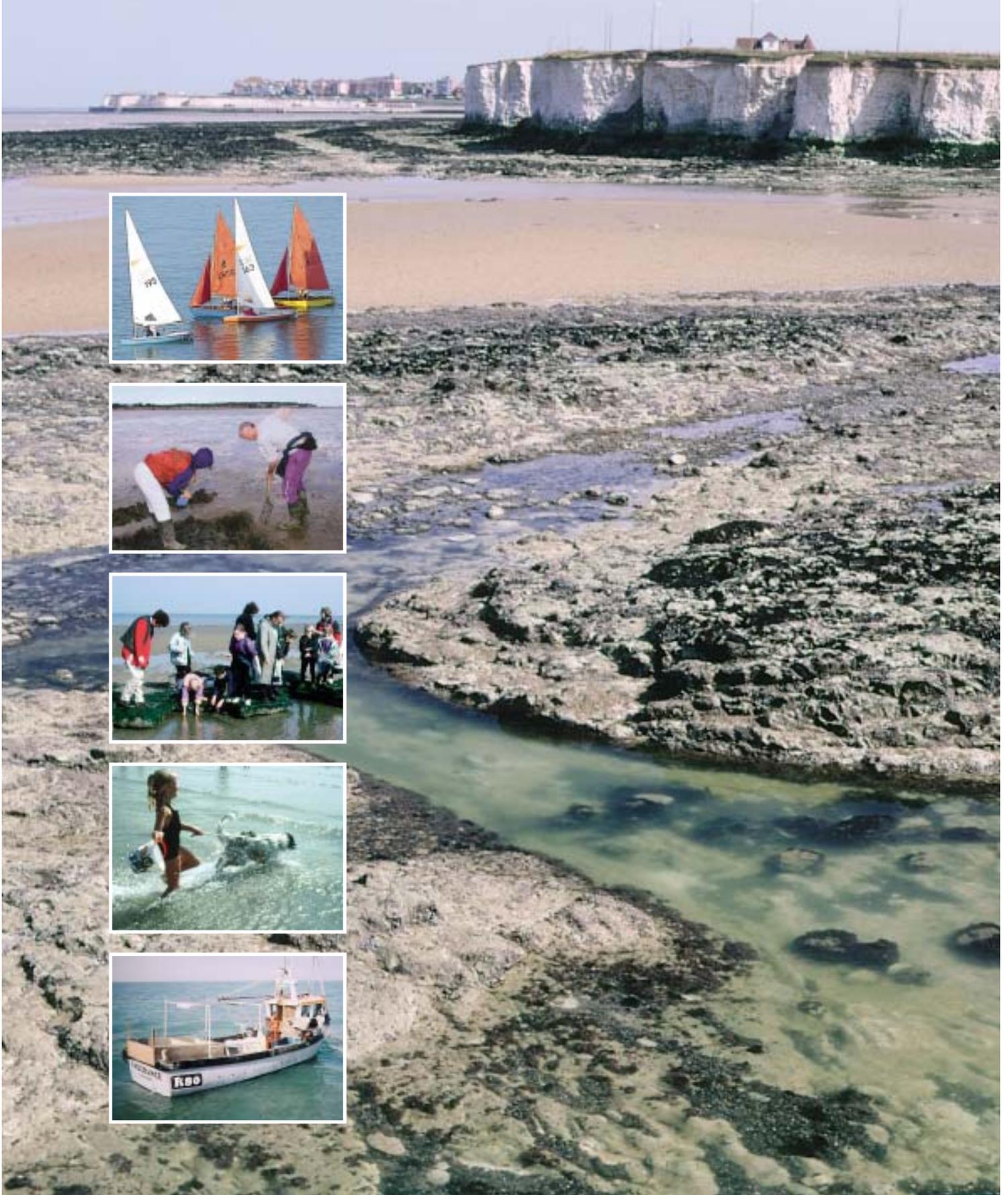


The North East Kent European marine sites Management Scheme



Foreword

This management scheme is unique.

