Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Conservation Assessment Package

Supporting Document for

Shore Gathering Byelaw

Document Control

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Correspondence History

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Section A: Introduction

1.0 Shore Gathering Review

During 2022, Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) commenced a review of management for shore gathering activities in the District, to consider where management may be required for Tranche 3 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) and in response to an update to the evidence base provided by the Statutory Nature Conservation Body, Natural England, on the location and extent of designated features. In addition, the review encompassed consideration of a review of existing legislation which relates to shore gathering activities.

This review was further informed in 2023 by the publication of The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (EIP)[1], introduced by Government as the first revision of the 25-Year Environment Plan[2]. The Environment Plan identified the Government's intention to support progress towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals under the Global Biodiversity Framework which includes protection of 30% of the global ocean by 2030. At a domestic level, the Government aim to achieve this by enhancing protection for MPAs. Under the goal of Thriving Plants and Wildlife in the EIP, there is a target for 70% of designated features in MPAs to be in favourable condition by 2042 with the remainder in recovering condition and a new interim target of 48% of this to be achieved by 31st January 2028. The delivery of this is to be supported through strengthened protections in MPAs by 2024. Appropriate regulators, including IFCAs, are required to ensure that management measures are in place for all MPAs by 2024 in order for this interim target to be achieved. For the Southern IFCA, this includes management of shore gathering activities in relevant MPAs.

In line with the targets for the EIP, the Shore Gathering Review was re-defined to focus on **feature-based management interventions for MPAs: sites designated under the National Site Network (SACs, SPAs and MCZs).**

2.0 Scope of Conservation Assessment Package

This Conservation Assessment Package considers the review of shore gathering activities in the Southern IFCA District and the resulting development of management measures in the form of The Shore Gathering Byelaw 2024 and the Southern IFCA Seaweed Harvesting Code of Conduct. The Part B/Appropriate Assessment part of the assessment process reviews these two management measures as providing mitigation against potential impacts for relevant Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

[1] Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
[2] 25 Year Environment Plan - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Management measures for shore gathering activities must ensure that Southern IFCA is able to meet legal duties under the following legislation:

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 ('the MaCAA')[3]

Duties under Section 154 of MaCAA

(1) The authority for an IFC district must seek to ensure that the conservation objectives of any MCZ in the district are furthered
(2) Nothing in section 153(2) is to affect the performance of the duty imposed by this section

Section 125 of MaCAA also requires that public bodies (which includes IFCAs) exercise their functions in a manner to best further (or, if not possible, least hinder) the conservation objectives for MCZs.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017[4], as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019[5] (collectively 'the Conservation Regulations')

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, ('2019 Regs') transposes the land and marine aspects of the Habitats Directive and the Wild Birds Directive into domestic law and outlines how the National Site Network will be managed and reflect any changes required by EU Exit.

As a competent authority, Southern IFCA must exercise its functions…so as to secure compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and the Wild Birds Directive.

In line with legal duties under the MaCAA in relation to MCZs and the Conservation Regulations for SACs and SPAs, and for feature-based management, the review considered the following:

- Feature-based management for features **within** MCZs
- Feature-based management for features **within or adjacent to** SACs or SPAs[6]

A determination of whether management measures are appropriate to meet the legal duties for relevant sites is made through the completion of an MCZ Assessment (for MCZs) or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA, for SACs and SPAs). For the latter, a duty is placed on Southern IFCA as a competent authority under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, whereby any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on an SPA or SAC within the National Site Network, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is to undergo an appropriate assessment, namely a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA). The plan or project must be assessed in view of the site's conservation objectives.

[3] Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (legislation.gov.uk)
[4] The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (legislation.gov.uk)
[5] The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (legislation.gov.uk)
[6] The term 'adjacent' means a feature (to include any buffer) which extends across the boundary of the designated site, to ensure that the integrity of that part of the feature which exists within the boundary of the site is not affected by activity occurring over that same feature where it extends outside the boundary of the site.

Both types of assessment follow a stepwise process:

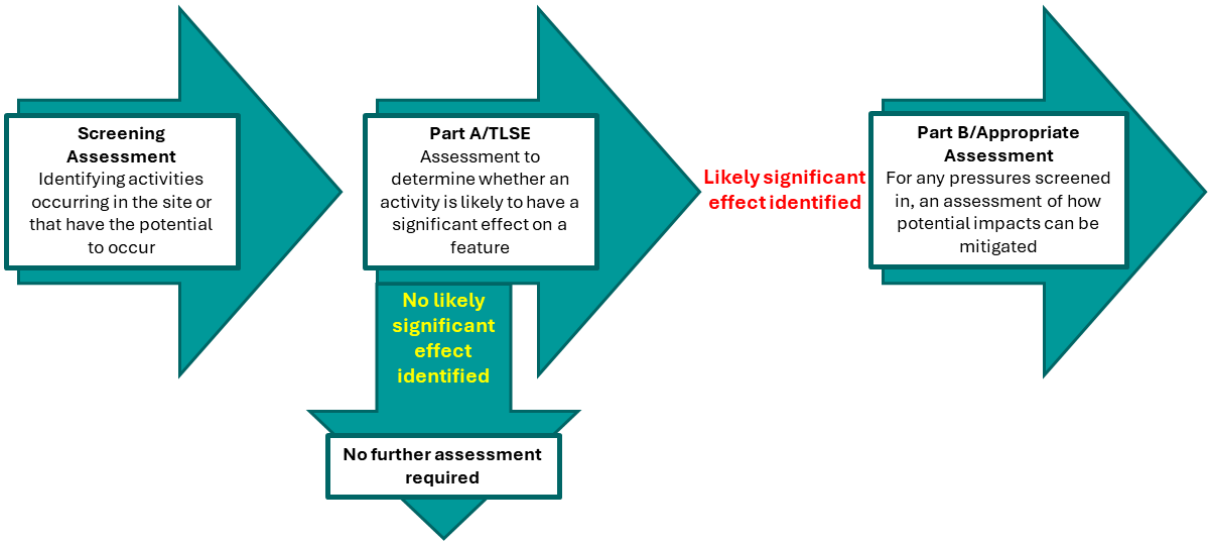

Figure 1: the stepwise process for carrying out an MCZ Assessment or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The terms 'Part A' and 'Part B' refer to MCZ Assessments, the terms 'TLSE' and 'Appropriate Assessment' refer to HRAs. TLSE = Test of Likely Significant Effect.

Accordingly, the following relevant Conservation Assessments have been undertaken as part of this package:

- Marine Conservation Zone Assessments
- Habitats Regulations Assessments

3.0 Supporting Documentation

This Conservation Assessment Package is to be read in conjunction with the **Shore Gathering Site Specific Evidence Packages** and the **Shore Gathering Literature Review**.

The Assessments in this Package have been informed by[7]:

- The Shore Gathering Site Activity Screening Document
- The Shore Gathering Part A Assessment Package
- The Shore Gathering TLSE Assessment Package

[7] Note that these documents are provided to Natural England in order to inform the provision of Formal Advice on the conclusions of the Conservation Assessments, these documents do not form part of the final Byelaw package but can be made available on request.

Section B: Relevant Activities

Through the Shore Gathering Review, the following activities have been identified as occurring or having the potential to occur within the Southern IFCA District, these activities are grouped into two types of 'Operation' by Natural England with corresponding 'Advice on Operations' provided. On this basis activities will be referred to by their Advice on Operations heading throughout this document.

Advice on Operations heading: **Shore-based activities**

Relevant activities in the Southern IFCA District:

- Bait digging/collection
- Shellfish gathering
- Crab tiling/collection
- Shrimp push-netting
- Mechanical harvesting (by hand)

Advice on Operations heading: **Seaweed harvesting**

Relevant activities in the Southern IFCA District:

- The harvesting of seaweed by hand from the shore

These activities do not all occur in all designated sites. As part of the stepwise process outlined in Figure 1, the Screening Assessment identified which National Site Network Sites had shore-based activities and/or seaweed harvesting either occur or have the potential to occur. Activities listed as 'occurring' were based on information contained within the **Shore Gathering Site Specific Evidence Packages** supporting document which considers data held by Southern IFCA, this was supplemented by anecdotal knowledge where required. Activities listed as having the 'potential' to occur were based on knowledge of habitats/species which could be found in each site, ability to access the site and local knowledge of the use of other similar sites. Section C1.0 details the outcomes of the Screening Assessment and indicates which National Site Network Sites were taken through to the Part A/TLSE stage of the stepwise process and the relevant Advice on Operations heading which was assessed.

For the activities under consideration in these assessments, method summaries are provided below. Information is also provided in the **Shore Gathering Site Specific Evidence Packages** supporting document on the following:

- Existing Southern IFCA shore gathering management specific to each designated site
- Levels of activity of shore gathering activities for each designated site
- Recorded catches associated with shore gathering activities for each designated site
- Any recorded offences associated with shore gathering activities for each designated site
- Combined summary of activity levels, catches and offences across the District MPAs

1.0 Method Summaries

The following sections provide method summaries for each of the above-listed shore gathering activities.

1.1 Bait Digging/Collection

Bait digging is carried out in the intertidal zone on mud and sand sediment habitats. The shore is usually accessed by foot, or in less usual cases via a vessel to the intertidal zone. The target species are marine polychaete worms (including *Arenicola marina, Hediste diversicolor, Alitta virens*).

These species are most often collected using a fork or spade, which is placed in the sediment and used to lift and turn over a pile of sediment. Garden forks and spades which can easily be purchased are typically used. The worms are then removed by hand from the sediment pile. The practice of returning the dug sediment to the hole created (backfilling) is recommended. Marine worms are collected for both commercial and recreational purposes.

1.2 Shellfish Gathering

Shellfish gathering is carried out in the intertidal zone on soft to coarse sediment types. The intertidal zone is accessed by foot and shellfish are collected by hand. This activity is carried out for commercial and recreational purposes the extent of which varies dependent upon the time of year. Recreational activity most often occurs in good weather over the summer months, whilst commercial activity can occur in most weathers and more often during periods when other shellfish fisheries are closed.

Manila clam and common cockle

Clams can be found by identifying their syphon holes in the sediment, and then simply picking the animal out of the sand by the hand or using a small handheld instrument such as a knife to ‘pop up’ up the clam.

Cockles are often also collected when gathering clams by hand. Separately, cockles may be targeted on sandier sediments using either small hand rakes or, garden-sized rakes. These typically have a sediment penetration depth of approximately 10cm.

Oysters

Pacific oysters, a non-native invasive species to the coasts of the Southern IFC District, are found on the sediment surface (typically coarse sediment) or attached to manmade structures such as sea walls and pontoons. Native oysters are usually found sub-tidally (although may occur intertidally) but due to predominance in the sub-tidal are much less likely to be collected by hand. Pacific oysters are simply picked up by hand without the need for any tools.

Razor clams

Razor clams are found in sandy sediments at or below the low tide line. They are located by finding the figure eight siphon hole on the sediment surface. Salt (typically fine table salt) is poured over the siphon hole and after a few seconds or minutes, the razor clam pushes up through the salt to clear the hole. The razor clam is then removed by hand.

1.3 Crab Tiling/Collection

Crab collection for use as bait for angling is carried out on the shore by foot. Rocks and boulders are overturned to find crabs. Crabs are retained if they are 'soft', having recently moulted their exoskeleton. The most common species targeted is *Carcinus maenas* due to its abundance, but *Necor puber* and *Cancer pagarus* may also be taken if found.

Crab tilling refers to a more targeted process where people place artificial structures, such as tiles, bricks, mats or tyres on the seabed between the high and low water marks. This is more likely to occur in areas where natural structures are not present for example; mud flats, sand flats, or coarse sediment types. The structures are left in place, with persons periodically returning at low water to turn over the objects or look within them and collect crabs which have recently moulted by hand.

1.4 Shrimp Push Netting

Shrimp (prawn) push netting is a recreational activity in which a person pushes a small hand-held net along the seabed in shallow water. The net mouth is approximately 1m x 0.5m in width and height, with a straight bar at the bottom. The net skims the surface of the sediment collecting the shrimp (*Palaemon* spp.) in the back of the net. This activity can only occur on large spring tides for approximately an hour at low water. Shrimp are usually found near rocks or algae covered areas. Push netting has been stated to occur primarily between July to mid-September.

1.5 Mechanical Harvesting

Mechanical collection refers to the use of machines or basic mechanics to gather or extract shore-based resources such as animals or plants, from their natural environment. This method is often used to increase efficiency and productivity compared to manual collection which typically uses simple tools (e.g., a rake, spade, etc.). The most common type of mechanical harvesting is through bait pumps.

Bait Pump

A specialised pump that collects sand or mud from the exposed shoreline at low tide and filters it to collect target species such as lugworm (*Arenicola marina*). Bait pumping originated in the 1800s with British fishermen using a hand-operated mechanism to extract bait from the sand. This evolved into the first mechanical pump in the early 1900s.

1.6 Seaweed Harvesting

Seaweeds are typically gathered by accessing rocky shores as the tide falls. Parts of the seaweed plant are cut off using scissors. Typically, the holdfast of the plant is left attached to the rock, and only a small number of the plant fronds are cut with scissors by hand. Loose seaweed may also be taken from the drift line along sandy or less rocky shores.

All seaweeds in the UK are described as edible, however some have become more popular due to taste, and texture including, *Fucus vesiculosus, Chondrus crispus, Palmaria palmata, Himanthalia elongate, Ulva* species, and *kelp* species. Seaweeds may also be collected for a specific purpose including for use in animal feed, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

Section C: National Site Network Sites

The following section details each of the National Site Network Sites relevant to the management of shore gathering activities, based on the outputs of the Screening Assessment and thus the sites which were taken forward to the Part A/TLSE stage.

1.0 Screening Assessment Outcomes

The Shore Gathering Review considered the need for feature-based management across all National Site Network Sites within the Southern IFCA District, therefore all MCZs, SACs and SPAs in the District were subject to the Screening Assessment. The outcome of the Screening Assessment required the following sites to be subject to a Part A Assessment (Section 1.1) or a Test of Likely Significant Effect (TLSE) (Section 1.2).

1.1 MCZs

Six MCZs were determined to require Part A Assessment from the outcomes of the Screening Assessment.

MCZ Site Name	Relevant Advice on Operations
Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges	• Shore-based activities • Seaweed harvesting
Purbeck Coast	• Shore-based activities • Seaweed harvesting
Studland Bay	• Shore-based activities • Seaweed harvesting
The Needles	• Shore-based activities • Seaweed harvesting
Yarmouth to Cowes	• Shore-based activities • Seaweed harvesting
Bembridge	• Shore-based activities • Seaweed harvesting

It was determined that the following sites would not be taken forward to a Part A Assessment on the basis that they are entirely subtidal, and are not able to be accessed for activities operating from the shore, therefore there is no potential for overlap between either of the Advice on Operations headings and the features of these sites:

- South of Portland MCZ
- Poole Rocks MCZ
- Southbourne Rough MCZ

1.2 SACs and SPAs

Five SACs and five SPAs were determined to require a TLSE Assessment from the outcomes of the Screening Assessment.

Site Name	Relevant Advice on Operations
Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC	• Seaweed harvesting
Chesil and The Fleet SAC	• Shore-based activities • Seaweed harvesting
Studland to Portland SAC	• Seaweed harvesting
Solent Maritime SAC	• Shore-based activities
South Wight Maritime SAC	• Shore-based activities • Seaweed harvesting
Chesil Beach and The Fleet SPA	• Shore-based activities • Seaweed harvesting
Poole Harbour SPA	• Shore-based activities • Seaweed harvesting
Solent and Southampton Water SPA	• Shore-based activities • Seaweed harvesting
Portsmouth Harbour SPA	• Shore-based activities • Seaweed harvesting
Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA	• Shore-based activities • Seaweed harvesting

For Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC where only one Advice on Operations heading is applicable, this is due to there being no suitable habitat in that site for the excluded AoO and therefore no potential for overlap or impact. For the Solen Maritime SAC it is recognised that the site overlaps with other designated sites which may have features that are suitable for seaweed gathering. However, there are no features designated under the Solent Maritime SAC itself which would support the target species for seaweed harvesting therefore when assessing this site on its own this activity can be screened out as not requiring a Part A Assessment, risks to habitats within designated sites where seaweed harvesting could occur that may overlap with the Solent Maritime SAC will be considered under the Part A Assessment for each relevant other site.

It was determined that the Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC would not be taken forward to a TLSE Assessment as all the lagoons designated for the site are in areas which are not accessible to shore gathering activities and are also not target habitats for the relevant activities. It was also determined that the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA would not be taken forward for a TLSE Assessment as the features of the site are breeding summer birds which interact with the water column (feeding) and shingle habitats (breeding). The areas where the birds may be using shingle habitats are identified as being within the Poole Harbour SPA, Solent and Southampton Water SPA and the Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA therefore the assessments for these species will be undertaken through the assessments for those relevant SPAs.

2.0 Information on Designated Sites

2.1 Marine Conservation Zones

For each site, detail is provided on the location and the location of designated features within the site. Detail of the designated features is provided along with the assigned General Management Approach, listed as either ‘recover’ or ‘maintain’, the GMA indicates what is required to achieve the Conservation Objectives for the site.

For sites with designated habitats, the conservation objectives are that the protected habitats:

1. are maintained in favourable condition if they are already in favourable condition
2. be brought into favourable condition if they are not already in favourable condition

For each protected feature, favourable condition means that, within an MCZ:

1. its extent is stable or increasing
2. its structure and functions, its quality, and the composition of its characteristic biological communities (including diversity and abundance of species forming part of inhabiting the habitat) are sufficient to ensure that its condition remains healthy and does not deteriorate.

Any temporary deterioration in condition is to be disregarded if the habitat is sufficiently healthy and resilient to enable its recovery.

For each species of marine fauna, favourable condition means that the population within a zone is supported in numbers which enable it to thrive, by maintaining:

1. the quality and quantity of its habitat
2. the number, age and sex ratio of its population. Any temporary reduction of numbers of a species is to be disregarded if the populations is sufficiently thriving and resilient to enable its recovery.

Any alteration to a feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded when determining whether a protected feature is in favourable condition.

2.1.1 Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ

The Chesil Beach to Stennis Ledges MCZ covers an area of 37 km^2 running along the coastline of Chesil Beach. The area covers a variety of rocky and sediment habitats and includes the Pink Sea Fan as a designated feature.

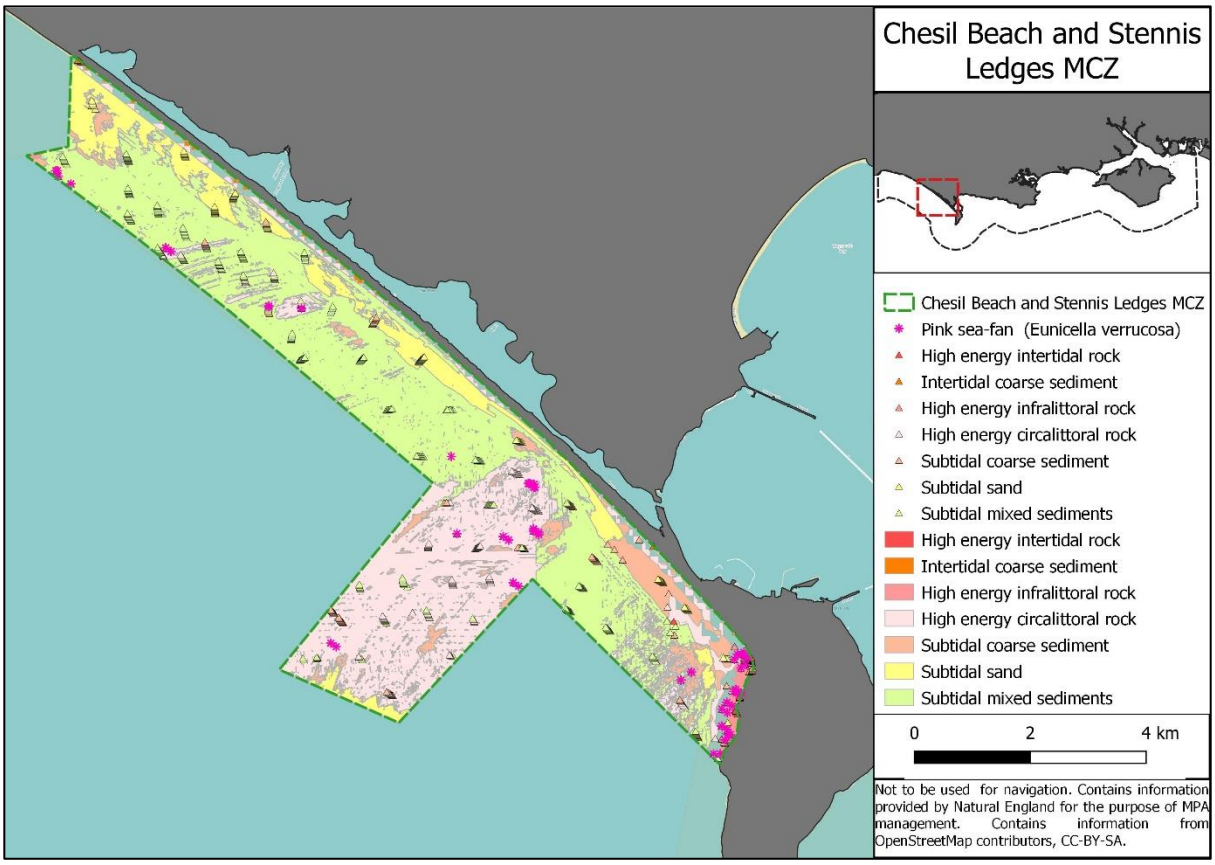

Figure 2: The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ (boundary shown by the dashed green line).

Table 1: Designated features of the Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ.

Designated features	General management approach
High-energy circalittoral rock	Recover
High-energy infralittoral rock	Maintain
High-energy intertidal rock	Maintain
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain
Native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*)	Recover
Pink sea fan (*Eunicella verrucosa*)	Recover
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain
Subtidal mixed sediments	Maintain
Subtidal sand	Maintain

2.1.2 Purbeck Coast MCZ

The Purbeck Coast MCZ covers an area of 282 km^2. The MCZ covers the area of coastline from Ringstead Bay in the West to north of Swanage Bay in the East. The Purbeck Coast MCZ is designated for a range of intertidal and subtidal habitats and species.

