

Access Statement for Margate Main Sands



July 2015

This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer all our guests/visitors.

Welcome

Margate Main Sands is a 200m long sandy beach situated along the main seafront at Margate. This timeless beach with tidal pool, children's rides and amusement arcades caters for anyone who wants traditional seaside fun and entertainment. Even if the tide is in there is still plenty of beach to make sand castles.

Beach Within Reach wheelchairs are available from the Bay Inspectors office if required. Should you require any information about this service please contact Beach Within Reach on 07432 648279 or visit their website <https://beachwithinreach.wordpress.com/>

This beach offers good rail and road link, with several car park areas close to the seafront which include blue badge spaces. The nearest car park is available at Dreamland, Belgrave Road, Margate CT9 1XG, where 400 spaces are available.

We look forward to welcoming you to our area. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01843 577274 or email: LeisureServices@THANET.GOV.UK

Planning you visit

For directions to Margate Main Sands or for any other queries please ring our Visitor Information Centre on 01843 577577 or email them at - visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk.

For online details please go to our Tourism website:
www.visitthanet.co.uk.

If you're planning your visit by public transport using Traveline www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk or coming by car use the following postcode CT9 1XJ.

Train

The nearest railway station is Margate train station which is situated 200m away from the beach.

Information about the accessibility of the station can be found at:
www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/sjp/MAR/stationOverview.xhtml

There is a taxis rank located to the right of the train station.

Nearest bus stops are located in Cecil Square which is approximately 0.5miles away (15 minutes from the seafront).

There is frequent bus services available with Stagecoach running the Thanet Loop service every 7-10mins and uses low floor 'East Accessible' buses for more details contact them on: 08456 00 22 99 or 01227 812409 (Typetalk calls welcome).

Breeze No.8 service runs every 15mins from Canterbury to Westwood, via Margate.

Other bus services are available in and around the Thanet area, please contact our Visitor Information Centre for further details.

Car

The nearest car park is Dreamland the entrance to which is located in Belgrave Road, Margate CT9 1XG. There are 400 spaces available which include Blue Badge spaces.

The car park is a level tarmac area and the route to the main seafront is a level paved walkway.

There are 3 accessible crossing areas from the car park to the promenade with tactile paving and dropped kerbs. These are located near the Clock Tower, the Station roundabout and Nayland Rock.

Other car parks are located in and around the town Centre for further details please refer to the Councils website and the parking pages: - <http://thanet.gov.uk/your-services/parking/parking-charges/fees-and-charges-on-street-parking>.

Drop off Point

Easy access to the beach is available if the Bus Stop adjacent to the pavement in Marine Drive to the left of the Clock Tower.

Visitor Information

The Visitor Information Centre is located in Droit House, Stone Pier, Margate CT9 1JD.

The approach to the building is flat and there is an accessible entrance located at the side of the building with an automatic outward opening door.

They can provide a low level counter; hearing loop system and magnifying sheet and assistance dogs are welcome.



Droit House



Visitor Information Centre

Areas Adjacent to the Beach

The promenade and main highway runs adjacent to the beach.

The promenade is part of the Viking Coastal Trail and has a shared access route with line markings and pictogram advisory signs to highlight this.

The surface is a combination of paving and tarmac and is approximately 4000mm (13.12ft) in width.

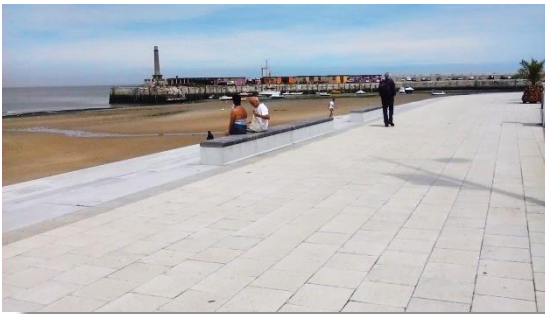
There are 3 benches sited along the promenade and a further 5 on the sundeck area adjacent to the toilet block and Shelter, all benches have arms.

