

## Other Species to Spot

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

## 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.

### 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.

### 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.

## Does Your Catch Measure Up?

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](http://www.gov.im/recreationalfishing)

## Fishing Litter

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

## 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.

**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.**

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

The nearest protected areas to Langness MNR are:

**Langness, Derbyhaven and Sandwich ASSI and Poyll Vaaish Coast ASSI.**

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

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



**DEFA, Thie Slieau Whallian, Foxdale Road  
St. John's, Isle of Man, IM4 3AS**



Langness peninsula © Peter Duncan

# Langness Marine Nature Reserve

*Kemmyrk Bea-Varrey Langlish*

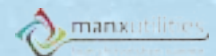


Reilys Eilan Vannin



**Manx  
Wildlife Trust**  
Treisht Bea-Feie  
Vannin

Leaflets proudly sponsored by:





# 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](http://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 430km<sup>2</sup>, around 52% of the 0-3 nautical mile area, or 11% of the whole territorial sea.

## Langness MNR

Langness MNR is 88.67km<sup>2</sup>, 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!



Whimbrel © Amy Lewis



Kelp forest © Lara Howe

**Kelp forests**  
Kelp seaweeds grow close to shore creating the equivalent of 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.



Derbyhaven sea cave © 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

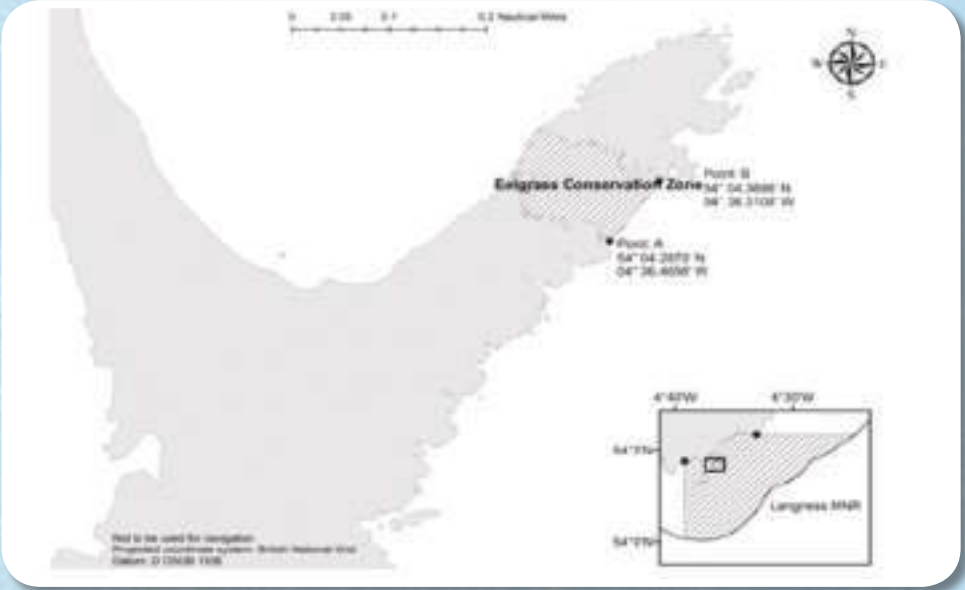
**Atlantic grey seal**  
Grey seals are the most common species of seal in Manx waters, with a large proportion of their population found on the seaward side of the peninsula. They can be seen year round and give birth to white pups in the Autumn. They often follow divers around when diving in the gully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



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