



Great Seagrass Survey - Safety Tips

General safety tips:

- Ensure that you park safely and legally and are not blocking any emergency access points.
- Access the shore by a public right of way if possible or ensure that you have the landowner's permission to access.
- Don't drop litter or damage property, leave the site as you found it.
- Seagrass is happy growing where it is, please don't pick or pull any seagrass up.
- Your safety is more important than your survey - if in doubt, don't go out. You can always do your survey another day.
- In an emergency at the coast or at sea dial 999 and ask for "Coastguard". They will coordinate the necessary rescue assets (e.g. coastguard mud rescue or cliff rescue teams, lifeboat, helicopter, ambulance)

Dive and snorkel safety tips:

The [map](#) of potential seagrass survey sites shows positions of known and suspected seagrass. It is not a map of approved or safe dive sites. A seagrass site being marked on the map is no guarantee that it is safe to dive.

It is up to you to choose a safe site to dive and to be prepared to abandon the dive or change locations if the conditions are not right. Nor does it indicate public parking or access. It is up to you and your group to park and access the site, legally, safely and responsibly.

- Follow the Divers Code of Conduct (<https://www.bsac.com/safety/safe-diving-guide/the-divers-code-of-conduct/>)

You should be properly trained and equipped to conduct snorkel or scuba dives.

- Ideally conduct your dives as part of a properly managed group who can provide surface cover whilst you are diving and be able to respond appropriately in an emergency.
- Leave word ashore with a responsible person who can contact the emergency services if you are overdue.
- Ensure that you dive within the limits of your abilities and qualifications.
- Be aware of task fixation. Data gathering is not of prime importance. Your safe return to the surface is.
- Follow the UK's sport diving governing body's guidance for safe diving (<https://www.bsac.com/safety/bsacs-safe-diving-guide/>)

Shore survey specific tips:

- Make sure you check the tide times before you start your survey. Aim to start your survey around 1 hr before low tide.
- Keep an eye on the sea while you are surveying. The tide can come in more quickly than you realise.
- Do not conduct your survey where there is any chance that you may get cut off by the tide.
- Walk only on firm sand. Do not walk out on mud flats or areas of sand which your feet sink into. If in doubt - don't go out.
- Don't conduct a survey or cross any area that you wouldn't feel happy being on for a normal visit to the beach.
- Take care on rocks which could be loose, steep or slippery.
- If you aren't dressed and equipped for snorkelling or diving, don't enter the water.
- Know exactly where you are so that a) you are able to record your survey position accurately but more importantly b) you can tell the Coastguard exactly where you are in case of emergency. The what3words app is a one way you can provide an accurate location.