Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 10 April 2024
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United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Crown dependencies)

South East Coast of Jersey, Channel Islands

Designation date	10 November 2000
Site number	1043
Coordinates	49°09'39"N 02°02'23"W
Area	3 142,00 ha

https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/1043
Created by RSIS V.1.6 on - 10 April 2024

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

The South East Jersey Ramsar Site is located on the south-east coast of Jersey (Channel Islands) and extends from the port of St Helier to Gorey Harbour. It is considered the jewel in Jersey's crown being used extensively as part of island identity.

As well as the huge cultural and historic value of the area, its biological features make it stand out in the region. Being entirely sheltered from the force of the westerly winds and seas, but still serviced by 12m tides, strong sunlight hours and good nutrient input from the French river systems, the site is a biodiversity hotspot almost without comparison. It is amongst the largest and most biodiverse intertidal and shallow water reef sites in Western Europe, with a rich and diverse complex of intertidal and subtidal habitats, which support an abundance of animal life and at maximum spring tides an exposed shoreline in excess of 17.5 km2.

The range of habitats includes seaweed and animal turf reefs, boulder fields, muddy, sandy and shingle sediments, seagrass beds, kelp forests, Maerl beds, a constellation of shallow outlying reefs, and a large shallow tidal lagoon. There is a rich marine fauna, including uncommon species assemblages and various edge-of range, vulnerable or regionally scarce species. Large areas of key habitat are present for many species of fish and shellfish. The large, shallow, depositing, soft sediment bay and seagrass meadows provide important passage and wintering habitat for nationally important populations of waders and wildfowl, some of which occur in nationally important numbers, and several nesting bird colonies occur. The site is also used by one of the largest breeding Bottlenose dolphin Tursiops truncatus populations in the British Isles, a small breeding population of Grey seal Halichoerus grypus, and in winter by Harbour porpoise Phocoena phocoena.

The site is used for general recreation, boating and recreational fishing activities. It is also important for aquaculture production. Habitats and topographical features provide for many aspects of environmental resilience and multiple ecosystem services, including erosion control and the provision of shelter banks; storage, recycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients and carbon; biochemical and pollution regulation; and the provision of nursery and fisheries functions. The main threats are posed by dredging, pollution, over-fishing and harvesting, recreation and tourism, invasive non-native species, climate change.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	Department of the Environment, Government of Jersey
Postal address	Howard Davis Farm Trinity Jersey JE3 5JP

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Postal address	2 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DF

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2003
To year	2023

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	South East Coast of Jersey, Channel Islands

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary	Yes ○ No ◉
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	No change to area
(Update) For secretariat only: This update is an extension	☐

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?	No

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0

Boundaries description

The geographic coordinates for the centre point of the site are 49°09'N 02°02'W. It is located on the south-east coast of the island of Jersey, between the port of St. Helier on the south coast and Gorey harbour on the east coast.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Bailiwick of Jersey, Channel Islands
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	St Helier, Jersey

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries?	Yes ○ No ◉
b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party?	Yes ○ No ◉

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha): 3142

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 3142.021

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW)	South European Atlantic Shelf
Other scheme (provide name below)	Atlantic Ocean

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

The site falls within the Atlantic Ocean biogeographic region of Europe as defined by the European Environment Agency.

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

☑ Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Hydrological services provided	See section 4.5
Other ecosystem services provided	See section 4.5
Other reasons	The South East Coast of Jersey Ramsar site is an internationally important example of a large, near-natural, coastal ecosystem. It is representative of the European Atlantic marine ecoregion, has one of the largest tidal ranges in the world, and is amongst the largest intertidal reef sites in Europe. Over 60 biotopes have been recorded based on regional classifications (JNCC/EUNIS). The tidal zone contains a variety of habitats including rocky shores, boulder fields, mudflats, sandflats, seagrass bed and shingle shores not covered by water at low tide, whilst the sub-tidal zone supports a large shallow tidal lagoon, with beds of subtidal seagrass and Maerl under layered with clams. The extensive rocky shores, mudflats, sandflats and seagrass beds are of particular importance.

☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

The site supports one of the most biodiverse intertidal areas in Western Europe. A diverse range of subtidal and tidal habitats is present (see Criterion 1), including some uncommon species assemblages, and over 1000 marine species have been recorded, including scarce species within many phyla.

Extensive areas of shallow water habitat and intertidal pools are present, along with expansive rocky shores and reefs at varying elevations. These provide habitat and act as a nursery area to a wide range of fish and invertebrate species, including commercial species such as crabs and lobsters. The site also features a complex system of soft substrate gullies and a soft sediment bay with areas of seagrass meadow. These are important for a range of mollusc and worm species and provide important winter habitat for nationally important populations of waders and wildfowl.

The cold-water reefs host a high diversity of life and provide an edge of range habitat, where many southern and northern European marine species find their outer limit of tolerance. Thus, species such as the Green ormer Haliotis tuberculata, which are associated with warmer southern European waters and are rare or absent from British coasts, coexist with those normally associated with colder northern waters, such as the Beadlet anemone Actinia equina. A small number of species are listed as vulnerable under IUCN criteria or are regionally scarce, including the Five shilling shell Mactra glauca.

The site and surrounding area support a small population of breeding Grey seal Halichoerus grypus and one of the largest breeding populations of Bottlenose dolphin Tursiops truncatus in the British Isles. Harbour porpoise Phocoena phocoena frequent the site in winter.

It is also an important feeding and roosting location for passage and wintering wader and wildfowl species, some of which occur in nationally important numbers. Notable species include Brent geese Branta bernicla,, Eurasian curlew Numenius arquata, Grey plover Pluvialis squatarola, Little egret Egretta garzetta, Eurasian oystercatcher Haematopus ostralegus, Redshank Tringa totanus, Ringed plover Charadrius hiaticula and Ruddy turnstone Arenaria interpres. Part of the site falls within the Jersey Shoreline Important Bird Area, which is identified as an internationally important area for wintering waders and geese. Nesting birds include Eurasian oystercatcher Haematopus ostralegus, European shag Phalacrocorax aristotelis and Ringed plover Charadrius hiaticula.

☑ Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

Optional text box to provide further information

The site provides support for the critical life stages of many organisms. It is situated in the Normano Breton Gulf, which experiences huge diurnal movements of relatively warm, closed waters moved by a residual inshore anti-clockwise current around Jersey. This enhances local recruitment of many species of planktonic larvae, especially Crustacea.

The large areas of rocky shore within the site are important to many species, providing shelter, protection and food for both larval and adult stages. Likewise, the rich infaunal communities of the mud and sand flats are important for their range of mollusc and worm species. In turn, these areas form important nursery zones for shore birds and shallow sublittoral fish communities. Wide shallow gullies dividing the rocky platforms and seagrass beds also provide critical habitat for many other forms and stages of life, as do the extensive and diverse algal assemblages.

Different locations across the site provide important feeding and roosting locations for many species of wintering waders and wildfowl and there are several notable nesting bird colonies (see Criterion 3). The site is also used by a small breeding Grey seal Halichoerus grypus population and one of the largest breeding Bottlenose dolphin Tursiops truncatus populations in the British Isles.

End year: 0

☑ Criterion 8 : Fish spawning grounds, etc.

Justification: The site contains large areas of key habitat associated with the life stages of many species of fish and shellfish. Notable subtidal habitats include maerl beds, seagrass beds, Sandmason worm beds and other vegetated shallow marine areas; there is a large number of intertidal pools that provide habitat for many species of fish and several nearby headlands create sheltered inshore areas that favour the recruitment of planktonic larvae onto the extensive areas of rocky shore and water-filled soft sediment gullies. Over 100 fish species have been recorded from the site and adjacent waters, many of which take advantage of elevated summer water temperatures to feed and grow on the rich planktonic food supply before migrating in autumn to spawn in offshore waters. The species most frequently cited as breeding within the site are European seabass Dicentrarchus labrax and the Green ormer Haliotis tuberculata. It is likely that many other species typical of the regional waters utilise the site, such as Allis shad Allosa alosa, Twaite shad Alosa fallax, Giant goby Gobius cobitis, Short-snouted seahorse Hippocampus hippocampus, Common goby Pomatoschistus microps, and Sand goby Pomatoschistus minutus. Commercial invertebrates, such as King scallop, lobster, cuttlefish and various crab and marine mollusc species are also likely to breed in the area.

