 2 Overall Conclusions from the Stage1 Assessment – the broad areas of search

Overall	Biodiversity and landscape only (all sub-themes)	Biodiversity and Landscape only (by theme)	All themes	All sub-themes	Overall
High	14. <i>Argyll Coast & Islands</i> 13. Lochaber and Skye 11. <i>Western Isles</i> 9. Shetland 6. Inner Moray Firth	14. <i>Argyll Coast & Islands</i> 11. <i>Western Isles</i> 9. Shetland	15 Firth Of Clyde & W Kintyre 14. Argyll Coast & Islands 13 Lochaber and Skye 11 Western Isles 4. East Grampian Coast	14. <i>Argyll Coast and the Islands</i> 13. Lochaber and Skye 11. <i>Western Isles</i> 6. Inner Moray Firth	14. Argyll Coast and the Islands 13. Lochaber and Skye 11. <i>Western Isles</i>
Medium	16. Solway Firth 8. Orkney 5. East Moray Firth 4. East Grampian coast 3. Firth of Tay 1. Berwickshire	16. Solway Firth 15. Firth of Clyde & W Kintyre 13. Lochaber and Skye 12. North West Coast 6. Inner Moray Firth 4. East Grampian coast 1. Berwickshire	16 Solway Firth 12 Northwest Coast 10. North Coast 9 <i>Shetland</i> 8 <i>Orkney</i> 6. Inner Moray Firth 3 <i>Firth of Tay</i> 2 <i>Firth Of Forth</i>	16. <i>Solway Firth</i> 15. Firth of Clyde 4. East Grampian Coast 9. Shetland 8. Orkney 3. Firth of Tay 2. Firth of Forth	16. <i>Solway Firth</i> 15. Firth of Clyde 12. Northwest Coast 10. North Coast 9. Shetland 8. Orkney 6. Inner Moray Firth 4. East Grampian Coast 3. Firth of Tay 2. Firth of Forth
Low	15. Firth of Clyde and W Kintrye 12. North West Coast 10. North Coast 7. <i>North Moray Firth</i> 2. Firth of Forth	10. North Coast 8. Orkney 7. North Moray Firth 5. East Moray Firth 3. Firth of Tay 2. Firth of Forth	7. North Moray Firth 5. East Moray Firth 1. Berwickshire	12. Northwest Coast 10. North Coast 7. <i>North Moray Firth</i> 5. East Moray Firth 1. Berwickshire	7. <i>North Moray Firth</i> 5. East Moray Firth 1. Berwickshire

Notes:

Italicised text indicates areas that are consistently rated whichever way the assessments are combined

An overall ranking for each division was developed in two ways – at the theme level and sub-theme level. The four themes were biodiversity (including earth heritage); landscape, enjoyment and recreation and cultural heritage. There were 9, 2, 2, and 1 sub-themes respectively for each of these themes. Bringing themes together on a sub-theme basis therefore gave greater weight to the biodiversity theme.