

Beaches Strategy 2004

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1.0: Introduction

1.1: Torbay's Beaches and coves stretch over 22 miles of unspoilt coastline offering some breathtaking views. There are some 21 beaches and secluded coves aptly named "The English Riviera".

Torbay's coastline is unique, as there is a mixture of limestone cliffs and red sandstone cliffs thus making the geological effects diverse across the bay.

1.2: Torbay does not underestimate the importance of the Blue Flag and Seaside Award. For example, tourism currently makes up 10% of the South West's Gross Domestic Product; therefore the Blue Flag and Seaside Award is of paramount importance as a quality mark to encourage tourists to visit the bay and it can be an important regeneration tool for the resort.

1.3: Many beaches are proud holders of the coveted European Blue Flag and Seaside Awards; the ultimate accolade for beaches demonstrating high environmental and management standards. A traffic light flag system is operated on all award-winning beaches informing users of weather and water conditions.

1.4: Recent research conducted by Southwest Tourist Board shows that there is a 14% increase in income to the community, which has an award.

1.5: Public awareness of the Blue Flag and Seaside Award campaign varies between 57% and 70%.

1.6: A "Poop Scoop" bylaw - where you have to clean up after your dog – applies to all beach and promenade areas. Special bins are provided. Where indicated, the complete ban on dogs operates on beaches between May 1-September 30.

1.7: Estimated no of beach users per annum are 1,600,000.

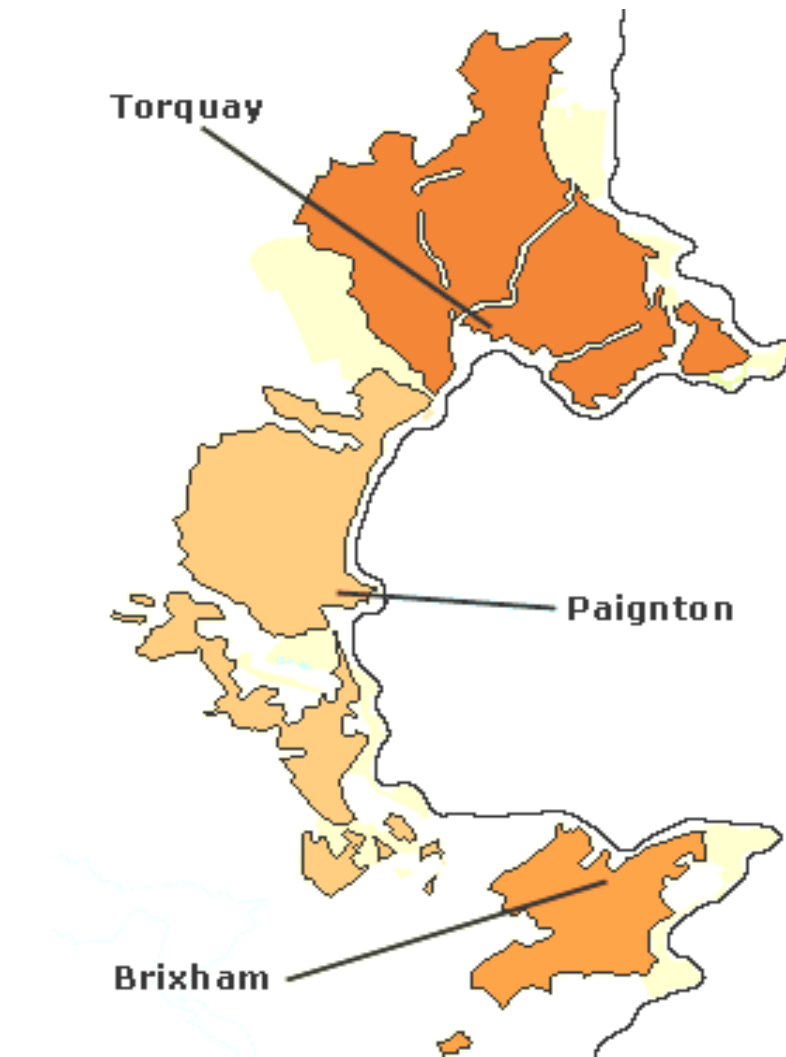
1.8: Fact. 54.000 bed spaces, 9 million bed nights recorded.

1.9: 1.5 million staying visitors per annum and 2 million day visitors (DOE) figures in 1994 said Torbay was no 1 resort in U.K.

1.10: Changes in trends now include; ECO tourism, short breaks, and increase in shoulder season trade.

1.11: A disabled access survey has already been carried out and can be found in **Appendix 1**.

1.2: Duplicate of map on front cover



2.0: North Beaches

2.1: Description

2.1.1: Maidencombe

A delightful little cove, surrounded by red sandstone cliffs. Well within reach of the urban conurbation of Torquay.

Access: Close to Torquay. On main bus route to Teignmouth.



2.1.2: Watcombe



A small cove at the bottom of a steep hill. Surrounded by red sandstone cliffs.

Access: Close to Torquay. On main bus route to Teignmouth

2.1.3: Babbacombe



2.1.4: Oddicombe Beach



Oddicombe is a small stretch of sand and shingle beach at the foot of the high cliffs of South Devon. Many facilities and amenities are provided with a high standard of management. For those unable, or unwilling, to use the steep footpath to the beach, a cliff railway is available at a reasonable cost. The beach is surrounded by a designated area a Site of Special Scientific Interest

Access: The nearest Town is Torquay. There is main road access and local bus services.

2.1.5: Meadfoot Beach

This beach is a small stretch of shoreline situated in the suburban/rural area of Torquay. It is primarily for those visitors requiring a quieter environment with attractions including a park area and a cliff path. The promenade is split level and backs onto a hillside covered in shrubs and trees which is designated an area of a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Access: The nearest town is Torquay. There is main road access and a local bus service.



2.1.6: Beacon Cove



A delightful small shingle cove to the back of Torquay Harbour and behind the now famous “Living Coasts”. Backed by a promenade and seating area.

Access: Via slopping footpath accessible adjacent to “Living Coasts”; possibly difficult access for Disabled. Local bus service close by.

2.1.7: Abbey Sands

This is a favourite family beach serving the main resort town of Torquay consisting of a long sandy beach with promenade.

Access: The nearest town is Torquay. There is main road access with a regular bus service. Main line railway station nearby.



2.1.8: Corbyn Head



A small picturesque cove skirted by limestone rock cliffs on one side and traditional beach huts on the other. Neighbouring Abbey Sands adjoins this beautiful cove.

Access: The nearest town is Torquay. There is main road access with a regular bus service. Main line railway station is nearby.

2.2 Present Water Quality and Awards

	Beach	Water Quality	Award
2.2.1:	Maidencombe	Guideline	Seaside Award
2.2.2:	Watcombe	Mandatory	Seaside Award
2.2.3:	Oddicombe	Guideline	Blue Flag/Seaside
2.2.4:	Babbacombe	Guideline	Seaside Award
2.2.5:	Meadfoot	Guideline	Blue Flag/Seaside
2.2.6:	Beacon Cove	Guideline	None
2.2.7:	Abbey Sands	Guideline	Blue Flag/Seaside
2.2.8:	Corbyn Head	Guideline	Blue Flag/Seaside

2.3 Beach Facilities

2.3.1: Maidencombe

Toilets:Café:Lifesaving Equipment:Information Point:Car Parking.

2.3.2: Watcombe

Café:Lifesaving Equipment:Information Point:Car Parking nearby.

2.3.3: Oddicombe

Toilets(including disabled):Café(with licence):Lifesaving Equipment:First Aid: Motor Boats:Floats:Deck Chairs:Sun Loungers:Shop:Beach Huts: Roof Chalets:Information Point:Beach Manager.

2.3.4: Babbacombe

Toilets:Café:Lifesaving Equipment:Diving Centre:Information Point:Car Park.

2.3.5: Meadfoot

Toilets(including disabled):Café:Lifesaving Equipment:Diving Centre:First Aid: Deck Chairs: Sun Loungers: Shop: Beach Huts: Roof Chalets: Shower: Information Point; Car Park: Beach Manager.

2.3.6: Beacon Cove

Lifesaving Equipment: Seating: Information Point.

2.3.7: Abbey Sands

Toilets(including disabled):Ice Cream/Snack Kiosk:Lifesaving Equipment:First Aid:Deck Chairs:Sun Loungers:Information Point:Adjacent Shop:Resort Manager.

