

View the three commissions

1 Medmerry Soundscapes



2

The Periwinkle shelter



These commissions have been made possible through the generous support of



Culture Spark is a creative partnership between Chichester District Council, Chichester Festival Theatre and Pallant House Gallery.

3 Timelapse



RSPB Medmerry Nature reserve is open every day. Entry is free but a donation will help RSPB's work with birds and other wildlife.

How to get here

Start your visit at the RSPB Pagham Harbour visitor centre, Selsey Road, Sidlesham PO20 7NE which has toilets, information and a large car park (parking charges apply).

By bus: Catch the link bus 51 Chichester/Selsey stagecoach service down the B2145 to Pagham Harbour visitor centre where there is a request stop. From here you can access Medmerry by public footpath (1.8miles).

The 52 Witterings service stops at the end of Clappers Lane, from there walk along Clappers Lane to Earnley Church where the reserve is signposted (0.7miles).

By car:

For the Earnley viewpoint: there is a car park at Earnley PO20 7JL (satnav: RSPB Medmerry).

For the Easton viewpoint: there is a small access car park on Easton Lane (satnav: RSPB Medmerry Easton Lane car park).

For The Breach viewpoint: park in Selsey and walk in via Warners Lane (2 miles). Alternatively, park at our RSPB Pagham Harbour visitor centre and walk in by public footpath (2.9miles).

By bike: You can join the cycle path at Easton Lane and Earnley car parks or cycle from the RSPB Pagham Harbour visitor centre via the Medmerry Cycle Link.

www.rspb.org.uk/medmerry or email pagham.harbour@rspb.org.uk

The RSPB is the country's largest nature conservation charity, inspiring everyone to give nature a home.



RSPB MEDMERRY NATURE RESERVE



EXPLORE AN AMAZING LANDSCAPE Creative Commissions

"It's a ground up community idea – the community has helped change its whole environment."
Carolyn

www.rspb.org.uk/medmerry

A breath-taking expanse of saltmarsh, mudflats and water

Medmerry is one of Europe's largest coastal realignment projects. Before the flood bank was completed & a breach created in the shingle beach, the low-lying land around Medmerry was prone to flooding putting nearly 350 homes at risk.

Medmerry is an exemplar of climate change adaptation and how local people can be instrumental in ensuring a project's success through public consultation and participation. Selsey residents Carolyn Cobbold and Renee Santema helped raise the local profile of climate change and flooding issues. In 1997, alongside the Environment Agency, they questioned the long-term sustainability of defending their coastline with a shingle bank constantly shored up by mechanical diggers.

Carolyn had an engineering degree and a decade of researching climate change and risk management behind her whilst Dutch born Renee was a spatial planner experienced in coastal and water management. Together they invited 30 senior Dutch and British experts in planning, coastal engineering and ecology to a blue-sky thinking workshop. At the end of each day members of the public and councillors joined to ask questions and make observations.

Ideas were varied and ambitious - from turning Selsey back into an island to building lake houses, growing saline resistant crops and even banning cars. One issue they all agreed upon - letting the sea in between Selsey and Bracklesham was the most sustainable, affordable and practical solution. A managed realignment of the coast would also provide nearly 1000 acres of valuable wetland habitat perfect for wildlife, recreation, tourism and the local economy. Win win!

The double win became a treble win when the Medmerry realignment scheme was used to compensate for wetlands lost through the expansion of container docks in Southampton. As a result, the £28 million costs of the scheme were borne by the Associated British Ports saving taxpayer funds, boosting Southampton's economy and helping Chichester's economy, environment and coastal defences.

Since 2013, inundated with salt water twice daily by the tides, the 310-hectare area has continued to transform into saltmarsh and mudflats providing safe nursery grounds for young fish, habitats for feeding and resting waders & wildfowl and an increase in species such as Lapwing, Redshank, Ringed Plover, Avocet, Skylark, Yellowhammer, Linnet and Corn Bunting. The story continues...

"A gloriously open space – It's a beacon of hope. It shows that we can manage things differently from the way we did."

David L

"It's good for your mind, it's good for wildlife, it's good for education, it's good for the local people to live without the fear of flooding."

Trevor

"The landscape demonstrates the ebb and flow of effects of coastal change, of people living in this landscape."

James



Photographs by Jakub Bors

The commissions

We invited 3 local professional artists skilled in sculpture, storytelling/soundscapes and digital/photography to respond creatively to the landscape in 3 key locations across site. Together the commissions explore Medmerry's past and present through the stories of its people and the movement of its landscape whilst capturing the ongoing relationship between sea and coast.



1 Listen and reflect

Medmerry Soundscapes by Splodge Designs at Easton Viewpoint

The RSPB Medmerry site is a beautiful nature reserve with a wealth of hidden stories to tell of its layers of history, redevelopment and visitor experiences.

Between the 2 benches at Easton Point you will find a display board. Scan the QR code with your phone and the link will take you to the Splodge Designs website. Here you will be able to listen to a collection of atmospheric and informative soundscapes telling you more about the area. These soundscapes were created with a wide range of local people who shared their knowledge, memories and hopes for the area.

The artwork for the display board was created by Splodge Designs working with 2 local community groups; Think 18 based at the Apuldram Centre and the Aldingbourne Trust group based at Aldingbourne Country Park.

Splodge Designs would like to thank everyone who contributed towards the project.

www.sploggedesigns.com

2 Relax and watch

The Periwinkle shelter installation by Two Circles Design at Earnley Viewpoint

Environmental artists, Rebecca and Mark Ford create sculpture and installations from natural materials. Their inspiration for this sculpture derives from archaeological excavations of the Medmerry site. Evidence was discovered of several circular Bronze Age roundhouses, burial grounds, (dating from 1,100 BC) and the remains of a medieval V-shaped 160m long wooden 'kettle' to funnel and trap fish in a weir at low tide using wickerwork fences. Littorina shells (Periwinkles) were found in the remains of an ancient willow fish basket.

This commissioned sculptural periwinkle shelter, woven from Sussex willow, will signify a glance back to Medmerry past and an acknowledgment of this new incarnation for the Medmerry Landscape. Incorporated into the willow weave is a cloud window silhouette of a resident Marsh harrier.

www.twocirclesdesign.co.uk

3 See and capture

Timelapse installation by Jakub Bors at The Breach viewpoint

I was born in the Czech Republic and have been living in the heart of Chichester, West Sussex, for several years now. My work in the photography industry has taken me worldwide, but I always enjoy returning to the photography community I've built here.

When I learned about the Medmerry Commission, I saw it as an excellent opportunity to get involved in a project that would help to raise awareness of the beautiful Medmerry reserve and encourage the local community to discover the beauty of nature photography. To this end, I have created the timelapse station installation, which I hope will be a fun addition to the popular Medmerry Breach Viewpoint. It will also help to track the transformation of this changing landscape creatively and interactively.

www.borsphoto.com