



# introduction

# project area

1993  
2008

**The Kentish Stour Countryside Project was launched in 1993.**

**Our Mission Statement is:**  
*To conserve, enhance and promote the countryside and urban green space in the catchment of the River Stour.*

**Our aims are:**

- To conserve and enhance special landscapes, wildlife habitats, and rural heritage sites.
- To encourage recreational activities that do not conflict with the main aim of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and interest of the area.
- To promote greater respect, understanding, interest and enjoyment of the Stour Valley amongst the local community and those visiting the area.
- To increase the benefits to the rural economy from sustainable rural industry, recreation activities and tourism enterprises.
- To encourage and support local communities in conserving their natural heritage.



Community pond clear up, Old Park, Canterbury.



Nature area construction Caldecott College, Smeeth.

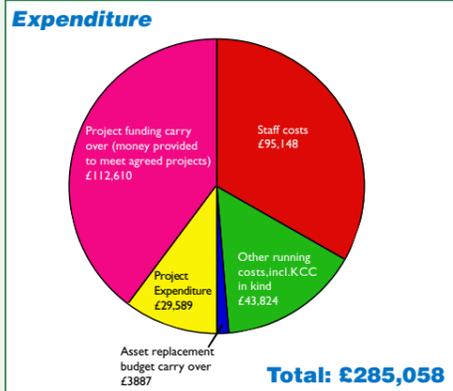
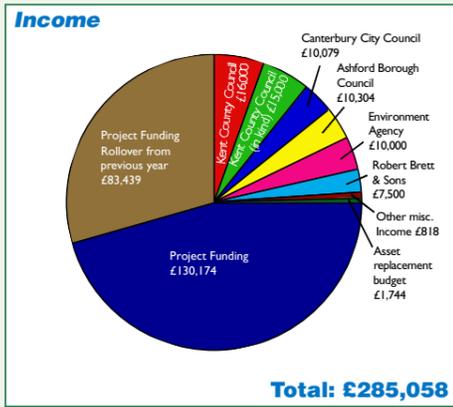


Fencing at Anvil Green Farm, Petham.



## How the project is financed

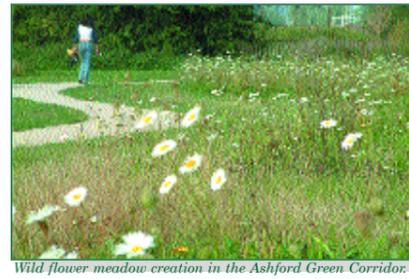
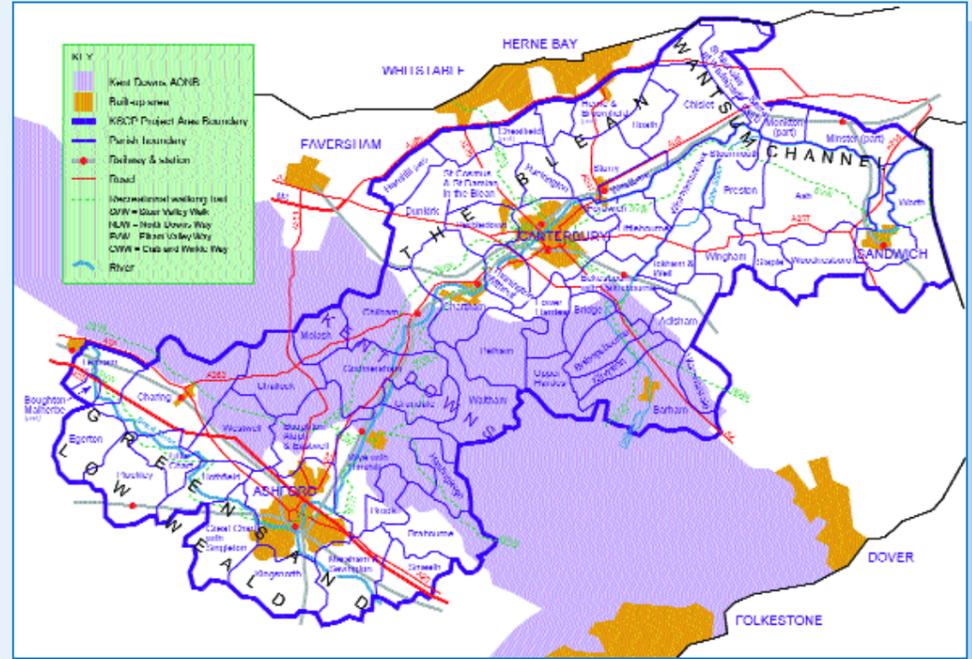
Figures for 1/4/2007-31/3/2008



