

North East Kent Marine Protected Area

# Coastal Warden Introductory Training 2025



# Content

<b>Welcome Volunteers</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NEKMPA Management Scheme</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>NEKMPA Coastal Warden Activity Survey</b>	<b>4</b>
Advice on When to Survey	4
Guide to Completing Your Activity Survey Forms	5
<b>Submitting your Activity Survey Data</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>NEKMPA Coastal Wardens: Reporting Incidents</b>	<b>11</b>
Submitting Incident Reports Online	11
<b>Bird Wise East Kent - Bird disturbance</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Health and Safety</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Social Media</b>	<b>15</b>
NEKMPA & Thanet Coast Project	15
Coastal Wardens: 'Closed Group'	15
<b>Feedback Survey</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Marine Activities</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Other Volunteer Opportunities</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Further Reading List</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Activity Survey Form</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Coastal Warden Agreement</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Useful Telephone Numbers</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>NE Kent Marine Protected Area: Map</b>	<b>28</b>

## Welcome Volunteers

Thank you for volunteering your time to become a Coastal Warden.

We hope you find the introductory training workshop useful. Whilst, the nature conservation importance of our coast will be shown within the presentations, this pack - backed up by your online resource locker and links - will cover some of the information which we hope will be of help.

The Thanet Coastal Project (TCP) has been training volunteers as Coastal Wardens since 2004 and they have played a key role in “coastal stewardship” as the ‘eyes & ears’ of the coastline by reporting incidents, coastal activities, wildlife surveys - and feeding into the management of the North East Kent Marine Protected Area (NEKMPA).

During 2017-20 the Thanet Coast Project partnered with the Kent Wildlife Trust, Medway Swale Estuary Partnership, Kent County Council and Natural England and with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund delivered ‘*Guardians of the Deep*’ which extended this stewardship role around the whole of Kent coastline and estuaries. The Thanet Coast Project now helps volunteer coastal wardens around North East Kent from Whitstable to Deal.

As a Coastal Warden you can ‘adopt’ a particular stretch of coast to look after and get involved in activities including conducting activity surveys, and reporting incidents you observe. Your reports of wildlife sightings will help to add to our understanding about where species live, alert us to non-native species and new arrivals, and add to our understanding of the marine environment. Reporting any damaging activity (‘incident reports’) will enable the relevant authorities to take action, and any beach cleans you organise, or get involved in, will help to remove rubbish that poses a danger to the health of our marine life. All of these actions help to protect the marine environment.

As a coastal warden, please remember that your safety is paramount! It is important to let somebody know where you are going and what time to expect you back, and please familiarise yourself with the hazards of your chosen section of the coast - including the bay information boards, and the risk assessments in this pack.

You’ve all your Coastal Warden Resources - and this pack - online as your paperless backup - including more information and related marine and coastal links to further online information. The Coastal Warden Resource Locker can be found at:

<https://wwwthanetcoast.org.uk/coastal-warden-resource/>

If you have any questions, suggestions or ideas then please contact us at [thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk)

We hope you have a rewarding time on the coast.

With grateful thanks,

**Tony Child**

Thanet Coast Project  
and NEKMPA Officer

## NEKMPA Management Scheme

The original **North East Kent European Marine Site (now NE Kent Marine Protected Area)** Management Scheme was launched in 2001 by the relevant managing authorities after consensus building workshops with stakeholders. There have been subsequent 6-year Action Plans - including the latest for 2019-24.

- [2001-6: The original Management Scheme](#)
- [2007-12: Managing the North East Kent Coast](#) (activity tables / action plan)
- [Thanet Coastal Codes](#)
- [Managing the NE Kent Coast - Summary Leaflet](#) (1,819KB)
- [2013-18: Action Plan](#)
- [2019-24: Action Plan](#) (PDF, 149KB)
- 2025-30 - next!

The actions have included numerous projects - from the development of advisory groups and research, to setting up and training of volunteer Coastal Wardens, educational project work and events, and the development of the first set of Codes of Conduct for different recreational activities for a Marine Protected Area in the UK.

## **NEKMPA Coastal Warden Activity Survey**

### **Aims of the survey**

- Collect an overview of the activity on and around the NEKMPA coast
- Identify the different recreational and work activities that use the coast
- Find out where and when they may occur
- Find out what effects they may be having on the features of nature conservation importance around the coast (*eg reef, cliffs, caves & wintering birds*); if there are any disturbances, and whether the voluntary Coastal Codes are working!

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

### **Advice on When to Survey**

#### **Four Monthly surveys:**

Each survey should only take a few minutes to see the whole of your adopted section of coastline, so about 15 minutes (*sometimes longer, if you've a long stretch of coast*) to ensure that we get a short 'snapshot' of what is going on within your bay at that time & day. At the beginning of each year, we will send out a **quick glance survey schedule** as a reminder as a guide for when you can survey. We suggest at least 4 surveys each month:

- *two within the 1<sup>st</sup> full week of the month, one at a high tide and one at a low tide (week days only)\*; and*
- *two on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of the month, one at high tide and one at low tide (any day during that weekend)\*.*

\*Please try to survey as close to the dates listed (or see if someone can cover for you if unable to make it). Alternatively if unable to do these, just choose any other week day & weekend day during that month to survey.

### Ongoing Monitoring:

Any additional surveys will give a much better picture of the activities occurring in your bay and would be hugely valuable. Observing activities at different states of the tides, time of day and weather conditions will help to build a comprehensive picture of each bay throughout the year. For additional monitoring surveys, it is recommended that a 'weekday' and 'weekend' day every week would build up a very useful record. Some guidelines for additional surveying would be:

- **4 x weekdays per month 1 (one a week)** – vary survey days of the week; plus
- **2 x weekend days per month** – alternate between Saturdays and Sundays.

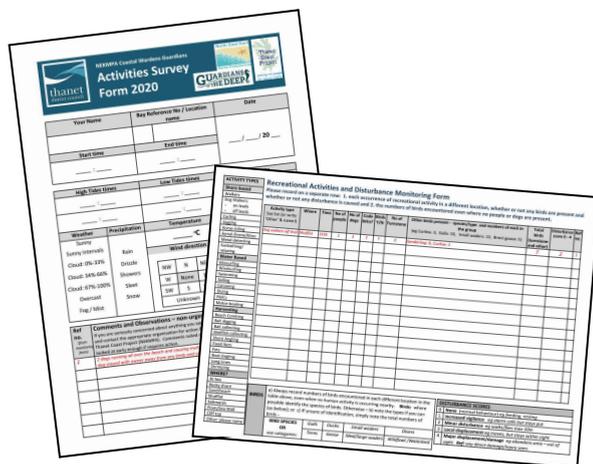
It would be useful to have survey samples at different times of the day to show the different users throughout the day, for example:

**Early (6-9am) Morning (9-12pm) Lunch (12-3pm) Afternoon (3-6pm) Evening (6-9pm)**

We would appreciate any additional surveys you are able to do!

### Guide to Completing Your Activity Survey Forms

Here is a breakdown on completing your form  
(see towards the back of the pack for the form).



**Name** - Your name

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

**Date** – Day/month/year (calendar comes up online!)

**Time** - Please note the start and end time, depending on the nature of your bay the length of time will vary. Please only take as long as is comfortable for you to complete it.

Additionally in the comments, note any time you were not doing the survey (i.e. if you stopped to talk to someone). Don't deduct this yourself, it is good to see when this is happening.

**Tide times** - You can get tide times online, or ask for a hard copy. Please note all tide times for that day. (usually 4 times, but occasionally only be 3 within 24 hours).

