

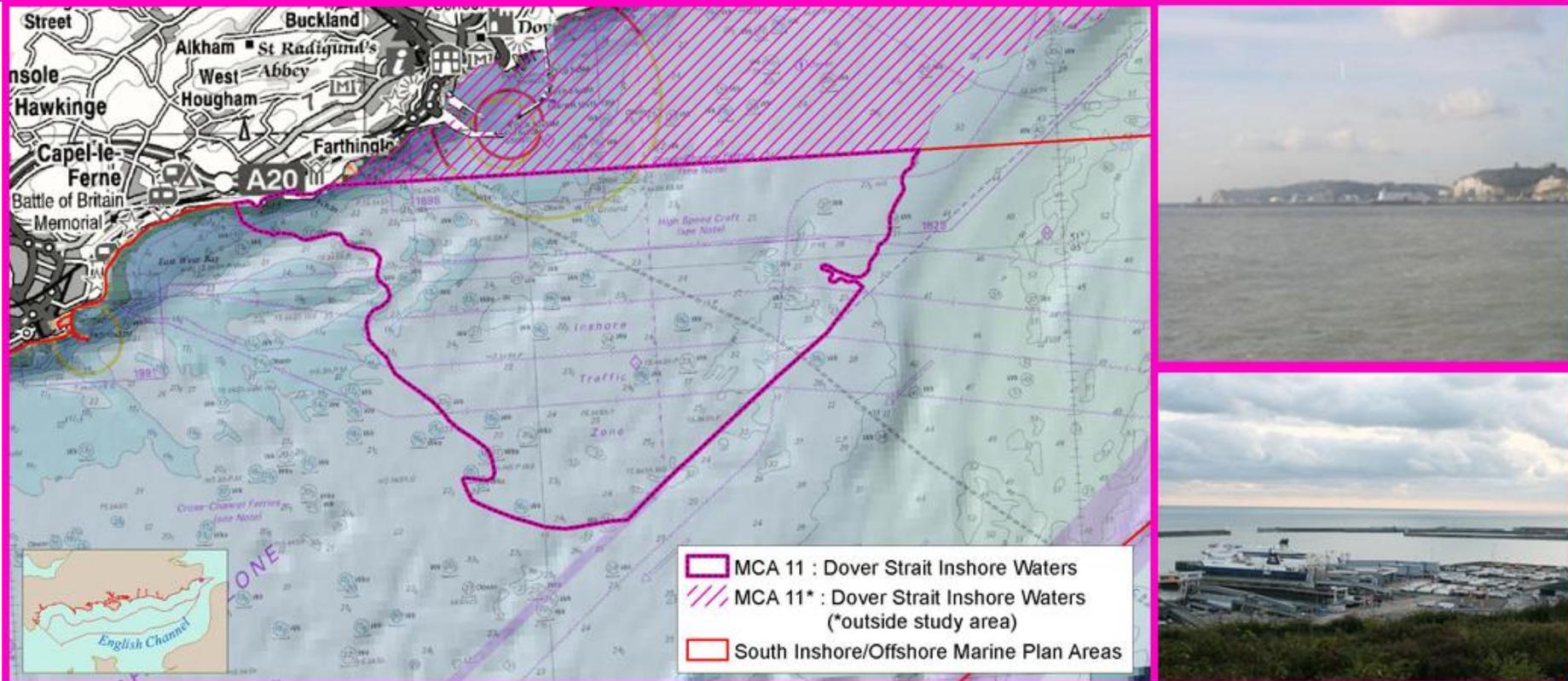


# Seascape Assessment for the South Marine Plan Areas

## MCA 11: Dover Strait Inshore Waters

### Key Characteristics

### Visual Resource Mapping



Please note that the majority of this Marine Character Area (MCA) falls within the adjacent South East Inshore Marine Plan Area (as indicated in the above map). It will therefore form part of a future Seascape Assessment. Draft key characteristics, to be refined at a future date, are summarised in this document.

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# MCA 11: Dover Strait Inshore Waters

## Key Characteristics

- South easterly facing coastline with sheer white chalk cliffs rising vertically from the coastal waters.
- The chalk cliffs are important geologically for exposures of Lower, Middle and Upper Chalk, historically important for their contribution to the sciences of geology and coastal geomorphology.
- Cliff tops consisting of nationally important chalk grassland and scrub, supporting important breeding sea bird colonies. Seabirds wheeling high in the sky are a feature connecting the sea and sky.
- Samphire Hoe built from chalk marl spoil excavated in the construction of the Channel Tunnel forming a distinctive platform jutting out into the sea at the base of the cliff - offering an important recreational experience at sea level.
- Coastal waters extending to a maximum depth of 30 metres, with intertidal and subtidal chalk rocks forming reefs, ledges and gullies supporting a diverse range of marine flora and fauna.
- Strong south-westerly tidal currents. The waters are more exposed to the winds funnelling through the Strait, sometimes leading to choppy, 'confused' seas.
- Shallow coastal waters used for seasonal fishing (often recreational), set netting, potting, and recreational anchoring.
- The Dover Strait as a whole has played a key role in the defence of Britain and formed the location for successive invasions and defence – the cliffs being the first defence for invasion by Julius Caesar in 55 BC.
- Particular references to World War II, including the Battle of Britain memorial and the fortifications and wartime tunnels at Dover Castle and Western Heights. These include Churchill's lookout.

## Visual Resource Mapping

- Protected wreck of the *Langdon Bay* believed to be the remains of a Bronze Age vessel carrying a scrap metal cargo from France to Britain, indicating cross-channel trade in the Middle Bronze Age.
- Skyline dominated by Dover Castle – long forming an important landmark and a navigation daymark, perpetuating the role of the adjacent Roman lighthouse and symbolic of the defence of the British Isles.
- Iconic seascape –the white cliffs of Dover forming part of our national identity. These are a visual reference for leaving and returning to England by sea, epitomised in Vera Lynn's popular World War II song.
- A popular area for recreation, the cliffs offering panoramic views across the English Channel to France. There is no access to the base of the cliffs along most of the area.
- Intervisibility with France providing a rare tangible assertion of our island status. Conversely the white cliffs on both sides provide visual cohesion spanning the territorial boundaries.
- The area retains a sense of isolation and remoteness in parts, with the sea and sky forming vast expanses and backdrops to the cliff top downland within the Kent Downs AONB.
- Dover Harbour and visibility of the shipping channel meaning ferries and large cargo vessels are frequent features on the close seaward horizons, often with associated low lying smog.
- Active busy inshore waters dominated by constant movement of cross channel ferries.
- Channel Tunnel route to France passes under the MCA; a major contributor to the perceptual character of the seascape.

