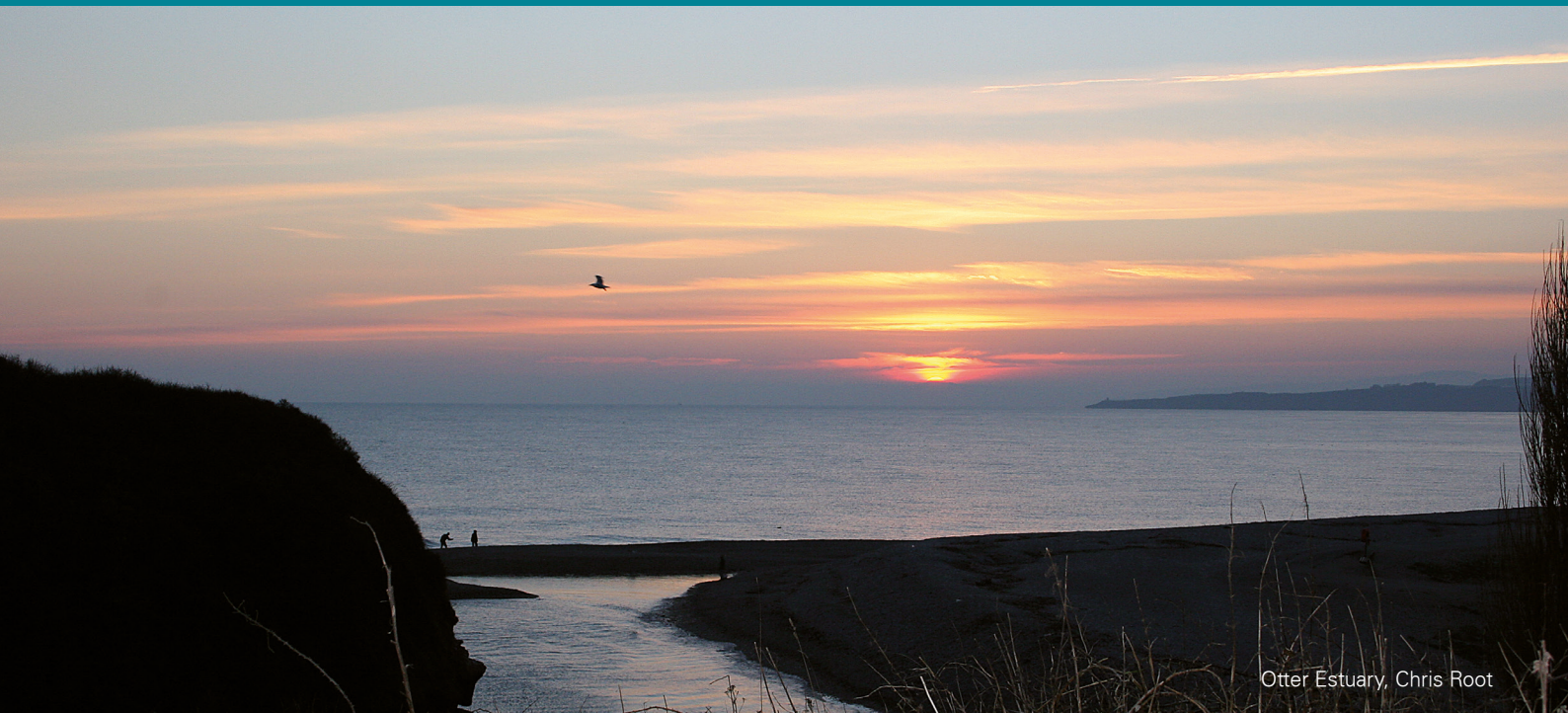


Otter Estuary

Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)



Otter Estuary, Chris Root

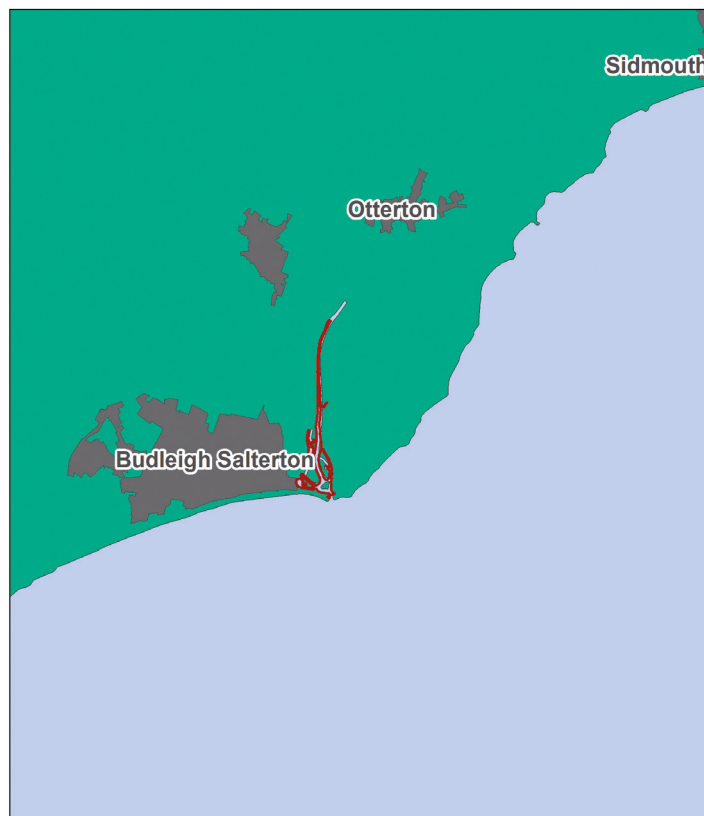
Fact file


The Otter Estuary extends from the mouth of the estuary, at the eastern end of the shingle beach at Budleigh Salterton, inland as far as the aqueduct near East Budleigh. The lower 2km reach of the River Otter is bounded by an embankment to the west and sandstone cliff to the east. The estuary broadens to a maximum width of 500m. Here the deep, fine sediment has enabled tidal mudflats to form. Species that thrive here include the bivalve peppery furrow-shell, ragworms and crustaceans, which all provide food for birds.

A shingle barrier running eastwards from the west shore virtually closes the estuary from the sea. Behind this there is an extensive saltmarsh with a rich diversity of flora and fauna. This is an important area for birds such as curlews and lapwings.

Overall the estuary has been identified as an important nursery area for fish, including bass. The endangered European eel has also been recorded here.

Location



0 0.45 0.9 1.8 Miles  MCZ

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Marine Conservation Zones



Otter Estuary

0.11km²

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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- 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