

Annex B2 Recommended Marine Conservation Zones (rMCZs) features (Finding Sanctuary)

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1 Broad-scale habitats¹

Broad-scale habitat type	Total area of habitat in the Finding Sanctuary Project Area	Area of habitat in the rMCZ network	
	km ²	km ²	% of total
High-energy intertidal rock	7	4	57.1
Moderate-energy intertidal rock	5	0.9	18.0
Low-energy intertidal rock	3	0.4	13.3
Intertidal coarse sediments	19	4	21.0
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	12	1	8.3
Intertidal mud	170	20	11.8
Intertidal mixed sediments	5	2	40.0
Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds ¹	3	<1	13.3
Intertidal sediments dominated by aquatic angiosperms	<1	<1	50.0
Intertidal biogenic reefs	<1	<1	20.0
High-energy infralittoral rock	727	61	8.4
Moderate-energy infralittoral rock	314	13	4.2
Low-energy infralittoral rock	8	0.5	6.3
High-energy circalittoral rock	1,293	48	3.7
Moderate-energy circalittoral rock	18,788	1,931	10.3
Low-energy circalittoral rock ²	4	0	0.0
Sub-tidal coarse sediment	28,638	4,871	17.0
Sub-tidal sand	33,622	6,762	20.1
Sub-tidal mud	6,303	1,210	19.2
Sub-tidal mixed sediments	3,568	505	14.2
Sub-tidal macrophyte-dominated sediment	20	1	5.0
Sub-tidal biogenic reefs ³	0	0	0.0

¹ This overlaps with the habitat 'coastal saltmarsh', which is not listed in the Ecological Network Guidance (ENG) (JNCC & Natural England, 2011) as a habitat of conservation importance but has been included in the figures provided in the national gap analysis.

² Low-energy circalittoral rock has a very limited distribution in the south-west region.

³ There is no mapped data showing sub-tidal biogenic reefs mapped as broad-scale habitats; however, areas of *Sabellaria* reef and blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) bed have been captured as habitat features of conservation importance (FOCI).

¹ Please note that this is a summary document. Please refer to the Finding Sanctuary *Final Report and Recommendations* document for full details (Lieberknecht and others, 2011).

2 Features of conservation importance – habitats

Habitat	Coverage of the feature in the rMCZ network	
	Number of occurrences	Area (km ²)
Blue mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) beds	1	–
Cold-water coral reefs	–	–
Coral gardens	–	–
Deep-sea sponge aggregations	–	–
Estuarine rocky habitats	23	<0.01
File shell (<i>Limaria hians</i>) beds	–	–
Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on sub-tidal rocky habitats	1	–
Intertidal underboulder communities	8	–
Littoral chalk communities	–	–
Maerl beds	–	1
Horse mussel (<i>Modiolus modiolus</i>) beds	–	–
Mud habitats in deep water	29	101
Sea pens and burrowing megafauna communities	–	–
Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>) beds	–	–
Peat and clay exposures	1	–
Honeycomb worm (<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>) reefs	3	–
Ross worm (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>) reefs	–	–
Seagrass beds	9	2
Sheltered muddy gravels	–	0.07
Sub-tidal chalk	4	–
Sub-tidal sands and gravels	–	10,665
Tide-swept channels	7	–

Note: – indicates that there are no records of the feature within the rMCZ network.

3 Features of conservation importance – species

Species	Number of records
<i>Alkmaria romijni</i> (tentacled lagoon-worm)	1
<i>Amphianthus dohrnii</i> (sea-fan anemone)	17
<i>Arctica islandica</i> (ocean quahog)	9
<i>Armandia cirrhosa</i> (lagoon sand worm)	–
<i>Atrina pectinata</i> (fan mussel)	–
<i>Caecum armoricum</i> (DeFolin's lagoon snail)	–
<i>Cruoria cruoriaeformis</i> (burgundy maerl paint weed)	3
<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i> (pink sea-fan)	119
<i>Gammarus insensibilis</i> (lagoon sand shrimp)	–
<i>Gitanopsis bispinosa</i> (amphipod shrimp)	–
<i>Gobius cobitis</i> (giant goby)	14
<i>Gobius couchi</i> (Couch's goby)	2
<i>Grateloupia montagnei</i> (Grateloup's little-lobed weed)	3
<i>Haliclystus auricular</i> (kaleidoscope jellyfish)	23
<i>Hippocampus guttulatus</i> (long-snouted seahorse)	2
<i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i> (short-snouted seahorse)	2
<i>Hippocampus</i> sp. ¹ (seahorse)	–
<i>Leptopsammia pruvoti</i> (sunset cup coral)	2
<i>Lithothamnion corallioides</i> (coral maerl)	–
<i>Lucernariopsis campanulata</i> (stalked jellyfish)	7
<i>Lucernariopsis cruxmelitensis</i> (St John's jellyfish)	3
<i>Nematostella vectensis</i> (starlet sea anemone)	–
<i>Ostrea edulis</i> (native oyster)	22
<i>Padina pavonica</i> (peacock's tail)	8
<i>Palinurus elephas</i> (spiny lobster)	25
<i>Paludinella littorina</i> (sea snail)	7
<i>Phymatolithon calcareum</i> (common maerl)	1
<i>Pollicipes pollicipes</i> (gooseneck barnacle)	–
<i>Tenellia adpersa</i> (lagoon sea slug)	–
<i>Victorella pavida</i> ² (trembling sea mat)	102

¹ Polygon data for the distribution of seahorses in the south-west as provided by the Seahorse Trust (local knowledge).

Annex B from Finding Sanctuary, Irish Seas Conservation Zones, Net Gain and Balanced Seas. 2012. *Impact Assessment materials in support of the Regional Marine Conservation Zone Projects' Recommendations*.

² Records of *Victorella pavida* (trembling sea mat) technically fall outside the study area. As Swanpool is the only location in the UK where this species is found, it has been considered as a suitable location for a potential rMCZ Reference Area.

Note: ' – ' indicates that there are no records of the feature within the rMCZ network.

4 References

JNCC & Natural England 2010. *The Ecological Network Guidance* . Peterborough: Natural England

Lieberknecht, L., Hooper, T., Mullier, T., Murphy, A., Neilly, M., Carr, H., Haines, R., Lewin, S., Hughs, E. 2011. *Finding Sanctuary Final Report and Recommendations*. A report submitted by the Finding Sanctuary stakeholder project to Defra, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, and Natural England. Available at www.finding-sanctuary.org / The UK National Archives <http://tna.europarchive.com/http://www.finding-sanctuary.org/>