

## Water Environment Improvements Project Evidence Form

### Scope & Purpose

This form is to be used by the external Water Environment Governance Group (WEGG), to review, validate and formally approve the length of bluespaces improved for the Water Environment Improvements ODI. The form will be completed by the Water Environment Team with support from project partners and presented to the WEGG. After formal approval, the km of water environment improved will be recorded against the ODI and projects will be marked as completed on the Water Environment Scorecard and illustrated as delivered in the Bluespaces Mapping Portals.

### Project Name

Diss Water Environment Improvements Project

### Project Lead

Company/ Organisation	Named Lead	Position
River Waveney Trust Groundwork	Martha Meek Kerry Stranix	Development manager

### Bluespaces Improved

Year	Claimed	Proposed	Reason For Any Change
Year 3	3.1 km	3.1 km	N/A

### Water Environment Assurance

This project has been reviewed internally to ensure it has delivered benefits above and beyond our baseline and regulatory obligations to improve the water environment accessible to customers across at least two out of three aspects. Following our assurance process, the project was approved by both our internal and external groups for review before delivery. This form presents evidence of project completion and the outputs achieved, to request project sign off.

Level	Project Acceptance Date	Project Approval Date	Completed Project Sign Off Date
Project Team	January 2022	January 2022	N/A
Water Environment Steering Group (Internal)	January 2022	January 2022	N/A
Water Environment Governance Group (External)	January 2022	January 2022	May 2023

### Project Timescales

Candidate Project Approved	Project Initiated	Project Completed
January 2022	April 2022	April 2023 and ongoing

## Project Summary and Highlights

### Summary

The River Waveney Trust, Groundwork and the Environment Agency have collaborated and delivered improvements to multiple key sites along the River Waveney around Diss, Suffolk, improving 3.1 km of bluespaces. The project provided natural flood management, river restoration and created additional riparian habitat through the creation of scrapes and tree planting. A major aspect of the project was community engagement and education using the Yellow Fish Campaign, a scheme to raise awareness about sources of water pollution and water quality.

### Highlights

- Riparian tree planting at four sites including native black poplar and wetland habitat creation
- Installation of pre-planted coir rolls at riverside sites, installation of flow deflectors and fish mattresses
- Control of invasive floating pennywort along 2.6km of the river channel
- New conservation grazing plan at Frenze beck
- Guided river walks
- Creation of Yellow Fish stencils next to surface drains to raise awareness, and 8 events were attended to raise awareness including the Diss carnival where Eddy, the Yellow Fish Campaign mascot was part of the procession and attracted a lot of attention
- Targeted visits to local businesses and schools including Diss high school and the primary school, and distribution of River Detectives Handbook, posters and leaflets



**Have you seen this Yellow Fish?**

The Yellow Fish campaign is raising awareness of the pollution in our rivers\* and promoting ways we can all prevent it.

**How you can help:**

- ✓ DO use environmentally friendly cleaning products
- ✓ DO dispose of all litter into bins - including small litter such as cigarette butts
- ✓ DO wash vehicles less often
- ✗ DON'T dispose of chemicals, fats or oils in sinks, drains, toilets, etc.
- ✗ DON'T put any litter down the drain

**>> Most importantly, remember that 'only rain goes down the drain'**

\*Our rivers are polluted with chemical from detergents, heavy metals and oil from vehicles and litter disposed of poorly.

