



MPA Conservation Advice

Application and Review

Purpose of the workshop



- To introduce the MPA Conservation Advice Project
- To secure feedback on the Operational Standard
- To secure feedback on the clarity and usefulness of the pilot conservation advice
- To identify evidence that would further improve the advice for the specific pilot site advice

What is Conservation Advice?



- Advice is provided for Marine Protected Areas in English waters out to 12 nautical miles
- MPAs protect habitats, species and geology of national and international importance
- Conservation advice supports authorities who manage MPAs to achieve favourable condition
- Conservation Advice:
 - Information on features
 - Conservation objectives
 - Current condition of features
 - Advice on operations



Natural England's MPA Conservation Advice Project



- Recognition that conservation advice requires improvement
- Major new project to provide advice that is:
 - Clear
 - Easily understood
 - Meets the needs of organisations and individuals who use it
- Part of wider work to improve conservation objectives across marine and terrestrial designated sites
- Key aspiration to produce quantified targets for designated habitats and species where evidence is available



MPA Conservation Advice Operational Standard



- Natural England will publish a Standard to set out the principles and process that we will use to produce our advice, its structure and content and our ambitions on how it will be made available.
- It includes two steps to secure your input:
 1. To secure evidence that will inform the development of revised or new advice for MPAs
 2. A 20 day period to review draft advice prior to finalisation.
- Your views on the Standard are welcome.
- It will be finalised in the Autumn of 2013

Timescales for implementation



Publication of the draft Operational Standard and pilot advice	September 2013
Application and review	September – October 2013
Revise Operational Standard based on feedback	Autumn 2013
Review and update conservation advice for all European Marine Sites	Autumn 2013 to April 2016
Provide conservation advice for new / amended MPAs	From designation / moderation onwards

Operational Standards: In greater detail



- Describes how Natural England will produce its standing Conservation Advice for MPAs
- A reference for all stakeholders providing clarity on how advice for Marine Protected Areas is developed
- This standard sets out:
 1. The principles of Conservation Advice for Marine Protected Areas
 2. The structure of Conservation Advice for Marine Protected Areas
 3. A nine stage approach to develop and review Conservation Advice.

Operational Standards: the Principles



1. Advice should be easily accessible
2. Consistent in approach and structure
3. clear and stakeholder-focused
4. clear guidance for its internal production and external use
5. Stakeholders should be engaged in the production of advice
6. advice should be quantified where there is supporting evidence
7. Uses best available evidence base and confidence limits stipulated
8. best available evidence to be used to inform conservation objectives
9. Advice should be updated when the evidence base improves
10. The effectiveness of advice should be regularly assessed
11. The activities that could impact a sites features should be clearly identified.

