

Homeowner Information Pack

The following information is provided as required by a planning condition relating to Planning permission 22/00757/OUT Condition 7

It provides information on the sensitivity of nearby Morecambe Bay and alternative locations to enjoy the countryside.

Welcome to your new home. The information contained in this pack is provided to inform you about the environmentally sensitive nature of the nearby estuary which is part of Morecambe Bay.

Information within this pack will inform you of why the estuary is sensitive and how you can help maintain its wildlife value. Recreational activities and walking routes in the local area which will not impact upon the estuary are provided. Please help us conserve Morecambe Bay and follow the countryside and seaside code.

Morecambe Bay is located on the Irish Sea coast of north-west England. It is one of the largest estuary systems in the UK and is fed by five main river channels (the Leven, Kent, Keer, Lune and Wyre) which drain through the sand and mud exposed at low tide.

Mussel beds and banks of shingle (stones) are present, and locally there are rocky outcrops. The whole estuary is dynamic, with shifting channels and phases of erosion and deposition affecting the sands and surrounding Saltmarshes. The mud contains an abundance of food that supports many of the waterbirds using the Bay. The capacity of the Bay to support large numbers of birds derives from these rich food sources together with a djacent freshwater wetlands, fringing saltmarshes and saline lagoons, as well as dock structures and shingle banks that provide secure places for birds to rest at high tide. The site is of European importance throughout the year for a wide range of bird species. In summer, areas of shingle and sand hold breeding populations of terns, whilst very large numbers of geese, ducks and waders not only overwinter, but (especially for waders) also use the site in spring and autumn migration periods.

The Bay is of particular importance during migration periods for waders moving up the west coast of Britain in spring and autumn. It is recommended that visits to the alternative sites promoted within this pack are made to avoid visiting/the estuary during the bird nesting season and when large flocks of birds are feeding in winter. Whilst the birds are in the area they will need to be able to rest & feed, disruption to this by people can have potential impacts on birds. Impacts may include reducing the amount of feeding time available from begin required to be more alert or taking flight due to threats perceived by people nearby.

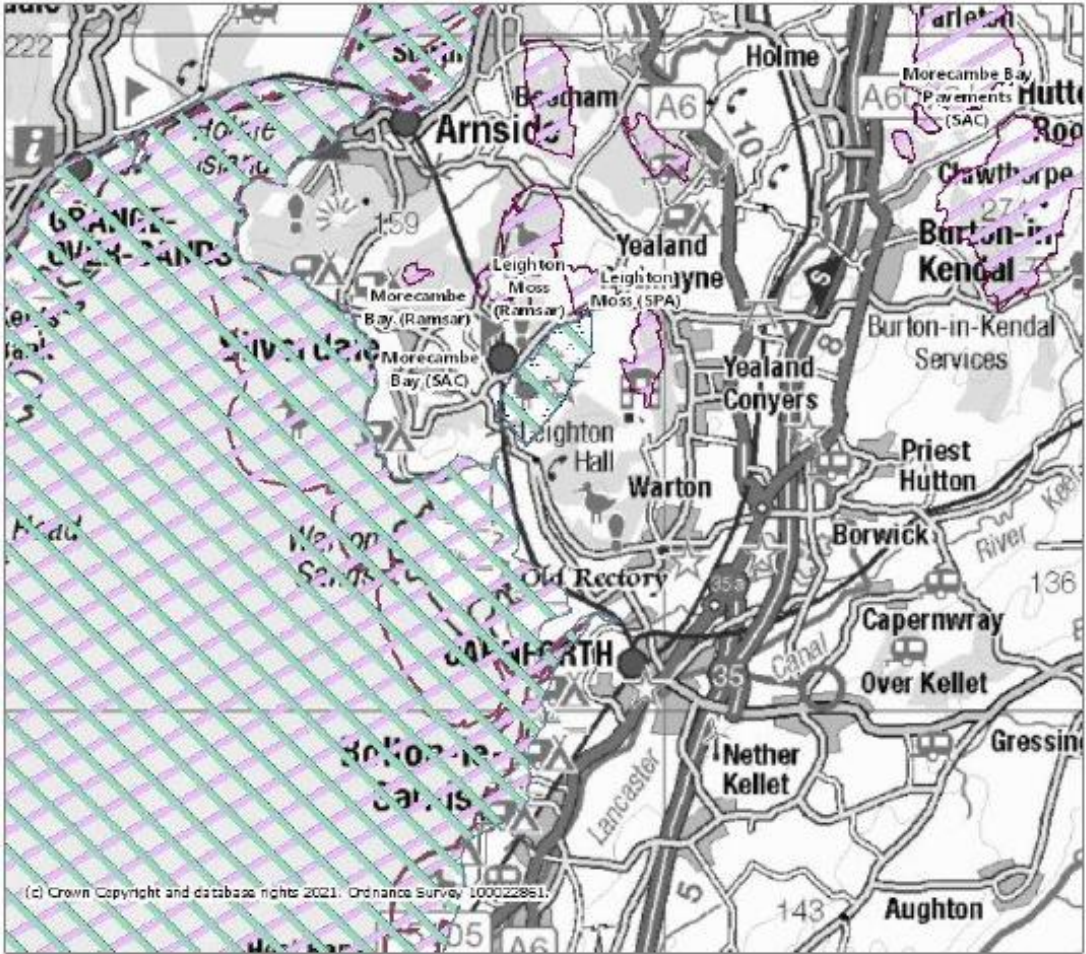
We would advise you avoid visiting the estuary between the months of September to March (Overwintering birds) and May to July (Nesting birds). We would advise that you should keep a distance from flocks of birds to avoid walking towards any birds. Please be alert to any change in birds behaviours ie. keeping their heads up, scanning around the area or stopping feeding the people should move away from the birds to prevent further disturbance

If you wish to explore open spaces we would suggest you visit Warton Cragg or Leighton Moss just a short walk or driveaway. Information on walks in these areas is included in this pack.

Morecambe Bay Protected Area

MAGiC

Morecambe Bay



Legend

- Ramsar Sites (England)
- Special Areas of Conservation (England)
- Special Protection Areas (England)

Projection = OSGB36
 xmin = 332100
 ymin = 465800
 xmax = 354300
 ymax = 481100

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The Countryside Code



Respect other people

Please respect the local community and other people using the outdoors. Remember your actions can affect people's lives and livelihoods.

Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors

- Respect the needs of local people and visitors alike – for example, don't block gateways, driveways or other paths with your vehicle.
- When riding a bike or driving a vehicle, slow down or stop for horses, walkers and farm animals and give them plenty of room. By law, cyclists must give way to walkers and horse-riders on bridleways.
- Co-operate with people at work in the countryside. For example, keep out of the way when farm animals are being gathered or moved and follow directions from the farmer.
- Busy traffic on small country roads can be unpleasant and dangerous to local people, visitors and wildlife - so slow down and where possible, leave your vehicle at home, consider sharing lifts and use alternatives such as public transport or cycling. For public transport information, phone Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.traveline.info.

Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

- A farmer will normally close gates to keep farm animals in, but may sometimes leave them open so the animals can reach food and water. Leave gates as you find them or follow instructions on signs. When in a group, make sure the last person knows how to leave the gates.
- Follow paths unless wider access is available, such as on open country or registered common land (known as 'Open Access land').
- If you think a sign is illegal or misleading such as a 'Private - No Entry' sign on a public path, contact the local authority.
- Leave machinery and farm animals alone – don't interfere with animals even if you think they're in distress. Try to alert the farmer instead.
- Use gates, stiles or gaps in field boundaries if you can – climbing over walls, hedges and fences can damage them and increase the risk of farm animals escaping.
- Our heritage matters to all of us – be careful not to disturb ruins and historic sites.

Protect the natural environment

We all have a responsibility to protect the countryside now and for future generations, so make sure you don't harm animals, birds, plants or trees and try to leave no trace of your visit. When out with your dog make sure it is not a danger or nuisance to farm animals, horses, wildlife or other people.



Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home

- Protecting the natural environment means taking special care not to damage, destroy or remove features such as rocks, plants and trees. They provide homes and food for wildlife, and add to everybody's enjoyment of the countryside.
- Litter and leftover food doesn't just spoil the beauty of the countryside, it can be dangerous to wildlife and farm animals – so take your litter home with you. Dropping litter and dumping rubbish are criminal offences.
- Fires can be as devastating to wildlife and habitats as they are to people and property – so be careful with naked flames and cigarettes at any time of the year. Sometimes, controlled fires are used to manage vegetation, particularly on heaths and moors between 1st October and 15th April, but if a fire appears to be unattended then report it by calling 999.

Keep dogs under effective control

- When you take your dog into the outdoors, always ensure it does not disturb wildlife, farm animals, horses or other people by keeping it under **effective control**. This means that you:
 - keep your dog on a lead, or
 - keep it in sight at all times, be aware of what it's doing and be confident it will return to you promptly on command
 - ensure it does not stray off the path or area where you have a right of access

- Special dog rules may apply in particular situations, so always look out for local signs – for example:
 - Dogs may be banned from certain areas that people use, or there may be restrictions, byelaws or control orders limiting where they can go.
 - The access rights that normally apply to open country and registered common land (known as 'Open Access' land) require dogs to be kept on a short lead between 1 March and 31 July, to help protect ground nesting birds, and all year round near farm animals.
 - At the coast, there may also be some local restrictions to require dogs to be kept on a short lead during the bird breeding season, and to prevent disturbance to flocks of resting and feeding birds during other times of year.
- It's always good practice (and a legal requirement on 'Open Access' land) to keep your dog on a lead around farm animals and horses, for your own safety and for the welfare of the animals. A farmer may shoot a dog which is attacking or chasing farm animals without being liable to compensate the dog's owner.
- However, if cattle or horses chase you and your dog, it is safer to let your dog off the lead – don't risk getting hurt by trying to protect it. Your dog will be much safer if you let it run away from a farm animal in these circumstances and so will you.
- Everyone knows how unpleasant dog mess is and it can cause infections, so always clean up after your dog and get rid of the mess responsibly – 'bag it and bin it'. Make sure your dog is wormed regularly to protect it, other animals and people.

Enjoy the outdoors

Even when going out locally, it's best to get the latest information about where and when you can go. For example, your rights to go onto some areas of Open Access land and coastal land may be restricted in particular places at particular times. Find out as much as you can about where you are going, plan ahead and follow advice and local signs.










