



Citizen Crane Year Eleven Annual Forum

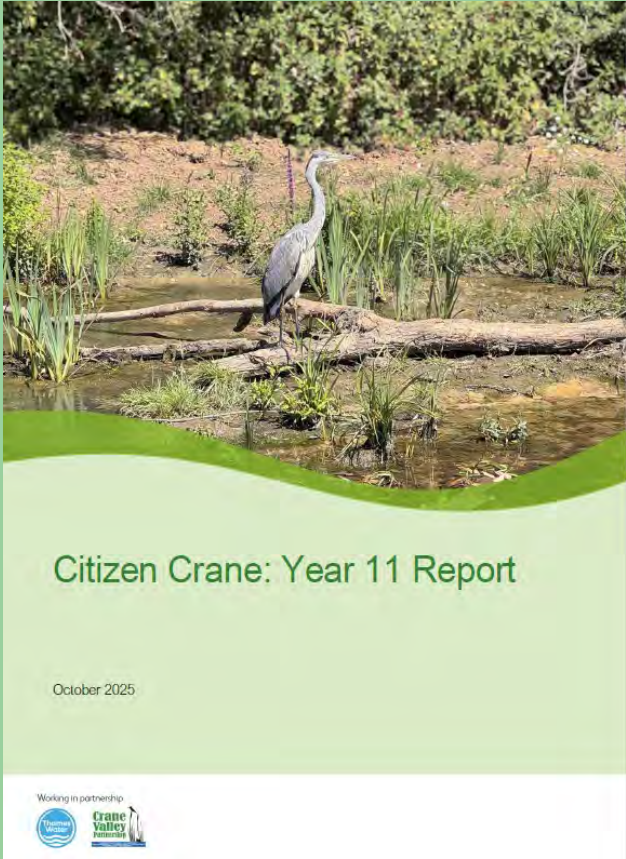


Agenda

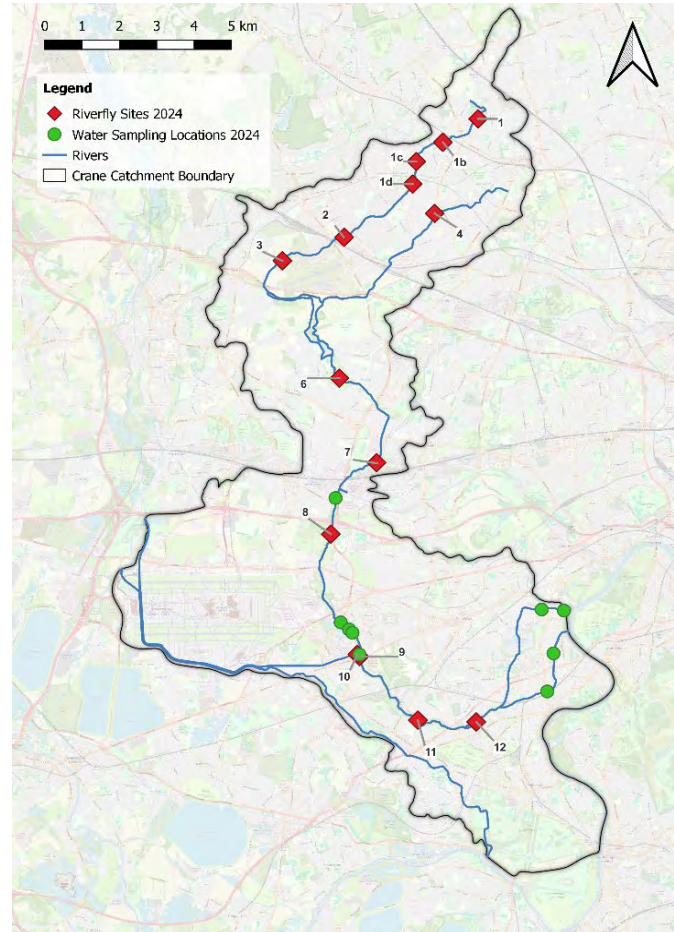
- 10:30 - **Citizen Crane Forum Welcome** (Joe Pecorelli, ZSL)
- 10:35 - **2024/25 Citizen Crane data update** (*Rob Gray, CV CIC*)
- 10:50 - **Environment Agency and Thames Water Updates**
- 11:05 - **Q&A**
- 11:20 - **Break**
- 11:40 - **The Crane Valley Story** (Lucy Taylor, Make Work Play)
- 11:55 - **Water Voles in the Crane** (Sam Facey, ZSL)
- 12:10 - **Monitoring restoration projects into the future** (*Azra Glover, ZSL*)
- 12:25 - **Q&A**
- 12:35 - **Discussion – Comms, Next Steps** (CC Team)
- 12:55 - **Group Photo & Lunch**
- 14:00 - **Forum close**



2024/25 Citizen Crane Data Update



Crane Catchment Map & Monitoring Points



Project Context

1. Major pollution: 2011 and 2013
2. Monitoring started in 2014
3. Volunteer led (over 70 trained and monitoring)
4. Project team: ZSL, FORCE & frog environmental
5. Steering Group: CVP, EA + TW (meet quarterly)
6. Annual Report and Forum
7. Outfall Safaris: 2016, 2021 and 2024
8. Led to UK's 1st urban Smarter Water Catchment



Previous Findings

1. Upper reaches poor
2. WQ improves downstream
3. Poor morphology in middle
4. River is removing both ammonia and phosphate
5. Lower reaches near GES
6. SWOP + OS helped remove 100's of pollution sources
7. No overall improvement in the river over first 8 years



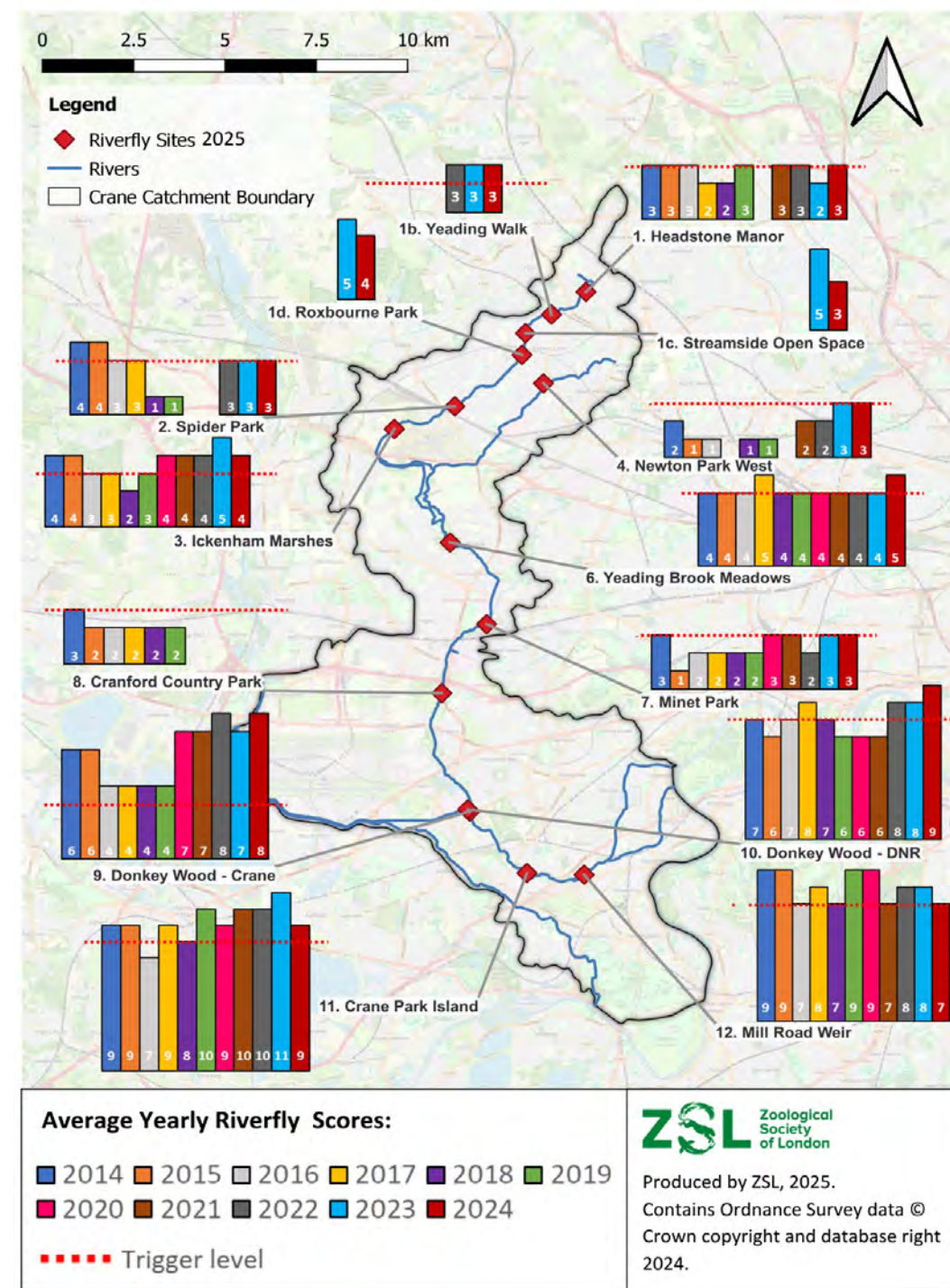
CRANE VALLEY
COMMUNITY
INTEREST COMPANY



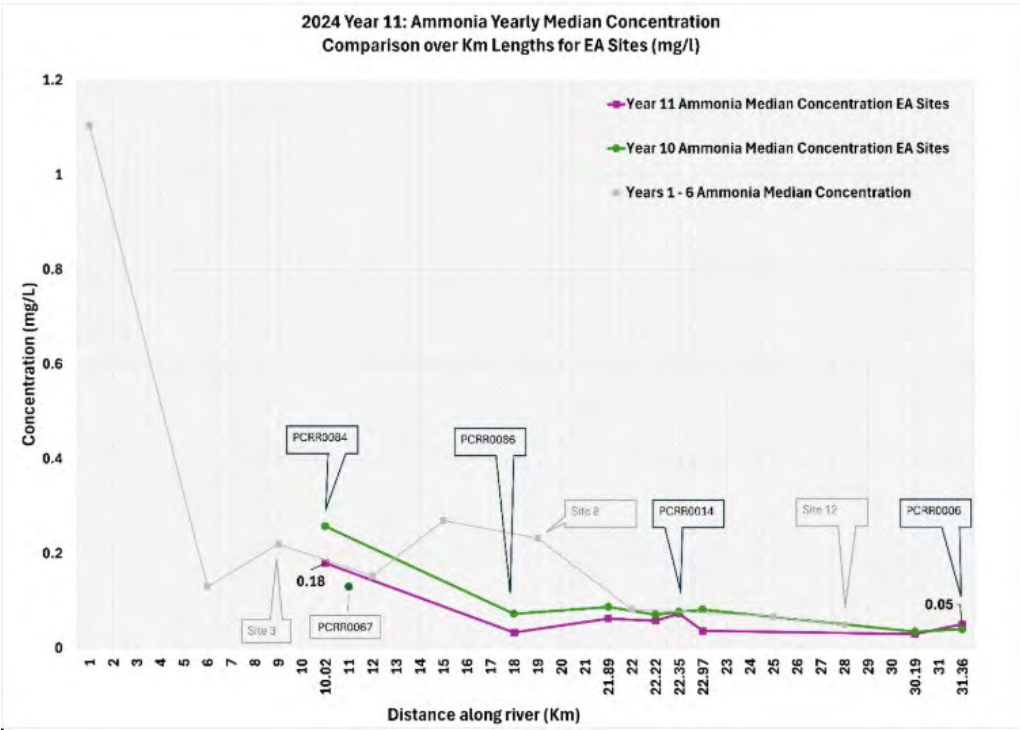
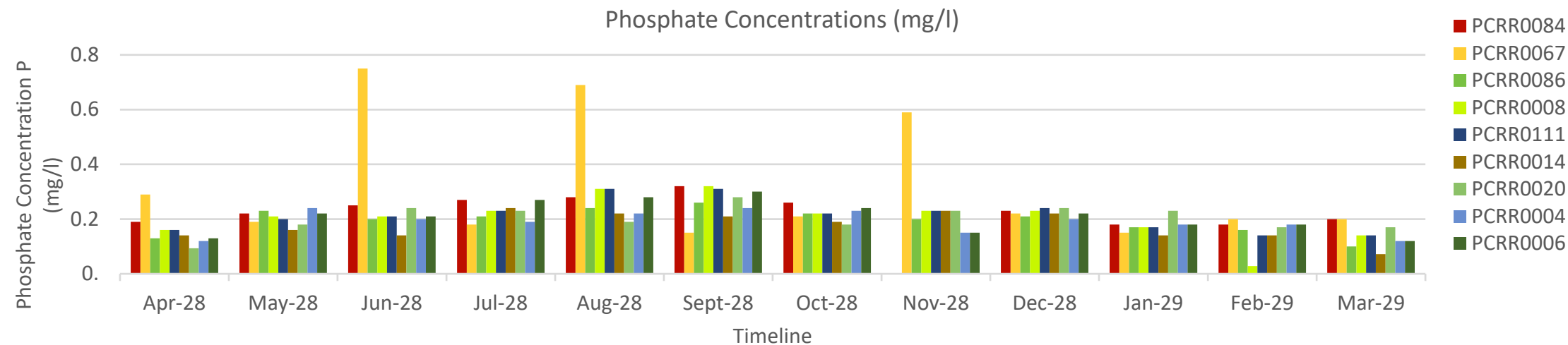
frog
environmental

11 Years of RMI

1. Year 11 Report available
2. Consistent RMI for each site
3. Positive trend for most sites
4. Heathrow treatment works benefit continues
5. Local factors at some locations
6. Major improvements at pilot restoration sites



EA Water Quality Data



Overview

Reasons to be cheerful:	Reasons to be cautious:
• Outfall Safari, SWOP, CSO monitoring, Yeading Brook East • CWG and CIG – GLA Healthy Rivers programme • River restoration and wetland projects • Expansion of citizen science • Public engagement - misconnections and sewer disposal • Improvements in river condition and value	• New and persistent misconnections • Ongoing cross connections and CSO spills • Road run-off and problems with engagement • Future funding?