2.3.8: Corbyn Head

Toilets(including disabled):Café:Lifesaving Equipment:First Aid:Deck Chairs:Sun Loungers:Beach Huts:Information Point;Beach Manager.

2.4 Demographic overview

2.4.1: Maidencombe

An ideal stop-off for walkers on the South West Coastal Path and those who want to get away from the hustle and bustle of the busier beaches.

2.4.2: Watcombe

Used by local families and those visitors who prefer the seclusion, and often visited by passing sailors and diving groups.

2.4.3: Oddicombe

A very popular beach with locals and holidaymakers alike, a favourite of day visitors and local and visiting dinghy sailors. The main beach for the Babbacombe and St Marychurch area.

2.4.4: Babbacombe

Popular with local families and holidaymakers, diving groups and fishing enthusiasts. A favoured haven for week-end sailors.

2.4.5 Meadfoot

Very popular with the visitors from the surrounding hotels and also locals who take the opportunity to walk nearby Ilsham Valley and other scenic viewpoints such as Daddyhole Plain, Thatcher Point and Hopes Nose.

2.4.6: Beacon Cove

Nestling beside the Living Coasts attraction and close to the harbour this cove can be visited by those who want to enjoy the view across Torbay. Often visited by local office and shop workers enjoying a mid-day break.

2.4.7: Abbey Sands

The main beach for Torquay, being popular with holidaymakers from the surrounding hotels, day visitors and locals. A favourite for the young individual holidaymakers who take the opportunity to use the nearby Abbey Meadows.

2.4.8: Corbyn Head

Adjacent to Abbey Sands this beach is mainly used by both visiting and local families.

2.5 Biodiversity

SITE CODE	SITE NAME	GRID REF	COMMENTS
SX 96/21m	<i>Maidencombe</i>	SX 928 685	Moderately exposed sandstone conglomerate boulder slope and ledges. Good habitat diversity with rich algal and faunal communities in the lower eulittoral
S331,5	Watcombe Cove (South Bay)	SX 926 674	A small cove north of Torbay and south of the Teign. A sandy bay with cliff headlands and boulder scree slopes beneath giving a significant difference in shade levels across the bay. Boulders with a typical though diverse red algae understory beneath <i>Fucus serratus</i> and kelp. Larger boulders in the lower eulittoral had a rich sessile fauna on shaded overhanging / vertical faces. Mid eulittoral and above showed excellent zonation with healthy populations of <i>Fucus spiralis</i> littorinids and dense <i>Verrucaria maura</i> on north facing slopes.
SX96/18 m	Oddicombe (North)	SX 9265 6615	Moderately exposed sandstone and limestone bedrock. Representative intertidal communities.
SX 96/17m	Oddicombe	SX 927 657	Moderately exposed broken sates and limestone boulders. Diverse red algal turf.
SX 96/13m	Anstey's Cove	SX 936 647	Moderately exposed limestone reefs and boulders. Diverse shaded faunal communities <i>Zostera</i> beds reported in this area.
S 335, 17	Meadfoot Beach	SX 933 630	Transect dive off Meadfoot beach in North Torbay running from the easy end of the shore to the central reef. Muddy sand with ripples and typical fauna including <i>Lanice conchilega</i> , <i>Ensis</i> species, young flat fish and <i>Syngnathus acus</i> occasional <i>Sargartogen undatus</i> . Reef scoured around base where it met sand, often overhung with deep fissures holding many <i>Cancer pagurus</i> and <i>Necora puber</i> . Overhangs with encrusting Bryozoa and upward faces had dense kelp with diverse red understorey.
SX 96/05m	Princess Pier	SX 914 634	Sheltered limestone pier-wall and pilings with communities typical of overhangs and shaded vertical faces. Exceptionally rich fauna dominated community with many more commonly sublittoral species.
S 335, 71	Torre Abby Sands	SX 910 633	A snorkel dive covering the area of sands approximately 110m West of Harbreck Rock. This overlies a stiff brown clay full of fragments of twigs / rootlets, the Mesolithic 'forest bed' which is exposed in patches.

			<p>Pengelly recorded a mesolithic tranchet axe here in the 19th Century. The clay has its surface planes flat, with striations perpendicular to the shore, and contains many old silted up piddock borings. Ulva and Laminaria saccharina was found on clay patches. Zostera marina was looked for but not seen. Fauna was dominated by Ensis species, Arenicola species and Lanice conchilega. Echinocardium cordatum was present. Mobile fauna was represented by decapods.</p>
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3.0 Central Beaches

3.1 Description

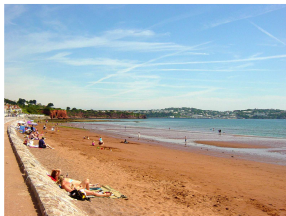
3.1.1: Hollicombe

Situated behind the main line railway this sandy beach is reach by walking through a small park and tunnel under the railway line. The beach itself has rock pools at each end at low tide, due to having no facilities this is a favourite beach to get away from the hustle and bustle of urban life which is only metres away.

Access: Through parkland and a gentle slope down to the beach. Main road and local bus service close by, limited on-road parking.



3.1.2: Preston Sands



Preston is a red sand beach adjacent to Paignton Sands. A popular family beach with a long promenade and neighbouring colourful beach huts facing the sea and Preston Green, which runs along the back of the beach. To the left of the beach is a rock pool area, which is favourite with beach users.

Access: Close to Paignton, Clearly signposted. There is easy access via a local bus route, car parking is nearby.

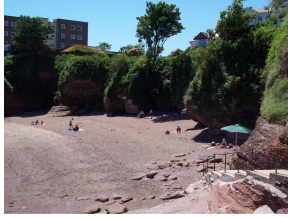
3.1.3: Paignton Sands

This stretch of red, sandy beach is situated on either side of Paignton Pier. An area of parkland, which is used for a various activities during the summer season, backs it.

Access: The nearest town is Paignton. There is well signposted main road access and a local bus route. The main line railway station and car parking is nearby.



3.1.4: Fairy Cove



A small sandy beach situated at the back of Paignton Harbour. There are no facilities on this beach therefore making it attractive to visitors who want to get away from it all.

Access: This beach is reached from the harbour by steps, therefore it is difficult for access for disabled people. A local bus service operates nearby

3.2 Present Water Quality and Awards

3.2.1:	Hollicombe	Mandatory	None
3.2.2:	Preston Sands	Mandatory	Seaside Award
3.2.3:	Paignton Sands	Mandatory	Seaside Award
3.2.4:	Fairy Cove	N/A	None

3.3 Beach Facilities

3.3.1: Hollicombe

Lifesaving Equipment:Information Point.

3.3.2: Preston Sands

Toilets(including disabled):Lifesaving Equipment:Café(licenced):Beach Kiosk:Deck Chairs:Sun Loungers:Beach Huts:First Aid:Information Point:Beach Manager.

3.3.3: Paignton Sands

Toilets(including disabled):Lifesaving Equipment:BeachKiosks:Café(licenced) Deck Chairs:Sun Loungers:Boat Trips:First Aid:Pedeloes:Information Point;Resort Manager.

3.3.4: Fairy Cove

Lifesaving Equipment;Information Point.

3.4 Demographic overview

3.4.1: Hollicombe

Those visitors and local people who are content with the relative seclusion offered while still close to town use this beach.

3.4.2: Preston Sands

A family beach serving the many hotels and guest houses in the locality and always popular with the locals young and old.

3.4.3: Paignton Sands

A busy central beach used by families staying in the town and local people, day visitors also find it a convenient location.

3.4.4: Fairy Cove

A small quiet beach used by those visitors and locals who prefer a degree of seclusion yet close to the central area. Anglers often visit the adjacent harbour.

3.5 Biodiversity

S335, 22	Livermead Sands	SX 906 627	A sandy bay with sandstone ledges and headlands to the south of Torquay. Sandstone ledges with a rich intertidal red turf extended into the sublittoral fringe with kelp forests and a red algae understorey dominated by Corallinacea and Callophyllis laciniata. Sandstone gives way to rippled sand at 2m BCD with deeply undercut bedrock at the sand / bedrock interface. Rippled sand held good populations of Lanice conchilega, Corystes cassivelannus, Hinia reticulata and Pagurus bernhardus. There were frequent Arenicola marina casts and patches of sparse diseased Zostera marina. A diatom film was conspicuous in shallow regions.
SX 86/04m	Hollicombe Rocks/ Preston	SX 898 619 – SX 899 623	Moderately exposed sandstone conglomerate ledges with areas of sand scour. Abundant reefs of the honeycombe worm Sabellaria Alveolata. Important underboulder communities.
SX 86/01m	Fairy Cove	SX 897 603	Moderately exposed sandstone conglomerate ledges and boulder fields. Mussel dominated communities, rockpools and bouldered areas of interest.

