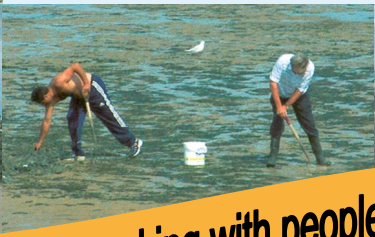


Thanet Coastal Codes

Voluntary codes for coastal users



- Powercraft Activities
- Wind-powered Activities
- Shellfish Harvesting and Fixed Netting
- Bait Digging and Collecting
- Seashore Code
- Field Trips
- Shore Angling
- Horse Riding
- Dog Walking



Thanet Coast Project ... working with people for coastal wildlife

Thanet Coastal Codes

What's it all for?

The North East Kent coast is a valued open space used by many people for recreational activities. It is also highly valued for its plants, animals and birds. Local people agreed that a series of voluntary codes could help safeguard wildlife, while allowing locals and visitors to enjoy their coastal activities.

Making the Codes

Representatives of each activity worked with the Thanet Coast Project to write the codes, which were first produced in November 2002. The codes are regularly reviewed and updated from time to time. Although the codes are voluntary, individuals and clubs are encouraged to support and review them from time to time. The codes are also checked against local 'activity surveys' to see if they are working.

The codes aim to :

- Avoid unintentional harm to the marine and bird life.
- Encourage responsible use of the coast.
- Keep everyone safe.

Comments

If you would like to comment on any of the codes, please forward these to the Thanet Coast Project so that they can be considered when the codes are next reviewed. By working together, we can all help to make shore' the North East Kent Coast is a better place to enjoy.

Thanet Coast Project
(North East Kent Marine Protected Area)
c/o Thanet District Council
PO Box 9, Cecil Street, Margate CT9 1XZ
01843 577672
thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk
www.thanetcoast.org.uk
Web: nekmpa.org.uk



nekmpa1



ThanetCoastProj



ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY





Seashore Code for all coastal users

To be used with the code for your activity

Respect our coastal wildlife

- Try to leave everything as you find it - or would like to find it.
- Tread carefully on the rocky shore to minimise impact on coastal wildlife.
- Avoid putting coastal birds to flight between 1 October and 31 March, especially at high tide or, at night.
- Stay clear of the main bird roost areas between 1 October to 31 March, and the summer breeding grounds between 1 April and 31 July on the shingle beaches by the lagoons (see map p15)



Consider our coastline and other users

- Take your rubbish home and report any potential hazards.
- Try to avoid damaging rocks, especially on the lower shore, where the chalk is most fragile.
- Don't block public access or rights of way and use official car parks where possible.
- Only authorised vehicles are allowed to use the foreshore or promenades.
- Respect the rights of all other users.



Stay safe

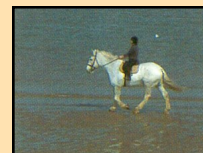
- Check tide times to avoid being cut off from the shore and tell someone where you're going.
- Check bay signs for activity zones, bylaws and local beach safety information.
- Be aware of local hazards and conditions.
- Take care near cliffs and don't throw anything over the edge.
- Beware of walking on slippery rocks, slopes or near the edge of promenades.
- Keep away from soft sand and mud.

Be environmentally Friendly

- Volunteer to help on 'beach-cleans' and support environmental campaigns.
- Buy postcards, books or posters or take photos of marine creatures - instead of "marine curios": such as shells & starfish, which may have been alive when collected.
- Buy products and produce that do not harm the environment, such as environmentally friendly detergents or locally caught non-endangered fish (see www.fishonline.org) and avoid single-use plastics as much as possible (eg Use re-usable water bottles).
- Remember to recycle and dispose of your waste properly - remember car oil, paints and solvents all need special land-based disposal and plastics should not be flushed down with bathroom waste.