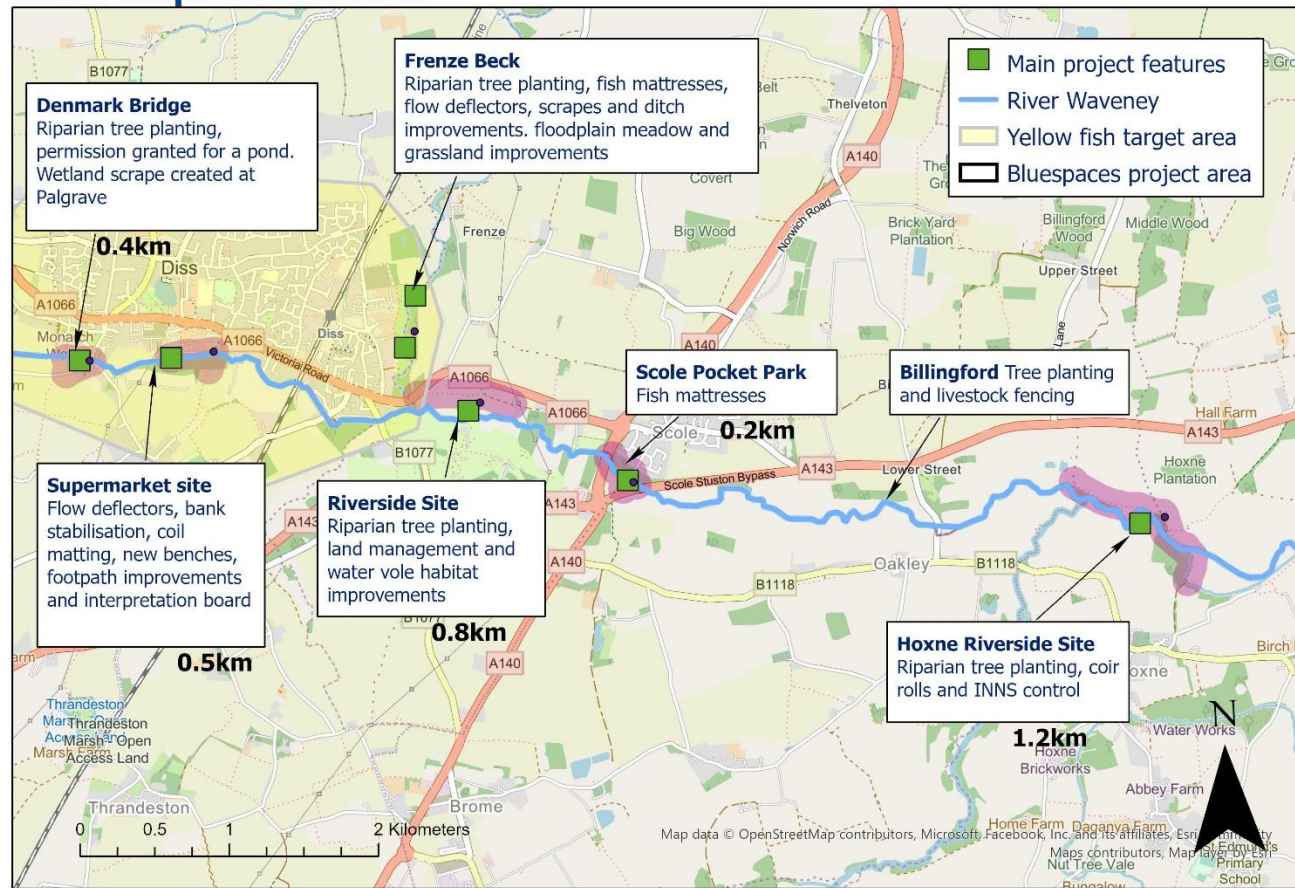
Remember to look out for the yellow fish stenciled next to drains in your area!

Find out more:  
[www.groundwork.org.uk/projects/yellow-fish/](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/projects/yellow-fish/)  
[yellowfish@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:yellowfish@groundwork.org.uk)  
 01473 350370