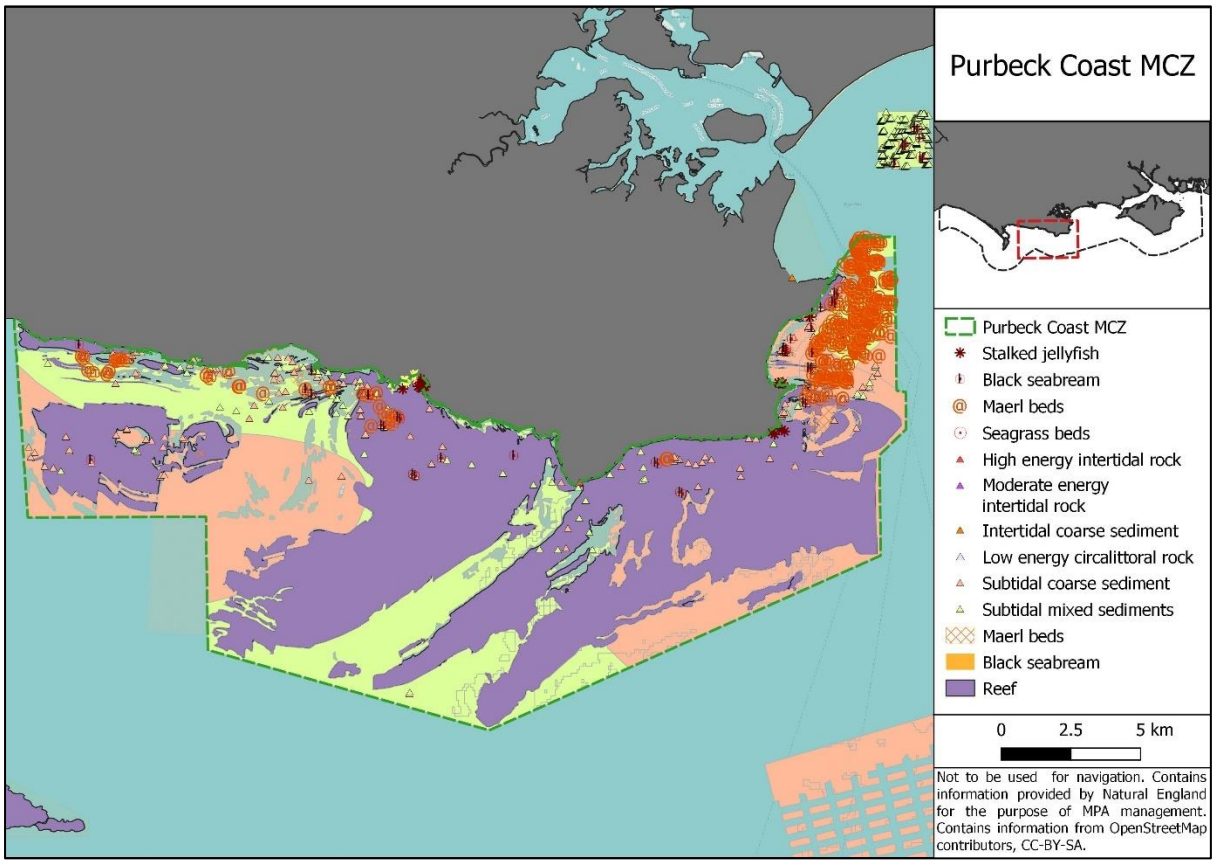

Figure 3: The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Purbeck Coast MCZ (boundary shown by the dashed green line).

Table 2: Designated features of the Purbeck Coast MCZ.

Designated features	General management approach
Black seabream (*Spondylisoma cantharus*)	Recover
High-energy intertidal rock	Maintain
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain
Maerl beds	Recover
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Maintain
Peacock's Tail (*Padina pavocina*)	Maintain
Stalked jellyfish (*Haliclystus spp*)	Maintain
Subtidal coarse sediment	Maintain
Subtidal mixed sediments	Maintain

2.1.3 Studland Bay MCZ

The Studland Bay MCZ is approximately 4 km^2 and relatively sheltered from prevailing south westerly winds by Ballard Down.

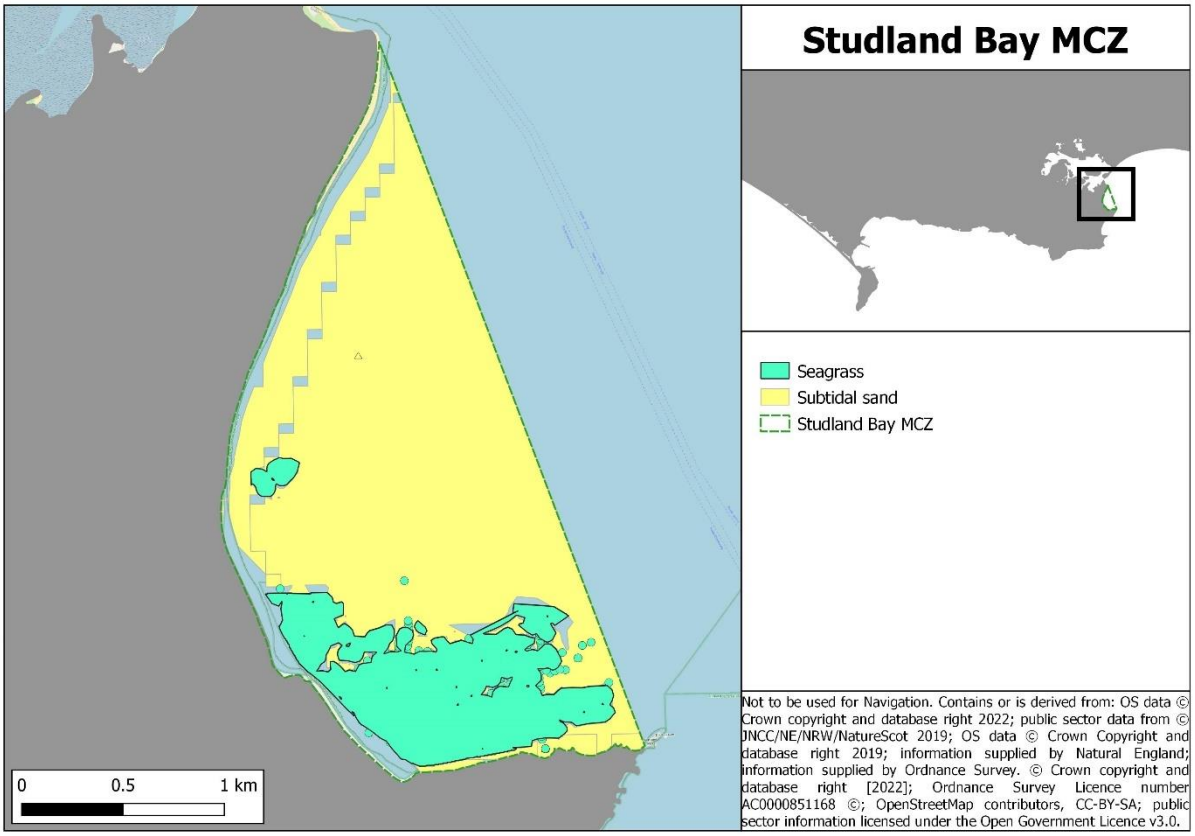

Figure 4: The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Studland Bay MCZ (boundary shown by the dashed green line).

Table 3: Designated features of the Studland Bay MCZ.

Designated features	General management approach
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain
Long snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*)	Maintain
Seagrass beds	Recover
Subtidal sand	Maintain

2.1.4 The Needles MCZ

The Needles MCZ is located on the west coast of the Isle of Wight and covers an area of 11 km^2. The MCZ covers the coastline from Fort Albert down to the Needles Geological feature along the mean high-water mark and extends up to 3 km from the shoreline.

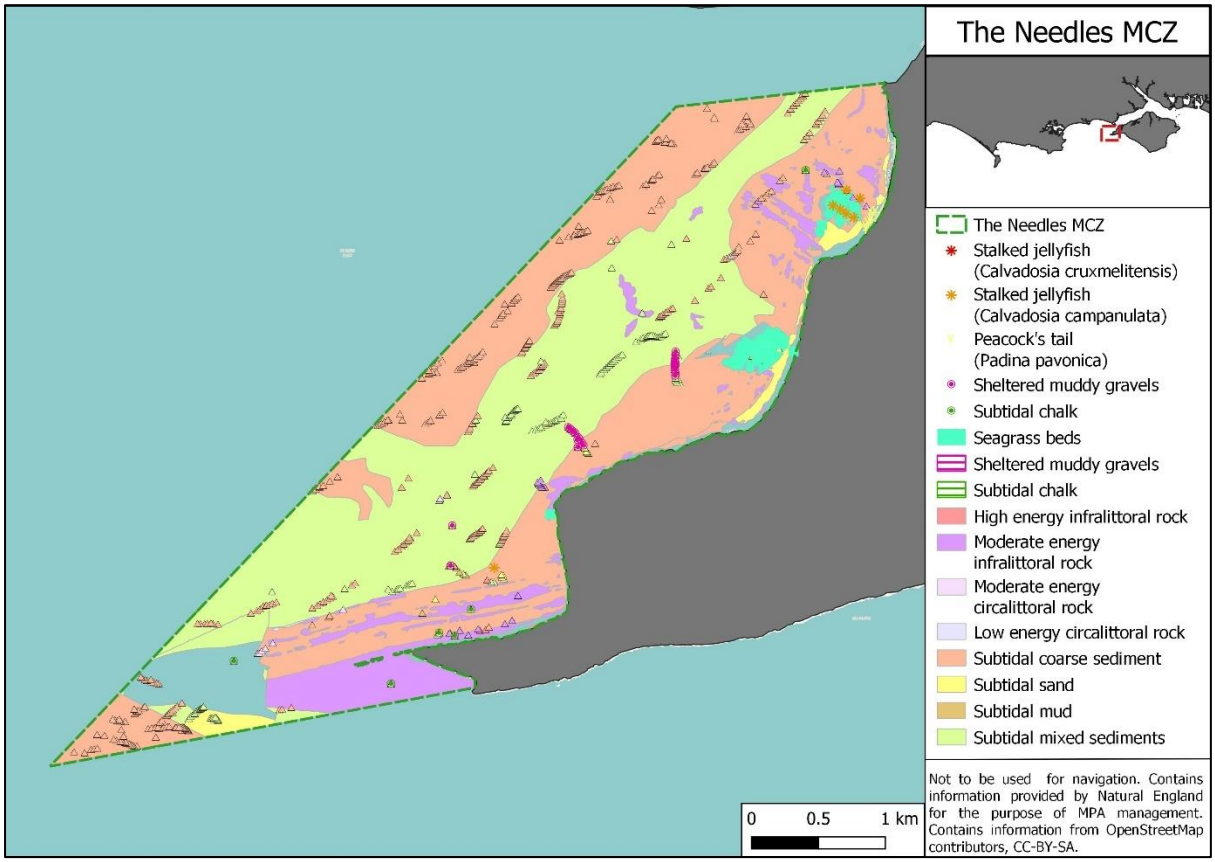

Figure 5: The location and extent of the supporting habitats of The Needles MCZ (boundary shown by the dashed green line).

Table 4: Designated features of The Needles MCZ.

Designated features	General management approach
High-energy infralittoral rock	Maintain
Moderate-energy circalittoral rock	Maintain
Moderate-energy infralittoral rock	Maintain
Native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*)	Recover
Peacock's Tail (*Padina pavocina*)	Recover
Seagrass beds	Recover
Sheltered muddy gravels	Recover
Stalked jellyfish (*Calvadosia campanulata*)	Maintain
Subtidal chalk	Recover
Subtidal coarse sediments	Recover
Subtidal mixed sediments	Recover
Subtidal mud	Recover
Subtidal sand	Recover

2.1.5 Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ

The Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ covers 16 km^2 and stretches from Gurnard in the east, a village west of Cowes, to Yarmouth pier in the West and extends to the edge of the Western Solent deep water channel.

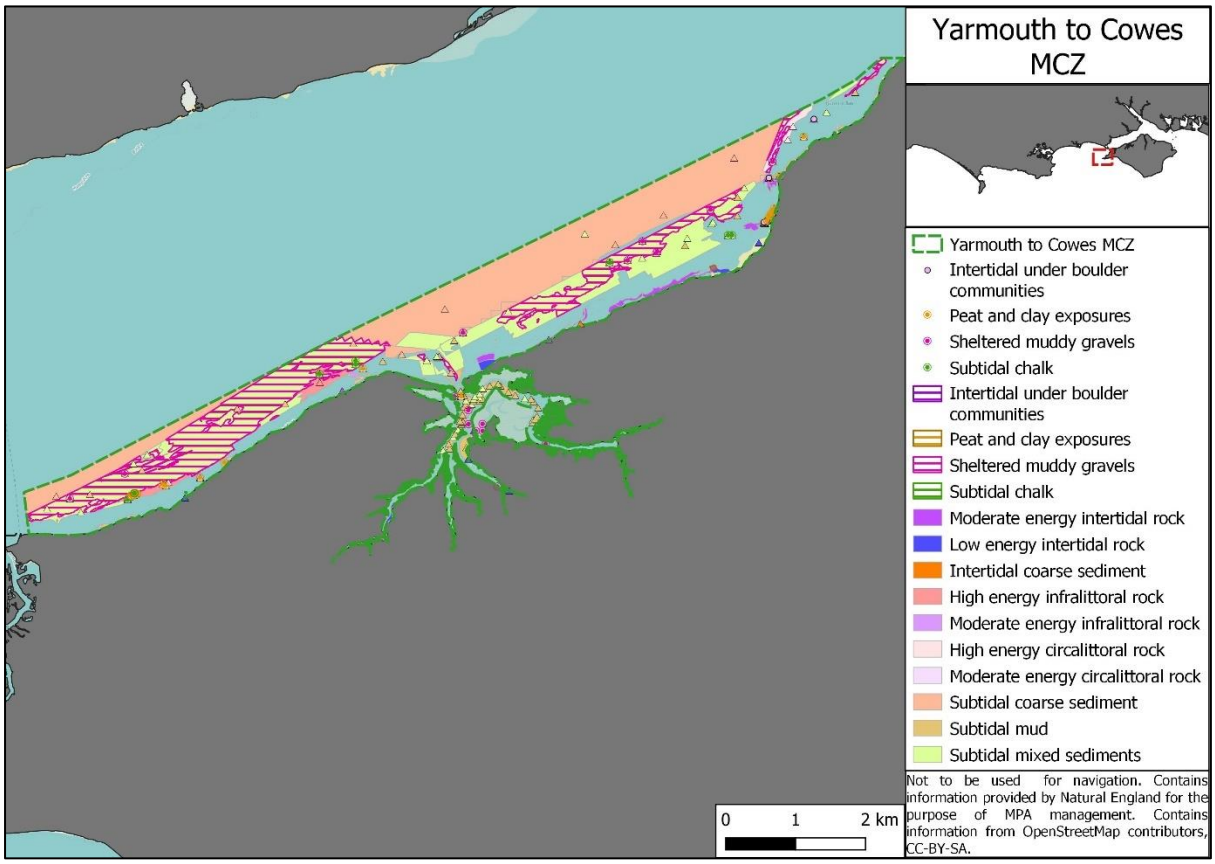

Figure 6: The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ (boundary shown by the dashed green line).

Table 5: Designated features of the Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ.

Designated features	General management approach
Bouldnor Cliff geological feature	Maintain
Estuarine rocky habitats	Maintain
High-energy circalittoral rock	Recover
High-energy infralittoral rock	Recover
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain
Intertidal under boulder communities	Maintain
Littoral chalk communities	Maintain
Low energy intertidal rock	Maintain
Moderate energy circalittoral rock	Recover
Moderate energy infralittoral rock	Recover
Moderate energy intertidal rock	Maintain
Native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*)	Recover
Peat and clay exposures	Recover
Sheltered muddy gravels	Recover
Subtidal chalk	Recover

Subtidal coarse sediments	Maintain
Subtidal mixed sediments	Recover
Subtidal mud	Recover

2.1.6 Bembridge MCZ

The Bembridge MCZ covers an area of 75 km^2 and stretches southwards from Nettlestone Point in the North, to Ventnor in the South, and stretches to the edge of the deep-water channel in the Eastern Solent.

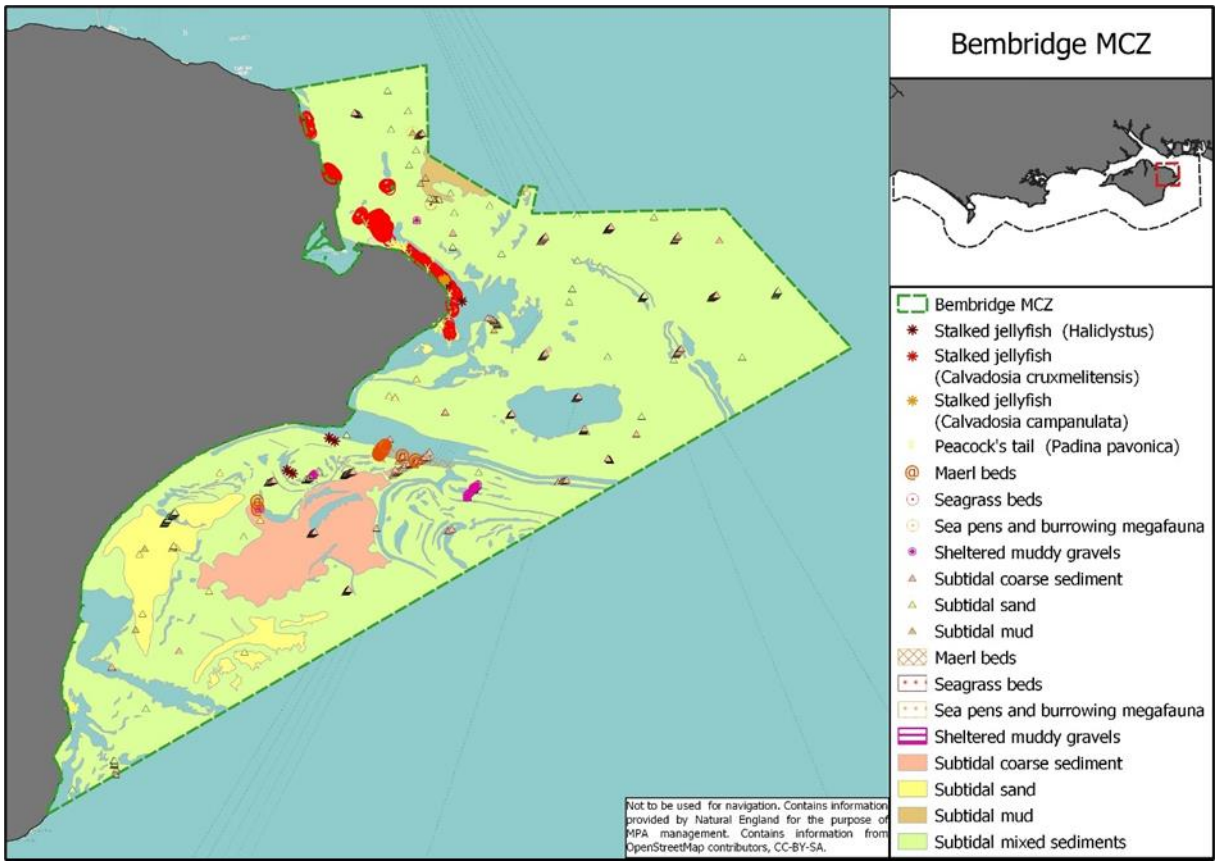

Figure 7: The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Bembridge MCZ (boundary shown by the dashed green line).

Table 6: Designated features of the Bembridge MCZ.

Designated features	General management approach
Maerl beds	Recover
Native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*)	Recover
Peacock's Tail (*Padina pavocina*)	Recover
Seagrass beds	Recover
Sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities	Recover
Sheltered muddy gravels	Maintain
Short snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus hippocampus*)	Maintain
Stalked jellyfish (*Calvadosia campanulata*)	Maintain
Stalked jellyfish (*Haliclystus spp*)	Maintain
Subtidal coarse sediments	Maintain
Subtidal mixed sediments	Recover
Subtidal mud	Recover
Subtidal sand	Maintain

2.2 Special Areas of Conservation

For the SACs, information is provided on the location and the location of qualifying features within the site as well as details on the qualifying features under the designation.

The Conservation Objectives for all sites are the same. The objectives are to ensure that, subject to natural change, the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Condition Status of its qualifying features by maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of the qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of each of the qualifying species
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site

2.2.1 Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC

The Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC cover an area of 31 km^2; the SAC overlays the Devon & Severn and Southern IFCA boundary. The area within the Southern IFCA District encloses the Lyme Bay Reefs.

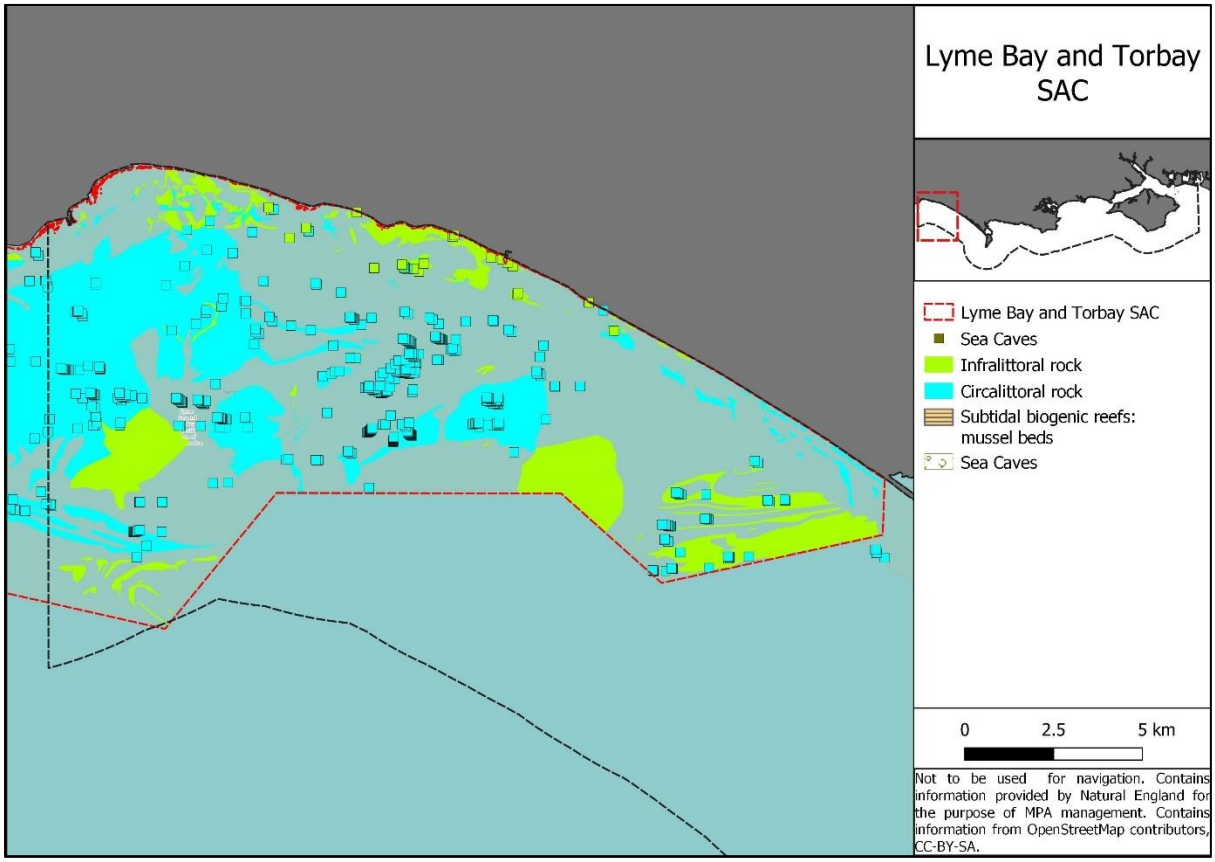

Figure 8: The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC (boundary shown by the dashed red line).

Table 7: Qualifying features for Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC.

Qualifying features	Reefs
	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves

2.2.2 Chesil and The Fleet SAC

The Chesil and the Fleet SAC covers an area of 16 km^2. The Fleet supports the largest diversity of species and habitat of any coastal lagoon in the UK and aside from the entrance at the southeastern end, The Fleet is largely sheltered from waves and tidal processes.

