

Thanet Beach and Coast Code of Conduct



Respect our beaches, wildlife, and other beach users

- Leave no trace. Respect our beaches as the natural habitats they are first and foremost. This means binning any rubbish you generate, or taking it home with you. Do not leave rubbish next to bins, this is littering and you will get a fine if caught.
- Observe the water safety guidance for your safety and that of others, especially swimmers.
- Keep a respectful distance between you and other beach users, especially when playing games, and don't interfere with other people's enjoyment of the beach.
- Do not feed the seagulls! This means not leaving food open and lying around. The more food there is, the more seagulls will come, and they can become aggressive.

Abide by our rules for other activities for everyone's safety and enjoyment of the coast.

Or visit: thanet.gov.uk/bandcpspo



Items covered under a new Public Spaces Protection Order: Code of Conduct for specific activities

Obstruction of the promenade (including vehicles/driving of vehicles)

- No motorised or electric vehicles may be parked or driven on the promenades or beaches as follows, unless permission has been granted by the council and evidence of this can be produced.
- This includes cars, vans, lorries, trucks, motorcycles, scooters, segways and any other motorised vehicles (with the exception of mobility scooters and electric bicycles).
- No deliveries to concessions after 10am.
- No obstruction may be caused at any time to the promenade by vehicles or any other structure or object, which impedes access by emergency services or council vehicles.



Cycling

At any time of year between the hours of sunrise and sunset, and from 1 May to 30 September inclusive between the hours of 10am and 6pm, a person shall not ride any cycle on any of the promenades where localised signage requires you to dismount.



You must adhere to the signs which vary around the coast. This is for the purposes of health and safety and the enjoyment of others in busy areas.

- A cycle means a bicycle, a tricycle or a cycle having four or more wheels, including one power-assisted by electrical (or other means not being in any case a motorcycle or motor vehicle.) Please refer to our safe cycling guide, which includes tips for where you will need to dismount regardless of signage, ie beach huts mean dismount, and rules for electric powered bikes and scooters, disability scooters.
- Localised rules around where cycling along proms is permitted may be changed seasonally as required for events, or under exceptional circumstances.
- Please adhere to dismount, slow signs and other local requirements.
- Look for the signage on the promenade, adjacent to facilities and at entry to the beaches and bays for instructions.

Bonfires, barbecues, balloon and sky lantern releases, and large gatherings

- Bonfires are not permitted on any of the council's land at any time. BBQs are not permitted on any of the council's land, however are permitted on beaches after 6pm.
- Balloon and sky lantern releases are not permitted on council land.
- Parties and large gatherings are not permitted on the council's beaches without prior permission. Large organised groups of 20 or more need to seek permission first. Contact the council's Beach and Coast Team on 01843 577000, Monday to Friday, 9am until 5pm.



Rules and regulations regarding barbecues and gatherings:

- Barbecues are not permitted until after 18:00 and must be set up on beach/promenade away from cafés, concessions or any other buildings. They must be extinguished by 10pm.
- It is extremely important that any remaining cinders from the barbecues are extinguished. Please make sure you remove them from the beach and promenade areas, do not place them in the beach bins as they are not fit for this purpose. Please do not bury them as this is a danger to other beach users.
- We would prefer you use custom-built or oil drum barbecues if possible but not gas please. Disposable BBQs are not permitted.
- Under no circumstances are open bonfires to be built on the beach.
- Please make sure you leave the beach in a clean and tidy condition. If the bins are full please take your rubbish with you.
- People are asked to ensure that minimum nuisance is caused to nearby houses by making sure adequate transport and/or supervision is provided when people are leaving the area.
- We would request that no glass to be taken onto the beach or approach areas.
- The use of generators or marquees is not permitted.
- Be advised that camping is not allowed on any of our land; see rule on camping.
- Public conveniences will not be open so you must consider what arrangements you will make for this using other nearby amenities.

Begging, touting, hawking and selling

Begging, touting, hawking and selling is not permitted anywhere on Thanet's beaches, promenades and coast. This includes:

- Begging or soliciting for money*
- Advertising any article verbally or by the distribution of leaflets, flyers, circulars or advertisements of any kind
- Flyposting and other fixed notices on railings, posts or other street furniture without prior permission from the Beach and Coast Team, and a fee may be chargeable for this. Notices must be taken down within an agreed period.
- Selling goods, products or services without prior permission of the council.

(*The act of begging is deemed as either approaching people for money, or being stationary and asking for money, or positioned on the floor to invite the offer of money or goods.)



Horse riding

Horse riding is not permitted:

- Between 1st May and 30th September, between the hours of 9am and 7pm.
- At any time in a race or so as to cause danger or annoyance to any persons using the seashore or foreshore to break-in any horse.
- Or at any time, all year round, within Pegwell Bay (Sandwich & Pegwell National Nature Reserve).



Avoid getting close to the summer bird breeding grounds and main winter roosts on the shingle beaches between Minnis Bay and Reculver.

These rules do not apply to children either riding horses or donkeys led by attended a responsible person on foot.

Riders are reminded:

- To clear up the beach/promenade/slipway after the ride.
- When leaving the beach please use the relevant slipways, avoiding the main promenade areas at all times.
- Riders must adhere to the no galloping/racing rule and show due consideration to other beach/promenade users at all times.

Encampments

Camping or the erection of any structure (including but not exclusive to vehicles, tents, yurts, marquees and any other temporary building) being used to occupy land is not permitted on beaches, promenades, clifftops, nearby green spaces, car parks and surrounding areas of the public realm without prior consent of the Council.

Overnight parking is not permitted for any reason without prior consent of the council at any of the following locations along our coast: on green spaces above or next to bays, promenades, beaches, or in our beach car parks (paid or unpaid). This applies to camper vans and caravans, motorhomes, marquees, tents and cars with trailer tents.



Preaching, lectures, music and entertainment, sporting events, other events

Lectures, speeches, sermons, live music and other types of entertainment performances/shows etc are not permitted, unless prior permission has been granted by the Council as per our events policy.

In any case any activities of the kind, including filming and photo shoots, intended to be held on the beach/coast need prior permission from the council's Communications Team and Beach/Coast Team.



Other actions which have a detrimental impact on the quality of life of others in the locality

- Urination, defecation, spitting or littering are not permitted
- Drinking alcohol in a public place, after being told not to: No person shall consume alcohol or have an open alcohol container in any public place after having been requested by an Authorised Officer or Police Constable to cease consumption or hand over the container. This provision does not apply to alcohol being consumed on licensed premises.
- Ingesting, inhaling, injecting, smoking or otherwise using drugs or substances reasonably believed to be psychoactive substances.
- Possessing or releasing any canister containing compressed gas



Beach recreational activities

Please visit the Thanet Coast Project website

<https://thanetcoast.org.uk/factfile/thanet-coastal-codes> to read and understand the rules on general recreational activities and the harvesting/gathering of items from the beach and or surroundings, including:

- Marine Wildlife Watching Code
- Seashore Code
- Bait Digging & Collecting Code
- Shellfish Harvesting and Fixed Netting Code
- Shore Angling Code
- Seaweed Harvesting Code
- Fossil Code
- Main Recreational Activities Location Map



The following websites also provide additional information to consider when enjoying Thanet's coast:

- Dog Walking on the Thanet Coast - <https://thanetcoast.org.uk/projects-and-issues/dog-walking-on-the-thanet-coast>
- Rockpooling Guidelines/Advice - <https://finds.org.uk/>
- Online permission for Metal Detecting on the Thanet Coast <https://bit.ly/2NBYSMU>

Balloon and sky lantern releases are not permitted on council land. Please find alternative ways to celebrate or mark an occasion.

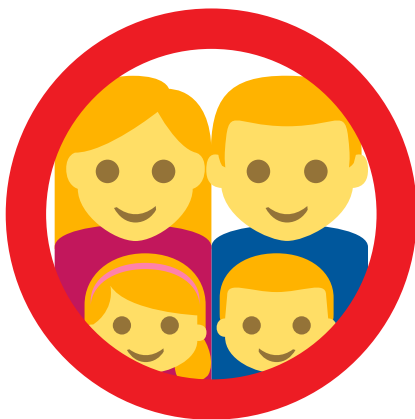
Advice can be found on the following sites:

- www.mcsuk.org/campaigns/dont-let-go
- www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/litter/balloon-and-sky-lantern-alternatives

School and organised trips

Any individual or group, including schools, who is planning an organised trip to our coast must notify us of their intention to do so.

Please read our Field Trip Code at <https://thanetcoast.org.uk/learning/formal-zone-schoolgroup-visits/> for advice on organised trips to our coast, including a notification form.



Water sports

The Walpole Bay Tidal Pool is for bathing only, no watersports or craft are permitted in the tidal pool unless written permission has been granted by the council. This is to ensure activities are managed safely, those applying to use the pool will need to produce risk assessments, safe working practices and evidence of insurance.

Please visit

<https://thanetcoast.org.uk/factfile/thanetcoastal-codes>
to read and understand the rules in relation to respecting coastal wildlife.

