

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

North of Lundy

**Candidate Marine Conservation Zone not
proposed for designation in the second tranche**

January 2015

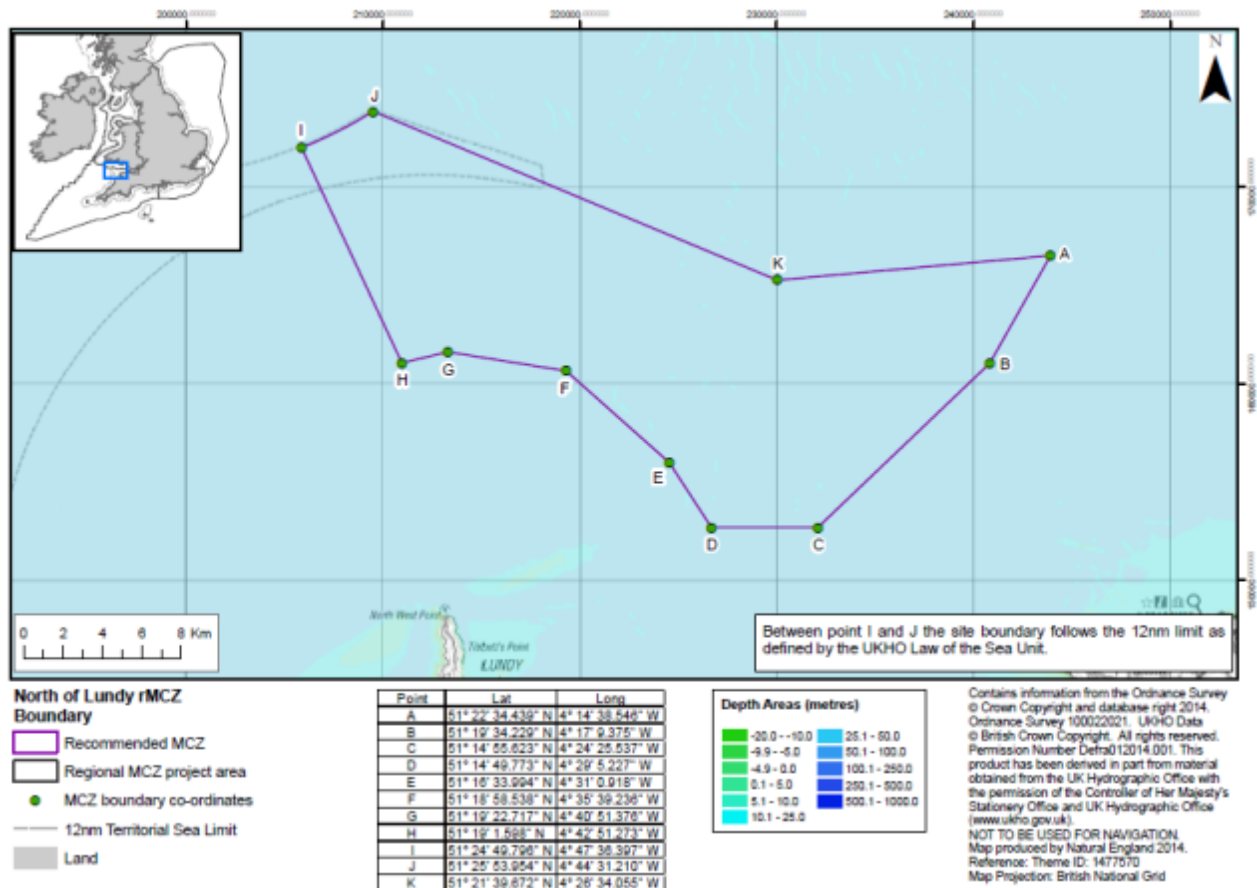
**Consultation on Sites Proposed for Designation in the Second Tranche
of Marine Conservation Zones**

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Where the site is located

North of Lundy candidate Marine Conservation Zone (cMCZ) is located approximately 14 km north-west of the nearest land at Morte Point in North Devon. This large site is located within an area of high tidal energy at the mouth of the Bristol Channel. The seabed primarily consists of subtidal sand and subtidal coarse sediment at a depth of 35 to 55 metres. The site boundary was originally drawn to follow the Atlantic Array offshore wind farm development area.



Why this site was identified as a candidate site for the second tranche

The site was recommended to fill gaps in the network by increasing the proportion of coarse sediment, circalittoral rock and subtidal sand within the marine protected area (MPA) network in the region. The large areas of highly mobile sand and coarse sediment provide habitats to a variety of species such as burrowing anemones, segmented worms and small crustaceans living within and on top of the sediment.

Features considered for designation

The features considered for designation in this site were:

- moderate energy circalittoral rock,
- subtidal coarse sediment,
- subtidal sand,
- subtidal mixed sediment.

Effects of designation

If the cMCZ was to be designated in its current form, the following activities would likely be affected by management. This information will be updated if a revised site proposal is recommended for designation at a later date.

Sector	Best Cost Estimate (£) per year	Details
UK commercial fishing	11,400	The majority of landings from the area are by under 15 metre vessels. Bottom trawling occurs at significant levels as part of a mixed demersal fishery, particularly within the western part of the cMCZ. The fishery varies seasonally and regularly targets squid, bass, rays and cuttlefish. Moderate levels of potting occur in the area targeting whelks and crabs and some dredging also takes place.
Non-UK fishing	Unquantified	Fishing vessels from France and Belgium operate in this site using bottom trawled gear (beam and otter trawls) and dredges.
Archaeological heritage	Unquantified	A 1940s wreck of an English collier has been found within the site. There may be additional costs incurred when carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for future licence applications.
Cables (interconnectors)	Unquantified at site level	Future interconnectors and telecom cables may pass through the cMCZ. There may be additional costs incurred when carrying out EIAs for future licence applications.
Best estimate total cost	11,400	

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 identified at their current levels of intensity:

- transit of ships,
- two existing activity telecommunication cables intersect the site.

Why this candidate site is not being proposed for designation in the second tranche

The site was proposed by the Regional Projects as a co-location option with the planned offshore Atlantic Array windfarm. In November 2013 the developer announced that it was stopping the development of the windfarm.

Discussions with local stakeholders in 2014 found that there was less support for the site as it is no longer co-located with the windfarm. In particular the local fishing industry considered that it will have more of an effect on fishing in the area.

Local stakeholder groups have highlighted the potential to develop an alternative site in the region which could provide similar benefits, but with reduced socio-economic impacts.

We consider that further work is needed to explore the scope for developing local solutions on this site before it can be proposed for designation.

Further consideration

Defra will undertake further discussions regarding boundary alterations and additional information will be gathered ahead of consideration in the third tranche.

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>

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