



National Coastwatch Institution Gosport

Working For Your Safety

Eyes Along The Coast

www.nci.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1159975

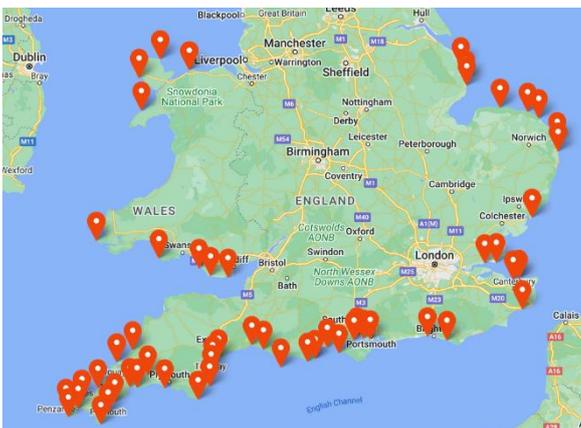
Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

Who We Are

Established in 1994, National Coastwatch Institution (also known as NCI) is a volunteer component of the UK Search & Rescue Service. Our objective is:

“To assist in the protection and preservation of life at sea along the United Kingdom coastline”

Our 57 lookout stations situated around the coast of England and Wales are manned entirely by trained volunteers and are supported by the generosity of the public through charitable donations. Every year, new stations are opened to help make our coastline safer for work and leisure activities.



What We Do

Our main safety emphasis is on keeping a lookout. Operating 7 days a week, NCI Watchkeepers maintain a visual and radio watch over coastal waters during daylight hours.

Your local station is at Gosport, in the former naval signal tower at Fort Blockhouse. This is right at the entrance to Portsmouth harbour and gives us an excellent view of the harbour, the approaches, and the eastern Solent.



Watchkeepers are constantly on the lookout for vessels and people who may be in difficulties. They are always ready to spot an emergency, plot the position, and report details of an incident directly to Solent Coastguard so that an immediate rescue response can be launched. We can then help a lifeboat crew ‘home in’ on a casualty.

Radio Use

NCI Gosport monitors several marine VHF radio channels: 16, 67, 0 and 11, plus our own dedicated channel 65.

All NCI personnel are trained in radio procedures and a qualified operator is always on duty during station opening hours.

Radio Checks

Checking that your radio works is one of the many safety precautions you can take before going sailing. You can now call us on Channel 65 for a radio check rather than calling the Coastguard or QHM. Our call sign is **'Gosport NCI'**

Solent Coastguard encourages the use of NCI Channel 65 for radio checks; this reduces both their workload and traffic clutter on Channel 16, keeping it clear for when it is really needed!

If your vessel is equipped with AIS, you can also call us on Channel 65 or by phone to confirm that it is working correctly.

NCI's Channel 65 radio check and AIS check services are available during station operating hours.

Weather

NCI Gosport makes radio broadcasts every day on VHF Channel 65 at 09.15 and 13.15 local time.

These broadcasts give the local weather conditions around the harbour mouth derived from our weather station, plus sea state, visibility and tide information.

Online, on radio, on phone...

Weather station data can now be obtained online here...

www.nci.org.uk/gosport

or by searching for...

'NCI Gosport Weather'.

or by VHF radio by calling ...

'Gosport NCI' on Channel 65

or phone us on this number ...

023 9276 5194

And finally, if you cannot get the latest **Met Office Inshore Waters Forecast**, we can read that to you too.

Hours Of Operation

With the exception of December 25th, NCI Gosport is manned every day of the year as follows:

Winter months: from 0900 to 1600 UTC.

Summer months: from 0900 to 1930 BST (or sunset if earlier).

Reminders: -

Call **'Gosport NCI'** on Channel 65 for a **radio check** or an **AIS check**. (N.B. our call sign is our station name followed by NCI i.e., 'Gosport NCI'. This avoids getting responses from several Solent stations).

Listen to our broadcasts on Channel 65 at 09.15 and 13.15 to hear the **current weather and conditions**, or call us on **Channel 65** or phone **023 9276 5194**.

But please remember – we are here primarily for your safety. Why not give us a wave as you go past the station!

Part of the UK Search & Rescue Service



Declared Facility Status