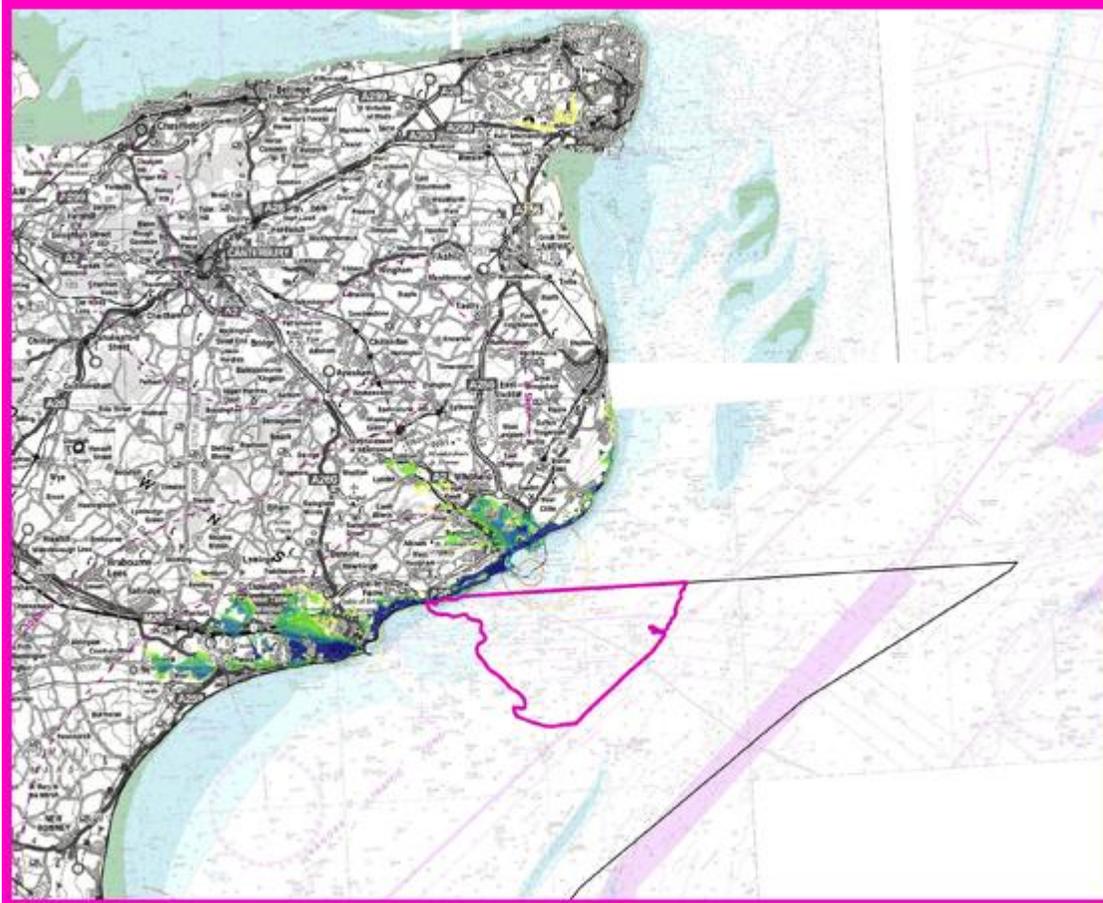


# MCA 11: Dover Strait Inshore Waters

## Key Characteristics

## Visual Resource Mapping

### Land with views of MCA 11



South Inshore/South Offshore marine plan areas

MCA 11: Dover Strait Inshore Waters

Land with sea views (percentile)



- Areas of land with good views of this small MCA include the centres of Folkestone and Dover and a long narrow stretch along the coastline between St Margaret's at Cliffe to the eastern edge of Folkestone (within the Kent Downs AONB, the South Foreland Heritage Coast and Dover-Folkestone Heritage Coast).
- Further inland, some views of the MCA can be gained from Lympne, Newington, Etchingill, Farthing Common, Peene (including sections of the North Downs Way), Paddlesworth, Whitfield and St Margaret's at Cliffe within the Kent Downs AONB.



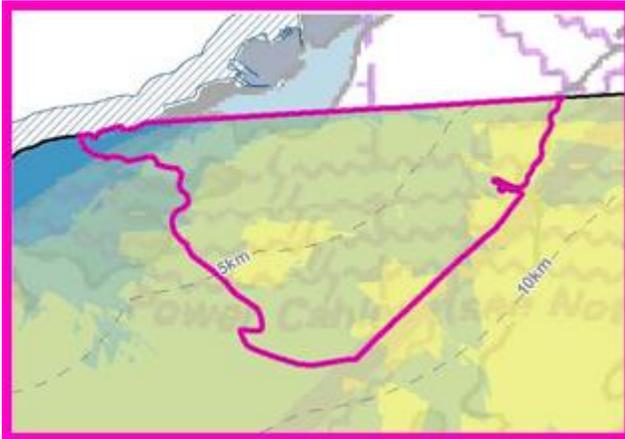
# MCA 11: Dover Strait Inshore Waters

Key Characteristics

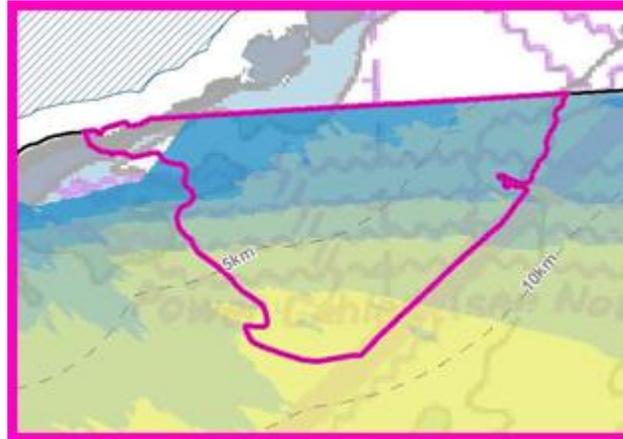
Visual Resource Mapping

## Visibility of sea from land

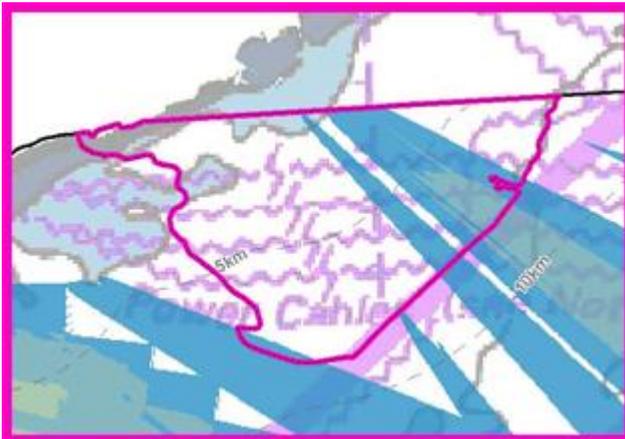
Relative visibility of the sea surface from viewers on land