**Sea State** - Select the most appropriate condition.

**Weather** - Indicate condition, these are generalised use your best judgement.

**Precipitation** - Select the most appropriate condition.

**Temperature** - Some phones have an app or refer to a weather report, or feel free to take along a thermometer. Air temperatures need to be in Celsius.

**Wind direction** - If you have a compass feel free to use, and look out for flags flying to give wind direction. Smart phones can also download a compass app! If not check a weather report - the

more detailed 'met office' reports will give the general wind direction and record direction 'towards'. (ie if from NW, & going towards the SE = record as SE)

**Wind strength** - These are generalised use your best judgement or look at wind speeds on the weather report. Remember these are not always accurate and your bay may be sheltered / exposed.

**Visibility** - Use your best judgement. Can you see the horizon clearly?

**Total no. of birds seen** - Please add up the number of birds seen on your survey. Please do not double count any birds that have been listed multiple times.

**Total no of birds disturbed** - Please add up the number of birds that were seen disturbed on your survey. Please do not double count any birds that have been listed multiple times.

**Comments & Observations** – This section is for comments or notes which DO NOT need to be acted upon immediately, as these notes are recorded in the databaser. Here you can explain any situations - such as a disturbance - in more detail, Plus add anything that might have influenced your survey.

*If you are concerned about anything you see that needs to be dealt with, please consult your useful contacts advice card & submit an Incident, Stranding or Wildlife Observation Report online (if applicable).*

**Turn the form over to see the page titled: Recreational Activities and Disturbance Monitoring Form.** Using the information from the table, record all the activities you see.

1. **Activity Type:** Choose an activity from the list, or write 'Other' and name it.

ACTIVITY TYPES		
Shore based	Water Based	Harvesting
Walkers	Kitesurfing	Beach Combing
Dog Walkers on leads off leads	Windsurfing	Bait digging
Cycling	Swimming	Bait collecting
Jogging	Sailing	Shellfish collecting
Horse-riding	Canoeing	Shore Angling
Aerial-Drone/Kites	Diving	Fixed Nets
Metal detecting	PWCs	Pots
Sunbathing/ relaxing	Motor-boating	Boat Angling
		Long Lines
		Shrimping

2. **Where:** Select Where the activity is from the list or write 'Other' and name it.

WHERE?
At Sea
Rocky shore
Sand/beach
Mudflat
Saltmarsh
Prom/Sea Wall
Cliff top
Other: please name

3. **Time:** Record the time of each activity - if you have a small bay you can observe all in one go, and there may only be a few minutes between the start and finish. If you have a long stretch of coast line, you can write the time as you see the activity.
4. **No of People**  
Record the number of people involved with the activity or disturbance.
5. **No of Dogs**  
Record the number of dogs involved with the activity or disturbance (on/off lead).
6. **Code Brkn?**  
Has a voluntary code been '**broken**'. Refer to the coastal codes booklet in your pack, or get to know your bay information signs/public space protection orders (*formerly bylaws*)

**If any activity breaks a NEKMPA / Thanet Coastal Code / local bylaw – please put 'y' (yes) by this activity and give details in the comments box. Where applicable, please also **submit an Incident report.****

7. **Birds Y/N**  
Are there birds present? Record if yes or no.
8. **Turnstone no.**  
Write down the *number of turnstone* or leave blank if none are present.
9. **Other birds present - species/type and number of each in the group**  
List the number of the other bird species seen with their species name. If you are unsure you can list as one of the categories in the table. Or simply record as bird, this may be appropriate if they are in the distance and just can't make them out.

<b>BIRDS</b>	a) Always record numbers of birds encountered in each different location in the table above, even when no human activity is occurring nearby. <b>Birds:</b> where possible identify the species of birds. Otherwise – b) note the types if you can (as below); or c) If unsure of identification, simply note the total numbers of birds -				
	<b>BIRD SPECIES OR</b>	<i>Gulls</i>	<i>Ducks</i>	<i>Small waders</i>	<i>Divers</i>
	use categories:	<i>Terns</i>	<i>Geese</i>	<i>Med/large waders</i>	<i>Wildfowl /Waterbird</i>

10. **Total birds**  
This the total number of birds present, add together turnstone and the other bird species for each line.
11. **Disturbance score 0 - 4**  
Record the level of disturbance caused to the birds. This is decided by observing the birds behaviour choose from the 'Disturbance Scores' table

<b>DISTURBANCE SCORES</b>	
0	<b>None</b> (normal behaviour) <i>eg feeding, resting</i>
1	<b>Increased vigilance</b> <i>eg alarm calls but stays put</i>
2	<b>Minor disturbance</b> <i>eg walks/flies max 10m</i>
3	<b>Local displacement</b> <i>eg moves, but stays within sight</i>

4 **Major displacement/damage** eg abandons area – out of sight. **Ref:** any direct damage/injury seen.

This information is used to assess the impact recreational activities have on the birds and will use this as part of our analysis.

## 12. Ref no. (on your hard copy only)

List a reference number. This separates out each activity so you can also use the same reference number if a new entry refers to the same people, birds, etc.. This number is then used on the comments box to explain what had happened. (N.B. This is not for the online submission form as the comments box is directly next to the line of data. Just add in the description).

Record as many observations of birds, incidents of disturbance or activities in your allocated bay, using a new line for each recording. If there are birds present and no form of disturbance still include them on their own line.

**NB: Your safety is always of the highest priority**  
**Please avoid surveys at any time if you do not feel safe!**

## Submitting your Activity Survey Data

Download a copy of the Activity Survey submission form which can be found on the [Resource Locker](#) using this link <https://www.thanetcoast.org.uk/coastal-warden-resource/>

Or download a copy using the links below:

If you have google - **Activity Survey 2020 - Google** Link =

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IvoNrvo4SZ-ulRoyaXBJGWEzpLzuN\\_A01F1-Ucl05g0/template/preview?ts=5dfbaea7](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IvoNrvo4SZ-ulRoyaXBJGWEzpLzuN_A01F1-Ucl05g0/template/preview?ts=5dfbaea7)

If you don't have google - **Activity Survey 2020 - NON-Google** Link =

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IvoNrvo4SZ-ulRoyaXBJGWEzpLzuN\\_A01F1-Ucl05g0/export?exportformat=xls](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IvoNrvo4SZ-ulRoyaXBJGWEzpLzuN_A01F1-Ucl05g0/export?exportformat=xls)

You can either go to the link each time and download a copy or save a copy to your device and make a new copy from there. As long as you don't write over any data. When completing the submission form remember to save regularly.

### 1) Open the spreadsheet

2020 Activity Survey Template

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help All changes saved in Drive

100% £ % .0\_ .00 123 Inconsolata 11 B I A

fx

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	<b>Activities Survey Submission Form</b>										
2											
3	Bay reference & name	<input type="text"/>									
4											
5	Your name	Date	Start time	End time							
6	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>							
7											
8	<b>Tides</b>										
9											
10	Link to the Tide Times										
11			1	2							
12	High tide	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>								
13	Low tide	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>								
14											
15	<b>Weather</b>					<b>Bird Summary</b>					
16											
17	Link to the weather										
18	Sea state	<input type="text"/>				Total no. birds seen	<input type="text"/>				
19	Weather	<input type="text"/>				Total no. of birds disturbed	<input type="text"/>				

- 2) Enter your bay reference and name into the coloured box, you can use the drop down menu to select your bay. (For Microsoft double click to bring up drop down list).
- 3) Enter your name, you can save this info on your copied version for future reference.
- 4) Enter the date you completed the survey, you can double tap in the coloured box and a calendar will appear. Then choose the correct date. (*N.B. this feature does not appear on the Microsoft excel sheet.*)
- 5) Enter your start and end time - this should be in the 24 hours clock i.e. 16:34

**Tides:** There is a weblink to a tide timetable. This will link to the closest tide table to the bay entered under 'Bay reference and name' at the top of the page. This link will not work until a bay has been selected.

