

# Beachy Head East

Recommended Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)

Status: Under Consideration



Male cuckoo wrasse, Paul Naylor

## Fact file

This area is characterised by Sovereign Shoals, an extensive wildlife-rich sandstone reef with outcrops of chalk. Peat and clay exposures are also found here. Marine life here includes a variety of sponges, anemones, native oysters and seahorses. Soft corals colonise the underside of slab surfaces together with tube worms.

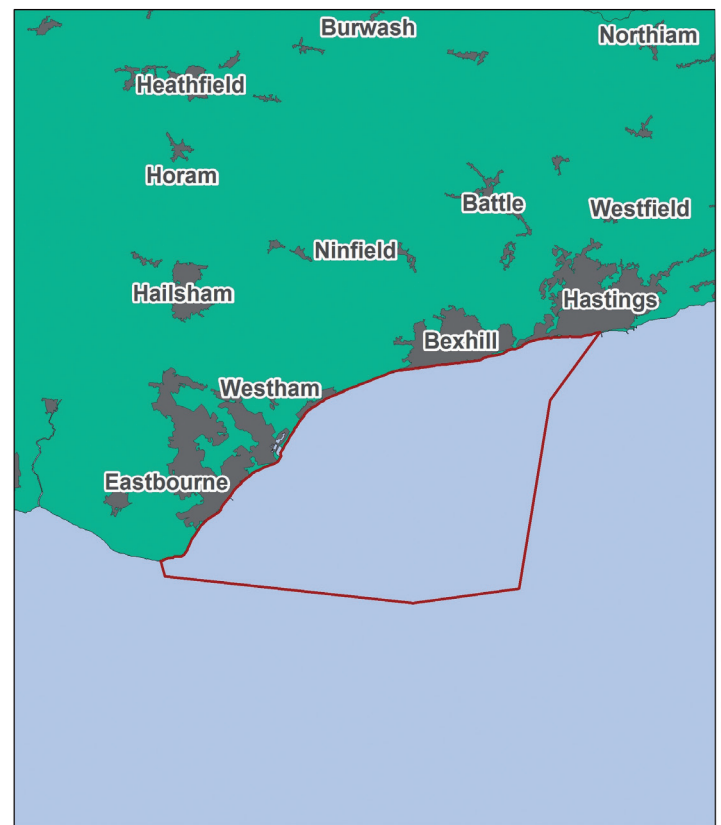
Animal 'reefs', known as biogenic reefs, occur here and this site provides one of the best regional examples of mussel beds. Biogenic reef structures made by mussels and ross worms provide homes for a diversity of marine life which would otherwise not be present on the seafloor.

Fish found here include short-snouted seahorses, colourful cuckoo wrasse and this is also one of the most important nearshore nursery areas for plaice and Dover sole. Black-headed gulls, black-legged kittiwakes and common terns all come here to feed.

## Support this MCZ today!

[wildlifetrusts.org/MCZ/beachy-head-east](http://wildlifetrusts.org/MCZ/beachy-head-east)

## Location



0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 Miles

Recommended MCZ

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# Recommended Marine Conservation Zones



## Beachy Head East

193.27km<sup>2</sup>

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## Help us secure more Marine Conservation Zones

UK seas have the potential to be some of the most wildlife rich on Earth, but ambitious protection is needed to reverse the decades of decline.

Great progress has been made in securing protected areas at sea but there's still work to be done.

With your help we can make sure that our seas are given the protection they need to thrive once again!

- Join our supporters and become a Friend of MCZs today (it's free!) [wildlifetrusts.org/MCZFriends](http://wildlifetrusts.org/MCZFriends)
- Find out more about Marine Conservation Zones. [wildlifetrusts.org/MCZs](http://wildlifetrusts.org/MCZs)
- You can also send us any information or sightings you may have of this MCZ to [marine@wildlifetrusts.org](mailto:marine@wildlifetrusts.org)



The Wildlife Trusts

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[wildlifetrusts.org](http://wildlifetrusts.org)



"With proper protection, UK seas have the potential to be teeming with incredible life and colour, supporting thriving livelihoods and wildlife for generations to come. The return to Living Seas will, however, only be possible with an ambitious third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones."

Tony Juniper  
President  
The Wildlife Trusts