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Plantae								
RHODOPHYTA / FLORIDEOPHYCEAE	*Lithothamnion corallioides*	☐	☑	☑		☐	OSPAR list of threatened and/or declining habitats	Maerl Lithothamnion corallioides/Phymatolithon calcareum beds occur within the site forming an important complex habitat for early life stages of several species of mollusc and crustacean
RHODOPHYTA / FLORIDEOPHYCEAE	*Phymatolithon calcareum*	☐	☑	☑		☐	OSPAR list of threatened and/or declining habitats	Maerl Lithothamnion corallioides/Phymatolithon calcareum beds occur within the site forming an important complex habitat for early life stages of several species of mollusc and crustacean
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	*Zostera marina*	☐	☑	☑	LC	☐	OSPAR list of threatened and/or declining habitats	Large areas of seagrass Zostera marina/noltii occur within the reefs at the site; such beds are important as nursery areas for marine life and are internationally regarded as key habitats associated with biological diversity and environmental resilience
TRACHEOPHYTA / LILIOPSIDA	*Zostera noltii*	☐	☑	☑	LC	☐	OSPAR list of threatened and/or declining habitats	Large areas of seagrass Zostera marina/noltii occur within the reefs at the site; such beds are important as nursery areas for marine life and are internationally regarded as key habitats associated with biological diversity and environmental resilience

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Others																	

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Halichoerus grypus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	20	2020		LC	☐	☐	Protected under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021	Important component of biodiversity, notable breeding species, protected species status on Jersey
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Phocoena phocoena*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	200	2020		LC	☐	☐	Protected under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021	Important component of biodiversity, protected species status on Jersey
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Tursiops truncatus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	280	2020		LC	☐	☐	Protected under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021	Important component of biodiversity, notable breeding species, protected species status on Jersey
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																	
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Alosa alosa*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐	Protected under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021	Notable breeding fish species, protected species status on Jersey
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Alosa fallax*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐	Protected under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021	Notable breeding fish species, protected species status on Jersey
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Dicentrarchus labrax*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐		Notable breeding fish species
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Gobius cobitis*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑					☐	☐		Notable breeding fish species
MOLLUSCA / GASTROPODA	*Haliotis tuberculata*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	4000	2017		VU	☐	☐	Protected under the (Jersey) Ormer fishing and possession regulations	Important component of biodiversity, listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red list, notable breeding shellfish species, protected species status on Jersey
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Hippocampus hippocampus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑				DD	☐	☐	Protected under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021	Notable breeding fish species, protected species on Jersey
ARTHROPODA / MALACOSTRACA	*Homarus gammarus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	10000	2020		LC	☐	☐		Notable breeding crustacean species
MOLLUSCA / BIVALVIA	*Mactra glauca*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	200	2016			☐	☐	Protected under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021	Important component of biodiversity, regionally scarce species, protected species status on Jersey
MOLLUSCA / BIVALVIA	*Pecten maximus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	20000	2020			☐	☐		Notable breeding shellfish species
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Pomatoschistus microps*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐		Notable breeding fish species
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Pomatoschistus minutus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐		Notable breeding fish species
MOLLUSCA / CEPHALOPODA	*Sepia officinalis*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐		Notable breeding marine mollusc species
Birds																	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Arenaria interpres*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Protected under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021, Listed on Jersey Birds of Conservation Concern (2011)	Important component of biodiversity, notable passage/wintering bird, protected species and Amber listed on Jersey
CHORDATA / AVES	*Branta bernicla*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Protected under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021, Listed on Jersey Birds of Conservation Concern (2011)	Important component of biodiversity, notable passage/wintering bird, protected species and Red listed on Jersey
CHORDATA / AVES	*Charadrius hiaticula*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Protected under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021, Listed on Jersey Birds of Conservation Concern (2011)	Important component of biodiversity, notable breeding species, protected species (including breeding and resting sites) and Red listed on Jersey
CHORDATA / AVES	*Egretta garzetta*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Protected under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021, Listed on Jersey Birds of Conservation Concern (2011), listed as Species of European Concern	Important component of biodiversity, notable passage/wintering bird, protected species (including breeding and resting sites) and Amber listed on Jersey

