

Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Field

Herne Bay's Coastal Park Management Plan 2013 to 2023

Contents

Chapter 1	Introduction	5
Chapter 2	Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Status	6
Chapter 3	Site Description	7
3.1	Location and site details	7
3.2	Management	7
3.3	Statutory and non statutory obligation	7
3.4	Planning consents	7
3.5	Document history	7
3.6	Key features	8
Chapter 4	Landscape Context	8
4.1	A Coastal landscape	8
4.2	Interesting geology	8
4.3	Coastal defence	8
4.4	Access	8
Chapter 5	Site History	9
5.1	A Victorian resort and Herne Bay pier	9
5.2	The Dambusters	9
5.3	Coastal erosion and landslips	9
5.6	The Clock Tower	10
5.7	The Kings Hall	10
Chapter 6	Policy, Strategic, legal, national and local	10
International and European legislation		
6.1	Ramsar sites	10
6.2	Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	10
UK legislation		
6.3	Thanet Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	11
6.4	UK and Kent Biodiversity Action Plans	11
Protect, enhance and promote		2

6.5	North East Kent European Marine Sites (NEKEMS)	11
6.6	Natural England	11
Canterbury City Council documents		
6.7	Canterbury City Council Corporate Plan	12
6.8	Canterbury City Council Local Plan	13
6.9	Canterbury Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal	13
6.10	Canterbury Open Spaces Strategy	13
6.11	Herne Bay Action Plan	14
Chapter 7	Leisure, Recreation and the Foreshore	14
7.1	The traditional seaside	14
7.2	Community clubs and societies	15
7.3	Foreshore services	15
7.4	Water safety and provision of lifeguards	15
7.5	Public launch ramps	16
7.6	Education and advice – schools and community groups	16
7.7	Foreshore services arts and educational projects	16
7.8	Shared cycle and footpaths	16
7.9	Quality Coast Awards	16
Chapter 8	Coastal Park Swot Analyses	18
Chapter 9	Kent Wildlife Trust Surveys and management recommendations	19
9.1	Hampton Pier and Spa Esplanade	19
9.2	Herne Bay Central Area	20
9.3	Beacon Hill, The Downs to Beltinge	21
9.4	Bishopstone Glen	22
9.5	Reculver Country Park	23
Chapter 10	Green Flag Guiding Principles	25
10.1	A Welcoming Place	25
10.2	Healthy, Safe and Secure	

10.3	Landscape Management	25
10.4	Conservation, Heritage and Infrastructure	25
10.5	Community Use and Involvement	26
10.6	Marketing and Events	26
10.7	Accreditation	26
Chapter 11	Implementation	26
Chapter 12	Monitoring and Review	26
Chapter 13	Acknowledgements	27
Chapter 14	References	27
Chapter 15	Contact	27
Appendix 1	HAMPTON PIER TO SPA ESPLANADE ACTION PLAN	
Appendix 2	CENTRAL HERNE BAY ACTION PLAN	
Appendix 3	BEACON HILL, THE DOWNS, BISHOPSTONE GLEN, RECULVER	
Appendix 4	Kent Wildlife Trust Survey. A contribution to the Fauna of Herne Bay ` Downs and Bishopstone Cliffs. Kent Field Club Visit 2011	
Site Plans		
Map 1a	The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Coastal Park - West	
Map 1b	The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Coastal Park - East	

Chapter 1 Introduction

This plan sets out the management for the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Field – Herne Bay's Coastal Park for the next ten years, from 2013 through to 2023.

No doubt in all ten year management plans projects will evolve and develop as new opportunities come forward. In addition many of the projects are subject to external funding, and not all external funding will be achieved and some projects may fall by the wayside.

Regular progress reports and reviews are embedded in the management plan.

The management plan, prepared by local community groups in partnership with the Outdoor Leisure team at Canterbury City Council and respective professional bodies' sets out a vision for the coastal park, aims, objectives, history, context and covers local and national policy. It includes action plans, monitoring and review procedures.

The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Field – Herne Bay's Coastal Park will be referred to as the Coastal Park for easier reading throughout the rest of the Management Plan.

Chapter 2 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Field Status

The Coastal Park will be a living legacy and help celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The land forming the coastal park from Hampton to Reculver is held in Trust. Through a series of undertakings with the National Playing Fields Association operating as the charity 'Fields in Trust' (registered charity registered charity number 306070) the council undertakes to comply with its obligations for future use to protect the land for "to protect the land forever for leisure and purposes."

A map of the Coastal Park is shown, see *Map 1a and Map 1b*. On advice from the national body Fields in Trust, who manage the national Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Field programme, the car parks, buildings, central pier and beach hut sites have been excluded from the Coastal Park but all influence the area. For instance the Kings Hall is already held in Trust but the 100 year anniversary in 2013 is an excellent opportunity to promote the area. For more information please visit: www.qe2fields.com

The Coastal Park is owned by Canterbury City Council and managed in partnership with the local community.

Vision for the Coastal Park

The vision for the Coastal Park is:

"To protect, enhance and promote a Coastal Park that appeals to a wide range of residents and visitors offering a variety of high quality seaside experiences - traditional, sporting, unspoilt, historic and natural"

Community participation

Community input was the catalyst in developing the idea of the Coastal Park, it was initially discussed at a community meeting in 2010, the community then supported the coastal park in national vote in 2011 and the Coastal Park was adopted in 2012. The community brought forward a range of ideas that have been fed into the action plans contained in the Management plan.

