

Appendix

Habitats Regulations Assessment

The following Natura 2000 sites are located within 15km of the Westgate-on-Sea Neighbourhood Plan Area boundary:

| Name of site | Reasons for designations and conservation objectives | Key environmental conditions to support site integrity | Possible impacts arising from the Neighbourhood Plan | Is there a risk of significant impacts | Is there a risk of significant in combination effects |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| Thanet Coast SAC | This special area of conservation has been designated for its reefs and submerged or partially submerged sea caves, the caves support very specialised algal and lichen communities containing species such as <i>pseudendocloniumsubmarinum</i> and <i>lyngbya spp</i> | Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze | None | No | No |
| | | No dredging or land claim of coastal habitats | None | No | No |
| | | Unpolluted water | None | No | No |
| | | Absence of nutrient enrichment | None | No | No |
| | | Absence of non native species | None | No | No |
| | | Maintenance of fresh water inputs | None | No | No |
| | | Balance of saline and non saline conditions | None | No | No |
| | | Minimal disturbance | None | No | No |
| | | Minimal activities that alter sediment characteristics | None | No | No |
| | | Minimal Harvesting of bait and shellfish | None | No | No |

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| Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA | Long stretch of rocky shore, adjoining areas of estuary, sand dune, maritime grassland, saltmarsh and grazing marsh. Important numbers of Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> , used by large numbers of migratory birds, qualifying species are <i>overwintering</i> - golden plover and breeding little tern | Minimal disturbance including recreational | None | No | No |
| | | Maintenance of grazing/mowing regimes | None | No | No |
| | | Freshwater inputs are of value for providing a localised increase in prey biomass for certain bird species, specific microclimatic conditions and are used for preening and drinking | None | No | No |
| | | Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze | None | No | No |
| | | Unpolluted water | None | No | No |
| | | Absence of nutrient enrichment | None | No | No |
| | | Absence of non-native species | None | No | No |
| | | Maintenance of freshwater inputs | None | No | No |
| | | Minimal disturbance | None | No | No |
| | | Balance of saline and non-saline conditions | None | No | No |

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| | | Impact of noise and vibration on wintering birds | None | No | No |
| | | No dredging or land claim of coastal habitats | None | No | No |
| | | Minimal activities that alter sediment characteristics | None | No | No |
| Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay Ramsar | Long stretch of rocky shore, adjoining areas of estuary, sand dune, maritime grassland, saltmarsh and grazing marsh, wetland habitats support 15 British Red Data Book invertebrates, large number of nationally scarce species. Site attracts internationally important numbers of Ruddy Turnstone, <i>Arenaria interpres interpres</i> , <i>NE Canada, Greenland/W Europe & NW Africa</i> , and nationally important numbers of wintering populations of four species: ringed plover, golden plover, grey plover and sanderling, as well as Lapland bunting | Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze | None | No | No |
| | | No dredging or land claim of coastal habitats | None | No | No |
| | | Unpolluted water | None | No | No |
| | | Absence of nutrient enrichment | None | No | No |
| | | Absence of non native species | None | No | No |
| | | Maintenance of fresh water inputs, of value for providing a localised | None | No | No |

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|-------------------------|---|---|------|----|----|
| | | increase in prey biomass for certain bird species, specific microclimatic conditions and are used for preening and drinking | | | |
| | | Balance of saline and non saline conditions | None | No | No |
| | | Minimal disturbance including recreational | None | No | No |
| | | Minimal activities that alter sediment characteristics | None | No | No |
| | | Maintenance of grazing/mowing regimes | None | No | No |
| | | Impact of noise and disturbance on wintering birds | None | No | No |
| Sandwich Bay SAC | Shifting sand dunes, with marram, dune grassland, dunes with creeping willow, strandline species on the seaward edge, sand binding grasses inland, shifting dunes with 'white dunes', fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation 'grey dunes', site includes a number of rare and scarce species and UKs largest population of lizard orchid, small area of dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>Argentea</i> or <i>saliicion</i> only example found in the dry south-east of England humid dune slacks are also a qualifying feature | Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal squeeze | None | No | No |

