

Appendix

Habitats Regulations Assessment

The following Natura 2000 sites are located within 15km of the Birchington 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
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	None	No	No

		preening and drinking			
		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
		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	Sufficient space between the site and development to allow for managed retreat of intertidal habitats and avoid coastal	None	No	No

	Red Data Book invertebrates, large number of nationally scarce species. Site attracts internationally important numbers of Ruddy Turnstone, <i>Arenaria interpres interpres</i> , NE Canada, Greenland/W Europe & NW Africa, and nationally important numbers of wintering populations of four species: ringed plover, golden plover, grey plover and sanderling, as well as Lapland bunting	squeeze			
		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 increase in prey biomass for certain bird species, specific microclimatic conditions and are used for preening and drinking	None	No	No
		Balance of saline and non saline	None	No	No

		conditions			
		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

		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	Maintenance of sufficient water to support marginal/marsh vegetation and high water quality for Desmoulin's whorl snail	None	No	No

	vegetation				
		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 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>	Maintenance of sufficient water to support marginal/marsh vegetation and high 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 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
		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 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	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

	<p>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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