



# Environmental Education Activities 2026

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# Marine, coastal and more general environmental education sessions (for all ages) from a new Coastal Classroom in Whitstable Harbour

2026 will see the opening of a new education space on Whitstable Harbour's South Quay.

The space is set to host a suite of related educational opportunities, brought together by stakeholders including the RNLI, Whitstable Maritime, Whitstable Oyster Company, Bird Wise and many more, delivered from one new, central space.

The new classroom space is set to have a fixed display space downstairs as well as a full equipped classroom for up to 40 pupils upstairs.

The new facility is predominantly aimed at the primary age range, KS1 (5 to 7 years) and KS2 (7 to 11 years) but the space will also be used for other educational sessions geared towards all age groups.

To find out more or to enquire about school education sessions, please contact Foreshore Services on **01227 266 719** or email **[foreshore.services@canterbury.gov.uk](mailto:foreshore.services@canterbury.gov.uk)**



# North-East Kent Marine Protected Areas (NEKMPA) management and citizen science projects

Parts of Canterbury City Council's 15km/9.3 mile coastline is internationally recognised for its importance to both bird and marine life with numerous nature conservation designations across the area.

Tens of thousands of people live, work and play in and around our coastal waters and many thousands more visit each year.

The NEKMPA management group monitors and manages these sensitive sites and areas.

A Coastal Warden scheme looks to monitor the effect users have on these sensitive areas including the activities taking place. Made up of citizen scientists, it examines whether an activity harmed the important coastal features and wildlife. It also decides what to do about it. The scheme was developed through a series of workshops involving those who participate in the

various activities to help make decisions about the future management of the coastline.

The NEKMPA has two management tranches: the Scientific Group, looking at academic research, and the Management Group.

Information and interpretation boards are found along the extent of our coastal areas. There is a NEKMPA ([Thanet Coast Project](#)) website with information about the important habitats, marine and bird life around the coast.

Note, this project straddles council boundaries and links with other key groups such as Kent Wildlife Trust, local councils in the South East and many more

[BirdWise](#) is a conservation partnership looking to minimise bird disturbance, particularly our protected wintering bird species.

The website includes information about Coastal Codes and Coastal Canine Clubs.



# British Diver Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) – training and support events

British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) has been involved in the rescue of marine wildlife since 1988.

Canterbury City Council has been working with local BDMLR coordinators for several years now and continue to work with and, where possible, facilitate their training needs, particularly with regard to the Marine Mammal Medic training programme.

For 2026, the charity has confirmed its intention to run further training days due to the success of previous seasons; including a mass stranding exercise. We hope to link this training with the local maritime emergency services.

The charity's training sessions/days are advertised externally by the charity itself.

These are popular events that get booked very quickly.

Awareness of the charity's work is aimed at all members of the public with the general aim of improving awareness of the UK's marine mammals and what to do if you do find an animal in difficulty.

Specifically, the Marine Mammal Medic training is available to volunteers who are 16 or older, partner agencies and associates including trainee Vets from Royal Veterinary College.



# Water quality improvements and awareness

Canterbury City Council continues to work in partnership with Southern Water, local coastal clubs and groups, and alongside volunteers from local water quality campaign groups. We all work to improve local bathing water quality for all coastal users.

This is an on-going and continuing project from previous years that will be continued into the next bathing season (15 May until 30 September).

Key elements of this work include:

- field data collection and analysis of water collected samples
- trailing new analytical technologies to assess and monitor water quality including mobile lab sampling - a citizen science project
- Pathfinder project.

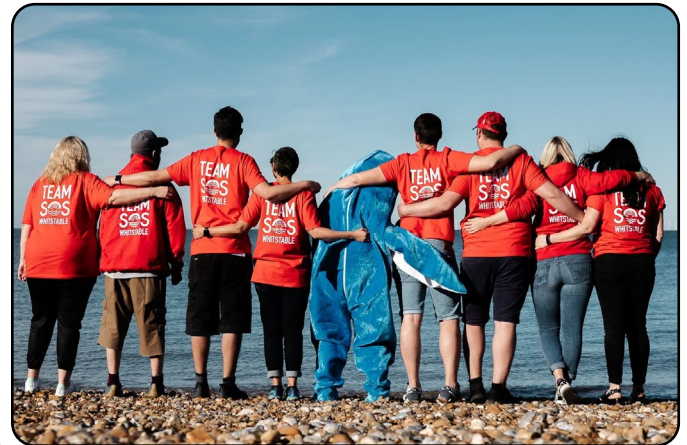
The Pathfinder project includes small, community-focused schemes designed to test new ways of reducing storm overflow releases and flooding. Details on the local project are found [here](#).

The over-riding aim of all water quality related project work is to improve bathing water quality, increase understanding and improve public awareness and confidence in local bathing water quality and the water companies themselves.

Practical sampling is carried out by volunteers including weekly citizen science water testing throughout the bathing season and beyond. Press releases often provide national coverage on the topic. Webpages belong to organisation and campaign groups.

This project work concerns all coastal users but particularly those entering the water and those concerned about water quality and their health.

This project also has links to other local marine industries, particularly local fishing and shellfish farming.



# Beach Cleaning Programme (SAS/MCS), Whitstable Harbour Day plus national/ international awareness days

Canterbury City Council supports, facilitates and delivers beach cleaning sessions both independently and in partnership with national marine conservation organisations.

This is aimed at promoting a wider environmental awareness of our marine and coastal habitats through beach surveying, litter picks and incorporated education sessions.

The target is always to improve knowledge, understanding and awareness by getting as many people as possible involved and taking positive action for their local marine and beach environment.

Information boards along the coast display related materials.

Look on social media for local beach clean events that have been organised.

To find out more about organising your own litter pick, visit the [council's website](#).

**Whitstable Harbour Day** – is a one-day celebration event of our town's maritime heritage, talent and vibrant coastal culture.

It is open for visitors of all ages and anyone with a particular interest in maritime heritage and culture.

This event has its own website [whitstablemaritime.org.uk](http://whitstablemaritime.org.uk) in addition to posters and leaflets for the events.

