



**Hampshire &
Isle of Wight**
Wildlife Trust

Hurst & Keyhaven Coastal Nature Reserve Forum

2025 update

Tracé Cooper-Williams
Landscapes & Species Recovery Manager

Achievements

Oct 2023

Hurst & Keyhaven Coastal Nature Reserve Forum

Apr 2024

Awareness raising interpretation started

Dec 2024

Coastal Engagement Volunteers first winter – 2 vols

Mar 2025

Hurst Spit Breeding Wader Protection project

Jul 2025

BKSA Code of Conduct updated

Sep 2025

First 3 new Information Panels installed Hurst Spit

Oct 2025

Coastal Engagement Volunteers 2d winter – 6 vols

Sat 30th May 2026

Coastal Awareness Event

Hurst Rd. Milford-on-Sea. 10am-3pm

Media outputs

Fact Sheet drafted '*Migration Takes Guts*'

Press release 'Giving migratory birds space'

- ITV Meridian South Coast – Good Morning Britain
- ITV Meridian Thames Valley
- islandecho.co.uk
- ventnorblog.com
- advertiserandtimes.co.uk
- The Test Valley Gazette
- The Andover Gazette
- The Winchester Gazette
- The Forest Edge Gazette



The Village Voice 'Wildlife Matters' article:
BSKA Code of Conduct
reaches 3000 homes in MoS: 10-15,000 copies

March 2025 Coastal Engagement Project



Ian Creasey -
Lead volunteer



Results: Winter 24/25 (Dec – March)

NUMBER OF SURVEYS	TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS	AVERAGE SURVEY DURATION
85	133	1.5
TOTAL ENGAGEMENTS		ENGAGEMENTS / SURVEY
364		4.3

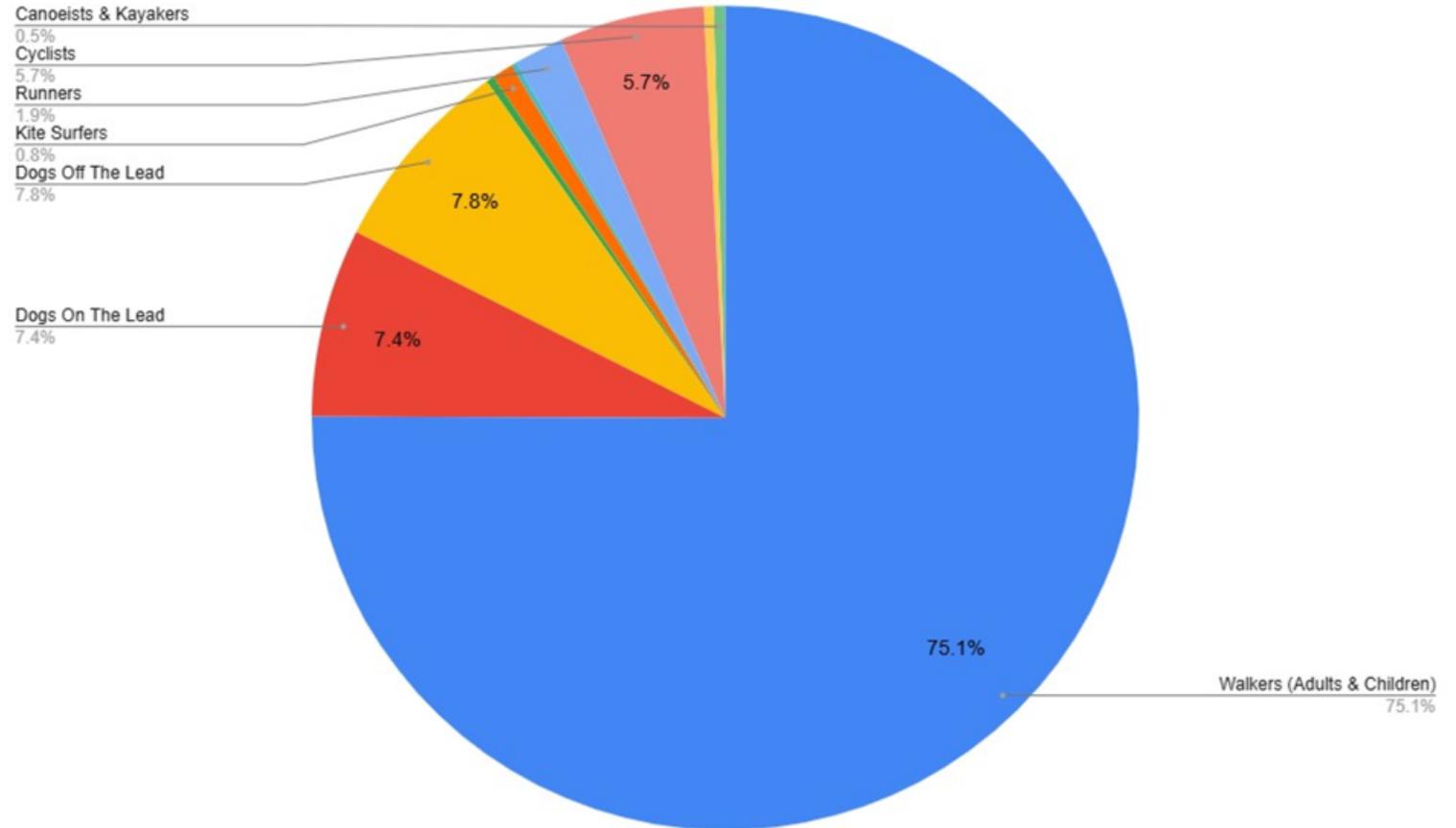
Big Thank you to Ian, Gordon and Keith!



