



Agenda

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 29 February 2024
at 7pm

The Guildhall, St Peter's Place, Canterbury

Membership of the Committee:

Councillor Paul Prentice (Chair)
Councillor James Flanagan (Vice Chair)
Councillor Dane Buckman
Councillor Rachel Carnac
Councillor Elizabeth Carr-Ellis
Councillor Liz Harvey
Councillor Keji Moses
Councillor Harry McKenzie
Councillor Peter Old
Councillor Dan Smith
Councillor Naomi Smith
Councillor Jeanette Stockley
Councillor Clare Turnbull

Quorum: 7

NOTES

1. Members of the public may speak at meetings of the Committee so long as they contact Democratic Services by 12.30pm the working day before the meeting.
2. The venue for the meeting is wheelchair accessible and has an induction loop to help people who are hearing impaired.
3. Everyone is welcome to record meetings of the Council and its Committees using whatever non-disruptive methods you think are suitable. If you are intending to do this please mention it to the Democratic Services Officer and do not use flash photograph unless you have previously asked whether you may do so. If you have any questions about this please contact Democratic Services (members of the press please contact the Press Office).

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Anyone filming a meeting is asked to only focus on those actively participating but please also be aware that you may be filmed or recorded whilst attending a council meeting and that attendance at the meeting signifies your agreement to this if it occurs. You are also reminded that

the laws of defamation apply and all participants whether speaking, filming or recording are reminded that respect should be shown to all those included in the democratic process.

Persons making recordings are requested not to put undue restrictions on the material produced so that it can be reused and edited by all local people and organisations on a noncommercial basis.

If a meeting passes a motion to exclude the press and public then, in conjunction with this, all rights to record the meeting are removed.

4. The information contained within this agenda is available in other formats, including Braille, large print, audio cassettes and other languages.

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Agenda

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 SUBSTITUTE COUNCILLORS

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

TO RECEIVE any declarations for the following in so far as they relate to the business for the meeting:-

- a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
- b. Other Significant Interests (what were previously thought of as Nonpecuniary Prejudicial interests)
- c. Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests

Voluntary Announcements of Other Interests not required to be disclosed as DPI's or OSI's, ie announcements made for transparency reasons alone, such as:

- Membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items, or
- Where a Councillor knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person, or
- Where an item would affect the well-being of a Councillor, relative, close associate, employer, etc but not his/her financial position.

[Note: an effect on the financial position of a Councillor, relative, close associate, employer, etc; OR an application made by a Councillor, relative, close associate, employer, etc, would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI].

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public may speak on any item on the agenda, for a maximum of three minutes, provided that notification has been given to Democratic Services by 12.30pm on the working day before the Meeting.

5 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2024

TO CONFIRM as a true record the minutes of the meeting held on the above date.

6. PROPOSED DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) 2024

TO CONSIDER the report of Suzi Wakeham Director of People and Place and Marie Royle, Service Director for People.

7. LONG ROCK MANAGEMENT PLAN

TO CONSIDER the report of Suzi Wakeham - Director of People and Place and Richard Moore - Head of Transport and Environment.

8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

9. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

TO RESOLVE - That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act or the Freedom of Information Act or both.

10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS WHICH FALLS UNDER THE EXEMPT PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 OR THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 OR BOTH

Canterbury City Council
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 25 January 2024
at 7.00 pm in The Guildhall, St Peter's Place, Westgate, Canterbury**

Present: Cllr Paul Prentice (Chair)
Cllr James Flanagan (Vice Chair)
Cllr Dane Buckman
Cllr Elizabeth Carr-Ellis
Cllr Roben Franklin (substitute)
Cllr Liz Harvey
Cllr Keji Moses
Cllr Harry McKenzie
Cllr Peter Old
Cllr Naomi Smith
Cllr Jeanette Stockley
Cllr David Thomas (substitute)
Cllr Clare Turnbull

In attendance Councillor Alan Baldock - Leader of the Council
Councillor Pip Hazelton - Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Mike Sole - Cabinet Member for Finance
Councillor Mel Dawkins - Cabinet Member for Climate Change
and Biodiversity
Councillor Michael Dixey - Deputy Leader of the Council

Officers: Suzi Wakeham - Director of People and Place
Tricia Marshall - Corporate Services Director and Head of Paid
Service
Bill Hicks - Service Director Place
Marie Royle - Service Director People
Nicci Mills - Service Director of Finance and Procurement
Richard Moore- Head of Transportation and Environment
Gary Peskett - Housing Strategy Manager
Pippa Tritton - Democratic Services Officer
Rob May - Head of Finance

489. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dan Smith and
Councillor Rachel Carnac.

490. Substitute members

Councillor Roben Franklin was present as a substitute for Councillor Dan Smith and Councillor David Thomas was present for Councillor Rachel Carnac.

491. Declarations of interest by Members or Officers

The Chair advised that one of the speakers was known to him and to other Labour councillors.

Councillors James Flanagan and Jeanette Stockley also advised that a speaker was known to them.

In relation to Item 8, Councillor David Thomas made a voluntary announcement that his brother was a taxi driver.

In relation to the Draft Housing Revenue and Capital Budget item, Councillor James Flanagan made a voluntary announcement that he was a co-opted member of Canterbury Housing Advice Centre.

492. Public participation

The Chair advised that there were two public speakers for the meeting who would be heard directly before the relevant items.

493. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2023 were agreed as a true record.

494. LUF HIGHWAYS PROJECTS - DECISION TO IMPLEMENT

(Oliver Waldron, representing Spokes, spoke after the officer introduction.)

The Head of Transport and Environment introduced the report which set out the main improvements to the public highway that were included in the Levelling up Fund (LUF) bid. The report also provided a summary of the public consultation responses to the outline designs and set out the proposed changes and sought a recommendation for project implementation.

Councillors debated the proposal and made comments including the following, with the Head of Transport and Environment providing clarification where necessary:

- In response to a question, the officer explained that root balls of planted trees would be contained in cells that have space to allow roots to grow.
- The use of permeable surfaces was difficult in highways areas, but officers were looking at catching as much rain runoff as possible in landscaped areas, and sustainable urban drainage would be used on pathways where possible.

- There was concern over congestion in Pound Lane following busy Marlowe performances or other events. The officer explained that the majority of respondents, including residents, supported the proposal but at busy times there would be increased congestion there. It was possible to control traffic flow within the car park ANPR to an extent, but not once on The Causeway.
- With regards to landscaping, the species used must be fit for purpose and conform to Kent County Council standards. These would be included in future drawings once known.
- Councillors did not want the planters to be used as bins and asked if bins could be installed at the same time to prevent that from happening. This would be looked at.
- In response to a question, the officer explained that accessible toilets were not included as part of the current LUF objective.
- When the separate consultation on the bus station was considered, accessible toilets and signage for accessible toilets could be considered.

The Head of Transport and Environment and Director of Corporate Services also made comments including:

- The intention was to move cycle parking and to increase capacity, not to remove it. A cycle hire scheme with a docking system was currently being considered.
- A key point in the draft specification for cycle hire was to ensure that hired bikes were returned to a docking hub and not dumped.
- There was no room to put in a cycle contraflow in St George's Lane.
- There would be two new changing places toilets opening in the Spring this year, one at the Beaney and one at Kingsmead Leisure Centre, improving accessibility within the city centre.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed by general assent to:

Recommend (to Cabinet):

- That the detailed designs shown on the drawings in Appendices 2-5 relating to the following projects : Westgate Square, St Georges Square, St Georges Lane, Dane John to Castle (via Castle Row car park), are agreed.
- That a Section 278 agreement is entered into with Kent County Council for the implementation of these projects.
- That the Cabinet Member for Tourism, Movement and Rural Development, in consultation with the Head of Transport and Environment, is given delegated authority to make any changes required by KCC.

495. **PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHARGES AND CONDITIONS IN COUNCIL CAR PARKS (pages 47-102) (7.27pm)**

(Clare Millett, a member of the public, spoke prior to the discussion.)

The Head of Transport and Environment introduced the report setting out the proposed changes to charges and conditions in the Off Street Parking Places Order (OSPPO) for the financial year 2024/25, and provided a summary of the public consultation response.

Councillors debated the report and comments included:

- There was a reluctant acknowledgement from some councillors that changes were needed in order to make the budget balance.
- There was concern for areas where sustainable transport was not available to residents.
- Was charging for parking at Faversham Road worth it, was the council making any money with such limited parking?
- A councillor asked how much money the increases would generate and asked if the parking increases would be permanent or would they be reduced once the council was in a better financial position?
- A councillor stated that Herne Bay and Whitsable were not a 12 month economy and were disappointed to see seasonal parking removed.
- The high parking charges at destinations like Reculver were putting people off from visiting and it was very important that seasonal charges remained. If charges were too high, nobody would use the parking.
- A councillor asked if museums that were free for example, had seen a decrease in visitor donations due to the cost of parking. The officer stated that although he had concerns from businesses previously, he had never heard from the museums.
- Was there any help for businesses with the cost of parking?
- The free parking period for blue badge holders would increase.
- Why should transport be cheaper than for those who could not afford a car?
- With regards to females having to park further away at night, a councillor suggested that the city should be made safer, not car parks cheaper.
- Giving residents somewhere in the evening would encourage the night time economy.
- Residents would not pay to park in car parks overnight, when they could park on the streets for free.
- A councillor claimed that Herne Bay residents were paying for the reopening of Sturry Road Park and Ride.

The Head of Transport and Environment and the Director of Finance made comments and provided points of clarification including:

- The revenue for the Faversham Road car park was above what was estimated when introduced a couple of years ago.
- It was easier to give an EV discount than to charge other vehicles a higher amount.
- There were understandable concerns about sustainable transport and the current bus service, but these formed a key component of the Bus Strategy, part of the forthcoming Transport Strategy, and it was hoped that there would be more bus services at night and weekends.
- The proposed changes would raise in the region of £650k.
- The council had to provide a balanced budget and parking fees were taken into consideration as part of the whole budget.
- It was acknowledged that if prices continued to increase, there was an eventual tipping point where people would stop using the car parks. Officers would monitor usage through the ANPR data and this would be reviewed next year.
- Abstraction figures had been included on all financial spreadsheets.

- Parking at the park and ride with a resident discount would be £3.20 and was probably the cheapest in the country. For regular visitors, who were residents, every fifth visit in a calendar month was free which represented a saving of 20%.
- The council offered business permits which could be purchased on a pay monthly basis. Although they sounded expensive at £1000 per annum in Canterbury, they represented excellent value compared to the hourly rate.
- The reopening of Sturry Road park and ride would not be directly funded by Herne Bay residents. However it would primarily be used by Herne Bay, Sturry and Thanet residents.
- William Street car park had been free between 6pm-9pm for residents with online accounts for a number of years but usage was still low.
- Comments were appreciated and all would be taken into account.

It was proposed, seconded and when put to a vote agreed to:

Recommend (to Cabinet):

- (1) That changes are made to the advertised proposals in respect to item numbers 3, 6, 13, 14, 35 as set out in the report
- (2) That item numbers 1-54 (which include the changes above), as set out in Appendix 1, and the proposed permit charges, item number 55 as set out in Appendix 2 are implemented on 1 April 2024.
- (3) That the financial impact of items 56-61 are taken into account in the 24/25 budget.

Record of voting:

For(10): Councillors Dane Buckman, Elizabeth Carr-Ellis, James Flanagan, Roben Franklin, Keji Moses, Harry McKenzie, Peter Old, Naomi Smith, Clare Turnbull

Against (3): Councillors Liz Harvey, Jeanette Stockley and David Thomas

Abstained (0):

496. GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET

(Councillor David Thomas made a voluntary announcement that his brother was a taxi driver.)

The Service Director, Finance introduced the report which set out the key financial issues facing the council from 2023 to 2025 and advises councillors in key budget assumptions and puts forward budget recommendations for 2024/25 for consultation.

The Service Director, Place explained the markets and licensing consultation contained within the report.

Councillors were asked for their comments on the report, specifically on the three consultations for markets, licensing and the general fund consultation and advised that these would be passed to Cabinet for consideration.

Councillors debated the report and made comments including:

- Could anything be done to stop the sale of vapes on market stalls, or to increase the rates for those selling vapes. The officer explained that illegal products would not be permitted. Vapes were currently still legal and unless that guidance changed it would not impact the sale of such products. The situation would be monitored.
- A councillor applauded the return of the market and market manager and stated that they would like to explore bringing a market back to Whitstable too.

Comments and points of clarification were provided by both the Service Director, Finance and the Service Director, Place:

- Although concentrating on Canterbury at the outset, the market manager's role would be district wide.

Comments were noted.

497. HOUSING REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET

(Councillor James Flanagan make a voluntary announcement that he was a co-opted member of Canterbury Housing Advice Centre.)

The Housing Strategy Manager introduced the report which presented the responses to the public consultation on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget 2024/25. The report noted that the HRA budget was for one year only (2024/25) and did not contain any projections for the following years because of uncertainty about Government rent policy and the need to keep many elements of the budget under constant review.

Councillors were asked for their comments which would then be passed to Cabinet for consideration when making their recommendation to Council.

Councillors debated the report and made comments.

- There was concern regarding the large increases in service charges, particularly heating, and a councillor asked if this could be spread out so that the impact was not so large.
- Was the council keeping energy contracts under review to ensure best value for money and was renewable energy included in that in order to meet the climate emergency carbon neutral targets?
- As there was very little money to deal with the energy efficiency of the housing stock, it was important to take advantage of any government schemes to help residents with energy costs.
- Were figures for damp and mould included within the report?

Where required, clarification was made by the Housing Strategy Manager and the Service Director, People:

- Officers were also concerned about the proposed increase, particularly in regards to utilities. Some of the figures received through the contract were huge but if they were not passed on it would mean some tenants were subsidising other tenants' heating which would not be fair. The council could be subject to a legal challenge if a proper scheme

was not put in place.

- It would be possible to spread payments out over a long period, but that would mean under recovering costs this year and next and the fear was that the costs would constantly outstrip the increases.
- Officers were collating data in order to prepare bids for government schemes, however the biggest issue was having the right level of data to submit.
- Every case of damp and mould was reported, along with the investigations carried out, repairs and solutions but overall the cost was included in the day to day repairs maintenance budget.

498. OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEAR CANTERBURY

The Housing Strategy Manager introduced the report explaining that the council had an opportunity to purchase a number of new affordable homes for rent to help meet local housing needs.

Councillors were asked for their comments on this item, which would be passed to Cabinet. Due to the nature of the confidential appendix, the Chair advised that the discussion would take place following the exclusion of the press and public and the item would be taken later in the meeting.

499. Date of next meeting

7pm, Thursday 29 February 2024

500. Any other urgent business to be dealt with in public

There was no business under this item.

501. Exclusion of the press and public

RESOLVED - That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act or the Freedom of Information Act or both.)

502 OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEAR CANTERBURY - CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX

Councillors welcomed the report and made comments as relevant which would be passed on to the Cabinet.

503. Any other urgent business which falls under the exempt provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or both

There was no business under this item.

The meeting closed at 9.04 pm

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

29 February 2024

Subject:	Proposed Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) 2024
Director/Deputy Director:	Suzi Wakeham, Director of People and Place / Marie Royle, Service Director for People
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Connie Nolan
Key or non key decision:	Key decision
Decision issues:	These matters are within the authority of Full Council.
Is any of the information exempt from publication:	This report is open to the public.
CCC ward(s):	ALL
Summary:	<p>Public consultation has been carried out to inform the proposals in the PSPO. This will help address identified issues relating to dogs in public spaces in the Canterbury district..</p> <p>This report includes the results of that exercise and outlines the requirements proposed to be included in the PSPO. This report seeks the view of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on these proposals as part of the formal decision making process.</p>
To recommend to Cabinet:	<p>Option 1.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The adoption of a new Dog Control PSPO 2024 as set out in Appendix D which includes requirements relating to :<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dog fouling● Dog on lead of no more than two metres as per locations listed in Schedule 1 of Appendix D● Direction given to place dog on lead● Dog exclusion as per locations listed in Schedule 2 of Appendix D2. To include the new site of Bridge Recreation Ground as a dog exclusion area (as set out in Schedule 2 of Appendix D)3. To attach site maps to locations listed in Section 2 of this report, to ensure boundaries and areas that restrictions apply are clear.4. To NOT include in the new order:

4.1 Dog lead restrictions at the following sites:

- a. Paths of the Riverside Walk
- b. The public footpath within Whitstable Cemetery Whitstable

4.2 Dog exclusion at the following sites:

- Play area The Maltings, Enclosed, Littlebourne
- Play area Black Griffin Lane, Canterbury
- Sturry Road Community Park Garden Area, Northgate

4.3 The requirement of a person in charge of a dog on land to which the order applies, to produce (if asked to do so by an officer) a suitable means to pick up, remove and appropriately dispose of dog faeces

Next stage in process:

The feedback from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be considered by Cabinet on 22 April 2024.

Cabinet will make a recommendation to Full Council on 25 April 2024, as to whether to create a new Canterbury Dog Control PSPO 2024 and confirm an implementation date.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Introduction

Local Authorities were granted powers to introduce Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) through section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

A PSPO is intended to ensure that people can use and enjoy public spaces, living safely from anti-social behaviour.

An order will specify an area where activities are taking place that are detrimental to the quality of life of those in the area, and can impose conditions and restrictions on people using the specified area.

The Local Authority must be satisfied on reasonable grounds that the anti-social behaviour that has taken place has:

- had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or
- it is likely that activities will take place and they will have a detrimental effect and
- the effect or likely effect of these activities is or is likely to be persistent and
- is or likely to be unreasonable.

Canterbury City Council first introduced PSPOs in the district on 11 December 2014.

The Statutory Guidance for Councils on PSPOs provides a useful mechanism to test the proposals and their potential impact, and the evidence base for introducing them. The guidance suggests the close or direct involvement of elected members will help to ensure openness and accountability which can be achieved where the decision is put to the Cabinet or Full Council.

The restrictions and requirements included in a PSPO may be comprehensive or targeted to specific behaviours by particular groups and/or at specified times. Orders can be enforced

by a police officer, a police community support officer, designated council officers and employees of other delegated organisations.

Drafting the PSPO

The PSPO can be drafted based on the individual issues being faced in a particular public space. A single PSPO can also include multiple restrictions and requirements in one order. It can prohibit certain activities, such as the drinking of alcohol, as well as placing requirements on individuals carrying out certain activities, such as making sure that people walking their dogs keep them on a lead. However, the new PSPO can be used more flexibly to deal with local issues.

When deciding what to include, the council should consider scope. The PSPO is designed to make public spaces more welcoming to the majority of law-abiding people and communities and not simply restrict access. Restrictions or requirements can be targeted at specific people, designed to apply only at certain times or apply only in certain circumstances. In establishing which restrictions or requirements should be included, the council should ensure that the measures are necessary to prevent the detrimental effect on those in the locality or reduce the likelihood of the detrimental effect continuing, occurring or recurring.

When the final set of measures is agreed on, the PSPO should be published in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State and must: identify the activities having the detrimental effect; explain the potential sanctions available on breach; and specify the period for which the PSPO has effect.

2. Detail - Proposed Dog Control PSPO 2024

The proposed new Dog Control PSPO requirements have been drafted following consultation and evidence-gathering from the public and key stakeholders. Further details of this are contained later in the report in Section 4.

2.1 Exclusions from the proposed PSPO 2024

As a result of the consultation, the following activities and or locations (in the existing Canterbury Dog Control PSPO) are proposed to be **excluded** from the new PSPO. This is due to lack of evidence of impact on the community to justify their inclusion this time:

- **Removal of dog on a lead restrictions at the following sites:**
 - Paths of the Riverside Walk
 - The public footpath within Whitstable Cemetery Whitstable

- **Removal of dog exclusion at the following sites as there is no longer any play equipment in situ:**
 - Play area The Maltings, Enclosed, Littlebourne
 - Play area Black Griffin Lane, Canterbury
 - Sturry Road Community Park Garden Area, Northgate

- **Removal of the requirement of a person in charge of a dog on land to which the order applies, to produce (if asked to do so by an officer) a suitable means to pick up, remove and appropriately dispose of dog faeces**

2.2 Inclusions in the proposed PSPO 2024

The draft order can be found at Appendix D. Schedule 1 of Appendix D outlines the areas where dogs will be required to be on a 2 metre lead. Schedule 2 of Appendix D outlines the areas where dogs will be excluded from.

Bridge Recreation Ground

A new addition to the proposed Order is to include Bridge Recreation Ground as a dog exclusion area. There was sufficient consultation feedback to include this area, and as the recreation ground is used for family and community activities and there are other sites that dog walkers can use, we are recommending that this area is now included.

Area known locally as Long Rock

The area known locally as Long Rock falls within the existing Dog Control Order.

In addition there is a wider piece of work underway for the Long Rock SSSI which is being undertaken by the council's Environment Team. The management plan for Long Rock is scheduled for consideration by this committee as part of this meeting agenda. The PSPO and the management plan have been considered alongside each other to ensure they complement and add value to both the community and environment without being overly restrictive.

During previous consultation on maps for the Dog Control PSPO, and at a public meeting to discuss the ecological management of Long Rock, local residents suggested that the Dog Control PSPO covered areas that were not as sensitive. This feedback related to a large area of rough grassland running parallel to the campsite, and to the right of the Oyster Bay Trail.

We have listened to this feedback, and it was proposed that the Dog Control PSPO 2024 should be focussed on the site's most sensitive areas - namely the areas where wintering birds feed and roost. (See **Appendix G** for a map of the area known locally as Long Rock).

We believe this to be a balanced approach and has been reflected in this proposed Order. Those leading on the management plan believe this will be welcomed by users, and consultation feedback supported this too.

2.2 We will add location maps to the order and to signage, this is to clarify the boundaries of certain locations to ensure the public is clear about where restrictions apply. Sites include:

- Westgate Gardens
- Toddlers Cove
- Reculver Towers Heritage Area
- Reculver Country Park picnic areas
- Sturry Green, Mill Road
- Promenade Herne Bay Pier to Lane End
- Promenade from Neptune Jetty westwards to Herne Bay Pier
- Area locally know as Long Rock
- Play area Toddlers Cove
- Dane John gardens
- Promenade level with Pier Ave West to The Street Tankerton
- Best Lane Gardens
- Memorial Park Bowling Green
- Martyrs Field
- Whitstable Castle Gardens Bowling Green

- Waltrop gardens central parade
- Tylers Hill Playing field
- The parade
- The green opposite manor Court Oxford rd
- St Pauls Church yard
- St Mary De Castro Gardens
- St Augustine's Abbey gardens
- St Georges
- Beach Herne Bay Pier to Lane End
- The village Green
- Promenade Herne Bay
- Greyfriars Gardens

2.3 The order will require that persons in charge of a dog within the restricted area of the PSPO must:

- remove any dog faeces deposited by their dog
- keep their dog on a lead of no more than two metres in length in areas listed in Schedule 1
- comply with a direction given to him by an authorised officer to put that dog on a lead because such restraint is necessary to prevent a) nuisance, or b) behaviour of the dog which is likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person
- not take their dog onto, nor allow the dog to enter or remain on, the land listed in Schedule 2.

This Order does not apply to a person who:

a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948,

b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf people (registered charity 293358), and upon which he relies for assistance,

c) has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects in respect of a dog upon which he relies for assistance, which dog has been trained by any of the following charities:

- i) Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454)
- ii) Support Dogs Limited (registered charity number 1088281)
- iii) Canine Partners for Independence (registered charity number 803680)

2.4 Duration of the proposed PSPO

The maximum duration of a PSPO is three years but they can last for shorter periods of time where appropriate.

At any point before expiry, and subject to consultation the council can extend a PSPO by up to three years if they consider that it is necessary to prevent the original behaviour from occurring or recurring.

Alternatively the council can also vary a PSPO where there is evidence that particular issues are no longer a problem, or where there are new emerging issues that are a priority. This can also include changing the area covered by the Order. Again, this would be subject to consultation.

As well as varying the PSPO, a council can also seek to discharge it at any time.

Subject to Full Council making its decision, it is proposed that the new Order would be implemented for a period of three years.

From the consultation, feedback has highlighted that new play areas created as part of new housing developments are not listed as part of this proposed PSPO. We will monitor any complaints of concerns and issues, and should these indicate a significant problem then we will consider using the variation process to include new areas as needed.

2.5 Enforcement

The council's Enforcement Policy follows the government's Four E's Guidance (Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce as a last resort).

Although PSPOs are made by the council in an area, enforcement is the responsibility of a wider group. Council officers will be able to enforce the restrictions and requirements, as will other groups designated by the Council and accredited under the community safety accreditation scheme, this includes third party contractors.

In addition, police officers and PCSOs will have the ability to enforce the order. It should be noted that there will be no extra resources to carry this out and public expectation should not be set too high as ability to enforce is dependent on current staffing levels.

Authorised officers will receive additional training to enable them to appropriately enforce the Order. The issue of FPNs will not be arbitrary and discretion will be used at all times. Care must be taken to ensure that any measures included in the PSPO are capable of being enforced.

As is current practice they will treat members of the public with respect and courtesy and will use their powers and authority lawfully and proportionately.

Officers will ensure that education and awareness of the PSPOs takes place at first. This will be by way of signage, the council's website, and on site engagement sessions across the district especially in locations where we receive complaints.

The signage has been developed to include maps with colour coordinated keys to assist in clarity. Appendix F offers an example of the draft signage which will be used. Our website will also have maps which clearly show where restrictions apply, so that the public can see the vast areas of land in our district that are unrestricted and where dogs can be taken freely.

The engagement sessions include handing out free dog fouling bags and information about the restrictions and where alternative locations are. We will also work in schools to raise awareness with children and young people to nudge behaviour change. All these sessions are delivered in partnership with our current third party contractor NES.

