Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Runswick Bay

Recommended Marine Conservation Zone

January 2015

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

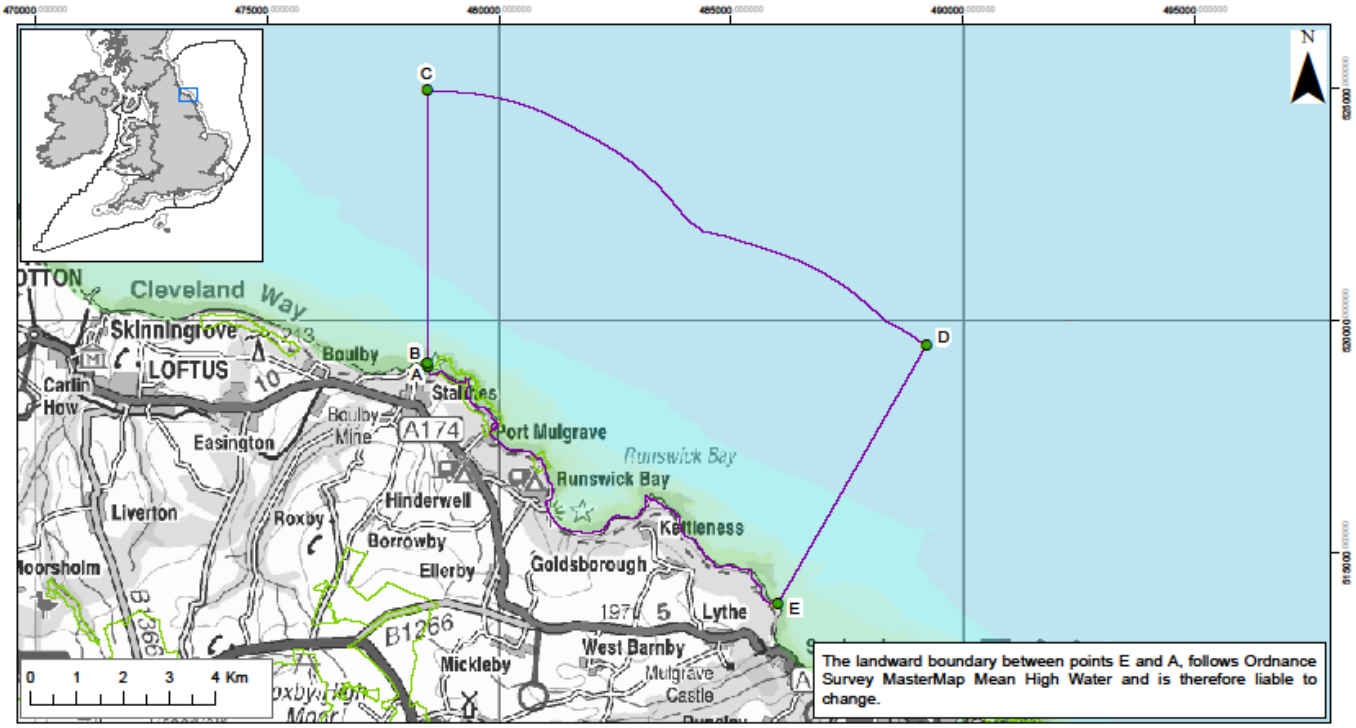
Moderate energy infralittoral rock: Shallow water rock, below the tides, with some shelter from waves and currents © Lin Baldock

Contents

Where the site is located

Runswick Bay recommended Marine Conservation Zone (rMCZ) is an inshore site covering an area of approximately 68 km². The site is located to the north-west of Whitby in North Yorkshire.

The site extends from the mean high water mark out to 3 nautical miles (nm), reaching a depth of approximately 30 metres.



Runswick Bay rMCZ Boundary

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

Point	Lat	Long
A	54° 33' 36.451" N	0° 47' 17.600" W
B	54° 33' 38.810" N	0° 47' 18.096" W
C	54° 36' 49.290" N	0° 47' 12.411" W
D	54° 33' 44.858" N	0° 37' 19.217" W
E	54° 30' 46.436" N	0° 40' 23.521" W

Depth Areas (metres)

-20.0 - -10.0, -9.9 - -5.0, -4.9 - 0.0, 0.1 - 5.0, 5.1 - 10.0, 10.1 - 25.0, 25.1 - 50.0, 50.1 - 100.0, 100.1 - 250.0, 250.1 - 500.0, 500.1 - 1000.0

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NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION.
Map produced by Natural England 2014.
Reference: Theme ID: 1477570
Map Projection: British National Grid

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

The seabed across this site is composed of a number of rock and sediment features which form a highly varied and productive range of habitats. The intertidal area within the site comprises rocky reefs, boulders and pools, as well as caves and sandy beaches.

The high energy intertidal rock, rocky seashores exposed to very strong waves and currents, is a habitat for mussels, limpets and barnacles which cling to the rocks, as well as small tufts of seaweeds which grow in cracks and crevices. The infralittoral rock, in the shallow waters below the tides, is dominated by large kelps and some smaller red seaweeds, as well as species that live alongside them, including worms, crabs, sea snails and shrimp-like animals that live in the holdfast by which the kelp attaches to the rock.

