

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Newquay and the Gannel

Recommended Marine Conservation Zone

January 2015

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



Burrowing sea anemone on undersea beds of coarse sand, gravel and shingle © Paul Kay

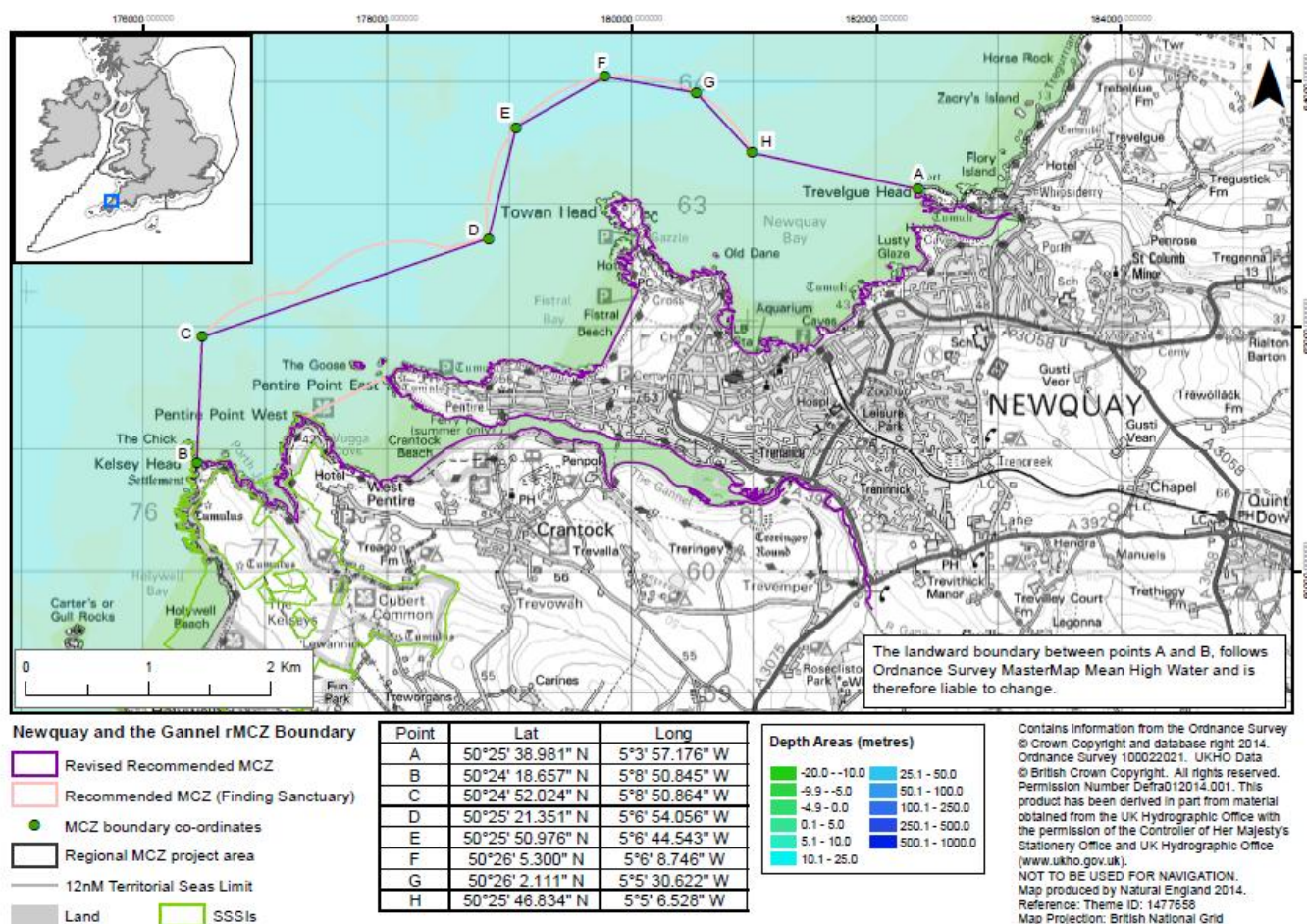
Contents

Where the site is located.....	3
How to comment on the consultation	3
Why the site is environmentally important.....	4
What this site would protect	4
Where the features are located.....	5
Features that are not proposed for designation	6
Activities which are likely to be affected.....	6
Renewable energy	7
Archaeological heritage.....	7
Flood and coastal erosion risk management.....	7
Ports, Harbours and shipping.....	7
Activities that are unlikely to be affected	8
Additional Information	8

Where the site is located

The Newquay and the Gannel recommended Marine Conservation Zone (rMCZ) is a relatively small inshore site, covering an area of 9 km². The site boundary extends along the mean high water mark from Kelsey Head (west of Crantock Beach) to Trevelgue Head at Porth Beach, as well as the estuary area of the Gannel. The site encompasses the Gannel estuary as far as the tidal limit near the A3075 road bridge.