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA / AVES	*Haematopus ostralegus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☐	Protected under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021	Important component of biodiversity, notable breeding species, protected species (including breeding and resting sites) on Jersey
CHORDATA / AVES	*Numenius arquata*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				NT	☐	☐	Protected under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021, Listed on Jersey Birds of Conservation Concern (2011)	Important component of biodiversity, notable passage/wintering bird, protected species and Red listed on Jersey
CHORDATA / AVES	*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐					☐	☐	Protected under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021, Listed on Jersey Birds of Conservation Concern (2011), listed as Species of European Concern	Important component of biodiversity, notable breeding species, protected species (including breeding and resting sites) and Red listed on Jersey
CHORDATA / AVES	*Pluvialis squatarola*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Protected under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021, Listed on Jersey Birds of Conservation Concern (2011)	Important component of biodiversity, notable passage/wintering bird, protected species (including breeding and resting sites) and Amber listed on Jersey
CHORDATA / AVES	*Tringa totanus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Protected under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021, Listed on Jersey Birds of Conservation Concern (2011)	Important component of biodiversity, notable passage/wintering bird, protected species and Amber listed on Jersey

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

The population size for Bottlenose dolphin Tursiops truncates, Grey Seal Halichoerus grypus and Harbour porpoise Phocoena phocoena are approximate. The Five shilling shell Mactra glauca population represents one of a small number of locations where this species occurs in Channel Island waters. Green ormer Haliotis tuberculata is at the northern end of its range on Jersey and has been heavily exploited across southern Europe. The population sizes for breeding birds are approximate and highly vulnerable to disturbance from rising tourist numbers during the breeding season.

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Kelp forests	☐	See below	See below
Seagrass/Zostera beds	☐	See below	See below
High density/diversity infauna beds	☐	See below	See below

Optional text box to provide further information

The site supports large areas of seagrass beds dominated by Zostera marina/noltii (EUNIS habitat type A5.5331). Limited areas of Kelp forests (EUNIS habitat type A3.211/A3.1151) are present at the site boundary. These habitats are important as nursery areas for marine life, associated biodiversity and environmental resilience. High density/diversity infauna beds (EUNIS habitat type A5.133) cover extensive areas of the lower shore. These support a high diversity of invertebrate species and dense beds particularly of clams, worms and crustaceans; they form an important foraging for feeding seabirds.

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

The site adjoins the south-east coast of Jersey, between the port of St Helier and Gorey Harbour. It has the one of the largest tidal ranges in the world (>12 m), supports one of the largest and richest intertidal reef systems in western Europe, and is fed by clean and well-oxygenated water from the western English Channel, which are relatively warm waters due to the influence of the Gulf Stream and surrounding oceanographic conditions.

The beach has a steep upper shore, followed by a middle and lower shore with a shallow gradient and wide range of substrata and wave exposure. Spring tides expose in excess of 17.5 km2 of wave cut rock platform. A complex variety of tidal and sub-tidal habitats are present, including rocky shores, boulder fields, mud and sandflats, shingle shores, shallow lagoons, seagrass beds, maerl and bivalve mollusc beds and outlying reefs.

