Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 15 January 2025
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United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Crown dependencies)

Herm, Jethou and The Humps

Designation date	19 October 2015
Site number	2277
Coordinates	49°28'54"N 02°27'02"W
Area	1 850,00 ha

https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/2277
Created by RSIS V.1.6 on - 15 January 2025

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 Herm, Jethou and The Humps Ramsar Site consists of two small islands (Herm and Jethou), nine rocky islets (Grande Fauconniere Crevichon, Brehon Tower and The Humps), and surrounding shallow tidal waters. It is located within the Normand-Breton Gulf, a large marine area in the west part of the English Channel that is subject to numerous marine protected areas with six marine Ramsar sites, EU Natura 2000 sites and French designation sites. Converging cold and warm currents that flow eastward through this area from the Atlantic to the North Sea provide a rich source of plankton. Guernsey's geographic location, exceptionally large tidal range and significant tidal races also create conditions for a diverse range of habitats. In addition, species associated with the Boreal/Lusitanian biogeographic regions occur here at the overlapping southern and northern edges of their range.

The site is rich in biodiversity, with the intertidal zone being particularly large and biodiverse. Several important habitats are present, including Eelgrass (Zostera) beds, shallow reef systems and sunken shipwreck reefs that provide spawning grounds and nursery areas for many species of fish and invertebrates, such as European sea bass Dicentrarchus labrax and Atlantic mackerel Scomber scombrus. Some of the species are listed as globally threatened by the IUCN, including the Green ormer Haliotis tuberculata (listed as Vulnerable) and the Balearic shearwater Puffinus mauretanicus (Critically Endangered). Several marine mammals frequent or are resident within the site, including Atlantic grey seal Halichoerus grypus, Bottlenose dolphin Tursiops truncates, Common dolphin Delphinus delphis, Harbour porpoise Phocoena phocaena and Risso's dolphin Grampus griseus. The coastline is used by nine breeding seabird species and contiguous benthic and pelagic habitats support flatfish, shellfish, seabirds and one of the largest breeding groups of Bottlenose dolphins Tursiops truncates in the British Isles.

In terms of ecosystem services, fishing (both commercial and recreational) within the site is of high cultural, economic and traditional importance to the population of Guernsey. There are significant archaeological and historical features, and part of the site is a tourist destination that is used for a variety of recreational and educational activities.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	States of Guernsey
Postal address	Agriculture, Countryside and Land Management Services Sir Charles Frossard House La Charroterie St. Peter Port Guernsey Channel Islands UK

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	2015
To year	2023

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Herm, Jethou and The Humps
Unofficial name (optional)	The portion of the site referred to as The Humps is also known as Les Amfroques

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 geographical coordinates for the site are 49.48ºN, 2.45ºW (49°28'54"N, 2°27'03"W). It consists of all the land of the three sub-units (islands and islets) and the surrounding sea and sub-littoral zone to a depth of 16 metres below Chart Datum (17.2 metres below local low tide). It is located five kilometres east of the main island of Guernsey, Channel Islands, within the Normand-Breton Gulf, which is a large marine area in the western part of the English Channel, including French marine waters (Bay of Saint Malo) and British marine waters (Channel Islands).

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Bailiwick of Guernsey, UK Crown Dependency of Guernsey (Channel Islands)
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	St Peter Port, Guernsey

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): 1850

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries: 1850.818

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW)	26. Celtic Seas
EU biogeographic regionalization	Atlantic Region

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

The site falls within the Atlantic 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	Herm, Jethou and The Humps is an internationally important example of a large, near-natural, shallow marine and inter-tidal coastal ecosystem. It includes important areas of Eelgrass (Zostera marina/noltii) beds, substantial areas of permanent shallow marine waters and intertidal mud/sand flats, and rocky and sandy shorelines along a small archipelago of islands and rocky islets. It is representative of the European Atlantic marine ecoregion and a rare example due to the confluence of warm and cold currents and the particularly large tidal range.

☑ Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further information	The site supports several scarce species and threatened habitats. These include the Green ormer Haliotis tuberculata, which is listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN and is present at the northern limit of its geographic range, and the Balearic shearwater Puffinus mauretanicus, a species listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN and which can occur in globally important numbers (see criterion 6).

