
Incident Recording Process Report 2013

The Wash & North Norfolk Coast
European Marine Site



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Executive Summary

- The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site (WNNC EMS) Management Scheme has been monitoring the incidence of different forms of recreational disturbance to the conservation features of the site with the Incident Recording Process (IRP) since 2004.
- This information has proved most valuable, alerting the WNNC EMS and site managers to disturbance hot spots, as well as to problem issues that may be occurring across the site.
- The WNNC EMS management scheme recognises that the IRP system would not function without the dedication and support of site managers and volunteers, our appreciation and sincere thanks goes to all who partake in this project.
- During 2013 a total of 637 disturbance incidents were recorded; with 84.5% of these recorded at Gibraltar Point, 13.7% at North Norfolk Sites and 1.9% recorded at sites in the Wash.
- The top three incidents across the WNNC EMS were litter (26.5%), dogs (19.2%) and vehicles (13.3%).
- Seasonality trends in the frequency of incidents recorded peaks during March, May and August, it could be speculated that these trends fall in line with school breaks (Easter holidays, summer half-term, and summer holidays).
- Temporal trends across the week are also noticeable with the number of incidents recorded across the WNNC EMS increasing on Saturday and Sunday all year round.
- Civilian aviation related disturbance across the WNNC EMS was recorded in the top three of incidents at six individual sites.
- Litter and dog related incidents also ranked high across WNNC EMS with vehicles and walkers falling within the top five incidents reported.
- As such effort should be made by the WNNC EMS Project Manager together with site managers to investigate new opportunities to reduce disturbance caused by these activities to conservation features.

1. Introduction

The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site (WNNC EMS) Management Scheme has been monitoring the incidence of different forms of forms of recreational disturbance to the conservation features of the site with the Incident Recording Process(IRP) since 2004. This information has proved most valuable, alerting the WNNC EMS and site managers to disturbance hot spots, as well as problem issues that are occurring across the site. The WNNC EMS management scheme recognises that the IRP system would not function without the dedication and support of site managers and volunteers, our appreciation and thanks goes to all who have submitted a record this year.

2. Results Summary

A total of 637 disturbance incidents were recorded during 2013; with 84.5% of these recorded at Gibraltar Point, 13.7% at North Norfolk Sites and 1.9% recorded at sites in the Wash. Figure 1 demonstrates the percentage of disturbance types recorded; top three incidents across the WNNC EMS were litter (26.5%), dogs (19.2%) and vehicles (13.3%).

