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.

Contents

Introduction 1
Chart number, title, marginal notes 1
Positions, distances, directions, compass 5
Natural Features 5
Cultural Features 6
Ports 7
Depth 8
Rocks, wrecks, obstructions, aquaculture 9
Offshore installations 10
Areas, limits 11
Lights 13
Radar, radio, satellite navigation systems 16

Chart number, title, marginal notes

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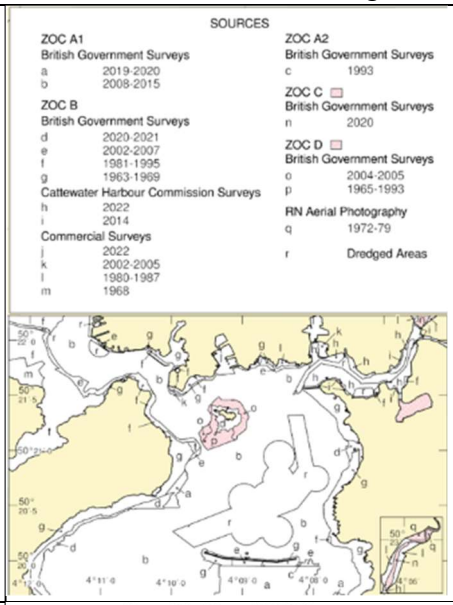
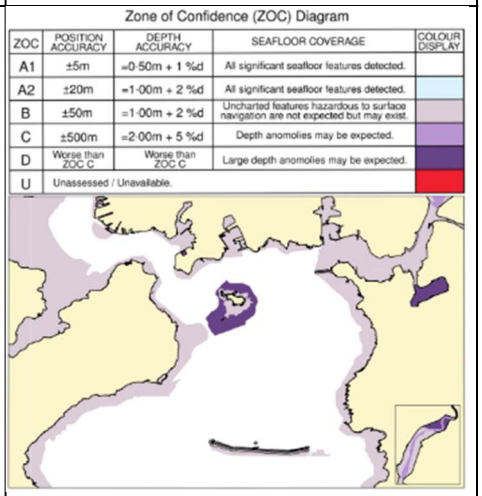
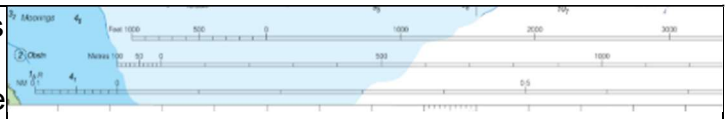
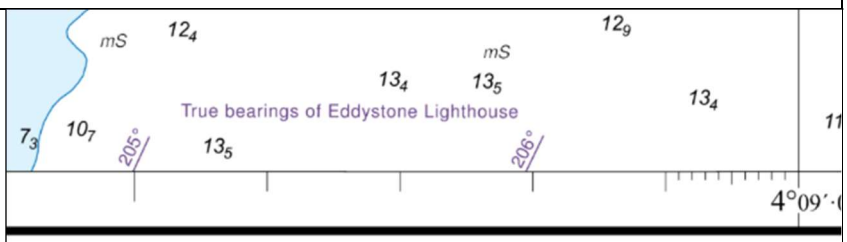
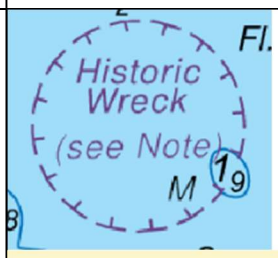
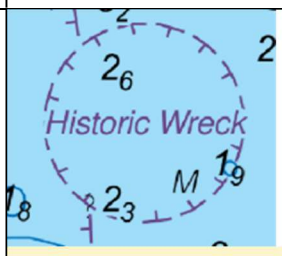
Item	Change from source data diagram to Zone Of Confidence diagram	
Previously	The chart showed a list of sources and a graphic showing the location and date ranges of these sources.	
Now	• CATZOC categories, descriptions and a coloured graphic show where the CATZOC categories occur. • Where a “Check 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.	

