

Protect sensitive places

Islands, spits, marshes, lagoons and mud are vital natural habitats. Human presence will prevent birds using them. Avoid landing here and keep your distance from wildlife.

Tip for kite surfers

Keep the length of your kite string away from marshes, lagoons, mudflats and islands.



Did you know?

Your kite and windsurfing equipment can unintentionally cause disturbance. Anything that flaps is especially scary for birds as it resembles predators.



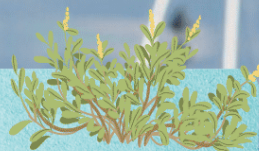
Tip

If birds have flown from an area, move away as they may return.



Did you know?

Using suitable entry and exit points can reduce erosion, avoid damage to sensitive plants and animals, and lessen wildlife disturbance.



Did you know?

Wildlife disturbance isn't just an issue in the summer. Coastal birds like waders, ducks and geese will be able to feed and rest safely if they're not disturbed in the winter months. This will help them thrive.



Did you know?

The Solent coastline is of worldwide importance for birds.



WILDLIFE AWARE WATERSPORTS

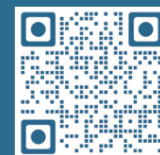
A guide for kite and windsurfers



Share how you are protecting wildlife on the water by using the hashtag [#watersportswithwildlife](#) on social media.



www.birdaware.org



What you get up to on the water matters.

Many windsurfers and kite surfers are taking steps to avoid wildlife disturbance and share our shores by following the Bird Aware Coastal Code:



Did you know?

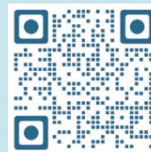
Wildlife is more sensitive to being disturbed in areas that aren't frequently visited.



Entry and exit: watch out, birds about!

Plan your route and choose a wildlife friendly entry and exit point.

Use our online map to find the most wildlife friendly routes.



Kite and windsurfers stay wildlife friendly by minimising noise and sudden changes in direction.



If birds become aware of you and change their behaviour, give them space by moving away at a steady pace.

You'll know they've become aware of you if they start:

- putting up their heads,
- bobbing or turning head in your direction
- calling out
- stretching or flapping wings,
- walking, swimming or flying away.

Rig up and keep kit at top of beach.

Mud, marsh and the water's edge are feeding areas for birds; shingle beaches are resting and nesting areas.

Carry or float equipment in and out.

Dragging equipment will damage habitat and your craft.