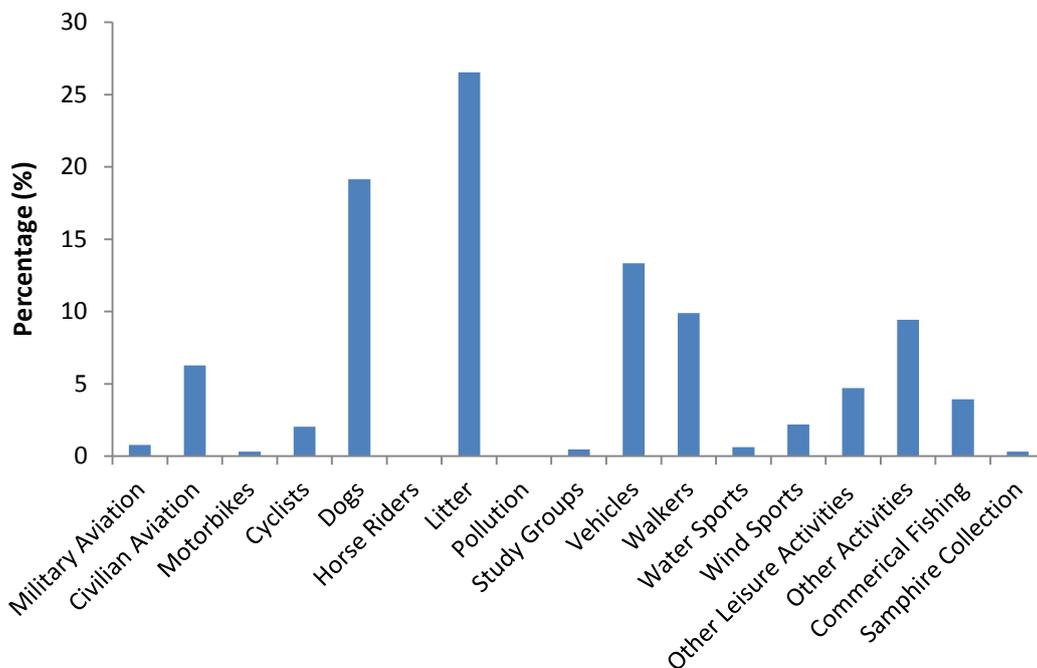


Figure 1. Percentage of incidents recorded across Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site during 2013.

For the first year samphire harvesting was recorded along the North Norfolk Coast. The intention of this monitoring was to record any suspicious ‘commercial scale’ collection; only two incidents of this type were recorded one at Wells and another at Scolt Head (Fig.2). Civilian aviation disturbance incidents were the top recorded incident across the WNNC EMS, these recorded at six sites (Gibraltar Point, Blakeney, Holkham, Frampton and Freiston). However, when ranked by proportion of incidents per site civilian aircraft incidents rank in fifth (Fig.3). With the top incident reported by site being litter (26.5%), followed by dogs (19.2%), vehicles (13.3%) and walkers (9.9%).