Item	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.	

Item	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.	

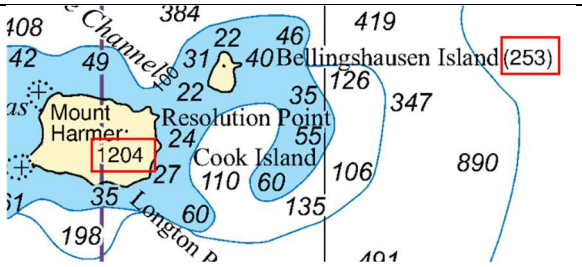
Usage notes	Ensure all relevant charts are held and that, where necessary, off-chart features have been identified.	

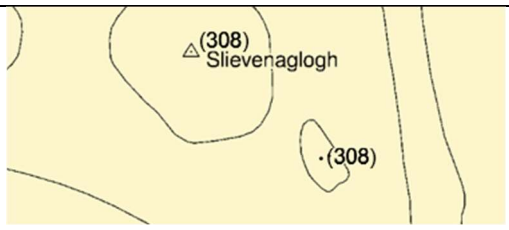
Item	Removal of ‘see note’ on charted features.	
Previously	We drew attention to notes from features by including e.g. (see Note) or (see Diagram).	 HISTORIC WRECK (50°21′·7N 4°07′·7W) The site of the historic wreck is protected from unauthorised interference.
Now	We continue to include ancillary notes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

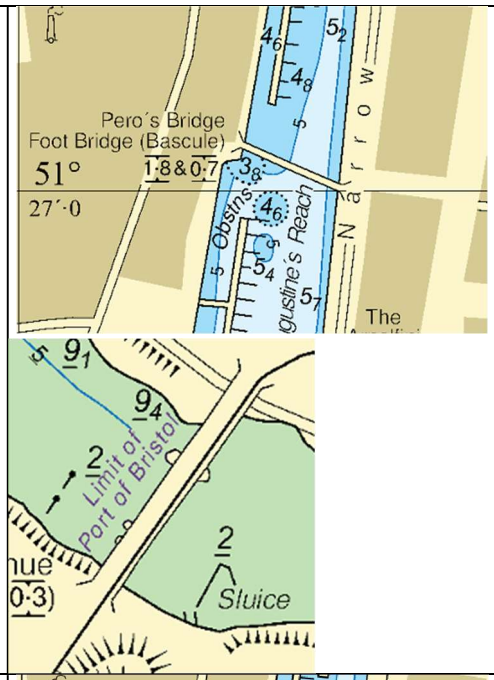
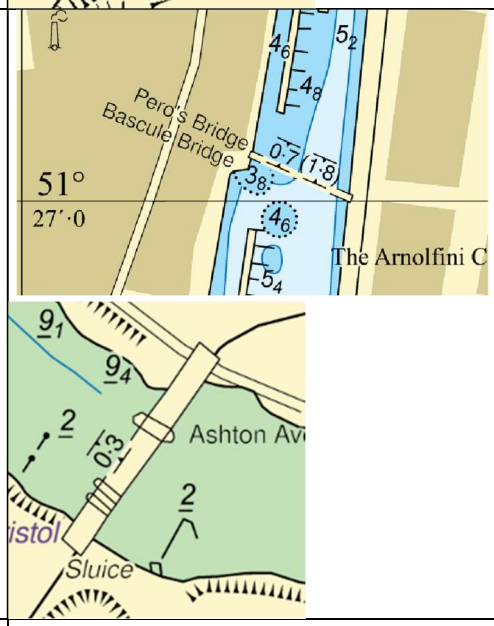
Item	Standardised compasses	
Previously	The number of compasses shown on a chart was decided on a chart-by-chart basis. MAGVAR was rounded to the nearest 5 mins. MAGVAR was based on the values of the year in which the chart new edition was published.	
Now	• We standardise on two compasses, located in 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.	

