

February 2023

Dear resident,

Stakeholder Engagement Event for Affinity Water River Restoration Project - River Misbourne at Barn Meadow and Pondwicks Meadow

I would like to invite you to a stakeholder engagement session in Barn Meadow Pavilion on Thursday 2nd March 15:00 – 19:00. This will be a drop-in session that is open to **all**; it is a great opportunity to ask any questions you may have and for us to get your input in our detailed designs before starting construction.

We will be undertaking tree works at Barn Meadow on 20th February, which will last approximately three days. River restoration works at both Barn Meadow and Pondwicks Meadow will start from mid-March.

The importance of chalk streams

The majority of the world's globally rare chalk streams are located in the Southeast of England and, because of their heritage should be viewed as an English Great Barrier Reef or rainforest. Many chalk streams, including the River Misbourne, run through our supply area. Along with providing high quality drinking water, enhancing the environment is at the heart of what we do. To achieve this, we have reduced groundwater abstraction in the Misbourne catchment by 13 million litres per day since 1998. Moreover, we have been working closely with the Environment Agency and other partners to restore these globally rare chalk streams; on the River Misbourne Affinity Water has delivered restoration works between Amersham Bypass and Quarrendon Mill – improving 1.14km of river. The aim of these restoration works is to re-naturalise these rare habitats; re-introducing the unique characteristics that have been lost, such as gentle meanders, clear gravel beds, pools and riffles. Without these characteristics, it is difficult for the species known to inhabit healthy chalk streams to thrive.

Please see our website, using the following address, to find out more information on our river restoration projects: <https://www.affinitywater.co.uk/corporate/environment/restoration>

Yours faithfully,

Chloe Bench
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Asset Strategy and Capital Delivery

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