

THINKING BIG FOR NATURE



"I ENJOY TAKING MY PUPILS ON MUD DIPPING TRIPS TO THE ESTUARY AS THEY LEARN A LOT AND HAVE GREAT FUN. THEY ARE VERY INQUISITIVE ABOUT THE WILDLIFE THAT LIVES THERE AND LOVE GETTING THEIR HANDS DIRTY, DIGGING FOR WORMS."
JUDY CLEGG, TEACHER



"THE RIBBLE ESTUARY NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE IS A VERY SPECIAL PLACE TO WORK. I USUALLY TELL VISITORS THAT WE ARE RUNNING A HOTEL-RESTAURANT FOR BIRDS. THE WINTER IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT, WHEN THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF OVERWINTERING WADERS AND WILDFOWL USING THE SALTMARSH AND SANDFLATS CAN BE AN AMAZING SIGHT."
DAVE MERCER,
THE RIBBLE ESTUARY NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

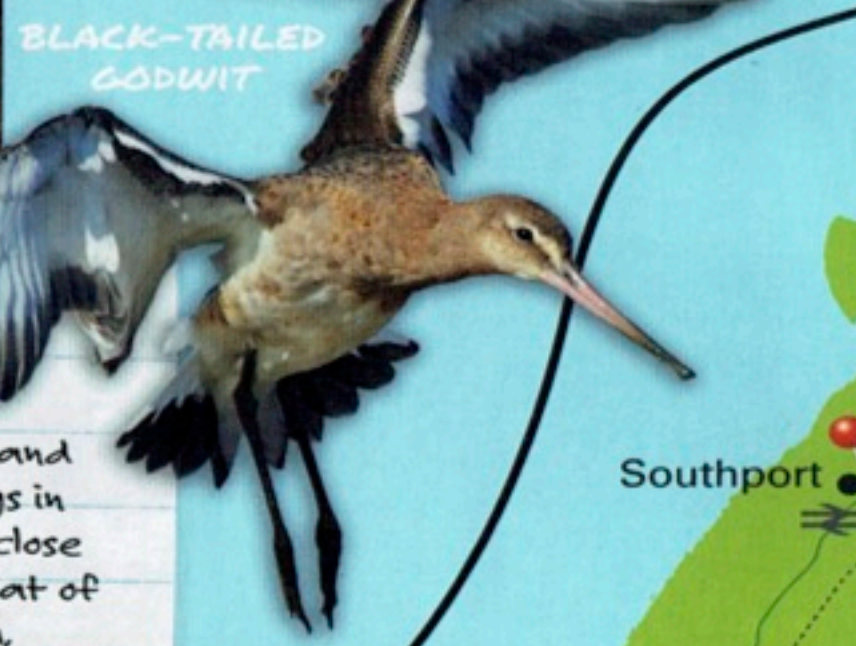


REDSHANK

"It's wonderful to work in an area of such rich and diverse wildlife, and play a vital role in safeguarding it for the future. There's nothing better than walking through the mosslands to the sound of skylarks high above you, whilst watching lapwings wheeling over the fields and seeing barn owls and marsh harriers hunting along grass strips at dusk."
Simon Edwards, farmer



"The sand dunes of the Fylde Coast provide a fantastic habitat for a wealth of wildlife, including over 300 species of plants that have adapted to living in this dry, sandy and exposed landscape. I love it here in the summer months; the plants create a riot of colour and host a wide range of beetles, spiders, bees, butterflies and moths."
Lyn Ashton, sand dune officer



BLACK-TAILED GODWIT



SAND LIZARD

"For a photographer, the ever-shifting light and moods of the landscape, along with changes of the seasons and wildlife, make the Ribble Estuary a magical place. Big skies provide amazing backdrops to a landscape and seascape constantly changing under the influence of the ebb and flow of the tides."
Peter Guy, photographer



"We love the Ribble Estuary and spending our Monday mornings in its wonderful surroundings, close to nature. It's the heartbeat of the surrounding ecosystem, creating habitat and supporting life. We volunteer our time to help provide a clean, safe and welcoming environment for birds, marine life, animals, residents and visitors, from Lytham Quays to Granny's Bay."
Meg and Michelle, Friends of the Estuary Coastal Care Group (Lytham)

"VOLUNTEERING AT MARTIN MERE IS ONE OF THE MOST BENEFICIAL THINGS I HAVE EVER DONE. THE MOST REWARDING PART IS HELPING PEOPLE IN THE HIDES TO IDENTIFY WILDLIFE AND THEN WATCHING THE ENJOYMENT ON THEIR FACES WHEN THEY LEARN SOMETHING NEW."
BRIAN HOPKINS,
MARTIN MERE VOLUNTEER