Natural Features

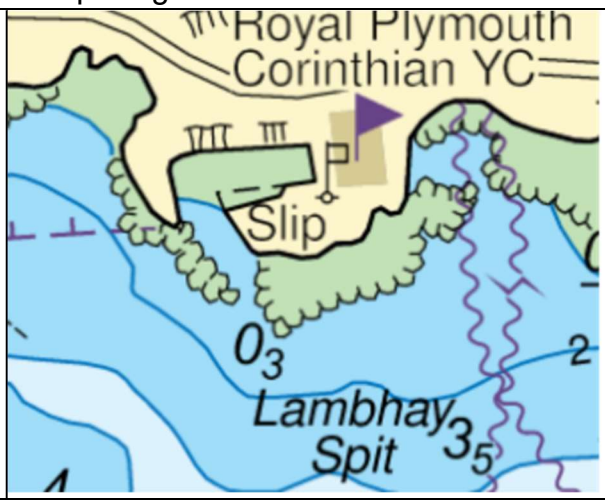
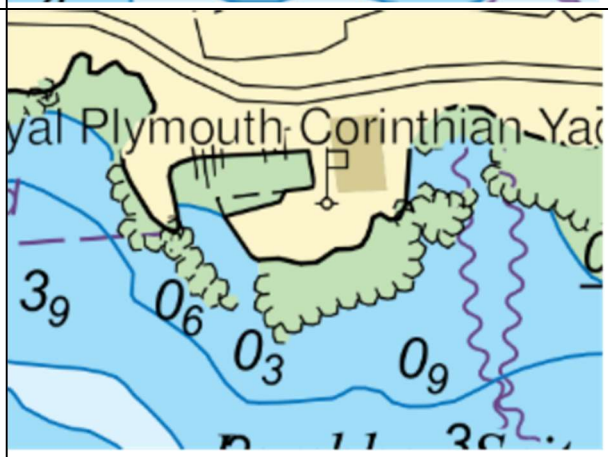
* Item	Include all spot heights in brackets	
Previously	Spot heights only shown in brackets where the legend was placed in navigable water	

Now	All spot heights will be shown in brackets	
Use	For noting.	

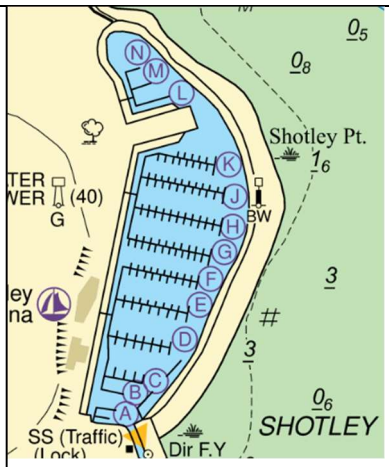
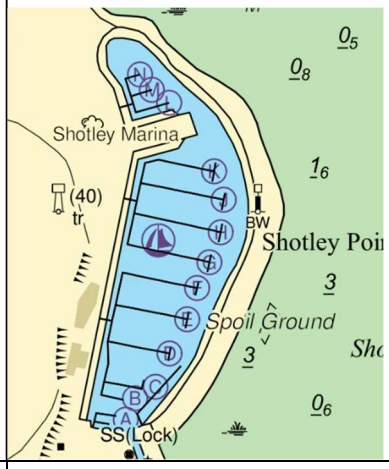
Cultural Features

* Item	Change in bridge depiction	
Previously	Bridges depicted as shown	
Now	Bridges depiction to be more aligned with official ENC depiction	
Use	For noting.	

