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For further information about Marine Nature Reserves contact DEFA Fisheries on: 01624 685857 fisheries@gov.im or use the QR Code.

<https://www.gov.im/protectedsites>

Point ASSI
is: **Port St Mary Ledges and Callow**
protected area to Call and Wart Bank MNR
The nearest **The Calf and Sound** @ Lara Howe



NNRs are areas protected via specific byelaws to ensure that reserve visitors behave responsibly.

ASSIs are areas of private or public land whose owners/occupiers require consent from DEFA before undertaking activities that may damage its special features. **All coastal ASSIs are accessible to the public.**

Around the Manx coast there are a number of Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) and a National Nature Reserve (NNR). These designated areas of land, which include the intertidal zone, have legal protection due to their special fauna, flora, geological or physical features.

Additional Protected Areas

Please be considerate to wildlife and other people and take your tackle litter home or put it in a bin.

Fishing Litter

Although you don't need a licence for saltwater angling remember to observe minimum landing sizes for each species. These are displayed on boards at all main harbours or find them online, along with other useful fishing information at: www.gov.im/recreationalfishing

Does Your Catch Measure Up?

Amenities: Located at the south of the island you'll find parking plus a cafe and visitor centre. Further facilities are available in Port St Mary and Port Erin.

Location: The Calf Sound and the Calf of Man
Type: Shore and boat fishing

can be found in the village centre.
Amenities: Ample car parking near to the breakwater and at Bradda Glen where you'll find a restaurant. Shops, eateries, pubs and public toilets

Location: Port Erin Bay and Bradda Head
Type: Shore fishing

The best time for sea fishing is between April and September with plankton populations blooming in the warmer months. This attracts sand eels, shoals of mackerel, herring, pollack, cod, grey mullet, and tope. There is good bass fishing up to the end of October and in winter you're likely to find codling, saithe and dogfish in Manx waters.

Information For Anglers

- Seabirds (year round)
- Chough (year round)
- Peregrine falcon (year round)
- Risso's dolphins (mostly summer)
- Grey and common seals (year round)

Other Species to Spot

Calf of Man and Wart Bank Marine Nature Reserve

Kemmyrk Bea-Varrey'n Cholloo as ny Wartyn

Why Protect the Marine Environment?

The past 50 years have seen global declines in the health of our seas, which not only reduces species and habitats, but also the economic and social benefits we enjoy.

Threats to the marine environment include habitat loss, pollution, invasive species, over-fishing and climate change.

By protecting areas of the sea as marine nature reserves we can conserve and restore healthy habitats and provide refuges for spawning and nursery grounds to help replenish the areas outside.

This helps maintain commercial and recreational fisheries, with Ramsey Bay MNR being a good example of how conservation and careful management can boost stocks of king and queen scallops over time.

Linked with the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man, the designation and careful management of MNRs can lead to the sustainable development of coastal areas; enhancing our experiences, economy and tourist appeal.

The Isle of Man territorial sea is a shared resource used by commercial fishermen, recreational anglers a wide variety of commercial, leisure and scientific interests, as well as the Manx community.

People who use the sea regularly have a wealth of knowledge which can complement the scientific information collected by DEFA and our partner organisations and we welcome input from anyone with information, ideas and experiences to share.

How to get more involved with your local Marine Nature Reserve



Spotter Sheets

Download a 'species spotter sheet' for each MNR from our website and use it when exploring your local Marine Nature Reserve. The QR code on this leaflet will take you there, or use: www.gov.im/MNR



#MyManxMNR

Share your MNR experiences and the wonderful world of everything marine by submitting your images online using the hashtag **#MyManxMNR**



Blueways Trails

The Blueways Trails offer a sense of what goes on around the Isle of Man's seas and shorelines by providing multi-activity exploration of our historic and diverse coast. On land, on and under the water; from snorkel safaris to maritime history, from wildlife watching to geology, there is much to discover on the Blueways.

<https://www.visitisleofman.com/blog/read/2020/07/discover-the-islands-blueways-b98>



Raad ny Foillan

Manx Gaelic for 'The way of the gull'; take a wander along the island's coastal footpath. At almost 160km/100 miles in length it's the perfect way to see our coastline. Details can be found here: <https://www.visitisleofman.com/see-and-do/active-and-adventure/walking-and-hiking/raad-ny-foillan-coastal-path>

Marine Nature Reserves (MNRs)

What is a Marine Nature Reserve?

