

Promoting responsible use of our seas
to lessen disturbance to wildlife



0345 201 2626

24-hour Marine Disturbance Register

Cornwall Marine and Coastal Code Group



Cornwall Seal Group



Cornwall Wildlife Trust



*Protecting Cornwall's wildlife
and wild places*



Marine
Management
Organisation



Devon & Cornwall Police
Building Safer Communities Together



Cornwall
Outdoor Charter Group

Marine Disturbance Register

0345 201 2626

(01872) 273939

www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk

Protecting **Cornwall's wildlife** for the future



Cornwall

We have some of the best marine life in the UK.

Help us to keep it that way!



Andy Hay RSPB-images.com



Sue Sayer



Sue Sayer



Tony Sutton



Sue Sayer

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Why?

- Raise awareness of the issue
- Enable us all to help our marine life
- Provide evidence-driven decision making
- Target our resources – species, users, sites
- Maximise the benefit to our marine life

...so that together we **can make a difference**

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Disturbance Toolkit

Hotline : 0345 201 26 26


Marine Emergency Contacts (business cards)

Marine and Coastal Code

Wildlife Sensitivity Map (online)

'At the coast' GUIDELINES

Cornwall's accessible coast is spectacular and a haven for wildlife with opportunities for some amazing experiences that can include watching sea birds feed their chicks, using viewing hides to watch seals or looking down pipes to see minnows work at a workpost.



General advice to avoid disturbance AT THE COAST:


- Where possible, please pay attention to signs that help you to minimise your impact on wildlife.
- Don't touch wildlife unless you're certain, steady and sure.
- Keep a look out for wildlife and use binoculars or a telescope to get a better view and avoid the need to get close. Please use the nearest path or your senses.
- Assess the situation and think like the animal to work out what they are doing, where they are going and what might frighten them to help decide how you can avoid disturbing them.
- Please pay attention to any prearranged and scheduled events.
- Be very careful where you are putting your feet to avoid crushing barnacles, eggs or animals.
- Look for signs wildlife has spotted you and be prepared to get out of sight, back off or take an alternative route.
- Remember disturbance is more likely when more people are present, so stay together in a group. Ensure the wildlife doesn't get cornered and has an escape route.
- Let animals move away and please don't chase, feed or touch wild animals.
- If you move stones in rockpools, be careful and put them back where you found them.
- Leave animals as carefully as you approached them.
- Avoid damaging the environment itself by trampling vegetation that might increase the chance of disturbance at all times.
- It is very important to keep paths under control and remember that they can also cause disturbance.
- Where sites have been designated, disturbing their listed features (eg. wildlife, plants, geology) can result in a fine of up to £20,000.

On the sea' GUIDELINES

Off the Cornish coast, there is a lot of amazing wildlife to see from large cliffs of nesting seabirds to curious and ageing seals. Encounters may be distant and fleeting, but this is better for the wellbeing of our marine life, so keep your eyes peeled. If you spot wildlife, tell others with you how to stay safe.

General advice to avoid disturbance ON THE SEA

- Be alert and keep a look out for wildlife.
- Use binoculars to get a better view and to avoid the need to get too close.
- Consume with caution as recommended. For sensitive fishes should be watched off.
- If you see wildlife, slow down.
- Avoid highly sensitive areas such as breeding sites or large groups of animals and allow them to do their thing in the background.
- Keep watching the wildlife and where appropriate, quietly spread the word to others.
- Work out what you think the animals are doing, where they are heading and how they may react to you. In some cases, you may need to avoid disturbing them.
- Please note your own movements are constant, steady and predictable.
- Stay a good distance away and choose indirect, safe approaches and departures.
- Let the animals decide how close they want to be to you and move away at the first sign of disturbance (see page 10).
- If you are in the water, be aware of making a clear approach and it is safe to do so, consider putting the back to neutral.
- Remember, animals and people will increase the chance of disturbing marine life, so be extra careful. Please note animals have a wide escape route by not remaining where or leaving them in the shoreline.
- If you have them, think about using a propeller, motor or other means to move away from the animals and aim to keep levels constant.
- If you are pulling, sailing or rowing you will need to be aware that a silent approach may startle wildlife more. Please move up and out of the water.
- Never follow, chase or feed marine life.
- Avoid damaging the environment by carrying out other than dropping rubbish on the sea and take all litter home.
- Local bylaws which have been issued by harbour masters, councils and the Environment Agency may regulate mooring, access, stops, behaviour and other activities, so you will need to check with the relevant authority.





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Key Message: time and space

- Approach safely and slowly
- Don't get too close
- Don't stay too long
- Give wildlife the respect it deserves
- Please tell us about what you see!

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