

Thanet Coast Project Business Plan

2008-12



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

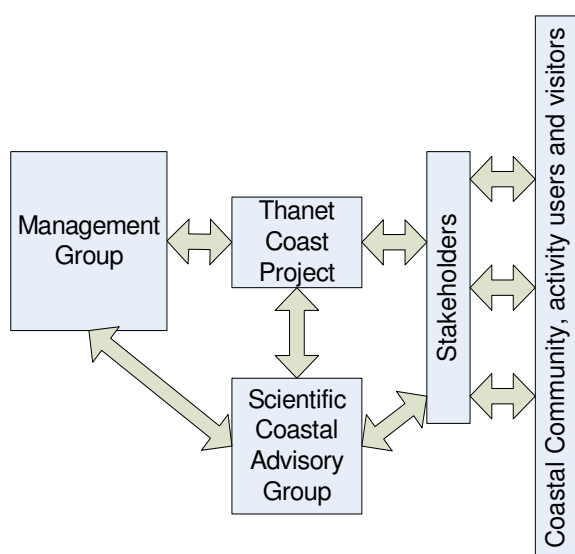
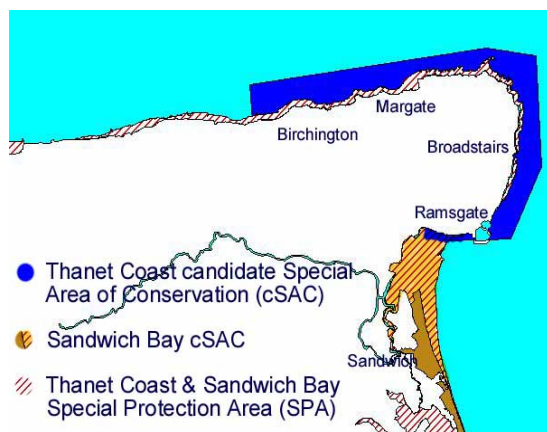
The Thanet Coast Project's first Business Plan 2008-12 is an opportunity to look at the current situation, challenges and future direction of the Thanet Coast Project (TCP) in context to the 'North East Kent European marine sites' (NEKEMS), its Management Group and people of North East Kent.

In addition, the plan provides a framework for future TCP actions - by incorporating a work plan that will provide the benchmark against which future progress will be measured annually by the Management Group for the period from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2012. This plan reflects the actions identified by local people (North East Kent coastal stakeholders) when they reviewed the Management Scheme, and endorsed the TCP remit.

This Business Plan is primarily intended for TCP staff, NEKEMS partners (Management Group), the employers (Thanet District Council), sponsors and helps provide further information for the Advisory Group and Stakeholders. However, it is likely to be of interest to other people, including similar coastal partnership projects as an example of the work undertaken in this part of the country.

1.2 Background, Set-up, Need and Demand

The North East Kent coast is internationally important for its coastal and marine wildlife, birds and habitats – but it is also a busy urban coastline with many associated pressures including nearly 130,000 residents in Thanet alone and up to 2 million visitors a year. TCP's work here is nationally and internationally recognised for its innovative work and is extremely well supported by the local community. Thanet has 20% of the Country's coastal chalk habitat (12% of the European total), some of the best chalk sea caves in the country and some coastal birds (*Turnstone and Golden plover*) in internationally important numbers.



The North East Kent coast is covered by many nature conservation designations, including a coastline of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Kent's largest National Nature Reserve, a Special Protection Area (SPA), a Wetland of International importance under the Ramsar convention (Ramsar site) and two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). Collectively, these sites make up the North East Kent European marine sites (NEKEMS). These sites are of international conservation importance and as such, a Management Group was formed to oversee and implement appropriate management of these sites. There are ten relevant authorities that form the Management Group that is ultimately

responsible for securing the future for the features of importance of the NEKEMS through a Management Scheme, written to comply with the UK Habitats Regulations (1994) resulting from the European Habitats Directive (1992). This places stronger responsibilities on authorities and agencies to work closer together and take the aspirations of local people into account, to help safeguard the important habitats and species, and report its condition to the European Community on an annual basis.¹

The north east Kent coastline is important for wildlife, but is also used for a range of recreation activities involving the coast, including shore angling, dog walking, horse riding, power craft usage, wind powered activities and bait digging. Recognising the diverse use of the coast and also the newly designated marine sites, a series of consensus building workshops were set up in the late 1990's with stakeholders representing the needs of many different community groups.

The consensus building process involved four independently run workshops with a wide cross section of the community and coastal interests represented (over 70 organisations). The process used the premise that if people are going to be affected by a decision, then they will be included within the discussions to help resolve issues and find solutions. The workshops looked at how the coastline should be managed in the future, with stakeholders identifying problems which their own activities may cause to wildlife and then working together to develop a way forward. The final outcome of this process was the development of the original NEKEMS Management Scheme (2001-6).

The main aim of the Management Scheme is ***“To maintain the habitats and species found in the NE Kent European marine sites as a national and internationally important asset, whilst ensuring that its diverse human use is undertaken in ways which do not threaten the nature conservation interest, and wherever possible in ways which support it.”***

One of the main actions identified under the Management Scheme, was the need for a new Wildlife Project to take forward actions not being dealt with by anyone else. The TCP was created to address this need and over its first seven years has filled the gap in helping to bridge the link between this important marine and coastal environment, with the local community and visitors. Public interest has grown throughout the years, as new TCP events, activities and initiatives have developed.

The Management Scheme was reviewed during 2006/7 using stakeholder participation and incorporated 'ecosystem approach' principles. The revised Management Scheme and action plan was launched in April 2007. The updated **overview** and **new Action Plan for 2007-12** can be viewed at www.thanetcoast.org.uk (see *Appendix 2*). The updated scheme continues to identify management actions to be implemented by the TCP. The main focus of future TCP work will follow the remit that was agreed by local people, along with the specific actions that were identified within the new Action Plan.

The TCP has proved to be an outstanding success – and this can be seen by the increasing demand by local people attending the events and activities to help learn more or help care for the coastline and its wildlife. This success is not only reflected by the stakeholders and Management Group but also through local and national recognition of the Project's unique and creative blend of building links between the local community and the environment.

¹ The set up and functions of the NEKEMS are explained within the draft *'Memorandum of Agreement'* (*Appendix 1*). The purpose of the agreement is to establish the responsibilities and accountability of the **Management Group** (*the 'Relevant Authorities'*), **Advisory Group**, **Stakeholders** and **TCP** within the NEKEMS and Management Scheme, and how they relate to each other – and so are only touched upon within this business plan.

The need and demand for the TCP can be demonstrated through a number of means:

- **Management Scheme and Advisory Group Workshops** - where management actions were identified and agreed by using stakeholder dialogue through a series of consensus building workshops (1990s & 2006/7). The latest actions agreed were for the next six years (2007-12). This Management Scheme coupled with recommendations from the Advisory Group's conference workshops (2006), outline and endorse the TCP future remit and work.
- **Feedback** – there are a series of mechanisms that the TCP has used to guide the TCP's future work, events and activities. These are listed under section 17 of the accompanying work plan - and include direct surveys at public events, within the newsletter, and through tourism and a 1000 strong local resident's panel. The newsletter feedback in 2006 comprised of over 130 public responses to guide the specific TCP activities proposed for future management action, review the newsletter and allowed for further comments, and donations, to be made by members of the public.
- **Direct public demand** - TCP has been highly successful in running a series of year-round green tourism and healthy outdoor activities and events – from the popular seashore safaris and art events, to commissioning Rock Doc walks and Seal Watching Trips. Nearly **3,000** people attended the programme of events during 2007, and **over 5,000** schoolchildren have benefited from water safety workshops, and **3,000 more** have been involved on educational activities such as community groups, youth groups and local businesses. There is now a network of over 100 volunteer trained and supported coastal wardens. (*see section 3.2*)

The TCP's work has been summarised within '*The First Five Years – Thanet Coast Project*' (*Appendix 3*) and highlights the increasing publicity and public demand to participate in TCP's public events and activities. The review of the first seven years is an action within the work plan. This will complement this business plan, and is likely to be more suitable than the business plan for informing and attracting new sponsors, such as from local business.

The benefits of the TCP's work has been widespread, in that it has introduced a whole new sphere of educational green tourism events and initiatives that were not present before. The extensive public events and educational links to schools, youth groups and the local community have all contributed greatly to raise community cohesion and pride in the area. Greater links have also been developed with tourism. Although the biggest benefit has been the win-win situation for people and wildlife, in that people can enjoy the coastline or take part in many coastal activities, but without the unintentional harm to wildlife.

Whilst the TCP remit and work has been identified by local people within the actions identified in the NEKEMS Management Scheme, the Scheme was also one of the main actions identified as part of the Thanet Local Strategic Partnership's 'Thanet Community Strategy' for the natural environment. In addition, the TCP work is linked to the TDC Commercial Services' Service Plan (2007-8), although is not a statutory requirement or core role of the authority. In fact, the TCP activities follow many of the corporate themes of the Thanet District Council Corporate Plan 2007-11 – towards a '*Beautiful Thanet*', '*Healthy Communities*' and for '*Safe*' and vibrant '*Economic*' community and coastline (*see Appendix 4*). The TCP's work contributes extensively towards work across departments within the council – including environmental action, encouraging healthy lifestyles, green tourism, environmental art, volunteer input and community safety. There are many added-value benefits that help to promote local community cohesion, pride and encourage public involvement and responsibility in looking after their local areas.

