

Thanet Coast rMCZ no 7

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 Thanet Coast rMCZ no 7 Contains: Westgate Promontory rRA 4 & Turner Contemporary rRA 5	3. Site surface area 6279 ha 62.79 km ²
2. Site centre location ETRS89 N51 22' 40.556" E1 22' 44.002" N51 22.676' E1 22.733' (N.B. WGS 84 UTM 31N coordinates are provided in the site map vertices)	4. Biogeographic region Southern North Sea

5. Features proposed for designation within Thanet Coast ¹

Feature type	Feature name	Area / No. of records ²
Broad-scale habitats	A3.2 mod energy infralittoral rock	0.25 km ²
	A4.2 mod energy circalittoral rock	8.37 km ²
	A5.1 subtidal coarse sediment	8.74 km ²
	A5.2 subtidal sand	5.61 km ²
	A5.4 subtidal mixed sediments	13.46 km ²
Habitat FOCI	Blue mussel beds	0.01 km ²
	Peat and clay exposures	1,319 m ²
	Rossworm (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>) reef	2,107 m ²
	Subtidal chalk	8.85 km ²
	Subtidal sands and gravels	6.04 km ²
Species FOCI Low mobility	St John's Jellyfish (<i>Lucernariopsis cruxmelitensis</i>)	1 record
	Kaleidoscope Jellyfish (<i>Halicyclustus auricula</i>)	1 record

6. Features within Thanet Coast not proposed for designation ³

Feature type	Feature name	Comments
Broad-scale habitats	A1.2 Moderate energy intertidal rock	Fully protected by Thanet Coast SAC
	A2.1 intertidal coarse sediment	Very small area
	A2.2 Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Targets already met by MPAs
	A2.3 intertidal mud	Majority of habitat protected by Thanet Coast SSSI
	A3.1 high energy infralittoral rock	Fully protected by Thanet SAC
	A3.2 mod energy infralittoral rock	Proposed for designation in MCZ (see table 5) but most protected by Thanet Coast SAC/SSSI.
	A4.2 mod energy circalittoral rock	Proposed for designation in MCZ (see table 5) but is partially protected by Thanet SAC
	A5.1 subtidal coarse sediment	Proposed for designation in MCZ (see table 5) but is partially protected by Margate and Long Sands and Thanet Coast SACs
	A5.2 subtidal sand	Proposed for designation in MCZ (see table 5) but is partially protected by Margate and Long Sands SAC
	A5.4 subtidal mixed sediments	Proposed for designation in MCZ (see table 5) but is partially protected by Margate and Long Sands and Thanet Coast SACs
Habitat FOCI	Littoral chalk communities	Fully protected in Thanet Coast SAC. Data records outside SAC considered inaccurate.
	Subtidal chalk	Proposed for designation in MCZ (see table 5) but is partially protected in Thanet Coast SAC.
	Subtidal sands and gravels	Proposed for designation in MCZ (see table 5) but is partially protected in Thanet Coast SAC

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.

³ Features may appear in both tables (5 & 6) if they are already protected in an MPA that partially overlaps the MCZ.

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Feature type	Feature name	Comments
Species FOCI Low mobility	Native Oyster (<i>Ostrea edulis</i>)	Very few and likely to be isolated.
Species	European Eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)	Occurrence not certain
FOCI	Smelt (<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>)	Occurrence not certain
High mobility	Undulate Ray (<i>Raja undulata</i>)	Occurrence not certain

7. Map of site (see below)

8. Site summary

This site builds upon existing broad-scale habitat protection already in place within the concurrent Thanet Coast SSSI and SAC. The rMCZ stretches from Beltinge, east of Herne Bay, around Thanet, to the northern harbour wall of Ramsgate, capturing many features that are not already protected within the Thanet Coast SAC.

