

THAMES PATH

NATIONAL TRAIL 

Floodplain meadows beside the River Thames



Floodplain meadows beside the River Thames are capable of storing more carbon than woodland.

They provide essential floodwater storage during times of heavy rainfall, and slow the flow of the river.

And they host hundreds of species of plants that attract pollinators, & provide a nutritious source of forage for pasture-fed cattle and sheep.

Floodplain meadows beside the Thames are now the focus of a three-year research project - the Wildflower Meadow Restoration project - led by the Open University working with the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust, and Long Mead at Swinford to create beautiful meadows filled with flowers and buzzing with insects.

The project aims to provide scientific evidence to show floodplain meadows are a more effective, reliable and longer-term carbon store than other habitats, and an important nature-based solution to mitigate climate change.

Thanks to funding from Ecover's #FertiliseTheFuture fund, the Wildflower Meadow Restoration project will restore 50 hectares of floodplain meadows in Oxfordshire.

Long Mead will lead the way by working with local farmers to create a continuous wildflower corridor alongside the River Thames with connected habitats of international importance.

This is particularly wonderful for everyone walking the Thames Path because the National Trail runs through the Wildlife Trust's Chimney Meadows nature reserve and opposite Long Mead at Swinford, as well as ancient meadows in Oxford.

Find out how to get involved <http://www.floodplainmeadows.org.uk/projects-and-events/ecover-fertilise-the-future>

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THE THAMES PATH NATIONAL TRAIL PARTNERSHIP

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