The delivery of the Management Plan will require an effective partnership between the community, community groups, businesses, statutory agencies, educational establishments and both Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council.

Various community groups have stepped forward to deliver or help deliver specific actions and community participation is an overriding principle of this management plan.

- Participation in drafting this management plan
- Participation in the delivery of this management plan and marketing plan
- Participation in the monitoring, reporting and review of this management plan

Canterbury City Council as the land owner will retain obligations such as coastal protection or grounds maintenance.

An aim in due course will be to seek Green Flag accreditation to measure the success of the Coastal Park. Therefore the action plans are based on Green Flag criteria.

Chapter 3 Site Description

3.1 Location and site details

The Coastal Park is located on the north Kent coast between Hampton Pier to the west and extending to, and including Reculver Country Park to the east, encompassing the central area of Herne Bay, Spa Esplanade, central parade, promenade gardens, children's playground, the coastline from The Downs to Bishopstone Glen and onto the Reculver Towers.

Kent Wildlife Trust conducted extensive wildlife survey work commissioned by Canterbury City Council in 2011 and the results of this have informed the Coastal Park Management Plan, Chapter 9 *Kent Wildlife Trust Survey*. Full survey is in Appendix 4

Ownership: Canterbury City Council. The Coastal Park does not include any private land.



Canterbury City Council wards: West Bay, Heron and Reculver

3.2 Management

Canterbury City Council is responsible for the repair and maintenance of the Coastal Park and sea defences. In creating sea defences, essentially man-made structures or landscape features, it has also created a wonderful range of habitats. The sea defences, may in some instances, be a major constraint to some potential activities and enhancements.

3.3 Statutory and non obligations

Reculver Country Park, Bishopstone Glen, a short section of Hillborough cliffs and an area to the west of Hampton Pier for part of the Thanet Coast Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI). Canterbury City Council designated the cliff top between Bishopstone and Reculver as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) in 1992. Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Fields Status was granted in 2012.

Non statutory obligations: Oyster Bay Trail, a shared cycle and pedestrian route.

3.4 Planning consents: Herne Bay Conservation Area for the central part of the Coastal Park.

3.5 Document history: Reculver Country Park currently has an existing management plan which runs until 2017 and has influenced this plan.

- 3.6 **Key features:** The Central Pier, Bandstand, the Kings Hall and the wind farms are all key features that are not in the Coastal Park but will influence and complement the Coastal Park. It is important that a joined up approach is taken to working with the groups involved in their management.

Chapter 4 Landscape context

4.1 A coastal landscape

The Coastal Park, as the name suggests, is primarily coastal, with foreshore areas of shingle beaches, tidal mudflats and eroding cliffs and has to be one of the district's major natural assets attracting a large number of visitors and water sports enthusiasts. From the top of the cliffs, views seaward and landward provide different vistas to the north, east, south and west. To the north, the seascape; to the west, looking back over Herne Bay with its Victorian seaside heritage; to the east, the diverse habitats of The Downs, the geological importance of Bishopstone Glen and towards Reculver Towers; and to the south the rural views of open countryside. The park connects all these diverse spaces together.

4.2 Interesting geology

The undulating coastline from Hampton Pier to Bishopstone Glen and Reculver owes much of its topography to the underlying geology, coastal erosion and the climate of a north facing coastline. The London Clay, deposited during the Eocene period 45 million years ago over beds of 'Oldhaven Sands' and the 'Woolwich and Reading' formation are susceptible to erosion from the sea and from land slippage, which has shaped the coastline you see today. Human intervention in the form of coastal protection and land stabilisation techniques has reduced the rate of erosion to an acceptable level to safeguard areas of value without undermining areas of geological importance.

4.3 Coastal defences

Canterbury City Council has an approved Coastal Management Policy that sets out phased renewal or refurbishment of its coastal defences. The coastline is orientated approximately east-west and is prone to attack from the North Sea when the wind is in the northern sector. This is most dangerous when combined with a North Sea Surge, which can raise the still water level of the sea by up to two metres.

The worst flooding in recent memory in the UK occurred in 1953, the disastrous flooding occurred in Herne Bay as well as many other coastal towns and villages. The coastal defences have been upgraded at regular intervals along the coastline, indeed coastal defence work is taking place in central Herne Bay in 2013 and is recognised in the management plan.

4.4 Access

Access to the coastal park is available along its entire length, from Hampton Pier in the west to Reculver in the east; a promenade runs almost uninterrupted through the entire park providing access to and from the foreshore for bathers, walkers, cyclists and other visitors. Bisecting the areas of grass embankments within the areas of The Spa Esplanade, The Downs and Beltinge a series of concrete steps and walkways

provide access from the main road and car parks down to the foreshore and the cliffs at Bishopstone and Reculver.

On the southern side of the coastal park is a network of roads link car parks, parking spaces and visitor facilities to the town of Herne Bay and onto the main arterial route of the Thanet Way

Chapter 5 Site history

5.1 A Victorian resort and the Herne Bay pier

The area known as Herne Bay today was originally a coastal area of Herne parish populated by a few fisherman and smugglers. Herne Bay began its rise to populous in the 1770's with the introduction of sea bathing machines by the East Cliff.

