

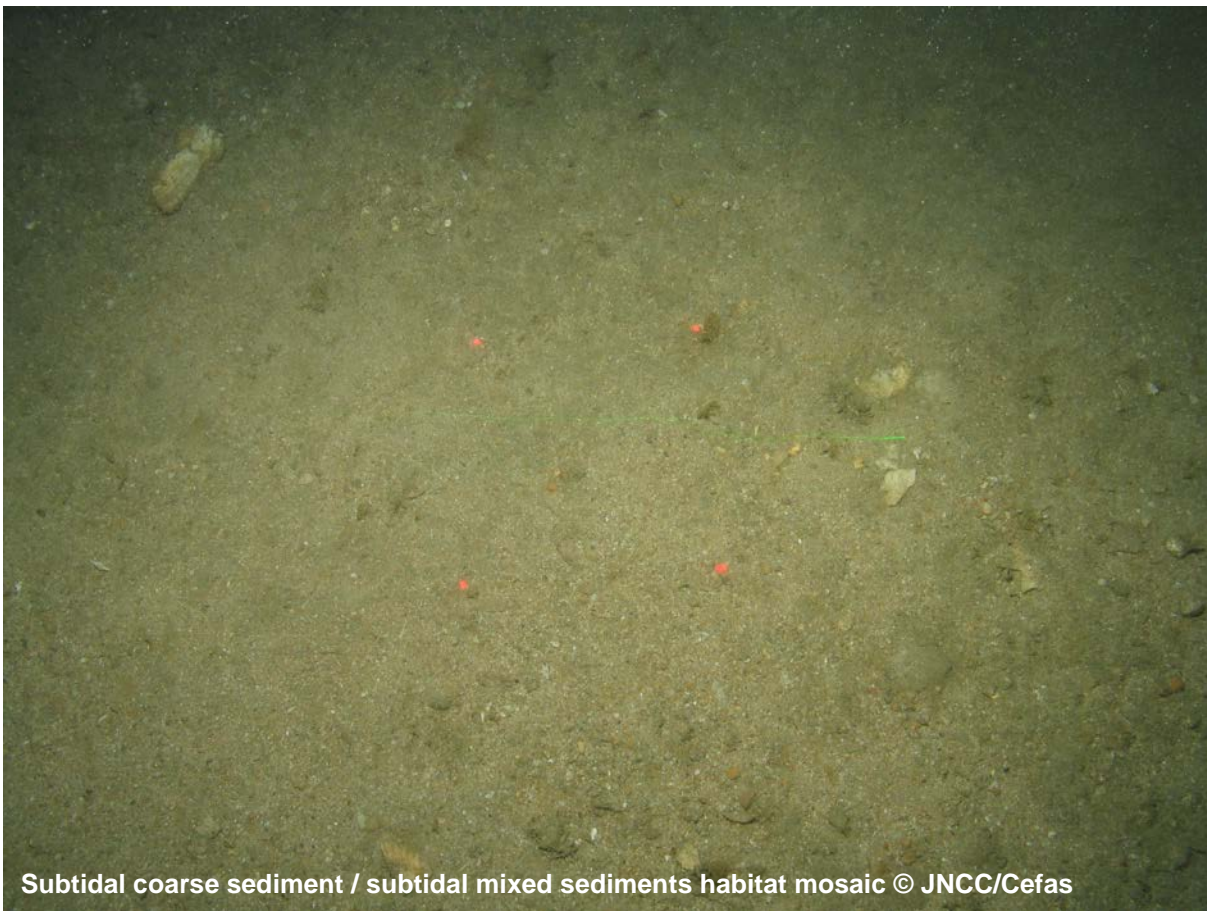
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

