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**PRESS RELEASE**

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

**Release Date: 20th March 2015**

**Many volunteers and their dogs- went to sow a meadow.**

New wildflower meadow has been created at Little Burton Farm with the help of the hard working Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership volunteers and 4 lovely members of the community who came to help. The dogs had a good time too!

These new meadow areas will enhance the existing meadow and other habitats there (*types of environment include wetland, wet woodland, river and the small lake, plus associated vegetation*) which make it one of the most diverse wildlife areas in Ashford’s Green Corridor, and a great place to visit and enjoy. It also restores some areas of riverside meadow that would once have been a feature of Ashford and the country as a whole. We have nationally lost almost 95% of our hay meadows in recent years, a loss of rich habitat for a huge range of insects, birds and small mammals.

The Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership has been working with landowners for many years to create, conserve and promote the wildlife habitat and access and enjoyment of the Stour Valley generally and the Ashford Green Corridor particularly. We are hugely grateful to Kent Wildlife Trust and Ashford Borough Council for providing funding for this meadow creation.

KSCP are keen to see more community involvement in the Little Burton Farm Area, with the hope that funding can be raised for more habitat and community focused improvements. We shall be holding a public meeting shortly in the area, date to be announced. Meanwhile, anyone interested in getting involved please contact KSCP on kentishstour@kent.gov.uk or Tel 03000 410900 or by Facebook/Twitter.

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/)

Ends

Attachments – Photo of KSCP and Community volunteers raking to prepare soil for sowing

 Photo of Jo Hill KSCP volunteer sowing

 Photo of meadow at Little Burton in flower in 2012

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