

# **Shetland Local Landscape Designation Review: Final Report**

**Prepared for Shetland Islands Council  
by  
Land Use Consultants**

**October 2011**



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# 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of a Local Landscape Designation Review (LLDR), carried out by Land Use Consultants on behalf of Shetland Islands Council (SIC).
- 1.2 Due to changes in national policy, the current suite of Local Protection Areas, defined by the Shetland Local Plan, are no longer suitable. A new landscape-specific designation will be introduced as part of the new Local Development Plan, currently being prepared by SIC.
- 1.3 A methodology for the LLDR was developed, based on the approach set out in *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations*, published jointly by Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland in 2005. The methodology was designed to identify 'candidate Local Landscape Areas', which will be subject to further consultation by SIC prior to adoption.
- 1.4 An evaluation of the Shetland landscape was undertaken, drawing on the published landscape character assessment of the area. A series of evaluation criteria were developed and agreed, and were employed to produce a ranking of character areas by landscape quality. The evaluation was carried out initially as a desk-based exercise, and subsequently expanded through field work. The result of this first stage was the definition of an area of search, which was agreed with SIC.
- 1.5 Further field work informed an analysis of the area of search, enabling a move away from landscape character areas towards candidate Local Landscape Areas, often focusing on areas of combined character where landscape qualities are most evident.
- 1.6 A number of practical criteria were applied, to ensure all candidate Local Landscape Areas represented coherent, recognisable landscapes, with appropriate boundaries. The resulting set of candidate Local Landscape Areas were then submitted to SIC for approval, prior to finalisation of the report.
- 1.7 The outcome of the LLDR was a set of 17 candidate Local Landscape Areas, representing a series of highly valued and high quality landscapes across Shetland. The candidate areas represent a range of Shetland's landscape types, and complement the coverage of the Shetland National Scenic Area.
- 1.8 A Statement of Importance has been developed for each candidate Local Landscape Area, providing a robust justification for its extent and boundaries, together with its key characteristics, and recommendations for development guidelines.
- 1.9 The next stage will be a consultation process, to be taken forward by SIC, which will seek wider comment on the candidate Local Landscape Areas. Appropriate policy to be applied within Local Landscape Areas will be formulated by SIC. It is anticipated that the finalised Local Landscape Areas will form supplementary planning guidance alongside the forthcoming Local Development Plan.

## **Glossary**

- I.10 This glossary lists acronyms used in the report.
- cLLA candidate Local Landscape Area
  - LCA Landscape Character Assessment
  - LCU Landscape Character Unit
  - LDP Local Development Plan
  - LLDR Local Landscape Designation Review
  - LUC Land Use Consultants
  - LPA Local Protection Area
  - MIR Main Issues Report
  - NNR National Nature Reserve
  - NPF2 National Planning Framework 2
  - NSA National Scenic Area
  - PAN Planning Advice Note
  - SAC Special Area of Conservation
  - SIC Shetland Islands Council
  - SNH Scottish Natural Heritage
  - Sol Statement of Importance
  - SPA Special Protection Area
  - SPG Supplementary Planning Guidance
  - SPP Scottish Planning Policy
  - SSSI Site of Special Scientific Interest

## 2 Introduction

- 2.1 Following a change in national planning policy, Shetland Islands Council (SIC) is taking a new approach to the protection of landscape at a local level. At present, a number of Local Protection Areas are designated for a range of reasons including landscape, biodiversity and archaeology. New national policy encourages local authorities to employ local designations for distinct purposes, backed by robust justification. As such, the current multi-purpose Local Protection Areas are no longer suitable. SIC proposes therefore to develop a new suite of local landscape designations which will accord with national policy, based on a review of landscape character.
- 2.2 In April 2011, Land Use Consultants (LUC) was commissioned to undertake this local landscape designation review (LLDR). LUC's brief was to develop a robust set of criteria and carry out a comprehensive assessment aimed at replacing the current set of designations with a new, more robustly justified suite of Local Landscape Areas.
- 2.3 This report presents the findings of the review process, including a comparative evaluation of the Shetland landscape, and the selection of candidate Local Landscape Areas. This report builds on an interim report (May 2011), which set out the proposed methodology and baseline studies. This was discussed and agreed with SIC. Key elements of the study, such as the specific purposes of the new designation, were therefore agreed at the project outset, in order that the outcome fully reflects SIC's intentions.

### STUDY CONTEXT

#### Scottish Planning Policy

- 2.4 In 2010, the Scottish Government published Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), their updated statement on nationally important land use planning matters. This includes policy on local designations, and states that "*planning authorities are encouraged to limit non-statutory designations to two types - local landscape areas and local nature conservation sites*" (paragraph 139).
- 2.5 SPP also recommends that the "*reasons for designation should be clearly explained*" (paragraph 139), and states that:
- "The purpose of designating a local landscape area in the development plan should be to:*
- *safeguard and enhance the character and quality of landscapes which are important or particularly valued locally or regionally, or*
  - *promote understanding and awareness of the distinctive character and special qualities of local landscapes, or*
  - *safeguard and promote important settings for outdoor recreation and tourism locally*" (paragraph 140).
- 2.6 Under the terms of this policy, the Local Protection Areas (LPA) identified in the adopted Shetland Local Plan (2004) are no longer appropriate, since they

are a 'multi-purpose' designation. Further details on LPAs are included in **Section 6** of this report.

### **Shetland Policy Context**

- 2.7 SIC are currently working on a new Local Development Plan (LDP) to replace the Shetland Local Plan. This will introduce a new approach to planning, replacing the current zones with land allocations, for which submissions of Proposed Development Sites have already been invited. A new approach to local landscape protection will therefore integrate with the new LDP approach.

### **Guidance on Local Landscape Designations**

- 2.8 In 2006, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Historic Scotland jointly published *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations*. This document, afterwards referred to as 'the Guidance' in this report, contains detailed guidance on undertaking a systematic review of landscape, aimed at identifying those areas most worthy of designation. The Guidance encourages an 'all-landscapes' approach, whereby the value of every landscape is recognised through criteria-based policies, while those landscapes which merit special attention are recognised through designation.
- 2.9 The approach set out in the Guidance has formed the basis for the methodology used in the present review, and is expanded upon in **Section 3** of this report.

### **Local Landscape Areas**

- 2.10 SPP uses the term 'local landscape area' to refer to a local authority level landscape protection designation, and this term has therefore been adopted in the present report.
- 2.11 Both SPP and the Guidance set out the generic role and purposes of local landscape areas, although the latter notes that local landscape designations can serve a variety of roles, and that it is for the local authority to decide on the specific purpose of any proposed designation. The new Local Landscape Areas in Shetland will be designed to:
- offer protection to selected areas from inappropriate scales and types of development;
  - extend protection to areas not already afforded significant protection by national-level landscape and biodiversity designations; and
  - seek to protect a representative range of the landscapes for which Shetland is renowned, including rural crofting landscapes, as well as the more dramatic coastal scenery.
- 2.12 Local Landscape Areas will not come into force until adopted as part of the new Local Development Plan.

## PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.13 The objectives of the local landscape designation review (LLDR) have been identified by LUC, based on the requirements issued by SIC, as follows:
- To define and implement a clear methodology for identifying regionally significant Local Landscape Areas, based on the approach set out in *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations*;
  - To assess the whole of the Shetland landscape to identify areas that merit protection, and areas that do not, based on a systematic and transparent approach for defining proposed areas for designation;
  - To briefly review the existing suite of LPAs, other designations, and submitted Proposed Development Sites, and to utilise these to inform an understanding of the baseline;
  - To identify through this process a series of 'candidate Local Landscape Areas', which will be the subject of further consultation by SIC;
  - To provide a Statement of Importance for each candidate area, setting out full justification for their selection, including description of their character, qualities and value of the proposed areas, identification of justifiable boundaries, and an indication of potentially appropriate types and scales of development; and
  - To present a detailed report setting out the methodology, assessment and findings of the review in a clear and transparent way.
- 2.14 This report does not define or advise on the policy to be applied within Local Landscape Areas, should they be adopted in future. Applicable policies will be formulated by SIC.

## STUDY AREA

- 2.15 The study area for the review, as defined by SIC, covers the whole of Shetland, with the exception of the islands of Foula, Fair Isle and Out Skerries.

## STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

- 2.16 The remainder of this report is structured as follows:
- **Section 3:** Methodology
  - **Section 4:** Planning Policy Context
  - **Section 5:** Evidence Base
  - **Section 6:** Audit of Landscape Designations in Shetland
  - **Section 7:** Landscape Evaluation
  - **Section 8:** Qualitative Analysis
  - **Section 9:** Candidate Local Landscape Areas

## 3 Methodology

- 3.1 This section describes the methodology adopted in carrying out the local landscape designation review (LLDR). The approach was guided principally by *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations*<sup>1</sup>, published by SNH and Historic Scotland, and was developed based on LUC's past experience in carrying out designation reviews in Fife, Edinburgh and the Scottish Borders. The approach was adapted based on the specific requirements of SIC and of the special character of the Shetland landscape.
- 3.2 The methodology was developed through discussion with SIC over the course of the project, to ensure its applicability, and to incorporate project-specific needs.
- 3.3 The study comprised the following main tasks:
- Desk-based review of background material;
  - Audit of existing landscape designations;
  - Landscape evaluation, comprising:
    - Initial field survey
    - Preliminary landscape evaluation;
    - Definition of an 'area of search'; and
    - Detailed field survey and finalised evaluation;
  - Analysis of the 'area of search';
  - Identification of candidate Local Landscape Areas; and
  - Draft 'Statements of Importance'.

### Desk Review

- 3.4 The first stage was a detailed review of a range of national, regional, and local planning policy and guidance relating to landscape designations in general, and to the Shetland landscape in particular. The findings of the policy review are set out in **Section 4**.
- 3.5 The principal source of information on the Shetland landscape is *A Landscape Assessment of the Shetland Isles*, prepared by Gillespies and published in 1998 by SNH.<sup>2</sup> To enable a comparative review of the landscapes of Shetland, the landscape character types and areas were grouped and modified, by LUC, as part of the current commission, to arrive at a refined classification of 57 'landscape character units' (LCU). This process is described in detail in **Section 5**.
- 3.6 Other background data sources were used to inform the evaluation as follows:
- Aerial photographs;

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<sup>1</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage/Historic Scotland (2006) *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations*.

<sup>2</sup> Gillespies (1998) *A Landscape Assessment of the Shetland Isles*. Scottish Natural Heritage Review No. 93.

- Ordnance Survey mapping at 1:50,000 and 1:25,000 scale;
- Natural heritage designations (National Scenic Areas, National Nature Reserves, Ramsar sites, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest);
- Cultural heritage designations (Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, listed buildings);
- Local designations and policies defined in the Shetland Local Plan (2004); and
- Access information (public rights of way, Core Paths).

### **Audit of Existing Landscape Designations**

- 3.7 A brief audit was carried out of the existing suite of local and national landscape designations in Shetland. This focused on the LPA designation, and sought to identify their purpose, function, reasons for designation, and, where appropriate, the landscape qualities they embody and aim to protect. A key feature of the LPAs is their ‘community-led’ focus, whereby suggestions for potential areas are submitted by Shetland residents or community groups. The LPAs are therefore a potential source of information on the type of landscapes which are valued locally.
- 3.8 The audit also looked at the Shetland National Scenic Area and its special qualities as set out in *The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas*.<sup>3</sup> The audit is included in **Section 6** of this report.

### **Landscape Evaluation**

- 3.9 The main part of the LLDR was the desk-based quantitative evaluation of the landscape of the study area. The methodology for the evaluation is based on *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations*, and was developed based on LUC’s past experience, and through consultation with SIC.

#### ***Evaluation criteria***

- 3.10 The evaluation was based on the landscape classification set out in *A Landscape Assessment of the Shetland Isles*, as refined for this review (see **Section 5**). Each of the landscape character units (LCU) were individually evaluated against a series of agreed criteria.
- 3.11 The criteria used are based on those suggested in the Guidance, and further informed by the requirements of SIC and the needs of the present study. They were developed into a series of evaluation questions, with four possible ‘ranks’ for each question: low, medium, high or very high. Three additional non-ranked criteria identify differences in relative value within LCUs, and important relationships with other LCUs, as well as noting other designations present in each LCU. The criteria were discussed and agreed with SIC during the course of the project. The criteria are defined in **Table 3.1**, and the evaluation questions and decision rules are set out in **Table 3.2**.

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<sup>3</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage (2010). *The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas*. SNH Commissioned Report No.374.

3.12 An interim report (June 2011) presented proposed criteria, which have since been modified following discussion and initial fieldwork. Significant changes to the evaluation methodology, between the interim report and this Final Report, are noted below:

- The term 'typicality' has been replaced with 'representativeness', to better reflect the evaluation of 'sense of place', rather than simply common landscapes.
- The assessment of condition was found to be problematic, as it was difficult to consistently assess the level of management of the landscape. Following initial field work, the level of landscape management was not found to be as important as intactness in determining landscape quality. The condition criterion has therefore been omitted while the intactness criterion has been developed further.
- The interim report included a 'value' criterion, to be assessed through the presence of existing designations. Following discussion with the Council, it was decided that this would not produce a consistent evaluation. Other designations have therefore been recorded as a non-ranked criterion.



**Table 3.1 Evaluation Criteria**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Representativeness</b>	The extent to which a landscape is representative of the Shetland Islands, and contributes to its wider identity and sense of place.
<b>Rarity</b>	Identifies landscapes or features which are rare or unusual within the Shetland Islands, or which are known to be uncommon elsewhere.
<b>Intactness</b>	The extent to which a landscape has changed in the past, or is currently changing, as a result of development or changing land management.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	The extent to which the landscape contains attractive, impressive, and/or dramatic combinations of features, or to which it prompts strong sensory appeal.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	The importance of the landscape as a recreational resource, including accessibility and provision of opportunities for appreciation of the landscape or views.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	The extent to which the landscape is the setting for features of historic value, including buildings, archaeology and designed landscapes. Also includes the influence of intangible literary or artistic associations.
<b>Naturalness</b>	The importance of features of natural heritage interest within the landscape, including important habitats, protected sites, and features of geodiversity value.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	The extent to which the landscape allows an appreciation of the traditional pattern of cultivation and settlement on Shetland, and in particular the distinctive pattern of the crofting landscape.
<b>Views</b>	The extent and importance of views in and out of the landscape, including the relative visibility of the landscape from key routes and locations.
<b>Non-ranked criteria</b>	
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	The extent to which a LCU is consistent in terms of the above criteria.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	Identifies the most important adjacent LCUs, which may combine to form groupings with high value.
<b>Other designations</b>	Identifies existing designations which cover parts of the LCU, including LPAs, NSA, and other natural and cultural heritage designations.

**Table 3.2 Evaluation questions and decision rules**

Criteria	Evaluation questions	Rank	
<b>Representative-ness</b>	Does the landscape contain features or a combination of features that are representative of the Shetland Islands, and therefore contribute to its wider identity, image and sense of place locally, regionally or nationally?	<b>Very high</b>	The landscape contains features or combination of features that are highly representative of the Shetland Islands, and has a strong sense of place.
		<b>High</b>	The landscape contains features or combination of features that are representative of the Shetland Islands, and has some sense of place.
		<b>Medium</b>	The landscape contains occasional features or combination of features that are representative of the Shetland Islands, and has a limited sense of place.
		<b>Low</b>	The landscape does not contain features which are representative of the Shetland Islands.
<b>Rarity</b>	Does the landscape contain features or a combination of features which are rare or unique within the Shetland Islands, or which are known to be uncommon elsewhere?	<b>Very high</b>	Large number of landscape features which are unique within the Shetland Islands, and may be rare across Scotland.
		<b>High</b>	Large number of landscape features which are rare or unique within the Shetland Islands.
		<b>Medium</b>	Some landscape features which are rare or unique within the Shetland Islands.
		<b>Low</b>	No landscape features which are rare or unique within the Shetland Islands.
<b>Intactness</b>	Has the underlying character of the landscape (either natural or resulting from long-established management patterns) been obscured by past, present or future changes in human activity, including landscape management, patterns of development or the influence of development? Or, has such activity been continued in a way which preserves underlying character?	<b>Very high</b>	Recent activity has either not affected this landscape, or has been carried on in a harmonious way.
		<b>High</b>	Recent activity may have modified this landscape in limited ways, and the underlying character remains clear.
		<b>Medium</b>	Recent activity has modified the underlying character of the landscape, though elements of its underlying character can be discerned.
		<b>Low</b>	The character of the landscape has been extensively modified by recent activity such that its underlying character has been obscured.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	To what extent is the landscape of scenic value in its own right or to what extent does it contribute to the scenic qualities of the wider area?	<b>Very high</b>	Pleasant combination of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. Strong visual, sensory, perceptual and experiential qualities which contribute to the natural beauty and appreciation of the landscape.
		<b>High</b>	Some pleasing features or combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. Visual, sensory, perceptual and experiential qualities which contribute to the natural beauty and appreciation of the landscape.
		<b>Medium</b>	Few pleasing features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. Some visual, sensory, perceptual and experiential qualities. Landscape contributes to the setting of an adjacent area of high landscape quality.
		<b>Low</b>	The landscape does not contain pleasing features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements, and lacks visual, sensory, perceptual and experiential qualities.

Criteria	Evaluation questions	Rank	
<b>Enjoyment</b>	To what extent is the landscape enjoyed by local people and visitors, for example in the form of walking, cycling or horse riding, or in the form of more formal recreation activities, which are focused on enjoyment of the landscape?	<b>Very high</b>	The landscape is well used, and is very important as a recreational and/or tranquil area. Extensive provision of access (routes and/or open access), viewpoints, attractions and/or other recreational facilities.
		<b>High</b>	The landscape is important as a recreational and/or tranquil area. Good provision of access, viewpoints, attractions and/or other recreational facilities.
		<b>Medium</b>	The landscape has some importance as a recreational and/or tranquil area. Some provision of access, viewpoints, attractions and/or other recreational facilities, potentially less well-used.
		<b>Low</b>	The landscape has little or no tranquillity and/or outdoor recreational value. There is little or no provision of access, viewpoints, attractions and/or other recreational facilities.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Does the landscape have historic or cultural associations, either visible monuments and landscape patterns, or intangible literature, music, art, local history or particular spiritual associations, or does it contribute to the wider cultural heritage of the area?	<b>Very high</b>	The landscape is very rich in visible features of archaeology and built heritage, and has strong, direct literary or artistic associations.
		<b>High</b>	The landscape is rich in visible features of archaeology and built heritage, and has some literary or artistic associations.
		<b>Medium</b>	The landscape has some visible features of archaeology and built heritage. Literary and artistic associations less direct.
		<b>Low</b>	The landscape has few visible features of archaeology or built heritage, and few or no literary or artistic associations.
<b>Naturalness</b>	To what extent does the landscape represent a semi-natural area, indicated by a limited human presence, and by the contribution of natural heritage features (biodiversity and geodiversity) to the landscape?	<b>Very high</b>	The landscape has very limited or no human influence, and has extensive areas of semi-natural habitat or important features of geodiversity interest.
		<b>High</b>	The landscape has limited human influence, and has larger areas of semi-natural habitat or features of geodiversity interest.
		<b>Medium</b>	The landscape has some degree of human influence, and semi-natural habitat or features of geodiversity interest are of less importance.
		<b>Low</b>	The landscape has extensive human influence, and few areas of semi-natural habitat or features of geodiversity interest.

Criteria	Evaluation questions	Rank	
<b>Rural pattern</b>	To what extent does the landscape enable the typical pattern of the traditional Shetland crofting way of life to be appreciated?	<b>Very high</b>	A crofting landscape, with the typical elements of scattered croft houses, stone walls, small-scale patterns of enclosure, and a mix of arable and grazing land.
		<b>High</b>	The landscape contains some features and elements of the crofting landscape, but its pattern has been altered.
		<b>Medium</b>	The landscape contains few features and elements of the crofting landscape, and does not represent the traditional landscape pattern.
		<b>Low</b>	Not a crofting landscape.
<b>Views</b>	Does the landscape provide key views to and from important built and natural heritage assets, residential properties, centres of population, or transport routes?	<b>Very high</b>	The landscape is very important in views from recognised key viewpoints, settlements or transport routes, and/or includes key landmarks.
		<b>High</b>	The landscape has some importance in views from recognised viewpoints, settlements or transport routes, and/or includes a key landmark.
		<b>Medium</b>	The landscape is important in a limited number of views from settlements or transport routes, and/or includes a local landmark.
		<b>Low</b>	The landscape does not perform a key function in relation to views from viewpoints, settlements, transport routes or landmarks.
<b>Non-ranked criteria</b>			
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?	<b>Consistent / Not consistent</b>	If <b>not consistent</b> , consider subdividing by quality or character, if taken forward for consideration as a candidate Local Landscape Area.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?	<b>List related landscapes</b>	Consider grouping with related LCUs, or parts of LCUs, if taken forward for consideration as a candidate Local Landscape Area.
<b>Other designations</b>	Any other landscape-scale designations which cover all or part of the LCU, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape Protection Areas;</li> <li>• National Scenic Areas;</li> <li>• Natural heritage designations (SPA, SAC, Ramsar, SSSI, NNR);</li> <li>• Gardens and designed landscapes</li> </ul>	<b>List relevant designations</b>	

### ***Evaluation Process***

- 3.13 The first stage of the evaluation was based on desk study, and on a field survey of the Shetland landscape undertaken in June 2011. An evaluation sheet for each LCU was completed in during the field survey, to record justified rankings against each criterion. An example of the field recording sheet is included in **Appendix I**.
- 3.14 The initial findings arising from this evaluation were converted in to a numerical 'score' for each LCU. A ranking of low=1, medium=2, high=3, very high=4. A total score can then be derived, and the LCUs ranked in order of their landscape quality.
- 3.15 The results of the evaluation were reviewed by SIC who made a number of detailed comments. These comments, along with further desk study, were incorporated into a revised evaluation.
- 3.16 The revised evaluation scores were used to generate an 'Area of Search', based on the highest-scoring 50% of LCUs. While this represents an arbitrary cut-off, it is unlikely that the best of Shetland's landscapes will be outside these LCUs.
- 3.17 To derive the Area of Search, an appropriate weighting was devised and applied to the evaluation results, to emphasise important criteria. The weighting was agreed with SIC and is described in detail in **Section 7**.
- 3.18 Following a second field survey, carried out in August/September 2011, and focusing on the Area of Search, the evaluation was refined based on the additional data gathered. The evaluation was again submitted to SIC for comment, to enable input of detailed local knowledge prior to finalisation. The results of the finalised evaluation are discussed in **Section 7**.

### ***Field Survey***

- 3.19 The first stage of fieldwork (June 2011) gathered basic information on each LCU, in order to carry out an initial evaluation against the criteria.
- 3.20 The second field survey (August 2011) comprised a more targeted series of visits to LCUs within the Area of Search, to gather more detailed evaluation information, and to identify potential candidate Local Landscape Areas. Local Landscape Areas may or may not correspond to LCUs, and therefore the second survey also looked across LCU boundaries, to identify potential groupings of landscapes. The second survey also sought also to gather more specific information on the key qualities to be drafted for each candidate Local Landscape Area.
- 3.21 The survey form for the second stage of the evaluation looked to the identification of candidate Local Landscape Areas, and involved the recording of descriptive prose relating to three aspects:
  - Objective description of landscape features, with reference to landform, land cover, land use, settlement pattern, distinctive features;
  - Objective description of visual relationships and contrasts which are important to the landscape, including relationships between LCUs; and

- Subjective description or personal response to the landscape.
- 3.22 This approach draws on the SNH methodology employed in the definition of special qualities of National Scenic Areas.<sup>4</sup> It seeks to draw out the key characteristics of an area, which form part of the justification required for each candidate Local Landscape Area. The detailed field survey was therefore an iterative process, designed to verify and expand on the initial stage of the evaluation. An example of the second-stage field survey form is included in **Appendix I**.

## Identification of Candidate Local Landscape Areas

### *Analysis of the Area of Search*

- 3.23 The evaluation process looked at each LCU as a whole, but did not seek to identify variations within these units. The quantitative scoring of LCUs, while providing a sound basis for selecting the most valuable areas, does not correlate directly to the definition of candidate Local Landscape Areas.
- 3.24 Significant variations in landscape quality occur across LCUs, and as such may not be brought out by an evaluation process that looks at LCUs as a whole. Potentially, high-scoring LCUs may contain areas of lower quality, while lower scoring LCUs may contain features of value. The potential for parts of neighbouring LCUs combine to form valuable assemblages is also recognised. Because of these variations, the wholesale adoption of high-scoring LCUs as candidate Local Landscape Areas would have been inappropriate.
- 3.25 In order to refine the Area of Search, a more detailed qualitative analysis was carried out, to enable a move away from the pre-defined LCUs, towards potential candidate Local Landscape Areas.
- 3.26 This analysis drew on the non-ranked criteria, and on material gathered during both stages of the field survey work. The following questions were explored in relation to each of the LCUs in the Area of Search.
- **Which parts of the LCU perform best against the evaluation criteria?**  
This question seeks to identify variations in relative landscape quality, noting which specific locations contribute to the highest rankings. This is particularly focused on the weighted criteria, and also draws on variations noted under the non-ranked consistency criterion.
  - **Are there parts of the LCU that contribute to important composite landscapes?**  
This question was considered with reference to the non-ranked relationships criterion, and seeks to identify where adjacent landscapes of differing type combine to create valuable groupings. It also identifies areas which may form an important setting to a high-quality landscape. This included the consideration of areas outside the Area of Search, where these contributed to the integrity of potential candidate Local Landscape Areas.

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<sup>4</sup> SNH (2008) *Guidance For Identifying The Special Qualities Of Scotland's National Scenic Areas*.

3.27 The result of this step indicates where sub-character areas, of high landscape quality, occur within LCUs, and whether these can be associated with adjacent areas in other LCUs to form potential candidate Local Landscape Areas.

### ***Application of Practical Criteria***

3.28 The second part of the analysis of the Area of Search is the application of 'practical criteria'. The Guidance emphasises the need for 'integrity' in terms of the coherence and size of candidate areas for designation. The following practical criteria were therefore applied to inform choices over inclusion or exclusion:

- identity and coherence;
- suitable size;
- other designations; and
- boundary features.

3.29 It is important that candidate Local Landscape Areas represent recognisable landscape units, with a logical theme or focus: for example a group of hills, a coastal landscape, or a crofting landscape. Very small areas of identified quality have not been taken forward in isolation, since it would be impractical to apply policy at this scale. Similarly, where larger areas of high quality are identified, the candidate Local Landscape Areas have been defined to focus on the core landscapes which most merit designation.

3.30 In terms of other designations, it was agreed with SIC that the new designation should not overlap with the existing National Scenic Area.

3.31 The aim has been to select strong and permanent boundaries for the candidate Local Landscape Areas where possible. These include roads and tracks, watercourses and water bodies, and coastal features. Other less permanent features, such as field boundaries, and topographic features such as ridgelines which define visual envelopes, have also been employed.

3.32 Where there is a lack of obvious boundary features, it has been necessary to move outwards to the next available boundary, and to include areas of lower merit, rather than to move inwards and reduce the area of higher merit included within the candidate Local Landscape Area, particularly where this might have an impact on the integrity of the area in question.

3.33 In some cases, the decision as to whether or not to include a specific area within a candidate Local Landscape Area was clear cut. However, most of the landscape is not so easily defined, and landscape quality is often variable at a detailed level. In many cases therefore, the decision required fine judgements to be made.

3.34 The process of analysing the Area of Search and identifying candidate Local Landscape Areas is set out in **Section 8**.

## Candidate Local Landscape Areas

- 3.35 An initial set of candidate Local Landscape Areas was presented to SIC for comment and feedback on:
- the appropriateness of the areas selected;
  - the extent of the overall coverage; and
  - specific areas included or excluded.

### *Statements of Importance*

- 3.36 Once the extent of candidate Local Landscape Areas was agreed with SIC, a Statement of Importance (Sol) was developed for each. The Sol is designed to justify the designation, in terms of what it protects and why. The Sol is divided into four sections:
- **Location and boundaries:** defines the boundaries of the candidate Local Landscape Area;
  - **Key characteristics:** a distillation of the special qualities which the candidate Local Landscape Area is designed to protect;
  - **Designation statement:** a detailed description of the candidate Local Landscape Area, which expands on the reasons for designation in terms of key themes or qualities;
  - **Development guidelines:** outlines potential issues and guidance on managing future change in a manner which is sympathetic to the special qualities of the area. These guidelines are not intended to be overly prescriptive, and do not comment on potential capacity issues. They are designed to offer general guidance on the types of change which may or may not be appropriate in each area.
- 3.37 The finalised candidate Local Landscape Areas, with statements of importance, are presented in **Section 9**.



## 4 Planning Policy Context

- 4.1 This section gives an overview of relevant national planning policy on local landscape designations, and reviews related themes in strategic and local development plans.

### NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY AND ADVICE

#### National Planning Framework

- 4.2 The National Planning Framework for Scotland 2 (NPF2)<sup>5</sup> celebrates the diversity and value of Scotland’s landscapes. In particular, it recognises the role of natural and historic landscapes in creating a sense of place, contributing to quality of life, and as a rich resource for tourism and leisure, creative industries, education and national and regional marketing. “*Nationally important landscape characteristics*” are recognised, including “*openness, intervisibility, perceived naturalness, and remoteness*” (paragraph 97).
- 4.3 NPF2 also recognises the wide ranging pressures on landscapes and the resultant changing character, particularly in response to the challenge of climate change. At the same time, these and other changes offer opportunities to support landscape enhancement, with the ultimate aim “*to build environmental capital and pass well-managed, high quality landscapes on to future generations*” (paragraph 100).

