

West Midlands Greener Together Forum

19th March 2024



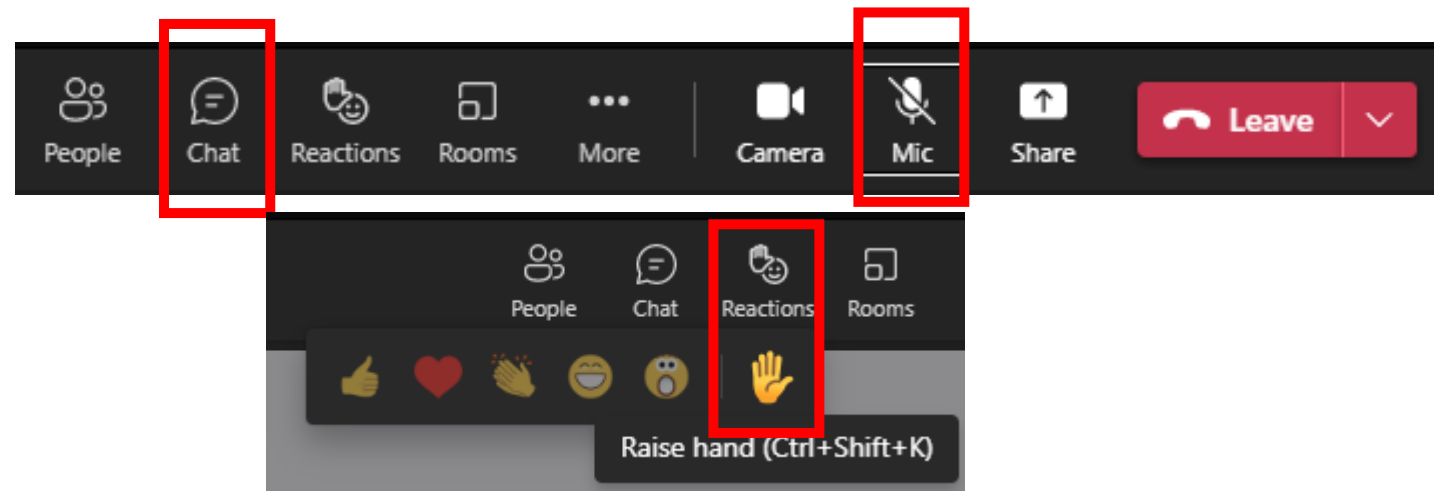
West Midlands
Combined Authority



Greener
Together

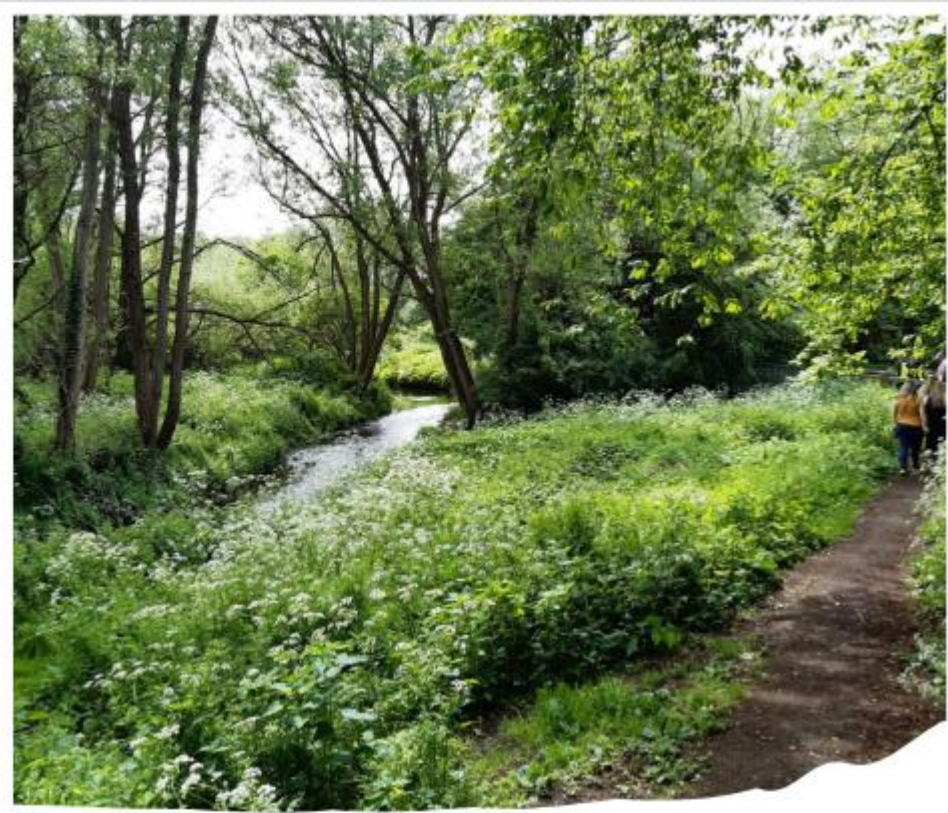
Housekeeping

- Please stay on mute unless you have a questions to ask
- Please respect all opinions and allow opportunity for all to speak when in the plenary sessions. We want to ensure that everyone feels part of the Forum.
- To ask questions, please write in the chat box or raise your hand to ask the question.
- No scheduled breaks but please feel free to step away when needed



