

Annex A Cockle Survey Report – TSB – 16th May 2017

For each survey, maps have been created showing the overall survey area, density of undersize cockle and the frequency of size classes (pie charts show the frequency of different size classes, the size of the pie chart indicates the total density of cockles present).

Means have been calculated from all survey stations within the defined bed area (zero counts on the edges of the beds have been removed).

Wirral - Leasowe (31-03-17)

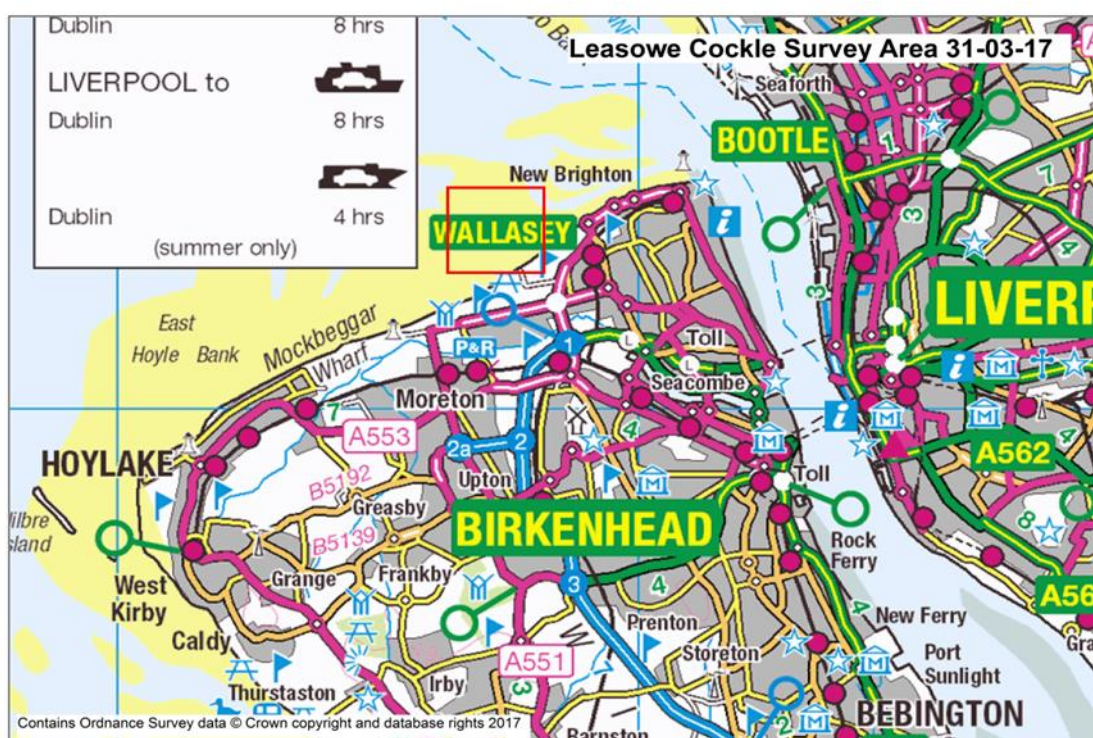
Survey method: Jumbo with 0.5 m² quadrat and 0.1 m² quadrat. 34 stations were sampled; extra stations were added outside of the survey grid in the dense muddy patch between the sea defence groynes to get a better representation of the extent and coverage of the cockles. Officers also surveyed stations further out towards the river channel. Size cockle was only found at four survey stations so the density of size cockle was not mapped.

Mean number of size cockle = 1 per m² (min. 0, max 10)

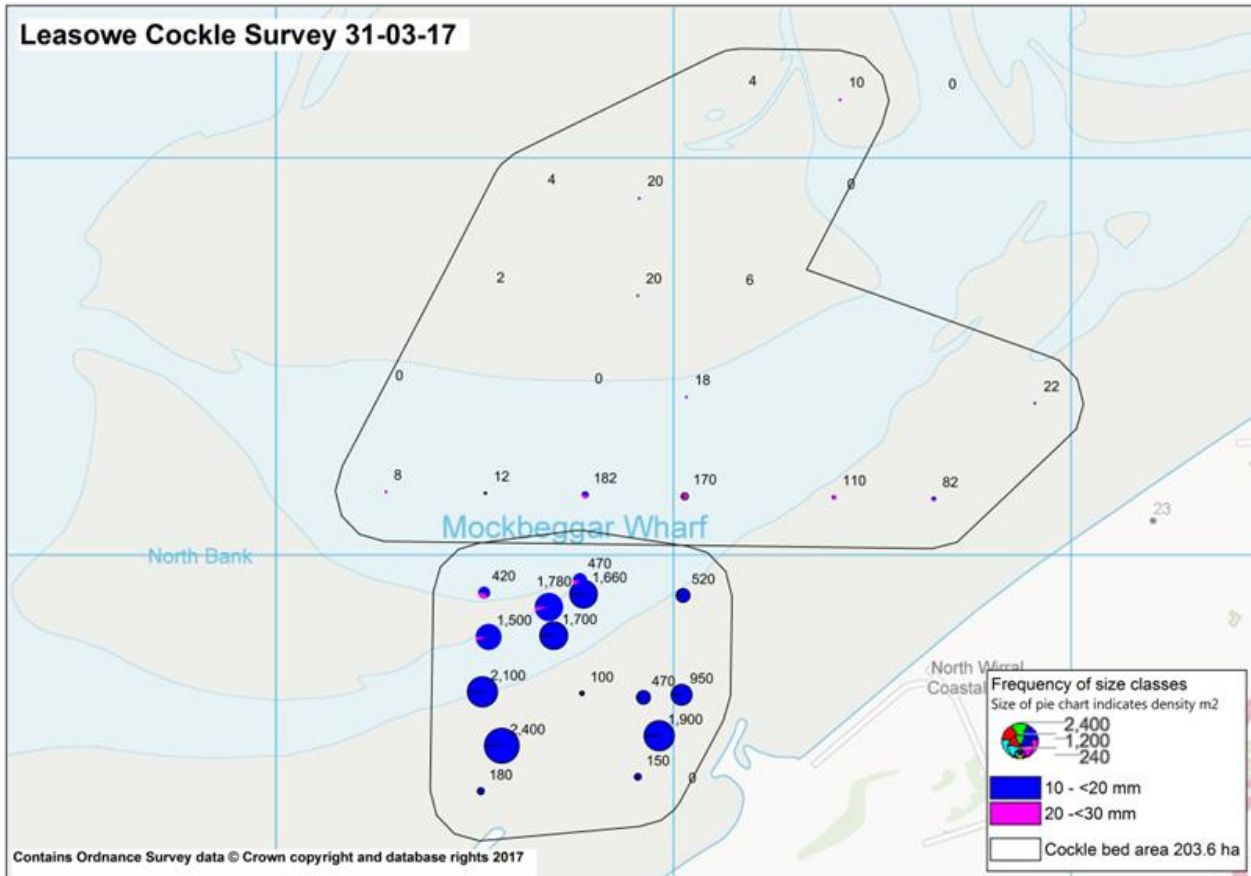
Mean number of undersize cockle = 565 per m² (min. 0, max 2400)

The majority of the cockle was in the 10-20mm size class and generally 16-19mm. NB cockles reach legal MLS at around 26mm shell length.

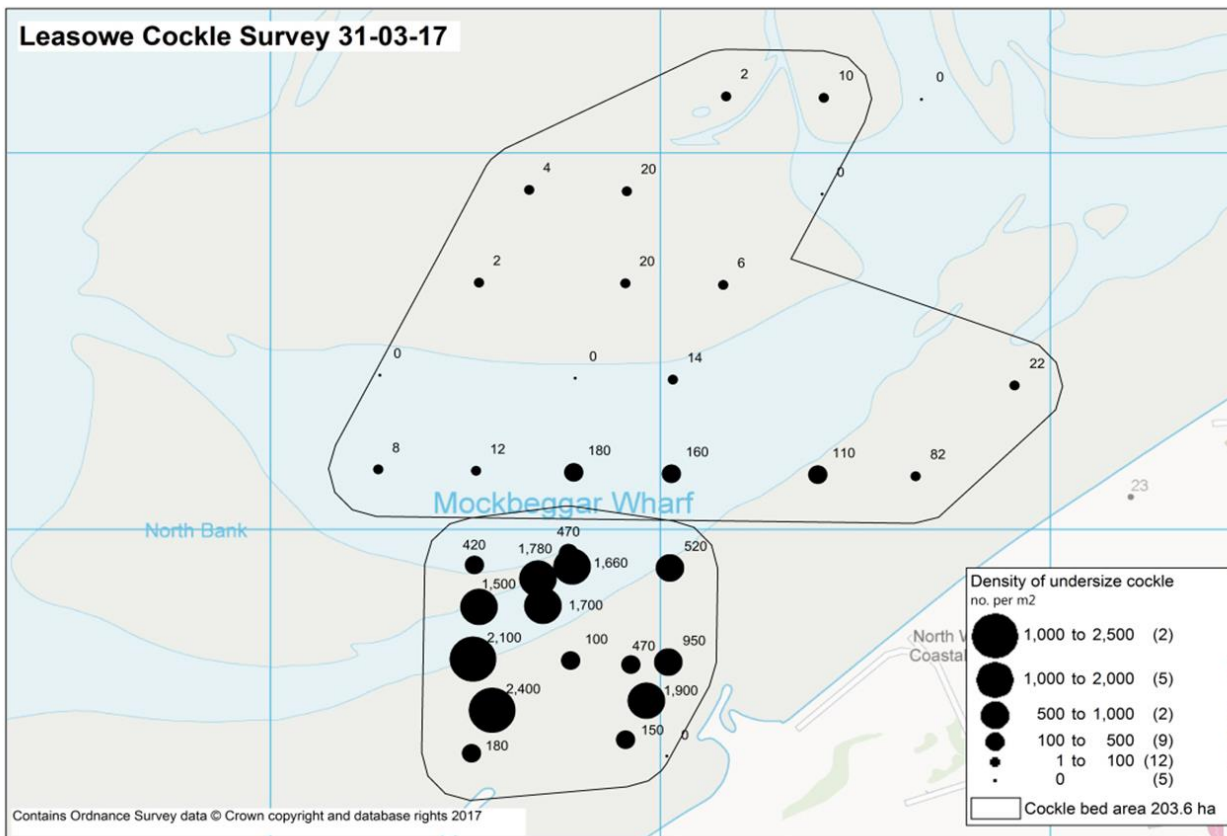
Total Bed Area = 203.6 ha. Area of dense bed = 51.8ha



