

Beachy Head East

Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)



Male cuckoo wrasse, Paul Naylor

Fact file

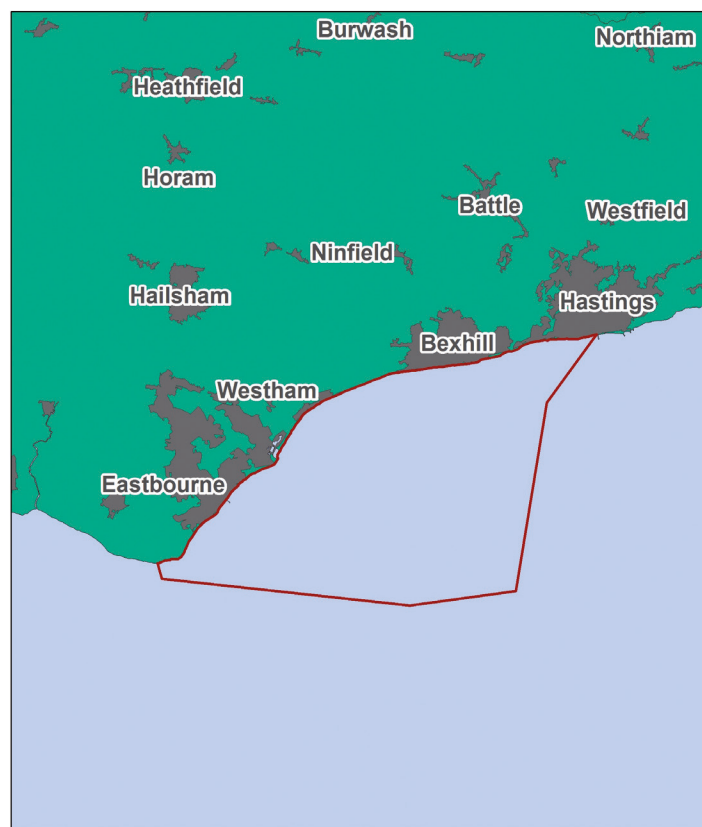
This area is characterised by Sovereign Shoals, an extensive wildlife-rich sandstone reef with outcrops of chalk. Peat and clay exposures are also found here. Marine life here includes a variety of sponges, anemones, native oysters and seahorses. Soft corals colonise the underside of slab surfaces together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

Location



0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 Miles  MCZ

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Protecting Wildlife for the Future

Marine Conservation Zones



Beachy Head East

193.27km²

Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)

Help us to protect our seas

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 Marine Conservation Zones and seas are given the protection they need to thrive once again!

- Join our supporters and become a Friend of MCZs today (it's free!)
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- Find out more about other MCZs
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- You can also send us any information or sightings from this MCZ to
marine@wildlifetrusts.org



The Wildlife Trusts

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wildlifetrusts.org



"The designation of the third tranche of Marine Conservation Zones has given us an amazing opportunity to protect our marine wildlife and habitats for future generations. We now have 91 MCZs which is great news, but to help our seas recover we also need the Government to implement proper management and monitoring of these sites."

Joan Edwards
Director of Living Seas
& Public Affairs
The Wildlife Trusts