#### Scottish Planning Policy

- 4.4 Scottish Planning Policy<sup>6</sup> (SPP) is the Scottish Government’s policy on nationally important land use planning matters. The policy outlines the need for planning authorities to support opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of the natural heritage, whilst protecting and preserving it. The policy recognises the dynamic nature of the landscape in countryside and urban areas and the aim of the policy is to facilitate positive change whilst maintaining and enhancing its distinctive character.
- 4.5 SPP notes that “*local designations should be clearly identified and protected through the local development plan*” and that “*the reasons for designation should be clearly explained and the on-going relevance and function of local designations should be considered when development plans are prepared*” (paragraph 139). It identifies that local landscape areas and local nature conservation sites are to be the only two non-statutory local designations for natural heritage. The document notes that the purpose for designating a local landscape area should be to:
- “*Safeguard and enhance the character and quality of landscapes which are important or particularly valued locally or regionally, or*
  - *Promote understanding and awareness of the distinctive character and special qualities of local landscapes, or*

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<sup>5</sup> Scottish Government (2009) National Planning Framework for Scotland 2.

<sup>6</sup> Scottish Government (2010) Scottish Planning Policy.

- *Safeguard and promote important settings for outdoor recreation and tourism locally” (paragraph 140).*

### **Planning Advice Note 60**

- 4.6 PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage<sup>7</sup> provides policy and planning advice regarding Scotland’s natural heritage. Safeguarding and enhancing landscape character is an important planning objective. To achieve this there needs to be clear policy objectives in relation to landscape, promotion of high standards of siting and use of appropriate materials. A landscape designation is employed when an area is valued beyond its immediate surroundings.
- 4.7 Landscape designations are stated to be of more value when forming part of a wider land-use framework and habitat network and contributing to realisation of national natural heritage strategy (paragraph 39). Landscape character assessment can provide the means of determining the extent of landscapes to be designated (paragraph 26).
- 4.8 Landscape designations can offer opportunities to develop a partnership between local authorities and stakeholders. Development guidelines should be designed to safeguard landscape and should play a supporting role in protecting designated landscape (paragraph 40).

### **Guidance on Local Landscape Designations**

- 4.9 This Guidance<sup>8</sup> was developed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Historic Scotland from a review of local landscape designations initiated in 2003. The Guidance offers advice to local authorities on reviewing their local landscape designations. It seeks to;
- *“promote greater understanding and support for local landscape designations among local authorities, the public and other key stakeholders;*
  - *reaffirm the role of local landscape designations as part of an ‘all landscapes’ approach and define the circumstances when they could be used;*
  - *secure greater consistency in the selection and use of local landscape designations by local authorities; and*
  - *clarify the relationship of local landscape designations to the wider family of Scotland’s landscape designations” (paragraph 1-5).*
- 4.10 This guidance forms the basis for the approach to the current study, and is discussed further in relation to the methodology in **Section 3**.

### **LOCAL PLANNING**

- 4.11 The current Development Plan for Shetland comprises the Shetland Structure Plan (2000) and the adopted Shetland Local Plan (2004). These will be superseded by a new Local Development Plan (LDP). This is currently being prepared by SIC, following the publication of a Main Issues Report in March 2010. SIC has also prepared a range of supplementary planning guidance (SPG) and strategic studies.

<sup>7</sup> Scottish Executive (2000) Planning Advice Note 60: Planning for Natural Heritage.

<sup>8</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage/Historic Scotland (2006) Guidance on Local Landscape Designations.

## **Shetland Structure Plan**

- 4.12 The Shetland Structure Plan was approved in 2001 and sets out the land use strategy for Shetland to 2015. The plan notes that *“Shetland’s land and sea resources make up a particularly rich natural environment which is not only of international significance but forms the foundation for substantial parts of the Shetland economy”* (page 8), and one of the key aims of the plan is *“to protect and enhance the natural and built environment”* (page 10). Under the heading *The Shetland Landscape and Design*, the structure plan notes that *“Shetland’s landscape is one of extensive vistas in which almost every building or development can be seen”* (page 12). Policy SP NE2 gives protection to the National Scenic Area.

## **Shetland Local Plan**

- 4.13 The Shetland Local Plan was adopted in 2004. *“To protect and enhance the natural and built environment”* is again identified as a key aim (page 8), and the plan recognises that the *“landscape heritage of Shetland is every bit as important as that of its music, language, agriculture and fishing traditions”* (page 11). Policy LP NE11 defines Local Protection Areas, which are discussed in more detail in **Section 3**. Policy LP NE11 will not be taken forward in the new LDP.

## **Local Development Plan**

### ***Main Issues Report***

- 4.14 The first stage of the new Shetland Local Development Plan (LDP), the Main Issues Report (MIR) was a consultative document which would determine the direction of the LDP. Its aim was to explore *“the ways in which planning can best deliver the preservation of the natural and built environment of Shetland including its rich cultural and landscape heritage and way of life”* (page 2).
- 4.15 Relevant aspects of the local vision for Shetland in the MIR include:
- *“Conserving important historic and cultural assets; particularly Shetland’s traditional crofting way of life and traditions”*;
  - *“Making sure that new development is environmentally sensitive and of good quality”*; and
  - *“Protecting and enhancing areas for recreation and natural heritage”* (page 6).
- 4.16 Appendix 4 of the MIR confirms that Policy LP NE11, governing Local Protection Areas, will not be retained in the Local Development Plan.

### ***Call for Proposed Development Sites***

- 4.17 As part of the LDP process, SIC is required to identify areas of land which will enable the provision of housing and commercial development during the life of the plan. In order to ensure that any areas allocated for development are deliverable, SIC asked landowners and developers to propose suitable sites where land could be developed over a five, ten or 20 year timescale.
- 4.18 The consultation attracted submissions of 190 sites across Shetland, and SIC subsequently invited public comment on their appropriateness. Sites considered by SIC to be suitable for development will be included in the LDP.

- 4.19 Although the proposed sites represent an early stage in the process, they represent an impression of potential areas of development pressure, as well as areas where development may be taken forward. As such they form a useful cross-check against the results of the evaluation, although they are not a formal part of the study baseline.

### **Strategy and Guidance**

- 4.20 In 2006, SIC published guidelines on landscape and visual impact assessment.<sup>9</sup> These guidelines sought to “*highlight the significance of Shetland’s landscape heritage when assessing planning applications. The aim is to ensure that the landscape and visual impacts of proposals are fully considered in the decision-making process.*” The guidelines set out SIC’s preferred approach to landscape and visual impact assessment, and are based on the foundation that “*Shetland’s landscape heritage is unique and should be celebrated*” (page 2).
- 4.21 Shetland’s Cultural Strategy<sup>10</sup> also recognises the importance of the islands’ landscape, as part of their distinctive cultural and environmental heritage. Aim 2.4 of the strategy seeks to “*Safeguard, promote and ensure access to the natural environment of Shetland and its outstanding landscape, flora and fauna*” (page 11).
- 4.22 The methods to achieve this aim are listed as:
- “*Recognise that Shetland’s exceptional landscapes and seascapes are among our strongest assets and ensure that development within them is carefully considered and appropriate.*”
  - *Support efforts to have the special qualities of Shetland’s natural environment recognised and promoted, for example through Geopark designation.*
  - *Safeguard, promote, and ensure appropriate access to, Shetland’s wildlife, sea life and high quality natural environment.*” (page 11)
- 4.23 A *Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development*<sup>11</sup> was published by SIC in March 2009. The study is intended as a tool to assist planning officers rather than being a policy document. The report presents an examination of the landscape of Shetland and an assessment of the relative sensitivity of each landscape character area to wind farm development at a range of scales. The report identifies ‘visual compartments’ to assist the process, and presents a series of locational and design guidelines. The findings indicate that the most sensitive landscapes are coastal areas, while the least sensitive tend to be inland areas of the Mainland.

## **CONCLUSION**

- 4.24 This brief survey of planning policy confirms the important role that local landscape designations can play within an integrated approach to landscape

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<sup>9</sup> Shetland Islands Council (2006) *Basic principles of landscape and visual impact assessment for sponsors of development.*

<sup>10</sup> Shetland Islands Council (2009) *On the Cusp... Shetland’s Cultural Strategy: A vision for cultural life in Shetland 2009 – 2013.*

<sup>11</sup> Land Use Consultants (2009) *Shetland Islands - Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Wind Farm Development.* Shetland Islands Council.

planning and management. Within Shetland, landscape is clearly considered to be of major importance, and its protection and enhancement has been a key planning aim. It will continue to be of central importance to the forthcoming Local Development Plan.

## 5 Evidence Base

- 5.1 This section sets out the landscape baseline for the Shetland Islands, and reviews the sources of information related to the Shetland landscape. Existing landscape designations are discussed in more detail in **Section 6**.

### Landscape Character Assessment

- 5.2 *A Landscape Assessment of the Shetland Isles* was prepared by Gillespies and published in 1998 by SNH.<sup>12</sup> The landscape character assessment (LCA) presents a detailed review of the evolution of the Shetland landscapes, and classifies those landscapes into seven main landscape character types:
- Major Uplands;
  - Peatland and Moorland;
  - Undulating Moorland with Lochs;
  - Inland Valleys;
  - Farmed and Settled Lowlands and Coast;
  - Farmed and Settled Voes and Sounds; and
  - Coastal Edge.
- 5.3 These seven types are further subdivided into a total of 29 sub-types, each of which occurs in one or more discrete areas. The landscape classification is illustrated in **Figure 5.1**.
- 5.4 In total, the LCA divides Shetland into 276 individual character units, some of which are very small, while others are relatively extensive. As such, the existing classification does not represent a satisfactory baseline for the landscape evaluation process set out in the methodology (**Section 2**), since it would be difficult to compare such a large number of areas at such a range of scales.
- 5.5 To enable a comparative review of the landscapes of Shetland, the landscape character types and areas within the study area were grouped and modified to arrive at a refined classification of 52 'landscape character units' (LCU). This grouping was based primarily on associations of landscape character types to form geographically discrete units. The 'visual compartments' identified in the wind farm sensitivity study have also influenced the process, particularly in terms of splitting larger areas. These compartments are based on natural divisions in the landscape, such as ridge lines. Each of the resulting LCUs has been assigned a number and a locally appropriate name.
- 5.6 The LCUs were defined largely as a desk study exercise, though their number and extent was modified slightly following fieldwork. They have been identified only for the purposes of this study, and are not intended to supersede the detailed classification presented in the LCA. The LCUs and their names were reviewed and agreed with SIC.

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<sup>12</sup> Gillespies (1998) *A Landscape Assessment of the Shetland Isles*. Scottish Natural Heritage Review No. 93.

5.7 LCUs are listed in **Table 5.1**, and are illustrated in **Figure 5.2**. **Figure 5.3** shows the LCUs overlaid onto the LCA classification for comparison. These LCUs form the basis of the evaluation, and each unit is assessed against the criteria set out in **Section 3**.

**Table 5.1 Landscape Character Units**

No.	Name	No.	Name
1	Burra Firth and Haroldswick	27	Groni Field
2	Valla Field	28	West Burrafirth
3	Belmont to Herma Ness	29	Sandness
4	Baltasound and Hill of Colvadale	30	Papa Stour
5	Balta to Uyea	31	Gruting Voe and Vaila Sound
6	Gloup Ness	32	Skeld
7	Basta Voe	33	Sandsound
8	Whale Firth and Mid Yell Voe	34	Weisdale Hills
9	North Fetlar	35	Weisdale and Petta Dale
10	South Fetlar	36	Muckla Moor and North Nesting
11	South Yell Moorland	37	Lunna Ness and Dury Voe
12	Heoga Ness to The Poil	38	Whalsay
13	Copister to Stuis	39	South Nesting Bay
14	Tofts Voe and Dales Voe	40	Wadbister
15	Sullom Voe	41	Tingwall
16	Souther Hill	42	Weisdale Voe and Whiteness Voe
17	Gluss and Sullom	43	Burra
18	Burravoe	44	Burra Dale
19	North Roe	45	Lerwick
20	Ronas Hill	46	South Bressay
21	White Grunafirth and Tingon	47	North Bressay and Noss
22	Esha Ness and Hillswick	48	Helli Ness to Gulberwick
23	Gunnister	49	Ward of Scousburgh to Quarff
24	Muckle Roe	50	Sandwick
25	Aith Voe and Olna Firth	51	Fitful Head
26	Vementry and Clousta	52	Sumburgh Head

## Other Baseline Information

- 5.8 A range of other information was used to inform the evaluation of the Shetland landscapes. The following aspects of the Shetland landscape were investigated:
- Cultural heritage, including Historic Landuse Assessment, scheduled monuments, Gardens and Designed Landscapes, listed buildings, and other visible features (**Figure 5.4**);
  - Natural heritage and biodiversity, including designated sites (**Figure 5.5**);
  - Geodiversity, including the Shetland Geopark and on-site interpretation of geological sites; and
  - Recreation, including walking and cycling routes, visitor attractions, tourist centres, boat trips, and other opportunities for appreciating the landscape of Shetland.
- 5.9 In each case, it is the contribution of these aspects to an appreciation of the visible landscape which was the focus.



## 6 Audit of Landscape Designations

### INTRODUCTION

- 6.1 This section presents a brief audit of the existing suite of national and local landscape designations in Shetland. Landscape designations in Shetland comprise one National Scenic Area, and a large number of Local Protection Areas. These are illustrated in **Figure 6.1**.

### NATIONAL SCENIC AREAS

- 6.2 The Shetland National Scenic Area (NSA) is one of 40 NSAs originally identified by the Countryside Commission for Scotland in their report *Scotland's Scenic Heritage*, and described as being “of unsurpassed attractiveness which must be conserved as part of our national heritage”.<sup>13</sup> The designation came into effect in 1980. Recent legislation confirms NSAs as areas “of outstanding scenic value in a national context”.<sup>14</sup>
- 6.3 NSAs were reviewed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) in the late 1990s, and this led to a process of identifying ‘special qualities’ for each NSA. This process was based on a standard methodology,<sup>15</sup> and began in 2007. The work was published in 2010 as *The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas*,<sup>16</sup> and has been referred to in the audit.

### Location, extent and boundaries

- 6.4 The Shetland NSA comprises seven separate coastal areas across Shetland. These are:
- Fair Isle, comprising the whole island;
  - South West Mainland, the largest area, stretching from Fitful Head to the Deeps and including Burra and Trondra;
  - Foula, comprising the whole island;
  - Muckle Roe, comprising the western half of the island;
  - Eshaness, the south coast from Head of Stanshi to Ness of Hillswick;
  - Fethaland, the northern part of North Roe and including Uyea; and
  - Hermaness, including Burra Firth and Muckle Flugga.
- 6.5 The Shetland NSA extends to around 11,600 ha of land in total.

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<sup>13</sup> Countryside Commission for Scotland (1978) *Scotland's Scenic Heritage*.

<sup>14</sup>The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006, Section 263A(1).

<sup>15</sup> David Tyldesley & Associates (2006). *Identifying the Special Qualities of Scotland's National Scenic Areas*. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No.255.

<sup>16</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage (2010). *The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas*. SNH Commissioned Report No.374.

## Key characteristics and special qualities

- 6.6 The description of the area in *Scotland's Scenic Heritage* suggests that “*Scenic interest in Shetland is predominantly coastal.*” On Fair Isle and Foula, the variety of coastal landform is highlighted, including cliffs, geos, stacks, skerries, natural arches, and beaches. The South West Mainland area is also described in terms of its varied coastal character, with distinctive settlement patterns identified on Burra and Trondra. It is a “*seascape of strong character and atmosphere in which the constantly changing skies play an important part.*” The more northerly areas are included again for their variety of coastal features, including the high red sandstone cliffs of Muckle Roe, and the scenic interest resulting from the northern islands’ complex geology.
- 6.7 The special qualities report confirms that the areas covered by the NSA “*comprise Shetland’s scenic highlights and epitomise the range of coastal forms varying across the island group*” (page 295). The special qualities are listed as:
- “*The stunning variety of the extensive coastline*
  - *Coastal views both close and distant*
  - *Coastal settlement and fertility within a large hinterland of unsettled moorland and coast*
  - *The hidden coasts*
  - *The effects and co-existence of wind and shelter*
  - *A sense of remoteness, solitude and tranquillity*
  - *The notable and memorable coastal stacks, promontories and cliffs*
  - *The distinctive cultural landmarks*
  - *Northern light*”
- 6.8 The detail of the report highlights the importance of visual diversity, resulting from the geological diversity of the coastlines, and the intimate relationship of land and sea. The importance of settlement pattern and crofting landscapes is also recognised. Perceptual aspects, arising from the dynamic weather conditions and general lack of light pollution and air pollution, are also considered important. Major landmarks include both impressive natural features (stacks, arches, headlands) and built structures (lighthouses, brochs).

## LOCAL PROTECTION AREAS

- 6.9 As noted in **Section 2**, Local Protection Areas (LPA) are identified by the Shetland Local Plan, and are designated under Policy NEI I for a range of reasons, including landscape, biodiversity, archaeology, and protection of agricultural land.
- 6.10 The justification for the policy states that LPAs are “*regarded by the local community as being worthy of protection for a variety of reasons e.g. a viewpoint, wildlife, wild flowers, local historic interest, open space. The aim of the policy is to maintain these areas free from development, except that which is for the benefit of the community as a whole.*”

- 6.11 As of 2011, a total of 82 sites were designated under Policy NE11. Most of the LPAs are between 10 and 100 hectares in area. The three largest areas are each around 350 hectares. The smallest are less than one hectare.
- 6.12 Prior to commissioning this review, SIC undertook a consultation exercise, seeking submissions from the community for new Local Landscape Areas as well as new Local Nature Conservation Sites. This process attracted ten submissions, covering 15 individual sites.
- 6.13 The results of this review have been used as an indicator of the types of landscape valued locally. It has informed the evaluation process as well as the selection of boundaries for candidate Local Landscape Areas.

## **CONCLUSION**





- 6.14 The National Scenic Area designation offers protection to nationally significant coastal landscapes across several areas of Shetland. However, there are other locally valued landscapes outside these areas. The existing suite of LPAs, while varied and in many cases lacking robust justification, give a useful indication of the types of landscapes which are appreciated by local communities.

## 7 Evaluation

- 7.1 This section discusses the findings of the landscape evaluation. The landscape evaluation process is largely quantitative, and is described in **Section 3**. Evaluation sheets for each individual LCU are included in **Appendix 2**.

### RESULTS BY EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 7.2 The findings have been mapped separately for each of the twelve criteria, resulting in the series of maps presented in **Figures 7.1 to 7.9**. The key to these figures is given below:

	Very High
	High
	Medium
	Low

#### Representativeness

- 7.3 Many areas were ranked highly against this criterion (**Figure 7.1**). The coastal areas were generally rated high, since the varied coastline of Shetland, whether wild and rugged or settled, is distinctive of the islands. Shetland's sense of place depends strongly on its coastal character, which is expressed in the majority of LCUs. The only area to be ranked very high was Sandness (LCU 29), where a range of representative landscape elements are all present. Moorland areas were generally ranked medium, since these inland areas are less representative. Unusual landscapes such as Ronas Hill (LCU 20) and the serpentinite landscape of Hill of Colvadale (LCU 4) were also ranked medium (though they were rated higher for rarity, see below). Sullom Voe (LCU 15) was the only area to be ranked low, since the large-scale industrial installation does not represent the wider landscape.

#### Rarity

- 7.4 The map of rarity rankings (**Figure 7.2**) indicates a mixed picture. Very high rankings were assigned to the dramatic cliffs of Esha Ness and Hillswick (LCU 22), Ronas Hill (LCU 20) and the unusual geology of Unst (LCU 1 and 4). High rarity value was assigned to uncommon landscapes and landscape features, such as the rugged hills of Vementry (LCU 26), the cliffs of Noss (LCU 47) and the scattered small islands around Burra (LCU 43). Many coastal areas were ranked medium, and settled, less dramatic coasts were rated low, along with many areas of moorland which are not distinguished from one another.

#### Intactness

- 7.5 The most settled and developed areas of Shetland can be discerned from the map of intactness rankings (**Figure 7.3**). Areas of the South Mainland, where the majority of settlement is located, and around Sullom Voe, were generally

ranked low or medium. Most other areas were ranked high, with more remote, undisturbed areas ranked very high.

### Scenic qualities

- 7.6 Scenic quality across the islands is generally good, though the evaluation noted variations. The relative rankings shown in **Figure 7.4** indicate that coastal areas were often rated highly. Areas ranked very high coincide with, but are not limited to, areas within the Shetland NSA. Much of Northmavine, West Mainland, and parts of the east coast were ranked very high, along with Fetlar and the Yell and Unst coasts. Inland areas, including the homogenous moorlands, were generally rated medium. The only two LCUs to be ranked low were the developed areas around Sullom Voe (LCU 15) and Lerwick (LCU 45).

### Enjoyment

- 7.7 Enjoyment of the landscape in Shetland is predominantly informal, with coastal walks being the most popular means of access, especially in areas of scenic quality or where specific historic sites are present. The map of enjoyment rankings (**Figure 7.5**) reflects this, indicating the reduced rankings assigned to inaccessible areas. Low rankings were assigned to moorland areas not used for walking, and to the areas around Sullom Voe (LCU 15 and 14). Very high rankings were assigned to the most popular areas, including Noss (LCU 47), St Ninian's Isle (LCU 51), Esha Ness (LCU 22) and Burra Firth (LCU 1).

### Cultural qualities

- 7.8 There are a large number of sites of cultural heritage importance across Shetland. The nature of these largely prehistoric features often renders them all but invisible to the untrained eye. The evaluation focused on the visible cultural dimension of each LCU, and as such many areas were assigned medium or low rankings, as shown in **Figure 7.6**. Very high rankings were assigned to areas where substantial cultural heritage features contributed visibly by their presence or by association, such as Jarlshof (LCU 52), Staneydale (LCU 31) and Tingwall (LCU 41). High rankings were assigned where features of lesser stature indicated time-depth and long-established settlement.

### Naturalness

- 7.9 Almost all areas scored highly for naturalness, as shown in **Figure 7.7**. Most areas of Shetland have a high degree of naturalness due to the sparseness of settlement and infrastructure. Only the most developed areas around Sullom Voe (LCU 15), Brae, Voe and Aith (LCU 25), and Lerwick (LCU 45, 46 and 48) were ranked low or medium. Uninhabited or inaccessible areas, such as the north-west coast of Yell, or the moorlands of Northmavine, were ranked very high.

## Rural pattern

- 7.10 The presence of the traditional crofting pattern of the settled Shetland landscape, whether active or deserted, varies across the islands, as shown in the map of the rankings (**Figure 7.8**). Unsettled moorland areas, while sometimes forming part of crofting landscape assemblages, were generally ranked low for this criterion. Medium rankings were assigned to areas where settlement was limited, or where modern development had begun to obscure the traditional pattern, such along the east coast of the South Mainland. Several areas of more intact rural pattern were noted, for example to the west of South Mainland (LCU 51), on Fetlar (LCU 10) and Bressay (LCU 46), and around Skeld (LCU 35). The most intact areas, ranked very high, were in: the west of West Mainland (LCU 29 and 31) where a mix of active and relict croft patterns make up a valuable assemblage; around Vidlin Voe (LCU 37), where the siting of croft houses on the voe sides is an important feature; and at Colvadale on Unst (LCU 5), a large-scale relict landscape.

## Views

- 7.11 The visually open nature of much of Shetland leads to the rankings of most areas as high or very high. The map of views (**Figure 7.9**) shows no low rankings and only four LCUs rated medium. These are all areas which are not highly visible from other areas, such as the enclosed valley of Tingwall (LCU 41) and the island of Whalsay (LCU 38). Prominent hills have been ranked very high, such as Ronas Hill (LCU 20), the Noup of Noss (LCU 47) and the Ward of Scousburgh (LCU 49).

