

Rock Unique (NG 15) Evidence Review

Region	Net Gain	
Site Name/number	Rock Unique NG 15	
ENG Features present and proposed for inclusion within MCZ designation	BSH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low energy circalittoral rock • Subtidal coarse sediment • Subtidal sand
	Habitat FOCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subtidal sands and gravels
	SOCI	-
ENG Features present but not proposed for inclusion within MCZ designation	BSH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate energy circalittoral rock
	Habitat FOCI	-
	SOCI	-
Non-ENG Features (Geological/geomorphological)		-

Evidence Summary – data provided by Regional MCZ Projects

Feature	Evidence Summary	Key Sources
Low energy circalittoral rock	The occurrence of this broad-scale habitat was supported by 1 Combined MESH/UKSeaMap GB001055 polygon and 1 UKSeaMap GB001055 polygon. No point data were available.	UKSeaMap Combined MESH/UKSeaMap
Subtidal coarse sediment	The occurrence of this broad-scale habitat was supported by 3 Combined MESH/UKSeaMap GB001055 polygons and 3 UKSeaMap GB001055 polygons. No point data were available.	UKSeaMap Combined MESH/UKSeaMap
Subtidal sand	The occurrence of this broad-scale habitat was supported by 2 Combined MESH/UKSeaMap GB001055 polygons and 2 UKSeaMap GB001055 polygons. Point data was also available from one location, derived from the Cefas survey CIR 5B/01.	UKSeaMap Combined MESH/UKSeaMap
Subtidal sands and gravels	The occurrence of this habitat FOCI was supported by polygon data derived from 3 Combined MESH/UKSeaMap GB001055 polygons, 3 UKSeaMap GB001055 polygons and 1 MB0102 BGS modelled subtidal sands and gravels polygon. In total, 2 point records were available within the rMCZ in support of the habitat FOCI. These were derived from projects: MB0102 and Cefas.	MB0102 Combined MESH/UKSeaMap UKSeaMap Cefas

Description of New Evidence Identified by MB0116 project

Evidence Description	Source	Feature
Whomersley, P., Ware, S., Whybrow, M., May, K. 2012. Rock Unique rMCZ Survey Report.	Cefas report project code C5650	Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal sand Subtidal sands and gravels
Point data was also available from one location, derived from the Cefas survey CIR 5B/01.	Cefas	Subtidal sand Subtidal sands and gravels

Evidence That Could Not Be Acquired by MB0116 project

Evidence Description	Source	Feature
Dyer, M.F., Fry, W.G., Fry, P.D. & Cranmer, G.J. 1983. Benthic regions within the North Sea. Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom. 63(03) 683-693.	MartinDyer@unicomarine.com Or http://www.mba.ac.uk/nmb/	Unknown
BGS survey point data	BGS/JNCC	Low energy circalittoral rock Subtidal coarse sediment Subtidal sand Subtidal sands and gravels
Cefas habitat points	Cefas	Low energy circalittoral rock

Confidence Assessment undertaken by MB0116 project

Feature	Presence	Extent	Condition	Boundaries (site)
Low energy circalittoral rock	Low	Low	Low	Low
Subtidal coarse sediment	Low	Low	Low	
Subtidal sand	Moderate	Moderate	Low	
Subtidal sands and gravels	Moderate	Moderate	Low	

The occurrence of the broad-scale habitats 'low energy circalittoral rock' was supported by predictive modelled data (UKSeaMap) only. There was a lack of point data for verification and a lack of supporting predictive modelled data, meaning that confidence in the presence and extent this habitat was 'low'.

The occurrence of the broad-scale habitat 'subtidal coarse sediment' was supported by predictive modelled data (UKSeaMap) while the MESH data had no confidence score. Anecdotal evidence only gives a preliminary observation of sediment type however does

support the presence of the feature. As only one sample overlaps the polygons a low score is all that can be achieved for both the presence and extent of this habitat.

The occurrence of the broad-scale habitat 'subtidal sand' was supported by predictive modelled data (UKSeaMap) and one survey point, derived from CIR 5B/01. Anecdotal evidence gives a preliminary observation of sediment type however it does support the presence of the feature polygons therefore a 'Moderate' score was achieved for both presence and extent.

The occurrence of the habitat FOCI 'subtidal sands and gravels' was supported by polygon data, derived from MESH and MB0102, as well as non-conflicting predictive modelled data (UKSeaMap) and 2 datapoints from Cefas. Anecdotal evidence gives a preliminary observation of sediment type however it does support the presence of the feature polygons therefore a 'Moderate' score was achieved for both presence and extent.

The condition assessment for all features was based on a Vulnerability Assessment and could not be improved beyond a 'low' confidence score. Similarly, the confidence assessment in the boundary of the site was classified as low primarily because the site boundary was not closely aligned to the boundary of the individual features.