As the water depth increases and there is insufficient sunlight for seaweed growth, animal communities are able to prevail on the deeper water rocks (circalittoral rocks). The rich seabed habitats supports a number of crustacean species, including eight species of crab and the common lobster, providing rich fishing grounds for lobster and brown crab fisheries. As well as supporting a diverse seabed community the site provides spawning grounds for a number of fish species including herring, sprat, cod, whiting and plaice.

Ocean quahog is also found within the site, often entirely buried in the sand with a small tube extending to the surface for breathing and feeding.

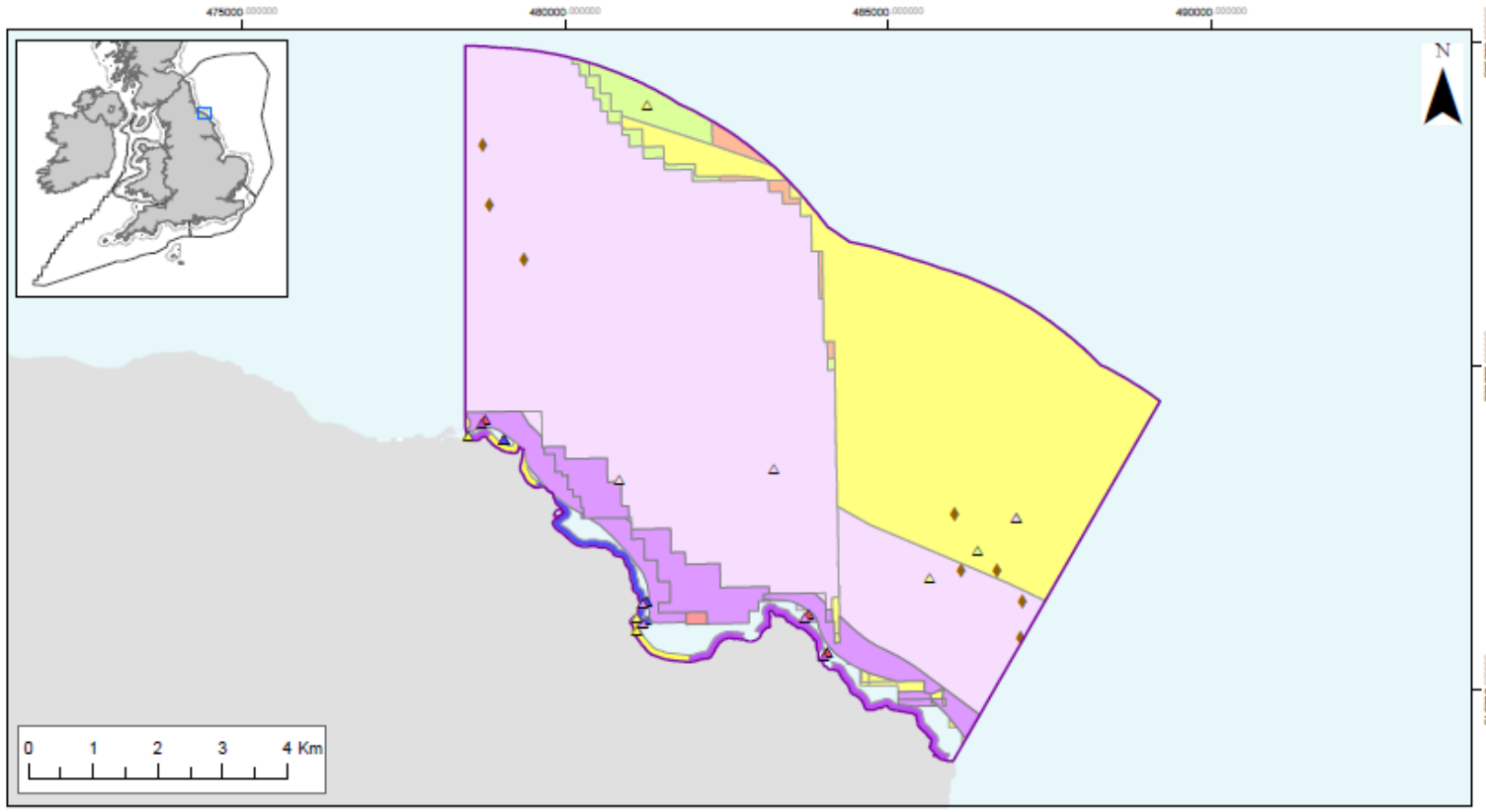
What this site would protect

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 sand and muddy sand	
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	
High energy infralittoral rock	
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	
High energy circalittoral rock	
Subtidal coarse sediment	
Subtidal sand	
Subtidal mixed sediments	
Ocean quahog *(Arctica islandica)*	

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.



Features that are not proposed for designation

The following features are not proposed within this site as there is currently insufficient evidence to support their designation. These features may be considered if scientific evidence becomes available:

- intertidal mud,
- intertidal mixed sediments,
- littoral chalk communities,
- low energy infralittoral rock,
- subtidal mud.

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	Dredge disposal sites, future development.	3,400
Best estimate total cost		**3,400**

Ports, harbours and shipping

All future licence applications for disposal of materials at disposal sites within 5 km of the rMCZ will need to consider the potential effects on the designated features. There is therefore likely to be an increase in the cost for carrying out Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for future licence applications within this rMCZ.

The impact on features in the rMCZ will also need to be considered if there is any future port development.

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,
- recreation activities,
- flood and coastal erosion management,
- ports, harbours and commercial shipping -
    - navigational dredging,
    - transit of ships,
- coastal developments.

Ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*) © Paul Kay

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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