

Tyne Ledges rRA no 15

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 Tyne Ledges recommended Reference Area no. 15	3. Site surface area 27 ha 0.27 km ²
2. Site centre location ETRS89 N50 41' 39.579" W1 4' 45.630" N50 41.660' W1 4.760' (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 Tyne Ledges rRA ¹

Feature type	Feature name	Area / No. of records ²
Habitat FOCI	Seagrass beds	0.02 km ²
Species FOCI Low	Peacock's Tail (<i>P.pavonica</i>)	14 records

6. Other features occurring within the Tyne Ledges rRA (to be protected)

Feature type	Feature name	Reason not specifically identified for reference area protection
Broad Scale Habitats	A5.2 Subtidal sand	Not viable for subtidal Broad Scale Habitats
Species FOCI low	Native Oyster (<i>O.edulis</i>)	

7. Map of site (see below)

8. Site summary

The site captures an area of rMCZ 22 just south of Bembridge Harbour extending down to the Life Boat Jetty and out to the mean low water springs mark, incorporating Tyne Ledges which is the northern area of the well known "ledges" that extend along this stretch of coast. The wave cut platforms contain large and slowly draining pools between the gently shelving ledges that provide habitat for the most important and extensive population of Peacock's Tail (*Padina pavonica*) in the project region, which is thought to seed all the other populations around the Isle of Wight. This species is found only on the Isle of Wight in the project area, and this is thought to be the eastern limit of the species distribution in the UK. The wildlife sectors consider the Peacock's Tail population to be more extensive further south but Tyne Ledges is less accessible than the ledges further south and so less used.

IMPORTANT: As the Project does not have the boundary for mean low water springs, the site boundaries have been mapped to meet the viability guidelines which mean that some subtidal features are included on the map (seagrass, subtidal sand, native oyster). Where these features occur above mean low water springs, they will be included within the list of features for protection.

9. Detailed site description

For further details please see detailed site description for rMCZ 22.

10. Site boundary

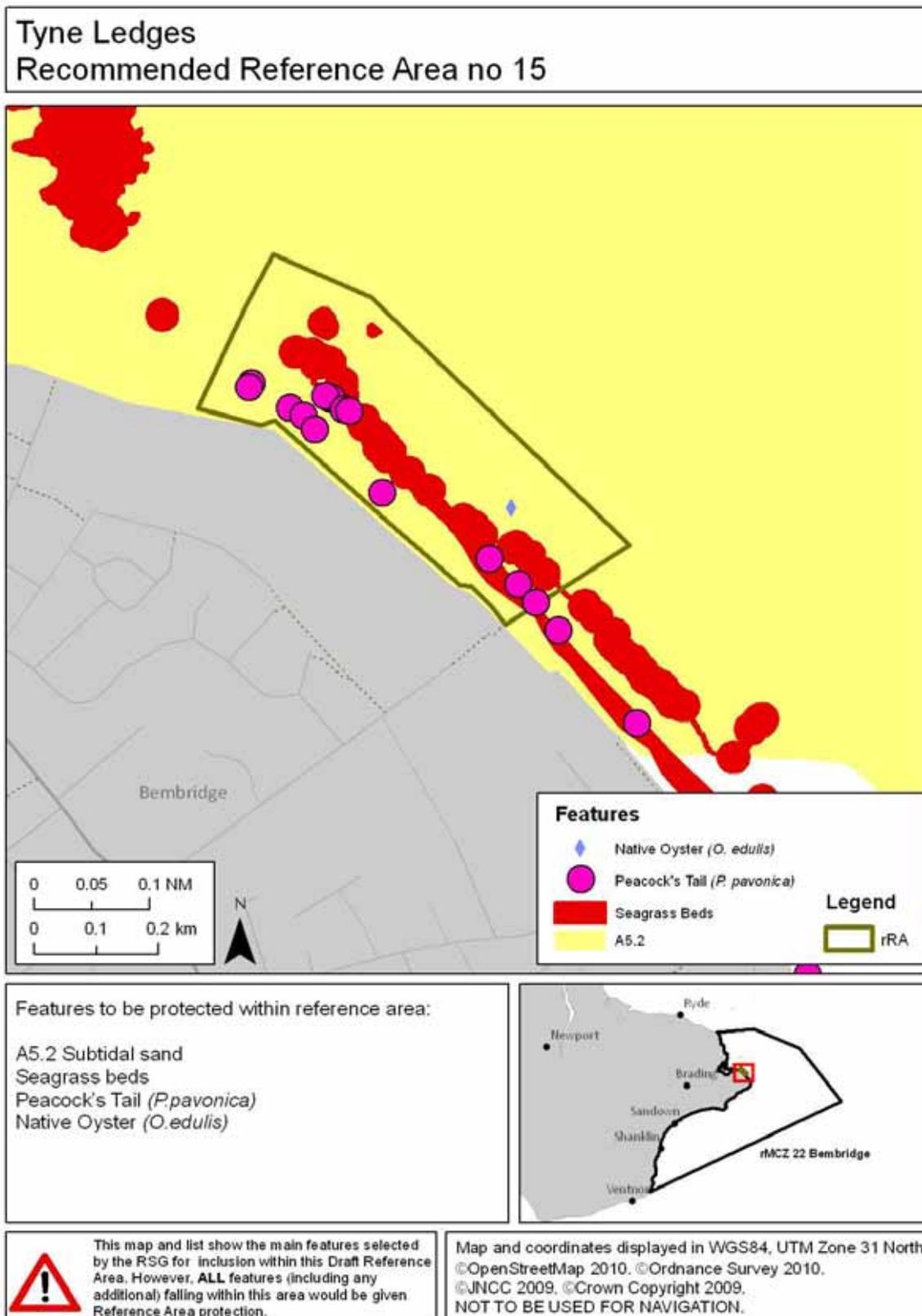
The current boundary has been defined by the RSG to capture the distribution of Peacock's Tail (*Padina pavonica*) and sits between mean high water and mean low water springs. The site is rectangular with

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.

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northern and southern boundaries sitting perpendicular to the shoreline, to aid navigation. The southern boundary has been delimited by the Bembridge Lifeboat launch jetty.



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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.”

12. Sites to which this site is related

This site falls within the Bembridge rMCZ no 22, the South Wight Maritime SAC and the Whitecliff Bay and Bembridge Ledges SSSI.

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
Seagrass beds	Survey	Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust		33	20/09/2009
Seagrass beds	Survey	National contract data	GB000337	3	26/09/2006
Peacock’s Tail (<i>Padina pavonica</i>)	Survey	IoW Natural History Society		14	22/08/2009
Native oyster (<i>O.edulis</i>)	Survey	National contract data, DEFRA MB102 2B	MRMLN0010000010C	1	01/01/1971

References

Please refer to the references in the site description of r MCZ 22.

14. Stakeholder support for the site

The Local Group broadly support the revised boundary but the Wildlife sector wanted to note that this site was a compromise and did not capture the best example of Peacock’s Tail. 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 Bembridge Ledges rRA 15
Yachting	RYA	Support site moved to N of lifeboat station on basis it excludes causeway. But more local consultation on precise boundaries needed.
Sea Angling		Move to north on Tyne Ledges suggested by LG. LG disagree on this (wildlife).
Fishing - FPO, beam trawling		Support if RA moved to north side of RNLI station.
Birds	RSPB	Support move suggested by anglers if this means management is easier.
Wildlife Trusts	Hampshire Wildlife Trust	I support this but believe the seaward edge should go down to chart datum.
Marine Ecology	Seasearch	Strongly support this RA, even though it represents a compromise being not the best example of <i>Padina</i> , but the recreational pressure is less here.

15. Evolution of the site recommendations

An rRA was originally identified for the population of Peacock’s Tail (*Padina pavonica*) found on the intertidal chalk ledges known as Bembridge Ledges. This site was strongly opposed by recreational sectors

due to the large amount of activity in the area. Subsequently a joint suggestion between the RSA and RYA sectors was put to the Local Group (July 2011) to move the site north of the Lifeboat Jetty into an area known as Tyne Ledges. The site would capture the same features although not such a good example of Peacock's Tail, but it would be more acceptable to recreational and commercial sectors due to its more limited access. This suggestion was discussed at the RSG (RSG 11, August 2011) who agreed to the revised boundary.

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 RSG recognises this location as being essential for a Reference Area if the ENG targets are to be met, and the Local Group identified it as a potential option but a more detailed understanding of the activities currently undertaken at the site and that might be affected is needed.
- The ledges area a very popular tourist destination and recreational area, e.g. for rock pooling.
- RSA – the ledges in general area heavily used area for both shore and private boats; but Tyne Ledges is the least worst option for this sector.
- Potting and set netting occur in the subtidal parts of the site
- Wildlife sector surveys show the population on Bembridge Ledges to be more abundant and consider this site to be a compromise in order to achieve a more effective RA; they feel that the seaward boundary should be extended out to chart datum.

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.