

# Erme Estuary

Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)



Squat lobster, Dominic Flint

## Fact file

The Erme is a narrow, sheltered estuary approximately 6.5km long. Bound by dense woodland, this drowned river valley is remote and unspoilt. Mixed habitats abound in this small estuary, from sandy seabed to areas of exposed bedrock. The shoreline is similarly varied, from shingle and cobble habitats to the beautiful sands of Wonwell beach.

At low tide, the estuary serves as an important foraging ground for birds and crustaceans. At high tide the estuary offers protection and shelter for juvenile fish. Like other estuaries in the south-west, this site is important for its function as a nursery area for fish species, with sea trout using the area for spawning.

The rare European eel has also been reported in surveys along with a population of otter! Designation of this site was a huge victory for charismatic species such as these.

## Location



MCZ

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[wildlifetrusts.org/MCZ/erme-estuary](http://wildlifetrusts.org/MCZ/erme-estuary)

Protecting Wildlife for the Future

# Marine Conservation Zones



## Erme Estuary

1.32km<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!)

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

- Find out more about other MCZs

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

- You can also send us any information or sightings from this MCZ to

[marine@wildlifetrusts.org](mailto:marine@wildlifetrusts.org)



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"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**