Water Environment Improvements
Project Evidence Form

Scope & Purpose

This form is to be used by the external Water Environment Governance Group (WEGG), to review, validate and formally approve the length of bluespaces improved for the Water Environment Improvements ODI. The form will be completed by the Water Environment Team with support from project partners and presented to the WEGG. After formal approval, the km of water environment improved will be recorded against the ODI and projects will be marked as completed on the Water Environment Scorecard and illustrated as delivered in the Bluespaces Mapping Portals.

Project Name

Tin River Restoration and Flood Management Project

Project Lead

Company/ Organisation	Named Lead	Position
The River Waveney Trust	Angela Lamb	River Restoration Officer

Bluespaces Improved

Year	Claimed	Originally Proposed	Reason For Any Change
5	2.4 km	3.1 km	Landowner constraints with the announcement of halting funding for Environmental Stewardship schemes

Water Environment Assurance

This project has been reviewed internally to ensure it has delivered benefits above and beyond our baseline and regulatory obligations to improve the water environment accessible to customers across at least two out of three aspects. Following our assurance process, the project was approved by both our internal and external groups for review before delivery. This form presents evidence of project completion and the outputs achieved, to request project sign off.

Level	Project Acceptance Date	Project Approval Date	Completed Project Sign Off Date
Project Team	August 2024	N/A	N/A
Water Environment Steering Group (Internal)	August 2024	September 2024	N/A
Water Environment Governance Group (External)	September 2024	September 2024	June 2025

Project Timescales

Candidate Project Approved	Project Initiated	Project Completed
September 2024	September 2024	March 2025

Project Summary and Highlights

Summary

The River Waveney Trust and NWG have improved 2.4 km of accessible water environment along the Tin River. The creation of a 3D water buffer (trees and shrubs forming a habitat strip along the river), interpretation, and a community litter pick have increased wildlife diversity, improved water quality and created a more enjoyable area for those that walk in the water environment.

Highlights

- Interpretation signage highlighting the Tin River project has been purchased and produced and is to be installed, helping the public to engage with their water environment.
- A 3D water buffer of 1 ha of trees and shrubs has enhanced the quality of the river for wildlife, will help reduce diffuse pollutants from entering the river, and will create greater natural beauty along the river for footpath users.
- A community litter pick engaged 16 volunteers to enhance the water environment for wildlife and reduce pollution along the Tin River. Volunteers removed 11 bags of rubbish and several large items including a trampoline and motor bike that had been there for years from the Tin River.