Agenda

- **12:00 – 12:10** – Welcome and house keeping
- **12:10 – 12:20** - **Paul Wilkinson is a Senior Ecologist at the Canal and Rivers Trust** who will be talking about their work on restoring the regions canals to help nature to thrive and their plans for the next few years.
- **12:20 – 12:30** – **Dr Emily Prestwood is the Energy Development Manager at the Birmingham Energy Institute** and will join us to share their partnership work on creating the River Cole Community Commons project.
- **12:30 – 12:40** - **Sally Clague is the Senior River Restoration Officer with Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust** who will share their work on restoring the River Stour corridor and the Trusts wider work they are planning on waterways in the region
- **12:40 – 12:50** – **Elsbeth Sage is the Local Nature Recovery Strategy Co-Ordinator at the West Midlands Combined Authority** who will be speaking about how blue infrastructure will be included within the Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- **12:50 – 13:15** – Plenary discussion with speakers and members of the Forum to ask questions and raise any points for the group to consider
- **13:15 – 13:25** – Community announcements – for anyone to raise any upcoming events or areas of interest to the Forum
- **13:25 – 13:30** – Closing remarks



River Cole & Tyseley Energy Park Community Commons





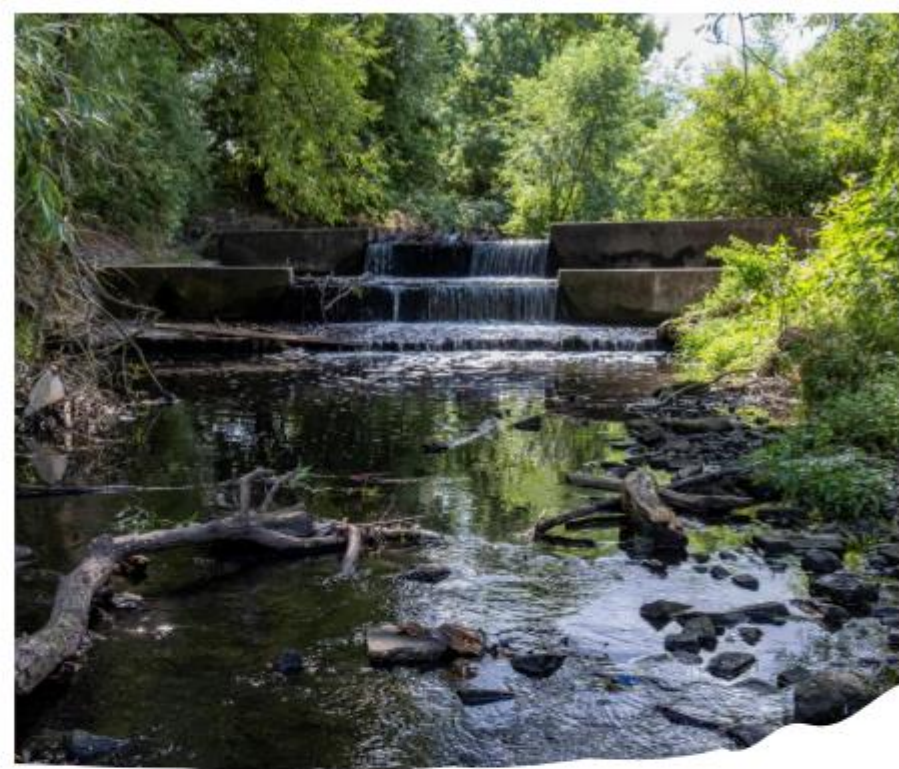
River Cole Community Commons

Active Travel - Cycling, walking,
wayfinding and connecting people via
the green corridor



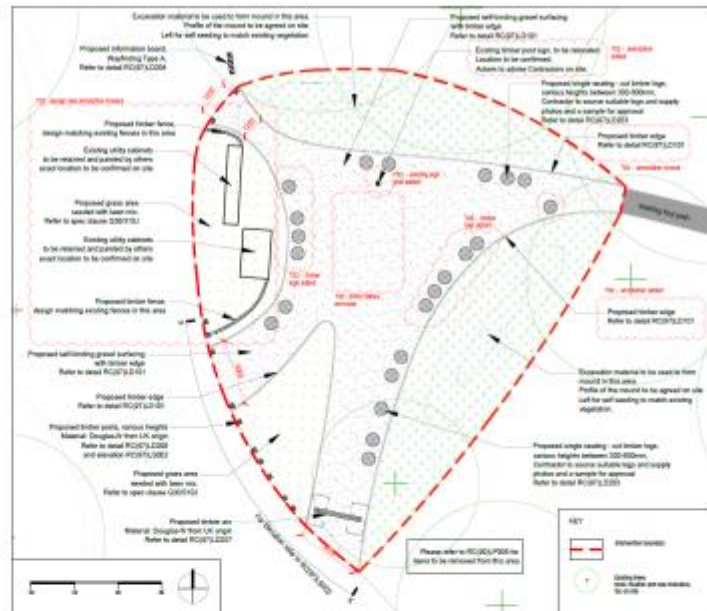
**River Cole
Community
Commons**

Navigating a Pathway to a Greener Future.