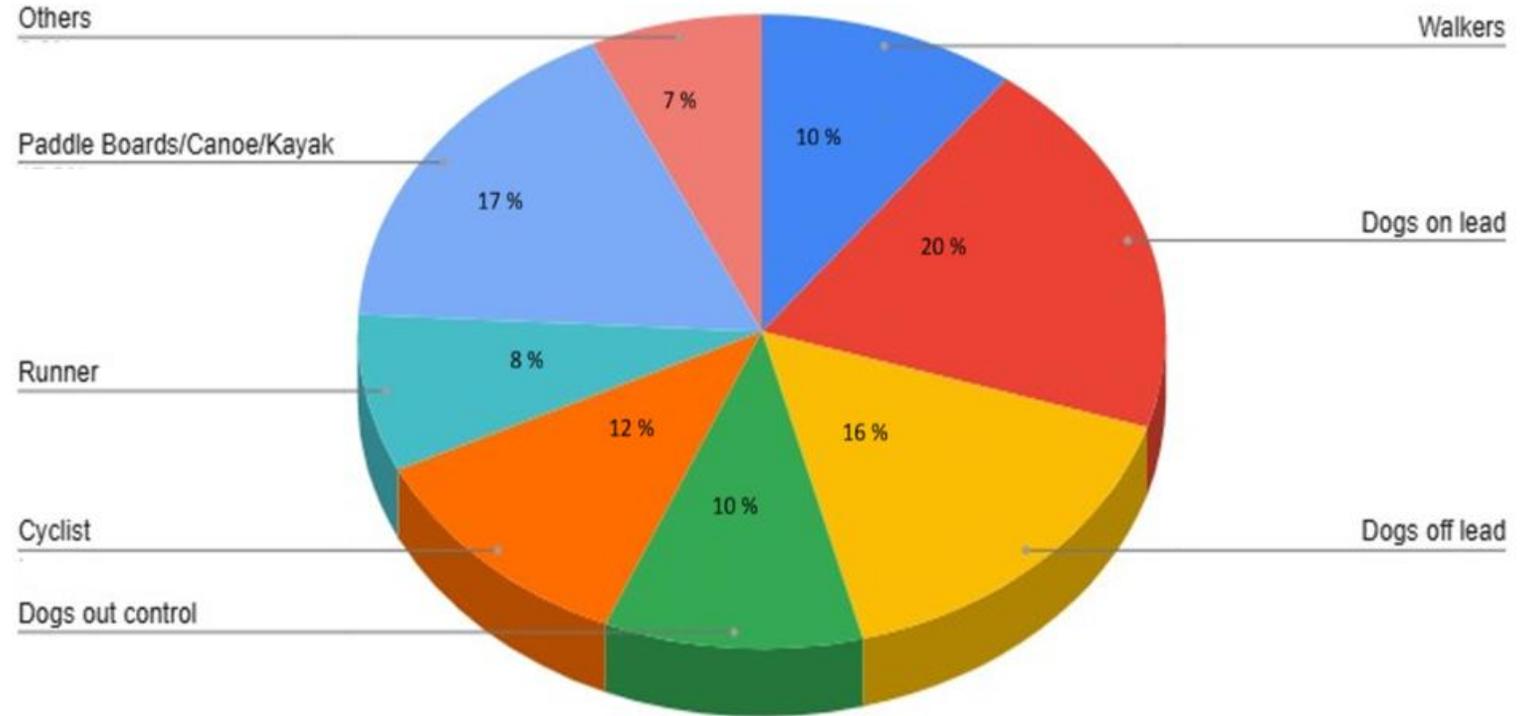
Recreation

ACTIVITY	TOTAL
WALKERS	4,286
DOGS OFF LEAD	443
DOGS ON LEAD	422
CYCLISTS	324
RUNNERS	111
KITE SURFERS	47
CANOE/KAYAK	26
FISHERS	22
