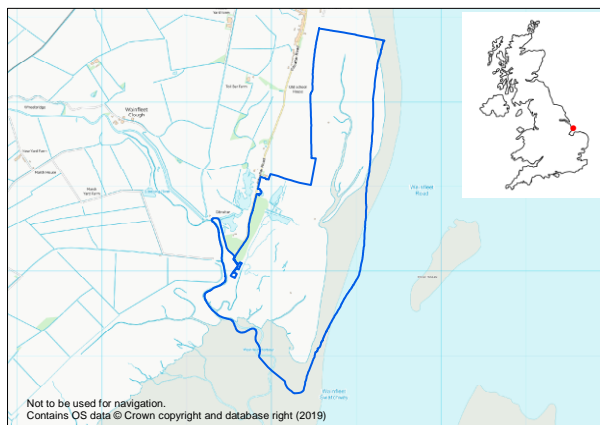


Gibraltar Point SPA

Description:

Gibraltar Point Special Protection Area (SPA) is located on the Lincolnshire coast in eastern England. Covering 4.14 km², it lies north of The Wash and consists of an actively accreting sand-dune system, saltmarsh and extensive intertidal flats. There are also small areas of freshwater marsh and open water. The site accommodates large numbers of overwintering birds and significant colonies of breeding terns.



Qualifying features:

Gibraltar Point SPA supports populations of European importance of the following species: breeding little tern (*Sterna albifrons*), overwintering bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), and Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*). The site also supports populations of overwintering migratory species: grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) and knot (*Calidris canutus*). Finally the site regularly supports at least 20,000 waterfowl.

Management:

- National Nature Reserve Byelaws protects Little Terns and Ringed Plovers nesting zones with a seasonal [Shorebird Sanctuary](#) (April to August).

Stakeholder Concerns:

Beach recreation: Without the annual establishment of the Shorebird Sanctuary exclusion zone and wardening input, recreational beach users would have unlimited access to shorebird (little tern and ringed plover) nesting beaches which could be sufficient to damage the colony at the key site. It is reported that suitable breeding sites for shorebirds do not reach their potential along the northern sector of the SPA due to open visitor access. Disturbance to the high tide wader roost is currently only limited by the separation of the main roost sites from visitor access by tidal creeks and the fact that the roost sites are used at times of day when visitor numbers are minimal (early morning and evening). The use of winter feeding grounds for waders, ducks, brent geese, shelduck etc. are limited on the flats and marshes by visitor intrusion into those areas. There is also much disturbance to SPA supporting habitat to the west (Croftmarsh). Incident log recorded by the Wildlife Trust.

Motorboats and Jetskis: Currently both activities occur far enough offshore not to affect the breeding terns or feeding waders and mostly at times of day when the waders are not at roost at the Gibraltar Point SPA. However, significant disturbance is caused in the wider Marine Protected Area environment to the common seal haul-out and birds roosting/feeding on the offshore sand bars where craft will land

and the operators often walk from there. If these craft were to come close inshore and operate earlier and later in the day, this would greatly affect the Gibraltar Point SPA even without the operators landing on the beach and foreshore.

Powered flying: Although currently not a persistent problem, feeding and roosting waders are particularly susceptible even when loud craft are considered above the flight restriction zone. An increase in this activity has the potential to compromise the use of the site by breeding little terns and other shorebirds and feeding/roosting waders.

