

# Removal of 20 hybrid poplar trees alongside the canal

Work will commence on Monday 15 February to coppice (cut to ground level) 20 hybrid poplar trees along the west bank of the canal.

The works will be undertaken by HRG Tree Services and will involve the contractor being on site for up to six weeks.

During this time, please observe all signage and access restrictions.

## Why are the works necessary?

The trees pose a risk to the stability of the canal banks. The trees along the canal are starting to fail due to their age and as a result they present a significant risk to the structure of the bank and also to the public because of the number of branches dropping.

Over-shading of the canal means that the water course is not as healthy as it should be. This work will, overtime, and with positive management help the recovery of the water course which will benefit both wildlife and people.

## What can I expect to see?

Twenty trees will be coppiced, which means they will be cut to ground level. The stumps will regrow quickly.

## How will the works be carried out?

The trees will be carefully cut into sections and hoisted over the canal to the field on the east bank by a crane. This method means that any impact on the canal is kept to an absolute minimum. Works will be carried out to comply with the current British Standard for tree works BS3998: 2010.

## How will the canal and my local environment be protected during the works?

A five metre exclusion from the top of the bank will be marked and no work will take place within this area. An ecologist has climbed the trees to assess the presence and likely presence of bats. An inspection for birds will be undertaken prior to any work being carried out.

## What happens to the timber and cut material?

The timber will be collected and taken to Otterbourne for recycling, including for use as fuel for biomass.

## What about the existing tree cover?

Numerous alder, willow and oak trees are present along the canal and provide significant landscape features which you would expect to see in this lowland environment. These trees will be retained.

## What can I expect to see after the work and what are the benefits?

The stumps of the trees will re-coppice (re-sprout) and the regrowth managed on a regular cycle.

With the additional light level hitting the ground, natural regeneration of native scrubby species including hawthorn and blackthorn will be expected.

This natural recovery will be supplemented by tree planting in suitable locations along the canal.

The increased light levels into the canal will encourage, over time, the growth of plants.

The stability of the canal banks will be preserved for flood defence purposes.

Additional viewing points into Fishlake Meadows will be created.



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**Felling and extraction of trees along the Romsey Canal and Fishlake Meadows**

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