

7.0 Action Plan for the European marine site



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7.1 Introduction

This section details the actions to be undertaken by the individual relevant authorities, either working alone or in partnership, to manage the NE Kent European marine sites.

The action plan has been divided into three:

- **Action to deliver management measures (derived from consideration of human activities in Chapter 6) (see table 7.3.1)**

These actions have been brought forward from section 6.0 following the identification of both gaps in management and the actions necessary to address them. This section does not include principles which will inform the actions or precautionary measures which will be actioned only in the event that other measures fail eg voluntary codes of conduct.

This section follows the same order as section 6.0 with similar activities grouped together and then listed alphabetically.

- **Action plan for review and revision of the management scheme (see table 7.3.2)**

These actions are those necessary for the running of the management scheme and to support the process of review

- **Action plan for survey and monitoring of the condition of interest features. (see table 7.3.3)**

This lists the survey and monitoring requirements to ascertain whether or not the features are in favourable condition and actions the favourable condition table contained in English Nature's statutory advice under Regulation 33 of the Habitats Regulations.

7.2 Action plan structure

The following tables list the management actions for the relevant authorities and where appropriate, other partners.

The table is arranged as follows:

Column 1: Summary of action

This column lists the actions to be taken. The list is a summary of the agreed actions which are written out in full in the tables in sections 6.4. - 6.13

Column 2: Type of action

For example; collating information, liaison and codes of conduct, research, and review

Column 3: Management

A tick in this box indicates where an ongoing management activity has been discussed and it is considered that it can continue unaltered or by complying with management principles.

Column 4: Responsibility for action

For each action, one or more relevant authority may be responsible, in addition to other partner organisations.

Many activities may only involve action to be taken by one relevant authority whilst others may involve some or all members of the management group. Abbreviations in the table are as follows:

EA	Environment Agency
EN	English Nature
CCC	Canterbury City Council
CWP	new Coastal Wildlife Project
DDC	Dover District Council

KCC	Kent County Council
KWT	Kent Wildlife Trust
SWS	Southern Water Services
TDC	Thanet District Council
SFC	Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee

Column 5: Time frame

The time frame shown covers the financial years 2000/2001 to 2005/2006. The Habitats Directive requires that each member state reports back to the EC every 6 years. The time frame used for the NE Kent European marine sites covers the next reporting cycle.

Many of the actions listed are only time tabled to happen at certain points within the next 6 years or are discrete projects which span several years, these are indicated with a dot. Other actions are ongoing and these are indicated with arrows.

7.3 Reporting and review.

The Habitats Regulations require that the site is monitored and this should pick up changes that need addressing. These will be taken into the next review of the management scheme. If it is clear that deterioration is occurring and it cannot wait for the next review it will be the responsibility of the relevant authority to do something about it.

Relevant authorities will meet twice a year to discuss any problems and written reports will be submitted to the Management Group on a yearly basis at which point the Action plan will also be reviewed to assess its effectiveness with possible revisions of the contents.

The aim of the written report is to provide a brief written record of progress on implementing agreed actions. For English Nature and the Environment Agency the report will also contain a brief summary of research findings and site monitoring.

The management scheme will be reviewed in detail on a six yearly basis. The responsibility for gathering together the reported information and revising the management scheme will be agreed by the Management Group at that point in the process.

A meeting will be held every other year involving wider stakeholders to keep them up to date with developments and discuss issues of concern.

Two forms of monitoring are going to be put in place by this management scheme:

Compliance monitoring - is everyone abiding by the management scheme? This will be the responsibility of the relevant authority concerned. For recreation activities around the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay the new wildlife project will work with Thanet District Council to set up a GIS database.

Condition monitoring - what condition are the habitat and species in, is it improving, static or declining? The responsibility to carry out this monitoring rests with English Nature. Other condition monitoring is to be carried out by other agencies eg the Environment Agency on water quality.

The detailed monitoring programme for the site can be seen in the action plan.

