

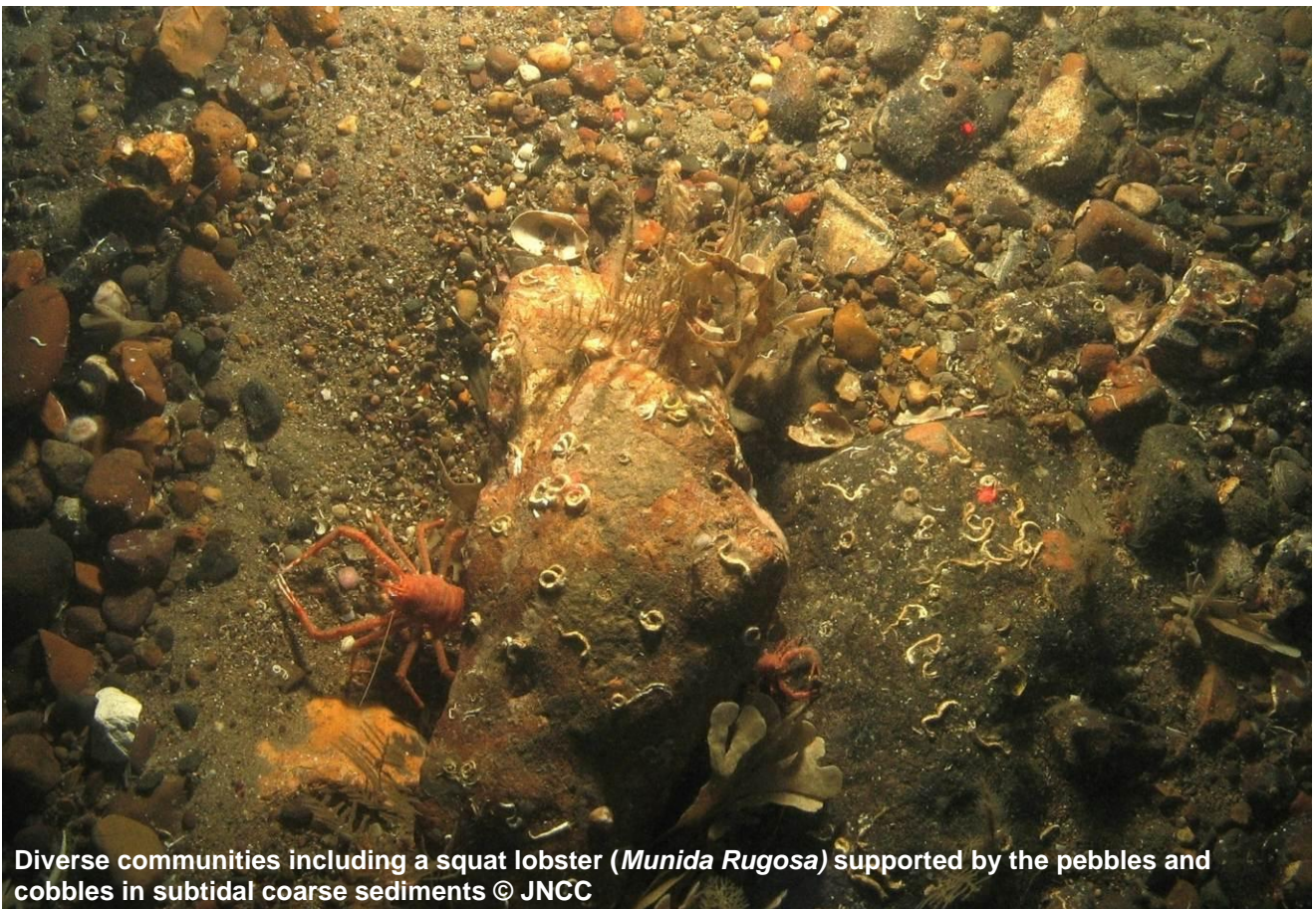
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Holderness Inshore

Recommended Marine Conservation Zone

January 2015

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



Diverse communities including a squat lobster (*Munida Rugosa*) supported by the pebbles and cobbles in subtidal coarse sediments © JNCC

