

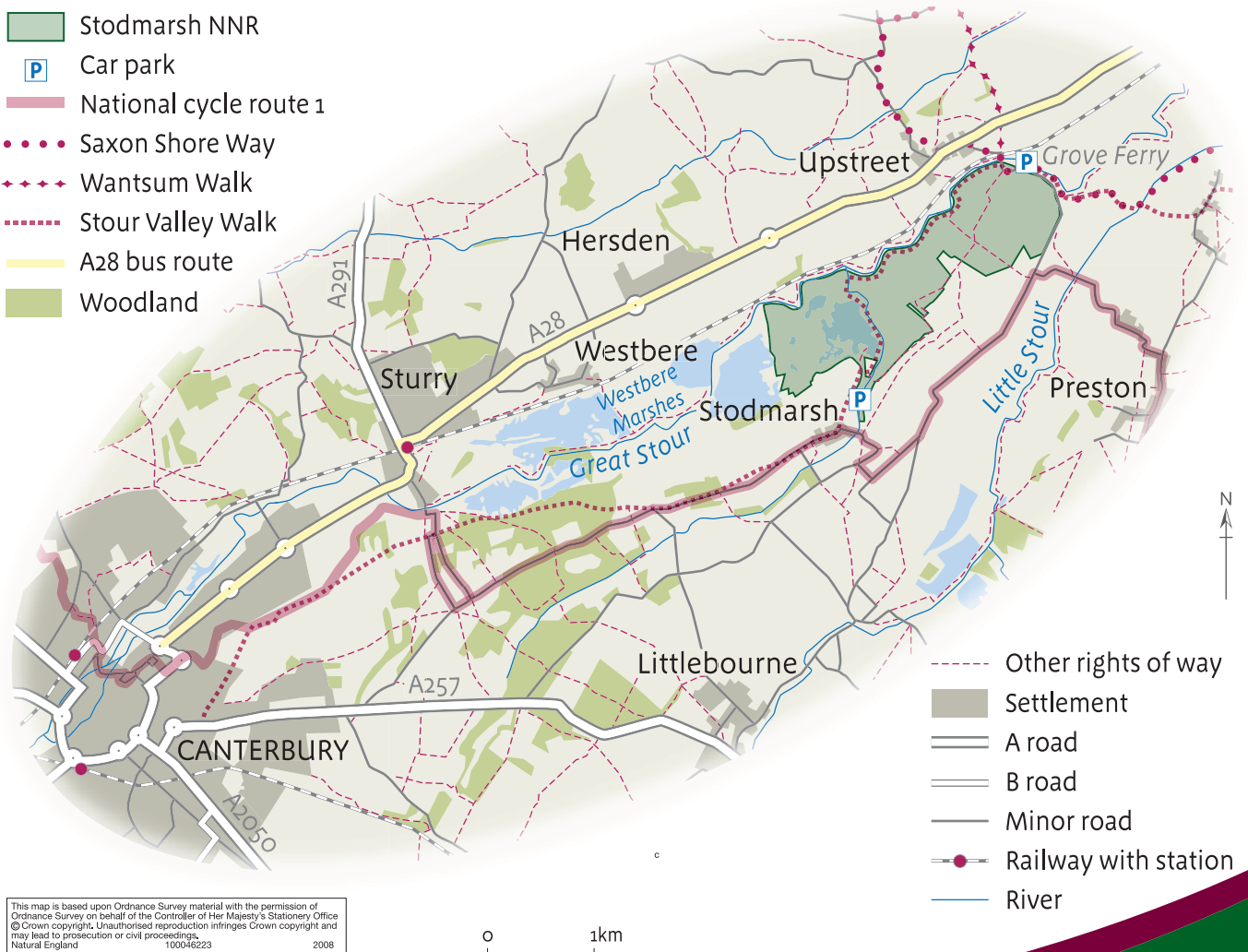
Green travel information: Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve

We want you to enjoy your visit to our National Nature Reserves but please take one moment to consider **how** you get there. It is important when visiting these precious wildlife reserves that you think about the environmental impact of your travel choices. We are therefore providing you with a number of options that we hope will prompt you into considering alternative methods of transport and help us to reduce the number of private cars coming to

the reserve. If you do need to take the car and are planning a visit as part of a group, why not just take one car or even better share a minibus.

The following information gives you different green travel options to help you plan your visit.

If you have any suggestions on how we could improve this information please contact us at: wildside@naturalengland.org.uk



Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve is a beautiful wetland reserve situated on the banks of the River Stour, approximately 5 miles north-east of Canterbury City Centre and 11 miles from Margate.

There are two main entrance points to the Reserve:

- One at the north-east end of the reserve which is opposite the Grove Ferry Inn.
- The other entrance is at the south west end of the reserve in Stodmarsh village. The entrance can be reached by a single lane track located next to the Red Lion pub in Stodmarsh.

Ordnance survey Explorer map: 150 **Grid Ref:** TR221609. If you would like to get a map of the area to find your way to the reserve you should be able to obtain this at a bookshop or online from **ordnance survey maps** (www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk).

Walking

The reserve has a good network of footpaths from local villages and hamlets, including two easy access nature trails. Kent County Council has produced two 'Walks for All' leaflets detailing short circular walks on Stodmarsh NNR for visitors with restricted mobility or parents with pushchairs. Two long distance recreational walking routes also connect with the reserve:

- The Saxon Shore Way running from Gravesend in north Kent through to Hastings, passes along the Grove Ferry edge of the Reserve.
- The Stour Valley Walk running from Lenham to Sandwich passes right through the reserve.

Walking routes:

Saxon Shore Way

www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/explore-kent/walking/saxon-shore-way-walk.htm

Stour Valley Walk

www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/explore-kent/walking/stour-valley-walk.htm

Cycling

National Cycle Route 1 runs from Dover to London and passes through Stodmarsh village and along the southern edge of the reserve. The Stodmarsh village entrance is approximately 5 miles from Canterbury and 9 miles from Sandwich and about 3 1/2 miles from Fordwich.

Please note: cycling is not permitted on the reserve itself, but there are cycle racks located in the Stodmarsh car park but none (at the current time) at Grove Ferry car park.

Cycle routes:

www.sustrans.org.uk/

Bus

There are two frequent bus services that stop at Upstreet post office which is approximately half a mile from the Grove Ferry entrance to Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve. The reserve can be reached from the bus stop by a short walk along the edge of a minor road but please take care as there is no pavement. Bus services 8 and 9 all link with Canterbury and Margate. Buses also connect with railway stations at Birchington, Broadstairs, Dumpton Park, Sturry and Westgate. Please check all information provided with the service providers (Stagecoach East Kent) before making your journey.

Bus timetables:

www.stagecoachbus.com/eastkent/ or www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk

Train

There are two mainline stations in Canterbury (Canterbury East and Canterbury West), approximately six miles from Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve. Bus services 8 and 9 (see above for bus timetables) link with Canterbury and Margate. These buses also connect with railway stations at Birchington, Broadstairs, Dumpton Park, Sturry and Westgate. Sturry train station is the nearest station to Stodmarsh reserve.

For people bringing their cycles on the train, **National Cycle Route 1** will take you from Canterbury town centre to Stodmarsh village reserve entrance. For people using Sturry railway station this is only ½ mile from **National Cycle Route 1** (via Fordwich along minor roads) and Stodmarsh village is approximately 4 miles away.

Please note: Bicycles are not permitted on trains at certain times, please check before travelling.

Please check all information about rail and bus services before travelling. In some places, you may be eligible for PlusBus, a discount price 'bus pass' that you buy with your train ticket.

Train timetables:

National Rail Enquiries

www.nationalrail.co.uk

on 08457 48 49 50

Southeastern Railway

www.southeasternrailway.co.uk

PlusBus

www.plusbus.info

Additional information that may assist you

The Kentish Stour Countryside Management project sell a series of '**Train Rides to Ramble**' and '**Bike Trails by Rail**' leaflets describing cycling and walking routes in the Stour Valley from train stations and bus stops which include two walks through Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve. Each walk has full directions, maps and a wealth of illustrations and information about what to see on the way.

Kent County Council have produced a book on the Saxon Shore Way with information about the route and circular walks, one of which starts at Grove Ferry.