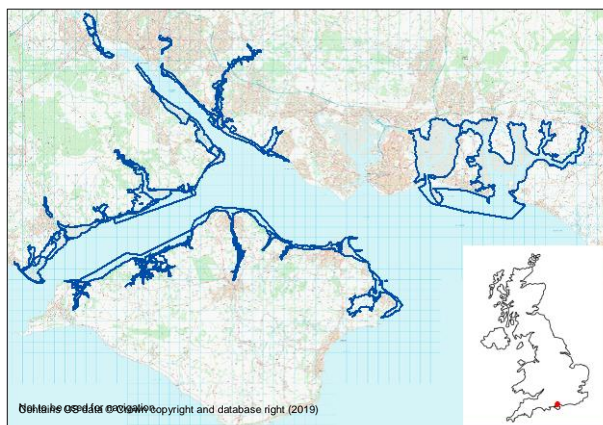


Solent and Southampton Water SPA

Description:

The Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA) is located on the south English coast. The 54 km² area extends from Hurst Spit to Hill Head along the south coast of Hampshire, and from Yarmouth to Whitecliff Bay along the north coast of the Isle of Wight. The site comprises a series of estuaries and harbours with extensive mudflats and saltmarshes together with adjacent coastal habitats including saline lagoons, shingle



beaches, reedbeds, damp woodland and grazing marsh. The mudflats support beds of *Enteromorpha* spp. and *Zostera* spp. and have a rich invertebrate fauna that forms the food resource for the estuarine birds. In summer, the site is of importance for breeding seabirds, including gulls and four species of terns. In winter, the SPA holds a large and diverse assemblage of waterbirds.

Qualifying Features:

Solent and Southampton Waters SPA breeding common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), little tern (*Sterna albifrons*), Mediterranean gull (*Larus melanocephalus*), roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*) and sandwich tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*). It also supports overwintering black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*), dark-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*), ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), and teal (*Anas crecca*). The area also regularly supports at least 20,000 waterfowl.

Management:

- The harbour authorities within the SPA have their own guidance and codes of conduct - [Bird Aware Solent](#).
- [Notice to Mariners](#)

Stakeholder Concerns:

Online stakeholders identified motor boating, towed water sports, and jetskis as being the greatest threats to the SPA given their potential for pollution and noise. Bait collection was also highlighted as a concern with disturbance caused by the removal of target and non-target species which can lead to the displacement and/or mortality of bird species sensitive to these pressures.

MPA: Solent and Southampton Water SPA				No. Stakeholders: 2 online & 0 workshop			
Activity	Frequency	Duration	Participation	Intensity	Confidence	MPA Extent	Trend
Board sports	4	2	4	32	L	1	?
Geophysical surveys	1	3	1	3	L	2	→
Motor boating	4	3	5	60	L	2	↑
Jetskis	3	2	3	18	L	1	↑
Paddle sports	3	2	3	18	L	1	↑
Parascending	0	0	0	0	L	0	?
Sailing (non-motorised)	4	3	6	72	L	2	↑
SCUBA diving	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Swimming / Snorkelling	2	1	6	12	L	1	↑
Towed water sports	3	2	2	12	L	1	?
Wildlife watching from the sea	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Bait collection	4	1	3	12	L	1	?
Beach recreation	2	2	6	24	L	1	↑
Coasteering	0	0	0	0	?	0	→
Land boarding	0	0	0	0	?	0	→
Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)	0	0	0	0	?	0	→
Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)	4	2	4	32	L	1	↑
Wildlife watching from the land	4	2	4	32	L	2	→
Drone use	0	0	0	0	L	0	↑
Gliding (unpowered)	0	0	0	0	L	0	→
Aircraft (powered)	3	2	1	6	L	2	?

KEY

FREQUENCY	DURATION	PARTICIPATION	INTENSITY	CONFIDENCE	EXTENT	TREND
4 Regular/daily	4 >8 hours	6 >100	45-96 High	H High	2 Whole MPA (solid)	↑ Increase
3 Regular/weekends	3 4-8 hours	5 51-100	24-40 Med-high	M Medium	1 Part of MPA (shaded)	→ Stay the same
2 Seasonally	2 2-4 hours	4 21-50	9-20 Low-med	L Low	0 Does not occur	↓ Decrease
1 Sporadically	1 <2 hours	3 11-20	1-8 Low	? Data missing	? Data missing	? Data missing
0 Does not occur	0 Does not occur	2 6-10	0 Does not occur			
? Data missing	? Data missing	1 1-5	? Data missing			
		0 Does not occur				
		? Data missing				