

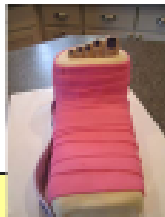


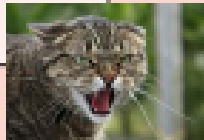






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# National Trust approach to Visitor Safety Risk Assessment



					
	Severity x Likelihood	Moderate	Serious	Extreme	
	Remote	Trivial risk	Minor risk	Moderate risk	
	Possible	Minor risk	 Moderate risk	Substantial risk	
	Likely	Moderate risk	Substantial risk	Intolerable risk	

# Site risk assessment form

<b>Property</b>	South Devon	<b>Location</b>	South Milton Sands – SX 677 414	<b>Ref No.</b>	
<b>Department</b>	Coast and Countryside	<b>Head of Department</b>	Richard Snow	<b>Date</b>	14.02.2024
<b>Activity</b>	Beach safety risk assessment.				

## Description:

South Milton Sands is a flat sandy beach about 650 meters long which faces West and is edged by shallow cliffs to the North. The National Trust owns and manages the beach area as outlined within the marked area shown on map, see Appendix A. The remaining area of the beach which includes the section of cliffs to the North is jointly owned and managed by SHDC and six privately owned homes.

The SW Coast path runs behind the beach alongside a sandy vehicle access track, with a National Trust car park halfway along and a small Trust owned tenanted café, and public toilets managed by the local authority. The main access to the beach is via two boardwalks through the sand dunes, one opposite the car park and the other opposite the café.

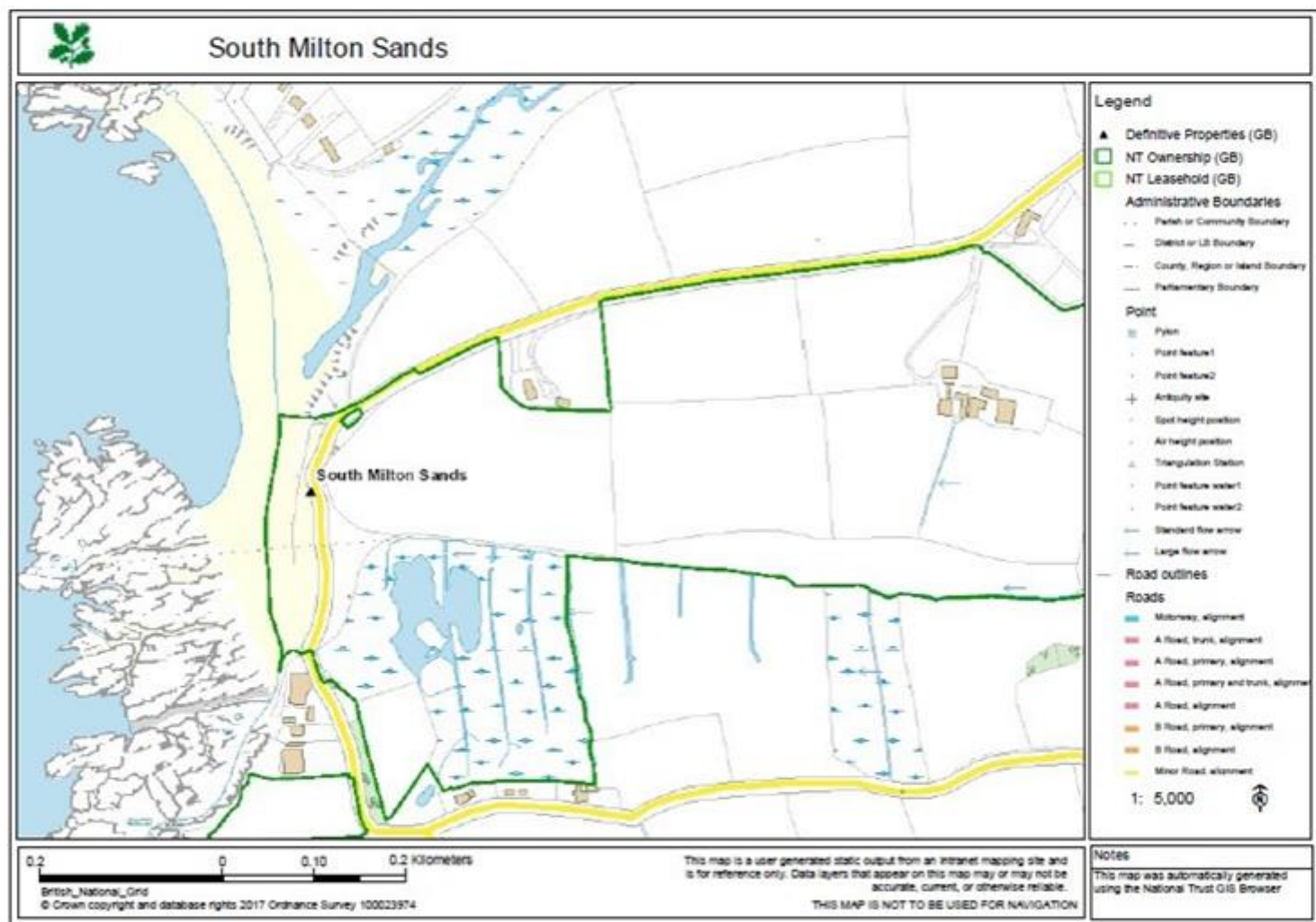
The beach is used by walkers/dog walking; bathing/sun-bathing; small boats may anchor/beach; and a wide variety of water sports, including but not limited to stand up paddle boarding, kite surfing, wind surfing, bodysurfing and kayaking. There is a seasonal watersports business based on the beach (located next to the main boardwalk), operating on a National Trust licence between Easter and October, the business provides their own separate risk assessment for their operations as part of the licence agreement. The visitors to the beach cover most ages including young families and elderly people who visit due to the closeness of parking. Visitor numbers are estimated at approximately 80,000 per year.

