

Independent Examination of the Thanet Local Plan
Inspectors' Matters, Issues and Questions for Examination
Environment Agency Comments

Matter 11 – Tourism (Policies E07-E14)

Issue 4 – Beaches – Policies E10, E11 and E12

Q1. What is the rationale and justification for identifying major holiday beaches (Policy E10) separately from intermediate beaches (Policy E11)?

We have no comments to make about beaches and tourism beyond the fact that recreation at the seaside is a water-side activity that we would, in principle, promote as doing so is a duty of the Environment Agency in section 6 (1) (c) of the Environment Act.

Q2. Does the Plan provide enough detail to clarify to decision-makers, developers and local communities what type of development is permitted and where? Are Policies E10-E12 effective?

We have no comments to make about the type of development that would be permitted at beaches.

Q3. What is the justification for restricting new built facilities on undeveloped beaches (Policy E12)? Under what 'exceptional event' may development be considered acceptable? Is this sufficiently clear to decision-makers, developers and local communities?

Section 6 (a) of the Environment Act specifies that, with respect to water, it shall be the duty of the Environment Agency, to such extent as it considers desirable, generally to promote "the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty and amenity of inland and coastal waters and of land associated with such waters".

Therefore, if the Council aspires to prevent the development of new built facilities, then, as it aligns with our duties, we support it.