Plan ahead and be prepared

- You'll get more from your visit if you refer to up-to-date maps or guidebooks and websites before you go. Visit www.gov.uk/natural-england or contact local information centres or libraries for a list of outdoor recreation groups offering advice on specialist activities.
- You're responsible for your own safety and for others in your care – especially children – so be prepared for natural hazards, changes in weather and other events. Wild animals, farm animals and horses can behave unpredictably if you get too close, especially if they're with their young – so give them plenty of space.
- Check weather forecasts before you leave. Conditions can change rapidly especially on mountains and along the coast, so don't be afraid to turn back. When visiting the coast check for tide times at www.ukho.gov.uk/easytide. Don't risk getting cut off by rising tides and take care on slippery rocks and sea-weed.
- Part of the appeal of the countryside is that you can get away from it all. You may not see anyone for hours, and there are many places without clear mobile phone signals, so let someone else know where you're going and when you expect to return.

Follow advice and local signs

England has about 190,000 km (118,000 miles) of public rights of way, providing many opportunities to enjoy the natural environment. Get to know the signs and symbols used in the countryside to show paths and open countryside.

Some of the symbols you may see

-  **Footpath** – open to walkers only, waymarked with a yellow arrow.
-  **Bridleway** – open to walkers, horse-riders and cyclists, waymarked with a blue arrow.
-  **Restricted byway** – open to walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and horse-drawn vehicles, waymarked with a plum coloured arrow.
-  **Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT)** – open to walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, horse-drawn vehicles and motor vehicles, waymarked with a red arrow.
-  **National Trail Acom** – Identifies 15 long distance routes in England and Wales and the England Coast Path. All are open for walking and some trails are also suitable for cyclists, horse-riders and people with limited mobility. Check the National Trail website at www.nationaltrail.co.uk for information including maps, trip planning tools and trail diversions.
-  **Open Access land** – 865,000 hectares of mountain, moorland, heathland, down land and registered common land (mapped under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) is available to people to walk, run, explore, climb and watch wildlife, without having to stay on paths. Similar rights are being extended in stages on coastal land in England (identified under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009). Check the Open Access web pages at www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk/wps/portal/oasys/maps/MapSearch for maps, information and any current restrictions in place.
-  A 'negative' access symbol – may be used to mark the end of area-wide access although other access rights may exist, for example public rights of way.

Countryside Code – advice for land managers

Know your rights, responsibilities and liabilities

People visiting the countryside provide important income for the local economy. Most like to follow a visible route, prefer using proper access points like gates, and generally want to do the right thing – but they need your help.

- The Ordnance Survey's 1:25,000 maps show public rights of way and access land. These maps are not 'definitive'. If in doubt you can check the legal status of rights of way with your local authority. You can find out which areas of Open Access land are mapped under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 on the Open Access web pages at www.openaccess.naturalengland.org.uk/wps/portal/oasys/maps/MapSearch.
- For guidance on your rights, responsibilities and liabilities, contact your local authority or National Park authority. The Country Land and Business Association, www.cla.org.uk, 020 7235 0511 and the National Farmers' Union, www.nfuonline.com, or 024 7685 8500 can also offer advice.
- For specific queries about Open Access land, check the Open Access pages on GOV.UK at www.gov.uk/guidance/open-access-land-management-rights-and-responsibilities or contact the Open Access Contact Centre, on 0300 0602091.

By law, you must keep rights of way clear and not obstruct people's entry onto access land – it's a criminal offence to discourage rights of public access with misleading signs.

- Trespassing is often unintentional – for advice on tackling trespass contact your local authority (www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council).

Make it easy for visitors to act responsibly

Most people who visit the countryside are keen to act responsibly and problems are normally due to a lack of understanding. There are a number of ways you can help them to realise their responsibilities:

- Keeping paths clear and waymarks and signs in good order and up to date will help people stick to the right routes and access points. Contact your local authority or National Park Authority to find out what help is available.
- Where there is public access through a boundary feature, such as a fence or hedge, create a gap if you can – or use an accessible gate or, if absolutely necessary, a stile. When installing completely new gates and stiles, make sure you have the permission of the local authority.

- Encourage people to respect your wishes by giving clear, polite guidance where it's needed. For example, telling visitors about your land management work helps them to avoid getting in your way.
- Rubbish attracts other rubbish – by getting rid of items such as farm waste properly, you'll discourage the illegal dumping of rubbish and encourage others to get rid of their rubbish responsibly.

Identify possible threats to visitors' safety

People come to the countryside to enjoy themselves. They have the first line of responsibility to keep themselves and their children safe while there, but you need to ensure that your activities do not knowingly put them at risk.

- Consider possible man-made and natural hazards on your land and draw any 'hidden' risks to the public's attention.
- Try to avoid using electric fencing or barbed wire where people may accidentally touch it, particularly alongside narrow paths and bridleways.
- If electric fencing is used, ensure warning signs are visible.
- Use and store any chemicals or poisonous substances responsibly on your land. They may kill wildlife or cause harm to people or pets. Any pest control you undertake must be planned with this risk in mind.
- Animals likely to attack visitors should not be allowed to roam freely where the public has access – you may be liable for any resulting harm.
- Your duty of care under the Occupiers' Liability Acts of 1957 and 1984 depends on the type of access right people have – so it's important to know what rights, if any, apply to your land. By voluntarily dedicating land for permanent public access you may be able to reduce this liability.

