

Huge colony of bright and colourful shellfish discovered by divers off Scots coast

Flame shell beds are scarce around the UK and are listed as a priority habitat.

SHARE   

By **Ellie Forbes**

04:30, 11 DEC 2020



 Conservationists believe the recent discovery could help towards the recovery of beds in Scotland

Get the stories that matter to you sent straight to your inbox with our daily newsletter.



recommendations for other related newsletters or services we offer. Our Privacy Notice explains more about how we use your data, and your rights. You can unsubscribe at any time.

A huge colony of a rare and brightly coloured shellfish species has been discovered by divers off the west coast of Scotland.

The bed of elusive flame shells, said to be the same size as 30 tennis courts, was found to the south of the Isle of **Arran**.

Flame shell beds are scarce around the UK and are listed as a priority habitat.

The beds are protected in six locations around Scotland.

They support hundreds of different species and provide key nursery grounds for juvenile fish and scallops.

They also act as “blue” carbon stores, which help increase resilience to **climate change**.

Conservationists believe the recent discovery could help towards the recovery of beds in Scotland.

Professor Jason Hall-Spencer described the discovery as “absolutely amazing and very welcome news”.