

Table 4 - Stage 3 criteria

Key components of assessment	Suggested criteria	Explanation
Are the threats to the natural, cultural heritage and recreational qualities of the area, or opportunities for their enhancement, sufficient to merit national effort and enhanced resources?	1. Extent of threat to the natural or cultural heritage of the area	Combination of criteria 2 and 3.
	2. The scale and significance of recreational and visitor pressures	Overall numbers of visitors and recreational activities. Signs of pressure from path erosion, overcrowding, and boat and traffic congestion etc.
	3. The scale and significance of coastal development and land/sea uses activities	Types, extent, coverage and intensity of activities in the area – fishing, aquaculture, shipping, renewables, coastal development etc.
	4. The potential for enhancing the natural or cultural heritage of the area	Protecting key marine interests; increasing fish stocks; scope of positive landscape and seascape management; managing soft coasts
	5. The potential for enhancing outdoor recreation and the enjoyment of the natural and cultural heritage of the area	Nature and capacity of natural and cultural resources; extent to which they are being used to capacity at present; extent to which projects and initiatives could provide greater access to them
Does the management of the natural resources of the area require the more integrated and specialised approach of a National Park?	6. The significance of the conflicts and other interactions between different land and sea-uses, between land/sea management activities and recreation use, and between different recreational uses	Combination of criteria 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
	7. The extent to which the more integrated approach of a Park provide for better management of the area than any existing geographic, sectoral or voluntary approaches in place	Number and scope of existing mechanisms in the area (degree of integration; permanence; and geographic coverage); and the potential for a Park to enhance these
Are they likely to be specific social and economic benefits for the area of designation as a National Park?	8. The extent to which the local economy is dependent on the sustainable use of its natural resources, and the natural and cultural heritage of the area	Proportion of workforce employed in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism. Existence of traditional fishing and land-use practices
	9. The potential of a Park to contribute significantly to the social and economic development of the communities of the area	Relative fragility of area – population loss; economic decline; employment profiles in key sectors – and whether a Park could make a significant contribution to the local economy

How accessible is the proposed area?	10. The accessibility of the area from the rest of Scotland, the UK and elsewhere	<p>High accessibility: within reach for a day trip and back by car from main population centres in central belt, or accessible within a short day (circa 5 hrs) by public transport.</p> <p>Medium accessibility within reach by car or public transport within a short day (circa 5 hours).</p> <p>Low accessibility – within reach by car or public transport within a long day, likely to require multiple modes of transport or air travel.</p> <p>Significance of boat based travel to/from area</p>
	11. The accessibility of the key coastal and marine resources within area	Presence of coastal roads, footpaths, beaches and access points to the sea. Travel by boat within area. Scope for both popular and more specialist recreation.