

## Dover to Deal rMCZ no 11.1

### Marine Conservation Zone : Selection Assessment Document

<b>Version and Issue date</b>	<b>Amendments made</b>
V1.07.09.11	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> Dover to Deal rMCZ no 11.1 Contains: South Foreland Lighthouse recommended Reference Area no 7	<b>3. Site surface area</b> 1040 ha            10.40 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>2. Site centre location</b> ETRS89 N51 9' 21.617" E1 23' 32.638" N51 9.360' E1 23.544' (N.B. WGS 84 UTM 31N coordinates are provided in the map vertices)	<b>4. Biogeographic region</b> Southern North Sea / Eastern English Channel

#### 5. Features proposed for designation within Dover to Deal <sup>1</sup>

Feature type	Feature name	Area / No. of records <sup>2</sup>
Broad-scale habitats	A1.2 Moderate energy intertidal rock	0.02 km <sup>2</sup>
	A2.1 intertidal coarse sediment	0.02 km <sup>2</sup>
	A2.3 intertidal mud	0.02 km <sup>2</sup>
	A3.1 high energy infralittoral rock	2.06 km <sup>2</sup>
	A3.2 mod energy infralittoral rock	0.63 km <sup>2</sup>
	A5.1 subtidal coarse sediment	1.80 km <sup>2</sup>
	A5.4 subtidal mixed sediments	5.17 km <sup>2</sup>
Habitat FOCI	Blue mussel beds	1,089 m <sup>2</sup>
	Intertidal underboulder communities	1 record
	Littoral chalk communities	1.35 km <sup>2</sup>
	Rossworm ( <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> ) reef	2,580 m <sup>2</sup>
	Subtidal chalk	0.06 km <sup>2</sup>

#### 6. Features within Dover to Deal not proposed for designation <sup>3</sup>

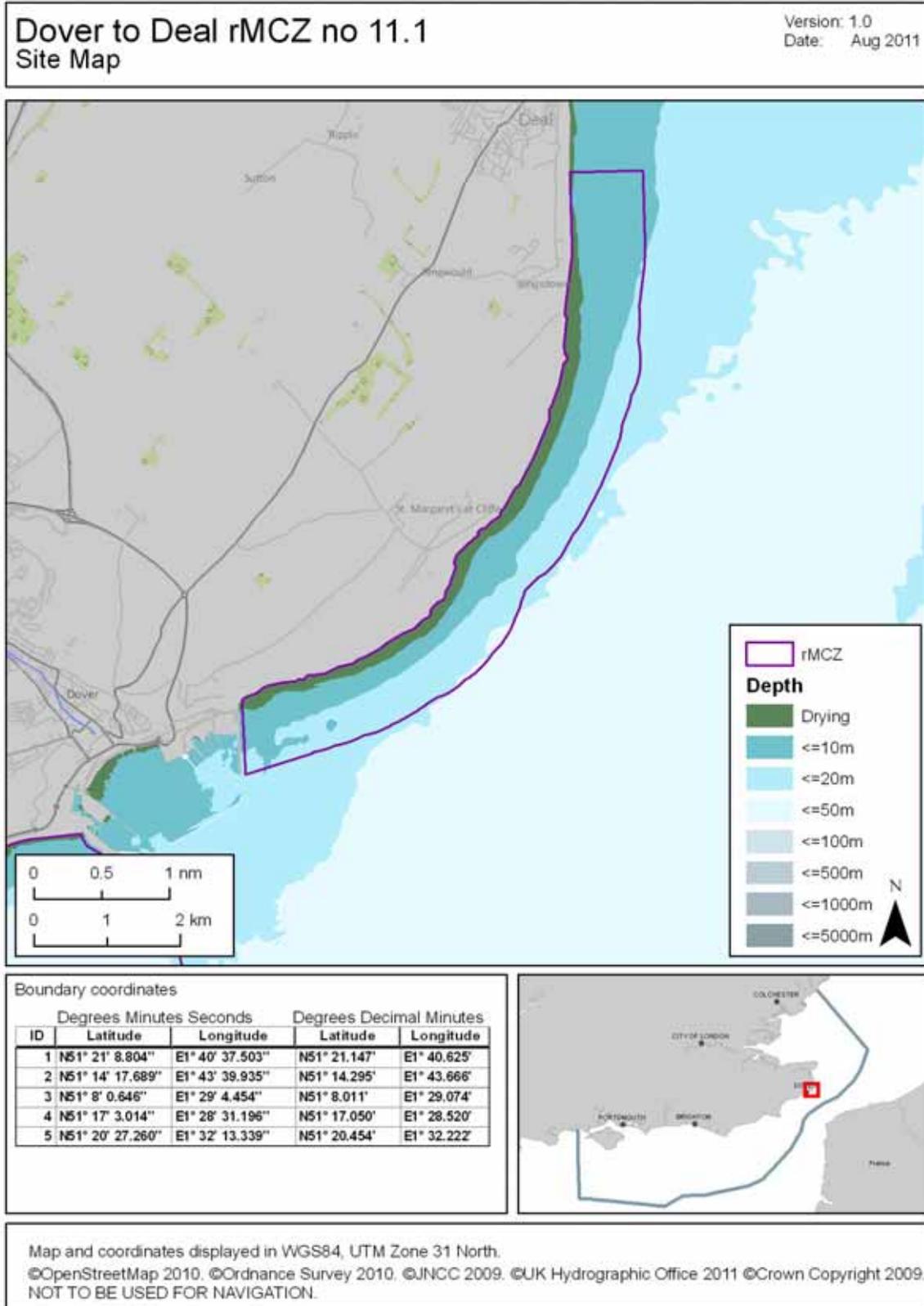
Feature type	Feature name	Comments
Species FOCI High mobility	European Eel ( <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> )	Do not exist here
	Smelt ( <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i> )	Do not exist here
	Undulate Ray ( <i>Raja undulata</i> )	Do not exist here

