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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 by the confluence of the Chilcote Brook NGR upstream ref SK2732311519 and downstream ref SK2729511483, as well as on the Chilcote Brook, NGR upstream reference SK2750711386 and downstream reference SK2729511483, a distance of 0.4 kilometres. Works are due to be carried out between September and 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) Enhancing an area to create a scrape/sediment trap to help clean water
- 3) Adding leaky woody barriers on the Chilcote brook to slow flow and help connect to the sediment trap to clean the brook input
- 4) Installing stock fencing on the River Mease

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 to view on their website) and will 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 landowners, 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