

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Swanscombe

Recommended Marine Conservation Zone

June 2018

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

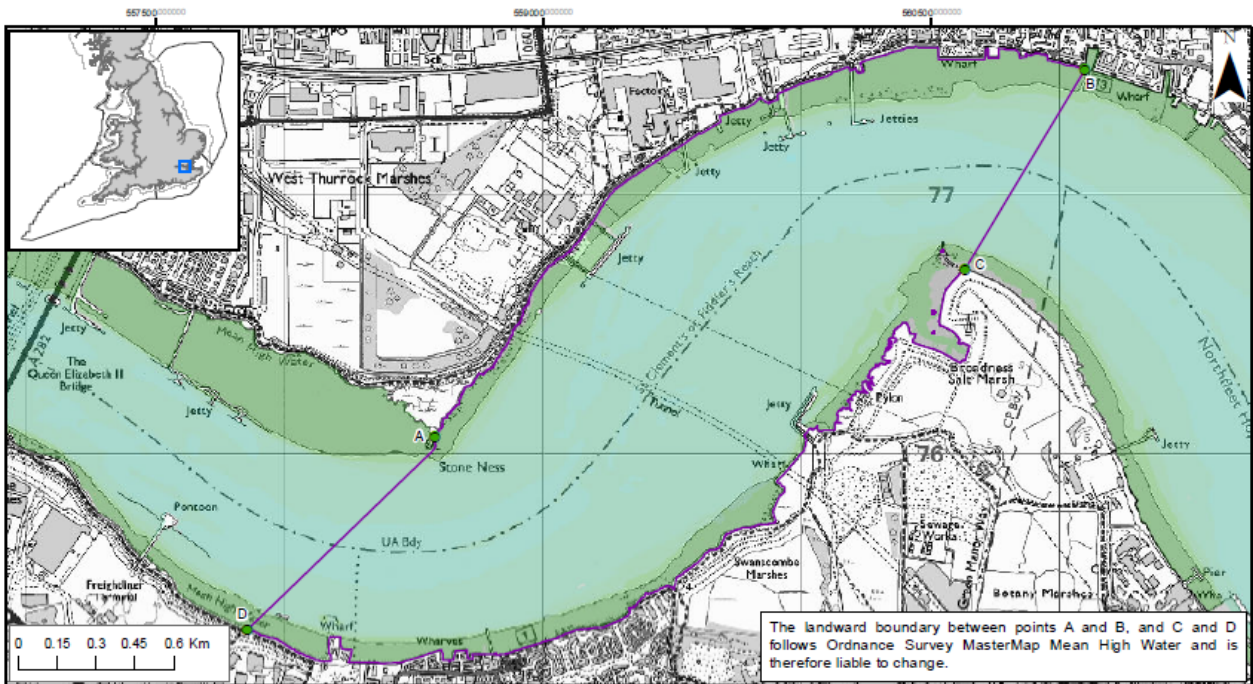


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Where is the site located?

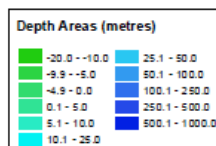
The Swanscombe recommended Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) is a small inshore site which covers an area of approximately 3 km². The site is located within the Thames estuary. The regional project originally proposed a much larger site, of which Swanscombe is a part, which has been refined to focus on areas important for specific features and habitats.



Swanscombe rMCZ Boundary

- Recommended MCZ
- Regional MCZ project area
- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Land

Point	Lat	Long
A	51° 27' 40.894" N	0° 16' 52.893" E
B	51° 28' 24.394" N	0° 19' 5.526" E
C	51° 27' 59.858" N	0° 18' 40.077" E
D	51° 27' 17.347" N	0° 16' 14.146" E



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Why is the site environmentally important?

The Thames Estuary as a whole is an extremely important tidal river. The seabed of the Swanscombe MCZ is



composed largely of shells, pebbles, sands and mud.

