

Jellyfish

Occasional visitors to the Thanet Coast

1) Stalked Jellyfish (*eg Lucernariopsis or Halicyltus spp*)

Very small and branched, looks a bit like a fluted wine glass. Nearly always attached to seaweed or rocks. Due to being easily overlooked they may be commoner than one thinks.

2) Moon Jellyfish (*Aurelia aurita*)

These are extremely common. Look for the four conspicuous blue circles (gonads) on the body. Usually found as small specimens washed ashore, but can grow up to 30cms or more. Can give a mild sting but usually totally HARMLESS.

3) Compass Jellyfish (*Chrysaora hysoscella*)

Easily recognised by the lines radiating from the centre of the body, hence the common name; reminding one of an old compass rose. Usually washed up on the shore broken up. Body can be a dinner plate width with tentacles a metre or more trailing behind. There are occasional seasonal swarms.

DANGER - CAN STING UNWARY SWIMMERS.

4) Lion's Mane Jellyfish (*Cyanea capillata*)

Fortunately rare. Specimens found stranded are usually small, less than 10 cms across the body but they have been known to attain sizes of 60cms or more, They look very similar to a straggly brownish/yellow rug, hence the popular name, with the tentacles trailing many metres behind.

DANGEROUS TO SWIMMERS .THE STING CAN BE EXTREMELY PAINFUL.

Remember - DO NOT TOUCH, EVEN STRANDED SPECIMENS THAT CAN STILL STING!

Arrows indicate aids to identification.

The term bell is sometimes used by scientists to describe the body.

Images & text by Lester Hovenden, NEKMPA Coastal Warden

North East Kent



Marine Protected Area



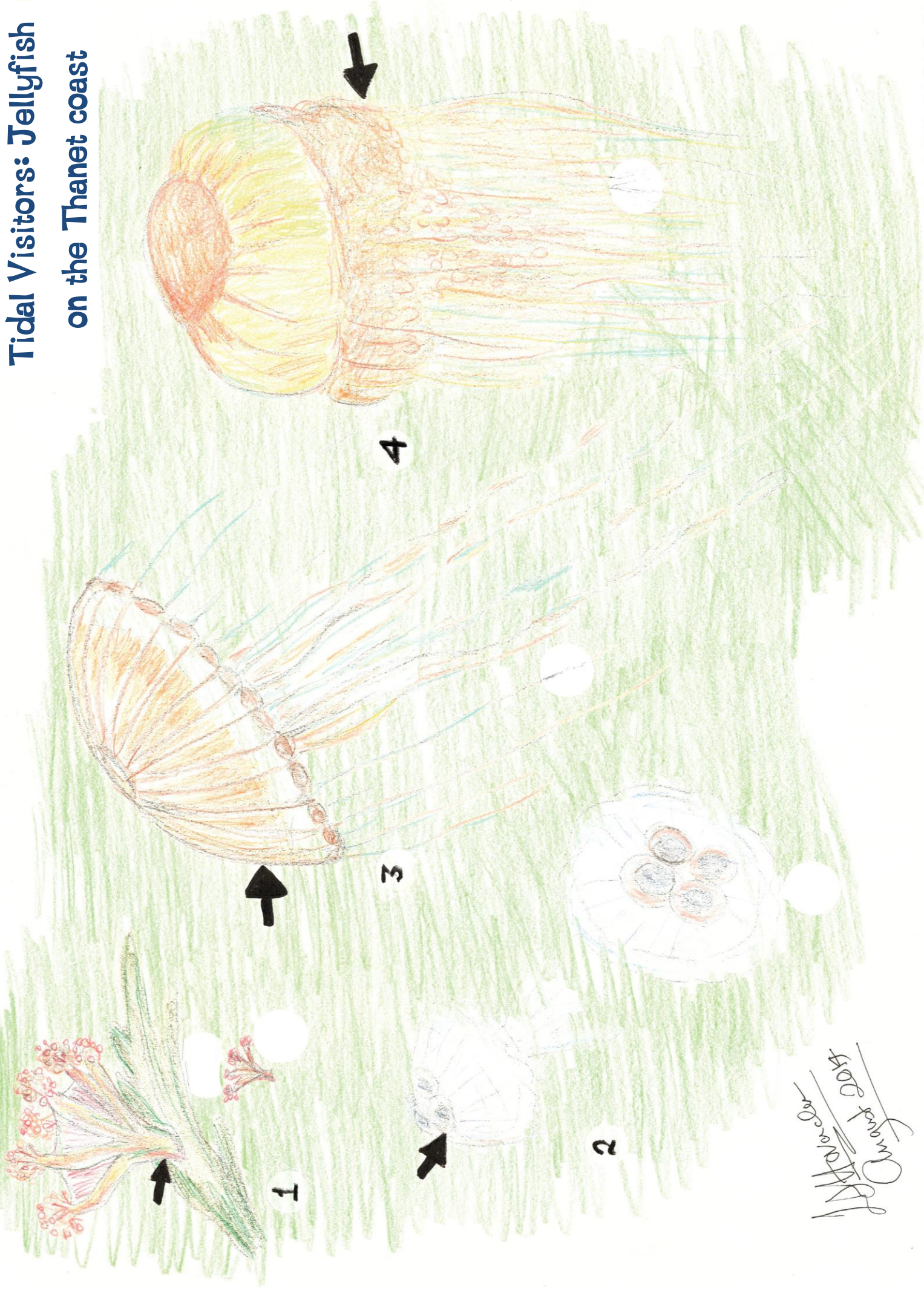
The North East Kent Coast is one of the best sites in Europe for wintering birds, and marine life of the chalk caves, reef and sandy bays.

For more details visit
www.thanetcoast.org.uk
or www.nekmpa.org.uk
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Tidal Visitors: Jellyfish on the Thanet coast



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Dorothy
Marchant
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