

BEACH NAME	ST. MILDRED'S BAY
<p>Location &amp; general description</p>	<div data-bbox="660 316 1294 671" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="1317 347 2040 411">St Mildred's Bay, Beach Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent, CT8 8DJ</p> <p data-bbox="1317 448 2051 616">Cliff lined sandy bay with promenade and tidal pool ideal for crabbing. Tidal bay with small amount of beach available except on spring tides. Backed by residential area close to foreshore. Facilities grouped around slipway which is used by Thanet Water User group.</p> <p data-bbox="654 651 2056 719">Redundant putting green and tennis courts behind beach offer open space and small landscaped area to east of the beach provides pleasant public realm.</p> <p data-bbox="654 754 1010 783"><u>Infrastructure Assessment:</u></p> <ul data-bbox="703 791 1984 1241" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promenade and railings - very good condition</li> <li>• Slipway - good condition</li> <li>• Buildings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bay Inspectors Hut: good condition</li> <li>○ Lifeguard Station: good condition</li> <li>○ Pavs Café: good condition, appealing, pleasant open space to side with chairs/tables</li> <li>○ Beach Café: unused and derelict;</li> <li>○ Beach Huts – Permanent Huts: poor condition, peeling paintwork, terrace in reasonable condition but unattractive concrete; Moveable Wooden Huts: good condition</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Open Shower: reasonable condition, but in uninviting position behind toilets</li> <li>• Green Space: decent area with benches in good condition</li> <li>• Shelter in poor condition with some graffiti</li> <li>• Car Park: surface in good condition, well marked</li> </ul>
<p>Applicable by-laws <i>(This a short description of</i></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</p>

*applicable by-laws. Full versions are attached as Appendix 1)*

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 cycling at any time between a point on the promenade opposite No.3 St.Mildred's Gardens to a point on the footbridge at the end of Old Boundary Road. 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 during the hours of 10.00 to 18.00 between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 30<sup>th</sup> 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 – <a href="http://www.thanetcoast.org.uk">www.thanetcoast.org.uk</a>		
Lifeguard	Seasonal - RNLI: July 12th - September 7th. Weekends + bank holidays from May 24th to 12 <sup>th</sup> July. 2 lifeguards in RNLI lifeguard pod on the prom plus safety equipment container. 19 recorded RNLI incidents in 2013 (12 minor first aid).		
<b>Facilities</b>			
Toilets	Yes inc. disabled toilets. All year. Winter open from 8am to 4.20pm. Summer 8am to 7.55pm. Reasonable condition.		
Food and retail outlets	The Beach Café (Privately owned- currently closed and poorly maintained) Pav's café (Privately owned – open all year)		
Beach huts/ chalets	Seasonal/Annual Hire 46 (Permanent x 26, Temporary x 20); Private Plots 34 – Total 80		
Attractions/ activities	Bay inspector / information (seasonal) Shower Bait digging Bathing (lifeguard summer only) Dog walking (summer restrictions) Paddling pool - sea water Shore angling Tennis on courts behind beach Slipway - Thanet Water Users Group launch sites for sailing, small fishing boats (no launching between 9am -6pm June to Sept). WW1 Lookout point over the bay (linked to former sea plane)		
Concessions	Pavilion on putting green empty but in TDC ownership and currently on the market.		
Cleansing	The shore can become covered with seaweed, depending on tides and the weather. Mobile cleansing squad visit every day for 24 weeks of summer season – with additional visits when necessary due to heavy use. Bins emptied 1-2 times a day for the 24 weeks of summer season depending on need.		

<b>Access</b>	
Car Parking	73 spaces off street car park + 5 disabled Large amount of restriction free on-street parking.
Disabled Access	Disabled access to the beach and disabled toilets open all year
Footpaths	Thanet Coast Path
Cycle routes	Viking Coastal Trail + signed on-road route to Westgate-on-Sea train station
Other Access	Train: Westgate-on-Sea station
Signage	TDC Information Board - large number of other information and prohibition signs available to view on TDC GIS system.
<b>Current Users</b>	Estimated 17,026 visitors in lifeguarded season (RNLI figs) Local use, bathers, families Nov: Mums & Toddlers; Seniors using Pav's Cafe
<b>Policy Criteria</b>	
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. There is one surface water outfall 500m to the west of the bathing water (Roxborough Road). Reduced water quality may persist in the area adjacent to the outfall for some time after rainfall has occurred. There is also one storm overflow that discharges alongside a slipway (St.Mildred's Bay storm overflow). Discharges occur when heavy rainfall overwhelms the sewerage system but the overflows are designed to ensure that bathing water is protected.
Beach Award	Quality Coast Award 2010 Blue Flag Award 2011 / 2012 / 2013
Planning Designation	For accommodation key issues – design, scale, impact on views. St Mildred's Bay is designated an Intermediate Beach in the 2006 Local Plan Saved Policies where appropriate, small scale development of a limited range of basic facilities (beach huts, kiosks, beach furniture etc) will be permitted subject to appropriate design.
Environmental Designation	St Mildred's Bay is 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 a minor high tide & night roosts around the bay. 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 from clifftop grassland, reef communities, shingle and mud/sandflat communities (west of Minnis), 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 present day policy is to <b>hold the line</b> , continuing to protect the densely populated hinterland and its substantial economic assets by maintaining the existing defences. With rates of sediment feed and transportation along this frontage being low, very little change in coastal processes or impacts on evolution are likely to occur.
<b>Specific Management Issues</b>	Beach Café privately owned but derelict. TDC may need to buy back from owner. Potential for redevelopment of beach hut/toilet area, but may lose some day beach hut capacity in favour of overnight huts – could cause some upset locally unless alternative sites found. Green open space (former putting green) unused – potential for accommodation? St Mildred’s Bay Beach Association need to be consulted on development ideas. Lots of blind spots behind beach huts/café/toilets – issues with child protection

<b>ST MILDRED’S BAY – attractive beach in pleasant residential area badly let down in its appeal by the dereliction of the empty Beach Cafe and the poor quality of the public realm in which it and the permanent beach huts, toilets and open shower sit. Good all year round café and steady use by walkers and cyclists provides a human presence all year round.</b>	
Short Term Actions (2014 / early 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open discussions with the owner of the Beach Café to understand their intentions for the property</li> <li>• Commission Development Brief for consultation with local residents and business on development and improvement options and preparation of detailed report</li> </ul>
Medium Term Actions (2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss development brief findings with businesses interested in investment</li> <li>• Draw up and let lease for development and management of site</li> </ul>
Long Term Actions (2016 and beyond)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement redevelopment</li> </ul>