

Visitor Surveys – Sandwich Bay

January – March 2020

for Dover District Council
Final - October 2020



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**Produced for Dover District Council by Blackwood
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Executive Summary

Summary of Main Findings

Composition of Visitor Groups

- 126 visitor groups were surveyed, comprised of 249 adults and 15 under 18's;
- 61.1% of adults were in group of 2 people;
- 89.7% of visitors were visiting from their home location with 10.3% of visitors staying in the area on holiday or with friends or family;
- The average distance travelled to Sandwich Bay by those travelling from home, who gave a full postcode, was 9.59 km;
- 91% of visitors visiting Sandwich Bay from home originated from within Dover District area.

Activities and Visits

- A high proportion of visitors are frequent visitors. 47.2% of visitor groups visited once a week or more frequently;
- Just under half of visitor groups visited Sandwich Bay equally all year round (48.3%);
- 83.3% of visitor groups travelled to Sandwich Bay by car;
- Dog walking was the popular main activity at Sandwich Bay, with 73.8% of visitor groups indicating this was their main reason for visiting;
- 'Scenery' was the most popular reason for visiting Sandwich Bay with 69.8% of visitor groups giving this as one of their answers. Equal second were 'peaceful' and 'rural/wild landscape' with 58.7% of visitor groups giving this as one of their answers.

Visits with Dogs

- Most visitor groups had a dog with them. 73.8% of all visitor groups had one or more dogs with them and 86.4% of regular visitors (visiting once a week or more) had a dog with them;
- The total number of dogs for all visitor groups was 146;
- The average number of dogs per visitor group was 1.6 dogs;
- 88% of dogs were off the lead – 129 dogs.

Routes Walked

- Most walks were of short length. The average length of route taken was 4.42 km;
- The most popular route was from The Lodge at Princes heading north and then returning either along the beach or the dunes. Walking along the beach was more popular at low tide.

Awareness of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

- There was low awareness of the PSPO. 48.4% were aware that a PSPO was in place and 49.2% were not aware;
- There was low awareness of the restrictions which the PSPO puts in place. 57.9% of visitor groups indicated that they did not know what restrictions the PSPO puts in place, or could not give an answer. 27.8% thought it placed restrictions on dogs;
- There was low awareness around the specific reasons behind the implementation of the PSPO. One third (33.3%) of respondents did not know why the PSPO had been put in place. A further third (33.3%) thought it was to protect 'wildlife and nature' without being able to give a more specific answer.

Awareness of Nature Conservation Features

- There was generally very low awareness of most of the features for which Sandwich Bay is important. 29.2% of visitor groups thought Sandwich Bay was important for birds in general, but could not name a type of bird or a species;
- Many visitors had not seen any information around why Sandwich Bay is important for wildlife. 45.2% of respondents had not seen any information, either onsite or online – the highest response. 42.8% of respondents had seen the notice boards on site, Few visitors had visited websites to find out information;
- There was low awareness of how visitors might have an impact on the wildlife interest of Sandwich Bay. 45.2% of visitor groups were not aware of any potential impact of visitors on nature conservation interest. 27% of groups thought that visitors may have an effect on birds in general but could not be more specific in their answer;
- Over half of visitor groups (51.4%) did not know or could not give a suggestion around how recreation management could be improved for wildlife. 17.5% thought that current management was appropriate.

Introduction

Aims and Background

Sandwich and Pegwell Bay is an important area for nature conservation. The area is protected by a range of nature conservation designations:

- Sandwich Bay to Hacklinge Marshes SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest)
- Sandwich and Pegwell Bay NNR (National Nature Reserve)
- Princes Beachlands LNR (Local Nature Reserve)
- A wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention 1971
- Sandwich Bay SAC (Special Area of Conservation)
- Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay SPA (Special Protection Area)
- Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay Ramsar

The potentially detrimental impact of recreation on features of nature conservation importance has been a concern for many years. Disturbance studies¹ have highlighted that over-wintering birds are being disturbed by recreational activities, particularly dog walking, but through other activities such as watersports.

An increased population within Dover district, arising through development, may increase visitors to Sandwich Bay and therefore increase the disturbance of birds. Dover District Council has a current mitigation strategy² which requires monitoring of the potential impacts of visitors at Sandwich Bay. Developers provide contributions to enable monitoring to take place. The strategy sets out that surveys are carried out at trigger points when each additional 3,000 bedrooms have been built.

This survey is one of several which have taken place at Sandwich and Pegwell Bay. Surveys were carried out in 2011 and 2012, forming the baseline for the mitigation strategy. A further survey was carried out in 2018.

This visitor survey follows a similar format to the previous surveys but includes additional questions to provide further information on the routes which people walk. It also includes a series of questions to determine visitors' level of awareness of nature conservation features and the impact recreation may have on them.

In addition, a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) is in place.³ This requires that dogs are kept on leads on an area of dunes at Princes Golf Course and that no dogs are allowed to enter the northern section of the bay at Shellness Point. A series of questions were included to determine how aware visitors were of the PSPO being in place, what restrictions in place and the reasons for the PSPO.

¹ Kent Wildlife Trust (2012), *Pegwell Bay, Kent: Bird Disturbance Study 2010-2011 (Draft)*.
EcoNorth (2020), *Bird Disturbance Study – Pegwell and Sandwich Bay (Draft)*.

² Dover District Council (2012); *Thanet Coast SPA Mitigation Strategy*.

³ Initial PSPO came into force 27 July 2015 and agreed by Dover District Council Cabinet on 3 June 2019 to be varied include areas at Sandwich Bay, following a consultation exercise.

Method

Nine days of face-to-face visitor surveys were carried out between 4th January 2020 and 8th March 2020. These were carried out both on weekdays and at weekends. A full day of surveying was carried out between approximately 9 am and 4 pm, depending on weather and light conditions.

Survey days were carried out on:

- Saturday 4th January
- Sunday 26th January
- Wednesday 5th February
- Thursday 6th February
- Tuesday 18th February
- Saturday 22nd February
- Wednesday 4th March
- Saturday 7th March
- Sunday 8th March

Further survey days had been scheduled to take place in March but these had to be halted due to restrictions imposed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

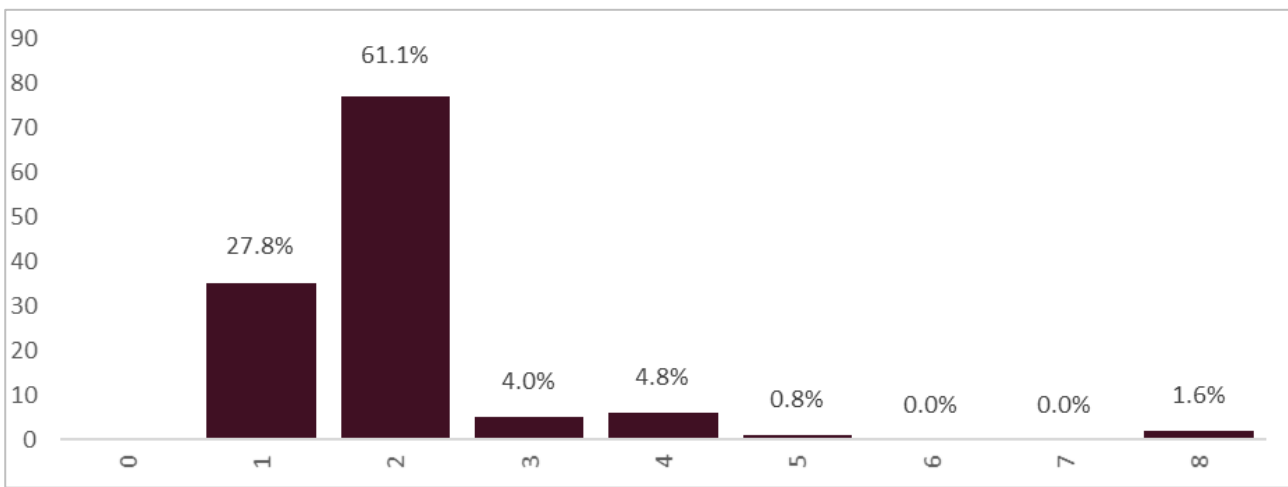
The surveyor was stationed in the car park at The Lodge at Princes. During the day the surveyor would walk north and south along the coast. Visitor groups were approached at random.

