

# Tales from the riverbank

*This is the first in a regular series of short bulletins from the new charity Great Ouse Valley Trust about our beautiful river valley.*

At this time of national crisis the importance of green spaces for our health and well-being is finally being realised by Government, and many people are now taking advantage of our fresh air. There could not be a better time to re-discover the value of the Great Ouse Valley.

The Trust was formed by a small group of people passionate about this beautiful Cambridgeshire valley in which we live. The stretch from St Neots to Earith has been recognised as

worthy of recognition as an *Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty* and an application is pending with Natural England.

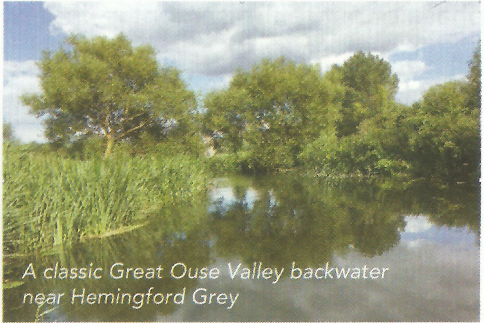
The Trust exists to promote for public benefit conservation, restoration and enjoyment of the landscape, wildlife and heritage of the Great Ouse Valley. Members include local Councils, local wildlife and environmental groups plus organisations representing the recreational use of the valley.

## How to get involved

Please visit both the Facebook page *Great Ouse Valley Trust* and the website [www.greatousevalleytrust.org.uk](http://www.greatousevalleytrust.org.uk) The website describes our projects and also has an exciting new section **SIGHTS AND SOUNDS**. This is a kind of nature notes/blog opportunity for anyone to contribute stories and photographs of sightings of wildlife, the beauty of the river valley, and also its history, heritage and community life. And if you want to get more involved still, we have just formed a Supporters Group - and it's free!

## A watchful eye

There is another side to the Trust. We want to be sure that the importance of the valley to its communities is fully recognised. We are living at a time when there is pressure on our countryside in the form of development to fulfil plans for growth. We examine these plans carefully to ensure they are realistic and sustainable, and that the public is properly consulted on them.



*A classic Great Ouse Valley backwater near Hemingford Grey*

Photograph by Ian Jackson

*In the next issue we will start telling you some of the fascinating 'Tales from the Riverbank' we have discovered.*