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

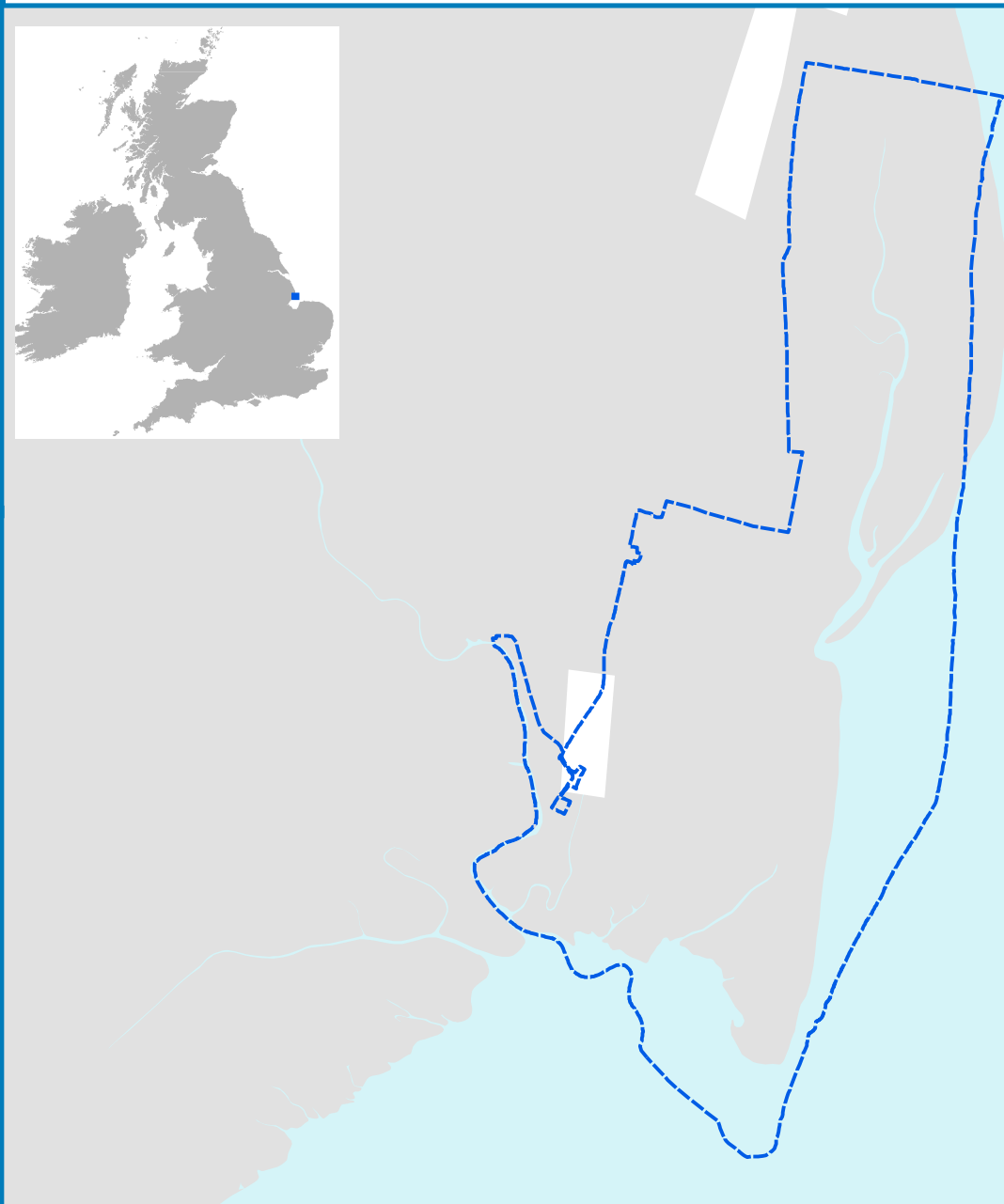
KEY

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				



Non-licensable activities which occur in and around Gibraltar Point SPA

Not to be used for navigation.
Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right (2019)



Water based activities

- Geophysical surveys
- Motor boating
- Jetskis
- Sailing
- Swimming / Snorkelling

Land based activities

- Bait collection
- Beach recreation
- Land boarding
- Motorsports
- Wildlife watching from the land

Aerial activities

- Drone use
- Aircraft (powered)






Supplementary data

- SCUBA diving sites (Seasearch)
- Bait collection areas 2016-2018 (IFCA)
- General boating areas (RYA)
- MPA boundary

Marine Protected Area Designated Features - SPA Supporting Habitats






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

SPA_SF CODE

-  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

SPA_SF CODE

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








Reefs (H1170) points

SPA_SF CODE

-  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

SPA_SF CODE

-  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)

SPA_SF CODE

-  Saltmarsh (A2.5)