

Statement from Environment Agency

- If there is a wish to create some means of bund to keep water from the Windrush (West Branch) from the footpath and eventually the lake, there would be a need for a Flood Risk Activity Permit (formerly known as a Flood Defence Consent), as set out here: [Flood risk activities: environmental permits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits) It's almost certain that you would need a "bespoke" permit, be it for a bund, raised path or raised walkway. This is not without cost (c.£1000 and a considerable amount of time on applications assessments etc, which in itself would be a cost).
- Removing the tress than have fallen across the channel would reduce the build up of debris and water at this point, which *may* keep the paths clear a little longer before the path is overtopped.
- To remove the trees/vegetation fallen/grown across the channels, a Flood Risk Activity Permit would not be required **provided** the banks and the bed is not altered/dug-out/reprofiled etc and only hand tools/powerd tools are used. We would just consider this routine watercourse maintenance that we would expect of a riparian landowner. If there is a wish to alter the banks, then you would need a Permit as already mentioned. In a nutshell, if it needs a machine, you may need a permit, so call us first!
- Keeping a channel clear of obstructions to allow unimpeded flow is the responsibility of the riparian landowner(s), as set out on the "Owning a watercourse" page on .GOV.UK here: [Owning a watercourse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse)
- With regards to pollution entering the lake during times of floods, yes it is likely: heavy rainfall creates the agricultural run-off and puts pressure upon the sewer network (as has been well-documented), which could be delivered to the lake from the watercourses when they flood. The only potential relief is that these pollutants *may* be somewhat diluted by the high water flows that carry them, although again it's hard to quantify.