

Thanet Coast at a Thanet Coast

# Dog walkers & coastal users

As you stroll along the beach, maybe to shake off some of the Christmas excess...

## "SPARE A THOUGHT FOR THE TURNSTONE!"

The number of **Turnstone** that come to the shores around Thanet make this coast **internationally important** for birds - but it is not doing as well as it should be here.



Turnstone are **scared** of people & dogs getting **too close** - and will **run or fly away**.

This **disturbance** stops them from feeding - or resting - and putting on **enough body fat** to **survive** harsh weather or migration.



### Faithful to Thanet

Turnstone are 'faithful' to a particular bay with the same birds returning from Canada each winter to feed along these rocky shores. They feed on peeler crabs, shrimps & shellfish by turning over loose stones & seaweed with their bills.

### Peace 'at night' and 'high tide'!

Turnstone also need to be left alone to rest (or 'roost'). They gather in groups at night & high tide. They would naturally select an undisturbed sheltered location, close to their feeding grounds. But because of disturbance, fewer birds are using these roost sites & are flying further away - using valuable energy.

### What can we do?

We must be prepared to share the beach with the Turnstone - as it is their home too - & they need to be given enough space to be able to thrive. We will need to take some action. The Thanet Coast project will be bringing together people representing different coastal recreational activities to think about how we can continue without causing unintentional harm to the Thanet's important birds & marine life. Coastal users will draft 'codes' for their own activities, deciding together what they should contain.

### Thanet Coastal Codes - Workshops

Workshops have begun for bait digging and shore angling. Discussions will start for dog walkers & other coastal recreational users, early in 2002 (January to April).

For further information about the 'Thanet Coast', or if you are interested in helping to draw up these coastal codes (see list down the right hand side) please forward your details to the project before 8 February 2002.

Thanet Coast Project Officer

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Bait Digging

Shore angling

Shell fish harvesting

Windsurfing kite-boarding

Jet-ski & powerboats

Sailing

Dog walking

Horse-riding

General beach code