

## Beachy Head West rMCZ no 13.2

### Marine Conservation Zone : Selection Assessment Document

<b>Version and Issue date</b>	<b>Amendments made</b>
V1.0 07.09.11	Draft final recommendations refined by the RSG and Local groups in July 2011 and finalised by the RSG 2/3 August 2011.

<b>1. Site name</b> Beachy Head West rMCZ no 13.2 Contains:-Belle Tout to Beachy Head Lighthouse recommended Reference Area no 9	<b>3. Site surface area</b> 2358 ha            23.58 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>2. Site centre location</b> ETRS89 N50 46' 17.831" E0 3' 48.658"    N50 46.297' E0 3.811' (N.B. WGS 84 UTM 31N coordinates are provided in the map vertices)	<b>4. Biogeographic region</b> Eastern English Channel

#### 5. Features proposed for designation within Beachy Head West <sup>1</sup>

Feature type	Feature name	REC Broad-scale Habitats (L4/L3)	Area / No. of records <sup>2</sup>
Broad-scale habitats	A1.2 moderate energy intertidal rock		0.02km <sup>2</sup>
	A2.1 intertidal coarse sediment		733.92 m <sup>2</sup>
	A5.2 subtidal sand	A3.A2 LE infralittoral rock and thin sandy sediment	8.1km <sup>2</sup>
		A5.24 infralittoral muddy sand	
	A5.3 subtidal mud	A5.33 infralittoral sandy mud	1.97km <sup>2</sup>
A5.4 Subtidal mixed sediments	A3.94 ME infralittoral rock and thin mixed sediments	5.03 km <sup>2</sup>	
	A3.A4 LE infralittoral rock and thin mixed sediments		
Habitat FOCI	Blue mussel beds		1,954m <sup>2</sup>
	Littoral chalk communities		1.03km <sup>2</sup>
	Subtidal chalk		0.09km <sup>2</sup>
Species FOCI	Long-snouted seahorse ( <i>Hippocampus guttulatus</i> )		1 record
	Short-snouted seahorse ( <i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i> )		2 record
	Native Oyster ( <i>Ostrea edulis</i> )		10 records
Highly mobile species FOCI	European Eel ( <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> )		n/a

#### 6. Features within Beachy Head West not proposed for designation <sup>3</sup>

Feature type	Feature name	Comments
Broad-scale habitats	A1.2 Moderate energy intertidal rock	Fully protected within Seaford to Beachy Head and Brighton to Newhaven SSSI
Habitat FOCI	Littoral chalk communities	Proposed for designation in MCZ (see table above) but is also protected in the Brighton to Newhaven Cliffs and Seaford to Beachy Head SSSIs.
	Rossworm ( <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> ) reef	Not particularly noteworthy here
	Subtidal sands and gravels	Not a priority for protection here
	Undulate Ray ( <i>Raja undulata</i> )	Occurs but not prime area

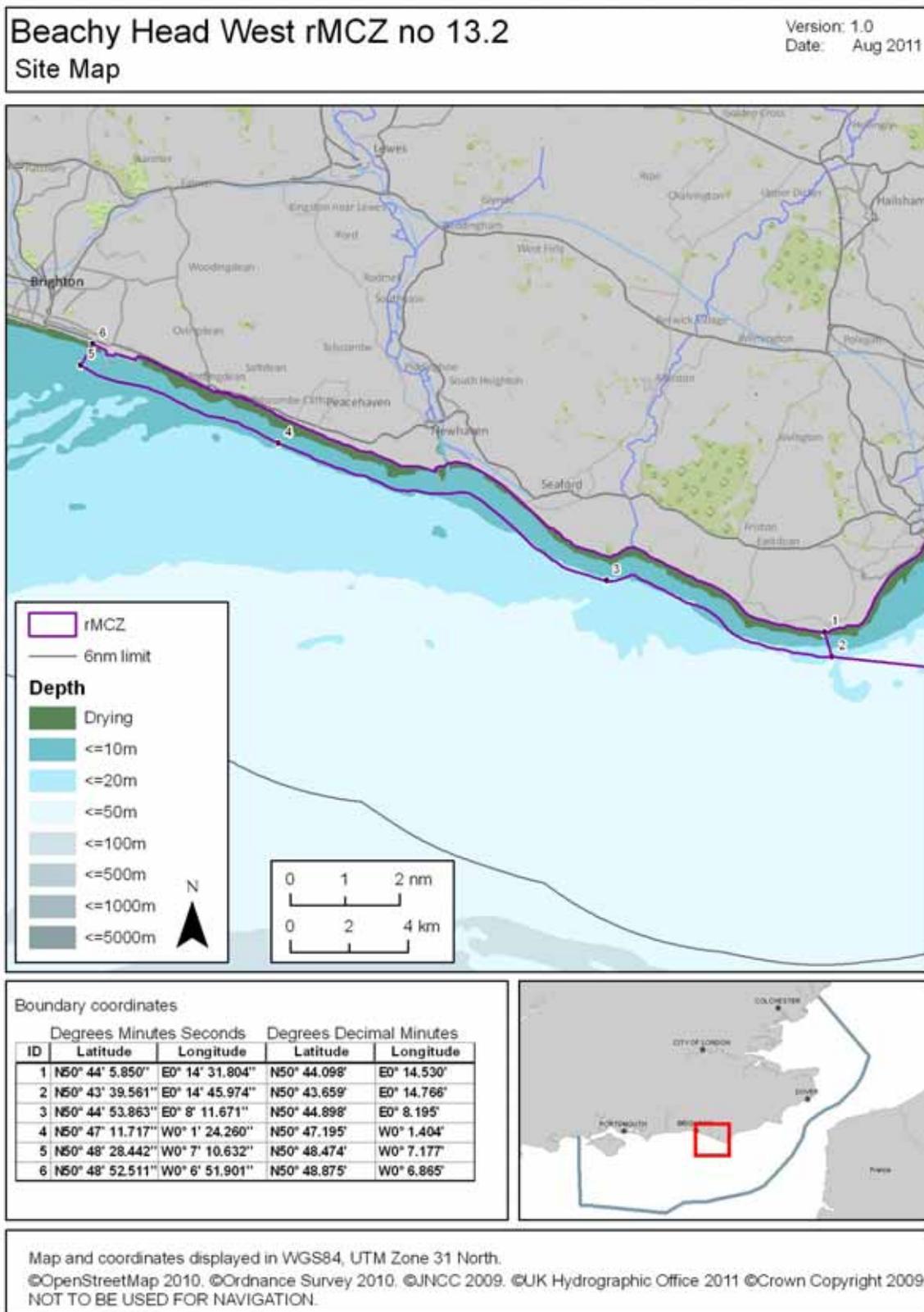
<sup>1</sup> Sources of information relating to these features are listed in Section 13

