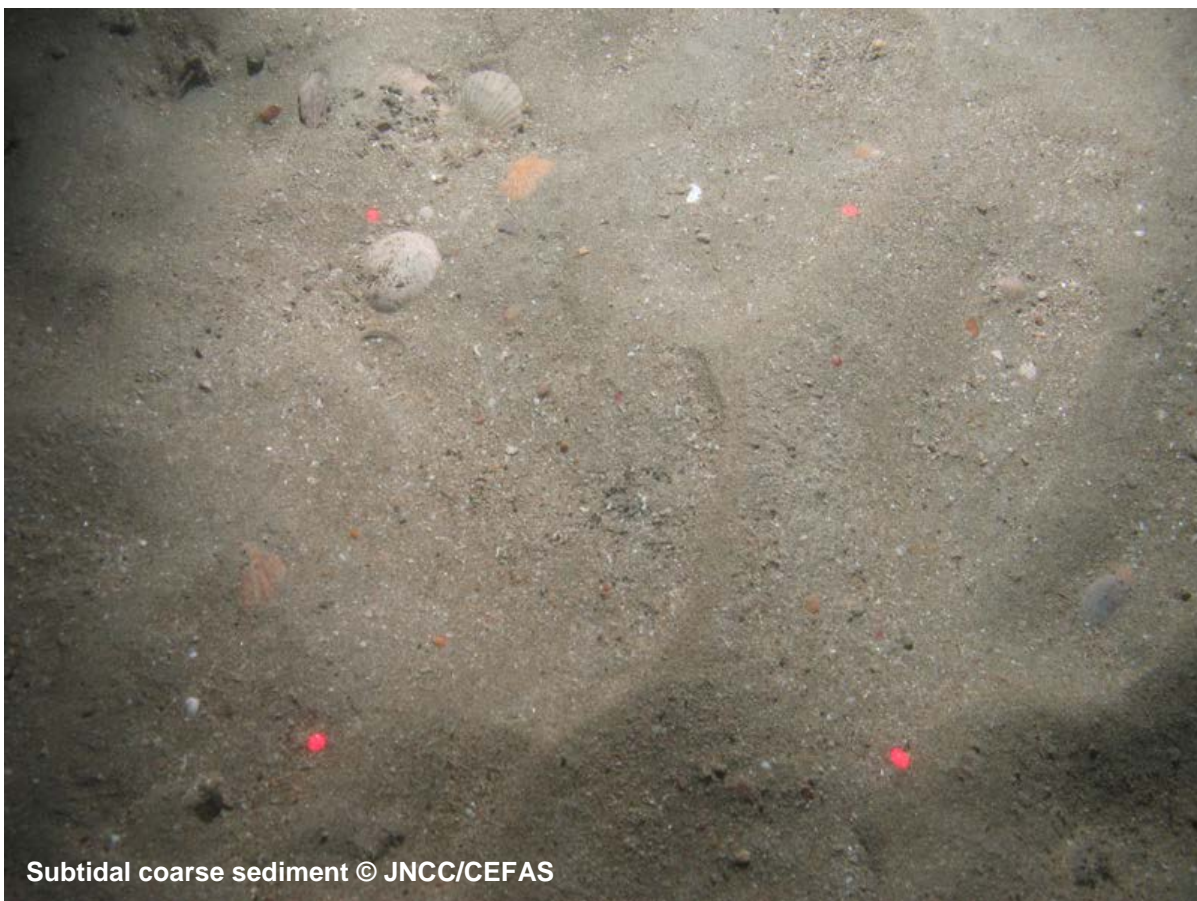


Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

South West Approaches to Bristol Channel Recommended Marine Conservation Zone

June 2018

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



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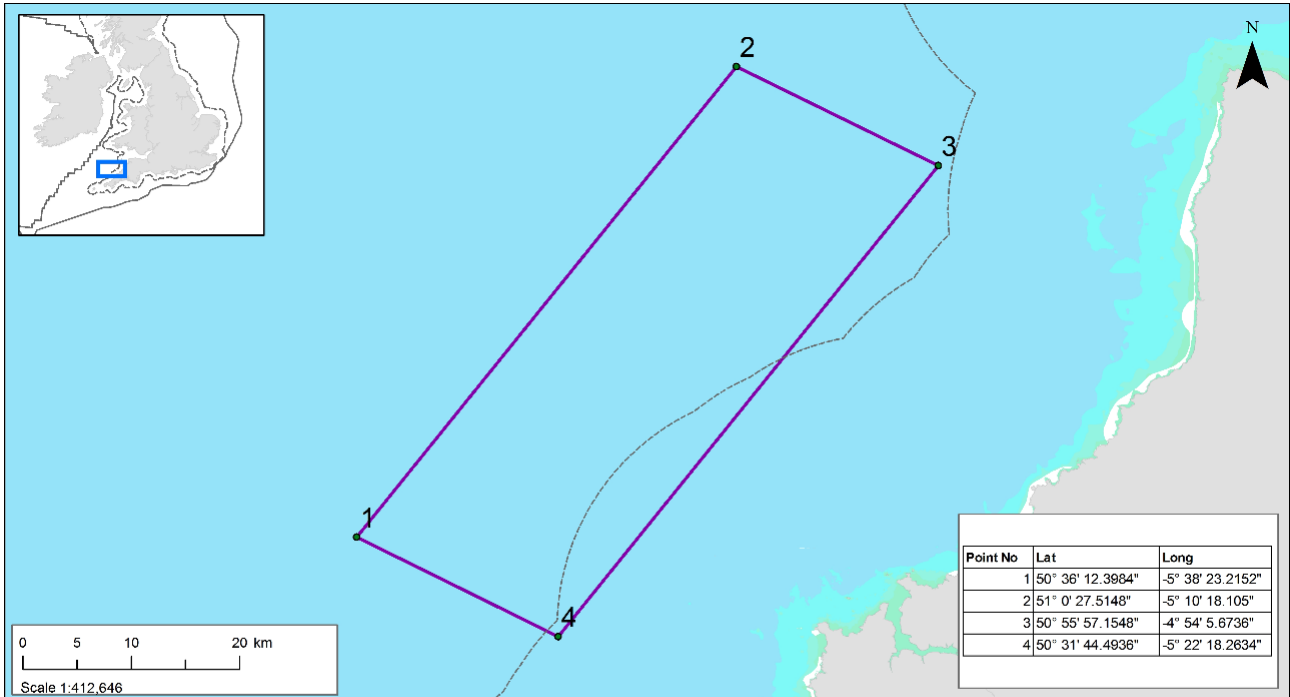
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Where is the site located?

The South West Approaches to Bristol Channel recommended Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) covers an area of approximately 1,128 km². This large site is located off the northern coast of Cornwall and, although primarily in the offshore area, spans the 12 nm boundary of the inshore area. The eastern half of the site overlaps with the Bristol Channel Approaches Special Area of Conservation.



New site option South West Approaches to Bristol Channel

- New site boundary point
 - UK Continental Shelf designated area
 - - - 12nm Territorial Seas Limit
 - ▭ New Site Option boundary
 - Land
- | Depth (metres) | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 0.0 - 5.0 | 50.1 - 100.0 |
| 5.1 - 10.0 | 100.1 - 250.0 |
| 10.1 - 25.0 | 250.1 - 500.0 |
| 25.1 - 50.0 | 500.1 - 1000.0 |

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Why is the site environmentally important?

The site is mainly comprised of subtidal sediments. These are made up of a range of fine sediments, coarser sediments, shell fragments, gravels, shingles and cobbles. These habitats provide a home for a variety of different species that bury into the seabed. Some of the species that you might find in this type of habitat include worms, razor shells, anemones, sea cucumbers and urchins.



The site would protect two sediment habitats in this region and would also improve connectivity between inshore and offshore sites protecting subtidal sediment habitats.

