

# A Better Biss Approach (ABBA) | 2021-22 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 be doing?

### Habitat Improvement

With the help of over 250 volunteer hours we were able to create over 0.5ha of habitat and restore 800m of the River Biss and its tributaries. Projects include woody habitat at Biss Meadows, bank regrading and protection in Westbury on the Bitham Brook, create of ponds and balsam bashing on the Lambrok.



### Designing and Developing

Throughout the year we've been developing and designing projects across the catchment for the next 3 years of the project. These include securing funding to deliver improvements to the Town Pond in Trowbridge, wetland creation through Southwick Country Park, assessing opportunities to improve barriers in the River Biss and an exciting project with Wiltshire Council's Future High Street Fund project enhancing the Biss corridor through the centre of Trowbridge.

### Community Initiatives & Citizen Science

The team have been continuing community engagement across the catchment and developing a network of citizen scientists monitoring river health. We have 7 new riverfly volunteers set up to monitor invertebrate life and 5 Wessex Water Guardians surveying the rivers for pollution. The school art competition in the spring had over 100 entries from Trowbridge primary schools with winners chosen by Trowbridge Environmental Community. We teamed up with Bristol Avon Rivers Trust to promote the annual Waterblitz event across the catchment and continued with river cleans on the Biss through the heart of Trowbridge.



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