

## **VOLUNTARY CODE OF CONDUCT FOR KITESURFERS IN GROUVILLE BAY**

Following a meeting at the Société Jersiaise on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007, at which 2 members of the Kitesurfing Association were present as were members of the Environment, Fisheries and Marine departments, in addition to members of the Ornithological society and other interested parties, it was agreed that a Voluntary Code of Conduct ("Voluntary Code") would be created by the Kitesurfing Association ("JKSA") in relation to kitesurfing in the Bay of Grouville.

The aim of this Voluntary Code being to protect and respect, amongst other wildlife, the endangered coastal birdlife residing in the shallow waters of the Bay.

It is suggested that all kitesurfers observe this simple Voluntary Code, the general Codes of Conduct as set out on the JKSA website (detailed in the Safety Section) and observe the Nature Reserve byelaws, so that their activities are more responsible and less likely to affect other users of the beach, sea and indeed wildlife in the area.

The South East coast of Jersey is a designated Ramsar Site of Special Scientific Interest. The Bay of Grouville falls within that area. A Guide for people using the water within the Ramsar site is available and kitesurfers are asked to follow this. Information relating to this can be found in Gorey Harbour and from the Environment Department.

Please Remember: kitesurfers are solely responsible for their own safety and that of affected bystanders. Just because we've published this Voluntary Code, we cannot be held liable for your actions. This Voluntary Code will be updated regularly as a result of continued developments in safety, kitesurfing equipment, consultation with local focus groups and other interested parties.

The JKSA strongly recommends that all kitesurfers obtain 3<sup>rd</sup> party insurance before kitesurfing. Details of which can be obtained from our website.

### **Why should we as kitesurfers adhere to the Voluntary Code?**

Every year thousands of visitors and local people take part in a variety of pursuits, hobbies and recreational activities along the coast. Our aim is to promote the responsible use of the coastline by kitesurfers, to help avoid damaging this special environment and harming its wildlife.

Recently coastal residents and wildlife groups have become concerned about certain aspects of kitesurfing both on the shore and within the water. The Voluntary Code represents an attempt to address their main concerns. The Code is voluntary but we hope it will go some way to ensuring that the beach, shoreline and sea continues to be enjoyed by all users. All activities in the Bay of Grouville should be conducted with respect to the local wildlife and wider environment, this includes kitesurfing.

As kitesurfers we thrive on the buzz of being driven by the wind, we don't pollute our environment, instead we move with the flow of the wind and the journey of the tide. Our enjoyment, for want of a better word, is created by the environment we are in. If we fail to honour the environment and the wildlife around us, then we fail to respect a world that was here before we were and indeed kitesurfing was invented!! By respecting our coastal environment we can ensure that kitesurfing will be around for many more years to come.

Remember, kitesurfing is a very visible sport. By adopting this Voluntary Code, we can collectively ensure that we minimise the risk of adverse attention, which could potentially give people reason to seek more formal restrictions.

The members of the JKSA would like to think that all its members respect the environment they kite within. By adhering to this Voluntary Code which we feel is fair and reasonable, we will be able to set an example to other sports who currently share our coast.

The JKSA are pleased to answer any concerns you have about this Voluntary Code and encourages all kitesurfers to become aware themselves of local concerns regarding their activities.

We are all passionate about maintaining our “right to ride” but remember fools who act dangerously or irresponsibly will not be tolerated on our beaches or sea.

We don’t want to discourage you from using the area. We hope you continue to find it a great place to enjoy, but please pledge your help to safeguard this precious resource for generations to come.

