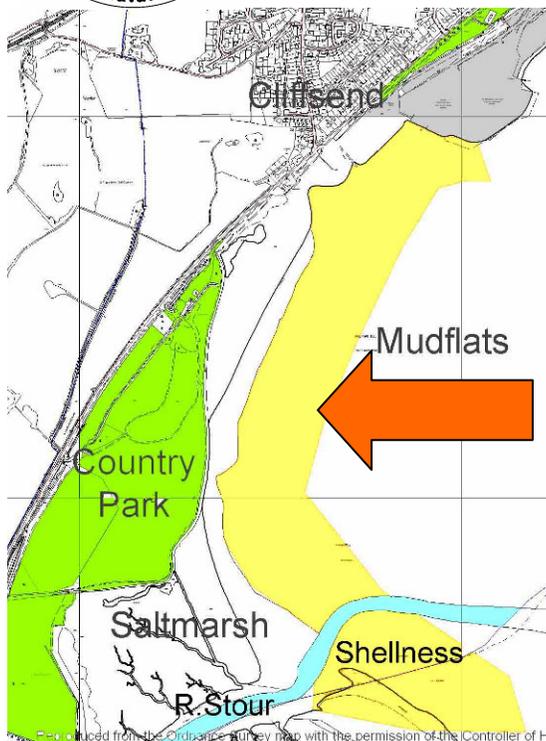




Sandwich and Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve



... is one of the most important coastal nature conservation areas in Britain. With its complex mosaic of habitats and unique location on the migratory flight path, the reserve is home to a huge variety of water birds.

The sand and mud flats are also important to the livelihoods of local bait diggers.

The most important roosting sites for the birds, including internationally significant numbers of up to 12,000 Golden Plovers, are the mudflats just off the edge of the saltmarsh as shown, and at Shellness point.

An agreement has been reached between local bait diggers and bird-watchers to help lessen the impact of human disturbance on the birds within the National Nature Reserve.

Pegwell Bait Digging Workshop - Actions Agreed:

More Information

1. Kent Wildlife Trust's '*GrantScape Biodiversity Enhancement Project*' improvements will include new information boards around the reserve, which will explain its importance for birds and their sensitivity to disturbance
2. Further information in the form of a flyer/leaflet - with maps to indicate the most sensitive bird roosting sites - to help raise awareness, especially amongst visiting diggers
3. General publicity will help raise the profile of the National Nature Reserve

Avoiding Roosting Birds in Pegwell Bay

4. Bait diggers will use simple 'avoidance' actions - such as walking around the main concentration of roosting birds when going to, or from, their digging site
5. Other visitors will be encouraged to stay on the marked paths, and to avoid using the mudflats

Monitoring

6. For all to keep a 'watching brief' - to help monitor the level and type of disturbance to the birds
7. After at least one year, the nominated representatives will meet to discuss the effectiveness of the above actions to review the situation



The Thanet Coast Project and Kent Wildlife Trust have been working with local people to reduce disturbance to wildlife from coastal activities.

This bait digging/bird watching workshop was held in December 2007.

Further information on the *Thanet Coastal Codes* can be found at www.thanetcoast.org.uk and about the reserve at www.kentwildlifetrust.co.uk

The Kent Wildlife Trust wardens can be contacted on 01843 851137



working with people
for coastal wildlife