☑ Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification	The site is rich in biodiversity. It supports a range of shallow marine, inter-tidal and coastal habitat types (see Criterion 1). The Eelgrass beds, shallow reef systems, sunken shipwreck reefs and Kelp Laminaria spp. beds provide important fish spawning habitats (see Criterion 8). It is also important for the assemblage of breeding seabirds (see Criterion 6). Additional notable seabirds include Great cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo, Razorbill Alca torda, Common guillemot Uria aalge albionis, Common tern Sterna hirundo, Atlantic puffin Fratercula arctica, Manx shearwater Puffinus puffinus, and Northern fulmar Fulmarus glacialis. The site is also used as a feeding ground by Dark-bellied brent geese Branta bernicla, as a place to moult by Balearic shearwater Puffinus mauretanicus, and a coastal breeding location for nine species of seabird. Several marine mammals frequent or are resident within the site, including Common dolphin Delphinus delphis, Risso's dolphin Grampus griseus, Harbour porpoise Phocoena phocaena, Bottlenose dolphin Tursiops truncates, and Atlantic grey seal Halichoerus grypus. Atlantic grey seal also breeds along the coastline and utilise contiguous areas of benthic and pelagic habitat, which also support flatfish, shellfish and various species of cetacean.

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

Optional text box to provide further information	The site acts as an important breeding ground and nursery area for a permanent breeding colony of around 60 Atlantic grey seals Halichoerus grypus. Other marine mammals that use the site include a large breeding population of Bottlenose dolphin Tursiops truncatus. It also supports critical life stages by providing feeding, roosting and overwintering areas for a variety of bird species that occur near to or within the site.

☑ Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

Optional text box to provide further information

The breeding seabird assemblage is of high local significance. It is also representative of the biogeographical region and contributes significantly to the Normand-Breton regional assemblage of seabird species. The Normand-Breton Gulf, comprising St Malo Bay and The Channel Islands archipelago, is internationally important for Lesser black-backed gull and Great black-backed gull. The Ramsar site population as a percentage of the Gulf and Channel Islands assemblage for each seabird species is: Lesser black-backed gull Larus fuscus graellsii 6.6%; Great black-backed gull Larus marinus 4.5%; European shag Phalacrocorax aristotelis 8.9%; Great cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo 2.5%; Razorbill Alca torda 38.8%; Common guillemot Uria aalge albionis 8.5%; Common tern Sterna hirundo 16.4%; Atlantic puffin Fratercula arctica 22.5%; Northern fulmar Fulmarus glacialis 8.4%. The total assemblage of nine species is 4.6% of the Gulf and Channel Islands population. The relative surface area of the site is 0.2%. Rafts of Balearic shearwater Puffinus mauretanicus that are found near to or inside the Ramsar site can represent 15% of the global population.

☑ Criterion 8 : Fish spawning grounds, etc.

Justification

The site includes areas of Eelgrass (Zostera) beds, bivalve beds, shallow reef systems, sunken shipwreck reefs and kelp Laminaria spp. beds, which provide important fish spawning and nursery habitats for species such as Sea bass Dicentrarchus labrax and Black sea bream Spondyliosoma cantharus. Atlantic mackerel Scomber scombrus, a fish species of importance for recreational fishermen, spawns within the site; it is also a breeding area for the Green ormer Haliotis tuberculata, a locally important type of marine snail. The site is also contiguous with benthic and pelagic habitats supporting flatfish and shellfish among others.

