## **ROMNEY WARREN COUNTRY PARK**

### La lapinière du parc naturel du Romney

The Romney Warren Country Park is a great place to start your exploration of Romney Marsh. Enjoy the displays about the history and wildlife of Romney Marsh in the Romney Marsh Visitor Centre. and then discover the landscape of Romney Marsh on three walking trails around the Country Park.



### YOU CAN HELP

People of all ages are helping to care for the Country Park and Visitor Centre. Local people are helping with practical work to improve footpaths and conserve wildlife, as well as helping to run the Visitor Centre.



### ROMNEY MARSH COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIP

The Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (RMCP) was set up in 1996 to help landowners conserve and enhance the special landscape of Romney Marsh and Dungeness, making it accessible to everyone. The RMCP helps manage sites such as Romney Warren Country Park and Dungeness National Nature Reserve. The RMCP has created 19 circular walks and 5 cycle rides around Romney Marsh. Events are organised throughout the year. You can find all the information about places to visit and things to do in the free leaflet - the Green Guide to Romney Marsh available from visitor information centres and the RMCP

Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership Romney Marsh Day Centre, Rolfe Lane New Romney, Kent TN28 8JR Tel / fax (01797) 367934 Email - mail@rmcp.co.uk Website – www.rmcp.co.uk













### **ROMNEY MARSH VISITOR CENTRE**

## Centre visiteur du Romney

Visit the Romney Marsh Visitor Centre to find out about the wildlife and history of the Marsh - and how we can all live greener lives.

Opened in 2004, the centre has been designed using sustainable construction methods such as rendered straw bale walls and a living roof. The centre provides facilities for visitors to the



Country Park including exhibitions, local information, a shop, toilets and refreshments. Three varied walking trails start from the Visitor Centre.



Romney Warren Country Park is open at all reasonable hours throughout the

The Visitor Centre is open 10am-4.30pm every day from Easter to the end of October

The Centre is open 10am-4pm Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday for the rest of the year. Please telephone (01797) 369487) to check opening times.

There is a car park at the Visitor Centre with parking for coaches. A regular bus service stops outside. There is a railway halt on the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Light Railway; details of timetable and fares from (01797) 362353, www.rhdr.org.uk. The Visitor Centre is within easy walking and cycling distance of New Romney and St Mary's Bay.

For further information about the Visitor Centre contact the Kent Wildlife Trust (01797 369487. www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk)

## **ANCIENT SAND DUNES**

#### Les anciennes dunes de sable

Romney Warren consists of ancient sand dunes that formed on the coast over the past two thousand years. The sea has retreated as new sand dunes have formed in front of the older dunes, allowing plants to stabilise the landscape and create a wonderful place for wildlife. Plants such as

sea spurrey can grow here despite the lack of water and plant nutrients which make conditions harsh for other plants.

Romney Warren is

Rabbits grazing on

the warren

protected as a Site of Special

Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated by Natural England because of its importance for wildlife but also because the sand dunes form a record of ancient sea levels, which

are important for the future understanding of how climate changes affect sea levels Rabbit Walk

(0.4 mile, 0.6km)

An easy circular stroll through the ancient sand dunes and ponds starting from the Visitor



Centre. The route is uneven and there are some areas of loose sand.

Caution – Please take care as the Rabbit Walk is uneven in places due to burrows created by rabbits

#### Other Sandy Places to Visit

There are other sand dunes to visit nearby at Greatstone Dunes & Beach (2.5 miles, 4 km) and Camber Sands (9.8 miles, 15.5 km). Further information about places to visit from the Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (01797 367934. www.rmcp.co.uk)

## **WATERY WILDLIFE**

## La faune aqueuse

The ponds at Romney Warren were created by sand and gravel extraction in 1931-1945, Crested Newt but have become very important for wildlife. Two ponds were created for wildlife in the 1990s by the Romney Marsh Countryside Project. The ponds are varied - some contain water all year around, while others dry out in the summer. The ponds that contain water for just part of the year are especially valuable for wildlife such as great crested newts, dragonflies and diving beetles, because they do not contain any fish which eat

#### Dragonfly Walk (0.2 mile, 0.3km)

the eggs and young animals.

A short circular walk suitable for people of all ages and abilities. The walk starts from the Visitor Centre and follows a flat route over one of the ponds on a wooden boardwalk, returning on a surfaced path through the wildlife meadow.

#### Other Watery Places to Visit

Dragonfly

The water and wetlands at Dungeness National Nature Reserve (5

miles, 8 km) are internationally important for wildlife, especially birds. The Royal Military Canal (9 miles, 14.5 km) is a haven for wildlife as well as a great place for a peaceful walk. Further information from the Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (01797 367934, www.rmcp. Common Darter

### A LANDSCAPE CREATED BY SHEEP

## Un paysage modelé par les moutons

Romney Marsh has been reclaimed from the sea over the last 1,300 years. For many centuries, the reclaimed land was used for grazing large numbers of sheep. The wealth from sheep farming paid for the building of the magnificent Marsh churches.

Sheep grazing created flower-rich grassland with drainage ditches rich in wildlife such as water voles and medicinal leeches. Without grazing, shrubs and trees can invade,

shading out the rare wildlife and changing the landscape.

In the last sixty years, since World War Two, more land has been ploughed to grow arable crops for food. Wildlife can still thrive in the network of drainage ditches provided they are managed carefully.

Sheep Trail (1mile, 1.5km)

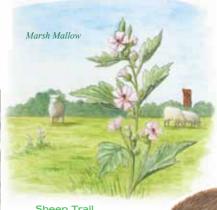
A longer walk to discover many of the different faces

of Romney Marsh, including the wild flower meadow, hedges, wetlands and sand dunes.

