

Fowey Estuary Voluntary Marine Conservation Area

It's Official! The Fowey Estuary is a beautiful place worthy of special conservation, and has been adopted as a Voluntary Marine Conservation Area

The Fowey Estuary Partnership has been working hard since its formation in 1997 to conserve and promote the environment of the beautiful Fowey estuary, including plans to adopt the estuary area as a Voluntary Marine Conservation Area (VMCA).

Fowey Harbour Commissioners adopted their land as a VMCA in 1999 and now other landowners in the area as well as statutory and non-statutory bodies involved in conservation have also supported the development. These include the National Trust, the Youth Hostel Association, the Environment Agency and English Nature.

The VMCA concept is not a new one and prime examples in Cornwall include the Helford VMCA and the Looe VMCA. *"We shall follow their example in promoting conservation, through education and raising awareness of the importance of wildlife and habitats, and by providing a platform on which to encourage scientific study and better understanding of the environment,"* said Alastair Barr, Chairman of the Fowey Estuary Partnership.

He continues: *"We are delighted the voluntary scheme highlights the outstanding environment of the estuary and are extremely grateful to the external bodies for all their support and sponsorship."*