

Hurst Water Meadow News March 2009

The Old Bridge meadow

The appeal for funds is making good progress and we are nearing the target. Once full funding is in place, the sale agreement can be signed (we hope in March 2009) and then we can commission reports by experts on managing the land and enhancing the range of wildlife that it supports. When received, the trustees can make plans for the long-term management of the site and its wildlife. The trustees intend to present these plans for public discussion at an open meeting, possibly in May 2009 and good notice will be given. Meanwhile, only essential maintenance work will be undertaken. The trustees will welcome comments and suggestions which could be taken into account when the plans are made and publicly discussed.

Objections have been received about the intrusive appearance and siting of the kissing gate. Possible improvements could be discussed at the meeting to gauge the extent of public support for the costed options.

The new siting of the footpath has been marked by a finger post, kindly carved by Hallidays' craftsman at no cost. The gap in the hedge has been replanted.

Hurst meadow

Ponies started to graze the uncut area between the oak tree and the new scrape on 1 February. They will only be there for a short while.

Peter Pritchard, hon secretary 340008