

# TWO BAYS

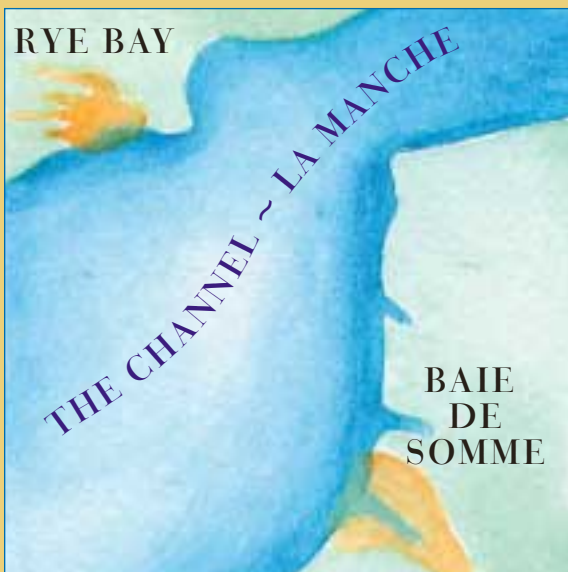
## one environment

The Two Bays initiative is a new wildlife project that aims to study and enhance the habitats and species in the Rye Bay area and across the Channel in the Baie de Somme, Picardy, France.

This approach to nature conservation recognises that wildlife does not occur in isolation and moves across borders into neighbouring countries.

The project has four main objectives:

- Identify the main habitats present and the potential for habitat enhancement.
- Study and record the wildlife and maintain a wildlife database (already more than 6000 species).
- Encourage farmers and landowners to manage areas for wildlife and apply for suitable grants, to fund the work.
- Promote understanding of the environmental importance of the Two Bays.



# TWO BAYS

## one environment

For further information please contact:

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve  
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Winchelsea  
East Sussex TN36 4LU

Visit the Two Bays web site:

[www.yates.clara.net](http://www.yates.clara.net)



Reedbed at Pett Pools

This project is part funded by the European Community European Regional Development Fund through INTERREG II.

The English lead partner is East Sussex County Council. Other partners: Environment Agency, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, English Nature, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Wetland Trust, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Sussex Ornithological Society, Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Management Committee, The Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. The French lead partner is the Syndicat Mixte pour l'Aménagement de la Côte Picarde (SMACOPI).



SMACOPI



# TWO BAYS

# Reedbeds



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# Reedbeds



Reedbeds are found in areas where shallow water is present all year round. They are dominated by the familiar Common Reed, particularly where the water depth is about 20cm. In drier areas of the reedbed a greater variety of plant species can be found, including reedmace, bur-reeds and Yellow Iris.



F. Palmer

Yellow Iris

Rye Bay and the Baie de Somme support similar habitats and species. Reedbeds are a priority habitat for nature conservation in these areas.



B. Yates

Marsh Frog

Other animals which live in reedbeds include mammals such as mice and voles. The endangered Water Vole lives in ditches and feeds on Common Reed and other grasses. Eels, fish, frogs and newts are often found in the water around the reeds, especially where there are open pools.



P. Le Sueur

Bittern

Rare birds such as Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Water Rail and Bearded Tit live in reedbeds. They need a plentiful supply of food as well as an expanse of reed in which to nest. Reed Bunting and Reed and Sedge Warblers can commonly be seen and heard in reedbeds.



B. Yates

Greater Reedmace

Reedbeds are important for their invertebrate communities. Moths such as the Large Wainscot rely on reedbeds for breeding, their larvae feed in stems of Common Reed. During the summer aphids, moth larvae and small flies build up in reedbeds and they are important food for birds.

Calais

Reedbeds need to be managed, because as plant litter builds up they become drier. This allows willows to invade and shade out other plants. So these willows need to be cut if reedbeds and their associated wildlife are to survive.

In some areas reedbeds are an important source of sustainable materials for industries, such as thatching and basketry. This reed cutting ensures the future for many reedbeds, which in turn benefits the special wildlife.



B. Yates

The Hable d'Ault Nature Reserve

Reedbeds are found in many areas of the Baie de Somme and have some species, like Bluethroats and Great Reed Warblers, that do not yet breed in Rye Bay.

St Valery sur Somme

# Reedbed Wildlife



Grey Heron

Grey Willow

Bearded Tit

Common Reed

Reed Bunting

Reed Warbler



Lesser Spearwort

Water Vole

Water Forget-me-not

Water Mint

Greater Reedmace

Water Rail



Larva feeding inside reed stem

Adult

Large Wainscot moth

Mallard

Purple-loosestrife

Frog-bit

Yellow Iris



Water Scorpion

Water Boatman

Great Silver Water Beetle

Pike

Soft Rush

Eel

Can you spot the Bittern?