The construction of the first pier in 1831 - 1832, the idea of entrepreneur George Burge and designed by Thomas Rhodes (Thomas Telford's chief assistant), allowed



passengers on the steam ships from London to disembark, and with the passengers came prosperity for the now popular seaside town of Herne Bay. With the population rising and development of the town continuing with seafront terraces, squares and promenades, the decision was taken to build a new longer pier from steel. Surviving for nearly seventy years, it was eventually beaten by the elements and closed in 1968; the remains of the Pier are an iconic reminder of Victorian times.

5.2 The Dambusters

In 1939 Sir Barnes Wallis used the coast of Herne Bay and Reculver to test his concept of bouncing bombs used in the famous "Dambusters" raids, with a statue erected on the Downs in commemoration.

5.3 Coastal erosion and landslips

The cliffs at Beltinge have an unstable history, in the early hours of the morning of 4 February 1953; a major landslide involving the whole cliff took place in front of the Miramar Hotel (now the site of a nursing home) in Herne Bay. This landslide took place only four days after the great North Sea tidal surge which occurred on the night of the 31 January 1953. This event caused massive erosion at the foot of the cliff, thereby triggering the landslide. The gardens and tennis courts of the hotel dropped 14 metres and the remainder of the cliff moved forward by several metres. Much work has been carried out since then in terms of sea defences and works to the cliff.

However, the deep seated slip surfaces associated with this landslide remain and, in certain circumstances, can be reactivated. In 1974 this occurred when the beach levels dropped and part of the landslide moved two metres at the toe of the slope. Further movement of this slip occurred during the construction of sea defences in 1981.

5.4 Clock Tower

In 1837 a seventy five foot tall clock tower, which is still a feature, was built on the seafront, paid for by wealthy Londoner Mrs Ann Thwaytes who donated £4,000.

5.5 The Kings Hall

The Kings Hall is an architectural gem, captivating visitors with its original Edwardian features and idyllic seafront views. The official name is the King Edward VII Memorial Hall, and it was opened on 10 July 1913 by Her Royal Highness, Princess Henry of Battenberg (the youngest daughter of Queen Victoria), on behalf of Queen Alexandra. It is now used for a range of community events, functions and concerts.

www.thekingshall.com

Chapter 6 Policy, Strategic, Legal, National and Local

The following policies will influence the management of the Coastal Park. Please see links to websites below, listed under each designation.

International and European Legislation

6.1 Ramsar Sites

Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention. The coastline around Herne Bay is part of the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay Ramsar Site UK11070.

For more information:

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1389>

6.2 Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

Ramsar sites often receive SPA and SAC designation and the coastline around Herne Bay is an example of these designations in place. This gives legal protection preventing damaging activities. Some of the sites, known as **Special Protection Areas (SPAs)** for Birds and **Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)**, are of European importance. They have been created under the **EC Birds Directive** and **Habitats Directive**. In the UK they form part of a larger European network called **Natura 2000**.

For more information:

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-162>

UK Legislation

6.3 Thanet Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest

There are over 4,000 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in England, covering around 7% of the country's land area. Over half of these sites, by area, are internationally important for their wildlife, and designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs). SSSIs are examples of the UK's best areas for wildlife and geology. The coastline around Herne Bay is both important geologically and for its wildlife and demonstrating the need for protection as an SSSI.

For more information and maps:

<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/map.aspx?m=sssi>

6.4 UK and Kent Biodiversity Action Plan

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) was published back in 1994, and was the UK Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which the UK signed up to in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. The UK was the first country to produce a national biodiversity action plan, and the UK BAP described the biological resources of the UK and provided detailed plans for conservation of these resources. Action plans for the most threatened species and habitats were set out to aid recovery, and national reports, produced every three- to five-years, showed how the UK BAP was contributing to the UK's progress towards the significant reduction of biodiversity loss called for by the CBD. A more detailed action plan based on the UK BAP is available for the county of Kent. UKBAP and Kent BAP species are identified in the survey work carried out by Kent Wildlife Trust. See *Chapter 9 Kent Wildlife Trust Surveys and management recommendations*.

For more information <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5155> and www.kentbap.org.uk

6.5 North East Kent European Marine Sites (NEKEMS)

The North Kent Coast is recognised for its importance to coastal wildlife by designations that give high protection to marine species and their habitats. The habitats of the North Kent Coast are predominantly made of sedimentary intertidal mudflats that consist of silts and clays with high organic content; these are highly productive habitats and can support a range of birds and fish. They are also temporary homes for internationally important wintering birds and resting places on migratory routes.

For more information and maps

http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk/factfile/ne_kent_management_scheme/management_scheme_2007-2012.aspx

6.6 Natural England

The council works closely with Natural England to ensure compliance with national legislation and guidelines with regards protecting and enhancing the internationally

ecologically important Thanet Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area and RAMSAR site and Bishopstone Glen Local Nature Reserve, sections of which are within or adjacent to the Coastal Park.

