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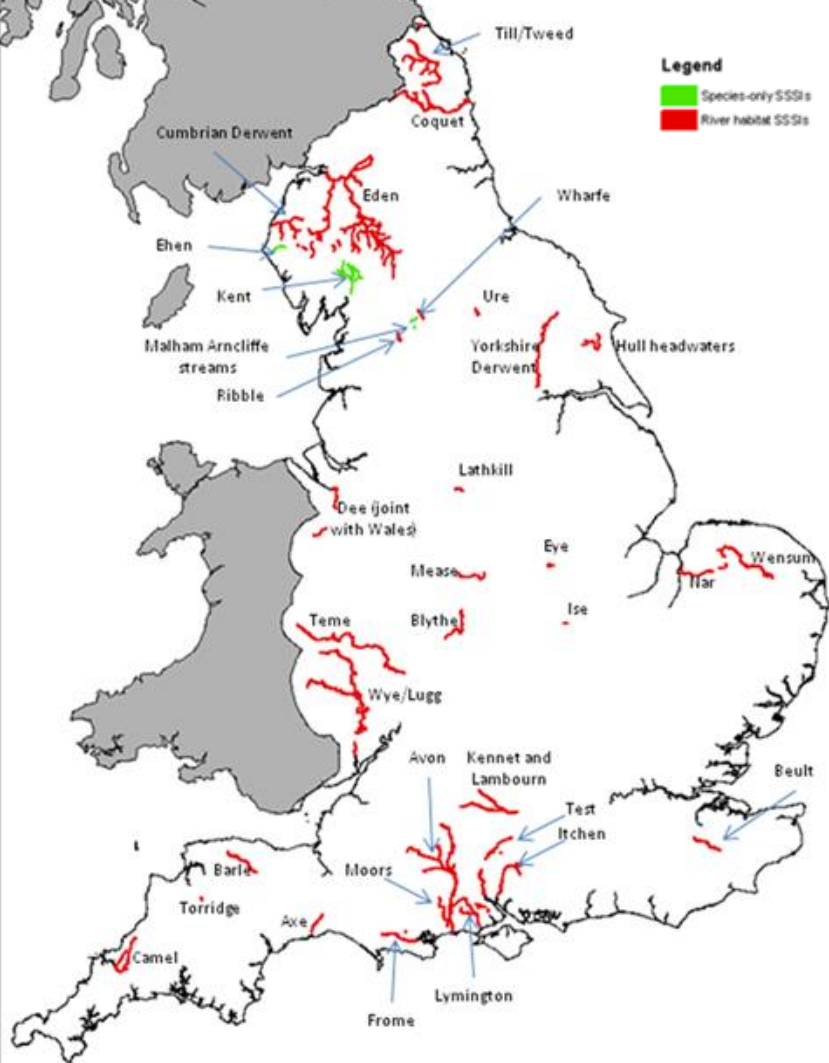
# **10 Years Of Restoring Designated Rivers in England**

Jenny Wheeldon

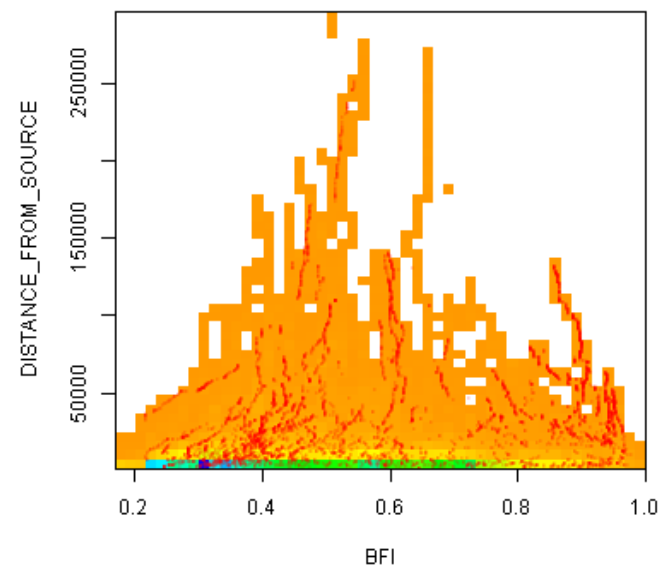
# 10 Years of Restoring Designated Rivers in England

- Relevance of designated rivers
- The approach to restoration
- Development of strategic plans
- Progress and action on the ground
- Funding mechanisms
- Reflections and future priorities



