



British  
Geological Survey  
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

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## Welsh Waters and the Irish Sea

### Marine Sand and Gravel Resources

Scale 1:500 000

Compiled by T.P. Bide, P.S. Balson and E. Campbell  
Project Leaders: T.P. Bide and J.M. Mankelow  
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 'The Mineral Resources of Welsh Waters and the Irish Sea'. British Geological Survey Open Report, OR/12/097.

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Marine sand and gravel resources of Welsh Waters and the Irish Sea  
Bide, T.P., Balson, P.S. and Campbell, E.

#### Aims and Limitations

The purpose of the maps in this series is to show the broad distribution of these 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 curation 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 exercise. Such an exercise is an essential precursor to the initiation of a planned application for mineral extraction. Existing areas are shown as areas of known mineral resource potential. Unexploited mineral resource may occur in these areas. The outcome of these operations generally will be very localised specific areas that are not resolved by the resolution of the 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 resources and could prove to be significant future resources. For example, areas around Liverpool Bay have been identified by the aggregate industry as localised sand and gravel deposits. These deposits can cover small areas, less than 1 km² (the smallest grid spacing used on the map), but nevertheless can contain several million cubic metres of sand and gravel.

The locations of application and licence areas for aggregate extraction 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.

#### Copyright

The Regional Habitat Study for the Outer Bristol Channel has been supported by the Marine Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund (MALSF) and the National Museum of Wales. Mackie, A.S.Y., James, J.W.C., Rees E.I.S., Darbyshire, T., Philpott, S.L., Mortimer, K., Jenkins, G.O. and Morando, A. 2006. The outer Bristol Channel Marine Habitat Study. The National Museum of Wales, Biomar 4.

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#### Not to be used for navigation.

The area covered by this map includes several 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. Bay closing lines, which delineate the boundary of internal waters, defined by the UKHO as of August 2012, have, where appropriate, been used to determine the extent of these embayments.

#### Regional Habitat Studies

Outer Bristol Channel

#### 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%
- Area prospective for coarse sand and gravel

#### AGGREGATE LICENCE AREAS

- Licence and application areas as of March 2013

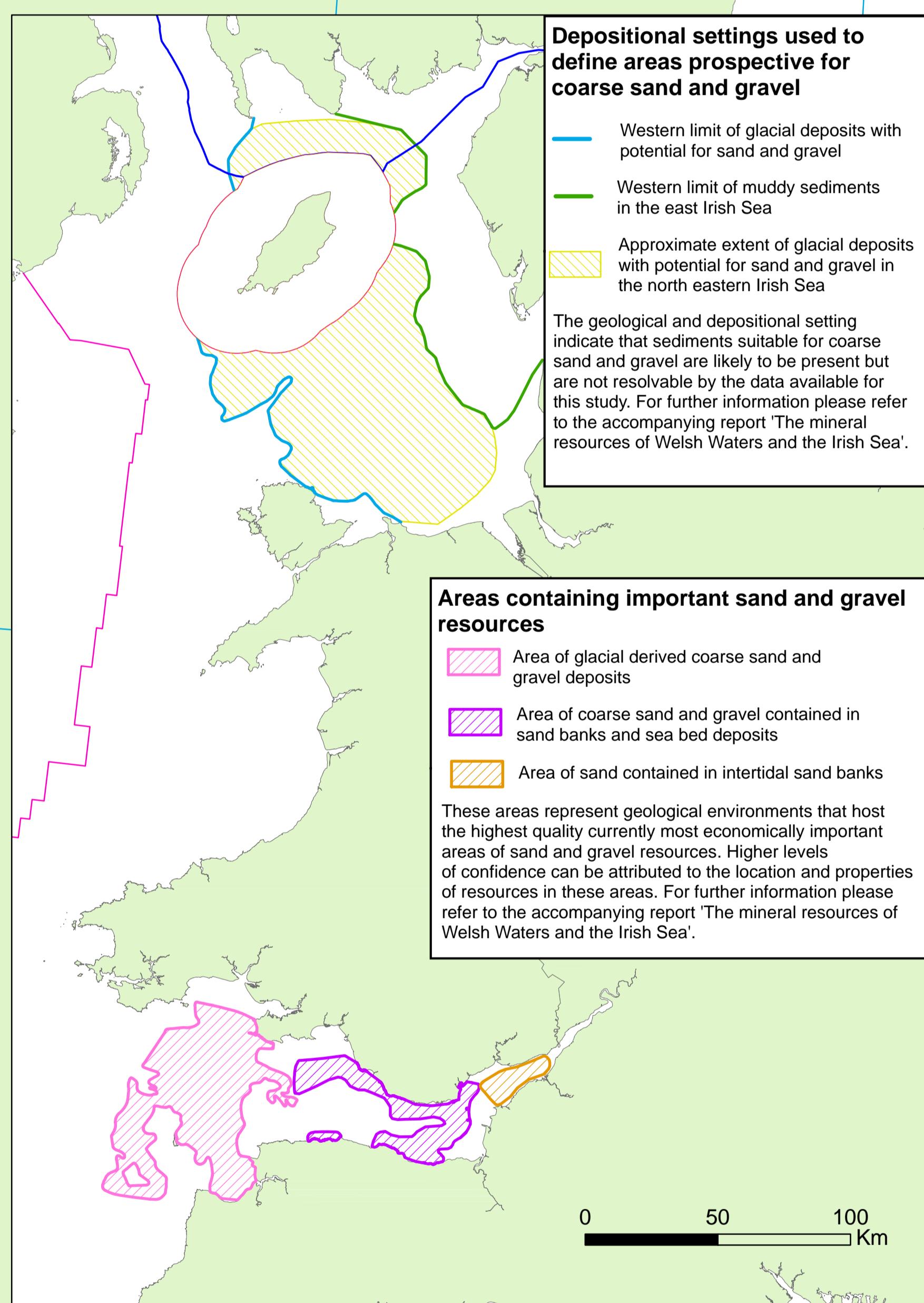
#### REGIONAL HABITAT STUDIES

- Outer Bristol Channel

#### PLANNING AREAS

- Marine Management Organisation Marine Plan Areas -  
1: North West. 2: South West offshore. 3: South West inshore.
- National boundary
- Median line
- Limit of Isle of Man territorial waters

0 50 100 Km



#### Aggregate resource categorisation flow sheet

