

Folkestone Pomerania Marine Conservation Zone

Where is this site?

Folkestone Pomerania MCZ is an inshore site located in the narrowest part of the English Channel. The MCZ is located approximately 6 km from the south-east Kent coastline and covers an area of approximately 34 km².

Why is this site important?

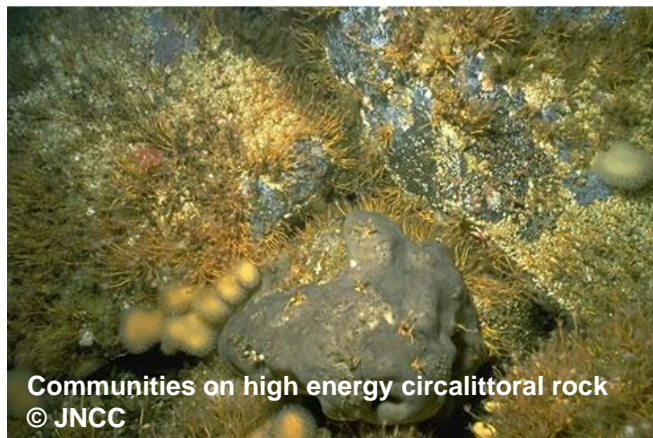
Within the site water depth and seabed composition varies, creating a range of habitats capable of supporting a diverse range of species. Commercially important fish species including sole, cod, mackerel and herring are known to use this area as a nursery and spawning ground.



What does this Marine Conservation Zone protect?

In total, six different habitats are protected within this MCZ. Exposed rock ledges and boulder-strewn platforms support large rich communities representing a very rare example of the habitat type ‘fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats’. Anthozoans are a group of soft animals with feathery tentacles and these, along with large and slow growing species such as branching sponges tend to dominate such habitats. These animals live in colonies which in turn support other species, including sea squirts and sea anemones, which live under and amongst them.

The soft muddy areas within the MCZ support dense ross worm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*) reefs. These are a type of biogenic reef created when ross worms (*Sabellaria spinulosa*) build tubes from sediment and shell fragments. Honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reefs are also found within the site, which is very unusual as these normally occur in the intertidal zone. These biogenic reefs are very fragile and are consequently particularly vulnerable to damage. This mix of habitats is not known to occur elsewhere in the south-east area and this MCZ is one of only two that protect honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reefs.



Features	General management approach
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy circalittoral rock	Recover to favourable condition
Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on subtidal rocky habitats	Recover to favourable condition
Honeycomb worm (<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>) reefs	Recover to favourable condition
Ross worm (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>) reefs	Recover to favourable condition

Who will manage Marine Conservation Zones?

Many activities within the marine environment are regulated through marine licences. More information regarding the marine licensing process in relation to MCZs can be found on the MMO website www.marinemanagement.org.uk/licensing/marine.htm

Other activities are regulated through different mechanisms. For example fishing activities are managed through European legislation, national statutory instruments, byelaws and self-imposed voluntary agreements. Similar arrangements are in place to manage the range of activities that may impact MCZs including pollution, coastal development and recreation.

Management of sites is currently being prioritised nationally according to the potential or actual adverse impacts of activities on the features designated in relation to fishing activities. This prioritisation will be further refined at a local level taking into account relevant information and will guide regulators to those sites which may need protection before others.

Any management measures that are required for MCZs will be applied on a case-by-case basis. Management measures will be implemented at sites most at risk of damage first, regulating only those activities which have a detrimental impact on the features. In cases where there is a high risk to designated features being damaged emergency measures may be put in place to ensure the protection of vulnerable habitats and species.



Ross worm reefs © Natural England

What happens now this site has been designated?

The site specific information below provides an overview of which activities may be affected by the designation of the MCZ and the current management measures. As with all management measures, they may, of course, be subject to change in the light of new evidence becoming available.

Current activities identified at this site which could be affected include commercial fisheries and ports and harbour operations. Any future activities undertaken by the ports and harbour authorities will be regulated through the appropriate licensing regimes. MCZ designation will need to be taken into consideration when assessing environmental impacts of marine works as part of the licensing application process.

With regards to fisheries management the site is within the jurisdiction of Kent and Essex IFCA. All relevant IFCA District-wide byelaws will apply to this site, in addition to all relevant national and EU fisheries legislation.

Further information is available at

www.marinemanagement.org.uk/fisheries/monitoring/regulations_bluebook.htm

Relevant restrictions relating to this site include restrictions on the size of the vessels able to operate in the area. For further information visit the Kent & Essex IFCA website at www.kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk

Where can I find out further information?

An interactive map showing this MCZs and other marine protected areas is available at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5201>

Additional information about this site and other MCZs is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-and-sustainably-using-the-marine-environment>

and within Natural England's advice available

at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/1499649>



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Annex: Management

Lead organisation	Activities
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fisheries (0-6nm) including commercial fisheries and recreational fishing activities such as sea angling For further information visit www.association-ifca.org.uk
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fisheries (management) (6-12nm)• Fisheries (enforcement) national and EU legislation• Licensable activities such as deposit and removal activities below mean high water springs, including subsea cables (up to 12nm), construction (including renewables <100MW, ports and coastal protection), dredging and disposal• Harbour Orders and Harbour Empowerment Orders• Section 36 and safety zone consents• Enforcement of licensable activity and other consents (including deemed marine licences)• Development of marine plans integrating the social requirements, economic potential and environmental priorities of marine plan areas• Activities requiring a wildlife licence For further information visit www.marinemangement.org.uk/fisheries or www.marinemangement.org.uk/licensing/marine.htm
Environment Agency (EA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fisheries management for migratory and fresh water fish• Coastal protection and flood management• Water quality• Permitted discharges from terrestrial sources For further information visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk/default.aspx
Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oil and Gas related activities• Renewable energy related activities For further information visit www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-energy-climate-change
Harbour Authorities and local planning authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harbour authorities have management responsibilities for the port and coastal waters within their jurisdiction• Local authorities have role to manage, regulate and facilitate activities at the coast. These include management of coastal recreation, tourism, economic regeneration, flood protection, spatial planning and coastal zone and estuary management, For further information contact your local authority or IFCA
Department for Transport (DfT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible for shipping, harbours, ship pollution and offshore safety For further information visit www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport
Natural England (NE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public access For further information visit www.naturalengland.org.uk/