



"Action for Silk Stream" aims to tackle the effects of climate change by making space for water, reducing flooding, and improving water quality in the Silk Stream catchment for the benefit of communities and the environment.



Project overview

“Action for Silk Stream” is a 6-year flood resilience project that launched in 2021. The project, funded by DEFRA and managed by the Environment Agency, is a partnership project being led by Barnet and Harrow Councils.

The project area spans the boundaries of Barnet and Harrow will use nature-based solutions for river restoration to increase flood resilience and provide habitat, biodiversity and community benefits.



The importance of our rivers

Rivers are vital sources of water providing life for wildlife and people but are under increasing pressure from human activity through urbanisation and pollution.

Over 1000 properties are at risk from flooding in the Silk Stream Catchment.



Climate change is increasing the intensity and frequency of extreme rainfall events increasing flood risk.



Growth, development, and urbanisation accelerate water runoff from hard surfaces, overwhelming sewers and rivers causing surface flooding.



Improper waste disposal practices such as littering, road runoff, misconnected appliances and sewage spills pollutes waterways.



Careful environmental solutions and management are needed to build resilience to climate change and maximise the benefits. We will work with nature by creating wetlands to encourage biodiversity, filter pollution, slow the flow, make space for water, and protect, restore and enhance our rivers.

Our nature based solutions

The project will deliver multiple nature-based solutions along river corridors and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in urban areas as a complete flood resilience package as shown on the Silk Stream catchment map.

What are Nature-Based Solutions?

Nature-based solutions harness the power of natural systems to make space for water and slow the flow of water through the landscape. They include planting trees, creating wetlands to store water, restoring rivers, and building leaky dams.

What are SuDS?

SuDS manage rainwater by storing it during storms, reducing runoff, and mimicking the natural water cycle. They reduce flooding and pollution, protecting rivers and homes. Examples include wetlands, flood storage basins, swales and rain gardens.

How you can help

Small changes to our lifestyles will have beneficial impacts on our rivers. We can all help reduce river pollution and flooding in Barnet and Harrow, improving the health of the Silk Stream.

Residents can help manage flood risk better by:

- Connecting down pipes into water-butts or planters
- Checking your plumbing connections
- Installing permeable paved driveways
- Not fly tipping the watercourses



Watling Park

A flood basin will be built in the north of the park to hold back water, reducing peak flows downstream. A section of the Burnt Oak Brook, will be re-aligned, taking it out of its concrete channel, adding meanders and bringing it further into the park.

Wetlands will also be created in the centre of the park. These wetlands will intercept a surface water drain, improving water quality and providing additional flood storage.



