

# Natural Environment Topic Paper

May 2013

# Contents

Natural Environment Topic Paper .....	1
Contents .....	2
1 Purpose of the Paper – Introduction .....	3
Policy Background .....	3
Aims/Vision .....	5
Stakeholder Involvement: .....	5
What is the Natural Environment? .....	6
2 Baseline Evidence/Current Situation .....	7
i) Green Infrastructure .....	7
ii) Landscape Character Assessment .....	24
iii) Green Wedges .....	31
iv) The Countryside .....	34
3 Opportunities/Constraints .....	36
Opportunities .....	36
Constraints .....	37
Appendix 1 – Summary Results of Open Space Audit .....	38
Appendix 2 – Landscape Character Area Assessment – Site Survey 2012 .....	47
Appendix 3 – Landscape Character Assessment – 2012 Assessment Map .....	62

# 1 Purpose of the Paper – Introduction

Thanet boasts a wealth of natural features including internationally and nationally designated sites and associated important species, a magnificent coastline, chalk cliffs, important geological features and areas of open countryside with important landscapes and views.

This paper details the various aspects of Thanet's natural environment and brings together various sources of evidence. This will provide a better understanding of the environmental issues upon which local plan options can be considered. The paper discusses conflicts between the protection and enhancement of the natural environment, and potential impacts of development, and makes recommendations to inform decision making, the location of development, and how development can contribute to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.

## Policy Background

### National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework states that local planning authorities should:

- *set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure; and*
- *maintain the character of the undeveloped coast, protecting and enhancing its distinctive landscapes, particularly in areas defined as Heritage Coast, and improve public access to and enjoyment of the coast*

It states that in order to minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity local authorities should

- *plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries;*
- *identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local partnerships for habitat restoration or creation*

The NPPF states that landscape character assessments should be prepared where appropriate and that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- *protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils;*
- *recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services;*
- *minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.....*

The council should *'set criteria based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting protected wildlife or geodiversity sites or landscape areas will be judged. Distinctions should be made between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites, so that protection is commensurate with their status and gives appropriate weight to their importance and the contribution that they make to wider ecological networks'*.

The Thanet Local Plan 2006 included several policies relating to the Natural Environment. Some of these were 'saved' in 2009 and are still in use. All relevant policies are listed below:

- SR1 – New recreation and sports facilities (saved)
- SR2 – Jackey Bakers (saved)
- SR3 – Maximising the use of facilities (saved)
- SR4 – Provision of new sports facilities (saved)
- SR5 – Playspace (saved)
- SR 6 – Amenity Areas (not saved as it duplicated SR1 and SR2))
- SR7 – Urban Fringe (saved)
- SR8 – Formal Countryside Recreation (saved)
- SR9 – Informal Countryside Recreation (saved)
- SR10 – Public open space (saved)
- SR11 – Private Open space (saved)
- SR12 – Playing fields (saved)
- SR13 – Allotments (saved)
- SR14 – Community Woodlands (saved)
- SR15 – Golf courses and country park (not saved as it duplicated policy CC5)
- SR18 – Major Holiday beaches (saved)
- SR19 – intermediate beaches (saved)
- SR20 – Undeveloped beaches (saved)
- CC1 – Development in the countryside (saved)
- CC2 – Landscape character areas(saved)
- CC5 – Green Wedges (saved)
- CC10 – Farm diversification (saved)
- CC13 – Coastal Park Initiative (not saved – covered by other policies)
- CC14 – Development along the coast (not saved – covered by other policies)
- CC16 – Undeveloped coast (not saved – covered by other policies)
- CC17 – Undeveloped clifftop sites (not saved – covered by other policies)
- NC1 – Habitats (not saved – covered by other legislation)
- NC2 – National Nature Reserve and SSSIs (not saved – covered by other legislation)
- NC3 – Local Wildlife Sites (saved)
- NC4 – Habitat management and creation (not saved – covered by other legislation)
- NC6 – RIGS sites (saved)

## Aims/Vision

- To protect, enhance, extend and connect open spaces; provide, and improve access to the countryside and coast for biodiversity, and to increase the health, recreation, leisure, amenity and aesthetic value for Thanet's residence.
- To protect important historical and archaeological, geological features.
- To achieve an appropriate balance between development and protection of the natural environment, and maximise opportunities where development can contribute to its enhancement, connectivity and re-creation.

## Stakeholder Involvement:

### Earlier Involvement

A public consultation was carried out in 2009 on Preferred Options for the Core Strategy. The following are the main points raised relating to the natural environment:

- Recreational pressure likely to be caused by tourism and access (KWT, NE)
- Suggest provision of alternative areas for tourists and residents to use, eg, extension of wetland habitat and agricultural land managed to attract farmland species. Properly funded wardening scheme, additional grazing marsh and use of the green wedges as farmland could also contribute.(KWT)
- European Sites should be referenced (KWT)
- Green wedges between urban areas should be retained and new corridors to attract farmland and wetland biodiversity, create farmland habitats where it is lost through development (KWT, NE)
- Create larger areas of natural habitat at Westwood (KWT,NE)
- Consideration should be given to the role GI can play in the mitigation of, and adaptation to Climate change (NE)
- There should be more emphasis on the health benefits, mental and physical, offered by Green Infrastructure and access to the outdoors. Suggest ANGSt as an indicator (NE)

### Proposed stakeholder involvement

The Council has meeting with the Natural England, the Environment Agency, Kent Wildlife Trust and Kent County Council to inform Thanet's strategy and policy for the natural environment. There will be two formal public consultations prior to the pre-submission consultation where everyone will have the opportunity to comment.

## What is the Natural Environment?

The Natural Environment for Thanet comprises four key areas – Green Infrastructure across the District, Green Wedges separating and surrounding settlements, the Countryside and coast, and Landscape Character Areas. These key areas overlap as so have been pulled together into a single document.

When the Thanet Local Plan was adopted in 2006 (and during its preparation), the concept of green infrastructure had not been integrated into the plan as it didn't emerge until the replacement of PPGs by PPSs under the provisions of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, many of the issues incorporated in green infrastructure were dealt with as separate policies in the 2006 Local Plan. Policies protecting the countryside from development, the green wedges and landscape character areas were also dealt with by separate policies.

This paper considers the natural environment as a whole to produce a cohesive strategy to inform the Local Plan and appropriate policies.

## 2 Baseline Evidence/Current Situation

### i) Green Infrastructure

Thanet has a densely populated urban area and an extensive rural resource of landscapes and wildlife. This paper will address existing and new green infrastructure, linking environmental and social benefits and conserving and enhancing important natural features within the District.

Natural England defines Green Infrastructure (GI) as:

*'..... a strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality of life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability. Its design and management should also respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of an area with regard to habitats and landscape types.*

*Green infrastructure includes established green spaces and new sites and should thread through and surround the built environment and connect the urban area to its wider rural hinterland. Consequently it needs to be delivered at all spatial scales from sub-regional to local neighbourhood levels, accommodating both accessible natural green spaces within local communities and often much larger sites in the urban fringe and wider countryside.'*

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35033?category=49002>

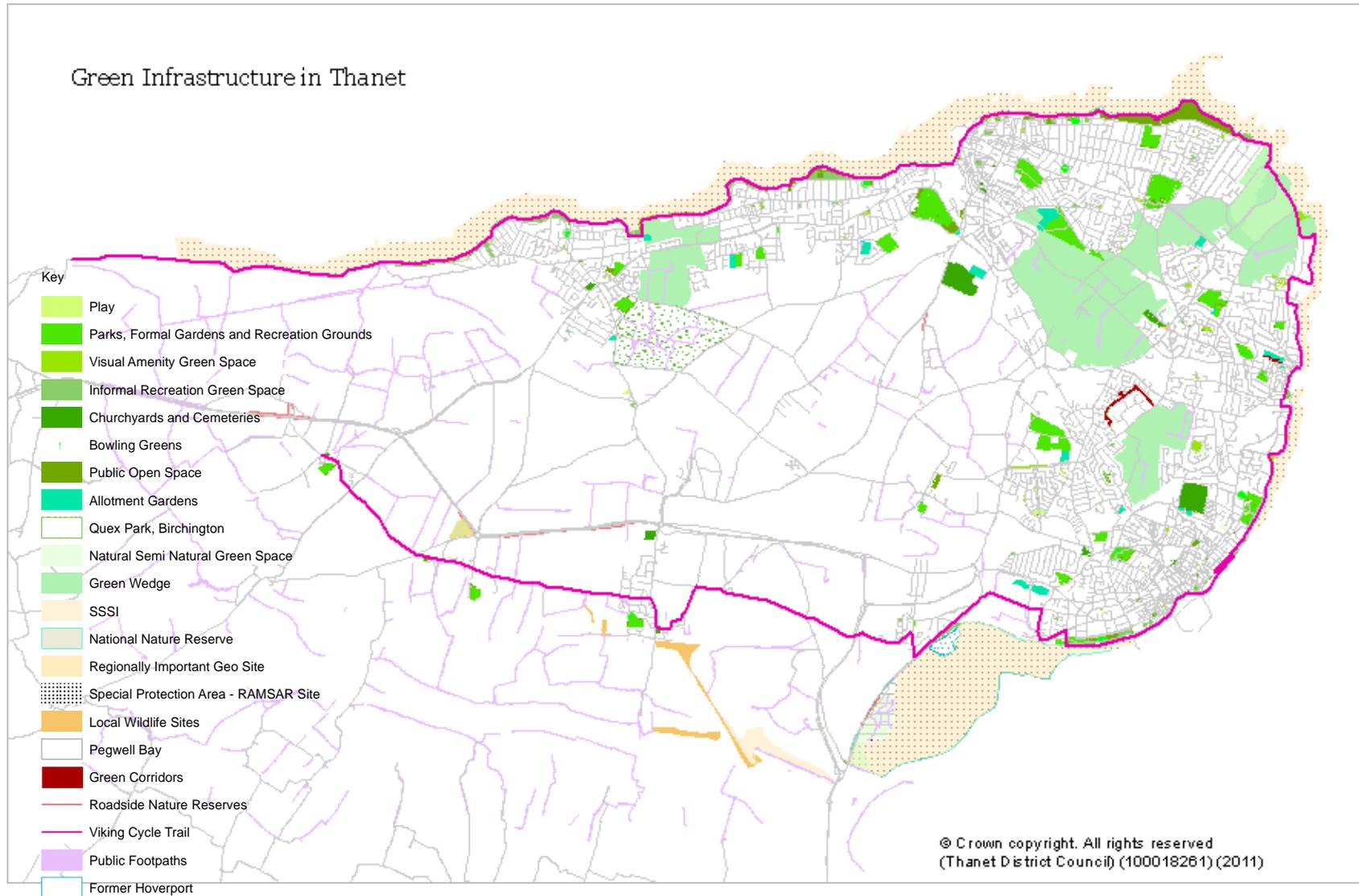
### Components of the Green Infrastructure

A working group of the East Kent councils has established an East Kent GI typology in order to maintain a consistent approach towards Green Infrastructure. This encompasses the following types:

- Biodiversity
- Linear Features
- Civic Amenity

Thanets Green Infrastructure is shown on the map overleaf

# Green Infrastructure in Thanet



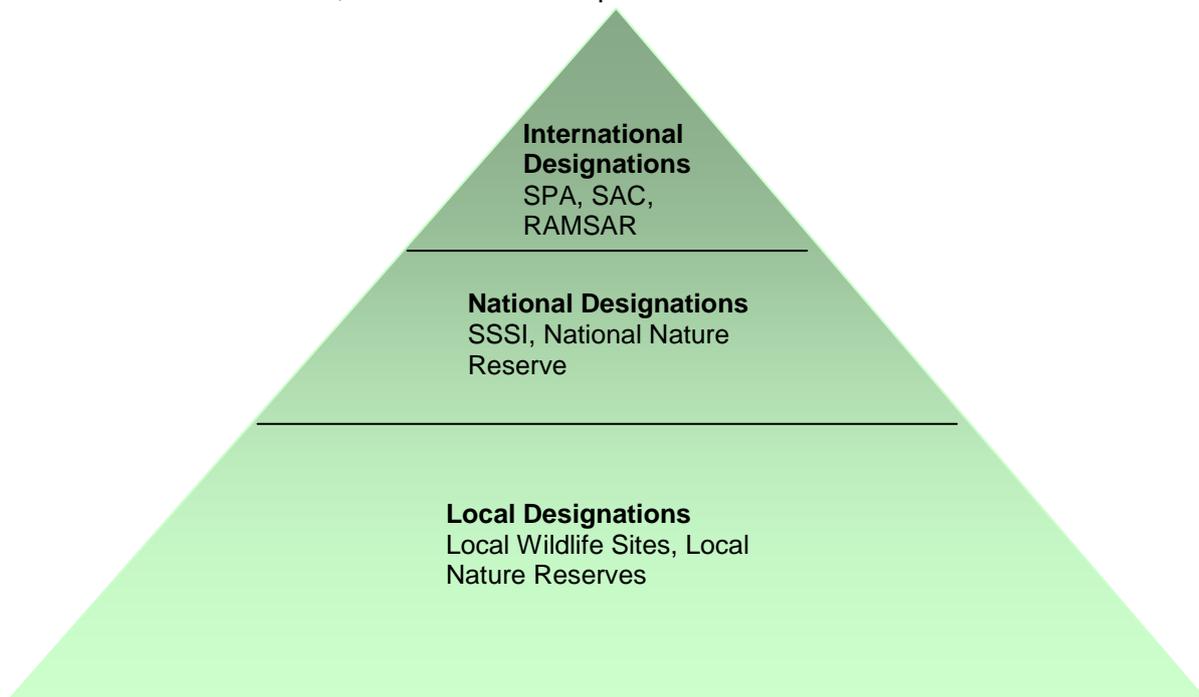
# Biodiversity Features

## GI Characteristics of the District and identification of species

Thanet contains a rich variety of habitats. Designated sites of international, national and local value and extensive areas of wetland and farmland habitat harbour both protected and priority species. The biodiversity elements of Thanet's green infrastructure comprise:

- Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- Special Area for Conservation (SAC)
- Ramsar sites
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- National Nature Reserve (NNR)
- Local Wildlife sites (LWS)
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- Roadside Nature Reserves
- Open Access Land/Open Space
- Registered commons and greens
- Areas of local landscape importance

Of these biodiversity elements a number have statutory designations within the planning system and the diagram below shows the hierarchy of these designations from international, national to local importance.