- 6) Enter the tides for your survey date: please list all tides for that day using the 24 hour clock.

**Weather:** There is a weblink to a weather report for your bay area. Again this is linked to the bay entered under 'Bay reference and name' - and so will not work until a bay has been entered. This will only show the present day and future forecasts weather (*Hint: For smart phones, you can take a screenshot of your location forecast when just before you start your survey!*).

- 7) Enter the information for each of the weather sections using the drop down menus. (*For microsoft double click to bring up drop down list.*)

The screenshot shows the '2020 Activity Survey Template' spreadsheet. The 'Weather' section (rows 15-25) includes dropdown menus for Sea state, Weather, Precipitation, Temperature °C, Wind direction, Wind strength, and Visibility. The 'Bird Summary' section (rows 16-17) has input boxes for 'Total no. birds seen' and 'Total no. of birds disturbed'. Below this is the 'Recreational Activities and Disturbance Monitoring Form' (rows 27-33), which is a table with columns for Activity type, Where, Time, No of people, No of dogs, Code Broken?, Birds?, Turnstone present no., Other birds present - species/type and numbers of each in the group (eg Curlew: 3, Gulls: 10, Small waders: 13, Brent goose: 5), Total birds, Disturbance score 0 - 4, and Con non.

a)

Temperature will be recorded in °C - please type in the *number only*.

- 8) Enter your results into the table

The screenshot shows the 'Recreational Activities and Disturbance Monitoring Form' table in the spreadsheet. The table has the following columns: Activity type (See list, or write activity, if 'Other!'), Where, Time, No of people, No of dogs, Code Broken?, Birds?, Turnstone present no., Other birds present - species/type and numbers of each in the group (eg Curlew: 3, Gulls: 10, Small waders: 13, Brent goose: 5), Total birds, Disturbance score 0 - 4, and Comments and Observations - non-urgent only. The table is currently empty, with rows 29-37 available for data entry.

- a) Add the number of turnstones & other birds together when recording in the 'total birds' column.

Birds?	Turnstone present no.	Other birds present - species/type and numbers of each in the group (eg Curlew: 3, Gulls: 10, Small waders: 13, Brent goose: 5)	Total birds	Disturbed
▼				
▼				
▼				

9) The comment box is now located at the end of the list (*over the page on hard copy form*). Any notes can now be entered next to the line of data it refers to.

- a) Remember if you see something that needs acting on please submit a separate Incident report.

10) Complete the Bird Summary section. (This is not on the hard copy survey form).

D	E	F	G	H
<b>Bird Summary</b>				
Total no. birds seen <input type="text"/>				
Total no. of birds disturbed <input type="text"/>				

Distance 0 - 4	Comments and Observations - non-urgent only
▼	
▼	
▼	
▼	
▼	
▼	
▼	
▼	

- a) Enter the total number of birds seen on your survey. Be careful not to double count *e.g. if you recorded 3 oystercatchers disturbed by a dog, then recorded the same 3 oysters disturbed by walkers, this would only be counted as 3 birds.*
- b) Enter the total number of birds seen to be disturbed on your survey. *Again don't double count the same bird that may have been recorded multiple times.*

11) Once you have entered all your information **save the spreadsheet as:**

**\*Year-month-day\*** Activity Survey **\*Initials\*** **\*Bay ref. and name\***

So this would look like:

**2023-06-28** Activity Survey **TC** **23c Dumpton Gap**

This will help us to keep track of your submissions.

12) Attach the spreadsheet to an email using the same title as the spreadsheet in the subject line and send it to [thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk)

## NEKMPA Coastal Wardens: Reporting Incidents

This online report is aimed at helping Coastal Warden to report incidents that need to be 'actioned' (or to be 'recorded' after being actioned on) and aims to assist the various statutory or voluntary organisations that can help. These forms also help record wildlife strandings and other unusual wildlife records around the North East Kent coast and are used to inform the Management & Advisory Group of the NE Kent Marine Protected Area (NEKMPA).

There are two types of reports:

a) **Incidents** [HUMAN based observation]  
eg pollution items, oil washed ashore; antisocial behaviour to shellfish-harvesting, fixed shore nets

or

b) **Wildlife Sightings And Strandings** [WILDLIFE based observation]  
eg seals, harbour porpoise, jellyfish, or unusual finds / sightings around the NE Kent coast.

Whilst the date, time, location (& GPS) and type of record is important, please write a concise 'note' of the incident; followed by a longer 'description' (if needed) and any 'further action' you have taken (such as reporting anti-social activities to the police; people in distress to Coastguards, or live animal strandings to the BDMLR or RSPCA) - so we know if further action is required.

**Photos:** Photographic evidence is very useful and can be uploaded as a file (if you have a google account). Photos are extremely useful for verifying reports, observations, identification or location - helping organisations to respond to an incident. Alternatively, you can send images directly to: [thanet.coast@thanet.org.uk](mailto:thanet.coast@thanet.org.uk)

[Please remember, NEVER put yourself in any danger taking photos, especially if these may inflame a sensitive situation!]

### Submitting Incident Reports Online

Please complete the online form as soon as possible with your report on the following link

<https://tinyurl.com/incident19>

Information you will be asked to record:

**Name** - Your name

**Phone number** - incase we need to discuss the incident further or clarify any details

**Your own bay** (Bay Ref No./name for Coastal Wardens/Guardians) - select from the drop down list your adopted bay

**Other** - If you are a member of the public or part of another group / hub-group / organisation enter this here

**Date** - Enter the date of the incident not the data you are submitting the record

**Time of incident or record** - estimate time, or please put 00:00 if completely unknown

**Location of Incident or Wildlife Report** - Select from the drop down list where the incident occurred

**GPS coordinates** - If you are able to please record GPS coordinates. These can be acquired by opening google maps and right clicking on the map. A box with GPS coordinates should appear at the bottom of the page

**Type of Report** - You can then choose if you are submitting an **Incident Report or a Wildlife or Stranding Report** = Select the correct reporting option then fill in the following information, using the drop down options:

- **Incident Report**

**Type of Incident** - From the drop down list select one of the following incident options

- *Abandoned vehicles*
- *Anti-social behaviour (eg menacing groups -intimidation or harassment / drugs/ drinking)*
- *Camping issues (eg illegal; overnight party)*
- *Cliffs / Coastal Protection related (eg Chalk falls; Sea defence & railings damage)*
- *Disturbance to bird or wildlife from the air (eg Kite surfers, microlights; drones)*
- *Disturbance to wildlife eg Dog walking in restricted area, or vessels embarking at Shellness Point;*
- *Dogs / Fouling related eg consistent breaking of PSPOs/Coastal Codes*
- *Fisheries bycatch eg Dead Catsharks along the shore*
- *Fixed Nets eg Shore-based nets seen along the shore; or old nets washed ashore*
- *Foraging or Harvesting (large scale seaweed or coastal plants collection)*
- *Graffiti*
- *Litter - Flotsam & Jetsam (on the tide/at sea)*
- *Litter - Fly tipping or rubbish issues*
- *Motorised Vehicles (ie illegal on beaches )*
- *Missing (eg lifebuoy needs replacing; signs missing)*
- *Pollution spill (eg petroleum; suspected palm oil; chemical drums/containers) = inform EA/TDC straight away!*
- *Shellfish Harvesting or Bait collection (large scale /commercial - for more than their own use)*
- *Other (specify below)*