It is of course unique because it is about the unique coastal and marine chalk habitats and wildlife around the North East Kent coast, but there are other reasons too.

It is unique because:

- Underpinning this scheme is the belief that where people are affected by a set of decisions they should be involved in making those decisions themselves.
- Of the 15 European marine sites in England which are currently getting management schemes, this is the only one which was written as a result of many different people deciding together what it should contain before anything was written.
- It has resulted from people with very different interests sitting down together and exploring the issues and agreeing the solutions. At least 89 individuals attended one or more of the sequence of four workshops. They represented no less than 67 different organisations or interests including: wildlife experts, fishermen, bait diggers, dog walkers, birders, hoteliers, teachers, science experts, Councillors, sailors, surfers, officers from different authorities, the police and many others - all working to find a way forward that everyone could live with.
- It is the only management scheme which has come out of a process in which the needs of wildlife were considered alongside the needs for the revitalisation and regeneration of the area - and because of this, the decision making process itself received regeneration money.
- It is the only management scheme where people identified for themselves the problems that their own activities might cause and how they could carry out those activities in a way which would be best for wildlife and other users of the coast - a process which will continue as codes of conduct are agreed and published.
- It came out of a process in which everyone worked very hard together but they also enjoyed and valued the experience with comments on the process including *'well organised - many ideas thrown up, many valuable, lots of innovative methods', '10 out of 10', 'excellent', 'bringing together a diverse community of people was important', 'an opportunity and encouragement for every view to be expressed', 'the 'small' voice able to express their views in informal groups and friendly atmosphere', 'increases the potential pot of ideas', 'being able to appreciate the needs and views of others'.*

The results of all this hard work are expressed in this management scheme together with its policy and legislative background and the conservation objectives provided by English Nature. The scheme is long because it is packed with information provided by the different stakeholders who were involved in its contents. It has been formatted so that people should be able to find the parts that are most important to them.

But however well the decisions were made, or the management scheme written, it is not an end in itself but the means by which the future of the habitats and wildlife around the coast will be secured for this generation and generations to come.

To this end the authorities comprising the management group are committed to implementing the agreed actions. We cannot do it alone but depend on the goodwill and support of all the stakeholders. Deciding together has underpinned the discussions over the content of the management scheme and working together will be necessary in its implementation.

Ultimately the real success (or otherwise) of this management scheme will only be known in years to come when other people will look back and judge what it has achieved. They will have the benefit of hindsight because research actioned by this management scheme will have taken place and so knowledge and understanding of the sites will have deepened. But our hope is that those future custodians will be able to look back and say that given what was known at the time, we got it right!

Diana Pound, *English Nature*

On behalf of the North East Kent European marine sites management group comprising:

Brian Watmough	<i>Canterbury City Council</i>
Nick Delaney	<i>Dover District Council</i>
John Morgan	<i>Environment Agency</i>
Diana Pound	<i>English Nature</i>
Andrew Jones	<i>Kent County Council</i>
Gary Kennison	<i>Kent County Council</i>
John Stroud	<i>Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee</i>
Gareth Lewis	<i>Southern Water Services</i>
Emma Grout	<i>Southern Water Services</i>
Adrian Verrall	<i>Thanet District Council</i>
Peter Miller	<i>Thanet District Council</i>

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Introduction and Overview

The coast that is included in the North East Kent European marine sites stretches from Swalecliffe on the north Kent coast to Deal on the east excluding the Herne Bay frontage. The coast has several nature conservation designations. Three of the designations are for features considered to be of importance in a European context:

- 1 marine (chalk reefs and caves)
- 2 coastal habitats (dunes)
- 3 overwintering and breeding birds (internationally important populations)

The areas covered by these designations overlap (see Map 1). The marine parts¹ of all three designations are included in this single management scheme. Collectively they are referred to as the North East Kent European marine sites (NEKEms).

Much of the coast is urbanised and includes the coastline of three Authorities: Thanet, Dover, and Canterbury.

Thanet Coast

In Thanet the three major tourist resorts of Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate abut the shore adjacent to the site and have a local population of about 127,000. The coast gets intense recreation and tourist use attracting about 1.7 million day visitors and 600,000 long stay visitors. The resorts on Thanet have experienced economic decline in the face of competition with low cost overseas holiday markets. As a result the District has Objective 2 status. This identifies it within Europe as a priority area for economic regeneration. The coast also has a port, several harbours, commercial fishing activity, a range of coastal defences and waste water treatment works along with many waste water outfalls.

Dover Coast

The section of Dover's coast within the NEKEms has lower levels of human activity than other parts of the site because the shore is less accessible. Part is a National Nature Reserve. Deal lies at the southern end of the site with some resulting recreation pressure.

Canterbury Coast

Along the Canterbury coastline Whitstable lies just beyond the western end of the site and Herne Bay between two parts of the coast that have been designated. These coastal towns have a population of 67,900. Over 75% of all jobs are in the service sector. There are an estimated 710,000 day trips to these towns per year. It is not known what percentage of these will visit the parts of the coast which are designated.



Discussions go on at one of the workshops

Government guidance states that where European marine sites have complex patterns of human use and regulation, such as described above, a single management scheme should be drawn up. The guidance adds that although only relevant authorities have the statutory responsibility for establishing the management scheme it is essential that owners, occupiers, right holders, local interests, user groups and conservation groups should be encouraged to participate in the process of developing the scheme at the earliest opportunity.

In fulfilment of the guidance the foundation of this management scheme was generated by a sequence of four consensus building workshops, which were designed and facilitated by an independent third party, and which focussed on the Thanet District coastline and Sandwich Bay. The workshops were attended by key stakeholders representing over 67 different organisations or interests. This process helped stakeholders identify issues and find mutually acceptable solutions.

The original objective of the workshops was to consider the following:

Whether or not any of the diverse human uses of the coast were causing harm to the internationally important wildlife and if so how they could best be managed.

¹ It should be noted that a marine area is regarded as any land covered (continuously or intermittently) by tidal water.

Photograph: Thanet District Council



Photograph: George Wilson



Photograph: Canterbury City Council



Photograph: Nigel Matthews



However bringing together so many people provided an excellent opportunity to also consider other issues of importance to local stakeholders and so the following objectives were also included:

Options for resolving clashes between different recreational activities;

Ways in which the coast could be used to generate new projects which would be compatible with its wildlife importance and which could both lead to new jobs and support a healthier local tourism industry.

This management scheme only considers the first of these three, the management of human use in the interests of nature conservation however its implementation will contribute towards the other objectives of the workshops: stakeholders agreed that the best tool for managing human activities was a series of codes of conduct but as well as minimising the effect of activities on the wildlife and habitats they will also help minimise clashes between users by including codes for the safe and considerate use of the shore and sea; stakeholders also agreed that to implement this plan a new coastal wildlife project was needed and this will also help in the promotion of the site interest to both local people and tourists and in itself mean new jobs are created.

Key management issues

In considering the first objective stakeholders identified the key management issues as: the management of recreation and unregulated activities (such as bait digging or shellfish harvesting). These are to be addressed via the new coastal project which will carry forward the codes of conduct as described above. The project will also collate more information about the different activities and review the effectiveness of the codes. Research is also to take place into the affect of different activities on the wintering turnstone.

Water quality and shoreline management activities have been identified as requiring further investigation and assessment of their effect upon the interests of the site and these are incorporated into the action plan.

Contents

The contents of this management scheme include: the legislative and policy background in which it is set; the features of nature conservation importance and objectives for maintaining them in a favourable condition; the existing and potential future human use of the sites and measures for managing them; and an action plan for implementation.

