

Explore this amazing new landscape as it develops, discover Medmerry's fascinating past, and find out how this wildlife haven was created, whilst you watch and listen for the nature now making itself at home. It's a great time to be a part of something special – enjoy your day!

Now the new habitats are forming, exciting wildlife is turning up here, and there are miles of new paths for you to walk or cycle amongst glorious Sussex countryside.

Try to imagine Medmerry in 2011. It was low-lying farmland, and the fields and hundreds of nearby houses were under constant threat of flooding by the sea. The Environment Agency's solution? Build strong clay banks, creating the bay you can see now – and then let the sea in. It's the largest flood risk management scheme of its kind ever undertaken in Britain.

RSPB Medmerry is a fantastic new nature reserve on the Sussex coast. Lots of wildlife is moving in – come and see for yourself!

# Welcome



## Medmerry nature reserve

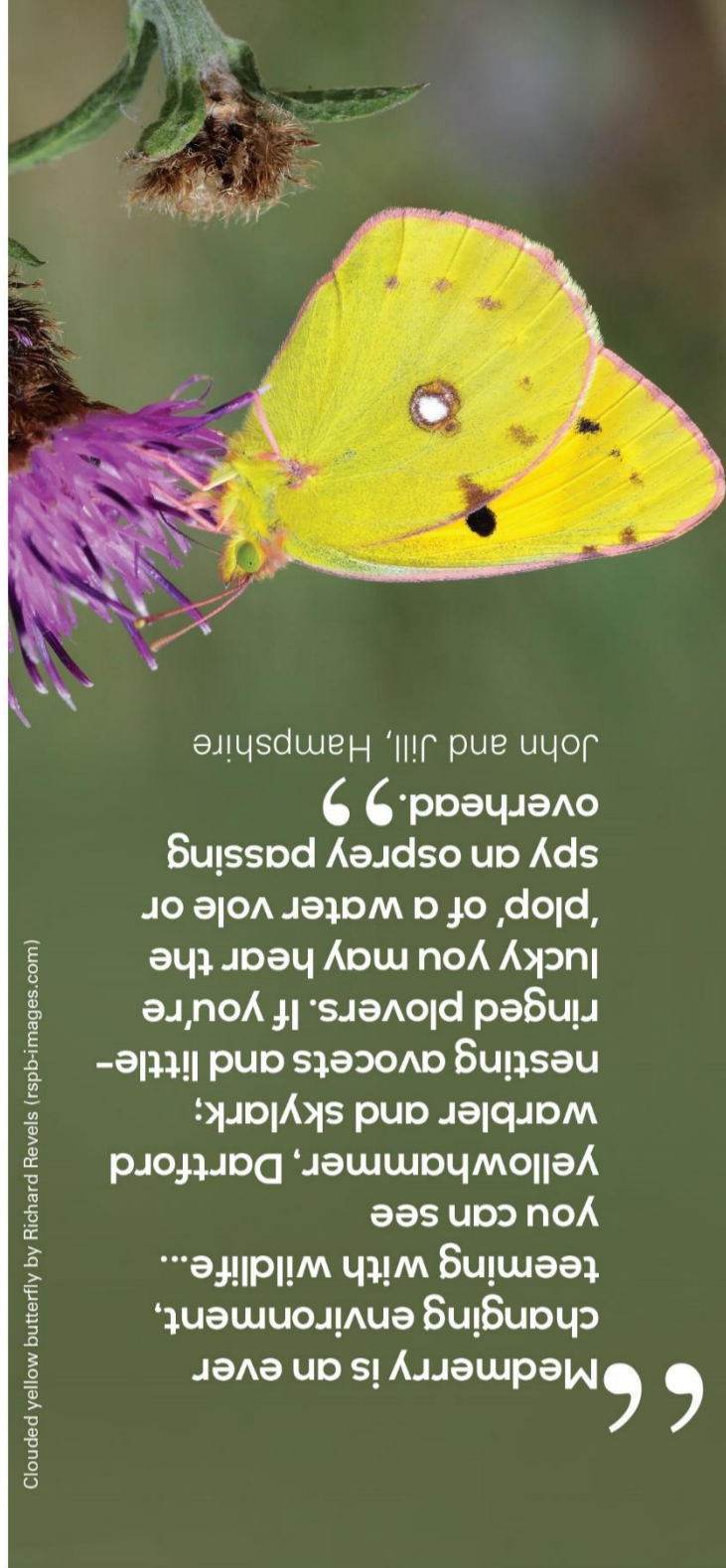


### Explore an amazing new landscape

See nature shaping the coast with every tide

Spot wildlife, like rowdy brent geese, settling in

Medmerry is big: get on your bike to discover it all



Clouded yellow butterfly by Richard Revels (rspb-images.com)

“Medmerry is an ever-changing environment, teeming with wildlife... you can see yellowhammer, Dartford warbler and skylark; nesting avocets and little-ringed plovers. If you're lucky you may hear the 'plop' of a water vole or spy an osprey passing overhead.”  
John and Jill, Hampshire

## Take part with us

### Guided walks

Throughout the year we have guided walks to show you the wildlife here, explain how Medmerry was created and reveal its fascinating history.

### Get involved

There's lots that needs doing at Medmerry, from planting trees to showing people this exciting place. Please come and join us as a volunteer.

**For dates, prices and full details of future events, or if you would like to volunteer, please e-mail: [pagham.harbour@rspb.org.uk](mailto:pagham.harbour@rspb.org.uk) or ring 01243 641508.**

## In this area...

### Other local attractions:

**RSPB Pagham Harbour, Selsey Road, Sidlesham, PO20 7NE** Tel: 01243 641508 (½ mile) [rspb.org.uk/paghamharbour](http://rspb.org.uk/paghamharbour)  
This is RSPB Medmerry's main base. There's a small visitor centre, toilets, and hot drinks available to buy.

