

www.gov.uk/natural-england

NATURAL
ENGLAND

Coastal Access

Ramsgate to Whitstable

Access and Sensitive Features Appraisal



Programme	Coastal Access
Proposal title	Ramsgate to Whitstable
Aim and location	To assess coastal access proposals against sensitive features contained with the sites given below
Report Status	Final
Date	12 March 2015
TRIM reference	
Access Case Officer	Tom Lord, Natural England
Site Responsible Officer	Phil Williams, Natural England

Contents

Page

Tankerton Slopes SSSI and Tankerton and Swalecliffe Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

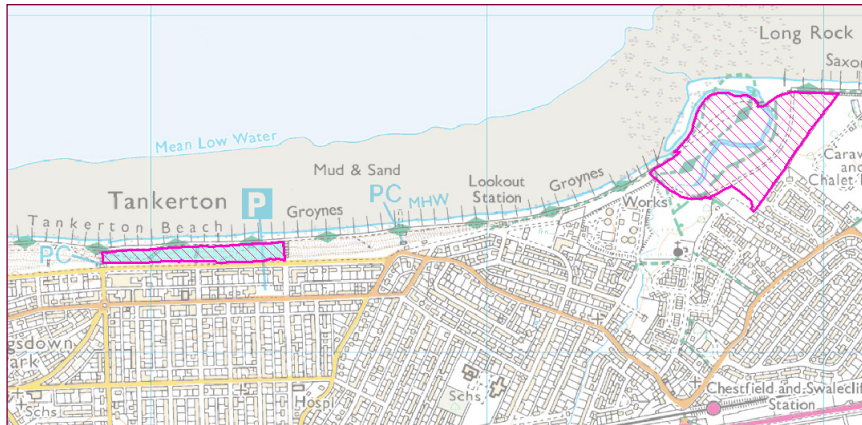
- Section 1 - Site Maps and Overview of Proposal 3
- Section 2 – Predicted Change in Public Use of the Area 3
- Section 3 - Potential Impact on Features from New Access Proposal 4
- Section 4 – Final Conclusions 5
 - Section 4a – European Site 5
 - Section 4b – SSSI 7
 - Section 4c - Other features about which concerns have been expressed 7

Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA/Ramsar and Thanet Coast SSSI

- Section 1 - Site Maps and Overview of Proposal 8
- Section 2 – Predicted Change in Public Use of the Area 10
- Section 3 - Potential Impact on Features from New Access Proposal 12
- Section 4 – Final Conclusions 13
 - Section 4a – European Site 13
 - Section 4b – SSSI 14
 - Section 4c - Other features about which concerns have been expressed 15

Tankerton Slopes SSSI and Tankerton and Swalecliffe Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Section 1: SITE MAPS AND OVERVIEW OF NEW ACCESS PROPOSAL



Proposed new access provisions

Access to be provided along the seaward side (foot of slope) of the Tankerton Slopes SSSI and the Tankerton Slopes and Swalecliffe SAC in location A. The area is currently well accessed with both the Oyster Bay Trail walking route and a Regional Cycle Route through and alongside the sites.

Access to be provided along the seaward and landward side of Swalecliffe SAC in location B, meaning the main body of the site will be included within seaward or landward spreading room. The area is currently well accessed with both the Oyster Bay Trail walking route and a Regional Cycle Route through and alongside the sites.

No establishment work will be required on the designated sites. Replacement of signs will be required, using the National Trail Acorn symbol in prominent places. Particular attention will be given to ensuring walkers keep to surfaced path, through area B.

No restrictions will be required at site A as the site characteristic (steep) mean that people are very unlikely to leave the trail to use the spreading landward of the trail.

No restrictions will be required at site B as the site characteristic (marshy, thick vegetation, shingle, cut off by tides) mean that people are very unlikely to leave the trail to use the seaward or landward spreading room.

Section 2: PREDICTED CHANGE IN PUBLIC USE OF AREA

How do visitors already use the site?


- Promoted routes in place – Oyster Bay Trail walking route and the Regional Cycle Route
- Walking and cycling takes place on site along specific managed routes
- Recreational use of the site is limited to that on foot and on cycles along established routes. Walkers and dog walkers use both sites largely on established routes.
- Site B attracts bird watchers to view the high tide roost and occasional breeding waders (Ringed plover).

How is the new access proposal likely to affect use of this site by the public?

- It is unlikely that there will be an increase in frequency of use, relative to the existing use of the site, will occur as a result of the establishment of the new national trail.
- The terrain of the site A is steep and unwelcoming off the trail surface. Encroachment is unlikely to be an issue landward of the trail.
- The terrain of the site (B) is more accessible and is popular with walkers and dog walkers currently.

This forms part of the Thanet Coast SSSI and the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA / Ramsar (see separate form).

