Northcroft Meadows Nature Reserve

35 acres of lakes, rivers, reedbeds, meadows and scrub land, already popular with dog walkers and bird spotters. This land is beautiful, but not maintained to maximise its bio-diversity potential. Small interventions here and there would easily make this a rich natural environment. With some basic maintenance of existing paths, making hides and benches, and educational information boards; to increase public engagement with nature.

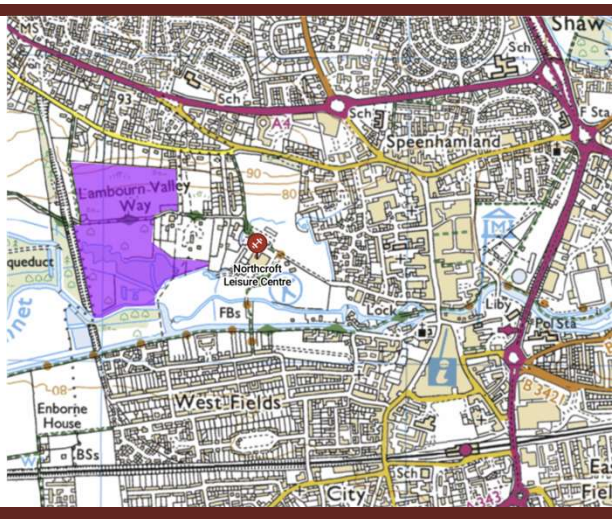
"This ticks every box going! Bio diversity, flood resilience, public amenity, education and climate change mitigiation"

Current Status: We have completed on the final lease on 6th June 2024. We can now get started!

Ecologists are on site making a baseline wildlife survey, before environmental architects will make a detailed design of our plans, with a plan for diggers in the ground in early 2025. Thames Water have funded this initial activity and will continue to fund the initial build. We are now able to start our own grant funding which will allow us to set up our HQ with the education and community facilities.

Key Objectives:

- **Improve bio-diversity with more varied habitats**
- **Remove nutrients and pollution from the river Kennet**
- **Increase public engagement with nature**
- **Provide educational information & facilities for schools**
- **Monitor, document and film the flora and fauna**
- **Reduce dominance of pervasive species**
- **Provide refuge for species in times of flood**
- **Create an accessible for all, circular path around the site**
- **Run volunteer days and some fun educational activities**
- **Provide a community space that can be used by others**



History

The land used to be a dairy farm and the site of the old Newbury District Water Co. Lakes were dug for a staff fishing club. There is still some evidence of this activity. The land is now owned by Thames Water where they extract water from aquifers to supply Newbury.

The site offers the most incredibly vivid example of how wetlands clean water passing through. With mucky brown water entering the reed beds and crystal clear water emerging the other side. The wetlands have a far greater capacity to do this, that is currently under utilised, due to a channel allowing water to pass straight through. Some simple diversions could remove far more nutrients and pollution from the river Kennet.

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