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

<sup>3</sup> 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

This is highly diverse area with a number of habitat FOCI and additional features of interest (e.g. chalk ledges and gullies). The site is regionally important for its excellent examples of littoral chalk communities on intertidal and subtidal chalk reefs (shown by UKSeaMap v7 as high and moderate energy infralittoral rock). As these features are part of, and naturally shaped by, the coastline, the boundary has been drawn to adequately capture these features and a minimum dimension of 5km for the site is not thought to be essential. These habitats grade seawards into subtidal sand, subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal mixed sediments. The site also contains very good regional examples of intertidal underboulder communities and impressive Rossworm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*) reefs. Biodiversity data also suggest that this site has high benthic biotope richness.

The area along the coastline from Folkestone to Deal was identified early on in the MCZ recommendation process, to protect the extensive chalk reefs. Subsequently, it was divided into two (11.1 and 11.2) at its midway point in order to exclude Dover Harbour. Channel Coastal Observatory has high-quality multibeam data/EUNIS L3 that should inform site verification.

To achieve the draft conservation objectives of the site, the trawling sector have agreed, that if an MCZ were to be designated, they would stop fishing (currently seasonal) on a permanent basis. Set netting, potting and recreational anchoring currently occurs here at quite high levels and can continue, but will need to be monitored.

### 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 is located in the Dover Straits, capturing a narrow band of intertidal and subtidal habitat running between Deal in the north and Dover Harbour in the south. The main features of interest are the intertidal and subtidal chalk that forms the reefs, ledges and gullies which support a highly diverse range of marine flora and fauna including superb examples of littoral chalk communities.

There is extensive data and evidence for the site which is listed in KWT (2010), including: Intertidal and subtidal surveys in the 1980s conducted before and after the Channel Tunnel construction; KWT surveys of the intertidal chalk platform between Folkestone Warren and Kingsdown Deal in 2009 and 2010 undertaken by algae and invertebrate experts from the Natural History Museum; intertidal surveys by Kent Wildlife Trust's Shoresearch project at Kingsdown and St Margaret's Bay; subtidal sediment habitat samples taken by the Environment Agency; and diving surveys by Kent Wildlife Trust's Seasearch project since 2003. More recently, a high-quality multibeam survey has been carried out by the Channel Coastal Observatory which will result in more refined EUNIS L3 data and will help to verify the site's features.

According to the UKSeaMap/MESH data (JNCC 2011 v.7), the site contains moderate energy intertidal rock, intertidal coarse sediment, intertidal mud, high energy infralittoral rock, moderate energy infralittoral rock, subtidal coarse sediment and subtidal mixed sediments (see Broad-scale habitats map). However, these broad-scale distinctions do not necessarily correspond to the gently graduating seabed as known by stakeholders familiar with the site. Local stakeholders therefore suggested it would be better to use the main FOCI habitat features of the site (i.e. the intertidal and subtidal chalk with associated communities) when considering protection (Sussex & South Kent Local Group 9.11.2010) (see FOCI map).

The intertidal chalk in this site is considered to be the best example of the habitat in the region (Sussex and South Kent Local Group Meeting Report, April, 2011). The wave-cut intertidal chalk platforms form an almost continuous reef between Kingsdown, Deal in the north east to Folkestone Warren in the south west (see rMCZ 11.2) (excluding Dover Harbour), lying below stretches of defended and undefended chalk cliffs. The platform is typically gently sloping with a narrow band of flint cobbles and pebbles inshore at the foot of the cliffs (see Figure 1). Below this, the platform is usually incised with gullies and rock pools, and supports zones of ephemeral green algae, animal grazed rock, then brown wracks, leading through to mixed red algae and into the kelp zone at low water (KWT MCZ Proposal, 2010). Tittley et al (1986) concluded that the chalk foreshore at St Margaret's Bay represents the richest algal community in SE England.



Figure 1. Boulders and level platform showing chalk habitat and algal communities at Kingsdown

The chalk platform extends across the intertidal and out into the subtidal to varying distances. The vertical structure of the subtidal chalk reefs varies from relatively flat exposures partially overlain and scoured with sediment, through areas of large boulders, to outcropping chalk reefs with gullies up to around 2m high, supporting a rich cover of animal life (KWT, 2010) (see Southeast Features map). Recent shore transects completed on the unmodified coastline with exposures of chalk by Kingsdown near Deal, show the vertical cliff supports three distinct algal bands. Associated with the intertidal and subtidal chalk reefs (described by UKSeaMap v7 as high and moderate energy infralittoral rock) is a continuous band of littoral chalk communities.

