

Update on Stonebridge Pond siltation as follows for tonight's meeting of the Environment Committee:

- Visit in January 2024 from Environment Agency geomorphologists Michael Green and Richard Charman and EA colleague Tom Reid.
- Revised Scope of Work for feasibility study to examine siltation build up and ecological enhancement opportunities at Stonebridge Pond developed by Friends of the Westbrook and Stonebridge Pond and submitted to the EA for review.
- Comments received back from the EA in particular raising question about whether the main goal of the proposed consultancy is an options appraisal or detailed design work. Further discussion among stakeholders required on that point prior to finalising SOW and putting work out for tender.
- Topographic survey of the Westbrook up to culvert below Chart Mills, recommended by EA team in January, completed by RL Surveys (RLS) as part of larger contract with FTC focusing on upper creek and tidal basin.
- Results of RLS survey currently under examination by Friends of the Westbrook and Stonebridge Pond to verify streambed depth readings.
- Pending agreement on SOW for consultancy, Friends of the Westbrook are exploring suggestion by the EA team of using aquatic chalk (Siltex or Superlon — see <https://www.essentialponds.com/siltex-superlon.html> for details) to reduce / manage silt levels in Stonebridge Pond.
- With regard to Stonebridge Pond siltation *and* chalk stream restoration work on the Westbrook, consultation required with local stakeholders, notably householders and allotment holders, before any further action is taken. Consultation required in particular on concept of separating the stream and pond ecosystems. See Glassmill Pond project on the Ravensbourne in Bromley, for similar work completed recently (<https://www.thames21.org.uk/improving-rivers/the-river-ravensbourne-and-glassmill-pond/>).
- Consultation also required regarding possible restoration of collapsed brick culvert in Stonebridge Allotments as part of chalk stream restoration (as an alternative to digging an entirely new channel).