

Thanet Coast (NEKMPA)

Coastal Warden Introductory Training

The eyes and ears of the Kent coast

Sat. 23 May, and Wed. 17 June 2026

Please make sure you sign in,
pick up your pack and helped yourself to a drink!

Today's agenda:

- **Welcome, H&S and introductions**
- Why Protecting Our Coast Is Important
- North East Kent Marine Protected Area (NEKMPA) & Thanet Coast Project
- The Volunteer Role

- Break!

- Coastal Codes, Activity Surveys and Incident Reports
- Coastal Warden Agreement
- Health & Safety

- **More about:** *(either one or two of these)*
- Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Agency
- Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve (NNR) with Kent Wildlife Trust
- Bird Wise East Kent

- **Coastal Warden Agreement** - adopting your bay/sharing contact details/signing



Health & Safety

Evacuation – fire exit/meeting point

First Aid

Toilet

Mobile phones – on silent please

Refreshments

Smoking – outside





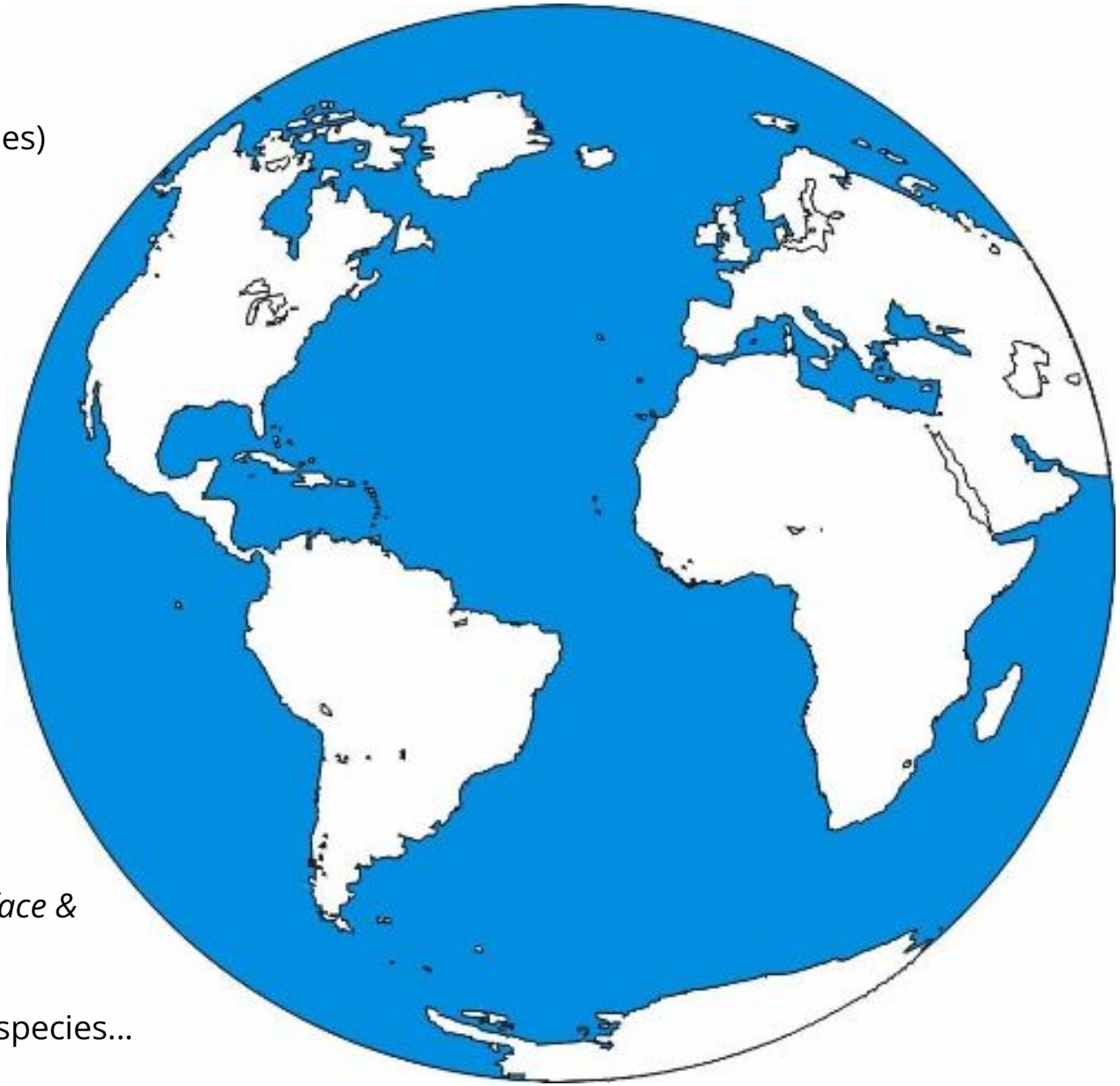
INTRODUCTIONS

Your name, where from/live, why interest in coast; &
any other facts/things that may help you in your role



Ocean facts

- 'One Ocean' = its all connected
- 71% of the Earth's surface
- Average depth is 3.8km (2.4 miles)
  max = 7 miles; 1.3 t/cm^2
- 96% of all 'living space'
- Almost every element on Earth
- Governs our weather & climate
- Absorbs huge amounts of CO_2
- Home to the largest animal & the smallest plants
- Microscopic marine algae
  Produce 50% of Earth's oxygen
- Like land, marine ecosystems requires light, *nutrients & water* = *most productive areas are surface & coastal wat*ers
- Great diversity of habitats and species…

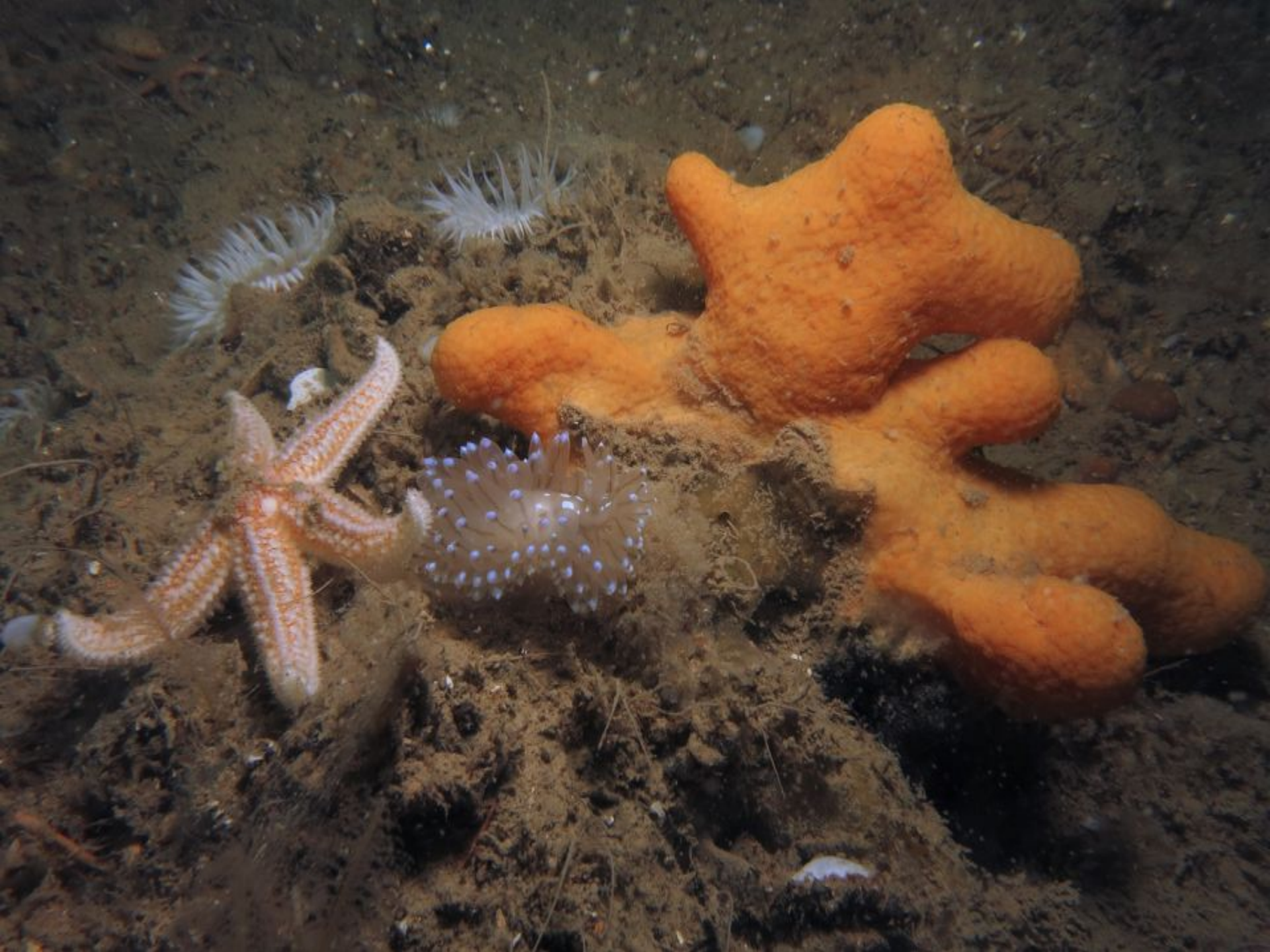


Out of sight,
Out of mind?



















Thanet Coast: NE Kent Marine Protected Area
Published by Tony Nekmpa
· 20h ·

Walpole Tidal Pool, Margate - one of our largest artificial rockpools within the North East Kent Marine Protected Area (NEKMPA). Here's what happened during maintenance this spring (Thanet Council, 16 May, 2025)



YOUTUBE.COM
Draining Walpole Bay 2025
Walpole Bay tidal pool is a real asset to Thanet District Council. In recent years it has become a...


















I
SAM



Internationally important coastal bird populations

Golden plover



- Winter visitors
- Found mainly on pasture

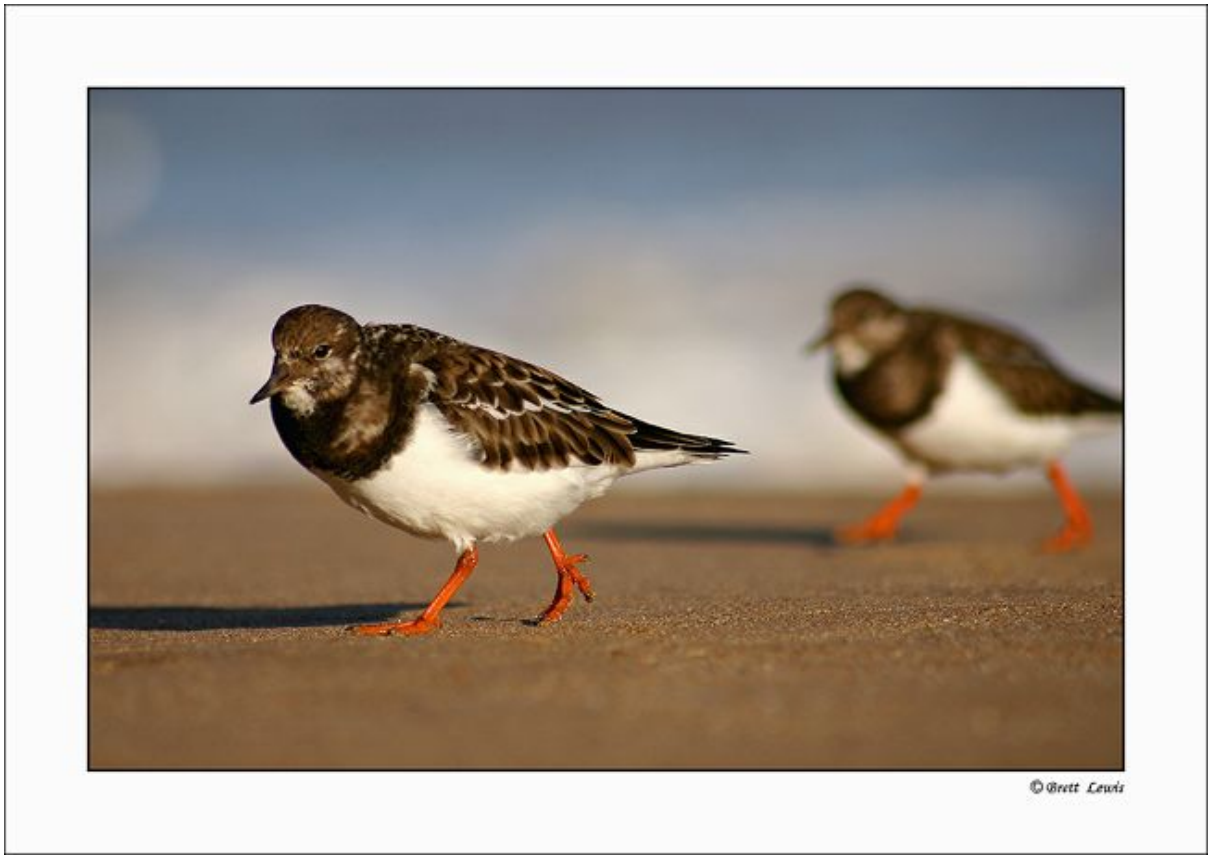
  & on the mudflats at Sandwich & Pegwell Bay
- Can form very large flocks of 2 to a few thousand!



Turnstone



- Breed in arctic & spend winter in Thanet *(Oct-April)*
- Roost sites found all around the chalk coast
- Feed on chalk reefs & beaches *– crustaceans, periwinkles & peeler crabs*
- Vulnerable to disturbance from people & dogs...





Quite simply...

Thanet Coast (NEKEMS)

- three particular features
considered to be important in a European context:





- Chalk reef & sea caves
- Sand & mud flats
- Over-wintering birds

  - internationally important populations









North East Kent Marine Protected Area

Thanet Coast (NEKEMS)

3 features of international importance









Thanet Coast Project

working with people for coastal wildlife

Thanet Coast (NEKEMS)



Wetland of International importance (under Ramsar convention)
*= **Ramsar Site** (Pegwell/Sandwich Bay);*