Natural England is here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

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www.gov.uk/natural-england



The Countryside Code

Respect Protect Enjoy

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead and be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs

The seaside code

The seaside is a great place to visit and enjoy, but it can be dangerous if you don't take care while you're there. By following the seaside code you can stay safe and healthy and also ensure that you leave all the plants and animals as you found them for others to enjoy. Please respect the coast and the plants and animals that live there.

Leave them alone

- Any animal or plant that you find on the coast can only live there. Please leave things where you find them, and don't take them home.
- Stones and pebbles on the beach look very attractive, but they are there for a reason. Removing stones from the beach will harm the many plants, animals and birds that live and feed amongst them.

Watch the tide

- Stay safe by making sure that someone knows where you are going and when you are due back, and keep to this plan.
- Make sure you know the [tide times](#) and keep checking so you don't get cut off as the tide comes in.
- If you are going to swim, make sure you stay close to the beach and never jump from the breakwaters.

Dog owners

- Please keep your dog under control. At some times during the year, you and your dog may disturb nesting or feeding birds.
- Please take note of any signs and help to look after the local wildlife.
- If you see dog foul left on the beach please [report it](#).

Mind your step

- Sand dunes are a fragile habitat and are also protected in the area. Help look after them by using paths and boardwalks, and by parking in marked bays.

Healthy and happy

- Stay healthy by washing your hands after playing on the beach, and especially before you have anything to eat.
- Help the birds and animals stay alive by taking your litter home with you and clearing up after your dog. Discarded rubbish can kill!

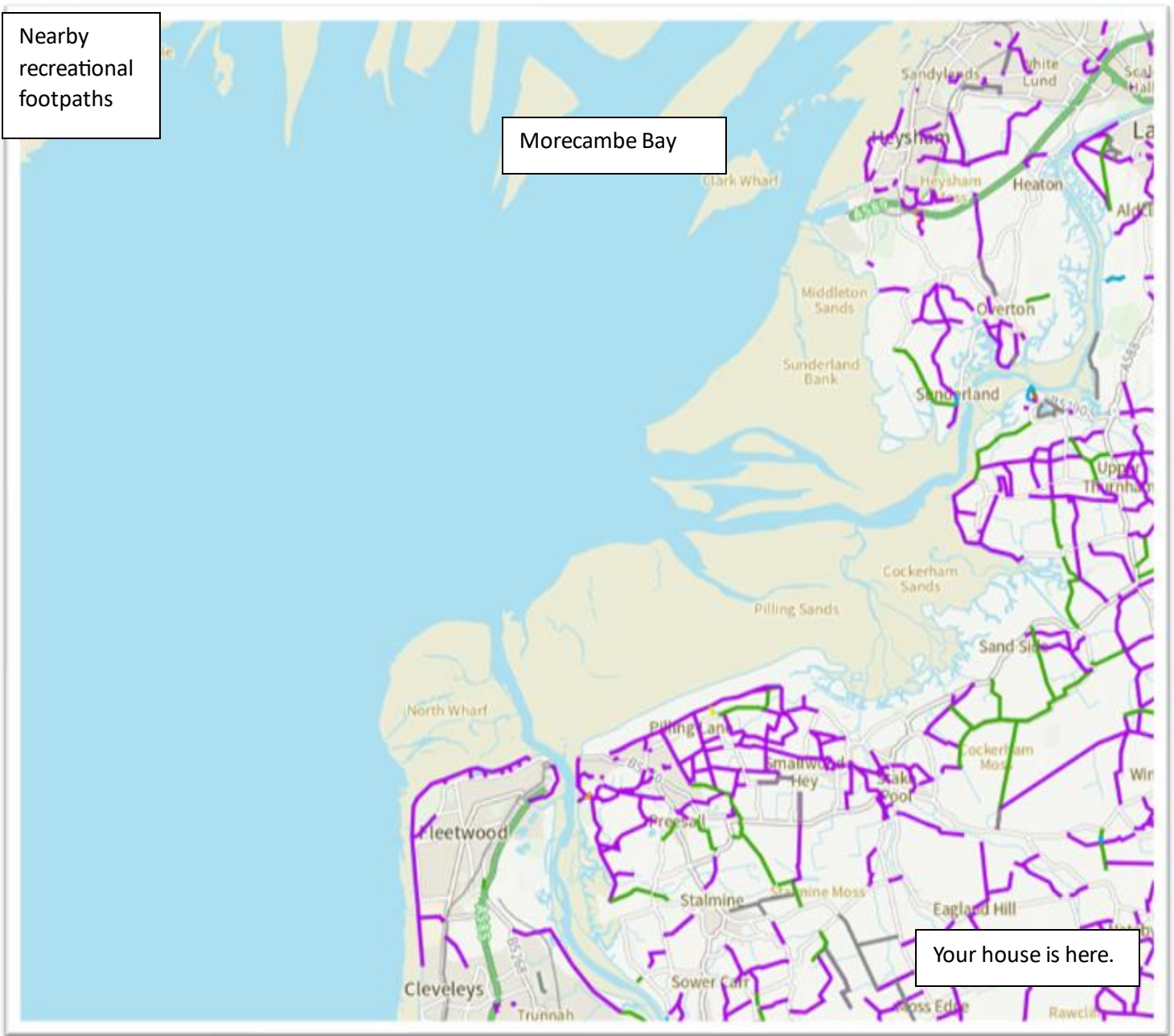
Calling for help

If you see someone in difficulty at sea please dial 999 and ask for the coastguard.

