

# THE STEART LANDSCAPE

## WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?

Our coastline is constantly changing. We're working here to help form special new habitats for wildlife, improve flood management for local people and provide an amazing place to visit. This new piece of wild Britain is one of WWT's wetlands working for both people and wildlife.



Steart from the air

As sea levels rise, earth and shingle banks protecting the peninsula become vulnerable to erosion and more difficult to maintain. Elsewhere on the Severn Estuary, important wetland habitats are being lost.

WWT and the Environment Agency are turning this situation into a positive solution. In front of new flood banks, large areas of saltmarsh are being created. Aerial photographs help us to see how quickly this is happening. Saltmarsh absorbs wave energy, providing long term natural protection from erosion and new wetland habitats on a massive scale. The developing marsh, with shifting channels and creeks, also provides a vital refuge for wetland wildlife and is an important nursery for fish.

In some areas, newly created fresh water grazing marshes, also important for wetland wildlife, are designed to help protect local properties from flooding by temporarily holding and storing water after heavy rain.

Cover image: Shelduck. WWT

Aerials photographs credited to Marine Science Support



Black-tailed Godwits

## WHAT TO SEE

Since 2014 when the tides started to wash over the land and the areas of freshwater began to develop there have been dramatic changes to this landscape. New plants and animals are now colonising the reserve and continue to do so in greater numbers with each passing year.

## HIGHLIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

**Wetland walkway:** Meandering paths take you through different habitats, over bridges, with 4 hides offering breathtaking views.

**Wide open landscape views** from the main observation points (marked on the map). Get all-round views of the Poldens, Mendips, Brecon Beacons, Exmoor and Quantocks.

**Breach point:** It's up to an hour's walk from the car park - so make sure you see it at its best on a 'spring' high tide.

## WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS IN SUMMER

**Birds** such as little egret, avocet, swallow and skylark. In late summer, thousands of roosting shelduck too.

Many **dragonflies** such as black-tailed skimmer and emperor.

**Plants** such as flowering rush and purple loosestrife.



## WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS IN WINTER

**Birds** such as teal, wigeon, peregrine, meadow pipit and clouds of waders such as lapwing and golden plover moving over the marsh.

## INFORMATION

**Admission is FREE**

**Open all year round:** Take a short stroll or explore for a whole day on **foot, bike, wheelchair**, or by **horse** on the circular bridleway. Car parks and paths subject to a few local restrictions.

**Hides, toilets and 2.1m height restriction barrier (main car park):** Open daily 9am - 4.30pm. 2.1m height restriction in place at all times at Steart Gate car park.

**Dogs** are welcome on most paths but must be kept under effective control at all times. Please refer to dog leaflet for more information. There are no dog waste or litter bins on site, so **please take all your rubbish home** with you and **try not to disturb the animals** and plants living here.

There are **hides, benches** and **viewpoints** around the site.

**Binoculars** are useful to bring to help you view the landscape.



**Tide times:** Only the highest tides enter the reserve, making an impressive spectacle. Check tide times via our website and noticeboard in the main car park.

**Photography:** Fixed points for placing your camera are dotted around the site.

**Fancy a cuppa?** There's no cafe on site, but it's an ideal picnic spot. To purchase refreshments, follow signs to the larger local villages and towns.



Cycling at Steart



Broad bodied Chaser

## HELP US PROTECT THE WILDLIFE HERE

WWT stands for the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust. Our charity's mission is to work together to save wetlands for wildlife and people. Our vision is that society values, protects and manages wetlands to sustain wildlife, people and the planet.

## WE NEED YOU!

To manage the site and welcome visitors, we need volunteers with a range of skills. Are you interested in any of the following?

- *Practical management*
- *Recording wildlife*
- *Talking to visitors*

**If you are, please contact us.**

You can also support WWT's work by joining as a member and as an added bonus gain free entry to all of our wetland centres across the UK. **To donate to Steart Marshes, text STMA16 £3 (or another amount) to 70070**



Yellow wagtails

## CONTACT US

WWT Steart Marshes, Stert Drove, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2PU  
T: 01278 651090 or 07717 505966

For the latest wildlife news, visit [wwt.org.uk/steart](http://wwt.org.uk/steart)

 @WWTSteart  /wwtsteartmarshes

Taken photos? Spotted anything unusual? Post on WWT's Twitter or Facebook pages. We would love to hear from you.



