

Appendix B

Inventory of Designations

International Designations			
Designation	Description	Authority	Legislation
Biosphere Reserve	Designated under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme.	UNESCO	
Global Geopark	Part of the Global Geopark Network supported by UNESCO.	UNESCO	
Ramsar site	An international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It is also known as the Convention on Wetlands.	Natural England	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
Special Area of Conservation	Designated under the European Union's Habitats Directive to be of value for species, plants and habitats. They comprise marine and terrestrial SACs.	Natural England JNCC	
Special Protection Area	Designated under the Birds Directive to protect internationally valuable populations of bird species. They comprise inshore marine SPAs and terrestrial SPAs.		
World Heritage Site	Sites with internationally important cultural or national heritage. In order to qualify, it must be of outstanding universal cultural or natural value (or both). The age of a site is irrelevant.	UNESCO	

National Designations			
Designation	Description	Authority	Legislation
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	An outstanding landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so precious that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard them.	Natural England	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 Environment Act 1995, Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
UK Biodiversity Action Plan	Describes the biological resources of the UK and provides detailed plans for conservation of these resources.	JNCC	
Ancient Woodland	A woodland that has existed continuously since 1600 or before in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (or 1750 in Scotland).	Natural England Forestry Commission	Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Community Forest	Each Community Forest is a partnership between LPAs and local, regional and national partners including the Forestry Commission and Natural England. The founding basis for each Forest is a government-approved Forest Plan, a 30-year vision of landscape-scale improvement.	Natural England Forestry Commission	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (section 21) Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Schedule 11)
Conservation Area	They are designated for their special architectural and historic interest. Conservation areas are not intended to prevent development altogether. They ensure that development is monitored and controlled to ensure that proposals within or adjacent to the conservation area are sympathetic to the character and appearance of their surroundings.	Historic England	Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Environmentally Sensitive Area	A type of designation for an agricultural area which needs special protection because of its landscape, wildlife or historical value.	DEFRA	

National Designations			
Designation	Description	Authority	Legislation
Historic Battlefield (Registered Battlefield)	Battlefield sites in England are material considerations in the planning process.	Historic England	Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953
Heritage Coast	Areas of coastline managed to conserve and enhance their natural beauty, facilitate appreciation by the public, and maintain and improve their environmental health.	Natural England	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
Listed Building	A Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. Grades: I = buildings of exceptional interest. II = buildings that are of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them II* = particularly important buildings of more than special interest.	Historic England	Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Marine Protected Area	Marine protected areas include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats of European importance, Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds, Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) and Marine Nature Reserves designated to conserve marine flora and fauna and features of special interest.	JNCC Natural England	
Moorland	A moorland or moor is a type of habitat found in upland areas in temperate grasslands, savannas, and shrublands and montane grasslands and shrublands biomes, characterised by low-growing vegetation on acidic soils.	The Wildlife Trust	

National Designations			
Designation	Description	Authority	Legislation
National Nature Reserve	Areas for the preservation of flora, fauna, geological and physiological features of special interest.	Natural England National Trust Forestry Commission RSPB Wildlife Trusts LPAs	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (sections 16 to 29)
National Park	Designated to conserve and enhance their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and the open air recreation they facilitate. Villages, towns and farms within the boundary of National Parks are also protected.	National Park Authorities Natural England	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 The Environment Act 1995 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
National Trail	Long distance routes along footpaths and bridle paths in England and Wales used for walking, cycling and horse riding.		National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949
Protected Wreck Site	These protected areas are likely to contain the remains of a vessel, or its contents, which are of historical, artistic or archaeological importance.	Historic England	
Public Right Of Way	A Public Right Of Way is a way, which the public have a right to pass and re-pass providing that the public stay on the route and do not cause a nuisance or obstruction.	Natural England	
RSPB Reserve	From marshes and heathland to estuaries and cliffs, there is a diverse network of reserves all over the UK.	RSPB	

Site of Special Scientific Interest	Important sites of natural habitat, wildlife and geological heritage, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient woodlands • Species rich grasslands • Heathlands • Coastal marshes and mudflats • Unique geological formations. 	Natural England	Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
Local Wildlife Sites	Local Wildlife Sites are areas of land that are especially important for their wildlife. They are some of our most valuable wildlife areas. Local Wildlife Sites are identified and selected locally using scientifically-determined criteria and surveys. They are corridors for wildlife, forming key components of ecological networks.	LPAs	No legal protection, only through some LPA policies
Scheduled Monument	A nationally important archaeological site or historic building, given protection against unauthorised change.	Historic England	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Local Designations			
Designation	Description	Authority	Legislation
Green Belt	Green belt land refers to an area that is kept in reserve for an open space, most often around larger cities. The main purpose of the green belt policy is to protect the land around larger urban centres from urban sprawl, and maintain the designated area for forestry and agriculture as well as to provide habitat to wildlife.	LPAs	Town and Country Planning Act 1947 Planning Policy Guidance Note 2: Green Belts
Local Nature Reserve	Areas of special local wildlife or geological interest.	Natural England	National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (section 21)