TCP's work involves significant co-operation between partners, customers and stakeholders. The positive, high profile work carried out by the TCP has been extensively reported by local media and television, and is good for the local and corporate image.

1.3 Thanet Coast Project

The TCP owes its existence to the requests made by local coastal stakeholders, who felt that wildlife was not being adequately promoted to people in the area at the original NEKEMS Management Scheme workshops. The TCP was set up in 2001 and funded and managed by Natural England and Thanet District Council, with further funding from Southern Water, Environment Agency and Kent County Council. It initially had one member of staff, Manager Tony Child. Additional funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other local sponsors led to the appointment of an Education Officer, Naomi Biggs, in 2004.

Sponsorship from a number of local businesses has also allowed the TCP to develop its events and initiatives. The project is unique in building links between the international importance of the coastline and its wildlife, with the local community. The project helps towards implementing the Management Scheme actions, and uses extensive ways to raise awareness of the importance of the coast and work with local people, to help safeguard coastal wildlife and the coastline, whilst allowing locals and visitors to enjoy their coastal activities. It also promotes green tourism events and activity, including links to the arts. In recognition of Thanet being the most deprived district in Kent and classed 62nd [of 354] most deprived district in England (in 2007), the TCP also uses many different ways to encourage local community interest and pride in their area. Actions include engaging with local people to get them actively involved in making the area a safer, cleaner and greener environment. In particular, the Project targets specific groups such as the family unit, but also deprived youth, elderly and ethnic groups to help make it a more inclusive society.

The main TCP remit is to:

- **Raise awareness of the important marine and bird life,**
and how to avoid damaging them
- **Work with local people to safeguard coastal wildlife**
and implement the Management Scheme action
- **Encourage and run wildlife related events**
and make links with wildlife, green tourism, coastscape and the arts
- **Be a focal point for enquiries and gathering information**
on coastal wildlife and environmental issues
- **Keep everyone informed with progress**
through various means, including newsletters, articles and stakeholder workshops.

The work of the TCP is quoted as an example of innovative best practice by Natural England), CoastNET, Kent Police and Wildlife Trusts – from involving the local community in decision making (*Management Scheme*), drafting their own voluntary codes of Conduct (*Thanet Coastal Codes*) and encouraging local involvement (*Thanet Coastal Warden Scheme*). The work has also been cited at national and international conferences – from international 'Communicate06' (BBC/Bristol Natural History), Lithuania (Natura2000, Feb2007) & Portugal (Ospar, 2007) to Marine Protected Areas (Scarborough 2007).

2.0 Project Delivery Mechanism

2.1 Staff, Accommodation and Hosting

The TCP consists of two full-time employees – Tony Child, TCP Manager, and Naomi Biggs, TCP Education Officer. However, TCP work is only possible because of the growing support by many volunteers - wardens and individuals, as well as a growing number of individual commissions for specialist activities. The TCP Manager is jointly line-managed by Natural England and Thanet District Council, on behalf of the Management Group and reports to them on regular basis, and to the Management Group and Stakeholder meetings that meet every 6 months. TCP staff contribute to the Scientific Coastal Advisory Group who meet more frequently every 3-4 months to discuss research and management issues.

The Manager and Education Officer are employed on annual contracts by the employing authority – Thanet District Council – on behalf of the Management Group, and are subject to their terms and conditions of employment. The posts are based within the Leisure Section of Commercial Services at Thanet District Council in Margate, Kent. The local authority, as employing authority, ensures that valuable support can be provided for the projects, including all supporting on-costs for the project staff (e.g. Employment conditions, NI contributions and pension; financial and IT support and training opportunities).

The work plan 2008-12 also identifies the need to commission temporary skills on projects – such as a GIS consultant to help analyse the collated survey results within the GIS system; or specialist skills for events (e.g. Rock Doc, environmental artists and for wildlife excursions). In addition, there may be scope for part-time project staff, but only if funds can be secured to do this. In particular, a part-time officer would be one solution to developing the proposed new Thanet Coastal Arts Initiative discussions (action 12.11). The post could be advertised through the local authority's personnel, and through services such as the Countryside Jobs Service, CoastNet and local established art networks.

Volunteers are an integral part of the Thanet Coast Project, and there are opportunities for people to assist the project work in a number of areas – from research projects, practical events, supporting the running of events or office based work to help with the general running. However, the main contribution is from a network of TCP supported people through the training and running of the *Thanet Coastal Warden Scheme* to help people be the 'eyes and ears' of their local, or chosen, stretch of coastline. This helps with monitoring coastal activity and wildlife records, as well as reporting incidents such as for public safety.

3.0 Project Work

3.1 Business Planning, Budgets and Reporting

The TCP Manager reports to the Management Group on the project's progress and issues arising twice yearly. The TCP staff also maintain key links with groups by holding regular 'stakeholder' meetings (on behalf of the Management Group), and contributes to the Scientific Coastal Advisory Group.

The TCP Manager will continue to monitor budgets, in conjunction with the local authority, and works with staff, partners and volunteers to help identify priorities, seek solutions to issues, to help run the various events and initiatives. The draft business plan was issued for consultation to stakeholders through the website and paper requests during 2007, and comments taken into account.

The TCP Work Plan 2008-12 (*Section 4.0*) has been developed as a requirement of the Commercial Service's Service Plan to be ready by end of March 2008 to provide clarity over the project actions over the next four years. This also provides the chance to clarify NEKEMS Management Scheme actions and the core TCP remit actions and activities. This will help with forward planning of the workload over the four years, and has helped identify low priority actions that may not be feasible to have time to implement – and so will be referred back to the Management Group to delete or transfer responsibility. Additional research on this work plan has also helped to identify the time that can be allocated on the different tasks for the Manager and staff to be able to complete the action programme successfully. The work plan will be reviewed annually at the NEKEMS Management Group (Action Plan Update) meetings, but will be used by TCP staff on a more regular basis to help focus on the main tasks and priorities, and help with completing Thanet Council's staff appraisal targets each year.

TCP is a 'not for profit' project governed by the draft Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) 2008-12 with the ten 'relevant authorities'. Thanet Council is the lead authority, and as employer is responsible for meeting all governing financial regulations. In 2007/8 the partnership raised approximately £42k, whilst private sponsorship and grants reached £25k, well short of the project's £100k/year turnover to cover staff and project costs. In 2008/9, we are expecting project funding of £60k, thanks to increased support from Thanet Council to bridge this gap - but we will still need more consistent funding of an additional £40k/year to help run this popular work. The expected basic budget in order to operate is around £78k/year, rising to £87k/yer by 2011 (*Appendix 5*). The additional grants and sponsorship are vital to enable the financing of many of the proposed projects and activities, such as the literature, and popular events that link to the arts (eg SeaART exhibitions and workshops in conjunction with local artists, or the community Big Draw).

The financial section of the MoA covers the conditions to reserve TCP's budget as a non-profit making resource that should only be used for coastal initiatives associated with the remit and targets of the TCP. This has advantages in that partnership finances may be rolled through to the next financial year, but only when in profit. Other conditions cover the request towards core running costs from partners, supplemented by additional grants or funds raised by the TCP staff towards the various projects; financial budgeting through the employing authority governed by the Financial Regulations, Procurement Policies and Standing Orders of the employing authority that governs all expenditure.

The Thanet Coast Project promotes, encourages and works towards improved access to the coast by all sectors of society regardless of their life situation or background.

3.2 Communications and Profile

This part is essentially the TCP communications strategy. The aim is for the TCP to maintain its distinctive style and identity, through the high quality Thanet Coast newsletters and supplementary information. The TCP will use a variety of methods for raising awareness about the importance of the coast, and disseminate information and keep people informed of progress. These include:

a) Literature and displays

- i) 'Thanet Coast' newsletter: Two issues will be produced yearly, covering spring/summer and late summer, autumn and winter. These will take on board comments made during the newsletter consultation carried out during summer 2006. 99% of respondents (135 replies) enjoyed reading the newsletter as it is, although half were happy for the layout to be changed to A5 size to save on increased postal charges – with 27% saying that they would be happy to receive an electronic version instead.
- ii) Leaflets: Where funding allows, new leaflets will be produced to support the work of the NEKEMS partnership and TCP, such as the '*Thanet Coastal Codes*', '*Managing the North East Kent Coast*' and '*Thanet Coastal Warden Scheme*'.
- iii) Additional literature will be produced, or put on the website, to support TCP work or education initiatives – such as Summaries of the TCP's work, or explaining coastal erosion for school enquiries.
- iv) Display panels, displays, event banners, T-shirts and postcards will be used to help support and raise the profile of the importance of the coast and the TCP's work.

b) Website - www.thanetcoast.org.uk

The website is hosted by Thanet District Council, but keeps its distinctive style to reflect the independence of the project, on behalf of the partnership and stakeholders. The site allows public access to background information and current coastal events related to the NEKEMS and TCP. The site will be revised in 2008 to allow greater accessibility, and coverage of the work of the NEKEMS. These will include specific sections dedicated to a) 'Stakeholder' pages to allow private access to specific information (e.g. Workshops and consultation feedback); b) 'Warden' pages for on-line support material and information on training or recording; and pages to cover the Management Scheme progress and work of the Coastal Advisory Group.

c) Publicity

The project works with the Communications Section of the local authority to advertise initiatives and events through regular press releases. These generate coverage through local papers, television and radio that in 2007 exceeded 80 articles or items.

