

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Dover to Deal

Recommended Marine Conservation Zone

January 2015

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



Moderate energy infralittoral rock - shallow water rock, below the tides, with some shelter from waves and currents © Lin Baldock

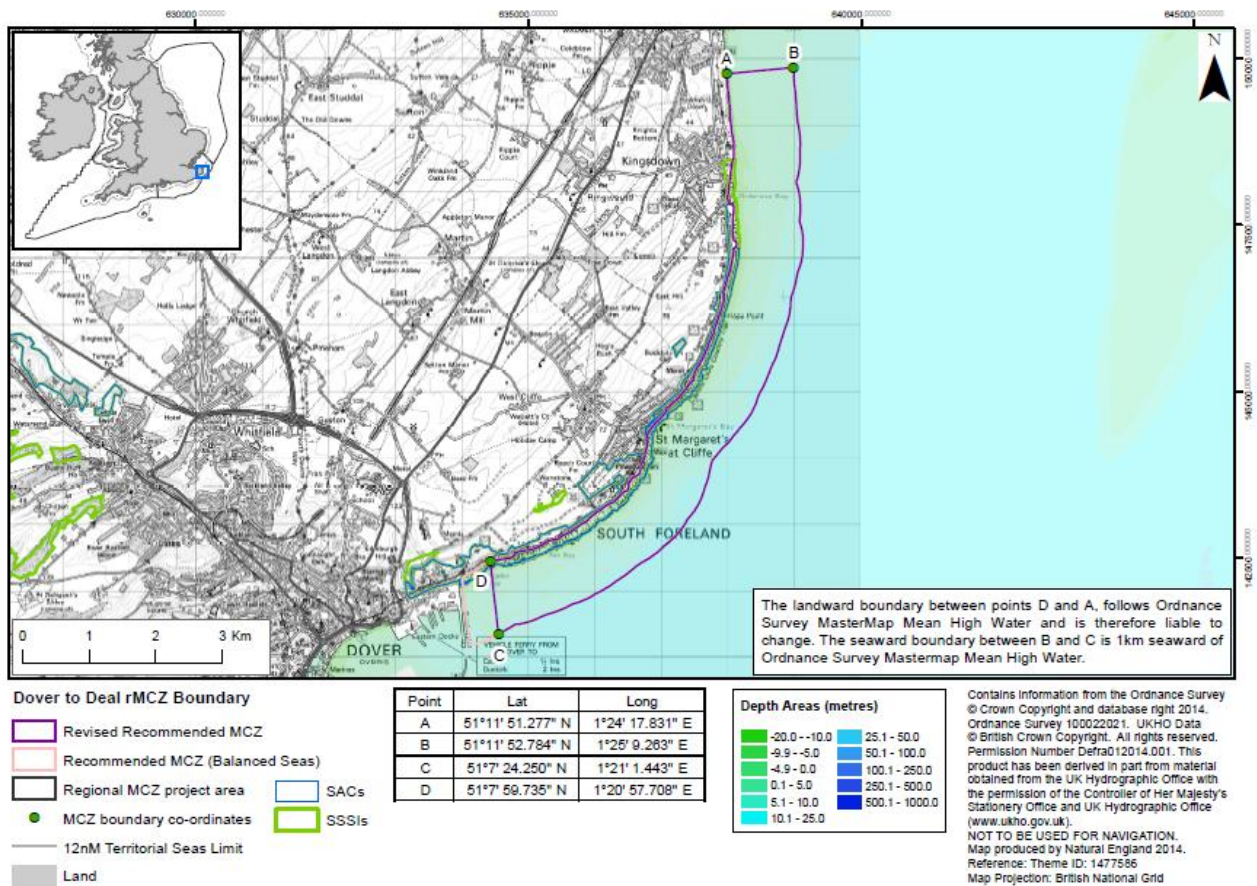
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Where the site is located

Dover to Deal recommended Marine Conservation Zone (rMCZ) is an inshore site, located off the coast of Kent, and covers an area of 10 km².

The site boundary has been moved 500 metres away from the harbour wall of the Port of Dover. This change will reduce the impact that the designation may have had on the port's activities. The new boundaries retain the ecological value of the site.



How to comment on the consultation

You can comment on this proposal by responding to the [consultation](#) taking place between 30th January and 24th April 2015.

Why the site is environmentally important

This site helps to address the gap in the network for ross worm reef, which are present on the lower shore where sand borders the edge of the chalk foreshore reef. These habitats recorded together are rare in Kent and have not been recorded elsewhere in the UK. Another gap which this site helps to address is for intertidal underboulder communities. These are where boulders create damp and shaded areas which provide refuge to important communities of plants such as sea mats, sponges, and tufts of pink coralline seaweed which encrust the under-surfaces of the boulder. This provides a habitat for animals like sea slugs which feed on the sponges, as well as brittlestars, porcelain crabs and squat lobsters which cling to the undersides of boulders as well as other crabs, fish, and young edible lobsters which hide amongst the boulders.

This site includes excellent examples of littoral chalk communities which are unique communities of seaweeds and the animals that associate with them. The area also includes the best example in the region of wave-cut platforms, flat areas at the base of a cliff formed by wave erosion. Below these platforms lie gullies and rock pools, which support several types of seaweed and algae. The chalk foreshore at St Margaret's Bay has one of the richest communities of algae in the south east.

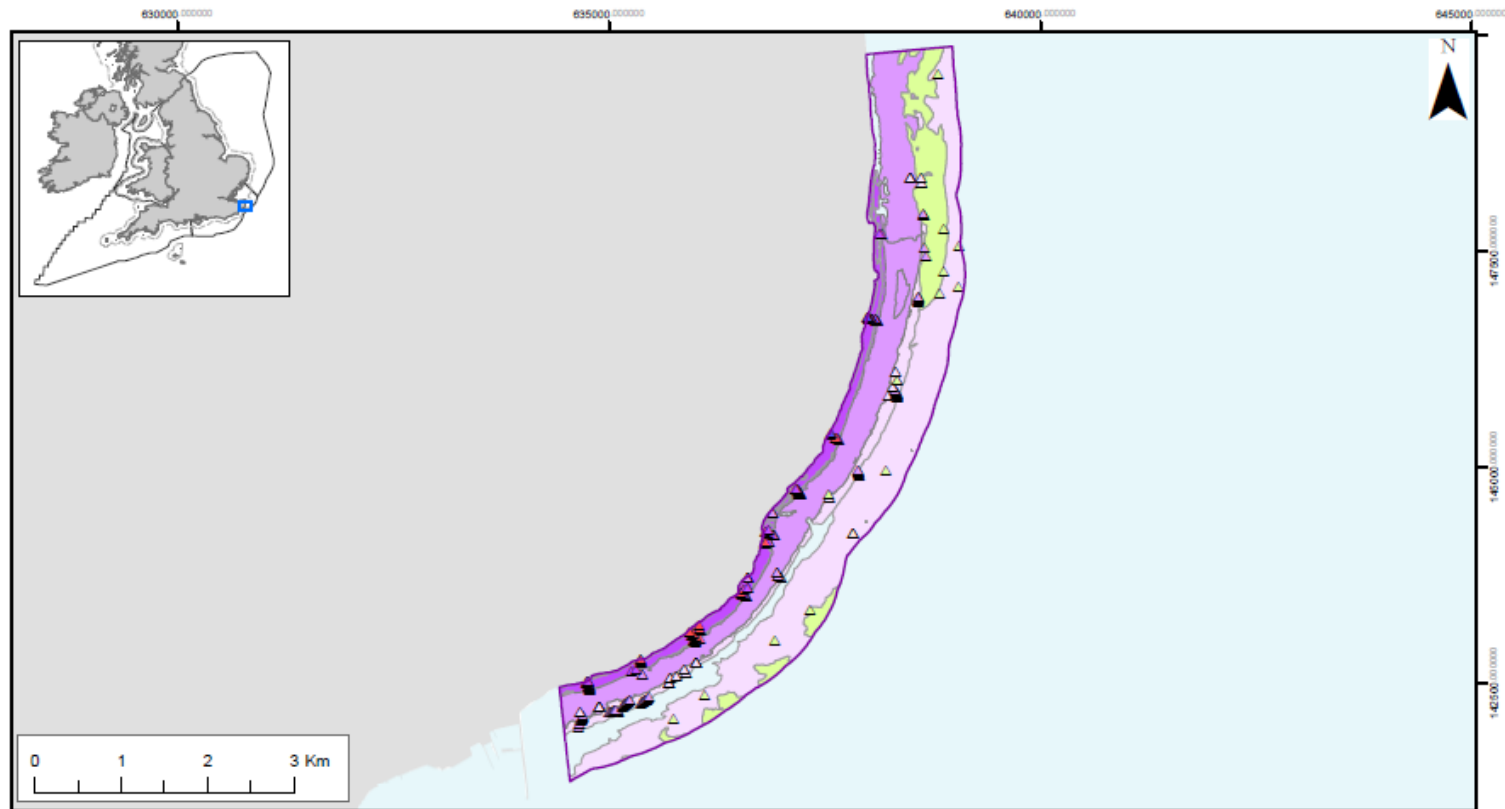
What this site would protect

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
Low energy intertidal rock	Maintain at favourable condition
Moderate energy intertidal rock	
High energy intertidal rock	
Intertidal underboulder communities	
Littoral chalk communities	
Subtidal chalk	
Rossworm (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>) reef	
Blue mussel beds	
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	
High energy circalittoral rock	
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	
Subtidal mixed sediments	
Native Oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>)	

Where the features are located

The following maps show the location of the features to be protected. A range of different types of surveys have been used to create these maps. More detailed information on the techniques used and the features themselves can be found [here](#).



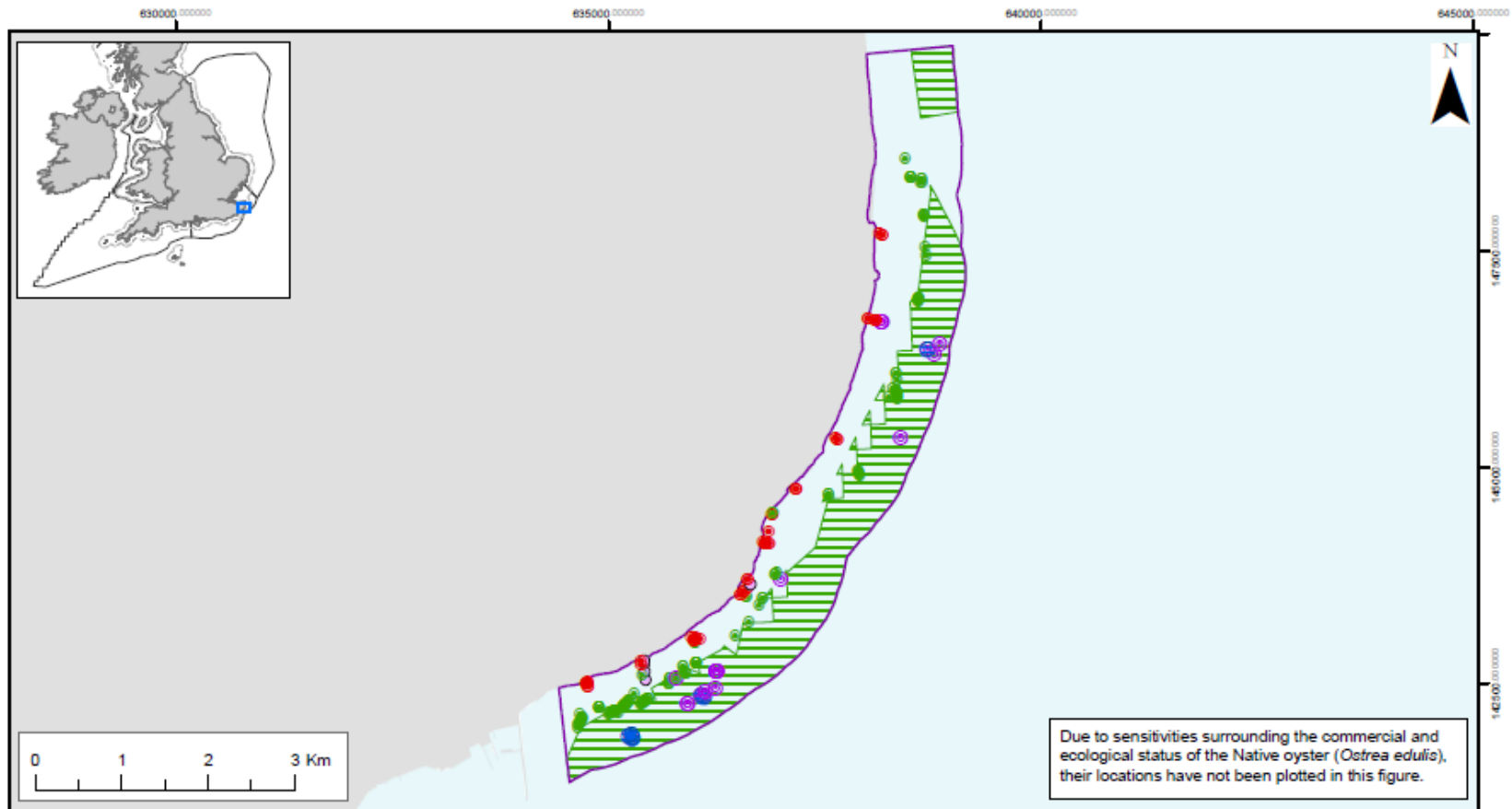
Dover to Deal recommended MCZ Broad Scale Habitats