The area is also important in featuring a NE to SW gradient from upper to lower chalks through grey marly chalk to gault clay. The bands of lower chalk have alternating layers of limestone, marl and clay which vary in colour, texture and hardness, and provide a variety of noticeably different substrata on the shore and in the shallow sublittoral. Upper chalk (almost pure limestone) is exposed at South Foreland, mostly on the landward side of the cliffs but also as boulders on the shore. Middle chalk forms the cliffs and foreshore between South Foreland and Dover (KWT, 2010).

A well-developed Rossworm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*) biotope is present at the lower shore where sand fringes the edge of the chalk foreshore reef. This type of intertidal biotope occurring on the chalk (infralittoral) fringe is very rare in Kent and unrecorded in the rest of the UK (Tittley & Spurrier, in prep, KWT email, 2011)<sup>4</sup>. It is thought that intertidal *Sabellaria* reefs here are possibly a seeding population helping to bolster more offshore and vulnerable reefs (KWT, 2010). Mixed together with

<sup>4</sup> These intertidal *Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs on the intertidal/infralittoral fringe (recorded within the biotope **MIR.SabKR Sabellaria spinulosa with kelp and red seaweeds on sand-influenced infralittoral rock** from the 1997 biotope classification) do not have an equivalent in the 04.05 version of the biotope classification, where *Sabellaria spinulosa* biotopes are limited to circalittoral rock or subtidal sediment. Being on intertidal rock, these reefs do not fit within the BAP description, but NE have confirmed that they do fit within the OSPAR definition (NE email, 21.03.2010) and have therefore been included within the FOCI data for Rossworm reef.

the *Sabellaria* reefs are some of the best stocks of discrete intertidal blue mussel beds on rock in the Kent and Essex area (Dover Site Meeting Report, February 2011).



Figure 2. Rossworm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*) reef on the foreshore, Kingsdown

There are also well-developed *Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs subtidally off Kingsdown, as well as thin *Sabellaria* crusts helping to stabilise and consolidate the mixed sediment seabed found just offshore from the chalk reefs (KWT, 2010). The *Sabellaria* reef occurs in a long continuous clump providing habitat and shelter for numerous other species.

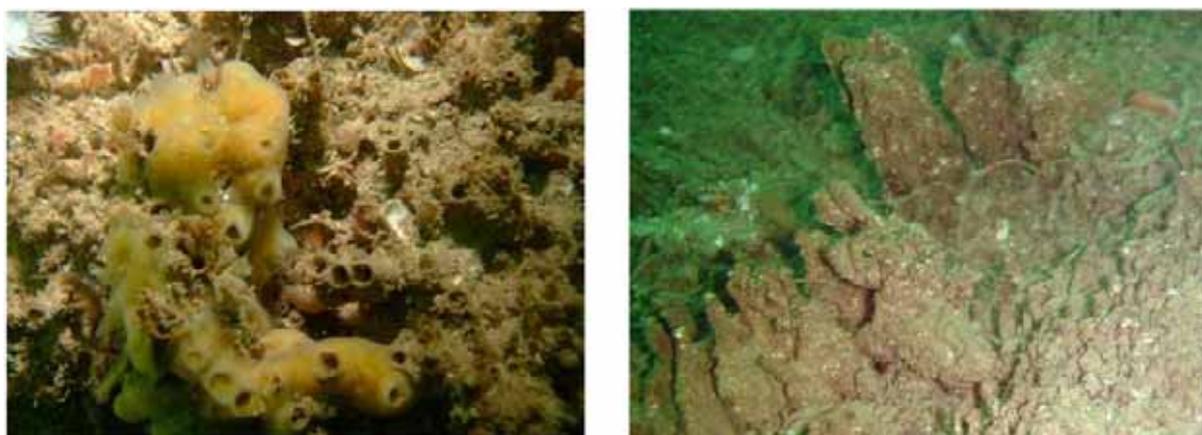


Figure 3. Subtidal Rossworm reef, off Kingsdown

Intertidal underboulder communities are present at all levels of the shore from near high water mark where large boulders provide shaded, cave-like conditions for unusual algae; through the mid shore furoid (wrack) zones where mobile animals such as porcelain crabs and brittlestars shelter among sponge and bryozoan crusts; to the very low shore kelp zones where crusts of sponges, bryozoans and ascidians grow (KWT, 2010). A recent survey shows that at Kingsdown, the boulder strewn shore, interspersed with flint cobbles and pebbles, lies at the top of the shore, primarily 10-30 m from the foot of the cliffs and supports a well-developed *Fucus vesiculosus* community.



Beyond 33 metres from the cliff, the flat chalk platform is devoid of boulders all the way to the low water mark (Tittley & Spurrier, in prep, KWT email, 2011). National contract data shows the intertidal underboulder communities to occur further south than the location of this survey.

