



# PRESTON BROOK COMMUNITY POND AND WETLAND

## Project Location

Preston Academy, Monk's Dale, Yeovil, Somerset, BA21 3JD



How the site looks now.



How the site will hopefully look after project completion

## Project Description

Project Funder: Somerset River Authority (SRA), Lead Partner: Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West (FWAGSW), Contractor: YRCT. The project aims to construct a pond and wetland alongside the Preston Brook stream which flows north to south through the school grounds. Currently the site is covered in scrub and woodland and adjoins playing fields to the east and west. The brook is in a narrow but deep channel and reacts quickly to heavy rainfall leading to greatly increased flow levels. The site is approximately 61m above sea level and the land falls by 3m from north to south within a fairly narrow valley.

The pond and wetland will be fed by the brook with a small permanent pond and marginal wetland with water plants to create a rich and varied home for wildlife. The pond and wetland will be set within a larger "hollow" designed to store water in high flow conditions which can then be slowly released into the brook later. The pond and flood storage area will discharge back to Preston Brook.

Location of Preston Brook Map - Community Pond and Wetland Project  
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The Project, entirely funded by the SRA as part of its strategy to facilitate the provision of flood alleviation schemes across Somerset, aims to deliver multiple benefits to the community in a safe and sustainable way while providing opportunities for community involvement at every stage.



# Main Features and Benefits

## Proposed Features:

- Permanent Pond
- Wetland with water plants
- Flood storage basin
- Wildflower areas and tree planting around the pond and wetland



Typical pond feature as proposed for the project.



An example of a flood water storage basin.



Example of some of the wildflowers we will plant



Example of the Reed, Bulrush and platform envisaged.



Wetland habitat – but planned on a smaller scale.

## The Benefits

- Alleviation of flood risk downstream
- Environmental benefits through improvement of water and air quality by removing pollutants
- A bigger and better range of homes for wildlife which promotes biodiversity
- A higher quality environment for students and staff to enjoy with an exciting visual feature and focal point
- A rich educational resource offering a diverse and stimulating range of learning and volunteering opportunities. Specific potential benefits for Preston Academy include, curricular benefits, e.g. science and biology projects, monitoring programmes for physical and chemical water properties, species present, studies on water management/flood alleviation, the place of business within the environment, climate change studies, opportunities for students and staff to volunteer to maintain the site, arrange school visits from key partners and site visits to other restoration and natural flood management projects through YRCT.
- Promoting a sustainable resource which responds to climate change positively and promotes the security of the site
- Provides a show case for future projects and adds to our knowledge base through effective assessment and monitoring
- Indirect benefits include: improved stakeholder involvement and empowerment, raised awareness of environmental issues and benefits, promotion of public investment



Existing prime water vole habitat would be increased



Environmental improvement - swap the tyre for a pond

## Project Timetable

The project started in April 2018 and work is currently under way to determine the feasibility of the scheme, gather information and have preliminary talks with landowners and other key stakeholders. The scheme will need planning permission and as part of the planning process there will be a consultation exercise with all key stakeholders, especially the students, staff and parents associated with Preston Academy, as well as the wider community.

Please note that the consultation exercise will be completed in phases throughout the project. The first phase will be running from September to October 2018. The exact dates will be advertised on the consultation page of the website and on our Facebook page. Please see the consultation page for further information.

An approximate timetable for the project up to full planning submission is shown below:

Feasibility and Concept Design: April – October 2018

Initial consultation: September - November 2018

Pre-application Planning submission: November 2018

Outline Design, further consultation and outline Planning submission: December – January 2019

Detailed Design, ongoing consultation/feedback, full planning submission: February 2019 – onwards.

Final designs and full approvals obtained: March/April 2019.

Implementation: May 2019 – March 2020.

## Want to get more involved?

YRCT welcomes the involvement of all members of the community in all our activities.

If you would welcome the chance to make improvements to our environment and the community by supporting our work through volunteering or are thinking of becoming a trustee please do contact us either by email, Facebook or our website.

