

## Marine Conservation Zone: Selection Assessment Document

<b>Version and Issue date</b>	<b>Amendments made</b>
V1.0 07.09.11	Draft final recommendations refined by the RSG in July 2011 and finalised at their final meeting RSG 2/3 August 2011.

<b>1. Site name</b> Wight-Barfleur recommended Reference Area no. 14	<b>3. Site surface area</b> 2455 ha      24.55 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>2. Site centre location</b> ETRS89 N50 10' 13.997" W1 9' 9.630" N50 10.233' W1 9.161' (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 the Wight-Barfleur rRA <sup>1</sup>

Feature type	Feature name	Area <sup>2</sup>
Broad Scale Habitats	A5.1 Subtidal coarse sediment	16.6 km <sup>2</sup>
Habitat FOCI	Subtidal sands and gravels	24.58 km <sup>2</sup>

### 6. Other features occurring within the Wight-Barfleur rRA (to be protected)

Feature type	Feature name	Reason not specifically identified for reference area protection
Broad Scale Habitats	A4.1 High energy circalittoral rock	Site is only large enough to protect a single broad scale habitat viably
	A5.4 Subtidal mixed sediments	

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

### 8. Site summary

This rRA has been identified for one broad scale habitats as listed in the table above and lies across the southern boundary of the Wight Barfleur pSAC and the northern boundary of rMCZ 21 Wight-Barfleur Extension. The area includes the edge of the Wight-Barfleur reef, which has been surveyed recently in the preparation of the pSAC proposal. The habitats to the south have been recently surveyed by the Eastern English Channel Synthesis REC study, providing much higher confidence and accuracy in the mapping.

### 9. Detailed site description

Please see detailed site description for rMCZ 21.

### 10. Site boundary

The boundary was originally identified as a simple 5km x 5km square but was revised to follow the extent of the A5.1 habitat.

