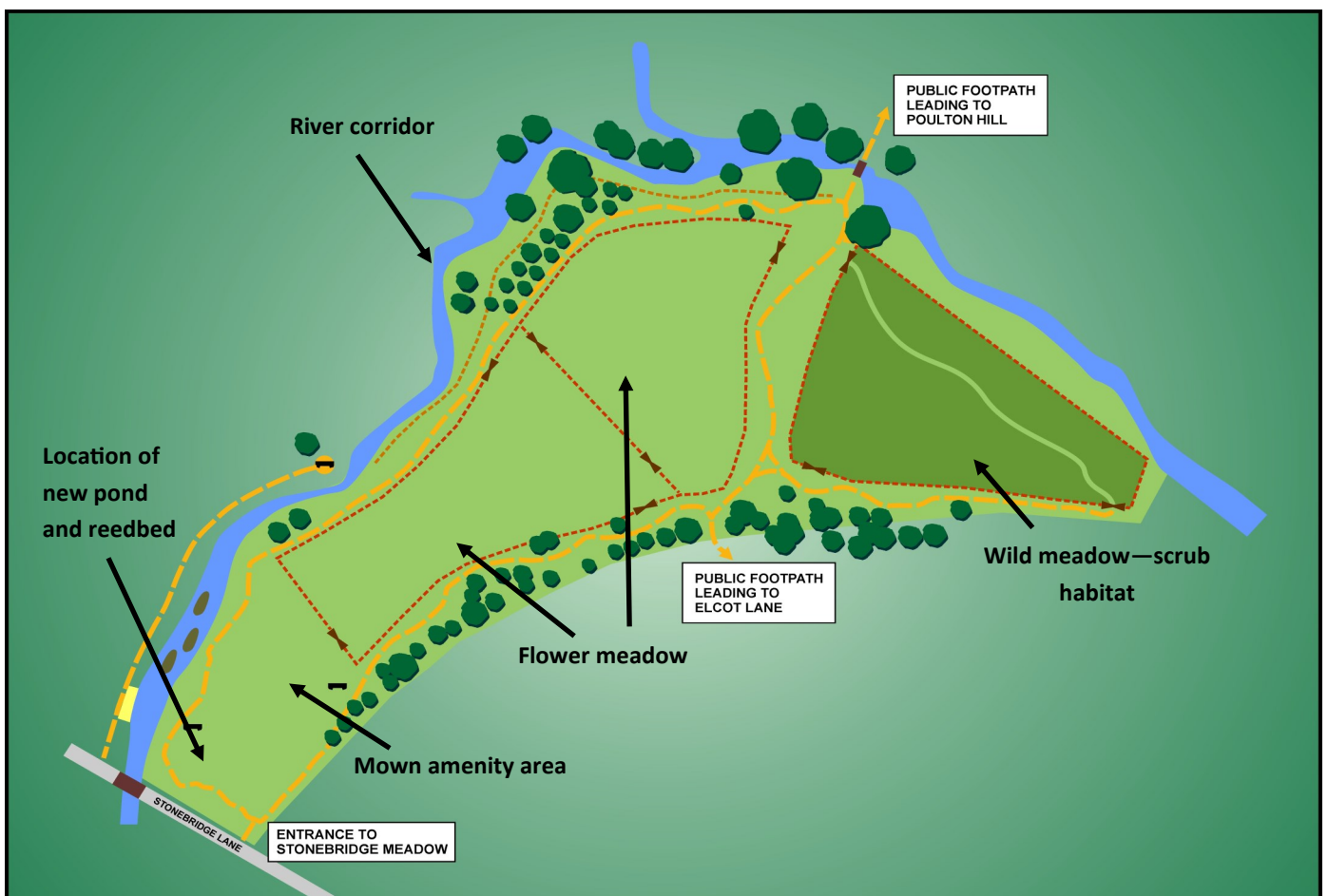


# Stonebridge Meadow - Have your say!

Stonebridge Meadow is a 15 acre [water meadow](#) in the East of Marlborough which is bound by the River Kennet to the North and Stonebridge Lane on the West. In early 2011 it was bought jointly by Action for the River Kennet (ARK) and Marlborough Town Council (MTC) to manage for the benefit of [people](#) and [wildlife](#). After extensive survey work by experts and a public consultation, a management plan was agreed between both parties and work on this long term project began in 2012.

**Now we'd like to hear your views on the different areas of the meadow and the actions which we've taken so far to improve the area's access, amenity and biodiversity.**



## Main zones in Stonebridge Meadow

**Flower Meadow:** Two adjacent areas are being managed to become a flower rich meadow. These are grazed by livestock for periods in spring and autumn and are open for walking in the rest of the year. Public seed scattering afternoons and a grazing regime have already begun, but it will take several years for the flora to reach its potential, as flower meadows are a delicate habitat which take a long time to create.