Visitors to Sandwich Bay

Visitor Groups

- 126 visitor groups were surveyed. This represented 249 adults;
- Most groups were adults only – only 12 visitor groups had an under 18 year in the group. There were 15 under 18's in total;
- 61.1% of adults were in group of 2 people;
- 27.8% of adults were visiting alone;
- The gender of the main respondent only was recorded. The main respondent was determined as the person who answered most of the questions. 61.1% of the main respondents were female and 38.9% were male.

Chart 1: Size of Group - Adults



Origin of Visitors

The home postcode of day visitors was collected. Those who were visiting on holiday were not asked to give a postcode.

- 89.7% of visitors were visiting from their home location;
- 10.3% of visitors were staying in the area on holiday or with friends or family.

Table 1: Visitors from Home or on Holiday

Answer Category	# Answers	% Answers
Yes – visiting from home	113	89.7%
No – holiday	7	5.6%
No – staying with friends or family	6	4.8%
Grand Total	126	100.0%

- 80% of visitors were willing to give a full postcode which could be accurately geocoded – this represents 89% of the 113 visitor groups who were visiting from home;
- 11.9% of visitor groups were on holiday or staying in the area away from home;
- 7.9% preferred not to give a postcode, only giving a partial postcode or a town or village location.

Table 2: Full Postcodes Provided

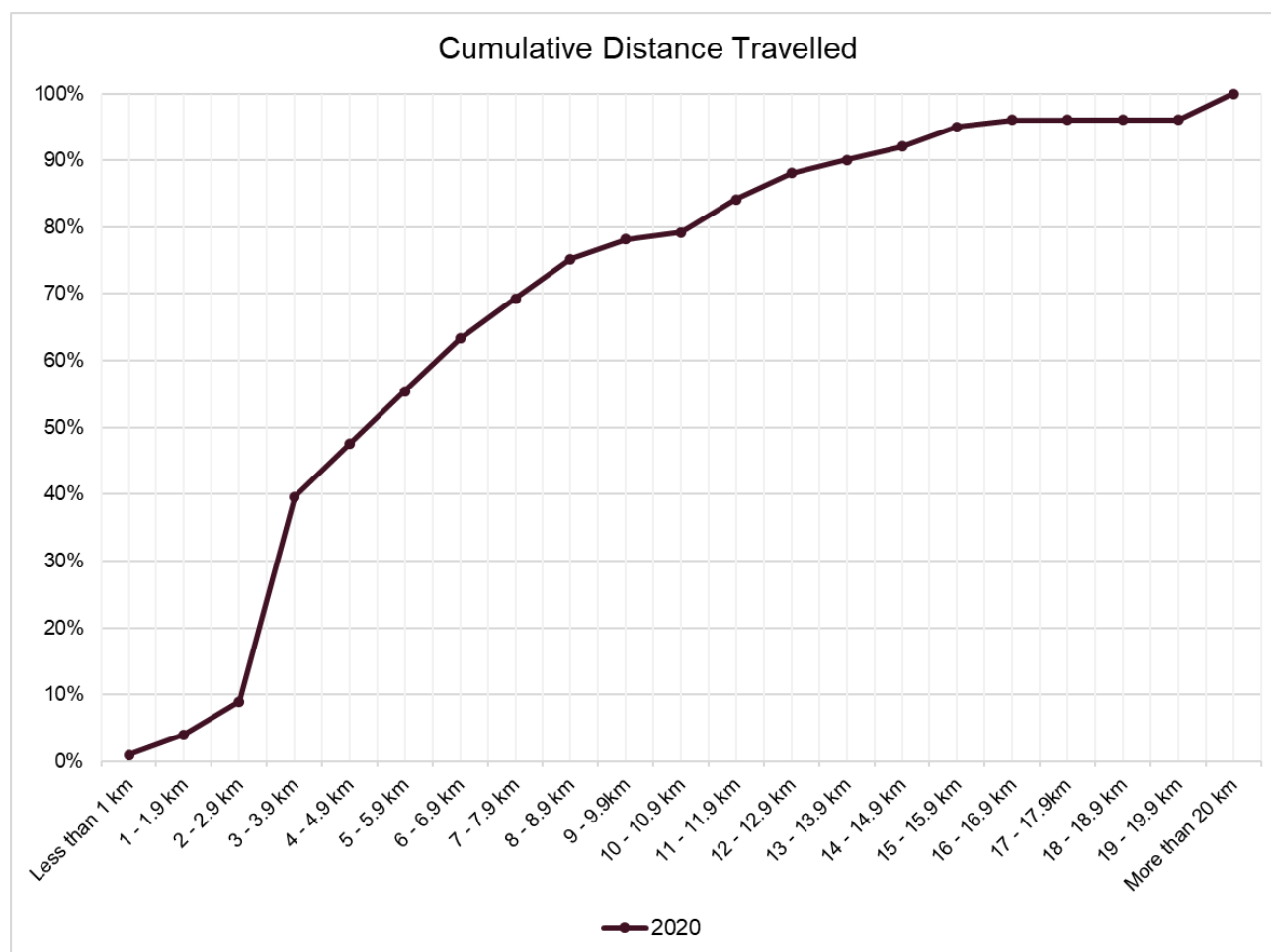
Answer Category	# Answers	% Answers
Full Postcode	101	80.2%
Not given / visiting	15	11.9%
Area only / town village	10	7.9%
Grand Total	126	100.0%

A straight-line distance from Sandwich Bay Estate to the respondent's home address was calculated.

- The average distance travelled to Sandwich Bay was 9.59 km;
- The longest distance travelled was 145 km (Guildford, Surrey).