This plan has been drafted through a process of consensus building. It is the aspiration of all stakeholders that reviews of the plan, and any conflicts of interest which arise, should be dealt with using the same approach and ethos of deciding with each other to find mutually acceptable solutions.

Summary of action	Type of Action	M	Responsibility	Time Frame						
				00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	
Title										

7.3.1 Actions to deliver management measures (derived from Chapter 6.0)

New Coastal Wildlife Project

Action for new Coastal Wildlife Project (CWP) (from Promotion of Site Interest section 6.2.1)	Type of Action	M	Responsibility	Time Frame					
				00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06
Coastal Wildlife Project (CWP)									
Establish Partnership funding	Liaison		English Nature, TDC, KCC, SWS, Environment Agency	●					
Recruit Project Officer			TDC & English Nature		●				
Work with stakeholders to generate mutually acceptable voluntary codes of conduct.	Liaison		CWP		●	●	●		
Act as a focal point for the gathering of information about activities and maintain a GIS data base	Collate information		CWP		→	→	→	→	→
Assess the efficacy of codes of conduct in managing activities	Monitor		CWP & TDC		→	→	→	→	→
Promote an understanding of the site	Interpretation		CWP		→	→	→	→	→
Subject to funding expand the project to include wildlife education and wildlife/arts initiatives	Project development		CWP		→	→	→	→	→

Shoreline management

Summary of Action for Shoreline Management	Type of Action	M	Responsibility	Time Frame					
				00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06
6.4.1 Redistribution									
To avoid disturbance to wintering birds non emergency work within the SPA (but away from the little tern breeding areas) will be carried out between April and September		✓	Environment Agency	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Environment Agency will ensure that non emergency works that also affect the little tern breeding areas are carried out in September		✓	Environment Agency	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Environment Agency will ensure that work in Minnis Bay avoids damage to the chalk reef		✓	Environment Agency	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Environment Agency works to be reviewed according to the Regulations including development of best practice guide for emergency works	Review/ code		Environment Agency	●	●	●	●	●	●
All new flood defence options will be assessed in accordance with the Regulations	Review		Environment Agency	●	●	●	●	●	●
TDC and CCC works to be formally reviewed	Review		English Nature with TDC & CCC						
6.4.2 Renourishment									
Environment Agency renourishment works are to be reviewed in accordance with the Regulations	Review		Environment Agency	●	●	●	●	●	●
All new flood defence options will be assessed in accordance with the Regulations	Review		Environment Agency	●	●	●	●	●	●
To avoid disturbance to wintering birds work within the SPA will be carried out between April and September		✓	Environment Agency	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
6.4.3 Management of cliffs and hard defences									
TDC maintenance works described above are to be reviewed in the light of the Habitat Regulations	Review		English Nature with TDC	●	●	●	●	●	●
Assess the erosion effect of sea walls. If shown to be continuing options will be considered	Study		TDC & English Nature	●	●	●	●	●	●
Protocol/code of best practice to be developed and appended to all contracts concerning the value of the habitat and ways in which damage can be avoided	Code/ Information		TDC, CCC, Environment Agency with English Nature	●	●	↑	↑	↑	↑