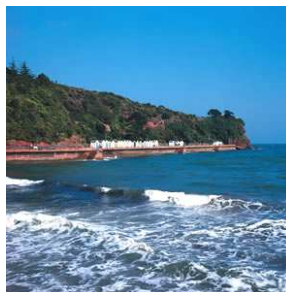
4.0 South Beaches

4.1 Description

4.1.1: Goodrington North Sands

A long stretch of sandy beach adjoining Goodrington South Sands. There are rock pools at the south end of the beach, which is a favourite for children. This beach is completely covered with water at high tide. A promenade runs the whole length of the beach and around to formal cliff gardens. A large park forms the back of the beach.

Access: Through parkland onto a promenade with steps and ramps onto the beach. Adequate parking adjacent to park. Railway Station (seasonal) and local bus service close by.



4.1.2: Goodrington South Sands



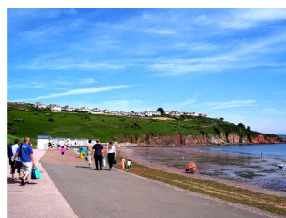
This mainly sandy beach represents an unusual combination of attractive scenery, and an area of established parkland. It is therefore a major attraction in the area, capable of supporting a very large number of visitors. Facilities and amenities are outstanding for all age groups.

Access: Paignton is the nearest town, with main road access. There is ample parking as well as local bus services and a seasonal train service stopping at the station adjacent to the beach.

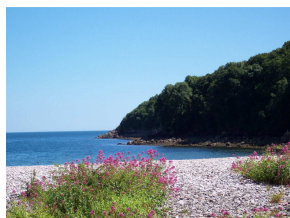
4.1.3: Broadsands

This beach is situated in a particularly attractive part of Torbay looking across the bay to Torquay. The red, sandy beach rests between rock headlands and provides a relatively safe area with parkland at the rear and well away from busy roads. This beach provides an ideal location for children and those wishing to distance themselves from amusement arcades.

Access: The nearest town is Paignton. Local bus route nearby at the main road turnoff. Ample on site parking, good access and well signposted.



4.1.4: Elberry Cove



A small shingle beach to the north of Broadsands adjacent to Elberry Headland and the Southwest Coastal path which is part of site of Special Scientific Interest. Used extensively by water skiers and is zoned accordingly.

Access: By farm track and footpaths. Difficult access for the disabled.

4.1.5: Churston Cove

A secluded cove with a small shingle beach. Rural setting with woods and cliffs to the rear.

Access: Steep slopes and paths to reach Beach virtually impossible access to disabled due to natural terrain.



4.1.6: Fishcombe Cove



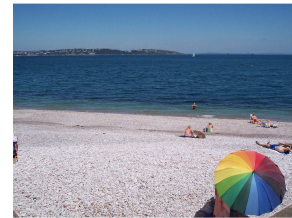
Next to Churston Cove another delightful little shingle beached cove. Holiday park situated at top of the path makes this a favourite retreat.

Access: Steep path from road, small car park which serves the beach. Again because of the terrain difficult access for disabled.

4.1.7: Breakwater Beach

Breakwater beach is a small shingle beach with rock pools to one end, adjacent to picturesque Brixham Harbour. It has easy access with adequate parking at the back of the beach. It is close to all the main facilities associated with a large resort town. There are picturesque views across Torbay.

Access: On main road to Berry Head. There is a local bus service nearby.



4.1.8: Shoalstone Beach



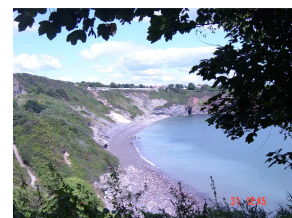
Very small beach dominated by a large water lido which is very popular during the summer season.

Access: Sloping paths and steps to promenade which features as part of pool surround. Moderate access for disabled from town side. Good car park adjacent to green area above promenade.

4.1.9: St Mary's Bay

St. Mary's Bay is a delightful sandy beach situated at the base of surrounding cliffs. It has difficult access but can be accessed by steep steps.

Access: Road access from Brixham is well signposted, clear signs to car park, which is shared by visitors to the neighbouring nature reserve.



4.2 Present Water Quality and Awards

Beach	Water Quality	Award
4.2.1: Goodrington North	Mandatory	None
4.2.2: Goodrington South	Mandatory	Seaside Award
4.2.3: Broadsands	Mandatory	Seaside Award
4.2.4: Elberry Cove	N/A	None
4.2.5: Churston Cove	N/A	None
4.2.6: Fishcombe Cove	N/A	None
4.2.7: Breakwater Beach	Guideline	Blue Flag/Seaside
4.2.8: Shoalstone Beach	N/A	None
4.2.9: St Mary's Bay	Guideline	Seaside Award

4.3 Beach Facilities

4.3.1: Goodrington North

Toilets:Lifesaving Equipment:Beach Shop:Café(licenced):Kiosk:Deck Chairs
Sun Loungers:Beach Huts:Information Point:Resort Manager.

4.3.2: Goodrington South

Toilets(including disabled):Lifesaving Equipment:Public
House:Amusements:Water Park;First Aid;Water Skiing;Ringo's:Café's:
Deck Chairs:Sun Loungers:Shops:Seashore Interpretation Centre:Information
point;Resort Manager.

4.3.3: Broadsands

Toilets(including disabled):Life Saving Equipment;Café: Kiosk;Shop:
Banana:Motor Boats:Floats:Deck Chairs:Sun Loungers:Beach Huts:First Aid:
Information Point;Beach Manager.

4.3.4: Elberry Cove

Lifesaving Equipment:Information Point.

4.3.5: Churston Cove

Lifesaving Equipment:Information Point.

4.3.6: Fishcombe Cove

Lifesaving Equipment;Information Point.

4.3.7: Breakwater Beach

Toilets(including disabled):Café(licenced):Lifesaving Equipment;
First Aid:Deck Chairs:Sun Loungers:Information point;Beach Manger.

4.3.8: Shoalstone Beach

Toilets(including disabled):Lifesaving Equipment:Café:Deck Chairs:
Sun Loungers:First Aid:Pool:Information Point:Pool Manager.

4.3.9: St Mary's Bay

Lifesaving Equipment:Information Point.

4.4 Demographic overview

4.4.1: Goodrington North

A popular family beach with plenty of facilities nearby for young and old and used by holidaymakers and locals.

4.4.2 Goodrington South

A busy family beach with ample facilities attracting holidaymakers from the nearby hotels and guest houses, caravan and chalet sites and day visitors.

4.4.3: Broadsands

Very popular family beach with locals and holidaymakers

4.4.4: Elberry Cove

Close to Broadsands and also used by Water sports enthusiasts.

4.4.5: Churston Cove

A secluded beach used by locals and those holidaymakers seeking a peaceful scenic environment.

4.4.6: Fishcombe Cove

Used by locals and holidaymakers from nearby sites.

4.4.7: Breakwater Beach

Popular with both holidaymakers and locals, being adjacent to Brixham Harbour is often visited by sailors and anglers using the Breakwater.

4.4.8: Shoalstone Beach

Adjacent to the seawater swimming pool it is often used by locals and holidaymakers from the holiday camps in the area.

4.4.9: St Mary's Bay

Used by holidaymakers staying locally at the nearby holiday village or visiting the nature reserve and also by locals who appreciate the relative seclusion.