The project will also write articles to promote the importance of the coast through publications such as the 'Isle' magazine; and by promoting events through other networks (*Thanet Tourism; Kent Coastal Network; BBC Breathing Spaces; Thanet Community Portal etc*). Event posters are distributed for display to suitable local outlets such as the Tourism information points, shops and residents' associations. These posters and event listings are also sent to the above networks and local papers.

d) Presentations

The project staff will give presentations and run outreach work to raise awareness of the importance of the coast and the project's work to local community groups (e.g. Rotary and Civic Societies) and interested organisations (e.g. Sea Fisheries Committee; Thanet Youth Council; Surestart; Schools, and V volunteers).

e) Events and activities

The project will endeavour to use a variety of means of raising the profile of the coast, and ways of involving and engaging the interest of people.

- i) **Public Events:** These will include an extensive range of events and activities, such as guided walks, sand and beach art, 'Rock Doc' walks, beach cleans and seashore safaris. These events have reached up to 3,000 people per annum over the last 3 years, and will be held mainly during spring and summer, but will extend the season to stage throughout the year.
- ii) **Community Events:** organised events and activities for local community groups – such as beach cleans, beach art, rockpooling and shorelife. These have reached over 3,000 people and will now be targeted towards linking into groups from deprived communities (e.g. through Surestart, the Youth Offending Team), youth groups and school excursions to the coast, and help to promote what local people can do to help (e.g. Coastal Codes)
- iii) **School Lectures:** raising an environmental perspective and coastal codes alongside annual water safety lectures to local primary schools alongside lifeguard and coastguard representatives every spring will reach approx. 5,000 school children a year.
- iv) **Art:** using inspirational ways of raising public awareness and appreciation about the importance of the coastline through the work of local artists or art workshops. Community events like the Big Draw have attracted over 100 participants for the last 3 years, and the SeaART exhibitions have proved to be very successful.
- v) **Beach Play Scheme** – for youth and target 'hard to reach' community groups during the school holidays from 2008-10.

f) **Volunteer and stakeholder involvement**

The project encourages volunteer involvement on the project's activities to build the link between the important coastal environment and the local community. Examples of voluntary involvement include:

- i) **North East Kent coast stakeholders and Scientific Coastal Advisory Group** – inputting to the management of the European marine sites Management Scheme proposals, discussing and resolving issues including developing ways forward. such as the Thanet Coastal Codes to help clubs and individuals avoid unintentional harm to coastal wildlife and habitats.
- ii) **The Thanet Coastal Warden Scheme** – training and engaging local volunteers to be the eyes and ears of the coastline, and monitor activities and wildlife. Over 100 volunteers are now taking advantage of the free training provided.
- iii) **Voluntary help** running events or processing information on behalf of the project. The volunteers are covered by the local authority insurance requirements, and will be subject to a CRB check if working alongside children.
- iv) **Practical volunteer assistance** – such as at public or community group beach cleans or work parties. In addition, links to business volunteer schemes, such as Pfizer, Cummins and KCC, have proved to be very productive.
- v) **Research projects** – investigating specific issues relating to the NEKEMS.

Accessibility is an important factor throughout communications and there are a number of measures in place for publications to be made in larger script (or text on the website) or translated into different languages for local residents. From 2008, there are new public events available for all ability groups through the appropriate networks, and targeting of hard to reach community groups to half of the children beach play scheme place, including children from the most deprived wards in the area.

Another vital component within this series of communications is to monitor the extent of communications, people participation or volunteering. These records will help to inform the extent of actions in raising awareness – a key target of many of the TCP actions. In addition, there are a number of surveys that will also enable us to receive direct feedback about events, activities and initiatives – as well as general public or visitor questionnaires to

establish how aware they are of the nature conservation importance of the coastline (section 17 of the work plan).

3.3 Thanet Coast Project's Risks Assessments

The TCP strengths include a fantastic track record of innovative and attractive work, thanks to dedicated staff commitment, and this is widely appreciated by the local stakeholders, community and quite often the visitors. It is widely recognised that the stakeholder involvement here has brought people into ownership of their Management Scheme and their coastline, and it is often cited as an example of good practice across the country.

The branding and style of the TCP is very strong and appreciated - as verified by the number of favourable comments received for the project's initiatives, newsletter, website and community work. The strong links developed with volunteer involvement for managing the coast has also been very successful and there are opportunities for developing this potential and building upon community participation, cohesion and pride in the area.

The main risk to the TCP is the continual need to secure funding to continue with its work. It receives core funding from some of its relevant authorities – but not all because of the uneven coverage of the area, which is focused mainly on the chalk cliffs and reef around the Isle of Thanet. However, even this funding has not been consistent, which makes forward planning more difficult. The project relies upon funding from the partnership members, with support for projects from local businesses, sponsors, donations or grants, such as the Lottery. The extent of funding received ultimately affects the extent of projects and activities that can be carried out.

As a non-profit initiative, the TCP is ideally set to secure additional funding from sponsors – although may arguably be better off if registered as a charity. These smaller grants include BBC Breathing Spaces, Marine Stewardship (although Crown Estates do not own coast in North East Kent), SE Arts Council, Landfill Tax Credits and Thanet District Council small grants. There are opportunities to try new ventures – and establishing a new 'Coastal Arts Project' and 'Natural Zone' on the coast are two of the projects suggested by stakeholders. In recent years, there has been a tremendous focus on marine conservation issues – arising from government consultation on the draft 'Marine Bill', Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Water Framework Directive and public concern for better consumer responsibilities and the impact of climate change. The TCP is ideally set to help provide the local interpretation required, and make sure that the area's largest public open space is an asset for both people and wildlife. Help with school excursions to the coast is a growing area of interest, and is another source of small income.

Another main risk is that with only two members of dedicated staff, if one were to leave unexpectedly then important project skills, knowledge and momentum would be lost. A swift replacement mechanism is required, which would ideally involve an overlap of time to help pass on important knowledge, details of current working and allow time for any training requirements, such as facilitation skills.

The main limiting factors within the TCP are related to the huge demand on staff time. The extent of the project work is very diverse, and these public, community, environmental and wildlife demands can take more time than is available – leading to extensive weekend and evening work that has proven to be difficult to replace with time in lieu. The demand is more revealing in the accompanying Work Plan 2008-12, where the full extent of the future actions is illustrated and planned over the next four years. These include 87 actions – 74 were identified within the Management Scheme's Action Plan, and an additional 13 to cover the TCP remit's key tasks. There are more projects than staff can handle, so careful planning is essential. Recent work to prioritise this work, include risk assessments and identify smarter

actions or remedial treatment should help. Some actions are recommended to be deleted or taken forward by other partners.

Securing funding for a part-time Arts Project Officer would help develop progress projects that are clearly at a high risk, yet ultimately beneficial to the local community and advance the interpretation around the coast. Small commissions could also progress high risk actions and alleviate staff pressure, and should target the areas where staff skills are required (e.g. GIS; Geology). One increasing opportunity has been the increasing amount of dedicated volunteer time (eg Thanet Coastal Wardens) put into the TCP work. In monetary terms during 2006 and 2007, this equated to over £13k per annum of additional contributions.

In summary, the ultimate threat to the TCP is that if funding is withdrawn or not forthcoming, then the project's staff and momentum may be lost. In addition, the connections involving good engagement with volunteers, stakeholders and community groups would be severed. The project would either fold completely or may run on a part-time basis, if staff were willing, until further funding could be secured.

There is also a need to encourage greater political awareness and pressure for central government to support all similar Coastal Partnerships and Projects to help implement locally agreed 'Integrated Coastal Zone Management' actions. Otherwise, there is a danger that projects will fall into the similar void that left the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in for most of the second half of the 21st Century, until funding allowed the constructive AONB framework plans to be developed and progressed. Defra are currently trying to help look at the potential for local support, to find a long term solution.

During 2007/8, Thanet Council's political cabinet has shown strong support for the TCP's work and has agreed that they will raise their funding contribution to help secure the TCP staff, as long as partnership funding and additional grants can be secured to implement the TCP's extensive events, activities and initiatives. This means that funding has been secured to cover the life of this business plan.

4.0 The Thanet Coast Project Work Plan 2008-12

The Thanet Coast Project (TCP) Work Plan 2008-12 is a series of tables of the actions identified by stakeholders as likely to have some TCP involvement in their implementation. These arose from stakeholder workshops held during 2006 in developing the North East Kent European marine sites (NEKEMS) Management Scheme and Action Plan (2007-12). Additional actions have since been included to help cover the remit of the TCP work.