Leasowe Cockle Survey 31-03-17



Leasowe Cockle Survey 31-03-17



Ribble - Penfold North – (01-03-17)

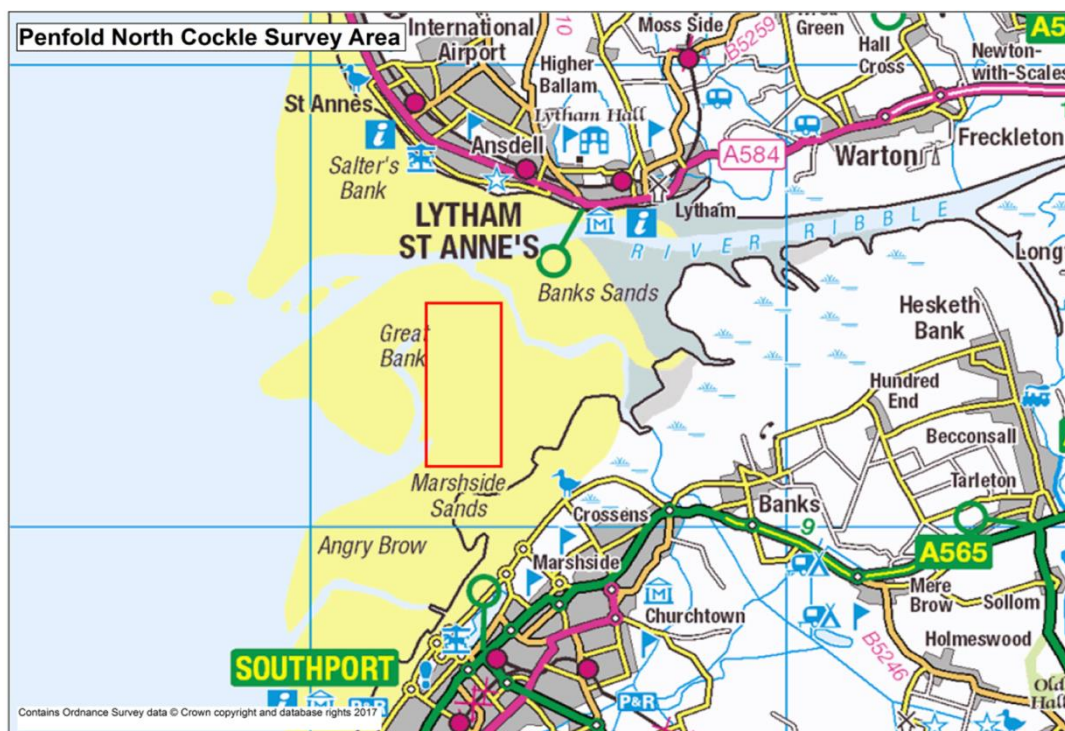
Survey method: Jumbo with 0.5m² quadrat and sieve with 0.1m² quadrat. 26 survey stations were sampled from a grid 150 m apart with two officers going further afield inputting random stations to see if cockles were spreading out, which did not prove to be the case.

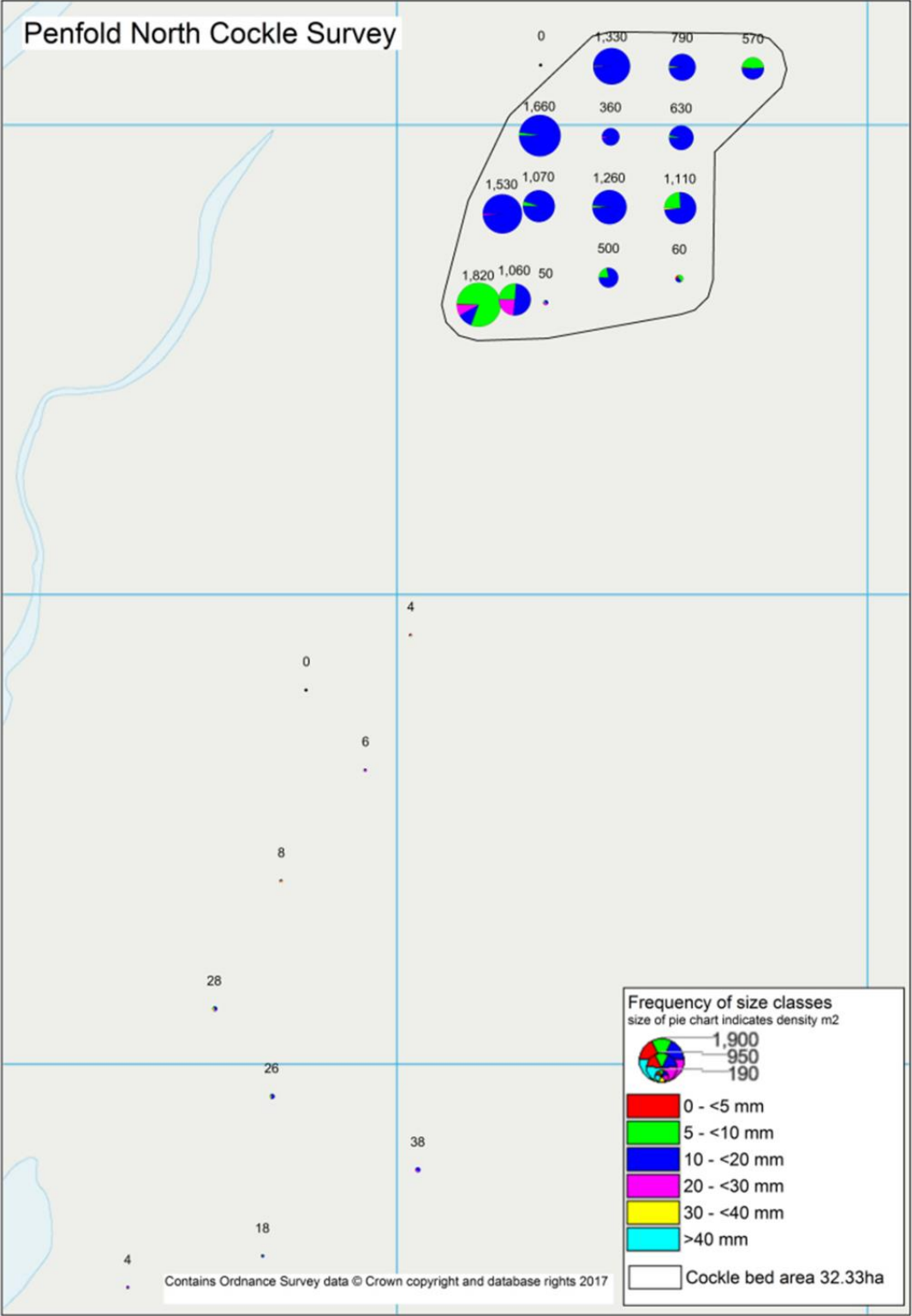
It is known that a further muddy area lies to the east of the area surveyed, which may well hold more cockle. Logistically it is not possible to access this area on quads due to risk of getting stuck.

