

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

## **Marine Conservation Zones: Consultation on proposals for designation in 2013**

### **Annex A.2 - Irish Sea Conservation Zones sites requiring further consideration**

The following site summaries set out the sites recommended by the Irish Sea Conservation Zone Regional MCZ Project, that we propose will require further work prior to a potential designation in a future tranche.

## **Further Information**

### **SNCB Advice**

The SNCB advice can be found at:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/1723382>

For specific site information please go to the page stated in the site summary.

For information on data certainty see section 5 of the SNCB advice and for advice on certainty of conservation objectives please see SNCB – supplementary advice and information at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/1725455>

### **Impact Assessment**

For additional information on the Consultation Impact Assessment please use the following link: [www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/protect/mpa/mcz/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/protect/mpa/mcz/)

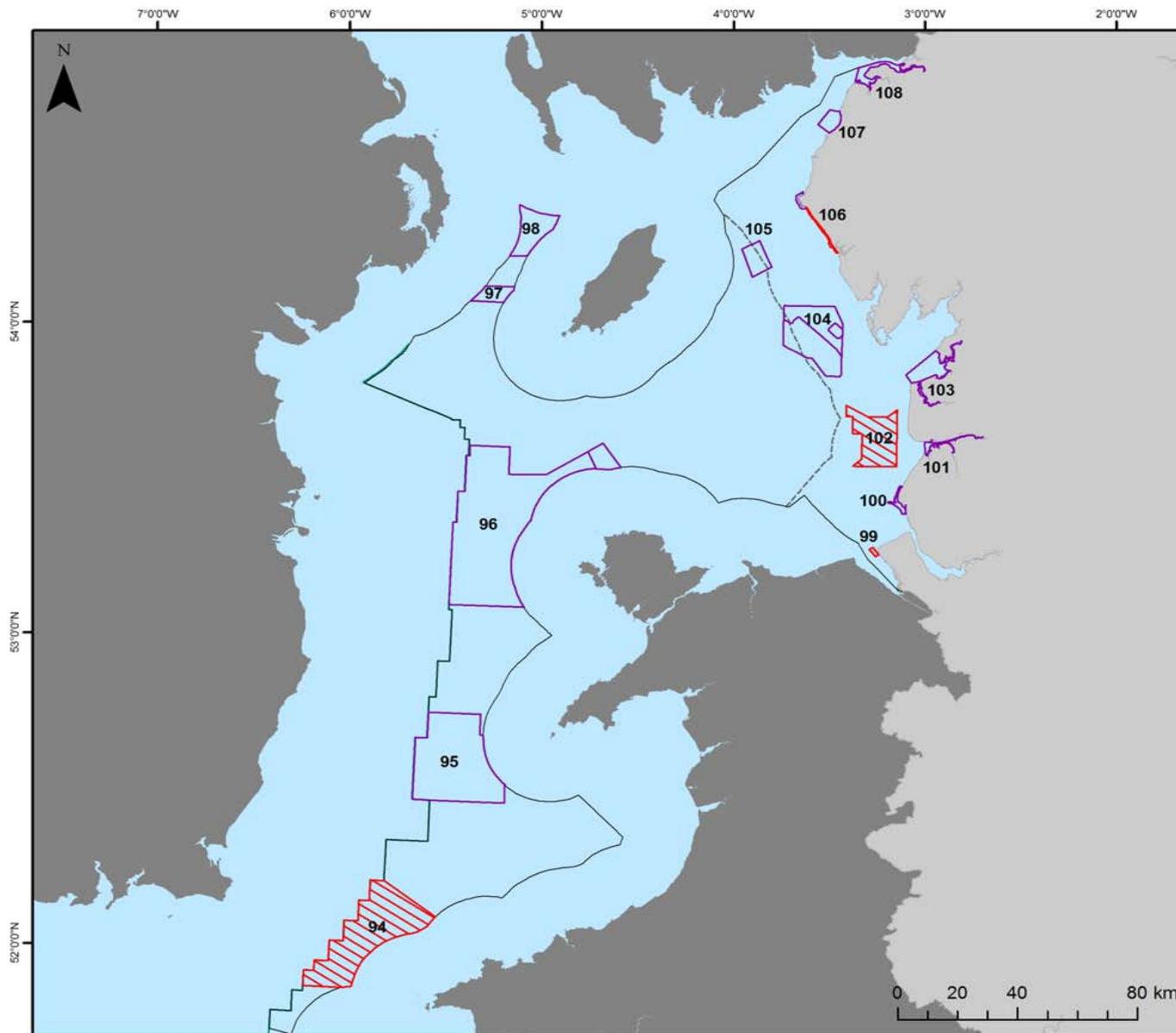
Within this link there are a series of documents including the Consultation Impact Assessment and supporting Annexes. For site specific information please open the section state in the individual site summary (Example: Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges – Annex I2 Option 2 Page 3)

### **Irish Sea Conservation Zones**

For additional information on the proposed first tranche sites in Irish Sea Conservation Zones please use the following link -

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/1562384>

Within this link there are a series of documents providing additional information on the Irish Sea Conservation Zone recommended sites. For site specific information please open see ISCZ –pMCZ Final Recommendations Pt.3.1 (Example: Ribble Estuary - ISCZ –pMCZ Final Recommendations Pt.3.1 Page 264)



### Sites overview

-  rMCZs put forward for designation in 2013
-  Recommended MCZ
-  ISCZ regional project area
-  12nM Territorial Seas Limit
-  UK Continental Shelf designated area

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 (www.ukho.gov.uk). Map produced by  
 Natural England/JNCC 2012. The exact limits of  
 the UK Continental Shelf designated area (UKCS)  
 are set out in orders under section 1(7) of the  
 Continental Shelf Act 1964. The regional MCZ  
 project area follows the UKCS in English waters.  
 Map Projection: BNG

<b>Map Label</b>	Site Name	Regional Project Number	<b>Map Label</b>	Site Name	Regional Project Number
<b>94</b>	North of Celtic Deep	5	<b>102</b>	Fylde Offshore	8
<b>95</b>	Mid St George's Channel	4	<b>103</b>	Wyre-Lune	N/A
<b>96</b>	North St George's Channel	3	<b>104</b>	West of Walney	2
<b>97</b>	Slieve Na Griddle	7	<b>105</b>	Mud Hole	1
<b>98</b>	South Rigg	6	<b>106</b>	Cumbria Coast	11
<b>99</b>	Hilbre Island Group	14	<b>107</b>	Allonby Bay	10
<b>100</b>	Sefton Coast	13	<b>108</b>	Solway Firth	N/A
<b>101</b>	Ribble Estuary	N/A			

## Consultation Site Summary: Allonby Bay

Additional information for this site can be found in the SNCB Advice (page 1039), Impact Assessment (Annex I2 Option 1 Irish Seas, Page 88) and Regional Project recommendations (ISCZ –pMCZ Final Recommendations Pt.3.1, Page 183).

**Table 1. General Information on site and all features recommended by Regional Projects**

<b>Regional Project:</b> Irish Sea Conservation Zones		<b>Site surface area:</b> 39 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>Biogeographic Region:</b> JNCC regional sea: Irish Sea. OSPAR region III: Celtic Seas.
<b>Site Location:</b> 54° 45' 59.721" N, 3° 28' 59.778" W 54.766589 Lat, -3.483272 Long. Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area projection, ETRS89 datum			
<b>Inshore/Offshore:</b> Inshore			
<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Feature name</b>	<b>Area/no. of records</b>	<b>Conservation Objective</b>
Broad Scale Habitat	High energy intertidal rock	0.01 km <sup>2</sup>	Maintain
Broad Scale Habitat	Intertidal biogenic reefs	4 km <sup>2</sup>	Maintain
Broad Scale Habitat	Subtidal coarse sediment	22 km <sup>2</sup>	Maintain

Broad Scale Habitat	Subtidal sand	11 km <sup>2</sup>	Maintain
Habitat FOCI	Blue mussel ( <i>Mytilus edulis</i> ) beds	3	Maintain
Habitat FOCI	Peat and clay exposures	1	Maintain
Habitat FOCI	Honeycomb worm ( <i>Sabellaria alveolata</i> ) reefs	1 km <sup>2</sup>	Maintain
Habitat FOCI	Subtidal sands and gravels	35 km <sup>2</sup>	Maintain
	Moderate energy infralittoral rock <sup>1</sup>		

**Table 2. Sector Impacts and Associated Best Estimate Costs**

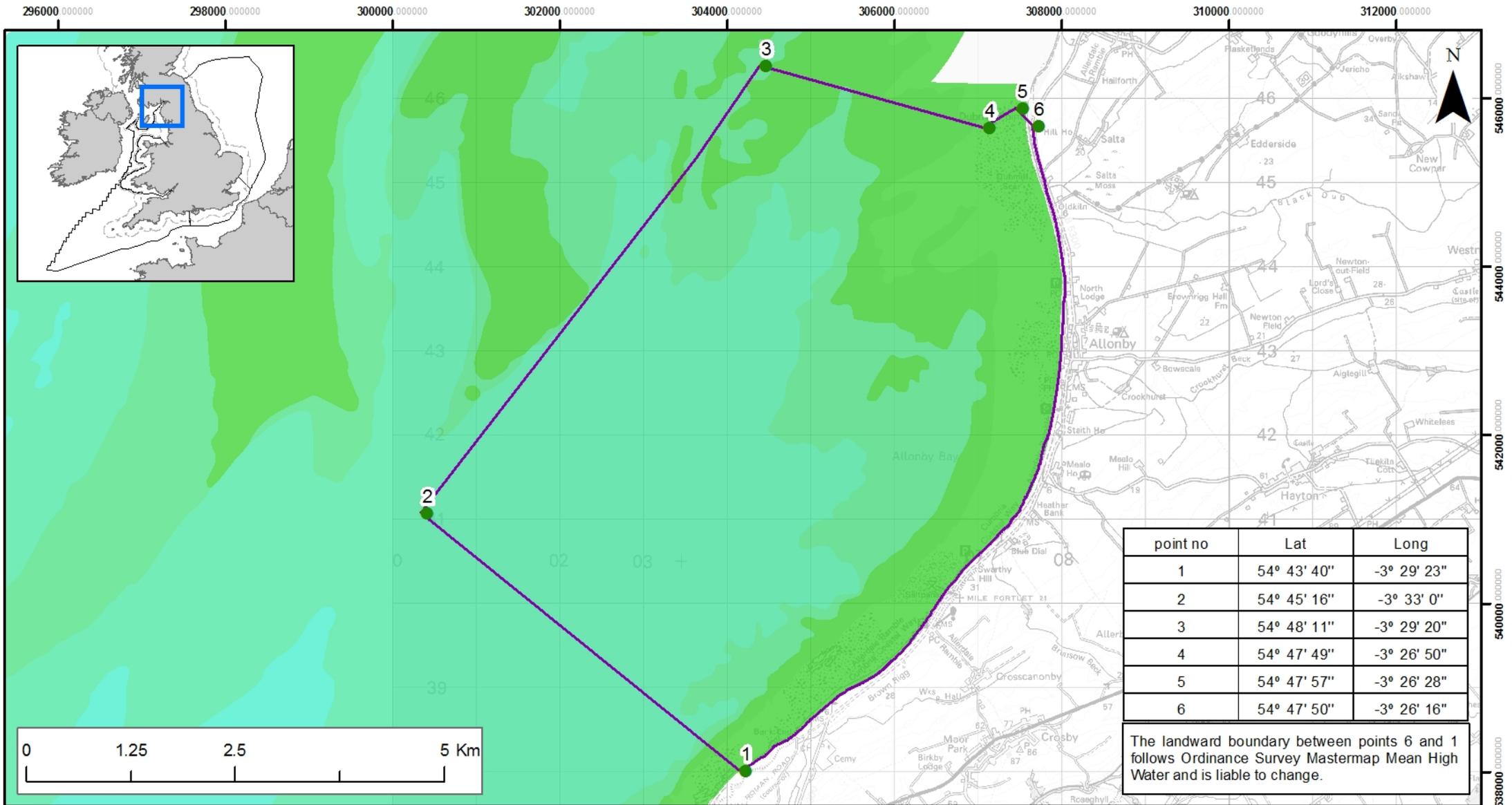
Sectors Impacted	Best Estimate Costs (£ per year)
Ports, Harbours and Commercial Shipping	1000
Archaeology	Unquantified
	<b>Best Estimate Total Cost = £1000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Natural England advises that the BSH Moderate energy infralittoral rock should be considered for inclusion as a feature within this site