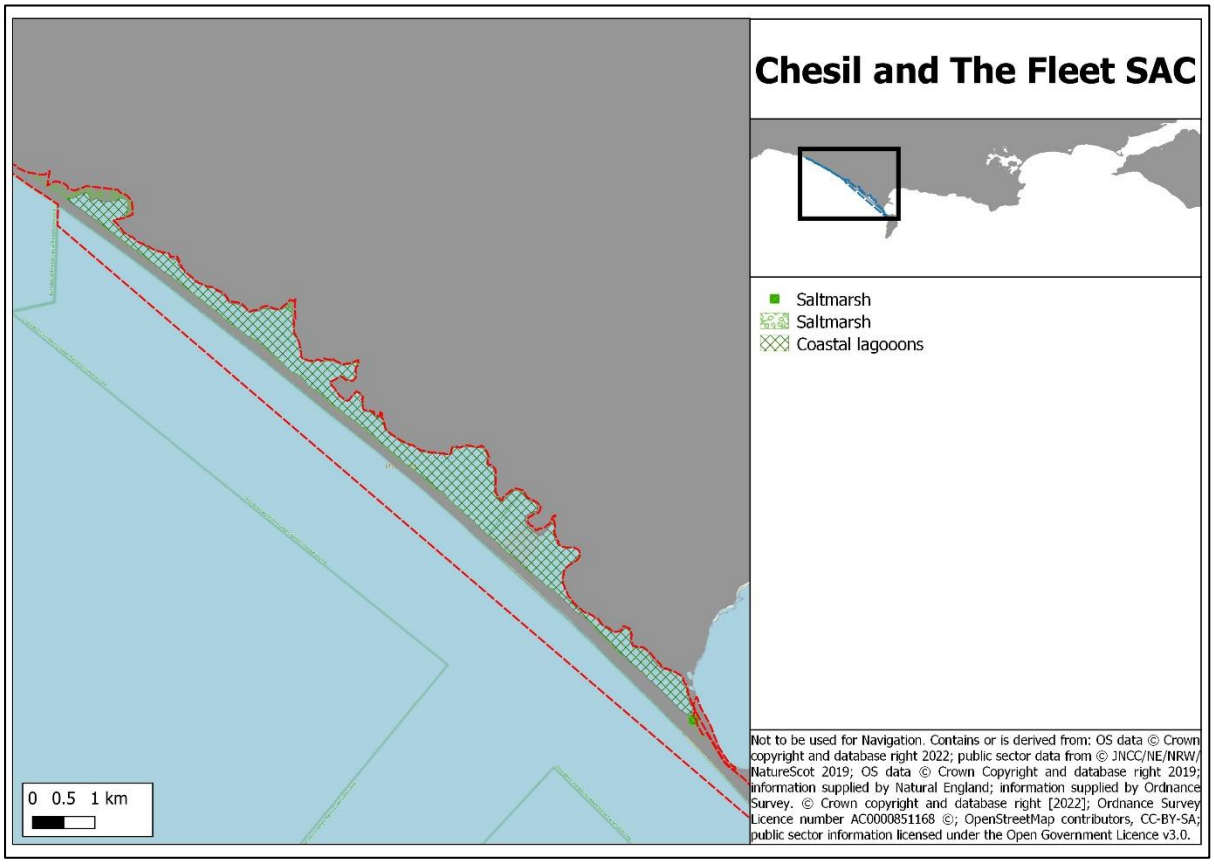

Figure 9: The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Chesil and The Fleet SAC (boundary shown by the dashed red line).

Table 8: Qualifying features of the Chesil and The Fleet SAC.

Qualifying Features	Annual vegetation of drift lines
	Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)
	Coastal lagoons
	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*)
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks

2.2.3 Studland to Portland SAC

The Studland to Portland SAC covers the area from Studland Bay to Ringstead Bay as well as the area covering the Portland Reefs. The total area covered by the SAC is 332 km^2.

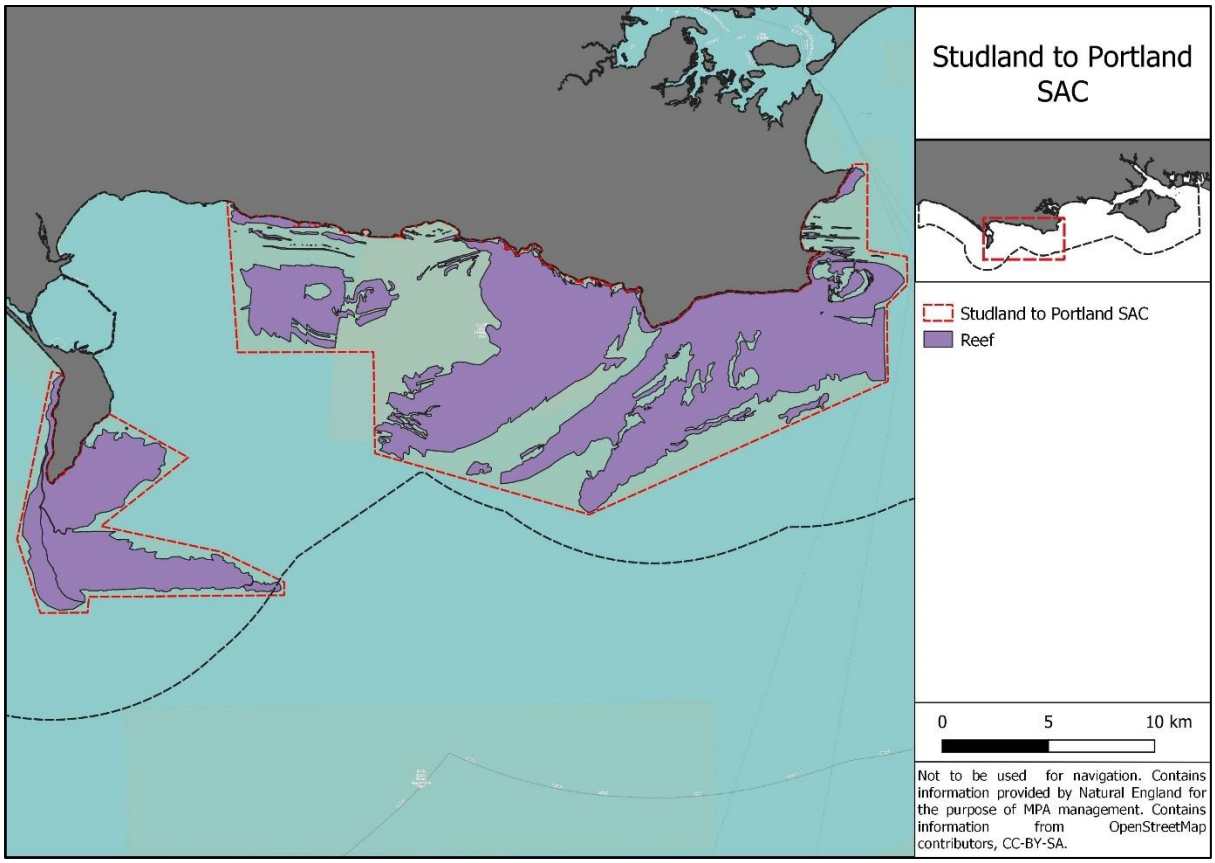

Figure 10: The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Studland to Portland SAC (boundary shown by the dashed red line).

Table 9: Qualifying features of the Studland to Portland SAC.

Qualifying Features	Reefs

2.2.4 Solent Maritime SAC

The Solent Maritime SAC covers a broad range of estuarine and marine habitats and an area of 113 km^2.

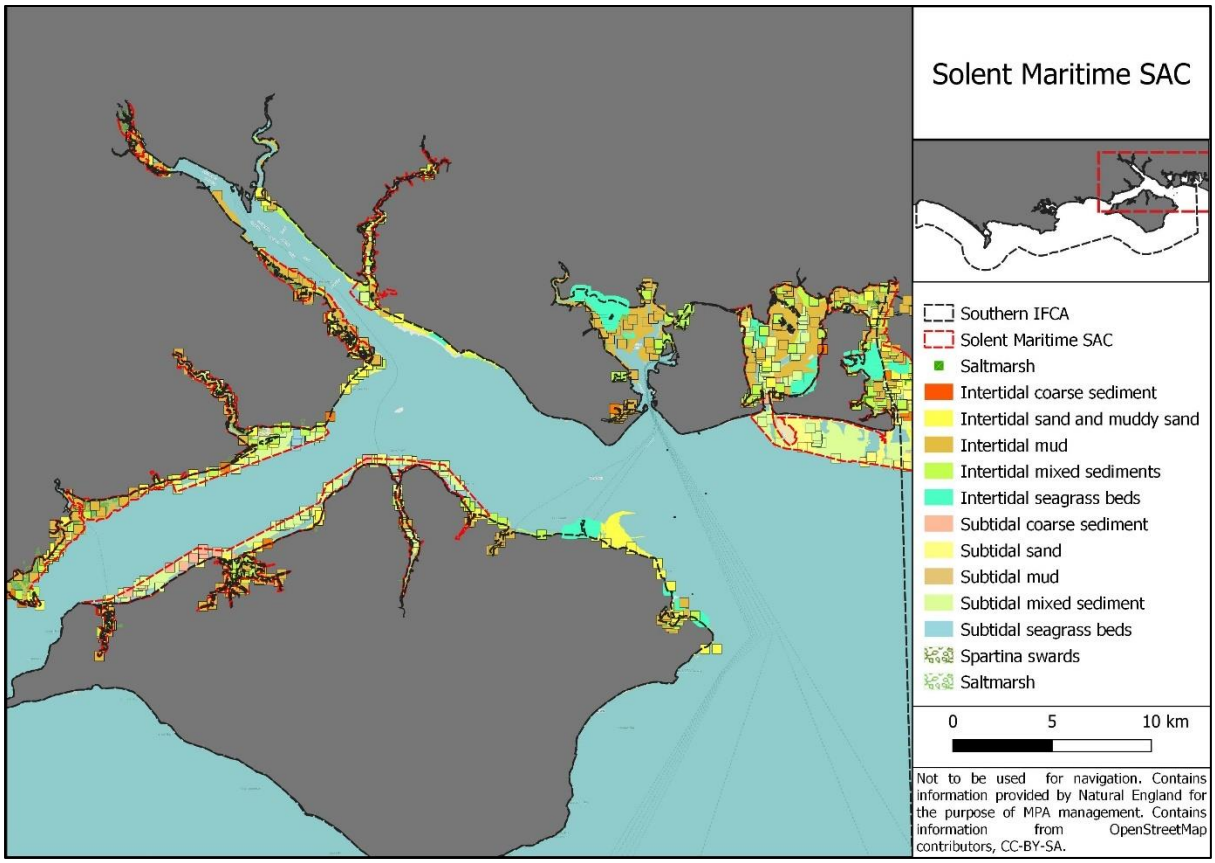

Figure 11: The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Solent Maritime SAC (boundary shown by the dashed red line).

Table 10: Qualifying features of the Solent Maritime SAC.

Qualifying Features	Annual vegetation of drift lines
	Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)
	Coastal Lagoons
	Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*)
	Estuaries
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (“White Dunes”)
	Spartina swards (*Spartinion maritimae*)

2.2.5 South Wight Maritime SAC

The South Wight Maritime SAC covers an area of 199 km^2, running the full length of the south coast of the Isle of Wight from The Needles to Bembridge. The area covers extensive reef and sea cave systems.

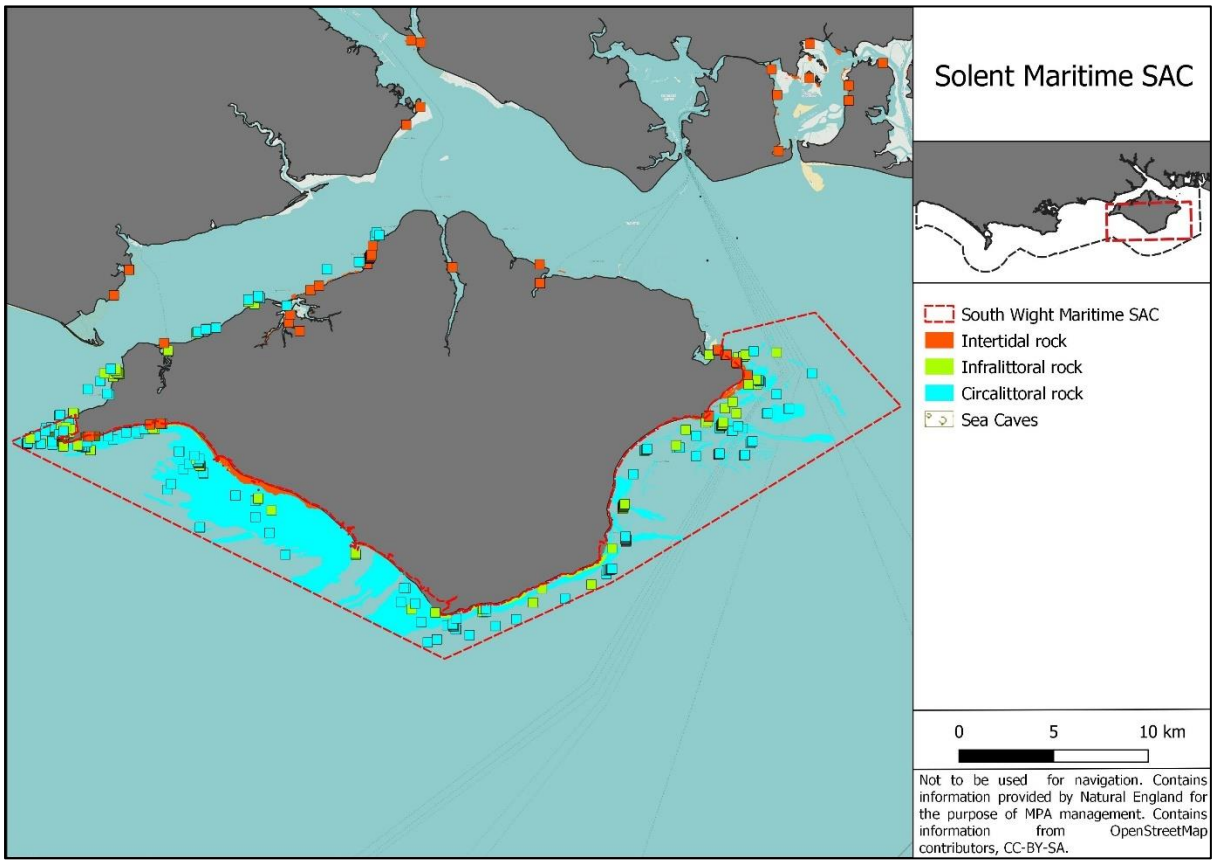

Figure 12: The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the South Wight Maritime SAC (boundary shown by the dashed red line).

Table 11: Qualifying features of the South Wight Maritime SAC.

Qualifying Features	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves
	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts
	Circalittoral rock
	Infralittoral rock
	Intertidal rock
	Subtidal stony reef

2.3 Special Protection Areas

For the SPAs, information is provided on the location and the location of qualifying features within the site and supporting habitats. Detail is provided in tables for each site on the qualifying features and the associated supporting habitats.

The Conservation Objectives are the same for all sites and apply to the site and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified. The objectives are to ensure that, subject to natural change, the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely
- The populations of each of the qualifying features
- The distribution of qualifying features within the site

2.3.1 Chesil Beach and The Fleet SPA

The Chesil Beach and the Fleet SPA covers an area of 7 km^2. The Fleet supports the largest diversity of species and habitat of any coastal lagoon in the UK and aside from the entrance at the southeastern end, The Fleet is largely sheltered from waves and tidal processes.

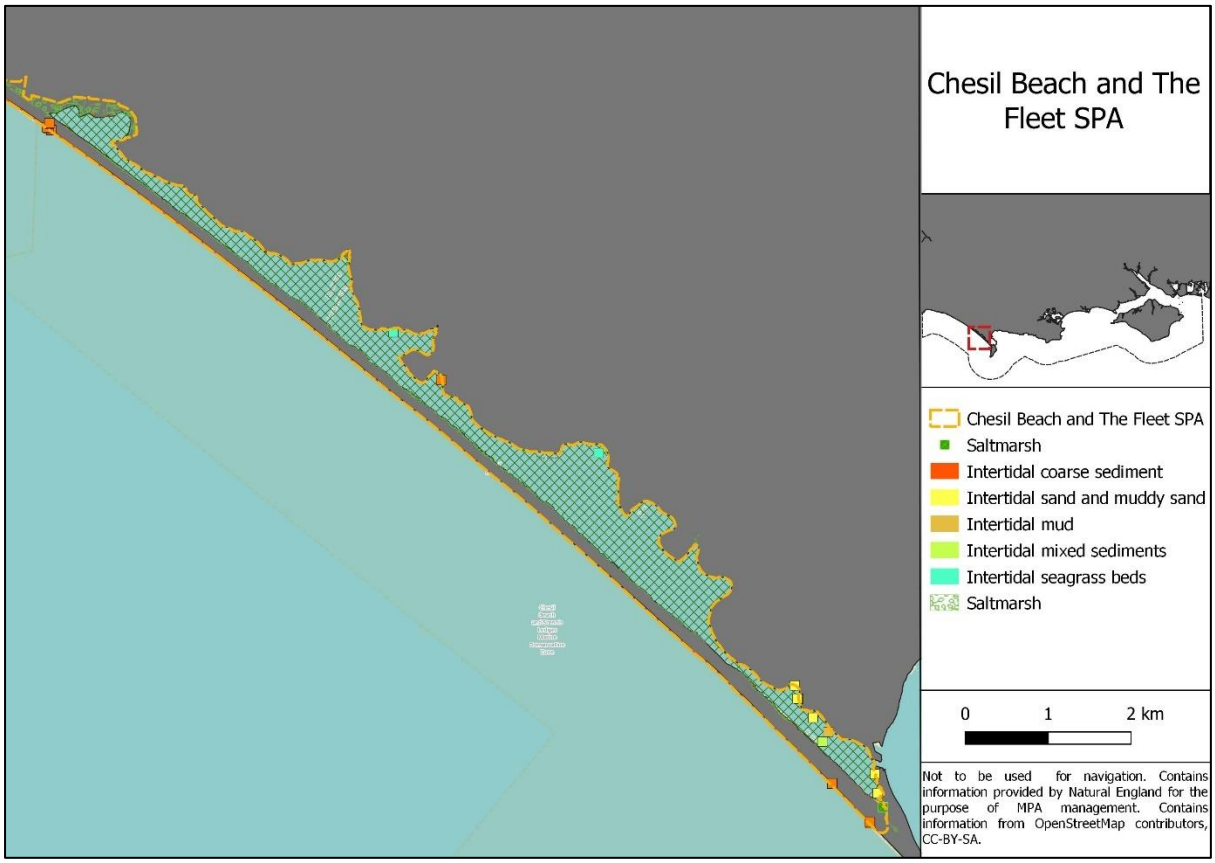

Figure 13: The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Chesil Beach and The Fleet SPA (boundary shown by the dashed yellow line).

Table 12: Qualifying features and supporting habitats of the Chesil Beach and The Fleet SPA.

Qualifying Features	Little tern (*Sternula albifrons*), Breeding
	Wigeon (*Mareca Penelope*), Non-breeding
Supporting Habitats	Coastal lagoons
	Intertidal coarse sediment
	Intertidal mixed sediment
	Intertidal sand and muddy sand
	Intertidal seagrass beds
	Intertidal mud
	Water column

2.3.2 Poole Harbour SPA

Poole Harbour SPA comprises of large tidal mudflats, saltmarsh, and seagrass beds. The SPA covers an area of 42 km^2 and is an important feeding habitat for migratory birds.

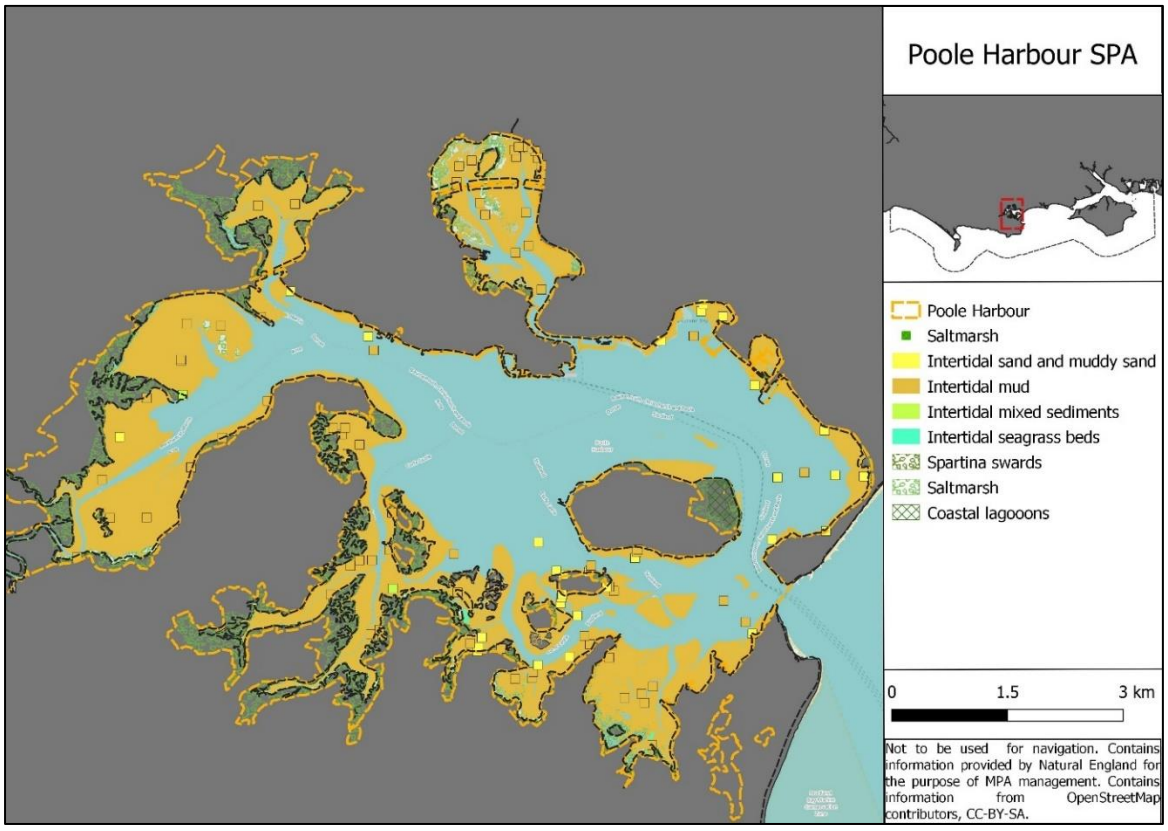

Figure 14: The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Poole Harbour SPA (boundary shown by the dashed yellow line).

Table 13: Qualifying features and supporting habitats of the Poole Harbour SPA.

Qualifying Features	Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), Non-breeding
	Black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*), Non-breeding
	Common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Breeding
	Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Non-breeding
	Mediterranean gull (*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*), Breeding

	Sandwich tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*), Breeding
	Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), Non-breeding
	Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), Non-breeding
	Waterbird assemblage, Non-breeding
Supporting Habitats	Coastal lagoon
	Coastal reedbed
	Freshwater and coastal grazing marsh
	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
	Atlantic salt meadows
	Spartina swards
	Intertidal seagrass beds
	Intertidal mixed sediments
	Intertidal mud
	Intertidal sand and muddy sand
	Water column

2.3.3 Solent and Southampton Water SPA

The Solent and Southampton Water SPA reaches from Hurst Spit in the West to Hill Head in the East, covering sections of the Hampshire coastline and the north coast of the Isle of Wight. The SPA covers 54 km^2 of estuarine habitats that support a range of invertebrates and migratory birds.