South of Isles of Scilly

Recommended Marine Conservation Zone

June 2018

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



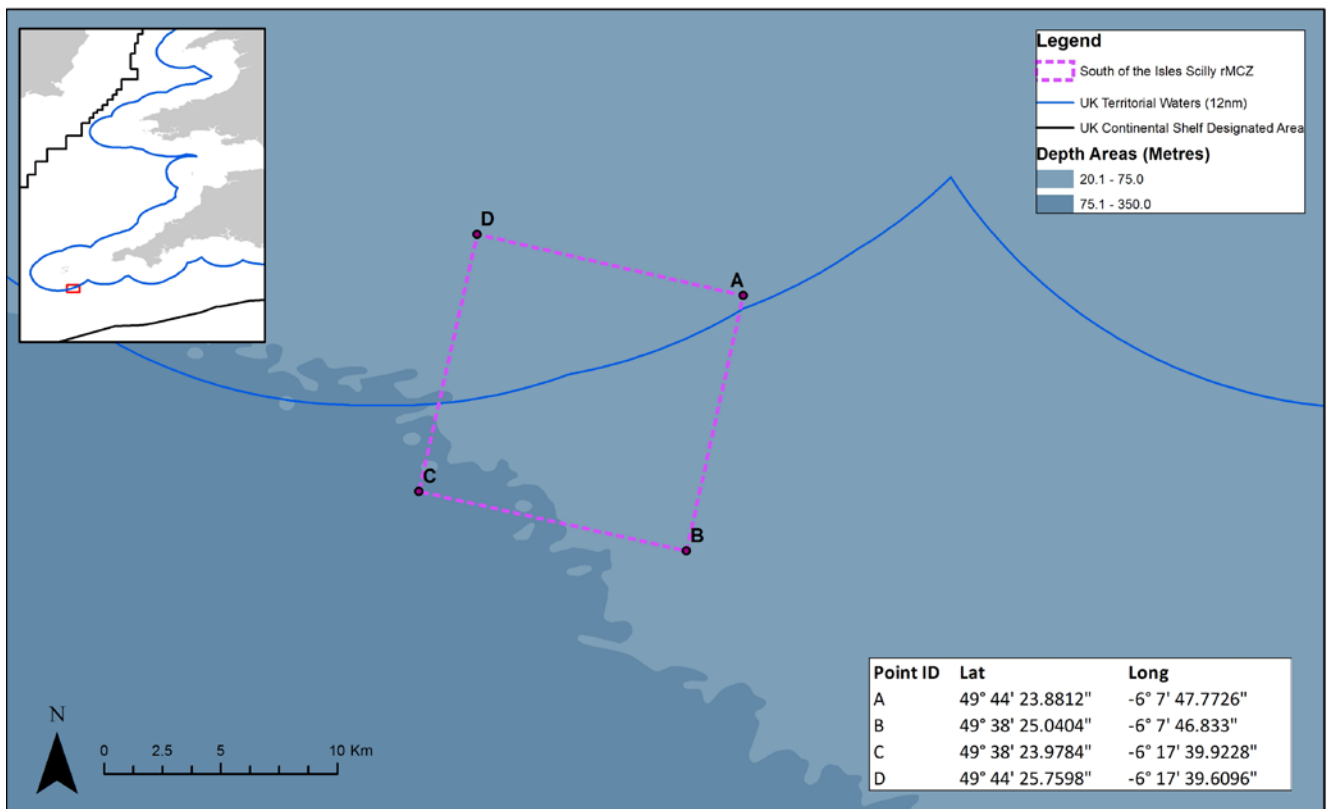
Subtidal coarse sediment / subtidal mixed sediments habitat mosaic © JNCC/Cefas

Contents

Where is the site located?.....	3
Why is the site environmentally important?.....	3
What would this site protect?	4
Where are the features located?.....	5
Which activities are likely to be affected?	6
Which activities are not likely to be affected?	7
Additional Information	7

Where is the site located?

