

Railway sidings and shunting yard

Long-distance fast trains travel through Rogiet and slower trains stop at a nearby station. Up until 1987, Rogiet Countryside Park was a busy railway yard, known as a marshalling yard. It was full of sidings and trucks waiting to take goods such as coal, cows and steel to markets across the UK. This required careful planning and a network of trains and trucks. While goods trains with their trucks still pass through Rogiet, it is no longer used as a marshalling yard.



Where were the old railway tracks?

As you explore the area, look for signs of the old railway lines. The rabbits sometimes dig up the stony, black soil where the rails once lay.

Spotting wildlife

Explore the area and see how many different varieties of plants, bees and butterflies you are able to find. Look closer and see whether the insects are using particular plants or flowers. What colours do they seem attracted to? What are they doing when they land on a plant?



I spy...

Bumblebee – many varieties with different coloured tails and bands across their bodies

Meadow brown butterfly – common during the summer on grasses and flowers

Knapweed – purple flower heads and loved by insects

Bird's-foot trefoil – yellow and orange flowers give it the name 'eggs and bacon'

Flower meadows and grasslands

Since the railway tracks were removed, nature has recolonised the site, returning it to scrub and wild flower meadows full of wildlife. When the railway sidings were dismantled in the 1990s, the soil was disturbed. Seeds of grasses, flowers and trees that had been buried and dormant for many years were brought to the surface and germinated. Today the wild flower meadows are cut once a year. The cut material or hay is removed to avoid fertilising the soil; the flowers don't need much food. There are 166 different varieties of plants, bees and butterflies now found here.

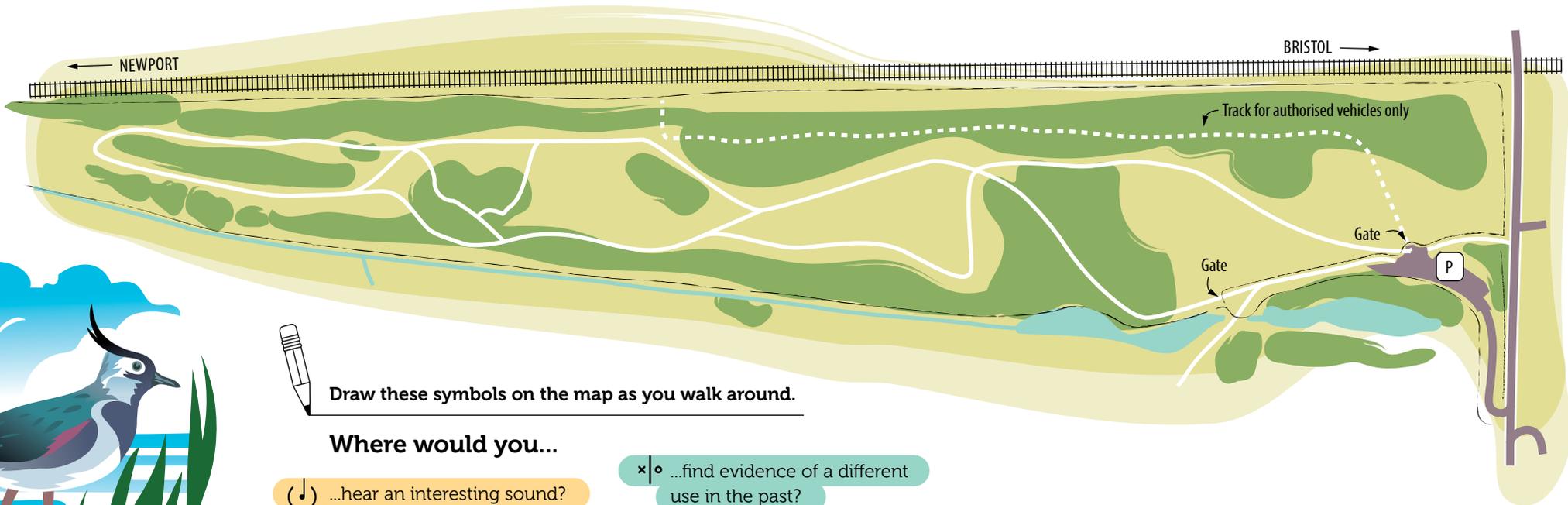
MAP & GUIDE



Rogiet Countryside Park

A transformation from railway sidings to flower meadows





Draw these symbols on the map as you walk around.

Where would you...

(♪) ...hear an interesting sound?

(👃) ...smell an unusual scent

✖|○ ...find evidence of a different use in the past?

(😊) ...feel peaceful?



Wetland

The countryside park and surrounding areas all used to be part of the wider wetlands, where fields became wet in the winter and remained damp in the summer. They were home to grass snakes, water voles and nesting

birds such as lapwings, which can still be found at Magor Marsh and Newport Wetlands. If you look across the countryside park from the road bridge you will see the connecting water channels (reens and ditches) following the line of hedgerows that once connected Rogiet to the wider Gwent Levels.

Changing sounds

The sounds of Rogiet have changed from the days of being a wetland, then railways sidings, to today, as a place for wildlife and for people to walk. As you walk around count how many different sounds you can hear. How many are made by people and how many are made by wildlife?



KEY			
	Water		Dense vegetation/ woodland
	Tarmac/gravel		Path
	Mud/rocks		Seasonal flowers for pollinators
	Light vegetation/ rocks		Viewpoint
	Boundary		Car park

Rogiet Countryside Park

21 kilometres (13 miles) east of Newport
Allow 1 to 1.5 hours for trail

Rogiet Countryside Park, Rogiet NP26 3TZ (ST 46076 87425). This site is managed by MonLife on behalf of Monmouthshire County Council. This site is accessible with a Radar key for the entrance gate.

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