The internationally designated sites (Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation and Ramsar) are defined under European laws and comprise a network of sites across Europe designated for their important habitat and/or bird area. Most of the Thanet coastline is designated and is important for its intertidal chalk, caves, species (such as blue mussel beds, piddocks), dunes and mudflats, and certain migratory and breeding bird species.

The nationally designated sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserve), also cover the coastline, and have similar features to the international sites, including over 30 nationally rare species of terrestrial and marine plants, 19 nationally rare and 149 nationally scarce invertebrate species and roost sites for migrating and wintering birds.

There are two Local Nature Reserves located at Monkton and Pegwell Bay, and eight Local Wildlife Sites. These sites host locally important habitats.

There are four Roadside Nature Reserves which have been identified for their habitats and connections to areas of rich biodiversity and include important features such as calcareous grassland, lizard orchids and diverse populations of butterflies and dragon flies.

There are also three Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) that are important for historical, scientific research or educational reasons. These are located at Monkton Nature Reserve, Pegwell Bay and St Peters Quarry. These sites were designated for:

- Monkton Nature Reserve – quarry cliffs of Late Cretaceous age (Santonian) containing a number of chalk fossils, a visible section of a fault, involutions and examples of Ice Age features including permafrost and a measurable trench into pure loess
- Pegwell Bay – section through a filled dry valley visible, deposit of loess, demonstrates the Ice Age periglacial processes
- St Peters Quarry – unconformity between the eroded surface of the upper chalk and the Thanet Sands. The highest level of chalk exposed in the South East.

The Thanet Coast has been recommended as a Marine Conservation Zone (under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009) for its reefs, jellyfish, mussel beds and chalk habitats. Natural England and the JNCC have been leading the project and made recommendations to government for the Thanet Coast designation. The proposal was subject to public consultation, and a decision is expected to be made later this year.

## **International Designations**

### Thanet Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Special Areas of Conservation are defined in the European Union's Habitats Directive to protect habitats and species.

The Thanet coast incorporates 20% of UK and 12% of the European resource of intertidal chalk. It has the longest continuous stretch in the UK. The chalk supports many specialised plants and animals such as blue mussel beds which in turn provide habitat for a wide range of species, and piddocks. The caves to the west and south of Ramsgate form the second most extensive chalk cave complex in Britain and contain seaweed and other communities not known in the rest of the UK, the inner cave communities being of international importance. The cliffs are largely untouched apart from a few man made sea defence structures in some areas and harbour rare algae and terrestrial plant communities.

### Sandwich Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

The Sandwich Bay SAC is important for embryonic shifting dunes, shifting dunes along the shoreline with marram grass (white dunes), fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) & dune grassland, dune with creeping willow and humid dune slacks. Within Pegwell Bay calcareous grassland or dune pasture is present at Stonelees and is important for rare calcareous plants which include the largest British populations of the nationally rare bedstraw broomrape (*Orobanche caryophyllacea*) and the BAP species lizard orchid (*Himantoglossum hircinum*).

The SAC also contains other habitats of conservation importance including mud flats, saltmarsh and sublittoral and littoral chalk which is contiguous with that found within the Thanet Coast SAC.

The European Site Conservation objectives for the SAC are:

**Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.**

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- the structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- the supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- the populations of qualifying species; and
- the distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay Special Protection Area (SPA)

Special Protection Areas are designated under the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds to safeguard the habitats of migratory birds and certain particularly threatened birds.

The qualifying features of the SPA are the European Golden Plover (non-breeding), the Ruddy Turnstone (non-breeding) and the Little Tern (breeding).

The European Site Conservation objectives for the SPA are:

**Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.**

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- the structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- the supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
- the populations of the qualifying features; and
- the distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Ramsar Sites

Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.

Thanet's Ramsar site is important for its long stretch of rocky shore, adjoining areas of estuary, sand dune, maritime grassland, saltmarsh and grazing marsh. The wetland habitats support 15 British Red Data Book invertebrates, as well as a large number of nationally scarce species. The site attracts internationally important numbers of turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*), and nationally important numbers of important wintering populations of four wader species: ringed plover, golden plover, grey plover and sanderling, as well as Lapland bunting. The site is used by large numbers of migratory birds.

## **National Designations**

### Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Sandwich Bay & Hacklinge Marshes

SSSIs are designated to conserve and protect the best of our wildlife, geological and physiographical heritage for the benefit of present and future generations (DEFRA).

The Thanet SSSI contains the most important sand dune system and sandy coastal grassland in South East England and also includes a wide range of other habitats such as mudflats, saltmarsh, chalk cliffs, freshwater grazing marsh, scrub and woodland. Associated with the various constituent habitats of the site are outstanding assemblages of both terrestrial and marine plants, with over 30 nationally rare and nationally scarce species having been recorded. Invertebrates are also of interest with recent records including 19 nationally rare, and 149 nationally scarce, species. These areas provide an important landfall for migrating birds and also support large wintering populations of waders, some of which regularly reach levels of national importance. The cliffs at Pegwell Bay are also of geological interest.

The condition of the SSSI was assessed by Natural England in September 2012 and the following results were reported the following:

- The Thanet SSSIs are home to nationally important populations of birds including sandlings, ringed plovers and grey plovers.
- Pegwell Bay is particularly important for golden plover and its important dune system and sandy grassland.
- The SSSIs also host 19 nationally rare and 149 nationally scarce invertebrate species.
- The condition of the coastal lagoon habitat at Coldharbour and Plumpudding is 'unfavourable declining' due to presence of the sea wall which does not allow natural roll back to occur in response to the coastal process.
- The condition of some of the littoral rock is 'unfavourable recovering' due to effects of dog walkers on birds feeding and roosting.

## **Local Designations**

### Local Wildlife Sites

Local Wildlife sites (LWS) are identified and selected for their local nature conservation value. They protect threatened species and habitats and act as buffers, stepping stones and corridors between nationally designated nature conservation sites (The Wildlife Trusts).

Thanet has 8 Local Wildlife sites:

- Monkton Chalk Pit
- St Peters Churchyard, Broadstairs
- Golf course roughs, Kingsgate
- Woods and Grassland, Minster Marshes
- Ash Level and South Richborough Pasture
- St Nicholas at Wade Churchyard
- St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, Monkton
- Ramsgate cemetery

Large areas of calcareous habitat are present within 5 of the Local Wildlife Sites. This habitat harbours orchid species. On some sites the rare lizard orchid is present. The churchyards are important for their rare and varied species of lichens and mosses and the LWS network also provides important habitat for migratory and farmland birds and invertebrate species.

### Local Nature Reserve

Local Nature Reserves are designated by the Council for their importance for wildlife, geology, education and public enjoyment.

Monkton Nature Reserve is situated in an old chalk quarry last excavated in 1958. The reserve has over 350 species of flowering plant including 8 species of orchid, 25 species of butterfly and a number of other species of insect, mammals and birdlife. The reserve also has the first artificial bat cave to be constructed in the UK.

### Roadside Nature Reserves

Roadside Nature Reserves (RNR) are identified for their valuable habitats or their importance as connections to areas of rich biodiversity. Generally RNR's within Thanet have been identified for their calcareous grassland. A number contain Lizard orchid and support diverse populations of butterflies and dragonflies.

- Cliff Promenade, North Foreland
- Stonelees A256
- Monkton Chalk Pit
- Chalkhole farm, Flete

Cliff Promenade, North Foreland RNR is a wide grassland verge containing important chalk habitat which supports BAP lizard (*Himantoglossum hircinum*) and man orchid (*Aceras anthropophorum*) orchids.

There is potential for new RNRs at the Thanet Way (A299) north west of St Nicholas and bridge to Potten Street and at the A253 adjacent to the new road.

### **Kent Biodiversity Action Plan - Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs).**

All nine counties in the South East have undertaken a mapping exercise on behalf of

the South East Biodiversity Forum (SEEBF) identifying areas of greatest biodiversity opportunity. The BOAs were mapped to provide targets to facilitate the delivery of landscape scale habitat re-creation, restoration and to connect up designated sites and priority or Biodiversity Action Plan habitats. The process was guided by a standardised approach, using existing habitat data and information on potential for habitat restoration and recreation. In Kent this work was based on an existing GIS model which used Kent Habitat Survey and Kent Landscape Information System (KLIS) data to produce a model ecological network for the county. The approach has been tested through local and regional consultations, with more than 30 organisations directly involved in identifying the BOAs.

Kent contains sixteen Biodiversity Opportunity Areas, covering 40% of land and inter-tidal habitats, two of which run through the Thanet District.

### Thanet Cliffs and Shore BOA

The Thanet Cliffs and Shore BOA covers the majority of the internationally and nationally designated coastal habitat contained within Thanet, extending throughout Thanet and into Canterbury as far as Whitstable.

The targets for the BOA are the following:

- Conserve and enhance important cliff, intertidal and marine habitats, and investigate the extent and quality of intertidal and subtidal chalk
- Maintain and enhance the quality of existing littoral and sub-littoral chalk by:
  - As far as possible, allowing natural coastal processes to determine the geomorphology of the littoral and sub-littoral environment
  - Developing an action plan for managing the impact of non-native species of concern
  - Securing a noticeable decrease in detrimental effects of human activities on littoral and sub-littoral chalk habitats; and
  - Careful planning of any coastal defence work in order to maintain these naturally dynamic habitats
- Restore, improve management of, and extend or create areas of clifftop grassland.
- Maintain and enhance saline lagoon habitats ensuring no net loss.

### Lower Stour Wetlands BOA

Lower Stour Wetlands Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) contains Kent's most extensive water and wetland habitats. Within Thanet the BOA follows the old Wantsum channel incorporating the reclaimed marshes of Wade, Monkton and Minster and extending into Chislet marshes and Stodmarsh within Canterbury. The corridor then continues around the coast to the Sandwich mudflats and sand dunes within Thanet and Dover. Within the south of Thanet the BOA incorporates local, national and international designations.

The targets for the BOA are the following:

- Protect and enhance existing BAP priority habitats and designated sites. There should be no net loss of intertidal mudflats and saltmarsh, and no net loss of sand dunes, in line with UK BAP targets.
- Existing natural coastal processes should be maintained, and opportunities taken for managed realignment to maintain/enhance intertidal habitats.
- Pursue opportunities to restore and/or recreate intertidal habitats, grazing

marsh, fen and reedbed (including for bittern) as part of a matrix of natural wetland and coastal habitats. Further upstream, there are opportunities to enhance the floodplain of the Great Stour. At least 200ha of grazing marsh should be restored or recreated around Sandwich and in the Lower Stour Valley, adjoining the Sandwich Bay to Hacklinge Marshes SSSI and/or within the Ash Level and South Richborough Pasture Local Wildlife Site.

- Pursue opportunities for the establishment, by 2020, of a new, landscape-scale, freshwater wetland complex, including fen, reedbed and grazing marsh, in which successional processes are allowed to proceed. In this context, a 'landscape-scale' complex should be considered as extending over at least 1000 hectares.
- Pursue opportunities for creation of acid grassland and heathland where this would contribute to the county-wide target of creating, by 2015, up to 145ha in blocks of at least 1ha and no more than 500m from other existing or new semi-natural habitat.
- Achieve a quantifiable improvement in habitat quality of the Nailbourne and the chalk river stretch of the River Stour (upstream of Chilham), as judged by appropriate EA quality indicators.
- Enhance or reinstate management of Local Wildlife Site woodlands.

### **Other Species of importance within Thanet**

This section describes the species of particular importance within the Thanet District. Species that have been mentioned in association with the sites above have not been referred to in this section to avoid repetition.

#### Farmland birds

Many species of birds which rely on farmland for survival have steadily declined since the 1970's. Unlike other declining species referenced in this document, these birds do not rely on Biodiversity Action Plan habitats for their survival, but rather depend on extensive management practices on land used for arable crop growing. The decline is thought to be due to more intensive methods of farming used in modern times and the lack of habitat diversity now present on most farmland. The skylark, grey partridge, linnet, corn bunting yellow wagtail and song thrush are amongst the farmland species to be registered on the UK BAP and the UK red list and are identified by the RSPB as farmland species which have suffered significant decline in recent times. Ecological data collected by the British Trust for Ornithology show that Thanet is an area particularly rich in rare species of farmland birds with large populations of skylarks, corn bunting, grey partridge linnet and meadow pipit within the area and Natural England have identified the Isle of Thanet within the North Kent and Thames Estuary Target Area, in part for its importance for farmland birds with significant populations of Biodiversity Action Plan species known to be present.

#### Terrestrial Invertebrates

A number of important invertebrate species are present throughout Thanet district including rare bees and wasps such as the BAP shrill carder bees (*Bombus sylvarium*) and mining bees (*Colletes halophilus*), the nationally scarce solitary bee (*Nomada fucata*) and the BAP solitary wasp (*Cerceris quadricincta*). The hoverport is one of only three sites in which the brightwave moth lives (*Idaea ochrata*) with the species thought to be extinct throughout the rest of Britain. The hoverport also

supports fiery clearwing moths (*Bembecia chrysidiformis*) one of only two sites for this species in Kent.

### Marine Invertebrates

The soft chalk platforms within the area provide ideal conditions for specialised rock-boring *Polypore* worms and bivalve piddock species. The borings and crevices left by these species provide shelter for other invertebrate species such as anemones, sponges, bivalves, polychaete worms, crabs and hydroids.

On the surface of the chalk platform the seaweed canopy provides shelter for a great variety of marine invertebrates, including crabs and other crustaceans, winkles and other molluscs, anemones, hydroids, bryozoans, and polychaete worms.

Shoresearch surveys have also recorded a variety of other species, including sea slugs, chitons and other molluscs, sea spiders, barnacles, lobsters and squat lobsters, starfish, brittlestars and sea urchins on the chalk platform around Thanet.

On the lower levels of the chalk platform stretching for 100m by the Ramsgate Western Esplanade is a dense population of sand mason worm (*Lanice conchilega*).