**Brief Incident Description** - write a brief overview of the incident or write name of incident if not listed previously

**More incident details** - any more information

**Action you have taken (if applicable):** Please let us know if you have taken any other actions regarding the incident i.e. letting any other authorities know

**Photographic Record** - here you can upload an image

- **Wildlife or Stranding Report**

**Type of Wildlife or Stranding report** - From the drop down list select one of the following Wildlife or Stranding options

- *Algal Bloom*
- *Bird life (related)*
- *Fish (related) eg Catsharks; Thornback Rays etc*
- *Cetacean eg Porpoise, dolphin or whale*
- *Jellyfish (related)*
- *Non-native species reports eg Brushed-clawed Shore Crabs*
- *Seal (Harbour/Grey)*
- *Shellfish (related)*
- *Shore life (related) eg Starfish/Crabs*
- *Unusual Sightings*
- *Other*

**Dead or Alive** - Select the appropriate option

**Name of species (if known)** - If you know the species please list it here if not leave blank

**Further Wildlife or Stranding information** - please give a description of sighting or stranding.

**Any Action taken** - Please let us know if you have taken any other actions regarding the incident i.e. letting any other authorities know i.e RSPCA, BDMLR

**Photographic Record** here you can upload an image

**Then 'Click Submit'** (*Please submit one incident per form - if more, please start the form again*)

## **Bird Wise East Kent - Bird disturbance**

There are a few ways to help record our coastal birds with Bird Wise East Kent - including one for direct online disturbance reporting at: [eastkent.birdwise.org.uk/reporting/](http://eastkent.birdwise.org.uk/reporting/)

### Reporting disturbance

Location of sighting \*

Beltinge Cliffs

Date \*

Time \*

: AM

Tide

High going to Low  Low going to high  High Tide  Low Tide

Species noticed \*

Bird behaviour \*

Not alerted  Alerted  Took flight and landed nearby  Took flight and didn't return

## Health and Safety

### Before you go:

- Know your bay – Make sure that you are aware of any hazardous features at your adopted stretch of coastline, *eg tide cut-off points or quick-sand*
- Check tide times to avoid getting cut off from the land
- Check the weather conditions – Avoid going out in adverse weather conditions, *eg a storm, strong gales, or thick fog.*
- Best to buddy up if possible – or if going alone, tell someone which part of the foreshore you will be surveying and what time you expect to return.
- If involved on your own beach clean, make sure you have carried out a risk assessment (*using guidance such as given by Beachwatch*)
- Shore-based work should only be undertaken during the hours of daylight.

### Clothing & Equipment:

- Always carry your 'Advice for Reporting Incidents' card / telephone numbers
- Wear suitable clothing for the weather conditions – take water with you in the summer
- Be prepared for a change in weather – carry a spare layer of clothing, hat, or sun cream (depending on the season)
- Wear appropriate footwear for walking on rocks and slippery surfaces
- It helps to wear high visibility clothing so that you can be seen easily by other coastal users
- Wear protective gloves if you intend to take part in a beach clean or shorelife survey
- If possible, take a mobile phone with you. Make sure that the batteries are fully charged, the devices are kept dry and that you know the available reception areas in your bay.

### On the Coast:

- Take care near cliff edges
  - *On the top, edges can give way*
  - *At the bottom, avoid cliff falls*
  - *Cliff falls regularly occur in cold weather*
- Beware of walking on slippery rocks, slopes or near the edge of promenades
- Keep away from soft sand and mud
- Always wash your hands after handling anything on the foreshore
- Know your adopted bay activity zones, PSPO (bylaws) and local beach safety information (*displayed at main bays between April-September*)
- Be aware of other activities taking place in the bay
- Treat other coastal users with respect
- Do not touch stranded or dead marine mammals
- Do not touch contaminated litter, pollution or faeces found on the coast
- Never intervene in an anti-social incident, instead report it to the appropriate authority.

## Web & Social Media

### NEKMPA & Thanet Coast Project

Website: [thanetcoast.org.uk](http://thanetcoast.org.uk)

Look up background information about various nature conservation designations, management and action plans, projects, factfile, news, coastal codes, events, how to help, and the learning zone.

**Coastal Warden's Resource Locker** - this **private webpage** has all your Coastal Wardens resources and related marine and coastal links for further online information. This can be found at: [thanetcoast.org.uk/coastal-warden-resource/](http://thanetcoast.org.uk/coastal-warden-resource/)

#### Public social media:

For current news & information, please look at the NEKMPA (Thanet Coast) social media links:



[nekmpa1](https://www.facebook.com/nekmpa1)



[ThanetCoastProj](https://twitter.com/ThanetCoastProj)



[thanetcoastproject](https://www.instagram.com/thanetcoastproject)

The facebook site is open to public view - so you do not need to be a member of facebook to be able to view these pages.

**Coastal Wardens: 'Closed Facebook Group'** - just for Coastal Wardens in North East Kent: The North East Kent area has a 'closed group' on facebook for NEKMPA Coastal Wardens / Guardians in this more specific area based around the NE Kent MPA area - so you can share local knowledge and sightings in our local 'Hub-group'. (eg share images or wildlife from your bay - or issues = and you can ask other wardens questions of what to do, or what something is?)



[NEKMPACoastalWardens](https://www.facebook.com/NEKMPACoastalWardens)

We will send you a request to join - or you can send a request in - & then you can share information, images, ask questions and talk to other NEKMPA Coastal Wardens online!



The Guardians of the Deep project [[guardiansofthedeep.org/](http://guardiansofthedeep.org/)] finished in March 2020 - but you may be interested to see the old *public page* (Guardians of the Deep).



[guardiansofthedeep](https://www.facebook.com/guardiansofthedeep)



[guardiansofthedeep](https://www.instagram.com/guardiansofthedeep)

### Feedback Survey

Please note the total hours of **your 'stewardship' time** for future reference. We hope to run a link for an online survey for you to complete - try and complete a **quarterly records**, of:

1. How many hours you spent as a Coastal Warden - stewardship & surveys (eg 0.5 for 30mins)
2. If you reported anything on the incident reports; or reported to any other organisations
3. What the most interesting thing you learnt / saw over those months

## Marine Activities

Here is a list of activities you can link with throughout the year - some of these can be **self led**, and others where you can do **either\***, or join an **\*organised event\***.

Survey name	Organised by	Details
<b>*Shoresearch*</b>	Kent Wildlife Trust	Organised monthly surveys of the seashore recording flora and fauna
<b>Jellyfish survey</b>	Marine Conservation Society	Identifying and reporting washed up jellyfish
<b>The Great Eggcase Hunt*</b>	The Shark Trust	Identifying and reporting washed up ray and dogfish egg cases
<b>The Big Seaweed Search</b>	The Natural History Museum	Identifying and recording seaweeds on the seashore
<b>Beach Watch*</b>	Marine Conservation Society	A beach cleaning and litter surveying programme
<b>*Coastbusters*</b>	Natural England/TCP (Thanet) / Kent Wildlife Trust / Medway-SEP (N.Kent)	A citizen science scheme to control the number of non-native invasive pacific oysters on the Kent coast.
<b>Non-native species survey*</b>	Natural England & Kent Wildlife Trust	Identifying and recording invasive species - Coming Soon!

## Other Volunteer Opportunities

Please get in touch if you are interested in joining on the running of

- **TCP public events** (environmental educational activities eg Seashore Safaris)
- **TCP & Community events** (eg Broadstairs Water Gala; Windmill Allotment Open days)
- **TCP & Community environmental education activities** eg School, Group activities such as Scouts & Guides.
- **Other Conservation Organisations:** eg
  - BDMLR
  - Bumblebee Conservation Trust
  - Kent Wildlife Trust (NNR volunteers / Shoresearch)
  - Marine Conservation Society
  - Sea Watch Foundation ....etc
- **Research**
- **Other Projects** eg Sunken Garden; Westbrook Nature Park; Friends of groups...
- **Other groups** eg Rise Up Clean Up Margate, Friends of Botany Bay & Kingsgate, Town Teams etc

## Further Reading List

### Marine ID Guides –

- **The Biology of Rocky Shores**, *C. Little & J.A. Kitching*
- **British Sea Fishes**, *Dr Francis Dipper*
- **Collins Pocket Guide Seashore of Britain and Europe**, *Peter Hayward, Tony Nelson-Smith & Chris Shields*
- **Collins Whales and Dolphins: The Ultimate Guide to Marine Mammals**, *M. Carwardine, E. Hoyt, R. Ewan & P. Gill*
- **Seaweeds of Britain and Ireland**, *Francis Bunker & Juliet A. Brodie*
- **Essential Guide to beachcombing and the Strandline**, *Steve Trehwella & Julie Hatcher*
- **Essential Guide to Rockpooling**, *Julie Hatcher & Steve Trehwella*
- **Great British Marine Animals**, *Paul Naylor*
- **Green Guide – Seashore Life of Britain and Europe**, *Bob Gibbons*
- **Guide to inshore Marine Life**, *D. Erwin & B. Picton*
- **Photographic Guide to the sea and shore life of Britain and North-West Europe**, *Gibson, Hextall & Rogers*
- **Seashore Safaris**, *Judith Oakley*
- **Seashores and Shallow Seas of Britain and Europe**, *Andrew Campbell*
- **Sussex Marine Life**, *Robert Irving*
- **Whales Dolphins and Porpoises**, *M. Carwardine, E. Hoyt, R. Ewan & P. Gill*
- *Field Studies Council Guides - Rocky Shore; Seaweed; Seashells; Saltmarsh; Rockshore lichens; Cetaceans and seals; Coastal Birds; Jellyfish; Seashores Wildlife Pack..etc*

### Teaching & Games –

- **Coast and ocean**, *Lisa Browning*
- **The magic school bus on the ocean floor**, *Joanna Cole*
- **Rocky Shore activities at St Mary's Island**, *St Mary's Lighthouse*
- **Seashore – a marine environmental resource pack**, *Devon Wildlife Trust*
- **Ship to Shore...a practical guide to marine and coastal interpretation**, *Marine Conservation Society*

### Conservation & Marine Biology –

- **The Good Fish Guide**, *Marine Conservation Society*
- **Marine Biodiversity of South East England**, *Lisa Browning*
- **Marine Biology: an ecological approach**, *James Nybakken*
- **Sealife: a complete guide to the marine environment**, *Geoffrey Waller*
- **The UK Action Guide**, *Marine Conservation Society*
- **A New Atlas of the Seaweeds of Kent**, *Ian Tittley*

### Fiction –

- **Underwater to get out of the rain**, *Trevor Norton*

**More Books & websites:** There are more technical books out there. If you require something with more detail in please let us know and we will recommend a text to suit your needs.

### Shore Guides

1. ***A Student's Guide to the Seashore. Second Edition. Fish JD & Fish S. 1996. Cambridge University Press.*** This book is very technical but provides a great key to marine species.
2. ***Photographic guide to the sea and shore life of Britain and North-west Europe. Gibson R, Hextall B, Rogers A. 2001. Oxford University Press.*** Much less technical than the above. Provides good information about the distribution and key features of marine species and some great pictures to help identify them.
3. ***Observers guide to marine life of Britain and Ireland. Seasearch. Wood C. 2007. Marine Conservation Society.*** Good photographic guide with maps and descriptions.
4. ***Great British Marine Animals. Naylor P. 2003. Sound Diving Publications.***
5. ***Hamlyn Guide Seashores and Shallow Seas. Campbell, A. 2004. Octopus Publishing Group.***
6. ***Collins Pocket Guide to the Seashore of Britain and Europe. Haywood P, Nelson-Smith T, Shields C.*** This book is no longer in print but if you can find a copy in a second hand book store then its great for in the field.

### General Marine Biology

1. ***Marine Biology. Third Edition. Levington J. 2011. Oxford University Press.*** This book is a brilliant introduction to the subject of marine biology.
2. ***Marine Ecology. Second Edition. Kaiser MJ et al. 2011. Oxford University Press.*** Again a brilliant, easy to digest introduction to the subject.

### Websites

1. **The Marine Biological Association of the UK** host Marlin ([marlin.ac.uk](http://marlin.ac.uk)). This is an educational web-site which provides information about the biology and distribution of marine species.
2. **The National Museums of Northern Ireland** host **Habitas** ([www.habitas.org.uk](http://www.habitas.org.uk)). Similar in content to Marlin.
3. **World Register of Marine Species** ([marinespecies.org](http://marinespecies.org)). Use this site to check your species names. Any changes to the latin name of a species are approved by this organisation and the website is always up to date. Synonyms are listed as well so you can keep a check on your species.
4. **The Marine Conservation Society** ([mcsuk.org](http://mcsuk.org)). Good place to buy books - including the range of **Seasearch** (Diver's guides) to Marine Life, Sea Anemones and Corals, Seaweeds, Sea Squirts and Sponges etc.

### Coastal Guardian / Coastal Warden Risk Assessment

Generic guidance for commonly experienced conditions on shore

All generic risk assessments must be reassessed on the day of use to ensure that all relevant hazards have been identified. Any additional hazards must be assessed before work begins.

Hazards and Effects	Affecting Whom <i>Coastal Guardians and Wardens at risk in all cases unless otherwise indicated</i>	Risk rating with no controls	Existing Controls (if any)	Residual risk rating (With existing controls)
Slippery surfaces/ rocks/algae, including steep slippery slopes.	Injury from slipping and falling usually onto knees, bottom or hands.	36	Advised to wear footwear with well-treaded soles and preferably ankle support. Advise participants to select the safest route possible over slippery areas, stepping on rock and avoiding algae where possible.	12
Unprotected drops to deep water (eg floating pontoons)	Risk of drowning	40	Advised to stay away from unprotected drops to deep water, or to proceed with care. Identify location of any floatation rings and throw ropes that maybe on site.	20
Deep gullies / rock pools / gaps between large boulders	Physical injury from slipping into gullies/pools or between boulders and twisting or jarring ankles or knees.	36	Advised to wear waterproof footwear with well-treaded soles and preferably ankle support.	12
Soft sediment	Sinking into soft sediment and being unable to get out. Being stuck during incoming tide.	36	Warned to avoid areas of soft sediment and to test new areas carefully before walking across them.	8
Unstable shingle	Injury from falling due to unstable shingle.	8	Avoid steep shingle banks where possible.	2
Unstable cliffs	Injury from falling rocks or slumping.	20	Avoid base of unstable cliffs whenever possible. Listen out for warning rumbles. Take particular care during and after periods of significant rainfall.	20

Remoteness of site	Delayed access to first aid or ambulance/ hospital treatment.	36	Advised to let someone know before going out on your own. Try to stay close to public foot paths or well-known routes where it is likely that members of the public will be passing. Check mobile phone reception, and locate nearest alternative landline phone if poor. Ensure mobile phone fully charged and be aware of battery drain from background programmes running.	12
Unprotected drops	Physical injury from falling from height.	36	Choose alternative routes where available to avoid unprotected drops, particularly in windy conditions, or do not walk too close to edge.	12
Sharp rocks and shell edges	Cuts and infections	8	If Pacific oysters common be extra careful as tend to have sharp shells.	8
<b>Water</b>				
Water - Tides	Being cut off by the tide. Worst case drowning if unable to wade or swim to dry ground.	40	- be aware of predicted tide times and heights. - be aware of local tide and access conditions. - Advice to find out if there are access routes and potential areas which can be cut off by incoming tides.	20
Water – health	Weil's Disease (some risk in estuarine waters) Illness caused by algal blooms (summer)	36	Advice to: - avoid rubbing nose, mouth or eyes with hands. - keep any recent cuts covered with a waterproof plaster. - wash or clean hands with antiseptic wipes before eating etc after being in sea water.	12
Sewage & pollution	Risk of illness or contagious disease.	36	Advice to : - be aware where sewage related material may be present. - Report and don't go near large sewage leakages. - check if beaches are open, or contaminated, after significant downpours in short periods of time.	12
Jellyfish Weaver fish	Risk of stings from jellyfish or Weaver fish. Anaphylactic shock possible in some people.	36	Unusual, but jellyfish are occasionally washed ashore, a few of which can be very painful or dangerous to humans (Portuguese man o' war, Lion's mane). Few reach as far along the channel or down the North sea as Kent's shores. Weaver fish sit under sandy sediment with spine stuck up. Advice always to have foot ware on never bare feet.	12

Litter	Risk of injury from sharp objects. Risk of infection from hypodermic needles.	12	Advise care with litter, particularly if searching along strandline.	8
Other users	Injury from collision with cyclists / vehicles on pedestrian areas. Injury from falling into large holes dug on shore by bait-diggers.	12	Other users may be apparent in area which are likely to pose a hazard to wardens/guardians (eg vehicles driving along pedestrian areas, bait diggers leaving holes on shore.)	8
Darkness	Increased vulnerability to other hazards. Being unable to find safe route off shore.	12	Try to avoid going out when the light is fading/ low - plan to be off the shore before darkness. - take torch just in case end time is after sunset.	8
Adverse weather conditions	Increased vulnerability to other hazards		Check weather forecast (suitable websites eg XC Weather or Met Office). Cancel if forecast is extreme, or finish early if conditions become extreme.	
Dense Fog & Mists	Reduced visibility leading to increased vulnerability to other hazards	12	Advised to finish early or avoid going out in dense fog / mist.	8
Hot Sun, Extreme Heat & High Humidity	Sunburn, dehydration, heat exhaustion	24	Advise to dress appropriately for relevant weather. Monitor own wellbeing is signs of sunburn, dehydration, exhaustion, act appropriately and finish session early if needed. Carry water with you. Adjust or abandon plans in extreme heat or sun.	12
Heavy rain, sleet, snow; cold temperature and strong wind.	Increase adverse effects and vulnerability to other hazards. Possible hypothermia/ exposure.	24	Advise participants to wear warm, waterproof and windproof clothing, and a good tread waterproof boots. Monitor weather conditions and participants, and abandon if inadequately protected for conditions. Adjust, or abandon in extreme cold.	12
Lightning	Lightning strike	16	Abandon field trip during electrical storms. Seek shelter in cars. Never go out if predicted thunder and lightning.	16

This matrix is suitable for all the activities (linked to ones that TDC undertakes).

		Risk Rating Matrix					
		SEVERITY					
		Multiple Death	Single Death	Major Injury	'3 day' Injury	Minor Injury	None
L I K E L I H O O D	Certain 10	10	8	6	4	2	1
	Very Likely 8				40	20	10
	Probable 6			36	24	12	6
	Possible 4	40	32	24	16	8	4
	Unlikely 2	20	16	12	8	4	2
V. Unlikely 1	10	8	6	4	2	1	

**Notes:**  
The numerical scale used is to allow comparisons of the risk levels only. No literal meaning is implied by the scoring level.

'Major Injury' shall be as defined in the Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations - please see the Accident/incident reporting guidance note for further information on this.

Key to Shading	
High	Level of risk is unacceptable
16 - 40	Level of risk may be tolerable. Seek to reduce level of risk.
1 - 12	Level of risk is acceptable

**Definitions for Likelihood**

Certain	10	Has happened before and is expected to happen on this occasion.
Very Likely	8	Has happened before and is very likely to happen on this occasion.
Probable	6	Has been known to occur before and is likely to happen on this occasion.
Possible	4	Has been known to occur and it may happen on this occasion.
Unlikely	2	Has been known to occur before but no reason to suggest that it will happen on this occasion.
Very Unlikely	1	Has never happened before and there are no reasons to suggest it will happen on this occasion.



NEKMPA Coastal Wardens Guardians

# Activities Survey Form 2020



Your Name	Bay Reference No / Location name		Date
Start time	End time		___ / ___ / 20 __
___ : ___	___ : ___		

High Tides times		Low Tides times		Sea State												
___ : ___		___ : ___		Calm												
___ : ___		___ : ___		Moderate												
				Rough												
Weather	Precipitation	Temperature		Wind strength												
Sunny	Rain Drizzle Showers Sleet Snow	___ °C		Still												
Sunny Intervals		<b>Wind direction</b> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>NW</td> <td>N</td> <td>NE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>None</td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SW</td> <td>S</td> <td>SE</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Unknown</td> </tr> </table>		NW	N	NE	W	None	E	SW	S	SE	Unknown			Gentle Breeze
NW				N	NE											
W				None	E											
SW	S	SE														
Unknown																
Cloud: 0%-33%	Moderate															
Cloud: 34%-66%	Strong															
Cloud: 67%-100%	Storm															
Overcast	<b>Visibility</b>			Good												
Fog / Mist				Limited												

Ref no. <small>(from monitoring form)</small>	Comments and Observations – non-urgent only <small>If you are seriously concerned about anything you see, please consult your reporting advice card and contact the appropriate organisation for action &amp; submit a 'Incident/Wildlife Report' to the Thanet Coast Project (NEKMPA). Comments noted may help explain your records – but not be looked at early enough if requires action.</small>	Code Broken? (Y/N)
1	<i>2 dogs running all over the beach and causing multiple disturbance to small group of birds. Third dog stayed with owner away from any birds and caused no disturbance.</i>	Y



## Introduction:

The North East Kent coastline consists of some of the most wild and semi-natural habitats in the UK, including unique chalk cliffs, caves and reefs, which attract marine and birdlife of international importance. It is the role of the NE Kent Marine Protected Area (NEKMPA) management scheme to promote awareness of these exceptional features around our coast, and work with the local community and visitors, so that coastal activities can take place whilst keeping these features in a good condition for future generations.

## Aims of the Coastal Warden Scheme:

Volunteer Coastal Wardens will be able to make an active contribution towards maintaining a sustainable coastline by becoming the 'eye and ears' of the coast and Thanet Coast Project through regular stewardship, and monitoring of human activities and local wildlife. The data collected by coastal volunteers will provide a record of the coastal activities, with incidents and wildlife records, to help inform future management of the North East Kent coastline. In addition, coastal volunteers will help open up and improve understanding and communication links of the nature conservation importance of the coast with the local community and visitors.