Tell them:

- • What you have seen
- • Where you have seen it
- • Where you are telephoning from
- • When you found the problem
- • Who you are

Do not enter the water unless you are trained to do so!



In and around Lancaster



Welcome to Lancaster, where wading birds gather against a backdrop of rich maritime history

The River Lune flows through this historic city and into Morecambe Bay. The bay brings nutrients to marine life that has attracted both birds and people throughout the ages. Sunderland Point on the north bank has a magical atmosphere and important maritime remnants, while Glasson Dock on the south bank is still a lively port.

In this guide you will find...

- Seasonal highlights
- Three great days out
- How to get around

Don't Miss...

There's so much to see and many hidden corners to explore, but these top 3 highlights are not to be missed!

- 1 Fabulous flocks of birds like **leat and curlew at Sunderland Point**
- 2 Exploring popular routes from Lancaster along tree-lined canals and old railways
- 3 Perfect spots for picnics and looking for kingfishers and otters along the River Lune



On a rainy day...

Discover our fishing, shipbuilding and trading heritage at Lancaster Maritime Museum, explore Lancaster Castle, the city's galleries and shops, or take shelter in ancient public houses along the river and canal.

Fascinating fact

Sunderland Point is one of only a few places in England where you can find baited beauty moths. In early spring look out for the wingless black and yellow striped furry females on old fence posts near Pett's Corner car park.

Seasonal Highlights

This area is full of wildlife, with something spectacular and different to see whatever the time of year.

Look out for:

SPRING

Gatherings of shelduck along the Lune estuary and saltmarsh creeks as they prepare to mate.

SUMMER

Little Egrets with their impressive white plumage as they stalk the saltmarsh and River Lune.

AUTUMN

Mesmerising murmurations of knot in autumn around high tide at beaches and coastal edges.

WINTER

Blow away the cobwebs - this is the best time to see ducks and wading birds like wigeon, dunlin and lapwing



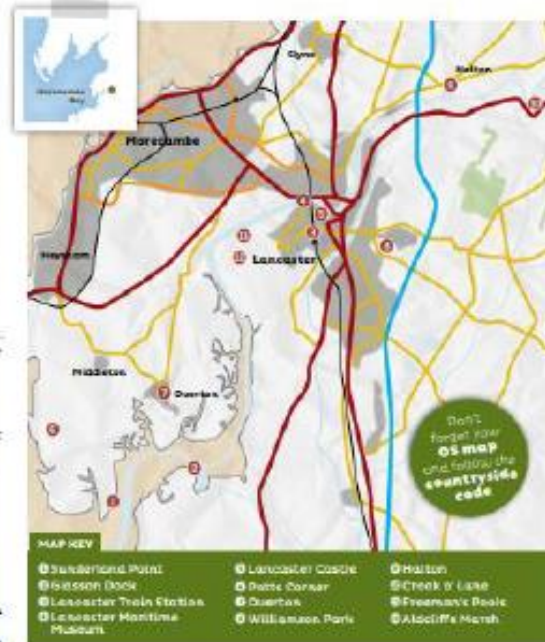
Sunderland Point

Sunderland Point is a truly special place for both its heritage and nature, it has a magical atmosphere and important maritime remnants. It's location at the tip of the headland at the mouth of the River Lune led to it being chosen as the site of an out port for Lancaster at the start of the 18th century.

At one point Lancaster was the third busiest port in the country and Sunderland port was allegedly the first landing place in Britain for cotton. Today you will find fisherman's cottages, mooring posts, and the ropewalk. Mooring posts for the boats were used by the vessels carrying gun powder, transported from here to Powderhouse Lane in Lancaster. There is also a grave on the western shore of the point of a cabin boy or slave known as "Sambo", who some thought was left behind by his master.

- The adventure to Sunderland Point starts as you leave Querton and ford the estuary at Ladies Bridge and follow the intertidal causeway road over saltmarsh to the port. Look out for shelduck with their chicks in the saltmarsh creeks in spring. Note this road is flooded at high tide - check tide times before you visit: www.tidetimes.org.uk.

- Walk around the coast to the headland to see the immense panorama of Morecambe Bay come into view. Here the saltmarsh and bay provide a major feeding area for up to 40,000 waders including knot, bar tailed godwit, and dunlin.
- Continue along the coast towards Pett's Corner to discover the small grave site of Sambo, still well tended 200 years after his death. Stop a while to reflect on the poetry and messages, or continue to seek out more bird spectacles.
- Visit Pett's Corner and Red Nab in autumn at high tide to see the black and white flashes of knot as massive flocks swoop in unison - known as murmurations.



Below the water of the bay is a plethora of marine life. The fishermen and women here regularly catch salmon, shrimps and whitebait. Seals and porpoises were commonly spotted in the past, so keep your eyes peeled and see if you're lucky.

After the demise of the port, holidaymakers wanting to experience the heaving mud and waters visited Sunderland and it became known as "Little Brighton on the Lune". While the cold waters may not seem appealing today, the views certainly still have an uplifting and therapeutic effect.



Lancaster

Lancaster is a vibrant city with a rich heritage linked to the river and Morecambe Bay. Amongst the hustle and bustle of popular markets, regular festivals and fascinating museums are some great spots to get away from it all and get closer to nature.

The River Lune runs through the heart of the city. It is tidal in nature and the sand banks and saltmarsh along its edge provide a haven for wildlife. The Lancaster Canal is another nature rich corridor through the city. These, together with parks, woodlands and small nature reserves make for a green city experience.

- Williamson Park just a short walk from the town centre is home to beautiful gardens, Ashton Memorial and Butterfly House. Visit the Butterfly House, then climb the steps inside Ashton Memorial for great views across the bay.

- Follow the River Lune path by boat or by bike to the Creek of Lune. Along the river stop and admire the massive aqueducts, which make great viewing points for looking for kingfishers. Look out for otters at Halton. A walk to Grey's Seat is worth the effort for the view immortalised in a painting by Turner in 1816 and hasn't changed since then. Take a picnic or enjoy food in local pubs at Caton.

- Visit an inner city oasis at Freeman's Pools and Aldcliffe saltmarsh.

- The pools about the River Lune and are regularly used by both wintering and breeding waders and wildfowl. Green Sandpiper, Godwit and Little Egret can be seen in winter. Aldcliffe saltmarsh is home to 1000s of lapwing and pink footed geese each winter. You'll also see swans, curlew and golden eye.

To get here head to St Georges Quay and then New Quay road in Lancaster. The road ends at the start of the Glasson Dock/Lune Estuary walk/cycle track.



Lancashire Wildlife Trust's reserve is situated about 300m on your right along the cycle track with Aldcliffe saltmarsh a little further along the track. Walk out along the track and back along the paths nearer the river to your starting point, or continue along the River Lune route to Glasson Dock.

- Take a trip on a narrow boat along the Lancaster Canal and look out for ducks, kingfisher, swans and dragonflies. Explore by bike and you can cycle to Glasson Dock and return along the River Lune cycle/walk route where you'll see waterfowl and wading bird spectacles.

Glasson Dock

In 1779 the Lancaster Port Commission decided to build Glasson Dock on the south headland of the River Lune. The lively little dock is popular today and a visit to the Port of Lancaster Smoakhouse is a must. Pubs and cafes here are very popular and most have great views out into the estuary.

In 1826 a canal branch was built to connect Glasson Dock with the main Lancaster Canal. In 1883 a railway line connected Glasson Dock to Lancaster, but closed in 1974. You can follow the canal towpath from Lancaster all the way to Glasson Dock

and the old railway is now a cycleway. Both are great traffic free routes perfect for a day out exploring.

- While away the hours exploring the village and coastal paths. Walk to Cockersands Abbey along the coast path to see lapwing in summer, dunlin in autumn and knot, curlew, oystercatchers and godwits in winter. Or, stay closer to the docks and explore the walk along the estuary to Conder Green to see greenshank, redshank and lapwing. The best time to see them is 2 hours before and after high tide.
- Roed deer have been seen swimming across sections of the River Lune - keep your eyes peeled!



Getting here

We believe that a car free journey is a car free journey.

- Arrive by train. Lancaster train station is on the western mainline. Call National Rail Enquiries 08457 48 49 50. Look out for a Duo ticket when two adults travel on Northern Trains.
- Arrive by bus from Preston on bus number 40 or 41, from Blackpool on bus service 42, or Keswick and Windermere on the 555.
- By bike, National Cycle Route 6 leaves Preston along the Lune into Lancaster, and follows Lancaster Canal to Carnforth.

Getting Around

The quiet footpaths and lanes are perfect for exploring by boat and bike.

- Take a compass and a map (OS Explorer Map OL7) and wear appropriate clothing.
- Take the whole family for a day out using the traffic free paths along the River Lune - south to Glasson Dock and north to the Creek of Lune.
- Cycle the quiet lanes of the Lune Valley or for the more adventurous try the Lancashire Cycleway (Route 90).
- Visit www.celebratingcycling.org for more routes.
- You can hire bikes from Lakeland Cycles, Bolton le Sands 01524 735465, or Sunehine Cycles at Coopers Amusements, Morecambe, 01524 414709.



Staying Longer

Lancaster is a great base for a long weekend or a short break.

- Choose to stay at the heart of the city or in the surrounding countryside inns, hotels and guesthouses. Find out more at www.citycoastcountryside.co.uk
- Call Lancaster Visitor Information Centre on 01524 32878.

Moving on

Look out for other itineraries in this series at www.morecambebaynature.org.uk/discover.

- Cycle to Arnside & Silverdale AONB, famous for its wildlife and a haven for butterflies in particular.
- Visit the Wyre Estuary and Rossall Point for bird spectacles.

Useful contacts: call or search online

- Lancaster Visitor Information Centre 01524 582384
- Lancaster Maritime Museum 01524 382 264
- Williamson Park Butterfly House 01524 33318
- www.lancashirewalks.com
- www.canalrivertrust.org.uk
- www.citycoastcountryside.co.uk



This leaflet is brought to you by Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership's Nature Improvement Area and Morecambe Bay Partnership's 700 Days to Transform the Bay scheme. It is funded by Defra, DCLG, Natural England, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, Coastal Communities Fund and RSPB Futurescapes (Life Centre).

The routes described are for guidance only. Please watch up to date maps when exploring (distances, it's a good idea to plan your route in more detail before you set off, and to check the weather forecast and tide tables, where appropriate including wind direction). Forget to take food and water. The information does not constitute any liability for injury or loss of property or equipment whilst exploring this area. For more information on the enjoying the nature of Morecambe Bay visit www.morecambebaynature.org.uk

In and around Morecambe



Welcome to Morecambe, a seafood haven for birds and visitors alike

The massive panorama of vast shimmering sands with a backdrop of Lakeland fells is as mesmerising today as it was when tourists first visited in the 19th Century. The fantastic food, heritage, and nature of Morecambe are indebted to the vast intertidal sands teeming with sea creatures.

Don't Miss...

There's so much to see and many hidden corners to explore, but these top 3 highlights are not to be missed!

- 1 Strolling along Morecambe Promenade, sampling seaside treats, and watching wonderful waders
- 2 Discovering atmospheric heritage sites, hidden beaches and magical mosses at Heysham
- 3 A hidden oasis at Heysham Nature Reserve where butterflies and dragonflies abound



In this guide you will find...

- Seasonal highlights
- Three great days out
- How to get around

On a rainy day...

Visit Heysham Heritage Centre (everyday except Mon in Summer, weekends in winter, call 01524 853405), or book a tour of the famous Winter Gardens Theatre (01524 422180).

Fascinating fact

Half Moon Bay is one of the few places you'll find Honeycomb Worm Reefs around the Bay – built by Sabellaria alveolata worms from shells and sand. The worms build their homes on hard rock, but need sand to create the tubes they live in.

Seasonal Highlights

This area is full of wildlife, with something spectacular and different to see whatever the time of year.

Look out for:

SPRING

Noisy flocks of migrating pink footed geese at Heysham Head and greenshank, whimbrels and ringed plover.

SUMMER

Heysham Nature Reserve comes alive with bees, dragonflies, and 21 species of butterfly.

AUTUMN

The spectacle of massive flocks of knot all moving in unison, known as murmurations at Morecambe and Hest Bank.

WINTER

Oystercatchers meet in large numbers during winter. See them on groynes, jetties and piers as the tide rises.



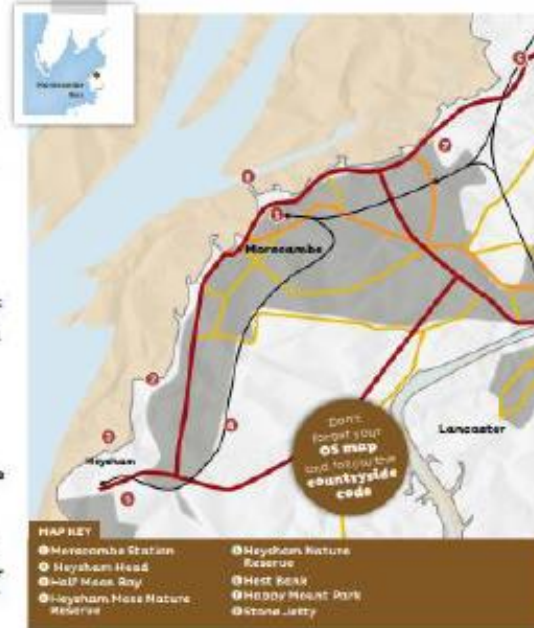
Morecambe Promenade

Morecambe's popularity as a holiday resort dates from the 1850s when the railways arrived, connecting the town to the industrial centre of northern England, with visitors drawn to the clean air, beautiful scenery and the sea.

Today Morecambe Promenade connects Hest Bank with Heysham Head and is still a favourite place of locals and visitors for gazing across the immense bay to the Lakeland fells beyond and watching the many birds that flock here for food and shelter.

- In Morecambe town the stone jetty, promenade, sea groynes and sea wall are all great places to view birds as they feed in the sands and roost as the tide comes in. Oystercatchers leave Morecambe because they can find their favourite food, cockles and mussels, in abundance. You'll see them all year round but the spring and autumn spectacles around 2 hours before and after a high tide are the best times to see them.
- Admire the marine-inspired artwork around the town and the Tern Project installed art works along the promenade and stone jetty. These celebrate the birdlife of this special bay. The iconic Art Deco Midland Hotel was built in the 1930's by the London Midland & Scottish Railway and included works by Eric Gill, Marion Dorn and Eric Ravilious. Outside the hotel Eric Gill designed two seahorses modelled as Morecambe shrimps. Walk east from the hotel to discover the statue of Eric Morecambe complete with binoculars as Morecambe was a favourite place to watch the birds of the bay.

Enjoy fresh fish at Atkinson's Fish and chips, the Waterfront Restaurant in the Clarendon Hotel, and Edmondson's fish shop. Ray Edmondson has been shrimping in Morecambe Bay for fifty years and together with



Wife Pat runs Edmondson's Fish Shop where you can buy their own recipe potted shrimps as well as fresh fish. For more famous Morecambe Bay potted shrimp try Baxter's.

- Morecambe has always been a hub of entertainment, and is the birthplace of Eric Bartholomew (better known as Eric Morecambe). Get into the seaside spirit at the Morecambe Variety Festival (May), and other seaside festivals and events held each year. In summer a brass band plays in Happy Mount Park on Sundays.
- Don't forget to pop into Bruciani's iconic ice cream parlour for a favourite seaside treat, or take afternoon tea at the Midland Hotel.



