

Inter-Island Environment Meeting



CHANNEL ISLANDS BIOSPHERE ?

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28th September 2023



Supported by
Mr & Mrs Moerman
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**Isle of Wight
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership
Channel Islands Biosphere ?**



Isle of Wight
area of outstanding
natural beauty

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What is a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve

Biosphere Reserves are designated by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, a global body that seeks to build peace through cooperation. In the UK, Biosphere reserves are known as Biospheres

UNESCO Biospheres are defined by their *internationally important natural and cultural environments and recognised as places where local communities have an aspiration to live sustainably within their local ecosystems.*

‘Furthermore they are sites for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity’

The Isle of Wight Biosphere was designated by the international co-ordinating council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme at the United Nations in Paris on June 19th 2019

There are currently over 700 globally: 7 in the British Isles



Channel Islands Biosphere : Challenges and Opportunities

Climate Crisis: anthropogenic climate change is causing many global issues including drought, wildfires, flooding and relative sea level rise

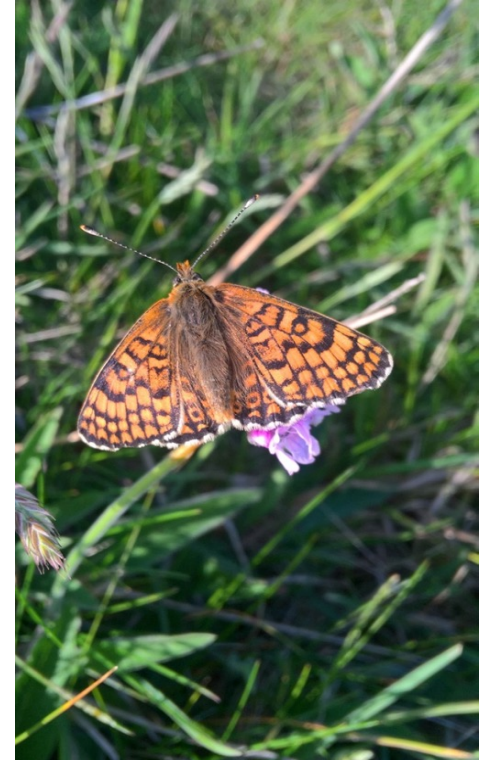
Biodiversity declines: global losses of diversity and abundance of wildlife species due to climate change and other human impacts

Nature disconnection: Reduction in awareness and education around the value of the natural world and the impacts of human activities

Environment, Social and Governance Strategies (ESG): Corporate aspirations to offset their own activities in the light of legislation or other incentives

Carbon and nutrient trading: Monetising ecosystem services as tradable assets for offsetting etc

Sustainable production: in land or sea for resources of locally sourced food, timber, fuel etc



Channel Islands Biosphere: Benefits

- Increase global recognition of the natural and cultural heritage of the Channel Islands
- Increased local recognition of the natural and cultural heritage of the Channel Islands
- Locus with which to develop a framework for the future sustainable management of resources in the Channel Islands
- Stimulates local population to act for sustainable development - makes concept more 'real'
- Unique selling point (USP) for tourism and sale of local produce – sourced or processed on the Channel Islands
- Co-operation and collaboration with global family of areas with similar issues and unique solutions



Channel Islands Biosphere : Framework and Process

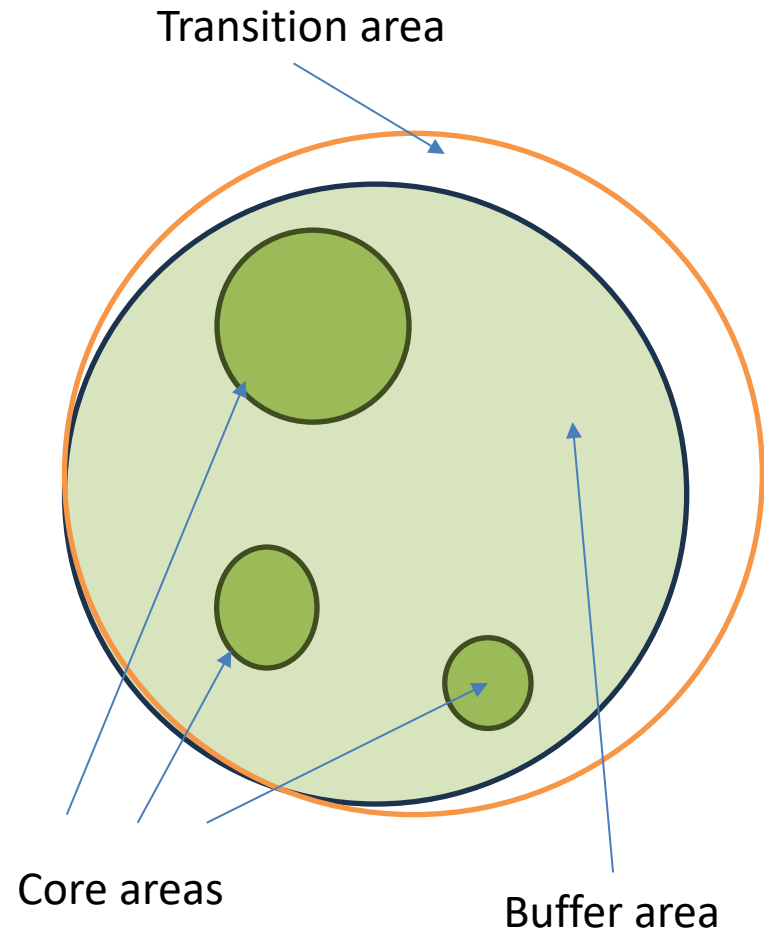
Candidate Biosphere Reserves nominate themselves through a process of application, describing the features of the potential site.

