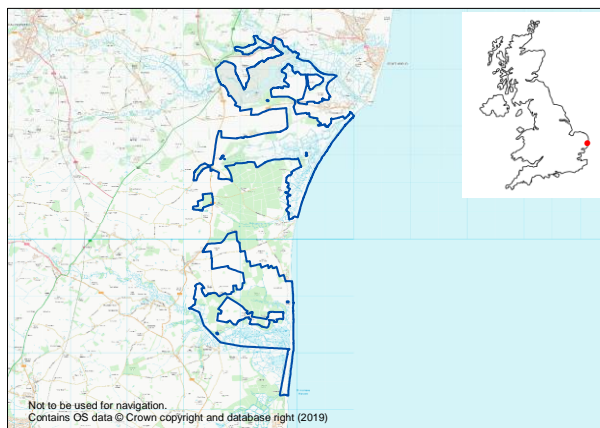# Minsmere-Walberswick SPA

Description:

Minsmere–Walberswick Special Protection Area (SPA) is located on the Suffolk coast south of Southwold in eastern England. It comprises of two large marshes, the tidal Blyth estuary, and associated habitats and covers 20 km². This composite coastal site contains a complex mosaic of habitats, notably areas of marsh with dykes, extensive reedbeds, mudflats, lagoons, shingle, woodland and areas of lowland heath.

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Qualifying features:

This site supports populations of European importance of the following species: avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)*,* bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), little tern (*Sterna albifrons*), marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)*,* nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*), and woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) during the breeding season. The site also supports overwintering avocet*,* bittern, and hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*).

Management:

None reported.

Stakeholder Concerns:

Beach recreation was reported as the main cause of concern for nesting birds with disturbance to plants and habitats along the coastline from beach users digging in cliffs, trampling plants and building fires.

MPA: Minsmere-Walberswick SPA				No. Stakeholders: 1 online			
Activity	Frequency	Duration	Participation	Intensity	Confidence	MPA Extent	Trend
Board sports	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Geophysical surveys	2	2	1	4	?	1	→
Motor boating	3	2	?	?	?	?	?
Jetskis	0	0	0	0	?	0	?
Paddle sports	1	1	1	1	?	1	→
Parascending	0	0	0	0	?	0	?
Sailing (non-motorised)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
SCUBA diving	0	0	0	0	?	0	?
Swimming / Snorkelling	3	3	2	18	?	1	↑
Towed water sports	0	0	0	0	?	0	?
Wildlife watching from the sea	0	0	0	0	?	0	?
Bait collection	0	0	0	0	?	0	?
Beach recreation	2	2	?	?	M	?	↑
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)	?	2	?	?	?	?	?
Wildlife watching from the land	4	?	?	?	?	?	?
Drone use	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Gliding (unpowered)	1	?	?	?	?	?	?
Aircraft (powered)	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				