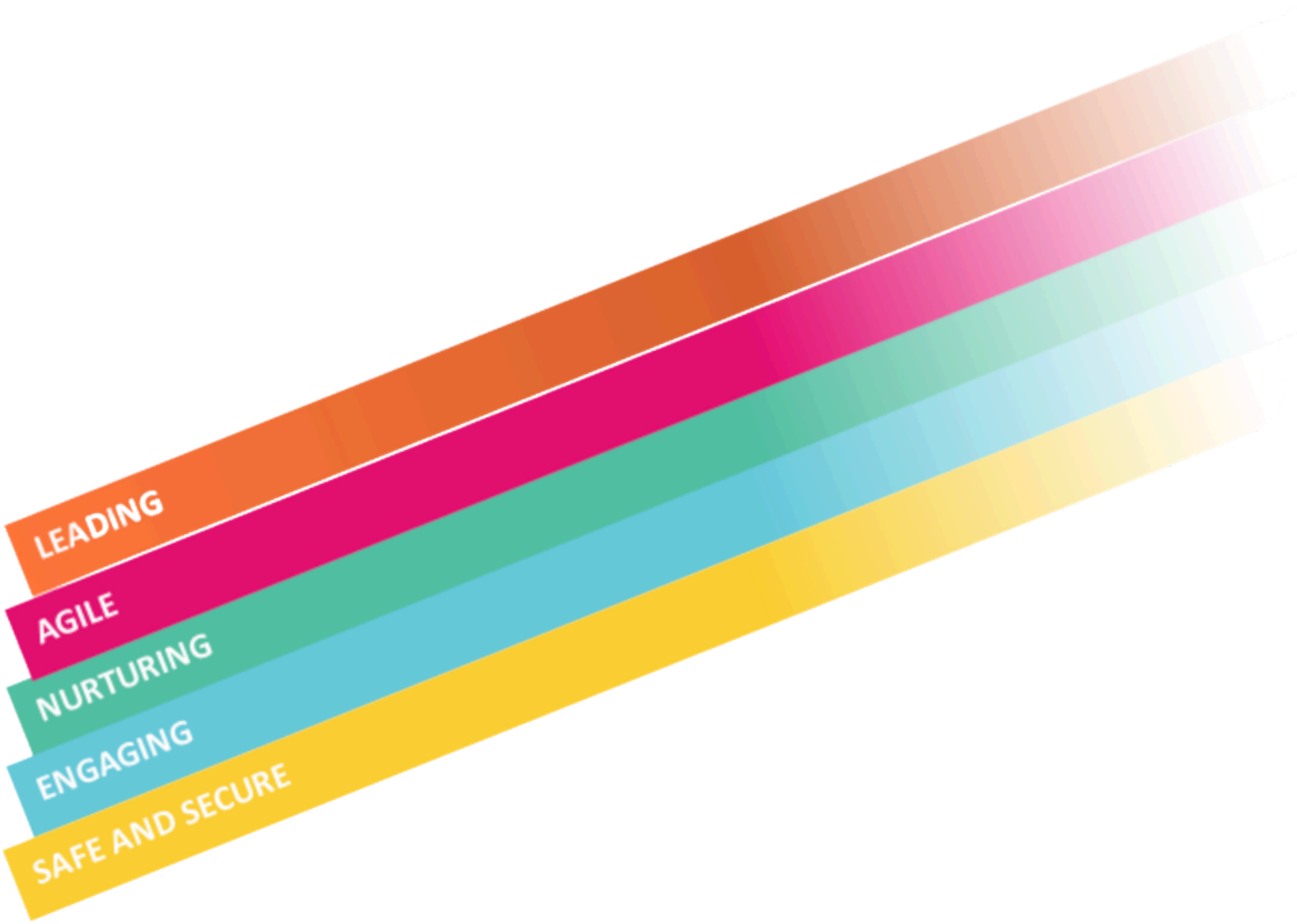
Environmental Remediation: Restoring a Watercourse



Lanes Group Case Study

06.11.26

How a rapid 10-day response stopped contamination and restored a sensitive environment

The Challenge

A food manufacturing facility discovered that high-strength organic effluent had been entering its surface water drainage system over an extended period. Instead of reaching the site's treatment facilities, the contaminated water was flowing directly into a local watercourse that feeds a protected nature reserve.
The prolonged discharge caused significant environmental damage, including loss of vegetation, sludge build-up, restricted water flow, and an increased risk of flooding.

Immediate Action

To stop the pollution without disrupting manufacturing operations, a comprehensive containment strategy was implemented:

- Isolated the watercourse outfall using a specialist drain bung
- Installed a bespoke overpumping system to manage ongoing flows
- Captured and stored contaminated water in holding tanks
- Removed waste via tanker for disposal at a licensed treatment facility

Finding the Source

While containment measures remained in place, engineers carried out an intensive 10-day investigation programme:

- Conducted CCTV surveys of the drainage network
- Identified defects and cross-connections allowing contamination to enter the surface water system
- Developed a permanent repair strategy
- Cleansed the drainage infrastructure through high-pressure jetting and decontamination works



Environmental Restoration

The affected watercourse required significant remediation to restore its environmental performance and reduce future flood risk.
Works included:

- Excavation and removal of accumulated sludge and waste
- Reprofiling the channel to improve flow capacity
- Regrading unstable riverbanks
- Seeding banks with grass and wildflowers
- Reusing chipped vegetation as natural bank stabilisation material

Creating a Long-Term Solution

To prevent future incidents, a programme of permanent improvements was introduced:

- Installation of a new interceptor system
- Increased water quality monitoring and sampling
- Routine dye testing of drainage infrastructure
- Toolbox talks and environmental awareness training for operational teams



The Outcome

The intervention successfully stopped ongoing pollution, restored the watercourse, reduced flood risk, and safeguarded the downstream nature reserve. Combining emergency response, environmental remediation and long-term infrastructure improvements has significantly strengthened the site's environmental compliance and resilience.