Figure 7.1: Representativeness

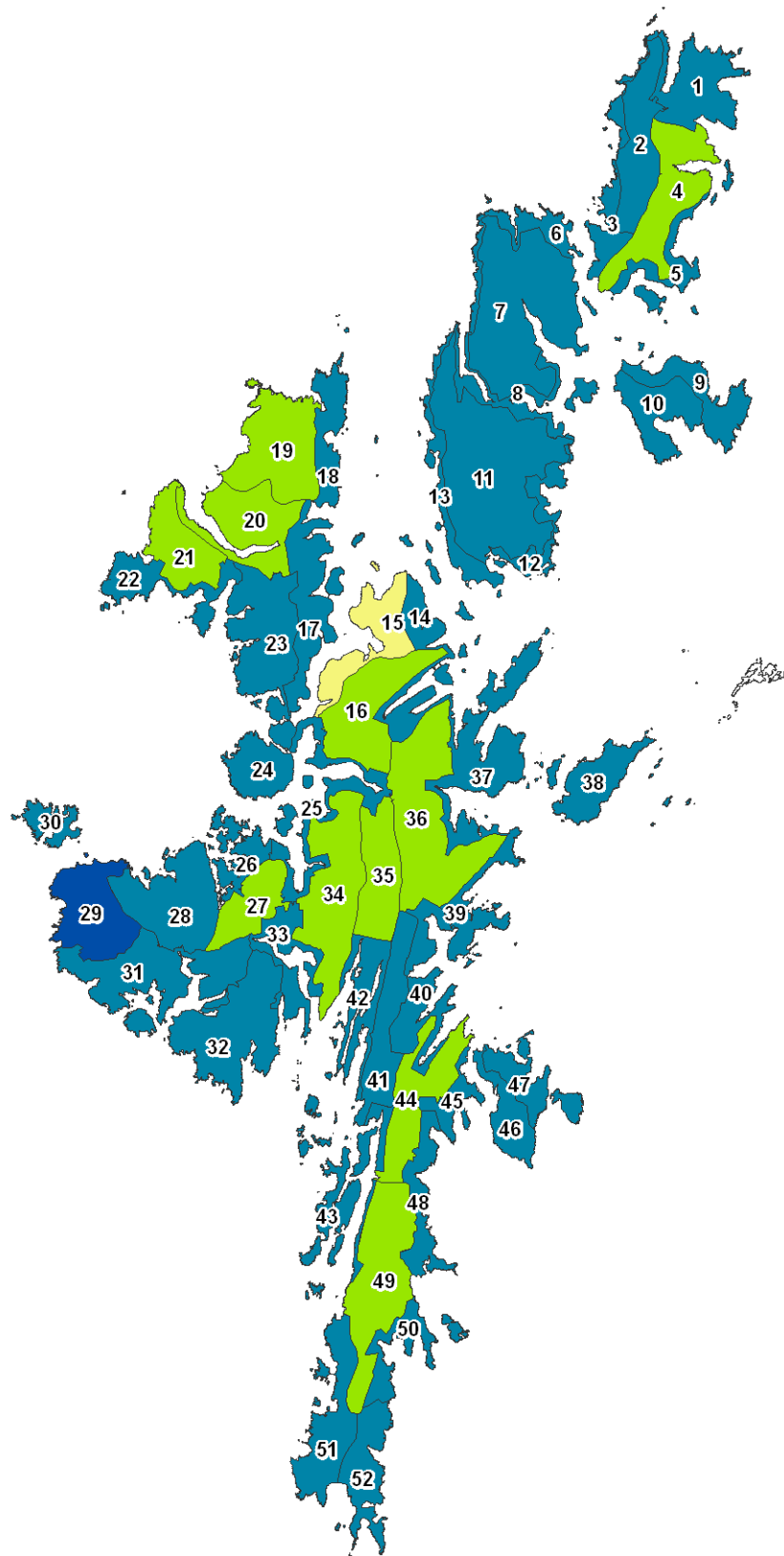


Figure 7.2: Rarity

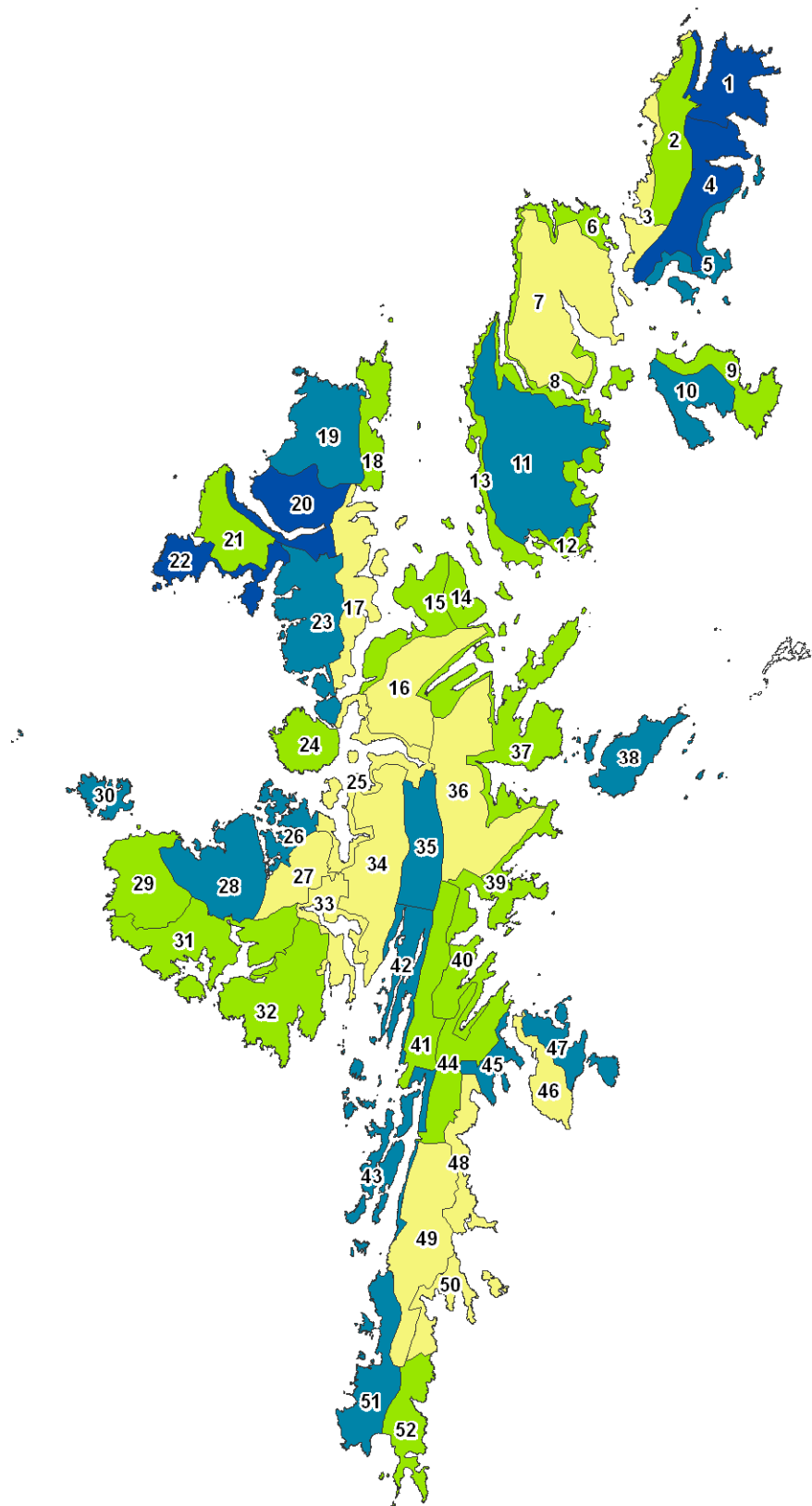




Figure 7.3: Intactness

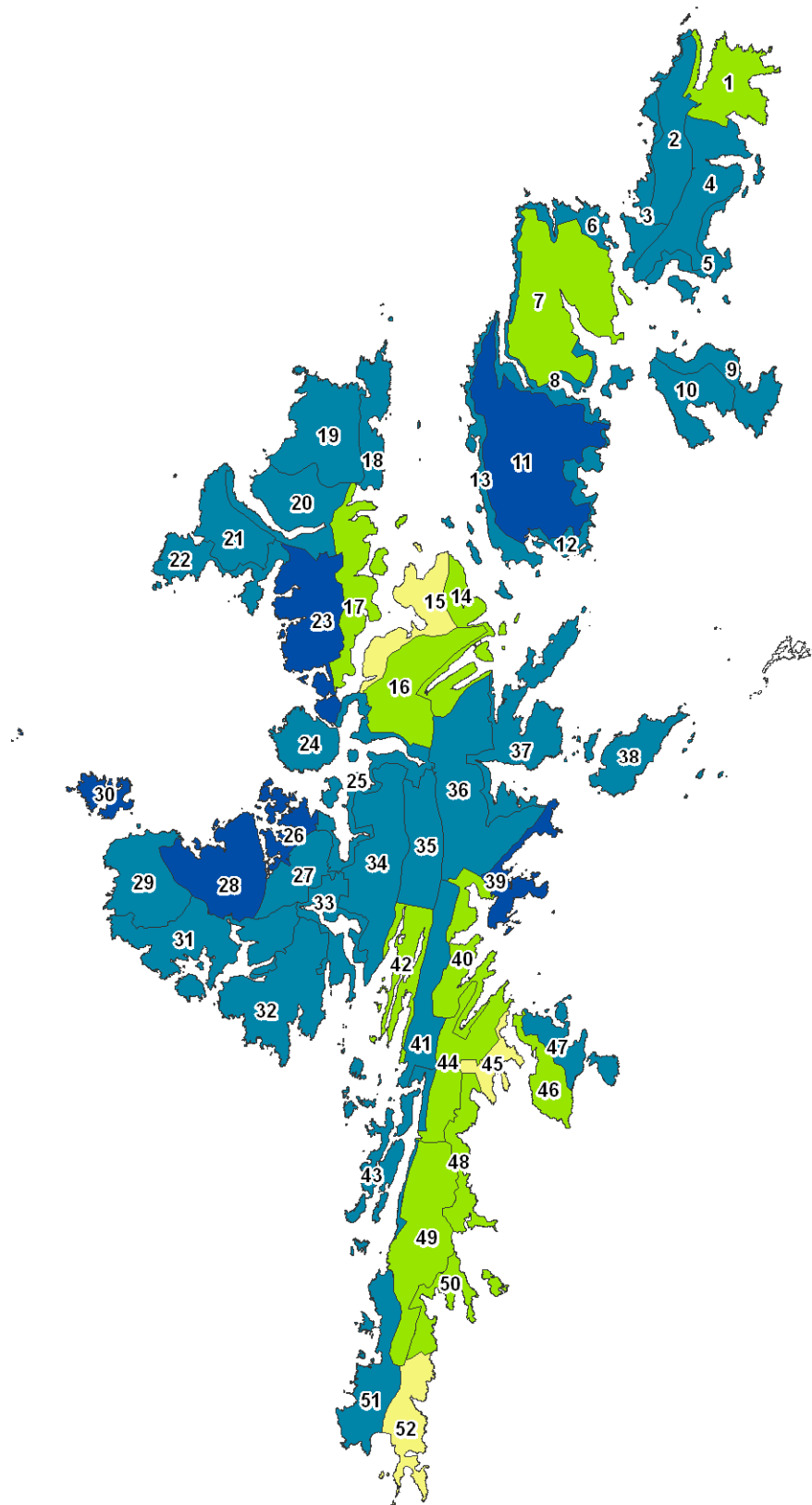


Figure 7.4: Scenic qualities

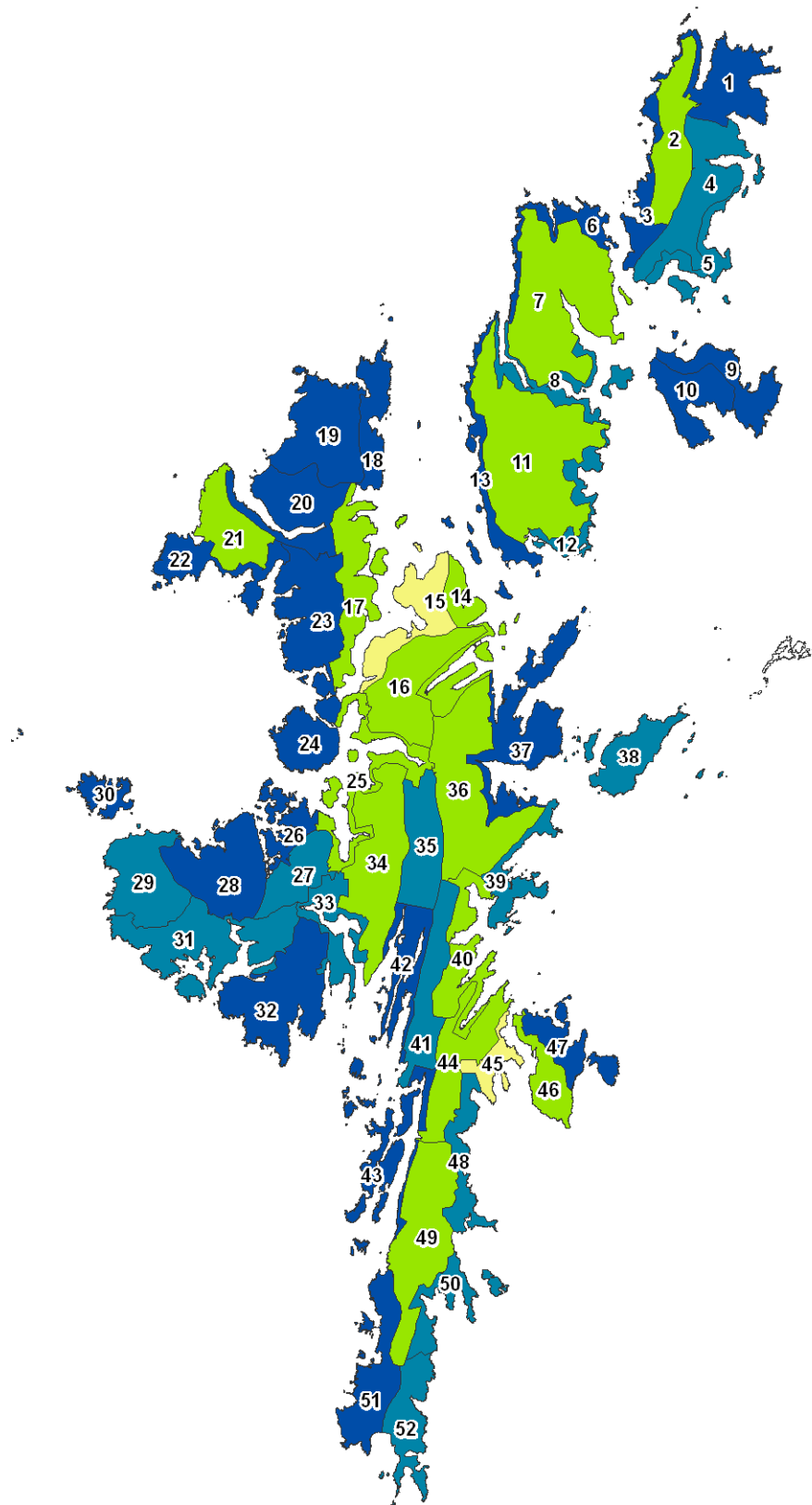


Figure 7.5: Enjoyment

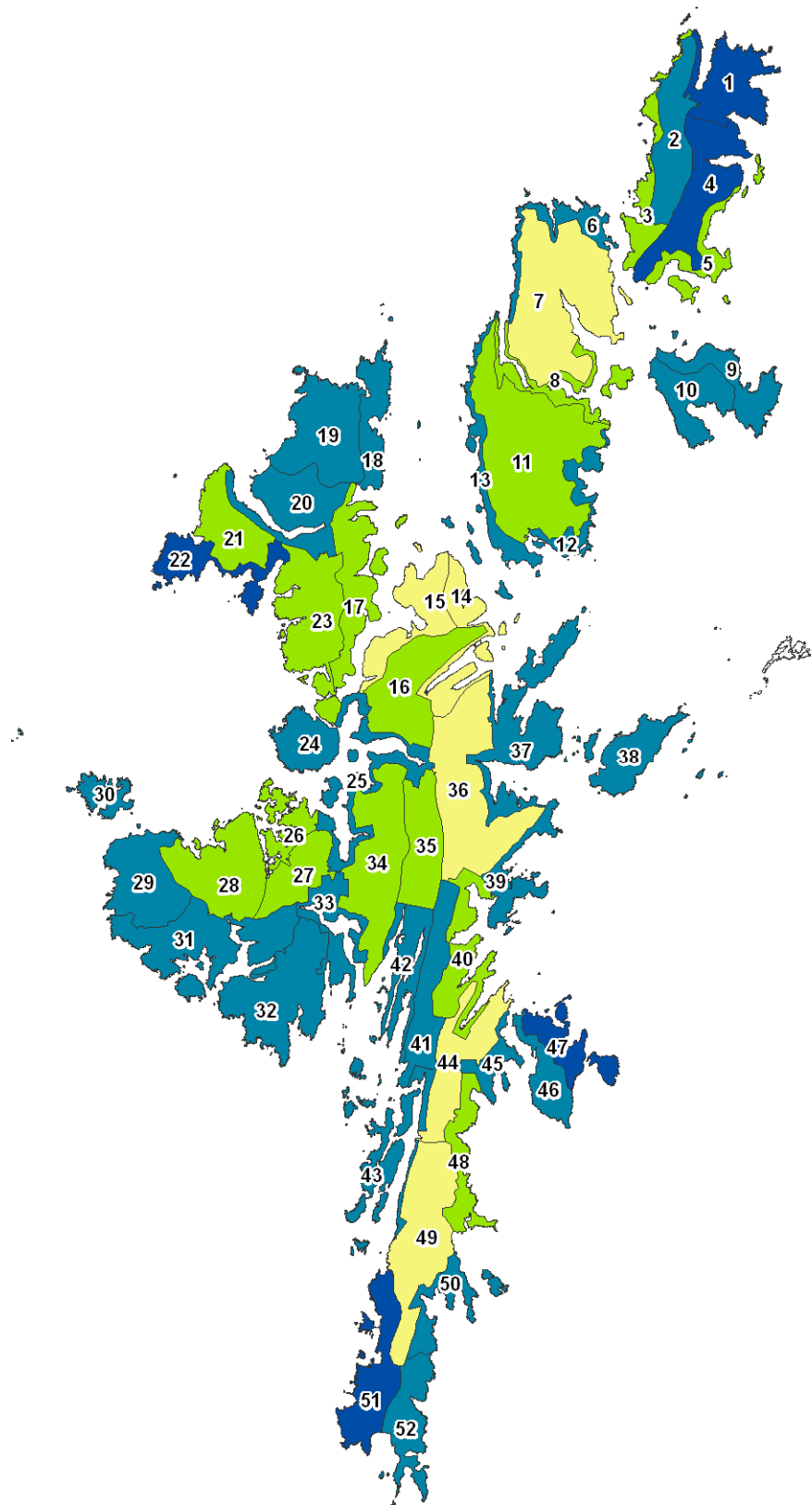


Figure 7.6: Cultural qualities

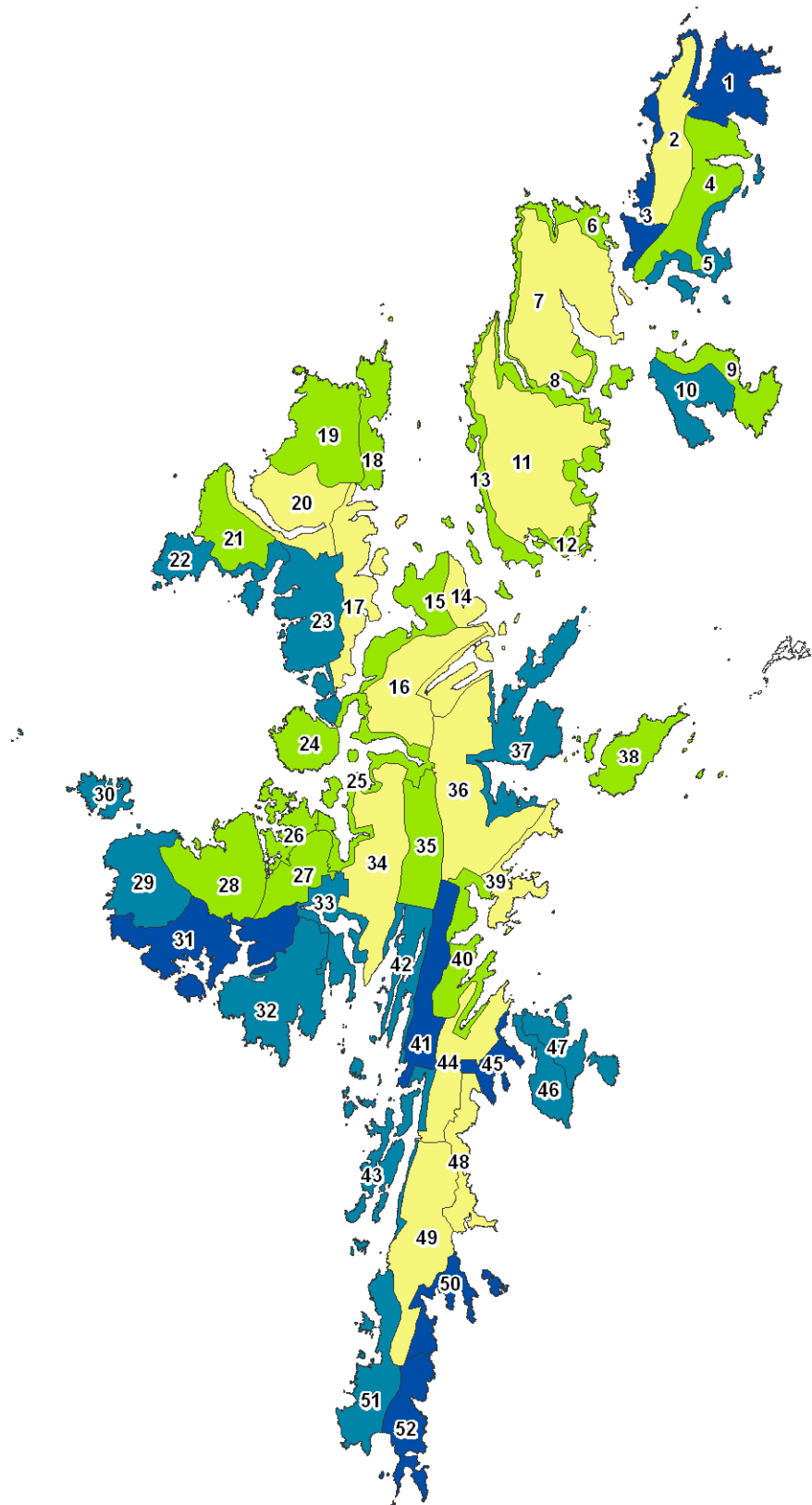


Figure 7.7: Naturalness

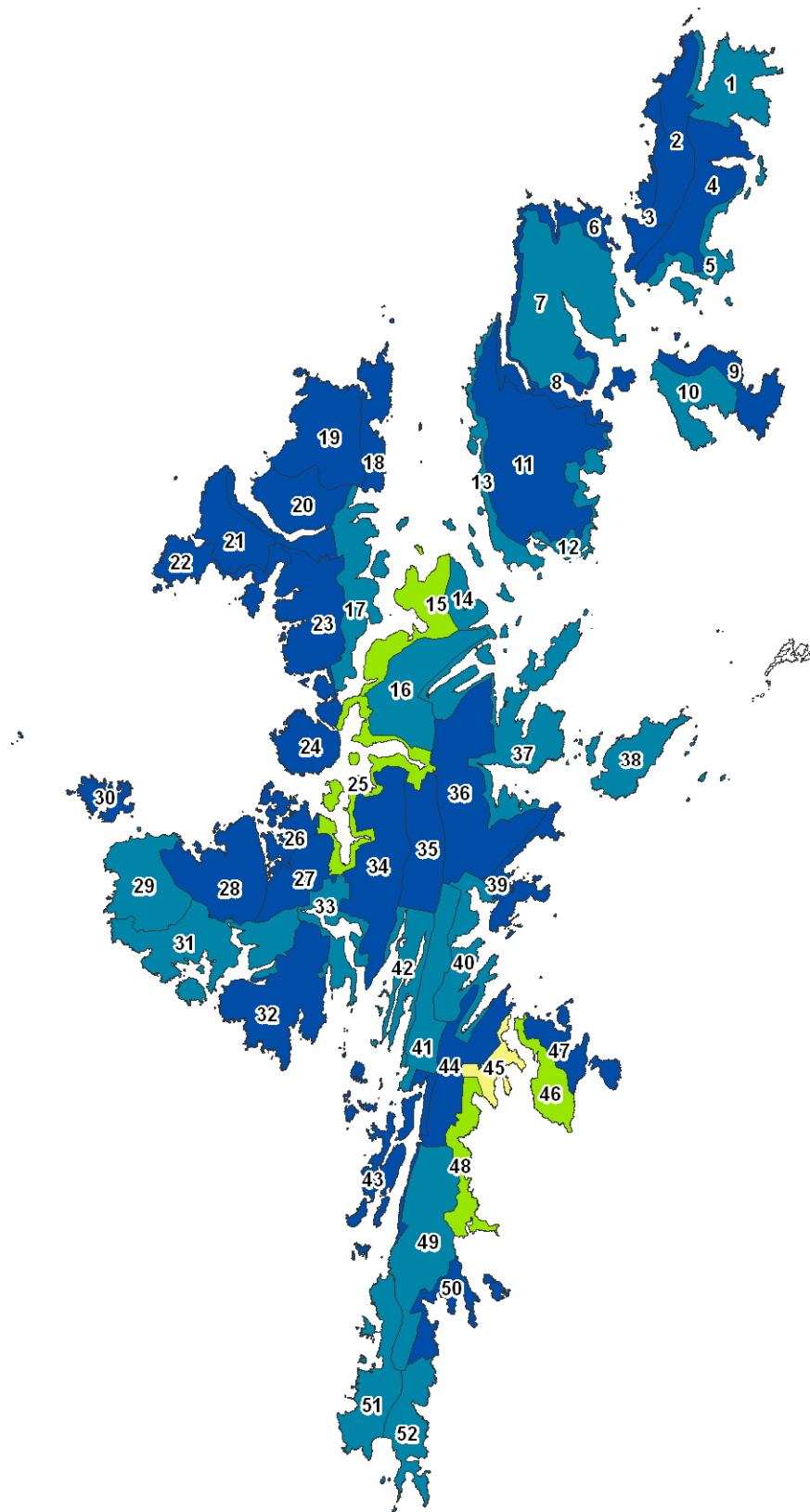


Figure 7.8: Rural pattern

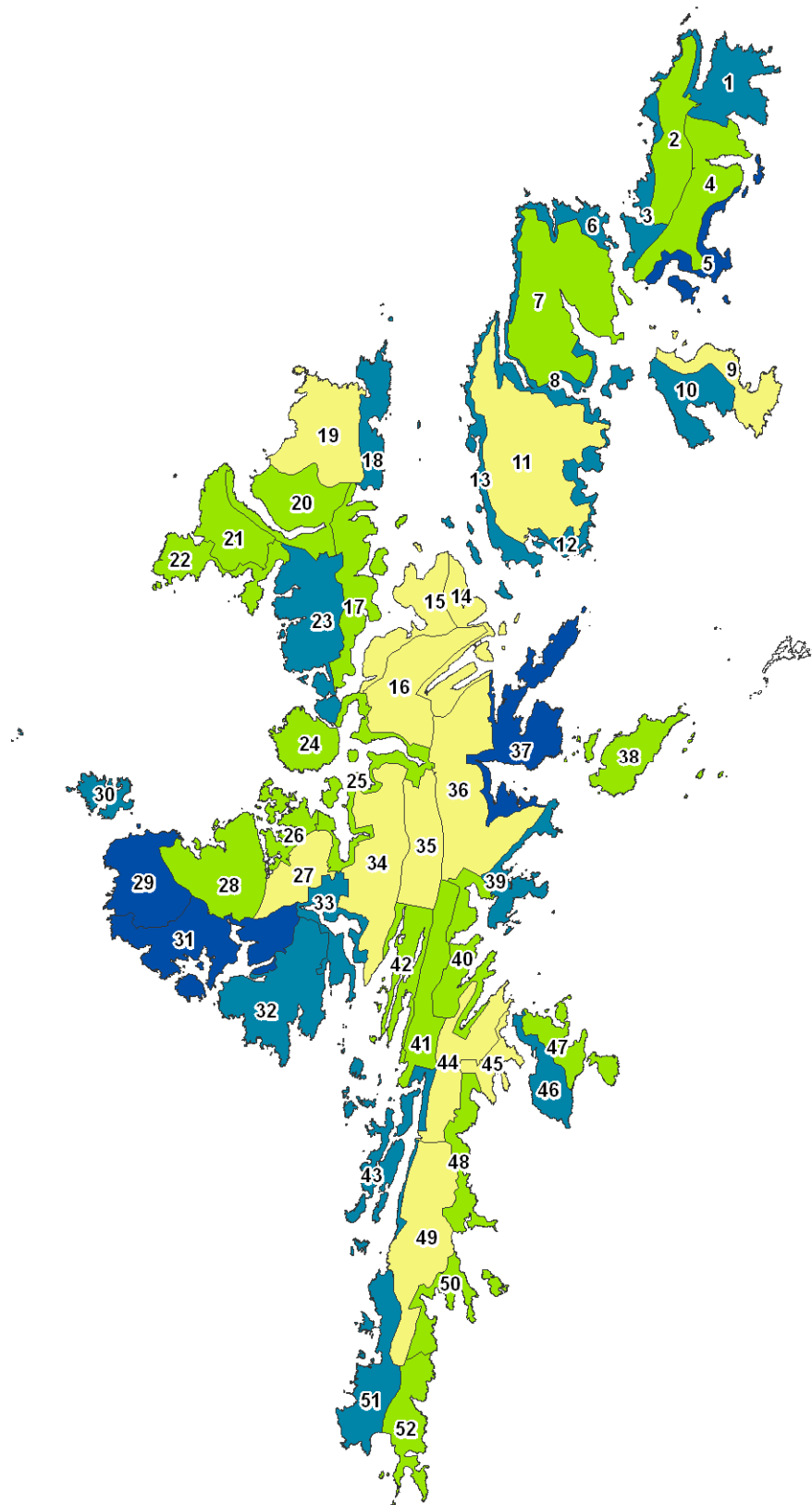
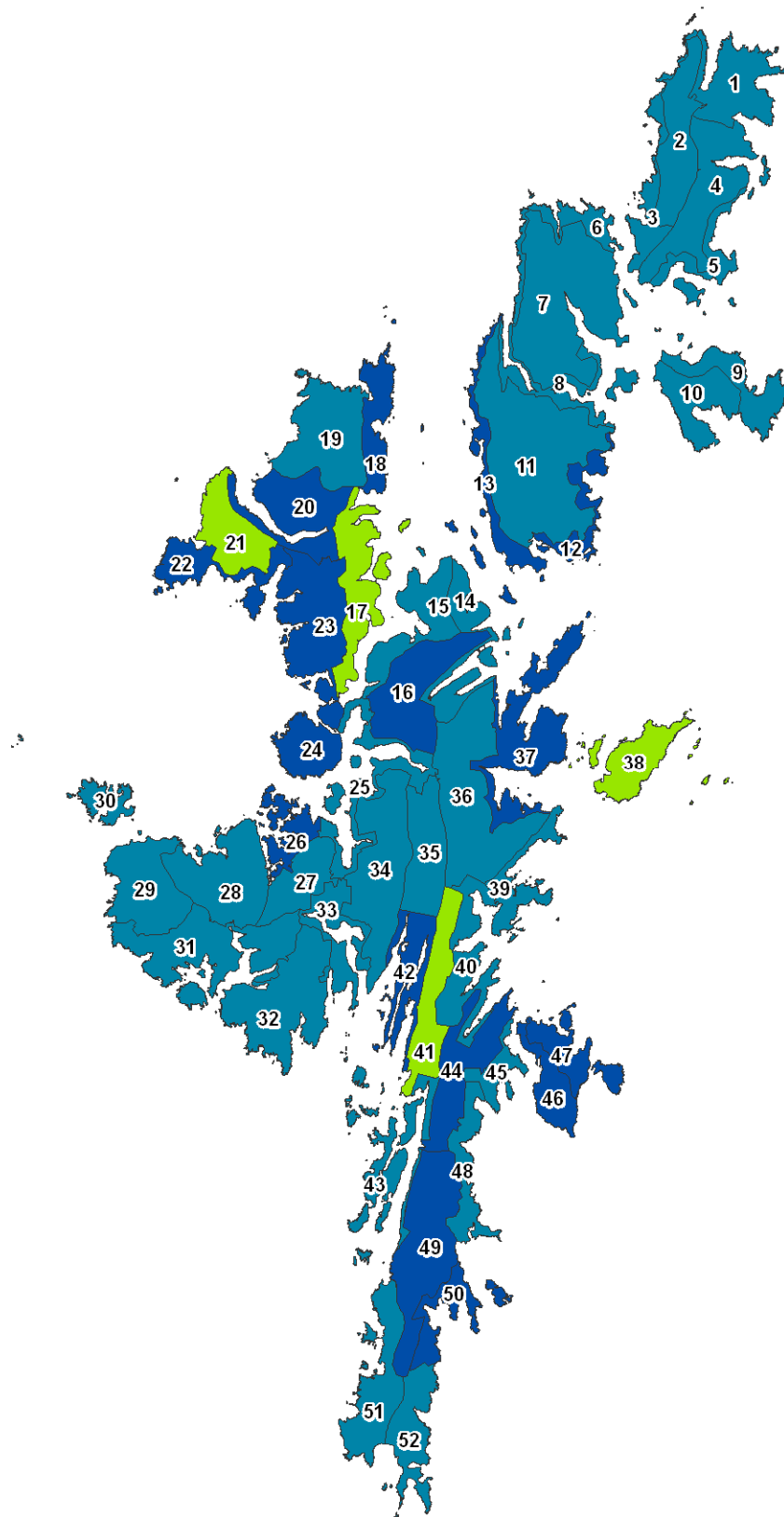


Figure 7.9: Views



## WEIGHTING

- 7.12 In order to reflect the importance of those criteria which are most influential in the perception of 'special landscapes', a system of weighting was developed. Three criteria were given additional weight, as follows:
- The **rarity** criterion was double-weighted, as a characteristic of special landscapes; and
  - The **scenic qualities**, and **views** criteria were triple-weighted, as these were seen as the most significant qualities in terms of the perception of landscapes.
- 7.13 These criteria were agreed with SIC following a number of trials with alternative weightings. It was notable that broadly similar results were obtained regardless of the weighting applied, with the same core areas scoring continuously highly.

## TOTAL SCORES

- 7.14 A combined map was prepared using the total weighted score for each LCU. These were calculated by assigning a value of 1 to a 'low' evaluation, and 4 to a 'very high' evaluation for non-weighted criteria. These numbers were doubled or tripled for the weighted criteria noted above.
- 7.15 The weighted scores have a possible range of between 14 and 56, though most areas scored between 30 and 50. Scores for each area are set out in **Table 7.1** (ordered by LCU number) and **Table 7.2** (ordered by total score). The total scores are illustrated on **Figure 7.10**.
- 7.16 Esha Ness and Hillswick (22) was the single highest-scoring LCU, with 51 points, followed by Gunnister (23) and North Bressay and Noss (47) each with 49 points. Areas in or adjacent to the NSAs make up the majority of the highest scoring areas.
- 7.17 The lowest-scoring landscape was Sullom Voe (15) with 24 points, followed by Gluss and Sullom (17) with 27 points. Both of these areas are affected by the large-scale industrial development at Sullom Voe oil terminal. Other lower-scoring areas included the less remarkable moorland areas on the Mainland and Yell.

## AREA OF SEARCH

- 7.18 The highest-scoring LCUs in the evaluation process form the Area of Search for candidate Local Landscape Areas. It was agreed with SIC that the highest-scoring 50% of LCUs would form the Area of Search, to be examined in greater detail at the next stage. While this is recognised as an arbitrary cut-off, it is considered that the very best of the Shetland landscapes, ie those that most merit designation, will be found within these LCUs.
- 7.19 29 LCUs were selected to form the Area of Search, being those that scored 40 points or more in the final evaluation, representing slightly more than 50%. These LCUs are highlighted in bold text in **Table 7.2**, and are illustrated in **Figure 7.11**.



**Table 7.1 Evaluation Scores ordered by LUC**

LCU No.	LCU Name	Representativeness	Rarity (x2)	Intactness	Scenic Value (x3)	Enjoyment	Cultural qualities	Natural qualities	Rural pattern	Views (x3)	TOTAL
1	Burra Firth and Haroldswick	3	8	2	12	4	4	3	3	9	48
2	Valla Field	3	4	3	6	3	1	4	2	9	35
3	Belmont to Herma Ness	3	2	3	12	2	4	4	3	9	42
4	Baltsound and Hill of Colvadale	2	8	3	9	4	2	4	2	9	43
5	Balta to Uyea	3	6	3	9	2	3	3	4	9	42
6	Gloup Ness	3	4	3	12	3	2	4	3	9	43
7	Basta Voe	3	2	2	6	1	1	3	2	9	29
8	Whale Firth and Mid Yell Voe	3	4	3	9	2	2	4	3	9	39
9	North Fetlar	3	4	3	12	3	2	4	1	9	41
10	South Fetlar	3	6	3	12	3	3	3	3	9	45
11	South Yell Moorland	3	6	4	6	2	1	4	1	9	36
12	Heoga Ness to The Poil	3	4	3	9	3	2	3	3	12	42
13	Copister to Stuis	3	4	3	12	3	2	3	3	12	45
14	Tofts Voe and Dales Voe	3	4	2	6	1	1	3	1	9	30
15	Sullom Voe	1	4	1	3	1	2	2	1	9	24
16	Souther Hill	2	2	2	6	2	1	3	1	12	31
17	Gluss and Sullom	3	2	2	6	2	1	3	2	6	27
18	Burravoe	3	4	3	12	3	2	4	3	12	46
19	North Roe	2	6	3	12	3	2	4	1	9	42
20	Ronas Hill and Ronas Voe	2	8	3	12	3	1	4	2	12	47
21	White Grunafirth and Tingon	2	4	3	6	2	2	4	2	6	31
22	Esha Ness and Hillswick	3	8	3	12	4	3	4	2	12	51
23	Gunnister	3	6	4	12	2	3	4	3	12	49
24	Muckle Roe	3	4	3	12	3	2	4	2	12	45
25	Aith Voe and Olna Firth	3	2	3	6	3	2	2	2	9	32
26	Vementry and Clousta	3	6	4	12	2	2	4	2	12	47
27	Groni Field	2	2	3	9	2	2	4	1	9	34
28	West Burrafirth	3	6	4	12	2	2	4	2	9	44
29	Sandness	4	4	3	9	3	3	3	4	9	42
30	Papa Stour	3	6	4	12	3	3	4	3	9	47
31	Gruting Voe and Vaila Sound	3	4	3	9	3	4	3	4	9	42
32	Skeld	3	4	3	12	3	3	4	3	9	44
33	Sandsound	3	2	3	9	3	3	3	3	9	38
34	Weisdale Hills	2	2	3	6	2	1	4	1	9	30
35	Weisdale and Petta Dale	2	6	3	9	2	2	4	1	9	38
36	Muckla Moor and North Nesting	2	2	3	6	1	1	4	1	9	29
37	Lunna Ness and Dury Voe	3	4	3	12	3	3	3	4	12	47
38	Whalsay	3	6	3	9	3	2	3	2	6	37

LCU No.	LCU Name	Representativeness			Scenic Value (x3)			Natural qualities			TOTAL
		Rarity (x2)	Intactness	Enjoyment	Cultural qualities	Rural pattern	Views (x3)				
39	South Nesting Bay	3	4	4	9	3	1	4	3	9	40
40	Wadbister	3	4	2	6	2	2	3	2	9	33
41	Tingwall	3	4	3	9	3	4	3	2	6	37
42	Weisdale Voe and Whiteness Voe	3	6	2	12	3	3	3	2	12	46
43	Burra	3	6	3	12	3	3	4	3	9	46
44	Burra Dale	2	4	2	6	1	1	4	1	12	33
45	Lerwick	3	6	1	3	3	4	1	1	9	31
46	South Bressay	3	2	2	6	3	3	2	3	12	36
47	North Bressay and Noss	3	6	3	12	4	3	4	2	12	49
48	Helli Ness to Gulberwick	3	2	2	9	2	1	2	2	9	32
49	Ward of Scousburgh to Quarff	2	2	2	6	1	1	3	1	12	30
50	Sandwick	3	2	2	9	3	4	4	2	12	41
51	Fitful Head	3	6	3	12	4	3	3	3	9	46
52	Sumburgh Head	3	4	1	9	3	4	3	2	12	41

**Table 7.2 Evaluation Scores ordered by total score**

LCU No.	LCU Name	Representativeness			Scenic Value (x3)			Natural qualities			TOTAL
		Rarity (x2)	Intactness	Enjoyment	Cultural qualities	Rural pattern	Views (x3)				
22	Esha Ness and Hillswick	3	8	3	12	4	3	4	2	12	51
23	Gunnister	3	6	4	12	2	3	4	3	12	49
47	North Bressay and Noss	3	6	3	12	4	3	4	2	12	49
1	Burra Firth and Haroldswick	3	8	2	12	4	4	3	3	9	48
20	Ronas Hill and Ronas Voe	2	8	3	12	3	1	4	2	12	47
26	Vementry and Clousta	3	6	4	12	2	2	4	2	12	47
30	Papa Stour	3	6	4	12	3	3	4	3	9	47
37	Lunna Ness and Dury Voe	3	4	3	12	3	3	3	4	12	47
18	Burravoe	3	4	3	12	3	2	4	3	12	46
42	Weisdale Voe and Whiteness Voe	3	6	2	12	3	3	3	2	12	46
43	Burra	3	6	3	12	3	3	4	3	9	46
51	Fitful Head	3	6	3	12	4	3	3	3	9	46
10	South Fetlar	3	6	3	12	3	3	3	3	9	45
13	Copister to Stuis	3	4	3	12	3	2	3	3	12	45
24	Muckle Roe	3	4	3	12	3	2	4	2	12	45
28	West Burrafirth	3	6	4	12	2	2	4	2	9	44
32	Skeld	3	4	3	12	3	3	4	3	9	44

LCU No.	LCU Name	Representativeness			Scenic Value (x3)			Rural pattern			TOTAL
		Rarity (x2)	Intactness		Enjoyment	Cultural qualities	Natural qualities	Views (x3)			
4	Baltasound and Hill of Colvadale	2	8	3	9	4	2	4	2	9	43
6	Gloup Ness	3	4	3	12	3	2	4	3	9	43
3	Belmont to Herma Ness	3	2	3	12	2	4	4	3	9	42
5	Balta to Uyea	3	6	3	9	2	3	3	4	9	42
12	Heoga Ness to The Poil	3	4	3	9	3	2	3	3	12	42
19	North Roe	2	6	3	12	3	2	4	1	9	42
29	Sandness	4	4	3	9	3	3	3	4	9	42
31	Gruting Voe and Vaila Sound	3	4	3	9	3	4	3	4	9	42
9	North Fetlar	3	4	3	12	3	2	4	1	9	41
50	Sandwick	3	2	2	9	3	4	4	2	12	41
52	Sumburgh Head	3	4	1	9	3	4	3	2	12	41
39	South Nesting Bay	3	4	4	9	3	1	4	3	9	40
8	Whale Firth and Mid Yell Voe	3	4	3	9	2	2	4	3	9	39
33	Sandsound	3	2	3	9	3	3	3	3	9	38
35	Weisdale and Petta Dale	2	6	3	9	2	2	4	1	9	38
38	Whalsay	3	6	3	9	3	2	3	2	6	37
41	Tingwall	3	4	3	9	3	4	3	2	6	37
11	South Yell Moorland	3	6	4	6	2	1	4	1	9	36
46	South Bressay	3	2	2	6	3	3	2	3	12	36
2	Valla Field	3	4	3	6	3	1	4	2	9	35
27	Groni Field	2	2	3	9	2	2	4	1	9	34
40	Wadbister	3	4	2	6	2	2	3	2	9	33
44	Burra Dale	2	4	2	6	1	1	4	1	12	33
25	Aith Voe and Olna Firth	3	2	3	6	3	2	2	2	9	32
48	Helli Ness to Gulberwick	3	2	2	9	2	1	2	2	9	32
16	Souther Hill	2	2	2	6	2	1	3	1	12	31
21	White Grunafirth and Tigon	2	4	3	6	2	2	4	2	6	31
45	Lerwick	3	6	1	3	3	4	1	1	9	31
14	Tofts Voe and Dales Voe	3	4	2	6	1	1	3	1	9	30
34	Weisdale Hills	2	2	3	6	2	1	4	1	9	30
49	Ward of Scousburgh to Quarff	2	2	2	6	1	1	3	1	12	30
7	Basta Voe	3	2	2	6	1	1	3	2	9	29
36	Muckla Moor and North Nesting	2	2	3	6	1	1	4	1	9	29
17	Gluss and Sullom	3	2	2	6	2	1	3	2	6	27
15	Sullom Voe	1	4	1	3	1	2	2	1	9	24

## 8 Identification of Candidate Local Landscape Areas

- 8.1 The next stage of the process looks in more detail within the LCUs which make up the Area of Search. In order to move from character-based LCUs, to quality-based candidate Local Landscape Areas (cLLA), a two stage analysis was undertaken. The first stage identifies specific areas and groups of areas which perform well in terms of the evaluation criteria. The second stage involves applying practical criteria to produce suitable candidate areas for designation.
- 8.2 These two stages are described in detail in Section 3, and the findings are presented in **Table 8.1**.

**Table 8.1 Identification of cLLAs within the Area of Search**

<b>LCU No.</b>	<b>LCU Name</b>	<b>Which parts of the LCU performs best against the evaluation criteria?</b>	<b>Are there parts of the LCU that contribute to important composite landscapes?</b>	<b>Application of practical criteria (coherence, size, other designations, boundaries)</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
1	Burra Firth and Haroldswick	The coastal parts of this LCU scored highly, particularly those within the NSA. The inland area around Haroldswick and Valsgarth does not have the drama of the coast, though the rarity value of this, Britain's most northerly area, is recognised	The peninsula between Burra Firth and Harold's Wick stands alone, though the cliffs on the east side of Burra Firth have a strong relationship with Herma Ness in the NSA	The western edge is within an NSA. The north-eastern part of the LCU is considered to be a coherent area, with the B9086 as the most appropriate boundary feature, defining an area between the NSA and Harold's Wick	The north-eastern part of the LCU is proposed as cLLA 15
3	Belmont to Herma Ness	The northern and southern extents of this area were felt to be the most visually interesting, and are also the most accessible parts, viewed by many visitors to Unst. Belmont House and Blue Mull are significant features in the south, while Herma Ness and Muckle Flugga form a focal point in the north	The relationship between south-west Unst and north-east Yell across Bluemull Sound is important. From Yell, Valla Field is a visual backdrop	The northern area is within an NSA. The southern areas are closely associated with Yell, including the western slopes of Valla Field. This ridge line and the A968 form suitable inland boundaries	The southern part of the LCU is included in cLLA 16, along with part of LCU 6 Gloup Ness, and a small part of LCU 2 Valla Field
4	Baltasound and Hill of Colvadale	Several of the high scores assigned to this LCU can be attributed to the Keen of Hamar, and its unusual serpentine landscape which also occurs on the less accessible Hill of Colvadale. The area around Baltasound is more affected by modern development and has less scenic appeal	The Hill of Colvadale is important as the backdrop to the east coast of Unst. Elsewhere there are visual relationships with other parts of the wider Unst landscape, but the inland parts of the LCU do not contribute to areas of high landscape quality	The Keen of Hamar is a small area, and is already protected as a NNR at a national level. The south-western part of the area forms part of a coherent landscape between Mu Ness and Huney, with the ridge line of Hill of Colvadale forming a visual boundary. The eastern areas of the LCU are part of the wider Unst landscape	The south-western edge of this LCU is included in cLLA 14, along with part of LCU 5
5	Balta to Uyea	This area scores highly against a range of criteria, with particular value being assigned to the area around Sandwick and Colvadale, which scored highly for naturalness and scenic quality. The extensive relict crofting landscape of Colvadale also scores highly for rarity and rural pattern. The Uyea area was not considered to be of such high quality	The bay between Mu Ness and Huney is a self-contained landscape, backed by the Hill of Colvadale. The south coast of this LCU has a relationship with islands to the south, but not with other inland parts of Unst	The area between Mu Ness and Huney represents a coherent area of high-quality landscape. Suitable boundaries were found in the ridge of Hill of Colvadale, which forms a visual edge, and along minor roads and field boundaries to the south	The central part of this LCU, covering the east coast of Unst, is included in cLLA 14 along with part of LCU 4

LCU No.	LCU Name	Which parts of the LCU performs best against the evaluation criteria?	Are there parts of the LCU that contribute to important composite landscapes?	Application of practical criteria (coherence, size, other designations, boundaries)	Conclusion
6	Gloup Ness	This area scores very highly for naturalness and scenic quality, being a remote and wild stretch of dramatic Shetland coastline, particularly to the west. The north-eastern area also scored highly for its attractive rural pattern	There is a strong association between the north-east area of Yell and the ridge of Valla Field on Unst, across Bluemull Sound. The western coast is more visually isolated, though it continues in a similar character south of the Nev of Stuis	LCU 6 does not form a coherent area in itself. The settled north-east part of the LCU, and south-west Unst, together form a visually contained area. The wilder western coast continues south beyond Stuis. The ridge west of Gloup Voe divides the settled and unsettled areas	The north east part of LCU 6 is included in cLLA 16 with part of LCU 2. The western part is included in cLLA 17 with part of LCU 13.
9	North Fetlar	The exposed north coast of the island scores highly for its scenic qualities, and undisturbed natural character	The northern coast is relatively isolated from the more settled southern part of the island and there are no associations with other LCUs	It was considered that a cLLA covering the whole island was not appropriate, and that the range of special qualities of Fetlar were better represented by the southern area	No proposal
10	South Fetlar	The southern part of the island scored highly across all criteria, with the beach, settlement and headland around Tresta and Lamb Hoga forming a particularly attractive and diverse assemblage	The isolated nature of the Wick of Tresta is one of its special attributes	The area around Wick of Tresta forms a coherent and recognisable area	The core area around Wick of Tresta is proposed as cLLA 13
12	Heoga Ness to The Poil	This area scored most highly for its views, particularly from the south-east promontory looking south along Shetland and east to Fetlar. It was also considered to have high scenic qualities, though these were found to be varied across the area. The various qualities of this landscape are not concentrated in any one area, and are interspersed with areas of lesser quality	This area on the south-east of Yell does not have strong relationships with other landscapes, aside from the moorland which forms a backdrop to the coastal strip	Though there are pockets of high quality landscape in this LCU, none were considered to form coherent areas of suitable size for designation	No proposal
13	Copister to Stuis	This area scores very highly for views and scenic qualities. The northern area, though less visible from the A968, is wilder, and is also less affected by the intrusion of the busy road. The area around West Sandwick combines many of the best features of this area	The moorland of Yell forms the backdrop to this coastal landscape, which continues in a similar character north of Whale Firth. There is a visual relationship with Fethaland across Yell Sound, but this area is distant	The A968 was considered to detract from the southern part of this area. The coast north of West Sandwick is of high quality, remote, and forms part of the wider setting of the Fethaland NSA	The area between West Sandwick and Nev of Stuis is included in cLLA 17, with part of LCU 6 Gloup Ness

<b>LCU No.</b>	<b>LCU Name</b>	<b>Which parts of the LCU performs best against the evaluation criteria?</b>	<b>Are there parts of the LCU that contribute to important composite landscapes?</b>	<b>Application of practical criteria (coherence, size, other designations, boundaries)</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
18	Burravoe	This area was rated very highly for its scenic quality and views, as well as naturalness. These qualities were primarily found at the northern tip, including the prominent Ramna Stacks which form a landmark in views around Yell Sound	The northern parts of this area are associated with the coastline to the west, along the northern edge of North Roe. The landscape is visually connected with Yell across Yell Sound. Further south, the Beorgs of Skelberry form the backdrop to the lower-lying settled parts of the LCU	The areas of highest quality within this LCU are already protected as part of the Shetland NSA. The remaining areas are not considered to represent a coherent high quality landscape suitable for designation	No proposal
19	North Roe	This vast empty area of Northmavine scored very highly for its undisturbed naturalness and its wild drama. The coastal areas as well as the open moors were considered scenic, though with different qualities	This area is related to Ronas Hill which rises up to the south. The east-facing Beorgs of Skelberry form the setting of the settlement of North Roe	The northern coast is already protected as part of the Shetland NSA. The southern area forms part of the foothills of the visually important Ronas Hill. The chain of lochans along the Burn of Roerwater form a suitable boundary	The southern part of the LCU is included in cLLA 1, along with LCU 20
20	Ronas Hill and Ronas Voe	The red granite peak scored very highly against several criteria, including rarity, scenic qualities and naturalness. These qualities are apparent on Ronas Hill itself, along the sea coast and into the long Ronas Voe, though they are less pronounced in the eastern part of the voe	Moorland to the south of Ronas Voe forms the setting of the hill, while to the north, the foothills merge into the lower rocky moorland and lochans of North Roe	This major landmark and the voe to the south, together with the foothills to the north, form a coherent area of suitable size. The ridge to the south of Ronas Voe, and the A970, form appropriate boundaries	The majority of this area is proposed as cLLA 1, along with the southern part of LCU 19
22	Esha Ness and Hillswick	The dramatic coastal landscape of this area scored highly across almost all criteria. The two headlands are the focus of the particular qualities of the area, offering very high scenic quality, and impressive views	The key visual relationships are across St Magnus Bay. The headlands of this LCU stand alone, though the intervening section of coast is strongly linked to the moorland of LCU 21	Almost all of this area, including all of the most dramatic coastal areas, is already protected as part of the Shetland NSA. The remaining area does not represent a coherent landscape suitable for designation	No proposal

<b>LCU No.</b>	<b>LCU Name</b>	<b>Which parts of the LCU performs best against the evaluation criteria?</b>	<b>Are there parts of the LCU that contribute to important composite landscapes?</b>	<b>Application of practical criteria (coherence, size, other designations, boundaries)</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
23	Gunnister	The indented coast of this LCU, backed by rugged uneven hills, has high visual diversity and scores highly against several criteria. The A970 locally reduces the intactness, and the inland area is considered less scenic. Mavis Grind contributes to rarity value	This coastal landscape forms part of a wider series of landscapes around St Magnus Bay. On a local scale, the northern headland, Ness of Hamar, is part of the setting of Ness of Hillswick across Ura Firth. To the south a similar character extends along the west coast of Muckle Roe	The A970 forms a suitable boundary for an area covering the coastal part of this LCU, relating to the NSA to the west and south. The narrow neck of Mavis Grind is included, though the rock cuttings on the A970 to the south are not. Ridgelines and watercourses form the north and south boundaries	The area west of the A970 is proposed as cLLA 2
24	Muckle Roe	This area scores very highly for its dramatic coastal scenery and uninterrupted naturalness. This value is concentrated in the wilder, more rugged west of the island. The more settled eastern part of the island is less visually diverse, though it does offer views of the Mainland	The west-facing cliffs contribute to the array of rugged landscapes around St Magnus Bay. To the east, the island forms part of the wider setting of Busta Voe and Olna Firth	The western part of the island is within the Shetland NSA, including over half of its area. The designation protects the key qualities of this island. The eastern area, outside the NSA, is not considered to have a high level of landscape quality suitable for designation	No proposal
26	Vementry and Clousta	This LCU scores highly against several criteria, due to its rugged landform and highly complex coastline. These qualities are noted throughout the LCU, which is consistent in character	The rugged coastal character continues to the west, along the West Mainland peninsula. The two LCUs meet across the long inlet of Brindister Voe. There is a wider relationship with other coastal landscapes around St Magnus Bay	This area is consistent, but extends westward without a break in character. Uniting this LCU with the similar parts of LCU 28 results in a coherent area of similar character and high quality. In order to include all areas of this landscape, the boundary follows a series of water bodies including Loch of Clousta and Forse Water	The area is proposed, along with part of LCU 28, as cLLA 3
28	West Burrafirth	The northern part of this LCU has greater visual interest and diversity, arising from its rugged landform and complex coastline. The southern part, comprising open moorland, contributes less to the high scores attributed to this LCU	The rugged coastline continues eastward across Brindister Voe into LCU 26, without a notable change in character. There is also a wider relationship with other landscapes around St Magnus Bay. The southern part of the LCU forms part of the open inland landscape of West Mainland	The northern part of this area is consistent with LCU 26 to the east, and the two areas have therefore been united to form a coherent area. Suitable physical boundary features are lacking in this landscape. A boundary has been suggested, which links a series of lochans around the south of the rugged hills	The northern part of the area is included, along with LCU 26, as cLLA 3



<b>LCU No.</b>	<b>LCU Name</b>	<b>Which parts of the LCU performs best against the evaluation criteria?</b>	<b>Are there parts of the LCU that contribute to important composite landscapes?</b>	<b>Application of practical criteria (coherence, size, other designations, boundaries)</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
29	Sandness	The settled parts of this area, including Sandness and Dale of Walls, scored highly against several criteria, and very highly for their intact settlement pattern. These areas are considered to be representative of the Shetland rural landscape. The open moorland between these areas contributes less to the high scores attributed to this LCU	Dale of Walls is physically isolated, looking west to distant Foula. To the south, the moorland forms part of the wider West Mainland landscape, and serves as the setting for settlement to the south. Sandness Hill forms the backdrop in views from Papa Stour	The Dale of Walls area, though performing well in terms of the criteria, was not considered to be of a suitable size for designation, and does not group with other areas. The Sandness area is larger, and has a strong visual relationship with the island of Papa Stour. The ridge of Sandness Hill provides a suitable visual boundary	The settled area north of Sandness Hill is proposed as part of cLLA 4
30	Papa Stour	This area scores highly against all criteria. The variation in character between the wilder west coast and the settled eastern part is noted, but all areas are considered to contribute to the rankings	The low-lying island, particularly at the south and east, has a strong visual relationship with the nearby area of West Mainland, particularly Sandness Hill which is prominent and forms a visual backdrop to the settled coast around Sandness	The island is a coherent area, but has a strong visual relationship with Sandness Hill. In order to protect the setting of Papa Stour the island has been joined with the northern area of LCU 29	The island is proposed as part of cLLA 4
31	Gruting Voe and Vaila Sound	This large area scores highly against a range of criteria. There are prominent cultural features, and the settled areas around Vaila Sound rank highly for their rural pattern. The Vaila Sound area is considered to be more visually diverse than the area around Gruting Voe, which is less intricate. The open coastal edge is more dramatic	There is no clear association between this and other LCUs, though Ward of Culswick in LCU 32 is prominent in some eastward views. To the north the moorland merges with the wider West Mainland landscape	The area around Vaila Sound represents the most appealing part of this LCU, and forms a visually coherent area, focused on Vaila. Unclassified roads form suitable boundaries, enclosing the setting of Vaila Sound to north and east, and including the shoreline of Walls. To the west, in order to include the Hill of Scarvister, the western boundary follows a minor road and watercourse at Skarpigarth	The southern part of the area, including Vaila and Vaila Sound is proposed as cLLA 5

LCU No.	LCU Name	Which parts of the LCU performs best against the evaluation criteria?	Are there parts of the LCU that contribute to important composite landscapes?	Application of practical criteria (coherence, size, other designations, boundaries)	Conclusion
32	Skeld	The coastal parts of this LCU score highly for their naturalness and scenic value. These varied coastal features, including the cove of Wester Wick, Stead of Culswick and Skeld Voe, are scenically diverse. The inland moorland contributes less to the rankings, though the importance of Ward of Culswick as a landmark is noted	The area is linked to the similar intricate coast to the south of Vaila to the west, and which continues around the Deeps to the east, with views to the many islands in this area. To the north the open moorland merges with the wider West Mainland landscape	The south-eastern edge of this LCU is already protected as part of the Shetland NSA. The intricate coast and the traditional settlement patterns in the south of the LCU, which are currently outside the NSA, form a coherent area for designation. The B9071, along with the summit of Ward of Culswick, defines the northern extent of this high quality part of the LCU	The south-western area of this LCU is proposed as cLLA 6
37	Lunna Ness and Dury Voe	This LCU scores particularly highly for scenic quality and rural pattern, with the area around Vidlin Voe being referenced. The Lunna Ness peninsula contributes to high rankings for natural and cultural qualities, and views. The diversity of the long headland, settled bay, and rugged hills around Lunning is noted. The southern area around Dury Voe contributes less to the rankings for this area	This peninsular area extends away from the Mainland, and is not associated with outlying islands, though there are visual relationships with Whalsay and the smaller islands in Lunning Sound	The two contrasting headlands either side of Vidlin Voe form a coherent area for designation, defined to the west by roads, except for field boundaries at Vidlin to include all of the settlement setting	Lunna Ness and the headland to the south of Vidlin Voe are proposed as cLLA 12
39	South Nesting Bay	The coastal setting is the most important aspect of this landscape, contributing to high scores for scenic quality, views, and naturalness. The area around Gletness is noted for its greater intricacy and visual diversity	The headland of Gletness is associated with other headlands around Cat Firth and Lax Firth, although these areas are of lesser visual interest and do not represent an important landscape group	The headland area, taking in Gletness, Skellister and Benston, forms a coherent landscape, with the inclusion of the area west of Loch of Benston. The B9075 forms a suitable boundary along the inland edge of this headland	The headland between Cat Firth and South Nesting Bay, including a small part of LCU 41, is proposed as cLLA 11

LCU No.	LCU Name	Which parts of the LCU performs best against the evaluation criteria?	Are there parts of the LCU that contribute to important composite landscapes?	Application of practical criteria (coherence, size, other designations, boundaries)	Conclusion
42	Weisdale Voe and Whiteness Voe	The LCU scores highly for most criteria, particularly scenic quality and views, most clearly arising from the long headlands to the south. Although the busy A971 loops through a relatively developed landscape to the north, this makes the area more visible, and enables open views of the dramatic Weisdale Voe. Whiteness Voe is more hidden and contributes less significantly to the area's high rankings. The Weisdale area is also the setting for several visitor attractions	The head of Weisdale Voe forms an important part of the setting of the NSA to the south. There is no break in landscape quality at the NSA boundary, though the linear enclosure of the voe becomes more apparent. This visual enclosure extends north into Weisdale, forming a complete assemblage of glacial valley and flooded voe	The southern part of the LCU is already protected as part of the Shetland NSA. The area around Weisdale Voe forms an important part of the setting to the NSA, including long views into the designated area. In order to define a coherent area, the settled part of Weisdale was included, covering the main visitor attractions in the area, as well as the unusual woodland plantations. Ridges to the east and west form visual boundaries, and the B road to the north marks the boundary between settled valley landscape and open moorland	The area around Weisdale Voe, along with the east edge of LCU 34, and the south-west part of LCU 35, is proposed as cLLA 7
43	Burra	This area scores highly across all criteria. The scatter of islands and their interrelationships across the area provide the basis for most of these high rankings	The islands group with the steep western slopes of the South Mainland to form a composite landscape of islands and voes, backed by hills	Almost all of this LCU is already protected as part of the Shetland NSA. The remaining area, around Scalloway, is less intact, and does not represent a coherent landscape suitable for designation	No proposal
47	North Bressay and Noss	The LCU scores highly against a range of criteria. Noss contributes to very high scores for scenic quality, enjoyment and naturalness. The Noup of Noss is an important landmark of eastern Shetland, visible along the length of the coast. The northern and eastern parts of Bressay contribute to high cultural and scenic scores	The north-eastern part of Bressay is important to the setting of Noss, and as the main approach. The two islands form a group, though the southern and western sides of Bressay are more developed, and more closely linked to Lerwick	The island of Noss clearly merits designation under the criteria, though it is small. Including the eastern part of Bressay recognises the interrelationship between the islands. Suitable boundaries on Bressay include minor roads, tracks, ridgelines and watercourses	The eastern part of the area, including Noss, is proposed as cLLA 10

<b>LCU No.</b>	<b>LCU Name</b>	<b>Which parts of the LCU performs best against the evaluation criteria?</b>	<b>Are there parts of the LCU that contribute to important composite landscapes?</b>	<b>Application of practical criteria (coherence, size, other designations, boundaries)</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
50	Sandwick	This area scores particularly highly for both cultural and natural qualities, largely represented by Mousa, which is both a bird reserve and a historic site. Mousa is also a landmark on this stretch of coast. These qualities are reflected in the unsettled No Ness peninsula which faces Mousa, though the majority of the LCU scores less highly, and contributes to the lower intactness score	The area forms part of a continuous landscape of more or less settled coast which stretches from Sumburgh to Lerwick. The peninsula area of this LCU extends outward, away from this and other landscapes, although the No Ness peninsula and Mousa form an association	Mousa alone, though performing well against the criteria, would not be large enough to warrant designation. Grouped with No Ness, the area becomes more substantial, representing the links between Mainland and island. Minor roads form a suitable boundary across the top of No Ness	No Ness and Mousa proposed as cLLA 9
51	Fitful Head	This south-west part of the Mainland scores highly across all criteria, particularly scenic qualities, which reside in the varied coastal landscape. The area contains visible crofting patterns as well as natural undisturbed areas. The coast of this area performs best against the criteria, though the inland areas also contribute	This area does not form clear associations with other landscapes, though it forms part of the wider South Mainland peninsula, backed by Ward of Scousburgh, and continuing northward towards Burra and Trondra	Around half of this LCU, including most of the coast, is already protected as part of the Shetland NSA. The remaining area does not represent a coherent landscape suitable for designation	No proposal
52	Sumburgh Head	This landscape scores highly for its visibility and views, and for its cultural heritage qualities. The southern tip of Sumburgh Head is an important Shetland landmark, particularly for those arriving or departing from Sumburgh Airport. The developed area around the airport contributes to the area's low intactness score, though there are a number of important attractions in the area	Sumburgh Head and Scat Ness extends out from the southern tip of Shetland, and are not closely associated with other areas of high landscape value	The key area of this LCU is south of the airport, though the airport area is not suitable for designation, due to its level of development. The A970 has therefore been selected as the boundary, excluding the airport but including Sumburgh Head, Jarlshof and Scat Ness	The southern headlands are proposed as cLLA 8

## 9 Candidate Local Landscape Areas

- 9.1 Following the analysis and the application of practical criteria, a total of 17 candidate Local Landscape Areas (cLLA) were identified. These are listed in **Table 9.1** and illustrated in **Figure 9.1**.