A consultation process with local communities is recommended and important to show that there is support at all levels of government and in local communities

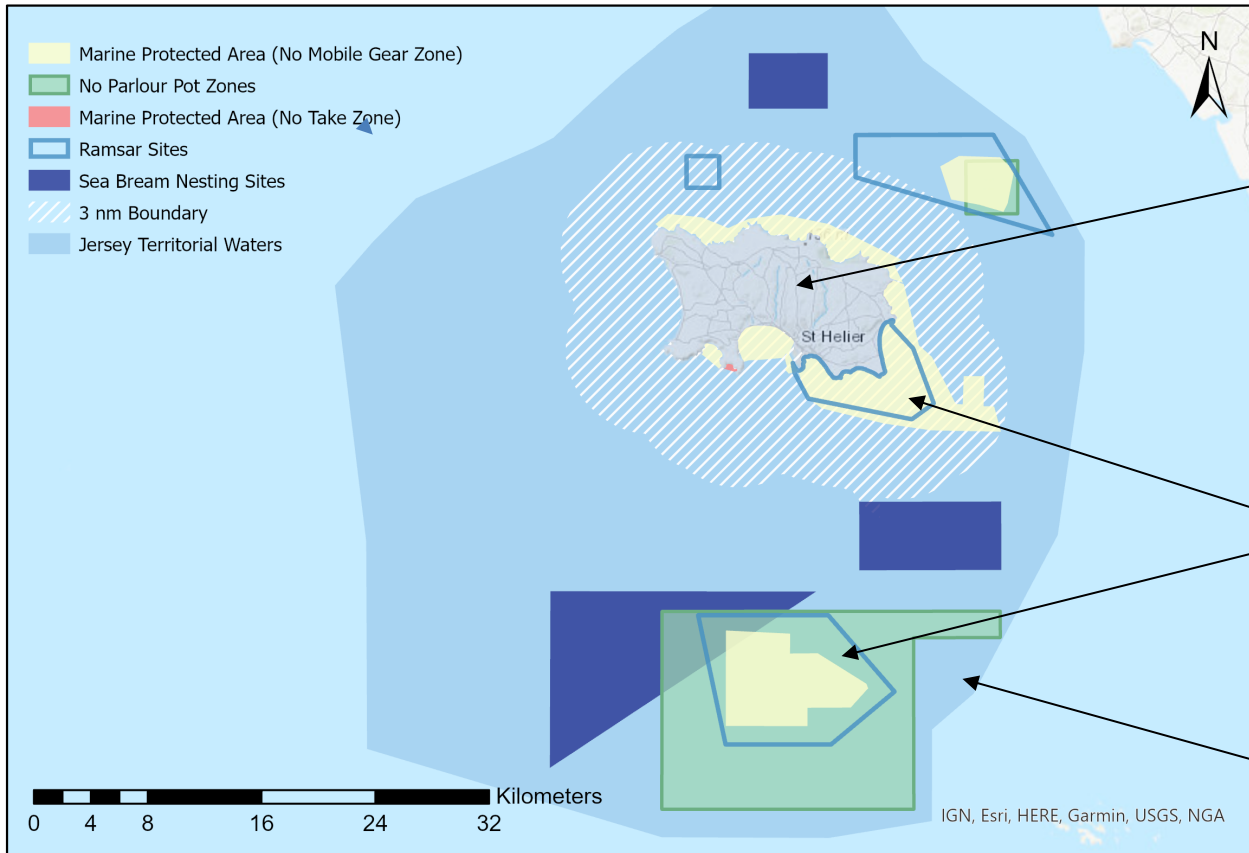
Biosphere Reserves consist of three zones:

- Core: important (designated) areas for nature
- Buffer: designated areas surrounding the core
- Transition: undesignated areas with sustainability plans and aspirations

Plans for the sustainable management for all three zones must be established



Channel Islands Biosphere : Example



Transition Area: area that aspires to sustainable management

Core Areas: designated areas important for nature

Buffer Area: designated areas surrounding the core

Questions ?

