Aquamaintain LTD

Case Study

Durrants Lakes/R. Bulbourne

Background

Durrants lakes comprises of two spring fed lakes built in the 1970's when the former Water Cress beds were deepened to extract gravel.

The lakes run adjacent to the River Bulbourne, a tributary of the River Gade, one of several chalk streams found in the Chilton down lands.

Durrants lakes is owned by Dacorum Borough Council and leased to the local Boxmoor and District angling Club who run the site as a course fishing complex.

The smaller of the two lakes is also used by the First Apsley Scouts, for canoe and watersports activities.

Scope of the Project

Several breaches had formed between the adjacent River Bulbourne and Durants lakes, causing excess water to enter the fishery. This resulted in frequent flooding of the site and in effect brought the lakes online with the river system, when before they were an entirely separate entity. Along with this several hundred meters of marginal backside habitat had been lost and was in dire need of restoration.

"One of several chalk streams found in the Chilterns AONB"

Solution

The larger downstream breach that had eroded over 100m of a causeway between the adjacent river and the small lake, took a slightly different approach. For this section we installed a 1metre high Nicospan revetment on both the lakeside and the riverside of the causeway.

The revetment was in filled by dredging the adjacent fishing lake, which had become heavily silted since being connected to the river.

Installation and backfilling of the revetment was undertaken using a specialist long reach excavator working from a floating pontoon within the lake.

The new causeway was planted using pre-establisher coir pallets to add vitally lacking marginal vegetation and was fenced to protect the new plants from grazing waterfowl.

For More Information…

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Green fisheries management