Citizen Crane – Year 11 Report

Lewis Elmes

Catchment Coordinator

14/10/2025

lewis.elmes@environment-agency.gov.uk

Year 11 Reported Pollution Incidents



- 41 Reports
 - Crane – 11
 - YB West – 13
 - YB East & Roxbourne – 14
 - Yeading Brook - 3
- Classifications
 - Cat 1 (major) – 0
 - Cat 2 (significant) – 3
 - Cat 3 (minor) - 38
- Pollutants
 - FOG – 3
 - Hydrocarbons – 8
 - Sewage – 27
 - Other/Uncertain - 3
- Causes
 - Blockages – 12
 - Flytipping – 4
 - Misconnections – 10
 - Sewer Defects – 3
 - Other/Uncertain - 12

Please Report Pollution!



- Online - [Report water pollution in England - GOV.UK](#)
- Phone – [0800 80 70 60](#)
- Thames Water - [Thames Water - Report a problem - View and report problems](#)
- Key Information (use your lips!)
 - Location – what3words
 - Impact – extent/damage
 - Pollutant – sewage/oil?
 - Source – outfall?
- Note the Reference No.

Water Framework Directive 2025





SWOP and Misconnections Crane Valley Catchment

Rachael Sargent

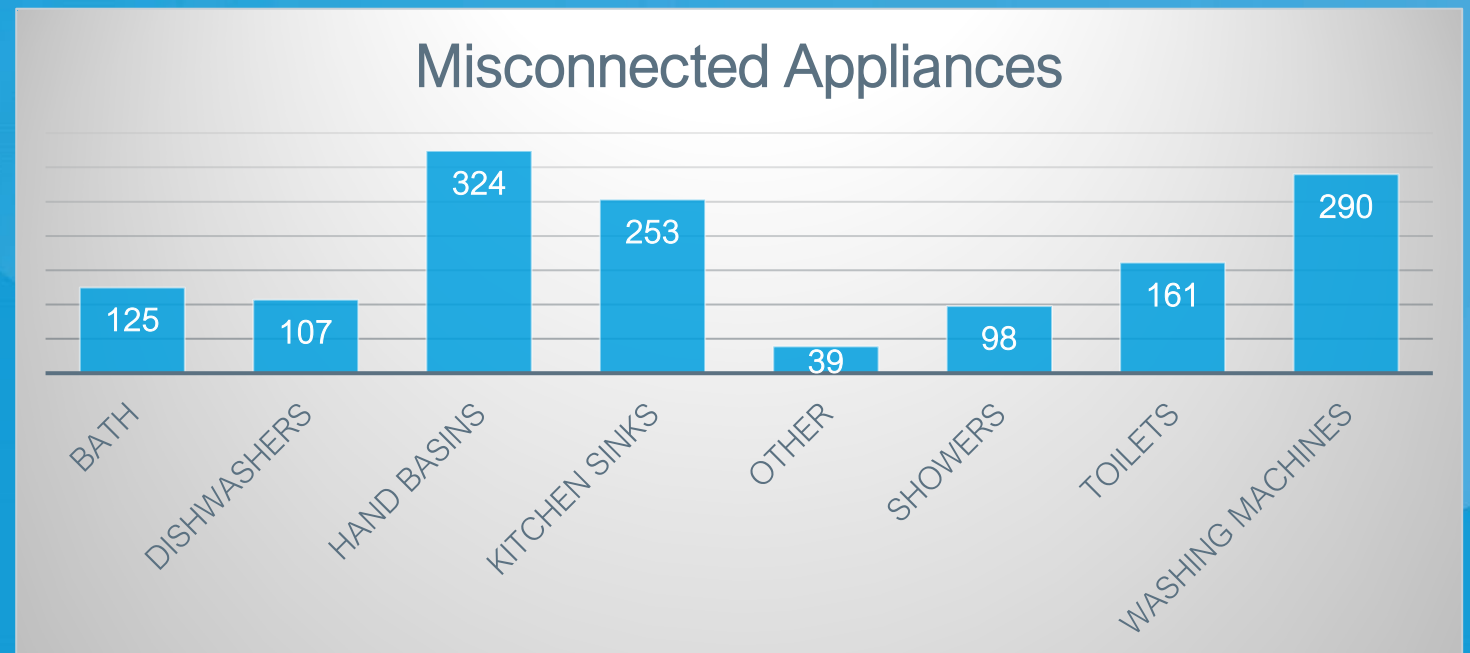
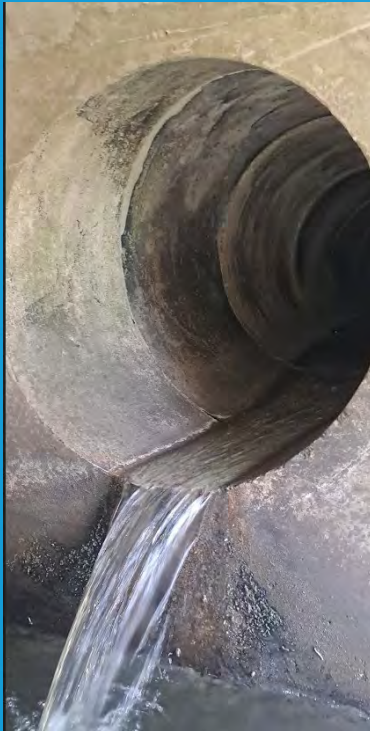
Environmental Protection Advisor



History of the Crane Valley Catchment on SWOP

SWOP Projects	
Signed Off Projects	21
Live Projects	20
Waiting List	16

No. of Properties Surveyed	3298
Properties with pollution Sources	507
Properties Rectified	403
Total Number of Misconnected Appliances	1397
Total Number of Defects Found	129



Crane Valley Catchment SWOP 2024 - 2025

Properties with Pollution Sources	114
Misconnected Appliances	141
Defects	48
No. of Properties Surveyed	852



October 2024



April 2025

Current SWOP Project Status



- 3 outfalls from last year's outfall safari are currently being worked on

**Any Questions for
Citizen Crane, EA
or TW?**



A detailed illustration of a brown beaver sitting on a grassy bank next to a blue body of water. The beaver is holding a white ceramic cup filled with a golden-brown liquid, presumably tea. The background features lush green trees and a clear blue sky with soft white clouds. A thought bubble originates from the beaver's head, containing text.

**Time for a cuppa
.. see you at 11:40**



THE CRANE VALLEY STORY

FOR THE CITIZEN CRANE FORUM

make
work
PLAY

Crane
Valley
Partnership

HARROW · EALING · HILLINGDON
HOUNSLOW · RICHMOND



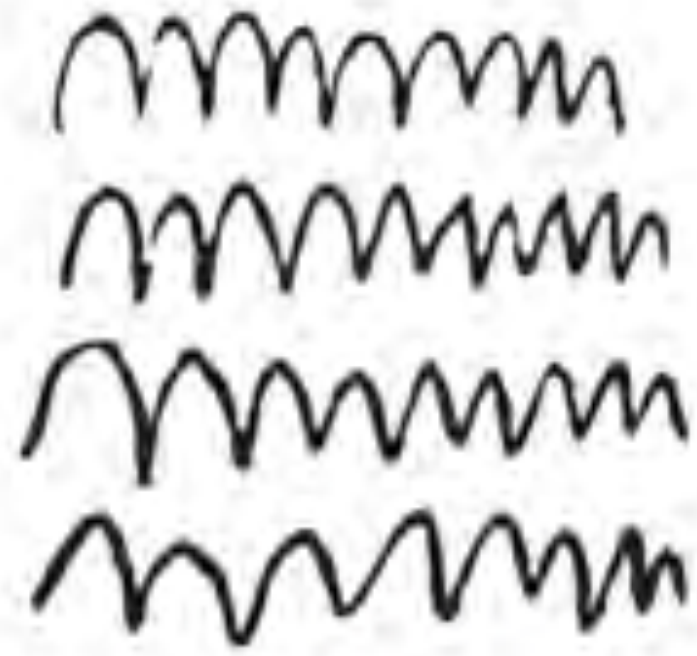


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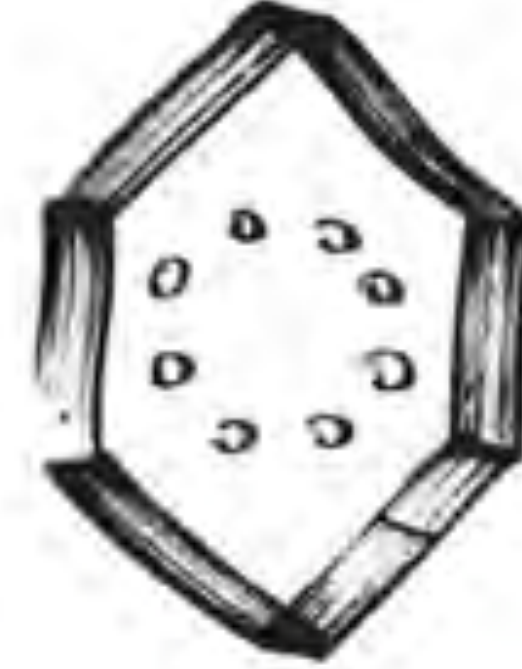




STORY



MEETINGS



CULTURE



PLANNING



COLLABORATION



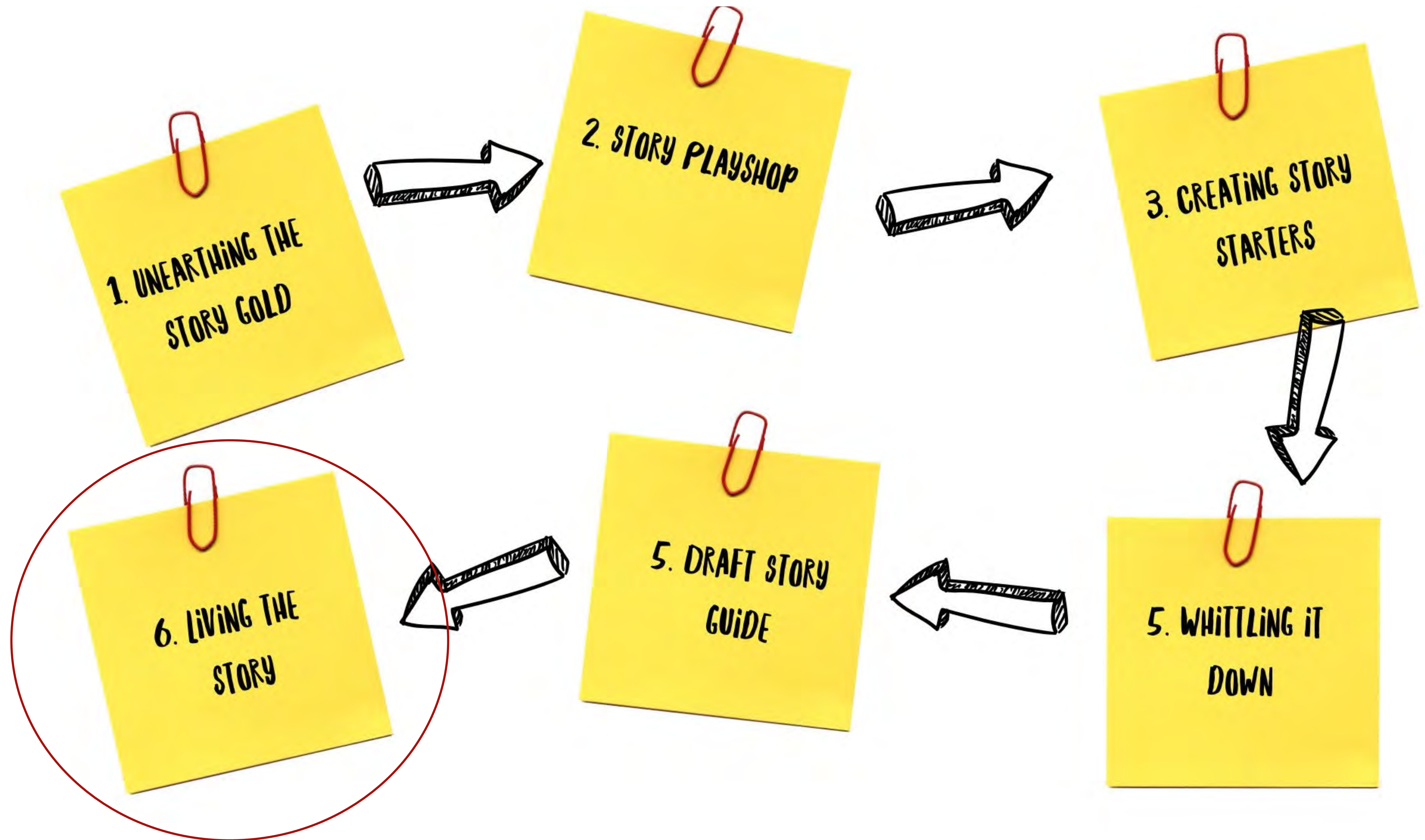
STRATEGY

THE STORY OF THE STORY











CRANE VALLEY **STORY GUIDE**

A HOW TO GUIDE FOR ENGAGING
WITH THE CRANE VALLEY STORY



12:14

a_river_runs_through...

What's on your mind?

A River Runs Through Us

7 posts

14 followers

48 following

Stories from the Crane Valley

Edit profile

Share profile

Discover people

Abundance London

Followed by lets.gooutsideandle...

Following

Twickenham Mus...

Followed by lets.gooutsideandle...

Following

Find more to fol

See

12:16

<

Select

A river runs through us insta

8 Items

TALES FROM SPIDER PARK
DR HELEN MOGGRIDGE

2:13

TALES FROM SPIDER PARK
CHARAN MARI

0:43

TALES FROM SPIDER PARK
SUSIE JOHN

0:50

TALES FROM SPIDER PARK
STEPHEN JAMES

2:06

TALES FROM SPIDER PARK
MARY & MARGARET

0:47

TALES FROM SPIDER PARK
CLAIRE

1:49

TALES FROM SPIDER PARK
ROB GRAY

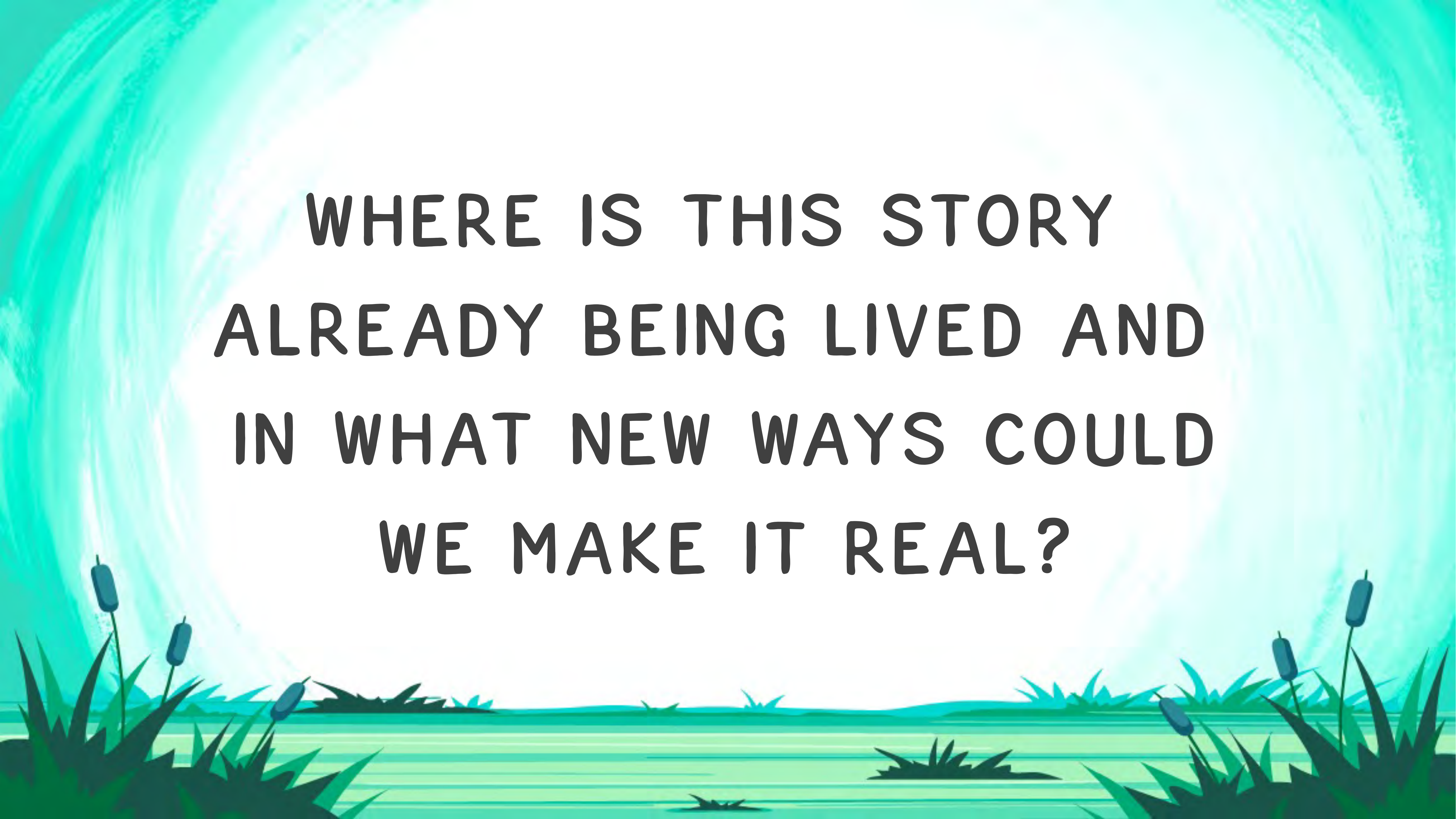
3:51

TALES FROM SPIDER PARK
GABBY

2:49

Photos

Movie



WHERE IS THIS STORY
ALREADY BEING LIVED AND
IN WHAT NEW WAYS COULD
WE MAKE IT REAL?

WHAT IS THE CRANE VALLEY STORY?



A RIVER RUNS THROUGH US



A STORY OF CONNECTION



A RIVER RUNS THROUGH US

HERO

The communities that love and care for the river and its open spaces

GIFT

Beautiful spaces that connect

MENTOR

The River: A reminder of our interdependence

MONSTER

Disconnection



BETTER WORLD

A world where the rivers of the Crane Valley are well known, protected, loved and thriving.

There is a bustling Crane Valley Trail, beautiful spaces where people can connect with themselves, each other and the world around them. Wildlife is abundant and volunteers are in plentiful supply.

Partners are delighted by what they have achieved together.

BROKEN WORLD

A world of isolation and disconnection.

Where people are separate from each other and nature.

Where many West Londoners don't even know the river exists and this once valuable river lies disjointed and unloved.



MORAL

The river is the thread that connects people, places, habitats and wildlife

VALUES

Resilience, Positivity, Beauty and Collaboration,

YOUR ROLE

BEAUTY MAKING

Creating beautiful, connected spaces
Where people and wildlife can gather

CONNECTING

Making connections and removing
the barriers to connection

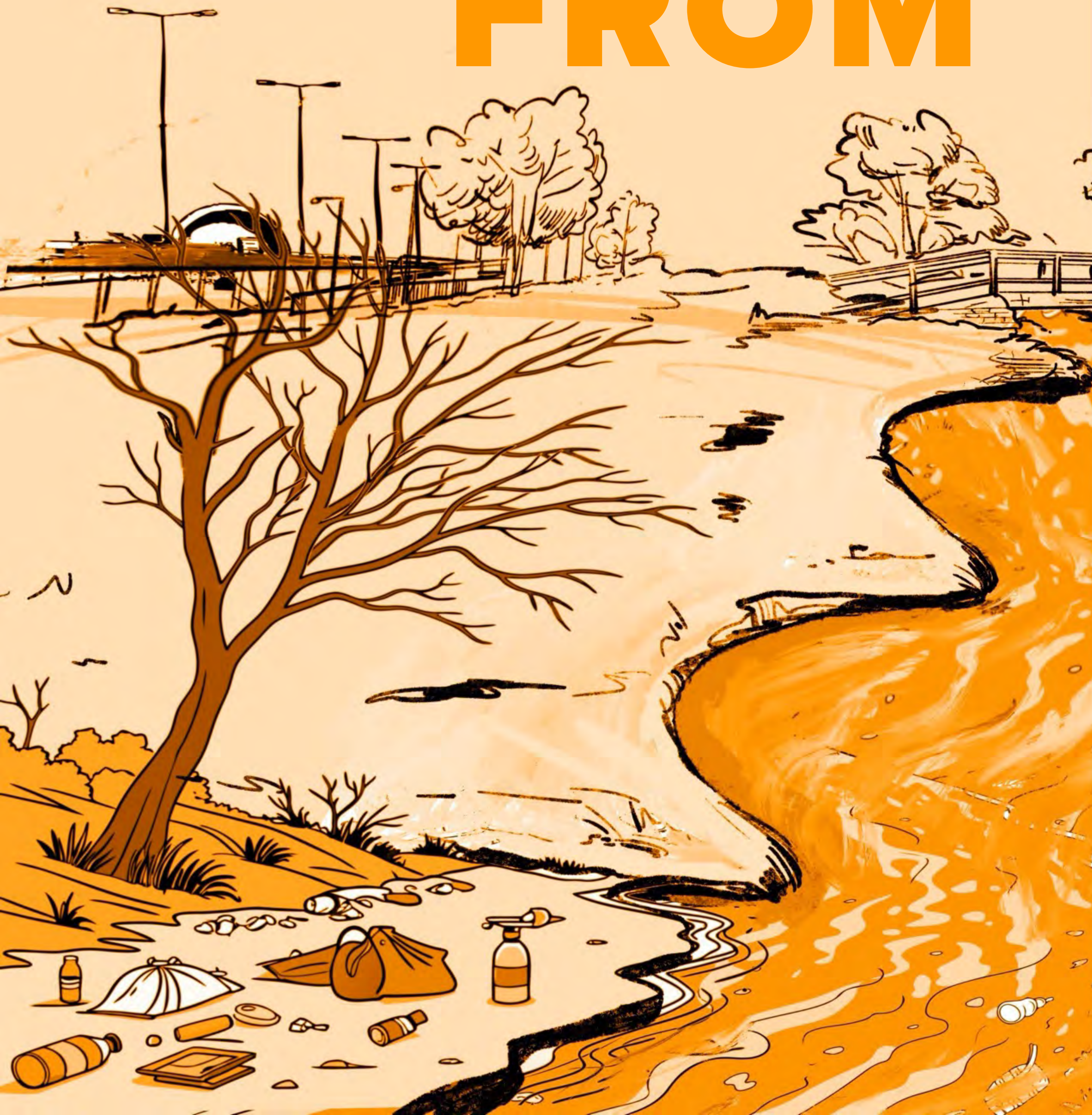
STORY TELLING

Collecting and sharing the stories
of the Crane Valley

AMPLIFYING

Giving a platform to and highlighting
the things that are going on in the valley
so people can find each other

