ARRAN DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP

DESIGNATED SITES

Appendix 3

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THE DESIGNATED SITES IN THE ARRAN DMG AREA

Within the DMG area there are 3 different types of statutory designation:

National Scenic Area (NSA)
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
Special Protection Area (SPA)

In addition, 11,751 ha or 54 % of the DMG area has recently been classified as "Wild Land Areas". While it is not yet clear how such a classification will work in practice, it may well have important implications for fencing or woodland creation schemes, and therefore have a bearing on deer management.

The Isle of Arran has also been declared as an Important Plant Area (IPA) by Plantlife, in recognition of its high botanical importance. It is one of 150 IPAs nominated across the UK for their internationally important wild plant populations.
http://www.plantlife.org.uk/wild_plants/important_plant_areas/isle_of_arran

There are no National Nature Reserves, National Parks, Special Areas of Conservation or Ramsar wetland sites within the DMG area. However, there is a Marine Protected Area (MPA) around the south coast of Arran.

National Scenic Area (NSA)

National Scenic Areas are Scotland's only national landscape designation. They are those areas of land considered of national significance on the basis of their outstanding scenic interest which must be conserved as part of the country's natural heritage. They have been selected for their characteristic features of scenery comprising a mixture of richly diverse landscapes including prominent landforms, coastline, sea and freshwater lochs, rivers, woodlands and moorlands.

There are currently 40 NSAs in Scotland, covering a total land area of 1,020,500 ha and a marine area of 357,900 ha.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest represent the best of Scotland's natural heritage. They are 'special' for their plants, animals or habitats, their rocks or landforms, or a combination of such natural features. Together, they form a network of the best examples of natural features throughout Scotland, and support a wider network across Great Britain and the European Union.

Scottish Natural Heritage chooses sites after detailed survey and evaluation against published scientific criteria. SSSIs can include freshwater and sea water, down to the mean low water mark of spring tides, as well as land. At 31st March 2008, there were 1,456 SSSIs, covering a total area of 1,036,000 hectares or 12.9% of Scotland.

SNH designates SSSIs to protect the best of our natural heritage by making sure that decision-makers, managers of land and their advisors, as well as the planning authorities and other public bodies, are aware of them when considering changes in land-use or other activities which might affect them.

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 provides the legislative framework around which all SSSI sites are administered.

Special Protection Area (SPA)

A Special Protection Area (SPA) is an area of land, water or sea which has been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds found within the European Union. Special Protection Areas which are designated under the European Wild Birds Directive, together with SACs designated under the European Habitats Directive, form the NATURA 2000 network of sites. A number of SPAs include areas notified as SSSIs and the additional SPA designation affords these areas enhanced protection.

Within the Arran Deer Management Group there are:

5 X Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which fall partly or totally within the DMG. In total, 13,484 ha of land within the DMG is covered by SSSI designation, equivalent to 62 % of the DMG area. Of these SSSIs, all are currently assessed as being in broadly favourable condition, although one woodland feature of one SSSI is in unfavourable condition.

Overlapping some of the SSSIs and Arran DMG area are:

- One Special Protection Area (SPA): the Arran Moors SPA largely overlaps Arran Moors SSSI and extends beyond the boundaries of Arran DMG. A total of 2,767 ha of land is designated as SPA within the DMG, equivalent to 13 % of the area.
- One National Scenic Area (NSA): the entire DMG area falls within North Arran NSA.

Listed below is a summary of the individual designated sites within the area, in alphabetical order. All those sites with an SSSI designation are listed first, followed by sites carrying other designations.

Arran Moors SSSI – Favourable
https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8167

Arran Moors SSSI is a multi-part site covering 8395 ha of the south and centre of Arran, extending north-eastwards around Sannox. Approximately 1/6th of the SSSI falls within Arran DMG area. It is a large moorland SSSI designated for its nationally important upland habitat assemblage, its nationally and internationally important breeding hen harrier population and its wider assemblage of breeding birds. The SSSI largely overlaps Arran Moors SPA, designated for the hen harrier.

