Marine Conservation Zones

Natural England's advice to Defra on Marine Conservation Zones to be considered for designation in 2019

Annex 1: Advice on Regional Project proposed Marine Conservation Zones

31st May 2019

Contents

About this advice document

This document, **Annex 1 of Natural England's advice to Defra on Marine Conservation Zones to be considered for designation in 2019**, provides the site specific advice components of our post-consultation advice on the undesignated Regional Project proposed MCZs (pMCZs) and designated (Regional Project recommended) MCZs under consideration in Tranche 3 (sections 1 - 35 below).

This document is comprised of the following information for each pMCZ and for which Defra requested our post-consultation Tranche 3 advice:

1. Site description: A brief introduction to the site, its geographical location and descriptions of the main species and/or habitats for which Natural England is providing advice.

2. Site images: Where possible, photographs of the site and/or features from within the site have been included to further illustrate the site descriptions.

3. Boundary maps: The term 'proposed' on the site boundary maps for the majority of the pMCZ maps refers to the boundary that was proposed for consultation by Defra.

4. Feature maps: The site feature maps for broad-scale habitats (BSH) and Features of Conservation Importance (FOCI) show presence and extent, where known, of features for which we have provided Tranche 3 post-consultation advice to Defra. This includes, where applicable and unless stated otherwise below, new features which have been identified since the Regional Projects made their recommendations to Defra and additional features associated with designated MCZs for which Defra requested Tranche 3 advice and consulted on. This information is not available for mobile species and smelt features, as presence was confirmed via a different method. Information on the features for which we have provided advice to Defra can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables**.

Please note the following about the feature maps provided:

- The boundary status described under 'Boundary maps' above also applies to the feature maps.
- The maps do not include features where we have advised that there is no confidence in presence.
- Features for which we have no spatial geo-referenced data have not been mapped and thus do not appear in the legend.
- Features that are confidential, for example commercially sensitive species such as oysters and species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 such as seahorses, have not been mapped. Where this is the case a text box has been included on the map
- The species feature smelt *Osmerus eperlanus* has not been mapped to avoid a misleading picture of the evidence underpinning our advice on this mobile species as a feature of four sites[1].

Where geo-referenced extent data are available, features have been mapped as polygons to show mapped extent according to data originating from surveys and mathematical models; and points show where groundtruthing sampling points, such as diver survey, grab sampling, drop down video, walk over survey or core sampling have been collected. For some sites, both polygon extent data and point data are available and in these cases both types have been mapped.

Due to the scale of the maps in printed form and the need for the maps to show the sites in their entirety, rather than split them, some features of very limited spatial extent, such as intertidal habitats, are not easily recognisable. However, their presence in the site is confirmed by the feature being listed in the legend.

[1] This means that no feature maps have been provided for the Medway Estuary MCZ, Ribble Estuary pMCZ, Solway Firth pMCZ and Wyre-Lune pMCZ as the only feature we are providing advice on for these sites is smelt.

It should be noted that the maps do not indicate the level of confidence in the feature data. The assessment of the confidence in the evidence for feature presence and extent is given in **Table 1 of Annex 3 – Results tables.** The Confidence Assessment results are also provided in the summary tables for each site found in **Annexes 1 and 2.**

5. Summary of Natural England's Advice: A table showing the summary of Natural England's advice for each feature within a site is provided. This includes the results of the confidence assessment for evidence of feature presence and extent, the advised current likely condition of the feature and the associated General Management Approach (GMA). If the feature has been advised on previously and the advised GMA has changed since then, a rationale for this change is also provided. For the mobile species and smelt sites, the summary advice table shows the final results for Principles 1-4 and GMA.

The information included within this Annex is a summary of our full advice, which is provided in the **Annex 3: Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options** (provided separately). Annex 3 also includes details of the evidence used to inform our advice on confidence in feature presence and extent, and the origin of each feature that has been advised on (e.g. whether originally recommended by the Regional Project or having been identified through new evidence and advised on by Natural England since the Regional Projects made their recommendations). Links to Annex 3 and instructions on using the Annex are provided beneath the summary tables for each site.

6. Additional advice: Additional advice: Contains feature level narratives which support our advice on whether there is sufficient evidence or other ecological considerations to support the designation of each feature of a site (where applicable).

Advice on Regional Projects Proposed MCZs (pMCZs) under consideration for designation in Tranche 3

1 Axe Estuary pMCZ (FS 20)

1.1 Site description

The Axe Estuary pMCZ is a small estuarine site on the south coast of Devon, 34 kilometres south east of Exeter. The estuary is being considered for designation because of its saltmarsh and mudflats, which have been described as 'relatively pristine', as well as other sediment habitats and estuarine rocky habitat.

The pMCZ stretches along approximately 2.5 kilometres of the Axe estuary, surrounded mainly by marshes and farmland. The small village of Axmouth lies on the eastern shore of the estuary, and the town of Seaton to the west on the seafront. There is a small harbour at the mouth of the Estuary, sheltered by a shingle bar across the estuary mouth.

The intertidal mudflats harbour a range of fauna, providing an important source of food for a variety of bird species. The estuary is also a nursery area for fish (including sea bass *Dicentrarchus labrax*), with supporting benthic habitats for those species. One of the reasons for the inclusion of this and other estuarine pMCZs in the network was in recognition of the ecological importance of estuaries in terms of productivity, and their ecological function as nursery areas. The critically endangered European eel *Anguilla anguilla* has also been recorded in the estuary.

Natural England's full (quantitative) pre-consultation advice on this pMCZ was based on the original Regional Project recommended boundary. However, Natural England provided further qualitative advice to Defra regarding a proposed minor amendment to the Axe Estuary pMCZ boundary, to include areas of saltmarsh that were omitted from the site as they are slightly above the mean high water line. This amended boundary was consulted on and is therefore the boundary considered in the full post-consultation advice.

1.2 Site image

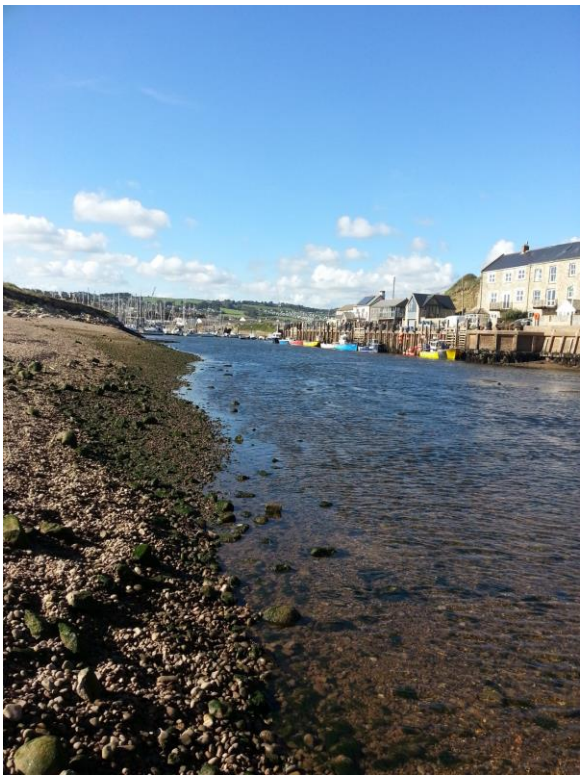


Image 1 Axe Lower Estuary © Georgina Evans

1.3 Site maps

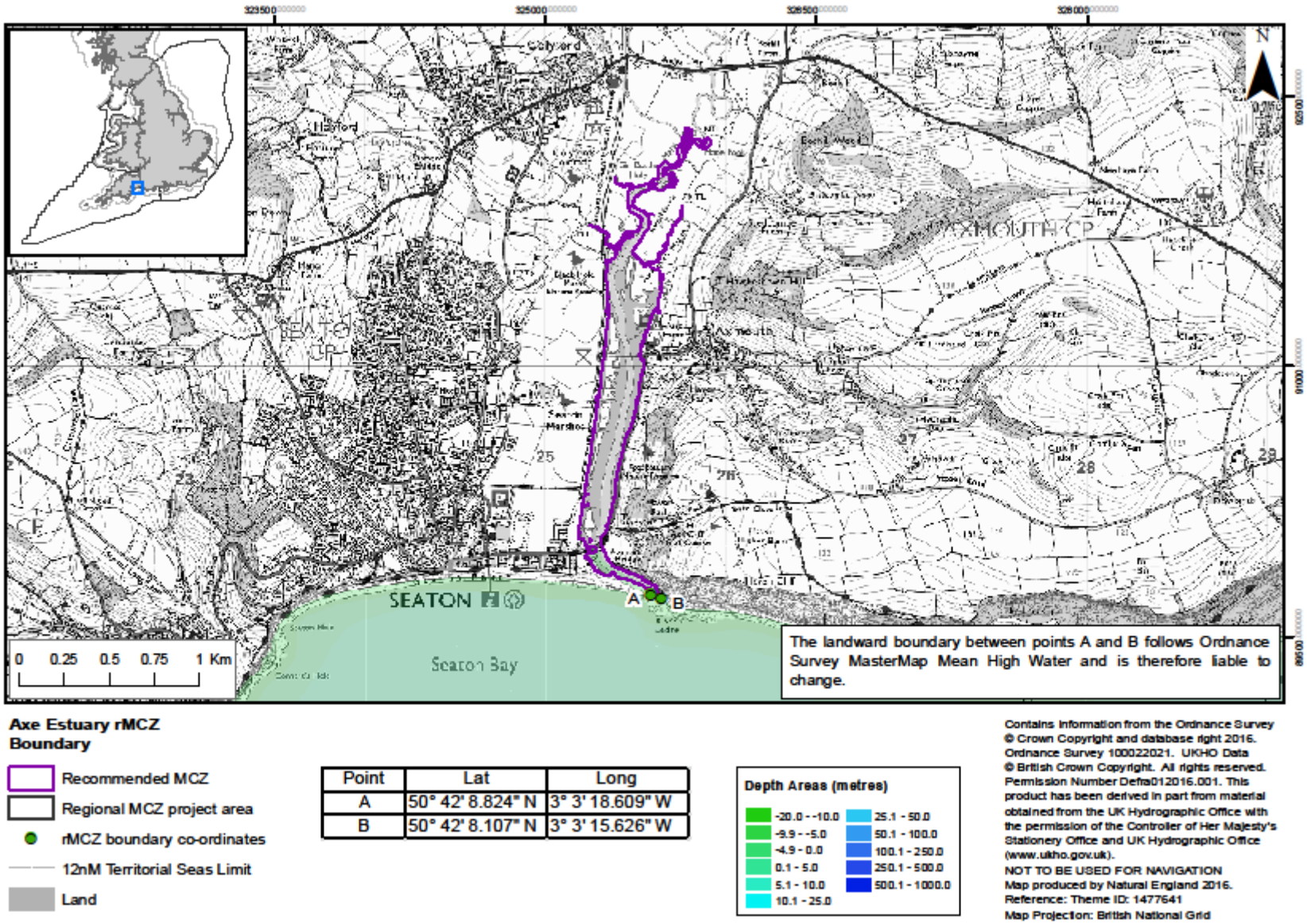


Figure 1 Axe Estuary pMCZ (original Regional Project recommended boundary)

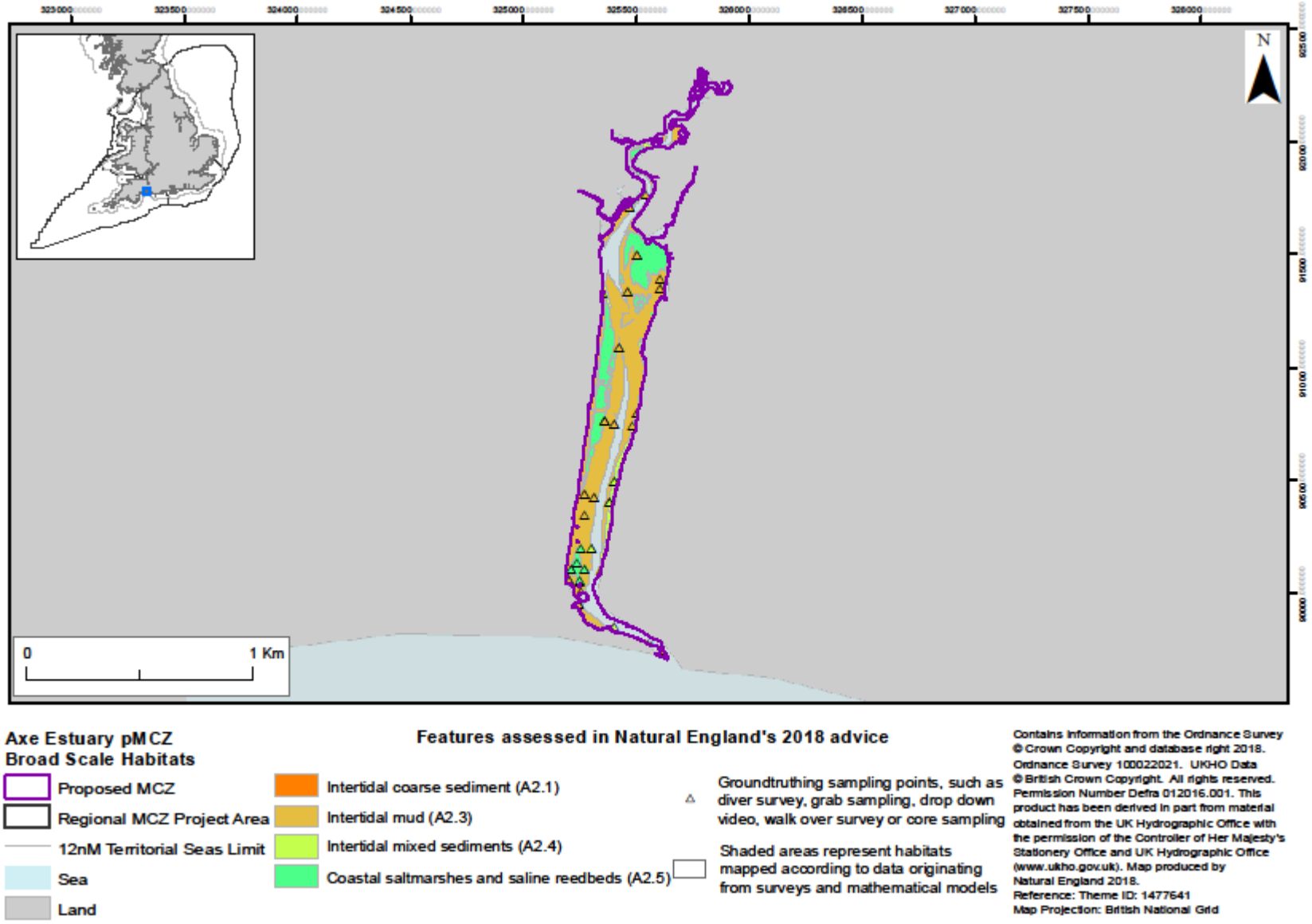


Figure 2 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in Axe Estuary pMCZ

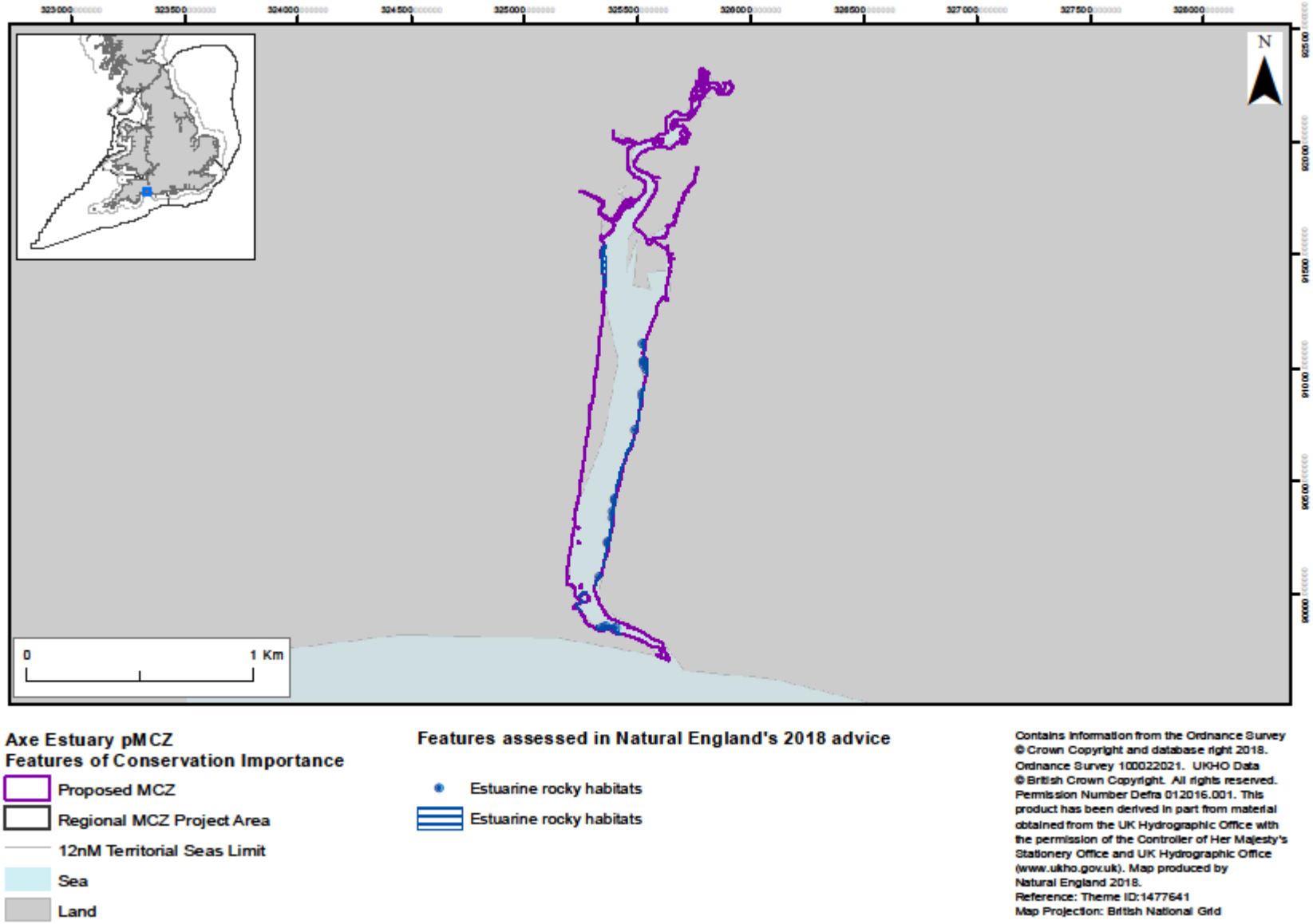


Figure 3 Location of mapped features of conservation importance in Axe Estuary pMCZ (original Regional Project recommended boundary)

1.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 1 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Axe Estuary pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Estuarine rocky habitats	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Intertidal coarse sediment	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Intertidal mixed sediments	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Intertidal mud	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

2 Beachy Head East pMCZ (BS 13.1)

2.1 Site description

The area to the east of Beachy Head is characterised by a highly biodiverse sandstone/chalk reef system defined in this advice, on the basis of the best available survey data, as High/Moderate energy circalittoral rock. The reef system includes important subtidal chalk ledges and peat and clay exposures which can support ross worm *Sabellaria spinulosa* reef, sea squirt *Molgula* beds and encrustations of ross coral *Pentapora foliacea*. This reef system interacts with areas of mobile sediment which are reflected in the inclusion of the features Subtidal coarse sediment and Subtidal sand.

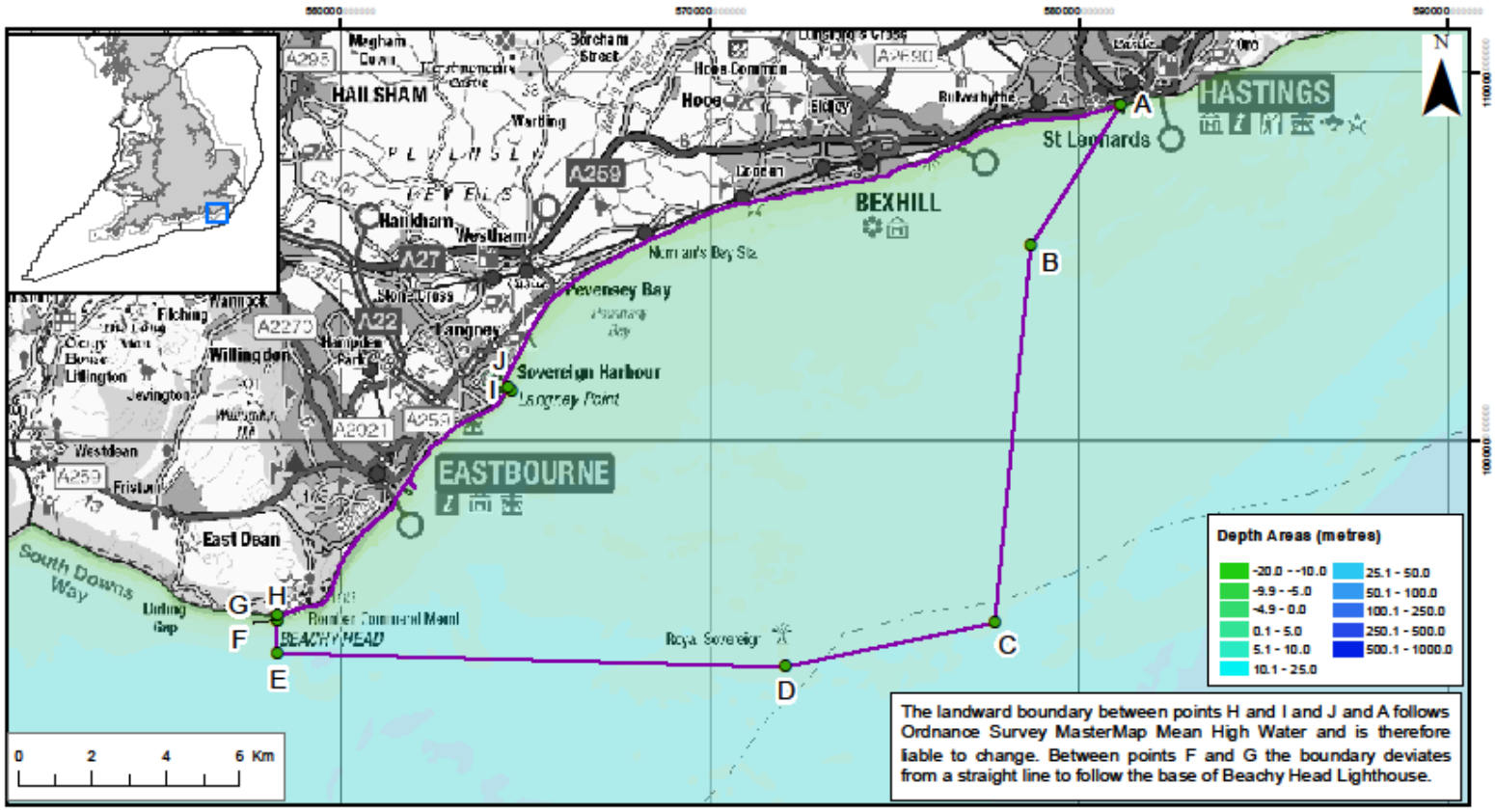
A few previous records of short snouted seahorse *Hippocampus hippocampus* within the site are considered to be of high importance and the species to be worthy of protection. The site contains the Royal Sovereign Shoals and the Horse of Willingdon Reef; two marine Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (mSNCIs)[2]. The nearby Beachy Head West MCZ, which was designated as part of the first tranche of MCZs in 2013, was originally connected with Beachy Head East (with the original combined site proposed by the Regional Project being Beachy Head rMCZ).

2.2 Site image

Image 2 High energy circalittoral rock © JNCC (Please note this photograph is provided as an example of the above habitat and feature only and does not necessarily represent the habitats and features found at the site).

[2] mSNCIs are voluntary designations identified by local authorities in partnership with other agencies with the aim of protecting habitats and wildlife and encouraging sensitive management.

2.3 Site maps



Beachy Head East rMCZ Boundary

- Recommended MCZ
- Regional MCZ project area
- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- 6nM Limit
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Land

Point	Lat	Long	Point	Lat	Long
A	50° 51' 10.645" N	0° 34' 18.158" E	F	50° 44' 1.258" N	0° 14' 29.234" E
B	50° 49' 9.123" N	0° 32' 6.381" E	G	50° 44' 1.858" N	0° 14' 29.264" E
C	50° 43' 39.803" N	0° 30' 58.953" E	H	50° 44' 6.380" N	0° 14' 29.480" E
D	50° 43' 8.049" N	0° 26' 8.951" E	I	50° 47' 17.954" N	0° 20' 2.182" E
E	50° 43' 33.688" N	0° 14' 27.920" E	J	50° 47' 20.598" N	0° 19' 57.886" E

Figure 4 Beachy Head East pMCZ site boundary

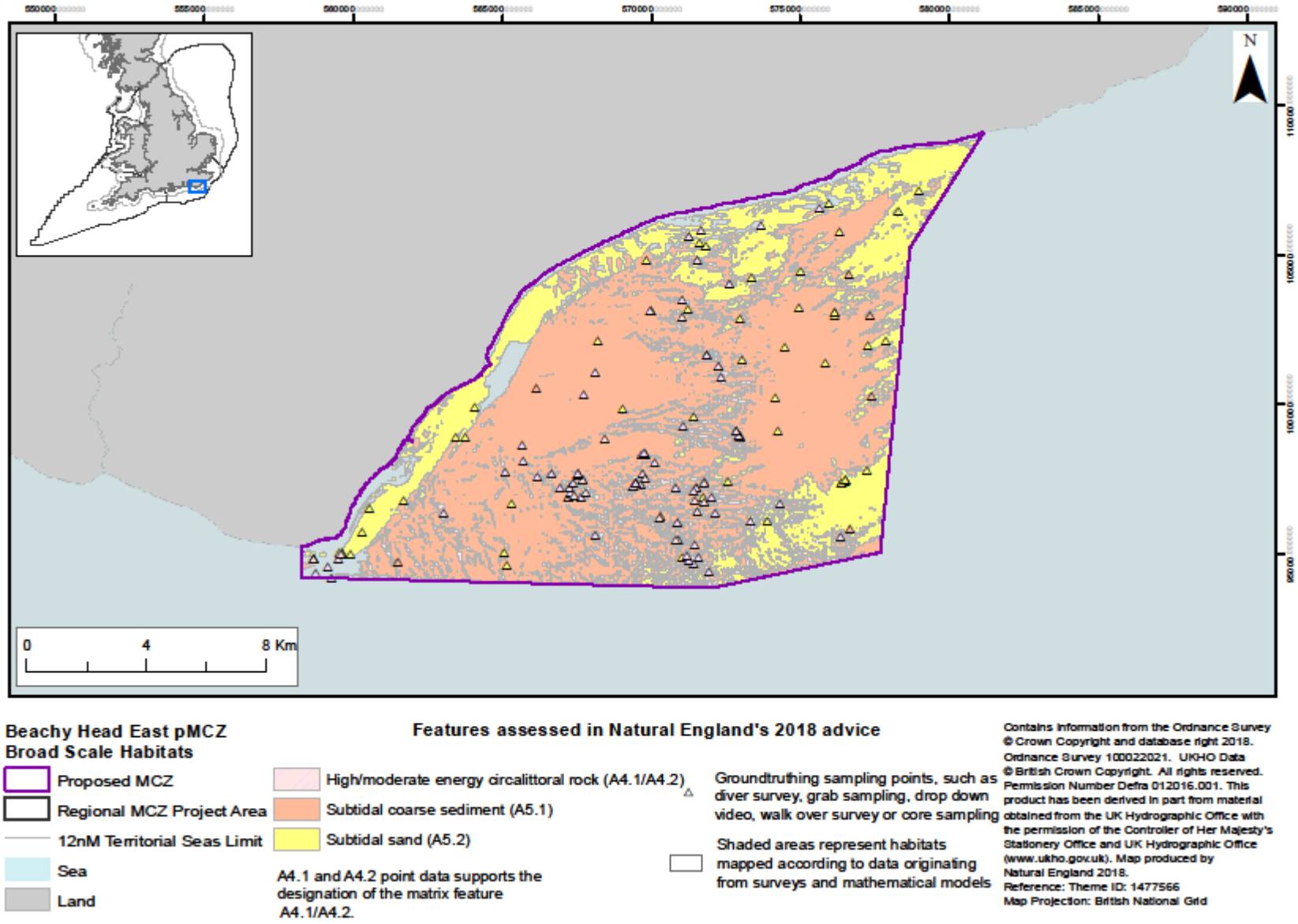


Figure 5 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in Beachy Head East pMCZ

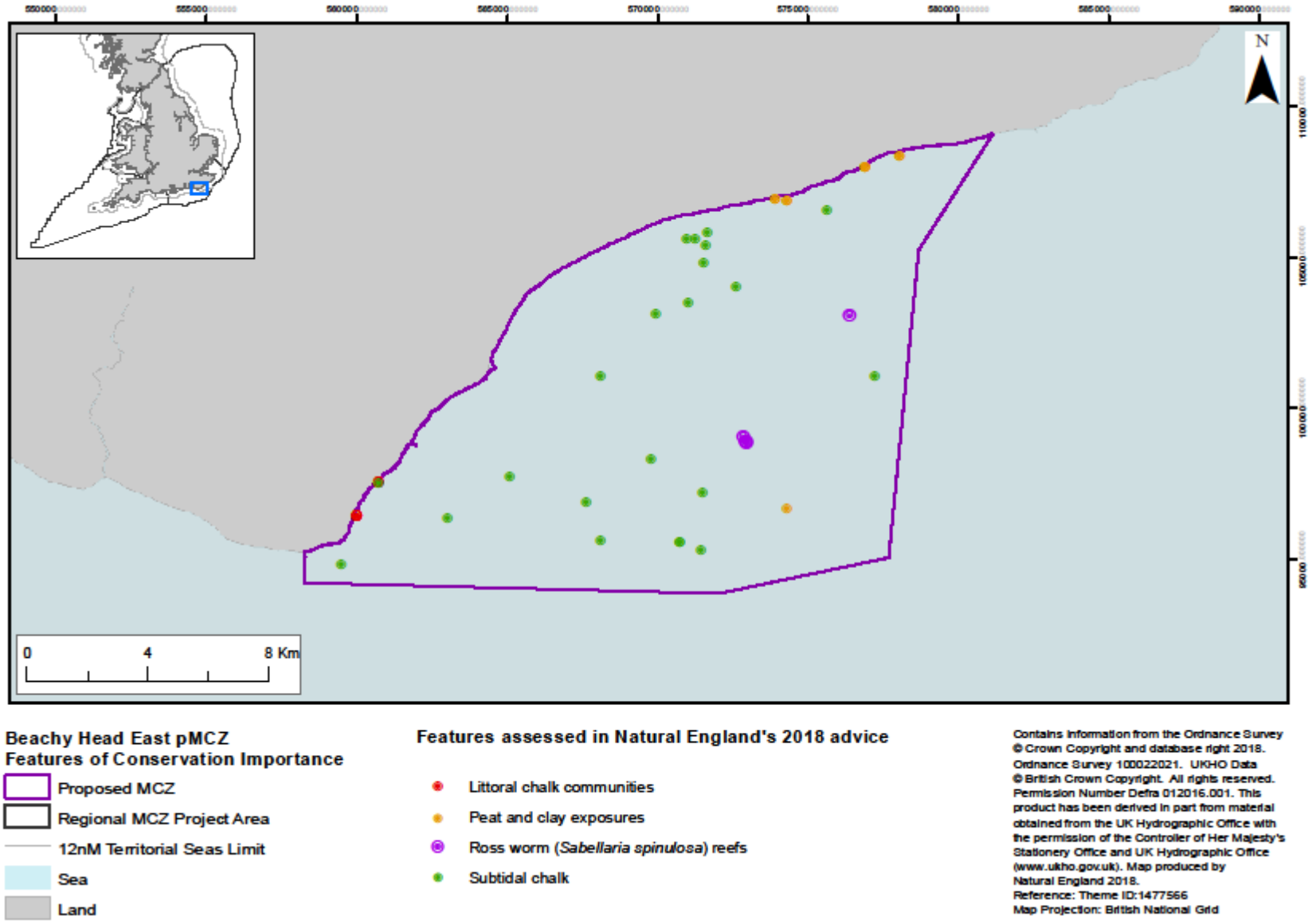


Figure 6 Location of mapped features of conservation importance in Beachy Head East pMCZ

2.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 2 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Beachy Head East pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
High/Moderate energy circalittoral rock	High	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Subtidal coarse sediment	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Subtidal sand	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Littoral chalk communities	High	Moderate	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Peat and clay exposures	Moderate	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Ross worm reefs (*Sabellaria spinulosa*)	Moderate	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Short snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus hippocampus*)	Low	Low	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Subtidal chalk	Moderate	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice and that which was not suitable for use), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

2.5 Additional Advice

2.5.1 Advice on specific features

2.5.1.1 Short snouted seahorse in Beachy Head East pMCZ

Natural England's post-consultation confidence assessment shows low confidence in both presence and extent of short snouted seahorse *Hippocampus hippocampus* within Beachy Head East pMCZ. These low confidence calculations are based on limited data of 1 record. This 2006 record is sourced from the Seahorse Trust.

This feature is currently only protected at one site in the Eastern Channel CP2 region, with Ecological Network Guidance (ENG) suggesting 3-5 sites should be designated to protect each Species of Conservation Importance (SOCI) feature occurring in each region, where possible.

Although there is low confidence in presence and extent of this feature, and it has not been identified as being at high risk, Natural England would highlight the conservation importance of this feature and support it being considered for designation at this site, despite it not currently meeting the data sufficiency criteria for designation. The cryptic nature of this species and need for direct human observation make records difficult to gather, and local knowledge supports the potential for the feature to occur within the site: the habitat is continuous with Beachy Head West MCZ (which Beachy Head East abuts), where Seahorse is a protected feature. The habitat of Beachy Head East is very three-dimensional and reefy, so the feature is expected in sheltered spots. Anecdotally the area is heavily potted, with local fishermen pulling up several seahorses on pots. They are also extremely camouflaged and quite mobile, being thought to migrate to and from the coast throughout the year. All of this combines to make national records quite scarce. We therefore recommend further consideration of this SOCI feature at this site to avoid representation and replication gaps in the network.

2.5.1.2 High/Moderate energy circalittoral rock in Beachy Head East pMCZ

High/Moderate energy circlittoral rock was initially assessed as a mosaic of the two features High energy circalittoral rock and Moderate energy circlittoral rock, owing to the close association of communities typical of each energy level in this site within the survey data. Since we have provided our post-consultation advice to DEFRA, the decision has been taken to designate the two features separately. The confidence in presence / extent and GMA results for the separate features remain the same (Table 3).

Because the assessments remain unchanged, these features still appear together as the original High/Moderate circalittoral rock feature in the **Annex 3 results tables**.

Table 3 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for the High energy circalittoral rock and Moderate energy circlittoral rock individual features of the Beachy Head East pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
High energy circalittoral rock	High	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	High	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change

3 Bembridge pMCZ (BS 22)

3.1 Site description

Bembridge pMCZ lies adjacent to the east coast of the Isle of Wight and extends seaward towards the Nab shipping channel. While three-quarters of the site overlaps geographically with South Wight Maritime SAC, this site was recommended by the regional project and it is included in Natural England's Tranche 3 advice for the exceptionally diverse habitats and species that are not afforded protection by the SAC. These include the short-snouted seahorse *Hippocampus hippocampus*, native oyster O*strea edulis* and seagrass beds. The ledges to the south of Bembridge Harbour are home to large 'fields' of the brown alga peacock's tail *Padina pavonica*, which acts as the seeding population for other areas of peacock's tail around the Isle of Wight. Recent Natural England survey work has also identified the only known location of maerl *Phymatolithon calcareum* beds in the Balanced Seas project area in the slightly deeper waters around Culver Spit, where subtidal macrophyte-dominated sediments provide additional habitat for a variety of creatures. Other, earlier surveys recorded one of only two occurrences of the kaleidoscope jellyfish *Haliclystus auricula*[3] in the project area, in waters further from the shore, where the seabed becomes predominantly subtidal mixed sediments, sands and gravels. The stalked jellyfish *Calvadosia campanulata*[4] is also found within the site near Bembridge Ledges. In the northern part of the site, where there is no overlap with the South Wight Maritime SAC, subtidal mixed sediments and a large area of subtidal mud support a wide variety of benthic habitats and species.

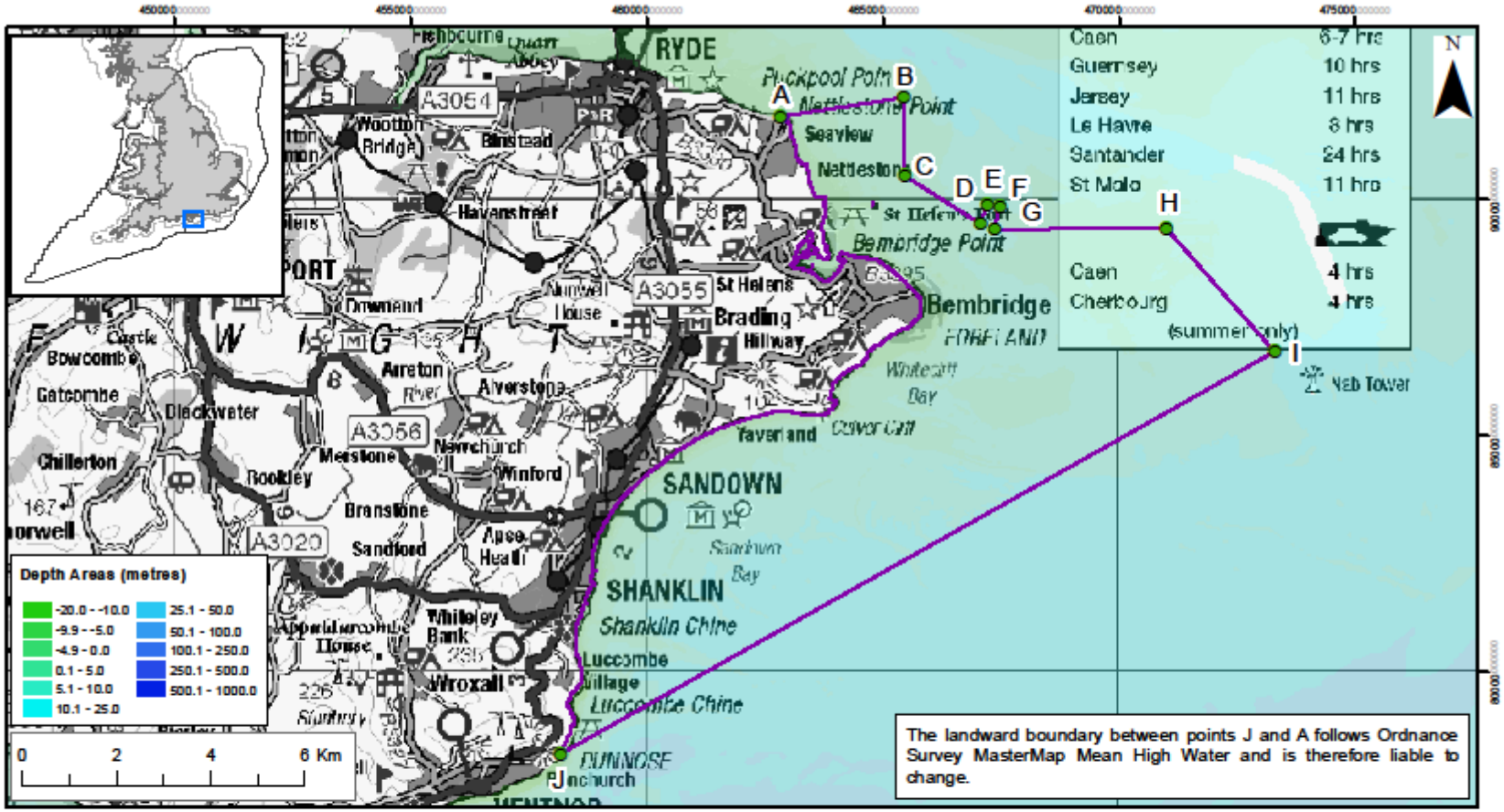
3.2 Site image

Image 3 Stalked jellyfish (*Calvadosia campanulata*) July 2014 © Gavin Black, Natural England

[3] Referred to in advice as *Haliclystus spp.*

[4] Previously classified as *Lucernariopsis campanulata*

3.3 Site maps

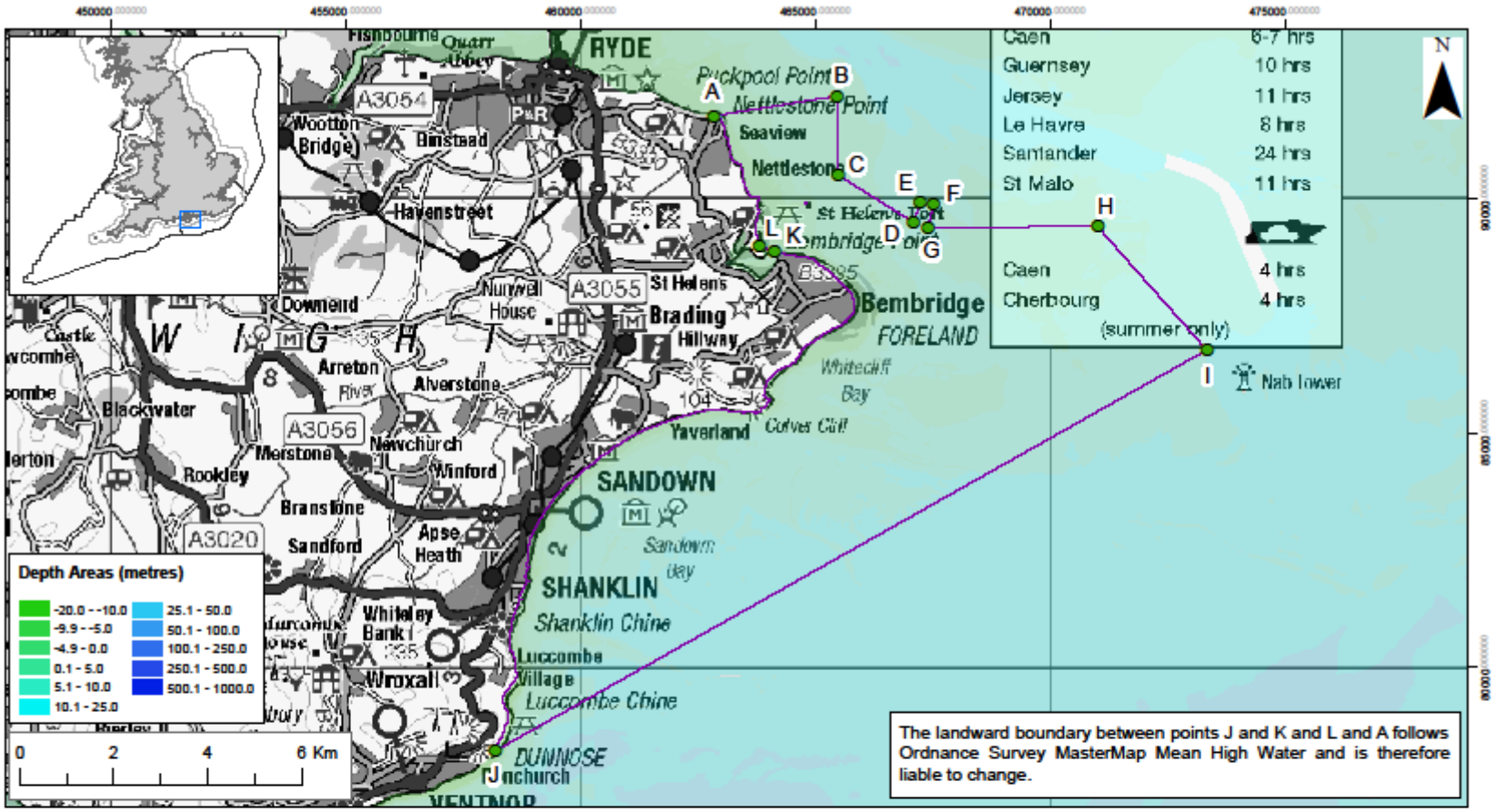


Bembridge rMCZ Version 2 Boundary

Recommended MCZ Version 2
Regional MCZ project area
rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
12nM Territorial Seas Limit
Land

