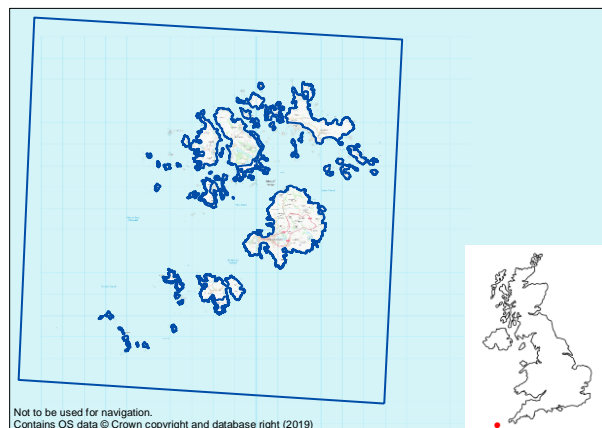


Isles of Scilly Complex SAC

Description:

The Isles of Scilly Complex Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is a 268.5 km² site which is a biologically rich archipelago of international importance for its marine conservation interest. This includes extensive areas of intertidal and subtidal sandflats which support exceptionally rich animal communities and seagrass beds (*Zostera marina*), with little mud or siltation due to the lack of coastal influence and through flow of oceanic water.



Qualifying Features:

The Isles of Scilly Complex SAC hosts the following habitats: sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time, mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, and reefs. It also supports shore dock (*Rumex rupestris*) and grey seals (*Halichoerus grypus*).

Management:

- Operators of wildlife watching vessels are [WISE trained](#)

Stakeholder Concerns:

All year round there are a number of commercial powered craft operating passengers and freight between the islands. During the holiday season (Mar-Sep) there are up to 70 visiting cruise ships, daily wildlife watching (seals and birds), a small number of canoes and standing up paddleboards, some recreational angling (shore and boat) and general beach recreation at 15-20 sites.

Renting of powered boats is on the increase. There are popular transits between the five islands which are used year-round recreationally and commercially; wildlife watching focused around the outer islands; dinghy sailing at Porthmellon beach; cruising anchorages are well established at around a dozen hotspots. Wildlife watching, particularly those coming to see rare birds can be damaging to plants and delicate habitats. There are impacts to seals from those activities, but at a relatively low level. More recently, concern has been raised for the impact of cruise ships, anchoring around areas of seagrass.

MPA: Isles of Scilly Complex SAC				No. Stakeholders: 1 online & 6 workshop			
Activity	Frequency	Duration	Participation	Intensity	Confidence	MPA Extent	Trend
Board sports	2	2	3	12	H	1	↑
Geophysical surveys	1	4	1	4	M	1	↑
Motor boating	4	4	5	80	H	2	↑
Jetskis	0	0	0	0	H	0	→
Paddle sports	2	3	5	30	H	2	↑
Parascending	0	0	0	0	H	0	→
Sailing (non-motorised)	2	3	5	30	H	2	↑
SCUBA diving	2	2	3	12	H	1	→
Swimming / Snorkelling	2	1	4	8	H	1	↑
Towed water sports	2	1	1	2	H	1	→
Wildlife watching from the sea	2	2	2	8	H	1	↑
Bait collection	1	1	1	1	H	1	→
Beach recreation	2	3	6	36	H	1	→
Coasteering	2	2	2	8	H	1	→
Land boarding	0	0	0	0	H	0	→
Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)	0	0	0	0	H	0	→
Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)	4	1	2	8	H	1	→
Wildlife watching from the land	2	3	6	36	H	1	→
Drone use	1	1	1	1	H	1	↑
Gliding (unpowered)	0	0	0	0	H	0	→
Aircraft (powered)	1	1	1	1	H	1	→

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				



Marine
Management
Organisation

Non-licensable activities which occur in and around the Isles of Scilly Complex SAC

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Water based activities

- Board sports
- Motor boating
- Paddle sports
- SCUBA diving
- Swimming / Snorkelling
- Towed water sports
- Wildlife watching from the sea

Aerial activities

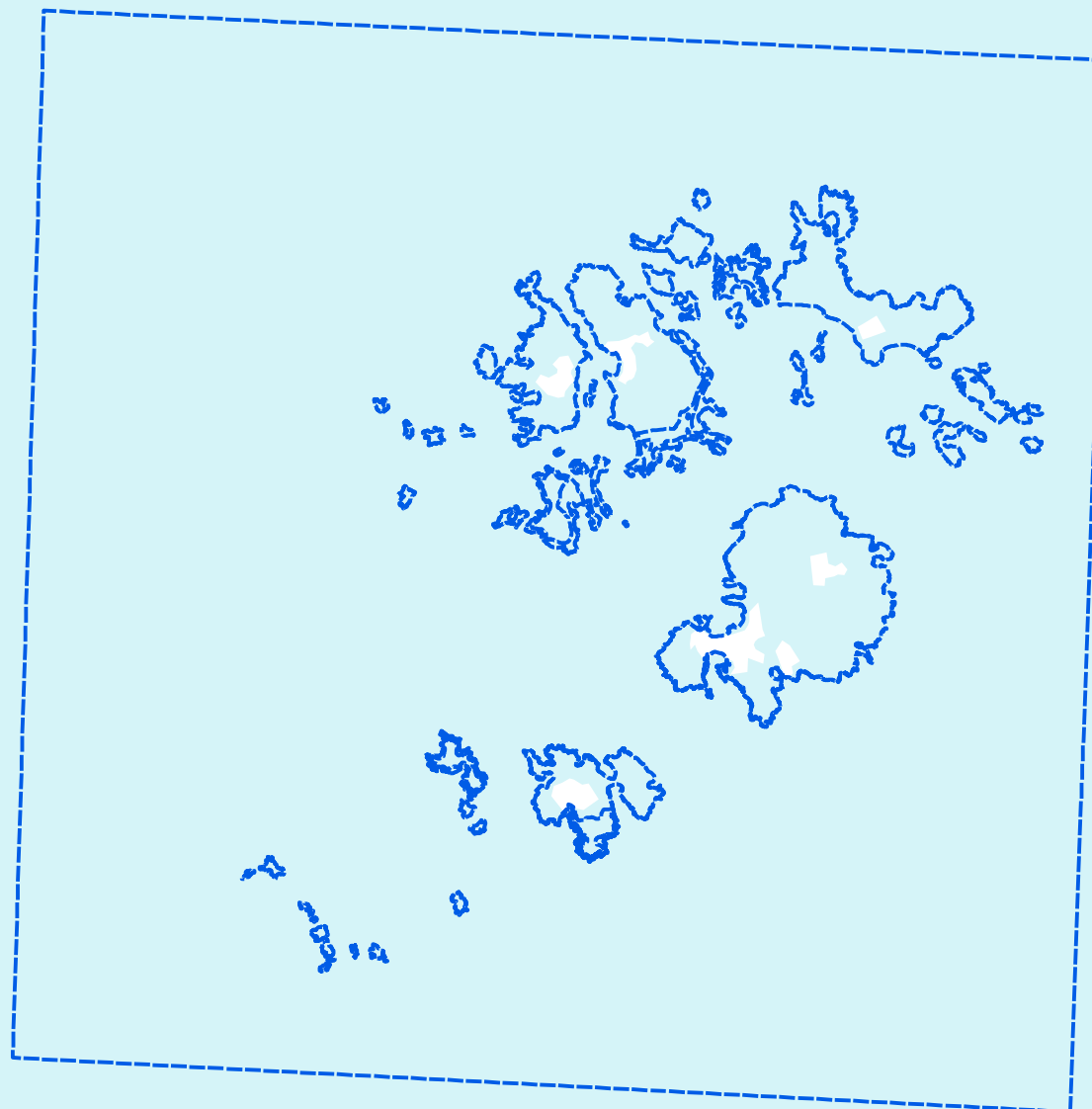
- Drone use
- Aircraft (powered)

Land based activities

- Bait collection
- Beach recreation
- Coasteering
- Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)
- Wildlife watching from the land

Supplementary data



- SCUBA diving sites (Seasearch)
- General boating areas (RYA)
- MPA boundary



Marine Protected Area Designated Features - Marine SAC and Subfeatures






SAC Complex features (Polygons)

SAC_SFCODE

-  Estuaries (H1130)
-  Large shallow inlets and bays (H1160)







Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide (H1140) polygons

SAC_SFCODE

-  Intertidal coarse sediment (A2.1)
-  Intertidal sand and muddy sand (A2.2)
-  Intertidal mud (A2.3)
-  Intertidal mixed sediments (A2.4)
-  Intertidal seagrass beds (A2.61)








Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time (H1110) polygons

SAC_SFCODE

-  Subtidal coarse sediment (A5.1)
-  Subtidal sand (A5.2)
-  Subtidal mud (A5.3)
-  Subtidal mixed sediment (A5.4)
-  Maerl beds (A5.51)
-  Subtidal seagrass beds (A5.53)








Reefs (H1170) points

SAC_SFCODE

-  Intertidal rock (A1)
-  Intertidal biogenic reefs: (*Sabellaria alveolata*) (A2.71)
-  Intertidal biogenic reefs: mussel beds (SF_SH_5)
-  Infralittoral rock (A3)
-  Circalittoral rock (A4)
-  Subtidal biogenic reefs: (*Sabellaria spp.*) (A5.61)
-  Subtidal biogenic reefs: mussel beds (SF_SH_6)

Reefs (H1170) polygons

SAC_SFCODE

-  Intertidal rock (A1)
-  Intertidal biogenic reefs: (*Sabellaria alveolata*) (A2.71)
-  Intertidal biogenic reefs: mussel beds (SF_SH_5)
-  Infralittoral rock (A3)
-  Circalittoral rock (A4)
-  Subtidal biogenic reefs: (*Sabellaria spp.*) (A5.61)
-  Subtidal biogenic reefs: mussel beds (SF_SH_6)

SAC_SFCODE

-  Sea Caves (H8330)

SAC_SFCODE

-  Saltmarsh (A2.5)