The site is characterised by limit-of-range species at the northern and southern margins of their distributions, which are not present on shores either to the north or south respectively. Planktonic larvae is abundant on the extensive areas of rocky shore and water-filled soft sediment gullies, favoured by the presence of several headlands along the south coast of Jersey, which create sheltered inshore areas. Many species of fish take advantage of elevated summer water temperatures to feed and grow on this rich food supply before making an autumn migration to spawn in offshore waters. Conversely, other fish species absent in summer are present in winter for similar reasons. Adjacent to the site is a sandbank known as the Banc du Chateau, where large rafts of seabirds and Bottlenose dolphin often feed on a plentiful supply of sand-eels and other pelagic fish. The expansive large, shallow, depositing, soft sediment bay and associated seagrass meadows provide important winter habitat for nationally important populations of waders and wildfowl.

These factors, combined with Jersey's biogeographical position, make it rich in biodiversity with some scarce species and uncommon species assemblages. Along with the adjacent Baie de Mont St Michel Ramsar site, the site represents the last vestiges of a former land bridge to continental Europe and plays a major role in the continued ecological functioning of the Golfe Normano-Breton.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
A: Permanent shallow marine waters	Includes EUNIS types A5.13/133/231/234/24/431	3	630	Representative
B: Marine subtidal aquatic beds (Underwater vegetation)	Includes EUNIS types A2.6111, A3.125/126/211/214/315, A5.51/52/5331	4	590	Representative
D: Rocky marine shores	Includes EUNIS types A1.112/1122/1131/1133/125/211/212/214/3122/313/3132/314/3152/4121, B3.111/112/113	1	950	Representative
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores	Includes EUNIS types A1.413/421, A2.111/22/221/231/245/421	2	750	Representative
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	Includes EUNIS type A5.137	4	220	Representative
Ga: Bivalve (shell-fish) reefs	Includes EUNIS type A5.433	4	7	Representative

Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
Other non-wetland habitats (seawalls, etc)	0.01
Oyster tables (aquaculture) (NB: these are positioned on top of areas covered by intertidal mud/sandflats)	100

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Invasive alien plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
CHLOROPHYTA/ULVOPHYCEAE	*Codium fragile fragile*	Actual (minor impacts)	No change
RHODOPHYTA/FLORIDEOPHYCEAE	*Grateloupia subpectinata*	Potential	increase
RHODOPHYTA/FLORIDEOPHYCEAE	*Polyopes lancifolius*	Actual (minor impacts)	No change
OCHROPHYTA/PHAEOPHYCEAE	*Sargassum muticum*	Actual (major impacts)	No change
OCHROPHYTA/PHAEOPHYCEAE	*Undaria pinnatifida*	Actual (major impacts)	increase

4.3.2 - Animal species

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
ARTHROPODA/MAXILLOPODA	*Austrominius modestus*	Potential	No change
MOLLUSCA/GASTROPODA	*Crepidula fornicata*	Actual (major impacts)	increase
ARTHROPODA/MALACOSTRACA	*Hemigrapsus sanguineus*	Potential	increase
MOLLUSCA/BIVALVIA	*Magallana gigas*	Actual (major impacts)	increase
MOLLUSCA/BIVALVIA	*Mytilus edulis*	Potential	No change
MOLLUSCA/BIVALVIA	*Ruditapes philippinarum*	Actual (major impacts)	No change
CHORDATA/ASCIDIACEA	*Styela clava*	Potential	increase
BRYOZOA/GYMNOLAEMATA	*Watersipora subtorquata*	Actual (major impacts)	increase

Optional text box to provide further information

Asian shore crab Hemigraspus sanguineus has expanded within the site over the last decade. There was concern that they would out compete the Green crab Carcinus maenas, but it appears they occupy a niche marginally higher on the seashore and do not interact with native crabs. Pacific oyster Magallana gigas is now in a stable position with some reef coverage, but no reef forming observed. Asian bryozoan Watersipora subtorquata is of concern and requires further monitoring although no control methods exist. American slipper limpet Crepidula fornicata is now at end of range due to warming seas and may see reductions in the next decade.