Access case officer

Signed: 	Name: T Lord	Date: 30/10/2014
---	--------------	------------------

Section 3: POTENTIAL IMPACT ON FEATURES FROM NEW ACCESS PROPOSAL

Designated site name(s):

Tankerton Slopes and Swalecliffe SAC

Tankerton Slopes SSSI

	SPA	p/SPA	SAC	p/SAC	Ramsar	p/Ramsar	SSSI
Designation types present (show boundaries on map)			X				X

Potential concern about new access proposal (summary)

Concerns arise from potential trampling of plants, in particular Hogs Fennel which supports Fishers Estuarine Moth (SAC feature).

Concerns about existing public use and action already taken to address this (summary)




A review of signage and other measures as part of a wider access management package for this area of coast (Thanet Coast project) needs to be undertaken to ensure the small increase in visitors as a result of new access proposal does not significantly add to the disturbance pressure on this species.

Key sensitive features relevant to site (detail)

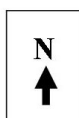
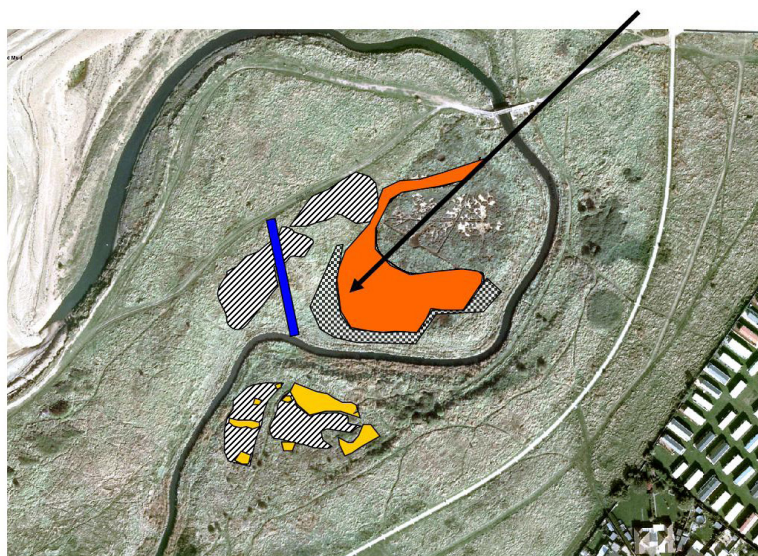
Feature	Any potential sensitivity to visitors	Any likely impact
Tankerton Slopes and Swalecliffe SAC Fishers Estuarine Moth & Hogs Fennel	<p>Hogs Fennel occurs on the steep slope at Tankerton. The distribution of Hogs Fennel at Swalecliffe has been mapped (at least partially) and shown on the map below.</p> <p>Hog's Fennel would be sensitive to trampling by people and dogs although there is no evidence currently of any significance impact from visitors.</p>	<p>At Tankerton Slopes visitors tend to keep to the designated paths at present, due to the dense vegetation and uneven surface on the slope. No likely impact is envisaged.</p> <p>At Swalecliffe, the site is flat and visitors will be more likely to walk off paths into areas with Hog's Fennel. The expected increase in visitors relative to the numbers already visiting the site is small and provided measures are put in place to encourage visitors to keep to designated paths no likely impact is envisaged.</p>
Tankerton Slopes SSSI Hogs Fennel (Nationally scarce plant)	<p>See assessment above.</p>	

Note: If the table suggests unacceptable residual impacts on the features in question, the norm is to repeat the earlier process of consideration, and complete when ready a further version of the template. But if at this point the access case officer and responsible officer cannot agree whether the access proposal adequately addresses the potential sensitivities, the case should be referred to the Access and Nature Conservation Review Panel.

Survey of Hog's Fennel (*Peucedanum officinale*) as of 06/05/2011 at Longrock SSSI

Areas of existing Hog Fennel 
Areas of scrub near to plants 
Existing track way in use 

Proposed scrape and bund



Section 4: FINAL CONCLUSIONS

This final stage should only be completed after the access case officer and responsible officer have reached agreement, or following escalation to the access and nature conservation review panel

4A: FINAL CONCLUSION - EUROPEAN SITE

Screening for Likely Significant Effect under Habitats Regulations – alone

In relation to the new access proposal detailed in sections 1 and 2, taken alone, Natural England has concluded on the best available evidence and information that:

- A. **It can be excluded that the new access proposal, taken alone, will have any effect** on any of the features listed in section 3 above for which the European site has been designated or classified, for the following reasons:
- B. While it cannot be excluded that the new access proposal taken alone will have an effect, **it is not considered that the effect is likely to be significant**, for the following reasons:
- C. **It cannot be excluded that the new access proposal, taken alone, will have a significant effect** on the following feature(s) for which the European site has been designated or classified, for the following reasons:

Screening for Likely Significant Effect under Habitats Regulations – in combination