1.0 The policy and legal framework for the management scheme



Photograph: George Wilson



Photograph: Thanet District Council

List of workshop attendees

Bait Diggers

Bass Fishing Club

Beach Concessionaire

Birchington Parish Council

Broadstairs Sailing Club

Broadstairs & St Peters Sea Angling Society

Broadstairs & St Peters Town Council

Canterbury Christ Church University College

Canterbury City Council

Church Commissioners

Cliffs End Residents Association

Council for the Protection of Rural England

Crown Estate

Dane Court Grammar School

Dover District Council

Durrell Institute for Conservation & Ecology

English Nature

Environment Agency

Environment Council

Foreness Point Action Group

Foreness Water Ski Club

Hovercraft Club

Joss Bay Surf Club

Kent & Essex Sea Fisheries Committee

Kent County Council

Kent Land Sailing Club

Kent Ornithological Society

Kent Wildlife Trust

Lido Properties Ltd

Local Agenda 21

Local Farmer

Local Geologist

Local Scientists

Margate Civic Society

Margate Hoteliers Association

Margate Yacht Club

Marine Ecologist

National Trust

Natural History Museum

Pegwell & District Association

Personal Watercraft User

Pfizer Ltd

Police Community Liaison Officers

Ramsgate & Broadstairs Civic Society

Readers Digest Beach Watch Campaign

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Royal Temple Yacht Club

Sandwich Port & Haven Commissioners

Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory

Swimmers

Southern Water Services

Thanet Chamber of Commerce

Thanet Cycling Forum

Thanet Local Production for Local Needs

Thanet Sports Council

Thanet Sub Aqua Club

Thanet District Council

Thanet District Sports Association for Disabilities

Thanet Fishermens Association

Thanet Waste Reduction & Resourcefulness Group

Trust for Thanet Archaeology

Westgate & Westbrook Residents Association

Worldwide Fund for Nature

PROJECT FUNDERS



1.0 The policy and legal framework for the management scheme

1.1 Introduction to the management scheme

This management scheme fulfils the requirements of Regulation 34 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & co.) Regulations 1994 for the North Kent European marine sites. It is not a guide to every aspect of the management of the area but is focussed on the maintenance of specific features considered to be of international nature conservation importance.

Whilst it is the responsibility of the relevant statutory organisations to implement this scheme, representatives of all the different human activities have been involved in agreeing its contents and all users of the area can play a part in making this management scheme a success.

There are a wide range of other plans, both statutory and non-statutory, covering this area. This management scheme has not attempted to review or reference them all. The scheme has taken an issues led approach. This means that it has focussed on reviewing all current activities and evaluating their effects on the features of nature conservation importance to identify management issues. This 'bottom up' approach means that current management that results from other statutory or non statutory plans is captured without it being necessary to review all other plans in detail. The plans from which current management is derived are listed under 'Existing Management' in the appropriate sections of Chapter 6.0.

1.2 Background to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive

The Habitats Directive² is legislation that was adopted by the European Community in 1992 as a major contribution to the Biodiversity Convention signed at the Rio Earth Summit. The Directive focuses on habitats or species which have been identified as rare or threatened in an international context. Bird Species are covered by complementary legislation under the Birds Directive³.

The main mechanism used to protect the habitats and species listed in the Directives is the selection and subsequent designation of key sites. The Habitats Directive requires member states to identify and designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and the Birds Directive requires member states to classify Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Together these SACs and SPAs will form a network of sites across the European Union called the Natura 2000 network. The term Natura 2000 comes from the Habitats Directive and symbolises the conservation of precious natural resources for the year 2000 and beyond.



² Council Directive 92/43/EEC

³ Council Directive 79/409/EEC

Conservation management for these designated sites must enable these habitats to be maintained or restored to favourable conservation status. Measures must also be taken to avoid the deterioration of the habitats, the habitats of the species or the disturbance of the species for which the site has been designated. In order to assess the condition of the conservation features and the effectiveness of management measures the Directive requires sites to be monitored.

1.3 The Habitats Directive and Selection of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

Whilst the main aim of the Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity, a clear message contained within it is that this should be done in a way which takes account of economic, social, cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics. In addition, the Directive aims to make a contribution to the sustainable development of selected sites.

