Marsh
Lamplighter's
Welcome to

Just follow the Yellow Brick Road ...

Discover a mosaic of wildlife habitats beside the footpath that has become known to local people as the 'Yellow Brick Road'.

Take a picnic and see the ever-changing River Avon. You may also like to play games on The Daisy Field and admire the fruit trees in the Community Orchard. You might just like to take some time out to enjoy nature on your doorstep.

Lamplighter's Marsh, with its unusual and locally rare species, is recognised as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI). The reserve is managed by Bristol City Council in partnership with the local community.

See the map inside to find out more about the wonderful wildlife of Lamplighter's Marsh.

- The nationally rare, but locally abundant Viper's bugloss - a grassland plant providing food for insects.

Early history
As low-lying land by the river, the reserve was used as grazing marsh from the Palaeolithic era until recent decades. The nearby street name, West Town Road, remembers a small brick-making village that occupied part of the site in the 18th century.

The Severn Beach railway line runs across the present site. It dates from 1865 and links Avonmouth with the centre of Bristol.

Modern history
At the start of World War I, a vast 'remount' depot was set up at Shirehampton to import, train and send horses on active service.

After World War II, part of the area was used as a landfill site. When this closed down in 1976, the area's regeneration began.

By 2003, the conservation value of the site had been recognised. Shire Greens started habitat management works, footpaths, fencing and other improvements working with Bristol City Council.

In 2010, Lamplighter's Marsh became a local nature reserve.

- The site of a war-horse found buried in a local garden.

Background map of part of the remount depot overlaid on a modern map. The paddocks are coloured green.
Lamplighter’s Marsh lies at the mouth of the Severn Estuary – on the flood plain of the River Avon just above high water level. The site is about one km long. The slightly alkaline soils give rise to semi-natural habitats including scrub, grassland and salt marsh that support particular wildlife communities that are unusual in this region.

**The Marsh**
The original Lamplighter’s ‘Marsh’ (currently in private ownership), supports a large population of common reed and other wetland plants.

**Sedum world**
Colonies of sedum and notable grassland plants such as Viper’s bugloss are abundant in summer near the broken-up remnants of the old railway line. They create a good habitat for the shy slow worm.

**Trees and hedge**
This woodland strip and the roadside hedgerow are important for nesting birds such as wren, blackbird, chaffinch and blackcap.

**The Daisy Field**
This former land fill site was raised by tipping and capping. Despite this, the site now hosts several species of grassland wildflower species such as Bee orchid and Ox-eye daisy.

**Map key**
- Main access points
- Yellow Brick Road
- Seats/picnic table
- Viewpoints

- Bus stops
- Station
- Parking

- Map 1/4 mile
- 0 0.25km