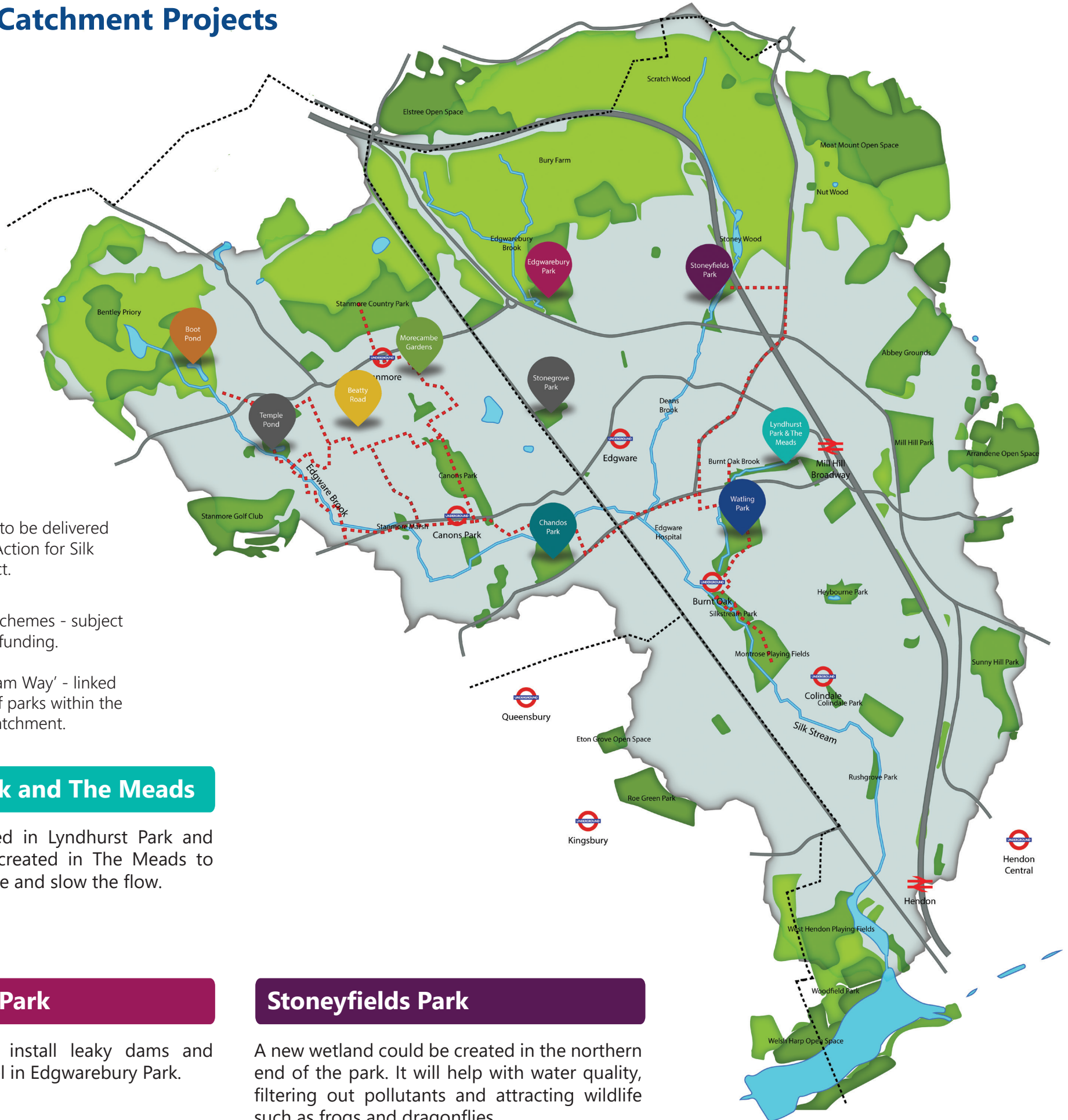
Chandos Park

The Edgware Brook, a tributary of the Silk Stream was straightened and hidden behind a fence in the 1960's to reduce upstream flood risk. This will be restored to a more natural state and relocated further into the park.

Features along the river will include meanders, channel widening, gravel beaches and bankside vegetation to slow the flow.



Silk Stream Catchment Projects



LEGEND

-  Key schemes to be delivered through the Action for Silk Stream project.
-  Aspirational schemes - subject to additional funding.
-  'The Silk Stream Way' - linked community of parks within the Silk Stream catchment.

Lyndhurst Park and The Meads

Wetlands are planned in Lyndhurst Park and leaky dams will be created in The Meads to enhance flood storage and slow the flow.

Edgwarebury Park

There are plans to install leaky dams and naturalise the channel in Edgwarebury Park.

Stoneyfields Park

A new wetland could be created in the northern end of the park. It will help with water quality, filtering out pollutants and attracting wildlife such as frogs and dragonflies.

Bentley Priory (Boot Pond)

There is potential to install an overflow channel next to Boot Pond in Bentley Priory, diverting water and slowing the flow to protect homes from flooding.

Beatty Road

Plans for the green space at Beatty Road are to deculvert a length of piped watercourse and create a natural flood storage basin.

Morecambe Gardens

Plans include creating shallow basins and rain gardens in the green space at Morecambe Gardens to store surface water during heavy rainfall.

Get involved in the project

We are calling all who live and work in the catchment to act now and help protect and improve our rivers and local environment by getting involved.

River Ranger Reporting

If you spot any issues on the Silk Stream such as a build up of litter, pollution or flooding please report them via our River Ranger Tracker.

Report incidents to the Council Lead Local Flood Authority (Barnet Council or Harrow Council), main river incidents to the Environment Agency on 0800 807 060 and sewer pollution and flooding to Thames Water on 0800 316 9800.

Events and Co-design

The team need local knowledge and involvement of local people, get involved with co-designing project proposals by joining our community workshops.

We are running family-focused, educational and recreational events at key sites across the catchment.

Check out our events page for future dates!

Volunteering

Take a role in improving the Silk Stream by volunteering for activities at your local river or park during our River Action sessions that include installing leaky dams or woody debris; river-clean ups; clearing invasive species; tree planting and vegetation management.

Become a citizen scientist and gather crucial data on water quality surveys that will inform and monitor the impact of the projects.

Find out more

Find out more about the project and influence the designs, how you can get involved, visit our interactive webpages, follow us on social media and sign up to the "Action for Silk Stream" mailing list.



@actionforsilkstream



Thank you to all friends groups and volunteers in the Silk Stream catchment whose work and support is greatly appreciated.