**Figure 4. Intertidal underboulder communities, Langdon Bay**

The Wildlife Trusts have identified various habitats and species considered to be important in the Southeast and provided spatial data to the project to show where these occur (see Southeast Features map). In this site the most important feature is the chalk ledges as described above, which is important for intertidal under-boulder communities and supports examples of rare sponges – the combination of the three points shows a high habitat complexity indicating high biodiversity. The combination of the chalk, gullies and *Sabellaria* reef is very rare and has not been recorded elsewhere in the UK (Dover Site Meeting Report, February 2011). Seasearch surveys have shown particularly well developed subtidal chalk gullies within Fan Bay, St Margaret’s Bay and Kingsdown. The lower profile boulders and bedrock outcrops beyond the kelp zone support some red algae, but are increasingly dominated by sessile animal species characteristic of silty situations exposed to moderately strong tidal flows. This includes a diverse sponge fauna, anemones, bryozoans, sea squirts, hydroids forming a generally low turf, with mobile molluscs, crustaceans, echinoderms and fish. Silted mats of the seasquirt (*Molgula manhattensis*) cover horizontal surfaces at many locations (see Figure 5).

Survey data shows sea anemone (*Diadumene cincta*) occurs in the extreme north of the site, Ross coral (*Pentapora foliacea*) in the southern section of the site and sea squirt beds in the mid section of the site. The rare stalked jellyfish *Craterolophus convolvulus* was recorded on the chalk foreshore at Fan Bay, northeast of Dover Harbour, the nearest other records of this species being in Scotland and Cornwall (KWT, 2010).



**Figure 5. sponges, hydroids, bryozoans and algae, Kingsdown reef**

The Marine Nature Conservation Review describes the sublittoral zone in the region of the Channel Tunnel as being of conservation importance due to the limited areas of sublittoral chalk in Britain and the relative richness of the communities in this area (KWT, 2010). This is further underpinned by the fact that the site captures a small section of an area with higher benthic biotope richness than the surrounding area (Jackson *et al.* 2010 DEFRA MB102 2F).

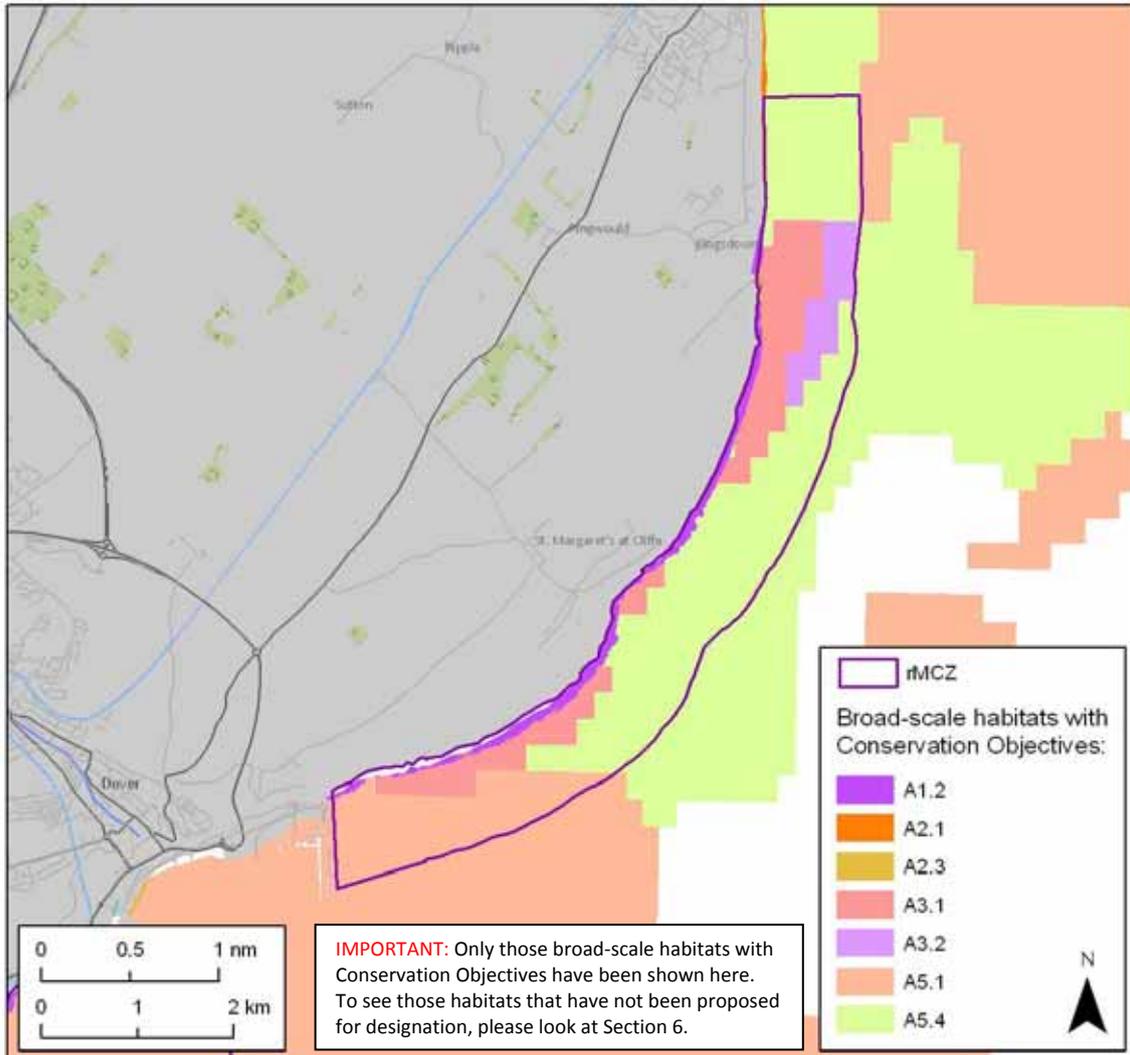
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This rMCZ is part of one of the Key Inshore Biodiversity Areas in the Balanced Seas Region recommended as an MCZ, by the South East England Biodiversity Forum (SEEBF, 2010). This site was also one of the recommendations put forward by the Marine Conservation Society as part of their 'Your Seas Your Voice' Campaign, where the general public could vote for the sites they would most like to see gain more protection; of those who voted (146 individuals), 93% were in favour (MCS, 2011).

