

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Purbeck Coast

Recommended Marine Conservation Zone

June 2018

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



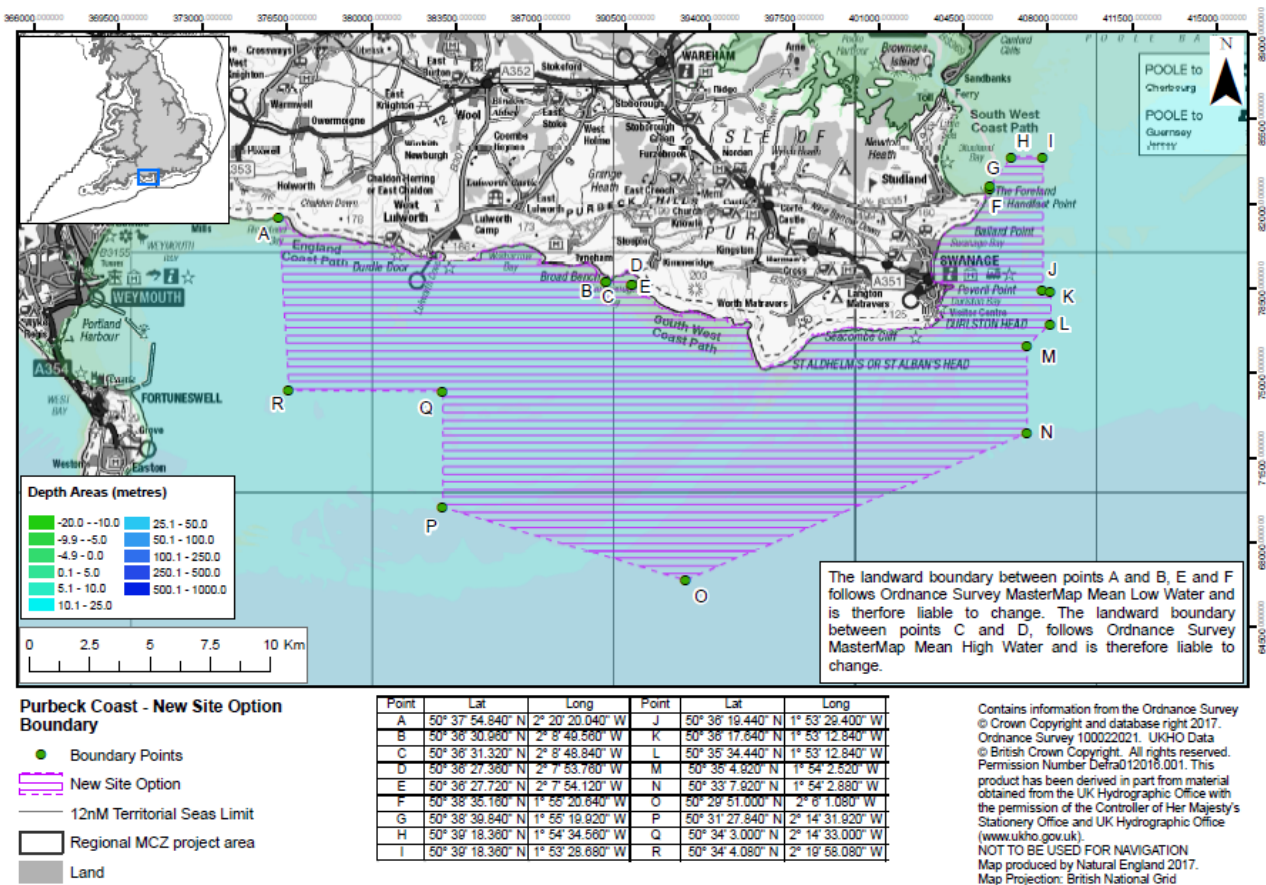
High energy intertidal rock © JNCC

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Where is the site located?

Purbeck Coast recommended Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) is an inshore site that covers an area of 282 km². The site stretches from Ringstead Bay in the west to Swanage Bay in the east along the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site, and is located in the Eastern channel. The site overlaps with the eastern section of the Studland to Portland Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The site encompasses the intertidal features that were originally proposed within the Broad Bench to Kimmeridge Bay Regional Project MCZ, the footprint of which falls within the Purbeck Coast site option and is the only intertidal part of the site.



Why is the site environmentally important?

Purbeck Coast supports a variety of intertidal and subtidal habitats ranging from coarse sediments to rocky habitats (e.g. rock pools and large boulders). The rock features provide a habitat for a diverse range of species such as sponges, bryozoans and hydroids. The rocky habitats also provide a critical habitat for the stalked jellyfish and peacock's tail seaweed. Rock pools within this habitat support fish such as the shanny, and may be a foraging area for oyster catchers.

