

Finding your way around Hayle Estuary



Copperhouse Pool

Combine your shopping trip with a stroll around Copperhouse Creek; unlike most estuaries the birds give great, close-up views here. This path is level and easily accessible, and runs alongside the estuary.

Carnsew Pool

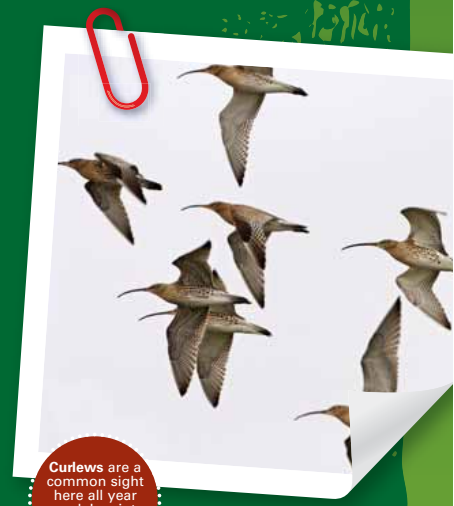
Part of Hayle's industrial World Heritage Site, this pool was constructed to flush sand from the harbour in 1830. The path is narrow and uneven but has the best views of the estuary. You should allow at least an hour for this walk.

Ryan's Field

We created this lagoon in 1995 out of a dry, grassy field to provide a roost for wintering birds. Follow the path to the causeway and walk along the pavement at the back of the lagoon. The traffic can be noisy here, but you can see roosting birds hiding behind the islands. Allow at least 40 minutes.

South West Coast Path

For best views of the main estuary follow the coastal footpath – please do not step onto the estuary itself! There is no short cut across the river but as the path takes you inland around the estuary, you will see the reserve from every aspect.



Curlews are a common sight here all year round. In winter there are hundreds.

Did you know?
Unusually, the RSPB owns the estuary – most UK estuaries belong to the Crown.



The South West Coast Path follows the Cornish coast from Minehead to Poole.

In summer, look out for young shelducks feeding from the mudflats.

The path around Copperhouse Pool is easily accessible for everyone.

In winter, check out this pool for divers – all five world species have been here.

This is the best place to see flocks of wigeon and teal in winter.

This route around Carnsew Pool gives you the best views!

Ryan's Field is a tidal lagoon and saltmarsh. See birds along this route on a high spring tide.

“I came to work at Hayle after first visiting the estuary in 1983 and finding a rare North American white-rumped sandpiper on my second ever visit. This would be a good place to work, I thought!!”
Dave Flumm, RSPB Site Manager, Hayle Estuary

Key:

- Water
- Intertidal mud and sand
- Sand
- Saltmarsh
- Railway
- Hide
- Parking
- Bus stop
- Train station
- Bike hire
- Tourist information
- Information
- Viewpoint