**Table 3. Designation Status of Site and Rationale**

<b>Decision</b>	Requires further consideration
<p><b>Rationale for Decision:</b></p> <p><b>Site advantages</b></p> <p>The Allonby Bay recommended MCZ is an inshore site measuring 39 km<sup>2</sup>. Within this rMCZ there are a variety of features including four Broad Scale Habitats and four Habitat FOCI. Of particular interest within this site are the High energy intertidal rock, Intertidal biogenic reefs and Honeycomb worm (<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>) reefs. High energy intertidal rock is rare in the Irish Seas region, and there are only two replicates for this habitat within the project area. The Cumbrian coast has some of the most extensive and best represented examples of honeycomb worm (<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i>) reefs in the UK. Natural England advises that the BSH Moderate energy infralittoral rock should be considered for inclusion as a feature within this site as it has a restricted distribution within the project area and within this site</p> <p><b>Socio-Economics</b></p> <p>The main sector impacted by the Allonby Bay recommended MCZ is the ports, harbours and commercial shipping sector, for this sector there is a best estimate cost of £1000 associated with an increase in costs of assessing environmental impacts for future licence applications within 5km of the site. There is an indication that there could be unquantified costs to the archaeology sector associated with an increase in costs of assessing environmental impacts for future licence applications.</p> <p><b>Data Certainty</b></p> <p>The Allonby Bay recommended MCZ has acceptable data certainty for two features. Within this site seven features; High energy intertidal rock, Subtidal coarse sediment, Subtidal sand, Blue mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) beds, Peat and clay exposures, Subtidal sands and gravels, and moderate energy infralittoral rock have unacceptable data certainty and will require further work prior to their designation.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Although the advantages for this site justify the socio-economic implications, further work will be required to improve the data</p>	

certainty for seven features prior to this site being designated.



## Allonby Bay

Recommended MCZ

- Recommended MCZ
- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- MCZ Regional Projects boundaries
- England 12nM Territorial Seas Limit

## Depth Areas (m)



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## Consultation Site Summary: Mid St. George's Channel

Additional information for this site can be found in the SNCB Advice (page 1010), Impact Assessment (Annex I2 Option 1 Irish Seas, Page 54) and Regional Project recommendations (ISCZ –pMCZ Final Recommendations Pt.3.1, Page 111).

**Table 1. General Information on site and all features recommended by Regional Projects**

<b>Regional Project:</b> Irish Sea Conservation Zones		<b>Site surface area:</b> 761 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>Biogeographic Region:</b> JNCC regional sea: Irish Sea. OSPAR region III: Celtic Seas.
<b>Site Location:</b> 52° 39' 31.843" N, 5° 16' 6.465" W 52.658845 Lat, -5.268462 Long. Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area projection, ETRS89 datum			
<b>Inshore/Offshore:</b> Offshore			
<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Feature name</b>	<b>Area/no. of records</b>	<b>Conservation Objective – activity causing pressure</b>
Broad Scale Habitat	Moderate energy circalittoral rock	27 km <sup>2</sup>	Maintain
Broad Scale Habitat	Subtidal coarse sediment	368 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover
Broad Scale Habitat	Subtidal sand	114 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover
Broad Scale Habitat	Subtidal mixed sediments	246 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover

Habitat FOCI	Subtidal sands and gravels	761 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover
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**Table 2. Sector Impacts and Associated Best Estimate Costs**

Sectors Impacted	Best Estimate Costs (£ per year)
Commercial Fishing	<1000
National Defence	Non site specific cost
Best Estimate Total Cost = £<1000	

**Table 3. Designation Status of Site and Rationale**

<b>Decision</b>	Requires further consideration
<b>Rationale for Decision:</b>	
<b>Site Advantages</b>	
<p>The Mid St George's Channel recommended MCZ is an offshore site measuring 760 km<sup>2</sup>. Within this rMCZ there are a variety of features including four Broad Scale Habitats, and one Habitat FOCI. Of particular interest within this site are the Subtidal sand and gravel which is a BAP habitat, Moderate energy circalittoral rock because only a small proportion of this feature is protected within existing marine protected areas, Subtidal coarse sediment as only a very small proportion of this feature is protected in marine protected areas within the Irish Sea Regional Sea, and Subtidal mixed sediments as out of all of the rMCZs and existing marine protected areas this site contributes the largest area of subtidal mixed sediment.</p>	
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	
<p>The Mid St George's Channel recommended MCZ is strongly supported by conservation stakeholders. There is also opposition to</p>	

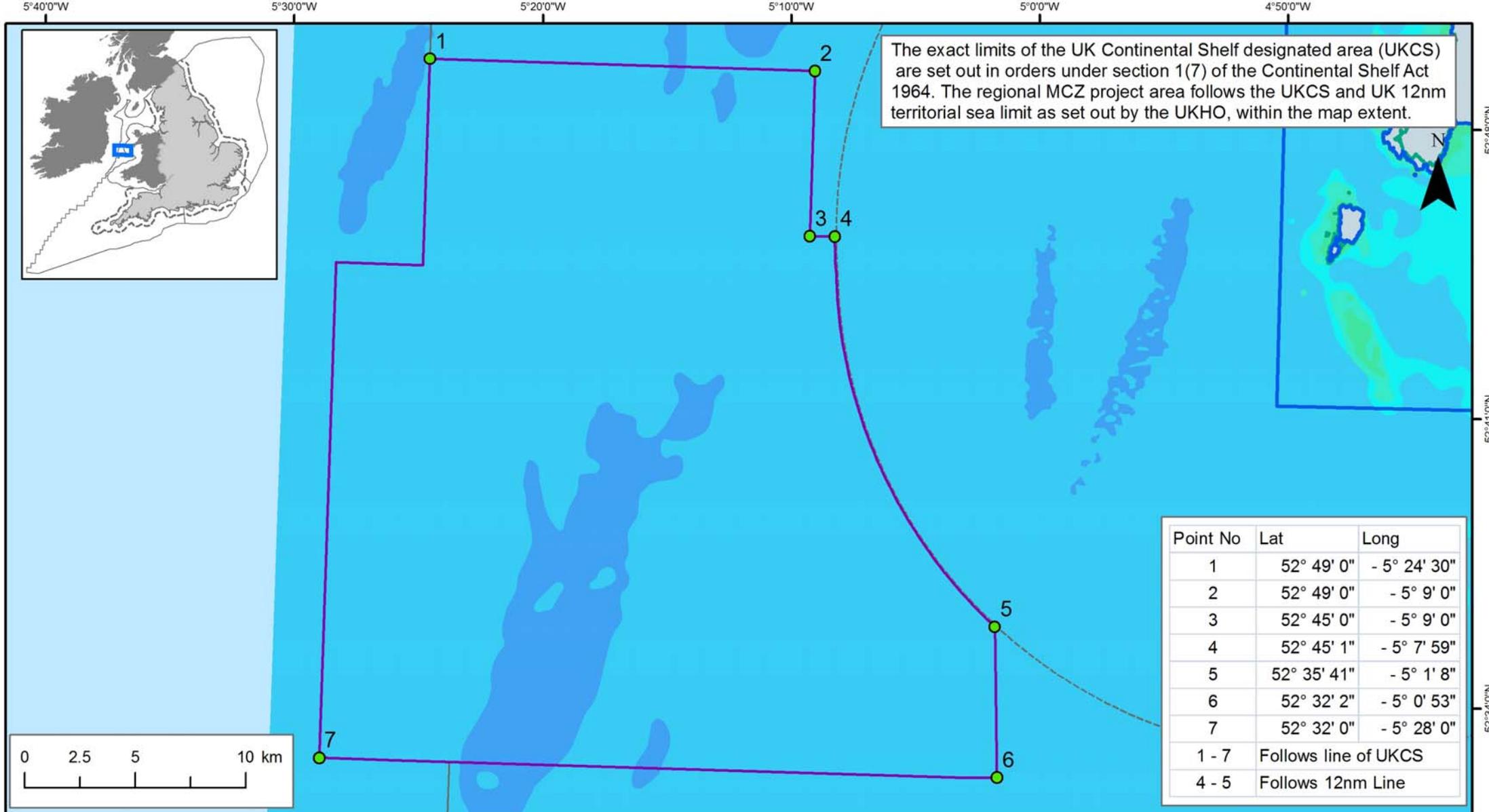
this site from the Belgian fishing fleet on the understanding that that they may lose fishing grounds in the far south of the site if it is designated. The main sector impacted by this site is the Commercial Fishing sector, for this sector there is a best estimate cost of less than £1000 associated with the closure of the site to bottom trawls. There is also an indication that there could be an unquantified cost to the National Defence sector, associated with additional planning considerations during operations and training. The MOD inert firing range within the site is assumed to be compatible with the benthic features for which the site is proposed for designation

### **Data Certainty**

The Mid St George's Channel recommended MCZ has acceptable data certainty for two features. Within this site three features; Moderate energy circalittoral rock, Subtidal mixed sediments, and Subtidal sands and gravels have unacceptable data certainty and will require further work prior to their designation.

### **Conclusion**

Although the advantages for this site justify the socio-economic implications, further work will be required to improve the data certainty prior to this site being designated.



**Mid St George's Channel rMCZ**

- Recommended MCZ
- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- Regional MCZ project area
- 12nm Territorial Seas Limit
- Land
- SACs with Marine Components
- SPAs with Marine Components

**Depth Areas (metres)**

- 0.0 - 5.0
- 5.1 - 10.0
- 10.1 - 25.0
- 25.1 - 50.0
- 50.1 - 100.0
- 100.1 - 250.0
- 250.1 - 500.0
- 500.1 - 1000.0

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Map Projection: WGS84UTM30N, Inset: BNG

## Consultation Site Summary: Mud Hole

Additional information for this site can be found in the SNCB Advice (page 1014), Impact Assessment (Annex I2 Option 1 Irish Seas, Page 127) and Regional Project recommendations (ISCZ –pMCZ Final Recommendations Pt.3.1, Page 54).

