

Table 3 Overall Conclusions from Stage 2 – the long-list of possible areas

Stage 1 Divisions	Emerging Conclusions from Stage 1	Key points from Stage 2 discussion	Options for the Stage 3 long list
Solway	Medium	<p>Solway Firth Partnership area unlikely to be suitable because of the Scottish-English border – a core area therefore emerges which is focused on the Galloway Coast</p> <p>Inland boundary could include the NSAs</p>	<p>1. Solway Coast: Mull of Galloway to Southernness point, with possible extensions westwards to Corsewall point near Loch Ryan and eastwards to Gretna</p>
Firth of Clyde and West Kintrye	Medium	<p>Clyde Forum area the logical starting point for debate, but potentially a big area.</p> <p>Very difficult in this area to draw meaningful coastal boundaries – both on Arran but also for the more developed coastlines and sealochs.</p> <p>Is the proposed area as a whole of sufficient natural heritage quality compared to other areas on the long-list?</p> <p>Potential proximity to existing National Park needs further consideration</p>	<p>2. Clyde: Clyde estuary (from Toward Point to Wemyss Bay outwards to Johnstone's point to Bennane Head – including Ailsa Craig, Arran and Kilbrannan Sound), with possible extensions to the inner Clyde, Loch Fyne, and out to the Mull of Kintyre to Corsewall point</p>
Argyll Coast and Islands	High	<p>Two different core areas identified – Mull, Coll and Tiree and the North Argyll Coast south of Oban – both of which could be linked by the Firth of Lorne.</p> <p>A key issue in the geography of any area is the potential inclusion of all or part of Mull. If the Sound of Mull was included, there is perhaps a stronger case for extending this core area northwards rather than further southwards?</p>	<p>3. Argyll Islands and Coast Coll, Tiree, West and South and West Mull, Firth of Lorn, Seil to Loch Caolisport, Jura and Islay, with possible extensions northwards to include the sound of Mull, Loch Sunart and Ardnamurchan point.</p> <p>4. Argyll Islands, Lochaber and South Skye Coll, Tiree, Mull, Sound of Mull and Ardnamurchan, with possible extensions to the Small Isles, the Sound of Sleat, and the South Skye coast.</p>

Lochaber and Skye	Medium	Two core areas identified to the north and south of this division, with several possible extensions. Again, a key issue in the geography of any area is the potential inclusion of all or part of Skye. There is a strong case for a possible area linking the northern part of this division with the North West Coast division.	5. Lochaber and South Skye Coast: Ardnamurchan, Small Isles, the Sound of Sleat, and the South Skye coast, with possible extensions northwards taking in Knoydart and Loch Alsh and southwards to Loch Sunart and the Sound of Mull. 6. Wester Ross and North Skye Coast: Wester Ross, the Summer Isles, with possible extensions southwards to Applecross, Raasay and South Skye Coast, and northwards to Scourie Bay.
Western Isles	High	Two very different core areas identified. Parts of both are relatively accessible for the Western Isles.	7. North Uist, Sound of Harris, Harris and South Lewis: North Uist, Loch Maddy and the Monarch Isles, Sound of Harris, Harris and South Lewis with possible extensions to take in the Shiant Isles. 8. South Uist, Sound of Barra and Barra Sound of Barra, south west coast of South Uist, Barra and the islands to the south
Northwest Coast	Medium	Analysis suggests that it is difficult to identify a specific part of this area, but there is a case for an area combining the southern part of this area with the Lochaber and Skye area (see above)	
North Coast	Medium	Analysis suggests that it is difficult to identify a specific area of sufficient size. A larger area could take in the Pentland Firth, Orkney and part of the north Caithness coastline	9. Orkney and Pentland Firth
Orkney	Medium	North Islands or Scapa Flow - Hoy – South Ronaldsay area (linking to North Coast division) seem strongest options, but analysis underlines the difficulty in identifying a discrete part of Orkney . The latter area is also constrained by port and industrial developments.	10. Orkney
Shetland	Medium	With exception of Fair Isle, the analysis underlines the difficulty in identifying a discrete part of the Shetland.	11. Fair Isle 12. Fair Isle and all of Shetland
North Moray Firth	Low	Some combination of these three areas suggested.	13. Moray Firth
Inner Moray Firth	Medium	Is the area as a whole of sufficient natural heritage	

East Moray Firth	Low	<p>quality compared to other areas on the long-list? To address this, there is perhaps scope for considering an area including inner Moray Firth and east Moray Firth area – though this would divide the firth.</p> <p>There are several small core areas on this coastline of high heritage and recreational value (e.g. East Neuk of Fife, East Lothian and Berwickshire Coast, St Cyrus etc) but analysis suggests that it is difficult to identify a specific area of sufficient size and coherence given the extent of port and industrial development along parts of this coast.</p>	14. Inner and east Coast Moray Firth area
East Grampian Coast	Medium		
Firth of Tay	Medium		
Firth of Forth	Medium		
Berwickshire	Low		