# **Devon Avon Estuary** Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)





## Fact file

The Devon Avon Estuary is a small estuary reaching approximately 4km inland from the coast up to Aveton Gifford. The estuary mouth is coarse sediment with a scoured channel and semi-exposed rock platfoms, supporting characteristic crustacean and worm communities.

The lower estuary is made up of a mixture of different grades of sand, from coarse to fine. Various species of worm, crustacean and shrimp can be found here. The rare tentacled lagoon worm has been recorded here living in the thick, deep mud. These worms live within tubes made of mud and are highly vulnerable to changes in their habitat. This MCZ helps to protect this rare and exciting species.

Like most estuaries of the South-West, the Devon Avon is an important nursery area for fish species and is potentially important for seahorse populations as it provides suitable food and shelter.

### Location



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#### Protecting Wildlife for the Future

### **Marine Conservation Zones**



**Devon Avon Estuary** 1.84km<sup>2</sup>

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

The Kiln, Waterside, Mather Road, Newark, NG24 1WT Tel: 01636 677711 Fax: 01637 670001 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

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