

# **Friends Of The Emm Brook**

*"Protecting and Enhancing the Emm Brook and its Floodplain for Wildlife and People"*

## **MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE EMM BROOK**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Proposed by the Friends of the Emm Brook**

**May 2005**

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**The full document can be found on [www.emmbrook.org.uk](http://www.emmbrook.org.uk)**

# The Emm Brook Management Strategy

## **1. Introduction**

Following a survey carried out by Stuart Colgate for the Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust in 2003/4 (funded by the Wokingham Society), a public meeting was held in Wokingham in September 2004. Subsequently The Friends of the Emm Brook (FOTEB) was established to address public concern over the Emm Brook in Wokingham District. At a meeting of the FOTEB Steering Committee in January 2005 the following over-arching aim was agreed:

### ***‘Protecting and Enhancing the Emm Brook and its Floodplain for Wildlife and People’***

The following are the key objectives for the Strategy, which are not in priority order.

- (1) To identify, maintain and enhance the wildlife value of the Emm Brook and its floodplain.
- (2) To identify, maintain and enhance appropriate amenity access to the Emm Brook and its floodplain.
- (3) To maintain an active Friends of the Emm Brook group.
- (4) To undertake baseline wildlife surveys and to monitor notable wildlife populations.
- (5) To raise public awareness of the amenity and wildlife value of the Emm Brook and its floodplain.
- (6) To divide the Emm Brook and its floodplain into appropriate sections and to produce detailed management proposals for each of the identified sections.
- (7) Promote the designation of appropriate sites as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Wildlife Heritage Sites (WHS) or Local Nature Reserves (LNR).
- (8) To influence land use planning decisions affecting the Emm Brook and its floodplain.
- (9) To maintain links with key partners including the local community, riparian owners, District, Town and Parish Councils, The Wokingham Society, Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre and the Environment Agency.
- (10) To monitor obvious pollution incidents and report them to the Environment Agency.

This Management Strategy is a framework from which we expect plans, actions, projects and further ideas to evolve over time and is therefore to be regarded as a ‘living document’ that will be subject to regular reviews. FOTEB intends to produce detailed management proposals for the Emm Brook within ten Section Action Plans, over the period of this Strategy.

## **1.1 Description of the Emm Brook**

The Emm Brook takes water from several places including Crowthorne Woods Special Protection Area (SPA), which lies between Crowthorne, Bracknell and Bagshot. It also takes water from land at Easthampstead Park (Bracknell) Wellington College (Crowthorne) and the grounds of the Transport and Road Research Laboratory via Heath Lake SSSI and Queen's Mere.

Much of the water flowing into these streams flows off heathland and coniferous woodland with acidic soils, so the water is naturally acidic which often manifests itself as a bright orange-brown deposit in the silt and on vegetation in the stream channel. Acidic water favours the survival of plants and animals more adapted to this type of environment.

The water from all these sites flows northwards where two main branches of the Emm Brook converge in the Chapel Green area. It continues to flow northwards through Wokingham, leaving the town at Toutley Bridge, on the edge of Emmbrook. The stream passes beneath the junction of the M4 and A329(M) motorways continuing via Merryhill Green and Dinton Pastures Country Park, around Lavells Lake LNR, to its confluence with the River Loddon.

## **2. Threats to the Emm Brook**

- 2.1 Water Quality of the Emm Brook
- 2.2 Amenity Use of the Emm Brook and its floodplain
- 2.3 Invasive Alien Species
- 2.4 Inappropriate Development
- 2.5 Inappropriate Management of the Emm Brook and its Floodplain
- 2.6 Lack of Wildlife Survey Information

## **3. Descriptions and Proposed Actions for the Emm Brook**

### **3.1 Sections**

The Management Strategy for the Emm Brook has been divided into 10 sections. The sections have been chosen so they can be identified easily for future monitoring. The descriptions are for the most part taken from the BBOWT survey in 2003/4.

No.	From (upstream)	Grid ref.	To (downstream)	Grid ref.
1	Various Sources	SU832651	Chapel Green (confluence)	SU815675
2	Chapel Green (confluence)	SU815675	Finchampstead Road (A321)	SU809680
3	Finchampstead Road (A321)	SU809680	Barkham Road (B3349) industrial estate	SU803683
4	Barkham Road (B3349)	SU803683	Footbridge NE of Woosehill (Safeway)	SU799688
5	Footbridge NE of Woosehill (Safeway)	SU799688	Reading Road (A329)	SU799694
6	Reading Road (A329)	SU799694	Emmbrook Road (opposite school)	SU800699
7	Emmbrook Road (opposite school)	SU800699	Toutley Bridge, Old Forest Road.	SU798705
8	Toutley Bridge, Old Forest Road.	SU798705	M4	SU795705
9	M4	SU795705	A329M	SU784716
10	A329(M) (Dinton Pastures Country Park)	SU784716	Lavells Lake Local Nature Reserve (confluence with the River Loddon)	SU782733

### **3.2 Proposed actions**

<b>Sect</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Comments</b>
All	Undertake further ecological surveys	Ongoing	
All	Produce Access Plan for the Emm Brook	2006/7	In partnership with WDC as they produce their Rights of Way Improvement Plan
1	Ensure that FOTEB is consulted on the Management Plan for Heathlake SSSI and LNR	2006/7	Management Plan will be produced once the English Nature study of site hydrology is complete
1	Ensure that there are detailed management statements for all the Wildlife Heritage Sites in this section.	2012	Deadline coincides with the end of the Wokingham District BAP 2003-2012
1	Ensure that there is an appropriate mgt plan for the Ludgrove School nature reserve.	2006/7	
1	Locate and map the various streams that converge on Chapel Green	2005/6	
2	Ensure that there is an appropriate management plan for Tesco's Pond	2006/7	
2	Monitor and investigate further the population of great crested newts in this section	Ongoing	This is likely to be undertaken by Berkshire Reptile and Amphibian Group (BRAG).
3	Secure the de-culverting of the Emm Brook in this section	2012	This will only be possible on the back of re-development of the site
4, 5	Ensure that there is an appropriate mgt plan for the WDC owned Woosehill Meadows site.	2007/8	
5-7, 9-10	Address litter problems in this area in partnership with WDC	Ongoing	
7	Ensure that there is an appropriate mgt plan for the WDC owned Emm Brook Field site.	2005/6	
9	Monitor the population of great crested newts in this section	Ongoing	This is likely to be undertaken by Berkshire Reptile and Amphibian Group (BRAG).
9	Ensure that there is an appropriate mgt plan for the WDC owned Bluebell Meadows site.	2005/6	
10	Ensure that there is an appropriate mgt plan for the WDC owned Dinton Pastures Country Park and Lavells Lake LNR.	2005/6	
10	Ensure that FOTEB is formally consulted on the Dinton Pastures Country Park and Lavells Lake LNR mgt plans	2005/6	Lavells Lake LNR already has an appropriate mgt plan.

### **4. Monitoring and Review of the Strategy**

It is intended that this strategy should be a living document that will take account of changing circumstances and opportunities in the Emm Brook catchment. To this end, the Management Strategy sub group of Friends of the Emm Brook will produce an annual progress report for its AGM. In addition the whole strategy will be comprehensively reviewed in 2010.