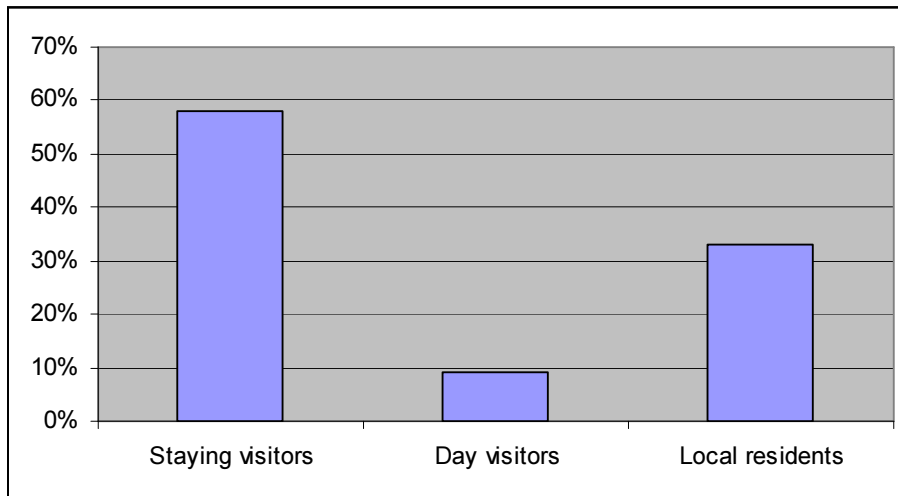
4.5 Biodiversity

S 335, 28	Goodrington Sands (South)	SX 895 590	Sandstone ledges with conglomerate extending into muddy sand at about 2m BCD. Reef at southern end of Goodrington Sands, Torbay. Reef with 1m deep gullies running inland, cobble and boulder filled, whole area kelp dominated with a diverse red algae understorey. Encrusting fauna representative for the area, though not in abundance other than large numbers of gastropods, bryozoa and Botryllus schlosseri. Rippled muddy sand overlying bedrock was low in diversity with typical burrowing and epifauna. Mysids abundant. Large recessed fissures were present with Ctenolabrus rupestris and Conger conger. Sandy rock on edge of reef had abundant sand tolerant species of algae.
S 335, 4	Broadsands Bay	SX 897 576	Reason for site selection. Previously unsurveyed and known for the wide variety of marine life washed ashore. A sandy beach situated between the Saltern Cove SSSI and Churston Point. The sand shelves gradually is fine, muddy and rippled. A sublittoral peat bed is reportedly present and pieces of this are often washed ashore bored by Pholas dactylus. A rich burrowing fauna is present dominated by Arenicola marina, Cerianthus lloydii, Ensis species and Lanice conchilega. Hinia reticulata are abundant on the sand surface. A stream running down the beach produces a halocine close to shore on a sheltered days.
SX 95/14m	Elberry Cove	SX 903 570	Sheltered sandy cove with shingle ridge. Dense tubeworm beds in the lower eulittoral. There is a very extensive bed of Zostera growing on the clean sand substrate here.
S 335, 40	Churston Cove	SX 919 570	Central Churston Cove west of Brixham breakwater. Muddy sand with broken shell, gravel, pebbles and algae covered turf. Algae, red filamentous or green foliose mostly. Muddy sand with typical species including Pomatoschistus pictus, Amphiuira species, Ophiura species, Turitella communis, Pagurus bernhardus and Polychaetes.

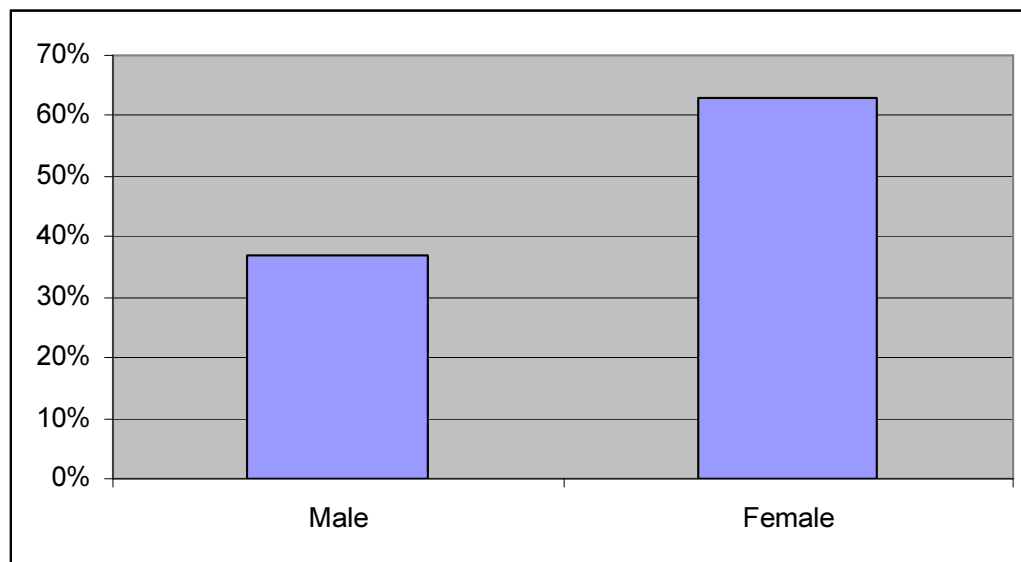
S 335, 76	Fishcombe Cove	SX 919 570	Reason for site selection: Possible site for <i>Zostera marina</i> bed. A small sheltered cove west of Brixham harbour. Used extensively by anchoring boats during the summer months and with two popular beaches. Boulder shore extending just below the sublittoral fringe with muddy sand below. Underboulder community in shallow water was rich with sponges and Decapoda. Large areas of muddy sand were dominated by a dense and healthy population of <i>Zostera marina</i> . Evidence of infauna was abundant, with many burrows and tubes. In particular, <i>Arenicola marina</i> , <i>Echinocardium chordatum</i> and big <i>Lanice conchilega</i> were frequent. Occasional large boulders and bedrock outcrops supported a dense covering of fine filamentous red algae (<i>Antithamnion</i> species) and patches of dense kelp, <i>Laminaria saccharina</i> on small boulder and cobble, <i>L. Hyperborea</i> on bedrock and large boulders.
S 335, 14	St Mary's Bay	SX 933 550	Mussel rock is situated at the southern end of St Mary's Bay and forms a rock island in the sand. The rock is kelp dominated with abundant <i>Mytilus</i> spat around its scoured base. Fish are common, especially large summer shoals of <i>Gobius flavescens</i> . The surrounding sand is species poor and varies in form considerably depending upon the degree of shelter.
S 335, 33	Shoalstone	SX 935 568	Limestone reef with 2m deep gullies running offshore (N). Rich sessile fauna with several species of porifera, ascidian and notable <i>Antedon bifida</i> beds. Didemnids were common as were piddocks (undetermined species). <i>Alcyonium digitatum</i> and <i>Metridium senile</i> dominated the seascape with the occasional fish (notably the leopard spotted goby) and crustaceans. Interestingly <i>Aiptasia mutabilis</i> was found in clusters of several individuals, usually small, often on boulders or even attached to algae.
S 335, 15	Brixham Breakwater	SX 929 569	Outer face of Brixham Harbour breakwater. Boulder slope of concrete blocks eventually reaching muddy gravel at 7m BCD. Blocks to 3m with many boulder holes supporting numerous <i>Galathea strigosa</i> . Kelp down to about 3m BCD. Fish abundant especially <i>Ctenolabrus rupestris</i> , others including <i>Parablennius gattorugine</i> , <i>Thorogobius ephippiatus</i> and <i>Trisopterus minutus</i> . Rock with encrusting flora and fauna – poor diversity. Muddy gravel poorly colonised with a few burrows and occasional <i>Callionymus lyra</i> , <i>Hiatella arctica</i> abundant in rock.
S 335, 41	Brixham Breakwater	SX 925 572	A steep boulder slope at the end of Brixham breakwater in the south of Torbay. Many large boulder holes with <i>Galathea strigosa</i> , <i>Ascidia mentula</i> and <i>Trisopterus minutus</i> . <i>Ctenolabrus rupestris</i> common. Upper surfaces of boulders had abundant filamentous red algae. <i>Ulva</i> species increasing towards the kelp at 3m BCD. The boulder shape eventually reaches a plain of muddy sand at 8m BCD.