**Table 9.1 Candidate Local Landscape Areas**

No.	Name	LCUs	Area (ha)
1	Ronas Hill	19,20	4,238
2	Nibon and Mangaster	23	2,508
3	Vementry and West Burrafirth	26,28	3,602
4	Papa Stour and Sandness	29,30	1,919
5	Walls and Vaila	31	1,294
6	Culswick and Westerwick	32	1,404
7	Weisdale	35,42	1,125
8	Scat Ness and Sumburgh Head	52	272
9	No Ness and Mousa	50	381
10	Aith Ness and Noss	47	1,084
11	Gletness and Skellister	39	1,077
12	Lunna Ness and Lunning	37	2,161
13	Wick of Tresta	10	504
14	Colvadale and Muness	4,5	956
15	Haroldswick and Skaw	1	1,869
16	Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound	3,6	2,161
17	West Sandwick to Gloup Holm	6,13	1,844

- 9.2 The area of each cLLA is given in **Table 9.1**, to the nearest hectare. In total, these 17 cLLAs cover 28,399 ha, equating to around 19% of the land area of Shetland. In addition to the 11,600 ha covered by the NSA, a total of around 27% of the land area of Shetland would be subject to some level of landscape protection, if all the candidate areas are taken forward.
- 9.3 Statements of Importance for each cLLA are presented in this section. Detailed maps of the individual cLLAs are included as **Figures 9.2 to 9.18**.

## Candidate Local Landscape Area 1: Ronas Hill

### Location and boundaries:

This area covers Ronas Hill in Northmavine, along with the long, curving Ronas Voe to the south. It includes the foothills of Ronas Hill stepping down to the sea to the west, and the rocky moorland to the north and east, as well as both sides of Ronas Voe.

The north boundary of this area follows a chain of lochs and the Burn of Roerwater from the coast at Lang Clodie Wick to the A970. The eastern boundary follows the A970 as far as Swinister. The southern boundary runs along the ridgeline to the south of Ronas Voe, including the visual envelope of the voe. These boundaries enclose the setting of hill and voe, and represent the most suitable physical and visual boundaries available.

### Key characteristics:

- A Shetland landmark, the highest point of the islands
- Distinctive red granite geology is clearly expressed
- Largely empty, uninhabited hills and moors
- Rocky plateau, steep cliffs, and other rugged features

### Designation statement:

Ronas Hill is a Shetland landmark, distinctive as the highest point on the islands. It is widely visible from locations to the south and west, though its true size, relative to the generally low-lying Shetland Islands, is only apparent closer to. The hill has a distinctive red colour derived from its granite geology. Ronas Hill is the main peak of a broad, rounded ridge running east to west, and topped by an expansive rocky plateau. This gravelly granite surface features unusual alpine plant communities, which occur here at exceptionally low altitudes. The plateau falls away to the north, giving way to lochans and blanket bog. The hill offers wide views across the whole of Shetland, and is a popular destination for hill-walkers visiting Shetland. The chambered cairn at the summit makes for a destination, as well as speaking of the long-established human presence, even in the remotest parts of Shetland. The masts on Collafirth Hill are a reminder of more modern human influence, but otherwise this is an empty landscape, without settlement except for properties along the A970.

Ronas Voe to the south is deep and broad, a dramatic fjord-like inlet with tall cliffs of pink granite and green grass on its northern shore. These colourful cliffs are at their most imposing from Haylor on the south shore. Falling steeply into the water, their feet are fringed by narrow reddish ayres derived from the granite. Small burns tumble down incised gullies in the cliffs, and remnants of willow scrub can be seen. The eastern voe is less dramatic, with disused dwellings visible on the north shore. The open coastal edge to the west has a steep rugged edge, with sharp offshore rocks and islets. Rounded bays are gouged out of the granite, eroding onto more red-tinted beaches. A minor road follows the south shore of the voe, giving access to a very few dwellings, and emphasising the inaccessibility of the north shore. Otherwise human influence is limited to fish farms in the voe and associated landings on the coast.

### Development guidelines:

- Ronas Hill and the north shore of Ronas Voe should remain an area of very limited human influence. The further proliferation of infrastructure on Collafirth Hill may lead to visual clutter
- Carefully consider the siting and design of any proposed development along the south shore of Ronas Voe
- Seek to ensure that new and existing fish farms, and particularly the associated onshore components, can be assimilated into the landscape through design and ongoing maintenance
- Encourage sustainable and responsible recreational access into this landscape, to allow greater appreciation



Candidate Area I: Views from Collafirth Hill



Candidate Area I: Pink granite cliffs of Ronas Hill

## Candidate Local Landscape Area 2: Nibon and Mangaster

### Location and boundaries:

The area covers the south-western part of the Northmavine peninsula, including Mavis Grind and Ness of Culsetter to the south. It lies between the Esha Ness and Muckle Roe sections of the Shetland NSA.

The northern boundary follows the ridgeline to the north of Hamar Voe, and follows the A970 to the east. The southern boundary includes Mavis Grind, but not the quarry to the south, and follows the ridgeline across Ness of Culsetter. These boundaries have been selected to include the areas of highest quality along the coast. The main road forms a strong physical boundary, while the ridges to north and south provide are visual boundaries containing the voes.

### Key characteristics:

- Rugged landscape of rocky coastal hills interspersed with numerous lochans
- Sequence of long views along voes and sudden opening of wide panoramas
- Intricate coastal edge with an array of features and colours
- Panoramic views across St Magnus Bay

### Designation statement:

This is a rugged, largely unsettled landscape of rocky coastal hills facing St Magnus Bay. To the west, the area is deeply indented by Hamar Voe, Gunnister Voe and Mangaster Voe. These steep-sided, irregular voes divide the coast into a series of granite headlands, giving rise to a dramatic and highly scenic combination of sea, islands and rugged hills. The area offers a sense of remoteness and wildness and a rich array of coastal features and colours where outcrops of pink granite contrast with the green moorland that tops the hills. The highly complex coastal edge is manifested as a variety of headlands, geos, caves and islands. These features, together with the intricate landform of the inland areas, interspersed with numerous lochans, bring a strong visual diversity and scenic quality. At the lower coastal fringes, small pockets of relict walls and stone buildings tell of past settlement along these voes, despite the inhospitable landscape.

The low lying islands of Nibon, Gunnister and Egilsay lend a degree of enclosure to parts of the west coast around the opening of the voes, whilst the headland of Lang Head is directly exposed to the ocean. Intimate views of the landscape are experienced when travelling along the voes, gradually unfolding and opening out until, at the coast, a wide panorama is found across St Magnus Bay, and beyond to Foula. Coastal views of the overlapping layers of headlands are available in some locations. Seaward views to the northwest are focused on the landmark feature of Hillswick Lighthouse at Baa Taing.

### Management guidelines:

- Seek to retain undeveloped wildness character: any development should be at the smallest scale, and should be very sensitively sited and designed
- Encourage sustainable and responsible recreational access into this landscape, to allow greater appreciation
- Maintain the wider setting of the NSA through control of development within this area





Candidate Area 2: Gunnister Voe



Candidate Area 2: Nibon, looking across to Ness of Hillswick

### Candidate Local Landscape Area 3: Vementry and West Burrafirth

#### Location and boundaries:

Located on the north coast of the west Mainland, this area extends east from the Hill of Bousta to Vementry, including West Burra Firth, Brindister Voe and the Voe of Clousta.

There are few physical boundaries in this open landscape. A series of watercourses and lochans has been identified surrounding the area of rugged hills which forms the core of this candidate area. These have been linked with ridge lines and field boundaries to form a suitable boundary, containing the higher quality coastal landscapes and their setting. The western boundary is shared with the eastern boundary of candidate area 4: Papa Stour and Sandness.

#### Key characteristics:

- Distinctive rugged rocky terrain based on Lewisian gneiss
- Complex interface between land and sea, intricate pattern of voes, sounds and islands
- Isolated pockets of settlement around sheltered voes

#### Designation statement:

This area has a distinctive rugged terrain reflecting its underlying geology of Lewisian gneiss, one of the world's oldest rocks. It is an area of deeply indented coastline, with a complex interface between land and sea, exemplified by the many branches of Brindister Voe, and the irregular island of Vementry. Between these are further interlocking voes, islands, headlands, and lochs, creating a convoluted and at times disorienting shoreline.

The landward hills are low, rising to little more than 100m, but their complexity gives them a rugged drama, particularly in unfolding vistas along the voes. An unusual dense pattern of lochs and burns, and a sense of wild and remote moorland, is found inland. At the north-facing coastal edge, these views open out to take in St Magnus Bay, extending to Ronas Hill and Esha Ness, with the red cliffs of Muckle Roe a key landmark.

The complexity of the landscape also imparts a sense of separation from the sea: this is a very different coastal experience than that of Esha Ness, for example. The area feels sheltered, almost secluded in places, though remote. The scattered houses which make up the few settlements of this area are located along the lower and more sheltered edges and have the appearance of isolated but secure communities. Fish farms are a feature of the sheltered voes.

#### Development guidelines:

- Seek to maintain sustainable communities which are sympathetic to the landscape
- Development should be small in scale, and be sited and designed in accordance with the landscape setting
- Carefully consider any proposals for new aquaculture, ensuring particularly that onshore works can be sited sensitively



Candidate Area 3: Intricate voes and islands



Candidate Area 3: Long views to Ronas Hill

## Candidate Local Landscape Area 4: Papa Stour and Sandness

### Location and boundaries:

This area lies at the north-west corner of the west Mainland, and includes the island of Papa Stour.

The southern boundary follows the ridge line of Ramna Vord and Sandness Hill which encloses the low-lying coast. It continues along field boundaries across Herma Neuk and The Spinner. The eastern boundary follows watercourses and lochs from the higher moorland down to Bousta. The eastern boundary is shared with the western boundary of candidate area 3: Vementry and West Burrafirth.

### Key characteristics:

- Intact settled coastal landscape with strong crofting-derived pattern
- The varied coast of Papa Stour, including high stacks, dramatic caves, and vertical cliffs, as well as sandy bays
- Sense of a long history of settlement within a contained and relatively remote part of the Mainland

### Designation statement:

The area around Sandness represents an intact settled landscape, illustrating the traditional Shetland land-use pattern derived from crofting. The limited modern development in the area has been carried out in such a way that this pattern can still be read. Distinctive crofting field patterns can be seen in the landscape, backed by moorland which forms the common scattald. There are other historic features discernible in the landscape such as planticrubs and noosts that contribute to a strong sense of historic and cultural heritage.

The stretch of coast along the mainland has a predominantly northern aspect, facing onto St Magnus Bay, across which wide views are afforded from much of the area. The low rounded hill at the Neap of Norby, which encloses the Sand of Gord, is a prominent feature. Here the coast comprises a series of small coves and beaches of shingle or white-grey sand. Inland the gradual descent from moorland to sea contrasts with the more rugged area east of Garth, where the Lewisian gneiss appears, running east into candidate area 3: West Burrafirth and Vementry.

Located 1-2km offshore, the low-lying island of Papa Stour has a strong visual association with the Sandness area, with the settled part of the island facing the Mainland. The western coast of Papa Stour is particularly exposed, giving rise to varied and dramatic coastline of high vertical cliffs, arches, stacks and sea caves. On the more sheltered side of the island are found broad coves and wide sandy beaches as well as distinctive "scalped" heathland. Like the Mainland area around Sandness, the pattern of the crofting landscape can be read, but here it is even less affected by modern development.

Located at the north-western tip of the west Mainland, the area retains a sense of remoteness and containment, though it is well visited. There is an element of surprise when arriving at the settlement from the desolate moorland to the south. Coastal walks are popular around Melby Beach and along the coast the Water Mills at Huxter and Woollen Mill at Sandness can be visited. Papa Stour is also a visitor destination.

### Development guidelines:

- Seek to retain the strong land-use pattern, ensuring a continuation of the sympathetic modern development of this area which have retained its cultural and natural values
- Promote responsible access and enable interpretation of the recent and distant past as well as the geological interest of the area
- Seek to conserve the historic features such as planticrubs, stone walls and noosts



Candidate Area 4: Approaching Sandness with Papa Stour in the background

## Candidate Local Landscape Area 5: Walls and Vaila

### Location and boundaries:

This area is located to the south of the west Mainland peninsula, and is centred on Vaila Sound. It includes part of the settlement of Walls, the island of Vaila, and the wide headland between Lera Voe and Voe of Footabrough.

The western boundary follows a watercourse at Mid Walls. The northern and eastern boundaries follow minor roads from Mid Walls through Walls to Whitesness. These boundaries enclose the immediate setting of Vaila Sound and the broad headland to the west.

### Key characteristics:

- Contrasting landscape of gentle and sheltered inner voes and sounds, and a rugged, exposed seaward coast
- An intact settled area with layers of past settlement and visible time depth
- Inland, larger scale open areas of moorland provides a wild setting to the more intimate coastal edges

### Designation statement:

This area is representative of an intact and highly attractive settled coastal landscape, with a strong sense of place. It is composed of the contrasting gentle and sheltered inner waters of Lera Voe and Vaila Sound and a rugged, exposed outer coast. The smooth landforms of the low islands of Linga and Vaila give way to more rocky outlines west of Lera Ness. Views are focused around Vaila Sound and from inland areas the undulating landforms often frame views towards the water, leading the eye seaward. Distinctive landmarks are located at the coastal edges of the sounds and voes, such as Burrastow House, Vaila House, and.

Inland the low, undulating hills, although not rising much above 60-70 m (90m on Vaila) are experienced as relatively elevated areas of moorland which contrast with the sheltered and settled edges of the sounds and voes. Long views inland across an undeveloped landscape are available, and the empty moorland provides a sense of wildness. At the narrow and rocky coastline of the seaward edges are found large cliffs and sculpted geological features. These are largely unseen from the more active areas of settlements and can only be accessed on foot. The remote and inaccessible nature of these outer seaward edges gives rise to a sense of a hidden coastal landscape to be explored.

Landcover is a patchwork of rocky moorland, enclosed grazing and crofts. The traditional crofting pattern of the landscape remains legible, giving visible time-depth to the area. There are numerous stone enclosures, including many planticrubs. Vaila Sound provides the setting for active settlement, with traces of past settlement extending across this area. This is an intact, if only partly settled landscape, with limited modern development aside from fish farms. Recent development in the village of Walls, including the new marina, fits sympathetically with the landscape.

### Development guidelines:

- Seek to retain the strong land-use pattern, ensuring a continuation of the sympathetic modern development of this area which have retained its cultural and natural values
- Development should be directed away from the higher areas of moorland that enclose the coast and should be set below the skyline to retain the focus of development around the shoreline
- Encourage sympathetic siting and design of new development, including restoration of traditional buildings where appropriate



Candidate Area 5: Vaila Sound



Candidate Area 5: Looking back across the crofting landscape from Vesquoy

## Candidate Local Landscape Area 6: Culswick and Westerwick

### Location and boundaries:

This candidate area lies to the northwest of The Deeps and includes the granite coast of the southernmost section of the west Mainland peninsula, with the villages of Culswick, Westerwick and West Skeld. It adjoins the NSA to the east. The northern boundary runs over the ridgeline of Ward of Culswick, then follows the B9071. The eastern boundary follows the edge of the NSA. These boundaries visually enclose the coastal area which forms part of the NSA setting.

### Key characteristics:

- Rugged, intricate coastline with tall cliffs, dramatic caves, and rocky coves expressing the granite geology
- High variety of coastal features
- Inland topography of gently undulating moorland interspersed with a high concentration of lochs and water courses
- Intact crofting landscapes

### Designation statement:

This candidate area represents an intricate section of coastline that expresses its granite geology in tall cliffs, dramatic caves, and rocky coves. The variety of coastal features gives this coast high visual and natural interest. This is a rugged south-east-facing coast, open and directly exposed to the sea, and composed of complex headlands and intimate rocky bays, such as the enclosed Wester Wick, from which an array of offshore stacks and skerries extend. The high cliffs east and west are pitted with caves, and deep geos,

Inland the landform is undulating, rising to the high point of Ward of Culswick (118m), which is prominent in views from the west. Enclosed valleys, such as the bowl-like depression at Culswick, contain small settlements. The interior displays a pattern of moorland, broken up by numerous lochs and lochans, which is common across the west Mainland. The coast is largely hidden from view from these inland areas. The enclosed and short views across moorland can suddenly open out to a dramatic coast, taking in long seaward views to the south. The sudden juxtaposition of rugged coastal edge and low, undramatic moorland hills is very different to the more gentle transition from land to sea that occurs around Vaila Sound.

The small settlements exhibit the traditional crofting pattern so typical of the west Mainland. They are generally located within the more low-lying and sheltered coastal areas, such as the gentle Stead of Culswick, or inland as at Skeld. The area is largely unaffected by modern development, which has been carried on in a sympathetic manner. Many traditional buildings are still in use, and relict features such as noosts are common.

### Development guidelines:

- Development should be sympathetic to the existing pattern of settlement and located within the low-lying sheltered valleys
- There is scope for small-scale development in association with existing settlements, provided that it is appropriately sited and designed
- Continue to promote opportunities for responsible access to the coast





Candidate Area 6: Relict walls at Stead of Culswick



Candidate Area 6: Coastal scenery at Westerwick

## Candidate Local Landscape Area 7: Weisdale

### Location and boundaries:

The candidate area encompasses the settled part of the Weisdale valley and Weisdale Voe, from the NSA boundary in the south, to Springfield in the north. The eastern and western boundaries follow the prominent linear ridge lines which contain Weisdale. The southern boundary is shared with the NSA. To the north, the boundary follows the B9075 and a watercourse. These boundaries enclose the visually interesting valley, separate from the open moorland to the north.

### Key characteristics:

- Unique in Shetland as the location of the only substantial woodlands
- An enclosed valley landscape, opening out to wide voe
- Panoramic views across Weisdale Voe to the south, taking in an attractive composition of the islands and sea towards Fitful Head

### Designation statement:

Weisdale is enclosed by prominent ridges of low moorland running north-south, which define the linear valleys of central Shetland. The open and undeveloped moorland provide an important setting to the lower-lying settled valley and shore. As such, they are integral to the sense of remoteness within the valley itself, particularly in the north. Weisdale is unique in Shetland as the location of the only substantial area of woodland. These small plantations that extend up the valley from the head of the voe give the north of the area a sheltered character not found on other parts of the islands. Closely interwoven with the woodland belts, the larger farm buildings and pastoral enclosures of the settled lower valley are also unusual. The remnants of croft houses are visible on the hillsides, providing visual links to past patterns of settlement.

Weisdale Voe is an extensive long and broad inlet, enclosed by steep sided hills that drop down to a low-lying coastal margin of green pasture. This is a simple coastal edge without cliffs or beaches. Much of this southern part of the area is highly visible from the western parts of the central mainland, particularly from the NSA to the south. The A971, which winds through and around the voe, alternately down at the waterside and elevated on the enclosing hills, offers an attractive sequence of views. From elevated areas it offers panoramic views along the broad, long valley and voe. Views south are particularly scenic, taking in the interlocking layers of water, islands and the low forms of Strom Ness and Whiteness and Fitful Head in the far distance. Within the long ridges containing the area direct the eye up through the valley to the north and south along the voe.

The shores of Weisdale Voe are well settled, including modern developments at Kalliness and new houses at Helgibister. Older remnants of historic settlement are present in the landscape and on the western shore there remains a regular, linear pattern of enclosures extending up the lower slopes of the Hill of Sound. Within the valley Weisdale Mill is a local landmark and a key visitor attraction.

### Development guidelines:

- Seek to retain the distinctive woodland of the upper valley
- Retain largely undeveloped skyline that encloses the area and forms an important back-drop to the voe
- Development should be sympathetic to the existing pattern of settlement and located on the lower-lying coastal edge



Candidate Area 7: Views over Weisdale Voe



Candidate Area 7: Woodland at Kergord

## Candidate Local Landscape Area 8: Scat Ness and Sumburgh Head

### Location and boundaries:

These two headlands form the rocky southern tip of Mainland Shetland. The northern boundary of this area follows the A970 as it skirts the airport and separates the promontories from the developed area around the airfield.

### Key characteristics:

- Dramatic headlands jutting into the open sea
- Rich historical background represented by world-class archaeological sites
- The distinctive approach to Sumburgh Airport across the headland
- An accessible area for viewing scenery, history and wildlife

### Designation statement:

Scat Ness is the lower lying headland, occupied in the north by the village of Scatness, which illustrates a traditional pattern of tofts, although overlaid with more recent development. South of the settlement, the headland becomes more open, breaking up into a series of rocky spits and geos. Its southern extremity, the Ness of Burgi, is accessible by a narrow rocky path with the sea on either side, and only a metal chain for protection. Once past this narrow exposed neck, the headland broadens out, and is topped by a well preserved Iron Age blockhouse. Low cliffs fall sharply to jagged skerries and clear shallow seas on all sides. The smaller islands around Scat Ness, including Lady's Holm, Little Holm and Horse Island, form part of the setting of these headlands. The two headlands are linked by a long beach of grey-white sand.

Sumburgh Head is much more upstanding. Although low and relatively gentle on its western side, it rises to over 100m at Compass Head, with steep cliffs on its eastern face. It narrows southward in an arrowhead shape to an angular headland, with rocky slopes tilting sharply into the sea, and surrounded by knife-edged offshore rocks. The lighthouse on the headland is a landmark, and along with several aeriels and masts, is visible from aeroplanes approaching Sumburgh Airport. The angled descent onto the runway is a distinctive feature of arrival into Shetland for many visitors. This area is also very accessible: a public road links the lighthouse with viewpoints and car parks, and the headland is a popular bird reserve. The multi-layered archaeological site of Jarlshof is located on Sumburgh Head.

### Development guidelines:

- Seek to resist the further proliferation of communications equipment on Sumburgh Head, which may give rise to visual clutter
- Seek to retain the pattern of tofts in Scatness. Development within the settlement should be sympathetically sited and designed. The open, undeveloped nature of the southern part of Scat Ness should be maintained
- In planning for access, the distinction between the more accessible Sumburgh Head and the less accessible Ness of Burgi should be retained to preserve their individual characters



Candidate Area 8: Sumburgh Head Lighthouse

## Candidate Local Landscape Area 9: No Ness and Mousa

### Location and boundaries:

This narrow headland and adjacent island lies west of Sandwick on the southern Mainland, approximately midway between Sumburgh Head and Lerwick. The land boundary of the area follows the minor road between Sandwick and Sand Lodge, separating the undeveloped peninsula from the more settled landscape around Sandwick.

### Key characteristics:

- An undeveloped headland within the most densely settled part of Shetland
- Prominent position on the south Mainland coast, with long visual links
- Important cultural landmarks
- Jagged rocky foreshores and sandstone strata

### Designation statement:

The narrow headland of No Ness extends south and west from the southern Mainland, separating Sand Wick to the west from Mousa Sound to the east. The peninsula is very sparsely settled, in contrast with the more densely settled area around Sandwick and Houlland to the west. The long headland forms an important part of the setting of the small, traditional hamlet of Sandwick at the head of the deep bay.

No Ness overlooks the small uninhabited island of Mousa to the east. Both ness and island are surrounded by an exposed rocky coastal edge, displaying an intricate pattern of sandstone strata. The low lying island is subtly rounded, almost separated into smaller islands where the landform dips. The tidal lagoons of East and West Pool, connected by rocky sounds, are attractive features, hidden from the Mainland. Jagged rocks jut from the foreshore, and rock outcrops extend into the grassy interior. The island is a popular visitor destination, known for its population of storm petrels. It is also highly visible from the settled parts of the Mainland, and from the main A970, as is No Ness.

Signs of historic settlement include the impressive Mousa Broch, the most intact surviving example of this Iron Age building type, which is strongly associated with the Northern Isles. Facing Mousa Broch are the remains of its sister, the Broch of Burreland on No Ness. Together, these two remnants offer a glimpse of the Shetland past, where sea transport was more important than land. Long views from the headland allow long views along the seaways north to Bressay and Noup of Noss and south to Sumburgh Head.

### Development guidelines:

- Seek to protect the largely undeveloped nature of the headland, as a contrast to the settled land to the west
- Promote responsible access and understanding of the area's past
- Seek to protect the setting of the important group of historic buildings and Sand Lodge



Candidate Area 9: The low-lying island of Mousa



Candidate Area 9: Relict settlement on No Ness

## Candidate Local Landscape Area 10: Aith Ness and Noss

### Location and boundaries:

This area comprises the eastern part of the island of Bressay, together with the smaller island of Noss to the east. The landward boundary of this area follows field boundaries south from Leir Wick across Hill of Setter, then minor roads and a track across West Hill, and then follows the Burn of Grutwick to Seli Geo. These boundaries contain the key parts of the visual setting of Noss, as well as the headland of Aith Ness. The areas outside the line are generally the parts of Bressay more affected by development.

### Key characteristics:

- Dramatic seascapes: high cliffs; rocky headlands; sheltered bays
- Landmark cliffs of the Noup of Noss
- Relict landscapes both ancient and modern

### Designation statement:

In contrast to the busy western side of Bressay, the eastern half of the island is undeveloped and intact. The long, low-lying but complex and rugged headlands of Aith Ness and Rules Ness extend northwards, enclosing the sheltered Voe of Cullingsburgh. The scores at the north of Aith Ness in turn enclose the white sand beach of Score Minni. Relict crofting patterns are apparent amongst the rolling landscape of heather moors, for example the moss-encrusted buildings at Wadbister, and the plantigrubs around Ander Hill. The abandoned settlement and church at Cullingsburgh tell of a greater population in the past. More recent relics visible in the landscape include old slate workings, and the remnants of wartime defences, including an abandoned gun on Erne's Hill.

The uninhabited island of Noss is separated from Bressay by a narrow sound, clear blue in fine weather, but with violent swells during storms. The islands are and joined by a short ferry crossing popular with visitors to the nature reserve on Noss. From Bressay, the smaller island appears as a smoothly sloping conical hill, rising from the sandy beaches either side of Gungstie. Only on reaching the top of the island is the scale of the cliffs apparent, dropping 180m into the sea at the Noup of Noss. Gannets, puffins, and hundreds of other seabirds wheel around the exposed cliffs, which are pitted with cliffs and narrow geos. The high point of Noss Head is a prominent landmark tying eastern Shetland together, visible from as far away as Saxa Vord on Unst, and Sumburgh Head to the south.

### Development guidelines:

- The designation focuses on the distinction between the settled west of Bressay, associated with Lerwick, and the less developed east. Planning should seek to maintain this distinction.
- Substantial development should be resisted, to retain the open landscape.
- Small-scale development should be sympathetically sited and designed, in order to maintain the character of the landscape.
- Continue to promote responsible access to features of interest within the area, while protecting their landscape setting.





## Candidate Local Landscape Area I I: Gletness and Skellister

### Location and boundaries:

This headland in South Nesting is located between Cat Firth and South Nesting Bay. The landward boundary of the candidate area follows the B9075 between Cat Firth and Wester Voe of Skellister.