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Version: 1.0  
Date: Aug 2011

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



Broad-scale habitats with Conservation Objectives:

- A1.2 mod energy intertidal rock
- A2.1 intertidal coarse sediments
- A2.3 intertidal mud
- A3.1 high energy infralittoral rock
- A3.2 mod energy infralittoral rock
- A5.1 subtidal coarse sediment
- A5.4 subtidal mixed sediments

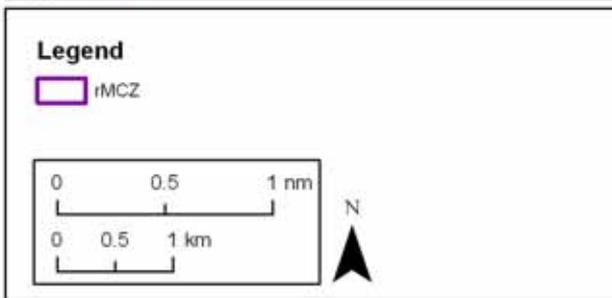
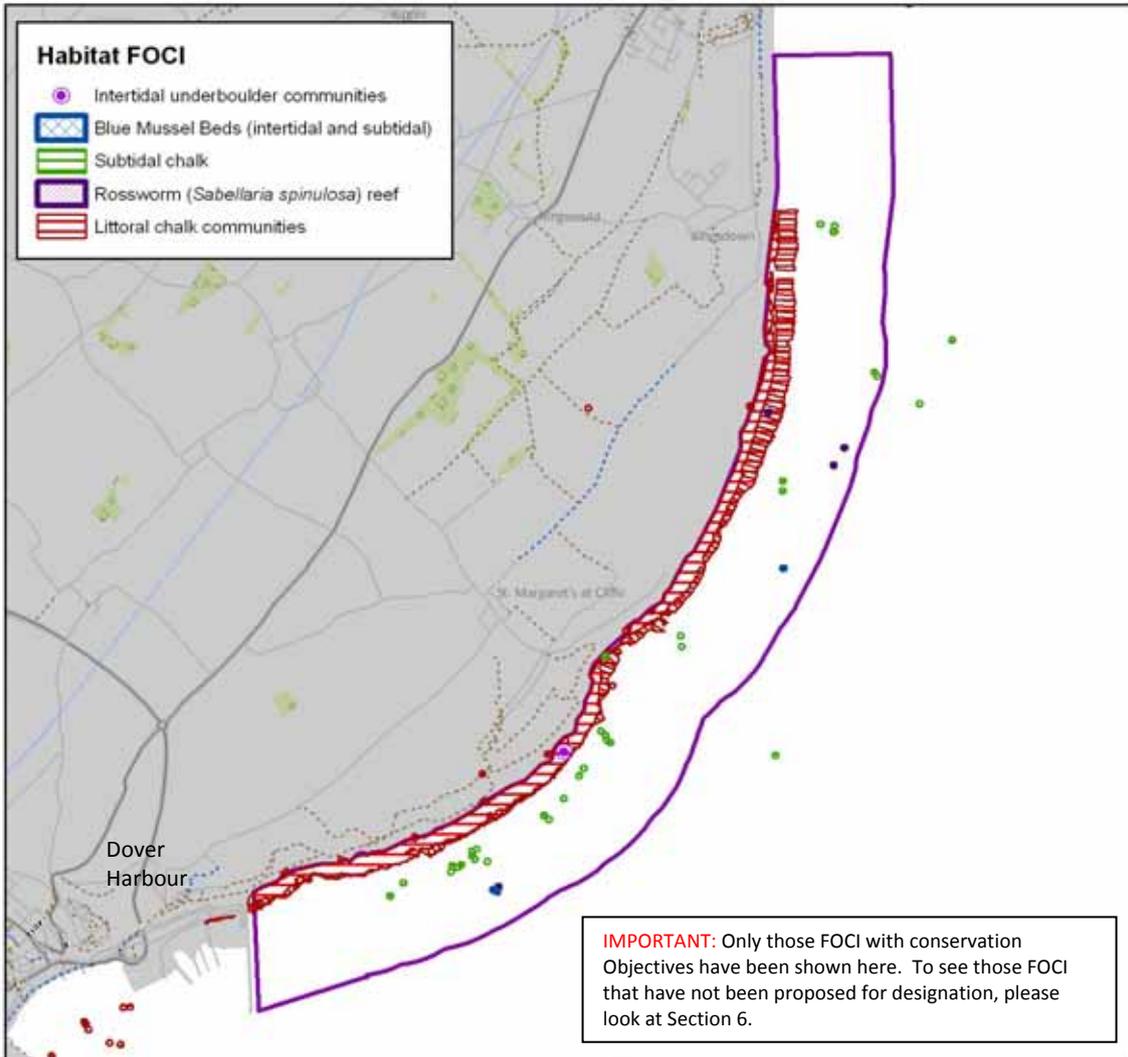


