

Works on Church Pond

Major works on Church Pond are due to commence on Monday 18th February 2013.

This work will be carried out as efficiently and as cleanly as possible, however as heavy machinery will be used the pond and surrounding area will look unsightly, with mud and silt present.

We kindly ask the public to remain away from any taped off areas and to keep dogs on a lead in this vicinity for their own safety.

The aim of the work is to improve the pond for wildlife. At present the pond contains a large amount of silt, which is leading to higher nutrient levels of the water and as a consequence during the summer the surface is covered with a thick layer of Duckweed. This means that very little light penetrates the surface of the water, preventing the natural growth of other aquatic plants, limiting the wildlife potential of this pond.

If left the Duckweed has the potential to reduce the oxygen levels within the water which could lead to the pond becoming stagnant.

The Council will be using Contractors to pump the water out of the pond, prior to removing the silt with an excavator. As some of the silt has been classed as contaminated caused by road water run off from the A404, this silt will be removed and stored in a bunded area, while it dries. It will then be removed and disposed at a special waste site.

The rest of the silt will be removed and allowed to partially dry before being spread on nearby brush piles to create overwintering refuges for newts and other amphibians.

The pond will be left to refill naturally, as mains water cannot be used. Therefore it may take some time for the pond water to return to its original depth.

A new drainage and water filtration system will be added once this work is completed. This should resolve the problems with Duckweed which will allow the pond to regenerate naturally.

All works have been approved by Natural England, Chilterns Conservation Board and Herts County Council who have helped fund the project, and all works will be supervised by a Great Crested Newt Licence holder.



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