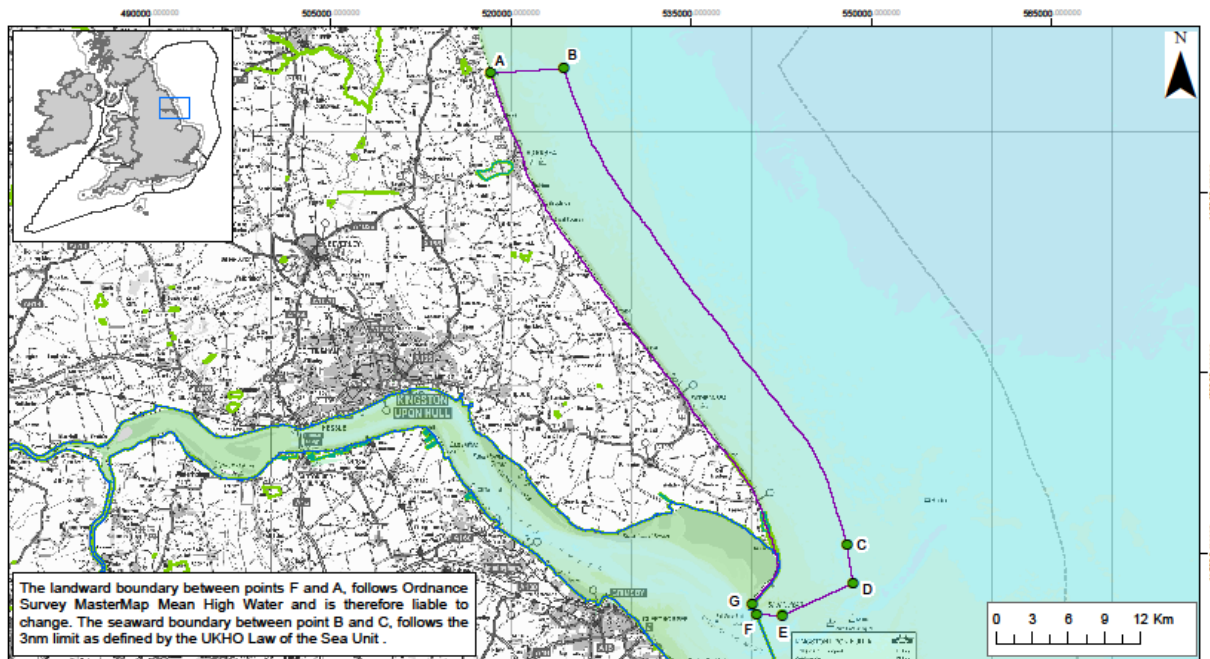
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Where the site is located

Holderness Inshore recommended Marine Conservation Zone (rMCZ) is an inshore site covering an area of approximately 307 km². The site is located north of the Humber estuary mouth in Humberside and includes The Binks and Spurn Head geological features.

The site extends from the mean high water mark out to 3 nautical miles (nm) reaching a maximum depth of around 15 metres.



Holderness Inshore rMCZ Boundary

- Recommended MCZ
- Regional MCZ project area
- MCZ boundary co-ordinates
- 12nm Territorial Seas Limit
- Land
- SPAs
- SACs
- SSSIs

Point	Lat	Long
A	53°58' 36.058" N	0°11' 51.717" W
B	53°58' 43.523" N	0°8' 17.883" W
C	53°37' 0.285" N	0°14' 6.467" E
D	53°35' 16.079" N	0°14' 28.928" E
E	53°33' 55.835" N	0°9' 4.414" E
F	53°34' 1.267" N	0°7' 8.253" E
G	53°34' 30.339" N	0°8' 50.401" E

Depth Areas (metres)	
-20.0 - -10.0	25.1 - 50.0
-9.9 - -5.0	50.1 - 100.0
-4.9 - 0.0	100.1 - 250.0
0.1 - 5.0	250.1 - 500.0
5.1 - 10.0	500.1 - 1000.0
10.1 - 25.0	

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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 this site is environmentally important

This site contains a range of habitats which support a diverse variety of organisms including red algae, sponges and other encrusting fauna. Fish species such as dab and wrasse, as well as commercially significant crustaceans such as edible and velvet swimming crabs and lobster are also found within the site.

The geological feature of Spurn Head, located to the south of the site, is a unique example of an active spit system, extending across the mouth of the Humber Estuary.

'The Binks', an area of subtidal rubble adjacent to the spit, which traps sediment and reduces erosion of the Spurn Head feature.

Deep water circalittoral rocks in this site provide a habitat for a range of species. The depth means that the lack of sunlight prevents seaweeds from growing, and the marine environment becomes dominated by animal communities. The animal communities which can thrive here include cup coral, sea-fans, anemones, and sponges. Mobile animals in this environment can include starfish, brittlestars, and sea urchins.

What this site would protect

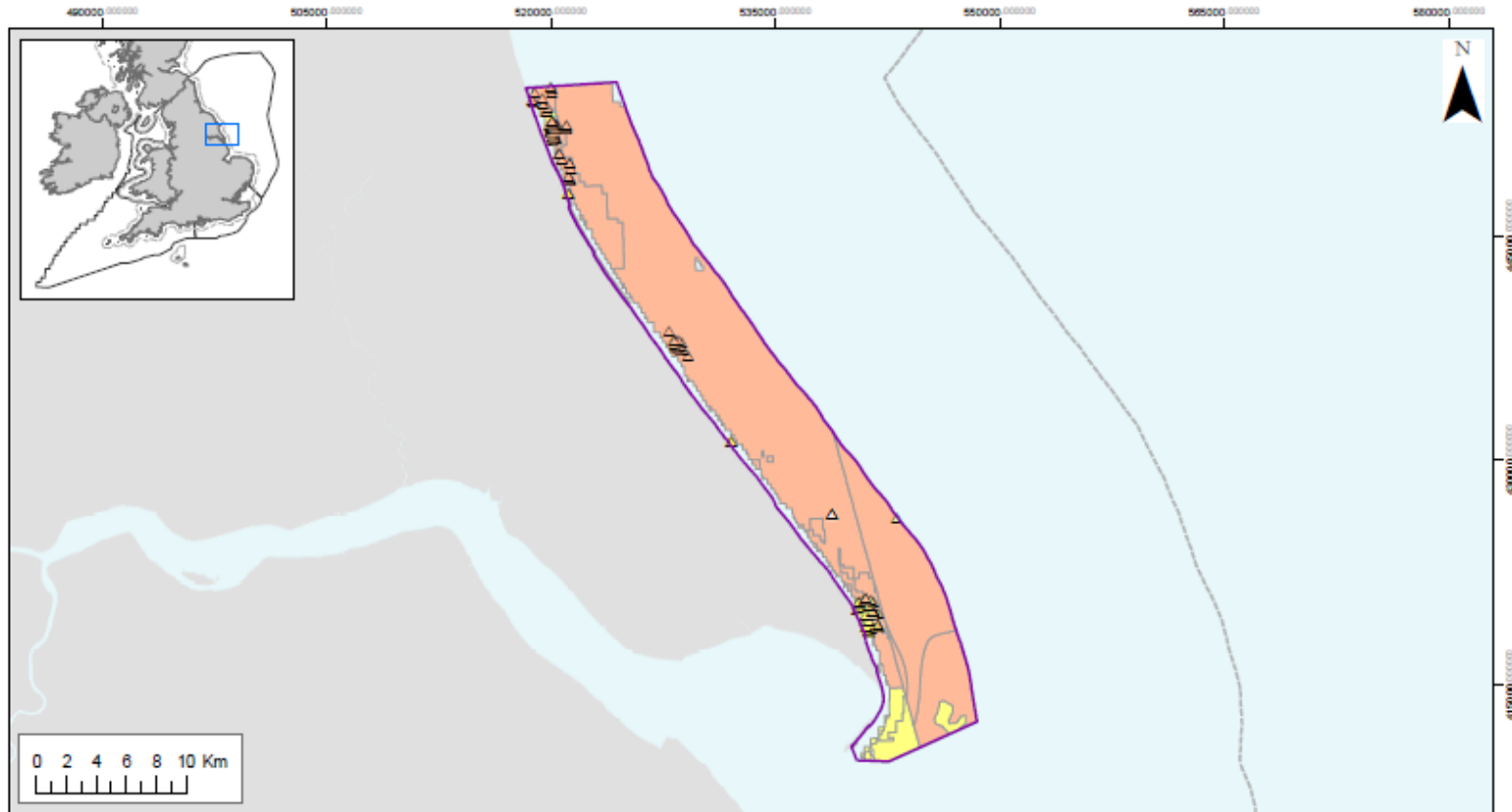
Designation would protect the following features. You can read more about the features this site protects and why they are important [here](#).

Feature	General management approach
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain at favourable condition
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	
High energy circalittoral rock	
Spurn Head (subtidal) ¹	
Subtidal coarse sediment	
Subtidal sand	
Subtidal mud	
Subtidal mixed sediments	

¹ Geological feature

Where the features are located

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



Holderness Inshore recommended MCZ

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

Features proposed for 2015 designation

- Intertidal sand and muddy sand (A2.2)
- High energy circalittoral rock (A4.1)
- Moderate energy circalittoral rock (A4.2)
- Subtidal coarse sediment (A5.1)
- Subtidal sand (A5.2)
- Subtidal mud (A5.3)
- 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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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 mixed sediments,
- peat and clay exposures,
- subtidal chalk,
- rossworm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*) reefs.

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	Navigational dredging, dredge disposal sites.	3,000
Archaeological heritage	Future investigations of site	Unquantified
Flood and coastal erosion management	Future development	Unquantified
National defence	Use of training site	Unquantified at site level
Best estimate total cost		3,000

Ports, harbours and shipping

All future licence applications made in relation to port, harbour and commercial shipping activities will need to consider the possible effects of their activities on the designated rMCZ features.

The activities which we are aware take place and are likely to see additional costs incurred when carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for future licence applications are as follows:

- navigational and maintenance dredging within 5 km of the site,
- disposal of materials at disposal sites within 5 km of the site, including at Bull Sand Fort and Humber 1.

Archaeological heritage

Medieval settlement sites are known to have existed in the area, as are neolithic occupation sites. Mesolithic flint collections, coins which date as far back as 68–66BC, and prehistoric amber have been discovered. A number of shipwrecks, dating from 1703 to 1978, can also be found within 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 archaeological activity on the features designated at this site.

Flood and coastal erosion management

Following designation, any future permit/licence applications within or near to the site will require an added assessment within the EIA to consider the potential effect of the activity on the features designated at this site, which could lead to an increase in cost of the EIA package.

National defence

The Ministry of Defence is known to make use of the site for training activities.

We expect this activity to be able to continue. Activity which is harmful to features can be avoided though additional planning during operations and training.

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:

- commercial fisheries - all gear types,
- recreational activities,
- cables - two active export power cables and seven active gas pipelines intersect the site,
- transit of ships.

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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