

Dear Sir or Madam,

On behalf of Thames Water we would like to take this opportunity to update you to our plans to improve the water quality of Heath Lake, in Crowthorne, Berkshire.

Our work

Heath Lake is unique in being one of a small number of acid lakes in Berkshire, and we are working with Wokingham Council, who own and manage the lake, to improve the lake's water quality. The lake has historically supported several rare aquatic plants. The lake is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which means it is considered of national importance to manage the rare species present. The wider woodland area is also designated as a Local Nature Reserve. As the local area has developed, surface water carrying silt from new developments has been diverted directly to the lake through 5 surface water outfalls and has led to sediment building up on the bottom of the lake over many years. This has impacted the water quality, resulting in the lake failing to meet several key environmental objectives, leading to rare aquatic plants that reside at the lake disappearing.

Our plans to improve the water quality of the lake

To help improve water quality and provide better conditions for the rare plants, we are developing plans for the removal of the accumulated silt.

The removal of silt will allow the rare plants that have been lost to re-establish, improving the flora and fauna of the lake. We also plan to install a small number of below-ground silt traps to catch sediment in the surface water network before it flows into the lake. Along the lake edge, we are reviewing opportunities to improve light levels reaching the lake; minimising the amount of shoreline disturbance and natural debris entering the lake; creating areas of new wildlife habitat; and provide new viewpoints of the lake for the local community.

Updates to our programme of works

We had originally planned to start this work in Autumn 2022, but to enable us to finalise our plans and secure the necessary pre-work consents, we now plan to start our work in Autumn 2023, with the work completed by Spring 2024.

Autumn surveys

To support our plans, from the 24 October 2022 through to the end of January 2023, we will be undertaking additional ecological surveys and topographical surveys on and around the lake.

Whilst walking around the lake, you may notice our team carrying out their survey activities.

Find our more

You can find out more about our plans via the Thames Water's website page at: [Improvements in your area | About us | Thames Water](#)

In the meantime, if you have any queries about our plans, please contact us at customer.feedback@thameswater.co.uk

Kind Regards,
Daniel Lavorchik

Daniel Lavorchik

Customer Experience Coordinator – Reading & West Berkshire

daniel.lavorchik@thameswater.co.uk

Mobile: 077476 40577

Clearwater Court, Vastern Road, Reading, RG1 8DB

PLEASE NOTE: My normal working hours are 9 am-5 pm, Monday to Friday.



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