

Marholm Brook Improvements

Works Overview near Rockingham Grove

October 16

We are working in partnership with Peterborough City Council, Anglian Water, RiverCare and Peterborough Environment City Trust, to improve the quality of the water environment in Marholm Brook, Werrington Brook and Cuckoo's Hollow.

What are we doing and why?

Our work here will help improve the way Marholm Brook flows, helping increase the brook's wildlife and provide a healthier environment for people to enjoy. We are constructing new features inside the existing channel that are found in similar but healthier brooks.

These features will help improve the water quality during dry periods when there is less water in the brook. They will also help improve the brook's ability to maintain its own health without impacting flood risk.

Our works here are part of a 5 year partnership programme to improve Marholm Brook, Werrington Brook and Cuckoos Hollow. For more information on these works, our future programme or for opportunities to get involved, please visit www.pect.org.uk/WerringtonBrook.



Where are we doing these works?

Our improvement works will start at Dudley Avenue and finish at Fulbridge Road.

When will our works be starting and finishing?

Our works will start from mid-November 2016 and are expected to be completed by March 2017.

What are the hours of work?

Our normal working hours will be Monday to Friday and on some Saturdays between 08:30 and 16:30.

What can I expect to see?

We will be starting our works by setting up our compound and welfare unit on the open space next to Rockingham Grove. We will then start constructing the features, working in the channel and from the bank next to this green area. The features will enable us to change the shape of the brook into a more natural direction. We are also reducing the steepness of the Rockingham Grove bank to enable us to safely maintain the brook in the future. We are not planning to remove any trees as part of this work but we may have to remove some low hanging branches to enable safe access to the brook and avoid tree damage. We will put in measures to minimise risk to the environment while doing these works. We will complete the works by planting reeds in some of the features. At the end of the works the brook and some of the green space will temporarily look quite different with exposed and unnatural looking surfaces. Vegetation will soon grow during Spring 2017 and by late summer will start to look more normal. In following years the vegetation will continue to grow and it will soon look completely natural.

As part of this scheme, Peterborough City Council are planning to improve drainage of surface water on Cissbury Ring. This will involve some minor road works, scrub management and pipe laying across the green area next to Cissbury Ring. An outfall will be integrated to the Cissbury Ring bank.

Will there be noise, dust or mud?

We will be using machinery to do some of the work so there will be some noise, dust and mud but we will try and keep this to a minimum.

Can we still use the recreational area?

While we are undertaking the works there will be some areas that we will need pedestrians, cyclists and people using the area to avoid. These will be clearly marked.

What are these new features?

1. Berms: typically comprise of earth material taken from within the channel to create a meander (see pic). We will also put plants on the Berms to help speed up their establishment. Berms will vary in height from between 0.25 and 0.5m high and their length between 3 and 10m depending on their location in the brook. Berms in the right location help improve the water quality and habitat during low flows without affecting high flows.

2. Riffles: comprise of stone that is heavy enough to withstand high flows. The stone which can be limestone or mixed, is usually laid in a shallow area in the water course. It can span the width of the river and can be between 3 and 10m long and up to 0.25m deep. Some of the stone will move. Riffles help clean the water, provide fish with spawning habitat and help increase oxygen in the water. Riffles especially help during low flows and are designed not to affect low flows.

3. Pools: are dug in the river bed and can be up to 0.5m deep and 2 to 3 m long. They provide deep water during low flow conditions for fish and other wildlife habitat. They also help trap sediment during lower flows helping clean the water. Sediment is then washed out during higher flows downstream. Pools can help improve flood risk as they are making space for water.

4. Bank Scalloping: are created by reducing the steepness of the bank by removing a semi-circle of material. This provides material for the berms and adds variation to the flow of water which in turn increases habitat diversity. It also makes space for water during higher flows.



How will you know if this project has been successful?

We will be working with the local RiverCare after the works have finished to monitor the improvements. These will include measurement of the depth, flow, water quality, plant community and wildlife. If you are interested in helping RiverCare, please contact us on the details below.

Who can I contact if I have further questions?

If you would like to understand more about these works or the wider programme or interested in joining us on a tour of the works please contact us on the details below, Monday to Friday during normal office hours.

Rob Price
Programme Manager
robert.price@environment-agency.gov.uk
0203 025 3519

Richard Whelan
Programme Manager
Richard.Whelan@peterborough.gov.uk
01733 453454

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188

www.gov.uk/environment-agency