PADDLE BOARDS	12
OTHER	52

BREAKDOWN OF ACTIVITIES



Activities involved in bird disturbance

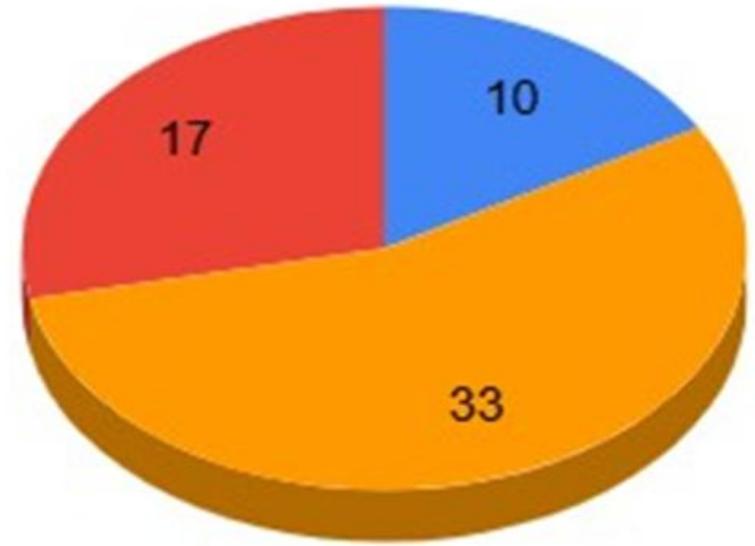
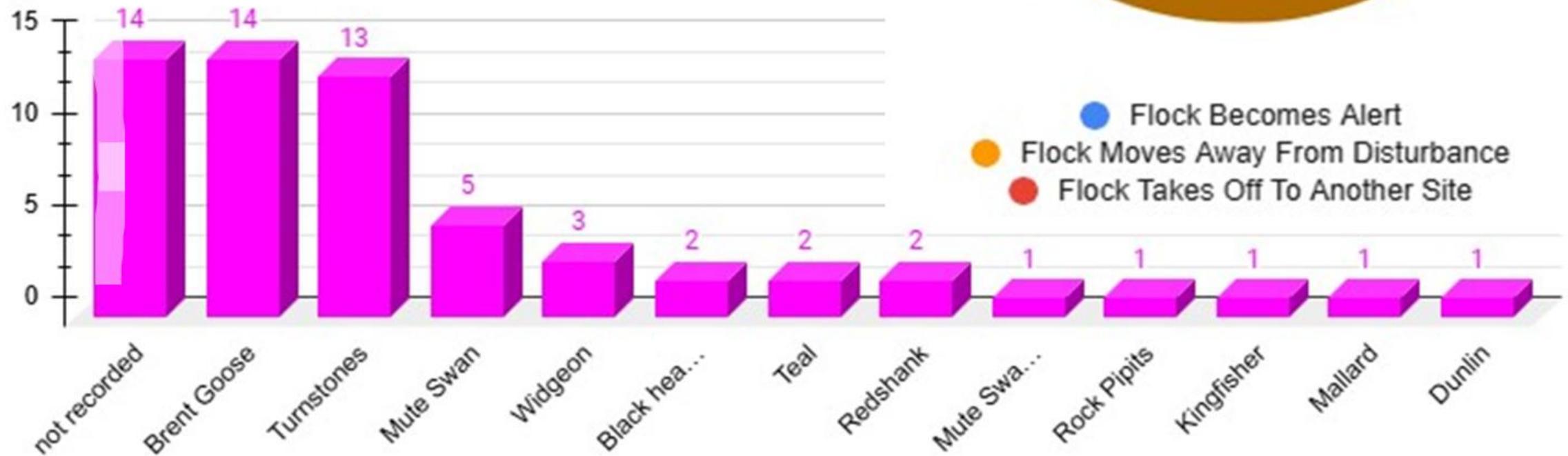


46% of disturbance involved Dogs



Levels of Disturbance

Number of Times Species Disturbed

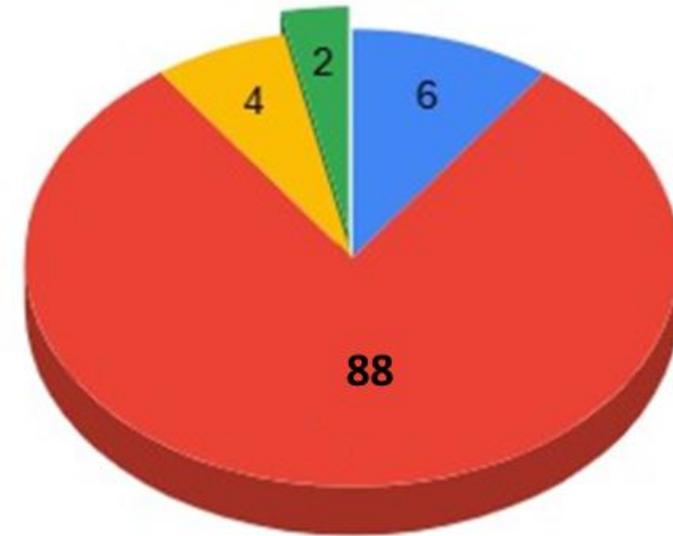


- Flock Becomes Alert
- Flock Moves Away From Disturbance
- Flock Takes Off To Another Site

Disturbance to winter bird flocks



Disturbances By Zone



- Sturt Pond Car Park to Cut Bridge
- Cut Bridge to Flood Gate area
- Flood Gate area to Sailing Club area
- Sailing Club Trackway area to Ferry Pontoon area



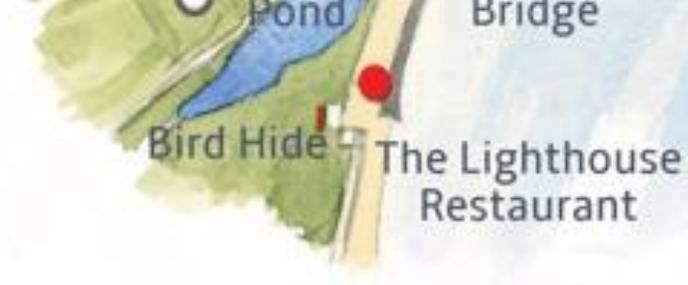
Results Summary

- The Cut bridge to Floodgate area was found to attract the majority of birds
- The zone where most Disturbance occurred (88%) was Cut Bridge to Floodgate (Saltgrass Lane)
- Major activities recorded: Walking with Dogs On or Off Lead, Cycling
- Of 865 times that Dogs were recorded, 'out of control' recorded only 17 times
- 46% of disturbance was associated with Dogs, Paddleboards 15%, Cyclists 10%
- 33% of the time birds moved away from disturbance, 17% flock took off to another location
- Species most affected were Brent Goose and Turnstone

SEP 2025



Funders: NFNPA, RSPB, NFDC, HIWWT, WINGS
Design: Hurst & Keyhaven Coastal Forum
Artwork: Dan Powell



Help look after Hurst Spit by:

Keeping dogs alongside



Keeping dogs on leads helps wildlife to thrive

Protecting the Wildlife



Avoid disturbing sensitive habitats, birds and flora

Following requests on signs



Staying on paths and following the requests on the signs helps to protect species and habitats

Water sport users being aware!



