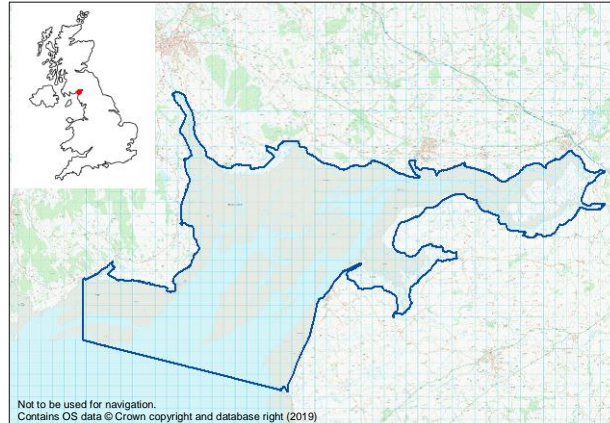


Solway Firth SAC

Description:

The Solway Firth special area of conservation (SAC) is a large shallow complex estuary with large areas of intertidal sand and mudflats along with subtidal sandbanks, reefs, saltmarsh, vegetated shingle, and fixed dunes. This diverse mix of intertidal habitats support internationally important numbers (the entirety of the Svalbard population) of overwintering barnacle geese (*Branta leucopsis*), bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*), and golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) as part of an assemblage of wildfowl and waders which regularly contains 130,000 individuals through the winter. This group of passage and overwintering birds are protected by the Upper Solway Flats and Marshes special protection area.



Qualifying features:

Solway Firth SAC hosts the following habitats: estuaries; *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima*); mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide; sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water at all times; and reefs. The site also supports river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) and sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*).

Management:

- Solway Firth Partnership provides guidance on [responsible angling](#).
- Solway Coast area of outstanding natural beauty [countryside code](#).

Stakeholder Concerns:

None raised.

MPA: Solway Firth SAC				No. Stakeholders: 1 online & 3 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	2	2	12	M	1	➔
Jetskis	1	1	1	1	M	1	➔
Paddle sports	3	2	2	12	M	2	⬆
Parascending	0	0	0	0	L	0	➔
Sailing (non-motorised)	2	2	1	4	H	1	⬆
SCUBA diving	0	0	0	0	H	0	➔
Swimming / Snorkelling	2	1	2	4	M	1	⬇
Towed water sports	0	0	0	0	H	0	➔
Wildlife watching from the sea	0	0	0	0	H	0	➔
Bait collection	3	1	3	9	H	1	⬆
Beach recreation	2	2	5	20	M	1	➔
Coasteering	0	0	0	0	H	0	?
Land boarding	1	1	1	1	H	1	➔
Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)	1	1	1	1	L	1	➔
Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)	1	1	1	1	M	1	➔
Wildlife watching from the land	4	3	5	60	H	2	⬆
Drone use	1	1	1	1	M	2	⬆
Gliding (unpowered)	0	0	0	0	L	1	➔
Aircraft (powered)	1	2	2	4	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				



Marine
Management
Organisation

Non-licensable activities which occur in and around the Solway Firth SAC

Not to be used for navigation.

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Water based activities

Jetskis

Paddle sports

Land based activities

Bait collection

Beach recreation

Land boarding

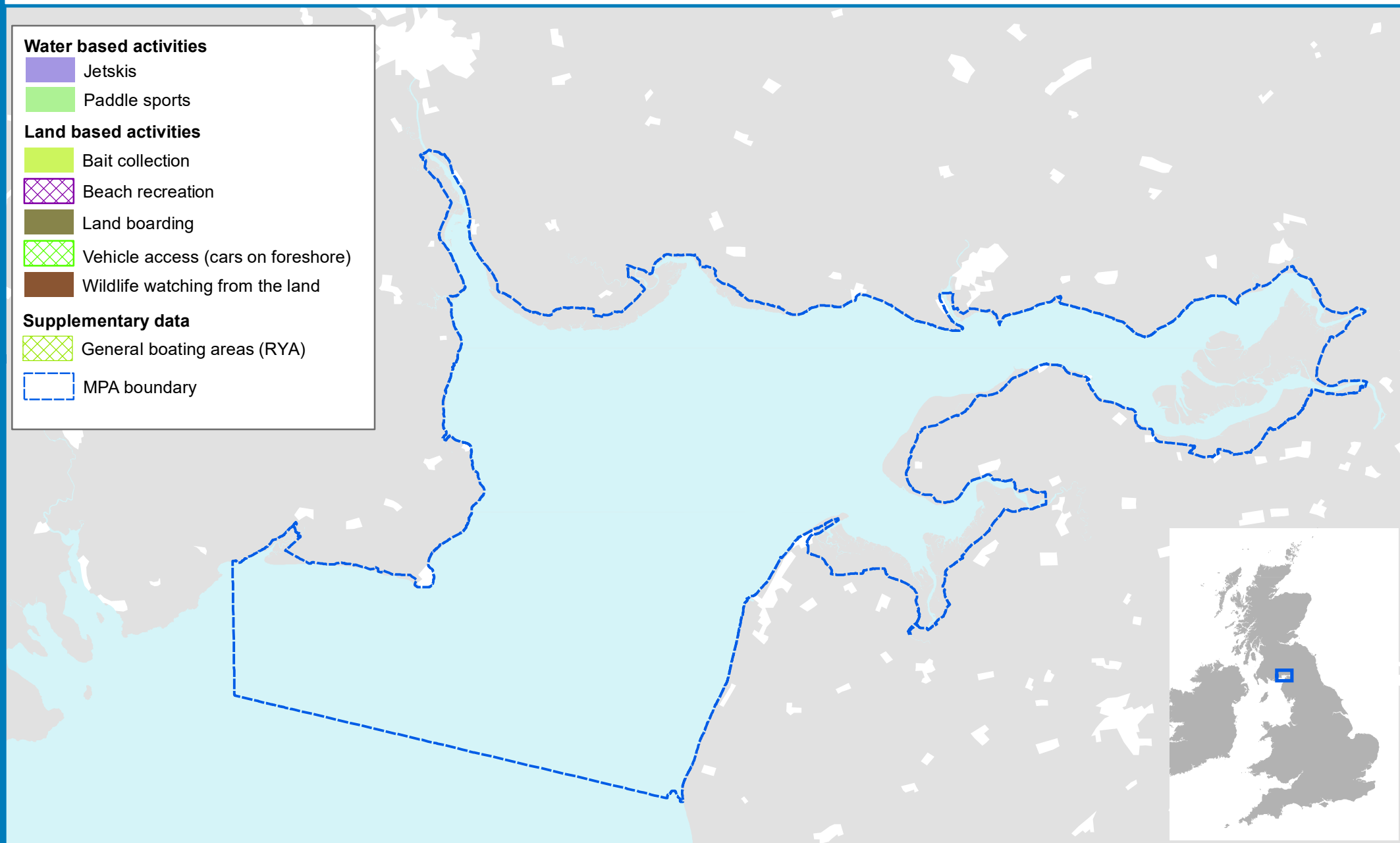
Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)

Wildlife watching from the land

Supplementary data

General boating areas (RYA)



MPA boundary



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)