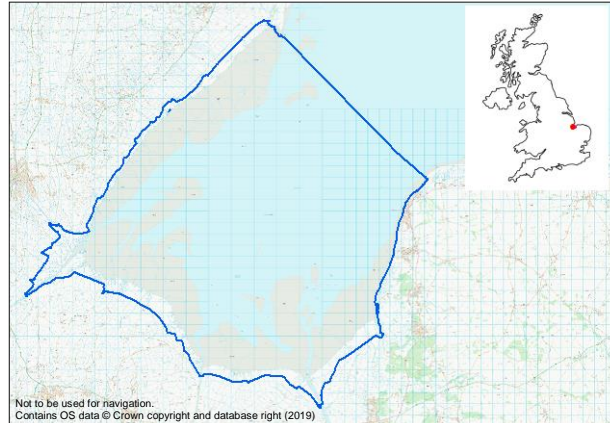


The Wash SPA

Description:

Situated on the east coast of England, The Wash Special Protection Area (SPA) covers 622 km² and forms part of the larger Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation which encompasses the largest embayment in the UK, as well as extensive intertidal sand and mudflats, subtidal sandbanks, biogenic and geogenic reef, saltmarsh and a barrier beach system unique in the UK.



Qualifying Features:

The Wash SPA supports non-breeding: bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*); bewick's swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*); black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*); common scoter (*Melanitta nigra*); curlew (*Numenius arquata*); dark-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*); dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*); gadwall (*Anas strepera*); goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*); grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*); knot (*Calidris canutus*), oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*); pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*); pintail (*Anas acuta*); redshank (*Tringa totanus*); sanderling (*Calidris alba*); shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*); turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*); waterbird assemblage and wigeon (*Anas penelope*). It also supports breeding common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and little tern (*Sternula albifrons*).

Management:

- The [Countryside Code](#)
- The [Birdwatchers' Code](#)
- [Voluntary agreement](#) within the Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site Management Scheme not to fly at low altitude over the SPA.

Stakeholder Concerns:

Beach recreation and access in general to the intertidal was reported as the main cause of concern with disturbance to wader populations. The issue of illegal access was raised. Between Gibraltar Point and Boston there are only 3 legal access points, although it was noted that many individuals gain access to the foreshore using private roads or across private land, invariably without appropriate permissions.

Low flying aircraft has been noted to cause a lot of disturbance to waders.

MPA: The Wash SPA				No. Stakeholders: 1 online			
Activity	Frequency	Duration	Participation	Intensity	Confidence	MPA Extent	Trend
Board sports	3	?	?	?	M	1	?
Geophysical surveys	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Motor boating	4	?	?	?	L	2	?
Jetskis	1	1	1	1	H	1	➡
Paddle sports	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Parascending	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Sailing (non-motorised)	3	?	?	?	L	1	?
SCUBA diving	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Swimming / Snorkelling	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Towed water sports	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Wildlife watching from the sea	1	3	5	15	L	1	➡
Bait collection	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Beach recreation	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Coasteering	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Land boarding	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Wildlife watching from the land	4	2	3	24	H	1	⬆
Drone use	1	1	1	1	M	1	⬆
Gliding (unpowered)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Aircraft (powered)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

KEY

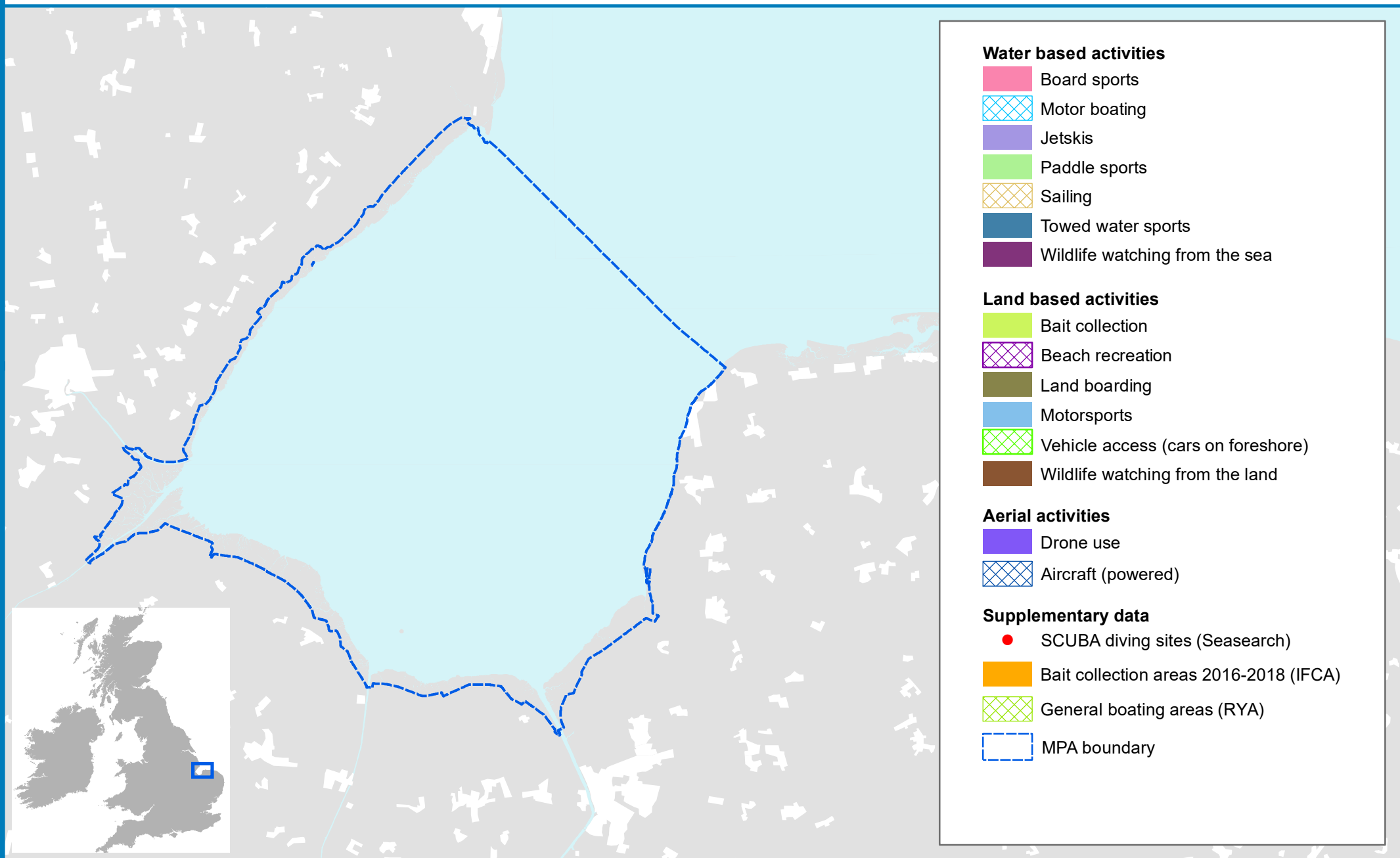
FREQUENCY	DURATION	PARTICIPATION	INTENSITY	CONFIDENCE	EXTENT	TREND
4 Regular/daily	4 >8 hours	6 >100	45-96 High	H High	2 Whole MPA (solid)	⬆ Increase
3 Regular/weekends	3 4-8 hours	5 51-100	24-40 Med-high	M Medium	1 Part of MPA (shaded)	➡ Stay the same
2 Seasonally	2 2-4 hours	4 21-50	9-20 Low-med	L 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 Wash SPA






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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)