

# North East Kent Marine Protected Area (NEKMPA)

- incorporating the N.E Kent European Marine Sites (NEKEMS)  
& Thanet Coast Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)

North East Kent has numerous international and national designations for the marine and bird life associated with the chalk cliffs, reef, caves and sandy bays.

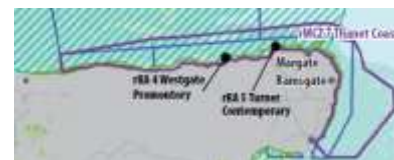


## Stakeholder information:

**WHAT:** 'NEKMPA stakeholders' are representatives from a wide range of different coastal users, community or interest groups. They represent their specialist or interest area in the management for the N.E. Kent MPA - outlined in a 'management scheme background documents' and 'action plan'. As a stakeholder you will be kept more informed of the management of the MPA designation and have the chance to get involved.

**WHERE:** Stakeholders cover the North East Kent coast and maritime area from Whitstable around Thanet to Deal.

**WHEN:** Stakeholders review the management scheme and action plan once every 6 years. The latest consultation took place in 2013 and produced a new Action Plan for 2013-18. Within the actions, it is proposed that stakeholders will identify preferred way to be informed of progress during this gradual in the re-branding of the designations to the NEKMPA. (\*eg regular e-News &/or a short meeting / workshop).



## Representing coastal interests

The 'NEKEMS' Management Scheme and Actions were devised and agreed by local people – the stakeholders.

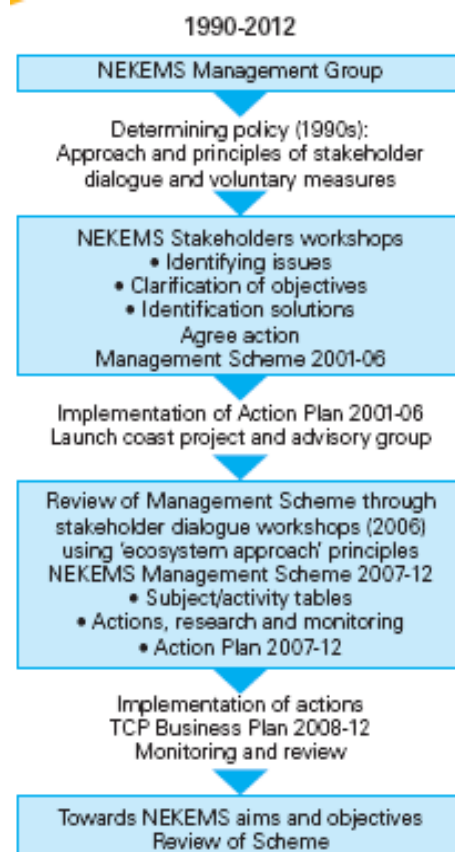
Diverse marine and coastal interests and activities are represented by a wide range of people from fishermen, resident groups, hoteliers, clubs, businesses and retirement groups. They help discuss issues or catch up on progress, alongside nine 'relevant authorities' (who have some of the statutory responsibilities and form the Management Group).

The **aim of the scheme** is to ensure that the wildlife and natural features of importance are kept in a favourable condition, whilst allowing sustainable and non-damaging activities to take place.

The **original workshops** – held in the late 1990s - involved the **identification, discussion and resolution of issues** affecting these important features and helped produce the **management scheme (2001-06)**. The first review in 2006 using 'ecosystem principles' to take a more holistic view of the coastal and marine environment, and improve the background information to enable the next **agreed actions (2007-12)**.

The 2013 consultation has helped identify a new **Action Plan for 2013-18**

**If you know of other interested representatives from local groups that should and would like to get involved - please ask them to get in touch with Tony Child, NEKMPA Officer (Thanet Coast) on 01843 577672 or [thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk)**



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## Who manages our coast?

European legislation (Birds and Habitats Directive) requires that appropriate steps are taken to avoid deterioration and significant disturbance of the natural habitats of the designated wildlife and features, and this has been interpreted within UK law. The management scheme is ultimately the responsibility of the 'relevant authorities' – and these form the basis of the **Management Group**. These are the competent authorities, with some legal responsibility, that could have an effect on the wildlife or habitats of the designated site. The Management Group has two *co-opted members* from the Kent Wildlife Trust and Advisory Group.

Relevant Authority	Relevant Responsibilities
Canterbury City Council	Local Planning Authority*
Dover District Council	Local Planning Authority*
Environment Agency	Regulatory Authority for environmental protection (to 3miles out)
Kent County Council	County Planning Authority (to mean low water)
Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCA)	Regulatory fisheries and conservation body (to 12 miles out)
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	Sole or shared responsibility includes: marine planning, marine licensing and fisheries quotas.
Natural England	Advisor to government and implements statutory nature conservation duties (to 12 miles out)
Sandwich Port & Haven Commissioners	Sandwich Port Authority, and approach channels
Southern Water Services	Water supply & wastewater service
Thanet District Council (TDC)	Local Planning Authority (*includes recreation & coastal protection to mean low tide).
TDC as Harbour Authority	Harbour/ Port Authority, and approach channels

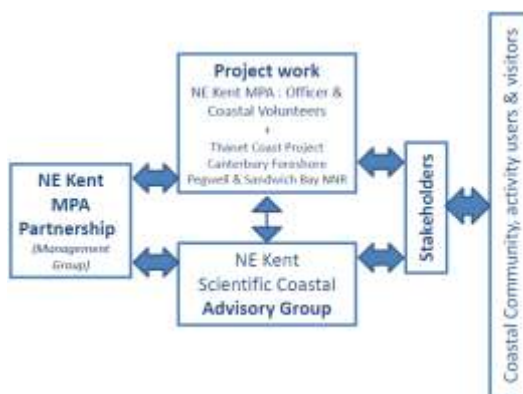
The NEKEMS **Management Group** was formed in the 1990s and works with 'stakeholders' to arrive at decisions on the management of the Marine Protected Area.

The **Management Scheme** uses the principles of encouraging:

- **stakeholder dialogue** to discuss issues and identify actions or a way forward
- **voluntary management** approach first, where possible

The original scheme (2001) identified a large number of actions and formed an **Advisory Group**, and **Thanet Coast Project** to help raise awareness of the wildlife and issues.

'Managing the NE Kent Coast' leaflet summarises the management of the NEKEMS (2007-12) & will be updated in April 2014 for the NEKMPA.



## Management Action

The **Management Scheme** aims to safeguard important marine and coastal wildlife and habitats, whilst allowing activities to take place without damaging these features. It includes specific action plans to achieve the effective management of the marine sites and surrounding areas

The **Action Plan 2013-18** has been drafted by the Management Group in consultation with coastal stakeholders and volunteers. The proposed actions include the main rebranding of the site name 'NEKEMS' to **NEKMPA** to incorporate the proposed Thanet Coast Marine Conservation Zone (pMCZ), voluntary Coastal Wardens and stakeholders.

The six year Action Plan includes proposals from the general revision and updating of voluntary 'Coastal Codes' to incorporating new fisheries, harvesting and species research, monitoring and management measures – developing a Non-Native marine species control project - for our coast and marine environment.

## Action Plan 2013-18

The **Action Plan for 2013-18** – and all background information on the international importance of the NE Kent coast can be viewed at [www.thanetcoast.org.uk](http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk) ([www.nekmpa.org.uk](http://www.nekmpa.org.uk) from April 2014).