ADMIRALTY

UK Hydrographic Office

Changes to ADMIRALTY SNCs

Introduction

This document provides an overview of changes to the display treatment of selected features on ADMIRALTY Standard Nautical Charts (SNCs) produced from Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) data.

As part of the ongoing evolution of the ADMIRALTY paper chart portfolio, some new edition SNCs are now being generated using ENC data. Certain chart elements may therefore appear differently from previous editions, reflecting a more standardised and consistent approach to chart presentation.

The purpose of this guide is to help users understand what has changed, what remains the same, and how to interpret these features when using ADMIRALTY SNCs produced from ENCs. These changes relate only to how information is displayed and do not affect the underlying safety, accuracy or compliance of ADMIRALTY Standard Nautical Charts.

This document should be used as a reference alongside the chart to support familiarisation with updated chart presentation.

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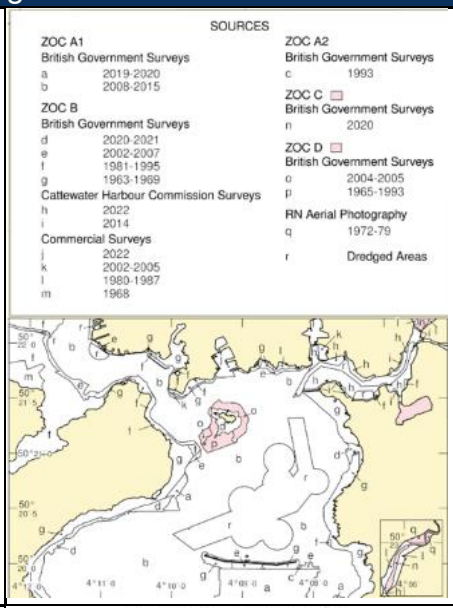
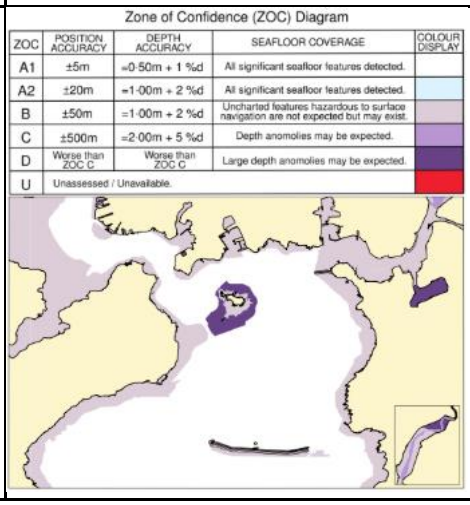
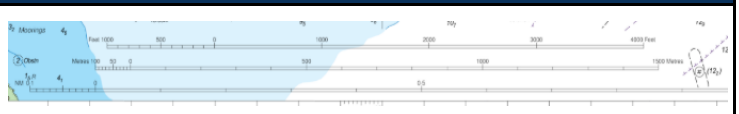
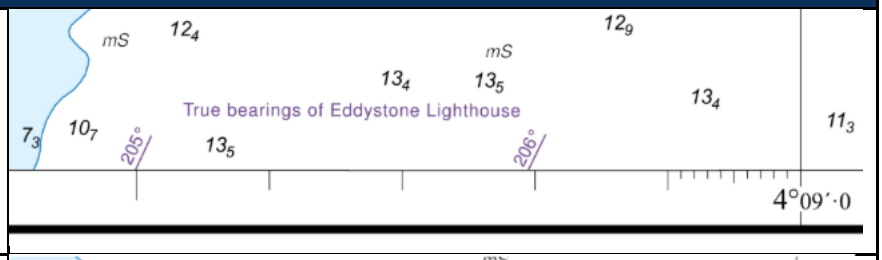
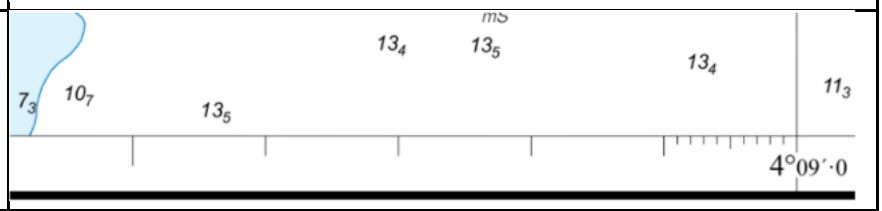
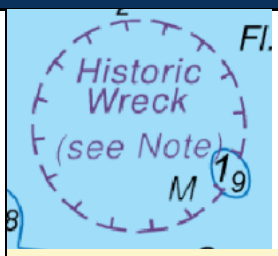
Chart number, title, marginal notes