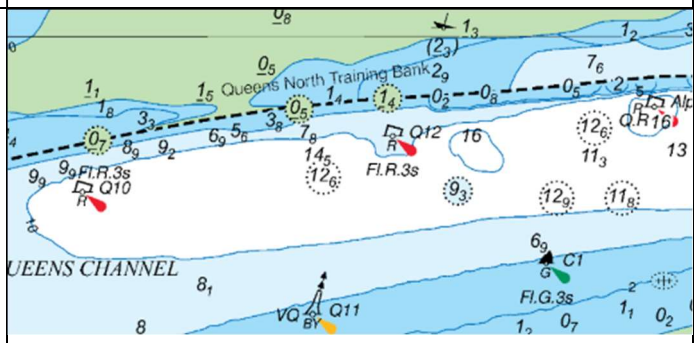
Ports

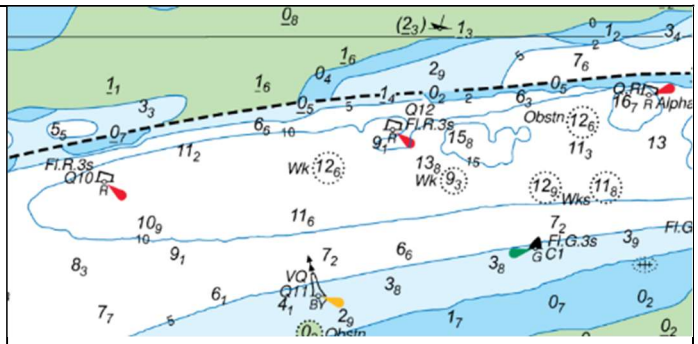
Item	Remove ‘Slips’ and ‘Steps’ legends	
Previously	‘Slips’ and ‘Steps’ legends shown.	
Now	‘Slips’ and ‘Steps’ legends removed, although the physical slipway will continue to be charted.	
Use	For noting.	

*Item	Generalise small craft marinas based on chart scale	
Previously	Full marina detail was shown on numerous scales of charts, including berth designations.	

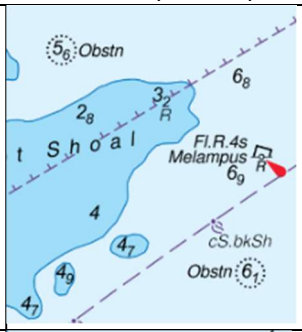
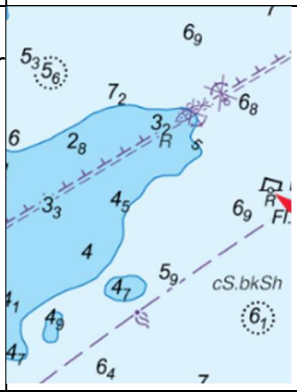
		
Now	• Where possible, individual pontoon berths will no longer be shown	
Usage notes	For noting.	

Depth

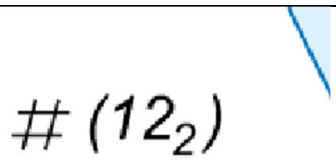
Item	Standardised depth area tints by scale of paper chart	
Previously	Depth tints were decided per chart.	

Now	Depth tints are standardised across all charts within the designated scale range.	
Usage notes	Mariners may find a difference in tints from previous versio ns of charts they may have become accustomed to. The actual charted depths and contours are not affected.	

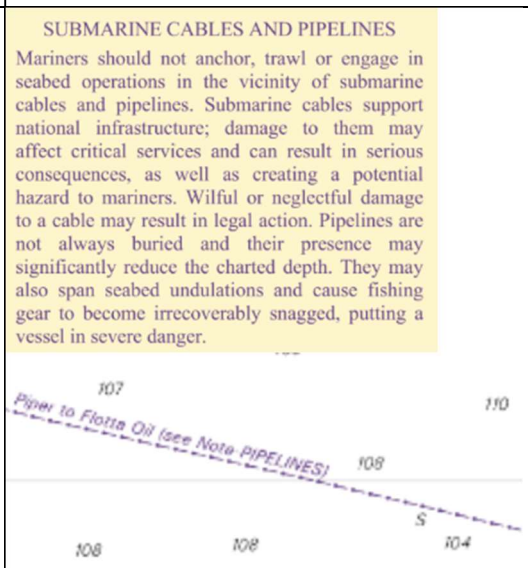
Rocks, wrecks, obstructions, aquaculture

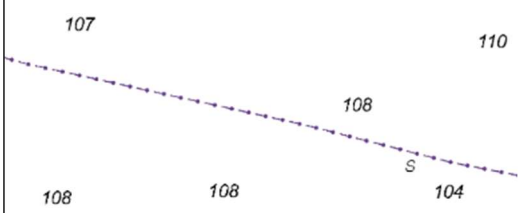
Item	Remove wreck (Wk) and obstruction (Obstn) annotations	
Previously	Wrecks and obstructions were shown with both a danger circle and annotation.	
Now	We continue to show the danger circle but no longer annotate between wreck or obstruction.	
Usage notes	The chart will continue to show these dangers,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

	no change of use is needed.	

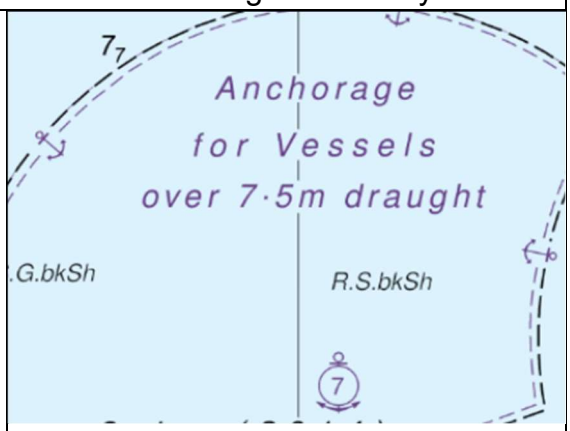
*Item	No longer chart depths of fouls	
Previously	Some fouls were charted with their depths	
Now	Fouls will no longer be charted with depths	
Usage notes	Fouls are not considered dangerous to surface navigation. Fouls should be avoided by vessels trawling or anchoring	

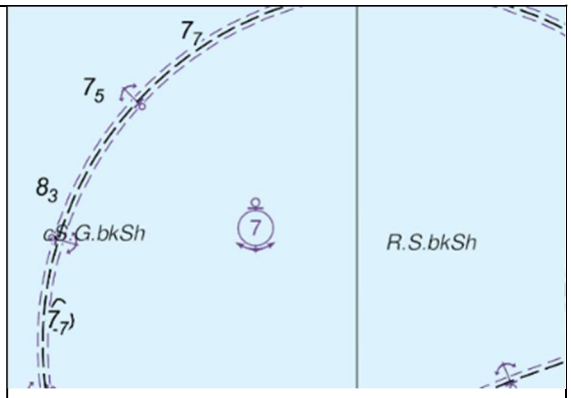
Offshore installations

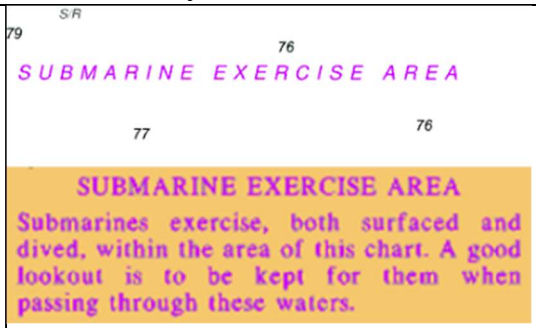
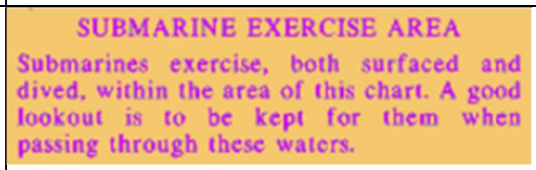
Item	Removal of pipeline legends	
Previously	We showed pipeline routes and information about pipeline content.	 SUBMARINE CABLES AND PIPELINES Mariners should not anchor, trawl or engage in seabed operations in the vicinity of submarine cables and pipelines. Submarine cables support national infrastructure; damage to them may affect critical services and can result in serious consequences, as well as creating a potential hazard to mariners. Wilful or neglectful damage to a cable may result in legal action. Pipelines are not always buried and their presence may significantly reduce the charted depth. They may also span seabed undulations and cause fishing gear to become irrecoverably snagged, putting a vessel in severe danger.