Subtidal habitats near to the foreshore contain a limited variety of species including in particular bivalve piddocks burrowing holes in the chalk. Algae occur only in the shallow subtidal where there is sufficient light. In slightly deeper water, animal communities dominate the seabed, with attached species including sponges, barnacles, bryozoans, hydroids, anemones, starfish, polychaete worms and sea squirts, and a variety of mobile species including fish, crustaceans and molluscs

### Ross Worm, *Sabellaria spinulosa*

Ross worm, *Sabellaria spinulosa* is commonly found around the Thanet coast, often as a thin or patchy crust, but in places in a reef formation (constituting a BAP habitat), where it provides valuable habitat structure and shelter for other marine life.

## Linear Features

Thanet's Open Spaces, Indoor Sports and Recreation Assessment (August 2006) identifies linear features as:

*'Sites that provide venues for walking, cycling and horse riding amongst others uses. Often they can provide a key "green" link and offer travel routes for both local residents and local wildlife migration'*

### **Walking Routes**

The Saxon Shore Way is a 160 mile route from Gravesend to Hastings. Part of the Saxon Shore Way runs through Thanet from Broadstairs to Margate.

The Turner & Dickens Walk is a 4 mile route between Margate (Turner Contemporary) and Broadstairs (Dickens House Museum)

Natural England has recently consulted on proposals to improve access to the Kent coast between Ramsgate and Folkestone as part of the All England Coastal Path project. The England Coast Path is a new long distance route that will eventually enable people to walk around the whole English coast.

## **Cycling Routes**

The Viking Coastal Trail is a 27 mile route around the Thanet Coast line from St Nicholas at Wade to Reculver Towers. The route is National Cycle Route 15.

## **Civic Amenity**

Thanet's Open Spaces, Indoor Sports and Recreation Assessment (August 2006) and includes an assessment of parks, informal recreation green space, natural and semi natural green space, amenity green space, outdoor sports facilities, children and young people, allotments and churches and cemeteries.

This section summarises the results of the survey – more detailed results can be found in Appendix 1.

### **Parks**

Thanet's Open Space Audit concludes that the district's formal gardens and recreation grounds should be kept at the current level of provision as a minimum. It recommends this provision to be 1.06ha per 1000 population with all dwellings being within 1 km of a good quality park. There are a few places in the district where this provision is not met: Prestedge Avenue and Vine Close area of Ramsgate, a small area around the QEQM hospital, Acol, Woodchurch, Lydden and most of Manston. The average quality score for parks was rated as 'Good'.

### **Informal Recreation Green Space**

The Open Space Audit identified a provision of 0.51 hectares per 1000 population which is above the national standard of 0.5 hectares. Around half of the sites assessed scored above average in terms of quality.

### **Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace**

The Open Space Audit assessed natural and semi natural green spaces against the widely used Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) set by Natural England. The ANGSt standards state that everyone, wherever they live, should have accessible natural greenspace:

- Of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 meters (5 minutes walk) from home
- at least one accessible 20 ha site within 2km of home
- one accessible 100 ha site within 5km of home
- one accessible 500 ha site within 10km of home
- A minimum of 1 ha of statutory Local Nature Reserves per 1000 population

The Open Space Audit incorporates part of the National Playing Fields Association open space standard (provision of 2.4ha per 1000 population) and carried out the assessment of natural and semi natural greenspace using the ANGSt standards per 1000 population. It identified Thanet as under-providing at 0.95ha per 1000 population.

However the audit did not include the Thanet coastal paths as they are hard-landscaped areas which were not considered compatible with a strategy concentrating on green spaces. Beaches were also excluded as physical access to some beach areas was problematic, and private green spaces (such as Quex Park) were also not included.

A study was produced for the South East AONBs Woodlands Programme, the Forestry Commission and Natural England in 2007 called 'An Analysis of Accessible Natural Greenspace Provision in the South East'. The study included accessible linear greenspaces such as walking/cycling paths, and also included the coast on the basis that a large population by the coast had no other greenspace available, to exclude this feature would not provide an accurate reflection of the actual level of available natural greenspace. Sites only accessible by public rights of way were not included in this study. This study concludes that 2% of households in Thanet meet all of the ANGST standards, with higher percentages meeting the individual standards. No households were identified as being served only by linear green space.

Number of Households	% of households						
	Within 300m of a 2ha+ site	Within 2km of a 20ha+ site	Within 5km of a 100ha+ site	Within 10km of a 500ha+ site	Meeting all ANGST requirements	Meeting none of the ANGST requirements	Served only by linear green space
59 491	2	23	53	100	2	0	0

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/accnatgreenrep-report.pdf/\\$FILE/accnatgreenrep-report.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/accnatgreenrep-report.pdf/$FILE/accnatgreenrep-report.pdf)

### **Amenity Greenspace**

Thanet's Open Space Audit recommends a provision of amenity space of 0.5 ha per 1000 population. The assessment identifies the current provision as 0.51ha per 1000. The majority of the sites assessed were considered to be above average quality.

### **Outdoor Sports Facilities**

This was an assessment of football pitches, rugby pitches and cricket pitches. With the exception of one site, all of the sites assessed were considered to be of good quality or higher.

### **Children and Young People**

The Thanet Open Space Audit found the level of equipped play areas to be 0.2 ha per 1000 population which was below the national standard of 0.8 ha. The majority of the sites assessed were considered to be of poor quality.

### **Allotments**

The Open Space Audit found there are 24.46 ha of allotments in the district, which equates to a current level of provision of 0.19 ha per 1000 head of population. This is just below the nationally recommended average but the audit considers this to be

sufficient to provide for the District's population. The average quality score for allotments was 'average'.

Allotment gardening has changed significantly since the 2006 Local Plan publication. Sale of the Manston Road allotments site in Ramsgate has enabled the provision of major improvements to local Council sites. Consultation with existing plot holders provided a number of key improvements on each site and these were implemented with the capital receipts from the sale of the Manston Road site. The principal improvement for the majority of sites was security and all sites now have security fences and gate access. This has led to a considerable increase in plot usage and there is now a waiting list for plots. Plot sizes have also been reduced and compost toilets introduced on sites where requested. This has encouraged more working residents, families and female usage of plots.

The creation of a new Town Council in Ramsgate has also led to increased devolution of allotments to Town and Parish Councils. This is seen as a logical step in this local service provision. In 2013 the Council will only be maintaining allotments in the Margate and Westgate areas. The provision of allotments in Ramsgate, Broadstairs and Birchington will now be undertaken by the Parish Council. Should Margate become a Town Council then the statutory allotments would automatically transfer at the point of their official date of creation. Following the example at Ramsgate, Thanet Council would seek to transfer the non statutory allotments to the new Town Council ensuring a more local level of service closest to the allotment customers.

There is a need for more allotments in the town and parishes and it will be considered as part of overall provision should any large developments offer the opportunity to create them. Thanet Council will not seek to provide any new allotments in areas where it is no longer providing an allotment service and will direct any requests for allotment provision to the relevant Town or Parish Council who have a legal duty to receive a request for allotment provision and to seek to provide it.

## Current GI Projects

### **The North East Kent European Marine Sites Management Scheme 2007-2012**

The North East Kent European marine sites (NEKEMS) Management Scheme were first published in 2001. The aim of the management scheme was to protect the European marine sites, Thanet Coast SAC, Sandwich Bay SAC and Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA from activities which may affect habitats, marine and bird life for which the sites are important. The scheme covered habitat from Swalecliff to just north of Deal, excluding Herne Bay, which are covered at least some of the time by the sea and extended 2km into the sea around Thanet. The aims and objectives were formulated by a series of workshops with over 70 organisations (stakeholders) represented. A partnership was formed to manage delivery which included Local Authorities, statutory agencies such as the Environment Agency and Natural England, Kent County Council, harbour authorities, and water companies.

The first management scheme achieved success in many areas including:-

- Formulation of a robust management structure.
- Good working relationships between all authorities responsible for marine site protection.
- Engaged local communities in active management of the sites.
- Established the highly successful Thanet Coast Project.
- Produced a number of codes of conduct.
- Increased awareness and appreciation of the conservation interest of the European sites.

Within the revised management scheme 2007-2012 a more holistic approach was taken and the Ecosystems Approach used. Plans for management of the marine sites were combined with management of other undesignated habitats and species within the ecosystem and such management balanced with human interactions and needs. Stakeholder views were again sought with subject assessment tables and detailed action plans compiled as a result of the consultation. These action plans and research are also informed by the North East Kent Scientific Coastal Advisory Group, a body of academics and scientists with an interest in the marine sites.

The Management Scheme for 2013-2018 is currently undergoing its second revision and is on public consultation until 21 June 2013. The scheme has been renamed as the North East Kent Marine Protected Area scheme to reflect the inclusion of management of the Thanet Coast recommended Marine Conservation Zone (rMCZ) which has been recommended by the UK government for designation in 2013, under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

### **Thanet Coast Project**

Thanet Coast Project was established in 2001 and is tasked with much of the delivery of the North East Kent European marine sites Management Scheme and therefore delivery of the majority of the Thanet Cliffs and Shore BOA within Thanet. The main aims of the project are to :-

- Raise awareness of the important marine and bird life, and how to avoid damaging them.

- Work with local people to safeguard coastal wildlife and implement the Management Scheme action.
- Encourage and run wildlife related events and make links with wildlife, green tourism, coastscape and the arts.
- Be a focal point for enquiries and gathering information on coastal wildlife and environmental issues.
- Keep everyone informed with progress through various means, including newsletters, articles and stakeholder workshops.

The Thanet Project has been very successful in the last nine years with the following activities and projects set up to deliver these objectives:-

- 10 coastal codes of conduct formulated with stakeholders to alleviate the impacts of human activities on the European sites.
- One scientific research code formulated by The North East Kent Scientific Coastal Advisory Group.
- A twice yearly Thanet Coast newsletter.
- Educational activities and resources for all ages.
- Volunteering opportunities from volunteer wardens to participation in ecological research.

### **Seasearch and Shoresearch**

Kent Seasearch is run by Kent Wildlife Trust, as part of the national programme of training and diving for recreational divers to record seabed habitats and species, thereby helping towards their protection. Shoresearch is Kent Wildlife Trust's volunteer scheme to identify and record animals and plants in their habitats on the shore. The aim of the scheme is to build a baseline of data on intertidal wildlife around Kent, to help promote its conservation. Shoresearch surveys have been carried out in many locations around the Thanet Coast.

### **Thanet's Green Lungs**

A project managed between KWT and Thanet DC to assist and support a number of community groups in improving and managing green spaces and linking the sites and groups together to develop a strong network of green infrastructure.

### **Shining Ramshorn Snail Project**

Over the past year, the Kent Wildlife Trust's Water for Wildlife Project Officer has been delivering a project to save the rare shining ram's-horn snail (funded by the BBC Wildlife Fund and the Environment Agency). Populations of this small yet striking aquatic snail, typically found in clean and well-vegetated ditch habitats, have suffered a dramatic decline in the last 60-70 years. The Lower Stour marshes in Kent are a stronghold for the shining ram's-horn, which is known from only a handful of other sites across the country. The project has involved working with landowners and managers in the Lower Stour area to safeguard known populations of the snail by promoting sensitive ditch management, enhancing and extending suitable ditch habitat and addressing water quality issues.

### **Other Community Projects**

There are a number of community projects already underway which include:

- Dane Valley Woods – Mission Statement is ‘*To engage local people and raise funds, with the aim of developing a sustainable community owned wildspace at Dane Valley Road, Margate; through developing a framework that allows everyone to participate in creating and managing their own working woodlands for enjoyment, learning, health and wildlife*’ (<http://danevalleywoods.org/about/>)
- West Undercliff Village Green – Volunteers undertaking tasks such as raking, digging, litter picking, planting native species and managing the grass to encourage wildflowers and biodiversity.
- Friends of Mockets Wood – Millennium Woods project under development and well connected for wildlife corridors and long term action plan for woodland maintenance.
- Montefiore Woodland – Local site developed by a community group for people and wildlife.
- Windmill Community allotments – excellent facility for environmental education with a very rich and diverse plot. Project includes group and communal organic growing spaces; wildlife garden and large pond with platforms and seating; young orchard with local fruit and nut varieties; compost toilet; compost bins and wormeries; under 5’s play area with willow tunnels and sandpit; picnic and bonfire areas; woodwork area, herb flower, soft fruit and perennial vegetable beds, and plant nursery. Local produce market stalls.

### **Green Infrastructure in New Developments**

Some major planning permissions have included requirements for new green infrastructure, which when developed will form part of Thanet’s Green Infrastructure Network. These include:

#### Hereson School, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs (13/0173) - Erection of 150 dwellings following the demolition of existing school

Landscape Scheme included to achieve the following landscape objectives and design principles:

- To maximise biodiversity and retain and enhance ecological features
- Retain, protect and enhance existing areas of vegetation and habitat where possible
- Create a visually attractive residential setting for the new development with a soft, open and generally tree covered character
- Create a legible hierarchy of private cartilages, semi-private communal green space and public open space across the site
- Reflect and reinforce the existing vegetation type and species present within the site and surrounding areas
- Retain an open plan arrangement for property frontages and communal space

#### Land at Nash Road/Haine Road, Ramsgate (Westwood) - Mixed use urban extension comprising residential use, community facilities, commercial employment uses and

associated infrastructure including a new link road, associated alterations to existing junctions and new access arrangements

Landscape and Ecology Strategy sets the following objectives:

- Inclusion of tree planting and biodiversity habitats wherever possible; designed around any constraints that are identified, which include existing services easements
- Providing a new landscape structure which in places will act as a landmark wherever possible, to relate to the surrounding area and reference the entrances to and boundaries of the site
- Creating strong permeability through careful use of design and materials and also a landscape response that assists movement
- Using landscape structure to create pivotal vistas whilst also meeting biodiversity requirements and aspirations
- The creation of a number of public and communal community spaces
- The use of mature tree planting to provide instant impact, a sense of place and orientation
- The design of robust landscape responses with regard to vandalism, Secure by Design principles and to contribute to Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS)
- The use of native species, selected to withstand the local climate and conditions, which are impacted on by the proximity of Westwood to the sea, and to again maximise biodiversity gains and fruit and berry foraging potential

Land at Molineux Road and Thorne Road and Monkton Road, Minster – 100 dwellings, parking, landscaping, infrastructure and public open space.

Application includes:

- Provision of private amenity space
- New public open space to south of site
- Planting and landscaping

## ii) Landscape Character Assessment

Thanet has historically been recognised as possessing important landscapes that contribute significantly to its sense of place and island characteristics.