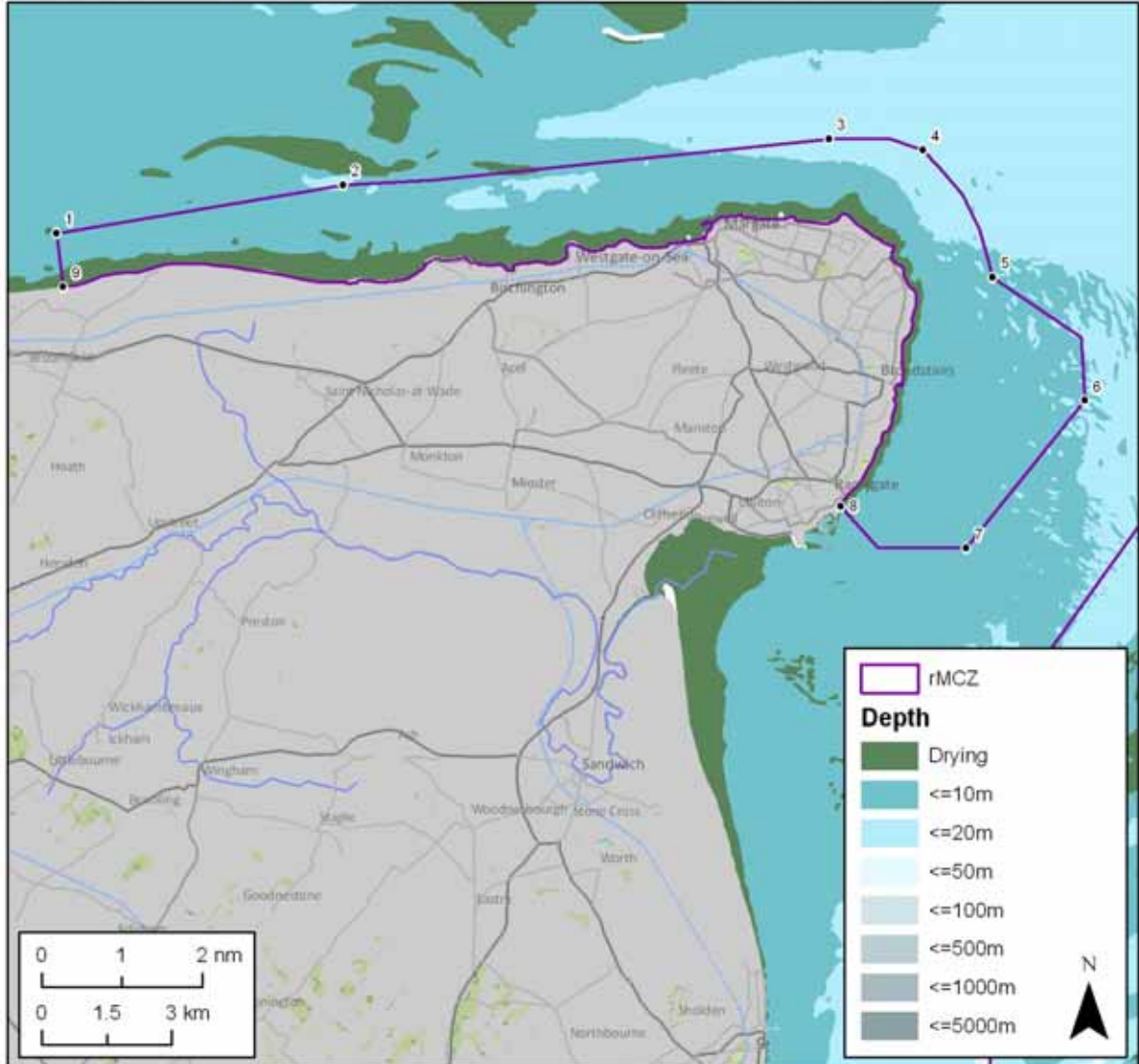
The Thanet Coast is the longest continuous stretch of coastal chalk in the UK, boasting subtidal chalk reefs that extend into the intertidal zone to form chalk cliffs. The area is regionally noteworthy for its littoral chalk communities (protected under the SAC) and subtidal chalk platforms. These habitats – described through the EUNIS Level 3 classification as infralittoral and circalittoral broad-scale habitats of varying energy levels – are given additional protection by extending the rMCZ site boundaries seaward of the Thanet Coast SSSI/SAC. In addition, the site aims to protect intertidal Blue Mussel beds on mixed and sandy sediments, an unusual form of intertidal Rossworm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*) reef that is mixed with Blue Mussels, and peat and clay exposures. The site appears to contain two highly restricted Stalked Jellyfish populations, the single regional occurrence of one species, St John's Jellyfish, *Lucernariopsis cruxmelitensis*, and the second occurrence of another, the Kaleidoscope Jellyfish, *Haliclystus auricula*. From the national contract biodiversity data, this site is shown to have high benthic species and Chao 2 richness and high biotope richness.

The draft conservation objectives for this site have implications in some locations for the trawling sector and recreational anchoring. However, it is recognised that more detailed information is needed on levels of activity and more accurate data on the extent and location of the features in the site before appropriate management measures can be identified. Other activities are thought to be largely acceptable at current levels, according to the available data.

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Thanet Coast rMCZ no 7 Site Map

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Boundary coordinates		Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Decimal Minutes	
ID	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude	
1	N51° 23' 8.998"	E1° 9' 49.160"	N51° 23.150'	E1° 9.819'	
2	N51° 23' 50.510"	E1° 15' 30.298"	N51° 23.842'	E1° 15.505'	
3	N51° 24' 33.441"	E1° 25' 10.516"	N51° 24.557'	E1° 25.175'	
4	N51° 24' 26.507"	E1° 27' 3.187"	N51° 24.442'	E1° 27.053'	
5	N51° 22' 52.204"	E1° 28' 29.757"	N51° 22.870'	E1° 28.496'	
6	N51° 21' 21.138"	E1° 30' 22.801"	N51° 21.352'	E1° 30.380'	
7	N51° 19' 28.604"	E1° 28' 5.255"	N51° 19.477'	E1° 28.088'	
8	N51° 19' 58.243"	E1° 25' 34.074"	N51° 19.971'	E1° 25.568'	
9	N51° 22' 29.309"	E1° 9' 59.200"	N51° 22.488'	E1° 9.987'	



Map and coordinates displayed in WGS84, UTM Zone 31 North.