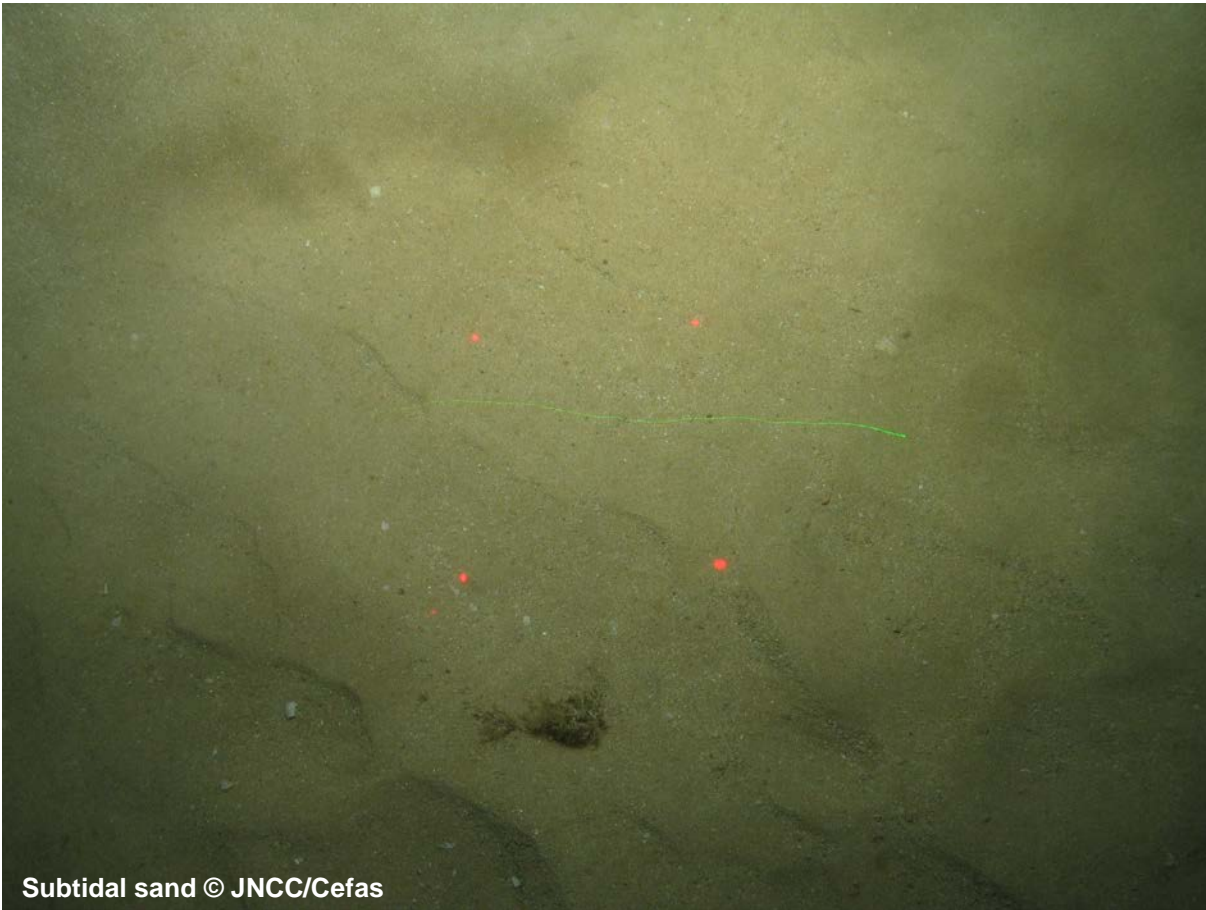
The South of Isles of Scilly recommended Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is located in the Western Channel and Celtic Sea, approximately 15 km to the south of the Isles of Scilly. It straddles the 12 nautical mile (nm) inshore-offshore boundary. The site measures approximately 132 km² and the depth ranges between 50 and 100 metres, with the western tip dipping below the 100 metre depth contour.



© JNCC 2016. © Contains UKHO and Natural England information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0 (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/). Contains derived data from Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright, 100019741 (2015), UK Territorial Sea Limit. The exact limits of the UK Continental shelf are set out in orders made under section 1 (7) of the Continental Shelf Act 1964 and Continental Shelf (Designation of Areas) Order 2013. World Vector Shoreline © US Defence Mapping Agency. Not to be used for navigation.

Why is the site environmentally important?

The seabed of the South of the Isles of Scilly site is characterised by subtidal sand interspersed with a mosaic of subtidal mixed sediments and subtidal coarse sediment. The varied nature of the seabed means it supports a wide range of animals, both on and in the sediment, such as worms, bivalves, starfish, anemones, sea firs and sea urchins.



Subtidal sand © JNCC/Cefas

Recent data has also identified fan mussel (*Atrina fragilis*) within the site. This is a large triangular mussel that can grow to up to 50 cm long, making it one of the largest shells found in British waters. Fan mussels are very sensitive to disturbance and are considered one of the most endangered animals of their kind in UK waters.

