

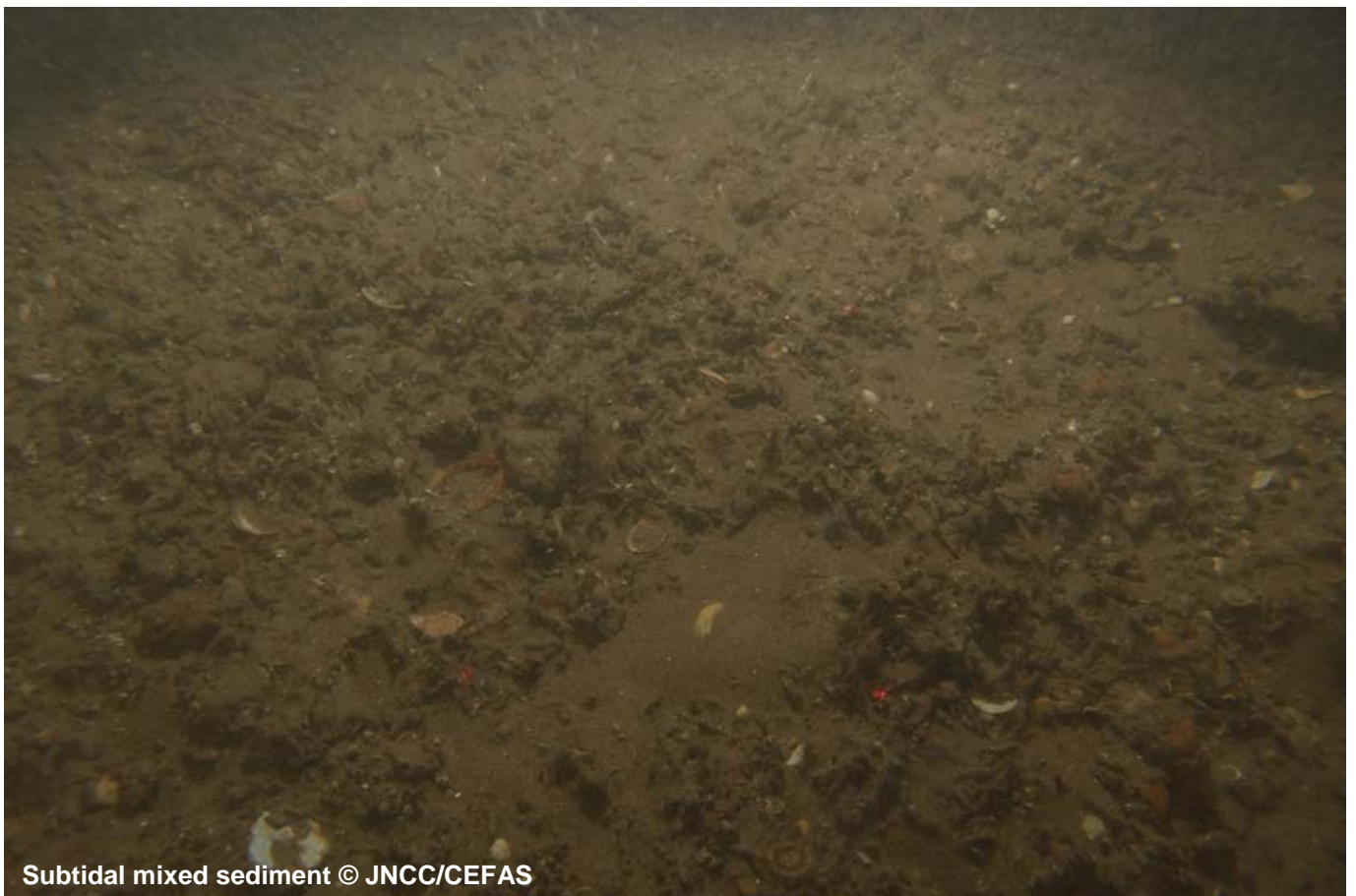
**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

