WELCOME

Welcome to the Avalon Marshes' nature reserves.

Covering around 1,500 hectares, within the Somerset Levels and Moors, our wetland nature reserves are a haven for wildlife and offer the chance to see some unusual species, rarely seen elsewhere. Perfect for walking and cycling.

Start your visit by heading to the **Avalon Marshes Centre** (BA6 9TT) where you will find maps and more information about local heritage and nature. **Avalon Archaeology, Somerset Crafts** and a **café** are also located at the Centre. Opening times can be found on our website: **www.avalonmarshes.org**

The reserves originate from worked-out peat diggings sites and ex-cropland, which have been transformed by the **Avalon Marshes Partners** to create these amazing places. As our understanding of climate change increases, along with the impressive capacity of peat to store carbon, one of our priorities is to keep it in the ground and restore the land to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The area is also famous for the **Sweet Track**, one of the oldest trackways in the world. It was built in 3806 BC by Neolithic farmers to get around the waterlogged landscape. You can see a replica of it at Shapwick Heath National Nature Reserve.

Sweet Track replica

WILDLIFE PROTECTION

How you can help us protect the wildlife on the Avalon Marshes' nature reserves:

During your visit you may well encounter some of our very special wildlife, such as otters, bitterns, marsh harriers, egrets and a myriad of dragonflies and wildflowers. To help us protect these species, and to get the best from your visit, we ask you to put nature first and please:

- Note the dog walking restrictions on the map overleaf.
- Stay on the trails and do not trample vegetation to get a better view.
- Do not get too close to the wildlife, especially swans, which can be aggressive.
- Keep the noise to a minimum in hides, especially if you have children with you.
- Take all your litter and dog waste home as there are no bins on the reserves.
- Do not fly drones over the reserves, nor fish, swim or canoe in any of the lakes.

Thank you and enjoy your visit.

For more information, please visit AVALON MARSHES .org

MORE INFORMATION:
A: Avalon Marshes Centre, Shapwick Road, Westhay, Somerset BA6 9TT
E: info@avalonmarshes.org

COVER CREDITS:
Bittern: John Crispin;
Otter: Robert Balch

Please recycle after use.

AVALON MARSHES SOMERSET

Nature Reserves

NATURE RESERVES MAP