South East England Marine Conservation Zones

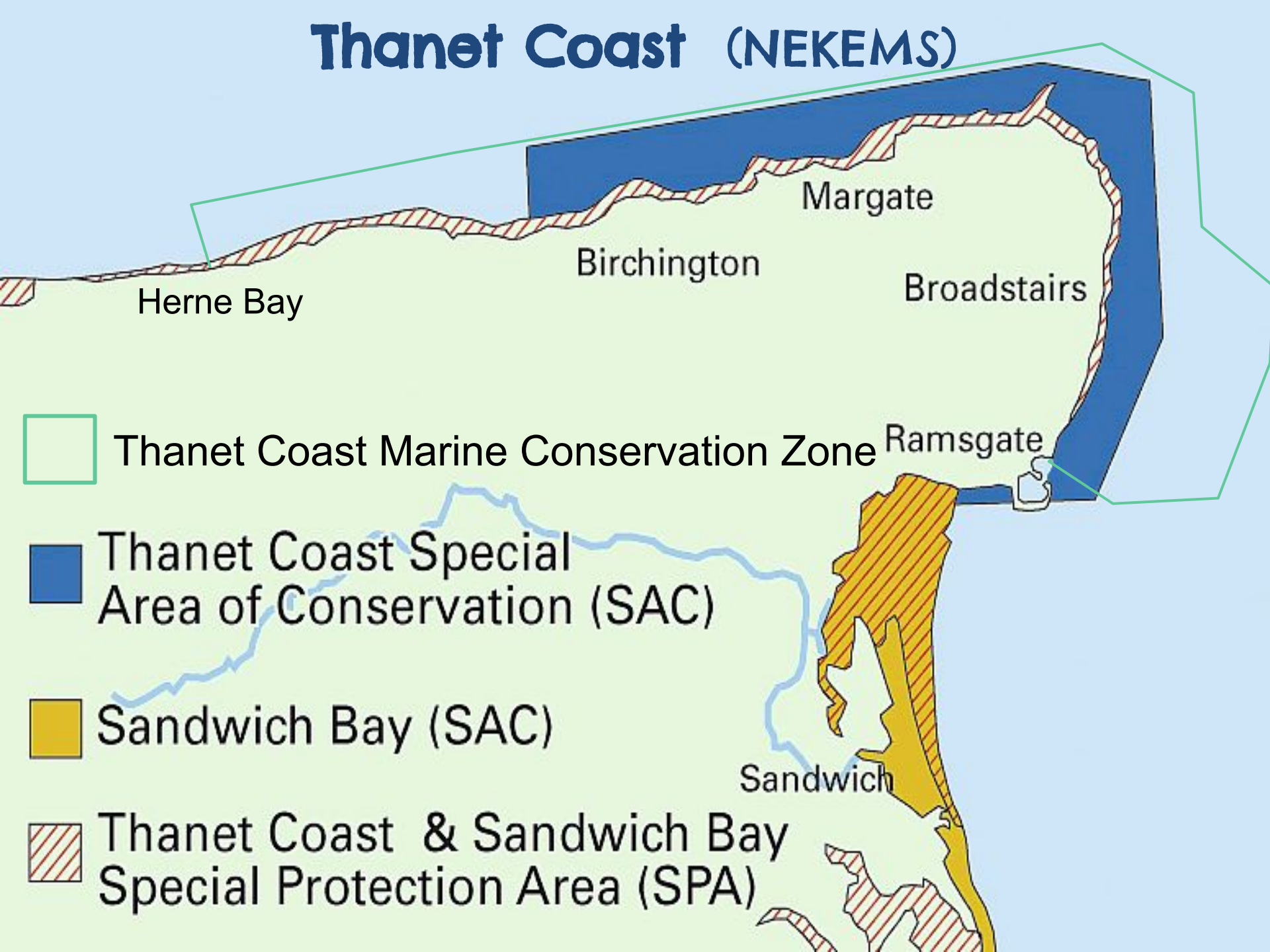
B	Bembridge	**OB**	Offshore Brighton
BCRC	Blackwater, Crouch, Roach & Colne Estuaries	**OF**	Offshore Foreland
BHE	Beachy Head East	**OO**	Offshore Overfalls
BHW	Beachy Head West	**PH**	Pagham Harbour
DD	Dover to Deal	**S**	Swanscombe
DF	Dover to Folkestone	**SBH**	Selsey Bill and the Hounds
FP	Folkestone Pomerania	**SE**	Swale Estuary
GS	Goodwin Sands	**TC**	Thanet Coast
IB	Inner Bank	**TN**	The Needles
K	Kingmere	**U**	Utopia
KKE	Kentish Knock East	**YC**	Yarmouth to Cowes
ME	Medway Estuary		

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

- Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
- Marine Planning system
- MCZs
- Coastal Access *(King Charles III England Coast Path)*
- Fisheries management reform (IFCAs)
- Licensing



Thanet Coast (NEKEMS)



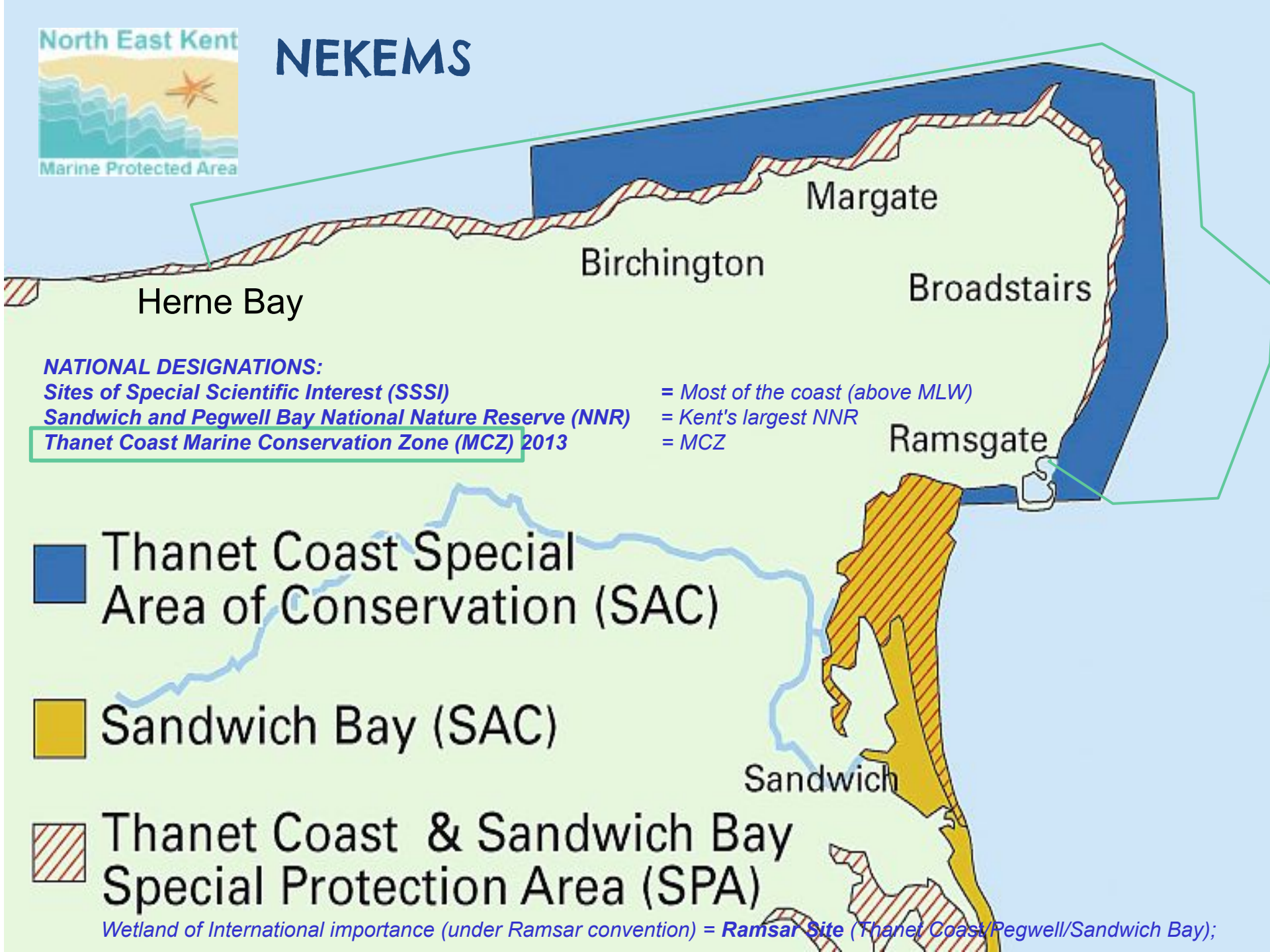











North East Kent
Marine Protected Area
NEKEMS
Margate
Birchington
Broadstairs
Herne Bay
NATIONAL DESIGNATIONS:
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) = Most of the coast (above MLW)
Sandwich and Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve (NNR) = Kent's largest NNR
Thanet Coast Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) 2013 = MCZ
Ramsgate
Thanet Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Sandwich Bay (SAC)
Sandwich
Thanet Coast & Sandwich Bay Special Protection Area (SPA)
Wetland of International importance (under Ramsar convention) = Ramsar Site (Thanet Coast/Pegwell/Sandwich Bay);

Busy urban coastline!



All our activities have an effect -

and we need to consider what actions
we can take to keep it in a favourable condition!







NEKMPA Management Group





















NEKEMS Management Group

Determining policy (1990s):
Approach and principles of stakeholder dialogue and voluntary measures

NEKEMS Stakeholders workshops
- Identifying issues
- Clarification of objectives
- Identification solutions

Agree action
Management Scheme 2001-06

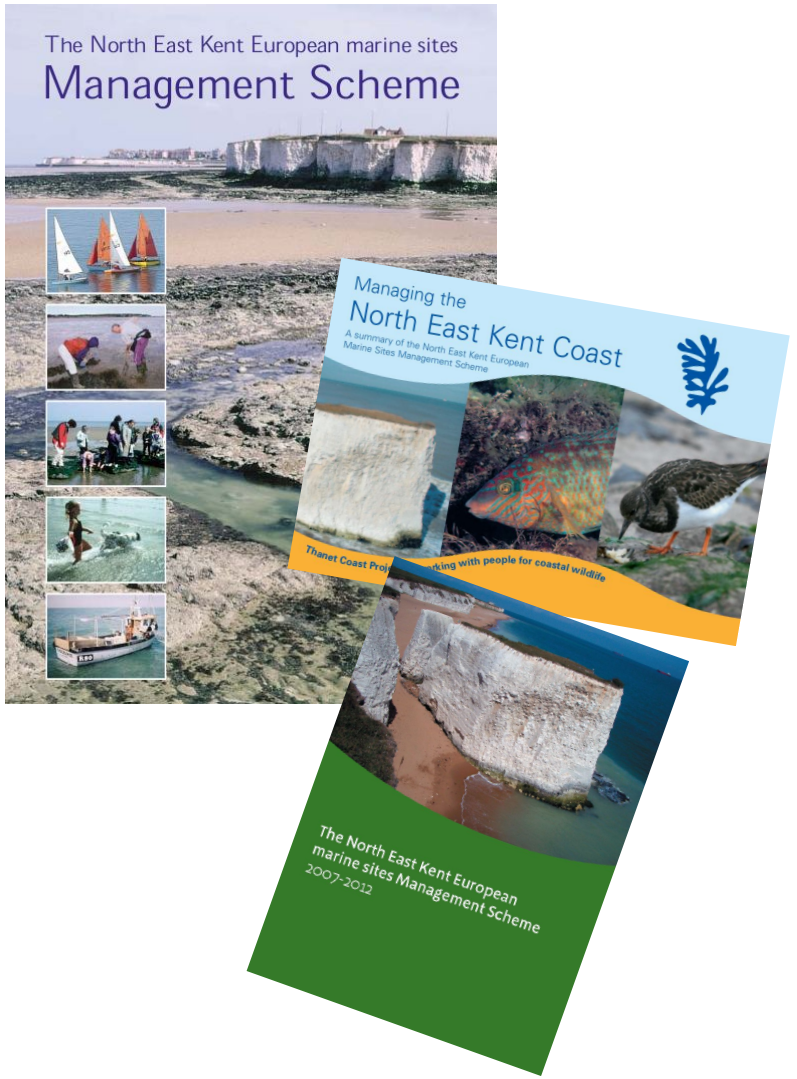
Implementation of Action Plan 2001-06
Launch coast project and advisory group

Review of Management Scheme through stakeholder dialogue workshops (2006) using 'ecosystem approach' principles
NEKEMS Management Scheme 2007-12
- Subject/activity tables
- Actions, research and monitoring
- Action Plan 2007-12

Implementation of actions
TCP Business Plan 2008-12
Monitoring and review

Towards NEKEMS aims and objectives
Review of Scheme

thanetcoast.org.uk/management-scheme/



Action Plans

2013-18; 2019-24; & now 2025-30

Action Plan

- **General Activity Management** (Shore, Water and Air Based Recreation)
- **Shoreline Management**
- **Fishing & Harvesting**
- **Ports, Harbours & Navigation**
- **Research & Education**
- **Water Quality**
- **Species Management & Control**
- **Extraction of Material**
- **NEKMPA Designation Features**
- **NEKMPA**
- **Management Group responsibilities**
- **Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM)**

TYPE OF ACTION	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATION	APRIL 2020 UPDATE	APRIL 2021 UPDATE	APRIL 2022 UPDATE	APRIL 2023 UPDATE	APRIL 2024 UPDATE	Comments:
General Activity Management (Shore, Water and Air Based Recreation)								
Planning	**Coastal Codes:** 1. NEKSCAG/NEKMPA MG to review and update the set of Coastal Codes to reduce the level of potential impact/disturbance of recreational activities across the NEKMPA - with codes made more site specific for parts of the NEKMPA (eg Thanet-Sandwich Bay; & Herne Bay-Whitstable) and incorporating the protection of the newer MCZ designation features. 2. NEKMPA MG members to individually promote the Coastal Codes in their area and ensure links to incorporate the NEKMPA logo.	TDC / DDC						**2021:** New Thanet Coast & Beach PSPO to be produced in 202 Code of Conduct (including links to Thanet Coastal Codes); Tha reviewed & updated in 2021-22 to reflect new PSPO in 2021/2
		CCC						**Latest - The NEKMPA Coastal codes, covering all remit areas, the NEKMPA webpages. CCC will aim to look at and amend a relevent to the area.**
	Sandwich & Pegwell Bay NNR Management: The NNR Steering Group, led by KWT, to produce new NNR Management Plan, that this time incororates access and recreational management.	KWT (/NNR)						**Core partners met in December 2022 to reaffirm the continu of managing the NNR. Delay at KWT due to capacity to get th running but day to day cooperation between partners has be the reserve is managed. It is hoped to re-start meetings in 20 Plan draft produced and includes specifics on access and recr This part of the plan is intended to be pragmatic and may ne depending on such conditions as recreational demand, disob changes, staffing etc.**
	Access Management and Monitoring: Develop 5 year business plan as part of the strategic access management and monitoring strategy (SAMMS) for along the NEKMPA coastline to address increased recreational pressures and create new opportunities in the area. See SAMM section for actions.	CCC / TDC						This element is being copleted by BirdWise North-East able to provide an update - see later section.
		DDC						
	Bay Information Signs: 1. Phased, gradual update and introduction of bay information signs including: maps, water quality (for main bathing bays), safety; and links to NEKMPA and Coastal Codes. 2. National Nature Reserve - signage review and implemention of signs (NNR	TDC						**2021:** Temporary Coast PSPO information will be produced/di **2023/24:** New bay information signs put in place.
		CCC						**Ongoing coastal signage works; all CCC areas are up to date. due to be replaced in '23/'24. Beach Safety signage on privat Whitstable are being drafted (with the help of CCC) plus ther water quality signs due '23/'24. New SSSI signage at LOng Rc**

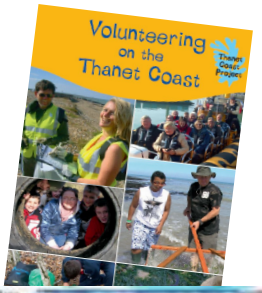
Thanet Coast Project

Set up in 2001, works within the North East Kent Marine Protected Area (NEKMPA) & management scheme, with the remit 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
- **Focal point for enquiries & gathering information**
  on coastal wildlife & environmental issues
- **Keep everyone informed with progress**
  through various means - website, articles, newsletter, stakeholder workshops.













Thanet Coastal Codes



Shore-based Recreation

- Seashore
- Horse Riding
- Dog Walking
- Field Trips

Water-based Recreation

- Powercraft Activities
- Wind-powered Activities

Fishing & Harvesting

- Shellfish Harvesting & Fixed Netting
- Shore Angling
- Bait Digging & Collecting







- ***How to avoid harming*** *the bird & marine life*
- ***Encourage responsible use*** *of the coast*
- ***Includes safety issues*** *relating to the activity*

*Drafted **by stakeholders** deciding together*
*Encourage **self-regulation** by user groups*
*Kept under **review** and **monitored***

- **Marine Wildlife Watching**
- **Seaweed Harvesting Code**
- **Fossil Code**
- Bait Digging Agreement & Kite Surfing Agreement (Pegwell Bay) - now superseded

Codes to be updated in 2025-26

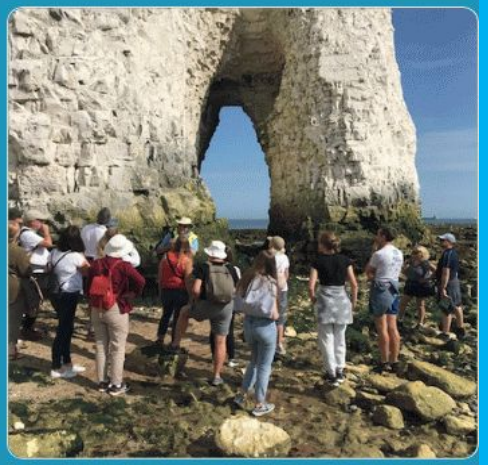








THANET COASTAL WARDEN SCHEME







Thanet Coast Project

Thanet Coastal Wardens

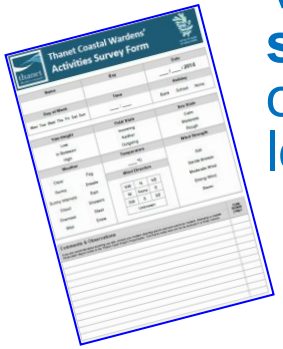
Thanet Coast Project
working with people for coastal wildlife

North East Kent Marine Protected Area

Volunteer scheme: Free training for people to help safeguard the unique wildlife & coastal habitats, whilst allowing people to enjoy the North East Kent coast. *(Set up in 2004).*



Volunteers can get involved by '**adopting a bay or stretch of coastline**' and become the **'eyes & ears'** of the coast helping through 'coastal stewardship' to look after the NEKMPA. eg through:



- ***Monitoring*** *coastal activities & shorelife*
- ***Reporting*** *incidents;*
- ***Recording*** *local marine & bird life &*
- ***Accessing further related volunteer opportunities*** *and projects, developing knowledge and helping to raise awareness about the marine and bird life of the Thanet coast (NEKMPA)*

Survey name	Details	Organised by
Shoresearch	Organised monthly surveys of the seashore recording flora and fauna	**Kent Wildlife Trust** www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatwe-do/livingseas/shoresearch
Jellyfish survey	Identifying and reporting washed up jellyfish	**Marine Conservation Society** http://tinyurl.com/l43cb9j
The Great Eggcase Hunt	Identifying and reporting washed up ray and dogfish eggcases	**The Shark Trust** www.sharktrust.org/en/great_eggcase_hunt
The Big Seaweed Search	Identifying and recording seaweeds on the seashore	**The Natural History Museum** http://tinyurl.com/z7c85cp
Beach Watch	A beach cleaning and litter surveying programme	**Marine Conservation Society** http://www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch/
Crab Watch	A citizen science scheme to enhance knowledge of the changing distributionof native and non-native crabs.	**The Sea Change Project** http://www.seachangeproject.eu/seachange news-2/1718-crab-watch





Guardians of the Deep

You may hear about this last Lottery funding that extended the role a bit further around the Kent Coast 2017-20



Engaging people in helping to protect Kent's natural marine environment



Caring for and safeguarding it for present and future generations

Projects:



Coastal Connections



Undersea Explorers



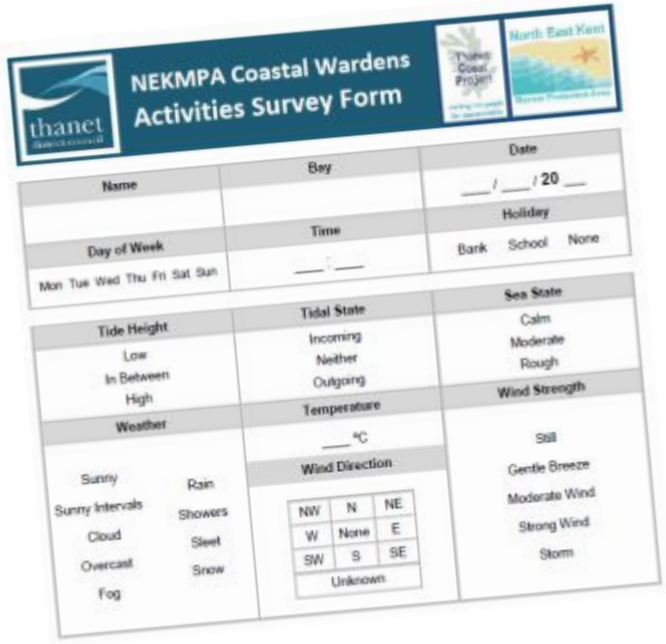
Wildbeach



Coastal Citizen Science

Coastal Wardens: Role & Opportunities

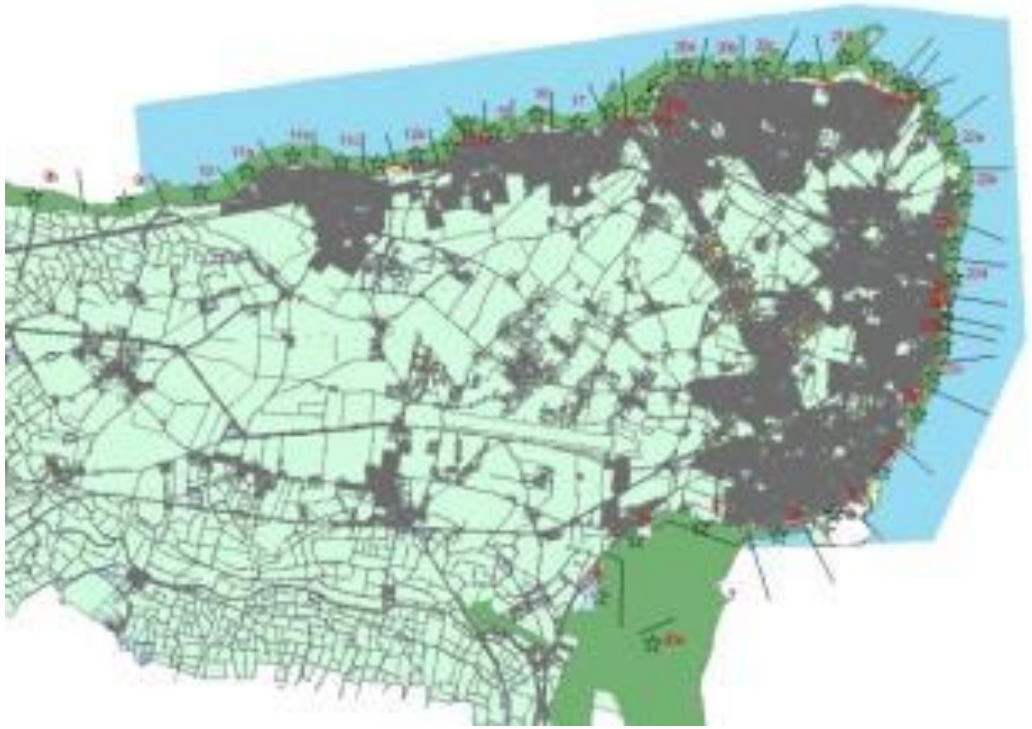
Adopt a Bay to help safeguard and keep an eye on the coast = ‘coastal stewardship’



NEKMPA Coastal Wardens Activities Survey Form

Name	Bay	Date
		___ / ___ / 20 ___
Day of Week	Time	Holiday
Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun	___ : ___	Bank School None

Tide Height	Tidal State	Sea State
Low In Between High	Incoming Neither Outgoing	Calm Moderate Rough
Weather	**Temperature**	**Wind Strength**
Sunny Sunny Intervals Cloud Overcast Fog Rain Showers Sleet Snow	___ °C **Wind Direction** NW N NE W None E SW S SE Unknown	Still Gentle Breeze Moderate Wind Strong Wind Storm



Report Incidents



Beast from the East





Kent & Essex IFCA
Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

Minnis Bay - May 2024







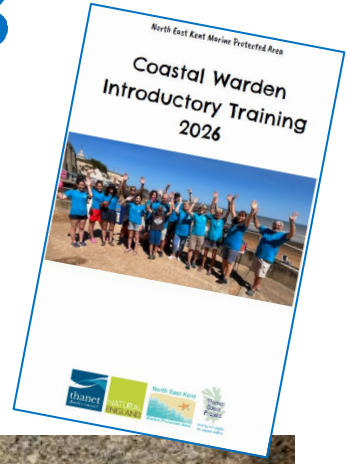


Learning Opportunities

- Introductory training
- Species ID workshops
  - eg Beginner's shore life identification
- Specialist topics: eg Geology; Seaweed
- Shoresearch (Kent Wildlife Trust/Adonis Blue)
- Kent Dolphin Project (KWT/Adonis Blue)
- Coastbusters

  - Non-Native Species control (Natural England / TCP)
- How to run a beach clean
  - Now 'Online' (Beachwatch -Marine Conservation Society)
- Coastal Birds

  - Walks, talks & Pit Stops (Bird Wise East Kent)
- Talks & more…







Links with other Coastal groups

- Bird Wise East Kent
- British Divers Marine Life Rescue
- Bumblebee Conservation Trust
  ('Buzz for the Coast' - Bee ID / Land management)
- Kent Wildlife Trust (& Adonis Blue)
  - Pegwell Bay NNR volunteers (KWT)
  - Kent Dolphin Project (AB)
- Climate Change groups (eg ZeroMargate; Ramsgate)

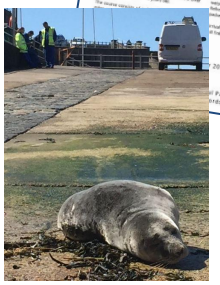
....& more

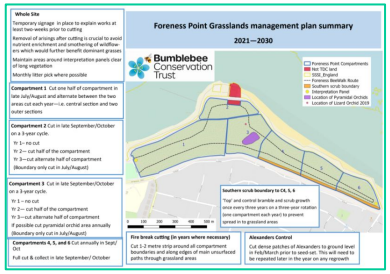
eg National - MCS; SeaWatch; SAS; RSPB....

Local - 'BBC'; Sunken Garden; Friends of Gps; Town Teams; Rise up..etc

Plus other citizen science opportunities







Links with community events and project













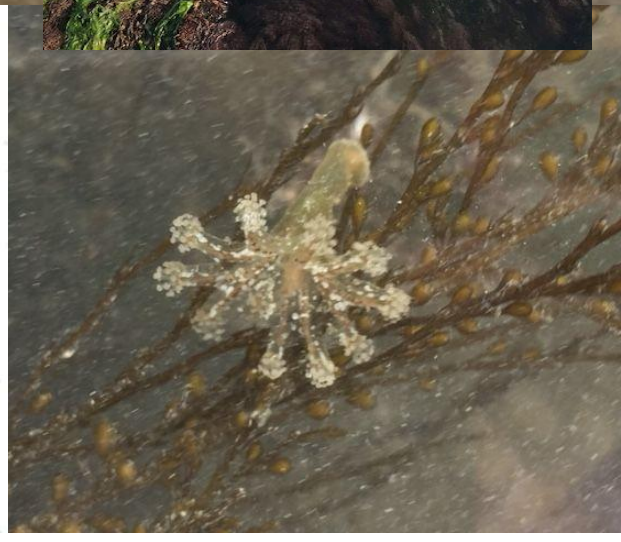

BIRD ROOSTS
NEED A BOOST!



Shoresearch





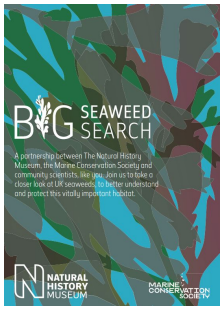


Citizen Science Surveys

to get involved in…

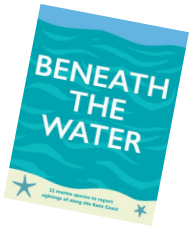
Survey name	Organised by	Details
Coastbusters	Natural England / NEKMPA (Thanet Coast Project)	A citizen science scheme to control the number of non-native invasive marine species - particularly pacific oysters..
Non-native species survey	Natural England & Kent Wildlife Trust	Identifying and recording invasive species - Coming Soon!
Shoresearch	Kent Wildlife Trust / Adonis Blue	Organised monthly surveys of the seashore recording flora and fauna
Kent Dolphin Project	Kent Wildlife Trust / Adonis Blue	Learn about whales, dolphins & porpoises, & help report sightings
Beach Watch	Marine Conservation Society	Beach clean and litter survey
Big Seaweed Search	Marine Conservation Society/The Natural History Museum	Identifying and recording seaweeds on the seashore
The Great Eggcase Hunt	The Shark Trust	Identifying and reporting washed up ray and dogfish egg cases
Jellyfish survey	Marine Conservation Society	Identifying and reporting washed up jellyfish

Organised by
Kent Wildlife Trust www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatwe-do/living-seas/shoresearch
Marine Conservation Society http://tinyurl.com/l43cb9j
The Shark Trust www.sharktrust.org/en/great_eggcase_hunt
The Natural History Museum http://tinyurl.com/z7v85qs
Marine Conservation Society http://www.mcsuk.org/beachwatch/



And more…. *eg Coastbusters; Cetaceans (Kent Dolphin Project or SeaWatch); BTO (WeBs); Fulmars ; RSPB; Bee Walk Surveys (BBCT)…*

'Beneath the Water' = Non-native species reports.



Help out at Educational Events

Eggcase and Scavenger Hunts
– sign in / assistance / beach art





Seashore Safari
- set up/ assistance/ sign-ins

Great British Beach Clean
- Plum pudding, Birchington
- Pegwell Bay, Cliffsend
- Running your own Beach Clean, or Two-minute Beach Cleans!



School Trips
- rockpooling, scavenger hunts etc
- ‘Coastal Carousel’ days on the beach

Community events
- Running an activity eg Safari, Beach Cleans
- Broadstairs Water Gala eg stall/activity
- Open Days/Fairs eg stall/activity


SCAVENGER
HUNTS
The Great Eggcase Hunt
Expedition member
SHARK TRUST


SUMMER
SEASHORE
SAFARIS


COMMUNITY
EVENTS
FLINTS
SOLSTICE
FAYRE



Thanet Coast 2026

Join us on the beach for some natural fun.
BOOK at: Thanetcoast.org.uk/events
to join in and view event details

Thanet Coast Project
working with people for coastal wildlife

Great Eggcase & Scavenger Hunts

Look for clues of life from our seas and for shark egg cases; with marine art (**4-11s; 1.5hrs; £2.50pp** donation)

- Tue **7 April, 11am - Westbrook Bay**
- Wed **8 April, 11am - Viking Bay**
- Thu **9 April, 11am - Ramsgate Main**
- Tue **26 May, 2pm - Margate Main**
- Wed **27 May, 2pm - Botany Bay**
- Friday **29 May, 2pm - Ramsgate**
- Tue **20 Oct, 11am - Margate**
- Wed **21 Oct, 11am - Viking Bay**
- Thu **22 Oct, 11am - Ramsgate**

Seaweed & their Secrets

Everything you need to know about Seaweed: a walk & talk with expert Ian Tittley (**14yrs+; 2hrs; £5pp** donation)

- Wed **29 Apr, 4pm - Walpole Bay**
- Sun **21 June, 9:30am - Margate**
- Thur **20 Aug, 10:30am - Dumpton**
- Sat **3 Oct, 10am - Botany Bay**

White Cliffs of Kingsgate:

Uncover the mysteries of this stunning coastscape on this walk & talk with expert Richard Hubbard (**11yrs+; 2hrs; £5pp**)

- Wed **22 April, 10am**
- Sat **5 Sept, 10:30am**

Chalk Flora & Bumblebees

Join chalk grassland walk with expert Simon Springate & co.(**11yrs+; 2hrs; £5pp**)

- Sun **17 May, 10:30am**
- Sat **13 June, 10:30am**
- Sat **4 July, 10:30am**

Summer Seashore Safaris

Explore Thanet's rocky chalk shore for its fascinating rockpool life - with help on hand to identify your finds (**4-14yrs** & **all the family**; **2hrs; £2.50pp** suggested donation)

- Wed **22 July, 11am - Margate Main Sands**
- Thu **23 July, 12:30pm - Western Undercliff**
- Fri **24 July, 1:30pm - Minnis Bay**
- Mon **27 July, 4:30pm - Joss Bay**
- Tue **28 July, 5:30pm - Westbrook Bay**
- Wed **29 July, 6pm - Stone Bay**
- Thur **30 July, 6:30pm - West Bay, Westgate**
- Mon **3 Aug, 9am - Botany Bay**
- Tue **4 Aug, 9:30am - Louisa Bay**
- Wed **5 Aug, 10am - Dumpton Gap**
- Thur **6 Aug, 11am - Walpole Bay**
- Mon **17 Aug, 9am - Eastcliff, Ramsgate**
- Tue **18 Aug, 9:30am - St Mildred's Bay**
- Wed **19 Aug, 10am - Dumpton Gap**

Great British Beach Cleans

Join a beach clean & litter survey as part of MCS's national campaign to clean our shores (**5yrs+; 2hrs**)

- Fri **20 March, 2.30pm - Pegwell Bay, Cliffsend**
- Thur **25 June, 2pm - Pegwell Bay**
- Sat **19 Sept, 10am- Pegwell Bay**
- Sat **19 Sept, 2pm - Plum Pudding, Minnis Bay**
- Fri **4 Dec, 10:30am - Pegwell Bay**

There's more online...