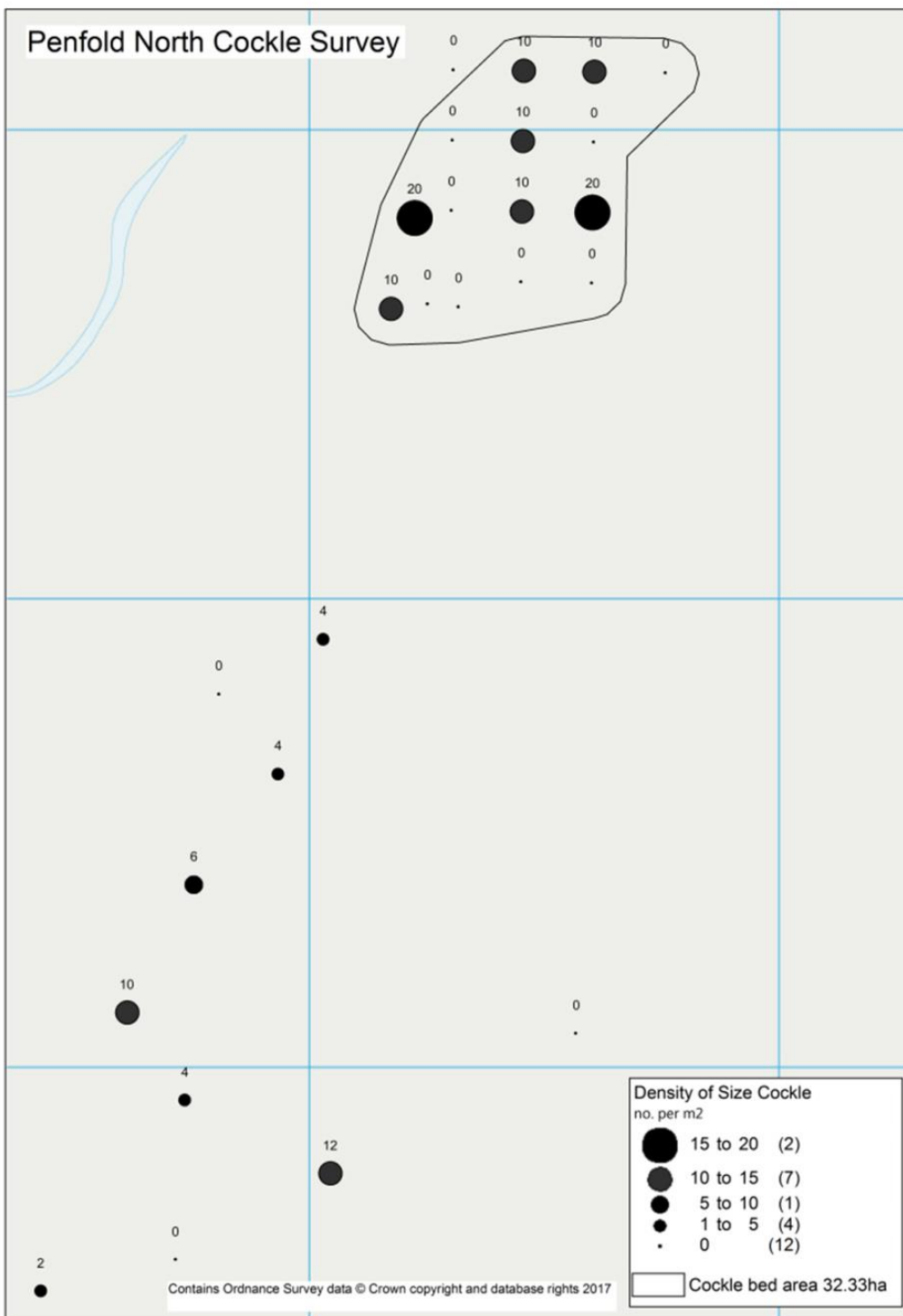
Mean number of size cockle = 6 per m² (min. 0, max 20)

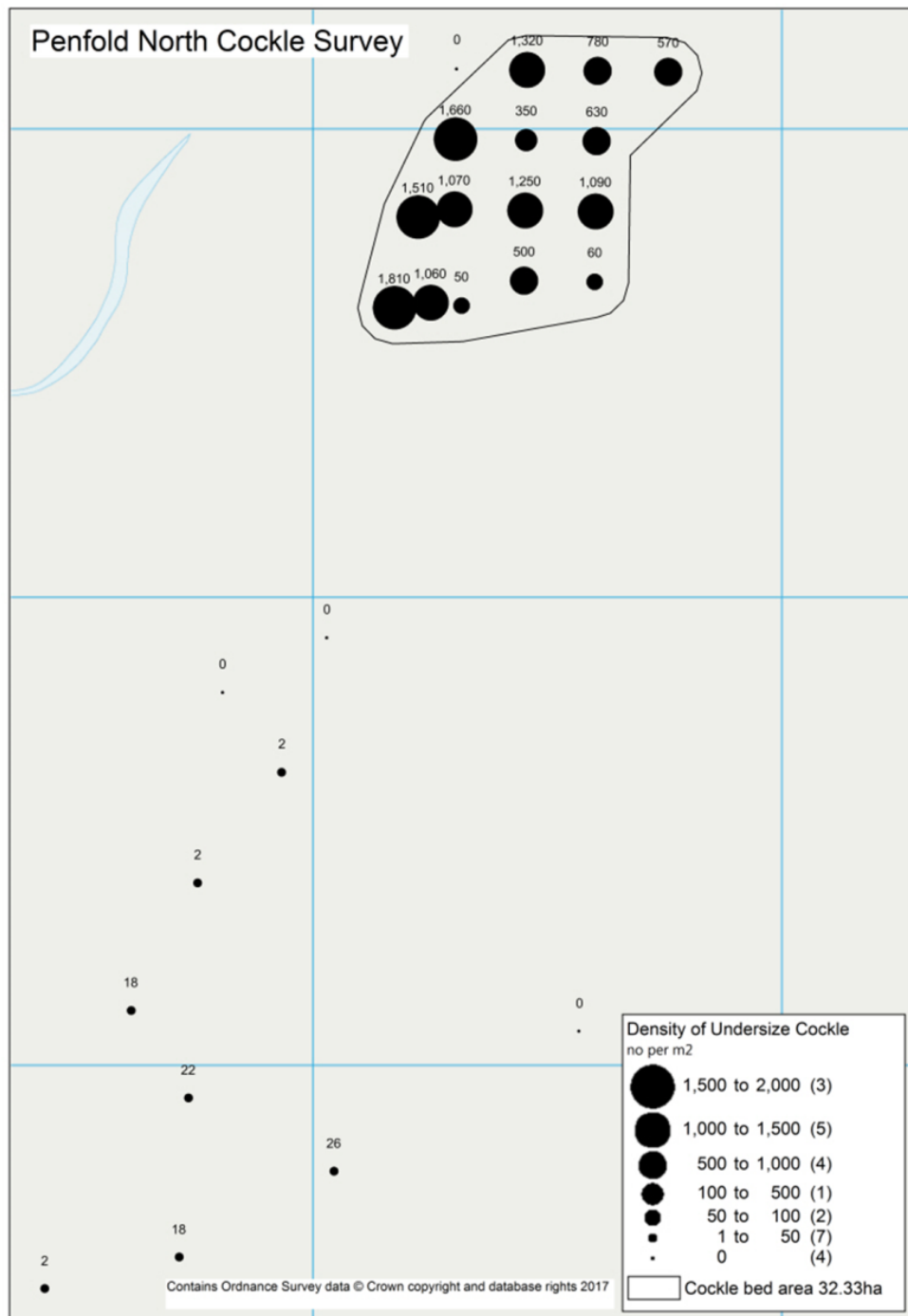
Mean number of undersize cockle = 575 per m² (min. 0, max 1810)

Total Bed Area = 32.33 ha









Ribble - Lytham North Run (14-03-17)

Survey Method: 0.5m² quadrat and jumbo. 35 stations were surveyed. 28 from a 500m grid and 7 extra were added.

Mean size cockles = <1 per m² (min. 0 max. 4)

Mean undersize cockles = 5 per m² (min. 0 max. 46)

Almost all cockle found was in the 5-10mm size class. Mapping has not been carried out due to the very low level of cockle.

