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翻譯的幫助

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SEEDA SOUTH EAST ENGLAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY Working for England's World Class Region

Supported by The National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund

heritage lottery fund

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# Wildlife

The park's geology and coastal setting provide the basis for a rich flora and fauna, particularly for migrating birds and insects. The thin, sandy soil is ideal for native wild plants, while the south-facing undercliff has a mild microclimate for wildlife that is unusual elsewhere in the country.

Historically the cliff-face and undercliff were mainly grassy slopes. In the 1880s, pines and holm oaks were planted, followed by self seeded sycamores, which created coastal



woodland with a lower canopy of hawthorn and ground cover including stinking iris. The undercliff provides a habitat for butterflies, bees, woodpeckers and blue tits. On the seashore, gulls wheel overhead as shags skim the surface searching for fish. Explore rock pools at Mill Point during low tide to find sea anemones, crabs and starfish.



# History

Once a wild foreshore, landlips in 1784 created the park's basic landform. In 1828, the Earl of Radnor built a toll road providing an easy route between the harbour and Sandgate. An original toll house remains within the park. Either side of the toll road, land was cultivated and grazed. Old field boundaries are still in evidence and the Cow Path reminds us of the drove route from The Leas.



In 1843, the railway arrived and Folkestone grew quickly from a small fishing town into a major resort with visitors from London, including Edward, Prince of Wales. In the park, tea rooms, shelters and woodland walks were provided among the

newly planted holm oaks and pine trees so that people could "take the air".



The Leas Lift opened in 1885 to improve access between the seafront and the upper Leas. The park and seafront with their new pier, switchback

ride, and beach amusements were so popular that a second lift was added in 1890. The remains of a further lift serving the Metropole can still be seen, and yet another lift connected the western end of the Leas with Sandgate.

The Zig Zag Path was built in 1921 as a new attraction and to provide work for the unemployed. As natural as it looks, the cliff-face and grottoes are entirely artificial, being built of mostly waste material and coated in special cement called Pulhamite after its creator James Pulham. Now a listed structure, the path is one of the country's

finest examples of his work. The Leas Cliff Hall was opened in 1927 as a replacement for a much smaller concert room called the Leas Shelter. The opening by Prince Henry was broadcast live to the nation by the BBC.

During 2007 the Coastal Park received a total of four awards; the prestigious Green Flag awarded by the Civic Trust, best regional and best overall Regeneration Project from the Royal Town Planning Institute and winner in the Landscape category of the Kent Design Awards.

Shepway District Council are keen to continue consulting the public on the future development of the Coastal Park through a "Friends of the Park" group. If you are interested in joining the group please leave your contact details with any of the staff on site.



# Relaxation

Starting from the Leas Bandstand, the Zig Zag Path takes you down to the 350-seat Amphitheatre where a programme of free events, including music, magic, comedy and drama, is held each summer.

Nearby is the South East's largest free adventure playground complete with sunken pirate ship, zip lines and over 12 metres of tube slides! Careful, you may have difficulty in getting your children to leave!

The Formal Zone between the Amphitheatre and the Leas Lift has been sympathetically restored to retain the spirit of the historic park. Plants throughout the park have been selected for their resistance to drought and the salt air.

Interpretation panels help visitors to understand the park and there is even a 'Pierscope' to view the Pier, now long since demolished. (Much less expensive than building a new one!)

The Sustrans National Cycle Network Route 2 passes through the park. The route is complemented by artwork, including entrance features and hand-sculpted benches. A labyrinth, designed by a local artist, has been added to stimulate creative thinking using sandstone recovered from the underpass in the town centre.



Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council www.shepway.gov.uk

# The Lower Leas Coastal Park

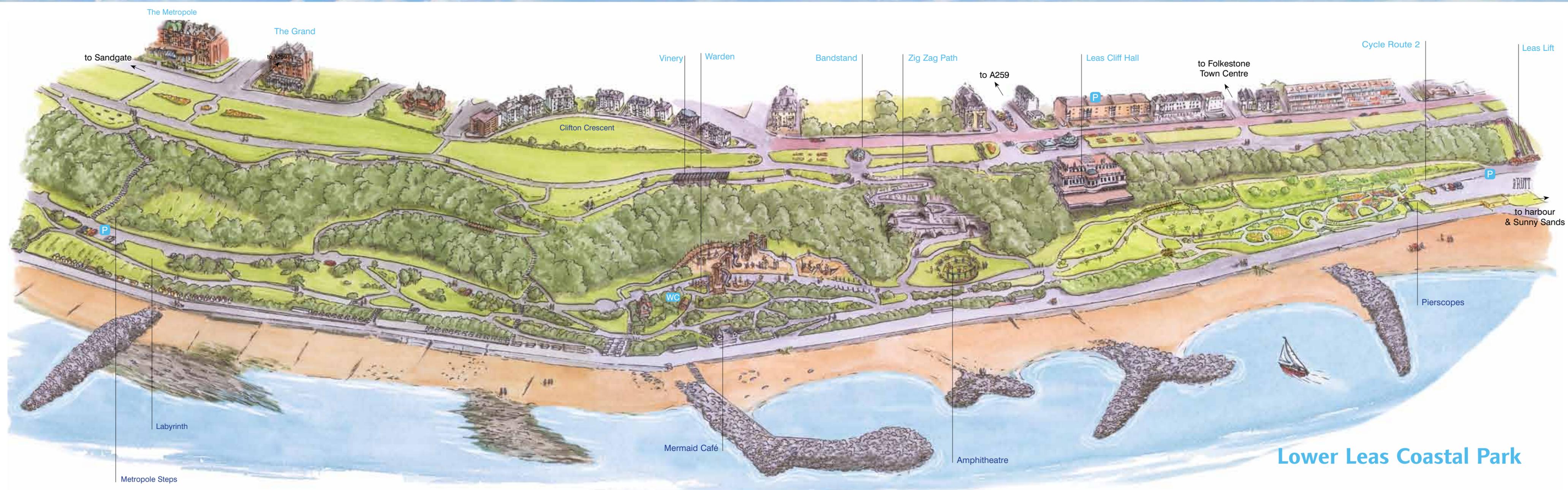
Folkestone, Kent



wildlife

history

relaxation



The Metropole

The Grand

to Sandgate

to A259

Vinery

Warden

Bandstand

Zig Zag Path

to A259

Leas Cliff Hall

to Folkestone  
Town Centre

Cycle Route 2

Leas Lift

Clifton Crescent

P

to harbour  
& Sunny Sands

P

WC

Pierscopes

Labyrinth

Mermaid Café

Amphitheatre

Metropole Steps

# Lower Leas Coastal Park