The subtidal sediments within the site are comprised of cobbles, pebbles, coarse sand and gravel, and support a range of species such as barnacles, algae, sea cucumber, tube worms, and anemones.



This site is ecologically important for nesting black seabream (*Spondyllosoma cantharus*). This species breeds between April and July making nests on a shallow veneer of gravel over flat rock. High numbers of nesting black seabream are found within the boundary of the site. Additionally the east of this site is important for rare and long-lived maerl beds which support a unique suite of species.

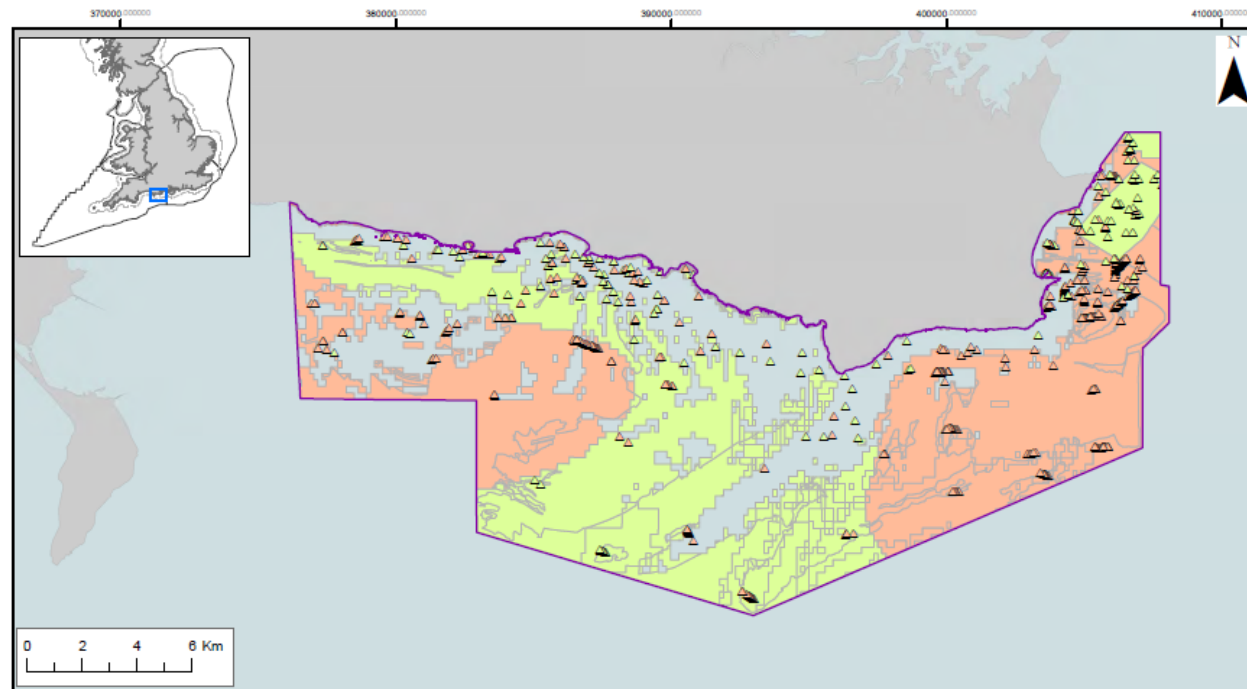
What would this site protect?

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
High energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	
Moderate energy intertidal rock	
Peacock's tail (<i>Padina pavonica</i>)	
Stalked jellyfish (<i>Haliclystus</i> species)	
Subtidal coarse sediment	
Subtidal mixed sediments	
Black seabream (<i>Spondyllosoma cantharus</i>) (nesting)	Recover to favourable condition
Maerl beds	

Where are the features located?

The following maps show the location of the features to be protected within the site. A range of different types of surveys have been used to create these maps. Black seabream nest sites are not mapped here due to commercial sensitivity. More detailed information on the techniques used can be found [here](#).



