

Wilder Waterways – 2021-2022 summary

The Land Yeo is a 20km long river within North Somerset that feeds into Tickenham, Nailsea and Kenn Moor's and the Severn Estuary, which are all highly designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Avon Wildlife Trust and Bristol Avon Rivers Trust are working collaboratively to deliver a catchment-based approach to improving and enhancing the natural capital of the Land Yeo River and its surrounding landscape for nature and people.

Walkover Surveys and Story Map: BART completed the 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 provided the essential evidence base to plan both physical work and the development of the project for Years 2-5.

200+ people engaged:

Land Yeo WaterBlitz: 65+ citizen scientists were equipped with testing kits, enabling them to take 68 samples across the catchment and gain a snapshot of water quality to highlight trends that may need further investigation.

Wellbeing through Nature walks: Three walks have been delivered along the Land Yeo to support the local community post Covid 19 lockdowns and isolation.

20 Practical volunteering days carried out to support the work of Nailsea Environment and Wildlife Trust (NEWT) on their reserve at Moorend Spout.



Several online talks and social media helped us reach a larger audience.



Habitat restoration on SSSI Peatland (Tickenham, Kenn & Nailsea Moors):

Small grants delivered to 5 farms and **3.6km** of ditch network restored around the SSSI peatland moors.

Upper Land Yeo Farmer Engagement:

BART have commenced landowner engagement in the Upper reaches of the Land Yeo between Blagdon Lake and Nailsea. Initial discussions have taken place with **14 landowners** already, with dedicated visits to be delivered throughout May and June. During initial discussions it was found that the landowners have received little advice in the catchment to date and therefore providing advice and support regarding farm infrastructure land management improvement will be valuable.

These initial visits have also highlighted a number of key diffuse pollution issues. Further discussions with these landowners will take place to look at opportunities to rectify these issues as a priority as well as looking at other nature-based solutions for the farm. Further scoping work has also taken place and mapping of pollution issues from contributing side channels.



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.