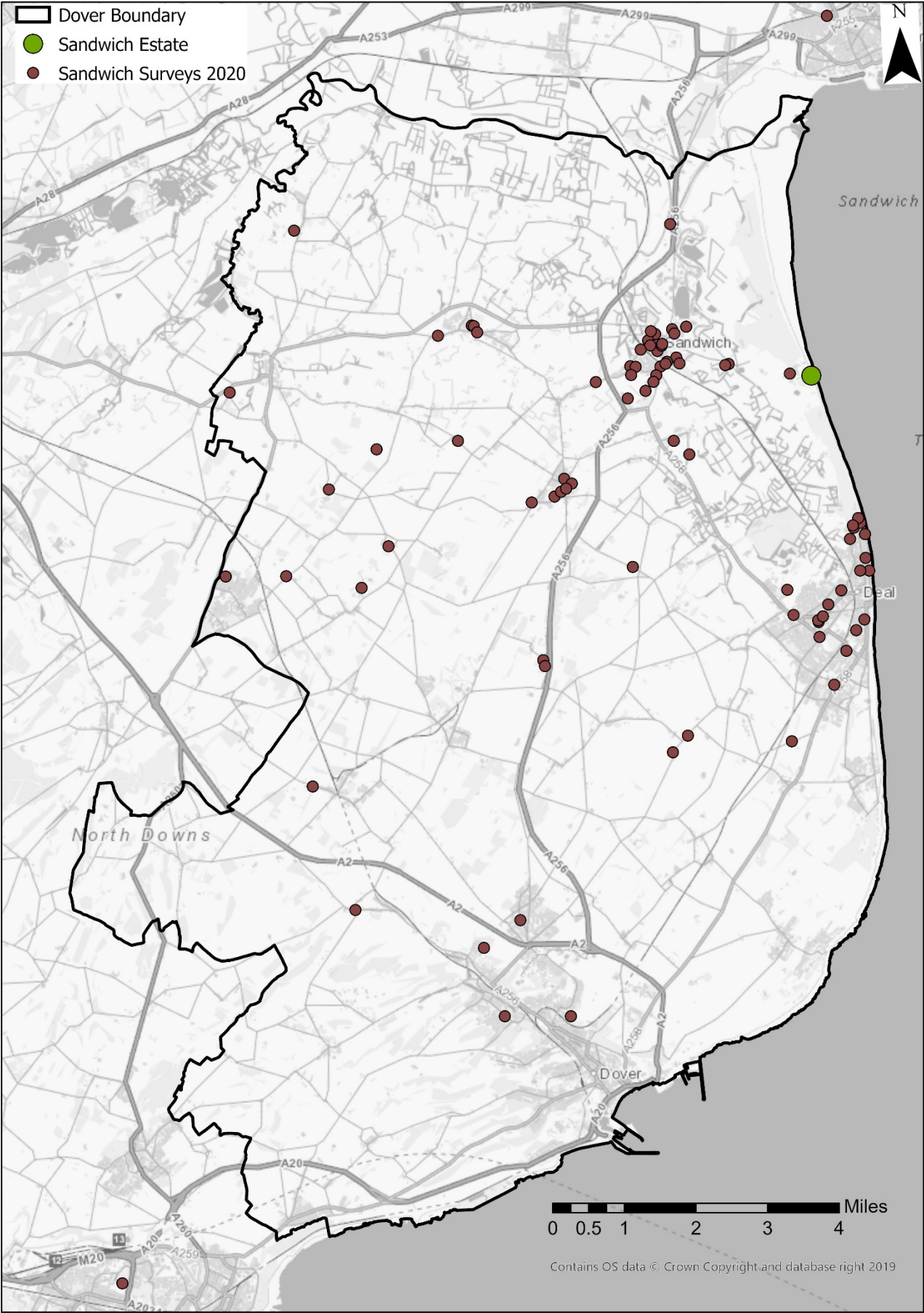
The distribution of distance travelled as cumulative distance by 1km bands is shown in Chart 2.

Chart 2: Cumulative Distance Travelled from Home to Sandwich Bay Estate



The home locations of visitors within Dover District is shown in Plan 1.

Plan 1: Home Locations of Visitors Visiting from Home - Dover District



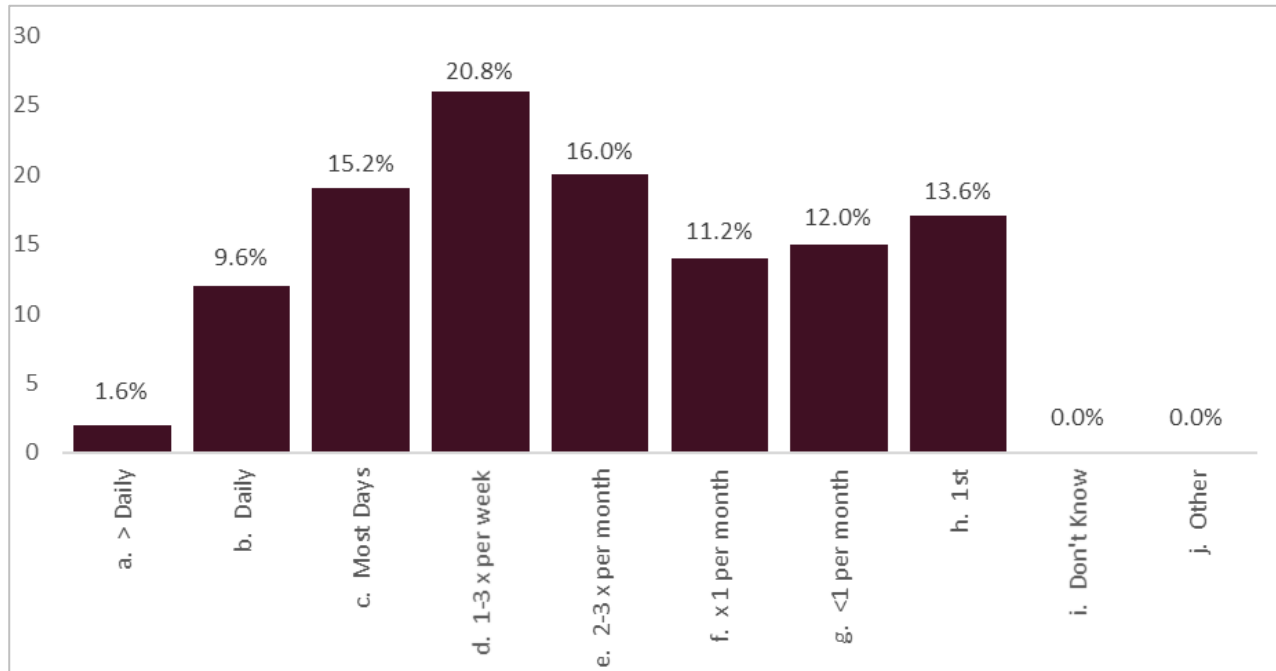
Frequency of Visits to Sandwich Bay

- 47.2% of visitor groups visited once a week or more frequently;
- A further 27.2% visited once a month or more;
- This means that 25.2% of visitors either visited less than once a month or were first time visitors.