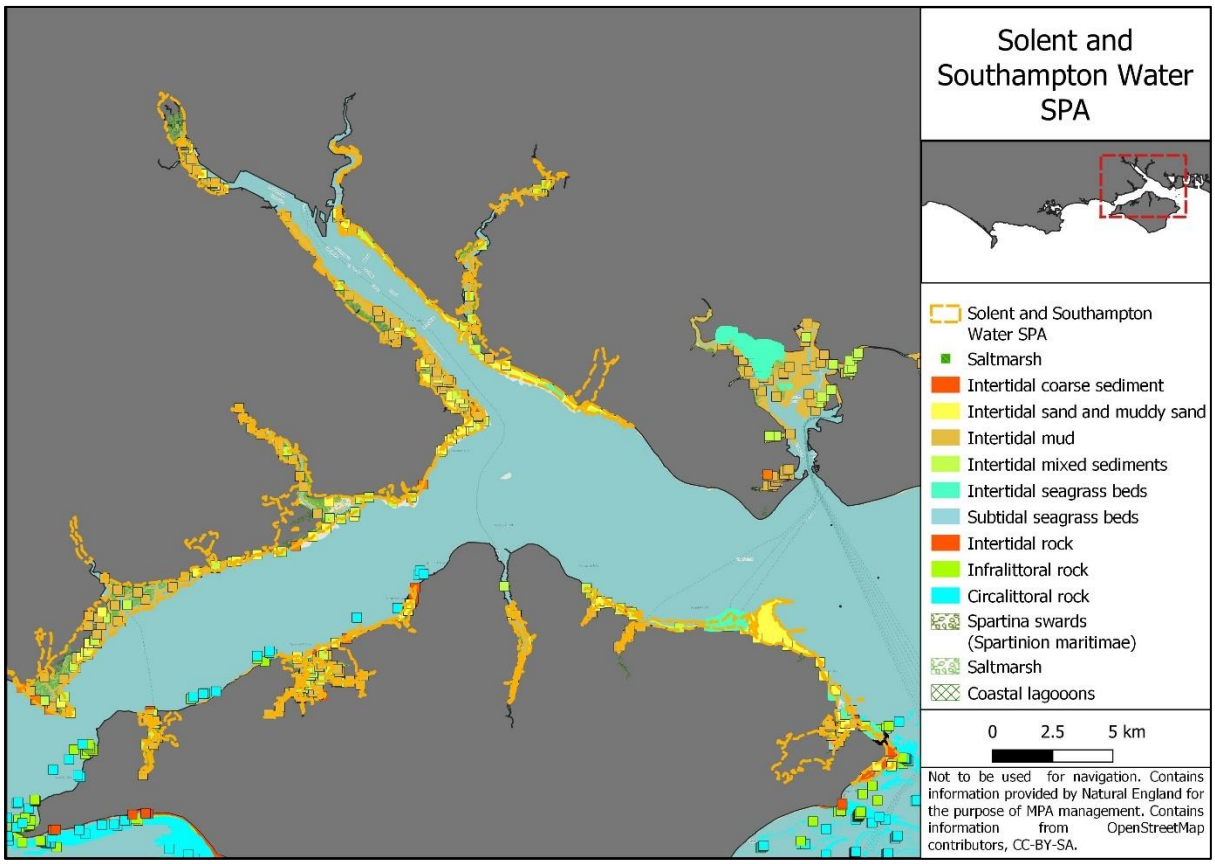

Figure 15: The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA (boundary shown by the dashed yellow line).

Table 14: Qualifying features and supporting habitats of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA.

Qualifying Features	Black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*), Non-breeding
	Common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Breeding
	Dark-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*), Non-breeding
	Little tern (*Sternula albifrons*), Breeding
	Mediterranean gull (*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*), Breeding
	Ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), Non-breeding
	Roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*), Breeding
	Sandwich tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*), Breeding
	Teal (*Anas crecca*), Non-breeding
	Waterbird assemblage, Non-breeding
Supporting Habitats	Coastal lagoon
	Coastal reedbed
	Freshwater and coastal grazing marsh
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
	Atlantic salt meadows
	Spartina swards
	Intertidal seagrass beds
	Intertidal rock
	Intertidal coarse sediment
	Intertidal mixed sediments
	Intertidal mud
	Intertidal sand and muddy sand
	Infralittoral rock
	Subtidal seagrass beds
	Circalittoral rock
	Water column

2.3.4 Portsmouth Harbour SPA

Portsmouth Harbour is an important habitat for large numbers of nationally and internationally important bird species. The SPA covers 13 km^2.

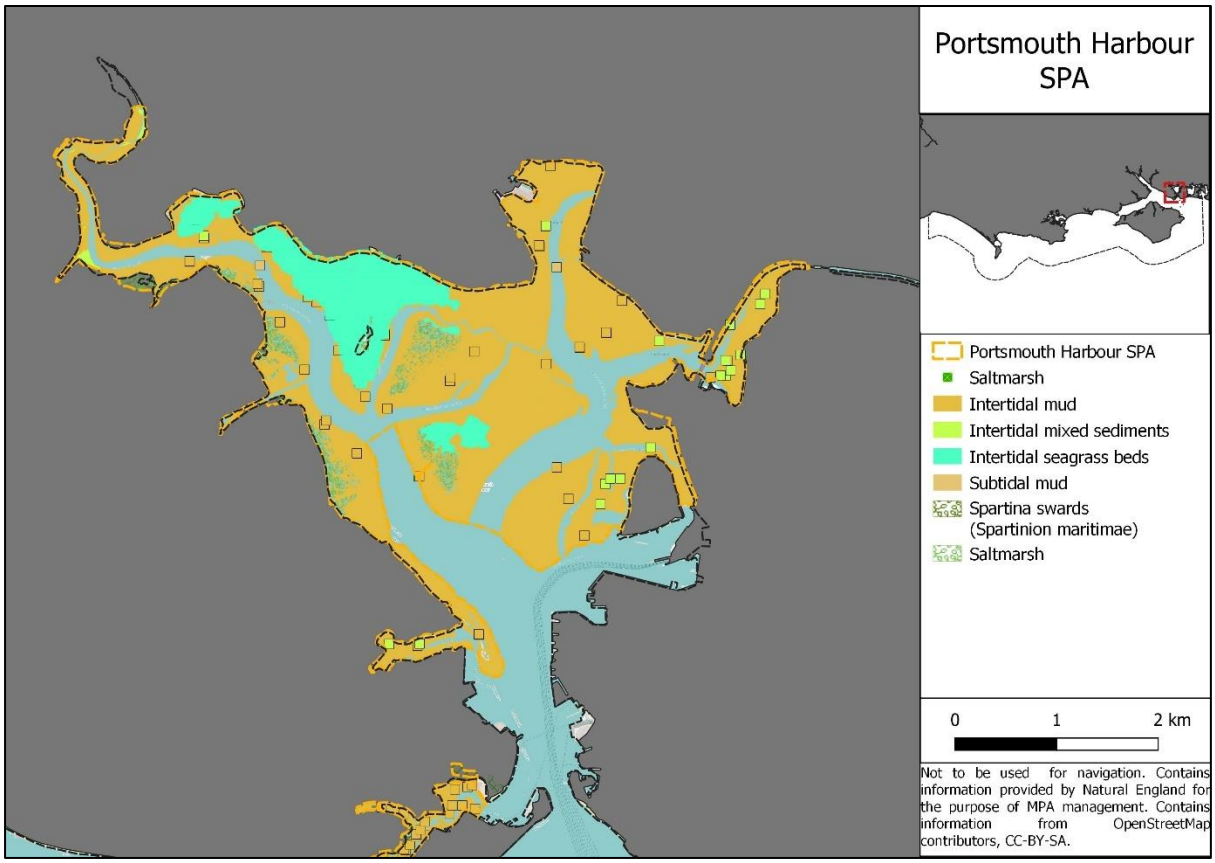

Figure 16: The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Portsmouth Harbour SPA (boundary shown by the dashed yellow line).

Table 15: Qualifying features and supporting habitats of the Portsmouth Harbour SPA.

Qualifying Features	Black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*), Non-breeding
	Dark-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*), Non-breeding
	Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*), Non-breeding
	Red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*), Non-breeding
Supporting Habitats	Coastal lagoon
	Freshwater and coastal grazing marsh
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
	Atlantic salt meadows
	Spartina swards
	Intertidal seagrass beds
	Intertidal mixed sediments
	Intertidal mud
	Subtidal mud
	Water column

2.3.5 Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA

Chichester and Langstone Harbour cover two estuary basins with large mudflats and sandflats. The habitats support large numbers of overwintering birds with the SPA covering an area of 58 km^2.

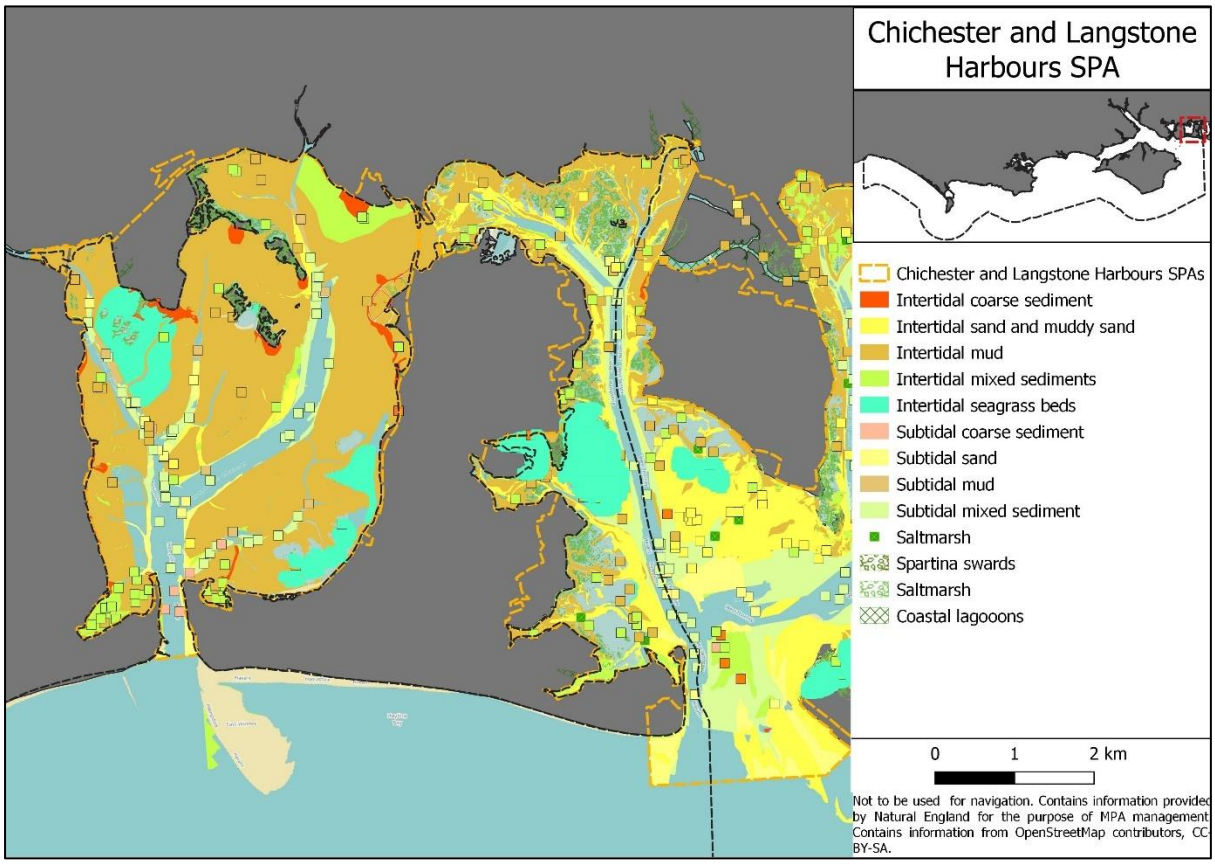

Figure 17: The location and extent of the supporting habitats of the Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA (boundary shown by the dashed yellow line).

Table 16: Qualifying features and supporting habitats of the Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA.

Qualifying Features	Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), Non-breeding
	Common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Breeding
	Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Non-breeding
	Dark-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*), Non-breeding
	Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*), Non-breeding
	Grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), Non-breeding
	Little tern (*Sternula albifrons*), Breeding
	Pintail (*Anas acuta*), Non-breeding
	Red-breasted merganser (*Mergus serrator*), Non-breeding
	Redshank (*Tringa totanus*), Non-breeding
	Ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), Non-breeding
	Sanderling (*Calidris alba*), Non-breeding
	Sandwich tern (*Thalasseus* sandvicensis), Breeding
	Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), Non-breeding
	Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*), Non-breeding
	Teal (*Anas crecca*), Non-breeding
	Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*), Non-breeding

	Waterbird assemblage, Non-breeding
	Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*), Non-breeding
	Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*), Non-breeding
Supporting Habitats	Coastal lagoon
	Coastal reedbed
	Freshwater and coastal grazing marsh
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
	Atlantic salt meadows
	Spartina swards
	Intertidal seagrass beds
	Intertidal rock
	Intertidal coarse sediment
	Intertidal mixed sediments
	Intertidal mud
	Intertidal sand and muddy sand
	Subtidal coarse sediment
	Subtidal mixed sediment
	Subtidal mud
	Subtidal sand
	Water column

Section D: Part A and TLSE Assessments

For the sites listed in Section C above which were identified through the Screening Assessment as needing to progress to the next stage, Part A Assessments were carried out for MCZs and TLSE Assessments for the SACs and SPAs.

For both types of assessment, each type of activity was assessed with respect to the potential pressures which may be exerted on designated features. The assessment was undertaken using the Advice on Operations and Supplementary Advice provided by Natural England for each site. The Advice on Operations provides a broad-scale assessment of the sensitivity of designated features to different activity-derived pressures, using nationally available evidence on their resilience (ability to recover) and resistance (the level of tolerance) to physical, chemical and biological pressures. The broad-scale assessment of sensitivity to the pressures is measured against a benchmark. It should be noted that these benchmarks are representative of the likely intensity of a pressure caused by typical activities, and do not represent a threshold of an 'acceptable' intensity of a pressure. It is therefore necessary to consider the specifics of the activity being assessed as they are relevant to the Southern IFCA District, i.e., assessing the potential for a significant effect of a pressure on a feature using knowledge on activity levels, occurrence, intensity, gear type, operation etc. The determination of whether a pressure/feature interaction needed to be carried forward to the Part B/Appropriate Assessment stage considered this site and District-specific detail alongside the broader Advice on Operations.

The two relevant Advice on Operations are:

- Shore-based activities
- Seaweed harvesting

1.0 Part A Assessments

Part A Assessments were carried out for sites listed in Section C2.1.

The outcomes of the Part A Assessments identified the following pressures as having a potential likely significant impact:

Shore-based activities

- Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed
- Penetration and/or disturbance of the substratum below the surface of the seabed, including abrasion
- Removal of non-target species
- Removal of target species
- Visual disturbance

Seaweed harvesting

- Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed
- Removal of non-target species
- Removal of target species
- Visual disturbance

Tables 17-18 below provide a summary of the outputs of these assessments for each site, indicating the pressures which may exert a significant impact, the designated features relevant to each pressure, the MCZ for which that pressure/feature combination is applicable, the rationale for screening into the next stage in the assessment process, and the relevant attributes listed by Natural England in the Supplementary Advice for designated sites which may be affected by the exertion of that pressure on that feature.

(*) note that not all relevant attributes will apply to all features, however information is provided on all applicable relevant attributes as they apply to habitats, seagrass and species.

Table 17: Summary of outcomes for the Part A Assessments for shore-based activities.

Advice on Operations: Shore-based activities				
Potential Pressure	**Relevant Designated Features**	**Relevant MCZ**	**Rationale**	**Relevant Attributes (*)**
Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed	High-energy intertidal rock	• Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges	Shore-based gathering of mussels has the potential to take place over intertidal rock causing an abrasion risk - however this activity is not currently documented as occurring in the Southern IFCA Distict. Species associated with rock habitats may also be subject to abrasion from trampling. Where seagrass beds overlap with the presence of the target species there is a risk of abrasion. There is also a risk of abrasion from trampling. There is a risk to species associated with seagrass habitats from damage to the habitat by abrasion.	**For Habitats:** Distribution: presence and spatial distribution of biological communities Extent and distribution Structure and function: presence and abundance of key structural and influential species Structure: physical structure of rocky substrate Structure: sediment composition and distribution Structure: species composition of component communities **Specific for seagrass:** Structure: biomass Structure: rhizome structure and biomass **For Species:** Population: abundance Population: population size
	Moderate-energy intertidal rock	• Purbeck Coast • Yarmouth to Cowes		
	Low-energy intertidal rock	• Yarmouth to Cowes		
	Seagrass beds	• Studland Bay • The Needles • Bembridge		
	Peacock's Tail	• Purbeck Coast • The Needles • Bembridge		
	Stalked jellyfish (*Haliclystus* spp)	• Purbeck Coast • Bembridge		
	Stalked jellyfish (*Calvadosia campanulate*)	• The Needles • Bembridge		
	Long snouted seahorse	• Studland Bay		
	Short snouted seahorse	• Bembridge		
Penetration and/or disturbance of the substratum below the	Seagrass beds	• Studland Bay • The Needles • Bembridge	Shore-based activities could cause penetration in seagrass beds where the feature overlaps	

surface of the seabed, including abrasion	Stalked jellyfish (*Haliclystus* spp)	• Bembridge	with the presence of target species. Shore based activities could cause abrasion to seagrass beds and thus stalked jellyfish where the feature overlaps with the location of the target species.	Population: recruitment and reproductive capability Presence and spatial distribution of the species Supporting habitat: extent and distribution
	Stalked jellyfish (*Calvadosia campanulate*)	• The Needles • Bembridge		
Removal of non-target species	Seagrass beds	• Studland Bay • The Needles • Bembridge	Overlap between seagrass beds and the target species risks the removal of non-target species associated with seagrass beds or removal of seagrass blades.	
	Long snouted seahorse	• Studland Bay		
	Short snouted seahorse	• Bembridge		
	Stalked jellyfish (*Haliclystus* spp)	• Bembridge		
	Stalked jellyfish (*Calvadosia campanulate*)	• The Needles • Bembridge		
Removal of target species	Seagrass beds	• Studland Bay • The Needles • Bembridge	Overlap between seagrass beds and the target species introduces a risk to the feature through the removal of the target species.	
Visual disturbance	Long snouted seahorse	• Studland Bay	The only activity which would occur below the level of the water is push netting, activity levels are very low however this is the potential for a visual disturbance.	
	Short snouted seahorse	• Bembridge		

Table 18: Summary of outcomes for the Part A Assessments for Seaweed Harvesting.

Advice on Operations: Seaweed harvesting				
Potential Pressure	**Relevant Designated Features**	**Relevant MCZ**	**Rationale**	**Relevant Attributes (*)**
Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed	High-energy intertidal rock	• Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges • Purbeck Coast	There is potential for abrasion to be caused by seaweed harvesting on suitable habitats or trampling in order to reach suitable habitats. For species which are found in rocky habitats, there is the risk of abrasion due to the action of seaweed harvesting. If seaweed removal / the removal of seaweed occurred within seagrass beds where there is an impact to the bed from abrasion, there could be further impacts to associated species.	**For Habitats:** Distribution: presence and spatial distribution of biological communities Extent and distribution Structure and function: presence and abundance of key structural and influential species Structure: physical structure of rocky substrate Structure: sediment composition and distribution Structure: species composition of component communities **Specific for seagrass:** Structure: biomass Structure: rhizome structure and biomass **For Species:** Population: abundance Population: population size Population: recruitment and reproductive capability Presence and spatial distribution of the species Supporting habitat: extent and distribution
	Moderate-energy intertidal rock	• Purbeck Coast • Yarmouth to Cowes		
	Low-energy intertidal rock	• Yarmouth to Cowes		
	High-energy infralittoral rock	• Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges • Purbeck Coast • The Needles • Yarmouth to Cowes		
	Moderate-energy infralittoral rock	• The Needles • Yarmouth to Cowes		
	High-energy circalittoral rock	• Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges • Yarmouth to Cowes		
	Moderate-energy circalittoral rock	• The Needles • Yarmouth to Cowes		
	Littoral chalk communities	• Yarmouth to Cowes		
	Subtidal coarse sediment	• Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges • Purbeck Coast • The Needles		

		• Yarmouth to Cowes		
	Subtidal mixed sediments	• Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges • Purbeck Coast • The Needles • Yarmouth to Cowes		
	Subtidal sand	• Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges • Studland Bay • The Needles • Bembridge		
	Subtidal mud	• The Needles		
	Seagrass beds	• Studland Bay • The Needles • Bembridge		
	Native oyster	• Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges • The Needles • Yarmouth to Cowes • Bembridge		
	Pink-sea fan	• Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges		
	Peacock's Tail	• Purbeck Coast • The Needles • Bembridge		
	Stalked jellyfish (*Haliclystus* spp)	• Purbeck Coast • Bembridge		
	Stalked jellyfish (*Calvadosia campanulata*)	• The Needles • Bembridge		
	Long snouted seahorse	• Studland Bay		

	Short snouted seahorse	• Bembridge		
Removal of target species	High-energy intertidal rock	• Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges • Purbeck Coast	Removal of seaweeds may impact the structure/function of rock habitats. Removal of seaweeds may impact seagrass beds if found in the same locations. Where seaweeds are found in habitats used by designated species, there is a risk that removal could apply pressure to the community left behind.	
	Moderate-energy intertidal rock	• Purbeck Coast • Yarmouth to Cowes		
	Low-energy intertidal rock	• Yarmouth to Cowes		
	High-energy infralittoral rock	• Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges • Purbeck Coast • The Needles • Yarmouth to Cowes		
	Moderate-energy infralittoral rock	• The Needles • Yarmouth to Cowes		
	High-energy circalittoral rock	• Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges • Yarmouth to Cowes		
	Moderate-energy circalittoral rock	• The Needles • Yarmouth to Cowes		
	Littoral chalk communities	• Yarmouth to Cowes		
	Subtidal mixed sediments	• Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges • Purbeck Coast • The Needles • Yarmouth to Cowes		
	Subtidal sand	• Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges • Studland Bay		

		• The Needles • Bembridge		
	Peacock's Tail	• Purbeck Coast • The Needles • Bembridge		
	Seagrass beds	• Studland Bay • The Needles • Bembridge		
	Long snouted seahorse	• Studland Bay		
	Short snouted seahorse	• Bembridge		
Removal of non-target species	Seagrass beds	• Studland Bay • The Needles • Bembridge	Although seaweed harvesting by hand is very selective and seaweeds can be harvested without the accidental harvest of non-target species by careful review of fronds when harvesting, if the harvester is unfamiliar with the species there is the risk of accidental removal of certain designated species as a non-target species. If removal of seaweed occurs within a seagrass bed there is the potential for an impact to the seagrass feature through disturbance/removal of associated species as non-target species. It is noted that seaweed harvesting is very selective and accidental harvest of non-target species is low so risk relates to	
	Peacock's Tail	• Purbeck Coast • The Needles • Bembridge		
	Stalked jellyfish (*Haliclystus* spp)	• Purbeck Coast • Bembridge		
	Stalked jellyfish (*Calvadosia campanulata*)	• The Needles • Bembridge		

			small, difficult to see non-target species associated with seagrass communities or associated sediment communities.	
Visual disturbance	Long snouted seahorse	• Studland Bay	Seaweed harvesting may occur in the shallow subtidal/below the level of the water therefore there is the potential for visual disturbance.	
	Short snouted seahorse	• Bembridge		

2.0 TLSE Assessments

TLSE Assessments were carried out for sites listed in Sections C2.2 and C2.3.

The outcomes of the TLSE Assessments identified the following pressures as having a potential likely significant impact:

SACs

Shore-based activities

- Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed
- Penetration and/or disturbance of the substratum below the surface of the seabed, including abrasion
- Removal of non-target species
- Removal of target species

Seaweed harvesting

- Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed
- Removal of target species

SPAs

Shore-based activities

- Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed
- Penetration and/or disturbance of the substratum below the surface of the seabed, including abrasion
- Removal of non-target species
- Removal of target species
- Visual disturbance

Seaweed harvesting

- Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed
- Removal of target species
- Removal of non-target species
- Visual disturbance

Tables 19-20 (SACs) and 21-22 (SPAs) below provide a summary of the outputs of these assessments for each site, indicating the pressures which may exert a significant impact, the designated features relevant to each pressure, the SAC/SPA for which that pressure/feature combination is applicable, the rationale for screening into the next stage in the assessment process and the relevant attributes, listed by Natural England in the Supplementary Advice for designated sites which may be affected by the exertion of that pressure on that feature.

(*) note that not all relevant attributes will apply to all features, however information is provided on all applicable relevant attributes as they apply to habitats, seagrass and species.

2.1 SAC TLSE Assessments

Table 19: Summary of outcomes for the TLSE Assessments for SACs for shore-based activities.

Advice on Operations: Shore-based activities				
Potential Pressure	**Relevant Designated Features**	**Relevant SAC**	**Rationale**	**Relevant Attributes (*)**
Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed	Annual vegetation of drift lines	• Chesil and The Fleet • Solent Maritime	Shore gathering activities can exert an abrasion/disturbance pressure on the seabed. For saltmarshes, shore-based activities will not directly interact with the feature as it is not the target habitat type. However, saltmarsh may be trampled when gaining access to the target habitats. Where seagrass overlaps with areas where target species are found there is a risk of abrasion from shore-based activities. There is also a trampling risk in accessing areas for target species. For subtidal seagrass the only activity which would take place is push netting, there is the potential for trampling of seagrass whilst undertaking this activity.	Distribution of the feature, including associated transitional habitats, within the site Distribution: presence and spatial distribution of biological communities Extent and distribution Extent of support habitat (habitat) Extent of the feature within the site Future extent of habitat within the site and ability to respond to seasonal changes Structure and function (including typical species): key structural, influential and distinctive species Structure and function: presence and abundance of key structural and influential species Structure and function: sediment size and availability Structure: sediment composition and distribution Structure: biomass Structure: species composition of component communities Structure: physical structure of rocky substrate.
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	• Chesil and The Fleet • Solent Maritime		
	Coastal lagoons	• Chesil and The Fleet		
	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs	• Chesil and The Fleet		
	Atlantic salt meadows	• Chesil and The Fleet • Solent Maritime		
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	• Solent Maritime		
	Spartina swards	• Solent Maritime		
	Intertidal seagrass beds	• Solent Maritime		
	Intertidal mixed sediments	• Solent Maritime		
	Intertidal mud	• Solent Maritime		

	Intertidal sand and muddy sand	• Solent Maritime		
	Subtidal seagrass beds	• Solent Maritime		
Penetration and/or disturbance of the substratum below the surface of the seabed, including abrasion	Coastal lagoons	• Chesil and The Fleet	Shore-based activities could cause penetration to the seabed. Shore-based activities could cause penetration and disturbance to seagrass beds where the feature overlaps with the location of target species.	
	Intertidal seagrass beds	• Solent Maritime		
	Intertidal mixed sediments	• Solent Maritime		
	Intertidal mud	• Solent Maritime		
	Intertidal sand and muddy sand	• Solent Maritime		
Removal of target species	Intertidal seagrass beds	• Solent Maritime	If there is an overlap between the location of the target species and seagrass beds, there is a risk that removal of the target species would impact the seagrass feature. From shore-based activities removal of target species may occur and exert this pressure.	
	Intertidal mixed sediments	• Solent Maritime		
	Intertidal mud	• Solent Maritime		
	Intertidal sand and muddy sand	• Solent Maritime		
	Subtidal seagrass beds	• Solent Maritime		
Removal of non-target species	Intertidal seagrass beds	• Solent Maritime	If there is overlap between the location of the target species and seagrass beds there is a risk of removal of non-target species associated with seagrass communities or removal of seagrass itself accidentally.	
	Subtidal seagrass beds	• Solent Maritime		

Table 20: Summary of outcomes for the TLSE Assessments for SACs for seaweed harvesting.

Advice on Operations: Shore-based activities				
Potential Pressure	**Relevant Designated Features**	**Relevant SAC**	**Rationale**	**Relevant Attributes (*)**
Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed	Annual vegetation of drift lines	• Chesil and The Fleet	There is the potential for abrasion to be caused during seaweed harvesting for suitable habitats where target species occur and during trampling when accessing sites.	Distribution: presence and spatial distribution of biological communities Structure and function: presence and abundance of key structural and influential species Structure: physical structure of rocky substrate Structure: species composition of component communities
	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	• Chesil and The Fleet		
	Infralittoral rock	• Lyme Bay and Torbay • Studland to Portland • South Wight Maritime		
	Circalittoral rock	• Lyme Bay and Torbay • Studland to Portland • South Wight Maritime		
	Subtidal stony reef	• Studland to Portland • South Wight Maritime		
	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	• South Wight Maritime		
	Intertidal rock	• South Wight Maritime		
	Coastal lagoons	• Chesil and The Fleet		
	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halphilous scrubs	• Chesil and The Fleet		
	Atlantic salt meadows	• Chesil and The Fleet		

Removal of target species	Coastal lagoons	• Chesil and The Fleet	For coastal lagoons, removal of seaweeds may impact the structure/function of the habitat but only where suitable habitat is found within lagoons, i.e. - cobbles and coarse sediments. Removal of seaweeds may impact the structure/function of the rock habitat.	
	Infralittoral rock	• Lyme Bay and Torbay • Studland to Portland • South Wight Maritime		
	Circalittoral rock	• Lyme Bay and Torbay • Studland to Portland • South Wight Maritime		
	Subtidal stony reef	• Studland to Portland • South Wight Maritime		
	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	• South Wight Maritime		
	Intertidal rock	• South Wight Maritime		

2.2 SPA TLSE Assessments

Table 21: Summary of outcomes for the TLSE Assessments for SPAs for shore-based activities.

Advice on Operations: Shore-based activities				
Potential Pressure	**Relevant Designated Features**	**Relevant SPA**	**Rationale**	**Relevant Attributes (*)**
Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed	Coastal lagoons	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet	Shore gathering activities can exert an abrasion/disturbance pressure on the seabed. For saltmarsh and reedbeds, shore-based activities will not directly interact with the feature as it is not the target habitat type. However,	Disturbance caused by human activity; Non-breeding population: abundance; Supporting habitat: extent, distribution and availability of supporting habitat for the non-breeding season;
	Coastal reedbeds	• Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Atlantic salt meadows	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet		

		• Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours	saltmarsh may be trampled when gaining access to the target habitats. Where seagrass overlaps with areas where target species are found there is a risk of abrasion from shore-based activities. There is also a trampling risk in accessing areas for target species. For subtidal seagrass the only activity which would take place is push netting, there is the potential for trampling of seagrass whilst undertaking this activity.	Supporting habitat: food availability (bird)
	Freshwater and coastal grazing marsh	• Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs	• Poole Harbour		
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	• Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Spartina swards	• Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Intertidal seagrass beds	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour		

		• Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Intertidal mixed sediments	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Intertidal mud	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Intertidal sand and muddy sand	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Intertidal rock	• Solent and Southampton Water • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Subtidal seagrass beds	• Solent and Southampton Water		
Penetration and/or disturbance of the substratum below the surface of the seabed, including abrasion	Coastal lagoons	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet	Shore-based activities could cause penetration to the seabed. Shore-based activities could cause penetration and disturbance to seagrass beds where the feature	
	Intertidal seagrass beds	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water		

		• Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours	overlaps with the location of target species.	
	Intertidal mixed sediments	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Intertidal mud	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Intertidal sand and muddy sand	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Subtidal seagrass beds	• Solent and Southampton Water		
Removal of non-target species	Intertidal seagrass beds	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours	If there is overlap between the location of the target species and seagrass beds there is a risk of removal of non-target species associated with seagrass communities or removal of seagrass itself accidentally.	
	Subtidal seagrass beds	• Solent and Southampton Water		

Removal of target species	Intertidal seagrass beds	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours	From shore-based activities removal of target species may occur and exert this pressure. If there is an overlap between the location of the target species and seagrass beds, there is a risk that removal of the target species would impact the seagrass feature.	
	Intertidal mixed sediments	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Intertidal mud	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Intertidal sand and muddy sand	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
Visual disturbance	Bird species	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour (except common tern, sandwich tern and Mediterranean gull) • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour	Shore gathering may result in a visual disturbance to the feature. The exceptions listed are as a result of: • Poole Harbour – habitats used by these species are not	

		• Chichester and Langstone Harbours (except shoveler)	suitable or accessible for shore gathering • Chichester and Langstone Harbours – the feature is not sensitive to the pressure.	

Table 22: Summary of outcomes for the TLSE Assessments for SPAs for seaweed harvesting.

Advice on Operations: Seaweed harvesting				
Potential Pressure	**Relevant Designated Features**	**Relevant SPA**	**Rationale**	**Relevant Attributes (*)**
Abrasion/disturbance of the substrate on the surface of the seabed	Coastal lagoons	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet	There is the potential for abrasion to be caused during seaweed harvesting and during trampling when accessing sites. Although saltmarsh and reedbeds are not the target habitat there is a risk of trampling to gain access to habitats suitable for shore gathering activities. Although sediment habitats are not the target habitat, there is a risk of trampling to gain access to habitats suitable for seaweed harvesting. Activity has the potential to cause abrasion by the removal of seaweeds or trampling to reach seaweed harvesting areas.	Disturbance caused by human activity; Non-breeding population: abundance; Supporting habitat: extent, distribution and availability of supporting habitat for the non-breeding season; Supporting habitat: food availability (bird)
	Coastal reedbeds	• Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Atlantic salt meadows	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Freshwater and coastal grazing marsh	• Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		

	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs	• Poole Harbour		
	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	• Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Spartina swards	• Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Intertidal seagrass beds	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Subtidal seagrass beds	• Solent and Southampton Water		
	Intertidal mixed sediments	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Intertidal mud	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet		

		• Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Intertidal sand and muddy sand	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Intertidal rock	• Solent and Southampton Water • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Infralittoral rock	• Solent and Southampton Water		
	Circalittoral rock	• Solent and Southampton Water		
	Subtidal coarse sediment	• Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Subtidal mixed sediments	• Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Subtidal sand	• Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Subtidal mud	• Portsmouth Harbour		
Removal of non-target species	Intertidal seagrass beds	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour	If removal of seaweed occurs within a seagrass bed there is the potential for an impact to the seagrass feature through disturbance/removal of associated species as non-target species. It is noted that	

		• Chichester and Langstone Harbours	seaweed harvesting is very selective and accidental harvest of non-target species is low so risk relates to small, difficult to see non-target species associated with seagrass communities or associated sediment communities.	
	Subtidal seagrass beds	• Solent and Southampton Water		
Removal of target species	Coastal lagoons	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet	If removal of seaweed occurs within a seagrass bed there is the potential for an impact to the seagrass feature. Removal of seaweeds may impact the structure/function of the rock habitat. If removal of seaweed occurs within relevant rock or sediment habitats there is the potential for an impact to the feature. Removal of seaweeds may impact the structure/function of coastal lagoon habitat but only where suitable habitat is found within lagoons, i.e. - cobbles and coarse sediments.	
	Intertidal seagrass beds	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Subtidal seagrass beds	• Solent and Southampton Water		
	Intertidal mixed sediments	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Intertidal rock	• Solent and Southampton Water • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
	Infralittoral rock	• Solent and Southampton Water		
	Circalittoral rock	• Solent and Southampton Water		

	Subtidal mixed sediments	• Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours		
Visual disturbance	Bird species	• Chesil Beach and The Fleet • Poole Harbour (except common tern, sandwich tern and Mediterranean gull) • Solent and Southampton Water • Portsmouth Harbour • Chichester and Langstone Harbours (except shoveler)	Seaweed harvesting may result in a visual disturbance to the feature. The exceptions listed are as a result of: • Poole Harbour – habitats used by these species are not suitable or accessible for shore gathering • Chichester and Langstone Harbours – the feature is not sensitive to the pressure.	

Section E: Management

In consideration of the identified potential pressure/feature interactions through the Part A/TLSE Assessment process, definitions for shore gathering activity and a set of Management Principles were developed to underpin management development.

The Management Principles were reviewed through a Southern IFCA Authority Members Working Group and agreed at the meeting of the Technical Advisory Sub-Committee in May 2024. Draft management measures were developed underpinned by the Management Principles.

1.0 Management Principles

The Management Principles which underpin the management measures for shore gathering (as outlined in Sections E2.0 and E3.0) are given in Figure 18. Management Principles 1 and 2 refer to the evidence used to inform the development of measures, Principles 3-8 refer to the development of management under two measures, a byelaw and a code of conduct.

There are two management measures developed for shore gathering activities:

- The Shore Gathering Byelaw
    - Management under this Byelaw is in line with Management Principles 3-7
- The Southern IFCA Seaweed Harvesting Code of Conduct
    - Management under the CoC is in line with Management Principle 8

1. The best available evidence used to inform feature-based protection for features designated under relevant MCZs, SACs and SPAs is:
    a. The Natural England (NE) designated features layer provided to Southern IFCA in 2023
    b. The National Seagrass Layer obtained from the Defra Government Website
    c. NE (quality assured) commissioned Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) seagrass data provided to Southern IFCA in 2024

2. Any additional data received after **9th May 2024** will be considered during the period of formal consultation and then (subject to byelaw ratification), in subsequent byelaw reviews, as determined by the provisions of the byelaw.

3. For relevant features a GPS buffer of 10m will be incorporated.

4. Prohibition areas will be defined as follows:
    a. For designated seagrass features within MCZs that occur up to the 2m chart datum contour
    b. For seagrass designated as a feature or as a supporting habitat, within or adjacent to SACs and SPAs that occur up to the 2m chart datum contour

5. Existing Southern IFCA Management measures for relevant activities in the Poole Harbour SPA will be combined to create a single management approach.

6. With the exception of seagrass, the extent and distribution of feature-based management in the Solent Maritime SAC and district wide SPAs will be developed using Poole Harbour as a model.

7. In the application of the Poole Harbour model to the Solent Maritime SAC and district wide SPAs, the following approach will be taken:
        a. Bird Sensitive Areas (BSA) will be used as the basis for spatial management
        b. In the absence of BSAs being defined by Natural England in the Solent Maritime SAC and district wide SPAs (excluding Poole Harbour), BSAs will be defined as follows:
            i. For the Solent Maritime SAC and Solent SPAs, BSAs will be initially defined using areas proposed for management as good examples of estuarine habitat under the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 and adapted to be relevant to shore gathering activity
            ii. For the Solent Maritime SAC, Solent SPAs and The Chesil and The Fleet SPA, consideration will be given to aligning BSAs with directions relating to access and shore gathering activities given by other bodies, for example harbour authorities and conservation bodies
        c. The requirements for seasonal management within BSAs will be considered on the basis of best available evidence

8. A code of practice will be developed for the gathering of seaweed by hand.

Figure 18: Management Principles for shore gathering activities which underpin management measures.

2.0 Shore Gathering Byelaw

2.1 Spatial Management

The Shore Gathering Byelaw provides spatial management for sensitive habitats and species within MCZs, SACs and SPAs to mitigate potential impacts from shore gathering activities. Spatial management is further defined by prohibition (year-round) or seasonal management, with three types of management areas under the Byelaw:

- **Prohibited Areas** (year-round)
- **Summer Closure Areas** (closed 1st March to 31st August)
- **Winter Closure Areas** (closed 1st November to 31st March)

During those periods of closure, no shore gathering activities will be permitted to take place in accordance with the definitions for shore gathering given in Section E2.2.

The detail of the location of each type of management area is provided in Table 23 below and shown in relation to the relevant designated sites (note that some sites overlap) in Annex 1.

Table 23: Location and number of types of management area within relevant areas of the District.

Area	Type of Management Area	No. of Each Type in the Site
Chichester Harbour	Prohibited Area	2
Langstone Harbour	Prohibited Area	10
Portsmouth Harbour	Prohibited Area	4
Southampton Water	Prohibited Area	2
	Summer Restricted Area	4
Beaulieu	Prohibited Area	1
Lymington and Keyhaven	Summer Restricted Area	1
Isle of Wight	Prohibited Area	15
	Summer Restricted Area	3
Poole Harbour	Prohibited Area	6
	Winter Restricted Area	10
Studland Bay	Prohibited Area	2
The Fleet	Prohibited Area	1

2.2 Prohibitions

The prohibitions under the Shore Gathering Byelaw are given as follows. These are applicable to all three types of management area during the relevant closed period.

i. No person shall fish for or take sea fisheries resources by hand or with the use of hand operated equipment where the fishing for, or taking is for the purpose of harvesting sea fisheries resources.
ii. No person shall have with them any hand operated equipment for use in the course of, or in connection with, the fishing for, or taking of sea fisheries resources for the purpose of harvesting.
iii. No person shall use or deploy any form of artificial habitat, structure or shelter to aid the collection of crab.

The definition of 'harvesting' in relation to the above prohibitions is given as: *to remove and retain for the purposes of consumption, selling, displaying, using as part or wholly for a product*

or service, cultivating, introducing to the sea or using as bait whether carried out for commercial purposes or otherwise.

The Byelaw provides two exceptions:

- Points (i) and (ii) do not apply to the fishing for or taking of sea fisheries resources using a vessel provided that no part of the vessel's hull is in contact with the seabed.
- Points (i) and (ii) do not apply when using:
    a. Hook and line in conjunction with a fishing rod
    b. Handlines
    c. Spear gun
    d. A net other than a push net

These definitions ensure that all relevant activities are covered. The potential impacts which require spatial management are applicable to all types of shore gathering activity and therefore in order to ensure that identified protections for designated features are appropriately mitigating those impacts, there is a need to manage all relevant activities consistently.

3.0 Seaweed Harvesting Code of Conduct

For the management of seaweed harvesting outside of the management areas defined in the Shore Gathering Byelaw, the Southern IFCA Seaweed Harvesting Code of Conduct has been developed. The Code of Conduct is in line with other seaweed harvesting CoCs around the UK and has primarily used a CoC developed by Natural England in conjunction with partners including other IFC Authorities as a base with the inclusion of specific provisions relevant to the needs of applicable National Site Network Sites.

The CoC is provided as Annex 2.

The CoC includes voluntary provisions for:

- Obtaining relevant permissions
- Harvesting only by hand
- No use of vehicles
- Avoiding disturbance to sea birds
- Avoiding trampling or taking of non-target species
- Collection of less than 1/3 of an individual plant
- Replacing any rocks removed
- Cutting fronds above the point of growth and leaving the holdfast
- Harvesting sparsely and taking only a small percentage of standing stock
- Rotating harvest areas
- Harvesting during the active growing season
- Harvesting after reproduction has occurred and ensuring a sustainable proportion of mature plants remain
- INIS protocols
- Not collecting drift seaweed from the entire length of stand lines
- Keeping records of volumes and weights of species harvested
- Limiting harvesting in erosion-prone coastal areas where kelp forests dissipate wave energy
- Being aware of hazards on the foreshore

4.0 Other Applicable Southern IFCA Management

In addition to the management assessed in this document, the following Southern IFCA management will also apply to shore gathering activities:

- **Minimum Conservation Reference Size Byelaw** – MCRS set for a variety of species, applicable to commercial and recreational participants and throughout the supply chain
- **Oyster Close Season Byelaw** – defines a period during which no person may take native oysters of between 1st March and 31st October in any year, both days inclusive
- **Temporary Closure of Shellfish Beds Byelaw** – where any shellfish bed is depleted and requires closure to recover, the Committee may establish a temporary shellfish bed closure, wherein no person may take shellfish from the defined shellfish bed
- **Scallop Fishing Byelaw 2019** – sets a daily time period during which scallops can be fished for or taken of between 0700 and 1900 local time
- **Oysters Byelaw** – defines the MCRS for native oyster of 70mm
- **Mussels Byelaw** – defines the MCRS for mussels of 50mm

The Southern IFCA Fishing for Cockles Byelaw will be amended along with the introduction of the Shore Gathering Byelaw, the amended Byelaw will contain the provisions for a closed season for fishing for cockles of between 1st February and 30th April inclusive and the MCRS for cockle, stated as a person must not take from a fishery a cockle which will pass through a gauge having a square opening measuring 23.8mm along each side.

Section F: Part B Assessments and Appropriate Assessments

The aim of the Part B Assessments (MCZs) and Appropriate Assessments (SACs and SPAs) is to ensure that the activities will not prevent the furthering of Conservation Objectives or have an adverse effect on designated features respectively.

The following evidence was used to carry out the required Part B Assessments/Appropriate Assessments. Table 24 indicates where this evidence can be found in supporting documentation.

Evidence Type	Relevant Document
Site Specific	
Feature location and extent	**Site Specific Evidence Packages**
Existing shore gathering management	
Records of shore gathering activities	
Records of catches of target species from shore gathering activities	
Records of offences related to shore gathering activities	
For SPAs, evidence on seasonality and prey preferences of designated bird species	**Provided as Annex 3 to this document**
General	
Evidence from peer-reviewed literature on activities and potential impacts	**Literature Review**
Methods for relevant shore gathering activities	**Listed in Section B1.0 of this document**
Existing management which applies across the Southern IFCA District	**Site Specific Evidence Packages**
Existing management for shore gathering activities from other authorities	

Consideration was also given to the relative sensitivities of different habitats to different pressures, fishing activities and access to the intertidal areas. This work has been carried out over several years through a number of studies looking to map sensitivities for designated habitats (Tillin *et al.,* 2010[8]; Hall *et al.,* 2008[9]; Tyler-Walters & Arnold, 2008[10]). These sensitivity analyses identify that the sensitivity of a particular habitat is reduced for more dynamic habitats, with lower levels of activity and the frequency of activity occurring over the same area. For all habitats analysed, seagrass beds showed the highest sensitivity with the

[8] Tilin, H.M., Hull, S.C. & Tyler-Walters, H. 2010. Development of a Sensitivity Matrix (pressures-MCZ/MPA features). Report to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) from ABPMer, Southampton and the Marine Life Information Network (MarLIN) Plymouth: Marine Biological Association of the UK. Defra Contract No. MB0102 Task 3A, Report No. 22. 947 pp.

[9] Hall, S.J. & Harding, M.J.C. 1997. Physical disturbance and marine benthic communities: the effects of mechanical harvesting of cockles on non-target benthic infauna. J. App. Ecol., 34, 497-517.

[10] Tyler-Walters, H. & Arnold, C. 2008. Sensitivity of intertidal benthic habitats to impacts caused by access to fishing grounds. CCW Policy Research Report No. 08/13.

sensitivity analysis by Tillin *et al.* (2010) showing a high sensitivity, particularly to abrasion impacts with a high confidence in the analysis outcome.

The below table lists Management Principles 3-8, the resulting management and how these relate to ensuring that the IFCA is meeting its legal duties in relation to the relevant protected sites.

Management Principle	
(3) For relevant features a GPS buffer of 10m will be incorporated.	The use of a GPS buffer ensures that potential impacts from accidental trampling are reduced and increases protection for relevant features from accidental incursions. The size of the buffer is relevant to the use of hand-held GPS units and the nature of the activity being undertaken; i.e. hand-held equipment operated by a single operative.
(4) Prohibition areas will be defined as follows: a. For designated seagrass features within MCZs that occur up to the 2m chart datum contour. b. For seagrass designated as a feature or as a supporting habitat, within or adjacent to SACs and SPAs that occur up to the 2m chart datum contour.	Seagrass is identified as the habitat with the highest sensitivity to shore gathering activities with significant impacts possible from low levels of activity. This impact is applicable year-round. Prohibition areas for identified designated seagrass features within MCZs and within or adjacent to SACs and SPAs up to the 2m chart datum contour provide protection to this feature year-round ensuring that activities such as push netting which have the potential to occur subtidally are managed within a distance from the shore which is proportionate in relation to where the activity can take place. The identification of seagrass as both a designated feature (MCZs and SACs) and a supporting habitat (SPAs) necessitates prohibited areas for all National Site Network Sites where this habitat is designated. This protection also addresses potential impacts to designated species which may be associated with seagrass beds; stalked jellyfish species and seahorse species.
(5) Existing Southern IFCA Management measures for relevant activities in the Poole Harbour SPA will be combined to create a single management approach.	Combining seasonal (1st November to 31st March) prohibition areas for shellfish harvesting which are based on the advice received from NE on Bird Sensitive Areas (BSA) within Poole Harbour with areas currently managed under a Memorandum of Agreement for Bait Digging will provide protection to both the designated features and supporting habitats of the Poole Harbour SPA from all shore gathering activities. The measures will address non-compliance which is currently observed in relation to the MoA for bait digging and align seasonal closures through a regulatory mechanism. This provides additional protection against bait collection activity and, in line with the definition, recognises that the impacts from identified pressures are the same for all shore gathering activities and therefore appropriate protections require management of all relevant activities in the same way. Consistency in management from previous measures will aid understanding from stakeholders which will encourage greater levels of compliance. In addition, considering the relatively low levels of activity (maximum 35 occurrences of one activity spread over a single month) utilising the identified BSAs as areas of importance for designated features is a proportionate approach to management

	which allows the achievement of relevant conservation objectives.
(6) With the exception of seagrass, the extent and distribution of feature-based management in the Solent Maritime SAC and district-wide SPAs will be developed using Poole Harbour as a model. (7) In the application of the Poole Harbour model to the Solent Maritime SAC and district-wide SPAs, the following approach will be taken: a. Bird Sensitive Areas (BSA) will be used as the basis for spatial management.	Due to the absence of advice on key BSAs and the identification of low levels of shore gathering activity in the District SPAs (<20 sightings in a single month) and the Solent Maritime SAC (max. 6 sightings in a single month), a proportionate approach to meeting the relevant conservation objective is necessary. The Poole Harbour model utilises BSAs as an identification of key areas for designated features and supporting habitats within the site and management on this basis has been in place since 2015. NE have supported the management as appropriate in meeting the legal duties of Southern IFCA in relation to the site. The application of this approach to the District SPAs and Solent Maritime SAC will allow key areas for designated features to be protected; encompassing bird features, supporting habitats and designated estuarine and sediment habitats under the Solent Maritime SAC.
b. In the absence of BSAs being defined by Natural England in the Solent Maritime SAC and district-wide SPAs (excluding Poole Harbour), BSAs will be defined as follows: i. For the Solent Maritime SAC and Solent SPAs, BSAs will be initially defined using areas proposed for management as good examples of estuarine habitat under the Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw 2023 and adapted to be relevant to shore gathering activity. ii. For the Solent Maritime SAC, Solent SPAs and The Chesil and The Fleet SPA, consideration will be given to aligning BSAs with directions relating to access and shore gathering activities given by other bodies, for example harbour authorities and conservation bodies.	Consideration of existing measures and alignment with areas already identified for protection provides a robust method of defining areas which are most likely to be key to designated features/supporting habitats in the absence of advice on where BSAs occur in SPAs other than Poole Harbour. This approach ensures the appropriate protections can be provided to address the pressure/feature interactions identified for designated bird features, supporting habitats and estuarine and sediment habitats under the Solent Maritime SAC; whilst also ensuring consistency with the management of other fishing activities in the District and recognising the different level of effort and impact resulting from different types of fishing activity. Utilising areas afforded protection from other gear types increases the overall level of cumulative protection. Where existing measures are in place under other bodies/authorities, alignment provides the ability to increase the overall cumulative protection afforded to a particular feature, build on existing evidence as to which areas are key for designated features and support consistency for stakeholders with the aim of increasing compliance through improved understanding and stakeholder buy in. Whilst the Solent Maritime SAC does not have bird species as a designated feature, the designated estuarine and sediment features align with supporting habitats for the overlapping SPAs. Protecting these habitats through the identification of BSAs for the SPAs addresses the impacts to the features of this site in a proportionate way to the activity being managed. The alignment of spatial management in The Fleet with existing closures under other authorities combined with the required spatial management for seagrass provides a

	year-round prohibition in this site, addressing potential adverse impacts to all relevant designated features under the SAC, SPA and MCZ covering this site.
c. The requirements for seasonal management within BSAs will be considered on the basis of best available evidence.	Based on the availability of evidence for designated bird features in the Solent SPAs and a consideration of proportionality reflecting the low levels of activity. The draft measures have set seasonal management of BSAs as follows: **Langstone Harbour:** year-round closures • This provides protection for the months where >50% of designated bird species are present and accounts for the presence of tern species during the summer months • A seasonal closure on the basis of only using >50% of the designated bird species being present would only provide a single month's protection for each of the designated tern bird species therefore a year-round closure is required as the areas utilised by these species have the potential to overlap with shore gathering activities. *(note that in other locations where bird species are designated the seasonality and access to locations where terns may be breeding differ therefore different management is applied*) **Solent and Southampton Water SPA:** 1st March to 31st August • This covers 100% of the seasonal period where >50% of designated bird species are present. Prohibition of all shore gathering activities within the BSA during these periods will mitigate impacts of disturbance and impacts to supporting habitats during the period when they are most important to designated species. • There are two bird species: Dark-Bellied Brent Goose and Teal which, based on seasonality information provided by NE, would have only one month of overlap with the closed season (seasonality October to March). • Considering the specific species, dark-bellied brent goose is noted to roost on the water overnight and during the day will roost close to preferred feeding areas, given as seagrass beds and areas of green algae. o Under the Byelaw, all seagrass beds will be protected as year-round prohibited areas providing protection to these species when they are feeding and roosting during the day. o Roosting overnight on the water removes the potential for interaction with the activities being assessed and managed through this Byelaw. • For Teal, the species roosts on the open water and feeds in saltmarsh, creeks and mudflats with Southampton Water and Newtown Creek highlighted as important areas. o Roosting on the open water removes the potential for interaction with the activities being assessed and managed through this Byelaw.

	○ Saltmarsh is not a target habitat for shore-based activities or seaweed harvesting and therefore whilst there may be access, the levels of activity observed and the fact that operations will not be taking place in this habitat limiting the time a person would be there is deemed to not significantly affect the ability to feed in this habitat. ○ The greatest number of records observed in a single month for shore-based activities is less than 20, with large areas of the site having no observed shore-based activities recorded. Newtown Creek has no recorded occurrences of shore-based activities. • The proposal for summer closure areas in line with the Principles for the SG Review allows Southern IFCA to meet its legal duties for designated sites, considering the specifics of the behaviours of relevant designated features, whilst being proportionate to the risk posed by shore-based activities based on levels of activity and how those activities are conducted. **Chichester Harbour and Portsmouth Harbour:** there are no additional areas identified for protection beyond the permanent closures associated with seagrass beds. Utilising work undertaken in defining potential BSA through the BTFG Review, there were no areas identified as requiring additional protection in these sites. For Chichester Harbour, only a small portion of the Harbour sits within the Southern IFCA District. In both these Harbours, within the Southern IFCA District, there are large areas closed for seagrass habitat which will provide additional protection to sediments and for disturbance from birds, outside of these areas the occurrence of shore gathering activities is further limited by access. Based on the low levels of activity observed (no activity observed in Chichester Harbour and max. 8 occurrences per month in Portsmouth Harbour – all in areas proposed to be closed through seagrass closures), it is determined that no additional seasonal management is required. For the Solent Maritime SAC, year-round protection to identified key areas of designated habitat is provided for bottom towed fishing gear (BTFG). Protections afforded for shore gathering overlap with Solent SPAs and are thus subject to the above seasonal restrictions, however given the low levels of activity for relevant shore gathering operations and the nature/degree of impact compared to other fishing methods (BTFG) the impacts are deemed to not cause an adverse impact to the features of the SAC under the Shore Gathering 2024 Byelaw.
(8) A code of practice will be developed for the gathering of seaweed by hand.	Consideration of the levels of activity which are currently seen in the Southern IFCA District for seaweed harvesting does not currently indicate that a regulatory approach to management is required. The identified pressures in relation to rocky habitats and associated species (including designated species for

	MCZs of peacocks tail, stalked jellyfish species and seahorse species) can be addressed through a code of practice, the provisions of which have been developed to include mitigation for trampling, abrasion, awareness of associated species and good practice, to address impacts to the target species. The code of practice has been developed in line with other codes of practice, including those developed by NE in conjunction with other IFCAs. This ensures a consistency in approach and ease of understanding for stakeholders which will help increase voluntary compliance.

Note: the management for shore gathering by Southern IFCA does not remove or supersede existing measures relevant to shore gathering activities which are enforced/monitored by other relevant bodies/regulatory authorities. Stakeholders undertaking shore gathering activities will need to ensure that they are abiding by all relevant regulations and/or voluntary measures and will need to seek guidance from the appropriate body for any regulations which are under the remit of that body.

Examples include:

- Statutory Nature Conservation Order – Fareham Creek, Portsmouth Harbour
- Landowner permission to harvest bait commercially
- SSSI consent from Natural England
- Harbour authority regulations for digging around moorings, jetties etc.
- National and regional codes of best practice for bait digging

Southern IFCA measures such as Minimum Conservation Reference Size will continue to be enforced under the relevant legislation, applicable to recreational and commercial shore gathering activities. The combination of management created by the measures considered in this assessment and maintained existing measures strengthens the level of protection afforded to designated sites.

Section G: Conclusion

Based on the information presented in this document, and the consideration of available evidence in the form of designated feature location and extent, current & historic levels of activity, the potential for impact from shore gathering activities considering gear type and method of operation, the evidence provided in literature and NE advice on designated sites, it is concluded that the management under the Shore Gathering Byelaw, in combination with the Southern IFCA Seaweed Harvesting Code of Practice and existing or amended Southern IFCA Byelaws will provide suitable and appropriate mitigation to ensure that the Conservation Objectives of relevant MCZs can be furthered and that there will be no adverse effect on designated features of relevant SACs or SPAs.

Section H: In-Combination Assessment

As part of the assessment process, Southern IFCA is required to consider the in-combination effect of draft measures with other fishing activities and also other non-fishing plans/projects in relevant areas.

For fishing activities, the appropriate conservation assessments have been completed for the management of activities identified as having a potential impact on National Site Networks within the District. These include:

- Bottom towed fishing gear
    - This encompasses specific assessments relevant to management of dredge fishing in Poole Harbour and the Solent
- Net fishing

These assessments concluded, with appropriate management in place, that there will be no adverse effect or no impact to the furthering of conservation objectives.

For other activities, there are no potential in combination effects identified for the relevant pressure/feature interactions:

- Pot/trap fishing
- Rod and line angling

Considering non-fishing plans or projects, the Southern IFCA is a consultee in the marine licencing process administered by the MMO. Southern IFCA reviews relevant applications for works taking place in the marine environment and through this process identifies whether there is likely to be an overlap with fishing activity. From the marine licence applications reviewed from March 2023 to date, there is no identified in combination effect.

Section I: Integrity Test

On the basis that the management in the form of the Shore Gathering Byelaw, the Southern IFCA Seaweed Harvesting Code of Conduct and existing and amended Southern IFCA Byelaws is concluded to provide suitable and appropriate mitigation to ensure that the Conservation Objectives of relevant MCZs can be furthered and that there will be no adverse effect on designated features of relevant SACs or SPAs, and in the absence of any identified in-combination effect, the integrity test is passed.

Annex 1: Maps of designated sites with spatial management areas under the Shore Gathering Byelaw 2024

Marine Conservation Zones

- For Chesil Beach and Stennis Ledges MCZ spatial management is defined for the Chesil Beach and The Fleet SPA and Chesil and The Fleet SAC, being relevant to the designated features of those sites, maps are therefore provided under these sites.
- There are no management areas defined under the Byelaw for:
    - Purbeck Coast MCZ

Special Areas of Conservation

- There are no management areas defined under the Byelaw for:
    - Lyme Bay and Torbay SAC
    - Studland to Portland SAC
    - South Wight Maritime SAC

For these sites, suitable mitigation is provided through the Southern IFCA Seaweed Harvesting Code of Conduct for relevant designated habitats/species.

Studland Bay MCZ

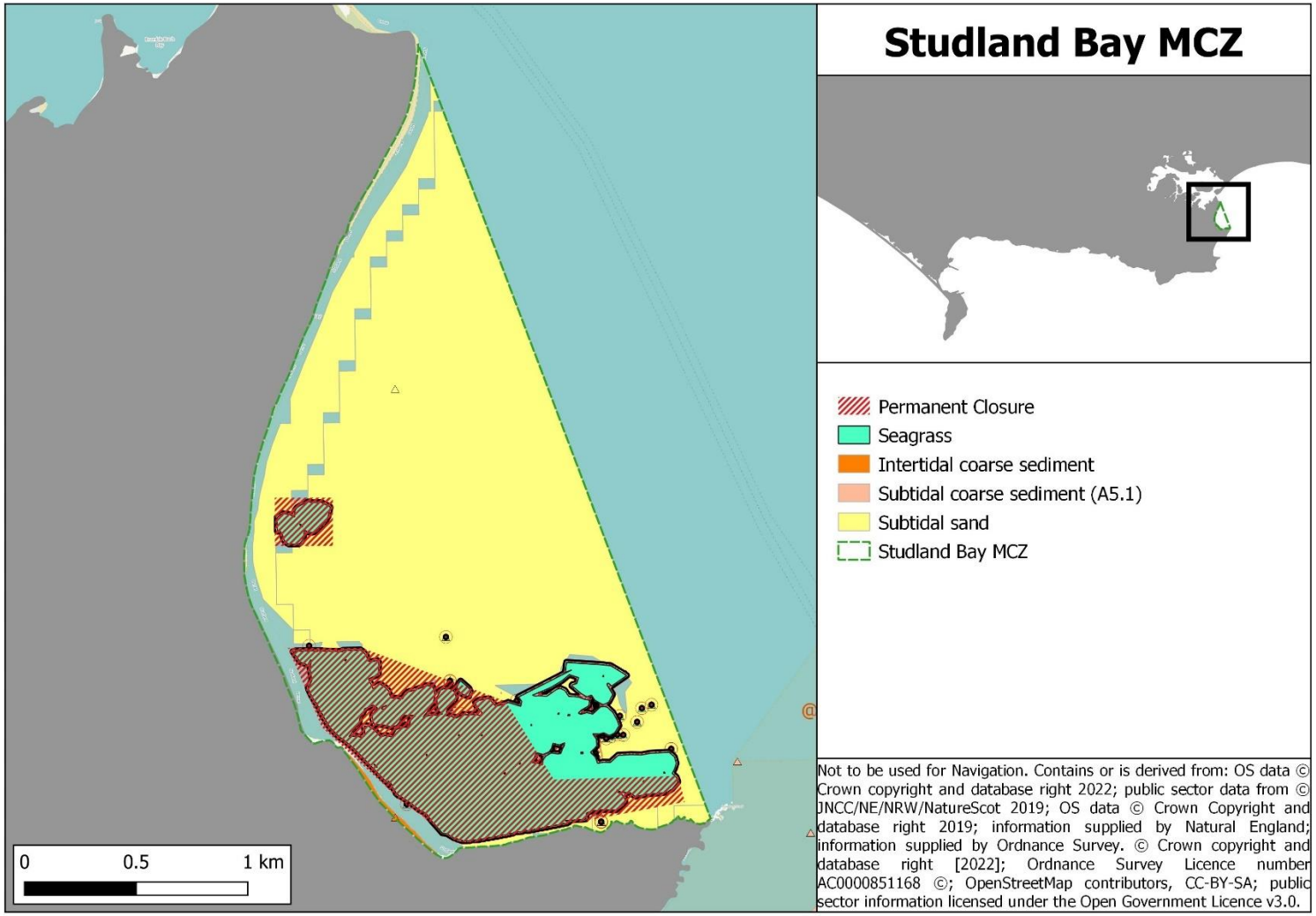

Figure 19: Studland Bay MCZ showing designated features and spatial management under the Shore Gathering Byelaw 2024.

The Needles MCZ

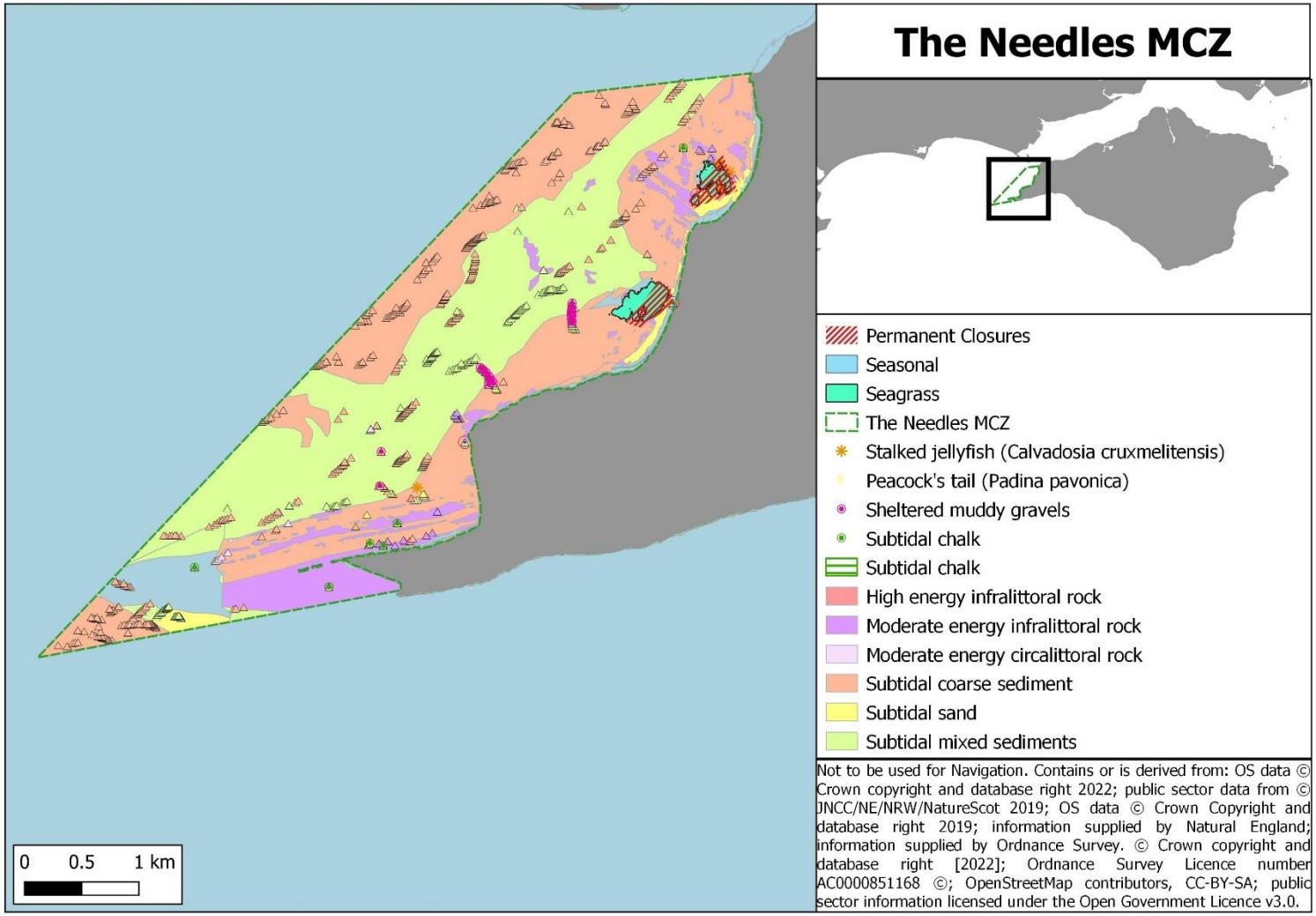

Figure 20: The Needles MCZ showing designated features and spatial management under the Shore Gathering Byelaw 2024.

Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ

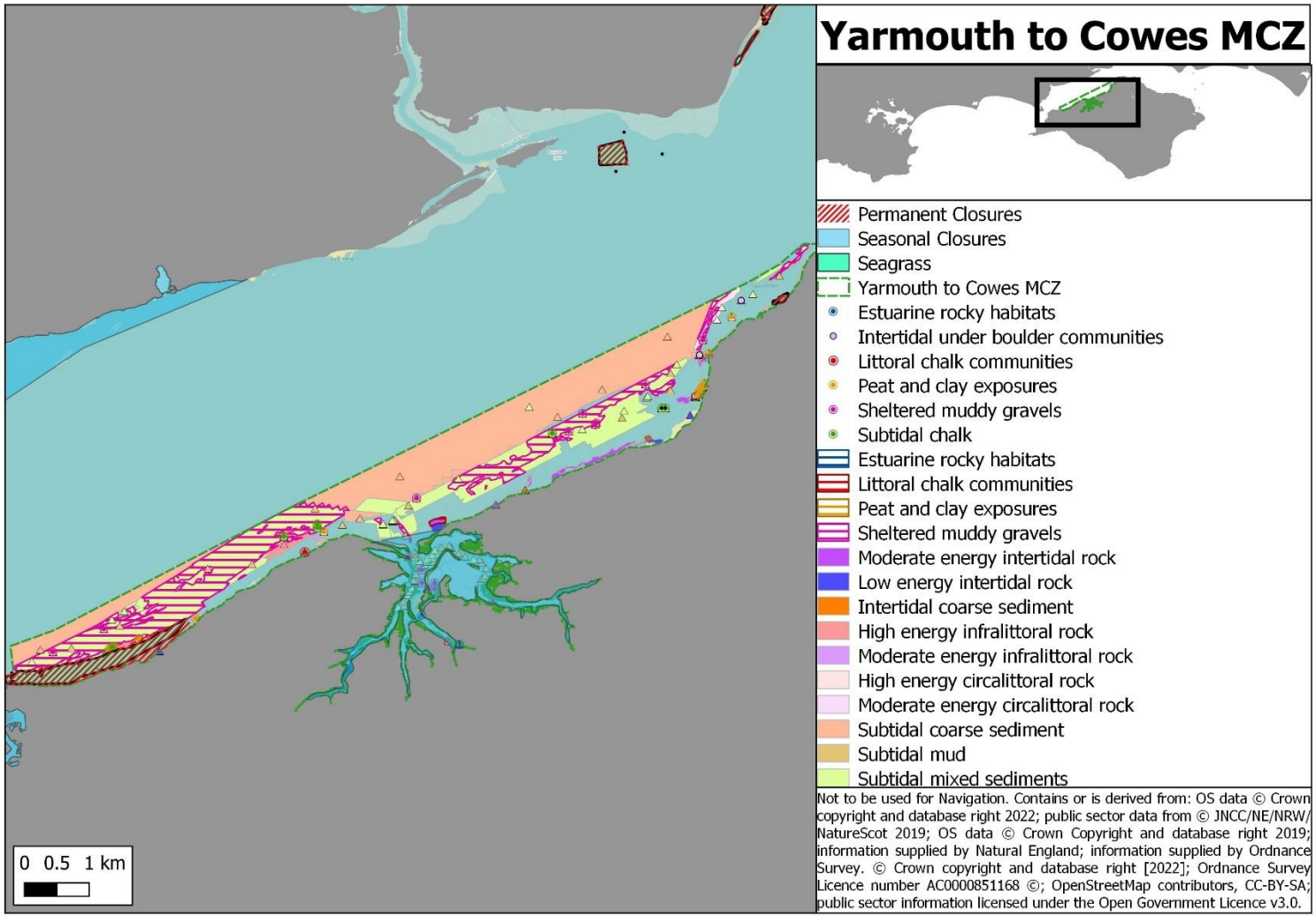

Figure 21: Yarmouth to Cowes MCZ showing designated features and spatial management under the Shore Gathering Byelaw 2024.

