



CALSHOT SPOT GUIDE

Introduction

Calshot Spit is a great location for kitesurfing (& windsurfing/SUP/kayaking) with a variety of sailing conditions from butter flat water to rolling swell at high tide. Kiting from the official 'kite beach' in the HCC Activity Centre is by annual club membership only. Kiting from the NFDC 'car park' between the beach huts is unregulated at present. ***If you choose to kite Calshot without joining the Club, please do so respectfully to help us maintain access for kiting at this location.***

Wind Directions



The wind directions for the kite beach & car park launches are:

- NE – Cross shore from the left
- SE – Onshore
- SW – Cross shore from the right





Wind directions that work for the pond behind the spit:

- NNW around to NE

Wind directions that don't work anywhere at Calshot are NW or W. Basically the wind is off the land & the power station blocks it in a NW. Local kites go to Lepe Beach in a W or over to Meon Shore in a NW.

Facilities

Kiting from the official launch area in the activity centre is available by joining the Calshot Windsurf Club. This is a non profit making council administered club & you **MUST** be a member to kite from the beach at the Activity Centre. Membership is currently £65 & runs till 1st April, reduced rates are now in place for those joining late in the year. Club membership includes the following benefits:

- Dedicated launch area.
- Free parking.
- Hot showers, toilets & changing facilities.
- Cold water shower/kit wash on the beach.
- Members are required to be a minimum of **BKSA level 2** or equivalent – i.e. you should be kiting



safely & independently. Membership is available from the Activity Centre Reception or from our shop base [24-7 Boardsports](#).

- Members Must also hold appropriate 3rd party liability insurance. We recommend joining the sports governing body, the BKSA as this includes insurance and starts from £28 per year. To join, [visit them here](#).

Pond – Accessible for kilters between *1st November & 31st March*. The launch for the pond is from the beach by the Sopwith hangar (members only), or over by the power station (public). Only kite at high tide. The bottom is muddy & you need to be able to stay upwind. Don't overfly the road on the southern side of the pond. Even if you're not a member, PLEASE respect the summer closure on the pond.

Kiting from the beach huts car park requires no permit; you pay to park between April & November.

The [24-7 Boardsports shop](#) is based in the grounds of the Activity Centre adjacent to the kite beach.

- The shop stocks a wide variety of kite, windsurf & SUP kit.
- There is also plenty of demo gear on the water, just ask.
- There is a live wind meter display in the shop.
- The shop has tea/coffee facilities for staff & customers – though if you're going to put the kettle on the staff will expect a brew if not cake/biscuits. 😊
- If you're stuck for a launch ask in the shop, but they don't like to go out in the rain.
- Check out www.24-7boardsports.co.uk or call them on 02380 894000

The Activity Centre has:

- Indoor dry ski slope (with loads of ramps & rails on a Wednesday night).
- Velodrome.
- Watersport Centre.
- Huge & extremely popular indoor climbing facility.
- Spinnakers Bar for post kitesurfing refreshment & excellent Thai curry.



Hazards

The space for launching at kite beach is not that big if it's busy. Keep it tidy & wind your lines up if you're not going out. There is no landing on the beach further east of the windsock – there's basically no beach, just the sea wall. Kite beach will be closed (red flag flying) at high tide in a SE onshore wind.

There is no room at the car park spot to launch at high tide. It's sketchy at best so be careful.

Obstacles

The kite beach itself is relatively free of obstacles. There are however several large buildings next to the beach so be aware of wind effects. There are some submerged concrete blocks in front of Houston House, but these are clearly marked by an orange buoy.

From the car park there are groins, cars, beach huts & the general public to dodge – especially in the summer.

Shipping Lane

To the east of the spit, up Southampton Water, is a busy shipping lane. It's well marked – don't kite in it.

Tide

There is a lot of water moving around the spit. Wind with tide will make it hard to hold your ground once the shingle bar is covered. Ask at 24-7 Boardsports for a tide table & current site information.

Anglers

Calshot is popular fishermen. Take care to stay clear.

UXB

We have had few bits of old munitions wash up on the bar at low tide recently

If you find something suspect don't touch it & report it to either the shop or Activity centre.