The upland habitats include wet and dry heath, blanket bog, alkaline fen and acid grassland. There are also water bodies and some small areas of deciduous woodland associated with river valleys. The wetter habitats occur to the west and on low-lying ground, grading into drier heath towards the east and with higher altitude. Alkaline fens, supporting sedges, bog mosses and rushes, occur on waterlogged soils with ground water movement. The condition of the upland habitats was favourable when assessed in 2006 although bracken encroachment was a potential problem on some heath sites and under-grazing maybe an issue for some of the wet heath. Over-burning is also a potential pressure on the peatlands.

The moorland habitat supports a significant breeding hen harrier population, representing nearly 4 % of the total British population. Its condition was assessed as favourable in 2009, with a trend towards greater numbers of successfully fledged chicks.

The breeding bird assemblage on Arran Moors SSSI, which was assessed as being in favourable condition in 2009, includes short-eared owl, red-throated diver, golden eagle and peregrine. The range of habitats within the SSSI also attracts a variety of migrating and wintering birds including teal, snipe and curlew.

Arran Northern Mountains SSSI – Favourable (upland birch woodland – unfavourable)
https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=90

Arran Northern Mountains SSSI is a 12077 ha upland site in the north of Arran which includes Goat Fell, the highest peak on the island. The site has an uninterrupted sequence of plant communities from sea-level to mountain tops and plant and animal communities influenced by the maritime climate, acidic rock and soil formations, and altitudinal characteristics, that are not seen on the mainland of southern Scotland. It is designated for 8 features which include geological, invertebrate, ornithological and botanical interests. Although not a notified feature, the red deer living on the SSSI are a significant proportion of Arran's red deer population. Low levels of hybridisation with sika mean this population has been declared a refugia.

Arran's northern mountains support the largest and most diverse upland habitat assemblage in west central Scotland. Habitats range from dry heath on steep slopes to blanket bog at lower altitudes. On exposed slopes at high altitude, alpine and sub-alpine heath communities of prostrate vegetation, wind-clipped alpine moss heath and dwarf willow occur. At lower altitudes, dwarf juniper and small areas of blaeberry snow-bed vegetation can be found. Elsewhere there are large areas of heather, purple moor grass and bracken mosaic. Overall the upland habitat assemblage was considered in favourable condition when assessed in 2006, although there were concerns over some individual habitat components. These include some soil erosion and trampling damage by either walkers or herbivores, impacts of extensive burning on sub-alpine dwarf shrub heath communities, encroachment of bracken into dry heath due to past grazing and burning regimes, and damage to wet heath and blanket bog due to grazing pressure and the effects of heather beetle.

The SSSI is designated for its upland birch woodland between Lochranza and Catacol. This extensive area of native woodland is dominated by birch with rowan, oak, ash and rarely aspen. The woodland has an open canopy, with most trees occurring on steep-sided gullies and river banks at lower altitudes. This feature is considered in unfavourable condition due to a lack of regeneration resulting from historic over-grazing by sheep and deer. In addition, invasive bracken and rhododendron are also suppressing regeneration.

Arran Northern Mountains SSSI has a designated vascular plant assemblage which includes nationally rare endemic whitebeams, the Killarney fern and the nationally scarce brown beak-sedge and alpine enchanter's-nightshade. The whitebeams, which are listed as vulnerable in the British Red Data Book, occur in river gorges in the north of the island and are most abundant in Gleann Diomhan and the Allt nan Calman, where they grow with birch and rowan. The vascular plant assemblage was considered to be in favourable condition in 2014 as populations of all the target species were found.

The invertebrate interest includes the dragonfly and water beetle assemblages found at many of the mires and lochans within the site. Significant communities of dragonfly

occur here, with 10 species having been recorded. This feature is considered to be in favourable condition with adults, larvae and suitable breeding habitat all present. There are five water beetle species of particular interest at the site, including 3 nationally scarce species. The beetle feature is considered to be in a favourable, maintained condition although some enrichment of the lochans is apparent, most likely due to the use of the Clachan prominence as a gull roost.

