**Background paper – Selected overview of complementary or alternative local, national and international designations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Designation** | **No. of Sites** | **Underpinning Legislation** | **Natural Features Covered** | **Legal Protection** | **Notes** |
| Local and regional | | | | | |
| Regional Parks  e.g.  Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park  <http://clydemuirshiel.co.uk/> | 3 | Countryside (Scot) Act 1967 as amended by Countryside (Scot) Act 1981 | Not applicable, but do encompass SSSI/SAC/SPAs | Local Authorities have powers to enter Management Agreements and make byelaws. | Regional Parks are large areas of attractive countryside close to Scotland’s larger towns and cities – and popular for outdoor recreation. The designation was created to enable the coordinated management of recreation and other land uses such as farming and forestry.  The 3 Regional Parks in Scotland are:  - Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park  - Lomond Hills Regional Park  - Pentland Hills Regional Park  The Loch Lomond Regional Park was subsumed by the larger Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park when it was created |
| Country Parks  e.g.  Brodick Country Park <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/brodick-castle-garden-country-park#results> | 40 | Countryside (Scot) Act 1967 | Not applicable, but do encompass SSSI or locally important wildlife areas | Local Authorities have powers to enter Management Agreements and make byelaws. | Country parks give people convenient opportunities to enjoy the countryside and open-air recreation close to urban areas. |
| Local Nature Reserves  e.g.  Happy Valley Local Nature Reserve, Orkney  <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/wood/40405/happy-valley/> | 75 | National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 | Not applicable, but do encompass SSSI or locally important wildlife areas | Local Authorities have powers to enter Management Agreements and make byelaws. | An area to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve must be:   * at least of local importance in terms of its natural heritage * wholly within the area of the local authority planning to designate it a reserve * owned or leased by the local authority, or the owner(s) must formally agree to the designation |
| National | | | | | |
| National Scenic Areas (NSA)  e.g.  Nith Estuary NSA  <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15974/National-Scenic-Areas-NSAs> | 40 | Planning etc (Scot) Act 2006 | Not applicable – landscape designation | Main provisions through the Planning system | [Scottish Planning Policy](https://beta.gov.scot/publications/scottish-planning-policy/) states that development that affects an NSA should only be permitted where:   * either the objectives of the designation and the overall integrity of the NSA won’t be compromised * or any significant adverse effects on its special qualities are outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance   3 NSAs in Dumfries & Galloway have developed Management Strategies which lists special qualities of these areas and summarises the action needed to safeguard these.  NSAs are contained within both existing National Parks. The [River Earn](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/map/2010/12/national-scenic-areas-of-scotland-1-50000-maps/documents/river-earn-comrie-to-st-fillans-map/river-earn-comrie-to-st-fillans-map/govscot%3Adocument/River%2BEarn%2B-%2BComrie%2Bto%2BSt%2BFillans.pdf) (Comrie to St Fillans) NSA is adjacent to the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park boundary |
| National Nature Reserve (NNR)  e.g  Flanders Moss NNR  <https://www.nature.scot/enjoying-outdoors/places-visit/scotlands-national-nature-reserves/flanders-moss-national-nature-reserve> | 43 | National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949  Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 | Most NNRs are SSSI, SAC or SPA, so features encompassed include  - Habitats  - Species populations  - Earth Science Interests | Sites underpinned by SSSI, so Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act applies – see SSSI above.  NNRs also host SAC or SPA features so Habitats Regulations apply – see SACs above. | The NNR accolade is given to Scotland’s best wildlife sites which are managed to promote the conservation of nature and access and enjoyment of nature.  3 main management arrangements for NNRs:  - ownership and management by NatureScot  - private ownership and NatureScot management through a Nature Reserve Agreement  - ownership and management by ‘Approved Body’ (generally environmental Non-Government Organisation or public sector)  Award of NNR Accolade overseen by the NNR Partnership. Organisations on the partnership are:   * Community Land Scotland * Forestry Commission Scotland * National Trust for Scotland * RSPB Scotland * Scottish Land and Estates * Scottish Natural Heritage * Scottish Wildlife Trust * South Lanarkshire Council * Woodland Trust Scotland   The NNR Partnership has developed [Selection Criteria and Standards](https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2017-07/A1576100%20-%20NNR%20Selection%20Criteria%20and%20Standards%20-%20approved%20version.pdf).  NNRs are contained within both existing National Parks |
| International | | | | | |
| Biosphere Reserve  e.g  Wester Ross Biosphere Reserve  <http://www.unesco-mab.org.uk/wester-ross.html> | 2 | Non-statutory - made by UNESCO under its [Man and the Biosphere Programme](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/) | Not applicable, but do encompass SSSI or locally important wildlife areas | Part of area covered by SSSI and Natura designations, so  - Provisions of Underpinning SSSI legislation  - Habitat Regulations Appraisal (HRA) for new Plans or Projects | Biosphere reserve designation helps to promote the integrated and sustainable management of an area.  Any community or organisation can propose a new biosphere reserve. Proposals are made to UNESCO via the Scottish Government or the UK Government’s Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.  UNESCO considers all proposals, and it reviews existing sites every five years.  The community where a biosphere reserve is proposed is responsible for setting up and managing the reserve.  To achieve this, two approaches must be applied:   * - the use of a zonation approach with a protected core area and a buffer area within which sustainable development may be promoted * - participation of the local community |
| Geopark  e.g  Lochaber Geopark  <https://lochabergeopark.org.uk/> | 3 | Non-statutory - made by [UNESCO Global Geopark](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/unesco-global-geoparks/) accreditation | Earth Science features of national and/or international importance | Part of area covered by SSSI, so Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act applies – see SSSI above. | Each geopark has a management group, which promotes the geopark and coordinates activities within it.  Businesses inside a geopark that make use of or benefit from its area's geological heritage are encouraged to support their conservation. This is largely to do with ensuring that all activities are environmentally sustainable.  Businesses that adhere to the geopark’s aims may use the geopark logo in marketing material.  Geopark designation doesn’t affect the day-to-day management of the land by landowners and land managers. |
| World Heritage Site  e.g  St Kilda World Heritage Site  <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/387> | 1 for nature  6 for heritage or nature or mixed | UNESCO grants this non-statutory designation under the [Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage](http://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/). |  | Part of area covered by SSSI and Natura designations, so  - Provisions of Underpinning SSSI legislation  - Habitat Regulations Appraisal (HRA) for new Plans or Projects | A World Heritage Site is a landmark or area which is selected by UNESCO as having cultural, historical, scientific or other form of significance, and is legally protected by international treaties. The sites are judged important to the collective interests of humanity. |