## **West of Copeland**

### **Recommended Marine Conservation Zone**

**June 2018**

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



#### **Contents**

Where is the site located?.....3

Why is the site environmentally important?.....4

What would this site protect? .....4

Where are the features located?.....5

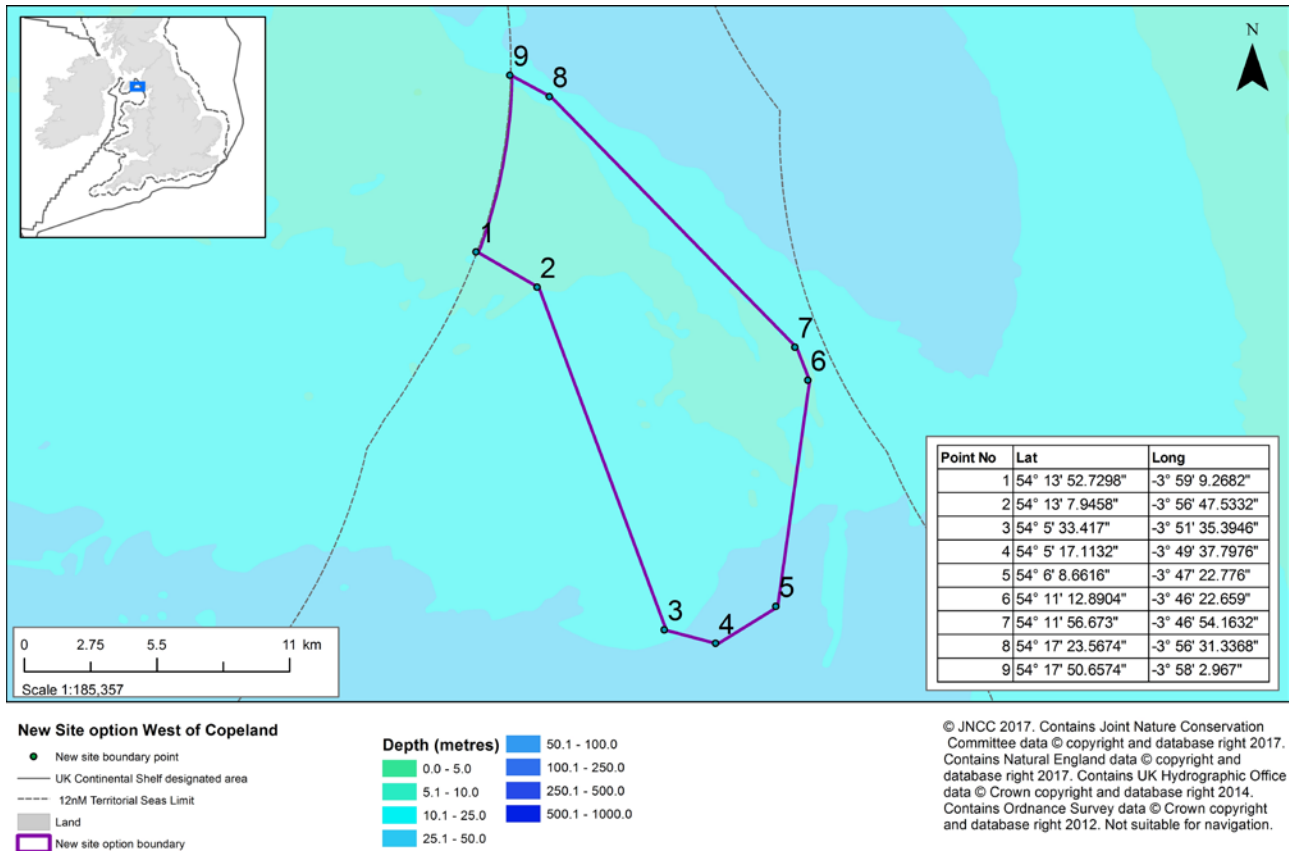
Which activities are likely to be affected? .....6

Which activities are not likely to be affected? .....7

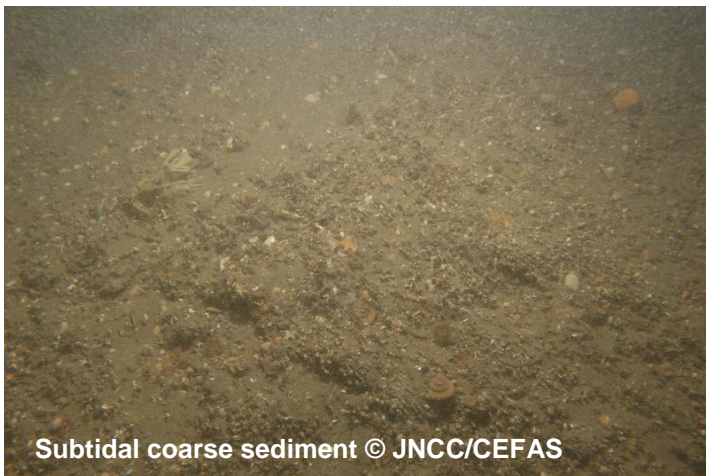
Additional Information .....8

# Where is the site located?

The West of Copeland recommended Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is an offshore site which covers an area of 158 km<sup>2</sup>. It is located in the eastern Irish Sea.



## Why is the site environmentally important?



The West of Copeland site is predominantly composed of a mix of subtidal sediments from fine sand to coarse sediment. The range of habitats supports a variety of species including bivalves, sea urchins, anemones, starfish and sea mats.

The site is particularly important to protect coarse sediment seabed habitats and the species they support, especially the examples in deeper water.

