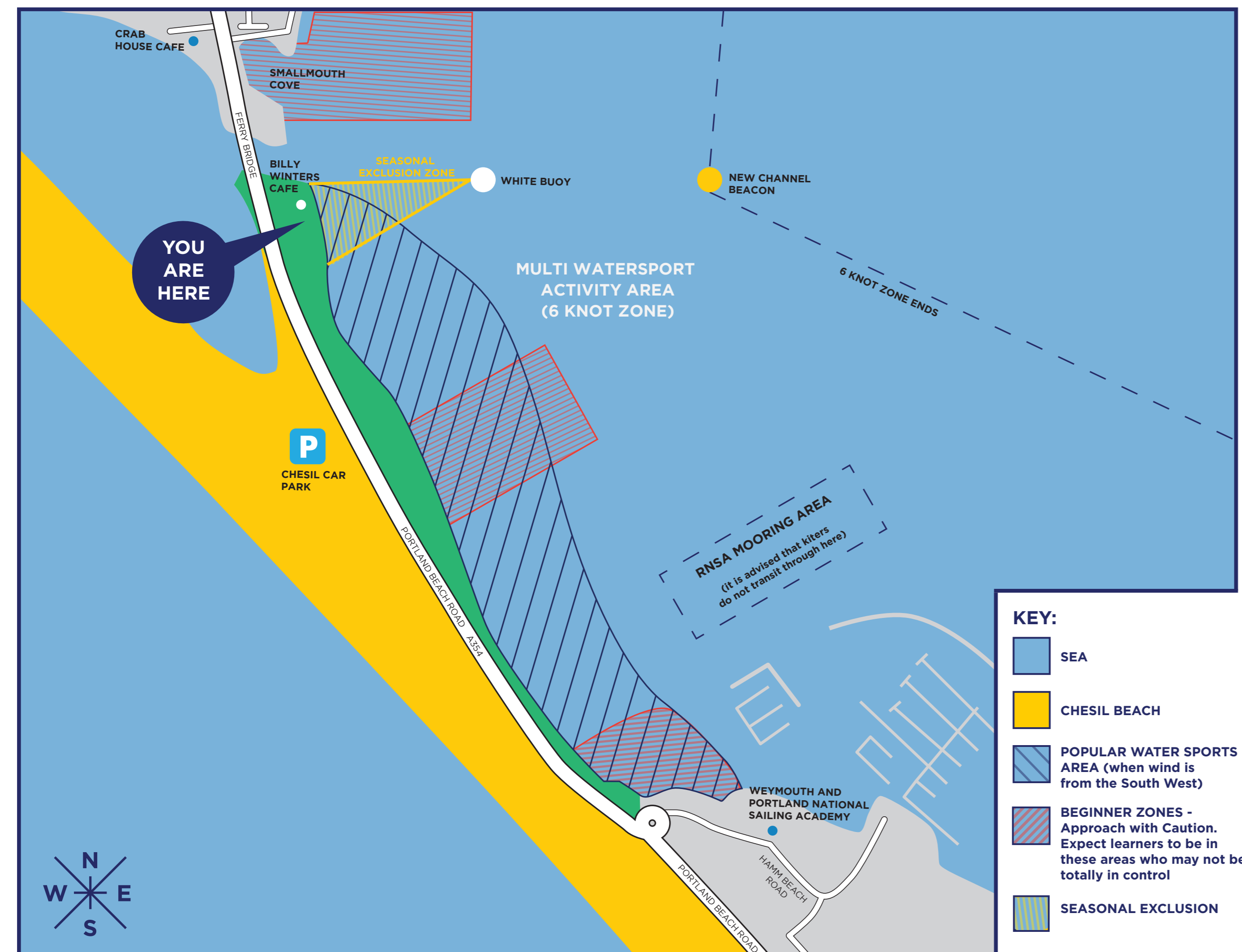


PORTLAND HARBOUR KITESURFING



In case of emergency dial 999 or (112 from a mobile) and ask for the Coastguard.

