

## NORTH EAST KENT MARINE PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT SCHEME - ACTION PLAN 2019-2024

TYPE OF ACTION	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE ORGANISATION	APRIL 2020 UPDATE	APRIL 2021 UPDATE	APRIL 2022 UPDATE	APRIL 2023 UPDATE	APRIL 2024 UPDATE	Comments:	
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<b>General Activity Management (Shore, Water and Air Based Recreation)</b>									
Planning	<b>Coastal Codes:</b> 1. NEKSCAG/NEKMPA MG to review and update the set of Coastal Codes to reduce the level of potential impact/disturbance of recreational activities across the NEKMPA - with codes made more site specific for parts of the NEKMPA (eg Thanet-Sandwich Bay; & Herne Bay-Whitstable) and incorporating the protection of the newer MCZ designation features. 2. NEKMPA MG members to individually promote the Coastal Codes in their area and ensure links to incorporate the NEKMPA logo.	TDC / DDC							
	<b>Sandwich &amp; Pegwell Bay NNR Management:</b> The NNR Steering Group, led by KWT, to produce new NNR Management Plan, that this time incororates access and recreational management.	CCC							
	<b>Access Management and Monitoring:</b> Develop 5 year business plan as part of the strategic access management and monitoring strategy (SAMMS) for along the NEKMPA coastline to address increased recreational pressures and create new opportunities in the area. See SAMM section for actions.	KWT (/NNR)							
		CCC / TDC							
		DDC							
	<b>Bay Information Signs:</b> 1. Phased, gradual update and introduction of bay information signs including: maps, water quality (for main bathing bays), safety; and links to NEKMPA and Coastal Codes. 2. National Nature Reserve - signage review and implementation of signs (NNR Steering Group) led by KWT.	TDC							
		CCC							
		DDC							
	<b>England Coastal Path:</b> 1. Route and mitigation signage to be developed in partnership with NE, with route implemented by KCC. 2. Local Authorities to assist with developing any confirmed coastal access restriction and management measures.	KWT (/NNR)							
	<b>Access Management:</b> Apply management measures (at specific and relevant sites) identified from strategic access management and monitoring planning - and needs to work in	CCC							
	TDC / CCC								

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On ground	strategic access management and monitoring planning - and needs to work in conjunction with NEKMPA MG/AG & NNR	DDC						
<b>Shoreline Management</b>								
On ground	<b>East Kent Engineering Partnership</b> works (and link to Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan, 2008): Local authorities to provide an update for MG on the progress and implementation of works at MG meetings (Isle of Grain <i>eg: 2021: Dumpton capital maintenance (£410k); 2021-22: Westbrook-StMildreds(Etbc);</i>	CCC						
		TDC						
		DDC						
<b>Fishing and Harvesting</b>								
Planning and Management	<b>Review of the management of fisheries within the NEKMPA</b> (as part of Article 6 of the Habitats Regulations) in consultation with the NEKMPA MG - particularly where important milestones are met, decisions made or to obtain comments regarding any potential issues.	K&E IFCA						
	MG and GG to work with K&E IFCA to formulate appropriate management measures required for the MPA features.	K&E IFCA/MG/AG						
Monitoring and Management	<b>Shore based Harvesting:</b> 1. Coastal Wardens/ Guardians to keep a watching brief and collect data on shellfish harvesting - to be submitted to the K&E IFCA for monitoring and analysis. 2. All sightings data to be collated by all relevant authorities - and fed to K&E IFCA. 3. K&E IFCA to update AG & MG on reports, and help identify management for these shore based activities	CCC						
		TDC (/DDC)						
		K&E IFCA						
Awareness and Education	<b>Investigate Shellfish Harvesting Guide</b> for the NEKMPA sites, and link to Coastal Codes and sustainable collecting.	TDC (/DDC)						
		CCC						
		DDC						
	<b>Implement shellfish harvesting management measures:</b> Implement shore based harvesting measures identified to help make this activity sustainable and protect further shorlife at risk within the NEKMPA (with NE	TDC						
		CCC						

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On ground	sustainable and protect further shoreline at risk within the NEKMPA (with NE advice)	K&E IFCA						
<b>Ports, Harbours and Navigation</b>								
Planning	<b>Research required for protocol</b> at inside Neptune Arm, Herne Bay.	CCC						
Monitoring and On ground	<b>Ensure protocol for dredging at Ramsgate Harbour and inside Neptune Arm are implemented and followed</b> - and include monitoring, particularly of water injection dredging impacts on shellfish beds.	CCC TDC						
Managing, monitoring and On	<b>Managing navigation and signage</b> within the lower River Stour estuary to help reduce impact to wildlife of the MPA/NNR; and keeping record of issues and disturbances reported in.	SP&HC						
On ground	<b>Port and harbour environmental management related works</b> to reduce issues and impact on MPA designations	TDC						
<b>Research and Education</b>								
Research	<b>North East Kent Scientific Coastal Advisory Group (NEKSCAG or AG):</b> AG to hold regular meetings (2 to 4 times a year) to discuss issues related to the NEKMPA and provide advice to the MG to help inform management.	AG						
	<b>AG will identify priority areas of research</b> within the MPA and help promote these through student and volunteer research projects, preferably at the start of the academic year. This research will aim to inform the management, fill gaps in knowledge, and tackle issues or threats to the MPA e.g. invasive species.	AG						
	<b>Maintain a log of current research</b> within the NEKMPA to review and update on an annual basis.	AG						
	<b>Recreational Activity data for the NEKMPA:</b> 1. Activity survey data and bird disturbance to be collected by volunteer Coastal Wardens - with summaries reported to AG & MG on an annual basis (or as considered necessary). 2. SAMM activity surveys/disturbance (- see SAMM section) 3. Data collected on estimated numbers of people and activities from	TDC (TCP)/ CCC/ DDC TDC						

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Monitoring	Lifeguards/RNLI and Water Quality/EA (May-Sept); or other surveys - need to be collated to monitor visitor levels and associated human pressures/disturbance, and fed into the reports to the AG/MG.	CCC						
		DDC						
	4. AG will review the activity data and any issues to recommend appropriate action to the MG (helping inform management by identifying issues where measures may be required or addressed - such as revising the associated coastal code).	AG						
Education	<b>Awareness raising events:</b> To run events and activities to engage with local people and visitors and help raise awareness of the importance of the NEKMPA designation's wildlife and coastline.	TDC (TCP)						
		CCC						
		DDC						
		KWT (GOtD)						
		K&E IFCA						
<b>Water Quality</b>								
Monitoring	1. <b>Monitoring of Bathing Water quality</b> (EA) at designated bathing sites, and <b>pollution incidents</b> (SW; EA) across the NEKMPA	EA						
		SW						
Research / Management	2. <b>Joint investigation by EA and SW to assess water quality issues</b> across the NEKMPA - with key sites of concern at: Herne Bay Central, Margate, Walpole Bay and Viking Bay.	TDC/SW /EA						
		CCC/SW /EA						
		DDC/SW /EA						
On ground, Awareness and Education	3. <b>Bathing Water Steering Groups feedback into MPA features</b> and management, and identify <b>actions to be taken on improving sites of water quality concern</b> ; and for education as appropriate and required.	TDC/SW /EA						
		CCC/SW /EA						
		DDC/SW /EA						
<b>Species Management and Control</b>								

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Monitoring	<b>Non-native species survey:</b> update baseline survey to investigate spread of invasive species	NE - Volunteer led						
Management	<b>Non-native species management:</b> Use Non-native species survey (that identifies 5 species currently posing the greatest threat across the NEKMPA) to discuss and direct management measures to targetted locations for active management of invasive species: Pacific Oysters ( <i>Magallana gigas</i> ) and Wireweed ( <i>Sargassum muticum</i> ).	NE/AG/MG						
Monitoring	<b>Monitor the spread of Carpet Sea squirt</b> ( <i>Didemnum vexillum</i> ) across the NEKMPA, and follow up to discuss if any management measures are required.	NE/K&E IFCA						
Monitoring and On ground	<b>Continue to implement and monitor the agreed management measures for Pacific Oysters</b> within the NEKMPA with the help of volunteers /NEKMPA Coastal Wardens/Guardians	NE - Volunteer led						
Research and On ground	<b>Identify and trial control management measures to remove Wireweed</b> ( <i>Sargassum muticum</i> ) within identified sections of the NEKMPA with the help of volunteers/ NEKMPA Coastal Wardens/Guardians.	NE - Volunteer led						
Planning / On the ground	<b>Use of further management measures or controls</b> to help reduce disturbance/impact of recreational activities on designated NEKMPA species, by 1. Voluntary codes or guidelines eg Marine Wildlife Watching Code 2. New legislative controls using antisocial behaviour - eg PSPOs.	TDC						
		CCC						
		DDC						
On ground, Awareness and Education	<b>Seaweed management:</b> Environment Agency to advise Local Authorities on seaweed removal and use as fertiliser; and Natural England on promoting the importance of seaweed.	TDC/EA/NE						
		CCC/EA/NE						
<b>Extraction of Materials</b>								
Planning	<b>Establish local protocols for any removal:</b> 1. <b>Fossil Collecting Code</b> for the NEKMPA - incorporate within coastal codes. 2. <b>Investigate need to establish any local protocols for extraction of materials</b>	TDC						
		CCC						
		DDC						
<b>NEKMPA Designation Features</b>								

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Monitoring and research	<b>MPA feature monitoring:</b> Establish a monitoring programme for the NEKMPA - to incorporate all the SAC and SPA (EMS) and MCZ designation features - based upon prioritisation and desk-based condition assessments, funding and ongoing projects.	NE/ MG						
	<b>1. Intertidal SAC</b>	NE/ MG						
	<b>2. Subtidal SAC</b>	NE/ MG						
	<b>3. SPA Species a) Turnstone b) Golden Plover; plus other Coastal Waders (Ramsar/SSSI)</b>	NE/ MG						
	<b>4. MCZ features and species</b>	NE/ MG						
	<b>Shoresearch:</b> MCZ/SAC intertidal transect surveys and shorelife recording with the help of volunteers	KWT/ NE						
<b>NEKMPA</b>								
Planning	<b>NEKMPA communications:</b> 1. <b>Website platform</b> currently at: thanetcoast.org.uk / nekmpa.org.uk (TDC/TCP) 2. <b>Investigate future NEKMPA communications</b> (MG) 3. Establish mechanisms that Relevent Authorities will use in promoting the NEKMPA, such as social media outputs (ALL) 3. <b>Update NEKMPA summary leaflet</b> - when funding allows (MG)	MG / ALL						
Planning	<b>NEKMPA stakeholders:</b> Investigate scope to renew NEKMPA stakeholder representation into NEKMPA management - to help inform MG & AG, & how the MG will run it?	MG /AG						

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Planning and management	<p><b>Volunteers involvement: Coastal Warden/Guardian scheme</b></p> <p>1. <b>Coordination/promotion</b> to continue with TDC lead (TCP) along with wider coverage (started by Guardians of the Deep). The wardens will continue to be the local 'eyes and ears' of the NEKMPA and local champions to look after their local bays and help with voluntary action, observation, incident records and solving local issues.</p> <p>2. <b>A part-time NEKMPA Support Assistant</b> is dependent upon funding, to assist the coordination and running of the scheme.</p> <p>3. <b>Produce a revised leaflet for volunteer opportunities.</b></p>	TDC /TCP						
Management and On-ground	<p><b>Coastal Warden Scheme:</b></p> <p>1. <b>Training:</b> Plan and implement an annual training and events programme, including annual forum for feedback.</p> <p>2. <b>Surveys:</b> Incorporate ways to help improve the monitoring and recording of human activities - and wildlife disturbance records - on the coast</p> <p>3. <b>Reporting:</b> Incorporate mechanism for reporting of incidents (human and wildlife related) for the relevant authorities to enable rapid response.</p>	TDC /TCP						
Management	<p><b>Landowner/Manager responsibilities:</b></p> <p>At a national level, update the Thanet Coast SSSI Site Management Statements where applicable to the local authorities</p>	NE/TDC						
Management	<p><b>Local Plans:</b></p> <p>Local authorities to ensure protection and mitigation measures within plans,</p>	NE/CCC						
Management		TDC						
Management		CCC						
Management		DDC						
<b>Management Group (MG) Responsibilities</b>								
Planning and Review	<p><b>MG Representation:</b></p> <p>RAs to report to MG (two meetings per year) on work relating to MPA management, compliance/condition monitoring and updates on the Action Plan.</p>	MG						
Planning and Review	<p><b>MG to feed into the Conservation Advice packages</b> and provide comments</p>	ALL						
Planning and Review	<p><b>Assess current NEKMPA management scheme effectiveness</b>, based upon the WWF World Score Card previously used, and discuss and find a way to improve upon management of the NEKMPA</p>	MG						

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Planning and Review	<b>Investigate how to undertake a complete review and update of the Management Scheme</b> as the plans have now covered the period from 2001 to 2024 (including this action plan)	MG						
<b>SAMMS (Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA)</b>								
Awareness and On-Ground	<b>Public engagement and education</b> 1. Interpretation programme with new signage 2. Website, leaflets and social media 3. Interpretive display at focal points, plus mobile displays 4. Work to amend/extend existing Dog PSPO sites and new signage	CCC/TDC (/DDC)						
Management	<b>Staffing</b> 1. One full-time manager 2. Two seasonal winter engagement officers, with project van	CCC/TDC (/DDC)						
Monitoring	<b>Monitoring</b> 1. Annual Turnstone and coastal bird surveys 2. Visitor surveys 3. Disturbance surveys 4. Coastal user behaviour and other surveys	CCC/TDC (/DDC)						
Awareness and On-Ground	<b>Project work</b> 1. Volunteers scheme 2. Schools programme 3. Savvy Sea Dogs 4. Path and new dog park project work	CCC/TDC (/DDC)						
Monitoring and Management	<b>SAMM - Dover</b>	DDC						
<b>Acronym Key:</b>		<b>Progress Colour Key:</b>						
AG = NEKSCAG – North East Kent Scientific Coastal Advisory Group			Completed					

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	CCC = Canterbury City Council		In progress / On-going					
	DDC = Dover District Council		Needs completing					
	EA = Environment Agency		N/A					
	K&E IFCA = Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority		Issue: see comments					
	KWT = Kent Wildlife Trust (co-opted)							
	MCZ = Marine Conservation Zone		SAC = Special Area of Conservation					
	MG = NEKMPA Management Group		SAMM = Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM)					
	NE = Natural England		SPA = Special Protection Area					
	NEKEMS = North East Kent European Marine Site		SSSI = Site of Special Scientific Interest					
	NEKMPA = North East Kent Marine Protected Areas		SW = Southern Water					
	NNR = National Nature Reserve (Sandwich & Pegwell Bay NNR)		TCP = Thanet Coast Project					
	RA = Relevant Authority (on the MG)		TDC = Thanet District Council					