

Ribble Estuary

Recommended Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)



Status: Under Consideration



Shore crab eating clam, Paul Naylor

Fact file

The feature of conservation importance found in this recommended MCZ is smelt - a small fish species essential to the local food web.

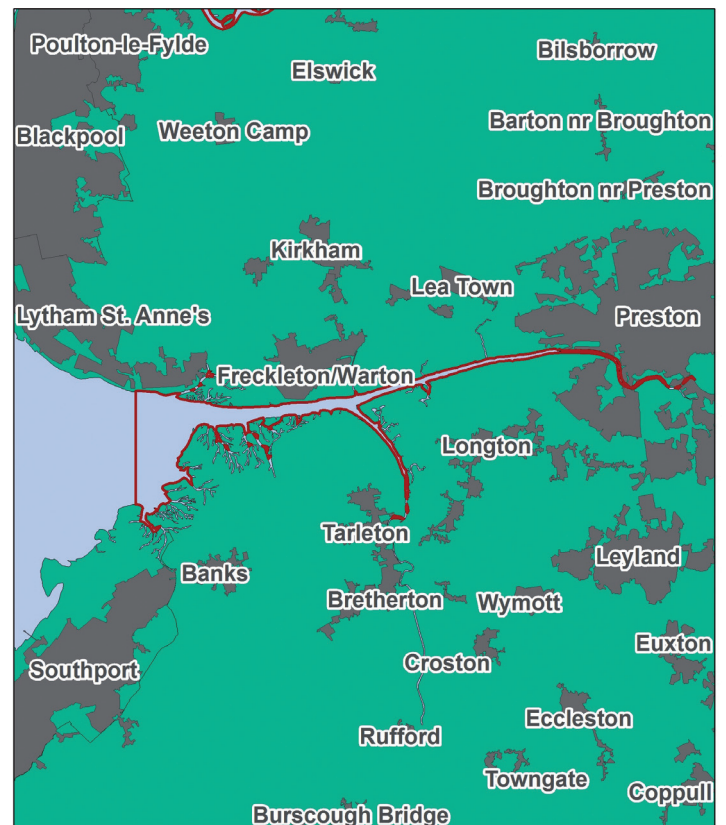
The Ribble Estuary is a fascinating place. The site is made up of an estuary that results in saltmarsh where river meets sea. This habitat is massively important as it provides a nursery ground for fish to mature and reach a size that will improve their chances of reaching breeding age. Smelt populations in the UK have declined dramatically in recent decades so designation of this site would be huge step towards protecting this once widespread species!

The Ribble estuary also provides a huge extent of sand flats that are essential to the survival of overwintering birds that rest and feed here during the winter months, before returning to the colder extremes of the North.

Support this MCZ today!

wildlifetrusts.org/MCZ/ribble-estuary

Location



0 0.75 1.5 3 4.5 Miles

Recommended MCZ

Contains UKHO Law of the Sea data. Crown copyright and database right and contains Ordnance Survey Data Crown copyright and database 2012

Recommended Marine Conservation Zones



Ribble Estuary

12.7km²

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



"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



The Wildlife Trusts

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

Tel: 01636 677711 Fax: 01637 670001

wildlifetrusts.org