

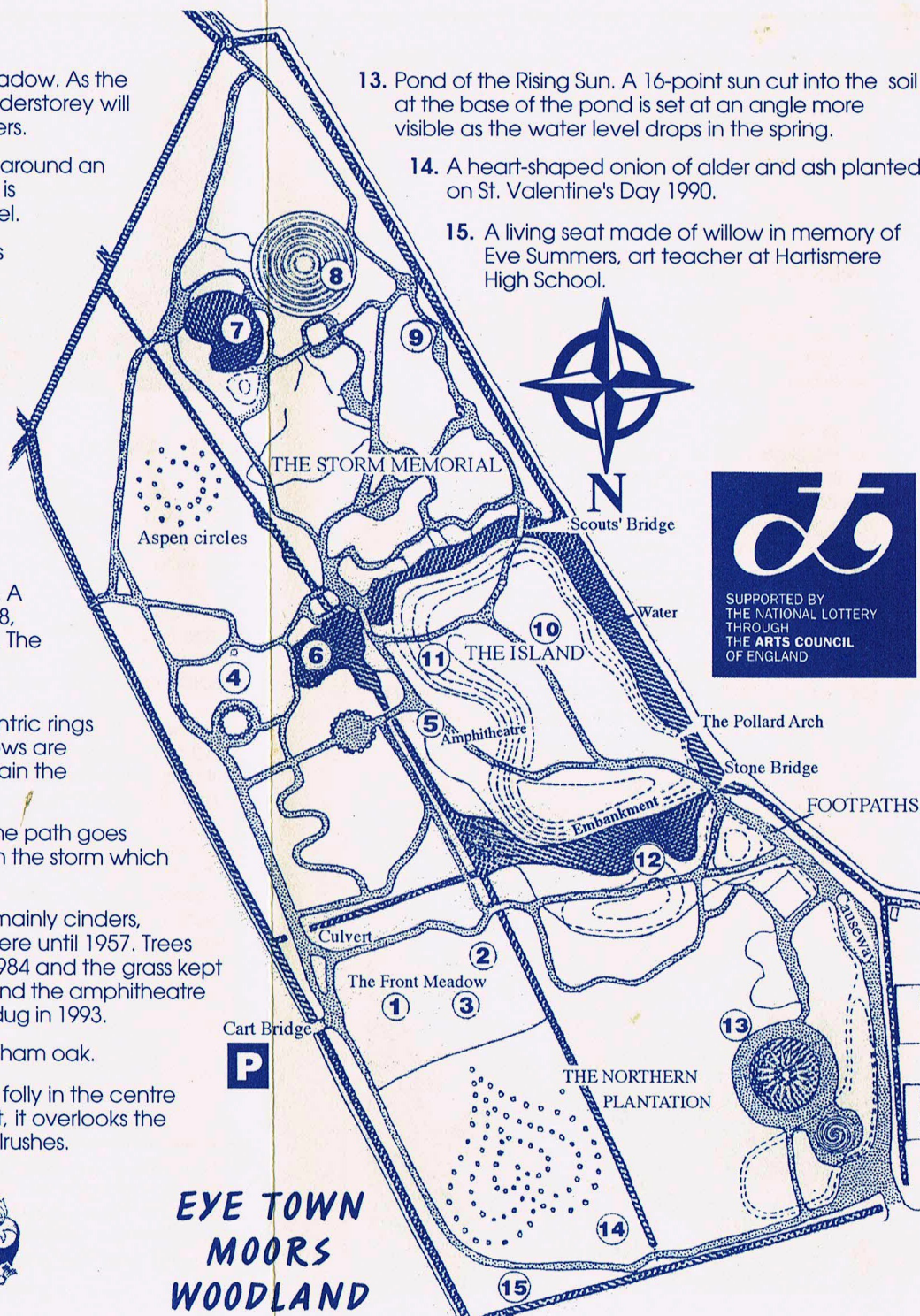
KEY

1. Area mown to create a meadow. As the ash trees close over, the understorey will encourage woodland flowers.
2. The Land Boat was created around an already established tree. It is made of osier, oak and hazel.
3. Willow hut made from osiers grown on the Moors.
4. Ash Dome, planted in 1987. Every year it is tied and pruned to make a 20ft. living dome.
5. Capital 'A' created in 1998 and made out of oak from nearby Thornham.
6. The Dragonfly Pond was dug in 1989 and left to establish its own plant life.
7. The South Pond, dug in 1989. A Lovers' Seat, created in 1998, gives a view over the pond. The water reflects the conical sculptures.
8. Osier Circles. Seven concentric rings of differently coloured willows are pruned every year to maintain the young, colourful growth.
9. On the western boundary the path goes under willows blown down in the storm which form a natural arch.
10. The Island is a raised area, mainly cinders, refuse from Eye dumped there until 1957. Trees have been planted since 1984 and the grass kept mown. It was landscaped and the amphitheatre made when the moat was dug in 1993.
11. Jim's seat, made from Thornham oak.
12. The Castle Seat echoes the folly in the centre of Eye. Built of brick and flint, it overlooks the Moat, which is filled with bullrushes.

