



TOWN MEADOW ENHANCEMENT PLAN

ENVIRONMENT - HERITAGE - COMMUNITY





**artist interperatations*

VISION FOR THE PROJECT

The Town Meadow Enhancement Plan is an exciting project to provide vital river and habitat restoration which can be enjoyed by both the local community and visitors to the area through improved access.

The project will combine wetland creation, river restoration, animal grazing and social capital enhancements providing an improved link between the town of Midhurst and the historic Cowdray Ruins.

This is an opportunity to work collaboratively with other local organisations to improve natural habitats and to showcase other planned Cowdray restoration works taking place on the River Rother.

The plan includes:

- Creating a series of ponds and scrapes as well as reconnecting the meadow with the River Rother through bank reprofiling which will help to keep the meadow wetter for longer
- In-channel enhancements such as bank stabilisation and riffle creation will help to renaturalise the river
- Access improvement plans include sensitively resurfacing The Causeway and paths, installing access-friendly gates and building boardwalks above the wetland
- One area will be designated as a River Park to include seating enabling people to spend time enjoying nature
- Interpretation boards with QR codes will allow engagement with the project and help visitors to identify seasonal flora and fauna
- A key component of the project includes grazing cattle to help maintain the habitat naturally



VISUALISATION OF THE SITE



① Series of interconnected wetland scrapes in the floodplain to maintain and floristically enhance the existing meadow.

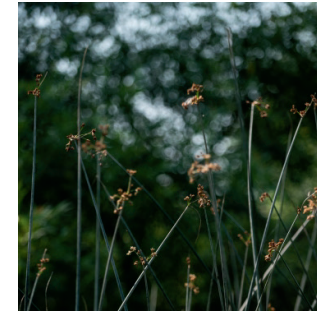
② River restoration scheme throughout the riparian corridor to enhance biodiversity and the natural function of the river.

③ The creation of a shared off-road path for walkers, cyclists and wheelchair and mobility scooter users which will link to other public rights of way.

④ Boardwalks over marshy terrain to provide viewing platforms over the river, wetland and scenic views of the historic Cowdray Ruins.

Key:

-  Wetland Scrape
-  Wetted Area
-  Wetland Vegetation
-  Boardwalk
-  Midhurst Greenway







HABITAT AND HISTORY

Why was The Town Meadow chosen....

- Over the last 200 years the River Rother has been disconnected from the flood plain through artificially raised banks; the project aims to restore the site back to its natural environmental state
- The site has historical significance with old tithe maps showing the meadow was once cut for hay by the local community. While its purpose has changed, the Town Meadow still links the Grade I listed Cowdray Ruins to the town
- The Town Meadow is a significant asset to Midhurst and the local area with visitors being able to enjoy this unique combination of heritage alongside a wetland and river habitat which is easily accessible from a public car park and the nearby bus station
- It is overlooked by the South Downs National Park offices, Midhurst Rother College and the historic Motte and Bailey Castle at St Ann's Hill
- This is a unique opportunity to enhance the most widely accessible stretch of the River Rother on the Estate



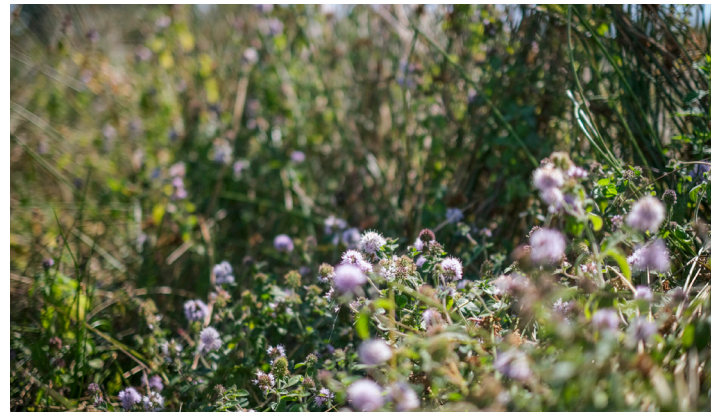
COLLABORATIONS

As well as engaging with various local stakeholders, Cowdray is working alongside Southern Water, whose objective to explore nature-based solutions to improve water quality and availability align with the Estate's environmental aims.

Funding from Southern Water has allowed Cowdray to appoint Hampshire and The Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to carry out ecology and baseline habitat surveys, whilst detailed work by Five Rivers has informed the production of an early-stage outline design.

“Southern Water has a long term interest in sustaining the habitats and ecosystem services that give us clean water, reduce floods, capture carbon and protect wildlife. We're proud to support the Town Meadow enhancement project delivered in partnership with the Cowdray Estate and we're committed to achieving long term environmental improvement.”

- Southern Water



TOWN MEADOW ENHANCEMENT PLAN



Town Meadow Boundary



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