

Baie ny Carrickey Marine Nature Reserve

Kemmyrk Bea-Varrey Baie ny Carrickey



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, The Sileau Whallian, Foxdale Road St. John's, Isle of Man, IM4 3AS

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>

are: **Port St Mary Ledges and Callow Point ASSI and Poyll Vaish Coast ASSI.**

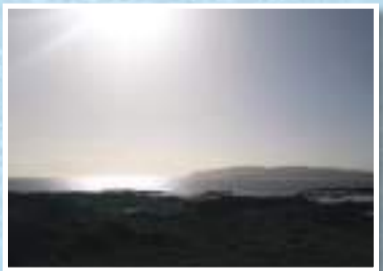
Baie ny Carrickey from north
© Peter Duncan
Carrickey MNR



NNRs are areas protected via specific byelaws to ensure that reserve visitors behave responsibly. The nearest protected areas are **Port St Mary Ledges and Callow Point ASSI and Poyll Vaish Coast ASSI.** **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.**

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.



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>

Information For Anglers

- Seabirds (year round)
- Bottlenose dolphins (mostly winter)
- Basking sharks (May-September)
- Grey seals (year round)
- Risso's dolphins (mostly summer)

Other Species to Spot

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: Perwick Bay
Type: Shore fishing

Location: Port St Mary breakwater
Type: Shore fishing

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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.

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Marine Nature Reserves (MNRs)

What is a Marine Nature Reserve?

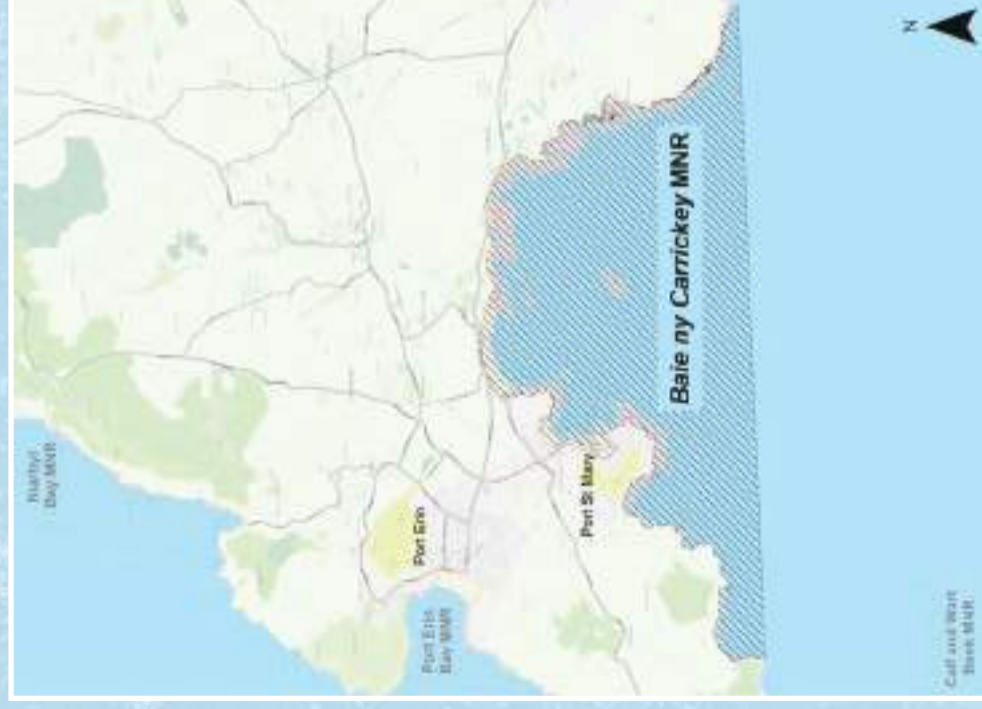
Marine Nature Reserves (MNRs) are a type of marine protected area, usually established to conserve particular species and habitats, or enable their recovery, and where the most damaging activities and impacts are excluded. Marine Protected Areas are a well-established method for achieving these objectives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

