

Code Of Conduct for watching Seals, Whales, Dolphins and Other Marine Wildlife.

You may be able to spot dolphins, whales, sharks and seals around Guernsey. If you are fortunate enough to see these creatures please follow the guidelines to ensure their safety.

- Use binoculars to get the best views.
- Maintain a minimum of 200m from seals or seal haul-outs, 100m minimum from other marine animals.
- Operate vessels at a slow safe speed when near animals.
- Please don't over crowd. A maximum of three vessels should observe marine animals at any one time
- Limit observation time to 5 minutes
- Do not attempt to swim with, feed or touch the animals
- Leave marine animals an escape route to leave the area
- If animals want to come and see you they will - never pursue or harass them



*Close encounters with wildlife
can be an unforgettable
experience but we need to make
sure that we always treat them
with respect. Our actions should
never put them at risk.*

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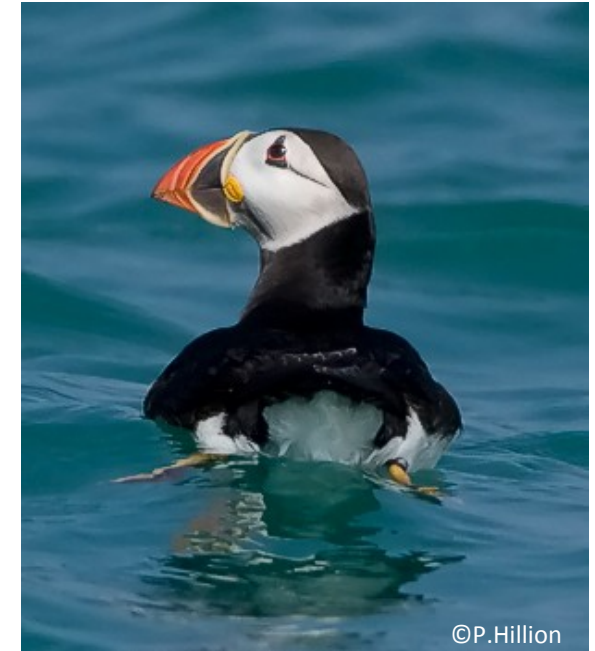
01481 717200 or Email: env@gov.gg
www.gov.gg/naturalenvironment

Records of marine mammal sightings can be sent to:
www.biologicalrecordscentre.gov.gg

Sick or injured wildlife should be reported to GSPCA
01481 257261, or in emergency 07781 104082



*Give Wildlife A Chance....
Seabirds and marine mammals*



This leaflet has been designed to raise awareness of the wildlife in and around Guernsey and Herm. Please follow the guidelines to enjoy observing seabirds and marine wildlife without causing unnecessary stress or disturbance.



Code Of Conduct for Sea Birds

Guernsey, along with the other Channel Islands, is internationally and regionally important for some of the seabirds that live and breed here.

These guidelines will help you enjoy being around seabirds and reduce disturbance of them around nesting sites and when feeding.

Please remember: Parent birds and their young are most vulnerable during the breeding season, 1st February to 31st July.

When observing wild birds please:

- Keep noise to a minimum
- Keep 200m between you and breeding colonies, roosts, rafts of birds resting at sea, nests and feeding sites
- Don't make any sudden or sharp movements
- If you have a dog with you keep it on a lead or under close control so it won't alarm the birds
- View the birds through binoculars if you have them
- Please respect signs and do not enter restricted areas



How do I know if I'm too close?

Birds give different signals to indicate they are distressed and to let you know you are getting too close. By being aware of these different signals we can enjoy the birds while they get on with life.

Signs that you are getting too close for comfort and the bird is preparing to fly away include:

- head turning and head bobbing
- wing flapping in situ
- walking/swimming in the opposite direction

Other signs that the birds may be distressed include:

- swooping and dive bombing observers
- making loud calling noises
- aggressive and agitated appearance

If you see any of the above behaviour you are probably too close for comfort. Please slowly and gently move away from the area to allow the birds to settle.

What is Disturbance?

'Disturbance' regarding wildlife is the result of a direct or indirect interaction with people, that changes the behaviour of that animal, or changes the environment, which in turn can affect the well-being or survival of the animal in the short, medium or long term.

Disturbances might include:

- Direct injury;
- Disruption of feeding habits, resting, breeding, nursing, migration and communication;
- Excessive use of energy resulting in loss of condition caused by continual or repeated avoidance or flight;
- Increased vulnerability of an individual or a population to predators or physical stress;
- Damage to habitat.