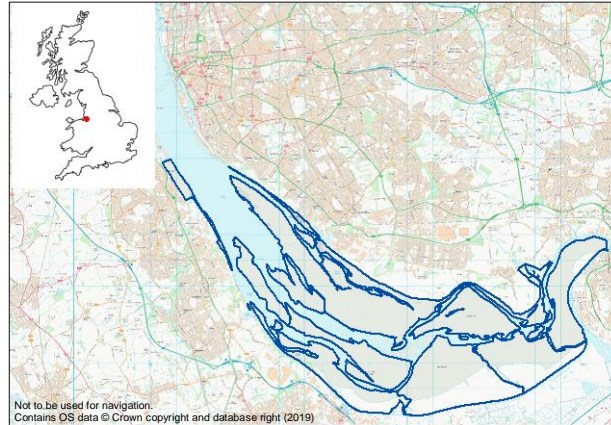


# Mersey Estuary SPA

## Description:

The special protection area (SPA) covers an estuarine area of 50.23 km<sup>2</sup> including large areas of saltmarsh and extensive intertidal sand and mudflats, with limited areas of brackish marsh, rocky shoreline and boulder clay cliffs, within a rural and industrial environment. The intertidal flats and saltmarshes provide feeding and roosting sites for large populations of waterbirds. During the winter, the site is of major importance for ducks and waders. The site is also important during the spring and autumn migration periods, particularly for wader populations moving along the west coast of Britain.



## Qualifying features:

The Mersey Estuary SPA supports overwintering golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), redshank (*Tringa totanus*), shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), teal (*Anas crecca*), pintail (*Anas acuta*), dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*) and black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*). The site also supports on passage redshank, as well as an internationally important waterbird assemblage.

## Management:

- [British Association for Shooting and Conservation Wildfowling](#) code of practice.

## Stakeholder Concerns:

Increasing recreational pressure causing disturbance to waterbirds, with the use of drones and jetskis are expected to increase across the site.

Increasing development pressure around the Mersey Estuary, for example the proposed airport expansion (Liverpool John Lennon Airport Masterplan to 2050) and other functionally linked land, has the associated concerns for squeeze on available habitats for birds.

MPA: Mersey Estuary SPA				No. Stakeholders: 1 online & 1 workshop			
Activity	Frequency	Duration	Participation	Intensity	Confidence	MPA Extent	Trend
Board sports	0	0	0	0	L	0	?
Geophysical surveys	0	0	0	0	L	0	?
Motor boating	3	3	1	9	H	1	↑
Jetskis	3	2	1	6	L	1	↑
Paddle sports	3	2	1	6	L	1	?
Parascending	0	0	0	0	H	0	?
Sailing (non-motorised)	3	3	3	27	H	1	?
SCUBA diving	0	0	0	0	L	0	?
Swimming / Snorkelling	0	0	0	0	L	0	?
Towed water sports	0	0	0	0	L	0	↑
Wildlife watching from the sea	0	0	0	0	L	0	?
Bait collection	3	1	1	3	L	1	→
Beach recreation	3	1	5	15	L	1	↑
Coasteering	0	0	0	0		0	→
Land boarding	0	0	0	0	L	0	?
Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)	0	0	0	0	L	0	?
Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)	0	0	0	0	L	0	?
Wildlife watching from the land	3	3	3	27	M	2	→
Drone use	1	1	2	2	L	1	↑
Gliding (unpowered)	0	0	0	0	M	0	→
Aircraft (powered)	3	2	3	18	M	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				






Marine  
Management  
Organisation



# Non-licensable activities which occur in and around the Mersey Estuary SPA

Not to be used for navigation.  
Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right (2019)



## Water based activities

-  Jetskis
-  Paddle sports
-  Sailing




## Land based activities

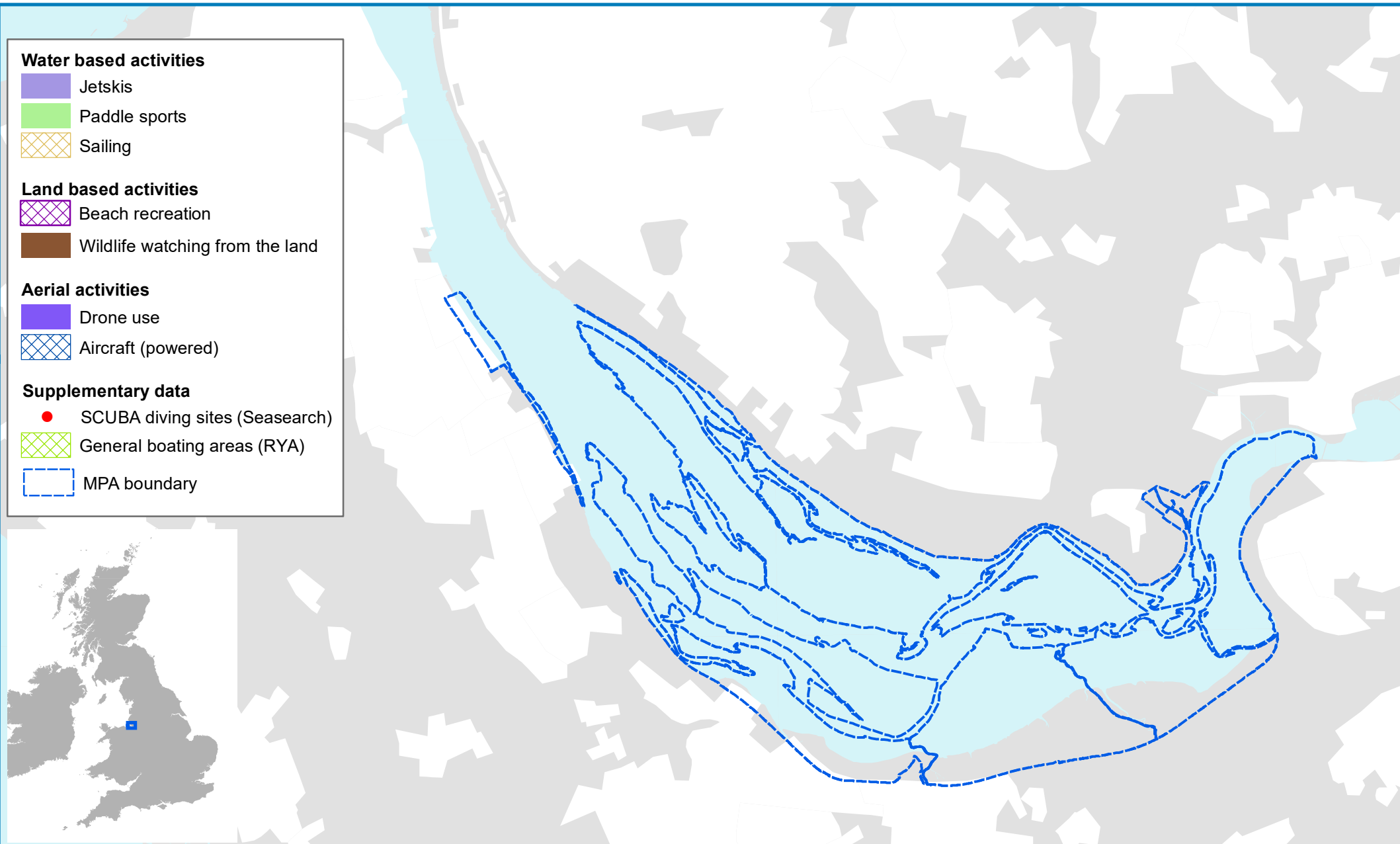
-  Beach recreation
-  Wildlife watching from the land

## Aerial activities

-  Drone use
-  Aircraft (powered)

## Supplementary data






-  SCUBA diving sites (Seasearch)
-  General boating areas (RYA)
-  MPA boundary



## 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)