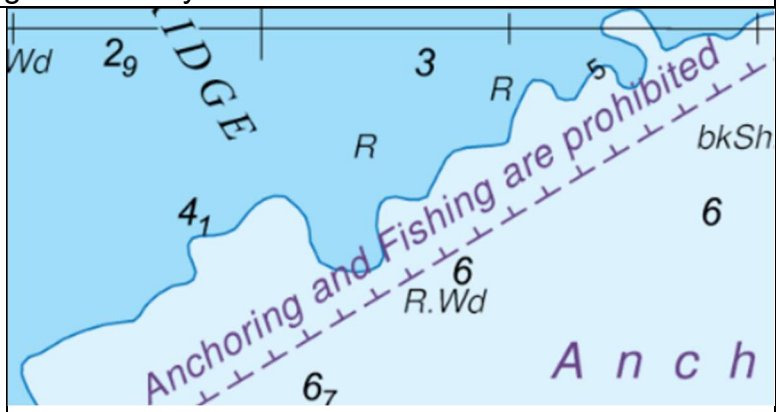
Now	We show pipeline routes but do not show information about pipeline contents. Pipeline chart notes will continue to be included.	SUBMARINE CABLES AND PIPELINES Mariners should not anchor, trawl or engage in seabed operations in the vicinity of submarine cables and pipelines. Submarine cables support national infrastructure; damage to them may affect critical services and can result in serious consequences, as well as creating a potential hazard to mariners. Wilful or neglectful damage to a cable may result in legal action. Pipelines are not always buried and their presence may significantly reduce the charted depth. They may also span seabed undulations and cause fishing gear to become irrecoverably snagged, putting a vessel in severe danger. 
Usage notes	No change of use in this charted information. Due regard to pipelines should be continued.	

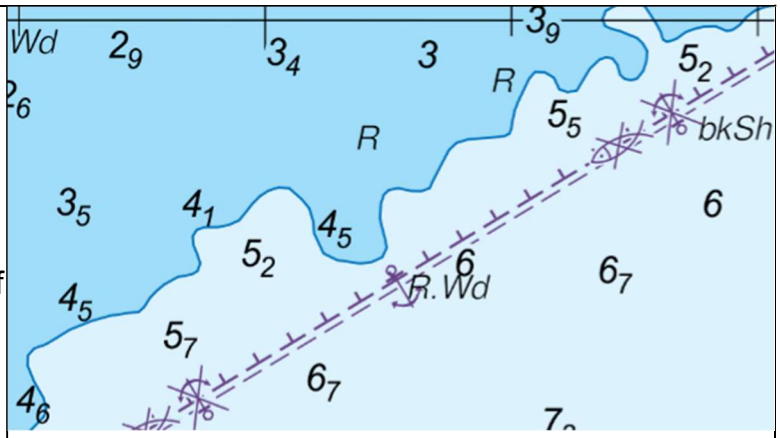
Areas, limits

Item	Restrict anchorages and berths to names / designations only	
Previously	Berth names, numbers or designations were shown alongside additional informati on, typically relating to size of vessel permitted at the anchorage.	