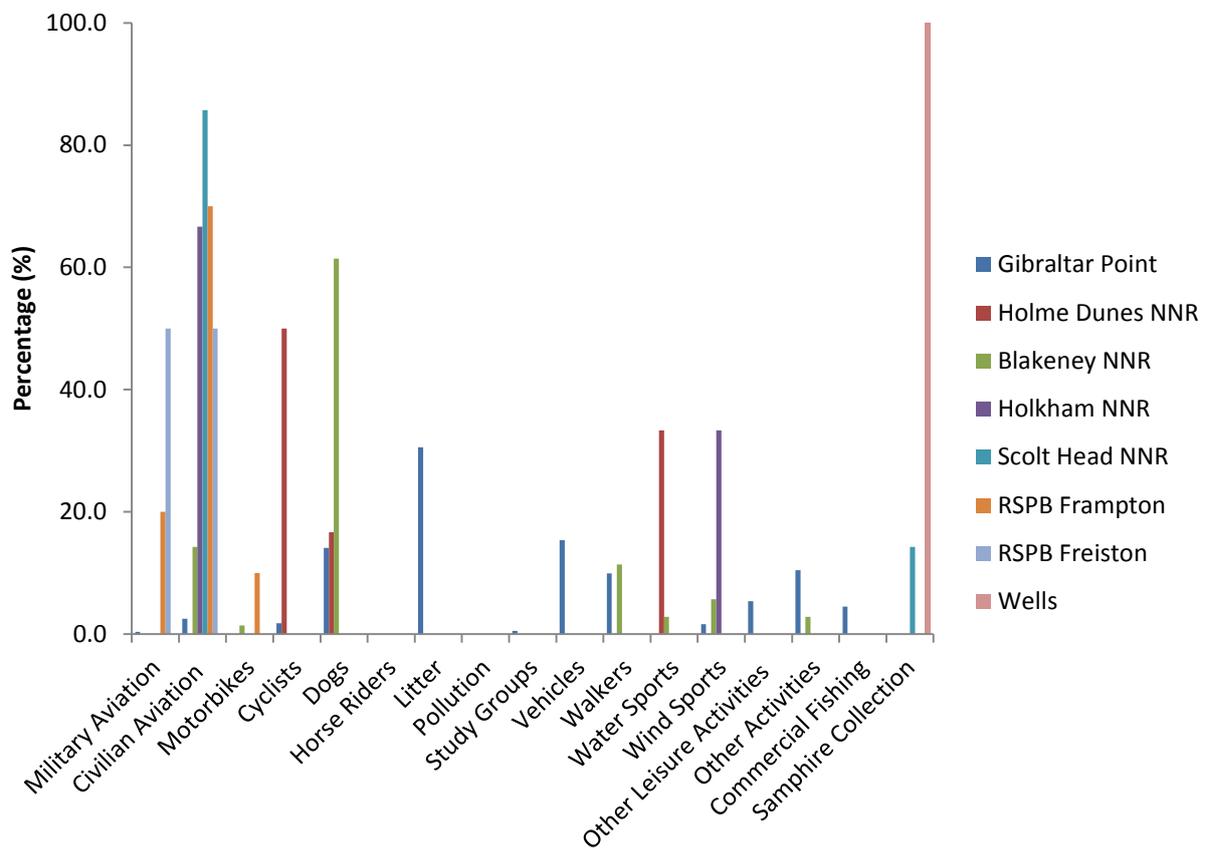


Figure 2. Percentage of incident type recorded at each site during 2013.

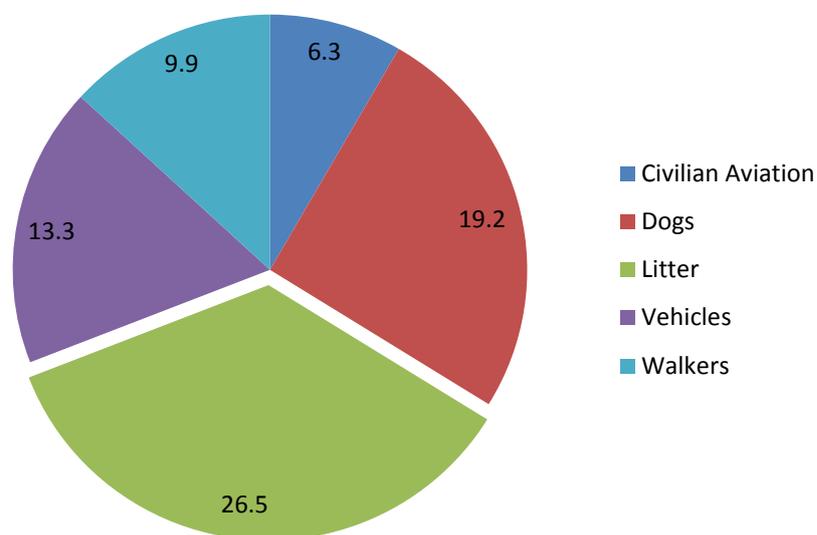


Figure 3. Percentage of top five incidents recorded by site across Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site during 2013.

Seasonality trends in the frequency of incidents recorded is noticeable with peaks during March, May and August. It appears that these peaks coincide with school breaks i.e. Easter holidays, summer half-term, and summer holidays (Fig. 4).

