

## Winter Wildlife Explorer Trail

**Welcome to Rye Harbour Nature Reserve!** We invite you to explore the reserve's shingle beaches, its pools and saltmarsh habitats, to discover its amazing wildlife and to have a lot of fun too! This short trail will walk you from the car park down to the sea (approx. 1km) in about 45 minutes

- Stay with adults or you could get lost
- Stay away from the water, you do not want to fall into it
- Stay away from the electric fences, they could hurt you
- Stop on the side of the road as trucks or cars pass by you
- Do not touch or eat plants, they can be stingy or poisonous
- Wash your hands thoroughly afterwards!



Let us introduce our 3 friends who will help you along the way:

- to spot some beautiful wildlife,
- to learn interesting facts and solve nature problems,
- and also to join in fun activities!



### SPOT IT!

I am a **Gull**. When I fly above the ground, I can spot plants and animals living here in spring, summer, autumn and winter.

Do you want to try to spot them too?



### SOLVE IT!

I am a **Stonechat**. I chat and chat and chat all day long!

I know secret stories about the reserve and its inhabitants...

So listen to me carefully to be able to solve some tricky problems.



### DO IT!

I am an **Oystercatcher**. I love playing on the beach and by the river.

I am super active, I run and jump, I search and build.

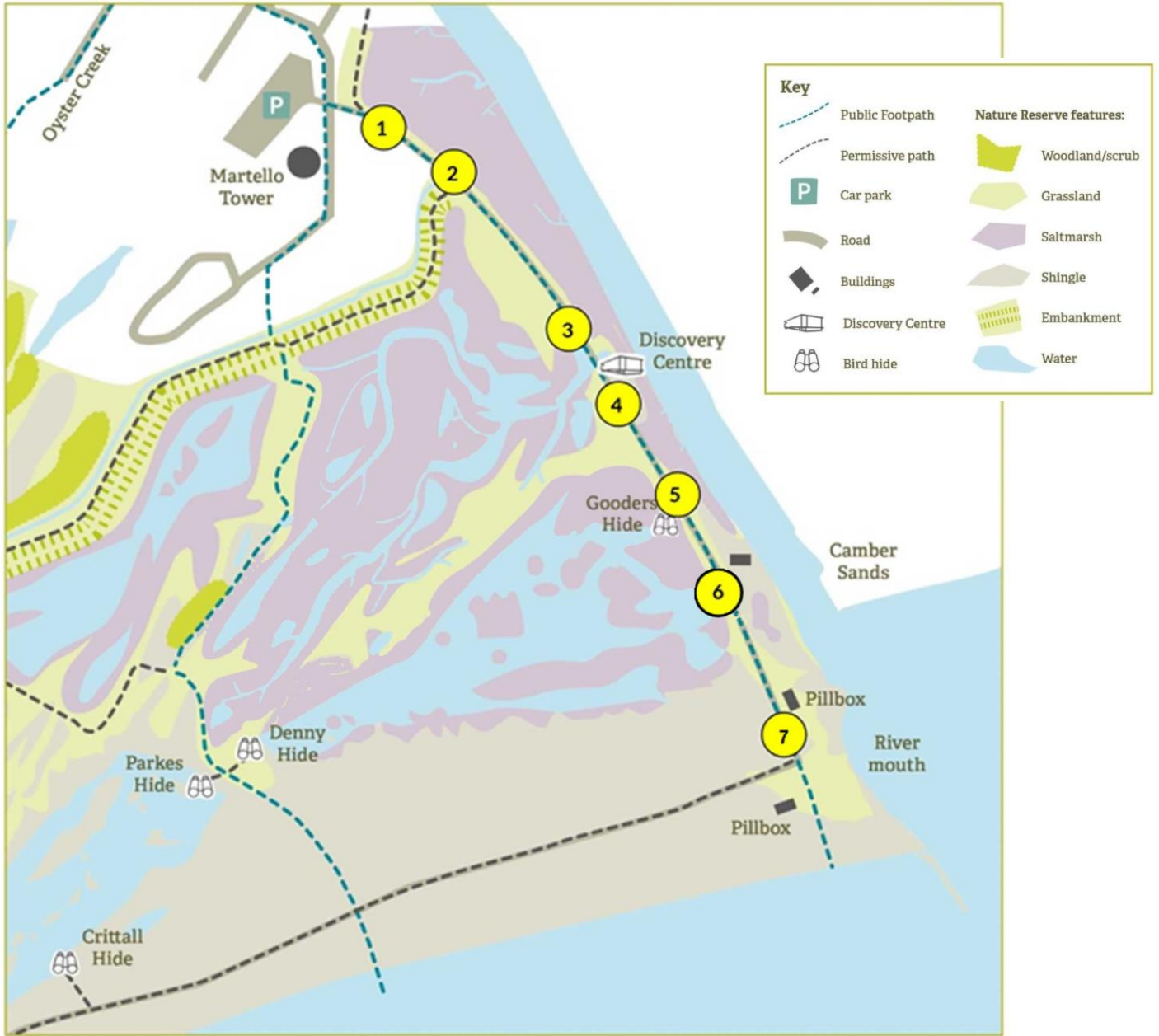
Would you like to join me for some fun activities?