Visible patrols will also be carried out to remind the public about restrictions and focus on hotspots or persistent offenders. We offer advice and education during these patrols and would deal with any offences witnessed at the time.

It is recognised that the majority of dog owners or those in control of a dog, are responsible and considerate members of our communities. The order seeks to ensure that the minority who do not act responsibly, are accountable for any negative impact on the quality of life of those in the locality.

2.6 Breach of Order.

It is an offence for a person, without reasonable excuse, to do anything that the person is prohibited from doing by a PSPO or fail to comply with a requirement to which the person is subject under a PSPO. A person guilty of an offence is liable on summary conviction to a fine.

Depending on the behaviour in question and if provision has been made for this, the enforcing officer could decide that a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) would be the most appropriate sanction. The FPN can be issued by a police officer, PCSO, council officer or other person designated by the council.

If an FPN is unpaid, then the council may decide to prosecute individuals through the court process.

2.7 Appeals

Appeals against a new PSPO can be lodged by anyone who lives in, or regularly works in or visits the area, through the High Court within six weeks of issue. Further appeal can be made when a PSPO is varied by the local authority. There are two grounds, that the council did not have power to make the order, or one of the requirements (for instance, consultation) had not been complied with.

It is also possible for an individual being prosecuted for failing to pay a FPN to challenge the relevant part of the PSPO as part of their defence.

3. Relevant Council Policy/Strategies/Budgetary Documents

We want to make residents feel safer and happier about where they live, and make sure that Canterbury continues to be a great destination to visit. The use of PSPOs contributes significantly to this, and also to the Council's current Corporate Plan priority 'Using our enforcement powers to protect the district'.

4. Consultation planned or undertaken

There was previous consultation carried out prior to the existing PSPO requirements being agreed.

In relation to the proposed PSPO, the public and stakeholders were consulted between Monday 11 September 2023 and Monday 6 November 2023.

A total of 172 responses were received.

This consultation gauged the level of support for the requirements outlined, how these impacted on quality of life, as well as when and where these issues were taking place. All responses were analysed, and this was then considered alongside existing evidence. **A summary of the consultation is in Appendix A.**

Overall, the survey results show that there is general support for most of the activities proposed for the new Canterbury Dog Control PSPO.

The consultation summary report provides a range of information about when, where and how frequently the proposed activities have been witnessed by respondents.

Key stakeholders such as the Dogs Trust (4.4.5 in the consultation summary report), the Police Crime Commissioner, and Parish Councils were directly included in the consultation process, and fed back on their thoughts on the proposals.

To note that in some cases where a residents group, a representative society, or a Parish Council responds to our consultation, they are representing the wider view of their community or membership group.

The Dogs Trust were agreeable to children's play parks being restricted and fouling to be included in the Order, but asked for caution around beach restrictions. This Order proposes no change to current restrictions at the coast, where only 2% of our entire coastline in the district has restrictions. We feel that this low percentage coverage balances the needs of those without dogs, with those that wish to use the coast to exercise their dogs.

While respondents expressed that some activities had a more significant impact on their quality of life than others, these results have been considered in conjunction with other evidence on hotspots.

We have listened to feedback and as a result we have proposed to change or remove some areas from the Order as detailed in Section 2 of this report. This is in line with government guidance on PSPO creation.

The main findings from the consultation are:

- Of the three main areas consulted on, **dog fouling** was witnessed by the highest number of people. Over 77% of respondents said that they witnessed this, 93% of which witnessed it first hand. This highlights the continuing impact and evidence to support the activities inclusion in the new Order.
- The area witnessed by the lowest number of people is **dogs within exclusion zones**. Only 24% of respondents said that they witnessed this, 95% witnessing it first hand. This highlights compliance and acceptance of the restricted areas.
- The main location witnessed for all areas within the Order is Tankerton beach or promenade. There were also a number of comments that highlighted Bridge, Canterbury, Toddlers Cove and Whitstable, Long Rock. This feedback can further inform officers directed time for focussed operations to educate and engage with a last resort of enforcement for non compliance.
- Respondents gave a number of reasons why the three activities have a detrimental effect on their quality of life. The top comments include **physical inconvenience when walking (dog fouling), concern of children's safety (dogs fouling and exclusion zones), limit enjoyment of public spaces (dogs off lead)**.
- Respondents also cited reasons why the PSPO (or Schedule) would unfairly impact them. These included **dog owners already picking up after their dogs, dogs already on leads, and dog exclusion zones being easy to avoid**. The majority are respectful in shared open areas however, due to the minority having the above impact on the community and environment there is a need to empower officers to address the anti social behaviour.
- A number of other comments were received regarding the PSPO proposal more generally which can be found in the summary in Appendix A.
- The most frequent of these highlighted that enforcement and signage needs improving which supports our proposal to add maps to key sites for clarity. .

As highlighted in Section 2. The council did receive specific feedback on concerns regarding a new playpark which is within a new housing development. To include such areas we will need to do further consultation if we are receiving complaints and reports. We are proposing to proceed with this Order as it now stands to avoid any period where there is no cover. We will monitor reports and if data suggests there is a problem. Then we will consult on these specific areas as part of any variation process.

5. Options available with reasons for suitability

Option 1

1. The adoption of a new Dog Control PSPO 2024 as set out in Appendix D which includes requirements relating to :
 - Dog fouling
 - Dog on lead of no more than two metres as per locations listed in Schedule 1 of Appendix D
 - Direction given to place dog on lead
 - Dog exclusion as per locations listed in Schedule 2 of Appendix D
2. To include the new site of Bridge Recreation Ground as a dog exclusion area (as set out in Schedule 2 of Appendix D)
3. To attach site maps to locations listed in Section 2 of this report, to ensure boundaries and areas that restrictions apply are clear.
4. To NOT include in the new order:
 - 4.1 Dog lead restrictions at the following sites:
 - c. Paths of the Riverside Walk
 - d. The public footpath within Whitstable Cemetery Whitstable
 - 4.2 Dog exclusion at the following sites as there is no longer any play equipment in situ:
 - Play area The Maltings, Enclosed, Littlebourne
 - Play area Black Griffin Lane, Canterbury
 - Sturry Road Community Park Garden Area, Northgate
 - 4.3 The requirement of a person in charge of a dog on land to which the order applies, to produce (if asked to do so by an officer) a suitable means to pick up, remove and appropriately dispose of dog faeces

This is the most suitable option as all of the requirements outlined are supported by the consultation and evidence provided. The proposed new PSPO has followed the LGA guidance and robust consultation process, and has undergone a vigorous check and challenge with our legal department.

Option 2 - To reduce, increase or adapt the activities and locations included.

The legislative requirements relating to proof of the detrimental impact of the behaviours mean that additional activities or locations cannot be added without further consultation.

The council could opt not to include all the proposed requirements or changes. However, there would need to be robust justification for any changes to the proposals as they are based on evidence.

Option 3 - To not create a new Dog Control PSPO.

This would leave both the police and the council with fewer powers to tackle many of the types of anti-social behaviour relating to dog control that the public felt were important.

6. Implications

- (a) Financial - Some of the enforcement and issuing of FPNs will be delivered

through a third party contract, this contract is anticipated to be at no cost to the council. Unpaid FPNs may require prosecutions, which are an additional cost that will need to be financially modelled based on existing data.

(b) Legal - An overview of the relevant legislation regarding PSPO's has been provided throughout this report.

(c) Equalities - **Appendix C**

(d) Environmental including carbon emissions and biodiversity - **Appendix B**

Other implications

(e) Staffing resource - No additional staff resource anticipated as some of the enforcement and issuing of FPNs will be delivered through a third party contract, and through partners such as the police.

(f) Property portfolio - none

(g) Crime and disorder - We have a duty to consider what affect our decisions have on community safety and to make sure that they contribute toward reducing levels of crime and disorder in the district. The proposed PSPO will make a significant contribution to this agenda.

(h) Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults - We have a duty to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm when undertaking our duties. The proposed PSPO will make a significant contribution to this agenda.

8. Conclusions

The proposed Dog Control PSPO 2024 (draft can be found in **Appendix D**) outlines measures to tackle anti-social behaviour, and key issues in the named areas that have been identified which are detrimental to quality of life.

There has been a robust process followed to reach this point. This has included calls for evidence, public consultation and engagement with key stakeholders.

Overview and Scrutiny recommendations will be fed through to Cabinet for consideration, and then on to Full Council to make the final decision.

It is recognised that an implementation plan will be required which also includes how we will raise awareness, how we will ensure sufficient signage is in place, delivery of training, and how we will enforce requirements.

As mentioned in this report, there is a parallel piece of work and report on the area known locally as Long Rock which is being considered by this committee at this same meeting. There has been consideration given to ensure these support one another and consider objectives and make a positive impact for the community and

environment. The map showing where restrictions apply to this site can be found in **Appendix G**.

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9. Background documents and appendices

Appendices

Appendix A - Public consultation summary and other evidence

Appendix B - Environmental including carbon emissions and biodiversity

Appendix C - Equalities Impact assessment

Appendix D - Draft Dog Control PSPO

Appendix E - Enforcement Policy

Appendix F - Dog Control PSPO draft signage

Appendix G - Area known locally as Long Rock



Dog control Public Space Protection Order

Consultation responses

1. Introduction

Consultation on Canterbury City Council's (CCC) plans to create a new dog control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) took place between Monday 11 September 2023 and Monday 6 November 2023.

The current PSPO has been in place since 2021 and sets out a standard of behaviour which all dog owners are required to follow.

It enables the council to take enforcement action against those who don't. This includes issuing a current fixed penalty fine of £100 in place or prosecution.

The purpose of the PSPO is to enable the community to address specific dog control issues in public spaces, such as dog fouling in parks or allowing a dog to enter children's play areas. It's not intended to unduly restrict dog owners from responsibly exercising their dogs across the district.

This consultation sought views on the follow areas:

- dog fouling
- dog exclusion
- dogs off lead

These activities replicate the existing Order with the removal and addition to some areas within Schedule 1 and Schedule 2.

Respondents were encouraged to comment on the specific activities listed in the PSPO. For each activity they were asked to do this by outlining:

- whether they had witnessed the activity

- how often they had witnessed the activity
- whether this was a first-hand or anecdotal sighting of the activity.

Respondents were also asked to what extent each activity had a detrimental impact on their quality of life and if the Order would unfairly impact them. They were also asked for general comments in relation to the proposed PSPO.

A total of 172 responses were received.

2. Executive summary

The main findings from the consultation are:

- Of the three main areas consulted on, dog fouling was witnessed by the highest number of people. Over 77% of respondents said that they witnessed this, 93% of which witnessed it first hand.
- The area witnessed by the lowest number of people is dogs within exclusion zones. Only 24% of respondents said that they witnessed this, 95% witnessing it first hand.
- The main location witnessed for all areas within the Order is Tankerton beach or promenade. There were also a number of comments that highlighted Bridge, Canterbury, Toddlers Cove and Whitstable, Long Rock.
- Respondents gave a number of reasons why the three activities have a detrimental effect on their quality of life. The top comments include physical inconvenience when walking (dog fouling), concern of children's safety (dogs fouling and exclusion zones), limit enjoyment of public spaces (dogs off lead).
- Respondents also cited reasons why the PSPO (or Schedule) would unfairly impact them. These included dog owners already picking up after their dogs, dogs already on leads, and dog exclusion zones being easy to avoid.
- A number of other comments were received regarding the PSPO proposal more generally.
- The most frequent of these highlighted that enforcement and signage needs improving.

3. Consultation methodology

Consultation took place between Monday 11 September 2023 and Monday 6 November 2023. The following methods were used to seek views:

- an online questionnaire, which received 167 responses
- a paper version of the questionnaire, none of which was returned
- written representations were also welcomed and five were received.

The consultation was promoted in the following ways:

- an article on the council's newsroom site
- posts on the council's social media channels
- three in-person meetings where council officers were present to answer questions and take suggestions from the public.

Additionally, the following stakeholders were emailed directly to encourage them to respond to the consultation:

- Canterbury Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group
- East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust
- Environment Agency
- Kent and Medway CCG (engagement team)
- Kent County Council Head of Paid Service
- Kent County Council Community Wardens
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service
- Kent Police
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- South East Coastal Ambulance Service
- South East Local Enterprise Partnership
- Canterbury 4 Business
- Canterbury Connected Business Improvement District
- Visit Kent
- Canterbury Housing Advice Centre
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Forward Trust
- Kent Savers Credit Union
- Northgate Ward Community Centre
- Plastic Free Canterbury
- Rising Sun Domestic Abuse
- Red Zebra
- Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre
- Active Life
- Canenco
- Canterbury Cathedral
- Canterbury Festival
- Continental Drifts
- Kent Cultural Transformation Board
- Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC)
- Kent County Council Councillors
- Kent County Council Departments
- Kent County Council Arts and Regeneration
- Kent County Council Social Services
- KCC 18+
- Local Democracy Forum - Canterbury District
- MPs
- Blean Initiative
- Canterbury Climate Action Partnership (CCAP)
- Forestry Commission
- Friends of Beverley Meadow
- Friends of Dane John and St Mary de Castro
- Friends of Duncan Down
- Friends of Dukes and Neals Meadow
- Friends of Kingsmead Field
- Friends of Mariners Field (Seasalter)

- Friends of Old Park and Chequers Wood
- Friends of Prospect Field
- Friends of Tankerton Bay
- Friends of the Riverside (Canterbury Riverside Group)
- Friends of Westgate Parks
- Kent and Medway Biological Record Centre
- Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership
- Millstrood Road Allotment Association
- Natural England
- Pilgrims Way Allotment Association
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- St Dunstan's Horticultural Society
- Sturry Road Allotment Association
- Thanington Allotment Association
- Wincheap Allotment Association
- Woodland Trust
- Age UK Canterbury
- Canterbury Inter-Faith Association (CANDIFA)
- Disability Advisory Panel (DAP)
- Ethnic Minority Independent Council (EMIC)
- HiKent
- Nigerian Community Association
- Polish Educational Club in Kent (PECK)
- Karibu Community Action Kent
- Kwan Ngei Chinese Association
- Canterbury and District Jewish Community
- Canterbury Muslim Cultural Centre
- Porchlight
- Canterbury Christ Church University
- Canterbury College
- Students Unions
- University for the Creative Arts at Canterbury
- Parish Councils
- Residents Associations
- Catching Lives
- Community Safety Partnership
- East Kent Spatial Development Company
- Local ward councillors
- Dogs Trust Canterbury
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)

4. Findings

NB: Percentages have been rounded to the nearest decimal point

4.1. Questionnaire responses

A total of 167 completed questionnaires were submitted, all of which were submitted online.

4.1.1. Respondent profile

The majority of respondents are residents of the Canterbury district.

Respondent type	Percentage
A resident of the Canterbury district	93% (156)
A visitor to the Canterbury district	-
A worker in the Canterbury district	2% (3)
A business, organisation or community group, please provide the name below	1% (1)
A city, county, parish or town councillor, please specify below	4% (6)
An MP	-
Other, please specify below:	1% (1)
No reply	-

NB: The six responses listed as A city, county, parish or town councillor were received from Bridge Parish Council, Waltham Parish Council, a Chestfield War councillor, a city councillor for Swalecliffe Ward, and Alan Atkinson from Bridge Parish Council. A response was also received from the Friends of Duncan Down and a prospective resident.

The majority of people responding are aged between 55 and 74.

Age	Percentage
Under 18	-
18 to 25	1% (2)
26 to 34	4% (7)
35 to 44	18% (30)
45 to 54	17% (28)

55 to 64	25% (41)
65 to 74	24% (40)
75 to 84	9% (15)
85 and above	-

NB: 4 respondents did not give their age

More females responded than males.

Gender	Percentage
Male	39% (65)
Female	53% (88)
Prefer to self-describe (for example, non-binary, gender fluid etc)	1% (2)
Prefer not to say	6% (10)
No reply	1% (2)

NB: 12 (7%) respondents did not give their gender

4.1.2. Dog fouling

Over three quarters of people stated that they have witnessed dog fouling in the last 12 months.

The most common places that this has been witnessed are Tankerton, specifically along the seafront and promenade, Bridge, Whitstable, and Herne Bay Memorial Park.

The frequency of dog fouling was split, however over half of people said they have witnessed dog fouling more times than they can count.

Over 95% of respondents said they have witnessed dog fouling first-hand.

Whether people have witnessed this	
Yes	77% (129)
No	20% (33)
Don't know	3% (5)

Areas witnessed:

- Tankerton, Seafront / Beach: 7 comments
- Bridge: 6 comments
- Tankerton, Promenade: 6 comments

- Whitstable, Beach and Seafront: 5 comments
- Tankerton, Streets: 5 comments
- Tankerton, Slopes: 5 comments
- Canterbury, Blean Woods: 4 comments
- Bridge, Star Hill: 4 comments
- Herne Bay, Memorial Park: 4 comments
- Whitstable, West Beach: 4 comments
- Whitstable, Long Rock, on the Path Around: 4 comments
- Canterbury, Rough Common: 3 comments
- Canterbury, Centre: 3 comments
- Bridge, High Street: 3 comments
- Bridge, Western Avenue: 3 comments
- Bridge, Recreation Ground: 3 comments
- Herne Bay, Hampton Beach: 3 comments
- Whitstable, Paths Around: 3 comments
- Canterbury, Beverley Meadow: 2 comments
- Canterbury, Royal Parade: 2 comments
- Canterbury, Littlebourne Road: 2 comments
- Canterbury, Whitehall Bridge Road Ct28be: 2 comments
- Canterbury, St Mary De Castro Park: 2 comments
- Bridge, Mill Lane: 2 comments
- Herne Bay, Seafront: 2 comments
- Whitstable, Prospect Field: 2 comments
- Whitstable, Regent Street: 2 comments
- Whitstable, Cromwell Road: 2 comments
- Tankerton, East: 2 comments
- Littlebourne, Field: 2 comments
- Seasalter, Mariners View, Jubilee Park: 1 comment
- Seasalter, Mariners View Estate: 1 comment
- Waltham, Waltham Park, Children's Play Area: 1 comment
- Chartam, Recreation Ground: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Dane John Gardens: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Lansdown Road Footpath: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Toddlers Grove (Cove?) and River Walk: 1 comment
- Canterbury, River Paths From Millers Arms to Barton Mill: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Hawkes Lane: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Barton Ward, Pavements: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Kingsmead Field: 1 comment
- Canterbury, King Street: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Puckle Lane (Just Before It Joins the Dover Road): 1 comment
- Canterbury, St Dunstan's: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Hommersham (Near the Entrance to Sullivan Close): 1 comment
- Canterbury, Pilgrim's Way: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Beverly Meadow: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Spring Lane: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Tannery Field: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Bridge to the Tannery: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Westgate Gardens: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Whitstable Road: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Stour Street: 1 comment

- Canterbury, Vauxhall Avenue: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Wincheap (Cut-through to Bingley Court): 1 comment
- Canterbury, Wincheap (Between Kings Head and Petrol Station): 1 comment
- Canterbury, Chartham Riverwalk: 1 comment
- Fordwich: 1 comment
- Chartham, Candler's Way: 1 comment
- Bridge, Footpath Leading From Churchyard: 1 comment
- Sturry: 1 comment
- Sturry, Community Park: 1 comment
- Herne Bay, Whitstable Road: 1 comment
- Herne Bay, Salisbury Road: 1 comment
- Herne Bay, Central (Park, Seaside, Main Road, Footpaths): 1 comment
- Herne Bay, Beacon Hill: 1 comment
- Herne Bay, Beacon Avenue: 1 comment
- Herne Bay, Station Road: 1 comment
- Herne Bay, Seafront Between Grand Drive and Central Avenue: 1 comment
- Bridge, to Bishops Bourne, Footpath: 1 comment
- Herne Bay, Downs: 1 comment
- Herne Bay, Hampton: 1 comment
- Herne Bay, Broomfield: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Swalecliffe: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Forge Lane: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Harbour Street: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Maydowns Road: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Joy Lane Ct5 4db: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Old Railway Line: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Beach Alley: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Gorrell Valley Reserve: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Stream's Walk: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Crab and Winkle Pathway: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Longreach, on the Grass Area Before Exiting the Beachfront to Plough Lane: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Preston Parade, Slopes: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Public Foot Paths and Stour River Path Between Chartham and Canterbury: 1 comment
- Tankerton, Seafront: 1 comment
- Tankerton, Beach: 1 comment
- Tankerton, Beach (Coast Watch Hut): 1 comment
- Tankerton, Beach Huts Grassy Areas: 1 comment
- Tankerton, to Swalecliffe, Seafront Slopes Beach Huts: 1 comment
- Swalecliffe, St John's Church, on Playing Field: 1 comment
- Chestfield, Recreation Grounds: 1 comment
- Radfall, Radfall Road: 1 comment
- Clowes Wood: 1 comment
- Bishopstone: 1 comment
- The Downs: 1 comment
- Stodmarsh: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Grove Ferry: 1 comment
- Herne Common, Curtis Wood: 1 comment
- Bishopstone, to Reculver, Coastal Path: 1 comment

- Beltinge, Seafront: 1 comment
- Reculver, the Path at the Top Between Reculver Drive Car Park and the Lees: 1 comment
- Reculver, Country Park; 1 comment
- Reculver, Sanderling Park: 1 comment
- Bishopstone, Grass Footpaths: 1 comment
- Bossingham, Behind Scout Hut: 1 comment

How often people have witnessed this	
More times than I can count	44% (57)
10+ times	19% (25)
Five to nine times	16% (21)
Two to four times	17% (22)
Once	3% (4)

Who witnessed this	
Me, this is a first-hand recollection	95% (123)
Someone else, this is hearsay/anecdotal	5% (6)

Respondents were asked to what extent dog fouling has a detrimental effect on their quality of life. This was a reasonably even split between not very much and a great deal, with 37% of respondents saying a fair amount.

The extent to which this has a detrimental effect on people's quality of life	
A great deal	28% (47)
A fair amount	37% (62)
Not very much	25% (42)
Not at all	10% (16)

Respondents were asked why this activity has a detrimental effect on their quality of life and the following comments were received:

- Physical Inconvenience When Walking: 45 comments
- Concern For Children's Safety And Cleanliness: 34 comments
- Negative Aesthetic Impact On The Environment: 31 comments
- Health And Hygiene Concerns: 22 comments
- Nuisance At Recreational Areas (Beaches, Parks, Woods): 13 comments
- General Indifference Or Minimal Impact On An Individual's Life: 13 comments
- Emotional Distress And Mood Disruption: 9 comments
- Challenges Faced By Individuals With Disabilities: 5 comments

- Appearance And Impression To Visitors: 3 comments

Respondents were asked to what extent the PSPO schedule would unfairly impacts people's activities. Over 82% of respondents said not at all or not very much.

The extent to which the schedule will unfairly impact people's activities	
A great deal	9% (15)
A fair amount	10% (16)
Not very much	28% (46)
Not at all	54% (90)

Respondents were asked why the schedule would (or would not) unfairly impact their day-to-day activities and the following comments were received:

- Dog Owner: Already Picks Up After Dog: 28 comments
- Improve Enforcement: 13 comments
- General Support for the PSPO: 12 comments
- Not a Dog Owner: 12 comments
- Don't Remove PSPO From Bridge Recreation Ground: 8 comments
- Dog Owners Should Pickup After Their Dogs: 6 comments
- Dog Fouling Disrupts Children's Play in Restricted Areas: 4 comments
- Less Dog Fouling is Good for the Community: 3 comments
- Dogs Have Enough Walking Routes Outside of PSPO: 2 comments
- Large Number of/More Frequent Clearing of Poo Bins: 2 comments
- Dog Owner: Carries Poo Bags Already: 2 comments
- Fouling is Health Hazard: 2 comments
- Documents Are Missing From Consultation: 1 comment
- Doesn't Use Areas in Pspo: 1 comment
- Ban Extending Leads: 1 comment
- Fouling is a Problem for Other Dogs: 1 comment
- Doesn't Carry Bags if Dog Doesn't Need to Poo: 1 comment
- Visitors will Benefit from the PSPO: 1 comment
- PSPO Unnecessary: Fouling is Already an Offence: 1 comment
- Concerns About Overzealous Enforcement: 1 comment
- Many Elderly Can't Pick Up After Their Dogs: 1 comment

Respondents were asked for any other comments about the PSPO, or any suggestions on other ways to deal with dog fouling. The following comments were received:

- Enforcement improve generally: 35 comments
- Poo bins, more generally: 9 comments
- N/A or Unclear: 6 comments
- Improve signage: 6 comments
- Dogs on lead in all public spaces: 6 comments
- Enforcement, improve out of hours: 5 comments
- Introduce dog licences: 3 comments

- General support of PSPO: 3 comments
- Improve cleaning of poo: 3 comments
- Empty dog poo bins more often: 2 comments
- Bridge Recreation Ground, No Dogs on Main Body of Recreation Ground, Dogs Allowed on Other Parts of the Recreation Ground: 2 comments
- Enforcement, Publicise Prosecutions: 2 comments
- Enforcement, Improve in Non-Urban Areas (Villages, Rural Areas): 2 comments
- Elderly and Disabled Need Open Spaces Like Parks to Walk Their Dogs, as Footpaths Are Unsafe for Them: 2 comments
- Free Poo Bags at Dog Friendly Establishments, Dog Walking Routes: 2 comments
- Dogs are Dangerous: 2 comments
- Exclude Dogs in All Children's Areas: 2 comments
- PSPO Won't Change Dog Owners Behaviour: 2 comments
- Dogs Should Be Muzzled: 2 comments
- Schedule 1 and 2 Missing From Consultation: 1 comment
- Bins, Stour Way: 1 comment
- Dogs on Leads on All High Streets: 1 comment
- Dane John Gardens, No Dogs Allowed on Grass Due to Fouling: 1 comment
- Bridge, Dogs in Children's Fenced Off Play Area: 1 comment
- Proper Disposal of Poo Bags Should Be Specified in Orders: 1 comment
- Signs Too Small, Separate Maps Must Be Made Available: 1 comment
- Enforcement, Use Security Cameras: 1 comment
- Enforcement, Larger Fines: 1 comment
- More Promotion of PSPO: 1 comment
- PSO Should Cover More Areas: 1 comment
- Large Bans Are Bad for the Environment as They Increase Driving: 1 comment
- Bins, Hambrook Marshes: 1 comment
- Protection Orders Should Be Confined to Children's Play Areas: 1 comment
- Pronouns, Use They Not He: 1 comment
- Dog Fouling a Problem When Dark (Mornings Evenings): 1 comment
- Dogs on Lead Order Not Enforced: 1 comment
- Security Cameras: 1 comment
- Dogs Should Be Chipped: 1 comment
- Improve Public Messaging: 1 comment
- Only Supports Dogs on Leads Order for Small Areas: 1 comment
- Dog PSPO is a Low Priority: 1 comment
- Tankerton Slopes Pier Road, Too Many Dogs: 1 comment
- Tankerton Bay, 1st May to 30 Sept is Widely Disobeyed: 1 comment
- Keep Protection Order on Recreation Ground (Bridge?): 1 comment
- Fenced Off Dog Areas Should Be Provided: 1 comment
- Dogs Are Off Lead at Long Rock SSSI: 1 comment
- Ban Retractable Leads: 1 comment

4.1.3. Dogs off lead in a restricted area

Over half of people stated that they have witnessed dogs off lead in a restricted area in the last 12 months.