Change from source data diagram to Zone Of Confidence diagram		
Previously	The chart showed a list of sources and a graphic showing the location and date ranges of these sources.	
Now	– CATZOC categories, descriptions and a coloured graphic show where the CATZOC categories occur. – Where a “Check Survey” is highlighted on the source diagram, this is shown as ZOC Category “C” with a charted “Check Survey” legend. – Please note the new colour display. Red is used for unassessed or unavailable.	
Usage notes	Use the CATZOC information in a similar way to the previous Source Data Diagram to understand the level of surveying in charted areas. Zone of Confidence diagram shows the assigned category at the time of survey processing. It does not distinguish any changes to the ZOC category that may be impacted over time.	

Removal of ‘feet’ from scale bars		
Previously	We displayed ‘feet’ as a unit in the nest of scales and there were typically two nest of scales on a single panel paper chart.	

Now	– We no longer show ‘feet’ as a unit. – Where possible, we move the position of the nest of scales to outside of the chart border and only show one nest of scales. – Inset plans or sheets of plans have scales within the panel border as appropriate and will no longer include ‘feet.’	
Usage notes	Note the absence of ‘feet’ as a unit.	

Removal of references to features located off chart		
Previously	We would include bearings to off-chart features such as lights.	
Now	We no longer include references to off-chart features.	
Usage notes	Ensure all relevant charts are held and that, where necessary, off-chart features have been identified.	

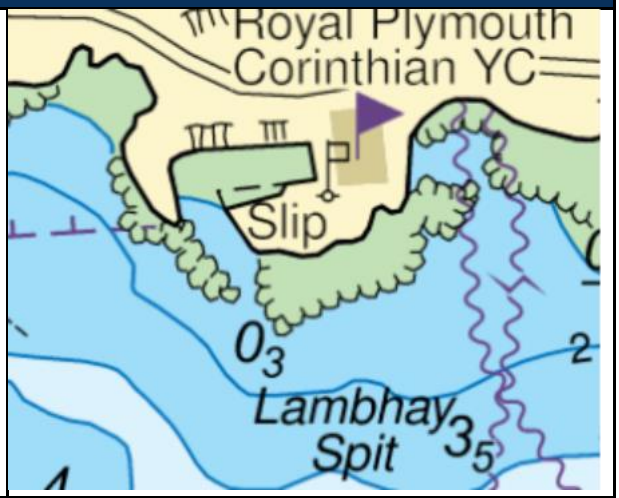
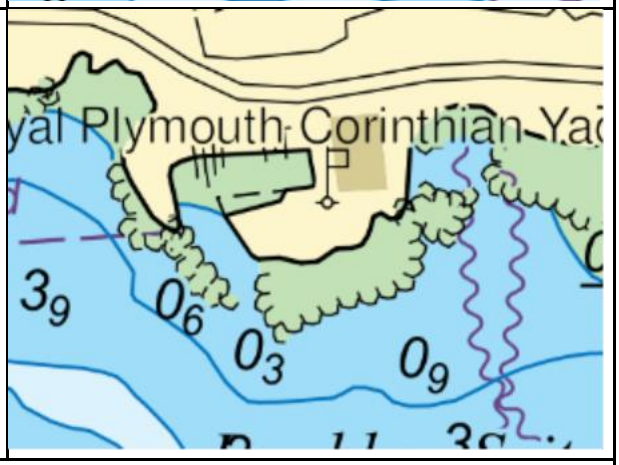
Removal of ‘see note’ on charted features		
Previously	We drew attention to notes from features by including e.g. (see Note) or (see Diagram).	 HISTORIC WRECK (50°21′·7N 4°07′·7W) The site of the historic wreck is protected from unauthorised interference.