### Key characteristics:

- An intact, settled area, whose character has been preserved through a sympathetic approach to development
- An understated beauty of intricate and generally sheltered coast, rocky islands and ayres
- Rich in wildlife, a quiet tranquil area

### Designation statement:

This area is an intact example of a settled coastal landscape. Although close to Lerwick, and actively settled, unlike other similar landscapes it remains largely unaffected by adverse development. It has time-depth in the relict crofting pattern of the landcover, and numerous plantigrubs and other relict features. More recent development has been generally sympathetic, including the renovation of traditional buildings, and its character has not been eroded.

The headland is not greatly exposed, and being located on the more sheltered east coast it is a calmer coast than elsewhere. Cat Firth to the west is enclosed on both sides. The coastline is intricate and varied, low-lying, with an often jagged rocky shoreline. The range of rocky headlands, skerries, and ayres gives the area a strong visual appeal. The Vadill of Garth is a long sinuous shingly inlet extending inland, the reverse of the gravelly ayres linking the islands off Skellister. Several such islands lie just offshore: some rugged like North isle of Gletness and Hoo Stack, others low and smoother like Little Holm. Opportunities abound to view seals and otters in and around the shallow waters. The varied coast is backed by settled pasture and lochs in the north-western part of the headland. The south-eastern areas comprise open rocky moorland, more sparsely settled, rising to Hill of the Taing (66m) near Gletness, and The Noup (72m) by Eswick. Long views from Gletness look south to Bressay and Noss. The headland of Gletness is clearly visible from the A970 as it heads north past Wadbister.

### Development guidelines:

- Development should be permitted in this area if it is at an appropriate scale, and is suitable in terms of siting and design
- There is potential for careful development to contribute to this landscape, as shown by sympathetic modern buildings in the area
- Seek to preserve the more open, remote character of the outer headlands, in contrast to the more settled area around Benston



Candidate Area 11: Skellister Voe

## Candidate Local Landscape Area 12: Lunna Ness and Lunning

### Location and boundaries:

This area at the north-east of the Mainland includes the long, narrow, Lunna Ness, together with Vidlin Voe and the broader headland to the south. The landward boundary follows the minor road south from West Lunna Voe, past Vidlin, and south to Levanep. This boundary includes the headlands and the settlement which form the core of the candidate area.

### Key characteristics:

- Attractive settlements around Vidlin Voe, with a distinctive pattern and character
- Long, narrow and remote headland of Lunna Ness
- Rugged moorland hills around Lunning
- Historic features and associations at Lunna, including the ancient kirk and the Shetland Bus

### Designation statement:

These outlying peninsulas of the north-east Mainland include a range of contrasting landscapes, from the settled, sheltered bay of Vidlin Voe, to the rocky moorland around Lunning, and the long, irregular and sparsely inhabited Lunna Ness. The land is covered with heather moorland where not enclosed as part of a croft. East of Vidlin Voe, this moorland is rocky and irregular, with a network of small lochs and watercourses. This headland is sparsely populated, with only a few houses at Lunning. There are deserted croft houses at Lunning and also further south at Bonidale.

Around Vidlin Voe, a distinctive pattern of settlement is evident. Houses at Gillsbreck and Kirkabister are located on the slopes above the voe, their croft lands running down to the shore, and moorland grazing behind. The marina and associated development fits into this landscape without affecting its character. Across the voe, Lunna Ness stretches out, a long finger extending out to Yell and Whalsay. At the narrow neck halfway along, the designed landscape of Lunna House provides an interesting and unusual attraction, and is associated with the wartime 'Shetland Bus' operation, as well as with the ancient church nearby. The northern part of the headland is empty, with only a few houses and deserted buildings. Lunna Ness tapers northwards to the rocky Ward of Outrabister (90m), and a scatter of outlying skerries and taings.

Views are often contained within this medium-scale landscape, but on occasion these open out to take in panoramic views of surrounding islands and sounds, particularly from the northern end of Lunna Ness, which overlooks both Yell and Whalsay. The area is intact, and visually appealing, with a sheltered, welcoming character.

### Development guidelines:

- Seek to preserve the distinctive character of the settlement around Vidlin Voe
- Ensure that any development is appropriate in scale, siting and design, and that it complements the landscape character of the area
- Protect the undeveloped nature of Lunna Ness, while continuing to promote responsible access to sites within the area



Candidate Area 12: Designed landscape at Lunna House

### Candidate Local Landscape Area 13: Wick of Tresta

#### Location and boundaries:

The candidate area is located on the island of Fetlar, and comprises the Wick of Tresta, the dispersed settlement of Tresta, and the surrounding landscape. The south-west boundary of this area follows the ridge of Lamb Hoga, across Gillis Field and Fitsyi Field, then turns north-east along a field boundary to the B9088, which forms the northern boundary as far as Wick of Aith. These boundaries enclose the visual setting of the bay and the beach.

#### Key characteristics:

- Secluded bay, a hidden gem;
- Bright, broad sandy beach;
- Enclosed by soft green cliffs and sinuous profile of Lamb Hoga;

#### Designation statement:

Hidden from views from off the island, the Wick of Tresta is at the heart of Fetlar. The wick is contained between the bulk of the island to the north, and enclosed by the tall headland of Lamb Hoga to the south. Its secluded location imparts a sense of discovery for visitors. The setting also provides shelter, a marked contrast from the rugged wild shores which make up much of the coast of Fetlar.

At the head of the wick is the broad sandy beach which forms the focus of this candidate area, backed by low dunes. The Papil Water forms part of a wider pattern of hill and dale behind the beach. The sand shelves gently into the clear water, creating attractive colours when viewed from elevated points on Lamb Hoga. Behind the beach the kirk and the manse, with its wooded garden, add to the picturesque scene.

The southern shore of the wick comprises the long, sinuous profile of Lamb Hoga, rising to Gillis Field then sweeping down to Head of Lambhoga. The grassy moor of the headland extends onto the slopes of the soft, eroded cliffs which line the bay.

The northern part of this area is settled, with a number of crofts and houses, and a campsite above Tresta. Along this northern shore the coastline is lower, extending out in rocky spits and skerries which separate smaller bays. Views south from this coast extend to the Out Skerries and Noup of Noss.

#### Development guidelines:

- Any development within the area should be sympathetic to the setting of the beach within the bay;
- Development should not be permitted in the area behind the beach, to preserve the setting of kirk and manse.
- Development should not be permitted south and west of Papil Water and the beach, to preserve the open backdrop to the beach when viewed from Tresta



Candidate Area 13: Tresta Wick and Lamb Hoga



Candidate Area 13: The beach at Tresta

## Candidate Local Landscape Area 14: Colvadale and Muness

### Location and boundaries:

This area is located on the southeast coast of Unst, centred on the bay of Easting. The northern boundary follows the ridge line from Clugan, turning south across Virda Field, Hill of Colvadale and along a watercourse behind Vord Hill. From Loch of Hoversta the boundary follows tracks and minor roads across Breck of Still to Muness, then south to Scolla Wick. These boundaries enclose the visual setting of the wide bay between Mu Ness and Huney.

### Key characteristics:

- Deserted settlement and relict patterns of croft boundaries and empty buildings;
- Backed by the bare, gravelly moors derived from the underlying serpentinite geology;
- An empty landscape, no longer settled but with extensive time depth.

### Designation statement:

This is an unusual landscape, characterised by attractive colours of rusty brown crags, rocky moorland and the bright sand at Sandwick and The Yei. The area is underlain by the distinctive geology of serpentinite rock, containing rare minerals, and producing a bare gravelly moorland, supporting a rare heathland flora.

The land slopes gently from this moorland to the low-lying coast, largely rocky with occasional small shingle beaches. The large beach at Sandwick is the only stretch of sand, excepting the developing tombolo at Huney. These isolated patches of bright white-yellow sand stand out in views across the grey-green landscape. Though not greatly indented or dramatic, the coast is locally rugged and intricate.

There is a strong sense of time depth, represented by a range of surviving cultural heritage features. The excavated longhouse Sandwick is one of many Unst sites associated with the Viking period. More recent history is represented by the extensive deserted settlements in the area, the most substantial being at Colvadale, abandoned since the 1950s. The isolated burial ground at Framgord, with its ruined pre-reformation kirk, is a reminder of the population that once flourished here, as are the numerous named features along the now empty coast.

Much of this coastline is relatively inaccessible. Due to its location on the west of Unst, the area feels remote, even from other parts of Shetland. There are few views of other islands, aside from Fetlar to the south, and long scenic views to the distant Out Skerries.

### Development guidelines:

- Seek to retain the unsettled isolation of this area, retaining its cultural and natural values
- Promote responsible access and enable interpretation of the recent and distant past, as well as the unique geological material
- The area around Muness, where there is active settlement, forms part of the setting of this landscape, but is not central. Development in this area should be sympathetic to the setting of the area
- Potentially, seek to conserve some of the relict stone walls and buildings





Candidate Area 14: The east coast of Unst

## Candidate Local Landscape Area 15: Haroldswick and Skaw

### Location and boundaries:

This area is located in the northeast of Unst and includes the settlements of Haroldswick, Norwick and Skaw.

The western boundary follows the edge of the Shetland NSA, from Saxa Vord south to Burrafirth. The southern boundary follows the. These boundaries define a coherent area of north-east Unst, between Burra Firth and Harold's Wick.

### Key characteristics:

- Part of the most northerly area of Shetland and Britain
- Highly visible military defence infrastructure, including active and disused elements
- Rugged, exposed northern coast, with sheltered sandy bays
- Rich geology visible at the surface
- Actively settled area undergoing redevelopment as former military uses decline and new uses are found

### Designation statement:

This is a rugged landscape with a great variety in landform. The rocky headlands and dramatic folded cliffs of the north coast are topped with moorland, contrasting in its smoothness. This moorland continues upwards to a group of rounded hills, the highest being Saxa Vord. South of the broad dale of Valsgarth, the Hill of Clibberswick is bare and rocky, revealing its serpentinite geology. It falls steeply at the east coast, forming cliffs up to 160m high. Between the headlands are attractive beaches at Skaw and Norwick, where the geology of Unst can be viewed up close.

The area has a strong sense of place by virtue of it being the in the most northerly part of Shetland, with several features being "the most northerly in Britain". This apparent remoteness is reinforced by the high sense of exposure along of the north-facing coast. The more sheltered dale between Haroldswick and Norwick is actively settled, with intact, if often relict, patterns of crofting. At the centre of this dale is the modern development of the former RAF Saxa Vord. Although the clustered housing integrates surprisingly well, the larger buildings stand out among the more traditional, smaller-scale houses of the area. Good examples of restored traditional buildings are located north of Norwick.

The much-reduced RAF base dominates the area, with remnant structures scattered across Lamba Ness and around Skaw. The hilltop radar station on Saxa Vord is widely visible across Unst and beyond, and despite its incongruity, is a Shetland landmark. Long coastal views southwards from this area take in a series of distinctive headlands and the cliffs of Fetlar in the distance. To the north, wide and open seawards views are available, with Muckle Flugga and its lighthouse a landmark feature. This area has a great sense of space and openness, increasing to exposure at the coast.

### Development guidelines:

- Development in and around the actively settled part of the landscape should not be unduly discouraged, though it should be appropriately sited and designed. Restoration of traditional buildings should be further encouraged
- Seek to encourage sensitive redevelopment of the former RAF buildings at Valsgarth, promoting sustainable uses which will further integrate these structures into the landscape
- Seek creative reuse or interpretation of remnant military structures across the landscape



Candidate Area 15: Norwick



Candidate Area 15: Skaw

## Candidate Local Landscape Area 16: Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound

### Location and boundaries:

This area is located across the south-west coast of Unst and the north-eastern coast of Yell, either side of Bluemull Sound.

The eastern boundary on Unst follows the A968 from Belmont, then the ridge of Shore Hill. It runs north over Valla Field to the Ward of Houlland. This line forms a natural visual and physical boundary containing the area.

The western boundary on Yell follows the ridge that visually encloses Gloup Voe, and is shared in part with the eastern boundary of candidate area 17: West Sandwick and Gloup Holm. It continues to follow ridge lines to Cullivoe, enclosing the settled coastal edge and the immediate moorland setting of Sandwater Hill and Scordaback.

### Key characteristics:

- Layers of historic settlement apparent in the many ruined churches and buildings and standing stones;
- Exposed northern coast with enclosed bays and narrow voes;
- Rolling coastal hills and the steeply rising slopes of Valla Field that enclose the area;

### Designation statement:

This area represents diverse coast of prominent rocky headlands, sheltered bays and high and dramatic cliffs exposed to the open sea. The simple arrangement of hills, the water of the Bluemull Sound and open sea, and rocky coastal edge has high scenic qualities. The two coasts of Yell and Unst are intimately linked visually. Long, highly scenic views along and across the Bluemull Sound are available across the area, though they are particularly dramatic from elevated inland areas. Within the central area, the rolling coastal hills and the steeply rising slopes of Valla Field that enclose the area form important settings to the lower settled edges. At the north the area affords a variety of experiences, from expansive views focused out to the open sea to intimate areas enclosed within bays and narrow voes. To the west the long and broad Gloup Voe forms a secluded inlet enclosed by steeply rising green grass slopes. It forms an important setting to the Gloup memorial at the western edge of Gloup and despite the proximity of the settlement, there is a sense of remoteness due to the visual isolation of the area.

This is a cultivated but sparsely settled landscape, with layers of historic settlement apparent in the many ruined churches and buildings and standing stones. Remnant crofting patterns are discernible. Isolated communities are scattered along the lower, gentle and more sheltered edges of the Bluemull Sound. The limited modern development within the area also occurs at this lower edge, with the surrounding moorland hills providing an important series of undeveloped enclosing skylines.

### Development guidelines:

- Retain undeveloped skylines of the rolling coastal hills and Valla Field that form the setting to the area
- Ensure new development is sympathetically and carefully integrated with the existing settlement pattern



Candidate Area 16: Blue Mull and Valla Field from Cullivoe



Candidate Area 16: Looking across Bluemull Sound from Westing on Unst to Yell

## Candidate Local Landscape Area 17: West Sandwick to Gloup Holm

### Location and boundaries:

This area encompasses the west coast of Yell, from the headland of Ness of West Sandwick to the small islands of The Clapper and Gloup Holm in the north.

The inland boundary is formed by ridges which form the immediate viewshed from the coast. The northeastern boundary is shared in part by that of candidate area 16: Gloup Voe and Bluemull Sound.

### Key characteristics:

- Highly isolated, long stretches of coastline increasing in exposure to the north
- Impressive wide views of great depth across Yell Sound to the rocky hills of Northmavine;
- An area of limited active settlement, with isolated pockets of historic settlement rich in cultural heritage;

### Designation statement:

This is a dramatic coastal landscape comprising the long, exposed and largely isolated western coast of Yell. Impressive wide views of great depth across Yell Sound to the low, smooth coast backed by the rocky hills of Northmavine. The exposed coastline of stacks and high cliffs is highly visible from the North Roe headland. Views along the sound take in an attractive assemblage of water and layers of low, interlocking coastal hills rising to the rounded Ronas Hill behind. The northern coast has a heightened sense of exposure, with views to the rugged headland of North Roe, the open sea and the jagged profile of the Ramna Stacks on the horizon. The area to the north of Whale Firth is particularly rugged, with varied and distinctive coastal features, including Eigg, Ern Stack and Stuis.

The area represents a highly remote coastal margin, much of which is inaccessible and can only be explored on foot or by boat. Settlement in the area limited to the small, isolated settlement of West Sandwick, which has a strong and intact rural pattern. The area represents a rich cultural heritage that is visible in the landscape, including church, vernacular stone buildings, standing stones and an iron age fort.

### Development guidelines:

- Encourage sustainable and responsible recreational access into this landscape, to allow greater appreciation
- Seek to retain the unsettled isolation of this area, retaining its cultural and natural values



Candidate Area 17: Crofting landscape at West Sandwick



Candidate Area 17: Gloup Voe





## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

<b>Report Title</b>	Shetland Local Landscape Designation Review: Final Report
<b>Authors</b>	Land Use Consultants
<b>Date of Publication</b>	October 2011
<b>Version Status</b>	Final
<b>Commissioning Organisation Name</b>	Shetland Islands Council
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## **Appendix I**

### **Example Field Survey Form**

## Stage I Field survey form

Landscape Character Unit:			
Date and time		Location	
Surveyor(s)		Weather	
Criteria	Rank	Description	
Representative ness			
Rarity			
Intactness			
Scenic qualities			
Enjoyment			
Value			

<b>Cultural qualities</b>		
<b>Naturalness</b>		
<b>Rural pattern</b>		
<b>Views</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>		
<b>Key Landscape relationships</b>		

## Stage 2 Field survey form

### **Identification of key qualities**

#### **Landscape features**

Objective description of landscape features: Landform, land cover, land use, settlement pattern, distinctive features.

#### **Visual analysis**

Visual relationships and contrasts which are important to the landscape

#### **Personal response**

Subjective description of personal response to the landscape

## **Appendix 2**

### **Landscape Evaluation**

Landscape Character Unit		I Burra Firth and Haroldswick
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Burra Firth has a strong Shetland sense of place. The radar station atop Saxa Vord is a local landmark.
<b>Rarity</b>	Very high	An unusual landscape arising from an uncommon combination of features, including the serpentine rocks, sand dunes, and the former RAF base. Also a feeling of uniqueness as the most northerly part of Britain.
<b>Intactness</b>	Medium	Variable across the area. The former RAF buildings at Valsgarth and Skaw are utilitarian in aspect, though the former have a strong association with place. Remnant crofting and croft houses combined with much less sympathetic building types. Some croft buildings are being restored. The radar station on Saxa Vord is highly visible.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	The cliffs of Burra Firth are dramatic and diverse. Elsewhere a visually interesting area, with pockets of more and less scenically attractive landscape.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Very high	The car park at Herma Ness is well used, with many visitors walking out to the headland. Skaw is also a destination for visitors to the most northerly part of Britain. Development of the former RAF buildings as a tourist facility is ongoing, and there are other attractions in Haroldswick. The area lies at the ultimate end of National Cycle Network Route 1.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Very high	A Norse longhouse is under restoration at Haroldswick, emphasising the layers of settlement, through crofting to 20 <sup>th</sup> century RAF buildings and more recent development. Ruins of a wartime radar station are located on the Lambaness headland.
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	In parts, a highly natural landscape, particularly along Burra Firth and in more remote sections. The Saxa Vord radar and other 20 <sup>th</sup> century infrastructure are often apparent.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	High	There are pockets of intact crofting landscape, though much is relict.
<b>Views</b>	High	Many visitors come to Burra Firth purely for the views, although the extent of views varies across this area. Panoramic views available from the road to Burrafirth from Haroldswick are particularly noted for their drama.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	There is a distinct difference between the rugged character of Burra Firth and the more rolling landscape to the east, partly explained by a change in geology. Within the area to the east, there are local variations arising from the levels of settlement.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	The western part has a very strong relationship to the moorland landscape of Herma Ness (LCU 2), while the eastern part is more closely related to Crussa Field to the south.
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	NSA takes in Burra Firth and surrounding cliffs LPA at Skaw Norwick Meadows SSSI Herma Ness and Saxa Vord SPA



Landscape Character Unit		2 Valla Field
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Empty bleak moorland with lochs is similar to moorland types elsewhere in Shetland
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	Inland area has few seas views which is unusual. The long steep ridge of Valla Field contrasts with the more common rounded moors.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Very limited modern development in this landscape. Disused croft buildings are evident.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Medium	The moorland hills not remarkably visually interesting, more attractive to the north, though this is due to its relationship with the coast of Herma Ness.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	Access point for the much visited NNR at Hermaness. Fishing lochs
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Low	Few obvious cultural features contribute to the character of this landscape.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	A largely undisturbed landscape with a strong sense of remoteness, particularly to the north.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	Limited areas of enclosure, this is not generally a crofting landscape.
<b>Views</b>	High	Valla Field is widely visible from the A968 and from locations on Yell and forms part of the setting of the coastal area. Dramatic and views to Muckle Flugga and the ocean from Hermaness Hill.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	The settled area near Baltasound is substantially different to the open areas of moorland, elsewhere there is variation with topography and differing associations
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Valla Field has a strong relationship to the coast to the east (LCU 3), and visually with Yell beyond. The northern area is closely associated with Burra Firth (LCU 1)
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	NSA covers the northern part of this LCU, north of Libbers Hill Hermaness and Valla Field SPA and SSSIs Hermaness NNR

Landscape Character Unit		3 Belmont to Herma Ness
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	A combination of seascapes, with rural crofting backdrops and hills behind. The coastline is composed of a pattern of small headlands and coves with geos and stacks.
<b>Rarity</b>	Low	Typical of much of Shetland's coast, an often remote rocky coastline.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Generally intact, with limited modern development. Some disused croft buildings, though the house and landscape at Belmont House have been restored.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Attractive coast with beaches and imposing cliff in the north. A peaceful backwater feel. Attractive sandy bays and dramatic headlands.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Medium	Informal walking access, as well as some signposted walks. Areas of NTS land. Popular access point at Hermaness NNR and some attractions within the southern area between Belmont and Lund.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Very high	Prominent features include Belmont House and the ruined church at Lunda Wick, as well as the remnant crofting landscape and a number of standing stones in the south.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	To the north, an undisturbed natural coastline with a remote and tranquil feel.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	High	The relict crofting pattern is clearly apparent around Burragarth and Westing.
<b>Views</b>	High	Visible from the A968 and from the ferry crossing from Yell. Attractive views from the road approaching Westing are noted.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	A generally consistent landscape, although more settled to the south and wilder to the north. The area is more visually contained and sheltered within the Bluemull Sound, becoming more open to the sea in the north.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Strong physical relationship with Valla Field to the east (LCU 2), and visually with LCU 6 across Bluemull Sound
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	NSA covers the northern section, north of Tonga Belmont Garden and Designed Landscape Hermaness and Valla Field SPA and SSSIs Hermaness NNR Lunda Wick SSSI

Landscape Character Unit		4 Baltasound and Hill of Colvadale
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	Medium	Typical settlement around Baltasound, but elsewhere an unusual landscape of rocky moorland
<b>Rarity</b>	Very high	Serpentine geology gives rise to a unique landscape of stony moorland with rare plant communities.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Some larger buildings at Baltasound, and modern housing which fits poorly into the settlement pattern, but does not affect the wider landscape. The airstrip at Baltasound is unobtrusive.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	High	An interesting landscape, not always dramatic or especially attractive in a traditional sense, but unusual and with its own attraction as a geologically rare landscape.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Very high	Keen of Hamar NNR is a popular visitor location, with many people coming to view the unusual landscape, geology and botany. National Cycle Network Route 1.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	Evidence of historic mining activity, and cairns atop the hills north of Crussa Field, but overall limited contribution of cultural heritage to the landscape.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	Valuable geology and botany, most obviously at the Keen of Hamar, but extending south across Hill of Colvadale.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	Much of this landscape is open moorland. This contrasts with the enclosed land around Baltasound, but these enclosures are not strongly visible in the landscape.
<b>Views</b>	High	Very visible from the A968. Coastal and attractive panoramic views available from the A968
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Consistent landscape, apart from the settled area around Baltasound.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Visual relationships with Nikka Vord to the north (LCU 1) and Valla Field to the west (LCU 2). Hill of Colvadale forms the backdrop to LCU 5 Balta to Uyea
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Keen of Hamar NNR and SAC SSSIs at Hill of Colvadale and Sobul, Crussa Field and The Heogs, and Skeo Taing.

Landscape Character Unit		5 Uyea to Balta
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Typical of settled coast, with dispersed settlements fringing the low-lying coast, and sections of cliffs between.
<b>Rarity</b>	High	Extensive abandoned settlement at Colvadale, and the rocky backdrop of the serpentine hills. Unusual geology of serpentinite rock containing rare minerals and supporting rare heathland and plants.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Larger developments include fishing piers and substantial buildings locally affect the area around Uyeasound. To the north the relict settlement of Colvadale presents an intact, though disused, traditional landscape.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	High	Associations of rocky hills, rusty brown crags, abandoned crofting settlements, and beaches. Attractive colours, bright sandy beaches around Balta
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Medium	Muness Castle. Inaccessible east coast unlikely to be much visited.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	High	Muness Castle, a fortified house, is an important feature, a prominent standing stone at Clivocast. The relict crofting landscape of Colvadale is of interest. Excavated Viking longhouses at Sandwick.
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	Coastline is important to the appreciation of this landscape, as are views out to sea and islands
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Very high	Remnant pattern of Colvadale is very strong, preserved by the abandonment of the village, more eroded around Uyeasound
<b>Views</b>	High	Long coastal views extend northwards along the eastern coast and south to Fetlar. Extensive views to the mainland are also available.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	The northern and central part, including Sandwick and Colvadale, is empty and inaccessible, while the southern area around Uyeasound feels relatively busy.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Strong relationship with rocky hills to north west (LCU 4) and Fetlar to the south (LCU 9 and 10).
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Ham Ness, Qui Ness and Balta SSSIs.

Landscape Character Unit		6 Gloop Ness
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Typical Shetland combination of a dispersed settlement pattern and intricate coastline
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	Sandy beaches and dunes, the long narrow Gloop Voe
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Intact pattern with few intrusive features, though a number of croft houses are disused.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Attractive complex coast with a range of rocky features and beaches. Association with cliffs and hills of Unst across Bluemull Sound
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	Beaches and coastal walks are available, a signposted walk to the memorial at Gloop Voe
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	Traditional settlement contributes to the landscape, including plantigrubs, boat-roofed buildings, etc
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	Particularly to the west, in the less settled area, a remote feel and even in settled areas limited modification
<b>Rural pattern</b>	High	Strong relict pattern though now appears to be managed as pasture.
<b>Views</b>	High	Strong visual interaction with the west coast of Unst, with cliffs and rocky headlands forming focus in views to the northeast. Long seaward views across expanse of open sea are available at the northern coastal fringe.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Difference is between the more settled north east area and the wilder coast to the west
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Physical relationship with moorland to the south (LCU 7), but key visual relationship is with Unst Coast and Valla Field (LCU 3 and 2).
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Ness of Cullivoe and Breackon SSSI.