Fishing and harvesting

Summary of Action for fishing and harvesting	Type of Action	M	Responsibility	Time Frame					
				00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06
6.5.1 Commercial fishing									
Fishing associations will promote an understanding and awareness of the features of international nature conservation importance around Thanet within the fishing community	Liaison/Information		CWP with SFC & Fishing Associations	●	●	●	→	→	→
6.5.2 Commercial and non-commercial bait digging and collection									
Collate information on the numbers of bait diggers and locations	Collate information		CWP, Turnstone PhD (English Nature funded research), assisted by TDC and DDC	●	●	●	●		
Include bait digging in research on the effect of human activity on wintering birds	Research		CCC via coastal plan	●	●	●	●		
Draft codes of conduct.	Liaison/code		Turnstone PhD (English Nature funded research)	●	●	●	●		
If it is shown that any bait collection or harvesting is resulting in the break up of the reef, and voluntary codes of conduct have not prevented this from occurring, other measures of control will be sought including the writing and implementation of a bylaw banning this method of collection	Monitor/enforce?		CWP with clubs, association and individuals	●	●	●	→	→	→
6.5.3 Sea angling from boats									
Promote an understanding of the features of importance	Liaison/information		TDC/ English Nature Keep a watching brief.	●	→	→	→	→	→
6.5.4 Shore angling and angling competitions									
Collate information about the level of shore fishing and clubs	Collate information		CWP with clubs	●	●	→	→	→	→
Develop codes of conduct with interested parties and clubs to address the issue of disturbance to birds and fishing debris. Codes will be made available to non club members	Liaison/code		CWP, Turnstone PhD (English Nature funded research), assisted by TDC and DDC	●	●	●	●		
Include shore fishing in research on the effects of human activity on wintering birds	Research		CWP	●	●	●	●		
Ensure that angling does not take place at Plumpudding during the little tern breeding season	Liaison/code		Turnstone PhD (English Nature funded research)	●	●	●	●		
As part of developing their Coastal Management Plan, CCC will work with shore anglers to find solutions to the effect of their activities on wintering and breeding birds	Liaison		TDC/CWP	●	●	●	●		
	Liaison		CCC	●	●	●	●		

Summary of Action for fishing and harvesting	Type of Action	M	Responsibility	Time Frame				
				00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05
6.5.5 Large scale shell fishing and harvesting								
Information will be collated about the numbers, locations, methods and effects of large scale shell fish harvesting	Collate information		CWP, Turnstone PhD (English Nature funded research), assisted by TDC	●	●	●	●	
Continue to manage harvesting via access		✓	TDC	→	→	→	→	→
Establish liaison with harvesters and agree sustainable levels and methods of collection and encourage self regulation via a code of conduct	Liaison/code		CWP with advice from English Nature	●	●	●		
Large scale harvesting of shellfish will be managed to ensure that the overall species composition of the intertidal reef remains in its natural state. If it is shown that a problem is developing, groups or individuals carrying out these activities will be asked to work with TDC and others to find an appropriate solution	Enforce		TDC, CWP, English Nature.	●	●			
Include shellfishing and harvesting in research on effects of human activities on turnstone	Research		Turnstone PhD (English Nature funded research)	●	●	●	●	
Keep a watching brief. If it is shown that any large scale fishing or harvesting is resulting in the break up of the reef, and voluntary codes of conduct have not prevented this from occurring, other measures of control will be sought including the writing and implementation of a byelaw banning this method of collection	Monitor/enforce?		TDC (CWP, English Nature)	→	→	→	→	→
6.5.6 Small scale casual shell fishing/harvesting including peeler crabs								
Information will be collated about the numbers and location, methods and effects of harvesting	Collate information		CWP, Turnstone PhD (English Nature funded research), assisted by TDC	●	●	●	●	
Establish liaison with harvesters and agree sustainable levels and methods of collection and encourage self regulation via a code of conduct.	Liaison/code		CWP with advice from English Nature		●	●		
Small scale shell fishing/harvesting will be managed to ensure that the overall species composition of the intertidal reef remains in its natural state. If it is shown that a problem is developing, groups or individuals carrying out these activities will be asked to work with TDC and others to find an appropriate solution	Liaison/enforce?		TDC, CWP and English Nature		●	●		
If it is shown that any small scale fishing or harvesting is resulting in the break up of the reef, and voluntary codes of conduct have not prevented this from occurring, other measures of control will be sought including the writing and implementation of a byelaw banning this method of collection	Monitor/enforce?		TDC (CWP, English Nature) Keep a watching brief.	→	→	→	→	→
Shell fishing/harvesting to be included in research on effect of human activities on turnstone	Research		Turnstone PhD (English Nature funded research)	●	●	●	●	
Canterbury City Council will collate information about numbers, locations, methods and effects of harvesting	Collate information		CCC		●	●		
6.5.7 Shore fishing with nets								
Gather information on the numbers involved, locations and incidence of entanglement	Collate		CWP, Turnstone PhD (English Nature funded research), assisted by TDC and DDC		●	●	●	
Shore fishing with nets to be included in research on effect of human activities on turnstone	Research		Turnstone PhD (English Nature funded research)	●	●	●	●	
Develop codes of conduct with interested parties and clubs to address the issue of disturbance to birds and fishing debris	Liaison/code		CWP		●	●		

Shore Recreation

Summary of Action for recreation	Type of Action	M	Responsibility	Time Frame				
				00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05
General								
Codes of conduct/best practice will be developed with all existing and new recreational interests around the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay	Liaison/code		CWP	●	●	●	●	
Canterbury stakeholders will develop appropriate measures to manage their activities	Liaison		CCC	●				
6.6.1 Bathing								
No measures necessary								
6.6.2 Cycling								
Include cycling in research of effects of human activities on wintering birds	Research		Turnstone PhD	●	●	●	●	
6.6.3 Dog walking								
Information will be collated about the numbers of dogs walked at different locations	Collate information		CWP, Turnstone PhD (English Nature funded research), assisted by TDC	●	●	●	●	
Dog walking will be included in research on the effect of human activities on wintering birds	Research		Turnstone PhD (English Nature funded research)	●	●	●	●	
Codes of conduct for dog walkers will be developed with the Dog Walkers Association	Liaison/code		CWP		●	●	●	
Codes will be actively promoted to non association members	Liaison		CWP		●	●	→	→
Information signs will be installed at main access points to the bays that support the most wintering birds and dog walkers encouraged to followed agreed codes	Information		CWP		●	●	→	→
Research into the affects of human activities on wintering birds will include an evaluation of the problems at Long Rock	Research		CCC & Turnstone PhD	●	●	●	●	
As part of developing their Coastal Management Plan, CCC will work with dog walkers to find solutions to their effects on wintering birds	Liaison		CCC		●	●		
6.6.4 Horse riding and hunting								
Collate information about the location and levels of horse riding activity	Collate information		CWP/Turnstone PhD/ TDC/DDC	●	●	●	●	
Include horse riding in research on effects of human activities on wintering birds	Research		Turnstone PhD	●	●	●	●	

Summary of Action for recreation	Type of Action	M	Responsibility	Time Frame						
				00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	
Develop codes of conduct with the Horse Riders Association to include avoiding little tern nesting sites	Liaison/code		CWP		●	●				
As part of developing their Coastal Management Plan, CCC will collate further information on the locations and levels of horse riding activity and if shown to be necessary work with riders to find solutions to their effect on wintering birds	Collate information/liaison		CCC		●					
6.6.5 Land sailing										
Existing codes of conduct to be reviewed to ensure it includes a ban on the sport during harsh weather conditions and other measures to minimise disturbance to birds such as keeping to the back of beaches	Liaison/code		CWP		●					
Include land sailing in research on effects of human activities on turnstone	Research		Turnstone PhD	●	●	●				
Zone the activity to the beaches where the activity will cause least disturbance	Liaison/code		CWP /TDC		●					
6.6.6 Motorbikes										
Collate information about motorbike use	Collate information		CWP/Turnstone PhD/ TDC/DDC/CCC	●	●	●	●			
Include motorbikes in research on effects of human activities on wintering birds including an evaluation of the effect at Long Rock	Research		Turnstone PhD	●	●	●				
Implement existing bylaws		✓	TDC	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Identify the appropriate means of controlling the activity if and where it is disturbing features of interest	Enforce		TDC,CWP, CCC,		●					
To avoid disturbance to wintering birds ensure events are timed and located to prevent disturbance		✓	TDC	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
CCC will continue it's interagency approach at Longrock		✓	CCC	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
6.6.7 Recreational events										
English Nature to be consulted over any large events proposed for during the wintering bird season		✓	TDC	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
6.6.8 Walking, rock pooling & informal beach combing										
The new CWP will work with TDC and site users to seek measures to minimise disturbance during the breeding season	Liaison		CWP/TDC		●					
Interpretation leaflets will be written and signs put at access points to explain about the interest of the area for nature conservation	Interpretation		CWP		●	●	●	→	→	→
Kent Wildlife Trust will continue to deter disturbance to little tern nesting sites		✓	KWT		→	→	→	→	→	→

Water based recreation

Summary of Action for water based recreation	Type of Action	M	Responsibility	Time Frame				
				00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05
General principles								
Codes of conduct/best practice will be developed with all existing and new recreational interests around the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay	Liaison/code		CWP	●	●			
Canterbury and Dover stakeholders will develop codes of conduct or other appropriate measures if it is shown that their activities cause disturbance to wintering birds	Liaison		CCC & DDC	●	●			
6.7.1 Recreational Hovercraft								
Recreational hovercraft will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that no damage or deterioration will result to features of interest. If it is permitted a code of conduct will be drawn up with users	Liaison/code?		CWP (if activity occurs)					
6.7.2 Diving								
No action necessary								
6.7.3 Surfing								
No action necessary								
6.7.4 Water based powered and sail craft								
Collate information on the levels and locations of the different water based activities carried out at different seasons	Collate information		CWP/Turnstone PhD/ TDC/DDC	●	●	●	●	
Near shore water based activities will be included in the research on the effects of human activities on wintering birds and on feeding little tern	Research		Turnstone PhD English Nature/KWT	●	●	●	●	
Codes of conduct will be developed with water based users to minimise disturbance to the birds and damage to the reef	Liaison/code		CWP	●	●			
Codes of conduct will also be developed with users of any new water based activity arising in the future	Liaison/code		CWP	●	●			
Concessionaires and other businesses which hire our water craft will be made aware of the value and sensitivity of the features (in particular the reef to physical damage) and will encourage hirers to comply with relevant codes of conduct	Liaison/code		TDC and CWP	●	●	●	●	↑
If despite voluntary codes of conduct there is further incidence of damage to the reef as new access channels are cut measures of control will be sought including the writing and implementation of a bylaw	Enforce?		TDC	●	●			
Launching of boats and other craft is from specified launch sites and this will be maintained		✓	TDC	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
No craft will be landed at Shellness	Enforce		DDC (KWT)	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
The management of water craft will be included in CCC's Coastal Management Plan which is going to be written	Management		CCC	●	●	●		

Air based activities

Summary of Action for air based activities	Type of Action	M	Responsibility	Time Frame					
				00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06
6.8.1 Microlights, other small light aircraft and large kites									
Information to be collated	Collate information		CWP and Turnstone PhD	●	●	●	●		
Kent Wildlife Trust will implement measures to prevent kite propelled activities in Sandwich and Pegwell Bay NNR	Enforce		English Nature & KWT	●	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
In summer kite propelled activities will be permitted away from the Sandwich and Pegwell Bay NNR and Minnis Bay	Liaison/code		CWP		●				
In winter kite boarding will only be able to take place if it can be shown that there are times and locations that do not cause significant disturbance to wintering birds and it is subject to mutually agreed codes of conduct	Review		English Nature and TDC		●	●			
Kite propelled activities will be included in the research on the effects of human activities on wintering turnstone	Research		Turnstone PhD	●	●	●	●		
Bylaws or other enforcement measures will be drafted and implemented only where it is shown that potential or actual deterioration or disturbance of species or habitats is likely to or is occurring, there are no alternatives solutions and self regulation is not addressing the problem	Enforce?		TDC/DDC/EN						

Ports, harbours and navigation

Summary of Action for ports, harbours and navigation	Type of Action	M	Responsibility	Time Frame					
				00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06
6.9.1 Anchoring of large vessels									
No additional management measures required at this time		✓	TDC (as Harbour Authority)	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
6.9.2 Dredging									
No additional management measures required at this time		✓	TDC (as Harbour Authority)	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
6.9.3 Navigation buoys									
No additional management measures required at this time		✓	TDC (as Harbour Authority)	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
6.9.4 Ports and harbours operations including ships waste									
No additional management measures required at this time		✓	TDC (as Harbour Authority)	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑

Research and education

Summary of Action for research and education	Type of Action	M	Responsibility	Time Frame					
				00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06
General principle									
Collate information about the type, locations and numbers involved in research	Collate information		CWP with assistance from TDC/DDC/CCC	●	●	●	●		
Develop an information pack for those carrying out research alerting them to the nature conservation importance of the NE Kent Ems's, including protocols to minimise the impact of research. Researchers will be asked to discuss the research proposal in advance of carrying out the research and to submit a copy of the research on completion	Liaison / Inform		CWP and English Nature	●	●		●		
Bring together scientists with an interest in the area to collate a data base of current and previous research	Collate information/ liaison		English Nature	●					
6.10.1 Archaeology									
Codes of conduct or protocols will be developed with local archaeological groups	Liaison/code		CWP	●	●		●		
6.10.2 Geology/geomorphology									
See general principle above	Liaison/code		CWP	●	●		●		
6.10.3 Biology/ecology									
See general principle above	Liaison/code		CWP	●	●		●		
6.10.4 Interpretation and promotion of wildlife									
The CWP will promote and interpret the wildlife value of the coast both national and international in a way that prevents deterioration or disturbance	Interpretation		CWP	↑	↑		↑	↑	↑
Kent Wildlife Trust will continue to promote and interpret the wildlife resources within its management	Interpretation	✓	(KWT)	↑	↑		↑	↑	↑

Water quality

Summary of Action for water quality	Type of Action	M	Responsibility	Time Frame				
				00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05
General								
Water quality issues will be investigated and reviewed by a group of marine scientists to agree appropriate monitoring and research and what additional measures may be necessary	Review		Environment Agency & English Nature	●	●			
6.11.1 Nutrients and organic matter								
Nutrient enrichment will be considered by the water quality group (see above)	Review		Environment Agency & English Nature	●	●			
By 2010 the Environment Agency will implement the review of discharge consents and abstraction licences under Regulation 50 of the Habitats Regulations	Monitor		Environment Agency	●	●	●	●	
The Environment Agency will assess all new licences in accordance with relevant legislation and standards including Regulation 48 of the Habitats Regulations	Review	✓	Environment Agency	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Southern Water Services will comply with the requirements of EC Directives and UK Regulations and there will be no planned significant deterioration in water quality		✓	SWS	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
6.11.2 Synthetic and non synthetic compounds								
as above								
6.11.3 Plastic and non- biodegradable rubbish								
Thanet District Council rubbish collection will continue		✓	TDC	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑

Species management and control

Summary of Action for species management and control	M	Type of Action	Responsibility	Time Frame					
				00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06
6.12.1 Non-native species - Japweed control									
No management measures are thought necessary at this time. It is not proposed that research is undertaken at this time however in the event that new information comes to light from Thanet or elsewhere demonstrating significant displacement of native plants and animals English Nature may reconsider its advice and explore management measures			English Nature (watching brief only)	→	→	→	→	→	→
6.12.2 Mosquito control									
No management measures are thought necessary at this time				→	→	→	→	→	→
6.12.3 Seaweed collection/beach cleaning									
Review seaweed removal practices		Review	TDC/English Nature		●				
Ensure no removal causes disturbance to wintering birds or removes vital food resources		Liaison/code	TDC		●				
Include the effects of seaweed removal in the research into the effects of human activities on wintering turnstones		Research	Turnstone PhD	●	●	●			

Extraction of materials

Summary of Action for extraction of materials	M	Type of Action	Responsibility	Time Frame					
				00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06
6.13.1 Flint and curio collection									
Ascertain whether and to what extent this takes place and find mechanism to manage		Collate information	CWP		●	●			