

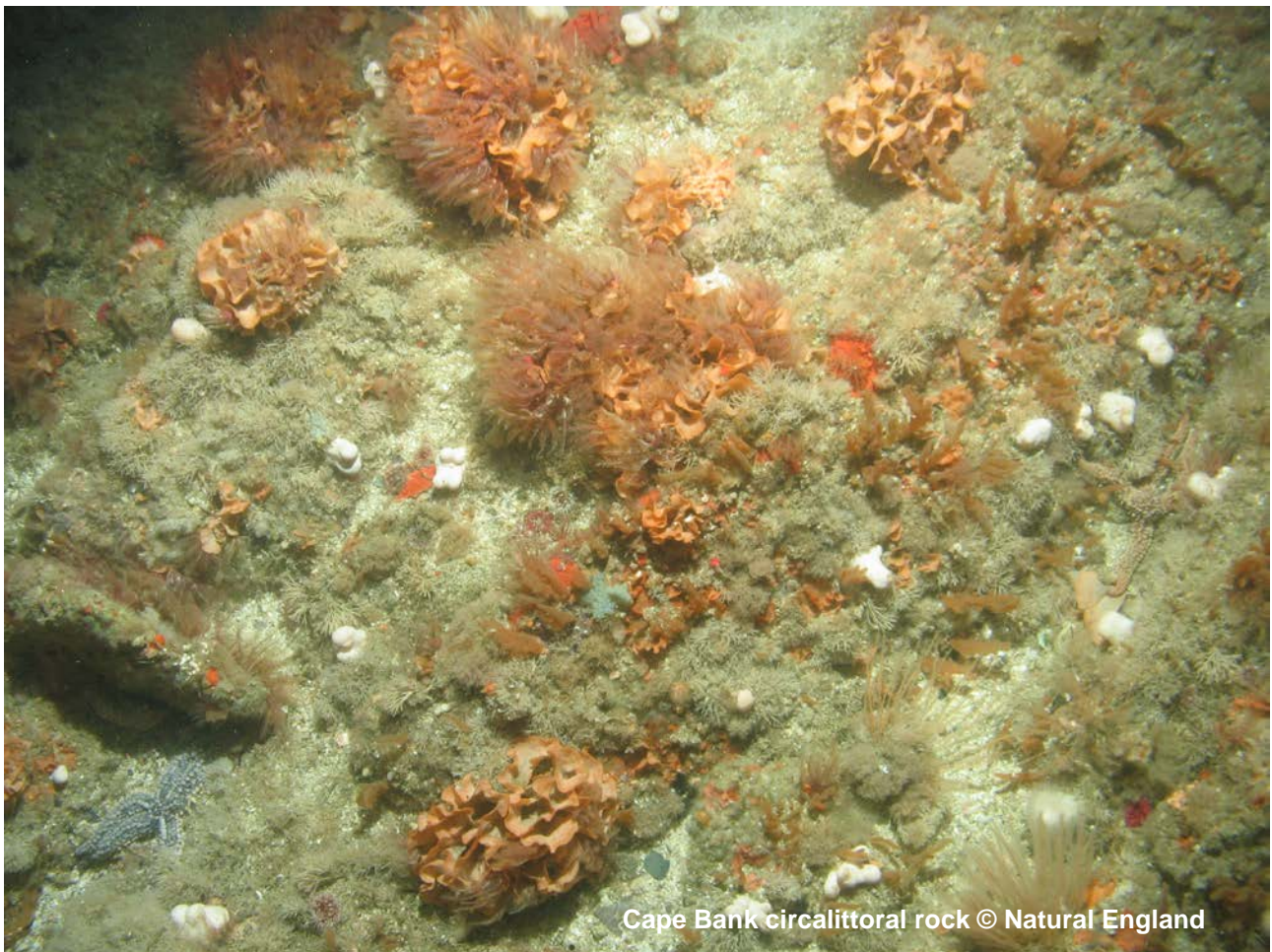
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Cape Bank

