

Studland Bay

Protecting our precious
seagrass habitats together



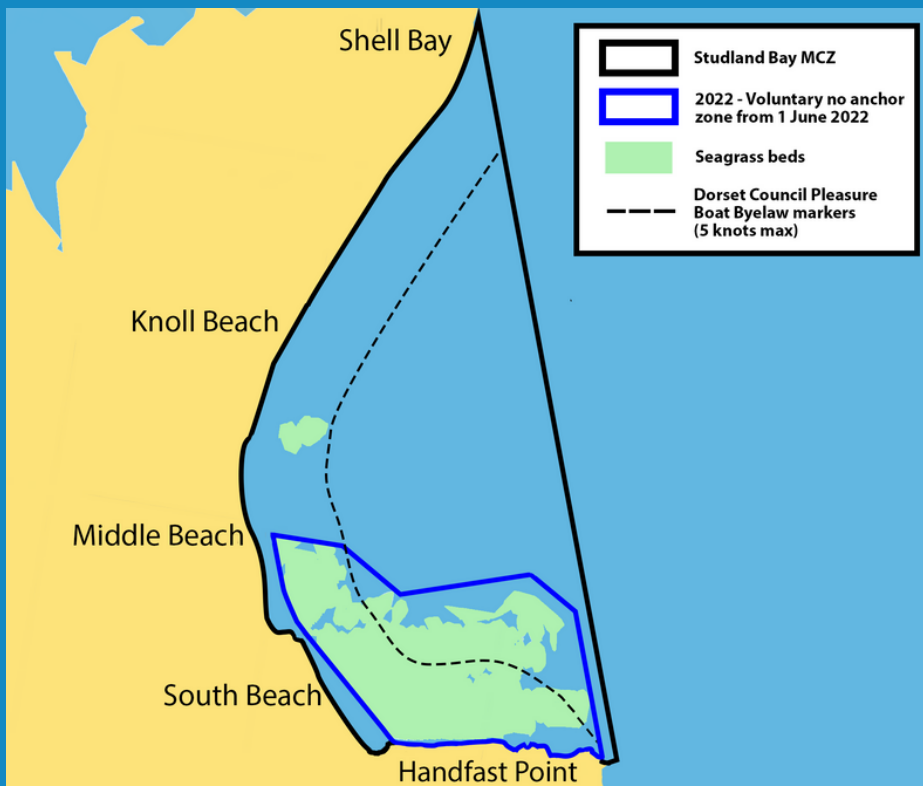
Marine
Management
Organisation

We need your support

Studland Bay is renowned for its sandy beaches and stunning views. It's also home to precious seagrass beds, a vital habitat for protected species of seahorse and other wildlife, as well as a nursery ground for commercially important fish species.

It was designated as a marine conservation zone (MCZ) in 2019. In 2021, after much consultation with the boating community, partners and other users of the bay, a voluntary no anchor zone (VNAZ) was introduced to help reduce damage to seagrass beds.

Recreational boaters who use, visit and enjoy Studland Bay are encouraged to support our voluntary approach and anchor outside the VNAZ to help protect and preserve the seagrass habitats for the future.



Safety at Sea

- Safety is always the highest priority and the right to anchor in Studland Bay in or to avoid an emergency will continue.

How can you help

- Anchor outside the VNAZ and away from the seagrass beds located off South Beach out to Old Harry Rocks. Use available ecomoorings.
- Take extra care when moving in the nearshore area of South Beach. This is a known breeding area for the legally protected long-snouted seahorse, also known as spiny seahorse.



Ecomoorings are here!

- Ecomoorings offer a sustainable alternative to anchoring in the VNAZ
- These are currently free to use and have been delivered thanks to Studland Bay Marine Partnership.

Studland Bay Marine Partnership

Made up of key local stakeholders, the partnership aims to conserve and develop sustainable solutions for Studland.

Why act now?

- Studland Bay is a popular destination for boaters and anchors can drag, scrape or embed in the seabed, damaging fronds and uprooting the seagrass.
- The overall size of the beds is not necessarily an indicator of the quality and vitality of the seagrass habitat. Seagrass beds in England are facing multiple threats including physical damage and water quality.
- Seagrass absorbs carbon, stabilises the seabed, reduces coastal erosion and helps mitigate the impact of climate change.

Voluntary no anchor zone coordinates

The area where the voluntary no anchor zone applies is enclosed by a series of geodesic lines drawn from:

Point 1 - 50°38.9814'N 01°57.0306'W; to Point 2 - 50°38.9814'N 01°56.7072'W; to Point 3 - 50°38.8752'N 01°56.4324'W; to Point 4 - 50°38.9868'N 01°55.8966'W; to Point 5 - 50°38.9094'N 01°55.6782'W; to the boundary of the MCZ at Point 6 - 50°38.5188'N 01°55.4568'W; following the boundary of the MCZ to Point 7 - 50°38.4690'N 01°56.3676'W; to Point 8 - 50°38.7504'N 01°56.8620'W; to Point 9 - 50°38.8146'N 01°56.9256'W; and returning to point 1

Further information

For more information on the voluntary no anchor zone, please see our website at www.gov.uk/mmo or scan the QR code



** Seagrass & seahorse credit: © Neil Garrick-Maidment/The Seahorse Trust

** Eco-moorings credit: © Boatfolk

Information correct as of 16/06/23, see gov.uk for latest information