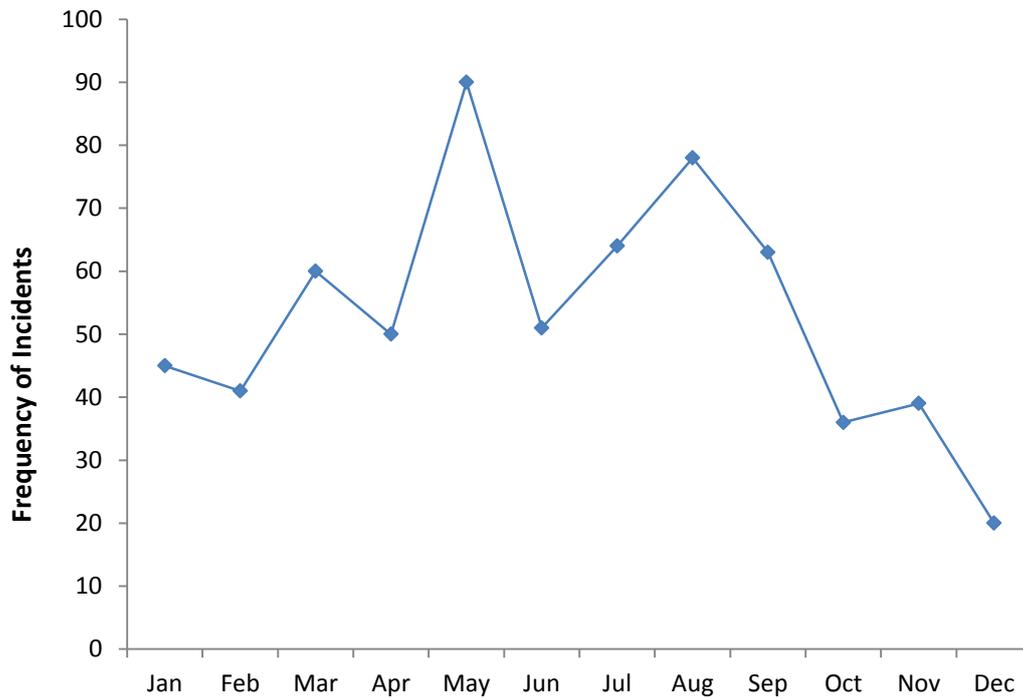


Figure 4. Frequency of incidents recorded across Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site during 2013.

Temporal trends across the week are noticeable with the number of incidents recorded across the WNNC EMS increasing at the weekend all year round (Fig. 5).

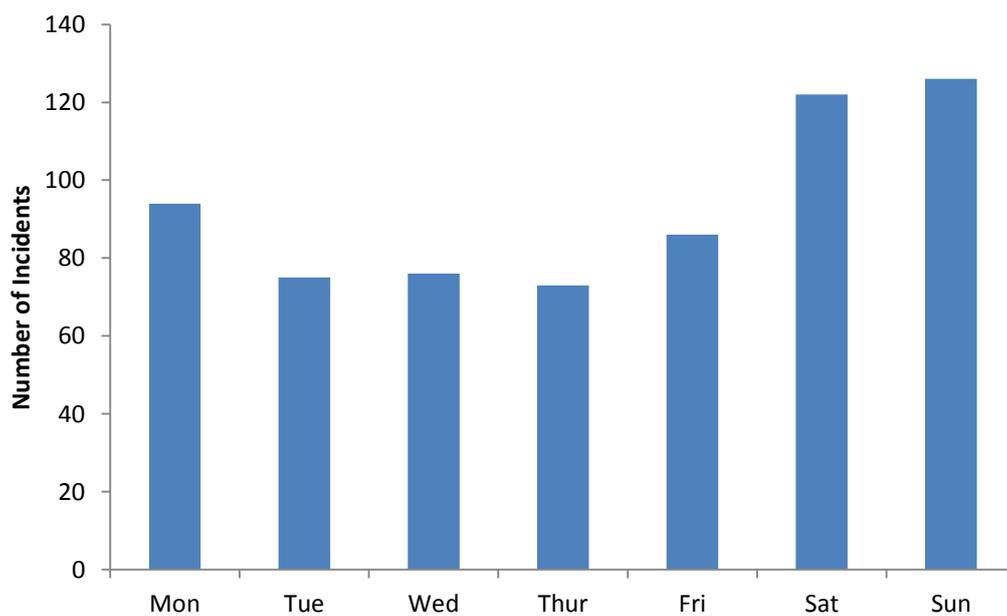


Figure 5. Frequency of incidents recorded across Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site during 2013.

3. Managed Sites Summary

3.1 Cley

There were no records received during 2013.

3.2 Blakeney

There were a total of 70 records of incidents received during 2013; this is a 100% increase on incidents recorded during 2012. Figure 6 highlight the top three incidents, these being dogs (43), civilian aviation (10) and walkers (8). The recorded proportion of incidents at this site amounted for 11% of recorded incidents across the whole of the WNNC EMS. Figure 7 demonstrates the remaining reported incidents comprised of wind sports (5.7%), water sports (2.9%), other activities (2.9%), and motorbikes (1.4%).

