

# Manhood Wildlife Project

Involving local people in caring for their environment



## “A Sense of Place”

Every place is unique, shaped by its past, and echoes of the past can be found all around.

This walk connects stories of the people, landscape, plants & animals that were and are uniquely Selsey

Manhood Wildlife Project draws volunteers together in positive action for wildlife and the benefit of the community.

## Contact

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## Contributors to this leaflet

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- © 2008 Andrew Maund (Photograph)
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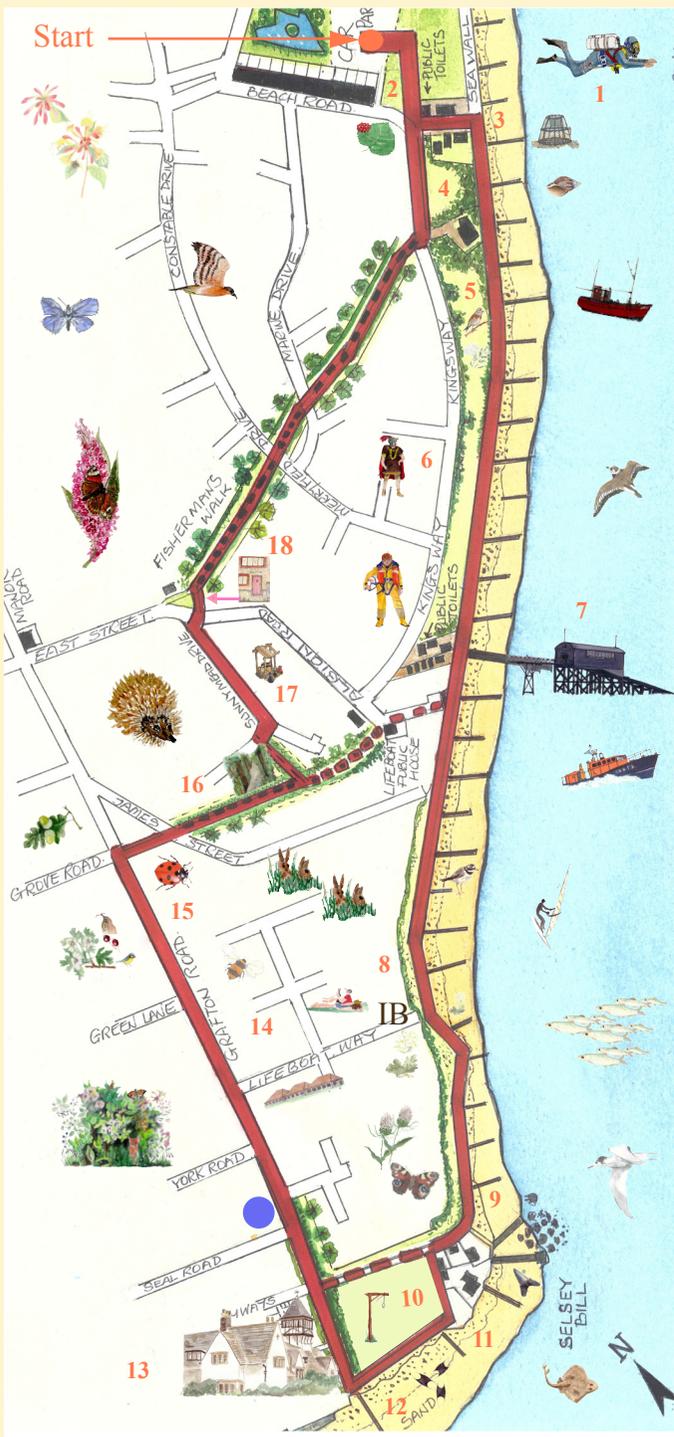
March 2008