The site supports tentacled lagoon worms (*Alkmaria romijni*) which is found in the intertidal and subtidal soft sediments. This small worm is scarce throughout the UK and lives within a tube made of mud in sheltered lagoons and estuaries. They are very vulnerable to changes to the habitats in which they live. Suitable conditions for the tentacled lagoon worm feature are likely to be found throughout the site.

Intertidal mud supports the tentacled lagoon worm feature, and is a highly productive ecosystem and important feeding ground for wading and migratory birds.

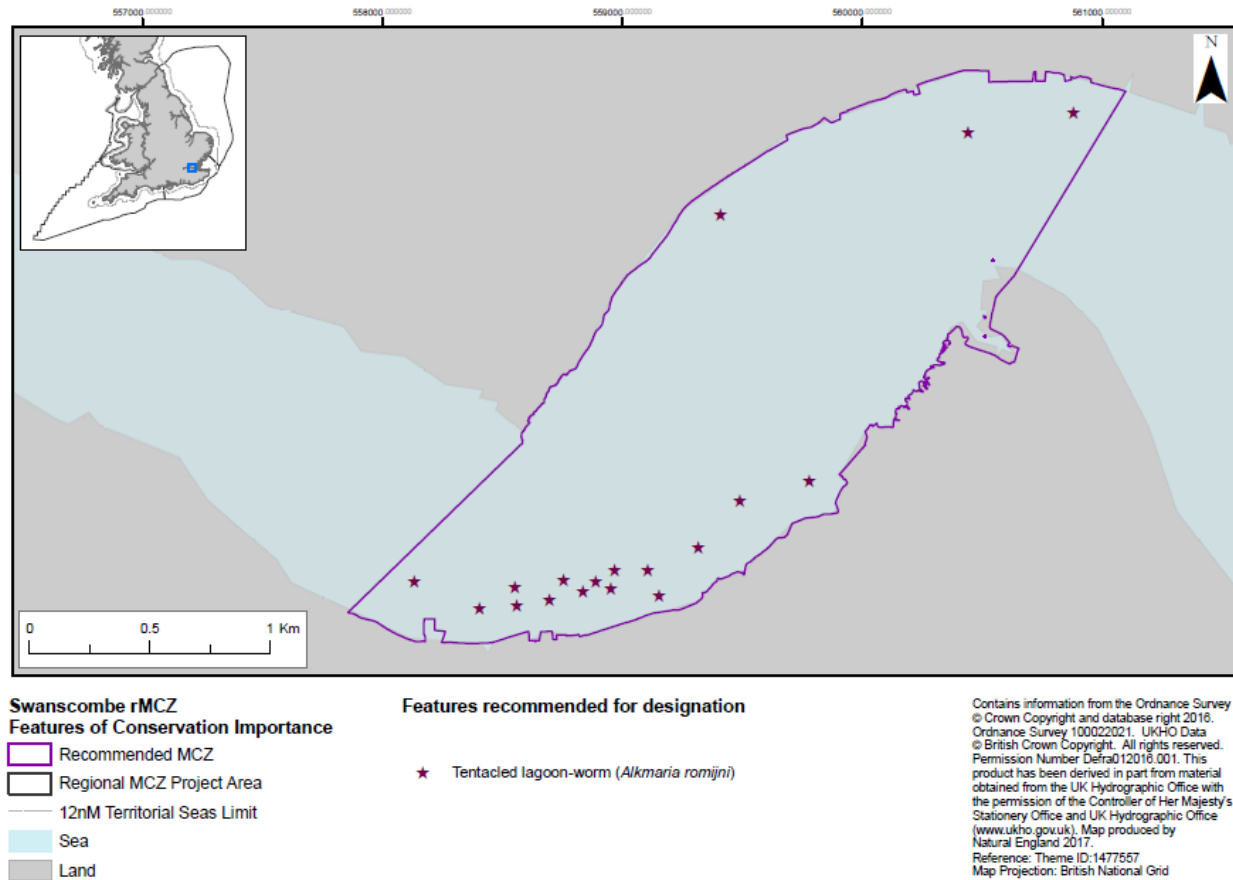
What would this site protect?