The most common places that this has been witnessed are Whitstable, specifically Long Rock, Westgate gardens in Canterbury and Tankerton beach.

Overall, 65% of respondents said that they have witnessed dogs off lead either more times than they can count or 10+ times.

The majority of respondents said that they've witnessed dogs off lead in restricted areas first-hand.

Most people think that 2 metres is an appropriate lead length with over half of respondents agreeing.

Whether people have witnessed this	
Yes	53% (89)
No	35% (59)
Don't know	11% (19)

Areas witnessed:

- Whitstable, Long Rock: 25 comments
- Canterbury, Westgate Gardens: 7 comments
- Tankerton, Beach: 6 comments
- Canterbury, Toddler's Cove: 6 comments
- Tankerton, Promenade Restricted Area: 4 comments
- Canterbury, Dane John Gardens: 4 comments
- Bridge, Recreation Ground: 3 comments
- Tankerton: 2 comments
- Herne Bay, Beach Between Lane End And Pier: 2 comments
- Herne Bay, Reculver Sea Front: 2 comments
- Herne Bay, Pier: 2 comments
- Canterbury, High Street: 2 comments
- Canterbury, Dane John Mews: 2 comments
- Bridge: 1 comment
- Bridge, Star Hill: 1 comment
- Bridge, roads: 1 comment
- Tankerton, Promenade: 1 comment
- Tankerton, Coast watch hut: 1 comment
- Tankerton, Bay Summer Dog Free Areas: 1 comment
- Tankerton, Beach Between The Street And Pier Avenue: 1 comment
- Whitstable, seafront: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Cromwell Road: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Regent Street: 1 comment
- Herne Bay, Promenade: 1 comment
- Herne Bay, Reculver Towers: 1 comment
- Herne Bay, Seafront: 1 comment
- Canterbury, St Peters Street: 1 comment
- Canterbury, City Walls: 1 comment

- Canterbury, Saint George's Tower/clock Tower, Underpass: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Tyler Hill, Summer Lane Playing Field: 1 comment
- Canterbury, City Centre, Near Police Station: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Spring Lane, King George Playing Field: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Longport, Old Graveyard: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Cromwell Road: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Garden Of St Mary De Castro: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Church Lane, St Mildred's: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Stour Street: 1 comment

How often people have witnessed this	
More times than I can count	38% (34)
10+ times	27% (24)
Five to nine times	15% (13)
Two to four times	17% (15)
Once	3% (3)

Who witnessed this	
Me, this is a first-hand recollection	100% (89)
Someone else, this is hearsay/anecdotal	-

Do you think that two metres is an appropriate lead length?	
Yes	62% (104)
No	23% (39)
Don't know	14% (24)

Respondents were asked to elaborate on this question by providing reasons or other suggestions for dog lead length. The following comments were received:

- 2 Metres Ok: 22 comments
- Less Than 2 Metres: 12 comments
- More Than 2 Metres: 9 comments
- Extending/long Leads Are a Physical Hazard: 6 comments
- Depends on Size or Nature of Dog: 6 comments
- 1 Metre: 4 comments
- Leads Unnecessary for Under Control Dogs: 4 comments
- Use Muzzles, Leads Alone Aren't Enough: 4 comments
- There Are Too Many Restricted Areas: 3 comments
- Extending Leads: Ban in Restricted Areas: 3 comments
- Extending Leads Don't Control Dogs: 3 comments
- 3 Metres: 2 comments
- Extending Leads Are Ok: 2 comments
- Extending Leads: Do They Comply in Restricted Areas?: 2 comments
- 1.5 Metres: 1 comment

- More Than 3 Metres: 1 comment
- Extending Leads Only in Large Spaces: 1 comment
- Context Dependent: Whatever Length Stops Harm: 1 comment

Respondents were asked if dogs off lead had an impact on their quality of life. All in all, under half of people said not at all or not very much.

The extent to which this has a detrimental effect on people's quality of life	
A great deal	25% (28)
A fair amount	26% (29)
Not very much	29% (33)
Not at all	20% (23)

Respondents were asked why this activity has a detrimental effect on their quality of life and the following comments were received:

- Causes Mental Distress/limit Enjoyment of Public Spaces: 32 comments
- No/limited Issues From Dogs Off Lead: 28 comments
- Difficulty for Dogs on Leads: 15 comments
- Frightening or Dangerous for Children: 15 comments
- Disturbance to Wildlife/Long Rock: 12 comments
- Physical Hazard/threat: 8 comments
- Many Dogs Are Poorly Trained: 8 comments
- Fouling More likely to be Cleared up if Dogs On Lead: 5 comments
- Danger to the Elderly: 3 comments
- Dogs Off Lead Are Good for Quality of Life: 3 comments
- Dog Owner: Avoids Restricted Areas: 2 comments
- Dogs Should Be on Leads in All Public Areas: 2 comments
- Improve Signage: 2 comments
- Keeping Dogs on Leads Limits Their Ability to Exercise: 1 comment
- Dislike of Dogs for Cultural Reasons: 1 comment
- Use Time Limits With Zones, Late at Night Ok Off Lead: 1 comment

Respondents were asked to what extent the PSPO schedule would unfairly impacts people's activities. The vast majority said not at all, or not very much.

The extent to which the schedule will unfairly impact people's activities	
A great deal	14% (24)
A fair amount	14% (24)
Not very much	23% (38)
Not at all	49% (81)

Respondents were asked why the schedule would (or would not) unfairly impact their day-to-day activities and the following comments were received:

- Dog Already on Lead: 10 comments
- Dogs Will Have Less Exercise: 8 comments
- General Support for Rules: 7 comments
- Using Leads Isn't Hard: 6 comments
- Not a Dog Owner: 6 comments
- Objection to Controls on Dog Owners: 5 comments
- Dog Owners Should Expect to Obey the Rules: 4 comments
- Lead Unnecessary Dog is Well Controlled Off the Lead: 3 comments
- Improve Enforcement: 2 comments
- Already Plenty of Land Without Restrictions: 2 comments
- Restricted Areas Are Already Avoided: 2 comments
- Dogs Should Not Be Allowed on Bridge Recreation Ground: 2 comments
- Dogs Off Lead Disturb Wildlife: 2 comments
- Allow Dogs Off Leads Prior to 9am and After 6pm So Those With a Dog in the City Centre: 1 comment
- Dogs Are Good for Well-being: 1 comment
- Families With Dogs Can't Use Children's Play Areas: 1 comment
- Dog Owner, Uses Extender Lead: 1 comment
- Canterbury City, All Parks Dogs on Lead, and More Dedicated Off Lead Areas: 1 comment
- Dogs on Leads is Commonplace in Some Countries: 1 comment
- Dog Owners Should Choose a Lead: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Toddler's Cove Path is Ok for Dogs Off Lead: 1 comment
- Dogs and Non Dog Owners Can Share the Space: 1 comment
- Introduction of Rules Would Cause Friction: 1 comment
- Improve Signage: 1 comment

Respondents were asked for any other comments about the PSPO, or any suggestions on other ways to deal with dogs off lead. The following comments were received:

- Improve Enforcement Improve Signage: 20 comments
- N/A or Unclear: 12 comments
- Create Fenced Parks for Dogs Off Leads/More Dedicated Dog Friendly Areas: 9 comments
- Concerns about Over-zealous or Incorrect Enforcement: 6 comments
- Remove PSPO: 3 comments
- More Poo Bins: 2 comments
- Signage, Use More Polite Notices for Long Rock, Be aware of Elderly and Children Dog Licence: 2 comments
- Make the Riverside path between Morrisons and Toddlers Cove a bike free area. Divert bike users and those that do not wish to encounter dogs to Whitehall road from the car park behind Toddlers cove People in Cities as Very Reliant on Off Lead Parks: 2 comments
- This Consultation is Unclear Publicise Enforcement: 2 comments
- Improve Early and Late Hours Enforcement Bridge Parish Council Don't Understand Where the Current PSPO is Tankerton, Can May-Oct order be lessened by using a time restriction (not all day?) e.g. restricted from 9am to 5pm: 1 comment
- Multitask Enforcement (Parking and Dogs): 1 comment
- Dogs on Lead at Beach: 1 comment

- Dogs Are Becoming a Threat to Children: 1 comment
- Remove River Walk From PSPO: 1 comment
- General Supportive Comments: 1 comment
- Mandatory Dog Training: 1 comment
- Free Poo Bags: 1 comment
- Do not employ private contractors: 1 comment
- Bridge Recreation Ground, create a designated area for dogs: 1 comment
- Dogs Don't need to be on Leads to be Under Control: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Protect Long Rock SSSI from Dogs: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Long Rock, Create Fenced Off Area For Dogs: 1 comment
- Dogs on leads on all High Streets: 1 comment
- Riverside Walk Zones Are Unclear: 1 comment
- Toddlers Cove Zones are unclear: Whole Park or Just Children's Play Area?: 1 comment

4.1.4. Dog exclusion

Over half of people stated that they have not witnessed dogs in an exclusion zone, however nearly a quarter of people have.

The most common places that this has been witnessed are Bridge Recreation Ground and Toddlers Cove in Canterbury.

In total, 34% of people said that they have witnessed dogs in an exclusion zone between 2 and 4 times. The vast majority of people have witnessed this first-hand.

Whether people have witnessed this	
Yes	24% (40)
No	60% (100)
Don't know	16% (27)

Areas witnessed:

- Bridge, Recreation Ground: 13 comments
- Canterbury, Toddler's Cove: 2 comments
- Whitstable, Mariner's View, Jubilee Park: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Westmead, Recreation Ground Children's Play Area 1
- Reculver, Country Park In The Play Area: 1 comment
- Herne Bay, Hampton Play Park: 1 comment
- Canterbury, CT2 7DL, Hales Place Playground: 1 comment
- Tankerton, Beach: 1 comment
- Tankerton, Beach In Summer: 1 comment
- Canterbury, Toddlers Cove: 1 comment
- Whitstable, Plough Lane Park: 1 comment
- Herne Bay, CT6 6SU, Reculver Country Park: 1 comment
- Herne Bay, Reculver: 1 comment

- Whitstable, Long Rock: 1 comment
- Tankerton, Bay: 1 comment
- Between Herne Bay And Reculver: 1 comment

How often people have witnessed this	
More times than I can count	20% (8)
10+ times	20% (8)
Five to nine times	13% (5)
Two to four times	35% (14)
Once	13% (5)

Who witnessed this	
Me, this is a first-hand recollection	95% (38)
Someone else, this is hearsay/anecdotal	5% (2)

Respondents were asked if dog exclusion zones have an effect on their quality of life. A clear majority said either not at all or not very much. Only 19% said a great deal.

The extent to which this has a detrimental effect on people's quality of life	
A great deal	19% (32)
A fair amount	10% (17)
Not very much	23% (38)
Not at all	48% (80)

Respondents were asked why this activity has a detrimental effect on their quality of life and the following comments were received:

- Exclusion Zones Are Easily Avoided/Have Minimal Impact: 19 comments
- Dogs Prohibit Use Of Children's Play Areas/Concerns About Children And Dogs: 11 comments
- Dogs Are A Problem For People Using Recreational Areas: 10 comments
- Dogs Increase Fouling Which Is A Health Risk: 3 comments
- No Problem Seen With Dogs In Exclusion Zones: 3 comments
- Does Not Support Exclusion Zones: 3 comments
- Difficult For Families/Single Parents Who Can't Take Dogs To Children's Play Areas: 2 comments
- Dogs are Distressing: 2 comments
- Dog Exclusion Zones Are A Limited Issue: 2 comments
- People Can Walk Their Dogs Elsewhere: 2 comments
- Dogs In Exclusion Zones Affect Daily Activities: 1 comment

- Dogs Within Exclusion Zones Are Well Behaved: 1 comment
- Improve Enforcement: 1 comment
- Dogs Won't Be Able To Exercise: 1 comment

Respondents were asked to what extent the PSPO schedule would unfairly impacts people's activities. Over half of respondents said not at all, with only 15% saying it would unfairly impact them a great deal.

The extent to which the schedule will unfairly impact people's activities	
A great deal	15% (25)
A fair amount	11% (18)
Not very much	17% (28)
Not at all	58% (96)

Respondents were asked why the schedule would (or would not) unfairly impact their day-to-day activities and the following comments were received:

- Exclusion Zones Are Easy To Avoid: 14 comments
- Removal Of Area Will Limit Use Of Recreational Areas By Non Dog Owners: 10 comments
- Dogs Limits Use Of Children's Play Areas/Concerns About Children And Dogs: 8 comments
- Dog Owner Avoid the Zones: 6 comments
- Difficult For Families With Dogs To Use Children's Play Areas: 3 comments
- Dogs In Exclusion Zones Not A Problem: 3 comments
- Against Restrictions On Dog Owners: 3 comments
- Concerns Over Ability To Exercise Dogs: 2 comments
- Difficulty Finding Places To Walk Dog: 2 comments
- Dogs Can Be Walked Elsewhere: 2 comments
- General Support For Rules: 1 comment
- Poor Enforcement: 1 comment

Respondents were asked for any other comments about the PSPO, or any suggestions on other ways to deal with dogs in restricted areas. The following comments were received:

- N/A Unclear: 9 comments
- Improve Enforcement Improve Signage: 10 comments
- Bridge, Zone Should Remain In Place: 5 comments
- Promote Awareness Of PSPO: 2 comments
- Reculver, Better Signage: 2 comments
- Zones Are Difficult For Families With Dogs Use Children's Play Areas: 2 comments
- General Support For PSPO: 2 comments
- Bridge, Include Recreation Ground In Zone Introduce Dog Licences: 2 comments
- Fix Gates On Children's Play Areas Bridge, Parish Council Should Have Been Asked About This Consultation: 2 comments

- Bridge, Park Signage Should State That The Ban Only Applies To The Children's Area Improve Signage, Whitstable, Long Rock: 1 comment
- Herne Cemetery, Allow Dogs On Leads: 1 comment
- Toddlers Cove, Delineate Zones Better: 1 comment
- Improve Education: 1 comment
- Allow Dogs On Leads Passing Through Exclusion Zones: 1 comment
- Create Designated Areas For Dog Walkers: 1 comment
- Concerns About Children: 1 comment
- Tankerton, Extend Zone In The Summer Months From To Beach Level With Tankerton Sailing Club To The Street. Dogs Should Not Be Allowed From Pier Avenue To The Tankerton Sailing Club During The Summer Months: 1 comment

4.2 Evidence on specific locations within Schedule 1

The following locations were listed within the consultation to be removed from Schedule 1. Below is a summary of all the comments specifically mentioning these locations

Paths of the Riverside Walk, St Radigund's

- Disagree to remove this location from Schedule 1: 3 comments
- Approve to remove this location Schedule 1: 2 comments
- Witnessed dogs off lead within Riverside Walk: 1 comment

The public footpath within Whitstable Cemetery, Whitstable
There were 0 comments relating specifically to this location

Westgate Gardens

- Disagree to remove this location from Schedule 1: 2 comments
- Approve to remove this location from Schedule 1: 1 comment

Toddlers Cove

- Disagree to remove this location from Schedule 1: 2 comments
- Approve to remove this location from Schedule 1: 1 comment

Reculver Towers Heritage Area

- Disagree to remove this location from Schedule 1: 5 comments
- Approve to remove this location from Schedule 1: 0 comments

Sturry Green, Mill Road

- Witnessed dog fouling in this location: 1 comment

Promenade Herne Bay Pier to Land End

Evidence on this location from respondents comments is not possible to include as the area is too specific

Promenade from Neptune Jetty westwards to Herne Bay Pier

Evidence on this location from respondents comments is not possible to include as the area is too specific

4.3 Evidence on specific locations within Schedule 2

The following locations were listed within the consultation to be removed from Schedule 2. Below is a summary of all the comments specifically mentioning these locations

Play area The Maltings, Enclosed, Littlebourne

- Disagree to remove this location from Schedule 2: 1 comment
- Approve to remove this location from Schedule 2: 0 comments

Play area Black Griffin Lane Enclosed

0 comments were made on this location specifically

Play area Toddlers Cove

- To include within Schedule 2: 2 comments

Sturry Road Community Park Garden Area Northgate

0 comments were made on this location specifically relating to schedule 2

Bridge Recreation Ground

- Allow dog walkers on the recreational ground: 1 comment
- Do not allow dog walkers on the recreational ground: 4 comments

4.4. Written representations

A total of five written representations were received.

4.4.1. Kent Police & Crime Commissioner

The Commissioning Project Officer to the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner submitted the following comments on the PCC's behalf via email:

[...]Thank you for your email concerning the review of the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) in Canterbury.

I have asked my office to make contact with the Canterbury District Commander regarding their views and potential involvement. The update has been positive. I trust that the order will have a minimal impact on front line policing and predominately be supported through Canterbury City Council.

The public consultation is due to finish on 6th November 2023, and I am happy to provide my provisional support to the proposed order.
I look forward to hearing an update in due course.

4.4.2. A resident

A resident submitted the following comments via email:

[...]Currently there is a seasonal control order (a person in charge of a dog shall at all times keep that dog on a lead of no more than two metres in length) in place in Tankerton

at promenade level covering the stretch from Pier Ave west to The Street. I would like to see this extended at the eastern end so that it runs an additional couple of hundred metres up to Tankerton Bay Sailing Club ("TBSC") i.e. TBSC to The Street.

The reason is that when dog walkers head easterly along the promenade the responsible ones adhere to the Order but unleash the dog in line with Pier Avenue just before passing the beach huts. Young families visiting the huts don't appreciate it when a dog tries to play and use it's pent up energy with them on the beach. It can be very scary for children who do not have a dog in the family to encounter what is to them a large unknown animal running directly at them.

I'm fine with the seasonality of the existing order given greater public use during warmer months. It is the protection afforded to youngsters at beach huts near The Street that I seek parity with for my family.

4.4.3. A resident

A resident submitted the following comments via email:

[...]I understand that the effect of this proposed Order in the village of Bridge would be that dogs would be banned only from the fenced off children's play area on the recreation ground. Currently, dogs are banned from the whole area of Bridge rec.

I don't see a need, in Bridge, to extend dog access on the rec. There are many well used alternative walks in our semi rural parish. There is no need to increase the risk of adverse human/dog interactions, nor increase the potential for zoonotic disease exposure via dog faeces contamination in children and people playing sports on the recreation ground. I do think that the differing community needs should be balanced and I have seen provision of dog parks in urban areas (albeit, mainly abroad) where ability to let pets run around freely is more limited. They seem to work very well. However, I don't really see that this is essential in our current local environment.

4.4.4. A resident

A resident submitted the following comments via email:

[...]with reference to previous correspondence, I am enclosing an article in which I recently came across in an edition of the local NET magazine. Please could the important points made in this article be raised when the order is being reviewed.

4.4.5. Dogs Trust

The Dogs Trust submitted the following comments via email:

[...]Dogs Trust has been made aware that Canterbury City Council is currently consulting on the extension of its series of Public Space Protection Orders. As the UK's largest dog welfare charity, we would like to make some comments for consideration.
Dogs Trust's Comments

1. Re; Fouling of Land by Dogs Order:

- Dogs Trust consider 'scooping the poop' to be an integral element of responsible dog ownership and would fully support a well-implemented order on fouling. We urge the Council to enforce any such order rigorously. In order to maximise compliance, we urge the Council to consider whether an adequate number of disposal points have been provided for responsible owners to use, to consider providing free disposal bags and to ensure that there is sufficient signage in place.
- We question the effectiveness of issuing on-the-spot fines for not being in possession of a poo bag and whether this is practical to enforce.

2. Re; Dog Exclusion Order:

- Dogs Trust accepts that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be excluded, such as children's play areas, however we would recommend that exclusion areas are kept to a minimum and that, for enforcement reasons, they are restricted to enclosed areas. We would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries.
- Dogs Trust would highlight the need to provide plenty of signage to direct owners to alternative areas nearby in which to exercise dogs.

3. Re; Dog Exclusion Order and beaches:

- With phone calls often being made to the RSPCA and Police alerting to dogs being left in hot cars in coastal areas, we would urge you to consider the danger animals may be put in, and the difficult decisions owners have to make, by not being allowed to take their dogs onto the beach.
- If the Council does choose to implement this order, Dogs Trust would encourage looking into a compromise between beach goers and dog owners, e.g. allowing dogs onto the beach in the evenings or early mornings, or having dog friendly sections on the beaches.
- Strict dog exclusion restrictions can also lead to a decrease in dog friendly tourism for businesses along the coast, which in turn could have a negative impact on the local economy.

4. Re; Dog Exclusion and sport pitches

- Excluding dogs from areas that are not enclosed could pose enforcement problems - we would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries.
- We feel that exclusion zones should be kept to a minimum, and that excluding dogs from all sports pitches for long stretches of the year is unnecessary. In some cases sports pitches may account for a large part of the open space available in a public park, and therefore excluding dogs could significantly reduce available dog walking space for owners.
- We would urge the Council to consider focusing its efforts on reducing dog fouling in these areas, rather than excluding dogs entirely, with adequate provision of bins and provision of free disposal bags

5. Re; Dogs on Leads Order:

- Dogs Trust accept that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be kept on a lead.
- Dogs Trust would urge the Council to consider the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 requirements (the 'duty of care') that include the dog's need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns – this includes the need for sufficient exercise including the need to run off lead in appropriate areas. Dog Control Orders should not restrict the ability of dog keepers to comply with the requirements of this Act.
- The Council should ensure that there is an adequate number, and a variety of, well sign-posted areas locally for owners to exercise their dog off-lead.

6. Re; Dogs on Lead by Direction Order:

- Dogs Trust enthusiastically support Dogs on Leads by Direction orders (for dogs that are considered to be out of control or causing alarm or distress to members of the public to be put on and kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised official).
- We consider that this order is by far the most useful, other than the fouling order, because it allows enforcement officers to target the owners of dogs that are allowing them to cause a nuisance without restricting the responsible owner and their dog. As none of the other orders, less fouling, are likely to be effective without proper enforcement we would be content if the others were dropped in favour of this order.

*the full response has not been included within this document

4.5. Public meeting

A total of three public meetings was held in the following locations:

- South Quay Shed, Harbour, Whitstable CT5 1AB, on Wednesday 11 October, 5pm to 7pm
- Herne Bay Baptist Church, High St, Herne Bay CT6 5LA, on Wednesday 18 October, 5pm to 7pm
- Tower House, Westgate Gardens, Canterbury, CT1 2DB, on Wednesday 1 November, 5pm to 7pm.

These events were promoted via email to a wide array of stakeholders on the council's newsroom website as well as social media channels.

4.5.1. Whitstable event

The following comments were raised at this event:

Signage

- E-bikes on pathways in Tankerton are dangerous, there should be more signage to stop offenders
- clearer shared pathways needed
- In order to make it less arguable that someone isn't aware of the band, paint a bold yellow line all the way along the dog ban space.
- Signage needed
- Protected site at the bottom of tankerton slopes needs better signage as dogs walk along there

Enforcement

- cameras could pick up some of these offenders
- The West end of Tankerton has a set of orders and the Eastern end doesn't, there are minimal enforcement measures taken along there. Often find dog fouling. Signage can be improved, even if this is timed to certain points in the day.
- Enforcement is needed in Tankerton (2 comments)

- Do officers have flexibility to attend the coast when it gets busy?
- Other residents informing visitors that are breaking PSPO rules
- Whitstable residents feel that the attention is based on the City and not the coast. If the city is going to continue to be prioritised to the coast, there needs to be time and money to reflect that

Evidence based comments

- bike riders are dangerous along the seafront
- some dogs you see are out of control but not often
- The issue of reckless cycling was raised and proposed to go into the coastal order, unfortunately we had councillors who didn't want this and for that reason it was shelved.
- Dogs are not in control of extendable leeds, often dogs are out of control, approaching groups of people and sea swimmers left vulnerable.
- On part of the beach when orders didn't apply, there were dogs going around and urinating on clothes left by swimmers on the beach
- People often do not pick up after their dog
- Extendable leads often means the dog is still out of control, dogs can get to full speed after 2m, this means the leed will be out of the owner's hand
- People have been attacked by dog walkers on Lock Rock not abiding by the rule

Suggestions

- Say that the dogs are must be on the lead on the path, ban them from the shingle
- Ban people from bringing their dogs to the beach in the Summer, especially when it's too hot. Educate them on the dangers.
- Blanket ban from May - Sept in Tankerton. It's not fair on dog walkers, could it be timed to certain busy points in the day. It's the irresponsible owners that are causing the issues.
- It states from the high tide mark, this map is very linear, it doesn't match the hightide mark

Questions

All questions were answered during the event, the answers were not recorded.

