



THE HURST WATER MEADOW TRUST

WELCOME to the Hurst Water Meadows – 25 acres of traditionally managed historic water flood meadows at Dorchester-on Thames, Oxfordshire stretching along the River Thames from its confluence with the Thames past the historic village of Dorchester and hamlet of Overy.

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.

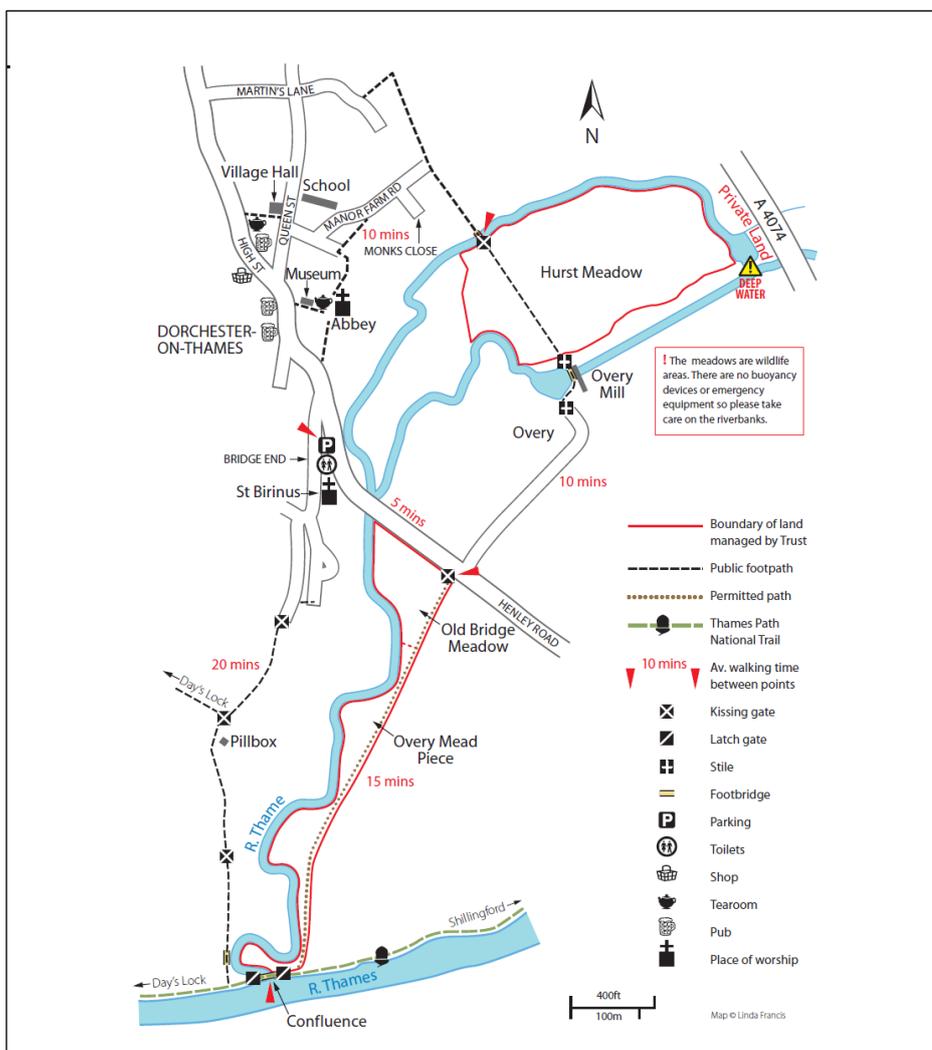
The river and mill stream would have been rich sources of fish for the pre-reformation Abbey community who would have stored and bred fish in

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>

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

REFRESHMENTS

Lily's Café, The White Hart, The Fleur, The George and the Abbey Tea Rooms are all close by. Please check www.dorchester-on-thames.co.uk.

PARKING AND TOILETS

There is no parking at the meadows but there is a free public car park south of the Abbey near the public toilets at Bridge End.

CONTACT US ON:

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The Hurst Water Meadow Trust,
Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
www.hurst-water-meadow.org.uk
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