

Severn Estuary European Marine Site Good Practice Guidelines

The [Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities](http://www.asera.org.uk) (ASERA) is the group responsible for the Severn European Marine Site (EMS) Management Scheme. Recreational disturbance has been identified by ASERA as one of the key issues affecting the conservation status of the Severn Estuary EMS.

Disturbance is any activity or noise that could change behaviour of an animal (feeding, resting or breeding) or habitat structure. Repeated disturbance can threaten the survival of some of the highly protected species and habitats that are protected under the Severn Estuary EMS.

Good Practice Guidelines have been produced by ASERA to act as a voluntary management action supported by the Management Scheme to help reduce disturbance to our most valuable habitats and species. It has been developed in partnership with representatives from various sectors and has followed best practice from other European Marine Sites across the UK.

Who are the Guidelines aimed at?

- Recreational estuary users
- Clubs and associations

Individuals and clubs are encouraged to respect, support and promote these Good Practice Guidelines.



The aims of the Good Practice Guidelines are:

- To raise awareness of the Severn Estuary EMS and the designated features that are protected
- To avoid and minimise potential environmental risk to the protected features of the site
- To encourage the sustainable use of the estuary and its coastline, providing an enhanced and safer environment for recreational users
- To improve understanding of the protected features of the site and the reasons why it is important to protect and manage them



ASERA Members (2017/18)
Associated British Ports
Bridgwater Port Authority
Cardiff County Council
Cardiff Harbour Authority
Devon & Severn IFCA
Environment Agency
Forest of Dean District Council
Gloucester Harbour Trustees
Gloucestershire County Council
Monmouthshire County Council
Natural England
Natural Resources Wales
Newport City Council
Newport Harbour Commissioners
North Somerset Council
Sedgemoor District Council
Somerset County Council
Stroud District Council
The Bristol Port Company
Trinity House Lighthouse Service
Vale of Glamorgan Council

Would you like to find out more or request some hard copies for your organisation or for recreational user groups in your area? Please contact the ASERA Officer, Lucy Taylor on TaylorL14@cardiff.ac.uk or on 02920 874713.

Or, if you think you can help with implementation and promotion of the Guidelines and would like to arrange a meeting to discuss, please do get in touch.