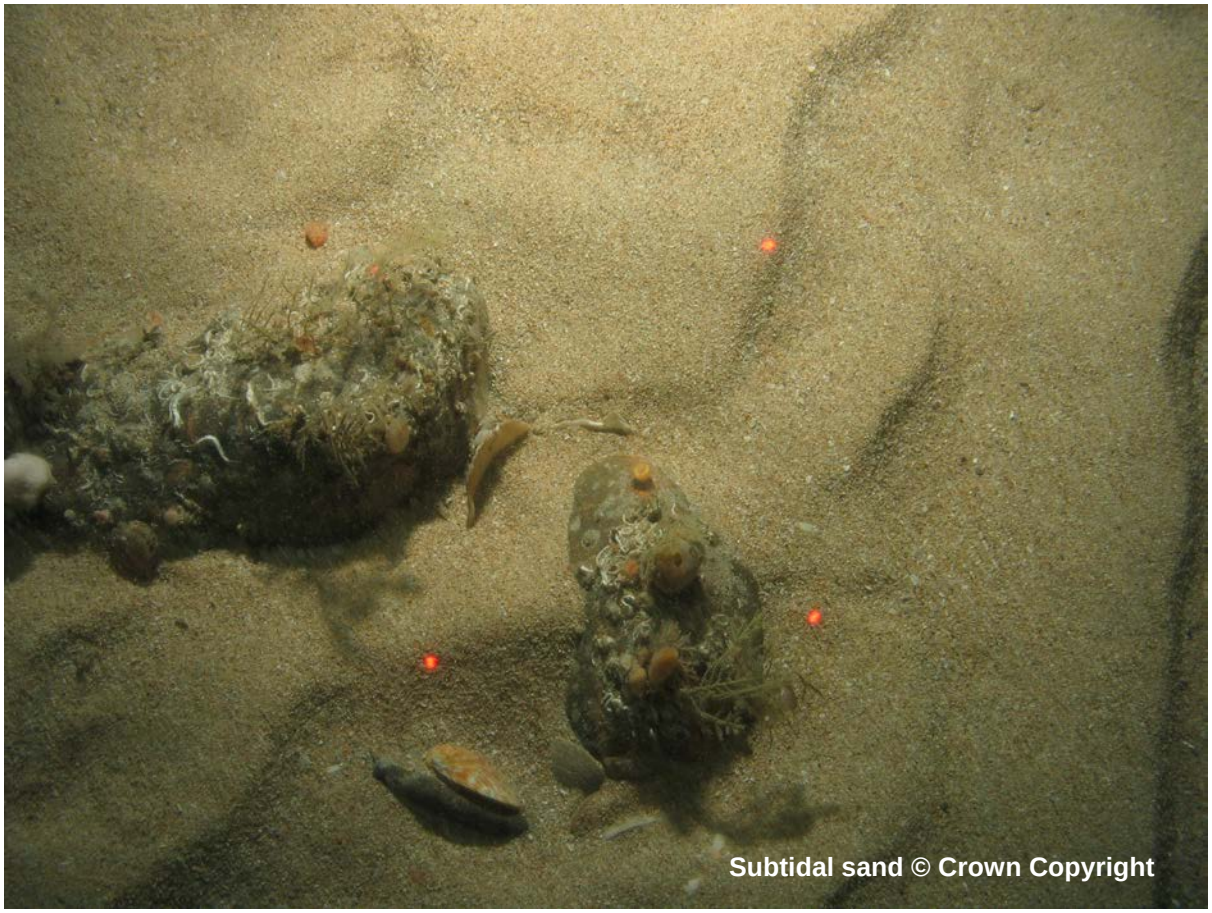
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Foreland