- There is an increase in commercial dog walkers who have multiple dogs, you can't watch this many dogs at a time. Is there a requirement if you can't walk anywhere in a public place with more than 4 dogs?
- Do you have licence for commercial dog walkers, this is different to boarding care?
- Long Rock, what is the current order there? Is it being dealt with separately because of it's status
- If all the dog owners got together and disagreed with the consultation, at what point would you ignore these comments?
- Can we put signs up on posts that are owned by KCC?
- What is the format of the next level of consultation?
- Is there any feedback on the Long Rock dog control order?
- Coastal management plan, will this be reviewed?

Other

- schedules aren't clear to see when filling in the consultation online

- The stretch from toilet block to the skate park, this is a very busy part of the beach and a high dog population.
- This won't impact visitors, it will impact locals.
- This all needs to be balanced, we have only less than half of a mile of restrictions, the rest is unrestricted. There are people that do want to come to the beach and don't want dogs there. The beach is a blue flag beach.
- Dog Trust do dog education in schools too

4.5.2. Herne Bay event

The following comments were raised at this event:

- No map included in the schedule within the consultation
- No mention of Bridge at all unless you fill in the survey and you don't get any information
- It's a busy recreation ground with various users throughout the year, including regular sports activities.
- The last thing we want on the recreation ground is dogs being able to run free on there
- One single person is making a fuss at wanting to allow dogs on the field
- Locals came to a Parish council meeting asking us to not allow dogs on the field
- The restrictions are poor and we strongly disagree
- By any consultation process you would have contacted the Parish, no one was contacted, we only found out by hearing about it through another Parish
- We ask you enforce the ban over the entire recreation ground
- Other local recreational grounds that allow dogs can no longer play sports on there due to dog fouling
- There are other spaces to walk your dog within Bridge, we need to protect this area
- Strong message about the enforcement order needs to be in place across the entire recreation ground
- There needs to be more signage and more enforcement

4.5.3. Canterbury event

The following comments were raised at this event:

Signage

- Signs were repeatedly removed at Long Rock, we need better signage
- Signs at Pegwell Bay work well
- Paths of the riverside walk in Canterbury, can this be made clearer as to what area you mean?
- There is very clear signage in Minnis Bay, this was clearly dog owners split with dog free zones.
- As you walk into the tannery field it says dogs must be under control but it isn't specific, some signage with other antisocial behaviours, first signage you get to dogs on lead it when you get to westgate gardens. Moving forward i'd hope the signs around the city would be clearer

Enforcement

- Long Rock area needs monitoring to see the amount of misbehaving dog owners
- Council would instal fencing around the paths at Long Rock if the reports of offenders go up
- Fences need to be there to protect the birds at Long Rock
- Bridge PC last Oct, we voted we wished for the ban on the rec to continue, there is one individual for the ban to be removed. We're a democracy, if the results show they want the rec to be lifted then fair play, but if the majority want the ban supported then we should enforce it.

Evidence based comments

- Some of the areas of exclusion on the coast protect the nesting birds, understandable that there is conflicting interest with biodiversity.
- I have experienced where the government guidelines for enforcement were not followed with that order
- You need to prioritise wildlife protection
- Are you aware Whitstable is unusual and there is a high population of dogs present?
- It needs to be looked at in a special way
- Worried about the amount of dog mess on the rec in Bridge
- The officers could be vulnerable, the officer we met was vile, if we had not been nice people she could have ended up in a horrible situation. They need to be careful how they approach people
- Dog foul bins are not emptied often enough

Suggestions

- Dogs allow people to go outside and are a lifeline to some people, you need a public space if you live in flat or small garden courtyards. It would be good to have areas where you can have a dog only zone
- Suggestion to Rebecca Booth regarding a dog friendly location. Direct cyclers up Whitehall Road so that the bath between Toddlers Cove and Morrisons can be a dog zone without cyclists.
- Visited Pegwell Bay, they have a dog specific area, fenced off, the only issue is people leaving their dog fouling but this does work well. Can the same be duplicated at Long Rock, where there is a large recreation green to allow dogs to run free
- Do not agree with the wording of the consultation, this needs to be changed to not be leading
- In responded the questionnaire doesn't capture many details on the person filling it out
- Laminate a QR code and put it in a park
- If the majority of the village want access to dogs on the rec, could we have a time of monitoring this to ensure it is working
- KCC has a process where they take in the comments and proposals, then come up with their proposals and residents can then react to these before being decided.
- Timed zones where dogs are allowed and not allowed

Questions

All questions were answered during the event, the answers were not recorded.

- How much of a nuisance is dog control, do you receive many complaints?
- How would you advise members of the public to engage with people that are in breach of the order?
- In the last 3 years, how many fixed penalties have been sanctioned?
- When you have national enforcement services, how often do you quality control their approach?
- Does the camera footage mean that if someone puts the dog on the lead but they are repeat offenders they can be sanctioned?
- Why is there a rise of dog fouling in the winter?
- Is there a place for a dog zone where they can be exercised off their leads?
- Could the map include areas which are more dog friendly?

- How do you advertise that there is a survey to complete? I randomly read the local magazine come through the door
- Are there any advertisements in libraries?
- When the consultation has finished will there be any liaison with the Parish Council on what the council will do in response before we see a sign?
- The evidence presented to the councillors, the long rock and bird disturbances how will this be presented?
- Would it be worth residents feeding their day to day experiences into the evidence Martin Hall is gathering?
- When did the consultation process begin?
- When can we find out the results of the consultation?

Other

- Long Rock - Attended a Bird Wise East Kent talk, there was a public consultation last year, the result was overwhelming resistance from dog owners, the result was they have to keep the majority vote and they said that signs were repeatedly removed and they couldn't enforce due to no signs. Agreement that new signs will go up, over 2 years they will monitor if the number of complaints on dogs off lead goes up or down. Compare total numbers of dogs causing disturbances to previous years, if number has gone down and dog owners are behaving, the council will then take no further steps protecting wildlife at the site.
- Surprised that people destroy enforcement notices, people are now used to picking up dog fouling and thought majority of dog owners are compliant
- There are some people that won't look at nature and the bigger picture
- Bridge - recreation with fenced off children's play area, in the 80s there was a bylaw to stop dogs from being on the rec. At some point where the fencing was put in something has got through allowing dogs, this was not done with the knowledge of the parish council.
- There are plenty of areas in the countryside around Bridge for dogs to exercise, we have our rec which is widely used, next to the school, children use it for events and walk across. The whole of the rec is a children's play area, the reason for the fenced off area is because of the safety of children climbing into the river.
- There is a pavilion in the rec, we have football teams, weekly toddler groups who use the outside space in Summer months, we have parties with outside space. This area is nice for children and adults to have a space to be able to play without dog fouling
- People respect the current control, dogs don't come into the rec, those that do ignore the order they do so knowing they are not welcome there. It doesn't stop, but the order works well currently.
- It's the wish of the PC representing the village to be frustrated that one person is making a fuss, which is a minority.
- We're disappointed as a PC that it wasn't made clear to us when we were sent the consultation. It was more of a Canterbury based city centre control order or review, not that is mentioned any specific on Bridge. It took us a while the consultation picked up a change in Bridge

5. Conclusions

Overall, the survey results show that there is general support for the Dog Control PSPO.

This report provides a range of information about when, where and how frequently dog fouling, dogs off lead, and dogs in restricted areas have been witnessed by respondents.

While respondents expressed that dog exclusion zones don't have an impact on their quality of life and offences haven't been witnessed very often, these figures should be considered in conjunction with other evidence within the report.

Given the response rate and overall engagement during the consultation period, residents seem engaged with the control of dogs within Canterbury district.

It is hoped that the findings from this consultation provide useful insight as to how the council will proceed during its review of the dog control PSPO.

Other Evidence

Appendix B

1. Climate Change impacts

Impact of proposal Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	Explanation of impact If you have any relevant data, please include that in the explanation and reference the source.	Mitigation
Impact on the council's target of being carbon neutral by 2030 This applies to emissions of carbon dioxide as a direct result of our own activities and services. Please consider the whole life impact of your proposals		
Positive	There is a risk that journeys to carry out enforcement activities across the district on behalf of the council could impact emissions of carbon dioxide. The mitigations listed will ensure that there is a positive impact.	Plans underway to replace vehicles used by the council's enforcement team with electric models. Effective scheduling of staff/contract resources will take place to minimise unnecessary journeys by car.
Impact on carbon emissions in the Canterbury district This applies to the carbon dioxide emissions in the district as a result of your proposal. Please consider the whole life impact of your proposals.		
Positive	Many of the incidents of anti social behaviour that we need to tackle have an impact on carbon emissions in the Canterbury district.	The requirements in the proposed PSPO will have a positive impact as they are preventative measures aimed at protecting the environment and tackling environmental issues.
Emission of other climate changing gases including methane, CFCs, nitrous oxide		
Positive	Dog faeces can be a danger to young people.	The proposed PSPO seeks to reduce incidents of this.

2. Adaptation to climate change - Impact on our resilience to the effects of climate change

The greatest risks posed by climate change to the UK are:

- Flooding and coastal changes including erosion from extreme events
- Risks to health caused by high temperatures
- Water shortages and drought
- Risk to natural environments & services - landscape, wildlife, pollinators, timber etc
- Risk to food production & trade
- Emergence of new pests and diseases affecting people, plants & animals

What impact do your proposals have on our ability to resist or tackle these problems in the future?

Impact of proposal Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	Explanation of impact	Mitigation
Positive	Extinction of breads in SSSI protected areas due to disturbance and damage to the habitat.	The proposed PSPO will aim to reduce impact on wildlife in protected areas

3. Further assessment work

Is a further more detailed assessment required at a later stage of this proposal? **Not at this stage**

Appendix C - Equality Impact Assessment

Date of initial assessment	29th November 2023
Division	People
Proposal to be assessed	Proposed Canterbury Dog Control Public Space Protection Order 2024
New or existing policy or function?	Existing
External (i.e. public-facing) or internal?	External
Statutory or non-statutory?	Statutory
Your name	Lacy Dixon
Your job title	Enforcement Manager
Your contact	lacy.dixon@canterbury.gov.uk
Decision maker (e.g. Community Committee, Management Team etc.)	Community Committee is asked to resolve that public consultation is undertaken on the proposed Canterbury Dog Control Public Space Protection Order 2024
Estimated proposal deadline	Implementation planned for February 2024

<p>Please outline your proposal, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aims and objectives ● Key actions ● Expected outcomes ● Who will be affected and how ● How many people will be affected 	<p>The PSPO provides local authorities with the necessary powers to introduce restrictions upon activity and behaviours deemed to be anti-social and occurring in “public spaces”.</p> <p>It is designed to restrict and prohibit certain behaviours, within the designated area, where evidential tests are satisfied.</p> <p>Those potentially affected negatively includes people who live, work, and visit the area, who demonstrate anti-social behaviours included in the proposed order.</p> <p>Those potentially affected positively includes people who live, work, and visit the area, local businesses and service providers, who are impacted by the anti-social behaviours included in the proposed order.</p> <p>No specific number of people can be identified as being affected at this stage as there is no target group.</p> <p>There is the need for a consistent yet flexible approach to the application of the proposed PSPO.</p> <p>If the proposed PSPO is implemented, it will be important for authorised officers to consider the needs of the individual and their personal circumstances in order to make an informed decision as to the appropriate action to take (i.e. recommendation for support, advice, fine, criminal justice approach etc).</p> <p>It will also be important for authorised officers to ensure that any action taken is proportionate to and balanced against any risks posed, either to the individual or the wider community.</p>
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<p>What relevant data or information is currently available about the customers who may use this service or could be affected?</p>	<p>There is a requirement for a period of statutory consultation to be undertaken on the proposed PSPO, before a decision can be taken.</p> <p>It is important for the consultation to be both accessible and engaging with those likely to be affected by the order (positively and negatively). It must also consider the communication needs of those living within the designated area</p> <p>The implementation of the proposed PSPO would be applied to everyone within the designated area, however it is likely that it will have an increased negative impact on perpetrators.</p> <p>Whilst the PSPO is designed to prohibit certain activities, it is also designed to enable people to feel that the district areas covered are safe and welcoming places for all.</p> <p>We know anecdotally, and from previous consultation/evidence provided, that there are some sections of the community who currently don't feel that this is the case (this includes for example some older people, disabled people).</p> <p>The implementation of the PSPO could therefore potentially have a positive impact for many individuals.</p>

<p>Is the decision relevant to the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty, which are listed below? Guidance on the aims can be found in the EHRC's PSED Technical Guidance</p>		
Aim	Yes/No	Explanation
<p>Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>We will closely monitor the enforcement of the proposed PSPO once it is implemented, to ensure that there is no systemic discrimination and disadvantage affecting people with particular protected characteristics.</p>
<p>Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it</p>		<p>We will take steps to meet the different needs of people with different protected characteristics to ensure there is no disadvantage</p>
<p>Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it</p>		<p>We anticipate that the proposed PSPO will lead to a reduction in fear of crime both in respect of those who share a certain protected characteristic and those who do not.</p>

<p>Assess the relevance of the proposal to people with different protected characteristics, and assess the impact of the proposal on people with different protected characteristics.</p>			
Protected characteristic	Relevance to proposal	Impact of proposal	Explanation

	High/ Medium/ Low/None	Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	
Age	High	Positive/ Negative	Positive Impact - Although the PSPO is designed to prohibit certain behaviours it also looks to make the areas identified safer and more welcoming places. Anecdotally, we know that some sections of the community (for example older people and children) either don't feel that this is the case at present, or have been affected by some of the behaviour we are trying to tackle, and this has a negative impact on these individuals. The PSPO could have a positive impact for these individuals. A health and safety risk that this poses to young individuals is dog faeces.
Disability			Positive Impact - The PSPO will positively impact those individuals with additional support needs, protected or hidden characteristics and or disabilities to feel safer when accessing the district. Negative Impact - The PSPO could adversely impact those perpetrators with mental health concerns and those with alcohol dependency, or substance misuse issues. Mental health/other considerations will be taken into account by officers.
Gender reassignment	None	Neutral	
Marriage and civil partnership	None	Neutral	
Pregnancy and maternity	None	Neutral	
Race	None	Neutral	
Religion or belief	None	Neutral	
Sex	None	Neutral	
Sexual orientation	None	Neutral	
Other groups: for example – low income/ people living in rural areas/ single parents/ carers and the cared for/ past offenders/ long-term unemployed/ housebound/ history of domestic abuse/ people who don't	Medium Medium	Negative Negative	Low income - perpetrators breaching a PSPO could be issued with a FPN requiring financial payment. This could impact those on low incomes. People who don't speak English as a first language - efforts needed to ensure that communication caters for differing needs when required.

<p>Speak English as a first language/ People without computer access etc.</p>			
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<p>Are you going to make any changes to your proposal as a result of these findings, in order to mitigate any potential negative impacts identified? If yes, what are they? If no, why not?</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>The mitigations below will be implemented.</p> <p>Plans in place for the consultation to be both accessible and engaging with those likely to be affected by the order.</p> <p>As part of implementation, plans will be in place for authorised officers to consider the needs of the individual and their personal circumstances in order to make an informed decision as to the appropriate action to take.</p> <p>We will put mechanisms in place to ensure communication can be made with people who don't speak English as a first language.</p>
<p>Is there any potential negative impact which cannot be minimised or removed? If so, can it be justified? (for example, on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for another protected characteristic)</p>	<p>The PSPO is not targeted at any particular group, it is targeted at perpetrators of anti-social behaviour that impacts upon the quality of life of the wider community.</p>

<p>What additional information would increase your understanding about the potential impact of this proposal?</p>	<p>This could be provided by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring the impact that the policy is having on the community to reduce the likelihood of any disproportionately negative impacts on those with protected characteristics. Monitoring of ASB across the district to ensure that the PSPO doesn't displace the issue and create issues within other areas.
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<p>Date of revised assessment</p>	<p>TBC following consultation on the proposed PSPO and before formal agreement of any order</p>
<p>Have you made any changes to your initial assessment? If so, please give brief details</p>	<p>Not applicable at this stage.</p>
<p>Did you undertake consultation? – if yes, give date and the consultation results:</p>	<p>Not applicable at this stage.</p>
<p>Do you have new information which reveals any difference in views across the protected characteristics?</p>	<p>Not applicable at this stage.</p>
<p>Can any new conclusions be drawn as to how the proposal will affect people with different protected characteristics?</p>	<p>Not applicable at this stage.</p>

<p>Are you going to make any changes to your proposal as a result of these findings, in order to mitigate any potential negative impacts identified? If yes, what are they? If no, why not?</p>	<p>Not applicable at this stage.</p>
<p>Is there any potential negative impact which cannot be minimised or removed? If so, can it be justified? (for example, on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for another protected characteristic)</p>	<p>Not applicable at this stage.</p>

Appendix D - Draft Proposed Dog Control PSPO

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

PART 4, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 59

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (Control of Dogs) 2024

Canterbury City Council ('The Council') in exercise of the power under section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ('The Act'), being satisfied that the conditions set out in section 59 of the Act have been met, hereby makes the following Public Spaces Protection Order

- 1) This Order may be cited as the Public Spaces Protection Order (Control of Dogs) 2024.
- 2) This Order comes into effect on **XX XX 2024** and has effect for a period of three years.
- 3) This Order applies to all land within the administrative area of the council to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.

Excepted from the description in 3 above is -

(i) land that is placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under section 39 (1) of the Forestry Act 1967

(ii) Agricultural land

4) If a dog defecates at any time on land to which this Order applies a person who is in charge of the dog at the time shall remove the faeces from the land forthwith.

5) A person in charge of a dog on the land listed in Schedule 1 (being land to which this Order applies) shall at all times keep that dog on a lead of no more than two metres in length.

6) A person in charge of a dog on land to which this Order applies shall comply with a direction given to him by an authorised officer to put that dog on a lead.

7) The direction referred to in paragraph 6 of this Order may only be given by an authorised officer if that officer has reasonable grounds for considering that such restraint is necessary to prevent

a) nuisance, or

b) behaviour of the dog which is likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person.

8) A person in charge of a dog shall not take that dog onto, nor shall he allow the dog to enter or remain on, the land listed in Schedule 2 (being land to which this Order applies).

9) 'Authorised officer' means an officer authorised by the Council to give directions or make requests under this Order.

10) This Order does not apply to a person who

a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948,

b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf people (registered charity 293358), and upon which he relies for assistance,

c) has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects in respect of a dog upon which he relies for assistance, which dog has been trained by any of the following charities –

i) Dogs for the Disabled (registered charity number 700454)

ii) Support Dogs Limited (registered charity number 1088281)

iii) Canine Partners for Independence (registered charity number 803680)

11) It is an offence under section 67 of the Act for a person, without reasonable excuse,

– i) to do anything that that person is prohibited from doing under this Order,
or

ii) to fail to comply with a requirement to which the person is subject under this Order.

12) A person guilty of an offence under section 67 is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding Level 3 on the standard scale.

13) A person does not commit an offence under section 67 by failing to comply with a prohibition or requirement that a local authority did not have power to include in a Public Spaces Protection Order.

Made this XX day of XX, 2024

Signed, Suzi Wakeham, Director of People and Place, Canterbury City Council

Schedule 1

This Schedule hereby lists the land where a person in charge of a dog shall at all times keep that dog on a lead.

Schedule 2

This Schedule hereby lists the land where a person in charge of a dog shall not take that dog onto, nor shall he allow the dog to enter or remain on.

Schedule 1

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

PART 4, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 59

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER Public Spaces Protection Order (Control of Dogs) 2024 Paragraph 5.

A person in charge of a dog shall at all times keep that dog on a lead of no more than two metres in length in the areas outlined below,

Tyler Hill playing field, Summer Lane Tyler Hill
Westgate Gardens, Canterbury
Toddlers Cove, Canterbury
Whitstable Castle Gardens & Bowling Green Whitstable
Memorial Park Bowling Green, Herne Bay
Waltrop Gardens Central Parade, Herne Bay
Reculver Towers Heritage Area, Reculver
St Augustine's Abbey Gardens, Canterbury
Sturry Green, Mill Road, Sturry
Promenade Herne Bay Pier to Lane End, Herne Bay (1st May - 30th Sept inc)
Promenade from Neptune Jetty westwards to Herne Bay Herne Bay Pier, Herne Bay
Promenade level with Pier Ave west to The Street, Tankerton
Dane John Gardens, Canterbury
High Street, Canterbury
St Peters Street, Canterbury
The Parade, Canterbury
St Georges Street, Canterbury
Greyfriars Gardens, Canterbury
St Pauls Church Yard, Canterbury
Martyrs Field, Canterbury
St Mary De Castro Gardens, Canterbury
Best Lane Garden,s Canterbury
Adisham Recreation Ground, Adisham
The Green opposite Manor Court, Oxford Road, Canterbury
Known locally as Long Rock, Nature Reserve (SSSI and SPA), Swalecliffe

Reculver Country Park Picnic areas, Reculver
--

Ickham Village Green and Churchyard, Ickham

Schedule 2

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

PART 4, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 59

Public Spaces Protection Order (Control of Dogs) 2018 Paragraph 8.

A person in charge of a dog shall not take that dog onto, nor shall he allow the dog to enter or remain on, the land listed below

Children's play area Park View Playing Fields (part), Sturry
--

Children's play area at The Red House, Derringstone

The Village Green, Barham

Play area Franklyn Road Enclosed, Canterbury
--

Play area St Stephens Church Field, Enclosed
--

Play area Burton Downs Enclosed, Herne Bay
--

Play area Hampton Pleasure Grounds, Herne

Play area Cornwallis Circle, Enclosed, Whitstable

Play area Westmeads Rec, Enclosed, Whitstable

Play area Edgar Road Enclosed, Canterbury

Play area Manor Court Enclosed, Canterbury
--

Play area Querns Road Enclosed, Canterbury
--

Play area Suffolk Road, Enclosed, Canterbury
--

Play area Tennyson Avenue, Enclosed, Canterbury

Play area Victoria Rec, Enclosed, Canterbury
--

Play area Wincheap, Enclosed, Canterbury
--

Play area Military Road Enclosed, Canterbury
--

Play area The Elders, Enclosed, Littlebourne
--

Play area Ince Road, Enclosed, Sturry

Play area Collins Road, Enclosed, Herne Bay

Play area Memorial Park, Enclosed, Herne Bay
Play area Columbia Ave, Partly Enclosed, Whitstable
Play area Seeshill Close, Enclosed, Whitstable
Play area Victoria Street, Enclosed, Whitstable
Beach Herne Bay Pier to Lane End, Herne Bay (1st May – 30th Sept inc)
Beach level with Pier Ave west to The Street, Tankerton (1st May – 30th Sept inc)
Play area Bishops Way Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Cherry Orchard Rec, Enclosed, Herne Bay
Play area Chestfield Rec, Enclosed, Whitstable
Play area Chineham Way Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Dane John, Canterbury
Play area Hawe Close, Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Honeysuckle Way, Enclosed, Herne Bay
Play area Long Meadow Way, Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Lucerne Drive, Enclosed, Whitstable
Play area Plough Lane, Enclosed, Whitstable
Spring Lane Play Area, Russett Road, Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Thanington Rec, Partly Enclosed, Canterbury
Play area Tillard Close, Enclosed, Petham
Play area Toddlers Cove, Canterbury
Play area Tower & Waltrap Garden, Enclosed, Herne Bay
Play area Vauxhall Ave, Enclosed, Canterbury
Adisham Recreation Ground Play Area, Adisham
Herne Bay Cemetery (the burial regulations already exclude dogs), Herne Bay
Canterbury Cemetery (the burial regulations already exclude dogs), Canterbury
Whitstable Cemetery (except for the public footpath running from Millstrood Road to the junction with public footpath at the North East boundary of the cemetery), Whitstable
Bridge Recreation Ground and Play Area, Bridge
Littlebourne Recreation Ground Play Area, Littlebourne
Hersden BMX Track and Play Area, Hersden

Sturry Road Community Park Garden Area, Northgate

Play area Kingsbrooke Park Westwood Drive, Enclosed, Canterbury

Play area Kingsmead Playing Field Enclosed, Canterbury
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Play area Reculver Country Park Reculver Lane, Reculver

New Ickham Village Green, Ickham

Appendix E

Canterbury City Council Enforcement Policy

1. Introduction

1.1. This document has been developed to provide one single policy for all service specific enforcement activity (excluding planning) undertaken by the Council. It sets the guiding principles under which all standards, protocols and procedures in respect of services engaged in the regulation of non-compliance should be formulated and is compliant with the Regulators Code.

1.2. Canterbury City Council's commitment to good enforcement practice is informed by -

Principles of Good Regulation

The Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006, Part 2, requires the Council to have regard to the Principles of Good Regulation when exercising a specified regulatory function. For local authorities, these are specified in Part 3 of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Order, 2007 and includes specifically those carried out by us in respect of environmental protection, licensing, litter and waste disposal, traffic management, anti social behavior, food standards, public health and safety and private sector housing covering all relevant legislation pertaining thereto.