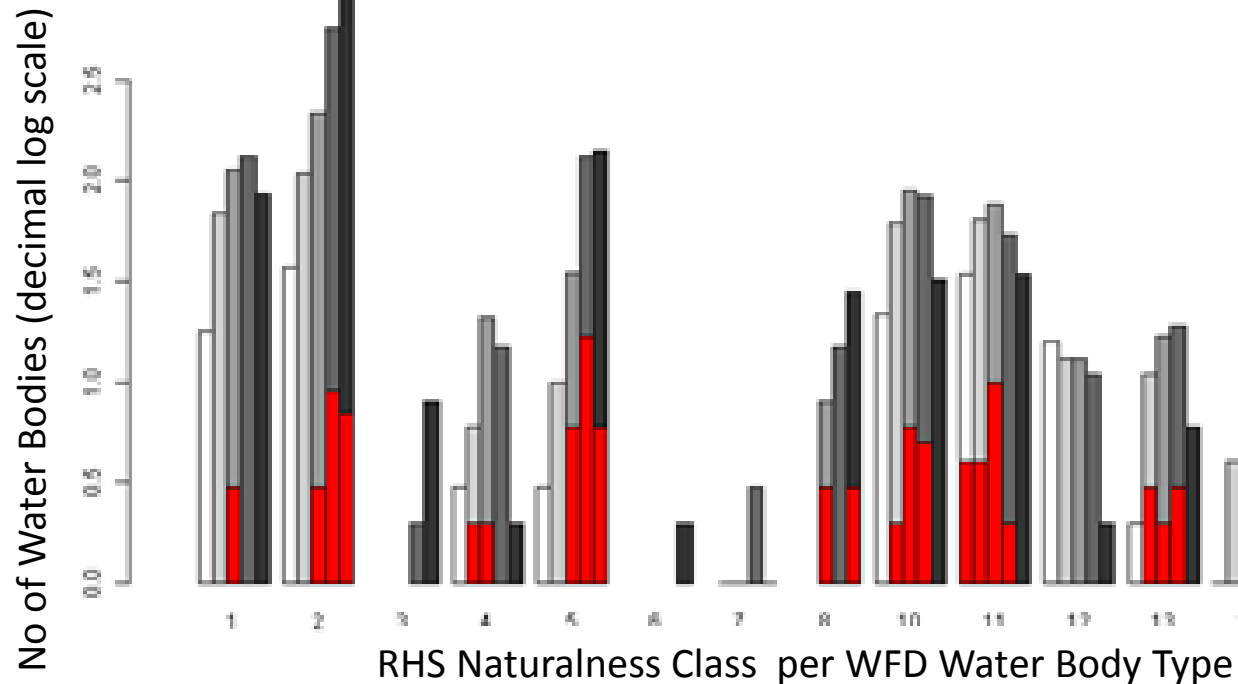


BFI v DISTANCE\_FROM\_SOURCE



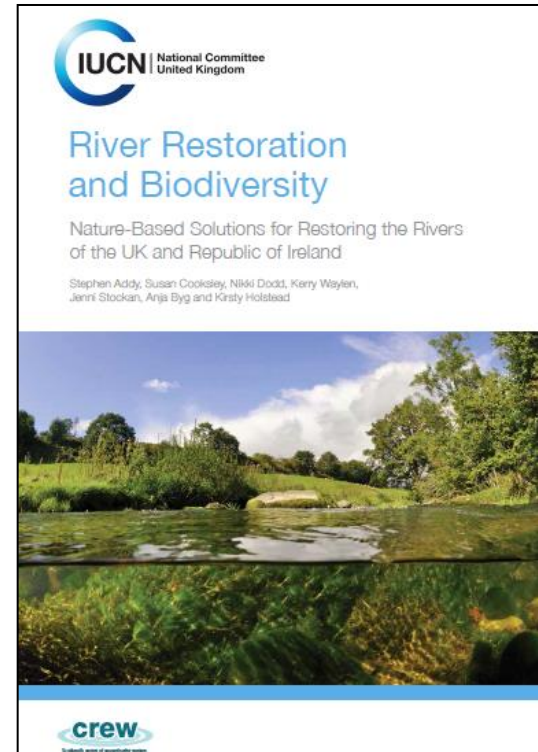
Adapted from Mainstone, C.P. and Wheeldon, J. (2016)

# Designated rivers and naturalness

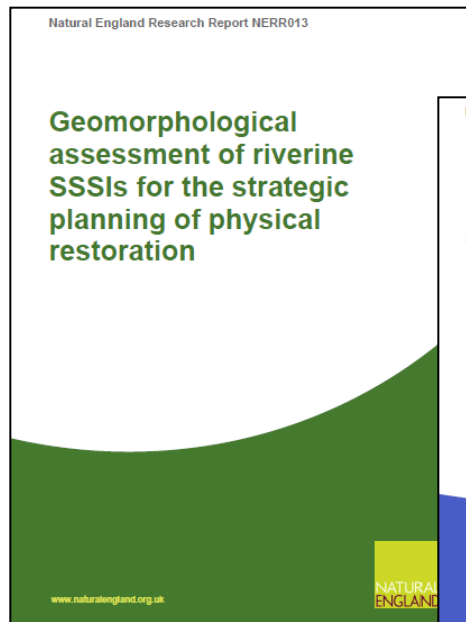


# Approaches to restoration

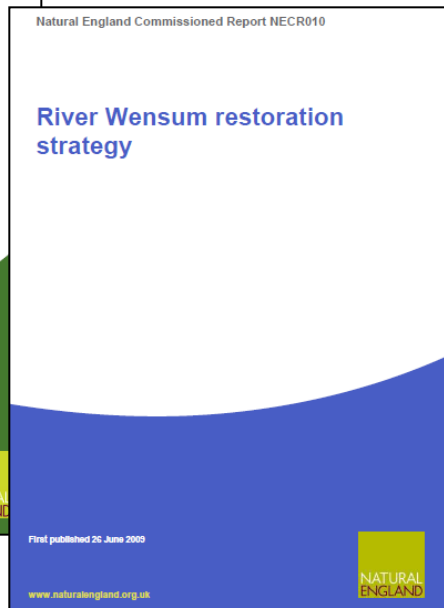
- Part of a wider framework (water quality, flow etc)
- Large scale, long term, based on natural processes
- Does not benefit all habitats and species
- Based on natural habitat template (tangible evidence emerging)
- Link between modifications, flood management and land use critical
- Diversity of societal attitudes greatly complicates



# Strategic approach to SSSI rivers



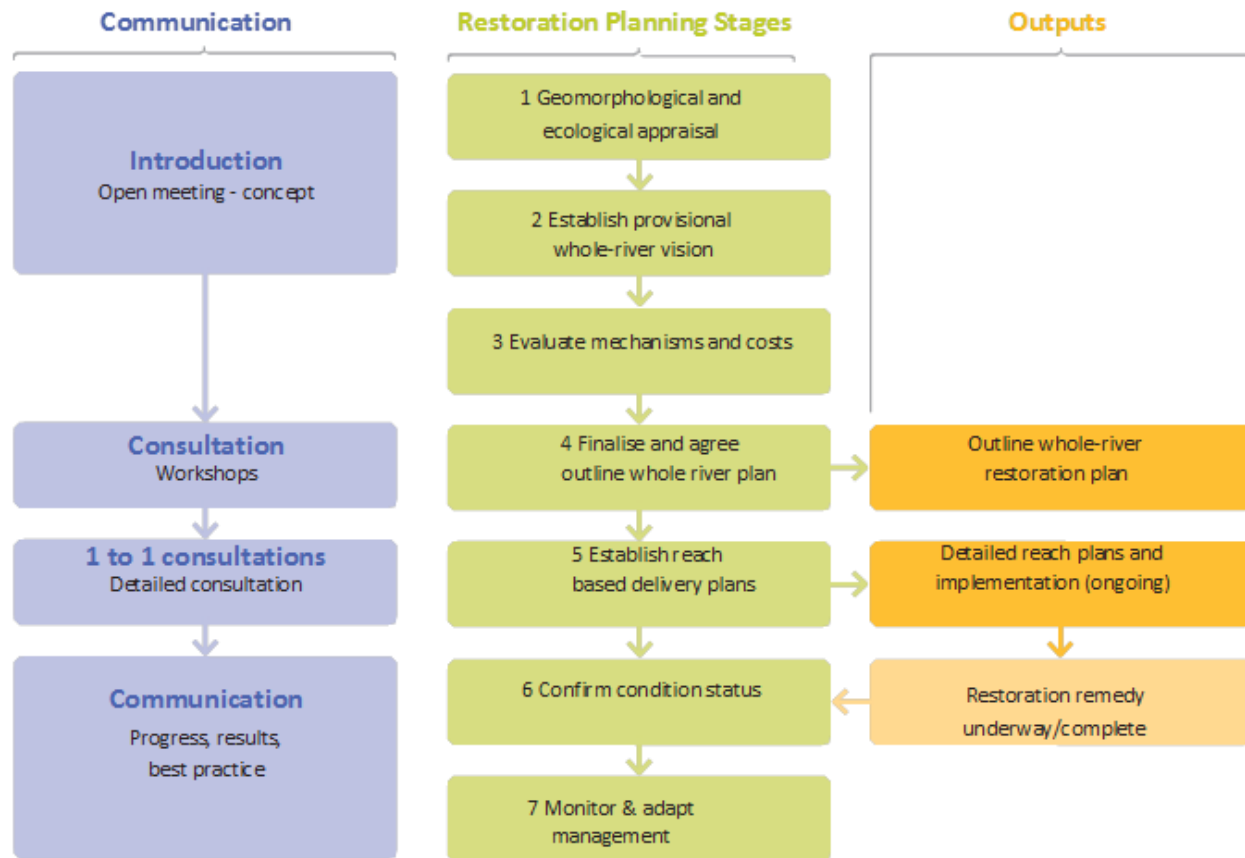
[NERR013](#)



[NERR013](#)

- Initiated 2004, trialled 2005/6
- 2007 Guidelines recognising
  - scale and difficulty of task
  - long timescales
  - range of stakeholders
  - need to use range of funding
  - collaborative approach
- EA FCRM funds allocated on prioritised basis (SAC rivers)
- Joint project officer 2009

# Restoration planning



# Progress



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## Key

Remedy/measure underway

Plans in development or initial  
implementation required

Future

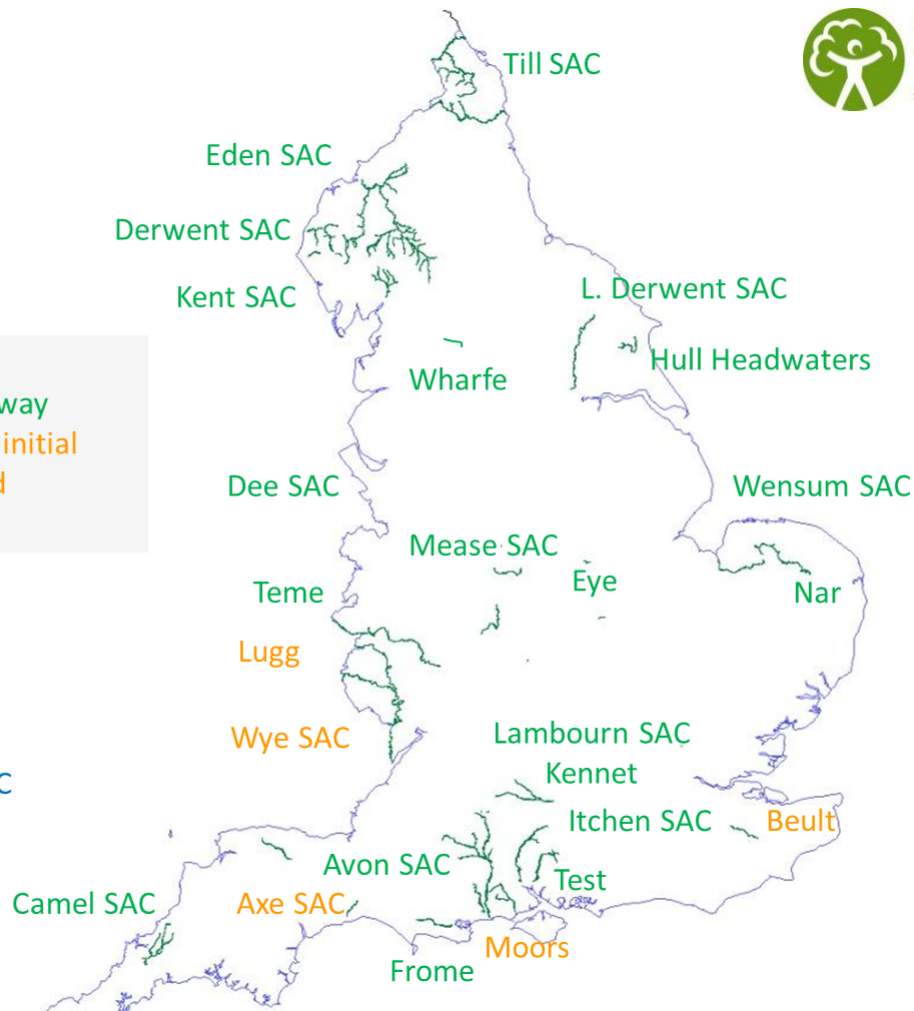
## River Units

R. Dove in SAC

Long Preston Deeps SSSI

Hamps & Manifold in SAC

Lathkill in SAC





# River Wensum

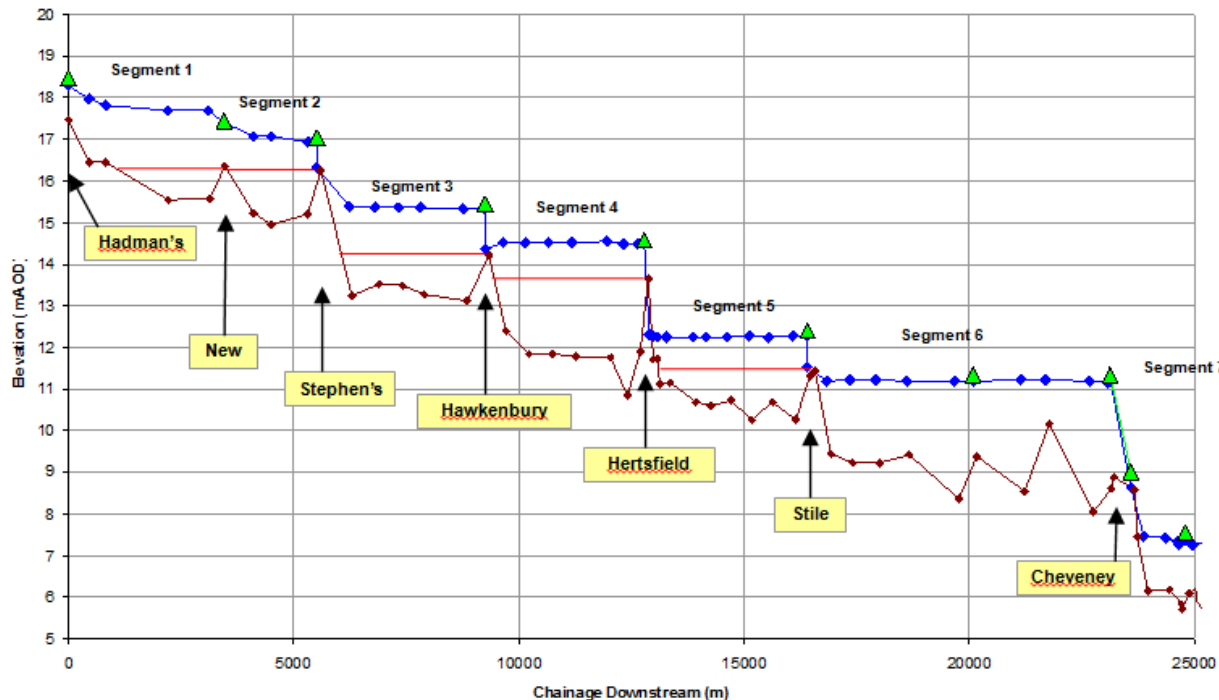


Survey	No of survey points	Frequency
Electro-fishing	One per scheme.	Pre, post 5,10.
Macrophyte	Standard WFD 100m survey per scheme. JNCC CSM compliant.	Pre work works: y
Macro-inverts	WFD compliant monitoring survey. One per scheme.	Pre work works: y
RHS	Adapted survey, transects every 10m to give continuous biotope mapping	Pre work works: y
Protected species	Phase 1 and protected species survey site for river corridor and floodplain.	Pre and works to impact.
Fixed point photo	Record physical changes to the river character and local landscape.	Pre work works: y

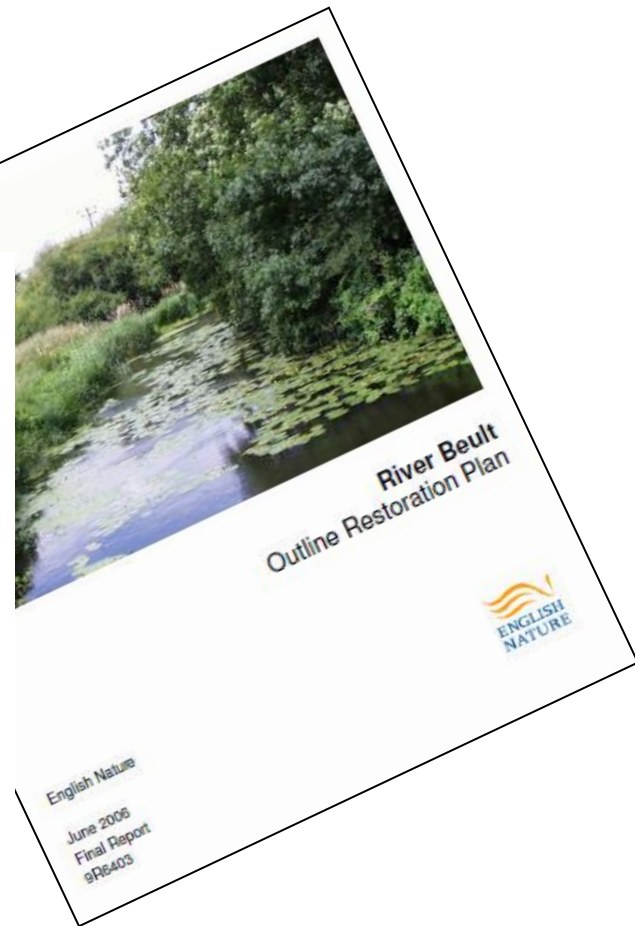


Upper Wensum River Restoration Project. Pictured is Five Rivers director Jason Lovering excavating the old channel. Picture: Ian Burt

# River Beult



◆ Surveyed Water Level (with stopboards)   
 ▲ Agreed Summer Water Level at Stopboards   
 ● Bed Elevation   
 — Theoretical water level



# Cumbria

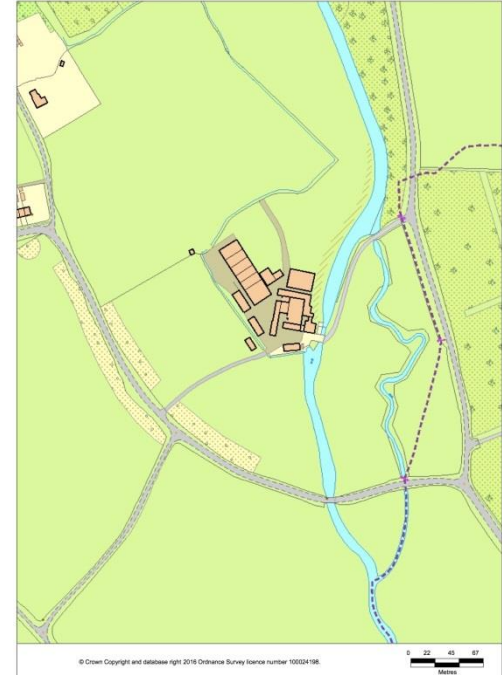




# Hull Headwaters



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# River Dove

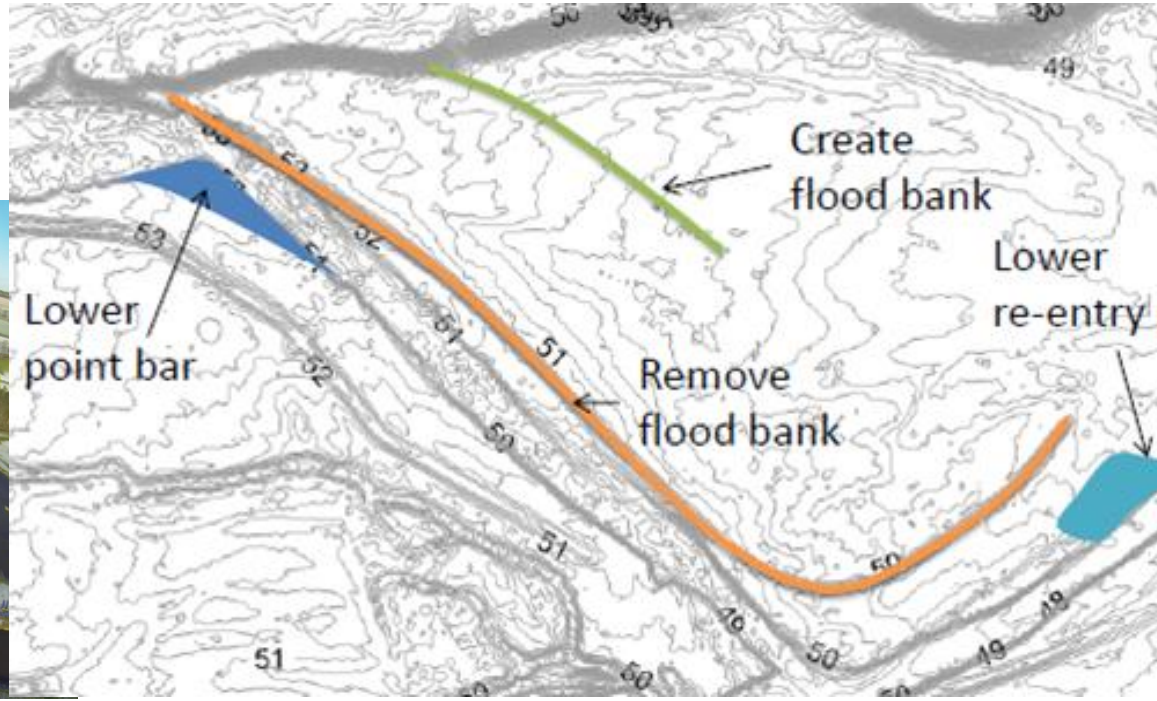


Image: National Trust/John Millard

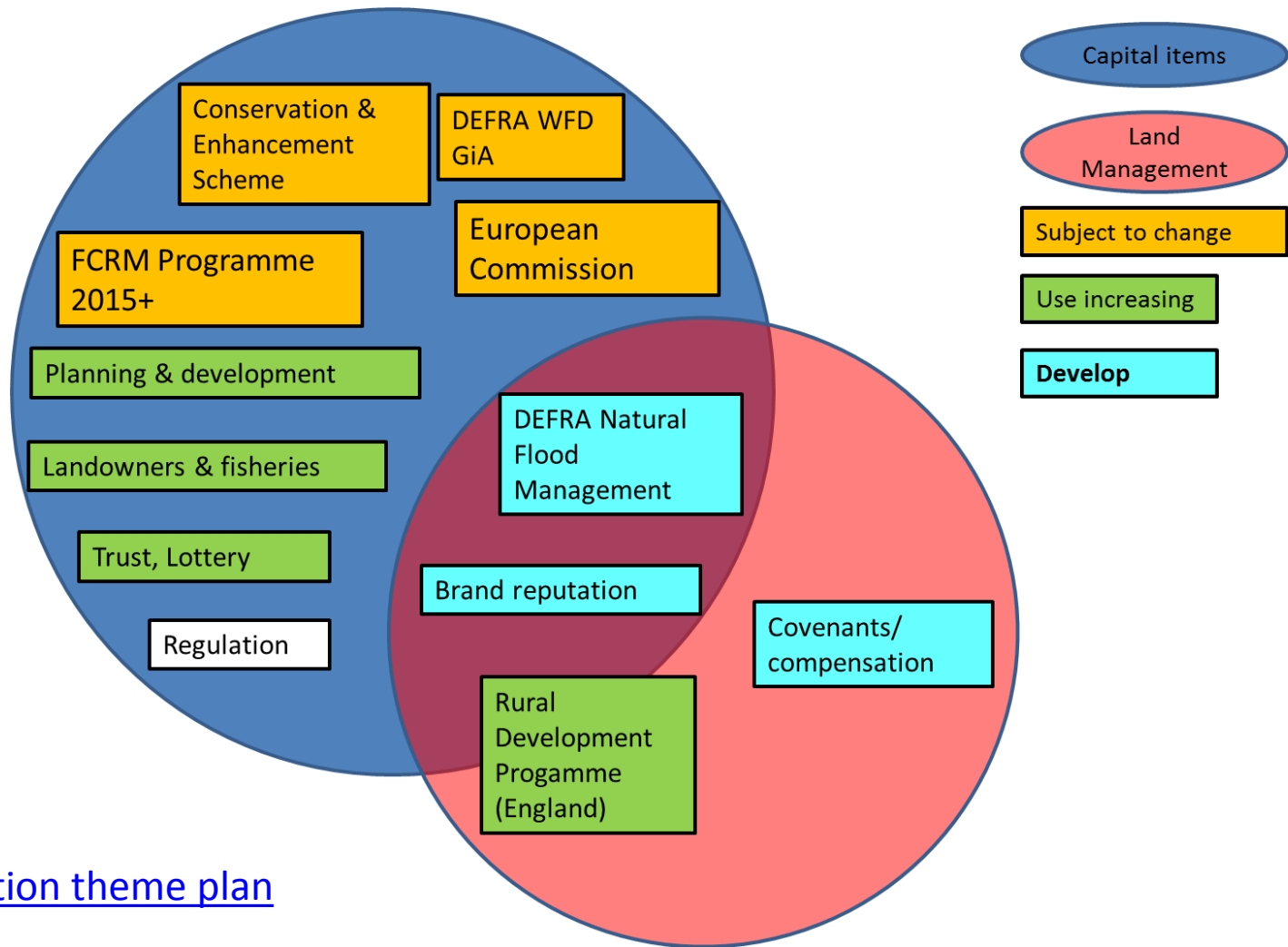




# River Till

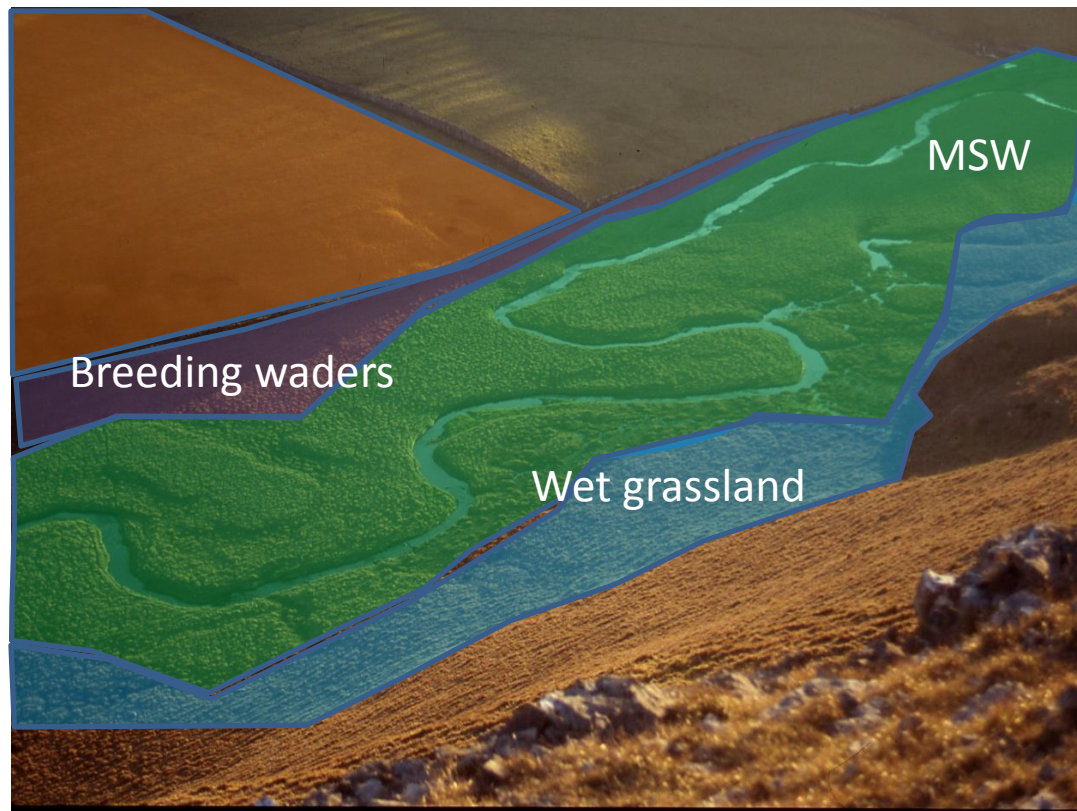


# Funding



Source: [River restoration theme plan](#)

# Making Space for Water



## Countryside Stewardship option SW12

SSSi river restoration plans

Priority river habitat if in RBMP

20 year option

<https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants/making-space-for-water-sw12>



# Delivery summary



2010-2016                      89 km (EA form E)