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfb: Marine west coast (Mild with no dry season, warm summer)

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres): -15

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 14

Entire river basin ☐
Upper part of river basin ☐
Middle part of river basin ☐
Lower part of river basin ☐
More than one river basin ☐
Not in river basin ☐
Coastal ☑

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

The site is located off the coast of Jersey in the English Channel, which forms part NE Atlantic Ocean.

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

No available information ☐

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes ○ No ◉

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	No change

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Marine water	☑	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology:

The tidal range is 12m.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Sediment regime is highly variable, either seasonally or inter-annually ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Sediment regime unknown ☑

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

Erosion, accretion and movement of sediments occurs across much of the site on a variable basis as a result of tidal currents. Increased sediment stability is provided by commercial oyster tables, which has expanded the area of seagrass and intertidal beds.

4.4.6 - Water pH

Circumneutral (pH: 5.5-7.4) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l) ☑

(Update) Changes at RIS update: No change ◉ Increase ○ Decrease ○ Unknown ○

Unknown ☐

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown ☑

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the site itself: i) broadly similar ○ ii) significantly different ◉

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development ☑

Surrounding area has higher human population density ☑

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use ☑

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types ☐

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

The site is open to the sea to the south and east; inland areas to the west and north are urbanised or used for agriculture.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Medium

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	Medium
Climate regulation	Regulation of greenhouse gases, temperature, precipitation and other climactic processes	Medium
Hazard reduction	Coastal shoreline and river bank stabilization and storm protection	Medium

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	High
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	Medium
Recreation and tourism	Water sports and activities	High
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	High
Spiritual and inspirational	Cultural heritage (historical and archaeological)	High
Spiritual and inspirational	Aesthetic and sense of place values	High
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	High
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	High
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	High

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganizms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High
Soil formation	Sediment retention	High
Nutrient cycling	Storage, recycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients	High
Nutrient cycling	Carbon storage/sequestration	High

Optional text box to provide further information

Fishing within the site is of great cultural, social and traditional importance. It is used extensively for recreational fishing activities, including angling, low water fishing, bait digging, lobster and whelk potting and netting. Aquaculture production is an important industry within the site. Species farmed are predominately Pacific oyster and mussel, with limited numbers of clam and ormer. Over 1200 tonnes of oysters and mussels were produced in 2020. Seaweed washed to the top of the beach is also gathered as a fertilizer.

General recreation and boating are popular with many visitors coming to the site, particularly on summer weekends. The site is frequently used by sailboats, power boats, kayaks, beachgoers, dog walkers and eco-tourists. Commercial wildlife watching walks explore the site hoping to see the diverse seabird community and extensive marine life.

Habitats and topographical features within the site provide for many aspects of environmental resilience and multiple ecosystem services, including:
- sediment and nutrient retention, erosion control and the provision of shelter banks – the reef system with its extensive shingle and sand banks provides shelter to important subtidal habitats and adjacent coastal areas;
- storage, recycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients and carbon;
- regulation of greenhouse gases, temperature, precipitation, carbon and other climactic processes –marine habitats are understood to be vital in the balance of CO2 levels and healthy maerl, seagrass and clam beds are increasingly being recognized as key carbon sinks;
- storage, recycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients;
- biochemical and pollution regulation; and
- biological productivity and the provision of nursery and fisheries functions.

The site is regarded as a biodiversity hotspot and probable nursery area for a range of species. It also plays an important role in offering biological resilience to the wider Bay of Granville region.

The site has extensive prehistoric and historic features relating to fishing, military use and quarrying, along with prehistoric peat beds. It also forms an important natural laboratory for the study of intertidal and shallow subtidal species and processes, and is used for monitoring of regional bird populations.

