

## PIX BROOK WATERCOURSES PROJECT PROJECT OUTLINE

### THE PROJECT

The watercourses of the Pix Brook, that flows through the heart of Norton Common Local Nature Reserve in Letchworth have become:

- heavily shaded with vegetation
- have steep banks
- have blockages in the channels and
- outdated concrete structures all contributing to erosion and leading to localised flooding.



Shaded watercourse blocked with concrete

The project will:

- re-naturalise the watercourses reducing erosion and flooding
- increase biodiversity and
- improve access for visitors.

### TREE WORKS

Tree works will be carried out along the watercourses to increase the light to the channels helping plants to establish.



Shaded watercourse

Trees will be:

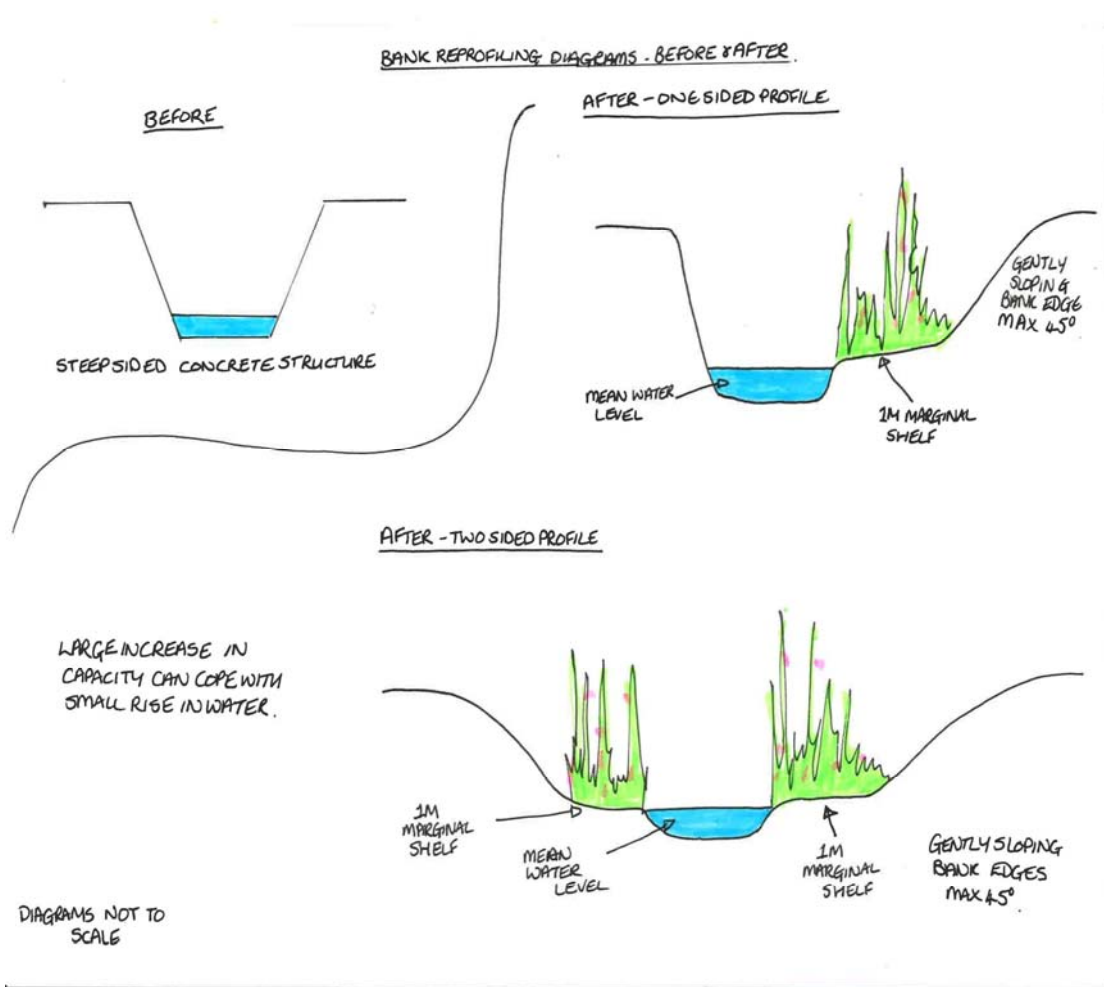
- **Coppiced** – cut down to ground level and then left to regrow, this regrowth will then be recoppiced periodically on rotation by local volunteers and
- **Pollarded** – where a tree is cut up high to promote growth and prolong the trees life, used a lot on willow trees.

Some of the cut material will be chipped, some burnt and some left for habitat piles around the site away from the edges of the watercourse.

## WETLAND WORKS

Contractors will be:

- Creating marginal shelves to give the channels greater capacity in times of high flow
  - The channel edges will also be reprofiled to give gently sloping banks and wetland plants will be planted on the shelves to help speed up establishment



- Clearing rubbish from channels
  - Removing rubbish and blockages from the channels will improve the flow

- Removing outdated structures
  - Old outdated structures are becoming eroded, these will be removed, the channel reinforced and banks reprofiled



Concrete structure in disrepair

- Improving access for visitors
  - New bridges will be installed where existing culverts are becoming eroded and an old bridge will be repaired.

### WETLAND PLANTING AND SEEDING

Wetland plants will be planted on the newly created marginal shelves. This will be carried out by the contractors, local volunteers Friends of Norton Common and CMS volunteers.

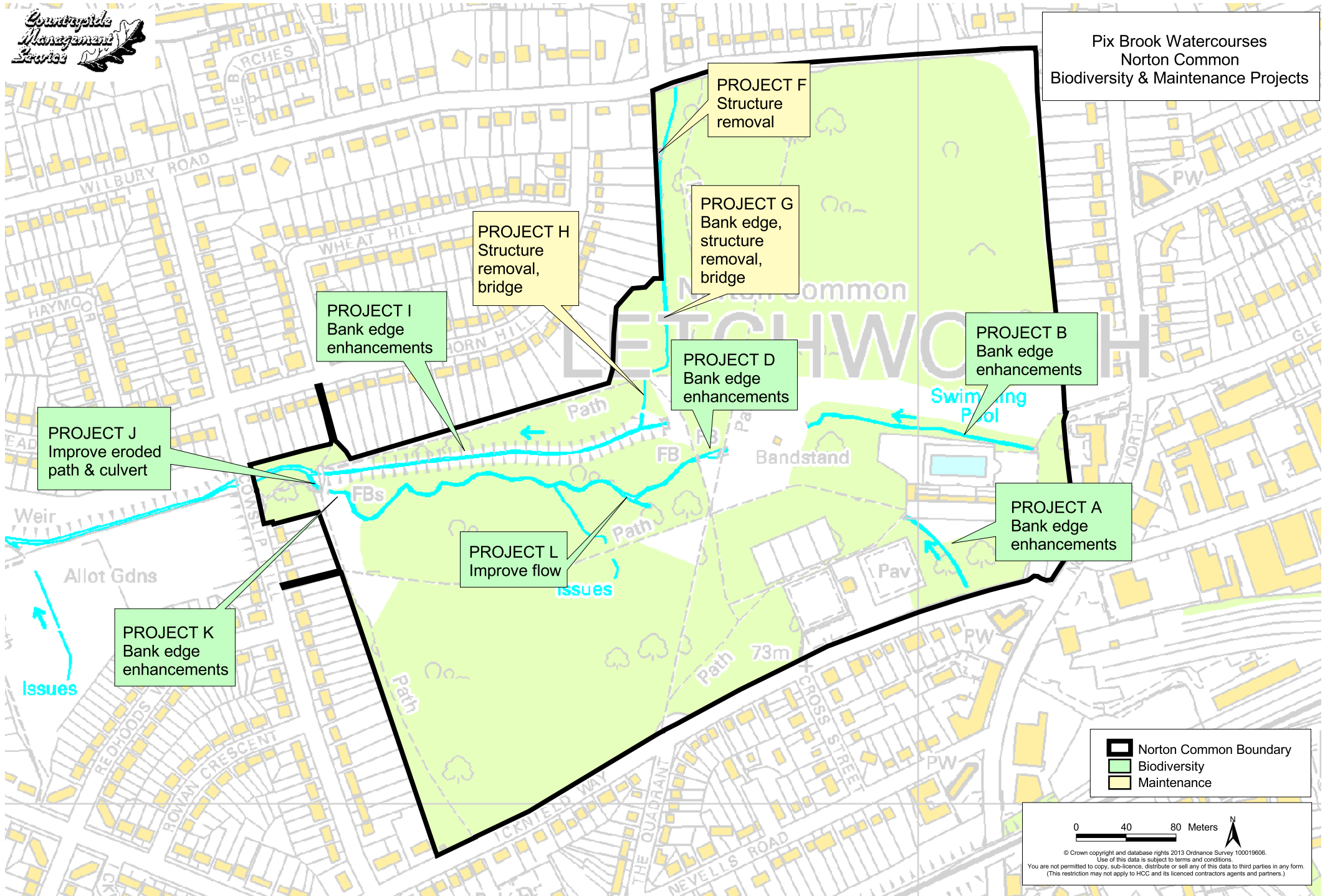
At the end of the project the contractor will seed the newly reprofiled bank edges with a native seed mix to help the vegetation to establish.

### LOCATION OF WORKS

Works will be taking place to varying degrees at the following locations – see map below:

WORKS	PROJECT
Tree Works	All projects – except L
Wetland Works - Marginal Shelves	All projects – except L
Wetland Works - Clearing Rubbish	A, F, H, J and L
Wetland Works - Removing Outdated Structures	F, G, H and J
Wetland Works - Improving Access for Visitors	F, G, H and J
Wetland Planting	All projects – except L
Seeding	All projects – except L

Pix Brook Watercourses  
Norton Common  
Biodiversity & Maintenance Projects



PROJECT J  
Improve eroded path & culvert

PROJECT I  
Bank edge enhancements

PROJECT H  
Structure removal, bridge

PROJECT G  
Bank edge, structure removal, bridge




PROJECT D  
Bank edge enhancements

PROJECT B  
Bank edge enhancements

PROJECT A  
Bank edge enhancements

PROJECT L  
Improve flow

PROJECT K  
Bank edge enhancements

-  Norton Common Boundary
-  Biodiversity
-  Maintenance

0 40 80 Meters

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