



CONSERVATION, FARMING, FLOODING – OUR NATURAL LANDSCAPE?

A conference and exhibition by the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership

Wednesday 19 November 2014, 9am – 1pm

(optional guided walk to take place in the afternoon from 2pm – 3.30pm)

St Ives Corn Exchange, The Pavement, St Ives, PE27 5AG



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Your invitation to take part in the first-ever Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership Conference

Overview of the Conference

This conference - the first in a series of three taking place annually - will explore the natural landscape of the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership area (for more information on the area see the shaded box overleaf). The conference aims to provide attendees with an overview of future management challenges including issues around biodiversity value, agricultural importance and flood relief. A background to wetland creation schemes in the area will be given through presentations with discussion facilitated in small groups regarding the future importance of the natural landscape.

Bringing together local people and partner organisations with a range of land-use interests will promote a wider appreciation and understanding of the challenges of living and working in this ever-changing landscape. The Partnership aims to increase awareness of the significant natural heritage of the area.

Time has been allowed for opinions to be aired, giving all attendees a chance to contribute to the wider debate about the future of the Ouse Washes. Change will continue to be a feature of this rapidly evolving landscape area and the views and ideas generated by attendees will feed into the OWLP legacy planning work, with clear recommendations and actions coming from this conference.

Who should attend?

This invitation is open to anyone who is keen to know more about the Ouse Washes Landscape but it is anticipated that the event will be of particular interest to local residents, Parish Councils, landowners and managers, Internal Drainage Boards, heritage and conservation groups. The conference is free to attend, thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

About the Exhibition

Alongside the conference, there will be an exhibition of OWLP projects, with speakers and attendees encouraged to bring displays about their work. This will provide a stimulating and attractive backdrop to our refreshment breaks and discussions so that we may all share our interest and work in the Ouse Washes landscape. If you wish to bring a stand to promote your work, please let us know.

Bookings

To book your place, please visit: <https://ousewashesconference2014.eventbrite.co.uk>

If you have any queries, please contact Abigail Stancliffe-Vaughan on 01353 865028.

More information on the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership (OWLP) area

The Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership (OWLP) is a Heritage Lottery Fund grant-aided scheme in the heart of the Cambridgeshire and Norfolk Fens focusing on the promotion of the distinctive rural, open and tranquil nature of the landscape surrounding the Ouse Washes. The area targeted by the OWLP scheme is a large area of wetland and washland set within productive agricultural land. The area focuses on the Old Bedford and New Bedford Rivers in the Cambridgeshire and Norfolk Fens and includes the RSPB nature reserves to its south, near St Ives and Fen Drayton.

With a wide partnership of government, business and voluntary sector organisations including 26 key organisations, the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership aims to strengthen partnership working across all levels and all land use interests; develop strong community involvement and empowerment; and promote the OWLP area as a visitor destination in its own right.

PROGRAMME

- 09:00** **Registration and refreshments**
- 09:30** **Welcome to St Ives - Gateway to Ouse Washes**
Brian Luter, Mayor of St Ives
- 09:35** **Introduction to the day**
John Heading, Farmer and OWLP Board member
- 09:45** **A Wetland Vision: The Ouse Washes Landscape in Context**
Alastair Burn, Principal Specialist (Pollution and Freshwater), Biodiversity Delivery Team, Natural England
- 10:00** **Ditch Biodiversity on OWLP farmland**
Jonathan Graham, Consultant Botanist
- 10:15** **The making of Ouse Fen**
Chris Hudson, RSPB Ouse Fen Project Manager
- 10:30** **Refreshments and time to view exhibition**
- 11:00** **Farming in the Ouse Washes Landscape**
Rob Wise, Environment Advisor, National Farmers Union East Anglia
- 11:15** **Challenges and Opportunities in Habitat Creation**
Peter Doktor, Project Manager, Ouse Washes Habitat Creation Project, Environment Agency
- 11:30** **World Café - Round Table Discussions**
- 12:45** **Round-up and close to formal conference**
John Heading, Farmer and OWLP Board member
- 13:00** **Buffet Lunch and further time to view exhibition**
- 14:00 –** **Optional Guided Walk to and around Holt Island Nature Reserve**
15:30 *Led by Ian Jackson, Chairman, Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve*

The Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership is led and facilitated by
Cambridgeshire ACRE (Charity no 1074032)

