

Environment, Marine & Fisheries Group
Marine & Fisheries Division



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Date: 26 June 2017



Dear Sir/Madam

**INCLUSION OF NORTH CHANNEL AS A SPECIAL AREA OF
CONSERVATION IN THE REGISTER OF EUROPEAN SITES**

You may be aware of the Department's proposal to designate the North Channel as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora.

In accordance with Regulation 11(1) of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995, notice is hereby given that the Department has included the North Channel Special Area of Conservation in the Register of European Sites. I have enclosed a copy of the relevant Register entry for your information, in accordance with Regulation 11(2).

The register is compiled and maintained under Regulation 10 of the same Regulations. A copy of the Register is available in this office for inspection by the public during normal working hours, free of charge.

As this site includes waters beyond the jurisdiction of the Department the site was also entered into the the European Register held by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in accordance with regulation 16 of The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

Further information about this site is available on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's website via the following links:

- North Channel cSAC: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7242>

If you require any further information please contact Marine Conservation and Reporting as detailed above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Armstrong', written in a cursive style.

Colin Armstrong
MARINE CONSERVATION AND REPORTING
MARINE & FISHERIES DIVISION

Register Entry UK 0030399



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Register Entry UK 0030399 under Regulation 10 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended).

This is the register entry for the European site known as North Channel Site of Community Importance. The site will be designated by the Secretary of State pursuant to Article 4(4) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora as a Special Area of Conservation.

The register reference number for this European site is UK/0030399 and a folder, kept under this reference as part of the register, contains a map of the European site and a citation giving the reasons for the designation of the site as a candidate Special Area of Conservation. The map and citation are identified by the register reference number and signed on the date of registration.

Other details of the European site are as follows:

Date submitted to the European Commission: 30 January 2017

Site centre location¹:

Longitude: 05 17 37 W

Latitude: 54 27 20 N

Area: 160,367 hectares

Priority status²: No

Date of Registration: 28 February 2017

**The Official Seal of the
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
hereunto affixed is authenticated
by:**

Colin Armstrong
On behalf of the Department of
Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

-
1. This indicates the approximate centre of the site. Where the European site consists of several distinct areas, the co-ordinates of the most important sub-area are entered.
 2. Indicates if the site has been identified under Article 4.2 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora as hosting one or more priority natural habitat or priority species.

Reasons for recommendation as a Site of Community Importance

Area Name: North Channel

Administrative Area: Antrim/Down/Offshore

Component ASSI: N/A

This area has been recommended as a Site of Community Importance (SCI) because it contains habitat types and/or species which are rare or threatened within a European context. The habitats and/or species for which the area has been recommended as an SCI are listed below.

Site Description:

The North Channel cSAC is located in the Celtic and Irish Sea Management Unit³ and has been recognised as an area with predicted persistent high densities of harbour porpoise. The site stretches along part of the east coast of Northern Ireland from Island Magee in the north to south of Cloughey. It extends across the northern part of the Irish Sea, with its southern edge bordering Isle of Man waters and the eastern edge following the Northern Ireland Adjacent Waters Boundary. Harbour porpoise occur within the site year round but during the winter, persistently higher densities of harbour porpoise are present here compared to other parts of the Management Unit. The site comprises an area of 1,604km² and habitats include coarse or sandy sediments, with patches of rock and mud. Water depths within the site reach a maximum of 150m along the eastern boundary, but much of the site lies between 10m and 40m. The site covers important winter habitat for harbour porpoise.

Qualifying Interest(s) submitted to the European Commission:

1. **1351: Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)**

- for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

³ JNCC Report No: 547 Management Units for cetaceans in UK waters (January 2015)
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Report_547_webv2.pdf