At the other end of the beach near the pier there is a large stepped area which has a further 4 long concrete seats without arms or back support.

Decorative railings run the full length of the promenade with handrails at each entrance to the beach



Sundeck Benches



Benches above the Revetment Steps

Beach Access Points

There are 10 access points around the beach consisting of 7 sets of steps and 3 concrete sloped areas + 1 wooden ramped access, positioned at various points,

All access points have handrails

The nearest access point to the beach is 500m (546yd) from the car park.



Wooden Sloped Access

On the Beach

The beach consists of mainly sand with a stone pier and working Harbour situated at one end and a Tidal pool at the other.

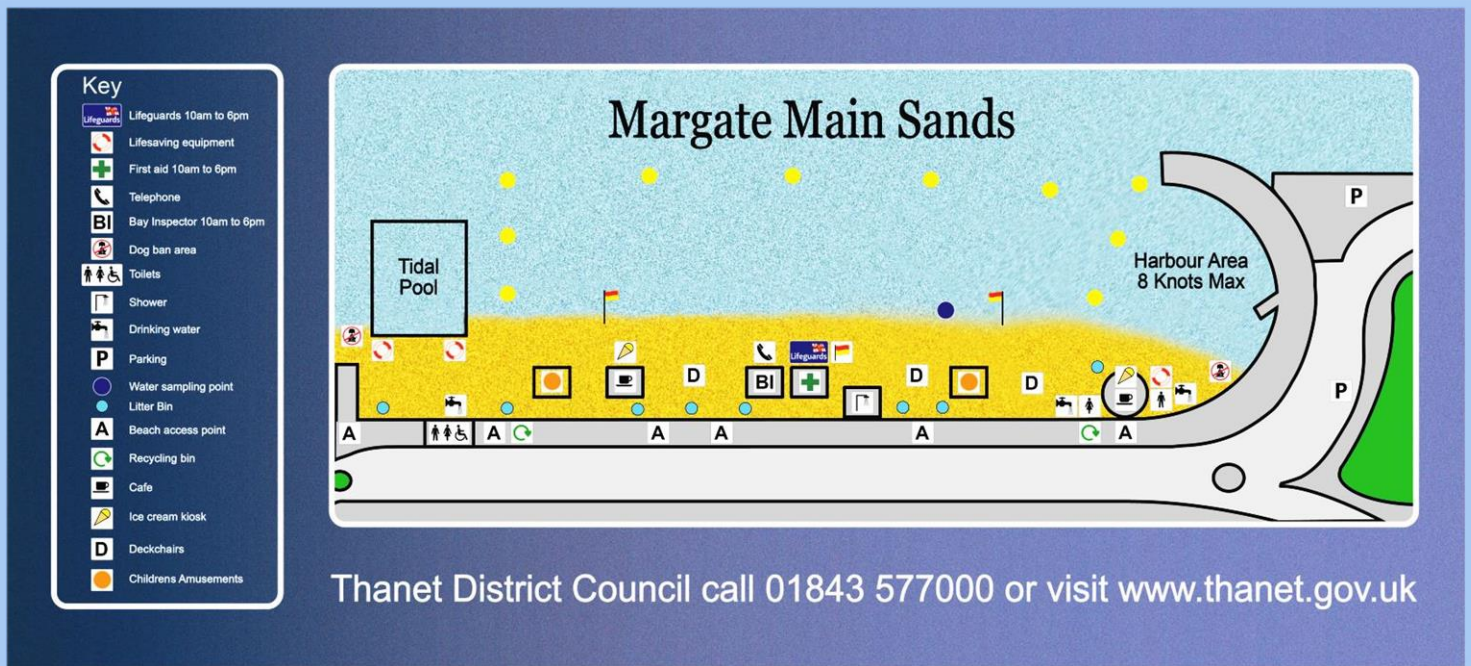
RNLI lifeguards are on the beach between May to September and operate between the hours of 10am until 6pm. They are sited in a special lifeguard pod between the Bay Inspector office and the Round Cafe.