Marine Nature Reserves (MNRs) are a type of marine protected area, usually established to conserve particular species and habitats, or enable their recovery, and where the most damaging activities and impacts are excluded. Marine Protected Areas are a well-established method for achieving these objectives and have been successfully used worldwide.

Manx Marine Nature Reserves

There are 10 MNRs around the Isle of Man, forming a network that has been developing since 1989. Some areas, such as the first protected site, at Port Erin, and Ramsey Bay Marine Nature Reserve, have been well-studied and are examples of how conservation can benefit the marine environment and commercial and recreational fisheries. Manx MNRs now cover 430km², around 52% of the 0-3 nautical mile area, or 11% of the whole territorial sea.

Calf of Man and Wart Bank MNR

The Calf of Man and Wart Bank MNR is 20.15km², or 2.4% of the 0-3nm inshore zone, and the Calf itself is one of 20 official Bird Observatories around the British Isles. The Calf is a familiar sight from the south of the Island, but access is difficult and with only 2 part-time wardens, it's perhaps the Island's wildest and most isolated area. As a result, the Calf is primarily for wildlife and the surrounding current-swept sea delivers a rich food supply which supports great biodiversity and some of the Island's best scuba diving. The MNR also includes the important Wart Bank, a submerged sandbank which is home to various fish species, including sandeels. The Calf of Man is owned by Manx National Heritage.



Calf of Man and Wart Bank Marine Nature Reserve

The Calf of Man and Wart Bank MNR extends from the Calf Sound, around the Calf to a maximum of one nautical mile from the shore. An extension to the east of the Calf provides protection for Wart Bank, an important sand bank feature associated with sand eels which are vital food for fish, marine mammals and birds. Kitterland (an islet between the island and the Calf) is an important haul out for grey seals.

Important habitats within Calf of Man and Wart Bank MNR

Rocky reef • Sandbanks • Kelp forest • Sea caves



Rocky reef © Chris Wood

Sandbanks

These are submerged, soft-sediment habitats that are moved by the tide and waves forming mounds and ripples on the sea floor. Limited species can cope with this mobile environment, however sand eels are one of the few that can tolerate these conditions and are an important food source for many seabird species, such as puffins and razorbills, and also whales and dolphins.



Kelp forest © Lara Howe

Kelp forests

Kelp seaweeds grow close to shore creating underwater forests. They have similar structures to terrestrial plants; the holdfast (like a root), stipe (like a stem) and blades (like leaves), and establish on hard rock surfaces which they anchor to with the holdfast. Kelp provide a 3D habitat for a diverse range of species; worms, molluscs and crustaceans hide in the holdfast and the blades host bryozoans, juvenile fish and other seaweeds that colonise the surface. Kelp also plays an important role in marine foodwebs, providing a food source for fish, urchins and the beautiful blue-rayed limpet.

Manx shearwaters

Manx shearwaters are ground nesting seabirds that breed on the Calf. Records of Manx shearwaters date back to the Vikings and the birds were once present in large numbers. They have declined rapidly and almost became locally extinct due to the introduction of brown rats from a ship wreck. Since the establishment of a Bird Observatory in 1959, monitoring of their breeding has continued and in 2012 the Manx Shearwater Recovery Project was started to eradicate rats from the Calf of Man. As a result Manx Shearwater numbers have increased significantly.



Manx shearwater © Richard Cope

MNR General Restrictions

- No mobile fishing gear (dredge or trawl)
- No seabed extraction or deposit of materials
- No damage to protected habitats or species

Important species within Calf of Man and Wart Bank MNR

Common & grey seals • Risso's dolphins • Kelp • Crayfish • Sand eels Puffins and Manx Shearwaters • Minke whale



Female grey seal © Lara Howe

Basking sharks

The basking shark is the second-largest fish in the world, feeding on zooplankton (small crustaceans, larvae and fish eggs) that it filters from the water with its gills. As their Manx name, *Gobbag Vooar* (big mouth) suggests they can strain up to 2000 tonnes of water per hour. Basking sharks have a worldwide distribution and search out plankton blooms in Manx waters from mid-May to the beginning of September.



Basking shark feeding ©Anders Salesjo

Calf of Man Bird Observatory

The Bird Observatory was established in 1959, as part of a wider Great British long-term monitoring of bird populations and migration. It is run by two Manx Wildlife Trust wardens and a host of volunteers from March to November. Since it started over 280 species of birds have been recorded with 60 species breeding there. In addition, it is home to a diverse variety of non-avian native wildlife.



Calf Bird Observatory © Lara Howe