**Table 1. General Information on site and all features recommended by Regional Projects**

<b>Regional Project:</b> Irish Sea Conservation Zones		<b>Site surface area:</b> 73 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>Biogeographic Region:</b> JNCC regional sea: Irish Sea. OSPAR region III: Celtic Seas.
<b>Site Location:</b> 54° 18' 59.230" N, 3° 50' 55.815" W 54.316453 Lat, -3.848837 Long. Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area projection, ETRS89 datum			
<b>Inshore/Offshore:</b> Offshore			
<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Feature name</b>	<b>Area/no. of records</b>	<b>Conservation Objective</b>
Broad Scale Habitat	Subtidal mud	73 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover
Habitat FOCI	Mud habitats in deep water	35 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover
Habitat FOCI	Sea-pens and burrowing megafauna	34 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover

## Table 2. Sector Impacts and Associated Best Estimate Costs

Sectors Impacted	Best Estimate Costs (£ per year)
Commercial Fishing	£55,000
Northern Ireland Commercial Fishing fleet	Unquantified
Archaeology	Unquantified
National Defence	Non site specific cost
	Best Estimate Total Cost = £55,000

## Table 3. Designation Status and Site Rationale

<b>Decision</b>	Requires further consideration
<b>Rationale for Decision:</b>	
<b>Site Advantages</b>	
<p>The Mud Hole recommended MCZ is an offshore site measuring 72 km<sup>2</sup>. Within this rMCZ there are a variety of features including one Broad Scale Habitats and two Habitat FOCI. Sea-pens and burrowing megafauna have become rare in this area of the Irish Sea and so if designated this site could allow for recovery. The Mud Hole rMCZ makes a significant contribution towards achieving the adequacy guidelines for Subtidal mud and the replication guideline for the FOCI Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna within the regional MCZ project area and therefore if this site is not designated, nor another equivalent area put forward the implication is failure to achieve these guidelines. The JNCC's conclusion is that the mud features (Subtidal mud and Mud habitats in deep water) are highly sensitive and, as they are subject to high nephrops fishing activity, JNCC advise that the listed features are likely to be in unfavourable condition and may be at higher risk of remaining in a damaged or deteriorated condition.</p>	
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	

The main sector impacted by the Mud Hole recommended MCZ is the commercial fishing sector, for this sector there is a best estimate cost of £55,000 associated with the closure of the entire site to bottom trawls and dredges. The mud habitats in this area are of high commercial interest, as it is the habitat of the Norway lobster. Most concerns were raised from the Commercial Fishing sector, due to the likelihood of losing fishing grounds. It became clear, through the stakeholder process, that this site was not the first choice for conservation or Commercial Fishing interests (the two main sectors with interests in this site), but it was a compromise following months of discussion between various stakeholder interests in order to meet the subtidal mud ENG target.

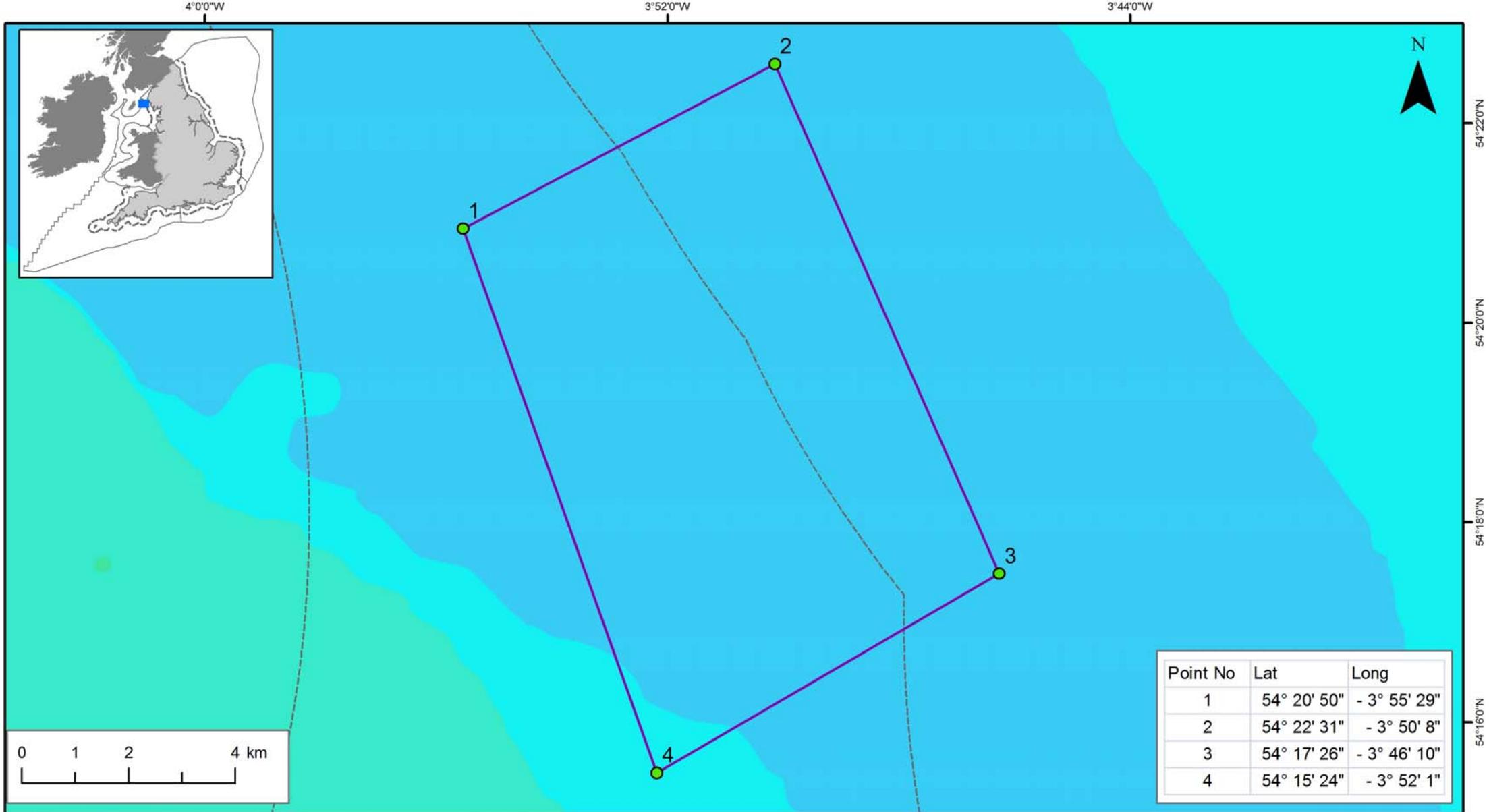
There is also a strong indication that there is a significant unquantified cost to the Northern Ireland Commercial Fishing sector, and because of the effect on their commercial fishing fleet, DARD have formally written to Defra to lodge their concerns about the site being designated, and recommended that the decision is not taken until they have looked for alternative sites and carried out their compensative scheme to reduce the industry.

### **Data Certainty**

The Mud Hole recommended MCZ has acceptable data certainty for one feature, Mud habitats in deep water which has been identified as a higher risk feature within this site. Within this site the remaining two features Sub-tidal mud and Sea-pens and burrowing megafauna will require further work to strengthen the data certainty prior to their designation.

### **Conclusion**

For this site there is a strong indication of a potentially significant unquantified socio-economic implication associated with the Northern Ireland Commercial Fishing sector. Therefore despite this site being highlighted by the SNCBs as a site at higher risk, further work will be required to better understand these implications prior to this site being considered for designation.



### Mud Hole rMCZ

- Recommended MCZ
- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- Regional MCZ project area
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Land

### Depth Areas (metres)

- 0.0 - 5.0
- 5.1 - 10.0
- 10.1 - 25.0
- 50.1 - 100.0
- 100.1 - 250.0
- 250.1 - 500.0
- 500.1 - 1000.0

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Map Projection: WGS84UTM30N, Inset: BNG

## Consultation Site Summary: North St. Georges Channel

Additional information for this site can be found in the SNCB Advice (page 1018), Impact Assessment (Annex I2 Option 1 Irish Seas, Page 37) and Regional Project recommendations (ISCZ –pMCZ Final Recommendations Pt.3.1, Page 88).

**Table 1. General Information on site and all features recommended by Regional Projects**

<b>Regional Project:</b> Irish Sea Conservation Zones		<b>Site surface area:</b> 1388 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>Biogeographic Region:</b> JNCC regional sea: Irish Sea. OSPAR region III: Celtic Seas.
<b>Site Location:</b> 53° 26' 27.618" N, 5° 5' 59.840" W 53.441004 Lat, -5.099955 Long. Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area projection, ETRS89 datum			
<b>Inshore/Offshore:</b> Offshore			
<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Feature name</b>	<b>Area/no. of records</b>	<b>Conservation Objective</b>
Broad Scale Habitat	High energy circalittoral rock	10 km <sup>2</sup>	Maintain
Broad Scale Habitat	Moderate energy circalittoral rock	40 km <sup>2</sup>	Maintain
Broad Scale Habitat	Subtidal coarse sediment	901 km <sup>2</sup>	Maintain
Broad Scale Habitat	Subtidal sand	336 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover
Broad Scale Habitat	Subtidal mixed Sediment	31 km <sup>2</sup>	Maintain

Broad Scale Habitat	Subtidal biogenic reefs <sup>2</sup>	20 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover
Habitat FOCI	Horse mussel ( <i>Modiolus modiolus</i> ) beds <sup>3</sup>	20 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover
Habitat FOCI	Subtidal sands and gravels	1223 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover
Geomorphological Feature	Drumlins	n/a	Maintain

**Table 2. Sector Impacts and Associated Best Estimate Costs**

Sectors Impacted	Best Estimate Costs (£ per year)
Commercial Fishing	17,000
Renewable Energy (wind, wave and tidal)	304,000
National Defence	Non site specific costs
	<b>Best Estimate Total Cost = £321,000</b>

<sup>2</sup> SNCBs do not agree with the inclusion of subtidal biogenic reef as features for designation and suggest that these are not included if this rMCZ is designated

<sup>3</sup> SNCBs do not agree with the inclusion of *Modiolus modiolus* beds as features for designation and suggest that these are not included if this rMCZ is designated

**Table 3. Designation Status of Site and Rationale**

<b>Decision</b>	Requires further consideration
<p><b>Rationale for Decision:</b></p> <p><b>Site Advantages</b></p> <p>The North St Georges Channel recommended MCZ is an offshore site measuring 1388 km<sup>2</sup>. Within this rMCZ there are a variety of features including six Broad Scale Habitats, two Habitat FOCI and one Geomorphological Feature. Of particular interest within this site is the High energy circalittoral rock as this is the only site proposed for this feature within the ISCZ and this feature has limited distribution within the regional project area. Subtidal coarse sediment within this site contributes the largest area of subtidal coarse sediment. Furthermore Subtidal mixed sediments and the Drumlins are currently not protected in any existing marine protected areas within the Irish Sea Regional Sea.</p> <p><b>Socio-Economics</b></p> <p>Most stakeholders accepted the inclusion of North St Georges Channel in the final network in order to satisfy the ENG targets. Conservation stakeholders in particular expressed strong support for inclusion of this site. Most concerns were related to future development in the adjacent Centrica Round 3 offshore wind area of search, and the potential implications associated with designating this site. There are several important fishing grounds in this site and concerns were raised over the ability to maintain use of these grounds if/when the site is designated.</p> <p>The main sector impacted by this site is the renewable energy sector, for this sector there is a best estimate cost of £304,000 associated with an increase in costs of assessing environmental impacts for licence applications. There is also an indication that there are non site specific costs to the National Defence sector. The impact on foreign vessels indicated by stakeholders is high but the qualitative impacts are missing.</p>	

