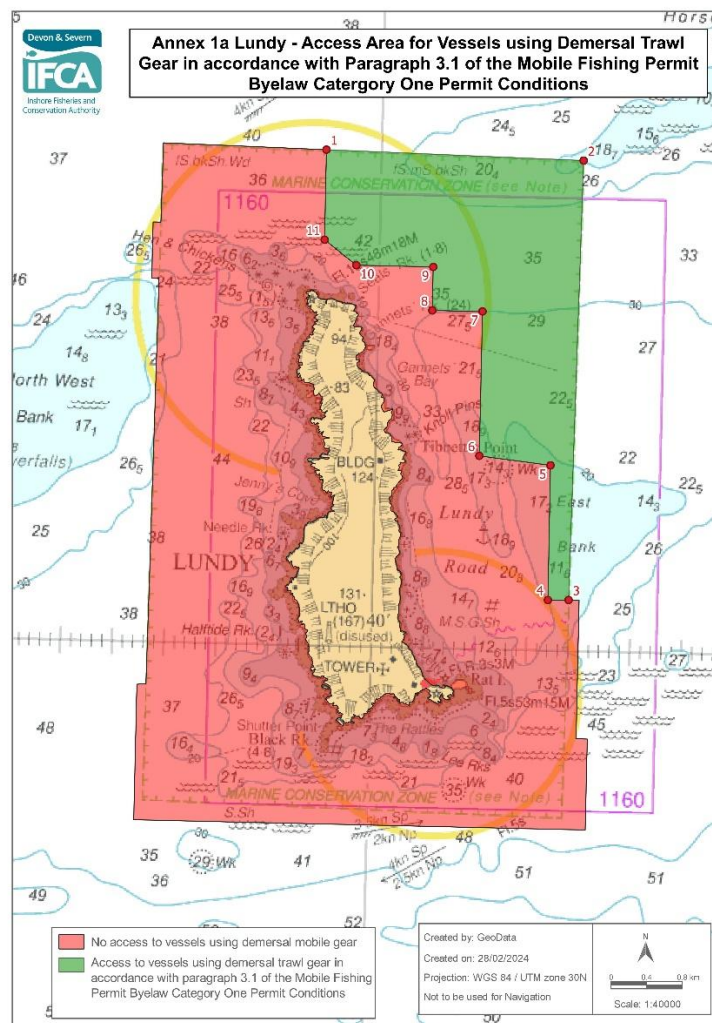


Lundy Special Area of Conservation Monitoring and Control Plan Review 2025: Towed (demersal) Trawl Gear on Subtidal Coarse Sediment



**Lauren Parkhouse
 Environment Officer
 March 2026**

Version control history			
Officer	Date	Comment	Version
Lauren Parkhouse	20/02/2026	Initial Draft	0.1
James Stewart	05/03/2026	Review & finalisation	1.0

Background of Monitoring and Control Plan

In 2012, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) announced a revised approach to the management of commercial fisheries in European Marine Sites (EMS). The objective of this revised approach is to ensure that all existing and potential commercial fishing activities are managed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

Activity/feature interactions in EMS underwent Habitat Regulation Assessments (HRA) to determine whether management measures were required in order to ensure that fishing activities will have no adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

Lundy Special Area of Conservation (SAC) has a number of qualifying features, including the subtidal coarse sediment sub-feature (Annex 1). This feature, and its interaction with commercial fishing activities, is the subject of this document. Access is authorised for demersal trawl gear in the area of the SAC defined by Annex 1a of the Mobile Fishing Permit Conditions (green area shown in Annex 2 to this report).

In carrying out a Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) for towed (demersal) trawl gear on subtidal coarse sediment in 2016 and subsequently updating this in 2018 due to formal advice given by Natural England, D&S IFCA concluded that for the current number of vessels, which fish seasonally, there would be no significant effect on this feature.

NE advised that due to uncertainties of possible impacts of otter trawls on the coarse sediment, and the level of effort, a M&C Plan should be developed. D&S IFCA followed this advice, and a M&C Plan was created in 2019. This report should be read in conjunction with the [M&C Plan](#) (Version 2.1, 2019).

M&C Plan Actions

1. Monitoring of Fishing Activity

The first action of the M&C Plan was to monitor the level of fishing effort on a yearly basis, with 2019 being set as a baseline. Inshore Vessel Monitoring System (IVMS) data were obtained from the MMO for the 2019 [baseline document](#). A total of 11 passes of the gear were made in a two-month period in 2019, five of which were carried out on one day. More details on the 2019 fishery can be read in the baseline report previously provided. This monitoring has been undertaken annually since 2019.

IVMS data for 2025 were obtained via Themis for activity in the area open to demersal trawl gear within the Lundy SAC. A data search for activity at speeds of 2-4 knots (fishing speeds) between 1st January and 31st July 2025 was conducted for five vessels with D&S IFCA Mobile Fishing Permits which fish in the north of the District. Due to unforeseen circumstances with the sharing of IVMS data from certain units, IVMS was only available until 31st July in 2025. During this time, no vessels entered the area open to demersal trawl gear.

