



## The Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) (2009): Section 126

### Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Screening Opinion

This Screening Opinion should be read in conjunction with the guidance in [DN18.1, published online](#) and in the [Conservation Advice Packages](#).

**Table 1. MMOs decision-making process with regards to the MCZ Screening Opinion for the project listed below.**

Title of project	The Dover Harbour Revision Order 2022
Applicant name	Dover Harbour Board
Applicant address	Harbour House, Marine Parade, Dover, Kent, CT17 9BU
Type of activity	Construction - Breakwater
Case reference	HRO/2021/00006
Location of works	Dover Harbour
Description of project	Construction of a 70m long outer wave screen designed to protect the entrance to the new marina in Dover from wave energy reflected from the north-eastern corner of the harbour at high water.
Is an activity proposed by this Harbour Order application taking place within or near an area being put forward for or already designated as an MCZ?	<p>Yes, the proposed works will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.8km from the Dover to Folkestone MCZ;</li> <li>2km from the Dover to Deal MCZ;</li> <li>6.7km from the Folkestone Pomerania MCZ;</li> <li>11.6km from the Goodwin Sands MCZ; and</li> <li>12km Foreland MCZ</li> </ul> <p>Given the distance of the Folkestone Pomerania, Goodwin Sands and Foreland MCZs from the proposed work, no pathway has been identified for the works to impact these sites and they will not be considered further.</p>

<b>MCZ site name</b>		<b>Dover to Folkestone</b> Dover to Folkestone Marine Conservation Zone factsheet (publishing.service.gov.uk)
<b>Protected feature</b>	<b>Type of feature</b>	<b>Conservation objective</b>
Low energy intertidal rock	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
High energy intertidal rock	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal underboulder communities	Intertidal communities	Maintain in favourable condition
Littoral chalk communities	Littoral communities	Maintain in favourable condition
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal coarse sediment	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal mud	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in favourable condition
Native oyster ( <i>Ostrea edulis</i> )	Shellfish species	Maintain in favourable condition
Folkestone Warren	Geological feature	Maintain in favourable condition
<b>MCZ site name</b>		<b>Dover to Deal</b> Dover to Deal Marine Conservation Zone factsheet (publishing.service.gov.uk)
<b>Protected feature</b>	<b>Type of feature</b>	<b>Conservation objective</b>
High energy intertidal rock	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in a favourable condition
Intertidal coarse sediment	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in a favourable condition
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in a favourable condition
Intertidal underboulder communities	Intertidal communities	Maintain in a favourable condition
Littoral chalk communities	Littoral communities	Maintain in a favourable condition
Low energy intertidal rock	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in a favourable condition

Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in a favourable condition
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in a favourable condition
Native oyster ( <i>Ostrea edulis</i> )	Shellfish species	Maintain in a favourable condition
Subtidal chalk	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in a favourable condition
Subtidal mixed sediments	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in a favourable condition
Subtidal sand	Broadscale marine habitat	Maintain in a favourable condition
Blue mussel beds	Shellfish species	Recover to a favourable condition
High energy circalittoral rock	Broadscale marine habitat	Recover to a favourable condition
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Broadscale marine habitat	Recover to a favourable condition
Ross worm reefs	Benthic species	Recover to a favourable condition
<p>Is a proposed activity capable of affecting (other than insignificantly) the protected features of an MCZ or any ecological or geomorphological process on which the conservation of any protected feature of an MCZ is (wholly or in part) dependant?</p> <p>Consider hazard – pathway – receptors to identify how a proposed activity may interact with features of the MCZ. You should also refer <a href="#">to Advice on Marine operations Guidance</a> and supporting excel documents.</p>		
<b>MCZ site name</b>		<b>Dover to Folkestone</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-conservation-zones-dover-to-folkestone">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-conservation-zones-dover-to-folkestone</a>
<b>Protected feature</b>	<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Potential exposure to hazard and mechanism of effect/impact if known</b>
Low energy intertidal rock	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>

<p>Moderate energy intertidal rock</p>	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>
<p>High energy intertidal rock</p>	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>
<p>Intertidal coarse sediment</p>	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. . The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>

<p>Intertidal sand and muddy sand</p>	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover.</p>
<p>Intertidal underboulder communities</p>	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>
<p>Littoral chalk communities</p>	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>

<p>Moderate energy infralittoral rock</p>	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>
<p>Subtidal coarse sediment</p>	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>

Subtidal mixed sediments	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>
Subtidal mud	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>

Subtidal sand	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>
Native oyster ( <i>Ostrea edulis</i> )	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover.</p>
Folkestone Warren (SSSI chalk cliff geological feature)	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>



<b>MCZ site name</b>		<b>Dover to Deal</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-conservation-zones-dover-to-deal">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-conservation-zones-dover-to-deal</a>
<b>Protected feature</b>	<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Potential exposure to hazard and mechanism of effect/impact if known</b>
High energy intertidal rock	Increase in suspended sediment  Release of contaminated sediments	Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.  The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.
Intertidal coarse sediment	Increase in suspended sediment  Release of contaminated sediments	Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.  The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.

<p>Intertidal sand and muddy sand</p>	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>
<p>Intertidal underboulder communities</p>	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>

Littoral chalk communities	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>
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Moderate energy infralittoral rock	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>
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Native oyster ( <i>Ostrea edulis</i> )	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>

Subtidal chalk	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>
Subtidal mixed sediments	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>

Subtidal sand	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>
Blue mussel beds	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>

<p>High energy circalittoral rock</p>	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>
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Ross worm reefs	<p>Increase in suspended sediment</p> <p>Release of contaminated sediments</p>	<p>Any increase in suspended sediment from the piling works is likely to be limited to the vicinity of the works and is unlikely to extend to the MCZ. The location of the works is within the harbour therefore further reducing the likelihood of any pathway for increase in suspended sediment to the MCZ.</p> <p>The piling is unlikely to result in the release of significant contaminated sediments as the sampling undertaken in 2019 for maintenance dredging indicated that there were low levels of contaminated sediment within the port of Dover. It was considered that this material was suitable for disposal at sea, therefore it is not considered that a release of sediments would significantly affect this protected feature.</p>
Is an activity capable of affecting (other than insignificantly) either:	(i) the protected features of an MCZ?	No
	(ii) any ecological or geomorphological process on which the conservation of any protected feature of an MCZ is (wholly or in part) dependant?	No



<p><b>Conclusion</b></p>	<p>The MMO has determined that the activity is <b>not deemed capable</b> of affecting either (i) the protected features of the above proposed MCZ; or (ii) any ecological or geomorphological process on which the conservation of any protected feature of the above MCZ is (wholly or in part) dependant.</p> <p>The works will not take place directly within any MCZ. There will be an increase in suspended sediment, however this will be localised to the works site, within the harbour area. Any increase in suspended sediment is unlikely to be significant and is very unlikely will not extend to the MCZs considered. As there has been recent sediment sampling for maintenance dredge activities in this area which showed that there were low levels of contaminated sediment in the area, it is not considered likely that contaminants being released by the piling activities would likely impact the MCZs</p> <p>The MMO considers that the project <b>will not require further assessment</b> regarding its impact on the protected features of the MCZs.</p>		
<p>Name of case officer</p>	<p>David Morris</p>	<p>Date</p>	<p>27 June 2022</p>