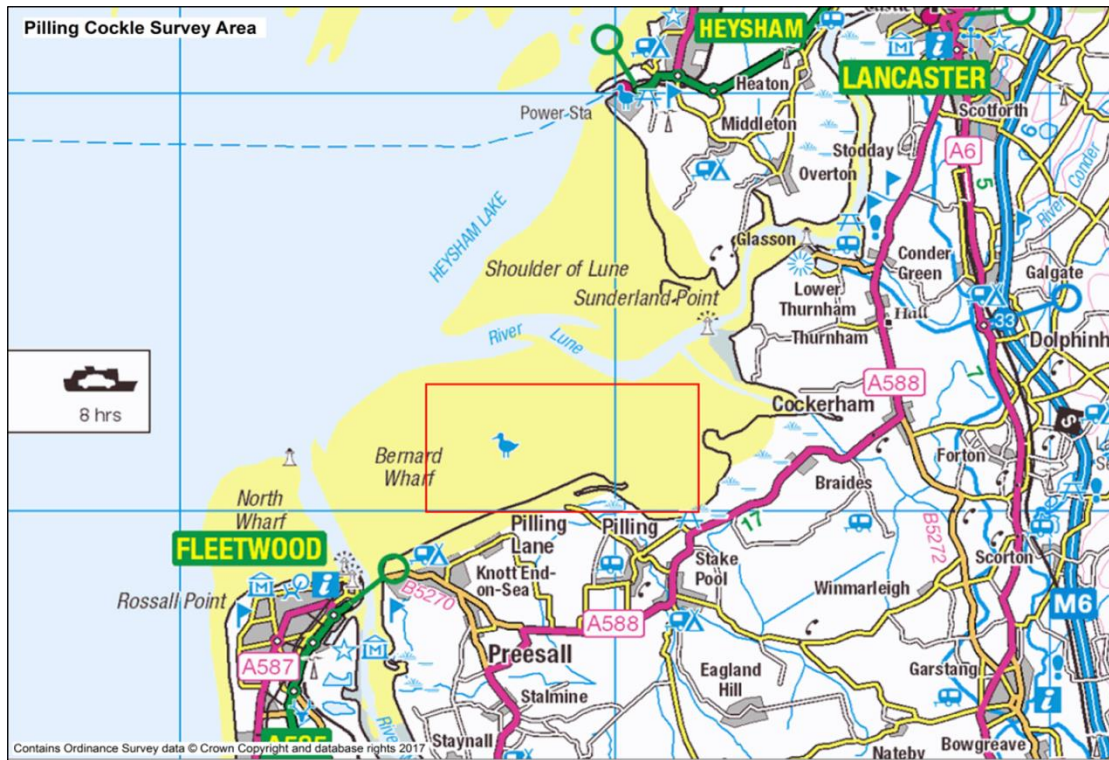
Morecambe Bay - Pilling (27-03-2017)

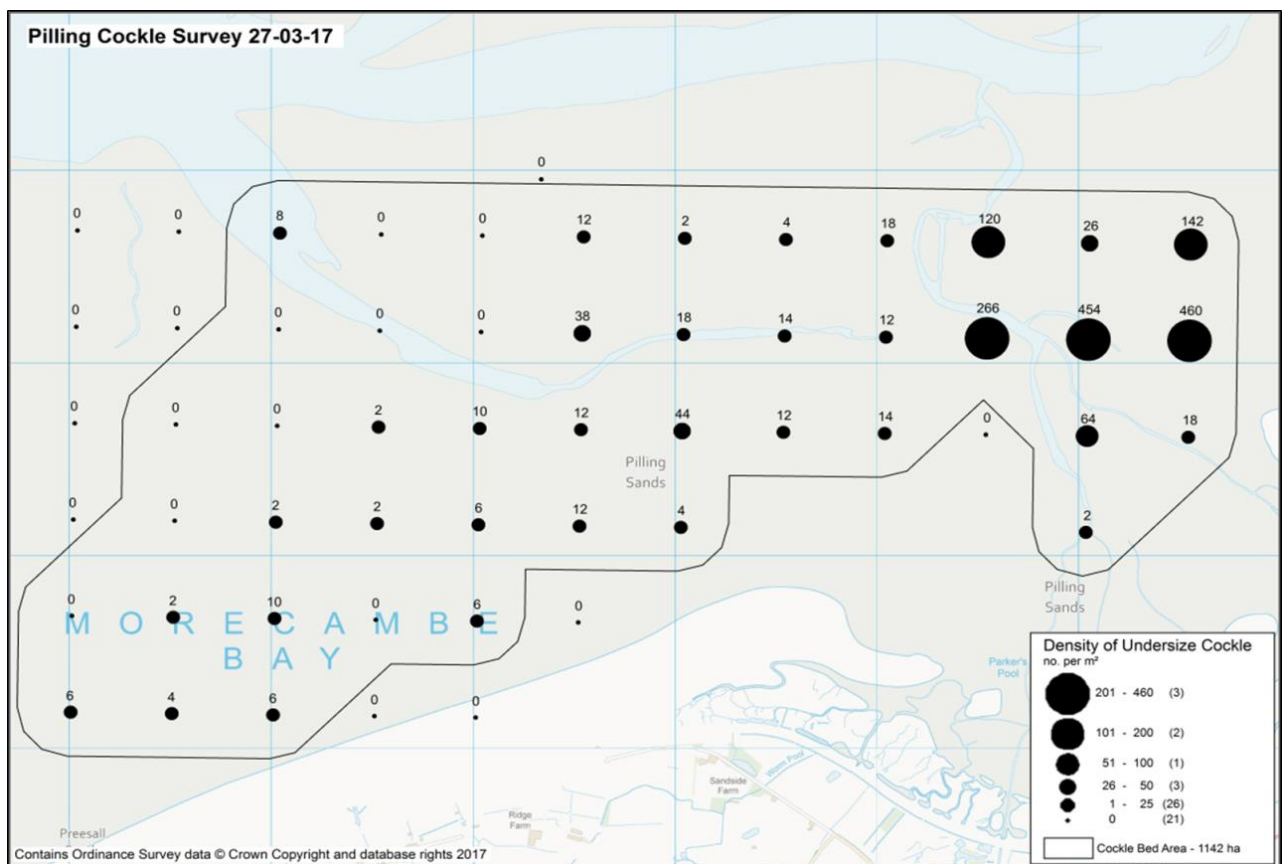
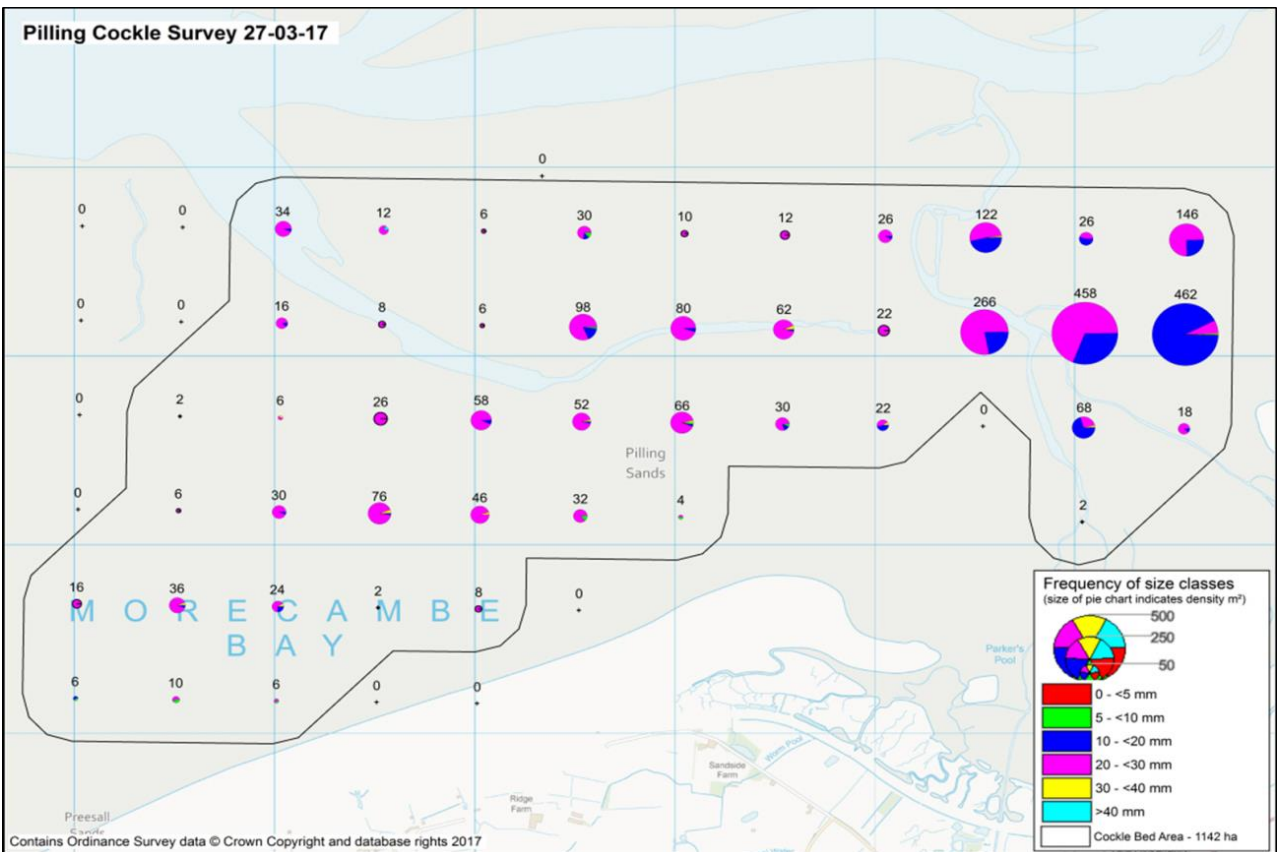
Survey – Jumbo and 0.5m² quadrat. 55 survey stations were sampled from a grid 500m apart with an extra point added outside of the grid area.