Other relevant plan or project	Is each other plan or project clear and specific enough for a judgement to be made at this stage about the probability or risk of its having any similar effect on the features in question?	Where the answer in Column 2 is Yes, what effect is it considered the other plan or project is likely to have in its own right on the features in question? Enter <u>one</u> of the following values, with brief reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No effect ■ A non-significant effect ■ A significant effect Where the answer in Column 2 is No, enter “Not applicable” in this column.
Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan 2008	Yes	A significant effect. Ongoing project, assessed through an appropriate assessment in 2008 with no adverse effect on integrity of SAC.
Thanet District Council Housing allocations (Local plan currently in draft) and current planning applications.	Yes	A significant effect (all housing in Thanet is considered part of an agreed strategic solution scheme, to mitigate effects on the Thanet Coast SPA).
Canterbury City Council Housing allocations (Local plan currently in draft) and current planning applications.	Yes	A significant effect (all housing applications in Canterbury City Council area are on hold until the strategic solution scheme is agreed to mitigate effects on the Thanet Coast SPA). The Local Plan and housing applications are all considered LSE.

Conclusions of screening in combination

Having considered the best available evidence and information on any other qualifying plans or projects that might operate in combination with the new access proposal detailed in sections 1 and 2, Natural England has concluded that it can be excluded that the new access proposal, in combination with any such qualifying plans or projects, will have a significant effect on any of the features for which the European site has been designated or classified, for the following reasons:

The coastal access proposal contains access measures (as highlighted on page 1), and as a result is not likely to have a significant effect on the special features of the SAC (hog’s fennel and fishers estuarine moth). The measures should benefit the special feature of the SAC in promoting use of the surfaced cycle track as a route through the SAC. This is considered to be sufficient to mitigate any unexpected, minor changes arising from the introduction of coastal access.

Local authorities in the area have developed strategic solutions to ensure that their housing allocations (which would otherwise have a likely significant effect) also have no likely significant effect on the SPA – which would also address any potential concerns over the SAC.

There are therefore no in-combination effects to be considered.

Overall Screening Decision for European site/features

Accordingly, taking into account the preceding screening both alone and, where appropriate, in combination, Natural England has concluded:

No likely significant effect – the new access proposal may proceed as finally specified, subject to any separate considerations in relation to SSSI features etc (see below);

OR

Likely significant effect - appropriate assessment is required to consider whether the new access proposal may proceed.

PART 4B: FINAL CONCLUSION – SSSI

Conclusion

In the light of the analysis in section 3, Natural England has concluded that the new access proposal detailed in sections 1 and 2:

complies with NE's duty to further the conservation and enhancement of the notified features of the SSSI, consistent with the proper exercise of its functions¹ - and accordingly the new access proposal may proceed as finally specified in this template

OR

would not comply with the duty referred to in (a) – and accordingly permission/ authorisation/ assent for the new proposal should not be given, for the following reasons:

PART 4C: FINAL CONCLUSION - Other features about which concerns have been expressed

Conclusion

In the light of the analysis in section 3, Natural England has concluded that:

the appropriate balance has been struck by the new access proposal between NE's conservation and access objectives, duties and purposes - and accordingly the new access proposal should proceed as finally specified in this template

OR

the appropriate balance referred to above has not been struck – and accordingly the new access proposal should not proceed in the form specified in this template, for the following reasons:

SIGNATURE COVERING THE WHOLE OF PART 4:

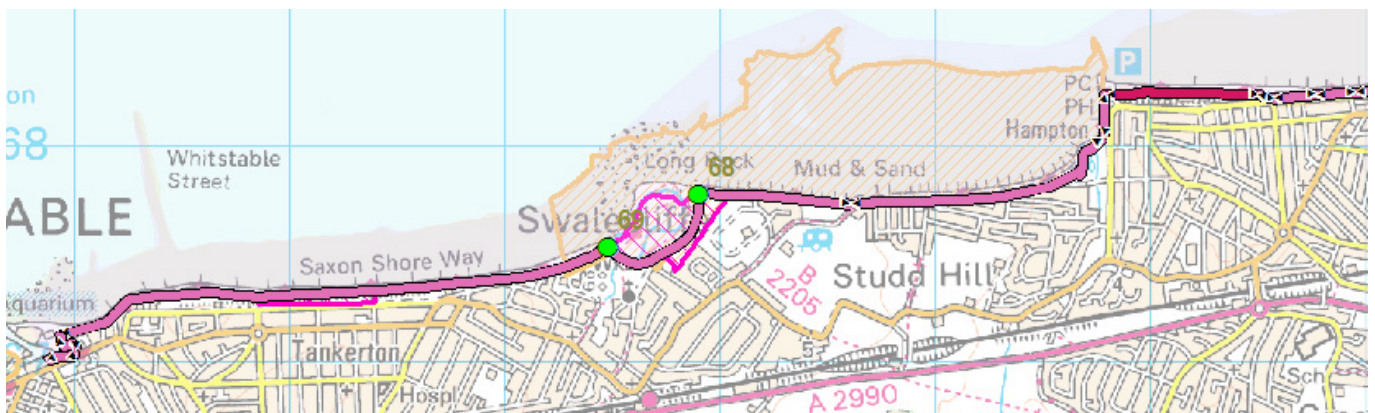
Responsible officer		
Name: Phil Williams		Date: 02/03/15
	Signed:	

¹ The reference in (a) above to Natural England's functions includes its balanced general purposes under the NERC Act 2006, any specific statutory duties it may have to deliver specific improvements to public access, and the access-related policies and priorities it has agreed with Defra.

