

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 Kingmere rMCZ no 16	3. Site surface area 4784 ha 47.84 km ²
2. Site centre location ETRS89 N50 43' 39.980" W0 27' 54.772" N50 43.666' W0 27.913' (N.B. WGS 84 UTM 31N coordinates are provided in the map vertices)	4. Biogeographic region Eastern English Channel

5. Features proposed for designation within Kingmere¹

Feature type	Feature name (EUNIS L3 translation from REC)	REC	Area / No. of records ²
Broad-scale Habitats	A5.4 subtidal mixed sediments	A3.94 ME infralittoral rock and thin mixed sediments	26.44 km ² N.B. this amount reflects only the amount of A5.4 that corresponds to A3.94
Habitat FOCI	Subtidal chalk		0.02 km ²
Species FOCI Low mobility	Native Oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>)		2 records
Non-ENG features	Black Bream (<i>Spondyliosoma cantharus</i>)		4 records

6. Features within Kingmere not proposed for designation³

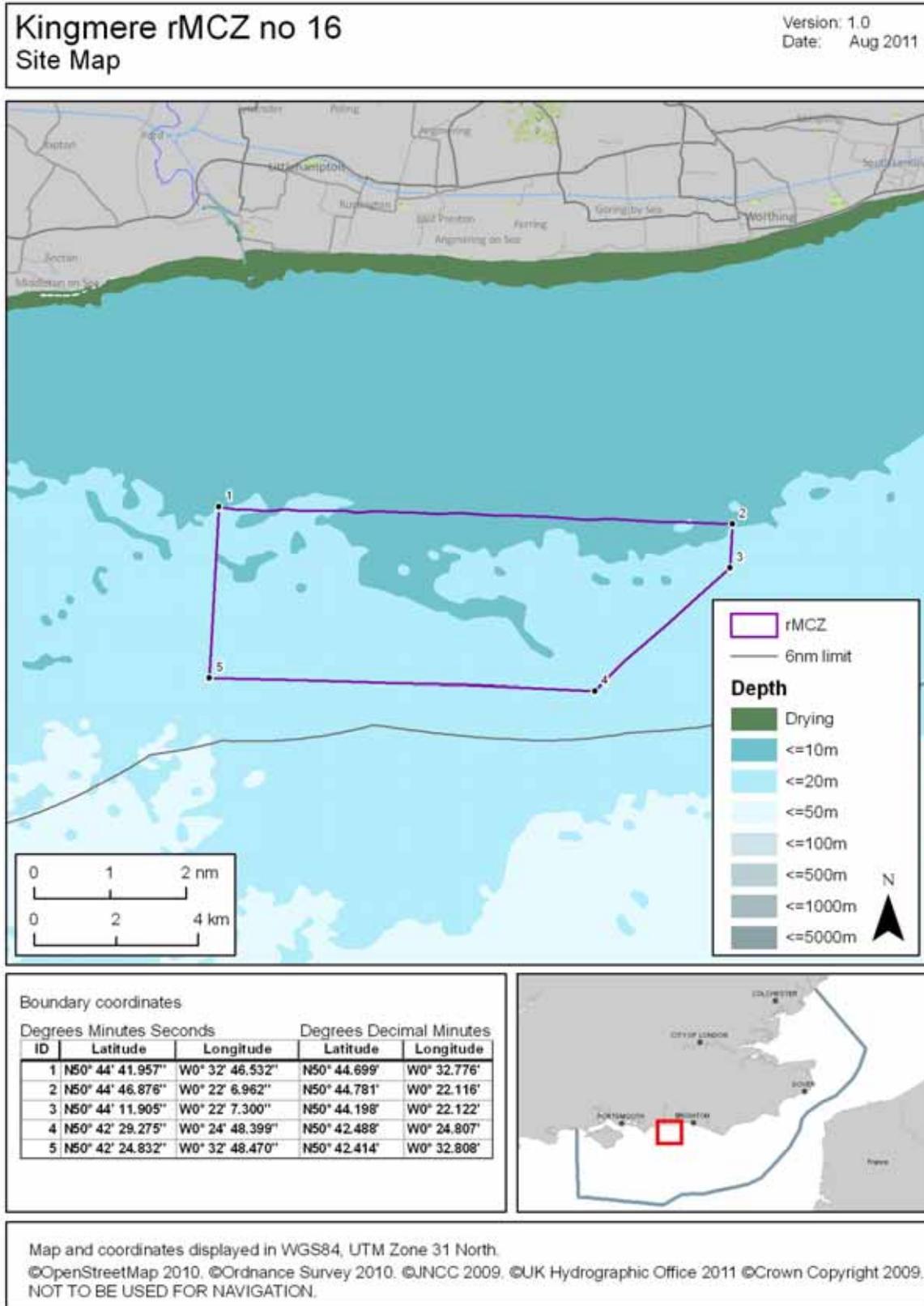
Feature type	Feature name	Comments
Broad-scale Habitats	A5.4 subtidal mixed sediments	REC: A5.43 Infralittoral mixed sediments – this REC habitat is not considered necessary to support the Black Bream nesting habitat (see site description)
Habitat FOCI	Blue mussel beds	Better areas exist for mussel beds in the region
	Rossworm (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>) reef	Not a good example
	Subtidal sands and gravels	Very poor representation. NOT linked to Bream nesting and associated with aggregate dredging map under represents this habitat (aggregates industry to provide
Species FOCI High mobility	Undulate Ray (<i>Raja undulata</i>)	Present and potentially in high numbers (not universally agreed (could be a CO if alternative site needed)

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. . A “record” is a survey point where a single individual, population or habitat has been found.

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

7. Map of site



8. Site summary

Kingmere contains several excellent examples of rocky habitats and subtidal chalk outcropping reef systems, in particular the Kingmere Rocks and the Worthing Lumps (both designated as marine Sites of Nature Conservation Importance by East & West Sussex County Council with the support of SeaSearch). These rocky outcrops of sandstone and boulders support a wide range of marine life, such as bryozoans, coralline algae, sea squirts, sponges and starfish. This site was specifically recommended by the Sussex IFCA (Sussex IFCA MCZ proposal 19.08.2010) in order to protect the wider sandstone reef associated with Black Bream spawning aggregations. The aggregates industry monitors Black Bream nests in this area, as the rMCZ overlaps aggregate application areas 453 and 488, and has so far found that bream appear to prefer nesting on the shallower veneers of sediment rather than in the deeper sediment channels. The EUNIS Level 3 habitats (UKSeaMap/MESH) show the site is only subtidal sediment, which does not reflect stakeholder knowledge of the sandstone reef. In an attempt to more clearly define the features for protection, the RSG has therefore used the EUNIS Level 4 REC data habitats defined as infralittoral rock and thin mixed sediments as well as information from the aggregates industry showing the extent of the bedrock. Excluding the deeper sediment areas is not thought to compromise the protection of the Black Bream. As Black Bream are not an ENG feature, detailed information has been provided on the species' ecology, threats and potential management tools. Unexploited Native Oysters (*Ostrea edulis*) have also been recorded from the area and are proposed as a feature for designation.