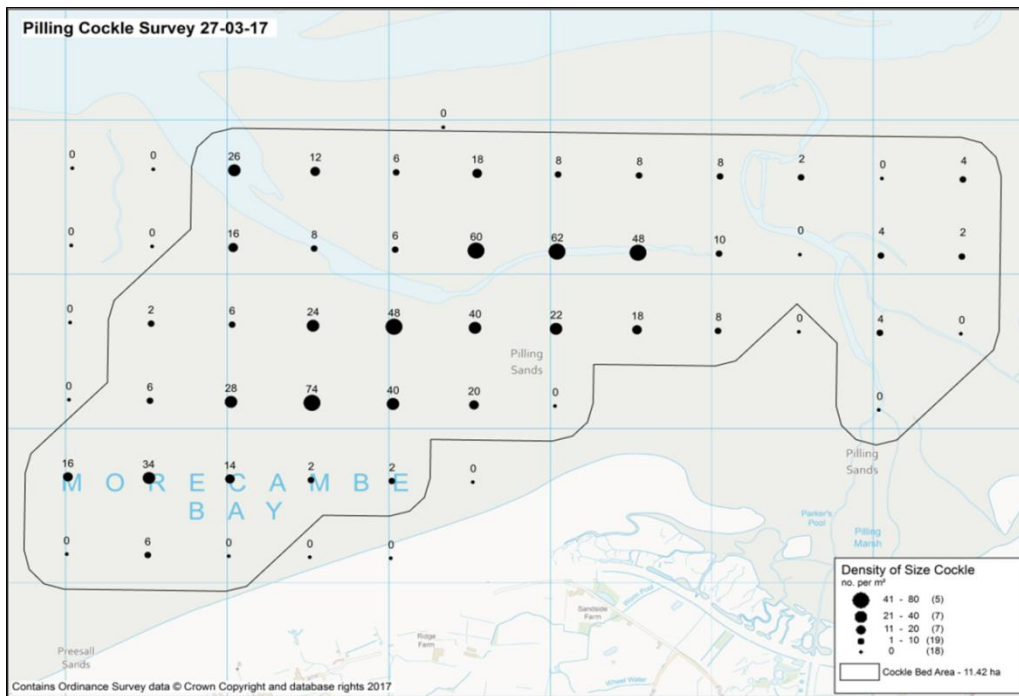
Mean number of size cockle = 16 per m² (min. 0, max 62)

Mean number of undersize cockle = 41 per m² (min 0, max 460)

Total Bed Area = 1142 ha







Middleton Sands (16-03-17)

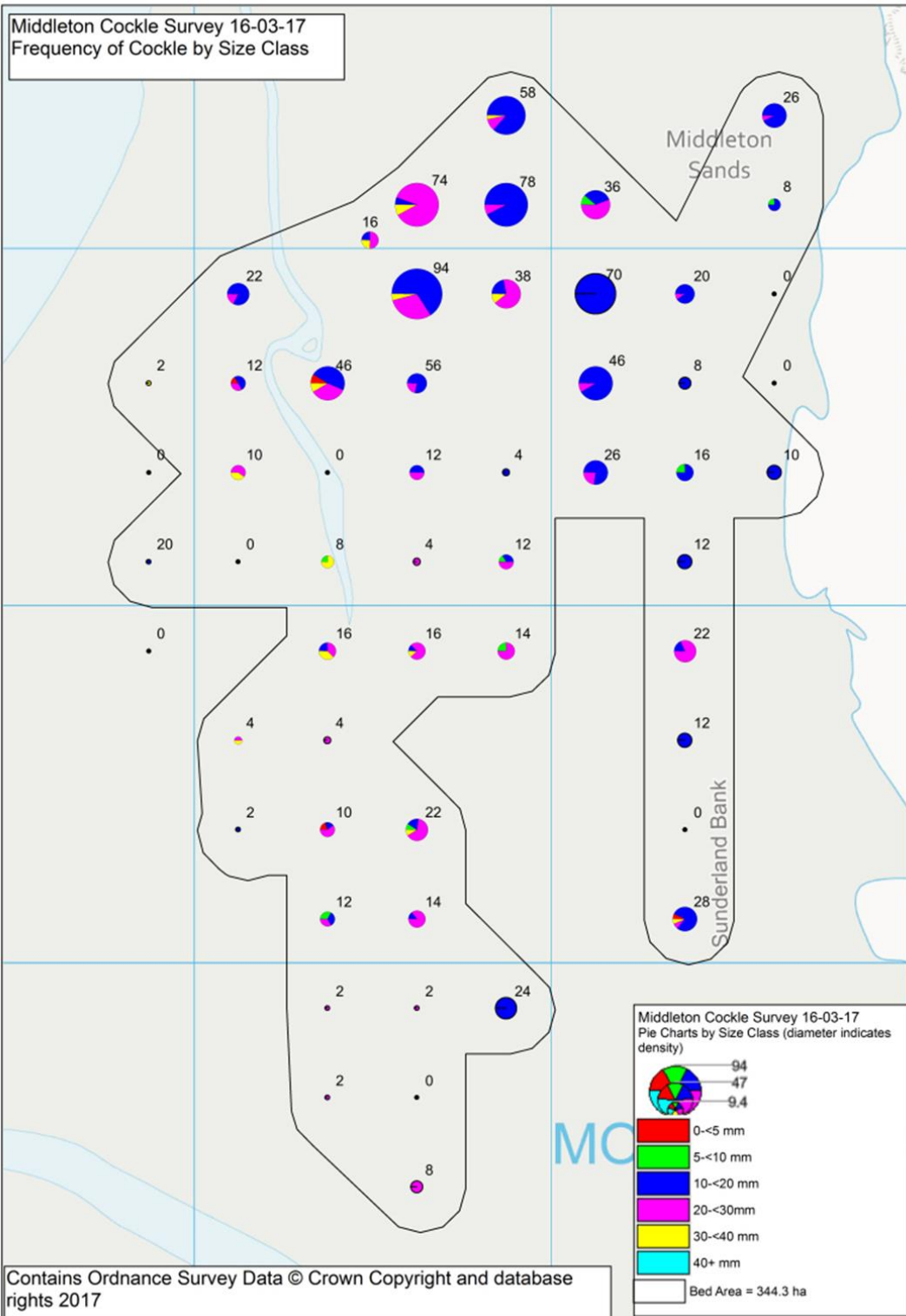
Survey method: 250m grid, 0.5m² quadrat. 55 survey stations were sampled from a grid of 102 points, 250 m apart. The stations nearest Heysham Power Station were not accessible due to the soft muddy sand near the pipeline. The top of the beach nearest the car par is buoyed off - this is a cable laying route marked out by Dong Energy for the landfall of the West of Walney windfarm cabling.

Mean number of size cockle = 4 per m² (min. 0, max 24)

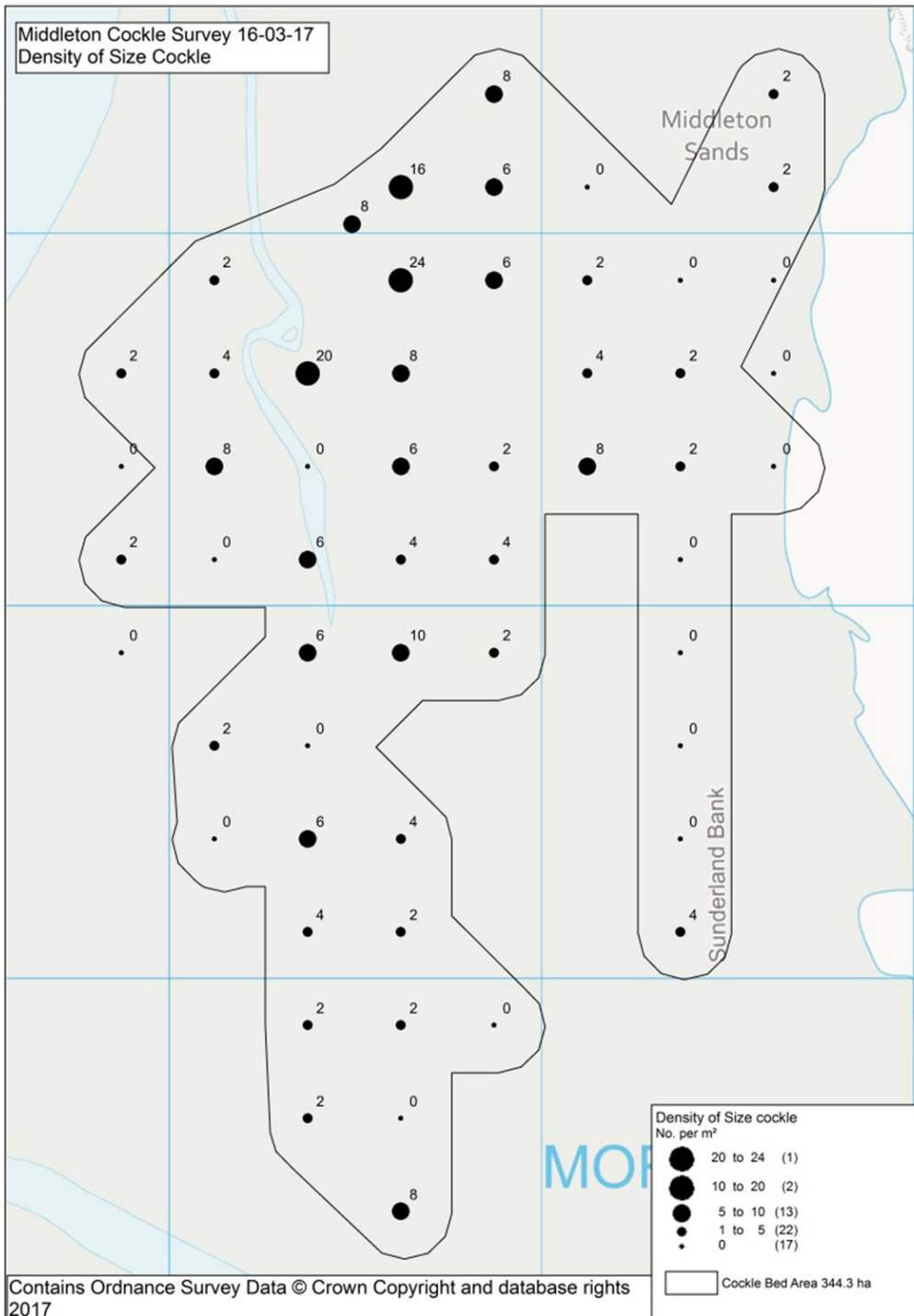
Mean number of undersize cockle = 16 per m² (min 0, max 72)