Recommended Marine Conservation Zone

June 2018

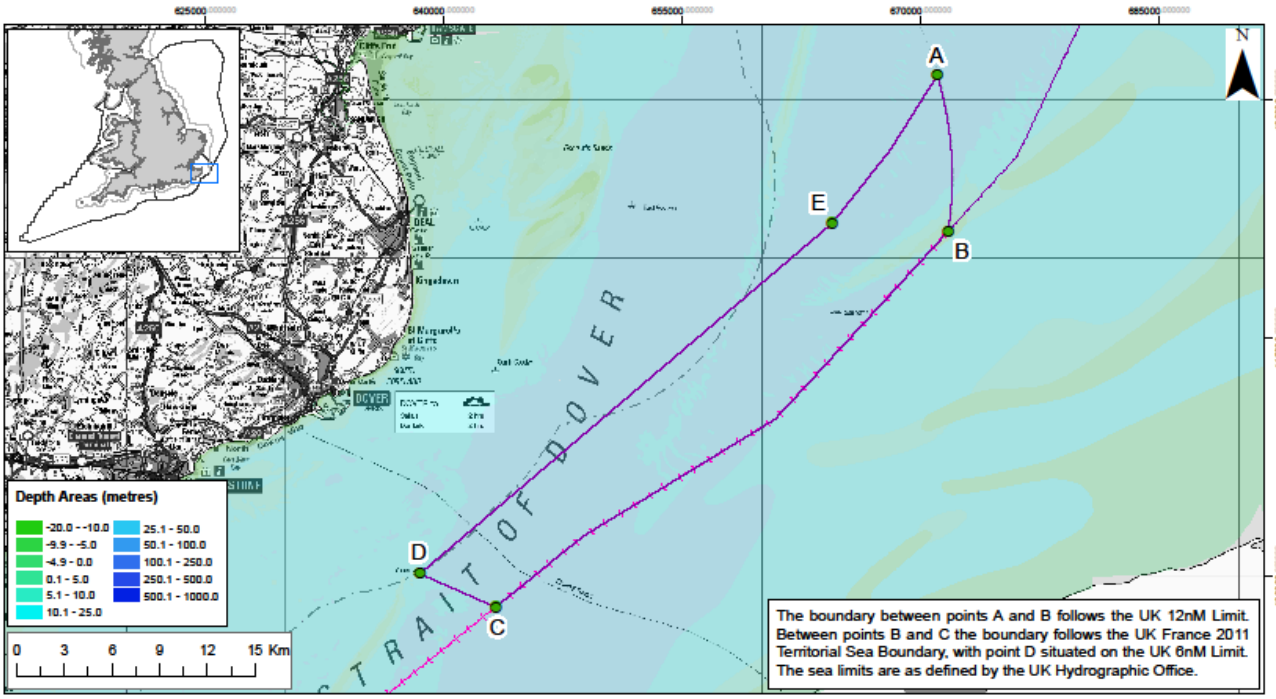
Consultation on Sites Proposed for Designation in the Third Tranche of Marine Conservation Zones



Contents

Where is the site located?

The Foreland[1] recommended Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is an inshore site covering an area of 244 km^2. It is located in the Southern North Sea and English Channel, extending along the mid-channel between Kent and France.



Foreland rMCZ Boundary

- Recommended MCZ
- Regional MCZ project area
- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- UK Continental Shelf
- UK_France 2011 Territorial Sea Boundary
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- 6nM Limit
- Land

Point	Lat	Long
A	51° 17' 17.499" N	1° 53' 8.239" E
B	51° 11' 57.835" N	1° 53' 15.421" E
C	51° 0' 0.443" N	1° 27' 55.326" E
D	51° 1' 15.376" N	1° 23' 55.539" E
E	51° 12' 27.789" N	1° 47' 3.679" E

[1] This site was initially named 'Offshore Foreland' by the Regional MCZ Projects but has been renamed 'Foreland' because it is located solely within inshore waters.

Why is the site environmentally important?

Foreland MCZ contains a variety of different habitats ranging from subtidal sand to coarse sediments and rocky habitats and supports a wide diversity of species. A large proportion of the site is made up of subtidal sediments that provide habitats to animals such as worms, bivalves, burrowing anemones, clams, cockles, sand eels and fish. The north of the site is known for its distinct benthic species richness.

The site also includes deep water rock habitats subject to moderate to high wave energy or tidal currents. These are dominated by animal communities as there is insufficient sunlight for plant growth. The types of animals that thrive here include colourful sponges clinging to the rock and a dense 'carpet' of sea firs, fragile Ross worm, pink sea fans, and cup corals, alongside anemones, and sea squirts. Commercially valuable crustaceans such as lobsters and crabs shelter within rocky crevices, and a range of fish species such as wrasse and topknots forage in this habitat.

Subtidal coarse sediment © Crown Copyright

The site also protects the very northern section of the English Channel outburst flood feature. This geomorphological feature was formed at the end of the last glaciation by the collapse of ice sheets or glaciers.