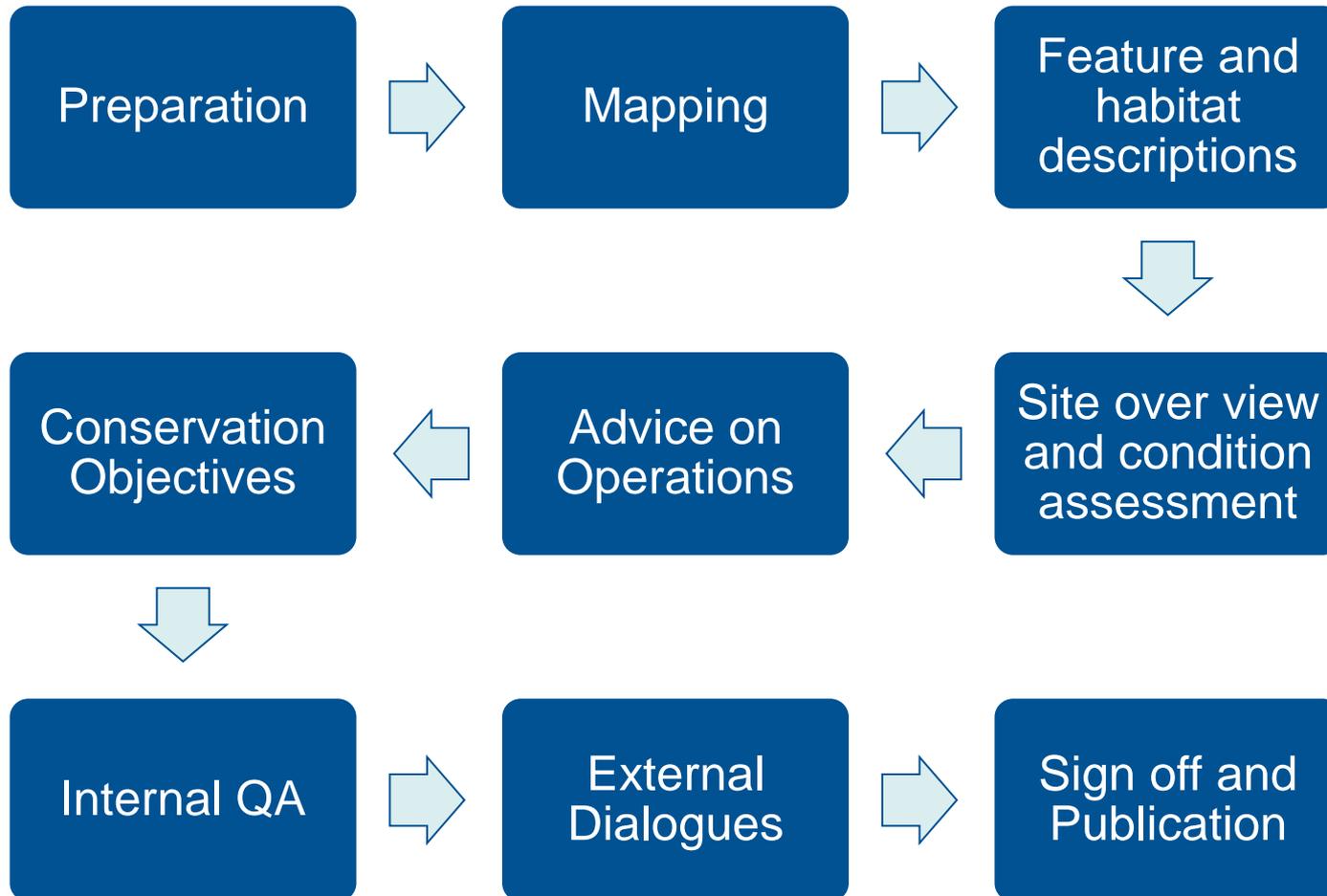
Operational Standards: The Structure



The Structure of Conservation Advice is to have 5 key sections

1. Site overview and feature descriptions
2. Condition information
3. Conservation Objectives
4. Advice on Operations
5. Site maps

Operational Standards: The Nine Stage Process



Pilot Document: Site over view



- **Site Over View:** description of it's site, location, features and adjoining/ adjacent sites
- **Feature Description:** Designation of feature, and it's generic description and ecology, UK status and distribution
- **Site specific information:** Information for the feature for this site

Questions

- Is there any information not included which you think should be?
- Is there any information which you think is excessive?
- Is the evidence used in this section appropriate and transparent. If not how could it be improved?

Pilot Document: Conservation Objectives



This section has two parts;

1. Conservation Objective

Outlining the features, their condition and the attributes used to assess the condition of the feature

2. Supplementary Advice

To help inform Habitats Regulation Assessments

Question

- Is it clear how the conservation objectives should be used?
- should there be more or less technical detail included?

