

**BEACH NAME****VIKING BAY**

Location &amp; general description



Viking Bay, Harbour Street, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1NB

Very popular town centre beach. Busiest bay in the district. Sandy beach approximately 150 meters long with cliff top promenade, harbour, pier and boardwalk and Tidal Pool. Large bather numbers during peak times. Large dip at water's edge meaning location of lifeguard viewing point is critical. Sunny in morning and early afternoon, shady in the afternoon.

Structure on cliff face at back of beach housing beach huts, lift and derelict cliff railway unsightly and in very poor condition. Large number of beach huts on the sand in front

of terrace.

**Infrastructure Assessment:**

- Promenade at southern end of Bay - very good condition
- Tidal Pool – In poor condition and not suitable for paddling due to location on chalk reef and flint stones, but good for viewing shore life including seaweeds
- Boardwalk in good condition
- Buildings:
  - Cliff Railway; in appalling condition, derelict, crumbling, collecting litter
  - Upper Terrace; unattractive surface, some cracks, paintwork needs refreshing
  - Mid and Lower Terrace; concrete failing in some places, some areas under stairs unattractive and unwelcoming and in poor repair
  - Lifeguard Station; good, well maintained module on beach
  - Bay Inspectors Office; in terrace, entrance in reasonable condition
  - Viking Bay Cafe in terrace in fair condition, painted with tables in front on beach
  - Beach Huts – Permanent Huts on terrace: decent exterior condition, some peeling paintwork, some understood to have water ingress; Private moveable wooden huts: good condition; Rented moveable

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>huts: fair condition</li> <li>○ Bucket and Spade Kiosk at foot of northern stairs in poor condition, shop signboard broken</li> <li>○ Ice cream kiosk on beach in reasonable condition</li> <li>○ Deck chair hire huts x 2 in good condition, well maintained</li> <li>● Children's Play Area - equipment in very good condition, container a bit tatty</li> <li>● Open Shower: poor condition, uninviting</li> <li>● Cliff top upper prom and gardens in good condition with attractive planting and street furniture</li> <li>● Lift - good condition</li> <li>● Stairways - both in decent condition, need painting</li> </ul>
<p>Applicable by-laws (This a short description of applicable by-laws. Full versions are attached as Appendix 1)</p>	<p><b>Horse Riding</b> – No riding on sea shore from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> 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.</p> <p><b>Use of Vehicles</b> – 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).</p> <p><b>Cycling</b> – 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.</p> <p><b>Begging, Touting and Hawking</b> – 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.</p> <p><b>Ball Games</b> – 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).</p> <p><b>Preaching, Lectures, Music and Entertainment</b> – 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.</p> <p><b>Booths and Tents</b> – 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.</p> <p><b>Bonfires, Parties and Barbeques</b> – 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.</p> <p><b>Dogs</b> – Dogs are not allowed on the beach at any time between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 30<sup>th</sup> September. All dogs on the</p>

	<p>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).</p> <p>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:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Seashore Code</td> <td>Bait digging &amp; collecting</td> <td>Dog Walking</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Horse Riding</td> <td>Marine Wildlife Watching</td> <td>Powercraft Activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Field Trips</td> <td>Shellfish Harvesting &amp; Fixed Netting</td> <td>Shore Angling</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wind-Powered Activities</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Details on each code can be found at the Thanet Coast Project web site – <a href="http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk">www.thanetcoast.org.uk</a></p>	Seashore Code	Bait digging & collecting	Dog Walking	Horse Riding	Marine Wildlife Watching	Powercraft Activities	Field Trips	Shellfish Harvesting & Fixed Netting	Shore Angling	Wind-Powered Activities		
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Lifeguard	Seasonal - RNLI: from May 24 <sup>th</sup> - September 7 <sup>th</sup> . 2 lifeguards from 24 <sup>th</sup> May to 12 <sup>th</sup> July – 4 from then onwards operating from RNLI lifeguard pod on the beach plus safety equipment container. 140 recorded RNLI incidents in 2013 (91 minor first aid, 9 major first aid, 30 missing/found).												
<b>Facilities/Services</b>													
Toilets	Toilet block in terrace at rear on beach - seasonal. Open from 25 March to 29 Sept - 9am to 9pm - inc. changing rooms - interior in reasonable condition, exterior part of overall shabbiness of terrace Blocks at Harbour Arm and Victoria Parade both open all year. Both inc. disabled toilets. Open Winter 8.00am to 5.05pm – Summer 8.00am to 9.00pm. Both decent inside, reasonable exterior												
Food and retail outlets	Cafes and restaurants on harbour arm, the esplanade and in the town Kiosks on beach												
Beach huts/ chalets	Seasonal/Annual Hire 122 (Permanent x 88, Temporary x 34); Private Plots 103 – Total 225												
Attractions/ activities	Bay inspector/information (seasonal) Shower Bathing Dog walking (summer restrictions) Children's play activities Deckchairs and sun loungers. Table tennis Surf school on site with board and wet suits for hire.												
Concessions	<b>Ice Cream Kiosk (seasonal)</b> <b>Chalet Kiosk (seasonal)</b>												

