

Kingsthorpe Meadows

An Update

It's almost 2 years since the land was finally purchased and whilst the area doesn't look that different a lot has been going on. We are now the "Kingsthorpe North Meadows Charitable Trust" a bit of a mouthful I know, but we needed to form ourselves into a group that protects the land in the best possible way.

Our first job was to have some old stable buildings removed which were dangerous. We had to use specialist contractors to remove some low risk asbestos from the site which was costly but had to be done properly. We also contacted The Environment Agency because their storm water outfalls were falling into the river, they have been fully repaired and the EA installed a short length of pathway to allow better access to the river.

Two organisations who have and continue to work with us and advise us are the River Nene Regional Park and the Northampton Wildlife Trust. Both groups have given us endless support.

Dr Robin Field Revital-ISE Project Manager from the River Nene Regional Park said 'This meadow is an important site as there are only a few remnants of this type of unimproved grassland left in the county. The site is now in positive management and after only one year there are a range of wildflowers returning and I hope within the next few years it will return to its former glory.' A range of other tasks such as ditch clearance, hedgerow planting and coppicing have been highlighted in the recently prepared management plan and these will be programmed in at the appropriate time of year.

Part of the site is a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) and management work is being supported by the Wildlife Trust's Inspiring Meadows project, which assists landowners to conserve meadows across Northants. The project has helped finance some of the management work on the site including the cutting of the wet meadow within the conservation area to allow wetland flowers to flourish in future years. Matt Johnson Local Wildlife Sites Officer for the Wildlife Trust said 'It's great to work with such an enthusiastic group and with on-going management this important site will continue to increase its value to local wildlife.'

We have held two volunteer work days so far, to remove barbed wire and fence posts from the site. Our next organised work day is on 11th December from 10-00am until about 3-00pm and will concentrate on raking up grass cuttings in the wetland area.

Anyone interested in helping out just needs to meet us at the Coverdale entrance to the site around 10-00am with wellies and rakes.

Contact details:

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Notes to editors

Revital-ISE Project

The Revital-ISE project provides an outstanding opportunity for partnership working between landowners, land managers, local authorities, Government Agencies, environmental groups, and local communities to re-establish a high quality environment throughout the Ise Valley that meets the needs of a 21st century community. The Revital-ISE Project Manager post is part funded for four years by the Environment Agency and hosted by the River Nene Regional Park.

The River Nene Regional Park (RNRP)

RNRP is a Community Investment Company that is hosted by Northamptonshire County Council and can hold assets and land on behalf of the community. It is an independent organisation that was constituted under the framework of the Treasury's Green Book and is recognised as a Treasury model for the environment in relation to sustainable growth area funding delivery.

RNRP Vision

"By 2016 the RNRP partnership will be an independent, inclusive, reciprocal and beneficial partnership of public, private and third sector members. It will be nationally and internationally recognised as the centre of excellence for the piloting, co-ordination and delivery of regional sustainable development, addressing strategic issues such as Climate Change, the enhancement of local biodiversity and the innovative development of the environment as an asset for social development, education, leisure & recreation, heritage and cultural activity, and as a primary vehicle of economic regeneration."

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

Bringing people together to take action for wildlife is the Trust's mission. We manage 126 nature reserves - all of them free to visit – and 95% of the population live within five miles of one of our reserves. We are working to make these wildlife havens bigger, better and more joined-up – vital to help wildlife to adapt to a changing climate. By gathering valuable information about wildlife and working with other landowners the Trust also monitors and safeguards wildlife beyond the boundary of its reserves. www.wildlifebcn.org

The Inspiring Meadows project is a Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership project led by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire and is jointly funded by the SITA Trust 'Enriching Nature' programme and Northamptonshire County Council. The project will identify and restore priority meadow sites across Northamptonshire. Through free wildlife surveys and management advice, as well as funding for practical work the project will support landowners to boost the wildlife value of their land and develop a network of great wildlife habitats across the county.

