



Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve

Naturally Part of the...



Lower Stour Valley

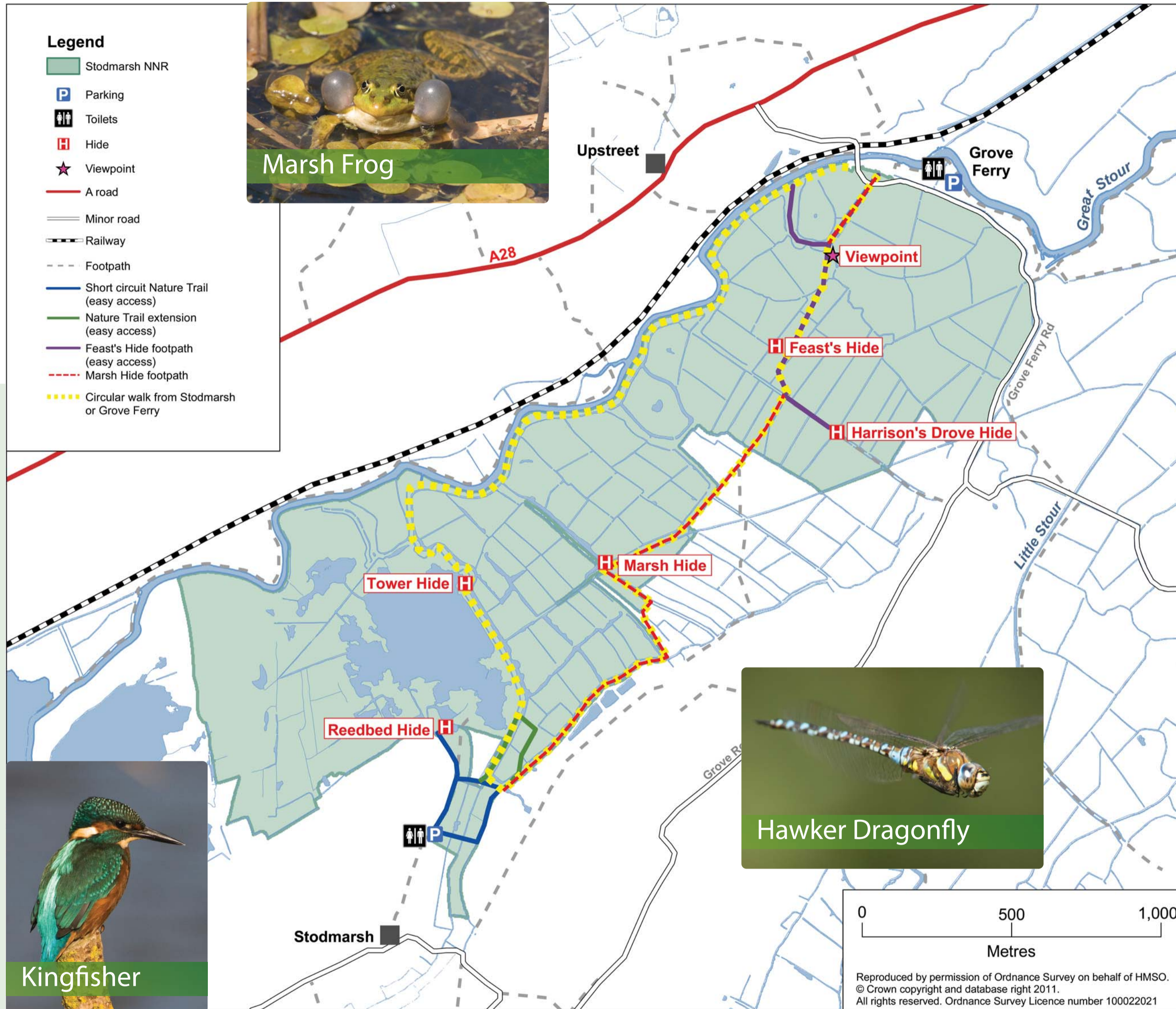


Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve (NNR) is one of the best places in the country to enjoy the outdoors and experience spectacular wildlife. It is owned by Natural England and managed for wildlife and visitors.



Stodmarsh NNR covers a square mile of internationally-important reed beds, fens, ditches, wet grassland and open water, which provide an ideal habitat for breeding and wintering birds, invertebrates and rare plants. This site is especially important for bittern, marsh harriers and the shining ramshorn snail, which are rare across Europe; as well as water voles, which are rare in England.

To learn more visit:
www.naturalengland.org.uk



Marsh Frog

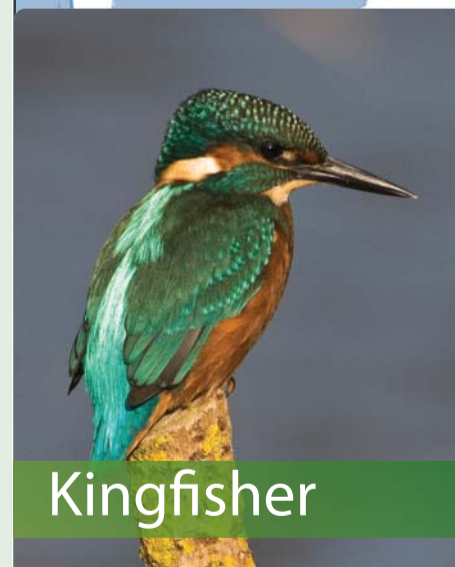


Marsh Harrier

The rare marsh harriers need wetlands to survive. At Stodmarsh they feed on small mammals, birds and

marsh frogs that live around the ditches.

During the breeding season, in April and May, the female does most of the egg incubation and brooding of the chicks and, if you are lucky, you may see their spectacular feeding display. The male harrier calls to the female as he flies over the nest, she then takes off and he passes the prey to the female in mid-air.



Kingfisher



Hawker Dragonfly

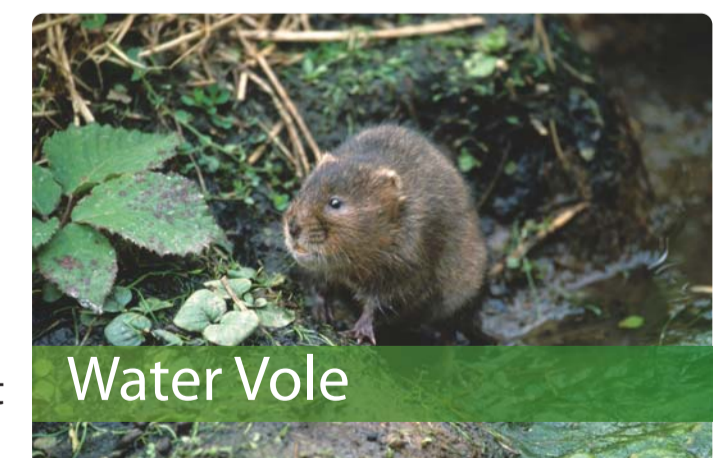
The rare Bitterns feed in the reed beds and are dependent on them for survival.

You may hear a male bittern's distinctive 'boom' during their mating season, between April and June.



Bittern

Stodmarsh is one of a handful of nationally important sites for Water Voles and it has a very strong population as the network of ditches and deep reed beds make a perfect home for them. Water voles are vegetarian and eat over 200 different plant species.



Water Vole

Stodmarsh has a long history of human activity that has shaped the landscape you see today. It has been used by medieval monks to graze horses, as a colliery at the start of the 20th century and as a duck shooting area in the 1930s.

The area has been protected and managed for nature conservation for over 40 years and, despite all the changes in land use here at Stodmarsh, it probably now looks much like it did in medieval times.



Supported by:



www.hiddenbritainse.org.uk