For more information and maps

http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/Special/sssi/unitlist.cfm?sssi_id=1003560

Canterbury City Council Corporate Plan and Local policies

6.7 Canterbury City Council Corporate Plan 2011- 2016

The coastal park has strong links to the council's ten pledges of the Corporate Plan:

- 1) **Supporting growth** – increasing the resilience and diversity of the economy,
- 2) **Keeping it safe** – we will strive to keep our district a safe place to live,
- 3) **Homes in the right places** – we will plan for the right type and number of homes in the right place to create sustainable communities in the future,
- 4) **Tackling congestion** – we will support improvements to tackle traffic congestion and the state of our roads and pavements,
- 5) **Cleaner and greener** – we will make our district cleaner and greener and lead by example on environmental issues,
- 6) **Supporting children and young people** – we will support facilities and activities for children and young people,
- 7) **Cultural facilities** – we will support excellent and diverse cultural facilities for our residents and visitors,
- 8) **Tackling disadvantage** – we will tackle disadvantage within our district,
- 9) **Encouraging involvement** – we will encourage greater involvement for local people,
- 10) **Supporting sport and fitness** – we will support a broad range of sporting and fitness facilities and activities.

6.8 Canterbury District Local Plan

The Local Plan sets out “the planning strategy for the district, it identifies sites to meet the development needs of the area and puts forward policies to assist in the consideration of individual development proposals; and establish policies to protect the best of the local environment”.

It is currently under review and the current policies apply to the Coastal Park, these are Open Space Policy C24 and Undeveloped Coast Policy C36.

For more information and maps

<http://www.cartogold.co.uk/canterbury/Canterbury.htm>

6.9 Canterbury Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal

The Canterbury Landscape Appraisal (2009) identifies and describes local landscape character areas, assesses the condition and sensitivity of these areas and identifies existing priority wildlife habitats and strategic biodiversity networks.

For more information refer to 1. Beltinge Coast

[http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/authority/assets/localplan/Canterbury%20Landscape%20Character%20&%20Biodiversity%20Appraisal%20Draft%20August%2012%20\(low%20res\).pdf](http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/authority/assets/localplan/Canterbury%20Landscape%20Character%20&%20Biodiversity%20Appraisal%20Draft%20August%2012%20(low%20res).pdf)

6.10 Canterbury Open Spaces Strategy

The Open Spaces Strategy for the Canterbury District 2009 – 2014 was adopted in November 2009 and focuses on public open space. It has been developed using public consultation and the views of local community groups and organisations to help shape the strategy. Open spaces include parks and gardens, play areas, semi-natural open spaces, woodlands, sports pitches and general amenity open space.

The aim of the strategic vision:

“To develop an interconnected network of diverse, high quality open spaces which meet the needs of local people and make a significant contribution to raising the quality of life for all residents and visitors to the Canterbury district” (Aspire, protect, enhance and promote)

The coastal park open spaces are defined in the strategy as:

Amenity open space such as the beaches, Spa Esplanade slopes or the Kings Hall slopes are used as informal recreational areas.

Natural and semi-natural open space such as The Downs and Reculver Country Park are used for walking, wildlife watching and appreciation of the natural coast.

The Open Spaces Strategy considers the population and national guidelines for the provision of open space and it identifies gaps in provision:

In West Bay ward the identified gap is amenity open space

In Heron ward the identified gap is amenity open space

In Reculver Ward the identified gaps area equipped play provision (proposed at Reculver Country Park) and amenity open space

The area has been developed over the years so the lack of amenity open space is a historical anomaly that will be difficult to rectify.

For more information, maps of West Bay, Heron and Reculver wards and ward profiles <http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/openspacestrategy>

6.11 Herne Bay Area Action plan

The Herne Bay Area action plan adopted in 2010 reflects that regeneration of Herne Bay lies at the core of the Council's Corporate Plan. The Corporate plan "seeks to harness the District's unique range of assets including the three distinctive urban areas of Canterbury, Herne Bay and Whitstable, to create a dynamic, strong economy and distinctive cultural and visitor experience from which the communities of the District will prosper".

The Coastal Park will contribute to these particular aims of the Herne Bay Area Action Plan:

- To enhance Herne Bay's Conservation Area streetscapes through design and comprehensive high quality public realm improvements
- To create an attractive sense of place with clear pedestrian and cycle routes linking the seafront shopping streets and park
- To complete the national cycle route that runs along the town's seafront and an extension to the high school
- To improve the vibrancy of and attractiveness of Herne Bay as a seaside tourist destination, including the delivery of a revived and thriving pier

For more information

<http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/main.cfm?objectid=1906>

Chapter 7 Leisure, Recreation and the Foreshore

7.1 The traditional seaside

If you are looking for traditional seaside fun, Herne Bay has much to offer. There are two miles of seafront offering traditional favourites such as cafes, fish and chips, the seafront gardens and play area. Recreational activities such as canoeing, swimming, sailing, angling, cycling, walking and dog walking are popular pastimes as well as gentle activities such as taking in



the sea air from the comfort of a bench or walking along the promenade. To the east away from the busier central area are the quieter spaces of Beacon Hill, The Downs and Reculver County Park with unique 12th century towers and Roman Fort.

