The Hurst meadows are closely linked with the history of the village, contributing to the local food supply with hay and grazing, as well as being a source of materials such as osiers for basket-making and teasels used by weavers.

The river and mill stream would have been rich sources of fish for the pre-reformation Abbey community who would have stored and bred fish in their fish ponds for future use. Eels were caught in eel traps (bucks) attached to the Buck Pool weir.

Little has been recorded about the Hurst meadow, but it must have been an integral part of a complex water-management system probably dating back to the eighth century. A mill is mentioned in the Domesday Book. Overy was part of the Dorchester Abbey Estates until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536 when it passed into the private hands of Sir Edmund Ashfield and then to the Fettiplace family.

A record in 1577 showed that the Cherrill family farmed at Overy and they continued to farm in the village for more than 300 years. Overy Mill was still working in the mid-nineteenth century.

**VOLUNTEERS**
The Hurst relies on local volunteers to undertake varied tasks. If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer, do please get in touch.

**WILDLIFE**
The Hurst is a rich habitat for birds, insects, bats and other mammals and a great place for varied flora and grasslands. For more information and identification guides please see our website: [http://www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk](http://www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk)

**SCHOOL VISITS**
The Trust welcomes organised visits by schools. Investigate the ecology of a water meadow, look at different habitats, or make use of the features of the meadow to explore rivers, history, art, language, and numeracy. Please contact us on: hurstwatermt@gmail.com if you are interested in setting up a visit.

**NEWS, UPDATES and EVENTS**
See our facebook page [www.facebook.com/theHWMT](http://www.facebook.com/theHWMT)

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