The purpose of the Directive is not to exclude human activities from sites, but rather to ensure that they are undertaken in ways which do not threaten the nature conservation interest, and wherever possible in ways which support it.

The Habitats Directive has been translated into British law via The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 this was amended in 2000 via The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2000. These Regulations are hereafter referred to as the Habitats Regulations. All references made to the Regulations in this document are referring to the Habitats Regulations.

1.3.1 Selection of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are selected initially by each Member State on the basis of the habitats and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive. The habitats or species found on each site are referred to as the interest features. The best examples in each country, once agreed locally and nationally through consultation, are then submitted to the EC for consideration. At this stage, they are referred to as candidate sites. After adoption by the EC these candidate sites become Sites of Community Importance (SCI). They must then be formally designated by their member states by 2004.

Initially, it had been hoped to adopt all SCI by 1998 but this deadline has slipped. However, the amended Habitats Regulations say that candidate sites must be treated as if they have already been designated. Candidate SAC are usually referred to as cSAC.

1.4 Birds Directive and selection of Special Protection Areas (SPA)

The main aim of the Birds Directive is to protect birds within the European Union through the conservation of all species of naturally occurring wild birds and their habitats. To help achieve this aim, measures are needed to address the repercussions of human activities, in particular the destruction and pollution of their habitats and exploitation of bird species.

Conservation is aimed at the long-term protection and management of natural resources. It includes the preservation, maintenance or restoration of a sufficient diversity and area of habitats essential to the conservation of all species of birds.

The Directive requires that certain species should be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitats in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. Conservation measures must also take account of migratory species. To help achieve these aims member states are required to establish Special Protection Areas (SPA).

1.4.1 Selection of Special Protection Areas (SPA)

Under the EC Birds Directive member states are required to classify as Special Protection Areas the most suitable areas for:

- a bird species listed on Article 4.1
- b regularly occurring migratory species under Article 4.2

Most sites are particularly important for certain species of birds which are dependant on specialised habitats to provide their breeding, feeding, wintering or passage sites. Once agreed locally and nationally through consultation the EC is informed of the designation.

1.5 European marine sites

The Habitats Regulations use the term 'European site' to cover SACs and SPAs on land and 'European marine site' to refer to those sites established in the intertidal area and at sea. A range of sites have been identified around our coastline which are internationally important for their habitats and species.

For each European marine site a management scheme may be produced. Where marine areas of adjacent or overlapping SACs and SPAs occur the policy recommendation is that only one management scheme is produced. It should be noted that a marine area is regarded as any land covered (continuously or intermittently) by tidal water.

This management scheme is for the marine areas of the following sites:

- Thanet Coast cSAC
- Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA,
- Sandwich Bay cSAC. (see Map 1).

Collectively they are referred to as the North East Kent European marine sites.

1.6 The need for European marine sites to have a management scheme

The Habitats Directive requires that appropriate steps be taken to avoid deterioration of the natural habitats and the habitats of species and avoid significant disturbance of the species for which the areas have been designated.

On land, areas selected as Special Protection Areas or Special Areas of Conservation will have already been notified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Any conservation management measures required for these European designations are achieved through existing SSSI management procedures under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under existing legislation SSSIs can only extend to the jurisdiction of the Local Authority which is generally not below low water mark.

In the marine environment, while we have some experience in the UK of managing habitats below low water mark, managing marine sites for nature conservation interest is still a relatively new concept. In addition, the system of ownership and overlapping rights and responsibilities in the sea area is complex. To address these problems the Habitats Regulations make provision for a management scheme to be developed for each European marine site where appropriate. The management scheme is expected to ensure the appropriate management of the site incorporating the views of all the relevant authorities and competent authorities as well as taking account of the concerns and aspirations of user groups and other interested parties.

This management scheme for the North East Kent European marine sites, will set the framework within which current ongoing activities will be managed, either voluntarily or through regulation, so as to achieve the nature conservation objectives of the European marine site supplied by English Nature (see 1.7 below and section 3.0). New plans and projects are considered under a separate process (see 1.10 for more information).