Point	Lat	Long	Point	Lat	Long
A	50° 43' 18.961" N	1° 6' 41.049" W	F	50° 42' 15.920" N	1° 2' 43.904" W
B	50° 43' 31.737" N	1° 4' 26.414" W	G	50° 42' 0.054" N	1° 2' 49.824" W
C	50° 42' 37.267" N	1° 4' 26.875" W	H	50° 41' 59.658" N	0° 59' 45.652" W
D	50° 42' 3.816" N	1° 3' 5.116" W	I	50° 40' 33.307" N	0° 57' 48.871" W
E	50° 42' 17.100" N	1° 2' 57.651" W	J	50° 36' 3.142" N	1° 10' 45.619" W

Figure 7 Bembridge pMCZ site boundary



Bembridge RV Boundary Option

- RV pMCZ option
- Regional MCZ project area
- boundary co-ordinates
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Land

Point	Lat	Long	Point	Lat	Long
A	50°43' 18.961" N	1°6' 41.049" W	G	50°42' 0.054" N	1°2' 49.824" W
B	50°43' 31.737" N	1°4' 26.414" W	H	50°41' 59.658" N	0°59' 45.652" W
C	50°42' 37.267" N	1°4' 26.875" W	I	50°40' 33.307" N	0°57' 48.871" W
D	50°42' 3.816" N	1°3' 5.116" W	J	50°36' 3.142" N	1°10' 45.619" W
E	50°42' 17.100" N	1°2' 57.651" W	K	50°41' 44.846" N	1°5' 36.870" W
F	50°42' 15.920" N	1°2' 43.904" W	L	50°41' 49.329" N	1°5' 53.221" W

Figure 8 Bembridge RV pMCZ site boundary option

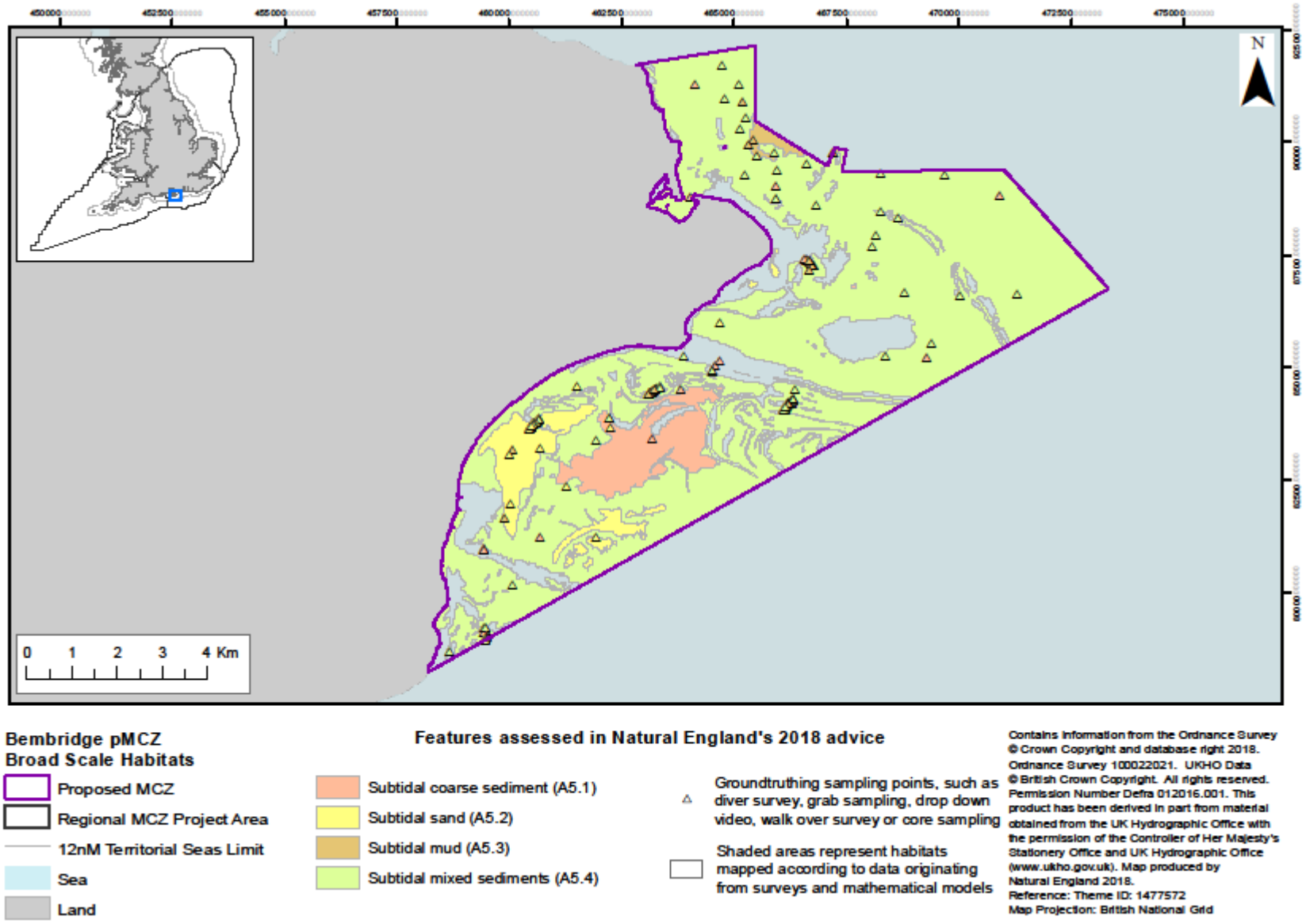


Figure 9 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in Bembridge pMCZ

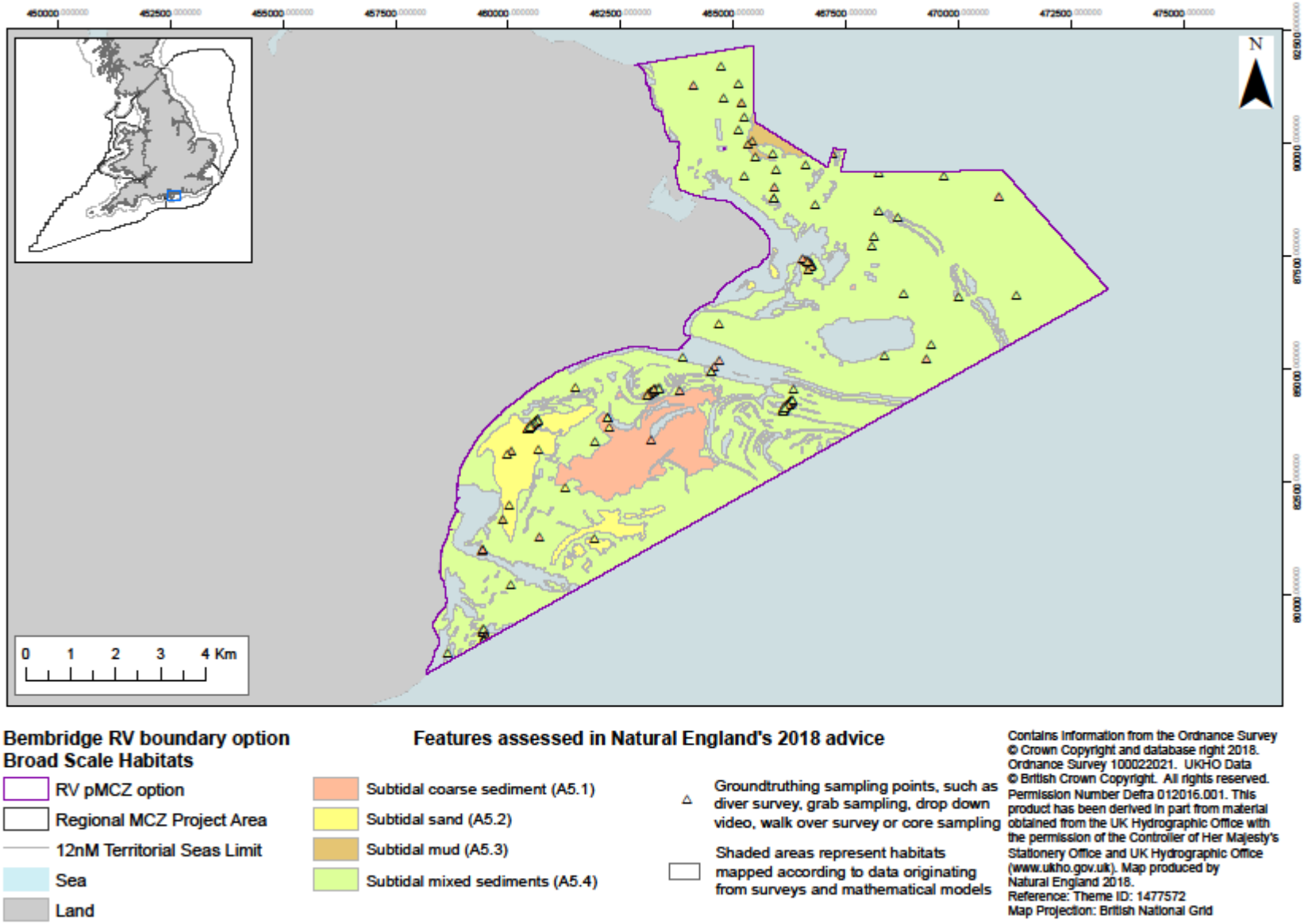


Figure 10 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in Bembridge RV pMCZ

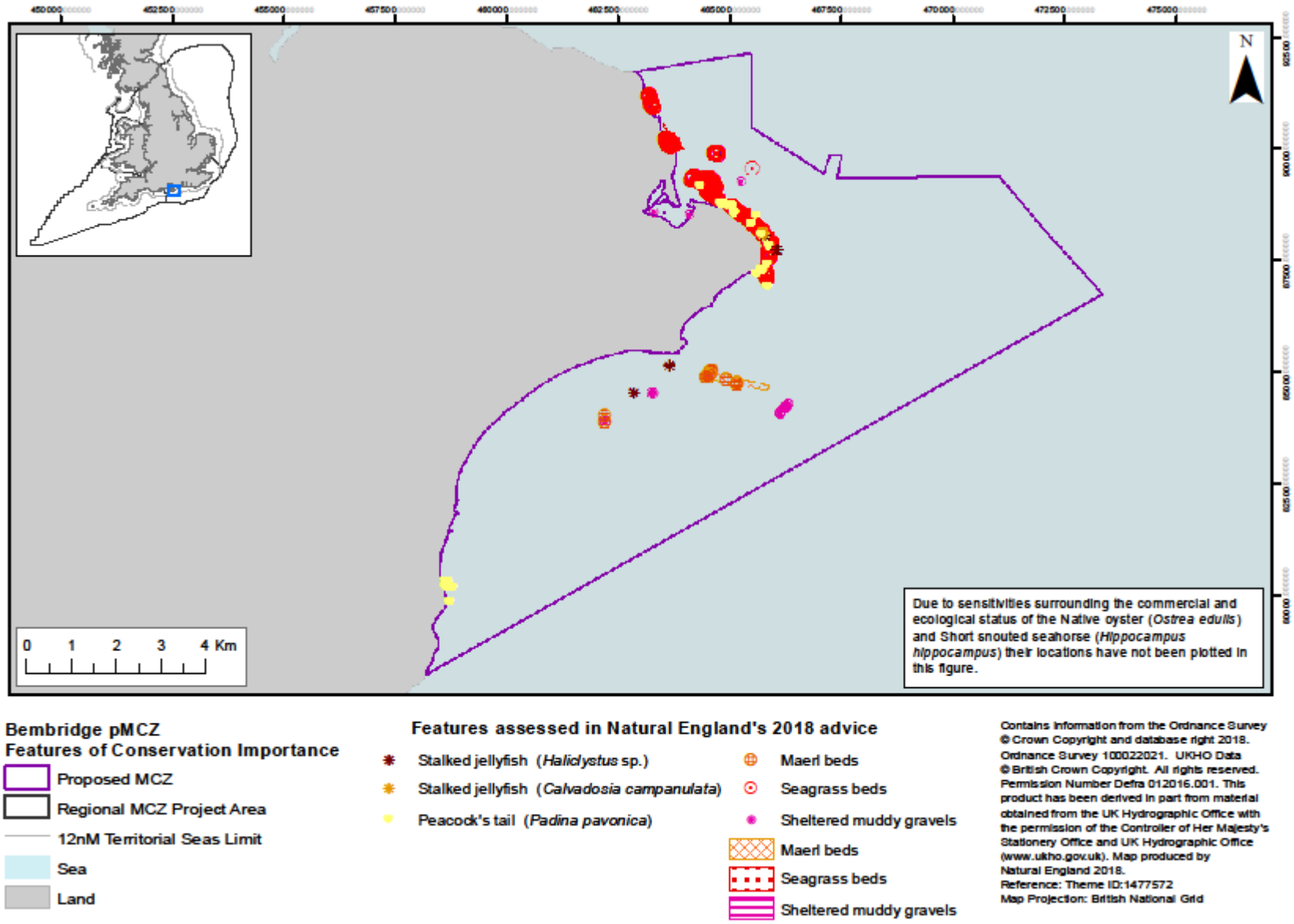


Figure 11 Location of mapped features of conservation importance in Bembridge pMCZ

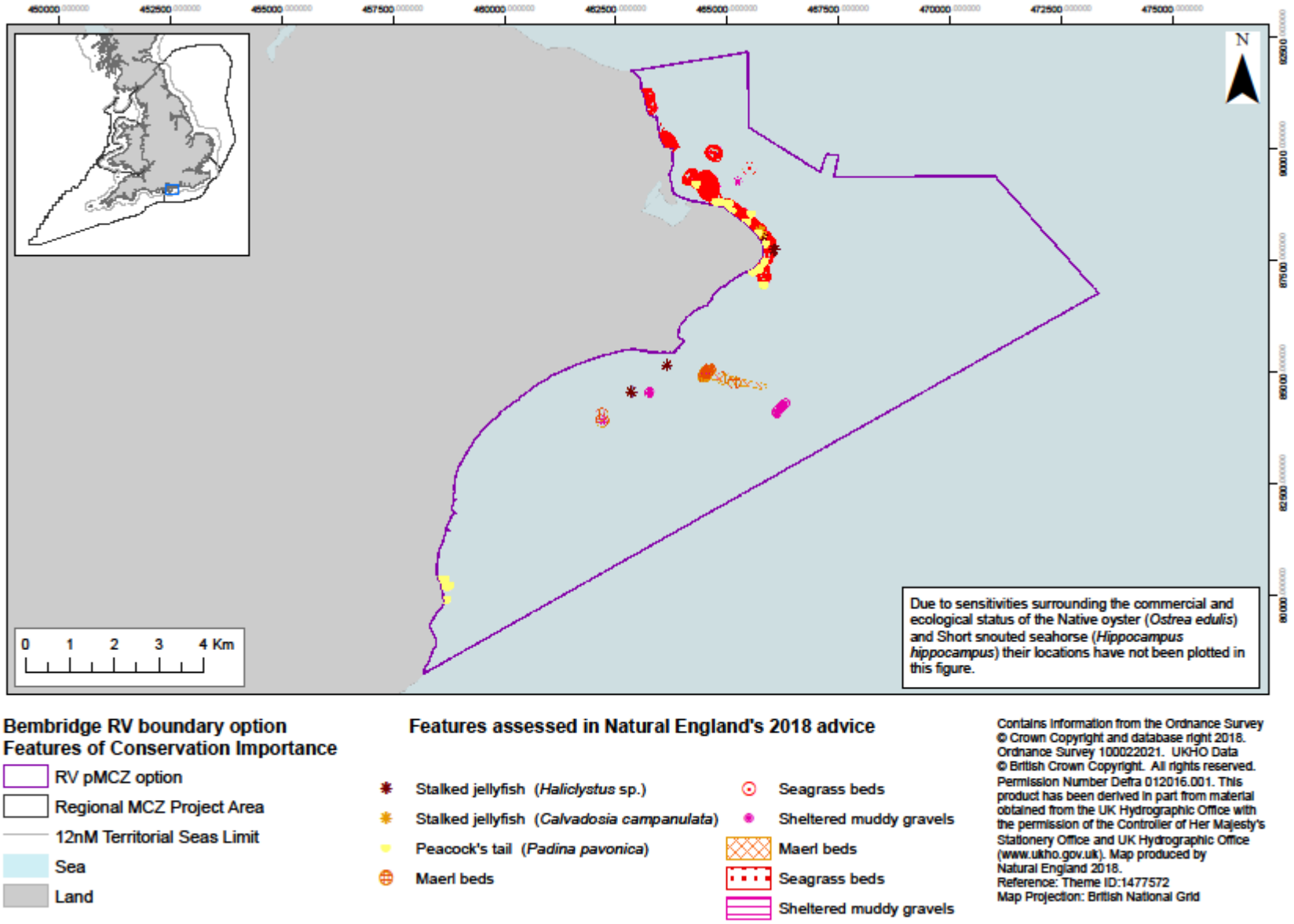


Figure 12 Location of mapped features of conservation importance in Bembridge RV pMCZ

3.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 4 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Bembridge pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Maerl beds	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*)	Moderate	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Peacock's tail (*Padina pavonica*)	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Sea pens and burrowing megafauna	Low	Low	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Seagrass beds	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Sheltered muddy gravels	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Short snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus hippocampus*)	Moderate	Moderate	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Stalked jellyfish (*Haliclystus* species)	Moderate	Moderate	Favourable	Maintain	No change.
Stalked jellyfish (*Calvadosia campanulata*[5])	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change.
Subtidal coarse sediment	High	Moderate	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Subtidal mixed sediments	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Subtidal mud	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Subtidal sand	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

[5] Previously classified as *Lucernariopsis campanulata*

3.5 Additional advice

3.5.1 Advice on specific features

3.5.1.1 Sea pens and burrowing megafauna in Bembridge pMCZ

Bembridge pMCZ represents the only proposed T3 MCZ for the sea pens and burrowing megafauna (HOCI_18) feature in the Eastern Channel region. This feature is not currently represented in MPAs in the region. If designated, this site would contribute to filling the representation gap identified for this feature in the existing MPA network (JNCC 2016).

Current assessments have concluded low confidence in both the presence and extent of the sea pens and burrowing megafauna feature within the Bembridge pMCZ. These low confidence scores reflect the fact that we have only a single data point collected in 1997 by JNCC. They recorded the biotope SS.SMu.CFiMu.MegMax (Burrowing megafauna and *Maxmuelleria lankesteri* in circalittoral mud). This biotope supports a relatively high diversity of burrowing animals and has only been recorded at a small number of locations in English waters (JNCC 2015).

The assessed risk level for this feature shows moderate/high vulnerability to both fishing and vessel anchoring activities within the site and a sensitivity to several pressures associated with these activities. Therefore, on the basis of risk to the feature, as well as the contribution of the feature to the MPA network replication and representation gaps within the Eastern Channel region (it is the only site in the region where the feature occurs), we advise further consideration of the sea pens and burrowing megafauna feature for designation within the Bembridge pMCZ on nature conservation grounds.

3.5.2 Advice on the site boundary

This additional advice describes a boundary option for the Bembridge pMCZ. We are providing this additional advice at the request of Defra (dated 12th Dec 2018). The boundary option described below is entitled: **Bembridge RV pMCZ boundary option.**

3.5.2.1 Rationale for Natural England's advice on the pMCZ boundary amendment options

Bembridge pMCZ was subject to formal consultation for Tranche 3 MCZ during the summer of 2018. Concerns were raised by stakeholder(s) during the public consultation regarding potential impacts to maintenance dredging within the harbour as a result of a recover general management approach (GMA) for the Subtidal mixed sediments feature recommended for designation. As a result, Defra requested Natural England provide additional information regarding a revised site boundary which excludes the Bembridge harbour area.

3.5.2.2 Impact of removing Bembridge Harbour from the Bembridge pMCZ boundary

The exclusion of the harbour would result in a small reduction in polygon area for A5.4 Subtidal mixed sediments (from 55.43 km^2 including the harbour to 55.01 km^2 excluding the harbour, resulting in a 0.75% reduction) and loss of two points for HOCI 19 Sheltered muddy gravels. A manual check of Protocol E indicated that neither of these changes would result in a change to the confidence assessment results for the site as provided in Table 3 above.

The removal of the harbour would not remove any replicates of either feature from the network and the effect on the adequacy figure for subtidal mixed sediments would be <1%. This would result in no significant effect on the adequacy assessment for the Eastern Channel region (A5.4 Subtidal mixed sediments ENG target of 16% with 18.7% in MPAs if all Tranche 3 sites for this feature are designated, based on current evidence (JNCC *pers. comm.*).

Due to timing constraints Natural England were unable to perform a full re-assessment of the GMA results for any features as a result of excluding the harbour area. The intent of the revised boundary is to exclude

an area of subtidal mixed sediment from the site, where maintenance dredging currently occurs. As maintenance dredging is not one of the activities triggering the recover GMA for this feature, we believe there would be no change in this GMA as a result of excluding the activity from the site in this way.

4 Camel Estuary pMCZ (FS 39)

4.1 Site description

The Camel estuary is the largest and most sheltered marine inlet on the north Cornwall coast. It is predominantly shallow and sandy, deepening at the mouth, with a narrow channel at low water that meanders from one side of the estuary to the other. One of the reasons for the inclusion of this and other estuarine pMCZs in the network was recognition of the added ecological importance of estuaries in terms of productivity, and their ecological function as nursery areas. The Camel estuary is specifically identified as a bass nursery area.

The Camel Estuary pMCZ is located in the upper section of the estuary, with the seaward boundary approximately two and a half kilometres upstream of the port of Padstow. The site stretches to the very upper tidal reaches at Sladebridge and Polbrock.

Small cliffs and sheltered blue-black slate reefs are found along the edges of the site as well as broad, sandy embayments. When the tide is out, large expanses of sand flats and mudflats can be seen, with small meandering channels. Sediments within the outer estuary are sandy and fairly mobile, while sediments further upstream tend to be muddier. Extensive areas of saltmarsh can be found in the upper estuary.

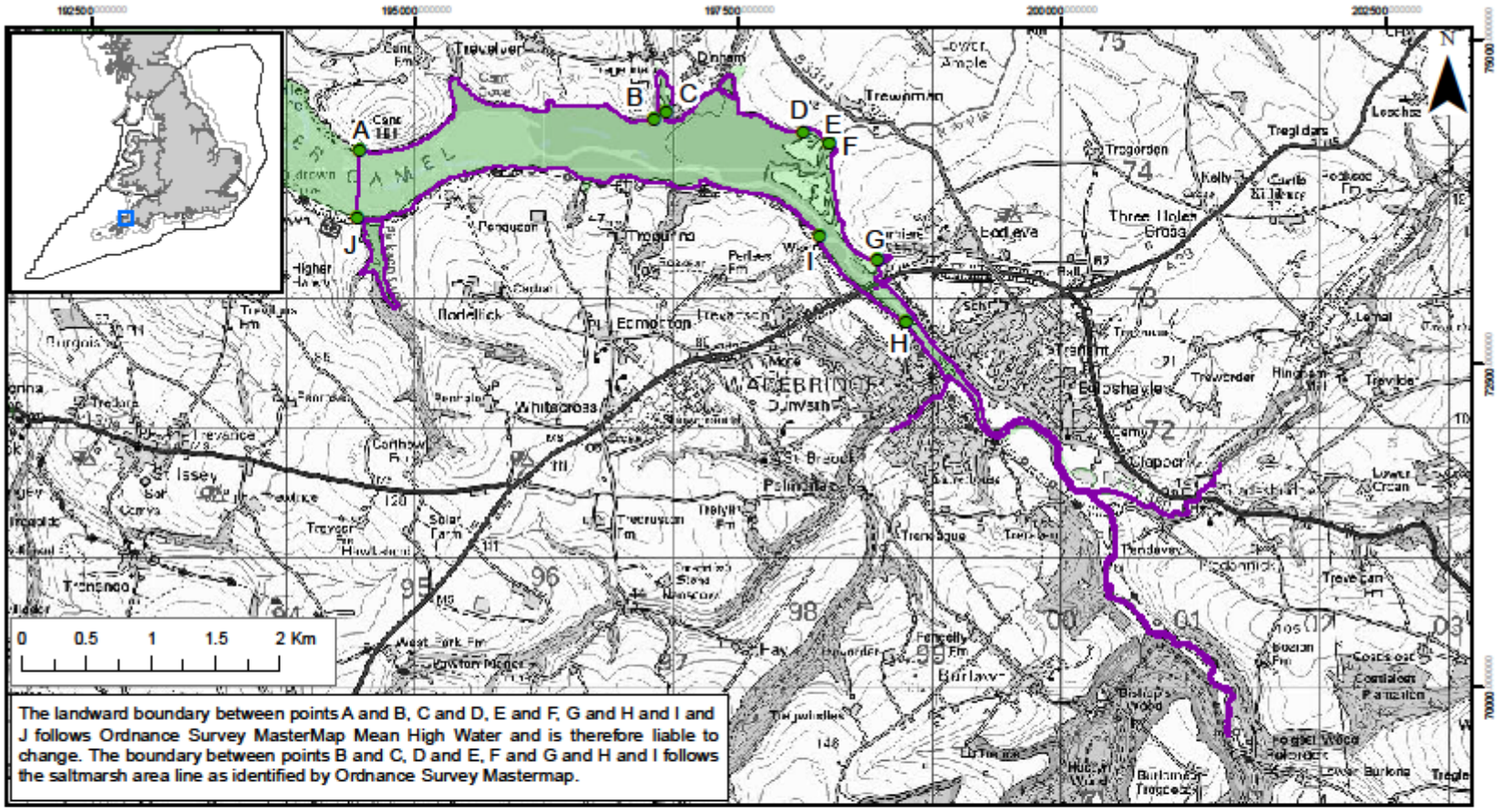
The intertidal sediments within the site support rich populations of polychaete worms such as ragworms, and bivalve molluscs such as cockles. These provide an important food source for birds, particularly in winter months. The intertidal rocky reefs are dominated by egg wrack *Ascophyllum nodosum*, a brown seaweed. Spiral wrack *Fucus spiralis* and serrated wrack *Fucus serratus* are also present and a nationally scarce species of red seaweed *Microcladia glandulosa* has been recorded here. The intertidal rock habitat also supports a range of bedrock and boulder communities which are rarely found within inlets in north Cornwall and north Devon.

Natural England's full (quantitative) pre-consultation advice on this pMCZ was based on the original Regional Project recommended boundary. Natural England has provided further qualitative advice to Defra regarding a proposed minor amendment to the Camel Estuary pMCZ boundary, to include areas of saltmarsh that were omitted from the original boundary. This amended boundary was consulted on and is therefore the boundary considered in the full post-consultation advice.

4.2 Site image

Image 4 Camel Estuary © Liz Bailey

4.3 Site maps



Point	Lat	Long	Point	Lat	Long
A	50°31' 51.352" N	4°53' 59.882" W	F	50°31' 57.864" N	4°50' 55.873" W
B	50°32' 2.020" N	4°52' 4.809" W	G	50°31' 28.987" N	4°50' 35.197" W
C	50°32' 4.043" N	4°52' 0.449" W	H	50°31' 13.831" N	4°50' 23.233" W
D	50°32' 0.209" N	4°51' 6.371" W	I	50°31' 34.556" N	4°50' 58.441" W
E	50°31' 58.013" N	4°50' 56.136" W	J	50°31' 34.695" N	4°53' 59.946" W

Figure 13 Camel Estuary pMCZ site boundary

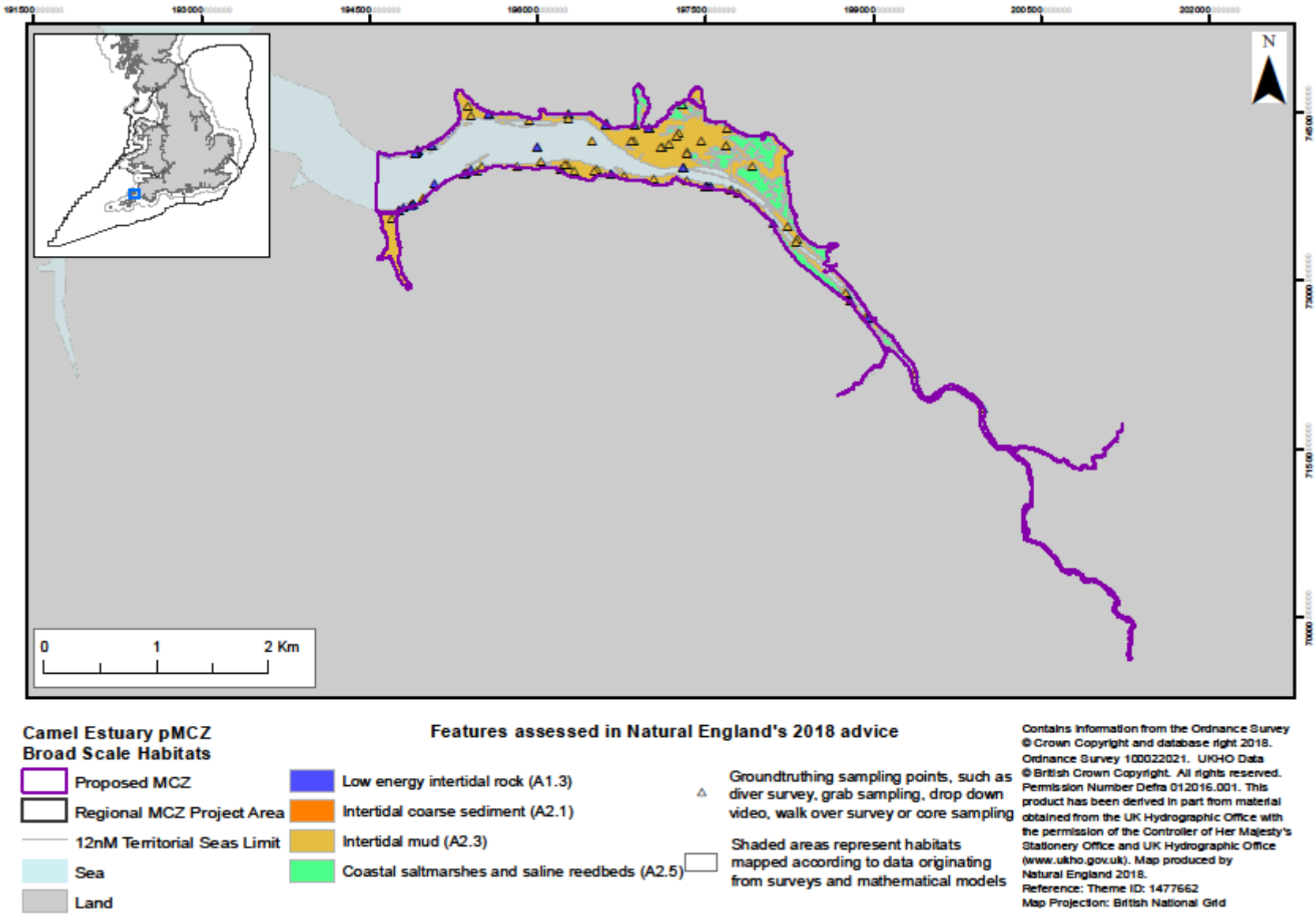


Figure 14 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in Camel Estuary pMCZ

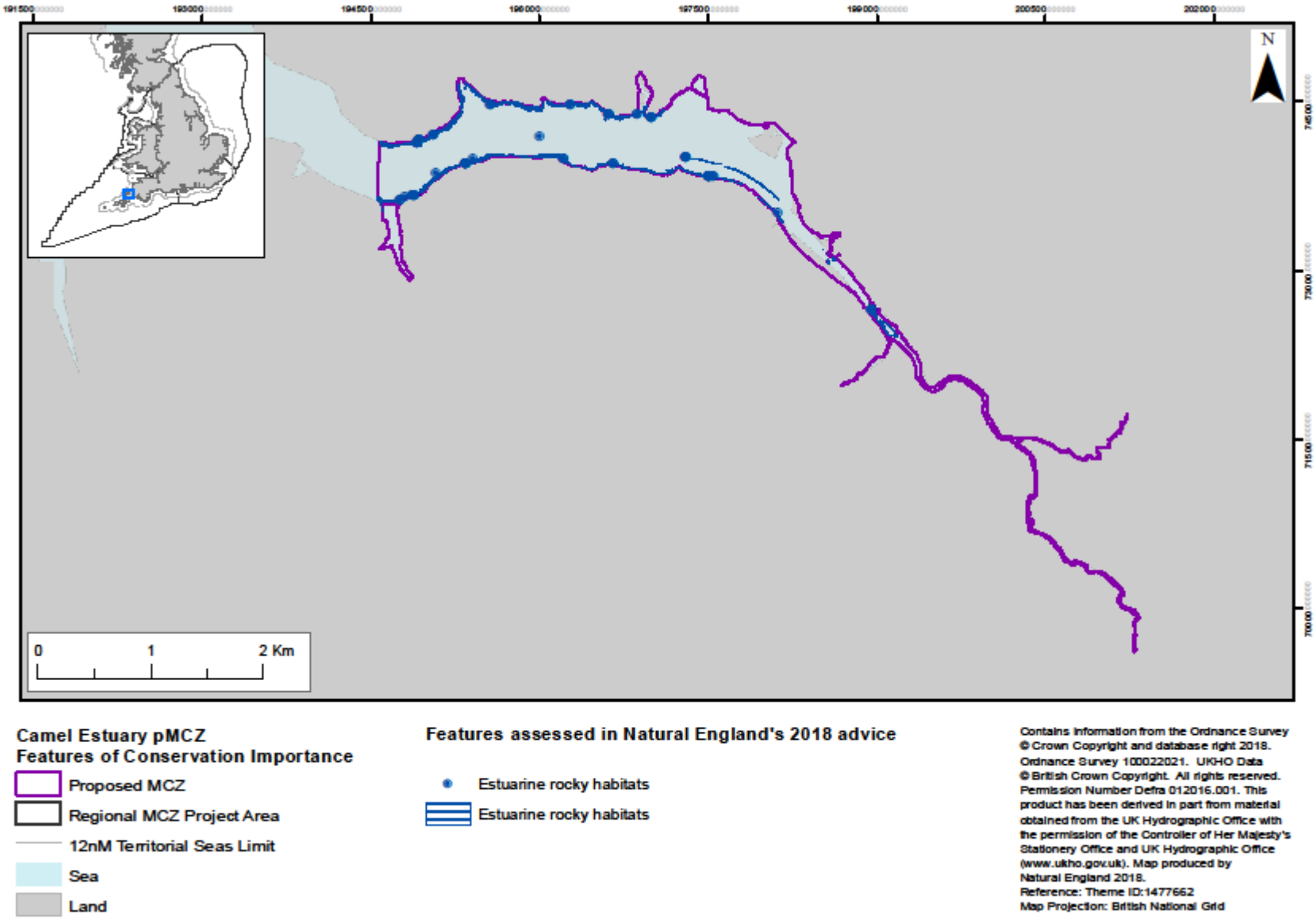


Figure 15 Location of mapped features of conservation importance in Camel Estuary pMCZ Summary of Natural England's advice

4.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 5 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Camel Estuary pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Estuarine rocky habitats	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Intertidal coarse sediment	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Intertidal mud	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Low energy intertidal rock	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

5 Cape Bank pMCZ (FS 36)

5.1 Site description

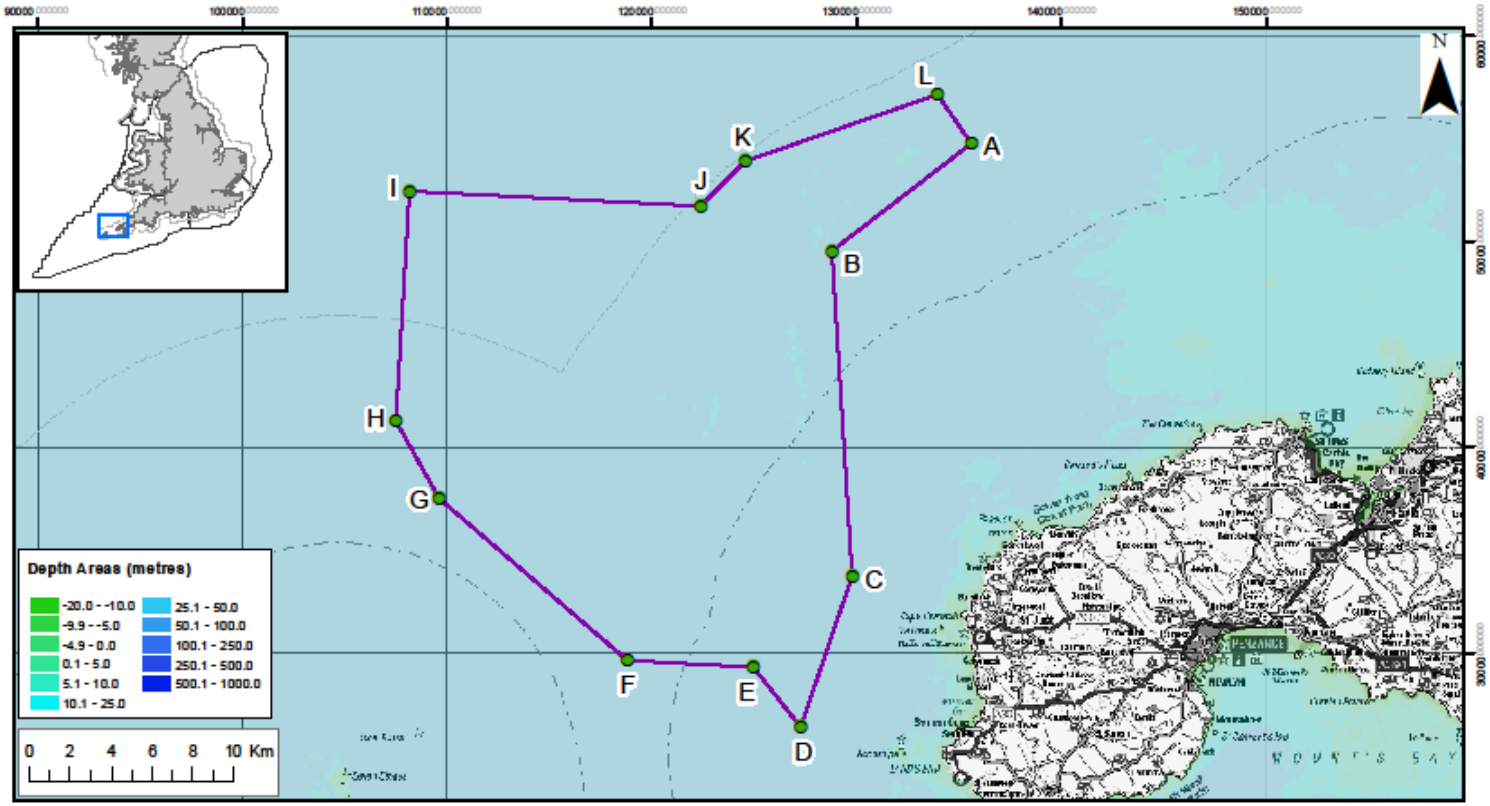
The Cape Bank site lies to the west of the Land's End peninsula and extends to almost 25 kilometres from the coast. The reefs are fully submarine, upstanding features which are almost entirely composed of granite. The site has an offshore upstanding reef which extends in a broad, arching crescent roughly aligned with the coastline. The crescent shaped system of offshore rocky reefs forms the major feature of conservation interest at the site. The site occupies a depth range of 30 – 75 metres.

The reef is characterised by high biodiversity tide-swept communities such as sponges, faunal and algal turfs and crustose communities. The pMCZ encompasses Cape Bank itself, as well as an area of subtidal coarse sediment to the west of it.

5.2 Site image

Image 5 Cape Bank circalittoral reef © Natural England

5.3 Site maps



Point	Lat	Long	Point	Lat	Long
A	50° 19' 59.975" N	5° 42' 59.962" W	G	50° 9' 59.100" N	6° 4' 2.400" W
B	50° 16' 59.976" N	5° 48' 29.960" W	H	50° 11' 57.300" N	6° 5' 59.760" W
C	50° 8' 29.978" N	5° 46' 59.961" W	I	50° 18' 0.000" N	6° 6' 0.000" W
D	50° 4' 29.977" N	5° 48' 44.962" W	J	50° 18' 0.000" N	5° 53' 58.020" W
E	50° 5' 59.572" N	5° 50' 49.410" W	K	50° 19' 14.976" N	5° 52' 14.960" W
F	50° 5' 59.760" N	5° 55' 58.800" W	L	50° 21' 14.978" N	5° 44' 29.962" W

Figure 16 Cape Bank pMCZ site boundary

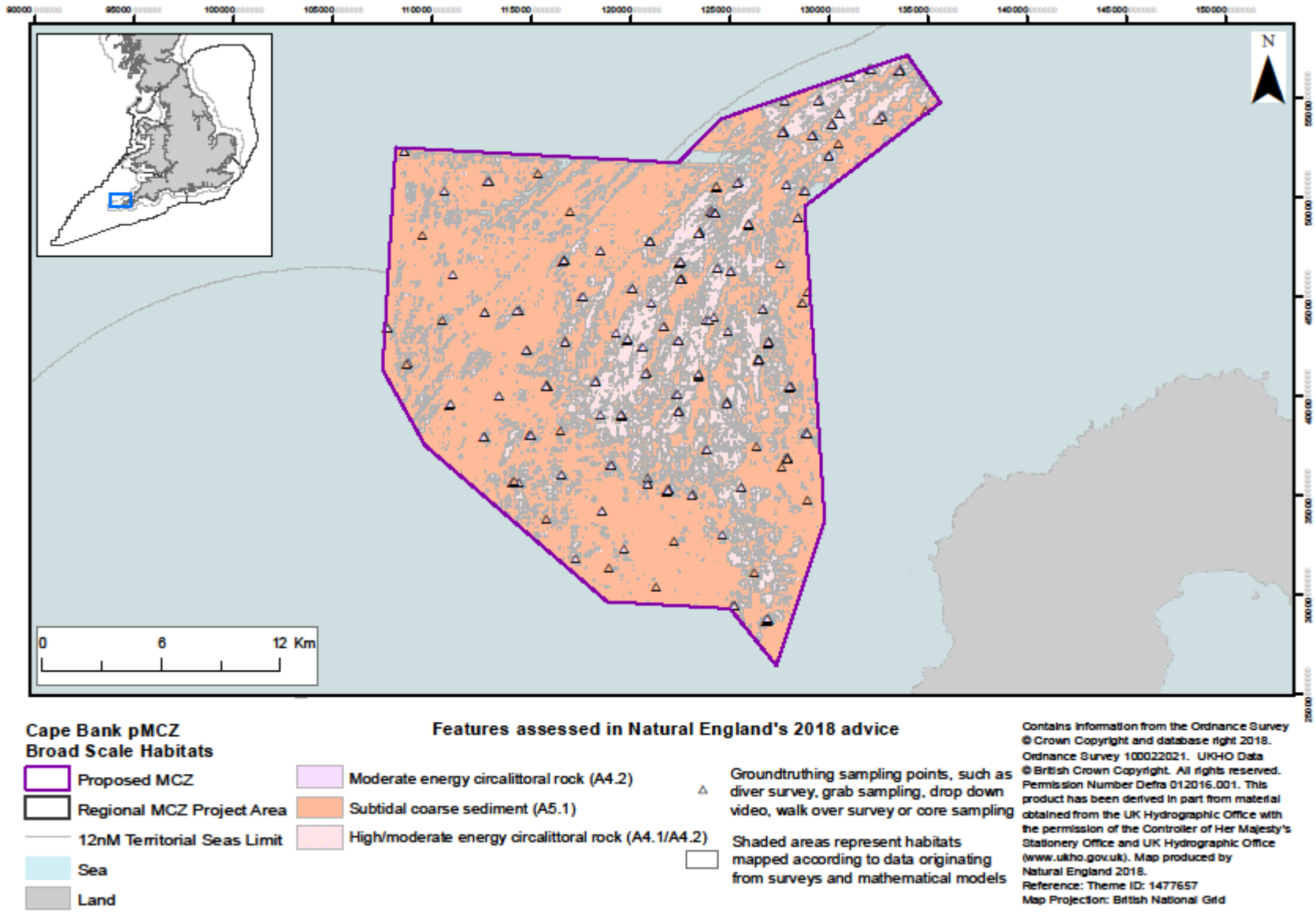


Figure 17 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats and features of conservation importance in Cape Bank pMCZ

5.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 6 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Cape Bank pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	High	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Subtidal coarse sediment	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

6 Dart Estuary pMCZ (FS 23)

6.1 Site description

The Dart Estuary is a ria (large coastal inlet) on the south coast of Devon, with steep rocky shores near the mouth of the estuary and stretches of meandering mudflats further upstream. The pMCZ boundary encompasses the mid to upper estuary, stretching from Dittisham to Littlehempston. The upper estuary is surrounded mainly by farmland, with small patches of woodland. The intertidal and subtidal habitats in the middle and upper estuary are predominantly mud, with occasional rock outcrops (Lieberknecht *et al.* 2011). Intertidal mud is an important habitat that provides food for wading birds. This site has the second largest quantity of intertidal mud habitat in the region (Wildlife Trusts 2016). The site supports a variety of other important habitats and species such as, coastal saltmarsh and saline reedbeds in the upper estuary that offer shelter to birds and juvenile fish and the rare tentacled lagoon-worm *Alkmaria romijini* is present in the sediment of brackish waters of the estuary.

