



Action for the River Kennet

River Shalburne River Restoration Project



Summary Flood Risk Statement

05 December 2023 – version 1.0

Rupert Kelton

The purpose of this document is to explain the flood risk implications and any mitigations regarding the proposed river restoration works on the river Shalbourne at Standen Manor Farm and Beacon Farm.

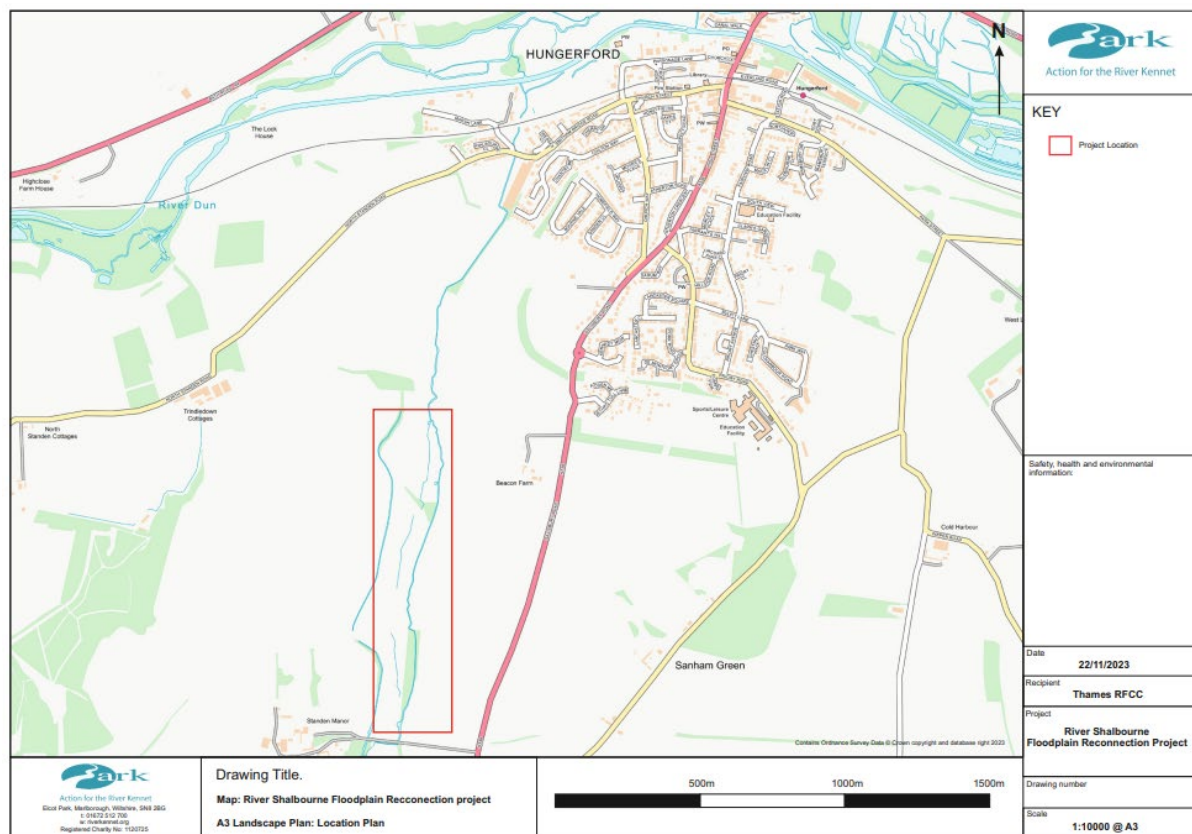
1. The Site

The proposed works are to take place on the river Shalbourne at Standen Manor Farm and Beacon Farm. The Upstream Limit being; SU 32670 66362 and the downstream limit being; SU 32769 67448.

The site is located on farmland in a rural location between Hungerford and Shalbourne in West Berkshire. The nearest settlement is Hungerford on the river Shalbourne, which is approximately 1km south of the downstream limit whilst the nearest infrastructure and settlement of the upstream limit is at Standen Manor Farm. A location plan is shown in **Figure 1** below.

The river at this location has historically been diverted into a trapezoidal channel at the edge of the floodplain that would historically have been used for drowning the water meadow systems that are now obsolete. There are no public rights of way passing through the site itself although the site is visible from rights of way to the south and west. The surrounding area is comprised of farmland. Action for the River Kennet are working with the landowning parties to realign the channel and reconnect the river with the floodplain.

