

Cambridge Chalk Stream Project

In 2019 Cambridge City Council hosted a Water Summit in response to increasing local community concerns about the impact of water abstraction on our local streams, the river Cam and the biodiversity they support. As a result of the representation made by local campaign groups, the water industry and regulators, the City Council, with match funding from Cambridge Water, commissioned a baseline report combining what is known of the condition of our watercourses and to identify potential projects and partners for delivery. The report, produced by local officers of both The Wild Trout Trust and BCN Wildlife Trust, recognises that seasonal lack of water is one of the key detrimental drivers for the decline of these watercourses. Addressing this long-term issues is essential but outside the scope of this document. However, in the shorter term there is still plenty that can be done to help chalk streams, in particular by restoring river channels to a more natural shape and size, and adding replacement gravels to create new riffle areas. Done well, flow rate will be increased enough to keep the gravel clean, flow diversity will increase, and the river will behave more naturally, requiring less maintenance.

The report provides an audit of chalk streams in the upper Cam catchment. It provides a brief overview for each river of the main issues affecting it and key opportunities. It also identifies some potential projects. These projects range from well-researched plans which will be delivered in 2021, to project ideas and long-term ambitions.

Almost all the watercourses in this report have at least one local person or group who know their river very well and will have more to add. The aim of this report is to start conversations about what needs to be done, where, and by who; and to facilitate funding and delivery of projects which improve the health of local chalk streams.

We would be grateful if you could take time to complete the following consultation to establish how best to coordinate support for communities, groups and landowners.



* Required

1. Are you completing this form as an individual, representing a group, business or institution? *

- Group
- Institution

Individual

Business

2. Please name your group, institution or business *

Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth Parish Council

3. Are you a riparian owner or responsible for the management of one or more of the watercourses in the report? *

Yes

No

4. If yes for Q3, please name the watercourse/s for which you responsible *

A short section of Bassingbourn Brook adjacent to the Willmott Recreation Ground

5. Is there anything we have missed from the baseline report? *

Yes, the section of Bassingbourn Brook known as The Moat, adjacent to North End and Mi

6. Are you aware of other available data we should be considering? *

No

7. How do you feel the various groups would be best supported to help prioritise and deliver the proposed projects? Please select as many as you wish. *

- Formation of a Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Partnership
- Multiple organisation bid for large scale grant/s
- Tailored local grants for individual organisations to bid for prioritised projects
- Funded technical support from local specialists
- Coordinated procurement of technical studies, surveys, materials etc
- Coordinated publicity and volunteering opportunities
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8. Please share any other thoughts on how best to implement practical habitat action for our chalks streams *

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