

Hornsea Offshore Wind Farm

Project Two

Environmental Statement
Volume 6 – Onshore

Annex 6.5.5 **Seascape Character Areas: Key Characteristics**

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SMart Wind Limited

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1 SEASCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

Table 1.1 Seascape Character Areas: Table of Key Characteristics.

Seascape Character Areas Landscapes:	
Character Area	Key characteristics
Humber Waters, Character Area 6	<p><i>“The Humber Estuary is 120 km long, 14 km at its widest point, is one of the largest coastal plain estuaries in Britain and drains a number of important rivers, in particular the Yorkshire Ouse and the Trent. It drains approximately one-fifth of England’s land area including the major conurbations of Nottingham, Sheffield and Leeds.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The second largest coastal plain estuary in the UK bounded by intertidal mud and sand flats and saltmarsh;</i> ▪ <i>Humber Estuary drains approximately 20 per cent of the country;</i> ▪ <i>Consistently muddy waters derived from North Sea tidal dynamics and suspended sediment from erosion taking place along the Holderness coast;</i> ▪ <i>Internationally important for wildlife habitats and spawning grounds, and especially birds;</i> ▪ <i>Very large tidal range with constant and powerful tidal movements;</i> ▪ <i>Constantly dredged and maintained navigation canal associated with land uses along the internal shores;</i> ▪ <i>Waters host UK’s largest port complex and waters are heavily trafficked with up to 40,000 ship movements per year;</i> ▪ <i>Views are significantly animated by shipping traffic;</i> ▪ <i>Extensive and complex mix of industrial, commercial, agricultural, residential and tourism estuary land uses which dominate views;</i> ▪ <i>Renowned for transportation and fishing heritage;</i> ▪ <i>Spanned inland by the Humber Bridge, the fifth largest single-span suspension bridge in the world;</i> ▪ <i>Divided from the sea by the dynamic and evolving sand spit of Spurn Head which is a designated feature for its geomorphology and habitats;</i> ▪ <i>Waters guarded at the mouth of the Humber by two early 20th century sand forts; and,</i> ▪ <i>Important archaeological features present.</i> <p><i>There is a powerful sense of place determined largely by enclosure, a mix of historic and modern developments, dynamic and variable intertidal areas and busy marine activity. The influence of tidal movements, marine activity and changeable weather creates a very dynamic, interesting and variable seascape. Relatively settled waters coupled with the inter-visibility across the estuary and the sense of enclosure provided by enclosing landform contributes to a feeling of safety. Despite the enclosed character, views are generally open and panoramic in nature due to the low topographical influence and strong visual interrelationships. The interplay between industrial and commercial developments and natural intertidal areas leads to a complex and diverse character. The consistency of these elements creates a sense of unity and balance and contributes to a strong sense of place.”</i></p>
East Midlands Coastal Waters, Character Area 7	<p><i>“These coastal waters are linked with a wild, natural and dynamic coastline which is subject to a complex array of natural processes that are heavily influencing the perception of seascape by their generally accretionary nature. Coastal processes link this part of the coastline with the eroding cliffs of Holderness, with sediment being eroded and transported before being deposited in the area.</i></p> <p><i>Flat, low-lying dynamic coastal landscape demonstrating a complex array of natural processes;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Flat, low-lying coastal landscape demonstrating a complex array of dynamic natural processes;</i> ▪ <i>Wild and dynamic nature of the seascape with strong wave action over generally shallow waters;</i> ▪ <i>Shallow waters divided by a deeper water channel called The Well;</i>

Seascape Character Areas Landscapes:

Character Area	Key characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Extensive submerged sand flats;</i> ▪ <i>Temporal seascape character heavily influenced by the tides and the exposure of vast sand flats at low tide;</i> ▪ <i>Extensive linear coastal geometry creating long sweeping views along the coastline and out to sea;</i> ▪ <i>Gently rolling dune systems and intertidal sand flats supporting a variety of coastal habitats and supporting a rich diversity of wildlife;</i> ▪ <i>Perception of land and sea is strongly influenced by dunes and intertidal areas which present a wild and remote character;</i> ▪ <i>Remote character influenced in places by concentrated urban settlements, commercial activities and both on and offshore wind farm developments;</i> ▪ <i>Sediment accretion influencing coastal economies;</i> ▪ <i>Coastal defence and beach replenishment activity;</i> ▪ <i>Recreational value of seascape represented by coastal resorts with much of the coastal waters recognised as the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) racing and sailing areas;</i> ▪ <i>Commercial offshore activities such as dredging and dumping have localised influence on benthic and pelagic environments;</i> ▪ <i>Important fisheries areas, particularly shellfish fisheries;</i> ▪ <i>Important archaeological features present;</i> ▪ <i>Significant for its buried peat deposits;</i> ▪ <i>WW2 coastal defence infrastructure; and</i> ▪ <i>Extensive areas of saltmarsh, and grazing marsh.</i> <p><i>The seascape is dramatic and evocative and has a temporal and dynamic character, heavily influenced by coastal sedimentary and erosion processes and the rising and falling tides.</i></p> <p><i>Expanses of vast uninterrupted sand flats and sand dunes create a natural, wild and untamed character to the coastal edge and a largely featureless horizon evokes feelings of remoteness and loneliness.</i></p> <p><i>The exposed and open coastline together with changeable climatic conditions creates highly variable experiences and can induce a character that is tranquil and beautiful or unsettling and treacherous.</i></p> <p><i>Views from the sea are dominated by sand dunes and coastal vegetation which are often seen at great distances because of the shallow nature of the coastal waters. The uniformity of the natural coastal edge coupled with very low topography and only occasional groups of development creates a degree of disorientation and loneliness.</i></p> <p><i>In concentrated locations where human activity and development are imposing, such as where wind farms have been constructed, coastal resorts and during military training, the feeling of wilderness and remoteness is challenged and a managed and tamed quality is imposed on the seascape character.”</i></p>