Within the site: Zero

Outside the site: 100,000

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes ○ No ◉ Unknown ○

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland ☐

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland ☑

Description if applicable

The site has extensive prehistoric and historic features relating to fishing, military use and quarrying. This includes important historic towers at Icho and Seymour and small historic harbours (built as a result of the native oyster fishery that flourished at the early part of the 19th century). There is evidence of Jersey's ship building history, particularly at Harve de Pas; prehistoric peat beds at Greve d'Azette and Le Hocq; and evidence of the ice age in the form of a mammoth tooth found at La Rocque. La Motte is designated as an archaeological Site of Special Interest (SSI) for a number of Neolithic, Iron Age and early Medieval features.

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples ☐

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland ☐

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	☑	☑

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Commercial (company)	☑	☑

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

100 ha of the beach area within the site is licenced to an Aquaculture industry.

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site: Department of the Environment, Government of Jersey

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland: Paul Chambers, Assistant Director, Marine Resources & Dr T du Feu, Head of Land Resource Management

Postal address: Howard Davis Farm, La Route de la Trinité, Jersey JE3 5JP, Channel Islands

E-mail address: f.binney@gov.je

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Dredging	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	decrease	☑	No change
Water releases	Low impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Marine and freshwater aquaculture	Low impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☐	No change

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Shipping lanes	Low impact	High impact	☐	No change	☑	No change
Aircraft flight paths	Low impact	Low impact	☑	No change	☐	No change

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	decrease	☑	No change

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities	Low impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Medium impact	High impact	☑	increase	☑	increase

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Household sewage, urban waste water	Low impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change
Agricultural and forestry effluents	Low impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☑	No change
Garbage and solid waste	Low impact	Low impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Climate change and severe weather

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Habitat shifting and alteration	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☐	No change
Storms and flooding	Medium impact	Medium impact	☑	No change	☐	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

The main threats are posed by dredging leading to disturbance of marine habitats; pollution (noting that The English Channel is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, with ships carrying all types of cargoes); over-fishing and harvesting of other aquatic resources; erosion and disturbance of breeding bird species from recreation and tourism; invasive non-native species; and climate change resulting in increased storms and habitat and species loss. In addition, Aquaculture operations (i.e. oyster tables) have changed the sediment profile in their areas of the beach causing seagrass beds to expand into other habitats. While the wastewater management system is being constantly improved, heavy rainfall events can cause some direct discharge of untreated black water into the site, though the high tidal flow generally disperses this quickly.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Other international designation	Jersey Coast Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)	https://mpa.ospar.org/home-ospar/mpa-datasheets	whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Jersey Shoreline Important Bird Area	http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/jersey-shoreline-iba -united-kingdom	whole
Other non-statutory designation	Jersey SE Coast No Mobile Fishing Gear Zone		partly

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

Ia Strict Nature Reserve ☐

Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection ☐

II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation ☑

III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features ☐

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention ☐

V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation ☐

VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems ☐

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Partially implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Partially implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Implemented
Control of invasive alien animals	Implemented
Control of invasive alien plants	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Partially implemented
Research	Partially implemented
Fisheries management/regulation	Implemented
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Implemented
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented

Other:

The site was designated as an OSPAR Marine Protected Area in 2018.

Species protected under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021 are listed in Table 3.3. This Law prohibits the deliberate or reckless killing, capture or disturbance of most protected wild birds, and damage or destruction of their nests and eggs or of their breeding or resting sites. It also prohibits the release into the wild of any wild animal, wild bird or wild plant, including non-native species, save for a few exceptions and unless in accordance with a licence to do so.

A code of conduct has been prepared for the site (see http://www.ci-ramsar.com/code-of-conduct/), which gives advice to visitors on how best to preserve the wildlife and environment when visiting the area.