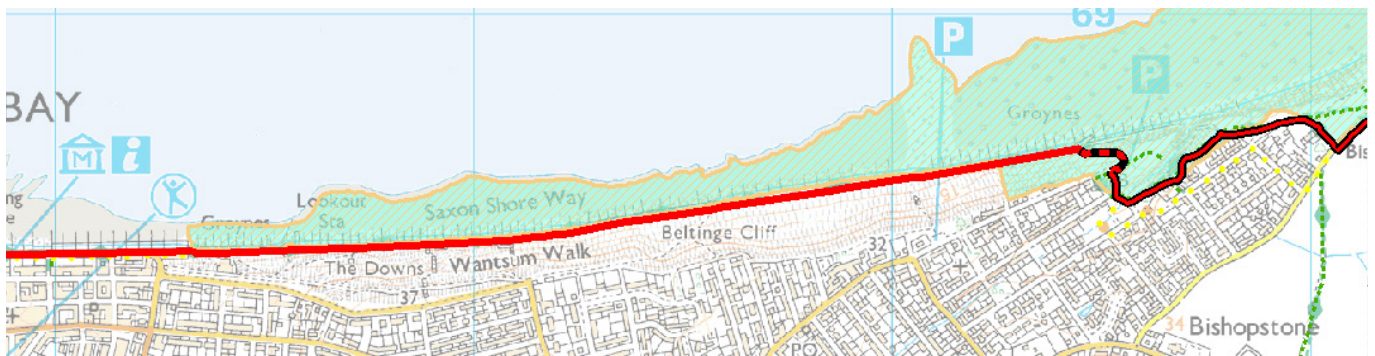
Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA/Ramsar and Thanet Coast SSSI

Section 1: SITE MAP(S) AND OVERVIEW OF NEW ACCESS PROPOSAL/ CONSIDERATION

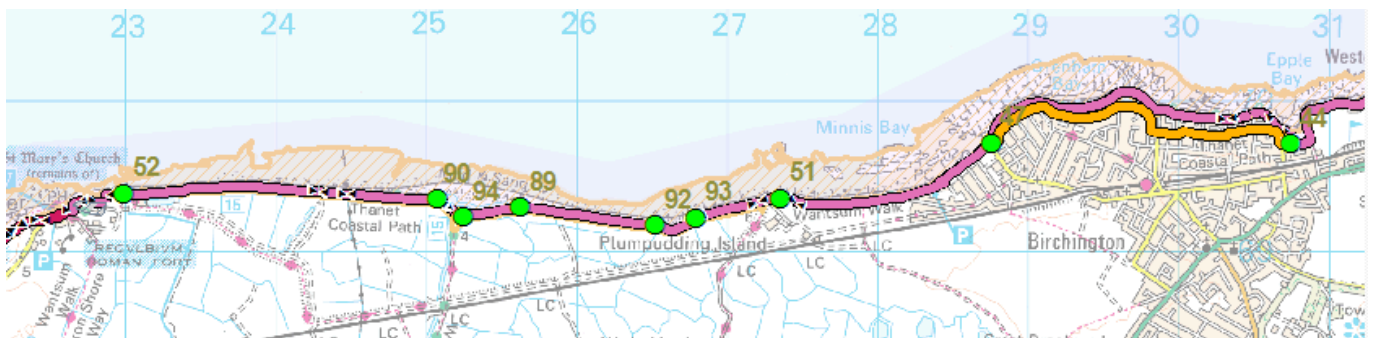
A - Swalecliffe to Hampton – sea level on promenade



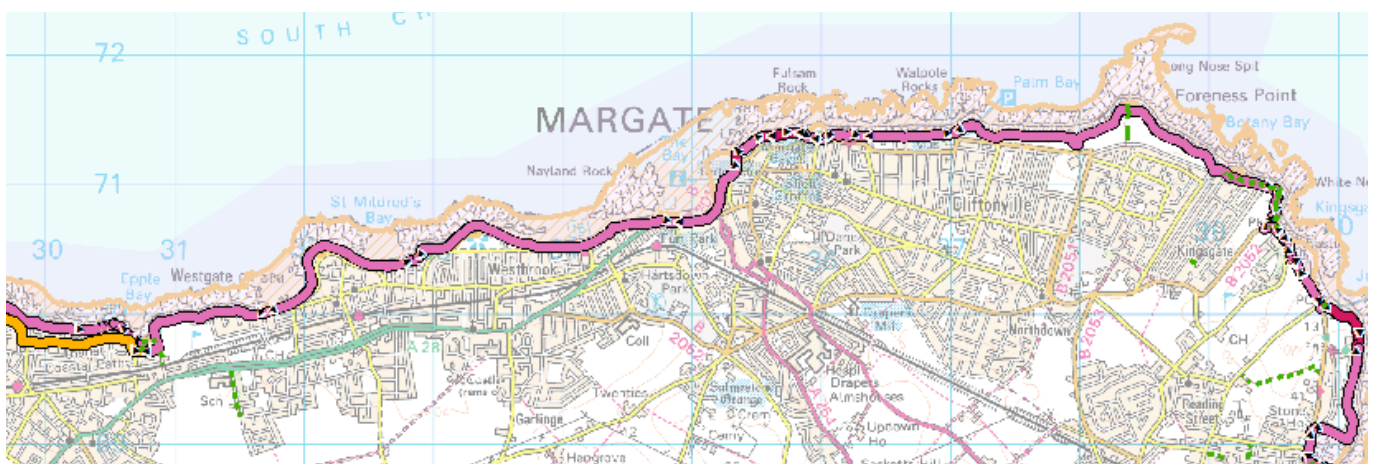
B - Herne Bay to Bishopstone inc. Beltinge Cliff – sea level on promenade