Pilot Document: Advice on Operations

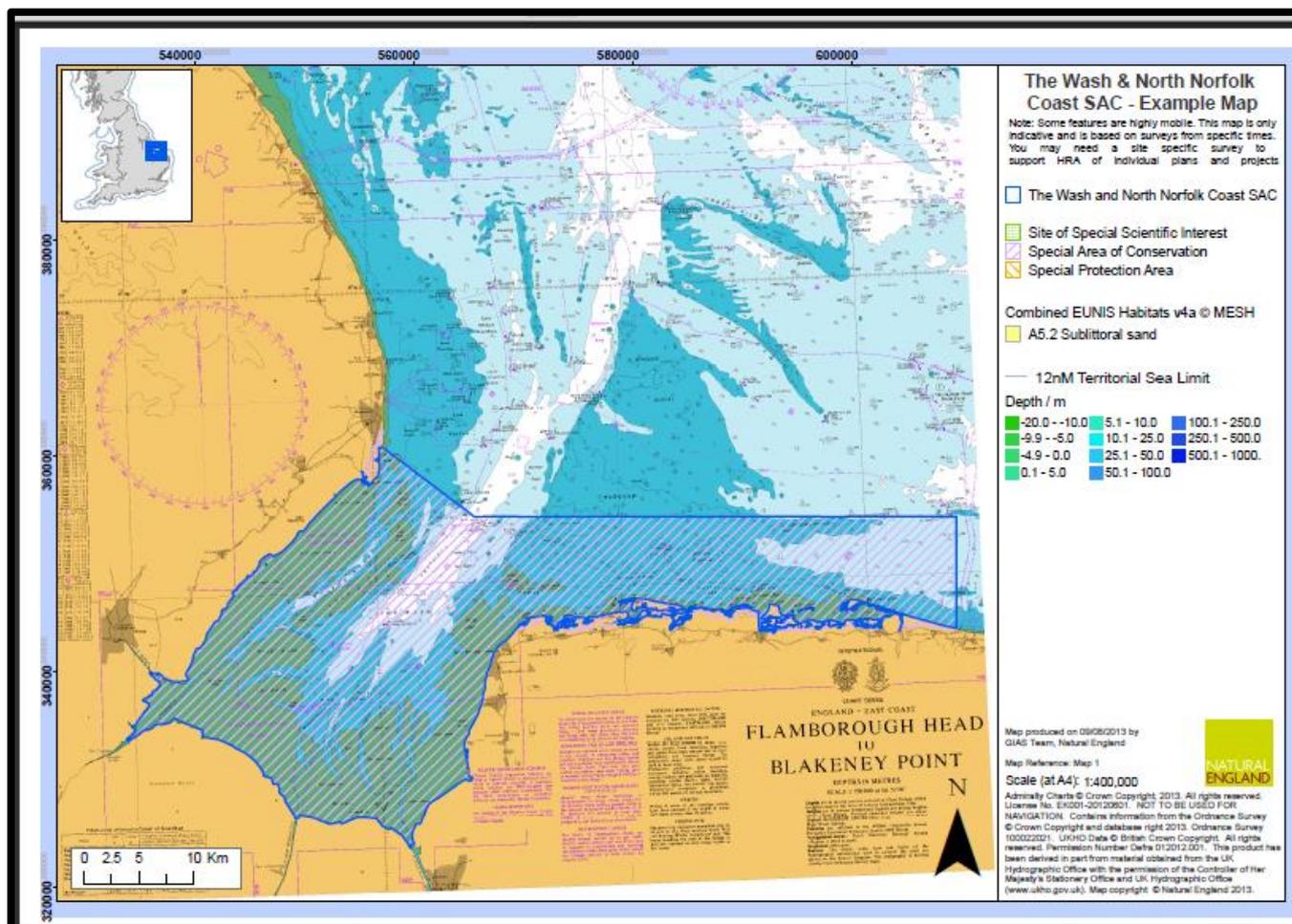


- to provide managers and stakeholders with a general assessment of potential conservation issues that may arise from certain activities.
- we have included an activity-component where we structure the information according to known links between activities and their pressures
- A focus on the sensitivity of the features to those activities and pressures

Questions

- Do you feel this is an improvement?
- Is information on sensitivity useful to you?

Pilot Document: Site Maps



Example Web Page



Skip to content Skip to section navigation Home Contact us Search enter search terms go?

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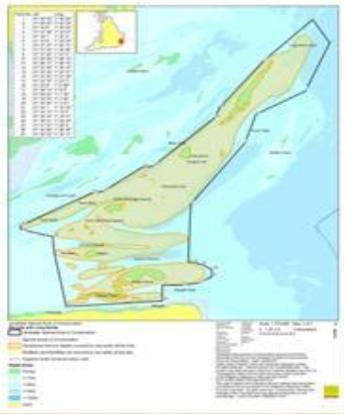
About us Our work Publications, maps & data Grants & funding Advice & information

Our work



Site name: **Margate and Longsands (cSAC)**

Designated feature (s): **Sandbanks** (which are slightly covered by seawater all the time)
Subfeature (s): [Dynamic sand communities](#)
[Gravelly muddy sand communities](#)



Site documentation

- [Selection Assessment Document](#)
- [Standard Data form](#)
- [Advice on Operations](#)

Conservation advice

- [Site management](#)
- [Feature condition](#)
- [Site pressures](#)
- [Feature sensitivities](#)
- [Feature risk](#)

Site monitoring

- [Monitoring report](#)
- [Condition report](#)
- [Other science](#)

Proposing a plan or a project that may have an impact on this site?

Use our [web-GIS tool](#) together with our [step-by-step guide](#) to gain advice on your proposed operation.