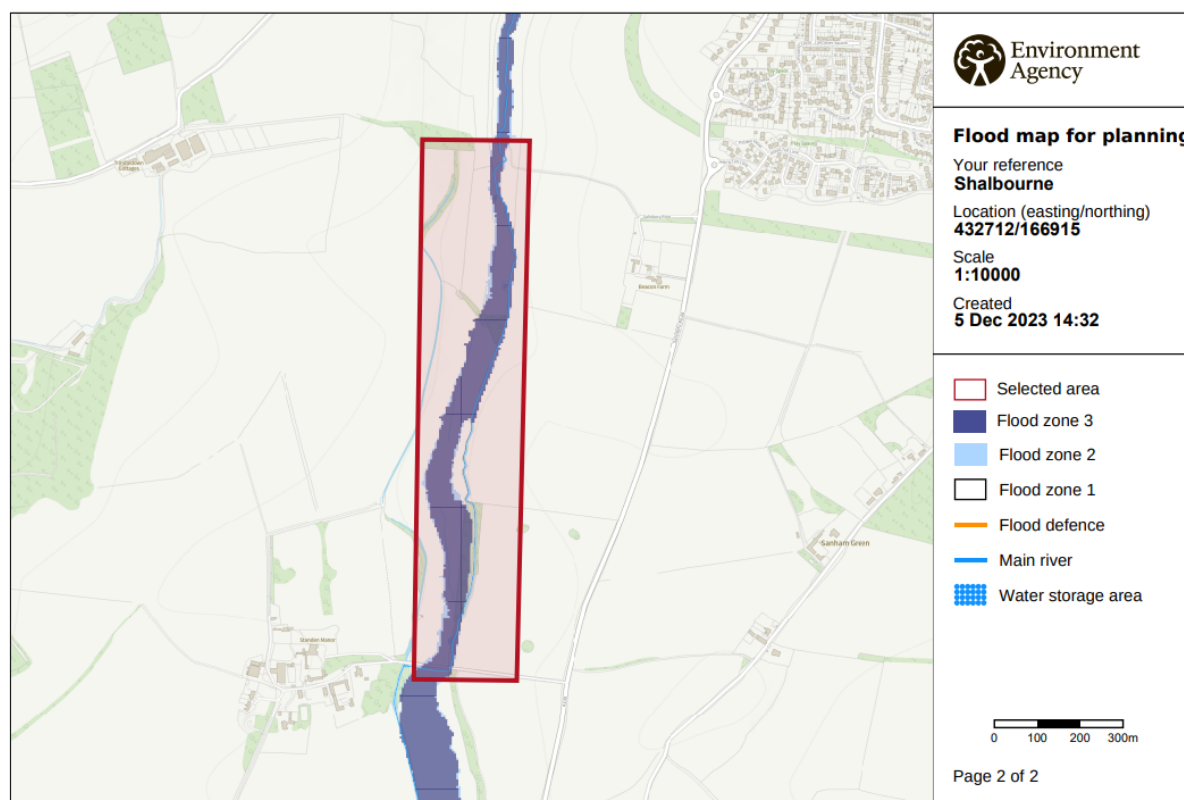
Figure 1: Location Plan



2. Current Flood Risk

As shown in **Figure 2** below the majority of the proposed site is mapped as being within Flood Zone 3, becoming Flood Zone 2 and 1 in the area of farmland surrounding the historic channel. The actual path of the existing channel is not mapped as part of the general flood modelling shown below but appears to be defined from the underlying digital terrain model (DTM). The proposed works will restore the river to its historic course which will match the flood model shown in **Figure 2** below.

Figure 2: Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning



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3. Impact of the Proposed Works

