

Walkern Road River Restoration Project



Why are we doing this work?

Our main objective at Walkern Road Bridge is to improve fish passage for key chalk stream species including brown trout and grayling. The scheme will also improve the natural process on the River Beane, reinstating the gravel bed characteristic of the chalk stream. We will also look at reducing siltation at the site. This Project is part of a Wider Programme 'Revitalising Chalk Rivers', looking to improve the health of these rare habitats.



What are we doing?

We are currently looking at options to improve Walkern Road Bridge to allow for fish to move upstream. The preferred option is a rock ramp and in-channel improvements around the bridge. The work will include localised bank repairs downstream of the bridge and will seek to maximise ecological habitat (through design and planting native species) both upstream and downstream of the structure.

Ongoing work to support the project includes ecology surveys, a flood risk study (including flood modelling) and continued engagement with stakeholders as the design progresses.

The design will involve limited modification to the listed bridge. Construction is anticipated for the summer of 2021.



Where is the project?

The project is located in on the River Beane at Watton-at-Stone. The main focus of the study at the moment is on Walkern Road Bridge (green on the map), however we are also looking at future improvements on the river downstream of this location.

- Upstream** - the focus of this study
- Middle** - potential for future improvements
- Downstream** - potential future improvements on mill weir