

Conservation objectives for Holderness Offshore Marine Conservation Zone

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The information provided in this document sets out the site's conservation objectives. This forms part of JNCC and Natural England's formal conservation advice package for the site and must be read in conjunction with all parts of the package as listed below:

- [Background Document](#) explaining where to find the advice package, JNCC and Natural England's role in the provision of conservation advice, how the advice has been prepared, when to refer to it and how to apply it;
- Conservation Objectives setting out the broad ecological aims for the site (this document);
- [Statements on:](#)
 - the site's protected feature condition and General Management Approach;
 - conservation benefits that the site can provide; and
 - conservation measures needed to support achievement of the conservation objectives set for the site.
- [Supplementary Advice on Conservation Objectives](#) (SACO) providing more detailed and site-specific information on the conservation objectives:
- [Advice on Operations](#) providing information on those human activities that, if taking place within or near the site, can impact it and present a risk to the achievement of the conservation objectives stated for the site.

The most up-to-date conservation advice for this site can be downloaded from the conservation advice tab in the [Site Information Centre](#) (SIC) accessible on JNCC's website.

JNCC and Natural England provide supplementary advice on the conservation objectives in the SACO document (see link in the box above). The SACO is essential reading to support interpretation of these conservation objectives set out below.

The Conservation Objective for the Holderness Offshore Marine Conservation Zone is that the protected features:

- so far as already in favourable condition, remain in such condition; and
- so far as not already in favourable condition, be brought into such condition, and remain in such condition.

With respect to **Subtidal coarse sediment, Subtidal sand and Subtidal mixed sediments** within the Zone, this means that:

- i. its extent is stable or increasing; and
- ii. its structures and functions, its quality, and the composition of its characteristic biological communities (which includes a reference to the diversity and abundance of species forming part of or inhabiting that habitat) are such as to ensure that it remains in a condition which is healthy and not deteriorating.

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

Any alteration to that feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.

With respect to the **Ocean quahog (*Arctica islandica*)** within the Zone, this means that the quality and quantity of its habitat and the composition of its population in terms of number, age and sex ratio are such as to ensure that the population is maintained in numbers which enable it to thrive.

Any temporary reduction of numbers is to be disregarded if the population is sufficiently thriving and resilient to enable its recovery.

Any alteration to that feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.

With respect to the **North Sea glacial tunnel valleys** within the Zone, this means that:

- i. its extent, component elements and integrity are maintained;
- ii. its structure and functioning are unimpaired; and
- iii. its surface remains sufficiently unobscured for the purposes of determining whether the conditions in paragraphs (i) and (ii) are satisfied.

Any obscurement of that feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.

Any alteration to that feature brought about entirely by natural processes is to be disregarded.