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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.

The Thanet Coast is considered to be amongst the best wildlife sites in Europe as, together with Pegwell Bay, it is internationally important for wintering birds and the marine life associated with the chalk cliffs, caves, reefs and sandy bays. It is also nationally important for the geology, the chalk stacks and arch, and some of the area's coastal plants (Thanet Coast Project, 2011). Thanet has had a long history of marine studies (Tittley, 2004), including biotopes which are regularly monitored to assess the status of their condition (Natural England, 2006).

According to Brodie *et al.* (2007), the Thanet Coast is the longest continuous stretch of coastal chalk in the UK, boasting subtidal chalk reefs that extend into the intertidal zone to form chalk cliffs. These cliffs create the second most extensive example of chalk caves in the UK and support some specialised algal communities, such as *Pseudonoclonium submarinum* and *Chrysonema litoralis*.

The UKSeaMap/MESH data (JNCC 2011 v.7) demonstrates that this site contains a number of broad-scale habitats. Since the features of interest are primarily the subtidal chalk features, moderate energy infralittoral (A3.2) and circalittoral (A4.2) rock have been selected for protection in the MCZ, along with the surrounding subtidal coarse sediment (A5.1), sand (A5.2) and mixed sediments (A5.4) (see Broad-scale habitats map).

Several habitat FOCI have been recorded at the site and Kent Wildlife Trust has provided data points for Blue Mussels, peat and clay exposures (see figure 1) and subtidal chalk from Kent Shoresearch surveys or from Marine Recorder records (see FOCI map.)



Figure 1. Clay exposures at Beltinge, Herne Bay (left) and London Clay at Reculver (right)

Blue mussel beds are found on the intertidal area (see Figure 2) and are also found mixed with Rossworm (*Sabellaria*) reef, which forms a very unusual habitat composition. Another unusual intertidal Rossworm (*Sabellaria spinulosa*)⁴ biotope is also recorded at Kingsgate in Thanet, occurring

⁴ 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.

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at the shore where sand also fringes the chalk reef. This is a rare biotope in Kent, not found on Sussex chalk shores and not recorded elsewhere in the UK (Tittley *et al.* 1998). Records for littoral chalk communities (Kent Wildlife Trust) showed that a small extent occurred outside of the Thanet Coast SAC where it is protected. However, the Environment Agency suggests that this is in fact more accurately classified as a peat and clay exposure (Balanced Seas Local Group Meeting July 2011).



Figure 2. Blue Mussel beds at Minnis Bay (left) and Reculver (right)

The site is also the location of records for two different stalked jellyfish, the Kaleidoscope Jellyfish (*Haliclystus auricula*) and St John's Jellyfish (*Lucernariopsis cruxmelitensis*). SeaSearch surveys in 2010 may have gathered additional records for these species in Joss Bay, but these are not held by the Balanced Seas Project. Both are very limited in the Balanced Seas region and as such, both locations (Westgate on Sea and Margate) have been recommended as Reference Areas (See rRAs 4 & 5).

Within the SAC, considerable research has been undertaken to survey the features of interest. In 1997, English Nature commissioned a detailed baseline survey of chalk cave, cliff, intertidal and subtidal reef biotopes in the Thanet Coast SAC (Tittley *et al.*, 1998). This survey recognised and mapped 25 intertidal biotopes and identified six locations of special importance for detailed monitoring (Epple Bay, Fulsam Rock, White Ness, North Foreland, Dumpton Gap and Pegwell,). These were mostly sites where the coast remained in a natural state with unspoilt cliffs and caves adjacent to lengths of intertidal chalk reef. The 1997 survey recorded well-established populations of the non-native brown alga *Sargassum muticum* and blanketing growths of green algae over chalk reef communities notably at Fulsam Rock. This richness is supported by Brodie *et al.* (2007), who have identified Whiteness Gap in Thanet as containing unique algal assemblages associated with chalk platforms and caves.

In 2005, a second condition status survey was undertaken (Tittley *et al.* 2006), which showed the communities in these habitats were largely stable in species dominance and composition but non-native species were becoming more common and widespread in the SAC. The Pacific Oyster (*Crasostrea gigas*) was detected throughout the SAC and in amounts sufficient at Epple Bay to form a biotope. The barnacle *Chthamalus stellatus* occurred sporadically throughout the SAC as did the

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ascidian *Styela clava* and the mollusc *Crepidula fornicata*. Two other non-native seaweeds that occur in Ramsgate Harbour (*Grateloupia turturu*, *Undaria pinnatifida*) were not found on chalk reefs.

Overall, there was a generally favourable condition of biotopes in content and extent, save for the spread of non-native species. A few interesting and unusual species were detected.

