

# Thames Rivers and Wetlands Community Days



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30 April 2019



# What are RWCDs?

Exciting programme benefitting 23 Thames catchments

Funded by Thames Water, catchment partnerships and others



RWCD volunteers, River Whitewater Hampshire



RWCD volunteers, River Stort project

- Improves environments, inspires and trains volunteers
- Established by a delivery partnership from the Thames River Basin Panel, led by the EA, reviewing bids against criteria and agreeing successful projects

# Why RWCD?

- Involve communities
- Est. 2013/14 to inspire people
- Benefit all Thames catchments



# Aims and outcomes



1. Inspiring



2. Building capability and capacity



3. Improving habitats and reducing flood risk



4. Instilling greater knowledge



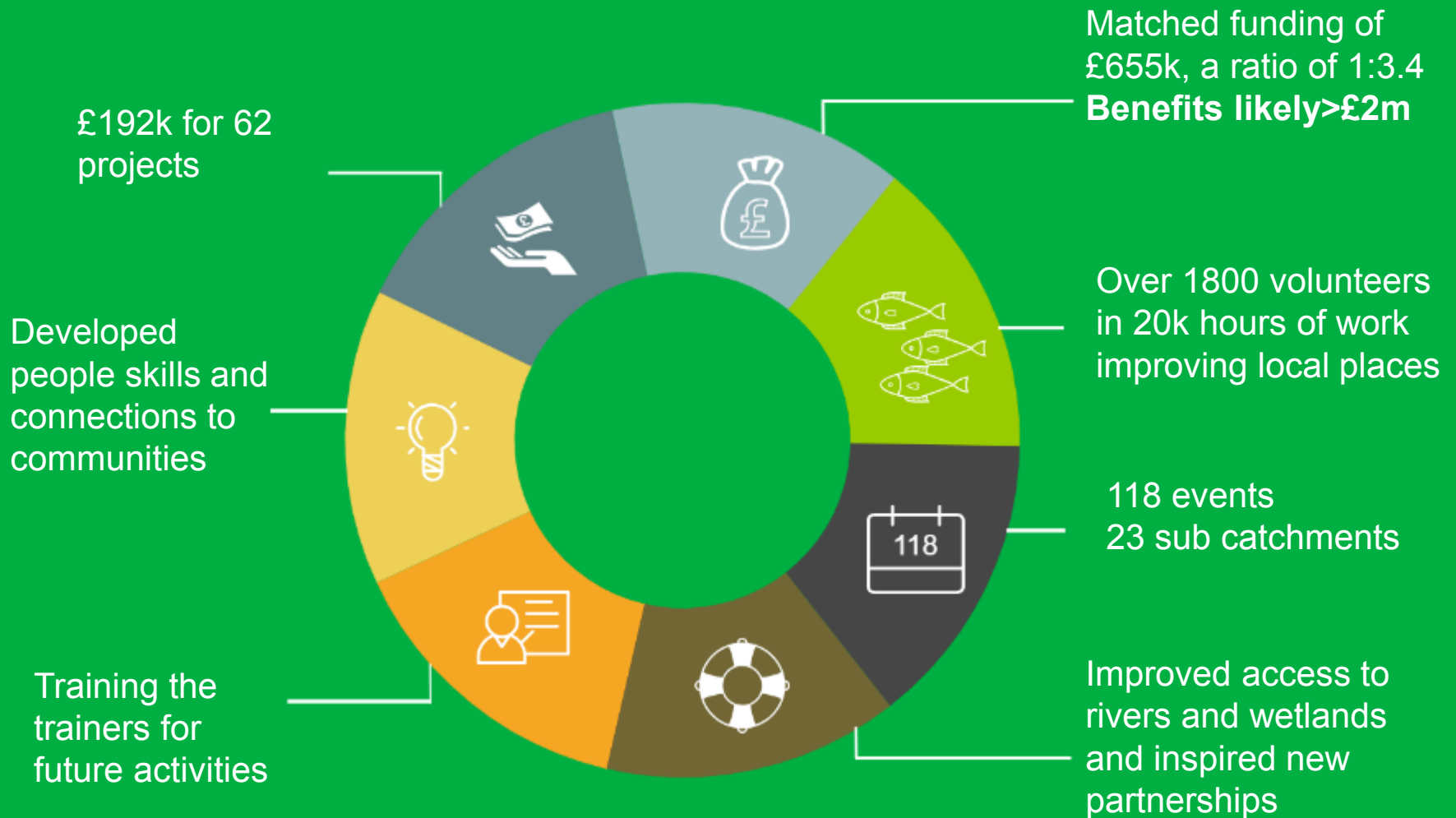
6. Increasing practical skills