**Wild Meadow— Scrub habitat:** This is the truly wild section which has been left 'unimproved'. It is home to wildlife including ground nesting birds, small mammals, grass snakes, and hundreds of species of insects. A mown path through the middle enables public access to the vast array of wildlife which live in the area. There are signs on the three gates to the natural meadow giving information about this type of habitat.

**River corridor:** This has undergone large amounts of award winning restoration to protect eroding banks, increase the flow in times of drought and improve fish spawning habitat. This has been funded by the Catchment Restoration Fund and supported

by the Wild Trout Trust, the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Environment Agency.

**Mown amenity area:** Currently mown, with two new benches added last year, this area will soon include two wetland features:

- **Reed bed** - this will filter road surface run off which carries pollution directly into the river, and will result in cleaner water as well as providing a habitat for nesting birds and other wildlife.
- **Pond** - this will be a valuable additional habitat which will attract species such as dragonflies, frogs, newts and much more. It will also be a great community resource where children can go pond dipping or visitors can watch the wildlife.

This exciting wetland project is due to begin in 2014.

**Question 1.** How regularly do you use the meadow?

Once or more a day	
Once a week	
Once a month	
Less than once a month	
I have never been to Stonebridge Meadow	

**Question 2.** What are the top three things that make Stonebridge Meadow special? (Tick 3)

The wildlife	
The birdlife	
The wild plants	
The River Kennet	
The open meadow	
The footpaths	
The trees and woodland	
Amenity area	

**Question 3.** Why do you visit Stonebridge Meadow?

Dog walking	
Walking, but without a dog	
Running	
Cycling	
Sitting	
Watching the river	
Birdwatching	
Playing a sport	
Other (please specify)	

**Question 4.** How much do you support the approach described below regarding public access?

When the site was bought the river was fenced off with barbed wire. One third is now unfenced, enabling free access to the river on the first third of the site. The remainder of the river has been re-fenced to protect the river banks and the wildlife which lives in the reedy margins. Wildlife we are conserving includes water vole, water shrew, a kingfisher nesting site and ground nesting birds such as warblers, moorhens and coots.

Strongly support	Support	Do not support	Strongly do not support
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**Question 5.** Please indicate which of the activities you think should be encouraged at Stonebridge Meadow and to what extent?

	The whole of the meadow/river	The majority of the meadow/river	Half of the meadow/river	A small part of the meadow/river	Nowhere on the meadow/river
Playing informal ball games					
Mountain biking					
Limited catch & release fly fishing along the river					
Picnicking					
Nature conservation with no public access					

Would you support part of the wild meadow/scrub habitat being transferred to neighbouring Marlborough Town Football Club to convert to football pitches to increase sporting opportunities?

Yes	No
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**Question 6.** We are keen to promote responsible dog ownership at Stonebridge Meadow and want visitors to 'bag it and bin it' when their dog fouls. Would you support a campaign to this effect?

Yes	No
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**Question 7.** We would like to know whether you support or oppose the following developments which have taken place over the last two years.

	Support	Oppose
Mowing footpaths		
Increasing the number of footpaths		
Replacing obsolete fencing with new		
Installing benches and bins		
Planting new hedgerow and trees		
Repair and improvement to the river banks		
Beginning of grazing with livestock to create a flower meadow		

**Question 8.** ARK run free public events at Stonebridge Meadow, for example Bat Walk & Talk evenings, Moth Nights, Meadow Days, Hedge Planting afternoons and Meadow Sowing afternoons.

Have you attended any of the above and would you consider attending such events in the future?

Yes	No	Would Consider in the future
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**Any other comments:**

**A bit about yourself**

**Postcode: (required)**

**Other details: (optional)**

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Telephone number:

**We are interested in all comments, but providing your postcode will enable us to see which comments come from within the parish of Marlborough and which from elsewhere.**

**Would you like to receive the Stonebridge e-news, a quarterly newsletter keeping you up to date with Stonebridge Wild River Reserve ? (we require your email address).**

Yes	No
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**Much of the work undertaken at Stonebridge Meadow is implemented by volunteers in partnership with Marlborough Town Council Grounds team and ARK. Would you be interested in becoming a volunteer?**

Yes	No	Please send more information
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Thank you for completing this survey. All comments will be collated and help in a review of the management plan. The closing date for receipt of comments is **2 August 2014**.

**Please post completed forms to Marlborough Town Council, 5 High Street, Marlborough, SN8 1AA**



For more information please call 01672 511 028 or email: [anna@riverkennet.org](mailto:anna@riverkennet.org)