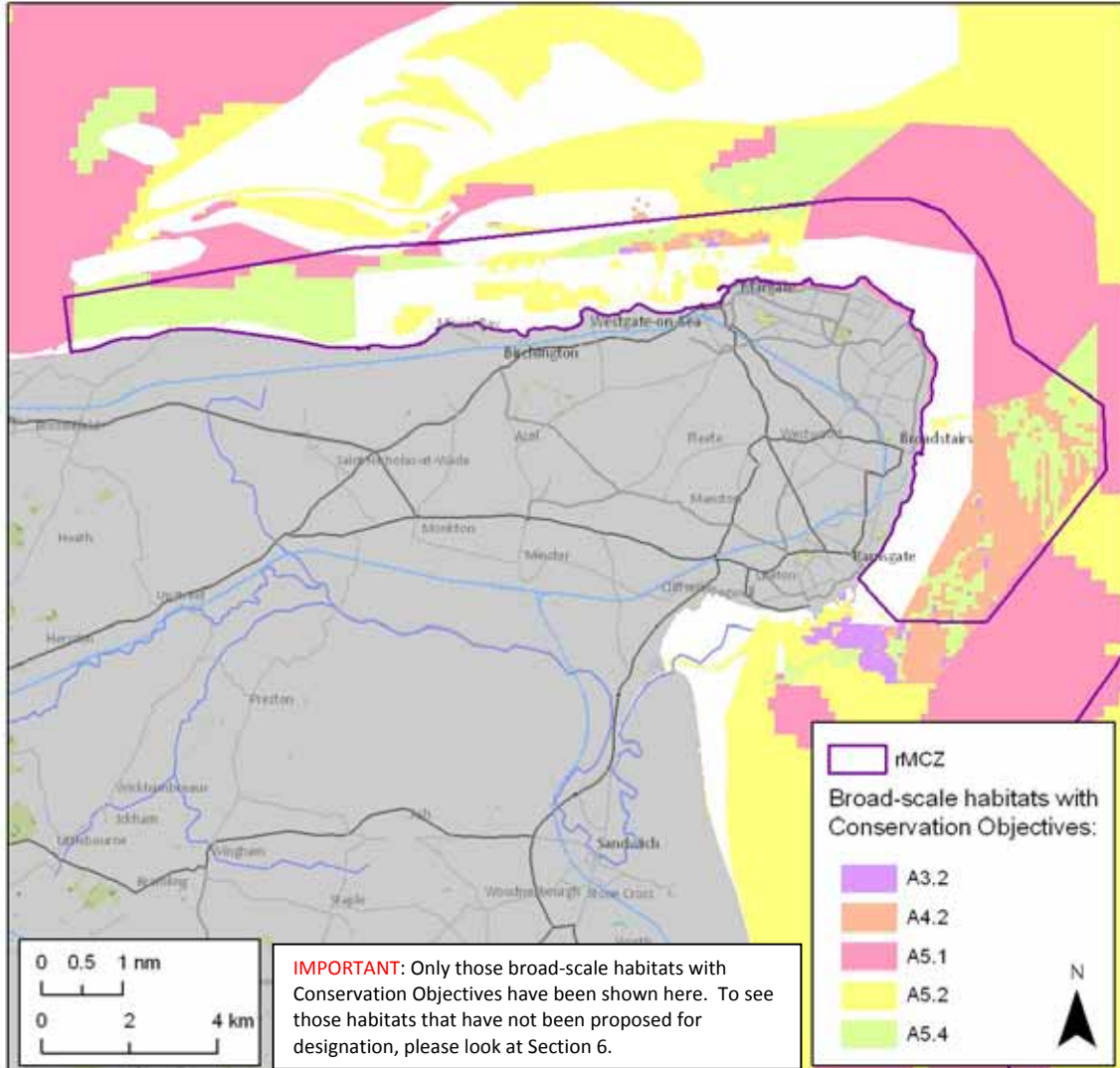
The RSPB have gathered information on the bird life in the site, which provides good foraging grounds for a small number of Black-legged Kittiwakes in the summer, possibly linked to the Dover cliffs breeding population, and larger numbers in the autumn and winter, when there can be thousands present offshore. The sandbanks off the Reculver-Margate coast are also an important low-tide roosting and high-tide feeding site for Great Cormorant at most times of the year, many of which may be breeding birds from the Stour Valley, but there can be large winter influxes, with up to 900 seen off Reculver (and exceptionally 1500 once seen off Swalecliffe just up the coast). The Wildlife Trusts have also provided spatial data for various features considered to be rare or important in the southeast region. In this site, their data show that sea squirt (*Molgula* spp.) beds, sea anemones (*Diadumene cincta*) and Peacock Worms (*Sabella pavonina*) occur in this area (see Southeast Features map). Local stakeholders have also stated that fossil exposures can be found at the westernmost part of the site (Essex & N Kent Local Group, Apr 2011).

Thanet North is one of the Key Inshore Biodiversity Areas in the Balanced Seas Region recommended as an MCZ (for a range of features), by the South East England Biodiversity Forum (SEEBF, 2010). From the biodiversity data, this site is shown to have high benthic species and Chao 2 richness and high biotope richness (national contract data, DEFRA MB102 2F). The main features of this site are the subtidal chalk reefs that extend out from the shore, and as these features are naturally shaped and bounded by the coastline, a minimum dimension of 5km extending seawards was not considered to be essential to protect these features.

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



Broad-scale habitats with Conservation Objectives:

- A3.2 mod energy infralittoral rock
- A4.2 mod energy circalittoral rock
- A5.1 subtidal coarse sediment
- A5.2 subtidal sand
- A5.4 subtidal mixed sediments

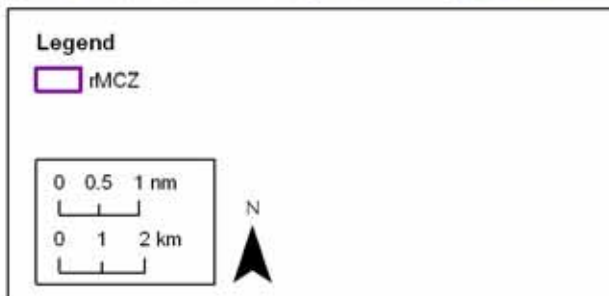
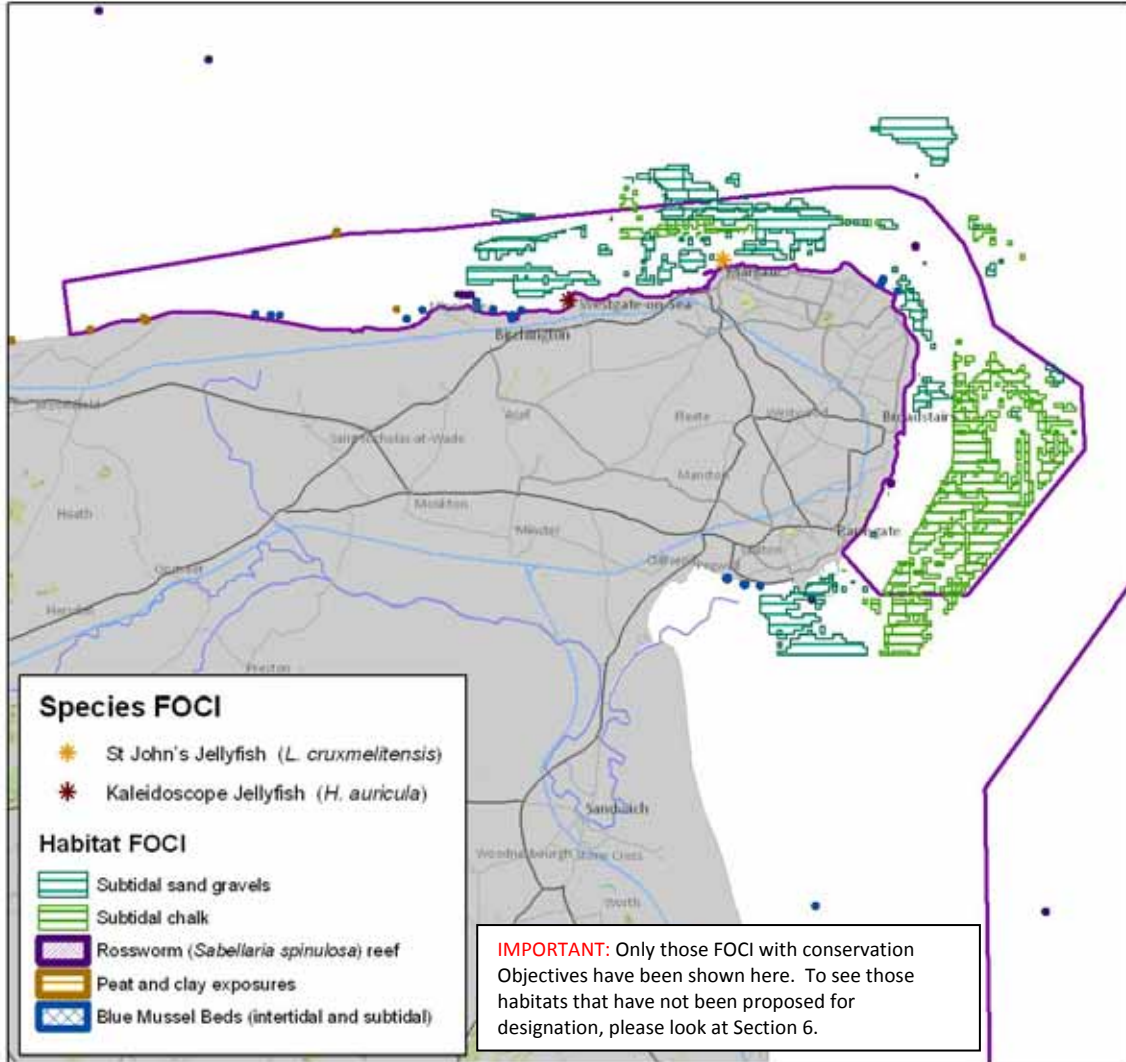


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Habitat and Species FOCI Conservation Objectives



