

## Isles of Scilly: Higher Town rMCZ (FS35g) Evidence Review

Region	Finding Sanctuary	
Site Name/number	Isles of Scilly: Higher Town rMCZ (FS35g)	
ENG Features present and proposed for inclusion within MCZ designation	BSH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate energy intertidal rock</li> <li>Low energy intertidal rock</li> <li>Intertidal coarse sediment</li> <li>Intertidal sand and muddy sand</li> <li>Intertidal mud</li> <li>High energy infralittoral rock</li> <li>Moderate energy infralittoral rock</li> <li>Subtidal sand</li> <li>Subtidal mixed sediments</li> <li>Subtidal macrophyte-dominated sediment</li> </ul>
	Habitat FOCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intertidal under boulder communities</li> <li>Peat and clay exposures</li> <li>Seagrass beds</li> <li>Tide-swept channels</li> </ul>
	Species FOCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Haliclystus auricula</i></li> <li><i>Lucernariopsis campanulata</i></li> </ul>
ENG Features present but not proposed for inclusion within MCZ designation	BSH	-
	Habitat FOCI	-
	Species FOCI	-
Non-ENG Features (Geological/geomorphological)		-

### Evidence Summary – data provided by Regional MCZ Projects

Feature	Evidence Summary	Key Sources
Moderate energy intertidal rock	The presence and extent of this broad-scale habitat was supported by point data derived from 2 MESH points. No polygon data were available. Aerial imagery from CCO	MESH CCO
Low energy intertidal rock	Aerial imagery from CCO	CCO
Intertidal coarse sediment	The presence and extent of this broad-scale habitat was supported by polygon data derived from 3 Combined MESH/UKSeaMap and MB0102 GB001070 polygons. No point data were available. Aerial imagery from CCO	Combined MESH/UKSeaMap MB0102 CCO
Intertidal sand	The presence and extent of this	Combined MESH/UKSeaMap

and muddy sand	broad-scale habitat was supported by polygon data derived from 25 Combined MESH/UKSeaMap and MB0102 GB001070 polygons. No point data were available. Aerial imagery from CCO	MB0102 CCO
Intertidal mud	The extent of this broad-scale habitat was supported by polygon data derived from 3 Combined MESH/UKSeaMap and MB0102 GB001069 polygons. No point data were available. Aerial imagery from CCO	Combined MESH/UKSeaMap MB0102 CCO
High energy infralittoral rock	The presence and extent of this broad-scale habitat was supported by polygon data derived from 3 Combined MESH/UKSeaMap GB001055 polygons. Point data were available from 1 MESH point.	Combined MESH/UKSeaMap MESH
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	The presence and extent of this broad-scale habitat was supported by polygon data derived from 2 Combined MESH/UKSeaMap GB001055 polygons. Point data were available from 2 MESH points.	Combined MESH/UKSeaMap MESH
Subtidal sand	The presence and extent of this broad-scale habitat was supported by polygon data derived from 1 Combined MESH/UKSeaMap GB000498 polygons. Point data were available from 1 MESH point.	Combined MESH/UKSeaMap MESH
Subtidal mixed sediments	The extent of this broad-scale habitat was supported by polygon data derived from 1 Combined MESH/UKSeaMap GB000498 polygon. No point data were available.	Combined MESH/UKSeaMap
Subtidal macrophyte-dominated sediment	The presence and extent of this broad-scale habitat was supported by polygon data derived from 4 Combined MESH/UKSeaMap GB000498 polygons. Point data were available from 15 MESH points.	Combined MESH/UKSeaMap MESH
Intertidal under	1 MESH point and 1	MESH