<sup>2</sup> Areas have been calculated according to spatial GIS data and are indicative only. A "record" is a survey point where a single individual, population or habitat has been found.

<sup>3</sup> Features may occur in both tables (sections 5 & 6) if the rMCZ overlaps with an existing MPA where the features are protected.

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### 7. Map of site



### 8. Site summary

The area to the west of Beachy Head contains one of the best regional examples of subtidal chalk platform and gullies with associated littoral chalk communities, though more detailed data (Channel Coastal Observatory multibeam data) will be necessary to accurately define the extent of these features. Although spatial data are limited, these formations are known to support extensive Blue Mussel Beds mixed with Native Oyster. Populations of both Long- and Short-snouted seahorse are known to occur here, and European Eel elvers migrate along the coastline into the estuaries. The site covers part of the Seven Sisters Voluntary Marine Conservation Area (VMCA).

To achieve the draft conservation objectives of the site, recreational anchoring might need to be restricted over the subtidal chalk although there are existing management measures for this activity throughout much of the site that may be appropriate. Current levels of other activities are considered to be acceptable according to the available information, although commercial potting and set netting will need monitoring. However, the RSG have recommended that the vulnerability assessment be undertaken on the REC data habitats in this site, to ensure the appropriate conservation objectives are in place.

### 9. Detailed site description



The following is a description of the site based on extracts from literature held by the Balanced Seas Project and stakeholder correspondence. It does not constitute a complete literature review or ecological description of the site.

The site is a ¼ nautical mile strip adjoining the coastline and running from Beachy Head westwards to 100m west of Brighton Marina. The key features of this site are its unique chalk shelf and gullies that represent one of the best examples of subtidal chalk in the region. The same stretch of coastline corresponds with the Seven Sisters VMCA, which extends further seawards and was set up in 1987 to protect the shoreline and these important marine habitats (Seven Sisters VMCA Working Group, 1987; East Sussex County Council, 1998).

The UKSeaMap/MESH data (JNCC 2011 v.7) shows this site contains moderate energy intertidal rock, intertidal coarse sediment and mud, and subtidal mud, sand and mixed sediment, all of which have been selected for protection (see Broad-scale habitats map). This EUNIS Level 3 subtidal habitat definition is the result of 'back translating' reclassified finer-scale habitats from recent MALSF-funded seabed surveys (REC data: James *et al.* 2010, 2011) into the broader ENG habitat classifications, generally resulting in a coarser definition of the seabed<sup>4</sup>.

Data from the MALSF English Channel Synthesis Regional Environmental Characterisation data (REC, James *et al.* 2011) indicates that over half of the subtidal part of the site is rock with a thin veneer of sediment (see REC EUNIS Level 4 map). Thus neither the UKSeaMap/MESH data nor the REC data accurately delineate the seaward extent of the subtidal chalk platform, which has presented major difficulties in the planning process. The forthcoming Coastal Channel Observatory multibeam survey data covering the area 1km off the shoreline will assist with this urgent need.

The habitat FOCI directly related to the broader-scale habitats - littoral chalk communities and subtidal chalk – are also considered to be some of the best examples in the region, though stakeholders have questioned the accuracy of some of the littoral chalk community data records (see FOCI map). Blue mussel beds are also present, but stakeholders note that these beds are more extensive than the national contract data indicate (Seeley *et al.* 2010 DEFRA MB102 2C; Beachy Head Site Mtg, January 2011). Stakeholders have noted that the Native Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) are

<sup>4</sup> Please see the Final Recommendations report for a more detailed explanation of how these datasets have been used.

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particularly noteworthy at Peacehaven, Brighton Marina and Seaford Bay, none of which are subject to oyster harvesting, making the site good for protecting this species (Beachy Head Sites Meeting, January 2011). National contract data (Seeley *et al.* 2010 DEFRA MB102 2C) also provided records indicating that mud habitats in deep water are present in the site, but the RSG considered this to be inaccurate, and these data points were removed from the dataset. Both the Short-snouted and Long-snouted Seahorse (*Hippocampus hippocampus*; *H. guttulatus*) have been listed for protection here and records of both species occur according to the national contract data (Seeley *et al.* 2010 DEFRA MB102 2B) and stakeholders have noted that both species occur in Brighton Marina (Beachy Head Sites Meeting, January 2011).