Although draft conservation objectives for this site will need to be reassessed using the REC data habitats in the vulnerability assessment, all sectors (trawling, potting, set netting, aggregate extraction and angling) currently active in this site have agreed to restrict their activities during the nesting period of the Black Bream in order to provide the appropriate protection measures. In addition, the trawling sector has agreed to restrict activity permanently in the site to protect the sandstone reef, apart from the passage through the site. The rMCZ is designed to protect the reef habitats but not the deeper sediment in the paleochannel. This should allow continued aggregate extraction and trawler vessel passage in the channel outside of the Black Bream nesting period.

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.

This site was specifically recommended by the Sussex IFCA (Sussex IFCA MCZ proposal 19.08.2010) to protect the rocky sandstone reef of Kingmere Rocks, which is integral to what is possibly the most important breeding site for Black Bream (*Spondyliosoma cantharus*) in the Balanced Seas region. The site lies approximately between 3 and 6 nautical miles from the shore and contains two marine Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (mSNCIs): Kingmere Rocks and Worthing Lumps. The area is part of one of the Key Inshore Biodiversity Areas in the Balanced Seas Region recommended as an MCZ (for mussels beds, Sabellaria reefs and seals), by the South East England Biodiversity Forum (SEEBF, 2010). Worthing Lumps is 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 (190), 96% were in favour (MCS, 2011).

Irving (1996) describes the Kingmere Rocks as "encompasses a large area (in the region of 0.5 sq. nautical miles) of uneven seabed, consisting of outcrops of sandstone rising 2-3 m above the surrounding seabed, with boulders and mixed sediment areas in between. The boulders are frequently in the form of large rectangular slabs, 1-2 m in width/length and 20-50 cm thick (see also the Waldrons reef; mSNCI ref. 5). Although the depth of the seabed ranges from 6-14 m BCD, there is very little obvious slope to the seabed. In places, horizontal exposures of mudstone are present amongst the mixed sediment areas.

'The upward-facing surfaces of sandstone bedrock and boulders are covered by marine life, the tops of the shallower ones < 8 m depth BCD) having a covering of foliose red algae, whilst those slightly deeper are dominated by a dense animal turf; particularly bryozoans *Bugula* spp. and *Flustra foliacea*. Extensive patches of encrusting coralline algae are present on the sides of the boulders, together with various sponges (*Esperiopsis fucorum*, *Dysidia fragilis*, *Tethya aurantium*, *Suberites ficus* and *Polymastia mammilaris*), dead man's fingers *Alcyonium digitatum*, sea squirts (especially *Clavelina lepadiformis*, *Aplidium punctum* and *Morchellium argus*), and occasional starfish (*Asterios rubens*). The mud tubes of fan worms (particularly *Bispira volutacornis*) protrude from the cracks between boulders, and edible crabs (*Cancer pagurus*) are frequently encountered sheltering under overhangs. A narrow band at the base of bedrock outcrops and boulders is scoured clean of encrusting marine life by periodic movement of surrounding sediment.

'Areas between the reef have a seabed of mixed sediments, consisting of cobbles, pebbles, gravel, shells and sand. Occasionally, there are chalk cobbles and pebbles amongst the flints. Most of the fauna here is mobile, reflecting the unstable nature of the sediments, such as hermit crabs, netted dogwhelks (*Hinia reticulata*) and gobies. However, there may also be the occasional dahlia anemone (*Urticina feline*) and the odd cobble or pebble with encrustations of keelworms (*Pomatoceros riqueter*). Sublittoral rocky reefs account for probably less than 3% of the total area of seabed off Sussex (within the 12 nm limit of territorial waters). Kingmere Rocks is an example of a sandstone reef area with a rich and diverse fauna and flora associated with it.'

The main feature for protection is the Black Bream nesting sites that are found in the vicinity of the Kingmere Rocks reef complex (EMU, 1999, 2007a, 2007b, 2008, 2009). This species exhibits unusual spawning habits (Lythgoe and Lythgoe, 1971, Pawson, 1995, James *et. al.*, 2010 and Clark & Vause, 2009) linked strongly to specific habitats and therefore requires protection of these habitats. As Black Bream are not an ENG feature, detailed information has been provided on the species' ecology, threats and potential management tools.

Black Bream ecology and threats - From the South Coast REC Report (James *et. al.* 2010):

'In spring each year Black Bream migrate from the wider English Channel, along the 9°C isotherm, to the shallow coastal waters within the South Coast REC area, once inshore the fish form spawning congregations. The larger male fish seek specific types of seabed sediment where they 'build' or excavate individual 'nests' or depressions on the seabed surface in the hope of attracting a mate. In the process of building their 'nests' male Black Bream use their tail to remove the surface layer and expose the bedrock or compacted gravel beneath. In so doing male Black Bream may use their nests in intraspecific competition to attract a female. Sea bed substrates and features which have been identified with bream nesting

include thin sands and gravels and gravels on bedrock and adjacent to reefs and wreck. The bedrock they have been noted on includes Chalk and the Tertiary Bracklesham Group. Bream nest sizes are typically between 1–2 m wide and 5–30 cm in depth, they create a distinctive group of pitted sea bed features that are clearly discernable on side scan sonar records.

'Figure 1 illustrates such groups on a sea bed of thin sediment on bedrock with the bedrock evident as thin ledges where bedding is exposed. Once a female bream has selected a

