**Works complete at Lowes Wong as works begin in Hopkiln Lane**

A permanent pond with a pond dipping boardwalk, a sunken wet orchard and raised bed rain gardens will benefit the learning of children at Lowes Wong School in Southwell, as well as the site itself.

Despite heavy rainfall last Autumn and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, main works on the sustainable urban drainage system at Lowes Wong School are now complete.

Work began in August 2019 to reduce the volume and speed of surface water flow during periods of heavy rainfall, by increasing both the capacity of water storage on-site and the potential for water to seep back into the ground at a slow rate.

Early investigations showed that just 20% of rainfall on the school grounds was discharging directly off the site, and that the sloped landscape and clay ground surface meant that the remaining water could flow quickly towards on-site drainage systems before overwhelming them.

One of the main challenges faced by the design team from Via East Midlands was safely capturing and retaining volumes of water on an active school site, but what has followed is as beneficial to pupils as it is to reducing future flooding on site.

While swales, bunds, detention basins, ponds, water orchards and raised rain gardens have all been carefully designed to slow water flow and increase storage, they will also support the learning of primary and junior children and the school’s gardening club.

The project is now being monitored and newly sown grass sward across the site will stabilise the ground into active surfaces. The design team will be in close contact with the school and while the soft engineered design of the project means minimal maintenance will be needed, the team will be on-hand in coming weeks to monitor any impacts on site.

Meanwhile, works on the Southwell Flood Alleviation Scheme have now moved on from the Southwell Trail towards Hopkiln Lane.

These works will ultimately improve the passage of surface water away from housing and into the nearby watercourse and will see the replacement of an existing culvert which runs underneath Hopkiln Lane.

These works have required Hopkiln Lane to be closed, and a diversion is in place, however residents and motorists can be assured that works are progressing and therefore, contractors hope to have the road open by the end of September.

We would like to thank residents in Southwell for their continued patience and understanding while we carry out works across the town.

More information on the Southwell Flood Alleviation Scheme can be found at: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/southwellflooding](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/southwellflooding)