5.0: Survey Results

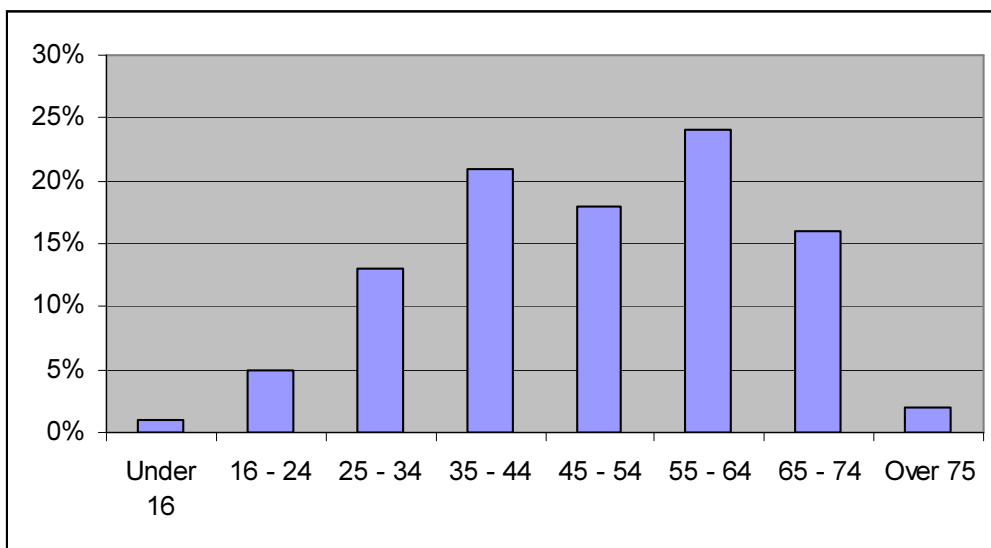
Our survey responses were obtained from:



- 58% staying visitors
- 9% day visitors
- 33% local residents

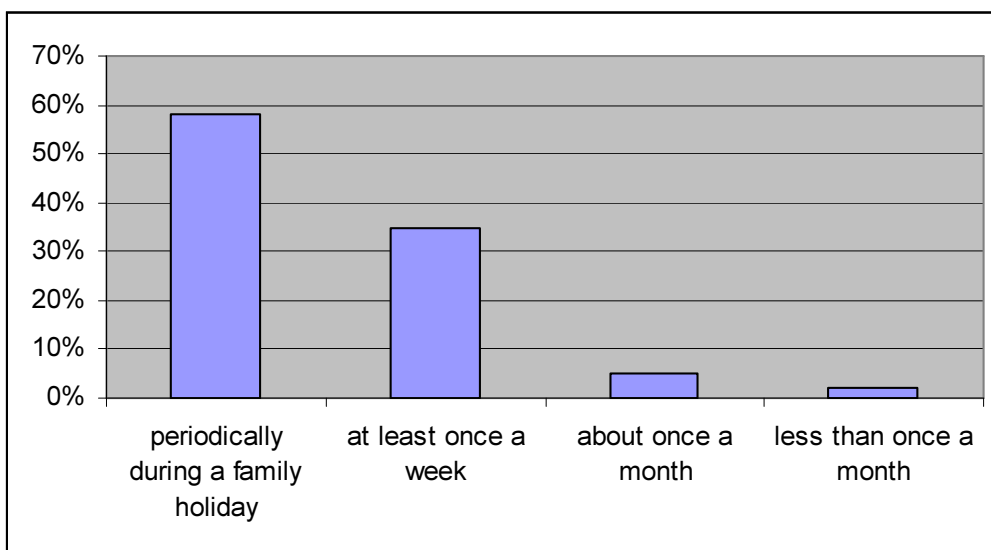


- 63% Female
- 37% Male



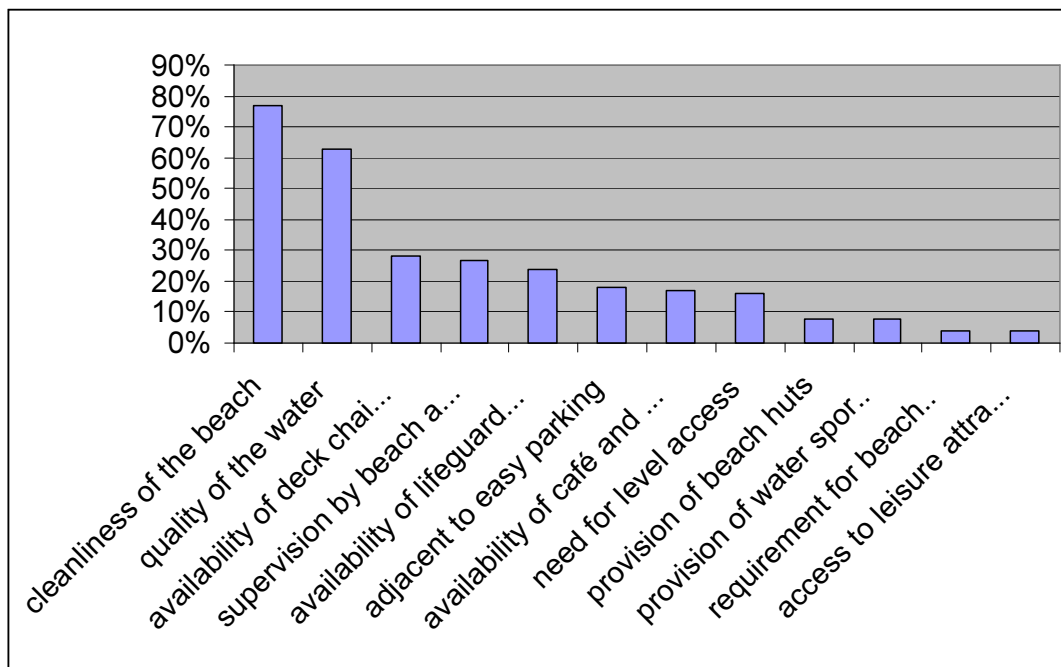
Age groups:

<u>Under16</u>	<u>16 – 24</u>	<u>25 – 34</u>	<u>35 – 44</u>	<u>45 – 54</u>	<u>55 – 64</u>	<u>65 – 74</u>	<u>over 75</u>
1%	5%	13%	21%	18%	24%	16%	2%



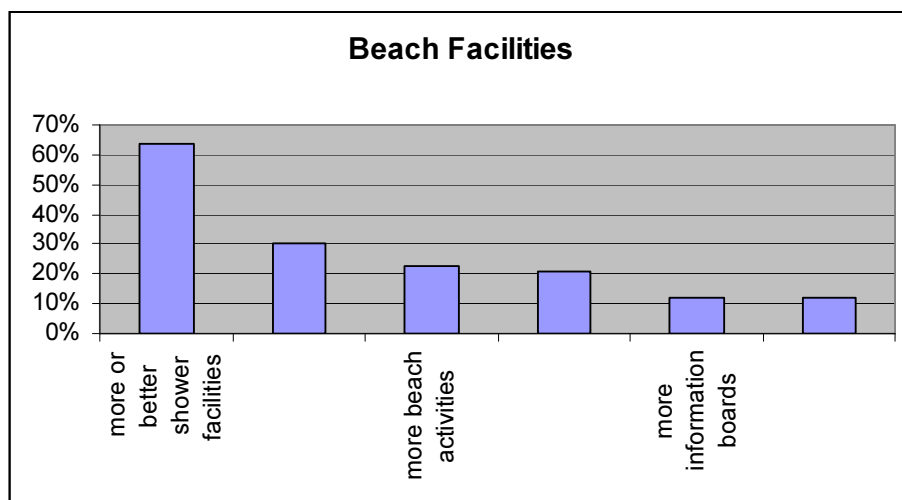
- 58% visit a Torbay beach periodically during a family holiday
- 35% visit a Torbay beach at least once a week
- 5% visit a Torbay beach about once a month
- 2% visit a Torbay beach less than once a month

Our survey showed the following results of response options to the question “ **what is important to you when visiting a beach in Torbay?**”



