

# King's Quay rRA no 17

## 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.

<b>1. Site name</b> King's Quay recommended Reference Area no. 17	<b>3. Site surface area</b> 28 ha                      0.28 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>2. Site centre location</b> ETRS89 N50 45' 0.509" W1 14' 33.758" N50 45.008' W1 14.563' (N.B. WGS 84 UTM 31N coordinates are provided in the map vertices)	<b>4. Biogeographic region</b> Eastern English Channel

### 5. Features identified for specific protection within King's Quay rRA <sup>1</sup>

Feature type	Feature name	Area <sup>2</sup>
Broad-scale habitats	A2.1 Intertidal coarse sediment	0.01 km <sup>2</sup>
	A2.2 Intertidal sand and muddy sand	0.006km <sup>2</sup>
	A2.3 Intertidal mud	0.06km <sup>2</sup>
	A2.4 Intertidal mixed sediments	0.01 km <sup>2</sup>
Habitat FOCI	Seagrass beds	0.13 km <sup>2</sup>

### 6. Other features occurring within King's Quay rRA (to be protected)

Feature type	Feature name	Reason not specifically identified for reference area protection
	A5.3 Subtidal mud	Not viable for subtidal Broad Scale Habitats

### 7. Map of site (see below)

### 8. Site summary

The site lies within rMCZ 19 Norris to Ryde, along an intertidal stretch of the east coast of the IOW. It stretches between the southern limit of Osborne Bay in the north and a rock outcrop in the south and the RSG have suggested that it should run for 500m south down to 2m below chart datum to ensure it captures both intertidal and subtidal species of seagrass. It contains some of the best seagrass beds (*Zostera marina*, *Z. noltii*) in the region, according to the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trusts and they have provided recent seagrass survey results to assist with mapping an appropriate boundary (see Figure 1). Better seagrass beds occur in Osborne Bay but due, to heavy use of Osborne Bay by recreational vessels for anchoring and sheltering from prevailing south westerly winds, this alternative area was agreed. The sea grass here is not in as good condition but the bathymetry is right for the beds to recover if left undisturbed. Additional intertidal broad-scale habitats occur here which should also be in relatively good condition given that this section of the coastline is adjacent to private land.

### 9. Detailed site description

For further details please see detailed site description for rMCZ 19.

### 10. Site boundary

The boundary has been defined by a 500m x 500m square, perpendicular to the coastline, incorporating the features of interest.

<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.