7.2 Community Clubs and Societies

There are a range of clubs and societies providing facilities located along throughout the coastal park. This includes organisations such as:

Hampton Pier Yacht Club
Herne Bay Amateur Rowing Club
Herne Bay Angling Association
Herne Bay Beach Hut Owners Association
Herne Bay Sailing Club
Heron Angling Society
JAWS- Herne Bay and Whitstable Jet Ski and Watercraft Society

They provide a plethora of activities and opportunities to enhance the seaside offer for local residents. A key role moving forward is to support these groups to improve facilities, develop activities and events

7.3 Foreshore services

The Council's Foreshore Services team is responsible for:

- Water safety and provision of Lifeguards
- Education and advice - local schools and community groups
- Information signage
- Management of beach huts
- Management of public launch ramps
- Seaside Pleasure Boats Bylaws
- Coastal Awards for example Quality Coastal Awards
- Blue Flag – world recognised standard
- North East Kent European Marine Sites (NEKEMS)

7.4 Water safety and provision of lifeguards

Foreshore Services manage the seasonal lifeguards at Herne Bay that are trained and assessed by Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) and operate during the summer season. There are also signs at the entrance to each beach to help visitors avoid potential hazards on the beach and identify the safest areas for swimming. They work with the National Coastwatch Institution.



7.5 Public launch ramps

Public launch ramps are a great asset to the coastal community, utilised by a wide variety of both local and visiting users.

Public launch ramps are located at:

- Neptune Jetty, Central Parade, Herne Bay – public launching ramp
- Studd Hill/Hampton Pier Avenue – public launch ramp

7.6 Education and advice – local schools and community groups

Foreshore Services support and deliver Adopt a Beach scheme and Beachwatch. These are coastal environmental initiatives organised by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) to encourage local individuals, groups and communities to care for their local coastal environments. Shore search is a national initiative to record and identify our marine species using volunteers and is an excellent way to provide information about better marine and shoreline management. Beach cleans are also undertaken by a variety of local community groups and help to keep the beaches both clear of litter but also help raise awareness that our beaches are precious environments to be respected and cared for.

7.7 Foreshore Services arts and educational projects

A number of arts projects have taken place along the beach involving local schools and community groups for instance during the summer 2012 Foreshore Services ran three beach art and seashore ecology sessions with Reculver Primary School. Local schools and groups have carried out Beach Cleans including St Edmund's Interact Group, Sturry Beaver and Cub Scouts, Reculver Primary School, Herne Bay Junior School, Briary Primary School, Hampton Primary School and Simon Langton Girls' Grammar

Foreshore Services also run educational projects with a range of local groups and schools. Recent projects have included a Bottle Beach Hut made from recycled plastic bottles and Shore is a Load of Rubbish to raise the importance of beach cleanliness and recycling.

7.8 Shared cycle and pedestrian paths

The coastal park offers an excellent opportunity to explore the delights of the coastline by both cycle and on foot. The Oyster Bay trail is a scenic coastal route from Swalecliffe to Reculver linking with the Viking Coastal Trail which provides an enjoyable route to Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs. The shared cycle and pedestrian path is part of the Crab and Winkle Way linking to Whitstable and then on to Canterbury and other routes in the UK's national network.

7.9 Quality Coast Awards

The Quality Coast Awards were introduced in 2007 to raise the standard around our coasts. Herne bay and Reculver retained their Quality Coastal Award in 2013.

The Quality Coastal Awards has 32 criteria covering the following four themes:

- (1) Environmental Education and Information

- (2) Water Quality
- (3) Environmental Management
- (4) Safety and Services

Foreshore Services	www.canterbury.gov.uk/openspaces
Thanet Coast Sssi	http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/sssi/default.aspx
Blue Flag	www.blueflag.org
Viking Coast Trail	http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/viking/

Chapter 8 Coastal Park Site Analyses

The outline below is a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis summary for the open spaces as a Coastal Park.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee status	Mixed quality of signage and information boards
Large amenity and semi-natural spaces near town centre and coast with range of existing community groups and events e.g. Herne Bay in Bloom	Low key promotion and marketing
Good access via shared paths	Some pathways potentially need upgrading
Wide range of flora and fauna and interesting geology. KWT surveys to inform future management.	Limited existing interpretation of biodiversity or geology.
Focal points such as Bandstand, play area, Clock Tower and Kings Hall plus coastal features such as wind farms.	Limited signposting and information linking central area to other parts of coastal park to unify the spaces and cater for many access points
Frequently used by a range of people for dog walking, sporting activities, children's activities	Possible lack of information about reporting vandalism, antisocial behaviour, dog fouling
Community involvement – wide range of community groups	Links to local schools
Existing and new sites for Coastal Arts projects	Some coastal art projects require upgrading

Opportunities	Threats
Marketing plan to promote Coastal Park	Anti-social behaviour
Leaflets to explore biodiversity, geology and walking routes	Retain the balance for public use and biodiversity value
Improve signage and interpretation	Lack of a partnership approach
Community groups help deliver projects	
Improve landscape management	
Coastal Art	
Involve partners such as Bandstand, Clock Tower, Kings Hall and Reculver Visitor Centre	

The marketing of the Coastal Park is an excellent opportunity to work with local people to promote the use of the Coastal Park. We are currently working with Herne Bay Promos in developing a marketing plan for the Coastal Park.

It involves signage / leaflets posters as well websites, apps, Facebook page and a twitter account.

Chapter 9 Kent Wildlife Trust Surveys and landscape management recommendations

Canterbury City Council commissioned Kent Wildlife Trust to conduct wildlife surveys to collect data about the flora and fauna within the Coastal Park. The survey took place between March and September 2011 with 14 visits made in total. The survey identified the main habitats and described plants, birds, mammals and reptiles and invertebrates. The survey also made management recommendations.