Bembridge MCZ

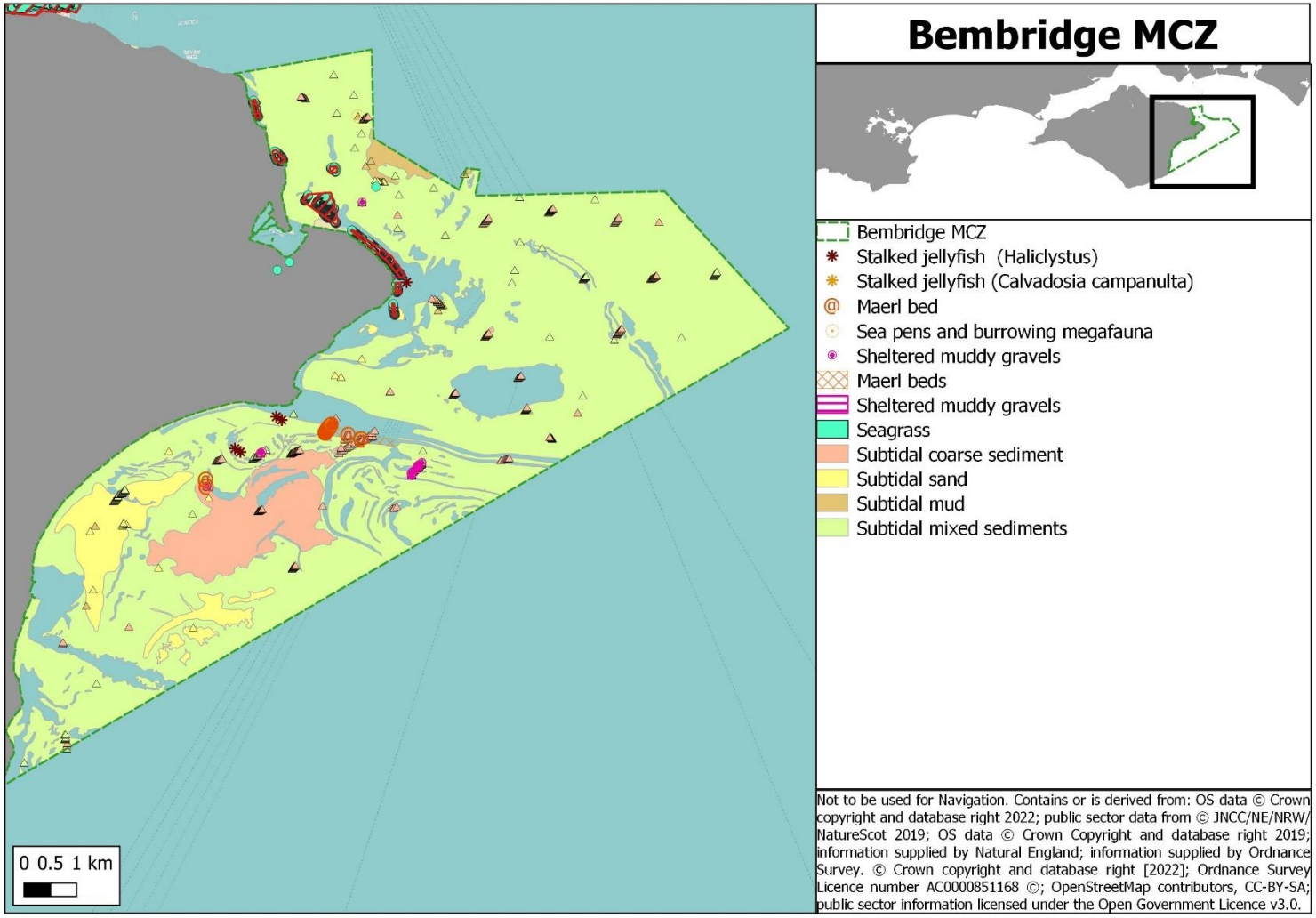

Figure 22: Bembridge MCZ showing designated features and spatial management under the Shore Gathering Byelaw 2024.

Chesil and The Fleet SAC

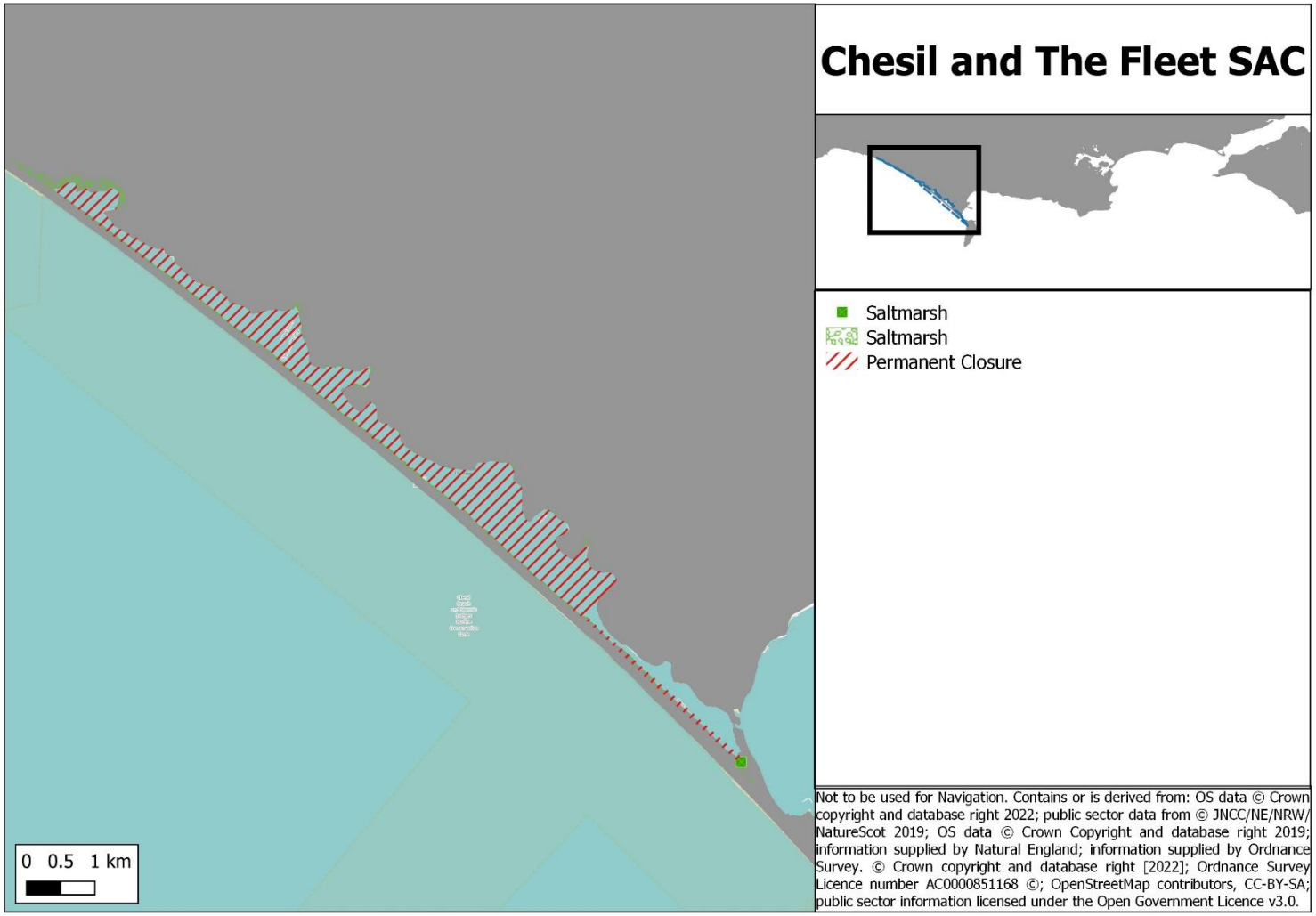

Figure 23: Chesil and The Fleet SAC showing designated features and spatial management under the Shore Gathering Byelaw 2024.

Solent Maritime SAC

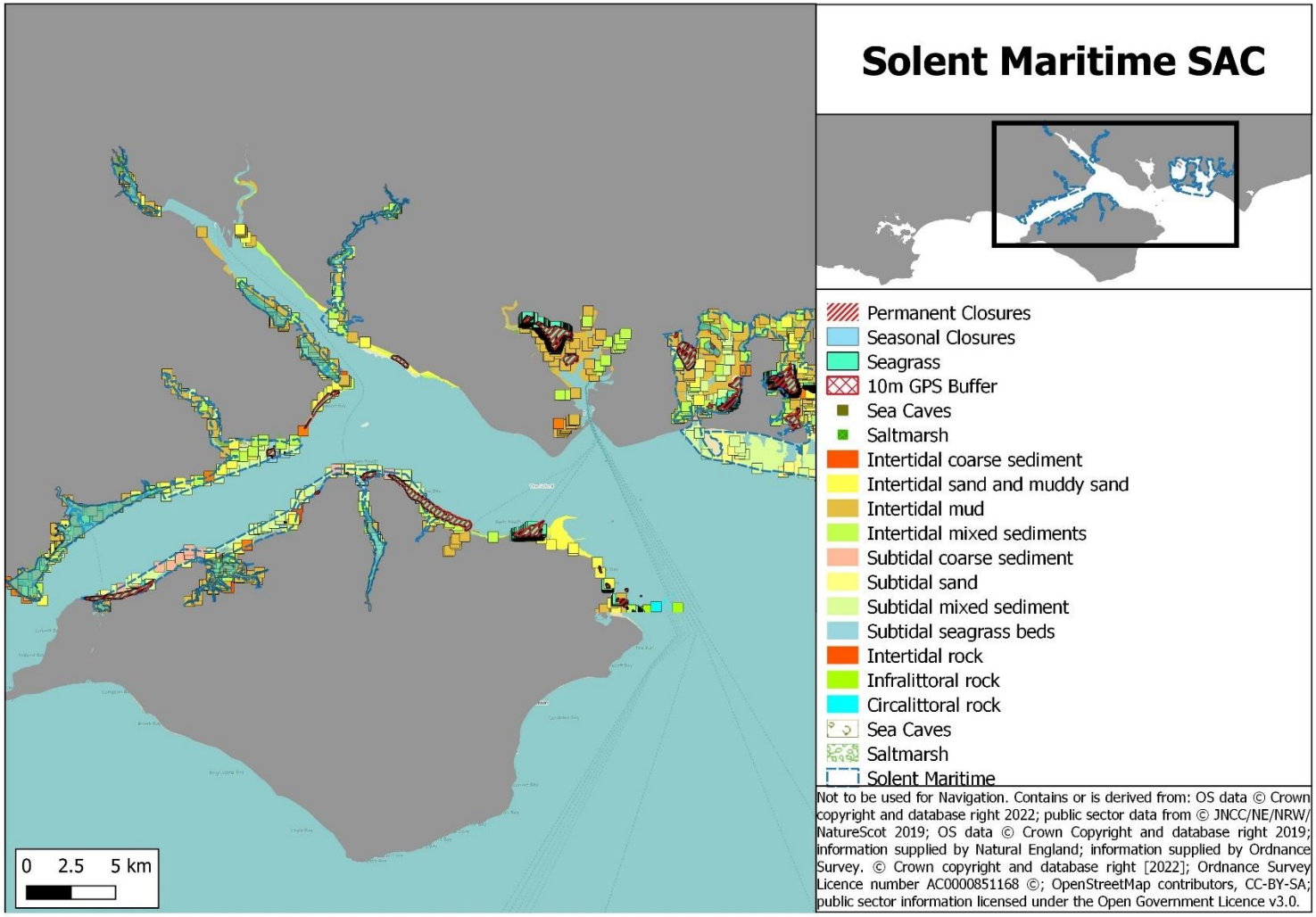

Figure 24: Solent Maritime SAC showing designated features and spatial management under the Shore Gathering Byelaw 2024.

Chesil Beach and The Fleet SPA

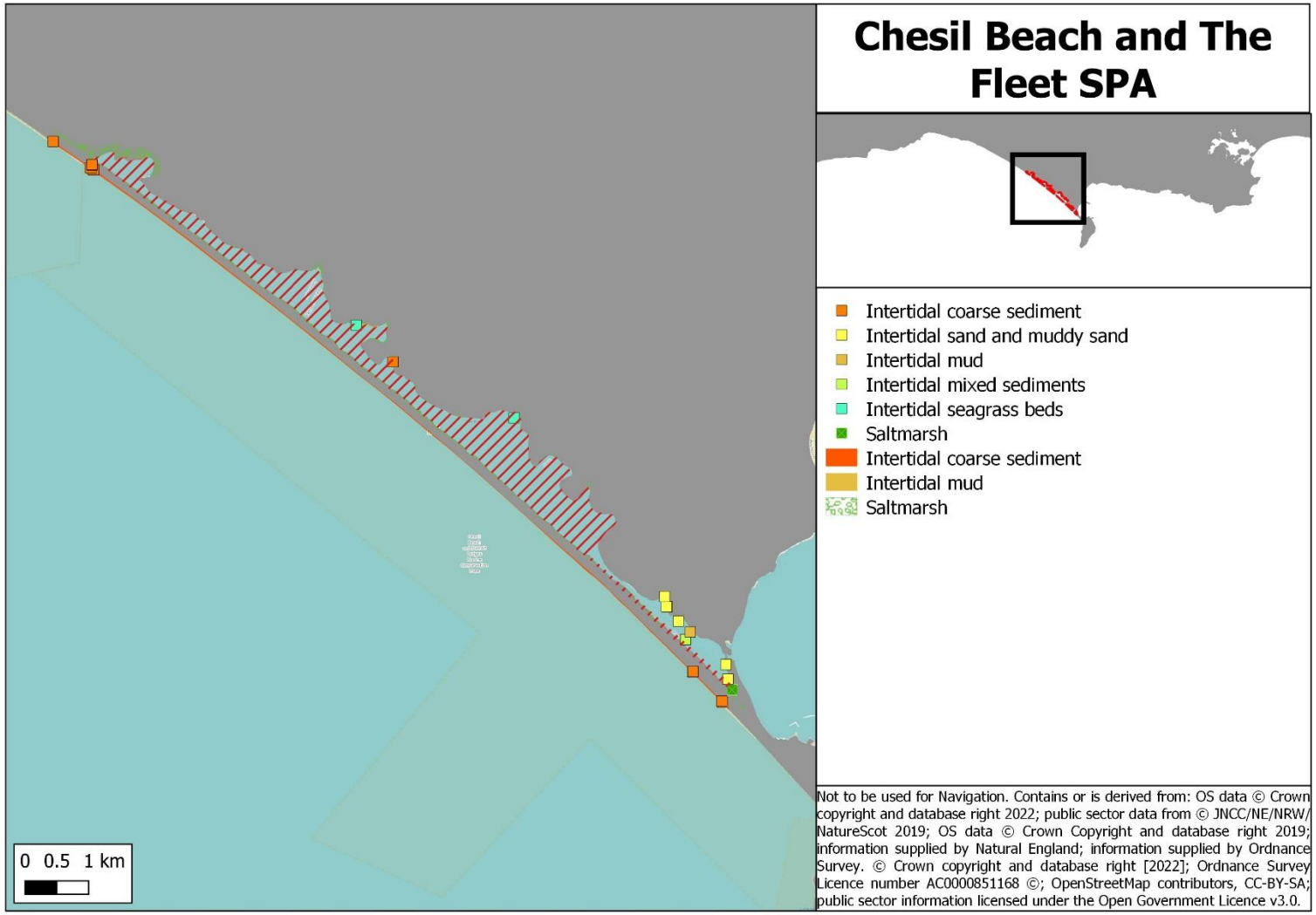

Figure 25: Chesil Beach and The Fleet SPA showing designated features and spatial management under the Shore Gathering Byelaw 2024.

Poole Harbour SPA

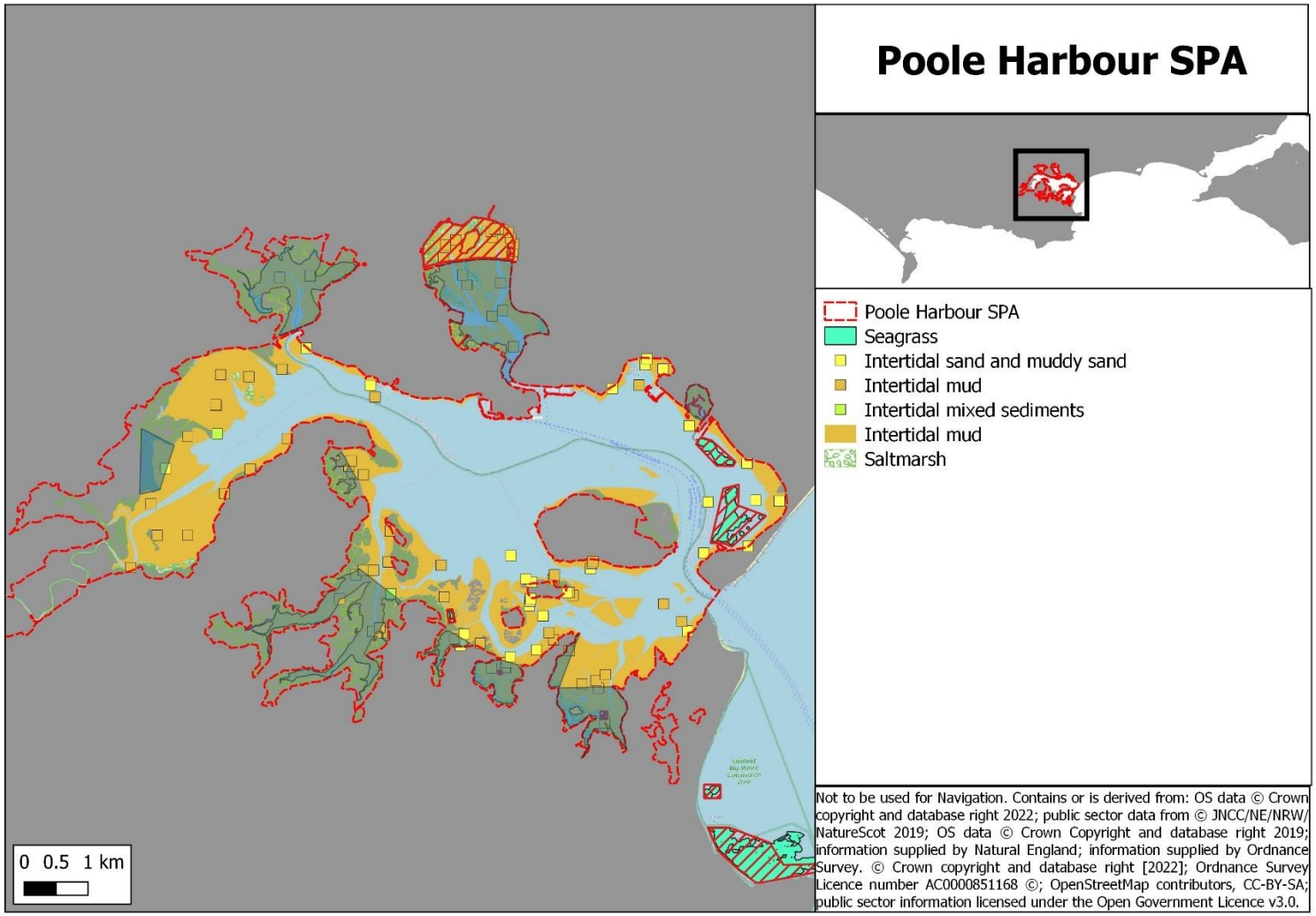

Figure 26: Poole Harbour SPA showing designated features and spatial management under the Shore Gathering Byelaw 2024.

Solent and Southampton Water SPA

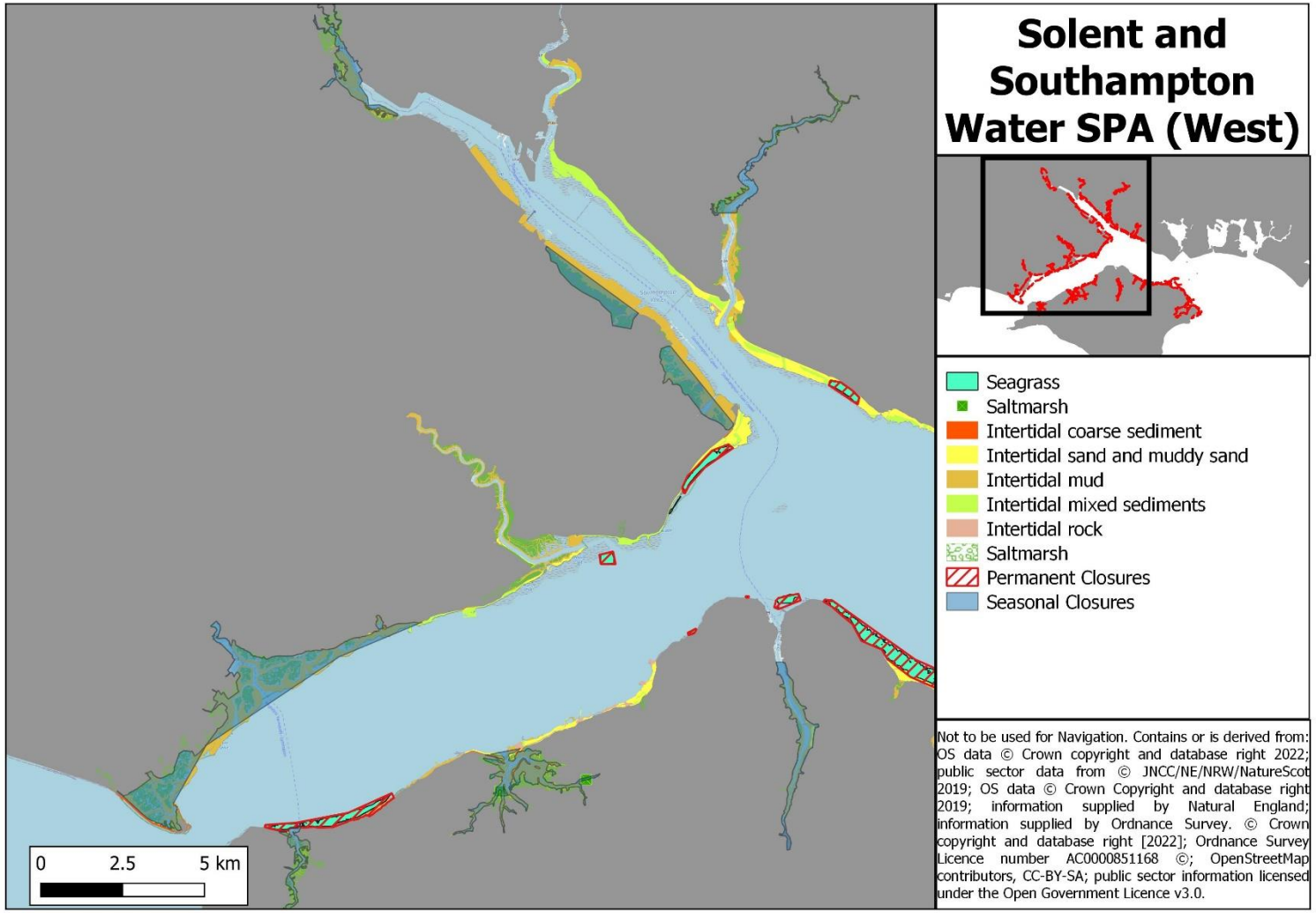

Figure 27: Solent and Southampton Water SPA (West) showing designated features and spatial management under the Shore Gathering Byelaw 2024.

