**Southwell flooding works continue into 2021**

2020 has seen works completed at Lowes Wong School, on Hopkiln Lane and along the Southwell Trail, and 2021 looks set to be another busy year for flooding works in Southwell.

Works on Church Street began on 12th January and will see the installation of new gullies and modifications to the existing bridge parapet.

These new gullies will help water to flow into new pipes and discharge into the dyke, which will minimise the risk of any potential flooding. As for works on the bridge parapet which is located on the bend of Church Street, the modifications will help surface water to flow into the dyke at times when the water level is high.

These works are part of an area wide improvement programme to help the flow of water from built-up areas enter the existing drainage system. Via East Midlands will also be progressing similar work at other locations in Southwell, including Crafts Way/Merryweather Close, Lower Kirklington Road, Monckton Road, Ropewalk and Easthorpe. Once the ongoing drainage surveys are complete the installation of new gullies, pipes and kerbs will be undertaken.

Elsewhere in Southwell, the design team from Via East Midlands is working on plans for the creation of a flood water store adjacent to the Potwell Dyke which would temporarily store flood water during times of extreme rainfall to protect nearby properties.

You may have heard that buried archaeology has been discovered on the site, and due to this, a non-intrusive Ground-Penetration Radar (GPR) survey will be carried out to determine the exact location and extent of the archaeology.

This survey is key to determine if the detailed design process to can go ahead and to ensure that impacts on the site can be minimised, once complete, any scheme that is proposed will then be subject to planning approval.

One of the successes of 2020 was the completion of works along the Southwell Trail, which is now open for public use. Between January and March, landscaping works will be taking place along the trail to coincide with planting season.

Did you know that rivers, brooks, streams, culverts and roadside ditches are all watercourses even if they don’t contain water all year round? Watercourses help manage surface water, prevent flooding and improve habitats for wildlife so it’s important to keep them clear and well maintained.

If you have a river, brook, stream, culvert or roadside ditch running through, underneath or next to your property it’s your responsibility to look after them. You will often hear this referred to as Riparian Ownership, and as the lead local flood authority, the county council will work with riparian owners wherever possible to make sure regular maintenance takes place and to help facilitate the work. As a riparian owner you must:

* Keep structures that you own, such as culverts and trash screen weirs, clear from debris
* Maintain the bed and banks of the watercourse, including shrubs and trees
* Clear away debris, even if it did not originate from your land
* Allow water to run through your section of the watercourse without any obstruction, pollution or diversion
* Not impact the rights of your downstream neighbour which in turn means that you will not be impacted by your upstream neighbour

For more information on the project, please visit: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/southwellflooding](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/southwellflooding)