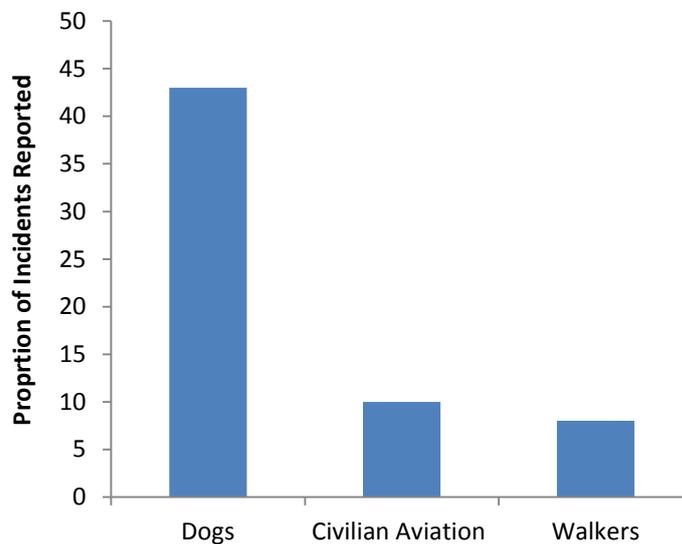


Figure 6. Top incidents recorded at Blakeney during 2013.

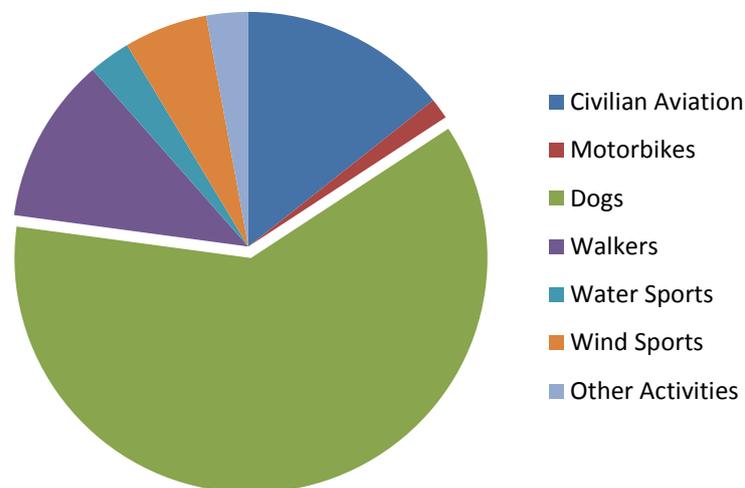


Figure 7. Percentage of all incidents recorded at Blakeney during 2013.

3.3 Holkham

There were a total of 3 records of incidents received during 2013; this is a 100% increase on incidents recorded during 2012. Figure 8 highlight these incidents, these being civilian aviation (2) and wind sports (1). The recorded proportion of incidents at this site amounted for 0.5% of recorded incidents across the whole of the WNNC EMS. No other incidents were reported.

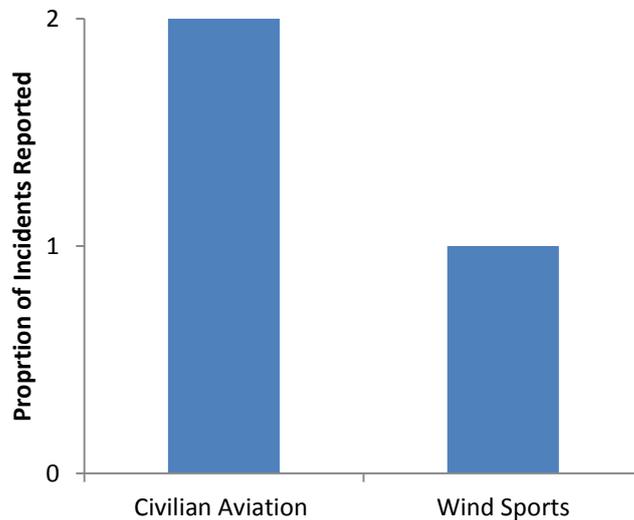


Figure 8. Top incidents recorded at Holkham during 2013.

3.4 Scolt Head

There were a total of 7 records of incidents received during 2013; this is a 100% increase on incidents recorded during 2012. Figure 9 highlight three incidents recorded, these being civilian aviation (6) and samphire collection (1). The recorded proportion of incidents at this site amounted for 1.1% of recorded incidents across the whole of the WNNC EMS. No other incidents were reported.