Ramsgate Through the Senses/Active Ramsgate:
- Sat **25 April, 1pm: Seashore Safari - Western Undercliff**
- Thur **28 May, 4pm: Seashore Safari - Western Undercliff**
- Fri **29 May, 2pm: Scavenger Hunt - Ramsgate Main Sands**

World Ocean Day: - Mon **8 June: Margate Harbour 10am-2pm Meet/Greet - Harbour & 11am: Safari - Fulsam**

Broadstairs Water Gala: Wed **29 July 1pm-4:30: Meet/Greet at Harbour;& 6pm: Safari - Stone Bay**

East Kent Coast Photographic Exhibition:
- View winning entries from this **photography competition**

Eco Fair: Sun 20 Sept,11-4 & 12pm: Safari - Westbrook



DID YOU KNOW? Thanet's coast is **internationally & nationally important** for its bird & marine life.

You can volunteer as a '**Coastal Warden**' to help safeguard our coast. An **online notification of School Beach Visits** includes advice to assist your beach experience. Groups can help: use our online **Beach clean notification** and borrow equipment to run your own clean! Family exploratory **Tracker Packs** can be hired from Visitor Information Centres..

North East Kent Marine Protected Area

thanet district council

@nekmpa1 @thanetcoastproject

Thanet Coast Project is a 'not for profit' project & is grateful for your donations & support.





THANET COAST - SEASHORE SAFARIS

Upcoming Events

- Scavenger Hunts - 26 May (Margate, 2pm); 27 May (Botany Bay, 2pm) 29 May (Ramsgate)
- Active Ramsgate Week - 28 May (Safari, 4pm) & 29 May (Scavenger Hunt, 2pm)
- World Ocean Day - Mon. 8 June: 10am-2pm Margate Harbour & 11am - Seashore Safari (Fulsam Rock)
- Pegwell Bay Beach Clean - 25 June, 2pm; 19 Sept, 10am; 4 Dec, 10:30am (TCP/KWT)
- Chalk Flora & Bumblebees *Sat.13 June & 4 July*
- Seaweed & their Secrets - *Sun.21 June-Fulsam (One Ocean); Thur.20 Aug-Dumpton; Sat.3 Oct-Botany*
- White Cliffs of Kingsgate - *Geology/History! Sun 5 Sept, 10:30am*
- Community activity events
  - Broadstairs Water Gala - Wed.29 July - *1pm-4:30pm: Meet & Greet at the harbour & 6pm-Safari in Stone Bay*
  - *Westbrook Sunken Garden Eco Fair - Sun.20 Sept*

Other:

Photographic Exhibitions - *Celebrating Thanet & Canterbury Coast - with Bird Wise EK*

Shoresearch (KWT); Kent Field Club; Coastbusters *(monthly)*



For more about the public events:

- see flyer & website

(& E-News - for Wardens; or Website/Facebook/Instagram - for the public)

Upcoming Training Events:

Emergency First Aid At Work (EFAW) One day training for volunteers that help at practical events - *eg Coastbusters & helping at the Educational Events.*



Coastbuster Training (6 May; next - 2027)

Beginner's Intro' to Kent's Shore Life

- **1pm to 5pm, Friday 26 June - Margate VIC:** BOOK HERE

This beginner's intro' to Kent's Shore Life. This will mainly involve an indoor technical resentation running through the range of life you are likely to encounter - followed by a short look on the shore life nearby.

TCP Public events:

- Seaweed & their Secrets
- Chalk Flora & Bumblebees
- White Cliffs of Kingsgate



Coastal Warden Walks and Socials 2026 :

- **Rockpool Ramble & social - West Bay, Westgate - Coastal low tide social walk and exploration along the rocky shore from West Bay to Epple Bay return Fri 1 May, 6pm** (1.5hr ramble)

- **Rockpool Ramble social walk - Botany Bay - Coastal low tide social walk and exploration along the rocky shore from Botany Bay to Whiteness Point return. Fri 3 July, 7pm** (1.5hr ramble)

- **Coastal Warden post-Safari Picnic Lunch - Dumpton Gap. Broadstairs - Join the volunteers and coastal wardens for an outdoors picnic and social celebration after the last of the summer's public seashore safaris. Wed 19 Aug, 12:30pm** (1.5hr picnic / social).

- **Night-time Rockpool Ramble - Viking Bay - Coastal low tide evening / nighttime exploration on the rocky shore around Viking Bay from the harbour to Chalk reef around the tidal pool and back Friday 11 Sept, 7pm** (1.5hr ramble) **Meet: Broadstairs Harbour**

BOOKING LINK: Coastal Warden Walks and Socials {in Spring E-News}









North East Kent Marine Protected Area

Annual Forum

6pm, Wed. 18 November 2026

Thanet Coast Project
working with people for coastal wildlife











Thanet Coast Project 2025

North East Kent Marine Protected Area

Thanet Coast Project

working with people for coastal wildlife

39 public events - 20 community events - 9 warden events - 4 exhibitions *(1 virtual!)*

3,667 participants / volunteers & 4,729 at exhibitions = 8,396

Walks & Talks - 8 events: 174 participants



Seashore Safaris - 16 events: 865 participants



Scavenger Hunts - 9 events: 327 participants



Beach Cleans - 5 public events: 228 volunteers



Community Events - 20 events: 1,856



Photographic Competition/Exhibitions – 4,729 people (with Bird Wise EK)



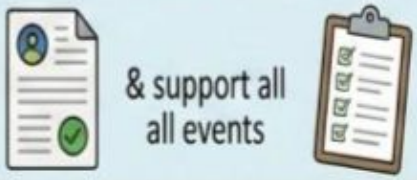
Coastal Warden - 9+ events



New Coastal Wardens trained: **18** new volunteers



Coastal Warden Stewardship: **54** incident, **155** activity reports, & support all all events



Volunteer hours: **2,357** = equates to **>£28k**



Information Booklet



PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR ONLINE RESOURCE LINK:

https://www.thanetcoast.org.uk/coastal-warden-resource/

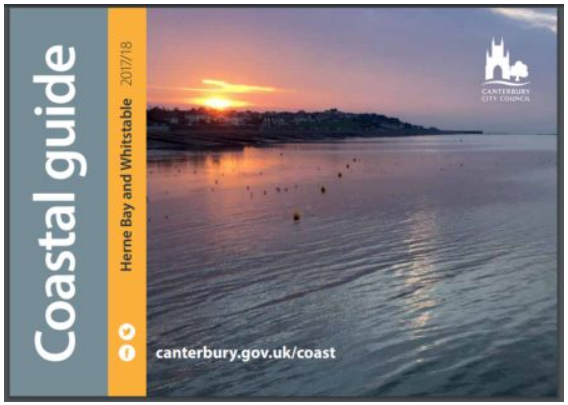

Break!

Coastal Codes, Activity Survey and Incident Reports

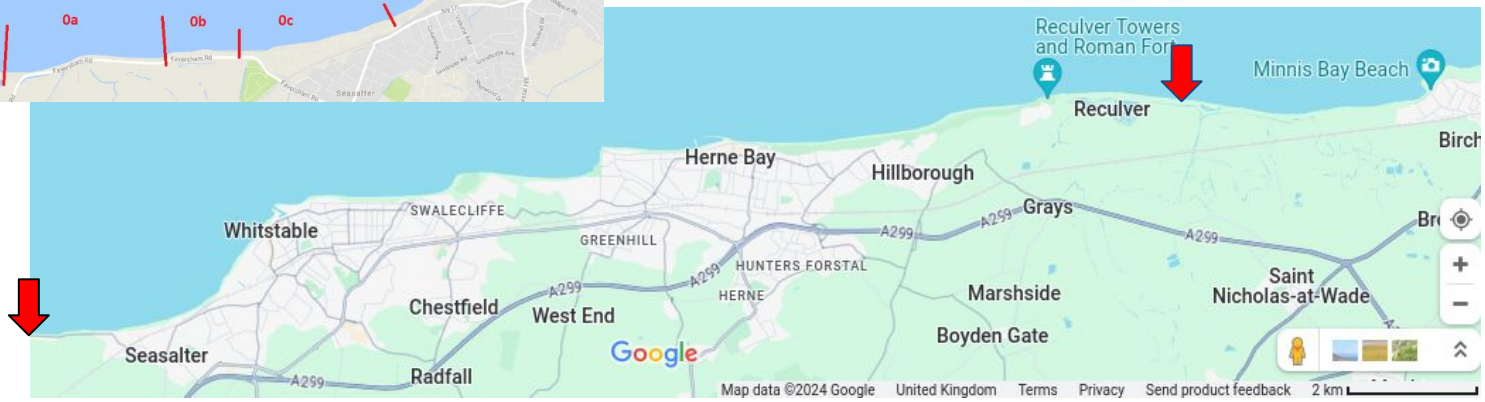
Canterbury Foreshore

- We want to get a bigger picture for wider area - Whitstable/Herne Bay
- Please note parts of the Canterbury coast is privately owned and by industry (Oyster Fisheries).

- Canterbury.gov.uk/coast (https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/leisure-and-community







Coastal Codes

Aims -

- **Avoid unintentional harm to marine & bird life**
- **Encourage responsible use of the coast**
- **Keep everyone safe**

Note: For coastal wardens - your activity survey monitors many of the activities listed, and 'broken code' on the form refers to these codes, so let's take another look at the Thanet Coastal Codes

Thanet Coastal Codes



Shore-based Recreation
- Seashore
- Horse Riding
- Dog Walking
- Field Trips

Water-based Recreation
- Powercraft Activities
- Wind-powered Activities

Fishing & Harvesting
- Shellfish Harvesting & Fixed Netting
- Shore Angling
- Bait Digging & Collecting







How to avoid harming *the bird & marine life*

Encourage responsible use *of the coast*

Includes safety issues *relating to the activity*

*Drafted **by stakeholders** deciding together*

*Encourage **self-regulation** by user groups*

*Kept under **review** and **monitored***

ON:LINE:

Marine Wildlife Watching

Seaweed harvesting code

Fossil Code

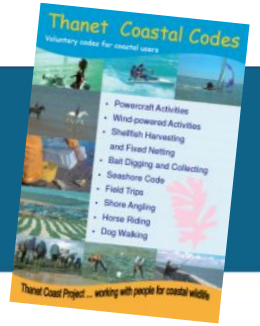
?Foraging / harvesting

Kite Surfing Agreement (Pegwell Bay)

Bait Digging Agreement (Pegwell Bay)

https://www.thanetcoast.org.uk/codes/

Dog Walking Code



- To avoid disturbing birds, walk your dog towards the back of the shore and try to avoid the feeding birds along the tide line, or at times around high tide (when the beach area is smaller)
- Keep away from known bird roosts and take note of any signs requesting your co-operation in these areas
- Do not allow your dog to chase birds on the beach as this stops them from feeding and roosting
- Keep your dog on a lead when:
  - near feeding or roosting birds;
  - on shingle from April to July inclusive because of ground-nesting breeding birds;
  - in areas used by other recreational activities, as boisterous dogs can scare both birds and people.
- Please clean up after your dog to keep the beach safe and clean for other users.

It is illegal not to clean up in every public place in Thanet. This is rigorously enforced with fixed penalty notices of £100, (less for early payment), and dog owners can be prosecuted and fined up to £1,000. Over 100 people have fallen 'foul' of the law, so please clean up!

- Follow the **local Dog Controls (PSPOs)**

Dogs are banned from some of Thanet's beaches during the summer. Please obey the signs on the beaches or check the details at Thanet Tourism or local authority website. The maximum penalty for failing to obey the Dog Control Order is £1000. For further information see: Thanet Council's Dog PSPOs & advice on Thanet beaches; or our advisory page on Dogs on the Thanet Coast.

PLEASE NOTE: Access restrictions have changed following public consultation and launch of the national England Coastal Path in 2016 Access Restrictions within Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve (updated with TDC's Dog Control PSPO in 2023).

Shellfish Harvesting and Fixed Netting Code

Shellfish and other marine life

- Tread carefully to avoid damage to the rocky chalk shore especially on the lower shore where the chalk is most fragile
- Always put rocks and seaweed back the way they were – there are animals underneath which need them for shelter.
- Shellfish should be collected by hand only and without breaking the chalk rocks (Local IFCA bylaws allow for the collection of periwinkle by hand only)
- Take only enough for your own needs – to a maximum of 5kg (half a normal size bucket) of periwinkles collected by one person per day – to ensure that many are left for other collectors and the species can still thrive. Other species should be left to flourish.
- Species attached to the chalk reef (eg pacific oysters and limpets) should be left as the reef is easily damaged if removed
- Select only the larger shellfish to ensure that younger ones can continue to grow on and establish the next generation
- Take care to avoid putting feeding or roosting birds to flight
- Avoid collecting shellfish during 'Temporary Prohibition Orders' (Fishery Products and Live Shellfish) when it is a criminal offence to [illegible] live shellfish such as cockles and mussels for human consumption on the grounds of public food safety. Contact your local authority for information
- Abide by food safety standards and 'guidelines for safe working in estuaries and tidal areas' (Health and Safety Executive)
- 2022 Shellfish Collection – advisory poster (1.1MB, PDF)



Additional Codes for 'Fixed Netting' on shore

- Fixed nets should comply with both national and local fishery bylaws, in that they shall:
  - be cleared within every 30 hours
  - be marked at each end (by dahn bouys 1.5m above water) with 30sq cm flag – clearly marked with name address or postcode
  - be under 100 metres in length
  - avoid the River Stour (to protect migratory species)
- Contact the Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority for details and advice, and the Environmental Agency for information on the fishing for salmon, sea trout, eels and the use of fyke nets.
- Care should be taken to avoid damage to the chalk shore and marine life when putting up fixed nets
- Take away and dispose of any entangled rubbish or disintegrating nets in suitable bins
- Avoid designated coastal activity areas or launch sites as nets could entangle and endanger other coastal users

SHELLFISH COLLECTION

RULES APPLY IN THIS AREA

This area is covered by the Public Spaces Protection Order and the Coastal and Beach Codes of Practice

HAND COLLECTION ONLY



Maximum collection of 5kg

- **Removal using hand tools is prohibited**
- **Leave smaller shellfish to grow and reproduce**
- **Stay safe - watch the tide at all times**





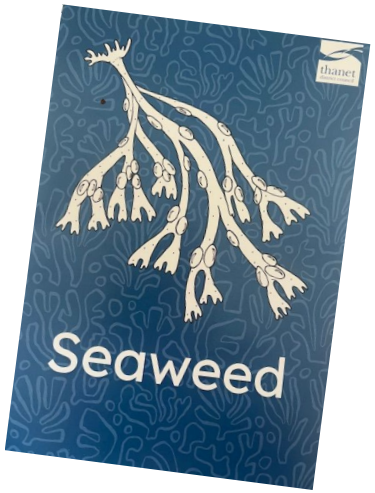
The Thanet coast is part of the North East Kent Marine Protected Area, important for its coastal habitats, marine and bird life.

Untested shellfish from this beach may not be safe and is eaten at your own risk.

Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority · North East Kent · Natural England · Kent Police · thanet

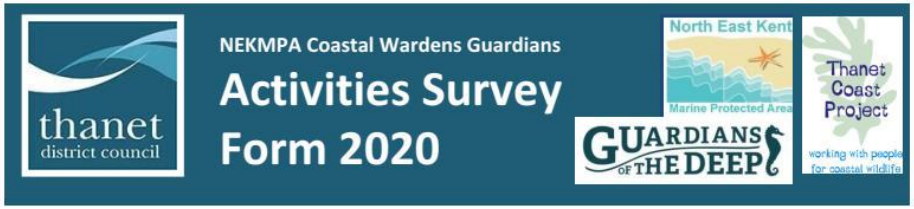
Note: **TDC online information**

- **Coast PSPO**
- **Dog Walking PSPO**
- **Information leaflets: code of conduct; Water User Group; Seaweed**



Activity Survey:

How to survey: Background Information



NEKMPA Coastal Wardens Guardians

Activities Survey Form 2020

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

High Tides times	Low Tides times	Sea State
____ : ____	____ : ____	Calm Moderate Rough
____ : ____	____ : ____	

Weather	Precipitation	Temperature	Wind strength
Sunny Sunny Intervals Cloud: 0%-33% Cloud: 34%-66% Cloud: 67%-100% Overcast Fog / Mist	Rain Drizzle Showers Sleet Snow	____ °C **Wind direction**	Still Gentle Breeze Moderate Strong Storm

NW	N	NE
W	None	E
SW	S	SE
Unknown		

Visibility

Good

Limited

Recreational Activities

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

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

BIRDS	a) Always record numbers of birds encountered in each different location in the table above, even when no human activity is occurring nearby. **Birds:** 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 -				
	BIRD SPECIES OR use categories:	*Gulls*	*Ducks*	*Small waders*	*Divers*
		Terns	*Geese*	*Med/large waders*	*Wildfowl /Waterbird*

DISTURBANCE SCORES	
0	**None** (normal behaviour) *eg feeding, resting*
1	**Increased vigilance** *eg alarm calls but stays put*
2	**Minor disturbance** *eg walks/flies max 10m*
3	**Local displacement** eg *moves, but stays within sight*
4	**Major displacement/damage** *eg abandons area – out of sight.* ***Ref:*** *any direct damage/injury seen.*

Recreational Activities and Disturbance Monitoring Form

Please record on a separate row: 1. each occurrence of recreational activity in a different location, whether or not any birds are present and whether or not any disturbance is caused and 2. the numbers of birds encountered even where no people or dogs are present.

Activity type See list (or write 'Other' & name!)	**Where**	**Time**	**No of people**	**No of dogs**	**Code Brkn?**	**Birds Y/N**	**No of Turnstone**	**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 (turnstone and other)**	**Disturbance score 0 - 4**	**Ref no.**
Dog walkers-off lead	*Mudflat*	*1435*	*1*	*3*	*Y*	*Y*	*0*	*Sanderling: 6, Curlew: 1*	*7*	*2*	*1*

Ref no. *(from monitoring form)*	**Comments and Observations – non-urgent only** If you are seriously concerned about anything you see, please consult your reporting advice card and contact the appropriate organisation for action & 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.	**Code Broken? (Y/N)**
1	*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.*	*Y*

How to Survey: Comments & Observations

Ref no. *(from monitoring form)*	**Comments and Observations – non-urgent only** If you are seriously concerned about anything you see, please consult your reporting advice card and contact the appropriate organisation for action & 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.	Code Broken? (Y/N)
1	*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.*	*Y*

PRACTICE!





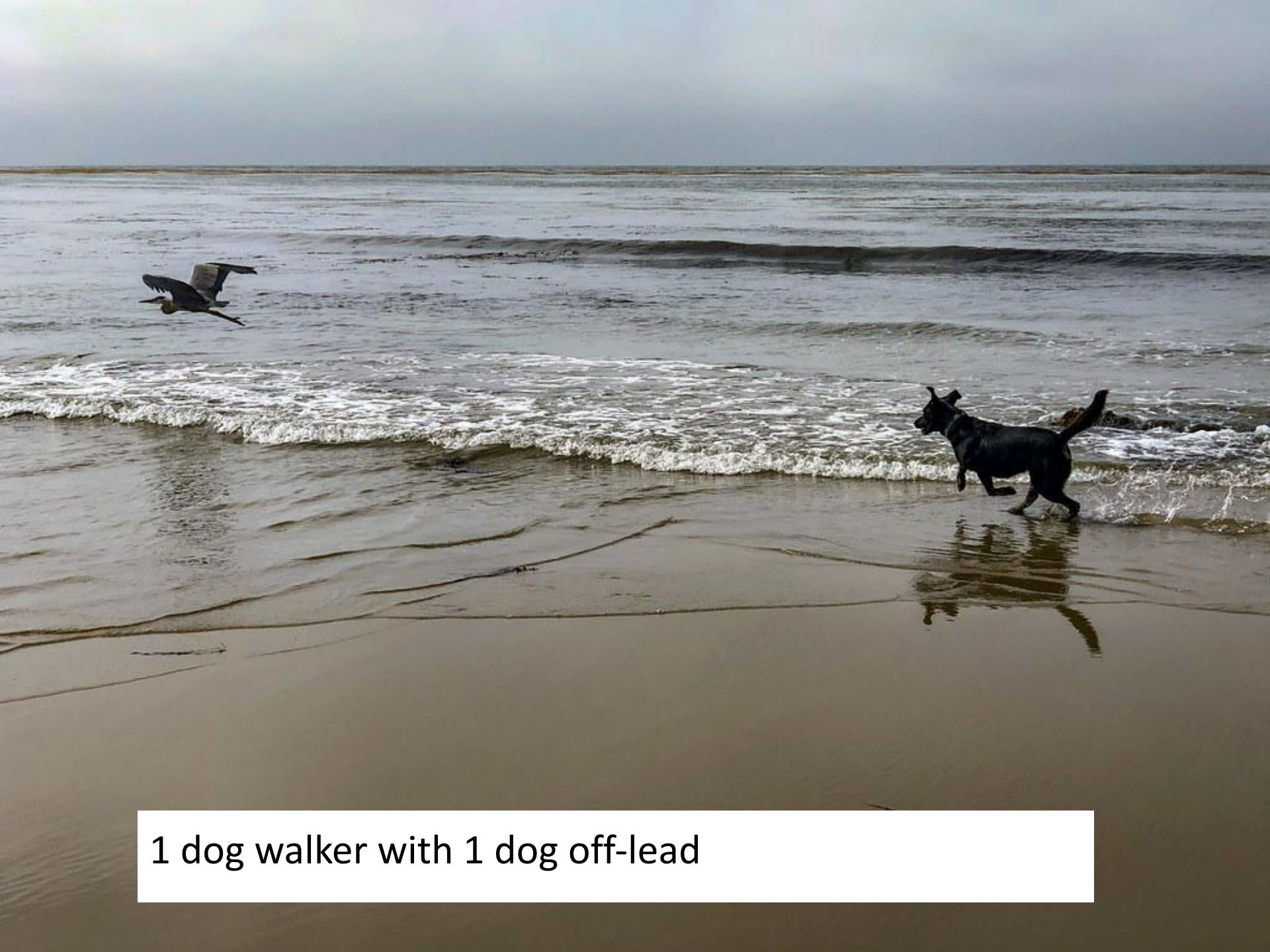












1 dog walker with 1 dog off-lead







When to Survey?

The regular surveys per month

Monitoring schedule

- Four surveys a month given as a guide:
  - 2 x 1st full week of the month (1 High & 1 Low Tide surveys on any weekday)
  - 2 x 3rd full weekend of the month (1 High & 1 Low Tide surveys on a weekend day)

- 10-15 mins ave: maybe longer depending on bay/stretch of coastline

If you can't make a scheduled survey date, please just complete close to these times if possible (or arrange cover with the other wardens who share your bay to cover for you if away!).... or alternatively just choose any other week day & weekend day during that month to survey

Plus when ever you would like ✔

Submitting Survey Data

The data you have collected will then need to be filled in on a computer and emailed to us.

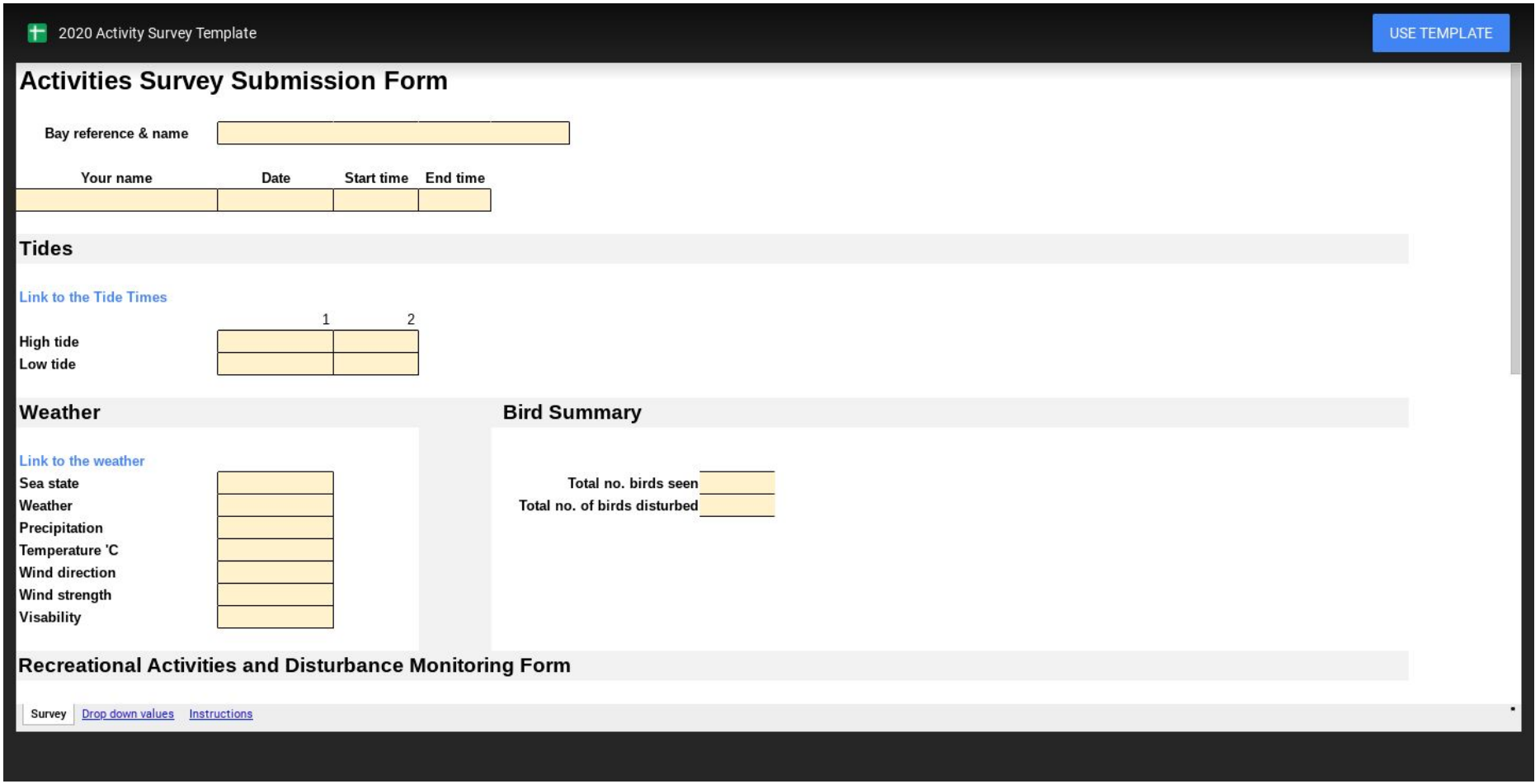
https://www.thanetcoast.org.uk/coastal-warden-resource/

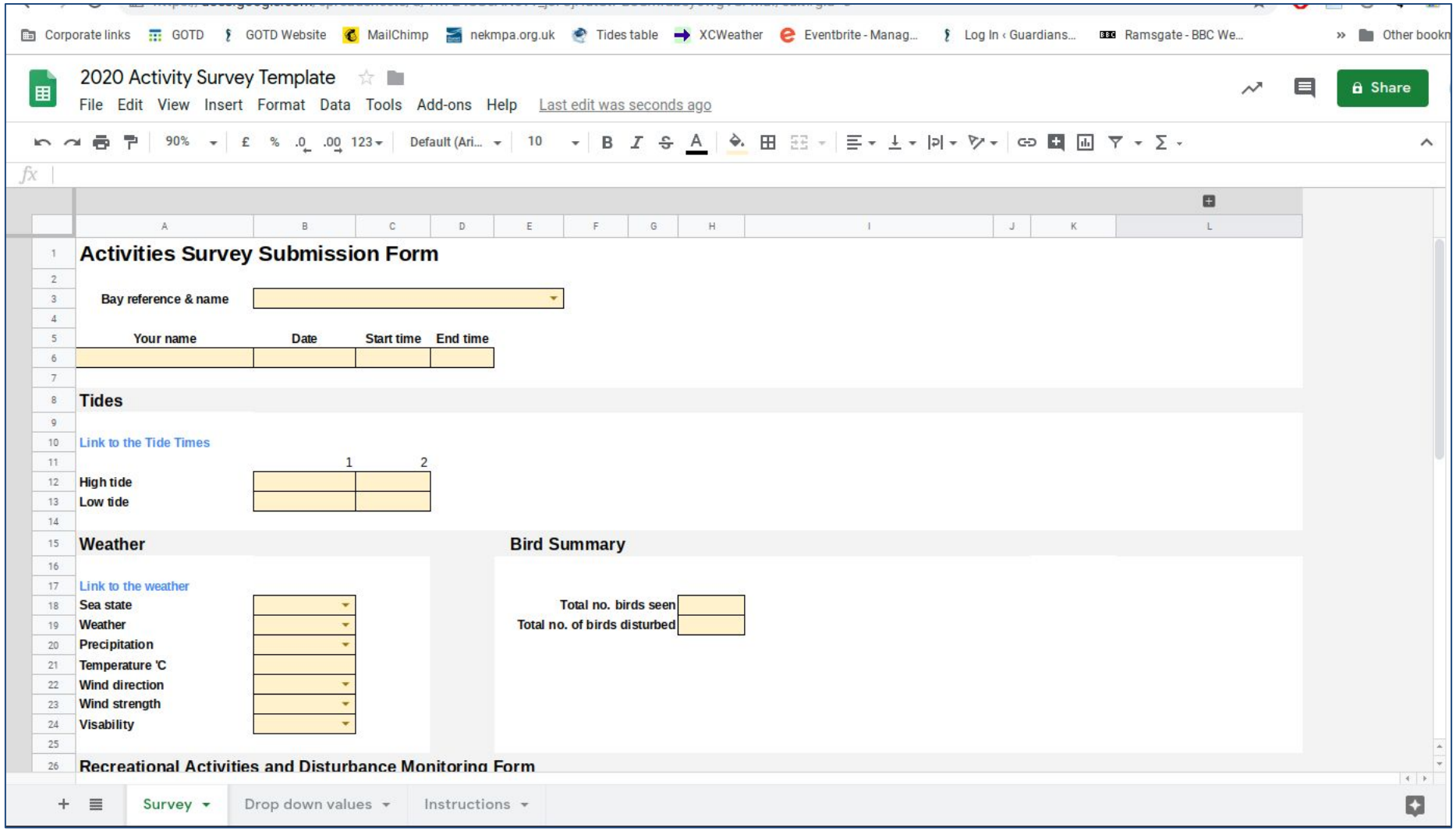
Thanet Coast - Activity Survey

Surveys: We are aiming for at least four surveys a month – please survey around HIGH & LOW tides by choosing two week days surveys (during that week starting on the Monday); and then for two weekend days – you can choose your dates/times; & complete as many surveys as possible!

