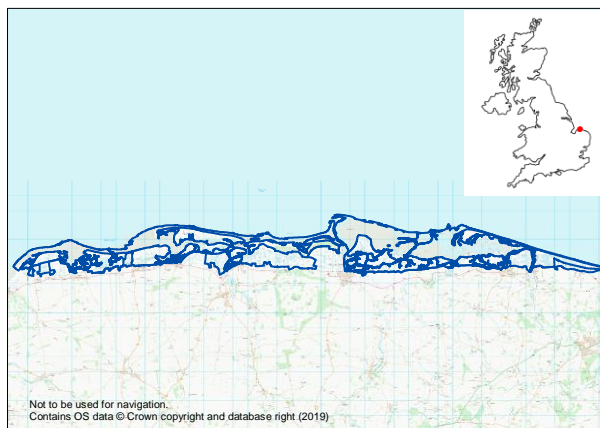


# North Norfolk Coast SAC & SPA

## Description:

Situated on the east coast of England, and forming part of the larger Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site (EMS), the North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA) is a low-lying barrier coast that extends for 40 km from Holme to Weybourne and includes a great variety of coastal habitats. The site is important within Europe as one of the largest areas of undeveloped coastal habitat of its type.



## Qualifying Features:

The site hosts coastal lagoons, embryonic shifting dunes, fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes), humid dune slacks, Mediterranean and thermos - Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*), otter (*Lutra lutra*), perennial vegetation of stony banks, petalwort, and shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes).

The site supports breeding avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), common tern (*Sterna hirundo*), little tern (*Sternula albifrons*), marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*) and the sandwich tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*). It also supports populations of non-breeding dark-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*), knot (*Calidris canutus*), pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), wigeon (*Mareca penelope*) and its waterbird assemblage.

## Management:

- [Voluntary agreement](#) within the Wash and North Norfolk Coast EMS Management Scheme not to fly at low altitude over the SPA.
- Kite Surfers group at Brancaster beach has a partnership between Natural England and [National Trust](#) to reduce disturbance to important breeding Tern colonies.
- Hunstanton Sailing Club and Watersports Centre have [guidelines](#) for kitesurfing on North Norfolk beaches.
- Scolt Head Island National Nature Reserve has [restrictions](#) on access to the site with dogs and areas out of bounds during the breeding season.
- [Personal Watercraft Code of Conduct](#) – relates to the whole North Norfolk Coast
- North Norfolk District Council [Bye-law for Sea Side Pleasure Boats](#).

- Section 59 of the [Police Reform Act 2002](#) relates to the use of vehicles on the beach.

### **Stakeholder Concerns:**

Visitor numbers to the North Norfolk coast are increasing. The site is already heavily affected by recreational disturbance and many sites key species are being lost or their breeding areas restricted. Regular disturbance from beach users to key breeding species of birds such as little tern, ringed plover, oystercatcher and other species has been noted. In recent years, no ringed plovers have bred successfully on the east Wash beaches (their main habitat within the SPA) because of the combination of beach recreation and dog walkers. During the non-breeding season (July-April for some of the waterbirds) flocks of thousands of waders (and sometimes tens of thousands) are disturbed by beach recreation on nearly every high tide that occurs in daylight particularly on the east Wash beaches. Birds do preferentially roost in these areas on the rare high tides when they are not disturbed.

Observations of irresponsible aircraft pilots flying microlights and paramotors at extremely low altitude along the shoreline for several kilometres, disturbing every bird in the area and forcing them to fly several kilometres to alternative roost sites.

Paddle sports are becoming more popular and disturbing tern colonies with disturbance witnessed in 2018 season.

Bait collection is disturbing designated site, particularly the activities of digging and samphire collection not only on the species being collected but also the associated breeding birds that may get disturbed by these activities.

MPA: North Norfolk Coast SAC & SPA				No. Stakeholders: 3 online & 5 workshop			
Activity	Frequency	Duration	Participation	Intensity	Confidence	MPA Extent	Trend
Board sports	3	2	6	36	H	1	➔
Geophysical surveys	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Motor boating	3	2	3	18	H	1	➔
Jetskis	2	2	3	12	H	1	➔
Paddle sports	4	2	6	48	H	2	⬆
Parascending	0	0	0	0	M	0	?
Sailing (non-motorised)	3	3	6	54	H	2	➔
SCUBA diving	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Swimming / Snorkelling	2	1	6	12	M	2	⬆
Towed water sports	2	2	3	12	M	1	➔
Wildlife watching from the sea	3	2	6	36	H	2	⬆
Bait collection	4	3	2	24	H	1	➔
Beach recreation	4	4	6	96	H	2	⬆
Coasteering	0	0	0	0	H	0	⬆
Land boarding	0	0	0	0	M	0	➔
Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)	0	0	0	0	M	0	?
Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)	4	4	6	96	H	2	⬆
Wildlife watching from the land	4	4	6	96	H	2	⬆
Drone use	1	1	1	1	L	1	⬆
Gliding (unpowered)	1	1	1	1	M	1	?
Aircraft (powered)	1	2	3	6	H	2	➔

