

TWO BAYS

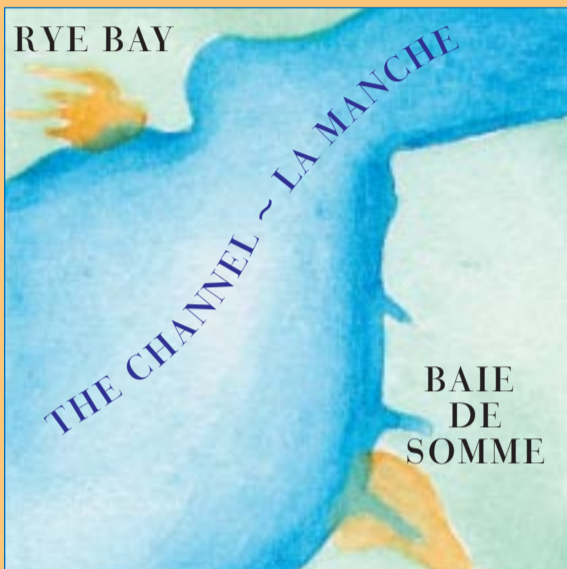
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The Two Bays initiative is a new wildlife project that aims to study and enhance the habitats and species in the Rye Bay area and across the Channel in the Baie de Somme, Picardy, France.

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 5000 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:

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East Sussex TN36 4LU

Visit the Two Bays web site:

www.yates.clara.net



Marram grass at Camber Sands

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).

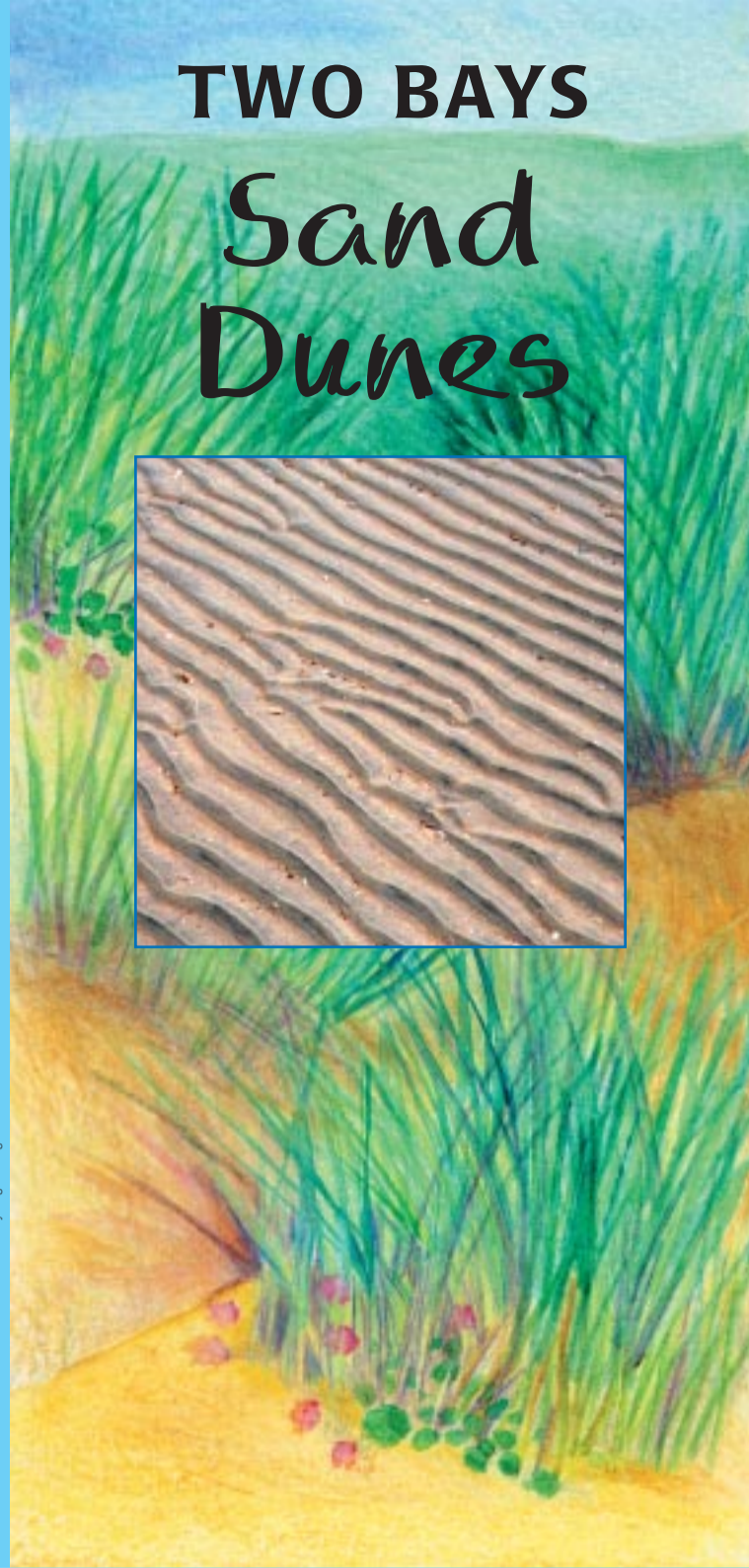


SMACOPI



TWO BAYS

Sand Dunes



Sand Dunes

Rye

Sand dune areas

Dune systems are created by a complex interaction of natural processes. Wave action grinds up loose shell and rock, creating a coarse sand which is deposited along the coast. The retreating tide also leaves behind debris on the shore. This strandline is an important habitat, retaining moisture and providing shelter for small marine animals and plants.



