

River Wensum Restoration

Works on the River Wensum at Lenwade



What are we telling you about?

The River Wensum Restoration scheme is a partnership project working with Natural England and the Water Management Alliance to restore the River Wensum so that it can support the wildlife and fisheries characteristic of a Norfolk chalk river.

Where is the work happening?

We have been working with landowners to develop a scheme for the stretch of the river from the A1067 Fakenham Road bridge (National Grid Reference TG 10213 18258) downstream past the Porter's Lane road bridge to a wooden footbridge where overhead power lines cross the river (National Grid Reference TG 11089 18410).

When are we doing this work?

The works will start in late July 2019 and are scheduled for completion by the end of October 2019.

The work will be carried out by our own in-house operatives.

What will we be doing?

We will be enhancing 1.4 kilometres of river channel diversity through the installation of features such as berms (lateral shelves), woody material, refuge areas, and selective tree management.

Why are we doing the work?

The River Wensum is a chalk river of great value for its angling and wildlife, as well as being an important landscape feature of rural Norfolk.

The nature conservation interest of the river is recognised nationally through its notification as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and internationally through its designation as a

Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

In spite of these designations the Water Framework Directive (WFD) classifies the overall ecological potential as bad. One of the reasons being the physical modifications made to the river as a result of past drainage schemes.

This project is looking to address these modifications by creating a more sustainable and naturally functioning river, so working towards the WFD objective of achieving good ecological potential.

How will this work benefit you?

The restoration work will not increase flood risk and is designed to improve the form, ecological value and biodiversity of the river and floodplain.

Getting in touch

This information is to let you know about vital work going on in your community. We are happy to come along to meet you to explain more about the work.

If you would like to receive our newsletter on Wensum restoration works please email us your name and email address to riverrestoration@environment-agency.gov.uk

For enquiries about this work please contact:

Amy Butcher
07979 701 014
amy.butcher@environment-agency.gov.uk

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

www.gov.uk/environment-agency