

SEAGREEN 1A

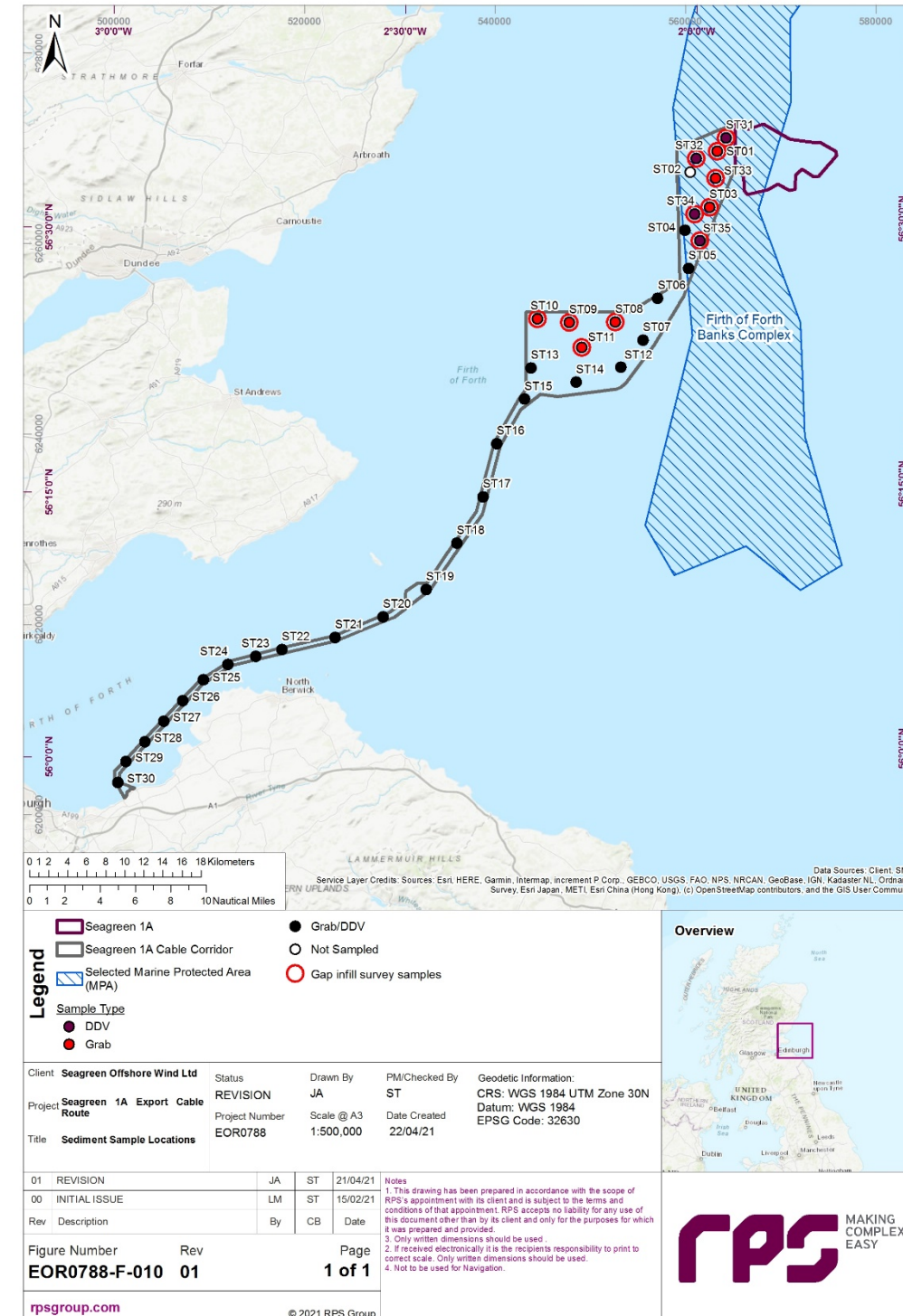
GAP FILL BENTHIC SURVEY –PSA AND DDV DATA FINDINGS



BENTHIC ECOLOGY VALIDATION SURVEY

Sampling Completed

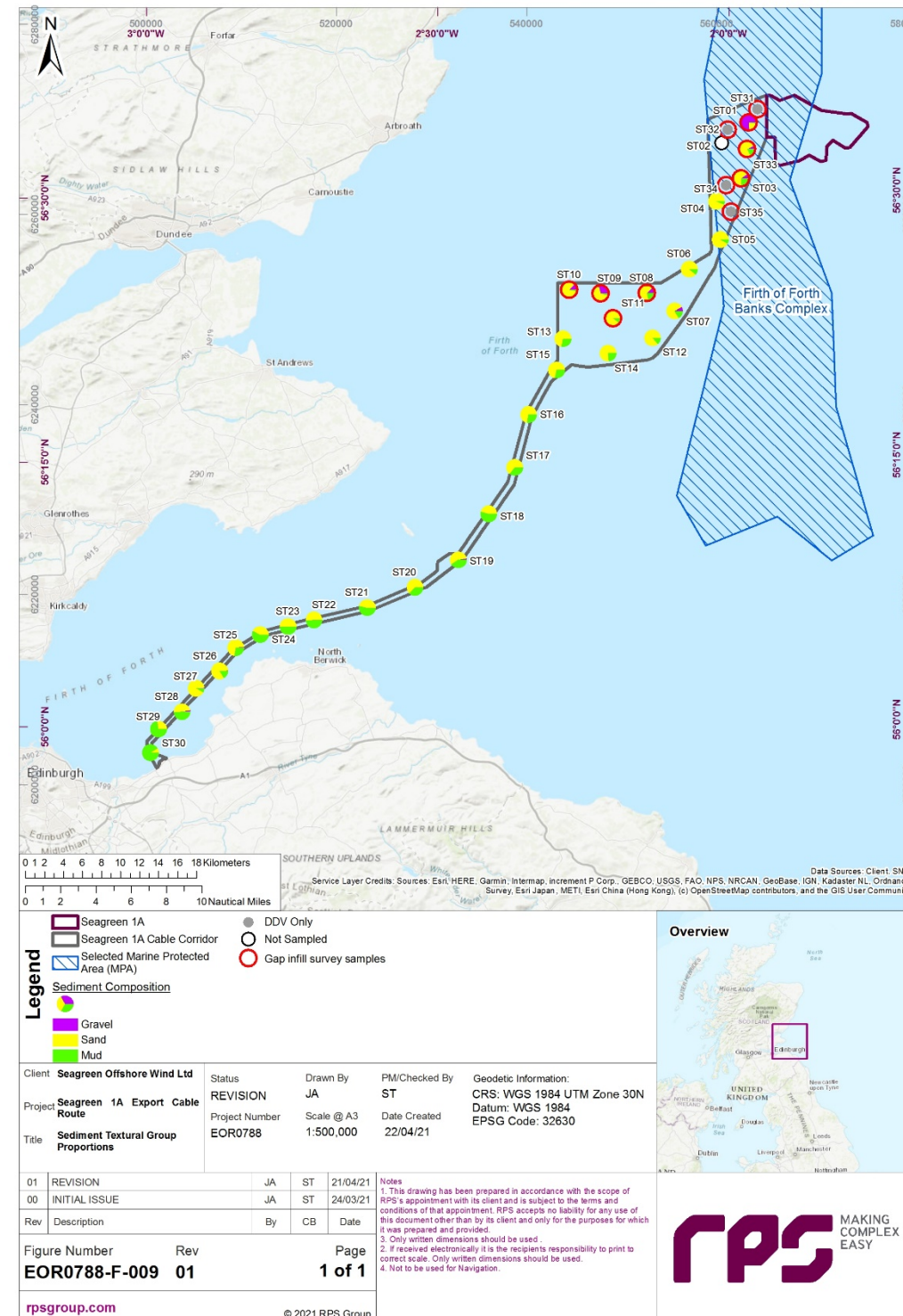
- All 11 proposed DDV stations were successfully sampled.
- Macrobenthic and PSA samples were collected from six of the remaining seven stations.
 - An additional grab sampling station was added at ST33 due to the seabed type identified during the camera survey.
 - ST02 was abandoned due to four failed grab sampling attempts.



BENTHIC ECOLOGY VALIDATION SURVEY

PSA data

- Higher proportion of gravels and coarser sediment within the MPA
- Sand makes up the highest sediment proportion across all samples except ST01 (gravel).



