

Wilder Waterways – 2022 – 2023 summary

The Land Yeo is a 20km long river within North Somerset that rises in the Dundry Hills and flows west through Barrow Gurney, Tickenham, Nailsea and Clevedon. It feeds into Tickenham, Nailsea and Kenn Moors and the Severn Estuary, which are all highly designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT) and Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) are working collaboratively to deliver a catchment-based approach to improve and enhance the natural capital of the Land Yeo River and its surrounding landscape for nature and people.

Walkover Surveys and Story Map

BART completed the extensive Land Yeo walkover survey to understand and identify the pressures facing the river. An opportunity report and a story map were produced in Year 1. This provides the essential evidence base to plan both physical work and the development of the project for Years 2-5.

Habitat restoration/landowner engagement in the Lower Catchment

Small grants have been delivered to 4 farms, restoring c.3 km of ditch network around the SSSI peatland moors. The works were primarily ditch keeching but scrub clearance and pollarding also occurred to restore vital ditch habitats.



Landowner Engagement in the Upper Catchment

Two landowners and 1 tenant farmer are engaged covering 943.6 hectares, the predominance of the upper catchment. All of this land has been surveyed and recorded onto Survey 123 with individual natural capital orientated whole farm plans created for each land holding area, which offer opportunities for the farm business, wildlife, water quality and NFM enhancements.

Community Engagement

Over 100 people engaged through various activities and events...

Land Yeo RiverBlitz: a total of 43 samples collected and recorded across the catchment. This data is crucial and will provide a snapshot in time of nutrient levels to support BART and AWT.

Wellbeing through Nature walks along the Land Yeo: There were 12 attendees across the two walks held in July. These were designed to engage individuals in nature and help them to build a connection to their local landscape, with a focus on the Land Yeo River and the benefits that a healthy river system can have on physical and mental wellbeing.



AWT Volunteer days: a total of 25 practical volunteer days were carried out to support with habitat management at Moored Spout nature reserve, to help maintain and improve the diverse range of habitats here to benefit local wildlife.

Comms: Several project updates and the purchase of a trail camera meant that we were able to engage with people through social media, reaching a wide audience.

This project will be delivered by AWT in partnership with BART, alongside landowners and local communities. It is kindly funded by the Wessex Water Partners Programme.