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

<no data available>

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																	
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Delphinus delphis*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☑	Listed under Annex IV EU Habitats Directive	Notable marine mammal; occasional visitor to the site, less common than bottlenose dolphin
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Grampus griseus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	Listed under Annex II Bern Convention and Appendix II CITES; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	Notable marine mammal; a small family group briefly use the site each year
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Halichoerus grypus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	60	1994-2013		LC	☐	☐	Listed under Appendix III Bern Convention; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	Notable marine mammal; breeding colony present year-round
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Phocoena phocoena*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☐	OSPAR listed species	Notable marine mammal; individuals use the area during the winter when bottlenose dolphins are not present and there is reduced boat noise
CHORDATA / MAMMALIA	*Tursiops truncatus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐				LC	☐	☑	Listed under Annex II & IV EU Habitats Directive and Appendix II CITES; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	Notable marine mammal; a family group use the site transiently
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																	

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 / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Dicentrarchus labrax*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐		The site acts as a nursery and spawning area for this species throughout the post larval stages
MOLLUSCA / GASTROPODA	*Haliotis tuberculata*	☑	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑				VU	☐	☐		Listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red list; present as a notable breeding shellfish species at the northern edge of its range; it is found only in the Channel Islands in the British Isles and is a major target of traditional shore-gathering
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Scomber scombrus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐		The site acts as a spawning ground for this species and is used as a feeding area in summer
CHORDATA / ACTINOPTERYGII	*Spondyliosoma cantharus*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑				LC	☐	☐		The site acts as a spawning ground for this species and is used as a feeding area in summer
Birds																	
CHORDATA / AVES	*Alca torda*	☐	☑	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	28	1994-2013	38.8	LC	☐	☐		Notable breeding seabird; population accounts for 38.8% of the Gulf & Channel Islands assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Branta bernicla bernicla*	☐	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	100	1994-2013			☐	☐	UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	The site provides an important feeding ground in winter for around 100 birds
CHORDATA / AVES	*Fratercula arctica*	☐	☑	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	70	1994-2013	22.5	LC	☐	☐	UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	Notable breeding seabird; population accounts for 22.5% of the Gulf & Channel Islands assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Fulmarus glacialis*	☐	☑	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	30	1994-2013	8.4	LC	☐	☐	UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	Notable breeding seabird; population accounts for 8.4% of the Gulf & Channel Islands assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Larus argentatus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	345	1994-2103		LC	☐	☐	UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	Notable resident seabird
CHORDATA / AVES	*Larus fuscus graellsii*	☐	☑	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	160	1994-2013	6.6		☐	☐	Listed under Appendix III Bern Convention; UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	Notable breeding seabird; population of NW Atlantic sub-species accounts for 6.6% of the Gulf & Channel Islands assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Larus marinus*	☐	☑	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	73	1994-2013	4.5	LC	☐	☐	UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	Notable breeding seabird; population accounts for 4.5% of the Gulf & Channel Islands assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*	☐	☑	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	365	1994-2013	8.9	LC	☐	☐	UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	Notable breeding seabird; population of Atlantic (nominate) sub-species accounts for 8.9% of the Gulf & Channel Islands assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	☐	☑	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	40	1994-2013	2.5	LC	☐	☐	UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	Notable breeding seabird; population accounts for 2.5% of the Gulf & Channel Islands assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Puffinus mauretanicus*	☑	☑	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	3000	2014-2022	15	CR	☐	☑		Listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red list and occurs in globally important numbers; rafts of Balearic shearwater representing up to 15% of the world population use the site to moult during June
CHORDATA / AVES	*Puffinus puffinus*	☐	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	15	2000		LC	☐	☐	UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	Notable breeding seabird
CHORDATA / AVES	*Sterna hirundo hirundo*	☐	☑	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	50	1994-2013	16.4	LC	☐	☐	UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	Notable breeding seabird; population accounts for 16.4% of the Gulf & Channel Islands assemblage
CHORDATA / AVES	*Uria aalge albionis*	☐	☑	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐	☐	80	1994-2013	8.5	LC	☐	☐	UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species	Notable breeding seabird; population accounts for 8.5% of the Gulf & Channel Islands assemblage

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

In the table above the population units are apparently occupied nests for Razorbill Alca torda, Northern fulmar Fulmarus glacialis, Herring gull Larus argentatus, Lesser black-backed gull Larus fuscus graellsii, Great black-backed gull Larus marinus, Shag Phalacrocorax aristotelis, Great cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo, Manx Shearwater Puffinus puffinus; individuals in the breeding season for Atlantic puffin Fratercula arctica and Common guillemot Uria aalge albionis; and individuals in the non-breeding season for Dark-bellied brent geese Branta bernicla bernicla and Balearic shearwater Puffinus mauretanicus.