BENTHIC ECOLOGY VALIDATION SURVEY

PSA data

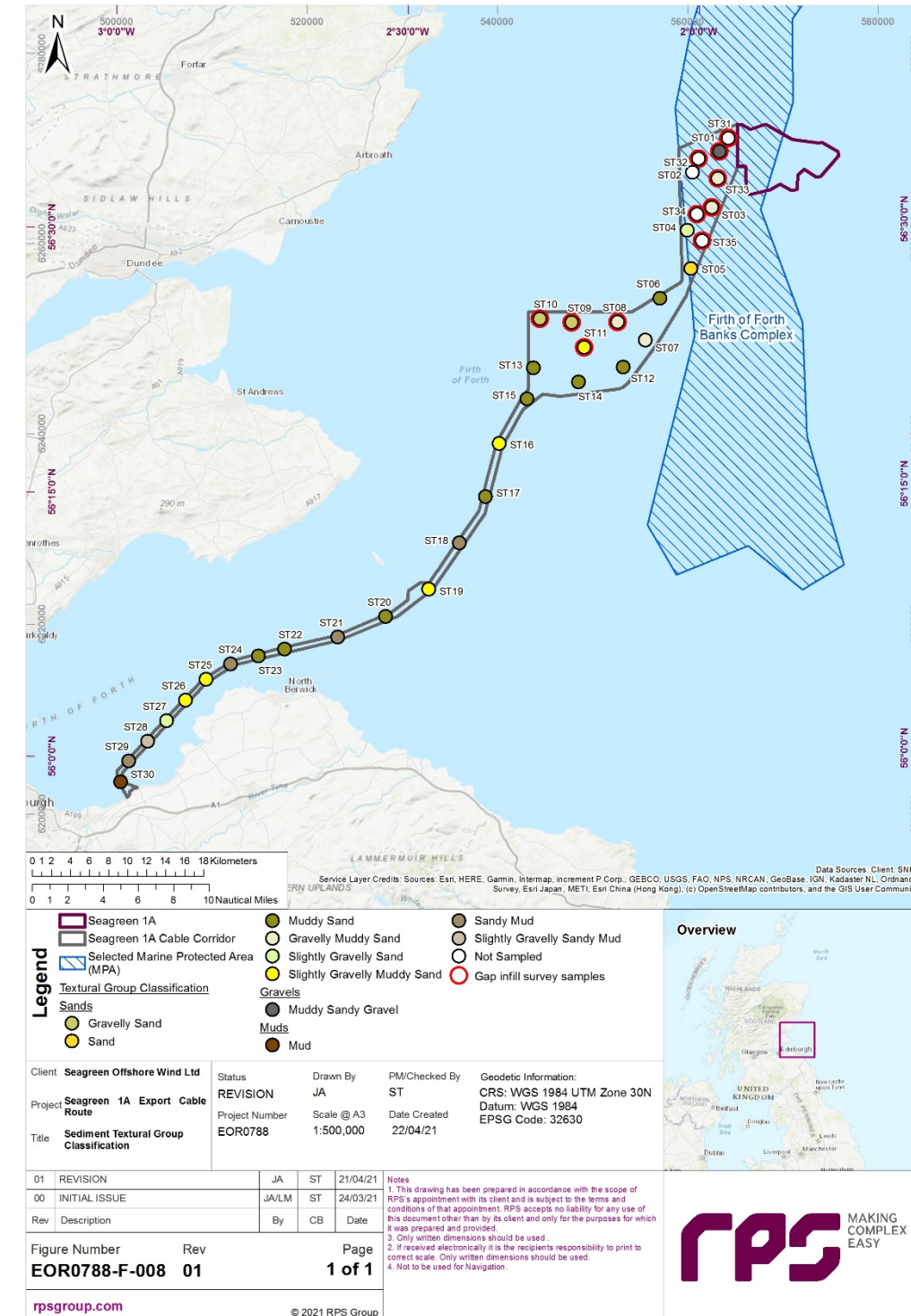
All samples within the offshore subdivision of export cable corridor.

Results from the grab samples:

- ST01- Muddy Sandy Gravel
- ST03/ST08/ST33- Gravelly Muddy Sand
- ST09/ST10- Gravelly Sand
- ST11- Slightly Gravelly Muddy Sand

Results from the DDV:

- ST33/ST34/ST08/ST11/ST10- Rippled sand
- ST09- Rippled sand with shells and pebbles.
- ST31- Sand with cobbles and pebbles.
- ST32/ST01- Coarse sediments
- ST02- Coarse sediments within cobbles
- ST35- Coarse sediment with cobbles and boulders
- No Annex I reef habitat were identified



