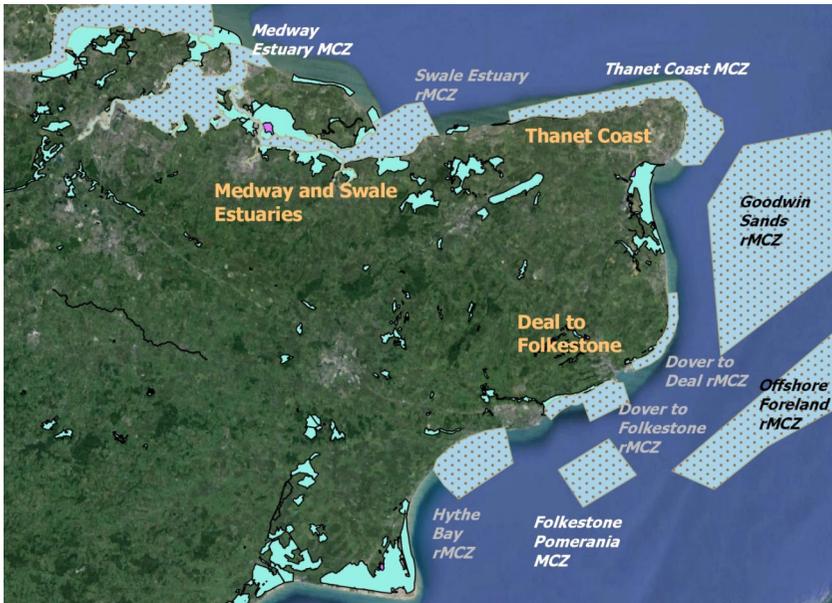


# Guardians of the Deep

The *Guardians of the Deep* project is a partnership between Kent Wildlife Trust, Thanet District Council, Medway Swale Estuary Partnership and Kent County Council. It aims to involve local people in the protection and monitoring of Kent's coastal wildlife, and to get young people excited about marine wildlife through a programme of snorkelling activities and practical learning opportunities at coastal sites around the county. Initial development funding of £64,000 has been awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to help Kent Wildlife Trust progress their plans to apply for the full grant at a later date.



The project will aim specifically at three stretches of coastline, encompassing the newly designated and recommended Marine Conservation Zones – Medway and Swale Estuaries, Thanet Coast, Dover to Deal and Dover to Folkestone.

The activities within the project will raise awareness of the wildlife importance of these areas and involve volunteers in helping to protect them and promote their enjoyment.

### **Coastal Guardians**

Creation of a self-sustaining Coastal Guardian network – individuals and groups of volunteers who oversee a stretch of coastline near where they live, promoting the wise-use and enjoyment of these areas.



### **Undersea Explorers**

Workshops to teach young people snorkelling and water safety skills in swimming pools decorated with submersible ‘marine habitat’ props, which will help them understand the importance and fragility of marine life.

### **WildBeach**

A programme of activities aimed at schools, along the lines of Forest Schools, but focusing on the marine environment.

Opportunities to learn about the marine environment, its value as a home for wildlife and the challenges associated with protecting it.





## **Coastal Connections**

Work with organisations responsible for protection of marine environments, and other like-minded organisations, to build awareness of, and support for, the importance of sustainable use of our marine environment.

Key to this will be working with partners to support events along the lines of Kent's Coastal Week, and maximising opportunities to ensure a coherent message about Marine Conservation Zones is delivered across the Kent coast.

## **Coastal Citizen Science**

Training to enable local people to take a direct role to help conserve their local natural coastal heritage.

Establishment of a north Kent CoastBusters team, extending the Thanet Coast's extremely successful pilot Pacific oyster control programme.



Monthly survey events for volunteers to record marine wildlife around the Kent coast, with records provided to statutory bodies, to help monitor the condition of sites.



To find out more, or to get involved,  
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## Guardians of the Deep



Kent Wildlife Trust is the leading wildlife conservation charity for Kent and Medway, with over 30,000 members.

**Your living landscape. Your living seas.**