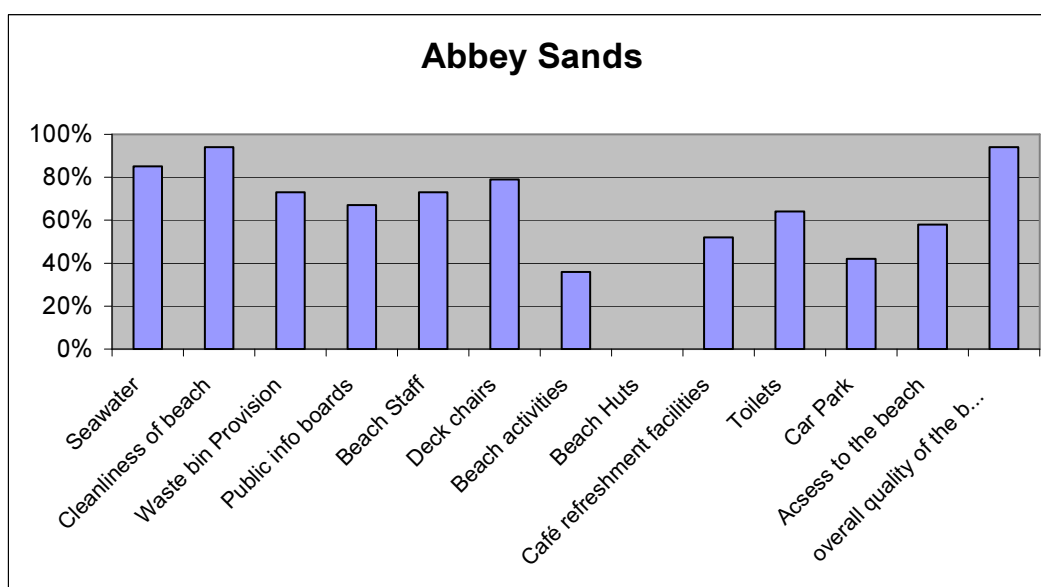
- 77% of users emphasised the cleanliness of the beach
- 63% of users emphasised the quality of the water
- 28% of users emphasised the availability of deck chairs/sun loungers
- 27% of users emphasised the supervision by beach attendants
- 24% of users emphasised the availability of lifeguards on duty
- 18% of users emphasised being adjacent to easy parking
- 17% of users emphasised the availability of café and refreshment facilities
- 16% of users emphasised the need for level access
- 8% of users emphasised the provision of beach huts
- 8% of users emphasised the provision of water sports activities
- 4% of users emphasised the requirement for beaches that allow dogs all year round
- 3% of users emphasised access to leisure attractions

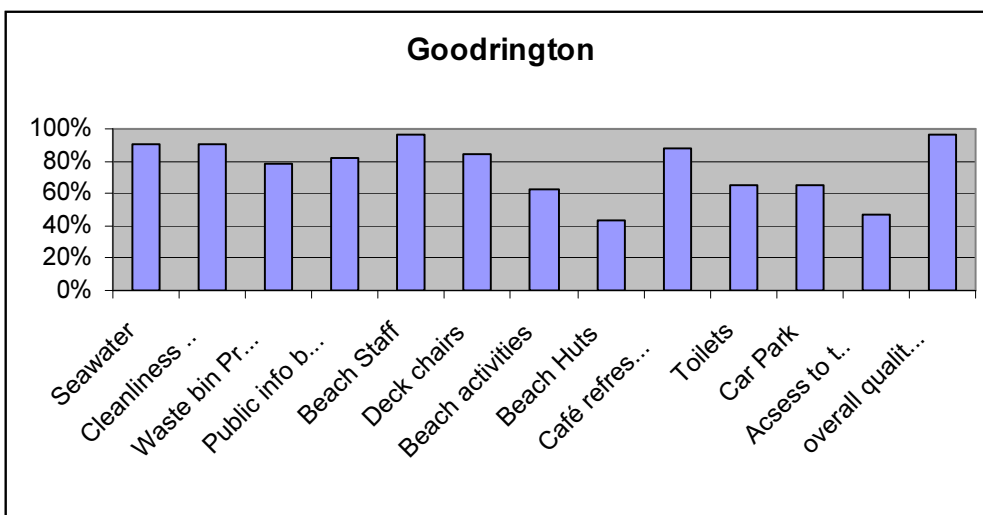
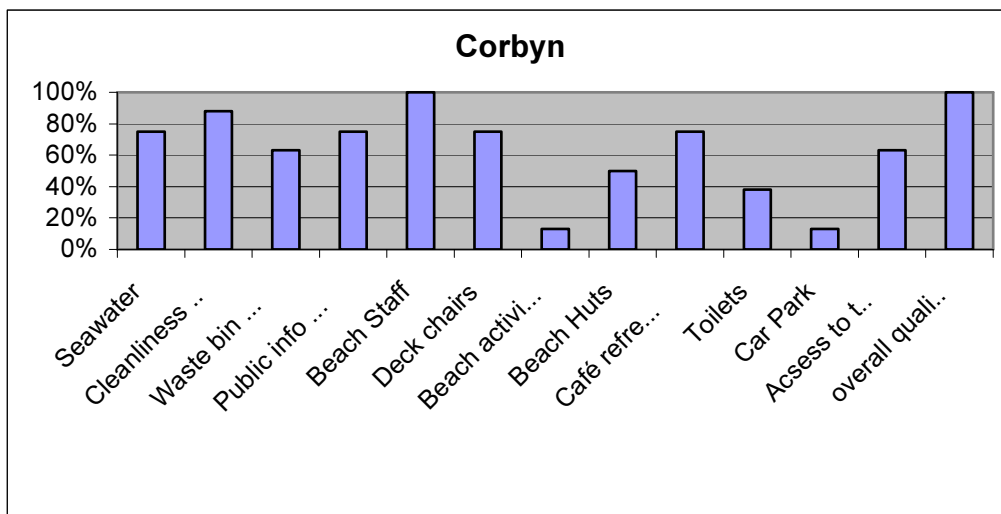
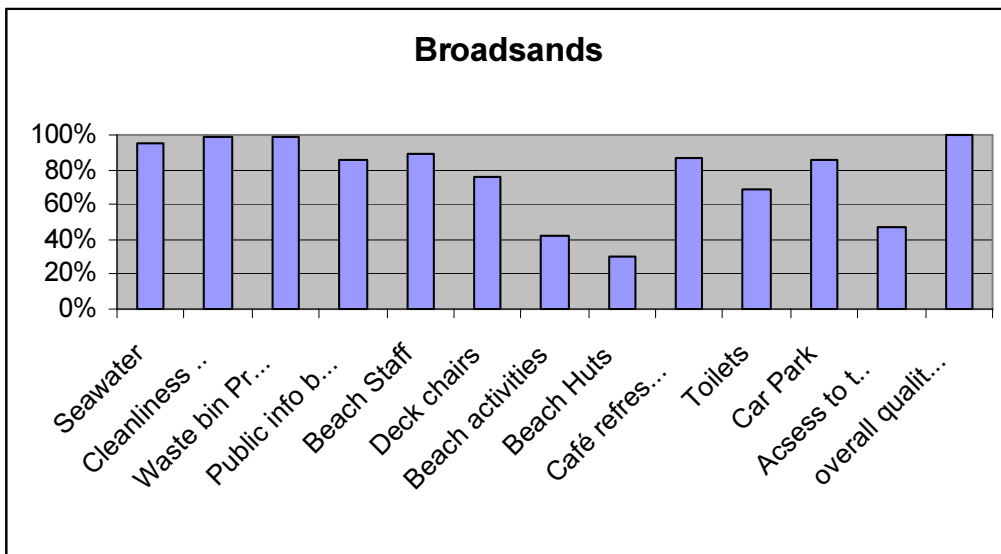
When asked to identify additional beach facilities they would like: -

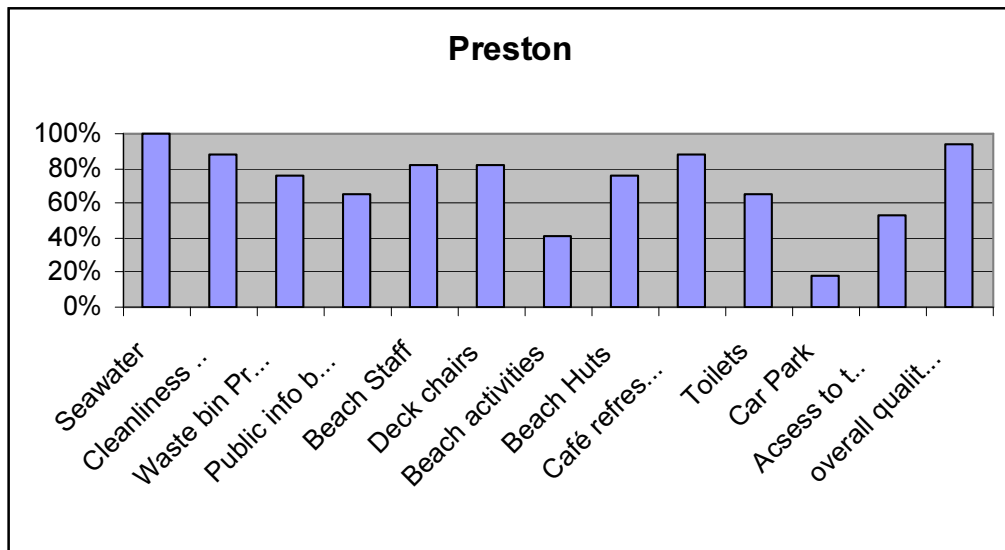
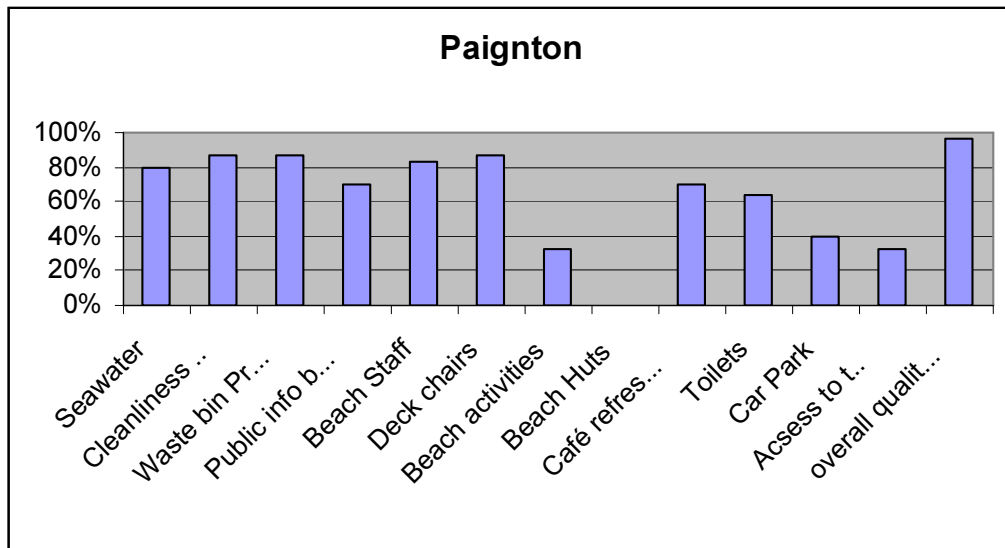
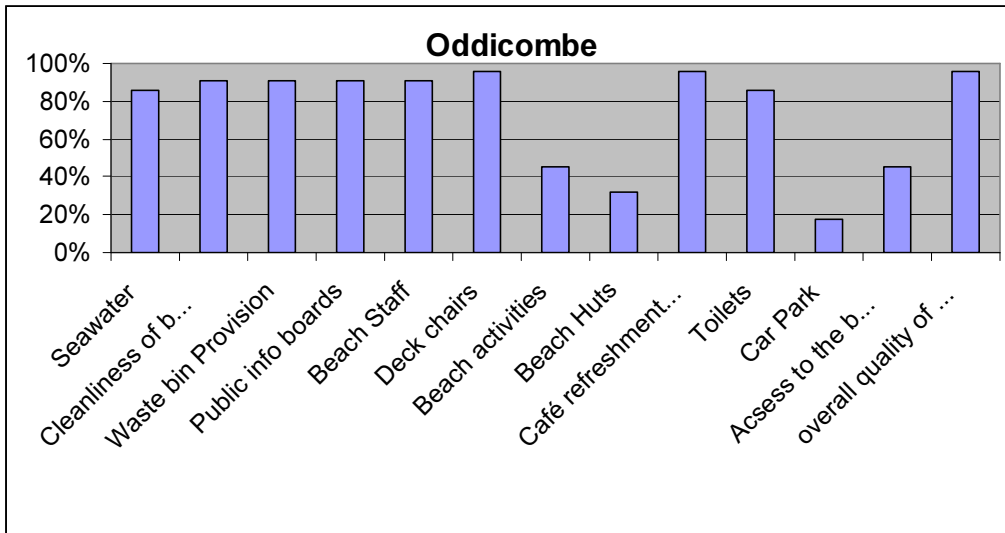


- 64% requested more or better shower facilities
- 30% requested the use of qualified lifeguards
- 23% would like more beach activities
- 21% would like better-disabled access
- 12% would like more information boards
- 12% would like more supervisory staff

For the main beaches the percentage of Very good/good responses for the overall quality rating of: -







	Abbey Sands 6.7	Broadsands 6.15	Corbyn 6.8	Goodrington 6.14	Oddicombe 6.3	Paignton 6.11	Preston 6.10
Seawater	85 %	95 %	75 %	90 %	86 %	79 %	100 %
Cleanliness of beach	94 %	99 %	88 %	90 %	91 %	87 %	88 %
Waste bin provision	73 %	99 %	63 %	78 %	91 %	87 %	76 %
Public info boards etc	67 %	85 %	75 %	82 %	91 %	70 %	65 %
Beach Staff	73 %	89 %	100 %	96 %	91 %	83 %	82 %
Deck chairs / loungers	79 %	76 %	75 %	84 %	96 %	87 %	82 %
Beach activities	36 %	42 %	13 %	63 %	45 %	32 %	41 %
Beach Huts	n/a	30 %	50 %	43 %	32 %	n/a	76 %
Café refreshment facilities	52 %	87 %	75 %	88 %	96 %	70 %	88 %
Toilets	64 %	69 %	38 %	65 %	86 %	64 %	65 %
Car Park provision	42 %	85 %	13 %	65 %	18 %	40 %	18 %
Access to beach	58 %	47 %	63 %	47 %	45 %	32 %	53 %
Overall quality of the Beach	94 %	100 %	100 %	96 %	96 %	96 %	94 %

6.0: Future Developments

Beach

6.1 North Beaches

Continue partnership with Babbacombe Yacht Club and Oddicombe Beach.
Sail training, etc...
Develop Association with Diving Groups for Watcombe Beach.

6.1.1: Maidencombe

Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust have now assumed responsibility of Managing the toilets, cafe and car park leaving the beach as our responsibility, Therefore no plans are anticipated for the future other than to run the beach in it's present condition.

6.1.2: Watcombe

Watcombe beach is leased to a private operator. The toilets and lifesaving equipment being our only responsibility. Therefore no future plans are envisaged for this beach.

6.1.3: Oddicombe

With the new ramp now completed The local sailing club are progressing with their bid to renew their Clubhouse via a lottery grant. This will enhance their sailing programmes and extend their children's development initiatives. Future developments will include further repairs and maintenance to Beach Hut and Roof Chalets. Provision of any new criteria for Blue Flag status. general upgrading of equipment as and when required. Monitoring of unstable Cliffs with the view to reopening the closed part of the beach at the earliest opportunity.

6.1.4: Babbacombe

This beach is managed for the council by a private operator who is hoping to attain Blue Flag Status. We will assist to help the tenant to achieve this. Our only responsibility at this beach being the lifesaving equipment.

6.1.5: Meadfoot

Continue to liaise and develop the present diving school with the lessee. To continue to improve and maintain Roof Chalets and Beach Huts. Provision of any new criteria for Blue Flag status and general upgrading of equipment

as and when required. Power to Chalets- via busbar system.

6.1.6: Beacon Cove

There are no future development plans at this beach other than to develop a seating area comprising of memorial seats,

6.1.7: Abbey Sands

Being Torquay's main beach as it is covered by water at high tide limited facilities are only possible. A new beach centre comprising of beach office shop and toilets has recently been completed. Facilities will be upgraded to keep in line with changing Blue Flag/Seaside Award criteria. There is also the possibility for water based facility to be added to the services on this beach. Long term improvements to the steps along the beach will need addressing. Future consideration for development which incorporates Streetscape and Public Realm Focus Groups.

6.1.8: Corbyn Head

This small cove houses a number of beach huts and a café. Ongoing maintenance to Council owned huts should continue on a programmed basis. Also upgrading of facilities in line with Blue Flag/Seaside Award criteria. Regular surveys to continue and action taken when possible. Future consideration for development which incorporates Streetscape and Public Realm Focus Groups.

6.2 Central Beaches

6.2.1: Hollicombe

No future plans are envisaged at this beach.

6.2.2: Preston Sands

Preston Sands is the main beach for Beach hut lettings and sites. Future plans will cover the general replacement of huts over the coming years. Also upgrading of facilities in line with Blue Flag/Seaside Award criteria. Regular surveys are carried out and action taken where possible. Future consideration for development which incorporates Streetscape and Public Realm Focus Groups.

6.2.3: Paignton Sands

Being Paignton's main beach most facilities are of good and ample quality. By regular monitoring this standard should be maintained in the future. Additional facilities may be considered from time to time. Also upgrading of facilities in line with Blue Flag/Seaside Award criteria. Regular surveys will be carried out and action taken where possible. Future consideration for development which incorporates Streetscape and Public Realm Focus Groups.