The SSSI has a diverse upland breeding bird community which includes golden plover, hen harrier, peregrine, golden eagle and red-throated diver. These internationally important species are all listed in Annex 1 of the EU Birds Directive. Furthermore, of 16 different breeding bird species recorded, 2 are listed on the BTO's Birds of Conservation Concern red list (hen harrier and ring ouzel) and 11 are amber listed. The breeding bird assemblage was in favourable condition when assessed in 2013 with no known loss to the extent of habitats used by the breeding birds.

Arran is a microcosm of Scottish geology with a diversity of rock types and formations. There are two areas of particular geological importance; North Glen Sannox in the north-east of the site where there are exposures of Ordovician igneous rock and to the west of the site between Guala Riabhach and Glen Catacol where tertiary igneous rocks occur. The Glen Sannox rocks represent a 'fault-bounded' exposure, consisting of Ordovician ocean floor sediments (silts and muds) squeezed between igneous (volcanic) rocks along the Highland Boundary Fault Zone. The tertiary igneous rocks are of interest for the dramatic evidence of intrusion of granite into ancient Dalradian metamorphic rocks formed from ocean bed sediments. Molten granite was forced up through the older rocks when Scotland and Greenland were being pulled apart by continental drift. Both geological features were deemed to be in favourable condition when last assessed, although hammering may be having a detrimental effect on the Ordovician igneous feature.

Corrie Foreshore and Limestone Mines SSSI – Favourable
https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=404

Corrie Foreshore and Limestone Mines SSSI lies on the east coast of Arran, just north of Brodick. The site encompasses inter-tidal rock platforms, sandy beaches and a series of disused limestone mines, bordered largely by the A841 and the village of Corrie. It is a 12 ha site of national geological interest, with rock exposures from 3 different geological time periods in a unique rock layer sequence. The exposures are from the Lower Carboniferous (Dinantian), the Upper Carboniferous (Westphalian) and the Permian Triassic periods, consisting of layers of lavas, volcanic ashes and sediments. They help explain the changing environment and geography of western Scotland at that time.

The Dinantian feature includes the coastal exposures and limestone mines at the Corrie Hotel and northwards. It consists of individual groups of thick rock layers of economic minerals such as coal, limestone, oil-shale, sandstone and fireclay. Large marine brachiopod shells form distinct layers within the rock. The Westphalian feature occurs south of Corrie Post Office and consists of exposures of Upper Carboniferous sediments laid down at the margin of the Scottish Coal Measures Basin. The Permian-Triassic (red beds) feature is found South of Corrie Harbour and consists of excellent exposures of Permian age sandstone rocks, which are seen to overlie Westphalian sediments. They are fossil sand dune deposits, known as the Corrie Sandstone, laid down in the Permian desert environment. All features are in favourable condition.

Laggan SSSI – Favourable
https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=893

Laggan SSSI lies at the north of Arran, on the east coast. It is a 6 ha site of foreshore and adjacent rock above the high water mark. It is designated for its internationally important palaeobotany, dating from the Palaeozoic Era when plants diversified from aquatic to terrestrial life. Layers of Carboniferous age lavas, volcanic ash and sediments occur at Laggan, with fossilised plant remains in the volcanic ashes.

The plant fossils at Laggan are predominantly tropical swamp lycopods, including club mosses and large forest-forming trees typical of the Carboniferous period. The plant material has been preserved as unusually high-quality 3-dimensional fossils that allow both anatomical reconstructions of whole plants and examination of structure at the cellular level. As such, the site provides a unique understanding of the structure and diversity of early Carboniferous lycopods, and is of international importance. The site was in favourable condition when assessed in 2014 with no negative pressures being identified.

North Newton Shore SSSI – Favourable
https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=1238

North Newton Shore SSSI is a small (9.5 ha), coastal SSSI lying north of Lochranza. It comprises an 800 m length of exposed inter-tidal rock and adjoining raised beach, designated for its geological interest. Here non-marine Upper Devonian sedimentary rocks (Old Red Sandstone) overlie much older Dalradian metamorphic rocks. The junction between these rock types is the principle interest and the site is historically important as the Scottish geologist, James Hutton used it to illustrate ‘unconformity’ in his ‘Theory of the Earth’.

The site was in favourable condition when assessed in 2007 with no negative pressures being identified.

Arran Moors SPA – Favourable
https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=8614
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1960-theme=default

The Arran Moors SPA is a 10737 ha area of extensive moorland covering much of the southern half of Arran and extending up the northeast coast. The predominant habitat types include wet and dry heaths, wet and dry blanket bogs, unimproved acid grassland and small areas of broad-leaved woodland. The SPA largely overlaps Arran Moors SSSI and part of Arran Northern Mountains SSSI within the DMG area, as well as Ard Bheinn, Benlister Glen, and Gleann Dubh SSSIs to the south. It has been designated for its breeding hen harrier population, which represents nearly 4 % of the total British population and is of European importance. This feature was found to be in favourable condition when last assessed in 2009.

North Arran NSA
https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=9143

An area of 23800 ha has been recognized as the North Arran NSA on the basis of its landscape and the following special qualities: A mountain presence that dominates the

Firth of Clyde and has a profile resembling a sleeping warrior or giant when seen from the Ayrshire coast, the contrast between the wild highland interior and the populated coastal strip, the historical landscape in miniature, a dramatic, compact mountain area, a distinctive coastline with a rich variety of forms, one of the most important geological areas in Britain, an exceptional area for outdoor recreation and a place to experience highland and island wildlife at close hand.

Additional designated sites on Arran but outside the DMG boundary

In addition to the sites described above, there are a further 7 SSSIs on Arran covering 1,349 ha, while the seas around the south of the island fall within the South Arran Marine Protected Area (MPA). There are no other types of designated sites on Arran. Listed below is a summary of the individual designated sites outside the current DMG area.

Ard Bheinn SSSI – Favourable

https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=64

Ard Bheinn SSSI is on a prominent hill on the south flank of the Shiskine valley, south-west of Brodick. This 459 ha moorland site adjoins Arran Moors SSSI and is designated for both its nationally important Tertiary igneous geology and breeding hen harriers. Ard Bheinn SSSI falls within the Arran Moors SPA, designated under the EC Birds Directive because the population of breeding hen harriers is also of European importance.

The rock at Ard Bheinn is predominantly volcanic and there is an unusual amount of rock of intermediate composition between basalt (basic igneous rock) and granite (acid igneous rock). This was formed by intrusion of granite when volcanic activity resumed within the floor of a sunken crater of an earlier volcano in central Arran. Ard Bheinn is of national importance as it preserves a unique volcanic feature (volcanic cones on the crater floor) from this time period in Britain. The condition of the Tertiary Igneous feature is considered to be favourable as the extent, composition and structure of the exposures have been maintained.

Ard Bheinn regularly supports nesting hen harrier and provides an additional foraging range for hen harriers nesting within the Arran Moors SSSI. The condition of the hen harriers, assessed across the whole SPA in 2009, was considered favourable. However, muir burn is a potential pressure on the hen harrier population.

Benlister Glen SSSI – Favourable

https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=197#featurePressures

Benlister Glen SSSI lies near the centre of the island, west of Lamlash and south-west of Brodick. It occupies open moorland in the middle and upper reaches of Benlister Glen and tributaries of the burn, which gives way to wet woodland on lower ground. The 48 ha site has been designated for its species-rich tall herb ledge vegetation on limestone outcrops and its wet woodland, dominated by alder and birch with some rowan, ash and willow.

The ledge vegetation is dominated by greater woodrush and a variety of ferns but also has a number of uncommon or locally rare species including green spleenwort, mountain sorrel and the nationally scarce alpine enchanter’s nightshade. The tall herb ledge feature

was considered to be in favourable condition in 2008, with a good variety of typical plants and little evidence of browsing damage. The wet woodland was considered to be in favourable condition when last assessed in 2002 and has been expanding onto adjacent open ground, encouraged by low levels of grazing. A moderate grazing regime should be maintained, sufficient to prevent dominance of more competitive grass species and bracken without preventing typical flowering plant species from setting seed.