Eddy at the Diss Carnival and a Yellow Fish campaign poster

Maps


### Diss Improvements



Total Length of Bluespaces: 3.1km

Figure 1: Bluespaces improved in and around Di

## Project Outputs, Benefits & Evidence Against Criteria

Access, Facilities & Recreation	
Expected Project Outcomes	Benefits
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Installation of benches and footpath enhancements to increase access to and enjoyment of the water environment</li> <li>2. Yellow Fish campaign, wildlife mural, interpretation board and public engagement activities to positively influence environmental behaviours</li> <li>3. Education and enhanced engagement with the local environment will benefit health and wellbeing of the local community</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A1: Increases access to, engagement with and enjoyment of the water environment</li> <li>A2: Benefits health and wellbeing</li> <li>➤ A3: Influences positive environmental behaviors</li> </ul>
Outputs	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Riverside coppicing was carried out to improve light levels and views to the river and a new interpretation board and bench were installed at the supermarket site to increase access to, engagement with and enjoyment of the water environment</li> <li>2. Over 80 businesses were visited in Diss, 2 primary schools and 1 high school and over 4000 engagement materials were distributed helping raise awareness and influence positive environmental behaviours. Schools participated in river surveys increasing engagement with and awareness of the water environment</li> <li>3. To promote the project within the local community, a stand at the local market was booked on three occasions and information about the Yellow Fish campaign and the river restoration projects delivered</li> </ol>	
Evidence	
 <p>The Yellow Fish campaign is raising awareness of the pollution in our rivers* and promoting ways we can all prevent it.</p> <p><b>What is the Yellow Fish campaign?</b> Did you know that most drains go directly to the river? Our rivers can easily be polluted with chemicals from detergents, heavy metals and oil from vehicles and litter disposed of poorly. The Yellow Fish campaign exists to raise awareness and promote good practice to ensure that only rain goes down the drain.</p> <p><b>How can you help?</b> Follow these tips to reduce your impact on your river:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ DO use environmentally friendly cleaning products</li> <li>✓ DO dispose of all litter into bins - including small litter such as cigarette butts</li> <li>✓ DO wash vehicles less often</li> <li>✗ DON'T dispose of chemicals, fats or oils in sinks, drains, toilets, etc.</li> <li>✗ DON'T put any litter down the drain</li> </ul> <p>➤➤ <b>Most importantly, remember that 'only rain goes down the drain'</b></p>	
<p>Kick sampling, riverside coppicing and promotional material produced as part of the Yellow Fish campaign</p>	

**Wildlife & Biodiversity**

**Expected Project Outcomes**

1. Installation of fish mattresses and pre-planted coir matting to improve the abundance and distribution of species
2. Creation of wetland habitat and planting of riparian trees to improve the quantity, quality, and connectivity of habitats
3. Control of invasive non-native species to benefit the aquatic environment

**Benefits**

- B1: Improves the quantity, quality and connectivity of habitats
- B2: Improves the conservation status and or abundance or distribution of species
- B3: Reduces risk or impact of invasive non-native species (INNS)

**Outputs**

1. Pre-planted coir matting, and fish mattresses were installed at multiple sites to help improve the abundance and distribution of aquatic species and to enhance connectivity
2. Riparian tree planting including native Black Poplar were planted at four separate riverside sites, plans for a pond are progressing well following a successful planning application and a wetland scrape and alterations to drainage to encourage more water onto the floodplain have been achieved
3. Volunteers carried out floating pennywort removal along 2.6km of the river channel reducing the impact of this non-native invasive species

**Evidence**



Tree planting, wetland scrape creation and installation of coir matting along the riverbank

Water Quality

Expected Project Outcomes

Benefits

1. Work with the community, schools and local businesses to raise awareness of pollution issues and sources to help reduce pollutants entering the aquatic environment
2. Installation of flow deflectors, wetland scrapes and stabilisation of banks to help contribute towards good ecological status and naturalisation of the water course
3. Volunteer and community litter picks to remove litter within the water environment

- C1: Reduces pollutants entering waters from point or diffuse sources
- C2: Contributes towards improved status or no deterioration of rivers or bathing waters or protecting drinking water
- C3: Improves state and function of water, including naturalisation, visual appearance, litter and odour

Outputs

1. Several outreach events were provided to local businesses, schools and within the local community helping to raise awareness and subsequently reduce pollution and contribute towards improved condition and protection of drinking water.
2. Flow deflectors and coil matting have been installed at multiple sites and a large wetland scrape created helping contribute towards improve status and naturalisation of the river
3. Litter picking sessions were run along the river at key sites within and around Diss with several bags of rubbish and debris removed