9.1 Hampton Pier and Spa Esplanade

The survey section included the old Hampton pier and foreshore down to the high water mark as well as a narrow area of inter-tidal zone. It also included the area of recreational grassland and a car park with associated grass embankment leading behind the Yacht Club and the drainage ditch leading from Studd Hill to the beach.

A summary of species found at Hampton Pier (for full survey results please refer to Appendix 1 Kent Wildlife Trust Survey)

Location	Species	Comments
Short pier – concrete	Common mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>)	Some colonisation by introduced Pacific Oyster (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>). <i>See Management recommendations and Focus on Pacific Oyster</i>
Pier Avenue rock bund	Spiral Wrack (<i>Fucus spiralis</i>) Bladder Wrack (<i>Fucus vesiculosus</i>) Purple Laver (<i>Porphyra umbilicus</i>)	Mat forming introduced wireweed <i>Sargassum muticum</i> can exclude other species
Amenity grassland	Close mown areas of limited botanical interest Salt marsh plants found in channel Sea Purslane (<i>Atriplex portulacoides</i>) Samphire (<i>Inula crithmoides</i>) Dittander (<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>)	Most interesting feature is drainage channel from Studd Hill Dittander is county scarce
North of Western Esplanade (TR162 682)	Sea Pea (<i>Lathyrus japonicus</i>)	A species of coastal shingle beaches grows on semi-vegetated shingle. Susceptible to trampling where there is public pressure on beaches (<i>Stewart et al</i>) Nationally scarce and county rare

Management recommendations

- Monitor population of Pacific Oyster (see Focus on Pacific oyster for more details) and wireweed – wireweed unlikely to restrict other species.
- Continue with management of amenity area.
- Continue with management of the drainage channel.
- Shoreline – protect the sea pea from trampling, using positive promotion and educational methods

9.2 Herne Bay Central Area

This survey section includes sloping grassy embankments between the Western Esplanade and the promenade, together with the foreshore which includes small areas of vegetated shingle and sand. A rocky bund under the pier was also surveyed.

The westernmost banks are managed by cutting: the top of the banks adjacent to Western Esplanade are mown regularly, the lowest slopes receive a single cut in the autumn. This management has resulted in a good range of plant species. The easternmost bank lies adjacent to a number of access paths and is mown regularly.



A summary of species found at Hampton Pier (for full survey results please refer to Appendix 1 Kent Wildlife Trust Survey)

Location	Species	Comments
Grass embankments	Sweet Violet (<i>Viola odorata</i>) and Pellitory –of the Wall (<i>Parietaria judaica</i>)	Management of grassy embankments has encouraged a range of species.
Pier	Few plants recoded on shingle next to pier	
Rocky bund next to pier	Some algal colonisation Pacific Oyster (<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>) and wireweed	Number of introduced species
Rock armour surrounding the harbour (Neptune's Arm)	Knotted wrack (<i>Ascophyllum nodosum</i>)	Uncommon along the Kent shoreline away from its main colony at Folkestone harbour. Usually found adrift more uncommonly found attached to rocks

Management recommendations

- Monitor the populations of Pacific Oyster and wireweed on the rock bund under the pier and on the harbour arm.
- Encourage the conservation of the vegetated area of sandy beach inside the harbour; take care of this area during any works.

9.3 Beacon Hill, The Downs to Beltinge

The varied management regime of close mown pathways, amenity grass and areas towards the eastern end being left largely uncut has enhanced the species diversity of the area. The grassland has a varied regime of management, areas adjacent to the main road and alongside access paths are kept close mown, as are the areas of amenity grassland. Other areas particularly towards the eastern end are largely unmanaged except for engineering operations for sea defence purposes. The diversity of the eastern end is further enhanced by the presence of a developing scrub community. The diversity of birds and plants across the whole Downs is varied and the dense blackthorn provides cover for a range of nesting birds and foraging and hibernating reptiles. There is also a strong scrub community on the upper slopes of Beltinge Cliff and Hillborough Cliff valuable habitats for both birds and insects, the endangered grasshopper warbler has been recorded here for several years.



Location	Species	Comments
The Downs – throughout	Grass vetchling (<i>Lathyrus nissola</i>) Spiny restharrow (<i>Ononis spinosa</i>) Wild carrot (<i>Daucus carota</i>) Butterflies (<i>Lepidoptera</i>)	Species found in undisturbed areas 19 species of butterfly recorded and day flying moths
Sections A-C of survey area – western end	Alexanders (<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>)	Abundant along the upper slopes
Dense blackthorn and scrub	Nesting birds Linnet (<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>) Reptiles – foraging and hibernating Viviparous Lizard (<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>) Slow-worm (<i>Anguis fragilis</i>) Brown tailed moth (<i>Euproctis chrysorrhoea</i>) Grasshopper warbler – (<i>Locustella naevia</i>)	Some education around Brown Tailed Moth caterpillars may be required Grasshopper warbler rare species - UK Biodiversity Action Plan Species (UKBAP) RSPB Red List and ‘endangered’ in Kent Red Data Book. See <i>management recommendations and Focus on Grasshopper Warbler</i>
Drainage system – flinty channels	Variety of sown wildflowers	Flowers sown at time of drainage channel works
Eastern end	Evergreen Oak (<i>Quercus ilex</i>) Evergreen spindle (<i>Euonymus japonicus</i>) Red Shanked Carder Bee (<i>Bombus ruderarius</i>)	May be garden escapes Red Shanked Carder bee is a UKBAP priority species
Shingle at eastern	Sea Kale (<i>Crambe maritima</i>)	County scare plants

end	Sea Holly (<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>) Yellow horned poppy (<i>Glaucium flavum</i>) Dittander (<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>) Rock Samphire (<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>)	
------------	--	--

Management recommendations

- Continue with the varied management of the grassland habitats
- Consider varying the grass cutting on the lower slopes between Beltinge and Hillborough, to reduce the dense sward
- Monitor scrub and tree species – retain isolated areas of scrub, consider scrub removal where scrub is encroaching towards the lower slopes
- Remove seedlings such as sycamore
- Mature species such as Pendunculate Oak, Ash and Goat Willow may be inappropriate species for this location
- Consider careful removal of Brown Tail moth tents if appropriate or education around Brown Tailed Moth caterpillars
- Some rotational cutting of scrub around access paths helps to diversify age structure and keep paths open
- Carefully monitor arts projects to ensure there is minimal impact of plant species

9.4 Bishopstone Glen to Reculver Country Park

The majority of Bishopstone Glen is undisturbed resulting in a diversity of species, this is mainly due to its inaccessible nature, interesting geology and grassy cliff tops. A more detailed list of species can be found in the Kent Wildlife Trust Survey report (2011).

Location	Species	Comments
Bishopstone Glen – tree species	English Elm (<i>Ulmus procera</i>) Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>) Chestnut (<i>Castanea sativa</i>)	On the slopes
Bishopstone Glen – Butterflies	White Letter Hairstreak (<i>Satyrium w-album</i>)	UKBAP species
Bishopstone Glen – bees and wasps	Digger wasps and a range of wasps and bees	Digger wasps are nationally scarce
Bishopstone Glen – plants	Subterranean clover (<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>)	County scarce
Bishopstone Glen – cliff top	Range of species including Broom (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>) Common Knapweed, Cut Leaved cranesbill (<i>Geranium dissectum</i>)	Good range of species for butterflies

Management recommendations

- Bishopstone Glen has benefitted from the existing management and this should be continued.
- Transportation and Environment section is writing a specialised management plan for Bishopstone Glen
- The stream bed channel near to the sea is heavily vegetated with Common Reed and other coarse species which limit plant diversity, it may be possible to clear and maintain a more open channel without damaging the existing plant diversity.
- Continue with existing management to the cliff top environment is appropriate as shown by the range of species recorded.

Further survey work

Ongoing survey work by individual wildlife recorders has also been collected (*Perry J and Perry A, 2011 April to September A Contribution to the Fauna of the Herne Bay Downs and Bishopstone Cliffs LNR*) a variety of mammals have been recorded including pygmy shrew (*Sorex minutus*), weasel (*Mustela nivalis*), and red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*). 41 species of birds were recorded in 3 areas comprising the Herne Bay Downs at the western end, East Cliff and Beltinge Cliff in the centre and Hillborough Cliffs and Bishopstone Glen to the east. Historically the recorders had also noted a variety of interesting visiting or vagrant species (species often found outside their usual area or habitats). 24 species of butterfly were recorded from April – September 2011 including the white letter hairstreak also recorded by Kent Wildlife Trust, skippers and well known species such as orange tip and peacock were also recorded. The report also lists moths, dragonflies, beetles, bugs, bees and wasps and grasshoppers. (See Appendix for full list).

Seasonal bird records were also collected for The Downs (*2011 Cheeseman*), over bird species have been recorded including common species, summer and winter visitors and species of the shoreline. (See Appendix for full list)

Kent Field Club visited The Downs during 2011, and recorded vascular plants, mosses and liverworts, mammals, reptiles, butterflies, beetles and flies. (See Appendix for full list).

9.5 Reculver Country Park

The main area near the visitor centre is managed by Kent Wildlife Trust on behalf of Canterbury City Council. Around the visitor centre the grass is close cut for amenity use and extended out into a central plateau. The rest of the plateau is cut annually as a hay meadow with wide access paths cut around the meadow. The mixed mowing regime has resulted in grassland that is rich in a variety of species including butterflies, bumblebees and grasshoppers.

Location	Species	Comments
Reculver Country	Red Admiral (<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>)	Grassland management has

Park – butterflies	Skippers (various) Small Heath (<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>) Small Copper (<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>)	resulted in diversity of species
Reculver Country Park – birds	Skylarks (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>) Meadow pippits (<i>Anthus pratensis</i>) Sandmartins (<i>Riparia riparia</i>)	Species of grassland Sandmartins active in 2 cliff areas
Reculver Country park – coastal plants	Salt marsh complex on shingle in front of visitor centre Sea purslane (<i>Aster tripolium</i>) Sea Couch (<i>Elytrigia atherica</i>)	The harsher conditions at Reculver restrict colonisation, limited number of species recorded.
Reculver Country park – rare species	Shrubby seablite (<i>Suaeda vera</i>)	Nationally scarce and county rare plant, unfortunately only one small plant present.
Reculver Country Park – fort and church	Variety of common species associated with amenity grassland and dense ivy cover	Dense ivy cover a valuable nectar source for insects and fruit for bird species in the winter
Over-wintering bird species		
Mosses and Lichens		

Management recommendations

To continue with the Reculver Country Park management plan

Canterbury City Council Countryside	www.canterbury.gov.uk/countryside
Kent Wildlife Trust	www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk

Chapter 10 Green Flag Guiding Principles

The management prescriptions for the Coastal Park are guided by the following Green Flag principles. The Green Flag Award scheme is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK.

