

PLEASE CHECK SIZE IS CORRECT

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13:13 Tue, 18 Aug 2020

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION NOT TO PREPARE
AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT Regulation 5 of the
Environmental Impact Assessment Land Drainage Improvement
Works (Amended) Regulations 1999 SI 1999/1783**

River Mease SAC/SSSI Catchment Restoration Project

The Environment Agency gives notice that its authorised delivery partner, Trent Rivers Trust, proposes to carry out improvement works on the River Mease SAC/SSSI and its floodplain from A444 crossing point between Acresford and Stretton en le Field and near Netherseal Road, Netherseal, NGR upstream reference SK3009212369 and downstream reference SK2885212736, a distance of 2.1 kilometres. Works are due to be carried out between September-October 2020, weather permitting and will last for a few weeks.

Much of this section has uniform vertical banks and flow pattern.

The project will involve a number of interventions to promote natural processes of the river such as:-

- 1) lowering inside bends to a more natural profile helping sediments to drop out, providing more capacity for water and aiding the development of marginal habitat, an important refuge for small fish and fry
- 2) reinstating clean river gravels which will help create riffles and oxygenate the river providing valuable substrate for spawning fish and becoming part of the conveyor of sediment moving along the watercourse creating new in-channel features
- 3) addition of large woody material which will be anchored into the bank to prevent it moving. This will enhance the habitat by creating a slack area of water behind the structure which becomes an important refuge in high flows and over time will help accumulate sediment and enhance marginal habitat
- 4) create a backwater which will be an important fish refuge in high flows
- 5) create wetland scrapes

These interventions will aid the river to naturally evolve to a more favourable condition by creating a more complex habitat that is suitable for a wide variety of species and wetland scrapes will help capture sediments and provide valuable habitat features.

The Environment Agency considers that the improvement works are not likely to have significant effects on the environment due to the method and timing of the works and does not intend to prepare an environmental statement in respect of them. The works being carried out are in line with the conservation objectives and measures put in place by Natural England (available on their website) to work towards returning the River Mease SAC/SSSI to favourable status and the associated River Mease Restoration Plan. The work has been screened and approved by the landowner, Natural England and Local Planning Authority.

Any person wishing to make representations in relation to the likely environmental effects of the proposed improvement works should do so, in writing, to the address specified below, within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Tracey Doherty – Biodiversity Officer, Environment Agency,
Sentinel House, 9 Wellington Crescent, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 8RR