Total area: 344.3 ha

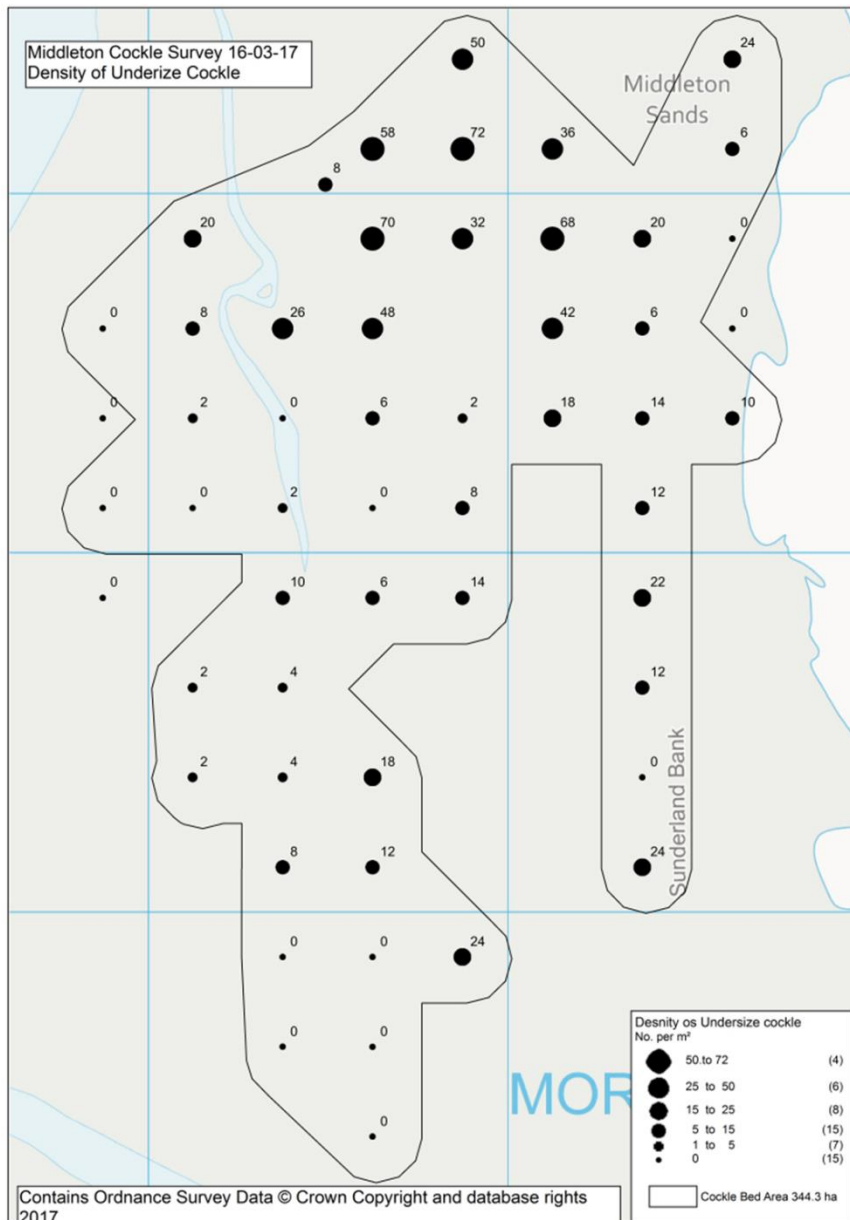




Middleton Cockle Survey 16-03-17
Density of Size Cockle



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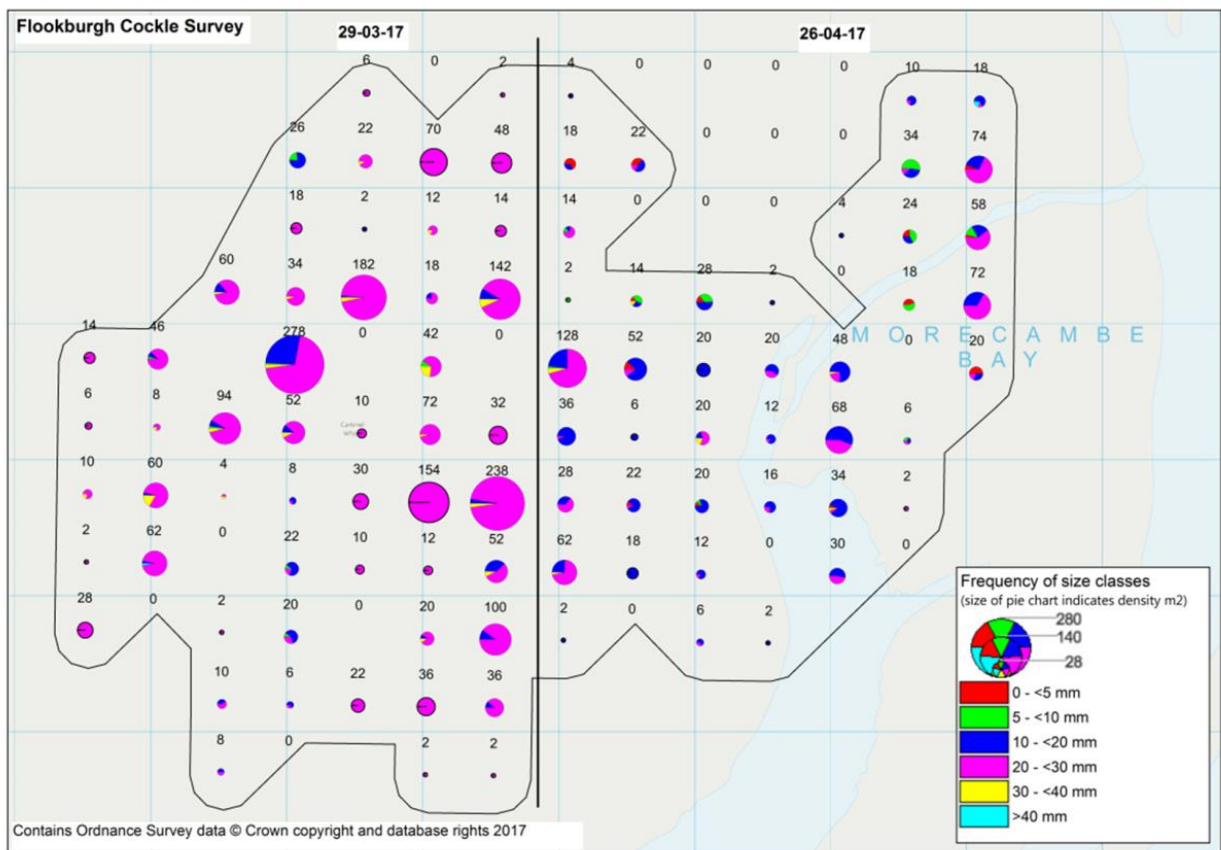
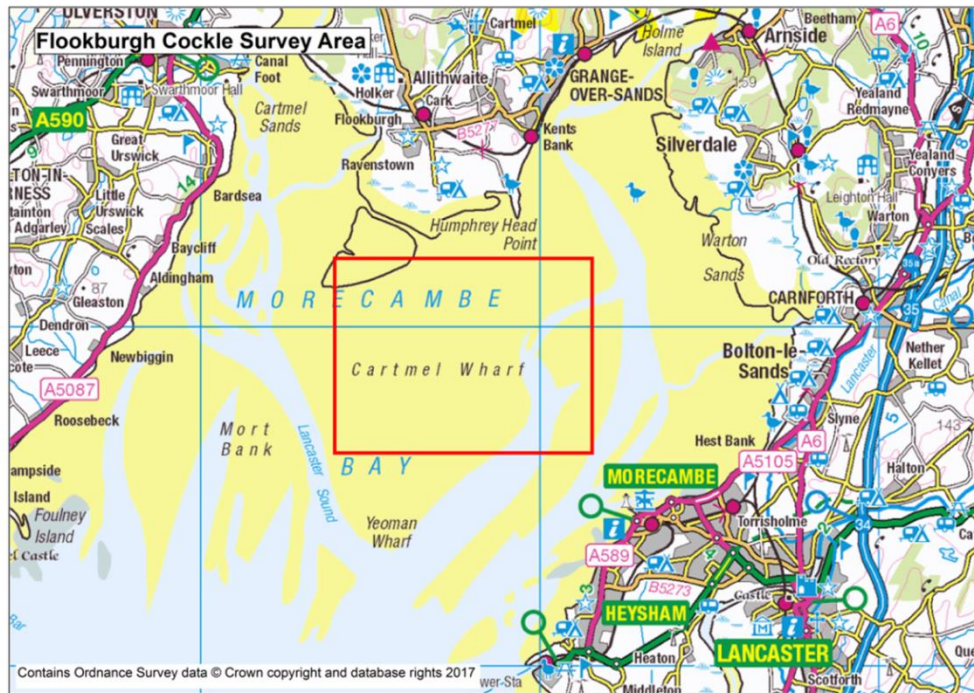
Flookburgh 29-3-17(West) and 26-04-17 (East)