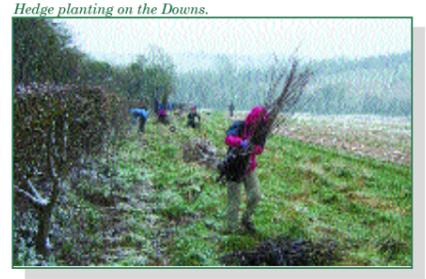
In 2007/08, our three year Your Heritage funded project in the Ashford Green Corridor (£104,000) was completed; Viridor Landfill Tax Credit provided agreements for three projects (£33,000); KCC Member supported purchase of a new minibus, shown left (£14,000); and an application was made to the European Inter-Regional Development Fund (Interreg) (£200,000).

The Project area covers 705 sq. kilometres (271 sq. miles) of varied landscapes including downland, woodland, orchards, wetlands, riverside, and parkland.

Changing agricultural practices, built development, and gravel extraction have all had a significant impact upon the landscape, wildlife, heritage and social fabric of the area.



Wild flower meadow creation in the Ashford Green Corridor.



Hedge planting on the Downs.

# the year ahead

2008-2009



# fifteen years of action

1993  
2008

- Continuation of the KSCP Countryside Conservation Grant Scheme
- Priority work at Charing Beech Hangers SSSI and eight Local Wildlife Sites
- Launch of the Free Trees Scheme in Canterbury and Thanet after a 6 year absence
- Assisting the Environment Agency with biodiversity improvements in the River Stour
- Production of an Ashford River Management Plan
- Identification of five more sites for barn owl boxes
- Major restoration of Bowley Mill pond near Lenham
- Creation of a third pond at King's Wood
- Major woodland biodiversity work in partnership with the Forestry Commission
- Fencing and scrub removal at Wraik Hill and Foxes Cross Local Nature Reserve near Whitstable
- New wild flower meadows, scrapes and ponds at Hatch Park, Brabourne

- Start of construction of a 5km riverside shared use path between Canterbury and Chartham
- Start of planning for Faversham to Canterbury, and Herne Bay to Canterbury cycle paths
- Promotion of Evegate countryside through a new trail, leaflet and panel
- Production of a series of interpretive panels for the Blean
- A summer programme of events for the Ashford Green Corridor
- An updated Crab and Winkle Way leaflet
- South Willesborough Dykes educational project, to involve 450 children
- Assistance in running the No Man's Orchard 60 year event in July
- Start of work at Blean Parish Council Nature Reserve
- The development of our partnership with the Parc Naturel Regional des Caps et Marais d'Opale



Pond created through a KSCP Countryside Conservation Grant at The Forest, Pluckley.