Launching and landing responsibly away from saltmarsh, mudflats and shingle shores.
Keep to open water do not use small creeks.

Hurst Spit declining coastal breeding birds

2015 = 14 pairs
2024 = 4 pairs

2009 = 10 pairs
2024 = 3 pairs

2009 = 19 pairs
2020 = 1





2025 Fenced Locations



Enclosures



2,500m²



Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

This area is protected for breeding ringed plovers

Ringed plovers are nesting here.

Did you know, ringed plovers are of conservation concern? They are a red listed species vulnerable to disturbance.

You can help them:

- Please do not walk your dog on the site.
- Please do not allow your dog to dig on the site.

Thank you very much for your support in protecting ringed plovers.

Ringed Plover
 A small bird with a black cap and a white breast band. It is a red listed species vulnerable to disturbance.

Logos for Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Hampshire Wildlife Trust, and other partners.





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First Ringed Plover nest April 2025





2025 Season: Results

Site	Intervention	Number of nesting attempts	Ringed Plover nests	Oystercatcher nests
Elbow	Pre-season Net fencing	1	1	
18A	Pre-season Net fencing	1	1	
HCC	Pre-season Net fencing	3	1	2
Garden Point	Pre-season Roped area	0		
Old Landing Stage	Roped-off post-nest	2		2
North Point	Roped-off post-nest	3	1	2
Unknown		1	1	
	Total	11	5	6



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2025 Season: Predators





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Fox at North
Point (June
9th)





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Uncontrolled activity at North Point



© P. Hobby



2025 Season: Results

	Species	Number Hatched	Chicks Last Seen	Number of chicks	Chicks Age (Last Seen)	Nest Outcomes
18A	RP	3	11/05/2025	3	1 day	3 hatched, 1 died immediately, 1 unhatched egg
North Point	RP	1	17/06/2025	1	18 days	1 hatched & seen at 18 days old, 1 egg abandoned
North Point	OC	0				Eggs gone - unknown cause (cam trap failed)
OLS	OC	0				Abandoned before camera deployed
HCC	OC	0				Phantom incubation (23 May - 22 July)
HCC	OC	1	04/07/2025	1	1 day	1 chick hatched
North Point	OC	0				Predated = Fox
HCC	RP	4	21/07/2025	2	12 days	4 hatched eggs, 2 chicks seen at 12 days old
OLS	OC	0				Eggs gone - unknown cause (cam trap failed)
Elbow	RP	0				Predated = Corvid
Unknown	RP	2	21/08/2025	2	~ 10 days	2 chicks hatched & seen at 10 days old

Total Nests	11	Total Eggs Laid (known)	26	Total Eggs Hatched (known)	11	Percentage Hatched	42.3%	Total chicks seen	9	Seen 2wks+	1	Observed fledged	0
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**THANK YOU to our
project volunteers !**

**368 hours
volunteer time
monitoring**

2025 VOLUNTEERS	ENGAGEMENT	MONITORING
Gordon Bird	Y	Y
Ross Carter	Y	Y
Neil Bartlett	Y	Y
Ian Creasey	Y	Y
Vikki Jensen	Y	Y
Elaine Webb	Y	Y
Jill Tonks	Y	Y
Ian Dunn		Y
Peter Hobby		Y
Nathalie van Couter		Y
Keith Metcalf		Y
Rufus Bull		Y
Ed Trevett		Y
David Horne		Y



Plans for 2026 - *Dependant on funding*

Enhance HCC enclosure

- Trial nest cages for RP
- Decoys & clay shelters for chicks
- ‘No Landing - Bird Sanctuary’ signs
- Electrify fencing

Colour-ringing

- Chicks & adults

Reactive fencing

- Gallagher fence units for ad-hoc nests

Garden Point

- Extend roped exclusion zone
- Trial 2 nest platforms for Oystercatcher

Extend fencing

- Join up The Elbow & 18A
- New fencing at Old Landing Stage
- Continue efforts at North Point



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Thank you to our project partners and funders !



SUPPORTED BY



New Forest Biodiversity Forum