2 WEEKDAY SURVEYS (eg 1st full-weekend) – one HIGH tide, & one LOW tide

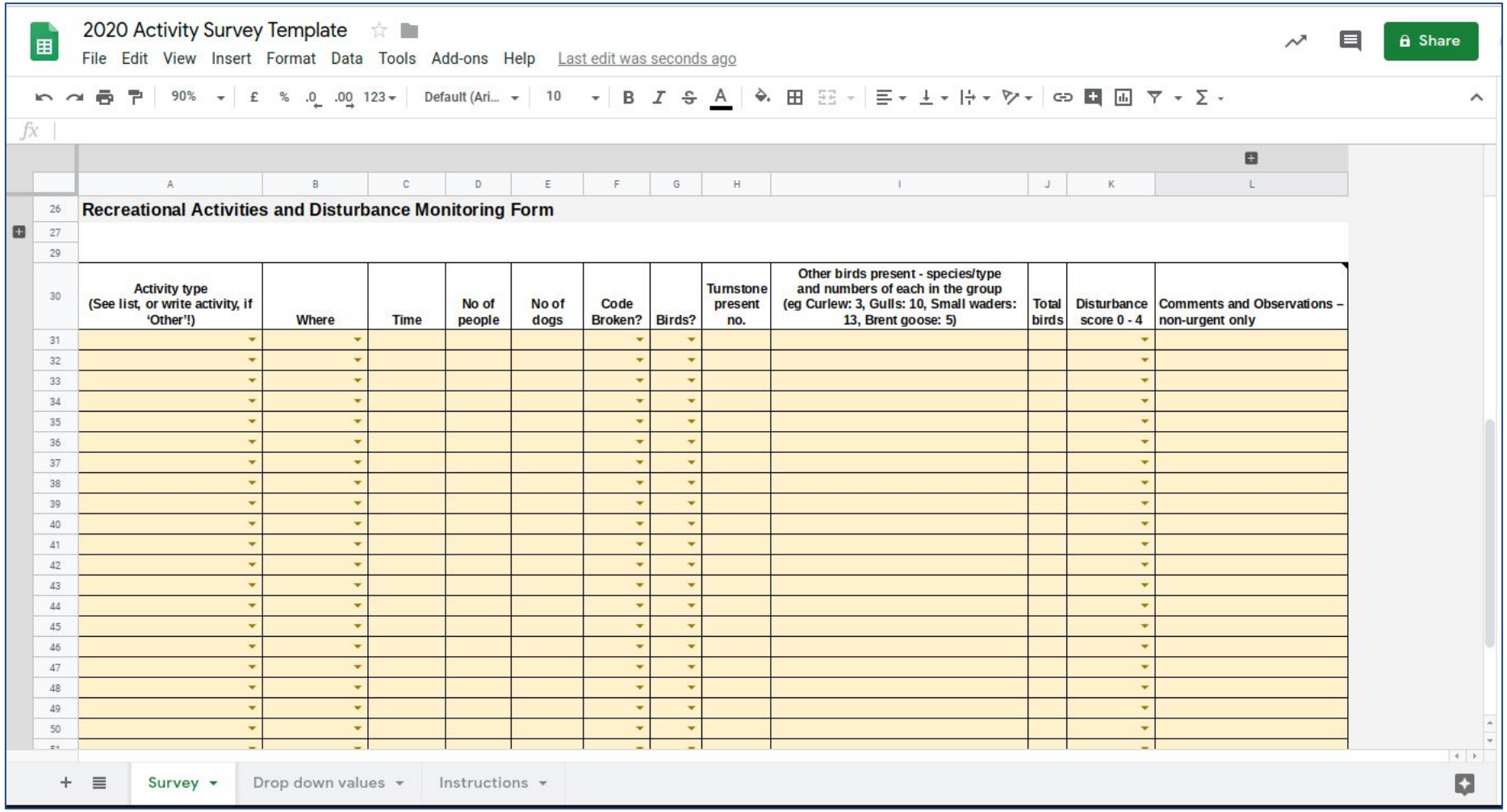
2 WEEKEND SURVEYS (eg 3rd weekend) – one HIGH tide, & one LOW tide time

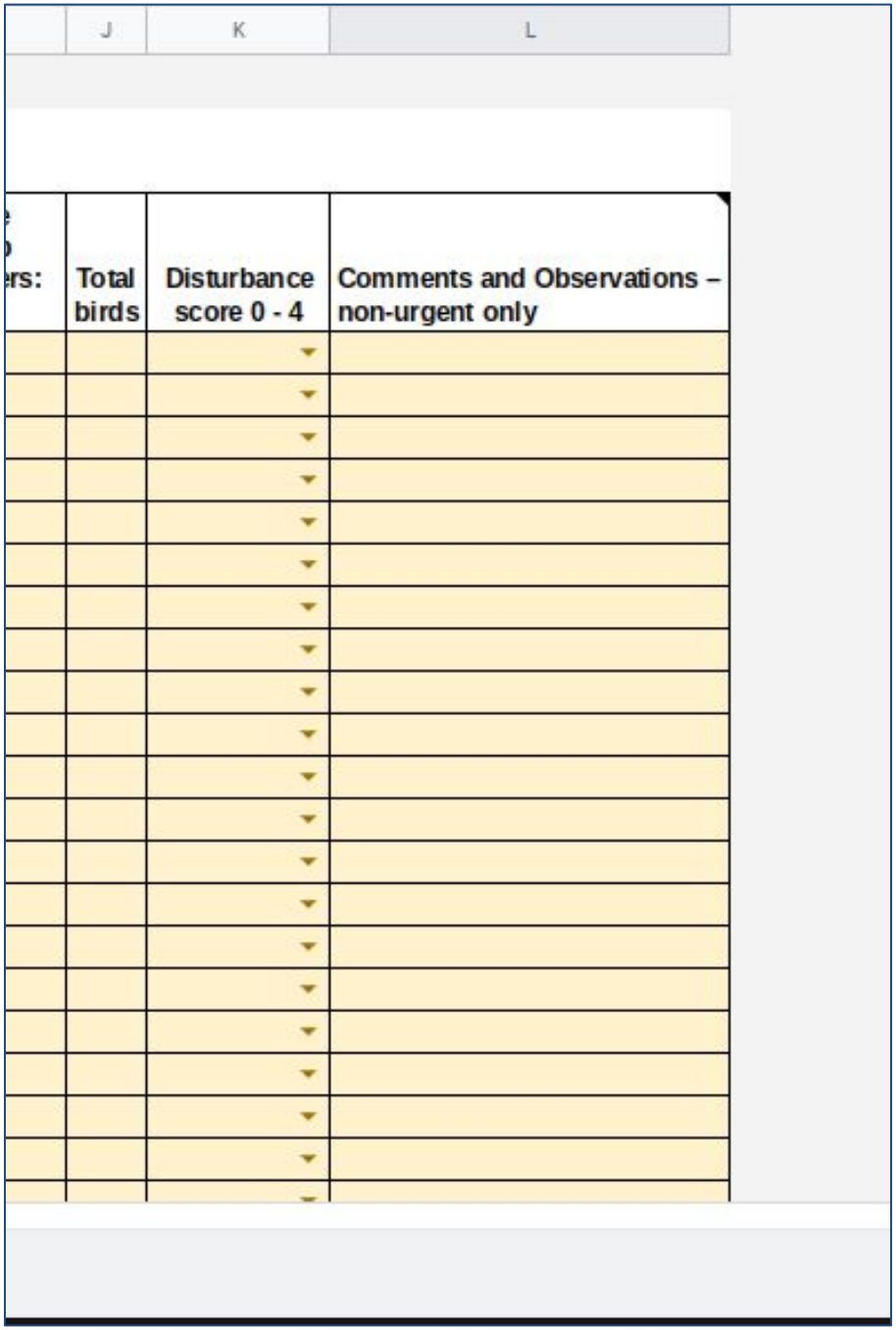

2020 Activity Survey Template
USE TEMPLATE
Activities Survey Submission Form
Bay reference & name
Your name
Date
Start time
End time
Tides
Link to the Tide Times
1
2
High tide
Low tide
Weather
Link to the weather
Sea state
Weather
Precipitation
Temperature 'C
Wind direction
Wind strength
Visability
Bird Summary
Total no. birds seen
Total no. of birds disturbed
Recreational Activities and Disturbance Monitoring Form
Survey
Drop down values
Instructions


Corporate links
GOTD
GOTD Website
MailChimp
nekmpa.org.uk
Tides table
XCWeather
Eventbrite - Manag...
Log In ‹ Guardians...
Ramsgate - BBC We...
Other bookn
2020 Activity Survey Template
File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help
Last edit was seconds ago
Share
Activities Survey Submission Form
Bay reference & name
Your name
Date
Start time
End time
Tides
Link to the Tide Times
1
2
High tide
Low tide
Weather
Link to the weather
Sea state
Weather
Precipitation
Temperature 'C
Wind direction
Wind strength
Visability
Bird Summary
Total no. birds seen
Total no. of birds disturbed
Recreational Activities and Disturbance Monitoring Form
Survey
Drop down values
Instructions

Bird Summary

Total no. birds seen	
Total no. of birds disturbed	


2020 Activity Survey Template
File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help Last edit was seconds ago
Share
Recreational Activities and Disturbance Monitoring Form
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
Comments and Observations – non-urgent only
Survey
Drop down values
Instructions



	J	K	L
ers:	Total birds	Disturbance score 0 - 4	Comments and Observations – non-urgent only

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:

2025-05-24Activity Survey TC 23c Dumpton Gap

Attach to an email

thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk

Incident Reporting

https://www.thanetcoast.org.uk/coastal-warden-resource/

tinyurl.com/incident19







Incident Reports - Thanet Coast (NEKMPA)

This online report is aimed at helping Coastal Wardens and Guardians to report incidents that need to be 'actioned' (or to get 'recorded' after being actioned) 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 as the basis for informing 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 on the beach that you have seen 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 response to an incident. Alternatively, you can send images directly to: thanet.coast@thanet.org.uk
[Please remember, NEVER put yourself in any danger taking photos especially if these may inflame a sensitive situation!]

a) Incidents

&

b) Strandings or Wildlife Reports

Email address *

Your email address

Your name: *

Your answer

Contact telephone number: *

Your answer

Your own bay (Bay Ref No./name for Coastal Wardens/Guardians) *

Other: see next

Other
(eg: Member of the public: & location, if you're not a local Coastal Warden/Guardian)

Pegwell Hub group

Date *
Date

dd/mm/yyyy

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

Date *

Choose

(0a): Faversham Road

(0b): Seasalter

(0c): Preston Parade

(0d): Admiralty Walk

(0e): Whitstable West Beach

(0f): Tennis Courts Whitstable

(0g): Reeves beach

(1a): Whitstable Harbour and The Paddock

(1b): The Street

(2a): Tankerton Bay West

(2b): Tankerton Bay East

(3a): Long Rock

(3b): Swalecliffe Banks

(3c): Studd Hill - Hampton Bay

(4): Hampton Pier

(5a): Herne Bay West

(5b): Herne Bay Central

(6a): Herne Bay East - King's Hall

(6b): Herne Bay (The Downs) - East Cliff

rd. You can get this from Google
r Google maps, 1) LEFT Click on
umbers' in the tiny box which
, please COPY & PASTE onto this

rcial shellfish harvesting; &
ngs (dead/alive); Starfish mass;

Date *

Date

dd/mm/yyyy

Time of incident or record *

(estimate time, or please put 00:00 if completely unknown):

Time

:

Location of Incident or Wildlife Report *

(North East Kent Bay Ref & Name)

Choose

GPS coordinates.

Please enter the precise coordinates for your incident/wildlife record. You can get this from Google Maps = https://www.google.com/maps (or alternatives sites). For Google maps, 1) LEFT Click on the location on the map; & then 2) CLICK on the 'COORDINATE numbers' in the tiny box which comes up , and 3) from the coordinates that appear on a large box, please COPY & PASTE onto this form (but use the numbers only; without mentioned N & E)

Your answer

Type of Report: *

'INCIDENT' REPORT = eg pollution, anti-social behaviour; commercial shellfish harvesting; & 'STRANDING' or 'a WILDLIFE' report = eg Marine mammal strandings (dead/alive); Starfish mass; unusual sightings etc

- (●) 'INCIDENT' Report
- ( ) 'WILDLIFE or STRANDING' Report

NEXT

Page 1 of 4

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Facebook Insta Twitter GOTD GOTD Website MailChimp nekmpa.org.uk Tides table Social Media XCWeather K at Noon



Incident Reports - Thanet Coast (NEKMPA)

The name and photo associated with your Google Account will be recorded when you upload files and submit this form. Not **laura.welton@thanet.gov.uk**? Switch account

INCIDENT REPORTS

(type of human related incident)

Type of Incident:

Choose

Brief incident description:

Your answer

More incident details

Your answer

Action you have taken (if applicable):

Your answer

BACK NEXT

Page 2 of 4

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Google Forms



Choose

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 - Flytipping 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):

BACK NEXT



Incident Reports - Thanet Coast (NEKMPA)



The name and photo associated with your Google Account will be recorded when you upload files and submit this form. Not **laura.welton@thanet.gov.uk**? Switch account

*Required

Wildlife or Stranding Report

(Type of wildlife sighting or stranding that you are reporting)

Type of Wildlife or Stranding report: *

Choose

Dead or Alive

Choose

Name of species (if known):

Your answer

Further Wildlife or Stranding information:

Your answer

Any Action taken:
(if needed or required)

Your answer

BACK NEXT

Page 3 of 4

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

Incident Reports - Thanet Coast (NEKMPA)

The name and photo associated with your Google Account will be recorded when you upload files and submit this form. Not **laura.welton@thanet.gov.uk**? Switch account

*Required

Wildlife or Stranding Report

(Type of wildlife sighting or stranding that you are reporting)

Type of Wildlife or Stranding report: *

Choose

- Choose
- 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:



Incident Reports - Thanet Coast (NEKMPA)

The name and photo associated with your Google Account will be recorded when you upload files and submit this form. Not **laura.welton@thanet.gov.uk**? Switch account

Photographic Record:

Did you take photos - as one or two can be uploaded here! Please be aware you can only upload files if you have a google account. If you do not have an account then, then submit your report & please email your photos to: thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk

North East Kent Marine Protected Area

Add your photo here:

ADD FILE

A copy of your responses will be emailed to the address that you provided.

