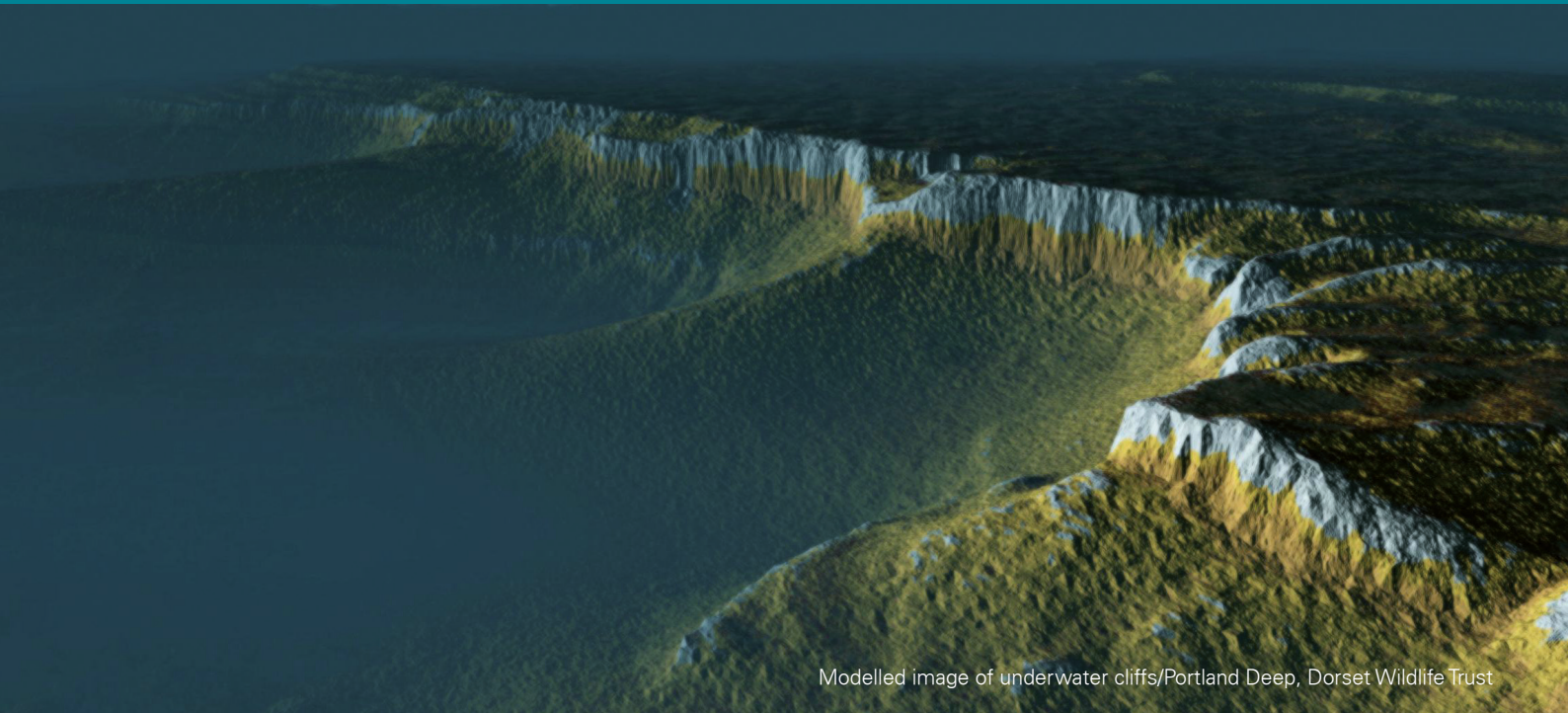


# South of Portland

## Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)



Modelled image of underwater cliffs/Portland Deep, Dorset Wildlife Trust

### Fact file

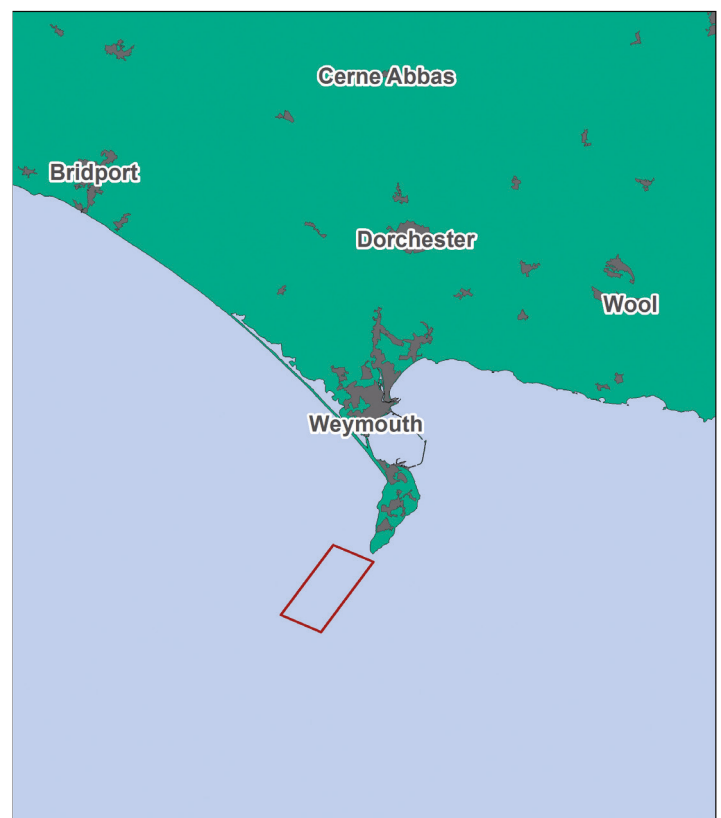
South of Portland MCZ lies close to Portland Bill in an area of very strong tidal currents. These currents, called the Portland Race, have eroded deep depressions in the soft rock layers underlying Portland, creating a unique feature of geological importance, known as the Portland Deep.

Elsewhere, sand and coarse sediments have been sculpted into banks and ripples on the seafloor. The area is known to have a high diversity and unusual mixture of seabed life. Species such as reef-building worms inhabit the sandy areas, and anemones, urchins, sea cucumbers and starfish live in the rocky regions of this site.

The site also includes an area of blue mussel bed known to provide a stable habitat for many other species to utilise for food and shelter.

Designation of this site not only protects the species and habitats found here but also the geological features of the Portland Deep.

### Location



Contains UKHO Law of the Sea data. Crown copyright and database right and contains Ordnance Survey Data Crown copyright and database 2012

# Marine Conservation Zones



## South of Portland

17.5km<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)



**The Wildlife Trusts**

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[wildlifetrusts.org](http://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**