

Westgate Promontory rRA no 4

Marine Conservation Zone: Selection Assessment Document

Version and Issue date	Amendments made
V1.0 31.8.11	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 Westgate Promontory (recommended Reference Area no. 4)	3. Site surface area 23 ha 0.23 km ²
2. Site centre location ETRS89 N51 23' 11.296" E1 19' 59.787" N51 23.188' E1 19.996' (N.B. WGS 84 UTM 31N coordinates are provided in the map vertices)	4. Biogeographic region Southern North Sea

5. Features identified for specific protection within the Westgate Promontory rRA ¹

Feature type	Feature name	Area / No. of records ²
Broad Scale Habitats	A1.2 Moderate energy intertidal rock	0.11 km ²
	A2.3 Intertidal mud	0.03km ²
Habitat FOCI	Littoral chalk communities	0.11 km ²
	Subtidal sands and gravels	0.02 km ²
Species FOCI Low	Kaleidoscope Jellyfish (<i>H. auricula</i>)	1 record

6. Other features occurring within the Westgate Promontory rRA (to be protected)

Feature type	Feature name	Reason not specifically identified for reference area protection
Broad Scale Habitats	A3.2 Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Not viable for subtidal Broad Scale Habitat RA
	A5.2 Subtidal sand	Not viable for subtidal Broad Scale Habitat RA

7. Map of site (see below)

8. Site summary

This site encompasses the intertidal and subtidal area surrounding the Westgate Promontory within rMCZ 7 Thanet Coast. It was identified as one of only two locations containing survey records for the Kaleidoscope Jellyfish (*Halicystus auricula*). The site is also aimed at specific protection for intertidal mud and moderate energy intertidal rock, and two habitat FOCI: littoral chalk communities and subtidal sands and gravels. There are also two littoral and two subtidal broad scale habitats present as seen in the table above. According to the ENG, the minimum viable patch size for a site protecting subtidal sands and gravels depends on the specific substratum type of the habitat and therefore further survey work will be necessary to consider if this site is suitably sized to protect it.

9. Detailed site description

Please see detailed site description for rMCZ 7.