The Council will exercise its regulatory activities in a way which is:

Proportionate – our activities will reflect the level of risk to the public and Council priorities and enforcement action will be taken only having due consideration to the nature, circumstances and degree of nuisance caused by the offense,

Accountable – our activities will be open to public scrutiny, with clear and accessible policies, and fair and efficient complaints procedures,

Consistent – our actions towards those we regulate will be robust and reliable and we will respect advice provided by others. Where circumstances are similar, we will endeavor to act in similar ways to neighboring local authorities,

Transparent – we will ensure that those we regulate are able to understand what is expected of them and what they can anticipate in return, and

Targeted – we will focus our resources on higher risk enterprises and activities, reflecting local need and national priorities.

Regulators' Code

The Regulators' Code came into statutory force in April 2014 and provides a clear framework for transparent, open and accountable regulatory delivery.

The Council has had regard to the Regulators' Code in the preparation of this policy. In certain instances we may conclude that a provision in the Code is either not relevant or is outweighed by another provision. We will ensure that any decision to depart from the Code will be properly reasoned and based on material evidence.

Page 1

Human Rights Act 1998

The Council is a public authority for the purposes of the Human Rights Act 1998. We therefore apply the principles of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. This Policy and all associated enforcement decisions take account of the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998. In particular, due regard is given to the right to a fair trial and the right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence.

Data Protection Act 1998

Where there is a need for the Council to share enforcement information with other agencies, we will follow the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

The Code for Crown Prosecutors

When deciding whether to prosecute the Council has regard to the provisions of The Code for Crown Prosecutors as issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Code for Crown Prosecutors is a public document that sets out the general principles to follow when decisions are made in respect of prosecuting cases. The Code sets out two tests that must be satisfied, commonly referred to as the 'Evidential Test' and the 'Public Interest Test':

Evidential Test - is there enough evidence against the defendant?

When deciding whether there is enough evidence to prosecute, the Council will consider what evidence can be used in court and is reliable. We must be satisfied there is enough evidence to provide a "realistic prospect of conviction" against each alleged offender.

Public Interest Test - is it in the public interest for the case to be brought to court?

The Council will balance factors for and against prosecution carefully and fairly. The

public interest factors that we will take into account are detailed under the enforcement options available to us in Section 6.1.

1.3 The Council is committed to avoid imposing unnecessary regulatory burdens, and to assessing whether similar social, environmental and economic outcomes could be achieved by less burdensome means.

2. What is this policy for?

2.1 This policy explains to anyone affected by the Council's regulatory activities what to expect in respect to its approach to dealing with non-compliance.

2.2 Authorised officers will act in accordance with the policy. All services are subject to internal audit to ensure actions are appropriate to the policy.

2. When does this policy apply?

3.1 This policy applies to the following regulatory services which are the responsibility of Canterbury City Council.

- Environmental Protection including Noise, Air Quality, Drainage, Water, Bonfires,

Page 2

Contaminated Land, Environmental Permits, Light Pollution,

- Environmental crime including fly-tipping, fly-posting, abandoned vehicles, littering, dog fouling and graffiti,
- Community Safety including dealing with anti social behaviour which causes harassment, alarm or distress or nuisance by the use of injunctions, making orders for public space protection and issuing community protection warnings,
- Traffic Management including the enforcement of highway regulations and on and off street parking offences through the use of penalty charge notices,
- Health and Safety including food safety and occupational health and safety within commercial premises, infectious diseases, caravan site licensing and animal welfare.
- Licensing including premises licences, designated premises supervisors, taxi and private hire, street trading, scrap metal dealers, boats and boatmen, busking, gaming and charities
- Private Sector Housing including maintenance of housing standards for safety, security and health by inspection and service of notices. Covers all private sector rented

accommodation including houses of multiple occupation.

- Building Control including all building work carried out with and without prior application, dangerous structures, demolition notices and boarding up notices.

Service-specific policies and protocols which sit under this generic policy exist for the activities listed above.

4. Our approach to dealing with non-compliance

4.1 Explanation of the approach to dealing with non-compliance

The Council will take a firm and fair approach in its enforcement procedures and where appropriate will take a robust stance towards offences relating to identified local problems. Negotiation, education and support will be used where appropriate and we will aim to avoid imposing unnecessary regulatory burdens. Enforcement procedures will always follow statutory requirements and we will seek to deal with offences expeditiously by the use of fixed penalties and penalty charge notices using prosecution only when these options are not available or in the case of persistent offenders and serious offences.

We will clearly explain the non-compliance and any advice being given, actions required or decisions taken, with reasons for these.

We will provide an opportunity for dialogue in relation to advice given, actions required or decisions taken in relation to non-compliance.

Dialogue with the business or regulated person is available through all communication channels (face-to-face, telephone, letter, email) and access to translators is available

Page 3

if required.

The relevant Head of Service is responsible for managing investigations and making decisions on enforcement action. The Head of Service may delegate in writing other officers to act on his/her behalf.

Where it shares or has a complementary role with other agencies, the Council will consult those agencies before taking any formal enforcement action.

The Council will manage enforcement in relation to its own establishments and activities to ensure that decisions are free from any conflict of interest. For example, environmental health practitioners are free to investigate noise nuisance arising from a Council activity

under the same protocols as any other investigation.

All staff must demonstrate commitment to equality in the performance of their regulatory duties and in their professional relationships with regulated persons to ensure fair and objective enforcement.

The Council will always aim to publicise successful convictions and activity undertaken to combat local problems to reassure law abiding people and businesses that the Council will deal with offenders.

4.2 Explanation of the factors that influence the local authority's response to breaches of the rules

The Council fully supports the principles in the Regulators Code which sets out obligations in relation to enforcement. It sets out the need to consider a range of matters including economic progress, accountability, and risk assessment.

Enforcement action will always be proportionate and follow statutory guidance and the Council will deal firmly with those that deliberately or persistently fail to comply and towards those contributing by their actions to identified local problems and priorities.

Those regulated by the Council are able to request advice on non-compliance in advance to avoid directly triggering enforcement action.

Issues which are identified as local persistent problems such as fly-tipping and littering and general waste offences which blight the environment will be met with direct action as the preferred means of seeking to reduce the problem.

Any one of the following specific elements if present is likely to cause direct action to be taken,

- reckless or careless disregard for the environment;
- a history of similar offences in respect of person or place;
- a breach of the law such that public health, safety, amenity, economic interests or wellbeing is or has been put at risk;
- fraudulent, negligent or reckless practice or the threat of economic disadvantage to consumers or businesses;
- the integrity of the licensing or planning framework is threatened;
- the alleged offence involves a failure by the suspected offender to correct an identified risk having been given a reasonable opportunity to comply with the lawful requirements of an authorised officer;

- a failure to comply in full or in part with the requirements of a statutory notice;
- the victim or potential victim was in a vulnerable situation and the offender took or would have taken advantage of this;
- the offence involves the threat of violence, harassment or undue influence against any person, obstruction of an Officer of the Council, or the deliberate provision of false information in written or verbal form to an Officer of the Council;

The Council's approach to checking that non-compliances which were dealt with by providing advice or guidance have been rectified will generally be through the next scheduled visit.

Where the Council considers that breaches should be investigated by another enforcement body, the details will be shared with that organisation.

4.3 Explanation of the local authority's approach to complaints of non-compliance

The Council will investigate all complaints of non-compliance and take action as appropriate. Any follow-up on anonymous complaints will be dependent on the circumstances of each report.

5. Conduct of investigations

5.1. Explanation of the processes for investigating alleged breaches

All investigations will be carried out under the following legislation and in accordance with any associated guidance or codes of practice, in so far as they relate to the Council:

- the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
- the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996
- the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
- the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001
- the Human Rights Act 1998

These Acts and associated guidance control how evidence is collected and used and give a range of protections to citizens and potential defendants.

Our authorised officers will also comply with the requirements of the particular legislation under which they are acting, and with any associated guidance or codes of practice. Most of this legislation provides the officers with powers of entry at all reasonable times with the associated offence of obstruction if entry is refused.

When exercising its statutory power to seize items during an investigation, the Council will follow the relevant legal process. If there is reason to believe access will be denied, the Council will apply to the Magistrates' Court for a warrant to execute this process.

Any person suspected of committing an offence will be invited in writing to an interview under caution in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act at

Page 5

the Council offices and will be given the opportunity to be legally represented at the interview.

The Council will always endeavour to expedite investigations into non-compliance and in any case ensure that statutory time limits for investigations are achieved.

If the investigating officer prepares a case file for prosecution, the case file and decision will be reviewed by both the team leader and head of service before being referred to the Council's legal team.

5.2. Commitment to keep all parties informed on progress

The Council will aim to keep alleged offenders and witnesses informed on the progress of investigations, provided this does not compromise the interests of justice or the investigation.

6. Decisions on enforcement action

6.1 The range of actions that are available to the local authority are set out in legislation and include,

Compliance Advice, Guidance and Support

The Council uses compliance advice, guidance and support as a first response in the case of many breaches of legislation excepting those which have been identified as specific local problems and where direct action is required. Advice is provided, sometimes in the form of a warning letter, to assist individuals and businesses in rectifying breaches as quickly and efficiently as possible, avoiding the need for further enforcement action. A warning letter sometimes in the form of a Community Protection Warning will set out what should be done to rectify the breach and to prevent re-occurrence. If a similar breach is identified in the future, this letter will be persuasive in demonstrating that direct enforcement action should be taken.

Voluntary Undertakings

The Council may accept voluntary undertakings that breaches will be rectified and/or recurrences prevented. The Council will take any failure to honour voluntary undertakings very seriously and enforcement action is likely to result.

Statutory (Legal) Notices In respect of many breaches the Council has powers to issue statutory notices. These include: 'Abatement Notices', 'Prohibition Notices', 'Emergency Prohibition Notices', and 'Improvement Notices'. Such notices are legally binding. Failure to comply with a statutory notice can be a criminal offence and may lead to prosecution and/or, where appropriate, the carrying out of work in default. A statutory notice will clearly set out actions which must be taken and the timescale within which the actions should be carried out. It is likely to require that any breach is rectified and/or prevented from recurring. It may also prohibit specified activities until the breach has been rectified and/or safeguards have been put in place to prevent future breaches. Where a statutory notice is issued, an explanation of the appeals process will be provided to the recipient.

Page 6

Works in Default

Where statutory provision exists, the Council will consider carrying out works in default to remedy non-compliance. In such cases, the Council's reasonable costs are recoverable from the offender.

Financial Penalties

The Council has powers to issue fixed penalty notices in respect of some breaches. A fixed penalty notice does not appear on an individual's criminal record. If a fixed penalty is not paid, the Council may commence criminal proceedings or take other enforcement action in respect of the breach.

If a fixed penalty is paid in respect of a breach the Council will not take any further enforcement action in respect of that breach. Payment of a fixed penalty does not provide immunity from prosecution in respect of similar or recurrent breaches.

The Council is only able to issue fixed penalty notices where it has specific powers to do so. If fixed penalty notices are available, their issue is at Canterbury City Council's discretion. In some circumstances, in particular where breaches are serious or recurrent, it may be that prosecution is more appropriate than the issue of a fixed penalty notice.

Injunctive Actions, Enforcement Orders etc.

In some circumstances the Council may seek a direction from the court (in the form of an

order or an injunction) that a breach is rectified and/or prevented from recurring. The court may also direct that specified activities be suspended until the breach has been rectified and/or safeguards have been put in place to prevent future breaches. Failure to comply with a court order constitutes contempt of court, a serious offence which may lead to imprisonment.

The Council is required to seek enforcement orders after issuing some enforcement notices, providing the court with an opportunity to confirm the restrictions imposed by the notice. Otherwise, the Council will usually only seek a court order if it has serious concerns about compliance with voluntary undertakings or a notice.

Simple Caution

The Council has the power to issue simple cautions (previously known as ‘formal cautions’) as an alternative to prosecution for some less serious offences, where a person admits an offence and consents to the simple caution. These are held on a CCC database. Where a simple caution is offered and declined, the Council is likely to consider prosecution.

Prosecution

The Council may prosecute in respect of serious or recurrent breaches, or where other enforcement actions, such as voluntary undertakings or statutory notices have failed to secure compliance. When deciding whether to prosecute the Council has regard to the provisions of The Code for Crown Prosecutors as issued by the Director

Page 7

of Public Prosecutions.

Prosecution will only be considered where the Council is satisfied that it has sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction against the defendant(s). Before deciding that prosecution is appropriate, the Council will consider all relevant circumstances carefully and will have regard to public interest criteria, including

- a) how serious is the offence committed?
- b) what are the circumstances of and the harm caused to the victim?
- c) is prosecution a proportionate response?

Refusal/Suspension/Revocation of Licences

The Council issues a number of licences and permits and seeks to ensure that

appropriate standards are met and conditions complied with. Breach of these conditions or standards will lead to a review of the licence which may result in its revocation or amendment.

When considering future licence applications, the Council may take previous breaches and enforcement action into account. A person convicted of a relevant offence may be judged to be no longer a 'fit and proper person' and their application refused.

6.2 Explanation of how decisions are made on enforcement action

The Council takes into account the following principles in determining the formulation of policies and protocols with the intention of set out in the Macrory Review 2008, which expect policies to:

- a) aiming to change the behaviour of the offender; b) aiming to eliminate any financial gain or benefit from non-compliance; c) being responsive and considering what is appropriate for the particular offender and regulatory issue, which can include punishment and the public stigma that should be associated with a criminal conviction; d) being proportionate to the nature of the offence and the harm caused;
- e) aiming to restore the harm caused by regulatory non-compliance, where appropriate; and, f) aiming to deter future non-compliance.

The Council will consider risk at every stage of their decision-making progress, choosing the most appropriate type of enforcement action.

The Council will keep under review the effectiveness of their chosen regulatory activities in delivering the desired outcomes and make any necessary adjustments accordingly.

6.3 Explanation of how decisions are communicated to those affected

Where a right of appeal exists to any regulatory action, the Council will include full details of the appeal process at the time of taking the action. Regulated persons will be advised of their rights to representation at the time of being invited to any formal interview or hearing

Page 8

7 Details of when and how the policy will be reviewed

- 7.1** This policy will be reviewed following any new Government guidance or as a result of feedback received from local businesses or regulated persons as appropriate.

8 Comments and Complaints


8.1 Details of processes for complaints and appeals


An appeal against a regulatory decision can in the first instance be directed to the relevant Head of Service. If the action is subject to a formal appeal process (eg through the Magistrates' Court), the appellant should be aware of the statutory deadlines and may wish to proceed immediately with this approach. Complaints about the conduct of local authority staff can be made through our website at www.canterbury.gov.uk by email to customer.satisfaction@canterbury.gov.uk or by post to Canterbury City Council, Customer Satisfaction, Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, CT11YW.


BEACH AND PROMENADE HERNE BAY PIER TO LANE END HERNE BAY

This area is subject to a **Public Spaces Protection Order**

If you do not comply with this order you will be committing an offence and an authorised officer can issue you with a **£100 Fixed Penalty Notice or face prosecution in court with a fine up to £1,000**

 Dogs are not allowed in this area
(1 May to 30 September inclusive)

 Dogs must be kept on leads in this area
(1 May to 30 September inclusive)

 Dogs must be kept on leads in this area



The Public Spaces Protection Order can be found on the Canterbury City Council website canterbury.gov.uk/PSPO

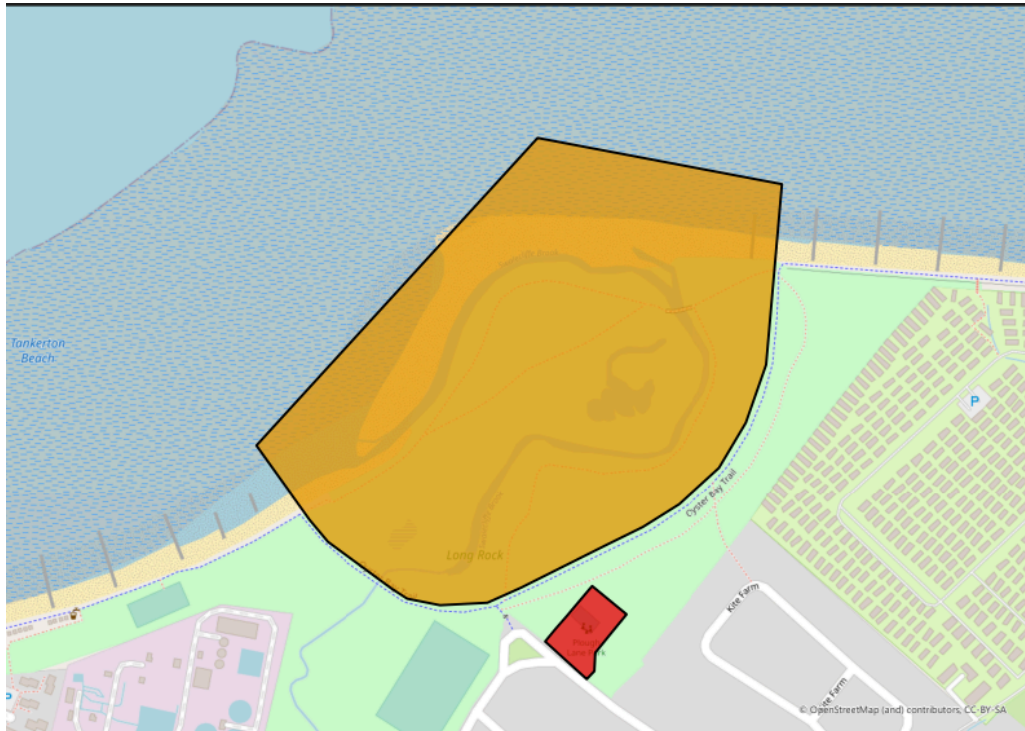


Appendix G - Area known locally as Long Rock

The orange area shows restrictions requiring dogs to be on a lead.

The red area is a dog exclusion area as it is a football pitch.

The green area around the Oyster Bay Trail is free from restrictions.



Overview and Scrutiny Committee
29 February 2024

Subject: Long Rock Management Plan

Director and Head of Service:

Bill Williams - Deputy Director of Place
Richard Moore - Head of Transport and Environment

Officer:

Martin Hall - Senior Environment Manager

Cabinet Member:

Councillor Charlotte Cornell - cabinet member for heritage, open space, waste and recycling
Councillor Mel Dawkins - cabinet member for climate change and biodiversity

Key or Non Key decision: Non Key

Decision Issues:

These matters are within the authority of the Cabinet

Is any of the information exempt from publication:

This report is open to the public.

CCC ward(s):

Cllr Keith Bothwell - Swalecliffe ward
Cllr James Flanagan - Chestfield ward
Cllr Peter Old - Chestfield Ward
Cllr Simon Warley - Tankerton ward

Summary and purpose of the report:

Canterbury City Council previously went out to public consultation on a number of measures at Long Rock, including the rationalisation and / or closure of paths, erection of fencing, control of dogs and new signage. These measures were to protect the internationally important wildlife at Long Rock, however, interventions alluding to restricted use of the site were paused due to the strength of public feeling. Consequently, Management Team requested that a Long Rock Management Plan be produced as a response to the public consultation and to provide the necessary governance and steer required to protect the key features of the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Following a public engagement meeting on the management plan, further amendments were made to reflect the knowledge of participants at the meeting.

Canterbury City Council has a statutory duty to protect the site under the aforementioned designation. Therefore, this report stipulates the need for a Long Rock management plan so that the council can fulfil its legal obligation.

This report details the draft Management Plan and seeks Cabinet's support in adopting the Long Rock Management Plan and the implementation of the plan's actions.

To Recommend:

To recommend to the cabinet that they adopt the Long Rock management plan (option 1)

Next stage in process:

The report will be referred to Cabinet with the recommendation to adopt the Long Rock Management Plan. This will include the minutes from overview and scrutiny; recommendations from O&S will be brought forward before Cabinet.

1. Introduction

Due to the public interest in the future management of this sensitive wildlife site, two community consultations took place in 2022. This saw the objection to measures that restricted users access across the site but full support for extra wardening, new signage and possible voluntary measures. Post consultation, MT requested a management plan to be produced to communicate the conservation importance of the site and to coordinate management efforts.

The Environment Team created a management plan for Long Rock which focuses on protecting the key features of the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar designations. The management plan was taken to the Management Team in October 2023, with the intention of seeking further permission to hold a public consultation on the document itself.

In response to this request, the Management Team concluded that the management plan was in fact a comprehensive response to the original public consultation, and therefore, did not require a further formalised public consultation. Instead a public engagement meeting was held on 31 January 2024 to inform local residents that such a document was coming forward and was to be brought before Cabinet, with the view to adopt.

This report provides the necessary historical and local context for Long Rock to provide the reasoning for why this management plan is needed. It also sets out CCC's legal obligation to protect and enhance the site under the statutory SSSI designation.

2. Detail

Designations:

Long Rock is commonly known as a Local Nature Reserve, but it hosts a variety of local, national and international designations, making it one of Canterbury City Council's most important ecological assets. The Long Rock Management Plan details the site's designations to provide justification for the suite of actions set out in the document.

The council has a legal obligation to protect and enhance the key features of the site, underpinned by the Thanet Coast SSSI designation. The key features at Long Rock most notably concern aggregations of non-breeding birds. The conditions for these features are assessed by Natural England to determine the health of the SSSI. This compartment of the Thanet Coast SSSI is in overall favourable condition, however, certain species defined under aggregations of non-breeding birds are in an unfavourable condition and declining.

This highlights how Long Rock requires positive and considered interventions in order to maintain and achieve favourable conditions.

To provide some local context, most bird species at Long Rock have declined by 50%-75% since the early 1990s. In the worst cases, the Golden plover, Grey plover & Purple Sandpiper populations have declined by 95-99% and down to single figures over the same period.

Long Rock also falls into the Tankerton Slopes and Swalecliffe SAC. SACs are defined by the European Union's Habitats Directive and are selected to ensure the protection of one or more special habitats and/or species – terrestrial or marine.

The qualifying species for the SAC designation is the Fisher's estuarine moth. The moth is restricted in the UK to coastal grassland in north-east Essex and localised areas on the north Kent coast. It relies exclusively on Hog's Fennel (an equally rare plant species) and coarse grasses, a habitat that Long Rock provides given the abundant populations of the moth. Therefore, protection of the grassland is crucial to ensure the survival of the Fisher's Estuarine moth's eggs and larvae. The grassland is under increasing pressure and is slowly being encroached upon by increased footfall, therefore, discussion of such matters is important within the document.

Long Rock also has a Ramsar designation. This designation represents wetlands of international importance that are characterised by rare wetland types important for conserving ecological value.

Management guidance and action plan:

Both local context and environmental considerations are included in the management guidance and action plan. Local context concerns the previous engagement the council has had with the community at Long Rock, ensuring to reduce / consider any issues of contention that may arise such as re-routing PROWs. Environmental considerations ensure that there is justification for the measures that are being proposed in the action plan. Therefore, by understanding both the importance of the site for local residents and conservation, the management plan itself takes a balanced approach to recreation / amenity and wildlife protections.

The management guidance has been informed by a number of both local and national wildlife and historical experts. This includes local users and birdwatchers, Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, Birdwise East Kent, the Butterfly Conservation and Timescapes. Some of the routine management practices such as scrub removal are subject to guidance from Natural England and based on the SSSI designation; habitat for the Fisher's Estuarine moth is also significantly considered under the practice of scrub clearance. Actions concerning delivery and completion outside of routine practices are subject to existing budgets and staffing resources. Some projects may be suitable for S.106 spend or external funding. Possible projects cited in the action plan that may require external funding include the installation of knee high fencing and paving improvements. However, the majority of actions do not come at a significant cost and can be delivered in partnership with the organisations mentioned above. Some actions also require assent from Natural England, the action plan clearly outlines those that do.

3. Relevant Council policy, strategies or budgetary documents

Draft Open Space Strategy (2024)
Canterbury Green Infrastructure Strategy (2018)
Existing and draft Corporate Plans

4. Consultation planned or undertaken

Two well attended public consultation events have previously been undertaken, alongside an online questionnaire. The results of this consultation informed the scope and ambition of the Long Rock Management Plan.

On 31 January 2024, a public engagement meeting was held to inform local residents and users of the site that this management plan was coming forward. The meeting was well supported, with over 50 people attending. Feedback is provided below.

Long Rock Management Plan public engagement meeting contributions

- Request from archaeological and historical groups to include greater information on archeological features of the site. The conversation focused around the importance of the World War II landscape.

(comments were made by representatives from Timescapes and Historic England).

Response: The Long Rock Management Plan will acknowledge the importance of archeological features and will commit to liaise with stakeholders to improve the archeological context within the management plan. Timescapes and Historic England will be added to the list of stakeholders and an action to liaise with the groups will be added to the management plan. However, the management plan is focused on ecological management and is designed to inform practices that will uphold CCC's legal obligations to protect and preserve the site.

- Request for greater understanding and attention to ongoing coastal processes and their impact on the future health of both archaeological and ecological interests.

Response: The Long Rock Management Plan will acknowledge the impact of coastal processes and will reference the Coastal Habitat Management Plan. The plan will also note that the ongoing management of coastal processes is the responsibility of the Environment Agency and CCC's Engineers. officers present will pass on concerns. Both bodies will be added to the list of stakeholders.

- Suggestion made to have seasonal dog control orders, as seen at other coastal sites. For instance, dogs on leads to be enforced during the winter months, when non-breeding passage migrants can be found on site. This would provide protection for the SSSI designated features that are in a declining condition (aggregations of non-breeding birds), allowing dog walkers to use the site more freely in summer.

(comment made by numerous residents of Chestfield and Swalecliffe)

Response: The meeting was made aware that the Dog Control Orders consultation had taken place and representations made are being considered.

- Wide discussions had regarding the lack of other public open spaces for residents, hence the pressures at Long Rock are inevitable. With the assumption being that it is unfair for CCC to enforce measures on a site that is so accessible for many.

(comment made by a number of residents of Chestfield and Swalecliffe)

Response: CCC officers acknowledged the limited number of areas of similar public open space for local residents and stress that they are not seeking to limit the number of users at the site. Instead, by raising awareness of the site's ecological significance, there is a desire that users will come together to help protect Long Rock. It is about finding an appropriate balance between how visitors use the site for their recreational needs and protecting important habitats / wildlife.

- Discussion relating to the non inclusive language used by CCC signage when informing visitors about the site's ecology and requests for visitors to respect the important habitats.

(comment made by a number of residents of Chestfield and Swalecliffe)

Response: Officers agree that language is important and that the council wants to work with residents, not against them, to build stronger relationships around the use of Long Rock. New signage is to be installed post the public engagement meeting and consideration has already been given to the nature of the message and the language used. Additional PSPO signs will reflect on this point too.

No additional formal public consultation is planned for the Long Rock management plan.

5. Options available with reasons for suitability

Option 1: Cabinet approves the adoption of the Long Rock Management Plan and its implementation.

Option 2: Cabinet does not approve the adoption of the Long Rock Management Plan but supports its implementation.

Option 3: Cabinet does not approve the adoption or implementation of the Long Rock Management Plan or its implementation.

6. Reasons for supporting option recommended, with risk assessment

The supported option 1, to adopt and implement the Long Rock Management Plan, demonstrates the Council's duty to have regard to the protection and enhancement of the Site of Special Scientific Interest. This option is also consistent and sympathetic to the Council's declaration of a biodiversity emergency. There are minimal budget implications as the key actions are delivered by volunteers and through agreement with the Kentish Stour Countryside Projects. Birdwise East Kent continues to financially support the enhancements to Long Rock and conversations have been had about financial support for signage.

7. Implications

(a) Financial

The majority of the actions in the management plan will be met from existing Transport and Environment Team budgets. As the site is not under contract with Canenco there are no financial implications for the Grounds Maintenance and Ancillary Works contract. The management plan does not commit the council to any specific actions.

(b) Legal

The management plan stipulates management guidance in line with the statutory Natural England guidance. Deliberate or reckless damage to SSSIs is a criminal offence, the document aims to prevent this.

(c) Equalities

No equality implications have been identified.

(d) Environmental including carbon emissions and biodiversity

The nature of this report is to enhance the biodiversity of Long Rock through non-polluting means, so therefore, no implications are present.

Other implications

None

Contact Officer: Martin Hall, Senior Environment Manager

Background documents and appendices

Appendix 1 - Climate change Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 - Long Rock Management Plan

Additional document(s) containing information exempt from publication:

None

Appendix 1: Climate Change Impact Assessment (Checklist)

Please provide an assessment of the impact of the proposal under each of the headings below. If none, please say so.

1. Climate Change impacts

Impact of proposal Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	Explanation of impact If you have any relevant data, please include that in the explanation and reference the source.	Mitigation
Impact on the council's target of being carbon neutral by 2030 This applies to emissions of carbon dioxide as a direct result of our own activities and services. Please consider the whole life impact of your proposals		
None		
Impact on carbon emissions in the Canterbury district This applies to the carbon dioxide emissions in the district as a result of your proposal. Please consider the whole life impact of your proposals.		
None		
Emission of other climate changing gases including methane, CFCs, nitrous oxide		
None		

2. Adaptation to climate change - Impact on our resilience to the effects of climate change

The greatest risks posed by climate change to the UK are:

- Flooding and coastal changes including erosion from extreme events
- Risks to health caused by high temperatures
- Water shortages and drought
- Risk to natural environments & services - landscape, wildlife, pollinators, timber etc
- Risk to food production & trade
- Emergence of new pests and diseases affecting people, plants & animals

What impact do your proposals have on our ability to resist or tackle these problems in the future?

Impact of proposal	Explanation of impact	Mitigation

Positive/ Neutral/ Negative		
Positive	This management plan aims to protect the site and all its ecological features. With a changing climate migratory routes for bird populations may change and we may see new visitors / lose old ones. Meaning sites like Long Rock become crucially important to provide for the old and care for the new.	

3. Further assessment work

Is a further more detailed assessment required at a later stage of this proposal?

If yes, please give a brief description

Long Rock Management Plan

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Special Protected Area (SPA)

2024 - 2029



Canterbury City Council
Transport and Environment
2024

Contents Page:

Acronyms.....	2
General Information.....	3
1. Introduction.....	4
2. Management Plan Aims.....	4
3. Site Description.....	5
3.1. Location.....	5
3.2. Site History.....	5
3.3. Current Management.....	6
3.4. Coastal Monitoring.....	7
3.5. Planning consents.....	8
3.6. Document history.....	8
3.7. Key features.....	8
4. Designations.....	11
4.1. Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).....	11
4.2. Ramsar site.....	13
4.3. Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS).....	14
4.4. Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).....	15
5. Landscape Character.....	17
5.1. Geology.....	17
5.2. Habitat Description.....	17
5.3. Coastal Processes.....	17
5.4. Ecological Value.....	18
6. Ecological Survey Data.....	21
6.1. Bird Populations.....	21
6.2. The Fisher’s Estuarine Moth and Hog’s Fennel.....	25
6.3. Fiery Clearwing.....	27
7. Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA Visitor Survey 2023.....	28
8. Long Rock SWOT Analysis.....	29
9. Objectives and Guidance for Management.....	31
9.1. SMART Objectives.....	31
9.2. Guidance for Management.....	33
9.3. Detailed Summary of Management.....	38
10. Monitoring, Report and Review.....	45

Acronyms

CCC -	Canterbury City Council
KSCP -	Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership
KWT -	Kent Wildlife Trust
EA -	Environment Agency
NE -	Natural England
SMP -	Shoreline Management Policy
SAMMS -	Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Scheme
SSSI -	Site of Special Scientific Interest
ORNEC -	Operations Requiring Natural England's Consent
LWS -	Local Wildlife Site
SPA -	Special Protection Area (relating to vulnerable and migratory birds)
SAC -	Special Areas of Conservation (relating to special habitats or species)
RIGS -	Regionally Important Geological Site
Ramsar -	Wetlands of international importance ¹
PROW -	Public Rights of Way
SWOT -	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
PSPO -	Public Spaces Protection Orders

¹ Not actually an acronym as it relates to the city in Iran where the treaty was signed in 1971. However, context is necessary.

General Information

Name:	Long Rock (CT5 2PB)	
District:	Canterbury	
Grid Reference:	TR 136 676	
Tenure:	Owned by Canterbury City Council	
Area:	37.0 Ha (91.4 acres)	
Perimeter:	2,642.5m	
Vehicle Access:	Access via locked gate at promenade	
Geology/Soils:	London clay and heavy soils with naturally high groundwater.	
Habitats:	Saltmarsh Shingle Mudflats Ponds Scrub	Brackish tidal beds Grassland Brook Scrapes
Important Species:	Turnstone, <i>Arenaria interpres</i> Brent geese, <i>Branta Bernicla</i> Ringed Plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> Sanderling, <i>Calidris Alba</i> Grey Plover, <i>Pluvialis Squatarola</i> Kestrel, <i>Falco Tinnunculus</i> Oystercatcher, <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> Water Vole, <i>Arvicola amphibius</i> Lapwing, <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> Fisher's Estuarine Moth, <i>Gortyna borelii lunata</i> Shrill Carder Bee, <i>Bombus sylvarum</i> Sea Aster Mining bee, <i>Colletes halophilus</i> <i>Agonopterix putridella</i> Hog's fennel, <i>Peucedanum palustre</i>	
Contacts:	Senior Environment Manager, Canterbury City Council. Harbour and Foreshore Manager, Foreshore Services. Project Lead, Bird Wise East Kent.	

1. Introduction

Long Rock is a true asset to the district of Canterbury, underpinned by a variety of both national and international land based designations, including the Thanet Coast SSSI and the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA. However, this is sometimes undervalued and overlooked which can threaten the site's biodiversity. The site itself, and its wildlife, continue to face significant human induced threats, yet up to this point a robust management plan has not existed to mitigate against such influences. Therefore, Canterbury City Council has developed this plan to inform a comprehensive approach to management, with detailed instruction and proposals for effective oversight which aim to protect the significance of this internationally recognised site.

When considering the complexity of Long Rock it becomes clear why the site holds so much value. It consists of a variety of habitats including: shingle beach, brackish tidal beds, marsh, scrub, woodland, scrapes, freshwater and brackish ditches. The reserve is important for birds as the shingle beach provides roosting opportunities for wintering waders and possible nesting opportunities for species such as Little tern and Ringed plover . The scrape and scrub is rich in a variety of passerines, waterfowl and some wading species.

It is important to note that this management has a strong focus on the terrestrial interests, and the terrestrial influences that impact upon the ecology of the site. Whilst coastal processes continue to significantly impact Long Rock's habitats and species, the management of coastal processes is beyond the remit of this plan.

2. Management Plan Aims

This site management plan aims to:

- Promote the importance of Long Rock by raising awareness of its various land based designations, and to ensure Canterbury City Council positively manage, conserve and enhance the special features of the SSSI.
- Implement a balanced approach to the management of both recreational and semi-natural areas at Long Rock. This will be achieved by outlining the human induced threats and developing ways in which they can be reduced, whilst enabling visitors to continue enjoying the site.
- Highlight and promote the common objectives between CCC and other organisations that play a role in the management of Long Rock, and to provide clear information to

local residents so they are informed throughout able to contribute to the decision making process.

- Clearly outline the specific and routine management practices that should be undertaken on site and in doing so coordinate the roles of other organisations that work in partnership with CCC
- Increase both species and habitat resilience at Long Rock by providing guidance which informs a proactive approach to natural challenges and threats such as climate change, landform changes and footfall pressures.

3. Site Description

3.1. Location

Long Rock is located in Whitstable in the coastal ward of Swalecliffe along the North Kent Coastline. The boundary of the site can broadly be characterised by the mapping of the SSSI as this designation has largely informed management practices up to this point. The boundary extends offshore and includes areas up to the The Cockle Shell Caravan site in the east, the playing field and beach huts in the south and then stretches out to sea in the west.

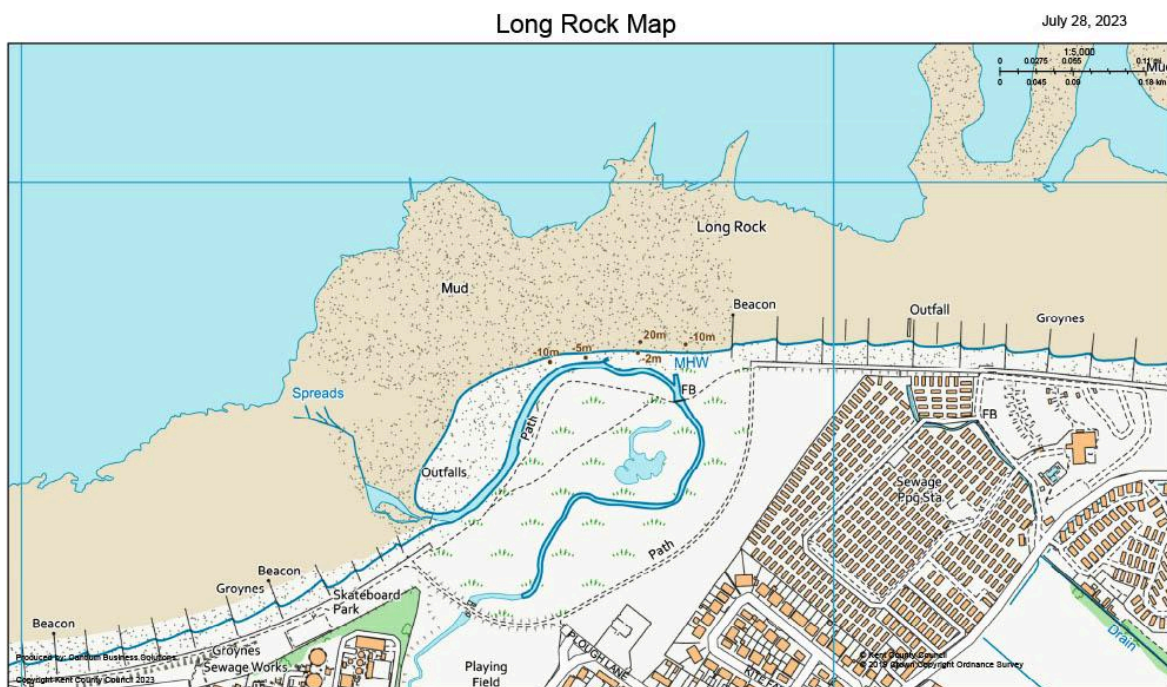


Figure 1: KLIS map of Long Rock showing location in the wider context of the North Kent Swalecliffe Coastline

3.2. *Site History*

Long Rock's formation has largely been down to natural influences of longshore drift which over time has formed a spit in the westerly direction. Due to this process a series of shingle ridges have also formed creating marsh and freshwater within. This array of habitats now hosts a variety of important plants and therefore home to roosting and nesting birds and other animals and invertebrates. The site also holds archeological and historical significance from the last Ice Age where fossils of the Mammoth and Woolly rhinoceros have been found, as well as flint implements and ancient pottery. In more recent history, WWII coastal defence works and fortifications such as pillboxes and tank obstacles were installed, some of which are of great interest to local historical and research groups. The site was also the location of a waste facility and brick works. This complex history demonstrates how former industrial sites can become rich in wildlife once operations cease.

To this day, the site is extremely popular with local residents and visitors accessing Long Rock through a variety of PROW and national trails. This includes two cycling and walking trails (the Viking Coastal Trail and the Whitstable Oyster Trail). Both trails wrap around the Southeastern perimeter as cycling is not permitted through the centre of the site (**Fig. 2**). There are also several informal paths winding their way through the grass, shingle and waterways which pose the most significant threat to wildlife on site.

3.3. *Current Management*

Long Rock is owned by Canterbury City Council and managed with various partners as and when needed including: Foreshore Services, Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership, Kent Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency and Birdwide East Kent. Areas of grassland within the SSSI are under various maintenance regimes including meadow and conservation cuts, there is also more extensive grassland that is not routinely managed and is important for ground nesting birds. Within the area of scrub, multiple organisations have undertaken works over the years.

- Swalecliffe Brook is managed by the Environment Agency who have undertaken channel modifications in recent years; they also operate sluice gates on the southern perimeter of the site. After the 2000/1 flooding, the culvert at the sluice gates was enlarged to increase outflow and reduce flood risk to residents within the catchment. Siltation of the brook and natural influences of longshore drift on the shingle bar continue to contribute to water flow and quality issues. Hence, at the time of writing this management plan EA are seeking planning consents to build a second concrete sluice which would allow the continued outflow of the brook into the estuary, and reduce stagnation and eutrophication within the existing channels.

- Foreshore Services at Canterbury City Council inspect Public Rescue Equipment, monitor water quality on site and respond to calls relating to stranded marine mammals. They will also respond to other daily issues if appropriate.
- In 2011/12 Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership also undertook biodiversity improvements associated with the brook with South East Water funding. Two scrapes were created using excavators whilst also depositing protective bunds to provide new habitat for breeding and wintering birds and reduce disturbance on site. Interpretation signage was also installed as part of these works to raise awareness for visitors. KSCP also undertake more routine habitat management on site most notably for the preservation and benefit of Hog's fennel and the Fisher's Estuarine Moth.
- Butterfly Conservation have conducted surveys on site to better understand the distribution of pollinators such as the Fisher's estuarine moth. It is essential that both historic records are collected and surveys continue into the future.
- Local bird watchers also have played an extremely important role in recording data and tracking long term trends in bird populations. Records can be found in a variety of databases and publications including the British Trust for Ornithology Wetland Bird Survey and Birdtracker, EBird and Kent Ornithological Society's database.

In addition, Birdwise East Kent (SAMMS) provide their services to monitor bird disturbance on site, with regular fortnightly site visits during winter and as and when needed during the summer. The purpose of these visits are to engage with the public and report any significant findings to Canterbury City Council's enforcement and environment teams.

3.4. Coastal Monitoring

The coastal frontage and the intertidal area at Long Rock is also routinely monitored by Foreshore Services and the Coastal Monitoring Team at Canterbury City Council. Long Rock is subject to the 'Hold the Line' Shoreline Coastal Management Policy (SMP) and falls under the SE Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme, funded by the Environment Agency. The programme analyses coastal processes and now has a dataset spanning over 15 years to provide greater understanding on how our coast is both temporally and spatially changing.

Natural England assents restrict topographic surveys along this coastline to certain seasons in order to minimise any disturbance to wading or breeding birds present. The Coastal Monitoring Team undertakes two routine surveys per year at Long Rock with consent from NE. In February, a full baseline survey is conducted, and in late summer/ early autumn topographic profiles are collected. Both types of survey help to inform coastal change overtime, whether this is erosion or accretion. The data is analysed and a report is produced

each year. Long Rock data can be found on page 214 in the Isle of Grain to North Foreland Annual Survey Report².

The report is then used to inform any coastal works to be undertaken, including the recycling and replenishing of beach material. Recycling is undertaken on a regular basis in order to top up this beach material and prevent further erosion, damage to the sea wall and flooding.

3.5. *Planning consents*

With reference to Canterbury City Council's Adopted 2017 Local Plan sites of scientific or nature conservation interest either as direct, indirect or cumulative sites designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) will not normally be granted for development.

In the 2017 Local Plan, reference is made to the Tankerton Slopes and Swalecliffe area which highlights its SAC designation affords the highest level of protection. Furthermore, the area is a designated protected open space, further safeguarding the site from development if circumstances of the SSSI were to change. Canterbury City Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy also underpins the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and requires positive planning for green infrastructure.

The council also has an emerging Green Gap Improvement Plan for Chestfield and Herne Bay; Long Rock falls into this. The document aims to highlight where improvements can be made for environmental and recreational purposes.

3.6. *Document history*

This management plan serves as the first edition of any formalised document specifically aiming to inform the monitoring and management of Long Rock. The current Tankerton Coastal Park Management Plan (due to expire in 2024) makes minor references to the management of Long Rock, however, this focuses primarily on access improvements as well as two broad actions focused on the general retention of the SSSI status and work on the channel. Therefore, a comprehensive and localised plan is required.

3.7. *Key features*

Long Rock hosts significant ecological and geological features including assets such as the brook, shingle spit and marsh. However, the site also includes Whitstable Skate Park which underwent a comprehensive planning application in order to gain assent from Natural England. The PROW and trails also play a key role in the geography of the site, encouraging

²Southeast Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme (2023) 'ANNUAL SURVEY REPORT 2022 Isle of Grain to North Foreland' Available at: coastalmonitoring.org/reports/#southeast

the influx of visitors and dog walkers. Moving forward it is important that local residents and visitors are engaged with to increase awareness of the site's international importance. Community understanding and collaboration will be key in ensuring that wildlife at Long Rock is protected.

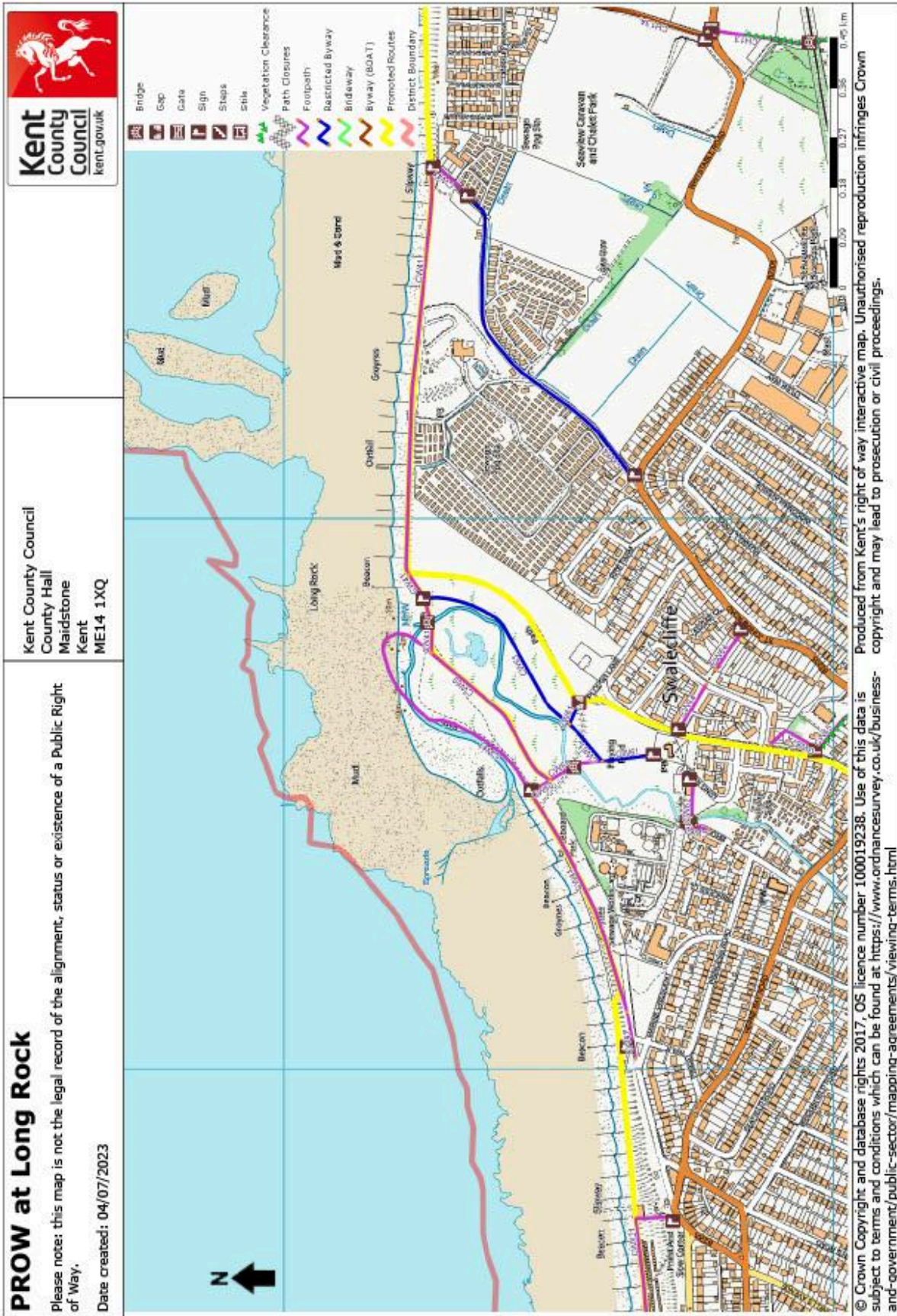


Figure 2: KCC maps demonstrating PROW that lead up and cross Long Rock

4. Designations

Long Rock hosts a variety of both statutory and non-statutory land and sea based designations. Such overlapping designations significantly highlight the importance of the site's wetland species interest, coastal birds and plant life.

4.1. *Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)*

SSSI are nationally important and a statutory UK designation under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. They are designated by NE and are designed to protect some of the best sites for wildlife and biodiversity nationally. Such sites are afforded legislative protection in the planning process. NE uses its statutory power to protect SSSI meaning the landowner must be granted with assent by NE for any planning applications or non compliant management practices referenced on the ORNEC list³.

Some exceptions apply:

1. If emergency works are required to be carried out. However, NE should be notified within 24 hours of entering the site and extra care should be given to avoid damage to special features.
2. Operations with permission from a public body or local authority (however, the relevant body must have consulted with NE for you)
3. A management practice which is not on the ORNEC list for that site.
4. Operations can still be carried out without assent by a public body after consultation with NE if it is believed the conditions attached to an assent are unacceptable. This must be accompanied with 28 days notice before entering the site outlining that you have considered the advice, considered alternatives to reduce the impact of the required work and weighed the balance between conflicting interests.

If these conditions are not met then the body carrying out the works could be prosecuted.

³ Natural England (n.d.) 'Operations likely to damage the special interest', Available at: designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/PDFsForWeb/Consent/1003560.pdf

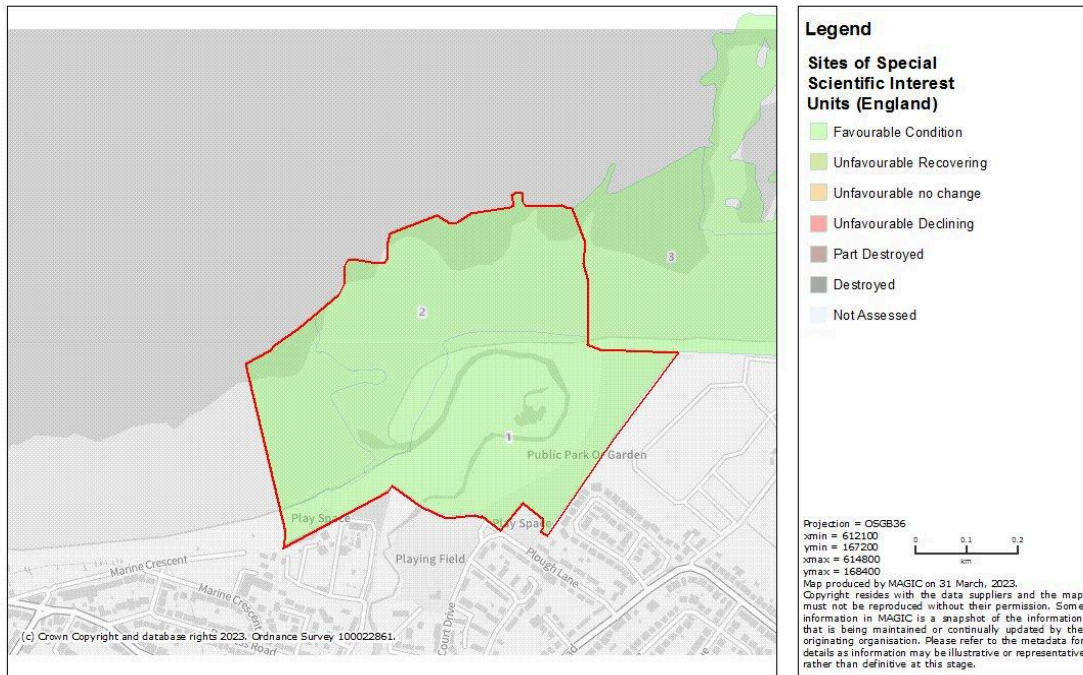


Figure 3: Boundary mapping of Long Rock bird zone within the Thanet Coast, Kent SSSI

Long Rock falls into the Thanet Coast SSSI (**Fig. 3**), a larger designation expanding across the Thanet Coast, hosting distinct features⁴ including but not limited to aggregations of breeding and non-breeding birds and coastal vegetated shingle. This compartment of the Thanet Coast SSSI is in overall favourable condition, however, certain species defined under aggregations of non-breeding birds are in an unfavourable condition and declining. Although Hog's fennel is found on site it is not cited under the Thanet Coast SSSI. However, the plant is a key feature of the Tankerton Slopes and Swalecliffe SAC (which includes Long Rock), as well as the Tankerton Slopes SSSI (only a short walk down the promenade). Therefore, Hog's fennel is still regarded as an important management feature at Long Rock and guidance is later given within this management plan. Management practices delivered here should be delivered to the same standards as those delivered at Tankerton Slopes.

⁴Natural England (n.d.) 'Designated Sites View: Thanet Coast, Kent SSSI' Available at: designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteFeatureCondition.aspx?SiteCode=S1003560&SiteName=Thanet%20Coast%20SSSI

4.2. Ramsar site

Long Rock also falls within the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay Ramsar designation. This designation represents wetlands of international importance that are characterised by rare wetland types important for conserving ecological value. They are internationally recognised however there exists no dedicated legislation for their protection. Nevertheless, most Ramsar sites are designated as SSSI's in the UK enabling Ramsar considerations in statutory guidance. The Ramsar treaty also provides a comprehensive framework for the management and conservation of wetlands and their resources. The vision for sites on the Ramsar list is:

To develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their ecosystem components, processes and benefits/services⁵

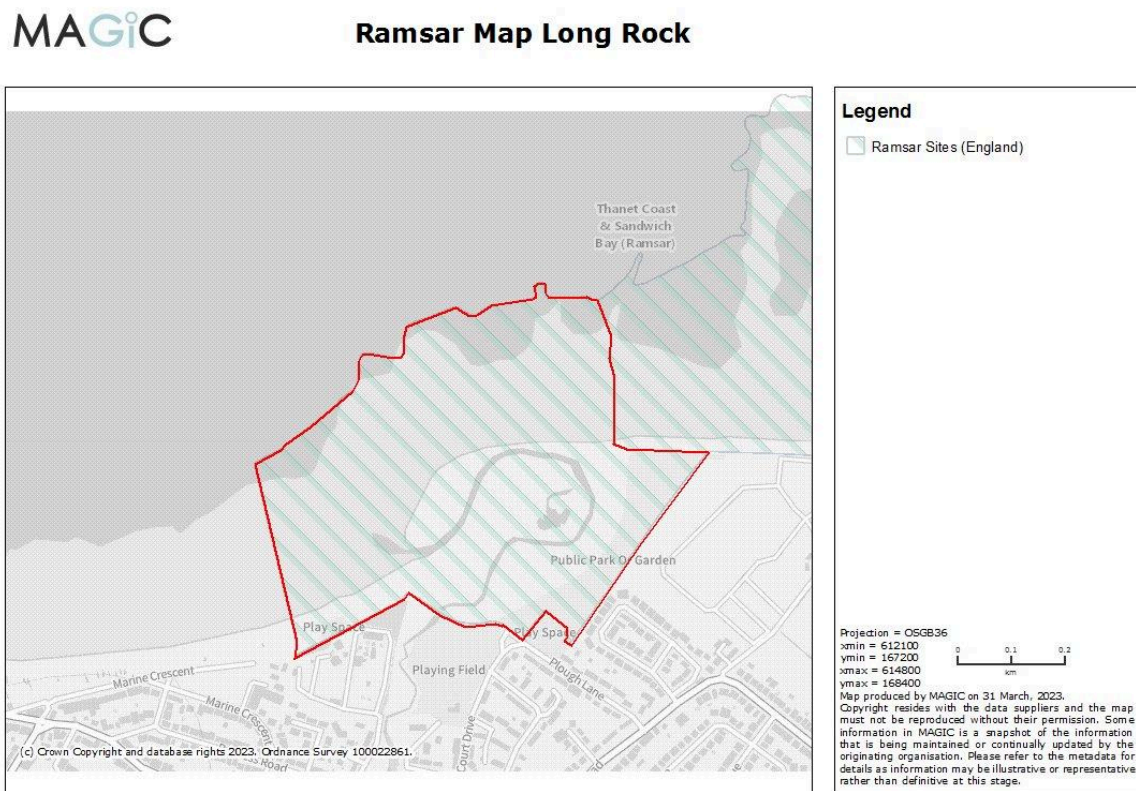


Figure 4: Boundary mapping of Long Rock bird zone within the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay RAMSAR

⁵ RAMSAR (2022) 'Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Convention on Wetlands'. Available at: rsis.ramsar.org/RISapp/StatDoc/strategic_framework_en.pdf

4.3. Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS)

RIGS are non-statutory Earth Science sites designated by locally based RIGS Groups. They are selected for their geology, geomorphology and soils and are considered important for their educational, research, historical or recreational value. This again is often complemented by a SSSI designation signposting that Local Planning Authorities should protect geodiversity features as well as those outlined by NE on the SSSI list of conditions.

The cliffs and foreshore along the coast of Tankerton and Swalecliffe have a long history of research, with publications back to 1834. Both interglacial and glacial vertebrates have been identified at Long Rock, as well as forest bed from the post-glacial period and archaeological material ranging from early Acheulean flakes to Medieval Ceramics.

With geological, geomorphological and archaeological environments considered there is a need to ensure that future coastal work considers these interests.

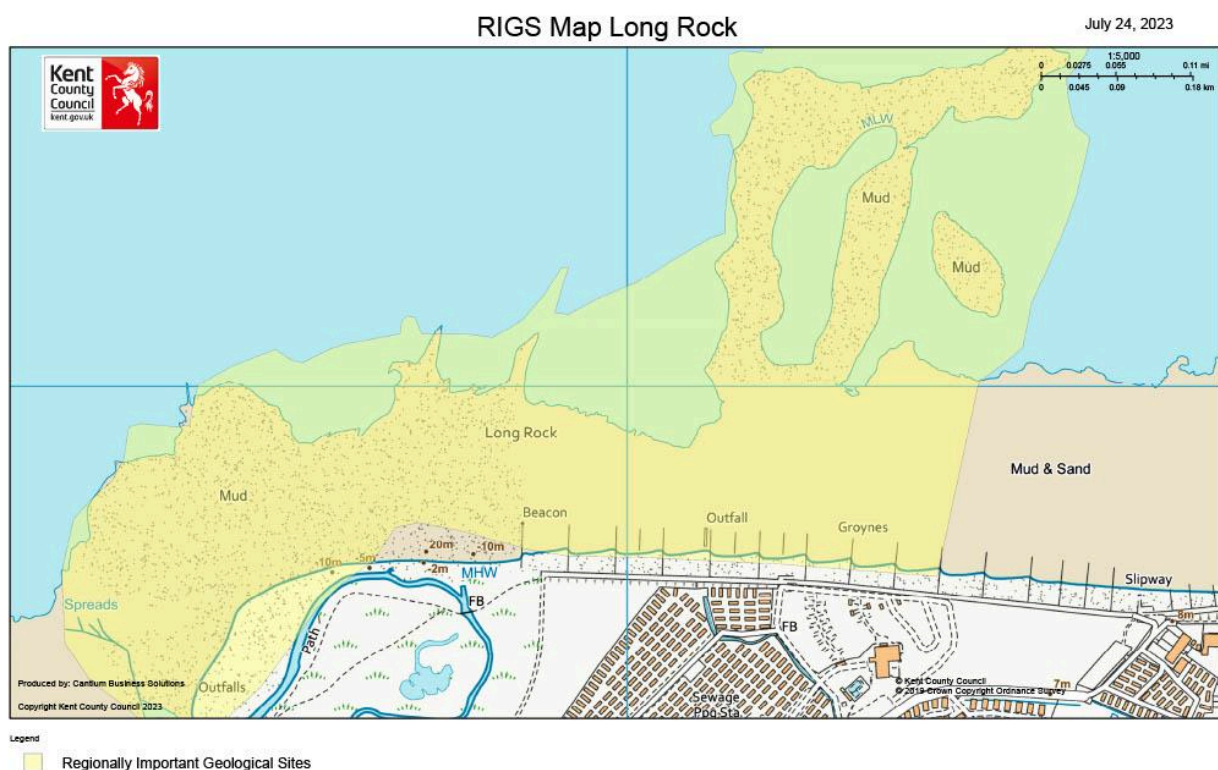


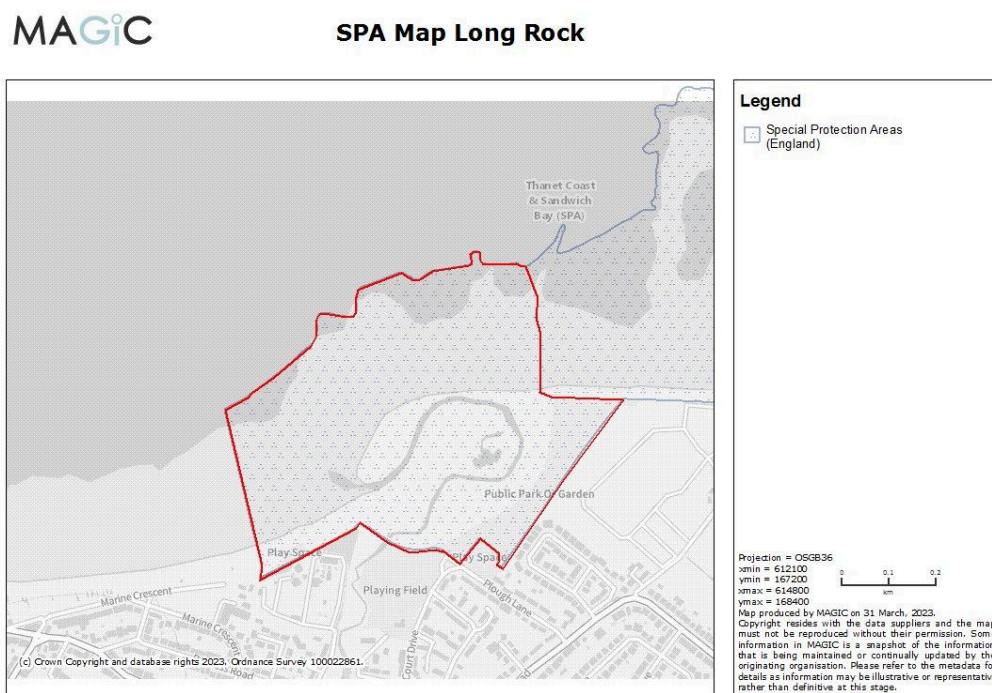
Figure 5: A Geological Map of Kent and South East England⁶

⁶ GeoConservation Kent (n.d.) 'Geological Map of Kent' Available at: www.geoconservationkent.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12:-geological-map-of-kent&catid=4:geology&Itemid=17

4.4. Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

Both SPAs and SACs were originally formed under the European Union Habitats Directive and continue to be classified under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. SPAs specifically relate to the Conservation of Wild Birds and SACs focus more broadly on habitats and / or species. In the UK, they are classified under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA	Tankerton Slopes and Swalecliffe SAC
<p>Long Rock marks the beginning of the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA and its designation concerns the Golden plover, <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>, Little tern, <i>Sterna albifrons</i> and Turnstone, <i>Arenaria interpres</i>. The SPA also extends into the adjacent territorial sea (Fig. 6). Conservation advice is instructed by NE⁷.</p>	<p>In regard to the SAC designation, long rock is a considerable proportion of the Tankerton Slopes and Swalecliffe SAC and specifically concerns the Fisher's estuarine moth. Conservation advice can be found under the NE and European Site Conservation Objectives⁸ (Fig. 7).</p>



⁷Natural England (n.d.) 'Natural England Conservation Advice for Marine Protected Areas Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA'. Available at: designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9012071&SiteName=thane%20coast&SiteNameDisplay=Thanet%20Coast%20and%20Sandwich%20Bay%20SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAAarea=&NumMarineSeasonality=3&HasCA=1

⁸ Natural England (2019) 'European Site Conservation Objectives: Supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features Tankerton Slopes and Swalecliffe Special Area of Conservation (SAC)'. Available at: designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/TerrestrialAdvicePDFs/UK0030378.pdf

Figure 6: Boundary mapping of Long Rock's bird zone within the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA

MAGiC

SAC Map Long Rock

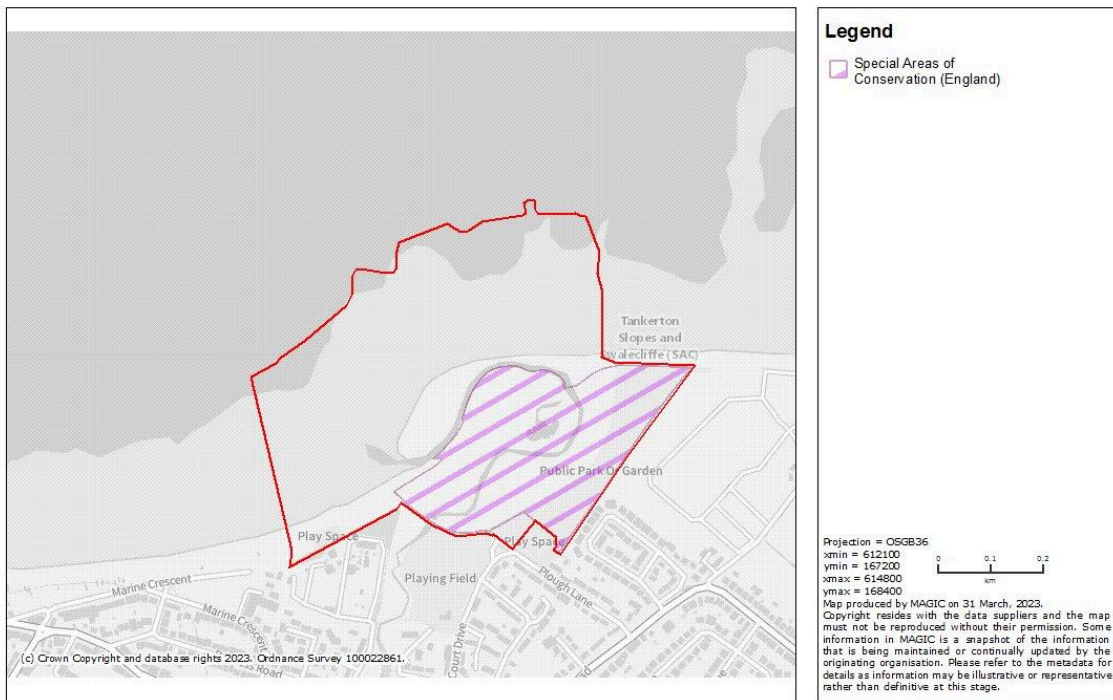


Figure 7: Boundary mapping of Long Rock's bird zone also highlighting part of the Tankerton Slopes and Swalecliffe SAC

5. Landscape Character

5.1. *Geology*

Swalecliffe is placed on top of low lying London Clay geology which began forming during the Eocene Epoch, 56 to 33 million years ago as sea levels rose and deposited sediment. This is now overlain with poorly draining heavy soils presenting challenges to farming throughout the local area. The area now known as Long Rock is due to the formation of a shingle spit developing as a consequence of longshore drift and shingle transportation and deposition. At low tide the surrounding North Kent areas also expose mudflats rich in nutrients from decomposing organic matter and minerals, providing important feeding grounds for wading birds.

5.2. *Habitat Description*

Due to the previously mentioned geology and tidal processes important habitats have developed throughout the Long Rock landscape, including an area of saltmarsh, brackish tidal beds, scrapes (shallow depressions seasonally holding water during wetter periods) and priority habitat coastal grazing marsh, as well as scattered trees and bushes (**Fig. 8**). The shingle and shell beaches support distinctive flora and a variety of birds, mammals and invertebrates.

5.3. *Coastal Processes*

Long Rock is an extremely dynamic site and is vulnerable to the influences of coastal processes such as longshore drift and erosion. The net effect of longshore drift at Swalecliffe is the migration of shingle along the shoreline from east to west. The coastal frontage to the east of Long Rock is associated with high levels of erosion and the timber groynes are essential to prevent damage to the sea wall and consequential flooding. However, the combination of these engineered sea defences to the east of Long Rock and the east to west longshore drift increases the site's exposure and is subject to greater erosion than accretion. This is altering the shingle habitat configuration at Long Rock and consequently reducing the size of wader feeding grounds. Further to this, with increasing sea levels and overtopping, the habitat at Long Rock will likely transform into a saltmarsh over time without intervention. Warmer temperatures, due to climate change, will exacerbate erosion with the drying out and loss of overlying mud, sand and silt during periods of low tide. Consequently, this strips back the heat buffer protecting historical artefacts and implicating the archaeological interest at the site.

Nevertheless, the resources attached to the implementation of this management plan do not have the capacity to prevent erosion nor its negative impacts on Long Rock's habitats.

Instead, this plan intends to raise awareness of the implications of erosion and to facilitate the monitoring and review of how habitats and bird populations may be impacted overtime. Therefore, reducing other disturbances to bird populations at Long Rock is crucially important and the core objective of this management plan.

5.4. . Ecological Value

Given the existence of important habitats, Long Rock exhibits significant ecological value both for flora and fauna. The landscape here is notable for its assemblage of marine and terrestrial plant species as well as coastal birds. The shingle beach supports plants such as yellow-horned poppy, sea kale, sea holly, sea clover, the nationally rare species Hog’s fennel (confined to a few coastal localities in south east England) and the willow leaf lettuce *Lactuca saligna*. The reserve is also important for roosting, feeding, summer nesting and wintering birds. The shingle beach provides roosting opportunities for wintering waders. The scrape and scrub is rich in a variety of passerines, birds of prey, waterfowl and some wading species.



Yellow Horned Poppy.
Credit: Andy Taylor



Sea Holly.
Credit: Andy Taylor

In addition, important invertebrates include the only population of nationally rare isopod *Eluma purpurascens* and the Hog’s Fennel reliant Fisher’s Estuarine moth, *Gortyna borelii lunata*. The larvae of the Fisher’s Estuarine moth are stem-borers and feed within the stems of Hog’s Fennel from April through to June and then below ground within the plant’s rootstock during July and August. Further down the coastline Tankerton Slopes LWS is designated as a SSSI for its population of Hog’s Fennel indicating the importance of preserving this species when it rears at Long Rock. In accordance with this, Bramble and other shrubbery has to be carefully managed in order to prevent encroachment on areas of Hog’s Fennel. Other important invertebrates found on site include the micro moth, *Agonopterix putridella*, also only found on Hogs fennel, the Shrill Carder Bee and the Sea aster mining bee, both nationally rare species.



Agonopterix putridella. Credit: Andy Taylor



Shrill Carder Bee. Credit: Andy Taylor



Sea Aster Mining Bee. Credit: Andy Talor

The Water vole also inhabits Long Rock, a species listed as endangered on both the Great Britain and the England Red List for Mammals. Accordingly, they are a UK Biodiversity Framework species and are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, meaning it is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or possess dead or alive. Hence, special care should be taken with vehicular access on site not to kill, injure or disturb habitat. Any activities in breach of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 should be immediately reported to the police.



Water Vole. Credit: Andy Taylor

Furthermore, ecological interest is recognised across the area through numerous designations including; the Thanet Coast SSSI (also designated for its geological features), the Outer Thames Estuary SPA, the Tankerton Slopes and Swalecliffe Marine SAC and the Thanet Coast & Sandwich Bay Ramsar Site.

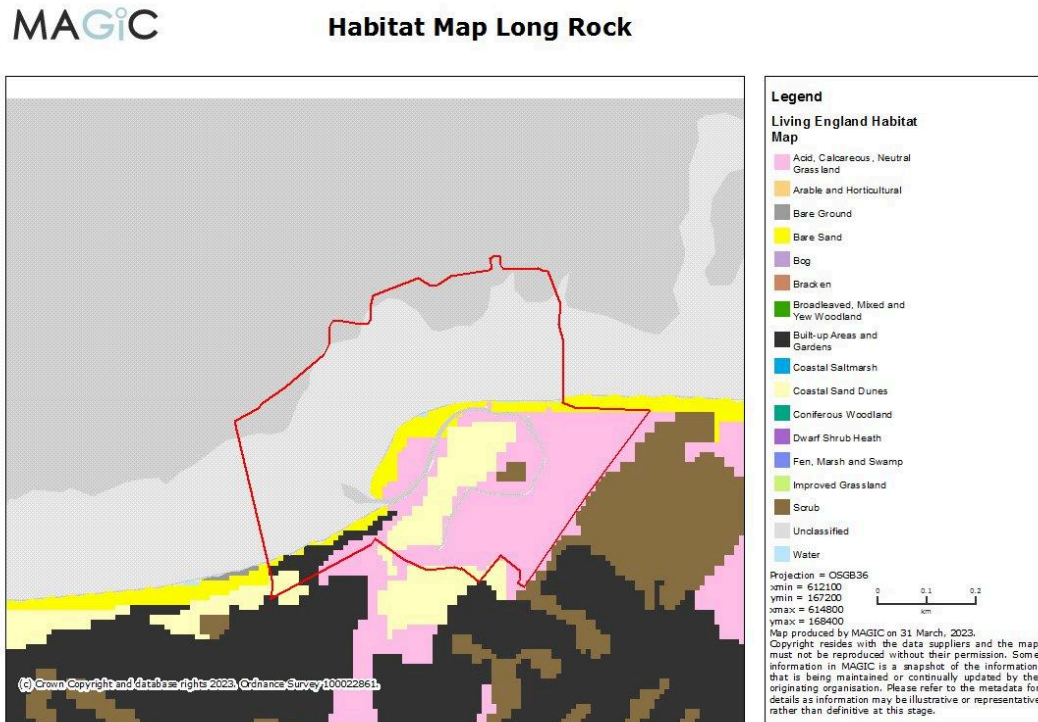


Figure 8: Boundary mapping of Long Rock bird zone with living habitats

6. Ecological Survey Data

In order to understand the full ecological significance of Long Rock and the human stressors at play a brief background is given here to represent how the populations of most notable species have declined over time. Focusing primarily on bird populations and the Fisher's Estuarine Moth, but also touching on the Fiery Clearwing Moth.

6.1. Bird Populations

Bird watchers and surveyors have noticed a significant decline in bird populations and the number of species over the last 30 years. While it could be argued that these observations reflect wider trends, it has been noted that certain local species are no longer using the site at all. Furthermore, wildlife populations are becoming increasingly isolated with a limited network of green corridors, preventing movement between areas and the recolonisation of lost species.

Wintering waders with recent high counts in brackets:

Turnstone (c200)

Ringed Plover (c150)

Dunlin (c50)

Sanderling (c200)

Oystercatcher (c30)

Redshank (c30)

Curlew (c60)

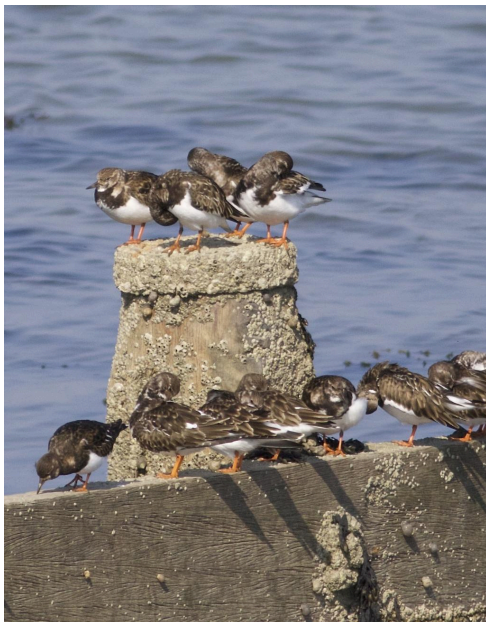
Up to 700 Golden plover once regularly roosted on the beach but their numbers have fallen to 10 or less in recent years. The marsh pool and grassland also hold numbers of wintering Common Snipe (c40) and a small number of Jack Snipe. Up to 20 Little Egrets can be present in late Summer and some winters a few Lapwing roost in the Marsh. A single Purple Sandpiper sometimes winters. Apart from Little Egret and Sanderling counts, which have increased in comparison to records in the 1990s / early 2000s, numbers have reduced by 50%-75% in most cases, with Golden plover, Grey plover & Purple Sandpiper down 95-99% into single figures.



Sanderling (top) and lone Ringed Plover (bottom).
Credit: Andy Taylor



Dunlin, Purple Sandpiper, Dunlin and Ringed Plover (left to right). Credit: Andy Taylor



Turnstone. Credit: Andy Taylor

Other wintering species:

Offshore there is a regular wintering flock of Red breasted Merganser as well as 100's of Red Throated Divers. Several individuals of Great Northern Divers can also be seen with Black-throated Divers on occasion. It is possible to see all three Diver species at the same time. Dark- bellied Brent also winter, once visiting in the several hundreds but now down to 80-100.