**So, are you ready to go on a big adventure?**

Find the location of your first activity on the [Reserve Map on the first page](#)

Thank you to The National Lottery Heritage Fund for providing funding for this trail #discoverryeharbour





**1** Sussex Wildlife Trust kiosk in the carpark



## Habitats

Look at the key on the map of the nature reserve? Can you find and name the habitats on the map?



How many bird hides can you spot?

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## At the sea defence bank



### PANEL – DEFENDING THE COAST

Read all of the information on the panel. Can you answer these questions?

1. How far away from the sea shore are you?
2. What edible plant can you see starting to grow along the side of the path?
3. What little bird can you look out for at this time of year?

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## Near the Discovery Centre



### PANEL – SALTMARSH, OLD & NEW

Read all of the information on the panel. Can you answer these questions?

1. Name 3 insects that live among the salt marsh plants.
2. What helped to create the new salt marsh habitat in 2011?
3. Which birds feed on insects and seeds in drier parts of the saltmarsh?

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## At the culvert



### PANEL – TIDAL RHYTHMS

Read all of the information on the panel. Can you answer these questions?

1. Can you tell if the tide is coming in or going out? What white bird might you see waiting to catch a fish?
2. How has the Discovery Centre been designed to protect it from tidal surges?
3. Look out for broken mussel shells as you walk along. How did this happen?

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## At the Gooders Hide

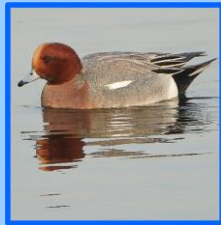


### GO AND HIDE

Are you at the birdwatching hide? A hide is good to look at birds without disturbing them. Winter is a good time to start looking at ducks because the males have got the colour back in their plumage, look out for:



Teal



Wigeon



Shelduck



Mallard

Which of these can you see? What are they doing? Which is your favourite?

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## At the black and red hut



### Be a citizen scientist

Stop at the red and black hut and look at the fence on the opposite side of the path. Look for the metal cradle fixed to the fence post and follow the instructions. Put a phone in the cradle and take a picture. Share it on a public social media account using #SWTPHOTOSPOSTS or email to [photopost@sussexwt.org.uk](mailto:photopost@sussexwt.org.uk).



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## At the River Mouth



### PANEL - NATURAL HISTORY, HUMAN HISTORY

1. Look towards the river mouth. If you are lucky you may spot a seal!
2. How would you tell the difference between a Common Seal and a Harbour Seal?

This is the end of your trail.

We hope you have enjoyed it, learned some new information about the special wildlife at Rye Harbour and want to come back again to find out more.