boulder communities	Habitat_HOCI_Points_NewIntersect point from Regional Project - FS.	Regional Project - FS.
Peat and clay exposures	There was no polygon data to support the presence or extent of this habitat FOCI. Point data were available from 1 Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust, SeaSearch point from Regional Project - FS..	Regional Project - FS.
Seagrass beds	The presence and extent of this habitat FOCI was supported by polygon data derived from 4 Combined MESH/UKSeaMap polygons	Combined MESH/UKSeaMap MB0102
Tide-swept channels	There was no polygon data to support the presence or extent of this habitat FOCI. Point data were available from 1 Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust, SeaSearch point from Regional Projects - FS.	Regional Projects - FS.
<i>Haliclystus auricula</i>	The presence and extent of this species FOCI was supported by point data derived from 6 Cornwall_FOCI_Species_NewIntersect points, 3 Non_mobile_Species_NewIntersect points from MB0102 and , Project - FS. No polygon data were available.	Regional Project - FS MB0102.
<i>Lucernariopsis campanulata</i>	The presence and extent of this species FOCI was supported by point data derived from 4 Cornwall_FOCI_Species_NewIntersect points and 2 Non_mobile_Species_NewIntersect points from Regional Project -FS and MB0102 . No polygon data were available.	Regional Project - FS MB0102.

### Description of New Evidence Identified by MB0116 project

#### Anecdotal evidence provided by NE to MB0116 project

Evidence Description	Source	Feature
Scilly_Isles_legend_Apr_16_2010_NewIntersect	SW_Habitat_Mapping	Intertidal coarse sediment Intertidal mud Intertidal under boulder

		communities
Irving, R. and Northern, K. (2012) Isles of Scilly Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Condition Assessment for Reefs: Diving Monitoring Studies: June 2011. Final Report.	Natural England Commissioned Report number 104 (NECR104)	High energy infralittoral rock
Jackson, E.L., Higgs, S., Allsop, T., Cawthray, A., Evans, J. and Langmead, O. (2011) Isles of Scilly Seagrass Mapping. Data points from IoS_Zostera_Marina_2008_simp_MCZ	Natural England Commissioned Reports, Number 087	Seagrass beds
Cook, K.J. (2011) Report on 2011 Isles of Scilly Zostera marina survey..	Report to Natural England	Seagrass beds
Data points	SeaSearch	Seagrass beds
Isles of Scilly Intertidal Biotope Mapping Dataset (2010)	ERCCIS	<i>Halicyclstus auricula</i>

### Evidence That Could Not Be Acquired by MB0116 project

No additional evidence identified

### Confidence Assessment undertaken by MB0116 project

Feature	Presence	Extent	Condition	Boundaries (site)
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Moderate	Low	Low	Low
Low energy intertidal rock	No confidence	No confidence	No confidence	
Intertidal coarse sediment	Moderate	Low	Low	
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Moderate	Low	Low	
Intertidal mud	Low	Low	Low	
High energy infralittoral rock	Low	Low	Low	
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Low	Low	Low	
Subtidal sand	Low	Low	Low	
Subtidal mixed sediments	Low	Low	Low	
Subtidal macrophyte-dominated sediment	High	Moderate	Low	
Intertidal under boulder communities	Low	Low	Low	
Peat and clay exposures	Low	Low	Low	

Seagrass beds	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	
Tide-swept channels	Low	Low	Low	
<i>Haliclystus auricula</i>	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	
<i>Lucernariopsis campanulata</i>	Low	Low	Low	

No geographic information was available to support the ENG feature 'Low energy intertidal rock'. Therefore, a confidence score could not be categorised.

No polygon data were available to support the occurrence of the broad-scale habitat 'Moderate energy intertidal rock'. However, the availability of 2 MESH points and the aerial photography verified its presence so confidence in was categorised as 'moderate'. The photographs did not allow the verification of the extent so this was assessed as 'low'. The occurrence of 'Intertidal coarse sediment' and 'Intertidal sand and muddy sand' were similarly supported by aerial photography and by polygon data derived from combined MESH/UKSeaMap GB001070, MB0102 and 'SW\_Habitat\_Mapping'. These verified the presence but could not provide confidence in the coverage therefore the assessed resulted in a 'moderate' score for presence and 'low' for extent for each feature.