**Project Chairman: Dr Alan Rogers**

**Staff during 2007/08:**

**Project Manager: Jon Shelton**

**Countryside Officer Canterbury & Wantsum: Matt Hayes**

**Countryside Officer Ashford: Harri Goldsmith (covering a secondment to October) Debbie Adams (from October)**

**Ashford Green Corridor Officer: Emma Griffiths (to August)**

**Project Officer Assistant: Craig Edwards (P/T) (from September)**

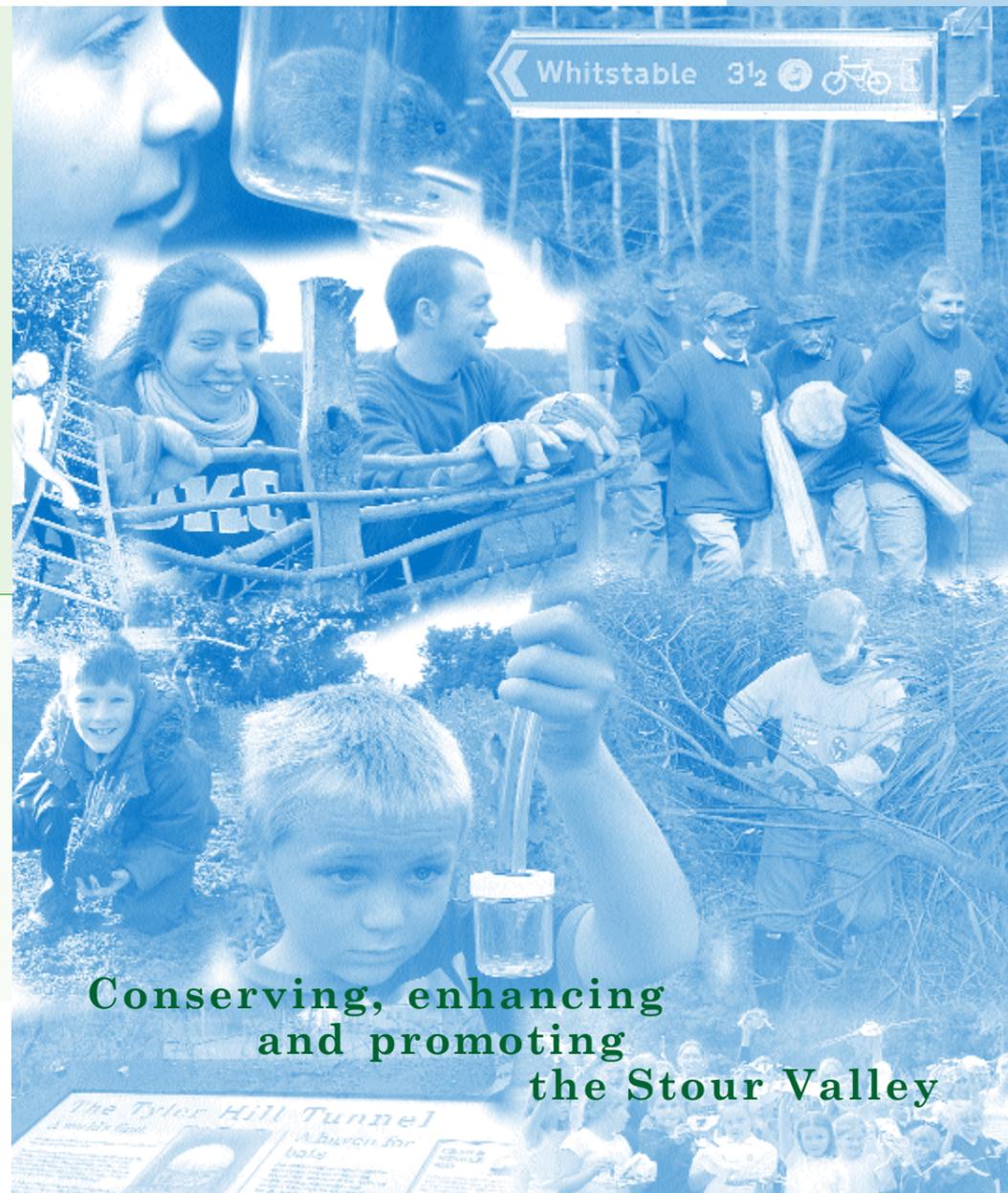
**Voluntary Officers: Craig Edwards, Simon Houghton**

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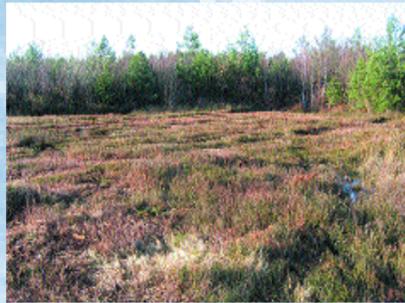
Conserving, enhancing and promoting the Stour Valley



# 15 years of achievements

Thank you to all our volunteers and all the organisations who have enabled us to achieve so much in the last fifteen years!

**1999-2008** £4,750,000 raised for countryside and green spaces in towns.



Over £50,000 has been raised by KSCP for spending in Clowes Wood, Chestfield on biodiversity and access work.

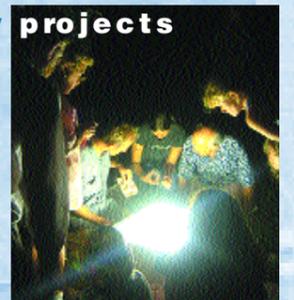
**1999-2008** 160 ponds created or managed; over 400 surveyed.



Pond constructed in Brabourne in 2004, with a KSCP countryside grant, and in May 2007.

