

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

South of Celtic Deep

**Candidate site not being proposed for designation
in the second tranche**

January 2015

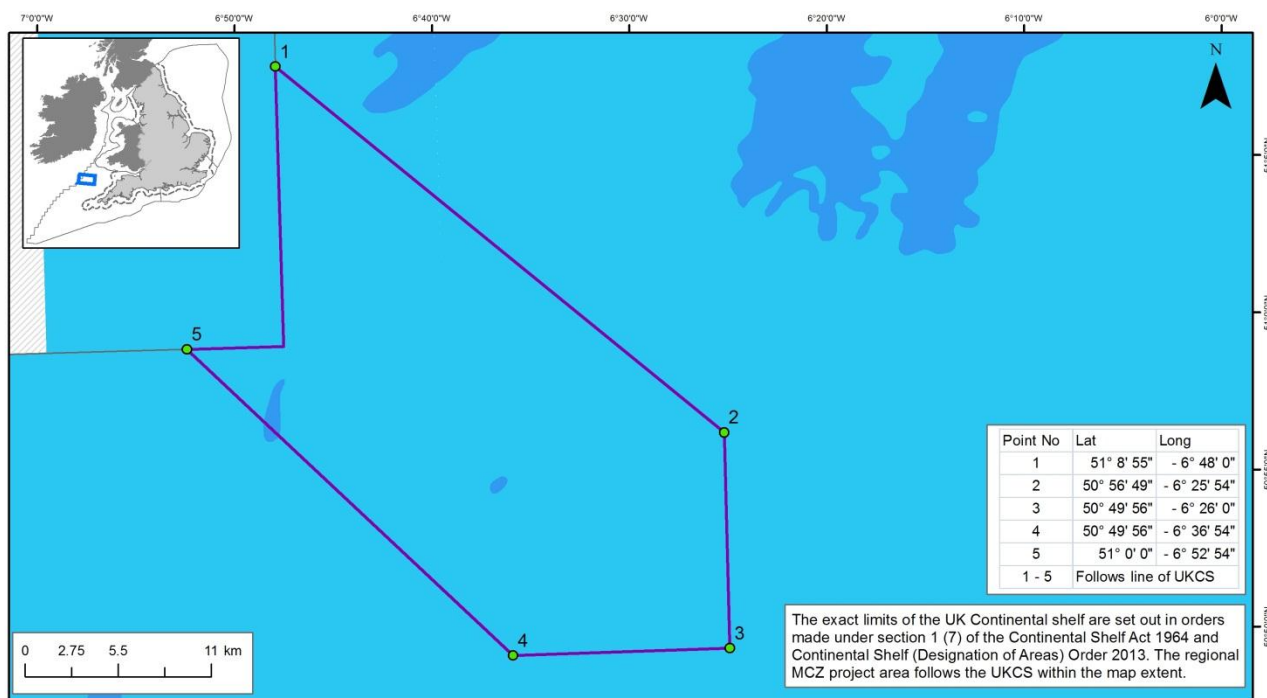
**Consultation on Sites Proposed for Designation in the Second Tranche
of Marine Conservation Zones**

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Where the site is located

South of Celtic Deep candidate Marine Conservation Zones (cMCZ) is an offshore site located off the north coast of Cornwall and covers an area of 552 km². The western boundary aligns with the UK Continental Shelf Limit. The south-eastern tip of the site is approximately 90 km to the north-west of the Land's End peninsula. The site is within the 50–100 metre depth range, with two small areas dipping below 100 metres.



South of Celtic Deep rMCZ

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

Depth Areas (metres)

- 0.0 - 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
- Outside of UKHO bathymetry dataset

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Map Projection: WGS84UTM29N, Inset: BNG

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

The site is proposed for a range of broad scale habitats, these include subtidal coarse sediment which is of ecological importance at the regional scale. Several other features at the site contribute to increasing percentages of habitat protection. The site provides an important contribution to the network by filling big gaps in the proportion of rock and a range of sediment habitats protected by marine protected areas (MPAs) in the region. The site also contributes to connectivity of sediment habitats protected within surrounding MPAs, and is of additional ecological importance as a spawning and nursery area for fish.

Features considered for designation

The features considered for designation in this site were:

- moderate energy circalittoral rock,
- subtidal mud,
- subtidal coarse sediment,
- subtidal sand,
- subtidal mixed sediments,
- ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*).

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	1,500	UK fishing vessels operate within the site using gill nets which account for the majority of UK vessel landings from this site. Large vessels using beam trawls are also known to operate in the area.
Non-UK commercial fishing	Unquantified	The majority of Non-UK fishing vessels operating in this area are from France and the Republic of Ireland, mainly using static gears, bottom trawls/dredges, and mid-water trawls. Vessels from Belgium are also active in the site.
Cables (future)	Unquantified at site level	Future interconnectors and telecom cables may pass through the site. Any future applications would need to consider the possible effects development on the features designated within the site, which would increase the costs of the application.
Best estimate total cost	1,500	

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:

- one existing telecoms cable intersects the site,
- transit of ships.

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

Defra is responsible for designating MCZs in the offshore waters adjacent to Wales. Five sites which were proposed as candidates for the second tranche are in these waters. This includes South of Celtic Deep.

Since this site was identified by the regional projects as a cMCZ, the Silk Commission, which was an independent commission established to review what powers should be devolved to the Welsh government, recommended that offshore waters adjacent to Wales should be the responsibility of the Welsh government. The UK government has not yet responded to these recommendations but, given this is currently under consideration, we do not consider it appropriate to take forward sites in the offshore waters adjacent to Wales at this time.

Further consideration

The UK government response to the Silk Commission's second report will confirm if responsibility for these waters will transfer to the Welsh Government. Following this response, sites will either be considered by the Welsh government, which has an ongoing programme to designate MCZs, or will remain with the UK government for consideration as part of 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 JNCC, please visit

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6658>

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



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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

mcz@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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