

# Norwegian Boundary Sediment Plain

Marine Protected Area

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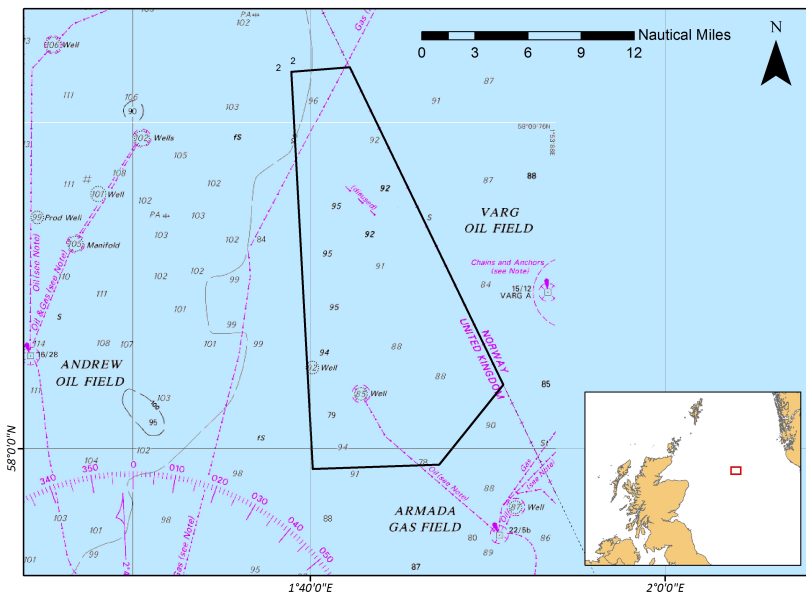
Ocean quahog lie buried beneath  
the seabed surface

# Norwegian Boundary Sediment Plain

## Marine Protected Area (MPA)

Located to the east of Scotland in offshore waters, the Norwegian Boundary Sediment Plain MPA lies adjacent to the offshore limit of UK waters.

A sandy plain in relatively shallow waters, the MPA is important for the ocean quahog. This thick-shelled clam can live for more than 400 years, making it one of the longest-living creatures on Earth. Like tree rings, the age of ocean quahog can be determined by counting the shell layers that form each year, which also provide information on how our climate has changed over time.



### Boundary of Norwegian Boundary Sediment Plain MPA

Location: 58° 04.548' N 1° 43.688' E

Area: 164 km<sup>2</sup>





Sands and gravel habitat is home to one of the oldest living creatures on Earth

## Protected Features & Conservation Objectives

The aim is to conserve the **ocean quahog aggregations** (including sands and gravels as their supporting habitat) that occur within the Norwegian Boundary Sediment Plain MPA.

The Norwegian Boundary Sediment Plain MPA is home to a range of animals that live both in and on the sand and gravel habitat, such as starfish, crabs, and the long-lived ocean quahog.

Ocean quahog filter food from passing currents, and can use a shovel-like 'foot' to bury into the sediment. To escape predators, they can burrow even deeper into the sediment and live for long periods without food or oxygen. Ocean quahog are an important food source for several species of fish, including cod. Although they are not specific to one type of habitat, sands and gravels are the ocean quahog's preferred habitat.

# Further Information

Further information on Nature Conservation MPAs, the wider network and protected areas management is available at [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork)

For Nature Conservation MPA site documents and more information about the fascinating range of marine life found in Scotland's seas, please visit

[www.jncc.defra.gov.uk/scottishmpas](http://www.jncc.defra.gov.uk/scottishmpas) - for offshore waters

[www.snh.gov.uk/mpas](http://www.snh.gov.uk/mpas) - for territorial waters



marine scotland



Starfish roam over sand and gravel habitats