FROM



TO



FROM

A LOST RIVER NO ONE KNOWS

DISJOINTED AND FRAGMENTED

A VALLEY THAT'S NOT JOINED UP

A RIVER THAT IS POLLUTED AND STRUGGLING

LITTLE INFRASTRUCTURE

NO ONE TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

MAINLY MEN USING THE SPACE

THE RIVER AS A LIABILITY

TO

THE RIVER AS ICONIC TO WEST LONDON

CONNECTED, PARTNERSHIP WORKING

A THRIVING CONNECTED RIVER AND VALLEY

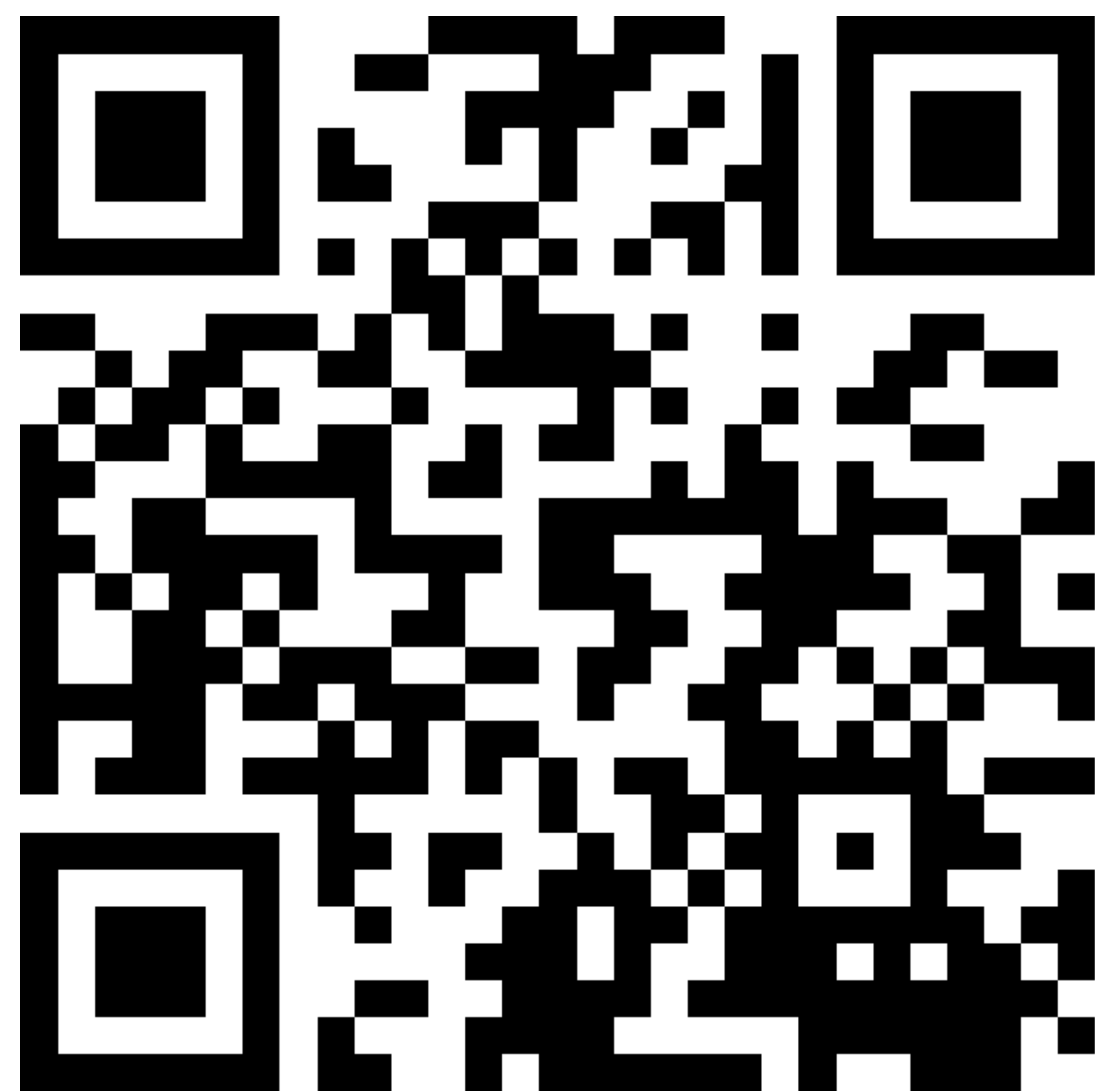
A THRIVING, CLEAN RIVER BURSTING WITH LIFE

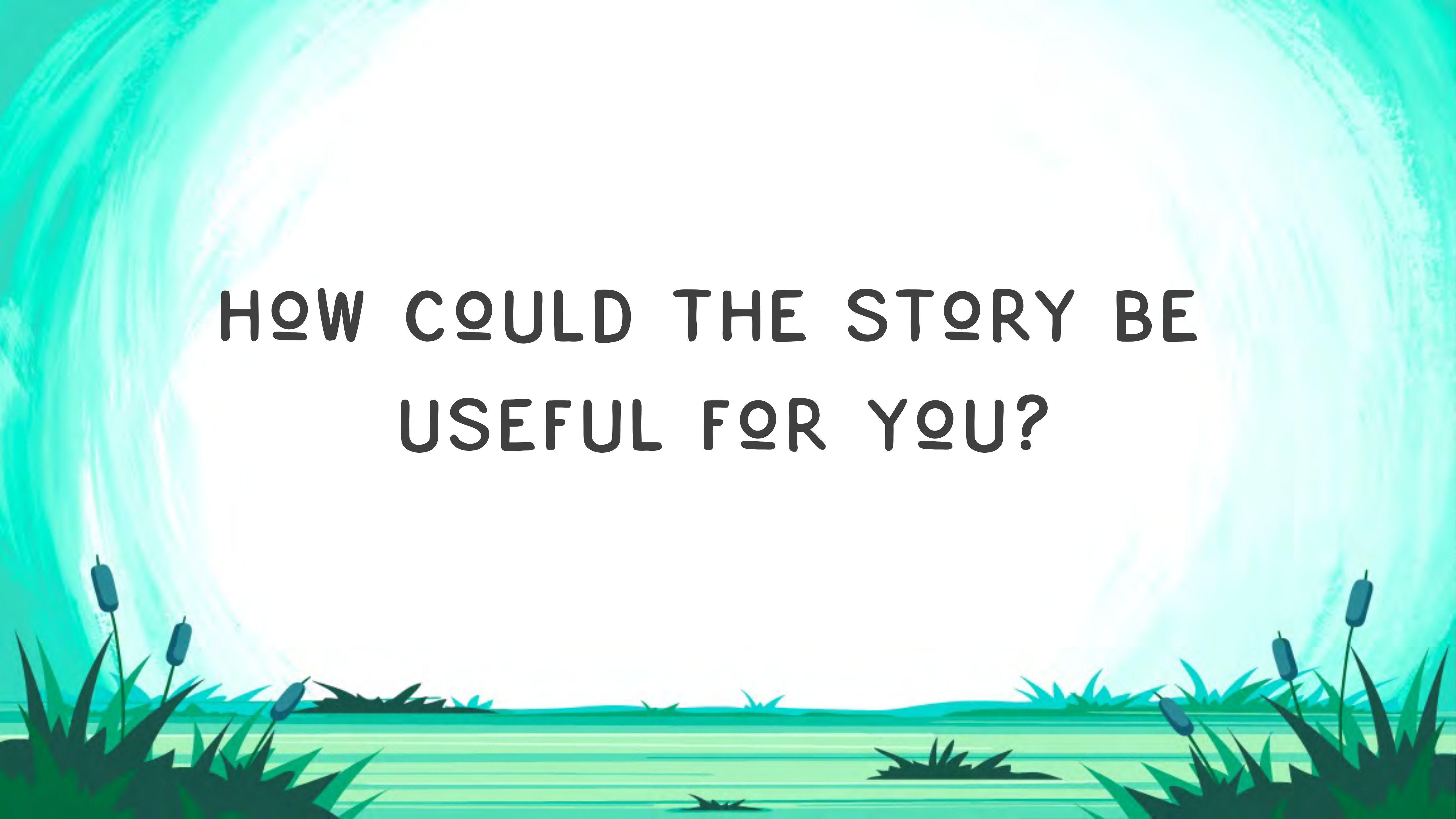
THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF CAFÉS, BENCHES,
SIGNAGE AND (GLORIOUS) TOILETS

COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP

AT LEAST 50% FEMALE USAGE

THE RIVER AS AN ASSET, VALUED IN A MULTITUDE
OF WAYS





HOW COULD THE STORY BE
USEFUL FOR YOU?

HOW COULD YOU BRING THE
STORY TO LIFE IN THE WORK
YOU DO ON THE RIVERS OF
THE CRANE VALLEY?



NEXT STEPS

- Circulating the Story Guide
- Collecting stories from up and down the catchment
- Looking at different ways we can bring the story to life in words and deeds
- Finding new projects to weave the story into

THANK YOU!



Crane Water Vole Reintroduction 2024 - Now



Water Vole declines

- In the 1900's, large water vole populations across the British Isles - 93% decline by 1990
- Rapid decline beyond 1990. Officially the fastest declining UK mammal in 2004