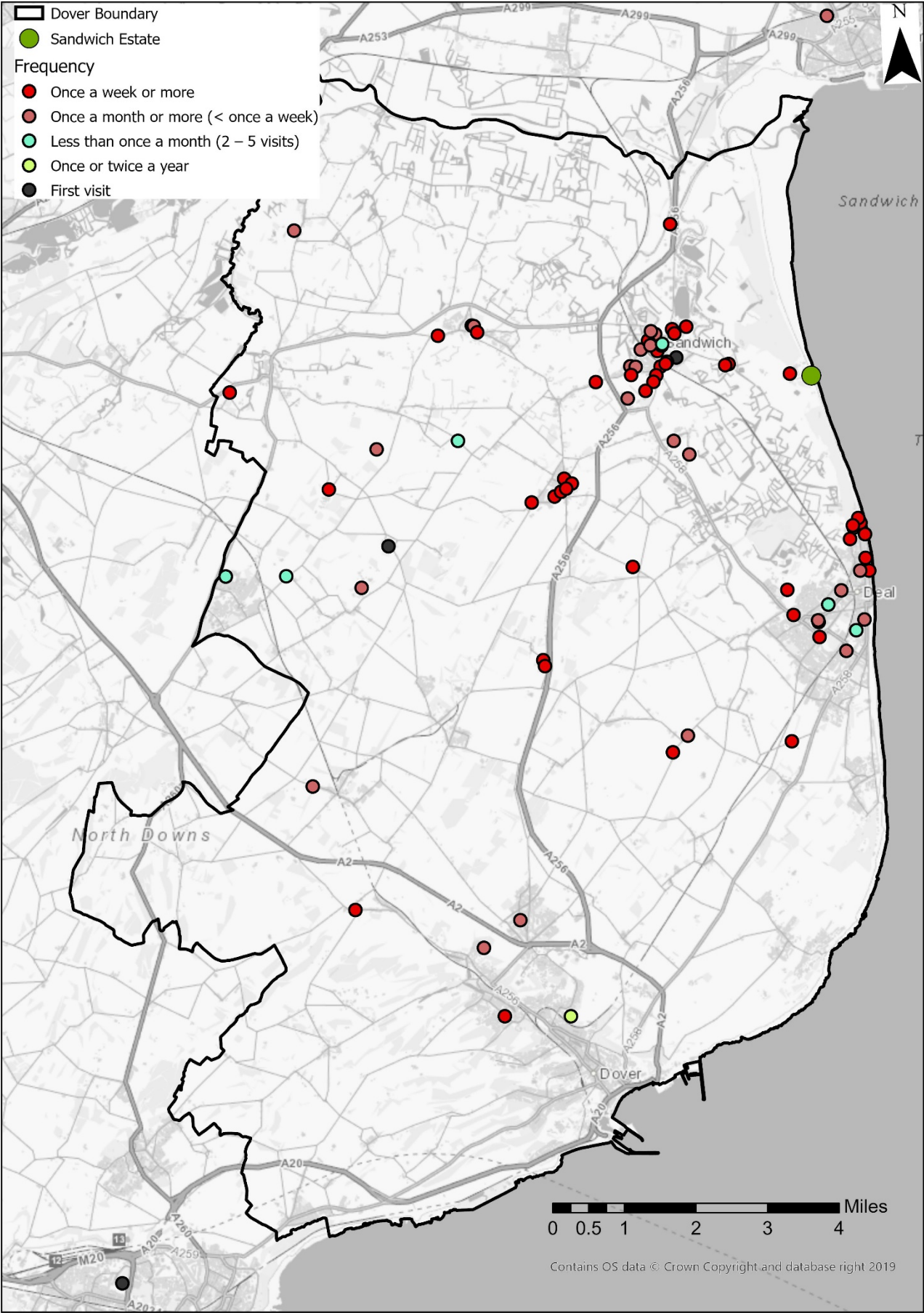
Table 3: Frequency of Visits - Visitor Groups

Answer Category	# Answers	% Answers
a. > Daily	2	1.6%
b. Daily	12	9.6%
c. Most Days	19	15.2%
d. 1-3 x per week	26	20.8%
e. 2-3 x per month	20	16.0%
f. x 1 per month	14	11.2%
g. <1 per month	15	12.0%
h. First time	17	13.6%
i. Don't Know	NONE	0.0%
j. Other	NONE	0.0%
Grand Total	125	100.0%

Chart 3: Frequency of Visits - Visitor Groups



Plan 2: Frequency of Visit by Home Location



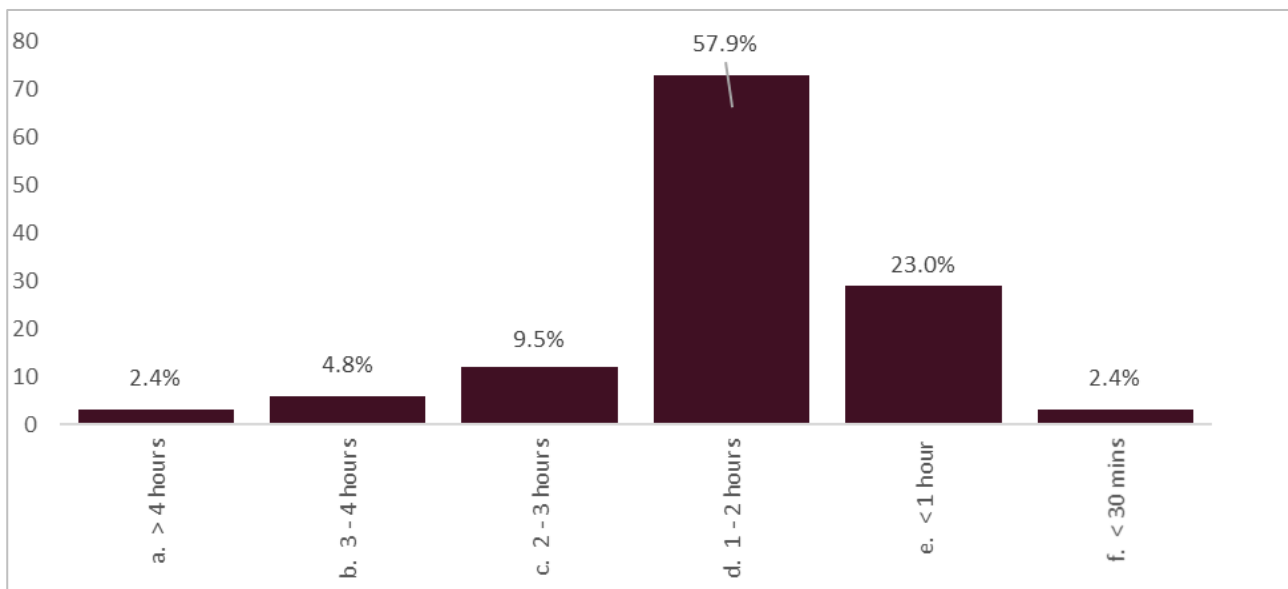
Travel to Sandwich Bay

- 83.3% of visitor groups travelled to Sandwich Bay by car;
- 14.3% walked to Sandwich Bay;
- The remainder (2.4%) travelled by bicycle.

Duration of Visit

- 83.3% of visitor groups stayed from less than 2 hours;
- Most visitor groups stayed for between 1 and 2 hours (57.9%);
- 25.4% stayed for less than an hour.