Where new regulation is needed the measures may be based entirely upon the existing powers of the relevant authorities if they are capable of being used to achieve the objectives of designation. In other cases, relevant authorities may need to

consider seeking changes to the ways in which their existing statutory jurisdiction is applied using the established procedures for that purpose.

Only those operations which may cause significant deterioration or disturbance to the conservation features of the site may be subject to restrictions. Activities which are not considered to cause significant damage to the marine interest of the site are unlikely to be adversely affected by the management measures. It is worth noting that sites were selected with current activities and use in place.

It should be noted that the management scheme will need to be regularly reviewed and revised to reflect the best available scientific information, relevant monitoring information relating to activities and conservation features and the interactions between them. The actual style and content of a management scheme is up to the relevant authorities to decide, although there has been some guidance from Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions.

1.7 Aims of the management scheme

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

An underlying principle in the drafting of this management scheme was that stakeholders should be fully involved in making the decisions over its content and in its implementation. The process by which this was achieved is described below in section 1.9.

Detailed objectives concerning the interest features can be found in section 3.0. These have been provided by English Nature in fulfilment of their formal duty to provide advice under Regulation 33(2) of the Habitats Regulations as to the:

- a Conservation objectives for the marine sites, and
- b Any operation that may cause deterioration of natural habitats or the habitats of species, or disturbance of the species for which the site has been designated.

1.8 Competent authorities and the relevant competent authorities responsible for the site

The Regulations state that, where they have functions relevant to marine conservation, all competent authorities are legally bound to exercise them to secure compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

The term 'competent authorities' includes any statutory body or public office exercising legislative powers - whether on land or at sea.

The term 'relevant authority' is intended to identify certain competent authorities with local power or functions which have, or could have, an impact on the marine area within or adjacent to a European marine site and who have powers to establish a management scheme for a European marine site. The relevant authorities form the management group for the site and have particular statutory responsibilities under the Habitats Regulations.

Table 1 lists the relevant authorities as specified under Regulation 5, together with the name of the relevant authority/ies for the NE Kent European marine sites.

These organisations are all equal members of the NE Kent European marine sites management group. This group does not in itself have any powers but is a representative body to involve all relevant authorities in the ongoing management of the European marine sites. Each relevant authority has to undertake its powers and duties with respect to the Habitats Directive and will need to act accordingly on an individual basis and ensure that its actions and plans are consistent with this management scheme.

Table 1 Relevant Authorities

Type of authority as listed under Regulation 5 'a' to 'h'	Type of authority as listed under Regulation 5 'a' to 'h'	Responsibilities relevant to the European marine sites	Area covered	NE Kent European marine sites within area covered.		
				Thanet Coast cSAC reefs & caves	Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA wintering & breeding birds	Sandwich Bay cSAC Dunes - intertidal feed sediments only
a) a nature conservation body	English Nature	Nature Conservation Agency for England. Advises government and implements statutory nature conservation duties including European duties on behalf of government.	England out to 12 mile territorial limit.	✓	✓	✓
b) a county council	Kent County Council	County Planning Authority.	County of Kent (excluding the area of the Medway Unitary Authority) down to mean low water.	✓	✓	✓
b) a district council	Thanet District Council	Local planning authority (includes planning, recreation, coastal protection)(also Harbour Authority see below).	Thanet District down to mean low water and extending below low water around Margate Harbour.	✓	✓	✓
	Dover District Council	Local planning authority (includes planning, recreation, coastal protection).	Dover District down to mean low water.		✓	✓
	Canterbury City Council	Local planning authority (includes planning, recreation, coastal protection).	Canterbury District down to mean low water.		✓	
c) the National Rivers Authority (now the Environment Agency)	Environment Agency	Environmental Protection: Regulatory Authority for discharge and other consent.	England and Wales out to 3 miles.	✓	✓	✓
c) a water or sewerage undertaker	Southern Water Services	Sewerage undertaker.	South east region including Kent.	✓	✓	✓
d) a navigation authority within the meaning of the Water Resources Act 1991	Thanet District Council Harbour authority	Harbour authority.	Ramsgate port and harbour and approach channel, Broadstairs harbour and approach channel.	✓	✓	✓
e) a harbour authority within the meaning of the Harbours Act 1964	Sandwich Port and Haven Commission	Harbour authority.	Margate harbour and approach channel.			
f) a lighthouse authority			Sandwich Port and approach channel.		✓	✓
h) A local fisheries committee under the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966	Kent and Essex Sea Fisheries Committee	Fisheries conservation.	Seaward to 6 miles from the low water mark from Dungeness in Kent to the Northern boundary of Essex.	✓	✓	✓

