



Slow the flow installations

Norton Common and Pix Meadow: keeping you informed

Hertfordshire County Council and Central Bedfordshire Council are working together to oversee the delivery of flood risk management works at Norton Common and Pix Meadow. The works form part of ResilientTogether, a Defra funded innovation project focused on improving how the Pix Brook catchment responds to heavier rainfall. The project combines monitoring technology, improved drainage and natural flood management measures to slow the flow of water during heavy rain and storms, reducing pressure on the Pix Brook and downstream areas.

As part of this work, several natural flood management (NFM) measures are being installed along the Pix Brook. These include a series of wooden leaky barriers at Norton Common and Pix Meadow.

What is being installed

Leaky barriers (also known as leaky dams) are simple **timber structures** built from wooden posts and logs placed across the channel of a watercourse.

The barriers **slow the flow** of water during heavy rainfall while allowing normal everyday flows to pass through freely. This helps **manage flood risk** downstream and allows sediment to settle naturally in the channel.

Example of a leaky barrier



Work starts at
Norton Common
mid-February

Work starts at
Pix Meadow
mid-February

**Lasting
3 weeks**
depending on
weather

What you will see on site

Works will take place within the brook channel and the immediate surrounding area. People using Norton Common and nearby paths may notice:

Construction teams working in and alongside the brook.

Installation of **timber posts and logs** across the channel.

Machinery operating at woodland edges and access points.

Vehicle movements for material **delivery and waste removal**.

Temporary **signage** in place to warn of construction activity.

Noise and access impacts will be short-term but may be noticeable to regular park and path users.

Timeline

Norton Common

Construction due to begin
mid-February 2026

Pix Meadow

Construction due to begin
mid-February 2026

Construction should take approximately three weeks, although may be extended if adverse weather causes delays. Any changes will be communicated locally.

Examples of existing channel at Norton Common



Find out more

Members of the ResilienTogether team will be available to answer any questions you may have at:

Letchworth Broadway Gallery

2 The Arcade, Letchworth Garden City SG6 3ES

Tuesday 3 February, 10am–12:30pm

We will organise further information events in the coming months. If you are unable to make the event, but have a question, contact us to find out more.

- Email: ResilienTogether.Project@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
- Telephone: **0300 300 4969** (9am to 5pm)

Onsite contact

A dedicated contact point, on-site signage and a named Ground Control site supervisor will be available throughout the works.

You can contact them on **01277 650697** or for out of hours emergencies **0800 334 5606** (weekends and 5pm to 9am weekdays).



Examples of leaky barriers elsewhere in England