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|----------------------|--|---|------|----|----|
| | | No dredging or land claim of coastal habitats | None | No | No |
| | | Unpolluted water | None | No | No |
| | | Absence of nutrient enrichment | None | No | No |
| | | Absence of non native species | None | No | No |
| | | Maintenance of fresh water inputs | None | No | No |
| | | Balance of saline and non saline conditions | None | No | No |
| | | Minimal disturbance including recreational | None | No | No |
| | | Minimal activities that alter sediment characteristics | None | No | No |
| Stodmarsh SAC | General character of inland water bodies, bogs, marshes, water fringed vegetation and fens. Primary reason for selection of this site is Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo Moulinsiana</i> , which lives beside ditches within pasture on the floodplain of the River Stour, where reed sweet-grass <i>Glyceria Maxima</i> , large sedges <i>Carex</i> spp. and sometimes common reed <i>Phragmites australis</i> dominate the vegetation | Maintenance of sufficient water to support marginal/marsh vegetation and high water quality for Desmoulin's whorl snail | None | No | No |
| | | Minimal disturbance including recreational | None | No | No |
| | | Maintenance of grazing regime | None | No | No |
| | | Maintenance of water supply | None | No | No |
| | | Absence of nutrient enrichment | None | No | No |
| Stodmarsh SPA | Wetland site resulting from subsidence under the valley of the | Maintenance of sufficient water to support marginal/marsh vegetation | None | No | No |

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| | Great Stour. Range of wetland habitats include open water, extensive reedbeds, grazing marsh and Alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> carr. Site supports number of uncommon wetland invertebrates and plants, and provides wintering habitats for wetland bird species. Especially notable in winter for supporting significant numbers of Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> and Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> | and high quality for Desmoulin's whorl snail | | | |
| | | Minimal disturbance including recreational | None | No | No |
| | | Maintenance of grazing regime | None | No | No |
| | | Maintenance of water supply | None | No | No |
| | | Absence of nutrient enrichment | None | No | No |
| Stodmarsh Ramsar | Range of wetland habitats including open water, reedbeds, grazing marsh and alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> carr. Site supports number of uncommon wetland invertebrates and plants, provides breeding and wintering habitats for important assemblages of wetland bird species, particularly waterfowl. Supports six British Red Data Book wetland invertebrates. Two nationally rare plants, and five nationally scarce species. A diverse assemblage of rare wetland birds. | Maintenance of sufficient water to support marginal/ marsh vegetation and high water quality for Desmoulin's whorl snail | None | No | No |

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| | | Minimal disturbance including recreational | None | No | No |
| | | Maintenance of grazing regime | None | No | No |
| | | Maintenance of water supply | None | No | No |
| | | Absence of nutrient enrichment | None | No | No |
| Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Wintering red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) | No physical loss of habitat by removal | None | No | No |
| | | No physical damage by physical disturbance or abrasion of habitat | None | No | No |
| | | No non-physical disturbance through noise or visual disturbance | None | No | No |
| | | No toxic contamination by introduction of synthetic and/or non-synthetic compounds | None | No | No |
| | | No non-toxic contamination to prey species only by changes in e.g. turbidity | None | No | No |
| | | No biological disturbance by selective extraction of species and non selective extraction | None | No | No |
| Margate and Long Sands SCI | Series of sandbanks, the longest of which is Long Sand. This is one of the best areas of sandbanks in the United Kingdom. The site contains between 2-15% of the national Annex I sandbank resource. The fauna of the sand bank crests is characteristic of species-poor, mobile sand | The key environmental conditions to support site integrity are not known at this time as the site has not yet been formally designated as a Special Area of Conservation | Not known | Not known | Not known |

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| | <p>environments and is dominated by polychaete worms and amphipods. In the troughs and slopes, a higher diversity of polychaetes, crustacea, molluscs and echinoderms is found, with mobile epifauna including crabs and brown shrimp, squid and commercially important fish species such as sole and herring. There is a significant amount of the reef-forming ross worm (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i>) at this site, which then formed as a reef qualifies as an Annex I habitat (biogenic reef), however, the available data indicate that the distribution of <i>S. spinulosa</i> is patchy and that aggregations form crusts rather than reefs</p> | | | | |
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