

Site 4 - Spode

There are two aspects to the work planned for this site.

Firstly, the flood risk issues need to be addressed through the creation of raised defences alongside the channel, as water would spill from the channel here in larger events. Without this, redevelopment of the site cannot occur.

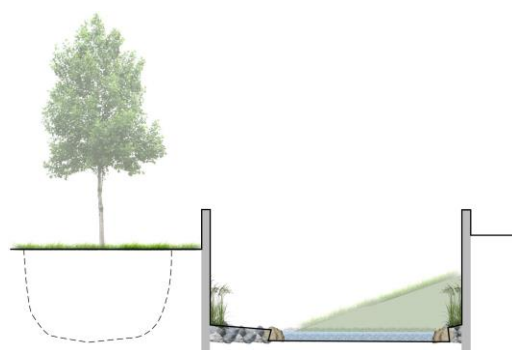
The second aspect is the opportunity available to us on the right bank. The Fowlea Brook is a heavily modified channel without any natural elements to it for long stretches. We are looking to construct a new channel alongside the existing, which is in a poor state in this location.

This new channel, whilst still relatively engineered, will have greater capacity and sinuosity within in. This encourages greater biodiversity and increased river processes to develop microhabitats. We will then infill the existing channel in this area to deliver an amenity area for the community. Part of this work will be to bypass a weir unlocking over 6.5km of watercourse to fish migration.



Above image shows how we are looking to relocate the channel without impacting on developable space – whilst still giving ourselves the space to integrate some renaturalisation.

Image to the right shows a visualisation of the cross section. Showing the infilled existing channel on the left and the new channel on the right with the variation in bank levels creating a range of habitats to encourage biodiversity growth.



We are looking at options in the area to integrate the scheme into the local community providing enhancements in amenity space and through creating a space for people to see the watercourse. The finishes will be developed to integrate with the existing heritage of the Spode site and we are working closely with surrounding landowners to achieve this.