



Advice on When to Survey



NEKMPA Coastal Warden Activity Survey

Aims of the survey

- Collect a snapshot of the NEKMPA coast at one time to help collate information in comparable conditions between bays
- Identify different recreational and work activities around the coast
- Find out where and when they occur
- Find out what effects they may be having on the features of nature conservation importance around the coast (eg reef, cliffs, caves & wintering birds) and if the voluntary Coastal Codes are working or not!

The focus of the survey will be those activities listed in the 'NE Kent European marine sites Management Scheme', as these have been identified as having the potential to affect the nature conservation interest of the area. The more surveys that you can help complete – in excess of your monthly survey, the better the picture will be for your bay!

Monthly survey (*Compulsory, where possible*):

This survey should only take about 10-15 minutes to ensure that we get a 'snapshot' of what is going on within your bay at that exact time. At the beginning of each year, we will send out a survey schedule where there will be two survey dates listed per month: one on the 1st weekend and one on the 3rd weekend. Please try to complete at least one or both of the surveys (as close to the time and date listed, as possible).

Ongoing Monitoring (*Non-Compulsory*):

Any extra optional surveying in addition to the above dates will help to give us a much better picture of the activities occurring around the coast and would be hugely valuable. Observing activities at different states of the tides, time of day and weather conditions will help to build a comprehensive picture of each bay throughout the year. Once a month would be good, but once a week would be even better. For additional monitoring surveys, it is recommended that a 'weekday' and 'weekend' day every week would build up a very useful record. Some guidelines for additional surveying would be:

4 x Weekdays per months (one a week) – vary survey days of the week

2 x Weekend days per month – alternate between Saturdays and Sundays

It would be useful to have survey samples at different times of the day to show the different users throughout the day, for example:

Early (6-9am)

Morning (9-12pm)

Lunch (12-3pm)

Afternoon (3-6pm)

Evening (6-9pm)

Shorelife Identification Survey

The shorelife survey is run through the Kent Wildlife Trust, and we forward all information back to them. This survey will take at least an hour depending on how thorough you intend to be.

Whilst, we encourage your own shorelife surveys, we realise that many wardens would benefit from further help – such as through a **Shoresearch** (with many people helping with identification) to help build up a full database of species on your bay. We hope to gradually carry out Shoresearch surveys of as many bays as possible in NE Kent, in conjunction with the Kent Wildlife Trust assisting the NEKMPA coastal volunteers in their bays; in addition volunteers can be trained in Citizen Science recording – through the '**Capturing Our Coast**' project.

Completing Your Survey Forms

Location - The section of coastline being monitored, bay (name & ref. number).

Date, Day & Time - Day/month/year, 24hr clock & day, and whether a school or bank holiday (or both).

NB - Time spent recording: Try to record all recreational activity data for your location over a short period of time (within 10 MINUTES if possible) in which you can see the entire site & people present.

Tide Height

- **High** - In, or within 1 hour either side of high tide
- **In between**
- **Low** - Out, or within 1 hour either side of low tide

Tide State - Record whether “Going-out” or “In-coming”

Weather - Indicate condition, estimate wind strength/direction, sea state & air temperature in degrees Celsius. Please note: when entering this information online, enter a value only (you do not need the ° degree symbol or C!)

Coastal Bird Information - Record any coastal bird species, if known; or state “N/R” (Not Recorded). The information in this section is mainly aimed at wintering coastal birds (important from September to April), some of which are included on your Coastal Wader ID guide. Include other interesting birds, and fulmars, but only quick estimates of gulls present.

Comments & Observations – This section is meant for comments and notes which DO NOT need to be acted upon immediately, as comments noted here will not be received in a timely manner. If you are concerned about anything you see, please consult your incident reporting advice card and submit an Incident, Stranding or Wildlife Observation Report online (if applicable).

Recreational Activities - not involving removal of items from the beach, rocky shore or sea

The next two sections are for recording people, dogs, boats, etc. and the number of people involved with the various recreational activities during the survey time within the survey area. There is scope for comments or observations for Part 1. For recording large numbers (e.g., within crowded bays) just obtain a ‘good estimate’.

- **Shore Based Recreation** - eg walking, dogwalking, horseriding (NB. Include no. of people/no. of dogs)
- **Water Based Activities** - eg kitesurfing, windsurfing, jet skis
- **Aerial** - eg low flying planes
- **Cliff top** - Note: Only include if the clifftop is an influencing factor on your bay
- **Research & Events** - eg School or college field trips, guided walks or parties

Harvesting Activities - involving the removal of items from the beach, rocky shore or sea

- **Shore Based** - combing/collecting, angling, bait digging, shellfish, other records

If you have additional information on the “harvesting activities”, such as what is being harvested or the quantity, **please submit an online incident report** (or call to report details, if you cannot get online).

If any activity breaks a NEKMPA / Thanet Coastal Code **place a cross** by this activity and give details in the comments box or, where applicable, **submit an Incident, Stranding or Wildlife Observation Report**.

NB: Your safety is of the utmost importance.

Don't survey on that day if you don't feel safe! Please don't feel obliged to scramble over the rockpools or slippery rocks if you are not comfortable with it – as there are lots of interesting species in the driftline, sand, cliffs and on the promenade walls waiting to be surveyed.