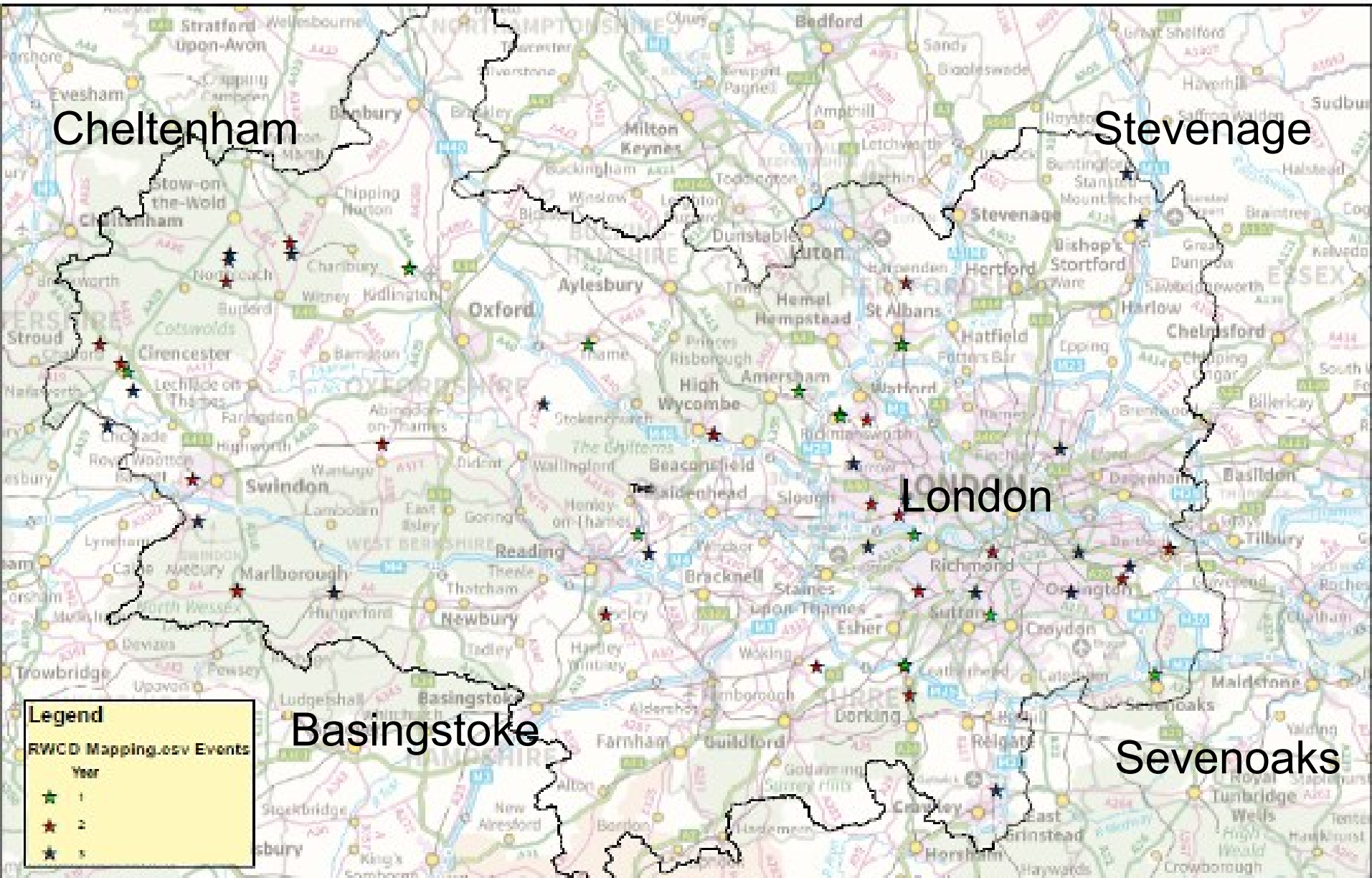
5. Improved fitness and wellbeing



# RWCD benefits



# River and Wetland Community Days projects in Thames Water area

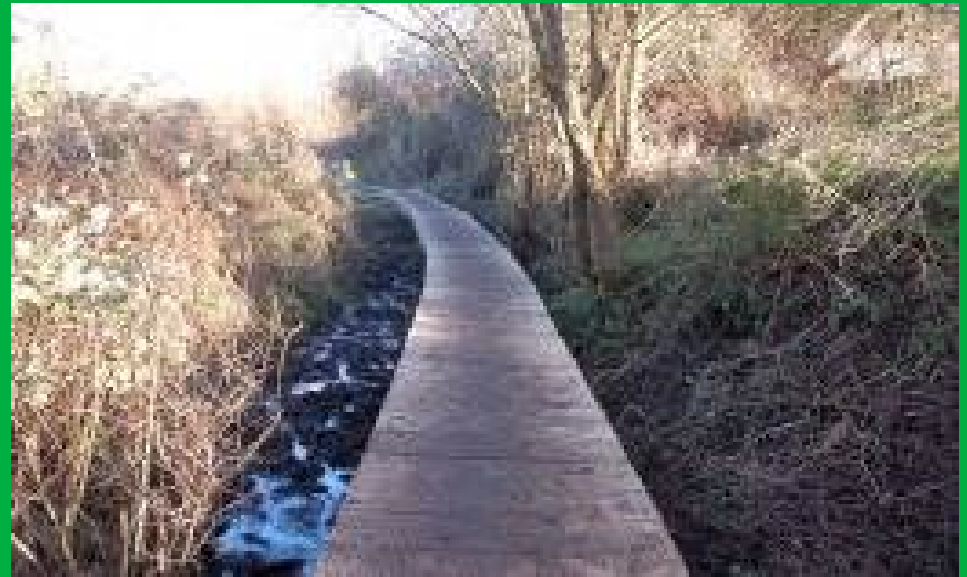


# Many excellent RWCD projects...

## Cuttle Brook Conservation Volunteers, River Thame Catchment Partnership



Restored original derelict wetland boardwalk



# Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group - Healthy Churn Project





# Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, restoring River Windrush



# RWCDs funds London's first Rivers Week 2016 - Wandeful Wandle and Brent Action Days



Before



After



# London Outfall Safaris - Hogsmill

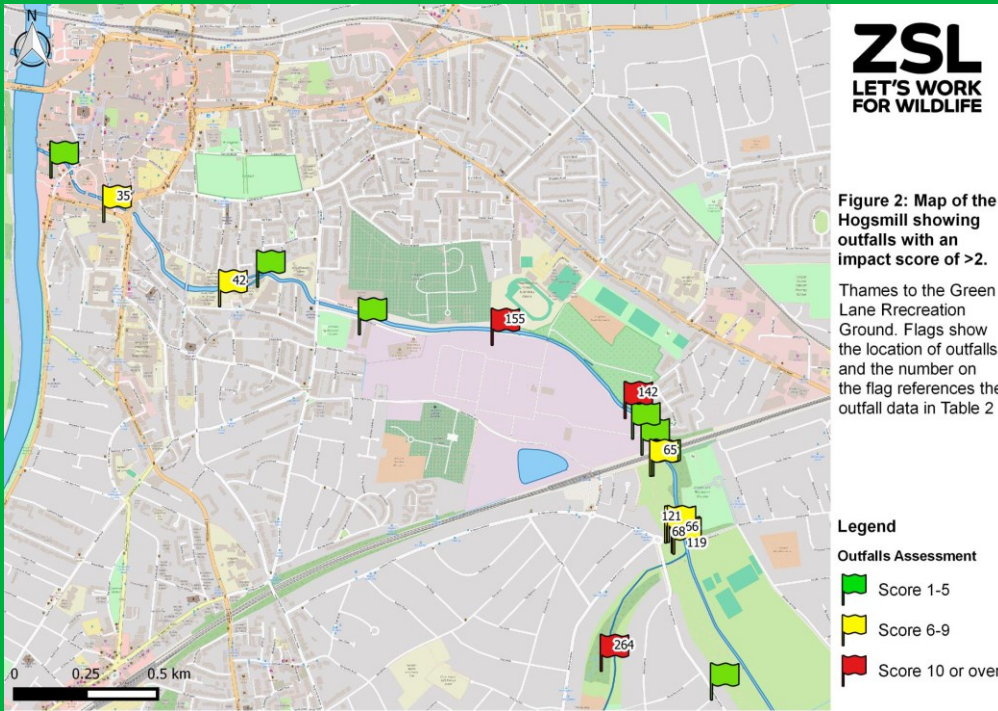


Photo ID	NGR	Location details	Bank side	Assessment Score	Photo
2	TQ2110165837	Riverside Cottage, Old Malden Lane, Worcester Park	Right Bank	6	
7	TQ2074466388	Wheelhouse Way, Old Malden	Right Bank	10	
8	TQ2074366392	Knollermead, Tolworth	Left Bank	10	
9	TQ2063366480	71 Southwood Drive, Tolworth	Right Bank	6	

Joe Pecorrelli Zoological Society London

- Invaluable funding developed Outfall Safaris in London
- Thames Water increased investment to clean additional 550 outfalls in 2020
- Data contributed to a pan London study on polluted outfalls
- Regulation policy change encourages proactive surveying of outfalls

# Quotes and media

Paul Kerr, Thames Water Chief Finance Officer: "A big thanks for hosting our Time to Give day. Amazing to see such enthusiasm from Chiltern Ranger staff, this has really rubbed off on our team...."



The project team hauls a large piece of metal from the waters.

## Volunteers have Dun such a great job

A PROJECT to clean up the River Dun at Bearwater in Hungerford is under way. The work is being done by the Action for the River Kennet (ARK) charity, with lots of help from the local community.

ARK project officer, Anna Forbes said the first two river restoration days, where local people volunteered to help while learning rowing skills, had been a huge success.

She said: "Everyone enjoyed but week feedback from volunteers has been incredibly positive. They all worked really hard and together we're improving

this stretch of the Dun for wildlife and for people to enjoy too."

Bearwater's retired residents are also playing their part, leaving volunteers fuelled with tea and cakes and occasionally dropping by to see the transformation of the river and have a chat.

Ms Forbes said: "The Methodist church are kindly letting volunteers use the church facilities.

"Bearwater people have been amazing - they've all really embraced this project and have truly mucked in."

Next week, a team of managers from the Cognatum retirement

facility is having a team-building day with ARK to continue the river work.


There may be more opportunities to get involved with this project throughout May.

To keep up to date and follow this project, visit ARK's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/rwrkennet](http://www.facebook.com/rwrkennet)

The Bearwater Community River Days project is led by ARK and funded by Thames Water Rivers & Wetlands Community Days, with additional support from Bearwater, the Bearwater residents coffee morning and Cop Local Good Cause.



The Loddon Catchment Partnership with 



## Loddon Rivers Week

September 18<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017


Join members of the **Loddon Catchment Partnership** at a series of events themed around delivering practical improvements to enhance river habitat.

- Help to deliver a range of 'River Restoration' techniques
- Learn about low-cost solutions
- Hear about local and national case studies
- Celebrate World Rivers Day

**Programme**

- Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Thames bypass visits, inc. Loddon Apsorfield Mill Weirs (associated event)
- Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Maiden Erlegh - floating island construction
- Tue 19<sup>th</sup> - Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Blackwater Valley - habitat enhancement on the River
- Blackwater & feeder streams
- Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Bassetts Mead - Large Woody Debris installation, Maiden Erlegh - floating island launch
- Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Thames Water - Control Centre visit (associated event)
- Sun 24<sup>th</sup> World Rivers Day - Bassetts Mead Guided walk & kick sampling demo

