

Langness Marine Nature Reserve

Kemmyrk Bea-Varrey Langlish



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.

**DEFA, Thie Sileau Whallian, Foxidale Road
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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>

Derbyhaven and Sandwick ASSI and Poyll Vaish Coast ASSI.

Langness, Langness, Langness
MNR are: to Langness protected areas
The nearest protected areas to Langness are areas protected via specific byelaws to ensure visitors behave responsibly.



NNRs are areas protected via specific byelaws to ensure visitors behave responsibly. The nearest protected areas to Langness are areas protected via specific byelaws to ensure visitors behave responsibly.

ASSI 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.**

Additional Protected Areas

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.



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>

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

Fishing Litter
www.gov.im/recreationalfishing
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?

Location: Port Soderick
Type: Shore fishing
Amenities: Free parking is available but the nearest amenities, such as cafes and toilets, are a short distance away in Douglas or Castletown.

Location: Castletown and Scarlett
Type: Shore fishing
Amenities: Free car parking is either in Castletown or at Scarlett. You'll also find cafes, pubs, and shops within Castletown. Toilets are located in the Commissioners building in Castletown square.

Information For Anglers
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.

Other Species to Spot

- Over-wintering wading birds
- Kelp forests
- Harbour porpoise (year round)
- Grey seals (year round)
- Risso's dolphins (mostly summer)

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.

Langness MNR

Langness MNR is 88.67km², or 10.67% of the 0-3nm inshore zone, and is the third largest MNR. It provides a home to a diversity of species and habitats. It includes Derbyhaven, the island's only intertidal mud habitat, a rich area for burrowing invertebrates and therefore an important feeding ground for many wading bird species, especially during the winter. It also includes an area of limestone resulting in a small cave system and a dense area of eelgrass between Fort Island and the peninsula.



Langness Marine Nature Reserve

Langness MNR extends from Santon Head to Castletown Bay, out to 3nm, and is adjacent to Langness, Derbyhaven and Sandwick ASSIs. It is an important place for wading seabirds and resting seals, and home to some special species including the grooved topshell (*Jujubinus striatus*) and another mollusc, the bivalve *Loripes lucinalis*, which has bacteria in its cells that converts carbon dioxide into organic compounds; another species helping to combat climate change.

Important habitats within Langness MNR

Rocky reef • Kelp forest • Eelgrass beds • Intertidal muds • Maerl beds



Grooved topshell © Lara Howe

Eelgrass meadow

Eelgrass or seagrass (*Zostera marina*) is a marine flowering plant, growing between 5-12m depth. The grooved topshell (*Jujubinus striatus*) was found here in 2019 by Seasearch divers. Only 10mm high, it was last recorded by Edward Forbes in 1838, and is thought to be the most northerly sighting of the species, as it is typically found in the Mediterranean.

Intertidal muds

Derbyhaven is the only place on the island where intertidal muds can be found. Its sediments are full of burrowing invertebrates, which provide important feeding habitat for wading birds, including over-wintering species such as ringed plover, curlew, whimbrel, teal, wigeon, Brent goose, redshank, dunlin and sanderling. However, it is important to ensure these species are not disturbed by walkers and dogs; remember, every disturbance flight uses energy, which add up over a day, so try not to get too close!



Kelp forest © Lara Howe

Sea caves

This series of small, shallow subtidal caves are located at the end of Ronaldsway airport. There are two main circular chambers with small openings in the roof, and the walls are covered in a diverse array of encrusting sponges and sea squirts. Kelp and other seaweeds can be seen in the areas where the light reaches through the roof openings. It is thought that this area is an important nursery site for lobsters.

MNR General Restrictions

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

Important species within Langness MNR

Basking sharks • Common and grey seals • Risso's dolphins

Wading birds • Harbour porpoise

European eels • Dog whelk • Iceland clam



Female grey seal © Lara Howe

Atlantic grey seal

Grey seals are the most common species of seal in Manx waters, with a large proportion of their population found on the seaward side of the peninsula. They can be seen year round and give birth to white pups in the Autumn. They often follow divers around when diving in the gully between the peninsula and Fort Island.

Risso's dolphins

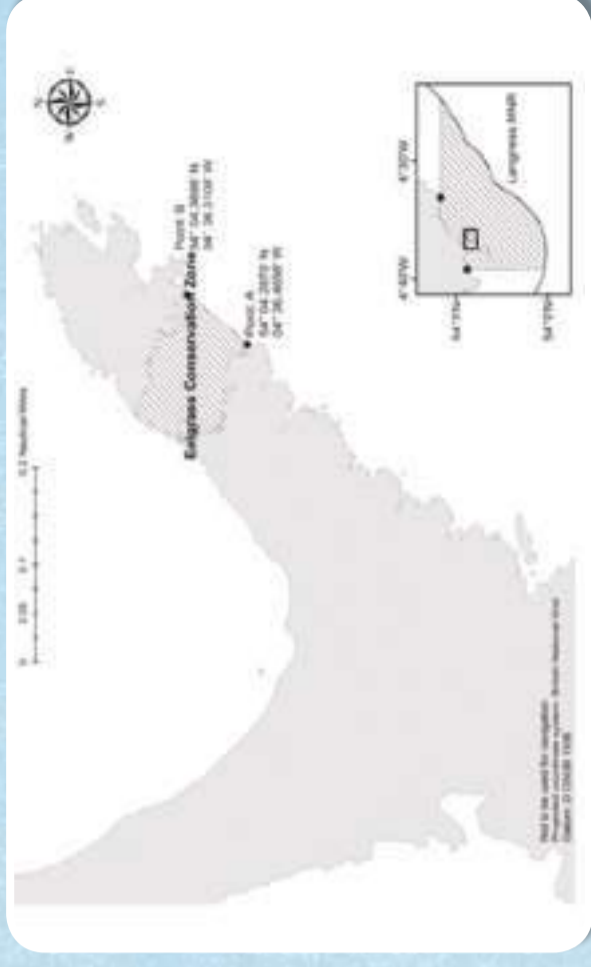
The best time to see Risso's dolphins is the summer. They are a deep-water species but also seem to enjoy the shallow coastal waters of the island, feeding on squid and octopus. Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch have been monitoring their numbers through photo ID and estimate we have a large visiting population. Calves have also been spotted, suggesting it's a safe nursery area for this species.



Risso's dolphins © Eleanor Stone

Eelgrass Conservation zone

Eelgrass forms meadows that provide habitats for crabs, lobster and various fish and molluscs. These meadows also provide a range of human benefits including reducing coastal erosion, reducing the impact of waves and acting as a marine carbon store, also known as 'Blue Carbon'. Eelgrass requires clear, shallow water and shelter to grow, which is why it is only located in the gully. The tide outside is too strong for it to become established.



Derbyhaven sea cave © Lara Howe

Eelgrass Conservation Zone at Fort Island Gully, Langness MNR © DEFA