Horseriding Code



- Try to avoid putting shoreline wintering birds to flight by not riding on the beach at high tides.
- Avoid disturbing wintering birds during or after long cold spells when food is harder to find as this can increase their energy expenditure and reduce feeding time.
- Please avoid riding close to the summer bird breeding grounds and main winter roosts on the shingle beaches between Minnis Bay and Reculver; and at the Sandwich and Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve (see map page 15).
- Follow the British Horse Society's code for 'Riding responsibly and road safety' - available from the British Horse Society.
 - Show courtesy, care and consideration for the land and other users.
 - Ride with care on the road as outlined in the BHS Riding and Road Safety Manual and Test.
- Always wear protective headgear (to the current safety standard) and appropriate clothing and check your tack for safety before you set off .
- Follow the local bylaws:
 - Ride only before 9am and after 7pm along the seashore between 1 May and 30 September for public safety reasons.
 - Some riding for children is allowed outside these times when led by a responsible person on foot; but this bylaw excludes any racing or 'breaking-in' on the seashore.





Dogwalking Code



- To avoid disturbing birds, walk your dog towards the back of the shore and try to avoid the feeding birds along the tide line, or at times around high tide (when the beach area is smaller).
- Keep away from known bird roosts and take note of any signs requesting your co-operation in these areas.
- Do not allow your dog to chase birds on the beach as this stops them from feeding and roosting.
- Keep your dog on a lead when:
 - near feeding or roosting birds;
 - on shingle from April to July inclusive because of ground-nesting breeding birds;
 - in areas used by other recreational activities, as boisterous dogs can scare both birds and people.
 - walking at back of the beach within the Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve.

- Please clean up after your dog to keep the beach safe and clean for other users .

It is illegal not to clean up in every public place in Thanet. This is rigorously enforced with fixed penalty notices of £100, and dog owners can be prosecuted and fined up to £1,000. Over 100 people have fallen 'foul' of the law, so please clean up!

- Follow the local Public Space Protection Order

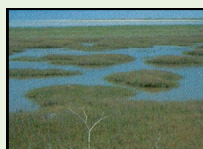
Dogs are banned from some of Thanet's beaches during the summer. Please obey the signs on the beaches or check the details at Visitor Centres or local authority website.





Powercraft Code

Motorboats, personal watercraft and water-skiing



- Keep activities, launches and landings away from the summer breeding grounds and main winter roosts: *on the shingle beaches between Minnis Bay and Reculver; within the Sandwich and Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve, except for navigational access to Sandwich.*
- If you encounter wildlife, such as seals either at sea or on sandbanks, slow down and give them a wide berth as they can be easily scared by humans.
- Avoid damage to the chalk shore by only using the designated launch sites.
- Be considerate to other coastal users, especially swimmers and divers, and clear away from the beach area as soon as possible.
- Keep to the designated activity zones identified on the main bay information signs, or by the Local Authority.
- Join and abide by local schemes eg Thanet Water

User Group's rules and regulations:

Thanet District Council runs a scheme that involves a barrier 'key' system allowing registered users access to the shore and encourages adequate third party insurance. Rules include keeping barriers locked and not exceeding 8 knots inshore of 400m; except in designated areas (eg water skiing). Contact Foreshore Manager, TDC for further details.

- Observe the 'Rules of the Road' Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972; 'COLREGS' - free sticker available from the RNLI.
- Know and follow the RNLI's Sea Safety Guidelines as appropriate for your activity. *Booklets are available free of charge from the RNLI cover: motorboating; personal watercraft; sea anglers; small boat users; sport diving.*
- Observe guidelines produced by owner/user organisations: *boat owners (RYA and BMF); water skiing (British Water Ski Federation); sea anglers (NABAC).*

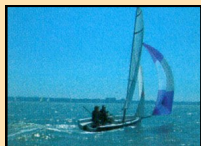


*Note: View the **Marine Wildlife Watching Code** (seals& dolphins) at: nekmpa.org.uk*