2. Review of Habitat Data

A condition assessment was carried out by Natural England for the marine features of the site in December 2022 based on the monitoring report from the 2017 surveys. The condition assessment concludes that the feature, H1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time, were in 100% favourable condition (Natural England, 2022).

Summary

As there was no activity within the site from 1st January to 31st July in 2025, and there are no changes to the habitat information, a review of the HRA is not appropriate at this time. Yearly monitoring will continue, and this may lead to a review of the HRA if required.

Annex 1- Lundy SAC Feature Map

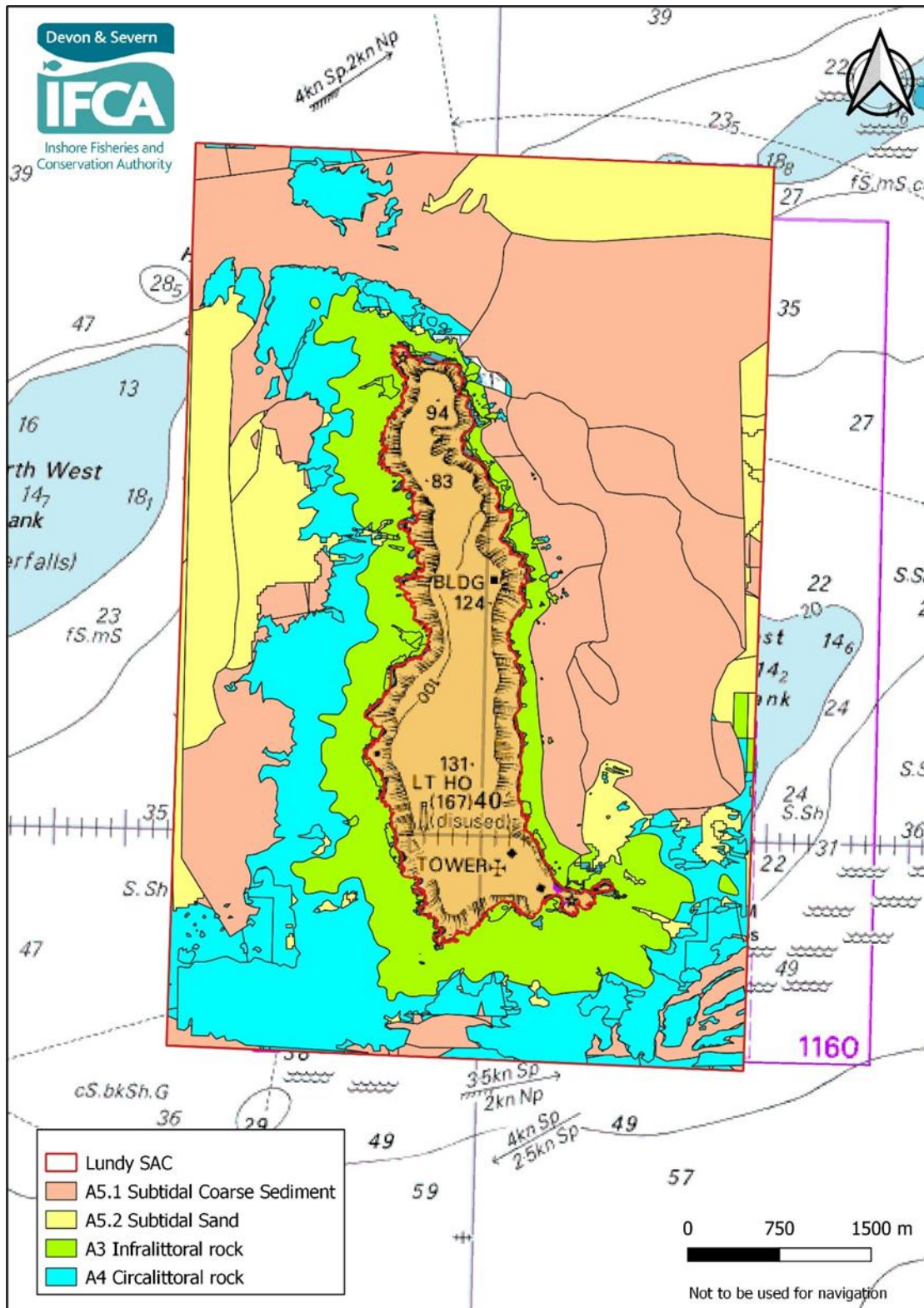


Figure 1 Lundy SAC Habitat Map Contains, or is based on, information supplied by Natural England. Contains, or is derived from, information supplied by Ordnance Survey. © Crown copyright and database right [2022]. Ordnance Survey Licence number AC0000851168. © Crown copyright and database right. Reproduced by permission of The Keeper of Public Records and the UK Hydrographic Office (www.ukho.gov.uk/copyright).

References:

Bolam, S., McIlwaine, Hawes, J. and Arosio, R. (2022). Lundy Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Monitoring Report 2017: CEFAS.

Natural England Lundy SAC Feature Condition Assessment (2022). Online: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineFeatureCondition.aspx?SiteCode=UK0013114&SiteName=lundy&SiteNameDisplay=Lundy+SAC&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=> Last accessed: 05/03/2026