Species specific regulations are in place to control the harvesting of marine fauna and flora including bag limits for seaweed, fish and shellfish. There are also species specific regulations and permit schemes to control the size of animals that can be taken and the seasons in which they can be harvested.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes ○ No ◉

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes ○ No ◉

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? No need identified

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Water quality	Implemented
Birds	Implemented
Water regime monitoring	Implemented
Animal community	Implemented

Animal monitoring includes lobsters, crabs, birds and infauna sediment community.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

BirdLife International (2023) Important Bird Areas factsheet: Jersey Shoreline. Downloaded from http://www.birdlife.org
British Geological Survey. (1982). Jersey. (Channel Islands Sheet 2) Solid and Drift 1:25000 Series. Ordnance Survey, Southampton.
Bruce, J. (1998). Assessment of Wintering Waterfowl Populations, La Collette to Le Dicq, Jersey, Channel Islands. WWT Wetlands Advisory Service report to the States of Jersey.
Christensen, J. Report on the Census for 1996. States of Jersey.
Critchley, A. T., Farnham, W. F. and Morrell, S. L. (1983). A Chronology of New European Sites of Attachment for the Invasive Brown Alga, Sargassum muticum, 1973-1981. Journal of the Marine Biological Association U. K. 63, 799-811.
Crutchley,S. (1997). Designation of a Marine Protected Area in Jersey: Recommendations with special reference to Molluscs. Unpublished MSc Thesis. University College London.
Culley, M.B., Thorp, C.H., Farnham, W.F. and Romeril, M.G. (1996). Proposal for the Designation of the Southern Shore of Jersey from La Collette to La Rocque as a Site of Special Interest. Unpublished report to the States of Jersey. Marine Laboratory, University of Portsmouth.
IUCN (2022) The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. https://www.iucnredlist.org/
Jewell, S. (1995). An Identification and Analysis of Key Criteria for the Sustainable Development of Jersey's Coastal Zone. Unpublished MSc Thesis. Institute of Offshore Engineering, Heriot-Watt University.
Kindleysides, D. (1995). Conserving the Intertidal Biodiversity of Jersey: a Strategy. Unpublished MSc Thesis. University College London.
La Societe Jersiaise, Zoology Section. Records of Marine Mammals Sightings.
Le Sueur, R. F. (1967). The Marine Fishes of Jersey. La Societe Jersiaise, St. Helier.
Mercer, T. (1998). Volume 1 - Main Report: Intertidal Survey La Collette to Le Dicq, South-East Coast of Jersey, Channel Islands. WWT Wetlands Advisory Service report to the States of Jersey.
Mitchell, R., Bennett, T., Copley, V. and Laffoley, D. (1993). Jersey Coastwatch Survey 1990. Roger Mitchell Maresearch Associates, Huntingdon.
South East Coast of Jersey, Channel Islands Ramsar Information Sheet UK23003. Version 3.0, 13/06/2008, produced by JNCC.
States of Jersey Department of the Environment (2011) Jersey's South East Coast Ramsar Management Plan. Dated February 2011. https://www.gov.je/Environment/ProtectingEnvironment/SeaCoast/Pages/Ramsar.aspx
Young, H.G., Dryden, M. & Pinel, J. (2011) Conservation Status of Jersey's Birds: Jersey's bird populations in the 21st Century. Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey.

Channel Island Ramsar Code of Conduct webpage: http://www.ci-ramsar.com/code-of-conduct/
Jersey Government fish and shellfish regulations and monitoring webpage https://www.gov.je/environment/landmarinewildlife/fishshellfish/Pages/index.aspx

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)
<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)
<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory
<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports
<no file available>

v. site management plan
<1 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature
<1 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:

Aerial view showing areas of exposed rock and sandy gullies within the South East Coast of Jersey Ramsar site with pacific oyster beds in the foreground (*Department of the Environment, Government of Jersey, 2021*)

View of the exposed intertidal habitats within the South East Coast of Jersey Ramsar site (*Department of the Environment, Government of Jersey, 2021*)

View of Seymour Tower – this was built in 1782 as a coastal defence tower and is located just inside the boundary of South East Coast of Jersey Ramsar site – the site stretches back to the coastline of Jersey island which is visible in the background (*Department of the Environment, Government of Jersey, 2021*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation	2000-11-10