

Ribble Estuary

Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)



Shore crab eating clam, Paul Naylor

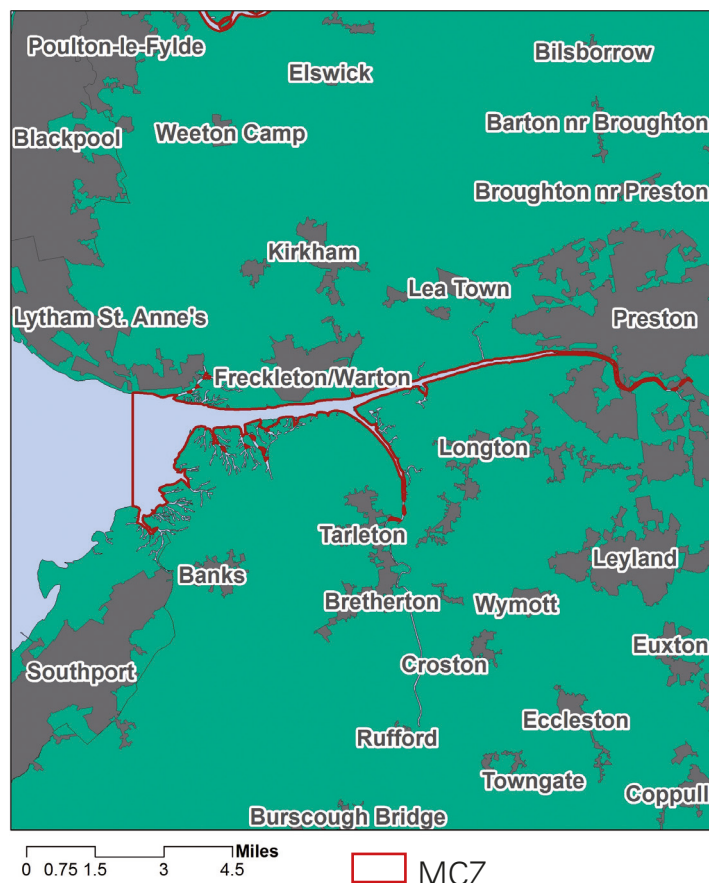
Fact file

The feature of conservation importance found in this 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 was a 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.

Location



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Protecting Wildlife for the Future

Marine Conservation Zones



Ribble Estuary

12.7km²

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



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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