**Data Certainty**

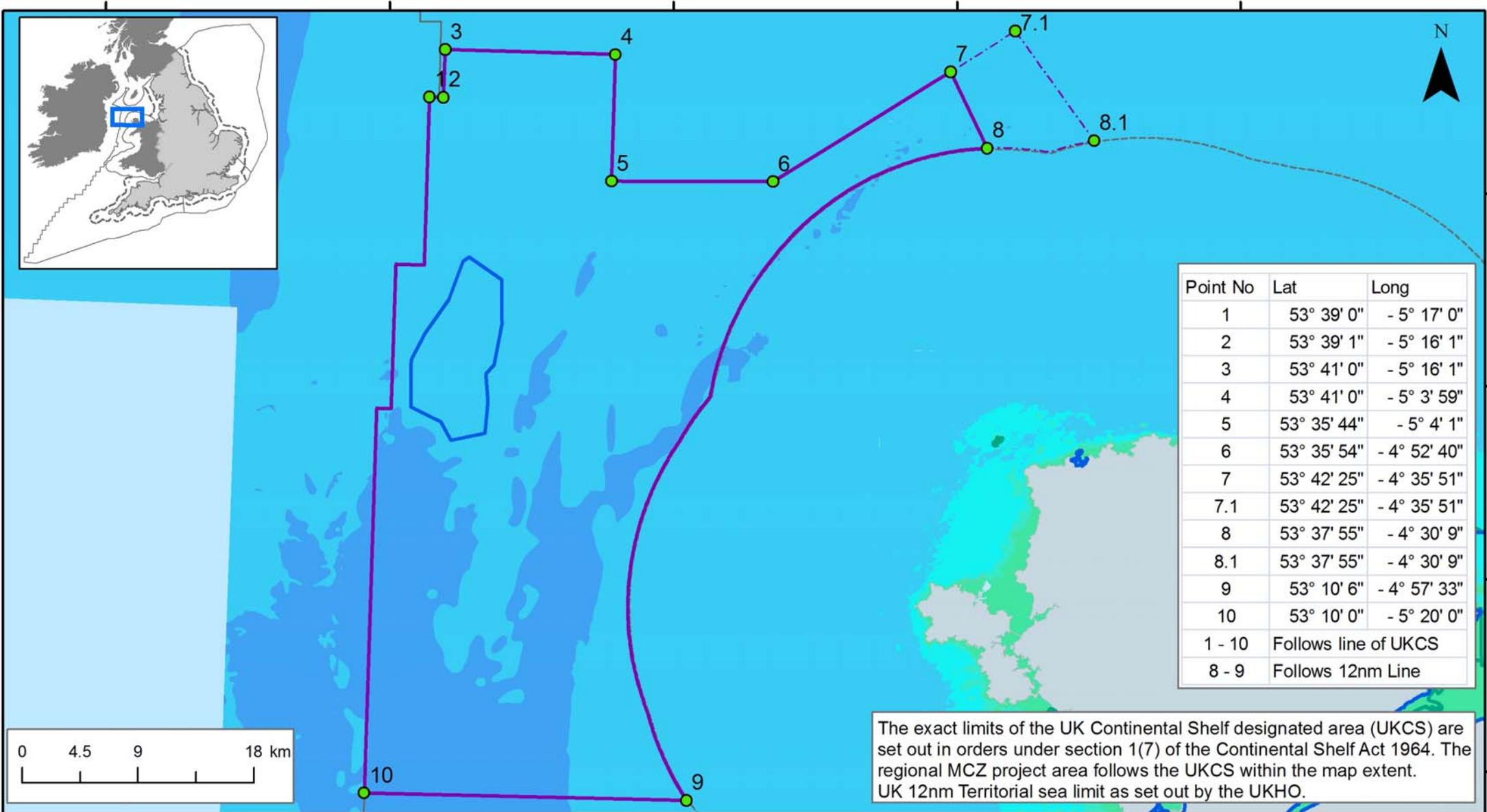
The North St Georges Channel recommended MCZ has acceptable data certainty for the Drumlins. Within this site eight features have unacceptable data certainty and will require further work prior to their designation.<sup>4</sup>

**Conclusion:**

Although the advantages for this site justify the socio-economic implications, further work will be required to improve the data certainty prior to this site being designated.

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<sup>4</sup> Recent survey data has been collected for this site ([site report published on Defra website](#)) however this was not available to be considered during the MCZ decision making. This survey data will be considered in further detail for future tranche assessments.



Point No	Lat	Long
1	53° 39' 0"	- 5° 17' 0"
2	53° 39' 1"	- 5° 16' 1"
3	53° 41' 0"	- 5° 16' 1"
4	53° 41' 0"	- 5° 3' 59"
5	53° 35' 44"	- 5° 4' 1"
6	53° 35' 54"	- 4° 52' 40"
7	53° 42' 25"	- 4° 35' 51"
7.1	53° 42' 25"	- 4° 35' 51"
8	53° 37' 55"	- 4° 30' 9"
8.1	53° 37' 55"	- 4° 30' 9"
9	53° 10' 6"	- 4° 57' 33"
10	53° 10' 0"	- 5° 20' 0"
1 - 10	Follows line of UKCS	
8 - 9	Follows 12nm Line	

The exact limits of the UK Continental Shelf designated area (UKCS) are set out in orders under section 1(7) of the Continental Shelf Act 1964. The regional MCZ project area follows the UKCS within the map extent. UK 12nm Territorial sea limit as set out by the UKHO.

### North St George's Channel rMCZ

- Recommended MCZ
- SACs with Marine Components
- North St. Georges Channel Extention
- SPAs with Marine Components
- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- Regional MCZ project area
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Land

### Depth Areas (metres)

- 0.0 - 5.0
- 50.1 - 100.0
- 5.1 - 10.0
- 100.1 - 250.0
- 10.1 - 25.0
- 250.1 - 500.0
- 25.1 - 50.0
- 500.1 - 1000.0

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Map Projection: WGS84UTM30N, Inset: BNG

## Consultation Site Summary: Ribble Estuary

Additional information for this site can be found in the SNCB Advice (page 1059), Impact Assessment (Annex I2 Option 1 Irish Seas, Page 122) and Regional Project recommendations (ISCZ –pMCZ Final Recommendations Pt.3.1, Page 264).

**Table 1. General Information on site and all features recommended by Regional Projects**

<b>Regional Project:</b> Irish Sea Conservation Zones		<b>Site surface area:</b> 13 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>Biogeographic Region:</b> JNCC regional sea: Irish Sea. OSPAR region III: Celtic Seas.
<b>Site Location:</b> 53° 43' 32.399" N, 2° 54' 49.445" W 53.725666 Lat, --2.913735 Long. Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area projection, ETRS89 datum			
<b>Inshore/Offshore:</b> Inshore			
<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Feature name</b>	<b>Area/no. of records</b>	<b>Conservation Objective</b>
Species FOCI	Smelt ( <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i> )	-	Maintain
Species FOCI	European eel ( <i>Anguilla Anguilla</i> )	-	Maintain

**Table 2. Sector Impacts and Associated Best Estimate Costs**

Sectors Impacted	Best Estimate Costs (£ per year)
Ports, Harbours and Commercial Shipping	<1000
Archaeology	Unquantified
	Best Estimate Total Cost < £1000

**Table 3. Designation Status of Site and Rationale**

<b>Decision</b>	Requires further consideration
<b>Rationale for Decision:</b>	
<b>Site Advantages</b>	
<p>The Ribble Estuary recommended MCZ is an estuary site measuring 13 km<sup>2</sup>. Within this rMCZ there are two Species FOCI, Smelt (<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>) and European eel (<i>Anguilla Anguilla</i>), which are not currently protected within MPAs in the Irish Sea project area. The UK has international responsibility to protect both species which have shown marked declines within the UK. If this site is not put forward, there would be less than 3 replicates of each of the FOCI species European eel (<i>Anguilla Anguilla</i>) and Smelt (<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>), in the Irish Sea Region, and therefore ENG targets would not be met.</p>	
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	
<p>The Ribble Estuary recommended MCZ is supported by most stakeholders, although there was a reluctance of some industry stakeholders (marine renewables) to agree to this site until they have assurances in writing from the appropriate regulators. The site was agreed subject to appropriate management measures that allow existing and future cable infrastructure, and that appropriate consideration is given to future wave/tidal devices.</p>	
<p>The main sector impacted by this site is the Ports, Harbours and Commercial Shipping sector, for this sector there is a best estimate cost of less than £1000 associated with an increase in costs of assessing environmental impacts for future licence applications There is also an indication that there could be an unquantified cost to the Archaeology sector, associated with an</p>	

increase in costs of assessing environmental impacts for future licence applications.

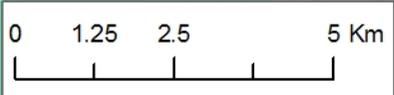
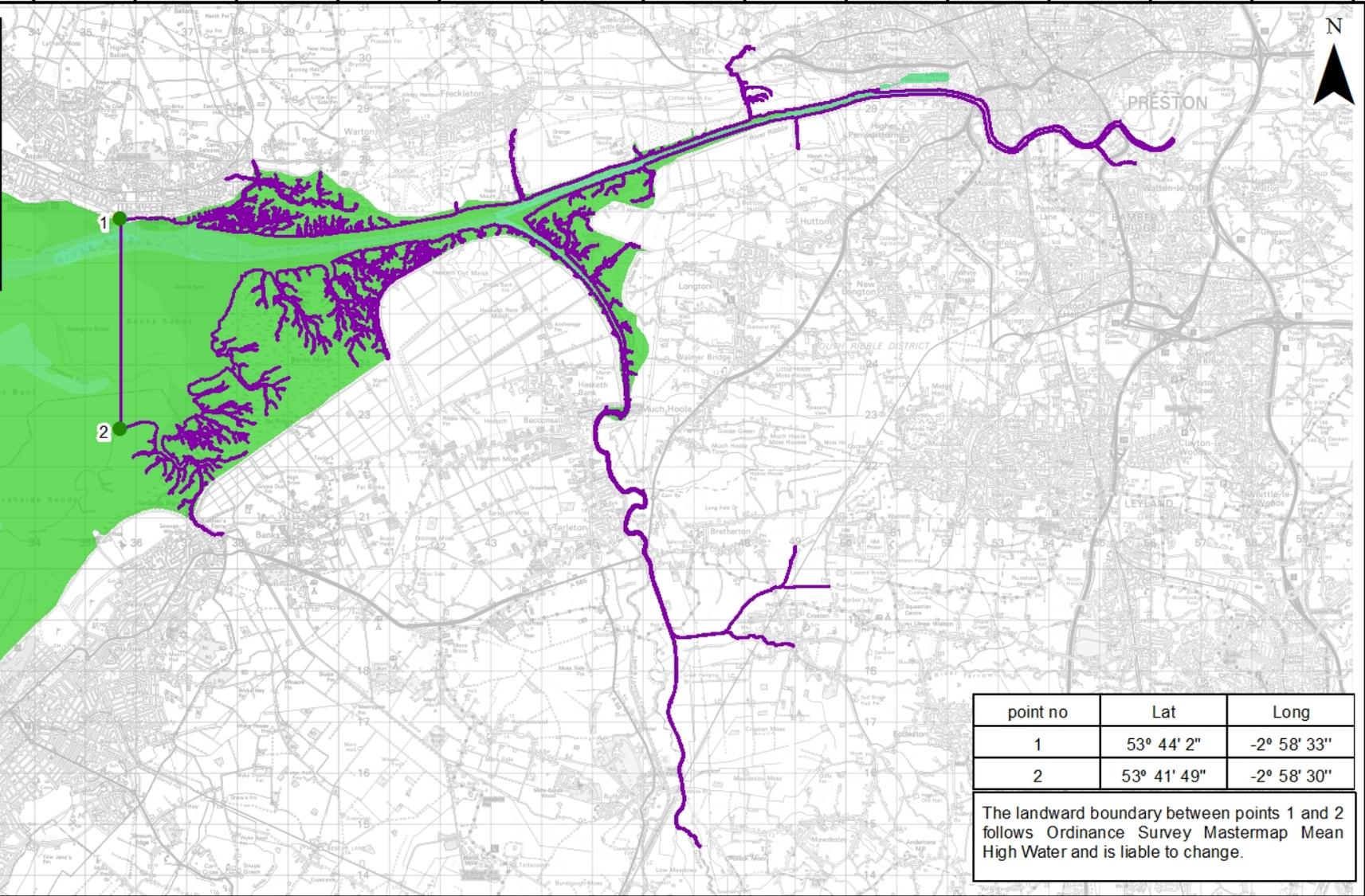
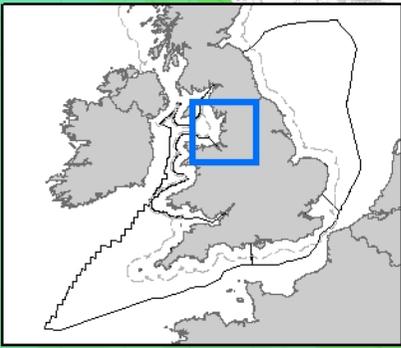
### **Data Certainty**

The Ribble Estuary recommended MCZ has unacceptable data certainty for both features which will require further work prior to their designation.

