



# CORNWALL COASTAL DATA HUB

## SUMMARY REPORT

Output 2.1 of the Cornwall 3Cs Project

Version	Date	Author	Comment
V1	March 2023	JN	

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## PREFACE

**This report is one of several outputs for the project entitled “Coordinating Cornwall’s Coastal Recovery: coast and marine nature recovery action plans to achieve 30 by 30” project which ran from January to April 2023.**

This is the second phase of the project exploring the feasibility and options for establishing a Coastal Partnership in Cornwall.

The partnership taking this phase of the work forward is hosted by Cornwall Wildlife Trust and includes Cornwall Council, Cornwall Catchment Partnership, Environment Agency and Natural England. The project is funded through the Environment Agency’s Water Environment Improvement Fund under the banner of ‘Championing Coastal Collaboration’ (3Cs).

This work has been delivered by The Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (ERCCIS), Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Cornwall Council and Kaja Curry Consulting and Services.

All of the work carried out can be accessed on the Cornwall Wildlife Trust’s website at <https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/our-conservation-work/at-sea/coastal-partnerships>



# Cornwall Coastal Data Hub

## BACKGROUND

This element of the project focussed on creating a prototype online data repository for coastal data in Cornwall. The Cornwall Coastal Data Hub, can be visited at <https://cornwall-coastal-data-hub-cwtrust.hub.arcgis.com/>.

## 1 CONTEXT

### 1.1 WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

- Research carried out in the Championing Coastal Coordination in Cornwall Final Report, K. Curry, March 2022, showed strong support for a single marine/coastal GIS hub for Cornwall with 89% of survey respondents saying that it would be either of high or medium use to them - see Figure 1. GIS was clearly an important tool used by most of the participants, with over 70% giving it high importance to their work or business – see Figure 2.
- Stakeholders asked for easier access to data.
- Individual GIS layers can be difficult to find across different data websites.
- Stakeholders asked for place to easily access documents in one location, e.g. Shoreline Management Plans etc.
- To facilitate easier identification of habitat opportunities through mapping.
- To improve project delivery and project development around marine and coastal habitat delivery.
- To compliment and further develop the Local Nature Recovery Strategy by integrating data across the land-sea interface.

Figure 1: 3Cs pilot research survey respondents' ratings for usefulness of a single GIS Hub for Cornwall

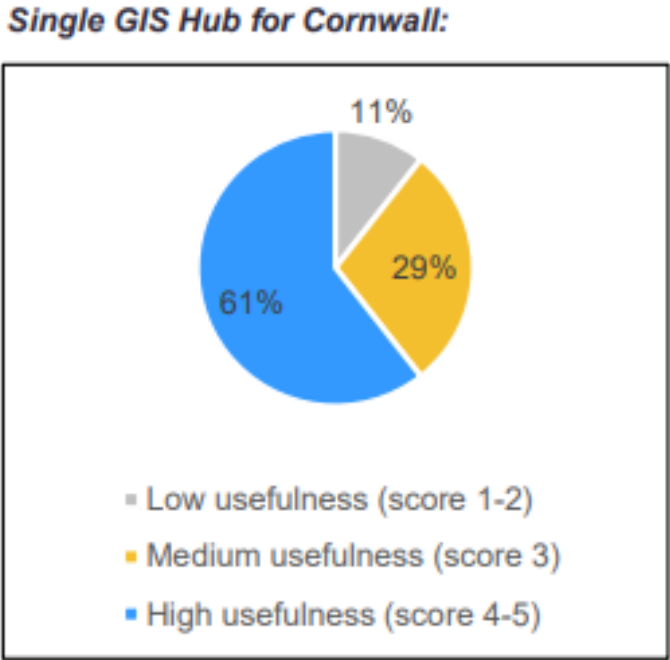
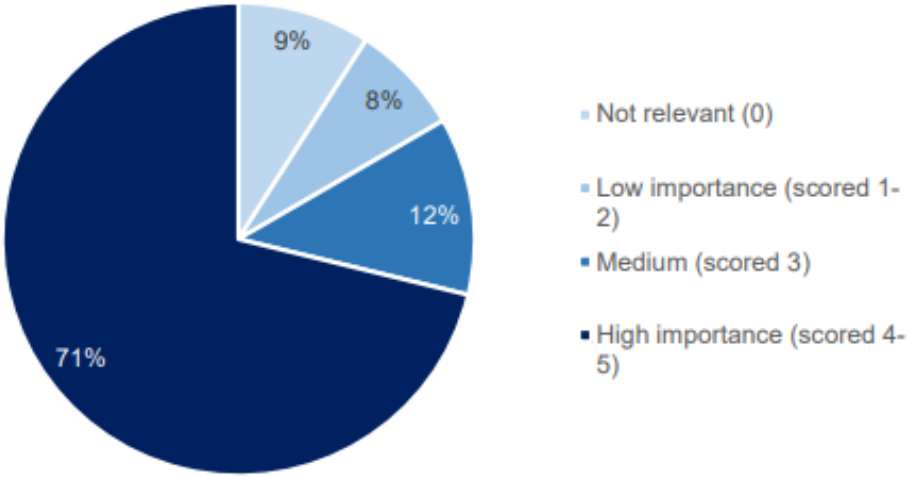


