

The Solent is special

The Solent is of world-wide importance for birds.

Every winter over 90,000 waders and wildfowl (including over 10% of the global population of Brent Geese) fly to the Solent from as far as the Arctic. They come to feast on the abundant marine worms, shellfish and plants found on this sheltered coastline.

Contact us

Please feel free to contact us:

w: www.birdaware.org

e: info@birdaware.org

t: 01962 832235

You can also follow us and find out our latest news on Facebook and Twitter – just look up Bird Aware Solent.



What is Bird Aware?

Bird Aware is a partnership of local councils and conservation bodies around the Solent. Our aim is to help people enjoy the coast without disturbing the thousands of birds that over-winter here. These birds are internationally protected and need to build up enough energy to fly back to their summer breeding grounds.



Find out more...

Want to learn more about the variety of birds in the Solent, or the work of conservation organisations in protecting them? Then take a look at these websites:

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) – www.rspb.org.uk

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) – www.hiwwt.org.uk

Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC) – www.conservancy.co.uk

Hampshire Ornithological Society (HOS) – www.hos.org.uk

Look out for wintering birds



www.birdaware.org

Why do the birds need my help?

- The Solent coast is very busy with people. They often disturb the birds unintentionally
- When the birds are disturbed they stop feeding or worse still, fly away. It can take them a whole day just to refuel the energy this uses
- Many of the birds can only feed at low tide so feeding time is limited
- Short daylight hours in winter mean feeding time is even more precious
- At high tide the birds need to rest to conserve energy. There is often little ground above the high water where they can rest undisturbed
- Cold, wet and windy weather makes survival even tougher
- We can all play our part to ensure continued enjoyment of the Solent, by both people and birds alike

See what you can spot in the Solent . . .



Tick the birds off the list as you see them!



Godwit



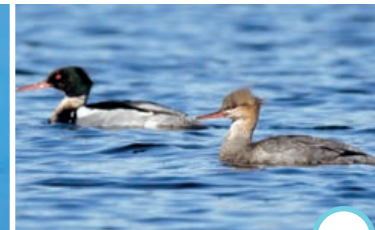
Oystercatcher



Redshank



Dunlin



Merganser



Brent Goose



Curlew



Turnstone



Ringed Plover



Sanderling



Wigeon



Shelduck

How YOU can help...

- Look out for birds feeding and resting on the coast
- Take care not to scare or disturb them
- Move further away if a bird becomes alert and stops feeding
- Stay on the paths where they exist
- Always follow requests on signs
- Exercise your dog away from resting or feeding birds to avoid disturbing them
- Keep your dog in sight and on a short lead if you cannot rely on its obedience
- Don't forget to clean up after your dog
- If you are going out on the water contact the local harbour authority for special guidance
- Tell your friends and family about Bird Aware Solent

To learn more, talk to our Coastal Rangers or visit our website at www.birdaware.org