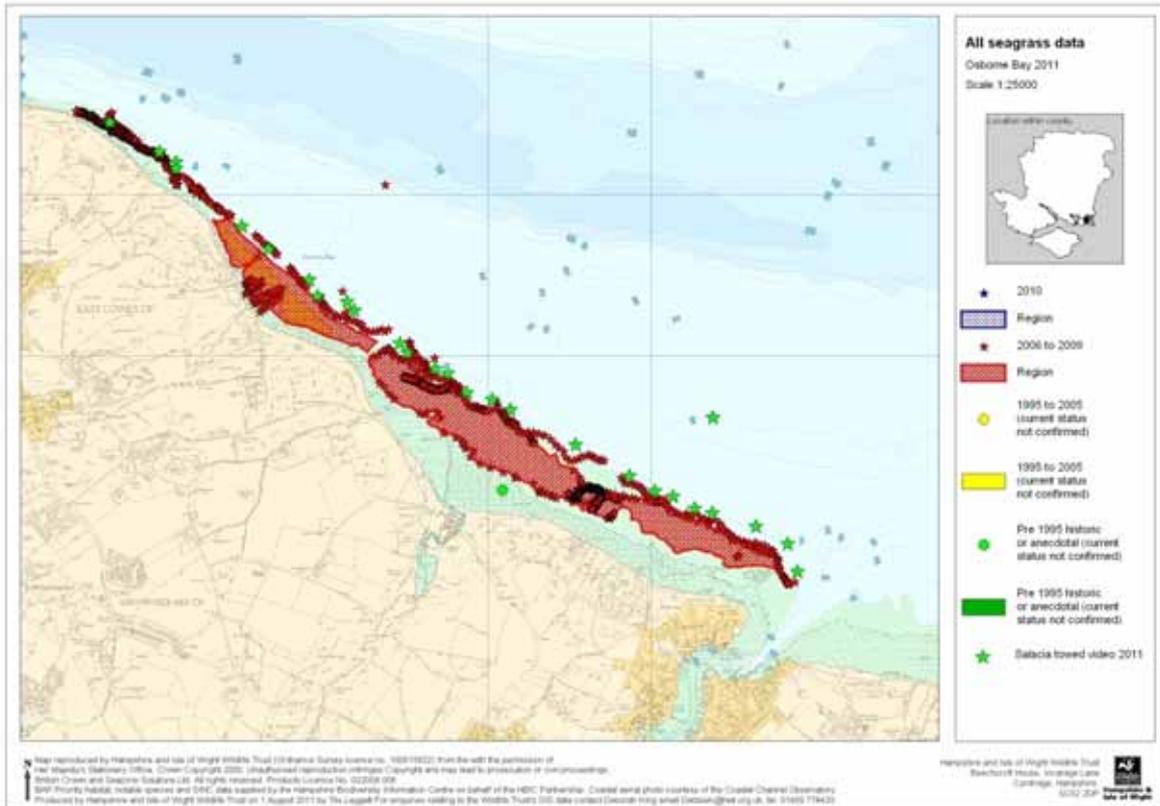
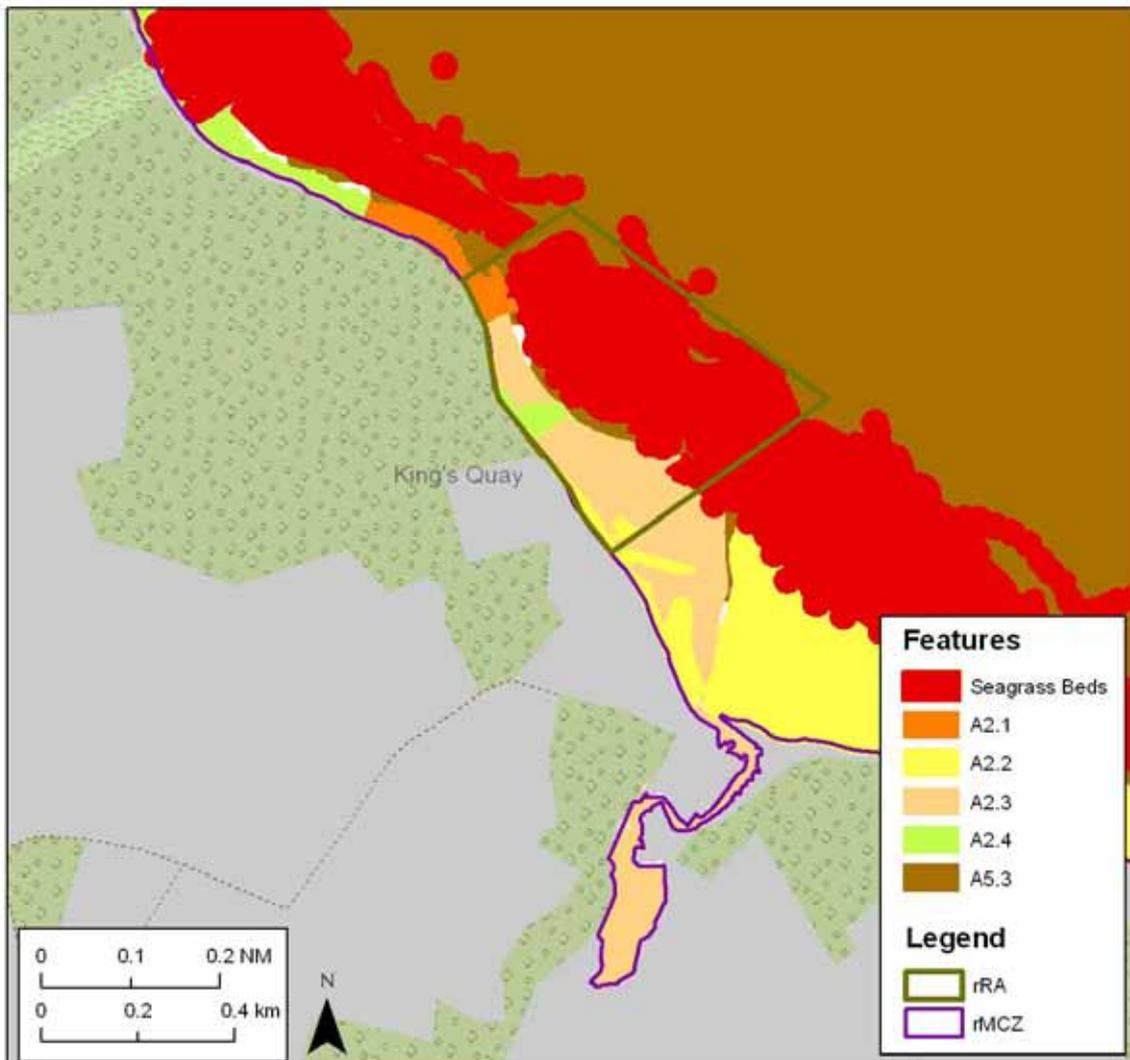