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10. Site boundary

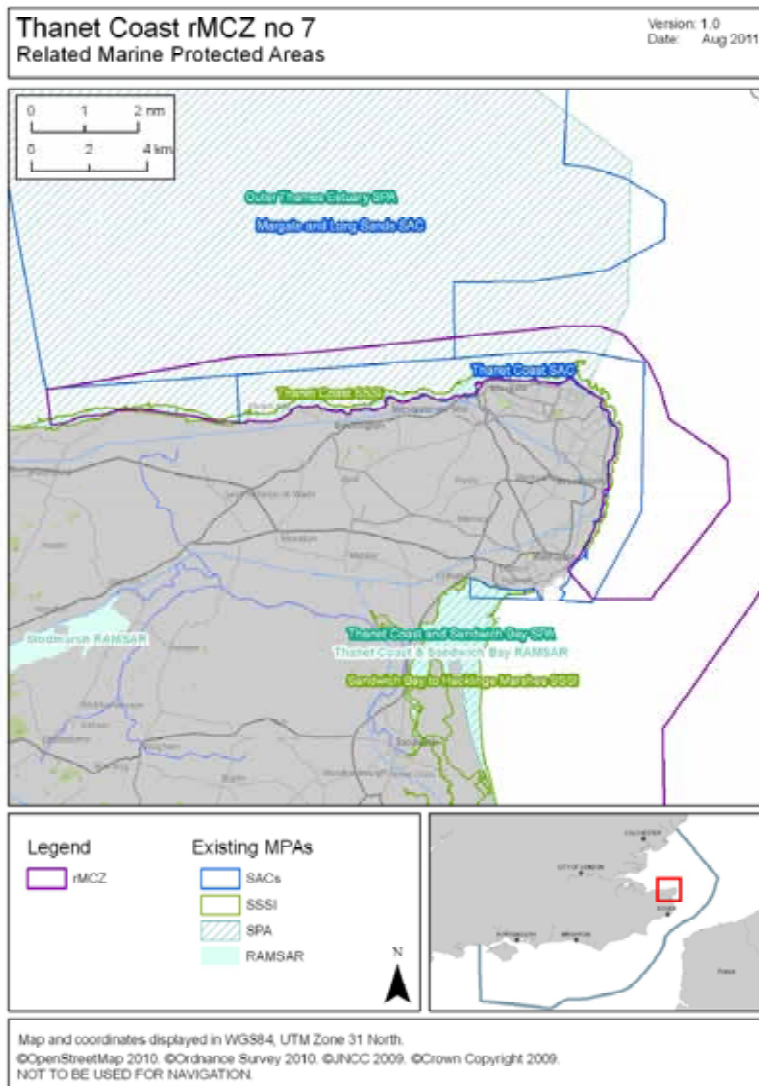
The landward boundary of this site is entirely determined by the Mean High Water mark. The westward boundary was originally identical to the Thanet Coast SAC, but has been extended to align with the Margate & Longsands SAC so that important additional features could be included (Blue Mussel beds, littoral chalk communities, peat and clay exposures). The seaward boundary has been drawn to follow the extent of the subtidal chalk that lies outside of the Thanet Coast SAC and as the site follows the promontory around to the southeast, a protrusion in this habitat and the corresponding moderate energy circalittoral rock has been captured within the boundary. The southern limit of the site is defined by the Port of Ramsgate's northern harbour wall.

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

The site overlaps the Thanet Coast SSSI, the Thanet Coast SAC and a small section of the southern part of Margate & Longsands SAC and the Outer Thames Estuary SPA.



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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	MALSF Outer Thames REC (Sourced from: Environment Agency database)		01/07/2007
littoral chalk communities	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2C		1985-2006
littoral chalk communities	Survey	Kent Wildlife Trust		1986-2009
Peat and clay exposures	Survey	Kent Wildlife Trust		2003-2008
Blue mussel beds	Survey	Kent Wildlife Trust		2005-2009
Subtidal chalks	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2C		1997-2006
Subtidal chalks	Survey	Marine recorder extract Sept 2010 (via Kent Wildlife Trust)		25/05/1995
Subtidal sands and gravels	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2C	Multiple	1995-2006
Kaleidoscope Jellyfish (<i>Haliclystus auricula</i>)	Survey	Kent Wildlife Trust		29/04/2010
St John's Jellyfish (<i>Lucernariopsis cruxmelitensis</i>)	Survey	National contract data DEFRA MB102 2B		21/09/2001
Native oyster (<i>O.edulis</i>)	Survey	Kent Wildlife Trust		1987-2010

References (additional information can be found in the Bibliography)