Figure 2: 3Cs pilot research survey respondents' ratings for how important GIS data is to them



## 1.2 WHO ARE WE DOING THIS FOR?

- All stakeholders identified under Phase 1 of the Championing Coastal Coordination (3Cs) in Cornwall project
- Data providers who want to provide accessible / accurate / up-to-date data
- Organisations developing projects and looking for info
- Local authorities
- Commercial business
- Government Departments, agencies, and public bodies
- Public and community organisations
- NGOs
- Planners and Developers
- Site Managers

## 1.3 WHAT WAS THE STARTING POINT?

- In 2022, through the G7 Legacy fund, ERCCIS created a prototype Marine Data Portal and 38 static trimmed data layers were uploaded to the site in March of that year.
- Concerns were raised from Natural England about putting a trimmed version of their data in the public domain due to the risk of this not being regularly updated.
- A range of other national data hubs were emerging, e.g. the [Explore Marine Plans](#) website.

## 2 WHAT WAS ACHIEVED

- It was agreed that the pre-existing prototype Marine Data Portal would provide a suitable and cost effective starting point to develop into the Coastal Data Hub, rather than starting from scratch.
- The Marine Data Portal was developed and rebranded as the 'Cornwall Coastal Data Hub' in order to create a user-friendly site for a wider audience.
- Trimmed data layers hosted by ERCCIS were removed from the site and a new methodology was taken using a mask 12nm around Cornwall and using data referencing to ensure data layers are live and stay up to date.
- Conversations around access to datasets and data agreements were carried out with a range of key stakeholders including Environment Agency, Natural England, Marine Management Organisation, Cornwall Council, etc.
- The ability to download data, if allowed by the data source, was added to the site.
- A new framework was developed for data categorisation to ensure the data layers are easy to navigate, divided up into logical sections and it is clear where the data source is.
- A list of available data layers from a range of sources was collated and analysis was carried out to determine which were relevant for inclusion. As a result:

- 63 new data layers were uploaded to populate the site with initial data. See example in Figure 3.
- 100+ data layers were identified for inclusion during the next phase of development.
- 17 reports/summaries were listed/linked to from the site.
- 60+ reports/strategies/publications were listed to incorporate during the next phase of development.
- The Coastal Data Hub was presented at stakeholder engagement events in March 2023 with positive feedback, see Figure 5 for summary of responses from online stakeholder workshop.

Figure 3: Example of different data layers shown on Coastal Data Hub map, illustrating seagrass habitat opportunity within Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

