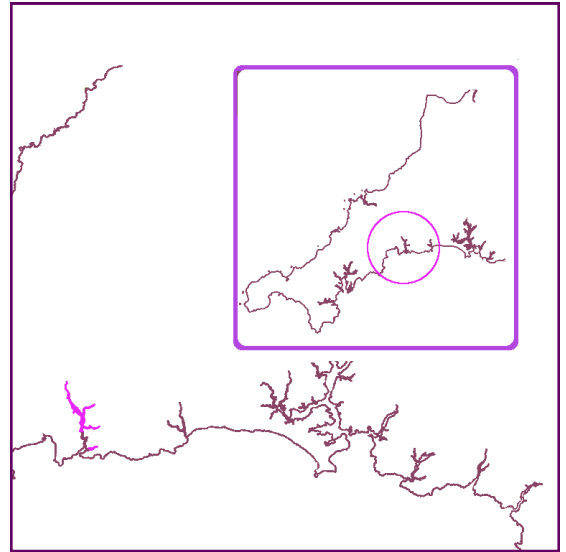


Upper Fowey and Pont Pill MCZ (Marine Conservation Zone)

Point	Latitude	Long
A	50° 21.215' N	4° 38.317' W
B	50° 21.223' N	4° 38.150' W
C	50° 20.089' N	4° 37.488' W
D	50° 20.029' N	4° 37.394' W



The Upper Fowey and Pont Pill MCZs consist of two separate areas. These estuary sites located on the Cornish coast protect a total area of 2 km² making it one of the smallest MCZs. The larger area protects the upper tidal reaches of the Fowey estuary extending to Lostwithiel and including the River Lerryn, Penpoll Creek and Bodmin Pill. The smaller area protects Pont Pill, a tributary estuary flowing into the Fowey on the Eastern side near Polruan.

Upper Fowey and Pont Pill MCZs protect an area that is representative of the estuarine habitats found across the south-west region. The Fowey estuary contains intertidal mud and sediments, as well as saltmarshes and unusual estuarine rocky habitats which create an environment capable of supporting a diverse range of species.

A range of habitats and associated species are present within these MCZs including coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds. Saltmarshes are found in the upper sections of intertidal mudflats, in areas sheltered from wave action and are characterised by a range of specialised salt tolerant species. Saline reedbeds are restricted to the very top of the tidal range, typically in areas where there are freshwater inputs which create more brackish conditions. Intertidal mud flats and saltmarshes act as important food and habitat resources for wading birds and wildfowl.

Communities of plants and animals within estuaries are adapted to conditions of low wave energy, strong tides, freshwater inflows, and high amounts of suspended silt within the water column. The majority of estuaries in England tend to be characterised by mud and sand habitats that are typically dominated by communities of bivalves and worms. The Upper Fowey and Pont Pill MCZs also include areas of estuarine rocky habitat. These are important as they contribute to the richness of life within estuaries by providing an alternative habitat which can support different species to the sediment habitat which usually characterise estuarine environments.

Large seaweeds, wracks and kelps tend to dominate rocky areas of shoreline. Amongst these are crustaceans including barnacles and shore crabs, marine molluscs including periwinkles and top shells, and occasionally sponges and sea squirts. Below the low water mark the communities are equally varied, with anemones, sponges, sea mats and sea squirts often found growing on rocky surfaces. There can be considerable differences between communities living in rocky environments at the upper ends of estuaries and those towards the mouth, which more closely resemble those found in open coast rocky shores. Along with the species mentioned, the estuarine rocky habitats provide nursery grounds for commercially important fish species including sea trout and bass.

Reference: Upper Fowey and Pont Pill MCZ Factsheet (MCZ049)

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4928551543373824?category=1721481>

Feature	General management approach
Intertidal coarse sediment	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal mud	Maintain in favourable condition
Low energy intertidal rock	Maintain in favourable condition
Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	Maintain in favourable condition
Estuarine rocky habitats	Maintain in favourable condition
Sheltered muddy gravels	Maintain in favourable condition
Intertidal sand and muddy sand	Maintain in favourable condition