

# Sandwich Bay SAC

## Description:

This site forms part of the North East Kent European Marine Site. The Sandwich Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is a largely inactive dune system with a particularly extensive representation of fixed dune grassland, the only large area of this habitat in the extreme south-east of England. The vegetation of these dunes and their associated slacks is extremely species-rich and it supports a number of rare and scarce species.



## Qualifying Features:

Sandwich Bay SAC hosts the following habitats: embryonic shifting dunes, shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('white dunes'), fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes'), and dunes with *Salix repens* ssp. *argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*). The site also has humid slack dunes but is not a primary reason for designation.

## Management:

- [Kite surfing Local Agreement](#). Details important areas at Sandwich and Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve. Gentleman's agreement with kite surfers to exclude them from sensitive areas. Restricted area with no access policy at Shellness Point (51°18'45.4"N 1°22'09.7"E).
- [Thanet Coastal Codes](#) covering for example bait collection and digging, powercraft activities and wind powered activities.

## Stakeholder Concerns:

The SAC experiences a significant amount of off-road drivers using the site. This has greatly affected breeding success of ground-breeding birds within the dunes. Kite surfers also cause disturbance to sensitive areas.

MPA: Sandwich Bay SAC				No. Stakeholders: 1 online			
Activity	Frequency	Duration	Participation	Intensity	Confidence	MPA Extent	Trend
Board sports	3	2	2	12	H	1	↑
Geophysical surveys	1	3	1	3	H	2	→
Motor boating	4	2	2	16	M	2	↑
Jetskis	4	2	1	8	M	2	↑
Paddle sports	2	1	1	2	H	1	↑
Parascending	0	0	0	0	H	0	?
Sailing (non-motorised)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
SCUBA diving	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Swimming / Snorkelling	2	3	4	24	H	2	↑
Towed water sports	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Wildlife watching from the sea	4	2	3	24	H	1	↑
Bait collection	2	3	1	6	H	1	→
Beach recreation	4	3	5	60	H	2	↑
Coasteering	1	2	1	2	H	1	?
Land boarding	0	0	0	0	H	0	→
Motorsports (quad bikes, motorbikes)	3	2	1	6	H	1	↑
Vehicle access (cars on foreshore)	3	2	1	6	H	1	↑
Wildlife watching from the land	3	2	4	24	H	2	↑
Drone use	1	1	1	1	H	2	↑
Gliding (unpowered)	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Aircraft (powered)	1	1	2	2	H	2	↑

#### KEY

FREQUENCY	DURATION	PARTICIPATION	INTENSITY	CONFIDENCE	EXTENT	TREND
4 Regular/daily	4 >8 hours	6 >100	45-96 High	H High	2 Whole MPA (solid)	↑ Increase
3 Regular/weekends	3 4-8 hours	5 51-100	24-40 Med-high	M Medium	1 Part of MPA (shaded)	→ Stay the same
2 Seasonally	2 2-4 hours	4 21-50	9-20 Low-med	L Low	0 Does not occur	↓ Decrease
1 Sporadically	1 <2 hours	3 11-20	1-8 Low	? Data missing	? Data missing	? Data missing
0 Does not occur	0 Does not occur	2 6-10	0 Does not occur			
? Data missing	? Data missing	1 1-5	? Data missing			
		0 Does not occur				
		? Data missing				