"I HAVE BEEN RECORDING NATURE ON THE SEFTON COAST FOR OVER 40 YEARS, BUT I AM STILL REGULARLY FINDING PLANTS AND INSECTS IN THIS AMAZING PLACE THAT NO-ONE HAS SEEN BEFORE. YOU JUST HAVE TO GET OUT THERE AND LOOK, AND IT WILL GIVE UP ITS SECRETS."
DR PHIL SMITH,
RETIRED ECOLOGY LECTURER



"The Marshside area is particularly important to me and this pride in my birthplace has come from family stories told over seven generations. Watching the skeins of geese arriving and departing from the estuary gives me an inner thrill that just cannot be described - and has been known to bring a tear to my eye."
Gladys Armstrong,
North Meols Civic Society

MAP KEY

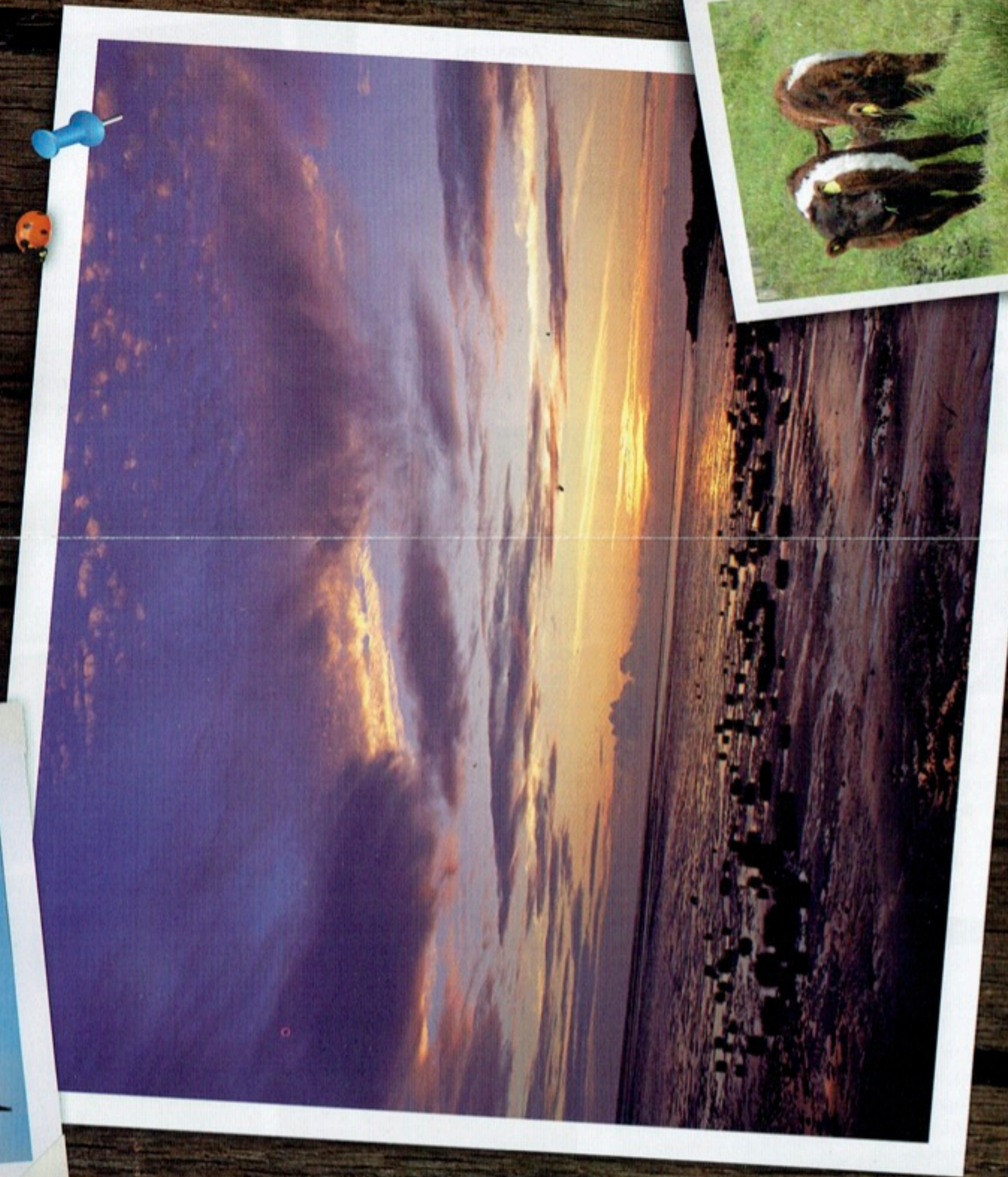
- WILDLIFE
- CULTURAL HERITAGE
- CAFÉ
- VISITOR FACILITIES
- VIEWPOINT
- Train station
- Railway



