

Reference/date	Community Question	Date	National Trust Answer
BR1/15 July	How will the proposed scheme work as a silt management solution if there is no engineered exit for water – silt water in, water with less silt out.	05/08/2025	Think of the project area as a sponge. At the moment the area (original floodplain) floods. This scheme will try to encourage that to flood more frequently. There is linkage between the ground water level, river level and the springs joining the brook. The water will either dissipate back into the brook or sink deeper into the ground water and re-enters the system this way. The bank of brook will be lowered further downstream to encourage this. Floodplain deposition and sponge effect of floodplain will work together.
BR2/15 July	If the scheme is designed to enable related works to re-establish meaningful areas of open water (respecting the important historical nature of the designed landscape inherited by the NT), why isn't it possible to define what the target is?	05/08/2025	It is currently very difficult for us to quantify an amount of open water that we will look to create as part of our management of the Brook. We are determined to create and maintain visible open water within the landscape. This will be a balance of various factors. The amount of money available (we are exploring ways of increasing this using some external funds), the curatorial staff, the countryside team, the wider experts within the regional National Trust team, the soon to be published CMP, outside stakeholders (Historic England, Gardens Trust, etc) as well as listening to opinions from the local residents. All we can guarantee at this time is that silt removal and plant cutting will absolutely take place and we are determined to have a certain amount of open water.
BR3/15 July	What long-term plans (effort and budget) are there to maintain the scheme without it simply becoming full of silt and overgrown?	05/08/2025	Once this phase of work is complete we will assess to see how the system is responding. Ongoing management will be a case of assessing how the system responds, monitoring sediment and water levels and carrying out maintenance as necessary. The work proposed enhances and utilises existing areas/ features to restore natural processes and so intervention should be minimal.
BR4/15 July	What impact will the proposed system of diversionary barriers have on the current water levels (already consistently higher due to neglect of the current river and its flow) upstream from the scheme?	05/08/2025	We are not blocking the brook, simply slowing it down. This raises the level slightly initially, but this is balanced by the lowering of the floodplain. Our consultants have carried out detailed flood assessment works as part of this scheme and as well as planning permission the Environment Agency will have to grant us a permit before work can begin.
BR5/15 July	When will a plan (including the relative roles and responsibilities for the NT and Highways) for road run-off silt be published?	05/08/2025	Run-off from the road is one of several contributing factors to silt build up in the brook and we're in conversation with National Highways about ways to reduce this. We carried out work on the grips in Ragged Copse in late July and have planned for a further session to address the grips in Moors Copse in early September. We will continue to work with Sherborne Parish Council and Highways to manage the road run-off going forward.
BR6/15 July	Have funds already spent, and those required to complete the proposed scheme (circa £200k, plus ongoing maintenance), been secured separately/in addition to the needs of the ongoing housing renovation plan?	05/08/2025	Yes. The funds for the proposed work at Sherborne Brook are in addition to money set aside to care for let estate. We plan to use internal National Trust funds to complete this phase of the work. We are working with Historic England on a potential funding bid for the next phase of the project to remove silt and aquatic vegetation from the Narrows and Broadwaters.
BR7/15 July	Why not focus on first getting the basics (low cost, and easy to do) right. Deal with silt entering the Brook at Waterloo Bridge through proper ditch and grip management - something that could have easily been achieved at any time over the past 15 years. A joint plan between the NT and Gloucestershire Highways. Not as exciting as the current proposal, but a fraction of the cost and much more effective.	05/08/2025	Run-off from the road is one of several contributing factors to silt build up in the brook and we're in conversation with National Highways about ways to reduce this. We carried out work on the grips in Ragged Copse in late July and have planned for a further session to address the grips in Moors Copse in early September. We will continue to work with Sherborne Parish Council and Highways to manage the road run-off going forward.