

To hell and back

- the story of the Thames restoration

Presentation for India-UK
Water Security Capability Exchange Initiative

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Winning the World Cup for Rivers

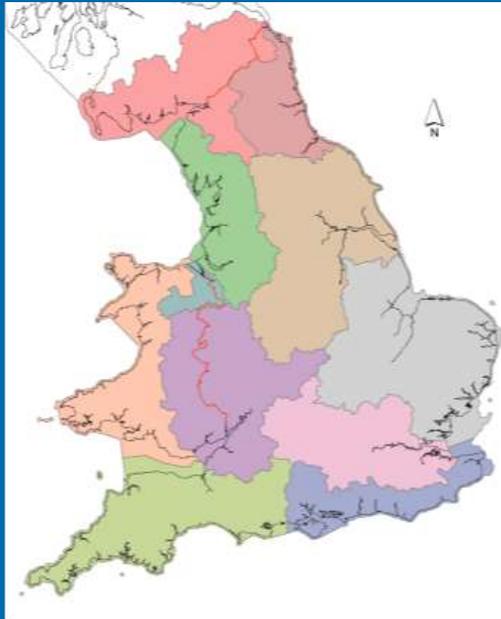


Celebrating with representatives from a few of our many partner organisations



The prestigious International Riverprize has been awarded annually since 1999. The UK winners to date are the Mersey (1999) and the Thames (2010)

The Thames Catchment



Flooding and pestilence

19th century Punch magazine cartoon: Faraday holding his nose as he hands Father Thames his business card



EAST COAST FLOOD DISASTER

Over 150 Reported Dead

GREAT STORM SWEEPS
SEA INLAND

Many Thousands Evacuated

The death-roll in disastrous floods along the East Coast from Middlesbrough to the Thames yesterday had risen to over 150 early this morning and was still mounting.

Towns and villages were swept by high seas driven by the storms which, on the other side of the country on Saturday, overwhelmed the Stranraer-Larne ferry and caused the loss of 133 lives. So far as is known deaths in the areas which suffered most severely

19th century Punch cartoon: 'Death River'



The concrete age

River Quaggy, London

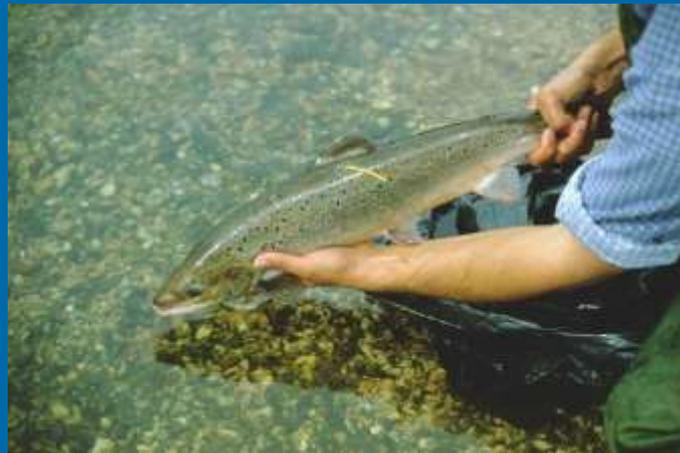


River Ravensbourne, London



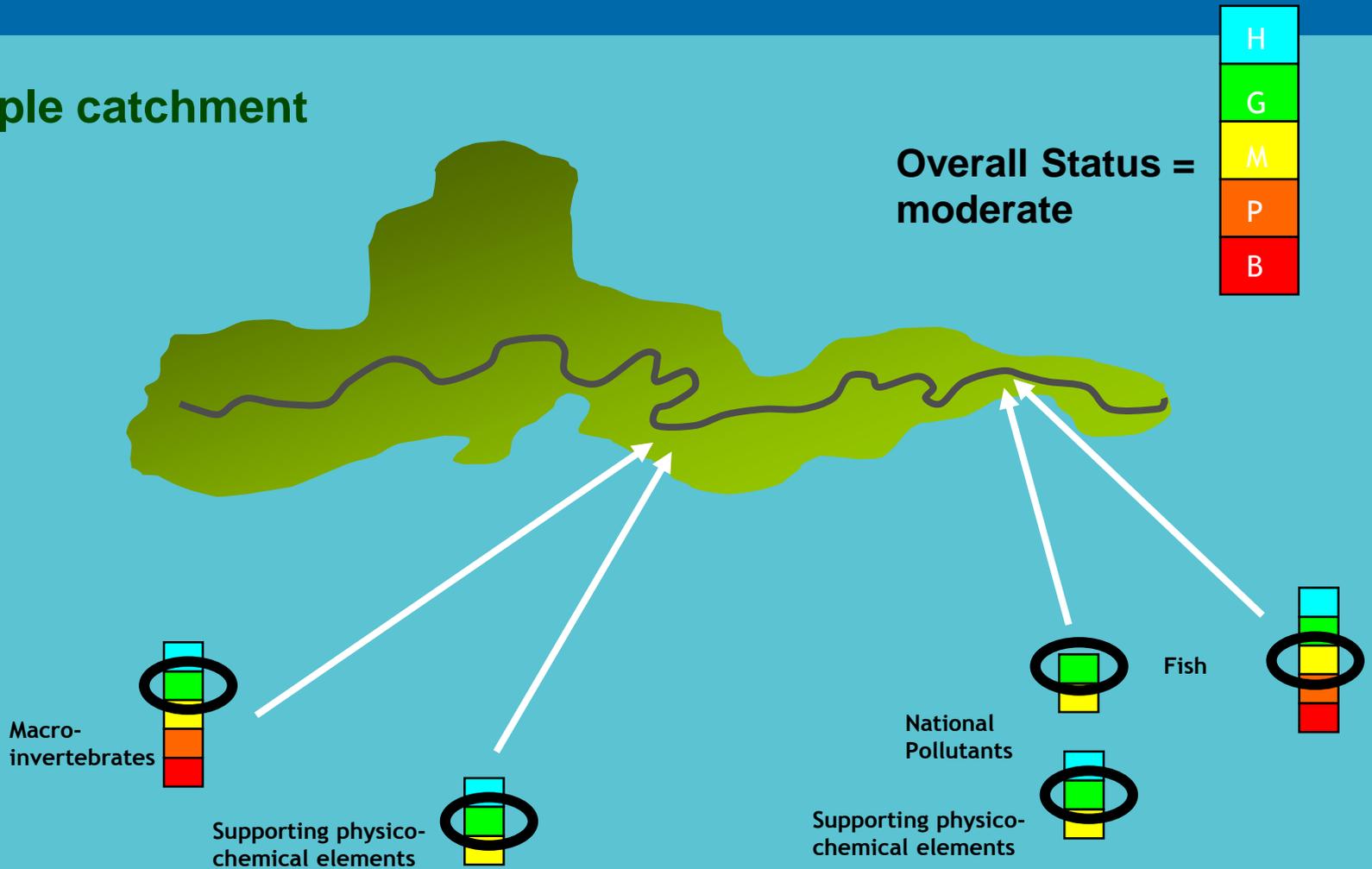
The remarkable recovery

- ➡ Good water quality increased from 53% (1990) to 80% (2008)
- ➡ 125 species of fish
- ➡ Healthy breeding Otter population
- ➡ Over 1000 habitat enhancement schemes since 1990
- ➡ Over 100 km of river restored since 1990



The European Water Framework Directive - classification principle – one out - all out

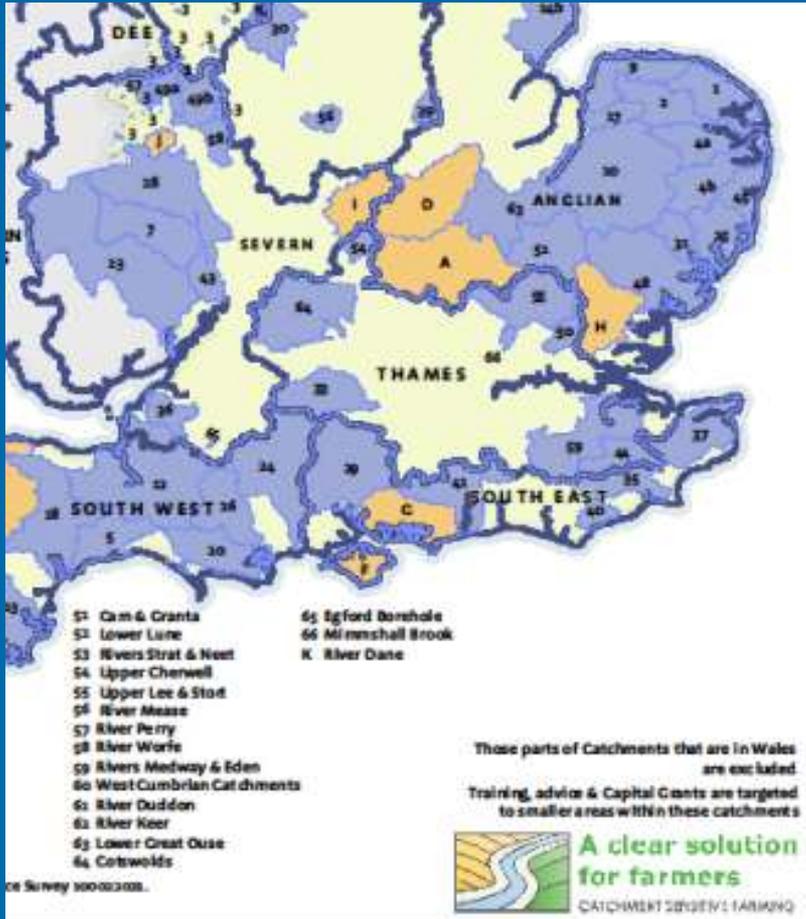
Example catchment



Catchment restoration through sustainable land management



Catchment restoration through sustainable land management

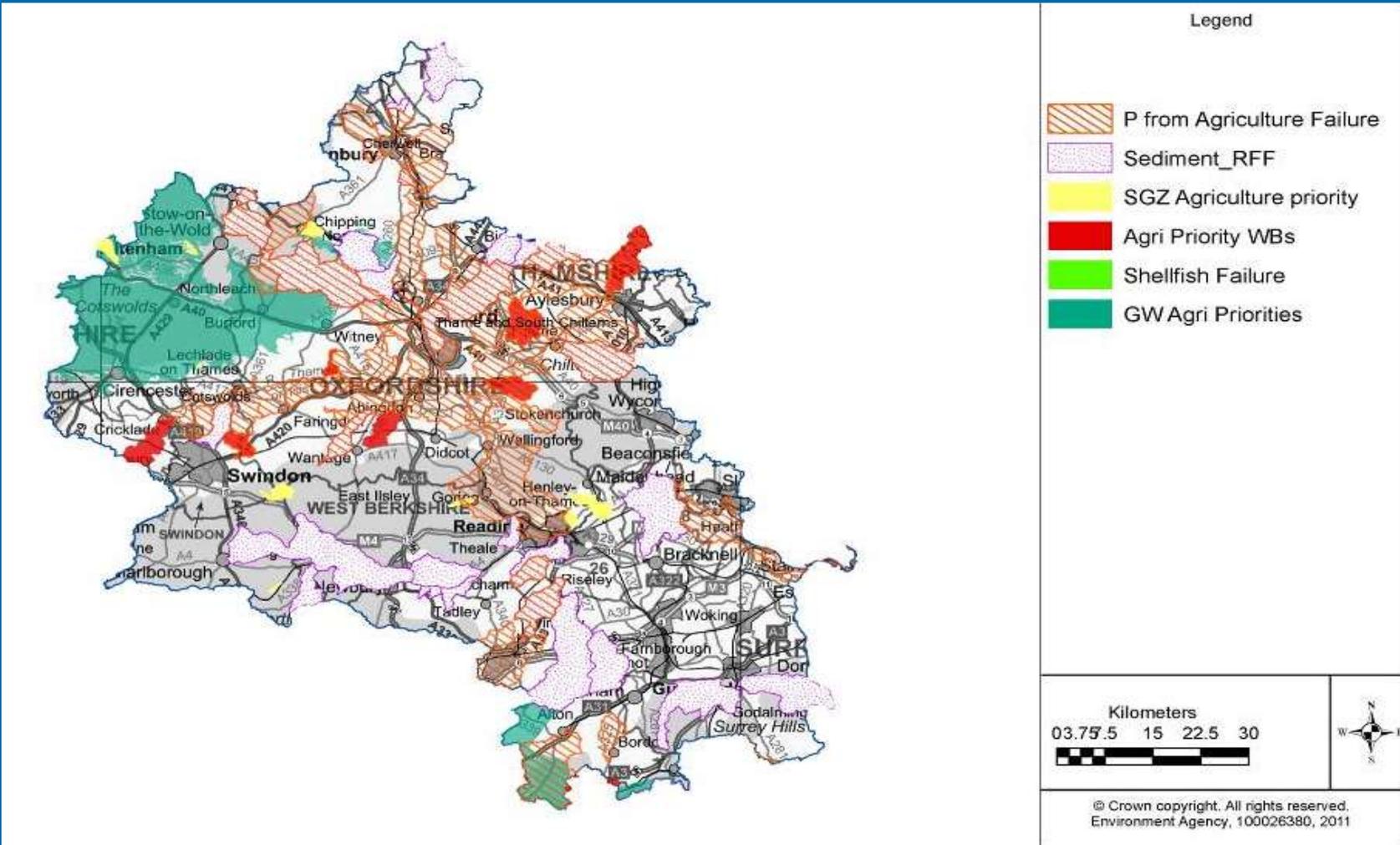


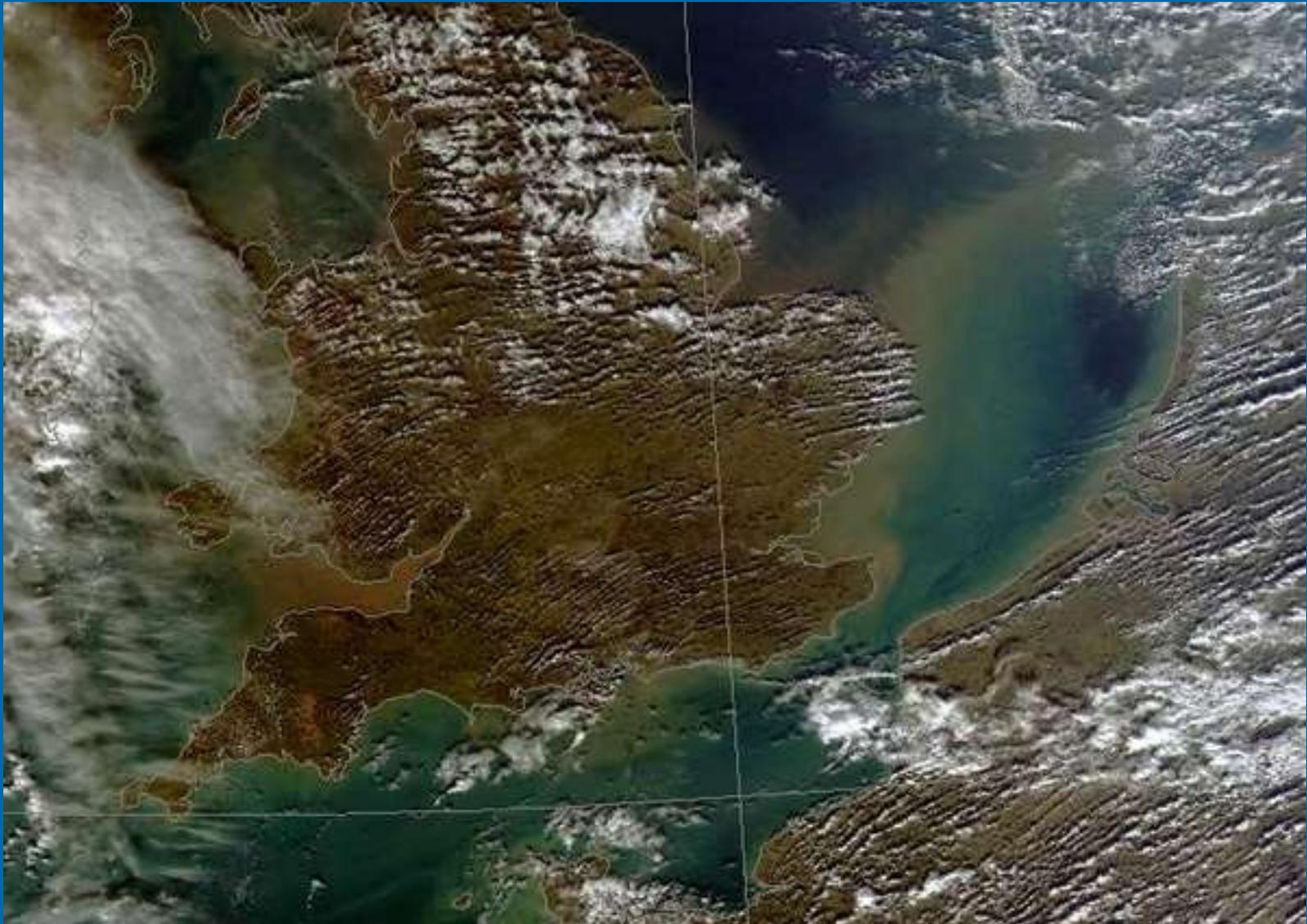
Catchment Sensitive Farming



£160K of natural flood management work at Holnicote in Somerset, reduced the flood peak by 10% and prevented £30M of assets (90 properties) from flooding during a 1 in 50 year flood event on Christmas Eve 2013.

Catchment Sensitive Farming - targeting





Catchment restoration through sustainable flood risk management

- 11 km of new river
- 5,500 homes and businesses protected
- 17 years in development
- 250,000 native trees planted
- 20 ha of wetland created



**Jubilee River,
Berks / Bucks**



Catchment restoration through sustainable flood risk management



Catchment restoration through sustainable flood risk management



**Fobney Island
R. Kennet,
Reading**



**R. Beam
Parklands,
Dagenham**



Catchment restoration through urban river restoration

The image shows the cover of a brochure titled 'THE LONDON RIVERS ACTION PLAN'. The title is in large, blue, serif font. Below the title, it says 'A tool to help restore rivers for people and nature'. The cover features several photographs: a river flowing through a green landscape, a close-up of a dragonfly on a branch, and a riverbank with purple flowers. The text on the cover is as follows:

Key aspirations:
By restoring the City's rivers, improve flood management, reduce the impact of climate change, reconnect people to the natural environment, gain better access for recreation and improved well-being, and enhance habitats for wildlife.

A linked website:
To provide an information resource in the form of a web-based map that highlights opportunities for restoring London's rivers in the Greater London Authority area.
www.therrc.co.uk/lrap.php

Who should use this guide:
Anyone interested in improving the wildlife and amenity value of a river, especially community groups, local business, planners and developers.

Catchment restoration through urban river restoration

R. Quaggy at Sutcliffe Park, Lewisham



“London is a concrete jungle and places like this are like your lungs of London... it’s your own little countryside.”

Roy Palmer, local resident



Catchment restoration through urban river restoration



River Ravensbourne at Ladywell Fields, South London – reconnecting people with nature



Visitors to Ladywell Fields urban greenspace in South London increased by >250% after restoration of the River Ravensbourne through the park

Catchment restoration through urban river restoration

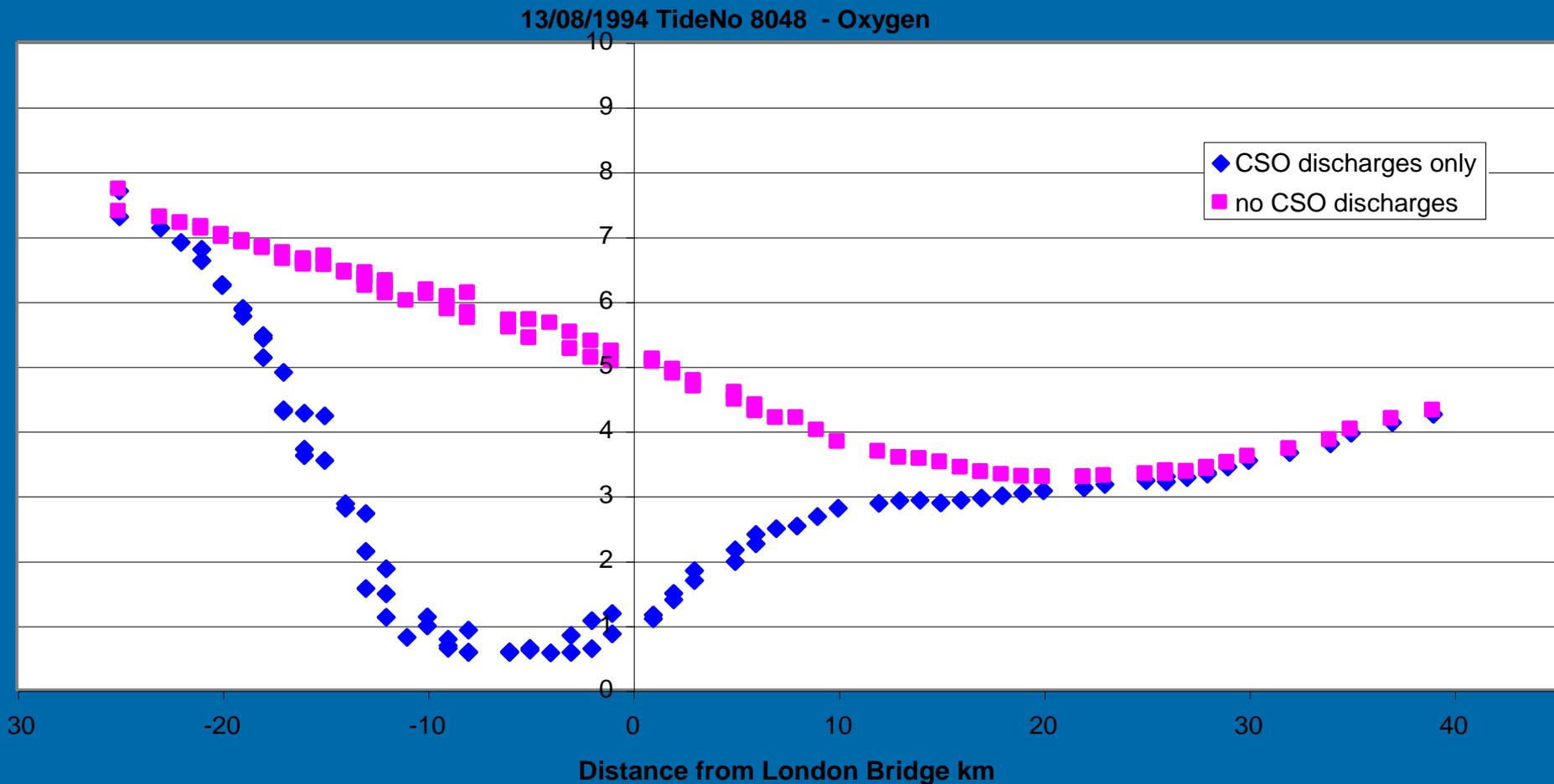


**River Ravensbourne at
Cornmill Gardens, South
London – restored as part of
a housing development**

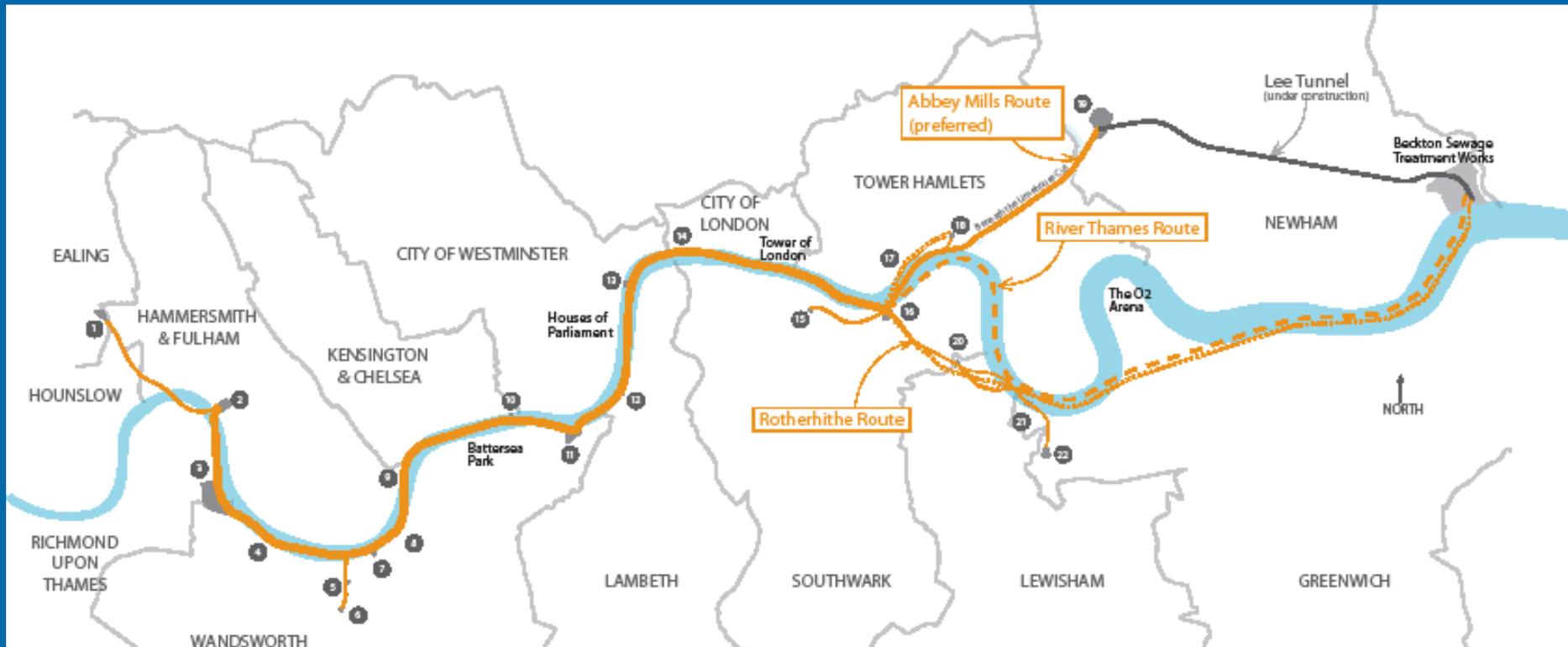


Environment Agency staff advise on > 3500 planning applications per annum across England in order to minimise the environmental impact and to secure opportunities for environmental improvement

Catchment restoration through reducing Combined Sewer Overflows



Catchment restoration through reducing Combined Sewer Overflows



Catchment restoration through SuDS



Hollickwood Primary School



Susie Earnshaw Theatre School



Queen Elizabeth Girls' School, Pymmes Brook catchment, North London



Catchment restoration through adaptation to climate change



Catchment restoration through adaptation to climate change



• Thames Estuary 2100 project

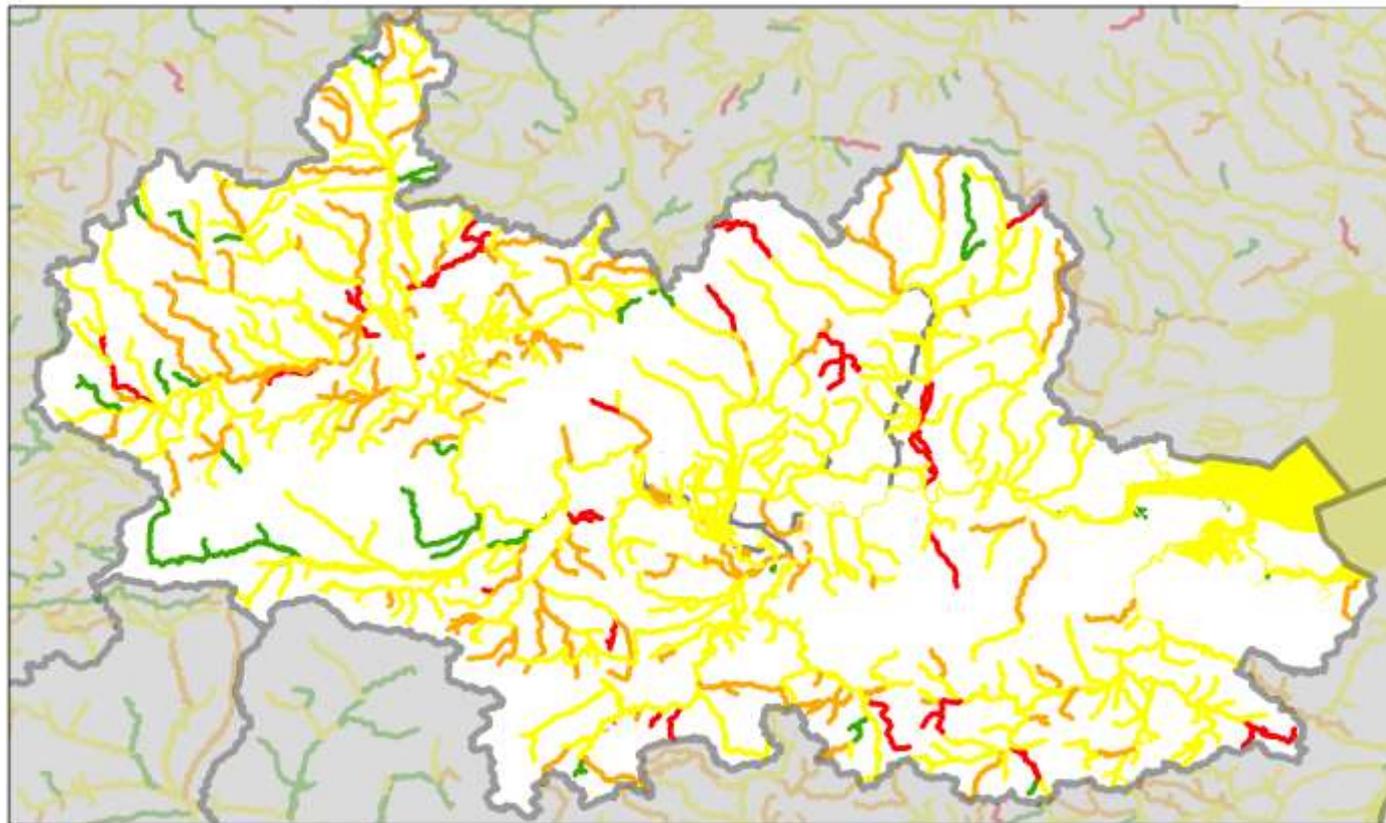


Freshwater habitat creation at Great Bells Farm, Sheppey

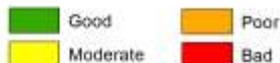


The huge challenge ahead

WFD River Basin District: Thames
Cycle 2 Baseline Ecological Classification (2015 data release)



Classification



High

0 10 20 30 km
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2015 WFD
status for
rivers and
lakes in the
Thames
River Basin
District



In the Thames catchment, 714 kms river and 113 ha of lake were in better condition in 2013 than in 2009

So what happened to all that prize money?!!



Twinning Project -Yamuna River, India





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Riversymposium @riversymposium 9 Feb

Abstracts will open soon for the 2016 symposium—but in the meantime, here are our topics, special sessions & more! pic.twitter.com/D2RbIgwZ7L



The annual International Riversymposium will be held in New Delhi in 2016 and outside Australia for the first time since its inception in 1998

Thankyou for your attention