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Dover to Deal rMCZ no 11.1  
Habitat and Species FOCI Conservation Objectives

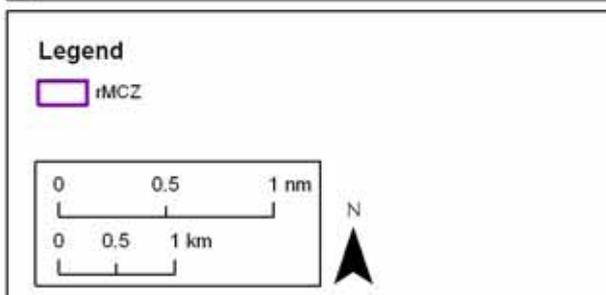
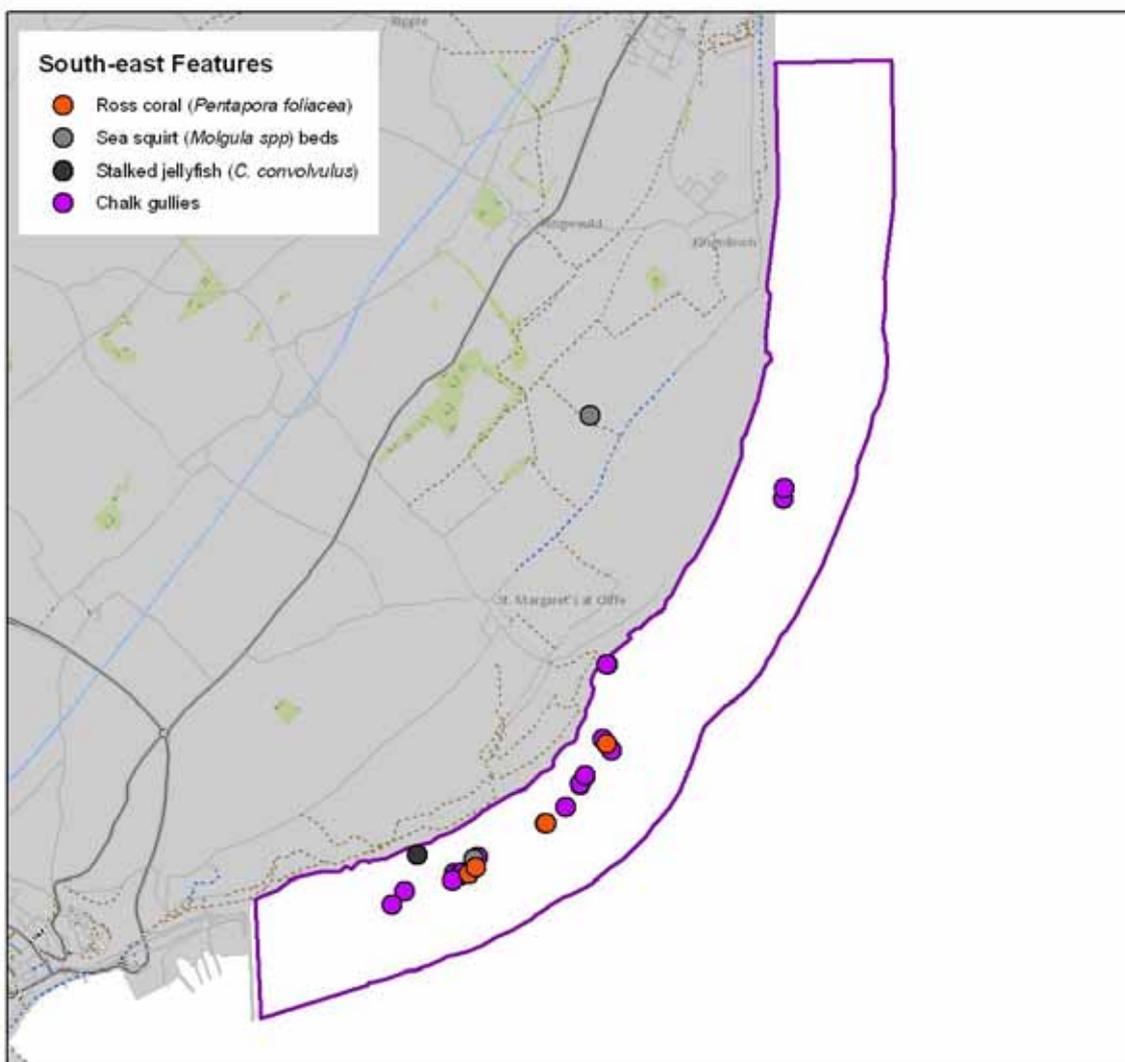
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Dover to Deal rMCZ no 11.1  
South-east Features