Estuaries, such as the Dart, have added ecological importance in general in terms of their productivity and their function as nursery areas.

6.2 Site image

Image 6 Dart Estuary low energy intertidal rock. Ecospan verification survey October 2013 © Natural England

6.3 Site maps

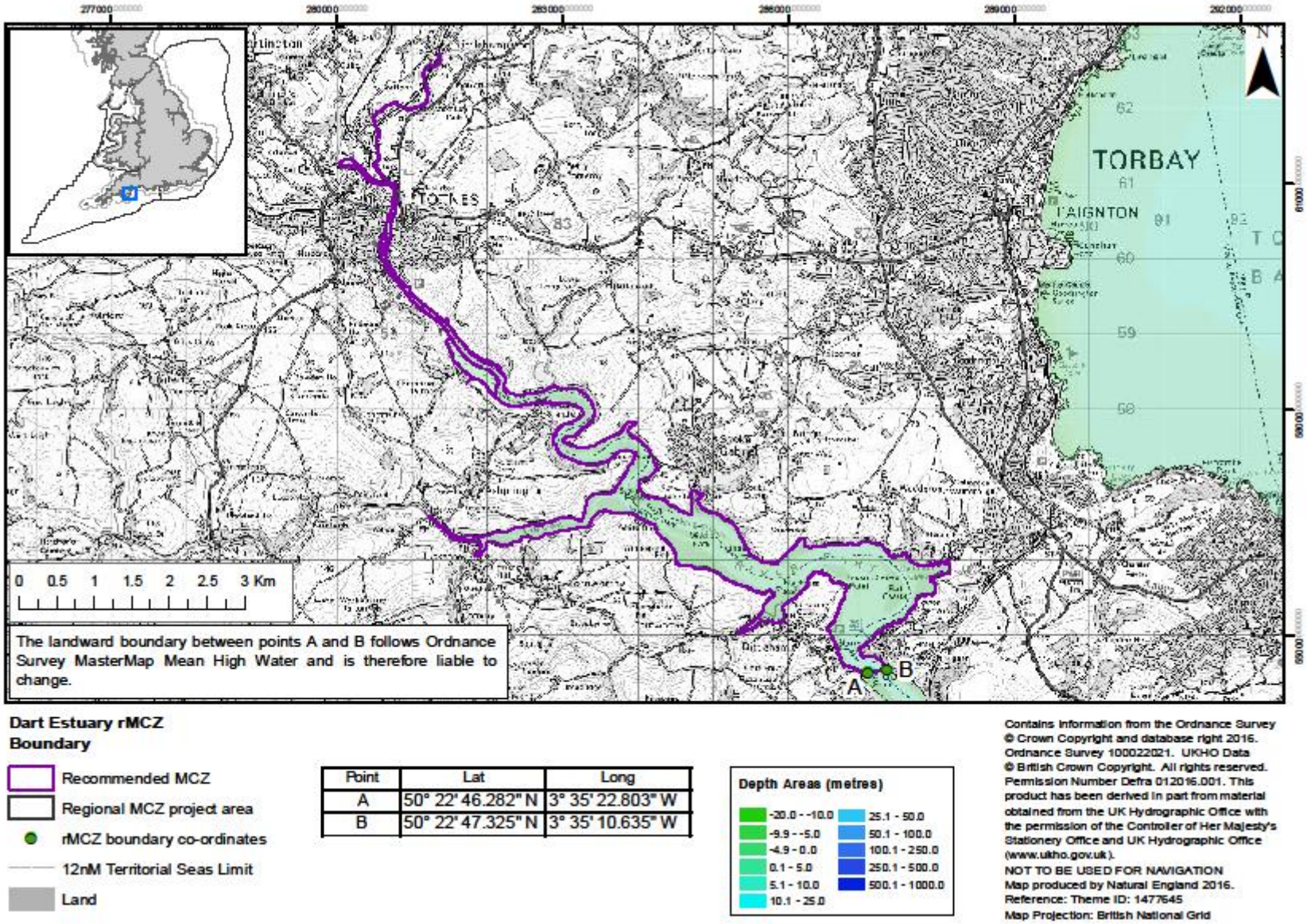


Figure 18 Dart Estuary pMCZ site boundary

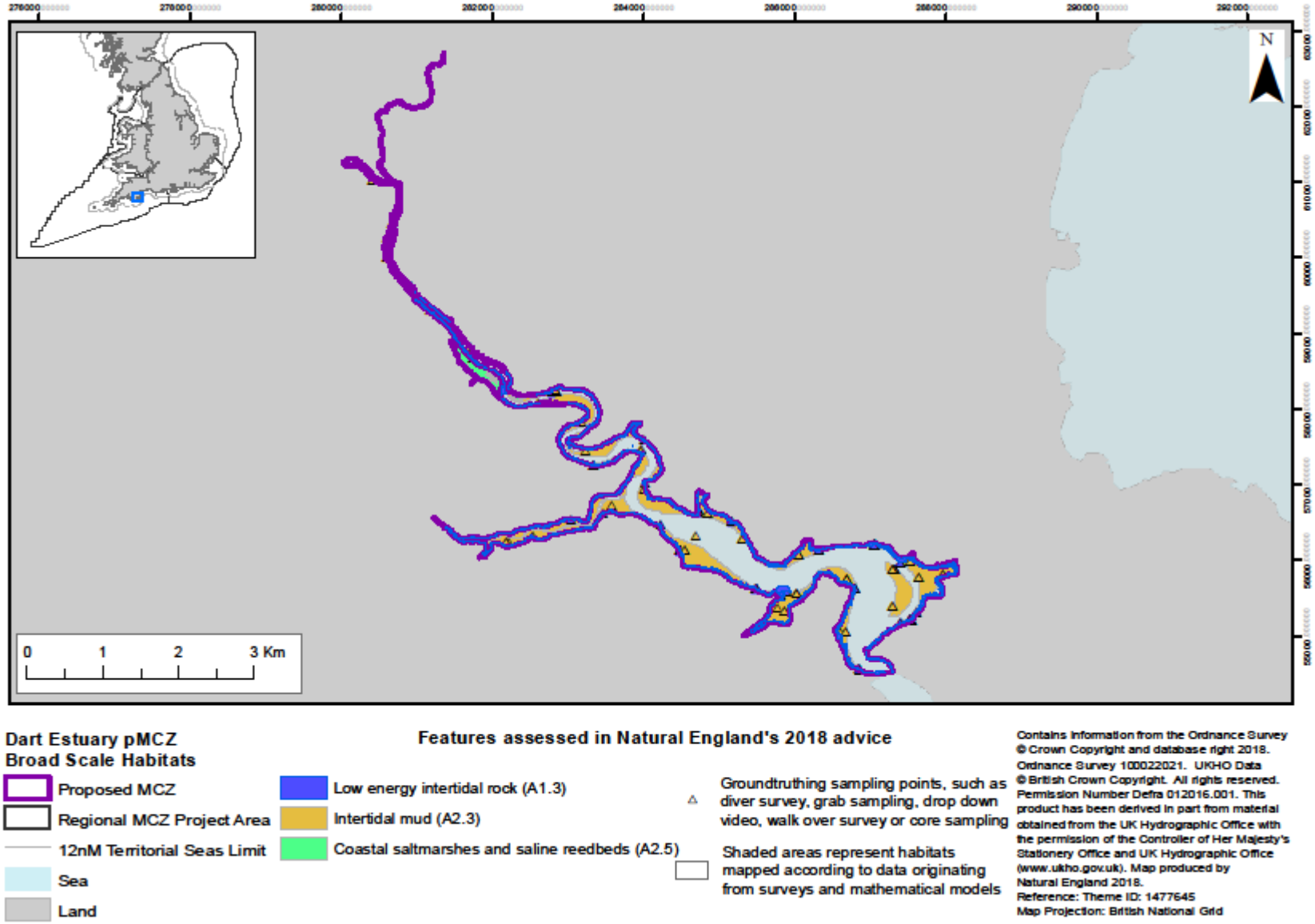


Figure 19 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in Dart Estuary pMCZ

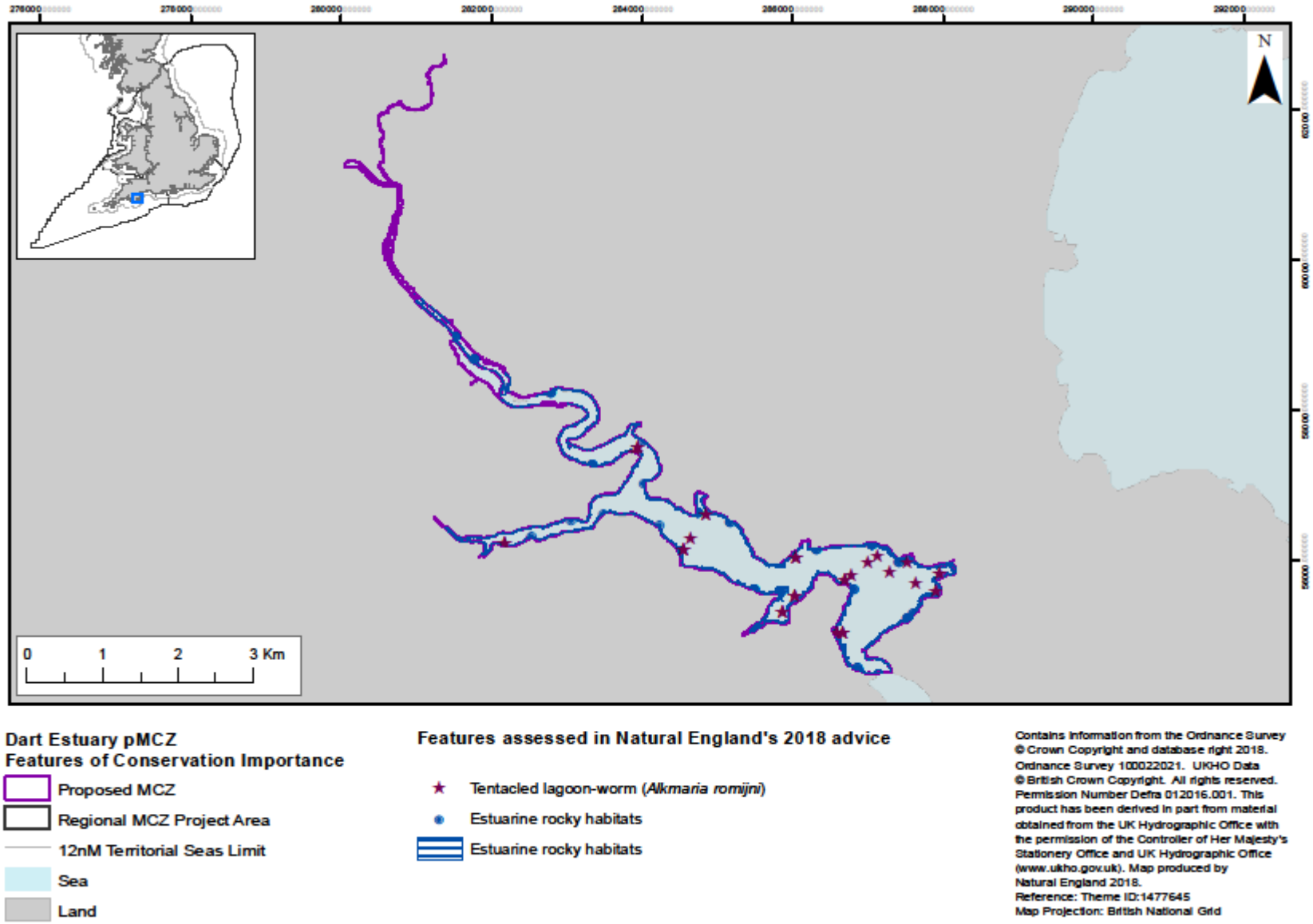


Figure 20 Location of mapped features of conservation importance in Dart Estuary pMCZ

6.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 7 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Dart Estuary pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Estuarine rocky habitats	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Intertidal mud	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Low energy intertidal rock	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Tentacled lagoon-worm (*Alkmaria romijni*)	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

6.5 Additional advice

6.5.1 Advice on the site boundary

The original (Regional Project recommended) site boundary was amended to simplify the boundary along the edge of the river corridor, and include small areas of saltmarsh that extend from the intertidal above mean high water. These amendments were agreed with Defra prior to the consultation and the advice provided for the Dart Estuary is based on this amended boundary.

7 Devon Avon Estuary pMCZ (FS 25)

7.1 Site description

The Devon Avon Estuary is a small ria-type (drowned valley) estuary in South Devon which is predominantly sandy in its lower reaches. The estuary is a narrow sheltered inlet with steep-sided margins cut into relatively weak Devonian slates and grits (Masselink *et al.* 2009), and the channels are narrow and shallow at low water as the estuary has been in-filled by an accumulation of sediment (Davies 1998). The main river channel meanders for seven kilometres from Aveton Gifford to the sands at the mouth of the estuary at Bigbury-on-Sea and Bantham. Five main depositional environments are found in the estuary: beach and dune deposits at Bantham Ham and Cockleridge, an extensive ebb-tidal delta forming part of the tombolo (a deposition land form in which an island is attached to the mainland by a narrow piece of connecting land) behind Burgh Island, a flood tidal delta with several intertidal shoals in the outer estuary, a main tidal channel that meanders along the entire estuary with a tidal weir at Aveton Gifford and salt marshes in the upper estuary. The tentacled lagoon-worm *Alkmaria romijni* can be found in the brackish waters of the estuary living in sediment along the fringes of the channels. Semi-exposed rock platforms with rich rockpool, underboulder and overhang communities are found on the lower shore at the mouth of the estuary (Lieberknecht *et al.* 2011).

7.2 Site image

Image 7 Devon Avon Estuary pMCZ intertidal sand and muddy sand © Christine Singfield, Natural England

7.3 Site maps

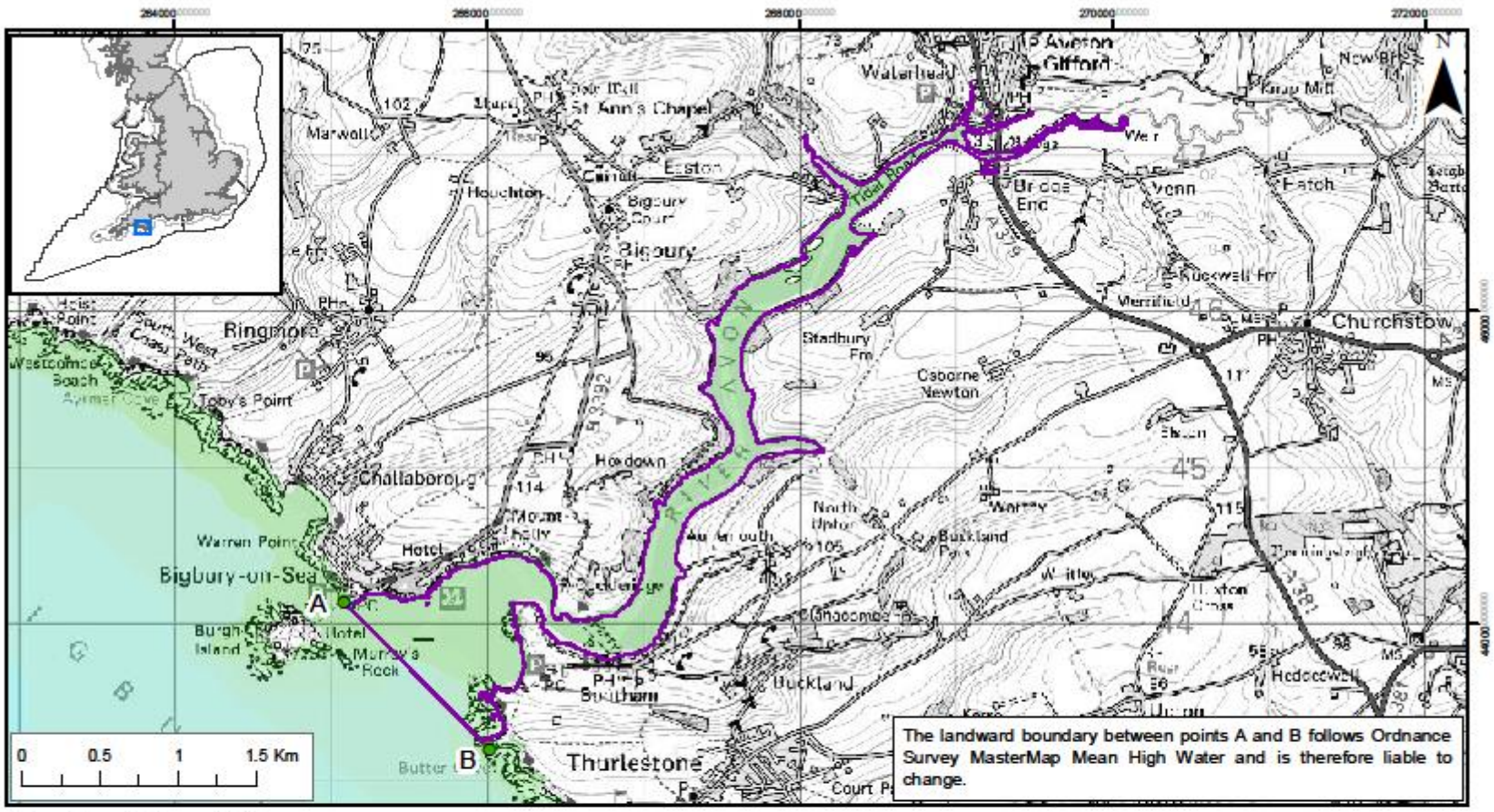


Figure 21 Devon Avon Estuary pMCZ site boundary

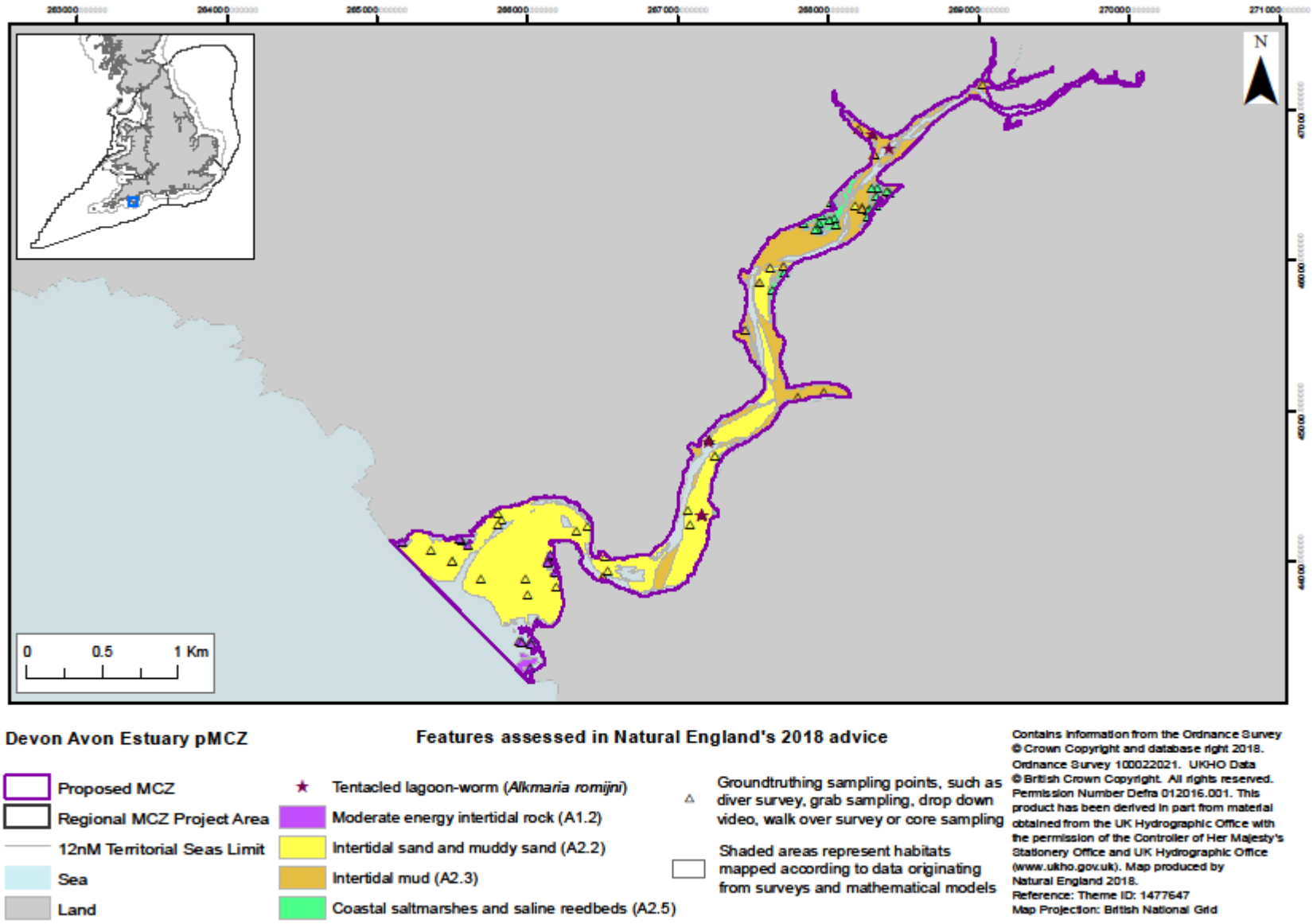


Figure 22 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats and features of conservation importance in Devon Avon Estuary pMCZ

7.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 8 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Devon Avon Estuary pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Intertidal mud	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Moderate energy intertidal rock	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Tentacled lagoon-worm (*Alkmaria romijni*)	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

7.5 Additional advice

7.5.1 Advice on the site boundary

The original (Regional Project recommended) boundary was amended to simplify the boundary along the edge of the river corridor, and include small areas of saltmarsh that extend from the intertidal above mean high water. This boundary amendment was agreed with Defra prior to the consultation and the advice provided for the Devon Avon Estuary is based on this amended boundary.

8 Erme Estuary pMCZ (FS 26)

8.1 Site description

The Erme is a narrow, sheltered estuary approximately six and a half kilometres long on the south coast of Devon (Lieberknecht *et al.* 2011). The Erme estuary and its steep wooded banks is a notified Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The pMCZ sits wholly within the SSSI boundary and encompasses the estuary up to the mean high water mark, as far as the weir just south of Sequer's Bridge (where the A379 crosses the river). The seaward boundary of the pMCZ has been drawn at the estuary mouth, from a point at Battisborough Island to Fernycombe Point. Intertidal rock can be found at the mouth of the estuary where large expanses of intertidal sediments are revealed at low tide at Mothecombe and Wonwell beach. Further up the estuary the sediment is predominantly muddy with areas of gravel. Tentacled lagoon-worm *Alkmaria romijni* can be found in sediment in the brackish waters of the estuary.

8.2 Site image

Image 8 Erme Estuary. Ecospan verification survey October 2013 © Natural England

8.3 Site maps

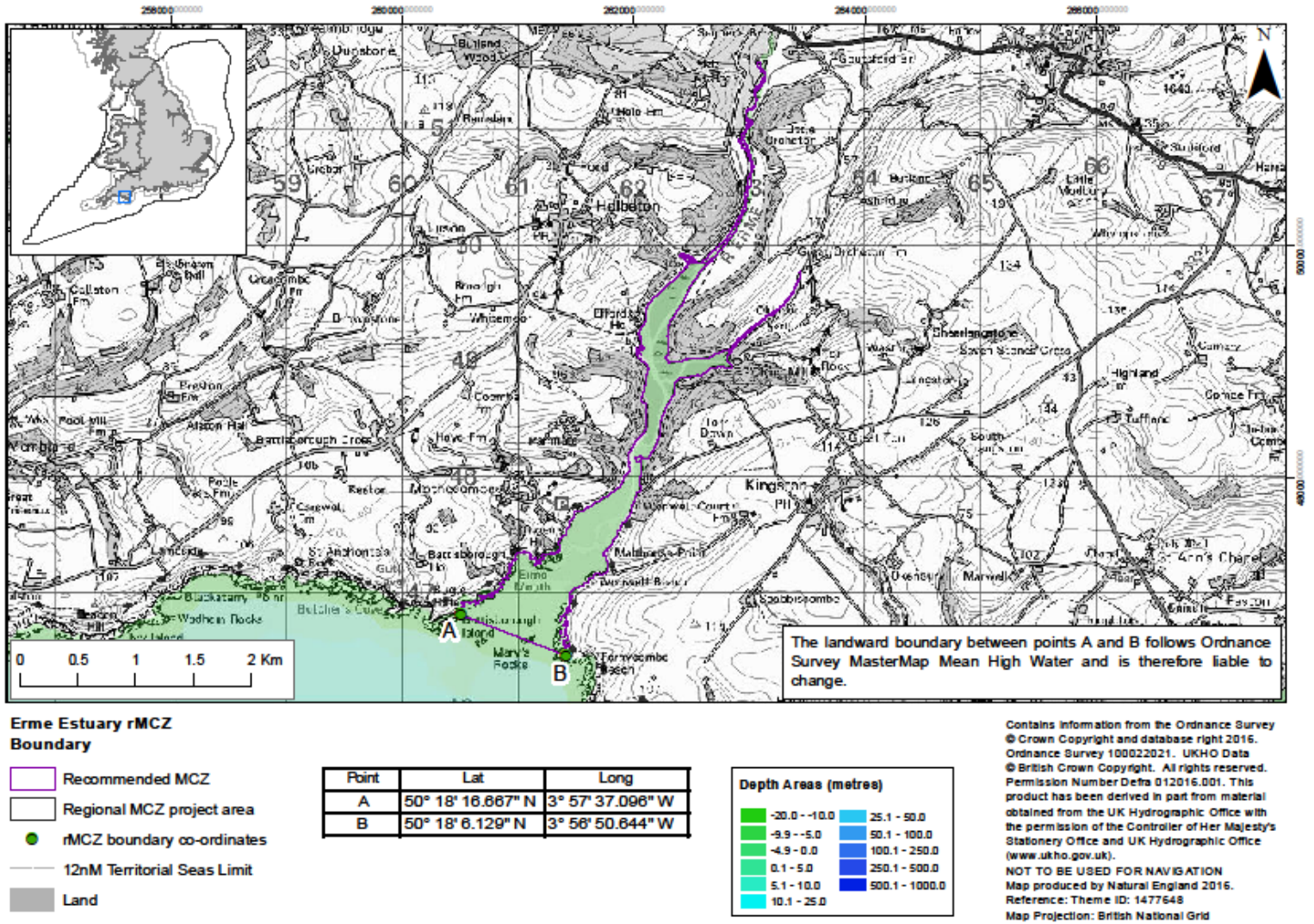


Figure 23 Erme Estuary pMCZ site boundary

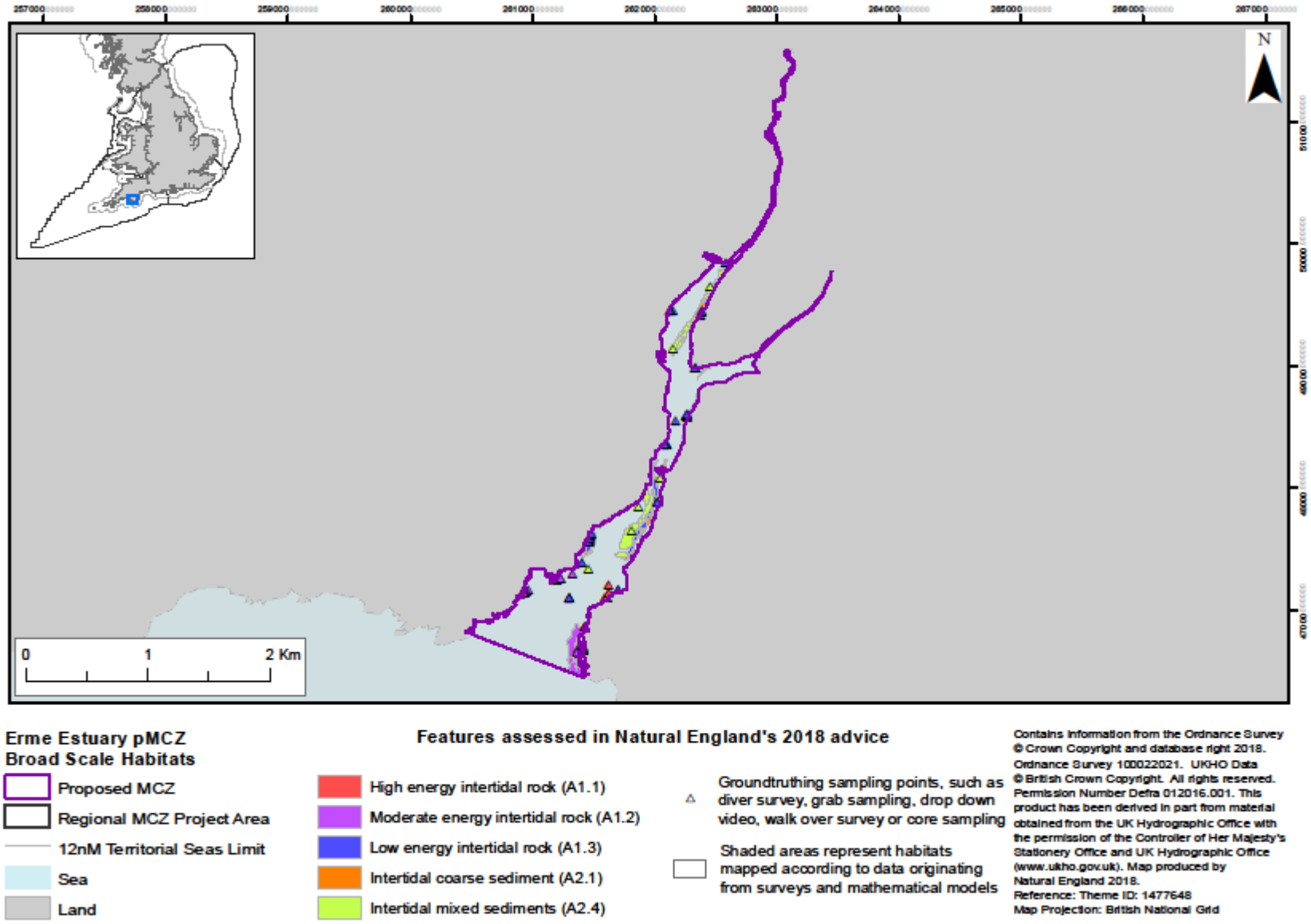


Figure 24 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in Erme Estuary pMCZ

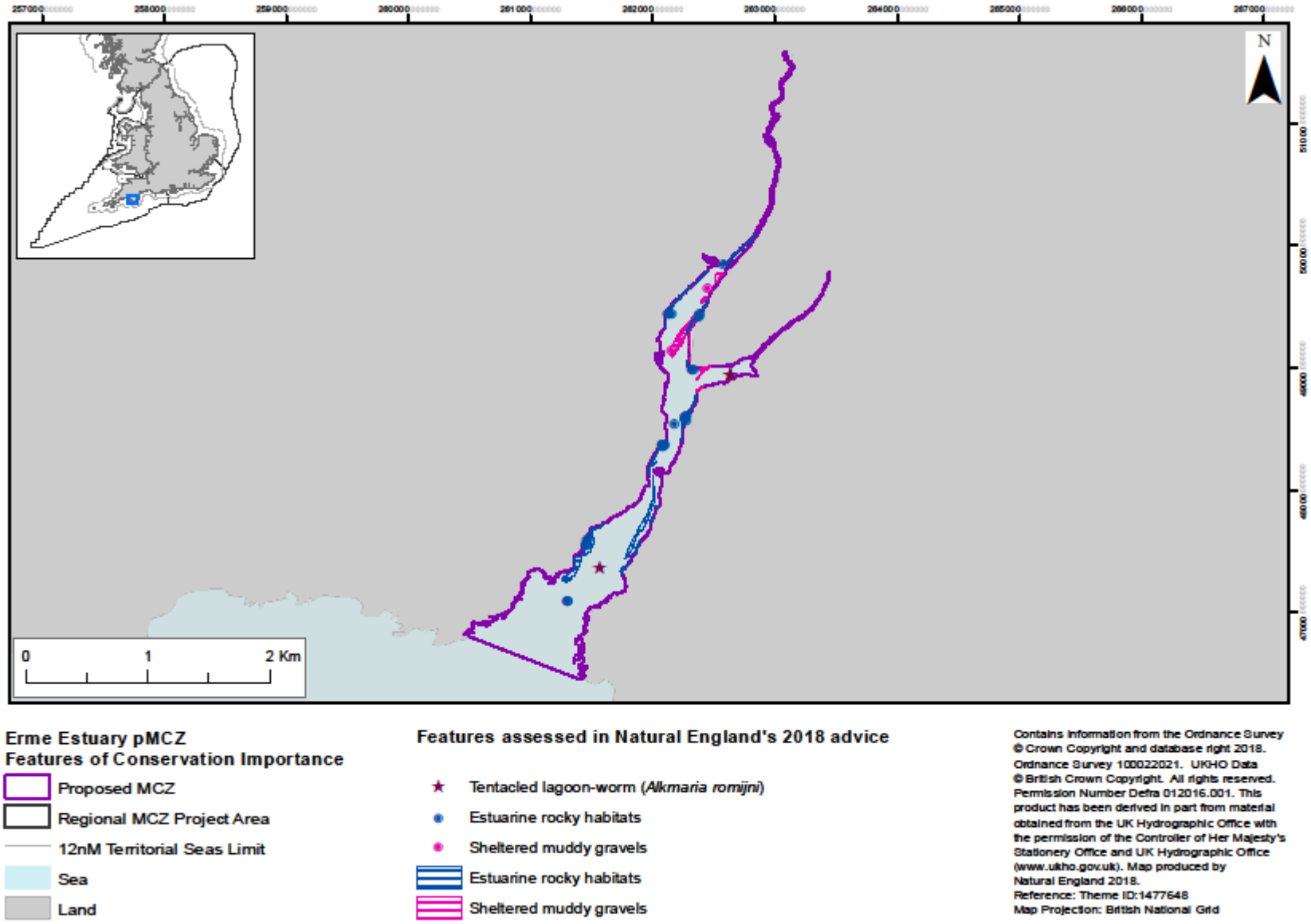


Figure 25 Location of mapped features of conservation importance in Erme Estuary pMCZ

8.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 9 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Erme Estuary pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Estuarine rocky habitats	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
High energy intertidal rock	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Intertidal coarse sediment	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Intertidal mixed sediments	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Low energy intertidal rock	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Moderate energy intertidal rock	High	Moderate	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Sheltered muddy gravels	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Tentacled lagoon-worm (*Alkmaria romijni*)	Moderate	Moderate	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

9 Foreland pMCZ (BS 9)

9.1 Site description

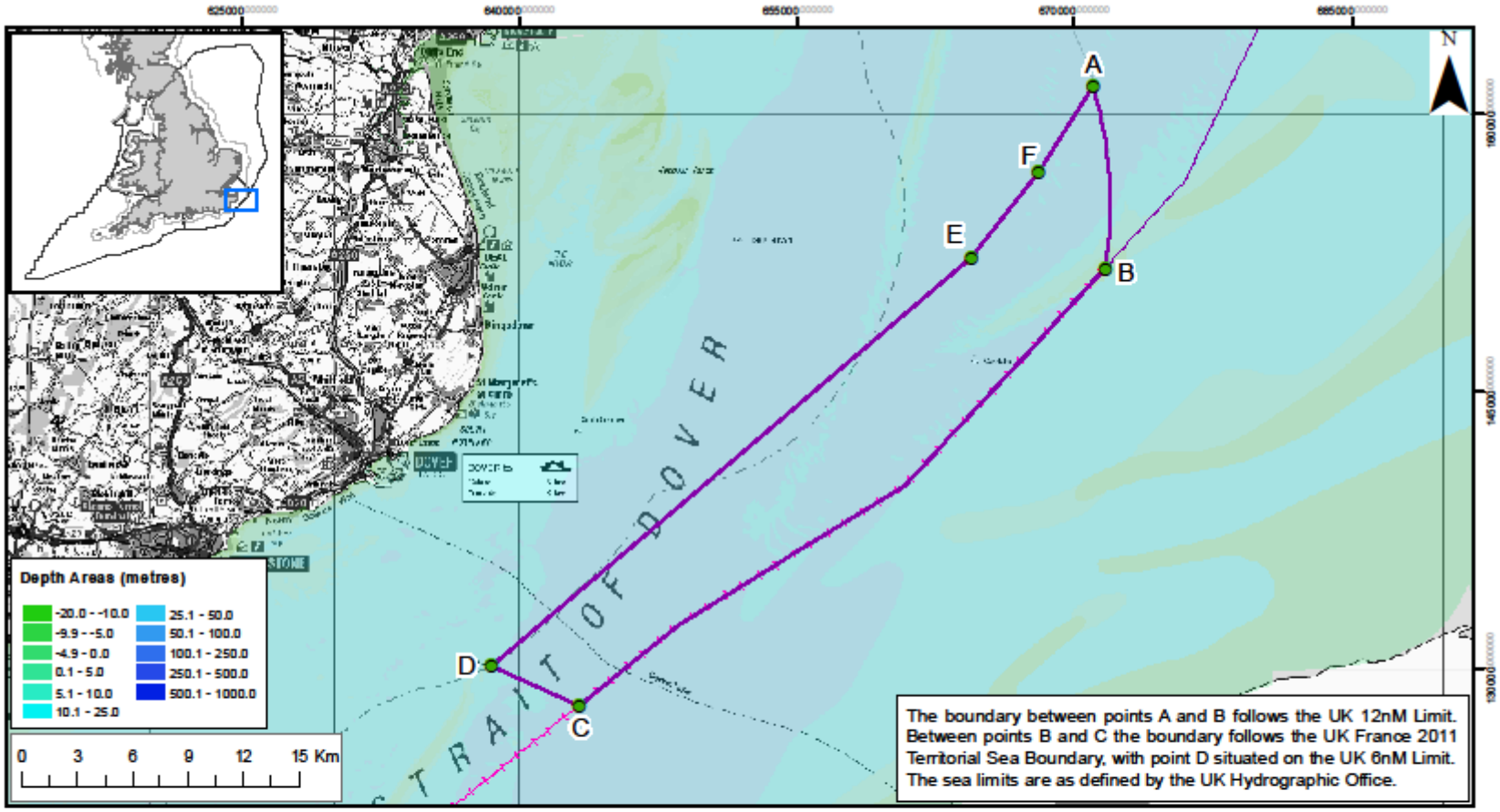
The site is elongated and lies adjacent to the median line in the narrowest part of the Channel in the west, and abuts the 12 nautical mile line in the north east; its centre is roughly between Deal in Kent and Gravelines, just west of Dunkirk in France.

The site contains a mix of moderate energy circalittoral rock, subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal sand. Surveys have indicated that the north of this pMCZ has high biodiversity for benthic species of taxonomic distinctness. The site contains part of the English Channel Outburst Flood Feature, an important example of ancient geomorphological processes that separated the UK from mainland Europe. Although no specific supporting features have been identified, various species of flatfish (e.g. plaice, sole, undulate ray) are likely to be present, and thus there might be spawning and nursery grounds within the site.

9.2 Site image

Image 9 Subtidal sand © Crown Copyright (Please note this photograph is provided as an example of the above habitat and feature only and does not necessarily represent the habitats and features found at the site).