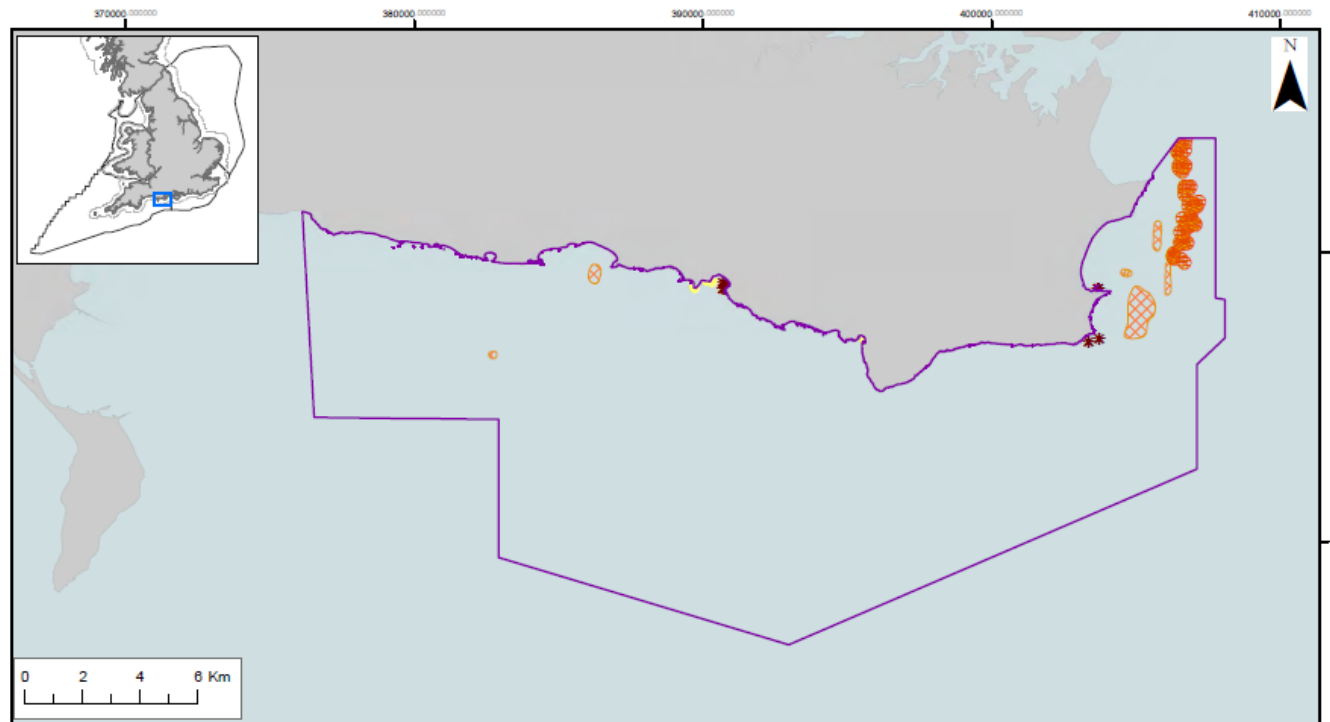
Purbeck Coast New Site Option Broad Scale Habitats

- New Site Option
- Regional MCZ Project Area
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Sea
- Land

Features advised for designation

- High energy intertidal rock (A1.1)
- Moderate energy intertidal rock (A1.2)
- Intertidal coarse sediment (A2.1)
- Subtidal coarse sediment (A5.1)
- Subtidal mixed sediments (A5.4)
- 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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**Purbeck Coast New Site Option
Features of Conservation Importance**

- New Site Option
- Regional MCZ Project Area
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Sea
- Land

Features advised for designation

- * Stalked jellyfish (*Haliclystus auricula*)
- Peacock's tail (*Padina pavonica*)
- ⊕ Maerl beds
- ⊗ Maerl beds

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 (www.ukho.gov.uk). Map produced by
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 Reference: Theme ID: NDMCZ_008
 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, netting, potting & trapping	£500
Ports and harbours	Environmental Impact Assessments	£15,000
Recreation	Recreational angling and charter boats	Unquantified
Best estimate total cost		£15,500

Commercial Fishing UK

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

- Bottom trawls
- Nets, pots & traps

Low intensity fishing activity takes place within the site, primarily beam trawling, potting and some netting. The Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (SIFCA) byelaw for towed gear within the Studland to Portland SAC covers some but not all of the MCZ. In terms of static gear, low levels of anchored netting occur, targeting flat fish and possibly bream, alongside low intensity commercial rod and line fishing, trapping and potting for whelks, crabs and lobster. The activities likely to be affected by designation are shown in the table above.

Ports and Harbours

There are two disposal sites within 5 km of the site (WI110 and WI111). All future marine licence applications will need to consider the possible effects of activities on the features

designated and are likely to incur additional costs as part of any Environmental Impact Assessment or application.

Recreation

The site is popular for recreational angling and charter boats. There is a significant charter boat sector that targets black seabream when they are nesting and breeding as it is a known and reliable fishery. This is much more prevalent than recreational angling and has a greater impact. Restrictions on recreational angling and charter boats are likely to be needed during the black seabream spawning and breeding season only (April to July). The costs to the recreational sector have not yet been quantified due to uncertainties.

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:

- Aquaculture
- Cables – power and telecommunication cables currently intersect the site
- Coastal development and flood and erosion risk management schemes
- Coastal infrastructure
- Commercial shipping
- Oil and gas exploration and/or production
- Recreation (excluding recreational fishing)
- Renewable energy
- National Defence

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

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