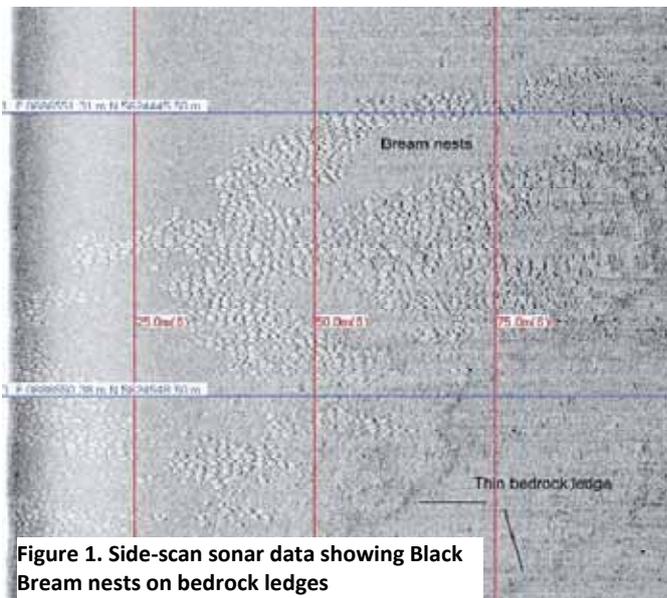


Figure 1. Side-scan sonar data showing Black Bream nests on bedrock ledges

suitable nest she will lay her eggs in a thin layer within the nest; bream eggs are sticky they become strongly attached to the substrate. After the female has laid her eggs the male fish will fertilise them, the male fish will then guard the eggs until they hatch to protect them from predators such as crustaceans and to ensure siltation of the nest does not occur. This philopatry however makes the adults susceptible to fisheries overexploitation which exposes the eggs to trawl damage and the juvenile fish to trawl by-catch. 'Unmolested juvenile bream will remain in the vicinity of the nest sites until they are 7–8 cm in length; they then disperse but remain in the inshore areas for 2–3 years (approximately 20 cm in length). Black Bream are protogynous hermaphrodites; at sexual maturity they develop female sexual organs then later, as they grow, they become male. When the bream become sexually mature (as females) they recruit into the adult stock and range into the wider English Channel and South West Approaches to feed. It is expected that the bream exhibit site fidelity; returning to the same sites to spawn annually. Black Bream are not subject to ICES stock assessment, they are not classed as a pressure stock for EU fisheries management purposes and no Total Allowable Catch is prescribed. As a non-quota species the fish is fished inshore and offshore in net and trawl fisheries, notably in the Sussex and Solent area by pair trawlers. There is currently no minimum legal landing size for Black Bream under European Union technical regulations; as protogynous hermaphrodites such measures can have a counter-productive effect. The vulnerability of the nesting sites means that they are suitable candidates for protection through spatial management measures.' The information provided by the aggregate industry (EMU, 1999, 2007a, 2007b, 2008b, 2009) describes the nesting densities of Black Bream and additional information on the fishing activities related to Black Bream can be found in the South Coast Regional Environmental Assessment (EMU 2008a).

In order to clearly define the preferred habitat (broad-scale and fine-scale) of the Black Bream for appropriate protection, a number of datasets have been required. According to the UKSeaMap/MESH (JNCC v7) data, used to define the broad-scale habitats elsewhere, the entirety of the site is subtidal mixed sediments (see Broad-scale habitats map), which does not correspond to stakeholder knowledge of the seabed, or best available habitat data. This EUNIS Level 3 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 seabed⁴.

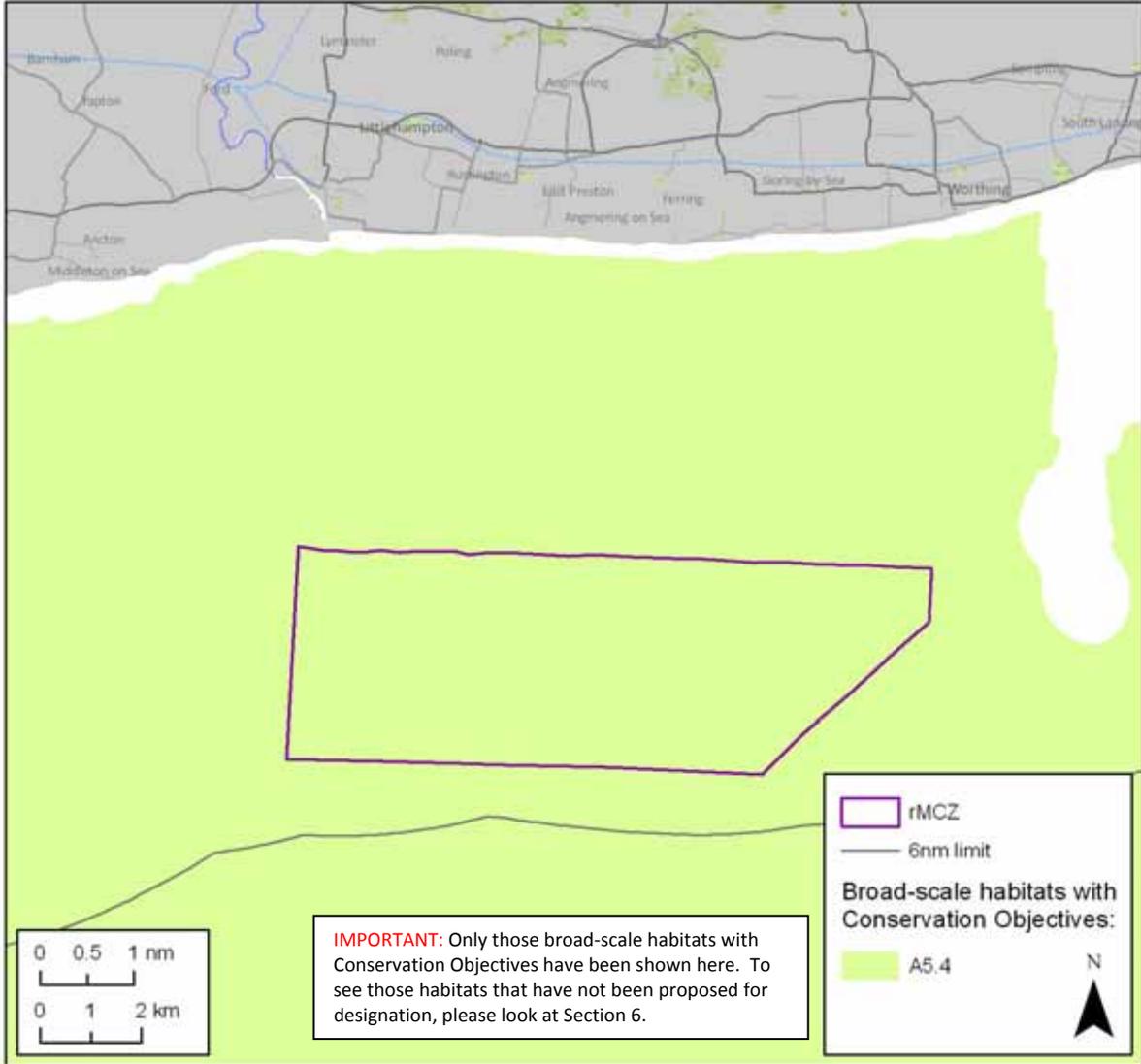
Data from the MALSF English Channel Synthesis Regional Environmental Characterisation data (REC, James *et al.* 2011), shows that the site is divided up into two finer-scale EUNIS Level 4 habitats: moderate energy infralittoral rock and thin sediments, which corresponds closely to the sandstone reef complex upon which the Black Bream depend, and infralittoral mixed sediments (see REC EUNIS Level 4 map).

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

Kingmere rMCZ no 16

Version: 1.0
Date: Aug 2011

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



Broad-scale habitats with Conservation Objectives:
 - A5.4 subtidal mixed sediments*

* Only certain areas of this habitat were selected by the RSG for protection. Please see the accompanying map of REC survey habitats for more detail.

