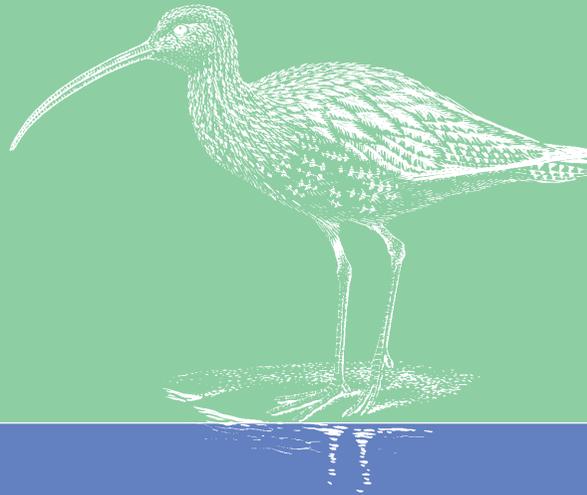


*Please leave  
the mudflats  
like this*



Important Information for  
**Bait  
Collectors**  
in Poole Harbour



The collection of bait for fishing has taken place for hundreds of years. The public right to fish includes the right to collect bait for one's own use, although there is no public right to collect bait to sell commercially.

Increasing pressures around the coast make it more important that collectors follow guidelines in order to ensure bait collection can continue now, and in the future.

*Produced by the Poole Harbour Steering Group*

*Supported by the*



*For further information please contact:*

Southern IFCA  
Tel: 01202 721373  
Email: [enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk)

[www.southern-ifca.gov.uk](http://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk)

*Please **don't** leave  
holes like these*



Bait collection can cause serious damage to the mudflats and wildlife in Poole Harbour

Treat the mudflats and the wildlife around Poole Harbour sensitively

Poole Harbour Steering Group ask

# Bait Collectors

in Poole Harbour

## Poole Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA)

*“Please follow this code...  
it is in **your** interest!”*



### **Take only what you need for your own use**

Bait animals are an important food source for birds. Taking only what you need ensures stocks are available now and populations can thrive in the future.

### **Back-fill any holes that you dig**

The waterlogged holes cannot be recolonised by invertebrates for weeks and this deprives birds of food. The holes also present a danger to other Harbour users.

### **Don't disturb birds and wildlife**

Disturbance during the day, and from torch lights at night can prevent birds feeding or recovering from migratory flights.

### **Don't dig or drag in sensitive habitats**

Saltmarsh and Eelgrass beds are important habitats and feeding areas for many creatures.



Poole Harbour is an internationally important site for the birds which feed on the mudflats.

It is important to follow these guidelines in order to ensure bait collection can continue now, and in the future.