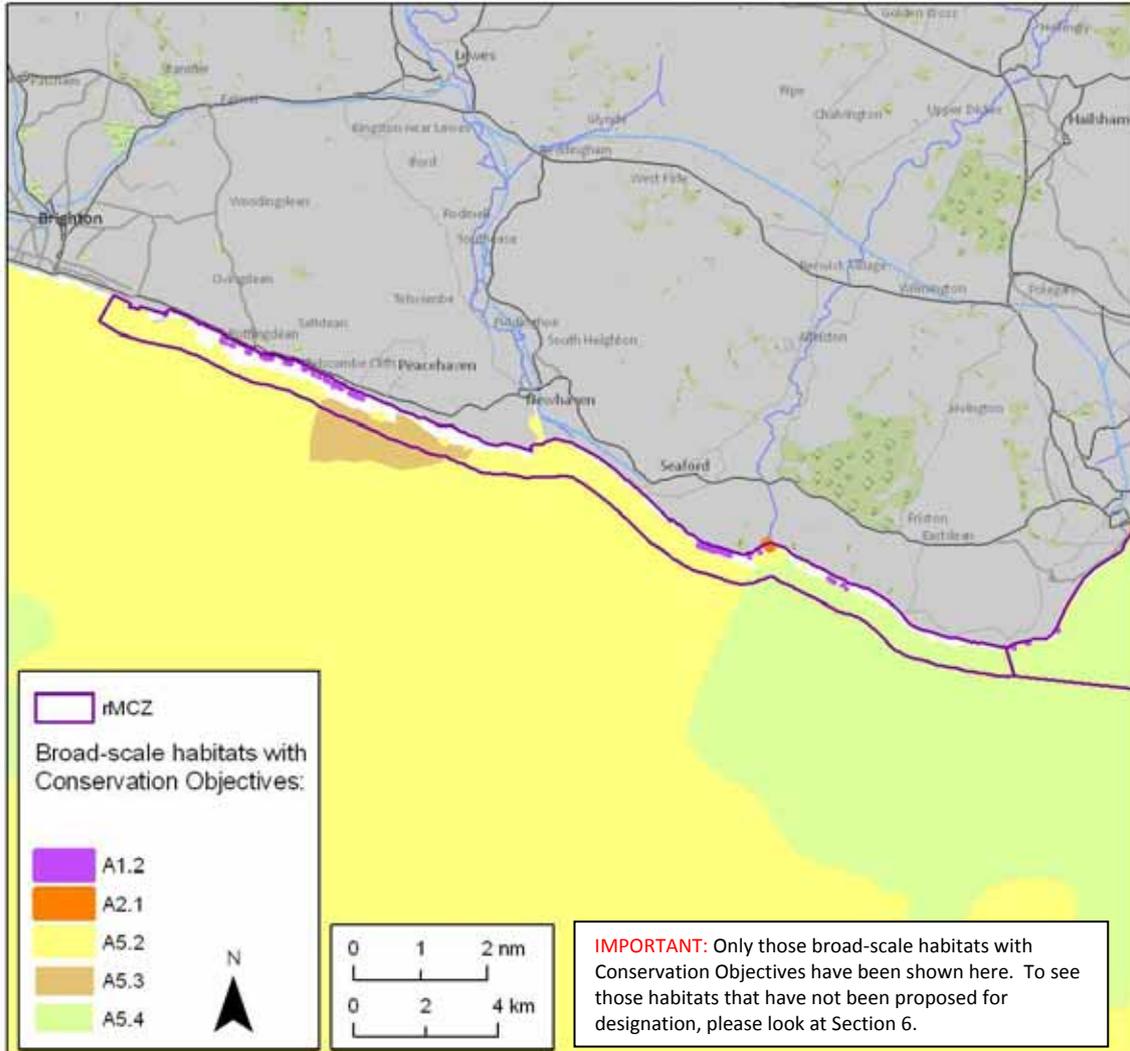
The European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) is found in Brighton Marina, and elvers migrate along this stretch of coastline (Beachy Head Site meeting, January 2011). As the only dataset held by the project to verify this species is the very coarse-scale CEFAS data layer (Ellis *et al.* 2010 DEFRA MB102 2B), stakeholder knowledge has been used to identify its presence, but there is no fine-scale data to support this. Given that elvers are found in almost of the estuaries in South England, they are presumed also to occur in the Ouse and Cuckmere estuaries (Belden and Millmore, 2011). After considerable discussion, the RSG decided not to include these two estuaries, as most of the broad-scale habitats that would support the Eel are already protected under the Seaford to Beachy Head SSSI, but did note that they may well merit MCZ protection later, if additional data on features becomes available. Their general importance for biodiversity is noted, in relation to non-ENG habitats, spawning and nursery areas for a range of fish species, and important areas for breeding, wintering and passage birds (Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre, Cole 2011, Seaford Head to Beachy Head SSSI Citation; Environment Agency 2010).

This rMCZ has a number of additional supporting features identified by stakeholders (see Southeast Features map). The Wildlife Trust has collated survey data that shows that Seaford Bay holds large areas of sea squirt (*Molgula*) beds. Areas of Ross coral and very unusual claystone reef are thought to be present here, though spatial data provided by the Wildlife Trusts cannot verify that at present. The RSPB have noted that the site provides good foraging areas for Black-legged Kittiwake, Common Tern and Sandwich Tern, all of which regularly feed offshore. Towards Birling Gap, the chalk foreshore reef is associated with notable algal communities that have been identified as an Important Plant Area (Brodie *et al.*, 2007). Natural geological features, such as peat exposures, occur in the site and particularly noteworthy are the calcite rings, six feet in diameter, occurring at Hope Gap on the chalk (Beachy Head Sites Meeting, January 2011). The rMCZ is within one of the Key Inshore Biodiversity Areas in the Balanced Seas Region recommended as an MCZ by the South East England Biodiversity Forum (SEEBF, 2010). The Seven Sisters was one of the recommendations put forward by the Marine Conservation Society as part of their 'Your Seas Your Voice' Campaign, where the general public could vote for the site they would most like to see gain more protection; of those who voted (592), about 72% were in favour (MCS, 2011).