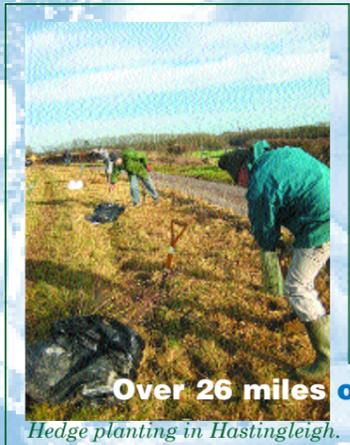


**Hundreds of community projects**



A moth evening at No Man's Orchard, Chartham Hatch, one of 36 events organised by the Canterbury Greenspace Project.

**1999-2008** In total over 17,000 workdays (one volunteer volunteering for one day) have been carried out.



**Over 26 miles of hedgerow planted.**

Hedge planting in Hastingleigh.



Bridge construction in the Blean.

**65 river based conservation projects**

Work to enhance the river for white clawed crayfish on the Godinton Estate.



Installing a barn owl box near Wingham.

**1999-2008** Practical access work

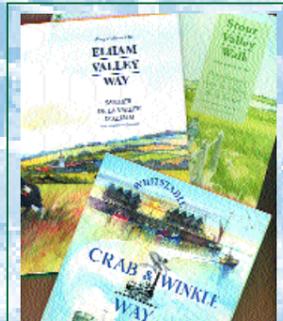


Overseeing the construction of 200m of boardwalk at Charing Alderbed in 2005.

**1999-2008** Through the Countryside Stewardship Scheme: 156 hectares (ha) (390 acres) of arable land returned to wet pasture or neutral/chalk grassland; creation of 171 miles of 6 metre (or equivalent to) arable margins (edges of arable fields sown with native grasses and wild flowers).



16.5ha (41 acres) of arable land was reverted to chalk grassland in 2004 at Dane Court Farm, Chilham. An otter holt was installed at Great Ware.

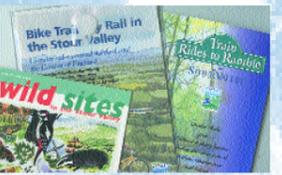


Development of recreation routes such as the Elham Valley Way, Stour Valley Walk and Crab and Winkle Way.

Creation of Stour Valley Arts and the commissioning of art based projects along the Crab and Winkle Way and other locations. The bike rack at the start of the Crab and Winkle Way.



Interpretation in the form of panels, guided walks, and the production of guides and leaflets.



**Work on protected sites**

Weatherlees Hill, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Richborough, where KSCP cleared scrub, fenced the 26ha (65 acres) site, and found a grazier in 2003-2004.



**1999-2008** The designation of new sites.

Tyler Hill Local Nature Reserve, one of four LNRs the KSCP has helped to designate.



## achievements last year

**2007** Riverside projects

**2007** 13 new site advisory visits to landowners including farmers and community groups.



**2007** 2662 metres (1.7 miles) of hedge planted.

Hedge planting with Canterbury College students at Wraik Hill Local Nature Reserve, Whitstable.

**846 volunteer workdays**



Hedge layed at Chislet Park. Fencing chalk grassland at Jumping Downs Local Nature Reserve near Barham.



Clearing the invasive Himalayan balsam, from the riverside in Ashford.

Help with the management of three SSSIs and 13 Local Wildlife Sites and work on 18 sites in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



Clearing scrub from the reedbed at Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve.

**2007** The start of a £100,000 project on Woodland Biodiversity and Access working mainly in the Forestry Commission woods of Denge, Covert (Barham), King's (Challock), and Clowes (Blean).



Ride widening at Eggringe Wood benefitting wild flowers, and butterflies, such as the grizzled skipper.

Work with local companies such as Viridor, Givaudan and Brett.



Mowing the small wild flower meadow at Givaudan, Ashford.

Wildlife surveys which included surveying for barn owls, otters, and dormice.



Barn owl chick

Work with 14 site based community groups.



Leading a guided walk for the Jumping Downs Trust.

**15 access related projects**

Steps were constructed at Chartham to improve one of the KSCP Train Ride to Ramble routes, whilst a seat was commissioned on the North Downs Way at Wye.



The Ashford Green Corridor Project was very busy in 2007. Work included 12 interpretive panels, an education pack, a community heritage project, and the installation of sculptures. In addition a revamped Ashford Green Corridor leaflet was produced and a summer events programme run.



Interpretive panel

A summer children's event



**Seven ponds managed or restored.**



A small pond restored at Lenacre, Boughton Aluph.