

# Cedar Close Weir Project

April 2022

## Project Timeline

### Phase 1:

#### Hertford Weirs Feasibility Study

- Assessment of feasibility of potential solutions
- Initial modelling
- Selection of an initial preferred option

2018 - 2019

### Phase 2:

#### Further assessment of preferred options

- Detailed flood modelling
- Additional feasibility assessment of potential solutions
- Selection of final preferred option
- Further stakeholder engagement

April 2021 – June 2022

### Phase 3:

#### Detailed Design

- Develop detailed plans for the preferred option selected in phase 2
- Further surveys, modelling and assessments
- Application for relevant consents including planning permission

Estimated July 2022 –  
March 2023

### Phase 4:

#### Construction

- Delivery of works on site

Estimated 2023/2024



*The Environment Agency and Hertfordshire County Council are working in partnership on the Cedar Close weir project*

## Background

In 2018/19, we completed a feasibility study which identified ways to allow fish and eels to move freely along the rivers Beane and Lee in Hertford. The study also looked at ways to reduce impoundment to promote natural flow conditions, wider habitat improvements along the rivers, and enhancement of the public green spaces alongside the rivers.

The Cedar Close weir project was developed as a result of this feasibility study and has the same main objectives.

We are launching this newsletter to keep you up to date on our progress. Newsletters will be released as we reach key milestones and you can expect these around twice per year.



## Options appraisal

As part of this project, detailed flood modelling has shown that in addition to fish passage, some of the options being assessed may also provide a significant flood reduction benefit in the wider project area.

One of these options is the removal of Cedar Close weir. The key benefits of weir removal are:

- Complete removal of a barrier to the movement of fish and eels along the river.
- Removal of a structure which negatively affects the natural flow of the river Beane, and resultant enhancement of river habitats.

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## Areas for further work

Work is currently underway to collect additional information to give us full confidence in the outcomes of the project, before a decision is made on the preferred option.

It is essential to be certain that the removal of the weir does not increase flood risk to any properties. We are completing further survey work this month to ensure properties, both upstream and downstream of the existing weir, continue to be protected from flooding. Surveys will include the use of a boat in the mill channel south of the main river, between Cedar Close weir and the south end of Grange Close. Once finalised, we will of course update you again.

We will also be considering the mill channel when assessing options to ensure that it does not become dry.

## Q&A

*How can a weir which was originally constructed to manage flood risk be safely removed?*

Improved modelling techniques show that weir removal may provide a significant flood reduction benefit. The additional information we are currently collecting will provide an appropriate level of confidence in this analysis.

*Will weir removal have any wider impacts?*

Weir removal will result in a range of benefits for the river Beane, which is a rare and valuable habitat as one of only 200 chalk rivers in the world. The river will no longer be affected by the structure, allowing the river to become shallower, with flow more characteristic of a chalk river. This will also allow development of more bankside and aquatic vegetation, enhancing habitats along the river channel.

There will be no effect on the section of the mill stream downstream of the Sele Siphon, from Rockleigh to the confluence with the Beane.

Weir removal will also have no effect on connectivity between the river and the flood plain at Beane Marshes, the new Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust reserve (HMWT). HMWT have been, and will continue to be, engaged in the development of the project.

## Next steps and updates

We will provide a more detailed update once the additional survey work is complete and the preferred option for the project is confirmed. This is likely to be in 3-6 months. At that stage, there will be an opportunity for stakeholders and the local community to provide feedback on the project proposals.

For more information on the project, please contact Andrew Taylor (Hertfordshire County Council) on 01992 556063 or [andrew.taylor@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.taylor@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