RIBBLE COAST AND WETLANDS



SPOTTED GALLOWAY COWS



NATTERJACK TOAD



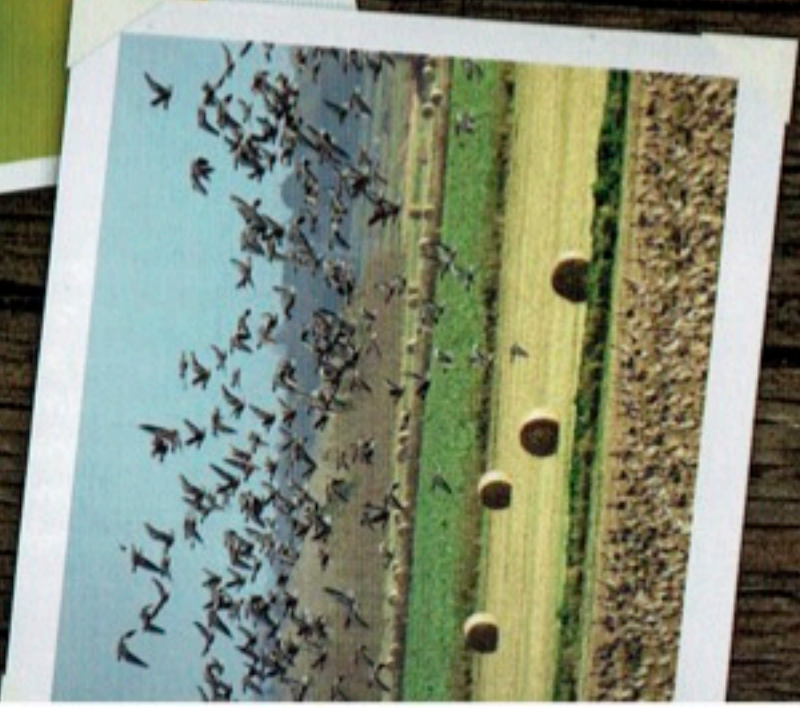
EMPEROR DRAGONFLY



PINK-FOOTED GEESE



LINNET



WELCOME
IF YOU LIVE, WORK
OR HOLIDAY IN THE
RIBBLE COAST AND
WETLANDS, YOU'LL
ALREADY KNOW IT IS
A WONDERFUL PLACE ...

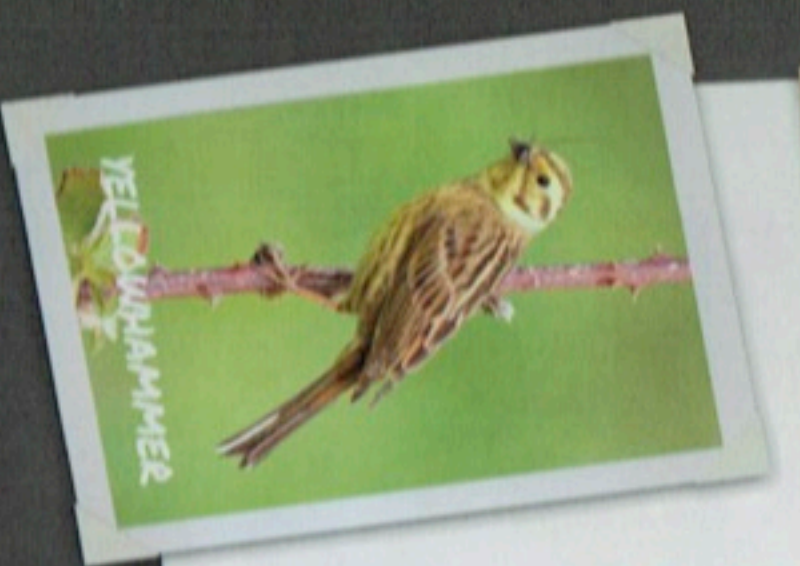
**WELCOME TO THE RIBBLE COAST
AND WETLANDS**



RED
SQUIRREL



BROWN HARE



YELLOWHAMMER



**WORKING TOGETHER: THESE GROUPS
ARE WORKING WITH FARMERS,
LANDOWNERS AND BUSINESSES TO
MAKE MORE SPACE FOR NATURE...**



**TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT:
RSPB.ORG.UK/FUTURESCAPES/RIBBLE
OR EMAIL RCWFUTURE@RSPB.ORG.UK**



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Thinking
BIG
FOR NATURE

Around the Ribble Coast
and Wetlands