### **Conclusion**

Although the advantages for this site justify the socio-economic implications further work will be required to improve the data certainty prior to this site being designated.

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point no	Lat	Long
1	53° 44' 2"	-2° 58' 33"
2	53° 41' 49"	-2° 58' 30"

The landward boundary between points 1 and 2 follows Ordnance Survey Mastermap Mean High Water and is liable to change.

### Ribble Estuary

Recommended MCZ

- Recommended MCZ
- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- MCZ Regional Projects boundaries
- England 12nM Territorial Seas Limit

### Depth Areas (m)

- 20.0 - -10.0
- 9.9 - -5.0
- 4.9 - 0.0
- 0.1 - 5.0
- 5.1 - 10.0
- 10.1 - 25.0
- 25.1 - 50.0
- 50.1 - 100.0
- 100.1 - 250.0
- 250.1 - 500.0
- 500.1 - 1000.0

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## Consultation Site Summary: Sefton Coast

Additional information for this site can be found in the SNCB Advice (page 1050), Impact Assessment (Annex I2 Option 1 Irish Seas, Page 249) and Regional Project recommendations (ISCZ –pMCZ Final Recommendations Pt.3.1, Page 222).

**Table 1. General Information on site and all features recommended by Regional Projects**

<b>Regional Project:</b> Irish Sea Conservation Zones		<b>Site surface area:</b> 13 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>Biogeographic Region:</b> JNCC regional sea: Irish Sea. OSPAR region III: Celtic Seas.
<b>Site Location:</b> 53° 32' 9.831" N, 3° 5' 50.897" W 53.536064 Lat, -3.097471 Long. Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area projection, ETRS89 datum			
<b>Inshore/Offshore:</b> Inshore			
<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Feature name</b>	<b>Area/no. of records</b>	<b>Conservation Objective</b>
Habitat FOCI	Peat and clay exposures	2	Recover

**Table 2. Sector Impacts and Associated Best Estimate Costs**

Sectors Impacted	Best Estimate Costs (£ per year)
Commercial Fishing	3000
Ports, Harbours and Commercial Shipping	9000
Archaeology	Unquantified
Recreation (including boating and sea angling)	Unquantified
<b>Best Estimate Total Cost = £12,000</b>	

**Table 3. Designation Status of Site and Rationale**

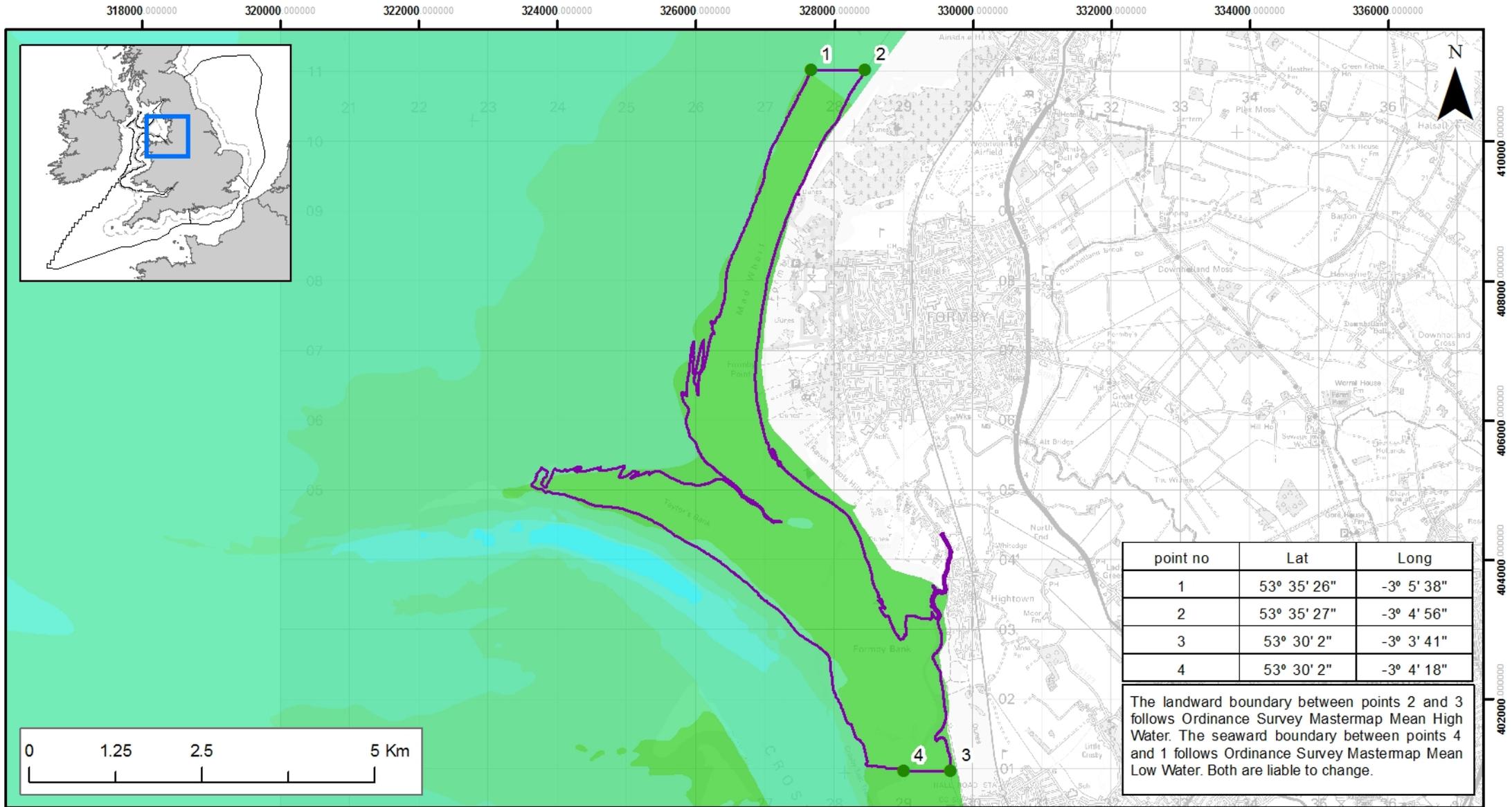
<b>Decision</b>	Requires further consideration
<b>Rationale for Decision:</b>	
<b>Site Advantages</b>	
<p>The Sefton Coast recommended MCZ is an inshore site measuring 13 km<sup>2</sup>. This site is being proposed for one Habitat FOCI (Peat and clay exposures), as it contributes the largest total area of Peat and clay features in the project area. The Peat and clay exposures contain nationally important archaeological features including Holocene (Stone Age) animal and human footprint preserved in clay exposures</p>	
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	
<p>The Sefton Coast recommended MCZ is supported by most stakeholders on the understanding that the site is proposed for designation for Peat and clay exposures only. The majority of concerns about this site were raised by the Recreation sector, but these were alleviated on receipt of guidance on management.</p> <p>The main sector impacted by this site is the Ports, Harbours and Commercial Shipping sector, for this sector there is a best estimate cost of £9000. There is also an indication that there could be an unquantified cost to the Archaeology and Recreation sectors, associated with an increase in costs of assessing environmental impacts for future licence applications, and restricted access to the peat and clay exposures.</p>	

**Data Certainty**

The Sefton Coast recommended MCZ does not have acceptable data certainty for the feature being protected and will require further work prior to their designation.

**Conclusion**

Although the advantages for this site justify the socio-economic implications, further work will be required to improve the data certainty prior to this site being designated.



point no	Lat	Long
1	53° 35' 26"	-3° 5' 38"
2	53° 35' 27"	-3° 4' 56"
3	53° 30' 2"	-3° 3' 41"
4	53° 30' 2"	-3° 4' 18"

The landward boundary between points 2 and 3 follows Ordnance Survey Mastermap Mean High Water. The seaward boundary between points 4 and 1 follows Ordnance Survey Mastermap Mean Low Water. Both are liable to change.

## Sefton Coast

Recommended MCZ

- Recommended MCZ
- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- MCZ Regional Projects boundaries
- England 12nM Territorial Seas Limit

## Depth Areas (m)

- 20.0 - -10.0
- 9.9 - -5.0
- 4.9 - 0.0
- 0.1 - 5.0
- 5.1 - 10.0
- 10.1 - 25.0
- 25.1 - 50.0
- 50.1 - 100.0
- 100.1 - 250.0
- 250.1 - 500.0
- 500.1 - 1000.0

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## Consultation Site Summary: Slieve Na Griddle

Additional information for this site can be found in the SNCB Advice (page 1024), Impact Assessment (Annex I2 Option 1 Irish Seas, Page 78) and Regional Project recommendations (ISCZ –pMCZ Final Recommendations Pt.3.1, Page 160).

