

Bembridge

Recommended Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)

Status: Under Consideration



Short-snouted seahorse, Paul Naylor

Fact file

This area is home to the peacock's tail seaweed and is one of only two recommended MCZ sites in the South-East where both species of native seahorse (long and short snouted) have been recorded. The beautiful, delicate and seldom seen kaleidoscope stalked jellyfish has also been found here.

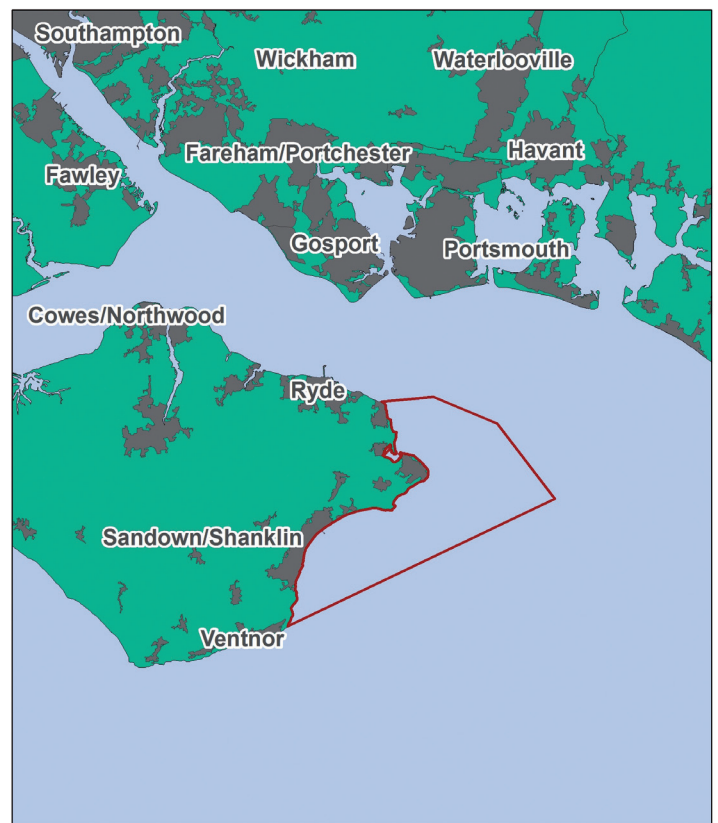
Bembridge is the only known regional location of maerl. Maerl is a fragile, calcareous, red seaweed which forms large mats resembling a knotted mass of twigs and provides shelter for many other species. It is highly sensitive to disturbances and takes a long time to recover when damaged.

Rocky reefs host assemblages of sponges, anemones, corals and sea pens. Mud dominates in the north of the site and provides habitat for spoonworms. Spoonworm numbers are declining across the South East therefore designation of this site would offer much needed protection for these animals.

Support this MCZ today!

wildlifetrusts.org/MCZ/bembridge

Location



0 1.5 3 6 9 Miles

 Recommended MCZ

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Recommended Marine Conservation Zones



Bembridge

75km²

Recommended Marine
Conservation Zone (MCZ)

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
- Find out more about Marine Conservation Zones. wildlifetrusts.org/MCZs
- You can also send us any information or sightings you may have of this MCZ to marine@wildlifetrusts.org



The Wildlife Trusts

The Kiln, Waterside, Mather Road, Newark, NG24 1WT

Tel: 01636 677711 Fax: 01637 670001

wildlifetrusts.org

Factsheet prepared by Hampshire and
Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust



"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