

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

## **West of Wight Barfleur Recommended Marine Conservation Zone**

**June 2018**

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



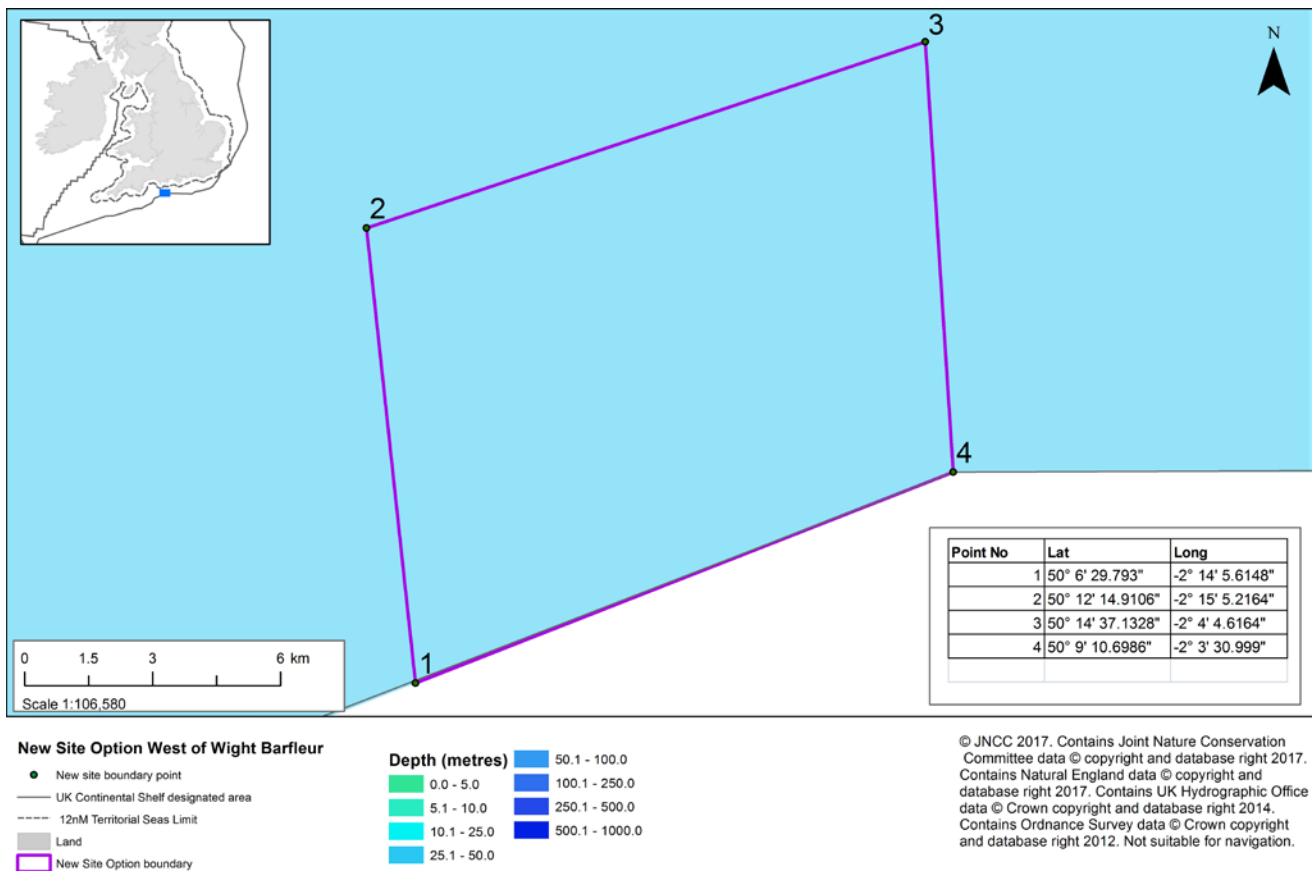
Subtidal coarse sediment with sun star © Crown Copyright

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## Where is the site located?

West of Wight Barfleur recommended Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is an offshore site covering an area of 138 km<sup>2</sup>. It is located in the English Channel.



## Why is the site environmentally important?

West of Wight Barfleur MCZ consists of a mixture of subtidal mixed sediments and subtidal coarse sediments. The varied nature of the seabed indicates that the site supports a wide range of animals, both on and in the sediment, such as worms, bivalves, starfish and anemones.



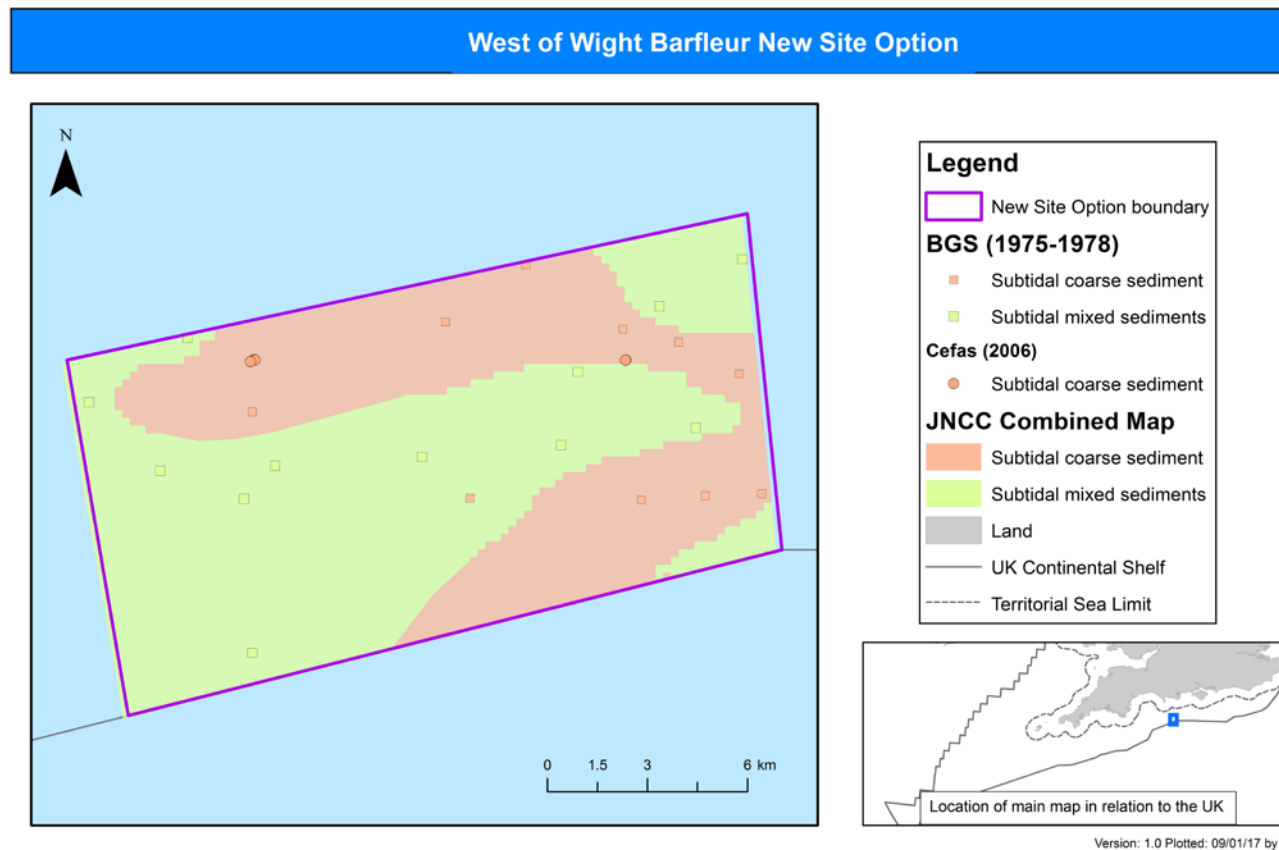
## What would this site protect?

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



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www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu), funded by the European Commission's Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE). Map Projection:WGS84, 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	£3,000
Commercial fishing non-UK	Bottom trawling and dredging	Unquantified
<b>Best estimate total cost</b>		<b>£3,000</b>

### Commercial Fishing UK

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

- Mid-water trawls, bottom trawls and dredges
- Gillnets, hooks and lines, pots and traps

A wide range of species are targeted within this site.

### Commercial Fishing non-UK

Vessels from France are known to be active within this site, targeting various species.

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.

## What 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 fisheries – mid-water trawls and static gear

## 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)



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