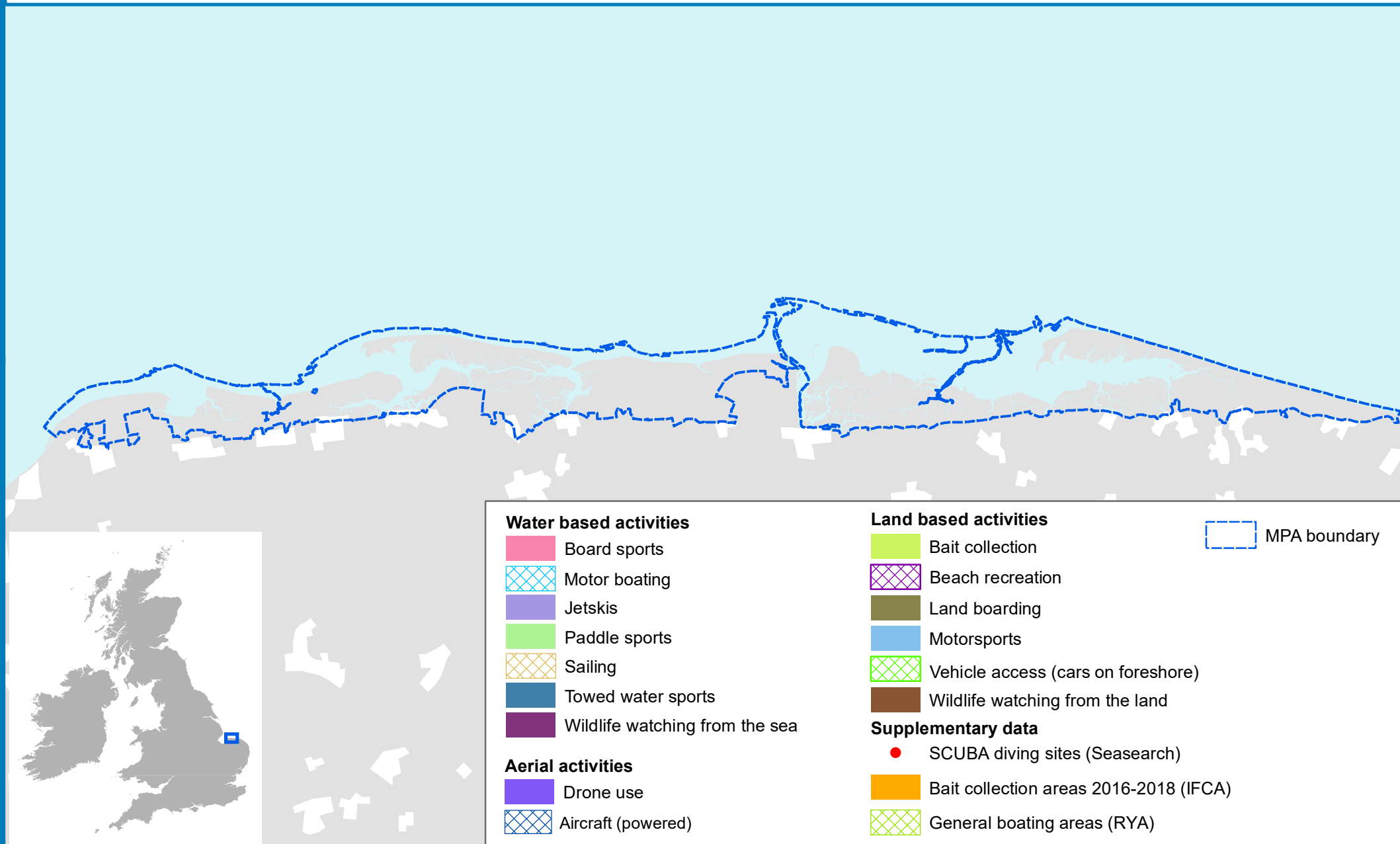
#### KEY

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 the North Norfolk Coast SAC and SPA



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## Marine Protected Area Designated Features - Marine SAC and Subfeatures and SPA Supporting Habitats






### 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)