0-1km from the High Water Mark



1-5km from the High Water Mark



5-10km from the High Water Mark



10-20km from the High Water Mark

South Inshore/South Offshore marine plan areas

MCA 11: Dover Strait Inshore Waters

Location of viewers

Visibility of sea from land (percentile)

1 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 30	31 to 40	41 to 50
51 to 60	61 to 70	71 to 80	81 to 90	91 to 100

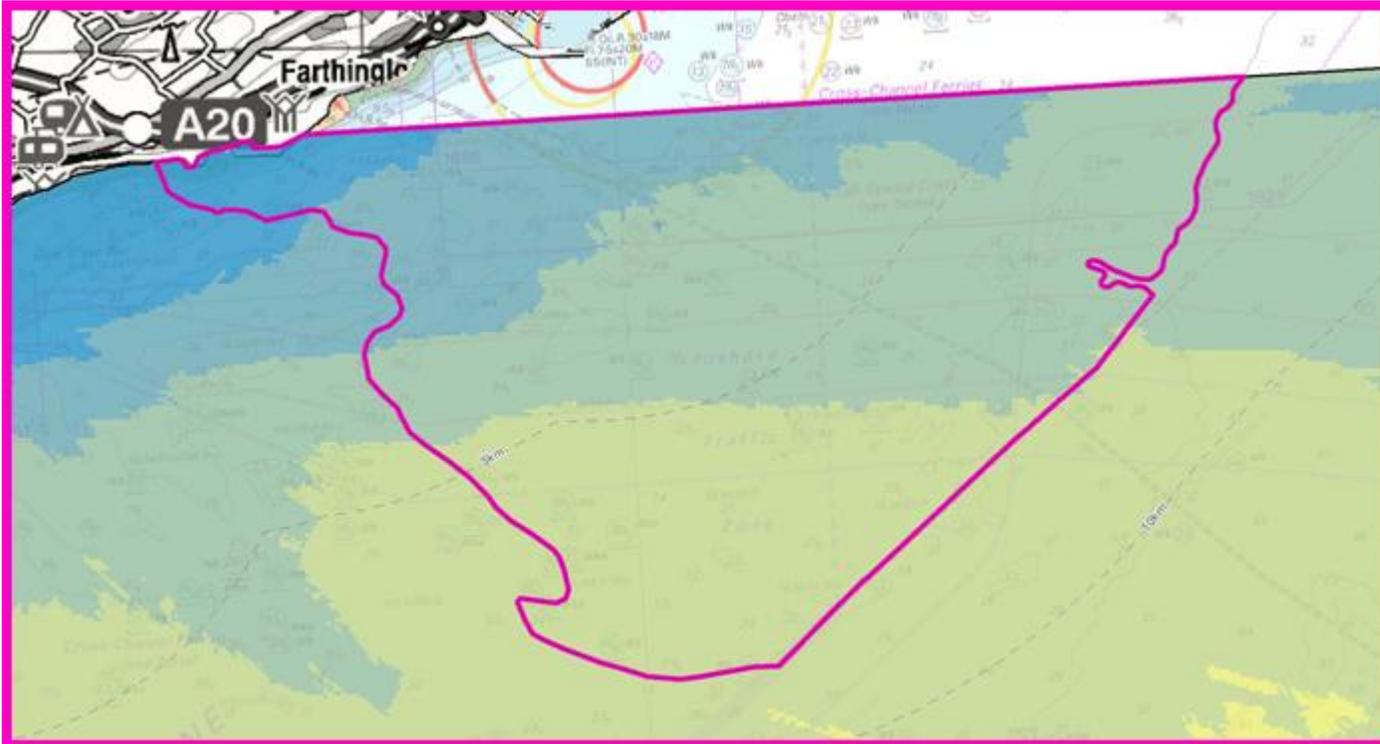
# MCA 11: Dover Strait Inshore Waters

## Key Characteristics

## Visual Resource Mapping

### Visibility of sea from land

Relative visibility of the sea surface from viewers on land



- Visibility of the MCA from the land is relatively low compared to other MCAs.
- Areas of the sea within this MCA are not amongst the most visible sea areas compared to other MCAs.
- The elevation of the land along the coastline influences the visibility of the sea immediately offshore.

Up to 20km from the High Water Mark

South Inshore/South Offshore marine plan areas

MCA 11: Dover Strait Inshore Waters

Visibility of sea from land (percentile)

