

Hilbre Island Group (RMCZ14) Evidence Review

Region	Irish Seas	
Site Name/number	Hilbre Island Group rMCZ ISCZ14	
ENG Features present and proposed for inclusion within MCZ designation	BSH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -
	Habitat FOCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Mussel beds (including intertidal beds on mixed and sandy sediments) Peat and clay exposures.
	Species FOCI	-
ENG Features present but not proposed for inclusion within MCZ designation	BSH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate energy intertidal rock Intertidal sand and muddy sand Moderate energy infralittoral rock Subtidal sand Subtidal mud.
	Habitat FOCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estuarine rocky habitats Honeycomb worm <i>Sabellaria alveolata</i> reefs.
	Species FOCI	-
Non-ENG Features (Geological/geomorphological)		-

Evidence Summary – data provided by Regional MCZ Projects

Feature	Evidence Summary	Key Sources
Blue Mussel beds (including intertidal beds on mixed and sandy sediments)	Multiple data polygons from project MB0102 (available I.D. MPALAYERS000208 and GB000286). One validating datapoint sourced from MESH/MB0102 (Sample I.D. JNCCMNCR10305315).	MB0102 MESH/MB0102
Peat and clay exposures	One data polygon from project MB0102 (I.D. MPALAYERS000208, no MESH confidence score).	MB0102

Description of New Evidence Identified by MB0116 project

Evidence Description	Source	Feature
The Dee Estuary Biotope Survey 2004/2005. Report to English Nature.	IECS, 2005.	Peat and clay exposures

Evidence That Could Not Be Acquired by MB0116 project

No new evidence was identified

Confidence Assessment undertaken by MB0116 project

Feature	Presence	Extent	Condition	Boundaries (site)
Blue Mussel beds (including intertidal beds on mixed and sandy sediments)	Low	Low	Low	Low
Peat and clay exposures	Low	Low	Low	

Evidence for the presence of the habitat feature 'blue mussel beds' was provided by polygon data and a single datapoint, this verifying datapoint did not coincide with the area covered by data polygons, hence confidence in presence and extent was based primarily on polygon data and was assessed as 'low'.

Similarly there were no verifying datapoints for the 'peat and clay exposures' habitat feature within this rMCZ and anecdotal evidence "patches of consolidated clay were recorded" however the report lacks sufficient spatial description therefore the confidence score for both presence and extent was assessed as 'low'.

The condition assessment for all the features was based on a Vulnerability Assessment and could not be improved beyond a 'low' confidence score. Although peat and clay exposures were considered sensitive by project MB0102 to some human activities, the low confidence in presence and extent mean that confidence in condition could only be assessed as 'low'.

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