American Mink

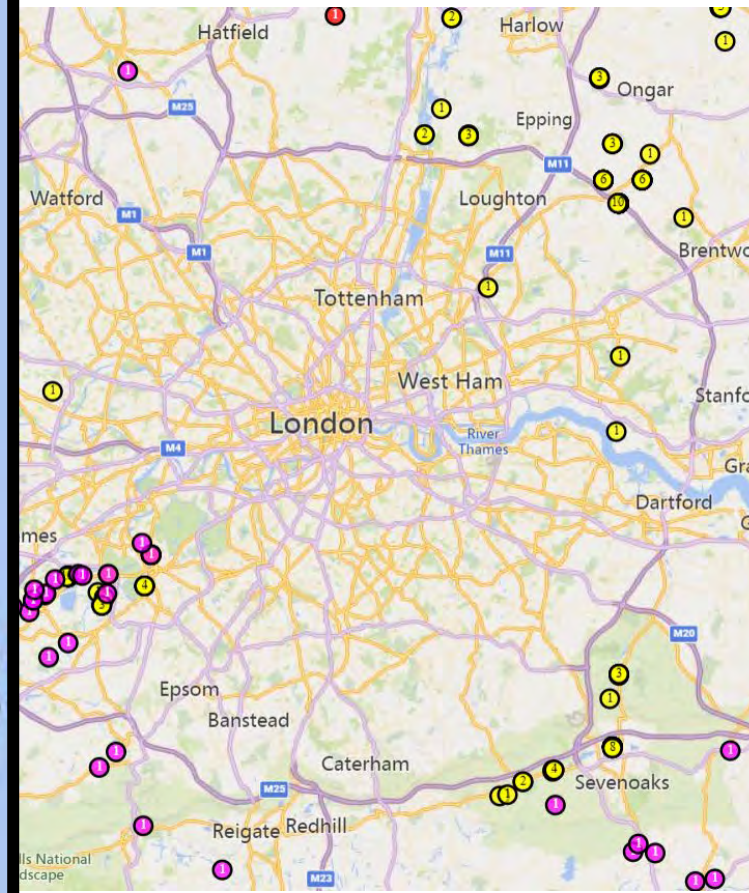
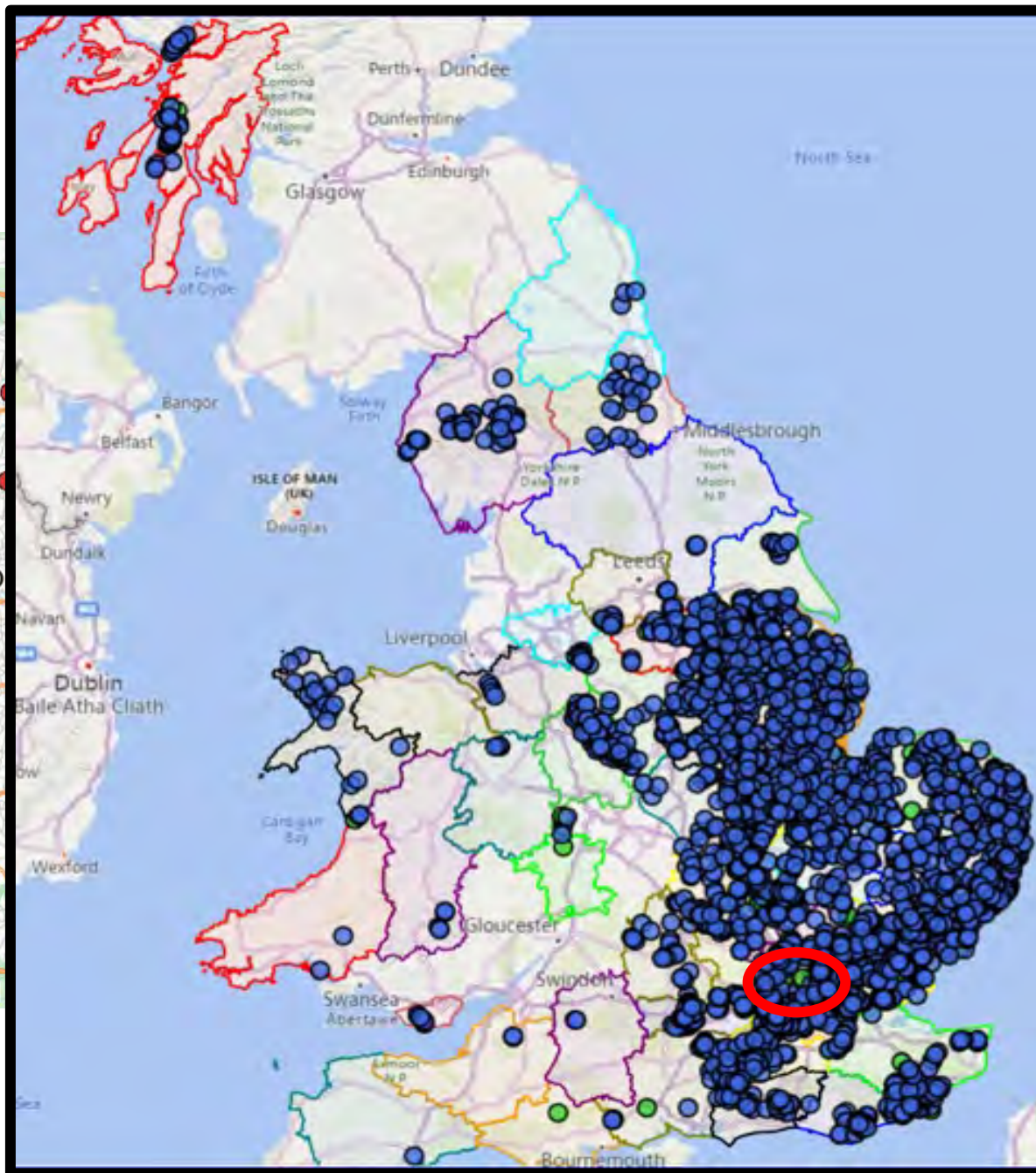
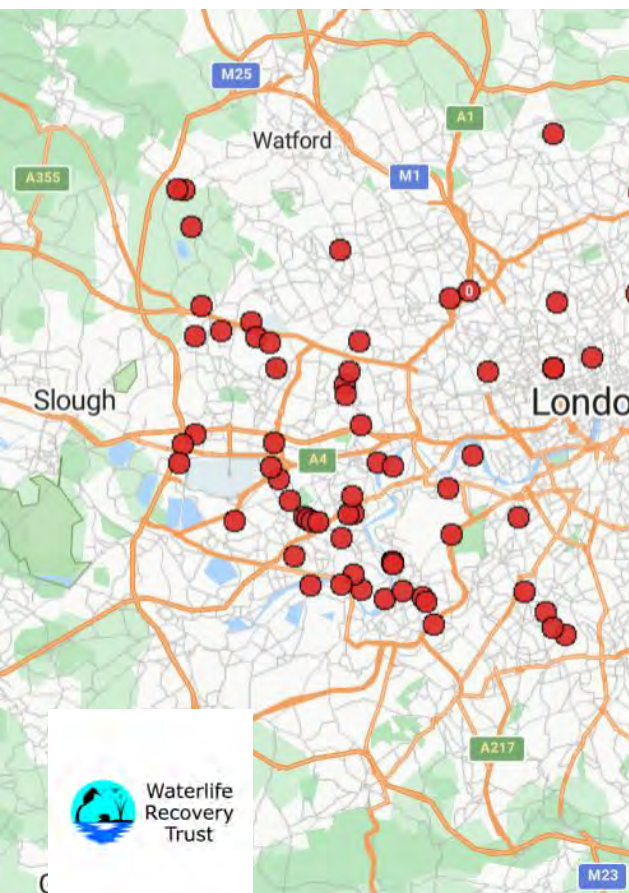
Non-native

Originally escapes/released from fur farms in the 1920's

Common and widespread

Predate on a wide range of native fauna and can wipe out water vole colonies



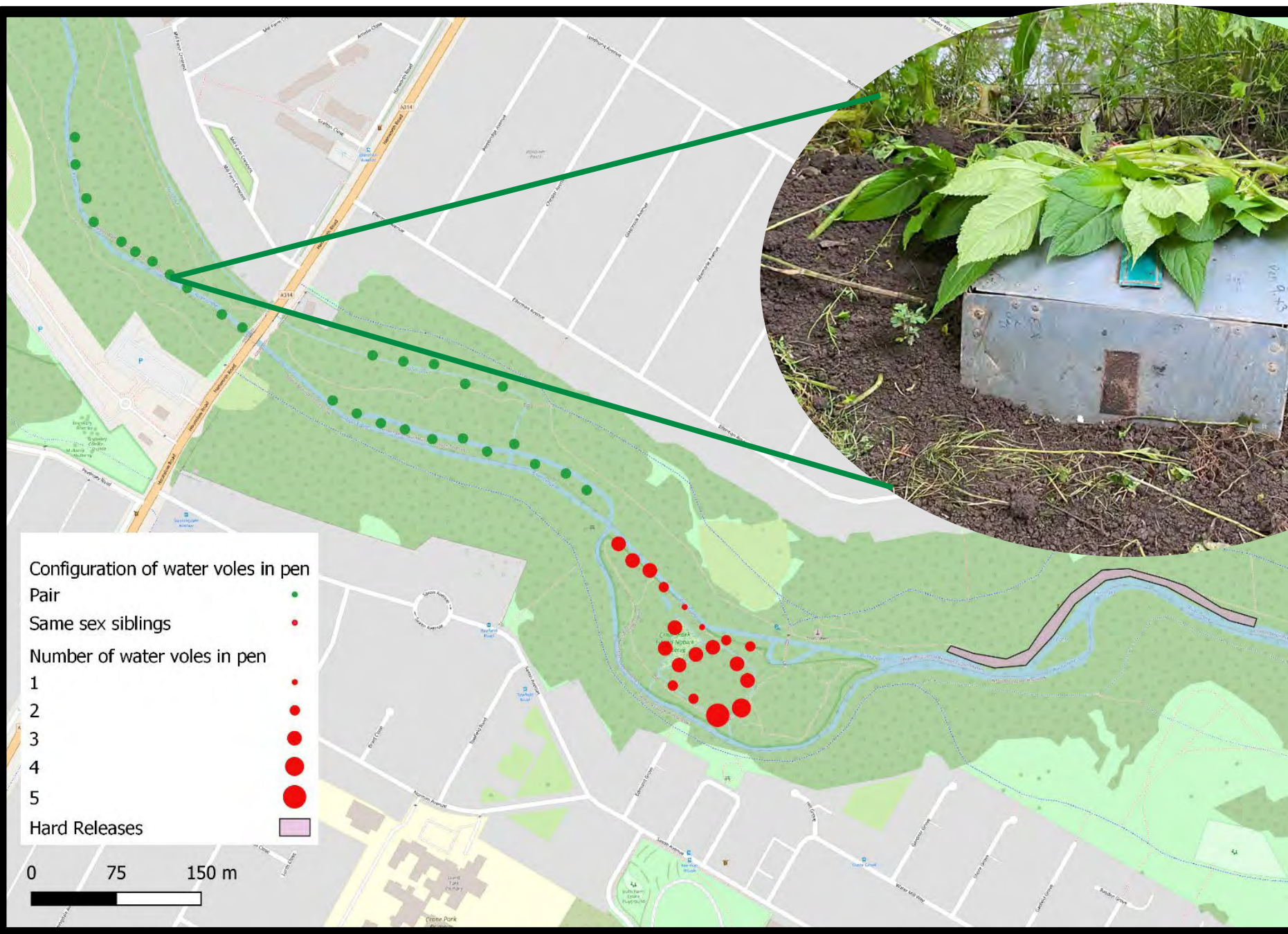


Crane Water Vole Reintroduction









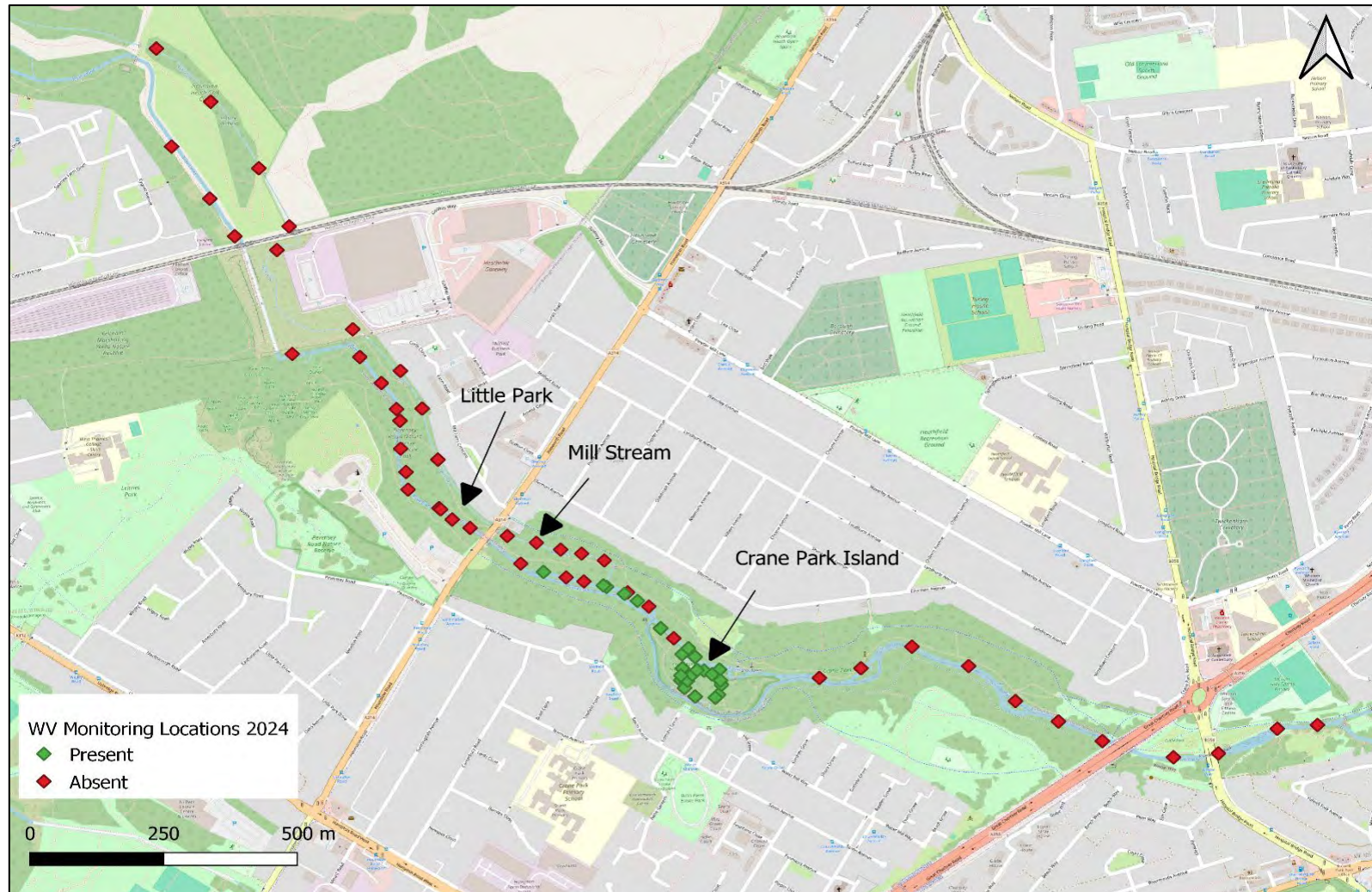




Evidencing water vole reintroduction - 2024



- Evidence of water vole settling into Crane Park Island



Evidencing water vole reintroduction - 2024



- Evidence of water vole settling into Crane Park Island
- Evidence of water vole breeding