BACK SUBMIT

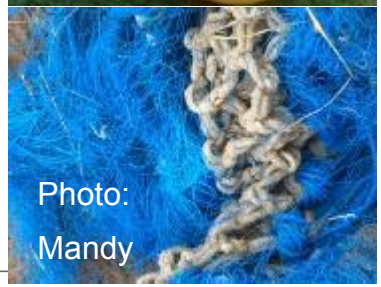
Page 4 of 4

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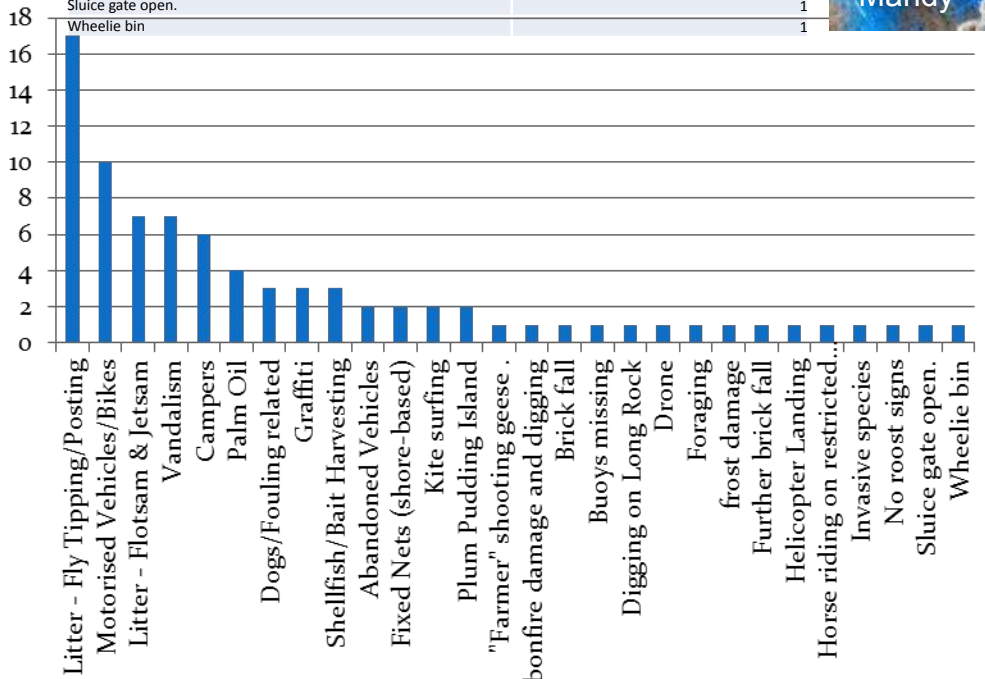
Summary - Incident Reports : 83

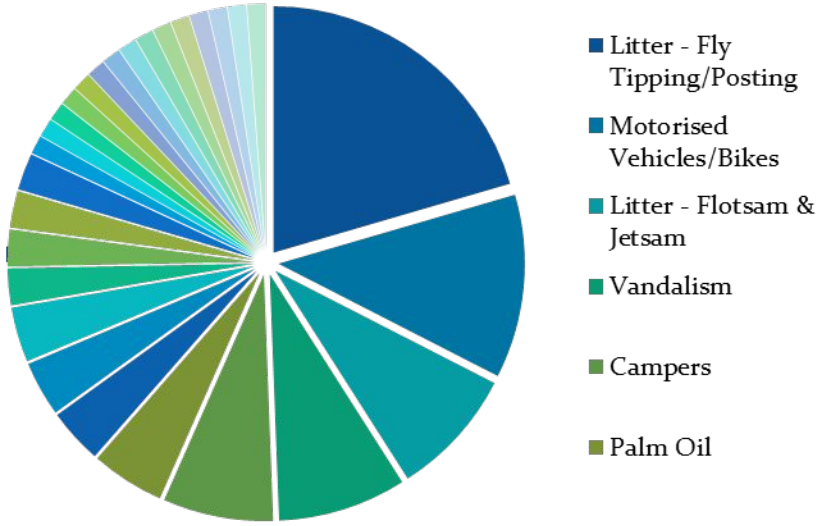
83 Incident Reports	
Litter - Fly Tipping/Posting	17
Motorised Vehicles/Bikes	10
Litter - Flotsam & Jetsam	7
Vandalism	7
Campers	6
Palm Oil	4
Dogs/Fouling related	3
Graffiti	3
Shellfish/Bait Harvesting	3
Abandoned Vehicles	2
Fixed Nets (shore-based)	2
Kite surfing	2
Plum Pudding Island	2
"Farmer" shooting geese .	1
bonfire damage and digging	1
Brick fall	1
Buoys missing	1
Digging on Long Rock	1
Drone	1
Foraging	1
frost damage	1
Further brick fall	1
Helicopter Landing	1
Horse riding on restricted area	1
Invasive species	1
No roost signs	1
Sluice gate open.	1
Wheelie bin	1











The Difference

- **Activity Survey**
  - Monthly
  - Set time (& additional)
  - Overview of a bay's activities
  - Data goes to database

- **Incident report**
  - Anytime
  - Anywhere on the coast
  - Data is emailed to Thanet Coast /TDC inbo & then straight to other authorities
  - Incidents need to be noted and may need action!

Non native species

Thousands of marine animal species, plants and algae are transported away from their native range to "new" areas. These new species are called 'non-native species' – sometimes referred to as 'alien' or where a problem may be referred to as 'invasive' species. These species can be introduced through accidentally (such as in ballast water or attached to boats) or deliberately (such as through aquaculture).

This section relates to the distribution of Non-Native Species within the North East Kent Marine Protected Area (NEKMPA).

Background

Marine non-native species and management is a priority action within the NEKMPA (formerly the North East Kent European Marine Sites) Management Scheme (explained in the 2007-2012 Action Plan, Section 10), outlined in Species Management and Control pdf and has been the focus of local research.

Current Account: Non-native species research summary

Willie McKnight has set up a project to help establish a "Current Account" database of the distribution & impact and control of selected non-native species within the inter-tidal zone of the North East Kent European Marine Sites. This is an on-going recording, monitoring, data sharing and contributes to the future management of the site. Monitoring has taken place over the last few years: Issue 1 (31/12/2019); Issue 2 (31/12/2020); Issue 3 (31/12/2021); Issue 4 (31/12/2022); Issue 5 (December 2023); Issue 6 (December 2024) with the latest:

- Issue 7 (December 2025)

Species Information

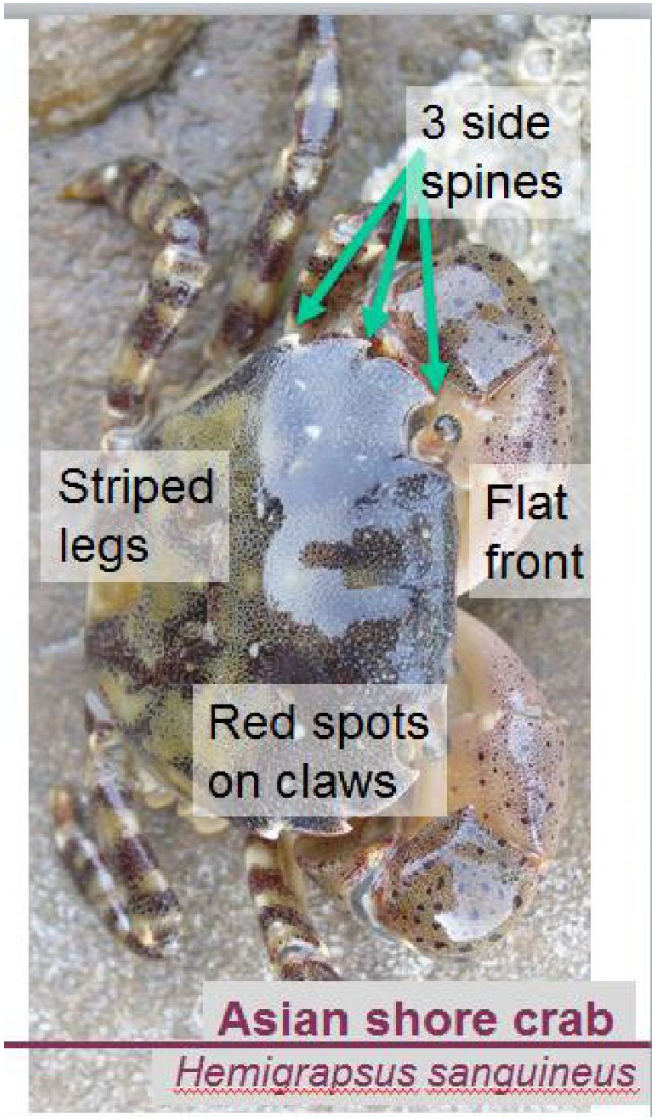
Whilst a considerable number of species has been recorded in the local table of non-native species (dated 2007) that may require attention within the NE Kent coast and marine area, as there are new records all the time. The main species of focus are surveyed as part of the current accounts (see above) – but there are new species that have been recorded – such as the Carpet Sea Squirt (Didemnum vexillum), Pom-pom weed (Caulacanthus ustulatus), Brushed Clawed Crabs (Hemigrapsus takanoi), Devil's Tongue Seaweed (Grateloupia turuturu).

- Pacific Oysters in the NE Kent MPA – and the Coastbusters Team!
- Some Thanet marine non-natives – school notes (2007, PDF)
- Carpet Sea Squirt (Notes 2011, PDF)
- Brush-clawed & Asian Shore Crab 2014 (NNSS, PDF)
- Identification guide for selected marine non-native species (2020 MBA, PDF)

Invasive Wildlife

Asian /Brush-clawed Shore Crab





Invasive Wildlife

Wireweed (*Sargassum muticum*)





Invasive Wildlife



Non-native species training

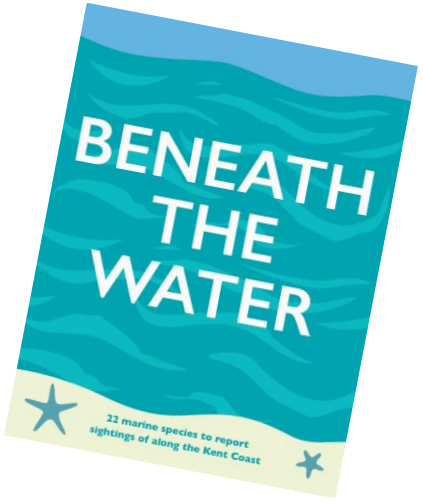
- Join the Coast busters team

Pacific oyster (Magallana gigas)





Beneath the water



https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/our-work/our-projects/shoresearch

Do-it-yourself!

Kent Wildlife Trust, Natural England (& Medway Swale Estuary Partnership) produced a range of videos and a booklets to help identify and report some of our invasive non-native species Identifying Wireweed; Identifying Pacific oysters; Identifying Brush-clawed shore crab

https://www.thanetcoast.org.uk/coastal-warden-resource/

NEKMPA Coastal Warden's Resource Locker

This page provides online support for volunteer Coastal Wardens in the North East Kent Marine Protected Area (NEKMPA) with background information and essential links. If you are walking down to the beach, please remember to do so safely – as per guidance and risk assessment.

Latest News:

- **E-News – Spring 2026** including 2026 Coastal Warden Listings – training & social bookings
- View previous newsletters at the bottom of this webpage
- **2026 Public Events Flyer/Poster** (JPeg, 222KB)
- 2026 PUBLIC TCP Events – long listings – for your diaries/calendars! *Note A: One list, and then bro*

March Seaweed walk re-scheduled for 29 April; Westbrook Seashore Safari is 28 July (not August!). Note B: There are two NEW events: Tha

- Coastal Warden Walks and Socials {Booking Link: click here} – or see latest Coastal Warden socials

Latest - Coastal Wardens socials 2026

Reporting incidents and strandings

Thanet Coast - Activity Survey

Bay Reference lists & maps

Tide Tables

New - Introductory Coastal Wardens notes

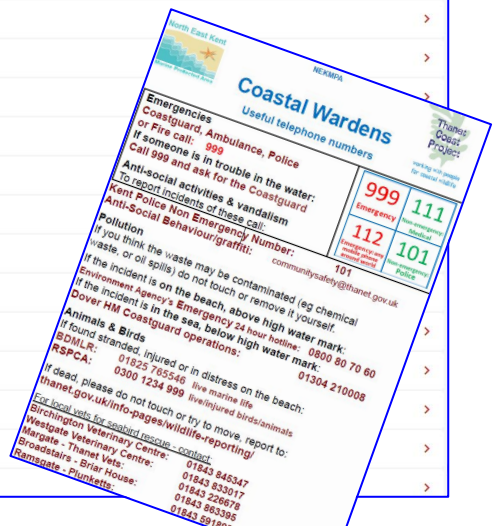
Useful telephone contact numbers for Coastal Wardens & Guardians

Social Media

Other useful information

For further NEKMPA background information, please browse the NEKMPA (Thanet Coast) website

- Resources
- Useful links
- Tides and Sunrise/sets
- Water Quality
- UK Cetaceans & Seals
- Guardians of the Deep
- Marine Conservation Society related information
- Shark Trust
- Non-Native Species
- Bird Wise East Kent
- Other Birds
- Other
- TCP Public Events - Useful information for Volunteers
- Previous e-News/Forum/Feedback



Other useful information:

For further NEKMPA background information, please browse the N

Download a copy of the:

- Health & Safety *(PDF, 224KB)*
- Thanet Coast MCZ Map *(PDF, 163KB)*
- Thanet Coastal Wardens' Survey Form *(PDF, 250KB)*
- Volunteering on the Thanet Coast *(PDF, 1.8MB)*
- NEKMPA Thanet Coastal Codes *(link)* & *kite surfing agreem*
- Thanet Coast & Dogs *(link)*
- Shoresearch Intertidal recording form - Single Habitat *(PDF*
- Shorelife Intertidal Recording form (PDF, Kent W
- 2018 Strandings Warning Sign (PDF, TDC/TCP)
- Wader Identification Sheet - for Thanet Coast (F
- Rockpool Reference (PDF, 311KB)
- Action Speaks Louder than Birds (PDF, 539KB)
- Salmonid & Eel information *(EA, PDF, 18KB)*

Useful links:

- Thanet Council - Beaches (PSPO; Codes; Seaweed; Water User
- Thanet Council - Coastal Engineering (Sea defences; SE Coasta
- Regulations & KEIFCA Bylaws *(Kent & Essex IFCA link)*
- What to look out for and report to KEIFCA *(PDF - Guardians of t*
- Crime/Suspicious activity on the Kent coast *(Kent Police: Project*
- Flood Information Service *(link)*
- Marine traffic *(link: live maps of vessels at sea)*

Tides and Sunrise/sets

- **Tides4Fishing: Ramsgate; Broadstairs; Margate; Herne Bay**
- Margate - Live tides *(c/o Port of London Authority)*
- Port of Ramsgate tides *(TDC)*
- Sunrise & Sunsets - Ramsgate *(can be set for elsewhere!)*

Water Quality:

- Environment Agency - Swimfo (bathing waters) classifications; b
- Beach Buoy (Southern Water) - real time info on stormwater/was
- Safer Seas (SAS) - real-time water quality service APP

UK Cetaceans & Seals

- Seals - trips, codes and research & survey
- Cetaceans Strandings - UK Cetacean Strandings
- British Divers Marine Life Rescue - Live stranded
- Seen a Marine Mammal (ZSL)

Guardians of the Deep

- Guardians of the Deep website *(link)*
- Guardians of the Deep - North East Kent leaflet (
- GotD Final Report *Appendix (PDF, 5MB - copyrig*
- Walkover Shore Survey Form *(PDF, 337KB)*

Marine Conservation Society related information:

- MCS website (link)
- Marine Sigthtings (link)
- Beachwatch Report 2021 *(link)*
- Good Fish Guide *(link)*
- Don't' Let Go - balloons *(link)*
- Jellyfish Survey-Treatment *(PDF, 640KB - MCS -*

Shark Trust

- Great Eggcase Hunt (link)
- Eggcase Identification (link)
- Lifecycle (link)

Non-Native Species

- Non native species - NEKMPA (link)
- GB Non-Native Species Secretariat
- Asian Shore Crab identification (2014)

Birds:

- Bird Wise East Kent
- Bird Ring reporting (BTO)
- Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust
- Thanet RSPB Group
- Turnstone Roost Sites & Count 2001/2
- Turnstone information and latest Monito
- Wild **Birds & the Law** (RSPB)

Other:

- Big Seaweed Search (NHM/MCS)
- Capturing Our Coast (citizen science re
- Crab Watch (MBA)
- Juvernile **Fish ID Guide** for the Tidal T
- Kent Historic Enviroment Records (form
- How to pass on **plastics** (Sky Ocean R
- Plastics (Ocean plastics - get involved,
- Project Kraken - reporting suspicious a
- Public Rights of Way - reporting a probl
- Become a **Tourism Ambassador** (Visit

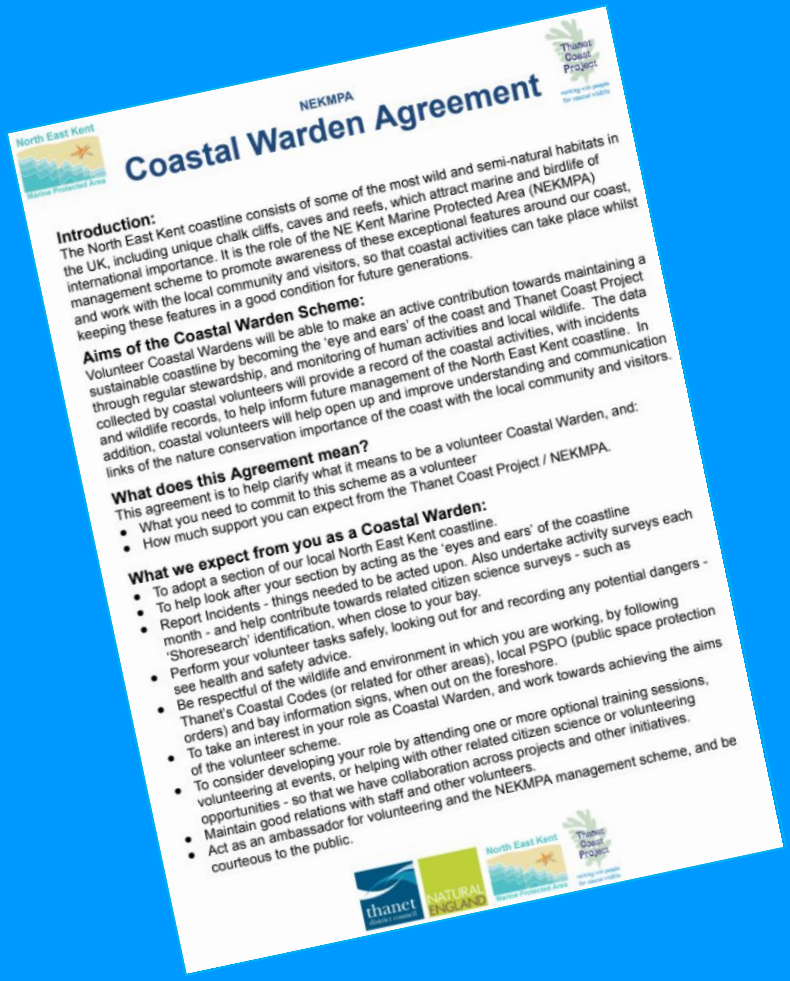
TCP Public Events (eg Seashore Safaris e

Information for volunteer helpers:

2022 Thanet Coast Project event application

- Application
- Events Management Plan
- Site Plans
- Generic Risk Assessments
- 1st Aid Checklist

Coastal Warden Agreement



NEKMPA

Coastal Warden Agreement

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.

