

# Preston and South Ribble Flood Risk Management Scheme

## ECOLOGY - Areas 1 & 2

The Flood Risk Management Scheme will deliver a series of catchment-wide flood risk, community, environmental and economic benefits when completed. As part of our commitment to improving our local environment, we are creating better public access and enhancing the area through landscaping and planting species that will enrich the habitat.

A key environmental outcome of the first phase of works is the new community wetland in Ribble Sidings.

It has been designed in partnership with South Ribble Borough Council, and will consist of a range of wetland habitats, pathways, and a dipping platform to provide a close-up user experience.

Pre-construction otter and badger surveys have been conducted to look for any signs of holts or setts within the scheme boundary. No evidence was recorded but we are aware of otter activity and are prepared to adapt our works. An Environmental Clerk of Works has been appointed to ensure the works are delivered in line with the findings of the environmental assessment.

We have progressed the woodland planting at Fishwick Bottoms. Ribble Rivers Trust are supporting us with this exciting opportunity and we are aiming to plant 14,000 trees, which will cover the tree mitigation target for the whole scheme. Several of the trees removed in January 2022 have been retained to drive into the riverbank at Ribble Sidings to create additional habitats for fish and otters.