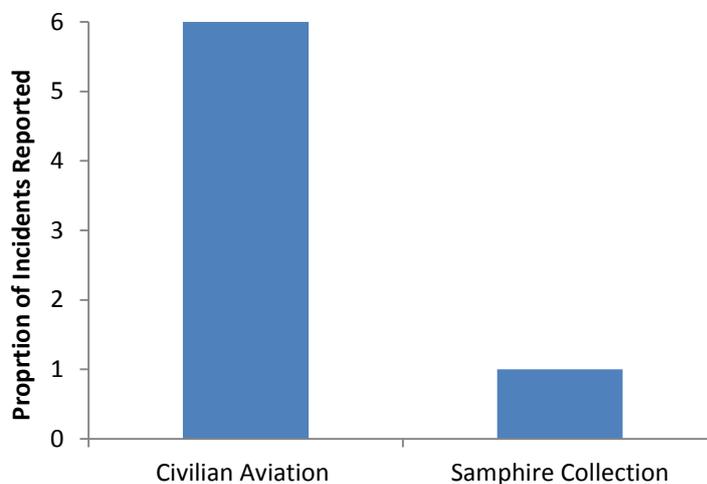


Figure 9. Top incidents recorded at Scolt Head during 2013.

3.5 RSPB Titchwell Marsh

There were no records received during 2013. This is a 100% decline from 2012 recorded incidents.

3.6 Holme

There were a total of 6 records of incidents received during 2013; this is a 100% increase on incidents recorded during 2012. Figure 10 highlight the top three incidents recorded, these being cyclists (3), water sports (2) and dogs (1). The recorded proportion of incidents at this site amounted for 0.9% of recorded incidents across the whole of the WNNC EMS. No other incidents were reported.

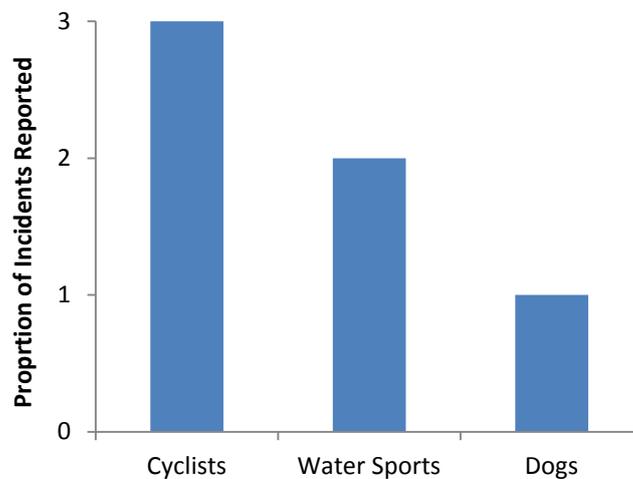


Figure 10. Top incidents recorded at Holme during 2013.

3.7 RSPB Snettisham

There were no records received during 2013.

3.8 RAF Holbeach

There were no records received during 2013.

3.9 RSPB Freiston

There were a total of 2 records of incidents received during 2013; this is a 100% increase on incidents recorded during 2012. Figure 11 highlight these: military aviation (1), civilian aviation (1). The recorded proportion of incidents at this site amounted for 0.3% of recorded incidents across the whole of the WNNC EMS. No other incidents were reported.

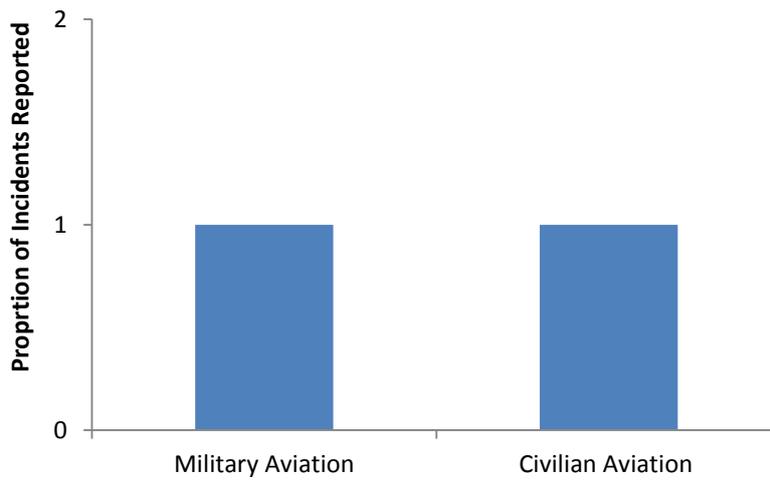


Figure 11. Top incidents recorded at RSPB Freiston during 2013.