**WWT Steart Marshes**



WWT reg charity, Eng & Wales, no. 1030884 and Scotland no. SC039410



WWT Steart Marshes



### Welcome to WWT Steart Marshes

Please enjoy this amazing place but respect other visitors and the guidance given on signs and marker posts.

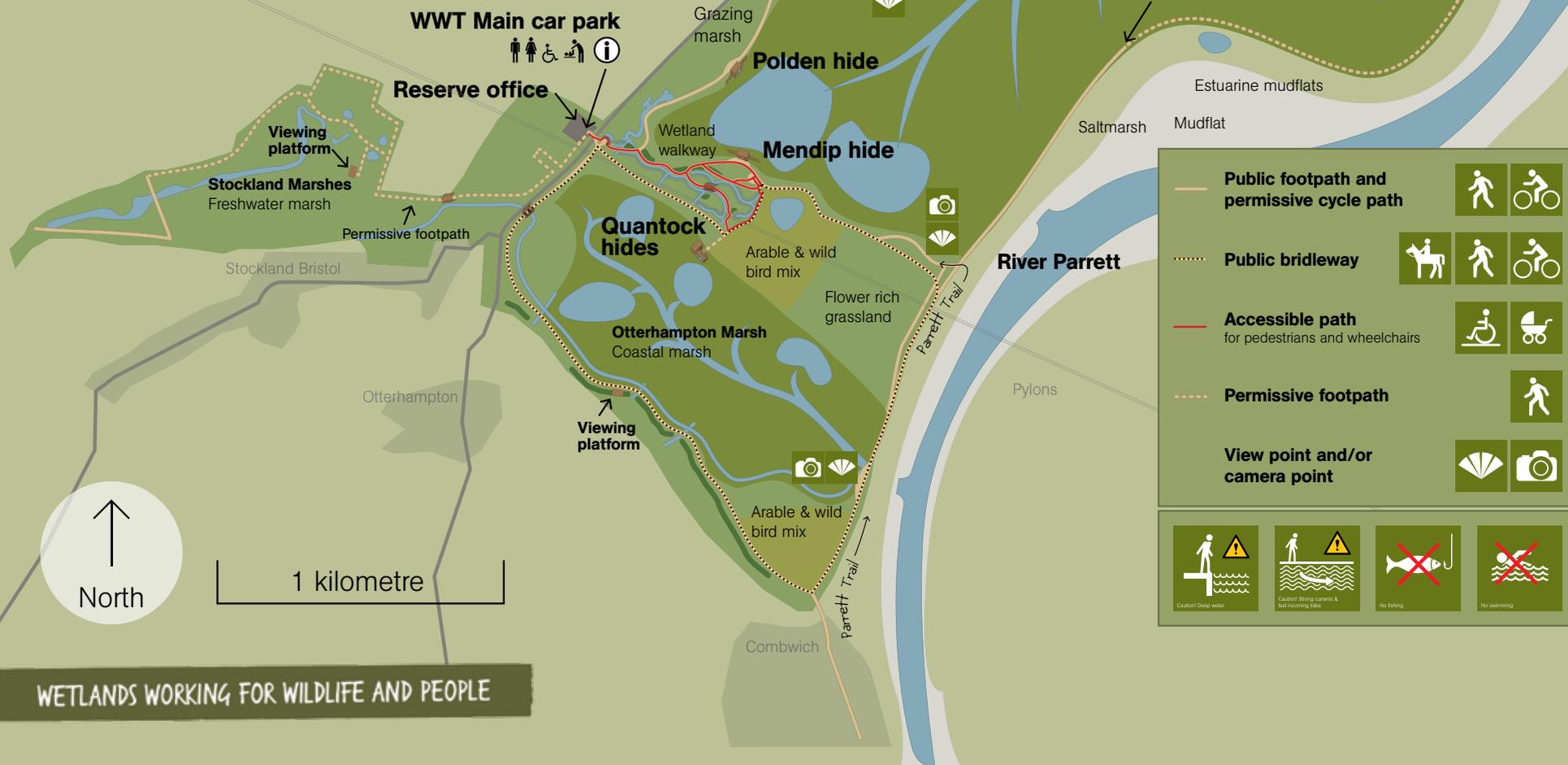
Horsiders please use the designated bridledways and keep to the verge of the surfaced paths.

Please keep your dog under effective control or on a lead. For their own safety keep dogs out of the watercourses and away from livestock. Help us keep WWT Steart Marshes clean and safe for others by taking any dog mess home.

Some paths are permissive and may have to be closed from time to time to protect wildlife.

In the event of a major problem please ring 07717 505966 or, if an emergency, 999.