There is a Bay Inspector situated in a building sited in the middle of the beach made visible by the beach award flag.

Deckchairs, Sun loungers and Windbreaks are available from 2 buildings on either end of the beach.

2 Beach Within Reach Wheelchairs are available for use on this beach and are located at the Bay Inspectors beach office.

There is external drinking water tap and 2 cold water showers on the beach positioned as shown on the beach information map.



Beach Information Map



Beach & Visitor Information Signs

Public Toilets

Public toilets are clearly signed and can be found on the main pedestrian walkway adjacent to the large Promenade Shelter dedicated to T.S. Elliot.

The building has a unisex accessible toilet which requires a RADAR key to open it.

Radar keys are available to purchase through our Visitor Information Centre situated in Droit House at the stone pier end of the beach and also in the Council office/Gateway building at Cecil Square. A key can also be made available from the Bay Inspectors office (flying the Seaside Award flag) located in the middle of the beach.

There is a ramped entrance to the accessible toilet which is 1200mm (3.97ft) wide.

The entrance door is 800mm (2.62ft) in width and the door open inwards.

There is a clear floor space up to 1200 x 1200mm (3.97ft x 3.97ft) and there is a right hand transfer to the WC.

The height of the WC from the floor is 55cm (1ft 9”).

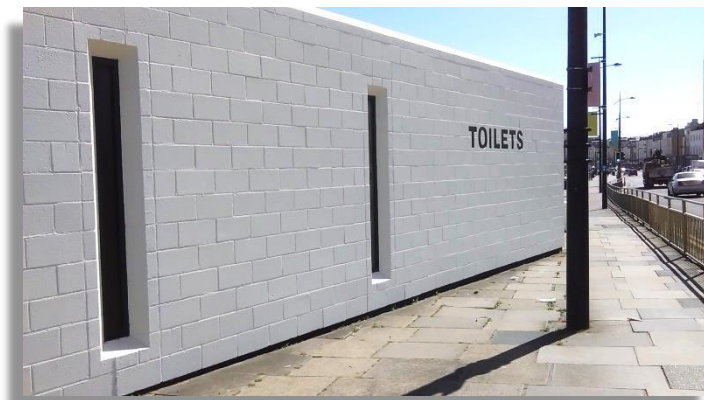
Both vertical and horizontal rails are available by the WC and the hand basin.

There is no hot water supply to the hand basin despite what is indicated on the taps. Both taps turn to operate.

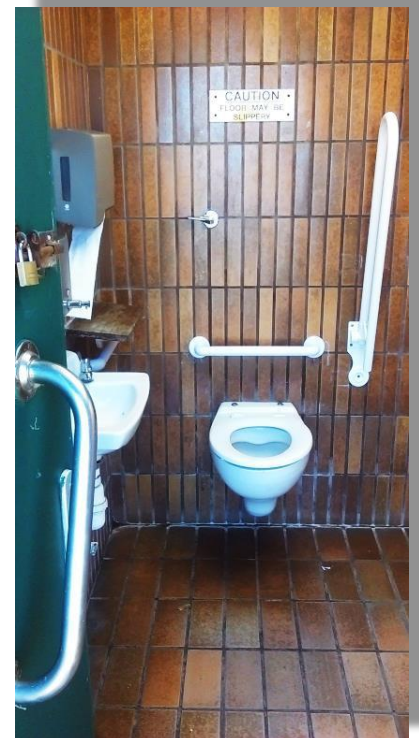
A baby changing area is available in the Ladies Toilets in the same toilet block.

Changing places WC will be available to access shortly and will be situated a short distance away in the access to Dreamland adjacent to the beach. This will be open to the public and will be free of charge, please contact us for further details.

