The Canyons (rMCZ1) Evidence Review

Region	Finding Sanctuary	
Site Name/number	The Canyons rMCZ FS1	
ENG Features present and proposed for inclusion within MCZ designation	BSH	• Subtidal coarse sediment • Subtidal sand • Deep-sea bed
	Habitat FOCI	• Cold-water coral reefs
	Species FOCI	-
ENG Features present but not proposed for inclusion within MCZ designation	BSH	-
	Habitat FOCI	• Subtidal sands and gravels
	Species FOCI	-
Non-ENG Features (Geological/geomorphological)		• Communities of deep-sea corals • Deep circalittoral coarse sediment • Deep-sea bedrock • Deep-sea biogenic gravel • Deep-sea mixed substrata • Deep-sea mud • Deep-sea sand.

Evidence Summary – data provided by Regional MCZ Projects

Feature	Evidence Summary	Key Sources
Subtidal coarse sediment	Presence and extent based on predicted modelled polygon data derived from MESH (Stewart & Davies, 2007); no data points.	MESH survey
Subtidal sand	Presence and extent based on predicted modelled polygon data derived from MESH; no data points.	MESH survey/UKSeaMap
Deep-sea bed	Presence and extent based on predicted modelled polygon data derived from MESH (Stewart & Davies, 2007) and multiple data points from the Astrium Bathymetry Defra/JNCC	MESH/UKSeaMap survey Defra/JNCC
Cold-water coral reefs	Presence and extent based on two data points from MESH/JNCC Canyons survey.	MESH/UKSeaMap survey JNCC/MESH

Description of New Evidence Identified by MB0116 project

No new evidence identified

Evidence That Could Not Be Acquired by MB0116 project

Evidence Description	Source	Feature
Rock and thin sediment.	British Geological Society	Broadscale habitats

Confidence Assessment undertaken by MB0116 project

Feature	Presence	Extent	Condition	Boundaries (site)
Subtidal coarse sediment	Low	Low	Low	Low
Subtidal sand	Low	Low	Low	
Deep-sea bed	High	High	Moderate	
Cold-water coral reefs	Low	Low	Low	

'Subtidal coarse sediment' and 'subtidal sand' BSH's were only represented by modelled MESH/UKSeaMap data without validation points and therefore weree scored 'low' for presence and 'low' confidence for extent.

Multiple data points for 'Deep-sea beds' overlap the polygon data from MESH which has a high confidence score and therefore was assessed as 'high' for presence and extent.

The presence of 'Cold water corals' (HOCI) was confirmed by two ground truthed survey data points (Stewart & Davies, 2007), therefore resulting in 'low' confidence for both presence and extent.

The condition assessment for 'Subtidal coarse sediment' and 'Subtidal sand' was based on a Vulnerability Assessment and could not be improved beyond a 'low' confidence score. 'Deep-sea bed' condition does overlap with benthic trawling metiers and confidence is therefore assessed as 'moderate'.

The confidence assessment in the boundary of the site was classified as low primarily because the overall confidence in the extent of the respective BSH and Habitat FOCI was determined as low.