Thanet has a distinct landscape area defined by the former limits of the island that was cut off from the mainland by the Wantsum Channel until it silted up around 1000 years ago. The district has distinctive wide, simple and unrestricted views and dramatic chalk cliffs along parts of the coastline.

In previous local plans, the Council has sought to protect these important landscapes. The last local plan (2006) identified six Landscape Character Areas subject to planning policy CC2. The protection of Thanet's important landscapes is continued in the emerging Local Plan and this paper provides the evidence to support their continued protection.

### Previous Studies

Previous planning policies relating to Thanet's landscapes have been informed by various studies that have been undertaken.

#### **Preliminary Report of the Isle of Thanet Landscape Assessment Survey, Thanet District Council Planning Department February 1993**

A survey was carried out in June 1991 to support the Isle of Thanet Local Plan (adopted 1998). This survey involved a desk study and a field study.

The desk study involved using a number of sources to compile a picture of the historic importance and scenic value of the Thanet landscape. The study includes extracts from various studies of the Thanet landscape and its history dating back to the 8th Century, through the 1700s, 1800s and 1900s up to 1991.

The study concludes that the former Wantsum Channel is a landscape of considerable historic importance, providing substantial evidence of centuries of natural physical change, human habitation and management, and that those elements of the landscape are worthy of protection. It also identifies long-held ideas about the Thanet landscape as possessing a gently undulating landscape, with few dominant natural features, shaped largely by arable farming combined with a historical lack of tree cover. Many of the texts comment on the unique openness of Thanet's landscape.

The field study considered an objective and subjective assessment of local landscapes as seen from 67 different viewpoints in and around the district. It concluded that the views of the sea form a particularly important factor in Thanet's landscape qualities, as the sea forms the backdrop to marshes, agricultural land, urban areas and other landscape areas or features. It also provides a contrasting edge to the open countryside and the built environment. This is enhanced by the flatness of the landscape which enables the sea to be seen from some elevated or particularly flat inland parts of the district.

#### **Kent Historic Landscape Characterisation – Croft, Munby & Ridley May 2001**

This study was carried out by Oxford Archaeological Unit, commissioned by Kent County Council and English Heritage, to enhance the landscape characterisation of Kent to assist local authorities in the production of Historic Landscape Character Assessments.

The study focuses on historic landscape characterisation, recognising ways in which the present physical landscape reflects how people have exploited, changed and adapted to the physical environment through time, with respect to different social, economic, technological and cultural factors. It places an emphasis on time depth and how different areas reflect varying patterns and rates of change.

The study identifies 32 Historic Landscape Character Areas throughout Kent, Thanet being one of them, the Wantsum Channel another. It identifies two Historic Landscape Types – post 1801 settlements and irregular fields bounded by roads, tracks and paths. The study identifies the Wantsum as having a history of reclamation and usage stretching back to at least the 12th and 13th centuries in connection with the considerable ecclesiastical estates in the region.

### **The Landscape Assessment of Kent – October 2004, prepared for Kent County Council by Jacobs Baktie**

The aim of this study was to draw together existing landscape character area assessments of the county and update them using judgements based on condition and sensitivity to promote a vision for each area. The study was prepared to conform to guidance set out in PPS7 which increased the importance of landscape characterisation as a tool for countryside planning policy.

The study acknowledges long views to and from the 'island' and its unenclosed landscape, its plateau and marshes. The study finds Thanet's sense of place to be very strong, with open views contributing to the high sensitivity of the landscape and summarises the landscape analysis of the study as follows:

Condition:

Pattern of elements – Coherent

Detracting Features – Some

Visual Unity – Coherent

Cultural integrity – Variable

Ecological Integrity – Weak

Functional Integrity – Weak

Sensitivity:

Distinctiveness – Unique/rare

Continuity – Historic

Sense of Place – Strong

Landform – Dominant

Extent of tree cover – Open

Visibility – Very high

# Local Planning Policies

Thanet's landscapes have historically been protected by local planning policy.

The Thanet Urban Local Plan, adopted in 1984, identified an Area of Local Landscape Importance from Stonar Hill to Pegwell Bay and a policy protecting the long views of Pegwell Bay and Sandwich Bay. A policy protecting the undeveloped coast applied to local landscape areas from Minnis Bay to Plum Pudding Island – the former Wantsum Channel, and from North Foreland to Palm Bay. It also included a criteria based policy relating to the erection of agricultural buildings which states that impact on the landscape should be minimised. A policy protecting the Green Wedges included protection of their visual amenities and distinctive landscape qualities.

The Isle of Thanet Local Plan 1998 included a policy protecting the important visual and environmental quality of major approaches to the Thanet towns and main gateways to the district. The Plan distinguished the landscape and long views, designating Pegwell Bay-Sandwich Bay as a Special Landscape Area, and the Former Wantsum Channel as an Area of High Landscape Value, with protective policies for each designation. It also included a policy protecting designated Local Landscape Areas at the Green Wedge Policy areas, Shottendane Valley (Margate), Gore End (Birchington) and Dent-de-Lion (Westgate).

The Thanet Local Plan 2006 identifies Landscape Character Areas at Pegwell Bay, The Former Wantsum Channel, The Former Wantsum North Shore, The Central Chalk Plateau, Quex Park and the Urban Coast. Policy CC2 affords protection to these designations. The Plan describes the important qualities of these areas as follows:

## **Pegwell Bay**

Pegwell Bay is an extensive area of mixed coastal habitats, including mudflats, saltmarsh and coastal scrub. These habitats form an open and relatively unspoilt landscape, with a distinctive character. The area possesses a sense of remoteness and wildness despite the relative proximity of development. Among its most important features in the area is the unique sweep of chalk cliffs viewed across Pegwell Bay from the south. This landscape creates large open skies.

## **The Former Wantsum Channel**

This area includes all the flood plain of the River Stour, and historically represents the former sea channel, the Wantsum Channel, which previously separated the Isle of Thanet from mainland Kent and which silted up over several centuries. The area is characterised by a vast, flat, open landscape defined by the presence of an ancient field system, defined by an extensive ditch and dyke system, the sea walls and isolated groups of trees. These elements provide important visual evidence of the physical evolution of the Wantsum Channel and, like other marsh areas in Kent, produce huge open skies.

## **The Former Wantsum North Shore**

This area largely comprises the distinctive and often quite steep hill slopes

Leading down from the Central Chalk Plateau to the former Wantsum Channel. The landscape is very open with few features and the former shoreline is more distinct in some places than in others, with the variation in the contour pattern. From the upper slopes it affords extensive views across the whole of the former Wantsum Channel to the slopes on the opposite banks and in many places to the sea. The former shoreline is more distinct in some places than in others, with the variation in the contour pattern. However, it also

provides the unique setting of the former channel side villages of Minster, Monkton, Sarre and St Nicholas, and the smaller, originally farm based, settlements of Shuart, Gore Street and Potten Street. These elements provide important visual evidence of the growth of human settlement, agriculture and commerce in the area.

The openness of this landscape provides wide and long views of the former Wantsum Channel area and Pegwell Bay. The area also possesses a large number of archaeological sites (including scheduled ancient monuments); numerous listed buildings (including Minster Abbey, the churches at Minster, Monkton and St Nicholas, and Sarre Mill); and the historical landing sites of St Augustine and the Saxons, Hengist and Horsa.

### **The Central Chalk Plateau**

The central part of the District is characterised by a generally flat or gently undulating landscape, with extensive, unenclosed fields under intensive arable cultivation. This open landscape is fragmented by the location of largescale developments such as the airport, Manston Business Park and a sporadic settlement pattern to the north of the airport. The character of this area is also defined by the proximity of the edges of the urban areas.

### **Quex Park**

The Park is unique within the Thanet context, comprising a formal and extensive wooded parkland and amenity landscape within an otherwise open intensively farmed landscape. It possesses a formal landscape structure and gardens that act as an effective setting to Quex House. The parkland is intensively cultivated between the tree belts, with limited grazing pasture remaining. Two important historic features of the Park are the Waterloo Tower and a round castellated brick tower to the north of the main House.

### **The Urban Coast**

The urban areas of Thanet form an almost continuous conurbation along the coast between Pegwell Village and Minnis Bay. With the exception of the Green Wedges, this area is heavily urbanised. The coastal strip is characterised by the presence of traditional seaside architecture, active harbour areas and beaches and some extensive public open clifftop areas. The pattern of bays and headlands provides long sweeping views of the coast.

The plan also acknowledges important features and characteristics in the local landscape, for example, views of the sea and coastline, habitat elements such as woodland and built features such as ancient monuments and listed buildings. Policy CC3 protects local landscape features. The Plan acknowledges the approach routes which cross the former Wantsum Channel which provide a 'sense of arrival' in Thanet, and Policy CC4 protects the important visual and environmental quality of the major approaches to the Thanet towns.

## **Thanet's Landscapes Today**

In order to gain a more up to date picture of Thanet's Landscape Character Areas, site surveys were carried out, based on the 1993 study. The views from that study were plotted on a proposals map and a selection of 22 viewpoints were identified as views which may have changed. These included potential views of Thanet Earth, the new housing site at Minster, views of Richborough, views which may now include wind farms and views of the Green Wedges. The map can be found in Appendix 3 – the yellow stars show the sites visited in the 2012 survey, the number on each star corresponds to the site number from the 1993 survey. The findings from the

1993 study were translated into a table for comparison against current conditions. The results of the survey and photographs of the views can be found in Appendix 2.

Of the 22 views surveyed, 14 were considered not to have changed since the 1993 survey. One view was considered to have improved as a road was less visible due to tree coverage.

Two views were considered to have improved as the cooling towers at Richborough Power Station have been demolished so no longer form part of the landscape. The report on the planning application for the demolition of the cooling towers states the following:

*‘The former Wantsum Channel, like other marsh areas in Kent, produce huge open skies, and this is what this policy [Thanet Local Plan Policy CC2] seeks to protect. It is concluded that the cooling towers are not of any significant heritage or visual value and moreover their demolition would remove these alien and relatively recent features from the landscape. As such I consider that overall the proposal would have a positive effect upon the historic landscape and the proposal supports the aims of the policy which seeks to protect the historic landscape’*

Only one view was considered to be more built up as Thanet Earth is now visible. However, Thanet Earth is highly visible from other points in the district that were not part of the 1993 survey. The site is located in the designated Central Chalk Plateau Landscape Character Area and has a significant and detrimental impact. The development comprises 7 glasshouses, a research centre, a packhouse, 7 dwellings for site managers, 4 reservoirs, a new access road and a combined heat and power system. In order to mitigate the visual impact, the applicant included landscaping to soften the appearance of the development. The report on the planning application for Thanet Earth states:

*‘Overall, it is considered that the adverse visual impact of the proposed development is very significant at this prominent site, visible from main approach routes into Thanet. However, in considering the proposal as a whole this negative impact must be balanced against the significant economic benefits associated with this proposed development.....subject to the outstanding concerns being satisfactorily addressed, given the severe economic conditions faced in Thanet, on balance, it is considered that the economic benefits associated with the proposal are significant enough to outweigh the negative impacts associated with the proposal’.*

This was an exceptional circumstance where development was allowed that would have a negative impact on a Landscape Character Area.

The 2006 Thanet Local Plan allocated a site for residential development of 100 new dwellings in Minster within the Wantsum Channel North Shore landscape character area. The development has been completed, and the report on the planning application refers to the Inspector’s Report to the Thanet Local Plan as agreeing the principle of that development. The Inspector’s Report states the following with regards to the Special Landscape Character Area:

*‘From the evidence submitted I note that most of the potential extension sites at Minster fall within the Wantsum Channel North Shore landscape character area. Policy CC2 of the RDD applies protection from development which would damage the setting of the Wantsum Channel, and the long views of Pegwell Bay, the Wantsum Channel, the adjacent marshes and the sea. In my view, the allocated site is the option with the lowest impact on these Policy objectives. From most vantage points it is viewed against the backdrop of the existing built up area of Minster. Being largely enclosed by existing development and tucked away from view from the local road network it would have only limited impact on the longer views referred to.’*

*‘It is clear to me that strong protection is applied to safeguard the open qualities and separation between towns provided by the areas designated as Green Wedges in the Plan. However, although greenfield and not previously developed land, this site does not form part of any designated Green Belt or Green Wedge. In my view, the site allocated under Policy H2B would have comparatively limited impact on the landscape setting of the Wantsum Channel North Shore area (Policy CC2) being less of an intrusion beyond the present confines of Minster than most of the other alternatives considered. The identified site is more enclosed by existing built development than other site options put forward and considered for Minster including the land to the north of Foxborough Lane’.*

The new housing development is visible from one view visited in the 2012 survey, however it is well screened and has not made a significant visual impact.

In recent years, the Kentish Flats and Thanet offshore windfarms have been constructed, providing a new feature to the landscape. They could be seen from three of the viewpoints visited.

The most significant changes to Thanet’s landscapes since the 1993 survey are the development of Thanet Earth, the demolition of the cooling towers at Richborough, and views of the Kentish Flats and Thanet Coast offshore wind farms.

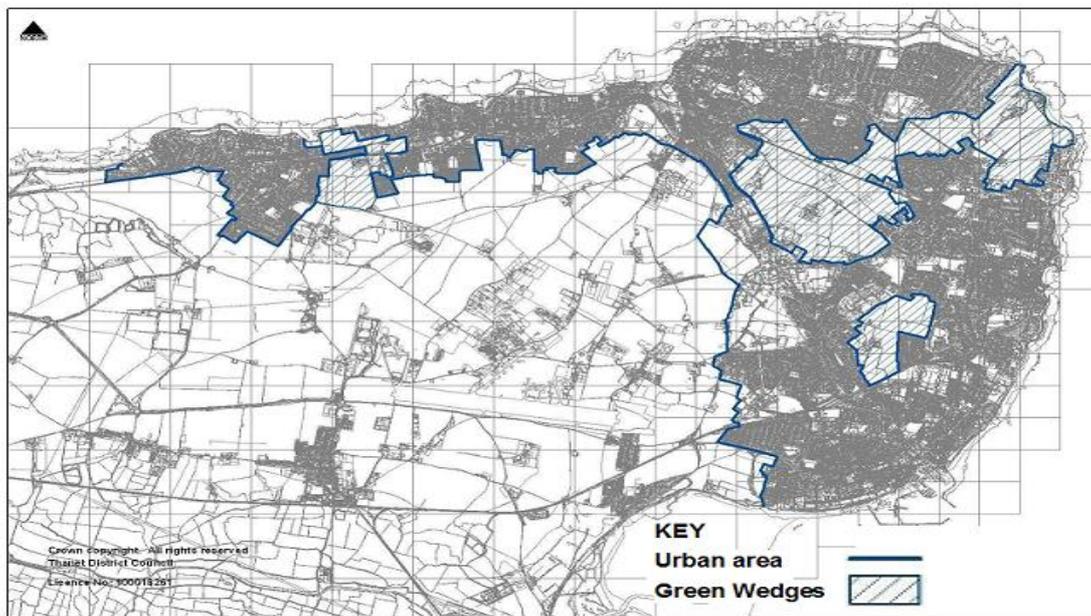
The Thanet Earth development has had a detrimental impact to the landscape, but the economic benefits that would be brought by the proposal were considered to outweigh the negative visual impact. The demolition of the cooling towers has had a positive impact, and the presence of the windfarms bring an additional feature to the landscape.