Wind-powered Activities Code

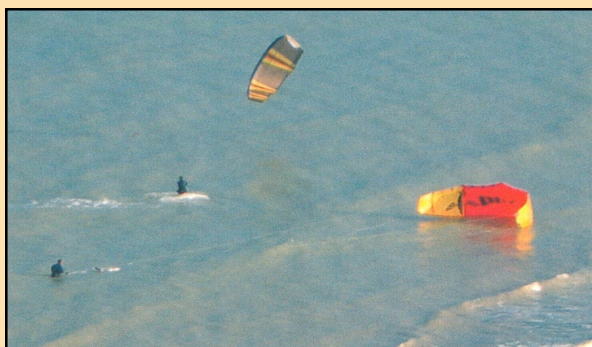
Windsurfing, Kite-surfing and sailing



- Avoid putting shoreline wintering birds to flight by using the designated access points only, and avoid getting close to their feeding grounds along the strandline or reef, or where they are resting - such as at high tides.
- Keep activities, launches & landings away from the summer breeding grounds & main winter roosts: *on shingle beaches between Minnis Bay & Reculver; within the Sandwich & Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve, except for navigational access to Sandwich.*
- If you encounter wildlife, such as seals either at sea or on sandbanks, slow down and give them a wide berth as they can be easily scared by humans.
- Be considerate to other coastal users - particularly swimmers and children in the water and look out for other beach users and dogs when clearing equipment away on the shore.
- Keep to the designated activity zones identified on the main bay information signs, or by the Local Authority.
- For larger vessels - above dinghy or toppler in size - join a local water user scheme, such as the Thanet Water User Group.

Contact them to see if your craft should be included.

- Know and follow the RNLI's Sea Safety Guidelines Dinghy Sailing' and 'Sailing' - *available free of charge from the RNLI.*
- Observe the advice in the Windsurfing Safety Guide - *available from the MCA (via Mail Marketing 017 5907 3336).*
- Be aware of the Kite Surfing Safety Guidelines - *contact the British Kitesports' Association*



Other Aerial Activities - from kites to powered para-gliders and drones also need to avoid the National Nature Reserve and abide by their national codes (eg CAA: www.caa.co.uk)



Note: a Marine Wildlife Watching Code (seals & dolphins) for NE Kent is available at: nekmpa.org.uk



Harvesting and Fixed Netting Code

Shellfish and other marine life



- Tread carefully to avoid damage to the rocky chalk shore especially on the lower shore where the chalk is most fragile.
- Always put rocks and seaweed back the way they were - there are animals underneath which need them for shelter.
- Shellfish should be collected by hand (and not mechanical means), and without breaking the chalk rocks (*Local Sea Fisheries bylaws allow for the collection of periwinkle by hand only*).
- Take only enough for your own needs to ensure that many are left for other collectors and the species can still thrive.
- Select only the larger shellfish to ensure that younger ones can continue to grow and establish the next generation.
- Take care to avoid putting feeding or roosting bird to flight.
- Avoid collecting shellfish during 'Temporary Prohibition Orders' (Fishery Products and Live Shellfish) *when it is a criminal offence to collect live shellfish such as cockles and mussels for human consumption on the grounds of public food safety Contact your local authority for further information.*
- Abide by food safety standards and 'guide lines for safe working in estuaries and tidal areas' (Health and Safety Executive).

Additional Codes for 'Shoreline Fixed Netting'

- Fixed nets should comply with both national and local fishery bylaws. *Contact the Kent and Essex IFCA for details and permission, and the Environment Agency for information on the fishing of salmon, sea trout and eels.*
- Care should be taken to avoid damage to the chalk shore and marine life when putting up fixed nets .
- Take away and dispose of any entangled rubbish or disintegrating nets in suitable bins.
- Avoid designated coastal activity areas or launch sites as nets could entangle and endanger other coastal users - *contact TOC Foreshore for details.*



Note: A Seaweed Harvesting Code can be viewed on the website: nekmpa.org.uk



Shore Angling Code



- Take care to avoid putting roosting or feeding wintering birds to flight especially when shore angling at high tide or at night.
- Avoid shore angling along the shingle beaches adjacent to the lagoons between Reculver and Birchington as these are used by summer breeding birds, and the shingle is the main winter roosts.
- Tread carefully on the rocky shore if fishing off the rocks at low tide.
- Take all waste home and dispose of it safely including old hooks, line and tackle which can hurt birds and animals.
- Take only as much bait as you need and return unused worms to the beach.
- Follow the NFSA 'Conservation Code of Sea Anglers'. *These include taking measures to reduce tackle loss (e.g. lower breaking strain for hook length than main line) and use of 'catch and returning methods to help conserve fish stocks, returning the fish in a healthy condition.*
- Abide by the 'Recommended Retention Size Limits' - as endorsed by the NFSA.
- *Help conserve fish stocks by returning undersized or surplus - fish alive and healthy to the sea.*



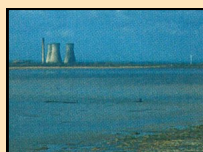
Examples of minimum National Federation of Sea Anglers (NFSA) catch size (cm)

Bass	41	Plaice	28
Brill	35	Pollack	30
Cod	35	Pouting	18
Dab	20	Skate/Ray	41*
Flounder	25	Sole	25
Mackerel	30	Turbot	35
Mullet	33	Whiting	27
* Wing tip to tip			





Bait-digging and Collecting Code



- Always carefully replace stones or seaweed when collecting crabs, to avoid damaging other sheltering animals.
 - Support a voluntary ban on 'rockworm' collecting and avoid using any methods that damage the chalk reef.
 - Take care to avoid putting roosting or feeding wintering birds to flight especially towards high tide or at night.
 - Back-fill any holes that you dig to restore the seashore and make it safe for other users - *unless the tide is about to do this for you!*
 - Take care to avoid disturbance to archaeological sites within St Mildred's and Minnis Bays.
 - Keep away from areas that may cause a danger with other priority users, such as designated launch sites or mooring areas.
 - Avoid using large bore bait pumps close to the shoreline.
 - Take re-usable buckets or containers for collecting .
- Avoid collecting (or using) rare or unusual bait such as pipefish or lumpfish.

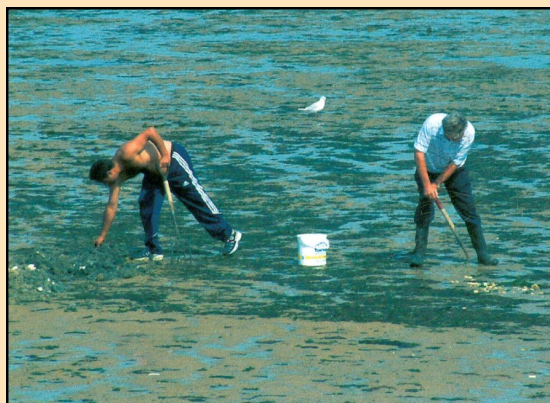


Note: There is also a local [Pegwell Bay Bait & Bird Agreement](#)—available on the website. In 2016, [new access restrictions](#) were introduced to Pegwell Bay as part of the England Coastal Path

NEW CODES:

[Seaweed Harvesting Code](#)
&
[Fossil Code](#)

- both can be viewed on the website:
nekmpa.org.uk





Field trip Code

Organised groups



- F** Follow your group's health and safety advice
- I** Inform everyone about site safety, hazards, emergency details.
- E** Encourage respect for coastal wildlife - minimise disturbance, as it's their home you're visiting!
 - Walk gently on the rocks and by rockpools.
 - Carefully replace rocks (and animals) you have moved, exactly as you found them.
 - Don't remove limpets or pull seaweed off the rocks.
 - Give seabirds space; don't get too close and put them to flight.
- L** Leave it as you would like to find it - take litter home with you!
- D** Do observe creatures in situ and leave them where you find them.
- T** Take photos home, and not living animals.
- R** Report potential hazards, as these could cause an accident.
- I** Incoming Tides can cut you off from the shore, so always keep an eye on the water.
- P** Promote coastal safety - stay away from soft mud, quicksand and slippery rocks, and don't get too close to cliffs. Wear suitable clothing for the coast and be prepared for changeable weather conditions.

Please inform the Thanet Coast Project of your proposed trip. The Project can provide a site introduction for your coastal site visit. Schools can also contact the Kent Wildlife Trust for advice on educational visits to the local Country Parks (see map page 15) or to your school. Other useful reference material for schools can be found on the Thanet Coast website.

For scientific research projects, a code of conduct has been produced by the North East Kent Coastal Scientific Advisory Group and can be viewed at: www.nekmp.org.uk





Useful Contacts

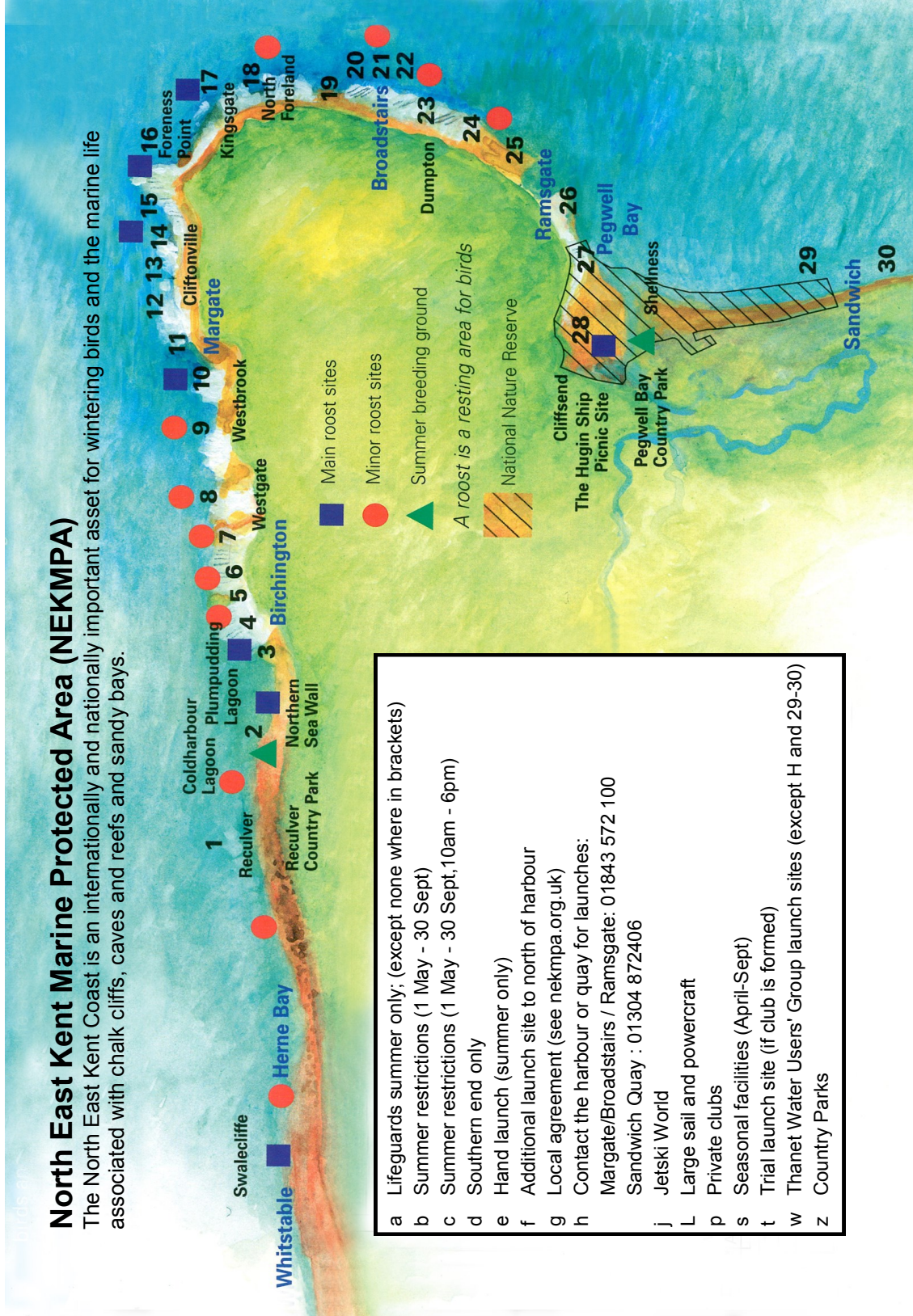


Beresford Wakeboard and Waterski Club	07974 509807
Broadstairs Sailing Club	www.broadstairssailingclub.com 01843 861373
British Horse Society	www.bhs.org.uk 0870 1202244
British Kitesports	www.britishkitesports.org
British Marine	www.britishmarine.co.uk 01784 473377
British Water Ski & Wakeboard	www.britishwaterski.co.uk 01932 570885
Environment Agency	www.environment-agency.gov.uk 03708 506 506
Fishermans Corner (fishing tackle shop).	Ramsgate 01843 582174
Foreness Water Ski & Boat Club	www.waterskiclub.co.uk 01843 582951
Good Fish Guide (Marine Conservation Society)	www.fishonline.org
Guardians of the Deep (project)	www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/guardians-of-the-deep
Health and Safety Executive	www.hse.gov.uk 01233 653900
Joss Bay Surf School	www.jossbay.co.uk 07812 991195
Jetski World - Palm Bay	01843 231703
Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Agency (IFCA)	01843 585310 www.kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk
Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT)	www.kentwildlife.org.uk 01622 662012
Margate Yacht Club	www.margateyachtclub.org.uk 01843 292602
Marine Conservation Society	www.mcsuk.org 01989 566017
HM Coastguard	01304 210008 www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency
Minnis Bay Sailing Club	www.minnisbaysailingclub.co.uk 01843 841588
Minnis Bay Windsurfing Club	01843 833042
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)	www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation
National Association of Boat Angling Clubs	www.naob.org.uk



National Federation of Sea Anglers	www.nfsa.org.uk/ 0800 282 40383
Natural England	0300 060 6000 www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england
NE Kent Coastal Scientific Advisory Group Research Code	nekmpa.org.uk
Pegwell Bay Country Park	0300 420 993
Ramsgate Royal Harbour and Marina	www.ramsgatemarina.co.uk 01843 572100
Reculver Country Park Cafe	01227 740676
Royal Temple Yacht Club	www.rtyc.com 01843 591766
Royal National Lifeboat Institution (& Lifeguards)	www.rnli.org.uk 01202 663000
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	www.rspb.org.uk 01767 680551
Royal Yachting Association	www.rya.org.uk 0845 345 0400
Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory Trust	www.sbbo.co.uk 01304 617341
Sandwich Bay Sailing and Water-ski Club	www.sandwichbay.co.uk 01304 611116
Sandwich Sailing and Motorboat Club	01304 617650
South East Coastal Group	www.se-coastalgroup.org.uk/
Surfers Against Sewage (SAS)	www.sas.org.uk/
Tides information	www.portoframsgate.co.uk/weather-and-tides/tide-times
Thanet (NEKMPA) Coastal Warden/Guardian Scheme	01843 577672
Thanet District Council - Foreshore	01843 577274
Thanet Water Users' Group (TDC-Foreshore)	01843 577274
Visitor Information	www.visitthanet.co.uk 01843 577577
Weather information	www.met-office.gov.uk or www.bbc.co.uk/weather
Your Leisureforce (for bay inspectors chalets)	www.yourleisure.co.uk 01843 296111

		Bathing a	Dog walking *	Horse riding b	Bait digging	Shore angling	Sailing w	Windsurfing and kitesurfing	Small fishing Boat w	Personal watercraft (jet-ski) w	Speedboats/ Water skiing w	Field trips	Car parking/ toilets/cafe
1	Reculver	(✓)	✓			✓							
2	Northern Sea Wall		✓	✓		✓			✓			✓	✓
3	Minnis Bay	✓	b	✓	✓	✓+p							
4	Grenham Bay		✓										
5	Beresford Gap									p	p		
6	Epple Bay												
7	West Bay, Westgate	✓	c		✓	✓	✓		✓e			✓	✓
8	St Mildred's Bay	✓	c		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓
9	Westbrook Bay	✓	c- lead	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		s
10	Margate Main Sands	✓	b	✓									✓
11	Margate Harbour					✓	hf+p		hf	✓			✓
12	Winter Gardens (Fulsam Rock)		✓										
13	Walpole Bay	(✓)	c- lead									✓	✓
14	Palm Bay		✓							j		✓	✓
15	Foreness Bay		✓										s
16	Botany Bay	✓	c										
17	Kingsgate Bay		✓										
18	Joss Bay	✓	c	✓								✓	s
19	Stone Bay	✓	c										s
20	Broadstairs Harbour					✓	h+p		h				✓
21	Viking Bay	✓	b										✓
22	Louisa Bay		c- lead									✓	s
23	Dumpton Gap		✓									✓	s
24	Eastcliff		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
25	Ramsgate Main Sands	✓	b										✓
26	Ramsgate Royal Harbour					✓	hL		L				✓
27	Western Undercliff	(✓)	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓
28	Pegwell Bay - NEW ACCESS RESTRICTION		Ban / lead		✓g							z	s
29	Sandwich Quay		✓				hL		hL				✓
30	Sandwich Bay (Toll Road)			d	✓	✓	p	✓d	p		p		





Reporting incidents

Help to report hazards and incidents straight away to enable the authorities to deal with any problems quickly.



Emergencies

Coastguard, Ambulance, Police or Fire call: 999

If someone appears to be in trouble in the water

Call 999 and ask for the Coastguard

Anti-social activities & vandalism

To report incidents of these call:

Kent Police Non Emergency Number: 101

Anti-Social Behaviour (Thanet): 01843 577888

Pollution (eg chemical waste, or oil spills)

If the incident is on the beach, above high water mark:

Environment Agency (24hr) hotline: 0800 807060

If the incident is in the sea, below high water mark:

Dover Coastguard operations: 01304 210008

Animals & Birds

If found stranded, injured or in distress on the beach:

BDMLR: 01825 765546 (for marine wildlife), or

RSPCA: 0300 1234 999

If dead, please do not touch or try to move, report to:

Thanet Coast Project: 01843 577672

(Out of office hours, call Thanet Council 577000)

For oil-affected seabirds, please take to a local vets:

Birchington Veterinary Centre: 01843 845347

Westgate Veterinary Centre: 01843 833017

Margate -Thanet Vets: 01843 226678

Broadstairs, Briar House: 01843 863395

Ramsgate Veterinary Surgery: 01843 591899

Rubbish

If you find rubbish dumped on the beach:

Thanet e-mail:

Streetcleansingteam@thanet.gov.uk

Contact Local Authorities – see below.

Dogs

Owners are required to clean up after their dog in all public places. Several beaches are dog free in the summer - see Thanet Coastal Codes or dog bylaws leaflets for details.

Contact Local Authorities – see below.

Local bylaws on the foreshore

Your local authority is responsible for local bylaws.

Note: in some cases a criminal offence may also have been committed, and the police may need to be involved. However, you should leave this decision to the Council.

Thanet District Council: 01843 577000

Dover District Council: 01304 821199

Canterbury City Council: 01227 862000

North East Kent



Marine Protected Area

nekmpa.org.uk



**working with people
for coastal wildlife**

TDC 07/19