

number of sites in this area would have been limited, and the presence of an ecologically protected area in this region did not significantly impact the availability of potential sites for the entire study area. Furthermore, Western areas of the Bristol Channel included SAC's and SPA's, so these automatically did not make the final selection due to the MCDM process prioritising areas where the most constraints were satisfied.

A large collection of sites sits in an area up to 11 km North of the coastline from Ilfracombe, stretching East and West across the extent of Exmoor (Fig. 1). Other sites include an area to the Northwest in the centre of the channel, an area roughly 20 km West of Northam, and area further North towards the coast, near the Welsh town of Barry.

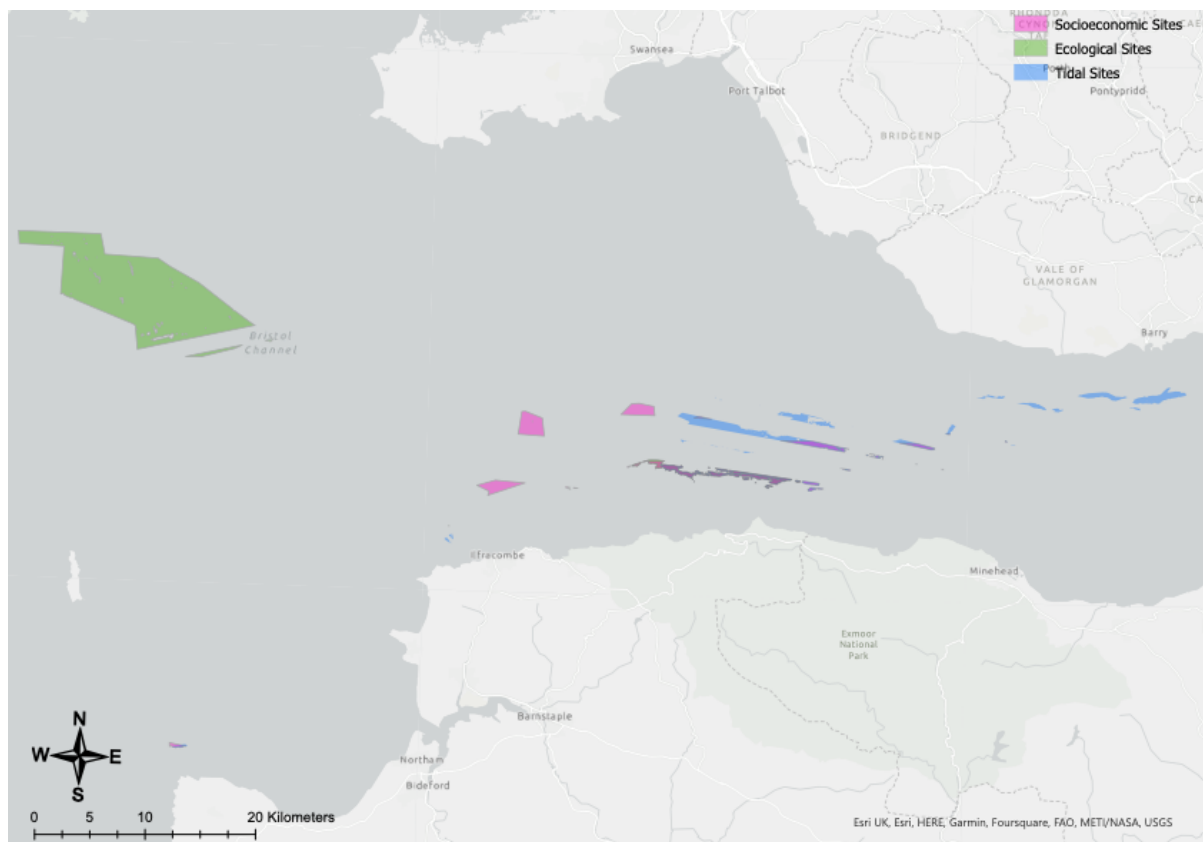


Fig. 1. Potential sites returned from the three scenarios; transparency was set to 60% to show overlap.