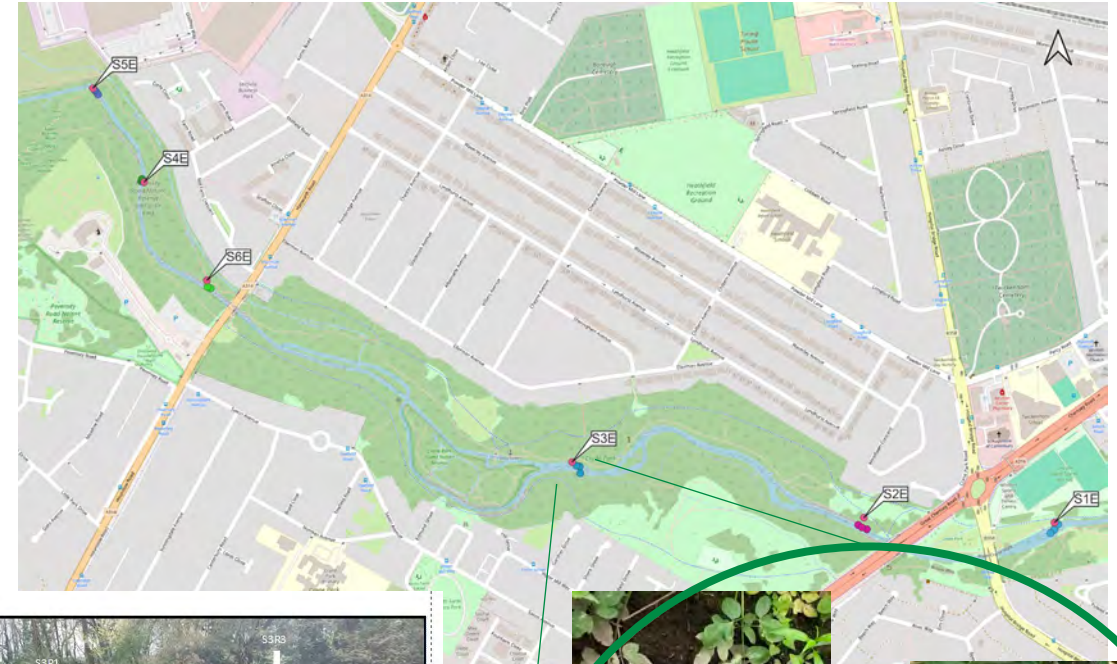




Evidencing water vole reintroduction – 2025



- Volunteer led latrine raft monitoring
- 7 volunteers trained in water vole field signs ID
- Volunteers worked in pairs to check latrine rafts every 2 weeks.
- CPI checked by FORCE volunteers



Site 1

- **Entry Point** (S1E) - ///
hurls.curve.punks

Details:



Latrine raft details—What3Word locations

- **Raft 1** (S1R1) - ///
tanks.buyers.epic
- **Raft 2** (S1R2) - ///
coherent.nerve.give
- **Raft 3** (S1R3) - ///
ruled.tonic.play

Hazards:

Silt—silt on rivers edge is thick/deep. Do not enter water and avoid the silty area highlighted on the Hazard image (next page).

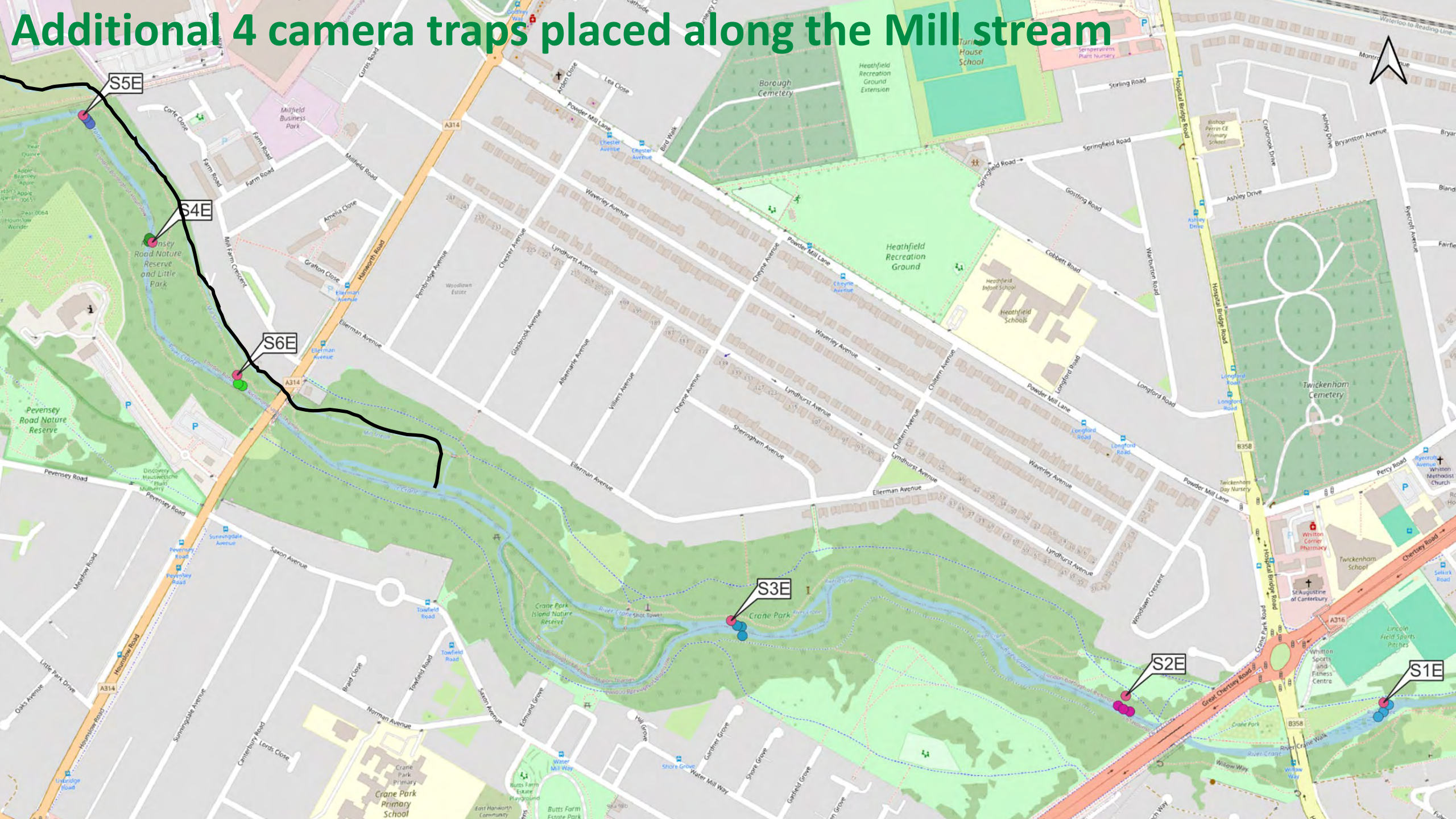
Nettles/vegetation—this area will potentially be thick with nettles. Ensure skin is covered, gloves worn.

Tripping hazards—plenty of woody debris/vegetation in this area that may be hazardous. Take your time getting in and out of this area and use the pole provided.



Site 1—Additional Notes:





Additional 4 camera traps placed along the Mill stream

Additional 4 camera traps placed along the Mill stream



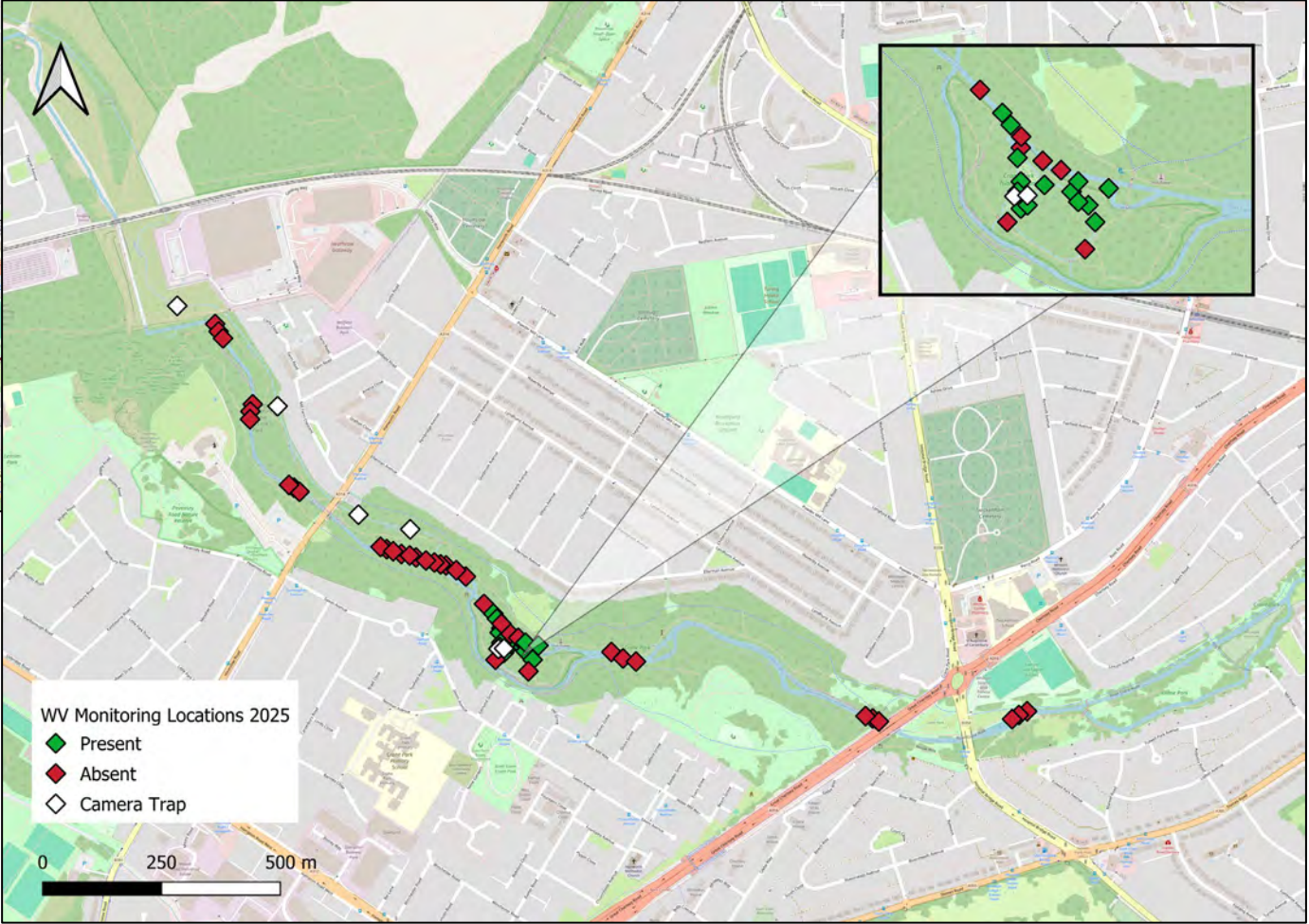
Evidencing water vole reintroduction – 2025

