

Salisbury River Park

An update on the project we are delivering for your local community

Welcome to the Salisbury River Park construction newsletter, where Kier will provide up to date progress surrounding the works happening on site, interesting ecological information as well as key construction dates. The newsletter also aims to provide opportunity to communicate information from the Environment Agency.

Project progress:

Central Car Park

It has been a busy month on site as the weather has continued to improve. The old footbridge structure at Millstream Approach has now been demolished meaning that we can now start with the construction of the new bridge which will enable us to reopen the riverside path.

The foundation of the weir structure has now been laid and will be followed soon by construction of the wing walls.

The team have been busy with the huge task of excavating the channel and laying clay within the new river channel.



Salisbury River Park

Ashley Road / Fisherton Recreation Ground

We are now back filling the Ashley road retaining wall. Once this is complete it will enable us to remove the sheet piles, create a new access road and continue construction of the primary flood wall.



Steel work atop primary wall

On the left you can see the completed steel work on part of the primary wall.

Now that the base has been poured, the next stage is to shutter the wall and pour concrete to complete this section. It will then be back filled and will have brick work added.

It is hoped that this will make a nice feature for the new toilet block refurbishment



Ashley Road retaining wall

What's happening next?

The beams for the road bridge will be lifted in during July. This will be a key milestone for this part of the project. Elsewhere in the Central Car Park the channel work will continue and the Waitrose culvert works will be completed. To maximise the opportunities we have to work at this time of year when our constraints are least, we will be commencing weekend working in the Central Car Park only.

At Ashley Road/Fisherton Rec excavation of the new channel will continue along with works on the embankment. We will also now be able to start work on the structures within the channel. Due to this we will need to close the footpath along the river on Fisherton Rec later this month. We apologise for any disruption during this time. Please take note of signage for information about alternative routes and we will keep you updated when the path is open again.





High water levels explained

We have had lots of queries about why the river is still so high, despite there having been little rain recently. This is due to two main reasons. Firstly the chalk catchments that feed these rivers act like a large sponge, which was filled up by heavy rain during March. It takes a long time for this sponge to drain from top to bottom, and it is only in the last month that the groundwater levels have started to drop around Salisbury. This is quite unusual for this time of year, but is a challenge being faced across the catchment.

Secondly, due to the amount of cold, clear water that has filtered through the chalk during Spring, ideal conditions have been created for the in channel vegetation to flourish, and the amount of growth is far greater than most years. This is great for the ecology of the river, but is further contributing the high river levels.

The Ripple Effect update

What does it mean to be a good ancestor? To help explore this topic, the Ripple Effect group met environmental archaeologist and specialist in archaeobotanical evidence, Dr Ed Treasure from Wessex Archaeology at its labs in Old Sarum. A 4,500 year old peat log is a rich archive and can help us to understand how people lived and what the environment was like.

Analysis of pollen, plant macro remains (seeds, fruit, nuts), charcoal, snails, beetles and many more sources means environmental archaeologists can examine how environments have changed over time. This long-term record of environmental change can help to inform present-day conservation and approaches to land management.

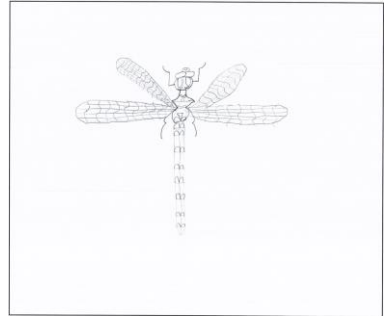


School art competition

We had an amazing response to the design competition that we set to Sarum St Paul's school pupils. The aim was to design a logo, draw a picture, or write a poem inspired by local wildlife.

The submissions have been judged by representatives from the Environment Agency, Salisbury City Council, Green Play Projects (our play area designers) and Zac Newham (local artist involved in the project). This was a really tough exercise with the judges basing their decisions on the quality of the drawing/poem, the personality that had been added, knowledge of local wildlife and the ease they could be turned into a carving/etching.

Two winners were selected from each class that entered, but the standard of the Year 6 entries were so especially good that we had to pick three! We will be looking at how these designs will be integrated into our design for the playground and games area over the coming months and will be looking forward to showing the pupils the finished products.