Landscape Character Unit		7 Basta Voe
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Typical Shetland landscapes of open moorland and dispersed coastal settlement
<b>Rarity</b>	Low	Does not contain features which are considered rare in a Shetland context
<b>Intactness</b>	Medium	Fish farms and onshore infrastructure around Basta Voe. A small quarry at Sellafirth. The wide A968 bordered by red gravel fits poorly into the landscape.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Medium	An unspectacular moorland landscape, shelving to an undramatic coast. Visual interest added by the long view along Basta Voe to Fetlar. Otherwise visual diversity is limited.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Low	Aside from fishing lochs, little evidence that this is a much visited landscape. National Cycle Route 1 passes through
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Low	Cultural heritage features make a limited contribution to the appreciation of this landscape.
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	Largely undisturbed upland landscape
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	Small areas of traditional settlement pattern at Sellafirth and Basta, though some disused croft houses. Evidence of active peat cutting.
<b>Views</b>	High	Very visible from the A968 and from the ferry crossing.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Coast is more settled and busier than the open moorland of the interior.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Visual relationship with Unst (LCU 3) and Fetlar (LCU 9). Closely related to west and north coasts of Yell (LCU 6)
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	East Mires and Lumbister SAC is located in the centre of the area. SSSIs at Gutcher and North Sandwick

Landscape Character Unit		8 Whale Firth and Mid Yell Voe
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Typical low-lying settled coast, with settlement around voes.
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	Heather moorland comes right down to coastal edge in places, though generally this is not a rare landscape.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Pattern remains intact, though there appear to be many empty croft houses. Eastern areas are more actively settled, with fish farms in Mid Yell Voe.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	High	Attractive fjord-like voes, with long views. Diversity arising from landforms. Whale Firth is more dramatic than Mid Yell Voe.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Medium	No obvious signs of well used paths or visitor destinations
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	The traditional landscape pattern is the only obvious cultural heritage feature which contributes to the landscape
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	Particularly to the west, a natural coastal landscape backed by open moorland. Locally affected by settlement and the main road.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	High	Traditional pattern of scattered crofts, the relict pattern is apparent in the west, while the eastern area is more actively settled
<b>Views</b>	High	Visible from the A968, which offers long views along the voes
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Split between more settled east and more dramatic west
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Close relationship to moorland to north and south (LCU 7 and 11)
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Hascosay SAC

Landscape Character Unit		9 North Fetlar
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Intricate coastline of cliffs is typical of the Shetland seascape, backed by open moorland
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	A dramatic seascape. Unusual serpentine solid geology giving rise to distinctive colour and texture, and supporting rare plants communities.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Intact, with very limited settlement. Sense of being uninhabited although evidence of past settlement. A clearance landscape with some deserted buildings.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Coastal scenery, dramatic cliffs and rocky shore, for example at Funzie Bay. High cliffs with caves, sheltered bays and stacks.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	Bird reserve, fishing lochs, coastal walks, but relatively inaccessible.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	Deserted settlement at Gruting, with relic settlement pattern and empty stone houses. Cairns are visible across the moorland.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	Important for wildlife, the moorland and sea cliffs particularly so for birds, with an RSPB Nature Reserve at the west of the area.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Low	Only remnants around Gruting, relic settlement patterns discernable to different degrees across the area.
<b>Views</b>	High	Visible from Unst and Yell, long views north from higher ground. Views are extensive across most of Unst to the north and out to the open sea to the east. The Out Skerries can occasionally be glimpsed to the southeast.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Most of the area comprises consistent moorland terminating abruptly at cliffs to the north. It is only marginally settled to the east and northwest.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Linked closely to south Fetlar (LCU 10). There is also a visual relationship with Unst to the north (LCU 4 and 5)
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Much of the area is within the North Fetlar SAC and Fetlar SPA, which also includes Trona Mires SSSI to the north-east. Another SSSI at Funzie Ness. LPA covers the whole coastline. LPAs at Aithbank and Funzie



Landscape Character Unit		10 South Fetlar
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Dramatic sections of coast with high cliffs, with lower-lying settled sections, is representative of the Shetland coast.
<b>Rarity</b>	High	The sheltered bay of Wick of Tresta with the distinctive long sandy beach. A reputation as the “Garden of Shetland”, which sets it apart.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	An intact landscape, with very limited modern development. A number of deserted buildings, eg the cluster of ruins at Aith.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Attractive coast and beaches. The long headland of Lamb Hoga provides the setting for the beach at Tresta
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	Beach at Tresta, bird watching, coastal walks. Although less accessible, the island is popular with visitors.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	High	Brough Lodge designed landscape and folly buildings are prominent on the western shore. Haltadans stone circle is the key ancient monument on the island.
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	Coast and bird interest, tempered by settlement around Wick of Tresta.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	High	Intact rural patterns of settlement at Aith, often relic with deserted houses and collapsing walls. Some areas of lower enclosed pasture are centred on the Wick of Tresta.
<b>Views</b>	High	West coast is highly visible from mainland. The Wick of Tresta is hidden, enclosed by Gallow Hill and Lamb Hoga.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Settled area around Tresta contrasts with the more open and unsettled moorland of Lamb Hoga
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Linked closely to North Fetlar (LCU 9). There is also a visual relationship with Yell to the west (LCU 8 and 12)
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Much of the northern part of this LCU is within the North Fetlar SAC and the Fetlar SPA. The SPA extends south to include Lamb Hoga SSSI. Brough Lodge Garden and Designed Landscape LPA covers the whole coastline. LPA at Sands of Tresta

Landscape Character Unit		I 1 South Yell Moorland
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Extensive moorland landscape typical of upland Shetland, and common to much of Yell.
<b>Rarity</b>	High	The sheer extent of peatland is unusual. Inland valleys such as Aris Dale are relatively uncommon
<b>Intactness</b>	Very high	A continuous moorland representing a huge area not affected by development, other than the main road passing through the north-west corner.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Medium	Rather bland moorland with wilderness, rather than scenic, appeal. There is limited visual diversity.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Medium	Some promoted walks, eg Aris Dale, but little to suggest this is a much visited landscape.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Low	Few obvious features of cultural heritage value contribute to this peatland landscape.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	Extensive moorland with wilderness appeal and bird interest.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Low	Not a settled landscape, though evidence of active peat cutting.
<b>Views</b>	High	Visible from the main road, and forms the setting of the coastal landscapes of southern and central Yell.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Continuous moorland without major variations.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Related to surrounding coastal landscapes LCU 8, 12 and 13
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Otterswick and Graveland SPA

Landscape Character Unit		12 Heoga Ness to the Poil
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Low lying coast with settled pockets and a small area of high cliffs at heights of Ramnageo.
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	Not a rare landscape, though Heoga Ness is a distinctive and unusual flat, low-lying promontory
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Particularly at the south east of the area, this rural landscape is intact, though there are disused croft houses. Elsewhere, traditional field boundary patterns are disappearing, as at Otterswick. Fish farms and onshore development affects character locally.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	High	Varied across the area, the east coast has less visual diversity, though the south east headland is very attractive, with dramatic cliffs and flat peninsula enabling long views.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	Signposted coastal walks, attractions include the White Wife and Gossabrough Beach
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	Aside from the remnant crofting, cultural heritage interest is relatively limited. The Old Haa at Burravoe and the White Wife are relatively prominent historic features.
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	Seabird interest along the coast, though generally this is a settled landscape.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	High	The traditional crofting pattern is apparent in localised areas through this landscape, and particularly at Burravoe, although it is breaking down in some other parts.
<b>Views</b>	Very high	The headland offers extensive views south to the Mainland, Noss and the Out Skerries.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	The south east headland has undisturbed coastal scenery, and relatively intact crofting back to Burravoe, other areas feel more marginal. Around Burravoe and to the west the area is more affected by development.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Main relationship with moorland to north (LCU 11), although long views to many other areas, including the Mainland.
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	None

Landscape Character Unit		13 Copister to Stuis
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Settled rocky coast, with beaches and islands, becoming more remote to the north. Strong sense of place, with wide and extensive views across Yell Sound to North Mainland.
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	Tombolo at Ness of Sound. The northern section of this coast is unusually remote.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	No intrusive developments of housing, though there are occasional crude buildings. Road upgrading has integrated poorly with the landscape.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Attractive coastal crofting with long views west across the islands towards Ronas Hill. The gentle coastal scenery and beaches, with scattered houses.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	Coastal walks and beach access. The area is accessible from the main road.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	Traditional croft houses and occasional brochs on the shore, limited to the southern and central part of the area.
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	Coastal scene of islands and tombolo. A range of wildflowers. Affected in southern part by the busy main road.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	High	Traditional crofting landscape largely intact though with some abandonment. Relict enclosures remain. Best preserved areas are around West Sandwick and Sound. Many deserted croft houses. Evidence of active peat cutting.
<b>Views</b>	Very High	Visible from the A968 and the ferry crossing. Long views to Ronas Hill and north to the Ramna Stacks off Fethaland.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Contrast between the settled crofting areas and open pastoral areas, and between the lower-lying south, and the more remote north.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Moorland to the east forms the backdrop to this landscape (LCU 11), and a more distant visual relationship with Ronas Hill and islands.
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Yell Sound Coast SAC and SSSI at the southern extent. Otterswick and Graveland SPA

Landscape Character Unit		14 Tofts Voe and Dales Voe
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Large scale settled voes, distinctive topographical containment
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	Dales Voe is an unusually deep, fjord-like valley and voe.
<b>Intactness</b>	Medium	Fish farms in the voes. Large road cut into slopes along Dales Voe. Extensive development at Mossbank and areas of 'settlement fringe' not always sympathetic.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Medium	A simple smooth landscape, without great scenic diversity or attraction. The deep, curving Dales Voe gives visual interest to the main road
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Low	Limited evidence that this landscape is a destination for recreation, National Cycle Route 1 passes through
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Low	No obvious features of cultural heritage value that contribute to the landscape
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	Undeveloped moorland along Dales Voe, tombolos at Fora Ness.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Low	Not a crofting landscape, settlement in this landscape follows a modern pattern.
<b>Views</b>	High	Very visible from a long section of the main A970. Long views to the North Isles from elevated points.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Variable between the settled Mossbank area, and the long, wide Dales Voe which has a distinct character of its own
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Principally with the moorland to west and south LCU 15, 16 and 36
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Swinister Voe and the Houb MCA Yell Sound Coast SAC and SSSI Dales Voe SSSI Small LPA at Mossbank

Landscape Character Unit		15 Sullom Voe
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	Low	Extensive industrial development is not representative of Shetland, although it does represent an important facet of Shetland's economy.
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	The landscape of the area is common to the Shetland coast and does not contain rare features.
<b>Intactness</b>	Low	Extensive industrial development, infrastructure and buildings are incongruous within the landscape, although attempts have been made to integrate them. Loss of traditional settlement types in the face of industrial development.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Low	Some visual interest in the scale of the industrial operations, but this is not a scenic area. Attractive setting and views north along Northmavine
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Low	Although there is a viewpoint opposite Sullom Voe, this is not a landscape which is well used for recreation
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	Modern history is present in the former RAF buildings, but no depth of history in the landscape
<b>Naturalness</b>	Medium	Although the northern area is extensively affected by development, the southern part of the LCU returns to a natural voe landscape.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Low	Not a crofting landscape, and development has not followed a crofting pattern.
<b>Views</b>	High	Visible from main roads on both sides of Sullom Voe. Long views along Northmavine to the north
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Divided between the industrial area to the north and the less affected part to the south
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	With LCU 17 across the voe
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Sullom Voe SAC Yell Sound Coast SAC and SSSI Voxter Voe and Burn of Valayre SSSIs

Landscape Character Unit		16 Souther Hill
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	Medium	Represents moorland which occurs across north and central mainland, but does not have a strong sense of place.
<b>Rarity</b>	Low	Typical of Shetland moorland, without features of rarity value.
<b>Intactness</b>	Medium	Largely undeveloped moorland. There are masts at the north-east end, and the A968 is prominent in the dale below Souther Hill. The area is affected by views of the oil terminal and other industry to the north, and forms part of the Viking Windfarm site which would physically affect this landscape.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Medium	The approach to Dales Voe is particularly dramatic, with the voe itself curving away out of sight. Elsewhere, this LCU is bleak empty moorland though with some drama and broad views.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Medium	There is a promoted walk at the wooded Burn of Valayre, but opportunities to experience this landscape are otherwise limited.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Low	There are no obvious cultural heritage elements in the landscape.
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	An undisturbed moorland, although somewhat affected by views of industrial development to the north.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Low	The area is not representative of the traditional rural crofting pattern of Shetland, though moorland forms a component part of the wider rural landscape.
<b>Views</b>	Very high	Visible from main roads on all sides, particularly the A968. The moorland forms the setting or backdrop to Brae and scattered settlement along these roads.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	This is a consistent landscape of moorland, with only the valley at Dales Voe having a somewhat different character
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	The key relationships of this landscape are with the coastal areas that surround it, including LCU 15 Sullom Voe, 14 Tofts Voe and Dales Voe, and 25 Aith Voe and Olua Firth
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Burn of Valayre SSSI

Landscape Character Unit		17 Gluss and Sullom
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	A rocky coastal landscape with intermittent settlement, and composed of voes, headlands and islands
<b>Rarity</b>	Low	Does not contain rare features
<b>Intactness</b>	Medium	Some larger commercial buildings and a quarry. Larger enclosures have been formed. Views across to oil terminal affect the area.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Medium	An attractive, pleasant landscape of rocky outcrops and hummocky terrain, combined with areas of blander topography. Some visual interest but not dramatic.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Medium	Limited evidence of recreational use of this landscape, aside from fishing lochs
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Low	No obvious contribution of cultural heritage features to the landscape
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	Away from settled areas, this is a coastal landscape of moorland and rocky shore, relatively undisturbed.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	Some areas of crofting landscape, such as Collafirth, but these are not widespread.
<b>Views</b>	Medium	Not particularly visible from the A970, more from the B9076 across the voe.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	A consistent landscape
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Physical relationship with hills to west (LCU 23), visual relationship across Sullom Voe with LCU 15 and 16 behind.
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Yell Sound Coast SAC and SSSI covers Gluss Isle The Houb, Fugla Ness MCA Sullom Voe SAC



Landscape Character Unit		18 Burravoe
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	A rocky coastal landscape with very intermittent settlement. Strong sense of place within the settlements.
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	Sea stacks at Ramna are unusual, though within the context of the generally dramatic coastal landscape of Northmavine.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Some large buildings and new houses around North Roe are unsympathetic, but this is largely an intact coastal landscape, with limited modern development.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	A dramatic coast of cliffs and sea stacks, with attractive views across Yell Sound.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	An accessible area for coastal walks, though there are few formal visitor facilities.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	Giants Grave standing stones and cairn by the A970: a prehistoric settlement at Kame of Isbister; though these are of limited prominence within the landscape.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	A wild coastal landscape, at the edge of the open ocean. Opportunities for viewing ocean wildlife and seabirds.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	High	Crofting landscape of North Roe and Sand Voe shows the traditional Shetland pattern. Some areas are influenced by more recent development.
<b>Views</b>	Very high	Northern tip and Ramna Stacks are very visible in distant views from south and from Yell. The area is visible from the northern end of the A970.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Southern part comprises a deserted inland valley and smoother sloping coastline. Northern area is more visually interesting as reflected in its NSA designation.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	The southern area has a similar character to LCU 17 to the south. Close relationship with LCU 19 to the west also. Distant visual relationship with Yell and Yell Sound
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Shetland NSA covers the northern half of the LCU. Ramna Stacks and Gruney SPA, North Roe Coast SSSI, North Roe Meadow SSSI

Landscape Character Unit		19 North Roe
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	Medium	Not a typical landscape, though with some areas to the north which have more in common with rugged upland hills elsewhere on Shetland
<b>Rarity</b>	High	The red granite is unusual on this scale, combined with the expansive rock-strewn plateau. Density of small lochs.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Affected by the prominent masts on Collafirth, but there are no other intrusive features
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Rugged and attractive combinations of lochs, rocks, hills and moorland. Bleak and empty but with a wild drama.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	Aside from coastal paths, there is limited recreational access to this remote landscape. Many fishing lochs.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	The remains of a Neolithic axe working site at the Beorgs of Uyea, although cultural heritage is not a highly visible feature in this landscape.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	An undisturbed natural landscape of rocks and alpine vegetation, fringed by unsettled seascapes. Opportunities for observing seabirds and other wildlife.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Low	Not a settled landscape and not representative of the crofting landscape pattern
<b>Views</b>	High	Although not a visible landscape, only overlooked from Ronas Hill, it does offer broad views across to Yell and along the coasts of Northmavine. The Beorgs of Skelberry form part of the setting of the settlement of North Roe.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	The southern area is more rocky, the northern part more rugged, with smoother moor and lochs between. Seascapes become more impressive further north.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Main landscape relationship is with Ronas Hill to the south, and with LCU 18 to the east.
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Shetland NSA includes the northern coast. Ronas Hill - North Roe Ramsar site/SPA/SAC North Roe Coast SSSI

Landscape Character Unit		20 Ronas Hill and Ronas Voe
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	Medium	Less typical of Shetland, and has more in common with some parts of the Highlands of Scotland. A sense of place as a Shetland landmark.
<b>Rarity</b>	Very high	The dramatic red granite cliffs, and the high hill behind, are unique in Shetland. Alpine plant communities occur here at unusually low altitudes. The red beaches along Ronas Voe are also highly unusual.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	An intact landscape, but for the presence of fish farms in the Voe, and related onshore infrastructure and buildings. Some disused croft houses within the settled area of the Voe.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Dramatic red granite cliffs rising steeply from the long curving Voe, and framing the view out to sea, past the striking red beaches.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	Ronas Hill a popular walking location, though few other apparent destinations within this area.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Low	Limited visible contribution of cultural heritage in this landscape, though there is a prominent chambered cairn at the summit.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	Largely, an undisturbed landscape, with alpine plant communities on the high ground. The cliffs along the Voe have an elemental quality.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	The settled parts of the Voe are relatively small, but still largely retain their crofting pattern.
<b>Views</b>	Very high	A visible landmark from many areas of the northern and western Mainland and from some of the islands. Also offers wide views from the summit. Long seaward views along Ronas Voe.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	The hill and the Voe differ in character. The inland part of the Voe is less dramatic and lacks the strong pink/red colour of the granite.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	To the north of Ronas Hill, the rocky landscape continues into LCU 19.
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Ronas Hill - North Roe Ramsar site/SPA/SAC

Landscape Character Unit		21 White Grunafirth and Tingon
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	Medium	Typical of undeveloped moorland areas across Shetland, with a scatter of lochs and open moorland extending to the coast. This landscape type is common but does not have a strong sense of place, except at the coastal edge.
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	Not a landscape with features that are rare within Shetland.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	An intact moorland landscape with an undeveloped coast. Unaffected by development
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Medium	Relatively undramatic coastline with low cliffs of black basalt. Inland areas are undramatic.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Medium	Accessible coastal walks and fishing lochs (Gluss Water). Mainly passed through on the road.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	There are some remnant field boundaries, deserted buildings, and a broch at Hamnavoe.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	Undisturbed coastal edge and moorland, opportunities to view wildlife
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	Some remnants of field patterns at the fringes of this landscape, but generally it is not a settled landscape. Used for grazing.
<b>Views</b>	Medium	Not widely visible. Setting of Ronas Hill. Views across area from the B9078
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Consistent landscape of gently rolling moorland and rocky coast
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Mainly with Ronas Hill across Ronas Voe (LCU 20), and with LCU 22 to the south
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Small part within the NSA Ronas Hill - North Roe and Tingon Ramsar site/SPA/SAC Villians of Hamnavoe SSSI

Landscape Character Unit		22 Esha Ness and Hillswick
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	A strong sense of place with a variety of headlands, cliffs and skerries, closely identified with the Shetland Islands.
<b>Rarity</b>	Very high	The dramatic tall vertical cliffs and black volcanic rock, and the storm beach at Grind o da Navir, are rare and distinctive features.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	The coastal area is very intact and undeveloped, although occasional larger buildings affect the settled areas.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	High scenic quality with a unique range of coastal stacks, promontories and cliffs. Dramatic and exceptional.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Very high	Well visited area, popular for walking, with visitor facilities and features including the Eshaness Lighthouse and the Tangwick Haa Museum.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	High	Hillswick lighthouse and the Broch of Houlland are significant features. Several traditional water mills.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	A largely wild landscape with a wide range of habitats, supporting alpine plant and wildflowers in meadows and the moorland inland and at the cliffs and coastal edge. It is particularly important for sea birds, seals and otters on the coast.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	There are a number of small settled pockets, but this is a largely wild and unsettled landscape.
<b>Views</b>	Very high	Visible across St Magnus Bay, landmark features, impressive coastal views
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	The exposed coast is different in character to the settled areas.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Visual relationships around St Magnus Bay (LCU 23, 24, 29, 30)
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Large areas lie within the NSA Eshaness Coast SSSI

Landscape Character Unit		23 Gunnister
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Indented coast with strong sense of place.
<b>Rarity</b>	High	Distinctive red rock outcrops and low rocky hills enclose Gunnister Voe. Mavis Grind is an unusual feature and a Shetland landmark
<b>Intactness</b>	Very high	An intact rural landscape except for the main road and its crash barriers.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Attractive framed views along voes with historic interest and geological features. Variety of colours and textures. Visual diversity of rocky landform.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Medium	Recreational access is informal within this landscape and there are few destinations.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	High	Abundant relics of the crofting past including water mills, planticrubs etc. Associations with the 'Gunnister Man'.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	A semi-wild landscape of islands, voes and rocky outcrops. Sense of remoteness at the ends of the side roads.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	High	Although largely relict, the field pattern in areas of former cultivation is largely intact.
<b>Views</b>	Very high	Long outward views along and around the coast, including Hillswick, Papa Stour and Foula. Hillswick Lighthouse is prominent closer in.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Generally consistent, though the inland areas along the main road do not have the scenic qualities of the coast.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Linked with a series of coastal landscapes around the west coast of Northmavine and the north coast of west Mainland, particularly LCU's 22 and 24
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Clothister Hill Quarry SSSI

<b>Landscape Character Unit</b>		<b>24 Muckle Roe</b>
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Coastal scenery, dramatic coast with a strong Shetland sense of place along the west coast, a representative settled coast on the east.
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	Granite coastal scenery of high, red cliffs is unusual and distinctive, though limited to part of the island.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Development is limited to the southern and eastern fringes of the island, with views to development around Brae influencing parts of the eastern area.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Dramatic coastal scenery along the western half of the island, backed by low but irregular and visually diverse hills. The eastern side is smoother with more limited visual diversity.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	Accessible for recreation, although limited vehicular access, popular for coastal walks and cycling.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	Not a major factor in the landscape. Deserted houses on the west coast tell of past settlement
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	Mostly uninterrupted rocky coast and moorland, opportunities for viewing wildlife
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	Settled at eastern fringe with limited evidence of crofting pattern
<b>Views</b>	Very high	Visible across St Magnus Bay and from Voe. Long views available in all directions, across St Magnus Bay to Papa Stour and the intricate, incised coastline of Vementry, contrasting with views to the smooth rounded moorland hills above Olna Firth and the West and Mid Kame Hills.
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Eastern part of the island is settled and much less dramatic than the wilder western half
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	With Vementry to south (LCU 26), Gunnister (LCU 23) to the north, and other granite coastal areas around St Magnus Bay
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	The western half of the area lies within the Shetland NSA Small SSSI at Muckle Roe Meadows

Landscape Character Unit		25 Aith Voe and Olna Firth
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Typical of the settled Shetland coast of long voes and scattered dwellings, with concentrated, but not compact, settlements.
<b>Rarity</b>	Low	Not an unusual landscape, though the wooded settlement of Voe is unusual in a Shetland context.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	There are no major new developments in this landscape. There are some larger buildings which are locally prominent, but are in the context of a settled coastal landscape. The A970 is visible in places where it cuts into the side-slopes of Olna Firth. The settlement of Brae is prominent from across Busta Voe.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Medium	A pleasant landscape of coastal settlement, but not remarkable. Attractive wooded settlement of Voe. The smooth heather-covered island of Linga is an attractive feature which ties the three voes together.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	National Cycle Route 1 passes through. Popular walking route to Lunkwater. Aith, Voe and Brae are all local centres with visitor facilities.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	Historic settlement pattern is apparent, but with several modern buildings. Features of cultural heritage value include Busta House, and other traditional buildings such as around Voe harbour.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Medium	A landscape of voes and islands, but overlaid with settlement and human-influenced throughout
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	No longer a crofting landscape, although the settlement pattern reflects its crofting origin.
<b>Views</b>	High	Visible from main routes and settlements. Long views along the voes, and from elevated locations along the roads
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Variations between more and less settled areas, and uninhabited islands.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Visual relationship with Muckle Roe (LCU 24) across the water. Physical relationship with moorland above the voes (LCU 16, 34)
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	LPAs at the head of Olna Firth, and at the north and west fringes of Busta Voe.



Landscape Character Unit		26 Vementry and Clousta
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Low but rugged coastal hills, having a sense of place, and representative of a type of rugged coastal landscape which occurs elsewhere.
<b>Rarity</b>	High	Many visible outcrops of pink granite. A particularly complex and convoluted coastal landscape.
<b>Intactness</b>	Very high	This area is only affected by the presence of fish farms within the voes and sounds. Occasional domestic scale wind turbines within farmsteads.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Scenic combinations of sea and rugged hills. Visual complexity of the lochs and voes. Strong visual appeal and drama from the sea.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Medium	Informal outdoor access, including coastal walks and boating. Several fishing lochs, but few destinations.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	A few traditional and other historic buildings, but generally an unsettled landscape with limited overt cultural dimension.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	An unsettled landscape of rocky moorland and islands, with a strong wilderness feel in places.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	The area is only sparsely settled and not discernable as a crofting landscape except in small pockets such as Clousta.
<b>Views</b>	Very high	Often intimate views, within the landscape, but occasional longer views out to the sea from the more elevated hills, particularly from the roads approaching the area.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	A consistent but complex landscape
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Visual relationship with Muckle Roe (LCU 24) to the north, and a more physical relationship with West Burrafirth to the west (LCU 28).
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Brindister Voe and Vadills MCA Ness of Clousta and Loch of Clousta SSSIs

Landscape Character Unit		27 Groni Field
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	Medium	Inland moorland and pasture with lochs, with less strong sense of place.
<b>Rarity</b>	Low	Not a rare landscape, though the inland setting is relatively unusual in Shetland.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	An intact mosaic of lochs and moorland with little or no intrusive developments
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	High	A pleasant open moorland landscape with some interest in lochs and views to rugged hills to the north, but generally undramatic.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Medium	Few destinations within the landscape. A marked viewpoint on the A971 and some fishing lochs.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	Hill top cairns and some chambered cairns are visible in the landscape.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	Away from the road, an undisturbed moorland landscape uninterrupted by development.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Low	Not a settled landscape, and not representative of crofting patterns. Evidence of peat cutting on higher ground.
<b>Views</b>	High	Visible from the A971, with long views across the landscape, but few landmark features.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	A consistent landscape
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Key relationships with the rugged hills to the north (LCU 26), and with the more settled landscape to the south and east (LCU 33)
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	None

Landscape Character Unit		28 West Burrafirth
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Typical interplay of islands and voes, with a high level of remoteness. A strong Shetland sense of place, and representative of rugged coastal hill type.
<b>Rarity</b>	High	Complexity of these rugged hills relatively unusual within Shetland
<b>Intactness</b>	Very high	Very limited development, very few houses or areas of cultivation. Fish farms occur throughout the voes.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Scenic combinations of sea and rugged hills. Visual complexity of the lochs and voes. Strong visual appeal, the hills are low but dramatic, particularly so at the open coastal edges.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Medium	Few destinations within this landscape other than the Papa Stour ferry. Informal walking and fishing lochs.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	Occasional cairns and brochs but without a strong overt contribution to landscape.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	A largely undisturbed landscape of rocky moorland and voes
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	Not a settled landscape. The few cultivated areas are composed of larger enclosures of pasture which do not reflect the historic crofting pattern.
<b>Views</b>	High	An intimate landscape, with few long views. Not visible from routes except the Papa Stour ferry, though the southern part is visible from the A971. Longer views are available to the south from the A971.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	The northern part of this LCU is a rockier, more visually interesting landscape. The southern area comprises open moorland and lochs, with larger scale and less intricate feel, although long and attractive views are available across the inland area.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Strong relationship with the similar landscape of LCU 26 to the east. The moorland areas continue south and east into LCU 31 and 27.
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Brindister Voe and Vadills MCA

Landscape Character Unit		29 Sandness
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	Very high	In settled areas, a green crofting landscape, with upland areas that reflect the typical moorland of Shetland. A strong sense of place.
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	The area does not contain features which are rare within Shetland.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Some quarries, prominent fencing in the upland area. Around Sandness there are occasional incongruous barns and houses, though most newer development is of an appropriate scale. The crofting pattern of the Sandness area is largely intact.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	High	Undramatic landscape, the coastline is more ruggedly attractive. Settled areas are peaceful and pleasant with visual interest and views to Papa Stour. Moorland has a wilderness feel
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	Coastal walks are particularly popular within this area and Melby Beach at Sandness has parking and visitor facilities. Along the coast the Water Mills at Huxter and Woollen Mill at Sandness are attractions.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	High	In settled and formerly settled areas, a rich cultural depth, from crofting times and older history
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	Natural open moorland and rugged coast. Wildflowers in Dale of Walls. Opportunities for viewing seabirds and wildlife.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Very high	Generally intact and active around Sandness. In Dale of Walls there are several deserted croft houses, but the relict landscape pattern can be easily read. Active peat cutting on the moorland. Overall the area reflects the complete pattern of enclosed lowland and open moorland.
<b>Views</b>	High	The higher ground is visible from Papa Stour and areas to the east, particularly from the A971. Sandness Hill is important as a backdrop to settlement at Sandness. Long views to Foula and Northmavine and the distinctive red cliffs of Muckle Roe are available to the north.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	There is a clear distinction between the settled area around Sandness, and the open moorland of Sandness and Stourbrough Hills, with the formerly settled Dale of Walls between.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Visual relationship north to Papa Stour (LCU 30), moorland south of Dale of Walls has a physical relationship to the settled landscape to the south (LCU 31). More distant visual relationship to Foula.
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	The Papa Stour SAC extends across Sound of Papa to the north-western coastline, north of Sandness. Sel Ayre, Melby and Sandness Coast SSSIs Small LPA at Bousta

Landscape Character Unit		30 Papa Stour
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	A strong Shetland sense of place with dramatic seascapes, and an intricate coast
<b>Rarity</b>	High	Low-lying rugged island with an extremely exposed western coastline including a diverse range of coastal features. The high, dramatic cliffs and tall stacks and geos in the west are distinctive features, with a number of intricate sea caves. The low-lying and relatively fertile land inland is unusual along the west coast of Shetland.
<b>Intactness</b>	Very high	An intact landscape with very limited recent development.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Dramatic seascapes of cliffs, caves, skerries, subterranean passages, stacks. Strong visual appeal in the diverse array of features.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	Coastal walks are popular, and the island is a destination for ferry trips by visitors.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	High	Evidence of long established settlement, burnt mounds, homesteads, cairns, enclosures present. The undisturbed nature of this landscape allows these features to be more easily read.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	Rocky moorland and wild seascapes. Opportunities for viewing sea life.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	High	Traditional pattern of infield and scattald still visible, divided by hill dykes
<b>Views</b>	High	Visible from Mainland at Sandness and across St Magnus Bay. Longer views to Foula.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Largely consistent across the island, though some difference between the settled east and the wilder west.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Close visual relationship with Sandness (LCU 29) to the south.
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Most of the west of the island is designated as the Papa Stour SPA, and the Papa Stour SSSI which extends around the coast. A large area of seascape surrounding the island is designated as a SAC.

Landscape Character Unit		31 Gruting Voe and Vaila Sound
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Intricate, indented coastline with a long history of settlement and strong Shetland sense of place. Representative of less densely settled coastal landscapes.
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	Expansive inland views from elevated locations are unusual in a Shetland context.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Small quarries, fish farms, occasional barns and other large buildings are present but villages are generally intact and newer development fits well with the old.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	High	Not a dramatic landscape, but gentle with a strong visual appeal. Visual interest in historic and remnant crofting landscape and houses, and historic remains. Attractive coastal setting and sea views, with contrasts in land cover. More dramatic features are present at the open coastal edge.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	Attractions include Staneydale Temple and coastal walks, as well as Walls, the local centre
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Very high	Extensive time-depth, with much evidence of a formerly cultivated and settled landscape, including stone walls, ruined houses etc. Occasional features from an older time, including standing stones and the important Staneydale Temple. Vaila Hall and its tower are prominent in some views.
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	A natural backdrop which is reasserting itself in areas where crofting has ceased. Strongly natural coastline often unsettled.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Very high	Strong pattern of croft landscape is still apparent. Traditional features such as planticrubs and field patterns still much in evidence. Active peat cutting on high ground. Some disused croft buildings though relict pattern still visible.
<b>Views</b>	High	The area is highly visible from the A971. Sea views are available across the inland parts and there is an attractive setting to Walls approached from the north.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Generally consistent, some divide between coastal and settled inland.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Main relationships with higher ground to north (LCU 29) and east (LCU 32). Long views to Foula
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Lochs of Kirkigarth and Bardista SSSI and Fidlar Geo to Watsness SSSI Three LPAs around Walls, others at West Houlland, Staneydale Temple, and Ness of Gruting.

