

S I T E
Management
Statement

Thanet Coast Sites

Thanet Coast SSSI (part)

Sandwich Bay to Hacklinge Marshes SSSI (part)

Thanet Coast & Sandwich Bay SPA & Ramsar Site (part)

Thanet Coast SAC

Sandwich Bay SAC (part)

Prepared for:

Thanet District Council

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Site Management Statement for Thanet Coast Sites May 2010

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1. Introduction

The coastline within Thanet District Council's boundary is a very important area for wildlife and natural geological features. There is quite a complex pattern of nature conservation designations on this part of the coast, which includes:

- Thanet Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Sandwich Bay to Hacklinge Marshes SSSI
- Thanet Coast & Sandwich Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) and Wetland of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Site)
- Thanet Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Sandwich Bay SAC
- The 'North East Kent European marine sites' is a term applied to the parts of the SPA and SAC which are covered continuously or intermittently by tidal waters. The SPA extends as far out to sea as the Mean Low Water mark. The offshore boundary of the SAC extends out to sea to the line shown on Figure 1, varying between approx.1-2 kms offshore.

A Management Scheme has been written for the North East Kent European marine sites, which sets out the responsibilities of the 'Relevant Authorities' including Thanet District Council. It is a useful source of information on the interest features and management of these parts of the coast.

Figure 1 shows the extent of all the designated sites in the Thanet District.

This Site Management Statement aims to:

- Summarise what is important about the land under the ownership and/or management of Thanet District Council and list a number of objectives that need to be achieved if it is to remain of special interest.
- Help Natural England to understand Thanet District Council's objectives in managing the land.
- Summarise our common objectives.
- List certain routine/ongoing activities that it is agreed may be undertaken on the designated sites.
- State how effective current management of the site is likely to be in maintaining its special features.
- Identify a contact at Natural England should you need advice.

Natural England hopes that, by setting out the information in this way, there will be shared understanding of the nature conservation and land management issues affecting the Thanet coast.

This document should help to save time, as it **gives permission for a range of routine activities and so avoids the need for repeated consultation** in relation to these activities.

However, it is important to note that **some activities other than those agreed in this document will require consultation with Natural England**. This applies to activities both inside the designated sites and outside but close to them.

Some activities are consented via the planning system and we are consulted as a matter of course on many of these - appendix 2 gives advice on consultation with Natural England over planning issues. For other activities, we have produced separate guidance to help you decide when it is necessary to talk to us - this can be found in Appendix 1.

Finally, remember that this Site Management Statement is not set in stone and can be amended by discussion between Thanet District Council and Natural England. This would be necessary if there are any proposed changes in management and/or ownership.

2. Nature conservation importance of the designated sites on the Thanet coast

The most striking feature of the Thanet coast is the chalk - both cliffs and reefs. At 23 kms, Thanet has the longest continuous stretch of coastal chalk in Britain, representing about 20% of UK coastal chalk and 12% of the coastal chalk exposure in Europe. The intertidal chalk reef covers around 250 hectares of foreshore and is the largest continuous area of intertidal chalk in the UK.

Because the chalk is particularly soft at Thanet, being Upper Cretaceous chalk, it supports a unique range of marine algae and lichens as well as communities of rock-boring animals which would not be present on harder chalk.

About 80% of Thanet's chalk cliffs have been modified by the construction of coastal protection works, while the remaining 20% (6 kms) is unmodified and it is here where many of the most interesting features are found, including sea caves, stacks and arches. Some of the sea caves support species of algae so rare that they have never been found outside of Thanet.

In addition to the chalk, the Thanet coast has many other features of biological and geological interest. **Below is a summary of all the important features relating to each designation for the parts of the coast owned and/or managed by Thanet District Council.**

Thanet Coast SSSI (national designation)

Biological features:

- **Chalk cliff-top grassland** at various locations, the best of which is at North Foreland
- **Birds:** nationally important populations of **sanderling, ringed plover and grey plover** found at various locations around the coast
- **Rare algae:** growing on chalk cliffs and caves at several locations
- **Plant and animal communities** living on rocky chalk reefs around much of the coast
- **Shingle plant communities** west of Minnis Bay
- **Mud and sandflats** west of Minnis Bay

Geological features:

- **Chalk cliffs from Birchington to Westgate:** an important source of sea urchin fossils and layers of flint of Santonian age, allowing geologists to study conditions on earth 85 million years ago.
- **Chalk cliffs at Walpole and Grenham Bays:** joints in the rock cutting across a major fold allow study of the cause and effect of mountain building.
- **Chalk Cliffs at North Cliff, Broadstairs:** an important site for study of glaciation in relation to the last Ice Age.

Sandwich Bay to Hacklinge Marshes SSSI (national designation)**Biological features:**

- **Mudflats** in Pegwell Bay, providing bird roosting and feeding grounds

Geological features:

- **Loess deposits** at Pegwell Bay from the last Ice Age, which are the best preserved of their kind in Britain

SAC (international designation)

- **Chalk reefs:** sub-tidal and inter-tidal, around much of the Thanet coast. This area has the best example of south-east chalk reefs in Britain.
- **Sea caves:** partly submerged caves and tunnels are found at several locations where the cliffs are unprotected by sea defences, for example at Kingsgate. Thanet has the best example of chalk caves in Britain.

SPA & Ramsar Site (international designations – bird interest)

- **Turnstone:** internationally important wintering population, found at a number of locations around the Thanet coast from Coldharbour (west of Minnis Bay) to Sandwich Bay. **Map 2 shows the main roosting locations for turnstones on the Thanet coast.**
- **Golden plover:** nationally important wintering population, at Pegwell Bay and other locations.
- **Little tern:** nationally important summer breeding population, at Pegwell (Note: these birds have not bred for several years and they are likely to be removed from the SPA citation shortly).

The citations for each designated site give more detailed information on the features of interest. Copies should already be held by Thanet District Council but additional copies can be provided on request.

3. Nature Conservation Objectives

Natural England's overall objective is to sustain the various plants and animals and natural features that make the Thanet coast of special interest. **On the land owned and/or managed by Thanet District Council, Natural England's conservation objectives are as follows:**

Chalk reefs: Subject to natural change, maintain these in favourable condition, in particular:

- Intertidal chalk cliff algal and lichen communities
- Intertidal red algal turf communities
- Kelp dominated communities on animal bored rock
- Subtidal animal bored chalk communities

Sea caves: Subject to natural change, maintain the submerged or partially submerged sea caves in favourable condition, in particular:

- Intertidal chalk cliff algal and lichen communities

Birds: Subject to natural change, maintain the following habitats for internationally important species (turnstone) and nationally important species (sanderling, ringed plover, grey plover golden plover and little tern) in favourable condition:

- Sand and shingle shores
- Shallow coastal waters
- Intertidal mud and sandflats
- Chalk shores

Geological features: where sea defences do not exist, allow geological interest features to be maintained through natural coastal erosion. Where erosion cannot take place due to the presence of sea defences, implement measures to ensure that the geological interest is maintained.

4. Objectives of Thanet District Council

Thanet District Council's objective is to undertake its functions as a Local Authority effectively and efficiently whilst ensuring that the nationally and internationally important nature conservation sites under its management continue to support and safeguard the plants, animals and habitats whose presence resulted in the site's designation.

5. Agreed Management Objectives

Thanet District Council's desire to ensure that the designated sites around the coast remain in good condition is consistent with Natural England's aims. However, certain activities which are undertaken as part of the authority's functions could result in unintentional harm to the features of interest, depending on how they are carried out.

The problems that could arise are:

- Activities causing physical damage to the chalk reef and/or cliffs and caves
- Activities causing disturbance to the populations of protected birds and their habitats
- Activities causing damage to the geological features of the SSSI

As a section 28G body under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act), Thanet District Council has a duty in relation to SSSIs, to: "take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of the authority's functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features by reason of which the site is of special scientific interest".

It is therefore very important that this Site Management Statement aims to help ensure that routine/ongoing activities are undertaken in such a way that they do not cause harm to the designated sites and, where possible, actually benefit them.

6. Management Activities undertaken by/for Thanet District Council

The following table shows routine/ongoing management operations which can be undertaken on the designated sites owned/managed by Thanet District Council *without further consultation with Natural England*, provided they are undertaken according to the conditions set out in the table.

The table also highlights certain activities which are NOT covered by this document - you can find advice on dealing with these in Appendix 1. **IF YOU ARE AT ALL UNSURE, PLEASE CONTACT NATURAL ENGLAND FIRST.**

Many of the protected bird species at Thanet come to spend the winter season here (we define this as 1st October to 31st March, although some do arrive earlier and leave later) before flying off to spend the summer further north. These wintering bird species are especially vulnerable to disturbance when they are roosting, around high tide. Disturbance at this time causes them to use up energy and lose body weight which can reduce their ability to migrate successfully.

Map 2 shows the location of the main roosting areas of turnstones around the Thanet coast and appendix 1 gives descriptions of all the main roosting sites. Some of the other protected bird species also roost with or close to the turnstones (notably grey plover and sanderling), so action taken to prevent disturbance to turnstones will also benefit these other species. The map and appendix should be used in conjunction with the table of activities below to help you decide when it is necessary to restrict activities around high tide. **Remember that there are a number of days each month when high tides do not fall within the working day, so it is often possible to time work so that it is not affected by these restrictions at all.**

NOTE: Thanet District Council remains responsible for obtaining any necessary licences or permissions for the work listed in the table. Where the work is carried out by contractors on behalf of Thanet District Council, the Council remains responsible for ensuring that contractors are aware of the conditions that may apply, as listed below.

Activity permitted	Issue	Conditions under which the activity is permitted	This table does NOT cover...
AMENITY ISSUES			
Routine footpath/cyclepath maintenance including minor signage works and minor repairs to surfacing	Bird disturbance	No restrictions from 1 st April to 30 th September. In the wintering bird season (1 st October to 31 st March), in areas within 60m of roost sites (see map 2 & app 1), work should be avoided for a 2 hour period around high tide, starting 1½ hours before & ending ½ hour after any high tide*.	New paths, major path repairs, new signage projects - see appendix 2
Herbicide control of alexanders, bramble	Bird Disturbance Damage to important chalk cliff plants	As above Avoid spraying in close proximity to known locations of important plants (including hoary stock, sea stock, rock sea lavender, rock samphire, wild cabbage). If this seems necessary, contact Natural England before proceeding.	

Activity permitted	Issue	Conditions under which the activity is permitted	This table does NOT cover...
Grass cutting	Bird disturbance	As above	
Routine tree maintenance work eg. pruning (involving use of chain saw)	Bird disturbance	As above	Tree projects, eg. felling/grubbing out of trees, planting – see appendix 2.
FORESHORE ISSUES			
Litter picking & sweeping on promenade: daily in summer; weekly in winter Gully cleansing on promenade: annually	Bird disturbance	No restrictions from 1 st April to 30 th September. In the wintering bird season (1 st October to 31 st March), in areas within 60m of roost sites (see map 2 & app 1), work should be timed to avoid a 2 hour period around high tide, starting 1½ hours before & ending ½ hour after any high tide*.	
Herbicide use on promenade: summer	Bird disturbance	As above – winter restrictions apply if herbicide use starts before 31 st March	
Mechanical beach cleaning: twice a week in summer, from Easter onwards	Bird disturbance	No restrictions from 1 st April to 30 th September. In years when Easter falls before the end of March, in areas adjacent to roost sites (see map 2 & app 1), mechanical cleaning within 60m of roost sites should be timed to avoid a 2 hour period around high tide, starting 1½ hours before and ending ½ hour after any high tide*.	
Hand beach cleaning: weekly in winter	Bird disturbance	In the wintering bird season (1 st October to 31 st March), in areas within 60m of roost sites (see map 2 & app 1), work should be timed to avoid a 2 hour period around high tide, starting 1½ hours before and ending ½ hour after any high tide*.	
Sand levelling	Bird disturbance	No restrictions from 1 st April to 30 th September. In the wintering bird season (1 st October to 31 st March), in areas within 60m of roost sites (see map 2 & app 1), work should be timed to avoid a 2 hour period around high tide, starting 1½ hours before and ending ½ hour after any high tide*.	

railings, benches, beach huts & other infrastructure on promenade or nearby	disturbance		
Rat control	Bird disturbance	As above	

Activity permitted	Issue	Conditions under which the activity is permitted	This table does NOT cover...
Fixed netting removal	Damage to chalk reef	Neglected fixed nets can be removed with the agreement of Kent & Essex Sea Fisheries Committee, provided this is done without causing damage from vehicle access onto the reef.	
Emergency removal of large debris from foreshore (eg. major fly-tipping, dumped cars)	Damage to chalk reef Bird disturbance	Minimise physical damage to reef by using wide-tired vehicle for recovery. No restrictions from 1 st April to 30 th September. In wintering bird season (1 st October to 31 st March), in areas within 60m of roost sites (see map 2 & app 1), work should be avoided for a 2 hour period around high tide, starting 1½ hours before and ending ½ hour after any high tide*.	

COASTAL DEFENCE/MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Minor repairs to sea wall, promenade and foreshore structures not involving use of machinery	Bird disturbance Effect on chalk reef	No restrictions from 1 st April to 30 th September. In wintering bird season (1 st October to 31 st March), in areas within 60m of roost sites (see map 2 & app 1), work should be avoided for a 2 hour period around high tide, starting 1½ hours before and ending ½ hour after any high tide*. No use of vehicles or machinery on chalk reef. No deposition of spoil or other materials on reef.	Major projects to repair or replace groynes involving vehicles and machinery –see appendix 2
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HARBOUR ISSUES

Boat cleaning/repairs within harbour area	None	No restrictions	
Navigational aid maintenance	None	Pressure washing only – no restrictions	
Routine diving surveys	None	No restrictions	

HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Gully cleansing, road sweeping and herbicide use on highways	None	No restrictions	Road repair or renewal – see appendix 2
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***IMPORTANT NOTE: In very cold weather (defined as four or more consecutive nights below freezing), the timing restriction around high tide should be increased to 2½ hours before to 1 hour after high tide, as birds are even more vulnerable to disturbance in these conditions.**

7. Assent for activities

Natural England assents to the activities described in section 6 of this document under section 28H of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, provided that they are undertaken according to the conditions set out in that section. Natural England advises that provided these conditions are met, the activities should not cause significant damage to the special interest of the SSSIs.

8. Point of contact

This Site Management Statement has been prepared for:

Thanet District Council

PO Box 9
Cecil Street
Margate
Kent CT9 1XZ

Should you have any queries about the designated sites please do not hesitate to contact:

Ingrid Chudleigh

Natural England - Kent Team

International House, Floor 9
Dover Place, Ashford, Kent TN23 1HU
Ph: 0300 060 4770
ingrid.chudleigh@naturalengland.org.uk

9. Sources of information

- North East Kent European marine sites Management Scheme – Thanet District Council holds copies of this document. A summary leaflet is also available.
- Citations and detailed maps for each designated site – the citations are listed at the back of the Management Scheme document but further copies can be provided on request.
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 plus explanatory notes and DETR Circular 04/2001.

- Thanet Coastal Codes – leaflet outlining how users of the coast can reduce their impact on wildlife, but provides useful background on all the interest features.

10. Effectiveness of the agreed management actions at meeting nature conservation objectives

The table shows how well Natural England’s objectives are being met at the moment, and what changes in management would produce improvements to the conservation value of the site.

Natural England acknowledges that some of the activities undertaken on the designated sites are major plans or projects which lie outside the scope of this document. Others are activities outside the control of Thanet District Council.

This means that long-term change to benefit the designated sites cannot be achieved through the recommendations of this document alone. It also requires:

- Consultation with Natural England through the planning system to ensure that development has no significant adverse effect on nature conservation features and, ideally, has a positive benefit
- Consultation with Natural England over plans and projects that are not subject to planning permission
- Effective engagement with the local community and coastal user groups through the Thanet Coast Project and implementation of the Thanet Coastal Codes.

Species and habitats referred to in English Nature’s objectives	Are the conservation objectives being met / likely to be achieved?	Possible long-term changes advocated by English Nature
Chalk reefs	Generally, yes	Continue to look at ways of reducing physical damage when undertaking activities on/from the reef
Chalk caves	Generally, yes	Ensure that existing caves remain protected from damage/loss
Turnstone	Generally, yes	Reduce disturbance to birds by careful work planning. Possible temporary site wardening in most vulnerable areas.
Sanderling	Partly	Reduce disturbance to birds by careful work planning
Ringed plover	Partly	As above
Grey plover	Partly	As above
Golden plover	Yes	
Little tern	Not applicable - has not bred for several years - likely to be removed from SPA citation 2003	Continue to maintain suitable habitat areas in hope that birds will return to breed in future
Geological features	Yes	Natural England is working with Thanet District Council to clear obscured geological exposures at

		Pegwell Bay and keep them open. In other areas, need to monitor threats and minimize damage.
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APPENDIX 1

Physical descriptions of turnstone roost sites around the Thanet coast

NOTE:

- 1. Some of these sites also used by other protected bird species including sanderling, ringed plover and grey plover.**

- 2. In addition to the sites listed below, small parties of roosting birds are likely to be encountered anywhere within the SPA. Regular disturbance of roosting birds has probably caused the birds that inhabit this area to become very adaptable and utilise many different sites on different days.**

- **Pegwell Bay** – Turnstones roost at the northern end of the hover port on the large flat rocks. When disturbed they occasionally use the beach on the western end of the undercliff instead.
- **Ramsgate Main Beach** – Birds use either end of the available exposed beach depending on prevailing wind direction and disturbance. Occasionally birds move into the harbour to roost on various parts of the breakwater.
- **Dumpton Bay** – Birds use either end of the available exposed beach depending on prevailing wind direction and disturbance.
- **Viking Bay** – Birds use either end of the available exposed beach depending on prevailing wind direction and disturbance. The southern end is favoured if not disturbed.
- **Joss Bay** - Birds use either end of the available exposed beach depending on prevailing wind direction and disturbance. The southern end is favoured if not disturbed.
- **Kingsgate Bay** - Birds use either end of the available exposed beach depending on prevailing wind direction and disturbance. The southern end is favoured if not disturbed.
- **Whiteness Bay** – Birds use all of this small beach, especially when disturbed from Kingsgate and Botany Bay North.
- **Botany Bay South** - Birds use either end of the available exposed beach depending on prevailing wind direction and disturbance. The southern end is favoured if not disturbed. This beach is cut off at high tide so disturbance is generally minimal.
- **Botany Bay North** - Birds use either end of the available exposed beach depending on prevailing wind direction and disturbance. The southern end is favoured if not disturbed. This is a very busy public beach and is rarely used by birds for roosting.
- **Foreness Point** – Birds roost immediately to the east of the pumping station either on the beach under the cliffs or on the concrete foundations of the pumping station.
- **Palm Bay** – A complicated roost site with the entire length from the west of Foreness Point to the eastern end with the café and Jet Ski concession. Birds favour the eastern bay where disturbance allows but also regularly use the promenade at the western end of the long bay.
- **Margate Main Beach** – Another complicated roost site. The slipway within the harbour, and the eastern end of the main beach underneath the promenade are both regularly used depending on weather, time of year and disturbance. In addition the pier is used as a backup roost site when considerable disturbance occurs.
- **Westbrook Bay** - Birds use either end of the available exposed beach depending on prevailing wind direction and disturbance. The eastern end is favoured if not disturbed. Birds also use the

sea defence rocks that are positioned just to the east of the old sea bathing hospital underneath “Leisuretime” when disturbed from either Westbrook or Margate.

- **St Mildreds Bay** – Birds use any of the available groynes or the small amounts of available beach between depending on disturbance.
- **Westgate Bay** – Birds favour the large slipway situated just west of the middle of this bay. The slipway situated towards the eastern end of the bay is used as a backup in case of disturbance.
- **Epple Bay** – Birds use the brick built sea defence at the western end of the bay. When disturbed they can utilise the first section of isolated sea defence immediately to the west of the bay below the cliff.
- **Grenham Bay** – Birds use this site during neap tides when beach is exposed. The beach is small and all can be utilised depending on disturbance. This site also acts as the first stop for birds leaving the large Plumpudding Island roost to the east.
- **Minnis Bay** – Birds favour the western end of the bay where they either sit on the promenade or on the beach between the large wooden groyne and the rocks at the western end of the bay.
- **Plumpudding Island** – Birds gather on and just below the ridge of the beach on the seaward side of the brackish lagoon. Small groups of birds roost all along this stretch of beach from Minnis Bay in the east to Reculver in the west.
- **Coldharbour** - Birds gather on and just below the ridge of the beach on the seaward side of the brackish lagoon. However, owing to erosion of the shingle ridge in front of the lagoon, most birds now roost at Plumpudding Island.

The following sites are in Canterbury District but still within Thanet Coast & Sandwich Bay SPA so are included for completeness:

- **Hampton Pier** – Birds roost on the rocks along the side of the road running inland in direct line with the pier. Birds also use the beach to the west for high tide feeding or when disturbed from the rocks.
- **Long Rock Swalecliffe** – Birds roost on either side of the large spit, which sticks out into the sea to the north.

APPENDIX 2

Guidance on when to consult Natural England in relation to plans and projects NOT covered by the Site Management Statement for the Thanet Coast

- All activities and operations not covered by the Site Management Statement for the Thanet Coast are considered as plans or projects.
- Each plan or project is dealt with through the Habitats Regulations/CROW legislation individually.
- All activities categorised as plans and projects inside the designated sites (ie. SSSI, SAC, SPA & Ramsar Site) require consultation with Natural England, whether they require planning permission or not.
- Those outside the designated sites may require consultation depending on the exact location, the nature of the work and the timing.
- The following guidance should enable Thanet District Council to decide when it is necessary to consult Natural England.
- The locations of the main turnstone roosts are mapped in Figure 3 in the Site Management Statement.

Activities/operations undertaken or authorised by Thanet District Council	Consultation guidelines
<p>Highways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major hole repair (use of machinery) • Lighting • Resurfacing • Landscaping • Utility repairs • Signage • Other major projects 	<p>Inside the designated sites Consult Natural England for advice over any of the listed highway works.</p> <p>Outside but adjacent to the designated sites Consult Natural England over any of the listed highway works within 60m of a turnstone roost site UNLESS the work can be programmed to take place entirely outside the period 1st October to 31st March (i.e. outside the wintering bird season).</p>
<p>Amenity management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New footpaths, cycle paths, signage & major repairs/reconstruction of these • Major tree work, eg. new planting schemes, felling and grubbing out • Public events likely to cause a disturbance on/close to shore (eg. 	<p>Inside the designated sites Consult Natural England for advice over any of the listed activities as they may affect the clifftop grassland and/or bird populations.</p> <p>Outside but adjacent to the designated sites Consult Natural England over any of the listed</p>

fireworks displays)	activities within 60m of a turnstone roost site UNLESS the activity can be planned to take place outside the period 1 st October to 31 st March (ie. outside the wintering bird season).
Port/harbour issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital dredging • Maintenance dredging 	Natural England is consulted as a matter of course through the planning process as both of these require FEPA licences.
Coastal defence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major projects on the cliff and the foreshore (not routine repairs - these are covered by the Site Management Statement - but including major groyne repair) 	Inside and outside the designated sites Consult Natural England over all major coastal defence works, both inside and outside the designated sites, as they could potentially affect the geological interest of the cliffs, the chalk reef and bird populations.
Building/survey issues not requiring planning permission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects exempt from planning permission which include noisy activities such as drilling test boreholes, sandblasting • Surveys linked to specific projects which do not require planning permission: eg. Topographical, Archaeological, Radar, Diving, Soil Surveys 	Inside the designated sites Consult Natural England for advice over any of the listed projects as they may affect bird populations, coastal grassland, geological features or chalk reefs/caves. Outside the designated sites Consult Natural England over any of the listed activities within 60m of a turnstone roost site UNLESS the activity can be planned to take place outside the period 1 st October to 31 st March (i.e. outside the wintering bird season).

APPENDIX 3: PLANNING ISSUES

Consult Natural England on ...

1. Proposals accompanied by an Environmental Statement
2. Proposals located within a designated or proposed SSSI, NNR, SPA, Ramsar Site or SAC.
3. Proposals within Consultations Areas around SSSIs /SPA/Ramsar Sites or near, but outside SSSI/SPA/Ramsar Site/SACs which involve one or more of the following (there may be indirect effects on nature conservation interests):
 - Discharges into water courses or into the ground.
 - Changes to hydrological regimes affecting grazing marsh areas, ponds, lakes or ground water.
 - Recreation/tourism.
 - Housing developments.
 - Road and other transport schemes.
 - New railway line proposals.
 - Airports and air fields.
 - New commercial/industrial sites.
 - Port and harbour developments.
 - Hoverport sites.
 - Applications under the EPA or applications likely to result in emissions to the air.
 - Noisy operations which may result in disturbance to birds.
 - Marinas.
 - Moorings/pontoons
 - Jetties
 - Renewable energy proposals particularly wind farms on bird migration routes.
 - Land claim/reclamation.
4. Coast and flood defence works.
5. Proposals affecting a building, other structure or trees used by bats.
5. Any barn or oast conversion whether listed or not (as it may be used by bats).

When consulting Natural England please include all information relating to the proposal.

Please discuss any concerns prior to going to Committee.

Encourage prospective developers to consult us early.

Please inform us of committee recommendations and decision and send a copy of any conditions.

