**Trail works recommence following lockdown**

In March, works on the Southwell Trail had just begun, and over the next few months, site clearance, removal of vegetation and the reprofiling of the existing ditch were scheduled to get underway.

Unfortunately, March also saw the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown. Works on site in Southwell were paused, office-based staff were relocated to work from home, and site visits for design and survey purposes were unable to go ahead.

Fast forward to 8 June and works officially got back underway on the Southwell Trail. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, Via East Midlands and Nottinghamshire County Council worked closely to make sure that staff could return safely and in line with government guidelines.

Works on the trail will ultimately improve the passage of water away from homes and once complete, the trail will be able to store an increased amount of flood water before it is released into the River Greet.

You may have seen the works taking place on site, and to date, site clearance has commenced, including the visible removal of overgrown vegetation.

An ecologist from Via East Midlands has joined the design team to oversee the conservation and protection of wildlife as the works continue, and as the site is cleared, there is a particular focus on avoiding impacting nesting birds along the trail.

The key component of the works along the Southwell Trail is a reprofiled ditch which will be lined with concrete canvas to ensureits capacity will not be reduced by weeds and silt deposits.

The ditch at the rear of the properties will hold water, which will then be able to flow out at Station Road, the field at the rear of the industrial estate or the Dumble.

The connection from the ditch at the rear of the properties to the River Greet has been improved by the installation of two pipes that run across the field at the rear of the industrial estate. Non-return flap valves are to be installed on the end of these pipes at the River Greet.

It has been a successful few months on site and works on the trail are due to be complete in September. As autumn nears, works on Hopkiln Lane will begin, and more information about this will be included in next month’s update.

Latest updates on all the work in Southwell along with some Frequently Asked Questions can now be found at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/southwellflooding](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/southwellflooding)

ENDS