There are 87 action points listed:

- 64 actions taken directly from the NEKEMS Action Plan 2007-12, as having some TCP involvement; **with priority actions in red (underlined in column 6).**
- 5 actions where TCP involvement has been added (in blue);
- 5 actions to support the Management Group's work (in blue);
- 13 additional TCP key tasks to help implement the TCP's work (section 16).

An additional seven mechanisms for assessing feedback for events, activities and issues have been listed at the end. These are also important for gauging the level of awareness of the general public or visitors about the nature conservation importance of the coast and its wildlife.

The TCP work plan follows the subject and theme headings of the NEKEMS Action Plan 2007-12, but adds two new sections 16 & 17:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. General Activity Management | 10. Species Management Control |
| 2. Shoreline Management | 11. Extraction of Materials |
| 3. Fishing and Harvesting | 12. New Projects and Research |
| 4. Shore Based Recreation | 13. Thanet Coast Project |
| 5. Water Based Recreation | 14. Monitoring |
| 6. Air Based Recreation | 15. Management Group Responsibilities |
| 7. Ports, Harbours and Navigation | 16. TCP Additional Key Tasks |
| 8. Research and Education | 17. Feedback |
| 9. Water Quality | |

Whilst all the following actions include links to the TCP, please note that each sub-heading within the first 12 categories also has a defined '**20:20 vision**' or '**long term objective**' as part of the **Management Scheme Assessment tables** (see Appendix 2) when stakeholders discussed each topic, using ecosystem principles, to arrive at the actions.

4.1 Action Plan Structure

The table is arranged as follows:

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | | | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|------|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|---|----------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----|
| Ref. | Actions <i>- how it will be achieved</i> {Measure of success} | P r i o r i t y | R i s k | £ | Type of action | Lead / Partners <i>- other partners</i> | Timing | | | | Progre ss & Risk Action | P r o g r e s s | |
| | 1.0 Subject heading | | | | | | 08/ 09 | 09/ 10 | 10/ 11 | 11/ 12 | | | |
| 1.02 | Promote Coast... <i>- like this</i> {#promoted twice} | H | M | | On ground | TCP, TDC | → | X | → | → | | | 😊 |

| Column 1: Number | Reference number for action |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Column 2: Summary of action | This column lists the action (in bold) as stated in the NEKEMS Action Plan 2007-12 (except for sections 16 and 17; Priority Action is shown in red). <i>- Additional comments about how it will be achieved have been added in italics below; followed by a new:</i> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | {Measure of success} for the action. |
| Column 3: Priority Rating | The Action Priority has indicated: H = High (marked in Red) & taken from Action Plan; or new ; M = Medium, or L = Low categories. |
| Column 4 : Risk Rating | This shows the indicative risk assessment rating for the action, based upon criteria recorded during the risk assessment (<i>supplementary information available from TCP</i>). All actions identified as High or Medium-High Risk , have a Risk Action recorded under progress to either Treat, Transfer or Terminate the action – or Tolerate if the risk is lowered. For further explanation see Appendix 6. |
| Column 5: £ | Indicates if further funds (£) are required. (These may be indicated within the time frame) |
| Column 6: Type of action | Lists one or more of 5 types of generic Management action: - Planning, Review, On-ground, Monitoring, Interpretation and Awareness. All priority action is shown in red & underlined. |
| Column 7: Responsibility for action | For each action, one or more relevant authority may be responsible; this is shown as LEAD in bold, where known <i>- with additional partner organisations indicated below in italics..</i> |
| Column 8: Time frame | This Work Plan covers the financial years from April to March from 2008 to 2012. Many of the actions listed have been time-tabled to happen as one off actions at certain points within the next 4 years or are discrete projects which span over several years. One offs are indicated with a cross (x), whilst on-going actions are indicated with arrows (→). |
| Column 9: Progress and Risk Action | <i>This section provides working reports on progress updates to allow this to be a working document that can be updated over the 4 years. Risk Assessment Actions have also been identified where risks have been deemed high or medium-high.</i> |
| Column 10: Progress summary | A quick indication is given as to whether the action has: ☺been completed; ☺is On-going/ developing; ?needs clarification; ☹not progressed; or Ⓜ requires future action. |
| <i>Column 11: Risk Assessment & Time Allocations</i> | <i>This information is only available as background information, and has been left out of this version. Both Action Risk Assessment and the Allocation of TCP staff time, with analysis against priorities and level of risk have been undertaken as research. For further information, please contact the TCP.</i> |

Abbreviations - Relevant Authorities:

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-------|--|
| CCC | Canterbury City Council | SFC | Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee |
| DDC | Dover District Council | SPH | Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners |
| KCC | Kent County Council | SW | Southern Water |
| EA | Environment Agency | TDC | Thanet District Council; & as |
| NE | Natural England | TDCHA | Harbour Authority |
| | | MGT | Management Group (all relevant authorities) |

Abbreviations - Partner Organisations and script used:

| | | | |
|--------|---|---------|--|
| EKP | East Kent Partnership | NNR | National Nature Reserve (Sandwich & Pegwell Bay NNR Committee) |
| K&MBRC | Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre | KWT | Kent Wildlife Trust |
| MCA | Maritime Coastguard Agency | NEKSCAG | North East Kent Scientific Coastal Advisory Group |
| NT | National Trust | SBBOT – | Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust |
| TCP | Thanet Coast Project | TLF | Thanet Leisure Force |
| TC | Tony Child, TCP | NB | Naomi Biggs, TCP Education Officer |
| M | Manager | S | Staff |

4.2 Thanet Coast Project Work Plan: Actions 2008-12

| Actions - how it will be achieved; & {# Measure of success} | | Priority | Risk | Costs | Type Of Action | LEAD / PARTNERS - Other partners | Timing (Apr-March/Year) | | | | Update: Risk Treatment | Progress |
|---|---|----------|------|-------|---|--|---|-------|--------------------------|-------|---|----------|
| 1. General Activity Management | | | | | | | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | 11/12 | | |
| 1.0 General Actions | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.01 | Produce GIS Map of data showing the numbers and locations of all activities and make information on levels of activities and trends available to inform management. - Needs KCC/NE/TDC support & specialist GIS help - suitable for small project commission, if finance can be secured. Estimate £900 2008/9; £900 2010/11 {# Completed GIS maps} | H | H | £ | On ground {Secure support, funding & commission work} | TCP - KCC/NE/TDC support {NB-data-see13.12; TC-funding/commission} | x est. £900 | → | x est. £900 | → | 2008/9: We do not have the expertise. Treat risk: Need to secure funding first; then commission GIS help. | ☹ |
| 1.02 | Promote Coastal Codes on an ongoing basis, monitor their compliance and use findings to advise any additional management requirements. - a) Promote during events/activities/presentations/articles see actions-13.13& 16.02-16.06; ; b) monitor - responses; and through GIS commission above; c) Advise actions where necessary: Revised codes-also see13.15 {# Target: Ongoing events: but specific actions= 3/yr-code related articles; school lectures-see16.3; Compliance & review: actions, recommendations; & revision of codes} | M | L | £ | On ground {promote; monitor; action} | TCP - TDC Communications /Stakeholders/Working Partners(eg TDC; KWT) | → | → | → x £ see 13.15 | → | 2007: 48public/ 49community/ 12additional events-2007. Action: Consensus workshop for Pegwell Bay baitdiggers & birdwatchers in 2007 due to non-compliance. 2008: Codes-general promotion at events/ presentations/ articles 2008: New promotion opportunity for Codes through Margate Front Shop Art. | ☺ |
| 1.03 | Codes of conduct/best practice will be developed with all new recreational interests around the Canterbury Coast, Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay. - Funds for workshops (£150/each). Consensus workshops required for boat operators & geologists; then any new ones arising. If new marine leaflet required (£2.1k) {# Any new codes developed with new users} | M | L | £ | Planning {workshops} | TCP - TDC/ CCC/ DDC; Boat Operators; Kent RIGs; RockDoc. | x Apr& Oct-£300 Leaflet if reqd £2k | → | → | → | 2008/9: Two workshops- Development of marine wildlife watching & fossil codes. | Ⓜ |
| 2. Shoreline Management | | Pr | Ri | £ | Type of Action | Lead - & partners | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | 11/12 | Update: | Pr og |
| 2.5 Management of Hard Defences (sea walls, groyne, cliff protection and rock revetments) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.52 | Provide better information on TDC's website explaining cliff protection, the effect of work on the natural features, and any planned works. - as stated {# Explanation written on TDC website} | L | L | | On ground | TDC, TCP | x | | | | | Ⓜ |
| 2.53 | Develop an information pack on coastal erosion to be used in schools in the local area. - As stated {# Pack produced} | L | L | £ | On ground | TCP (NB) - TDC | | x | | | Comment: Background information available - needs updated covering explanation. | Ⓜ |