River Cole Community Commons

Increasing biodiversity and improving river quality by removing a weir and naturalising flow

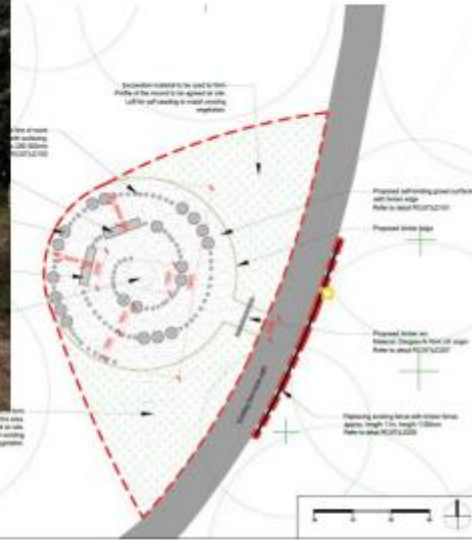


River Cole Community Commons

Enhancing the green and blue space and access to the river

River Cole Community Commons

Creating new outdoor spaces for play, exercise and learning





River Cole Community Commons
Making the area more attractive with artwork, new entrances and equipment



River Cole Community Commons

Creating a new meadow habitat and cleaning up the area – ongoing work



**River Cole
Community
Commons**

Navigating a Pathway to a Greener Future.



Activating the River Cole Community Commons

Engaging with the community, building partnerships and creating a new stewardship approach





River Cole Community Commons

Navigating a Pathway to a Greener Future.

Community Green Grants



Schools Partnership

Developing the RCCC Stewardship and Management Plan: Projects, Funding, Sharing Learning & Addressing Ongoing Challenges

tysep

WELCOME TO
Tyseley Energy Park Community Clean-Up Day!

Schedule
10:00 am - 12:00 pm: Community clean-up along the River Cole & the Grand Union Canal

From 12 onwards: Engage in our Community Information Forum:

- Meet Councillor Zafar Iqbal
- Discover local changes and activities
- Learn about the River Cole Community Commons
- Learn about Birmingham's Green Energy and Innovation Quarter
- See the latest designs for the National Centre for the Decarbonisation of Heat which will be built at TSEP over the next two years.
- Promote your organisation here

Date and Place
Wednesday 20th March
St Cyprian's Memorial Hall, Fordknock, Hay Mills, B28 8PA

Thank you for joining us for a day of connection, environmental care, and shared efforts.

For information regarding this free event, please contact Emily Pritchard at ep@rivercolecommons.co.uk

Connect with us!
LinkedIn: Tyseley Energy Park
Twitter: @tyseleyenergy
Instagram: @tyseleyenergy