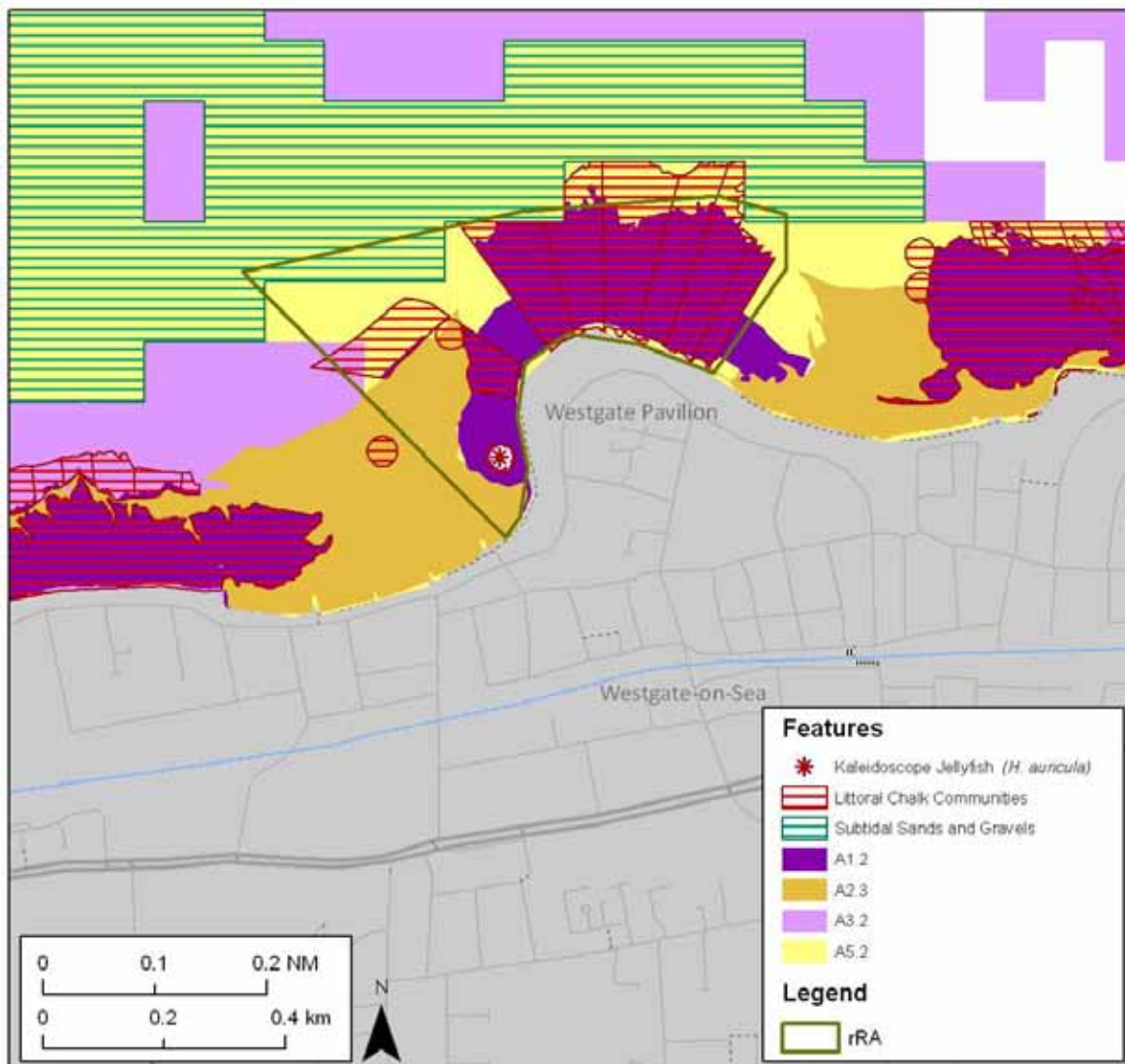
10. Site boundary

The site boundary is located to contain the Kaleidoscope Jellyfish (*H. auricula*) and is drawn to be 500m in its minimum dimension.

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.

Westgate Promontory
Recommended Reference Area no 4



Features to be protected within reference area:

- A1.2 Moderate energy intertidal rock
- A2.3 Intertidal mud
- A3.2 Moderate energy infralittoral rock
- A5.2 Subtidal sand
- Littoral chalk communities
- Subtidal sands and gravels
- Kaleidoscope Jellyfish (*H. auricula*)



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.

Westgate Promontory rRA no 4

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 is contained with the Thanet Coast rMCZ no 7, the Thanet Coast SSSI, the Thanet Coast SAC, and is close to draft Reference Area no 5 (Turner Contemporary).

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
Subtidal sands and gravels	Survey				
Littoral chalk communities	Survey	National contract data, DEFRA MB102 2C	GB000317	7	29/09/2006
Littoral chalk communities	Survey	Kent Wildlife Trust		2	2007 and 2010
Kaleidoscope Jellyfish (<i>Haliclystus auricula</i>)	Survey	Kent Wildlife Trust		1	29/04/2010

References

Please refer to the references in the site description of rMCZ 7.

14. Stakeholder support for the site

The Local Group gave strong support to the current boundary during their discussion at the July 2011 meeting. This area already has many voluntary codes of conduct in place and is within an area with existing managed MPAs and involvement of the North East Kent European Marine Sites Management Scheme 2007-2012 and the volunteer wardens of the Thanet Coast project. The Kent Coastal Network run through Kent County Council could also help with management and awareness raising awareness.

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 Westgate Promontory rRA 4
Yachting	RYA	Support on basis that it does not impact on recreational boating and launching.
Sea Angling		Change of shape should be acceptable to RSA.
Fishing - FPO, beam trawling		Local support.
Birds	RSPB	Support boundary change suggested at Local Group.
Wildlife Trusts	Hampshire Wildlife Trust	I support this and the local group suggestion.
Marine Ecology	Seasearch	Strongly support inclusion of chalk promontory as habitat for stalked jellyfish.
Marine Wildlife	Marine Conservation Society	<u>Support</u> . Though not large enough to be viable.
Heritage and Archaeology	English Heritage	Support as archaeological excavation will be allowed as a scientific exemption.

15. Evolution of the site recommendations

The site was first identified for the Kaleidoscope Jellyfish (*Haliclystus auricula*) by the RSG (RSG 6, January, 2011) when the boundary was drawn slightly further to the west, within the bay but it was noted that this was a busy location with much recreational and tourist activity, and concerns about the feasibility of management. Subsequently, in June, the RSG sea angling representative met with Nayland Boat Sea Fishing Society who use this area and with them developed a revised boundary located further east and abutting the promontory (e-mail from A.Hills, 8/7/2011). This was circulated to the RSG for comment prior to presenting it at the Local Group meeting (July 2011), where it was suggested that the site be extended further east to incorporate more littoral chalk communities and subtidal sands and gravels and thus greater habitat complexity. The revised position was more acceptable to the Local Group as access is more restricted here and thus fewer activities would be affected.

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:

- An RA in a popular tourist spot will be difficult to manage and might not be supported; however the area around the headland is used less than adjacent areas and involvement of Thanet Coastal Project (volunteer wardens and monitoring) might be able to help promote and manage such a reference area.
- Non native invasive species may be a problem.
- Some 'unofficial' shellfish collecting here (periwinkle and rock oysters) – not officially commercial but local knowledge of the scale of the operation would suggest that it is.
- RSA catch Thornback Ray from the shore by wading out at low tide; further information is needed on this activity to determine whether it would be impacted by a reference area
- Some bait digging may occur

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.