

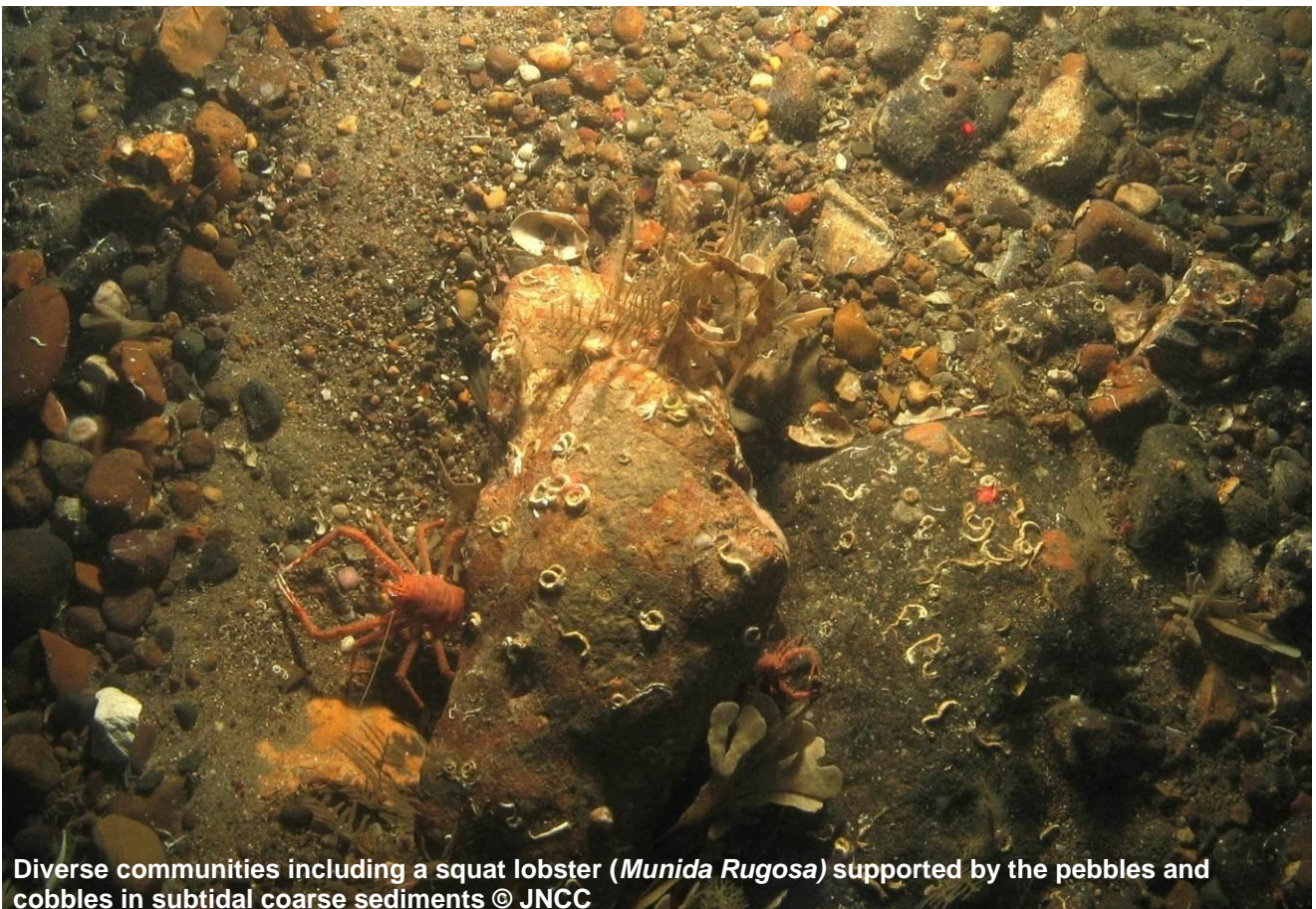
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Land's End (Runnel Stone)

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

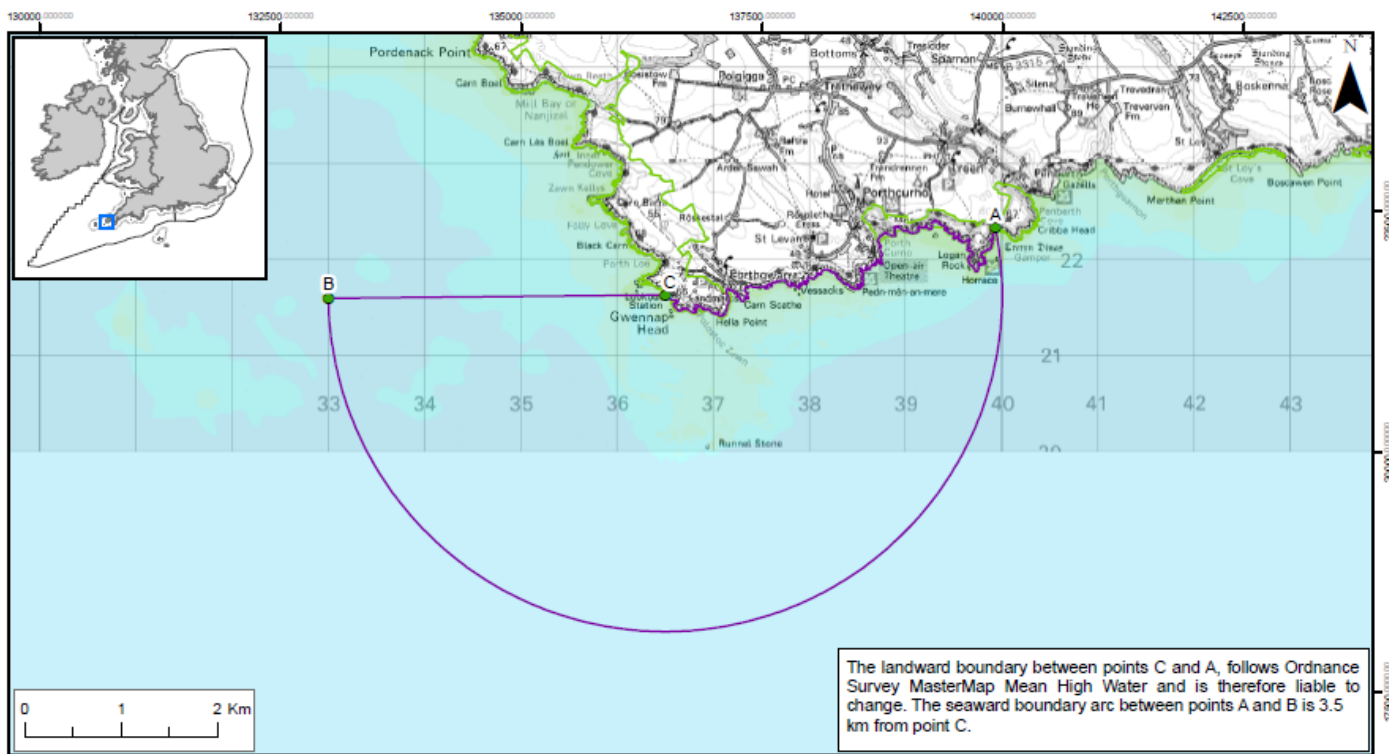
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Where the site is located

Land's End (Runnel Stone) recommended Marine Conservation Zone (rMCZ) is an inshore site that covers an area of 19 km² positioned at the end of the Land's End peninsula. The seaward site boundary runs in an arc 3.5 km from a central point that overlaps the lookout station at Gwennap Head.

“Land's End” was the name proposed for the site by the Regional Project. However, on designation the site name will be changed to Runnel Stone, to reflect more accurately the location of the site and reduce confusion with adjacent marine protected areas.



Lands' End rMCZ Boundary

- Recommended MCZ
- Regional MCZ project area
- MCZ boundary co-ordinates
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Land

SSSIs

Point	Lat	Long
A	50° 2' 39.096" N	5° 38' 2.164" W
B	50° 2' 4.204" N	5° 43' 47.902" W
C	50° 2' 10.916" N	5° 40' 52.432" W

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 the site is environmentally important

This site has an area of higher than average species diversity and will protect a range of habitats, from soft sediments through to exposed rock communities.

The sandy beaches (intertidal sand and muddy sand) protected by this site host a range of species, such as shrimp-like sandhoppers, cockles, sea nails and worms buried beneath the surface.

Rocky habitats within the site support a range of plants and animals. Mussels, limpets and barnacles cling to the high energy intertidal rocks - rocky seashores, exposed to very strong waves and currents - and small tufts of seaweeds are found growing in cracks and crevices. Infralittoral rock, found in shallow waters, provides a habitat for seaweeds which provide a home for various small marine creatures which shelter and feed amongst the seaweeds. Circalittoral rocks are found in deeper waters and the species that live on them can include sea-fans, anemones, or they may be dominated by sponges.

The site contains the Runnel Stone reef which is of high ecological importance for a range of species and has historically been well studied, so has added scientific value.

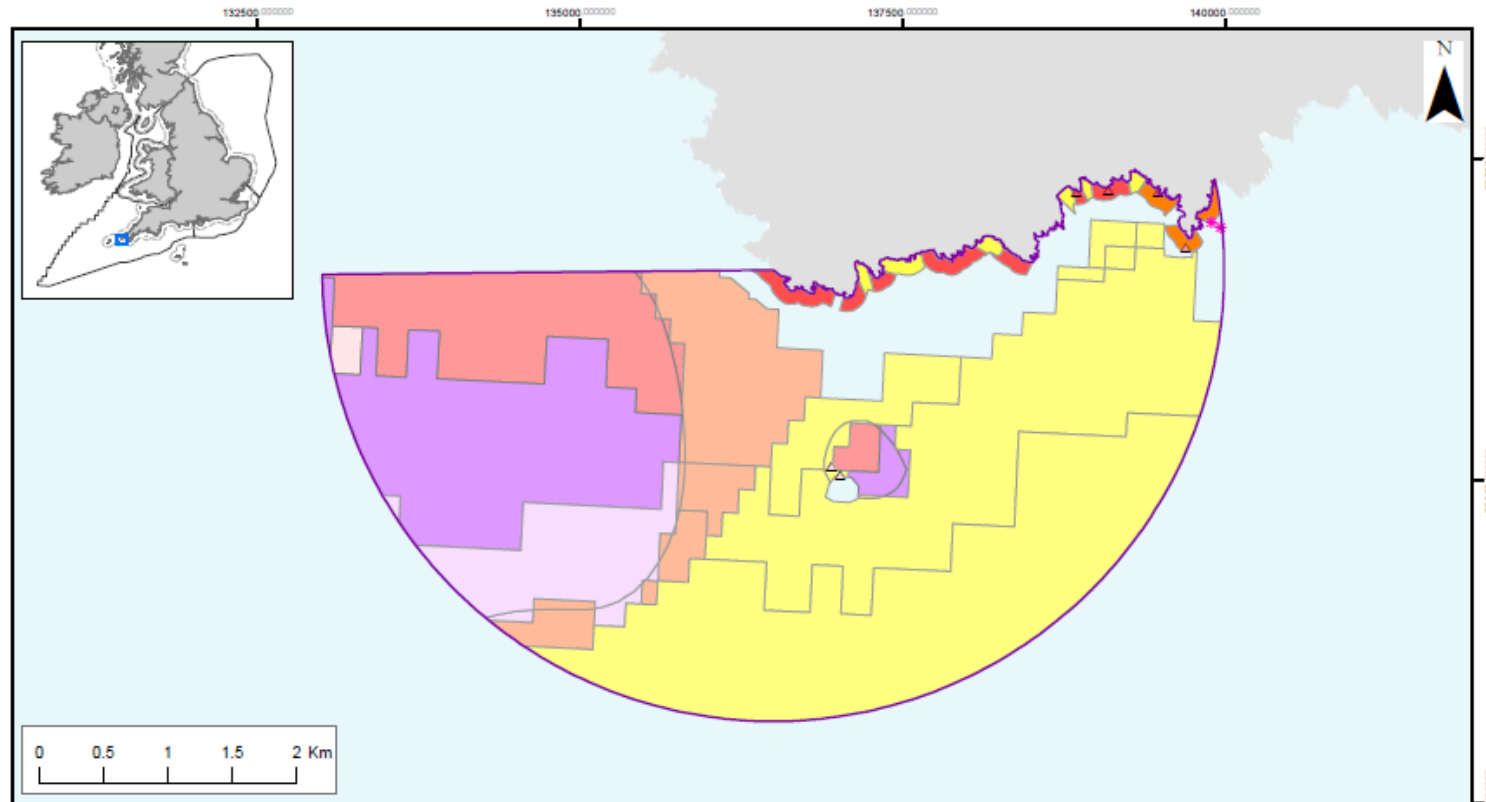
What this site would protect

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
High energy intertidal rock	Maintain at favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	
High energy infralittoral rock	
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	
High energy circalittoral rock	
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	
Subtidal coarse sediment	
Subtidal sand	
Pink sea-fan (<i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>)	

Where are the features 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](#).



Runnel Stone (Land's End) recommended MCZ

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

Features proposed for 2015 designation

- High energy intertidal rock (A1.1)
- Intertidal coarse sediment (A2.1)
- Intertidal sand and muddy sand (A2.2)
- High energy infralittoral rock (A3.1)
- Moderate energy infralittoral rock (A3.2)
- High energy circalittoral rock (A4.1)
- Moderate energy circalittoral rock (A4.2)
- Subtidal coarse sediment (A5.1)
- Subtidal sand (A5.2)
- Pink sea-fan (*Eunicella verrucosa*)
- 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

Intertidal mud is not proposed for designation as there is currently insufficient supporting evidence. Inclusion of this feature may be considered if scientific evidence becomes available.

Activities which 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
Renewable energy	Wave energy	900
Archaeological heritage	Future investigations of site	Unquantified
Cables	Future development	Unquantified at site level
National defence	Use of training site	Unquantified at site level
Best estimate total cost		900



Renewable energy

An area within the site has the potential to be developed for wave energy as it overlaps with the North Cornwall and Devon Coastal Wave Energy Potential Development Area (PDA). As the location of the potential installation is not known, the possible overlap of inter-array and export cables within the site is also not known.

All future licence applications would need to take into account the impact of the development on the features in the site. This would increase the cost of the licence application.

Archaeological heritage

There are 27 wrecks located within the site.

There is likely to be an increase in the cost for carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments (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.

Cables

Costs to the cables sector associated with management of second tranche rMCZs are assessed on a regional scale, rather than individually for each site. This is because it is not certain where cables will be built in the future, and where management will be required. Where a new cable is laid in an rMCZ, the impact on designated features would need to be considered as part of the licence application, which may entail an increased cost.

It is not anticipated that cables already in place will require any management measures applied following designation.

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 through 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:

- cables (existing interconnectors and telecom cables) – four active telecommunication cables intersect the site,
- recreational activities,
- commercial fishing activities:
 - bottom trawls,
 - dredges,
 - hooks and lines,
 - nets, pots and traps,
- water abstraction,
- water pollution from activities on land (as this is managed under the Water Framework Directive),
- 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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