Camber Sands

The sand is dried by the sun and blown inland. Here it collects around vegetation and debris, forming shallow dunes which shift in the wind. Marram grass thrives on this loose, nutrient-poor, dry sand. It grows vigorously upwards and outwards, accumulating more sand and building higher 'Yellow' dunes. Other species able to survive these harsh conditions include Sea Sandwort and Sea Spurge. Scrub species such as Sea-buckthorn then colonise the dunes, attracting the Brown-tail moth caterpillar.

Rye Bay and Baie de Somme support similar habitats and species. Coastal sand dunes form a dynamic and valuable habitat of the Two Bays.



Crowds at Camber Sands

The dunes and beach at Camber are under intense pressure, with up to 25 000 people visiting on a busy summer day. The trampling of so many feet soon kills vegetation, while litter, noise and disturbance do little to attract wildlife. However, Marram grass grows vigorously and a constant supply of sand can repair damaged areas.

At Camber in Rye Bay, dunes have been forming for hundreds of years. The older dunes are now isolated from wind-blown sand by the development of new dune ridges. These older 'Grey' dunes are stable, well vegetated and are home to many species including grasses, Lady's Bedstraw and Bee Orchid.



Bee Orchid



Brown-tail moth caterpillar

Calais



Wooded dunes at Marquenterre

The Baie de Somme in Picardy, France lies across the Channel, just 90km south east of Rye Bay. At Marquenterre there is a much larger, older dune system that supports similar habitats and species. In addition large areas of the older French dunes are wooded.



Grey dunes at Marquenterre

St Valery sur Somme

Sea-holly has blue flowers and silvery leaves.

Many insects are attracted to the white flowers of the **Wild Carrot**.

Lady's Bedstraw can cover large areas with frothy yellow flowers.

Hare's-foot Clover has reddish flowers covered in hairs.

Grey dune

Marram grass stabilises the dunes. Its leaves can roll up to minimise water loss.

The **Sea Spurge** has fleshy leaves and yellow-green flowers.

Sea Sandwort, an early coloniser of sand dunes.

Sea Bindweed creeps along the dunes. It has distinctive stripy petals.

The **Meadow pipit** is a small brown bird which nests on the ground.



Scrub

Sea-buckthorn, a spiny plant which is covered in berries in autumn.

Cuckoo, one of the few birds which feeds on Brown-tail moth caterpillars.

Flowers of the **Evening-primrose** open in late afternoon.



The **Brown-tail moth** adult is mainly white.

The **Silvery Leaf-cutter Bee** is a green-eyed bee which lines its nest with pieces of leaf.



Yellow dune

The **Sand Dart** is attracted to Marram flowers. Its caterpillars feed on Prickly Saltwort.



The **Red Banded Sand Wasp** is a large stingless wasp which searches the dunes for its caterpillar prey.

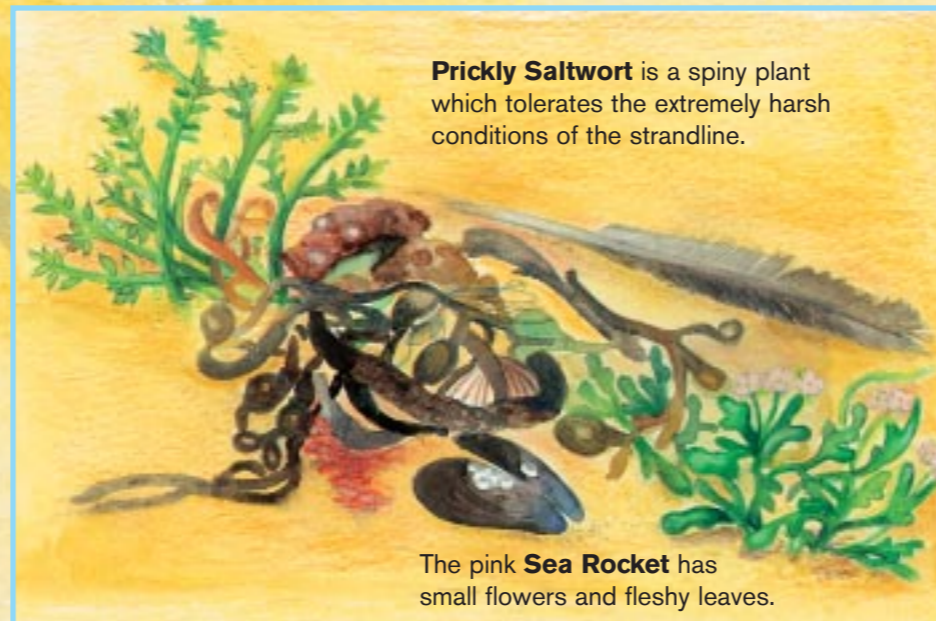


Strandline

Sanderling run up and down the strandline picking up "shrimps" at the edge of the waves.



Prickly Saltwort is a spiny plant which tolerates the extremely harsh conditions of the strandline.



The pink **Sea Rocket** has small flowers and fleshy leaves.

The **Red Legged Spider Wasp** is a small duneland wasp which feeds its young on spiders.



Sand Dune Wildlife