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
Eelgrass bed	☑	See below	See below
Breeding seabird assemblage	☐	See Criterion 6	See Criterion 6

Optional text box to provide further information

The site contains several beds of Eelgrass beds across the tidal range (subtidal and intertidal areas). These are dominated Zostera marina and Zostera noltei; Zostera noltii is more subtidal in distribution; Zostera marina is present at the southern edge of its range, whilst Zostera noltii is at its northern edge. Both species have declined in abundance in the UK over recent decades. Eelgrass beds support high levels of biodiversity, provide shelter, spawning and nursery areas for fish and marine invertebrates, are used as feeding areas by c.100 Dark-bellied brent goose Branta bernicla bernicla at Herm (their single station in the site), and are on the OSPAR list of threatened and/or declining habitats.

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

4.1 - Ecological character

Herm, Jethou and The Humps is a shallow marine ecosystem comprising a small archipelago of islands and rocky islets. The shorelines are rocky and sandy, and there is an extensive intertidal zone that is rich in biodiversity. Eighty percent of the marine area within the site is shallower than 16 metres below Chart Datum (17.2 metres below local LWS). It is integral to and affected by a highly dynamic marine environment at the confluence of southern and northern sea currents, with high primary productivity and an unusually high tidal range (up to 10 metres), amongst the highest in the world, with attendant tidal rapids. Tidal flow is frequently extremely rapid and whilst water turbidity is typically low, it can be poor at times after storms. The large tidal differences create and support a diverse range of habitats, whilst the convergence of cold (boreal) and warm (Lusitanian) bio-geographic regions and currents results in an array of species and plankton-rich currents that flow eastward from the Atlantic to the North Sea.

The site character will likely be affected by global climate change, especially sea level rise, changes in sea currents, and increased frequency, duration and severity of storms and resultant water turbidity. It is also influenced by commercial fishing practices, tourism and recreational activities. Several seabirds have shown declines in population and breeding success in recent years and the European storm petrel Hydrobates pelagicus appears to be extinct as a breeding species. The presence of rats at some seabird colonies is an existing threat.

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		1	1420	Representative
B: Marine subtidal aquatic beds (Underwater vegetation)	Note that the area of Type B type has not been assessed, but it is largely accounted for by the area covered by Type A	4		Rare
D: Rocky marine shores		3	62	Representative
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores		2	66	Representative
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats		4	8	Representative

Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
Improved/amenity grassland	41
Dense scrub	10
Woodland	10
Human habitation	103
Continuous bracken swards	22

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
ASCOMYCOTA/LECANOROMYCETES	*Fulgensia fulgens*	Rare in Channel Islands
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Inula conyza*	Rare in Channel Islands
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Rosa rubiginosa*	Rare in Channel Islands

Invasive alien plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Carpobrotus edulis*	Actual (minor impacts)	No change
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	*Carpobrotus glaucescens*	Actual (minor impacts)	No change
CHLOROPHYTA/ULVOPHYCEAE	*Codium fragile fragile*	Actual (minor impacts)	No change
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	*Phormium tenax*	Actual (minor impacts)	No change
OCHROPHYTA/PHAEOPHYCEAE	*Sargassum muticum*	Actual (minor impacts)	No change

Optional text box to provide further information

Various non-native plants have been recorded at the site, but these have had only minor impacts; it is likely that others, such as Wakame Undaria pinnatifida and Oyster thief seaweed Colpomenia peregrina, are also present.

4.3.2 - Animal species

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
MOLLUSCA/BIVALVIA	*Magallana gigas*	Actual (minor impacts)	No change
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	*Rattus norvegicus*	Actual (major impacts)	No change

Optional text box to provide further information

Brown rat Rattus norvegicus is present as a non-native species; it impacts on the success of breeding birds by eating eggs and chicks. Pacific oyster Crassostrea gigas are grown in cages within the site; some have escaped confinement and have established on areas of rocky reef.

