

# River Waveney Access and Biodiversity



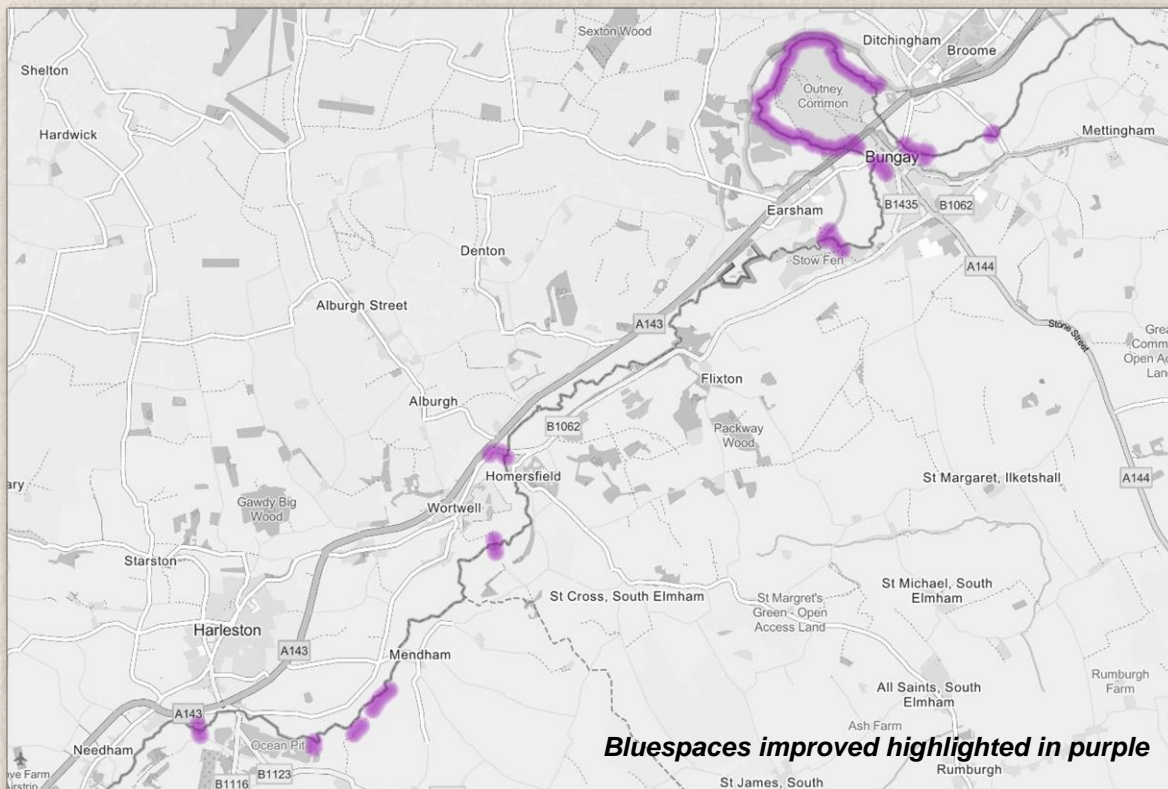
Lead Partner

River Waveney Trust

Location	Bluespaces improved	Delivery Year	Project value
Bungay, Homersfield, Mendam	6.8km	2021	£85,000

## Project Overview

The River Waveney Trust, Essex & Suffolk Water and other partners have improved 6.8km of Bluespaces. The project has helped enhance the in-river habitat of the River Waveney and it has improved biodiversity and access for customers. A new project officer has been working with landowners, volunteers, and the community to identify areas of the river in need of improvement. 20 volunteers have been trained as River Wardens and they regularly carry out surveys.



## Partnership Information

The River Waveney Trust is an environmental charity dedicated to improving and protecting the River Waveney, its tributaries and catchment. The trust work in collaboration with several partners including government agencies, other organisations such as Essex & Suffolk Water, individuals and local community groups. The aim is to manage the River Waveney and the surrounding land using catchment and integrated approaches. Volunteers are essential to the charity and carry out practical conservation work in the catchment – there are three local groups who manage sites along the river.

## Project Achievements

### Access, facilities, and recreation

- Engagement and media events have raised the number of active volunteers along to river to 27.
- 18 focus sites involving 13 landowners have been identified and targeted for continuing improvements.
- Improved access for canoeists and paddleboarders.



**Volunteers installing a woody ledge along the river**

### Wildlife and biodiversity

- River diversity has been improved through re-positioning of woody material.
- Volunteer days have been spent removing blockages and litter from the river.
- Locations with landowners have been agreed to install woody ledges, woody tree material and planting riparian trees.
- Advice has been given to landowners on when woody material can be left, removed, or repositioned.



**Trained River Wardens surveying and identifying areas for improvement.**

### Water quality

- Rubbish and blockages have been removed from the river and instream woody material has been managed. Large fallen trees have been moved elsewhere and they have been pinned to prevent flooding later.
- River buffer techniques and natural regeneration has been discussed with landowners.

## Testimonials

*“Thanks to the surveys carried out by our volunteer river wardens taking part in the Canoe Access and biodiversity, we have pinpointed many problems facing the river. Key to the work is sharing our understanding of how trees in the channel can play a vital role in river health but intervening where needed to maintain paddle access. Receiving £8000 from Bluespaces has helped us achieve our project aims and provided valuable match funding which helped us secure the Green Recovery Challenge Fund grant”*

**Kate Utting, Rivers Project Officer, River Waveney Trust**

