



THE HAMBROOK MARSHES PROJECT -

Good news for wildlife

Work is in progress to transform a section of marshland on the banks of the Stour into a thriving habitat for plants and animals and to offer conservation training to people currently out of the workforce



WETLANDS and fen are the fastest disappearing habitats in Britain today. A tiny fraction of historic flood plains remain as wetland and the environment has suffered as a result. Coupled with this is a shortage of opportunities for young people and those seeking to return to work to learn about the management of agricultural land for conservation.

animals back on to what could develop into an immensely valuable habitat in the local ecology.

As a charity founded to provide work experience and training to people outside the workforce, CADET plans to create training opportunities for young people and others looking to return to work who want to learn about land management.

Hambrook Marshes, running along the River Stour from the end of Whitehall Meadows to Tonford Lane, is owned by Canterbury and District Enterprise Trust (CADET). Its aim is to develop the area as an agricultural site that will be managed to encourage wild flowers and

Last month CADET received confirmation that the Marshes were now part of DEFRA's Higher Level Stewardship scheme. This means that they receive an annual grant to manage the land to a high standard of conservation awareness. There are some conditions, including the removal of scrub (bushes and low trees) from the old railway embankment, although the large trees will remain. Some of the grant money will also be used to increase the ground water levels and recreate the original marsh habitat using sluices in the drainage channels.



In the coming months you will see new fencing erected along the banks of the Stour. This will protect the river bank from erosion and the land will be grazed by animals such as Tarpan ponies - hardy wild horses particularly suited to marshland conditions - that will be lent for the purpose

Tarpan ponies (sometimes known as Koniks) will graze the marshes to help manage the land in a sustainable way.