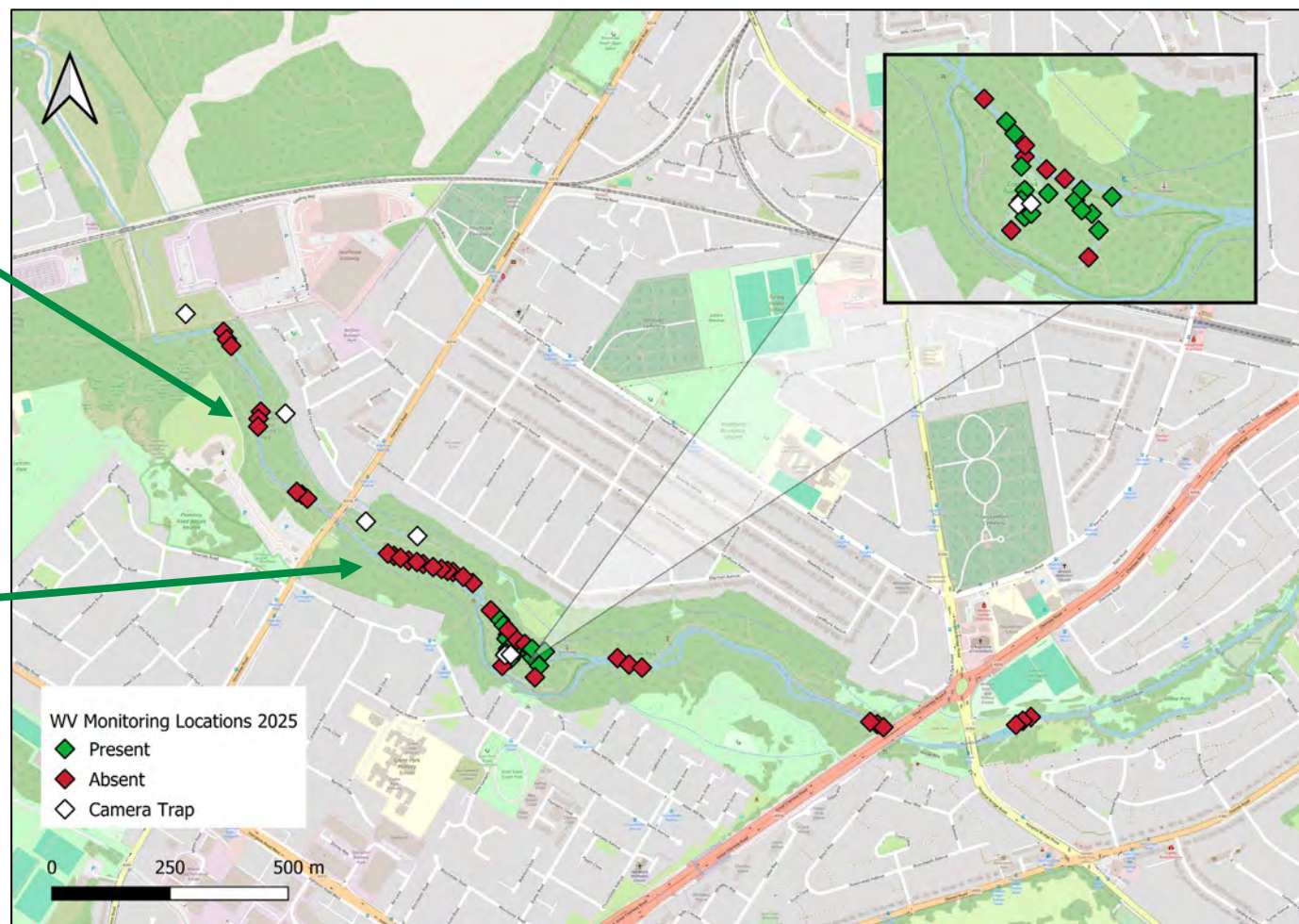


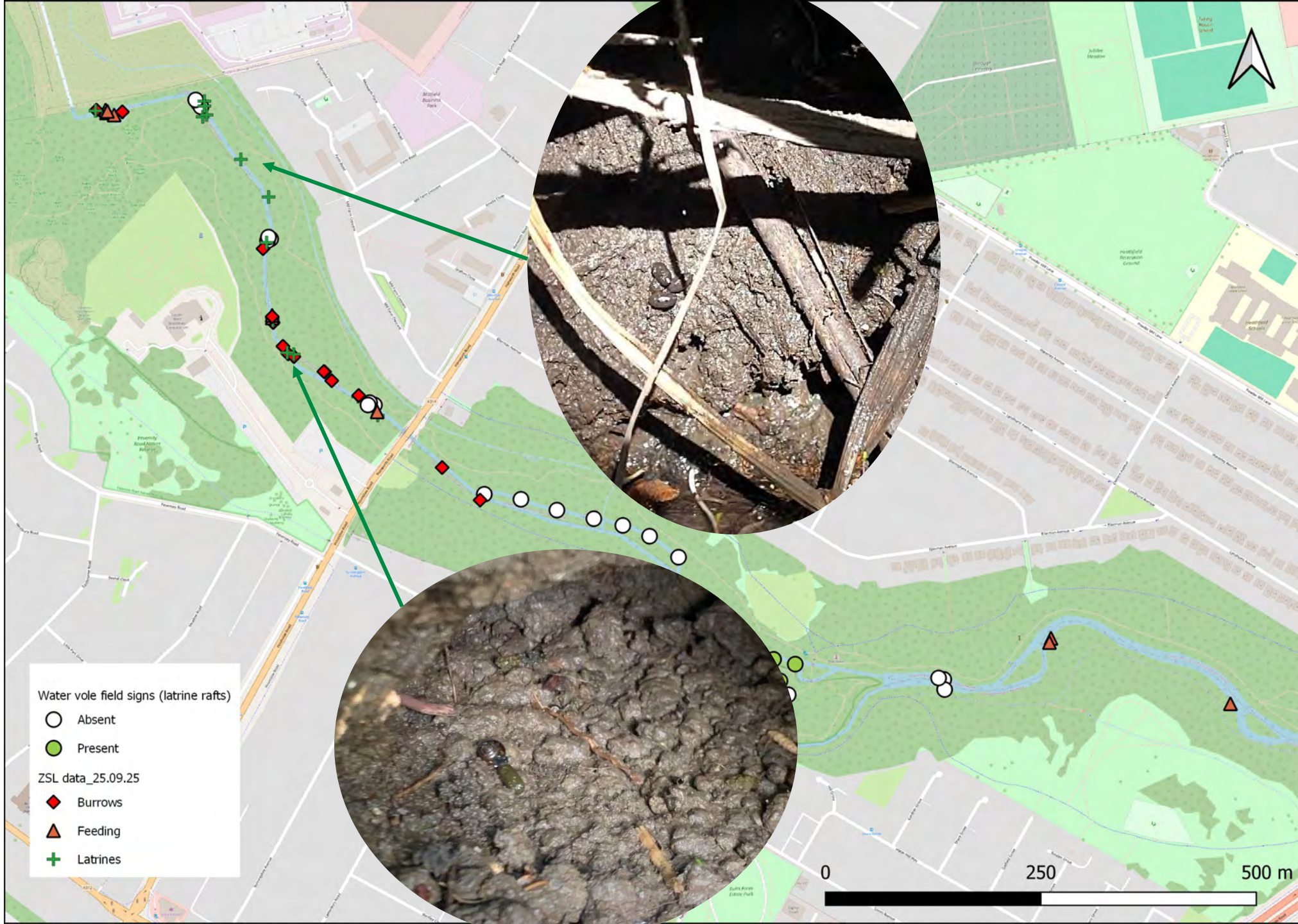
- Water voles remain present on the island
 - Feeding signs, latrines, burrows present throughout the island
 - Camera trap footage of water vole
- Several water vole sightings up and downstream of Crane Park Island



2024 vs 2025











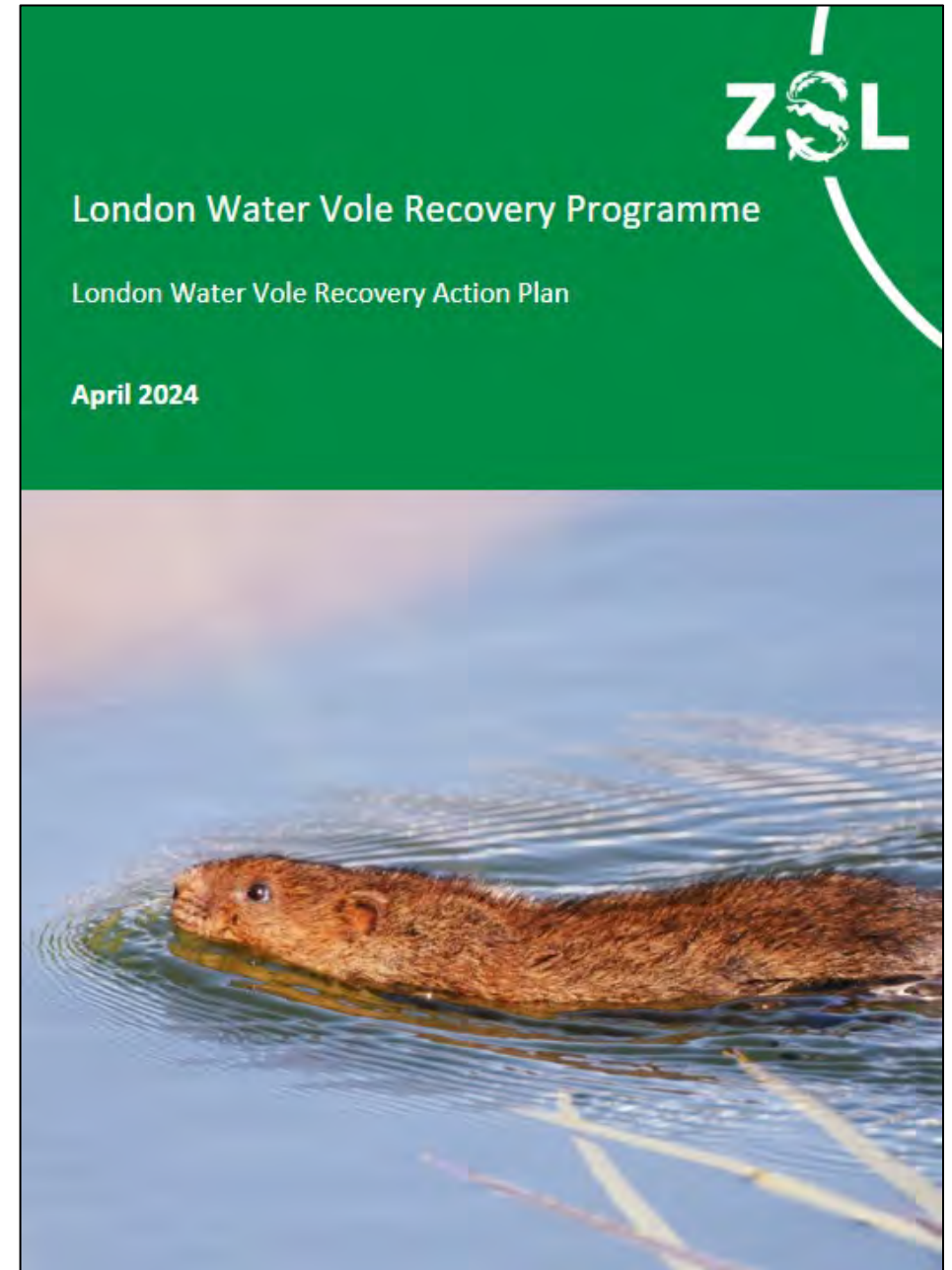
Implications

- **Initial cohort size – potentially small founder population**
 - 134 individuals released
 - High winter mortality rates
 - High predation rates
 - Immediate dispersal of some individuals.
- **Further water vole release to increase founder size?**
- **Continued monitoring**
 - Evidence the success/failure of water vole reintroduction
 - Build better understanding of water vole in urban environments
- **Continue to work to link and expand suitable habitat along the Crane to facilitate water vole expansion**
- **Learnings applied to the LWVRP and other water vole reintroductions**

Aims of the LWVRP action plan

Goals of the London Water Vole Recovery Programme:

1. Determine the current water vole status.
2. Facilitate the eradication of American mink.
3. Improve the monitoring of water voles.
4. Identify priority sites to protect and restore metapopulations.
5. Raise awareness and increase public engagement in recovering water vole populations.
6. Build the evidence base through research.
7. Unify stakeholders and share best practice.



Useful Links

- Water vole sighting submission via GiGL - [Water Vole Recovery Project - Casual Recording Form](#)
- Mink sighting submission via WRT - [Report a Sighting - Waterlife Recovery Trust](#)
- Organise a water vole survey - PTES - [Survey water voles - People's Trust for Endangered Species](#)



Any Questions?



16 C

LHW19CAM23

08/23/2024 09:15PM



Improving the ways we monitor freshwater restoration in the Crane Catchment

Azra Glover

Azra.Glover@zsl.org

What Do We Mean by Restoration?



- Actions that restore natural river and wetland processes – tackling pollution, flooding and biodiversity loss .. bringing freshwaters back to life!
- **Examples in the Crane:** re-meandering, floodplain reconnection, wetland creation
- Correct **design + monitoring + maintenance** = improved:





Why does monitoring matter?

How do we know if these projects are working? Now + in the future ..