	<p><b>20/22/24 Harbour Street</b>  <b>Deckchairs/windbreaks/sunbeds (seasonal)</b>  <b>Surf/Waterski School (seasonal)</b>  <b>Trampoline and Swings (seasonal)</b>  <b>Waterloo Steps and 'C' Stacks (seasonal)</b>  <b>Newspaper Kiosk (seasonal)</b></p>
Cleansing	<p>Not subject to excesses of seaweed.  Beach raked 5 days out of every 7 for 24 weeks of summer season.  Mobile cleansing squad visit every day for 24 weeks of summer season – with additional visits when necessary due to heavy use.  Litter picking every day for 24 weeks of summer season  Bins emptied 3-5 times a day for the 24 weeks of summer season depending on need.</p>
<b>Access</b>	
Car Parking	<p>Albion Street car park 88 + 5 disabled spaces  Broadstairs Harbour car park 69 + 4 disabled spaces</p>
Disabled access	<p>Disabled access to beach  Beach Wheelchairs and boardwalk.</p>
Other access	<p>Access from various points via ramps, stairs and lift</p>
Footpaths	<p>Thanet Coast Path</p>
Cycle routes	<p>Viking Coastal Trail  Signed on-road cycle route to Broadstairs train station</p>
Signage	<p>TDC Information Board - large number of other information and prohibition signs available to view on TDC GIS system.</p>
<b>Current Users</b>	<p>Estimated 100,350 visitors in lifeguarded season (RNLI figs)  Families, older couples and small groups year round.</p>
<b>Policy Criteria</b>	
Water Quality	<p>EA Minimum Standard 2011, 2012, 2013 – although latest recording on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 measured Higher Standard. Phytoplankton blooms each spring can result in the water appearing discoloured or a foam forming on the water. Viking Bay bathing water could be affected by discharges from storm overflows that can occur when heavy rainfall overwhelms the sewerage system. The Winterstoke storm overflow at Ramsgate is less than 3 km to the south and the North Foreland storm overflow is offshore nearly 5 km to the north east. These outfalls are designed to protect bathing water compliance.</p>

Beach Award	Quality Coast Award 2010 / 2011 / 2012 Seaside Award 2013
Planning Designation	Viking Bay is 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 Broadstairs Conservation area and any 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; and the Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) designated for the wintering turnstone (coastal birds) which have high tide feeding areas and 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 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.
Coastal Defence	The long term aim is to <b>hold the line</b> continuing to maintain defences and assets where there is an economic justification. It is envisaged that this will be achieved through maintaining / upgrading the existing toe defences. (this arrests erosion at the cliff toe but not at the cliff top, although the rate of erosion is reduced). Where there currently are no defences in place, a policy of <b>no active intervention</b> is recommended, which will allow natural processes to take place i.e. erosion of the chalk cliffs and the fronting rock platform.
<b>Specific Management Issues</b>	Very busy / congested in summer Upper veranda and permanent chalets need maintenance – in poor condition with water egress. Old Cliff Railway building and lower terrace derelict and need to be redeveloped Anti-social behaviour especially May-June with young people and alcohol - post exam parties. Vandalism, chalets broken into. Beach user conflict with groups playing ball games. Pier jumping in summer. Temporary beach huts are currently placed in front of rear 'esplanade' but potential to move them. Retail 'bucket and spade' concession located in front of main stairway from town. Café/ beach bar with licence to serve alcohol with no enclosure for seating, Encourages consumption of alcohol across beach. Disabled toilet vandalised and not usable for 3 years Any development ideas to be discussed with town council and town team

**VIKING BAY** – the most popular Bay in the district heavily used in peak periods and well served by beach based and surrounding businesses and backed by an attractive and well maintained clifftop gardens and upper promenade. High numbers of visitors creates problems managing litter and some anti-social behaviour, particularly groups of youngsters using the beach for drinking both during the day and in the evening. Its quality a status as Thanets premier beach is badly undermined by structures at the back of the beach against the cliff wall. The Terrace housing permanent beach huts, toilets, changing rooms and other services is in a state of poor repair and needs regular attention; the old cliff railway is a crumbling eyesore, and the stairways down to the beach are in need of painting and minor repair. The refurbishment and redevelopment of the Terrace is a major investment. It should be an integral part of the beach infrastructure and activity, but instead is hidden behind a profusion of temporary beach huts placed in front of it on the sand. The small tidal pool is very unwelcoming, covered in algae and seaweed.

Short Term Actions (2014 / early 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide local businesses with cleansing schedule for the Bay and consult on the required number and placement of litter bins.</li> <li>• Repair sign for Bucket and Spade concession in Terrace.</li> <li>• Replace open shower with better designed unit.</li> <li>• Bring together the Town Council, local community groups and TDC officers to discuss the options for working up a comprehensive, long term solution to the condition of the built infrastructure at the Bay and its potential future management.</li> </ul>
Medium Term Actions (2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree joined up approach to the redevelopment of beach structures and future management options. Discuss options with potential investors.</li> </ul>
Long Term Actions (2016 and beyond)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement agreed redevelopment proposals.</li> </ul>