## What does this Agreement mean?

This agreement is to help clarify what it means to be a volunteer Coastal Warden, and:

- What you need to commit to this scheme as a volunteer
- How much support you can expect from the Thanet Coast Project / NEKMPA.

## What we expect from you as a Coastal Warden:

- To adopt a section of our local North East Kent coastline.
- To help look after your section by acting as the 'eyes and ears' of the coastline
- Report Incidents - things needed to be acted upon. Also undertake activity surveys each month - and help contribute towards related citizen science surveys - such as 'Shoresearch' identification, when close to your bay.
- Perform your volunteer tasks safely, looking out for and recording any potential dangers - see health and safety advice.
- Be respectful of the wildlife and environment in which you are working, by following Thanet's Coastal Codes (or related for other areas), local PSPO (public space protection orders) and bay information signs, when out on the foreshore.
- To take an interest in your role as Coastal Warden, and work towards achieving the aims of the volunteer scheme.
- To consider developing your role by attending one or more optional training sessions, volunteering at events, or helping with other related citizen science or volunteering opportunities - so that we have collaboration across projects and other initiatives.
- Maintain good relations with staff and other volunteers.
- Act as an ambassador for volunteering and the NEKMPA management scheme, and be courteous to the public.

## What you can expect from the NEKMPA / Thanet Coast Project as a Coastal Warden:

- We value your gift of time, skills and effort put into the volunteering scheme by ensuring that all data collected by Coastal Wardens is used to benefit the local environment and community for the future.
- We will provide a core training programme to help you understand the role of Coastal Warden, and to give you the activity monitoring and local wildlife identification skills to undertake your role with confidence.
- You will receive Coastal Warden's information booklet detailing the role - with further online resources (Coastal Warden's Resource Locker) and links to the NEKMPA site information, Thanet Coastal Codes, coastal events & links to other marine related information.
- We will place you at the forefront of local scientific study, through active involvement in conservation monitoring work around the North East Kent coastline.
- We will encourage you to learn and develop within your role by organising optional training events or learning opportunities, to complement the core skills.
- There will be once a year opportunity to meet with other Coastal volunteers, to review the year and scheme (Annual Forum)
- We will run a 'closed facebook group' for the network - to help volunteers keep in contact and help share experiences, issues and information.
- We will provide support and feedback with the Thanet Coast (NEKMPA) project officer as your main contact.
- We will value any suggestions that you may have for the volunteer scheme.
- We will give advice on how to stay safe whilst carrying out the role.
- We will endeavour to be flexible to your individual needs.
- We will respond as quickly and constructively, as we can, to requests for information, and to any complaints or problems, which may arise.
- We welcome all volunteers, and are committed to honouring principles on equality and inclusion.
- We will ensure that your personal data remains confidential under the Data Protection Act.

Please remember that as a Coastal Warden, you are a volunteer, with no legal responsibilities or powers. You should not get involved in incidents, but report them to the appropriate person and online. Always keep in mind that the Thanet Coast is "An Asset for All"

NEKMPA /Thanet Coast: *TF Child* Date: \_\_/\_\_/2024

Coastal Warden:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name)

Date:

This agreement is designed to represent the mutual support between the NEKMPA/ Thanet Coast Project team and our Coastal Wardens. It is not intended to be a legally binding contract, and does not mean that volunteers are obliged to do the tasks provided

NEKMPA 6/2024

# Useful Telephone Numbers



## Coastal Wardens

Useful telephone numbers



working with people for coastal wildlife

<b>Emergencies</b> <b>Coastguard, Ambulance, Police or Fire call: 999</b> <b>If someone is in trouble in the water: Call 999 and ask for the Coastguard</b>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <span style="font-size: 24pt; color: #0070C0;">999</span>  <span style="font-size: 10pt; color: #0070C0;">Emergency</span> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <span style="font-size: 24pt; color: #0070C0;">111</span>  <span style="font-size: 10pt; color: #0070C0;">Non-emergency: Medical</span> </div> </div>
<b>Anti-social activities &amp; vandalism</b> To report incidents of these call:	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <span style="font-size: 24pt; color: #0070C0;">112</span>  <span style="font-size: 10pt; color: #0070C0;">Emergency: any mobile phone around world</span> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <span style="font-size: 24pt; color: #0070C0;">101</span>  <span style="font-size: 10pt; color: #0070C0;">Non-emergency: Police</span> </div> </div>

**Kent Police Non Emergency Number: 101**  
**Anti-Social Behaviour/graffiti:** [communitysafety@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafety@thanet.gov.uk)

**Pollution**  
 If you think the waste may be contaminated (eg chemical waste, or oil spills) do not touch or remove it yourself.  
 If the incident is **on the beach, above high water mark:**  
**Environment Agency's Emergency 24 hour hotline: 0800 80 70 60**  
 If the incident is **in the sea, below high water mark:**  
**Dover HM Coastguard operations: 01304 210008**

**Animals & Birds**  
 If found stranded, injured or in distress on the beach:  
**BDMLR: 01825 765546 live marine life**  
**RSPCA: 0300 1234 999 live/injured birds/animals**

If dead, please do not touch or try to move, report to:  
**Thanet Coast Project: 01843 577672**  
 & for 'out of office hours', call Thanet District Council **01843 577000**

For local vets for seabird rescue - contact:  
**Birchington Veterinary Centre: 01843 845347**  
**Westgate Veterinary Centre: 01843 833017**  
**Margate - Thanet Vets: 01843 226678**  
**Broadstairs - Briar House: 01843 863395**  
**Ramsgate - Plunketts: 01843 591899**

**Rubbish**  
**Contact Local Authorities – see below.**  
 If you find rubbish dumped on a Thanet beach, e-mail:  
[streetcleansingteam@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:streetcleansingteam@thanet.gov.uk)

**Dogs**  
 Owners are required to clean up after their dog in all public places. Several beaches are dog-free in the summer - see the Coastal Codes or 'Dogs on the Thanet Coast' leaflet for details.  
**Contact Local Authorities – see below.**

**Public Space Protection Orders (formerly bylaws) on the foreshore**  
 Your local authority is responsible for PSPOs: Dogs; Coast etc

*Note: in some cases a criminal offence may also have been committed, and the police may need to be involved. However, you should leave this decision to the Council.*

<b>Thanet District Council:</b>	<b>01843 577000</b>
<b>Dover District Council:</b>	<b>01304 821199</b>
<b>Canterbury City Council:</b>	<b>01227 862000</b>

**Fisheries**  
 Illegal fishing at sea, abandoned fixed nets, or unauthorised commercial collecting:  
**Contact Kent & Essex IFCA: 01843 585310**

If you have any suggestions, questions or concerns please contact:  
 01843 577672  
[thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk)  
 website: [thanetcoast.org.uk](http://thanetcoast.org.uk)

 [nekmpa1](https://www.facebook.com/nekmpa1)
 [ThanetCoastProj](https://twitter.com/ThanetCoastProj)

**Remember that as a Coastal Volunteer, you have no legal responsibilities or powers. Please do not put yourself in danger by getting involved in incidents – please report them to the appropriate authority instead.**

**Coastal Wardens ONLY:**

Report Incidents, Wildlife, Activity Surveys, & for further info' Online at:  
<http://nekmpa.org.uk/coastal-warden-resource/>

Also: closed discussion page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NEKMPACoastalWardens/>  
 Please do NOT circulate these links - as they are for Coastal Wardens ONLY.