Baie ny Carrickey MNR

Baie ny Carrickey MNR covers an area of 11.37 km² and was originally established as a fishery-restricted area in 2012 to reduce gear conflict between scallopers and pot fishermen and protect rocky reefs. The bay actually hosts a wide range of habitats, from rocky-kelp reef and limestone pavement, to sea caves, sand, gravel and eelgrass. These diverse habitats support a wide range of species, enabling the development of complex food chains, which are important for the marine mammals, basking sharks and seabirds that also live in the bay. The MNR includes the Sugarloaf and Chasms area, which is the most important breeding site for guillemots, kittiwakes and razorbills around the island.



Baie ny Carrickey Marine Nature Reserve

Baie ny Carrickey MNR extends from Black Head to Scarlett Point, encompassing the whole bay. The coast is used by a wide variety of seabirds that forage in the area. It was closed to mobile fishing in 2012 which was subsequently made permanent. Since the initial closure of the bay additional features of conservation importance have been identified, most notably an eelgrass bed near Gansey Point. During habitat surveys in 2015 further conservation features were identified, including maerl beds.

Important habitats within Baie ny Carrickey MNR

Rocky reef • Sea caves and stacks • Kelp forest • Eelgrass



Rocky Reef © Chris Wood

Sea caves

On the west side of Baie ny Carrickey MNR, Sugarloaf Rock and coastal sea caves demonstrate the impressive diversity of the island. The marine sea caves can be accessed by kayak and diving during calm days and boast an abundance of hydroids, anemones, sponges and sea squirts on the sea walls. Sugarloaf is a particularly important nesting spot for Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*), Common Guillemots (*Uria aalge*) and Razorbills (*Alca torda*). All three species are listed as Birds of Conservation Concern in the Isle of Man.



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.



Eelgrass © Fiona Gell

Eelgrass meadow

Eelgrass (or seagrass) is a marine flowering plant, growing between 5-12m depth and forming meadows that provide habitat for crabs, lobster and various fish and molluscs. Eelgrass meadows provide a range of human benefits including reducing coastal erosion by stabilising sediment, reducing the impact of wave action and acting as a carbon store. The eelgrass meadow off Gansey Point was only discovered by divers in 2014.

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 Baie ny Carrickey MNR

Basking sharks • Kittiwake • Guillemots • Puffin • Razorbills • Kelp • Risso's dolphin • Harbour porpoise • Grey seals • Eel grass



Guillemots © Lara Howe

Guillemots

Guillemots spend most of their life at sea, only coming ashore to breed. The sea cliffs within this MNR provide an ideal habitat for nesting. The Sugarloaf is one of the main breeding colonies on the island for guillemots and other seabirds, and the colony there has increased from around 707 individuals in 1985-86 to around 3,988 in 2017. Sadly this is not the case around the British Isles with many colonies in decline.

Kittiwakes

Kittiwake, a type of gull, is another bird that nests on the Sugarloaf stack in summer. The remainder of the year is spent at sea. Their name comes from the calls they make, *Kittee-wa-aake*. They can lay up to two eggs, producing a fluffy white chick. The Sugarloaf colony first appeared in 1969 and numbers have fluctuated over the years since the first census was completed in 1986. Generally, kittiwake colony numbers are declining, and they are a Bird of Conservation Concern on the Island.



Kittiwake © Graham Makepeace-Warne



Razorbills at Sugarloaf © Lara Howe

Razorbills

Although less numerous than kittiwakes and guillemots, these stocky, thick-billed auks also nest on sea cliffs. They are found across the North Atlantic but are one of the rarer species of auk. Both parents incubate the egg and feed the chick with fish caught by swimming underwater to depths of 20m. Manx and wider populations have fluctuated over the years and their status is mixed, with some colonies increasing whilst others have declined.

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