

# Wilder Waterways – 2023 – 2024 summary

## Habitat Restoration on SSSI Peatland

Small grants were delivered to 3 farms, contributing towards the restoration of 4.7km of ditch network across the SSSI Peatland.

The works were a mixture of keeching and ditch bank vegetation management.



## Landowner Engagement in the Upper Catchment

5 landowners and 1 tenant farmer covering approximately 454ha have been visited by the BART farming team, and bespoke farming advice on land management, managing watercourses and private and public finance opportunities has been provided.

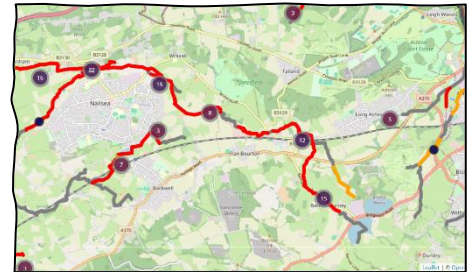
BART have also been looking at soil structure and identifying compaction issues, infiltration rates – drought resilience and run-off/flooding, aspects of land management linked to soil health and carbon sequestration potential of soils.

## Community Engagement

### Land Yeo RiverBlitz:

BART carried out the third Land Yeo RiverBlitz in July 2023, during which Citizen Scientists collected 22 water samples. The results were deeply concerning, with 82% of sites coming back with high levels of nitrates and 27% with high levels of phosphates.

We can identify opportunities from the work conducted through RiverBlitz, which enables us to make improvements to water quality across the Land Yeo catchment.



### Volunteer Days:

12 volunteers took part in practical sessions at Moorend Spout Nature Reserve, to support the work of the Nailsea Environment and Wildlife Trust (NEWT). Their reserve is adjacent to the Land Yeo River and tasks included a hay-cut in the wildflower meadow and scrub management on the fringes of the reserve.

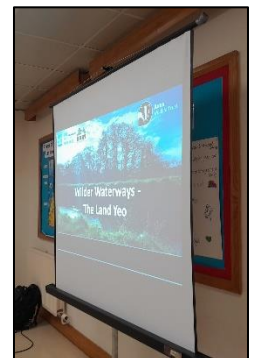
### Guided walks and talks:

AWT led a guided walk for 11 attendees at the Belmont Estate in July 2023, while 20 people attended a talk at the Nailsea Baptist Church Eco Fair in March 2024. Community members were informed about the project and the importance of river health.

### Wellbeing through Nature Walk:

Two walks were held in September 2023, during which the 7 attendees were guided through their local river environment and provided with a space to take notice of their surroundings and absorb the tranquillity.

The ambition is that, by facilitating this kind of activity people will build a meaningful connection with the Land Yeo and the surrounding landscape, and they will begin to see the benefits that this can have on mental and physical wellbeing.



### Comms:

Throughout year 4 of the project, we have continued to use social media, as well as an article in the AWT members magazine, to reach a wide audience.