9.3 Site maps



Point	Lat	Long
A	51°17' 17.499" N	1°53' 8.239" E
B	51°11' 57.835" N	1°53' 15.421" E
C	51°0' 0.443" N	1°27' 55.326" E
D	51°1' 15.376" N	1°23' 55.539" E
E	51°12' 27.789" N	1°47' 3.679" E
F	51°14' 51.634" N	1°50' 25.096" E

Figure 26 Foreland pMCZ site boundary

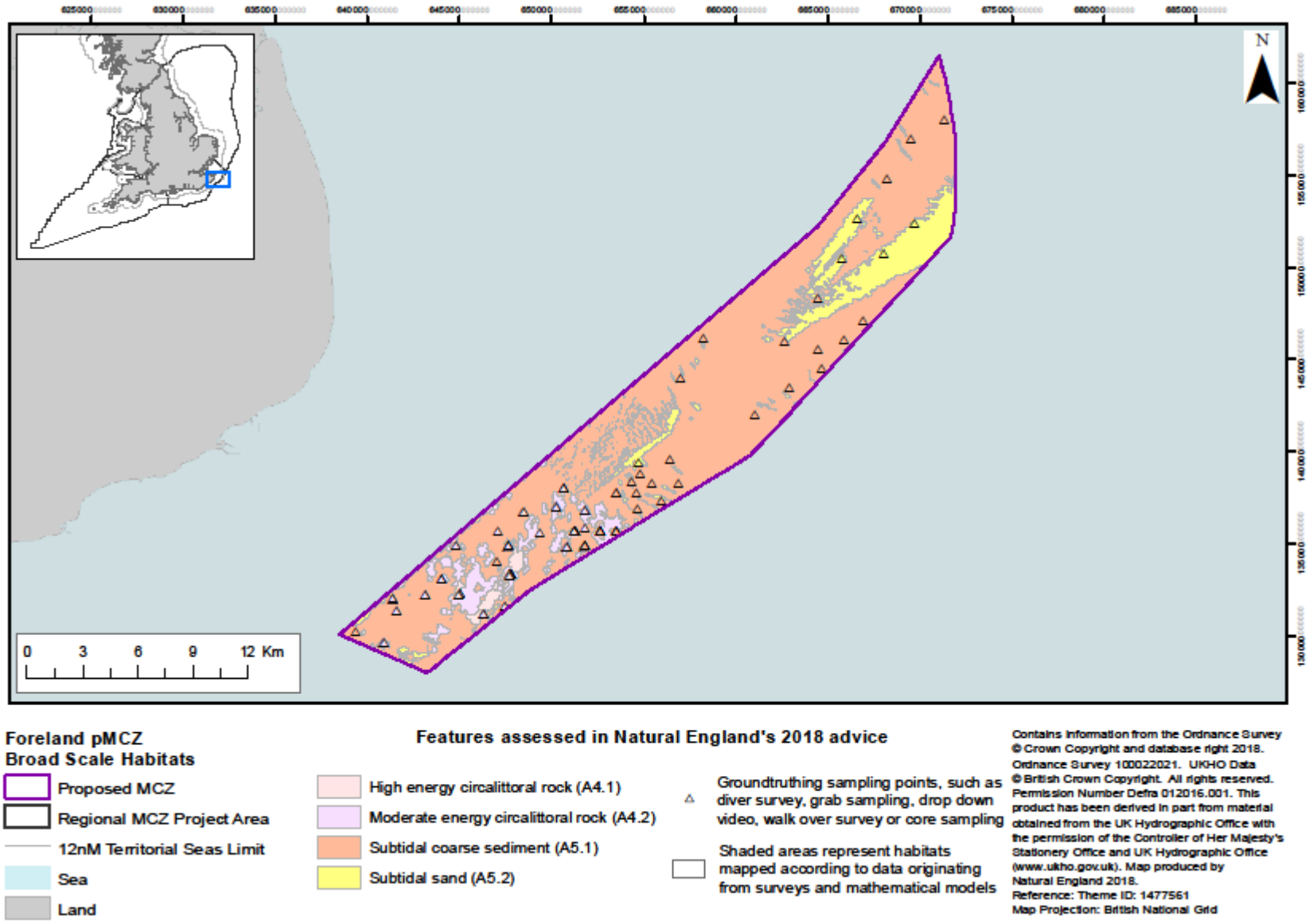


Figure 27 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in Foreland pMCZ

9.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 10 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Foreland pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
English Channel outburst flood features	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
High energy circalittoral rock	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Subtidal coarse sediment	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Subtidal sand	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

9.5 Additional advice

9.5.1 Advice on the site boundary

In 2011 Balanced Seas recommended the boundary of Offshore Foreland pMCZ followed the 12 nautical mile limit and the England-France boundary. In 2014 the England-France boundaries and 12 nautical mile limits changed due to the reformulation of the boundaries and limits to conform with the World Geoditic System 1984 (WGS84) Datum, meaning a strip of the pMCZ was now outside of the 12 nautical mile limit; and a separate area was in French waters. The revised boundary now follows the new 12 nautical mile limit and England-France boundary limits to follow the recommendations of the Balanced Seas recommendations, and does not result in any significant loss of area of any features or negative ecological implications for the site. This boundary amendment has been agreed with Defra prior to the consultation and the advice on this site is based on the amended boundary.

10 Goodwin Sands pMCZ (BS 08)

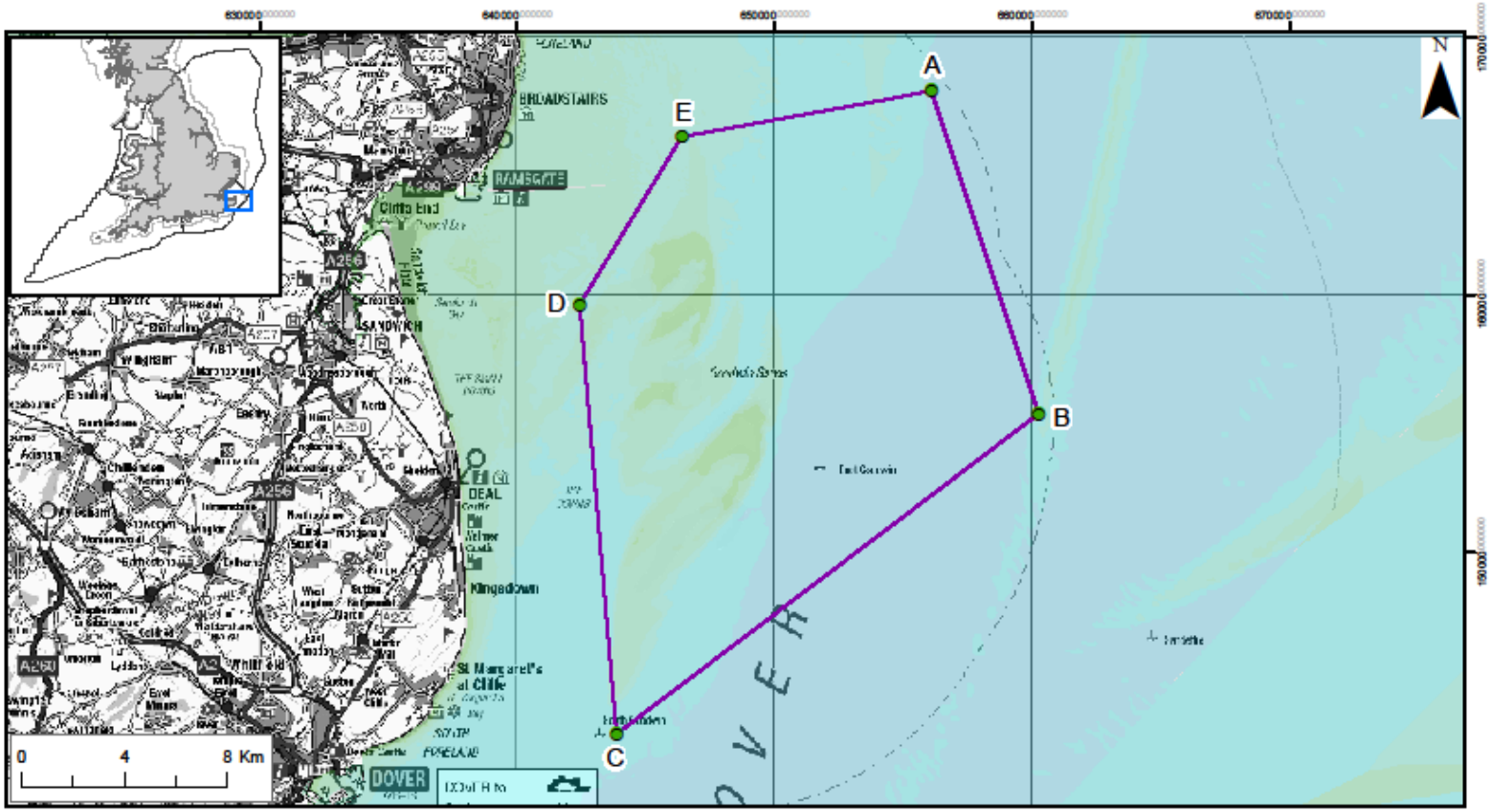
10.1 Site description

The main feature of this site is the Goodwin Sands, a dynamic area of sand and sediments that are constantly changing, with some areas regularly exposed at low tide, providing an important haul out site for the common and grey seal and good foraging grounds for certain bird species. The site also includes deeper areas of subtidal coarse sediment that are known to be of particularly high biodiversity. Other features that Natural England have provided advice on at this site are moderate energy circalittoral rock, ross worm *Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs, subtidal blue mussel *Mytilus edulis* beds and the geological feature English Channel outburst flood features. The site straddles the six nautical mile Fisheries Limit (1983) which lies within the six nautical mile limit.

10.2 Site image

Image 10 Subtidal coarse sediment © JNCC (Please note this photograph is provided as an example of the above habitat and feature only and does not necessarily represent the habitats and features found at the site).

10.3 Site maps



Goodwin Sands rMCZ Boundary

- Recommended MCZ
- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- 6nM Limit
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Land

Point	Lat	Long
A	51° 21' 8.804" N	1° 40' 37.504" E
B	51° 14' 17.689" N	1° 43' 39.935" E
C	51° 8' 0.646" N	1° 29' 4.454" E
D	51° 17' 3.014" N	1° 28' 31.196" E
E	51° 20' 27.260" N	1° 32' 13.339" E

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

Figure 28 Goodwin Sands pMCZ site boundary

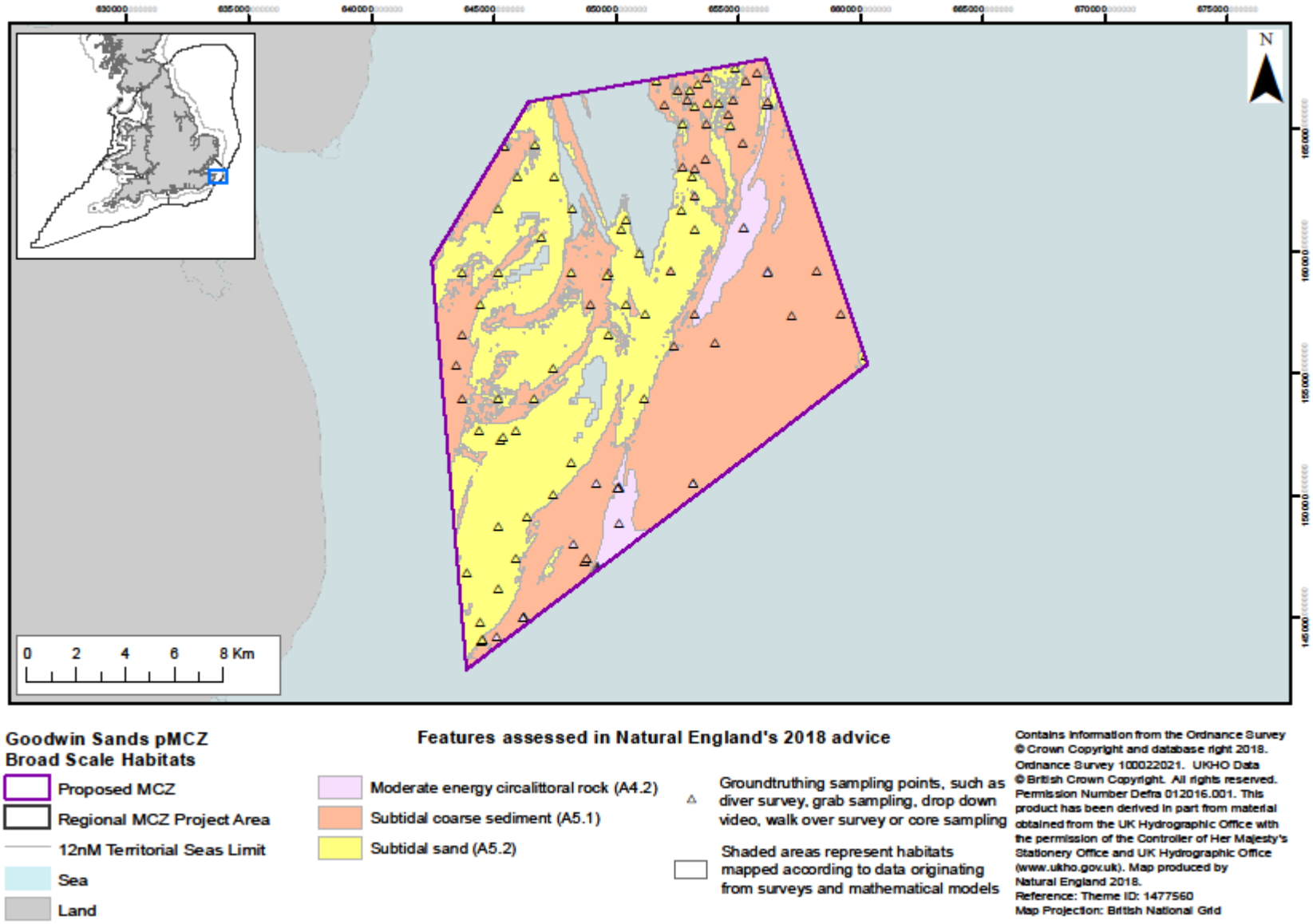


Figure 29 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in Goodwin Sands pMCZ
Produced by Natural England

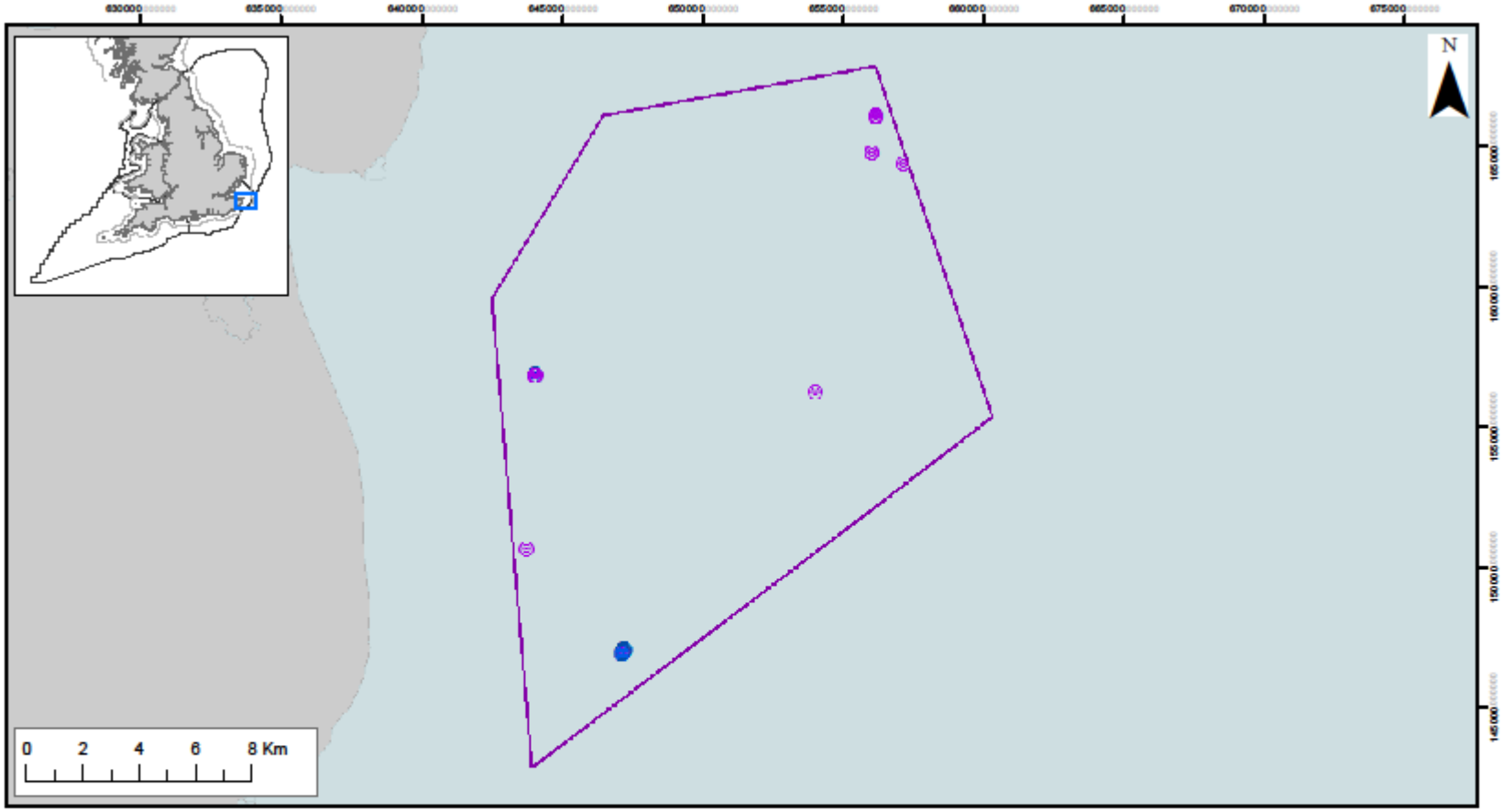


Figure 30 Location of mapped features of conservation importance in Goodwin Sands pMCZ
Produced by Natural England

10.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 11 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Goodwin Sands pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Blue Mussel Beds	High	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	New sensitivity evidence (MarESA) indicates that this feature is more sensitive to this activity than when previously assessed, therefore the feature is more likely to be in unfavourable condition.
English Channel outburst flood features	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Ross worm reefs (*Sabellaria spinulosa*)	High	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Subtidal coarse sediment	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Subtidal sand	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

11 Kentish Knock East pMCZ (BS 30)

11.1 Site description

This site is located outside the six nautical mile boundary line, to the east of the Margate & Longsands SAC and overlapping with the Outer Thames Estuary SPA; it lies adjacent to the Balanced Seas/Net Gain Regional Project boundary. The seabed here is predominantly subtidal coarse sediments (including sands and gravels) and small patches of subtidal sand. Survey data from the area show the coarse sediments contain moderate species richness in relation to others in the region. Persistent thermal fronts and regular summer/winter bird foraging areas highlight that the area has high pelagic biodiversity.

This site was introduced into the developing network at the end of May 2011, following a Regional Seas Group (RSG) request to identify suitable areas to meet shortfall broad-scale habitats, particularly Subtidal coarse sediment. Given the distribution of this particular habitat, three areas were suggested in the Outer Thames Estuary, all of which were considered to have an impact on the fishing fleet, but this site was considered to have the lowest impact.

The RSG and local stakeholders subsequently adjusted the boundaries to reduce the impact on the fishing fleet and avoid the aggregate licence area. The site now extends beyond the 12 nautical mile boundary to capture the entire sediment bank and three broad-scale habitats: Subtidal coarse sediment, Subtidal mixed sediment and Subtidal sand.

11.2 Site image

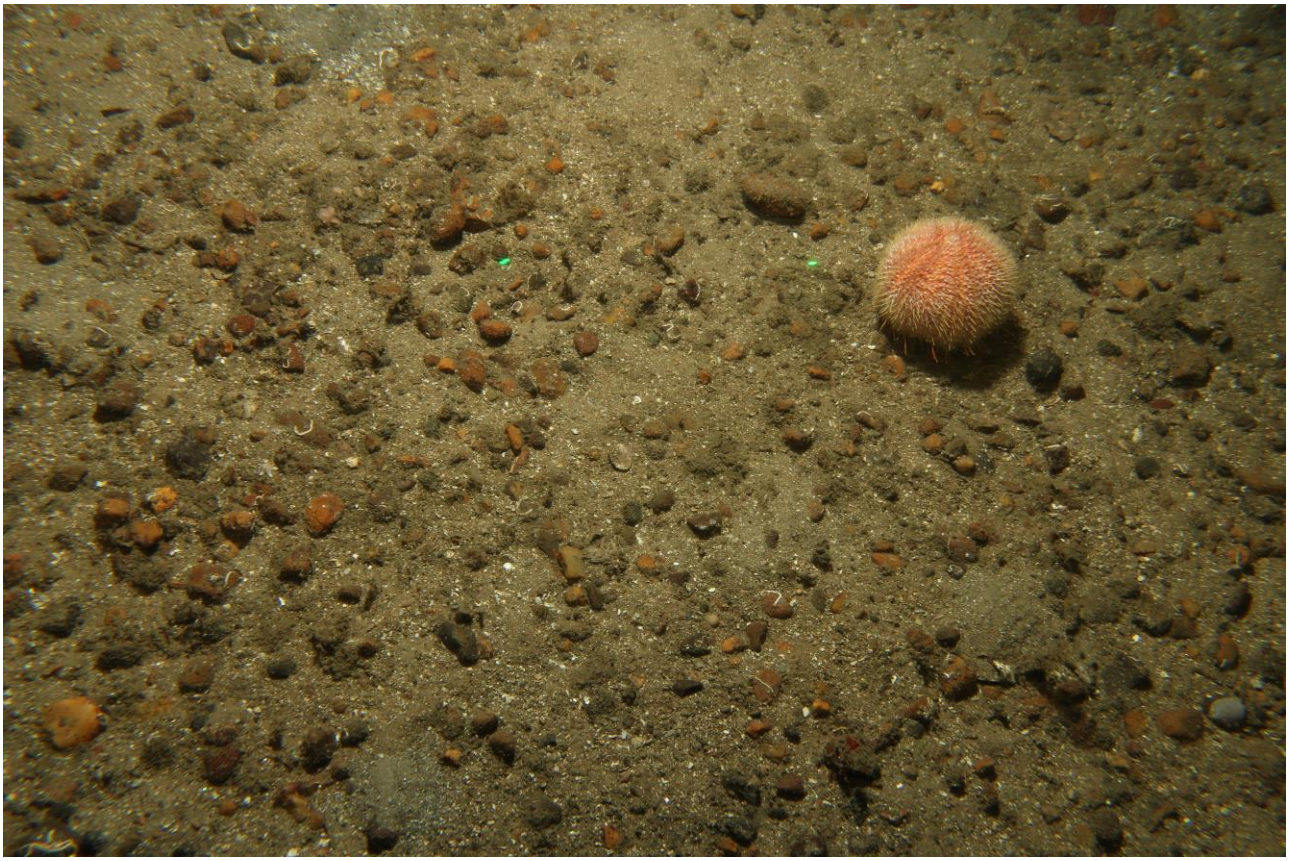
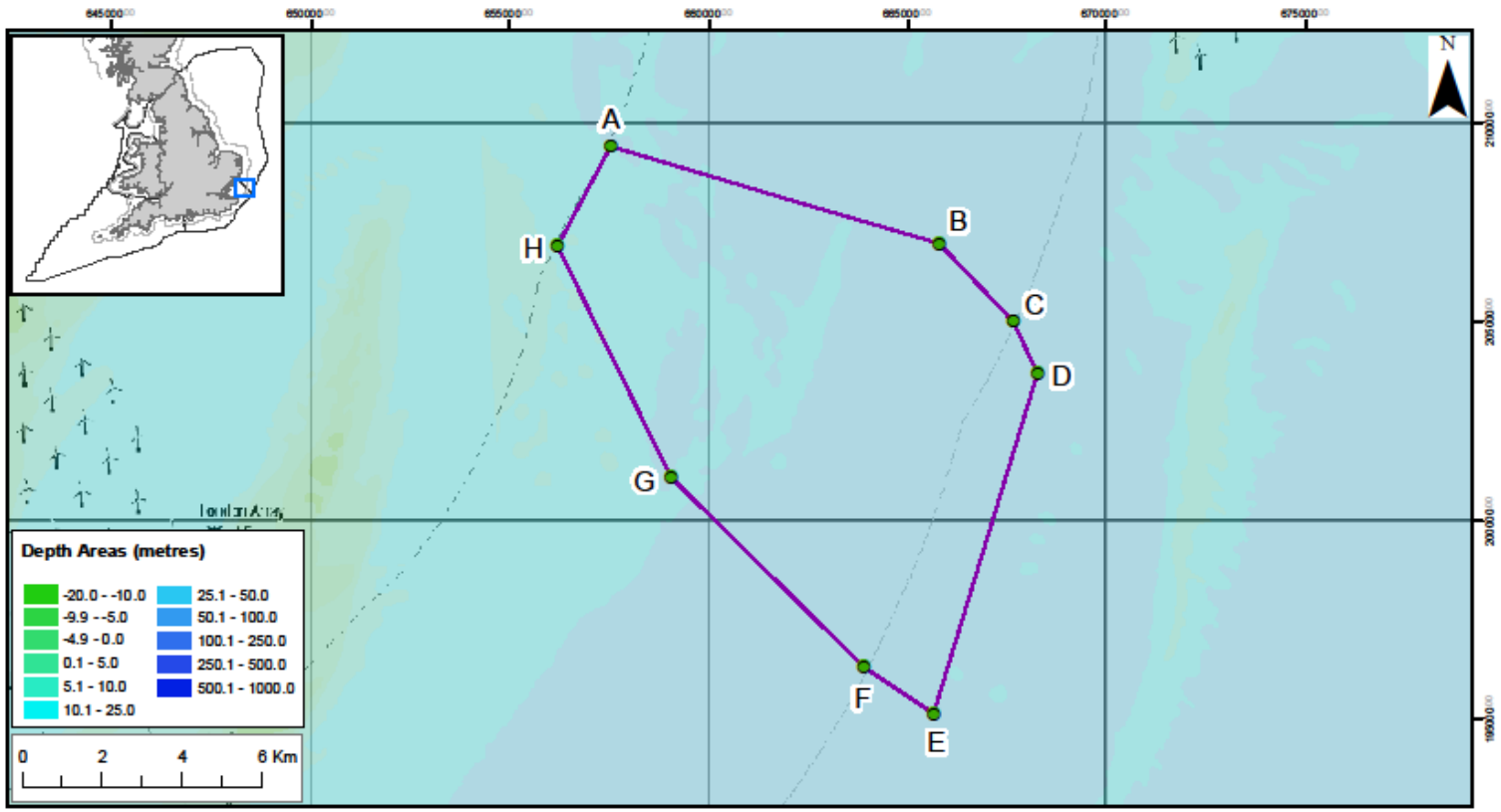


Image 11 Sea urchin on subtidal coarse sediment © Crown Copyright (Please note this photograph is an example of the above habitat and feature only and does not necessarily represent the habitats and features found at the site).

11.3 Site maps



Point	Lat	Long	Point	Lat	Long
A	51° 43' 27.082" N	1° 43' 39.857" E	E	51° 35' 32.819" N	1° 50' 3.830" E
B	51° 41' 54.328" N	1° 50' 41.863" E	F	51° 36' 13.336" N	1° 48' 34.864" E
C	51° 40' 48.555" N	1° 52' 14.579" E	G	51° 38' 56.059" N	1° 44' 35.832" E
D	51° 40' 5.015" N	1° 52' 42.988" E	H	51° 42' 8.996" N	1° 42' 24.106" E

Figure 31 Kentish Knock East pMCZ site boundary

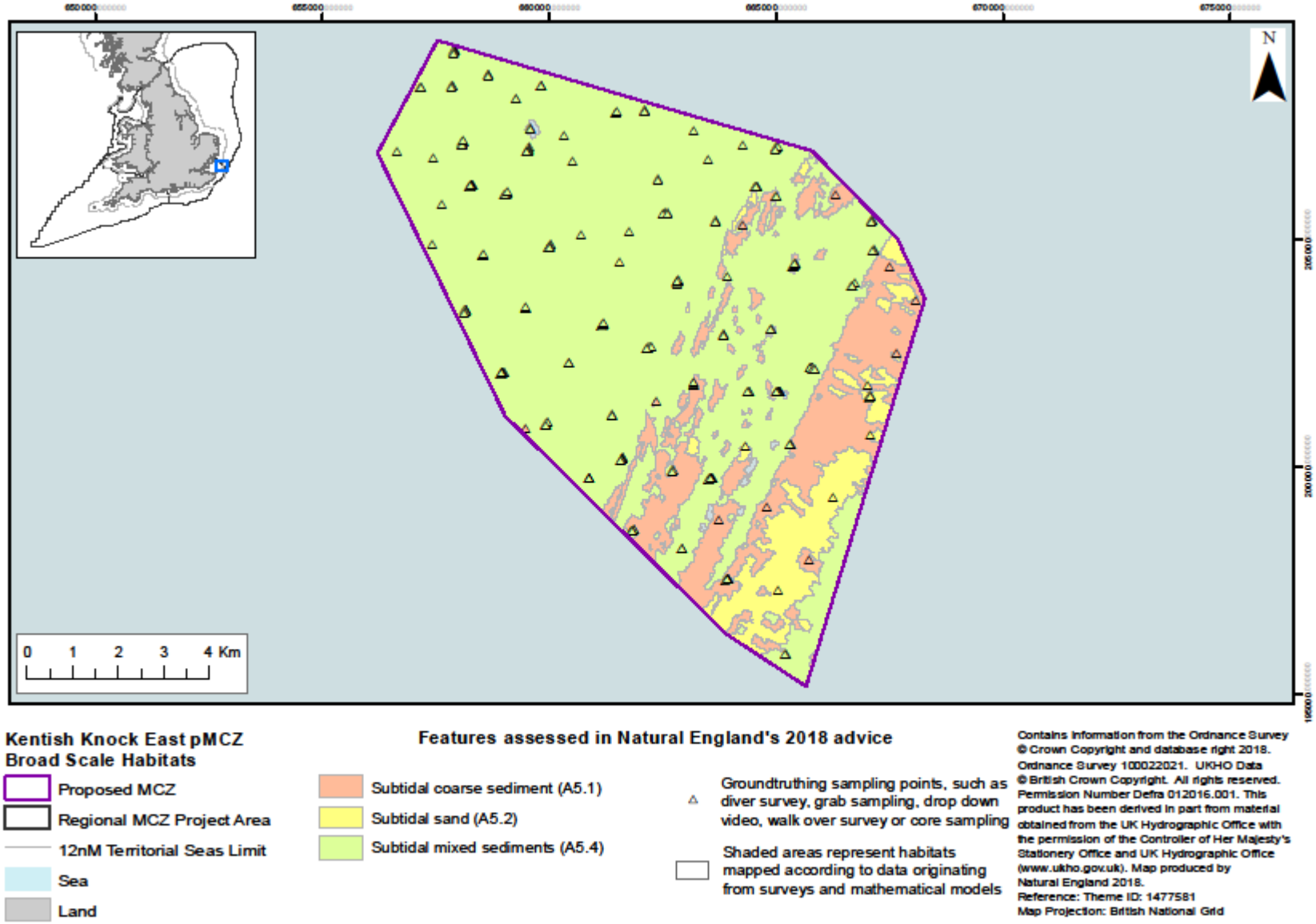


Figure 32 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in Kentish Knock East pMCZ
Produced by Natural England

11.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 12 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Kentish Knock East pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Subtidal coarse sediment	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Subtidal mixed sediments	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Subtidal sand	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

12 Morte Platform pMCZ (FS 44)

12.1 Site description

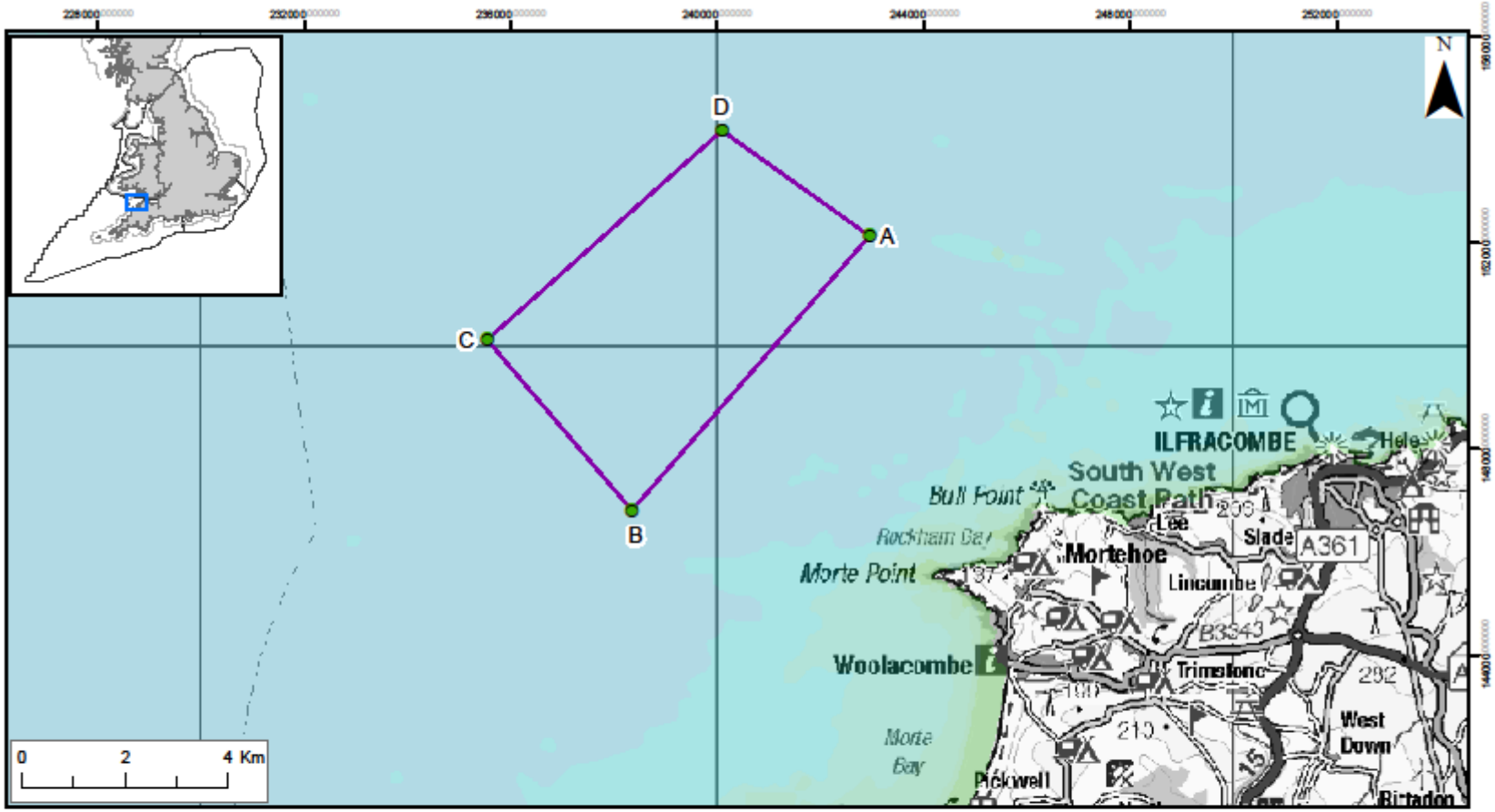
The Morte Platform is an area of rocky outcrops surrounded by sediment, approximately five kilometres off Baggy Point in North Devon. The depth of the area ranges between 35 and 40 metres below sea level.

The area was initially put forward by the North Devon Biosphere Reserve Marine Working Group through the Devon Local Group (with support from cross-sector stakeholders, including representatives of the fishing and renewable energy sectors), who highlighted the higher than average species diversity of the site when compared to the south west in general. The seabed includes rich communities of subtidal living reefs including ross worm reefs and mussel beds which provide shelter for other marine species. The higher than average seabed diversity and mixture of habitats found in this site are rarely seen elsewhere and are the result of the unusual physical conditions of the seabed.

12.2 Site image

Image 12 Moderate energy circalittoral rock © Crown Copyright (Please note this photograph is provided as an example of the above habitat and feature only and does not necessarily represent the habitats and features found at the site).

12.3 Site maps



Morte Platform rMCZ Boundary

- Recommended MCZ
- Regional MCZ project area
- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- 6nM Limit
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Land

Point	Lat	Long
A	51° 14' 48.231" N	4° 15' 5.418" W
B	51° 11' 51.061" N	4° 18' 53.550" W
C	51° 13' 35.433" N	4° 21' 23.116" W
D	51° 15' 51.044" N	4° 17' 35.567" 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

Figure 33 Morte Platform pMCZ site boundary

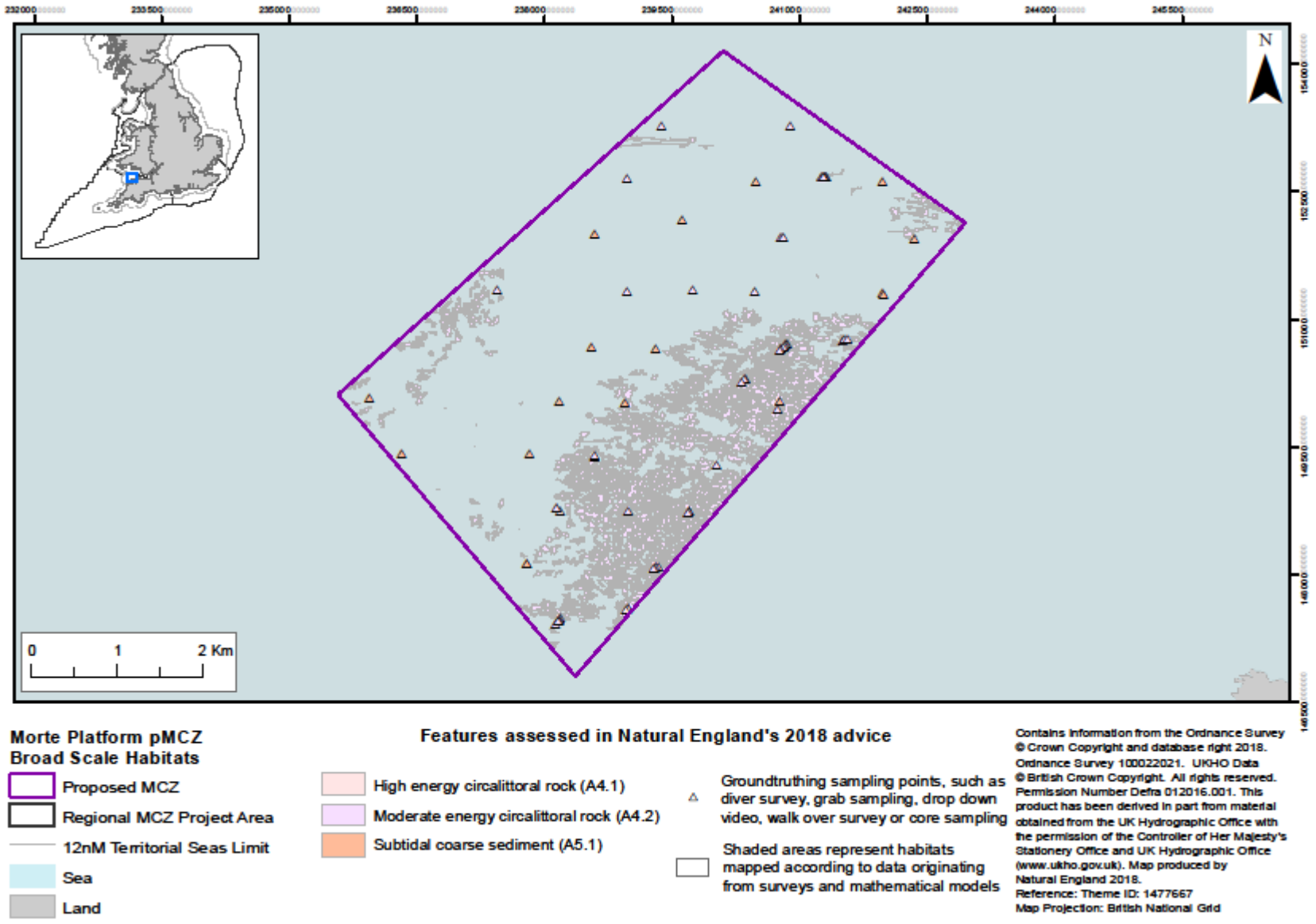


Figure 34 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in Morte Platform pMCZ

12.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 13 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Morte Platform pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
High energy circalittoral rock	High	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Subtidal coarse sediment	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

13 Orford Inshore pMCZ (NG 01b)

13.1 Site description

Subtidal mixed sediments cover the majority of the site, in water depths of between 20 and 30 metres. The site lies approximately 14.36 kilometres off the East of England coastline, offshore from the Alde Ore Estuary, mostly within the 6 to 12 nautical mile limits (and with a small portion beyond the 12 nautical mile limit). The site is of high importance as a nursery and spawning ground for fish species such as Dover sole, lemon sole, sprat and sand eels. Skates, rays, small spotted catsharks and several crustacean species are also found here. The site is thought to be important for foraging seabirds, such as the black-legged kittiwake, northern fulmar, northern gannet and Sandwich tern.**Site image**

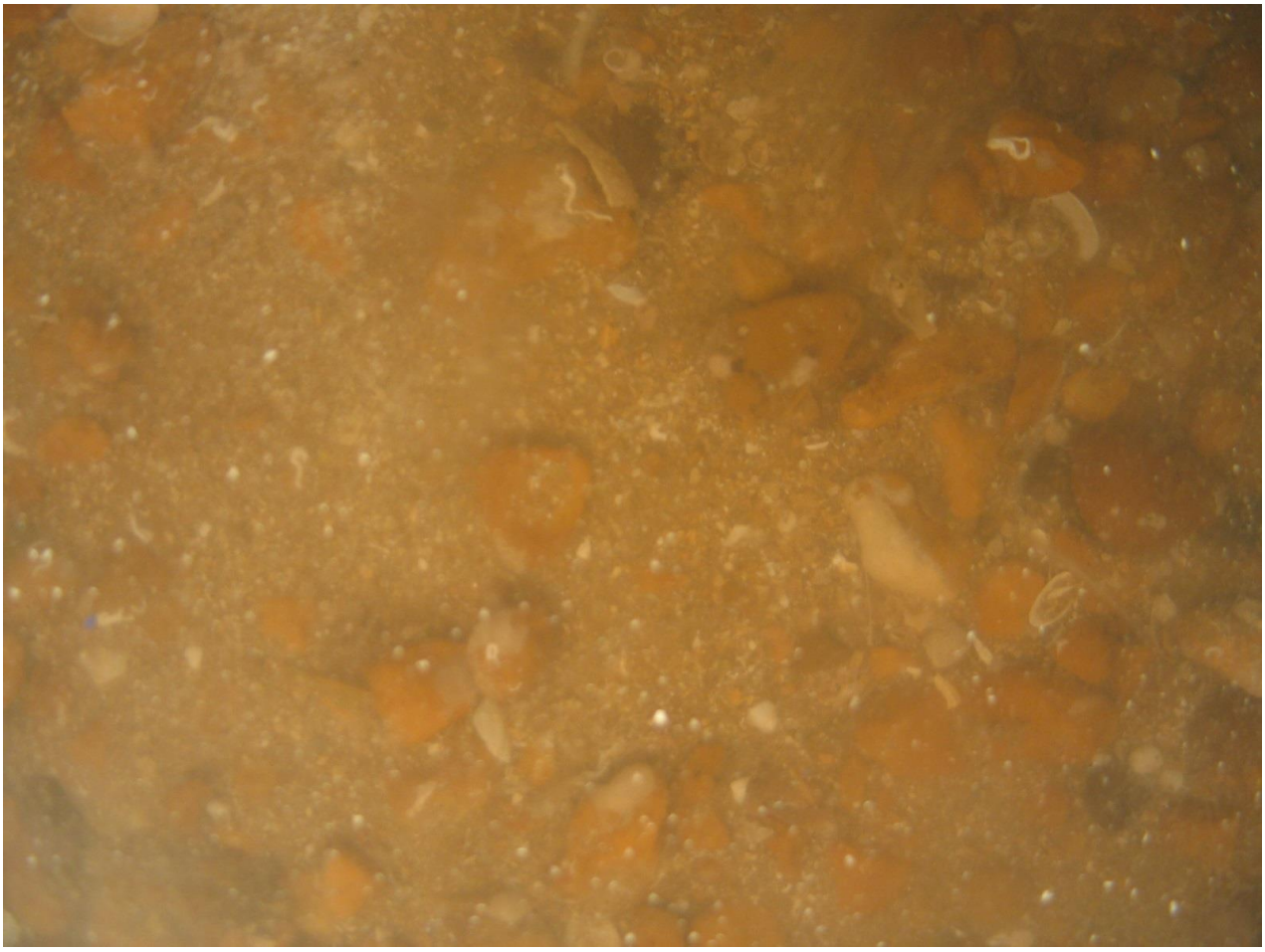
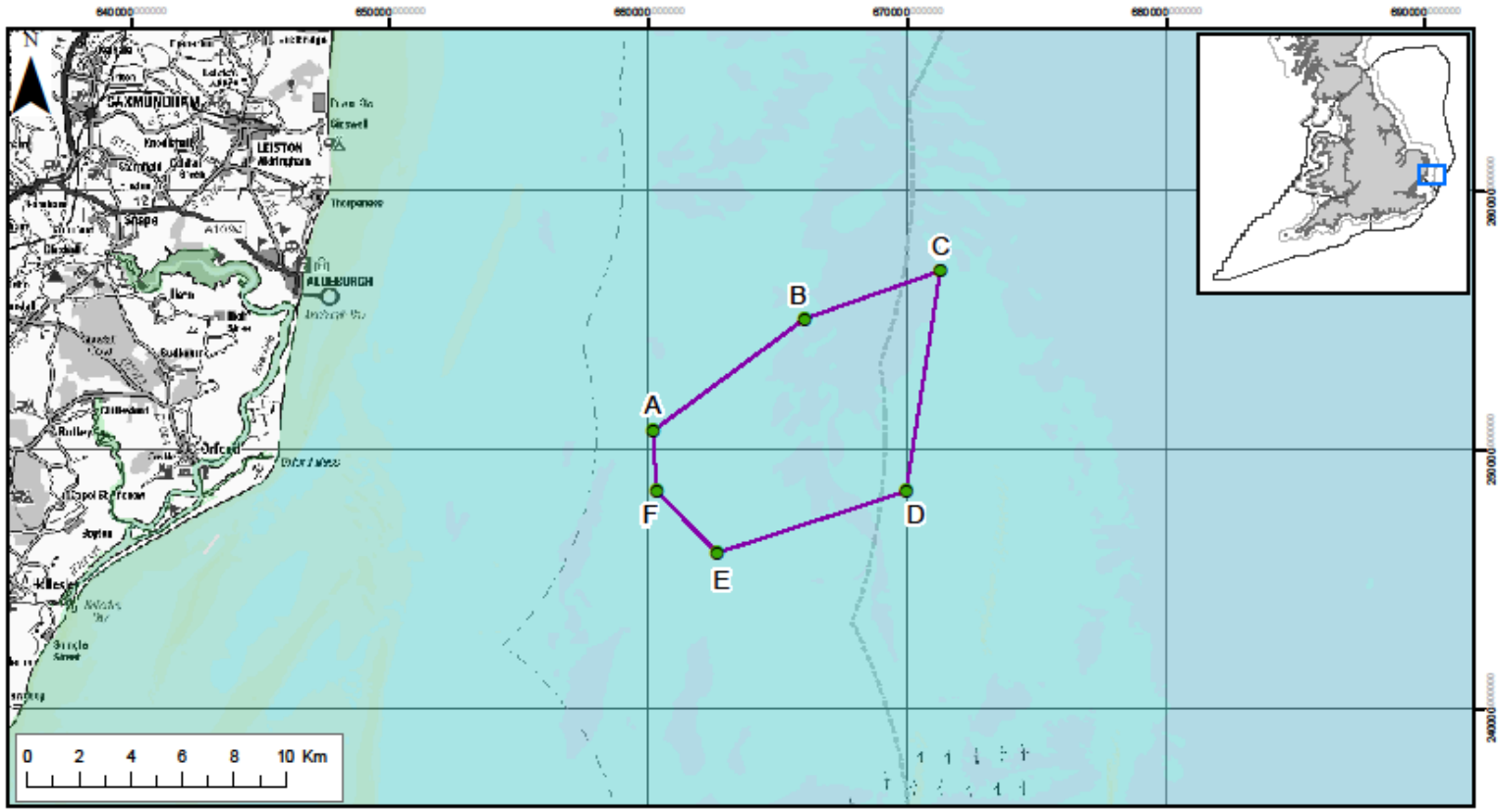


