

British Geological Survey
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

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Scottish Waters and the Central North Sea

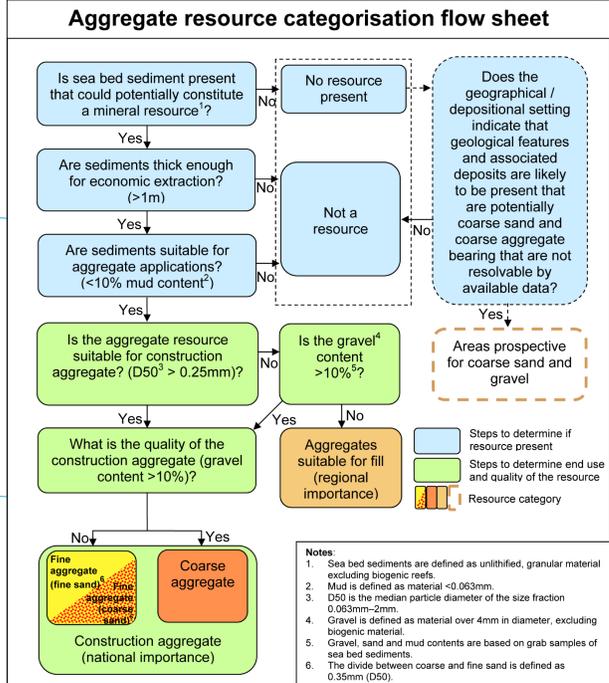
Marine Sand and Gravel Resources

Scale 1:1 000 000

Compiled by S. Green, E. Campbell, T.P. Bide and P.S. Balson
Project Leaders: T.P. Bide and J.M. Mankelov
Digital Cartography: J. Smalley
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This map has been commissioned by The Crown Estate. This map is to be used with the accompanying guide 'Marine mineral resources of the Scottish Waters and the Central North Sea', British Geological Survey Open Report, OR13/012.

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Marine sand and gravel resources of the Scottish Waters and the Central North Sea
Green, S., Campbell, E., Bide, T.P. and Balson, P.S.



Aims and Limitations

The purpose of the maps in this series is to show the broad distribution of those mineral resources which may be of current or potential economic interest. The maps are intended to assist strategic decision-making in respect of mineral extraction and the protection of important mineral resources against sterilisation. They bring together a wide range of information, much of which is disparate and not always available in a convenient form.

The maps have been produced by the collation and interpretation of mineral resource data principally held by the British Geological Survey. As such the mineral resource data presented are based on the best available information, but are not comprehensive and their quality is variable. The inferred boundaries shown are, therefore, approximate. Mineral resources defined on the map delineate the areas within which potentially workable minerals may occur. These areas are not of uniform potential and also take no account of planning constraints that may limit their working. The economic potential of specific sites can only be proved by a detailed evaluation programme. Such an investigation is an essential precursor to submission of a planning application for mineral working. Extensive areas are shown as having no mineral resource potential, but some isolated mineral extraction may occur in these areas. The presence of these operations generally reflect very local or specific situations that are not resolved by the resolution of data that is available for compilation of this regional-scale map and require site-specific investigation to identify. This can result in marine mineral licences covering areas where no resource is shown. It is possible that local variations in geology that are too subtle to be resolved by this regional-scale survey can contain substantial volumes of resource and could prove to be significant future resources. These deposits can cover small areas, less than 1km (the smallest grid spacing used on the maps), but nevertheless can contain several million cubic metres of sand and gravel.

The locations of application and licence areas for aggregate extraction in 2013 are shown. These have been supplied by the Crown Estate, March 2013.

The maps are intended for general consideration of mineral issues and not as a source of detailed information on specific localities. The maps should not be used to determine individual planning applications or to take decisions on the acquisition or use of a particular area, although they may give useful background information which sets a specific proposal within context.

Not to be used for navigation.

The area covered by this map includes many major embayments, for the majority of these data coverage is poor and sediments are highly variable, as such they have not been included in the study.

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AGGREGATE RESOURCES

- Coarse aggregate
- Fine aggregate (fine sand)
- Fine aggregate (coarse sand)
- Aggregate suitable for fill
- No resource inferred from available data
- Carbonate content of sand exceeds 50%

AGGREGATE LICENCE AREAS

- Licence and application areas as of March 2013

PLANNING AREAS

- MMO Marine Plan Areas - 1: North East inshore. 2: North East offshore.
- Shelf break defined by 200m bathymetry contour
- National boundary
- Median line
- Limit of Isle of Man territorial waters

0 50 100 Km

