

Emm Brook: Greenways Bridge

Supporting Information for Planning app.

Version 1.0

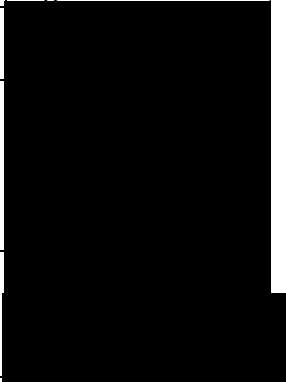
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Prepared by:	<i>South East Rivers Trust, Connect House, Kingston Rd, Leatherhead KT22 7LT</i> <i>Reg. Charity No. 1091000</i> <i>web. www.southeastriverstrust.org tel. 0845 092 0110 email. info@southeastriverstrust.org</i>
Project Manager:	Nick Wilson, Senior Project Officer
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Document review and sign off:

	Name(s):	Date:	Status:	Signed:
Primary Author:	Nick Wilson	24/03/2026	Draft for Internal Comment	
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1.0 Background

The South East Rivers Trust (SERT) is a registered charity (no. 1091000) whose objectives include the improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Southeast of England. Aiming to make rivers thrive again for local communities and nature.

SERT has been developing the Emm Brook Restoration Project at Woosehill Meadows, Wokingham for several years. Here, SERT plan to reconnect a 340-metre length of historic river channel of the Emm Brook to bypass the existing weir (planning app. 203617). This will open 3.5 km of river habitat and remove the lowest obstacle of fish migration on the Emm Brook. This planning application was awarded in 2023.

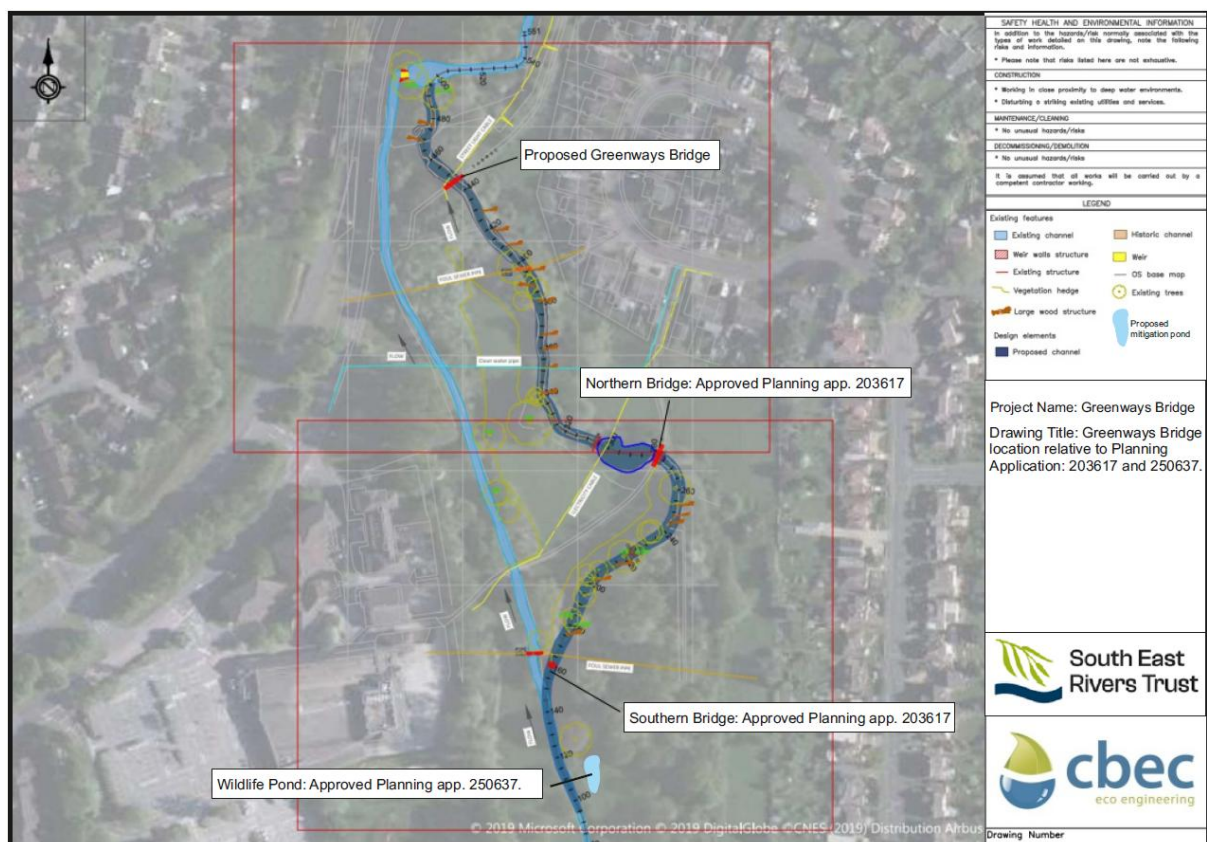


Figure 1: Shows the location of the Greenways Bridge planning application in relations to the wider bypass channel project.

To reconnect the historic channel three footbridges are planned to maintain the existing footpath network. Two of those footbridges were included and approved in the original planning application (planning app. 203617). The third bridge at NGR: SU 79845 69227 referred to as the Greenways Bridge, was included in the designs, however it was not included in the planning application because it was planned to be delivered during the construction of the Greenways. Unfortunately, this did not happen, and a culvert was constructed in its place at NGR: SU 79845 69227 (Figure 2). This crossing is not complimentary to reconnecting the historic channel. It needs to be replaced with a footbridge to allow the re-connected

channel to flow freely. As it was not included in planning app. 203617, a new planning application is being sought to replace the culvert with a footbridge (aka Greenways Bridge).

Another planning application (planning app. 250637) was awarded in 2025. This application was for the creation of a new wildlife pond on site to mitigate for the loss of the existing pond habitat on site (a condition of planning app. 203617).



Figure 2: The existing crossing at NGR: SU 79845 69227 that is proposed to be replaced with a footbridge.

2.0 Greenways Bridge Planning Application

The following sections provide detail of the Greenways Bridge planning application and should be read in tandem with the supporting documents that form part of the application.

2.1 Site Details

The Greenways Bridge is proposed to cross the reconnected historic channel at NGR: SU 79845 69227.

A temporary culverted crossing has been installed at this location as part of the Greenways scheme. This design proposal is for provision of the permanent bridge crossing, with the existing culvert removed and the banks reprofiled to suit the channel geometry.

Utility searches have identified a LV cable in the vicinity of the structure, crossing the channel to the north). This is to be identified, and location confirmed in advance of excavation works being undertaken. If found to be impacted by works, diversion or isolation shall be undertaken.

Refer to:

- 1. Emm_Brook_Greenways_Bridge_Location_Plan_V1.0
- 2. Emm_Brook_Greenways_Bridge_Existing_V1.0
- 3. A120099-TGEE-ZZ-XX-DR-C-0001-P02 Existing Location Plan

2.2 Bridge Details

Footbridge 3114 (Greenways Bridge) consists of a hardwood (D70) timber footbridge with a 4.1 m total length (3.76m bearing c/c, 3.45m clear span) and clear width of 3.5m. The soffit shall be located at +44.76mOD to achieve 300mm freeboard to the 1 in 10Yr flood level. The foundations shall be a reinforced concrete L-wall with associated wing walls. The bridge shall be integrated with the existing footpaths through local regrading of the adjacent paths with access ramps constructed from imported or site won fill, as required.

Demountable bollards shall be placed at either end of the bridge to prohibit unauthorised vehicles accessing the footbridge.

Refer to:

- 4. Emm_Brook_Greenways_Bridge_Plan_V1.0
- 5. A120099-TGEE-ZZ-XX-DR-C-0103-P02
- 6. A120099-TGEE-ZZ-XX-RP-C-0003 P02 Bridge 3114 AIP – countersigned

2.3 Approval in Principle (AIP)

The Greenways bridge (Bridge 3114) designs have been signed off as part of the footbridge Approval in Principle (AIP) process with Wokingham Borough Council.

Refer to:

- 6. A120099-TGEE-ZZ-XX-RP-C-0003 P02 Bridge 3114 AIP – countersigned

2.4 Drainage and Flood Risk Assessment

The reconnection of the historic channel was modelled by cbec Engineering. This model included the Greenways Bridge (this application) and informed the design specification of this bridge.

Hydraulic modelling demonstrated that the proposed design does not increase flood risk either upstream or downstream and that no properties are at risk from flooding at the 100 years plus climate uplift events.

Refer to:

- 7. Emm_Brook_Greenways_Bridge_FRA_Technical_Note_V1.0
- 8. 19-1001_Emm Brook Final Design Report_cbec_01.07.19
- 9. U20-1057 Emm_Brook_Model_Update_Report_23_12_20_cbec
- 10. 20_1057_Emm_Brook_remodelling_18_05_22_cbec

- 11. 20-1057_EmmBrook_Remodelling_Flood Risk Assessment_18.05.22_cbec
- 12. UK20-1057 Emm Brook Remodelling hydrology_10062022

2.5 Ecology and BNG.

The installation of the bridge requires the removal of 7 trees. These have been assessed, and an arboricultural method statement has been produced. A subsequent GLTA has been undertaken concluding the work can take place under a precautionary method statement. The scheme also satisfies the statutory Biodiversity Net Gain requirement for both area habitats and watercourses and meets the applicable trading rules.

Refer to:

- 13. Emm_Brook_Greenways_Bridge_Biodiversity_Statement_V1.0
- 14. Emm_Brook_Greenways Bridge_Environmental_Risk_Assessment_V1.0
- 15a_Emm_Brook_Greenways_Bridge_BNG_PP-14662959_V2_02_03_2026
- 15b_Emm_Brook_Greenways_Bridge_BNG_Baseline_V1.0
- 15c_Emm_Brook_Greenways_Bridge_BNG_Enhancement_V1.0
- 16. Emm_Brook_Arboricultural_Assessment_&_Method_Statement
- 17. Emm_Brook_GLTA_(S1538_GLTA_a)

2.6 Community Involvement

The project provides several opportunities to involve the local community in the development. Plug planting days will be organised, along with post-project guided tours. We also plan to run community outreach sessions before the work starts to keep the local community as informed as possible making sure the local community are involved throughout.

Refer to:

- 18. Emm_Brook_Planning_and_Community_Involvement_Statement_V1.0

2.7 Archaeology

No heritage assets have been identified within the site boundary by a desk-based assessment (DBA). The site underwent landscaping and reworking when the current culvert was constructed. Work will involve the removal of the existing culvert and replacement with a footbridge. Project activities will involve the re-working of this worked ground.

There is always the potential for new archaeological finds during the construction phase of the project. During the construction phase, the contractor and any site workers will be made aware of this risk. Excavation work will be undertaken carefully, and work will be

halted immediately if any archaeological potential is uncovered and investigated by the local archaeologist.

Given the low archaeological potential of the site, SERT do not propose further archaeological investigations for this project site.