The confidence assessment for 'Intertidal mud' was based on polygon data with a MESH score of 1 and the absence of data points. In addition the photography that covers the site does not confirm the presence therefore scores of 'low' are given for both.

The occurrence of the broad-scale habitats 'High energy infralittoral rock', 'Moderate energy infralittoral rock' and 'Subtidal sand' was supported by polygon data derived from combined MESH/UKSeaMap polygons, each with multiple MESH validation points. However, none of these points fell within the broad-scale habitat polygons and therefore confidence in both the presence and extent of these features could only be categorised as 'low'.

The presence and extent of the broad-scale habitat 'Subtidal mixed sediments' was supported by one polygon derived from combined MESH/UKSeaMap GB000498 (MESH confidence score of 72). No validating points were available, and therefore, no confidence score could be assigned to the presence of this feature, and confidence in extent of the feature was categorised as 'low'.

The presence and extent of the broad-scale habitat 'Subtidal macrophyte-dominated sediment' was supported by polygon data with a MESH confidence score of 72, derived from combined MESH/UKSeaMap GB000498. This was corroborated by 14 MESH points, each within the feature polygons. Therefore confidence in the presence of the feature was categorised as 'high'. However, as the points were distributed over less than 50% of the feature polygon, confidence in the extent of the feature could only be categorised as 'moderate'.

The occurrence of the habitat FOCI 'Intertidal under boulder communities' was supported by polygon data derived from 'SW\_Habitat\_Mapping' and 'SW\_Habitat\_Mapping\_BAP', 1 MESH point and 1 point derived from 'Habitat\_HOCI\_Points\_NewIntersect'. No points were found to be in agreement with the polygons of the habitat FOCI, and therefore confidence in both the presence and extent of the feature were categorised as 'low'.

The habitat FOCI 'Peat and clay exposures' and 'Tide-swept channels' were both supported by 1 point derived from the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust. An absence of polygon data and the

occurrence of more than 1 habitat FOCI within the rMCZ means that a confidence of 'low' was given to both presence and extent to both features.

Polygon data derived from combined MESH/UKSeaMap polygons, MB0102, 'loS\_LG\_habitat\_poly\_NewIntersect' and 'loS\_Zostera\_Marina\_2008\_simp\_MCZ' supported the presence of the habitat FOCI 'Seagrass beds'. 35 points were present within the habitat FOCI polygons, of which 30 (87%) were in agreement with the habitat FOCI type. As such, confidence in the presence of this feature was confirmed by anecdotal evidence and therefore categorised as 'moderate', whilst extent was also considered to be 'moderate' as the data points covered more than 50% of the feature well but the mapping provided in the reports was of insufficient resolution to score any higher.

The occurrence of the species '*Haliclystus auricula*' was supported by 11 points derived from the Regional Project-FS, MB0102 and Cornwall Wildlife Trust surveys. Whilst 5 of these points were collected by specialists, only 2 were less than 6 years old. As such, confidence in the presence of this species was categorised as 'moderate', and confidence in the extent of the species was categorised as 'high'. However, the confidence score assigned to extent was reduced to 'moderate' to reflect the moderate confidence score assigned to the presence of this feature.

The occurrence of the species '*Lucernariopsis campanulata*' was supported by 6 points derived from Regional Projects-FS and MB0102. All of these points were more than 12 years old, and therefore, confidence in both the presence and extent of this species was categorised as 'low'.

The majority of features are not considered highly sensitive to any pressures considered within the MB0102 sensitivity X pressures matrix and hence confidences in condition, based on this, are assessed as low. Seagrass beds are considered to be sensitive (with moderate or high confidence) to pressures resulting from human activities by project MB0102. *Haliclystus auricula* was considered to be sensitive (by project MB0102) to a number of pressures caused by human activities. This species is sensitive to fishing activities that disturb the seabed and these were indicated by evidence gathered through Charting Progress 2 to occur across the site. Confidence in condition is therefore assessed as 'moderate' for both features.

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.