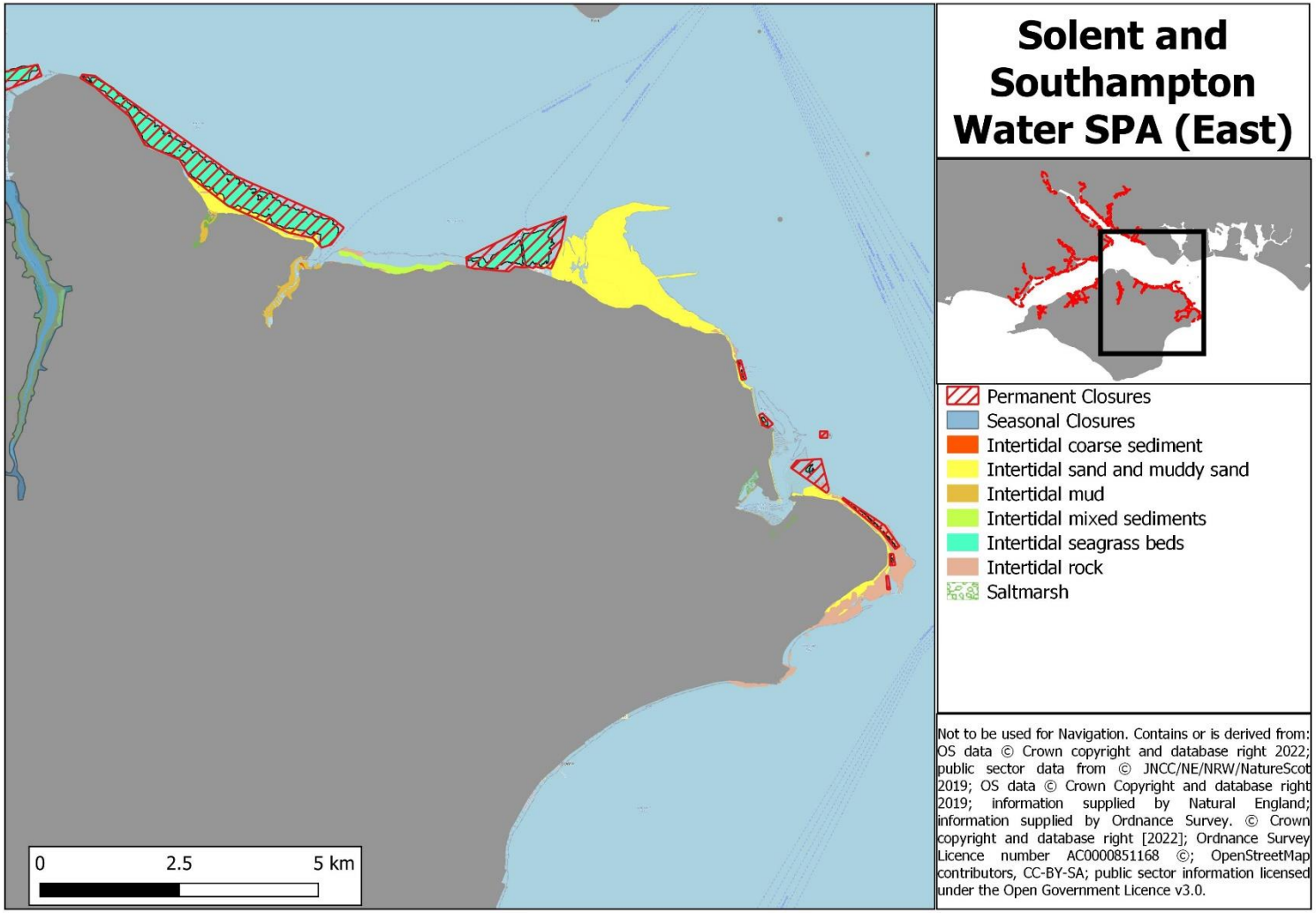

Figure 28 Solent and Southampton Water SPA (East) showing designated features and spatial management under the Shore Gathering Byelaw 2024.

Portsmouth Harbour SPA

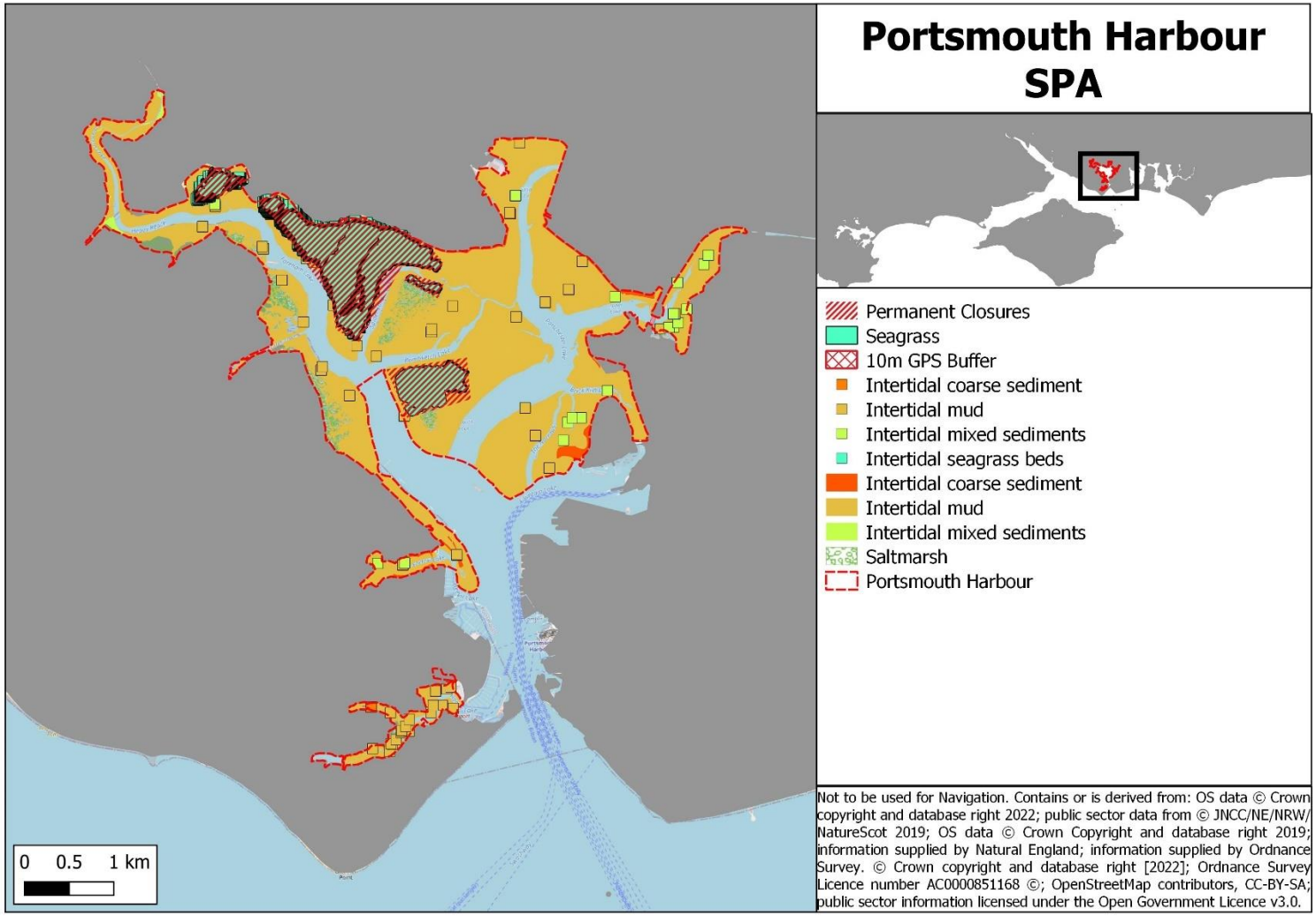

Figure 29: Portsmouth Harbour SPA showing designated features and spatial management under the Shore Gathering Byelaw 2024.

Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA

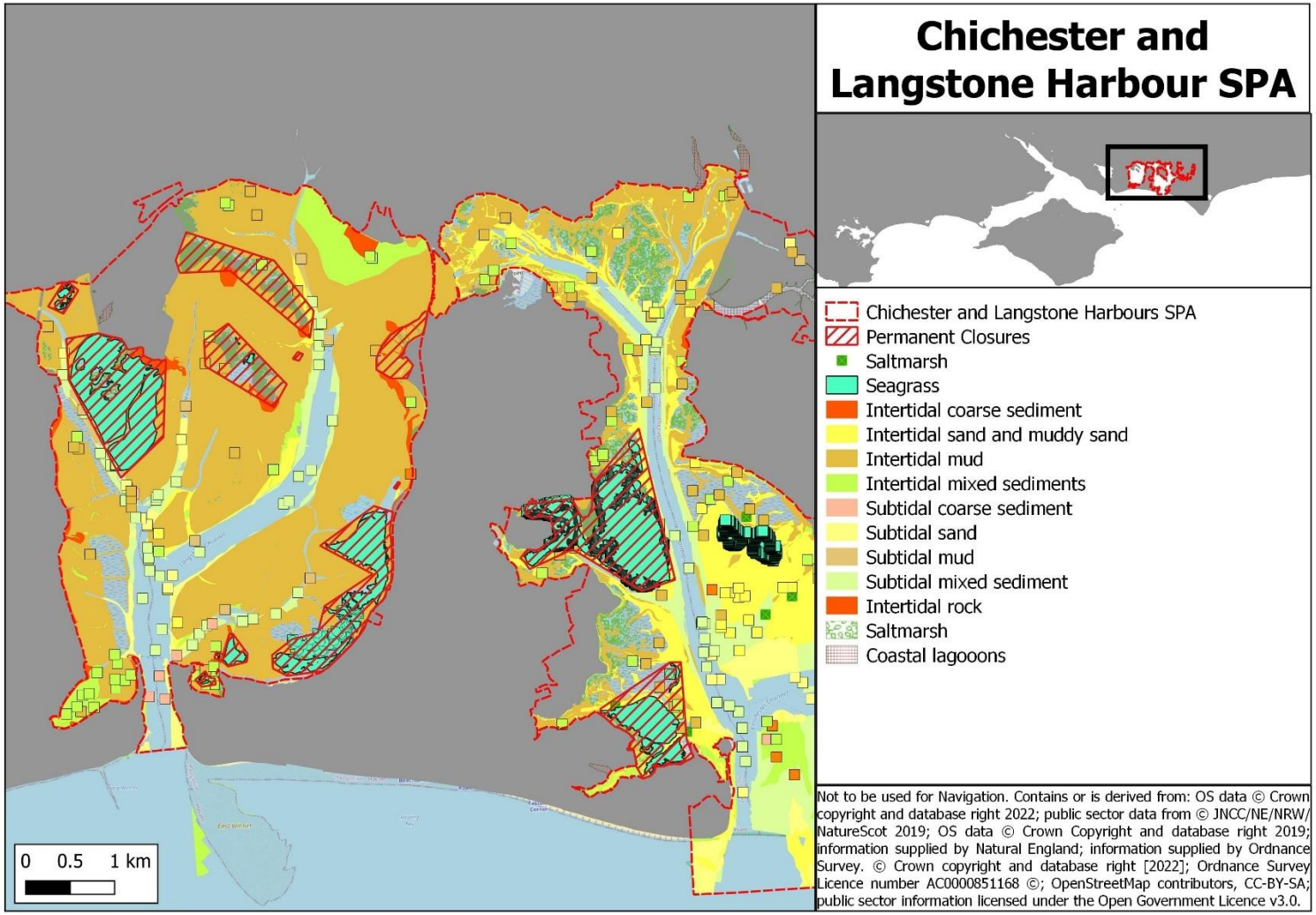

Figure 30: Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA showing designated features and spatial management under the Shore Gathering Byelaw 2024.

Annex 2: Southern IFCA Seaweed Harvesting Code of Conduct

MARKED B_ANNEX 3

Seaweed Harvesting Code of Conduct

This Seaweed Harvesting Code of Conduct applies to Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the Southern IFCA District. The CoC has been adapted from the Natural England CoC for seaweed harvesting (which was developed in conjunction with the Crown Estate, Cornwall and Devon & Severn IFCAs, the National Trust and Cornwall Wildlife Trust) to include reference to relevant features of the District's National Site Network Sites.

1	Ensure you obtain any relevant permissions before undertaking gathering activities, including landowner permission. Natural England should be consulted before harvesting seaweed in a protected site in England.
2	Harvest seaweed only by hand – mechanical methods should not be used. Cut fronds (leaves) well above the point of growth (e.g. the meristem for kelps) and always leave the holdfast attached.
3	Do not use vehicles on the foreshore.
4	Avoid disturbing sea birds by keeping an appropriate distance away.
5	Avoid or minimise trampling on non-target organisms and avoid taking 'bycatch' such as stalked jellyfish, Peacocks Tail, Pink Sea Fan and Seahorses.
6	Collect less than one third of an individual plant to allow for regrowth.
7	Take care to replace any rocks in the position you found them.
8	Harvest sparsely, taking only a small percentage of standing stock.*
9	Rotate harvesting areas to allow ample time for recovery. Harvested areas should be left for up to several years, depending on the species, before harvesting again.*
10	Harvest seaweeds during the active growth season to allow for quicker recovery.*
11	Harvest seaweeds after reproduction has occurred if possible and ensure a substantial proportion of mature plants remain.*
12	Take extra care when harvesting invasive non-native seaweeds to ensure that seaweeds or spores are not transferred to other areas. Follow 'Check, Clean, Dry' biosecurity principles, checking, cleaning and drying all equipment and clothing when moving between sites to ensure that invasive species, pests and diseases are not spread to new areas. ** (https://www.nonnativespecies.org/what-can-i-do/check-clean-dry/). *
13	Do not collect drift seaweed from the entire length of strandlines – harvest sparsely as this constitutes an important habitat.
14	Keep records of volumes & weights of each species of seaweed harvested, along with date and location.
15	Limit harvesting in erosion prone coastal areas (i.e. dunes) where kelp forests dissipate wave energy.
16	Please be aware that foreshores can be hazardous. Do not put yourself at risk of injury by collecting seaweed in adverse conditions and be aware of tides.

Please note that other restrictions/regulations may apply to this activity. Participants should be aware of all relevant regulations.

*Consult Natural England for further information/ advice

** For information on how to identify non-native seaweeds, please see the GBNNSS website: www.nonnativespecies.org.

Annex 3: Seasonality & Prey Tables for Designated Bird Species

Seasonality data on designated bird species for the Southern IFCA District Special Protection Areas (SPAs) as provided by Natural England through their Designated Sites database. Green months indicate where >50% of the designated species are present within each area.

SPA	Month											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chesil Beach and The Fleet	Wigeon (NB)	Wigeon (NB)	Wigeon (NB)	Wigeon (NB) Little Tern (B)	Wigeon (NB) Little Tern (B)	Little Tern (B)	Little Tern (B)	Wigeon (NB) Little Tern (B)	Wigeon (NB)	Wigeon (NB)	Wigeon (NB)	Wigeon (NB)
Chichester and Langstone Harbours (18)	Bar-tailed godwit (NB) Curlew (NB) Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Dunlin (NB) Grey Plover (NB) Pintail (NB) Red-breasted merganser (NB) Redshank (NB) Ringed-plover (NB) Sanderling (NB) Shelduck (NB) Shoveler (NB) Teal (NB) Turnstone (NB) Wigeon (NB)	Bar-tailed godwit (NB) Curlew (NB) Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Dunlin (NB) Grey Plover (NB) Pintail (NB) Red-breasted merganser (NB) Redshank (NB) Ringed-plover (NB) Sanderling (NB) Shelduck (NB) Shoveler (NB) Teal (NB) Turnstone (NB) Wigeon (NB)	Bar-tailed godwit (NB) Curlew (NB) Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Dunlin (NB) Grey Plover (NB) Pintail (NB) Red-breasted merganser (NB) Redshank (NB) Ringed-plover (NB) Sanderling (NB) Shelduck (NB) Shoveler (NB) Teal (NB) Turnstone (NB) Wigeon (NB)	Bar-tailed godwit (NB) Common Tern (B) Curlew (NB) Dunlin (NB) Little Tern (B) Redshank (NB) Ringed Plover (NB) Sanderling (NB) Sandwich Tern (B) Shelduck (NB) Turnstone (NB)	Common Tern (B) Little Tern (B) Ringed Plover (NB) Sanderling (NB) Sandwich Tern (B) Shelduck (NB)	Common Tern (B) Curlew (NB) Little Tern (B) Sandwich Tern (B) Shelduck (NB)	Common Tern (B) Curlew (NB) Little Tern (B) Redshank (NB) Sandwich Tern (B)	Common Tern (B) Curlew (NB) Grey Plover (NB) Little Tern (B) Redshank (NB) Ringed Plover (NB) Sanderling (NB) Sandwich Tern (B) Turnstone (NB)	Bar-tailed godwit (NB) Common Tern (B) Curlew (NB) Dunlin (NB) Grey Plover (NB) Pintail (NB) Redshank (NB) Ringed Plover (NB) Sanderling (NB) Shoveler (NB) Teal (NB) Turnstone (NB) Wigeon (NB)	Bar-tailed godwit (NB) Curlew (NB) Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Dunlin (NB) Grey Plover (NB) Pintail (NB) Red-breasted merganser (NB) Redshank (NB) Ringed-plover (NB) Sanderling (NB) Shoveler (NB) Teal (NB) Turnstone (NB) Wigeon (NB)	Bar-tailed godwit (NB) Curlew (NB) Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Dunlin (NB) Grey Plover (NB) Pintail (NB) Red-breasted merganser (NB) Redshank (NB) Ringed-plover (NB) Sanderling (NB) Shelduck (NB) Shoveler (NB) Teal (NB) Turnstone (NB) Wigeon (NB)	Bar-tailed godwit (NB) Curlew (NB) Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Dunlin (NB) Grey Plover (NB) Pintail (NB) Red-breasted merganser (NB) Redshank (NB) Ringed-plover (NB) Sanderling (NB) Shelduck (NB) Shoveler (NB) Teal (NB) Turnstone (NB) Wigeon (NB)
Poole Harbour (8)	Avocet (NB) Black-tailed godwit (NB) Little Egret (NB) Shelduck (NB) Spoonbill (NB)	Avocet (NB) Black-tailed godwit (NB) Little Egret (NB) Mediterranean Gull (B) Shelduck (NB) Spoonbill (NB)	Avocet (NB) Black-tailed godwit (NB) Little Egret (NB) Mediterranean Gull (B) Sandwich Tern (B) Shelduck (NB) Spoonbill (NB)	Common Tern (B) Little Egret (NB) Mediterranean Gull (B) Sandwich Tern (B)	Common Tern (B) Little Egret (NB) Mediterranean Gull (B) Sandwich Tern (B)	Common Tern (B) Little Egret (NB) Mediterranean Gull (B) Sandwich Tern (B)	Common Tern (B) Little Egret (NB) Mediterranean Gull (B) Sandwich Tern (B)	Common Tern (B) Little Egret (NB) Mediterranean Gull (B) Sandwich Tern (B) Spoonbill (NB)	Avocet (NB) Black-tailed godwit (NB) Little Egret (NB) Sandwich Tern (B) Shelduck (NB) Spoonbill (NB)	Avocet (NB) Black-tailed godwit (NB) Little Egret (NB) Shelduck (NB) Spoonbill (NB)	Avocet (NB) Black-tailed godwit (NB) Little Egret (NB) Shelduck (NB) Spoonbill (NB)	Avocet (NB) Black-tailed godwit (NB) Little Egret (NB) Shelduck (NB) Spoonbill (NB)
Portsmouth Harbour (4)	Black-tailed godwit (NB) Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Dunlin (NB) Red-breasted merganser (NB)	Black-tailed godwit (NB) Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Dunlin (NB) Red-breasted merganser (NB)	Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Dunlin (NB) Red-breasted merganser (NB)	Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Red-breasted merganser (NB)					Black-tailed godwit (NB)	Black-tailed godwit (NB) Dark-bellied brent goose (NB)	Black-tailed godwit (NB) Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Dunlin (NB) Red-breasted merganser (NB)	Black-tailed godwit (NB) Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Dunlin (NB) Red-breasted merganser (NB)
Solent and Southampton Water (9)	Black-tailed godwit (NB) Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Ringed Plover (NB) Teal (NB)	Black-tailed godwit (NB) Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Ringed Plover (NB) Teal (NB)	Black-tailed godwit (NB) Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Mediterranean Gull (B) Ringed Plover (NB) Teal (NB)	Black-tailed godwit (NB) Common Tern (B) Little Tern (B) Mediterranean Gull (B) Ringed Pover (NB) Sandwich Tern (B)	Common Tern (B) Little Tern (B) Mediterranean Gull (B) Ringed Plover (NB) Roseate Tern (B) Sandwich Tern (B)	Common Tern (B) Little Tern (B) Mediterranean Gull (B) Roseate Tern (B) Sandwich Tern (B)	Black-tailed godwit (NB) Common Tern (B) Little Tern (B) Mediterranean Gull (B) Roseate Tern (B) Sandwich Tern (B)	Black-tailed godwit (NB) Common Tern (B) Little Tern (B) Mediterranean Gull (B) Ringed Pover (NB) Roseate Tern (B) Sandwich Tern (B)	Black-tailed godwit (NB) Common Tern (B) Ringed Plover (NB) Teal (NB)	Black-tailed godwit (NB) Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Ringed Plover (NB) Teal (NB)	Black-tailed godwit (NB) Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Ringed Plover (NB) Teal (NB)	Black-tailed godwit (NB) Dark-bellied brent goose (NB) Ringed Plover (NB) Teal (NB)

	> half of the potential species present
	< half of the potential species present
	none of the potential species present
B	Breeding population present
NB	Non-breeding population present

Prey preference data for designated bird species for the Southern IFCA District Special Protection Areas (SPAs) as provided by Natural England through their Designated Sites database and species profiles available on the RSPB website.

Feature	Prey (as relevent to shoregathering activities)
Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)	crustaceans worms
Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)	shellfish marine snails marine worms shrimps
Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*)	worms
Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)	shellfish shrimps worms
Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)	fish
Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*)	eel-grass
Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*)	worms
Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)	shellfish worms
Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)	fish
Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*)	fish
Mediterranean Gull (*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*)	fish
Pintail (*Anas acuta*)	NA
Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)	fish
Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)	molluscs crustaceans

Feature	Prey (as relevent to shoregathering activities)
Ringer Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)	marine worms crustaceans molluscs
Roseate Tern (*Sterna Dougallii*)	fish
Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)	marine worms crustaceans molluscs
Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)	fish incl. sandeels, sprats, whiting
Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)	small shellfish aquatic snails
Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*)	plant matter sifted from the water
Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)	small fish
Teal (*Anas crecca*)	NA
Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)	crustaceans molluscs
Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)	aquatic plants