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)

The site character will likely be critically influenced by global climate change, especially sea level rise, changes in sea currents, and increased storminess and water turbidity. Extreme storminess is a particular concern, as suggested by high seabird mortality that has occurred across the Channel Islands, e.g. in December 2013. This was a highly unusual event until recent times, which was probably due to the continued effect of high levels of water turbidity leading to low seabird breeding productivity. The site is also at the northern range edge of many Lusitanian species, which may further expand northwards and outcompete existing boreal species that are not capable of adapting to increased temperatures. Sea water freshening and the resulting decrease in pH, could also reduce calcification rates in mollusc species; or more energy may have to be expended by these organisms to maintain calcification of shells resulting in an increased metabolic demand.

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres): -18

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres): 68

- 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.

English Channel, 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:

Water levels fluctuate by up to 10 m due to tidal processes – see section 4.1

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant erosion 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 ☐

4.4.6 - Water pH

Alkaline (pH>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

Oligotrophic ☑

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

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 surrounding area is most distinctly pelagic and benthic, with some industrial development on the adjacent coastline of Guernsey and much further east in France, with potential diffuse effects.

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)	High

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Hazard reduction	Coastal shoreline and river bank stabilization and storm protection	Low

Cultural Services

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

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
Pollination	Support for pollinators	Medium

Optional text box to provide further information

The site provides benefits through the diversity of lifeforms and ecosystems that it supports.

Fishing within the site is of high cultural, economic and traditional importance to the population of Guernsey. It contributes to the Guernsey commercial fishery, including a small-scale commercial oyster farm. It is also used for recreational fishing, as well as traditional fishing and aquaculture practices, including bait digging and shellfish (notably Ormers) and oyster (mariculture) gathering.

There are significant archaeological and historical features. The site has a long history of human activity, which has necessarily presented a long-term and varied interaction with the ecological character of the wetland, including Neolithic tombs and standing stones, Medieval tombs, early 6th Century Christian churches and settlements.

It is in an attractive costal location and is, in part, a tourist destination with Herm regarded as the primary holiday destination for Guernsey. Recreational activities include water sports, picnics, outings, touring, fishing, bird-watching and other wildlife observation. It provides for educational activities and is used as a long-term monitoring site by the local research, natural history and conservation society (La Société Guernesiaise).

Within the site: 50 residents

Outside the site: 60,000

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 ☑

Description if applicable

Traditional sustainable activities, including regulated activities and examples of good practice will be developed and ultimately inform future management. This will include community management initiatives.

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 a very rich historical tapestry, with neolithic tombs and standing stones, medieval tombs, and early Christian churches and settlements. It has been variously governed by Normandy and England in the Middle Ages and the islands were occupied by Germany during World War II. This indicates a long history of human activity, which has necessarily presented a long-term and varied interaction with the ecological character of the wetland.

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

Description if applicable

The site has a long tradition of use by the local community for fishing, bait digging, and gathering of shellfish and oysters, which continues to shape its ecology.

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
Local authority, municipality, (sub)district, etc.	☑	☑

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Commercial (company)	☑	☑
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	☑	☑

Other

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Commoners/customary rights	☑	☑

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

Herm Island is owned by the UK Crown, administered by the States of Guernsey, and leased to the Herm Island Company Limited. Jethou Island is owned by the UK Crown administered by the States of Guernsey and leased to a private individual. There is no right of public access to Jethou and its rocky islets. The seabed is owned by the UK Crown. Local agreements restrict uncontrolled access to The Humps and the Brehon Tower.

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:	States of Guernsey Sea Fisheries, Raymond Falla House, Longue Rue, St Martin's, Guernsey, Channel Islands, GY1 6AF States of Guernsey Property Services Sir Charles Frossard House, La Charroterie, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands, GY1 1FH States of Guernsey Agriculture Countryside and Land Management Services Sir Charles Frossard House, PO Box 43, La Charroterie, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands, GY1 1FH Guernsey Harbours, St Julians Emplacement, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands, GY1 3DL
Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:	1. David Wilkinson (Senior Sea Fisheries Officer), 2. Mark Ogier (Head of States Property Services), 3. Andrew McCutcheon (Principal Environment Services Manager), 4. David Barker (Guernsey Harbour Master)
Postal address:	For all named contacts: ACLMS, Sir Charles Frossard House, la Charroterie, St Peter Port, GY1 1FH
E-mail address:	Andrew.McCutcheon@gov.gg