Image 13 Orford Inshore subtidal mixed sediment. CEFAS March 2012 as part of Orford Inshore pMCZ Post-Survey Site Report 2014 © Natural England

13.3 Site maps



Point	Lat	Long
A	52° 5' 37.225" N	1° 47' 48.720" E
B	52° 7' 47.332" N	1° 53' 9.916" E
C	52° 8' 37.192" N	1° 57' 49.886" E
D	52° 4' 4.088" N	1° 56' 14.905" E
E	52° 3' 0.375" N	1° 49' 47.154" E
F	52° 4' 21.240" N	1° 47' 50.697" E

Figure 35 Orford Inshore pMCZ site boundary

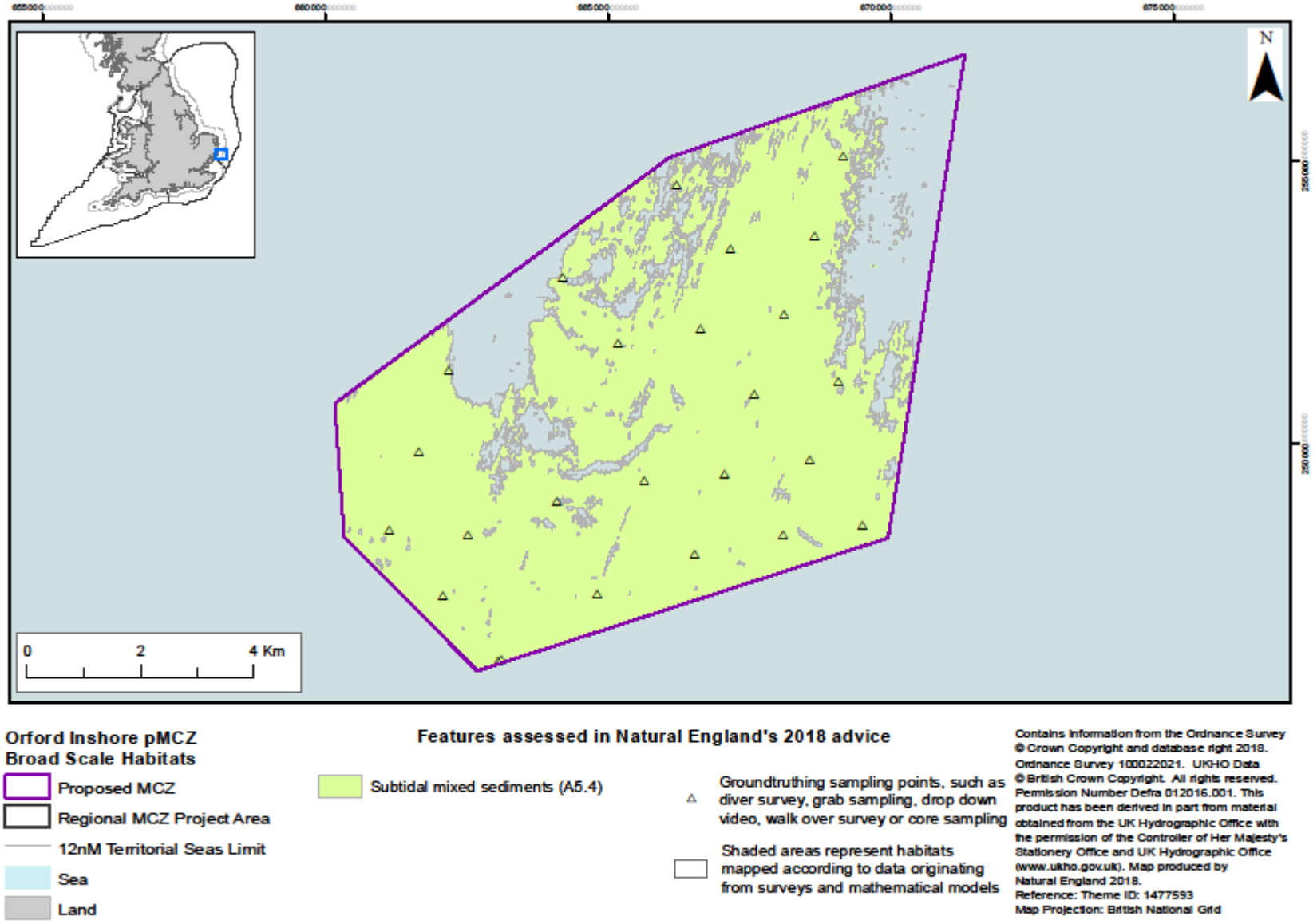


Figure 36 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in Orford Inshore pMCZ

13.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 14 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Orford Inshore pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Subtidal mixed sediments	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

14 Otter Estuary pMCZ (FS 21)

14.1 Site description

The Otter Estuary pMCZ is a small estuarine site on the south coast of Devon, 19 kilometres south east of Exeter, adjacent to the town of Budleigh Salterton. The Estuary has been identified as a pMCZ because of its' extensive intertidal mud flats, other sediment habitats, coastal saltmarsh and saline reedbeds.

Flowing due south, the lower two kilometre reach of the River Otter is bounded by a sea embankment to the west and sandstone cliff (of up to 10 metres high) to the east. The estuary broadens to a maximum width of 500 metres. Here the deep, fine alluvium has enabled a well-developed pan and creek system to form. A shingle barrier running eastwards from the west shore virtually closes the estuary from the sea with the river entering through a five metre gap. Behind the barrier the relatively extensive marsh constitutes a rich diversity of flora and fauna, forming a natural flood defence. The intertidal mud at this site is ecologically linked to the saltmarsh and saline reedbed habitat, with several distinct communities of mud-dwelling invertebrates in the estuary.

This variety of species, together with adjacent habitats, provides food and shelter for a corresponding variety of bird species, some of which can be present in large numbers, principally curlew and lapwing. The area is an important additional feeding station for birds from the nearby Exe Estuary, especially during severe weather (English Nature 2001).

The estuary is also a nursery area for fish (including bass), with supporting benthic habitats. One of the reasons for the inclusion of this and other estuarine pMCZs in the network was in recognition of the added ecological importance of estuaries in terms of productivity, and their ecological function as nursery areas. The endangered European eel has also been recorded here.

14.2 Site image

Image 14 Otter Estuary image from Ecospan verification survey 2013 – report commissioned by Natural England © Natural England

14.3 Site maps

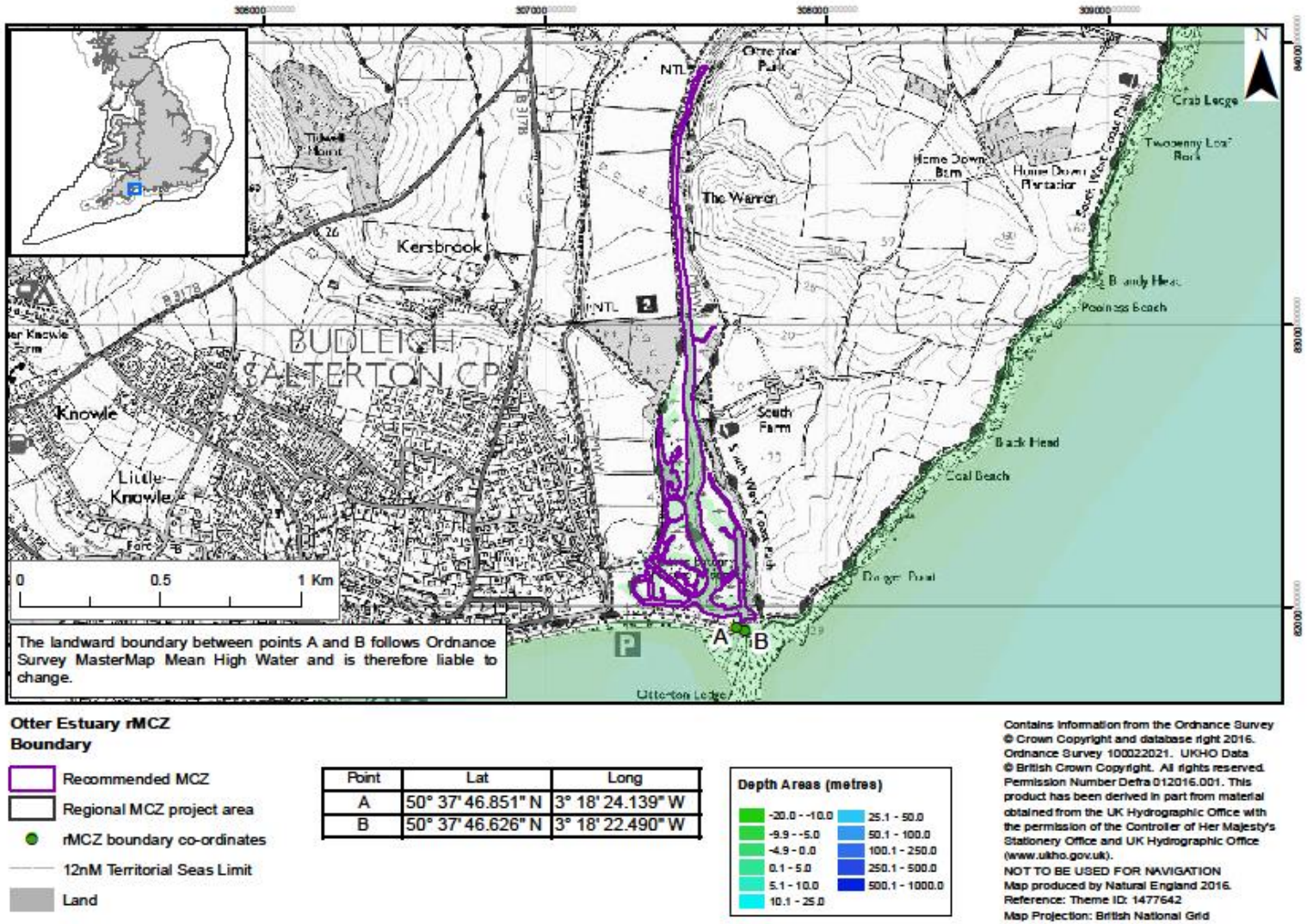


Figure 37 Otter Estuary pMCZ site boundary

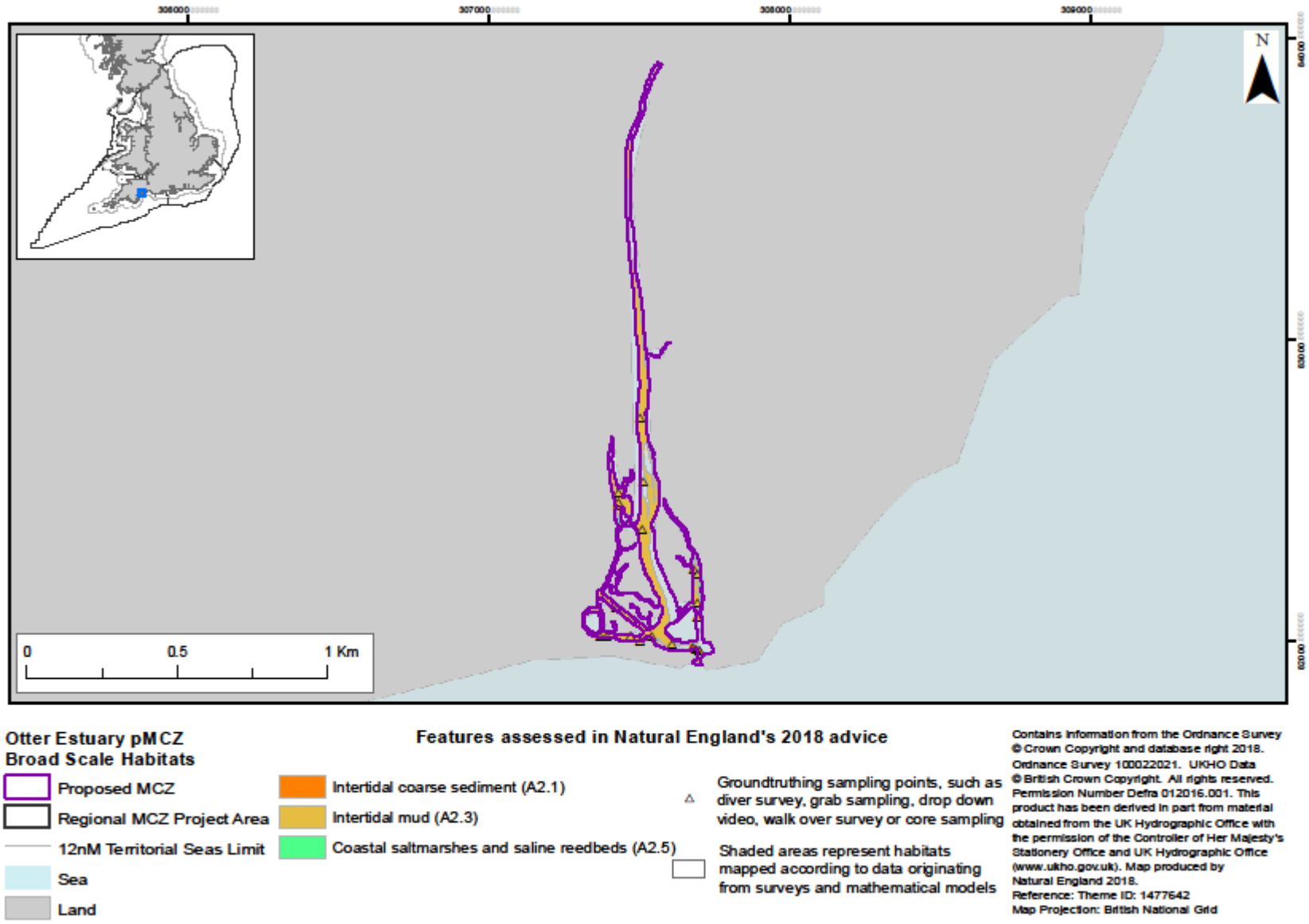


Figure 38 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in Otter Estuary pMCZ

14.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 15 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Otter Estuary pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Intertidal coarse sediment	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Intertidal mud	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

15 Selsey Bill and the Hounds pMCZ (BS 25.2)

15.1 Site description

The site captures the unusual outcropping rock features that run along the mean low water limit on the western side of Selsey Bill, and extends out seawards to include the Hounds in the north-west and the rocky features off the headland itself. Survey data show the seabed to consist of, subtidal sand, coarse and mixed sediments as well as large areas of infralittoral rock in the western region of the site. The distinctive attributes here are the unusual outcrops of limestone and clay exposures (the Hounds, the Malt Owers, the Streets, the Grounds and the Mixon), some of which may be exposed at low tide. Along the north western coastline, a section of the geological feature, Bracklesham Bay, is incorporated into the site boundaries, where the Earnley Clay Formation exposes Eocene fossils along the beach.

This site is well known for its high biodiversity created by the unusual seabed topography and indicated by the benthic biotope richness data. In the south east of the site is the Mixon Hole, a dramatic 20 metre drop in the seafloor exposing clay cliffs capped with limestone and supporting a rich diversity of habitats and species (designated as a marine Site of Nature Conservation Importance (mSNCI)[6] by East and West Sussex County Councils).

15.2 Site image

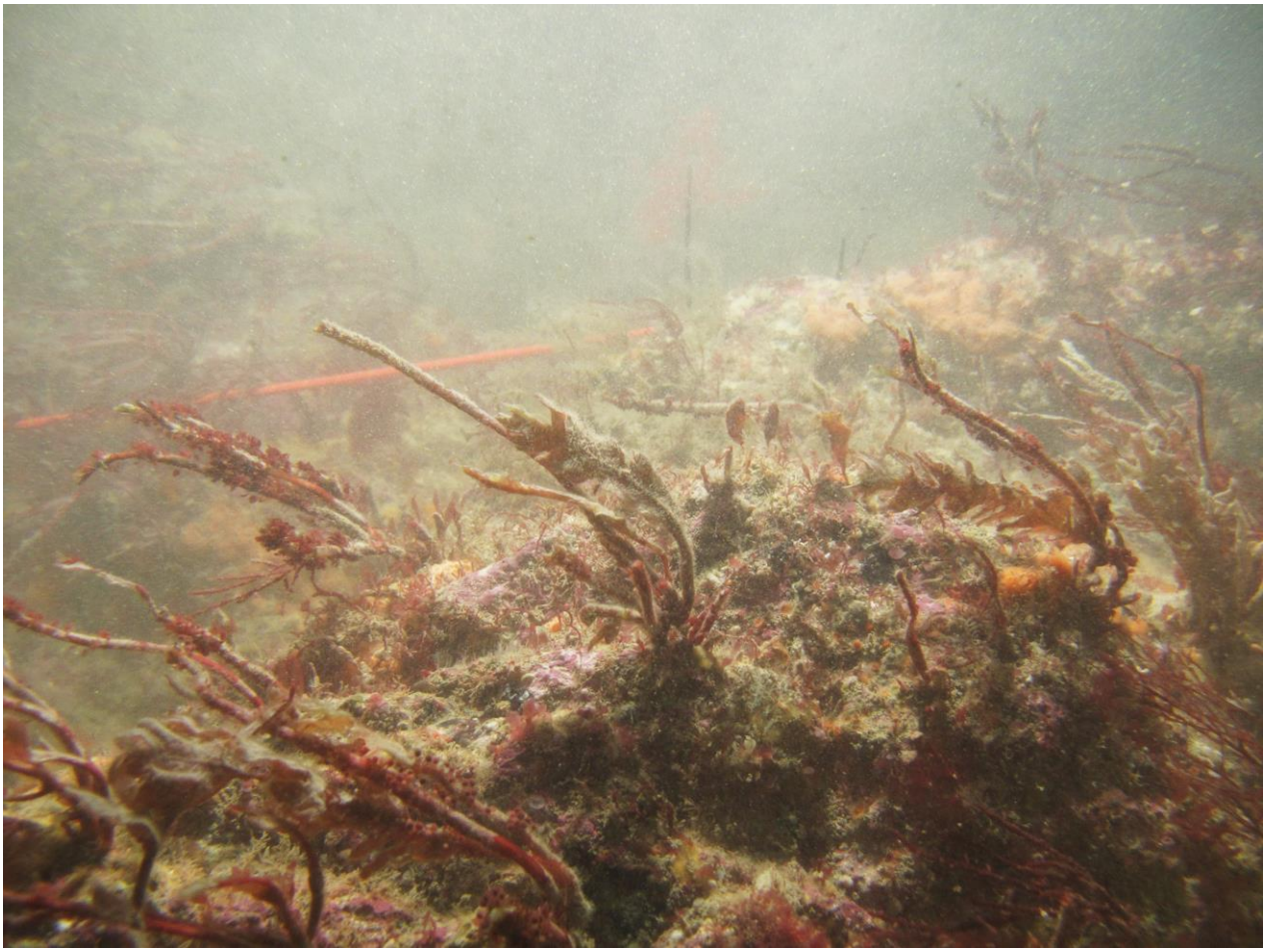
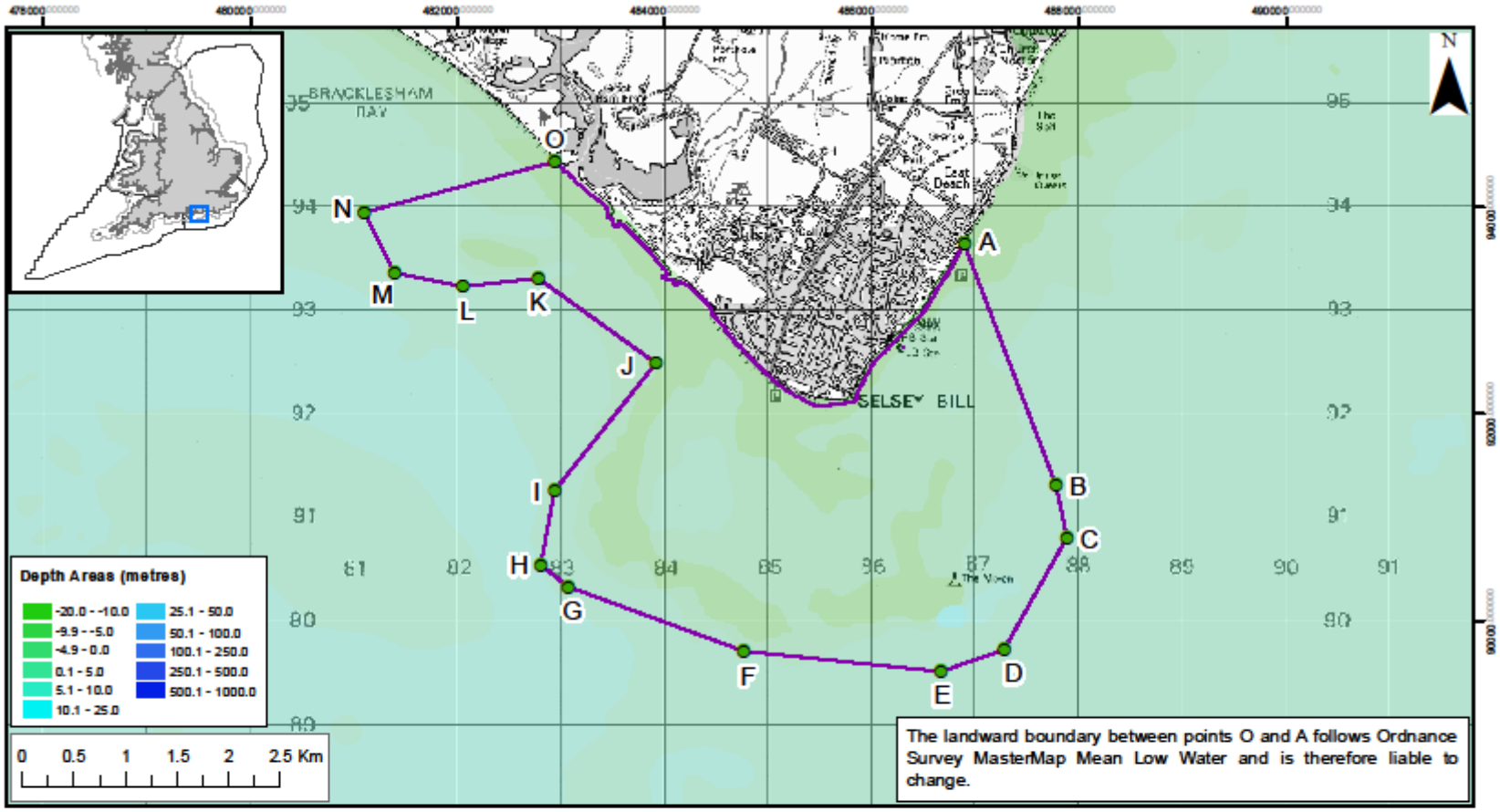


Image 15 Moderate energy infralittoral rock © Crown Copyright (Please note this photograph is provided as an example of the above habitat and feature only and does not necessarily represent the habitats and features found at the site).

[6] mSNCI's are voluntary designations identified by local authorities in partnership with other agencies with the aim of protecting habitats and wildlife and encouraging sensitive management

15.3 Site maps



Selsey Bill and the Hounds rMCZ Boundary

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

Point	Lat	Long	Point	Lat	Long
A	50° 44' 9.321" N	0° 46' 12.283" W	I	50° 42' 54.145" N	0° 49' 35.581" W
B	50° 42' 53.121" N	0° 45' 29.012" W	J	50° 43' 33.547" N	0° 48' 44.922" W
C	50° 42' 37.111" N	0° 45' 23.401" W	K	50° 44' 0.491" N	0° 49' 42.549" W
D	50° 42' 2.270" N	0° 45' 55.797" W	L	50° 43' 58.558" N	0° 50' 19.171" W
E	50° 41' 55.400" N	0° 46' 26.801" W	M	50° 44' 3.203" N	0° 50' 53.283" W
F	50° 42' 2.854" N	0° 48' 4.116" W	N	50° 44' 22.247" N	0° 51' 7.166" W
G	50° 42' 24.024" N	0° 49' 29.523" W	O	50° 44' 36.850" N	0° 49' 32.878" W
H	50° 42' 31.101" N	0° 49' 42.973" W			

Figure 39 Location of Selsey Bill and the Hounds pMCZ site boundary

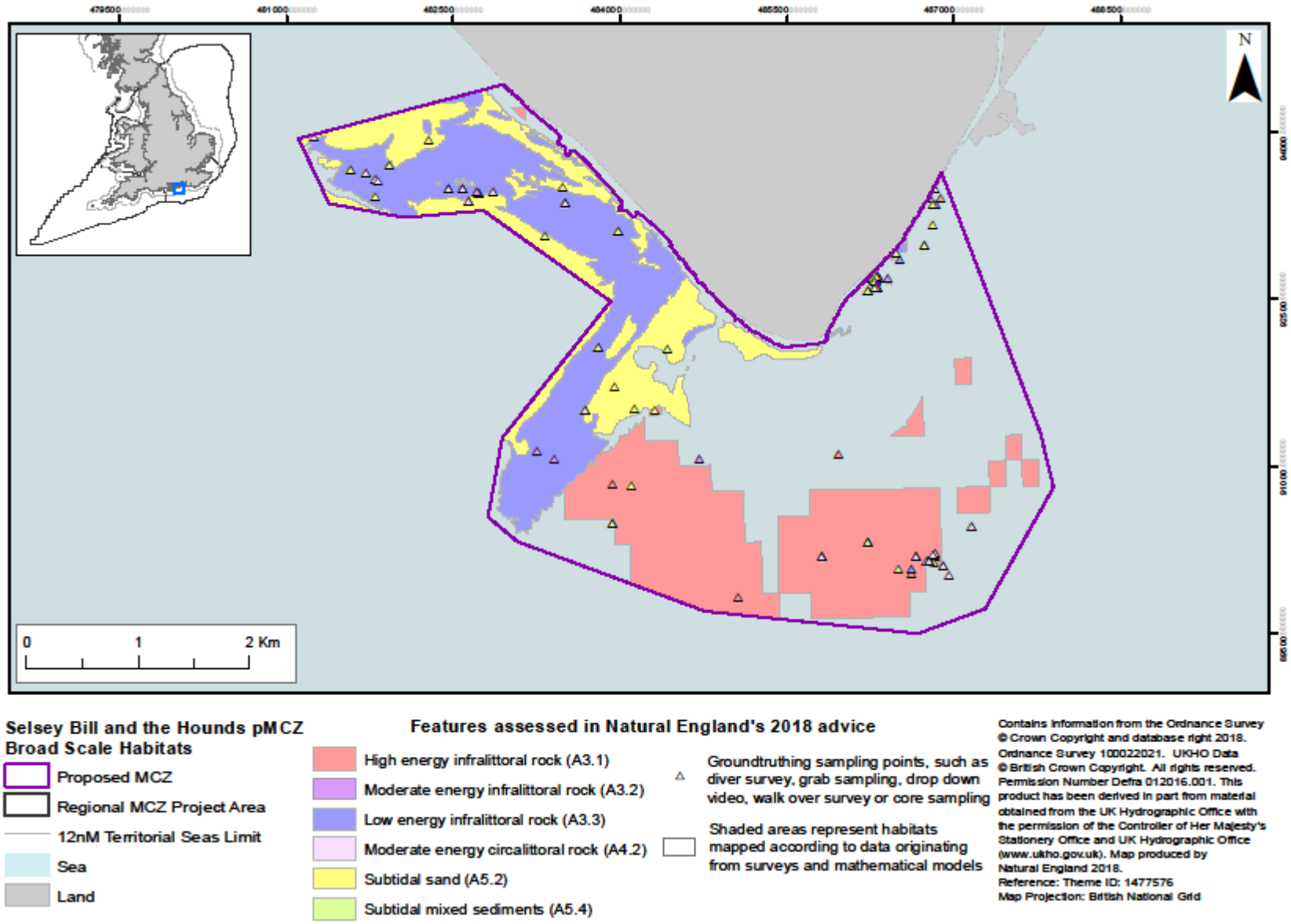


Figure 40 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in Selsey Bill and the Hounds pMCZ

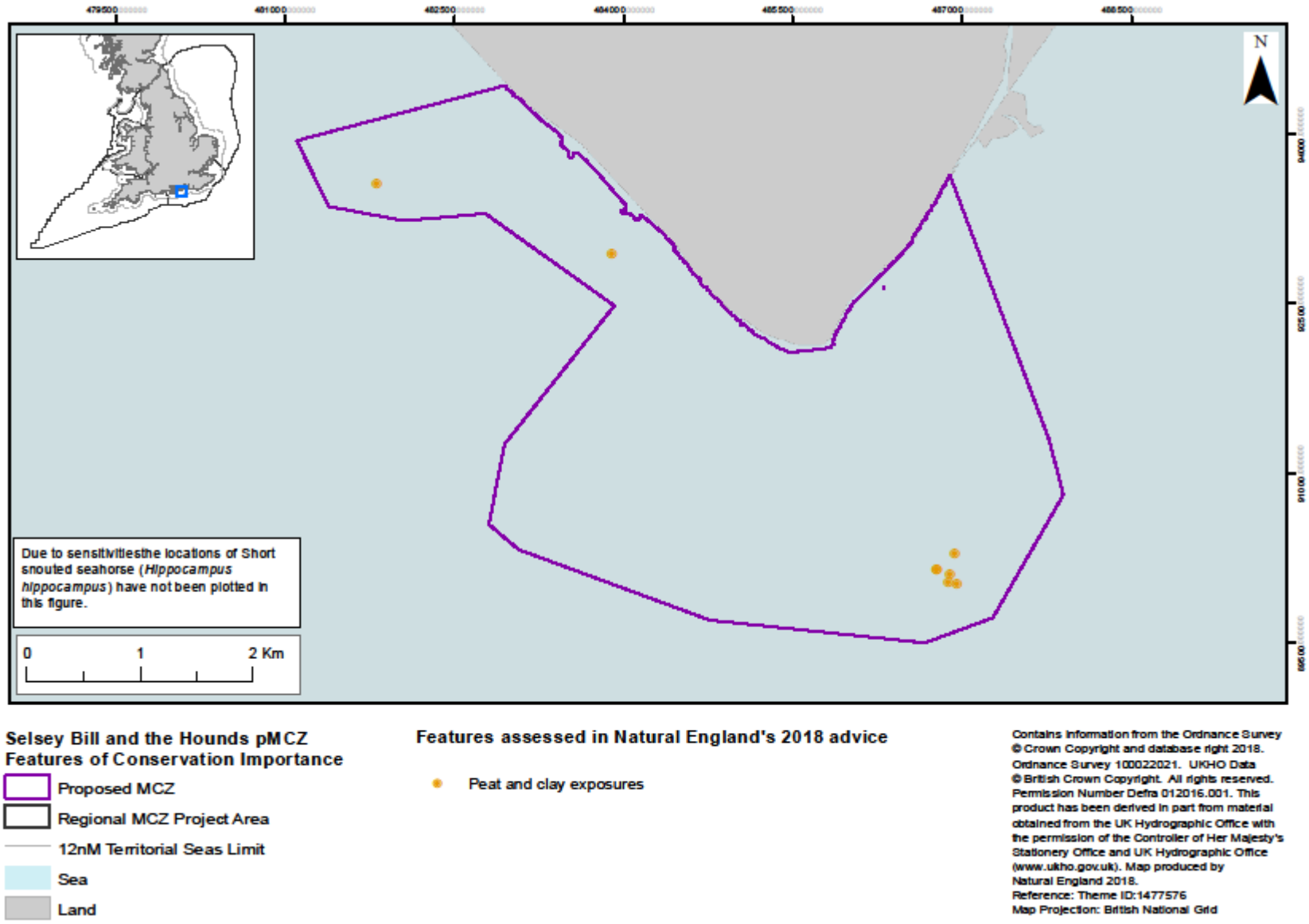


Figure 41 Location of mapped features of conservation importance in Selsey Bill and the Hounds pMCZ

15.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 16 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Selsey Bill and the Hounds pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Bracklesham Bay	High	Low	Favourable	Maintain	No change
High energy infralittoral rock	Moderate	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Moderate	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Low energy infralittoral rock	Moderate	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Moderate	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Peat and clay exposures	Moderate	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Short snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus hippocampus*)	Moderate	Moderate	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Subtidal mixed sediments	Moderate	Moderate	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Subtidal sand	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

15.5 Additional advice

15.5.1 Additional on Bracklesham Bay geological feature

This feature was identified through the stakeholder process to ensure the feature was fully protected subtidally beyond the scope of existing designations. There are a series of geological interest features that are exposed on, and underlie, the foreshore. These features were identified by the Geological Conservation Review. These include Eocene sediments belonging to the Bracklesham Group and their associated fossil assemblages, in particular the palaeoflora and fish assemblages. Quaternary sediments are also present forming channel fills incised into the underlying Eocene sediments and contain organic horizons that provide palaeoecological information as well as allowing these sediments to be dated. These features extend below mean low tide and under the right conditions are accessible for study. We have limited evidence for the subtidal extent of this feature, so confidence in the extent of this feature is low although it is clearly visible in the intertidal area on aerial photography. We therefore still recommend that this feature is considered for designation.

16 South of Portland pMCZ (FS 18)

16.1 Site description

This pMCZ is located approximately half a kilometre to the south-west of Portland Bill, covering an area of approximately 18 km^2. The pMCZ is in the 30 to 60 metre depth range. The site encompasses a portion of the geological / geomorphological feature of importance, Portland Deep. This is a depression in the seabed off the south-west of Portland Bill, and the area is characterised by strong tidal streams (the Portland Race). The north-western corner of the site includes an area of coarse and sandy sediment ripples on the seabed. The southern and western side of Portland has been mapped as an area of higher than average benthic species diversity. The site was recommended in order to protect the unique area of seabed within the Portland Deep, as well as to contribute to the Ecological Network Guidance targets for the network as a whole (JNCC 2016).

16.2 Site image

Image 16 Moderate energy circalittoral rock © Crown Copyright (Please note this photograph is provided as an example of the above habitat and feature only and does not necessarily represent the habitats and features found at the site).

16.3 Site maps

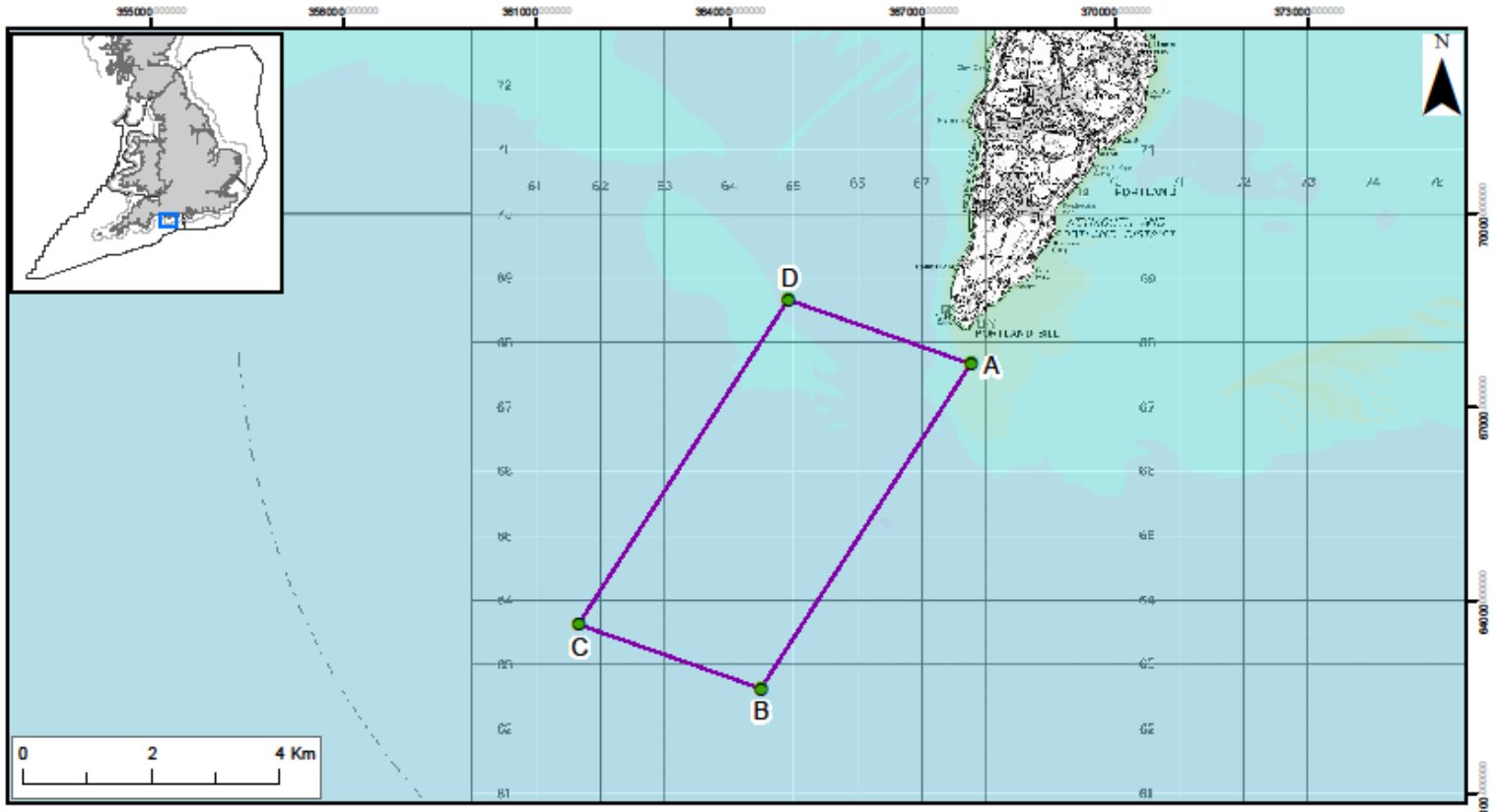


Figure 42 South of Portland pMCZ site boundary

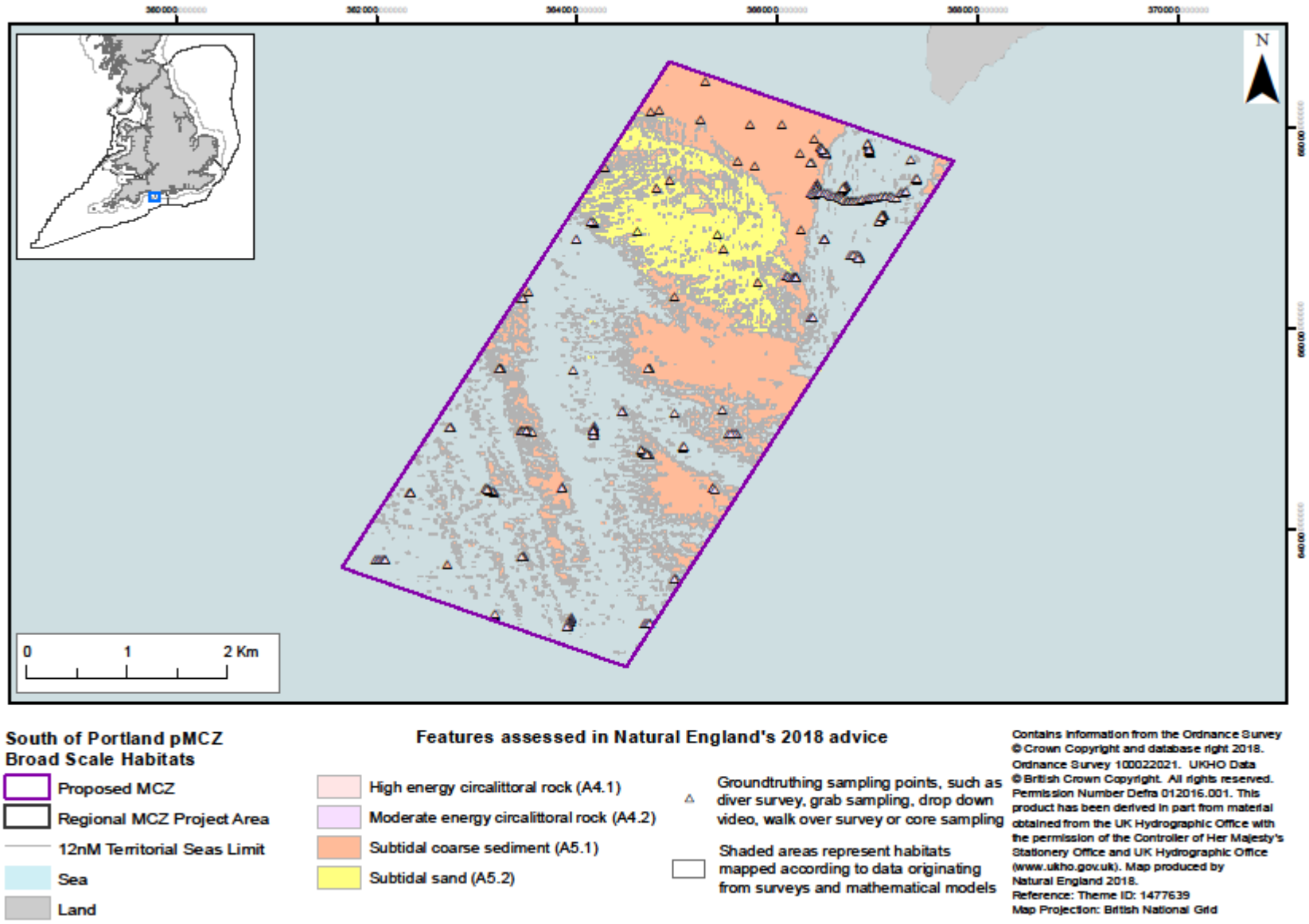


Figure 43 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in South of Portland pMCZ

16.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 17 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the South of Portland pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
High energy circalittoral rock	High	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	High	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Portland Deep	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Subtidal coarse sediment	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Subtidal mixed sediments	Low	Low	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Subtidal sand	Moderate	Moderate	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

16.5 Additional advice

16.5.1 Advice on specific features

16.5.1.1 Subtidal mixed sediments in South of Portland pMCZ

In the Eastern Channel region, this feature is present in South of Portland pMCZ. If designated, this site would contribute to filling the gap identified for the subtidal mixed sediments feature (A5.4) in the existing MPA network. Currently only 8.9% of an ENG target of 16% of this feature is protected within the region (JNCC, 2016).