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Broad-scale habitats (EUNIS Level 3) with Conservation Objectives

Version: 1.0  
Date: Aug 2011



- Broad-scale habitats with Conservation Objectives:
- A1.2 moderate energy intertidal rock
  - A2.1 intertidal coarse sediment
  - A5.2 subtidal sand
  - A5.3 subtidal mud
  - A5.4 subtidal mixed sediments



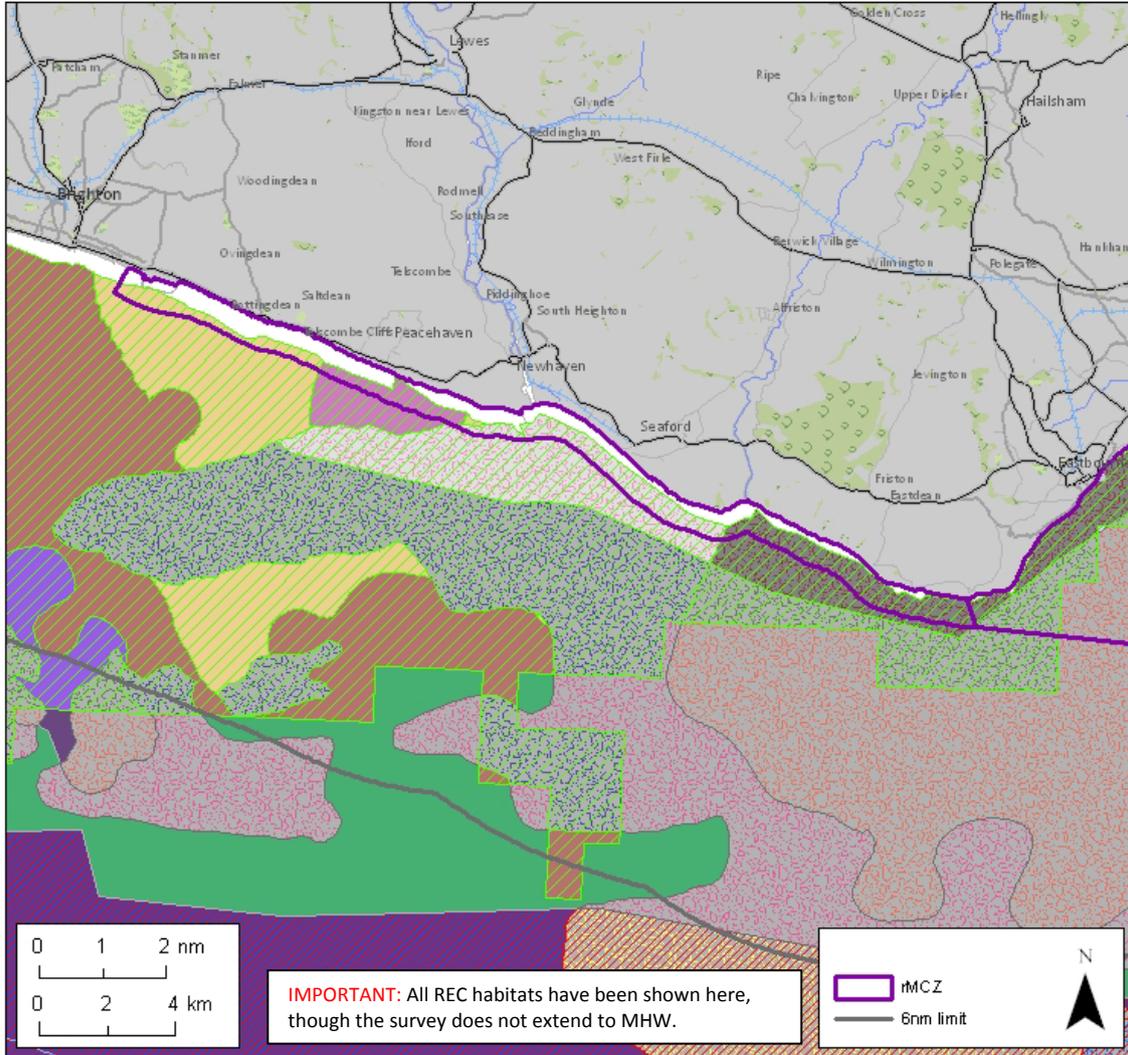
Map and coordinates displayed in WGS84, UTM Zone 31 North.  
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Broad-scale habitat (reclassified EUNIS Level 4 from REC data)