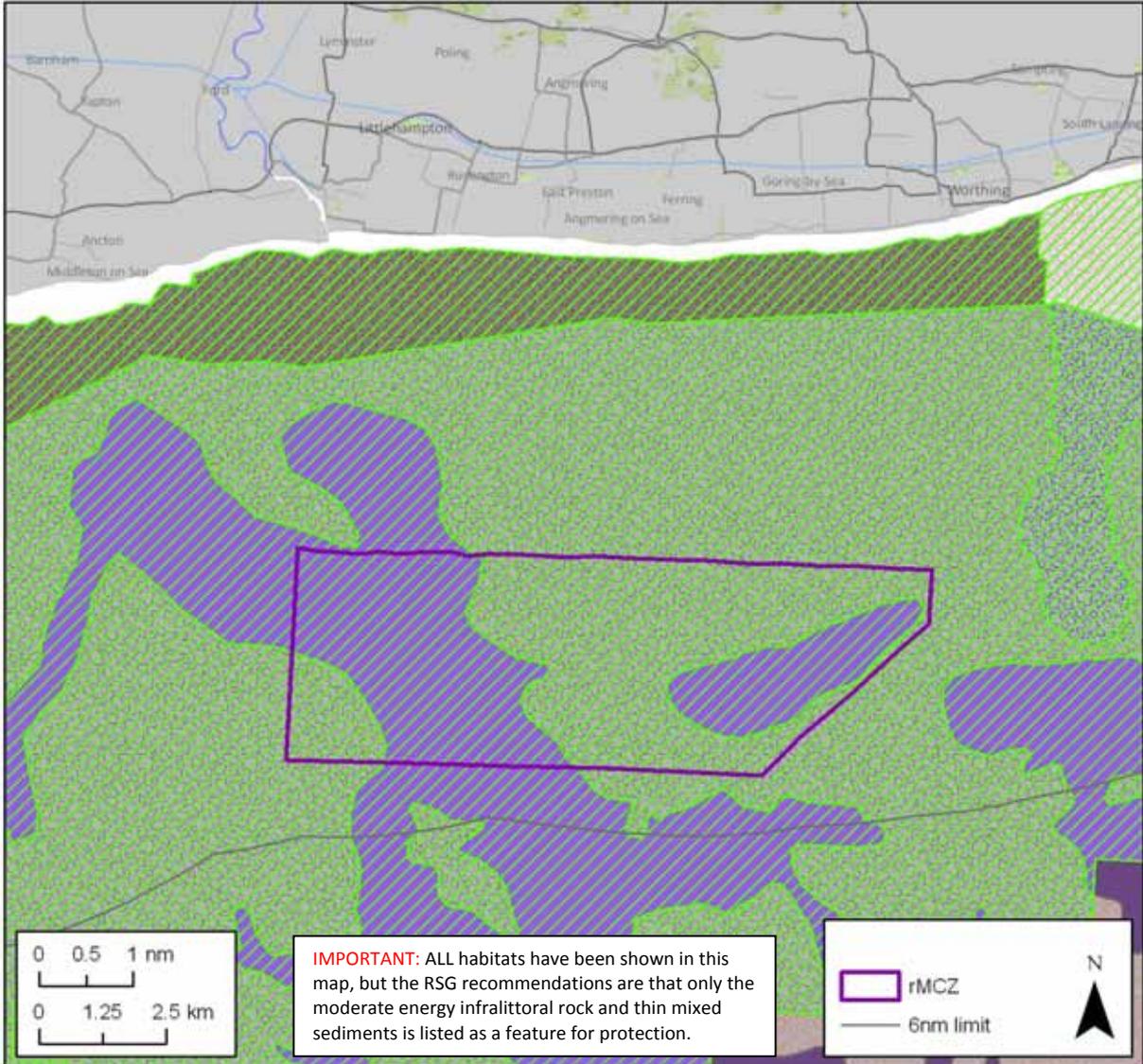


Map and coordinates displayed in WGS84, UTM Zone 31 North.
 ©OpenStreetMap 2010. ©Ordnance Survey 2010. ©JNCC 2009. ©Crown Copyright 2009.
 NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION.

Kingmere rMCZ no 16

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

Version: 1.0
Date: Aug 2011



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.

Further refinement of these habitats is essential as the proposed Kingmere rMCZ 16 overlaps with an aggregate dredging application area (nos. 453 & 488) covering the deeper sediment that lies in the Solent palaeovalley. The aggregate industry monitors the Black Bream nests (Figure 2, Seabed classification and Black Bream nesting sites) and has tentatively shown that Black Bream prefer the habitat characterised by rock with thin veneers of sediment to the deeper sediments targeted by dredging operations. The industry has promised to continue and extend monitoring efforts to confirm these findings.

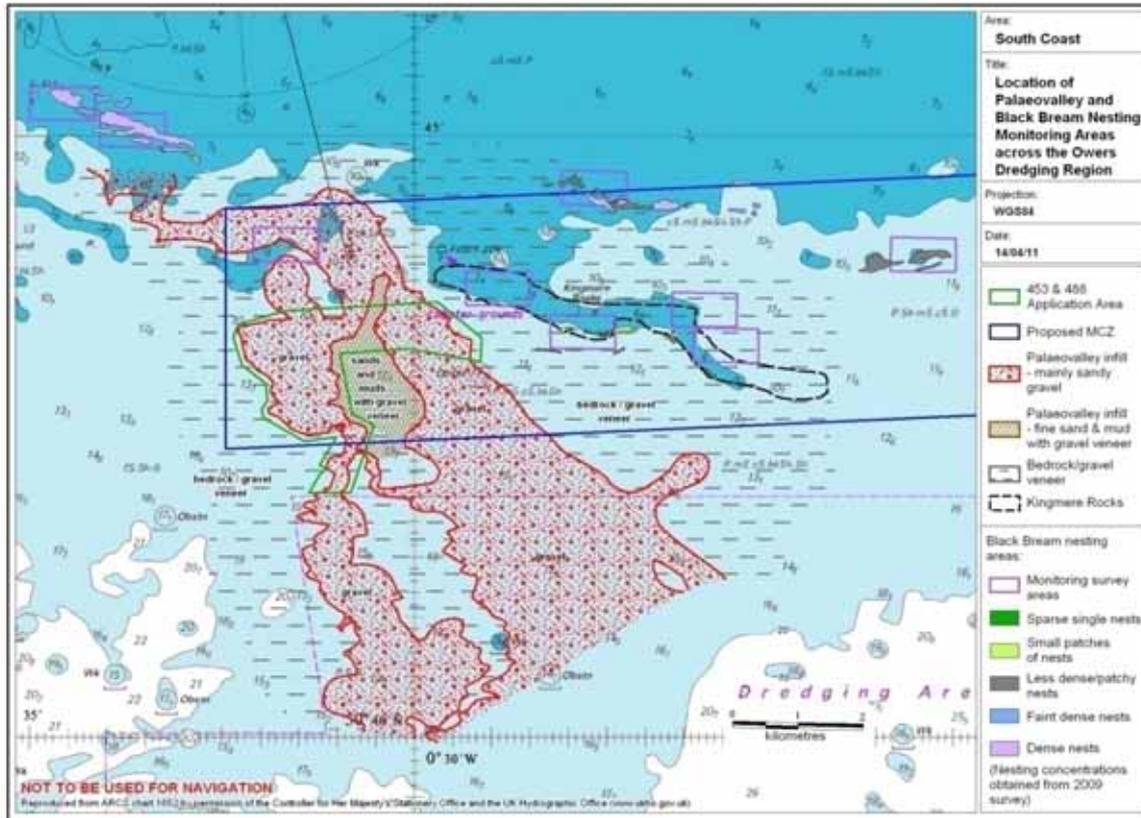


Figure 2. location of aggregate application area and nesting Black Bream monitoring areas

