

BEACH NAME	RAMSGATE MAIN SANDS
Location & general description	<div data-bbox="651 304 1359 699" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="1384 316 1939 379">Ramsgate Main Sands, Marine Esplanade, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 8LP</p> <p data-bbox="1384 416 2040 616">Popular sandy beach approximately 250 metres long with promenade. Deeper at town end narrowing towards East Cliff. Beach amenities are located at the town end. Rip tides can create issues around the harbour wall area. A large expanse of sand remains uncovered at all times.</p> <p data-bbox="1384 655 2018 719">The resort beach is situated next to the Royal Harbour and Marina. Lift, restaurant, bars, shops</p> <p data-bbox="658 722 1966 786">and amusements are all nearby. Backed by Royal Victoria Pavilion and large Royal Sands residential building site where work has been delayed which detracts significantly from amenity of beach.</p> <p data-bbox="658 823 1010 850"><u>Infrastructure Assessment:</u></p> <ul data-bbox="707 858 1928 1273" style="list-style-type: none"> • Promenade and railings - very good condition, patterned paving • Seating plentiful and in good condition • Stairway at north end in good condition • Lift in good condition • Children's Rides - equipment in good condition. Containers well painted. • Buildings: <ul data-bbox="801 1074 1928 1241" style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Boulevard and Beach kiosks - modern purpose-designed building in good condition (incorporating first aid point). Attractive curtilage with tables and chairs ○ Kiosk at toilets in good condition, could do with painting ○ Lifeguard Station - good, well maintained module on beach ○ Pavilion at southern entrance in poor condition, empty and becoming derelict • Open Shower: poor condition, uninviting

Applicable by-laws
(This a short description of
applicable by-laws. Full versions
are attached as Appendix 1)

Horse Riding – No riding on sea shore from 1st May to 30th September between 9.00 and 19.00 (except for children riding either horses or donkeys led or attended by a reasonable person on foot). No racing or causing danger or annoyance to persons using the beach at any time.

Use of Vehicles – No vehicles on beaches or promenade unless lawfully agreed by Council or exempt under by-law (wheeled bicycles, prams/pushchairs, wheelchairs, mobility scooters, emergency vehicles).

Cycling – No cycling on promenades between the hours of sunset and sunrise, or from 1 May to 30 September inclusive between the hours of 10.00am and 6.00pm. No riding anywhere in a manner likely to cause danger or annoyance to any person lawfully using any such promenades.

Begging, Touting and Hawking – No begging or touting (either verbally or through the distribution of handbills) on the seashore. No hawking on the seashore except in locations set apart and signed by the Council.

Ball Games – No ball games on the seashore except where any part of the seashore has been set apart and signed by the council for the playing of such games (involving the exclusive use of any space by the players).

Preaching, Lectures, Music and Entertainment – No preaching, lectures, music or entertainment on the seashore except where any part of the seashore has been set apart and signed by the council for such activities.

Booths and Tents – No booths or tents can be erected on the seashore for sales, promotion, shows, activities etc. except where any part of the seashore has been set apart and signed by the Council allowing the erection or placing of booths, tents, sheds, stands or stalls (whether fixed or movable), or vehicles.

Bonfires, Parties and Barbeques – No bonfires on the seashore. No parties and barbeques unless any part of the seashore has been set apart and signed by the Council for holding of parties or barbecues and the Chief Executive of the Council has been given 7 days prior notice or as soon as reasonably practicable after that time, specifying the site, date, time and duration of the party or barbecue. Any parties or barbeques must take place on the specified date, at the agreed location and for the agreed time.

Dogs – Dogs are not allowed on the beach at any time between 1st May and 30th September. All dogs on the promenade adjacent to the beach must be kept on a lead during this period. Dog owners should ensure their dogs are kept under control and do not cause distress to other users, and always clean up after their dogs(s).

All Thanet's beaches are covered by a series of coastal codes which reinforce the by-laws and advise on the conduct of other activities that fall outside the by-laws. The codes cover:

	Seashore Code Horse Riding Field Trips Wind-Powered Activities	Bait digging & collecting Marine Wildlife Watching Shellfish Harvesting & Fixed Netting	Dog Walking Powercraft Activities Shore Angling
	Details on each code can be found at the Thanet Coast Project web site – www.thanetcoast.org.uk		
Lifeguard	RNLI: Weekends and Bank Holidays from May 25th - September 8th. 2 lifeguards operating from RNLI lifeguard pod on beach plus safety equipment container. 34 recorded RNLI incidents in 2013 (28 minor first aid).		
Facilities/Services			
Toilets	The Bathing Station inc disabled toilets. Seasonal - open from 25 March to 29 Sept 8am to 8.30pm. Interior in reasonable condition, exterior needs painting Additional toilets in paved area behind the Pavilion.		
Food and retail outlets	The Boulevard and Beach cafes and Bathing Station kiosk Large number of food outlets in town centre and harbour area		
Beach huts/ chalets	None		
Attractions/ activities	Beach Inspector (seasonal) Shower Bathing Play area Dog walking (summer restrictions apply) Deckchairs and sun loungers for hire Children's rides Jet Skiing – at northern end, (Winterstoke area; Thanet Water User Group members only) Windsurfing, kitesurfing - at northern end (Winterstoke)		
Concessions	Kiosk 1 Marina Esplanade (seasonal) Kiosk 2 Marina Esplanade (seasonal) Kiosk 3 Marina Esplanade (seasonal) Play area Ramsgate Sands (seasonal) Deckchairs Ramsgate Sands (seasonal) RNLI - Use lifeguard store as part of water safety contract		
Cleansing	Not subject to excessive seaweed. Beach raked 1.5 times a week for 24 weeks of summer season.		

	<p>Mobile cleansing squad visit every day for 24 weeks of summer season – with additional visits when necessary due to heavy use.</p> <p>Litter picking every day for 24 weeks of summer season</p> <p>Bins emptied 2-4 times a day for the 24 weeks of summer season depending on need.</p>
Access	
Car Parking	Marina Esplanade car park 257 +14 disabled spaces. (Plus 980 + 60 disabled spaces in 9 car parks across town)
Disabled access	Beach Wheelchairs and boardwalk Disabled toilets open from the week before Easter to the end of September.
Other access	Access via harbour or from Esplanade on top of cliffs.
Footpaths	Thanet Coast Path
Cycle routes	Viking Coastal Trail + signed on-road cycle route to Ramsgate and Dumpton Park train stations
Signage	TDC Information Board - large number of other information and prohibition signs available to view on TDC GIS system.
Current Users	<p>Estimated 16,839 visitors in lifeguarded season (RNLI figs)</p> <p>Day visitors to beach – mainly families, youth groups</p>
Policy Criteria	
Water Quality	EA Higher Standard 2011/2012/2013. Phytoplankton blooms each spring can result in the water appearing discoloured or a foam forming on the water. The Winterstoke storm overflow is at the north of the beach and the Westcliff Pumping Station storm overflow at the south west corner of the harbour. There are also storm overflows in Pegwell Bay and the River Stour estuary.
Beach Award	Quality Coast Award 2011. Blue Flag Award 2010, 2012. Seaside Award 2013.
Planning Designation	Ramsgate Sands are designated a Major Holiday Beach in the 2006 Local Plan Saved Policies. The Council will support proposals for provision and upgrading of a wide range of facilities and services, subject to nature conservation designations. Any development would be permitted subject to there being no adverse impact on the openness and character of the Esplanade. The sea front buildings are part of the Ramsgate Conservation area and development must preserve and enhance their character.
Environmental Designation	Internationally important as part of the Thanet Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC), designated for its chalk reefs and cliffs in this area; and the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) designated for the wintering turnstone (coastal birds) which have occasional minor high tide roost sites in the area. The Thanet Coast Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) is a national designation that covers some features of the intertidal and sub-littoral zone. Together, these designations form the NE Kent

	<p>Marine Protected Area (NEKMPA). The shore (above low tide) is also part of the 'Thanet Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest' (SSSI) – which covers biological features such as the reef and sand communities, coastal birds (eg sanderling) and geological features of the chalk cliffs. A Site Management Statement agreement covers what work is allowed to take place and what requires assent from Natural England.</p>
Specific Management Issues	<p>Pavilion current empty, lease owned by Rank Pavilion lease is being sold by Rank to JD Wetherspoons (awaiting confirmation of legal issue); £3m refurbishment; would use two thirds of space, one third to be sub-let. Beachscape dominated by redundant housing development at foot of cliff on Royal Sands. Street drinkers use pavilion veranda. Vandalism of shelters and graffiti of buildings. Approaches to beach suffer from impact of night-time economy – Police dispersal area in place. Any development ideas to be discussed with town council and town team</p>

RAMSGATE MAIN SANDS – very large beach area blocked off from the harbour by the empty, fading Pavilion building and backed by incomplete housing development. Overall, beach infrastructure is of good design and in good repair. There are problems with groups of street drinkers around the Pavilion.	
Short Term Actions (2014 / early 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue discussions with potential tenants for the Pavilion with a view to coming to an agreement asap. • Replace open shower with better designed unit. • Discuss with Police and CSO's methods of reducing street drinking around the Pavilion. • Bring together the Town Council, local community groups and TDC officers to discuss ideas around creating a beach club/beach activity centre for visitors and residents.
Medium Term Actions (2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start to implement any agreed plans for beach club/centre development.
Long Term Actions (2016 and beyond)	