

# A Better Biss Approach (ABBA) | 2023-24 Review

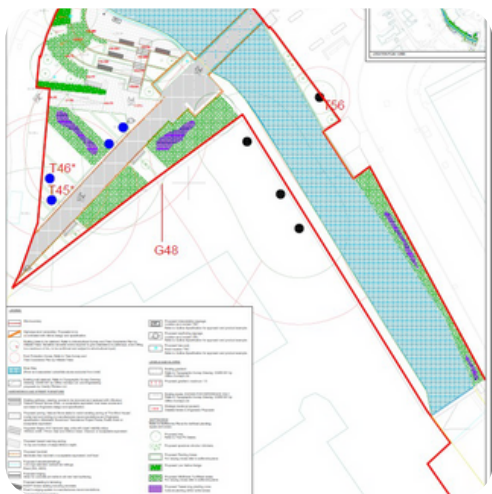
ABBA is a multi-year project led by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust bringing together a number of partners to deliver a range of projects across the Biss catchment to:

- restore and enhance the Biss catchment to improve habitat to create spaces that are great for wildlife and people to share
- increase engagement with the river among landowners, communities and businesses, leading to a legacy of protection of the river.

## What have we been doing?

### Habitat Improvement

With match funding from the Water Environment Improvement Fund, two new wetland scrapes were created at Biss Meadows. These scrapes will intercept floodwaters coming off fields, limiting potential pollutants in the river, as well as providing valuable water storage in the floodplain.

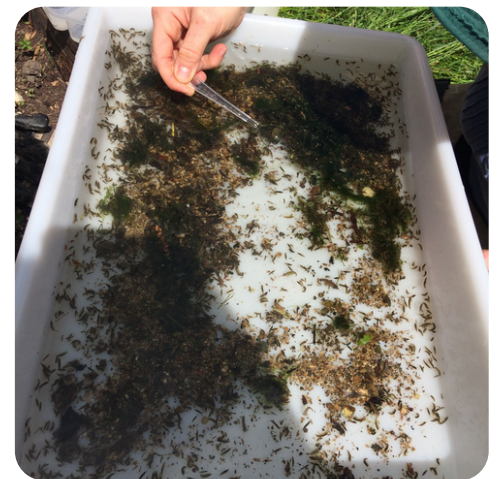


### Future Highstreets Fund

Following extensive design and costing works, two elements have been developed for the project, in-channel and out of bank works. The in-channel works will consist of a series rock berms, planted with wetland species to provide both habitat and flow diversity. Following the weir assessments, the in-channel works will also involve actions to improve fish passage. The out of bank works will involve improvements to the riparian corridor, including a new pocket park, and viewing platform; both aimed at improving the communities' connection to the river.

### Community Initiatives & Citizen Science

ABBA supported BART's annual riverblitz again this year, holding an event in Trowbridge to engage local residents and maximise sampling along the Biss and its tributaries. The Water Guardians project, also funded by Wessex Water, continues to grow with 11 volunteers now monitoring the Biss Catchment. With help from volunteers we continued our annual removal of the invasive non-native plant Himalayan balsam from the Lambrok Stream. Two identification course for fungi and dragonflies were held in Trowbridge and well attended by staff and volunteers.



Contact [water@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:water@wiltshirewildlife.org) for more information or to get involved.