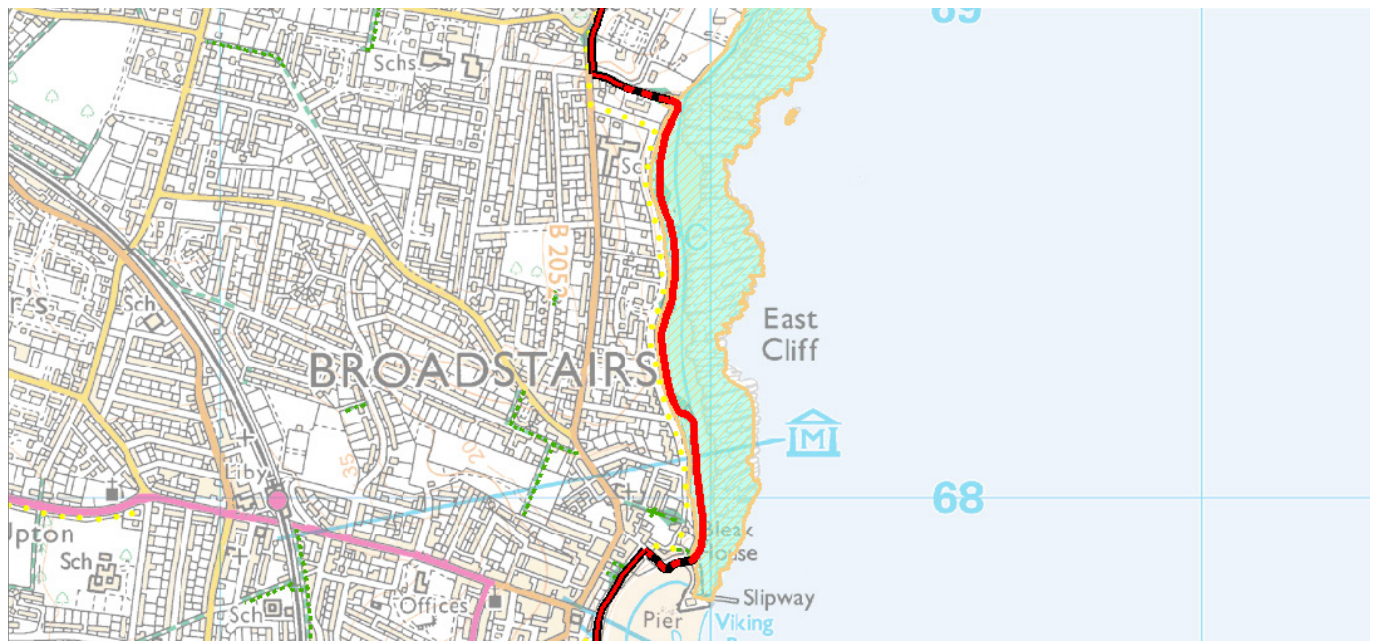
C - Reculver to Epple Bay inc. Plum Pudding – sea level on sea defence and promenade to west side of Epple Bay



D - Westgate on Sea to North Foreland – sea level on promenade/harbourside btw Westgate and Margate



E – North Broadstairs/East Cliff – sea level on promenade



Proposed new access provisions

NB. Maps A to E above show where the proposed trail will run at sea level. Other parts of the proposed route have been omitted as they are at cliff top level, away from potentially sensitive areas. Seaward spreading room will cover the entire stretch from the trail to Mean Low Water whether access is possible directly from the trail or not e.g. steep cliff prevents access.

Proposed alignment of the England Coast Path.

26km of the total length of coast between Whitstable and Ramsgate (41km) is within or adjacent to the SPA or SSSI. The new England Coast Path is aligned on cliff top level for a large proportion – 13km (50%) of the coast within or adjacent to the designated sites.

