

Marine Conservation Zone: Selection Assessment Document

Version and Issue date	Amendments made
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.

1. Site name Flying Fortress recommended Reference Area no. 25	3. Site surface area 99ha 0.99km ²
2. Site centre location ETRS89 N51 1' 9.966" E1 14' 2.171" N51 1.166' E1 14.036' (N.B. WGS 84 UTM 31N coordinates are provided in the map vertices)	4. Biogeographic region Eastern English Channel

5. Features identified for specific protection within the Flying Fortress rRA ¹

Feature type	Feature name	Area ²
Habitat FOCI	Rossworm (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>) reef	625.35m ²
Species FOCI Low	Honeycomb worm (<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>) reef	312.57m ²

6. Other features occurring within the Flying Fortress rRA (to be protected)

Feature type	Feature name	Reason not specifically identified for reference area protection
Broad Scale Habitats	A5.1 Subtidal coarse sediment	Not viable for subtidal Broad Scale Habitat RA

7. Map of site (see below)

8. Site summary

This rRA was selected as it is one of only two occurrences of the Honeycomb worm (*Sabellaria alveolata*) reef. At RSG 10 (June 2011) it was agreed that this is the preferred site, as the data points for *Sabellaria* are more recent than at rRA 24 Harwich Haven, and there is greater confidence in them.

The site supports dense biogenic reefs of Rossworm (*Sabellaria*) on an underlying muddy sediment which are extremely unusual as they contain many of the animals associated with both the *Sabellaria* reef biotope, offshore mud biotopes with bivalve molluscs and *Sabellaria alveolata* reef biotope (SS.SBR.PoR.SalvMx *Sabellaria alveolata* on variable salinity sublittoral mixed sediment). This mix of biotopes is not known to occur elsewhere in the Balanced Seas area.

9. Detailed site description

For further details please see detailed site description for rMCZ 11.4.

10. Site boundary

The boundary is simple 500m by 500m box drawn around the features within rMCZ 11.4.

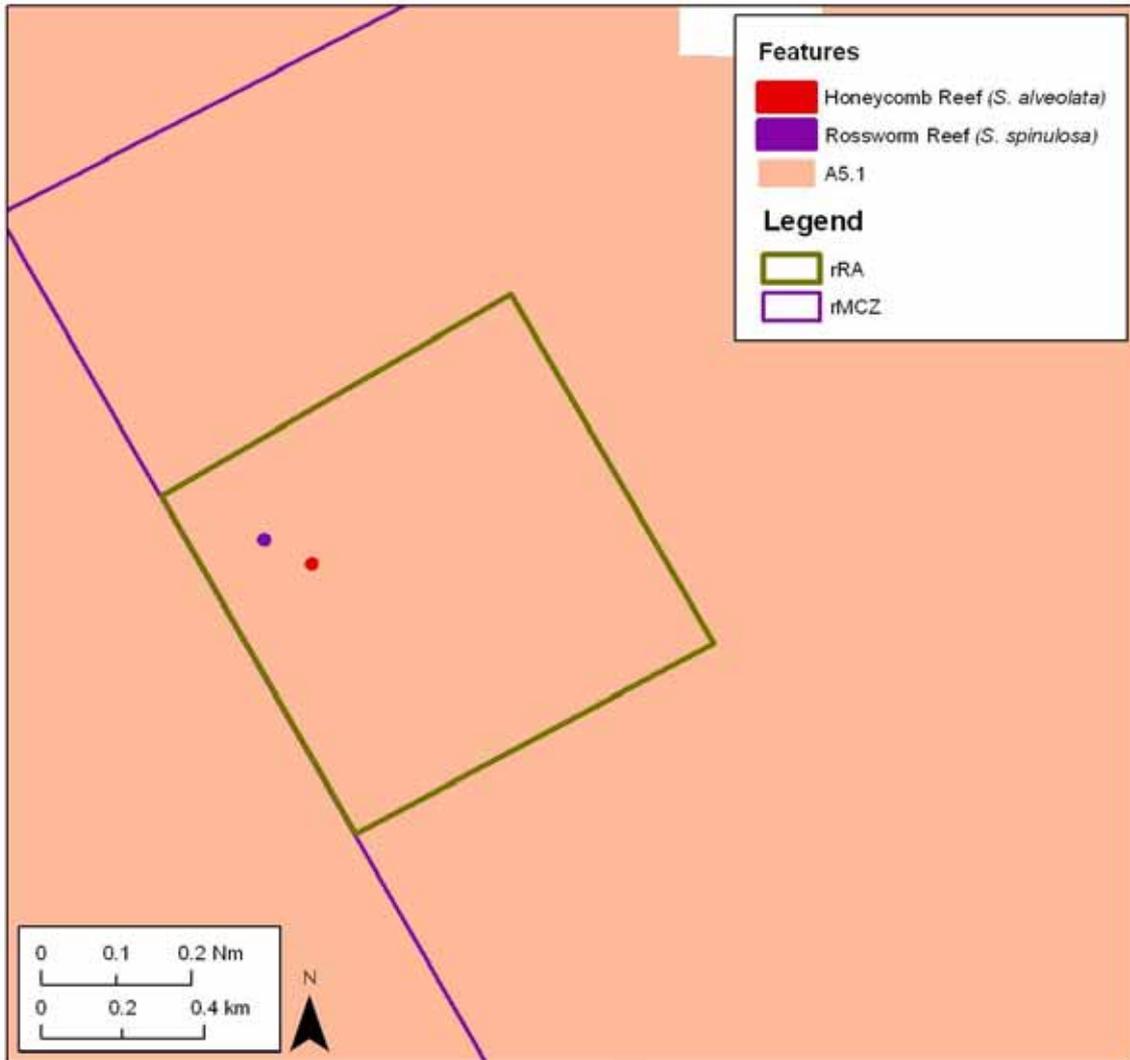
11. Conservation objectives

Individual conservation objective forms for each feature can be found in Appendix 1. In selecting the reference areas, stakeholders have identified specific features that merit reference area protection. ALL features in a reference area will, by default, have a Conservation Objective of "RECOVER to Reference Condition."

¹ Sources of information relating to these features are listed in Section 13.

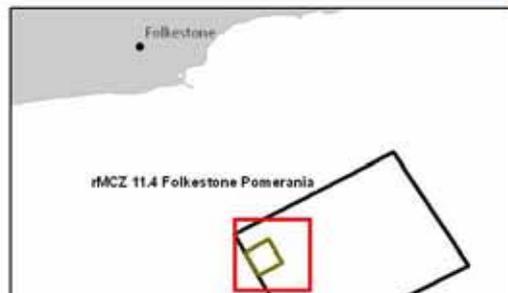
² Areas have been calculated according to spatial GIS data and are indicative only.

Flying Fortress
Recommended Reference Area no 25



Features to be protected within reference area:

- A5.1 Subtidal coarse sediment
- Honeycomb Reef (*S. alveolata*)
- Rossworm Reef (*S. spinulosa*)



 This map and list show the main features selected by the RSG for inclusion within this Draft Reference Area. However, **ALL** features (including any additional) falling within this area would be given Reference Area protection.

Map and coordinates displayed in WGS84, UTM Zone 31 North.
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NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION.

Flying Fortress rRA no 25

Sites to which this site is related

The site lies within rMCZ 11.4

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

Information	Type of information	Source	Name of survey	No of points	Dates
All broad scale habitats	Modelled data	UKSeaMap/MESH v7	Combined	n/a	2011
Honeycomb worm (<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>) reef	Survey	Aggregate survey off Hythe (Data sourced from Environment Agency database)		1	2001
Rossworm (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>) reef	Survey	Data supplied by SeaSurveys Ltd (Data sourced from Environment Agency database)		1	2001

References

Please refer to the references in the site description of r MCZ 11.4.

14. Stakeholder support for the site

The Local group broadly supported 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:

SECTOR	ORGANISATION	COMMENT for rRA 25 Flying Fortress
Yachting	RYA	Support - no impact on recreational boating.
Sea Angling		Within South Foreland. Not many wrecks should help control.
Ports	Major Ports Group (UKMPG) and the British Ports Association (BPA)	
	Local Fisheries Representatives	A level playing field will result in more support. No agreement is more likely.
Fishing - FPO, beam trawling		No support.
Fishing - Over 10s, FPO, trawling sector (under and over 10m)	Gilson Co.	Fine.
Offshore renewables	EoN (on behalf of BWEA)	Not discussed on Wednesday.
Birds	RSPB	Support this option if it is better ecologically than option B.
Wildlife Trusts	Hampshire Wildlife Trust	I support this site.
Marine ecology	Seasearch	Strongly support RA for both <i>Sabellaria</i> species through the site should be much larger for effectiveness of management and enforcement. This was rejected by fishing interests.
Marine Wildlife	Marine Conservation Society	<u>Support</u> reference area.
IFCA	Kent & Essex IFCA	General support - note difficulty to enforce.
Heritage and Archaeology	English Heritage	Within MCZ 11.4. Support with usual provisions about investigation of newly uncovered wrecks.

15. Evolution of the site recommendations

The exact location of this site was discussed by the Local Group (South Kent Sites Meeting, July 2011) to try to minimise the impact on recreational and commercial fishing potting sectors. One suggestion was to exclude an important wreck used by anglers and divers. It was suggested that the site could be made easier to manage if the boundary corners were located at well known wrecks, which would make the location easy to find; another suggestion was to enlarge the site to cover the full width of the rMCZ along the northern boundary. This latter revision would affect anglers and no consensus was reached. The RSG (RSG 11 Mtg, August 2011) agreed to put the site forward with its original boundaries.

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.

16. Implications for Stakeholders

The following issues are associated with this site:

- Its small size will make the site very hard to manage as all activities in the area are transitory; proving that someone has been into a site when they can be in and out very quickly will be extremely problematic. Wildlife sector suggested making the site larger which would give a larger time window in which to record any activity
- Angling: although local anglers may support this as an RA others may not; but they felt this is the least damaging option of boundaries for their sector.
- The site is currently trawled but the trawling sector has agreed to cease trawling in the rMCZ as a whole as part of the proposed management scheme for the rMCZ around Dover
- There is a lot of diving here but the sector can accept this site, provided they can continue diving with appropriate mitigation

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.