Version: 1.0  
Date: Aug 2011



### Broad-scale habitats (reclassified EUNIS Level 4 from REC data)

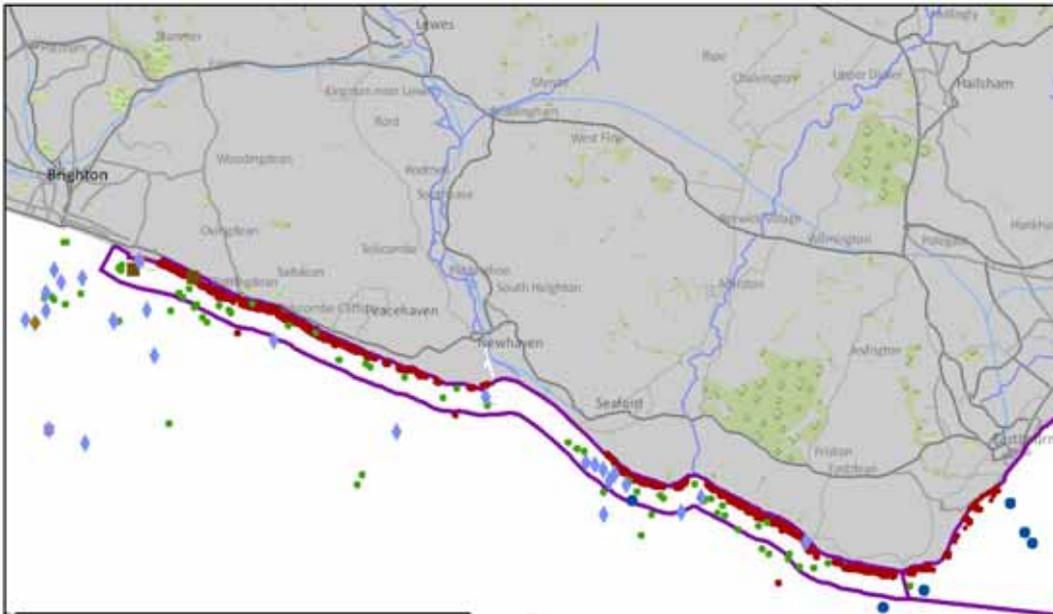
- A3.94: Moderate energy infralittoral rock and thin mixed sediments
- A3.A2: Low energy infralittoral rock and thin sandy sediment
- A3.A4: Low energy infralittoral rock and thin mixed sediments
- A6.24: Infralittoral muddy sand
- A6.33: Infralittoral sandy mud



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Habitat and Species FOCI Conservation Objectives

Version: 1.0  
Date: Aug 2011



**Species FOCI**

- ◆ Native oyster (*O. edulis*)
- Long snouted seahorse (*H. hippocampus*)
- Long snouted seahorse (*H. guttulatus*)

**Habitat FOCI**

- Blue Mussel Beds (intertidal and subtidal)
- Subtidal chalk
- Littoral chalk communities

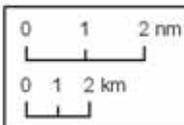
**Species FOCI High Mobility**

European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) - no data available

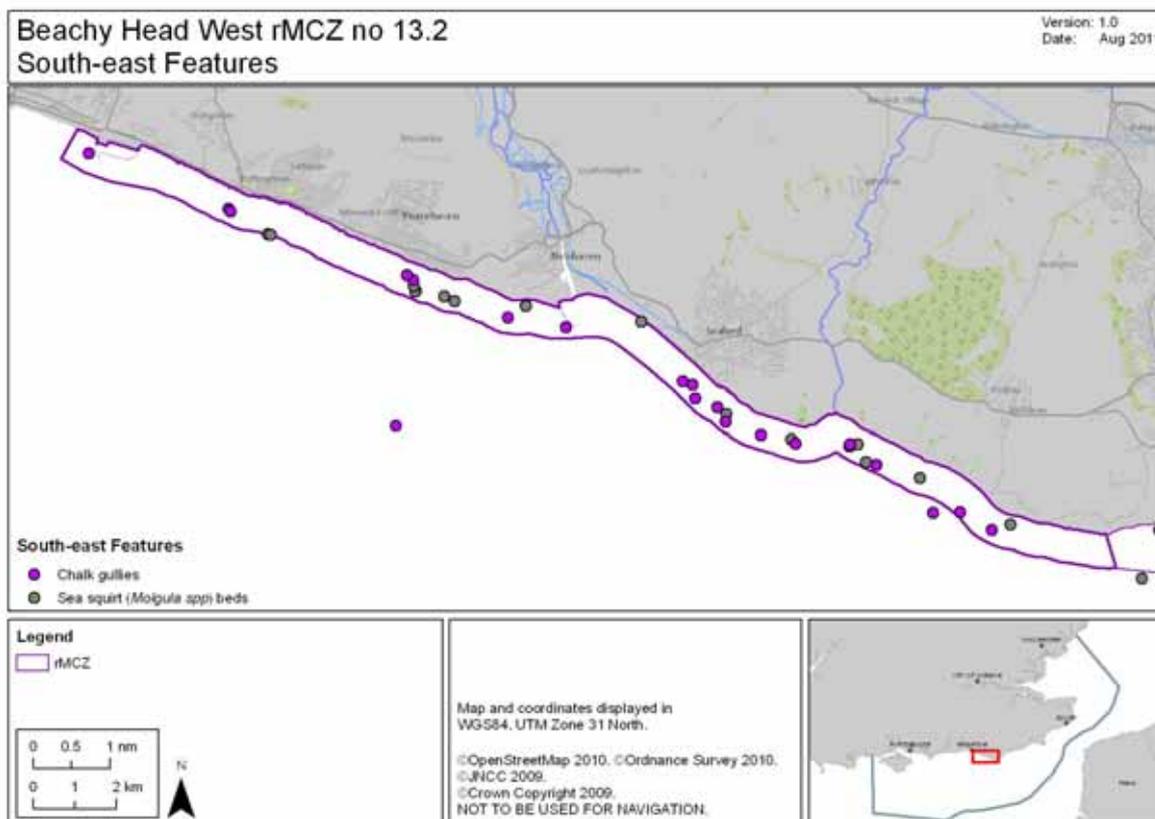
**IMPORTANT:** Only those FOCI with conservation Objectives have been shown here. To see those FOCI that have not been proposed for designation, please look at Section 6.