For more information on kitesports visit www.britishkitesports.org



Specific Location Risks

- For independent kitesurfing (without an instructor present) you must have a level of training and be competent whether that be BKSA Intermediate / IKO qualification or otherwise. Only approved Schools can teach.
- After initial lessons, only go kiting where others are at hand to assist. Give yourself more space than experienced kitesurfers and if you are new to the area, seek advice from local kitesurfers.
- Be aware of changing weather conditions during your session, consider landing your kite during a squall or storm. Never fly a kite in a lightening storm and be prepared for potential gusts.
- Check and understand the tides, and how they might affect the launching, landing and riding area as well as identifying local navigational hazards. Exercise special caution when launching in the Harbour in an easterly wind direction at high tide, you risk being blown onto the main road.
- Be aware of the fast movement of water under Ferrybridge during the ebb and flood of the tide. Keep well clear.
- Be aware of the location and operating dates of the Seasonal Exclusion Zone (usually June - September) on Hamm Beach and adhere to the General Direction. Do not ignore the Seasonal Exclusion Zone. It is there to keep other water users safe & offenders may be prosecuted.
- Assisted launching/landing is recommended, facing the water and in a non-crowded area.
- Ensure you are capable and competent in deep water and know how to perform an effective self rescue before heading out. Be sure you can handle the prevailing weather conditions and conduct a risk assessment of the launching, landing and riding area before deciding to go out - **if in doubt, don't go out.**
- Make yourself familiar with the General Directions / Information Charts and Local Notices to Mariners for the Harbour. Full details of these, as well as information on purchasing permits and permitted Kitesurfing schools can be found by visiting; www.portland-port.co.uk/leisure

Kitesurfing Code of Conduct

- All riders must hold a Portland Harbour Kitesurf Permit & current 3rd party specialist kitesurfing insurance (available with BKSA membership). Permit tag must be displayed whilst kitesurfing. By applying for the permit you must confirm that you have insurance (min. £3 Million) and are of the ability level as shown in the application, can do a deep water pack down and self rescue. A full list of T&Cs can be found in the Portland Kitesurfing Permit Application Form.
- All kitesurf instructors must be certified by an internationally recognised organisation, and teach under one of the three kitesurf schools as approved by Portland Harbour Authority - CS Boardsports, The Official Test Centre (OTC) and One Ten Kitesurfing.
- Look around you 360 degrees before you turn and before any aerial manoeuvre. Check the proposed landing area is clear and assess if the jump goes wrong, might there be someone in the way?! Maintain a downwind safety zone!
- Exercise extreme caution when performing aerial manoeuvres. Don't put others at risk by jumping over water users or jumping close to the beach in the launching/landing area (even if there is a good photo opportunity).
- Always assist fellow kitesurfers when launching and landing and treat all water users and public with respect and consideration. Do not ask inexperienced members of the public to assist in launching / landing kites.
- Wearing a helmet and impact vest is recommended, as well as carrying a knife for emergencies.
- Always use an effective kite safety leashing system and check it regularly for wear and malfunction.
- Wrap your lines when not in use and secure your kite. Foil boards must not be left on the sand when not in use.
- Be courteous and aim to maintain a 50m safe distance from the beach and other water / beach users at all times.
- Mark your equipment with your name and number and if you lose your kite or board when on the water, **ALWAYS** report it to the Coastguard and to the Portland Harbour Authority.
- Don't ride alone, buddy up.

Public Information

Portland Harbour is a popular venue for many surface and sub-surface based water sports and is one of the largest man-made harbours in Europe. It is accessible in any wind direction and tide state and boasts some of the best wind statistics in the UK.

Hamm Beach, near Ferrybridge Boatyard shown above is the most popular launching and landing spot which has car parks nearby. Hamm Beach can get extremely busy on sunny, windy days.

The Harbour can also be busy with other water users such as Swimmers, Divers, RIBS and Motor Cruisers, Yachts, Fishing vessels, Dinghies, Kayaks, SUPs, Windsurfers, Wing Foils, E-Foils & PWCs.

The Kitesurfing Code of Conduct has been introduced as an attempt to improve the safety record of the sport. However for this to be successful the general public, the parents of families, dog walkers and other water users are asked to play their part by being diligent, being aware of their surroundings and by taking the relevant actions to avoid incidents.

Kitesurfing Etiquette & Rights of Way

- A kitesurfer must know the Collision Regulations and abide by them.
- Avoid collisions at all costs.
- The kitesurfer exiting, gives way to the kiter entering the water.
- Landing kiter gives way to the launching kiter.
- Give way to kites body dragging or with their kite in the water.
- The upwind kiteboarder gives way to the downwind kiteboarder.
- The kiteboarder on port tack (left hand leading) gives way to the kiteboarder on starboard tack (right hand leading).
- When crossing close to another kiter, the upwind kiter keeps his kite high, and the downwind kiter keeps his kite low.
- Do not jump upwind of others or obstacles and give plenty of space to land / run-off. Never jump over land.
- Look before you turn & in all directions (including up) before you jump.
- Give space when passing people - especially when on foils (3-5 meter minimum safe distance).
- Give priority to all by-standers at any time.
- Give priority to swimmers, surfers and paddle boarders.
- Watch out for beginners and keep your distance.