**Table 1. General Information on site and all features recommended by Regional Projects**

<b>Regional Project:</b> Irish Sea Conservation Zones		<b>Site surface area:</b> 58 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>Biogeographic Region:</b> JNCC regional sea: Irish Sea. OSPAR region III: Celtic Seas.
<b>Site Location:</b> 54° 10' 28.255" N, 5° 11' 0.769" W 54.174515 Lat, -5.183547 Long. Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area projection, ETRS89 datum			
<b>Inshore/Offshore: Offshore</b>			
<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Feature name</b>	<b>Area/no. of records</b>	<b>Conservation Objective</b>
Broad Scale Habitat	Low energy circalittoral rock <sup>5</sup>	4 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover
Broad Scale habitat	Subtidal mud	53 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover
Habitat FOCI	Mud habitats in deep water	58 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover

<sup>5</sup> SNCBs do not agree with the inclusion of low energy circalittoral rock as a feature for designation and suggest that this is not included if this rMCZ is designated

**Table 2. Sector Impacts and Associated Best Estimate Costs**

Sectors Impacted	Best Estimate Costs (£ per year)
Commercial Fishing	28,000
Northern Ireland Commercial Fishing Fleet	Unquantified
Archaeology	Unquantified
National Defence	Non site specific cost
Best Estimate Total Cost = £28,000	

**Table 3. Designation Status of Site and Rationale**

<b>Decision</b>	Requires further consideration
<b>Rationale for Decision:</b>	
<b>Site Advantages</b>	
<p>The Slieve Na Griddle recommended MCZ is an offshore site measuring 58 km<sup>2</sup>. Within this rMCZ there are a variety of features including two Broad Scale Habitats, and one Habitat FOCI. Of particular interest within this site are the Mud habitats in deepwater which is a BAP habitat which is not protected in existing Marine protected areas in the Irish Seas area, and Subtidal mud which is not protected in existing marine protected areas in the Irish Seas area. The SNCBs do not agree with the inclusion of Low energy circalittoral rock as a feature for designation and suggest that this is not included if this rMCZ is designated.</p>	
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	
<p>The Slieve Na Griddle recommended MCZ is supported by most stakeholders in order to satisfy the ENG targets. Strong concerns were raised by the Northern Irish Commercial Fishing fleet due to the likelihood of losing Nephrops fishing grounds.</p> <p>The main sector impacted by this site is the Commercial Fishing sector, for this sector there is a best estimate cost of £28,000 associated with the closure of the site to bottom trawls. There is also a strong indication that there is a significant unquantified cost to the Northern Ireland Commercial Fishing sector, and because of the effect on their commercial fishing fleet, DARD have formally</p>	

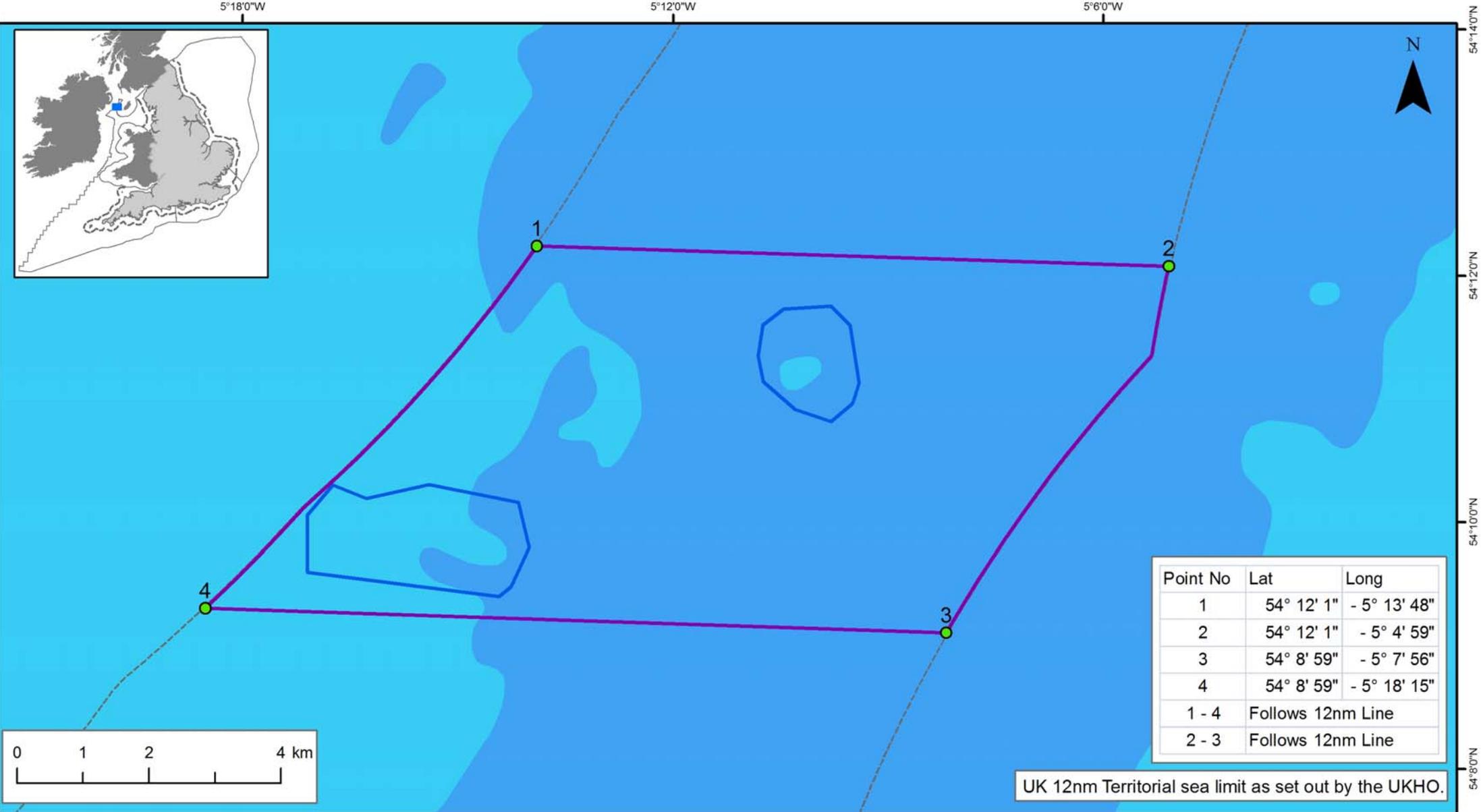
written to Defra to lodge their concerns about the site being designated, and recommended that the decision is not taken until they have looked for alternative sites and carried out their compensative scheme to reduce the industry. There is an indication of further unquantified costs associated with National Defence and Archaeology.

### **Data Certainty**

The Slieve Na Griddle recommended MCZ has acceptable data certainty for all features. Of these features Subtidal mud and Mud habitats in deep water have been identified as higher risk features within this site.

### **Conclusion**

For this site there is a strong indication of a potentially significant unquantified socio-economic implication associated with the Northern Ireland Commercial Fishing sector. Therefore despite this site being highlighted by the SNCBs as a site at higher risk, further work will be required to better understand these implications prior to this site being considered for designation.



### Slieve Na Griddle rMCZ

- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- Recommended MCZ
- Regional MCZ project area
- 12nM Territorial Seas Limit
- Land
- SACs with Marine Components



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Map Projection: WGS84UTM30N, Inset: BNG

## Consultation Site Summary: Solway Firth

Additional information for this site can be found in the SNCB Advice (page 1055), Impact Assessment (Annex I2 Option 1 Irish Seas, Page 109) and Regional Project recommendations (ISCZ –pMCZ Final Recommendations Pt.3.1, Page 244).

**Table 1. General Information on site and all features recommended by Regional Projects**

<b>Regional Project:</b> Irish Sea Conservation Zones		<b>Site surface area:</b> 46 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>Biogeographic Region:</b> JNCC regional sea: Irish Sea. OSPAR region III: Celtic Seas.
<b>Site Location:</b> 54° 55' 40.611" N, 3° 15' 3.776" W 54.927947 Lat, -3.251048 Long. Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area projection, ETRS89 datum			
<b>Inshore/Offshore:</b> Inshore			
Feature type	Feature name	Area/no. of records	Conservation Objective – activity causing pressure
Species FOCI	Smelt ( <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i> )	-	Maintain
Species FOCI	European eel ( <i>Anguilla Anguilla</i> )	-	Maintain

**Table 2. Sector Impacts and Associated Best Estimate Costs**

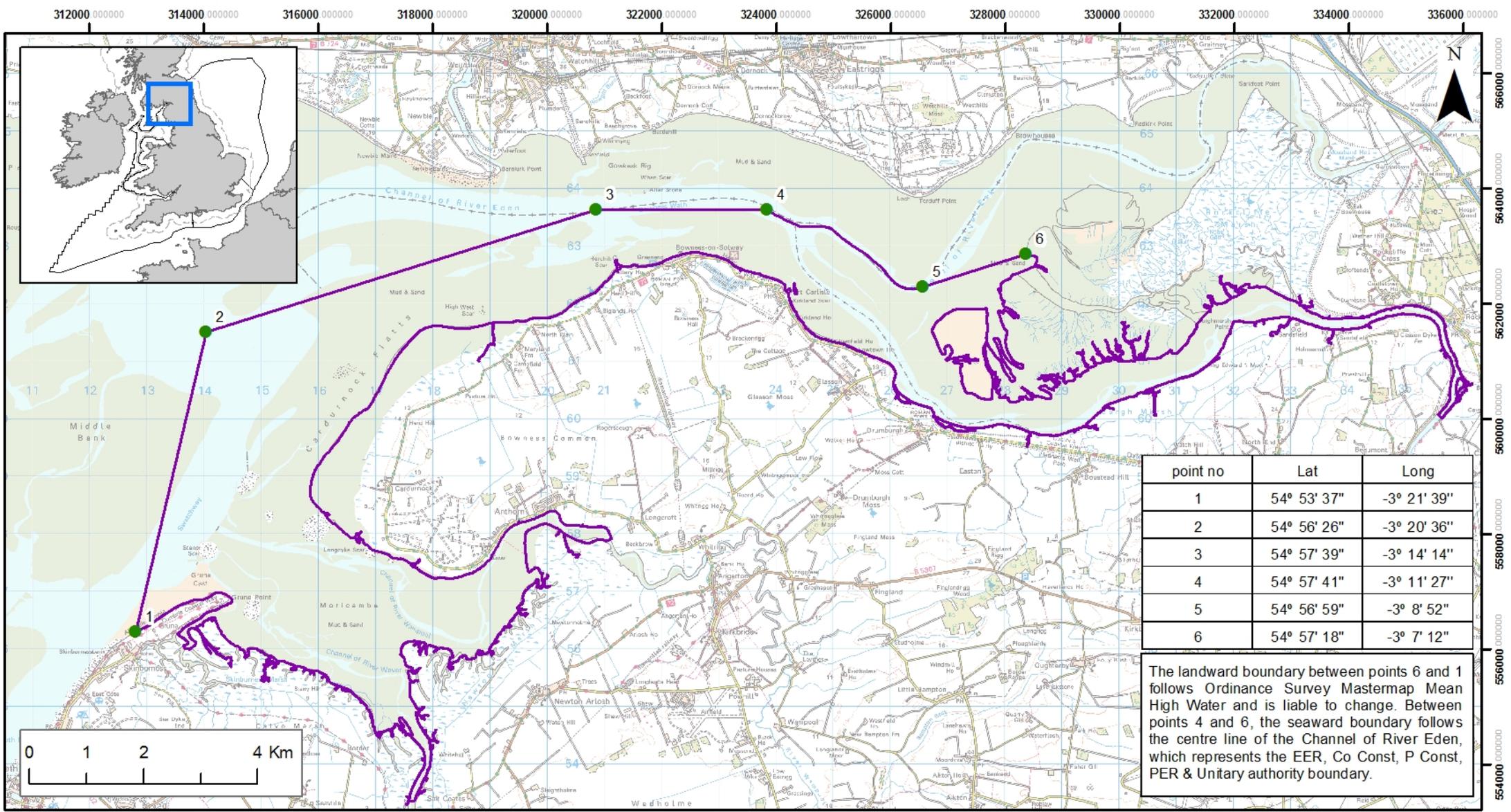
Sectors Impacted	Best Estimate Costs (£ per year)
Ports, Harbours and Commercial Shipping	<1000

Archaeology	Unquantified
	Best Estimate Total Cost = £84

**Table 3. Designation Status of Site and Rationale**

<b>Decision</b>	Requires further consideration
<b>Rationale for Decision:</b>	
<p><b>Site Advantages</b>  The Solway Firth recommended MCZ is an inshore site measuring 45 km<sup>2</sup>. Within this rMCZ there are two Species FOCI. If the site is not designated for Smelt (<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>) and European eel (<i>Anguilla Anguilla</i>), populations in the Solway rMCZ may not receive any additional protection that may be needed to maintain or recover their populations. Other migratory fish species of nature conservation importance such as salmon and sea trout use the estuary. The estuary is used as a nursery area by other fish. The rMCZ would help focus further research to get a better understanding of the use of the estuary by smelt and eel.</p>	
<p><b>Socio-Economics</b>  The Solway Firth recommended MCZ is supported by stakeholders subject to appropriate management measures that allow existing and future cable infrastructure, and that appropriate consideration is given to future wave/tidal devices. There was a reluctance of some industry stakeholders to agree to this site until they have assurances in writing from the appropriate regulators. The main sector impacted by this site is the Ports, Harbours and Commercial Shipping sector, for this sector there is a best estimate cost of £&lt;1000 associated with future licence conditions. There is also an indication that there is an unquantified cost to the Archaeology sector, associated with an increase in costs of assessing environmental impacts for future licence applications.</p>	
<p><b>Data Certainty</b>  The Solway Firth recommended MCZ has unacceptable data certainty for both features surrounding the certainty in the conservation objectives. Within this site both features will require further work prior to their designation.</p>	
<p><b>Conclusion</b>  Although the advantages for this site justify the socio-economic implications, further work will be required to improve the certainty around the conservation objectives prior to this site being designated.</p>	





## Solway Firth

Recommended MCZ

- Recommended MCZ
- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- MCZ Regional Projects boundaries
- England 12nM Territorial Seas Limit

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## Consultation Site Summary: South Rigg

Additional information for this site can be found in the SNCB Advice (page 1028), Impact Assessment (Annex I2 Option 1 Irish Seas, Page 150) and Regional Project recommendations (ISCZ –pMCZ Final Recommendations Pt.3.1, Page 143).

**Table 1. General Information on site and all features recommended by Regional Projects**

<b>Regional Project:</b> Irish Sea Conservation Zones		<b>Site surface area:</b> 146 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>Biogeographic Region:</b> JNCC regional sea: Irish Sea. OSPAR region III: Celtic Seas.
<b>Site Location:</b> 54° 23' 8.974" N , 5° 0' 5.536" W 54.385826 Lat, -5.001537 Long. Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area projection, ETRS89 datum			
<b>Inshore/Offshore: Offshore</b>			
<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Feature name</b>	<b>Area/no. of records</b>	<b>Conservation Objective</b>
Broad Scale Habitat	Low energy circalittoral rock	21 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover
Broad Scale Habitat	Subtidal sand	29 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover
Broad Scale Habitat	Subtidal mud	96 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover
Habitat FOCI	Mud habitats in deep water	42 km <sup>2</sup>	Recover
Habitat of Conservation	Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities	2 records	Recover

Importance			
Species FOCI	Ocean quahog ( <i>Arctica Islandica</i> )	59 records	Recover

**Table 2. Sector Impacts and Associated Best Estimate Costs**

Sectors Impacted	Best Estimate Costs (£ per year)
Commercial Fishing	53,000
Northern Ireland Commercial Fishing	Unquantified
National Defence	Non site specific cost
Archaeology	Unquantified
Ports, Harbours and Commercial Shipping	Unquantified
Best Estimate Total Cost = £53,000	

**Table 3. Designation Status of Site and Rationale**

<b>Decision</b>	Requires further consideration
<b>Rationale for Decision:</b>	
<b>Site Advantages</b>	
<p>The South Rigg recommended MCZ is an offshore site measuring 146 km<sup>2</sup>. Within this rMCZ there are a variety of features including three Broad Scale Habitats, two Habitat FOCI and one Species FOCI. Of particular interest within this site are the Ocean Quahog (<i>Arctica Islandica</i>) which is an OSPAR species which is not protected in existing marine protected areas within the Irish Seas area, Mud habitats in deep water which are a BAP habitat which is not protected in existing marine protected areas within the Irish Seas area, Sea pens and burrowing megafauna which is a OSPAR habitat which is not protected in existing marine protected areas within the Irish Seas area, Low energy circalittoral rock as this site contributes the largest area of this feature which is not protected in existing marine protected areas within the Irish Seas area and Subtidal mud which is not protected in existing marine</p>	

protected areas within the Irish Seas area. The SNCBs have advised that the site is at higher risk of damage or deterioration particularly for the Mud habitats in deep water.

### **Socio-Economics**

The South Rigg recommended MCZ is supported by most stakeholders in order to satisfy the ENG targets. Strong concerns were raised by the Northern Irish Commercial Fishing fleet due to the likelihood of losing Nephrops fishing grounds, and by the Isle of Man Commercial Fishing representative due to the likelihood of losing refuge scallop grounds. The MOD expressed caution with regard to submarine activity (landing on sea floor) in this area, which would need to be allowed to continue.

The main sector impacted by this site is the Commercial Fishing sector, for this sector there is a best estimate cost of £53,000 associated with the closure of the site to bottom trawls and dredges. There is also a strong indication that there is a significant unquantified cost to the Northern Ireland Commercial Fishing sector, and because of the effect on their commercial fishing fleet, DARD have formally written to Defra to lodge their concerns about the site being designated, and recommended that the decision is not taken until they have looked for alternative sites and carried out their compensative scheme to reduce the industry. There is also an indication that there are unquantified costs to the National Defence and Archaeology sectors.

### **Data Certainty**

The South Rigg recommended MCZ has acceptable data certainty for two features. Within this site four features; Low energy circalittoral rock, Subtidal sand, Subtidal mud and mud habitats in deep water have unacceptable data certainty and will require further work prior to their designation, of these features subtidal mud and mud habitats in deep water have been identified as higher risk features within this site. Only one feature mud in deep water has been assessed for the data certainty in relation to the condition i.e the confidence in the conservation objectives, the remaining five features have not yet been reviewed and will need further work prior to designation.

### **Conclusion**

For this site there is a strong indication of a potentially significant unquantified socio-economic implication associated with the Northern Ireland Commercial Fishing sector. Therefore despite this site being highlighted by the SNCBs as a site at higher risk, further work will be required to better understand these implications prior to this site being considered for designation, along with a greater degree of data certainty.





## Consultation Site Summary: West of Walney

Additional information for this site can be found in the SNCB Advice (page 1033), Impact Assessment (Annex I2 Option 1 Irish Seas, Page 14) and Regional Project recommendations (ISCZ –pMCZ Final Recommendations Pt.3.1, Page 67).

**Table 1. General Information on site and all features recommended by Regional Projects**

<b>Regional Project:</b> Irish Sea Conservation Zones		<b>Site surface area:</b> 156 km <sup>2</sup> pCLZ 232 km <sup>2</sup> Total (rMCZ and pCLZ) 388 km <sup>2</sup>		<b>Biogeographic Region:</b> JNCC regional sea: Irish Sea. OSPAR region III: Celtic Seas.	
<b>Site Location:</b> 54° 7' 9.198" N, 3° 31' 39.374" W. 54.119222 Lat , -3.527603 Long. Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area projection, ETRS89 datum					
Proposed co-location zone (pCLZ) (not part of the rMCZ2 site) 54° 2' 9.616" N, 3° 33' 3.167" W 54.036004 Lat, -3.550879Long. Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area projection, ETRS89 datum					
<b>Inshore/Offshore: Offshore</b>					
<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Feature name</b>	<b>Area/no. of records</b>	<b>Conservation Objective</b>		
Broad Scale Habitat	Subtidal sand <sup>6</sup>	72 km <sup>2</sup> (inc pCLZ)	Recover		
Broad Scale Habitat	Subtidal mud	156 km <sup>2</sup> (exc pCLZ)	Recover		

<sup>6</sup> This feature is in the pCLZ only, and not in the rMCZ

		316 km <sup>2</sup> (inc pCLZ)	
Habitat FOCI	Mud habitats in deep water	80 km <sup>2</sup> (exc pCLZ) 135 km <sup>2</sup> inc pCLZ	Recover
Habitat FOCI	Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities	80 km <sup>2</sup> (exc pCLZ) 135 km <sup>2</sup> (inc pCLZ)	Recover

**Table 2.1 Sector Impacts and Associated Best Estimate Costs**

<b>Sectors Impacted</b>	<b>Best Estimate Costs (£ per year)</b>
Commercial Fishing	35,000
Renewable Energy (wind, wave and tidal)	82,000
Archaeology	Unquantified
National Defence	Non site specific costs
	<b>Best Estimate Total Cost = £117,000</b>

**Table 2.2 Sector Impacts and Associated Best Estimate Costs for proposed Co-Location Zone**

<b>Sectors Impacted</b>	<b>Best Estimate Costs (£ per year)</b>
-------------------------	---

Commercial Fishing	20,000
Renewable Energy (wind, wave and tidal)	94,000
Archaeology	Unquantified
Best Estimate Total Cost = £114,000	

**Table 3. Designation Status of Site and Rationale**

<b>Decision</b>	Requires further consideration
<b>Rationale for Decision:</b>	
<b>Site Advantages</b>	
<p>The West of Walney recommended MCZ is an offshore site measuring 156 km<sup>2</sup>. There is a proposed co-location zone (pCLZ) measuring 232 km<sup>2</sup> that is not part of the rMCZ. The northern boundary of the pCLZ abuts onto the southern boundary of the rMCZ, with part of the pCLZ also lying within the rMCZ site. Within this rMCZ there are a variety of features including two Broad Scale Habitats one of which, Subtidal sand, is only proposed in the pCLZ, and two Habitat FOCI. Of particular interest within this site are the Subtidal mud which are characteristic and localised feature of the Irish Sea, Mud in deep water and Seapens and burrowing megafauna, which are features with limited distribution that are not currently protected within existing marine protected areas. The SNCBs have advised that all features are assessed as moderately to highly vulnerable to pressures exerted by otter trawling.</p>	
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	
<p>Most stakeholders accepted the inclusion of this rMCZ in the final network in order to satisfy the ENG targets. Offshore windfarm developers had specific concerns about the inclusion of the pCLZ in the network but discussions regarding co-location are ongoing. Commercial Fishing interests voiced concerns about this site due to the likelihood of losing commercial fishing grounds. The proposed co-location zone has strong stakeholder support from the Irish Sea Nephrops trawling sector as although the rMCZ supports Nephrops, the Nephrops trawling sector are or will be effectively excluded from the area, by offshore wind farm developments. There is also opposition to the pCLZ from the Renewable Energy sector due to the high economic costs. The main</p>	

