

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 as the tide enters through a breach in the former defences. 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

Artist's impressions



Little egret

WHAT TO SEE

Over time, look out for dramatic changes to this landscape. Once tides wash over the land, and fresh water areas develop, some plants die back and other plants and animals adapted to living in different conditions begin to colonise. Come back to WWT Steart Marshes to see the changes as they happen.

HIGHLIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Wetland walkway: Specially designed to lead you from the car park to the viewing area through new wetlands and across new paths, bridges and decking.

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 big 'spring' tide.

WILDLIFE HIGHLIGHTS IN SUMMER

Birds such as little egret, lapwing, swallow and skylark. In late summer, hundreds 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, golden plover and meadow pipit.



INFORMATION

How big? The tidal area is almost 3km in length and over 1km wide – from end to end, it takes about an hour to walk.

Admission is FREE

Open all year round: Car parks and paths for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, 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 close control at all times. 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.

Paths: Follow way-marking to new fine-surfaced paths, allowing access on foot, some by wheelchair and most by bike. There is also a new circular bridleway.

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.

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.



Long walks at Steart



Common darter

HELP US PROTECT THE WILDLIFE HERE

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

@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

FSC
LOGO

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.

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



WWT Steart Marshes



working in partnership with Environment Agency

Welcome to WWT Steart Marshes

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

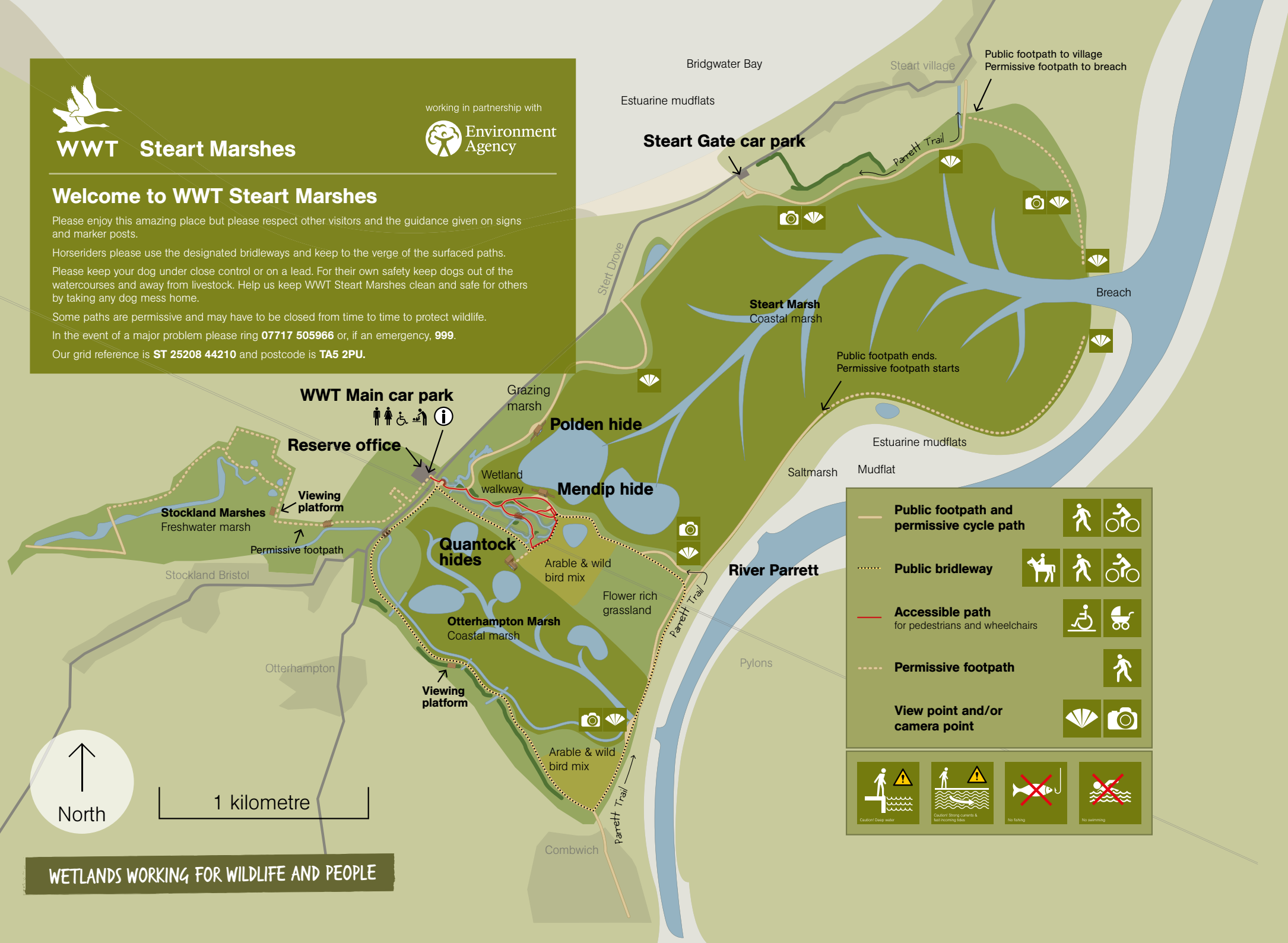
Hors riders please use the designated brideways and keep to the verge of the surfaced paths.

Please keep your dog under close 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.



Public footpath and permissive cycle path

Public brideway

Accessible path for pedestrians and wheelchairs

Permissive footpath

View point and/or camera point

Caution! Deep water

Caution! Strong currents & fast incoming tide

No fishing

No swimming

STEART MARSHES WELCOME MAP & INFORMATION



WETLANDS WORKING FOR WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE