

Clun Unmuddying the Waters Project, 2019 - 2021

Partnership Project between Landowners, Land Managers, Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership, Environment Agency, Woodland Trust and Natural England.



Diversion of a highway drain to prevent soil from being transported into the River Clun SAC (Special Area of Conservation) after heavy or prolonged rainfall.

The drain was rerouted under a road to discharge into an existing wetland area. This involved reprofiling an existing ditch to create a wide shallow swale to help slow the flow as the water enters the wetland.

£125,258 spent locally, using mainly local contractors and suppliers, improving farm infrastructure, natural capital and environmental resilience.

Installation of bridge and culvert across a brook to enable farm vehicles and farm animals to cross without poaching and eroding the riverbank. This has reduced siltation and faecal contamination of the brook, which flows into the River Clun, and ultimately into the River Clun SAC and Teme SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest).

"We use the new crossings regularly, and the extra gates make it easier to move livestock from one field to another. They've also reduced our need to take farm vehicles along the village lane."

Landowner, after bridge and culvert installed to replace fords along brook which flows through the farm.

12 solar powered submersible pumps installed to supply water troughs when the watercourse has been fenced to prevent farm animals drinking from the river and eroding the banks.

New and restored habitat in the Clun catchment including 2.5 hectares of mixed broadleaf, dingle, riverbank and wet woodland and 1.25 hectares of wetland and wet grassland.

This is equivalent to 7½ football fields. Fences have been erected to prevent farm animals from eating the newly planted trees.

3 new Rural Sustainable Drainage Schemes (RSuDs) designed to intercept surface runoff from farm tracks and roads and divert into catch pits and settlement pools before it reaches the river.

"Just wanted to say thank you very much for organising the pump for us and the delivery. Much appreciated."

Landowner adjacent to River Clun, on receiving new solar pump kit to supply water troughs for his sheep.

Thank you to the individual farmers and land managers who collaborated in the planning and development of the projects on their holdings, and made in-kind contributions, helping to ensure they delivered for resource protection, flood alleviation and biodiversity.

Together, we have enhanced water quality along 16.95 km of river.

Businesses supported

- 21 farm businesses
- 8 local contractors
- 10 suppliers, of which 80% are local businesses

2,651 trees planted by volunteers and local contractors

along riverbanks to enhance river habitat. Trees also planted in fields, or field corners, to intercept runoff and soil erosion after heavy rain.