Dark Bellied Brent Geese. Credit: Andy Taylor



Red Throated Diver. Credit: Andy Taylor



Great Northern Diver. Credit: Andy Taylor

Other wintering birds include Meadow Pipit, Stonechat, Kingfisher and Water Rail - all in single figure numbers. During winter months, the site has also previously hosted Short Eared Owl, Snow Bunting, Shore Lark, Black Redstart and Lapland Bunting, however, none of these species have overwintered in the last five years.

Up until 2010, Long Rock had a regular small flock of Corn Bunting with counts of up to 90 recorded in the 1990s. Reed bunting would winter in double figures yet these are now only irregular passage migrants. Skylark would winter in varying numbers up until 2008. In the last two decades the site has lost all ground nesting birds, ringed Plover on the shingle and beach, Skylark, Meadow Pipit & Reed Bunting due to the increase in human disturbance.

Spring and summer:

In spring and summer varying numbers of Sandwich Tern and Common Tern fish offshore. Up until 2010 the Little Tern was also a regular visitor, however, sightings have become rare. The Arctic Tern and Black Tern can be seen moving through on passage. As far as records go no species of Tern have ever bred on site. The shingle ridge and beach would be suitable for

breeding terns, however, given the increase in disturbance, the large numbers of Carrion Crow, Herring Gulls and the presence of the fox, successful breeding is unlikely to occur.

All the remaining breeding species utilise the scrub and trees within the grassland, the churchyard and the perimeter planting of the water treatment works. These are also important areas for passage migrants. Among the species still breeding in these areas are Cetti's Warbler, Common & Lesser Whitethroat, Blackcap, Chiffchaff Greenfinch & Linnet.

Mallard and Moorhen attempt to breed in and around the Brook with various levels of success each year. The area of scrub also hosts some of the largest roosts of House Sparrow and Starling in the county. Over the last few years Kestrels have bred in the box placed on the Telegraph pole within the marsh and have successfully raised up to four young in the past. Their most recent attempt in 2022 failed due to a very cold spring. Sparrowhawks still breed in the sewage works.

Over 250 species have been observed on site, notable sightings over the years include:

- Brown Booby first sighting for UK in August 2019
- Fan tailed Warbler -one of only eight British records
- Trumpeter Finch one of only sixteen British records (Tankerton)

This information was taken from a report written by Andy Taylor, private entomologist (2023)

6.2. *The Fisher's Estuarine Moth and Hog's Fennel*

The Fisher's Estuarine Moth, *Gortyna borelii lunata*, is extremely rare, highly threatened and a Schedule 5 protected British species, therefore, affording a high conservation priority. It is also the only UK breeding moth to have additional protection as a European Protected Species (under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017) due to the species' decline across its entire global range.

The moth is wholly reliant on Hog's fennel, *Peucedanum officinale*, as the larvae feed only on the plant itself. This plant species, which is also threatened, is sometimes mistaken for Alexanders, *Smyrniololus olusatrum*, which is an invasive species and threatens the distribution of Hog's fennel. It is now known in detail the prevalence of the moth at Long Rock due to recent surveys conducted in 2021 by Rebecca Levey, Conservation Officer at Butterfly Conservation, as part of the Kent's Magnificent Moths Project. However, neither the moth nor the plant are designated as a key feature at Long Rock and the site is instead underpinned by the wider Thanet Coast SSSI features. This questions whether Long Rock should be given an independent SSSI designation with these key features, distinguishing it

from the Thanet Coast SSSI and providing more protection for both the Fisher's Estuarine Moth and the Hog's Fennel.

Signs of the moth can be found on the Hog's Fennel, as the larvae bore into the stem they create 'volcanoes' at the base of the plant. In a detailed survey, 73% of 111 plants on site showed presence of the larvae. There was a greater presence to the north of the brook, likely because bramble is not encroaching on the Hog's fennel. The greatest threat here concerns potential flooding and increased trampling of grassland by walkers. To the south of the Brook a lot more bramble is found, indicating greater encroachment of Hog's fennel.

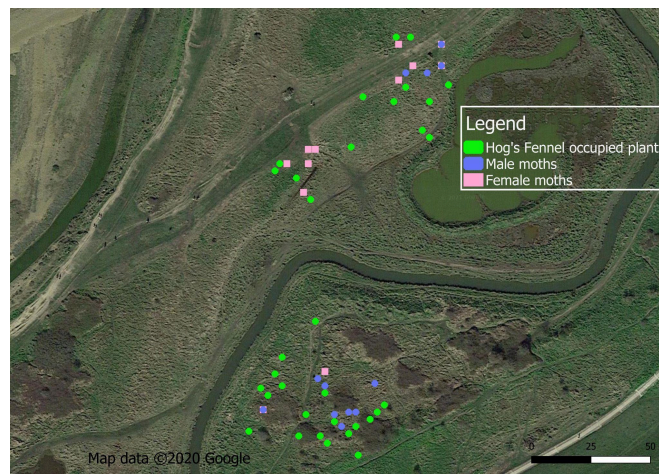


Figure 9: Satellite image showing the distribution of Hog's fennel occupied plants and the moth by sex.



Fisher's Estuarine Moth on Hog's Fennel. Credit: Andy Taylor



Hog's Fennel plant. Credit: Andy Taylor



Alexander Plant.

This information was taken from a report written by Dave Clarke, Team Leader, Invertebrates & Fish, Zoological Society of London and based on a survey conducted by Rebecca Levey, Conservation Officer, Butterfly Conservation (2021)

A note on management⁹:

Evidently the Fisher's Estuarine Moth is reliant on areas of rough grassland where Hog's fennel grows. In addition to this, long coarse grasses are required to enable the moth to lay eggs. Where both are found in abundance, the moth stands the best chance of survival. The most favourable density is one Hog's Fennel plant per square metre. Further to this, Hog's fennel must also remain at a height that allows the continued growth of neighbouring coarse grasses. Too low and it will reduce the chances of freshly hatched larvae migrating to a Hog's fennel plant.

⁹ butterfly-conservation.org/sites/default/files/fishers-estuarine-moth---bespoke-cs-guidance.pdf

6.3. *Fiery Clearwing*

The Fiery Clearwing, *Pyropteron chrysidiformis*, is a rare species in the Red Data Book, a Schedule 5 species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and therefore, fully protected. It can be identified by its flame red coloured wings as well as transparent sections. The species is now only found in a small number of coastal sites, however, from data gathered over a number of years it is clear to see that the North Kent population is now expanding rapidly away from its former coastal locations. Such findings are represented at Long Rock, where the number of eggs identified have fallen from 470+ in 2012 to only 38 in 2021.

This data was taken from 'Monitoring of Fiery Clearwing Pyropteron chrysidiformis in 2021'

A note on management¹⁰:

Optimal conditions for the Fiery Clearwing include open grassland with early successional vegetation and an abundance of caterpillar food plants such as Curled Dock or Common Sorrell.

- Any encroaching scrub should be cut back periodically to retain open sunny areas.
- Some periodic disturbance of the ground, such as scarification, may be required to encourage the foodplant.
- Avoid disturbance on shingle beaches unless there are signs of vegetation succession, in which case some rotational disturbance may be required.

¹⁰ https://butterfly-conservation.org/sites/default/files/fiery_clearwing-psf.pdf

7. Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA Visitor Survey 2023

Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA Visitor and Bird Survey 2023 was conducted at Long Rock by Ecological Footprint in order to monitor the disturbance of wildlife and gather public opinion on the current management on site. This section draws on relevant data gathered from the survey as to how it may inform the future management of Long Rock.

In regard to all the coastal sites surveyed within the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA, the density of visitors and consequential wildlife disturbance at Long Rock exceeds all others. This is likely down to the accessibility of Long Rock, proximity of adjacent residential areas and a paucity of alternative open spaces in the Swalecliffe / Chestfield area. Within the survey, observations and interviews were conducted over a period of 2 hours. A total of 599 groups, 952 people and 389 dogs were observed, all of which exceed other locations. Most notably the total number of dogs observed was more than double the second highest total of 165 seen at Botany Bay.

Throughout the interviews, the highest referenced habitats or species identified by the public were nesting and wading birds, however, little reference was made to the fact the site is a SSSI signposting the need to increase awareness of this important designation.

8. Long Rock SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Long Rock hosts both statutory and non-statutory designations which when combined provide legislative protection from planning, guidance for positive management and can help to build community awareness.</p>	<p>The site has poor wayfinding which has potentially led to the creation of informal pathways cutting through important habitats.</p>
<p>Long rock is an extremely dynamic site with a mosaic of important habitat and influences from coastal processes such as longshore drift.</p>	<p>Nutrient rich waters of the brook cause excessive algal growth and eutrophication which both impacts wildlife, human health and aesthetic of the location</p>
<p>The SSSI designation is Long Rock's greatest strength out of all the designations. Providing legislative protections for habitats and species.</p>	<p>PSPOs relating to dogs on leads can be ambiguous leading to confusion over which areas dogs on leads are enforced and which are not.</p>
<p>There exists a strong community surrounding Long Rock and in collaboration with organisations a balance between amenity and conservation can hopefully be achieved.</p>	<p>According to the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA Survey 2023 there appears to be little public awareness of the importance of a SSSI designation, despite signage. This may be a contributor to reduced populations of local and migratory birds.</p>
	<p>Longshore drift causes significant fluctuations in the course of the brook, increasing the possibility of flooding further upstream.</p>

Opportunities	Threats
<p>Improve community engagement through consultation and openness in the management of the site to help build awareness regarding the importance of a SSSI designation.</p>	<p>Dogs off leads in areas of important wildlife habitat threaten the existence of local birds and return of migratory birds. Birds consider dogs to be predators even if not directly provoked; this is still considered bird disturbance.</p>

Improving signage can increase clarity on PROW, where people can and cannot go and raise awareness of the wildlife inhabiting the site.	Agricultural and urban run-off have threatened nutrient neutrality and species reliant on Swalecliffe brook
Implementation of fencing to act as a physical and visual barrier to officially demarcate the PROWs. However, this was opposed during the 2021 public consultation.	Important that sites such as long rock are protected to provide suitable habitat for current migratory birds and those altering migration routes due to climate change.
New signage to encourage both local users and visitors to absorb important ecological information about the site.	If the 'Run Whitstable & Herne Bay' running event is not planned with the habitats of Long Rock in mind it may cause gradual degradation of landscape.
Due to the strong community surround Long Rock there is opportunity to set up a 'Friends of' Group	Longshore drift, coastal erosion and the positioning of engineered sea defences can both expose and put shingle habitat at risk.
Work with Timescapes Kent to improve historical significance and interpretation.	

9. Objectives and Guidance for Management

9.1. SMART Objectives

Habitat Management

- Continue to effectively control scrub and Alexanders to maintain a diverse community of flora whilst working with partners to allow for the expansion of Hog's fennel in current locations.
- Seek extension of grassland to amenity area adjacent to skatepark. Measure success by witnessing the return of Hog's fennel in this area by 2028.
- Aim for both the Fisher's Estuarine Moth and Hog's Fennel to be designated as key SSSI features at Long Rock 2025.
- Liaise with Foreshore Services and the Coastal Monitoring Team to better understand how coastal processes are influencing habitat and management prescriptions at Long Rock.

Community Engagement and Reducing Disturbance

- Raise public awareness and reduce disturbance by improving interpretation signage with clear and concise messaging about the significance of the site's history, its wildlife, and human induced threats.
- Ensure access points and PROW within Long Rock are well demarcated and understood by public users to prevent disturbance in sensitive areas.
- In cases where current PROW and their use continue to threaten wildlife habitats, CCC will seek and secure appropriate consent / permission from KCC to re-route or close PROW by 2026.
- Promote and continue to improve the Whitsable and Herne Bay Green Gap to alleviate recreational pressures at Long Rock.
- To increase awareness of the site and its management requirements, work with local conservation groups to put on at least 1 public event / talk on wildlife at Long Rock each year.

- Seek to improve community engagement at the site by establishing a 'Friends of Long Rock' group by 2025.

Monitoring

- Conduct surveys for the Fisher's Estuarine Moth annually and map Hog's Fennel every 5 years to assess distribution of the Fisher's Estuarine Moth and Hog's Fennel.
- Assess scrub and the distribution of Alexanders in June each year with the aim to have no encroachment of scrub and Alexanders on open grassland.
- Continue to liaise with partners who conduct visitor and bird disturbance surveys to determine how successful disturbance reduction measures are / have been.
- Canterbury City Council to keep a record of complaints and incidents of PSPO and Dog Control Order breaches, with the aim of seeing a significant number of reduced reported incidents by 2028.
- Monitor water quality with logged assessments to determine how water quality within the brook has changed from 2023-2028.

9.2. Guidance for Management

Management practices for Long Rock are focused on the SSSI and SAC designations in order to improve habitats, species richness and visitor awareness. For some of the management practices described below please refer to section 5.1 for further details as consultation with NE may be required.

Habitats

As stated previously, five key features of Long Rock concern Hog's fennel, the Fisher's Estuarine moth, Golden plover, Little tern, and Turnstone. Although there are other notable species at Long Rock, with the current resources available unfortunately all cannot be prioritised, therefore, the features mentioned above should be the focus of habitat management. Unmanaged scrub poses a significant threat to Hog's fennel and consequently routine scrub clearing is crucial in order to maintain Hog's fennel and other species contributing to the grassland community. Alexanders also need careful management as they quickly and easily invade grasslands, reducing the diversity and prevalence of other species. Scrub should amount to less than 20% of the total area of the site, and that which is retained

should be isolated, low and dense, to provide protection for birds nesting and roosting within. A maximum scrub height of 1.8m should also be adhered to, in order to also encourage ground nesting birds throughout the site.

Multiple water bodies exist at Long Rock including, Swalecliffe Brook, ponds and scrapes. Projects should be considered that contribute to the health and value of such features. In regard to scrub and tree management, consideration should also be given to the potential impact on water bodies. For example, shading scrub and trees should be managed to increase light levels. Shingle areas should experience minimal disturbance to protect unique plant life and breeding birds. Water levels should also be monitored from March, with a view to maintain wet channels and muddy margins for lapwing chicks to feed. Litter should also be reported when discovered so foreshore services can then remove it.

Enforcement

To preserve the ecological value of Long Rock, appropriate enforcement is required to ensure reduced wildlife disturbance and robust environmental protections. This can be achieved through a variety of interventions and practices. Firstly, clear and precise signage is required and should be updated accordingly as the site's landscape character alters due to human induced influences. The signage and wayfinding should clearly demarcate national trails and PROW, as well as highlight where people and dogs are prohibited. There exists ambiguity when interpreting where dogs can and cannot go, so improved signage throughout is essential, and the introduction of zoning would be an effective approach.

The issue of poorly demarcated PROW is compounded by the fact informal paths have developed over time. In order to combat this, physical interventions should be introduced which deter people from using such paths. Previous interventions have been removed by the public, so future projects must be substantial enough to remain fixed in place. Regular patrols from both the police, Canterbury City Council enforcement officers and Bird Wise East Kent are also required. In order to support these interventions and provide evidence for their implementation, Bird Wise East Kent should also continue to monitor bird disturbances and highlight relevant issues that arise. Channels of communication between Birdwise, Canterbury City Council and the Public must be improved to provide clarity over these approaches to enforcement.

Site Infrastructure

Managing enforcement directly links into the site's infrastructure. As mentioned above, signage is extremely important to instil confidence in the public as to where they can and cannot go. The clearer and better understood the enforcement messaging the fewer resources are needed in patrolling and monitoring the site for disturbance, allowing for

greater focus on improving the biodiversity character of the landscape. Hence, when signage is worn or missing, it should be readily replaced. A review and update of the current signage should also be undertaken as current attempts at reducing disturbance are not wholly effective. This also infers that interpretation or educational signage should also be improved, with the latest information regarding the ecological status of the site. Therefore, when the ecological value of the site has substantially deteriorated, then this should be highlighted within signage text to increase awareness of the pressures at Long Rock.

Other measures should include improving the pathways, not just the signage that delineates them. Official paving such as gravel may assist in achieving this, clearly demarcated paths will encourage people to use them and further prevent the loss of grassland. This is the current case where pathway edges are ambiguous. Options for fencing should also be explored to more accurately define the boundary between grassland and PROW. Community engagement on such projects should also be conducted to ensure measures are supported by the public and meet the needs of local users. Any damage both explicit (criminal damage) and implicit (due to density of visitors) to infrastructure that is also accrued should be reported to the police or Canterbury City Council so swift action can be taken in ensuring the site is safe for both visitors and inhabiting wildlife.

Various community events such as the Park Run and community festivals have also been identified as a potential cause of some of the damage to PROWs. In the planning for such events, organisers should liaise with the site manager and consider the impact they may have on the essence of the SSSI. Those engaging in events should also be briefed to increase the awareness and any potential environmental impacts that may occur.

Likewise, during the spring and summer growing season it is important that those responsible for site maintenance consider the balance between amenity and semi-natural areas. Hence, the path network should be well maintained to prevent PROW encroachment from vegetation.

Surveying

Surveillance of the site can take many forms. In line with the maintenance of infrastructure, weekly wardening visits should be carried out to combine monitoring work and inspection of the site's infrastructural integrity. It also remains crucially important to complete surveys of visitor and bird disturbance to gain a better understanding of the site's stresses, so all other management practices can take an informed approach. Organisations completing such surveys should inform all partners to ensure there is a wide reaching understanding of the development and character of the site.

In order to understand how the character of the landscape has changed over time, various partners should be consulted to bring together historical wildlife records. In doing so, clarity may be provided as to how current wildlife populations have been impacted by the site's stressors. In line with this, historical images should also be gathered of the site, again to better understand how the site has changed over time.

With greater understanding of historical context large scale ecological surveys should also be conducted in order to fully understand the species richness of the site in its current state. These will need to be undertaken by various organisations across the district specialising in site specific species such as water voles, birds, invertebrates and plants....

Monitoring

Wildlife surveys should continue to be carried. Most importantly on bird populations and the Fisher's Estuarine Moth. Liaise with Andy Taylor and Rebecca Levey, respectively, to better understand how reduced disturbance is increasing species populations.

Ensure that the monitoring of coastal processes continues and engage with the Coastal Monitoring Team to unlock opportunities at Long Rock for both habitat management and interpretation.

All damage and criminal activity is to be logged and reported to the Police as well as Canterbury City Council. Furthermore, the SSSI designation infers that any activity which may impact upon the designation itself should be reported to the land owner, Canterbury City Council.

Work which is completed on site, especially that which requires assent from NE, should be recorded so other partners are clear on current management and there exists a historic record which may be useful to future interventions on site.

All water pollution incidents are to be logged and reported to the Environment Agency.

With the introduction of this management plan, a fixed point photography program should also commence in order to record changes to the reserve. Such images will be useful when reviewing the management plan at the end of its tenure.

9.3. Detailed Summary of Management

Please note: Activities with (*) require consultation with NE

Activity	Location within site	Guidance for work to be carried out	Purpose of work	Timing	Deadline	Lead
Scrub Management*	Throughout the grassland areas	<p>Routine scrub clearing.</p> <p>Scrub should be cut by hand outside of the bird nesting season.</p> <p>Brash should be removed from the site.</p> <p>Scrub cover should be kept to less than 20% of total site area with a focus on areas where Hog's fennel is being smothered.</p> <p>Scrub should be isolated, low and dense.</p> <p>A maximum scrub height of 1.8m.</p>	<p>To prevent encroachment of Hog's Fennel and general overgrowth.</p> <p>To maintain the welcoming aesthetic of Long Rock.</p> <p>Clearance to allow for Hog's fennel germination.</p> <p>To provide protection for nesting and roosting birds.</p> <p>To encourage ground nesting birds.</p>	October - March	On-going	CCC Environment Team / Sub - contractors

Scrub management for water course*	Swalecliffe Brook and associated water bodies	Shading scrub and trees should be managed if all light is blocked. A balance of both shade and light is important. Such felling should be considered with in line with general management, and not managed separately.		October - March	On-going	CCC Environment Team / Sub-contractors
Management of Alexanders*	Where necessary	Should be hand pulled and removed from the site to prevent re-seeding. Cutting back twice a year Any work on Alexanders which requires machinery or anything other than hand pulling will need assent from NE.	To prevent Alexanders from taking over and reducing plant diversity.	Before seed ripening in June.	On-going	CCC Environment Team / Sub-contractors
Extend grassland and introduce Hog's Fennel into the area.	Where appropriate	Collect seeds from existing Hog's Fennel plants late September / early october. Sow into small patches of bare ground with coarse	To increase habitat for Fisher's Estuarine Moth.	September / early october	2026	Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and volunteers / Friends of Long Rock (if

		<p>grasses.</p> <p>Alternatively, sow the collected seeds in pots in the autumn. Grow and plant out the following autumn for better establishment rate.</p> <p>Alternative option can be more easily achieved if 'Friends of' can be established.</p>		Or Autumn		established)
Water monitoring	Swalecliffe Brook and associated water bodies	<p>Water levels should also be monitored from March.</p> <p>Litter should be reported to Foreshore Services or Canterbury City Council for removal.</p>	<p>To ensure wet channels and muddy margins provide feeding ground for bird species.</p> <p>To prevent contaminants and pollutants entering the water course and oceans.</p>	<p>March - September</p> <p>When necessary</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On going</p>	<p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Foreshore Services / CCC Environment Team</p>

Mowing of conservation grass	Around the south easterly perimeters of the site	Regular conservation grass regime. Removal of cuttings. Extra effort should be taken to cut Alexanders.	To achieve greater plant diversity. To help tackle the invasion of Alexanders.	April + June	On-going	CCC Contracts
Mowing of footpath	PROW forming part of Oyster Trail (Plough Lane plot 206)	An area of no more than 1 metre may be cut either side of footpaths. Any Hog's Fennel Plants encroaching on the footpaths should be left and care must be taken to protect these plants during the mowing.	To provide clear and accessible routes. To allow the important Hog's fennel to flourish and support the Fisher's Estuarine moth.	April + June	On-going	CCC Contracts
Installation of fencing*	PROW forming part of Oyster Trail (Plough Lane plot 206)	Affordable opportunities for fencing should be explored. If appropriate, fencing to be installed along the shoreside of the pathway.	To act as a physical and visual barrier for visitors to protect wildlife within.	N/A	April 2024	CCC Environment Team / CCC Contracts
Monitoring of infrastructure	Throughout the site along	Ensure signage is intact and enforcement	To allow for clear public interpretation PROWs and	Monthly	On-going	Foreshore Services /

	PROW	<p>messaging is up to date. Replace when necessary.</p> <p>Ensure all infrastructure has not been vandalised.</p> <p>Monitor bridges, pathways and other infrastructure used by the public for damages.</p>	<p>prohibited areas for both people and dogs.</p> <p>To improve the welcoming aesthetic of the site.</p> <p>To ensure public safety.</p>			Birdwise East Kent / CCC Environment Team
Review and update signage	Throughout the site along PROW	<p>Review and update all signage including educational text on interpretation signage, as well enforcement and PROW signage.</p> <p>Seek to improve historical, archeological and coastal erosion interpretation.</p>	To ensure education information regarding ecology / geology of site is up to date for public interpretation.	N/A	November 2023	CCC Environment Team / CCC Contracts
Patrols	Throughout the site	Regular surveillance to ensure PSPOs and PROWs are followed.	To ensure bird disturbance is reduced and the site remains safe for the public.	Weekly	On-going	Bird Wise East Kent / Police
Paving improvements *	Throughout the site	Improve paving where needed.	To ensure safety for visitors and to better highlight official routes.	N/A	2028	CCC Environment Team

Liaising with organisers of community events	N/A	Liaise with groups such as the coastal run and any prospective festival organisers planning to operate in locality.	To ensure the right measures are taken to protect wildlife on site.	When necessary	On-going	CCC Environment
Establish a 'Friends of Long Rock' group	N/A	Increase community engagement and seek possible members. Share information on how to create a 'Friends of' group. Once established, create a memorandum of understanding.	To strengthen the community and ensure local residents are given the tools to effectively protect and take care of the important features of the site.	N/A	2025	CCC Environment Team / Members of public
Comprehensive wildlife Surveys	Throughout the site	Contact local nature groups to conduct wildlife surveys regarding species of significance.	To develop a better understanding of the wildlife on site and potential stressors / solutions.	N/A	On-going	Local conservation groups / organisations
Topographical Surveys	Coastal frontage / intertidal areas.	Assent required from natural england. Surveys completed as part of the SE Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme.	To gain a better understanding of the coastal processes and inform beach replenishment practice.	Yearly	On-going	Foreshore Services / CCC Coastal Monitoring Team

		Annual report is created.				
Coastal Recycling	Beach east of Long Rock	Lead by Coastal Monitoring Team as part of the SE Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme.	To replenish the beach and prevent damage to seawall and consequential flooding.	When required	On-going	CCC Coastal Monitoring Team
Survey and record the condition of the WWII defence works.	Defence works and pillbox(es).	Seek to schedule possible WWII defences.	To increase significance of site and historical interpretation.	When resources allow.	2026	CCC Environment Team / Timescapes Kent
Work with local interest groups and partners to strengthen the Long Rock community	N/A	Continue to liaise with groups. Historical / archeological / environmental etc.	To build community resilience and spread awareness of all interests at Long Rock.	N/A	On-going	CCC Environment Team / Community
Monitoring and reporting scheduled maintenance	N/A	Keep logs and records of any work.	For clarity on historic works completed on site, which may help guide future management.	N/A	On-going	CCC Environment Team
Fixed point photography program	All of site	Set up cameras year round at fixed points.	To track any natural / human induced changes that occur.	Bi-annually	On-going	CCC Environment Team / Bird Wise East Kent

10. Monitoring, Report and Review

The effectiveness of this management plan can be determined through a review of the SMART objectives and whether they have been achieved or not. If the objectives are not met, such a review will aim to inform a more robust approach for the next instalment post 2028.