

**Table 18: Access**

	<b>Relevant Authorities for this activity</b>	<b>Other Competent Authorities</b>	<b>Other associated organisations</b>
<b>Authorities associated with activity</b>	Isle of Wight Council (IWC) Right of Way Department and Ventnor Haven; English Nature (EN)		
<b>Location</b>	A public footpath and bridleway runs all the way from Bembridge to Needles, covering the whole of the SWMEMS area. Access through Rights of Access Areas as designated by the Countryside Agency can be found at Culver Cliff, the Needles, Compton Bay and Rocken End, however, conditions limit these areas to public use on foot; horses and bicycles are not permitted and dogs are restricted to leads. There are numerous slipways can be found throughout the SWMEMS at Ventnor, Shanklin and Sandown.		
<b>Frequency</b>	All year round, however, intensity varies both seasonally (greatest use in summer), spatially (with some areas having greater land use intensity than others) and with type of access (motor vehicular access for example causing greater deterioration and disturbance than access by foot).		
<b>Potential effects with regards to Reg. 33 advice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Visual presence</li> <li>• Abrasion</li> <li>• Introduction of synthetic and non-synthetic compounds.</li> </ul>		
<b>Research undertaken</b>	None		
<b>Research required</b>	Any negative impacts as a result of the activities.		
<b>Ongoing management</b>	<p>Access can be along public rights of way, shorelines with public access, public or private slipways, areas with right to roam as defined in the CROW act and other areas of public open space. The activity is mostly on foot, with lesser degrees of access by horse, bicycle, boat, motor vehicle or boat and motor vehicle combined (as on slipways and some beaches). The IWC can make by-laws relating to the use and conduct of persons on public open space. The council may enter into an agreement with any person having the necessary power in that behalf for the dedication by that person of a footpath or bridleway over land in their area. The IWC also have powers to encourage visitors. The IWC also promotes walks across most the SWMEMS area. This is done through a mixture of an annual walking festival, a series of guided walks promoted by the countryside section of the council and through the promotion of the Isle of Wight coastal footpath. The council also promotes a series of regattas and sailing weeks the majority of which are based in the SWMEMS area. No policies exist with regard to individual rights of way in the Shoreline Management Plan, however, along the South West coast the council policy aims at improving access to the footpaths. On the West coast the council policy aims at improving, maintaining and providing more public footpaths. All plans demonstrate a need to keep all existing rights of way open and to encourage responsible use of these rights of way. The landowner's permission is also an important part of the management of this activity.</p> <p>Permission is required from EN for any operation likely to damage a SSSI. EN may consent, assist or advise on any operations listed as 'an operation requiring EN's consent (formerly Operations Likely to Damage, OLD). EN is able to prosecute anyone for damage to a SSSI under the CRoW Act 2000. EN is also able to make byelaws for the protection of a European marine site under Regulation 36 of the Conservation Regulations 1994 but this is considered a last resort in the management of this site. EN are able to restrict access in areas where the activity may affect the conservation value of the site. This is rarely used, there are currently no instances within SWMEMS, when it is used this is with good reason e.g. Needs Ore Turn nesting site. In other areas EN work with Owner Occupiers to agree management agreements to conserve the SSSIs. Access is included on the OLD lists for all SSSIs.</p>		
<b>Gaps in management</b>			
<b>New actions required</b>	<b>Relevant Authority to implement new actions</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	
1. IWC - AONB information to be fed back to management group (is level of usage increasing)	IWC	Annual	
2. Management group to seek information from Roger Herbert's studies (Medina Valley Centre)	Secretariat	Annual	
3. Identify sites for interpretation and seek to educate in access areas.	IWC Secretariat	One-off initially	