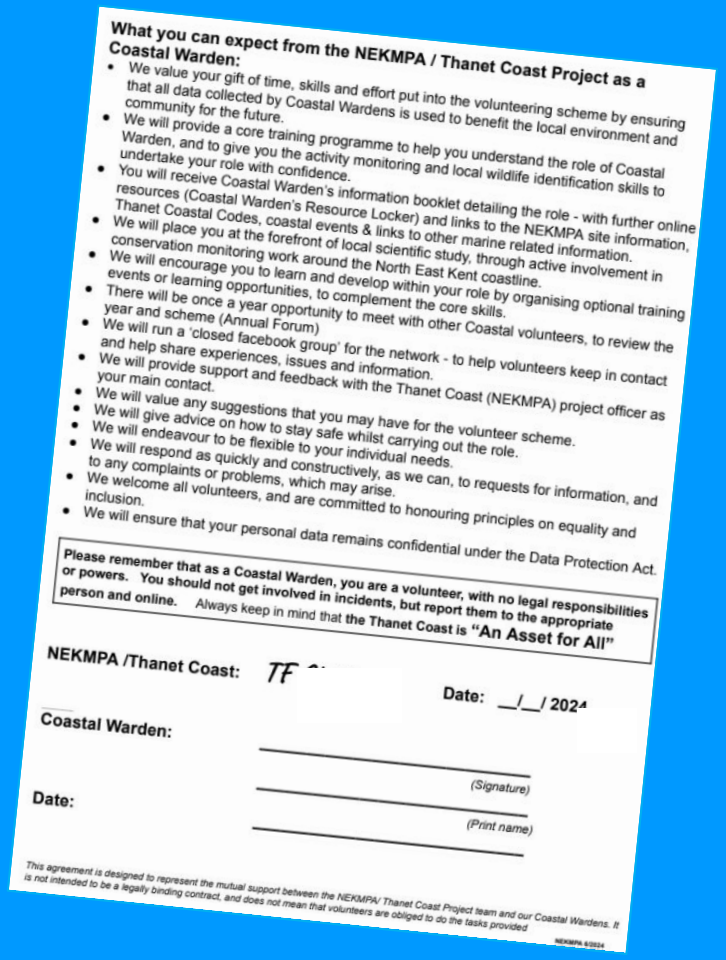
Aims of the Coastal Warden Scheme:
Volunteer Coastal Wardens will be able to make an active contribution towards maintaining a sustainable coastline by becoming the 'eye and ears' of the coast and Thanet Coast Project through regular stewardship, and monitoring of human activities and local wildlife. 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 ... **Date:** __/__/ 2024

Coastal Warden: _____ *(Signature)*

Date: _____ *(Print name)*

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

Coastal Warden Agreement

Aims of the Coastal Warden scheme. CWs:

- 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.
- data collected provides a record of coastal activities, incidents and wildlife records to help inform future management via the NEKMPA management group.
- Help open up understanding and communication links of the nature conservation importance of the coast with the community.

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

- We value your gift of time, skills and effort put into the 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 a Coastal Warden, and give you the activity monitoring and local wildlife identification skills to undertake your role with confidence.



- You will receive Coastal Warden information booklet - with further online resources and links to
  - NEKMPA site information *(About/Projects/Factfile/What's On/Research/How to Help/Learning/Contacts)*
  - 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 coast.



- We will encourage you to learn and develop within your role by organising optional training events or learning opportunities to complement the core skills.



- We will provide support and feedback with the Thanet Coast Project (NEKMPA) Officer as your main contact.



- We will value any suggestions that you may have for the volunteering 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 that may arise.



- There will be once a year opportunity to meet with other coastal wardens, to network, review the year and scheme - and to help share your experiences (Annual Forum).



- We welcome all volunteers, and are committed to honouring principles on equality and inclusion.

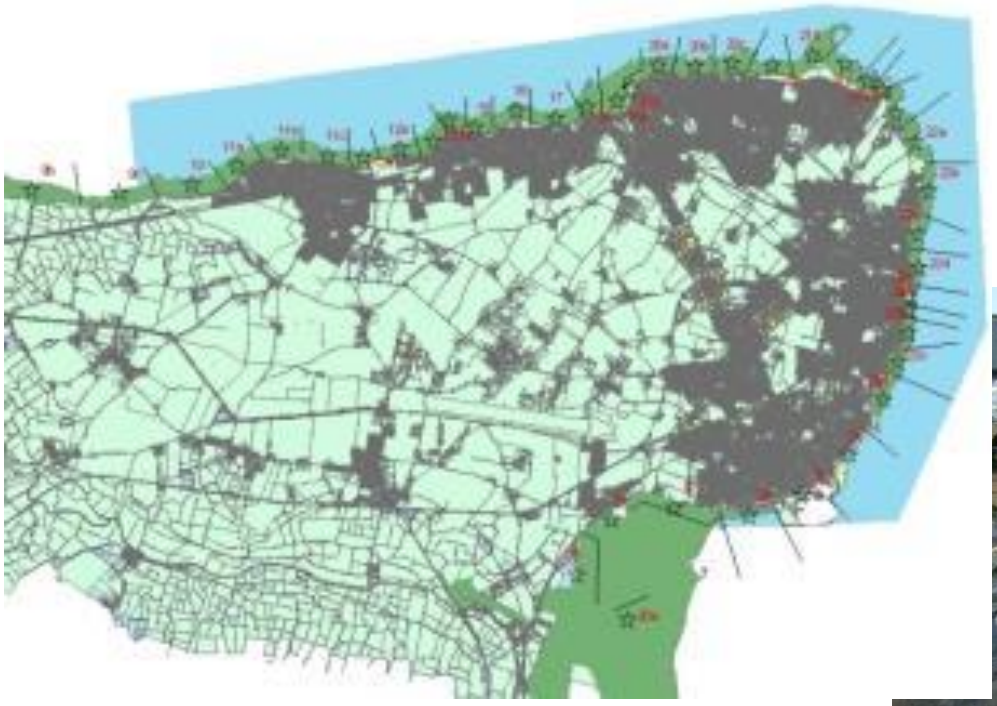


- We will ensure that your personal data remains confidential under the Data Protection Act.



What we expect from you as a Coastal Warden:

- To adopt a section of our local North East Kent coastline.





- Look after your section of coast - (‘eyes & ears of the coastline’) and undertake activity surveys and contribute towards citizen science surveys *where possible. (eg ‘Shoresearch’).*



- Perform your volunteer tasks safely *(see health and safety advice/ risk assessment)* - looking out for and recording/reporting any potential dangers.



- Be respectful of the wildlife and environment by following NEKMPA/ Thanet's Coastal Codes, local PSPOs, 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 volunteering scheme.





- To consider developing your role by attending optional training sessions or volunteering at events - or helping collaborations, in partnership with other project & initiatives.



- Maintain good relations with staff and other volunteers.



- Act as an ambassador for the volunteering and NEKMPA management scheme, and be courteous to the public.



Please remember that 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 please always keep in mind that the North East Kent Coast is **"An Asset for All"**

North East Kent

Marine Protected Area

Health & Safety

Q?

Before you go

Clothing & Equipment

On the Coast



Health & Safety



Before you go

- Know your bay – Make sure that you are aware of any hazardous features at your adopted stretch of coastline, e.g., 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, e.g., 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 o a risk assessment *(using guidance such as given by Beachwatch/MCS)*





Health & Safety



Clothing & Equipment:

- Always carry your *'Advice for Reporting Incidents'* card / telephone numbers (In your notes. You also have GotD 'Kent Coastal Contact Card'
- 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 batteries are fully charged, the devices are kept dry and that you know the available reception areas in your bay.

Health & Safety

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, 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.

In the Coastal Warden booklet:

H&S ADVICE, & RISK ASSESSMENT

Talking to the Media

- Depending on how you become involved in your role as a Coastal Warden, you may be approached by journalists for comment about a story they are following.

- Unless it is a story that you are personally involved in, we ask that you please state that you cannot comment, and direct them to us for any questions they may have.

- If you ever have any doubts about what you should say, the best thing to do is not to comment and refer them to us at Thanet Coast Project / Thanet Council - as Thanet Council Communications team will help as the main landowner contact



Social Media & keeping you connected

Thanet Coast: NE Kent Marine Protected Area

NEKMPA Coastal Wardens **(NE Kent closed group)**

Private Use it for sharing interesting things you have found, or asking questions

https://www.instagram.com/thanetcoastproject/



thanetcoast.org.uk

thanetcoast.org.uk/coastal-warden-resource/

Any Questions?



NEXT:

- More about: -

Kent & Essex IFCA

Presentation:
Ben Hermitage
info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk









Collaboration For Disturbance **Mitigation**



Nina Jones
(former Pegwell Bay Protected Area Warden)

birdwise.org.uk | @BirdWiseEK

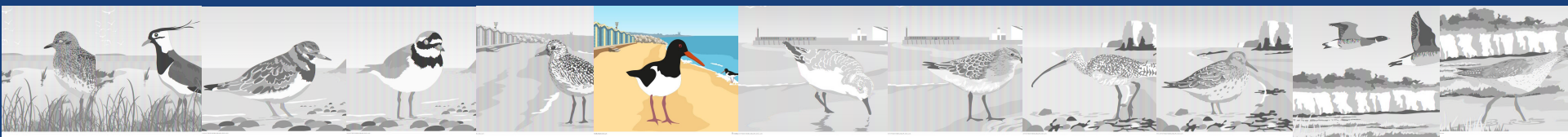
thanet district council

canterbury city council

Bird Wise

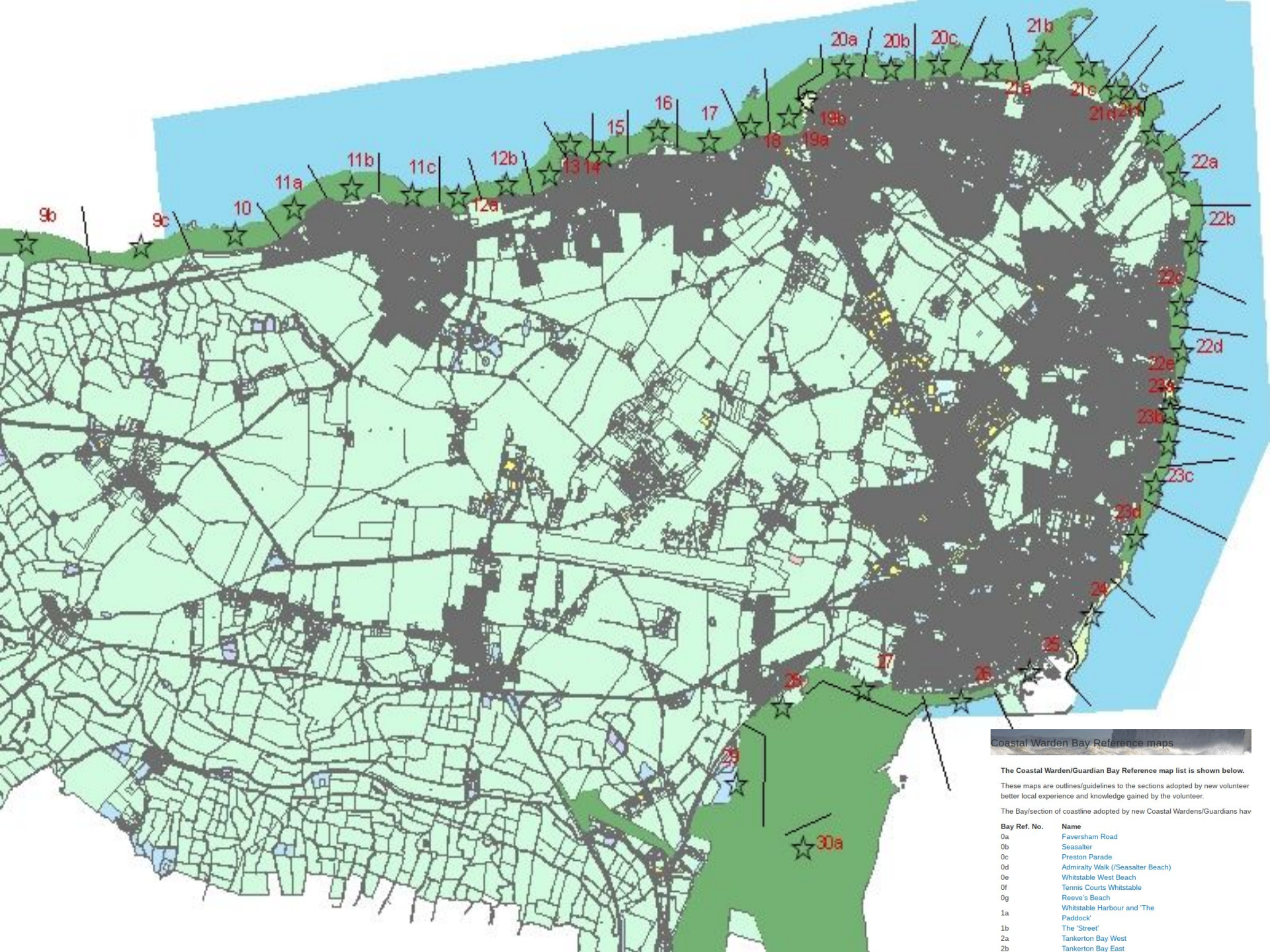
EAST KENT

Wising up to Bird Disturbance



Bay Assignment
and
Coastal Warden Agreement Signing
and
Shared Contact Details

You can view MAPS online!



Coastal Warden Bay Reference maps

The Coastal Warden/Guardian Bay Reference map list is shown below.

These maps are outlines/guidelines to the sections adopted by new volunteer better local experience and knowledge gained by the volunteer.

The Bay/section of coastline adopted by new Coastal Wardens/Guardians hav

Bay Ref. No.	Name
0a	Faversham Road
0b	Seasalter
0c	Preston Parade
0d	Admiralty Walk (/Seasalter Beach)
0e	Whitstable West Beach
0f	Tennis Courts Whitstable
0g	Reeve's Beach
1a	Whitstable Harbour and 'The Paddock'
1b	The 'Street'
2a	Tankerton Bay West
2b	Tankerton Bay East

THANK YOU!



THANET
COASTAL
WARDEN
SCHEME

North East Kent
Marine Protected Area

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR RESOURCE LINK:

https://www.thanetcoast.org.uk/coastal-warden-resource/

thanet district council

NATURAL ENGLAND

{amend link: shown on Guardians of the Deep blue contacts sheet!)

https://www.facebook.com/groups/NEKMPACoastalWardens/

thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk

North East Kent
Marine Protected Area

Thanet
Coast
Project
working with people
for coastal wildlife