

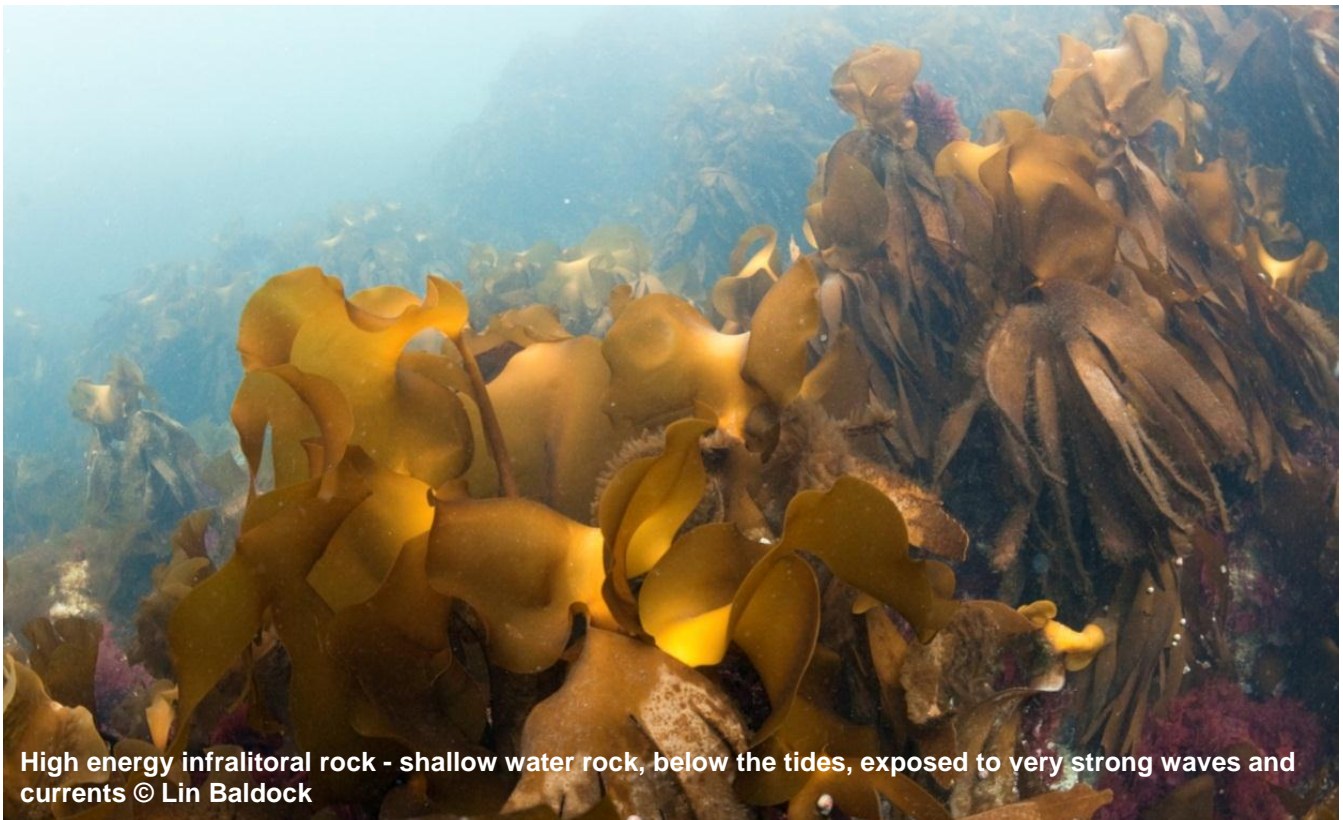
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Dover to Folkestone

Recommended Marine Conservation Zone

January 2015

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



High energy infralitoral rock - shallow water rock, below the tides, exposed to very strong waves and currents © Lin Baldock