Heysham Head

It's hard to imagine this stretch of coastline before the seaside visitors arrived, but there has been some kind of settlement in here since the Stone Age, and consequently the whole area is dotted with ancient sites, including one of the finest Anglo-Viking sites in the North West.

It's also a great place for watching wildfowl, waders and passing seabirds using the East Atlantic Flyway - a major migratory route for birds that fly between Scandinavia, Europe and Africa to breed in spring and overwinter in warmer climes.

- Follow the promenade from Morecambe south on a 1 hour stroll (2 miles / 3.5 km) to Heysham village. Here the limestone cliffs meet the sand and are topped with the atmospheric ruins of St Patrick's Chapel (National Trust) and 8 rock out grasses, believed to be unique. Explore the headland and discover the nature in the grasslands and woodlands of the Barrow. It's a great place for kids to play and explore.

- Heysham harbour is an excellent place to view sea birds like fulmars, guillemots, kittiwakes, leeches petrel, and storm petrels as they pass by to breeding grounds elsewhere. Head here 2 hours either side of high tide to see oystercatchers, dunlin, wigeon and curlew (July to February). Look out for flocks of knot in autumn when thousands of birds move and dance as one - known as murmurations.

- Explore the beach at Half Moon Bay and see if you can find cockles and shore crabs. You might find jellyfish washed up - the favourite food of the leatherback turtle that migrates from the Caribbean to the Irish Sea.

- Just inland from the coast you'll find Lancashire Wildlife Trust's Heysham Moss Nature Reserve. Mosses and bogs are acidic



St Patrick's Chapel

and very low in nutrients and plants have had to adapt to life here. The sundew has a clever way to get nutrients - they trap insects like ants and flies in their sticky hairs! The unique plants that grow here attract different birds like lapwing, shelduck, grasshopper warbler, reedbunting, and skylark.

There are cafes and pubs where you can refuel and relax in Heysham village and at Half Moon Bay.

A Hidden Oasis

You'll find Lancashire Wildlife Trust's Heysham Nature Reserve tucked between the industrial Heysham Port and the golf course. This hidden oasis has an abundance butterflies and dragonflies.

The reserve is a mosaic of a ponds, reedbed, marsh, grasslands, heath and woodlands.

- The variety of habitats supports lots of different flowering plants: there are over 200 species. Look out for bee orchid (it looks like a bumble bee) and yellow-wort.
- The flowers provide nectar for over 20 species of butterflies



Bee orchid

and its home to day-flying moths. The butterflies are a summertime spectacle on the reserve. Look out for small skipper, grayling and small copper. The biggest spectacles are the masses of common blue butterfly.

- Linger by the ponds and reedbeds to watch dragonflies and damselflies dart around. Look out for some less common species such as ruddy darter, emerald damselfly and emperor dragonfly.

The reserve has a small car park and is accessible by wheelchairs, pushchairs and crampers.



White Gull

Getting here

We believe that a car free journey is a more free journey.

- By rail, change from the main line at Lancaster for the short journey to Morecambe
- By bike, take the Lancashire Coastal Way from Lancaster or National Cycle Route 6 from Carnforth
- Buses run frequently from Lancaster

Getting Around

The promenades and flat coastal lanes are great for exploring by foot and bike.

- Take a compass and a map (OS Explorer Map DL7) and wear appropriate clothing.
- Walk or cycle along the car free promenades and routes that connect Heysham, Morecambe and Haet Bank.
- No bikes? No worries! Sunshine Cycle Hire rent bikes and tandems (at Coopers Amusements, 01524 414709)
- Enjoy a unique side of Morecambe by boat with a fan sail or 2 day course with Bay Sea School (call 07721 891615).
- Don't forget the fantastic train routes around the whole of the bay.



Staying Longer

Morecambe is a great base for a long weekend or a short break.

- Choose to stay at the heart of the town or in the surrounding village inns, hotels and guesthouses. Find out more at www.citycoastcountryside.co.uk
- Call Morecambe Visitor Information Centre on 01524 582808

Moving on

Look out for other itineraries in this series at www.morecambebaynature.org.uk/discover

- Visit the quaint parts of Sunderland and Glasson on the mouth of the River Lune
- Explore the unusual limestone landscape on Warton Crag near Carnforth
- Take the train around the Bay to Grange and Humphrey Head nature reserve

Useful contacts: call or search online

- Morecambe Visitor Information Centre 01524 582808
- Sunshine Cycle Hire 01524 414709
- Bay Sea School 07721 891615
- Heysham Heritage Centre 01524 853465
- Winter Gardens Theatre 01524 422180
- National Trust St Patrick's Chapel 01524 701178
- www.citycoastcountryside.co.uk



This website is brought to you by Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership's Nature Improvement Area and Morecambe Bay Partnership's 700 Bays to Transform the Bay scheme. It is funded by Defra, DCCL, Natural England, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, Coastal Communities Fund and DCCL Fisheries and Aquaculture R&D Scheme 1. The routes described are for guidance only. Please take us up to date with us in planning this area. It's a good idea to plan your route in more detail before you set off, and to check the weather forecast and tide tables. Wear appropriate clothing and don't forget to take food and water. The Partnership cannot be held responsible in the unlikely event of injury or accident whilst exploring the area. For more information at the opening of Morecambe Bay visit www.morecambebaynature.org.uk

