

Details for the day, Thanet Seashore and Fossil Codes:

The rock sequence is beautifully structured as an Alpine “mini-mountain”, creating high, still-unprotected chalk cliffs that display spectacular coastal erosion as well as the accretion of sand dunes in recent years which are now covered by vegetation. Take a step back in time as we uncover the secrets of this beautiful and important coastal landscape where we can enjoy a natural history intertwined with social history. The field trip is based on the new Smugglers Trail guidebook by Richard Hubbard & Geoff Downer, published by GeoConservation Kent and will involve a 3 hour walk and talk along the foreshore and cliff top.

The walk starts and finishes at the Captain Digby pub on the Kingsgate Bay cliff top and car parking is provided at no cost. [see address below]

Meet: 9.45 for 10am and expect to be walking for 3 – 4 hours depending on the level of detail the group would like to see/visit.

Refreshments: Packed lunch or alternatively table to be booked for lunch at the Digby for 1.30/2pm for numbers as required.

Low water is at noon so perfect timing to be heading out 2 hours below LW.

The group should be prepared for a walk up and down stairs to/from the beach and a walk along the foreshore across the slippery seaweed-covered chalk shore platform with difficult to walk over flint nodules in places.

Strong walking shoes, rather than Wellington Boots, are recommended. Please wear a water proof outer layer with warm clothing underneath as this NE corner of Kent catches cold northerly winds straight from Scandinavia on a cold day.

Always good to take a drink and bar of chocolate (or similar) as at this time of year, the beach cafés may be closed. The public toilet at Botany Bay should be open at this time of year. I will arrange for group members to have access to the Digby toilets before we set off and obviously the toilets are available when we complete the walk at lunchtime.

The Thanet Seashore Code says;

Respect our Coastline. Protect yourself and others. Enjoy our beautiful beaches and leave only your footprints in the sand. The chalk shore platform is a highly protected environment so no hammers are allowed but photographs are encouraged. The Thanet Coast project helps to raise awareness of the unique coastline with its unusual rock types, fauna, flora and birdlife. Take a few minutes to read the signage and be a responsible beach visitor. See thanet.coast@thanet.gov.uk

Always start on a falling tide.

Wear suitable clothing for the day and always wear strong walking shoes.

Beware: the chalk cliffs are unstable, avoid cliff edges and faces. Even hardhats do not help if you find yourself in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The Thanet Coast Fossil Code says:

Fossil Finds:

You can collect one or two samples of the typical fossils found on our beaches such as Micraster, Echinocorys, Inoceramus, Spondylus, Marsupites, sponges and belemnites.

Unusual Finds:

Remember to report the precise location and position in the cliff/reef where unusual finds are collected. These include large Parapuzosia ammonites, fish fossils, Ptychodus shark teeth, ray jaws and fossil crabs and lobsters.

If unsure, please let the Thanet Coast Project know.

Details for the start/finish of the guided walk.

<https://www.captaindigby.co.uk/>

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