www.tyseleyenergy.co.uk





**Birmingham &
Black Country**
Wildlife Trust

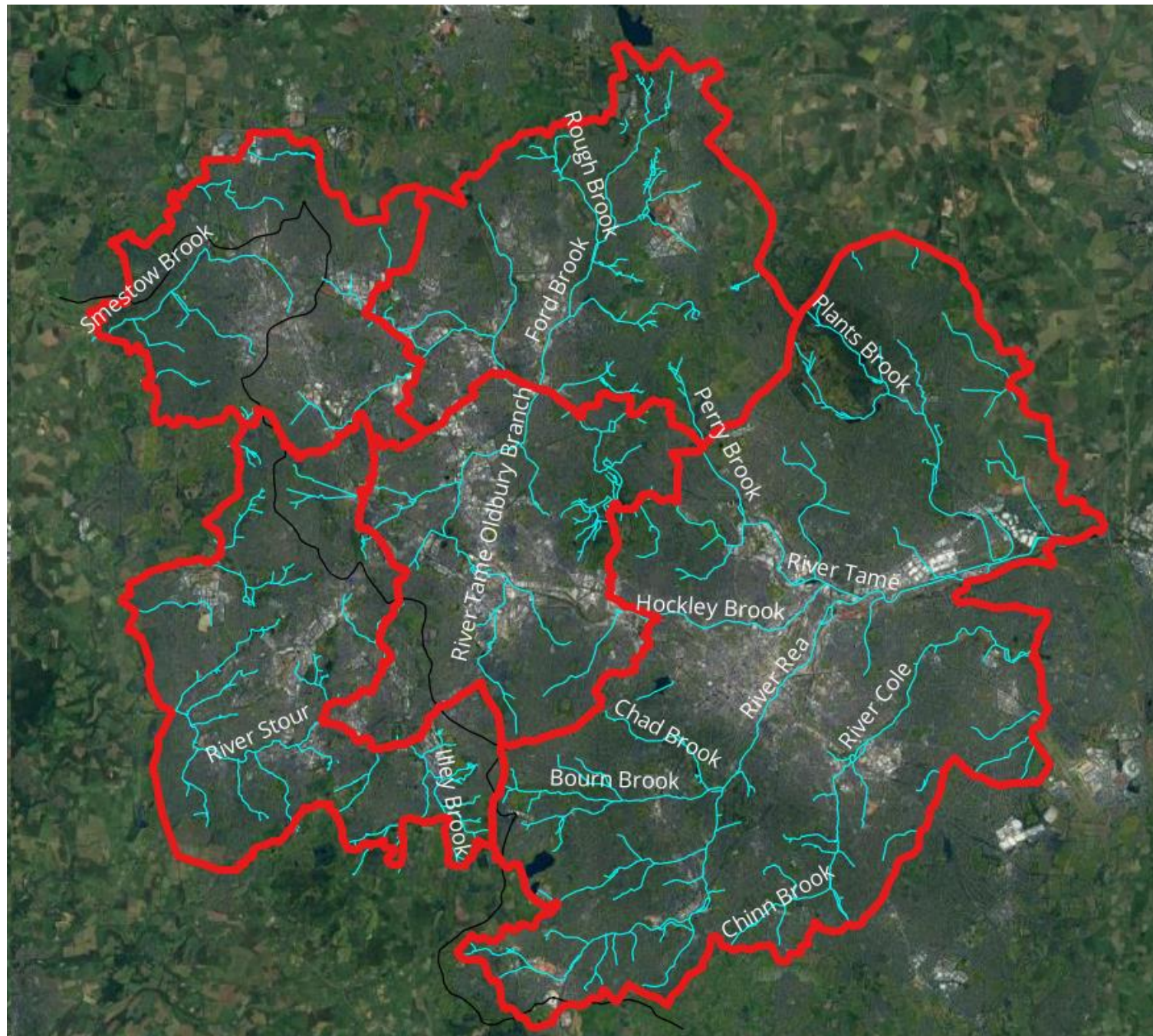
Our Work on the Birmingham and Black Country's Watercourses

