

# Sustainability Subgroup Meeting Notes

## SUP Hub Meeting - 22 May

### Attendees

- Sarah Greenslade, The Seal Project
- Helen Ambler, Torbay Communities

### Topics Discussed

#### 1. Silent approach

Ensuring paddleboarders are aware of their surroundings, as paddleboards are silent on approach.

#### 2. Wildlife Disturbance

**Seals:** Efforts must be made to minimise or eliminate disturbances to seals, especially during pupping season (August through January, with September and October being critical months).

**Nesting Birds at Berry Head:** Education and awareness - Providing information about nesting birds.

#### 3. Seagrass Beds Protection

- **Location Marking:** Identifying and marking seagrass beds on maps to prevent disturbance. This is critical for the vegetation itself and the wildlife habitat it provides.

#### 4. Litter on Beaches

- **Leave No Trace Principle:** Ensuring visitors understand the importance of leaving the water and beaches as they found them.

#### 5. Seal Monitoring During Races

- **Protective Measures:** Implementing monitoring and potentially creating protective zones around seal populations during races.

### Action Items

#### 1. Update the SUP Hub Map

- Include jet ski lanes, five-knot markers, seagrass beds, and swimming buoys.

#### 2. Consistent Messaging

- Keep messaging about habitat conservation strong across all platforms and communications.

The meeting concluded with a strong emphasis on the importance of continued dedication to preserving the UNESCO Geopark's rich biodiversity and natural habitats in the English Riviera and Torbay. The sustainability subgroup remains committed to using all available tools and methods to promote these efforts and ensure the area's ecological integrity.

### Next Meeting:

**Date:** 18th June

**Time:** Evening (attendees could not commit to a daytime session this time.)

**Mission:** To develop a community-led culture of SUP within Torbay and the English Riviera.

We encourage all interested parties to join us at our next meeting to further our collective goals to make Torbay and the English Riviera the SUP capital of the UK.