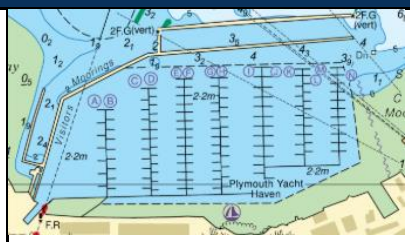
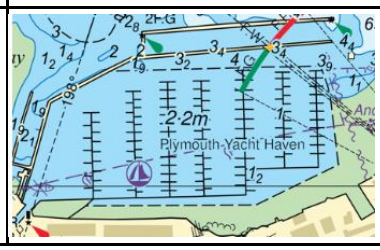
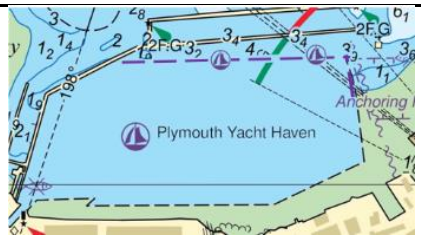
Now	We continue to include ancillary notes and diagrams but no longer identify notes on the feature.	 HISTORIC WRECK (50°21′·7N 4°07′·7W) The site of the historic wreck is protected from unauthorised interference.
Usage notes	Familiarise oneself with charted notes and diagrams and understand to which parts of the chart they refer.	

Positions, distances, directions, compass

Standardised compasses	
Previously	– The number of compasses shown on a chart was decided on a chart-by-chart basis. – MAGVAR was rounded to the nearest 5 mins. – MAGVAR was based on the values of the year in which the chart new edition was published.
Now	– We standardise on two compasses, located in each half of the chart. – MAGVAR (Magnetic Variation) values show to the nearest minute. – MAGVAR values now based on the last epoch values (2025, 2030 etc).
Usage notes	Exceptions on small-scale charts that include areas of large magnetic variation or sheets of plans which have the magnetic variation as a text note.

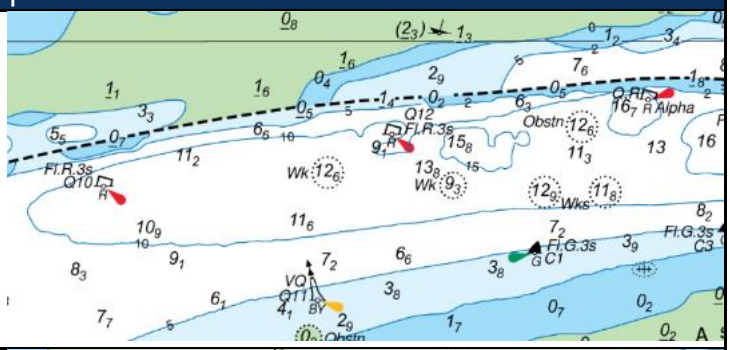
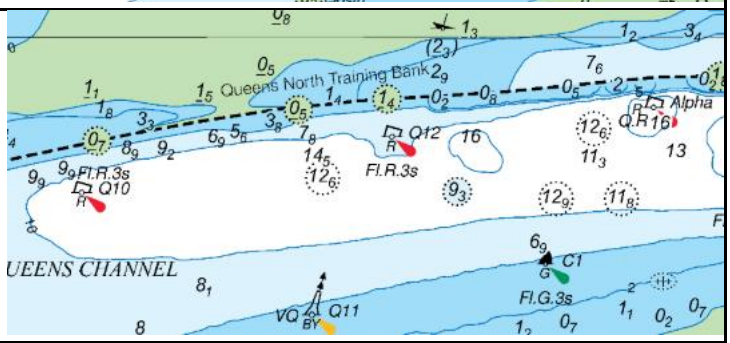
Ports

Remove ‘Slips’ and ‘Steps’ legends		
Previously	‘Slips’ and ‘Steps’ legends shown.	
Now	‘Slips’ and ‘Steps’ legends removed, although the physical slipway will continue to be charted.	
Usage notes	For noting.	

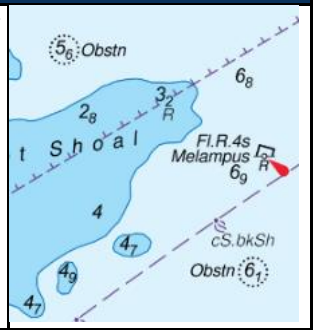
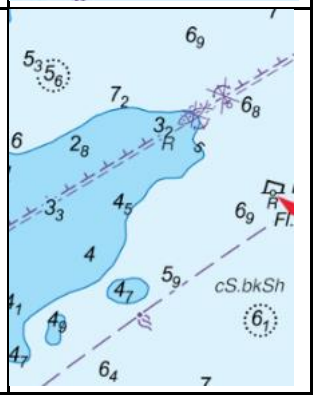
Generalise small craft marinas based on chart scale		
Previously	Full marina detail was shown on numerous scales of charts, including berth designations. Marinas were generalised only on smaller scale charts.	
Now	– Where possible, full marina detail, with the exception of the berth designations, is	 

	shown on largest scale charts up to 1:12,500 – Beyond this, a generalised depiction will be used. – The facility limits are portrayed with magenta dashed line and small craft symbol.	
Usage notes	For noting.	

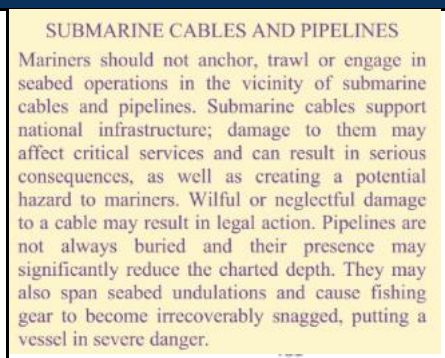
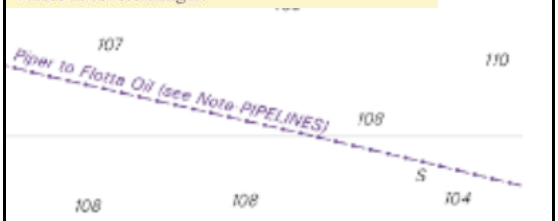
Depth

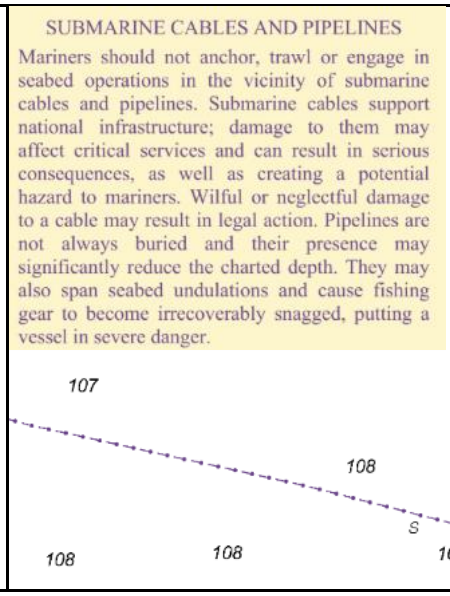
Standardised depth area tints by scale of paper chart		
Previously	Depth tints were decided per chart.	
Now	Depth tints are standardised across all charts within the designated scale range.	
Usage notes	Mariners may find a difference in tints from previous versions of charts they may have become accustomed to. The actual charted depths and contours are not affected.	