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

Human settlements (non agricultural)

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Housing and urban areas	Low impact		☐	No change	☑	No change
Commercial and industrial areas	Low impact		☐	No change	☑	No change
Tourism and recreation areas	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	Low impact	☑	No change	☐	No change

Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Renewable energy		Low 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	Medium impact	Medium 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	High impact	☑	No change	☐	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	☑	No change	☐	No change

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		☐	No change	☑	No change
Excess heat, sound, light	Low impact	Medium 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	Low impact	High impact	☑	No change	☐	No change
Storms and flooding	Medium impact	High impact	☑	No change	☑	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

A rapid assessment of potential threats to the site was carried out during the initial phase of the management plan development. This identified the following potential physical threats to the site:
1. Recreation and tourism: conflict of use, disturbance of habitats and species (e.g. shore birds and beach nesting birds within the intertidal zone)
2. Human habitation and agriculture: waste, nutrients and toxicants from on-island or nearby islands
3. Marine aquaculture: habitat disturbance and invasive species
4. Shipping lanes & marine users: noise, air and water pollution, habitat disturbance (e.g. use of intertidal zone by recreational boat users)
5. Potential offshore development: infrastructure installations leading to changes in hydrological and seabed conditions, noise, disturbance
6. Climate change: sea level rise leading to habitat shift and alteration, increased frequency and intensity of storms leading to shoreline erosion
7. Decline in water quality: leading to species and community changes and a decline in the 'ecological character' of the site
8. Selective removal of features of ecological interest due to commercial and recreational fishing activities, in particular the removal of Green ormer – not turning rocks back over also contributes to ecosystem
Degradation – size selective pressures are also applied by fishers reducing the populations breeding capacity
9. Invasive species other than those released by aquaculture

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

<no data available>

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

Species

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

Human Activities

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

Other:

Animal welfare legislation offers some protection against the disturbance of wild animals and their young, particularly at vulnerable life stages such as when rearing young. Seabird census surveys are undertaken as well as seal population surveys. Dolphins and cetaceans in the area are monitored acoustically and fish populations are similarly monitored using acoustic tags as part of an international tagging and tracking project.

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
Plant community	Proposed
Plant species	Proposed
Birds	Implemented
Animal community	Implemented
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented

Seal surveys are undertaken frequently as part of a wider programme to monitor grey seal populations in the bay of Normandy. Seabird surveys are also undertaken to measure changes in population size. Dolphins and cetaceans in the area are monitored acoustically and fish populations are similarly monitored using acoustic tags as part of an international tagging and tracking project.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

Cataroche, J. (2012) The History and Archaeology of Jethou. L&C Press
Fisher, P. (2015) Herm, Jethou and the Humps Management Plan final. Part One: description, evaluation and rationale. 27 April 2015.
Fisher, P. (2015) Herm, Jethou and the Humps Management Plan third draft. Part Two: Objectives and Action Plan. Version 16, October 2015.
Henney, J. (2010) Habitat Survey of Guernsey, Herm and Associated Islands. States of Guernsey, Environment Department.
Herm, Jethou and The Humps Ramsar Information Sheet (2017). Ramsar Site no. 2277, published on 9 January 2017.
IUCN (2022) The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. https://www.iucnredlist.org/
Veron, P.K. (1997) The Important Sites for Birds in the Channel Islands. Société Guernesaise.

Channel Island Ramsar Code of Conduct webpage, http://www.ci-ramsar.com/code-of-conduct/
Species records from the Guernsey Biological Records Centre https://www.biologicalrecordscentre.gov.gg/

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
<2 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:

View of one of The Humps (Grande Amfroque) (*Paul Fisher, 14-05-2014*)

View of rocky coastline within the Herm, Jethou and The Humps Ramsar SIte (*Guernsey Biological Records Centre, 25-04-2014*)

Aerial view of Herm and The Humps (*Richard Lord, 2014*)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation: 2015-10-19