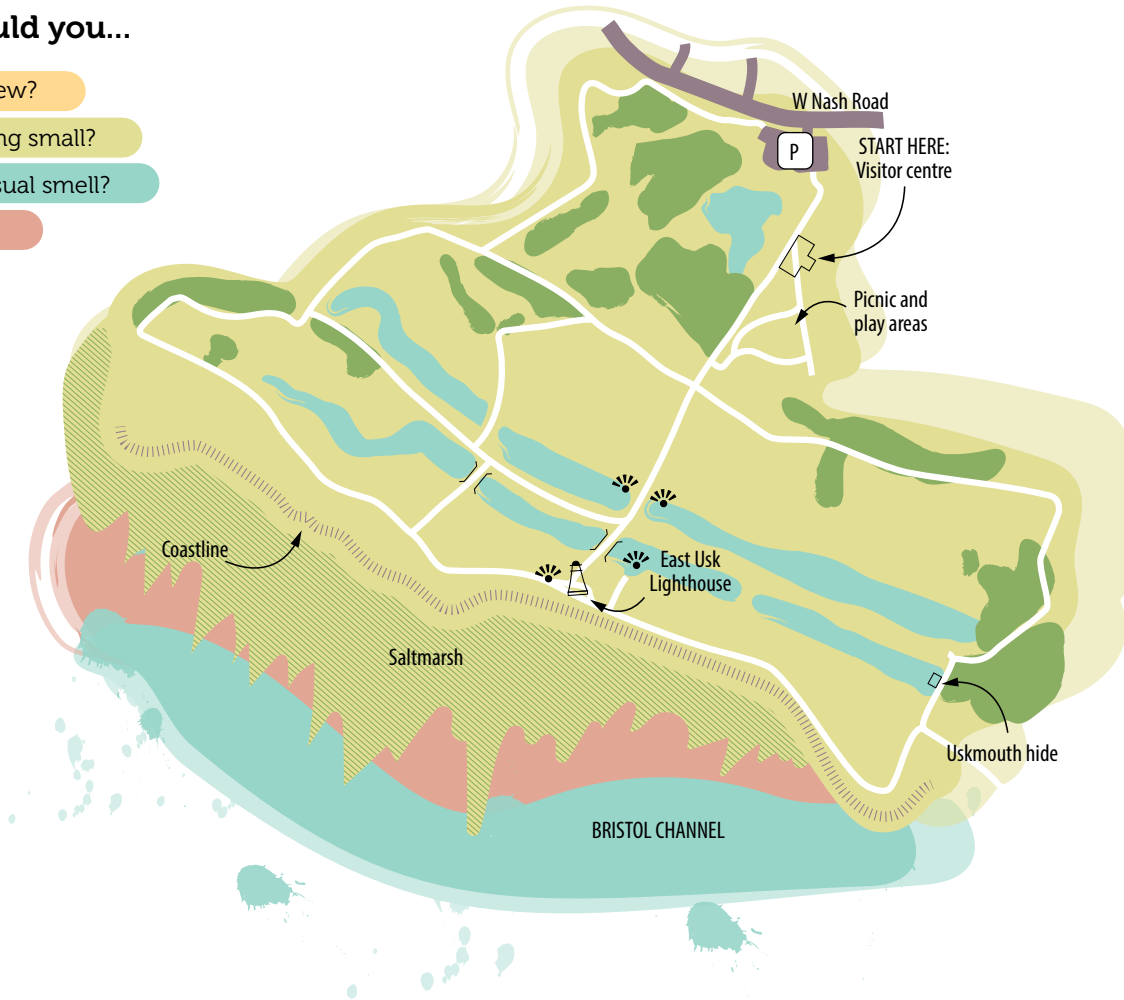


Draw these symbols on the map as you walk around.

Where would you...

- ...admire the view?
- ...spot something small?
- ...smell an unusual smell?
- ...feel peaceful?



