

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **Eurotunnel awarded with a tenth consecutive *Green Flag Award*®, recognising its efforts in conservation and community involvement**

Eurotunnel has, for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in succession been awarded the Green Flag for the 30 hectare Samphire Hoe nature reserve at the foot of the beautiful White Cliffs of Dover. The Green Flag is awarded in recognition of effort to preserve the natural environment.

The awards have been running for 20 years, with winners chosen by an independent panel and have become the reference standard for parks and green spaces in the United Kingdom. Each year, the awards recognise the most remarkable nature reserves in England and Wales, judging them on their environmental qualities and their community activities. They encourage the creation of nature reserves with sustainable management practices.

Samphire Hoe is a platform at the foot of the White Cliffs, created out of spoil extracted during the construction of the Channel Tunnel which Eurotunnel sought to use to protect the environment. Over the years it has progressively been transformed into a nature reserve with a particularly rich degree of biodiversity.

The daily management of the site is handled by the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership supported by many local volunteers. The nature reserve is accessible to the public from dawn till dusk throughout the year.

Owned by Groupe Eurotunnel, the site is situated between Folkestone and Dover and welcomes over 100,000 people every year. It is particularly well equipped for visitors with reduced mobility who are can easily access the site and observe the 230 species of plants, including rare orchids, 30 species of butterfly, 150 species of moth and 213 species of birds that can be found there.

**Paul Todd, Green Flag Award Manager, Keep Britain Tidy member** said: *“Green spaces play an important role in the community and add to our quality of life. They provide opportunities for recreation and relaxation; Samphire Hoe is a remarkable space where expert Rangers and passionate volunteers work creatively side by side.”*

**Jo Willacy, Eurotunnel Commercial Director**, stated: *“Being awarded a prestigious Green Flag ten times in a row is outstanding! We are proud to have been able to add to the quality of life of local people in such a long term and sustainable manner.”*