Sally Clague

Love Your River Stour Project



**Birmingham &
Black Country**
Wildlife Trust



River Severn Watershed

- River Stour

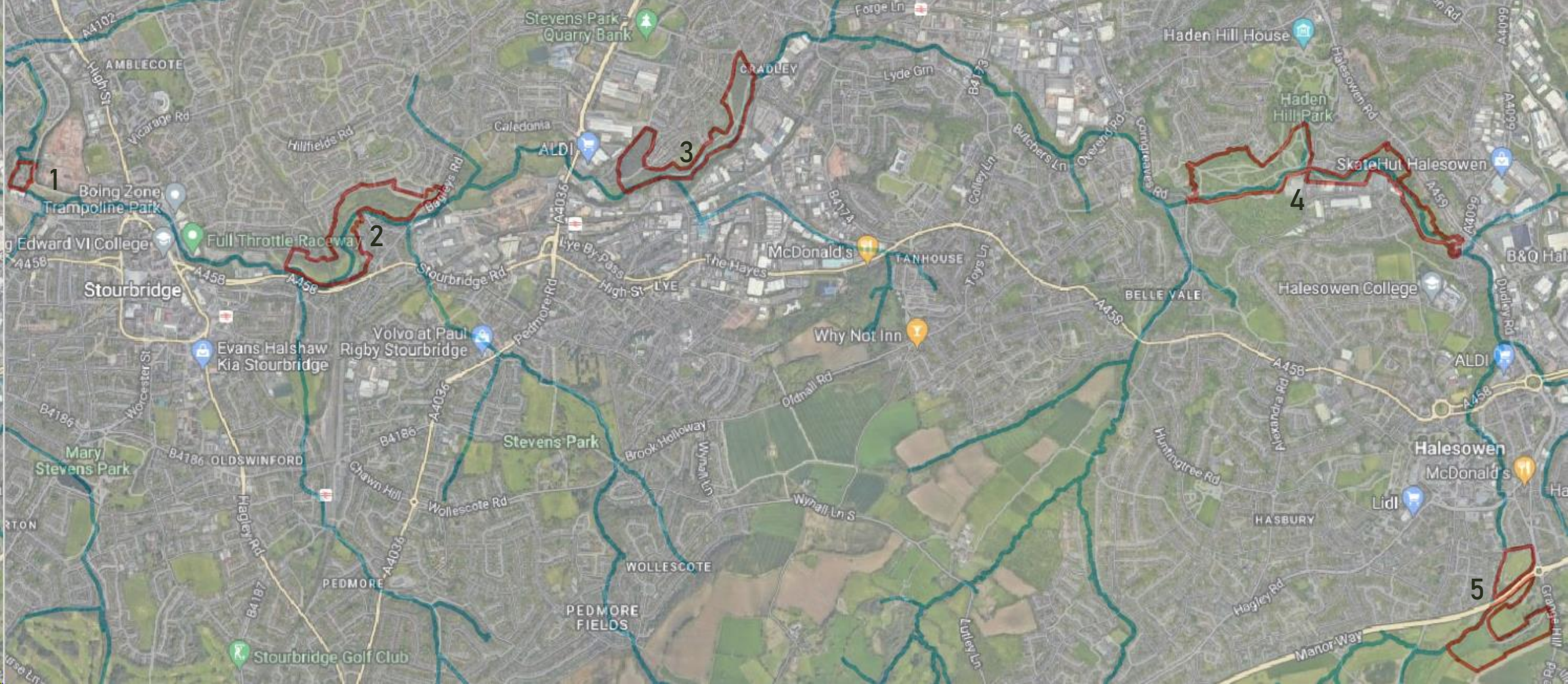
River Humber Watershed

- River Tame
- River Cole
- River Rea

Love Your River Stour



Birmingham & Black Country
Wildlife Trust



Project Activities



Fly tipping/litter removal

Liaison with Severn Trent



Aquatic Invertebrate surveys



Birmingham & Black Country
Wildlife Trust



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Pathway Improvements

Guided Walks

Woodland Enhancements

River Corridor Improvements

Treatment/removal of invasive species

Grassland Enhancements



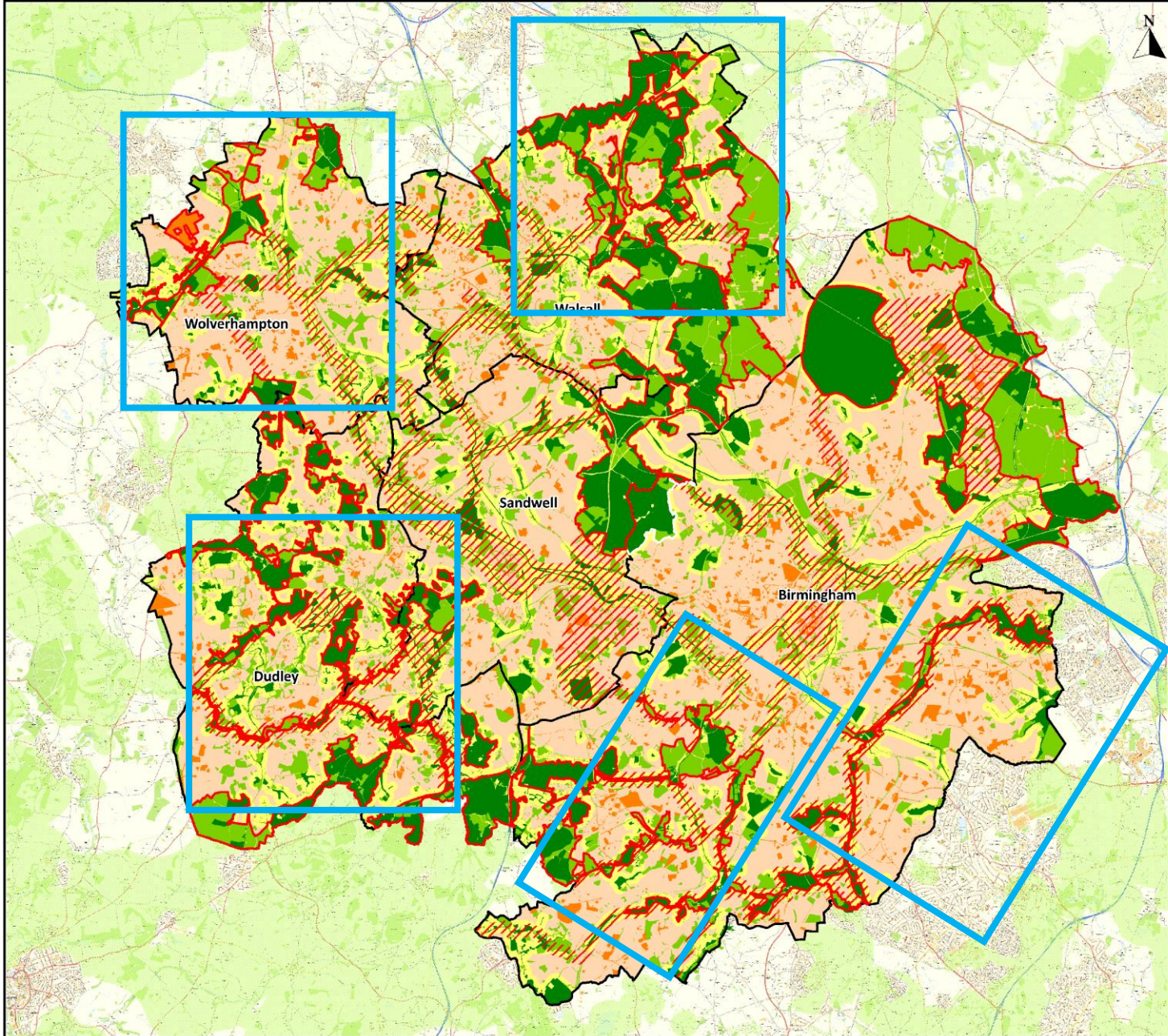
Natural Rivers and Green Corridors

Funded by the Environment Agency until 2027

- Focusing on the Upper Rea Catchment
- Aim to reduce negative impacts of manmade modifications to the river
 - I.e. weirs, gabions, canalisation, disconnection from floodplains
 - Slow the flow
- Citizen science
 - Birmingham River Champions



Birmingham & Black Country Local Nature Recovery Opportunity Map - an emerging approach (June 2023)



Future Projects

As part of our core strategy, landscape scale opportunity maps have been created by Ecorecord and the Trust. Work in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will continue to provide finer detail for opportunities.



Scale 1:170,000

© Crown copyright and database rights 2023, Ordnance Survey Licence No 100023119.

1. Walsall – Purple Horizons
2. Smestow Valley
3. River Cole
4. River Rea
5. River Stour

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Data informed strategy for nature recovery

Introduced in the 2020 Environment Act as a statutory duty

Bigger Better More joined up (Lawton principle)

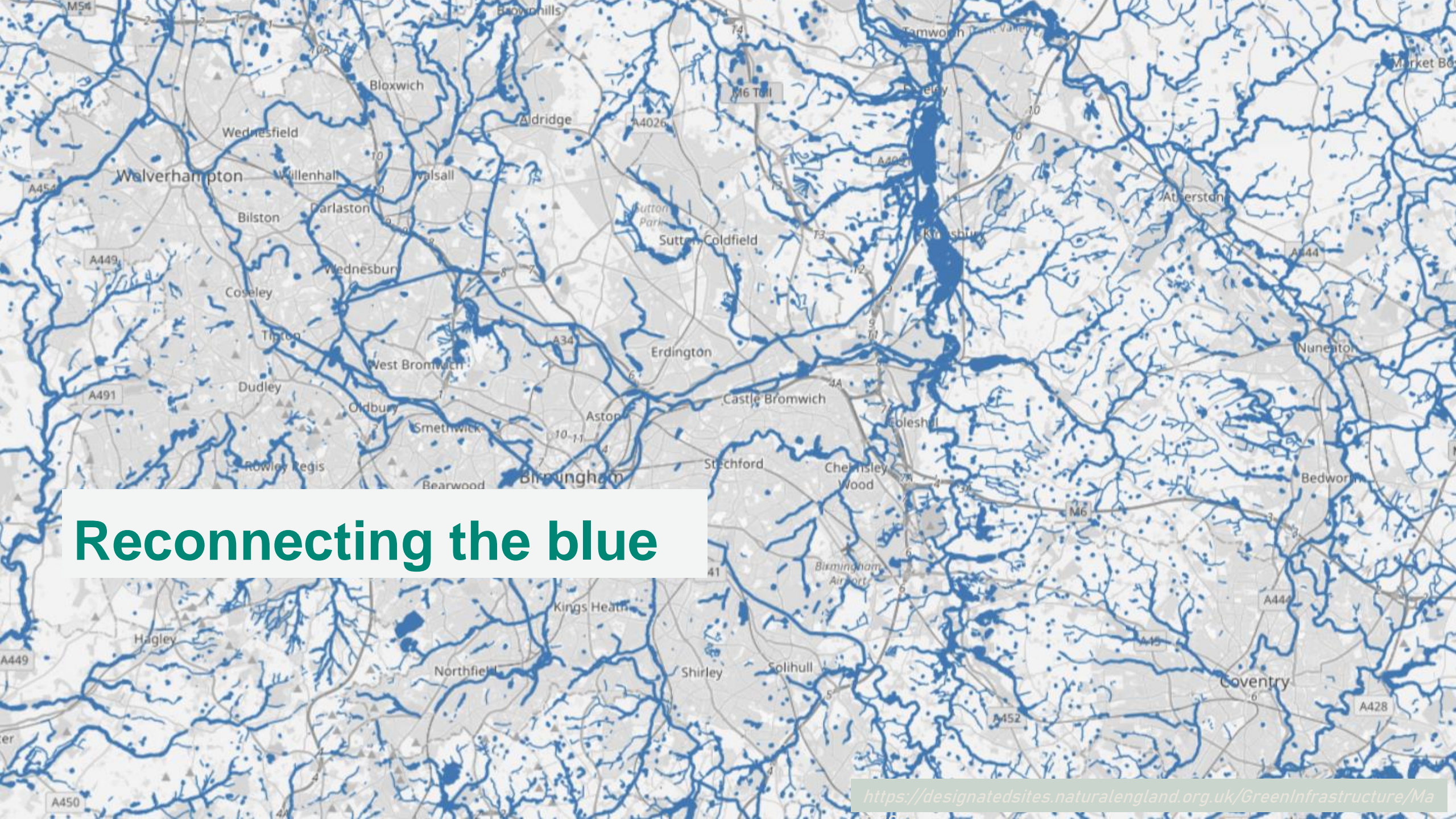
48 strategies across England: Nature Recovery Network

The LNRS will:

- Have agreed priorities and potential actions
- Influence planning and land management
- Incorporate a wide range of views
- Address wider environmental goals

