

Get wild about Devon

with **Whitestrand Boat Hire**

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Whitestrand Boat Hire is based at Whitestrand Quay in Salcombe town centre. The boats can be hired to explore the delights of the Salcombe-Kingsbridge estuary. Whitestrand Boat Hire strive to improve their business ecologically following 'The Green Blue' codes of practice for environmental awareness.

The estuary is known as a 'ria' because it has no large river feeding into it – just a series of small streams from Frogmore, Bowcombe, Batson, East Allington, Sherford and other surrounding villages, rising at springs some 140 metres above sea level.

As well as being part of the South Devon AONB, the estuary is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Local Nature Reserve and lies within the South Devon Heritage Coast.

Get wild about Devon

is a wildlife appreciation scheme for tourism businesses in Devon who are serious about proactively improving wildlife as part of their business. The scheme is supported by Devon County Council on behalf of Visit Devon.

www.visitdevon.co.uk



Whitestrand Boat Hire

▲ At low tide large expanses of mud are exposed. Within the mud there are incredible numbers of bacteria which are working to break down organic material deposited by the incoming tide. The mud provides an ideal habitat for several types of burrowing fauna including worms, snails and shellfish which support huge numbers of birds, fish and other life.

The estuary provides roosting and feeding sites to many species of birds including cormorant, mute swan, mallard and shelduck, all of which breed within the estuary. At low tide the expansive food rich mudflats support redshank, oystercatcher and curlew which forage in the sediment. Egrets and herons roost in the trees along the estuary, the best place to see them is on the left past Snapes Point up 'The Bag'. The woodlands that surround parts of the estuary also provide habitat where grey heron and little egret breed.

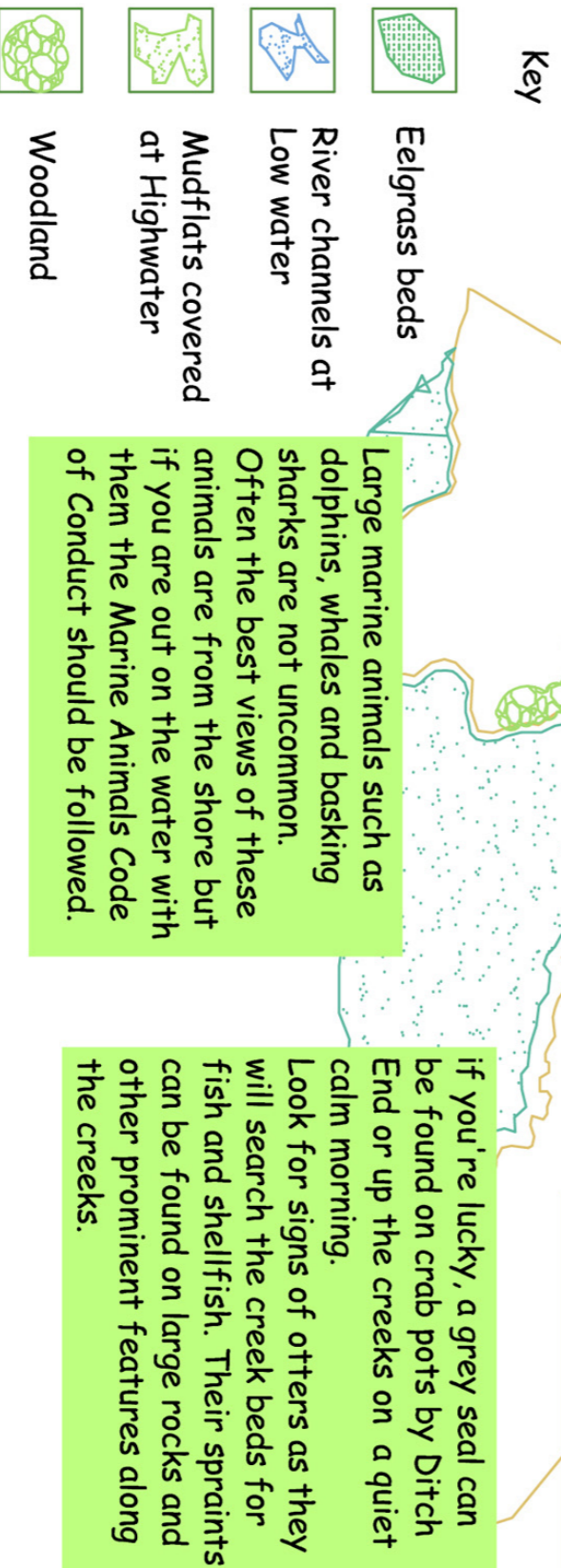
▲ Bowcombe Creek is a haven for wildlife with swans choosing to nest in this area and the potential to spot a kingfisher fly-by. There is an excellent purpose made bird watching platform just up from new bridge which provides superb views of the wildlife.

