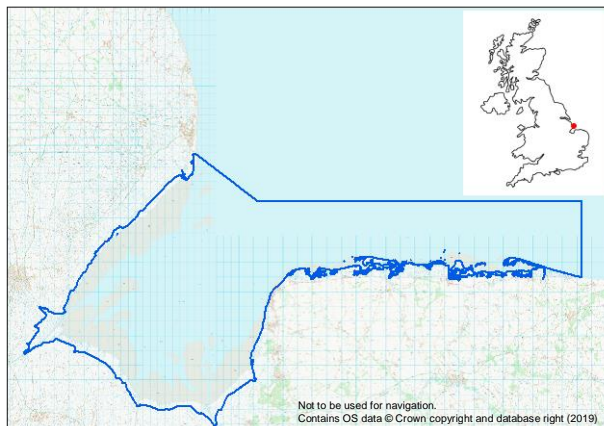


The Wash & North Norfolk Coast SAC

Description:

Situated on the east coast of England, The Wash and North Norfolk Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC) 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. Covering 1078 km² it includes the following overlapping protected areas: The Wash Special Protection Area (SPA), North Norfolk Coast SAC and SPA, Gibraltar Point SPA and Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SAC.



Qualifying Features:

Under Article 4(4) of the Directive (92/43/EEC) the Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site include: Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Large shallow inlets and bays; Reefs; Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*); Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*). Coastal lagoons form a Priority feature within this SAC. Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site is the Harbour seal (*Phoca vitulina*) with the Otter (*Lutra lutra*) present but not as a primary reason for site selection.

Management:

- [The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership](#) is in the process of developing Version 4 of their recreational guide, which builds on existing codes of conduct, rules, regulations and best practice.
- [Voluntary agreement](#) within the Wash and North Norfolk Coast EMS Management Scheme not to fly at low altitude over the SPA.
- Hunstanton Sailing Club and Waterports Centre have [guidelines](#) for kitesurfing on North Norfolk beaches.
- Kite Surfers group at Brancaster beach has a partnership between Natural England and [National Trust](#) to reduce disturbance to important breeding Tern colonies. Voluntary zonation.
- Scolt Head Island National Nature Reserve (NNR) 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:

Beach recreation: This is by far the most common activity within this MPA and involves the use of vehicles, causing disturbance to breeding and wintering birds and other wildlife.

Motorboats and Jetskis: Motorised watercraft have intense site specific disturbances, e.g. driving very close to seal haul outs. These activities have the greatest disturbance at high water when the wash can flood the nests of birds which had otherwise been above the level of the highest high water mark. Highest disturbance occurs in the rivers as the intertidal narrows.

Low flying aircraft: Cases have been reported of aircraft flying too low over beaches during sensitive times (e.g. Blakeney) and causing disturbance to seals and birds.

MPA: The Wash and North Norfolk SAC				No. Stakeholders: 7 online & 8 workshop			
Activity	Frequency	Duration	Participation	Intensity	Confidence	MPA Extent	Trend
Board sports	3	3	3	27	H	1	↑
Geophysical surveys	1	?	?	?	?	?	?
Motor boating	3	2	4	24	H	1	↑
Jetskis	3	2	4	24	H	1	→
Paddle sports	2	3	4	24	H	1	↑
Parascending	3	2	1	6	L	1	→
Sailing (non-motorised)	4	2	5	40	H	2	↑
SCUBA diving	2	3	2	12	M	1	?
Swimming / Snorkelling	2	1	6	12	H	1	↑
Towed water sports	1	1	1	1	H	1	↑
Wildlife watching from the sea	2	2	1	4	L	1	→
Bait collection	3	2	3	18	H	1	→
Beach recreation	4	3	6	72	H	2	↑
Coasteering	0	0	0	0	H	0	→
Land boarding	1	2	1	2	M	1	→
Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)	2	2	2	8	L	1	↑
Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)	1	1	1	1	H	1	↑
Wildlife watching from the land	4	3	6	72	H	2	↑
Drone use	1	1	1	1	M	1	↑
Gliding (unpowered)	3	1	1	3	M	1	↓
Aircraft (powered)	4	2	1	8	H	1	↑

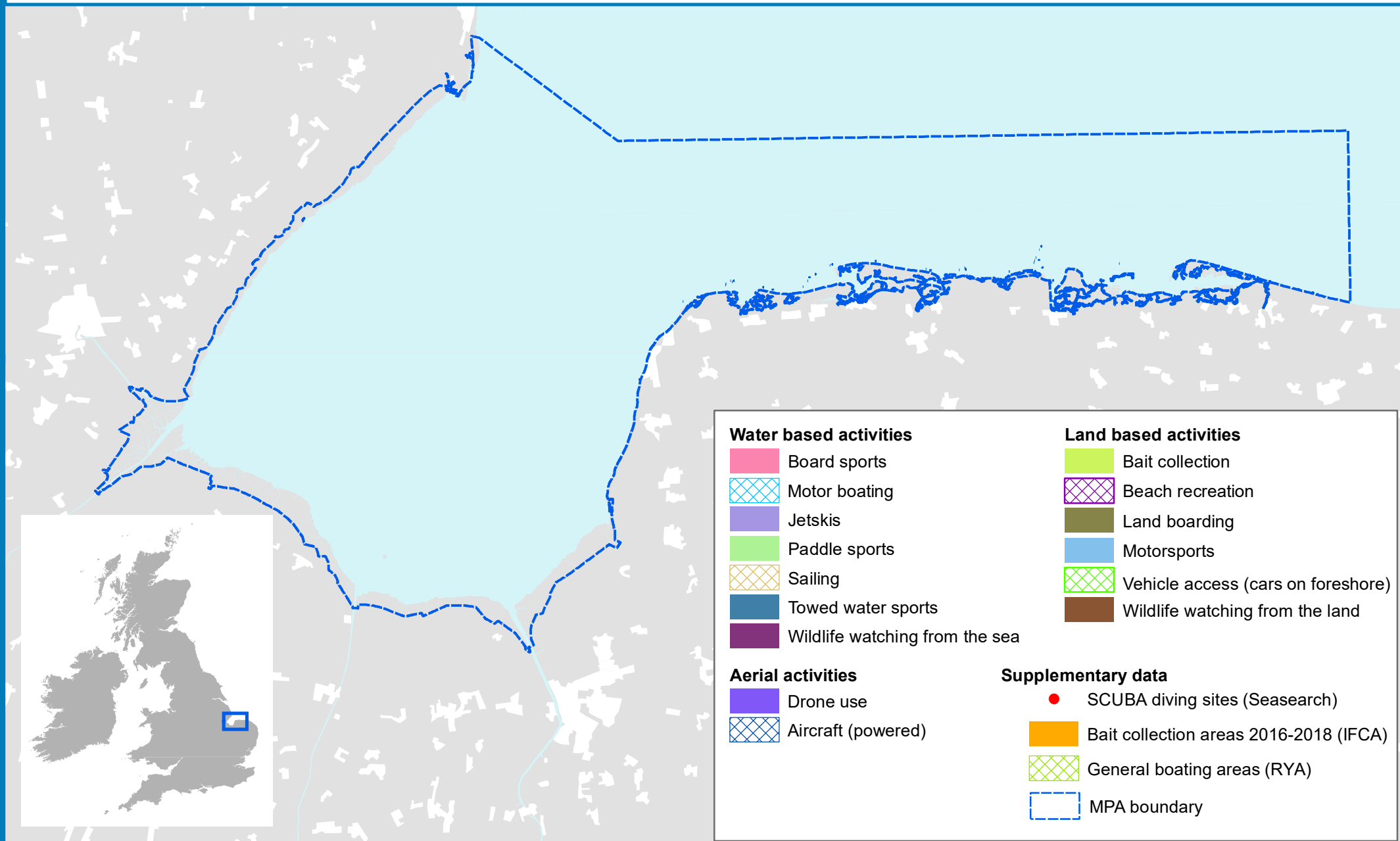
KEY

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				



Non-licensable activities which occur in and around The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC



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Marine Protected Area Designated Features - Marine SAC and Subfeatures






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)