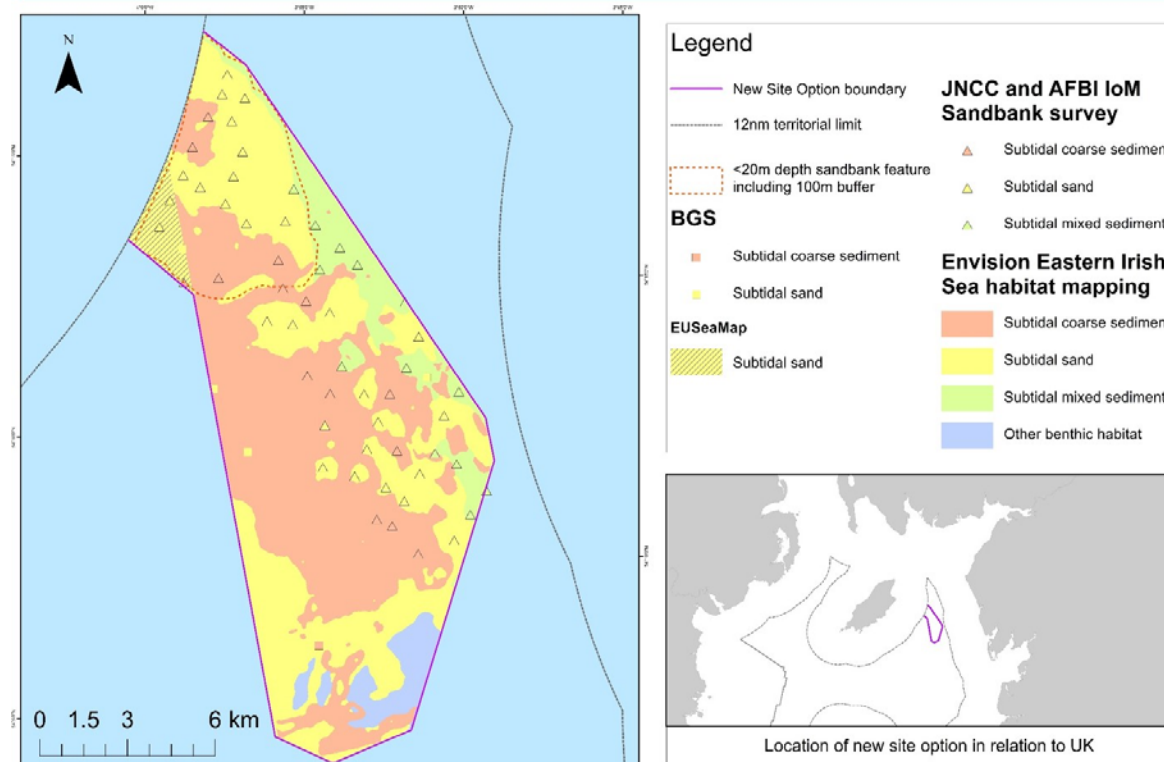
## What would this site protect?

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	
Subtidal mixed sediments	

# 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](#).



© JNCC 2017. Site boundaries - Contains UKHO and Natural England information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. Contains derived data from Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright (2015).  
 UK Territorial Sea Limit & UK Continental Shelf - Contains public sector information, licensed under the Open Government Licence v2.0, from the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office © Crown copyright.  
 GB coastline - Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright. Marine recorder points derived from available surveys © AFBI Fisheries and Aquatic Ecosystems Branch and JNCC  
 (do not distribute - public access limited) BGS Sample points contains British Geological Survey materials © NERC 2015. Information in 2015 EUNIS L3 integrated habitat map v9.8.1  
 has been derived from available surveys and broad-scale models including Envision Mapping LTD 2015 commissioned by NE © AFBI Fisheries and Aquatic Ecosystems Branch and JNCC (do not  
 distribute - public access limited). Information contained here has also 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: Europe albers area conic

## 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 trawls and dredges	£2,000
Commercial fishing non-UK	Bottom trawls and dredges	Unquantified
Aggregates	Overlaps with strategic resource area for aggregates	Unquantified
Renewable energy - wind	Offshore wind farm development.	Unquantified
<b>Best estimate total cost</b>		<b>£2,000</b>

### Commercial Fishing UK

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

- Bottom trawls and dredges

Fishing activity with bottom trawls and dredges within the area is relatively low compared with other areas in the wider Irish Sea.

### Commercial Fishing non-UK

Vessels from Belgium and Ireland are known to operate within this site.

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.

## Aggregates

Additional one-off costs for the production of impact assessments may be incurred for the renewal of licence applications and for future licence applications.

## Renewable energy

West of Walney Extension wind farm is currently under construction in the area. Costs may be incurred for carrying out environmental assessment and any mitigation required. This area is seen as presenting a good opportunity for further offshore wind development.

## 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 – 1 active telecoms cable and West of Walney Extension cables (already under construction) intersect the site
- Commercial shipping
- National defence
- Oil and gas exploration and/or production

## 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](mailto: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/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/) or email [PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

This publication is available at [www.gov.uk/government/publications](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications)