

Albion Channel FAQs

1. Why are these works happening?

These works are being undertaken to deliver ecological improvement to the Albion Channel. Previously planted reeds in the channel have become overgrown, and algae and duckweed has spread throughout the channel, slowing water flow, impacting water quality, and reducing the habitat value for wildlife.

2. Why not just cut the reeds back to an acceptable level?

The existing reeds were installed in planter boxes, which can be seen at various points along the channel. However, many of these are in disrepair and it is more efficient and cost-effective to remove the reeds and planter boxes and install new ones. The reed root system has grown and embedded itself into the bed of the channel to such an extent that standard cutting maintenance is no longer possible to ensure the benefits of the scheme can be delivered.

3. Will any of the reeds or planter boxes be kept or relocated?

Where possible, if it is deemed that any of the planter boxes are in suitable condition to keep or bring back to a fully operational state without unreasonable effort or cost, the reeds and planter boxes may be retained in the channel as they are currently. Some of the reeds may be replanted in Surrey Water, to extend the benefits of this work beyond Albion Channel. It is, however, anticipated that most of the reeds and planter boxes will need to be removed.

4. Will there be any impact on the existing wildlife in the Channel?

An Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) has been commissioned, to ensure that the works do not have a negative impact on the existing wildlife in the channel. Due care will also be given during the works to ensure this. The works will commence after bird nesting season and will be informed by the findings of the EclA to ensure no negative impact on any birds that have nested within the channel reeds.

5. What will be done to ensure this doesn't happen again?

A maintenance regime will be upheld on the newly-installed planting throughout the channel upon completion of the works. This will ensure that the planting is encouraged to grow and thrive in the channel, but that negative side-effects, such as the reduction in water flow, undesired spread of algae and overgrowth of the reeds is managed suitably.

6. Will access to the channel be closed during the works?

It is proposed to move down the channel in phases as the works progress. As such, sections of the footpath will be closed and there will be no access to the channel itself as the work progresses. Every effort will be made to keep disruption to a minimum as a result of the works.

7. Will there be any signage detailing the works?

Yes, signage will be put up around the site to outline the works being undertaken as the scheme progresses.

8. When will these works take place?

We are aiming to begin the works in November. Precise dates will be publicised once available.

9. *Can I have my say on these works?*

We will be hosting an engagement session at Canada Water library, where residents can review plans and ask questions to Council Officers on the works. Details of these engagement sessions can be found further down on this page.