Figure 1. Extent of seagrass beds surveyed by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (2011).

### 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.”

King's Quay  
Recommended Reference Area no 17



Features to be protected within reference area:

- A2.1 Intertidal coarse sediment
- A2.2 Intertidal sand and muddy sand
- A2.3 Intertidal mud
- A2.4 Intertidal mixed sediments
- A5.3 Subtidal mud
- Seagrass beds



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.

## King's Quay rRA no 17

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

This site falls within the Norris to Ryde rMCZ no 19, the Solent Maritime SAC and Kings Quay Shore 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 and survey data	UKSeaMap/MESH v7	Combined	n/a	2011
Seagrass beds		Hampshire and IoW Wildlife Trust		3	2009

### References

Please refer to the references in the site description of r MCZ 19.

### 14. Stakeholder support for this site

The Local Group supported this site with the revised boundary covering just the intertidal area. Recreational sectors may support a seaward extension to 2m below chart datum pending review of Wildlife Trust Survey results and consultation with the sector. 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 Osbourne House Beach rRA 17
Yachting	RYA	Support, subject to appropriate marking of seaward boundary by buoys if necessary.
Sea Angling		Acceptable to RSA (limited if any shore angling as is a private beach).
Fisheries	Local Fisheries Representatives	Is support for Kings Quay site for seagrass is acceptable. Fishing industry supports the move from Osborne Bay.
Fishing - FPO, beam trawling		Good support for RA moved to "Kings Quay" with seaward boundary on 2m contour line.
Birds	RSPB	Support move of Reference Area from Osborne Bay to Kings Quay with boundary covering intertidal down to 2m below chart data.
Wildlife Trusts	Hampshire Wildlife Trust	I support this site but also believe the recover CO for seagrass across the whole dMCZ result in no anchoring.
Marine Ecology	Seasearch	Strongly support RA for seagrass intertidally and subtidally which is well surveyed here.
Heritage and Archaeology	English Heritage	Support as opposed to Osborne Beach, however survey of coast shows Mesolithic and Neolithic remains on littoral and into water. Should be provisions to allow investigation if necessary.

### 15. Evolution of the site recommendations

Initially, an rRA for seagrass was identified in Osborne Bay further to the north, where the sea grass beds are considered the best in the region. However, this bay is used intensively by the yachting sector, particularly in the summer months and in Cowes week; it is also a refuge anchoring area. At the Local Group meeting (July 2011), RYA representatives suggested moving the site south to an area less used by recreational vessels and the new boundaries were devised by a group of LG representatives. The new site incorporates a section of the same beds which has the right bathymetry and conditions for the sea grass beds to improve and all sectors support the location.

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).

### **16. Implications for Stakeholders**

The following issues are associated with this site:

- The new site is still of some concern to the recreational sector and further development of this rRA and its management must be done in consultation with them and other users

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).