

The Shingle Issue



Summer 2013

Newsletter of the Dungeness National Nature Reserve

No 13

THE SHINGLE ISSUE

WELCOME to the *Shingle Issue*, the newsletter for the Dungeness National Nature Reserve. Read on to find out more about some of the exciting projects from Dungeness to Greatstone.

Rare flower benefits from Long Pits winter work scheme

The Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (RMCP) has spent another winter with contractors and volunteers clearing another hectare of scrub from an area called the Long Pits, Dungeness.

The area is owned by a gravel company called CEMEX and covers an area of around 120 hectares of land stretching from the top of the Power Station approach road, across to the entrance to the Dungeness Estate and down nearly to the Old Lighthouse. The area is well used by dog walkers, anglers and birdwatchers.

The Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership have been working in this area for over three years now under Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.

In that time about five hectares of willow scrub have been removed through contractors and volunteers with the RMCP through work parties.

We have worked on the margins of the bottom Long Pit in recent years and have seen a tremendous increase in the rare plant Lesser Water Plantain around the muddy margins. Many other rare marginal plants have been lost over the last 50 years and we hope further discoveries will be made in the years to come.

For further information please contact Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership on 01797 367934 or mail@rmcp.co.uk



Help keep the sea buckthorn at bay

The vast majority of Greatstone Dunes is owned by Shepway District Council (SDC) and is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The sea buckthorn has spread over large areas of the Dunes in the last 30 odd years and is threatening to shade out the unique wildlife, as well as providing the main feeding plant for large numbers of caterpillars of the Brown-Tailed Moth.

In a joint partnership between Shepway District Council and ourselves we have removed 90% of the sea buckthorn in the Dunes over the last four years, part funded by Natural England's Higher Level Stewardship scheme.

The removal of the sea buckthorn is part of a programme to improve the access of the dunes for residents and



visitors, to reduce the risk of Brown Tail moth caterpillar infestations and to also increase the botanical and invertebrate interest in the Dunes which the rapid spread of the

buckthorn was threatening.

Please join us on our volunteer task days to help remove sea buckthorn regrowth. We will provide gloves, tools and refreshments. You will need to wear old working clothes and boots or stout shoes.

The volunteer work parties will be in Greatstone Dunes on four days in November on Tuesday 5th, Sunday 10th, Tuesday 12th and Friday 15th November.

Please meet at the large Shepway District Council car park, opposite the Jolly Fisherman pub at 10am.

For further information or getting involved in the future of the Dunes please contact Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership on 01797 367934 or mail@rmcp.co.uk

Chance to see early radar

The Sound Mirrors, concrete dishes or Listening Ears were built in the 1920s and 1930s to detect enemy aircraft as part of the early warning system for Britain. All three designs are at Lade/Greatstone, the only place in Britain where these structures can be found.

Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership is organising an **Open Day on Sunday 14th July 2013 between 10am and 5pm.**

For the Open Day please make your own way to the mirrors. Follow the signs from Lade car park. Walk down Taylor Road which is opposite and take the signposted signs across the shingle and along the track to the bridge - where staff will be waiting to provide

information throughout the day. A donation will be appreciated. Extra guided walks have been organised for **Sunday 11th August and Sunday 3rd November 2013. Both start at 2pm.**

Meet at Lade Car Park. No need to book, but a donation is appreciated.

Please park in the Lade Car Park off Coast Drive at Lade. This car park is a mile north from the Pilot pub on Dungeness and has no height barrier, it has public toilets and parking is free. Grid Reference - TR 085 208 or Sat Nav - TN29 9PE.

For more information contact Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership on 01797 367934 or mail@rmcp.co.uk or look on the website www.rmcp.co.uk



Garden rubbish poses flytip pest on the NNR

A part from the diverse and amazing landscape of the Dungeness National Nature Reserve (NNR), the NNR is unique in the fact that around 1,000 homes back on or face the large nature reserve.

Today, 15 years after Dungeness was designated a National Nature Reserve, the Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership with partners like Natural England and Shepway District Council have been very successful in reducing the amount of flytipped rubbish.

However, we still have a very small minority of homeowners who feel they have the right or see no issues in flytipping or dumping primarily their garden rubbish on to the NNR.

We strive to be fair and give residents opportunities to rectify any misunderstandings, by informing them of the land designations and our aims, but we retain the right to prosecute any homeowner who repeatedly flytips on the NNR.

We have a fantastic Kent County Council recycling facility in Mountfield Road, New Romney, which is open seven days a week and a fortnightly garden refuse collection service run by Shepway District Council.

Please use the services provided and not dump rubbish on the NNR.

Surveys will help plan way ahead

Dungeness and Rye Bay are highly popular with people enjoying the coastline for many reasons, including walking, fishing, photography, kite-surfing, bird watching – and enjoying a good locally caught fish supper.

Tourism is crucial to the local economy, but with much of the area being internationally important for wildlife some access management is needed so that people can enjoy themselves, businesses can thrive, residents aren't disturbed and sensitive habitats can be protected.

The Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership already does much to help people enjoy the area in a responsible way through, for example, guided walks, interpretation, and way-marking of routes. Now Shepway and Rother Councils, Natural England and



Rye Harbour Nature Reserve are working on a project to learn more about visiting to the area and are planning surveys over the coming year to look at:

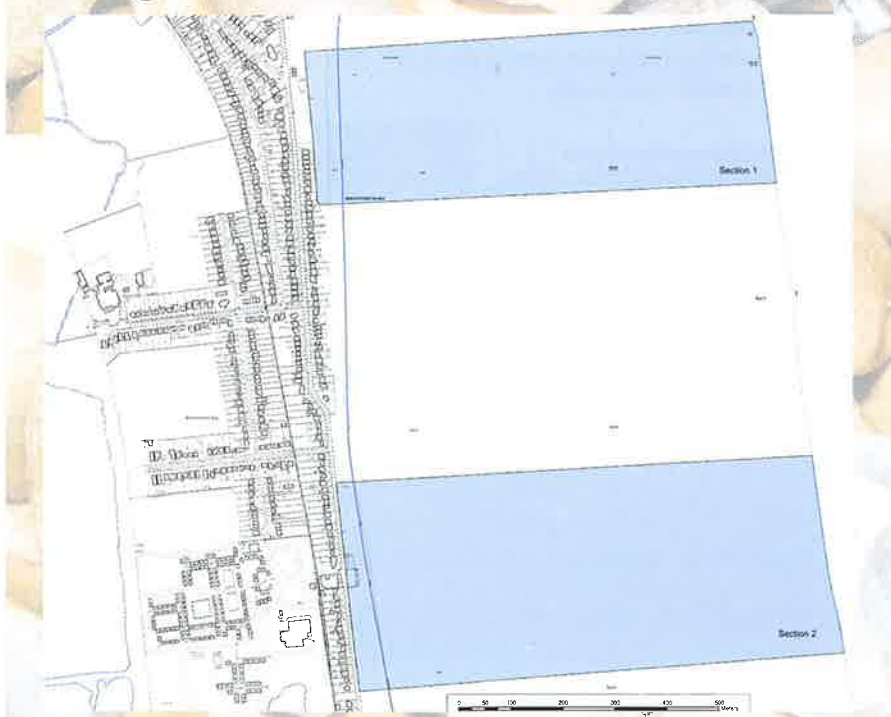
- * where people come from, how they get here and how long they stay
- * where visitors go, what they do, and

how much they spend when they come

The surveys will help to understand the current situation and to plan better for the future.

For further information contact Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership on 01797 367934 or owenleyshon@rmcp.co.uk

Dog free zones in Greatstone



Greatstone beaches are a Dog Free Zone between 1st May and 30th September every year.

Two new dog free zones are now in place for the Greatstone beach area;

- 1) Jolly Fisherman to 17 The Parade
- 2) 114 The Parade to 172 The Parade.

Signs are in place in the appropriate places but it is every dog owner's responsibility to be aware of these zones.

These zones are now also under the Dog Control Orders and allowing your dog into them could lead to an £80 fixed penalty.

Please be a responsible dog owner, adhering to the zones and remaining mindful of other beach users.

Karyl Rimmer Dog Warden, Environmental Health, Shepway District Council. Telephone: 01303 858660. web: www.shepway.gov.uk

September date for clean up at Dungeness Point

The Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership will be organising a beachclean on Dungeness Point as part of the Marine Conservation Society beachcleans which are organised nationally.

This will be on **Sunday 22nd September 2013. Meet at the Red and White Barrier between the Old Lighthouse and the power station fence at 10am.**

We will be counting and clearing rubbish from a section of beach in front of the power station. This will be our 18th year of participating in bagging and monitoring the rubbish on the tideline.

Just turn up, we will provide the litter pickers, bags and gloves and clipboards!

For more information, please contact Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership on 01797 367934 or mail@rmcp.co.uk or visit the website www.rmcp.co.uk

Seven years of support for litter warden

A part time litter warden was first appointed on Dungeness Point in summer 2006.

This initiative has been only possible by a wide range of partners who have supported this project and continue to do so into 2013. Thank You.

In summary in 2012, a total of 453 large orange rubbish bags were filled by the litter warden out of a total of 1,042 rubbish bags removed from the Dungeness NNR between the Point and Greatstone.

The funding for this project has come from Shepway District Council, Natural England, Dungeness Estate, Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, Dungeness Angling Association, Wasp Financial Management, Dungeness Old Lighthouse, plus Peter Marlow, Fiona Naylor and Brian Johnson.

Guided walks on Dungeness National Nature Reserve

How about coming along on one of our guided tours to learn more about the Dungeness National Nature Reserve.

Sunday 2 June 2pm

WILDLIFE WALK AROUND DUNGENESS POINT

A gentle walk to see the characteristic wildlife which can be found on the Dungeness National Nature Reserve. Bird migration is at a peak and the flowers and insects will be making the Point a colourful spectacle. **LEADER:** Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (01797 367934 or 07770 670316). **MEET:** Old Lighthouse car park, Dungeness Road, Dungeness (TR 088 167 or TN29 9NB). **DISTANCE:** 2 miles (2.5 hours).

Friday 21 June 6.30pm

FLOWERS OF DUNGENESS

A gentle walk to see the wonderful flowers which are at their best now on the Dungeness National Nature Reserve. **LEADER:** Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (01797 367934 or 07770 670316). **MEET:** Old Lighthouse car park, Dungeness Road, Dungeness (TR 088 167 or TN29 9NB). **DISTANCE:** 2 miles (2.5 hours).

Sunday 21 July 2pm

DRAGONFLIES ON LONG PITS, DUNGENESS

This is an opportunity to venture across Dungeness to the Long Pits, which holds an excellent range of dragonfly species. **LEADER:** Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (01797 367934 or 07770 670316). **MEET:** Old Lighthouse car park, Dungeness Road, Dungeness Point (TR 088 167 or TN29 9NB). **DISTANCE:** 2.5 miles (2.5 hours).

Sunday 24th November 2pm

IT IS A DESERT OUT THERE!

An opportunity to take a wander out across the shingle of the National Nature Reserve (NNR) to discover the wildlife which lives at Dungeness, but also how the landscape has been formed over centuries by the sea and the animals which have munched across it! **LEADER:** Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (01797 367934 or 07770 670316). **MEET:** Old Lighthouse car park, Dungeness Road, Dungeness (TR 088 167 or TN29 9NB). **DISTANCE:** 2 miles (2.5 hours).

How to get in touch with us

Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership

For day to day issues on the Dungeness NNR from Dungeness to Greatstone please call the Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership first. Reports of 4x4 vehicles, motorbikes, quad-bikes, flytipping, rubbish, management work, volunteering, film crews, group bookings and wildlife sightings.

Owen Leyshon 01797 367934

mail@rmcp.co.uk Website www.rmcp.co.uk

www.dungeness-nnr.co.uk

Natural England

Permission and paperwork for any works on the Dungeness NNR and the wider SSSI land.

Please call Jo Dear on 03000 604776 or

Becky Plunkett (NNR Senior Reserves Manager) on 03000 604755.

Other useful numbers

Dungeness RSPB – Part of the Dungeness NNR.

Site manager – Martin Randall 01797 320588.

Educational Groups – Heather Chantler 01797 322666

The Shingle Issue is produced with the support of:



The Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership is managed by the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership with funding from Shepway District Council, Natural England, Kent County Council, Magnox and EDF.