



Naze Geology

The Naze is so much more than striking seascapes and landscapes, it is a unique coastal landscape of outstanding geological and biological importance

Most geological sites are either too specialist or too subtle to be easily understood, the Naze is one of the exceptions. Fossilised sharks teeth, shells and wood are found daily on the beach. Fossil discoveries from here shaped the global understanding of bird evolution and the cliffs are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest accordingly.

The Naze is a site where coastal change is clearly seen and easily understood. This is a huge issue for Essex and its coastal communities and the challenge is easily grasped at the Naze. The soft crumbling cliffs are actively eroding through a combination of rotational slumping and wave action.



Insects of the Naze

A great place to find insects, these creatures often go unnoticed or dismissed as 'creepy crawlies,' but they are vital for all wildlife - fuelling food chains in the countryside, being eaten by birds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians.



The Reed Warbler builds its nest between two reeds

Naze Wildlife

The Naze is a place where wildlife thrives, from obscure insects living in the soft cliffs to the familiar barn owl hunting over the grassland, The Naze is an excellent site to explore the natural world. It is home to a small number of locally and nationally rare plants and is an important site for migrating birds to rest and feed.

The Naze is the perfect place to get an introduction to marine wildlife, such as harbour porpoise out to sea, and creatures exposed by retreating tides.

Walton Wildlife Trail was created in association with the Essex Wildlife Trust, who kindly helped us with content and images. For more information about the Trust visit their website at: www.essexwt.org.uk Or call them on: 01621 862960



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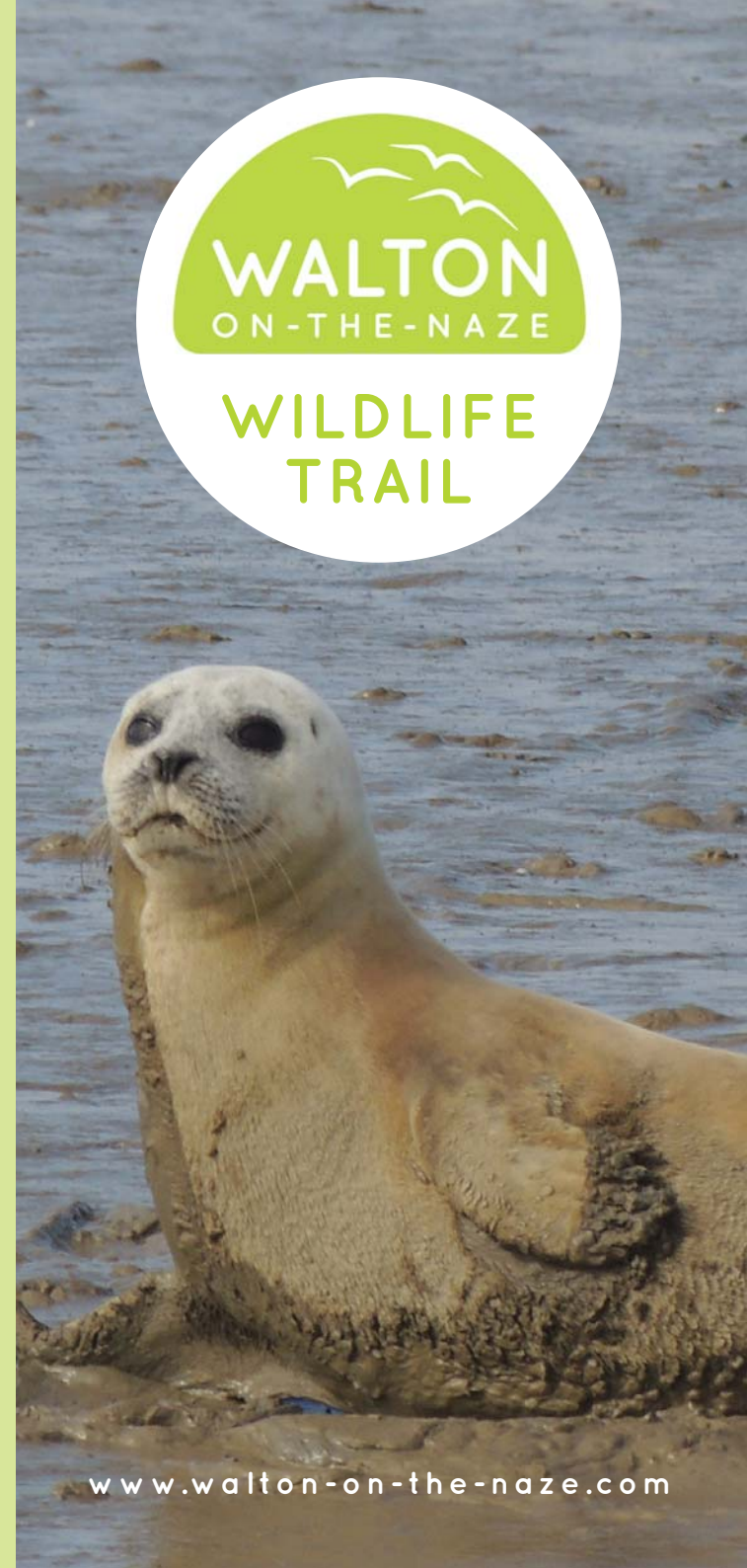
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Walton Wildlife Trail



Sanderling explore the tideline for food.

The Naze derives from the Old English 'naes', meaning nose and stretches 3 miles northwards from Walton-on-the-Naze. The circular Walton Wildlife Trail takes you 3.7 miles (6km) around the Naze peninsula.

The paths are mainly grassy and can be uneven, so suitable footwear should be worn. A pair of binoculars and a drink would be useful.

A shorter circular trail is possible by walking back along the Naze beach. Please check a tide table before using this route. Some areas are important for breeding or overwintering birds. Other areas are private farmland. Please visit responsibly.

Hamford Water

The Naze is a gateway into Hamford Water National Nature Reserve, an area of global importance due to the number of wildfowl and waders it supports. You can get a glimpse of Arthur Ransome's Secret Water, over 7,000 acres of tidal creeks, intertidal mud and sand flats, and saltmarsh.



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1 Welcome Cliff Wildlife
Sand Martins breed in the Naze cliffs and hunt over the grassy cliff top for food. The hot, dry cliff faces are important for rare insects.



2 Hamford Water National Nature Reserve Bird Site

The site is internationally important for its populations of waders and waterfowl that feed and rest here in winter and on migration in spring and autumn and is nationally important for its numbers of breeding birds during summer.



3 Backwaters Seals

Both Common and Grey Seals can be found in the less disturbed areas of Hamford Water and can be a russet colour due to lying on mud rich in 'rusty' iron oxide.

4 Sea Wall Borrow Dikes & Reptiles

To build the Naze seawall, soil was dug, or borrowed from the land to create the earth bank that became known as a seawall. The common lizard, slow worm and grass snake are all found at the Naze.



5 Field Gate Birds of Prey
Joining the trail at this point, as you head through the farmland you may see birds of prey, small mammals and numerous insects.