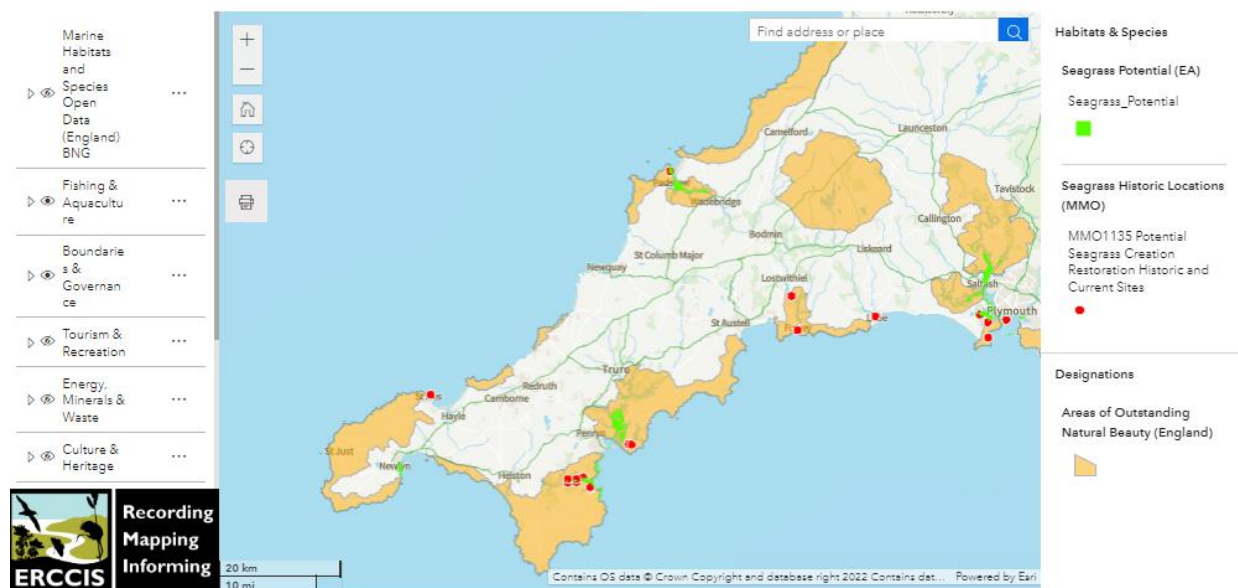
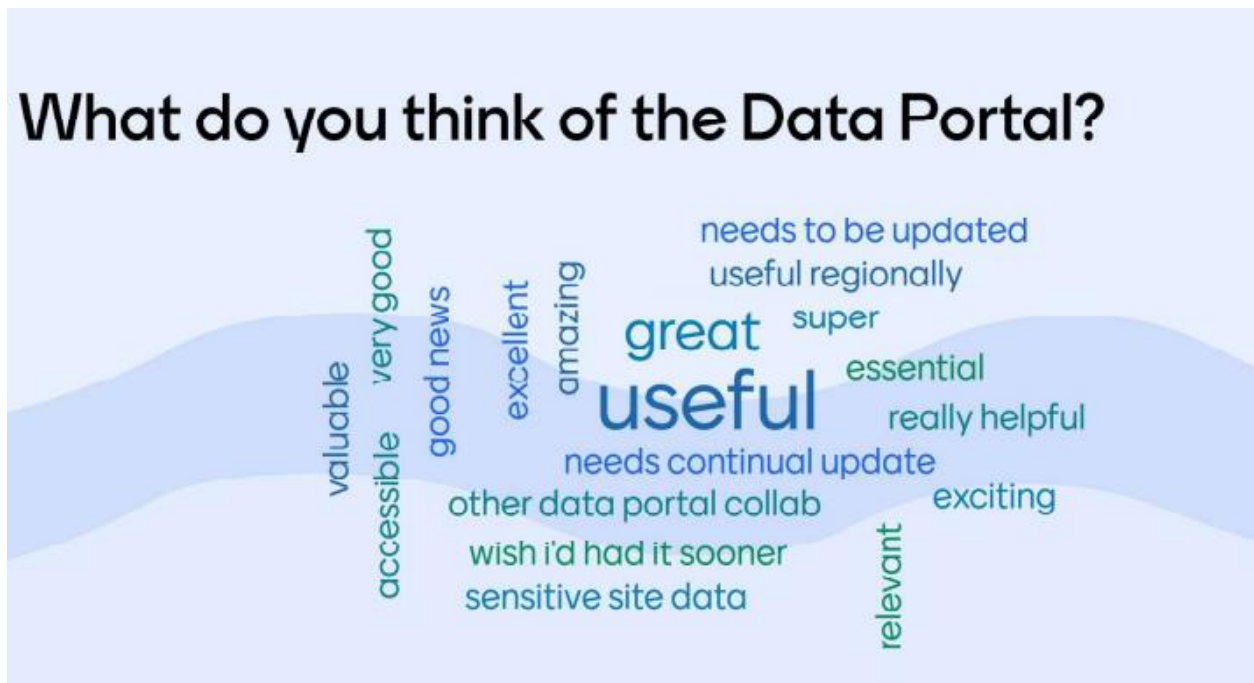


Figure 4: Infographic illustrating examples of some of the different types of data incorporated into the Coastal Data Hub (source: Kaja Curry Consulting & Services)



Figure 5: Summary of responses from online stakeholder workshop in March 2023:



### 3 AGREED FUTURE SUCCESS CRITERIA

- Consistent high traffic
- Number of visits, number of downloads
- Easy to maintain, accurate, up-to-date info
- Positive feedback from stakeholders
- Transparent meta data management with manual and clear understanding of roles and responsibilities re managing site within CWT / ERCCIS
- Provision of consistently up-to-date info

- Improved understanding and recognition of complexities amongst users
- Minimisation maintenance and hosting costs

## **4 RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS**

- Undertake user testing and refine current feedback form
- Upload further data layers
- Upload further strategic documents
- Continue conversations around access to further data layers, e.g. including offshore data etc.
- Create page with links to other emerging data hubs with summary of what they include: for example Offshore Renewables, Plymouth Coastal Observatory
- Consider creating 'how to' videos/resources to ensure website is user friendly and accessible to a range of audiences
- Present the site at relevant stakeholder events/meetings forums and undertake promotional activities to increase traffic to the site
- Consider incorporation into marine citizenship/ocean literacy training opportunities.
- Incorporate data for the Isles of Scilly