2015/16                        71km at £29/m (\*11 rivers did not report)

Plans completed for Rivers Dee, Dove, Eye, Lugg & Wye (405km)

Length improved 2015/16 (km)*	Cost £	Contribs by partner £k*			Partners
		EA	NE	Other	
71.65	1,15 M	572	226	356	EA/NE/ private sector, landowners, business, river trusts, catchment partnerships, wildlife trusts, National trust, local authorities, IDB's, water companies

# Funding summary

2011-17	NE		EA
	WFD	Match funds	
	£3 M	£3.8 M	£16.3 M

Catchment based approach and partnerships

Plans used as bidding documents for

EA programmes 2016-2021

LIFE/HLF/WREN e.g River Teme, Cumbria rivers

Developer contributions e.g Mease, HS2

Links to DEFRA Natural Flood Management funds and PRO19

# Reflections

- Proven and effective, long term view key
- Creates space for changing mindset
- New mechanisms developed
- Catchment based approach helped
- Effectiveness of incentivised approaches

## Future

- Evaluating benefits
- Sharing experience, updating RRC page
- New delivery routes
- Opportunities post Brexit ?



[Mainstone & Wheeldon review paper](#)

# Thank You !

[www.therrc.co.uk/designated-rivers](http://www.therrc.co.uk/designated-rivers)



**2017 UK River Prize Winner**  
River Avon - Hampshire, Wiltshire & Dorset



*Rivers Eden, Derwent & Kent*  
2016 UK River Prize



*River Tweed*  
2015 UK River Prize



*River Wensum*  
2014 England River Prize