6.2.4: Fairy Cove

No future plans are envisaged for this beach.

6.3 South Beaches

Picnic tables and BBQ at Shoalstone.

Develop St. Mary Bay – Nigel Smallbones of the Coast and Countryside Trust.

6.3.1: Goodrington North

Apart for consideration for additional water sports no further plans are envisaged. Regular surveys will be carried out and action taken where possible. Future consideration for development which incorporates Streetscape and Public Realm Focus Groups.

6.3.2: Goodrington South

Parasol design.

Future plans for Goodrington South are given in more detail in Section 8.

6.3.3: Broadsands

Being a favourite family beach facilities are in good order. By regular monitoring this standard should be maintained in the future. Additional facilities will be considered from time to time. Also upgrading of facilities in line with future Blue Flag seaside award criteria. Regular surveys will be carried out and action taken where possible. Future consideration for development which incorporates Streetscape and Public Realm Focus Groups.

6.3.4: Elberry Cove

Elberry Cove has no future plans for development at present but it must be kept in mind that this beach would make an ideal skiing centre if funds and access could be made available.

6.3.5: Churston Cove

No future plans are envisaged for this beach.

6.3.6: Fishcombe Cove

No future plans are envisaged for this beach.

6.3.7: Breakwater Beach

Brixham's main beach, a small beach with no immediate plans for future development. By regular monitoring the standards of this beach will be maintained in the future. Upgrading in line with any future requirements for Blue Flag/Seaside Award Criteria will be carried out. Regular surveys will be carried out and action taken where possible. Future consideration for development which incorporates Streetscape and Public Realm Focus Groups.

6.3.8: Shoalstone Beach

This beach incorporates Shoalstone Swimming Pool. This is an outdoor lido that is open for the summer season. Considerable repairs are carried out at the beginning of each season to enable the pool to be operated. For the foreseeable future there are no plans to shut this facility. Planned and reactive maintenance is therefore required at the beginning of each season.

6.3.9: St Mary's Bay

No future plans are envisaged for this beach other than to improve access to the beach and enhance present facilities in line with any future Blue Flag or Seaside Award criteria.

6.4 All the Beaches - ongoing

Look at improvements in disabled access.
Look at improvements Railings-programmed.
Investigate Wheelchair manufacture – using Torbay Industrial Services ?
More sun-loungers – improved design.
Showers on all beaches.
Zoning watersports activities
Create picnic/BBQ areas – starting with Broadsands as pilot (then with Elberry and Preston)
More information boards and more daily information.
Flexibility study – Combine Beach Hut charges with parking .
Explore possibility of increase in seagoing activities, boat rides, ringos.
Staff safety – PPE – Huts, suncreams, etc...
Renewal of Paignton, Goodrington, Breakwater and Preston Beach office.

Five Year Plan

Year 1	Instigate surveys, designs etc., for renewal of Paignton Beach Office Commence installation of electrical power to Beach Huts at Meadfoot Renewal of and provision of additional information boards at all beach locations Feasibility study – combine beach hut and parking charges where appropriate. Commence programme of shower installation at beaches sites
Year 2	Create picnic/bbq area at Broadsands – Pilot scheme Instigate surveys, designs etc., for renewal of Goodrington Beach Office Commence installation of electrical power to Beach Huts at Oddicombe Continue programme of shower installation at beaches sites
Year 3	Instigate surveys, designs etc., for renewal of Preston Beach Office Create picnic/bbq area at Shoalstone Schedule building programme for beach offices
Year 4	Instigate surveys, designs etc., for renewal of Breakwater Beach Office Commence/continue building programme for beach offices
Year 5	Continue building programme for beach offices

7.0 Appendices

Appendix (1)

DISABLED ACCESS REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

Torbay enjoys twenty-two miles of coastline, which consists of small coves, rocky, sandy and pebbled beaches. Many are of a rural standard and the remainder, resort beaches standard. The access to these beaches is varied as to the topography of the area. The main beaches are listed and reviewed as below:

- **7.1 Maidencombe Beach:**

Access to the top of the beach is easy via a car park but to access the beach itself there is a steep set of steps, therefore making disabled access very difficult. Unfortunately, this cannot be modified in any way on this site.

Recommendations:

As this is a very steep access to the beach via steps no recommendation for any further access available.

- **7.2 Watcombe Beach:**

A steep road accesses Watcombe Beach down onto the promenade with a slipway onto a sandy beach. This is accessible to disabled but would need to be treated with care.

No further recommendations.

- **7.3 Oddicombe Beach:**

Oddicombe Beach is at the bottom of Babbacombe Down cliffs, which has an access road and a cliff railway. The promenade to the beach is flat and accessible for disabled and there are two slipways onto a shingle beach.

Recommendations:

On the completion of the new slipway this now is a shallower descent for disabled to have better access to the beach.

- **7.4 Babbacombe Beach:**

Once again, a steep road to a car park at the bottom can access Babbacombe Beach. Access to the beach is via promenade and slipway. The beach here is rocky and shingle.

No further recommendations.

- **7.5 Meadfoot Beach:**
Meadfoot, again, is lying at the bottom of the cliffs from Daddyhole Plain. Access to the promenade and beach area is easy. There is one big slipway at the north end to the beach, which is shingle.
No further recommendations.

- **7.6 Torre Abbey Sands:**
Torre Abbey Sands, who is Torquay's main beach, has good access along the complete length of the promenade with slipways at both ends. The sand at low tide is compact, which gives good access for wheelchairs.
Recommendations:
Inclusion of ramps along promenade steps will give better access to the hard sand for disabled users.

- **7.7 Corbyn Head:**
Corbyn Head has a slipway onto a sandy beach, which can be soft at times.
No further recommendations.

- **7.8 Hollicombe Beach:**
Hollicombe Beach is accessed through Hollicombe Gardens with a path and slipway onto a sandy beach, which again accesses moderate, firm sand, which would entertain wheelchairs.
No further recommendations.

- **7.9 Preston Sands:**
Preston Sands consists of a long stretch of sandy beach with a slipway at the Preston end and another at the Redcliffe Hotel end. Sand here is of softish variety, which would make disabled wheelchair access difficult.
Recommendations:
As promenade is part of sea defences no further recommendations.

- **8.0 Paignton Sands:**
Very similar to Preston with a slipway at either end of the beach. Once again sand is of a softer type, which would impede wheelchair access.
Recommendations:
Similar to Preston Sands but south of the pier it would be possible to have several disabled ramps onto the beach, but once again the sand is of the soft type and this would possibly not benefit wheelchair users.

- **8.1 Goodrington Sands:**
Both Goodrington North and South have good access to promenades and both have slipways. The slipway at Goodrington South also is complimented by a

boardwalk to allow wheelchairs access to the hard sand so that they may be able to go and discover the rock pools in the centre of the beach at low tide.

Recommendations:

Once again there is further scope for ramps and bulwarks to allow wheelchairs to the hard sand areas.

- **8.2 Broadsands Beach:**

Access at the bottom of Broadsands Road with a large car park. Once again access to the beach by wheelchair with a ramp at the Paignton end of the beach, otherwise there are steps onto the beach. Nice firm sand when the tide is out.

Recommendations:

Possible ramp at south end of beach with double access to beach for disabled people.

- **8.3 Elberry Cove:**

Elberry Cove is accessed via a farm track and pathway onto a shingle beach, which would make disabled access very difficult.

No further recommendations.

- **8.4/5 Churston/Fishcombe Cove:**

Two coves situated at the bottom of Battery Gardens. A very steep roadway down to shingle beaches. Churston Cove access would be difficult for disabled as it is via a cliff path.

No further recommendations.

- **8.6 Breakwater Beach, Brixham:**

Breakwater Beach is situated adjacent to a car park that has disabled ramps to the promenade and also to the beach, which is shingle.

No further recommendations.

- **8.7 Shoalstone Beach:**

A very small beach adjacent to the seawater swimming pool, which has good access for the disabled.

Recommendations:

Adjacent to the swimming pool is a large sitting-out concrete area that has glass protection for disabled. No further recommendations

- **8.8 St Mary's Bay:**

A large sandy beach at the bottom of Shoalstone cliffs. Access is via steep steps, which would be difficult for disabled.

Recommendations:

No further recommendations.

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