

seals

We are very fortunate to share our waters with grey seals. They are sensitive to disturbance and are protected by law. They haul out to pup on the Pembrokeshire coastline and offshore islands usually from August to the end of November. Although there may be gatherings of large groups at any time of year.

1. Do not land on pupping beaches from 1st August to the end of November and do not disturb mothers nursing pups. Adult females often rest about 10-30m away from the shore and their pup. Avoid coming between them.
2. Avoid creeping up on seals or approaching them bow on. They may perceive you as a predator.
3. Keep your distance and keep at least 20m away from seals unless they approach you. Seals can be particularly sensitive to disturbance after periods of stormy weather and during the breeding season.
4. Always allow seals an escape route and avoid boxing them in.
5. For the sake of your safety and for the health of the seals themselves do not seek to swim with, touch or feed seals.
6. Noise disrupts. Keep speed below 5 knots on arrival and departure. Keep viewing time to 10 minutes. Move away if you observe disturbance, such as rapid swimming to and fro, sudden panic diving, and re-entry into the water. Moving away can prevent an extended stampede in haul out areas.



seabirds

The 1st March to the 31st July is a particularly sensitive time as birds come ashore to nest. Sensitive sites include steep cliffs and zawns. The Pembrokeshire coastline and offshore islands have nationally and internationally important populations of seabirds.

1. Plan trips carefully and with respect to agreed site specific access restrictions. They are in place to protect wildlife for future generations.
2. Observe birds' reactions from a distance.
3. The following bird behaviour indicates preparedness to fly; head craning, head turning, head bobbing, and wing flapping in situ. Do not proceed if you observe this as you will make them fly.
4. Auks (guillemots, razorbills) incubate eggs on their feet. If they fly off ledges in a panic their eggs are dislodged and destroyed.
5. On open water you may encounter rafts of seabirds. Avoid causing disturbance to rafting birds as they may regurgitate food meant for their young/take flight during valuable resting time.



introduction

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park has some of the most unspoilt and spectacular coastal scenery in the UK. It is an area rich in wildlife and is designated as being internationally and nationally important for marine habitats and species.

The maps and codes of conduct in this leaflet highlight the existing Agreed Access Restrictions that have been drawn up by conservation experts and coastal users. The codes have been agreed in order to preserve and protect the marine wildlife that makes the Pembrokeshire coastline so special.

pembrokeshiremarinecode.org.uk

project supported by:



Photos courtesy of Ross Bullimore, Janet Baxter, Lyndon Lomax and Paul Richards



cetaceans

Dolphins, porpoise and whales share these waters with you. They are sensitive to disturbance and are protected by law. Our actions can disturb their daily activities and even cause injury. The following general advice can minimise stress to cetaceans when encountered at sea. The advice can also benefit our encounters with turtles, basking sharks and sunfish.

1. On sighting cetaceans fast vessels should slow down to a speed less than 5 knots and continue on a steady course presenting predictable movements. Avoid erratic movements or speed changes.
2. Allow groups of cetaceans to remain together and avoid deliberately driving through them.
3. Leave cetaceans with young alone and avoid coming between a mother and calf.
4. Always allow cetaceans an escape route and avoid boxing them in, do not chase cetaceans.
5. Leave if you notice any signs of disturbance; such as erratic changes in speed and direction, or lengthy periods underwater.



useful contacts

To report disturbance to wildlife contact:

Marine Code Officer	07977 939325
Police Marine Unit	01646 687288

Useful contacts

Skokholm Island Warden	07971 114303
Skomer Island Warden	07971 114302
Ramsey Island Warden	07881 846498
South Pems Countryside Council for Wales	01646 661368
Caldey Island Warden	01646 636754
Milford Haven Water Ranger	01646 696100
To report sightings of whales, dolphins & porpoise contact	01348 875639
For sea kayaking information contact	07977 939325

Contacts for reporting marine mammal strandings/animals or birds in distress

RSCPA	08705 555999
Bird Rescue	01834 814397 or 07074 059745
Pembrokeshire County Council	01437 764551 or 01437 775522
Maritime & Coastguard Agency	01646 690909
Welsh Marine Life Rescue co-ordinator, Terry Leadbetter	01646 692943/07970 285086
Marine mammals stranding co-ordinator, Rod Penrose	01348 875000
To report dead cetaceans or turtles contact	
Marine Environmental Monitoring	01348 875000

In an Emergency contact Coastguard on 999



Pembrokeshire
Marine Code

