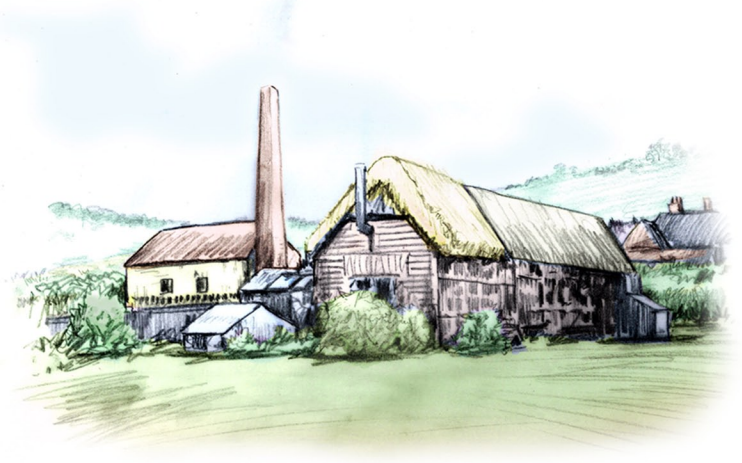
Explore

Funges Meadow belonged to Funges Farm on Bassetbury Lane in the 18th & 19th centuries. There were many Mills along this stretch of river which used the clear, chalk-filtered water in their processes.
Just beyond the Reserve is Old Mill Cottage which was part of **Marsh Green** Mill, dating back to the 1740s.

Rye Mill is today the site of a car dealership and Marsh Mill (below) is now Wycombe Retail Park.



Funges Meadow has a wonderful **mix of habitats** for such a small area so close to the town centre.

There's the pond, a wildflower meadow, and there are important areas of open-structured thorn, scrub and bramble which provide ideal cover and nesting habitats for wildlife.

This also offers a rich food source with a variety of haws, hips and berries and so attracts plenty of **wild visitors**!

The Reserve itself has seen a variety of land use as part of the wider area.

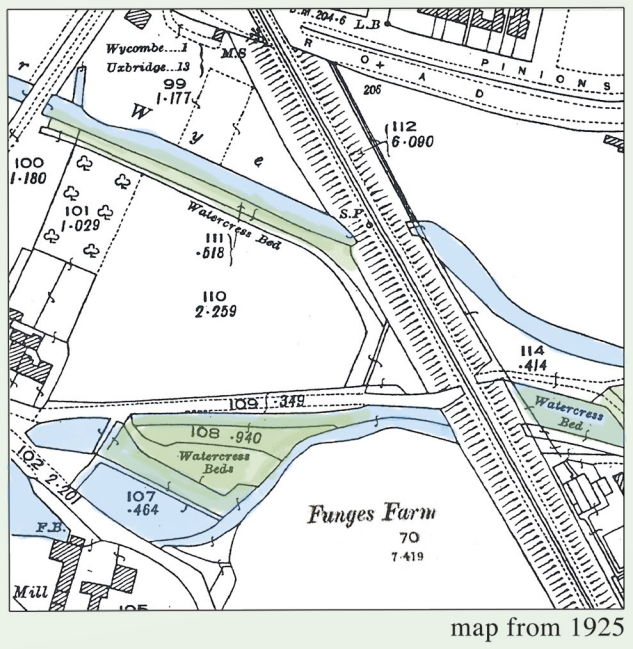
Tasty **Watercress** (below) was grown here on a light agricultural scale. Beds were laid out in the nutrient rich flowing waters, and crops were taken for sale at local markets such as Wycombe High Street.

Today you will still find the waters around Funges teeming with Watercress as a result of the farming.





Watercress (top)
Water Mint (above)



map from 1925

The land areas were subsequently used as a wild meadow for all the grazing horses.

The groundwater fed **pond** was created in 1997 and later remodelled to create new wetland features to enhance the marginal vegetation.

This aqautic area is rich in pondlife and flora which includes Yellow Flag Iris, Water Forget-me-not and the edible **Water Mint**.

Around the edges you can find Purple Loosestrife, Wound-wort, Sneezewort and the scrambling Woody Nightshade which is more common in local beech woodlands.

Enjoy







These paintings, completed by young people at workshops during school holidays, were installed as part of the **Young Roots Art Trail** project.

Volunteers also did important conservation work, carpentry, filming, camp cooking and much more.



right: breaktime during a busy workshop day at Funges Meadow

In the meadow areas there are large numbers of our largest native daisy, the Ox-eye, as well as the diminutive, low-growing Bird's-foot Trefoil with its beautiful yolk-yellow flowers shading to orange & red which provides nectar and pollen for, amongst others, the Common Blue Butterfly (below).



The meadow is mown annually for the benefit of wildflowers and the species-rich mix has different flowering times to provide pollinators throughout the year.