Rocks, wrecks, obstructions, aquaculture

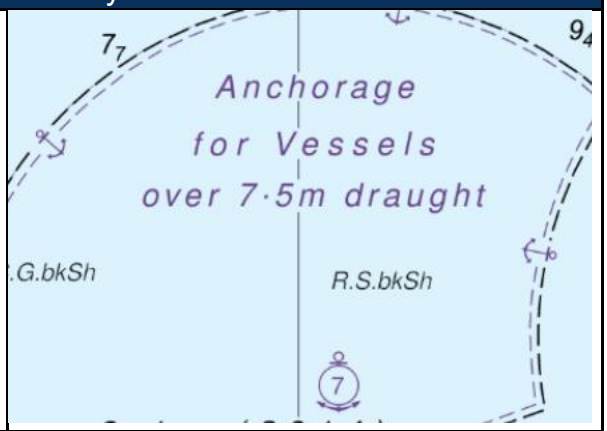
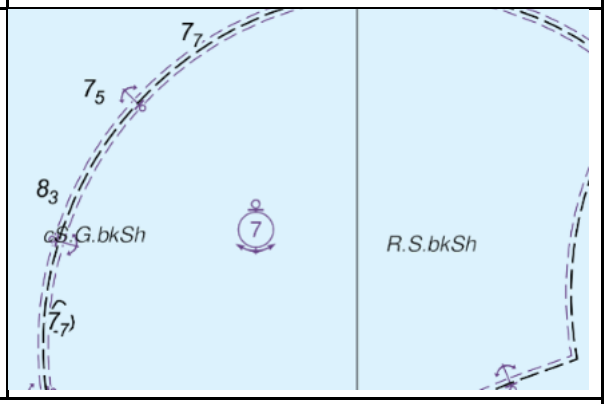
Remove wreck (Wk) and obstruction (Obstn) annotations		
Previously	Wrecks and obstructions were shown with both a danger circle and annotation.	
Now	We continue to show the danger circle but no longer annotate between wreck or obstruction.	
Usage notes	The chart will continue to show these dangers, so no change of use is needed.	

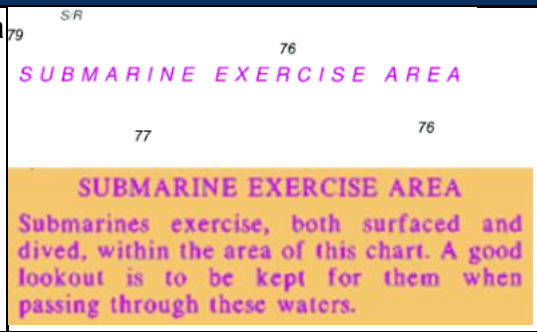
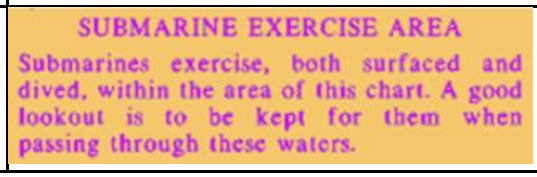
Offshore installations