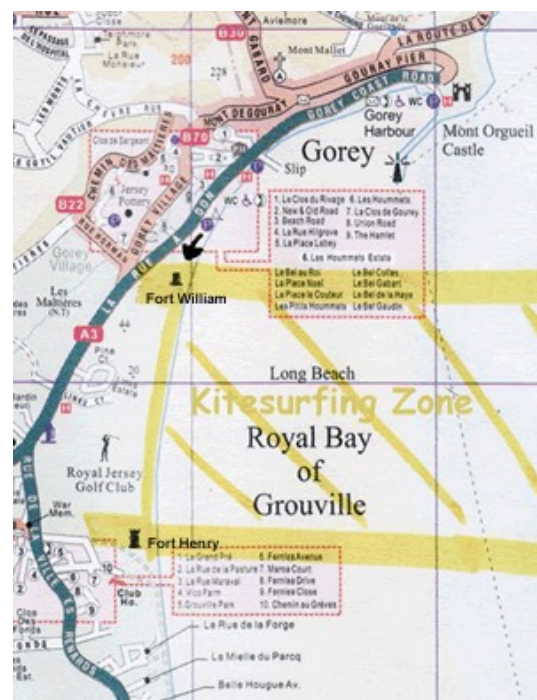
## Voluntary Code

### Area suitable for Kitesurfing, all year round

Please kite within the area marked on the map. This is basically the stretch of beach that falls in line with the majority of the golf course. It lies in between Fort William, which has now been turned into private residence (to the right of the car park and sand track to the beach, where Wet & Wild store their equipment) and Fort Henry (which is just before the Club House for the Royal Jersey Golf Club).

Adhering to kitesurfing, all year round, within this section of the Bay will ensure that the wildlife has an ability to seek refuge either side of us when we are kitesurfing within the sea or setting up / landing kites etc.

Use your common sense. If there is a large flock of geese or other birdlife on the beach or sea within this designated area please try to avoid disturbing them at all cost.



### Setting Up of Kitesurfing Equipment

It is suggested kites are inflated at the top of the beach but not on the sand dune banks or in the car park.

Kites are then to be walked down to the area of the shoreline and lines etc set-up. Please refer here to our standard Codes of Conduct detailed in the website under Safety.

### Launching of Kites

Kites are to be launched near the shoreline to ensure that bird life has adequate space up the beach and to the side of the voluntary designated kitesurfing area to rest and “escape” a kite.

Always keep your lines away from people, animals and craft on land.

This area should only be used to launch/land and never to practice land-based flying skills, especially jumping.

### Kitesurfing

Before flying your kite, check your immediate kitesurfing area for wildlife to ensure that you are not creating an unnecessary disturbance the minute you are up and riding.

Make a mental note of your location in respect to the designated kitesurfing area and ensure you remain within this area.

If you are more than 200 metres from the shore, it does not mean that you can kitesurf out of the designated area.

### **Landing of Kites**

Kites are to be landed near the shoreline and not flown up the beach. This is for your safety, the safety of bystanders and will ensure minimal disturbance of wildlife in the area. Please refer to our website for our general Codes of Conduct relating to safety.

As with launching, this area should only be used to land and never to practice land-based flying skills, especially jumping.

### **Carrying of Kites**

Kites must not be flown up or down the beach at any time. If possible kites should be deflated near the shoreline and carried up the beach. If this is not practical then kites may be safely carried up the beach but deflated before being taken off the designated kite surfing area.

### **The future**

The JKSA will continue to work closely with various local groups concerned about their coastal environment and ensure where possible that its members continue to respect the environment they choose to kite within.

Whilst the JKSA continues to grow from strength to strength with an ever increasing membership, it must not be forgotten that kitesurfing is a relatively new sport for Jersey and it is being continually monitored (along with other sea based sports), with consideration being given to its safety and suitability for Jersey waters. For the time being those concerned about our effect on the coastal environment in the Bay of Grouville, in particular, have agreed to wait and see whether our approach of self policing and common sense can work. If it doesn't, and it only takes one idiot to ruin all our hard work, then a ban will be back at the top of the agenda.....

So please kite safely, respect the environment and wildlife you are sharing your kitesurfing sessions with and be courteous to other beach and water-users.

The members of the JKSA all give their time for free and put many hours of work into the association generally to ensure the future of kitesurfing in Jersey. Most are on the water at every possible opportunity and enjoy sharing this great environment we all benefit from.

For further information on the JKSA, visit our website: [www.jerseykitesurfing.co.uk](http://www.jerseykitesurfing.co.uk).

For further information on Coastal Zone Management within Jersey, contact the Environment Department on 866214.

For further information on birdlife in Jersey, [www.jerseybirds.co.uk](http://www.jerseybirds.co.uk)