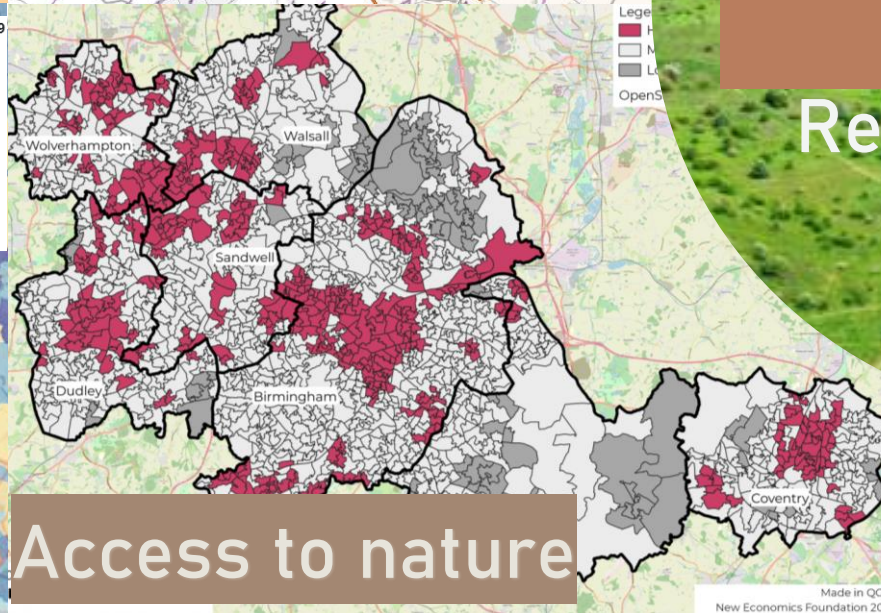
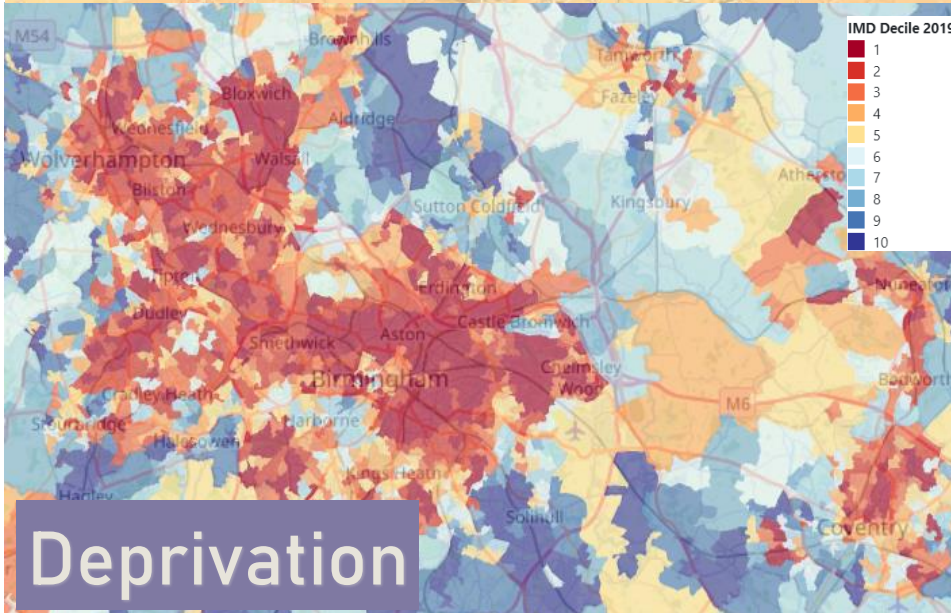
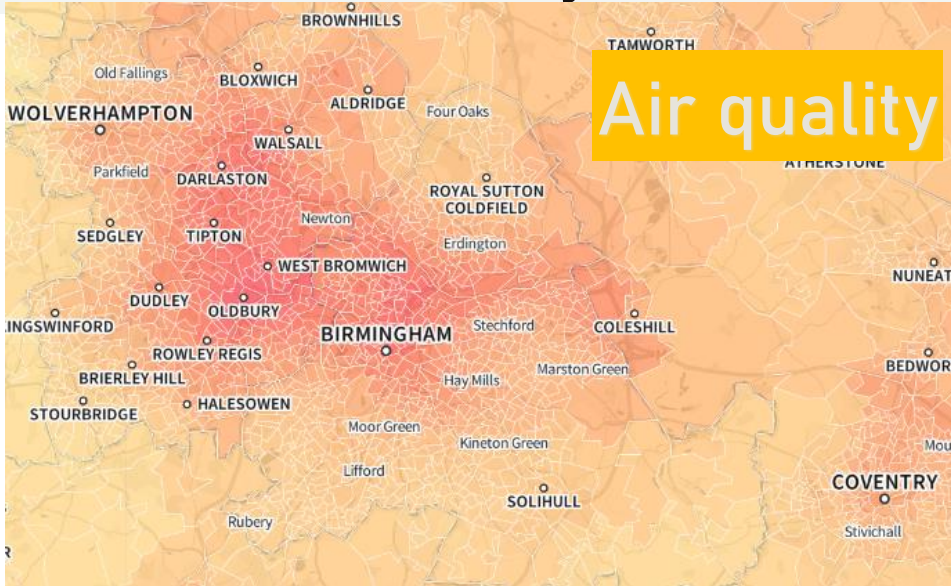






Reconnecting the blue

Guiding wider environmental and societal benefits through nature recovery



Restoring and reconnecting our waterways

What can our water ways do for nature recovery?

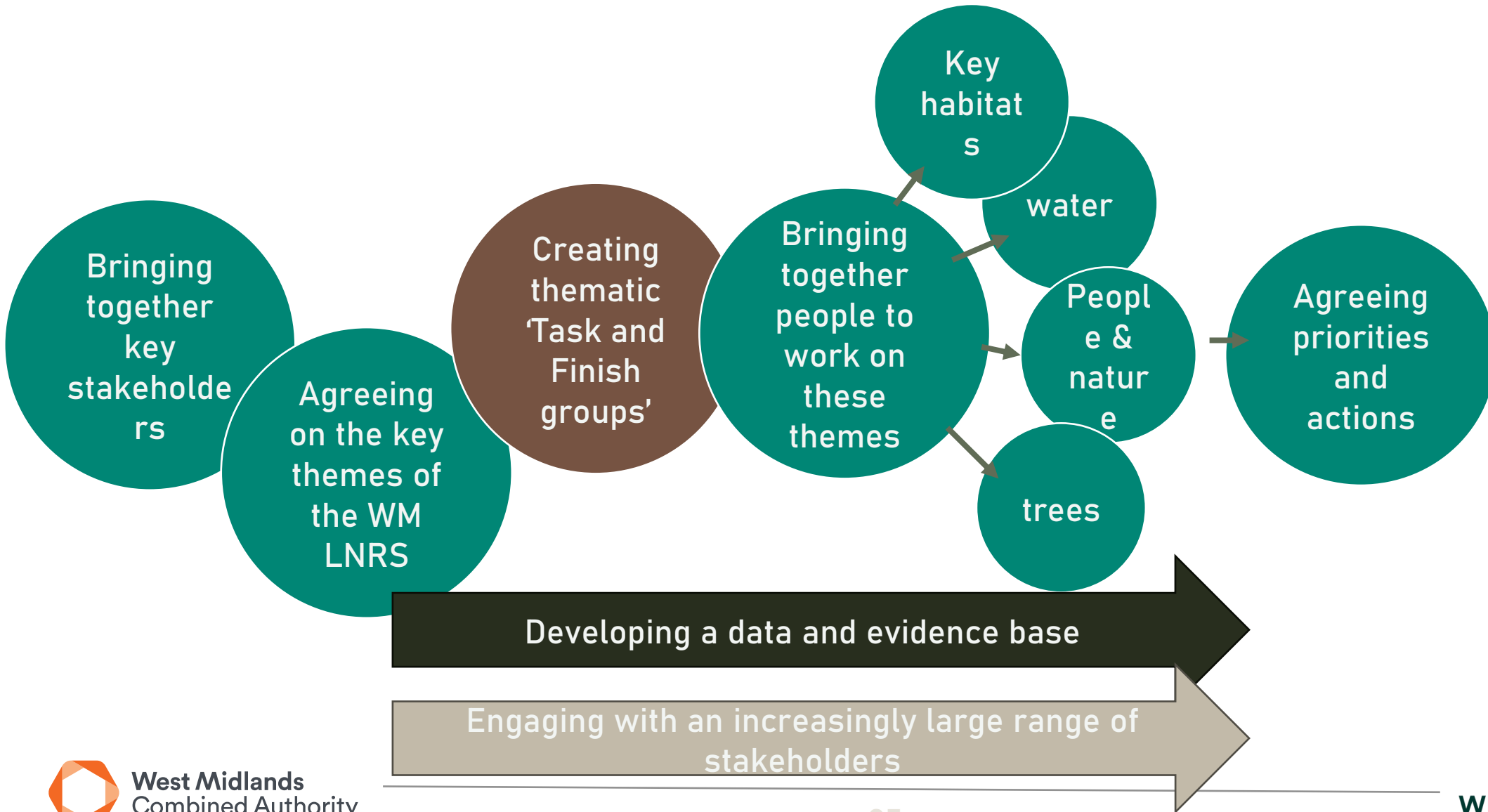
- Support key species
- Facilitate blue and green habitat corridors
- Urban cooling
- Improve people's access to nature
- Create corridors for active travel

What do our waterways need to achieve all this?

- Improved water quality
- Riparian habitats
- Connectivity to other habitats
- Supportive infrastructure: access and continuity



How is the LNRS being carried out in the West Midlands?



Ways to get involved

Email the West Midlands LNRS team to stay updated and be added to our list of contacts:

westmidlandslnrs@wmca.org.uk

There will be opportunities to get involved with Task and Finish groups, contact us for more information

Spread the word!



West Midlands
Combined Authority

WEST MIDLANDS
Greener Together