**RSPB Pulborough Brooks, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 2EL** Tel: 01798 875851 (23 miles) [rspb.org.uk/pulboroughbrooks](http://rspb.org.uk/pulboroughbrooks)

Set in the beautiful Arun Valley, Pulborough Brooks is home to all kinds of nature. Look out for ducks such as teals and wigeons, hunt for weird and wonderful fungi in autumn and listen for nightingales in spring. With a visitor centre and café, it's a great day out for all the family.

## Top things to do

### Spring/summer

A busy time for nature and a great time for you to explore.

- 1 RSPB Medmerry is big, so get on your bike to discover it all.
- 2 Listen for skylarks, pouring out song high above the fields.
- 3 Watch avocets nesting at the Stilt Pools and keep an eye out for the adorable little chicks.
- 4 Look out for yellowhammers, corn buntings and other farmland birds, while hares box in the fields.
- 5 Listen for the “plop” of a diving water vole.

### Autumn/winter

Five things not to miss during the chillier months.

- 1 Listen for flocks of brent geese yapping as they graze the grasslands.
- 2 Keep your eyes peeled for buzzards, kestrels, short-eared owls and even hen harriers.
- 3 Watch nature changing the landscape, creating new saltmarsh and mudflats. Over a mile of shingle beach is re-shaped with every tide!
- 4 Watch wading birds delicately picking their prey from the mud along the new channels.
- 5 At low tide, hunt for fossils on the beach.

## How to get here

### Nearby: Selsey and Bracklesham

Start your visit at the RSPB Pagham Harbour visitor centre, which has toilets, information and a large car park.

**By bus:** Catch the Link bus 51 Chichester/Selsey Stagecoach service down the B2145 to Pagham Harbour visitor centre, where there is a request stop. Visit [stagecoachbus.com](http://stagecoachbus.com) for more information.

**By car:** Head for the Pagham Harbour visitor centre car park, PO20 7NE. There is a car park at Earnley, PO20 7JL and a smaller all-access car park at Easton Lane, PO20 7JY.

**By bike:** Currently, the best starting point is the car park at Earnley. New cycle paths are planned.

### Opening times

Medmerry nature reserve is open every day. Pagham Harbour visitor centre is open daily, 10 am to 4 pm, except Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

### Admission charges

Entry is free, but a donation will help our work for birds and other wildlife.

### RSPB Medmerry

c/o RSPB Pagham Harbour visitor centre, Selsey Road, Sidlesham, PO20 7NE  
Tel: 01243 641508, e-mail: [medmerry@rspb.org.uk](mailto:medmerry@rspb.org.uk)  
[rspb.org.uk/medmerry](http://rspb.org.uk/medmerry)

The RSPB is the country's largest nature conservation charity, inspiring everyone to give nature a home.

### Helping to give nature a home



The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 207076, in Scotland SC037654.

Front cover: brent goose by David Tipling (rspb-images.com). 860-1613-16-17

# RSPB Medmerry

## Finding your way around

Visiting Medmerry is an adventure. There are long footpaths and cycle tracks that are open at all times, for you to wander as you choose.

Bring a picnic on warm days – there are lots of places on the beach and the new floodbanks to enjoy it. Relax on one of the specially-created viewing mounds for far-reaching views and to watch the wildlife around you.

If it's too cold to sit still, wrap up warm for a tingling walk: let the bracing breeze rushing off the Solent blow away the cobwebs! Then head into Selsey or to one of the local pubs to warm up with hot food.

We want to make sure that you (and all our visitors) have a great time at RSPB Medmerry and enjoy your visit. To make the best of your day and to help the special wildlife here, please follow this advice as you explore:

**Strictly no unauthorised motor vehicles** (including motorbikes and minibikes) are allowed on the reserve or paths.

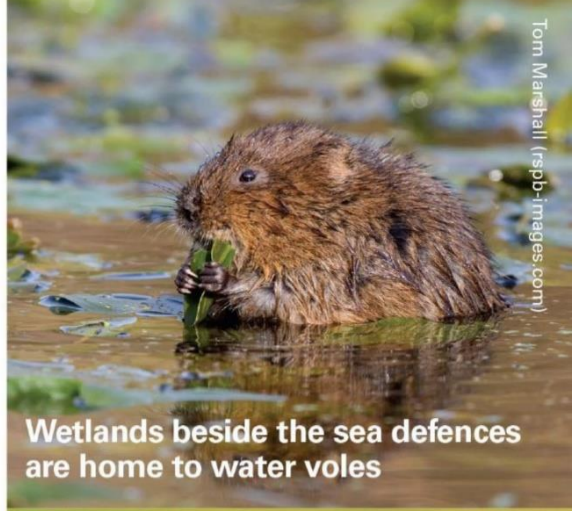
**Horse riders and cyclists:** Horse riding and cycling is welcome on the reserve – please keep to the bridleways and cyclepaths, leaving footpaths clear for pedestrians. Riding and cycling is not permitted on the flood bank itself.

**Stay safe:** please take care as you move around the site. The beach changes with every tide so be aware

of exposed objects, areas of soft mud and cliffs. Do not enter tidal areas, as the mud and fast flowing water are dangerous. **Please don't attempt to cross the breach.**

**Dog walkers:** please stay on public and permissive rights of way and keep your dog under close control. For safety, dogs must be on leads around grazing livestock.

Please don't let your dog chase livestock or wildlife, or foul paths or car parks. If they are caught short, please clean up after them. Thank you.



Wetlands beside the sea defences are home to water voles



If you're lucky, you might glimpse an adder in the grass



Tom Marshall (rspb-images.com)

Jeroen Stel (rspb-images.com)