Minor amendments to straighten the seaward boundary have been made to simplify the site boundary for designation and management. No significant socio-economic impacts, or significant changes to the ecological value are anticipated due to the boundary change. For simplification the site is also being considered as a single site, rather than having a distinct Gannel Estuary zone.



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.

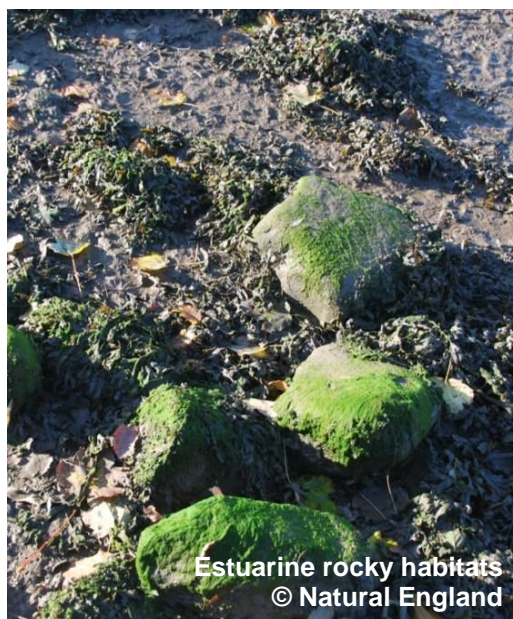
Why the site is environmentally important

The site has been highlighted as an area of high biodiversity and proposed as an rMCZ for the protection of a wide range of habitats and species. Habitats range from exposed sandy beaches and diverse rocky shores, home to important species such as the rare giant goby which is not well protected in marine protected areas within the region.

The estuarine rocky habitats in the site are an important habitat for a range of plants and animals. Large seaweeds and sheltering barnacles, seaweed, snails and shrimp-like animals, can dominate the shore. Below the low water mark, the communities are equally variable, with anemones, sponges, sea mats and sea squirts growing on rocky surfaces.

Within the estuary area, coastal saltmarsh also provides refuge and food for animals and plants. The rich and sheltered waters of estuary and saltmarsh habitat provide nursery grounds for juvenile fish.

Subtidal rocks and sediment in deeper water away from the coastline also provide important habitat containing branching sponges, sea squirts, kelp and large seaweeds.