1.9 Process by which the management scheme was put together

The North East Kent European marine sites together extend for about 26 miles and include the coast of three different local authority areas: Dover, Thanet, and Canterbury. See Map 2.

For the purposes of considering management and involving stakeholders the coast has been divided into these three districts. The reasons for this are as follows:

- the interest features differ for the different areas (See table 2)
- the Local Authorities existing management of recreation and foreshore activities differ
- stakeholder's involvement can be appropriate to the scale and location of management issues.
- the extent of Local Authority coastline affected by the different designations differ. Almost the entire district coastline is designated around Thanet District whilst for Canterbury and Dover it is 43% and 29% of their coastlines respectively.

Stakeholders from each of these District areas have been involved in the management scheme in different ways and to different extents. The stakeholder process at Thanet has formed the foundation for the management scheme.

1.9.1 Thanet Stakeholders and Authorities and organisations with a Kent wide remit

These stakeholders contributed to the contents of this management scheme via an innovative approach based on consensus building principles and carried out under the management of the Environment Council.

This involved bringing together a large group of stakeholders including relevant authorities, recreational groups, commercial bodies, environmental organisations and community associations. This large group met at a sequence of four intense day workshops to discuss and agree issues such as the scope of the plan, baseline information, principles, management priorities and codes of practice. Although much work was undertaken between events by English Nature, Thanet District Council and others, the focus of debate was always the shared context resulting from bringing together so many key groups. This approach also allowed the opportunity to ensure an appropriate and sustainable use of the area given the inherent conservation objectives of the management scheme and the social and economic priorities central to the regeneration of the Thanet area and its coast.

1.9.2 Local Canterbury Stakeholders

Canterbury City Council has involved local communities in a variety of ways in the planning of the District in general and the identification of issues within the Canterbury part of the SPA which is one of the North East Kent European marine sites. A sample survey undertaken by Mori in 1999 gave information on views and aspirations of residents of the District. Specific research on user views at Long Rock, part of the SPA, was carried out by a post-graduate student at the Durrell Institute of Conservation Ecology at the University of Kent, with support from the City Council.

The international interest of the Canterbury part of the SPA is confined to wintering turnstone. Given their awareness of the local issues derived from the above Canterbury City Council considered that much of what was to be discussed in the Thanet workshops (e.g. chalk reefs, caves, little tern, tourism development local to Thanet) was not relevant to Canterbury district. Rather than take up local stakeholders time discussing issues which were irrelevant to them they considered that it would be best to involve them via a different process.



Attendees at one of the workshops

The Council is committed to involve the community. The aspirations of local residents are reflected in the Council's Corporate Plan and Best Value Performance Plan which commit the Council to:

“develop and gain approval for an integrated sustainable coastal management strategy which will make sure that the development of economic and leisure activities on the coast take account of nature's needs and protects the environment.”

The City Council Corporate Plan has a target for this strategy to be completed by 2002.

Dialogue with local stakeholders will take place as part of the preparation of the coastal strategy and will focus on the known or potential affects of stakeholder activities on wintering birds and agree with them workable solutions for any issues that are identified.

1.9.3 Dover Stakeholders

Stakeholders from the district of Dover who live around Sandwich Bay were involved in the consensus building process described in 1.9.1 above.