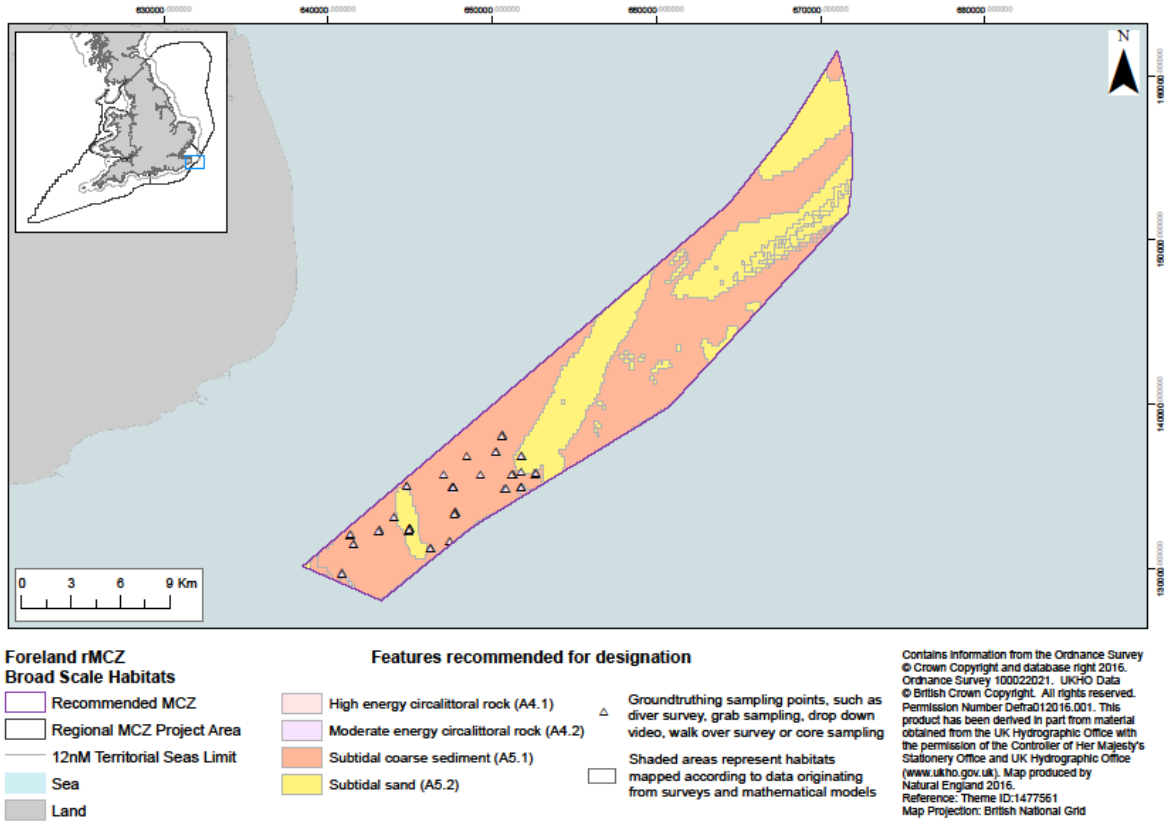
What would this site protect?

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 sand	Maintain in favourable condition
English Channel outburst flood feature	
Subtidal coarse sediment	Recover to favourable condition
High energy circalittoral rock	
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	

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.



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 & dredging	Less than £100
Commercial fishing non-UK	Bottom trawling	Unquantified
Ports and harbours	Environmental Impact Assessments	£300
Best estimate total cost		**£400**

Commercial Fishing UK

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

- Bottom trawls & dredgers
- Nets, pots & long lines

A number of UK vessels are active within this site, including local fleets from Folkestone. Several fishing restrictions are already in place. The activities likely to be affected by designation are shown in the table above.

Commercial Fishing non-UK

The site is fished by trawlers from France and Belgium, with activity concentrated in the north-eastern half of the site. Vessels from 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.

Ports and harbours

A disposal site (TH150) exists within 5 km of the MCZ boundary. All future applications will need to consider the possible effects on the features designated and are likely to incur additional costs as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

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:

- Cables - power and telecommunication cables currently intersect this site
- Commercial shipping
- 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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