

Countryside Code

While in the countryside please follow the Countryside Code:

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- Guard against all risk of fire
- Fasten all gates
- Keep your dogs under close control
- Keep to the public paths across farmland
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- Take your litter home
- Help to keep all water clean
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Take special care on country roads
- Make no unnecessary noise

Whilst using the railway foot crossings please make sure you take notice of all safety signs.

STOP, LOOK & LISTEN!



Island Line operates the 8½ miles of railway between Ryde Pierhead and Shanklin. This unique electric railway operates 1338 Tube Stock painted in historic London Underground colours. Island Line run 68 services a day along the line, averaging two services per hour each way.

Island Line offer a range of single and return fares along the line as well as a number of special tickets with Wightlink, Hovertravel, the Isle of Wight Steam Railway and Southern Vectis. Tickets may be purchased at Ryde Esplanade and Shanklin Stations or from the conductors on all trains.

Contact Island Line on 01983 812591 or visit www.island-line.co.uk

Island Line is part of the National Rail network. Visit www.nationalrail.co.uk for further details of all services.

Isle of Wight Community Rail Partnership

The Community Rail Partnership was set up in 2005 to encourage greater use of the Island's unique railway. "Walks from Rails" is one of a number of local initiatives being developed, to ensure the railway plays an active role in delivering a vital transport service for both work and leisure to Island residents and visitors.

For more details contact the Rail Development Officer
Tel: 07779 999844 or Email: bobby.lock@iow.gov.uk

Medina Valley Centre

The Medina Valley Centre, established in 1963, is a busy Environmental and Outdoor Education centre. It provides a wide range of study opportunities and expertise in all aspects of the natural environment to both Island residents and visitors. Its location is also ideal to offer exciting sailing and canoeing courses, which run throughout the summer.

For more details visit www.medinavalleycentre.org.uk or
Tel: 01983 522195

Isle of Wight Walking Festival

"Walks from Rails" is pleased to be associated with the UK's largest walking festival, delivering over 180 guided walks over 16 days of May each year. The Festival features walks tailored to suit all age and abilities across breathtaking landscapes and 30 miles of heritage coastline.

Full details of the Festival are available at www.isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk

"Walks from Rails" are supported by



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ISLE OF WIGHT COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

Enterprise House, St Cross Business Park, Newport, IW PO30 5WB
Tel: 07779 999844 Email: bobby.lock@iow.gov.uk

MEDINA VALLEY CENTRE

Dodnor Lane, Newport, IW PO30 5TE
Tel: 01983 522195 Email: info@medinavalleycentre.org.uk

Walks FROM RAILS



No.6

Wetland Wonders

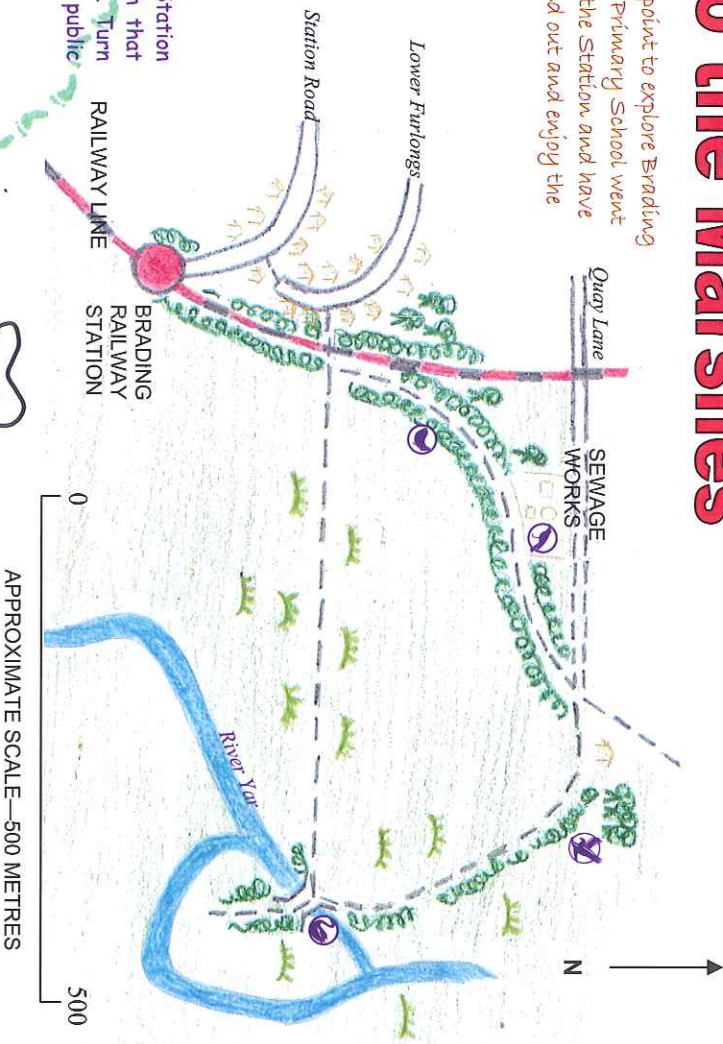
A short circular walk to explore the wildlife found in the wetland to the east of Brading station.

Gateway to the Marshes


Brading Station is a great starting point to explore Brading Marshes. Children from Brading CE Primary School went birdwatching in the wetland close to the Station and have written this leaflet so you too can find out and enjoy the natural environment here!

START POINT
Brading Station (Island Line)
GRID REF: SZ 609869
DISTANCE: 1.5 km (0.9 miles)
TERRAIN: Mostly country footpaths with a little roadside walking. Very wet in places, several gates.

From the Railway Station, walk along Station Road and turn right down a footpath that takes you through to Lower Furlongs. Turn right when you see a sign post for a public footpath to the Marsh and St Helens.



Great Tits



- Males have a bolder black stripe down its belly than the females
- Its song sounds like "Teacher, Teacher"


Once you have gone through the gate you will have to cross the railway line.

Be careful... although this is a safe place to cross, it can still be dangerous!! Look both ways before you cross the railway. The train also whistles just before it goes past.

After you've crossed the railway, turn left and walk along the path that is parallel to the railway line and has bushes, shrubs and trees on either side. **Beware...** the ground is uneven in this area, don't stand on the edge of the embankment.

Pay attention here... It's a great place to look out for **Great Tits**, **Greenfinches** and **Robins**.

Robins



- Can be seen throughout the year—not just at Christmas
- Males & females look the same

Rooks



- Don't have any feathers on their beak, unlike Carrion Crows and Jackdaws
- Nest in groups



On the right, you will see the wetland, which is full of **Rooks** and sometimes **Black-Headed Gulls** and **Canada Geese**. You might even see a **Kestrel** here!


Black-Headed Gulls



- Only have a black head in the summer, in the winter they have a black dot by the eye
- Are often seen inland

Further along the path you will see a sewage works on the left - another place to look out for birds as they like feeding here. Look out for **Pied Wagtails**! At the end of this path go through the kissing gate.

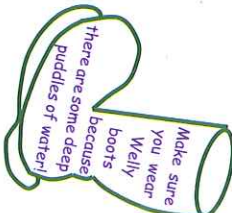
Buzzards



- Are the most common bird of prey in Britain
- Eats small mammals, birds and carrion

Walk along the embankment, which is a Sea Wall built in the 16th Century. The Old Roman Harbour Wall can also be seen here. Remember to look all around you for birds. If you are lucky in the trees on the left in the distance you may see a **Buzzard**!

At the end of the path, you will see a bridge. Look under this bridge and you will see some **Swans** on the River Yar. Turn right before the bridge and walk across the field back towards the railway line where you started.



Mute Swans



- Can be seen all year long
- Are usually silent, except they *bleat* when angry & make a *WouaWoua* noise flapping their wings!

You are now back at the railway, which you need to cross carefully, follow the path out to Lower Furlongs, turn left and return to Station road where you can walk back to the Railway Station.

Want to go further?!
Then you can extend your walk from the bridge and go south up Centurion's Hill and into the Copse.

If you enjoyed this Walk please email your comments to us at bobby.lock@low.gov.uk