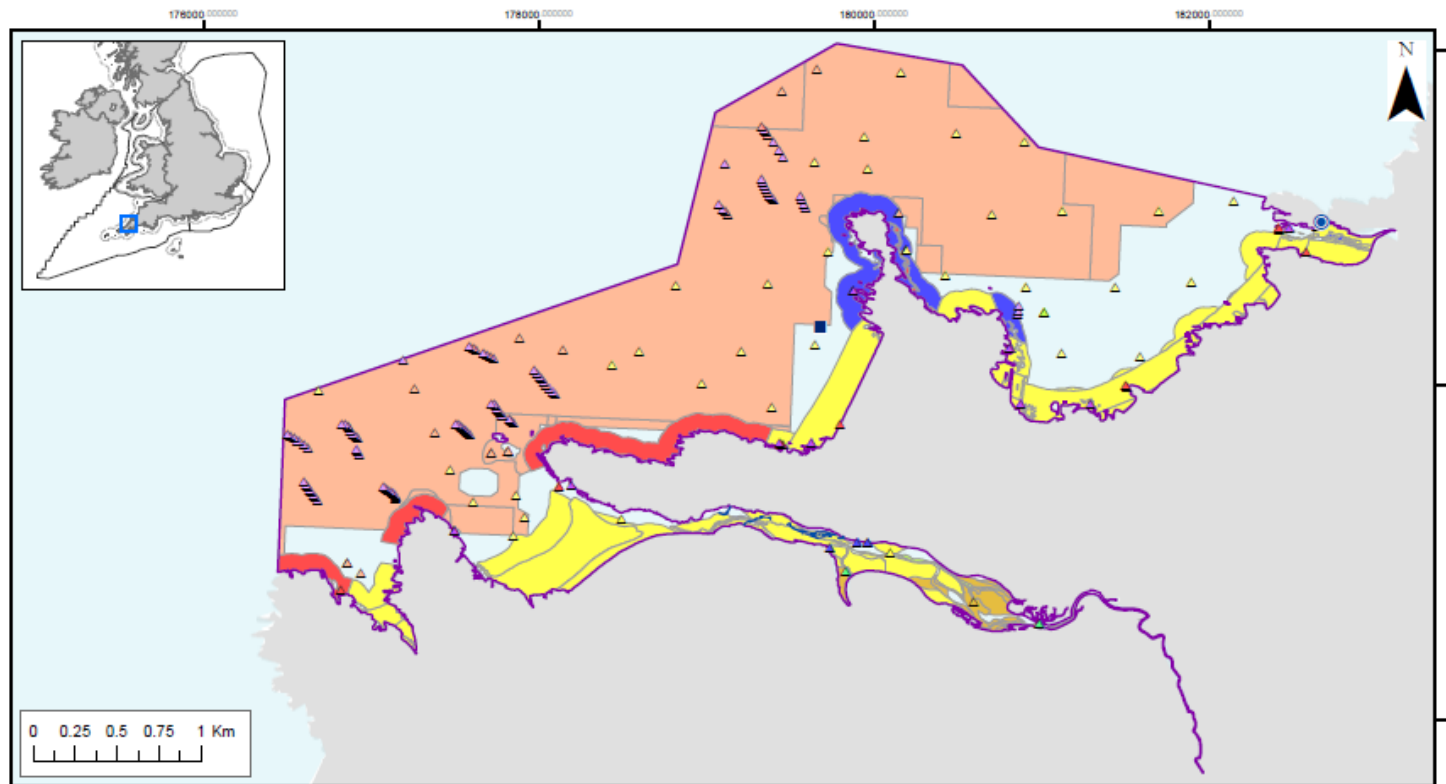
What this site would protect

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
Moderate energy intertidal rock	
Low energy intertidal rock	
Estuarine rocky habitats	
Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	
Intertidal mud	
Intertidal mixed sediments	
Subtidal coarse sediment	
Subtidal sand	
High energy infralittoral rock	
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	
Giant goby (<i>Gobius cobitis</i>)	

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](#).



Newquay and the Gannel recommended MCZ

Features proposed for 2015 designation

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

- Giant goby (*Gobius cobitis*)
- Estuarine rocky habitats
- Estuarine rocky habitats
- High energy intertidal rock (A1.1)
- Moderate energy intertidal rock (A1.2)
- Low energy intertidal rock (A1.3)
- Intertidal sand and muddy sand (A2.2)
- Shaded areas represent habitats mapped according to data originating from surveys and mathematical models
- Intertidal mud (A2.3)
- Intertidal mixed sediments (A2.4)
- Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds (A2.5)
- High energy infralittoral rock (A3.1)
- Moderate energy infralittoral rock (A3.2)
- Subtidal coarse sediment (A5.1)
- Subtidal sand (A5.2)
- Groundtruthing sampling points, such as diver survey, grab sampling, drop down video, walk over survey or core sampling

Contains information from the Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright and database right 2014. Ordnance Survey 100022021. UKHO Data © British Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Permission Number Defra012014.001. This product has been derived in part from material obtained from the UK Hydrographic Office with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office and UK Hydrographic Office (www.ukho.gov.uk). Map produced by Natural England 2014. Reference: Theme ID: 1477658 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 in the future if scientific evidence becomes available:

- intertidal coarse sediment,
- subtidal mud,
- high energy circalittoral rock,
- tide-swept channels,
- pink sea-fan (*Eunicella verrucosa*),
- native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*).

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 to be affected by designation		
Sector	Activity Affected	Best Cost Estimate (£) per year
Renewable energy	Wave energy	900
Archaeological heritage	Future investigations of site	Unquantified
Flood and coastal erosion risk management	Future developments	Unquantified
Ports, harbours and shipping	Ports and harbour developments	Unquantified
Best estimate total cost		900

Renewable energy

The rMCZ overlaps with part of the North Cornwall coastal wave energy Potential Development Area (PDA). As the location of the potential energy generation installation is not known, the possible overlap of inter-array and export cables with the rMCZ is also not known.

If an installation is developed in the future, all future licence applications that overlap with the rMCZ 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 is archaeological interest located around the site. There are fish cellar sites at Newquay Bay, and a World War II emergency battery can be found at Newquay.

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

Flood and coastal erosion risk management

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

Ports, Harbours and shipping

The site is located close to Newquay Harbour. All future EIAs for licence applications made in relation to port, harbour and commercial shipping activities will need to consider the possible effects of their activities on the features designated within the site. This would include any development by Newquay Harbour.

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 fishing activities
 - bottom trawls
 - hooks and lines
 - nets, pots and traps
- recreational activities,
- 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

- 03459 33 55 77 (UK only)
- +44 20 7238 6951 (from outside the UK)
- defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk



© Crown copyright 2015

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v.3. To view this licence visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/ or email PSI@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

mcz@defra.gsi.gov.uk

PB 14277