BENTHIC ECOLOGY VALIDATION SURVEY

DDV Data

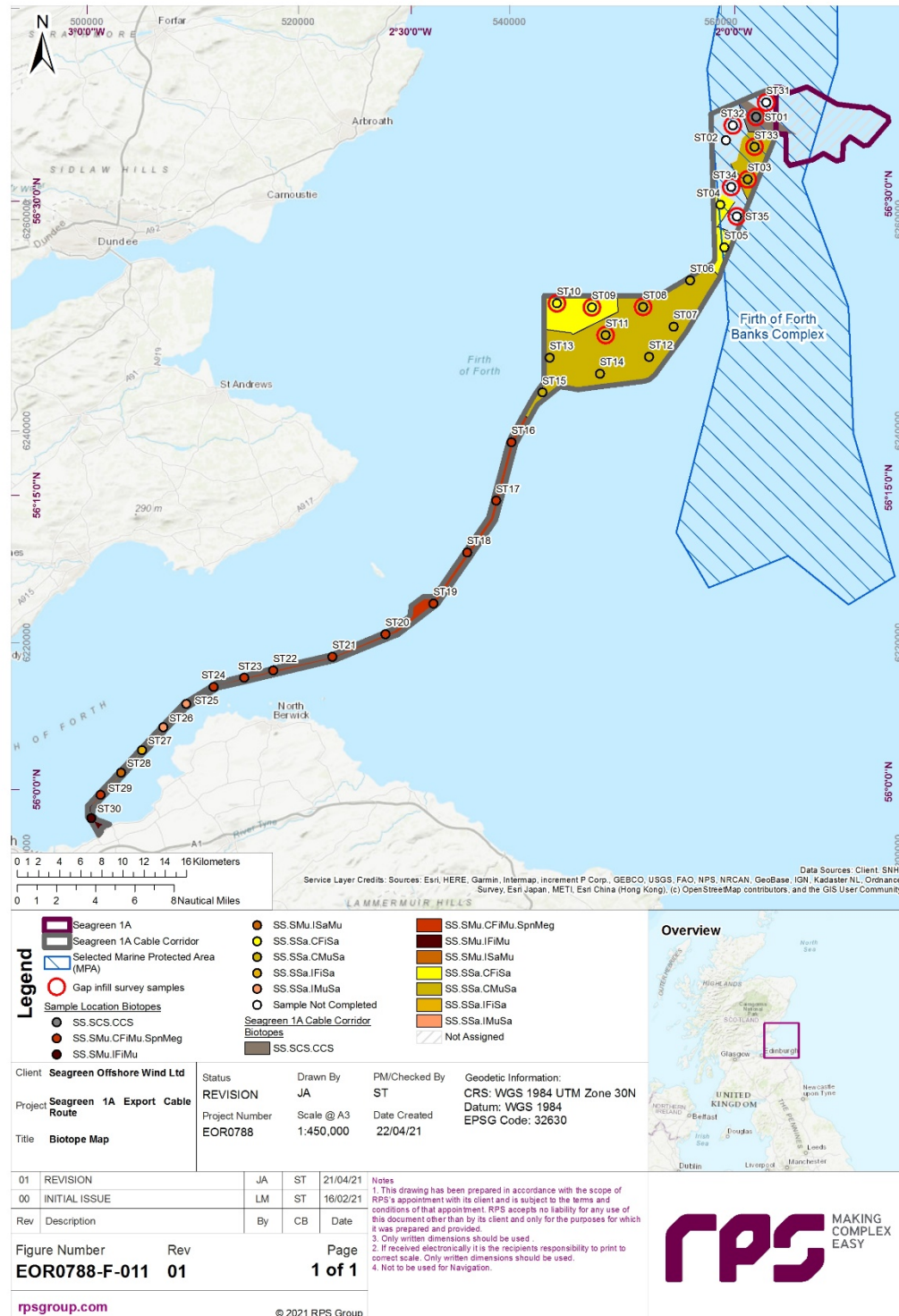
- Seabed sediments from within the MPA were generally coarser and supported epifaunal communities including beds of *Ophiocomina nigra*, *Flustra foliacea*, *Alcyonium digitatum* and *Munida* sp.



Plate 4 Top: Example seabed imagery from Station 08 (left) and Station 10 (right) situated outside of the MPA. Bottom: Example seabed imagery from Station 31 within the Firth of Forth Banks Complex MPA.

BENTHIC ECOLOGY VALIDATION SURVEY

Initial Biotope classifications



QUESTIONS & FEEDBACK

- Open Forum