**Legend**

■ rMCZ



Map and coordinates displayed in WGS84, UTM Zone 31 North.  
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### 10. Site boundary

The western boundary of the site was brought in to lie 200m west of the western arm of Brighton Marina, to ensure that areas of chalk on the cliffs are included in the site. Although Brighton Marina has been discussed in relation to the features (e.g. seahorses), there has never been a clear agreement to either include or exclude it from the site and this issue will need to be addressed as the site goes forward. Trawling is currently excluded under a byelaw within the area ¼ nm seawards from the lowest astronomical tide (LAT) along the coast. The seaward boundary of the site was thus proposed as the seaward limit of the trawling exclusion area. However, since the project data layers do not show LAT line, the trawling sector agreed to a slightly different boundary (½ nm from Mean High Water) provided there was not an additional buffer placed on top of the site. The boundary for this rMCZ has therefore been drawn in accordance with this agreement, given that this gives appropriate protection to the designated features. It should be noted however that there was strong argument from the wildlife sector to extend the boundary to that of the Seven Sisters VMCA.

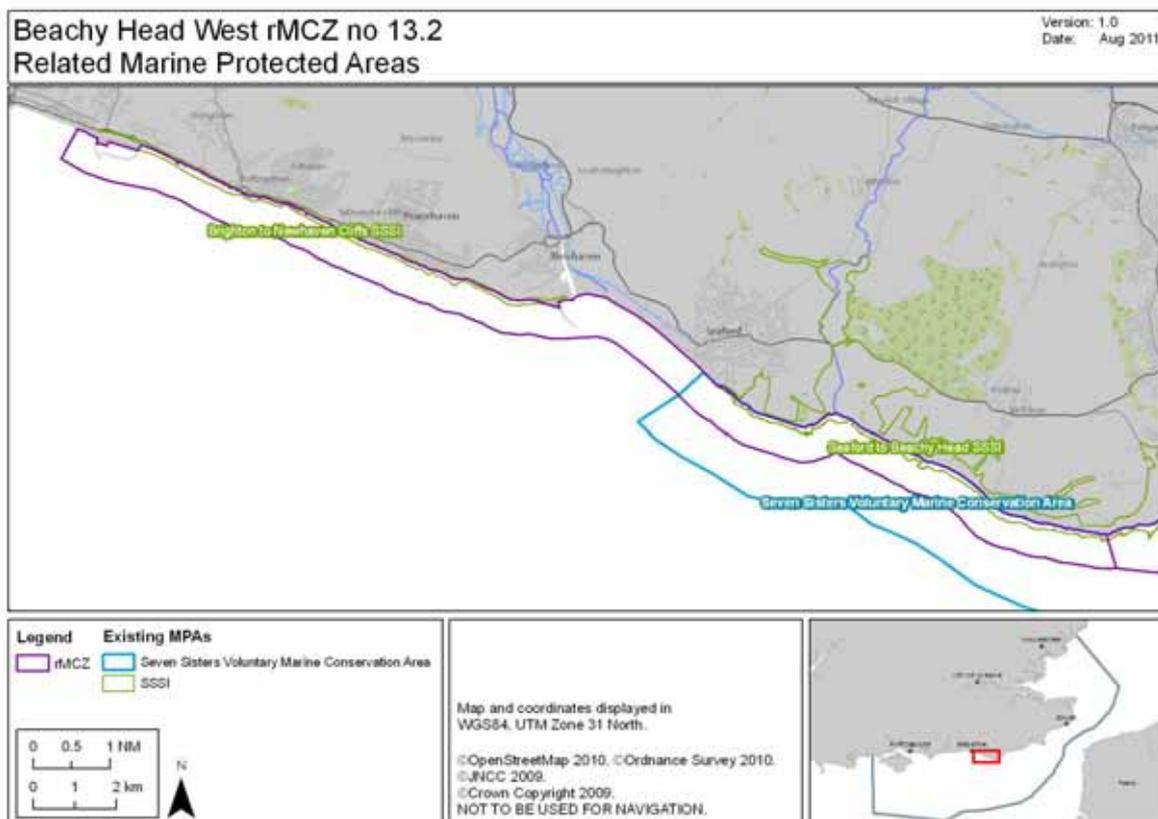
### 11. Conservation objectives

Individual conservation objective forms for each feature can be found in Appendix 1. For a site-based summary of the conservation objectives and proposed management measures, please see Section 15.

### 12. Sites to which this site is related

This site partially overlaps the Seaford to Beachy Head SSSI and the Brighton to Newhaven Cliffs SSSI. The easternmost part of the rMCZ, from just west of Birling Gap to the eastern Boundary at Beachy Head overlaps with the Seven Sisters Voluntary Marine Conservation Area.

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### 13. Supporting documentation (information relating to ENG features only)

Information	Type of information	Source	Name of survey	Date
Broad-scale Habitats	Modelled and survey data	JNCC V.7 Combined UKSeaMap and MESH	Combined	June 2011
Broad-scale Habitats	Modelled data	MALSF REC	Synthesis study of Central and Eastern English Channel	2011
Rossworm ( <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> ) reef	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2C	JNCCMNCR60000 715	07/09/1996
Rossworm ( <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> ) reef	Survey	Kent Wildlife Trust		06/08/2000
Littoral chalk communities	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2C		1986-2000
Peat and clay exposures	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2C		11/08/1996
Blue mussel beds	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2C	Multiple	1995-1998
Subtidal chalks	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2C	Multiple	1982-1996
Subtidal chalks	Survey	Marine recorder extract Sept 2010		1982-1997
Subtidal sands and gravels	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2C		2006
Subtidal sands and gravels	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2C	Multiple	1995-2008
Long-snouted seahorse ( <i>H.</i>	Survey	National contract data DEFRA		23/09/2006