It was first launched in 1996 to recognise and reward the best green spaces in the country. The first awards were given in 1997 and, many years later; it continues to provide the benchmark against which our parks and green spaces are measured. It is also seen as a way of encouraging others to achieve high environmental standards, setting a benchmark of excellence in recreational green areas.

10.1 A welcoming place

A welcoming place is one of the most important aspects of visitor enjoyment and is relevant to any park or open space. Good safe access, combined with clear signage and informative interpretation all add to the visitor experience. A range of activities available and input from the community show a living space that functions well for everyone.

10.2 Healthy safe and secure

Many studies have shown that access to the natural outdoor world can be significantly beneficial providing opportunities for exercise and appreciation of the environment. Keeping the Coastal Park well maintained and looked after is important in helping everyone to enjoy all it has to offer. Community participation can help to reduce a range of anti-social behaviours.

10.3 Landscape management

In very broad terms, the spaces of the Coastal Park are primarily classified as semi-natural or amenity areas (Open Spaces Strategy, 2010). Land management appropriate to these spaces can be based upon the type of space. Semi-natural areas may support specific species needing a certain type of management, other areas may benefit from minimal management. Some semi-natural areas can be described as more heavily visited by people and are capable of withstanding pressure of visitors than other more tranquil spaces and the same could be said of amenity areas so management must be appropriate to suit each space. Amenity spaces often offer opportunities to be enhanced through new projects such as community arts projects, events or improved interpretation.

10.4 Leisure, heritage and infrastructure

The Coastal Park has a rich cultural heritage and it is important to protect, conserve and enhance both the natural and built environment for the visitors of today and the future. Much of the built environment dates back to the Victorian and Edwardian era. This longevity in a coastal atmosphere has not been kind to the facades of many of these historic buildings and therefore restoration and conservation of some of these buildings including the Clock Tower. The unique and diverse landscape adds to the character of the park and visitor enjoyment.

10.5 Community use and involvement

Community groups and associations are an important part of the character of the coastal park and actively involved in all areas including conservation and community beach cleans. The park contains many leisure groups from angling clubs and societies, sailing and an active Sea Cadet group. Several community events are organised annually such as the Herne Bay Festival and Herne Bay in Bloom and play a part in bringing the community together. The interesting geological features and natural character of the park bring about educational opportunities for local schools and other academic organisations.

10.6 Marketing and Events

The Coastal Park has many interesting features that are well known and appreciated by the local community. The Coastal Park offers a unique opportunity to further interpret the coastal landscape, the Victorian heritage and the wildlife and natural habitats. Promoting the Coastal Park can involve a range of media and platforms including, celebrating local community events in the local press to informative leaflets, interpretation panels and web pages. Interpreting the coastal park with community participation will help to revitalise interest, regain lost heritage and bring about new knowledge and understanding of the coastal environment.

Green Flag	http://greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org/
------------	---

10.7 Accreditation

To maintain and raise the quality of the Coastal Park for residents, visitors and tourists it is important to offer high quality and seek national accreditations, including Reculver Country Park Green Flag, Britain in Bloom and Quality Coastal Award and seek Green Flag.

Chapter 11 Implementation

The implementation of the management plan and future enhancements of the coastal park will involve input and resources from Canterbury City Council, Kent County Council, local businesses, community groups and new and existing partnerships. Community groups will be an important aspect of delivering the management plan and applying for a range of external funding opportunities.

The implementation is set out in area action plans: appendices one, two and three.

Chapter 12 Monitoring, report and review

Monitoring of the action plans will take place on bi-annual basis in partnership with the range of organisations involved in delivering the management plan, this will be then uploaded on to the website.

An annual progress report will be taken to the Herne Bay Area Member Panel, presented by the community.

A larger scale review will be undertaken 5 years into the lifespan of the management plan.

Chapter 13 Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following groups and organisations that have given their time and experience to help develop the management plan:

First draft and photography	Crispin Ribbets, Hadlow College
Wildlife surveys	Fred Booth MBE, Kent Wildlife Trust Survey
	Mike Philips and Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group (KRAG) volunteers
	Friends of the Downs – (Julian and Alex Perry and Phil Cheeseman)

Chapter 14 References

Canterbury City Council, 2011- 2016, Corporate Plan

Canterbury City Council, 2006, Local Plan

Canterbury City Council, 2009-2014, Open Spaces Strategy

Canterbury City Council (Jacobs) 2009, Canterbury Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal

Canterbury City Council, 2009 – 2014 Open Spaces Strategy

Canterbury City Council, 2010 Herne Bay Area Action Plan

Canterbury City Council, 2011 Coastal Guide

Booth (MBE), F (2011) Queen Elizabeth II Coastal Park, Herne Bay, Kent – Kent Wildlife Trust

Perry J and A, 2011, A Contribution to the Fauna of the Herne Bay Downs and Bishopstone Cliffs LNR

Cheeseman P 2011 (and historic records), Birds observed on the Herne Bay Downs

Kent Field Club visit 2011, species list

Chapter 15 Contact

The main point of contact for queries regarding the management of the coastal park is:

Community Development and Outdoor Leisure, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW telephone: 01227 862 0000