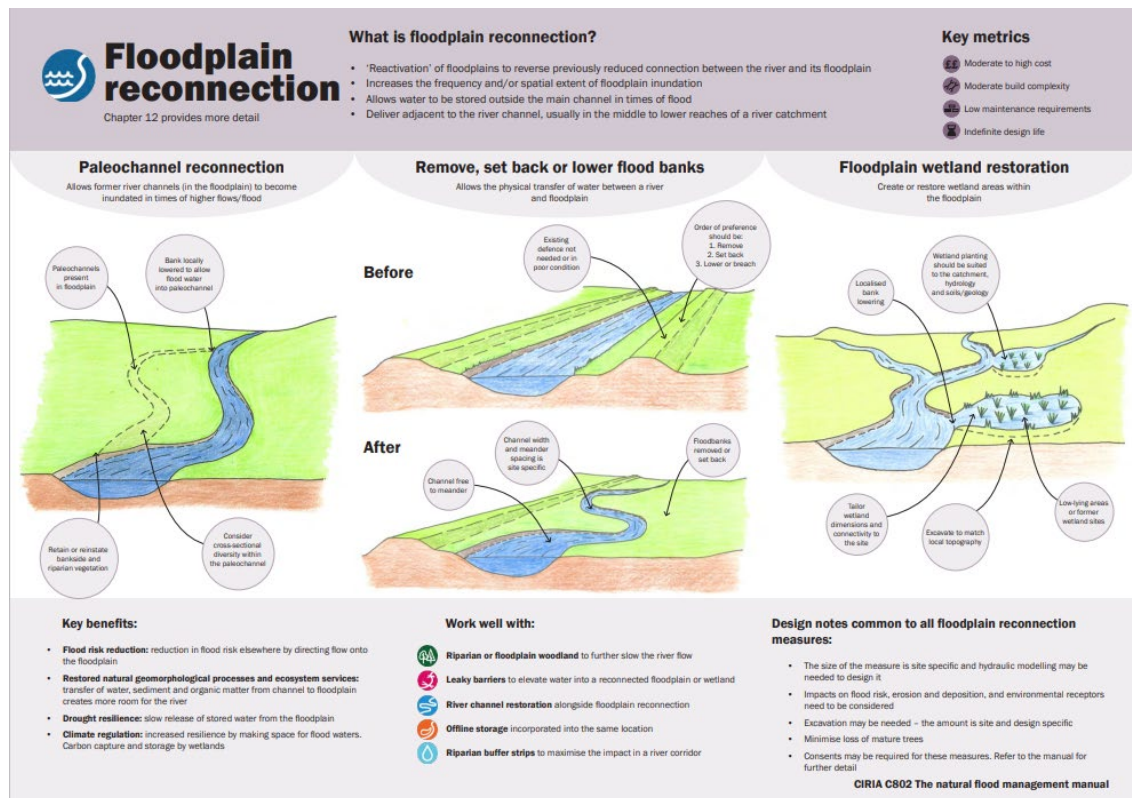
The design principles for the proposed works are aimed at increasing flood storage capacity, channel roughness and allowing more water onto the floodplain of the river Shalbourne earlier in the hydrograph than has happened for many years.

➤ Natural Flood Management:

The illustration in **Figure 3** overleaf is taken from the CIRIA Natural Flood Management Manual and outlines the principles behind how paleochannel reconnection and flood plain wetland restoration can help reduce flood risk. The proposed works on the river Shalbourne will replicate the same principles of increasing the frequency and/or spatial extent of floodplain inundation and increasing flood storage capacity by allowing water to be stored outside the main channel during times of flood.

The proposed works, which are being partially funded by the Thames Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC), are therefore not expected to have a material negative change to current flood risk depicted in **Figure 2** and should deliver an overall positive benefit to flood risk downstream in the catchment.

Figure 3: CIRIA Natural Flood Management Manual – Floodplain reconnection.



The surrounding farmland across the full extent of the floodplain both through the site itself and on land immediately upstream and downstream is in the ownership of the landowning parties of the subject site. The two land owning parties have consented to the river and floodplain restoration proposals. The proposals are not expected to impact any third party land.

4. Conclusion

The site of the proposed river and floodplain restoration works on the river Shalbourne are predominately within flood zone 3 and are situated in a rural area on grassland that was formerly water meadows. The proposed works are intended to help restore natural processes and deliver natural flood management benefits by increasing flood storage capacity and adding channel roughness.

There are no properties in the project area or the area immediately surrounding it that are in the 1:1000 year or 1:100 year flood plain.

All land in the project area is owned by the participating landowners who have consented to restoring the river and floodplain on these parcels of land.

The road into Standen Manor Farm is located upstream of the proposed off-take to the new / historic channel. The road height is approximately 2m above the existing river level. The proposed off-take and new channel will not impound the existing channel upstream and therefore there is no increased flood risk to this road.

In consideration of all the above the works will not increase flood risk to any properties, roads, rights of way, upstream or downstream of the project area.

Rupert Kelton, Project Manager

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