Evidence

No.	Business Name	Sector	Informa	Area	on/plan	No.	Business Name	Sector	Informa	Area	on/plan
1	Traffic Parkers	Builders/Members	Diss	5 leaf	51	Tourist Information		Diss	5 leaf		
2	ATF	Garage	Diss	5 leaf	52	Mu Millie Bar and Garden	Bar/Shop	Diss	1 poster		
3	Brands Cupini	Commercial/Brewer	Diss	5 leaf	53	Willace	Estate agents	Diss	5 leaf		
4	Maggie's Cycles	Bicycle Shop	Diss	5 leaf	54	Elia Corrie	Kilt Shop	Diss	5 leaf		
5	Diss Park Radio	Local radio	Diss	1 poster	55	The Dealer's Choice	Game shop	Diss	1 poster		
6	Balauw Fish and Chip	Take away	Diss	5 leaf	56	Tasco	Supermarket	Diss	1 poster		
7	VE Hair	hairdresser	Diss	5 leaf	57	Job	Supermarket	Diss	1 poster		
8	Diss Makers 21	Knitwear shop	Diss	5 leaf	58	Timprints	Photo repair Etc	Diss	5 leaf		
9	Control	Wine	Diss	5 leaf	59	1	Supermarket	Diss	1 poster		
10	1001 of Diss	Craft Shop	Diss	5 leaf	60	Bride Animal Rescue	Charity shop	Diss	20 leaf		
11	Southend Pub	Pub	Diss	1 poster	61	Mr. Nils Bar and Garden	Garden Centre	Diss	5 leaf		
12	Diss Deli and Espresso Bar	Cafe	Diss	5 leaf	62	Clipsa Time	Health shop	Diss	5 leaf		
13	Diss Iron Works	Iron Works	Diss	5 leaf	63	Mobile Arcade	Phone repair shop	Diss	1 poster		
14	Sentimental Barbers	Barbers	Diss	5 leaf	64	Workforce Records	Music shop	Diss	1 poster		
15	Rooms with a View	Interior design	Diss	5 leaf	65	Diss Wool and Craft Shop	Craft Shop	Diss	5 leaf		
16	Summidge Cafe	Cafe	Diss	1 poster	66	Natural Food Store	Food shop	Diss	5 leaf		
17	Home Shop	Shoe shop	Diss	5 leaf	67	101 Choice	Take away	Diss	10 leaf		
18	Coopers & Coars	hairdressers	Diss	5 leaf	68	Mixable and Soap	Beauty product	Diss	5 leaf		
19	A Brown & Son	Butchers	Diss	5 leaf	69	Beauty Room	Salon	Diss	5 leaf		
20	108C	Bank	Diss	1 poster	70	Green Door	Antique shop	Diss	1 poster		
21	Packed	Charity shop	Diss	5 leaf	71	Co-Op	Food	Diss	5 leaf		
22	James & Ford	Ironmongers	Diss	5 leaf	72	Dunants	Butcher	Diss	5 leaf		
23	Quam	Charity shop	Diss	1 poster	73	Fleur Artisan	Green Grocers	Diss	5 leaf		
24	Stions	Opticians	Diss	1 poster	74	Dishouse Foods		Diss	5 leaf		
25	Dunrosts	Estate Agents	Diss	1 poster	75	Local Food bank		Diss	5 leaf		
26	Widau and Parish	Estate agents	Diss	1 poster	76	Angie Catering		Diss	5 leaf		
27	Barclays	Bank	Diss	1 poster	77	KDD Group		Diss	5 leaf		
28	Diss Emporium	Antique shop	Diss	1 poster	78	MV & Son		Diss	5 leaf		
29	Diss Cobb	Print Shop	Diss	1 poster	79	Imag		Diss	5 leaf		
30	Boston	Owner	Diss	1 poster	80	Alisha Gorn		Diss	5 leaf		
31	Cafe Culture	Cafe	Diss	1 poster	81	M/D Saunders Motor		Diss	5 leaf		
32	Library		Diss	10 leaf	82	Food Pack Ingredients		Diss	5 leaf		
33	Jobcentre		Diss	20 leaf	83	BAT Circuit Services		Diss	5 leaf		
34	Leslie Ward	Kilt Shop	Diss	1 poster	84	Carcraft		Diss	5 leaf		
35	Travis Hie building society	Bank	Diss	5 leaf	85	All Bolt Garage		Diss	5 leaf		
36	Chai Clothing Co.	Clothing store	Diss	5 leaf	86	Parmastore		Diss	5 leaf		
37	Backford and Lewis Financial planner	Financial business	Diss	5 leaf	87	Bartrom		Diss	5 leaf		
38	Erax	Clothing and Gifts	Diss	5 leaf	88	Scramary and Thome		Diss	5 leaf		
39	Dixie and Conroy Opticians	Optician	Diss	5 leaf	89	Taxiforge		Diss	5 leaf		
40	Timprints	Shoe repair	Diss	5 leaf	90	Buiba	Brewing company	Diss	5 leaf		
41	Holland and Barratts	Health foods	Diss	1 poster	91	TBOO Coopsfit	Fitness centre	Diss	5 leaf		
42	Diss Town Council	Local Authority	Diss	20 leaf	92	BGM Seafood	Buy and distribute seafood	Diss	5 leaf		
43	The Card Shop	Card	Diss	5 leaf	93	C&K Meats	Process and distribute meat	Diss	5 leaf		
44	Police Creative	Kilt shop	Diss	5 leaf	94	Wrightfield	Manufacture and fit conspurcubits	Diss	5 leaf		
45	Tatters Boutique	Clother	Diss	5 leaf	95	FX Industrial Turgo	Fixer	Diss	5 leaf		
46	Solverey Opticians	Opticians	Diss	1 poster	96	Camstar Ingredients	Health processor and distributor	Diss	5 leaf		
47	Mind	Charity shop	Diss	5 leaf	97	Susan Whitlock Funeral Services	Undertaker	Diss	5 leaf		
48	Boyd and Co.	Clothes	Diss	5 leaf	98	Pat's C&C	Refuse disposal/joints	Diss	5 leaf		
49	C&G Deller	Cafe	Diss	1 poster	99	Indes Fixer	Autoing Garage	Diss	5 leaf		
50	Flour and Bean Craft Bakery	Bakery	Diss	1 poster	100	Progress Bounce and Fitness	Bounce centre	Diss	5 leaf		
Total number of promotion material distributed											514