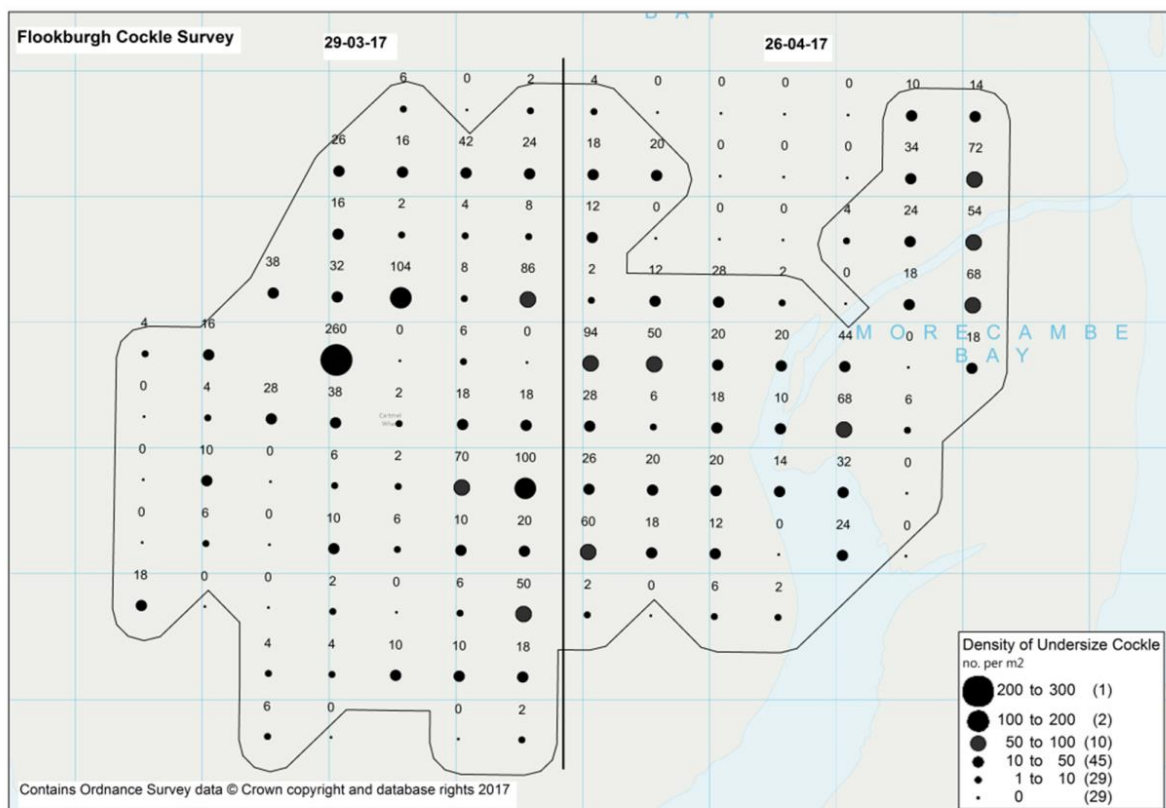
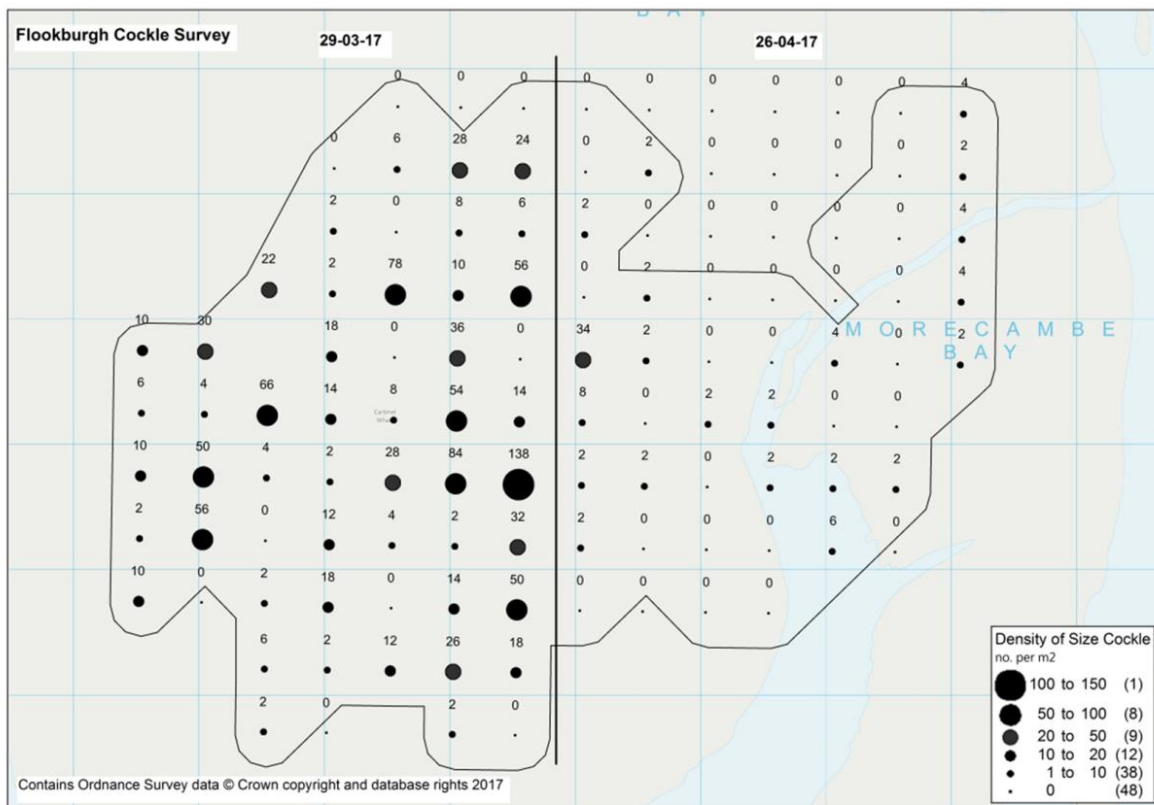
Flookburgh survey grid was split into two (West and East), each area was surveyed on different days, using jumbo and 0.5m² quadrat. 117 stations were sampled from a grid with stations 500 m apart. The results from some days may need to be treated as an underestimate due to high winds again preceding survey dates. It is becoming harder to avoid this weather influence.

Mean number of size cockle = 12 per m² (min. 0, max 138)

Mean number of undersize cockle = 22 per m² (min. 0, max 260)