| 3. Fishing and Harvesting | | | | Pr ior | Ri sk | £ | Type of Action | Lead - & partners | 08/ 09 | 09/ 10 | 10/ 11 | 11/ 12 | Update: | Pr og |
|---|---|---|--------|-----------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|--|------------|
| General Actions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.01 | Fishing associations and sea angling clubs will continue to promote an understanding and awareness of the features of international nature conservation importance around Thanet within the fishing community. - Offer Associations & clubs literature and presentations {Club action; TCP - No. of actions/presentations} | M | L | | Interpretation and awareness | TCP, SFC - clubs; Fishing Assocn. | → | → | → | → | | | 2007 - TCP outline discussion with SFC (NB-Fisheries well represented at 11/2007 stakeholder meeting) | ☹ |
| 3.02 | Brief Sea Fisheries Committee on Coastal Codes and management issues. - TCP presentation {# TCP briefing completed} | M | M L | | Interpretation and awareness | TCP {TC} - SFC | x | | | | | | For 2008: | Ⓜ |
| 3.2 Commercial and non-commercial bait digging and collection | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.21 | Identify location of nursery areas and include in the next version of the voluntary codes a guideline encouraging people not to target these nursery areas. - information obtained from baitdiggers and naturalists; recommend for inclusion in new codes 2010. {# included within revised codes by 2010/11} | M | L | | Research | TCP, NE, NEKSCAG | x | | | x (Revised Codes) | | | 2007: Nursery area for Pegwell Bay identified (12/2007 workshop); but may be variation throughout seasons/year elsewhere! | ☹ |
| 3.3 Shore fishing with fixed nets | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.31 | Collate information about the nature and scale of this activity and the nature and scale of any damage that is caused. - TCWS shore fixed net reports & observations: assess likely damage & report back to MGT {# TCP report to MGT 2009/10} | M | M H | | Monitoring | NEKSCAG, TCP, SFC | | | x | | | | {Comment: Pre-2007- Student project failed, as nets were too ephemeral} 2007/8: TCWS recording @4times/year does not give adequate indication of the extent that may be happening. So more reports required | Ⓜ |
| 3.5 Shore angling and angling competitions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.51 | Ensure codes are promoted to non club members via suppliers of fishing gear and emphasise the need for greater attention to be paid to the removal of debris. - TCP talk to & set up improved supply network to Tackle shops - & clubs - with leaflets in 2008 {# TCP set up regular supply of leaflets in place} | M | L | | Interpretation and awareness | TCP {TC} | x | → | → | → | | | ☐ | ☹ Ⓜ |
| 3.6 Shell fish harvesting on reefs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|----|--|------------|-------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| 3.62 | Formalise the monitoring of shell fish harvesting activities undertaken by Coastal Wardens through the use of a template which records numbers involved, locations, amount taken and the date. Use this monitoring information to inform further research or management requirements. - monitoring procedures to be set up with wardens {# Monitoring template/procedures set up in place} | H | L | | Monitoring | TCP - TCWS | x | | | | | 2007: Set up; but not working effectively - so recording details have been streamlined & resent to wardens in late 2007/Jan.2008. | ☹ |
| 3.64 | If required explore possible methods of controlling levels of take / removal. - Discuss, if required at NEKSCAG meeting {# If required, list of potential methods produced} | L | L* | | Review | NE,TCP,TDC , NEKSCAG | x | x | | | | {*Comment: Lists are LOW risk: but legal/hr threats to controls for implementation may be high! | ☺ |

| 4. Shore Based Recreation | | | | | | | | | | | Update: | | Pr og |
|--|---|-------|--------|---|----------------|---------------------------------------|--------|----------------|--------------------|-------|---------|---|-------|
| | | Prior | Risk | £ | Type of Action | Lead - & partners | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | 11/12 | | | |
| General Actions | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.01 | Promote Coastal Codes on beach information signs. - TCP to draft & agree wording for TDC signs. Implementation dependent on TDC securing funds for new signs; gradual replacement likely. {# Codes on new information signs} | M | M L | £ | On ground | TCP, TDC (&£) | x | → | → | → | | 2007/8: TCP supplied draft wording for 1st sign at Broadstairs | ☺ |
| 4.06 | Encourage greater participation in Shoresearch activities. - TCP to promote Shoresearch within public events and TCWS training. Ask for No.s from KWT {Repeat of 8.04: Recommend DELETE one } {# Local events listed in newsletter & warden events; No.s at NEKent events?} | L | M L | | On ground | TCP, NE - KWT | → | → | → | → | | | ☺ |
| 4.3 Dog Walking | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.31 | Promote Coastal Codes to dog walkers throughout the winter period (October to March), ensuring that greater attention is paid to issues of disturbance. - TCP to promote through activities; events, articles & TCWS (specific events: dog walkers; Turnstone watching & disturbance). {# Codes promoted to dog walkers} | H | M | £ | On ground | TCP - TCWS; KWT | x a | → b £240 | → c £50 0 | → | | 2007/8: KWT held dog event with TCP info; TCP held Turnstone event at Margate. x Treat: a) Produce flyer for TCWS to hand out; b) workshops & c) event for Pegwell Bay (2xworkshops-£240=, event with KWT-£500=) | ☺ |
| 4.4 Motorbikes, quadbikes, go-karts and mini motos | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.42 | Review the risks to people and disturbance to wildlife from these activities and agree definite action to reduce the problem. - Suggest subject is raised at NEKSCAG for discussion & feed back to TDC/CCC/DDC {# Discussed and actions agreed} | M | L | | Review | NE, TCP, TDC, CCC - Kent Police | x | | | | | 2007/8: 4.41-TDC still trying to get inland site for bikes. {Comment: Easy to review at NEKSCAG meeting. No unauthorised vehicles allowed on foreshore. TDC wardens/KCC Police help provided. Problem sites were former hoverpad Pegwell Bay; coastal trail at Minnis-but less of problem during 2007. One report Botany Bay in 2008}. | ☺ |

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| 6.21 | Meet and dialogue with representatives of the sport to consider the options and suggestions for management of these activities and select the most workable. - Liaise with kite propelled users to seek agreement to limit any impact on wildlife. Invite new stakeholder representative. {# Meeting & resolution or agreement} | H | M H | £ | Planning | TCP, NE, DDC, TDC - users | | X £100 -pos' eve work shop | | | | Threat – is time to arrange discussions and establish way forward. Transfer risk – ask TDC as part of Foreshore management to help action meeting. Note: Pegwell Bay agreement has been established but needs to be reviewed. | Ⓜ |
|------|--|---|--------|---|----------|---------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|

| 8. Research and Education | | Prior | Risk | £ | Type of Action | Lead - & partners | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | 11/12 | Update: | Prog |
|---------------------------|---|-------|--------|---|---|--|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|--|--------|
| General Actions | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8.01 | Collate information about the type, locations and numbers involved in research within the European Marine Sites. - K&MBRC database; TCP main contact for collating new research, & new projects (TC) {# Information collated} | M | M L | | Research | NEKSCAG - K&MBRC for existing research -TCP (TC) | X | | | | 2008: Updated and circulated project lists (TC) | 😊 😊 |
| 8.02 | Develop an information pack for those carrying out research alerting them to the nature conservation importance of the NE Kent European Marine Sites, 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. - TCP to produce pack (comprising of Research Code, MS summary, Thanet Coastal Codes & Newsletter) ready to hand out to enquiries {# Pack produced} | L | L | £ | Research - £900 Research code update/ print = not essential - £500 (design/print- Covering Folder for NEKEMS) | TCP (TC), NE | X £500 (+£900) | → | → | → | 2007/8: Information leaflets ready, but if funding available then 'Research Code' leaflet & NE Kent EMS pack cover would help. | 😊 |
| 8.03 | Continue to support NEKSCAG activities and use their advice to inform management. - Attend and participate in Coastal Advisory Group meetings; feedback advice to MGT, stakeholder or TCP/TDC {Attendance/contribution to 2-4 meetings/year; feedback advice or action} | M | M L | | Research | All Relevant Authorities - TCP | → | → | → | → | 2007/8: TCP supported, and contributions made (Proposed project lists - see Collate information above) | 😊 |
| 8.04 | Encourage greater participation in Seasearch and Shoresearch activities. - Repeated action to Shore (4.6) & Diving (5.22) {# Increase/Good No.s attending NEKent events} | L | M L | | Research | TCP, NE - KWT | → | → | → | → | | 😊 |
| 8.05 | Undertake studies on carrying capacity of activities. - Requires securing funding before extensive research project work {See comment} {# Research of activities completed} | L | H | £ | Research | TCP? - NE/ EA/ NEKSCAG | | X | | | {Comment: Suggest raise at NEKSCAG as to what is involved & how it should be approached: ie if £ is required for a research project} | Ⓜ ? |

