



WQSC Environment Statement

Weir Quay Sailing Club recognises we are privileged to sail in such a wonderful place Weir Quay Sailing Club recognises its part in protecting the habitats it uses and the wider environment.

Context

- Our main operating area falls within the Tamar AONB, units 70 and 75 of the Tamar and Tavy SSSI and within the Tamar river complex Special Protection Area and Special Conservation Area.
- The Tamar and Tavy SSSI supports a nationally important wintering population of Avocet along with other wintering wading birds and important roosting and feeding sites.
- It is nationally important for its marine biological interest. The site includes estuarine habitats, with uncommon species, that are notable in their extent and also supports the only British population of a rare plant.
- Units 70 and 75 of the SSSI are currently in favourable condition
- The SPA is for non-breeding Avocet and Little Egret – *“The areas of the Tamar close to Hole’s Hole, Weir Quay and Kingsmill Lake are by far the most important areas for avocet.” Little egret feed in saltmarsh throughout the complex as well as in areas of muddy sediment covered by shallow water.”*
- The birds are considered mobile features (feeding) of the SPA and may be there all year round but are evident in more significant numbers in these periods – Little egrets all year round – avocet between November and March.

Our Actions

- We will conduct our historic activities by limiting our landing to the areas close to the Weir Quay slipway and limit our use of the saltmarsh channels to one- or two-times a year in the summer months at high water.
- We will ensure our activities do not adversely impact the status of the SSSI by causing erosion to the littoral habitat.
- We will ensure litter and plastic do not enter the water from our activities.
- We will refill fuel systems away from the river edge or in a controlled fashion afloat ensuring fuel and oils do not enter the river.
- We will operate Check Clean Dry to prevent the spread of Invasive species.
- We will share advice from The Green Blue with our member and partner clubs
- We will work with the Hub Club and Tamar and Tavy Gig Club to ensure the management of the Hub club site aligns with the designations of the Tamar Valley and the systems in place are sustainable.