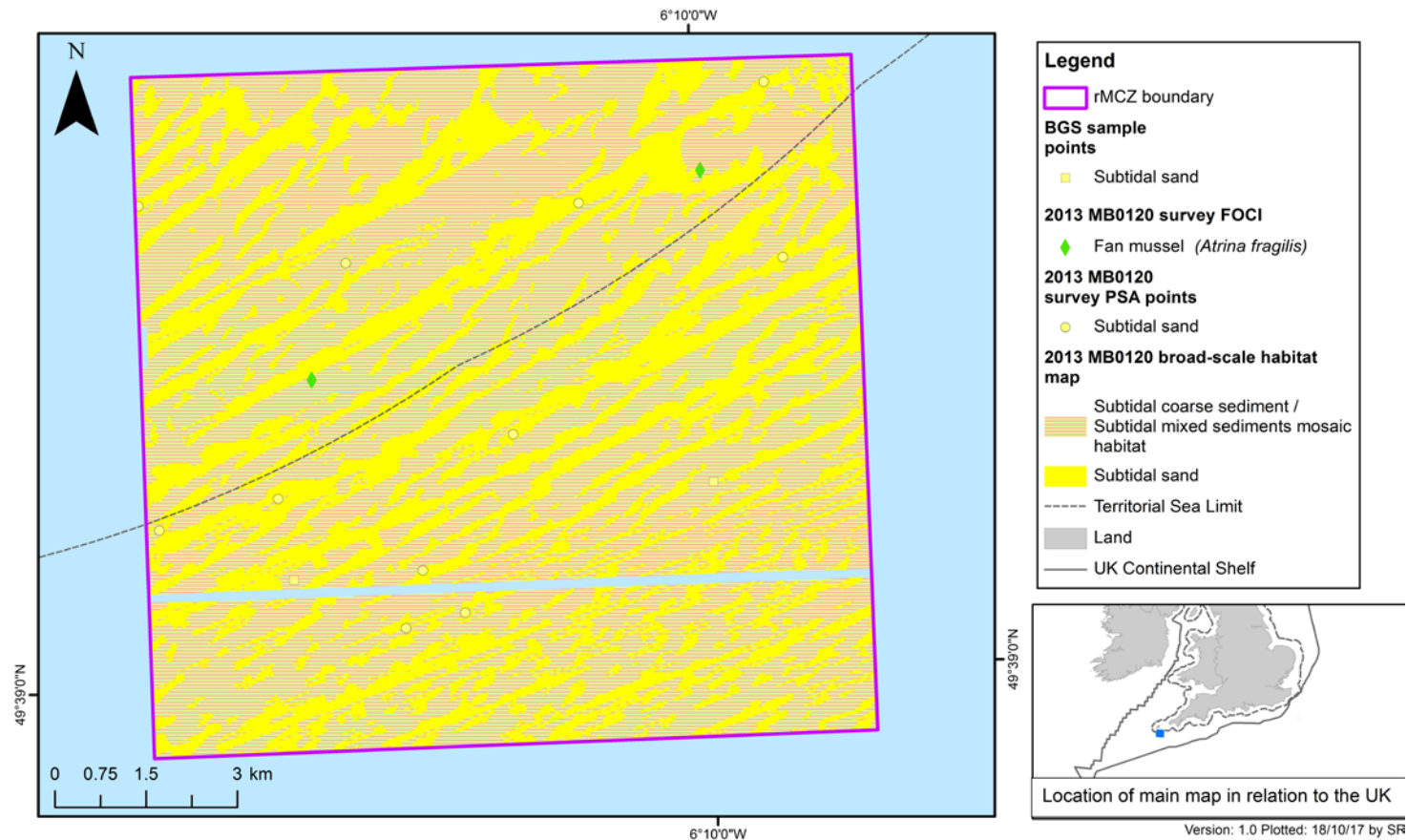
What would this site protect?

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	Recover to favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment / subtidal mixed sediments mosaic habitat	
Fan mussel (<i>Atrina fragilis</i>)	

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 surveys have been used to create site maps. More detailed information on the techniques used can be found [here](#).



© JNCC 2017. Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0, including United Kingdom Hydrographic Office and Ordnance Survey data
© Crown copyright (2015). 2015 BGS PSA Sample points contains British Geological survey materials © NERC. MB0120 Survey, Species data and habitat map © Defra.
Projection:WGS84UTM29N, 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	£3,500
Commercial fishing non-UK	Bottom trawling and dredging	Unquantified
Renewable energy - wave and tidal	Environmental impact assessments	£1,000
Best estimate total cost		£4,500

Commercial Fishing UK

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

- Bottom trawls, dredges and mid-water trawls
- Static gear, including nets and pots

The site is primarily used by bottom trawlers, however dredges and mid-water trawls are also used in the area and there is some static fishing activity. Sole, megrim and monkfish are the main species targeted. Fishing activity tends to be concentrated to the south of the site. The activities likely to be affected by designation are shown in the table above.

Commercial Fishing non-UK

French fishing vessels are active in this site, commonly using bottom trawls and dredges and targeting ray, squid, cuttlefish, pollack and bass. Static gears and mid-water trawls are also used.

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 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:

- Cables – power and telecommunication cables currently intersect the site
- Commercial fishing – mid-water trawling, netting and potting

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



© Crown copyright 2018

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.3. To view this licence visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/ or email PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications