

A Better Biss Approach (ABBA) | 2022-23 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 match funding from the Green Recovery Challenge Fund and support from Wiltshire Council we create a series of wetland scrapes and regraded areas at Southwick Country Park on the Lambrok. This will create diverse marginal habitat along an incised section of river and support a host of invertebrate species along with water voles and birds.



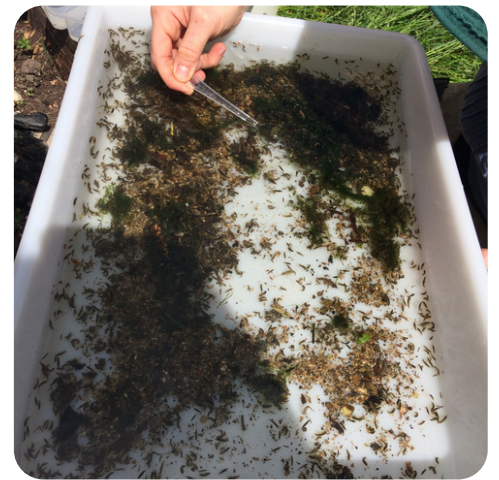
Designing and Developing

The Biss through the centre of Trowbridge is impounded by three separate weirs. With match funding from the Environment Agency's Fisheries Improvement Programme we were able to undertake a weir appraisal to identify opportunities to improve fish passage along the Biss. Options include downstream baffles to reduce the impoundment and enable fish migration upstream.

We have also been further developing the detailed designs for in-channel and riparian corridor enhancements to the Biss as part of Trowbridge's Future High Streets Fund project.

Community Initiatives & Citizen Science

ABBA supported BART's annual riverblitz, holding an event in Trowbridge to engage local residents and maximise sampling along the Biss and its tributaries. Further to this we were able to train 7 new Riverfly monitors within the catchment to undertake monthly health checks of the river. We continue to lead the Wessex Water Guardians project and now have 8 active monitors walking the Biss looking for signs of pollution. With help from volunteers we continued our annual removal of the invasive non-native plant Himalayan balsam from the Lambrok Stream.



Contact water@wiltshirewildlife.org for more information or to get involved.