

5 August 2019

Environment Agency passes responsibility for rivers in East Kent Stour Marshes to the River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board

Watercourses in the East Kent Stour Marshes area have officially changed from main river to ordinary watercourse as part of an Environment Agency project to re-designate parts of the main river network in selected pilot areas.

The watercourses in question are:

- The Lampen Stream from Burnt House Hill to the penstock structure in Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve.
- The Minster Stream from West Monkton Stop to the Ramsgate Road culvert
- The Richborough Stream from Ash Level Feed to Richborough Sluice
- The Great Stour from Burnt Mill to Little Chart road bridge
- The Gosshall Stream from the Cooper Street Drove to Cooper Street Pumping Station and from Fleet Stop west of Richborough Farm to the confluence of the Gosshall Stream.
- The Shelvingford Arm from Meadow Farm to Boyden Gate road culvert
- The General Valley Feed Dyke at West Stourmouth
- The southern arms of the North and South Stream and Broad Dyke at Northbourne
- Sparrows Bridge Loop, north of Wye
- The Hogwell Sewer from Brook Farm to the confluence with the North Stream.

While the Environment Agency will retain its authority over issues surrounding flooding, the transfer means that the River Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board can take on much more responsibility for their local flood risk, where appropriate – by carrying out activities such as maintenance or giving permission to carry out works.

Environment Agency project lead, Alex Bateman said: *“The Environment Agency has long held a commitment to continually find new ways to deliver more for the environment by changing the way it works and uses its resources.*

“As part of this, we have been listening to and working with local organisations and acting on new initiatives to strengthen local decision making and ultimately, make our environment a better place for people and wildlife.

“This includes developing and strengthening proposals to transfer flood risk management and regulation on select stretches of watercourses to local flood risk management partners, in a process known as de-maining.

“De-maining is a valuable opportunity for the community in the East Kent Stour Marshes area and we are delighted that the project has now come to fruition. Our partners at the River

Stour (Kent) Internal Drainage Board are very much on the ground in the local area. Giving them responsibility over these watercourses is a win-win situation that will ensure that the right people are managing the right watercourses and flood risk management assets in the right places.”

The watercourses in East Kent Stour Marshes were identified as pilots for de-maining due to the low flood risk they pose to people and property and, following a positive response to public consultation in January 2018, were officially reclassified and transferred on Tuesday 30 July 2019.

For further information, please email KSLE@environment-agency.gov.uk

Ends

All media enquiries: 0800 141 2743

Or email us at southeastpressoffice1@environment-agency.gov.uk

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