Meet the team



This month we would like to introduce Adam Cottrell. Adam joined the team in October as Project Manager.

His role consists of planning and managing the delivery of the works. This includes ensuring the correct team is in place to deliver all aspects of the scheme to the highest standards of safety and quality within programme and budget, with minimal disruptions to the wider community.

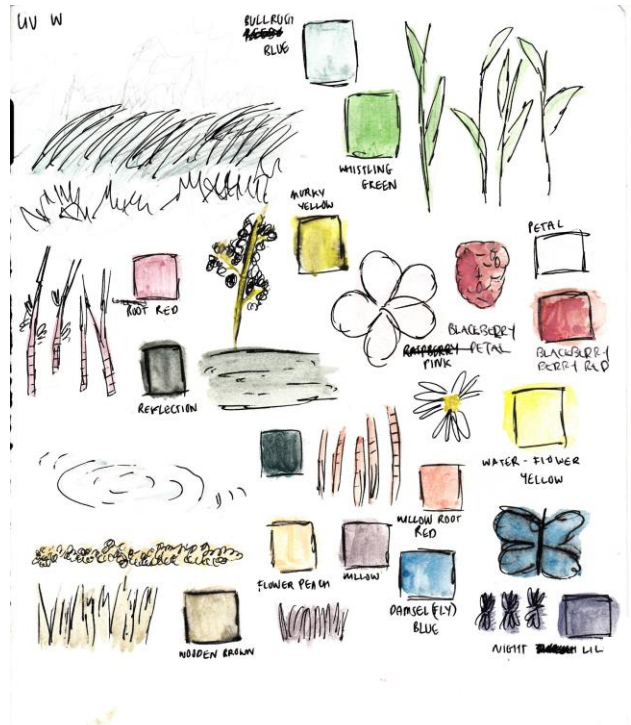
Adam's favourite part of the day is having some time away from meetings to catch up with the team. Prior to leading the Salisbury River Park project, Adam managed a 14km section of a major rail project including the construction of 13 bridges, new railway line and a train station. When he is not working, Adam enjoys jet skiing and flying.



Working with the local community

Members of the project team have recently spent time at South Wilts Grammar School. As well as talking to them about the scheme and International Women in Engineering Day, local artist, Zac Newham has been working with the students. Year 9 students designed and modelled bespoke installations for nature-themed spaces. Using cardboard and hot glue guns, they produced fantastic 3D models. These have influenced the concept designs for the build of real, full-sized installations! We look forward to seeing the girls enjoying the spaces they helped to create!

Year 10 students took part in a field study where they created an "Ecological Colour Palette" for the project, based on the River Avon and its immediate surroundings. They assigned different names relevant to where they spied each colour (e.g. "Rudd Fin Red" (a species of fish with orangey-red fins), "Crowfoot yellow", "River Weed Green"...etc). They collected over 100 colours in total, which will be used as our colour palette for multiple designs within the River Park build. Nice work girls! Many thanks to the school's DT teacher (Mr Hall) and art teacher (Mrs Hall) for making this happen.



Salisbury River Park

Public art strategy

Artist Jane Edden is working on the designs for a sculptural piece for the river park, her art practice takes inspiration from nature, especially wings.

Jane is currently taking her interest in insect wings and thinking about how she can translate these amazing and beautiful tiny structures into a piece for the park.

Her investigations are concentrating on the detailed vascular structure of insect wings especially those of species local to the chalk river Avon in Salisbury. She is looking at how ideas generated from these tiny intricate structures can be translated into a piece of work on a larger robust scale while still maintaining their fleeting magical ephemeral quality.



Site opening hours

08:00 – 17:00 Monday – Friday

Kier project office

Kier Compound

Salisbury River Park

Salisbury

SP13TA

Keeping you informed

Visit our website:

[Environment Agency Salisbury River Park Phase 1](https://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/salisburyriverparkphase1)
(salisburyriverparkphase1.com)

Visit us on Facebook:

[@KIERatSalisburyriverpark](https://www.facebook.com/KIERatSalisburyriverpark)



For more information on the project and regular updates

Get in touch

If you have any questions or concerns then please get in touch with us

Email:

riverpark@environment-agency.gov.uk

or Salisburyplo@kier.co.uk



Thank you!