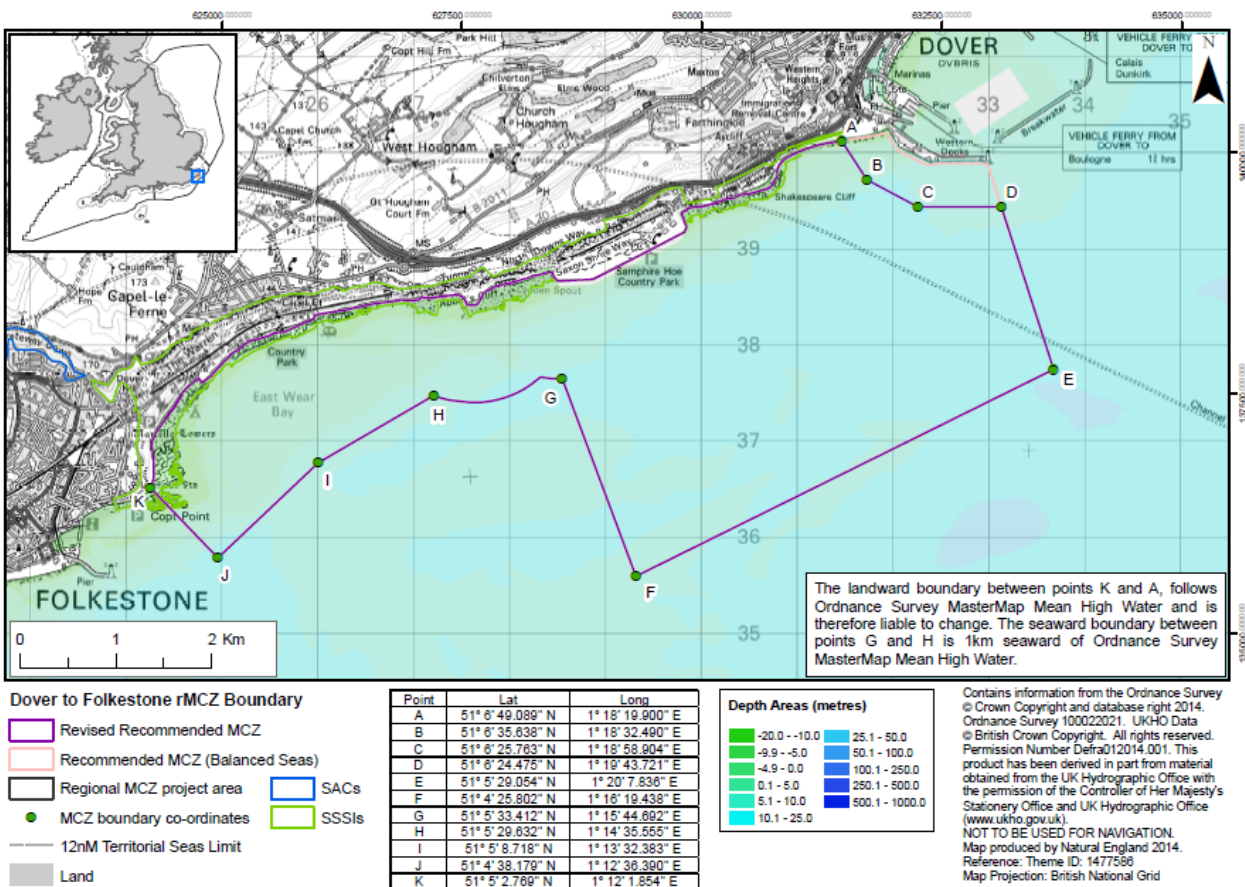
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Where the site is located

Dover to Folkestone recommended Marine Conservation Zone (rMCZ) is an inshore site measuring 20 km². This site encompasses the wave-cut intertidal chalk platforms that form an almost continuous reef between Kingsdown, Deal in the north east and Folkestone Warren in the south west.

The site boundary has been moved 500 metres away for 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. As a result of this change, one feature will no longer be protected within 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 is a highly diverse area with a number of habitats and features of interest. The chalk communities are one of the best examples in the region, supporting a range of seaweeds and the animals that associate with them. Soft clay can be found at Folkestone Warren that supports different communities of algae.

Hard rock habitats are found in the vicinity of Shakespeare Cliff, supporting a range of species including kelp, red algae and worm tubes. This particular habitat is unusual for the region, which is mostly softer sediments.

Rocky outcrops, ledges and boulders support a number of underboulder communities, considered to be the best examples in the region. 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 undersurfaces 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.

The mixed sediment within the site is rich in mobile animals including brittlestars, squat lobsters, crabs, fish and molluscs, and wild native oysters are found scattered across the site.



