

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Queenie Corner

Recommended Marine Conservation Zone

June 2018

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



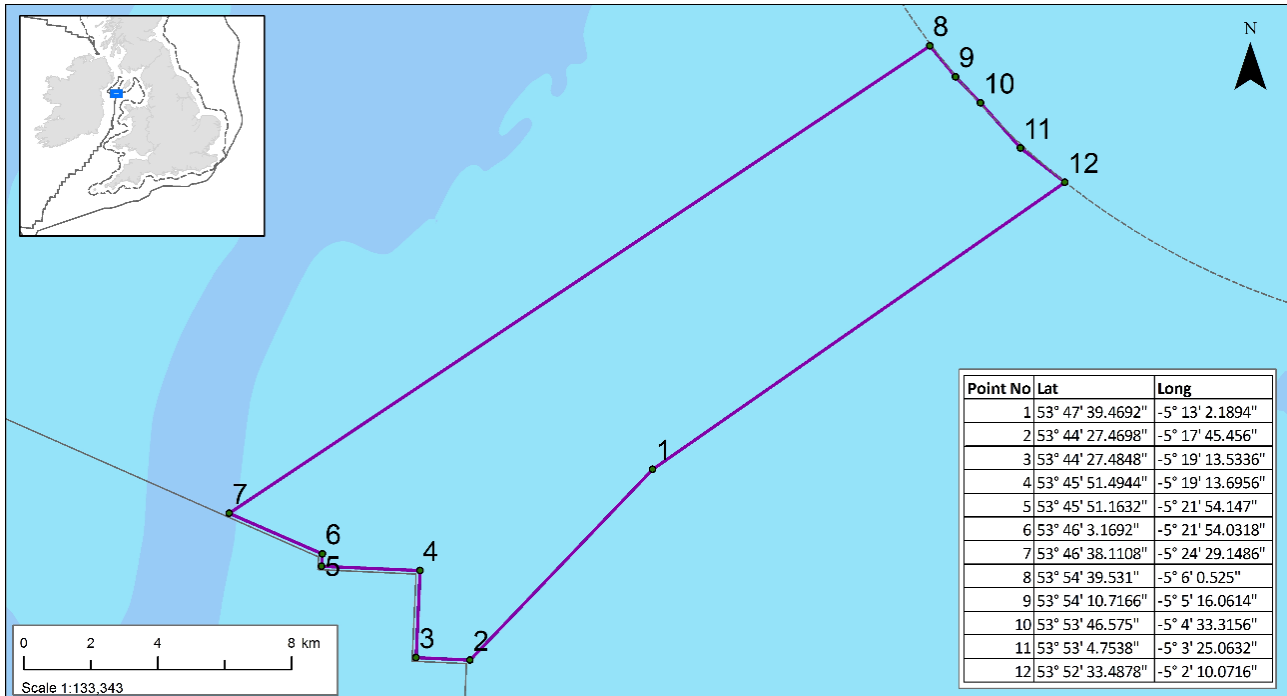
Subtidal mud © JNCC/CEFAS

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Where is the site located?

Queenie Corner recommended Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is an offshore site recommended by Northern Irish fishing interests which covers an area of 146 km² and is located in the Western Irish Sea.



Queenie Corner proposed area

- Proposed area boundary point
- UK Continental Shelf designated area
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Land
- Proposed area boundary

Depth (metres)

- 0.0 - 5.0
- 5.1 - 10.0
- 10.1 - 25.0
- 25.1 - 50.0
- 50.1 - 100.0
- 100.1 - 250.0
- 250.1 - 500.0
- 500.1 - 1000.0

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Why is the site environmentally important?

The Queenie Corner third-party stakeholder proposal would predominantly support subtidal mud and sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities. The fine mud sediments are characterised by burrows and mounds formed by burrowing shrimps and crabs. Mud habitats are dominated by a diverse range of life including a variety of worm species, bivalves, urchins, sea cucumbers, burrowing anemones and brittlestars. The mud habitat also supports sea pens and burrowing megafauna such as



anemones and crustaceans, including the commercially important Nephrops (scampi / langoustine). This site would add a significant amount of subtidal mud to the marine protected area network in the Irish Sea and would ensure examples of mud communities in deeper waters away from the coast were included in the MPA network in this region.