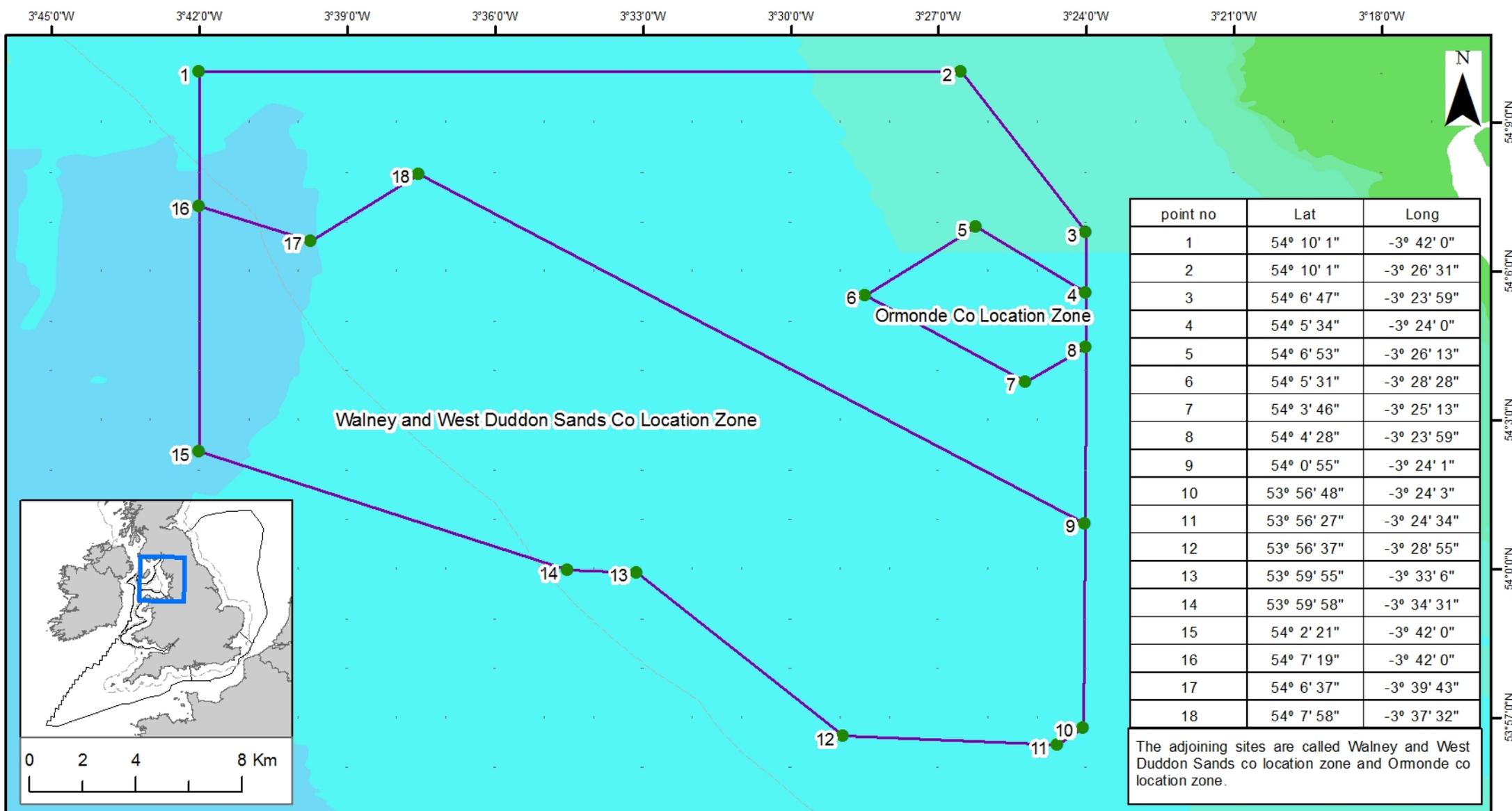
sector impacted by this site is the Renewable Energy sector, for this sector there is a best estimate cost of £82,000 for the rMCZ and an additional £94,000 for the pCLZ. There is also an indication that there is an unquantified cost to the Archaeology sector for both the rMCZ and the pCLZ, and none site specific costs in relation to National Defence.

### **Data Certainty**

The West of Walney recommended MCZ has acceptable data certainty for none of the features as no information has been provided around the confidence in the conservation objectives. Therefore all features will require further work prior to their designation.

### **Conclusion**

For this site there are ongoing discussions being carried out in relation to the pCLZ and the associated costs to the Renewable Energy sector. There is still uncertainty as to whether the advantages are sufficient to justify the socio-economic implications. Therefore despite this site being highlighted by the SNCBs as a site at high risk, further work will be required to better understand these implications and improve the data certainty prior to this site being considered for designation.



The adjoining sites are called Walney and West Duddon Sands co location zone and Ormonde co location zone.

## West of Walney

Recommended MCZ

- Recommended MCZ
- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- MCZ Regional Projects boundaries
- England 12nM Territorial Seas Limit

## Depth Areas (m)

- 20.0 - -10.0
- 25.1 - 50.0
- 9.9 - -5.0
- 50.1 - 100.0
- 4.9 - 0.0
- 100.1 - 250.0
- 0.1 - 5.0
- 250.1 - 500.0
- 5.1 - 10.0
- 500.1 - 1000.0
- 10.1 - 25.0

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## Consultation Site Summary: Wyre-Lune

Additional information for this site can be found in the SNCB Advice (page 1057), Impact Assessment (Annex I2 Option 1 Irish Seas, Page 114) and Regional Project recommendations (ISCZ –pMCZ Final Recommendations Pt.3.1, Page 254).

**Table 1. General Information on site and all features recommended by Regional Projects**

<b>Regional Project:</b> Irish Sea Conservation Zones		<b>Site surface area:</b> 92 km <sup>2</sup>	<b>Biogeographic Region:</b> JNCC regional sea: Irish Sea. OSPAR region III: Celtic Seas.
<b>Site Location:</b> 53° 58' 0.963" N, 2° 57' 18.823" W 53.966934 Lat, -2.955229 Long. Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area projection, ETRS89 datum			
<b>Inshore/Offshore:</b> Inshore			
<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Feature name</b>	<b>Area/no. of records</b>	<b>Conservation Objective</b>
Species FOCI	Smelt ( <i>Osmerus eperlanus</i> )	-	Maintain
Species FOCI	European eel ( <i>Anguilla Anguilla</i> )	-	Maintain

**Table 2. Sector Impacts and Associated Best Estimate Costs**

Sectors Impacted	Best Estimate Costs (£ per year)
Commercial fishing	12,000
Renewable energy (wind, wave and tida;)	49,000
Archaeology	Unquantified
Best Estimate Total Cost = £61,000	

**Table 3. Designation Status of Site and Rationale**

<b>Decision</b>	Requires further consideration
<b>Rationale for Decision:</b>	
<b>Site Advantages</b>	
<p>The Wyre-Lune recommended MCZ is an inshore site measuring 92 km<sup>2</sup>. Within this rMCZ there are two Species FOCI, Smelt (<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>) and European eel (<i>Anguilla Anguilla</i>), which are not currently protected within marine protected areas in the Irish Sea project area. The UK has international responsibility to protect both species which have shown marked declines within the UK. If this site is not put forward, there would be less than 3 replicates of each of the FOCI species European eel (<i>Anguilla Anguilla</i>) and Smelt (<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>), in the Irish Sea Region, and therefore ENG targets would not be met.</p>	
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	
<p>The Wyre-Lune recommended MCZ is supported by most stakeholders in order to satisfy the ENG targets. There was a reluctance of some industry stakeholders particularly marine renewables to agree to this site until they have assurances in writing from the appropriate regulators. The site was agreed subject to appropriate management measures that allow existing and future cable infrastructure, and that appropriate consideration is given to future wave/tidal devices.</p>	
<p>The main sector impacted by this site is the Renewable Energy sector, for this sector there is a best estimate cost of £49,000 associated with an increase in costs of assessing environmental impacts for licence applications. There is also an indication that there could be unquantified cost to the Archaeology sector, associated with an increase in costs of assessing environmental</p>	

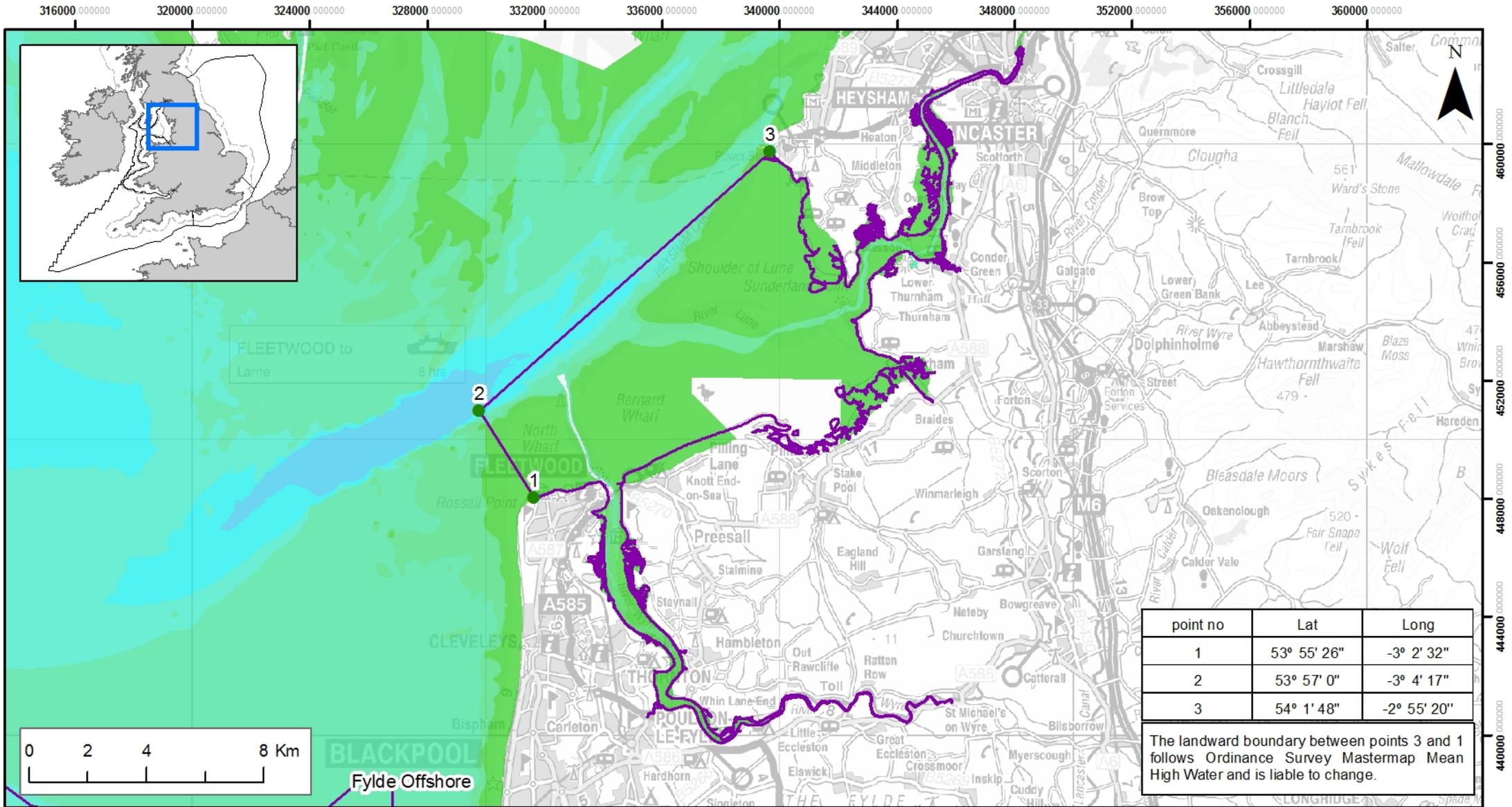
impacts for future licence applications.

**Data Certainty:**

The Wyre-Lune recommended MCZ has acceptable data certainty for both features.

**Conclusion:**

For this site there is still uncertainty as to whether the conservation advantages are sufficient to justify the socio-economic implications. Therefore this site will require further consideration. We have decided that further work is needed to provide more clarity about the associated cost to the Renewable Energy sector and whether it could be reduced.



## Lune and Wyre Estuaries

Recommended MCZ

- Recommended MCZ
- rMCZ boundary co-ordinates
- MCZ Regional Projects boundaries
- England 12nM Territorial Seas Limit

## Depth Areas (m)

- 20.0 - -10.0
- 25.1 - 50.0
- 9.9 - -5.0
- 50.1 - 100.0
- 4.9 - 0.0
- 100.1 - 250.0
- 0.1 - 5.0
- 250.1 - 500.0
- 5.1 - 10.0
- 500.1 - 1000.0
- 10.1 - 25.0

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