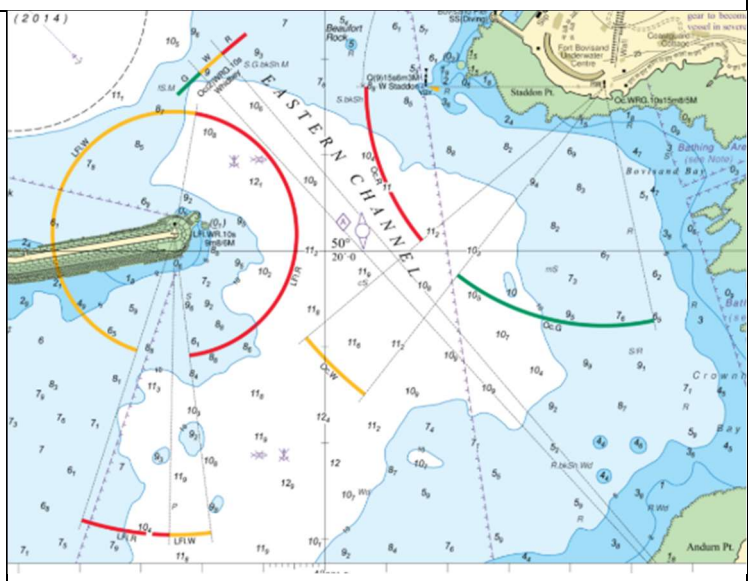
Now	Only berth names, numbers or designations are shown.	
Usage notes	Mariners are advised to contact the port to determine appropriate anchorage for their vessel.	

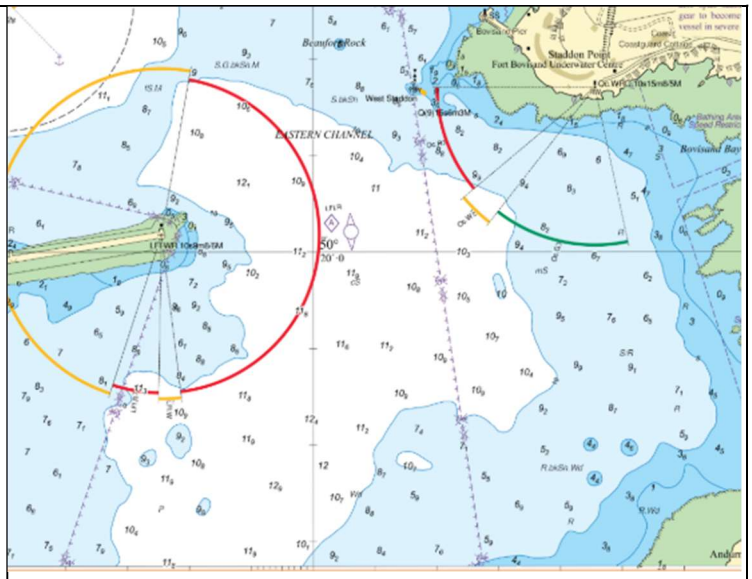
Item	Remove submarine exercise areas/symbols	
Previously	We included a submarine exercise area note and in some cases legends on the charted area.	
Now	We retain the submarine exercise note but no legends will be shown on the chart.	
Usage notes	Ensure chart notes are referenced during chart use.	

