

# Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership

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**Conserving, enhancing and promoting the Stour Valley**

**PRESS RELEASE - A Breakthrough for Wild Flowers**

The success of the new cycle route linking Park Farm with Ashford is measured by the regular flow of cyclists and walkers. The verges that buffer the invaluable access route are sparking an interest in local users too due to the range of wild flowers that are lining the route. Wild flowers are non-competitive plants, easily thwarted in growth by dominant docks and creeping thistles. That is why the Kentish Stour Countryside volunteers spent a day cutting back the vigorous growth in a drive to support the establishment of the meadow corridor. Countryside Officer Debbie Reynolds Says, “Wild flower grasslands require regular management during the first few years to ensure that competition from more dominant species is controlled. Successful management will lead to many years of value in terms of habitat provision and low labour costs”. The wild flower verges mark the edge of a successful tree planting project which will create habitat for local populations of hazel dormice.

For more information or advice on wild flower meadow creation please call 03000 410900/ email kentishstour@kent.gov.uk

**Release date\*IMMEDIATE\* May 31st 2016**

For further details telephone 03000 410900/ email kentishstour@kent.gov.uk.

Ends

Attachments – 2 pictures

1. Increased growth of meadow clary, vetch and ox-eye daisy
2. David Mann, KSCP volunteer taking a break from meadow management
3. Volunteers David Mann and Jim Garrett managing docks and creeping thistle

Mobile Contact:

The KSCP are one of nine countryside management partnerships in Kent playing a vital role in the conservation and enhancement of the Kent countryside and coast. [www.kentcountryside.org.uk](http://www.kentcountryside.org.uk/)