Aggregate industry data have provided more precise data on the extent of the bedrock reef and Figure 3 shows how it relates to the REC habitats. With reference to Figure 3, it should be noted that the habitat for protection is the reef complex, as defined by the areas of moderate energy infralittoral rock with thin mixed sediments and further refined by the bedrock data (where it overlaps the sediment channel). To the north and east of Kingmere Rocks, all the moderate energy infralittoral rock is to be considered as requiring protection. Excluding the deeper sediment habitat (REC infralittoral mixed sediments) from the list of features to be protected is thought not to compromise protection of the reef feature or the Black Bream nest sites, but would ensure that aggregate dredging operations might be able to continue, subject to consent through the full EIA process. It would also allow the continued passage of trawling vessels, which use the deeper channel to access areas to get between areas to the north and south of the site.

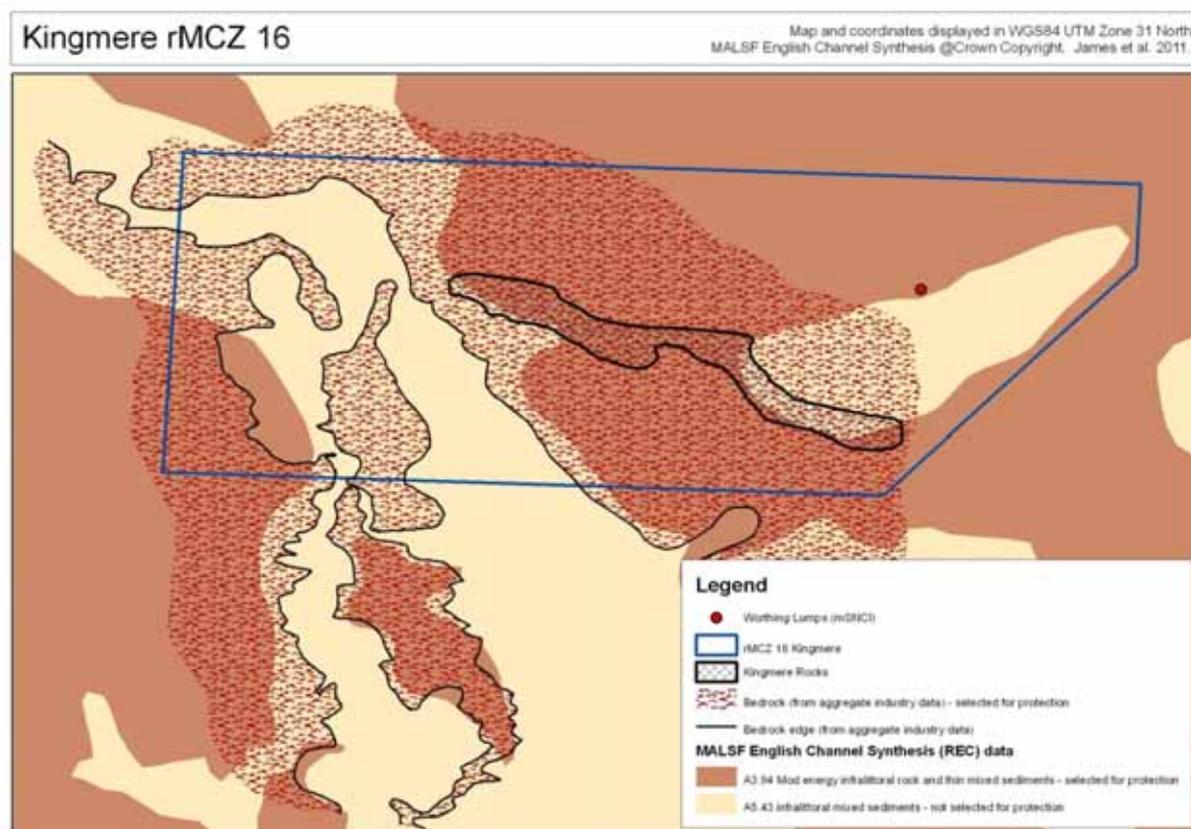


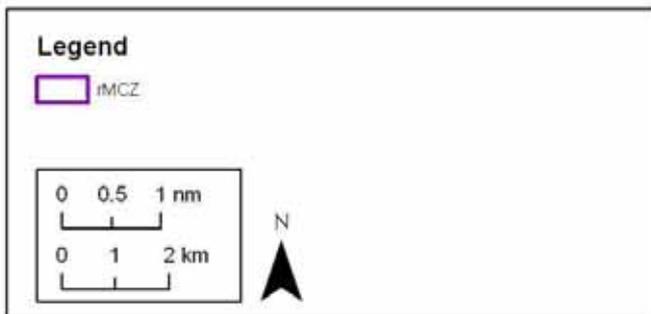
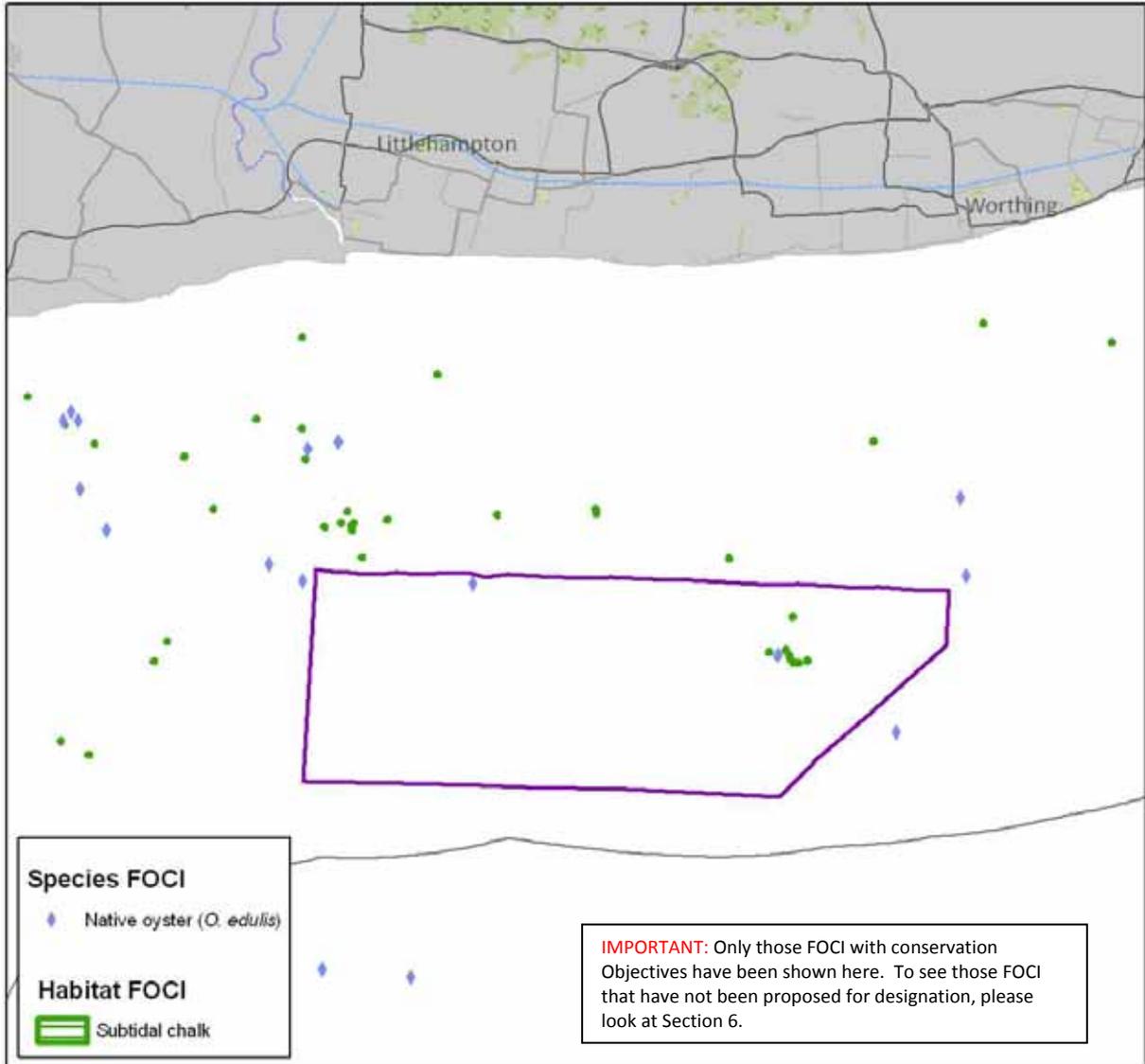
Figure 3. Map showing how bedrock relates to the REC habitats and can be used to refine the areas for protection.

Potential management tools for Black Bream: Black Bream in the Kingmere rMCZ are not currently protected under any byelaws although the Sussex IFCA has technical conservation regulations in place which require large mesh cod-ends to be used on trawls during the Black Bream spawning season, reducing incidence of juvenile fish capture. In its MCZ proposal to the RSG for the Kingmere site, the Sussex IFCA suggested that the susceptibility of the Black Bream fishery to overexploitation is not limited to removal / damage by trawl. The Sussex IFCA has built extensive support amongst the fishing community for its proposed activity restrictions for this site, which involve a seasonal ban on all extractive activities during the nesting period of the Black Bream, and a permanent ban on use of all mobile fishing gears to protect the integrity of the reef network, which appears to be essential to the fish spawning aggregation. These potential activity restrictions were communicated to the RSG in the MCZ proposal for Kingmere Rocks (Sussex SFC proposal, 19.08.2010) and have been agreed in Balanced Seas local and regional stakeholder meetings (see Section 15 for more detail).

Since oyster harvesting and cultivation is not permitted in this site under an IFCA byelaw restricting oyster dredging, stakeholders suggest that this stock of Native Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) is a good example to protect (see FOCI map). They have noted that this species is distributed more widely across the site than is shown in the data (Seeley *et al.* 2010 DEFRA MB102 2B) and mainly found on Black Rock within the dredging application area (Balanced Seas Kingmere Site Meeting, February 2011). Subtidal chalk has also been selected as a habitat FOCI for protection.

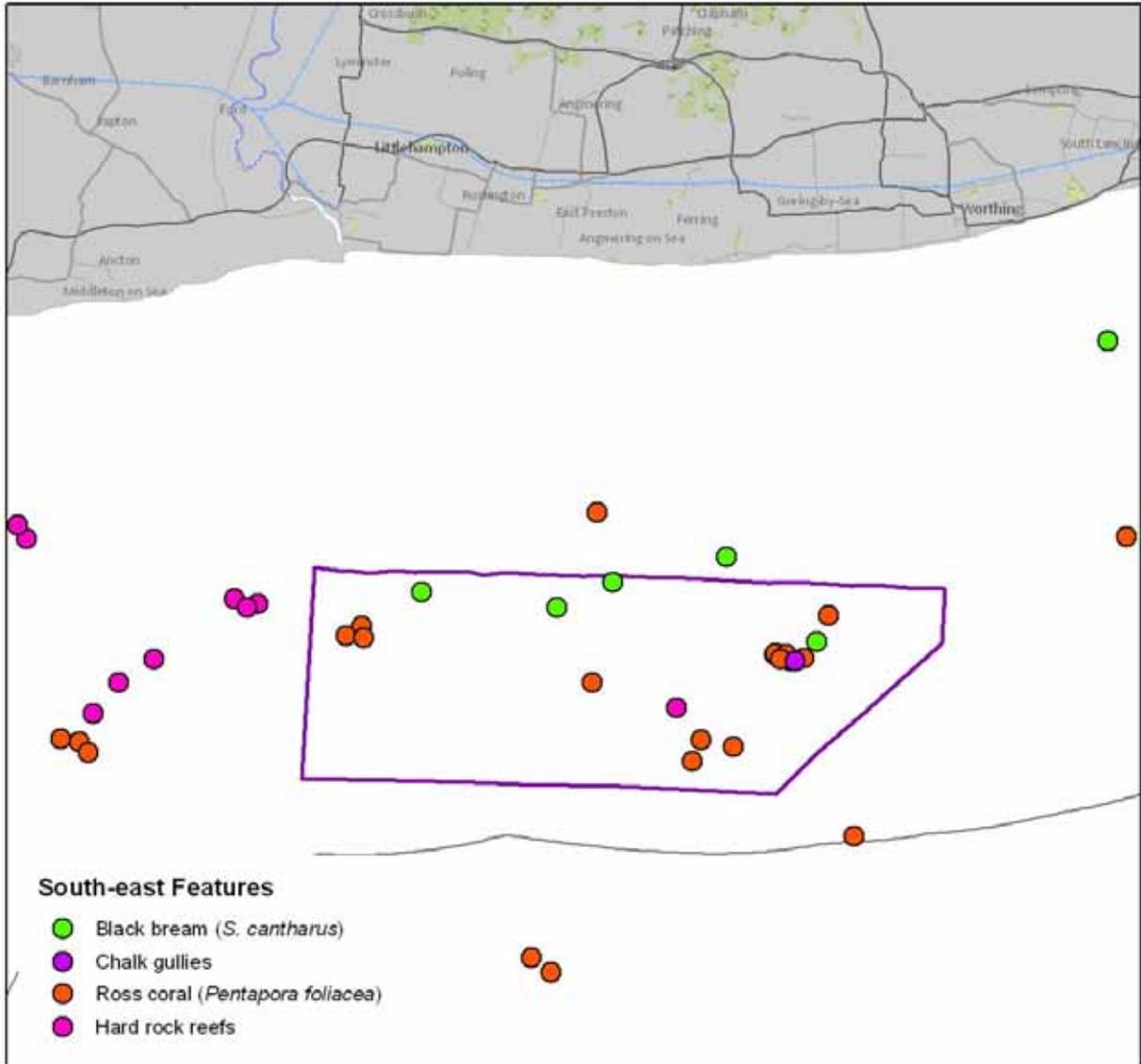
The site recommendations are supported by spatial data on rare and important southeast features from the Wildlife Trusts, highlighting the presence of chalk gullies and hard rock reefs supporting Ross coral (*Pentapora foliacea*), particularly on the Worthing Lumps (see Southeast Features map). Additional records of Black Bream are also provided. Undulate Rays (*Raja undulata*), sometimes caught close to the British record size in this area (e-mail from South Coast Angling Club to project team 18/2/2011), and fish species such as the poor cod (*Trisopeterus minutus*) (Williams and Clark, 2010).

Kingmere rMCZ no 16 Habitat and Species FOCI Conservation Objectives



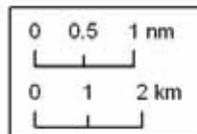
Map and coordinates displayed in WGS84, UTM Zone 31 North.
 ©OpenStreetMap 2010. ©Ordnance Survey 2010. ©JNCC 2009. ©Crown Copyright 2009.
 NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION.

Kingmere rMCZ no 16 South-east Features



Legend

■ rMCZ



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.

10. Site boundary

The final boundary of the site was recommended as appropriate for inclusion of the most important Black Bream nesting areas, while ensuring that the area is easily navigable by vessels. The landward northern boundary lies just south of, but runs parallel to, the 3nm line and is also parallel to the seaward boundary, which lies 2nm to the south. The missing southeast corner of what would have been a rectangle has been drawn to maintain a heavily used corridor for mobile gear vessels.

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 is not associated with any SAC, SPA, SSSI or Ramsar site. Worthing Lumps and Kingmere Rocks are marine Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (see Figure 3).

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	Multiple	June 2011
Broad-scale habitats	Modelled data	MALSF REC	Synthesis study of the central and eastern English Channel	2011
Rossworm (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>) reef	Survey	Data sourced from: Environment Agency database		31-Aug-07
Blue mussel beds	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2C	JNCCMNCR60000144	01/01/1982
Subtidal chalks	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2C		1994
Subtidal chalks	Survey	Marine recorder extract Sept 2010		1982-1994
Subtidal sands and gravels	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2C	Multiple	1993-2008
Native oyster (<i>O.edulis</i>)	Survey	National contract data, DEFRA MB102 2B	JNCCMNCR60000713	1994-1999
Black Bream (<i>Spondyliosoma cantharus</i>)	Survey	Wildlife Trust	1994 Sussex Seasearch Chichester Harbour to Pevensy Bay sublittoral survey;	1993-1996
Black Bream (<i>Spondyliosoma cantharus</i>)	Survey	TARMAC (EMU)	Area 435/396 Annual monitoring report	1999 - 2008

References (additional information can be found in the bibliography)

CLARK, R.W.E., & VAUSE, B.J. 2010. *The Sussex Inshore Fisheries*. Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee, West Sussex.

EMU, 2008a. South Coast Regional Environmental Assessment. Fisheries Activity Survey. Draft Report. (South Coast Dredging Association)

EMU. 2008b. *Area 435/396 Annual monitoring report for Hanson Aggregates Marine Ltd & United Marine Dredging Ltd. Report No. J/1/06/12140860. September 2008 Job No. J/1/06/1214.* Emu Ltd, Southampton.

EMU. 2007a. *Area 435/396 Annual monitoring report for Hanson Aggregates Marine Ltd & United Marine Dredging Ltd. Report No. 07/J/1/02/0711. December 2007 Job No. J/1/02/1071.* Emu Ltd, Southampton.

EMU. 2007b. *Area 435/396 Annual monitoring report for Hanson Aggregates Marine Ltd & United Marine Dredging Ltd. Report No. 06/J/1/02/0951/0641. February 2007 Job No. J/1/02/0951.* Emu Ltd, Southampton.

EMU. 1999. *Inner Owers Environmental Assessment for Aggregate Extraction from Inner Owers, English Channel. Fisheries Formal Response.* United Marine Dredging Ltd and Hanson Aggregates Marine Ltd, Portsmouth.

JAMES, J. W. C. PEARCE, B. COGGAN, R. A. LEIVERS, M. CLARK, R. W. E. PLIM, J. F. HILL, J. M. ARNOTT, S. H. L. BATESON, L. DE-BURGH THOMAS, A. & BAGGALEY, P. A. 2011. *The MALSF Synthesis Study in the Central and Eastern English Channel.* British Geological Survey Open Report OR/11/01. 158pp. MALSF, Suffolk.

Kingmere rMCZ no 16

- JAMES, J. W. C. PEARCE, B. COGGAN, R. A. ARNOTT, S. H. L. CLARK, R. W. E. PLIM, J. F. PINNION, J. BARRIO FRÓJAN, C. GARDINER, J. P. MORANDO, A. BAGGLEY, P. A. SCOTT, G. & BIGOURDAN, N. 2010. *The South Coast Regional Environmental Characterisation*. British Geological Survey Open Report OR/09/51. 249pp. MALSF, Suffolk.
- IRVING, R.A. 1999. *Report of the Sussex Seasearch Project, 1992-1998*. Sussex Seasearch Project, West Sussex.
- LYTHGOE, J. AND LYTHGOE, G. 1971. *Fishes of the Sea*. London, Blandford Press.
- MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY .2011. *Regional Report 2: Balanced Seas Region. (May 2009 – February 2011)*. Marine Conservation Society.PAWSON, M.G. 1995. *Fisheries Research Technical Report Number 99: Biogeographical Identification of English Channel Fish and Shellfish Stocks*. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Directorate of Fisheries Research, Dublin.
- 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 (Task 2C)*. DEFRA, London.
- SEELEY, B., LEAR, D. HIGGS, S. NEILLY, M. BILEWITCH, J. EVANS, J. 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: Mapping of species with limited mobility (Benthic species). (Task 2B)*. DEFRA, London.
- 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 SEASEARCH MCZ PROPOSAL. 2010. *South West Rocks Complex : Recommendation for Designation as a Broad Area of Interest*. Sussex Seasearch, West Sussex.
- SUSSEX SEASEARCH. 2011. *Notes to Balanced Seas Regional Stakeholders Group: South West Rocks Complex Proposed MCZ*. Sussex Seasearch, West Sussex.
- SUSSEX SFC MCZ PROPOSAL email 19.08.2010. Sussex Sea Fisheries Committee Recommendation to the Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG) re Kingmere Reef.
- WILLIAMS, C., 2010. Sussex Coastline and Sites of Interest (map.) Natural England. Lewes, UK.
- WILLIAMS, C., & CLARK, R. 2010. *Report on the Chalk Reefs of Sussex, Exemplified by the Recreational Dive Sites: South West Rocks (mSNCI), Looe gate (mSNCI) and Ship Rock (mSNCI)*. Sussex Seasearch, West Sussex.