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|--|--|---|--------|---|--|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|--------|
| 8.06 | Encourage and promote the undertaking of student research projects within the European marine sites. - as stated (but suggest remove 'student' to allow all types of research!) {List of opportunities available} | L | M | | Research | TCP (TC) - NEKSCAG; K&M BRC | → | → | → | → | 2007/8: Completed new list with new & Management Scheme actions; circulated within NEKSCAG. | ☺ ☹ |
| 8.1 Archaeology | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8.11 | Codes of conduct or protocols will be developed with local archaeological groups. - Liaise with local groups to see if necessary for inclusion, as limited activity & so may be possible to absorb into general 'Seashore' code. {# Agreement to keep in general code or completion of new code if required} | L | M* | £ | Planning £100 possible workshop/ meeting | TCP - Thanet Archaeological Trust; KCC | | x | | | * Comment: need to see if code really required? | ? |
| 8.12 | Include archaeology more in TCP activities so it is better able to inform local people. - include at least two coastal archaeological links, within TCP events, presentations or articles/features {# Completion of archaeological awareness features} | L | L | | On ground | TCP | | x eve nt | | x eve nt | | ☺ |
| 8.13 | Involve Thanet Archaeological Trust in training volunteer wardens in understanding this aspect of Thanet's Heritage. - Run two warden coastal Archaeological training events {# Completion of training events} | L | L | | On ground | TCP | x even t | | x eve nt | | 2007: Completed one warden awareness training session | ☺ ® |
| 8.2 Geology / Geomorphology | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| See general actions above | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8.4 Interpretation and promotion of wildlife and geology | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8.41 | Make deliberate efforts to reach young people and hard to reach groups and encourage more to attend activities. - Run new youth beach playscheme and invite target groups to participate for three year programme. School water safety lectures-see16.13. {Run play scheme; No.from target groups attending; Children/hard to reach groups taking part} | M | M H | £ | On ground | TCP (NB) - TDC - TLF/MCA | x | x | x | → | 70k/3yrs-£ secured: Beach Play scheme starts Apr 2008 with 3-year Lottery Funding to August 2010. | ® |
| 8.42 | Seek to encourage other organisations such as KWT and SBBOT to continue the promotion of wildlife and geology within the European marine sites. - KWT run shoresearch; country parks events programmes; educational work. SBBOT events programmes. {# Annual wildlife & educational events take place} | M | M | | Planning | NE, TCP - KWT, SBBOT, RSPB | → | → | → | → | 2007: KWT ran events at Reculver & Pegwell Bay, plus Shoresearch & Seasearch activities. SBBOT ran a regular event programme within Sandwich Bay area. | ☺ |

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|---|--|---|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--------|
| 8.43 | Continue to manage the impacts on wildlife with interpretation, and walks and talks. - Highlight through the annual TCP public & community events programmes; presentations to local community groups; and through interpretation/ publicity opportunities. (Related to codes 1.02; events - 13.14 to 13.16; publicity 16.05) {# No.of presentations & advisory opportunities; Note: Events recorded under 13.14 & promoted 1.02} | M | M | | On ground | TCP | → | → | → | → | 2007: Annual TCP events and activities highlight issues and promote ways to avoid disturbance. | ☺ |
| 8.44 | If impacts from increased rock pooling trampling and erosion are identified, implement appropriate management measures. - If damage is noted, change activity to less pressured locations - or introduce ways of minimising impact {# If noted, avoidance measures taken} | M | M H * | | On ground | TCP - KWT; Volunteers | x | → | → | → | * 2007: TCP already take some evasive action to avoid use of high public pressure areas - eg rocks around paddling pool, Viking Bay - in event planning. Good practice with wildlife friendly techniques (eg safaris) to tick wildlife seen, rather than collect will help more. | ☺ |
| 8.5 Bird watching | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8.51 | Encourage bird watchers to respect other species and habitats. - UNSURE of Action: Suggest promotion of public bird watching opportunities & cross-links to respect other species/habitats as well as other people's interests (as I believe this may be where this point came from during MS workshops?) {Opportunities highlighting respect/ responsible links taken} | L | M H * | | On ground | TCP, NE - KWT, RSPB, SBBOT, BOT | → | → | → | → | 2007/8: Bird watching & Pegwell Bait-digging workshop gave chance to air different interest perspectives. *Threat - unlikely to listen, as they consider that they are more environmentally aware than most people! | ? ☺ |
| 8.52 | Explore methods of encouraging bird watchers to feed back information to Bird Observatories as a means of monitoring the SPA features. - liaise with SBBOT/BOT on this issue {Methods discussed to seek better monitoring} | M | M L | | Planning | TCP - SBBOT; BOT; RSPB; TCWS; NE | → | → | → | → | □ | Ⓜ |
| 8.6 Wildlife watching boat trips | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8.61 | Work up a voluntary code of conduct with operators who carry out this activity (informed by NEKSCAG). - Workshop required to discuss & agree new code - Secure funds for workshop (£150; more £ if leaflet required) and agree upon new code for marine wildlife watching. {# New code agreed} | H | M H | £ | Planning £-£100 workshop; £-leaflet est.£1.6k /8K | TCP - NEKSCAG; Wildlife operators | x | | | | <i>Treat risk: TCP trained to facilitate.</i> | Ⓜ |
| 8.62 | Monitor seal numbers and the number of boat visits to the sandbanks. - Agree monitoring scheme with operators at code workshop {# Monitoring scheme set up with local operators} | H | M L | | Monitoring | TCP - NEKSCAG; Wildlife operators | x | | | | <i>2007: Mike Turner is the only wildlife excursion recording seal no.s; so need to assist all new operators to join in.</i> | Ⓜ |

9. Water Quality

| | Pr ior | Ri sk | £ | Type of Action | Lead - & partners | 08/ 09 | 09/ 10 | 10/ 11 | 11/ 12 | Update: | Pr og |
|--|-----------|----------|---|-------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|
|--|-----------|----------|---|-------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|

9.3 Plastic and non-biodegradable rubbish

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|---|--------|--|-----------|----------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 9.33 | Promote and continue beach cleans within the European marine sites through the support of the Clean Kent Campaign (KCC) - KCC's campaign; TCP's local beach cleans (public / community groups) & publicity {# Promotion and activities in the area} | L | M L | | On ground | KCC {- TCP} | → | → | → | → | | ☺ |
|------|--|---|--------|--|-----------|----------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|

| 10. Species Management and Control | | | | | | | | | | | | Pr og |
|------------------------------------|----|---|---------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|--|----|-------|
| Pr | Ri | £ | Type of | Lead - & | 08/ | 09/ | 10/ | 11/ | Update: | | Pr | |
| ior | sk | | Action | partners | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | | og | |

| 10.1 Non-native species | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 10.11 | Explore the feasibility of encouraging harvesting of non native species e.g. the Oysters. - Discuss item at NEKSCAG meeting {# Feasibility explored} | H | M H * | | Research | TCP, NEKSCAG | x | | | | | {*Comment: Risk threat is not from discussion, but after: in raising legal and societal constraints. Conflicting public messages: promoting harvest goes against general conservation & shellfish messages}. | Ⓜ |
|-------|---|---|-------------|--|----------|-----------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|

| 10.2 Seaweed and Coastal Plant Collection | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 10.21 | Provide more information about the importance of seaweed habitats and the effect of removal. - Write article or leaflet about issue {# Article/leaflet produced} | M | M L * | | On ground | TDC, TCP | x | | | | | 2008: Newspaper article/complaint(1-08), so needs even rough explanatory leaflet. | Ⓜ |
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| 10.25 | Explore with collectors a possible project to harvest edible species at a sustainable level that also puts money back into managing for conservation. - Liaise with experts and collectors; seeking national advice on good guidance before proceeding - see below. {# Possible project ideas explored} | H | M H * | | Research | NE, TCP | | x | | | | * Medium-high risk - as needs national guidelines (below) first. | Ⓜ |
|-------|--|---|-------------|--|----------|---------|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--|---|-------------|--|----------|---------|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| 10.26 | Develop good practice guidance note with local collectors. - Develop in light of new national advice. {# New local good practice guidance agreed} | H | M H * | | Planning | NE, TCP | | x | | | | * Medium-high risk: Treat - awaiting national guidelines(NE); to develop clear local guidelines that are sustainable; otherwise may lead to wider exploitation that can't be monitored effectively. | Ⓜ |
|-------|--|---|-------------|--|----------|---------|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|

| 11. Extraction of Materials | | | | | | | | | | | | Pr og |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|--|----|-------|
| Pr | Ri | £ | Type of | Lead - & | 08/ | 09/ | 10/ | 11/ | Update: | | Pr | |
| ior | sk | | Action | partners | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | | og | |

| 11.1 Collection of flints, curios and other inert hard materials | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| 11.12 | Ask TCP wardens to collate hard data of the scale of collection to set a baseline and monitor trends. <i>- Include extraction details to be recorded whenever seen. High Risk- as likely not to be seen during normal monitoring. ASK TDC Foreshore to record, as more likely to see collections.</i> {# Request made to collate information through TCWS training/recording sheet) | L | M H * | | Planning | TCP - TCWS - TDC | | x | | | | * 2007/8: Request can be made: but info is not always there! (TCWS records only 4 times/year, so apart from incident records is unlikely to give a good indication of the extent that this may be happening). | ☹ |
| 11.13 | Alert any coal or curio collectors within the NNR to the risk of disturbing wintering or ground nesting birds. <i>- Request to NNR wardens, & others, to inform collectors when present. High Risk - as limited times known to occur, & difficult to get access when does occur (may be best to inform NNR wardens/SBBOT to investigate, or Residents Assocn toll to inform people leaving bay).</i> {# When present, collectors informed} | L | L | | On ground | TCP - NNR, SBBOT; TCWS | | x | | | | 2007: No reports to TCP of collectors | ? |
| 11.2 Fossil Extraction | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11.21 | Collate hard data of the scale of collection to set a baseline and monitor trends. <i>- Establish the extent through TCWS monitoring. - Also need advice from TDC; Kent RIGs & others on extent.</i> {# Data collated} | L | M H * | | Monitoring | TCP - TCWS - TDC; Kent RIGs etc | | x | | | | 2007/8: Threat -General TCWS recording 4 times/year does not give a good indication of the extent that this may be happening. | ☹ |
| 11.22 | Form a working group with representations from NEKSCAG, Rock Doc, RIGS, KWT and members of relevant clubs to prioritise the suggested action for management of fossil extraction and develop an action plan. <i>- Form group to discuss fossil extraction management & prioritise action plan {such as need for new fossil code?}</i> {# Working Group formed; Fossil extraction management/action/code agreed} | H | M L | £ | Planning <u>£-</u> <u>possibly</u> <u>for</u> <u>workshop/</u> <u>meeting</u> | TCP, NE, CCC - Kent RIGs, Rock Doc, KWT, NEKSCAG | | x | | | | | Ⓡ ? |
| 11.3 Clearance of debris and dumped materials | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11.31 | Promote a better understanding of the effect of dumping on the shore. <i>- write articles, & cover effects at beach clean events and presentations (need to clarify what dumping?)</i> (# written articles, events, presentations or other promotions of the effects?) | L | L | | On ground | TCP, TDC - KCC, Marine Conservation Society | | → | → | → | → | Comment: Low priority time constraint for writing in articles | ☹ |

| 12. New Projects and Research | | | | | | | | | | | Pr og |
|---|----------|---|-------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|--|----------|
| Pr ior | Ri sk | £ | Type of Action | Lead - & partners | 08/ 09 | 09/ 10 | 10/ 11 | 11/ 12 | Update: | | Pr og |
| 12.1 New Projects and Areas of Research | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--|---|-------------|---|----------|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| 12.11 | Explore the idea of a public art project that promotes the wildlife features of the European Marine Sites. - Draft outline proposal for discussion for MGT, TDC, stakeholders & partners. {Treat: if funding allowed to bring in p/t person} {# Idea explored} | H | M H | £ | Planning | MGT GROUP, TCP - Stakeholders; IOTA; Turner Contemporary; Arts Council | x | | | | Threat is time constraint with rest of TCP actions. (Finance will be the next biggest threat to any proposal) - Treat: if £ can be found to bring in p/t person to take proposal forward. | Ⓜ |
| 12.12 | Conduct a feasibility study into the development of a natural zone within the European marine sites which can be used as a reference point where only low impact scientific monitoring takes place, people are discouraged from entering and activities are excluded. - Discuss amendment to the Action: progress as 'Investigate the feasibility of establishing a NZ within the EMS and what it would be' (delete from...which can be used etc) Hold workshops on the issue with stakeholders, NEKSCAG Conf. & produce discussion paper for wider comment. {# Workshops held, paper produced & feedback obtained} | H | H * | £ | Research | MGT GROUP, TCP, NEKSCAG | x | | | | * High risk - As to what is "feasible"; nature of a 'Natural Zone' is; and 'user reaction' against any new constraints. | ☹ |
| 12.17 | Promote discussion for proposals to establish a focus for visitor interpretation at the former hoverport site in Pegwell Bay. - Raise former hoverport site suitability potential visitor centre at NE Kent meetings (otherwise, suggest reclaim hardcore to revert to nature) {# Item raised at suitable meetings} | M | M H * | | Planning | TDC, TCP - NT, EKP | x | | | | 2007: TDC & NT discussions came to nothing, as site clear up required. Natural East Kent unlikely to help either. * Main risks are that although discussion is possible, it needs the political will, connections and finances to go forward. | Ⓜ |
| 12.18 | Secure funds for the development of coastal access opportunities and interpretation (including climate change awareness) along the North East Kent Coast. - Apply for funds for promoting coastal access opportunities {# Funds secured for further development of coastal access} | M | M H * | | Planning | TDC, TCP, CCC | | x | | | * Risk related to time required to take forward project and initially secure funds to undertake action | Ⓜ |
| 12.19 | Establish links and explore partnership opportunities through the Natural East Kent Project. - Liaise and explore NEK opportunities with East Kent Partnership and partners {# Opportunities explored} | M | M H * | | Planning | MGT GROUP - TCP; Natural East Kent Local Advisory Group | ☺ | | | | 2007/8: COMPLETED Partnerships explored - NEK put Leader bid in (Jan2007) Medium-High Risk - as process too complex & unlikely to help towards TCP's remit. | ☺ |

13. Thanet Coast Project

| | Pr ior | Ri sk | £ | Type of Action | Lead - & partners | 08/ 09 | 09/ 10 | 10/ 11 | 11/ 12 | Update: | Pr og |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------|---|-------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|
| 13.1 Thanet Coast Project | | | | | | | | | | | |

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|-------|--|---|--------|---|--|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|---|---|
| 13.11 | <p>Secure long term funding to ensure the continuation of the Project.</p> <p>- Request regular annual partner contributions; applications to suitable grant sources towards project costs (to support two Project staff and project remit for events, activities and initiatives, such as running volunteer warden scheme. {# Long term funding}</p> | H | H | £ | <p>Planning</p> <p>£70k core costs; £30k project costs</p> | <p>MGT GROUP, TCP</p> <p>- grants & sponsorship</p> | x | | | | <p>2007/8: Risk part-Treated: TDCI Cabinet agreed to contribute £60k/yr from 2008/9 (approx. 55% of annual gross costs); but dependent on securing continued partner contributions and sponsorship</p> | ☺ |
| 13.12 | <p>Collate all existing data collected through the Coastal Wardening Programme into a GIS and use this information to inform management.</p> <p>- Same Action as 1. Collate TCWS data & link to GIS using short-term commissioned specialist. Use information to inform MGT/NEKSCAG/Stakeholders for next MS review {# Information produced & used to inform future management}</p> | H | H | £ | <p>Planning</p> <p>- £800x2</p> | <p>TCP, TDC</p> <p>- KCC /NE /Specialist</p> <p>- MGT /NEKSCAG /Stakeholders</p> | x | | x | | <p>See Action 1. Lack of technological expertise. Treat: Commission in assistance</p> | Ⓜ |
| 13.13 | <p>TCP to produce a Work Programme for 2007-12 including ways that will raise public awareness and concern about coastal wildlife using a variety of media - from presentations to green tourism with links to the coastscape and the arts.</p> <p>- Business & Work Plan produced with clarity on communication strategy {# Business Plan produced}</p> | H | M L | | <p>Planning</p> | TCP | x | | | | <p>2008-12 Work Plan produced</p> | ☺ |
| 13.14 | <p>Run or encourage a programme of coastal and marine related public events.</p> <p>- Secure funding for commissions or costs incurred. Plan, set up and run a programme of mainly spring, summer and autumn coastal and wildlife related events; and encourage and promote other green coastal tourism activities or opportunities. Target - Min. 50events/year. {# Events programme run successfully - no. of events; people taking part & feedback important}</p> | H | M L | £ | <p>Awareness and Interpretation</p> | TCP | → £ | → £ | → £ | → £ | <p>Risks associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - staff time required for events; - securing of funding <p>Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - volunteer time assistance; - if no £, events have to be streamlined | ☺ |
| 13.15 | <p>Work with local people and interest groups to reduce unintentional harm to coastal wildlife and encourage responsible use of the coast - through stakeholder liaison and implementation of Management Scheme action.</p> <p>- Work with interest groups to promote coastal codes, establish new ones or produce local agreements; and review and produced revised codes for 10/11 (also see 1.02 promotion) {# No.of group presentations; specific codes promoted at events; code-related actions/workshops completed}</p> | H | M * | £ | <p>On ground</p> | TCP | → | x | x | → | <p>* Risk reduced: as long as staff in place to run workshops</p> | ☺ |

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|-------|--|---|----|---|-------------------------------------|-----|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 13.16 | TCP to train and support local coastal volunteers - or 'coastal champions' to help look after the coast. - Secure sponsorship; 'recruit'; run annual training & event programme, and support enquiries/issues {# Annual training programme completed; No.s on core & additional training; Total wardens; Annual feedback/survey} | H | M* | £ | <u>On ground</u> | TCP | → New leaflet £2.2k - Annual training £2k/yr | → - Annual training £2k/yr | → - Annual training £2k/yr | → - Annual training £2k/yr | * Risk reduced: as long as existing staff in place to run scheme. | ☺ |
| 13.17 | Engage with diverse community groups in raising coastal awareness and action - through partnership links and community events and activities. - Write outline plan for engaging with diverse community groups: to manage & measure success of engaging community groups; attracting new ones, ethnic minorities; targeting elderly & young. Target = min. 30 events/year. {# Community Outreach plan produced; No. of events/yr; groups engaged /No.s people/ feedback} | H | M* | | <u>Awareness and interpretation</u> | TCP | → | → | → | → | * Risk reduced: as long as staff still in place to run scheme. | ☺ |

| 14. Monitoring | | Prior | Risk | £ | Type of Action | Lead - & partners | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | 11/12 | Update: | Prog |
|--|--|-------|------|---|----------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|------|
| 14.6 Monitoring of Additional Features | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14.6.1 | NEKSCAG to identify on a yearly basis any features that they think require monitoring within the European marine sites. (e.g. seals) - as stated {# Features identified for monitoring} | M | L | | Monitoring | NEKSCAG - TCP | → | → | → | → | 2007: TCWS additional monitoring on shellfish collecting (Willie McKnight's project) and Turnstones (SBBOT/NE). TCP to set up marine wildlife records (mainly seals, through NE Kent boat operators). | ® |

| 15. Management Group Responsibilities | | Prior | Risk | £ | Type of Action | Lead - & partners | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | 11/12 | Update: | Prog |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------|--------|---|----------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|------|
| 15.1 Management Structure | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15.1.1 | Create an Induction Pack that outlines the responsibilities of the Management Group in relation to management of the European Marine Sites. {# Information pack produced} | H | M L | | Planning | MGT GROUP - TCP? | x | | | | | ® |