Recommended Marine Conservation Zone

June 2018

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



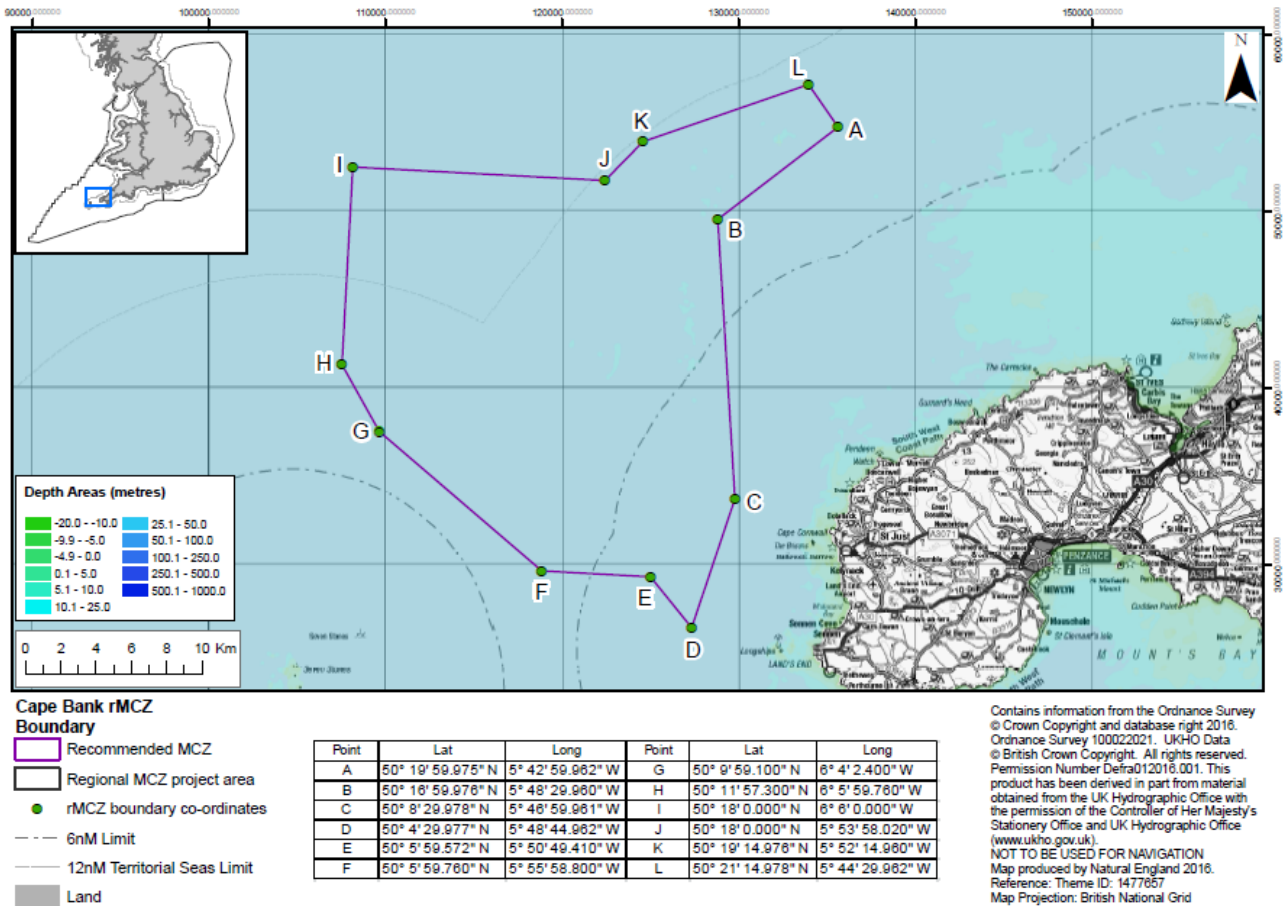
Cape Bank circalittoral rock © Natural England

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Where is the site located?