3.10 RAF Wainfleet

There were no records received during 2013.

3.11 RSPB Frampton

There were a total of 10 records of incidents received during 2013; this is an increase of 7 incidents recorded during 2012. Figure 12 highlight these: civilian aviation (7), military aviation (2) and motorbikes (1). The recorded proportion of incidents at this site amounted for 1.6% of recorded incidents across the whole of the WNNC EMS. No other incidents were reported.

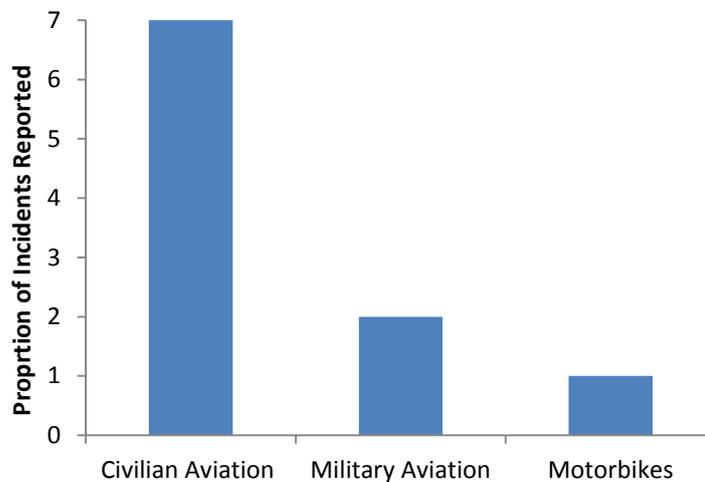


Figure 12. Top incidents recorded at RSPB Frampton during 2013.

3.12 Gibraltar Point

There were a total of 553 records of incidents received during 2013; this is a decrease of 41 incidents recorded during 2012. Figure 13 highlight the top three incidents, these being litter (169), vehicles (85) and dogs (78). The recorded proportion of incidents at this site amounted for 84.5% of recorded incidents across the whole of the WNNC EMS. Figure 14 demonstrates the remaining reported incidents comprised of other activities (10.5%), walkers (9.9%), other leisure activities (5.4%), commercial fishing (4.5%), civilian aviation (2.5%), cyclists (1.8%), wind sport (1.6%), study groups (0.5%), and military aviation (0.4%).

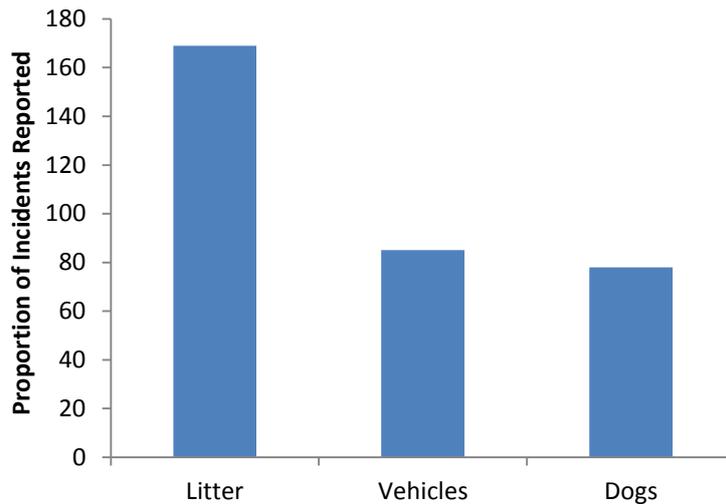


Figure 13. Top incidents recorded at Gibraltar Point during 2013.

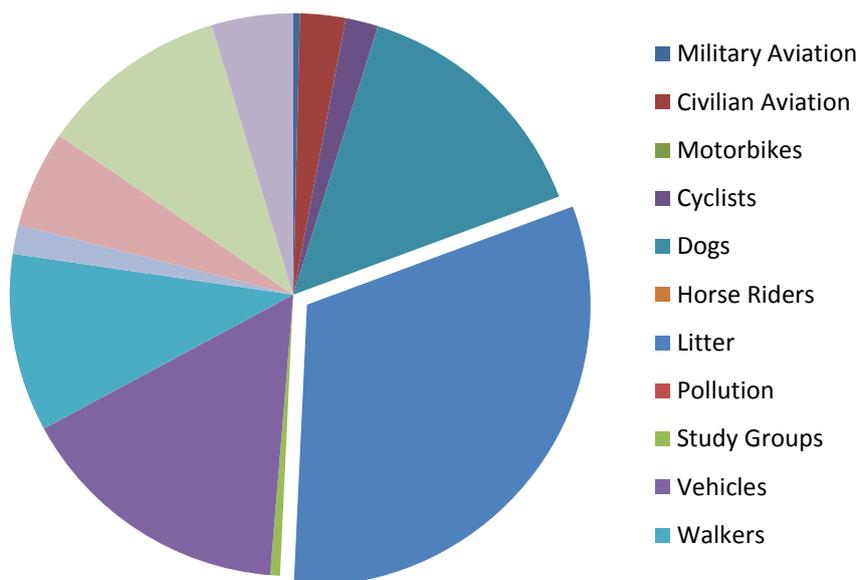


Figure 14. Percentage of all incidents recorded at Gibraltar Point during 2013.

3.13 Wells

There was 1 incident received during 2013, this is a 100% increase on incidents recorded during 2012. Figure 15 highlight the only incident recorded; samphire collection (1).

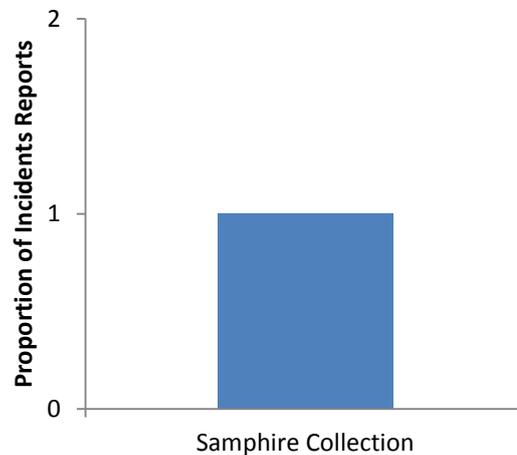


Figure 15. Top incidents recorded at Wells during 2013.

4. Unmanaged sites

There were no records received during 2013 for the following sites: Heacham Beach, Hunstanton, Sutton Bridge and The Wash NNR.

5. Conclusion

Due to the limited number of IRP records received during 2012 (possibly due to a decrease in momentum given to the IRP system due to WNNC EMS project staff changes in 2012) analysis of temporal trends between 2012 and 2013 is therefore limited to two sites. During 2013 a total of 637 disturbance incidents were recorded, compared to 605 reports in 2012; an increase of 32 incidents. Caution must be applied when considering the data across all sites in the European Marine Site, as 84.5% of incidents recorded in 2013 were specific for Gibraltar Point; as such a bias in effort towards this site should be recognised and is not indicative of trends across the whole European Marine Site (13.7% recorded at North Norfolk Coast and 1.9% at managed sites in the Wash).

It is interesting to note that clear peaks in the frequency of incidents recorded are noticeable during March, May and August, these appear to coincide with school holidays; resulting in an increase of people and activities to the site. A temporal trend also appears to occur all year round with the number of incidents recorded increasing on Saturday and Sunday.

Civilian aviation related disturbance across the WNNC EMS should be noted. This type of incident was recorded in the top three of incidents at six individual sites. Litter and dog related incidents also ranked high across WNNC EMS with vehicles and walkers also falling within the top five reported. As such effort should be made by the WNNC EMS Project Manager together with site managers to investigate new opportunities to reduce disturbance caused by these activities.