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- JACKSON, E.L., LANGMEAD, O. HISCOCK, K. TYLER-WALTERS, H. MILLER, P. McQUATTERS-GOLLOP, A. SAUNDERS, J. & C. FOX. 2009. *Accessing 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.
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- SEELEY, B., LEAR, D. HIGGS, S. NEILLY, M. BILEWITCH, J. EVANS, J. WILKES, P. & ADAMS, L. 2010. *Accessing and Developing the Required Biophysical Dataset and Data Layers for Marine Protected Areas Network Planning and Wider Marine Spatial Planning Purposes: Mapping of species with limited mobility (Benthic species). (Task 2B)*. 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.
- THANET COAST PROJECT AND THE NORTH EAST KENT EUROPEAN MARINE SITES MANAGEMENT SCHEME. 2011. Available at: <<http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk/>> [Accessed 22nd August 2011]
- TITTLE, I., 2004. The Thanet Coast: A Site with an Exceptional History of Marine Study. In: I. Tittley & S. Peckham, eds. *Proceedings of the North East Kent Coastal Research Workshop 22 October 2002*. English Nature Research Reports 570: 13-25.
- Tittley, I., Spurrier, C. J. H. Chimonides, P.J. George, J.D. Morre, J.A. Evans, N.J. & Muir, A.I. 1998. *Survey of Chalk Cave, Cliff, Intertidal and Subtidal Reef Biotopes in the Thanet Coast cSAC*. A Report for English Nature. The Natural History Museum: 90.

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14. Stakeholder support for this site

The RSG as a group reached consensus that this site should be put forward in their final recommendations. Within the group, most sectors supported the site, with the exception of some of the fishing sectors.

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 Thanet Coast rMCZ 7
Yachting	RYA	Support on basis that there is no impact on Ramsgate port activities and no anchoring restrictions are required.
Kite Surfing	British Kite Surfing Association	Concerns for BKSA members but no mitigation seems to be imposed. Supported.
Sea Angling		Support if not recover to allow the continued boat fishing (anchoring).
Ports		No known concerns provided access to port of Ramsgate is not obstructed. (Boundary currently to north of harbour wall of port.)
Fishing	Local Fisheries Representatives	Rossworm data unsatisfactory therefore no support from fisheries.
Fishing - under 10s (static gear)	NUTFA	(Tick)
Fishing - FPO, beam trawling		No support.
Fishing - Over 10s, FPO, trawling sector (under and over 10m)	Gilson Co.	This area is a very busy place for all stakeholders. Not in best interests of fishing.
Shipping	Chamber of Shipping	Supported, provided clear of anchorages and port activity. Surface passage assumed to be unrestricted.
Birds	RSPB	Support site as it is important in winter as foraging ground for kittiwake, and important year-round for cormorant.
Wildlife Trusts	Hampshire Wildlife Trust	I support the site but disagree with the IFCA downgrading on basis bottom towed gear not having an impact on infralittoral rock.
Marine ecology	Seasearch	Strongly support this site to protect subtidal chalk and other features outside the SAC. Management needs to look at the broadscale habitats that support the FOCl, not just at point records.
Marine Wildlife	Marine Conservation Society	<u>Support site.</u> "Maintain" objective over habitats such as subtidal chalk is hugely disappointing. <u>Recover</u> broadscale habitat.
Statutory environmental	Environment Agency	Broadly support - EA will work with NE to understand impacts + implications of beach recharge + other FCRM operations on features.
Heritage and Archaeology	English Heritage	Support if/as peat will be allowed to be sampled and if archaeological investigation allowed as scientific exemption.

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)

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) process⁵ and then sense-checked at the national level⁶. Where a RECOVER objective is noted, the associated activity causing the pressure is indicated. In some cases, where data and information 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.

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

⁶ 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
A3.2 Moderate energy infralittoral rock	RECOVER MAINTAIN (see IFCA comment)	Fishing - benthic trawling (bottom gear)	IFCA code of conduct IFCA recommend change CO to MAINTAIN as the activity over the rock is with very light gear and at a very low level and think there is no impact to this feature	LG Fishing sector (July 2011) supported IFCA recommendation to change CO to MAINTAIN on basis that fishing gear used is light and activity is seasonal, and habitat is not being impacted; CO of Recover is based on Fishermap information that there are 15 trawlers working year round over this feature; fishing sector suggested this is too high – trawling is more prevalent in the northern part of the site (to be checked) over A4.2 habitat (see below); Wildlife sector (July 2011) support CO of RECOVER as this is a sensitive habitat and may need managed access to recover RSG Wildlife sector (2/3 Aug 2011) noted what they think is an inconsistency in the COs for subtidal chalk and A3.2 which occur in the same area: for A3.2 it has been stated that there is an overlap with trawling but for subtidal chalk (see below) there is considered to be no overlap; this needs checking and the COs revised as necessary.
A4.2 moderate energy circalittoral rock	RECOVER MAINTAIN (see IFCA comment)	Fishing - benthic trawling (bottom gear)	IFCA code of conduct with byelaw should this fail IFCA recommend change CO to MAINTAIN as the activity is very low level - mainly potting /netting	LG Wildlife sector (July 2011) support RECOVER as this is a sensitive habitat and may need managed access to recover RSG Fishing sector (Aug 2011) support change to MAINTAIN – although trawling is occurs over A4.2, light trawling gear is used (because of the type of ground) and it is a summer fishery only; habitat is not thought to be impacted
A5.1 Subtidal coarse sediment	MAINTAIN		IFCA say activity is with very light gear and at a very low level and think there is no impact to this feature	LG (July 2011) said that commercial potting and benthic trawling overlap this BSH but not at high levels
A5.2 Subtidal sand	MAINTAIN			LG stated that commercial potting and benthic trawling overlap this BSH but not at high levels
A5.4 Subtidal mixed sediments	MAINTAIN –		As with all COs of MAINTAIN, monitoring will be undertaken; recreational anchoring may be an issue	LG stated that commercial potting and benthic trawling overlap this BSH but not at high levels

