



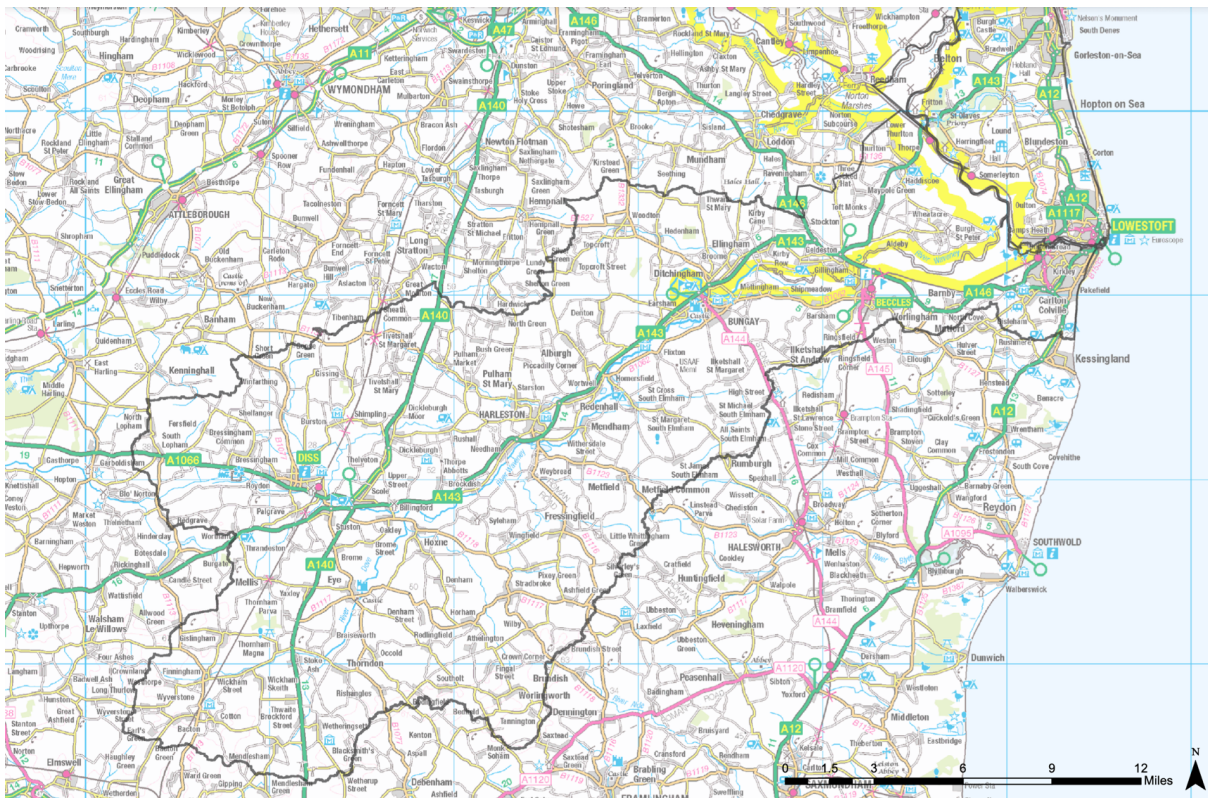
FUNDED BY EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

4 Rivers Restoration Project

River Waveney Workshop Report

To create a resilient and nature-rich River Waveney Valley landscape for the benefit of the whole community now and in the future. Building on a strong heritage and identity, strengthening our connection with the river and celebrating what makes the Waveney special.

(Vision from the community)



The River Waveney Catchment (source: River Waveney Trust)

April 2026

Table of Contents

What's the Four Rivers Project about?	4
Phase One – Stakeholder & Community Workshops	4
How Healthy is the River Waveney?	4
What are the Threats to the River Waveney?	5
Resources and Opportunities	6
Initiatives Proposed for the River Waveney	7
What are the Key Priorities for the Waveney Community?.....	10
What Factors are Critical for Success?	10
Are there Barriers to Implementation?.....	11
Conclusions	12
What's Next?.....	13
Appendices:	13

What's the Four Rivers Project about?

Led by the Deben Climate Centre and funded by East Suffolk Council, it aims to accelerate the ecological restoration of the Rivers Waveney, Alde/Ore, Blyth and Deben through community engagement. The project responds to a well-documented crisis in river health affecting water quality, biodiversity and flood/drought risk across Suffolk, mirroring nationwide challenges.

This first phase of the project gathers and grades on-the-ground, workable initiatives from stakeholders and the community in the Waveney river catchment that will improve biodiversity and water quality while developing flood-resilient communities, catalyse collaboration and scale up current citizen science activities.

Phase One – Stakeholder & Community Workshops

Stakeholders were engaged first, to provide a current situation assessment of each river's ecological status, and to identify threats, opportunities and potential initiatives for each of the four rivers. Stakeholders comprised both executives and technical staff from regulatory, advisory and political bodies such as the Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council and Natural England, as well as Anglian Water and expert organisations such as Suffolk Wildlife Trust, SFWAG and the University of Suffolk.

The stakeholder results were shared with each river catchment community in four separate workshops – one for each of the Waveney, Blyth, Deben and Alde/Ore. Based on local on ground knowledge and using MARISCO results-chain methodology and an Integrated Local Delivery (ILD) framework (*see appendix A*), each community reviewed stakeholder assessments and initiatives and proposed new initiatives.

At the Waveney Community workshop were District and Parish councils, local community groups already active in the catchment such as the Waveney River Trust, Bungay Youth Project and Bungay Conservation Volunteers as well as representation from farm clusters such as the Alde and Ore Farm Cluster, landowners and stakeholders (*for full list of attendees see appendix B*).

How Healthy is the River Waveney?

The River Waveney is a slow-flowing lowland river stretching nearly 59 miles with a catchment of 339 square miles and a fall of just 20 metres from source to sea. It is tidal up to Geldeston and reaches the sea at Great Yarmouth, with an earlier outlet at Lowestoft.