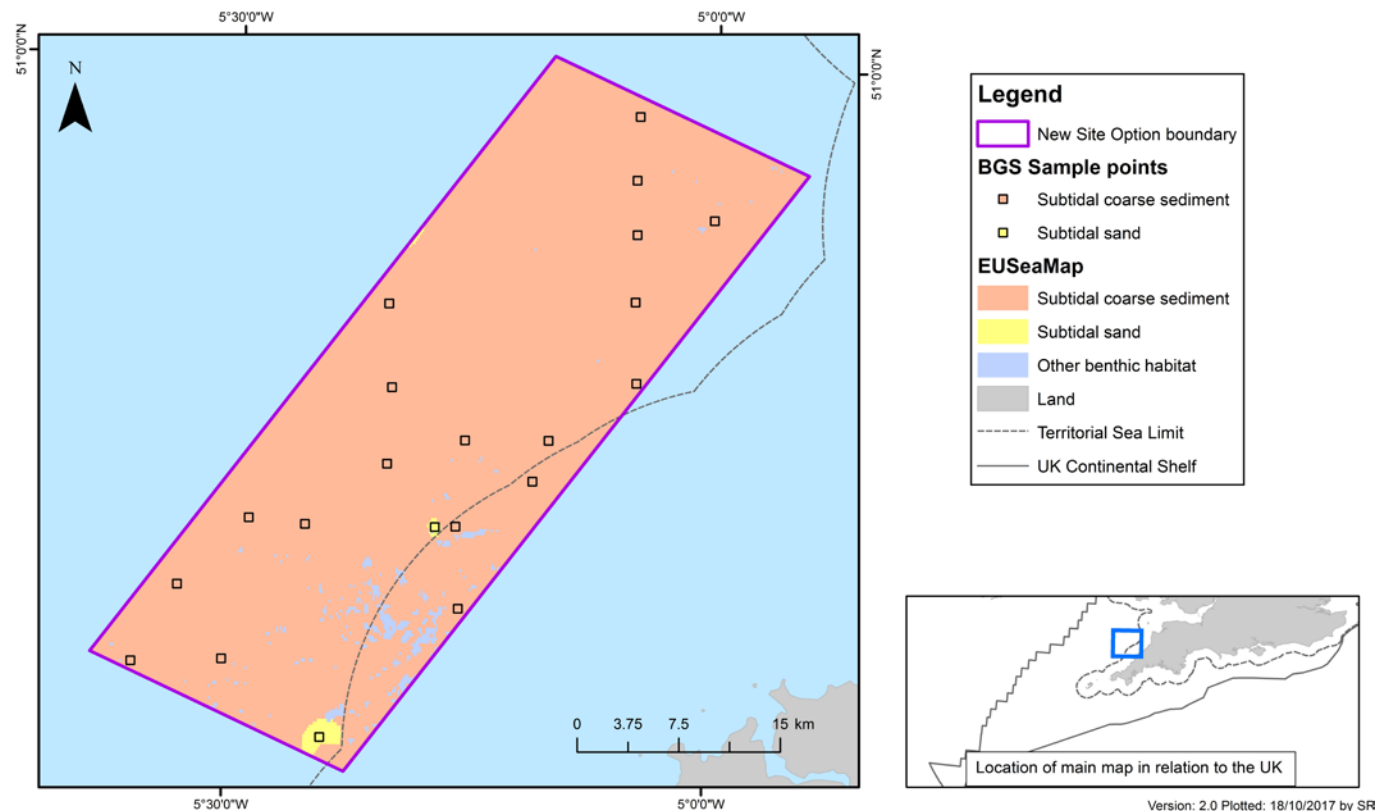
What would this site protect?

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 sand | |

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](#).



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© Crown copyright. GB coastline - Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright. BGS Sample points Contains British Geological Survey materials © NERC 2015. Information contained here has been derived from data that is made available under the European Marine Observation Data Network (EMODnet) Seabed Habitats project www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu, funded by the European Commission's Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE). Map Projection:WGS84UTM30N, Inset: BNG.

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 | £17,000 |
| Commercial Fishing Non-UK | Bottom trawling | Unquantified |
| Best estimate total cost | | £17,000 |

Commercial Fishing

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

- Bottom trawls and dredges
- Gill nets

A number of species are caught within the area, including edible and spider crabs, scallops, pollack, lobster, sole, haddock, whiting, megrim and various ray species.

The fishing activities likely to be affected by designation are show in the table above.

Commercial Fishing non-UK

Vessels from France, Belgium and the Republic of Ireland are known to operate within this site, with activity recorded as including trawling, potting and trapping.

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 likely to be affected by designation are show in the table above.

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 fishing – static gear
- Commercial shipping

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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