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<i>guttulatus</i> )		MB102 2B		
Short-snouted seahorse ( <i>H. hippocampus</i> )	Survey	Seahorse Trust		24/07/2006
Short-snouted seahorse ( <i>H. hippocampus</i> )	Survey	Seahorse Trust		13/02/2007
Short-snouted seahorse ( <i>H. hippocampus</i> )	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2B		08/06/2006
Native oyster ( <i>O. edulis</i> )	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2B		1995-2006
Native oyster ( <i>O. edulis</i> )	Survey	Marine recorder extract Sept 2010		28/09/2008
European Eel ( <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> )	Survey	National contract data, DEFRA MB102 2B	CEFAS	
European Eel ( <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> )	Anecdotal evidence	Beachy Head Sites Meeting		Jan 2011

### References (additional information can be found in the Bibliography)

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- COLCLOUGH, S. 2010. Marine Fish Nursery Function in the Adur Estuary. Environment Agency, UK.
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- COLE K. 2011. Cuckmere Pathfinder Project – Options Impact Assessment (Ecology). Ecological Interest within the Cuckmere Estuary and the Potential Implications of Proposed Changes in Estuary Management. East Sussex County Council.
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- SEELEY, B., HIGGS, S., LEAR, D., EVANS, J., NEILLY, M., CAMPBELL, M., WILKES, P., ADAMS, L., 2010. *Assessing and Developing the Required Biophysical Dataset and Data Layers for Marine Protected Areas Network Planning and Wider Marine Spatial Planning Purposes. Report No 16: Mapping of Protected Habitats (MB102 Task 2C)*. DEFRA, London.
- SEVEN SISTERS VMCA WORKING GROUP 1987. First Annual Report 1987
- SOUTH EAST ENGLAND BIODIVERSITY FORUM (SEEBF) 2010. *Key Inshore Biodiversity Areas in the Balanced Seas Region for Recommendation as Marine Conservation Zones*. Letter and list to RSG and Balanced Seas Project Team, 22 Nov 2010.
- SUSSEX BIODIVERSITY RECORDS CENTRE. SNCI citations for the Ouse and Cuckmere.
- SUSSEX BIODIVERSITY RECORDS CENTRE. Ouse and Cuckmere bird species list.

### 14. Stakeholder support for the site

The RSG as a group reached consensus that this site should be put forward in their final recommendations.

Individual sectors wishing to note their support or concerns about the site recorded the following at the final RSG meeting in August 2011; their comments have been transcribed verbatim from the form that they completed:

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SECTOR	ORGANISATION	COMMENT for Offshore Brighton rMCZ 14
Yachting	RYA	Needs survey to establish condition of subtidal sediments before setting conservation objectives.
Sea Angling		Offshore Brighton. The RSA have no major concerns but notes that controls to bottom fishing is unfair if it does not include non-UK fleet.
	Local Fisheries Representatives	No support for recover status on mobile high energy habitat.
Fishing - FPO, beam trawling		No support at all - extremely contentious for UK and foreign fleets. Would agree if sand/sediment areas were "maintain".
Birds	RSPB	Offshore Brighton - support site and CO of recover for broadscale habitats.
Wildlife Trusts	Hampshire Wildlife Trust	I support this site and believe the sediment habitat should have a recover CO.
Marine Wildlife	Marine Conservation Society	<u>Support site</u> . Recover all broadscale habitats from bottom trawling.

### 15. Site summary of conservation objectives (COs) and proposed management measures

A conservation objective (CO) is a statement describing the desired quality of the feature. Existing MPAs in the UK use the term *Favourable Condition* to represent the desired state of their features. Some pressures caused by human activities may stop the feature attaining favourable condition if present at sufficient intensity.

MAINTAIN means that, the *stated levels of activity* currently occurring on the feature are considered acceptable, but features will be monitored and restrictions may have to be introduced if the condition declines.

RECOVER means that restrictions may be necessary on the activity causing the pressure, in order to allow the feature to recover to favourable condition. It does not necessarily mean that the activity will be prohibited, as other mitigation measures might be appropriate (e.g. change in gear type, reduction of intensity, seasonal restrictions, etc)

The table below documents the draft COs for ALL the features listed for protection within the site, as established by JNCC and NE through the Vulnerability Assessment (VA) process<sup>5</sup> and then sense-checked at the national level<sup>6</sup>. Where a RECOVER objective is noted, the associated activity causing the pressure is indicated. In some cases, where information warranted it, the RSG chose to adopt the changes to COs recommended by the public authorities: Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs), Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Environment Agency (EA) or Natural England. Changes were only accepted when recommended by these authorities and have been clearly noted. Where the VA has not yet been undertaken, or there is considerable uncertainty surrounding the accuracy of the information being used to recommend a change to the conservation objective, it has been noted as 'TO BE ASSESSED'. Local and regional stakeholders were given the opportunity to comment on the COs and potential management measures and to provide additional information that might not have been taken into account in the VA work.

For greater detail on discussions relating to the site and the network, please refer to both RSG and Local Group stakeholder meeting reports at [www.balancedseas.org](http://www.balancedseas.org).

<sup>5</sup> The process of establishing conservation objectives is outlined in the [Conservation Objectives Guidance](#) (JNCC /NE 2011)

<sup>6</sup> VA results were standardised across all four regional projects but the fisheries activity data is still undergoing assessment.