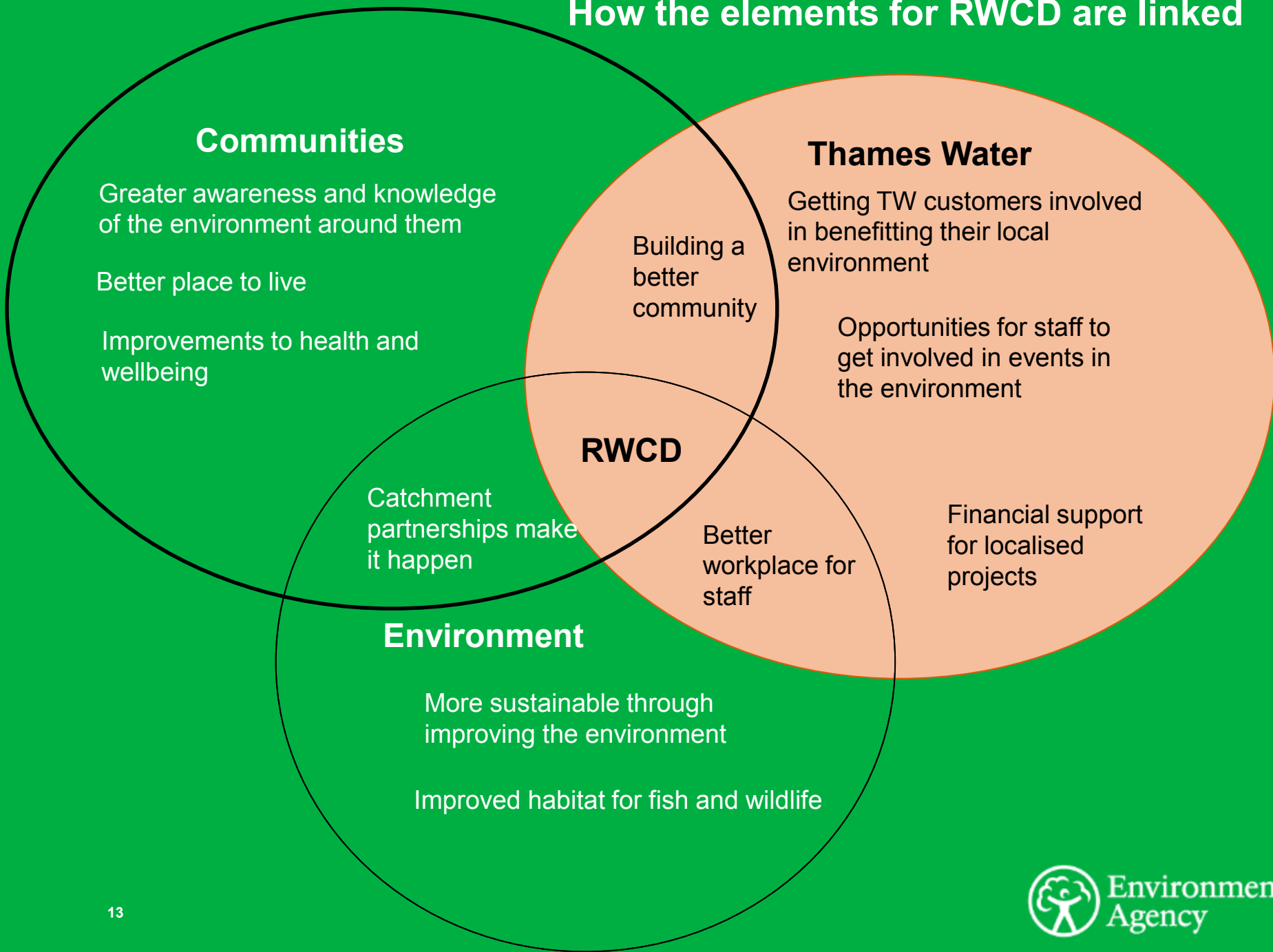
Loddon Catchment Partnership members:



Miles, Nationwide Headquarters: 'When I got up today, the last thing I expected was getting slightly emotional about voles. I'd like to help out again'.



# How the elements for RWCD are linked



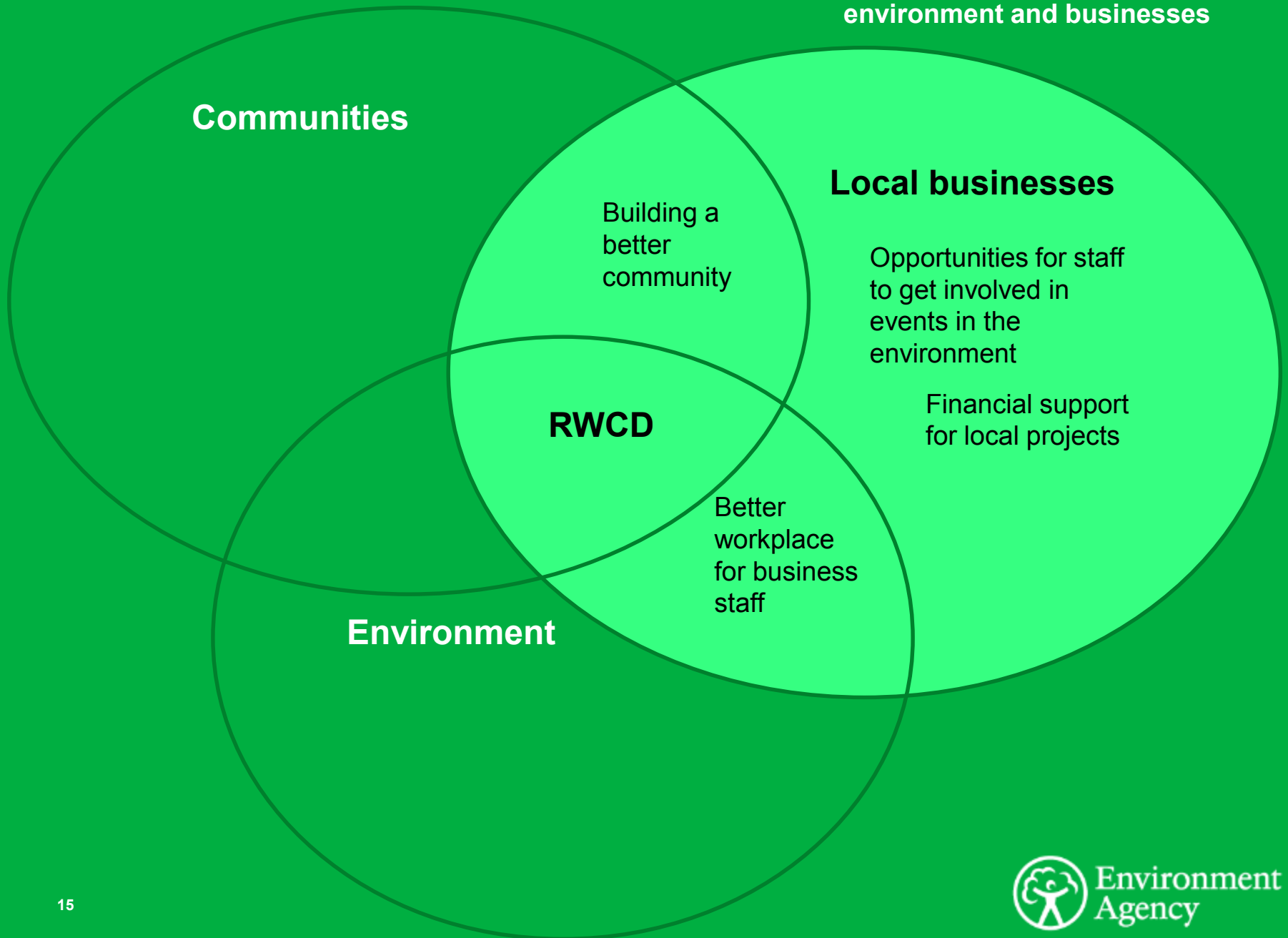
# What next?

**1. work with Business In the Community**

**2. secure funds via Integrated Catchment Delivery events**

**3. enable others – 2019 Year of Green Action**

Links between RWCD, communities,  
environment and businesses



# 2015 UK Brazil learning events – 2 RWCD days were highlights and helped inspire innovation award in Brazil!

Carolina Pinto won a Brazil innovation award embedding techniques learned from the RWCDs Brent 'train the trainer' day

“It was a great achievement to win this award, as recognition for the initiative and also as a means to disseminate river restoration good practice used in the UK, spreading the idea of the importance of using innovative practices to solve problems related to water issues and conserving our river basins

I hope we continue working together in 2017 and many years to come”.





Thank you.



- Greater awareness and wider involvement
- Please talk to us if you are interested
- Can we help fund your initiatives?
- Can you help fund?