Landscape Character Unit		32 Skeld
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	The indented, settled coast and moorland are typical of the Shetland Islands landscapes.
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	There are few rare features, though coves such as Wester Wick are unusual.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	The area is a generally intact crofting landscape, few intrusive developments, although there are some new developments at Skeld that have localised influence.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Intricate rocky coast with highly attractive bays and voes, including Stead of Culswick, Wester Wick and Skeld Voe.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	A range of coastal walks are popular, and the beach at Reawick
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	High	There is a rich cultural heritage and discernable time depth across the area, with several features including standing stones and the broch of Culswick
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	There is a high natural quality particularly along the coast and the unsettled moorlands.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	High	Intact patches of crofting landscape at Culswick and Skeld
<b>Views</b>	High	The area is visible from the Mainland across The Deeps. It forms part of the setting of the NSA. Ward of Culswick is a locally prominent high point.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	The intricate, rocky coastal area contrasts with the large scale expanses of moorland inland.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Visual relationship between Gruting Voe and Vaila Sound (LCU 31) to the west and across the Deeps to the southeast and east to Sandsound (LCU 33), Weisdale Voe and Whiteness Voe (LCU 42) and scattered islands that comprise Burra (LCU 43).
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	South-east fringe is within the NSA Ward of Culswick, Skelda Ness, and Culswick Marsh SSSIs Coastal LPAs at Culswick and Westerwick

Landscape Character Unit		33 Sandsound
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	The area is typical of the settled coasts found across Shetland, with crofting settlement located along a long inlet, backed by moorland.
<b>Rarity</b>	Low	There are few rare features, although the extent of the inland Firth is unusual.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Although there is a regular pattern of settlement across the area, there are few intrusive developments. Fish farms and are present across the area. The remains of Park Hall are prominent.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	High	There is an attractive and intricate combination of land and sea, becoming more diverse to the south. The visual context is important, with extensive views south across the NSA centred on The Deeps, the scattered islands of Burra and the western coast of the southern Mainland. Views north to the rugged around Vementry are also of scenic quality.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	Several opportunities for accessing the landscape, including the garden at Tresta
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	High	Cultural heritage features are visible in the landscape, eg the cairn at Bixter, Park Hall, the church at Sand.
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	Seascapes have a high degree of naturalness, particularly to the south
<b>Rural pattern</b>	High	Strong traditional settlement pattern with active crofting ongoing at Sand and Twatt
<b>Views</b>	High	Visible from the A971, and from across the bay to the south, forming part of the wider sweep of land. Views along The Firth and Sandsound
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Local variations between settled and unsettled areas. The southern areas have stronger visual appeal than the area to the north around Bixter.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Strongly related to moorland on either side (LCU 32 and 34)
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	The southern fringe of the area is within the NSA LPA at Bixter



Landscape Character Unit		34 Weisdale Hills
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	Medium	Typical of inland moorland hills with lochs which are extensive across central mainland, but do not have a particularly strong Shetland sense of place
<b>Rarity</b>	Low	Not a rare landscape in a Shetland context.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Limited development includes transmission lines and moorland tracks, and the A971 cutting across. The LCU includes part of the Viking Windfarm site which would physically affect this landscape.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Medium	Often bleak and uninteresting, but also wild and exposed, depending on aspect and conditions. Lacks scenic diversity.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Medium	There is a popular signposted walk to the waterfall at Burn of Lunklet, though the wider area is little used for recreation.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Low	No obvious sign of cultural heritage features contributing to the landscape
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	An undeveloped moorland landscape.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Low	Not a crofting landscape. Evidence of active peat cutting.
<b>Views</b>	High	Hills are very visible as a backdrop to Aiths Voe and settlement to the west, as well as Weisdale in the east. Visible from main roads
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	A consistent landscape
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Key relationships are to east and west, with lower ground (LCU 33) and with the Mid Kame (LCU 35).
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	The southern tip of the LCU is within the NSA Burn of Lunklet SSSI

Landscape Character Unit		35 Weisdale and Petta Dale
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	Medium	Represents inland moorland which occurs across north and central mainland. The area is not typical of Shetland landscapes but has some sense of place.
<b>Rarity</b>	High	Woodland plantation at Kergord gives this pocket an unusual character for Shetland. Mid Kame is a distinctive feature.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	The main road cuts along Petta Dale, and has variable fit with the landscape. Part of the Viking Windfarm would be within this area, along Mid Kame, which would physically affect this landscape.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	High	The area around Kergord is attractive and notable for the small plantations surrounding it. The moorland sections are less visually interesting, but the low, smooth ridgelines frame long views south towards the coast and inland to the north. The moorland also has some wilderness appeal.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Medium	There is limited opportunity to access and enjoy the northern extent of this landscape. Recreational activities and attractions are concentrated in the southern extent of the area and along the B9075, and include fishing lochs and the Bonhoga Gallery and café within Weisdale Mill,
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	Largely concentrated in the south, cultural features are limited to the Weisdale Water Mill and significant landscape features including the well-established tree plantations around Kergord.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	Much of the area is unsettled and inaccessible, with only the area around Weisdale settled and cultivated.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Low	The area is not a crofting landscape, although some peat cutting is evident.
<b>Views</b>	High	Petta Dale very visible from A970 though Weisdale is more hidden. Long views are directed along the valley, to the north and south, enclosed by a series of elongated and gently undulating ridges. Framed views to the NSA are available to the south.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	There is a distinctive contrast between the more settled and wooded part of the area around Weisdale to the south and the extensive, uninterrupted moorland that characterised the northern extent.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Weisdale is visually related to the end of Weisdale Voe (LCU 42) to the south, whilst the north is more closely related to the moorland enclosing it to the east and west (LCU 34 and LCU 36).
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Kergord Plantations and Sandwater SSSIs

Landscape Character Unit		36 Muckla Moor and North Nesting
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	Medium	Represents extensive peaty moorland which occurs across north and central Mainland, but not with a strong sense of place.
<b>Rarity</b>	Low	Large-scale moorland is extensive in this part of Shetland
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Little or no development at present. The LCU includes part of the Viking Windfarm site which would physically affect this landscape. The busy A970 runs along the western edge.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Medium	Empty moorland is scenic when combined with sunlight or dramatic weather. Can also appear dull in other conditions. Limited visual diversity.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Low	Some recreational activity – fishing lochs, hill walkers, but limited due to inaccessible nature of area
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Low	Some remnant enclosure, peat cutting, but sense of low levels of use, other than for rough grazing, both historically and at present
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	Extensive peat moorland – grasses, heather, with scattered lochs.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Low	This is not a crofting landscape: the area is used for peat cutting and moorland grazing.
<b>Views</b>	High	Very visible from main roads A970, B9075 and B9071. Provides the setting of coastal settlements. Offers wide views across the islands, eg from the Watch House above the B9075.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	This is a consistent landscape of uninterrupted moorland.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	There is a visual relationship with the peripheral coast and kames to the east (LCU 37) and to Weisdale and Petta Dale (LCU 35)
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	None

Landscape Character Unit		37 Lunna Ness and Dury Voe
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Typical of the rugged hills and seascapes of Shetland, with clusters of settlement around sheltered voes.
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	The rugged hills are a less common type across Shetland
<b>Intactness</b>	High	New harbour fits well with the landscape, newer houses mostly appropriate in style. The pattern of this landscape is largely intact.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Attractive seascapes and juxtapositions of crofting, rugged hills, and dramatic views, with appropriate newer development. The headlands and voes offer scenic diversity. The area around Vidlin Voe is particularly attractive.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	An accessible landscape, through which NCN Route 1 passes. Lunna House and Kirk are local attractions.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	High	Remnant crofting landscape is clearly visible around Vidlin. The Lunna House designed landscape, and the nearby ancient church are prominent along Lunna Ness.
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	Away from the clusters of settlement, this is landscape of natural coast and moorland, particularly along Lunna Ness.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Very high	Traditional patterns evident at Vidlin Voe, with the croft houses located above strip fields running down to the sea. Relict patterns around Lunna.
<b>Views</b>	Very high	Visible from many locations on the mainland, and offers excellent long views in all directions, taking in the Out Skerries and Noss
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Lunna Ness headland is different in character to the bay to the south.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Visual relationships up and down the coast, to Whalsay and Yell. Physical relationship with the moorland to the west (LCU 36).
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Yell Sound Coast SAC and SSSI along the west coast of Lunna Ness.

Landscape Character Unit		38 Whalsay
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Smooth moorland and relatively dense settlement typical of more settled coasts
<b>Rarity</b>	High	Densely populated island with a large fishing port
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Landscape locally affected by fish processing plant and harbour development, but elsewhere more intact
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	High	An attractive island landscape and seascape
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	Less commonly visited island but opportunities to experience the landscape and for recreation, including fishing lochs and coastal walks.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	Aside from crofting patterns and plantigrubs, limited contribution to the landscape
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	Away from settled areas, expanses of natural moorland and seascape
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	Some areas of crofting pattern, most prominent around Isbister
<b>Views</b>	Medium	Visible at a moderate distance from several locations on the Mainland and the North Isles, but not a prominent landscape. Panoramas of the east coast are available from summits of the low hills, such as the Wart of Clett.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Contrast between the open heather moorland at the centre of the island and the settled coast.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Visual relationship with the east coast of the Mainland (LCU 37).
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	LPA at Kirk Ness

Landscape Character Unit		39 South Nesting Bay
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	A rocky low lying coast with numerous islets, indented coasts and scattered dwellings.
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	Settled rocky coast with few rare features.
<b>Intactness</b>	Very high	Few intrusive buildings or features. Some wild areas.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	High	Attractive coastal scenery with alternating long and short coastal views. Around Gletness there is greater diversity with intricate inlets and small islands.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	NCN Route 1 follows the 'Nesting Loop' road, coastal walks
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Low	No obvious features, though there are occasional remains, such as brochs.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	Coastal setting is the most important aspect of this landscape, forming setting for pastoral settled areas. Opportunities for viewing sea life.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	High	Remnants of crofting landscape, particularly around Gletness. Elsewhere, large pastoral fields have been formed.
<b>Views</b>	High	Headland is visible from the A970 and long views across South Nesting Bay from the B9075 and NCN Route 1, along south Mainland towards Bressay and Noss.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	The headland of Gletness is settled, while Stava Ness to the east is wilder in character.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Close relationship with LCU 40 across Cat Firth. LCU 36 forms the backdrop to this landscape to the north.
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	LPAs at Quoy, Loch of Benston and Ling Ness.

Landscape Character Unit		40 Wadbister
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Typical coastal settled landscape, long inlets with scattered dwellings, backed by coastal moorland.
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	Rhythm of angular headlands is unusual, but there are few rare features.
<b>Intactness</b>	Medium	Large pastoral fields and some large farm buildings, and a quarry in the upland. A more intact area around Cat Firth and Little Holm. Fish farms in the lochs. The area around Veensgarth and Tingwall Airport is more affected by busy roads and development.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Medium	Attractive but unremarkable, gently sloping coast and low hills. More attractive to the north around Cat Firth. Pockets of more intricate coast.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Medium	Footpaths and NCN Route 1, Dale Golf Course.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Medium	Association with Tingwall to the south, though few obvious cultural heritage features contributing to the landscape
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	Much unimproved moorland is visible, and the natural parts of the coastline, mainly the headlands.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	Larger pastoral fields for the most part, not a crofting landscape.
<b>Views</b>	High	Visible from the A970, long views across bays to north and west.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Moorland area contrasts with coast. Northern area is less settled than the southern part.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Strong relationship with hills to the west (LCU 41).
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Loch of Girlsta SSSI LPAs around Gott, and at Catfirth and Little Holm

Landscape Character Unit		41 Tingwall
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Inland valley and hills, representative of the interior of Shetland, and a strong sense of place as the former heart of Shetland.
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	As an inland landscape with limited seaward views, this is a relatively unusual part of Shetland. The moorland is less unusual.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	The wind turbines above Tingwall are prominent, but otherwise the landscape is unaffected by intrusive development. The A971 cuts through part of the moorland, and the A970 follows the eastern fringe.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	High	The valley landscape around the Loch of Tingwall is attractive, and contrasts with the pasture beside the loch and the moorland above. Long views across layers of hills. The rugged coast at the south-west is attractive.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	A golf course and fishing at Loch of Tingwall. NCN Route 1 passes through. Law Ting Holm is a visitor attraction, though with limited access.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Very high	The loch is the setting for Law Ting Holm, the former seat of the Islands' parliament. Tingwall church is prominent in views along the valley.
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	The rugged higher ground and lochs have naturalness value
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	Larger pastoral holdings along the loch, not a crofting pattern. Upland areas are not enclosed.
<b>Views</b>	Medium	Valley is visible from main roads, though uplands are less visible. Long directional views along the valley.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Distinctions between cultivated valley area and open uplands
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Strong relationship with hills and valleys to west and east (LCU 40, 42 and 44).
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	The south-west fringe is within the NSA Lochs of Tingwall and Asta SSSI



Landscape Character Unit		42 Weisdale Voe and Whiteness Voe
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Strong sense of place, typical of settled coast
<b>Rarity</b>	High	The very steep, narrow linear landscape is unusual, with a strong rhythm of headland and voe.
<b>Intactness</b>	Medium	Some newer housing fits less well into the landscape. The A971 cuts into hillsides as it sweeps across the landscape. Away from the main road, areas such as White Ness are more intact.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Attractive views along the long narrow headlands and voes, combinations of settled and unsettled landscape and rugged promontories. A visually diverse landscape with intricate coastal landforms.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	An accessible landscape with a number of prominent viewpoints.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	High	Evidence of long established settlement, with ruined and relict buildings.
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	Long stretches of natural coastline with bird interest, although the area is settled and with relatively busy roads to the north.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	Crofting pattern evident in some places but elsewhere has been obscured by more recent development
<b>Views</b>	Very high	A visually important landscape particularly from the A971 which sweeps through, offering several grand vistas and panoramas, with roadside car parks and viewpoints. Views south extend to Fitful Head.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	The south, particularly the southern extents of the headlands and taings, are generally quieter, removed from the influence of the busy roads and settlement in the north. There is a contrast between the lower-lying settled coast and the moorland hills to the east.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Relationship with the surrounding hills, to the west (LCU 34) and east (LCU 41), as well as the continuation of the vale to the north (LCU 35)
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	A large proportion of the southern area lies within the Shetland NSA. Whiteness Voe is designated as a MCA South Whiteness SSSI lies within the centre of the area LPAs at Hellister and Nesbister

Landscape Character Unit		43 Burra
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	A collection of small islands, typical of the complex interaction of islands and coastline.
<b>Rarity</b>	High	The assemblage of smaller and larger scale islands, both settled and unsettled, are unusual in their extent and variety
<b>Intactness</b>	High	The islands are largely unaffected by intrusive development. A quarry is prominent above Scalloway. Settlement expansion is affecting the area around the settlement.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Attractive islands, with strong appeal in its visual complexity. Backed by high ground to the west, the low lying landscape is alternately gentle and rugged.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	There are a number of visitor attractions within Scalloway, including that Crofting Museum, Scalloway Castle and marinas at Scalloway and Hamnavoe. The area has a number of popular walking routes and other opportunities for recreational activities, with an outdoor centre located at Bridgend.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	High	Historic village of Scalloway with its prominent castle, some brochs and other features
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	The interplay of sea and land is the most important aspect of this landscape.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	High	There are some crofting areas present along the more sheltered areas of the coast, with relict patterns of settlement on some islands, including disused houses.
<b>Views</b>	High	This is a visible landscape from Scalloway and from the mainland. Long views along and between the islands, and seaward views. Long views to Fitful Head and Foula in the distance.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	A consistent landscape, with a close interplay between the settled areas, wilder areas and habitats of the smaller islands and the peninsulas.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Strong relationship with the steep slopes of the west coast of the mainland. Forms the backdrop to Scalloway when seen from inland.
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Falls almost entirely within the Shetland NSA, with the exception of Scalloway LPAs at Scalloway, and on West Burra

Landscape Character Unit		44 Burra Dale
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	Medium	Typical of inland moorland hills which are extensive across central Mainland, but do not have a strong sense of place
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	Often bleak, but also wild and dramatic, depending on aspect and conditions. Lacks scenic diversity except at the northern coastal tip.
<b>Intactness</b>	Medium	The undeveloped and largely unsettled area within the south is largely intact. The central area is affected by road cuttings and a large quarry. Wind turbines at Burra Dale. Affected by development at the fringes of Lerwick.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Medium	Often bleak and uninteresting, but also wild and dramatic, depending on aspect and conditions. Lacks scenic diversity
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Low	Not a recreational landscape. NCN Route 1 passes through.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Low	No obvious contribution of cultural heritage features to this landscape
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	A largely undeveloped moorland landscape with naturalness value
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Low	Not a crofting landscape. Evidence of active peat cutting.
<b>Views</b>	Very high	Hills are visible from several key routes and form an important part of the setting of Lerwick
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	A relatively consistent and uninterrupted moorland.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	A visual relationship with the coastal areas to the east and west (LCU 43, 45, 48) A transitional landscape when travelling north and west from Lerwick, from the settled, low-lying coast to the unsettled moorland hills.
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Small area within the southwest lies within the Shetland NSA Easter Rova Head SSSI LPA at Quarff

Landscape Character Unit		45 Lerwick
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	A strong sense of place as an arrival point, and the 'capital' of Shetland.
<b>Rarity</b>	High	The area contains the only large settlement in Shetland
<b>Intactness</b>	Low	Much of the landscape is influenced by residential and commercial development and by the port, particularly to the north of the town.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Low	The town centre is an attractive feature, but as a landscape the area does not retain high scenic value, except in small pockets such as the Knab
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	Many opportunities to experience the area, and a number of attractions
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Very high	Prominent historic buildings and townscape including Clickimin Broch and Fort Charlotte
<b>Naturalness</b>	Low	Generally a man-modified landscape with limited natural qualities.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Low	A relatively densely settled area which does not retain any crofting landscapes
<b>Views</b>	High	Visually important from the A970 and from the ferry. Views are available to Bressay across Lerwick Harbour and along the Bressay Sound.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	The Ness of Sound and Ness of Trebister are open and undeveloped in contrast to the otherwise relatively densely settled area.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Bressay across the water (LCU 46), backdrop of Hill of Dale in LCU 44.
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	The old town within Lerwick is a conservation area Numerous LPAs around Lerwick

Landscape Character Unit		46 South Bressay
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Typical composition of the low-lying settled parts of Shetland can be seen in the western coast along the Bressay Sound backed by low heather moorland hills.
<b>Rarity</b>	Low	The landscape does not contain features which are individually rare.
<b>Intactness</b>	Medium	The area is more intact to south, where the influence of Lerwick and associated industrial development is more limited. Small quarries and prominent masts on the Ward of Bressay.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Medium	Pleasant but not dramatic, views of Lerwick old town are available from the coastal road following to the west across the Bressay Sound.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	Boat trips run regularly between Lerwick and Bressay, and the island is a popular destination.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	High	Features include Gardie House, a prominent 18 <sup>th</sup> -century building and landscape, the historic associations with the fishing (herring) industry, and pattern of dry stone walls.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Medium	The coastal areas to the west, facing into the Bressay Sound are largely settled whilst the more inaccessible and unsettled southeast has greater naturalness, particularly the high cliffs of the Bard.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	High	Strong, intact crofting pattern with stone walls.
<b>Views</b>	Very high	The coast and hinterland of heather moorland hills forms an important setting to Lerwick, highly visible from the town and ferry route.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	The south of the island is particularly attractive and has a greater cultural and scenic interest. The moorland to the north is more marginal.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Visual relationship between Lerwick and the central Mainland (LCU 44)
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Gardie House Garden and Designed Landscape LPAs at Leira Ness and Daal

Landscape Character Unit		47 North Bressay and Noss
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Typical composition of indented coast, with voes, rocky headlands and promontories, and a hinterland of low heather moorland hills with lochs. Strong sense of place and associations with the Shetland land and seascape, especially the cliffs and wild life of Noss.
<b>Rarity</b>	High	The high sea cliffs at Noup of Noss (181m) are a rare feature on Shetland
<b>Intactness</b>	High	Relatively inaccessible, particularly the southeast coast and Noss, with a high level of intactness as a consequence
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Dramatic coastal scenery, with distinctive red sandstone cliffs.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Very high	There are numerous recreational opportunities, including coastal walks, fishing lochs, and boats trips to Noss. A small visitor centre is located at Gungstie on Noss.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	High	There are a number of brochs and cairns evident across the area and other features of interest include the chapel of St Marys, and World War II gun emplacements.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	Rich in wildlife, including marine and coastal mammals, and a mosaic of habitats that support a variety of wild flowers and bird life. The Isle of Noss is a National Nature Reserve (NNR).
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	Limited settlement, although evidence of traditional features such as plantigrubs and field patterns on fringes around Aith Voe and Voe of Cullingsburgh and remains of stone buildings following water courses.
<b>Views</b>	Very high	Cliffs are a striking feature from many locations on the Mainland and to north. Long views available to Out Skerries and south to Mousa
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Generally consistent, with a gentle variation between the lower-lying areas of the valleys and coastal fringes areas and the open heather moorland.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Physical relationship with the adjacent South Bressay (LCU 46)
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Isle of Noss is designated as a SPA and is a National Nature Reserve. LPAs cover Noss and several coastal areas of Bressay

Landscape Character Unit		48 Helli Ness to Gulberwick
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	Shetland sense of place as typical of the more settled coastal areas of the mainland, including a range of traditional and modern settlement and house types.
<b>Rarity</b>	Low	These settled landscapes are common along the east coast of the southern mainland.
<b>Intactness</b>	Medium	Pockets of intact coastal and crofting landscape, for example at Fladdabister, though locally eroded by quarrying and the engineered main road. More densely settled areas, as at Cunningsburgh, are interrupted by newer and larger building types.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	High	The coastline is attractive, as are the more intact sections of crofting landscape.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Medium	NCN Route 1 passes through the area and there are coastal walks, and local attractions.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Low	There are few obvious features across the landscape, though there are individual features such as the broch at Aithsetter, and the deserted croft houses at Fladdabister.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Medium	The undeveloped coastline is varied and rocky, though much of the inland area is more affected by development.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	The traditional crofting pattern is discernible in some areas, and is the background to the scattered settlement pattern in this landscape, although in more developed areas this pattern is less clear.
<b>Views</b>	High	A highly visible landscape from the main A970, also visible from the ferry approaching Lerwick. Long views along the coast and across to Bressay.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Local variation in level of development, with some large empty areas of moorland. Greater scenic value in less developed coastal areas.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Physical relationship with the hills to the west (LCU 44 and 49) Longer views to Bressay and Noss
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Aith Meadows and Burn of Aith SSSIs A large number of LPAs mostly around settlements

Landscape Character Unit		49 Ward of Scousburgh to Quarff
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	Med	Typical of Shetland uplands, though without a strong sense of place
<b>Rarity</b>	Low	This is a predominantly moorland landscape without rare features.
<b>Intactness</b>	Medium	The area is generally intact, with some prominent masts on the southern hills, and visible tracks.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Medium	Generally a bleak open upland, lacking visual diversity. The rounded hills have limited grandeur. More dramatic pockets such as the rocky slopes rising from the sea at Thief's Hole.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Low	Limited opportunities for access or enjoyment of this landscape, other than as a backdrop to other areas
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Low	Historic features are not a prominent part of this landscape
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	A largely undisturbed landscape of moorland hills
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Low	Not a settled landscape and therefore there is limited pattern of settlement, although there is some evidence of active peat cutting.
<b>Views</b>	Very high	A very visible landscape which is prominent in views from the A970 and from several neighbouring landscapes. Also forms a visible spine to South Mainland when seen from islands to east and west.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	A consistent landscape of open upland
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Physical relationships with the coastal landscapes to east and west (43, 48, 53, 54), and linked to the ridge which continues to the north (44)
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	The western edge forms part of the NSA



Landscape Character Unit		50 Sandwick
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	A Shetland sense of place, typical of settled coastal areas, though more developed than most
<b>Rarity</b>	Low	Does not contain features which are rare or unusual in Shetland
<b>Intactness</b>	Medium	A relatively densely settled landscape, with clusters of development spread across the area. Some large commercial buildings are present in the area, and parts have a 'settlement fringe' feel. The peninsula of No Ness and Mousa are much more intact.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	High	The rocky peninsula and Mousa are attractive coastal landscapes, though the settled areas inland are less remarkable.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	The main attraction in this area are the regular boat trips to Mousa for bird watching and access to the broch. Also a visitor centre at Hoswick.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Very high	Mousa Broch is very well preserved, and there are other features on Mousa and brochs on the mainland.
<b>Naturalness</b>	Very high	Mousa is an important bird reserve, and several coastal edges are unaffected by development.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	The pattern of settlement is derived from the scattered crofting pattern, but the area is now more built up and no longer reflects the crofting landscape.
<b>Views</b>	Very high	The area is visible from the A970, and forms the setting of one of the main settlements on the islands. The northern and eastern coast are also visible from Mousa. Long views are available along the east coast to the south to Sumburgh Head, whilst inland views are contained by the central hills.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	There is a strong contrast between the settled Sandwick area and the more natural coastal edge and Mousa.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Physical relationship with the hills to the west (LCU 49).
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	The island of Mousa is an SPA and also a SSSI, whilst the waters around Mousa are designated as a SAC. LPAs at Hoswick and Setter

Landscape Character Unit		51 Fitful Head
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	A strong sense of place, associated with the coastal scenery which Shetland is renowned for.
<b>Rarity</b>	High	The coastal upland and cliffs of Fitful Head are unique in Shetland, along with other unusual features such as the tombolo at St Ninian's Isle.
<b>Intactness</b>	High	A few large modern buildings and the masts on Fitful Head. However, the landscape generally remains intact, for example around Scousburgh.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	Very high	Attractive landscape of contrasts, including Loch Spiggie, the tombolo of St Ninian's Isle and cliffs of Fitful Head, against a backdrop of higher ground and scattered houses.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	Very high	Well used opportunities for outdoor access including coastal walks, St Ninian's Isle. Also the restored Quendale Water Mill. NCN Route 1 passes through.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	High	Ruins on St Ninian's Isle, historic mill at Quendale. The disused settlements east of the Wart.
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	Coastal scenery is a defining feature of this landscape. Loch Spiggie is a SSSI for its bird life.
<b>Rural pattern</b>	High	The pattern of the crofting landscape is still clearly visible in many places, particularly on the slopes around Scousburgh and Longfield.
<b>Views</b>	High	Visible from the A970, and offering fine views along the coast and out to the islands to the west, including Foula in the distance. Visible from planes arriving at Sumburgh Airport.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	Coast contrasts with inland areas, and coastal character is quickly lost inland, eg at Ringasta.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Strong relationship with the hills to the north east, and Ward of Scousburgh (LCU 49) in particular.
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Much of the western area is within the Shetland NSA Lochs of Spiggie and Brow SPA and SSSI St Ninian's Tombolo SSSI and part of the Quendale SSSI at the southern fringe LPAs at St Ninian's Isle, Colsay, The Moul and Garths Ness

Landscape Character Unit		52 Sumburgh Head
Criteria	Rank	Description
<b>Representative-ness</b>	High	A strong sense of place, and important as an arrival point into Shetland. A range of representative features, including sandy beaches, rocky headland and scattered settlement.
<b>Rarity</b>	Medium	Few rare features but an unusual combination.
<b>Intactness</b>	Low	The airport and associated infrastructure dominate most of this area, including the masts on Sumburgh Head. Modern buildings at Central Dunrossness. The outer parts of the headlands are more intact.
<b>Scenic qualities</b>	High	The twin rocky headlands of Scat Ness and Sumburgh are attractive features, along with the beaches and incoming flights, makes for visual diversity. Dramatic cliffs and lighthouse on Sumburgh Head is a picturesque composition.
<b>Enjoyment</b>	High	Parking and viewpoint at Sumburgh Head Lighthouse. The most important attraction in the area is Jarlshof, as well as Old Scatness. NCN Route 1 passes through, as do all visitors arriving at the airport.
<b>Cultural qualities</b>	Very high	Jarlshof is one of Britain's foremost archaeological sites, and there are other key sites at Burgi Ness and Old Scatness.
<b>Naturalness</b>	High	Although there are disturbed areas of this landscape, the coastal strip is largely unaffected. Opportunities for viewing seabirds at Sumburgh Head
<b>Rural pattern</b>	Medium	More recent development has largely obscured the crofting landscape, though there are remnant areas away from the airport, for example at Scatness village.
<b>Views</b>	Very high	A visible landscape from the main road A970, and also on arrival/departure from the airport. The lighthouse is a major landmark. Long views north and south from Sumburgh Head to Noss and Fair Isle.
<b>Unranked criteria</b>		
<b>Landscape consistency</b>	n/a	There are differences between the headland, the airport area, and the less developed pocket in the north-east of the LCU.
<b>Landscape relationships</b>	n/a	Principal relationship with the upland to the north (LCU 49), particularly Ward of Scousburgh, and also with Fitful Head to the west (LCU 51)
<b>Other designations</b>	n/a	Sumburgh Head SPA Dalsetter, The Cletts, Pool of Virkie, and Quendale SSSIs LPAs cover Scat Ness, Old Scatness, and Jarlshof