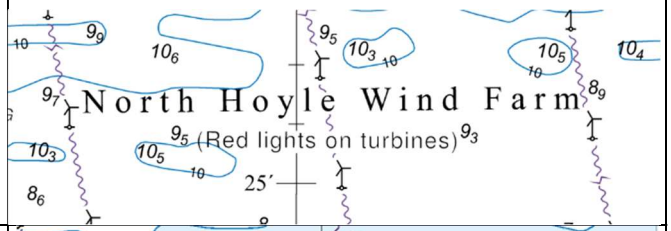
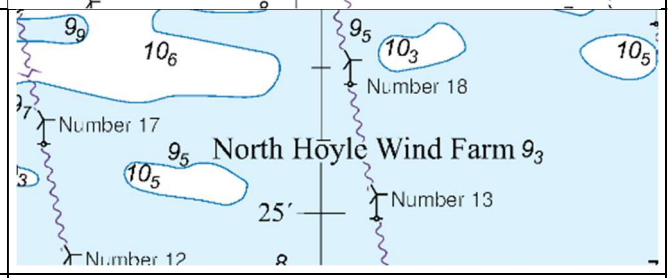
Item	Replace area legends with symbols	
Previously	The purpose of area features was drawn on the chart, often identified with text labels.	
		not

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.	

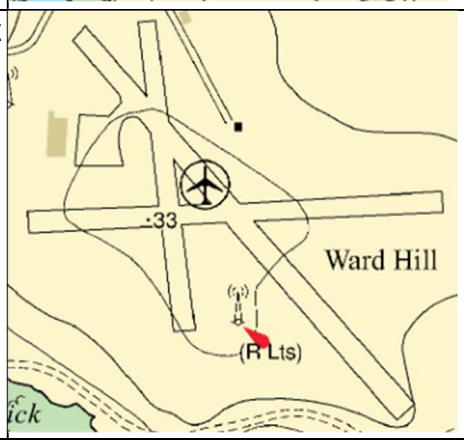
Lights

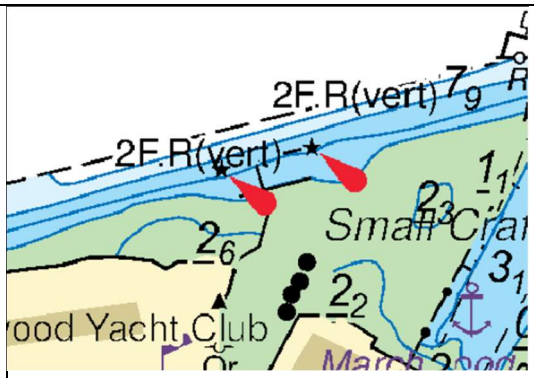
Item	Light sector lengths	
Previously	We showed extended light sectors, for example highlighting a passage or danger to which the light refers.	

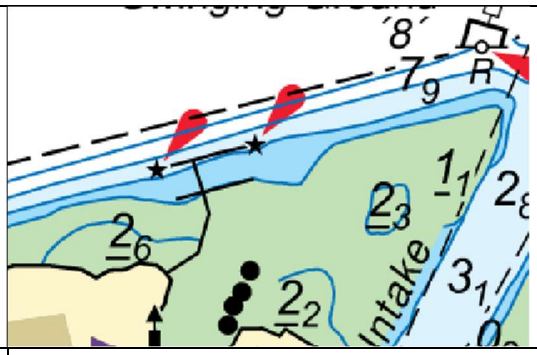
Now	We no longer extend specific light sectors. The sectors are sized in order to legibly show characteristics.	
Usage notes	Note this change and manually extend sectors on charts where required.	

*Item	To no longer include reference to aero obstruction lights on wind turbines	
Previously	We would include a legend advising mariners to expect wind turbines to exhibit red aero obstruction lights	
Now	We will no longer include such legends	
Usage notes	Be aware that these lights are not for maritime navigation and may be temporarily inoperable.	

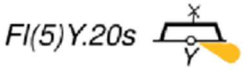
Item	Show aero navigation and obstruction lights with a light flare

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.	

*Item	No longer show light legends for two fixed lights displayed vertically (e.g. 2F.R(vert))	
Previously	We would show two fixed lights displayed vertically with its coloured light flare and its associated light description.	

Now	We will show two fixed lights displayed vertically with its coloured light flare but no longer include the light description for such minor lights	
Usage notes		

Radar, radio, satellite navigation systems

Item	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.	