Current assessments have concluded low confidence in both the presence and extent of subtidal mixed sediments within South of Portland pMCZ. These calculations are based on limited data of one feature level ground-truthing point (A5.4) and a number of parent feature (subtidal sediment, A5) level ground-truthing points. Both the feature level and parent feature level points occur within a polygon of subtidal coarse sediment (A5.1) in which we have high confidence in both presence and extent.

Due to the mixed nature of the features within the site; predominantly rock, coarse sediment and sand, current expert judgement supports the likelihood of subtidal mixed sediments occurring within the South of Portland pMCZ.

The assessed risk level for this feature shows moderate/high vulnerability to fishing activity within the site. Therefore, on the basis of risk to the feature, as well as the contribution of the feature to the MPA network adequacy targets within the Eastern Channel region, we advise further consideration of the subtidal mixed sediment feature for designation within the South of Portland pMCZ on nature conservation grounds.

17 Studland Bay pMCZ (FS 15)

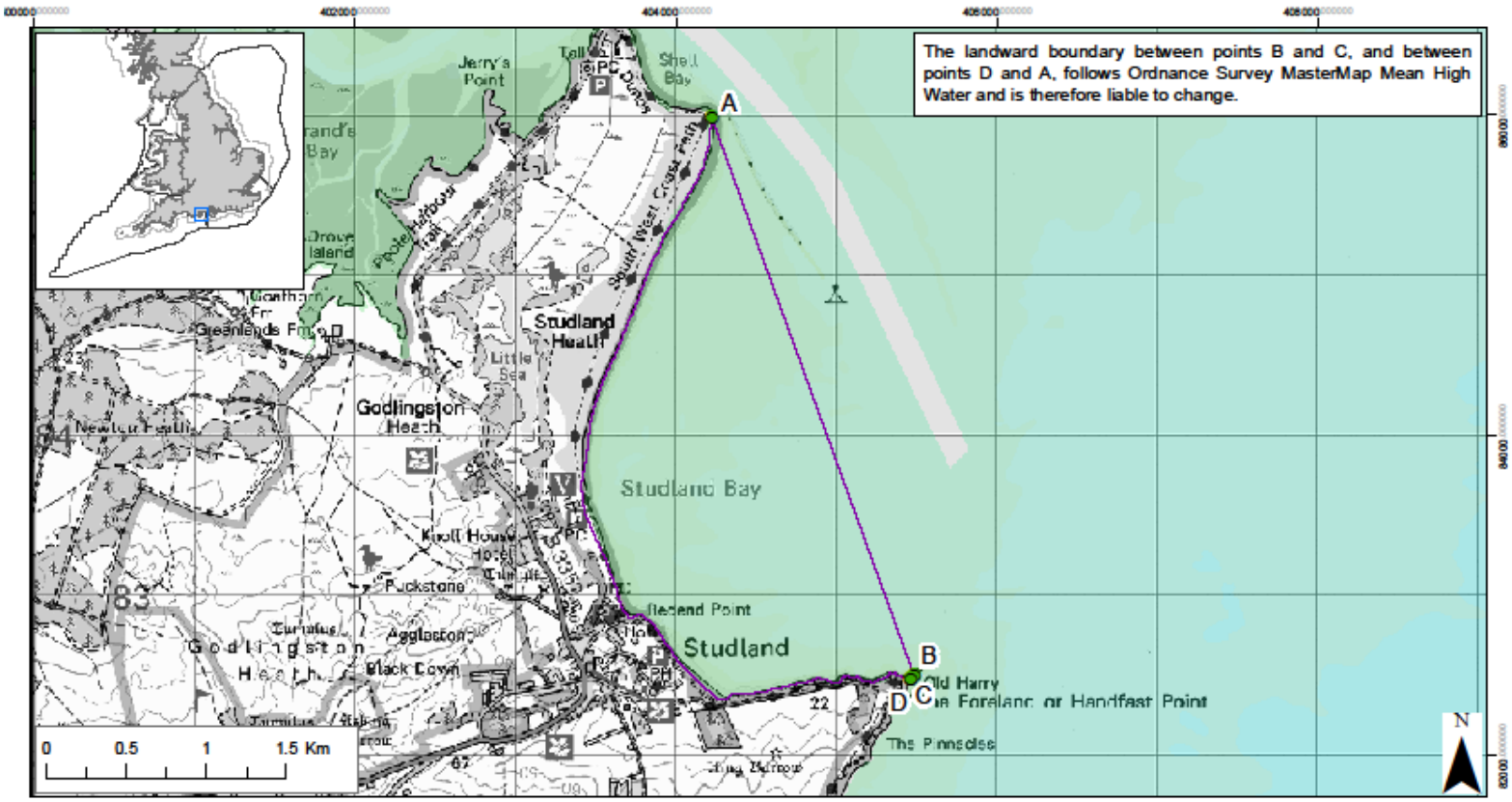
17.1 Site description

Studland Bay is located to the south of Poole Harbour. The shallow, sandy bay curves approximately five kilometres around from north to south and faces in a westerly direction within the larger Poole Bay area. The site was recommended predominantly because of the extensive seagrass bed found in the shallow subtidal waters. It is one of two significantly large seagrass beds in Dorset and the only large bed in the east of Dorset, supporting a rich combination of marine biota not found in other habitats. Subtidal seagrass beds (predominantly *Zostera marina*) are key habitats with high rates of primary production and are a main source of food for overwintering wildfowl. They act as a nursery ground for juvenile fish and provide shelter for a wide range of species, including the long-snouted seahorse *Hippocampus guttulatus* and cuttlefish *Sepia officinalis*, which also use the seagrass to lay their eggs.

17.2 Site image

Image 17 Seagrass beds © Natural England (Please note this photograph is provided as an example of the above habitat and feature only and does not necessarily represent the habitats and features found at the site).

17.3 Site maps



Point	Lat	Long
A	50° 40' 24.862" N	1° 56' 29.730" W
B	50° 38' 31.739" N	1° 55' 25.406" W
C	50° 38' 31.102" N	1° 55' 26.847" W
D	50° 38' 31.079" N	1° 55' 26.941" W

Figure 44 Studland Bay pMCZ site boundary

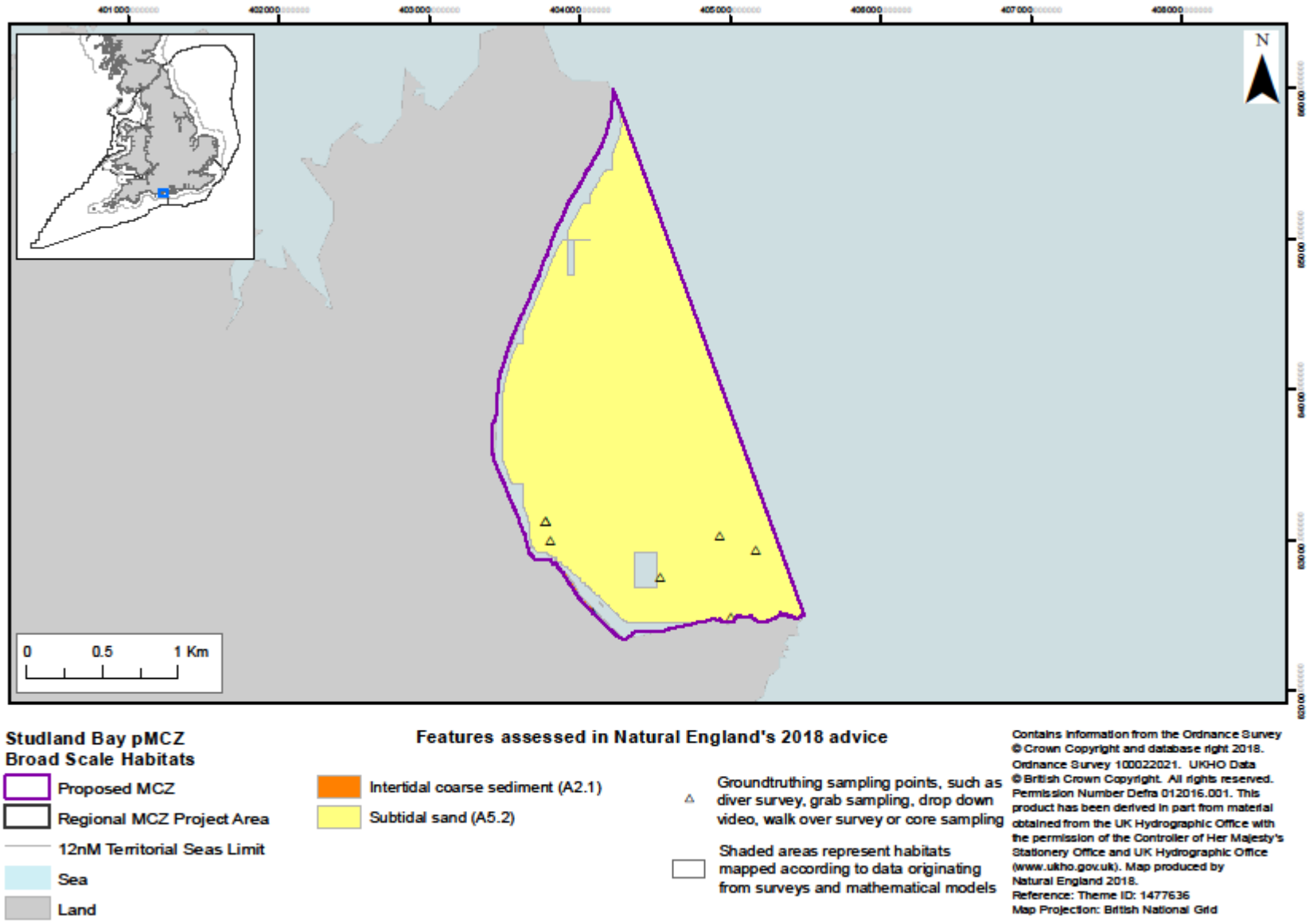


Figure 45 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in Studland Bay pMCZ

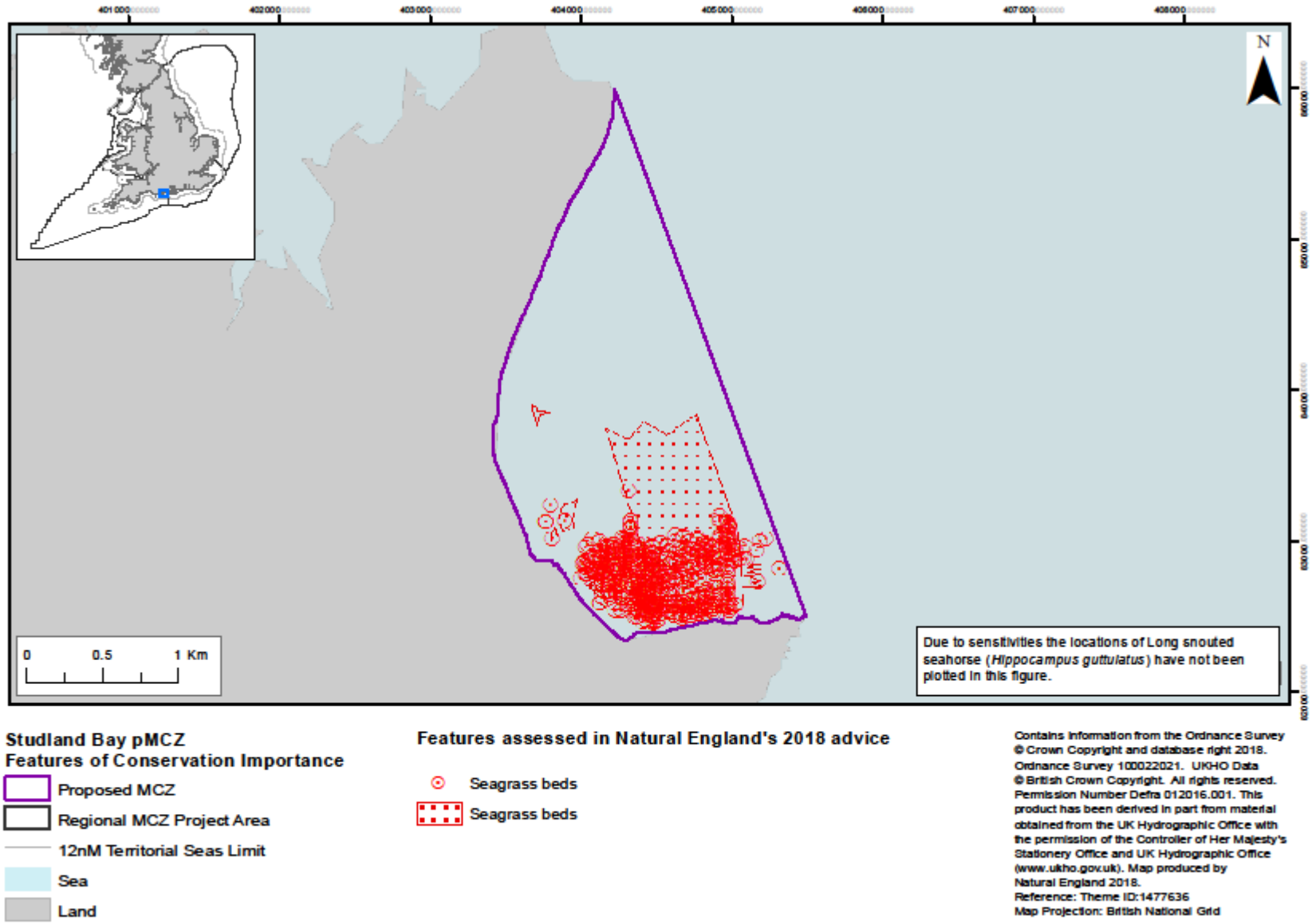


Figure 46 Location of mapped features of conservation importance in Studland Bay pMCZ

17.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 18 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Studland Bay pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Intertidal coarse sediment	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Long snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*)	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Seagrass beds	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Subtidal coarse sediment	Low	Low	Favourable	Maintain	Natural England's understanding of the distribution of the feature within the site has changed due updated feature evidence. This evidence shows that the feature only occurs in a very small area (20 metres squared) at the north edge of the site, where site lead local knowledge suggests that trawling is less frequent than in the area previously considered. Therefore, the feature is more likely to be in favourable condition.
Subtidal sand	Moderate	Moderate	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

17.5 Additional advice

17.5.1 Advice on specific features

17.5.1.1 Subtidal Coarse Sediment

We currently have low confidence in both presence and extent of subtidal coarse sediment (A5.1) within Studland Bay pMCZ. Evidence for this feature within the site is based on predictive modelling which has been updated. No ground truthing points for A5.1 occur within the same area or within the site boundary.

The feature was previously considered to be potentially at high risk due to its assessed moderate/high vulnerability to current and future levels of fishing activity (demersal trawling). Taking into account the most recent change in evidence for the feature which shows a reduced extent, we no longer feel this activity risk applies and as such we do not recommend this feature be considered further for designation.

17.5.1.2 Short snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus hippocampus*)

At the time of producing our pre-consultation advice, there was insufficient evidence to recommend the Species of Conservation Importance feature short snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus hippocampus*). We have since received additional evidence, including a recent sighting of a pregnant male, providing a total of five records in the site and evidence of using the site for breeding, sufficient to provide a confidence assessment of moderate for presence and extent.

This species is associated with sheltered bays, and varied types of seabed with mixed habitats[5] – including seagrass beds, subtidal sand areas or seaweed covered rock. This SOCI feature is currently designated at one site in all Secretary of State Waters. Designation of Studland Bay pMCZ, with protection of the seagrass beds and broad scale habitats present, would provide additional indirect protection for the short snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus hippocampus*). Any potential management proposed for the long-snouted seahorse, should the site be designated, would be the same as that required for the short-snouted seahorse. Recognising that this feature was not part of the formal consultation we recommend the scientific case for its consideration in the future. This feature is currently only protected at one site in the Eastern Channel CP2 region, with the ENG suggesting 3-5 sites should be designated to protect each SOCI feature occurring in each region, where possible. If all tranche 3 sites for this feature in the region that were consulted on were designated, this would provide 4 replicates. If the feature were also included in Studland Bay, the higher target of 5 replicates would be met.

18 Swanscombe pMCZ (BS 05b)

18.1 Site description

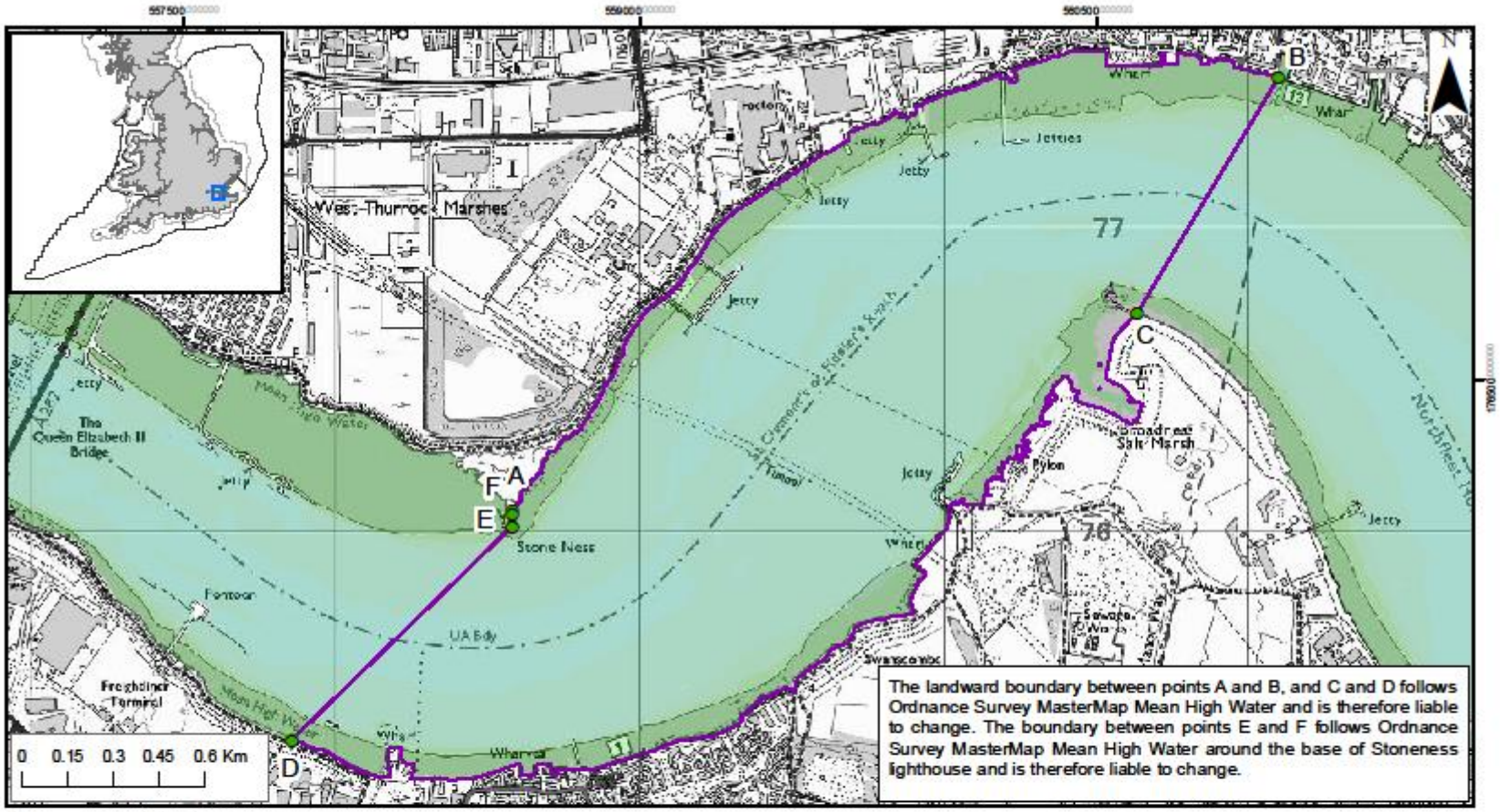
The Swanscombe pMCZ was originally proposed during the Regional Projects as part of a larger Thames Estuary rMCZ, along with an additional Upper Thames Estuary rMCZ. For more information on the division of the Thames Estuary into two separate sites, please refer to Section 23.5.2.1 in Natural England's pre-consultation advice. The boundary consulted on and to which the present post-consultation advice refers is an amendment from the boundary advised upon in the pre-consultation advice. This amended boundary was referred to in the pre-consultation advice as "Boundary amendment proposed by PLA".

The Swanscombe pMCZ stretches along the lower part of the tidal River Thames from Johnson's Wharf near Stone to Columbia Wharf in Grays. The site aims to protect a geographically restricted but important population of tentacled lagoon-worm *Alkmaria romijni*, for which there is currently a gap in the MPA network in relation to the Ecological Network Guidance targets (Natural England and JNCC 2010; JNCC 2016) and their habitat that occurs at Greenhithe.

18.2 Site image

Image 18 Intertidal mixed sediments © JNCC (Please note this photograph is provided as an example of the above feature only and does not necessarily represent the features found at the site).

18.3 Site maps



Swanscombe rMCZ Boundary

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

Point	Lat	Long
A	51°27' 40.894" N	0°16' 52.893" E
B	51°28' 24.394" N	0°19' 5.526" E
C	51°27' 59.858" N	0°18' 40.077" E
D	51°27' 17.347" N	0°16' 14.146" E
E	51° 27' 39.316" N	0° 16' 52.649" E
F	51° 27' 40.667" N	0° 16' 52.757" E

Depth Areas (metres)

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

Figure 47 Swanscombe pMCZ site boundary

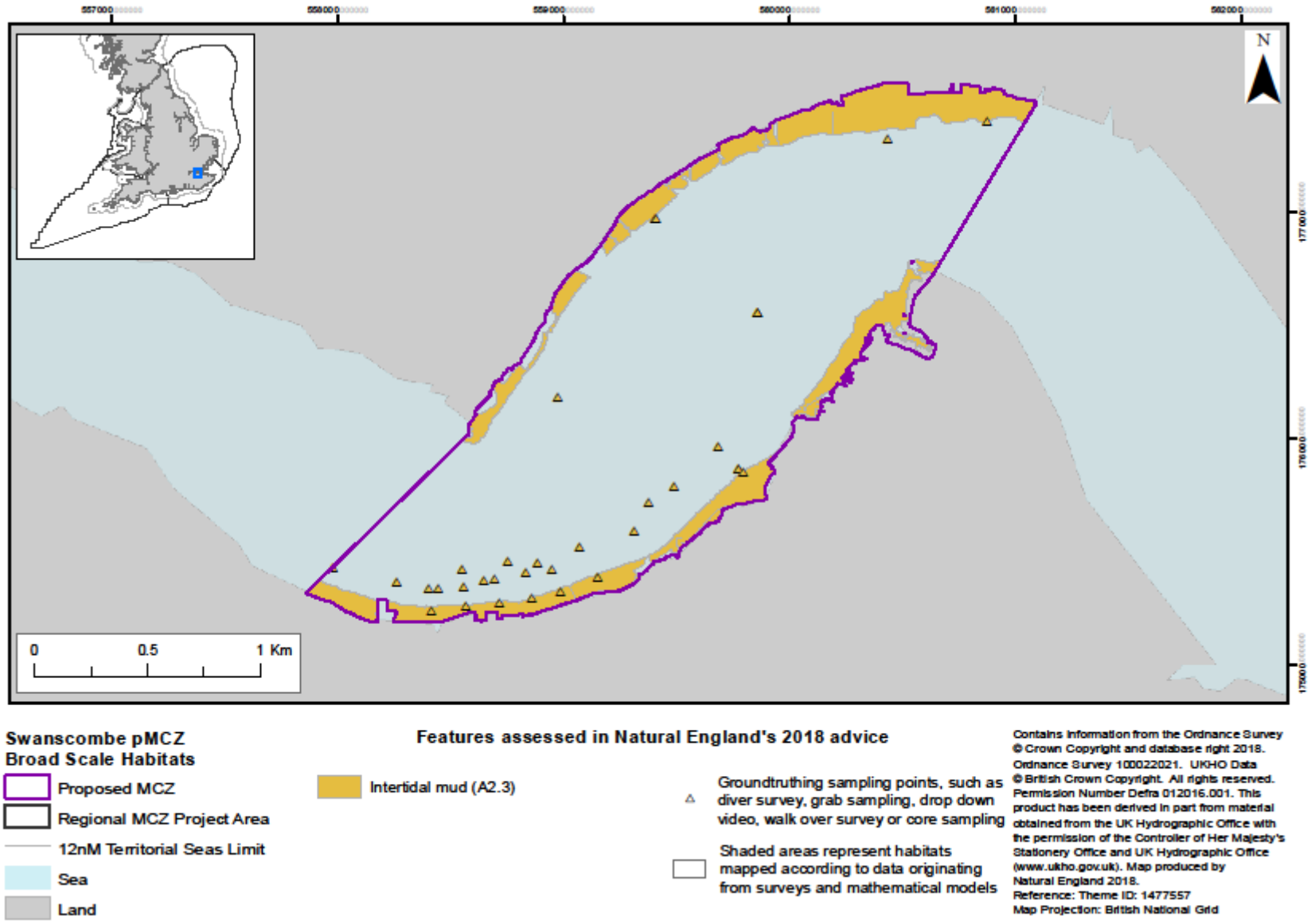


Figure 48 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in Swanscombe pMCZ

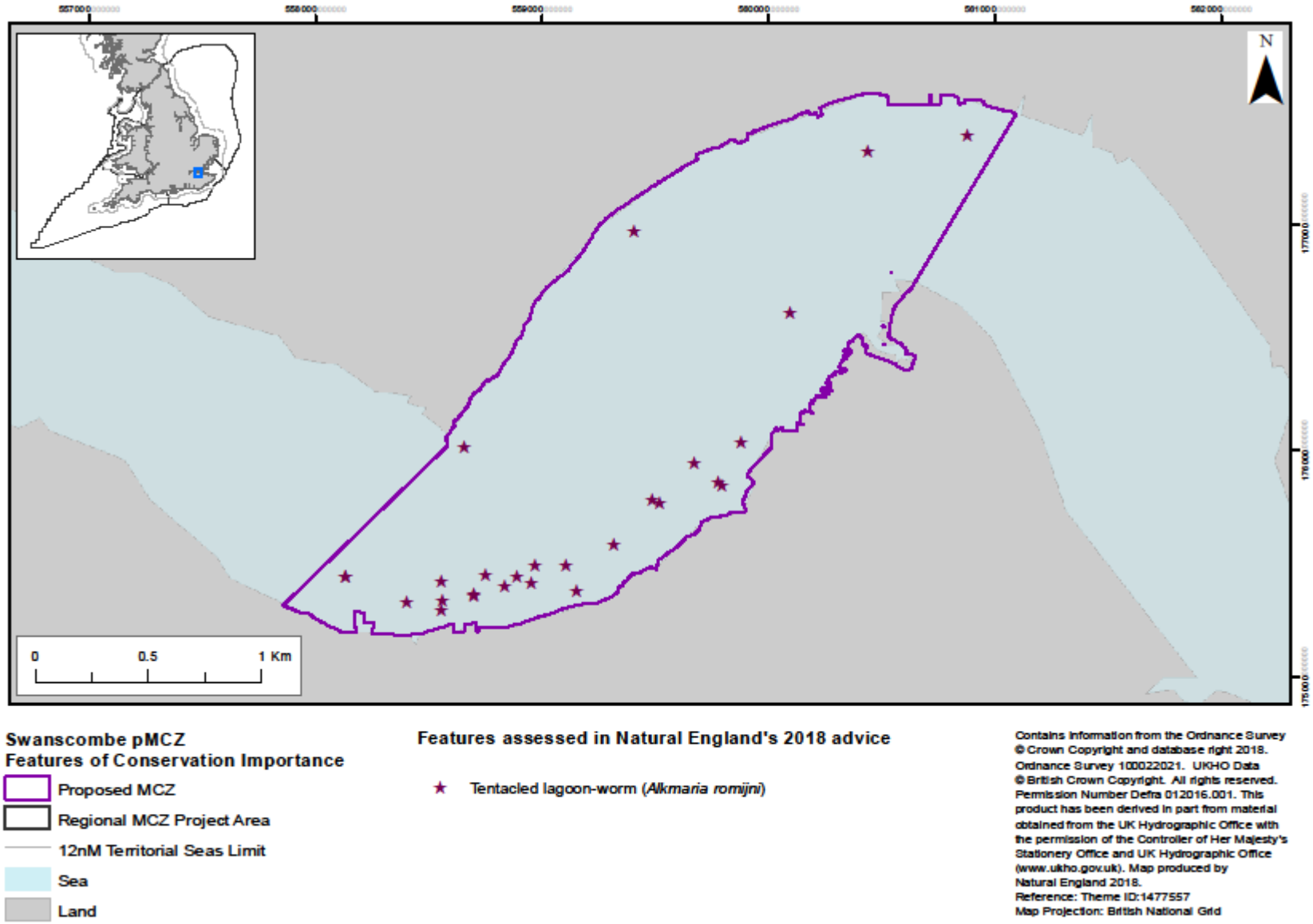


Figure 49 Location of mapped features of conservation importance in Swanscombe pMCZ

18.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 19 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Swanscombe pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Intertidal mud	High	Moderate	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Tentacled lagoon-worm (*Alkmaria romijni*)	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

19 Yarmouth to Cowes pMCZ (BS 23)

19.1 Site description

The Yarmouth to Cowes pMCZ runs along the north-west coast of the Isle of Wight, stretching from east of Yarmouth Pier to the Gurnard headland west of Cowes including Newtown Harbour. The site was recommended by the Regional Project as a MCZ because it contains a large number of features, including some of the best peat and clay exposures on the south coast as well as habitats such as intertidal underboulder communities and estuarine rocky habitats. Many boulders on the intertidal foreshore host a variety of sponges, anemones, sea squirts, crustaceans and numerous piddocks (*Pholadidae*; a bivalve mollusc specially adapted for boring into rocks). Native oysters *Ostrea edulis* are present throughout the Yarmouth to Cowes pMCZ and, together with other sites in the wider Solent, previously sustained the largest oyster fishery in Europe before a significant population decline roughly five years ago.

The site also includes areas of subtidal rock which support anemones, sponges and sea squirts as well as commercially important species such as crab and lobster which shelter in the rocky crevices and a range of fish species such as gobies (*Gobiidae*) and rockling *Gaidropsarus* spp which use the habitat for foraging. Further offshore, the habitats comprise of subtidal mixed and coarse sediments, whilst subtidal mud is present in Newtown Harbour and its approaches.

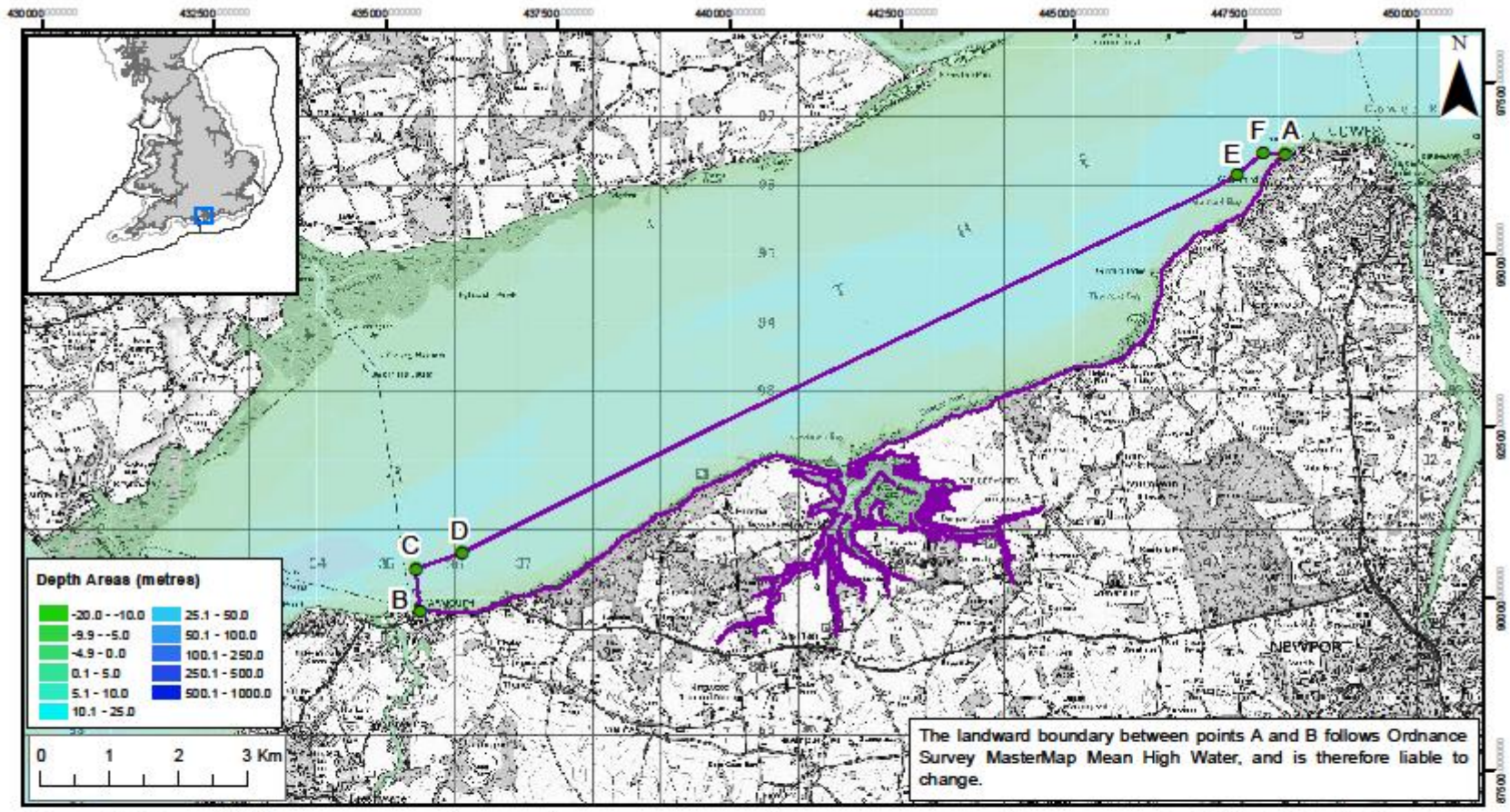
To the west of Newtown Harbour entrance, Bouldnor Cliff exhibits ancient peats and clays as well as fossilised tree remnants. This geological feature includes a four metre high underwater cliff containing a rich flora and fauna of fossilised mammals, reptiles and birds.

Following feedback received during pre-consultation stakeholder engagement, and at the request of Defra, Natural England provided pre-consultation advice on two possible boundary options for this site. Further information on the two boundary options is provided in Section 27.5.2 of Natural England's pre-consultation advice. Only the boundary option consulted on is advised upon in the present post-consultation advice.

19.2 Site image

Image 19 Diving Bouldnor Cliff, Yarmouth to Cowes pMCZ © Marine Archaeology Trust

19.3 Site maps



Yarmouth to Cowes rMCZ Boundary

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

Point	Lat	Long
A	50° 45' 56.560" N	1° 19' 10.045" W
B	50° 42' 24.425" N	1° 29' 55.500" W
C	50° 42' 44.460" N	1° 29' 58.590" W
D	50° 42' 51.521" N	1° 29' 24.156" W
E	50° 45' 46.769" N	1° 19' 45.648" W
F	50° 45' 56.842" N	1° 19' 26.286" W

Figure 50 Yarmouth to Cowes pMCZ site boundary

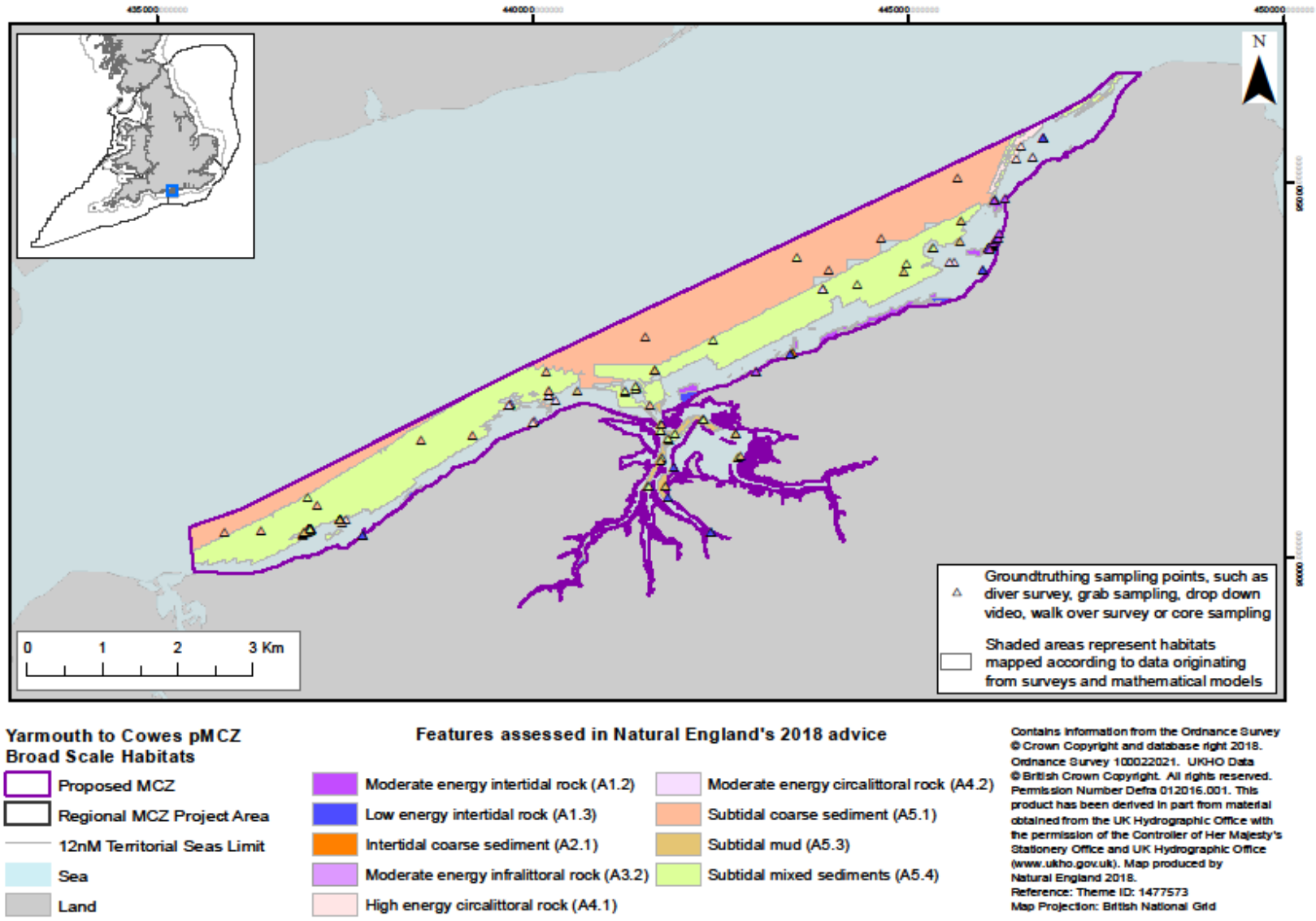


Figure 51 Location of mapped broad-scale habitats in Yarmouth to Cowes pMCZ

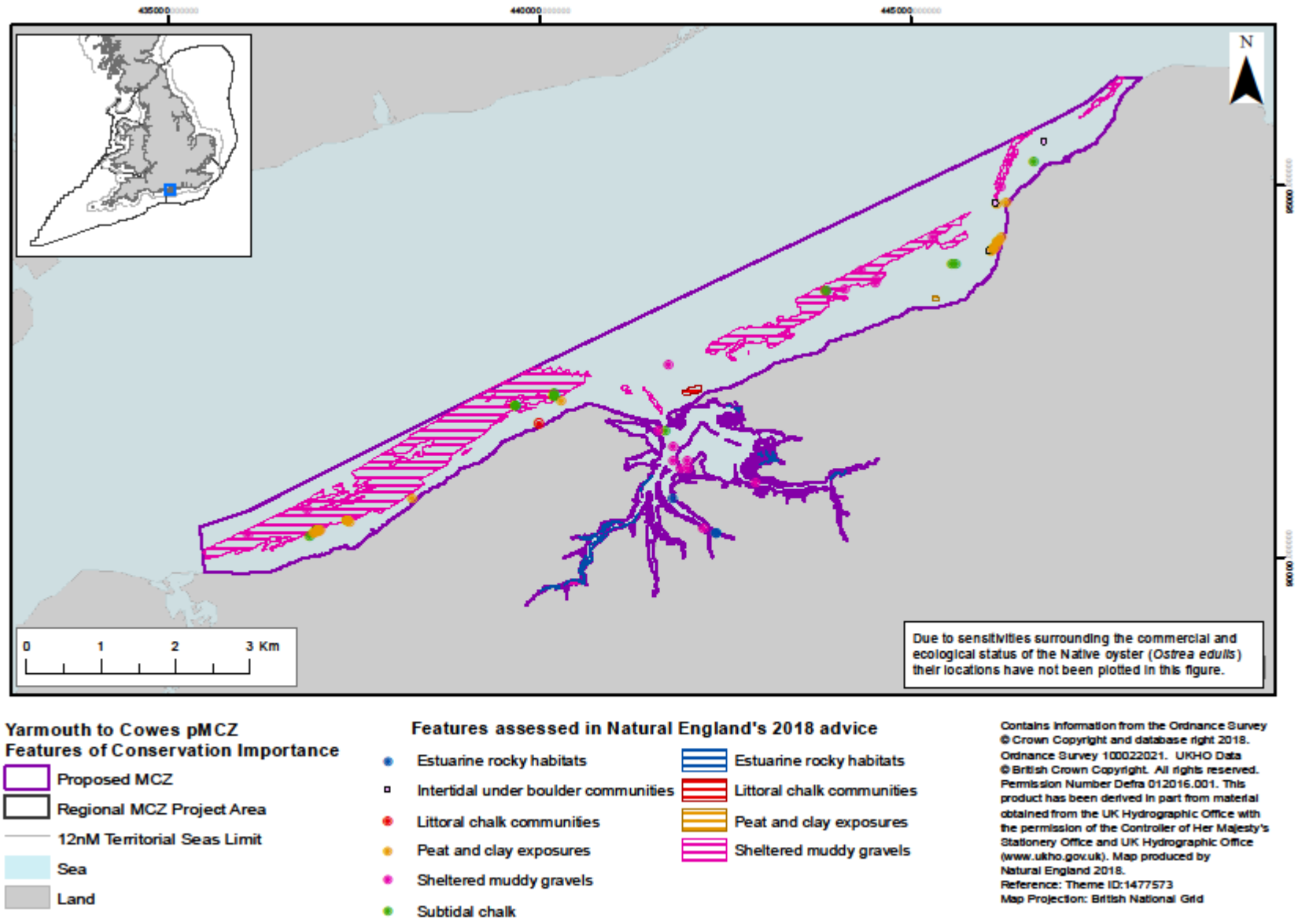


Figure 52 Location of mapped features of conservation importance in Yarmouth to Cowes pMCZ

Produced by Natural England

19.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 20 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 pre-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Yarmouth to Cowes pMCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Bouldnor Cliff geological feature	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Estuarine rocky habitats	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
High energy circalittoral rock	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
High energy infralittoral rock	Moderate	Low	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Intertidal coarse sediment	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Intertidal under boulder communities	High	Moderate	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Littoral chalk communities	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Low energy intertidal rock	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	High	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Moderate	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Moderate energy intertidal rock	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*)	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Peat and clay exposures	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Sheltered muddy gravels	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Subtidal chalk	High	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Subtidal coarse sediment	High	Moderate	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Subtidal mixed sediments	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Subtidal mud	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

19.5 Additional advice

19.5.1 Advice on specific features

19.5.1.1 High energy infralittoral rock in the Yarmouth to Cowes pMCZ

Current assessments have concluded moderate confidence for the presence of the high energy infralittoral rock feature (A3.1) in the Yarmouth to Cowes pMCZ and low confidence in its extent.

