

	<i>Meeting (No)</i>	Community & Environment (12)
	<i>Date</i>	9 April 2024
	<i>Document</i>	<i>Ref No</i>
	Marsh Dredging 2024	CE12/135

The Marsh Working Group met in October 2023 and agreed that, based on the results of the 2023 monitoring data, the priority for 2024 dredging should be West Vale and Little Neston and that a budget of £5,000 would be needed to undertake the work. The Marsh Working Group agreed to meet again in March to finalise recommendations once the budget had been confirmed. Council approved a budget of £5,000 for 24/25 and the Marsh Working Group met again on 15 March.

The Group's recommendations are as follows:

2024 dredging should concentrate on amalgamating the small, shallow pools in front of the Harp pub and just south of Denhall Quay (series of small pools within 200-300 yards of each other). Rationale for this decision: large numbers of larvae found in the shallow pools at this location but no larvae in the deeper pools nearby.

If agreement received from C&E on 9 April, RSPB Manager and Dr Eneveldson will finalise the dredging requirements and arrange for a quotation to be sent to the Town Council for consideration.

Once the quotation is accepted, RSPB will seek appropriate permissions, make practical arrangements with the contractor and oversee works.

The window for dredging is September/October, after the main breeding season but before the arrival of migrating birds.

Audrey Duncan
Community & Environment Manager