

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

## **Albert Field**

### **Recommended Marine Conservation Zone**

**June 2018**

#### **Consultation on Sites Proposed for Designation in the Third Tranche of Marine Conservation Zones**

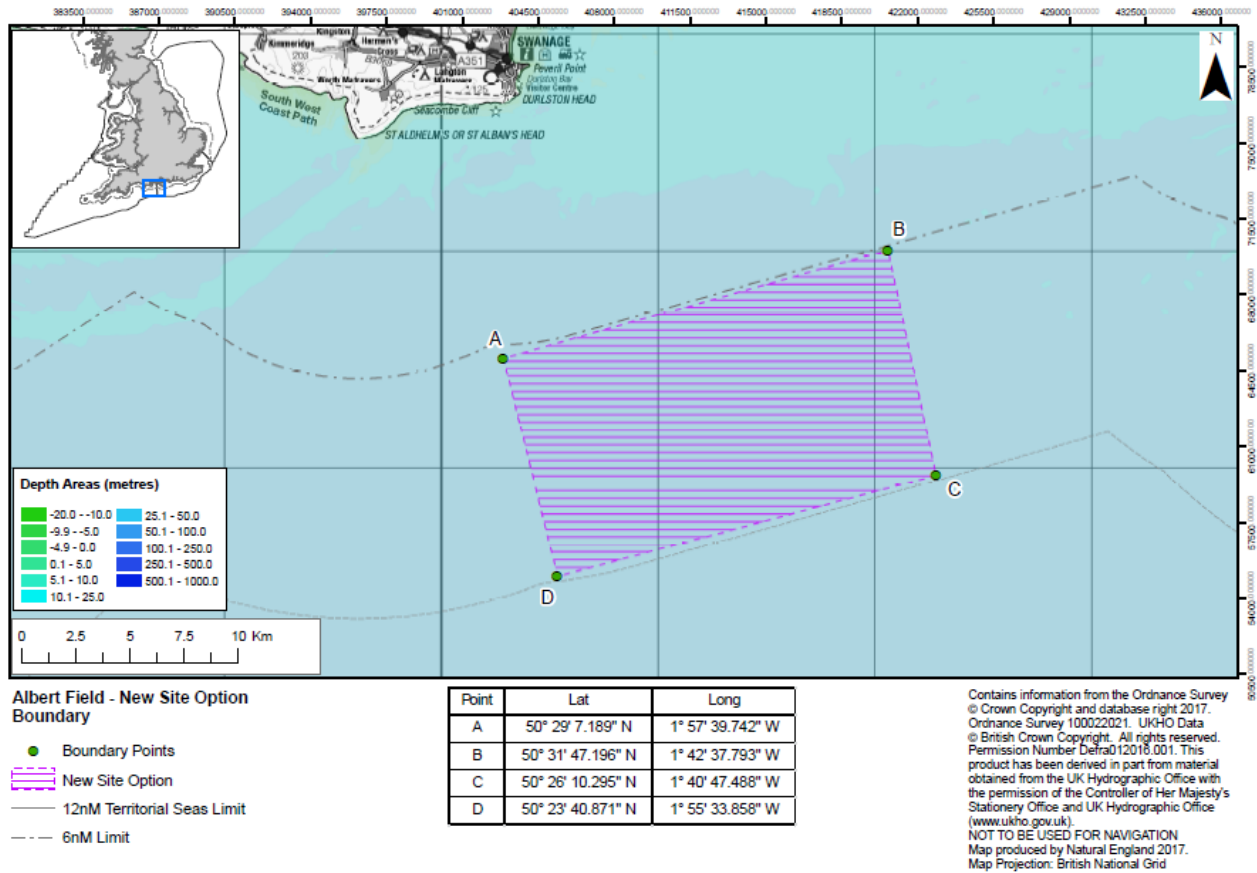


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# Where is the site located?

Albert Field recommended Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) is an inshore site covering an area of approximately 192 km<sup>2</sup>. The site is located approximately 20 km south of the entrance to Poole Harbour, extending from the 6 nautical mile (nm) limit at its northern boundary to the 12 nm limit at its southern boundary. It lies approximately 6 km east of the existing South Dorset MCZ.



## Why is the site environmentally important?

Albert Field is formed of a dynamic mosaic comprising a range of different habitat types. These are primarily subtidal sediments ranging from muddy, gravely sands through to mosaics of cobbles and pebbles in or on a sand, gravel, or mud seabed with outcropping areas of bedrock and boulders. The diverse and mixed nature of these habitats supports a variety of species, including tube building polychaetes, bivalves, barnacles, anemones, starfish, sea cucumbers, urchins, sea firs and sea mats.