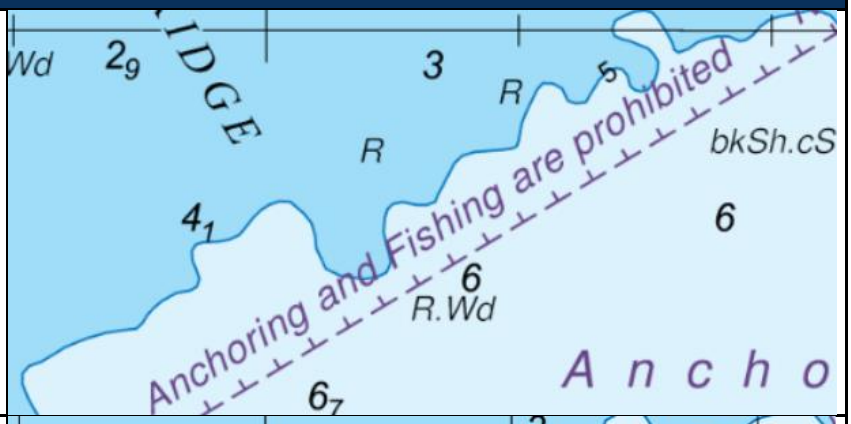
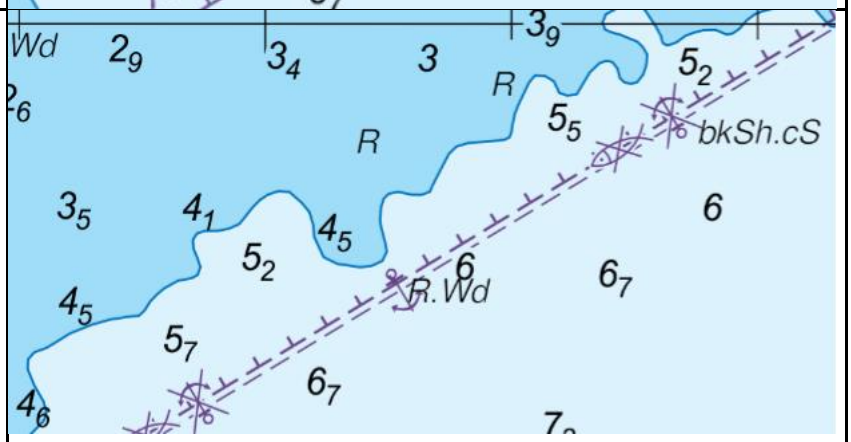
Removal of pipeline legends		
Previously	We showed pipeline routes and information about pipeline content.	 

Now	We show pipeline routes but do not show information about pipeline contents. Pipeline chart notes will continue to be included.	
Usage notes	No change of use in this charted information. Due regard to pipelines should be continued.	

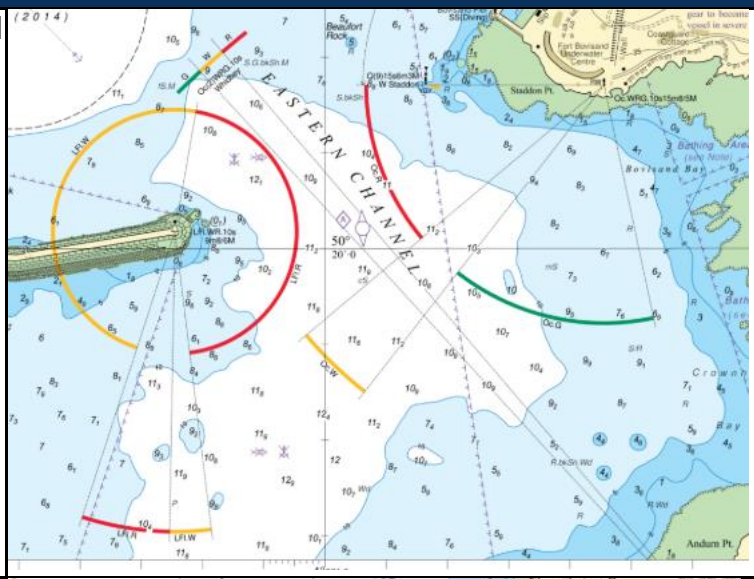
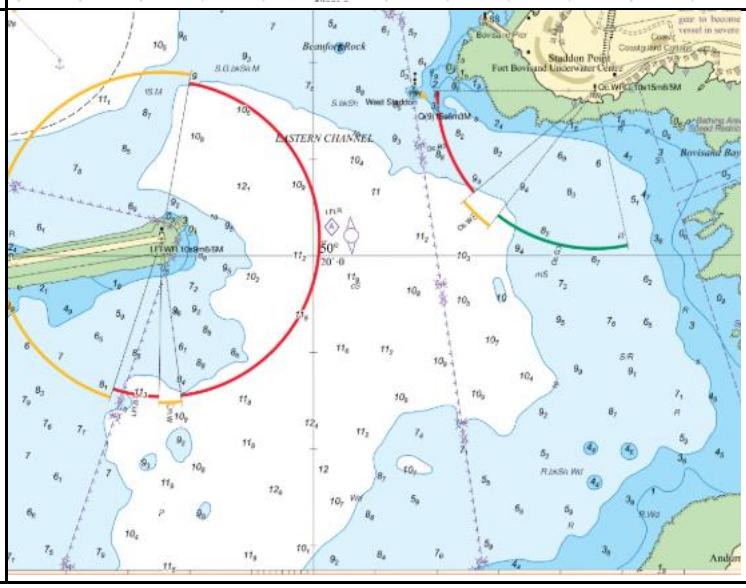
Areas, limits

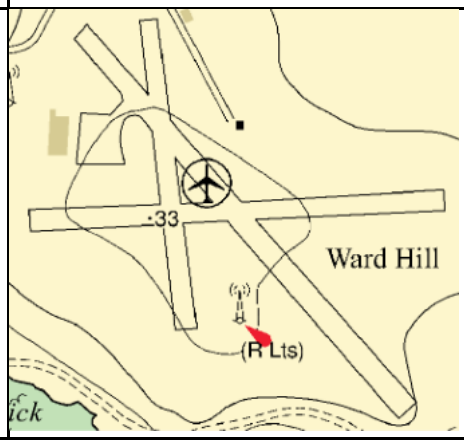
Restrict anchorages and berths to names / designations only		
Previously	Berth names, numbers or designations were shown alongside additional information, typically relating to size of vessel permitted at the anchorage.	
Now	Only berth names, numbers or designations are shown.	
Usage notes	Mariners are advised to contact the port to determine appropriate anchorage for their vessel.	

Remove submarine exercise areas/symbols		
Previously	We included a submarine exercise area note and in some cases legends on the charted area.	
Now	We retain the submarine exercise note but no legends will be shown on the chart.	
Usage notes	Ensure chart notes are referenced during chart use.	

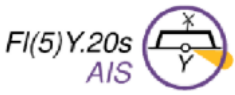
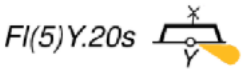
Replace area legends with symbols		
Previously	The purpose of area features was drawn on the chart, often identified with text labels.	
Now	The purpose of area features drawn on the chart, where possible, are identified by symbols or combinations of symbols drawn on the area boundary.	
Usage notes	Be aware of the change in depiction. Any new symbols will be reflected in NP5011:Symbols and Abbreviations Used on ADMIRALTY charts.	

Lights

Light sector lengths		
Previously	We showed extended light sectors, for example highlighting a passage or danger to which the light refers.	
Now	We no longer extend specific light sectors. The sectors are sized in order to legibly show characteristics.	
Usage notes	Note this change and manually extend sectors on charts where required.	

Show aero navigation and obstruction lights with a light flare		
Previously	We would not show a light flare for these features.	
Now	We show light flares against these features.	
Usage notes	Be aware that these lights are not for maritime navigation and may be temporarily inoperable.	

Radar, radio, satellite navigation systems

Remove physical AIS from chart		
Previously	On some charts we identified features with a physical AIS.	
Now	We no longer specifically identify physical AIS on the chart. We continue to include Virtual AIS features	
Usage notes	As physical AIS will no longer be shown when present on a feature, consult ADMIRALTY List of Radio Signals.	