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:

SECTOR	ORGANISATION	COMMENT for Kingmere rMCZ 16
Yachting	RYA	Support on basis of new boundaries and management by voluntary agreement.
Kite Surfing	British Kite Surfing Association	Supported 100%.
Sea Angling		Kingmere. The RSA would support maintain with a voluntary seasonal restriction to protect the black bream.
	Local Fisheries Representatives	Good support.
Fishing - FPO, beam trawling		Good support for the IFCA/industry latest proposal (3/8/11). Any other manifestation, no support.
Birds	RSPB	Kingmere - support site as proposed by IFCA as most pragmatic way of protecting chalk reef features and black bream sites.
Wildlife Trusts	Hampshire Wildlife Trust	I support this site but believe all habitats within it should have a conservation objective.
Marine Ecology	Seasearch	Strongly support this site which includes Worthing Lumps and other marine SNClS, recognised by the Las as important. I would prefer that all the broadscale habitats in the site were COs for better ecological coherence. This site represents a huge compromise from the line of intermittently outcropping chalk from Brighton which was proposed by SEEBF in its entirety.
Marine Wildlife	Marine Conservation Society	<u>Support site</u> . Recover all broadscale habitats from bottom trawling.
Statutory environmental	Environment Agency	EA, as IFCA members, support this proposal.

15. Summary of Conservation Objectives 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) process⁵ and then sense-checked at the national level⁶. Where a RECOVER objective is noted, the associated activity causing the pressure is indicated. In some cases, where information and data warrant 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.

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

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

Kingmere rMCZ no 16

Feature	REC habitats	Draft Conservation Objective	Activity exerting pressure	IFCA/MMO/EA/NE Comments	Stakeholder comments on draft COs and potential management measures
A5.4 Subtidal mixed sediments (only where this habitat corresponds to the finer-scale REC data habitat listed as a feature for protection)	A3.94 ME infra-littoral rock and thin mixed sediments	RECOVER (to be reassessed with the REC data)	Fishing - benthic trawling (bottom gear or trawls)	<p>IFCA code of conduct</p> <p>The original SFC proposal was designed to ban trawling over the fragile reef structure supporting the Black Bream breeding population but not the coarse habitat around it. Potting/netting is thought to be compatible with protection of the reef (outside of the Bream nesting season), but the level of this activity should not increase, particularly if trawling activity is reduced.</p> <p>A better understanding of the distribution of the sandstone reef features within this habitat will enable differentiated management.</p>	<p>The RSG suggest that further refinement is essential to distinguish the extent of the sandstone reef as the feature for protection. This will require a more detailed Vulnerability Assessment to be undertaken in order to produce the appropriate CO.</p> <p>RECOVER CO was supported by LG (July 2011) and RSG (2/3 Aug 2011)</p> <p><u>Seasonal restrictions on all activities</u> throughout the site during Black Bream nesting period and a <u>permanent restriction on trawling</u> over this broad-scale REC-specified habitat were agreed by the RSG</p>
			Fishing - potting/creeling		
			Fishing - set netting		
Subtidal chalk	N/A	MAINTAIN RECOVER (see IFCA comments)		IFCA recommend this CO be changed to RECOVER as this habitat is part of the reef structure that supports the Black Bream breeding population and needs some permanent and seasonal restrictions of activities in order to protect it.	
Native Oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>)	N/A	MAINTAIN			LG support the CO (July 2011)
Black Bream (<i>Spondyliosoma cantharus</i>)	N/A	RECOVER		IFCA code of conduct	<u>Seasonal restriction on all activities</u> throughout the site during Black Bream nesting period were agreed by the LG (July 2011) and RSG (2/3 Aug 2011). RSG noted this must be a seasonal restriction, coinciding with the nesting period, to avoid unnecessary restrictions on catching individual bream out of season.

16. Evolution of the site recommendations

This site was originally proposed as a potential MCZ by the Sussex SFC (now IFCA), with full agreement of all members of the Committee, to protect the Black Bream population, a proposal that was well supported by the fishing community. During the Balanced Seas Local Group stakeholder meeting in April 2011, it became apparent that there is historic towed dredging within and along the northern boundary of the site that had not been fully appreciated in the development of boundaries and support for the site. As a result, various Sussex IFCA members on the RSG adjusted the site boundaries, such that the site moved southwards in its entirety, and excluded the original south east corner. This avoids the historic towed dredging to the north, captures a comparable amount of the same bedrock reef habitat to the south, and avoids an important passage for mobile gear trawlers to the south east.

Since the Conservation Objectives are set according to the less refined EUNIS Level 3 data, the RSG request that the vulnerability assessments and conservation objectives are revised where this better data is available.

17. Implications for stakeholders

The RSG recommendation is that this site be closed to all fishing gears during the Black Bream nesting period (end of April – end of June) and closed to mobile fishing gears all year round to protect the integrity of the reef upon which the Bream aggregations depend.

Implications for stakeholders are as follows:

- This site supports a high-intensity static and set-net fishery which, in the Sussex SFC proposal and subsequent discussions, has been assumed can continue (outside of the restricted nesting period) without compromising the objectives of the site
- The trawling sector will only agree to this rMCZ provided provision is made for a trawling access channel running north to south in the western part of the site in order avoid lengthy trips around the site; this location broadly coincides with the area of interest to the aggregates industry (the Paleochannel) which is not Black Bream nesting ground and where the sediment type is not of interest for conservation. This will need to be considered in the development of the management measures for the site
- Site is highly popular with sea anglers who are concerned about future restrictions, although those represented on the IFCA have agreed to closure during the bream nesting period
- Shipping to and from Littlehampton and Shoreham passes through this area and both ports are concerned about any impact an MCZ might have on their activities
- There is an aggregates license area that operates within the boundaries of the site, but the industry has agreed that it would not operate during the nesting period of the Black Bream. Operators will apply for a dredging license here but will proceed through the normal EIA channels.

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.