Caution - The walk is largely level but please take care as the Sheep Trail is uneven in places because of the burrows created by rabbits.

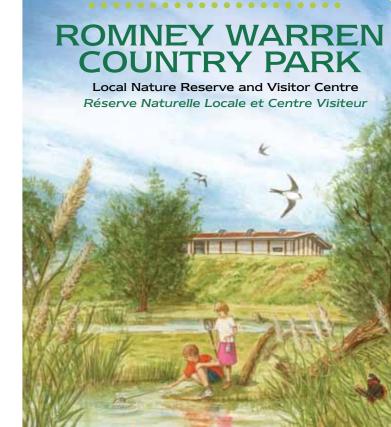
#### Other Places to Visit

You can discover the traditional Marsh landscape around Fairfield (9 miles, 14.5 km), or visit the ruined church of Hope All Saints, near New Romney (2.5 miles, 4 km). Explore the churches of Romney Marsh on one of the walking or cycling routes created by the Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (01797 367934, www.rmcp.co.uk).

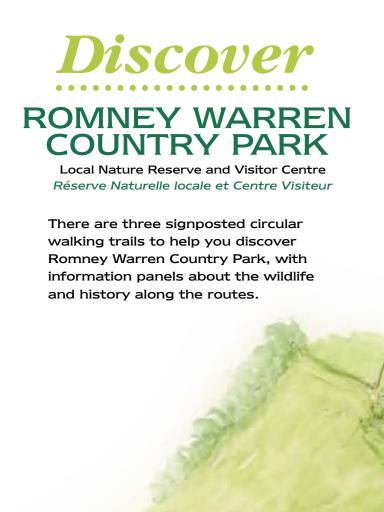


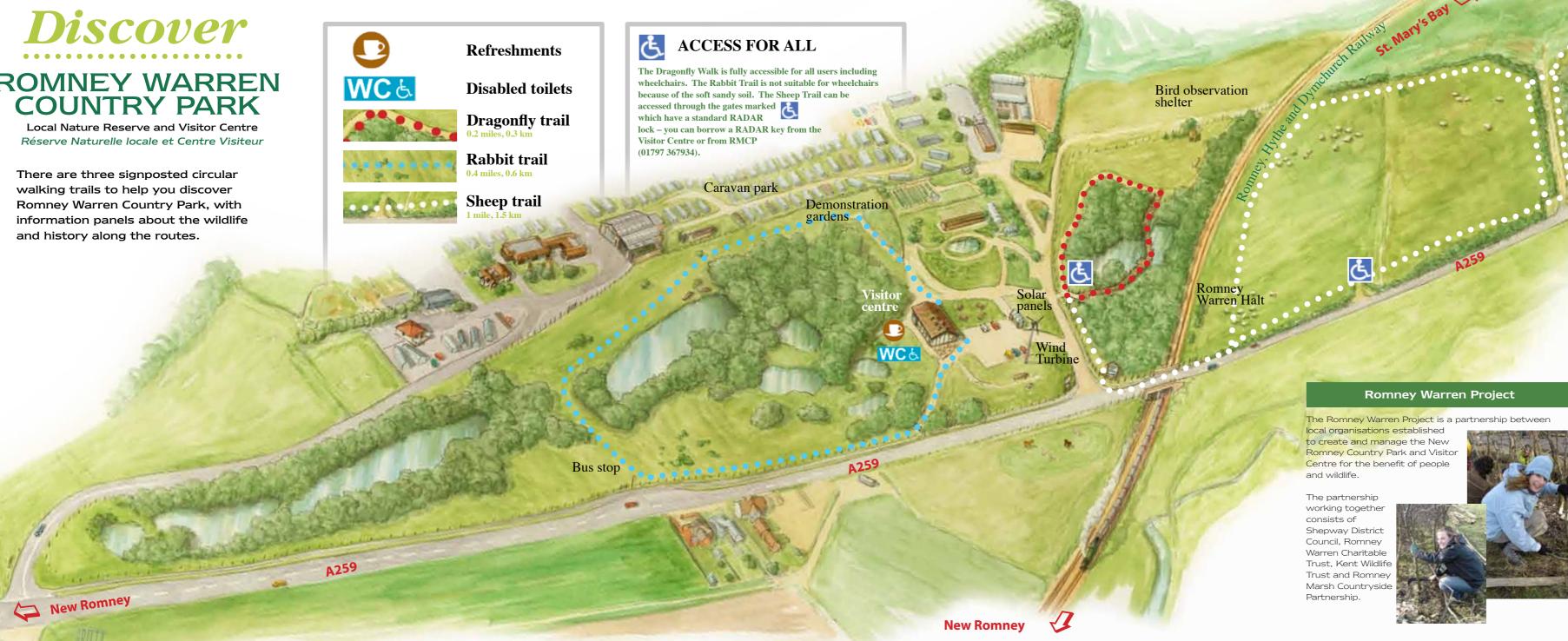












# Aggregates Levy Sustainabilty Fund

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The work at Romney Warren Country Park has been supported by Natural England through Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF). The Aggregates Levy is a tax on the production of primary aggregates including sand, gravel and crushed rock used in the

construction



industry and part of the money raised is used to fund the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. The ALSF aims to address the environmental and social cost of aggregate extraction. Natural England is one of a number of organisations selected by Defra to award

Sustainability Fund grants. At Romney Warren, ALSF grant has funded work to conserve and enhance the wildlife value of the site through fencing to enable grazing, pond management, hedge planting and traditional hedgelaying, as well as work to improve access to the whole site and provide interpretation to explain about the wildlife and history of the Country Park.

For more information about Natural England's ALSF Grants Scheme contact Natural England, (www.naturalengland.org.uk).