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

Features proposed for 2015 designation

- High energy intertidal rock (A1.1)
- Moderate energy intertidal rock (A1.2)
- Low energy intertidal rock (A1.3)
- Moderate energy infralittoral rock (A3.2)
- High energy circalittoral rock (A4.1)
- Moderate energy circalittoral rock (A4.2)
- Subtidal mixed sediments (A5.4)
- 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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(www.ukho.gov.uk). Map produced by
Natural England 2014.
Reference: Theme ID: 1477563
Map Projection: British National Grid



**Dover to Deal recommended MCZ
Features of Conservation Importance**

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

Features proposed for 2015 designation

- ⊕ Blue Mussel Beds
- ⊙ Intertidal under boulder communities
- Littoral chalk communities
- ⊗ Ross worm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*) reefs
- Subtidal chalk
- Subtidal chalk

Due to sensitivities surrounding the commercial and ecological status of the Native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), their locations have not been plotted in this figure.

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 Map Projection: British National Grid

Features that are not proposed for designation

The following features are not proposed for designation as there is currently insufficient supporting evidence. Inclusion of these features may be considered if scientific evidence becomes available:

- intertidal coarse sediment,
- intertidal mud,
- intertidal sand and muddy sand,
- high energy infralittoral rock,
- subtidal coarse sediment,
- subtidal sand.

Activities that are likely to be affected

Management decisions are taken on a case by case basis by relevant regulators. Management will not automatically mean that economic and recreational activities will be restricted, decisions will be based on the specifics of each case. Restrictions on an activity will depend on the sensitivity of species, habitats and geological/geomorphological features (for which a site is designated) to the activities taking place in that area. More detail is available in the [Impact Assessment](#).

Sectors or activities likely affected by designation		
Sector	Activity Affected	Best Cost Estimate (£) per year
Ports, harbour and shipping	Dredging (maintenance and navigational), disposal sites, ports and harbour development.	10,100
Archaeological heritage	Future investigations of site	Unquantified
Best estimate total cost		10,100

Ports, harbours and shipping

This site is located close to Dover Port and Folkestone Harbour. All future licence applications for dredging and disposal of dredged material will need to consider the effect of the activity on the features designated at this site. There is therefore likely to be an increase in the cost for carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for future licence applications within this site.

The activities which we are aware take place and are likely to need to consider the potential effects on the designated features through an EIA are as follows:

- navigational dredging within 1 km of the site, where an EIA will need to be completed every 3 years when the dredge areas marine licence is renewed,
- capital dredging,
- disposal of materials within a disposal site that is within 5 km of the site boundary.

The impact on features in the rMCZ will also need to be considered if there is any future development at either Dover Port or Folkestone Harbour.

Archaeological heritage

This site is part of English Heritage's National Heritage protection plan.

Bronze-age and Neolithic artefacts have been found in the site. Wrecks of British, Norwegian, French, Greek and German origin are also recorded in the site. One of these, the Langdon Bay wreck, is protected under the Protection of Wrecks Act by a 150 metre exclusion zone. British and German World War II aircraft wrecks have also been recorded in the site.

There is likely to be an increase in the cost for carrying out EIAs for future licence applications within this site. Following designation, these will need to consider the effect of the activity on the features designated at this site.



Activities that are unlikely to be affected

These activities are known to take place at this site but are not likely to be damaging to the features proposed for designation at their current levels of intensity:

- cable laying (two active telecoms cables intersect the site),
- commercial fishing (all gear types),
- flood and coastal erosion risk management,
- the following ports, harbours, shipping activities:
 - designated anchoring sites for commercial shipping,
 - transit of ships,
- recreational anchoring and yachting,
- recreational angling,
- water pollution from activities on land (as this is managed under the Water Framework Directive).

Additional Information

To read the full consultation document, or respond to the consultation, please visit

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/tranche2mczs>

To read the advice provided by Natural England, please visit

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5803843768025088?category=6742552893980672>

For further information, please contact Defra on

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