

Geikie Slide and Hebridean Slope

Marine Protected Area

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**A descent down
the continental
slope into the deep
ocean**

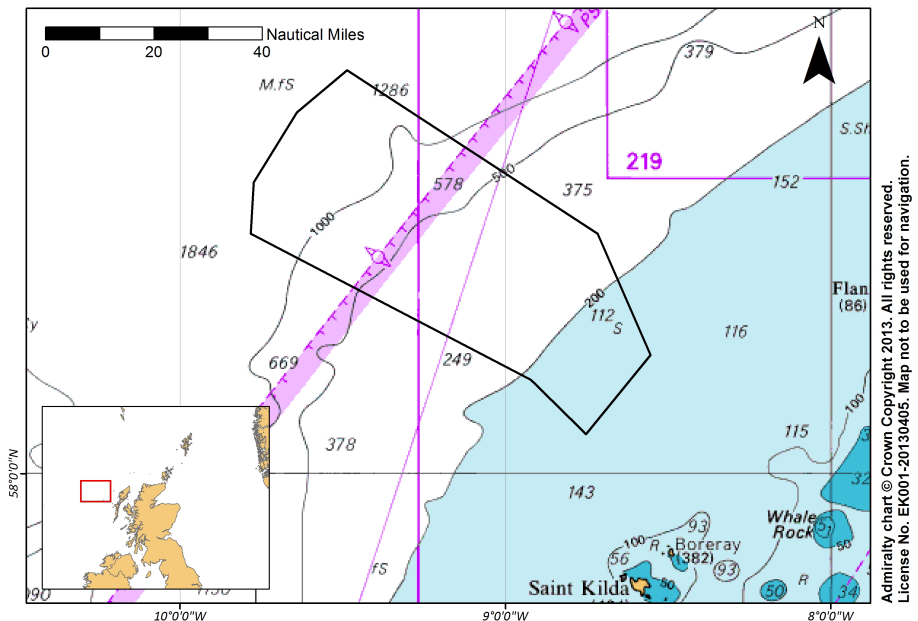


Geikie Slide and Hebridean Slope

Marine Protected Area (MPA)

Located off north-west Scotland, the Geikie Slide and Hebridean Slope MPA follows the descent of the seabed from the continental shelf at a depth of 200m into the deep-sea. The Slide is a submarine landslide, named after the famous Scottish geologist, Sir Archibald Geikie.

The continental slope is believed to be significant for the health of Scotland's seas because of the way it influences the movement of water currents which bring a plentiful supply of food to the area.



Boundary of Geikie Slide and Hebridean Slope MPA

Location: 58° 22.229' N 9° 10.272' W

Area: 2,215 km²



Rays glide over the muddy seabed

Protected Features & Conservation Objectives

The aim is to **conserve the burrowed mud, offshore subtidal sands and gravels, offshore deep-sea muds and continental slope** within the MPA, as well as the unusual Submarine Mass Movement geological features associated with the Geikie Slide.

Habitats within the MPA vary down the slope with the descent into deeper water. The sand and gravel habitat on the continental shelf continues down the slope changing to mud as the depth increases. The mud is characterised by the burrows formed by animals such as mud shrimp and deep sea crabs.

Along the bottom of the slope, a range of animals are present that tolerate the environmental conditions of the deep-sea. A diverse range of sea life can be found living in and on the mud, including sea urchins, sea spiders, and deep-sea worms. The area is also a breeding ground for commercially important fish such as blue ling.

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

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 - for offshore waters

www.snh.gov.uk/mpas - for territorial waters



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JNCC
Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Remotely operated cameras provide an insight into life in the deep-sea

