

Appendix 3: Possible future action plan projects

The following possible future action plan projects require feasibility investigation and identification of funding.

Walking and cycling access:

1. Improvements to an existing circular walk between the Marriott's Way and Riverside Walk at Train Wood to provide access for all to the first naturalised section of the river in the urban area, and to make fishing platforms accessible.
2. Creation of a new circular route to enable access for all to ecologically valuable parts of the countryside including the Wensum Valley Local Nature Reserve (at Mile Cross Marsh and Sycamore Crescent) and Sweetbriar Road Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest, whilst ensuring that impacts on biodiversity are minimised.
3. Improvements to the surface and route of the Riverside Walk in the vicinity of Hellesdon Road with potential to link to Marriotts Way.
4. Improvements to the Riverside Walk between Mile Cross and Dolphin Bridge including provision of a surfaced route across Anderson's Meadow.
5. Improvements to the Riverside Walk south of Swanton Road, including environmental improvements (water quality, ecology and drainage).
6. Improvements to the Riverside Walk from Mile Cross Road to Dragon Crossing including environmental improvements to Land West of Wensum Park County Wildlife Site.
7. Access improvements to Wensum Park to enhance access for all and re-establish connections between Wensum Park and the riverside walk along the frontage of Tanner's Court.
8. Surface enhancements between Dolphin Dyke and Boot Binders Road.
9. Creation of a new section of riverside Walk between Sweet Briar Road and the public open space adjacent to The Gatehouse Public House on Hellesdon Road, to provide access to the river.

Overall, these projects seek to enhance the route and surface of the Riverside Walk upstream of New Mills. For the purposes of potential future funding bids these projects have been rationalised into individual work packages with common threads:

- Phase 1 Mile Cross Road to Oak Street (4, 7, 8)
- Phase 2 Hellesdon to Sweetbriar Road (3 & 9)
- Phase 3 Circular Walks (1 & 2)

Project 6 is likely to be sought to be delivered through development, and project 5 as part of Environment project 23.

Waterways management, access and leisure:

10. A survey of all the banks in the project area to identify problem sites and opportunities for biodiversity improvements in future bank stabilisation or erosion protection work, such as naturalisation of hard edges where possible;
11. Identify the location of sunken vessels, hazards and problem sites for rubbish in order to assess need for enforcement action;
12. Sharing of a cross-sectional survey undertaken as part of as part of the Environment Agency's flood risk river modelling programme.

13. Provision of canoe access close to Marlpit Paddocks.
14. Provision of canoe access at Wensum Park and Anderson's Meadow
15. Investigate proposal to reintroduce a small, pedestrian ferry across the Wensum at the site of Pull's Ferry.
16. Investigate provision of leisure access to Cow Tower

Environment – habitat improvement

17. Development of the national B-Line¹ approach for Norwich to encourage native insect pollinators along the river corridor;
18. Restoration of key sites along the river for priority species² (eg. water vole, otter, white-clawed crayfish) and habitats (eg. Floodplain, grazing marsh). This would include a focus on County Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves;
19. Seek opportunities to reconnect existing ditches to improve fisheries;
20. Enhance the pond and extending the wetland area around the Cow Tower;
21. Create areas of undisturbed habitat along the riverbank for otters to rest;
22. Bring together the existing objectives of local authorities and conservation groups within Norwich into a single strategy for habitat restoration;
23. Seek opportunities to restore and enhance habitat at: Hellesdon Mill, Andersons Meadow (bank reprofiling), Heigham Park (bank and river profile, potential to relocate outfall in discussion with Anglian Water, install fish fry habitat), reconnecting some ditch systems (in particular along sections between Hellesdon Mill and Swanton Road);
24. Identify sections of river bank that are currently piled but could, in the long term, provide additional benefit through being naturalised. There are some significant opportunities between New Mills and Whitlingham for this approach to be taken through working with developers;
25. Utilise floating vegetation platforms to enhance existing habitats, particularly around new mooring sites or piled riverbanks; and
26. Seek opportunities to improve bat foraging and commuting habitats.
27. Seek opportunities to control and manage non-native invasive species within the river corridor

¹ B-lines are series of 'insect pathways' linking existing wildlife areas together to create a network that will help pollinating insects survive and thrive across the country.

² Priority species are those included under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, and have been identified as being some of the rarest and most threatened species in England.