Clauchlands Point - Corrygills SSSI - Favourable
https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=363

Clauchlands Point - Corrygills SSSI is on the east coast of Arran, west of Lamlash. It is a 46 ha site comprising a rocky shore and raised beach, supporting a variety of coastal plant communities. It is designated for its igneous geology, saltmarsh and maritime cliff vegetation communities, and one of the most significant coastal deciduous woodlands remaining on the Clyde coast.

The Clauchlands Palaeogene igneous sill complex which underlies this site was formed around 60 million years ago and is thought to be part of a much larger cone shaped sheet of rock, centered on Lamlash bay. The site also includes some outstanding exposures of dark coloured, glassy igneous pitchstones, including perhaps the best example of spherulitic rock in Britain. The pitchstones are of historic as well as scientific interest. The Corrygills shore site is highly significant in illustrating the volcanic geology of Arran and its designated geological feature is considered to be in favourable condition.

The site is biologically diverse, with a transition from beach-head saltmarsh vegetation, through flushed grassland and fen to wet alder/willow woodland at the base of the Permian sandstone cliffs. The screes and cliffs support mixed woodland dominated by ash, giving way to birch woodland on the steep slopes above the cliffs. The woodland is relatively undisturbed and species-rich, dominated by ash, rowan, birch, alder and ivy. The woodland is in favourable condition although rhododendron occurs within part of the site.

A variety of maritime cliff communities occur at the site including maritime cliff grassland, coastal heath, lichen-covered rock, and rarely scrub and mire/flush. Indicator species such as tormentil, sheep's fescue grass, dog violet, wild thyme, red fescue grass, Yorkshire fog grass, ribwort plantain and, to a lesser extent, sea plantain and cock's foot grass, all occur here. The cliff vegetation was found to be in favourable condition when assessed in 2009.

The saltmarsh, present along the northern shore, is characterized by a high plant diversity and includes sea rush, saltmarsh rush, sea arrowgrass, sea aster, sea plantain and saltmarsh grass. The species assemblage and physical integrity of site are such that the saltmarsh habitat is considered to be in favourable condition. The current grazing regime of sheep, cattle and occasionally horses is compatible with maintaining the favourable status of all designated vegetation features.

Dippin Head SSSI - Favourable
https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=515

Dippin Head SSSI comprises the prominent headland of Dippin Head, with the adjoining coastal strip and cliffs. It is a 13 ha site lying south of Whiting Bay, designated for its igneous geology and in particular, the exposures of the 'Dippin Sill'. This is of national

interest because it forms an important feature associated with volcanic activity that is not seen so well represented elsewhere. A small strip in the north-west of Dippin Head SSSI is also designated as part of Arran Moors SSSI and Arran Moors SPA for its breeding hen harriers.

The igneous rocks of this SSSI were produced below ground level, when molten rock from the magma reservoir suppling the Arran volcano, was squeezed, or 'intruded' into weaknesses within the existing sedimentary rocks below the volcano. At Dippin these sedimentary rock layers date back to the Triassic geological period around 250 to 205 million years ago. The igneous intrusion is a 'sill', which is orientated horizontally, parallel to the layers of sedimentary rock. The sill has a very complex mineralogy and its composition differs between each portion of rock. The condition of the Tertiary Igneous feature is favourable, maintained.

Drumadoon - Tormore SSSI - Favourable
https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=537

This 74 ha shoreline SSSI runs along a 4 km stretch of coast from Drumadoon Point to Tormore, north-west of Blackwaterfoot on the west coast of Arran. The site is designated for 2 geological features, its Triassic sedimentary rock layer sequence and its Palaeogene volcanic rocks.

The Triassic red beds were formed as layers of sand, gravel and mud sediments deposited around 240 million years ago. Past heavy erosion has exposed the layers and additional structures, such as ripple marks, mud cracks and trace fossils including worm burrows and tracks made by reptiles, provide information about the environmental and climatic conditions at that time. The good visibility and accessibility of the exposures contribute to the favourable condition of this feature.