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|-------|--|---|-------------|---|--|--|-------------|---|---|---|---|--------|
| 16.03 | Produce Thanet Coast newsletter (2/year) to raise profile of the events and activities, issues and feedback on progress on the management of the NE Kent European marine sites. - as stated 10k print run; Medium Risk - as very time consuming/costly; but vital communications route for many people {# Newsletters 2/yr produced and circulated} | H | M L * | £ | Awareness and Interpretation | TCP - TDC £ required (£6.8k-design, print & p/year) | X | X | X | X | * Risk may be much higher - as running costs are high - Tolerate as much as possible; Treat: more promotion to ask people to "link" to 'on-line' newsletter instead to save the environment (& cash for us!) | ☺ |
| 16.04 | Produce literature to raise the profile of the importance of the coast Revise: a-Thanet Coastal Warden Scheme; b-Managing the coast; c-Revised Thanet Coastal Codes; d-Seven Year Summary update (not printed) {# Leaflets & summary produced} | H | M H * | £ | Awareness and Interpretation 3&4-Review | TCP - TDC, NE x a £2.2k (see 13.16) x d £0 x b £2.4k - also see 13.15 x c (£2.4k=see action 1.02 & 13.15) | | | | | 2008: Only few of a.&b. left. * Treat: make time to produce; d-low on schedule, but useful for future sponsors - so urgently needed. Secure £ for other leaflets | ☺ Ⓡ |
| 16.05 | Raise profile of North East Kent European marine site and TCP through at least 50 items within the media each year. - mainly articles and coverage on non-TCP publications, interviews on TV/Radio. (-presentations to local groups-recorded elsewhere) {# No. of press articles covered/year} | M | M L | | Awareness and Interpretation | TCP | → | → | → | → | | ☺ |
| 16.06 | Provide a 'first stop shop' for coastal enquiries relating to the natural environment - provide a 'coastal first stop shop' to help coastal-related enquiries by telephone and generic e-mail - address or try to resolve any issues arising {# No.of enquiries/year by tel & e-mail; enquiries resolved?} | M | M L | | On-going | TCP | → | → | → | → | | ☺ |
| 16.07 | Develop new coastal wildlife-related opportunities arising to promote or enhance the EMS or TCP remit - from 'first stop shop' enquiries, new grants/sponsors, partners or community groups {# No.of opportunities progressed & implemented} | M | H * | | Planning & On ground | TCP - grants; sponsors; partners; community | → a b | → | → | → | * Treat: Take opportunity on individual merit basis 2008 :a) SW funded SeaGarden (with artist&TDC): Launch May2008. b) Code-related artist/community shop front design. | ☺ |
| 16.08 | Set up and run regular NE Kent coast stakeholder meetings (2/year) to discuss coastal management - arrange & run 2 workshops/yr {# Twice/year meetings or workshops completed} | H | M L | | Planning | TCP | → | → | → | → | | ☺ Ⓡ |
| 16.09 | Report and assist MGT meetings (2/year) on progress - Produce TCP report; action; note taking of meetings {# Meetings 2/year completed} | H | M L | | Planning | TCP | → | → | → | → | | ☺ |

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|-------|---|---|-------------|---|----------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---|---|------------|
| 16.10 | {Contribute to Scientific Coastal Advisory Group's meetings & remit - min.2/year - as stated; already under 8.03 forMGT; same?} Assist with North East Kent Coast Biennial Research Conferences to review latest coastal research - assist setting up, running & contributions - or workshops - to conference {# Conference successfully completed} | M | M H * | £ | Planning and Review | NEKSCAG - TCP | X £2k | | X £2k | | * Treat Risk: organisational & securing funding! Needs a) willing organisers; and b) Funding: ask partners or apply for funding. If none available, then scale down Conference to have free venue & minimal refreshment & lunch donation optional! | ☹ Ⓡ |
| 16.11 | Contribute to regular service meetings and networking across the local authority services. - Attend CS managers (approx. 1/month); TDC manager meetings (4/yr); CS staff training sessions (1/ month) where time allows; links to contributing service areas (Communications; finance; web; on-line bookings; tourism; events; foreshore; sports; arts; engineers; human resources) {# Attendance/contributions; if time available} | L | M L | | Planning | | → | → | → | → | | ☹ |
| 16.12 | Network with Coastal Partnerships, agencies and charities to share and improve best practice - Support networks where possible or time allows (eg Kent Coastal Network; Coastal Partnerships; CoastNet; Natural England's Maritime Team; Defra) {# Network links maintained; opportunities to exchange best practice} | M | M L | | Planning | | → | → | → | → | | ☹ |
| 16.13 | Develop further links to schools: a) Produce outline of what TCP can provide for schools; b) Develop & run marine eco-club (after-school coastal club for KS 3 to 4) c) Teacher training sessions - Run twilight sessions for KS1 and 2 to enable teachers to act as marine champions d) Create education pack: Thanet Coast habitats/species guide, lesson plans and activities for KS1, 2 and 3, teacher's coastal site-visit tool kit; e) Promote Thanet Coastal Codes & EMS through Annual Water Safety Lectures (with TLF/MCA) {# TCP schools outline; pack; trialed club; training sessions; Lectures-Schools/No.of children/yr} | M | H * | | Planning & On ground | TCP | X a) b)- Pfizer £1k | X c) need s £ | X d) nee ds £ | X | * Risk High - as very time consuming & requires further resources. - Treat: Stagger work; Secure financial contribution to trial b) £1k pfizer; but c) & d) are dependent upon sponsorship | ☹ Ⓡ |

| 17. Feedback surveys {last survey dates} | | Prior | Risk | £ | Type of Action | Lead - & partners | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | 11/12 | Update: | Prog |
|--|---|-------|------|---|----------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|------|
| 17.01 | NE Kent EMS Stakeholder workshops - participation in decision making process {2006} - workshop participation on issues/feedback {2007} | H | | | Review | MGT; TCP | | X | | X | 2006: MS Workshops 2007: MS Final version; & 11/2007: Natural Area workshops (Action point 12.12) | ☹ |
| 17.02 | Thanet Coast' Newsletter feedback {2006/7} - public survey on newsletter & events | H | | | Review | TCP; TDC | X | | X | | 2006: Newsletter format & events | ☹ |

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|-------|---|---|--|--------|--------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 17.03 | TCP Public Events feedback {2007} - feedback on events | H | | Review | TCP | | X | | X | 2007: Summer events; &Safer Stronger Communities Fund workshops feedback. | ☺ |
| 17.04 | TCP Community Events feedback - Feedback on events | H | | Review | TCP | | X | | X | 2009/10 – Proposed(New) | ® |
| 17.05 | Thanet Coastal Warden feedback {12/2007} - scheme feedback - monitoring & reporting of incidents | H | | Review | TCP -TCWS | X | X | X | X | 2007: - Annual Forum workshops (11/2007). - Regular 'Incident' reporting/monitoring by wardens; | ☺ |
| 17.06 | TDC Tourism Surveys {annual: 2006&2007} - feedback from tourism on TCP events; awareness | H | | Review | TDC | X | X | X | X | Tourism questions asked if they are aware of the importance of coast, or TCP & events/activities | ☺ |
| 17.07 | TDC Residents panel - Beaches {2007} | H | | Review | TDC | X | | | X | 2007: 1,000 residents panel survey included questions asking if they are aware of the importance of coast, or TCP & events/activities. | ☺ |

NOTE: The Work Plan is a working document that will be updated on 'excel' and reported back to the NEKEMS Management Group at the annual Management Scheme update - usually in spring - each year.

5.0 Appendices

The appendices include:

- 5.1 North East Kent European marine sites and Thanet Coast Project
'Memorandum of Agreement (Pdf)
- 5.2 North East Kent European marine sites Management Scheme
a) Aims, & b) 2007-12 information
- 5.3 *'First Five Years – Thanet Coast Project' (Pdf)*
- 5.4 Thanet District Council's Corporate Plan 2007-11
- Relevant key themes
- 5.5 *The Thanet Coast Project budget 2008-12*
- 5.6 *Thanet Coast Project's Action Risk Assessment*