Previous studies have identified the former Wantsum Channel, Thanet’s long views and unique openness, views of the sea and sense of place as important landscape characteristics, and these have been protected under planning policy in earlier local plans.

It is considered that these have, with the exception of the anomalous development of Thanet Earth, not changed detrimentally and are still worthy of protection in the local plan.

### iii) Green Wedges

The principle settlements of Thanet are separated by areas of open countryside which are known as the Green Wedges. Thanet has three Green Wedges that differ in size and character. The largest is the one that separates Margate and Broadstairs. Substantial areas of this Green Wedge consist of high quality agricultural land in large open fields without fences or hedgerows. Other parts have isolated belts of woodland. The other two Green Wedges which separate Birchington and Westgate, and Broadstairs and Ramsgate are considerably smaller but perform a very significant function and, due to their limited extent are also potentially more vulnerable to development pressures.



There is limited built development in the Green Wedges; they have a level or gently undulating landform, with generally sparse vegetation. These factors allow many extensive and uninterrupted views across open countryside. The public perception of space, openness and separation is largely gained from roads and footpaths that run through or alongside the Wedges in undeveloped frontages. These are considered very important adding to the quality of life perceived by people in the community.

The principle functions of Thanet's Green Wedges are:

- Protect areas of open countryside between the towns
- Ensure physical separation and avoid coalescence of the towns thus retaining their individual character and distinctiveness
- Provide visual relief from the built environment and a better quality of life for residents
- Retains areas of open space, some of which is accessible. There is currently an under-provision of accessible open space in the district.

### Evolution of the Green Wedge Policy

There have been policies protecting the Green Wedges dating back beyond the Thanet Urban Local Plan adopted in 1984. That Plan notes (para 10.33,) that :

*The Thanet Town Map was based on a general policy that each community in Thanet should retain its present characteristics and that valuable agricultural land on the periphery of the towns should be safeguarded.*

That original policy designated the countryside between the urban areas of Margate and Broadstairs as a “Green Wedge” and was adopted as an Interim Development Control Policy in 1981. Prior to this an informal policy appears to have been operated based on the Thanet Town Map. The Policy was subsequently incorporated (as Policy CAC12) in the Thanet Urban Local Plan, adopted in 1984, and which was the first formally adopted Local Plan containing policies for the urban area. This Plan also designated a “Green Wedge” to separate Birchington and Westgate (Policy CAC12A). The Isle of Thanet Local Plan of 1998 included a policy protecting the Green Wedges (Policy CL6) – the policy was amended and carried forward into the 2006 Thanet Local Plan (Policy CC5). The policy was saved so forms part of the current development plan, and states:

### **POLICY CC5 – GREEN WEDGES**

**Within the green wedges, as defined on the proposals map, new development (including the change of use of land and buildings) will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the development:**

- 1 Is not detrimental or contrary to the stated aims of the policy; or**
- 2 Is essential for the proposed development to be located within the green wedges**

**Open sports and recreational uses will be permitted subject to there being no overriding conflict with other policies and the wider objectives of the plan. Any related built development should be kept to the minimum necessary to support the open use, and be sensitively located.**

**New development that is permitted by virtue of this policy should make a positive contribution to the area in terms of siting, design, scale and use of materials.**

The stated aims of this policy are:

1. To serve as a barrier to the further outward growth and coalescence of Thanet’s urban areas, so that the separate physical identities of the towns are retained;
2. To prevent the consolidation of development on the boundaries between the built-up areas of the towns and the open countryside of the Wedges, and the extension of isolated groups of houses or other development;
3. To conserve and protect the essentially rural and unspoilt character, and distinctive landscape qualities of the countryside that separates the urban areas, for the enjoyment and amenity of those living in, and visiting, Thanet;
4. To prohibit all but essential development and other development which does not detract from the character and appearance of the area.

The Green Wedge policies have been consistently and strongly supported at appeals, in terms of both the areas to which it is applied, and the restrictive nature of the policies within those areas.

In appeal decisions, Inspectors have said:

*‘...the site forms part of an important gap which performs a valuable function in separating Margate and Broadstairs’*

*‘It is apparent that there has been extensive pressure for development within the protected area in the past and it is clearly vulnerable to piecemeal encroachment and consequent*

*erosion in this way..... There must, in my view, be concern at the reduction of the relatively limited area of undeveloped land separating Margate and Broadstairs which is very positively protected....'*

*'The introduction of a steel fabrication business into the Green Wedge would be harmful to the rural character and by consolidating an existing pocket of development, would erode the function of the Green Wedge as a barrier to the further outward growth of Margate and Broadstairs'*

The Inspector who carried out the Public Inquiry into the 2006 Thanet Local Plan said the following about the Green Wedges in his report:

*'Green Wedges have a much wider function as expressed in the Plan. The essence of the Green Wedges is the permanent setting of open countryside around and between the Thanet towns. They are all highly significant in the local context providing visual relief in a highly urbanised area.'*

*'The aims of Green Wedges are to serve as a barrier to the further outward growth and coalescence of Thanet's urban areas so that the separate physical identities of the towns are retained. They prevent the consolidation of development on the boundaries between the built up areas of the towns and the open countryside of the wedges. This particular site provides the only remaining gap between the towns of Broadstairs and Ramsgate.'*

(comments relating to an objection to amend a Green Wedge boundary)

*'In my view it would set a harmful precedent if it were to be removed from the policy designation.....In addition, if the designation were to be removed it would increase the pressure for development. I consider that significant development on this site would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the area and undermine the objectives of Policy CC5'.*

*'In my view small piecemeal developments are particularly damaging at the narrowest points of the Green Wedges where the separation between the urban development on either side of the Wedge is limited'.*

The Core Strategy Preferred Options consultation document included a new policy (DCS21) affording protection to the Green Wedges. In the consultation, comments were made supporting the protection of the open character between the towns. Comments were also made regarding the need to promote a biodiversity corridor function, and that some forms of development (eg related to agriculture and outdoor recreation) could be accommodated without harm. Other comments suggested that the Green Wedge boundaries should be reviewed as they could provide more sustainable locations than open land further afield, or that the policy is not necessary as other local plan policies provided sufficient protection.

Thanet's Green Wedges serve an important function by maintaining the physical separation between, and identity of, Thanet's coastal towns. They highlight the significance of the open countryside, providing visual relief in a highly urbanised area. The Wedges have consistently been subject to strong protection from development that would undermine this function. However, as they adjoin the existing built up areas of the towns their locations are nonetheless sustainable in many other respects. We will need to take a clear and balanced approach in considering their importance alongside the need for sustainable locations for new homes.

## iv) The Countryside

Thanet's open countryside is particularly vulnerable to development because of its limited extent, the openness and flatness of the rural landscape and the proximity of the towns.

The Isle of Thanet Local Plan 1998 did not include specific policies to protect the open countryside because there were policies in the relevant Kent Structure Plan at that time that protected the countryside for its own sake, and would not normally permit development in rural Kent.

However the 2006 Thanet Local Plan updated and enhanced the councils approach to development in the countryside by introducing urban and village confines to make it clear which areas are considered to be open countryside and therefore subject to protection policies. Urban Confines were applied in policy CC1 to establish a clear distinction between the countryside and urban areas. Village confines were identified in the 1998 Local Plan and carried forward into the 2006 Local Plan – Policy R1. Both sets of confines were not intended to indicate the geographical extent of an urban area or village, nor the full extent of the built up area, but were drawn to prevent sporadic development and urban sprawl. Policy CC1 and R1 were both saved and are still in use. CC1 defines Thanet's Countryside as being outside the urban and village confines, and R1 limits residential development to minor developments within the village confines. The boundaries of the urban and village confines are shown on the 2006 Thanet Local Plan Proposals Map.

The Inspector for the Thanet Local Plan Inquiry considered that the identification and provision of urban confines boundaries are appropriate in order to make development management decisions more transparent. He considered that the purpose of the urban confines policy is not to restrain development to the minimum or to restrict leisure development but to ensure an appropriate level of development in the appropriate locations, and to protect the urban rural fringe from sporadic development. The Inspector considered that the countryside is a valuable resource, which provides a balance and quality of life to the residents of the District.

Previous local plan policies were supported by Countywide policies in the Kent Structure Plan, and National policies in PPG7.

Government policy today states that planning policy should take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas and recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.

It states that new isolated homes in the countryside should be avoided unless there are special circumstances such as:

- the essential need for a rural worker to live permanently at or near their place of work in the countryside; or
- where such development would represent the optimal viable use of a heritage asset or would be appropriate enabling development to secure the future of heritage assets; or
- where the development would re-use redundant or disused buildings and lead to an enhancement to the immediate setting; or
- the exceptional quality or innovative nature of the design of the dwelling.

Such a design should:

- be truly outstanding or innovative, helping to raise standards of design more generally in rural areas;

- reflect the highest standards in architecture;
- significantly enhance its immediate setting; and
- be sensitive to the defining characteristics of the local area.

The countryside also has opportunities for habitat re-creation and mitigation, as well as providing the openness that is lacking in the urban areas.

Thanet's countryside provides important landscapes that contribute to its sense of place, as well as making Thanet an attractive place that people want to come to. Much of the countryside is classified as 'best and most versatile agricultural land'. The countryside supports a variety of habitats and species, particularly a number of important species of farmland birds which have declined in numbers over the last few decades. Due to the development pressures on the countryside, and its potential for habitats and wildlife, it is still considered important to ensure its protection through local plan policy.

### 3 Opportunities/Constraints

The evidence shows that there are opportunities in Thanet to improve, and create a comprehensive green infrastructure network, however there are also certain constraints that need to be taken into account.

#### Opportunities

A number of recommendations are made in response to the open space report findings. These are:

- It has been identified that there are currently no formally adopted green corridors; identified opportunities to increase current levels of provision should be addressed as a priority. The Council should adopt a policy of providing and facilitating access to additional routes catering for informal walking, cycling and riding looking particularly at the Green Wedge sites across the district.
- The two green corridors identified in this study should be formally proposed as green corridors (Pysons Road and Vere Road) and two others should be considered to be proposed as green corridors (St Peters Walk and Nash Road disused railway line).

Site Name	Quality	Hectarage	Ward	Area
Pysons Estate Perimeter	48.00	1.94	St. Peters	Broadstairs
Vere Road	58.22	0.62	Bradstowe	Broadstairs

- Other urban corridors can be multifunctional to aim to provide a contiguous habitat to enable wildlife to disperse through the built environment

Other opportunities include:

- There could be potential for the creation of new Roadside Nature Reserves at the new East Kent Access roads which could form important GI links.
- The Green Wedges could be used more to perform a GI function, particularly with regards to Farmland birds and farmland bird corridors
- Opportunities for the provision of Urban GI in new development to reflect surroundings
- Management of existing open space and GI in urban areas, eg less intensive mowing, hedgerow planting
- Enhancements such as green/brown roofs, walls and balconies, bird boxes, bat boxes bricks and lofts etc
- Creating, connecting, extending and managing the chalk grassland along the cliffs and surrounding areas to enhance landscape scale habitat corridors
- Opportunities to provide accessible open space in strategic site allocations which may include green spaces that attract dog owners away from sensitive sites, or circular walks

## Constraints

- One of Thanet's main attractions for leisure and recreation is its beaches and seafronts which are widely used by both residents and visitors. However there is a potential conflict between the use of these areas and the internationally protected sites, particularly with regard to bird and recreational disturbance. One of the main potential disturbances is from dogs. Growth and development will inevitably bring more people to the district, which will likely attract even more visitors to the seafronts and the protected sites, so the protection of these sites, and potential alternative areas for recreational use which are not coast specific, are essential considerations.
- The Open Space Audit found that there is an insufficient amount of publicly accessible open space in the district. It would be desirable to create new areas of open space, both to contribute to the provision in the district, and also to relieve recreational pressures on the protected sites by providing alternative recreational areas. However the urban areas are already densely developed and there is little opportunity to create new open space, except for in new areas of development.

