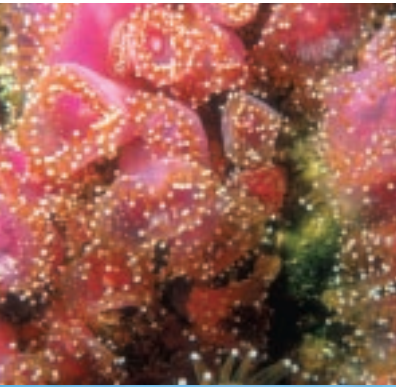




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England's European marine sites



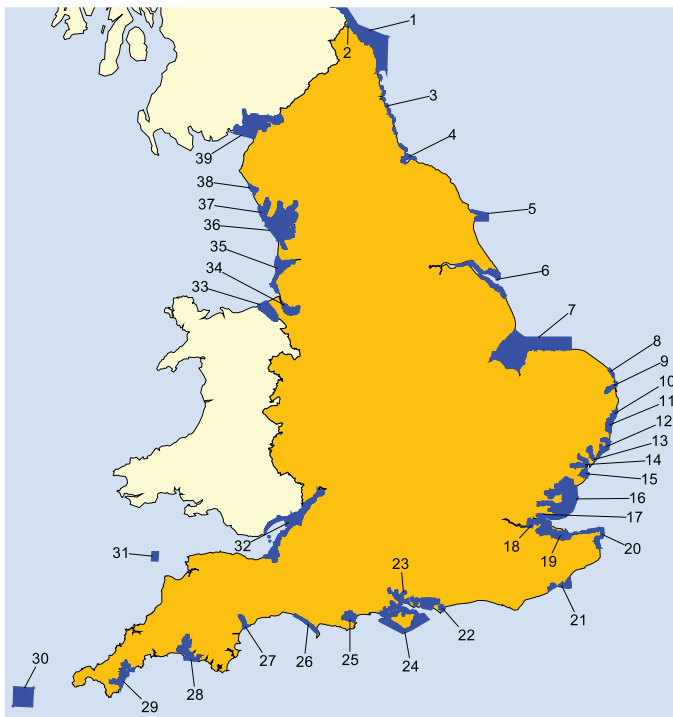
working towards *Natural England*
for people, places and nature

England's European marine sites

England has some of the finest marine wildlife in Europe. England's 39 **European marine sites** are a type of Marine Protected Area and aim to protect some of our most special marine and coastal habitats and species. These sites stretch from the Isles of Scilly in the south-west to the Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast in the north-east. They are part of the European-wide *Natura 2000* network.

Within European marine sites there are **Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)** and **Special Protection Areas (SPAs)**. SACs contain animals, plants and habitats that are considered rare, special or threatened within Europe while SPAs protect bird species.

Location of England's European marine sites



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Natura 2000 network and European marine sites

SACs and SPAs created under the EC Habitats and Birds Directives form a network of protected areas across Europe called *Natura 2000*. Those sites that are covered by tidal waters are called **European marine sites**.

	European marine site	No of SACs	No of SPAs
1	Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast	●	●
2	Northumbria Coast		●
3	Tweed Estuary	●	
4	Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast		●
5	Flamborough Head	●	
6	Humber Estuary	(p) ●	●
7	Wash & North Norfolk Coast	●	●●●
8	Breydon Water		●
9	Great Yarmouth & North Denes		●
10	Benacre to Easton Bavents		●
11	Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes	●	●
12	Alde-Ore Estuary	●●	●
13	Stour & Orwell Estuaries		●
14	Deben Estuary		●
15	Essex Estuaries	●	●●●●●
16	Hamford Water		●
17	Benfleet & Southend Marshes		●
18	Swale & Medway		●●
19	Thames Estuary & Marshes		●
20	North East Kent (Thanet)	●	●
21	Dungeness to Pett Level	●	●
22	Pagham Harbour		●
23	Solent Maritime	●	●●●
24	South Wight Maritime	●	
25	Poole Harbour		●
26	Chesil and the Fleet	●	●
27	Exe Estuary		●
28	Plymouth Sound and Estuaries	●	●
29	Fal and Helford	●	
30	Isles of Scilly	●	
31	Lundy	●	
32	Severn Estuary	(p) ●	●
33	Dee Estuary	(p) ●	●
34	Mersey Estuary		●
35	Ribble & Alt Estuaries		●
36	Drigg Coast	●	
37	Morecambe Bay	●	●
38	Duddon Estuary		●
39	Solway Firth	●	●