**Update:** Online Reports to Thanet Council (fly-tipping; abandoned vehicles; anti-social behaviour; stray dogs & fouling; graffiti) at: [thanet.gov.uk/report/](http://thanet.gov.uk/report/)

**Pollution Incidents**  
 HM Coastguard - oil at sea: 01 304 210008  
 Environment Agency - shoreline pollution: 0800 807060  
 Record: Take a photo if possible  
 • Location  
 • Time and date

**Illegal fishing**  
 At sea: Kent and Essex IFCA: 01843 585310  
[info@kentand Essex-ifca.gov.uk](mailto:info@kentand Essex-ifca.gov.uk)  
 Illegal sale of fish:  
 Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111  
 Record:  
 • Who  
 • What  
 • Where

**Flytipping/dog issues/antisocial behaviour**  
 Contact the local district/borough council.  
 My council number is:  
 Or for flytipping, download the Country Eye app from [countryeye.co.uk](http://countryeye.co.uk)

**Low flying aircraft disturbing wildlife**  
 Civil Aviation Authority:  
<https://troyuri.com/k2kfp3>  
 Record: Take a photo if possible  
 • Aircraft registration number (on side and wing)  
 For drones phone local police: 101

**General marine wildlife observations**  
 For any unusual sightings of other marine species, email: [info@kentwildlife.org.uk](mailto:info@kentwildlife.org.uk)  
 Record: Take a photo if possible  
 • Date and time, location (GPS or OS grid ref)

**North East Kent Marine Protected Area (Thanet Coast)**  
[thanetcoast.org.uk/coastal-warden-survey](http://thanetcoast.org.uk/coastal-warden-survey)  
[thanetcoast@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:thanetcoast@thanet.gov.uk)  
 01843 577672



Guardians of the Deep – a partnership marine project between Kent Wildlife Trust, Midway Swale Estuary Partnership, Thanet Coast Project and Kent County Council, supported by the Heritage Fund.

**Kent's coastal contact card**  
 Emergencies: 999 (includes coastguard)  
 Non-emergencies: Kent Police: 101

**Stranded/washed up jellyfish**  
 Marine Conservation Society:  
[www.mcsuk.org/sightings](http://www.mcsuk.org/sightings)  
 Record: Take a photo if possible  
 • type of jellyfish and number  
 • number of each type  
 • date and time seen  
 • distance from sea  
 • location (if possible using GPS)

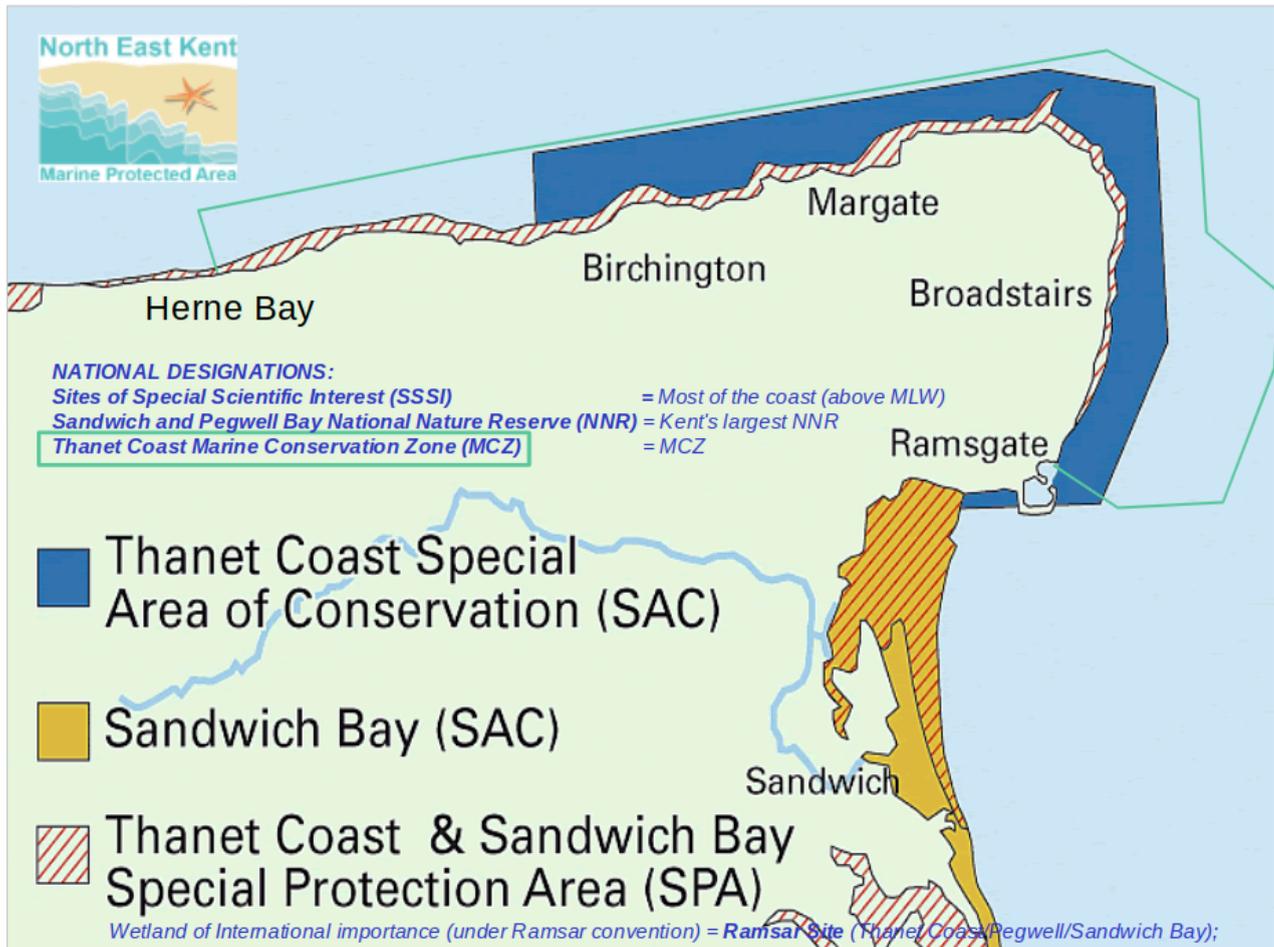
**Stranded live marine mammals**  
 British Divers Marine Life Rescue:  
 01825 765546 (office hours)  
 07787 433412 (other times)

**Stranded dead marine mammals**  
 UK Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme:  
 0800 652 0333 / [strandings@nim.ac.uk](mailto:strandings@nim.ac.uk)  
 Record: Take a photo if possible  
 • Location and date  
 • Size  
 For Thanet area: Thanet Council 01843 577000

**Marine mammal sightings**  
 Kent Seawatch - Jon Bramley:  
 07810 278373 or 01227 765269 (phone or text)  
[jonathan.bramley@btopenworld.com](mailto:jonathan.bramley@btopenworld.com)  
 Record:  
 • Species  
 • Location  
 • Date and time

**Mermaid's Purse**  
 The Shark Trust:  
[www.sharktrust.org/en/great\\_eggcase\\_hunt](http://www.sharktrust.org/en/great_eggcase_hunt)  
 App: ST Eggcase  
 Record: Take a photo if possible  
 • Species  
 • Beach

# NE Kent Marine Protected Area: Map



More information at: [thanetcoast.org.uk/about-us/nature-designations/](http://thanetcoast.org.uk/about-us/nature-designations/)

© Crown copyright and database rights Ordnance Survey 100018261



With support with kind donations from the public

TCP/5/2025