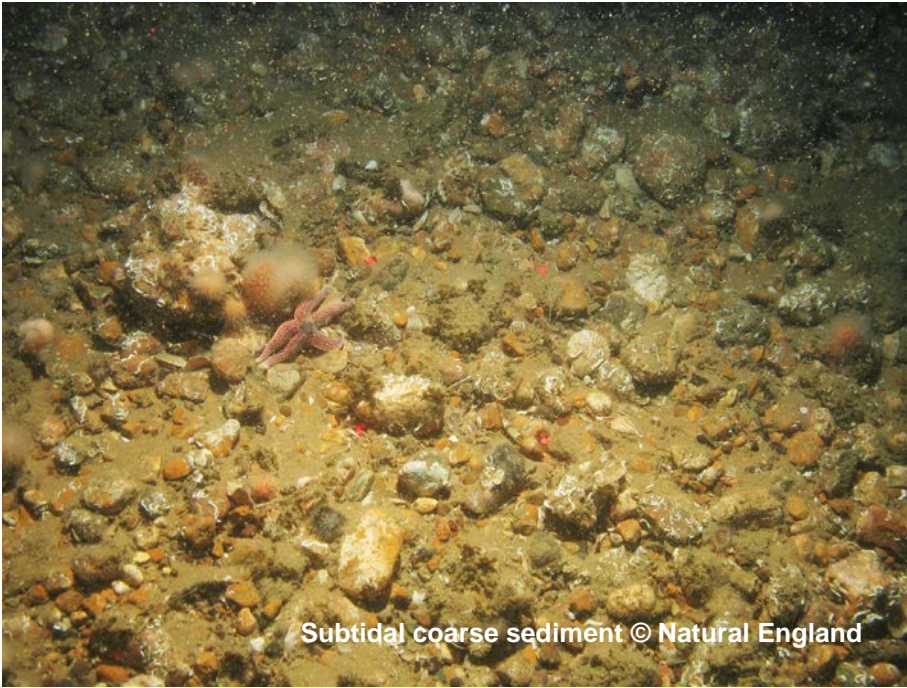
Cape Bank recommended Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is an inshore site located in the Western Channel and Celtic Sea to the west of the Land's End peninsula. It extends approximately 25 km from the coast and crosses both the 6 and 12 nautical mile limits. The site measures approximately 474 km². The site also includes the complete Cape Bank section of the Land's End and Cape Bank Special Area of Conservation.



Why is the site environmentally important?

The Cape Bank MCZ consists of a rocky reef system that is fully subtidal and extends in a broad arching crescent, roughly aligned with the coastline. The reef is characterised by high biodiversity tide-swept communities such as sponges, faunal and algal turfs and crustose communities. The site also provides habitat for the commercially important spiny lobster.

Subtidal coarse sediment covers most of the site and provides habitats for a variety of animals that are found buried in the seabed, such as bristleworms, burrowing anemones and venus cockles. Subtidal sediment also provides important nursery grounds for many ecologically and commercially important fish such as flatfish, seabass and sand eels.