The extent calculation is based on limited data from the 2006 Natural England Survey of the Subtidal Sediments of the Solent Maritime SAC. It includes polygon data but only one ground-truthing data point. The survey found the biotope IR.MIR.SedK.HalXK (*Halidrys siliquosa* and mixed kelps on tide-swept infralittoral rock with coarse sediment) which supports a range of seaweeds and grazers and has a limited distribution in English and UK waters. Unfortunately, it was not possible to determine benthic habitat data from the video element of the site verification survey as the underwater visibility conditions were poor. As a result, the verification survey only reported habitat data from grab sampling and could provide only very limited evidence of rock habitats present in the site.

The assessed risk level for this feature shows moderate/high vulnerability to fishing activity within the site. Therefore, on the basis of risk to the feature, the biotope characteristics of the feature and its potential wider distribution in the site, we advise further consideration of the high energy infralittoral rock feature for designation within the Yarmouth to Cowes pMCZ on nature conservation grounds.

19.5.1.2 Subtidal mixed sediment in Yarmouth to Cowes pMCZs

In the Eastern Channel region, this feature is present in Yarmouth to Cowes pMCZ. If designated, this site would contribute to filling the gap identified for this feature in the existing MPA network. Currently only 8.9% of an ENG target of 16% of this feature is protected within the region (JNCC, 2016).

Based on our post-consultation confidence assessment, we have high confidence in both presence and extent of this feature in this site. However, these mixed sediments are affected by *Crepidula fornicata*, a non-native marine mollusc. Specifically, we know that this species is associated with the two biotopes:

> SS.SMx.SMxVS.CreMed - *Crepidula fornicata* and *Mediomastus fragilis* in variable salinity infralittoral mixed sediment; and
> SS.SMx.IMx.CreAsAn - *Crepidula fornicata* with ascidians and anemones on infralittoral coarse mixed sediment.

Crepidula fornicata is more commonly known as the slipper limpet which is well established in parts of the United Kingdom, with high population abundances occurring in some areas, including the Eastern Channel. Classed as 'High Risk' by the Great Britain Non-Native Species Secretariat (GBNNSS) (Sewell and Sweet, 2011) and the Environment Agency, it is known to cause a range of environmental issues including spatial competition, trophic competition and alteration of both the substratum and nutrient load of the water column.

If designation of subtidal mixed sediments is pursued in this region, selecting the above biotopes will be unavoidable. Stakeholders with the view that *C. fornicata* presence is an indicator of low-quality habitat may respond negatively to this decision. Indeed, it is important to acknowledge that eradicating this species from the site will be unfeasible using current known methods and thus meeting the requirements of a 'recover' management recommendation is not possible. Nonetheless, there are management options that could deliver benefits. Restricting demersal trawls and dredges may decrease the spread of *C. fornicata*; an outcome that would benefit the mixed sediments and surrounding sensitive habitats of conservation importance (HOCI) such as seagrass and native oyster beds.

Consequently, we advise that designation of this feature within Yarmouth to Cowes pMCZ, with a view to implementing appropriate management measures that seek to decrease the impacts of bottom towed

fishing gear and lessen the spread of *C. fornicata*, would thereby reduce overall pressures on this and other habitat features. This approach has been endorsed by Natural England's Evidence Panel in a discussion about subtidal mixed sediment in the Norris to Ryde cMCZ at the meeting held on 27th April 2016, where similar issues around the presence of *Crepidula fornicata* were considered.

Advice on Highly Mobile Species in Regional Project sites in Tranche 3

This component of our Tranche 3 post-consultation advice focuses on the six pMCZs which contain Highly Mobile Species including smelt *Osmerus eperlanus* features. As part of Tranche 3, Defra asked Natural England to provide formal post-consultation advice on nine sites which are solely for or include highly mobile species or smelt features, where there is a clear demonstration that their conservation would benefit from site-based protection measures. The other three Highly Mobile Species sites are discussed in **Annex 2 – New Site Options**. Assessments of presence and extent and the data sufficiency process, as carried out for most features, are less meaningful for Highly Mobile Species features. These features are therefore assessed against the principles of Ecological significance, Persistence, MPA size and delineation and Appropriateness of management. A GMA is also advised, based upon these principles and the exposure of the features to activities within the site. Further details on how this advice was developed can be found in Section **2.6 of the Advice Overview document**.

20 Cumbria Coast MCZ

20.1 Site description

This third-party proposal was submitted by the RSPB with the aim of protecting nesting seabirds at St. Bees Head whilst they use the sea surface for maintenance behaviour. Cumbria Coast was designated as an MCZ in 2013 for the Broad Scale Habitats (BSH) features of intertidal biogenic reefs, intertidal sand and muddy sand, high energy intertidal rock and moderate energy infralittoral rock; and the Habitat Features of Conservation Importance (HOCI) honeycomb worm *Sabellaria alveolata* reefs, intertidal underboulder communities and peat and clay exposures. St. Bees Head SSSI overlaps the MCZ in the intertidal zone and is notified for, among other features, the seabird colony and the cliffs that support it. The conservation aim of this third-party proposal, in this case razorbill, would be to provide a 'generic maintenance extension' to the colonies protected on land through the St. Bees Head SSSI, so that the same populations would also receive protection through the MCZ from direct impacts whilst at sea engaged in 'active' maintenance behaviours (such as preening, bathing and displaying) close to their colony, and where foraging occurs within the site boundary. This third-party proposal meets the JNCC guidance on seaward extensions to seabird colonies supporting auks.

The RSPB proposed a two kilometre extension to the site (drawn from the SSSI seaward boundary) due to the presence of northern fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* at the colony. There is an existing one kilometre seaward extension to the site boundary around St. Bees Head, which was included in the original site boundary due to the Irish Sea Conservation Zones recommendation to include black guillemot *Cepphus grylle*, which breed in part of the site, as a feature. Whilst black guillemot was not designated in the site in 2013, the site boundary does include the one kilometre extension for razorbill. The site boundary consulted on was slightly amended from the current site boundary – the one kilometre extension has been simplified in shape and extends slightly further along the coast to the north and south of St Bees Head.

20.2 Site maps

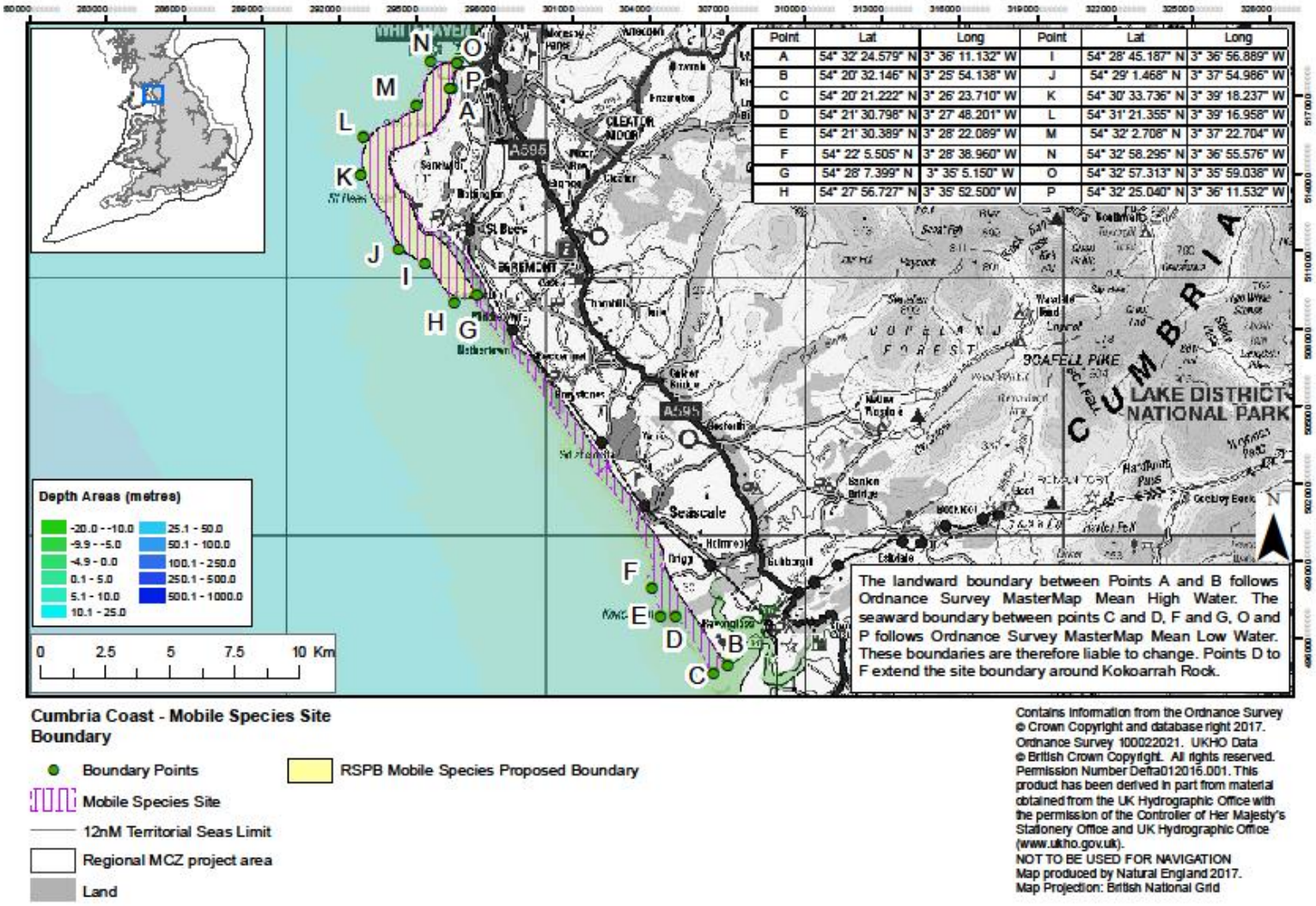
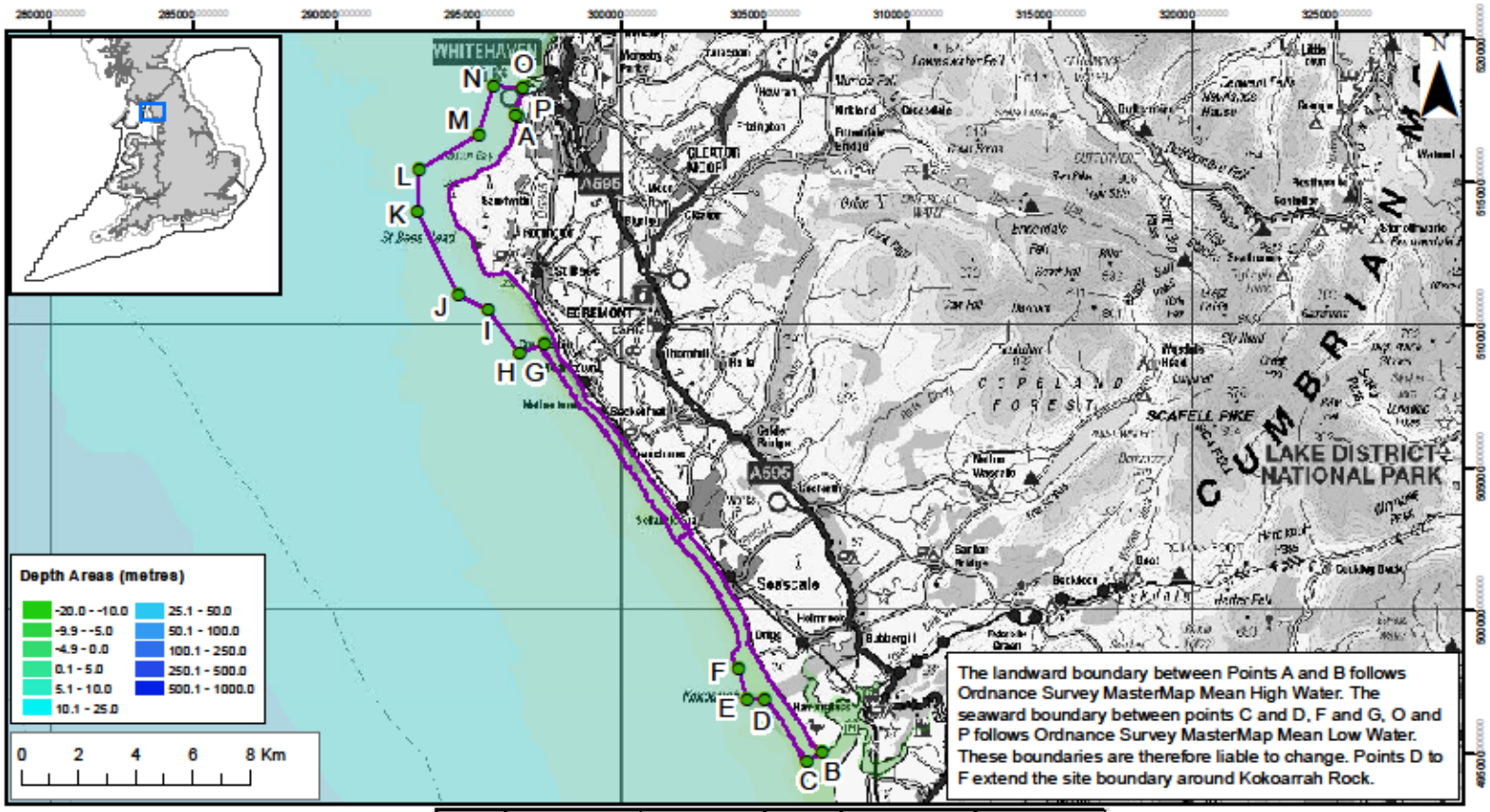


Figure 53 Cumbria Coast pMCZ site boundary proposed by RSPB



Cumbria Coast rMCZ Boundary

- Recommended MCZ
- Regional MCZ project area
- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- 6nM Limit
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Land

Point	Lat	Long	Point	Lat	Long
A	54°32' 24.579" N	3°36' 11.132" W	I	54°28' 45.167" N	3°37' 1.607" W
B	54°20' 32.146" N	3°25' 54.138" W	J	54°29' 1.468" N	3°37' 59.696" W
C	54°20' 21.222" N	3°26' 23.710" W	K	54°30' 33.736" N	3°39' 22.942" W
D	54°21 30.796" N	3°27' 48.201" W	L	54°31 21.355" N	3°39' 21.665" W
E	54°21 30.389" N	3°28' 22.089" W	M	54°32' 2.708" N	3°37' 27.427" W
F	54°22' 5.505" N	3°28' 38.960" W	N	54°32' 58.295" N	3°37' 0.304" W
G	54°28' 7.399" N	3°35' 9.881" W	O	54°32' 57.313" N	3°36' 3.773" W
H	54°27' 56.727" N	3°35' 57.225" W	P	54°32' 25.040" N	3°36' 16.264" W

Figure 54 Cumbria Coast pMCZ site boundary

20.3 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 21 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice and general management approach (GMA) for smelt in the Cumbria Coast pMCZ

Feature name	Principle 1: Ecological significance	Principle 2: Persistence	Principle 3: MPA size and delineation	Principle 4: Appropriateness of management	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)
Razorbill	High	High	High	Moderate	Recover

21 Medway Estuary MCZ

21.1 Site description

The Medway Estuary MCZ was designated during Tranche 1; smelt are being considered for addition as a new feature during Tranche 3 based on evidence that there is a large population present within the Medway Estuary, alongside an extension of the MCZ boundary to encompass the spawning grounds for this species.

21.2 Site maps

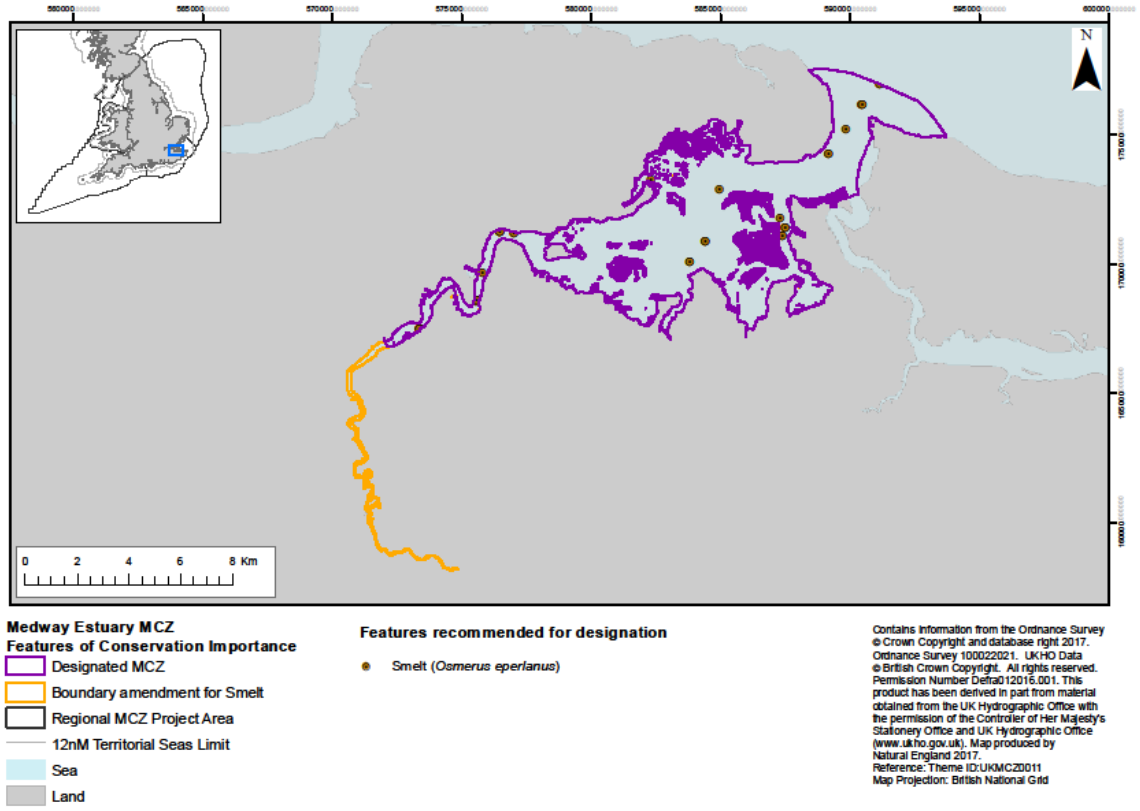


Figure 55 Medway Estuary MCZ: boundary map. The original designated site boundary is shown in purple and the extension for smelt is shown in orange. Refer to Annex 2 – Advice on smelt as a feature of Regional Project pMCZs for further information.

21.3 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 22 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice and general management approach (GMA) for smelt in the Medway Estuary pMCZ

Feature name	Principle 1: Ecological significance	Principle 2: Persistence	Principle 3: MPA size and delineation	Principle 4: Appropriateness of management	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)
Smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus)*	High	High	Moderate	High	Recover

21.4 Additional advice

21.4.1 Advice on the site boundary

Current evidence is that smelt spawn at Borstal, Wouldham and downstream of Allington Lock which represents the tidal limit of the Medway. Therefore the upstream limit of the boundary has been extended to include the location smelt are known to spawn. As agreed with Defra, full (quantitative) pre-consultation advice was provided on the amended boundary.

22 Poole Rocks

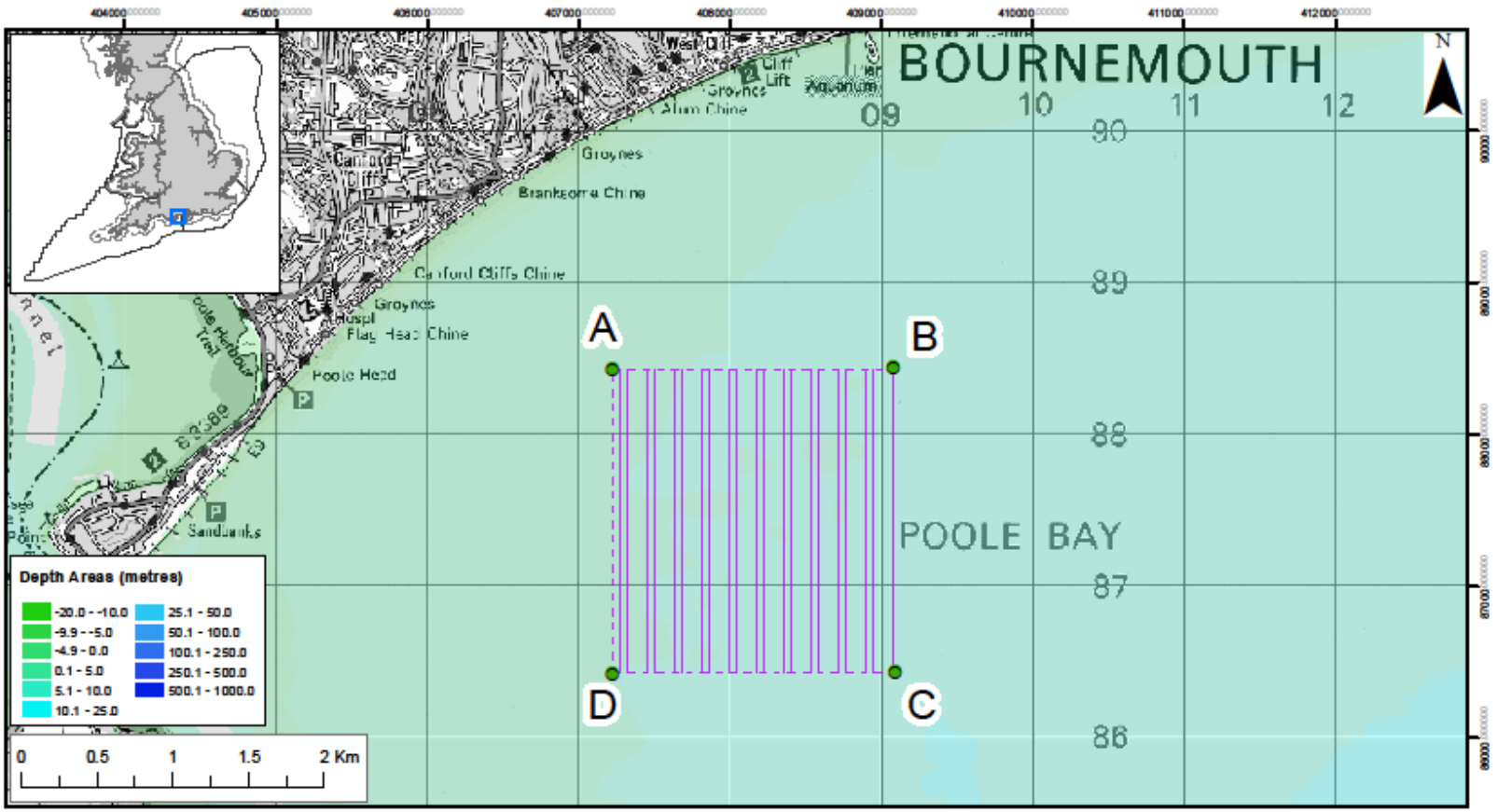
22.1 Site description

This proposal was submitted by Dorset Wildlife Trust with the aim of protecting new locations in Dorset known for nesting black seabream S*podyliosoma cantharus* and is one of three sites proposed in Dorset, for this species. Nesting sites have been recorded off West Sussex, Isle of Wight and Dorset and currently only one site, Kingmere MCZ, is designated to protect this feature. Unlike most other finfish that visit British waters to breed, the black bream exhibit highly selective 'nesting behaviour' (Pawson, 1995). The physical requirements for the nesting sites are quite specific; near-horizontal bedrock with a thin layer of sediment. The overlying sediment is cleared away by the male leaving a circular patch of clean bedrock on which the eggs are laid (Collins & Mallinson, 2012). The males remain at the nest site, guarding them until the eggs hatch, and likely return to the same site to nest each year.

The mating season has been reported to occur between April and June (Lythgoe and Lythgoe, 1991). However recent monitoring carried out by Doggett & Openshaw (2015) as part of the black bream project found that in 2015 nesting finished in June and the bream disappeared from some nesting sites for a short period. They returned in late June and early July (22nd June – 2nd July 2015) and over a 10-12 day period re-built nests, laid eggs and successfully guarded and hatched eggs. Secondary spawning peaks identified above are supported by studies by Gonçalves and Erzini (2000).

The Dorset sites aim to protect the nesting adult black bream, the nests and capture suitable nesting habitat (shallow mixed and coarse sediments over near-horizontal bedrock) during the nesting period between April and early July. Evidence suggests that black bream show some site fidelity and that nesting bream are specifically targeted by recreational and commercial fisheries, which contributes to the suitability of an MCZ for the protection of nesting black bream (Dapling *et al.* 2016; Southern IFCA 2016a).

22.2 Site maps



Point	Lat	Long
A	50° 41' 43.832" N	1° 53' 56.942" W
B	50° 41' 43.942" N	1° 52' 22.266" W
C	50° 40' 38.769" N	1° 52' 22.096" W
D	50° 40' 38.727" N	1° 53' 56.854" W

Figure 56 Poole Rocks MCZ site boundary map

22.3 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 23 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice and general management approach (GMA) for smelt in the Poole Rocks pMCZ

Feature name	Principle 1: Ecological significance	Principle 2: Persistence	Principle 3: MPA size and delineation	Principle 4: Appropriateness of management	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Black seabream (*Spondyliosoma cantharus*) (nesting)	High	High	High	Moderate	Recover	No change

23 Ribble Estuary pMCZ (ISCZ 17)

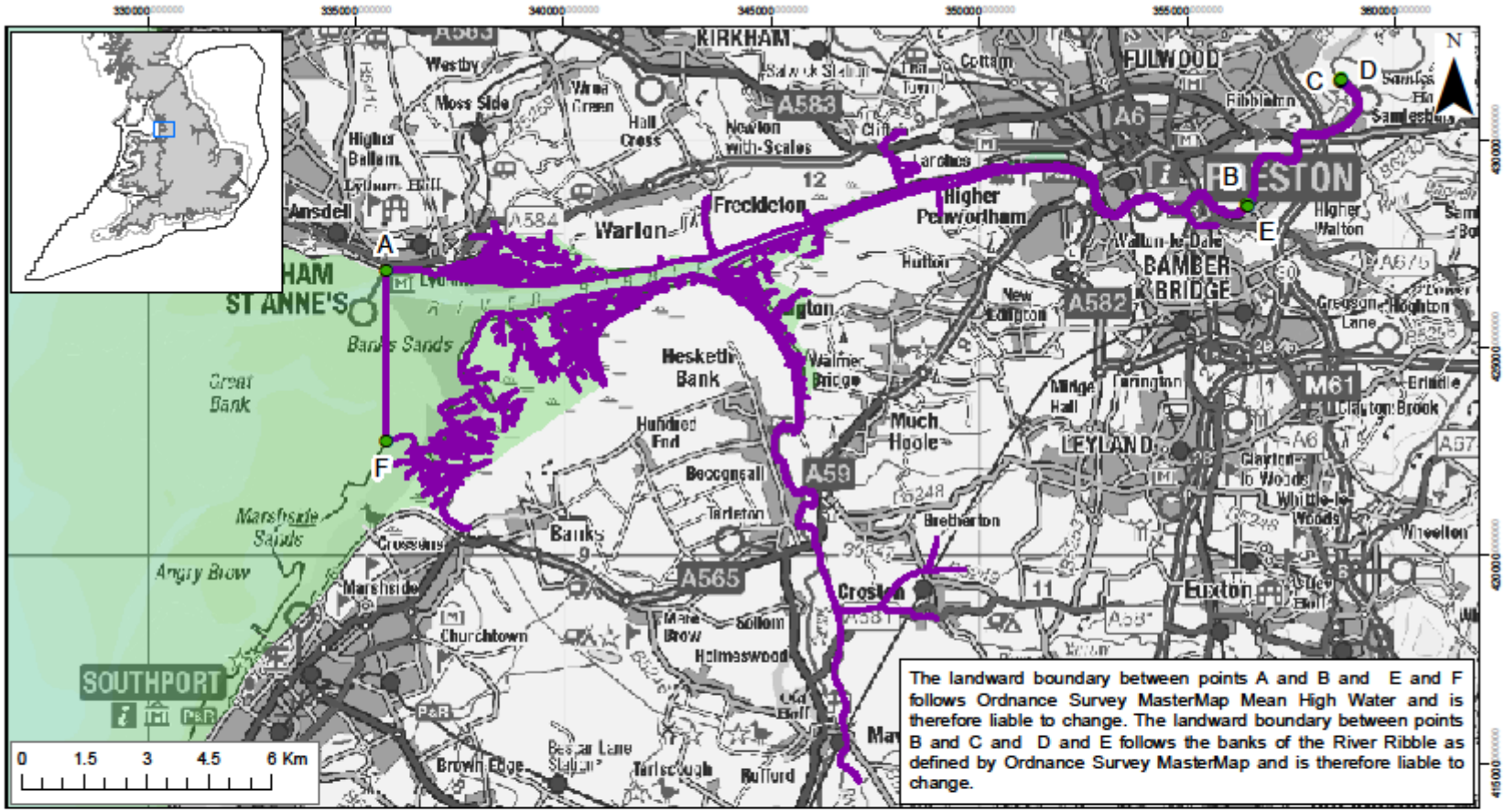
23.1 Site description

This pMCZ covers an area of 15 km^2 and is located on the north-west coast of England, near to Preston. It extends up to the tidal limit on the Ribble near Samlesbury, on the River Douglas near Rufford and on the River Yarrow near Croston. The Ribble Estuary pMCZ has been identified for the highly mobile species smelt *Osmerus eperlanus*. Within the Ribble there is a small self-recruiting smelt population, which is believed to have a strong potential for recovery. This was noted during the Irish Seas Conservation Zones Estuaries Workshop in April 2011. The estuary has extensive saltmarsh habitats which are important fish nursery grounds for a range of species. The outer estuary falls within the Ribble and Alt Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site and the Ribble Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which provide protection to the saltmarsh and benthic habitats.

23.2 Site image

Image 20 Ribble Estuary pMCZ near tidal limit © Emily Hardman, Natural England

23.3 Site maps



Point	Lat	Long
A	53° 44' 2.416" N	2° 58' 33.663" W
B	53° 45' 1.309" N	2° 39' 44.103" W
C	53° 46' 38.690" N	2° 37' 41.829" W
D	53° 46' 40.238" N	2° 37' 40.341" W
E	53° 45' 0.194" N	2° 39' 41.885" W
F	53° 41' 49.774" N	2° 58' 30.472" W

Figure 57 Ribble Estuary pMCZ site boundary

23.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 24 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice and general management approach (GMA) for smelt in the Ribble Estuary pMCZ.

Feature name	Principle 1: Ecological significance	Principle 2: Persistence	Principle 3: MPA size and delineation	Principle 4: Appropriateness of management	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus)*	High	High	Moderate	Moderate	Recover	No change

23.5 Additional advice

23.5.1 Advice on boundaries

The original (Regional Project recommended) rMCZ boundary was based on the Ordnance Survey map tidal limit. However, most stakeholders consider the true tidal limit to be located upstream of this location. It is highly likely that smelt spawning occurs at or close to the true tidal limit. The upstream limit of the boundary has therefore been extended to the weir at Red Scar wood (near Samlesbury) so that the site encompasses the true tidal limit. This amendment was agreed with Defra prior to the consultation and implemented and the current advice is based on the amended boundary.

24 The Solway Firth pMCZ (ISCZ 15)

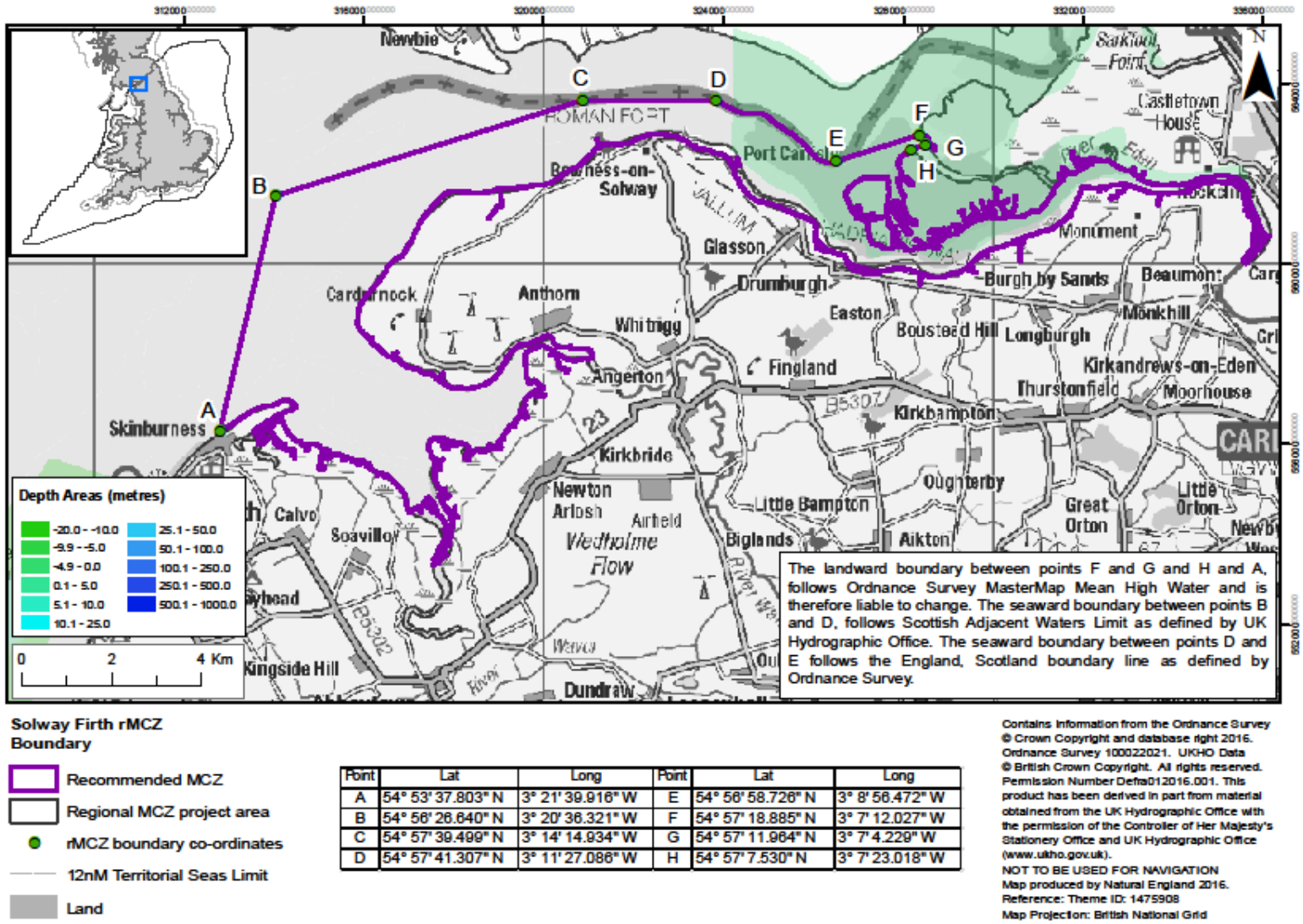
24.1 Site description

This site is located in the Solway Firth in the north eastern Irish Sea. The site extends from the shore to the middle of the estuary where the devolved administrative boundaries of Scottish waters begin. This pMCZ completely falls within the Solway Firth SAC, which already protects many of the benthic features throughout the site, such as the coastal saltmarsh habitat which is an important nursery area for a range of fish species, including bass. It also overlaps with the River Eden SAC which is an important habitat for lamprey, salmon, white-clawed crayfish, and otter. The pMCZ has been selected as a representative area where there are historic records of spawning smelt *Osmerus eperlanus* upstream. On a national level, smelt have been subject to declines in abundance. Historically, smelt were common in the Solway Firth and were the target of a large fishery (Maitland, 2003).

24.2 Site image

Image 21 Solway Firth pMCZ potential smelt spawning habitat © Laurence Browning, Natural England

24.3 Site maps



Solway Firth rMCZ Boundary

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

Point	Lat	Long	Point	Lat	Long
A	54° 53' 37.803" N	3° 21' 39.916" W	E	54° 56' 58.726" N	3° 8' 56.472" W
B	54° 56' 26.640" N	3° 20' 36.321" W	F	54° 57' 18.885" N	3° 7' 12.027" W
C	54° 57' 39.499" N	3° 14' 14.934" W	G	54° 57' 11.964" N	3° 7' 4.229" W
D	54° 57' 41.307" N	3° 11' 27.086" W	H	54° 57' 7.530" N	3° 7' 23.018" W

Figure 58 Solway Firth pMCZ site boundary

24.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 25 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice and general management approach (GMA) for smelt in the Solway Firth pMCZ.

Feature name	Principle 1: Ecological significance	Principle 2: Persistence	Principle 3: MPA size and delineation	Principle 4: Appropriateness of management	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus)*	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Recover	No change

25 Wyre-Lune pMCZ (ISCZ 16)

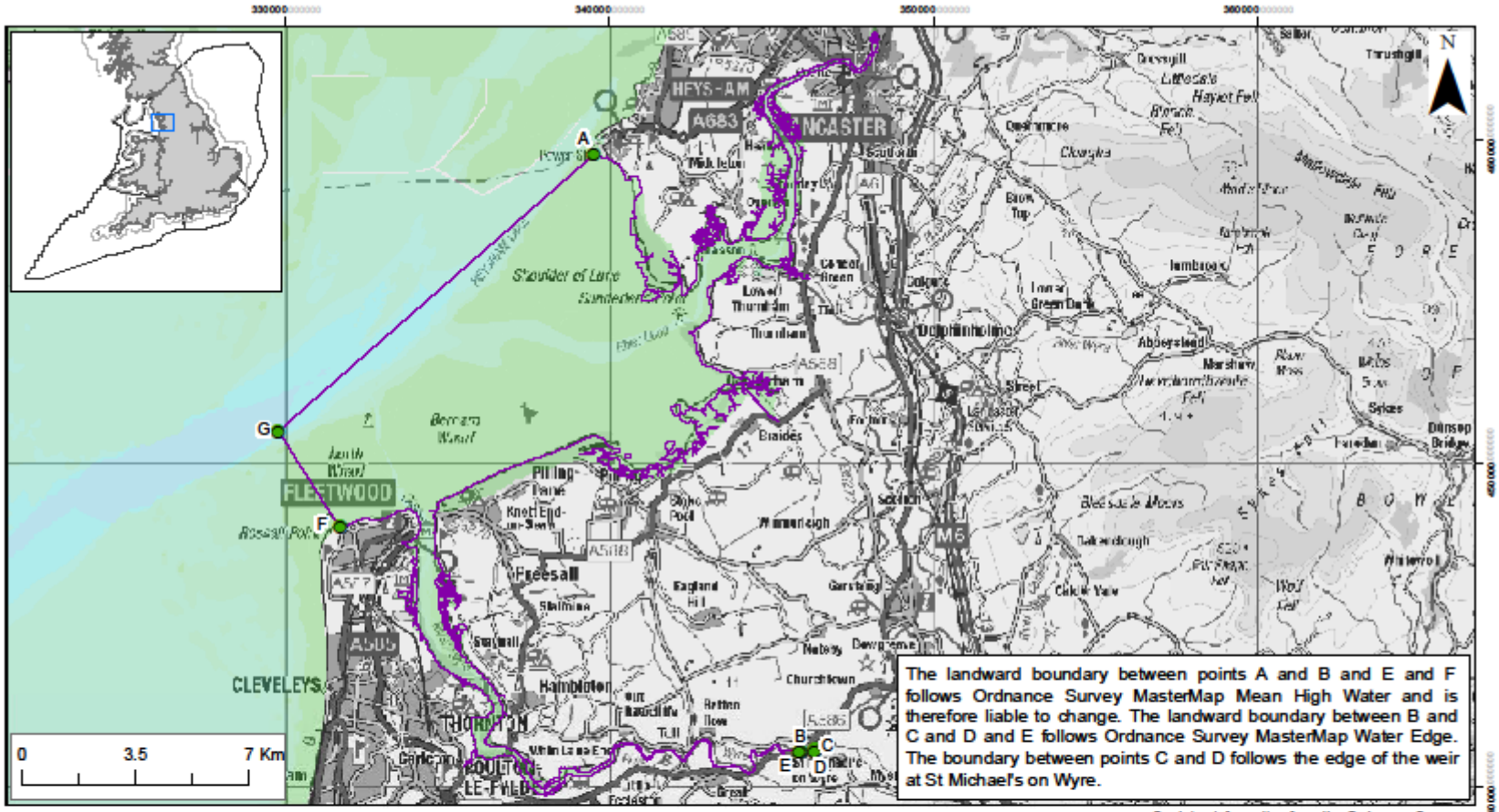
25.1 Site description

This pMCZ is comprised of two estuaries situated within the southern part of Morecambe Bay, the Wyre and the Lune. The site covers an area of 92 km^2 and extends from the tidal limit of each estuary at St Michael's on Wyre and Lancaster to the outer sea boundary. Natural England is providing advice on the Wyre-Lune pMCZ for the highly mobile species smelt *Osmerus eperlanus*. Both estuaries have extensive saltmarsh habitats which are important fish nursery grounds for a range of species. The outer Lune Estuary falls within the Morecambe Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which provides protection to the saltmarsh and benthic habitats. The Wyre Estuary is not protected by the SAC; however the saltmarsh in the outer estuary is protected by the Wyre Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). There is an actively recruiting smelt population in the Wyre Estuary and it is thought that smelt within the Morecambe Bay estuary complex are part of an interconnected population.

25.2 Site image

Image 22 Wyre-Lune pMCZ Lune Estuary Skerton Weir © Emily Hardman, Natural England

25.3 Site maps



Wyre-Lune rMCZ Boundary

- Recommended MCZ
- Regional MCZ project area
- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- 6nM Limit
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Land

Point	Lat	Long
A	54° 1'40.957" N	2° 55'31.309" W
B	53° 51'48.314" N	2° 49'28.864" W
C	53° 51'49.272" N	2° 49'3.746" W
D	53° 51'49.078" N	2° 49'4.876" W
E	53° 51'47.691" N	2° 49'29.877" W
F	53° 55'26.291" N	3° 2'32.571" W
G	53° 57'0.757" N	3° 4'17.980" W

Depth Areas (metres)

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

Figure 59 Wyre-Lune pMCZ site boundary

25.4 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 26 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice and general management approach (GMA) for smelt in the Wyre-Lune pMCZ.

