



RLCP Volunteer and
Citizen Science Update
2022 – 2023



RLCP Progress Report May 2022–April 2023

Restoration

In October we began our restoration work in Tollgate on the Co-op to Golf Course stretch. Glenn has led sixteen work parties in a large variety of weather conditions, including snow! Glenn and Nigel have also done about the same number of days of preparation for the work parties, including tree cutting and collecting and moving equipment for the volunteers to use. Volunteers have shifted masses of material along the long footpath to the work site using the trolleys, including brush bundles and stakes and they have helped to remove loads of rubbish from the river, the banks and the adjacent paths. They have installed several flow deflectors and berms along about half of the reach so far. We will be continuing to work here until mid-May, when we will pause during peak bird-nesting season. We will be planting some pre-planted coir rolls and other riparian plants along the stretch we have been working on. We will then carry on further upstream when we are back in the Autumn.

16 work parties
397.5 volunteer hours
18 individual volunteers

Citizen Science

Since September 2022, we have been regularly sampling the water from Sicklesmere to Hengrave on the main River Lark, as well as revisiting our tributaries project. We purchased and have been trialling some handheld Hanna colorimeters, with mixed results. We have trained several new volunteers to help us collect and test samples and have added flow monitoring and dissolved oxygen to what we can investigate. Two of our volunteers conducted morPH habitat surveys along the Tollgate reach, which will be repeated in May. High water levels in March meant our kicksampling volunteers have not yet been able to get out and take invertebrate samples, which we are going to reattempt in May. Ten volunteers have completed one out of two days of SmartRivers training.

12 sampling days
4 training days
442 volunteer hours
28 individual volunteers

Other progress:

- Summer social event at Fullers Mill Gardens
- Hosted a meeting with AW and MPs Jo Churchill and Rebecca Pow and signed an MOU with Anglian Water.
- New integrated calendar on RLCP website
- Creation of RLCP Volunteer Handbook
- Instigation of RLCP webinar series
- Attendance at Ickworth National Trust Volunteer Fair, BFER volunteer event and Eco Markets in Bury St Edmunds
- MOU with National Trust – Began work on Linnet Project including commissioning a report from the Wild Trout Trust
- Began pre-feasibility study for restoration work at Lackford/Cavenham with Dynamic Rivers/Environment Agency/Natural England.
- 12 new volunteers have joined RLCP since May 2022





RLCP Restoration Work
October 2022 – April 2023
Bury St Edmunds
Tollgate – Coop to Golf Course Project







RLCP Citizen Science Work
September 2022 – April 2023





More water quality monitoring, citizen science training
and community engagement Dec 2022 – April 2023