Much of the Sandwich Bay area is a National Nature Reserve (see the map in Appendix H) and it is therefore managed in the interests of wildlife.

No specific management issues were identified for the part of the SPA south of the Sandwich Bay Estate. The access to the shore for much of this part of the SPA is not easy with just one path crossing the golf course that abuts the shore. Closer to Deal access is easier but the number of turnstone at this location is low. If in the life of this plan it becomes clear that there are management issues Dover District Council will work with relevant stakeholders, explore the issue and identify and implement workable solutions.

1.10 New Plans and Projects

Competent authorities (including those competent authorities listed as relevant authorities) (see section 1.8) have statutory functions to make decisions on applications for consents, authorisations, licences and permissions as governed by statute.

Under the Habitats Regulations any operation which requires such an application is considered to be a 'plan or project'. This is in contrast to activities which are controlled or managed by competent authorities on a continuing basis and which are addressed in this management scheme.

Plans or projects are assessed on a case by case basis and are subject to specific procedures under regulations 19 and 48 of the Habitats Regulations.

During the consensus building workshops stakeholders raised many possible 'plans or projects' as potentially of concern in relation to the conservation objectives. These are listed below - it should not be taken as a definitive list.



Kingsgate-Botany Bay

The following activities were raised as of potential concern by stakeholders. All these activities are regarded as plans or projects and if proposed would be considered under Regulation 48 or Regulation 19

- Marine aggregate extraction and prospecting
- Oil/gas exploration
- Hydrographic surveys
- New coast defence works such as:
 - Beach feeding
 - Shingle and sand removal
 - Removal of sediment affecting beaches
 - New sea walls
 - New groynes
 - New breakwaters
- New recreation facilities slipways etc
- Development of ports/harbours
- Channel dredging - capital
- New marinas or extensions of existing ones
- Development of deep-drafted channels and maintenance
- Ramsgate Hoverport future use
- Housing
- New visitor centre
- New coastal cycle route
- Industrial outfalls
- Laying of telecommunication cables
- Wind farms
- Construction of power generation or waste treatment recycling facilities

Stakeholders also requested an explanation of how such plans and projects were handled and a brief outline of the procedure can be found below. This should not be taken as guidance for those proposing a plan or project. If proposing a plan or project please contact the competent authority (who will make the decision on the application) for advice and guidance.

The Regulations establish the procedures which must be followed for the consideration of 'plans or projects'. For any proposed plan or project, which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site for nature conservation, competent authorities should make an initial consideration, in consultation with English Nature, to establish whether the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of the European marine site. They may proceed where it is not likely to have a significant effect. If such an effect is likely, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, an appropriate assessment must be undertaken in order to establish whether the plan or project will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site. If the assessment reveals that it will not have such an adverse effect, again, the plan or project may proceed. Decisions lie with the appropriate competent authority and will have to be taken on a case by case basis.

If the competent authority ascertains that the plan or project would have an adverse effect on site integrity they should refuse consent except in the circumstances following:

'despite a negative assessment of the implications for the site, and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project may nonetheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature.'

Table 2 Site Interest and Stakeholder involvement by district

	% of coast designated	European Designations	Interest features or sub features							Way of involving stakeholders	Main management measures proposed
			Turnstone wintering	Golden Plover wintering	Little Tern Breeding	Reefs	Caves	Dune feed sediments			
Thanet District	>95%	Thanet Coast cSAC	✓			✓				Via sequence of participatory - consensus building workshops.	Series of mutually agreed codes of conduct/best practice for each activity. Review of shoreline management and water quality.
		Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA	✓		✓						
		Sandwich Bay cSAC					✓				
Dover District	approx. 29%	Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA	✓	✓	✓				Stakeholders from Sandwich Bay involved in above. If issues are identified in the SPA north of Deal stakeholders will be asked to solve problem with DDC.	Ditto.	
		Sandwich Bay cSAC						✓			
Canterbury District	approx. 43%	Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA	✓						Via preparation of Coastal Management Plan.	To be agreed with relevant stakeholders.	