Feature name	Principle 1: Ecological significance	Principle 2: Persistence	Principle 3: MPA size and delineation	Principle 4: Appropriateness of management	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus)*	High	High	Moderate	High	Recover	No change

25.5 Additional advice

25.5.1 Advice on boundaries

The original pMCZ boundary as proposed by the Regional Project was based on the Ordnance Survey map tidal limit. However, most stakeholders consider the true tidal limit in the Wyre Estuary to be located upstream of this location at the weir in St Michaels' on Wyre. Anecdotal records from the Environment Agency indicate that 20 years ago smelt spawned in large numbers below this weir (Dent, Environment Agency 2015, *pers. comm*.) and recent survey work indicates that there is suitable spawning habitat in this location. The upstream limit of the boundary has therefore been extended approximately 500 metres upstream to the weir so that the site encompasses the true tidal limit.

25.5.2 Implications for pMCZ features

Our advice on the GMA (Recover) for this feature has not changed as a result of the pre-consultation boundary amendment. Similarly, our advice on the scores against the four principles considered as being important in the identification of MCZs for highly mobile species has not changed and remains as listed in Table 25 above.

Advice on designated Regional Project MCZs with further features included in Tranche 3

The following sites have been designated by Defra in previous tranches (Tranche 1 - November 2013 or Tranche 2 - January 2016). Natural England is advising on further features for these sites as part of Tranche 3, where new or improved evidence has become available for the undesignated features(s) (network beneficial options) and/or they may contribute to a shortfall in the MPA network (network critical options) (Natural England & JNCC 2010), or additional features were proposed through Defra's 2016 call for mobile species sites. Site and feature descriptions are not provided for these sites as this information has been published in the Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 site factsheets.

26 Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ

26.1 Site maps

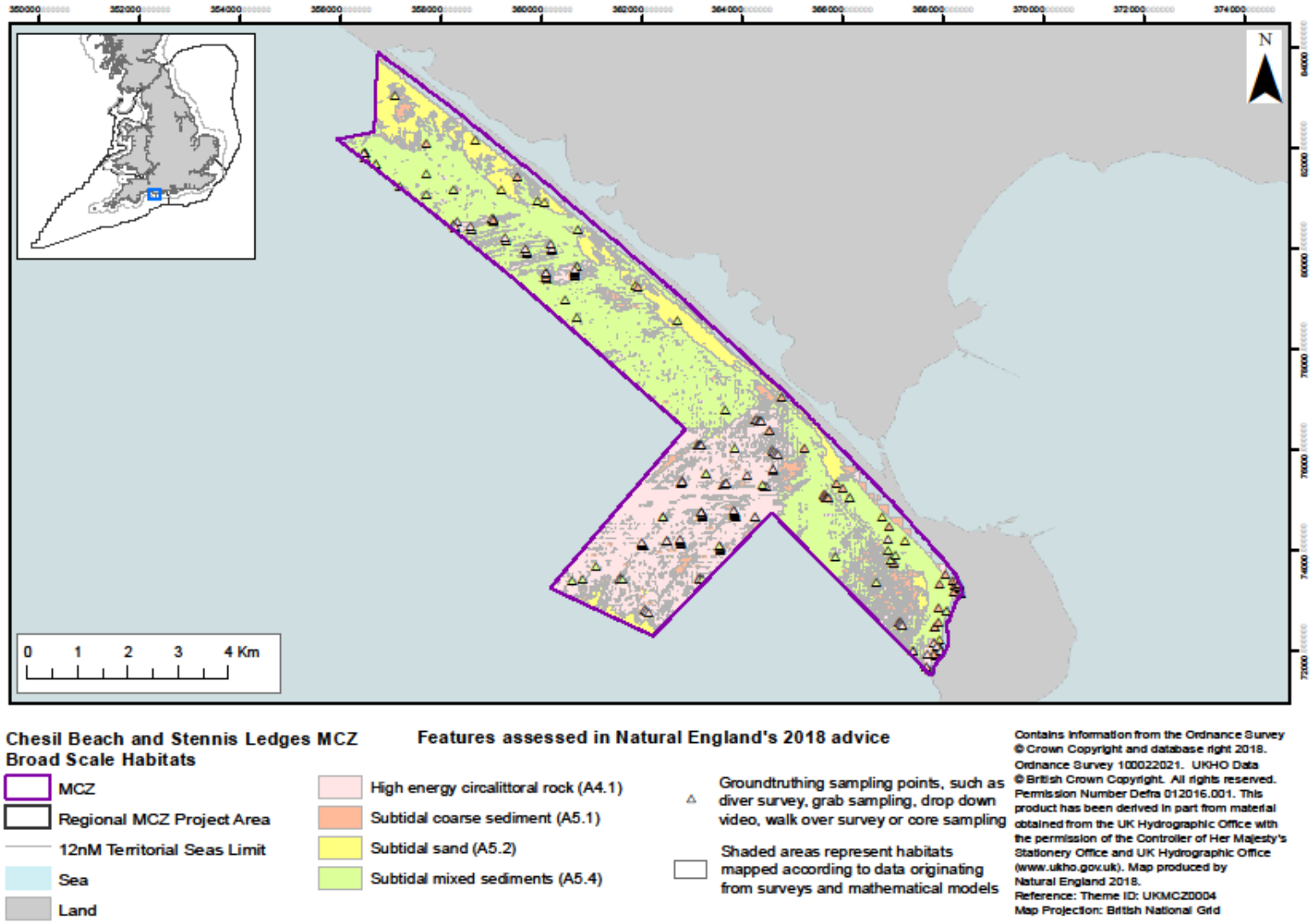


Figure 60 Location of mapped further broad-scale habitats in Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ

26.2 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 27 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 pre-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
High energy circalittoral rock	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Subtidal coarse sediment	High	Moderate	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Subtidal mixed sediments	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Subtidal sand	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

27 Dover to Deal MCZ

27.1 Site maps

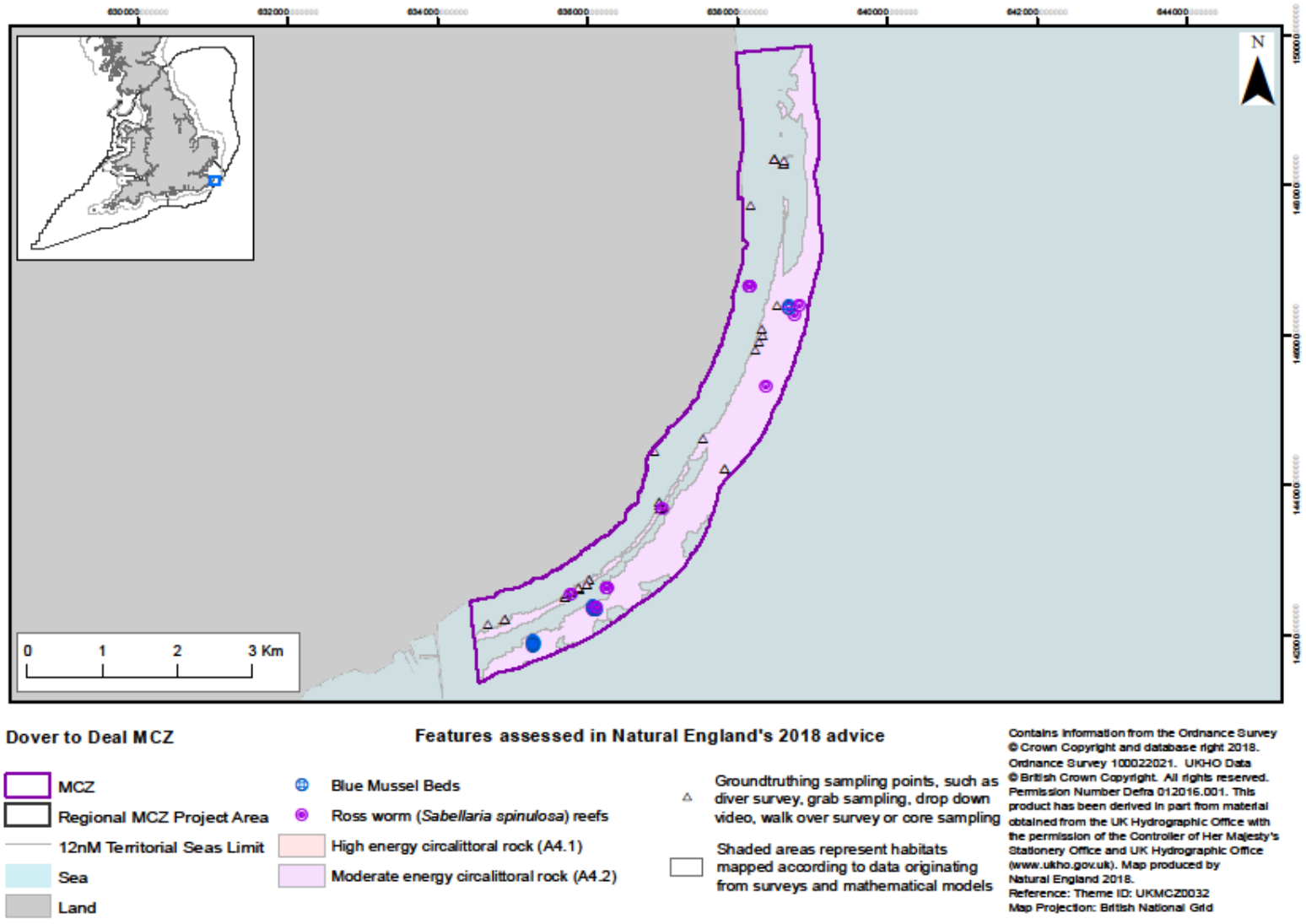


Figure 61 Location of mapped further features of conservation importance and broad-scale habitats in Dover to Deal MCZ

27.2 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 28 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Dover to Deal MCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Blue mussel beds	Moderate	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
High energy circalittoral rock	High	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Ross worm reefs (*Sabellaria spinulosa*)	Moderate	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

28 Isles of Scilly Sites – Bristows to the Stones MCZ

28.1 Site maps

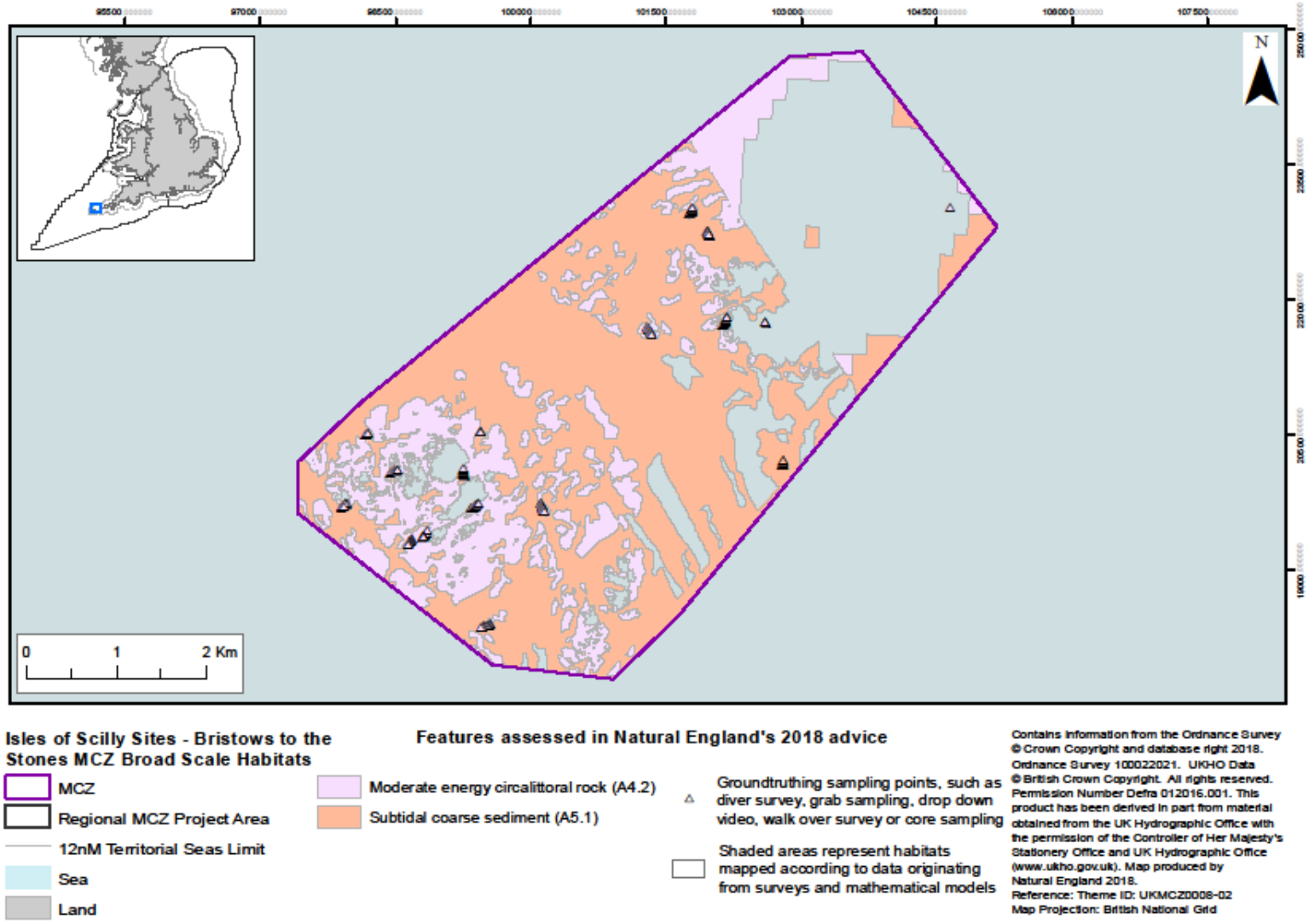


Figure 62 Location of mapped further broad-scale habitats in Isles of Scilly Sites – Bristows to the Stones MCZ

28.2 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 29 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Isles of Scilly Sites – Bristows to the Stones MCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Subtidal coarse sediment	High	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

29 Isles of Scilly Sites – Peninnis to Dry Ledge MCZ

29.1 Site maps

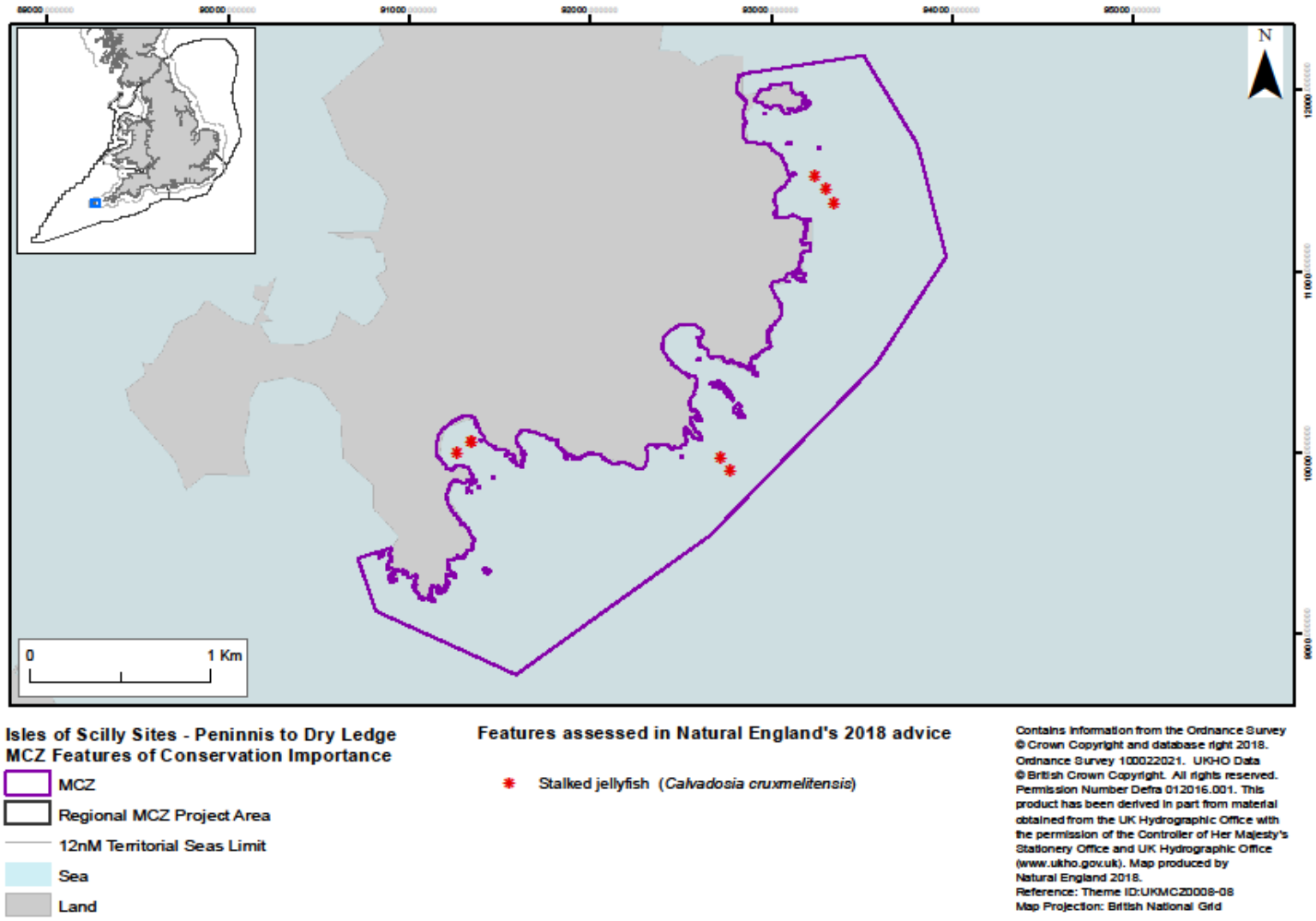


Figure 63 Location of mapped further features of conservation importance in Isles of Scilly Sites – Peninnis to Dry Ledge MCZ

29.2 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 30 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Isles of Scilly Sites – Peninnis to Dry Ledge MCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Stalked jellyfish (*Calvadosia cruxmelitensis*[7])	Moderate	Moderate	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

[7] Previously classified as *Lucernariopsis cruxmelitensis*

30 Isles of Scilly Sites – Men a Vaur to White Island MCZ

30.1 Site maps

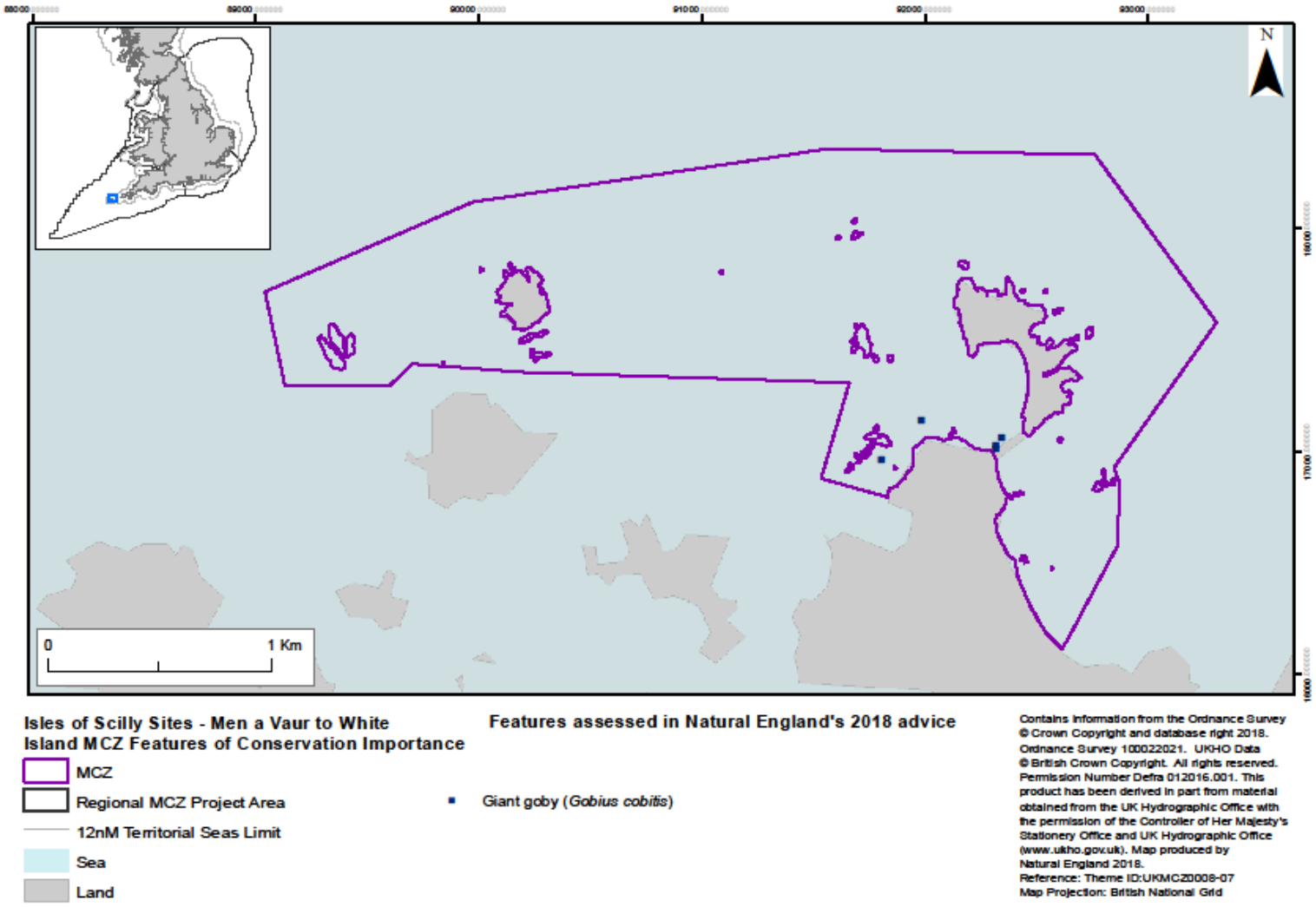


Figure 64 Location of mapped further features of conservation importance in Isles of Scilly Sites – Men a Vaur to White Island MCZ

30.2 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 31 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Isles of Scilly Sites – Men a Vaur to White Island MCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Giant goby (*Gobius cobitis*)	Moderate	Moderate	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

31 Isles of Scilly Sites – Higher Town MCZ

31.1 Site maps

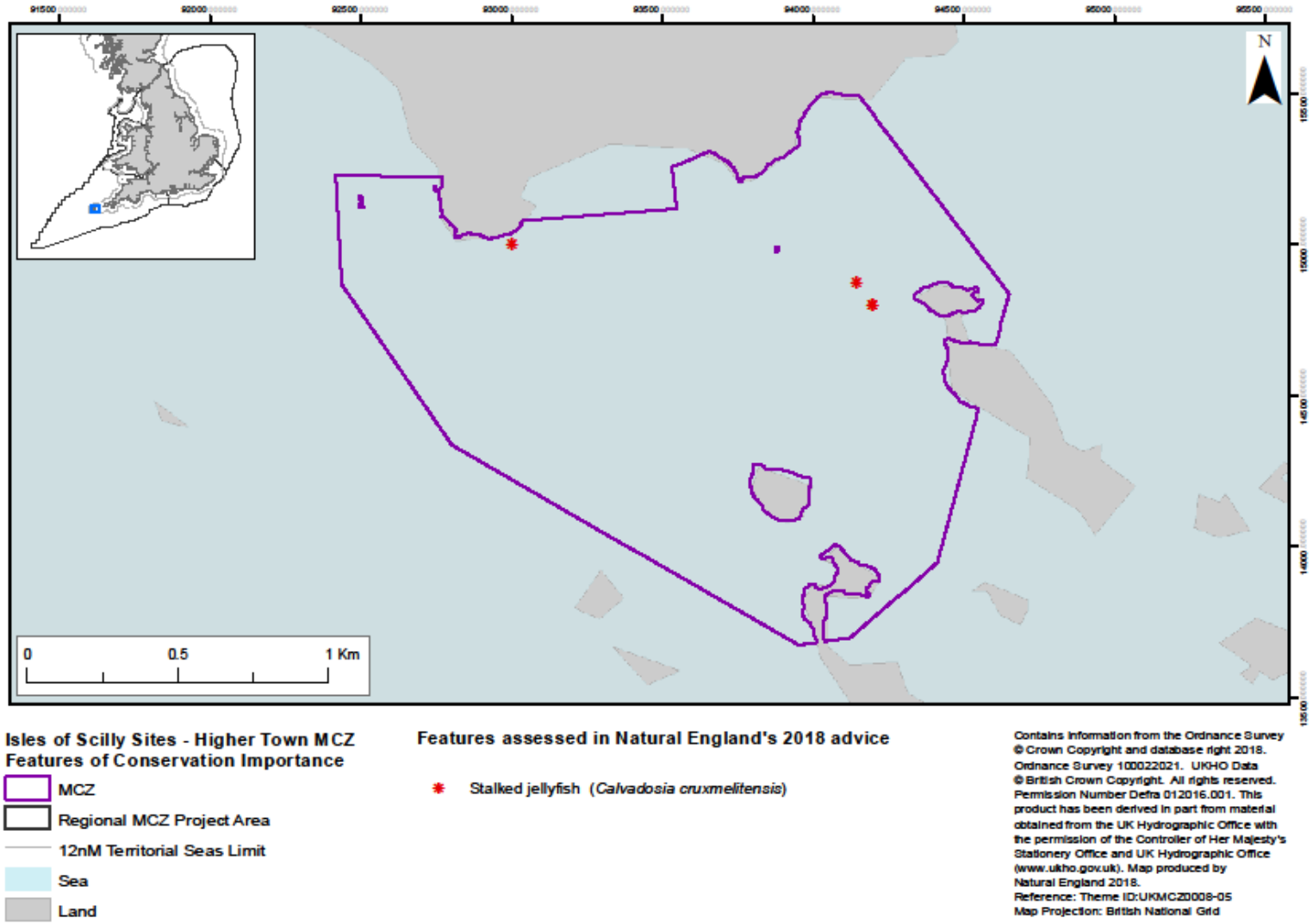


Figure 65 Location of mapped further features of conservation importance in Isles of Scilly Sites – Higher Town MCZ

31.2 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 32 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Isles of Scilly Sites – Higher Town MCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Stalked jellyfish (*Calvadosia cruxmelitensis*[8])	Moderate	Moderate	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

[8] Previously classified as *Lucernariopsis cruxmelitensis*

32 South Dorset MCZ

32.1 Site maps

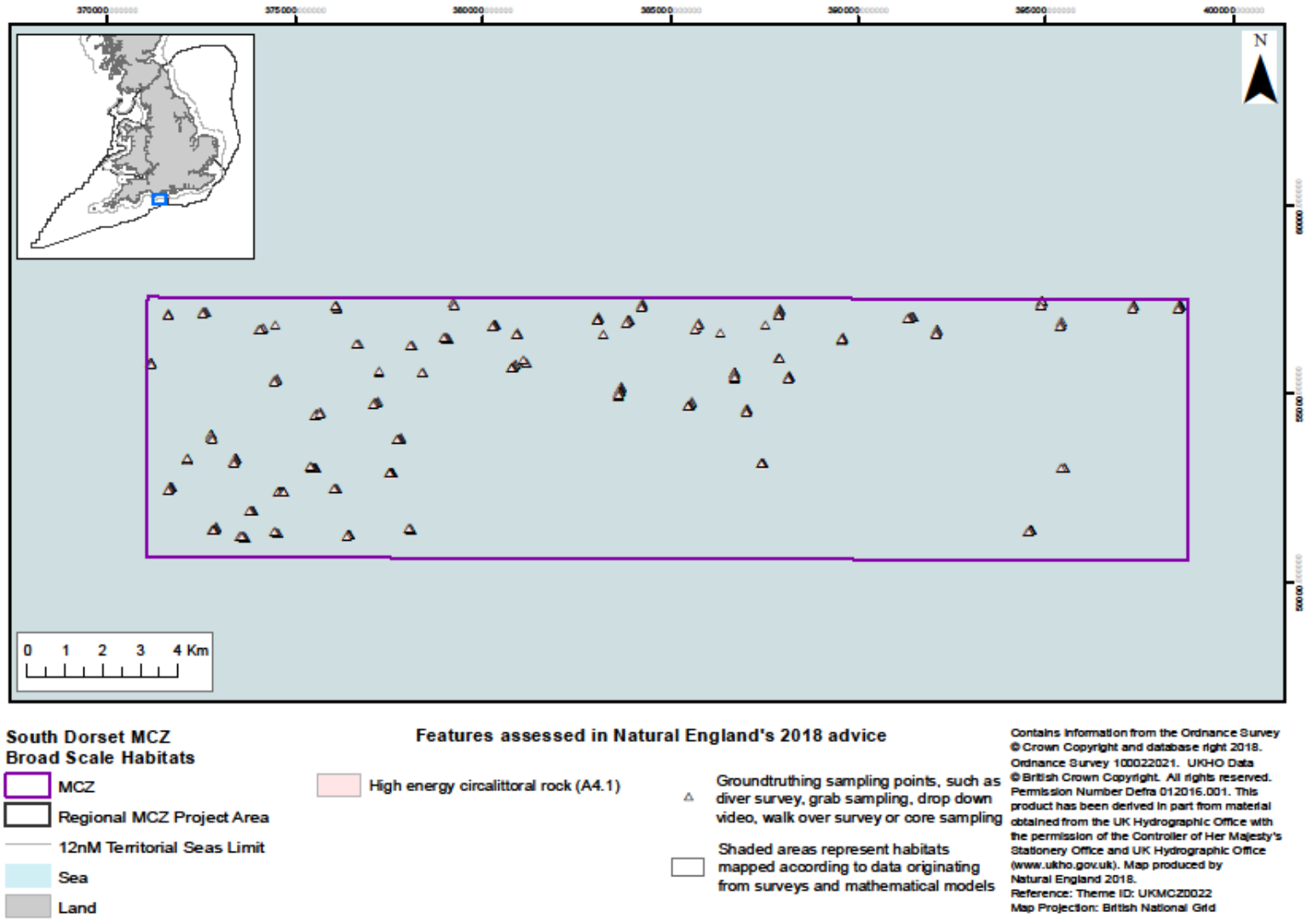


Figure 66 Location of mapped further broad-scale habitats in South Dorset MCZ

32.2 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 33 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the South Dorset MCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
High energy circalittoral rock	High	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

33 Thanet Coast MCZ

33.1 Site maps

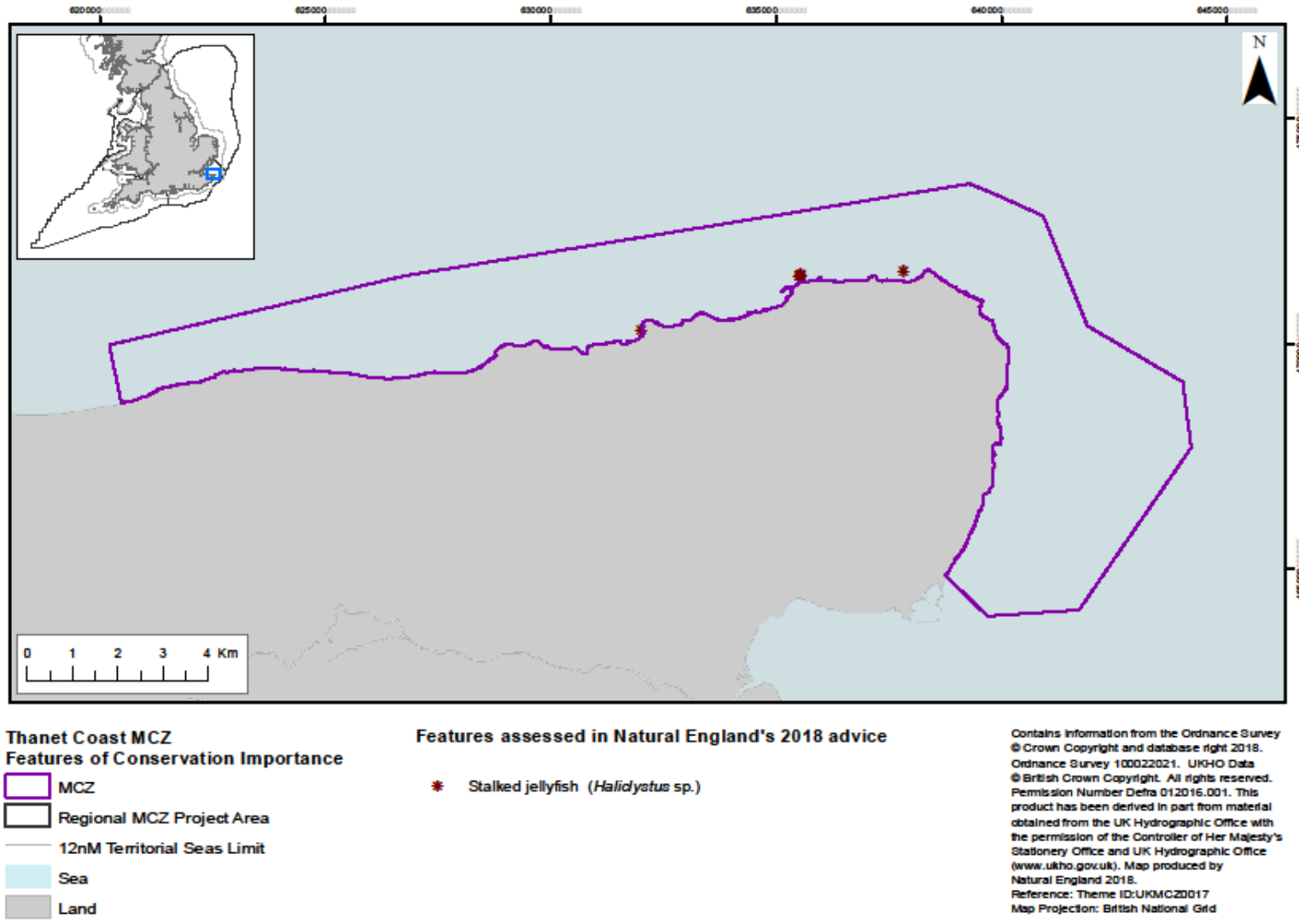


Figure 67 Location of mapped further features of conservation importance in Thanet Coast MCZ

33.2 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 34 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Thanet Coast MCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Stalked jellyfish (*Haliclystus species*)	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

34 Torbay MCZ

34.1 Site maps

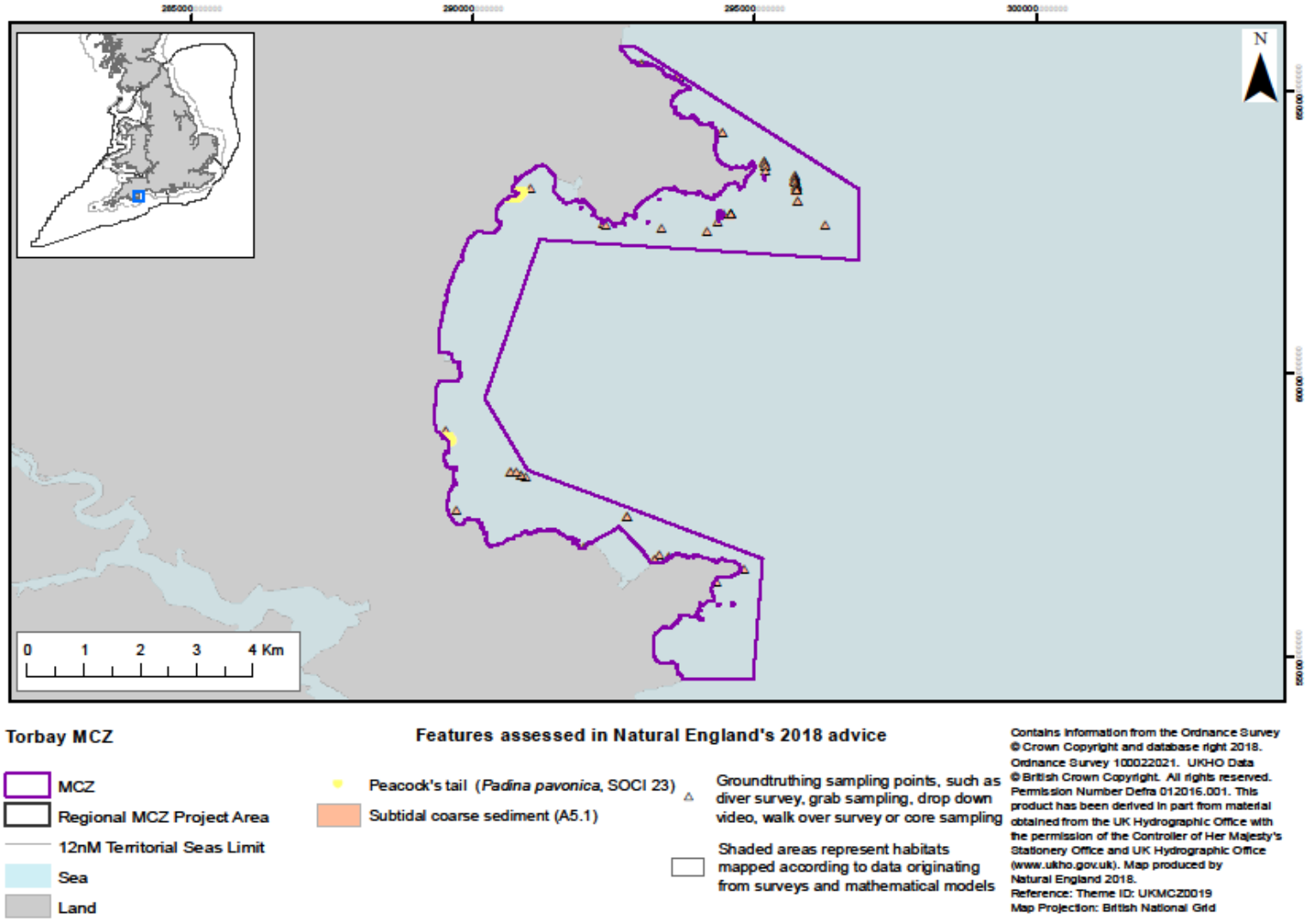


Figure 68 Location of mapped further broad-scale habitats and features of conservation importance in Torbay MCZ

34.2 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 35 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Torbay MCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Peacock's tail (*Padina pavonica*)	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Subtidal coarse sediment	High	Moderate	Unfavourable	Recover	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

35 Whitsand and Looe Bay MCZ

35.1 Site maps

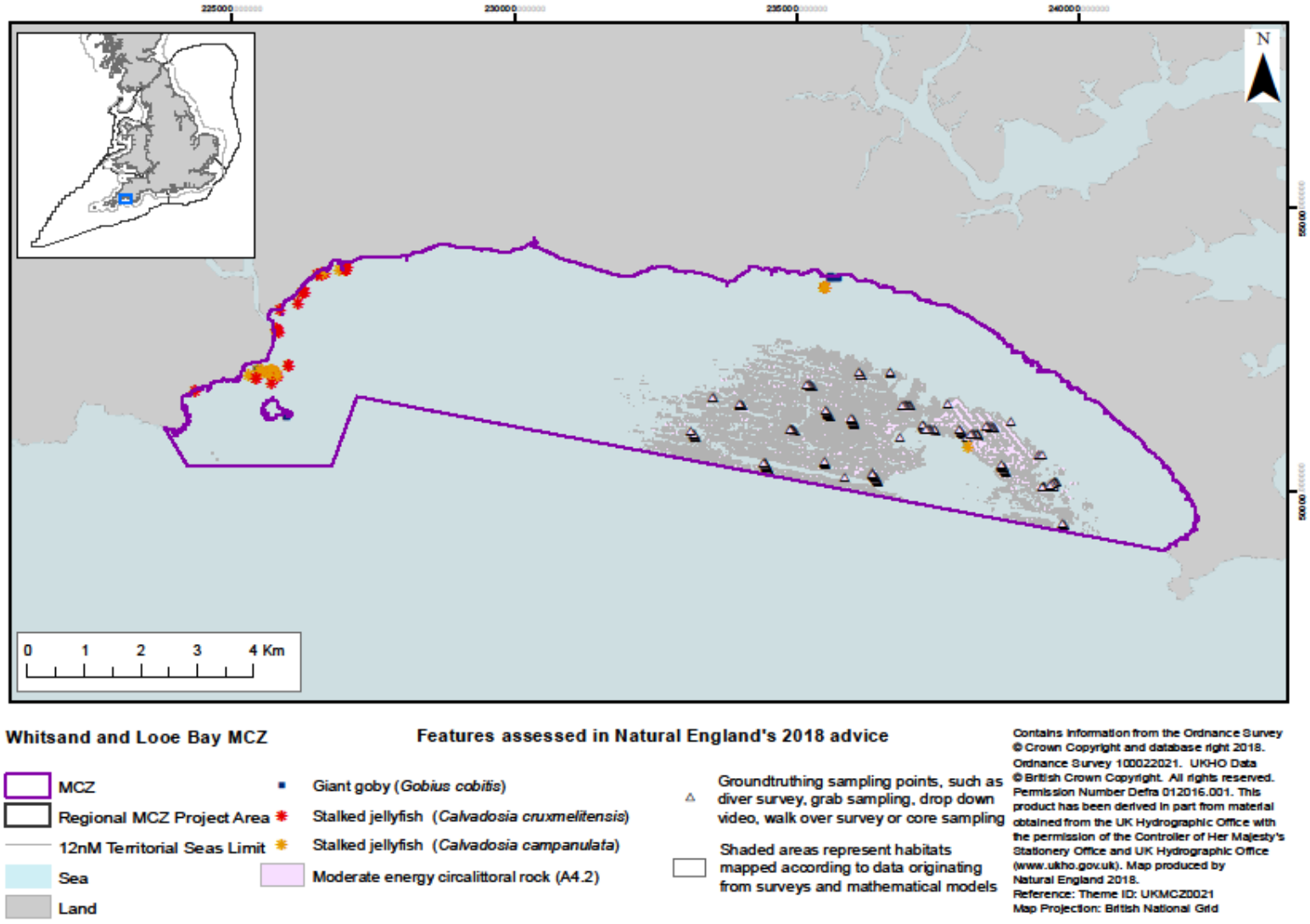


Figure 69 Location of mapped further broad-scale habitat and features of conservation importance in Whitsand and Looe Bay MCZ

35.2 Summary of Natural England's advice

Table 36 Summary of Natural England's Tranche 3 post-consultation advice on confidence in presence and extent, likely condition and general management approach (GMA) for each proposed feature of the Whitsand and Looe Bay MCZ.

Feature name	Confidence in feature Presence	Confidence in feature Extent	Current likely condition of feature	Advice on the General Management Approach (GMA)	Rationale where the advised GMA has changed since the pre-consultation advice
Giant goby (*Gobius cobitis*)	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	High	High	Unfavourable	Recover	No change
Stalked jellyfish (*Calvadosia campanulata*[9])	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change
Stalked jellyfish (*Calvadosia cruxmelitensis*[10])	High	High	Favourable	Maintain	No change

Full details of Natural England's advice on confidence in presence and extent (including the evidence that has informed the advice, as well as that which could not be used at the current time), likely condition and the GMA, as well as advice on risk to the feature and the scientific basis to support feature/site designation (for sites/features where applicable) can be found in **Annex 3 – Results tables for advice on Regional Project recommended MCZs and New site options**. The filter function can be used to select the relevant site on each tab. For more detailed information on how this advice has been developed, and how to use **Annex 3**, please refer to the **Advice Overview document**, as well as the 'READ ME' tab (Tab 1) of Annex 3.

[9] Previously classified as *Lucernariopsis campanulata*

[10] Previously classified as *Lucernariopsis cruxmelitensis*

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