KEY			
	Water		Dense vegetation/ woodland
	Tarmac/gravel		Path
	Mud/rocks		Viewpoint
	Light vegetation/ rocks		Car park

Newport Wetlands

10 kilometres (6 miles) south-east of Newport
Allow 1.5 to 2 hours for trail

Newport Wetlands, West Nash Road, Nash, Newport NP18 2BZ (ST 33450 83471). The nature reserve is owned and managed by Natural Resources Wales. The visitor centre is managed by the RSPB. For RSPB members parking is free. For non-members a parking fee is charged.

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MAP & GUIDE



Newport Wetlands

A mosaic of reedy pools and marshland dug out of power station ash.



East Usk Lighthouse (1893)

The lighthouse stands partly buried in pulverised fuel ash, just east of the mouth of the River Usk, and is visible to ships approaching from the southwest.

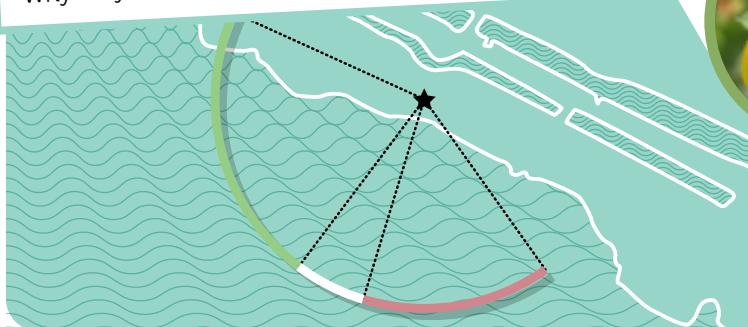
It is a leading light and its role is to help ships find the safest entry from the Severn Estuary into the deep-water channel through the mouth of the River Usk.



Danger warnings

The light flashes twice every 10 seconds and its beam passes through three coloured lenses, each illuminating a separate sector up to 16 kilometres (10 miles) out to sea. A ship on the correct course will see a white light, a ship too far left of the correct course will see a green light and one too far right will see red.

Using the timings above, work out how many times the beam flashes every minute and every 10 minutes. Why do you think it has to flash this frequently?



Bearded Tit

Transformation

Newport Wetlands was once drained farmland. It looked like many of the fields you passed on your way through Nash today. With the building of the Uskmouth power stations in the 1950s, the fields were dug out as pits and filled with ash.

When the Cardiff Bay Barrage was completed in 1999 it submerged or removed watery habitats. To compensate, wildlife habitats were needed elsewhere. The ash was dug out of the power station pits and the land was turned into ponds, waterways and reedbeds for wildlife and opened to the public in 2000. This changed it back to a range of wet habitats that would have been here even before it was farmland (like Magor Marsh is today).

Shrill carder bee

The shrill carder bee is one of Britain's rarest bees as there are now fewer wild flowers in our countryside for it to feed on with its long tongue. However, the farmland on the Gwent Levels has remained largely unchanged over the past 100 years, meaning there are still lots of flowers here for the bees. Here at Newport Wetlands we encourage the bees by growing plants known as vetches, which are part of the pea family.



I spy...

- Shrill carder bee** – yellow-brown thorax that has a distinctive dark band across it
- Common carder bee** – pale orange-brown back known as the thorax
- Bird's-foot trefoil** – yellow and orange flowers give it the name 'eggs and bacon'
- Red or white clover** – round, ball-shaped flower heads



Bee and habitat spotting

Shrill carder bees use their long tongue to reach deep down into flowers where the nectar is harder to reach for other insects. Watch out for them on flowers such as bird's-foot trefoil, knapweed and clover.

Listening to a changing landscape

Look in one direction, use your sense of hearing and take note of all the different sounds that you can hear at the moment. Are they sounds made by nature or man? Now turn to face a different direction and imagine you are in the past when this area was farmland. What sounds would you hear? How would it be different without the power station nearby and the pylons overhead? Finally, turn again and this time think about the future. What would you like to hear if you revisited in 50 years' time?