Our grid reference is ST 25208 44210 and postcode is TA5 2PU.

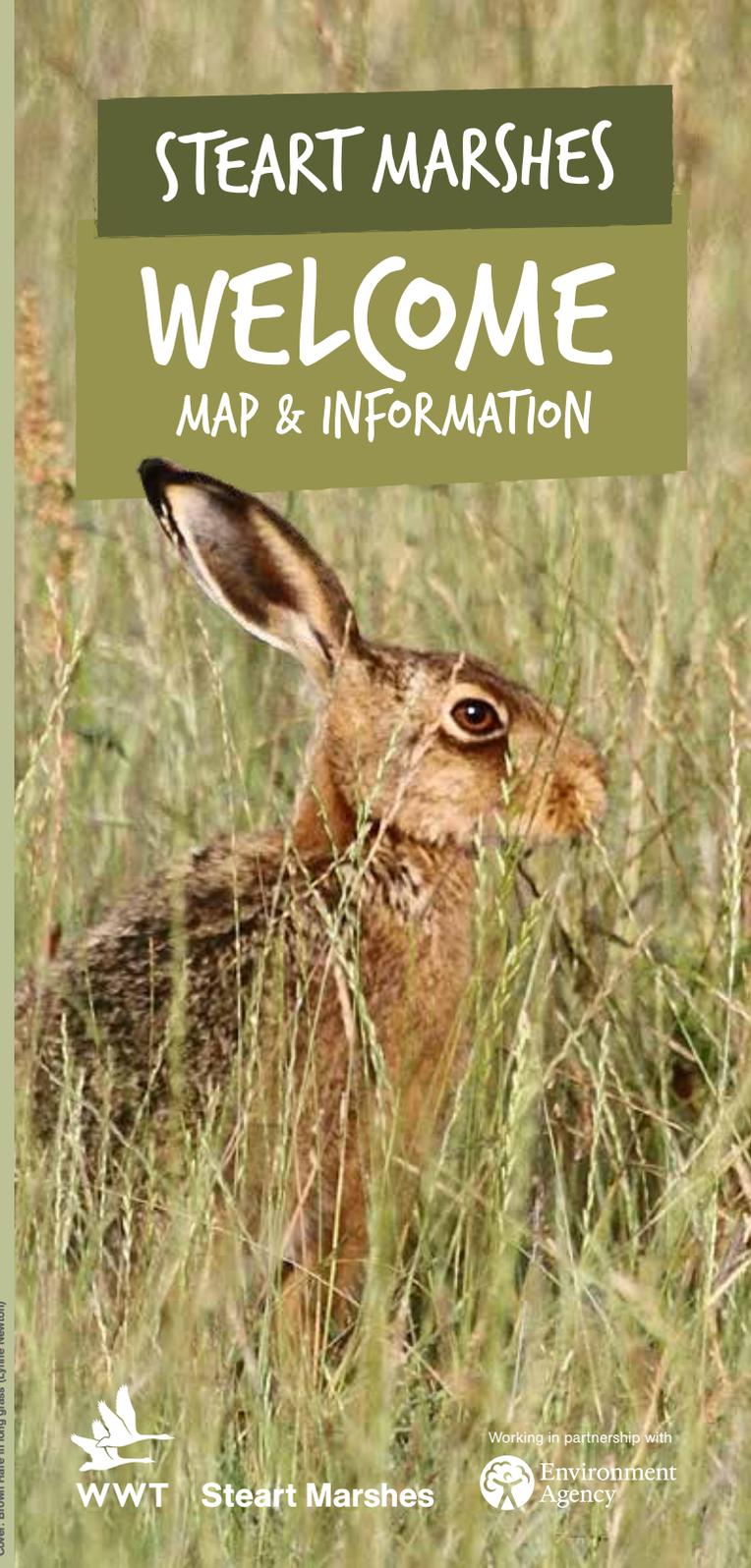


	<b>Public footpath and permissive cycle path</b>	
	<b>Public bridleway</b>	
	<b>Accessible path for pedestrians and wheelchairs</b>	
	<b>Permissive footpath</b>	
	<b>View point and/or camera point</b>	
	<b>Caution! Deep water</b>	
	<b>Caution! Strong currents &amp; fast incoming tide</b>	
	<b>No fishing</b>	
	<b>No swimming</b>	

# STEART MARSHES

# WELCOME

## MAP & INFORMATION



Cover: Brown Hare in long grass (Lynne Newton)

WETLANDS WORKING FOR WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE