



# Wilder Ouse



## Annual Report 2025 - 2026





# 2025 - 2026 in figures



Wilder Ouse

| <b>Deliverables</b>                                                                                                | <b>This Year</b>   | <b>Three Year Total</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Events</b>                                                                                                      | 5                  | 34                      |
| <b>Hedging (m)</b>                                                                                                 | 595m               | 1,648m                  |
| <b>Schools engaged</b>                                                                                             | 3                  | 9                       |
| <b>Trees planted</b>                                                                                               | 3,000              | 11,772                  |
| <b>Leaky dams</b>                                                                                                  | 30 (14 maintained) | 210                     |
| <b>Pond creation/restoration</b>                                                                                   | 4                  | 25                      |
| <b>Scrapes</b>                                                                                                     | 4                  | 18                      |
| <b>Pocket ponds</b>                                                                                                | 3                  | 14                      |
| <b>Increase in natural (flood) water storage from NFM methods NOTE: does not include repeat floods/rain events</b> | 252,000L           | 679,000L                |
| <b>Likely minimum increase in natural flood storage (assuming 30 high rainfall events per annum)</b>               | 5,020,000L         | 26,370,000L             |



# 2025 - 2026 in figures

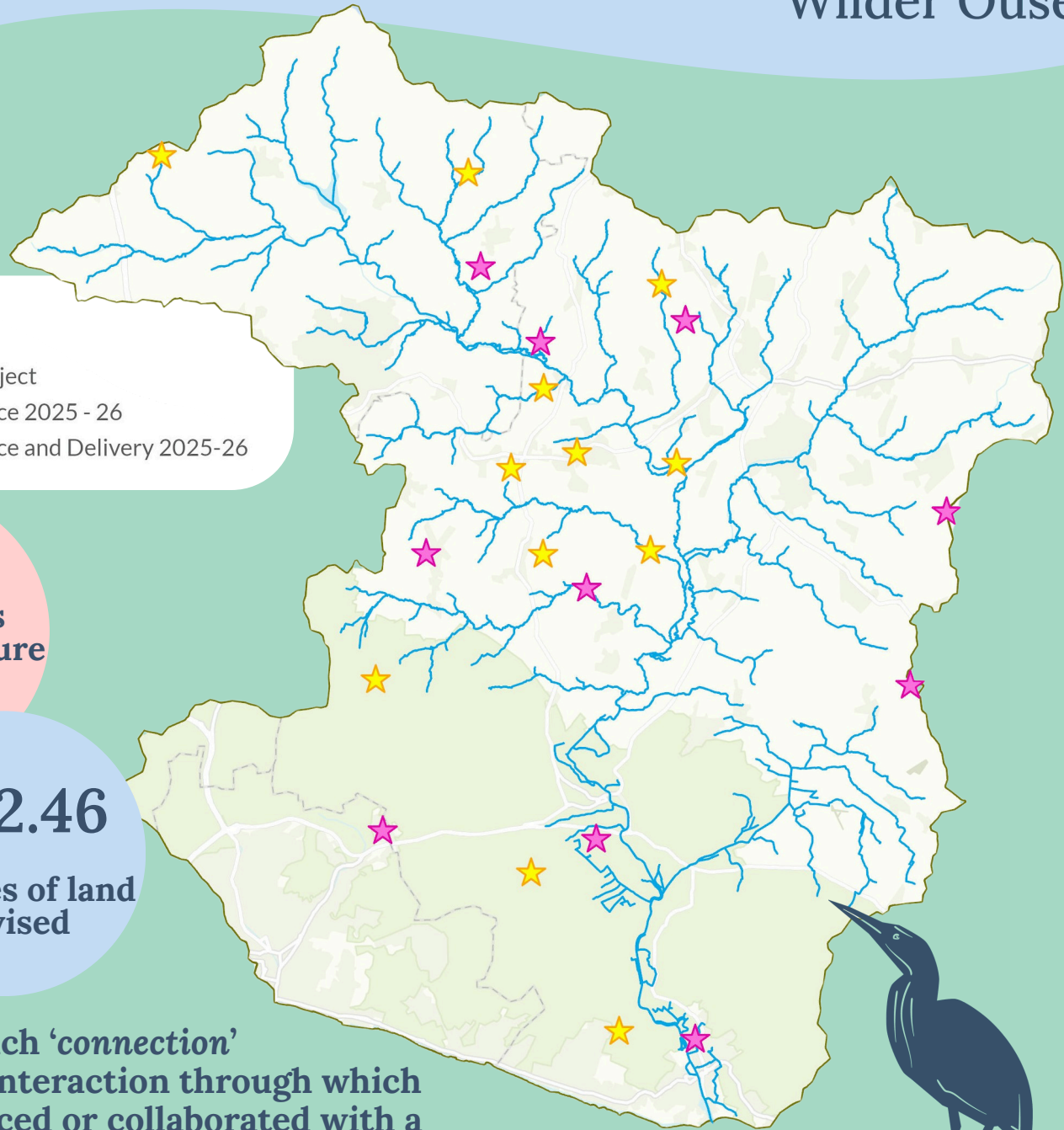
## Landowner Engagement



Wilder Ouse

### Legend

- River Ouse
- ▣ Wilder Ouse Project
- ★ Landowner Advice 2025 - 26
- ★ Landowner Advice and Delivery 2025-26



13

Landowners  
delivering nature  
recovery

1032.46

Hectares of land  
advised

Each 'connection'  
is a discrete interaction through which  
we've influenced or collaborated with a  
project stakeholder.



26

Landowners  
advised

New  
42.3%

Existing  
57.7%

64

Landowner  
connections

New  
32.8%

Existing  
67.2%





## Wetland Habitat Improvement

4

ponds created  
or restored

30

leaky dams  
created

14

leaky dams  
maintained

4

scrapes  
created

395m

of ditches  
diversified



# 2025 - 2026 in figures



Wilder Ouse

Flood  
water  
storage  
estimates

Ponds

new  
**270,000**  
litres of immediate  
water storage

restored  
**170,000**  
litres of immediate  
water storage

Scrapes

**80,000**  
litres of immediate  
water storage

**2,320,000**  
litres of storage  
per annum\*

Leaky  
Dams

**90,000**  
litres of immediate  
storage during  
heavy rainfall

**2,700,000**  
litres of storage  
per annum\*

Woodland

**74,922**  
litres of water  
storage

Hedgerows

**8,087**  
litres of water  
storage

\*based on 2025 - 2026 rainfall data (Department of  
Environment Food & Rural Affairs)



## Trees and Natural Regeneration



**3,000**

trees planted  
in total

**of which...**

**595m of hedgerow planted**

**= 2.37 Ha of woodland**



**25**  
Rare  
Black  
Poplars  
planted



**0.25 Ha**  
woodland  
created



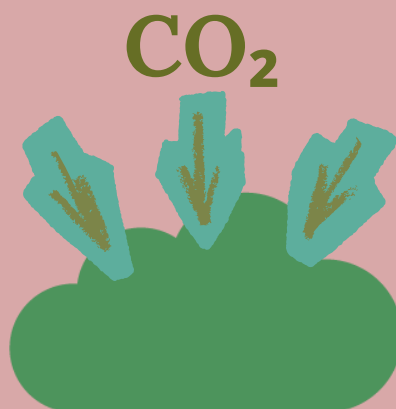
**6.3 Ha**  
allocated to  
natural scrub  
regeneration





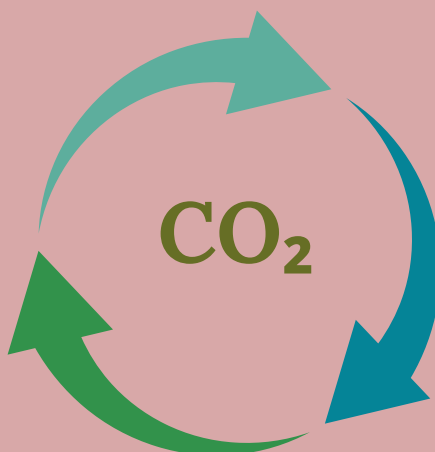
## Carbon storage estimates

**0.4165**  
tonnes of  
Carbon\*  
= 416.5kg of CO<sub>2</sub>



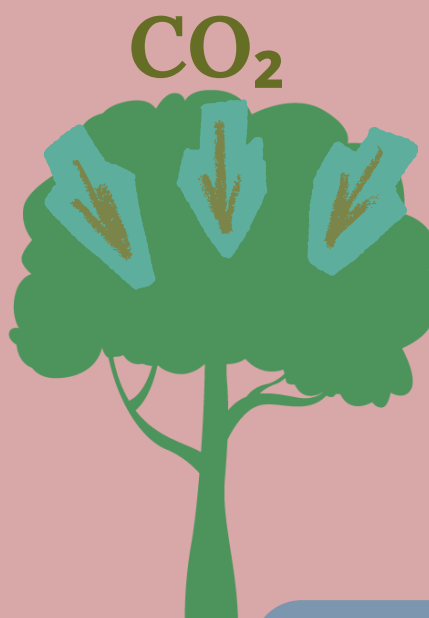
through our  
hedgerow  
planting

**0.3528**  
tonnes of  
Carbon\*  
= 352.8 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>



through land  
assigned to  
natural scrub  
regeneration

**0.0813**  
tonnes of  
Carbon\*  
= 81.34kg of CO<sub>2</sub>



through  
woodland  
planting



## In Kind Funding

### Volunteer task force

**14**  
volunteer  
work parties

**3**  
local school  
work parties



### Volunteer contributions

**£15,000+**  
value of  
volunteer  
time

**412**  
hours of  
volunteering

### Landowner contributions at least...



**£6,000**



**100hrs**

### External partner contributions at least...



**£23,000**



**120hrs**

### Sussex Wildlife Trust in kind contributions at least...



**£22,000**



**600hrs**

### Match Funding brought in to the project

**£19,750**

match funding from  
other grants and  
partners



# 2025 - 2026 in figures



Wilder Ouse

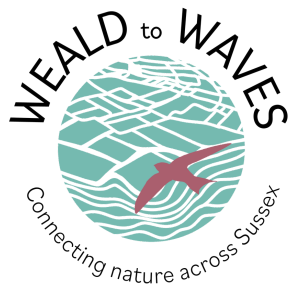
## Collaborative working



Lewes District Council



Wealden  
District Council



South Downs  
National Park Authority

10

of our 14 work  
parties were  
collaborations

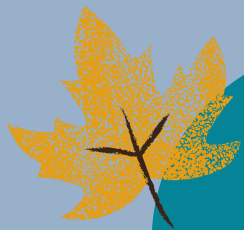


LOST WOODS  
of the Low Weald and Downs



THE GREEN BRITAIN  
FOUNDATION

## Workshops and training



2

Wilder  
Woodland  
Workshops

1

leaky dam  
workshop

17

people  
#trained  
in leaky dams

4

youth leaky dam  
sessions with  
64  
students

## Talks and Events

1

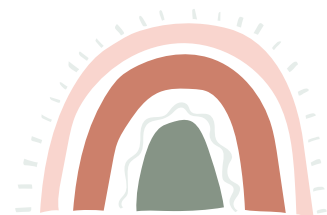
invasive species  
removal day  
(on a local wildlife site)

1

community  
talk

5

community  
events





## Designated sites:

**5** Local Wildlife Sites  
positively advised

**1** Site of Special  
Scientific Interest  
enhanced

# 2025 - 2026 in figures



Wilder Ouse

## Social Media:



15,800 views

Followers: +48%

548 interactions  
(likes and comments)

Profile visits: +128%

3.8k views on collaboration video  
with Eco Talk



YouTube



1,240 views

Followers: +6.2%

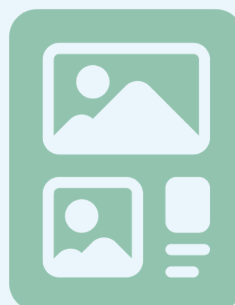
400+ interactions  
(likes and comments)

Profile visits: +204%

## Web pages:



928 views



2 blogs

325 user visits



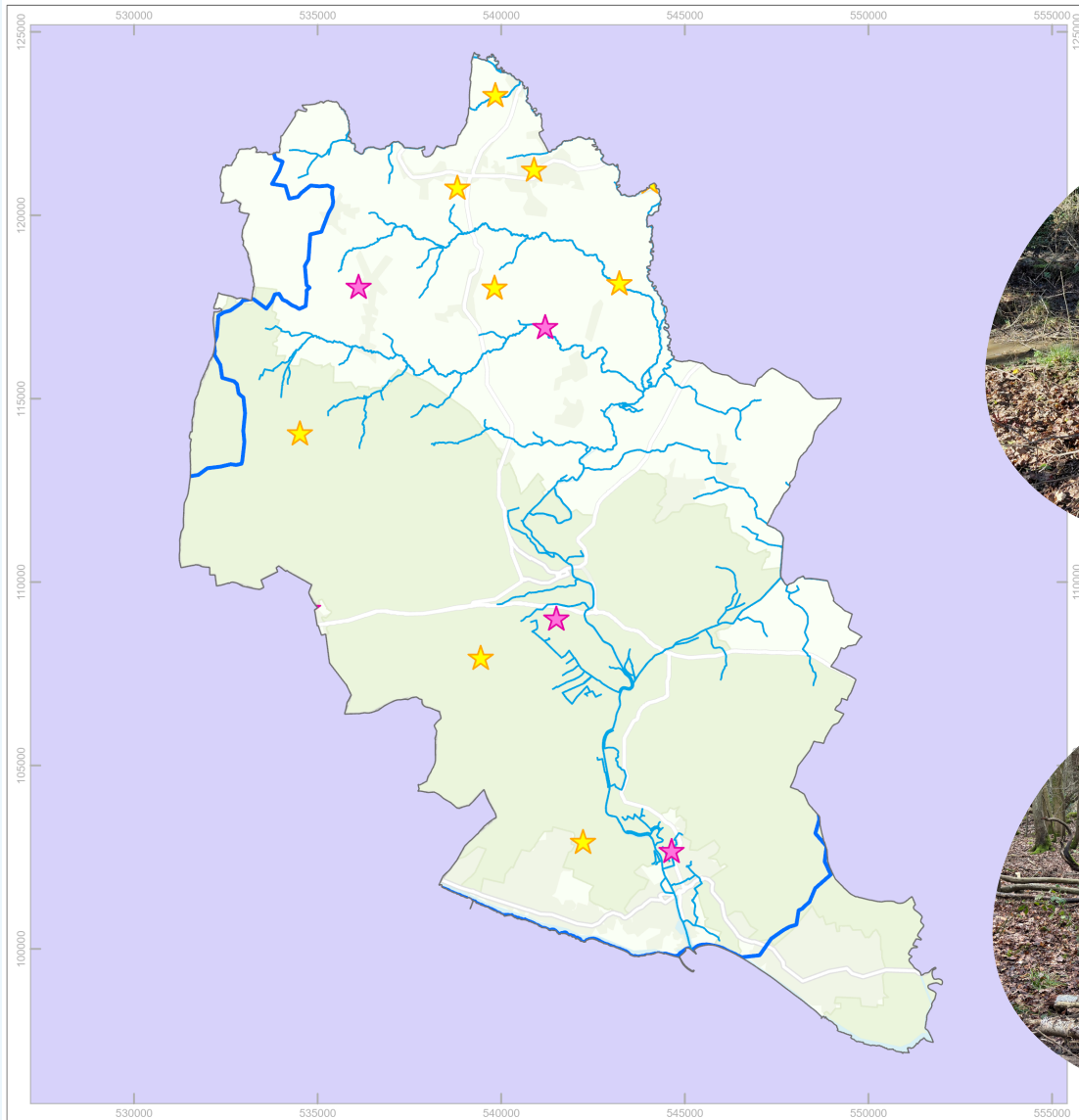


# 2025 - 2026 in figures



Wilder Ouse

## Lewes District Council Engagement and Delivery:



### LDC Sites: Reedens Meadow

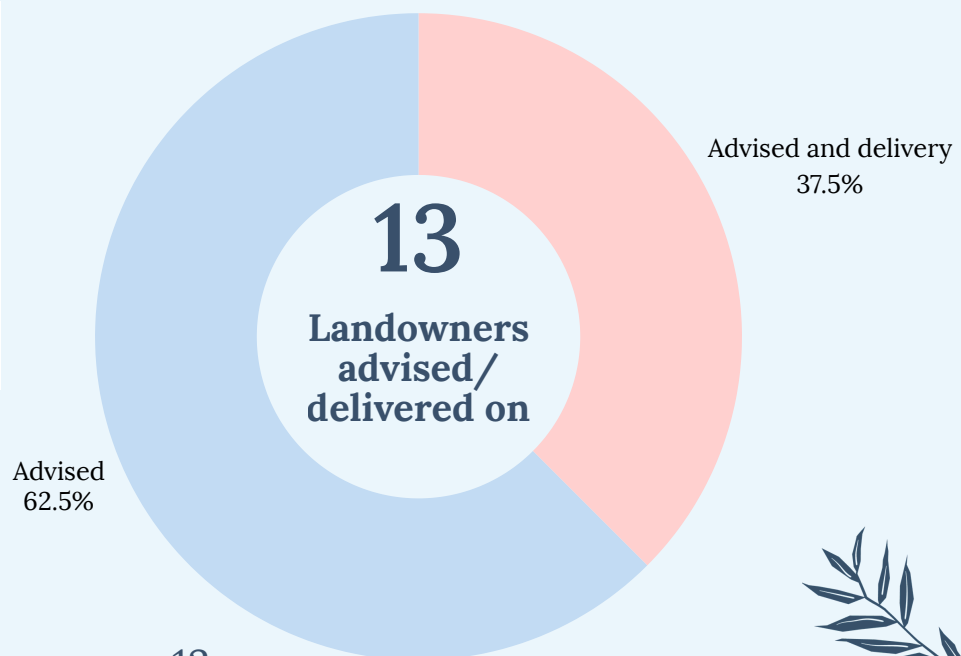


### Markstakes Common



#### Legend

- ★ Landowner Advice and Delivery 2025-26
- ★ Landowner Advice 2025 - 26
- River Ouse
- Wilder Ouse Project
- Lewes District mask





# Wilder Ouse

2025 - 2026

Thank you



<https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/get-involved/projects/wilder-ouse>



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## Acknowledgments

With special thanks to our funders



**Lewes District Council**



**Wealden**  
District Council