▲ Visit West Charleton Marsh to see the wonderful array of birds and other wildlife that call the estuary home. Teal, wigeon, little egret, little grebe, curlew, black-tailed godwit and snipe can be seen and roosting oystercatchers at high tide.

▲ The eelgrass beds are home to breeding seahorses and are therefore very sensitive to propeller damage. Always turn-off your propeller when nearing this area.

Large marine animals such as dolphins, whales and basking sharks are not uncommon. Often the best views of these animals are from the shore but if you are out on the water with them the Marine Animals Code of Conduct should be followed.

if you're lucky, a grey seal can be found on crab pots by Ditch End or up the creeks on a quiet calm morning. Look for signs of otters as they will search the creek beds for fish and shellfish. Their spraints can be found on large rocks and other prominent features along the creeks.



Species List

at Whitestrand Boat Hire

Trees & Shrubs

Ash
Beech
Black Alder
Blackthorn
Buddleia
Elder
Field Maple
Hawthorn
Hazel
Holly
Oak
Rowan
Scots pine
Silver Birch
Sweet chestnut
Wild cherry
Willow

Plants

Annual meadow grass
Bluebell
Bramble
Burdock
Cleavers
Cocksfoot
Ground Ivy
Giant hogweed

Common dog violet
Cow parsley
Creeping buttercup
Creeping Thistle
Enchanters nightshade
Honeysuckle
Greater plantain
Greater sedge
Herb Robert
Honeysuckle
Herb Bennet
Germander speedwell
Ivy
Lord and ladies
Marsh marigold
Nettles
Primrose
Red campion
Snowdrop
Timothy
Water figwort
Water mint
Yellow flag iris
Yorkshire fog

Mammals

Badger
Bank vole

Common shrew
Field mouse
Fox
Hedgehog
Mole
Pipistrelle bat
Roe Deer
Rabbit
Stoat
Wood mouse

Ferns

Hard fern
Harts tongue fern
Lady fern
Male fern
Scaly male fern

Birds

Bar tailed godwit
Black tailed godwit
Blackbird
Blackcap
Blue tit
Buzzard
Canada goose
Carrion crow
Chaffinch

Chiffchaff
Coal tit
Curlew
Dunlin
Fieldfare
Goldfinch
Great tit
Greater spotted woodpecker
Greenfinch
Goldeneye
Green woodpecker
House martin
House sparrow
Jackdaw
Jay
Kestrel
Little egret
Long-tailed tit
Mallard
Mute Swan
Moorhen
Oystercatcher
Pied wagtail
Peregrine
Raven
Redshank
Redwing

Robin
Rook
Sedge warbler
Skylark
Song thrush
Sparrowhawk
Stock dove
Swallow
Swift
Tawny owl
Whitethroat
Wren
Whimbrel
Yellow hammer

Reptiles & Amphibians

Common lizard
Frog
Grass snake
Palmate newt
Slow worm
Toad

NB This is not a comprehensive list

Wildlife places of interest nearby

Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve (NNR, SSSI) – OS Map: SX 827 443

The largest freshwater lake in the southwest, it is separated from the sea by the narrow shingle ridge known as Slapton sands. There is plenty to see, waterfowl include tufted duck, coot, golden eye, great crested grebe and mammals include badger, otter, dormouse and many species of bats. Slapton Bridge, which divides the two leys, is a great vantage point to watch the plethora of wildlife that the reserve supports. **For more information Tel: 01548 580685.**

Beesands – OS Map: SX 819 410

The small village of Beesands sits behind a mile long stretch of shingle beach. There is a small freshwater lagoon 'Widdecombe Ley' which is an important wildlife site. There is a bird hide which is open to the public from which to watch the wildfowl and other wildlife that visits this ley. **For more information contact Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust Tel: 01803 882619.**

Start Point – OS Map: SX 821 374

A perfect spot for watching the sun go down looking at the lighthouse and the stunning scenery. It is also a good place to watch the summer migrant birds such as willow warbler, chiffchaff and wheatear arriving. March and April is the best time for the migrants, however all year round interest includes peregrine, kestrel, raven and circl bunting. Look out on to the rocks known as Pear Tree Point and you may see a seal or two. **For more information Tel: 01803 882619.**

Prawle Point – OS Map: SX 741 373

Coastal headland south of the village of East Prawle, great views and one of the best bird migration points. Spring and autumn are the best time. Circl bunting breed in the area.