The igneous rocks at the site date from subsequent volcanic activity about 60 million years ago. In common with other igneous rocks on Arran, they were produced by below ground igneous intrusion and two types of small scale intrusions are represented. These are dykes, orientated vertically, cutting across the layering within the sedimentary rocks, and sills which are orientated horizontally. The sills and dykes on the site are 'composite', consisting of both acidic granite-like igneous rocks and intrusions of basic basalt lava. The dykes and the Drumadoon Sill are in favourable condition.

Gleann Dubh SSSI – Favourable (Breeding bird assemblage – Unfavourable)
https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=695

Gleann Dubh SSSI lies south-west of Brodick and comprises an upland site characterized by base-rich subalpine flushes and rock ledge communities that are unusual on Arran. It is also designated for its breeding bird assemblage which includes part of the internationally important hen harrier population. This 489 ha site is overlapped by Arran Moors SPA for hen harrier.

The upland vegetation assemblage contains a variety of habitats. These include ombrogenous bog on plateau areas, dry heath with heather, blaeberry, scattered patches of acidic grassland and dense stands of bracken on the steeper valley sides and tall herbs. Subalpine flushes are found throughout. Downy birch and eared willow dominate the wooded fringe adjacent to the conifer plantations. Exposed vertical rocks are a significant feature which support rare or uncommon plants such as roseroot, green

spleenwort, alpine enchanter's nightshade, rock whitebeam, stone bramble, alpine meadow-rue and alpine saw-wort in cracks and on ledges. The condition of the upland assemblage was considered to be favourable when assessed in 2006 as the extent of all components habitats met their targeted area. In future, the condition of individual components will also be taken into consideration.

The breeding bird assemblage at Gleann Dubh is diverse and includes peregrine, hen harrier, short-eared owl and golden plover, all of which are of international importance. The site also supports kestrel, buzzard and ring ouzel in the more open areas, and woodcock, redstart and tree creeper in the lower wooded section. The condition of the breeding bird feature was found to be unfavourable maintained during 2009. Potential pressures on the breeding bird feature have been identified as agricultural operations, burning, over-grazing, under-grazing and native invasive species.

Although not a notified feature of the site, the red deer population within Gleann Dubh is part of the nationally important red deer refugium (i.e. the deer are protected from potential hybridisation).

South Coast of Arran SSSI – Favourable (Shingle – Unfavourable)
https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/siteinfo.jsp?pa_code=1451

The South Coast of Arran SSSI is a 221 ha coastal site extending above and below the high and low water marks. It lies between Lagg and Kildonan and is designated for both geological and biological features.

As with other geological sites on Arran, this SSSI is important for its igneous intrusions formed during the tertiary geological period when molten volcanic rock was forced upwards, filling cracks in the Earth's crust. The site has good examples of both dykes and sills, with about 200 dykes of varying thickness exposed along the southern coast. These dykes are of international importance and are known collectively as the Arran Dyke Swarm. There is an interesting sill at Bennan Head which is composed of granite and basalt which have mixed while molten in some places. The geological features of the SSSI are currently in favourable condition.

The designated biological features at the site are vegetated shingle and maritime cliff habitat. The vegetated shingle supports one of the largest colonies of the nationally scarce oysterplant in the south-west Scotland. However, this feature was in unfavourable condition when assessed in 2009, due to unconsented shingle extraction and associated vehicle use. The maritime cliffs and steep slopes in the western part of the site support grassland and scrub communities which contain numerous locally uncommon plants, including narrow-leaved everlasting-pea at the northern limit of its natural range in Britain. This habitat is considered to be in favourable condition.

South Arran MPA
http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/protected-areas/national-designations/mpas/mpa-arr/

The seas around the south coast of Arran were designated in 2014 as the South Arran MPA. This encompasses the waters from Drumadoon Point on the west coast, to Corriegills Point on the east and includes the current No Take Zone in Lamlash Bay. Within the 280 km^2 protected area, there is a diversity of habitats and marine species

characteristic of the more exposed areas of the Clyde Sea. The site has 7 protected features: burrowed mud, kelp and seaweed communities on sublittoral sediments, maerl beds, maerl or coarse shell gravel with burrowing sea cucumbers, ocean quahog aggregations, seagrass beds and shallow tide-swept coarse sands with burrowing bivalves.