

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 Goodwin Knoll recommended Reference Area no. 6	3. Site surface area 2318 ha 23.18 km ²
2. Site centre location ETRS89 N51 16' 47.126" E1 32' 33.767" N51 16.785' E1 32.563' (N.B. WGS 84 UTM 31N coordinates are provided in the map vertices)	4. Biogeographic region Southern North Sea

5. Features identified for specific protection within the Goodwin Knoll rRA¹

Feature type	Feature name	Area ²
Broad Scale Habitats	A5.1 Subtidal coarse sediment	0.85 km ²
	A5.2 Subtidal sand	22.32 km ²

6. Other features occurring within the Goodwin Knoll rRA (to be protected)

All features occurring have been identified for protection.

7. Map of site (see below)

8. Site summary

This site falls within the Goodwin Sands rMCZ 8 and has been identified to capture areas of subtidal sand and subtidal coarse sediment. It incorporates the North Goodwin Sands Bank, a drying area at low tide, where there is a lower level of human activity. Environment Agency data indicate that this is a good area for biodiversity; it is also highly dynamic due to the nature of the shifting sands, important as a seal haul out spot (North Sand Bank) and sea bird foraging ground. Although the boundaries have been drawn in order to exclude as many as possible, there are numerous wrecks in this area and therefore the site has high interest for heritage and archaeology sectors as well as recreational sea anglers and divers.

9. Detailed site description

For further detail please see detailed site description for rMCZ 8.

10. Site boundary

The site boundary was drawn as a 4.2km by 5.5km rectangle and located to avoid the protected wrecks where archaeological excavation and monitoring takes place, which involves extractive activities.

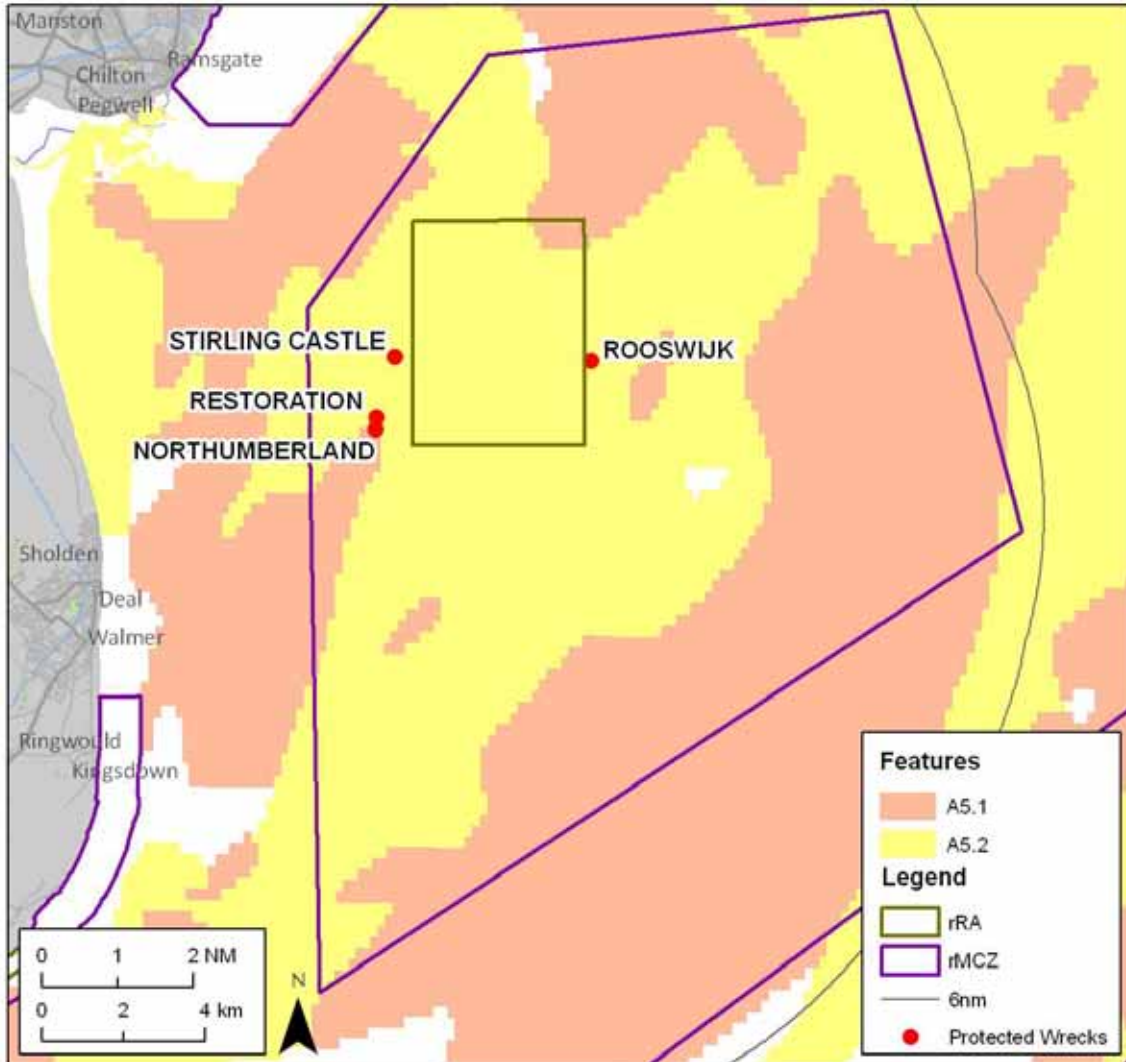
11. Conservation objectives

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.

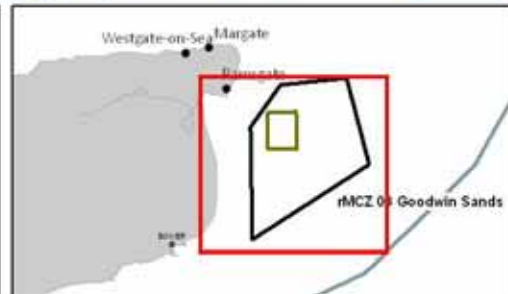
² Areas have been calculated according to spatial GIS data and are indicative only.

Goodwin Knoll Recommended Reference Area no 6



Features to be protected within reference area:

- A5.1 Subtidal coarse sediment
- A5.2 Subtidal sand



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.
 ©OpenStreetMap 2010. ©Ordnance Survey 2010.
 ©JNCC 2009. ©Crown Copyright 2009.
NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION.

Goodwin Knoll rRA no 6

12. Sites to which this site is related

This site is contained within the Goodwin Sands rMCZ 8.

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 and survey data	UKSeaMap/MESH v7	Combined	n/a	2011

References

Please refer to the references in the site description of r MCZ 3.

14. Stakeholder support for the site

The site generally has broad support from most Local Group sectors. 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 Goodwin Knoll rRA 6
Yachting	RYA	Support on basis that it does not impact on recreational boating.
Sea Angling		Shape redrawn to exclude Roosjevk Wreck. Charter boats not too excessive.
Ports		As per dMCZ 8.
Fishing - FPO, beam trawling		Supported.
Birds	RSPB	Support.
Wildlife Trusts	Hampshire Wildlife Trust	I support this site.
Marine Ecology	Seasearch	Strongly support a RA on the Goodwins though this includes a high proportion of intertidal habitat of less potential value than the subtidal so it represents a compromise location for the site.
Marine Wildlife	Marine Conservation Society	Recover CO for all broadscale habitats from all bottom-towed fishing.
Heritage and Archaeology	English Heritage	Buffer zone of 300-500m needed around the Roosjevk so that it is <u>not at all</u> in the reference area. <u>Oppose</u> the reference area strongly because of the possibility of needing to investigate [?] wrecks in future.

15. Evolution of the site recommendations

The boundaries were drawn to capture as much of the two broad-scale habitats to be protected as possible in an area of rMCZ 8 that was not as heavily used as other areas. The boundary was later made longer and narrower in order to exclude an important wreck (the Rooswijk) which undergoes much investigation by English Heritage and two other wrecks in the southern part of the site which coincided with local commercial fishing interests. Further discussion will be needed however, as some activities were flagged up at the July Local Group meeting which had not previously been known (see section 16 below).

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:

- The requirements for anchoring in the area (whether in emergencies or for other reasons) needs to be assessed; the dynamic nature of the habitat is likely to preclude the use of moorings as a mitigation measure
- Charter skippers and private boats (Ramsgate, Deal and Dover) use the area for anchoring and drift fishing
- Set netters from Ramsgate use the area
- Cable 1nm to the north of the RA (or may traverse it – to be checked)
- Heritage sector strongly objects to a reference area in this rMCZ at all because of the density of wrecks in the vicinity e.g. shifting sands uncover new wrecks. There is also concern over the buffer area around it in relation to the surrounding wrecks, although the Project Team clarified that the distance from the wrecks to the reference area was more than the buffer.
- Wildlife sector strongly support the site but would like to see more subtidal sand areas included and less drying area as this is not the best example of the habitat

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.