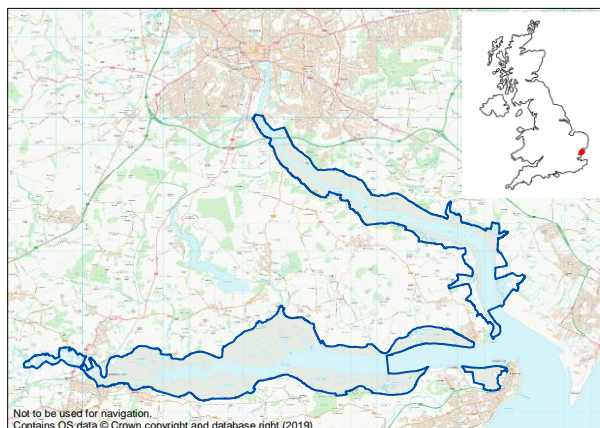


Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA

Description:

The Stour and Orwell Estuaries are designated as a Special Protected Area (SPA), a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Ramsar site (for wetland habitats), and form an important component of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The estuaries include extensive mudflats, low cliffs, salt marsh and small areas of vegetated shingle on the lower reaches. The site also includes areas of low-lying grazing marsh at Shotley Marshes on the south side of the Orwell and at Cattawade Marshes at the head of the Stour.



Qualifying Features:

The Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA supports overwintering hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) and the following migratory overwintering species: black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*); dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*); grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*); pintail (*Anas acuta*), redshank (*Tringa totanus*), ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) and turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). It also regularly supports at least 20,000 waterfowl.

Management:

- Code of conduct for [bait digging](#).
- [Designated areas](#) for jetskis and towed water sports.

Stakeholder Concerns:

Although jetskiing and waterskiing are managed within a zoned area, it is still located close to a Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Nature reserve. Low flying aircraft cause bird disturbances. Motorbikes accessing the foreshore also cause bird disturbance.

MPA: Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA				No. Stakeholders: 1 online & 1 workshop			
Activity	Frequency	Duration	Participation	Intensity	Confidence	MPA Extent	Trend
Board sports	3	2	3	18	H	1	↑
Geophysical surveys	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Motor boating	4	3	6	72	H	1	↑
Jetskis	2	2	1	4	H	1	↑
Paddle sports	3	3	3	27	H	1	↑
Parascending	0	0	0	0	L	0	?
Sailing (non-motorised)	4	3	3	36	H	2	↑
SCUBA diving	0	0	0	0	?	0	?
Swimming / Snorkelling	2	1	3	6	H	1	→
Towed water sports	2	2	2	8	H	1	→
Wildlife watching from the sea	3	2	5	30	H	1	↑
Bait collection	4	2	3	24	H	1	→
Beach recreation	2	3	4	24	H	1	→
Coasteering	0	0	0	0	M	0	?
Land boarding	0	0	0	0	M	0	?
Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)	3	1	1	3	H	1	→
Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)	0	0	0	0	L	0	?
Wildlife watching from the land	4	3	6	72	H	1	↑
Drone use	3	1	1	3	M	2	↑
Gliding (unpowered)	0	0	0	0	L	0	?
Aircraft (powered)	4	3	1	12	L	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 Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA

Water based activities

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

Aerial activities

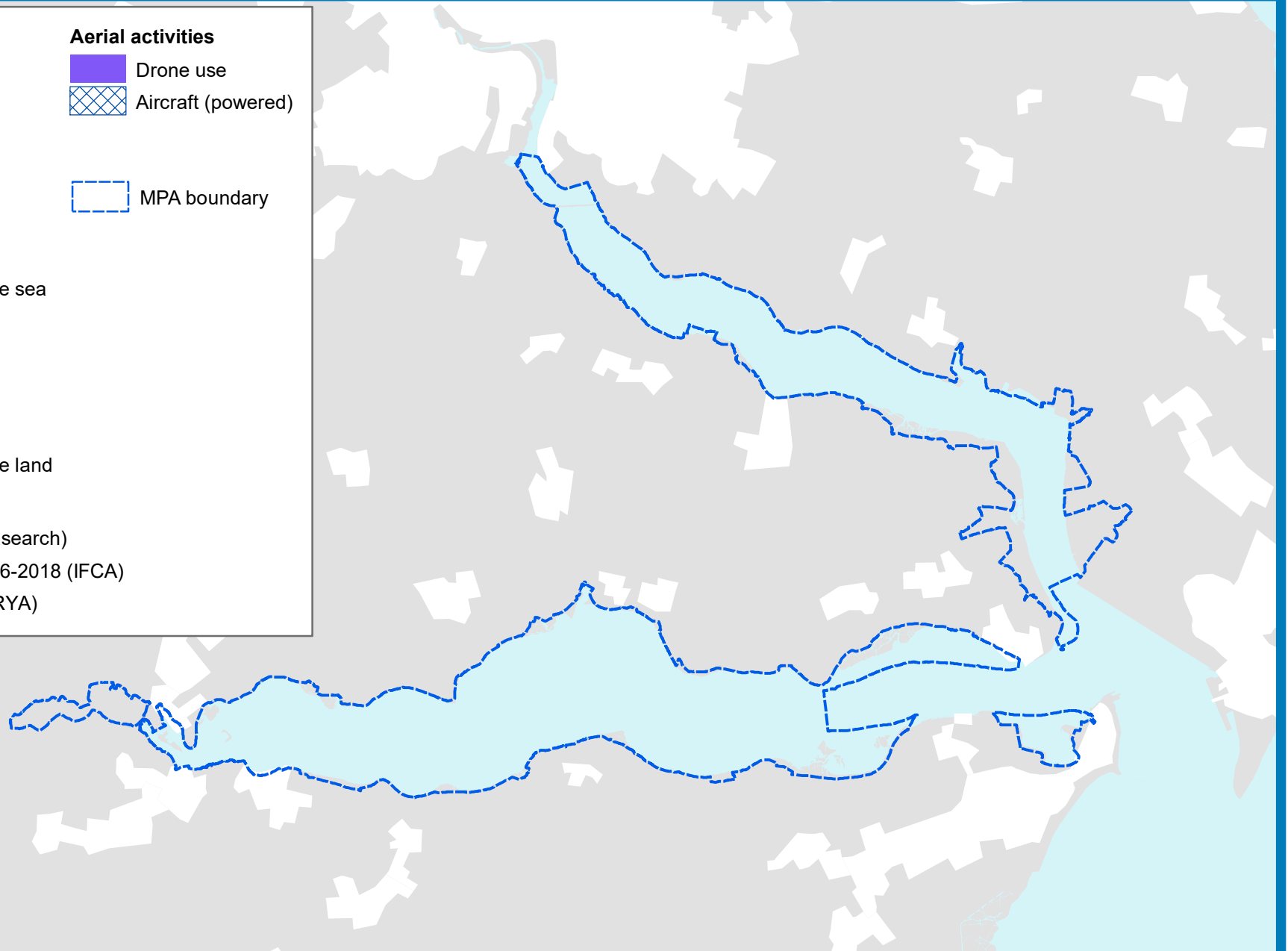
- Drone use
- Aircraft (powered)
- MPA boundary

Land based activities

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

Supplementary data






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



Marine Protected Area Designated Features - SPA Supporting Habitats






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

SPA_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

SPA_SFCODE

-  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_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

SPA_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)

SPA_SFCODE

-  Saltmarsh (A2.5)