(p) = possible SAC

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

Special Areas of Conservation are designated to protect certain rare, threatened, or typical natural habitats, animals and plants. There are 23 marine SACs designated within England. All these are attached to the coastline and work is currently underway by English Nature and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) to identify new sites between 0-200 nautical miles offshore.

The habitats and species protected within England's SACs are

- estuaries
- large shallow inlets and bays
- intertidal mudflats and sandflats
- sandbanks
- common (or harbour) seal
- shad
- lagoons
- sea caves
- reefs
- grey seal
- lamprey.

Turnstones searching for food. Chris Gibson/English Nature



Above: Common seal. Chris Gibson/English Nature

Below: Kelp forest near Plymouth. Keith Hiscock/MBA



Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

Special Protection Areas aim to conserve wild bird populations and their habitats. They help provide the resources (for example food and shelter) and habitats required to conserve vulnerable bird species. SPAs can also protect the areas used by migrating bird species. There are 41 SPAs with a marine element within England. The JNCC are currently working to identify sites out to 200 nautical miles offshore.



Sailing around the English coast. Chris Gibson/English Nature

English Nature and European marine sites

English Nature is the Government's wildlife agency. It is our job to identify and advise the Government on SPAs and SACs in England. We advise on the conservation of European marine sites and assist with their management.

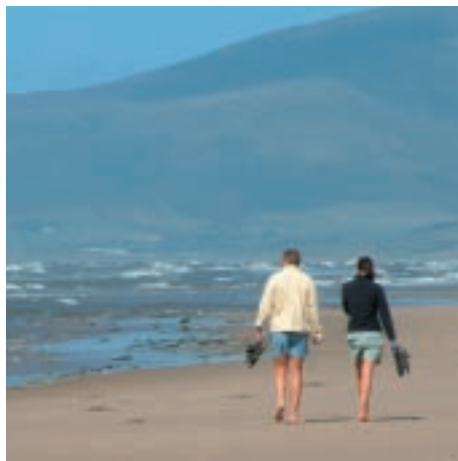
Diver looking at dead men's fingers anemones.
Keith Hiscock/MBA



Enjoying European marine sites

England's European marine sites are located on some of our best-loved areas of coastline but are also some of our most heavily-used. As these sites contain some of our most stunning coastal and marine wildlife and habitats they can be great places to visit. Why not take a walk along a coast path or sail past these areas? They also cover several of England's most popular dive sites such as Lundy and the Farne Islands and popular beaches such as those on the North Norfolk Coast.

We want people to value these special sites and their important wildlife and habitats. We encourage people to visit them and take an interest in their management. Several sites, such as North East Kent and Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast, offer educational activities such as rockpool rambles and guided walks.



Enjoying a walk in the Duddon estuary.
Rob Pettley-Jones/English Nature



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If you would like further information on our European marine sites please contact English Nature at enquiries@english-nature.org.uk, telephone (01733) 455000 or visit our website.

English Nature, the Rural Development Service and the Countryside Agency. Working in partnership to conserve and enhance our landscapes and natural environment, to promote countryside access and recreation as well as public well-being, now and for future generations.

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Top left: Jewel anemones. JNCC
Bottom left: Isle of Scilly,
Dan Laffoley/English Nature.
Main: Rockpooling in Cornwall.
Roger Covey/English Nature



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