Businesses visited in Diss as part of the Yellow Fish Campaign and installation of flow deflectors and coir matting

**Additional & Secondary Benefits**

Expected Project Outcomes	Benefits
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The addition of natural flood management into the Waveney and the creation of wetland scrapes and ditch improvements to help reduce the risk of flooding downstream. Awareness of NFM to be raised through stakeholder events and workshops</li> <li>2. Improve access to riverside areas and offer business volunteer days to provide benefits to the community</li> <li>3. Increase awareness of the water environment and water management will help benefit ESW</li> <li>4. Provision of match funding to unlock further investment through the Water Environment Improvements Fund</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ D1: Provides resilience and adaptation to climate change and/or reduces the risk of flooding</li> <li>➤ D2: Provides benefits to local communities, the local economy or NWG</li> <li>➤ D3: Supports strategic project or investment into strategic partnership or landscape/regional activity</li> </ul>

**Outputs**

1. Advice on the benefits of NFM and on managing water courses and riverbanks provided to local landowners and NFM installed at various strategic points along the River Waveney. The River Waveney Trust ran a NFM conference in April 2022 which engaged many members of the community and led to the successful development of a new NFM project in the area to be delivered with a new project officer
2. The popular area by the supermarket has been improved for visitors and the local community through the installation of benches, interpretation and footpath improvements. Volunteer business days held with local businesses
3. This project has reached a significant number of people living in and around Diss and ESW have been promoted as a project partner
4. The provision of Bluespaces funding successfully secured WEIF funding for the project

**Evidence**

Social media activity associated with the project

Facebook Group	Area covered	Potential Reach
Diss Notice Board	Diss	20.1k
What's happening in Diss and district	Diss	20k
What's on in the Diss, Eye & Harleston area	Diss & Harleston	1.2k
Roydon (Near Diss) Community Page	Diss	877
Diss Mama	Diss	2.1k
Love Diss	Diss	2.3k
Frenze Beck Nature Reserve	Diss	537
Diss and District Angling Club	Diss	2732
Eye Community Hub	Eye	3000
<b>Total Potential Reach</b>		<b>10,669</b>




NFM along the River Waveney

Customer Testimonies & Media

Steven Laurence, Diss Riparian Landowner (Supermarket Site): *“It has regenerated that area and it looks so much healthier already, the work was done professionally, and I think it will make a big impact.”*

Alan Carpenter, Pennywort Volunteer: *“As well as the survey work which I love, I have been part of the group tackling floating pennywort. The group work parties have been well organised with clear objectives, and I believe that we are making a genuine difference in the river quality.”*







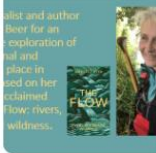


Geoff Roy, volunteer with River Waveney Trust Diss Project: *“Tree planting was done on several stretches of the River Waveney. I have never planted so many trees. It was nice to learn a new task in a beautiful environment, in good company along some delightful stretches of a river. I could see the practical needs to strengthen the river banks. I could see the benefits to both nature and people and, above all, the wildlife that inhabits the terrain surrounding the River. Rivers and land are co-existent and co-dependent, so if we take a catchment-based approach to improving the land management, overall river health will follow. This in turn benefits the whole landscape. Volunteering to do this with like-minded people makes for a very pleasant day out that benefits all who visit the countryside that surrounds the River Waveney”*


River Waveney Trust
⋮


✉ info@riverwaveneytrust.org

🌐 riverwaveneytrust.org

📷 Photos
👁 See all photos


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River Waveney Trust
⋮

🕒 April 1 at 6:23 PM
🌐

We have loved taking part in the [Preventing Plastic Pollution](#) project.  
 200kg of litter collected  
 70kg of that was plastic  
 Half of all the litter was gathered on the stretch of river that runs behind the supermarkets in Diss!  
 Going forward we will be putting together an annual programme of litter picking in the areas that are litter hotspots.  
 Other achievements from the project include making progress with getting public bins installed in places people gather to enjoy the river. 🗑️ 🌿 🌊

[The Rivers Trust](#)  
[#lovethewaveney](#)  
[#endsingleuseplastic](#)  
[#cleanrivers](#)





## Lead Partner Quotes & Testimonials

Emily Winter, River Waveney Trust Catchment Officer: *“Pleased to have been involved in such a wide-reaching project that has engaged directly with the public and encouraged the local community to value and enjoy their local river.”*

Katie Utting, River Waveney Trust Rivers Project Officer: *“The situation with floating pennywort on the Waveney become critical last year, with huge rafts of the plant overtaking large sections of river between Scole and Hoxne. EA funded emergency action and removal was undertaken using a mechanical digger. Successful eradication requires regular removal of fragments and regrowth. Our volunteers have been working weekly to prevent the plant from taking hold again.”*

Other Supporting Evidence

**The River Waveney**

The River Waveney forms the county boundary between Norfolk and Suffolk. It flows from its source at Redgrave to the sea at Great Yarmouth.

It is a classic lowland river, slow flowing and meandering until it becomes tidal as part of the Southern Broads. Joining the River Yare, the Waveney becomes Breydon Water and forms a magnificent estuarine landscape before flowing the final length to the North Sea.

The health of the River Waveney is under threat. These are some of the key issues:

- **Sewage spills** - introduce harmful bacteria and increase nutrient levels fuelling excessive plant and algae growth. This blocks light which reduces oxygen levels making the river an unhealthy place for many insects and fish.
- **Run off from farming** - causes the riverbed to silt up making it a less suitable habitat for fish to spawn. It also increases chemicals and fertiliser in the river.
- **Lack of water** - extended periods of drought combined with abstraction for businesses can lead to parts of the upper catchment drying out, sometimes completely. The concentration of pollutants in the water rises along with the water temperature which can be disastrous for flora and fauna.
- **River modifications** - reduces habitat diversity by creating uniform channels with flat riverbeds and steep, high banks. This means there are fewer places for wildlife to thrive and can also contribute to flooding downstream.



Four spotted chaser  
Kingfisher



Water Vole  
Otter



**What are the River Waveney Trust doing to improve the health of the river in Diss?**

- Adding coir rolls so that riverside plants can grow on the waters edge.
- Managing Frenze Beck Nature Reserve for wildlife and people to enjoy.
- Monitoring water quality.
- Carrying out regular litter picks.

We depend on volunteers to carry out much of this work. To join us or find out more please visit our website:

[www.riverwaveneytrust.org](http://www.riverwaveneytrust.org)

Registered Charity No: 1149960 / Company Registered No: 08138846  
Website Photos: Hadley Knight Photography / Design: www.thecreativeworkshop.co.uk (2022)