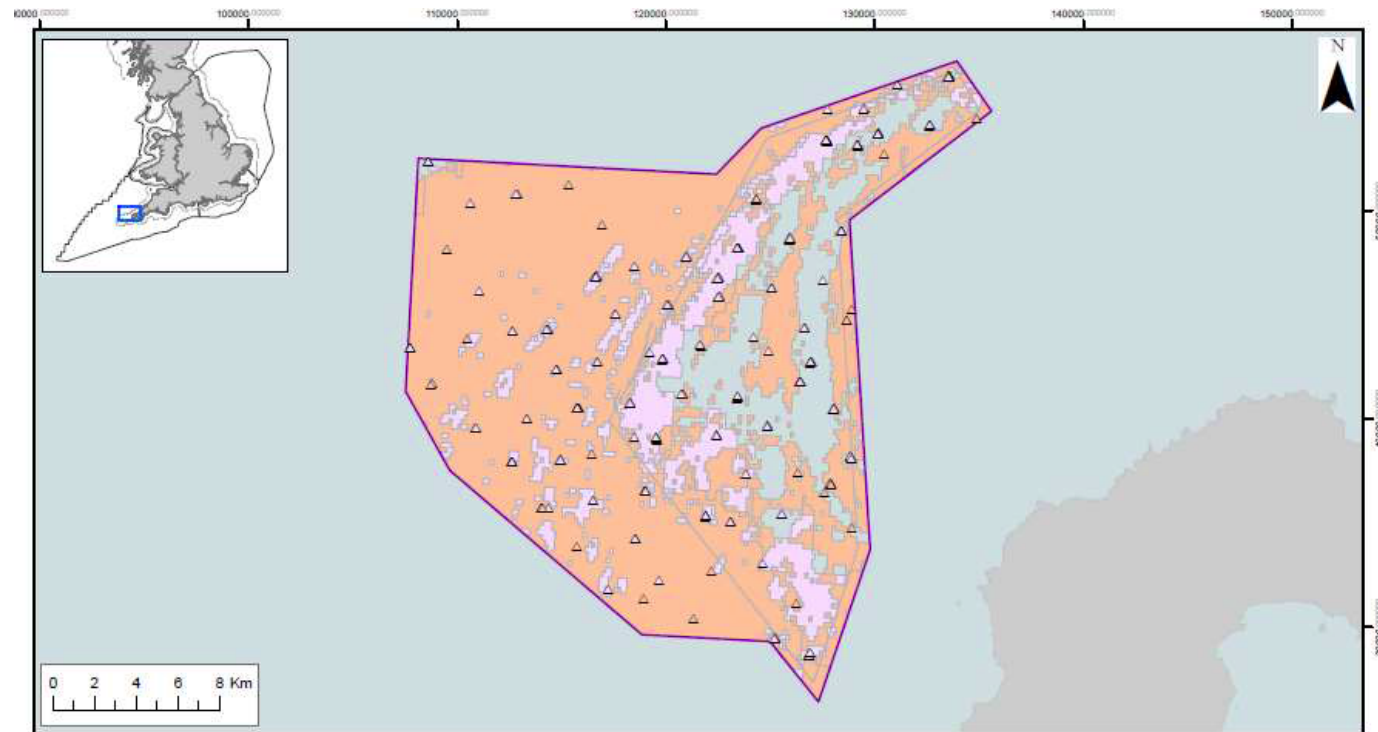
What would this site protect?

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
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	

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 site maps. More detailed information on the techniques used can be found [here](#).



Cape Bank rMCZ

- Recommended MCZ
- Regional MCZ Project Area
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Sea
- Land

Features recommended for designation

- Moderate energy circalittoral rock (A4.2)
- Subtidal coarse sediment (A5.1)
- Groundtruthing sampling points, such as diver survey, grab sampling, drop down video, walk over survey or core sampling
- Shaded areas represent habitats mapped according to data originating from surveys and mathematical models

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 (www.ukho.gov.uk). Map produced by
 Natural England 2017.
 Reference: Theme ID: 1477657
 Map Projection: British National Grid

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	£700
Commercial fishing non-UK	Bottom trawling and dredging	Unquantified
Renewable energy – wave and tidal	Environmental Impact Assessments	£2,000
Best estimate total cost		£2700

Commercial Fishing UK

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

- Bottom trawls, dredges and mid-water trawls
- Nets, pots and hand lines

Beam trawling and otter trawling occur within the site on a seasonal basis. The level of dredging is thought to be low. A significant level of potting takes place throughout the site, alongside netting and hand lining over areas of harder ground. The activities that are likely to be affected by designation are shown in the table above.

Commercial Fishing non-UK

Fishing in this site by French and Belgian vessels occurs all year round using static gear, mobile trawls (bottom and mid-water) and dredges. Species targeted include rays, squid, cuttlefish, pollack, monkfish and seabass. Vessels from the Republic of Ireland and The Netherlands also fish in this area but at a lower level.

Although impacts outside the UK are not quantified as part of the impact assessment, the implications of designation on non-UK commercial fishing vessels are considered in

deciding which sites to designate. The activities that are likely to be affected by designation are shown in the table above.

Renewable energy - wave and tidal

This site may overlap with potential future developments that generate electricity using tidal and wave energy. Future developments (including cables) that overlap with or are within 1 km of an MCZ will incur an additional environmental impact assessment cost.

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:

- Archaeological heritage
- Cables – power and telecommunication cables currently intersect the site
- Commercial fisheries – mid-water trawling, netting, potting and hand-lining
- Commercial shipping
- National defence
- Oil & gas exploration and/or production
- 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>

For further information, please contact Defra on

- 03459 33 55 77 (UK only)
- +44 20 7238 6951 (from outside the UK)
- defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk



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