Part of the 3D water buffer next to the Tin River

Maps

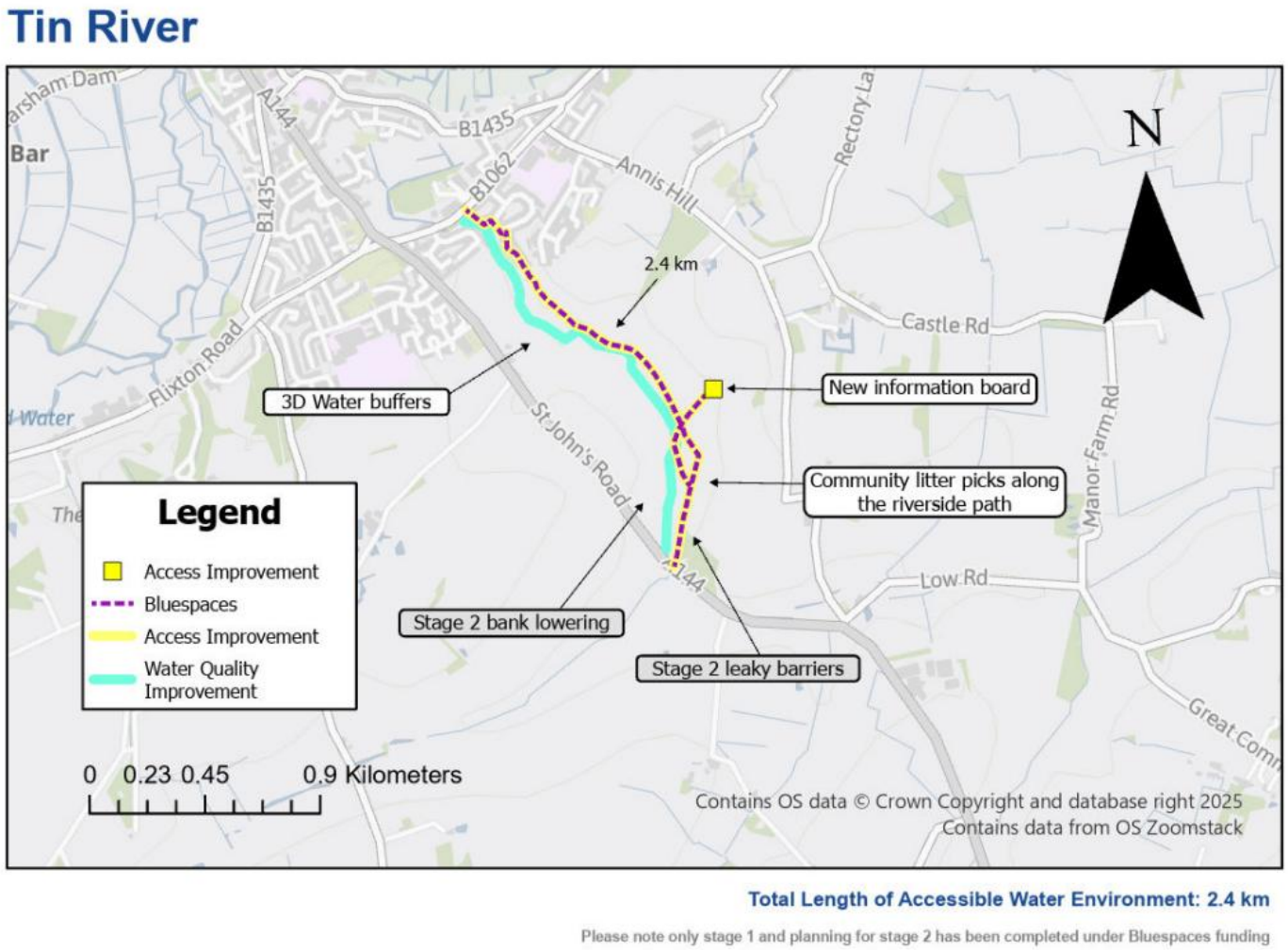


Figure 1: Bluespaces improved at the Tin River

Project Outputs, Benefits & Evidence Against Criteria

Access, Facilities & Recreation

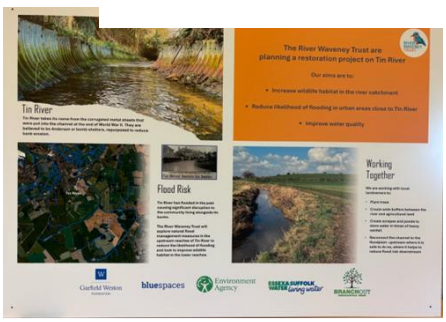
Expected Project Outcomes	Benefits
1. The creation of 3D water buffers alongside the river will create a greener and more diverse wildlife corridor that has a greater natural beauty and aims to encourage greater use of the footpaths by walkers. 2. An interpretation board will be installed about the history of the tin and its impact on the river providing information to the community and visitors from elsewhere. 3. Access to, engagement and enjoyment of the water environment will be enhanced by at least one community litter pick, which will also help influence positive environmental behaviours.	➢ A1: Increases access to, engagement with and enjoyment of the water environment ➢ A2: Benefits health and wellbeing through: ➢ A3: Influences positive environmental behaviors

Outputs

1. The creation of 3D water buffers by planting 850 native trees over 1 ha alongside the river has created a greener and more diverse wildlife corridor that as the trees grow will have a greater natural beauty and encourage greater use of the footpath by walkers.
2. An interpretation board has been produced and purchased and will be installed shortly (design shown below)
3. A community litter pick has enhanced access to, engagement with and enjoyment of the water environment, alongside influencing positive environmental behaviors in volunteers, 16 volunteers attended the event. 11 bags of rubbish were removed from the reiver, including several large items including a trampoline and motor bike that had been there for years.

Evidence

Volunteers carrying out a litter pick on the Tin River



Interpretation board – soon to be installed where it can be viewed from the public footpath

Wildlife & Biodiversity

Expected Project Outcomes	Benefits
1. The quality of the river will be improved by the 3D water buffers creating a wildlife refuge in a predominantly arable environment. This will create greater connectivity to small pockets of woodland and hedgerows in the wider landscape. 2. Community litter picks will also improve the quality of the habitat by removing rubbish and non-natural materials.	➢ B1: Improves the quantity, quality and connectivity of habitats

Outputs

1. The 3D buffer strip has been installed, the 1ha of trees and shrubs planted over a larger habitat strip total an area of 1.65ha. Once established the habitat strip will create a wildlife refuge in a predominantly arable area enhancing connectivity to small pockets of woodland and hedgerows in the wider landscape. The quality of the river environment is expected to improve following this habitat creation and diffuse pollution prevention measure.

2. A community litter pick has improved the quality of the habitat by removing 11 bags of rubbish and several other large non-natural materials from the river.

Evidence

Volunteers planting trees and shrubs as part of the 3D buffer strip along the Tin River

Volunteers removing an old motor bike from the channel – locals report that this has been there for several years

Water Quality

Expected Project Outcomes	Benefits
1. Diffuse pollutants from sediment and nutrients from arable soils washing into the river will be reduced through the 3D buffers. 2. Community litter picks will also reduce water pollution. 3. Pollutants will be reduced entering into the Tin River and also the downstream river Waveney.	➢ C1: Reduces pollutants entering waters from point or diffuse sources ➢ C2: Contributes towards improved status or no deterioration of rivers or bathing waters or protecting drinking water

Outputs

1. The 3D buffer created is a diffuse pollution prevention measure which is expected to improve the quality of the river environment. Once it establishes will reduce sediment and agricultural pollution washing into the channel. With one landowner having carried out this work and others in discussion the area given over to habitat strips or buffers is likely to continue to increase.
2. A community litter pick has reduced plastic pollution are large obstructions in the waterways. A legacy of an engaged community continuing to manage litter should help maintain improvements.
3. Improvements delivered to the Tin River, and land owner interest elsewhere, will also impact the River Waveney downstream.

Evidence

Volunteers removing remove an old plastic trampoline from the channel – locals report that this has been there for several years

Additional & Secondary Benefits

Expected Project Outcomes	Benefits
1. The local community will benefit from the increased natural beauty of the riverside footpath, and also reduced flood risk. Buffers will increase the capacity of the channel during times of heavy rain and reduce the speed at which it moves through the channel and into the river Waveney. 2. Plans for Stage 2 of the project will design the removal of the majority of the tin, the installation of leaky barriers and bank lowering. These will aim to restore ground water infiltration, increase habitat for aquatic plants and invertebrates, slow the flow of water, and reconnect the river to its floodplain. This would encourage a greater diversity of vegetation in the re-wetted areas which would support a broader diversity of wildlife and provide resilience to flooding. 3. This project is part of the 'Increasing Resilience in the Waveney Valley' programme	➢ D1: Provides resilience and adaptation to climate change and/or reduces the risk of flooding ➢ D2: Provides benefits to local communities, the local economy or NWG ➢ D3: Supports strategic project or investment into strategic partnership or landscape/regional activity

Outputs

1. The local community is already benefiting from the increased natural beauty of the riverside footpath, and is expecte**d** to benefit from reduced flood risk as the 3D buffer strip establishes. Buffers will increase the capacity of the channel during times of heavy rain and reduce the speed at which it moves through the channel and into the river Waveney.
2. Plans for Stage 2 of the project have evolved and are now focusing on further developing the draft designs for three meadow areas where biodiversity can be increased, water storage areas can be created and floodplain connection can be restored. Plans for Stage 2 are available on request
3. All improvements to the Tin River will have a positive impact on water quality and flood risk in the Waveney Valley downstream of Tin River.

Evidence

Part of the newly planted 3D buffer strip next to the Tin River and the public footpath

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Customer Testimonies & Media

I really enjoyed the tin river litter pick, I walk it up to the main road and along it over Manor Farm land most days and so it was good to give something back so to speak, I would be happy to help out again.

Volunteer

Lead Partner Quotes & Testimonials

This has been a fantastic project to get work underway on Tin River and to explore the possibilities of future work within the catchment. We've planted trees and shrubs, which will add greater diversity of habitat in an agricultural landscape and benefit water quality. We've removed lots of rubbish, we've connected with the local community and established good relationships with the riparian landowners. We have also developed plans for stage two of the project which will bring about benefits to wildlife habitat, enhancements to blue spaces accessed by the people of Bungay, a reduction in flood risk and improvements to water quality. We look forward to developing these projects further and working with landowners to deliver them.

Ange Lamb, River Waveney Trust