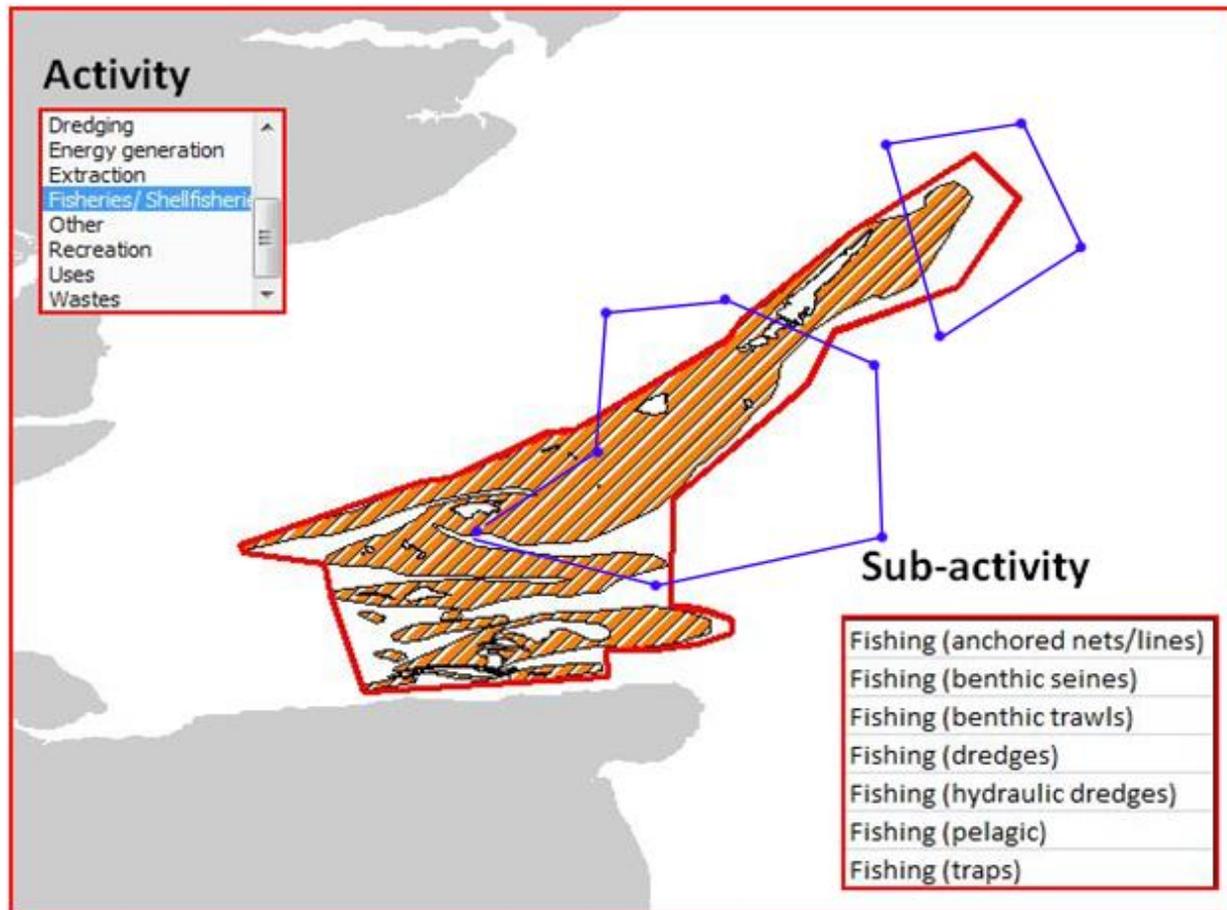
[Previous advice given for plans or projects within this site](#)
[Live plans or projects currently underway within the site](#)

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Phone: 0300 060 1234

Our Aims

- Logical user interface
- A key element of delivering conservation advice will be the web-GIS tool allowing users to plot their activities before they receive their advice

Operator focussed Web-GIS



Aggregated site information



Site name		Margate and Longsands				
Designation(s)		cSAC				
Protected feature to which activity pressures are vulnerable						
Feature	Subfeature	Confidence in feature/subfeature presence and extent	Feature specific pressures caused by my proposed activity**1	Overall sensitivity of feature to proposed activity	Area of proposed activity affects	Proportion of total feature in site
<u>Sandbanks which are slightly covered with seawater all the time</u>	<u>Dynamic sand communities</u>	<u>H,H</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>Highly sensitive</u>	500 ha	12%
	Gravelly muddy sand communities	H,M	<u>7</u>	<u>Highly sensitive</u>	900 ha	8%
Site contact:		emma.kelman@naturalengland.org.uk				

The Questions



- Is there any information we've missed out?
- Is there too much information?
- Is this clearly laid out and easy to understand?
- Can you see how you would use this?
- Is the evidence use appropriate and transparent. could it be improved?
- Is the level of detail outlined at the right, should more or less technical detail be included?

THANK YOU!