



Peterborough SuDS

Working to promote and improve Sustainable Drainage in Peterborough

Werrington Brook Improvements Project Newsletter

October 2018

The Werrington Brook Improvements Project is in its 5th year of a 7 year programme, looking at ways of holistically improving a sub-catchment of the River Welland. It involved physical works to the river, tackling a wide range of pollutants at source, and working towards behavioural change for communities and businesses. Inline channel works have been undertaken on stretches of the Marholm Brook, Brook Drain, Paston Brook, Werrington Brook and Cuckoo's Hollow. You can find a map of the brooks [here](#).

Most recently, significant work has been carried out on the Werrington Brook with the aim of improving the water quality, biodiversity and natural habitat of the urban watercourse adjacent to Aubretia Avenue.

WBI Receives Awards!

The Werrington Brook Improvement Project has previously been successful in receiving the 'Werrington Environmental Award' awarded by the Werrington Neighbourhood Council.

The WBI project has now been successful in gaining a 'Merit' award at the [Institution of Civil Engineers \(ICE\) East of England Awards 2018](#).



The Environment Agency and PCC's Sustainable Drainage Team have also been nominated to go forward for the 'National ICE Peoples' Choice Award' and shortlisted for the [British Construction Industry Award's](#) 'Infrastructure Maintenance Project of the Year'.

The New Look...

This year, a previously straight section of Brook with very little flow, was re-designed with the addition of 27 berms, 7 riffles, 9 silt pools and a wetland pond. The introduction of these natural river features over a stretch of 740 metres, gives the Werrington Brook a more natural meandering look. The original designs can be found [here](#).



These features were installed to improve the way that the brook naturally functions, restoring it to how nature intended. By changing the way that the brook flows, through the installation of the berms, riffles and pools, it has also increased the amount of oxygen in the water. The new natural river features will help to clean the water, create new habitats, allow extra space for water during times of flood and provide a more pleasant space for all to enjoy.



New Wetland

One of the new features installed was an offline wetland pond. This is the first of a potential three wetlands to be installed, subject to their success and approval by the local residents given the close proximity to their properties. The wetland is designed to intercept the surface water run off from the highway, car parks and other hard surfaces that is discharged via the Anglian water outlet. This water is then redirected, via the new wetland pond, into the Werrington Brook.

The pond is soon to be planted with reeds and marginal plants. The planting of specific plants/vegetation within the wetland helps to strip the pollutants and hydrocarbons from the surface water. Additionally, when silt is deposited into the wetland it can be easily removed from a designated spot, rather than being carried along the Brook by the flow of water. Overall, the new wetland is helping to improve the water quality in the Werrington Brook and Cuckoo's Hollow, but also further downstream.



The Next Steps

The next stage for the Werrington Brook, is to complete the landscaping works for the last phase at Aubretia Avenue. This landscaping will include three different types of grass seed mixtures based on the different management regimes. The landscaping works will be scheduled for when the weather conditions are suitable for planting and seeding.

Additionally, Peterborough City Council and the Environment Agency are planning a public consultation Autumn 2018 on the proposals for Cuckoos Hollow.

Yellow Fish

As part of the Werrington Brook Improvements Project, Peterborough City Council's Sustainable Drainage Team began a [Yellow Fish Campaign](#), which helps to spread the message of "Only Rain Down the Drain"!



The project involved installing drain markers and painting yellow fish next to road drains in Gunthorpe and Werrington. DrainArt was also installed on footpaths outside Norwood (see below) and Werrington Primary School, following a design competition with the school's children. The idea behind this is to help passers-by understand that any water (and pollution) that goes down the drain will end up in the local rivers, streams and brooks. We believe this campaign will prevent the polluting and blockages of drains, helping to improve our rivers and ensuring the environment can be enjoyed by everyone, including the fish.



Drone Footage

A video showing the construction stage of the most recent works on the Brook has been produced by Philip G. Wright Excavations Ltd. who carried out the works.

You can find the video [here](#).

Want To Know More?

For more information please visit...

[PECT's Werrington Brook Improvement's Webpage.](#)

[Yellow Fish Campaign](#)