

# Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA

## Description:

The Ribble and Alt Estuaries special protection area (SPA) lies on the coast of Lancashire and Sefton in northwest England. The SPA overlaps the Ribble Estuary site of special scientific interest (SSSI) and Sefton Coast SSSI. The site consists of extensive areas of sandflats and mudflats, as well as large areas of saltmarsh, particularly in the Ribble. There are also areas of coastal grazing marsh.



## Qualifying features:

The site supports breeding ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*), common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus graellsii*). The site also supports wintering Bewick's swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*), whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), wigeon (*Anas Penelope*), teal (*Anas crecca*), pintail (*Anas acuta*), oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*), grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), knot (*Calidris canutus islandica*), sanderling (*Calidris alba*), dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*), black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*), redshank (*Tringa tetanus*). The Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA also supports passage populations of ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*), sanderling (*Calidris alba*), and redshank (*Tringa tetanus*). Finally, the site supports waterbird assemblages and seabird assemblages.

## Management:

- None raised

## Stakeholder Concerns:

Beach recreation disturbs roosting flocks of birds and ground nesting birds on the coast. Motorsports (e.g. 4 x 4s, quads, and scrambler bikes) are a cause for concern in this estuary as they disturb roosting flocks and can kill ground nesting birds and damage protected habitat.

Low flying microlight aircraft have been reported to disturb roosting flocks of birds. All these activities have an impact on bird energetics and their chances of survival, especially in winter.

The coastal path may present issues of disturbance as the public right of way will then be used by cyclists and horse riders. The elevated path will disturb/flush birds out.

MPA: Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA				No. Stakeholders: 2 online & 1 workshop			
Activity	Frequency	Duration	Participation	Intensity	Confidence	MPA Extent	Trend
Board sports	0	0	0	0	H	0	?
Geophysical surveys	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Motor boating	3	3	2	18	H	1	➔
Jetskis	3	2	1	6	H	1	➔
Paddle sports	0	0	0	0	L	0	➔
Parascending	0	0	0	0	H	0	➔
Sailing (non-motorised)	1	2	1	2	M	2	➔
SCUBA diving	0	0	0	0	L	0	➔
Swimming / Snorkelling	4	1	6	24	M	2	?
Towed water sports	3	2	1	6	H	1	➔
Wildlife watching from the sea	0	0	0	0	L	0	?
Bait collection	3	2	3	18	H	1	➔
Beach recreation	2	3	6	36	H	1	⬆
Coasteering	0	0	0	0	?	0	➔
Land boarding	3	2	3	18	M	1	➔
Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)	3	1	3	9	H	1	➔
Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)	4	3	6	72	H	1	⬆
Wildlife watching from the land	3	3	2	18	M	2	⬆
Drone use	0	0	0	0	M	?	?
Gliding (unpowered)	0	0	0	0	M	0	➔
Aircraft (powered)	4	1	1	4	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				



Marine  
Management  
Organisation

# Non-licensable activities which occur in and around the Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA

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

## Water based activities

- Board sports
- Motor boating
- Jetskis
- Sailing
- Towed water sports

## Land based activities

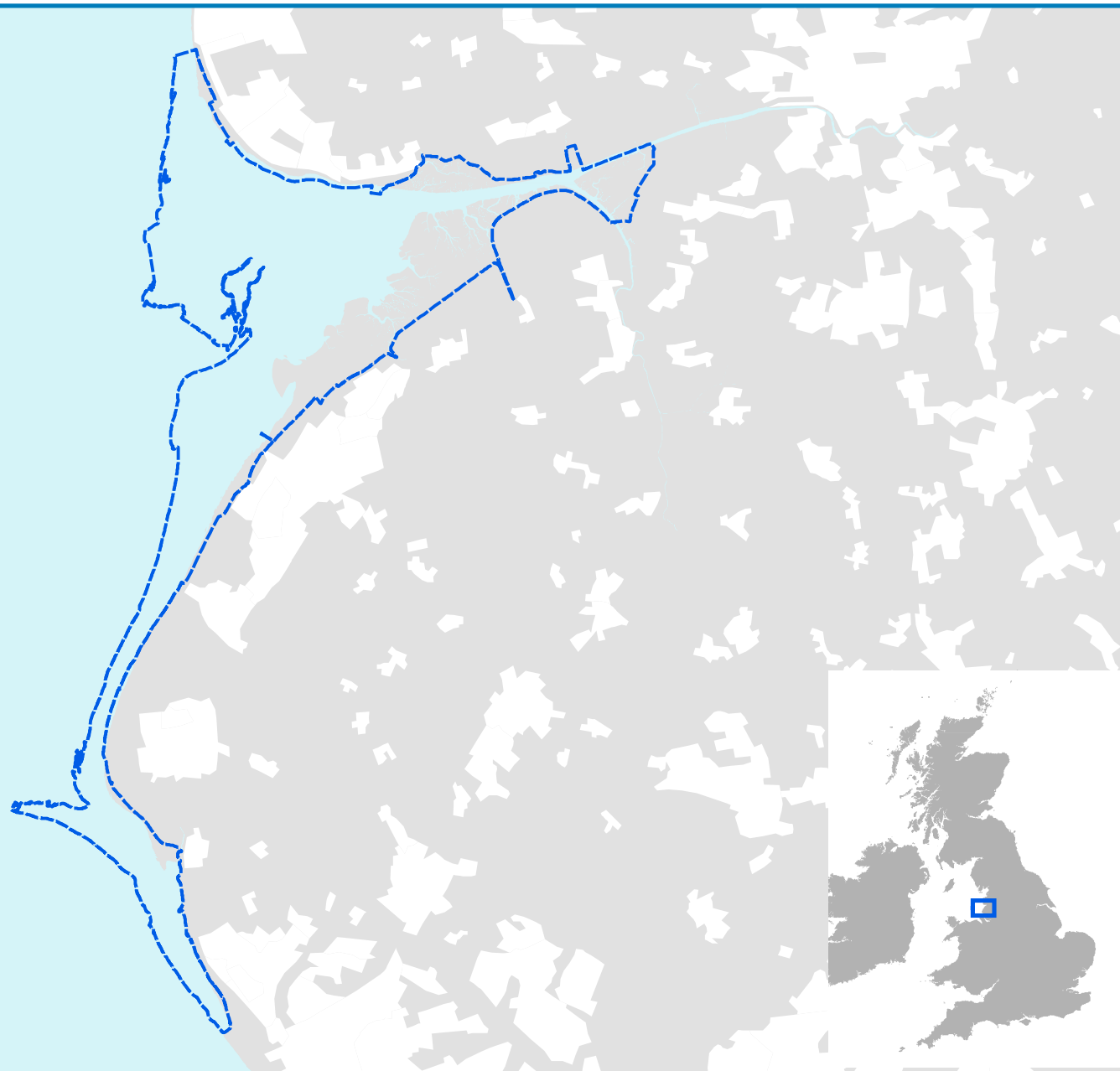
- Bait collection
- Beach recreation
- Land boarding
- Motorsports
- Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)
- Wildlife watching from the land

## Aerial activities

- 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)