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**10. Site boundary**

The landward boundary of the site is described by the Mean High Water mark from just south of Walmer near Deal, south to 50 m north of the northern harbour wall of Dover Port. The seaward boundary has been drawn to take in the extent of the habitat FOCI (e.g. littoral chalk communities) and the underlying chalk reefs.

**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 other existing designation.

**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	Combined	June 2011
Rossworm ( <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> ) reef	Survey	Kent Wildlife Trust		04/09/2005 And 27/06/2009
Intertidal under boulder communities	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2C	JNCCMNCR10000219	25/06/1986
Littoral chalk communities	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2C		1985-2007
Littoral chalk communities	Survey	Kent Wildlife Trust		2005-2010
Blue mussel beds	Survey	Kent Wildlife Trust		04/09/2005 And 27/06/2009
Subtidal chalk	Survey	Seasearch data (Kent and Sussex)		1986-2010
Subtidal chalk	Survey	Marine recorder extract Sept 2010		2004-2009

**References (additional information can be found in the Bibliography)**

- COVEY, R., 1991. *Benthic Marine Ecosystems in Great Britain: a Review of Current Knowledge. Eastern England and English Channel (MNCR Coastal Sectors 6 and 7)*. Nature Conservancy Council CSD Report No. 1172 (MNCR Report No. MNCR/OR/08).
- JACKSON, E.L., LANGMEAD, O. HISCOCK, K. TYLER-WALTERS, H. MILLER, P. McQUATTERS-GOLLOP, A. SAUNDERS, J. & C. FOX. 2009. *Assessing and Developing the Required Biophysical Dataset and Data Layers for Marine Protected Areas Network Planning and Wider Marine Spatial Planning Purposes. Task 2F: Development of Marine Diversity Data Layer: Review of Approaches and Proposed Method*. DEFRA, London.
- KENT WILDLIFE TRUST. 2010. Information for the Balanced Seas Regional Stakeholder Group to Inform Discussions on the Dover, West Bank and Folkestone Holes Area.
- MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY .2011. *Regional Report 2: Balanced Seas Region. (May 2009 – February 2011)*. Marine Conservation Society.
- NATURAL ENGLAND email I.R. 21.04.2011. Re: Sabellaria spinulosa
- 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.
- 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.
- TITTLE, I. 1986. *A Preliminary Survey of the Intertidal Benthic Marine Algal Communities between Shakespeare Cliff and Abbot's Cliff, Dover, Kent*. Nature Conservancy Council.
- Tittle and Spurrier (in prep.) Biological Survey of the Intertidal Chalk Reefs between Kingsdown, Deal and Folkestone Warren, Kent.

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### 14. Stakeholder support for the site

The RSG as a group reached consensus that this site should be put forward in their final recommendations. Within the group there was broad support for this site.

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 Dover to Deal rMCZ 11.1
Yachting	RYA	Support provided Dover HB agree, and anchoring on approaches remains (with voluntary agreement if needed).
Sea Angling		Broad agreement on maintain but would prefer a mile around the harbour exclusion.
Ports		Provided 50m gap between Dover Harbour wall and dMCZ is maintained, the ports could compromise on this. 1nm (as per Dover's area of jurisdiction) would however still be preferable.
Fishing - FPO, beam trawling		Local support for this site.
Fishing - Over 10s, FPO, trawling sector (under and over 10m)	Gilson Co.	No problem.
Shipping	Chamber of Shipping	Seriously concerned re proximity to Dover and impact on safety of navigation e.g. via affecting space for anchoring in case of machinery failure, as well as restriction of port operation.
Birds	RSPB	Support site. Boundary should go to harbour wall to capture extent of ecological feature. Consider 'recover' for littoral chalk communities if trawling overlaps, even if just seasonally.
Wildlife Trusts	Hampshire Wildlife Trust	I support this site but the CO are based on inconsistent, insubstantial activity data. E.g. for chalk says no overlap with trawling, but it does occur.
Marine Wildlife	Marine Conservation Society	<u>Support site</u> . But subtidal habitats must be protected to recover.
IFCA	Kent & Essex IFCA	General support.
Heritage and Archaeology	English Heritage	Support if Langdon Wreck can continue to be investigated.

### 15. Site summary of conservation objectives (COs) 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)

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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) process<sup>5</sup> and then sense-checked at the national level<sup>6</sup>. 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.

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).