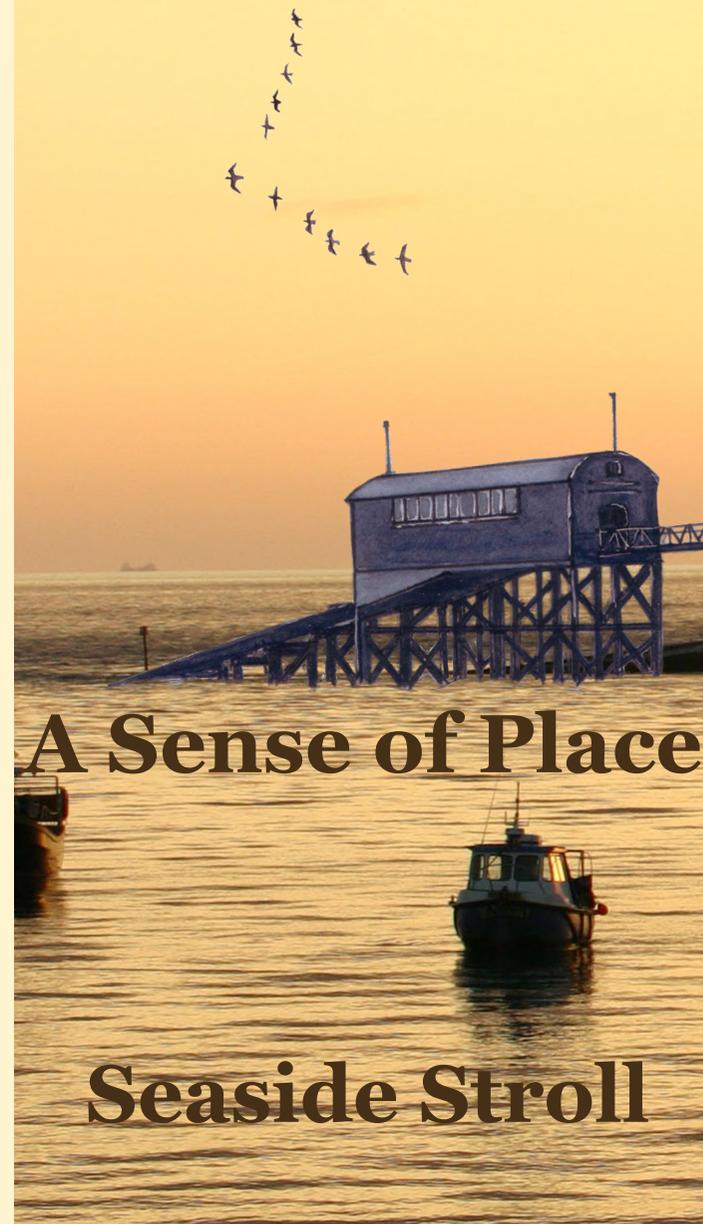
Distance 2 miles  
Start: East Beach Car Park  
Maps: - OS Explorer 120,

Time 2 hours  
GR 865934  
Landranger 197

Toilets & refreshments in the car park



# Selsey Walks



## A Sense of Place

## Seaside Stroll

# A Sense of Place

## Walk 3: Seaside Stroll

Starting from East Beach Pond, cross the car park and take the path over a small grassed area towards the sea, visiting trees on your right where there is a wooden bench and plaque (1) (2). Continue along the path to a stony track turn left past toilets, a café and fish shops (3) to reach the sea wall.

Turn right along the promenade, pass more fishing huts (4), a narrow strip of grassland and flower rich fields (5) to reach the lifeboat station (6). Here you can visit a small museum and shop, or cross the bridge to Selsey Lifeboat Station (7) (all subject to opening times).

Continue along the promenade for about half a mile keeping to the shoreline (8) (ignore a PF\* which would take you into a new housing estate). At the PF\* sign at the end of the seawall (9) turn sharp right up a short steep slope, then left at another PF\* sign around the edge of a playing field.

As you rejoin the seashore take time to explore the beach and enjoy fine views towards the Isle of Wight (10) (11) (12). Further along the path you will reach a wider stone track. Turn right, leaving the sea behind you, to pass Bill House (13) and the end of Seal Road. Walk along Grafton Road (14) (15), turn right to take a wide, straight footpath opposite the end of Grove Road. Cross a second road at the PF\* sign (16) and follow the footpath as it narrows between houses\*\*.

Look out for a narrow path on the left, by a telegraph pole and follow this to a tarmac road (Sunnymeads Drive) (17). Turn right, cross a side street, and follow the road as it curves left to reach a T-junction. Cross over the road to a small grassy area (18). In the far corner is another track, Fisherman's Walk, which heads off to the right. PF\* signs direct you straight ahead, across two roads until you finally emerge onto Kingsway facing fishermen's huts.

Turning left follow either the road or promenade back to East Beach car park.

\*\*Alternative route:

Continue straight along the footpath, past The Lifeboat pub to the seafront. Turn left towards the Lifeboat Station and East Beach car park.

\*PF = Public Footpath

1 **D Day** - 6 June 1944. Concrete pre-fabricated, 'Mulberry' harbours were stored offshore here, then refloated and towed to Normandy to be used for landing troops and supplies. Divers visit one that remains.



2 **Black Mulberry** trees are from Asia. They have separate male and female catkins, and are not the variety used to feed silkworms. These three were planted on 6 June 1994 to commemorate D-day.



3 **Fishermen's Huts** or 'Tarred Huts' are used for storage & selling fish. St Wilfred taught locals to fish in 681AD. The fishing fleet is still one of the largest in Sussex and specialises in catching crabs and lobsters.



4 **Selsey Cockles** have been famous from the early 1500s and were sent to Oliver Cromwell as a delicacy by the Earl of Southampton with a promise that "his lordship should not lack them".



5 **Selsey Common** may be a remnant of common grazing land dating back to Anglo-Saxon times. Flowers such as wild carrot, vetches and teasel flourish here, attracting many insects and birds.



6 **Roman Coin Hoard** was found in 1932 in front garden of a house near here (possible site of roman villa) and is believed to have been hidden from government officials by a Roman officer.



7 **Lifeboat** The current boat is 'Voluntary Worker' but there has been a boat here since 1861 with more than 580 lives saved. Present crew consists of 20 plus 15 land crew. This, the third boathouse, dates from 1960.



See Information Board (IB) to learn about vegetated shingle.

8 **Vegetated Shingle** is an internationally rare habitat comprised of highly specialized plant communities. It supports unusual insects and attracts nesting ringed plovers and terns. There are several spiders found only on shingle beaches.



9 **Fossil beds** in this area date from the early Pleistocene, interglacial period. Elephant, hairy rhinoceros and horse remains have been found at various times.



10 **Smugglers** A gibbet with the bones of two members of the famous Hawkhurst gang stood near here in 1747 to deter smugglers. They were both hanged, with other gang members, for the gruesome murder of two men.



11 **Birdwatching** Selsey, at the most southerly end of the peninsula, is an excellent haven for those in search of tranquility, and for birdwatchers who record migrating birds each spring and autumn.



12 **Sharks' Trust** This is an excellent place to find skate and ray egg cases (Mermaids' Purses) which can be recorded on their Great Eggcase Hunt website. It is fun and contributes to skate and ray conservation.



13 **Bill House** was built in arts and craft vernacular style by M H Baillie Scott in 1907 as a private house. The tower was used as a lookout by the Coastguard. The Bill House is now Grade II listed.



See Blue Plaque to learn about Capt. Teddy Donaldson (Seal Rd)

14 **Broadreeds Holiday Camp** was built in the 1930s. It was bombed in WW2 killing three evacuees. Bought by Pontins in 1960 to house 1,100 visitors a week, it closed at the end of 1988.



15 **Wildlife Gardening** brings extra interest close to home. Increasingly hedgehogs, frogs and many birds and insects depend on gardens as mini nature reserves as their usual habitats change or disappear.



16 **Twitten** is an Old English word meaning a straight narrow lane, usually running between walls or hedges. The term is now only used in East and West Sussex.



17 **Roman Well** This was found here in 1962 on the site of South Cotland Field when the builders were digging drains prior to building the bungalows.



18 **In 1886 Pink's Row Cottages** were owned by John Millington Pink, a local carrier. Note the 'step-over' instead of a gate in front of one cottage - a useful defence against high tides.