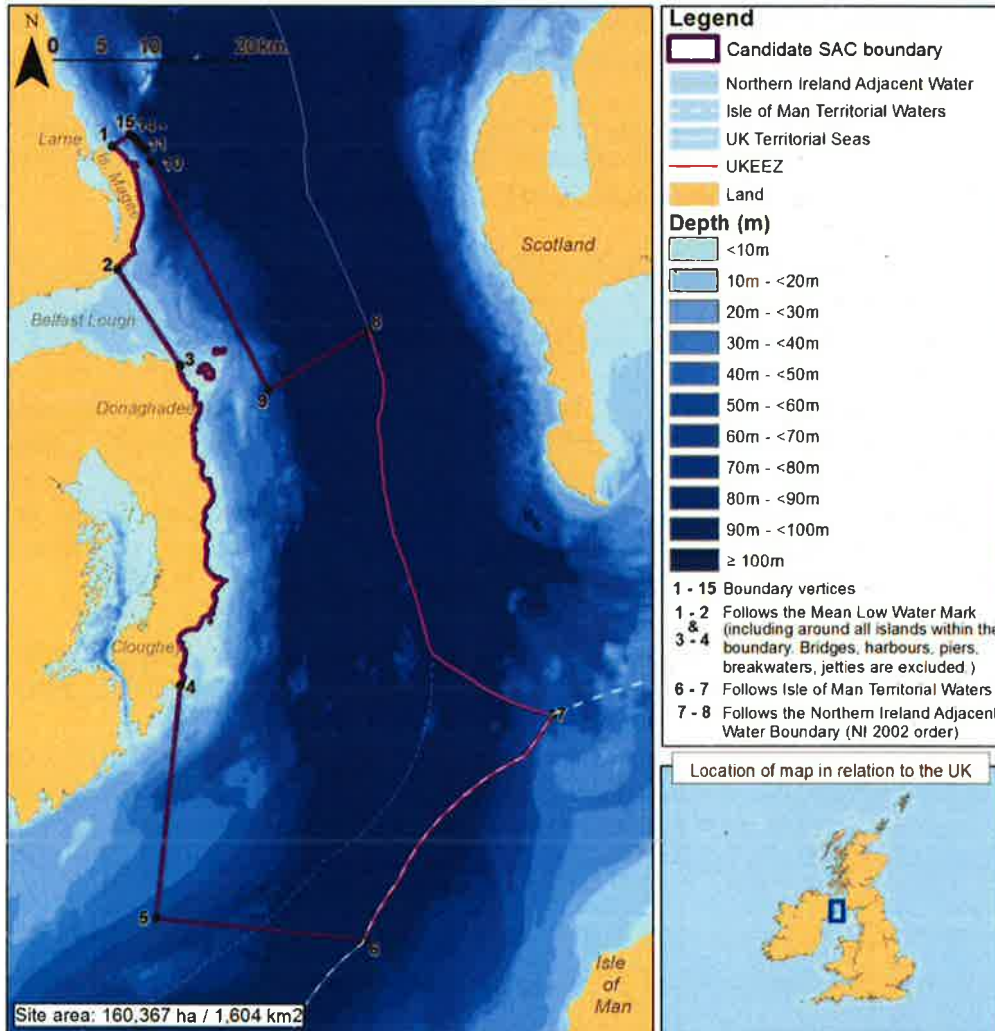
References

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- DAERA and JNCC (2017) SAC Selection Assessment: North Channel. January, 2017. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, UK. Available from: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7242>

Colin Armstrong
On behalf of the Department of
Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs



North Channel



Site area: 160,367 ha / 1,604 km²

Includes data provided by UKHO, Open StreetMap, Defra and JNCC. © Crown Copyright ©OpenStreetMap contributors. All rights reserved. Not to be used for navigation. © JNCC 01/2017

ID	Latitude	Longitude	ID	Latitude	Longitude	ID	Latitude	Longitude
1	54° 51' 34.7" N	5° 45' 46.6" W	6	54° 11' 30.7" N	5° 5' 8.3" W	11	54° 51' 50.6" N	5° 42' 33.9" W
2	54° 44' 55.9" N	5° 42' 33.0" W	7	54° 25' 59.8" N	4° 52' 7.7" W	12	54° 52' 1.0" N	5° 43' 14.3" W
3	54° 40' 30.7" N	5° 34' 37.0" W	8	54° 44' 48.0" N	5° 17' 30.8" W	13	54° 52' 11.2" N	5° 43' 35.8" W
4	54° 23' 6.4" N	5° 27' 40.7" W	9	54° 40' 16.0" N	5° 25' 43.8" W	14	54° 52' 19.8" N	5° 43' 59.1" W
5	54° 10' 8.4" N	5° 25' 0.3" W	10	54° 51' 14.4" N	5° 41' 45.0" W	15	54° 52' 25.8" N	5° 44' 21.3" W

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