



Wilder Waterways – The Land Yeo

Avon Wildlife Trust and Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) are working collaboratively to deliver and promote a catchment-based approach to enhancing the natural capital of the Land Yeo river and its surrounding landscape.

The river Land Yeo is a 20km river within the North Somerset Streams sub-catchment and feeds the Tickenham, Nailsea and Kenn Moor SSSI and the Severn Estuary SSSI/SAC/SPA. The Land Yeo river sits within the North Somerset Levels and Moors (NSLM), a hugely important coastal wetland habitat, including 1160ha of peatland. Crossed by a series of rivers, the area is drained by an extensive network of waterways and ditches. A key feature of this landscape is the Land Yeo, a heavily modified river that flows through North Somerset. The source of the Land Yeo is located in the Dundry Hills, where it then flows into Barrow tanks - a Bristol Water drinking water reservoir. From here, the river follows a relatively straight course skirting Flax Bourton, it then flows through Nailsea and Clevedon and ends into the Bristol Channel.

The first stage of the project is building the story of the Land Yeo. During the winter of 2020, BART has delivered a series of walkover surveys in order to understand and identify the pressures facing the river and to produce a story map. This work will help develop an improved evidence base for the catchment, identifying key opportunities for habitat creation, enhancement and water quality improvements. BART and AWT will use the evidence derived from surveys and landowner engagement, to develop opportunities that will deliver for greater biodiversity throughout this important landscape alongside engaging the community of landowners and river users through citizen science, walks, talks and farm advice focussed on water quality monitoring, habitat restoration, ongoing management and species recording. We will also be supporting the local community during and post Covid 19 with wellbeing through nature sessions.

BART will lead an annual water blitz for the Land Yeo & NSLM to engage local community groups which will sit alongside the main Bristol Avon Catchments Waterblitz event. This citizen science project will be used to identify areas for further investigation of water quality issues.

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.



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