Chart 4: Duration of Visits



Seasonality of Visits

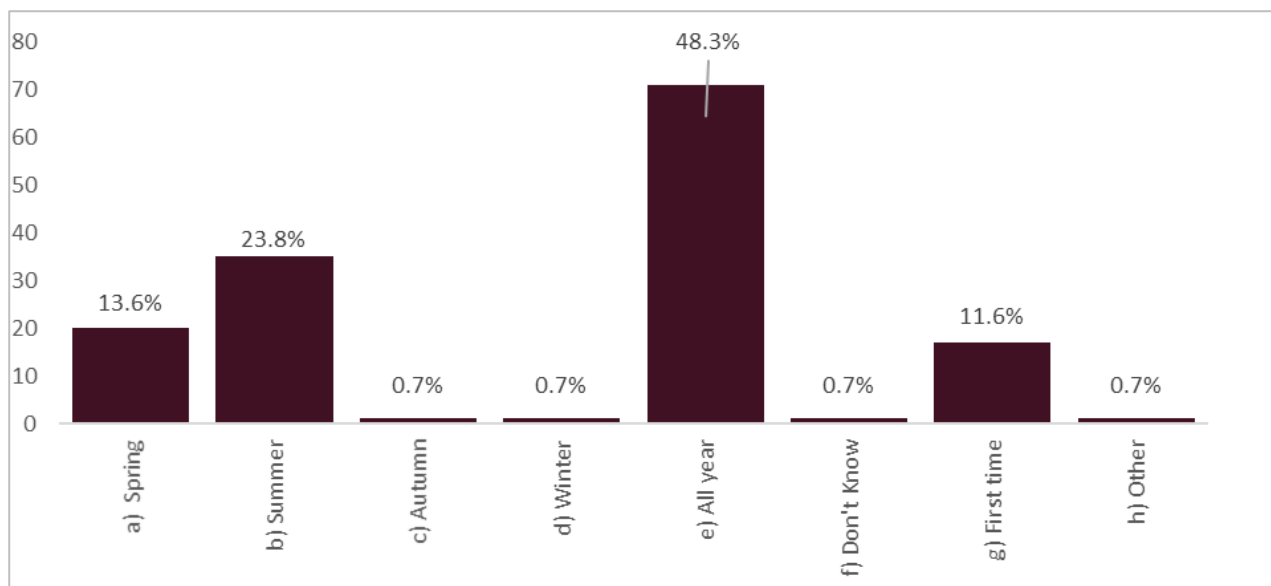
- Just under half of visitor groups visited Sandwich Bay equally all year round (48.3%);
- Of those who had a seasonal preference, summer was preferred by 23.8% of groups and spring by 13.6% of groups;
- 11.6% of people were first time visitors.

Respondents could give more than one answer.

Table 4: Seasonality of Visits

Answer Category	# Answers	% Answers
a) Spring	20	13.6%
b) Summer	35	23.8%
c) Autumn	1	0.7%
d) Winter	1	0.7%
e) All year	71	48.3%
f) Don't Know	1	0.7%
g) First time	17	11.6%
h) Other	1	0.7%
Grand Total	147	100.0%

Chart 5: Seasonality of Visits



- 91% of visitors visiting Sandwich Bay from home originated from within Dover District area;
- 7% of visitors visiting Sandwich Bay from home originated from elsewhere in Kent.

Table 5: Home Location of Visitors by District

District	# Visitors	% Visitors
Dover	92	91%
Thanet	5	5%
Ashford	1	1%
Folkestone and Hythe	1	1%
Lewisham	1	1%
Guildford	1	1%
Grand Total	101	100%

Activities and Reasons for Visiting Sandwich Bay

Activities

- Dog walking was the popular main activity at Sandwich Bay, with 73.8% of visitor groups indicating this was their main reason for visiting;
- Walking without a dog was the second most popular response with 20.6% visiting for this reason;
- 61% of visitors did not indicate any additional activities during their visits;
- Of those who did take part in additional activities, 9.6% watched birds/wildlife and 8.8% visited the lodge.

Respondents could only choose one answer for their main activity but could choose more than one for other activities.

Table 6: Main Activity During Visit

Answer Category	# Answers	% Answers
Dog walking	93	73.8%
Walking (without a dog)	26	20.6%
Cycling	2	1.6%
Other	2	1.6%
Photography / art / filming	1	0.8%
Wildlife / bird watching	1	0.8%
Bait digging	1	0.8%
Watersports	NONE	0.0%
Fishing / sea angling	NONE	0.0%
Running	NONE	0.0%
Grand Total	126	100.0%

Chart 6: Main Activity During Visit

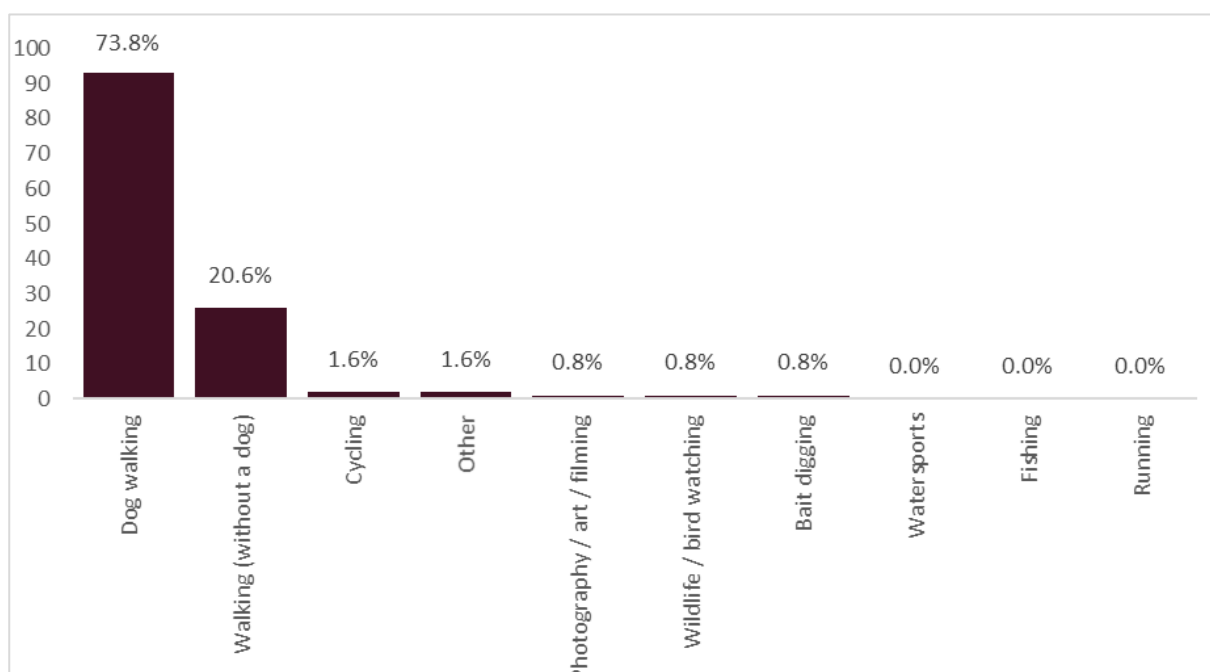


Table 7: Additional Activities During Visit

Answer Category	# Answers	% Answers
None	84	61.8%
Wildlife / bird watching	13	9.6%
Lodge / social / food	12	8.8%
Walking	6	4.4%
Litter picking	4	2.9%
Photography / art / filming	4	2.9%
Walking dog	3	2.2%
Wellbeing	3	2.2%
Exercise	2	1.5%
Cycling	2	1.5%
Other	2	1.5%
Fishing / sea angling	1	0.7%
Running	NONE	0.0%
Watersports	NONE	0.0%
Grand Total	136	100.0%

Reasons for Choosing Sandwich Bay

Respondents were asked why they had chosen to visit Sandwich Bay rather than somewhere else. Respondents could give more than one answer. There were twelve answer choices and the option to indicate 'other'. The answers provided as the twelve standard options in the survey are indicated in bold in the table below. Answers which are not bold were give under 'other' and categorised into similar answers.

- 'Scenery' was the most popular reason for visiting Sandwich Bay, accounting for 22.3% of all answers and with 69.8% of visitor groups giving this as one of their answers;
- Equal second were 'peaceful' and 'rural/wild landscape', each accounting for 18.8% of all answers and with 58.7% of visitor groups giving this as one of their answers;
- 'Suits activity' (7.1% of answers and 22.2% of groups) and 'close to home' (5.3% of answers and 16.6% of groups) were the only other answers with a significant level of responses.

Table 8: Reasons for Choosing Sandwich Bay

Answer Category	# Answers	% Answers	% of respondents giving this as an answer
Scenery / views	88	22.3%	69.8%
Rural feel / wild landscape	74	18.8%	58.7%
Quiet / peaceful	74	18.8%	58.7%
It is a good place for the activity I am doing	28	7.1%	22.2%
Close to home	21	5.3%	16.7%
Parking available	17	4.3%	13.5%
Not many people	14	3.6%	11.1%
For its wildlife interest	14	3.6%	11.1%
Choice of paths / routes	12	3.0%	9.5%
Habit / usual place / I always come here	12	3.0%	9.5%
Dogs	9	2.3%	7.1%
Other (not categorised)	8	2.0%	6.3%
Beach/Sea	7	1.8%	5.6%
No mud	7	1.8%	5.6%
Lodge/Social	3	0.8%	2.4%
Exploring	2	0.5%	1.6%
Safe	2	0.5%	1.6%
Wellbeing	1	0.3%	0.8%
Weather	1	0.3%	0.8%
Don't know	NONE	0.0%	0.0%
No need to use the car	NONE	0.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	394	100.0%	

Visits with Dogs

- 73.8% of visitor groups had one or more dogs with them;
- 86.4% of regular visitors (visiting once a week or more) had a dog with them;
- 46% of visitor groups had one dog;
- 19% of visitor groups had two dogs;
- The most dogs with one visitor group was 5;
- The total number of dogs for all visitor groups was 146;
- The average number of dogs per visitor group was 1.6 dogs;
- 88% of dogs were off the lead – 129 dogs.

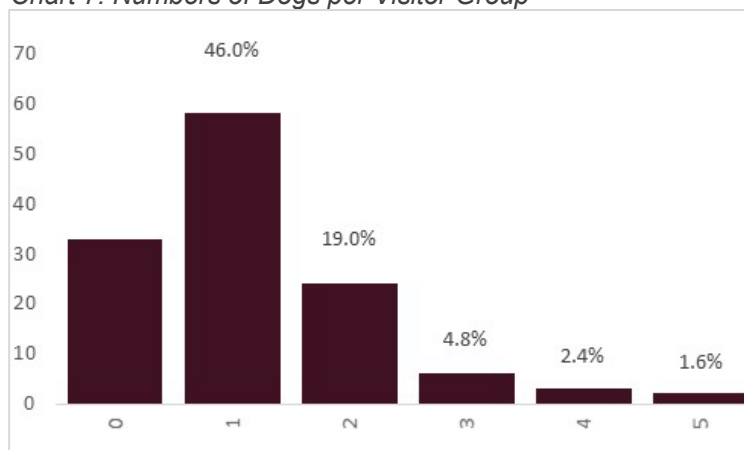
88% of dogs were off the lead



Table 9: Numbers of Dogs per Visitor Group

Answer Category	# Answers	% Answers
0	33	26.2%
1	58	46.0%
2	24	19.0%
3	6	4.8%
4	3	2.4%
5	2	1.6%
Grand Total	126	100.0%

Chart 7: Numbers of Dogs per Visitor Group



Use of Promoted Routes

Visitors were asked which, if any, of the promoted walks through the area they had followed (either in full or in part) through Sandwich Bay.

- 42.1% of visitor groups had not followed any of the promoted routes;
- 44.4% of visitor groups had followed a section of the Saxon Shore Way;
- 37.3% of visitor groups had followed a section of the Stour Valley Walk;
- 34.1% of visitor groups had followed a section of the England Coastal Path.

Table 10: Use of Promoted Routes through Sandwich Bay

Answer Category	# Answers	% Answers	% of respondents giving this as an answer
Saxon Shore Way	56	21.8%	44.4%
None of these	53	20.6%	42.1%
Stour Valley Walk	47	18.3%	37.3%
England Coastal Path	43	16.7%	34.1%
Exploring the Saxon Shore Way - Sandwich circular route	32	12.5%	25.4%
Sandwich to Rye Cycle Route	15	5.8%	11.9%
Don't know	11	4.3%	8.7%
Grand Total	257	100.0%	

Routes Taken on Visit

Visitors were shown a map of the Sandwich Bay area and asked to indicate where they had started their visit and the route they had taken.

All of the routes were plotted and the distance walked was calculated.

- The average length of route taken was 4.42 km;

There was no significant difference between the length of route taken by different types of visitors:

- The average length of walk taken by dog walkers was 3.89 km;
- The average length of walk taken by regular visitors (dog walkers and non-dog walkers) was 3.54 km;
- Regular dog walkers took a walk of average length of 3.51 km.

Visits usually began from the The Lodge at Princes where there is a parking area and toilets. However, visits could start from anywhere along the coast between the Sandwich Bay Estate and the The Lodge at Princes as visitors park along this coastline. Some visitors began their visits from beyond Sandwich Bay – from Sandwich and entering the bay using footpaths, or from Deal.

A 'heat map' of routes walked is shown in Plan 3.

Most visitors headed north from the parking area at The Lodge at Princes for a distance, before returning. Visitors were asked whether they walked on the beach or the dunes. Visitors tended to walk on the beach at low tide and were more likely to walk on the dunes at high tide. Many walked out along the beach and back along the dunes, or vice versa.

As the distance from the car park increases, the number of visitors drops, as can be seen from Plan 3. The Princes Golf Course Club House serves as a turning point for many visitors, who indicated they would walk to the club house and turn back. Others indicated that they would walk to 'the posts' which marked the entrance to Shellness Point. No visitors reported that they walked beyond the posts and no visitors were observed beyond the posts, although horse riders were observed on the beach.

Some visitors who parked further south walked up and down the coast. The area between Sandwich Bay Estate and the parking area at The Lodge at Princes was the second most highly trafficked area.

Fewer people walked inland on the footpath network.

[illegible]

Awareness of Nature Protection at Sandwich Bay

Awareness of Public Space Protection Order

Visitors were asked if they were aware that there was a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in place at Sandwich Bay.

- 48.4% were aware of the PSPO;
- 49.2% were not aware of the PSPO;
- 2.4% were not sure.

Respondents were then asked to explain, in their own words, what restrictions the PSPO puts in place. Respondents were not shown answers or given any prompts.

- 57.9% of visitor groups indicated that they did not know or could not give an answer;
- 27.8% thought it placed restrictions on dogs;
- 4.8% thought it placed restrictions on both dogs and people;
- 2.4% thought it placed restrictions on people;
- 7.1% thought it protected wildlife or birds (but did not indicate how).

Respondents were then asked to explain, again in their own words and without prompting, why they thought the PSPO had been put in place. Answers were categorised into similar answers.

- One third (33.3%) of respondents did not know why the PSPO had been put in place;
- A further third (33.3%) thought it was to protect 'wildlife and nature' without being able to give a more specific answer;
- 17.5% thought it was to protect birds and 3.2% thought it was to protect both birds and seals.

Table 11: Awareness of Reasons for the PSPO

Answer Category	# Answers	% Answers
Wildlife / nature	42	33.3%
Don't know	42	33.3%
Birds	22	17.5%
Other	12	9.5%
Birds and seals	4	3.2%
Development	4	3.2%
Grand Total	126	100.0%

The PSPO was extended to include Sandwich Bay in 2019 by Dover District Council. The PSPO mandates that dogs must be on leads in an area of dunes at Princes Golf Club Dunes and further north, at Shellness Point, that no dogs are permitted at all.

There were several comments made around how the PSPO had been implemented. Several visitors, albeit a minority overall, commented that the implementation of the PSPO was not needed and that it restricted their freedom to walk in this area. Some dog walkers expressed the view that they were being unfairly blamed for threats to the wildlife of the area.

Comments included:

Dog owners are being treated badly. They [dog owners] know what to do. Done to us by faceless bureaucrats. We don't understand why it is being done. Dog owners get the blame for everything. I belong to birding groups. Feel disrespected.

Everywhere seems to be policed.

Dogs supposed to be on leads. None are. But there are quite a few cars on shingle.

Heard too many stories is it the council or KWT? The map is wrong. Think we're losing a public space to wildlife. Everything below high water is Crown Estate and publicly accessible. I'm going to claim footpath to Shellness.

They want to stop people enjoying the open space, have been accosted by wildlife trust and unless you are a member you don't feel welcome.

Hunting birds do more damage, it is over kill having it in place. Most people are responsible.

Awareness of why Sandwich Bay is Important for Wildlife

Visitors were asked whether they were aware why Sandwich Bay is important for wildlife. Respondents were not given answer options and were not prompted. The survey listed the features for which Sandwich Bay is important. These answers are shown in bold in Table **x**. If respondents gave an answer which correlated to one of the answers on this list then the answer was categorised as such. If they gave an answer which wasn't on the list of features the answer was recorded under 'other'. These answers were then grouped by similar answers. Respondents could give more than one answer.

- There was generally very low awareness of most of the features for which Sandwich Bay is important;
- 29.2% of visitor groups thought Sandwich Bay was important for birds in general, but could not name a type of bird or a species;
- 10.7% of visitor groups named wintering and passage birds as a group;
- There were no other answers given by 10% or more of visitor groups.

Table 12: Awareness of why Sandwich Bay is Important for Wildlife

Answer Category	# Answers	% Answers	% of respondents giving this as an answer
'Birds' in general (non specific)	68	29.2%	53.9%
Other	36	15.5%	28.6%
Don't know	36	15.5%	28.6%
Wintering and passage birds as a group	25	10.7%	19.8%
Dune habitats	16	6.9%	12.7%
Ground nesting birds	9	3.9%	7.1%
Shingle habitats and flora / vegetation	8	3.4%	6.3%
Grazing marsh	7	3.0%	5.6%
Orchids	4	1.7%	3.2%
Lizard orchids	4	1.7%	3.2%
Turnstone	3	1.3%	2.4%
Rare plants	3	1.3%	2.4%
Mud flats	3	1.3%	2.4%
Ecosystems	2	0.9%	1.6%
Tern	2	0.9%	1.6%
Golden plover	2	0.9%	1.6%
Habitat (other)	2	0.9%	1.6%
Skylark	2	0.9%	1.6%
Saline ponds	1	0.4%	0.8%
Reedbeds	NONE	0.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	233	100.0%	

Awareness of Information on the Importance of Sandwich Bay for Wildlife

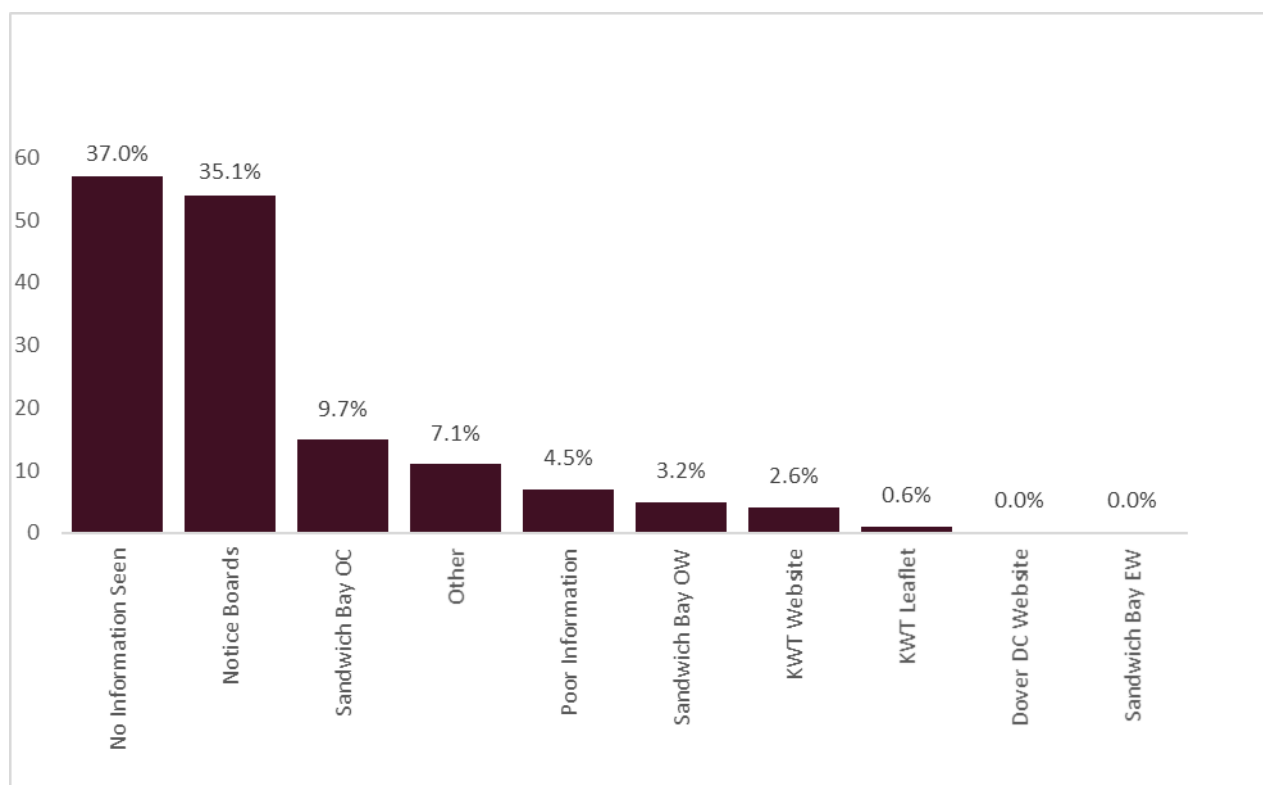
Visitors were asked if they had seen any information on why Sandwich Bay is important for wildlife, either onsite or online. Respondents could give more than one answer.

- 45.2% of respondents had not seen any information, either onsite or online – the highest response;
- 42.8% of respondents had seen notice boards on site;
- 11.9% of respondents said they had seen information at the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory centre and 7.9% had seen information on the Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory website;
- 7 respondents commented specifically that information provision was poor.

Table 13: Awareness of Information about Wildlife at Sandwich Bay

Answer Category	# Answers	% Answers	% of respondents giving this as an answer
No information seen	57	37.0%	45.2%
Notice boards	54	35.1%	42.9%
Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory - centre	15	9.7%	11.9%
Other	11	7.1%	8.7%
Poor information	7	4.5%	5.6%
Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory - website	5	3.2%	4.0%
KWT website	4	2.6%	3.2%
KWT leaflet	1	0.6%	0.8%
Dover District Council website	NONE	0.0%	
Sandwich Bay Estate Website	NONE	0.0%	
Grand Total	154	100.0%	

Chart 8: Awareness of Information about Wildlife at Sandwich Bay



Awareness of the Potential Effect of Visitors on Nature Conservation Interest

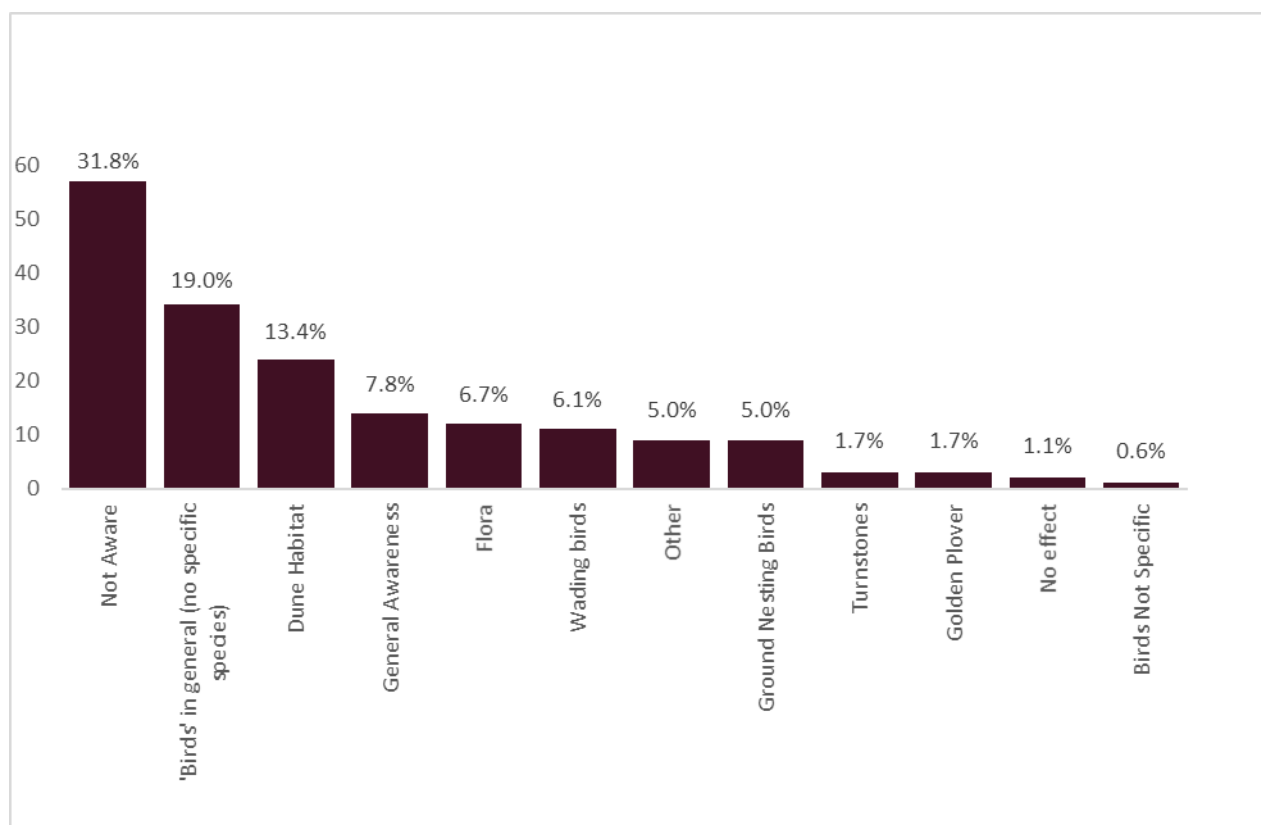
Visitors were asked whether they were aware of any wildlife habitats or species which could be affected by people coming to the bay. Respondents were not given answer options and were not prompted. There were seven answer choices plus 'don't know' and the option to indicate 'other'. The answers provided as the seven standard options in the survey are indicated in bold in the table below. Answers which are not bold were give under 'other' and categorised into similar answers.

- 45.2% of visitor groups were not aware of any potential impact of visitors on nature conservation interest;
- 27% of groups thought that visitors may have an effect on birds in general;
- 19% of respondents thought visitors might have an effect on dune habitats;
- 11.1% of respondents were generally aware that visitors might have an effect on the nature conservation interest of Sandwich Bay but were not able to indicate how;
- 3 visitor groups specifically mentioned turnstones and/or golden plover as species.

Table 14: Awareness of Potential Visitor Impact on Nature Conservation Interest

Answer Category	# Answers	% Answers	% of respondents giving this as an answer
Not aware	57	31.8%	45.2%
'Birds' in general (no specific species)	35	19.6%	27.8%
Dune habitat	24	13.4%	19.0%
General awareness	14	7.8%	11.1%
Flora (orchids, shingle vegetation)	12	6.7%	9.5%
Wading birds	11	6.1%	8.7%
Other	9	5.0%	7.1%
Ground nesting birds	9	5.0%	7.1%
Turnstones	3	1.7%	2.4%
Golden plover	3	1.7%	2.4%
No effect	2	1.1%	1.6%
Yes aware, but can't name species/habitats	NONE	0.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	179	100.0%	

Chart 9: Awareness of Potential Visitor Impact on Nature Conservation Interest



How Management Could be Improved to Protect Wildlife

Visitors were asked if they could think of any ways in which recreation management at Sandwich Bay could be improved better to protect wildlife. This was an open question with no options provided. The free text answers were grouped into categories of similar answers.

- Over half of visitor groups (51.4%) did not know or could not give a suggestion around how recreation management could be improved for wildlife;
- 17.5% thought that current management was appropriate;
- 7.9% of visitors thought more information or better information would improve management.

Table 15: How Recreation Management for can be Improved to benefit Wildlife

Answer Category	# Answers	% Answers	% of respondents giving this as an answer
Don't know	65	50.4%	51.6%
OK as it is	22	17.1%	17.5%
Other	15	11.6%	11.9%
Better / more info	10	7.8%	7.9%
More bins	9	7.0%	7.1%
Better signage	5	3.9%	4.0%
Relax restrictions	3	2.3%	2.4%
Grand Total	129	100.0%	

Chart 10: How Recreation Management for can be Improved to benefit Wildlife

