







Eynsham Abbey Fishponds: Proposed dredging works

The purpose of the project is to establish an area of open water within the fishponds which will improve the area's biodiversity by reinstating the line of the old Chilbrook. Furthermore, it will be an opportunity to refresh the cut of the moat and allow us to see the profile of the historic landscape when the area has been cleared of invasive plants and silt.

The Project Area is 60 metres long by 40 metres wide and is set in the centre of the fishponds (OS grid ref. SP431/089). Running through the centre of the area is what is presumed to be the course of the Chilbrook before the construction of the fishponds. This was also the north-east side of the moat which surrounded Harvey's House. The water no longer flows in this area due to silting and compact vegetation - mostly sedges. Most of the water now flows to the north point of the project area and then joins the channel from the Holywelle, running NW-SE along the NE side of the area. This 1 metre wide channel has a depth of water/silt/roots of up to 0.5m. The main area requiring dredging is covered with sedges which are approximately 1 metre tall which are growing in waterlogged silt. Because of the high water content and bulk of root material the actual volume of spoil is relatively small once dried out. Depth of water/silt/roots have been estimated by pushing in probes until a firm base was detected. The depth includes any standing water that was present.

-  Areas of high ground which are the raised banks of the water channels and the edge of the moat.
-  Area to be dredged which has a depth ranging from 0 mm along the bank edge up to 400 mm at the deepest.
-  Water channels to be dredged which are 400 - 500mm. in depth.
-  Possible areas for depositing excavated spoil.
-  Possible siting of information panels
-  Heritage Path