Total Bed Area = 2608 ha





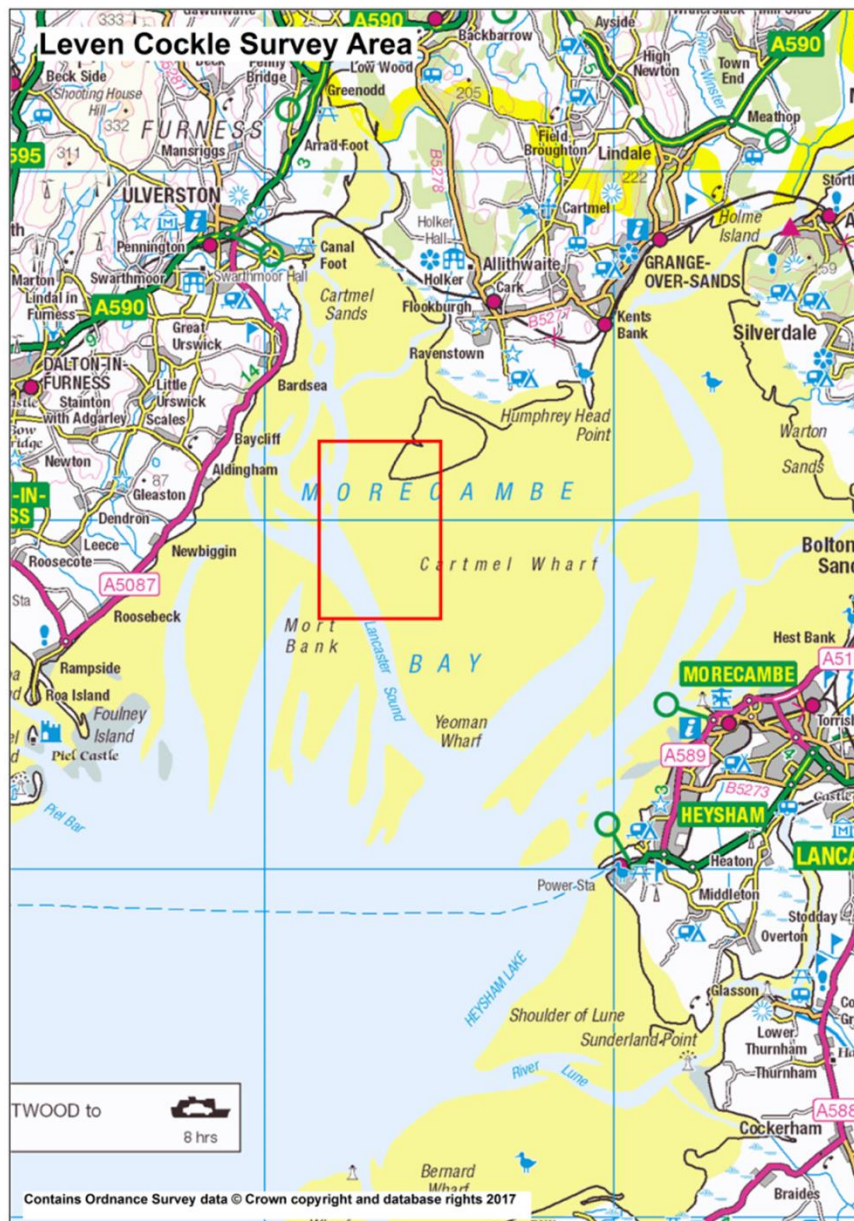
Leven Sands (28-04-17)

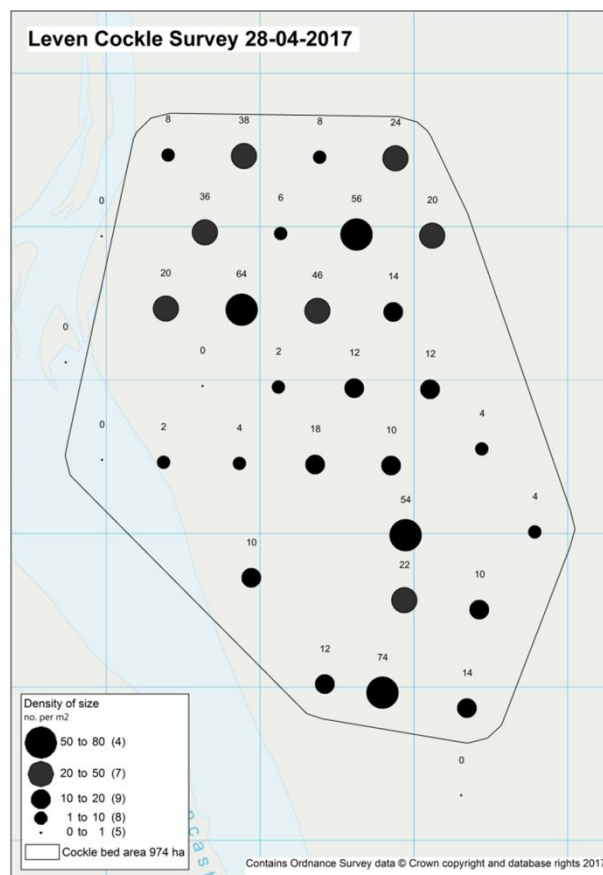
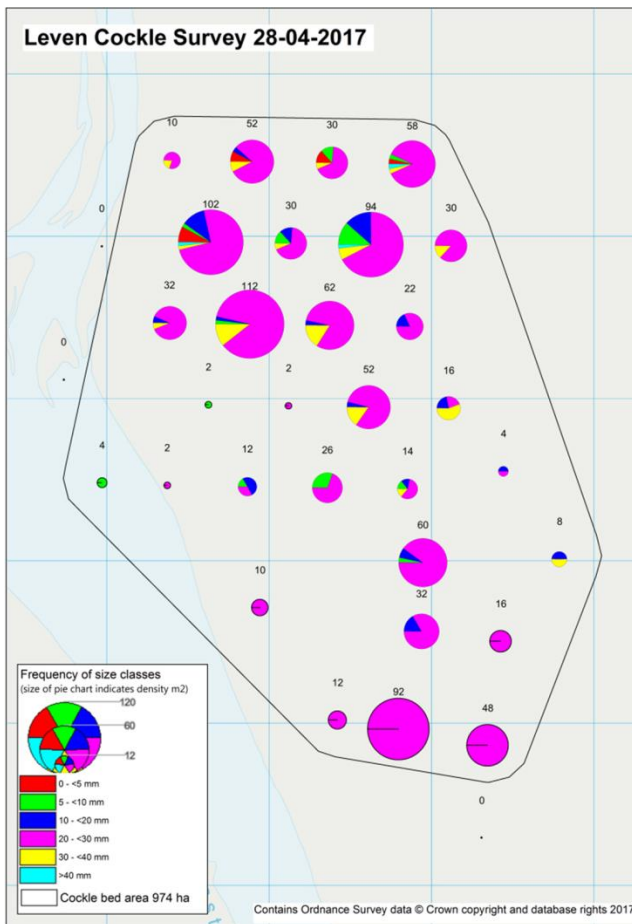
Survey method: Jumbo with 0.5m² quadrat. 33 survey stations were sampled from a grid 500m apart. 13 of the stations were randomly added around the grid (mainly to the south-east).

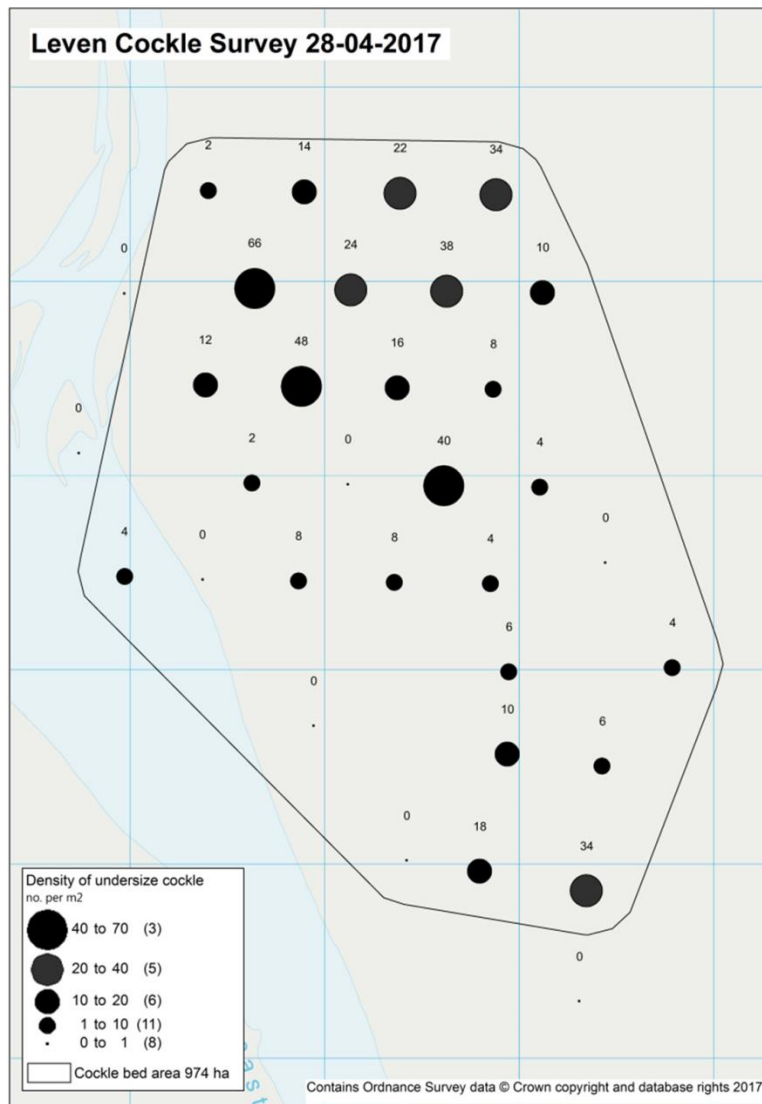
Mean number of size cockle = 20 per m² (min. 0, max 74)

Mean number of undersize cockle = 15 per m² (min. 0, max 66)

Total Bed Area = 974 ha







Duddon Estuary (01-03-17)

Random points were surveyed from Hard Acre to Askam / Roanhead, and a few large cockles found 30-40mm in small densities < 3 per m². Mapping not carried out.

Science Team – 2nd May 2017