What this site would protect

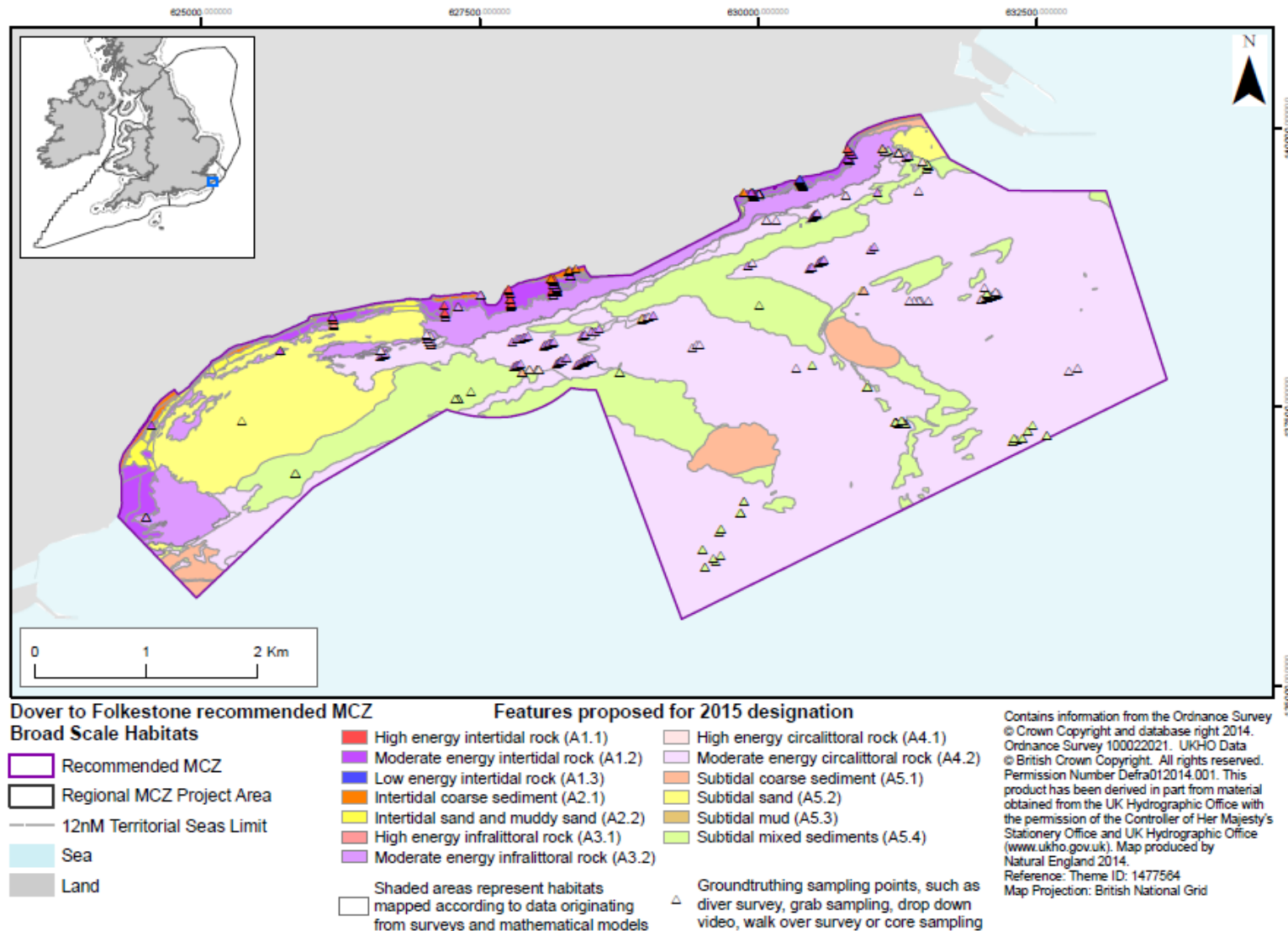
Designation would protect the following features. You can read more about the features this site protects and why they are important [here](#).