## Appendix 1 – Summary Results of Open Space Audit

### Parks

Quality Line – 0%-15% Very Poor, 16%-30% Poor, 31%-45% Average, 46%-60% Good, 61%-75% Very Good, 76%+ Excellent					
Site Name	Typology	Quality %	Hectarage	Ward	Area
St. Luke's Recreation Ground	Recreation Ground	*	1.88	Westgate On Sea	Westgate
Streete Court Recreation	Recreation Ground	29.28	0.40	Westgate On Sea	Westgate
Lymington Road	Recreation Ground	*	1.79	Westgate On Sea	Westgate
Palm Bay Recreation	Recreation Ground	28.00	5.33	Cliftonville East	Margate
Garlinge Recreation	Recreation Ground	*	4.70	Garlinge Central	Margate
Warre Recreation Ground	Recreation Ground	*	2.36	Harbour	Ramsgate
Newington Rec and Centre	Recreation Ground	*	1.31	Newington Thanet	Ramsgate
Minster Recreation Ground	Recreation Ground	*	2.97	Villages Thanet	Villages
Monkton Recreation Ground	Recreation Ground	*	2.64	Villages Thanet	Villages
St Nicholas at Wade Bell Meadow	Recreation Ground	*	2.01	Villages Birchington	Villages
Birchington Recreation Ground	Recreation Ground	*	3.12	South Beacon	Birchington
Reading Street	Park	70.21	0.09	Road	Broadstairs
Hartsdown Park	Park	37.04	11.98	Garlinge	Margate
Holmes Park	Park	54.47	1.48	Bradstowe	Broadstairs
Memorial Recreation Ground	Park	41.10	2.89	Bradstowe	Broadstairs
Pierremont Park	Park	39.47	1.78	Viking	Broadstairs
Tivoli Park	Park	34.47	3.95	Salmestone Birchington	Margate
Crispe Park	Park	48.85	1.72	South Cliftonville	Birchington
Northdown Park	Park	62.67	15.40	East Central	Margate
Ellington Park	Park	50.12	4.36	Harbour	Ramsgate
Nethercourt Park	Park	47.95	2.02	Nethercourt Thanet	Ramsgate
Manston Park	Park	*	1.32	Villages	Villages
Jackey Bakers	Recreation Ground	*	15.98	Northwood Dane	Ramsgate
Dane Park	Park	44.16	9.90	Valley Central	Margate
Nelson Crescent, Ramsgate	Formal Garden	67.66	0.07	Harbour	Ramsgate
The Vale	Formal Garden	36.92	0.03	Viking Beacon	Broadstairs
St. Peter's Recreation	Recreation Ground	58.03	6.75	Road Central	Broadstairs
Charlotte Court	Formal Garden	36.76	0.07	Harbour	Ramsgate

Albion Gardens	Formal Garden	62.16	0.50	Eastcliff	Ramsgate
Wellington Crescent	Formal Garden	69.14	0.15	Eastcliff	Ramsgate
Victoria Parade	Formal Garden	67.02	0.55	Sir Moses Montefiore	Ramsgate
King George VI Park	Park	53.58	7.36	Sir Moses Montefiore	Ramsgate
Balmoral Gardens	Formal Gardens	67.66	0.89	Viking Cliffsend And	Broadstairs
Cliffsend Recreation Ground	Recreation Ground	N/A	0.41	Pegwell Cliffsend And	Ramsgate
Courtstairs Park	Formal Gardens	**	0.07	Pegwell Cliffsend And	Ramsgate
Courtstairs Park	Park	37.87	2.45	Pegwell Dane	Ramsgate
Dane Valley Recreation	Recreation Ground	*	14.00	Valley	Margate

\* Audited as playing fields, bowls green and playing pitches

\*\* Audited as part of Courtstairs Park

N/A Not Audited

## Informal Recreation Green Space

<b>Quality Line – 0%-15% Very Poor, 16%-30% Poor, 31%-45% Average, 46%-60% Good, 61%-75% Very Good, 76%+ Excellent</b>				
<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Quality %</b>	<b>Hectarage</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Area</b>
Salt Drive	46	0.02	St. Peters	Broadstairs
Bridge Road	37	0.44	Westbrook	Margate
Buckhurst Drive	53	0.13	Cliftonville East	Margate
Laleham Road	53	0.35	Dane Valley	Margate
Newgate Promenade	50	0.46	Cliftonville West	Margate
Summerfield Road	31	0.36	Cliftonville East	Margate
Yoakley Square	46	0.35	Salmestone	Margate
Dane Gardens	45	0.09	Dane Valley	Margate
Dane Mount 15-22	45	0.03	Dane Valley	Margate
Dane Valley Road 200-208	45	0.24	Dane Valley	Margate
St Francis Close	47	0.06	Dane Valley	Margate
Liverpool Lawn	49	0.08	Central Harbour	Ramsgate
Lorina Road	29	0.03	Northwood	Ramsgate
Romily Gardens	0	0.22	Northwood	Ramsgate
Spencer Square	37	0.16	Central Harbour	Ramsgate
Warwick Drive	34	0.16	Cliffsend And Pegwel	Ramsgate
Windermere Avenue / Kentmere Avenue	48	0.20	Nethercourt	Ramsgate
Victoria Gardens	0	1.23	Sir Moses Montefiore	Ramsgate
Winterstoke Crescent	19	0.41	Sir Moses Montefiore	Ramsgate
Albion Mews Camden Square	63	0.04	Eastcliff	Ramsgate
Le Belle Alliance Square	42	0.11	Eastcliff	Ramsgate
Epple Bay Avenue	57	0.50	Birchington North	Birchington

Minnis Bay Parade Clifftop	57	1.32	Birchington North	Birchington
Sewell Close	49	0.03	Birchington South	Birchington
Sherwood Road	46	0.16	Birchington South	Birchington
Sea Road	59	1.33	Westgate On Sea Cliffsend And	Westgate
Cottington Road	52	0.11	Pegwell	Ramsgate
Princess Margaret Avenue	61	0.47	Newington	Ramsgate
Regency Lawns Westcliffe Prom	35	0.69	Central Harbour	Ramsgate
Hopeville Avenue	46	0.05	St. Peters	Broadstairs
Coleman Crescent	0	0.61	Northwood	Ramsgate
Hildersham Close	44	0.14	St. Peters	Broadstairs
Kings Avenue	0	0.75	Birchington North	Birchington
Cliff Road	45	3.58	Birchington North	Birchington
Marine Gardens	78	0.09	Margate Central	Margate
Hawley Square	66	0.57	Margate Central	Margate
Broad Street, Ramsgate	0	0.02	Eastcliff	Ramsgate
Vincent Close	0	0.36	St. Peters	Broadstairs
Hornet Close	0	0.07	St. Peters	Broadstairs
Epple Bay Avenue	24	0.89	Birchington North	Birchington
Canute Road	0	0.74	Birchington North	Birchington
Viking Close	0	0.84	Birchington North	Birchington
Balmoral Gardens Inf Rec	76	0.48	Viking	Broadstairs
Marine Drive	0	0.86	Kingsgate	Broadstairs
St. George's Lawns	0	1.68	Cliftonville East	Margate
Trinity Gardens	59	0.52	Margate Central	Margate
Winter Gardens	0	0.68	Margate Central	Margate
Lewis Crescent	34	1.35	Cliftonville West	Margate
Land at Sunken Garden	0	4.79	Westbrook	Margate
Open Space	0	0.15	Westbrook	Margate
Sea Road Gardens	56	1.33	Westgate On Sea Cliffsend And	Westgate
Hugin Ship Site	0	2.12	Pegwell	Ramsgate
Minnis Bay	0	2.85	Birchington North	Birchington
Nursery Fields, Acol	0	0.29	Thanet Villages Cliffsend And	Villages
Royal Esplanade	56	3.28	Pegwell Cliffesend and	Ramsgate
Courtstairs Park Path	0	0.05	Pegwell	Ramsgate
The Courts	0	0.19	Westbrook Cliffsend And	Margate
Earlsmead Crescent (Private)	0	0.17	Pegwell	Ramsgate

## Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace

**Quality Line – 0%-15% Very Poor, 16%-30% Poor, 31%-45% Average, 46%-60% Good, 61%-75% Very Good, 76%+ Excellent**

Site Name	Quality	Hectarage	Ward	Area
-----------	---------	-----------	------	------

	%			
Tivoli Woods	41.28	1.81	Salmestone	Margate
Golf Course Roughs	78.00	50.48	Kingsgate	Broadstairs
Ramsgate Cemetery	78.02	13.10	Sir Moses Montefiore	Ramsgate
Monkton Chalk Pit	76.15	5.53	Thanet Villages	Villages
St Nicolas at Wade Church Yard	63.01	0.32	Thanet Villages	Villages
St. Mary Magdalene Churchyard	61.60	0.55	Thanet Villages	Villages
Pegwell Bay Country Park	68.22	26.94	Cliffsend And Pegwell	Ramsgate
Beech Grove	27.10	0.14	Cliffsend And Pegwell	Ramsgate
Neame Woods	29.87	0.72	Birchington South	Birchington
Grange Way	32.86	2.10	Viking	Broadstairs
Mocketts Wood	40.00	1.20	St. Peters	Broadstairs
Princes Walk	29.77	16.69	Cliftonville East	Margate
Wildgrass	N/A	0.65	Westbrook	Margate
Private Woodland	N/A	0.69	Sir Moses Montefiore	Ramsgate
Fort Lower Promenade	N/A	0.19	Margate Central	Margate

N/A - Not Audited

## Amenity Greenspace

**Quality Line – 0%-15% Very Poor, 16%-30% Poor, 31%-45% Average, 46%-60% Good, 61%-75% Very Good, 76%+ Excellent**

Site Name	Quality %	Hectarage	Ward	Area
Colburn Road Estate	28.57	0.03	Viking	Broadstairs
Harrowdene	30	0.04	St. Peters	Broadstairs
Highfield Gardens	39	0.14	Garlinge	Margate
Mockett Drive	34	0.08	Beacon Road	Broadstairs
Selwyn Drive	38	0.09	St. Peters	Margate
St. Peter's Court	31	0.81	St. Peters	Margate
Stanley Road	47	0.02	Bradstowe	Broadstairs
Westover Gardens	34	0.64	Beacon Road	Broadstairs
Linley Road	29	0.02	Beacon Road	Broadstairs
Percy Avenue Clifftops	53	1.13	Kingsgate	Broadstairs
Ramsgate Road	43	0.03	Viking	Broadstairs
Addiscombe Gardens	53	0.11	Margate Central	Margate
Arthur Road	59	0.15	Cliftonville West	Margate
Ashurst Gardens	54	0.13	Cliftonville East	Margate
Dalby Square	39	0.13	Cliftonville West	Margate
Foreland Avenue	67	0.03	Cliftonville East	Margate
Friendly Close	53	0.25	Cliftonville East	Margate
George V Avenue	52	0.50	Garlinge	Margate
Headcorn Gardens/ Kilndown Gardens	53	0.11	Cliftonville East	Margate
Knockholt Road	53	0.23	Cliftonville East	Margate
Lister Road	51	0.09	Salmestone	Margate
Saltwood/Cudham/Thurnden Gardens	53	0.09	Cliftonville East	Margate
Tenderden Way Flats	54	0.10	Dane Valley	Margate
William Avenue Balcomb Crescent	54	0.04	Dane Valley	Margate
Invicta House Appledore	48	0.09	Dane Valley	Margate
Balmoral Road 2-36	48	0.22	Garlinge	Margate

Biddenden Close	48	0.02	Dane Valley	Margate
Eltham Close 17-34	48	0.11	Dane Valley	Margate
Rosedale 19-25 College 92-4	43	0.18	Dane Valley	Margate
Sarah and Taddy Gardens	53	0.04	Dane Valley	Margate
Tomlin Drive Block 5-12	50	0.10	Dane Valley	Margate
William Avenue 2-6 24-36	50	0.02	Dane Valley	Margate
Arklow Square	47	0.22	Eastcliff	Ramsgate
Auckland Avenue	53	0.25	Newington	Ramsgate
Brecon Square	47	0.06	Newington	Ramsgate
Colombo Square	69	0.06	Newington	Ramsgate
Hamilton Close	51	0.04	Newington	Ramsgate
Hopes Lane	47	0.11	Northwood	Ramsgate
Lyell Road	43	0.12	Birchington North	Birchington
Melbourne Avenue	53	0.08	Newington	Ramsgate
Plains of Waterloo	53	0.02	Eastcliff	Ramsgate
Quetta Road	47	0.11	Newington	Ramsgate
Riverdale Road	53	0.04	Newington	Ramsgate
Southwood Gardens	47	0.01	Nethercourt	Ramsgate
St Johns Avenue	52	0.03	Newington	Ramsgate
Stirling Way	53	1.21	Northwood	Ramsgate
West Dumpton Lane	60	0.15	Sir Moses Montefiore	Ramsgate
Cannon Road Car Park	27	0.07	Central Harbour	Ramsgate
Eskdale Avenue	67	0.02	Nethercourt	Ramsgate
Albion Mews	63	0.01	Eastcliff	Ramsgate
Ashley Close	53	0.18	Northwood	Ramsgate
Brunswick Court Complex	54	0.09	Eastcliff	Ramsgate
Clements Road	54	0.02	Northwood	Ramsgate
Highfield Court	58	0.05	Northwood	Ramsgate
Hurst Grove	52	0.04	Northwood	Ramsgate
Pullman Close	53	0.15	Northwood	Ramsgate
Sundew Grove 1-6	53	0.38	Eastcliff	Ramsgate
The Centre	53	0.29	Newington	Ramsgate
Dumpton Park Drive	64	0.12	Sir Moses Montefiore	Ramsgate
St Mildred's Road 40-42	53	0.06	Cliffsend And Pegwel	Ramsgate
Cunningham Crescent	52	0.06	Birchington North	Birchington
Grenville Gardens	53	0.10	Birchington North	Birchington
Hawkhurst Close	66	0.00	Birchington North	Birchington
Minnis Bay Car Park Cafe	68	0.09	Birchington North	Birchington
Yew Tree Close	48	0.06	Birchington South	Birchington
Adrian Square	47	0.22	Westgate On Sea	Westgate
Ethelbert Square	49	0.10	Westgate On Sea	Westgate
Sudbury Place	41	0.04	Westgate On Sea	Westgate
Cliffsend Road	50	0.15	Cliffsend And Pegwel	Ramsgate
Primrose Way	49	0.05	Cliffsend And Pegwel	Ramsgate
Margate Road	0	0.01	Northwood	Ramsgate
Sparkes Estate	0	0.14	Newington	Ramsgate
Chatham Court Margate Road	0	0.03	Central Harbour	Ramsgate
Coastguards Cottages	0	0.03	Birchington North	Birchington
Harbour Towers	55	0.18	Central Harbour	Ramsgate
Chichester Road 82-90	54	0.05	Newington	Ramsgate
Alderney Gardens	30	0.03	St. Peters	Broadstairs

Trove Kennedy Newcastle	62	0.20	Eastcliff	Ramsgate
Fair Street	39	0.31	St. Peters	Broadstairs
St. Peter's Court	31	0.04	St. Peters	Broadstairs
The Maples	0	0.06	St. Peters	Broadstairs
Promenade Visual Amenity	0	1.18	Birchington North	Birchington
Minnis Bay	39	2.11	Birchington North	Birchington
St. Peter's Amenity	0	0.25	Beacon Road	Broadstairs
Grange Way Cricket Club	33	1.99	Viking	Broadstairs
Dumpton Gap	57	5.12	Viking	Broadstairs
Winter Gardens	65	0.22	Margate Central	Margate
Joss Bay Picnic Site	43	1.38	Kingsgate	Broadstairs
Land at Buenos Ayres	0	0.55	Westbrook	Margate
Francis Road	44	1.42	Bradstowe	Broadstairs