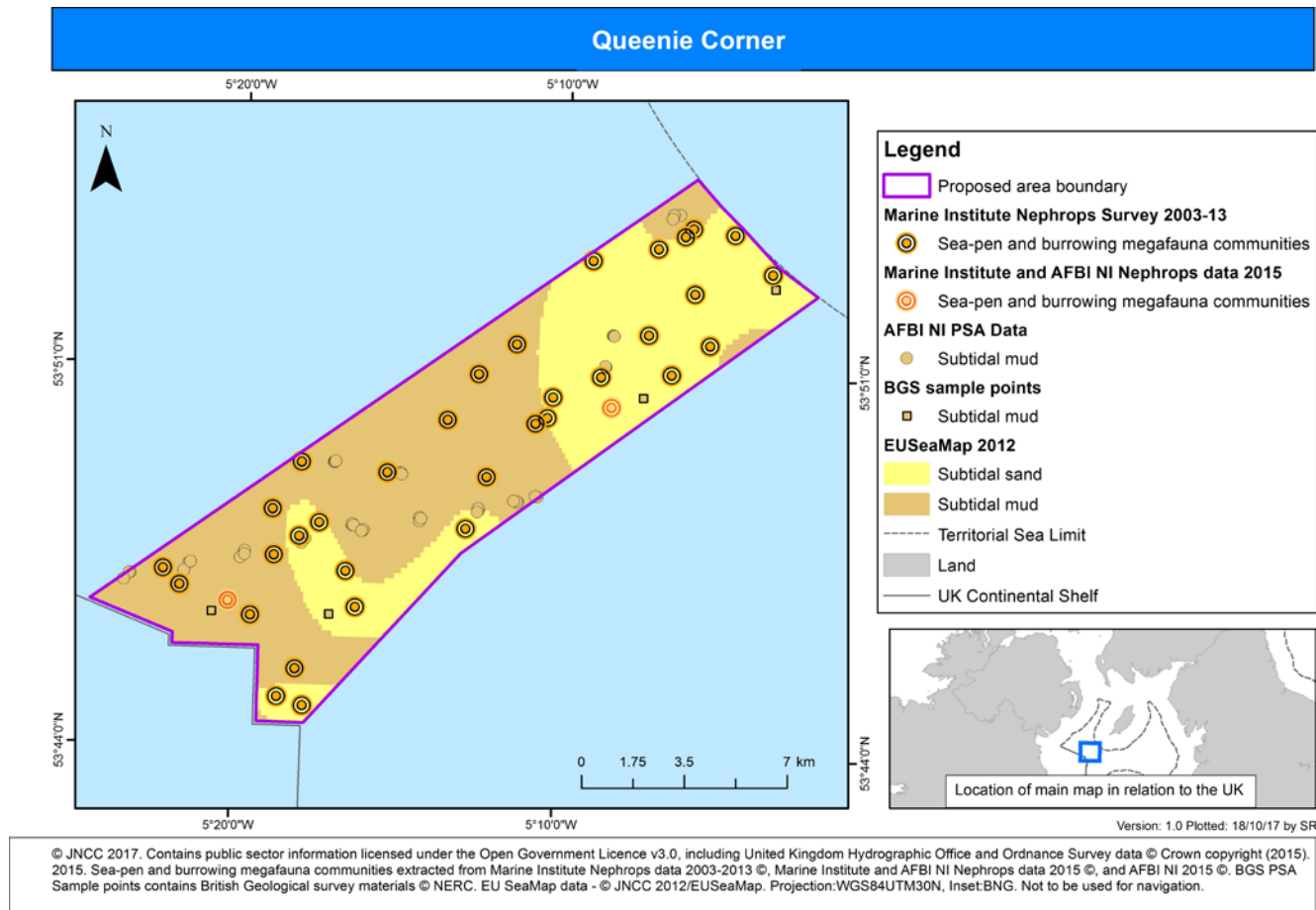
What would this site protect?

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 mud	Recover to favourable condition
Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities	

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 data from survey 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	£7,000
Commercial fishing non-UK	Bottom trawling	Unquantified
Best estimate total cost		£7,000

Commercial Fishing UK

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

- Bottom trawls
- Gill nets

Commercial Fishing non-UK

There are records of vessels from Belgium, Ireland and The Netherlands fishing within the site, using bottom trawls and gill nets.

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.

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
- Commercial shipping
- Pipeline (one active gas pipeline intersects the area)
- 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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