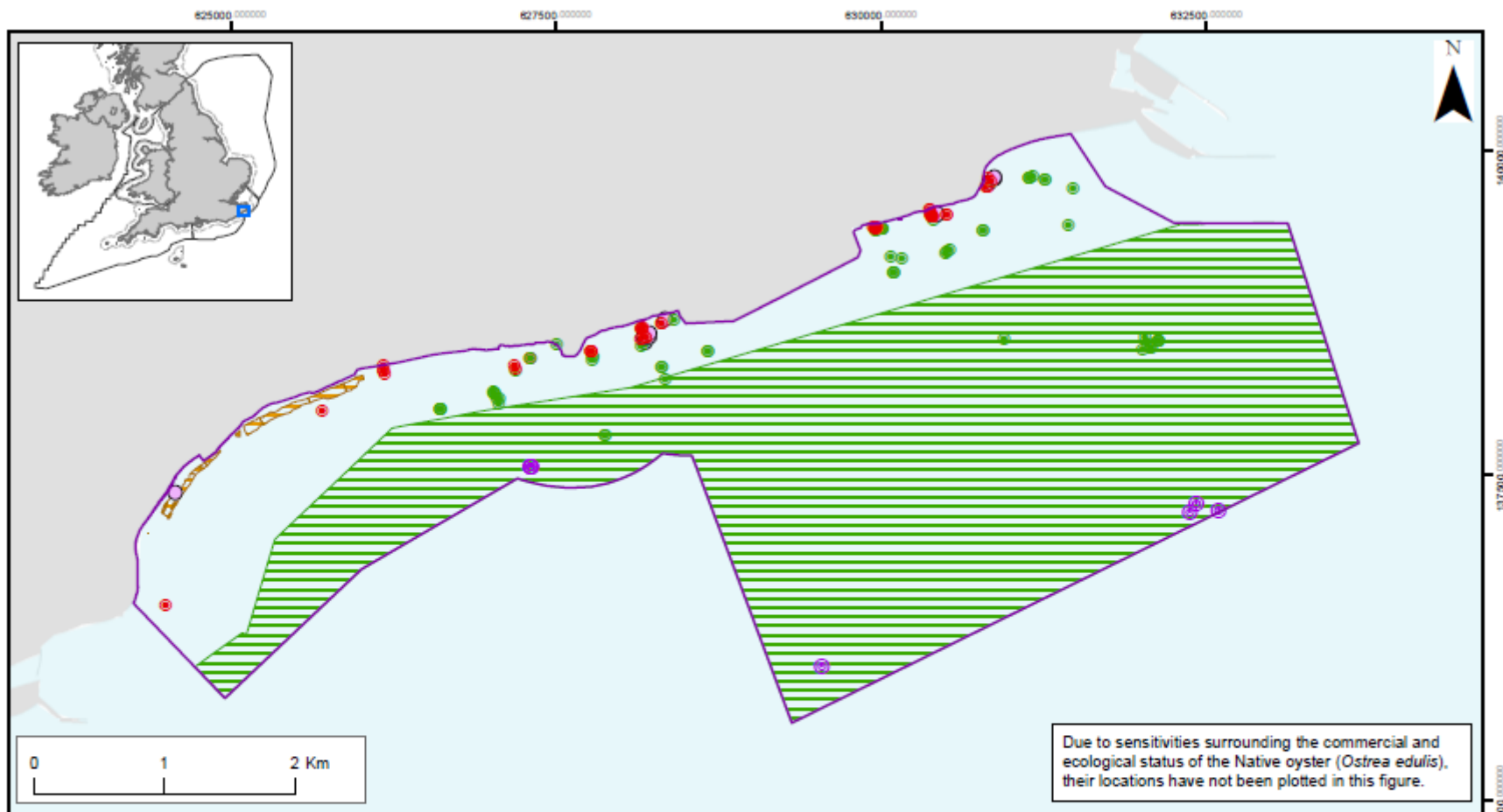
Feature	General management approach
Low energy intertidal rock	Maintain at favourable condition
Moderate energy intertidal rock	
High energy intertidal rock	
Intertidal under boulder communities	
Intertidal coarse sediment	
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	
Littoral chalk communities	
Subtidal chalk	
Peat and clay exposures	
Ross worm reefs (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>)	
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	
High energy infralittoral rock	
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	
High energy circalittoral rock	
Subtidal coarse sediment	
Subtidal mixed sediments	
Subtidal sand	
Subtidal mud	
Native oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>)	
Folkestone Warren ¹	

¹ Geological feature

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 Folkestone recommended MCZ
Features of Conservation Importance**

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

Features proposed for 2015 designation

- Littoral chalk communities
- Intertidal under boulder communities
- Peat and clay exposures
- Ross worm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*) reefs
- Subtidal chalk
- Peat and clay exposures
- Subtidal chalk

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 Stationery Office and UK Hydrographic Office
 (www.ukho.gov.uk). Map produced by
 Natural England 2014.
 Reference: Theme ID: 1477564
 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:

- subtidal sands and gravels,
- intertidal mud,
- intertidal mixed sediments,
- blue mussel beds,
- low energy infralittoral rock.

As a result of the proposed boundary change, the locations where short snouted seahorses have been sighted are no longer within the rMCZ. This feature will not therefore be designated.

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, harbours and shipping	Dredging (maintenance and navigational), dredge 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 close to Dover Port and Folkestone Harbour. All future licence applications for dredging and disposal of dredged material will need to take account of the features designated at the site. There will therefore be additional costs when carrying out environmental impact assessments (EIAs).

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 that is within 5 km of the rMCZ, where an EIA will need to be completed every three years when the dredge areas marine licence is renewed,
- capital dredging by Dover port,
- disposal of materials within a disposal site that is 5 km from 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

Several wrecks of British, Canadian, and American heritage are in the site. Mesolithic, iron-age, bronze-age and palaeolithic artefacts have also been found in the site. This site is likely to be of interest for archaeological excavation in the future.

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 impacted

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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