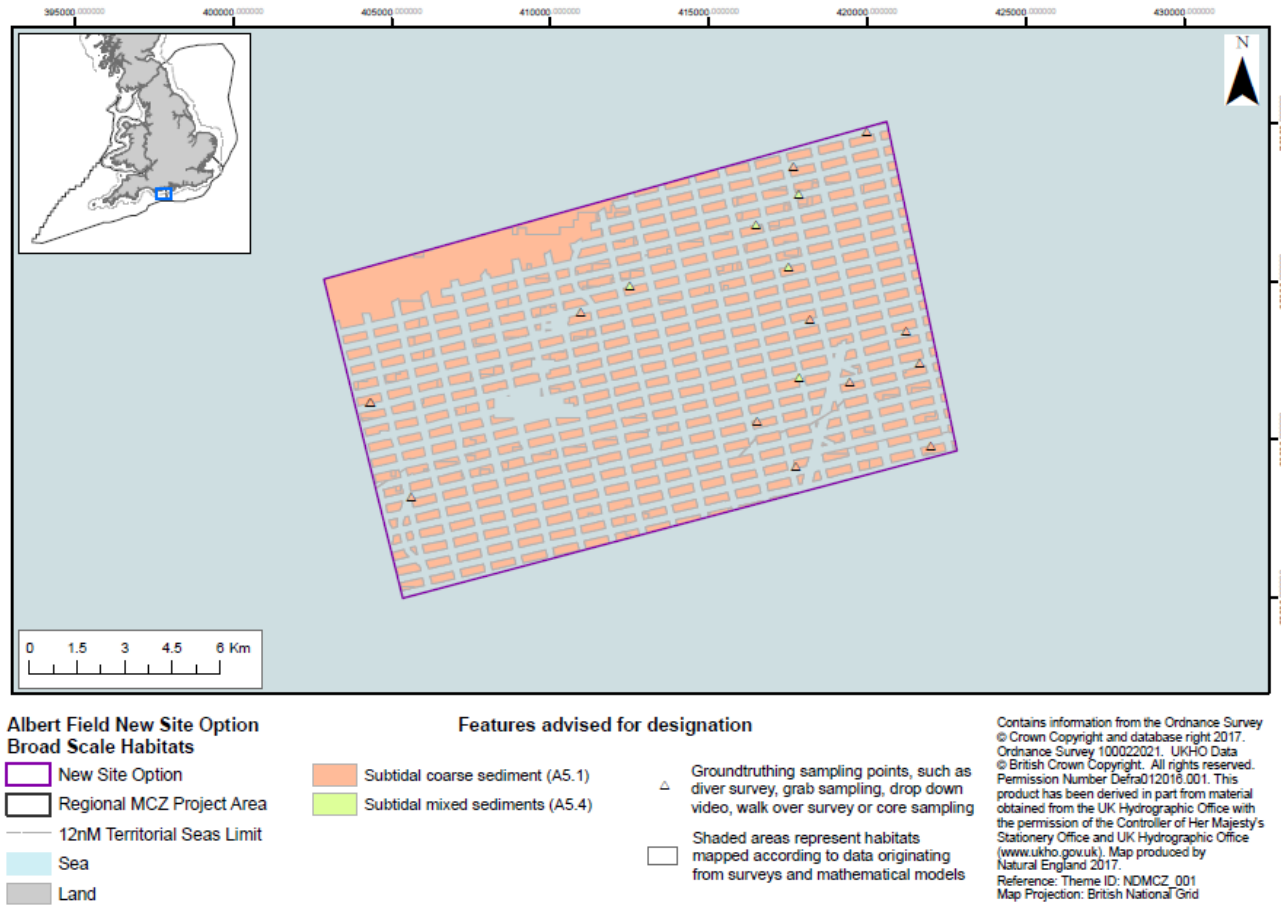
## What would this site protect?

Designation would protect the following features. You can read more about the features this site protects and why they are important [here](#).

Feature	General management approach
Subtidal coarse sediment	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	

# Where are the features located?

The following map shows the location of the features to be protected within the site. A range of different types of surveys have been used to create maps. More detailed information on the techniques used can be found [here](#).



## Which activities are likely to be affected?

Management decisions are taken on a case by case basis by relevant regulators. If an activity is identified as requiring management this does not necessarily mean that it will need to be significantly restricted. Decisions will be based on the specifics of each case and any restrictions will depend on the sensitivity of the species, habitats or geological/geomorphological features to be protected to the activity taking place. More detail is available in the Impact Assessment.

Sectors and activities likely to be affected by designation		
Sector	Activity Affected	Best Cost Estimate (£) per year (rounded to nearest £100)
Commercial Fishing UK	Bottom trawling and dredging	£1,000
<b>Best estimate total cost</b>		<b>£1,000</b>

## Commercial Fishing UK

The following gears are known to be used within the site:

- Bottom trawls and dredges

## Which activities are not likely to be affected?

These activities are known to take place at this site but at their current levels of intensity the best available evidence indicates they are not likely to be damaging the features to be protected:

- Commercial shipping
- Ports and harbours
- Recreation

## Additional Information

To read the advice provided by Natural England, please visit

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6079955233931264>

To read the advice provided by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, please visit

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7119>

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