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Feature	REC habitat	Draft CO	Activity exerting pressure	IFCA/MMO/EA/NE Comments	Stakeholder comments on draft COs and potential management measures
A1.2 Moderate energy intertidal rock	N/A	MAINTAIN			
A2.1 Intertidal coarse sediment	N/A	MAINTAIN			
A5.2 Subtidal Sand	A3.A2 LE infra-littoral rock & thin sandy sediment	MAINTAIN (to be reassessed according to the REC habitats)		Vulnerability Assessment will need to be undertaken on the REC data (which will require additional work to be done to assess the sensitivity of these finer scale habitats) in order to produce the appropriate CO.  COs were therefore not finalised and not discussed at the Local Group meeting (July 2011) and the final RSG meeting (2/3 Aug 2011)	
	A5.24 infra-littoral muddy sand				
A5.3 Subtidal Mud	A5.33 infra-littoral sandy mud	MAINTAIN			
A5.4 Subtidal mixed sediments	A3.94 ME infra-littoral rock & thin mixed sediments	MAINTAIN (to be reassessed according to the REC habitats)		Vulnerability Assessment will need to be undertaken on the REC data (which will require additional work to be done to assess the sensitivity of these finer scale habitats) in order to produce the appropriate CO.  COs were therefore not finalised and not discussed at the Local Group meeting (July 2011) and the final RSG meeting (2/3 Aug 2011)	
	A3.A4 LE infra-littoral rock & thin mixed sediments				
Blue Mussel beds (including intertidal beds on mixed and sandy sediments)	N/A	MAINTAIN		SNCBs stated that commercial potting and set netting will need monitoring	
Littoral chalk communities	N/A	RECOVER	Tourism & Recreation (anchoring by recreational vessels)	MMO voluntary agreement to discourage and prevent anchoring on littoral chalk	In response to a request for further information from the SNCBs, the LG (July 2011) noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chalk is very hard to anchor in - most people trying to do so are doing it as an emergency or because they are unaware it is there.</li> <li>• Only places to anchor are Seaford Bay and Cuckmere Haven where there is no chalk</li> <li>• Some chalk reefs are further offshore e.g. near Splash Point – non-local amateur boatman may anchor as they don't know the chalk is there</li> <li>• There are many byelaws restricting anchoring already, which make any restriction</li> </ul>

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Feature	REC habitat	Draft CO	Activity exerting pressure	IFCA/MMO/EA/NE Comments	Stakeholder comments on draft COs and potential management measures
					<p>easier, but stakeholders would like to see consistency across the board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education of the public should be part of the management – RYA think that not anchoring on chalk is good advice in general</li> </ul> <p>RSG RYA sector (at meeting 2/3 Aug 2011) not comfortable with a RECOVER objective if there is no anchoring activity overlapping the feature except by accident. They wish to see consistency across the COs unless damage is actually being done.</p>
Subtidal chalk	N/A	MAINTAIN		NE stated that a multi-beam survey is underway by NE/SeaSearch to map distribution of subtidal chalk.	
Short-snouted seahorse ( <i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i> )	N/A	MAINTAIN			
Long-snouted seahorses ( <i>Hippocampus guttulatus</i> )	N/A	MAINTAIN			The LG Wildlife sector (July 2011) were concerned that trawling had not been taken into account; fishing reps said that mesh size used means that seahorses can escape.
Native Oyster ( <i>Ostrea edulis</i> )	N/A	MAINTAIN			
European Eel ( <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> )	N/A	MAINTAIN		EA regulations in place; impacts of sewage and mitigation is included in their eel management plans.	Concern from wildlife sector about the effects of sewage on eel populations (July 2011);

### 16. Evolution of the site recommendations

Both Beachy Head East (Royal Sovereign Shoals) and Beachy Head West were amongst the first broad areas of interest to be identified by the RSG. Beachy Head West was identified as a good place to protect important chalk features within an MCZ due to the Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee byelaw restricting trawling within ¼ nm from the shore. There was considerable discussion amongst the regional and local stakeholder groups about the precise limits of this seaward boundary. Since the features identified for protection (the littoral and subtidal chalk platforms and undersea gullies) are very poorly defined in the available data, accurately delineating an appropriate boundary was considered impossible without more detailed feature data (e.g. Channel Coastal Observatory data). The trawling byelaw covers the area ¼ nm seawards from the Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT), and this was suggested as the seaward boundary of the site. However, since the project data layers do not show the LAT line, the trawling sector agreed to a slightly different boundary (1/2 nm from Mean High Water) provided no buffer zone is added seawards of site. Some stakeholders have argued strongly that the seaward boundary should be concurrent with the Seven Sisters VMCA boundary but this was not agreed by the RSG in its final recommendations as the SSVMCA does not reflect a trawling exclusion zone and is not supported by the local fishing fleets.

There was also extensive debate at local stakeholder level over a proposal from the wildlife sector to include the Cuckmere and Ouse estuaries within this rMCZ, as both are relatively undeveloped areas and important spawning and nursery grounds for a number of species that would benefit from protection. However, the RSG did not consider that there was sufficient supporting data with regard to ENG features to justify their inclusion.

For greater detail on discussions relating to the site and the network, please refer to both RSG and Local Group stakeholder meeting reports at [www.balancedseas.org](http://www.balancedseas.org).

### 17. Implications for Stakeholders

The issues associated with this area are:

- This area very heavily fished with static gear, and this sector is agreeing to the recommendation only if their activities will not be significantly impacted by an MCZ
- Some of the wildlife sectors have expressed strong disappointment that the full extent of the Seven Sisters VMCA and the two associated estuaries were not included.
- The Crown Estate accepts the site, but has noted that the site is within a future interest area for nearshore wave projects and contains an active telecoms cable.

This list represents only the major issues associated with the site. To see all stakeholder discussions, please refer to the Balanced Seas RSG and Local Group meeting reports at [www.balancedseas.org](http://www.balancedseas.org).