- The promoted recreational routes of Oyster Bay Trail walking route, the Thanet Coast Path and the Viking Coast Trail Regional Cycle Route are adopted as part of the England Coast Path. These comprise a total of 26km of established trails directly adjacent to the coast (at sea level) approximately half of which (13km) is within or adjacent to SPA / SSSI.
- Alignment around, rather than across the Swalecliffe Nature Reserve on the existing regional promoted path (map A).
- Alignment to avoid the Epple Bay roost (map C).
- There are no new stretches of trail directly alongside the coast and the existing trails are of a high quality
- No establishment works are planned for the path where it is close to the coast other than some replacement of signage and a small stretch of fencing at the Northern Sea Wall
- Some scrub/tree removal is planned for an inland section alongside a Local Wildlife Site at Kingsgate (TH09 Golf Course Roughs, Kingsgate). The proposals in this area have been approved by Kent Wildlife Trust, Feb 2015.

Proposed boundary of the Coastal Margin

- All land seawards of the trail will form part of the coastal margin, securing existing use of these areas by the public
- In addition some parcels of existing recreation land will be included in the Landward Coastal margin.

The following access management and mitigation measures will be implemented as part of these proposals to reduce the risk of disturbance at key locations known to be used as roost sites by overwintering turnstone:

- 1) Increase in provision of prominently visible Thanet Coast Project signs about turnstone roosts – on new ECP infrastructure eg sign posts (where installed close to known roost sites).
- 2) Larger 'request' signs at main access entrance points to key areas informing people of location of turnstone roosts and need for dog control and avoidance of shingle roost habitat during winter months:
 - Swalecliffe (x2 boards, see Map A: 68 & 69)
 - Northern Sea Wall (Reculver and Plum Pudding ends, see Map C: 51 & 52)
- 3) Larger interpretation panel to explain interests features (and vulnerabilities)
 - Entrance point to Northern Sea Wall from Wansum Walk (to inform long distance coast walkers and local walkers) Map C: 94
- 4) Provision of new chestnut fencing across main access point to wide shingle bank, at Coldharbour, on Northern Sea Wall (see Map C: 89), to deter access at this point.
- 5) Provision of further new signage alongside the EA entrance point to wide shingle bank at points 92 & 93, Northern Sea Wall – to deter entrance to this area.

Management of the measures identified will, if necessary, be undertaken as part of the maintenance of the National Trail by the Access Authority.

Information from the access authority and from local coastal wardens will inform the success of measures. If information suggests that Coastal Access rights are unexpectedly resulting in more use of the shingle roosts landward of the trail, compared with the position before commencement of the rights, further management measures could be explored in discussion with Natural England and the affected land owners/managers.

The future aspiration to fence off and possibly restrict, via a direction, the shingle area at Plum Pudding has been noted. Although outside of the scope of this Coastal Access proposal appraisal, fencing could be investigated in future to reduce disturbance to key turnstone roosts.

Section 2: PREDICTED CHANGE IN PUBLIC USE OF AREA

[For completion only if the Responsible Officer has initial concerns about the potential impact of the new access proposal on our conservation objectives]

How do visitors already use the site?

- Existing promoted paths: Viking Coastal Trail & Oyster Bay Trail cyclepaths follow the entire 41km of coastline alongside the Saxon Shore Way, Thanet Coastal Path, Wansum Way regionally promoted walking trail. These routes are all heavily promoted by Thanet and Canterbury District councils, KCC and Tourist offices (web & leaflets) and very well used (100k plus on VCT only). The trails run close to the sea or on top of the cliffs.
- KCC indicate that in 2003 that the annual figure for cyclists alone at Westgate was 39,616. Even using those 2003 estimated use for walkers and cyclists would be above the 100,000 mark. Footfall along this stretch of coast is continuous, to such a degree that in the summer, the paths around the beaches would be at capacity. Given the established and popular tourism offer of the Thanet Coastline, KCC would expect the Coastal Access route to have no impact on numbers in this particular location (Colin Finch KCC)
- Existing facilities for visitors: cafes, urban areas and interpretation centres (Reculver) are present along the existing promoted routes.
- Any external promotion of site: Coastal trails are promoted by Thanet and Canterbury District councils and KCC etc.

- Access points to the site and any car parking capacity. Eg Northern Sea Wall has car parks at each end – but access is by foot or bike. Otherwise the stretch is largely urbanised and people park locally to access the coast and existing promoted trails.
- Activities already undertaken by visitors to the site: e.g. on Northern Sea Wall – as well as the use of the Wansum Way, and Viking Coastal Trail & public right of way along the sea wall route, local dog walkers use the land behind and along the wall, and also the shingle beach & sand flats. Other users include: bird watchers, fisherman and occasionally wildfowlers. Bishopstone Glen LNR is currently successfully managed for both access and wildlife. The nature of access is unlikely to change as a result of the new rights.
- Popularity of the site for such uses: KCC numbers indicate 100,000 people use the VCT every year. KCAF indicates (pers comm) that dog walkers use circular routes through adjacent farmland and along shingle for dog walking.
- The nature and pattern of visit eg Northern Sea Wall: long distance of low-lying shingle edged path with limited attractors to bring people off the wall. The wider areas of shingle and lagoons might offer some variation in feature on the 5.5km long hike between Reculver (cultural interest) and Birchington facilities (pub etc).

