Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA

**Description:**

Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) is a 18.8 km² site located at the north-eastern tip of Kent in southern England. It is a coastal site consisting of a long stretch of rocky shore, adjoining areas of estuary, sand dune, maritime grassland, saltmarsh and grazing marsh. The site holds important numbers of turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) and is also used by large numbers of migratory birds as they make landfall in Britain in spring or depart for continental Europe in autumn.

**Qualifying Features:**

This site supports populations turnstone.

**Management:**

The Thanet Coast (North East Kent Marine Protected Area) has a number of [Coastal Codes](#) to help manage non-licensable activities. These include:

- Bait Digging & Collecting Code
- Seashore Code
- Dog Walking Code
- Field Trip Code
- Horse Riding Code
- Marine Wildlife Watching Code
- Powercraft Activities Code
- Shellfish Harvesting and Fixed Netting Code
- Shore Angling Code
- Wind powered activities
- Seaweed Harvesting Code

**Stakeholder Concerns:**

Kite surfing, uncontrolled powered flying touring the coast, and illegal vehicle access along this SPA have been highlighted as causing a disturbance to turnstone. The main cause of disturbance to the population of turnstone relates to recreational activities along the shoreline and in particular, dogs off leads.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>Intensity</th>
<th>Confidence</th>
<th>MPA Extent</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board sports</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor boating</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>➔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jetskis</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>➔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paddle sports</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>➔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parascending</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>H</td>
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<td>↑</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sailing (non-motorised)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>➔</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCUBA diving</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>➔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming / Snorkelling</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Towed water sports</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildlife watching from the sea</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>➔</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bait collection</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beach recreation</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coasteering</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land boarding</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>↓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildlife watching from the land</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drone use</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gliding (unpowered)</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>➔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft (powered)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**KEY**

- **FREQUENCY**
  - 4 Regular/daily
  - 3 Regular/weekends
  - 2 Seasonally
  - 1 Sporadically
  - 0 Does not occur
  - ? Data missing

- **DURATION**
  - 4 >8 hours
  - 3 4-8 hours
  - 2 2-4 hours
  - 1 <2 hours
  - 0 Does not occur
  - ? Data missing

- **PARTICIPATION**
  - 6 >100
  - 5 51-100
  - 4 21-50
  - 3 11-20
  - 2 6-10
  - 1 1-5
  - 0 Does not occur
  - ? Data missing

- **INTENSITY**
  - 45-96 high
  - 24-40 Med-high
  - 9-20 Low-med
  - 1-8 Low
  - 0 Does not occur
  - ? Data missing

- **CONFIDENCE**
  - H High
  - M Medium
  - L Low
  - ? Data missing

- **MPA Extent**
  - Whole MPA (solid)
  - Part of MPA (shaded)
  - Does not occur

- **TREND**
  - Increase
  - Stay the same
  - Decrease

- **NOTES**
  - Does not occur
  - Data missing