

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GUIDELINES (MARITIME) VERSION 2.1 – Jan 2015

ACTIVITY GUIDANCE

GROUP 1 - MPA designated primarily for the protection of birds including Specially Protected Areas and RAMSAR sites

RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES

AIR:

1. No activity involving air launch of live or inert munitions is to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD air weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:

1. No activity involving the firing of live or inert munitions is to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE:

1. No activities involving live or inert firings or exploded ordnance are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES:

1. No activities involving live firings, exploding ordnance, smoke or flares are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

MCM and EOD:

1. No activities involving exploding ordnance are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless cleared as operationally essential (See Note 1) or unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED

AIR:

1. All flying operations to be in accordance with the UK Military Low Flying System (UKLFS) (Note 2).

GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES:

1. Activities involving the use of fixed sea bed arrays for acoustic trails, noise ranging and degaussing are to be conducted within the established range limits and in accordance with range orders.
2. Parachuting is only to take place with prior approval of the Unit's operational commander. Such approval must be informed by the Environmental Protection (EP) staff of Defence Training Estates (DTE).
3. Fast Inshore Attack Craft (FIAC). When operating inside these MPAs where rafting aggregations of sea birds have been sighted operators are to moderate speed and proceed in such a manner as to eliminate risk of unnecessary disturbance. This control applies equally to high speed/power manoeuvres by any vessel.

AMPHIBIOUS:

1. Landing operations may take place across any shoreline within the area limits of the MPAs, but must have the prior approval of the Unit's operational commander. Such approval must be informed by the Environmental Protection (EP) staff of Defence Training Estates (DTE) (See Note 3).

PERMITTED

SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE:

1. All activities not involving weapon firings or exploding ordnance.

ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:

1. All activities not involving weapon firings.

GENERAL/INSHORE ACTIVITIES:

1. Survey operations.
2. Sea bed sampling and human diving operations.

MCM and EOD:

1. All activities not involving weapon firings or exploding ordnance.

MISCELLANEOUS: (E.G. RAS; Boarding; Anti-piracy; High speed/power manoeuvres; Sea-boat drills; Anchoring).

Notes:

1. Operationally essential is defined as activities conducted during hostilities or activities for which there is an overriding public interest – in which case a full MESAT assessment is required.
2. Seasonal avoidance of specific Schedule 1 nesting and breeding sites may be required and will be promulgated by UKLFS CAT Y NOTAM.
3. For all amphibious activities outside established MOD Ranges, planners are to check the status of the area and the presence of any SSSIs through NCHQ CESO EP. NCHQ will consult the MOD Training Over Private Land (TOPL) Cell in formulating the response.

GROUP 2 – MPA designated primarily for the protection of general coastal features

RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES

AIR:

1. No activity involving air launch of live or inert munitions with land or sea surface impact is to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD air weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:

1. No activity involving firing of live or inert munitions is to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE:

1. No activities involving live or inert firings or exploding ordnance are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES:

1. No live or inert weapon trials are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

MCM and EOD:

1. No MCM or minelaying operations are to take place within 0.5 nm of the MPAs.
2. No activities involving exploding ordnance are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless cleared as operationally essential (see Note 1) or unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

MISCELLANEOUS: (E.G. RAS; Boarding; Anti-piracy; High speed/power manoeuvres; Sea-boat drills; anchoring).

1. Anchoring is never to take place in or within 0.5 nm of the MPAs unless specifically cleared within harbour limits as part of port authorities' management plans.

CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED

AIR:

1. All flying operations to be in accordance with the UK Military Low Flying System (UKLFS) (Note 2).

GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES:

1. Activities involving the use of fixed sea bed arrays for acoustic trials, noise ranging and degaussing are to be conducted within the established range limits and in accordance with range orders.
2. Use of sonar in surveying is to be in accordance with command guidance in BRd 4985 Vol.5 and s2117 assessment tool.

AMPHIBIOUS:

1. Landing operations may take place across any shoreline within the area limits of the MPAs, but must have the prior approval of the Unit's Operational Commander. Such approval must be informed by the Environmental Protection (EP) staff of Defence Training Estates (DTE). (see Note 3).

PERMITTED

AIR:

1. Air to air weapon firings.

ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:

1. Any activity not involving firings.

SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE:

1. Any activity not involving firings.

GENERAL/INSHORE ACTIVITIES:

1. Use of flares or smoke.
2. Parachuting of personnel and stores or equipment.
3. Surveying operations (see control measures for use of sonar).
4. Sea bed sampling and human diving operations.
5. Fast Inshore Attack Craft (FIAC).

MCM and EOD:

1. Use of ROV.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. No restrictions on miscellaneous activities except for anchoring as stated above.

Notes:

1. Operationally essential is defined as activities conducted during hostilities or activities for which there is an overriding public interest – in which case a full MESAT assessment is required
2. Seasonal avoidance of specific Schedule 1 nesting and breeding sites may be required and will be promulgated by UKLFS CAT Y NOTAM.
3. For all amphibious activities outside established MOD Ranges, planners are to check the status of the area and the presence of any SSSIs through NCHO CESO EP. NCHO will consult the MOD Training Over Private Land (TOPL) Cell in formulating the response.

GROUP 3 - MPA designated primarily for the protection of benthic seabed features with some depths less than 20m

RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES

AIR:

1. No air launched firings involving sea surface or water column impact or explosions are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD air weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:

1. No activity involving sea surface or water column explosions are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE:

1. No activities involving exploding ordnance are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES:

1. No activities involving live firings or exploding ordnance are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.
2. Anchoring is never to take place within 0.5 nm of the MPAs unless specifically cleared within harbour limits as part of port authorities' management plans.
3. Activities relating to seabed sampling or human diver activities on the seabed are not permitted.

MCM and EOD:

1. No MCM or minelaying activities are to take place within 0.5 nm of the MPA.
2. No activities involving exploding ordnance are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless cleared as operationally essential (see Note 1) or unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

AMPHIBIOUS:

1. Landing operations are prohibited across any shoreline within the area limits of the MPAs without the prior approval of the Unit's Operational Command in consultation with DTE EP, unless within an established MOD site when local orders are to be observed (See Note 2).

CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED

AIR:

1. All flying operations to be in accordance with the UK Military Low Flying System (UKLFS).

SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE:

1. All activities involving the use of active sonar are to be in accordance with the Command Guidance in BRd 4985 Vol.5 and s2117 assessment tool.

GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES:

1. Activities involving the use of fixed sea bed arrays for acoustic trials, noise ranging and degaussing are to be conducted within the established range limits and in accordance with range orders.
2. Use of sonar in surveying is to be in accordance with the Command Guidance in BRd 4985 Vol.5 and s2117 assessment tool.
3. Fast Inshore Attack Craft (FIAC). When operating inside these MPAs and in shallow waters operators are to moderate speed and proceed in such a manner as to avoid disturbance of the seabed.

PERMITTED

AIR:

1. Air to air and air to land surface firings.

ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:

1. All activities not involving sea surface or water column explosions.

SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE:

1. All activities not involving exploding ordnance.

GENERAL/INSHORE:

1. Parachuting of personnel and stores or equipment.
2. Use of flares and smoke.
3. Surveying operations (see control measures for use of sonar).

MCM/EOD:

1. Use of ROV.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. No restrictions on miscellaneous activities except for anchoring as stated above.

Notes:

1. Operationally essential is defined as activities conducted during hostilities or activities for which there is an overriding public interest – in which case a full MESAT assessment is required.

2. For all amphibious activities outside established MOD Ranges, planners are to check the status of the area and the presence of any SSSIs through NCHQ CESO EP. NCHQ will consult the MOD Training Over Private Land (TOPL) Cell in formulating the response.

GROUP 4 – MPA designated for the protection of marine mammals including whales, dolphins and seals.

RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES

AIR:

1. No activity involving the air launch of live or inert munitions with land or sea surface impact is to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD air weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:

1. No activity involving firing of live or inert munitions is to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE:

1. No activities involving live or inert firings or exploding ordnance is to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES:

1. No activities involving live firings, exploding ordnance, smoke or flares are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

MCM and EOD:

1. No MCM or minelaying operations are to take place within 0.5 nm of the MPAs.
2. No activities involving exploding ordnance are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless cleared as operationally essential (see Note 1) or unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED

AIR:

1. All flying operations to be in accordance with the UK Military Low Flying System (UKLFS) (Note 2). Caution is to be exercised when flying over sighted aggregations of cetaceans, avoiding hovering or low level operations overhead

SUBMARINE AND ANTI SUBMARINE WARFARE:

1. All activities involving the use of active sonar are to be in accordance with the Command Guidance in BRd 4985 Vol.5 and s2117 assessment tool.

GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES:

1. Activities involving the use of fixed sea bed arrays for acoustic trials, noise ranging and degaussing are to be conducted within the established range limits and in accordance with range orders
2. Surveying operations are not to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless prior agreement has been reached with appropriate authorities. Use of sonar in surveying is to be in accordance with the Command Guidance in BRd 4985 Vol.5 and s2117 assessment tool.
3. Parachuting is only to take place with prior approval of the Unit's operational commander. Such approval must be informed by the Environmental Protection (EP) staff of Defence Training Estates (DTE).
4. Fast Inshore Attack Craft (FIAC). When operating inside these MPAs where aggregations of marine mammals have been sighted operators are to moderate speed and proceed in such a manner as to eliminate risk of collision. This control applies equally to high speed/power manoeuvres by any vessel.

AMPHIBIOUS:

1. Landing operations may take place across any shoreline within the area limits of the MPAs, but must have the prior approval of the Unit's operational commander. Such approval must be informed by the Environmental Protection (EP) staff of Defence Training Estates (DTE) (See Note 3)

PERMITTED

ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:

1. All activities not involving weapon firings or explosions.

SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE:

1. All activities not involving weapon firings, and explosions .

MCM AND EOD:

1. Use of ROV.

GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES

1. Activities relating to sea bed sampling or human diver activities on the seabed are permitted. Such activities are to be moderated to take account of any marine mammals in the close vicinity.
2. Units are to remain vigilant at all times and moderate activities in accordance with SOPs whenever random encounters with marine mammals or rafting aggregates of seabirds occur.

MISCELLANEOUS: (E.G. RAS; Boarding; Anti-piracy; Sea-boat drills; anchoring).

1. No restrictions on miscellaneous activities except for anchoring as stated above.

Notes:

1. Operationally essential is defined as activities conducted during hostilities or activities or for which there is an overriding public interest – in which case a full MESAT assessment is required.
2. Seasonal avoidance of specific Schedule 1 nesting and breeding sites may be required and will be promulgated by UKLFS CAT Y NOTAM.
3. For all amphibious activities outside established MOD Ranges, planners are to check the status of the area and the presence of any SSSIs through NCHQ CESO EP. NCHQ will consult the MOD Training Over Private Land (TOPL) Cell in formulating the response.

GROUP 5 - MPA designated primarily for the protection of benthic seabed features entirely at depths greater than 20m

RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES

MCM and EOD:

1. No MCM or minelaying activities are to take place within 0.5nm of the MPA.
2. No activities involving exploding ordnance on the seabed are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless cleared as operationally essential (See Note 1) or unless firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Anchoring is not to take place in or within 0.5 nm of the MPAs.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES:

1. Activities relating to seabed sampling or human diver activities on the seabed are not permitted.

CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED

GENERAL/INSHORE ACTIVITIES:

1. Activities involving the use of fixed sea bed arrays for acoustic trials, noise ranging and degaussing are to be conducted within the established range limits and in accordance with range orders.

SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE:

2. All activities involving the use of active sonar are to in accordance with the command guidance in BRd 4985 Vol.5 and s2117 assessment tool.

MCM AND EOD:

3. Use of sonar in MCM is to be in accordance with the command guidance in BRd 4985 Vol.5 and s2117 assessment tool

PERMITTED

AIR:

1. Firings, both live and inert, are to be managed in accordance with established MOD clear range procedures.

ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:

1. All forms of anti air and anti surface firings, both live and inert, are to be conducted in accordance with established MOD clear range procedures.

SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE:

1. All activities involving live or inert firings are to be conducted in accordance with established MOD clear range procedures.

GENERAL/INSHORE ACTIVITIES:

1. Use of flares or smoke.
2. Parachuting of personnel and stores or equipment.
3. Surveying operations (see Restricted Activities above for use of sonar).
4. Fast Inshore Attack Craft (FIAC).

MCM AND EOD:

1. Use of ROV.

MISCELLANEOUS(eg RAS, Boarding, anti-piracy, high speed/power manoeuvres, seat boat drills):

1. No restrictions apart from anchoring (see 'GENERAL' below).

GENERAL:

1. Units are to remain vigilant at all times and moderate activities in accordance with SOPs whenever random encounters with marine mammals or rafting aggregates of seabirds occur.

Notes:

1. Operationally essential is defined as activities conducted during hostilities or activities or for which there is an overriding public interest. In cases of overriding public interest use of MESAT is recommended to determine level of environmental risk.

OPEN SEAS - All areas within UK waters or on the high seas which are not inside or within 500 yards of established MPA

CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED

AIR:

1. All flying operations to be in accordance with the UK Military Low Flying System (UKLFS) (Note 1).
2. Firings, both live and inert, are to be managed in accordance with established MOD clear range procedures.
3. Caution is to be exercised when flying over sighted aggregations of cetaceans, avoiding hovering or low level operations overhead.

ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:

2. All forms of anti air and anti surface firings, both live and inert, are to be conducted in accordance with established MOD clear range procedures. Smoke and flares may be used with caution after prior observation of wildlife aggregations in the operating area.

SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE:

1. All activities involving the use of active sonar are to be in accordance with the command guidance in BRd 4985 Vol.5 and s2117 assessment tool.
2. All activities involving live or inert firings are to be conducted in accordance with established MOD clear range procedures.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES:

1. No activities involving exploding ordnance on the seabed or in the water column are to take place before applying BRd 5063 Ch.3 Sec 9 protocols and established MOD clear range procedures.
2. Use of sonar in surveying is to be in accordance with the command guidance in BRd 4985 Vol.5 and s2117 assessment tool.
3. Activities involving the use of fixed sea bed arrays for acoustic trials, noise ranging and degaussing are to be conducted within the established range limits and in accordance with range orders.

MCM AND EOD:

2. Use of sonar in MCM is to be in accordance with the command guidance in BRd 4985 Vol.5 and s2117 assessment tool.
3. No activities involving exploding ordnance on the seabed or in the water column are to take place before applying BRd 5063 Ch.3 Sec 9 protocols and established MOD clear range procedures.

PERMITTED

AIR:

1. Air to air weapon firings.

ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:

1. Any activity not involving firings.

SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE:

1. Any activity not involving firings.

GENERAL/INSHORE ACTIVITIES:

5. Use of flares or smoke.
6. Parachuting of personnel and stores or equipment.
7. Surveying operations (see Restricted Activities above for use of sonar).
8. Sea bed sampling and human diving operations.
9. Fast Inshore Attack Craft (FIAC).

MCM and EOD:

1. Use of ROV.
2. MCM or mine laying operations.
3. Activities involving exploding ordnance

MISCELLANEOUS:

(E.G. RAS; Boarding; Anti-piracy; High speed/power manoeuvres; Sea-boat drills; Anchoring.)

1. No restrictions (see 'GENERAL' below).

Notes:

1. Units are to remain vigilant at all times and moderate activities in accordance with SOPs whenever random encounters with marine mammals or rafting aggregations of seabirds occur.