Despite good to moderate ecological health assessments by the Environment Agency in 2022, the health of the Waveney is now quite mixed along its length, rated as poor in many parts. Above Diss, at Fritton Decoy and the Frenz Beck to Dove section of the

Waveney, it was rated ecologically poor. The River Waveney Trust noted that the river faces significant pressures including pollution from sewage, agriculture, and industry, chronically low flows, low oxygen levels that have caused fish deaths, and physical obstructions such as weirs — the first encountered at Ellingham — which block both water flow and wildlife passage. The river has been heavily modified through straightening, and its catchment suffers from habitat loss, heavy compacted clay soils, and poor aquifer recharge even during flood events.

Despite these challenges, the Waveney retains considerable value as a natural asset, with meaningful ecological value – according to the EA, viable fish populations exist in upper reaches, aquatic biodiversity monitoring is considered a high priority, and there is active work on natural flood management, floodplain reconnection, and habitat restoration at multiple sites along the catchment. This is reflected in good to moderate water quality and climate resilience in some parts.

The river offers tranquillity and recreational opportunities including swimming, paddle boarding and boating, and encompasses important sites such as Lopham Fens and Redgrave.

(For summary of notes from River Waveney Trust, see synopsis in appendix C)

What are the Threats to the River Waveney?

The River Waveney faces a large number of severe and interconnected threats. The most critical threats centre around the river's reduced capacity to retain and manage water flow, shown in reduced water resources and drought, non-tidal flooding affecting property, and riparian habitat loss and degradation.

Ecological pressures compound the problem. Invasive species such as Himalayan balsam and pennywort blight stretches of the river, while physical barriers such as weirs block the migration of fish and eels. The Environment Agency has confirmed viable fish populations exist upstream, but this information is not shared effectively; a general lack of data and public awareness around fish populations makes it harder to build a case for action. Neonicotinoid pesticide levels were found at acute levels in a 2017 Buglife report, and soil losses from agricultural land remain an ongoing concern, with peatland and marshes along the valley in a degraded state. Tackling this depends on landowner engagement, described as very difficult but essential. The impact of the Essex and Suffolk Water pipe remains unknown.

Pollution and infrastructure present a further layer of threat. Diffuse pollution was rated as high-to moderate criticality, with Diss Sewage Treatment Works flagged as a higher and most significant concern. Tidal flooding, saline incursion, disturbance from public access, and energy infrastructure projects were all recognised as persistent challenges – the latter acknowledged as largely beyond local stakeholders' influence. General water abstraction was similarly rated.

Meanwhile, soil loss from agricultural land remains an ongoing concern, with peatland and marshes along the valley in a degraded state. Tackling this depends on landowner engagement, which was described as very difficult to achieve, but essential for the long-term health of the catchment.

A lack of institutional coordination and fragmented funding underpins many of these problems. Poor communication between agencies was raised repeatedly. A town council's offer to help slow river flows was dismissed by a water company on funding grounds, illustrating the disconnect between local willingness to act and institutional responsiveness. A tree-planting project in Bungay stalled when maintenance funding ran out – showing the mismatch between short-term funding cycles and the long-term commitment that river restoration demands.

(Marisco-rated threats for the River Waveney are listed in appendix D)

Resources and Opportunities

There is a significant amount of work already going on via passionate community groups that underpin positive action in the catchment. However, a wide range of opportunities were identified across community engagement, funding and land management. There is real potential for powerful, collaborative action.

Nature-based solutions were identified as a key approach for tackling nutrient pollution and enhancing low river flows. There is a need for a central resource facilitator to signpost funding routes and coordinate projects and information sharing. Without this, groups struggle to navigate the fragmented funding landscape. A particular barrier for the Waveney is its location straddling the Suffolk/Norfolk border, which adds administrative complexity to securing funds.

Community and communication was a major theme. There is significant volunteer goodwill and capacity across the catchment, from parish councils to angling clubs and youth organisations' citizen science programmes. The community stressed the value of building direct relationships with farmers, landowners, and community leaders at every level – local, regional, and national. Engaging young people was seen as particularly important, with opportunities through schools, scouts, guides, cadets, Duke of Edinburgh, youth councils, and college links at Otley and Framlingham. Media and social platforms were suggested as tools for broadening reach and accessibility to funding.

Coordination and information sharing emerged as a critical need. There was a call for professional local and regional coordinators or facilitators, perhaps even a roving voluntary consultant to help farmers access funding. Simple factsheets signposting nature-based solutions and funding options would help community groups navigate the

constantly changing landscape. Better communication between large organisations and smaller groups was seen as essential.

Funding sources: Anglian Water's Thriving Communities Fund alongside an £11 million fund available for match funding; the A-WINEP programme for nature-based solutions (requiring match funding); Water Resources East feasibility funding (currently Norfolk only); Natural England funding for SSSIs; Wildlife Trust funding for County Wildlife Sites; Mid Suffolk District Council funding for landscape recovery and BNG offsets, and Essex and Suffolk Water's catchment obligations.

Land management opportunities included identifying landowners with marginal land and linking them together for restoration and biodiversity work. Specific interested parties were named, including a landowner at Worlingham Marshes, Beccles Farms working with the EA on peat re-wetting, and a farmer on Instead Brook keen on nature-based solutions.

Active projects and groups form a substantial existing foundation. These include the River Waveney Catchment Partnership led by Essex and Suffolk Water, Waveney farm clusters facilitated by the River Waveney Trust, multiple RWT projects covering natural flood management, river restoration, citizen water quality testing (piloted in Bungay), river fly monitoring, fish passage work at Starston Beck, and the Tin River Project. Other active work includes Welf-funded floodplain reconnection, pennywort control around Hoxne, Dickleburgh Moor restoration by the Otter Trust, and an IDB drainage board presence. Halesworth alone was noted as having 83 voluntary groups, and a sustainable communities conference supported by the local MP was also referenced. Soon to start in 8 locations as a citizen science water testing group led by Beccles Town Council.

(Resources and opportunities brainstorming results are listed in appendix E)

Initiatives Proposed for the River Waveney

Initiatives were generated by teams of 5-6 participants. Each initiative was scoped out as a work package to analyse how it might be delivered and was then reviewed for likely impact and achievability (high, medium or low) and scored against these criteria (1 being highest). A full list is outlined in Table 1 on page 8.

(For further details of process, grading and a sample work package see appendix F)

Grading key: Impact weighted		
Impact	Achievability	Rank
H	H	1
H	M	2
H	L	3
M	H	4
M	M	5
M	L	6
L	H	7
L	M	8
L	L	9

H=high M=medium L=low

C=community-initiated initiative
S=stakeholder-generated initiative

Table 1. Initiatives proposed for the River Waveney, ranked by impact and achievability

Team	code	Title	Grade	Rank
YELLOW	C1	FARMER LED INITIATIVES	HH	1
YELLOW	C2	VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR & DIRECTORY FOR VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY GROUPS	HH	1
PINK	C3	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - BRIDGING THE GAP	HH	1
GREEN	C5	WATER QUALITY TESTING LENGTH OF WAVENEY VIA CITIZEN SCIENCE VALIDATED	HH	1
	S7	NATIVE ORCHARDS	HH	1
	S8	MONITORING AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY	HH	1
	S9	NFM IN THE RIGHT PLACE OF COMMUNITIES AT RISK	HH	1
	S12	ENHANCE PONDS - GHOSTS & ZOMBIES	HH	1
	S15	IMPROVED SOIL MANAGEMENT	HH	1
GREEN	C1	REMOVAL OF WEIR OR INSTAL FISH PASSES BY THE WEIRS	HM	2
GREEN	C3	IMPROVE WATER QUALITY OF THE DISS MERE	HM	2
GREEN	C4	BUILD ON SCIENTIFIC WORK CARRIED OUT ON PESTICIDE NEONICOTINIDES (AUG 22), CARRY OUT MONITORING PROGRAM	HM	2
BLUE	C1	REWETTING OF PEAT & MARSH	HM	2
BLUE	C4	GROUNDWATER ATTENUATION PITS	HM	2

BLUE	C5	LANDMANAGERS TO CLEAN OUT DRAINAGE SYSTEM PONDS	HM	2
	S2	SUPER BUFFERS	HM	2
	S4	RAIN HARVESTING IN TOWNS	HM	2
PINK	C1	CORE FUNDING	HL	3
	S6	RESERVOIRS	HL	3
	S14	WATER LITERACY	HL	3
YELLOW	C3	RESOURCE PACKS FOR RECREATIONAL COMPANIES TO GIVE TO RIVER USERS	MH	4
	S1	NATURE POND RESTORATION	MH	4
	S3	FENCING LIVESTOCK FROM RIVERS	MH	4
	S11	AGROFORESTRY	MH	4
	S13	REED BEDS FILTER POLLUTION	MH	4
	S16	ENGAGING COMMUNITIES FOR PRACTICAL ACTION	MH	4
YELLOW	C4	DESIGNATION OF THE VALLEY AS A NATURAL LANDSCAPE	MM	5
PINK	C2	RESOURCE LIBRARY DATABASE	MM	5
GREEN	C2	GETTING EVERYONE IN DISS TO LOVE THE WAVENEY	MM	5
BLUE	C2	URBAN WATER SLOWING	MM	5
BLUE	C3	WHOLE CATCHMENT THINKING	MM	5
	S10	WATERCRESS BEDS	LL	9

There were many high-priority actions (ranked as both high impact and highly manageable) centred on farmer-led initiatives, establishing a volunteer coordinator and directory for community groups, community engagement to bridge gaps between organisations, citizen science water quality testing along the full length of the Waveney, native orchard planting, monitoring aquatic biodiversity, natural flood management targeted at communities most at risk, enhancing ponds, and improved soil management.

A second tier of priorities (high impact, moderate manageability) included removal of weirs or installation of fish passes, improving water quality at Diss Mere, building on earlier scientific work around pesticide and neonicotinoid monitoring, rewetting of peat and marshland, groundwater attenuation pits, encouraging land managers to clean out drainage ponds, super buffers along watercourses, and rain harvesting in towns.

Actions considered high impact but harder to deliver included securing core funding, building reservoirs, and improving water literacy across the catchment.

Medium-impact, high-manageability actions focused on practical, deliverable work such as nature pond restoration, fencing livestock from rivers, agroforestry, reed bed filtration systems, resource packs for recreational river users, and engaging communities for hands-on action.

A further group of medium-impact, moderately manageable priorities included designating the valley as a natural landscape, creating a resource library and database, fostering local pride in the Waveney around Diss, urban water slowing measures, and whole-catchment thinking.

What are the Key Priorities for the Waveney Community?

There is a range of key priority actions for the Waveney clustered around community-led and farmer-led approaches. Underlying all of these was a call for whole-catchment thinking — connecting water quality, biodiversity, and flood management as parts of a single system rather than treating them in isolation.

- Farmer-led initiatives were seen as the most important entry point, building on existing farm clusters and landowner networks to drive changes in soil management, habitat restoration, and water retention.
- Establishing a volunteer coordinator and directory for community groups across the catchment was considered essential, as was bridging the gap between organisations, agencies, and local communities.
- Citizen science water quality testing along the full length of the Waveney was a strong priority, with calls for standardised methods.
- Habitat-focused actions including native orchards, pond enhancement, aquatic biodiversity monitoring, improved soil management, and natural flood management targeted at communities most at risk all ranked in the top tier.
- Better community engagement around water, flooding, and urban hard surfaces was seen as both impactful and achievable.

What Factors are Critical for Success?

Coordination emerged as the single most important success factor. This links with the often-cited need for a central facilitator to connect groups, signpost funding, and ensure efforts across the catchment are joined up rather than duplicated. The river's position straddling Suffolk and Norfolk creates administrative complexity, making cross-boundary coordination even more essential.

- Long-term commitment was emphasised as vital — projects need reliable funding and support over 10 to 20 years, not the typical 3-to-5 year cycles driven by electoral and programme timescales.
- Farmer and landowner engagement is critical but must be supported with practical help navigating the funding landscape, ongoing maintenance support, and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing through farm clusters and site visits.
- Nature-based solutions need to be at the heart of delivery, connecting water quality improvement, biodiversity recovery, and flood risk reduction holistically.
- Community buy-in at every level — from parish councils and school groups through to water companies and government agencies — was seen as fundamental, with one participant stressing that everyone from top executives to school children must be seen as part of the same community effort.
- Better data sharing between agencies and community groups is needed so that existing knowledge about fish populations, water quality, and catchment conditions reaches the people who can act on it.

Are there Barriers to Implementation?

A range of barriers were identified that risk undermining progress on the Waveney, with fragmented funding, institutional disconnection, and cultural resistance emerging as the most persistent challenges.

- Multiple funding streams exist with different timescales, criteria, and administrative requirements, making them overwhelming to navigate for community groups and landowners alike. The recent withdrawal of SSFI funding illustrates how unstable the funding landscape can be, and short-term funding cycles conflict directly with the long-term commitment river restoration demands.
- Landowner engagement remains a challenge. While some individuals are undertaking excellent restoration work, broader take-up has been disappointing and offers of expertise sharing have met with limited response.
- Cultural resistance to change persists. Received wisdom around land and river management — the assumption that things have always been done a certain way — holds back progress, even though many current practices only go back a couple of generations.
- Invasive species such as pennywort could be managed relatively easily if caught early, but effective control depends on coordinated action starting in the upper reaches and working downstream — exactly the kind of joined-up approach that is currently lacking.
- There is no clear ownership over resolving water quality issues, and water as a resource remains consistently undervalued.

Conclusions

The River Waveney workshops revealed a river under significant pressure but surrounded by committed communities and real momentum for change. The Waveney faces serious and interconnected threats – from declining water quality and low flows to habitat degradation, invasive species, and physical barriers to wildlife movement – yet the catchment already has a substantial foundation of active projects, engaged volunteers, and many willing landowners to build on.

The River Waveney Trust, a small charity with just 11 employees, is already delivering an impressive range of work across the catchment: from invasive species control and natural flood management to citizen science water quality monitoring, river fly surveys, and river access improvements. A landowner at Earsham Estate has demonstrated what is possible through pond creation, leaky dams, fen restoration, and scrub clearance, much of it undertaken with and without grant support. These examples show that change is already happening on the ground.

Many practical, locally grounded ideas – from urban hard-standing reduction and water butts to fen rewetting, sponge city principles, and swales to recharge aquifers – highlight the willingness of the community to think big. The River Waveney Trust emphasised the importance of looking beyond the river itself to what is happening on the land across the whole catchment, noting that dredging does not solve large-scale flooding and that the landscape is not static – big changes are ahead.

However, the barriers are real. Fragmented funding, short-term programme cycles, the administrative complexity of a river straddling two counties, and a persistent disconnect between local willingness to act and institutional responsiveness all risk undermining delivery. Without a central coordinating role to connect groups, signpost funding, and maintain long-term continuity, even the most achievable initiatives will struggle to gain traction.

The message from both stakeholders and the community is clear: the knowledge, the willingness, and many of the resources already exist. What is missing is the coordination, long-term funding stability, and shared ownership needed to turn individual efforts into lasting, catchment-wide recovery.

What came through most strongly was the need for a joined-up, whole-catchment approach. The highest-priority initiatives – citizen science monitoring, volunteer coordination, farmer-led action and targeted natural flood management – were all rated as both high impact and highly achievable, suggesting that meaningful progress is within reach if efforts are properly coordinated and sustained.

What's Next?

In consultation with both community groups and stakeholders, priority initiatives will be scoped out, costed and then worked up into practical projects. Budgets will be allocated and workable plans drawn up with stakeholders and the community (to include manpower, insurance, sourcing resources, permits and so on). Roll out of priority initiatives will follow.

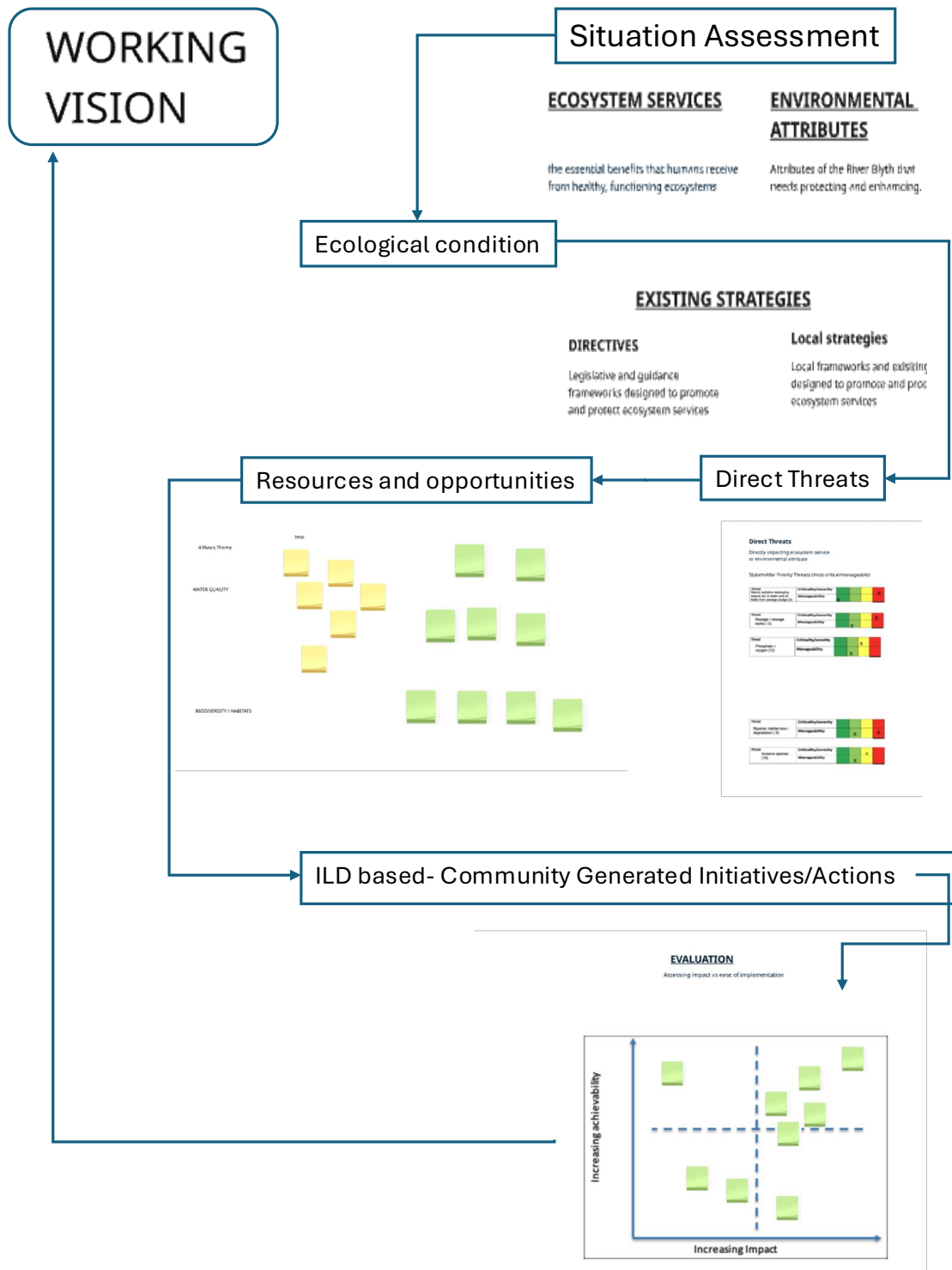
Appendices:

- A: Results-chain flow: Marisco-based methodology overview
- B: Attendees by organisation
- C: Speaker synopses
- D: Threats assessment for the River Waveney
- E: Opportunities and resources identified
- F: Initiatives process, grading, assessment & work package example

Appendices:

Appendix A: Figure 1. Results-Chain Flow: Marisco-based methodology overview

MARISCO-based results chain methodology



Appendix B: List of Attendees at Stakeholder and Waveney Community Workshops

Alde & Ore Association	Alde and Ore Farm Cluster
All Saints & St Nicholas PC	Anglian Water
Beccles Town Council	Blyth Water Testing
Blyth Wilder Wenhaston	Bungay Conservation Volunteers
Bungay Youth Project	Catchment Sensitive Farming
Earthwake	East Suffolk Council
Environment Agency	Essex & Suffolk Rivers Trust
ESWAG	Forestry Commission
Heveningham Hall	KADWAG
Kerr Farms	Landowners
LDOG	National Farmers Union
Natural England	Nature Network Officer
River Deben Association	Saxmundham Town Council
Suffolk Climate Change Partnership	Suffolk County Council
Suffolk Naturalists Society	SFWAG
Suffolk Wildlife Trust	University of Suffolk
Upper Alde Farm Cluster	Upper Deben Farm Cluster
Waveney River Trust	Waveney Volunteers for Nature
Wilderness Reserve	

State of the River Waveney

- The Waveney is a river under stress from multiple directions. Sewage, farm runoff, and industrial discharge pollute its waters. Flows are chronically low, aquifers barely recharge even in floods, and oxygen levels have dropped low enough to kill fish. Weirs — the first at Ellingham — block the movement of wildlife along the river, while decades of straightening, deepening, and raising banks have disconnected it from its natural floodplain. Across the catchment, habitat has been lost and heavy clay soils, often compacted, accelerate runoff and erosion.
- Flooding hit Diss in 2023 and remains a live concern inland, though the greatest flood risk is coastal, centred on Yarmouth and Lowestoft. Dredging — often assumed to be the answer — can actually worsen problems by flushing water from the upper river into communities downstream. The deeper issues are landscape-wide: silted culverts and drains, soil loss onto roads and into waterways, farmland draining water that should be held for summer, and hard urban surfaces sending rainwater downhill. Many of these practices are treated as timeless tradition, but in reality most date back no more than two generations.

River Waveney Trust & Key Activities

- 11 staff operating from Bungay
- Invasive species control, e.g. pennywort removal in the Upper Waveney - weekly volunteer sessions
- NFM projects - e.g. attenuation at Felton to reduce sediment loss
- Bathing status application, Bungay
- River Access for All, 2-year Heritage Fund
- Managing 5 sites along the Waveney between Diss and Harleston, including Falcon Meadows
- Water quality testing volunteers
- River access improvements - management of fallen vegetation, since too many obstructions are impacting water quality and flow rates; important to leave some fallen trees in place (pinned) to provide wildlife habitat, while keeping channels free-flowing
- Many planned and potential projects, but complex funding issues result from the catchment crossing different councils
- Work with Waveney Farm Cluster, focused on WQ currently, habitat restoration previously
- Canoe Over project - clearing obstructions from Diss to Beccles
- River fly monitoring since 2019
- Outfall Safari - looking for sewage issues throughout Diss
- Citizen science WQ - first year of monitoring 9 different locations across Bungay

- Grassroots Integrated Local Delivery - 15 volunteers sampling at 20+ different locations, data dashboard
- Identification of many WQ issues with resolution of some of them

Issues on the River Waveney

- Funding is fragmented and unreliable, made worse by the catchment spanning multiple council areas in Mid Suffolk and East Suffolk.
- Landowner engagement is inconsistent.
- Critical data is missing, and Biodiversity Net Gain — intended to help — has had unintended consequences of slowing down projects or cancelling them because of difficulties with planning and permitting.
- Water is still treated as an inexhaustible resource, no clear ownership of the task of improving water quality.
- A fundamental shift from conventional management toward nature-based thinking has yet to take hold at scale.
- Despite these challenges, the Waveney retains real ecological, social and cultural value: recreational opportunities - swimming, paddle boarding, boating and a place for communities to relax.

Earsham Estate – River Waveney Catchment – a Landowner’s Perspective:

- A dizzying array of funds, grants, and environmental improvements available. Farmers are responding, acting off their own backs and taking advantage of funding opportunities but access to funding can be difficult. The Four Rivers Project could have a role here, perhaps by reviewing the situation, levels of funding, long/short term, assessing what funds are/are not being accessed, analysing why/why not, tackling those issues.
- Farmers need help to instigate changes, and assistance with ongoing maintenance through continued funding: up to 20 years.
- Ongoing reliability of systems is required, beyond the usual 3-5 years of planning influenced by electoral cycles
- SSFI funding has been recently withdrawn
- Personally undertaken changes on own land, with and without grants: pond creation, drainage ditch clearance and a number of restoration projects: 10 seasonal ponds (resulting in a return of invertebrates), leaky dams and scrub clearance, with ongoing projects including restoring a mere, The Lay, a former fen, Lizard Fen, and an 18th century park which could become a wood pasture

Appendix D: Figure 2. Consolidated threats List Graded and Assessed by Stakeholders

Threat Pesticide/herbicide pollution	Criticality/severity Acute levels exceeded	Green	Light Green	Yellow	Red X	Water Quality
	Manageability Public awareness re pets Start monitoring now	X Green	Light Green	Yellow	Red	
Threat Soil Losses + capacity to retain water	Criticality/severity	Green	Light Green	Yellow	Red X	Water Quality
	Manageability	Green	X Light Green	Yellow	Red	
Threat Reduced Water Resources/Drought	Criticality/severity	Green	Light Green	Yellow	Red X	Drought
	Manageability	Green	X Light Green	Yellow	Red	
Threat Riparian Habitat loss/degradation	Criticality/severity	Green	Light Green	Yellow	Red X	Biodiversity
	Manageability	Green	X Light Green	Yellow	Red	
Threat Non-tidal flooding	Criticality/severity	Green	Light Green	Yellow	Red X	Flooding
	Manageability	Green	Light Green	X Yellow	Red	
Threat Barriers/obstacles to fish movement	Criticality/severity	Green	Light Green	Yellow	Red X	Biodiversity
	Manageability	Green	Light Green	X Yellow	Red	
Threat Invasive Species	Criticality/severity	Green	Light Green	Yellow	Red X	Biodiversity
	Manageability	Green	Light Green	Yellow	Red X	
Threat Sewage Treatment Works pollution	Criticality/severity	Green	Light Green	Yellow X	Red	Water Quality
	Manageability	Green	Light Green	X Yellow	Red	

Appendix E. Table 2. Resources and opportunities identified within the River Waveney catchment – results of community brainstorming activity

RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES
Cast volunteers and goodwill; local regional professional coordinators and facilitators. Third party outsource.
Youth Council via district councillors - talks at groups - history, parish council, farmers, youth clubs, Otley/Fram college
Direct relationships with farmers, landowners and community leaders
People from micro to macro - local, regional dc, pc, MPs, international groups
Media - volunteers, posh people's social platforms, accessibility to funding
Developing relationships with farmers, landowners and community leaders
Communication, sharing the idea - individuals, organisations
Encouraging comms between big orgs and groups
Money issue - diff pots and timing
Conservation projects involve young people
Schools involvement
Scouts/Guides/D0E/Youth Cluster/Youth orgs
Identify funding opportunities
Biggest difference in invasive species - diligence and early prevention and education/coordination
Schools as part of their sustainability could get involved in restoration & citizen science project. Scouts/Guides/Cadets
Identifying landowners with marginal land & linking them together to adapt it for restoration/biodiversity
Taking the legwork out of identifying appropriate nature-based solutions and funding in a simple factsheet for communities
Having a way to signpost landowners/farmers to new initiatives & funding as the funding landscape changes
Landowner Wendy Graham Worlingham Marshes Interest
Beccles Farms (& BFCT Beccles Fenland Charity trust) - working with EA? To re-wet the peat
Coordination of resources, inspiration across and between catchment
Water Resources East - money for feasibility studies, but Norfolk only?
Anglian Water Thriving Communities Fund
Water resources East - feasibility funding Norfolk only
AW - A-WINEP Nature based solutions. Needs match funding for delivery.

Farmer on Instead Brook NBS etc Interest (from AW Robert Holland)
Essex and Suffolk Water Catchment Advisor
Jack Walpole - wild swimming pool around All Saints South Elmham area (from AW Robert Holland)
Catchment Management Authorities
83 voluntary groups in Halesworth alone
Roving voluntary consultant to help farmers access funding (from Peter Aiano)
Increase WQ testing groups
Beccles - slow rainfall off town into dykes and ditches
HOXNE parish councils and All other parish councils
Cherry Tree Angling
RWT - Frenz Beck vols (nature reserve)
RWT facilitated - farm cluster
Town Councils – Beccles keen to promote citizen science water testing
Diss + District Angling Club
Essex and Suffolk Water Quality/testing - Waveney Catchment Partnership - not a comm group, part of ESW obligations to test water
Count Council RDW team footpath work
MSDC land, land near Eye
MSc (Mid Suffolk District Council) funding for landscape recovery e.g. BNG offsets
Sustainable communities conference (Adrian Ramsey - MP)
CSF
Bungay Town - RWT Feasibility project
Nick Meade at Earsham Estate restoration & conservation
WALOR - SWT
River Waveney Catchment Partnership - Essex & Suffolk Water led
Waveney farm cluster work - RWT facilitated
IDB Integrated Drainage Board
Tourism Partnership - Waveney
Natural England Funding for SSSIs
Wildlife Trusts Funding for C.W.S - pilot in Bungay addressing multiple WQ issues
WeIF funded floodplains reconnection, Starston Beck - EA + IDB
Fish passage project (Starston Beck) - RWT + EA
Dickleburgh Moor - Otter Trust
Citizen data WQ roll out - RWT Bungay pilot
River fly - RWT led

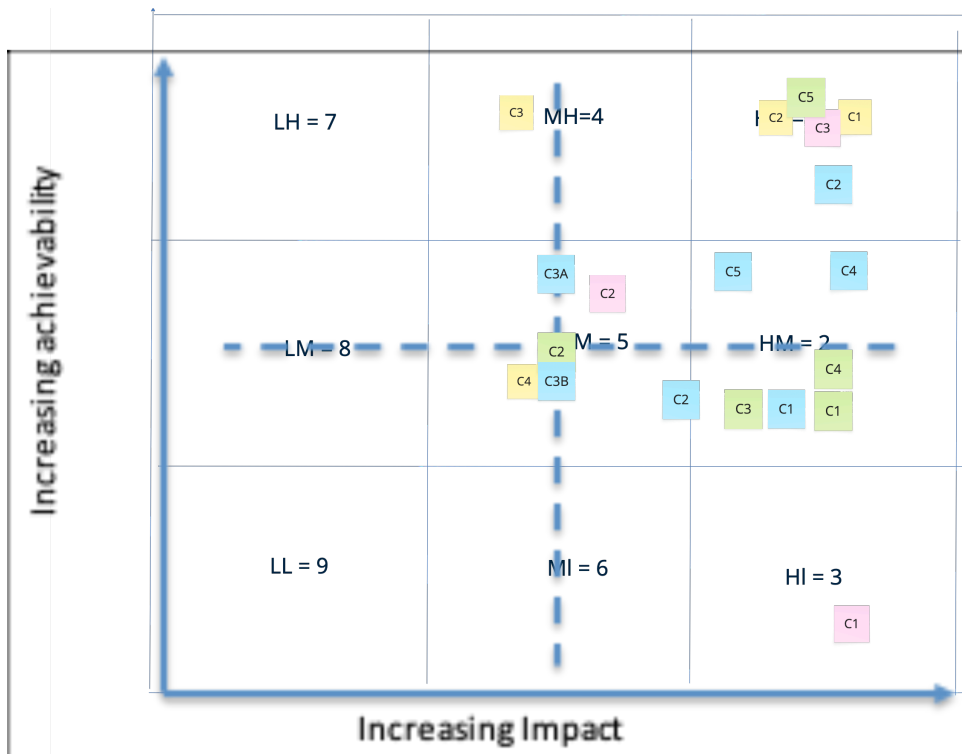
Pennywort control - Hoxne area
RWT NFM - multiple projects underway + involvement, river restoration NbS
RWT - Tin River Project , NFM - river restoration + landscape changes

Appendix F: Initiatives: development and assessment process

Working in teams of 5-6 participants, each proposed initiative was scoped out as a work package to show how it might be delivered (*see example Fiv*).

Initiatives were developed after discussion around the latest assessment of threats to the river, alongside the vision review and brainstorming of resources and opportunities available within the catchment. The list of initiatives suggested by the stakeholders was also assessed by the community teams. Each team examined how the list might be delivered by developing a topline work package for each proposed initiative. The teams then gave a qualitative assessment on each proposed initiative's potential to contribute to threat abatement and achieving their vision for the river by plotting the relative initiative positions on an impacts vs achievability matrix. Teams then brainstormed key gaps and developed alternative initiatives in the same way. In this way each initiative has both a delivery plan and an assessment of impact and ease of delivery.

i: Figure 3. Community-generated initiatives graded by impact/achievability

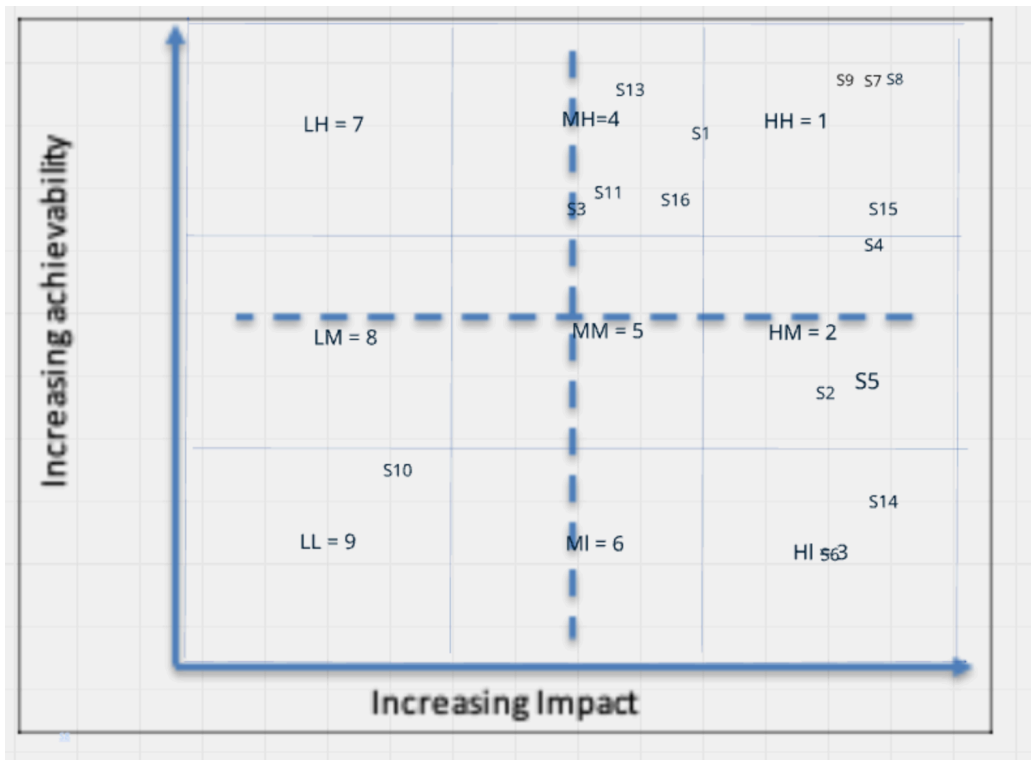


Team	code	Title
YELLOW	C1	FARMER LED INITIATIVES
YELLOW	C2	VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR & DIRECTORY FOR VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY GROUPS
YELLOW	C3	RESOURCE PACKS FOR RECREATIONAL COMPANIES TO GIVE TO RIVER USERS
YELLOW	C4	DESIGNATION OF THE VALLEY AS A NATURAL LANDSCAPE
PINK	C1	CORE FUNDING
PINK	C2	RESOURCE LIBRARY DATABASE
PINK	C3	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - BRIDGING THE GAP
GREEN	C1	REMOVAL OF WEIR OR INSTAL FISH PASSES BY THE WEIRS
GREEN	C2	GETTING EVERYONE IN DISS TO LOVE THE WAVENEY
GREEN	C3	IMPROVE WATER QUALITY OF THE DISS MERE
GREEN	C4	BUILD ON SCIENTIFIC WORK CARRIED OUT ON PESTICIDE NEONICOTINIDES (AUG 22), CARRY OUT MONITORING PROGRAM
GREEN	C5	WATER QUALITY TESTING LENGTH OF WAVENEY VIA CITIZEN SCIENCE ?? VALIDATED
BLUE	C1	REWETTING OF PEAT & MARSH
BLUE	C2	URBAN WATER SLOWING
BLUE	C3	WHOLE CATCHMENT THINKING
BLUE	C4	GROUNDWATER ATTENUATION PITS
BLUE	C5	LANDMANAGERS TO CLEAN OUT DRAINAGE SYSTEM PONDS

ii: Grading process

After the grading matrices were developed the initiatives were divided into 9 scored areas, weighted by impact, providing an initial initiative ranking i.e. the highest impact, easiest to achieve ranked highest. This allowed both stakeholder generated initiatives and the additional community generated initiatives to be ranked and merged (Table 1 main report body).

Figure 4. Stakeholder-generated initiatives graded by impact/achievability

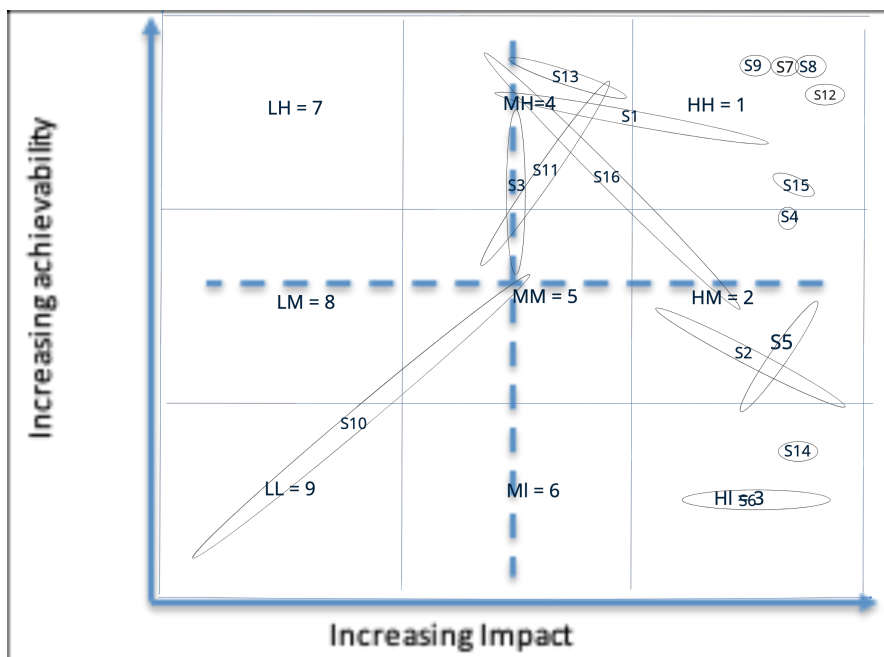


- S1 Nature Pond Restoration
- S2 Super Buffers
- S3 Fencing Livestock from Rivers
- S4 Rain Harvesting in towns
- S4 River and floodplain habitat enhancements to hold water in the catchment and increase biodiversity and enhance water quality
- S6 Reservoirs to 'hold' water
- S7 Native fruit and nut orchards (Paul Read?)
- S8 Monitoring aquatic biodiversity above & below sewage outfalls
- S9 NFM upstream of communities at Risk - Diss, Bungay, Eye, Hoxne, Redenhall
- S10 Watercress beds to pull out Phosphates
- S11 Agroforestry: silvopasture tree planting
- S12 Enhance Wayland ponds (both ghosts and zombies)
- S13 Reed beds filter pollution
- S14 Water literacy (public - and their need to value
- S15 Improved soil management, add organic matter, maintain crop cover over winter, choice of crops
- S16 Engaging communities in practical individual action, to use water electricity, drain and septic tanks (don't flush wet wipes etc) water saving at household level, water butts

iii: Matrix Consensus Plot (“agreement-o-gram”)

Stakeholder suggested initiatives were assessed by each community team generating their own matrix of impact vs achievability – a visual representation of their opinion on the initiative list. Collating these matrices into one plot enabled a facilitated discussion on where teams agreed, and where and why they disagreed, on each initiative. Many key discussion points outlined in the main document of this report were identified. This allowed for very positive engagement between stakeholder representatives, landowners, parish councillors and community interest groups represented allowing for in-depth discussion of perspectives.

Figure 5. Community assessment of stakeholder suggested initiatives, where closeness of plots represents closer agreement between teams.



- S1 Nature Pond Restoration
- S2 Super Buffers
- S3 Fencing Livestock from Rivers
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iv: Work Package Example



4 Rivers Initiative Work Package Development Sheet

Describing the nature and purpose of the deliverable and identifying the resources and skills needed.

Initiative Working Title: WATER QUALITY TESTING LENGTH OF WAGENCY VIA CITIZEN SCIENCE EA UNDATED.
 Team colour: GREEN
 Date: 25/3/26
 Initiative number: C5

Purpose (Why is it needed?)	BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WQ AT LOCALISED LEVEL. ADDRESSING POLLUTION ISSUES. BETTER DIRECTING RESOURCE + PROJECTS.		
What tasks are required?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - create collaborative monitoring plan - recruit volunteers - train volunteers - start sampling programme - analyse results - address pollution 		
What resources will be needed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - staff time (Project officer) - Equipment WQ - Lab space - Funding for equipment + testing chemicals. 		
Dependencies (What external support will be needed?)	collaborative working practices. csp with EA + other organisations AW + RSW. involved in CASTCO programme.		
What level of cost is likely? (select)	High - £15,000+.	Medium £5-15,000.	Low - Less than £5,000
What funding and/or in-kind support could be leveraged?	Varied funding sources being explored <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - East Suffolk Trust - mid Suffolk Council - water company - Collaborations with other organisations 		
What is the likely timescale?	1 yr to roll-out. Then ongoing.		
What will the outputs be? <small>WHAT ACTIONS NEED TO BE DONE</small>	Secure funding - secured funding. multi year. See above tasks.		
What does success look like?	Effective testing programme. Improved WQ. Better directed project work		

WHAT HAS CHANGED based on evidence
 INFORMING ACTION TAKEN BY EA AW RSW TO ADDRESS ISSUES RAISED.





Four Rivers Restoration Project

Restoring East Suffolk's River Landscapes - Workshop Report

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