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Feature	Draft CO	Activity exerting pressure	IFCA/MMO/EA/NE Comments	Stakeholder comments on draft COs and potential management measures
Rossworm (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>) reef	RECOVER	Fishing - benthic trawling (bottom gear)	IFCA code of conduct IFCA question data records – a survey is required to confirm feature occurs at site before management is brought in.	LG members noted (July 2010): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries sector consider CO should be MAINTAIN as they say benthic trawling does not overlap with this feature (set netting may occur in the area but is not recorded as having an impact on this feature). They are concerned that blanket management will be brought in due to the transitory nature of the feature Wildlife sector support CO of RECOVER as this is the right kind of habitat for the feature It was noted that potential protection of <i>Sabellaria</i> at Goodwin Sands is positive for this dMCZ in terms of connectivity between sites in the network.
Kaleidoscope jellyfish (<i>Halyclystus auricula</i>)	RECOVER MAINTAIN (see IFCA comment)	Fishing - benthic trawling (bottom gear)	IFCA code of conduct with byelaw should this fail IFCA recommend change to MAINTAIN as this activity does not overlap with the feature	All LG members except for wildlife sector (July 2011) agree CO should be MAINTAIN as benthic trawling doesn't overlap this feature which occurs in seaweed in the sublittoral zone Possible record of <i>H.auricula</i> from 2010 SeaSearch in Joss Bay (but may be <i>L.cruxmelitensis</i>)
Peat and clay exposures	MAINTAIN			LG stated (July 2011) that the only activity over this feature is walking
Blue Mussel beds	MAINTAIN		The Environment Agency will work with Natural England on the issue of beach replenishment regarding this feature.	LG stated (July 2011) that possible beach replenishment / recharge works may affect these beds in the future - impact not yet considered.
Subtidal chalk	MAINTAIN		The CO of MAINTAIN was based on assumption of no overlap with trawling but there needs to be confirmation that there is no trawling over this feature. NE to review the Vulnerability assessment as there is a potential for this CO to become RECOVER.	RSG Wildlife sector (2/3 Aug 2011) noted what they think is an inconsistency in the COs for subtidal chalk and A3.2 which occur in the same area: for A3.2 it has been stated that there is an overlap with trawling (see above) but for subtidal chalk there is considered to be no overlap; this needs checking and the COs revised as necessary.
Subtidal sands and gravels	MAINTAIN		The CO of MAINTAIN was based on assumption of no overlap with trawling but there needs to be confirmation that there is no trawling over this feature. NE to review the Vulnerability assessment.	
St John's Jellyfish (<i>Lucernariopsis cruxmelitensis</i>)	MAINTAIN		Need to confirm if Joss Bay records are of <i>H. auricula</i> or <i>L. cruxmelitensis</i> as outcome may affect VA analysis	

16. Evolution of the site recommendations

A broad area of interest around the Thanet Coast was identified for the first iteration (RSG 2, April 2010) with the aim of protecting features not already protected in the Thanet SAC. There is already a very active science group (North East Kent Scientific Coastal Advisory Group - NEKSCAG), and stakeholders are already well acquainted with the concept of MPAs as a result of the highly active Thanet Coast Project. After considerable amounts of data were provided to the project by the Wildlife Trusts and the Environment Agency to more fully reflect the distribution of features, various suggestions were made to extend the site to capture a greater extent of the important habitats. Local stakeholders suggested a western extension of the site to include additional blue mussel beds and the largest mat of Sabellaria (Essex & N Kent Local Group, Nov 2010) and the site was also extended eastwards to include the seaward extent of subtidal chalk (RSG 6, Jan 2011). Following the 3rd Iteration submission, feedback from the Science Advisory Panel encouraged the RSG to increase the size of sites and improve their viability. The Project Team suggested an extension to the Thanet site that would make it 5km in its minimum dimension (as noted in the ENG viability criteria) and would ensure that it overlapped with the Margate and Long Sands SAC, but this was not accepted by the RSG as it would unreasonably impact upon the local fishing fleet (RSG 9B, May, 2011). Subsequent correspondence with the SAP suggested that the site would be suitably sized given that the features of interest follow the coastline and their full extent had been included in the boundaries.

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

17. Implications for Stakeholders

The following issues have been raised in relation to this site:

- This site has been controversial with some representatives of the local fisheries sector and it will be important to have further discussions with them before management is introduced
- Certain sectors have expressed concern if anchoring restrictions become necessary
- Ramsgate port's associated shipping activities may overlap with the site
- The Crown Estate note the presence of 2 active telecoms cables, 14 inactive telecoms cables and licences for wildfowling, Pegwell Bay Disposal and Outfalls, but they support the site.

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.