13. Pond of the Rising Sun. A 16-point sun cut into the soil at the base of the pond is set at an angle more visible as the water level drops in the spring.

14. A heart-shaped onion of alder and ash planted on St. Valentine's Day 1990.

15. A living seat made of willow in memory of Eve Summers, art teacher at Hartismere High School.



**EYE TOWN
MOORS
WOODLAND**

EYE TOWN MOORS WOODLAND



*14 acres of public open space
south west of Eye in Suffolk*



EYE TOWN MOORS

The Eye Town Moors are 14 acres of public open space to the south west of Eye, in Suffolk. They are there for everyone to enjoy.

From the early 1800s the Town Moors were rough grassland, partly used as a refuse dump. By the 1950s Eye Borough Council had closed the dump, planted willows and poplars and created the adjoining playing fields. In 1987 the Great Storm felled the poplars and the Moors entered a new phase.

A plan of restoration took shape which led to the planting of hundreds of trees, the creation of wetland habitats, new features in the landscape and more access which also provided a unique recreational resource where wildlife could thrive. Local schools use the site for environmental studies and children use it for their own adventures.

Over the years, volunteers have given many hundreds of hours to maintain paths and create features such as the moat, amphitheatre, osier circle and ash dome. Ponds have been dug and seats provided. The Friends of Eye Town Moors, many sponsors and grant-giving organisations, including Eye Town Council, have given generously in order to support the work.

In 1995 and 1996 workshops were held which created environmental art in the landscape. This led to a seat making workshop in 1998 funded by the A4E Express Scheme which, under the supervision of trained artists and facilitators, made resting places and structures for everyone to explore and enjoy.

We hope that the Moors will continue to be used in this way for outdoor activities and events and that you will take the opportunity to visit Eye Town Moors, walk its paths and explore its secret places and features.

BIRDS OF EYE TOWN MOORS

For a comparatively small site the Town Moors have a wide variety of habitats, ranging from woodland and scrub to ponds and marshy areas and as a result there is a good selection of bird life.

Apart from common birds such as Blue and Great Tits, Blackbird, Robin and Chaffinch, rarer birds such as Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers and Treecreeper use the more mature woodland. In the younger developing woodland, species such as Garden Warbler, Whitethroat and Blackcap can be found in the summer months and Greenfinch and Goldfinch can be seen through the year, the latter feeding on the plentiful teasel seeds.

The marshy areas are home to some more specialised birds, perhaps most notable being the Reed Warbler, which is a summer visitor to Britain.

Many birds that were once common in this country have declined drastically in the last few decades but the Moors have strong populations of three such species: Turtle Dove, Song Thrush and Spotted Flycatcher.



TREES AND PLANTS

Since the Great Storm the site has been planted up with a wide range of trees and shrubs, both native and exotic - over 45 species of climber and shrub have been recorded.

The native trees include Oak, Ash, Field Maple and Hazel together with moisture-loving species such as Willow and Alder. More exotic species include Poplars and ornamental Holly.

Stinging Nettle, Teasel and Rosebay Willowherb tend to be very common, reflecting both the rich soil and its recent disturbance. Flowering plants are a mixture of native species such as Primrose and stray cultivated species such as Tulip, Daffodil and Snowdrop. Some of the most interesting plants are to be found in the ditches, ponds and marshy areas. These include Marsh Marigold and Ragged Robin. In addition a rare plant called Stonewort can be found - a relative of mosses that grows in fresh water.

CAPTIONS

- Front cover - Lovers' Seat, February 1998
- 2. *The Fallen Willow* by Sybella Stiles
- 3. Seat-making workshop, February 1998
- 4. Sunset, Eye Town Moors

The first Sunday of each month are volunteer days on Eye Town Moors. If you would like to find out more about the Moors or become a Friend, please telephone (01379) 678302, 870027 or 870298 for further information.

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