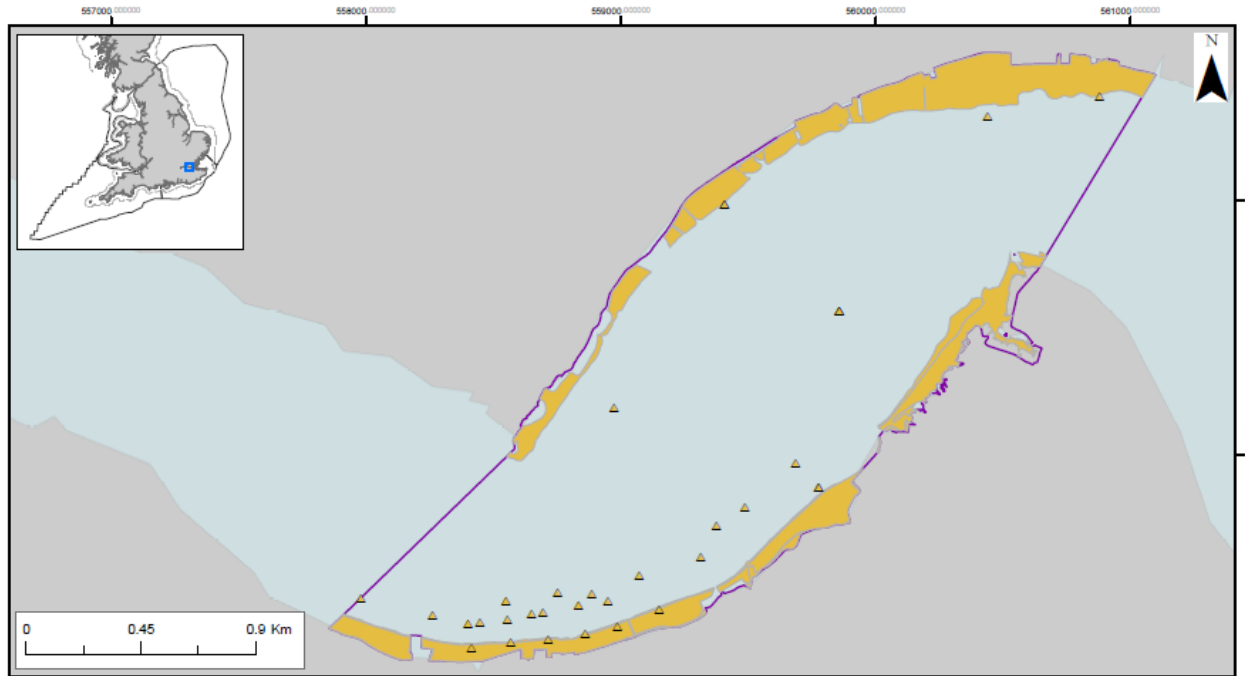
Designation would protect the following features. You can read more about the features this site protects and why they are important [here](#).

Feature	General management approach
Intertidal mud	Maintain in favourable condition
Tentacled lagoon worm (<i>Alkmaria romijni</i>)	

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. More detailed information on the techniques used can be found [here](#).





Swanscombe rMCZ

Broad Scale Habitats

- Recommended MCZ
- Regional MCZ Project Area
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Sea
- Land

Features recommended for designation

- Intertidal mud (A2.3)
- 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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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)
Ports and harbours	Environmental Impact Assessment	£13,000
Best estimate total cost		£13,000

Ports and harbours

There is a high level of activity in the ports and harbours sector within the Swanscombe MCZ, as expected for an industrialised area. For this sector there is a best estimate cost of £13,000 associated with an increase in the cost of assessing environmental impacts for future license applications associated with new developments, navigational dredging and disposal.

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
- Coastal development and flood and erosion risk management
- Coastal infrastructure
- Commercial shipping
- Fishing
- Oil and gas exploration and/or production

- 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

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