How is the new access proposal likely to affect use of this site by the public?

Use of the trail and associated coastal margin is unlikely to change as a result of our proposals because the route is already of high quality and widely promoted. We expect that the proposed mitigation measures will have a local effect in reducing the amount of disturbance at key locations in the coastal margin alongside the trail.

Key area = Northern Sea Wall:

- Are more visitors to the site likely to result, e.g. through local displacement from other sites?
- We are unlikely to see an increase in long-distance walkers using the new National Trail. The proposed improvements to signage and interpretation will raise awareness of new visitors and benefit the SPA by changing behaviour of walkers and reducing disturbing activities in the vicinity of roost areas during winter months..
- Are there places on the land that will be newly accessible to the public that are likely to attract new visitors to the site e.g. viewpoint, waterfall, ruins etc?

De-facto access across the shingle already exists, with no known exclusions / controls along the NSW to keep people away from key winter roost sites. The new fencing and signs (as part of the proposal) at all entrances to the Northern Sea Wall and at the wider shingle areas along the NSW will provide new information to walkers and cyclists on the sea wall. Physical barriers and signs should reduce future circumstances of people wandering off the path in the winter months (including local dog walkers as well as long distance walkers). We do not expect any new desire lines to develop in the vicinity of the North Sea Wall.

Access case officer

Signed:		Name: Tom Lord	Date: 27/02/2015
---------	---	----------------	------------------

Section 3: POTENTIAL IMPACT ON FEATURES FROM NEW ACCESS PROPOSAL

Designated site name(s):

Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA/Ramsar

Thanet Coast SSSI

	SPA	p/SPA	SAC	p/SAC	Ramsar	p/Ramsar	SSSI
Designation types present (show boundaries on map)	X				X		X

Potential concern about new access proposal (summary)

Concerns arise from potential disturbance to aggregations of non-breeding birds including Turnstone and Ringed Plover (the latter also a breeding species).

Concerns about existing public use and action already taken to address this (summary)

Concern regarding disturbance to overwintering turnstone from existing public use has increased given apparent 50% decline in Turnstone numbers in the last two years. The long-running Thanet Coast Project has established codes of conduct and raised awareness of roosting sites. Thanet Coast Project has put small stickers along the route which indicate that people should let birds rest in peace on their roost sites. Larger interpretation boards are in key interest sites – explaining the interest and other community programmes are in place to influence recreational use along the Thanet coastline. A review of signage and other measures as part of a wider access management package for this area of coast needs to be undertaken to ensure any small increase in visitors as a result of new access proposal does not significantly add to the disturbance pressure on the relevant species.

Key sensitive features relevant to site (detail)

Feature	Any potential sensitivity to visitors	Any likely impact
Thanet Coast SSSI		
Outstanding assemblage of vascular plant species.	Plants are sensitive to trampling by people and dogs although there is no evidence currently of any significance impact from visitors.	The expected increase in visitors relative to the numbers already visiting the site is small and provided measures are put in place to encourage visitors to keep to designated paths no likely impact is envisaged.
Aggregation of Non-Breeding Birds including Sanderling, Turnstone, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover.	These birds are susceptible to disturbance particularly by walkers with dogs off leads.	
Non-SSSI feature: breeding Ringed Plover on shingle foreshore.	Ringed Plovers nesting on the shingle beach are susceptible to disturbance particularly by walkers and walkers with dogs off leads.	Improved signage in appropriate locations would help protect breeding plovers from accidental disturbance.
Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA and Ramsar		
Overwintering	These birds are susceptible to disturbance particularly by walkers with dogs off leads.	The expected increase in visitors relative to the numbers already visiting the site is small and provided measures are put in place to (a) encourage visitors to keep to designated paths (b) keep dogs under close control and (c) respect high-tide roosting sites no likely impact is envisaged.
Turnstones		

Note: If the table suggests unacceptable residual impacts on the features in question, the norm is to repeat the earlier process of consideration, and complete when ready a further version of the template. But if at this point the access case officer and responsible officer cannot agree whether the access proposal adequately addresses the potential sensitivities, the case should be referred to the Access and Nature Conservation Review Panel.

Section 4: FINAL CONCLUSIONS

This final stage should only be completed after the access case officer and responsible officer have reached agreement, or following escalation to the access and nature conservation review panel

4A: FINAL CONCLUSION - EUROPEAN SITE

Screening for Likely Significant Effect under Habitats Regulations – alone

In relation to the new access proposal detailed in sections 1 and 2, taken alone, Natural England has concluded on the best available evidence and information that:

Use of the trail and associated coastline by the public is unlikely to change as a result of these proposals. Including the proposed mitigation measures these proposals are likely to slightly reduce disturbance at key roost site locations used by overwintering turnstone.

- A. **It can be excluded that the new access proposal, taken alone, will have any effect** on any of the features listed in section 3 above for which the European site has been designated or classified, for the following reasons:
- B. While it cannot be excluded that the new access proposal taken alone will have an effect, **it is not considered that the effect is likely to be significant**, for the following reasons:
- C. **It cannot be excluded that the new access proposal, taken alone, will have a significant effect** on the following feature(s) for which the European site has been designated or classified, for the following reasons:

Screening for Likely Significant Effect under Habitats Regulations – in combination

Other relevant plan or project	Is each other plan or project clear and specific enough for a judgement to be made at this stage about the probability or risk of its having any similar effect on the features in question?	Where the answer in Column 2 is Yes, what effect is it considered the other plan or project is likely to have in its own right on the features in question? Enter <u>one</u> of the following values, with brief reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No effect ■ A non-significant effect ■ A significant effect Where the answer in Column 2 is No, enter "Not applicable" in this column.
Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan 2008	Yes	A significant effect. Ongoing project, assessed through an appropriate assessment in 2008 with no adverse effect on integrity of SPA.
Thanet District Council Housing allocations (Local plan currently in draft) and current planning applications.	Yes	A significant effect (all housing in Thanet is considered part of an agreed strategic solution scheme, to mitigate effects on the Thanet Coast SPA).
Canterbury City Council Housing allocations (Local plan currently in draft) and current planning applications.	Yes	A significant effect (all housing applications in Canterbury City Council area are on hold until the strategic solution scheme is agreed to mitigate effects on the Thanet Coast SPA). The Local Plan and housing applications are all considered LSE.

Conclusions of screening in combination

Having considered the best available evidence and information on any other qualifying plans or projects that might operate in combination with the new access proposal detailed in sections 1 and 2, Natural England has concluded that it can be excluded that the new access proposal, in combination with any such qualifying plans or projects, will have a significant effect on any of the features for which the European site has been designated or classified, for the following reasons:

The proposal contains access management and alignment measures, as detailed on page 1, and as a result is not likely to have a significant effect on the special features of the SPA (wintering turnstone). The measures should benefit the special feature & are sufficient to mitigate any unexpected, minor changes in access levels arising from the introduction of coast access.

Local authorities in the area have developed strategic solutions to ensure that their housing allocations (which would otherwise have a likely significant effect) also have no likely significant effect on this SPA.

There are therefore no in-combination effects to be considered.

Overall Screening Decision for European site/features

Accordingly, taking into account the preceding screening both alone and, where appropriate, in combination, Natural England has concluded:

- No likely significant effect** – the new access proposal may proceed as finally specified, subject to any separate considerations in relation to SSSI features etc (see below);
OR
- Likely significant effect** - appropriate assessment is required to consider whether the new access proposal may proceed.

PART 4B: FINAL CONCLUSION – SSSI

Conclusion

In the light of the analysis in section 3, Natural England has concluded that the new access proposal detailed in sections 1 and 2:

- complies with NE's duty to further the conservation and enhancement of the notified features of the SSSI, consistent with the proper exercise of its functions² - and accordingly the new access proposal may proceed as finally specified in this template
OR
- would not comply with the duty referred to in (a) – and accordingly permission/ authorisation/ assent for the new proposal should not be given, for the following reasons:

The proposal contains access management measures that should benefit the interest features of the SSSI and are considered to be sufficient to mitigate any unexpected, minor changes arising from the introduction of coast access.

² The reference in (a) above to Natural England's functions includes its balanced general purposes under the NERC Act 2006, any specific statutory duties it may have to deliver specific improvements to public access, and the access-related policies and priorities it has agreed with Defra.

PART 4C: FINAL CONCLUSION - Other features about which concerns have been expressed

Conclusion

In the light of the analysis in section 3, Natural England has concluded that:

the appropriate balance has been struck by the new access proposal between NE's conservation and access objectives, duties and purposes - and accordingly the new access proposal should proceed as finally specified in this template

OR

the appropriate balance referred to above has not been struck – and accordingly the new access proposal should not proceed in the form specified in this template, for the following reasons:

SIGNATURE COVERING THE WHOLE OF PART 4:

Responsible officer		
Name: Phil Williams		Date: 02/03/15
	Signed:	

Enquiries about the proposals should be addressed to:

England Coast Path Delivery Team (South East)

Natural England

Area 1C, Nobel House,
17 Smith Square,
London SW1P 3JR

Telephone: 0300 060 0797

Email: southeastcoastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk



Natural England is here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

ISBN: 978-78367-182-3

Catalogue Code: NE598

Natural England publications are available as accessible pdfs from www.gov.uk/natural-england. Should an alternative format of this publication be required, please contact our enquiries line for more information: 0300 060 3900 or email enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

This publication is published by Natural England under the Open Government Licence v3.0 for public sector information. You are encouraged to use, and reuse, information subject to certain conditions. For details of the licence visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3

Please note: Natural England photographs are only available for non-commercial purposes. For information regarding the use of maps or data visit www.gov.uk/how-to-access-natural-englands-maps-and-data.

© Natural England 2015