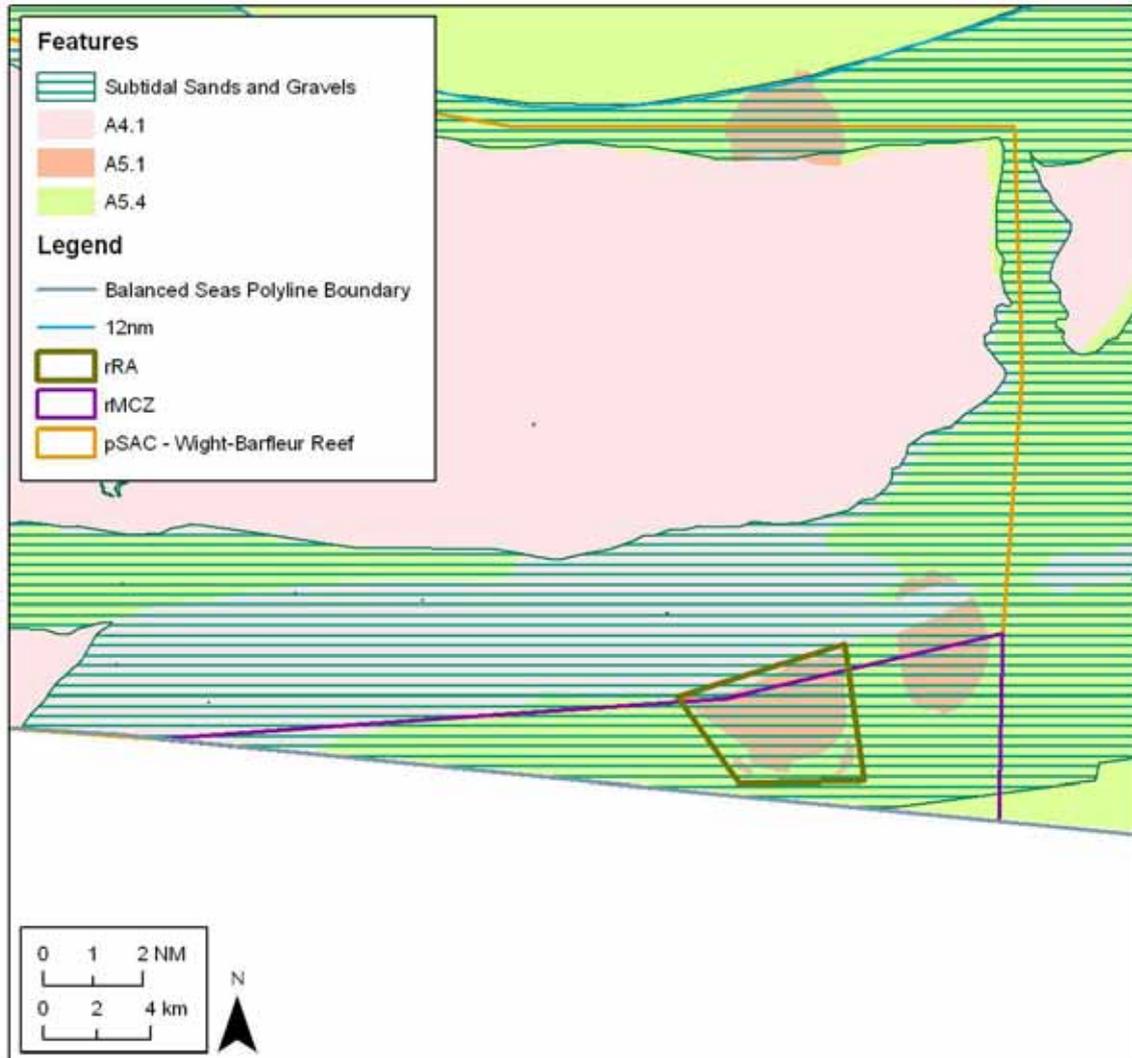
### 11. Conservation objectives

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".

<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.

## Wight-Barfleur Recommended Reference Area no 14



Features to be protected within reference area:

- A4.1 High energy circalittoral rock
- A5.1 Subtidal coarse sediment
- A5.4 Subtidal mixed sediments
- Subtidal Sands and Gravels



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.**

## Wight-Barfleur rRA no 14

### 12. 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 Wight-Barfleur rRA 14
Yachting	RYA	Support.
Fisheries	Local Fisheries Representatives	Low level of support.
Fishing - FPO, beam trawling		Reasonable support.
Birds	RSPB	Support.
Wildlife Trusts	Hampshire Wildlife Trust	I support this.
Marine Ecology	Seasearch	Strong support for this RA.
Marine Wildlife	Marine Conservation Society	<u>Support site</u> . Recover CO all broadscale habitats.
French fishing interests		My sector can't be agreed with this very big area. The fishing effort will be [?] in the pSAC area.

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

This site overlaps both the Wight-Barfleur draft SAC and the Wight Barfleur Extension rMCZ no 21.

### 14. Supporting documentation (information relating to ENG features only)

Information	Type of information	Source	Name of survey	No of points	Dates
broad scale habitats	Modelled and data	UKSeaMap/MESH v7	Combined	n/a	2011
Subtidal sands and gravels	Survey	National contract data		1	09/11/2007

### References

Please refer to the references in the site description of r MCZ 21.

### 15. Evolution of the site recommendations

The site was originally drawn at the meeting point of a complex of broad-scale habitats slightly further west than its current position. The final area is located at the edge of the Wight-Barfleur reef, which has been surveyed recently in the preparation of the pSAC designation. After the Third Progress Report, the SAP advised that 5km by 5km area was only ecologically viable for one broad scale habitat, not several, and therefore advised the RSG to review the RAs for broad scale habitats across the region. After discussion, the RSG decided to compromise between two offshore RAs – rRA 14 would stay the same size but be shifted slightly east to encompass an area of A5.1; rRA 10 was enlarged to three times its size in order to ensure viability of the three broad scale habitats within it.

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:

- More detailed information on fishing activity (national and non-UK) is needed before full implications for this sector can be assessed and extent of any displacement of fishing vessels. This site is thought to be in an area of lesser intensity for UK commercial trawling fleets but is in an area

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of intense commercial potting activity according to Fishemap. The UK fishing sector has however largely accepted this rRA as they recognise that the Wight Barfleur SAC may have implications for them, and this is simply a small extension

- Important area for French, Belgian and Dutch fishing vessels
- Area occurs in the shipping channel where there may be reduced activity by some sectors
- The pSAC is currently out to public consultation. Currently there are draft Conservation Objectives and advice on operations, but management measures are to be decided.

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).