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

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

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Feature	Draft CO	Activity exerting pressure	IFCA/MMO/EA/NE Comments	Stakeholder comments on draft COs and potential management measures
A1.2 Moderate energy intertidal rock	MAINTAIN			At the LG meeting (July 2011), Dover Borough Council said that 'green infrastructure' might be developed on shore and questioned whether this would affect the intertidal features near Kingsdown Cliffs; Natural England thought this would be unlikely
A2.1 Intertidal coarse sediment	MAINTAIN			
A2.3 Intertidal mud	MAINTAIN			
A3.1 High energy infralittoral rock	RECOVER	Fishing - benthic trawling (bottom gear)	The vulnerability assessment noted that levels of potting will need to be monitored.	The trawling sector would agree to abide by a code of conduct preventing trawling all year round as described in the main text
A3.2 Moderate energy infralittoral rock	RECOVER	Fishing - benthic trawling (bottom gear)		The trawling sector would agree to abide by a code of conduct preventing trawling all year round as described in the main text
A5.1 subtidal coarse sediment	MAINTAIN			
A5.4 Subtidal mixed sediments	MAINTAIN			
Blue Mussel beds	MAINTAIN		The vulnerability assessment noted that levels of potting and set netting will need to be monitored	LG (July 2011) confirmed potting levels low
Intertidal underboulder communities	MAINTAIN			
Littoral chalk communities	<del>MAINTAIN</del> RECOVER	Fishing - benthic trawling (bottom gear)	VA noted that levels of potting and set netting & recreational anchoring will need to be monitored	Trawling currently occurs on a seasonal basis (which was not known at the time of the vulnerability assessment), so CO has been changed to RECOVER but the trawling sector has agreed to avoid this site on a permanent basis (see main text). LG (July 2011) confirmed potting levels low N.B. forthcoming Channel Coastal Observatory data should be used to refine the distribution of this feature, which may influence the CO.
Rossworm ( <i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> ) reef	RECOVER	Fishing - benthic trawling (bottom gear)	VA noted that Levels of potting, set netting, recreational anchoring and RSA will need to be monitored	LG (July 2011) confirmed potting levels low  The trawling sector would agree to abide by a code of conduct preventing trawling all year round as described in the main text
Subtidal chalk	RECOVER	Fishing - benthic trawling (bottom gear)		The trawling sector would agree to abide by a code of conduct preventing trawling all year round as described in the main text

### 16. Evolution of the site recommendations

For the first iteration, a Broad Area of Interest was identified around the Dover Harbour area because of its diversity of important species and habitats. During RSG 4 (9.9.10), the seaward boundaries were moved landwards so that the site reflected more closely the extent of the littoral and subtidal chalk records, which were considered to be the most important feature of the site. At RSG 5 (5.10.2010), Dover Harbour Board raised concerns about the inclusion of the Harbour within an MCZ and the RSG agreed to exclude it, thus creating two sites: 11.1 (Dover Harbour North, subsequently renamed as Dover to Deal) and 11.2 (Dover Harbour South, subsequently renamed Dover to Folkestone), separated by the full Harbour exclusion zone. The Sussex and South Kent Local Group at its meeting of 9.11.10 pointed out that the exclusion zone (1 nm from the Harbour walls on either side) only excludes fishing, should not prevent the establishment of an MCZ and might even be beneficial by helping to protect important features since fishing is not permitted. At the Inshore Task Group (07.12.10), the boundaries were therefore extended up to the Harbour Walls. Despite requests from the Dover Harbour Board and the ports sector at subsequent meetings to move the boundaries back to the edge of the exclusion zone, the RSG did not agree to this. At the Local Group meeting of 26.07.2011, Dover Harbour raised particular concerns about the work required to maintain the harbour walls and it was agreed that the boundaries for both rMCZ 11.1 and rMCZ 11.2 would start 50m away from the harbour walls. This was accepted by the RSG in its final meeting (2/3 Aug 2011).

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).

### 17. Implications for Stakeholders

The following issues are associated with this site:

- Dover Port has planned expansion within the harbour which it is feared may not be compatible with the aims of an MCZ, and considers that the boundaries currently proposed conflict with the area of jurisdiction of the Dover Harbour Board (two letters of concern have been sent to the project by Dover Harbour Board). The Harbour Board is supported in its view by the ports and shipping sectors. The environment sector feel the features lying within the area of port jurisdiction require protection through the MCZ mechanism.
- There is a gentleman's agreement between the trawling and potting/netting sectors that potting and netting does not take place when fish valuable to the trawlers move into the area, which tends to be seasonally; currently therefore trawling occurs on a seasonal basis. Discussions during the development of the recommendation for this site led to agreement that the trawling sector will avoid the MCZ, if designated, on a permanent basis provided that no restrictions are placed on trawling in rMCZ 26 Hythe Bay, other than in the smaller 'management units' proposed by the sector themselves.
- Dover Port is promoting greater use of the marina and this might lead to an increase in recreational anchoring near the port in the future. At current levels, this activity is not thought to have an impact, but there may need to be some management (e.g. education of marina users to not anchor on the chalk) to prevent an increase to damaging levels.
- The Crown Estate support the site, though note that it has several active and inactive telecoms cables.

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).