Mobile phone coverage is inconsistent along the length of the beach, and there is no dedicated emergency telephone, however mobile phones can be used to phone for the emergency services. A landline phone is located in the café and can be used in emergencies, if the café is open. National Trust have installed public rescue equipment – a throw line - at the beach end of the boardwalk in front of the Beach house café.

This risk assessment is based on the approach outlined within the following publications: Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group (VSCG) 'Managing Visitor Safety in the Countryside – principles and practice', RNLI 'A guide to coastal public rescue equipment', RoSPA 'Safety on beaches – Operational guidelines'.

# Site risk assessment form

Appendix A – map of South Milton Sands, showing boundary of NT ownership in green.





## Site risk assessment form

### Appendix B –Beach safety signage and locations.



Main entrance



Southern entrance



Northern entrance

# Site risk assessment form

Nature of hazard	Current precautions	Estimation of risk	Potential additional precautions
Drowning – Sea and river	<p>Beach Safety Signage installed at 3 entrances to the beach, listing hazards, name of beach, postcode, and grid references. Please see appendix B and C for images and map of sign locations</p> <p>Following consultation with RNLI: PRE equipment installed at beach end of the boardwalk on North entrance to the beach. The equipment is checked monthly by National Trust staff and recorded in the Public Rescue equipment folder on the South Devon Countryside SharePoint site.</p> <p>Sufficient reception to call 999 with mobile, this is made clear on beach safety signage at the 3 main entrance points to beach.</p> <p>Phone in café, when open, if no reception. First aid kit in car park hut, available when welcome assistant on duty in the car park</p>	<p>Severity of hazard :Extreme Likelihood of event :Possible Adequacy of controls :Good</p>	<p><b>NOTE: the ley and river are not under NT ownership, but are included at this point in this risk assessment as visitors accessing the beach from the NT car park may be using this area.</b></p> <p>The Ley does not usually breach until the autumn when there are periods of heavier rain and stronger wave action, during the main summer season the beach usually forms a large sand bank at the end of the Ley which stops the river flowing</p>
Serious injury following pedestrian collision with vehicle – car parking areas, including overflow field, and access track	<p>Car park welcome assistants are present in high season to help manage traffic flow. Speed ramps to slow traffic on site by crossing points. Signs installed giving speed limit as 10mph. First aid kit in car park hut, and landline phone in café.</p> <p>Separate pedestrian gate into overflow car park Only use overflow field if conditions are dry enough so vehicles don't slide or get stuck. Staff, to keep safe distance from vehicle when directing them to park and stay on ground higher than the vehicle. Staff wear bright red uniform tops to increase visibility. Overflow field closed and locked at night.</p>	<p>Severity of hazard :Serious Likelihood of event :Possible Adequacy of controls :Good</p>	



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## Over to you!

How do you do it, does this approach work for you,  
any feedback on the approach we take?

