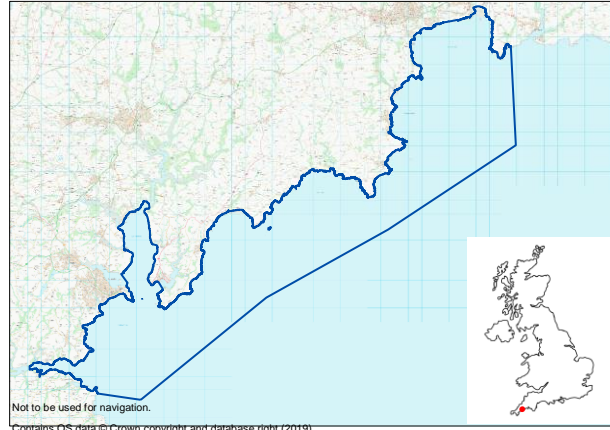


Falmouth Bay to St Austell SPA

Description:

Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) is a 259 km² site on the south coast of Cornwall, covering five shallow sandy bays of Falmouth Bay, Gerrans Bay, Veryan Bay, Mevagissey Bay and St Austell Bay. It also includes Carrick Roads, an estuarine area which meets the sea between Falmouth and St Mawes, and part of the tidal Helford River. The river complex areas are

part of a ria system, typified by steep sides and slow tidal currents, with subtidal rocky shores and exposed intertidal mud on creeks and river branches.



Qualifying Features:

Falmouth Bay to St Austell SPA is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain population of the following species in any season: black-throated diver (*Gavia arctica*), great northern diver (*Gavia immer*) and slavian grebe (*Podiceps auritus*).

Management:

- [WISE is a code of conduct](#) for boat operators to reduce the impact of disturbance to birds and hauled out seals.
- Local shore group the [Three Bays Wildlife](#) members monitor impacts to wildlife.
- [National Trust](#) Rangers warden parts of the coastline.

Stakeholder Concerns:

Wildlife watching from the land and other activities on the clifftops causes birds to be disturbed and take flight. Increasing levels of drone use, walkers, paddle sports and specifically kayaks all disturb wildlife.

Stakeholders expressed concern for the non-licensable activities of motor boating and wildlife cruises causing disturbance to wintering water birds (and seals). Due to its popularity, new motorised water sports companies are setting up within this MPA. Stakeholders have concerns that boat users do not know how to behave in the presence of wildlife and education is needed for boat operators and those companies hiring them out. More coves along the coastline get visited by motor boats, tenders from bigger boats, kayaks and coasteering groups which disturbs the birds and other wildlife.

MPA: Falmouth Bay to St Austell SPA				No. Stakeholders: 3 online & 4 workshop			
Activity	Frequency	Duration	Participation	Intensity	Confidence	MPA Extent	Trend
Board sports	4	2	4	32	H	1	↑
Geophysical surveys	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Motor boating	2	4	6	48	H	2	↑
Jetskis	2	2	2	8	M	1	↑
Paddle sports	4	2	6	48	H	1	↑
Parascending	0	0	0	0	?	0	?
Sailing (non-motorised)	2	4	6	48	M	1	↑
SCUBA diving	3	3	2	18	M	1	↑
Swimming / Snorkelling	2	1	6	12	H	1	↑
Towed water sports	2	2	4	16	H	1	→
Wildlife watching from the sea	2	2	1	4	M	1	↑
Bait collection	1	1	1	1	M	1	→
Beach recreation	2	3	5	30	M	1	↑
Coasteering	1	2	1	2	M	1	↓
Land boarding	0	0	0	0	M	0	?
Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)	0	0	0	0	M	0	?
Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)	0	0	0	0	M	0	?
Wildlife watching from the land	4	2	4	32	M	1	↑
Drone use	3	1	2	6	M	2	↑
Gliding (unpowered)	2	2	1	4	M	1	→
Aircraft (powered)	1	1	1	1	M	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				



Marine
Management
Organisation

Non-licensable activities which occur in and around the Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA

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Water based activities

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

Land based activities

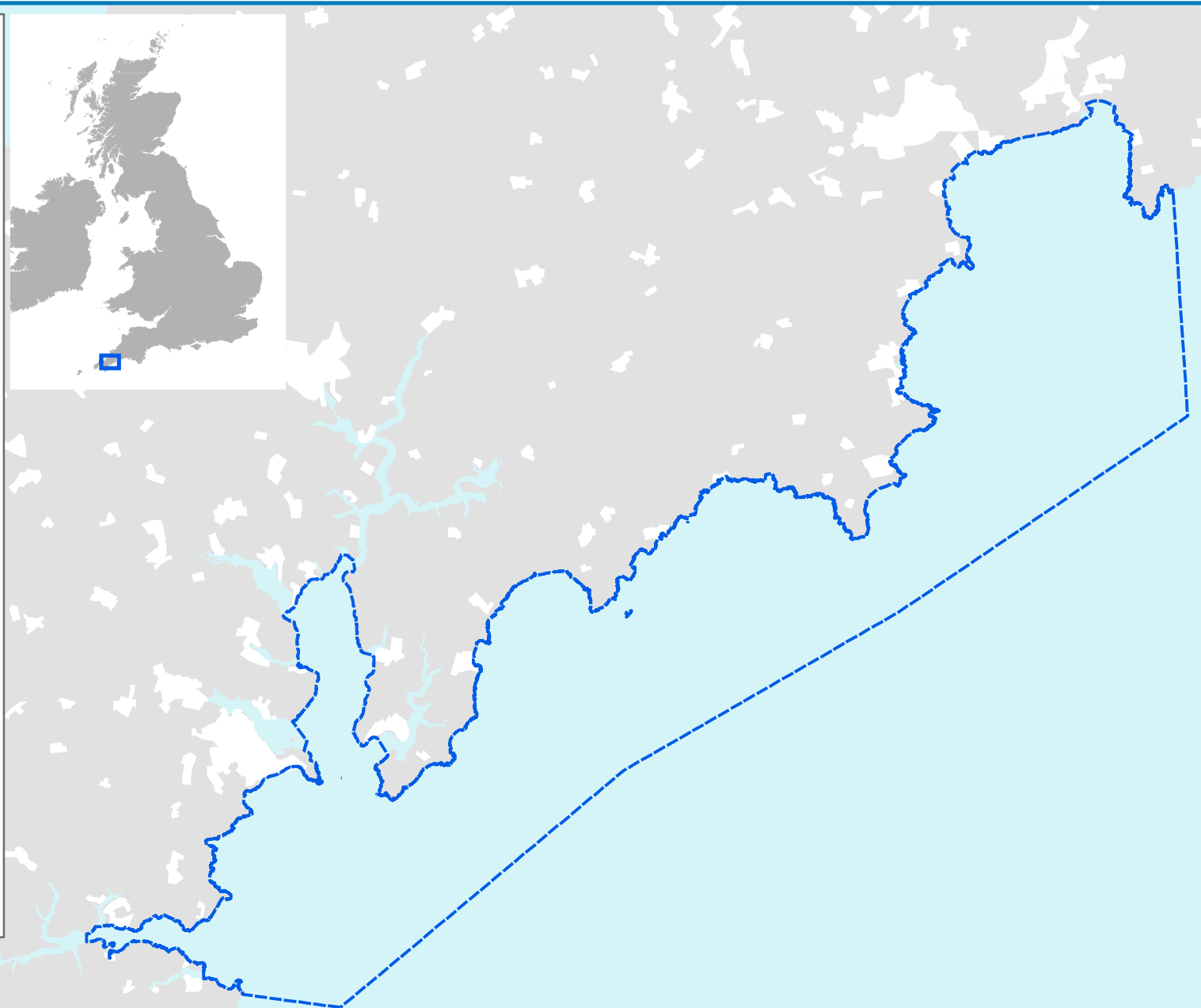
- Bait collection
- Beach recreation
- Coasteering
- Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)
- Wildlife watching from the land

Aerial activities

- Drone use
- Gliding (unpowered)

Supplementary data






- SCUBA diving sites (Seasearch)
- 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)