

The Shingle Issue

Spring and Summer 2016
Newsletter of the Dungeness National Nature Reserve



No 16

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.

EDF Energy buys Dungeness Estate

EDF Energy is the new owner of the Dungeness Estate which covers the iconic landscape of the fishing boats, houses and lighthouses. The energy company owns and operates Dungeness B nuclear power station adjacent to the Estate, and is the biggest employer in the area boosting the local economy by over £40 million each year.

Forming part of the Dungeness

National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), the Estate is also of international importance being within the Dungeness Special Area of Conservation (SAC) as well as the Special Protection Area (SPA) because of its bird interest. EDF Energy has pledged its commitment

visitors who come to experience the unique landscape.

"The Dungeness Estate is truly a special site," said Christine Blythe, EDF Energy's Biodiversity Manager, "so we are very pleased to be working with the Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership who will be able to provide us with their local knowledge and support."

Martin Pearson, station director at Dungeness B said: "We're delighted to be the purchasers of the Estate and want to reassure the community that it is our intention to be a responsible owner of the land. Dungeness B has been a huge part of the community for over 30 years; many of our employees live in the area and we bring business to local suppliers. We've always worked alongside the local community to preserve and enhance this unique environment and EDF Energy is committed to this."

Following the acquisition Dungeness B has held two residents' meetings to keep the community up to date, allowing them to meet the team and ask any questions.

A dedicated email address has been set up for anyone with questions about the Estate and the Dungeness B Visitor Centre is open Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm dungenessbcommunity@edf-energy.com

Visitor Centre Coordinator Karen Paterson can be reached on 01797 343728 or by dropping into the centre, based at the site.

to conserving and enhancing the special wildlife of this unique habitat while working with other landowners to manage the large numbers of



Filming at Dungeness? Please read this first

The Dungeness Point is a private estate and is part of the wider Dungeness National Nature Reserve and is very popular with tourists, bird-watchers, anglers and photographers, owing to its unique landscape.

To find out more about getting permission for any photography, filming or student project, please visit the booking website which will help with any queries or questions.

www.dungenessestate.co.uk

There is also a 24hr telephone help desk at BNP Paribas, **0844 7369654**, and an email info@dungenessestate.co.uk

Or you can try the Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership on 01797 367934 and ask for an informal chat with Owen Leyshon.

To gain permission for any fashion, filming or student project there will be a process of paperwork and an assessment of the proposed details before access will be granted.

All booked shoots, filming and student projects will be supervised on Dungeness.

Any groups on the estate without the necessary permission and paperwork will be asked to leave.

Breach of privacy, damage to private property, intrusion and disruption to residents across the Dungeness Estate are frequent problems with fashion shoots and photographers as well as damage to the wider National Nature Reserve itself.

So to avoid disappointment, please plan and prepare any proposed project to Dungeness beforehand.



Survey highlights who comes to NNR and what they spend

It was reported in previous Shingle Issue newsletters that visitor surveys were being conducted at key

hotspots at Greatstone, Lade, Dungeness, Camber and Rye, along with online surveys – funded by Shepway and Rother District Councils.

Key findings included:

99% of visitors were from the UK with 51% being 'local'

70% had come 'from home' and 30% were 'on holiday'

The average spend per group was £18.60

76% of interviewees aware of the area's rich wildlife

support from Natural England and the Friends of Rye Harbour, commissioned visitor surveys along the coastline between Greatstone and Rye Harbour in East Sussex.

1,099 on-site interviews were undertaken over eight days, in addition to online surveys, some of which were targeted at specialist users groups such as kite surfers and walkers.

The information gathered will be used to help produce an "Access Strategy" for the area, aimed at protecting the area's rich, diverse and unique wildlife, while allowing tourism to thrive. The strategy is expected to be completed by 2017.



Working hard to keep our beaches litter free

The Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership, working with Shepway District Council and Veolia, has been supporting a number of residents who frequently clear rubbish from along the tideline at Littlestone, along Greatstone beach and down the coast to Dungeness.

The amount of rubbish removed by these volunteers on a monthly basis is phenomenal but the more help from other residents, particularly in



the autumn and through the winter months, is especially welcome.

We provide the litterpickers, sacks and gloves and the more people who can help out in their own time while they are on the beach walking their dog or enjoying the coast and dunes,

the cleaner our environment.

For more details contact the Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership on 01797 367934 or mail@rmcp.co.uk

Volunteers dig in to clear Buckthorn

The Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership with assistance from volunteers/residents carried out a number of tasks to dig up the regrowth of the Sea Buckthorn in key areas in the north part of the dunes.

Keep an eye out for the task dates in autumn 2016 when we

will need a hand to retain the open landscape of the dunes which, botanically, has been improving in recent years after all the hard work and investment by landowner Shepway District Council with Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership and Natural England.



Local stretch of coast path set for summer opening

The England Coast Path between Camber and Folkestone is due to open this summer.

The route will become a National Trail and will come around Dungeness. This exciting project will eventually allow walkers to enjoy England's coastline non-stop on a 2,700 mile trail, once fully open in 2020.

The trail makes its way around Dungeness on top of the shingle bund in front of the power station and continues along Dungeness Road to Battery Road and beyond.

New infrastructure will soon be installed along the route to mark the alignment of the trail. Access to the shingle beach will also be signposted to help protect this internationally important site.

More information on work to complete this stretch can be found at tinyurl.com/ECP-Camber-to-Folkestone and once opened full details can be found at www.nationaltrails.co.uk If you have any queries about the path from Dungeness up the coast to Littlestone then contact southeastcoastalaccess@naturalengland.org.uk

Guided walk dates 2016...

Friday 10th June 6.30pm

WILDFLOWERS OF DUNGENESS NNR

An opportunity to take a gentle evening stroll around the Point to have a look at an assortment of flowering plants which makes Dungeness so special and unique.

LEADER: Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership (01797 367934 or 07770 670316).

MEET: Old Lighthouse car park, Dungeness Road, Dungeness NNR - Sat Nav - TN29 9NB (TR 089 169).

DISTANCE: 2 miles (2.5 hours).

Sunday 24 July 2.00pm

WILDLIFE OF DUNGENESS NNR

A gentle stroll to discover and enjoy the unique shingle wildlife on this fascinating National Nature Reserve, from the flowers, to the insects and the birds.

LEADER: Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership 01797 367934 or 07770 670316.

MEET: Car park, Old Lighthouse, Dungeness NNR, Sat Nav TN29 9NB (TR 089 169). **DISTANCE:** 2 miles (2 hours).

...and dates for beachcleans too!

Sunday 18th September 2016 10.00am

NATIONAL BEACHCLEAN - DUNGENESS POINT

Come and help record the rubbish as part of the national scheme, then bag it and remove it from the beach. We are into our 20th year of completing the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) Beachwatch and our section will take a few hours - cakes and biscuits will be offered and we'll provide gloves, litterpickers, clipboards and pencils! **LEADER:** Owen Leyshon, Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership on 01797 367934 or 07770 670316. **MEET:** At the red and white barrier between the Old Lighthouse and the power station fence line at TN29 9NB (TR 089 169) at Dungeness Point (NNR).

Sunday 8th January 2017 10.00am

BEACHCLEAN - GREATSTONE BEACH

Start the New Year with something positive by helping to collect and bag rubbish and remove it from the large and popular Greatstone beach. We will provide the litterpickers, bags and gloves, plus the essential hot drinks, cakes and biscuits. The more people who turn up, the more rubbish will be removed. **LEADER:** Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership on 01797 367934. **MEET:** Jolly Fisherman car park (pay and display), The Parade, Greatstone. (TR 081 228).

How to get in touch with us



Day to day issues Romney Marsh Countryside

Partnership assists in the managing of the Dungeness National Nature Reserve (NNR) from Dungeness to Greatstone. To report any 4x4 vehicles, motorbikes, flytipping, information on volunteering, management work, rubbish or wildlife news.

Contact RMCP on 01797 367934 or email mail@rmcp.co.uk or website www.rmcp.co.uk or www.dungeness-nnr.co.uk

Filming, photography and student projects on Dungeness Estate

Contact BNP Paribas on 24hr Helpdesk 0844 7369654 or email info@dungenessestate.co.uk or www.dungenessestate.co.uk



EDF
ENERGY

EDF Energy Visitor Centre

To contact EDF Energy over any Dungeness issues or to visit the Visitor Centre, please contact Karen Paterson on 01797 343728 or karen.paterson@edf-energy.com



Natural England

To carry out any work which impacts on the Dungeness NNR and the SSSI, you will need to gain permission and paperwork from Natural England. Please call Jo Dear on 0208 026 6039



Dungeness RSPB

The Dungeness RSPB has a Visitor Centre and large reserve which covers many of the



Dungeness Bird Observatory

The Dungeness Bird Observatory (DBO) is a charity based at 11, RNSS Cottages where you can stay in self catering accommodation. The DBO has been studying and monitoring the wildlife of Dungeness since the 1950s. Contact David Walker, warden, on 01797 320309 or look at the daily wildlife blog updates via www.dungenessbirdobs.org.uk

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