For all details on public toilets on or around our seafronts please go to the Councils website and click on the following links - <http://thanet.gov.uk/your-services/street-care-and-cleaning/public-toilets/lists-of-toilets-in-thanet/>



Main Toilet Block Housing Disabled Toilet



Food & Drink Outlets

There is a round cafe sited at the Clock Tower end of the beach which has a ramped entrance to the balcony and also a ramped access to the lower sundeck on the beach.

It also offers a shared ladies / accessible toilet and the key is available to patrons from the serving counter.



Marine Sands Cafe

Beach Attractions/Activities

Beach Within Reach Wheelchairs are available from the Bay Inspectors beach office. There are 2 chairs on site which are free of charge however; any donations for this worthwhile charity would be gratefully received.

Children's rides are accessible by a wooden walkway.

Pier

The Stone Pier at Margate is accessible on a lower walkway harbour side which is step free.

The surface is tarmac and is level. However it is a working harbour and therefore has no railings around the edge of the pier.

There are 7 Blue Badge Holder parking bays located nearby adjacent to the Turner Contemporary; there are no time or other restrictions on these bays.

Alternatively there is Pay and Display parking along the accessible area of the Harbour Arm. This is a privately run car park therefore Blue Badges cannot be used here.

An accessible toilet is available half way down the pier, a radar key is required.

There is 1 bench in the middle and 1 at the far end of the pier seaward side.

For full details of the food and drink outlets on the Stone Pier please use the following link:

<http://www.margateharbourarm.co.uk/>



Stone Pier, Margate Harbour

Additional Information

1. Dogs are not allowed on this award winning beach from 1 May to 30 September. All other times, they are dog friendly.
2. This restriction does not apply to registered users of assistance dogs. Additional advisory signs to highlight this are in place at the 2 main entrance points. Please have the identification your dog should you be asked for clarification.
3. TDC staff, senior Your Leisure staff and the RNLI Supervisors have all received Visit England awareness training.

card for



4. Available Mobility Hire and Services in the area are as follows:-

- ✚ Safe Hands (Birchington Mobility Centre), 4 Albion Road, Birchington, Kent, CT7 9DN they supply for hire scooters, manual and electric wheelchairs. - Tel: +44 (0) 1843 848208 www.safehandsmobility.co.uk
- ✚ Shopmobility, Westwood Cross, Margate Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2BF - Tel: +44 (0) 1843 871444 www.westwoodx.co.uk/shops/shopmobility
- ✚ First Choice Mobility, 131 Canterbury Road, Westbrook, Margate, Kent CT9 5BD - Tel: +44 (0) 1843 292136 www.1stchoicemobility.co.uk

Future Plans

Bollards on pedestrian routes will have the top banded areas repainted with more visible contrasting colour.

Review width of ramp to accessible toilet, position of handrails beside hand basin and install handrail seaward side. Also ascertain the possibility of changing door to open outwards and the inclusion of an emergency cord.

Reinstate damaged boardwalk at ramped entry points.

Feedback

We are always looking for ways to improve the service we provide our visitors, so please contact us if you have any comments or suggestions about this access statement or anything else that you think can improve your visit to us:

Contact Information

Address (Inc. postcode): Thanet District Council P.O. Box 9 Cecil Street
Margate Kent CT9 1XZ

Telephone: 01843 577000

Email: customer.services@thanet.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.thanet.gov.uk/>

Grid Reference: TR 35416 70826

Hours Of Operation: Monday to Thursday 08.45am to 5.30pm - Friday
08.45am to 5pm - Thanet Gateway Plus open on
Saturday 09.00am until 5pm

Local Accessible Taxi: Taxi - Central Cars offer an accessible taxi service.
Please call in advance (01843) 88 88 88

Local Public Transport: Public Transport: Buses - Most of the routes
operated by stagecoach use low floor 'Easy Access'
buses which are wheelchair accessible. Please
contact Stagecoach for more information.

Helpdesk: Tel: 08456 00 22 99 or 01227 812409
(Typetalk calls welcome)

Email: KENTSUSSEX.DISABILITYHELPDESK@STAGECOACHBUS.COM