## Outdoor Sports Facilities

<b>Quality Line 0%-30% Poor, 31%-39% Below Average, 40%-59% Average, 60%-89% Good, 90% + Excellent</b>		
<b>Football</b>	<b>Quality Rating</b>	<b>Area</b>
Birchington 1	82%	Birchington
Birchington 2	82%	Birchington
Garlinge 1	81%	Margate
Garlinge 2	81%	Margate
Garlinge 3	79%	Margate
Garlinge 4	77%	Margate
Jakey Bakers 1	79%	Ramsgate
Jakey Bakers 2	81%	Ramsgate
Lymington	77%	Good
Minster	56%	Villages
Monkton	77%	Villages
Northdown	79%	Margate
St Lukes	71%	Ramsgate
St Peters	82%	Broadstairs
Tivoli	79%	Margate
Warre	63%	Ramsgate
St Nicolas at Wade	77%	Villages
<b>Rugby</b>		
St Peters Rec 1	84%	Broadstairs
St Peters Rec 2	84%	Broadstairs
St Peters Rec 3	87%	Broadstairs
<b>Cricket</b>		
Dumpton	90%	Ramsgate
Hartsdown	77%	Margate

Jakey Bakers 1	69%	Ramsgate
Jakey Bakers 2	69%	Ramsgate
Jakey Bakers 3	69%	Ramsgate
Margate	79%	Margate
Minster	81%	Villages
Monkton	66%	Villages
Northdown 1	84%	Margate
Northdown 2	82%	Margate
St Nicholas At Wade	85%	Villages
Westgate	92%	Westgate

## Children and Young People

<b>Quality Line – 0%-15% Very Poor, 16%-30% Poor, 31%-45% Average, 46%-60% Good, 61%-75% Very Good, 76%+ Excellent</b>				
<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Quality %</b>	<b>Hectarage</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Area</b>
Memorial Recreation Ground	17.59	0.22	Bradstowe	Broadstairs
Pierremont Park	22.69	0.02	Viking	Broadstairs
St. Peter's Recreation	29.63	0.03	Beacon Road	Broadstairs
Hartsdown Park (Estimated)	17.59	0.05	Garlinge	Margate
Dane Park	25.93	0.06	Dane Valley	Margate
Coleman Crescent	33.80	0.13	Northwood	Ramsgate
Minnis Bay Play	31.94	0.28	Birchington North	Birchington
Birchington Memorial Ground	20.83	0.10	Birchington South	Birchington
Lymington Road Play	21.30	0.04	Westgate On Sea	Westgate
Caxton Road Play	27.78	0.06	Garlinge	Margate
Tivoli Play	13.43	0.04	Salmestone	Margate
Swinford Gardens Play	25.93	0.20	Dane Valley	Margate
Northdown Play	18.52	0.02	Cliftonville East	Margate
Spratling Street Play	30.09	0.07	Thanet Villages	Villages
Ellington Park Play	33.33	0.02	Central Harbour	Ramsgate
Boundary Road Play	30.09	0.08	Eastcliff	Ramsgate
King George VI Play	27.78	0.33	Sir Moses Montefiore	Ramsgate
Camden Square	15.74	0.04	Eastcliff	Ramsgate
Courtstairs Park	25.93	0.03	Cliffsend And Pegwel	Ramsgate
Crispe Road	27.31	0.56	Thanet Villages	Villages
Laleham Road	25.00	0.02	Dane Valley	Margate
Dane Valley Road Play	25.46	0.03	Dane Valley	Margate
Warre Recreation Ground	26.85	0.10	Central Harbour	Ramsgate
Jackey Bakers Play	23.61	0.13	Northwood	Ramsgate
Princess Margaret's Play	40.28	1.22	Newington	Ramsgate
The Street Monkton	25.93	0.06	Thanet Villages	Villages
Minster Rec Play	31.02	0.03	Thanet Villages	Villages
St Nicholas at Wade Play	28.70	0.04	Thanet Villages	Villages
Crispe Park	31.02	0.03	Birchington South	Birchington
Dane Valley Road Play 2	33.33	0.22	Dane Valley	Margate
Nethercourt Park	27.31	0.08	Nethercourt	Ramsgate
Vincent Close	17.59	0.01	St. Peters	Broadstairs
Cliffsend Road Play	28.70	0.05	Cliffesend and Pegwe	Ramsgate

## Allotments

<b>Quality Line 0%-19% Very Poor, 20%-39% Poor, 40%-59% Average, 60%-79% Good, 80%+ Excellent</b>				
<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Quality %</b>	<b>Hectarage</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Area</b>
Tivoli Allotments	0.00	0.31	Salmestone	Margate
Brooke Avenue	50.00	2.28	Garlinge	Margate
Jackey Bakers	45.00	1.78	Northwood	Ramsgate
Margate Road	33.00	0.88	Northwood	Ramsgate
Norman Road	20.00	0.38	Beacon Road	Broadstairs
Quex Park	48.00	0.55	Birchington South	Birchington
Lymington Road	53.00	1.64	Westgate On Sea	Westgate
Nash Road	25.00	2.80	Salmestone	Margate
Prospect Road	25.00	0.16	Bradstowe	Broadstairs
Reading Street Allotments	43.00	1.42	Beacon Road Cliffsend And	Broadstairs
Chilton Lane	68.00	4.22	Pegwell	Ramsgate
Culmers Land Allotments	48.00	1.88	Bradstowe	Broadstairs
Dane Valley	68.00	4.68	Dane Valley	Margate
All Saints Allotments	68.00	0.69	Birchington North	Birchington
Ramsgate Cemetery			Sir Moses	
Allotments	45.00	0.32	Montefiore	Ramsgate

## Churchyards and Cemeteries

<b>Quality Line – 0%-15% Very Poor, 16%-30% Poor, 31%-45% Average, 46%-60% Good, 61%-75% Very Good, 76%+ Excellent</b>				
<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Quality</b>	<b>Hectarage</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Area</b>
Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Monkton	61.60	0.55	Thanet Villages	Villages
Thanet Cemetery	85.43	14.49	Salmestone	Margate
Thanet Minster Cemetery	63.01	2.13	Thanet Villages	Villages
St. Mary's Church	44.34	0.72	Thanet Villages	Villages
St. Nicholas Church	63.01	0.32	Thanet Villages	Villages
Ramsgate Cemetery	78.02	13.20	Sir Moses Montefiore	Ramsgate
Nuns Cemetery	N/A	0.02	Cliffsend And Pegwel	Ramsgate
All Saints Church Birchington	66.30	0.86	Birchington South	Birchington
St. Lawrence Churchyard	43.13	1.07	Newington	Ramsgate
St John the Baptist Church - Margate	40.00	0.86	Margate Central	Margate
St. George's Cemetery	41.69	0.05	Sir Moses Montefiore	Ramsgate
Addington Closed Church Yard	20.48	0.23	Cliftonville West	Margate
St. George's Churchyard, Ramsgate	41.93	0.56	Eastcliffe	Ramsgate
St. Peter's Churchyard	92.92	2.49	St. Peters	Broadstairs
St. Mildred's Church Acol	N/A	0.06	Thanet Villages	Villages
Vale Square Churchyard	N/A	0.18	Central Harbour	Ramsgate



## Appendix 2 – Landscape Character Area Assessment – Site Survey 2012

Site No.	Address	Direction	Description	Comments from 1993 Survey	Comments from 2012 Survey	
Thanet Earth						
40	Greenhill (Central Chalk Plateau)	W	View across Agland towards A253 Monkton Roundabout	<p>Landforms Presence Undulating – conspicuous</p> <p>Landscape elements Built up – evident Road – evident Arable – conspicuous Scrub - evident Village - evident Other buildings - evident Pylons – evident Shelterbelt – evident Road - evident</p>	<p>Subjective Scale – 5 (small-large) Enclosure – 5 (enclosed) Variety – 6 (varied) Harmony – 6 (balanced-discordant) Movement – 6 (busy) Texture – 5 (managed) Colour –4 (muted) Rarity – 3 (ordinary-unusual) Security –4 (safe) Stimulus –5 (bland-interesting) Pleasure –6 (unpleasant-pleasant)</p>	<p>Approximate grid ref X 630843 Y 165262 Weather conditions – light rain No change</p> 
49	Seamark Road (Central chalk Plateau)	NE	View towards Birchington and Quex Park	<p>Landforms Presence Flat – conspicuous Undulating – evident</p> <p>Landscape elements Built up – evident Road – evident Arable – conspicuous</p>	<p>Subjective Scale – 5 (small) Enclosure – 6 (open) Variety – 4(simple) Harmony – 4 (balanced) Movement – 5 (calm) Texture – 6 (managed-rough) Colour – 5 (managed)</p>	<p>Approximate grid ref X 629298 Y 167551 Weather Conditions – light rain No change – Thanet Earth on opposite side of road to selected view points from 1993 survey</p>

Site No.	Address	Direction	Description	Comments from 1993 Survey		Comments from 2012 Survey
				Parkland – evident Farm buildings – evident Churches – evident Village – evident Other buildings – evident Pylons – evident Woodland – evident Plantation – evident Tree groups – evident Road - evident	Rarity – 6 (unusual-rare) Security –4 (safe) Stimulus – 6 (interesting) Pleasure –8 (pleasant)	
54	Margate Hill (Central Chalk Plateau)	SW	View towards Acol (St Nicholas approx 3m distant)	Landforms Presence Rolling lowland – conspicuous  Landscape elements Built up – evident Road – evident Arable – conspicuous Mixed wood – evident Farm buildings – evident Churches – inconspicuous Fences – inconspicuous Hedges – inconspicuous Pylons – evident Woodland – evident Plantation – evident Tree groups – evident Isolated trees – evident Hedgerow trees – evident Road - evident	Subjective Scale – 7 (large) Enclosure – 6 (open) Variety – 6 (varied) Harmony 6 (balanced-discordant) Movement – 6 (busy) Texture – 5 (managed) Colour – 5 (muted) Rarity – 7 (rare) Security – 5 (safe-unsettling) Stimulus – 7 (interesting) Pleasure – 7 (pleasant)	Approximate grid ref X 631294 Y 167748 Weather conditions – cloudy Built up – more evident as Thanet Earth visible  
Minster Housing Site						
31	Boxlees Hill	N	View across	Landforms Presence	Subjective	Approximate grid ref

Site No.	Address	Direction	Description	Comments from 1993 Survey	Comments from 2012 Survey	
	(Former Wantsum Channel)		marshes towards Minster	<p>Flat – conspicuous Undulating – Evident Hills – evident</p> <p>Landscape elements Built up – evident Arable – conspicuous Decid Wood – evident Marsh – evident River – evident Farm buildings – inconspicuous Churches – Evident Village – evident Masts – inconspicuous Woodland – evident Tree groups – evident Hedgerow trees – evident River – evident Railway - inconspicuous</p>	<p>Scale – 5 (small) Enclosure – 5 (enclosed) Variety – 6 (varied) Harmony – 3 (harmonious/balanced) Movement – 4 (calm) Texture – 6 (slightly busy) Colour – 5 (muted) Rarity – 4 (unusual) Security – 4 (safe) Stimulus – 7 (interesting) Pleasure – 8 (pleasant)</p>	<p>X 630872 Y 163431 Weather conditions – overcast, moderate rain Built-up – more evident now as new housing site visible</p> 
Richborough						
4	Hartsdown Road (Central Chalk Plateau)	SW	View out of Margate along Hartsdown Valley	<p>Landforms Presence Undulating – evident Broad valley – conspicuous</p> <p>Landscape elements Built up – inconspicuous Arable – evident Pasture – evident Mixed wood – evident Farm buildings – evident Other buildings – evident Fences – evident</p>	<p>Subjective Scale – 5(small) Enclosure – 5 (enclosed) Variety – 6 (simple-varied) Harmony – 5 (balanced) Movement – 4 (calm) Texture – 5 (managed) Colour –5 (muted) Rarity – 5 (unusual) Security –5 (safe) Stimulus –6 (bland/interesting) Pleasure –6 (pleasant)</p>	<p>Approximate grid ref X 634948 Y169868 Weather conditions – sunny No change</p>

Site No.	Address	Direction	Description	Comments from 1993 Survey		Comments from 2012 Survey
				Hedges – inconspicuous Masts - evident Pylons – evident Woodland – evident Tree groups – evident		
13	Winterstoke (Urban Coast)	SW	View along coast to Ramsgate Harbour	Landforms Presence Flat – evident Coast - conspicuous Landscape elements Built up – conspicuous Road – evident Sea – conspicuous Cliff – evident Beach – conspicuous Public open space – conspicuous Harbour – evident Other buildings – conspicuous Walls - evident Fences - evident	Subjective Scale – 7 (large) Enclosure – 7 (open) Variety – 8 (varied-complex) Harmony – 6 (balanced – discordant) Movement – 6 (slightly busy) Texture – 5 (calm) Colour – 6 (colourful) Rarity – 4(unusual) Security –6 (unsettling) Stimulus –7 (interesting) Pleasure –7 (pleasant)	Approximate grid ref X 639259 Y165694 Weather conditions – overcast, light rain No change 

Site No.	Address	Direction	Description	Comments from 1993 Survey	Comments from 2012 Survey	
				Hedges – evident Banks – inconspicuous Tree groups – evident Sea – conspicuous Footpath – evident Road - evident		
15	West Cliff (Pegwell Bay)	SW	View across Pegwell Bay towards Sandwich Bay	Landforms Presence Coast – Evident Estuary – Conspicuous  Landscape elements Built up – evident Marsh – evident Sea – conspicuous Cliff – evident Beach – evident Other buildings – evident Fences – evident Tree groups – evident Isolated trees – evident Sea – conspicuous Estuary - conspicuous	Subjective Scale – 8 (large-vast) Enclosure – 9 (exposed) Variety – 4 (simple) Harmony – 6 ( balanced/ discordant) Movement – 3 (dead-calm) Texture – 9 (slightly wild) Colour – 3 (monochrome) Rarity – 8 (rare-unique) Security – 8 (unsettling) Stimulus – 9 (invigorating) Pleasure – 8 (pleasant)	Approximate grid ref X 637988 Y 164411 Weather conditions – overcast, moderate rain Richborough Power Station no longer visible  
28	Woodchurch Farm (Central Chalk Plateau)	S	View across Woodchurch Valley towards Queensdown	Landforms Presence Undulating – conspicuous Broad valley – evident  Landscape elements Built up – evident Arable – conspicuous Decid Wood – Evident	Subjective Scale – 3 (intimate – small) Enclosure – 6 (enclosed – open) Variety – 7 (varied) Harmony – 8 (discordant – chaotic) Movement – 6 (slightly busy) Texture – 6 (rough)	Approximate grid ref X 633084 Y 168263 Weather conditions – cloudy No change

Site No.	Address	Direction	Description	Comments from 1993 Survey	Comments from 2012 Survey	
				Farm buildings – evident Hamlet – evident Other buildings – evident Hedges – evident Masts – evident Pylons – conspicuous Woodland – evident Tree groups - evident	Colour –4 (muted) Rarity – 5 (unusual) Security –6 (unsettling) Stimulus –5 (bland – interesting) Pleasure –6 (unpleasant/ pleasant)	
53	Crispe Road (Central Chalk Plateau)	SE	View across Ag Land to Acol	Landforms Presence Undulating – evident Rolling lowland – conspicuous  Landscape elements Built up – evident Road – evident Arable – conspicuous Scrub – evident Masts – evident Farm buildings – evident Village – conspicuous Fences – inconspicuous Hedges – inconspicuous Pylons – Conspicuous Woodland – evident Tree groups – evident Hedgerow trees – evident Road - evident	Subjective Scale – 5 (small) Enclosure – 6 (open) Variety – 6 (varied) Harmony – 7 (discordant) Movement – 5 (calm) Texture – 5 (managed) Colour –4 (muted) Rarity – 4 (unusual) Security –4 (safe) Stimulus –7 (interesting) Pleasure –5 (unpleasant)	Approximate grid ref X 629575 Y 167776 Weather conditions – bright No change  
<b>Windfarms</b>						
5	Neptunes Tower (Urban Coast)	NW	View along coastline towards Cliftonville	Landforms Presence Undulating – evident Vertical – evident Coast – conspicuous	Subjective Scale – 7 (large) Enclosure – 7 (open) Variety – 4 (simple)	Approximate grid ref X 639456 Y 170982 Weather conditions – Sunny No change

Site No.	Address	Direction	Description	Comments from 1993 Survey	Comments from 2012 Survey	
				<p>Landscape elements                      Built up – evident                      Sea – evident                      Cliff – evident                      Beach – conspicuous                      Public open space – conspicuous                      Other buildings – evident                      Walls – inconspicuous                      Fences – inconspicuous                      Hedges – inconspicuous                      Isolated trees – inconspicuous                      Sea – conspicuous                      Footpath – conspicuous                      Road - conspicuous</p>	<p>Harmony – 5 (balanced)                      Movement – 4 (calm)                      Texture – 6 (managed-rough)                      Colour –7 (colourful)                      Rarity – 3 (ordinary-unusual)                      Security –5 (unusual)                      Stimulus –8 (interesting)                      Pleasure –8 (pleasant – beautiful)</p>	
8	Francis Road (Ramsgate Green Wedge)	N	View across agland towards Joss Bay	<p>Landforms Presence                      Undulating – inconspicuous                      Narrow valley – conspicuous</p> <p>Landscape elements                      Built up – inconspicuous                      Arable – evident                      Pasture – evident                      Decid wood – evident                      Parkland – evident                      Sea – evident                      Farm buildings – evident                      Other buildings – evident                      Fence – evident                      Hedges – inconspicuous                      Masts – inconspicuous</p>	<p>Subjective                      Scale – 3 (intimate-small)                      Enclosure – 4 (enclosed)                      Variety – 6 (slightly varied)                      Harmony – 5 (balanced)                      Movement – 4 (calm)                      Texture – 6 (slightly rough)                      Colour – 4 (muted)                      Rarity – 8 (rare – unique)                      Security – 5 (safe-unsettling)                      Stimulus – 8 (interesting-                      invigorating)                      Pleasure – 8 (pleasant-beautiful)</p>	<p>Approximate grid ref                      X 639563 Y169147</p> <p>Weather conditions – cloudy                      Wind Farm – inconspicuous – visible                      on horizon</p> 

Site No.	Address	Direction	Description	Comments from 1993 Survey	Comments from 2012 Survey	
				Woodland – evident Sea – evident Reservoir – evident Cliff – evident Public open space – evident		
11	Viking Bay (Urban Coast)	NE	View across Viking Bay towards Bleak House	<p>Landforms Presence Flat – evident Vertical – evident Coast – conspicuous</p> <p>Landscape elements Built up – conspicuous Road – inconspicuous Decid wood – inconspicuous Sea – conspicuous Cliff – evident Beach – evident Public open space – evident Harbour – conspicuous Churches – inconspicuous Other buildings – conspicuous Public open space – conspicuous Footpath – evident Road - inconspicuous</p>	<p>Subjective Scale – 2 (intimate) Enclosure – 5 (enclosed) Variety – 6 (quite varied) Harmony – 5 (simple) Movement – 6 (quite busy) Texture – 5 (calm) Colour – 8 (colourful) Rarity – 3 (ordinary – unusual) Security – 4 (safe) Stimulus – 7 (interesting) Pleasure – 7 (pleasant)</p>	<p>Approximate grid ref X 639764 Y167763 Weather conditions – overcast Windfarm – inconspicuous – visible on horizon</p> 
16	Nethercourt (Former Wantsum North Shore)	S	View over Pegwell Bay	<p>Landforms Presence Undulating – conspicuous Coast – conspicuous Estuary – conspicuous</p>	<p>Subjective Scale – 7 (large) Enclosure – 7 (open) Variety – 5 (simple) Harmony – 5 (balanced)</p>	<p>Approximate grid ref X 635714 Y 165103 Weather conditions – bright Richborough Cooling Towers no longer visible</p>



Site No.	Address	Direction	Description	Comments from 1993 Survey	Comments from 2012 Survey	
				Sea – conspicuous Estuary – evident		
41	Reculver (Former Wantsum North Shore)	E	View across Wade Marshes towards Birchington	Landforms Presence Flat – conspicuous Coast – Conspicuous Estuary – evident Landscape elements Built up – inconspicuous Arable – conspicuous Scrub – inconspicuous Marsh - conspicuous Sea – conspicuous Beach – evident Built up – inconspicuous Arable – conspicuous Scrub – inconspicuous Marsh – conspicuous Sea – conspicuous Beach – evident Farm buildings – inconspicuous Ruins – evident Other buildings – evident Fences – inconspicuous Banks – evident Pylons – evident Isolated trees – evident	Subjective Scale – 8 (large-vast) Enclosure – 9 (exposed) Variety – 5 (simple) Harmony – 4 (balanced) Movement – 4 (calm) Texture – 6 (managed/rough) Colour –5 (muted) Rarity – 7 (rare) Security –6 (unsettling) Stimulus –9 (invigorating) Pleasure –8 (pleasant)	Approximate grid ref X 622853 Y 169249 Weather conditions – Overcast No change 

Site No.	Address	Direction	Description	Comments from 1993 Survey		Comments from 2012 Survey
				Hedgerow trees – evident River – inconspicuous Estuary – inconspicuous		
46	Wagtail Farm (Former Wantsum North Shore)	NW	View across Wade Marshes towards Reculver	<p>Landforms Presence Flat – conspicuous Undulating – evident Coast – inconspicuous</p> <p>Landscape elements Arable – conspicuous Mixed wood – evident Marsh – evident Sea - inconspicuous Farm buildings – evident Other buildings – conspicuous Tree groups – evident Isolated trees – evident Hedgerow trees – evident Sea – inconspicuous Track – inconspicuous</p>	<p>Subjective Scale – 7 (large) Enclosure – 7 (open) Variety – 3 (uniform – simple) Harmony – 5 (balanced) Movement – 4 (calm) Texture – 8 (colourful) Colour – 5 (managed) Rarity – 6 (unusual/rare) Security – 5 (safe-unsettling) Stimulus – 9 (invigorating) Pleasure – 8 (pleasant)</p>	<p>Approximate grid ref X 624912 Y167307 Weather conditions – Bright Wind Farms – now evident</p> 
<b>Green Wedge</b>						
1	Salmestone (Ramsgate Green Wedge)	S	View across uncultivated agland towards Nash Court	<p>Landforms Presence Flat – conspicuous Rolling lowland – Evident Plateau – evident Landscape elements Other buildings – evident Fences – evident</p>	<p>Subjective Scale – 5 (small-large) Enclosure – 7 (open) Variety – 5 (simple) Harmony – 5 (balanced) Movement – 6 (calm/busy) Texture – 7 (rough)</p>	<p>Approximate grid ref X 635438 Y 169537 Weather conditions – sunny No change</p>

Site No.	Address	Direction	Description	Comments from 1993 Survey	Comments from 2012 Survey	
				<p>Hedges – inconspicuous                      Banks – evident                      Pylons – evident                      Woodland – evident                      Tree Groups – evident                      Isolated Trees – evident                      Track – evident                      Road – evident</p>	<p>Colour – 5 (muted slightly colourful)                      Rarity – 5 (unusual)                      Security – 4 (Safe)                      Stimulus – 6 (Interesting. Slightly bland)                      Pleasure – 7 (pleasant)</p>	
6	Neptunes Tower 2 (Ramsgate Green Wedge)	S	View across golf course towards North Foreland lighthouse	<p>Landforms Presence                      Undulating – evident                      Coast – conspicuous</p> <p>Landscape elements                      Other buildings – evident                      Fences – conspicuous                      Pylons – inconspicuous                      Woodland – evident                      Shelterbelt – evident                      Tree groups – evident                      Sea – evident                      Footpath – evident                      Track – inconspicuous</p>	<p>Subjective                      Scale – 3 (intimate – small)                      Enclosure – 5 (enclosed, slightly open)                      Variety – 7 (varied)                      Harmony – 4 (balanced)                      Movement – 4 (calm)                      Texture – 7 (rough)                      Colour – 5 (muted/ colourful)                      Rarity – 7 (rare)                      Security – 6 (unsettling)                      Stimulus – 8 (interesting – invigorating)                      Pleasure – 8 (pleasant – beautiful)</p>	<p>Approximate grid ref                      X 639489 Y170670                      Weather conditions – overcast                      No change</p> 
10	Dane Court Road (Ramsgate Green Wedge)	NW	View across Green Wedge towards Margate	<p>Landforms Presence                      Flat – inconspicuous                      Undulating – Conspicuous                      Plateau – evident</p> <p>Landscape elements                      Farm buildings – conspicuous                      Other buildings – inconspicuous</p>	<p>Subjective                      Scale – 6 (small heading to large)                      Enclosure – 6 (enclosed to open)                      Variety – 5 (simple)                      Harmony – 6 (balanced to discordant)                      Movement – 7 (busy)                      Texture – 5 (managed)                      Colour – 4 (muted)                      Rarity – 3 (ordinary)</p>	<p>Approximate grid ref                      X 637325 Y 168739                      Weather conditions – bright                      No change</p>

Site No.	Address	Direction	Description	Comments from 1993 Survey		Comments from 2012 Survey
				Walls – inconspicuous Fences – inconspicuous Pylons – conspicuous Woodland – evident Tree groups – evident Footpath – inconspicuous Road - evident	Security – 4 (safe) Stimulus – 5 (bland slightly interesting) Pleasure – 6 (b/w pleasant and unpleasant)	
20	Newlands Gap 2 (Broadstairs Green Wedge) (Central Chalk Plateau)	NW	View across Newlands Gap towards Pysons Road Industrial Estate	Landforms Presence Flat – conspicuous Undulating – evident  Landscape elements Farm buildings - evident Other buildings – conspicuous Fences – inconspicuous Masts – inconspicuous Tree groups – inconspicuous Isolated trees – inconspicuous Footpath – inconspicuous Track – inconspicuous	Subjective Scale – 6 (small end of large) Enclosure – 6 (open) Variety – 5 (simple) Harmony – 6 (balanced bordering on discordant) Movement – 5 (calm) Texture – 5 (managed) Colour – 6 (muted-colourful) Rarity – 4 (unusual) Security – 4 (safe) Stimulus –6 (unsettling) Pleasure –6 (pleasant)	Approximate grid ref X 637999 Y 166826 Weather conditions – cloudy No change   
62	North Lodge (Westgate Green Wedge)	N	View across proposed Birchington	Landforms Presence Flat – conspicuous Undulating – evident	Subjective Scale – 6 (large) Enclosure – 5 (enclosed)	Approximate grid ref X 630994 Y 168802 Weather conditions – bright

Site No.	Address	Direction	Description	Comments from 1993 Survey		Comments from 2012 Survey
			Green Gap	Coast – evident  Landscape elements Other buildings – conspicuous Hedges – evident Shelterbelt – evident Tree groups – evident Hedgerow trees - evident	Variety – 6 (varied) Harmony – 6 (balanced-discordant) Movement – 6 (busy) Texture – 5 (managed) Colour –4 (muted) Rarity – 3 (ordinary-unusual) Security –6 (unsettling) Stimulus –6 (interesting) Pleasure –6 (pleasant)	No change  
64	Hundreds (Westgate Green Wedge)	W	View along Canterbury Road towards Birchington	Landforms Presence Undulating – evident  Landscape elements Other buildings – evident Walls – evident Fences – evident Hedges – evident Masts – evident Shelterbelt – conspicuous Hedgerow trees – evident Road – conspicuous	Subjective Scale – 4 (small) Enclosure – 4 (enclosed) Variety – 5 (simple) Harmony – 8 (discordant) Movement – 7 (busy) Texture – 2 (smooth) Colour –4 (muted) Rarity – 3 (ordinary-unusual) Security – 8 (unsettling-threatening) Stimulus –4 (bland) Pleasure –5 (unpleasant)	Approximate grid ref X 631498 Y 169224 Weather conditions – cloudy Road now evident as obscured by trees  

Site No.	Address	Direction	Description	Comments from 1993 Survey		Comments from 2012 Survey	
							

# Appendix 3 – Landscape Character Assessment – 2012 Assessment Map