Good monitoring:

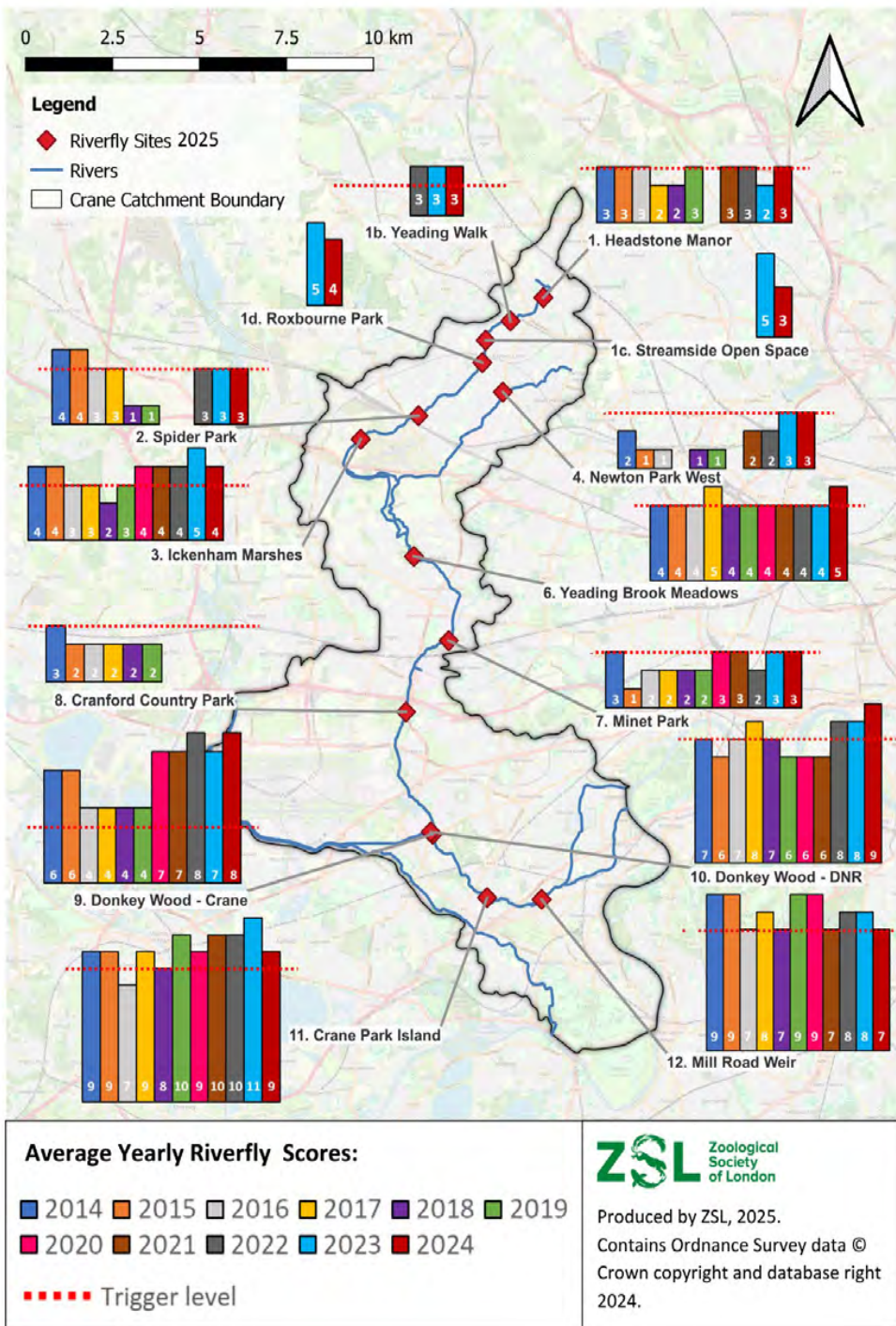
- Ensures projects deliver intended benefits
- Informs maintenance and adaptive management
- Builds evidence for future design and funding
- Engages and empowers local communities (even if it is sometimes chucking it down with rain!)



That's where citizen science comes in...

Citizen Science Data in the Crane

- **Over a decade of monthly RMI** monitoring across the catchment
- **Skilled volunteers as long-term data collectors** – outfalls, voles, invertebrates, water quality, hydromorphology ...
- Expanding to track multiple parameters in freshwater restoration projects



Case Study 1: Spider Park River Restoration



Project Location: Spider Park (Bridgewater Road Fields), Ruislip, London Borough of Hillingdon	Watercourse: Yeading Brook West (part of the River Crane catchment)	Led by: London Borough of Hillingdon and Zoological Society of London Funders: Crane Valley Partnership (Thames Water Initiative) and HS2
Project Start Date: January 2025	Total Cost: £137k	Project Length: ~250m Volume flood storage created: 1846m3
Project Completion Date: - Construction works completed April 2025 - Planting completed May 2025 with additional planting day September 2025	Restoration Techniques: - Re-meandering of channel - Creation of a two-stage channel (TSC) - Terrestrial vegetation clearance - Marginal vegetation planting and seeding - Addition of woody debris/deflectors - Addition of gravel	Monitoring Activities: - RMI monthly monitoring - MoRPh CSci hydrogeomorphological monitoring (before and after surveys) - Fixed-point photography - Public perception survey



The goal: restore natural processes, boost biodiversity, and reconnect people with their local river.



We have the experts, training, skilled volunteers and equipment needed in the Crane already ... so let's make the most of it!



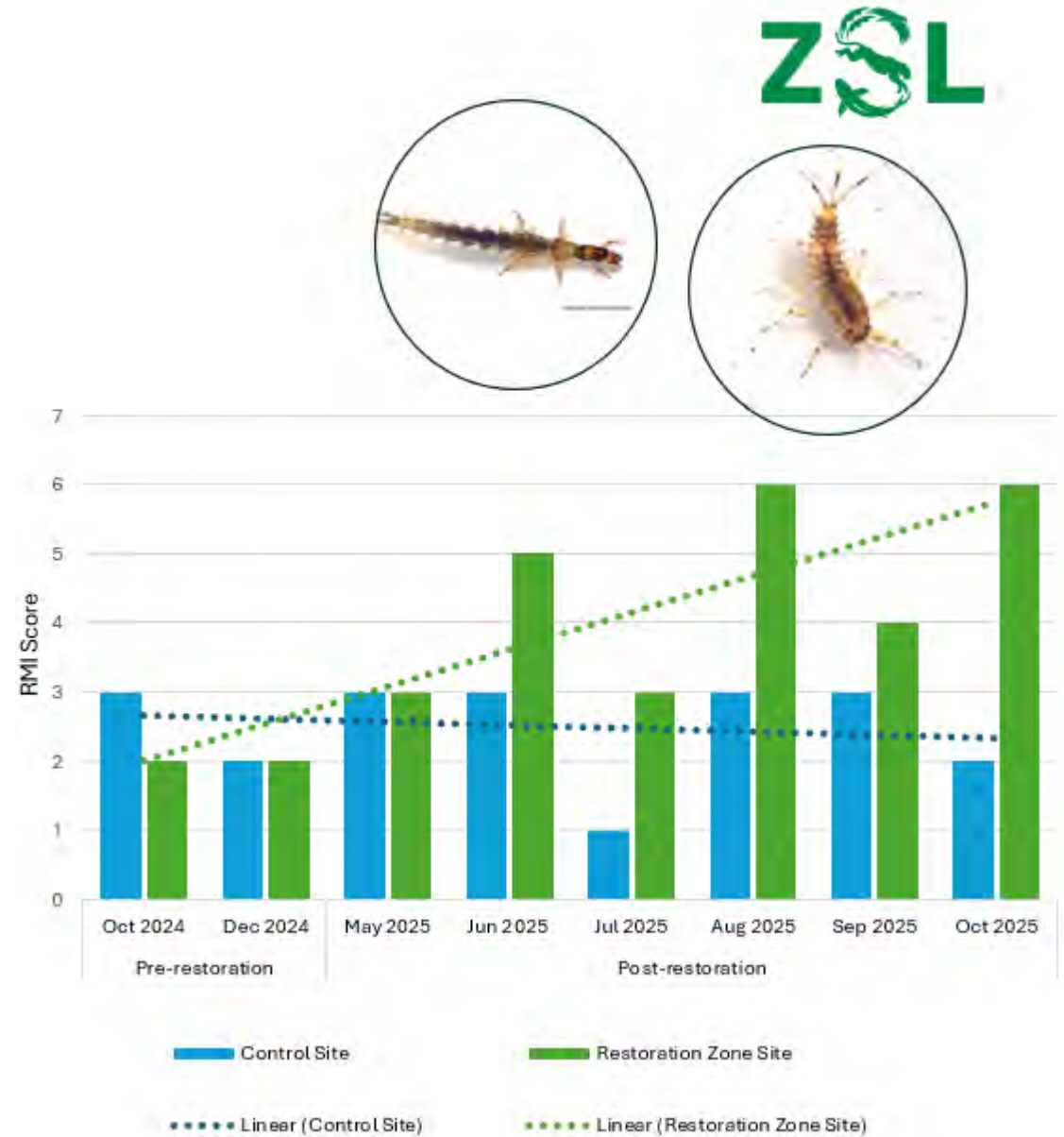
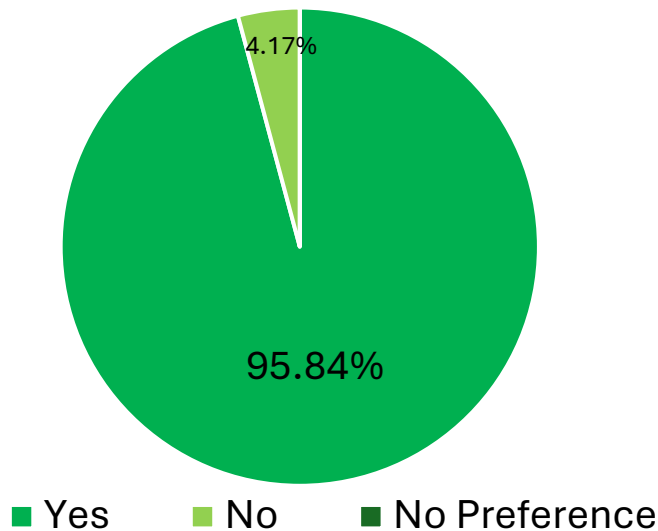
Spider Park: Integrated Monitoring Approach

To understand our outcomes - BACI:

- **RMI:** invertebrate monitoring pre- and post-restoration and establishment of new monitoring site in restoration zone.
- **MoRPh CSci:** physical habitat assessments through MoRPh Blitz events
- **Fixed-point photography:** visual habitat development
- **Community perception surveys:** social impact evaluation

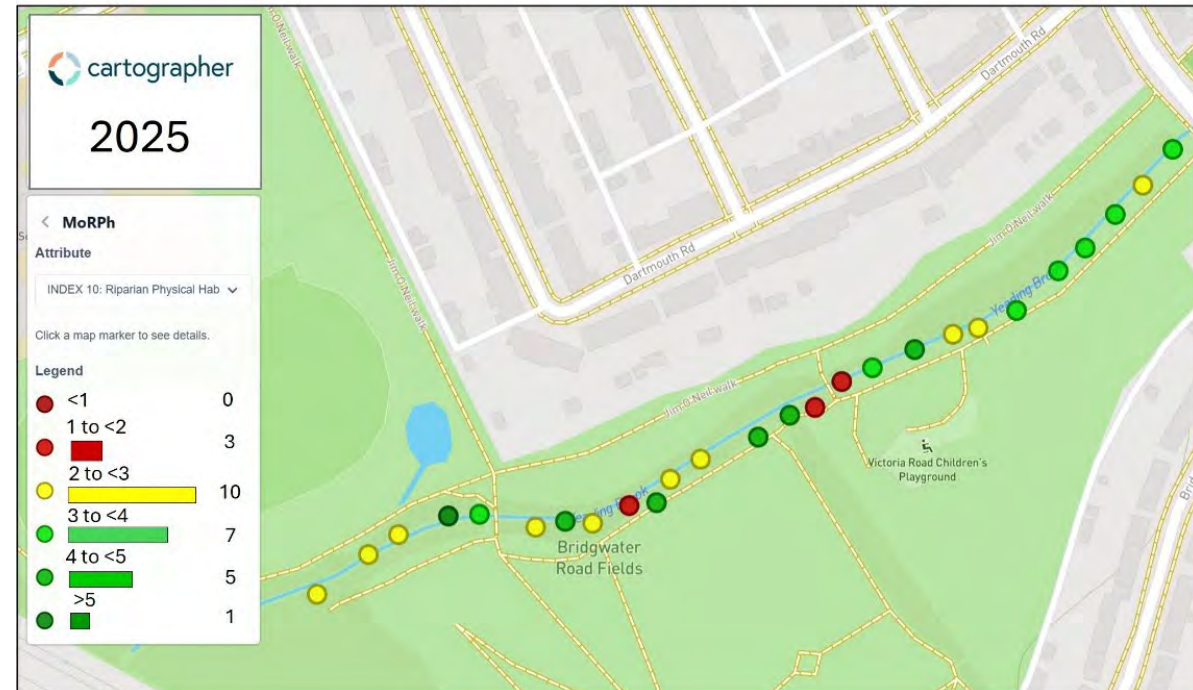
Spider Park: Early Results

- RMI scores improved from 2 to 3 pre-restoration to 6 post-restoration! New taxa: mayflies, caddisflies appearing
- MoRPh – early signs of improvement in channel habitat complexity and some expected declines resulting from recovery in riparian conditions .
- 96% of people surveyed wanting more projects like this to be carried out; 85% more likely to visit because of the restoration works.



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ZSL

A method for monitoring constructed wetlands with community scientists

June 2025



Trialling the constructed wetlands monitoring method with citizen scientists

June 2025

ZSLZSL

Case Study 2: Constructed Wetland Monitoring

- Lots of these being built around London – managing surface water and water quality
- **Challenge:** no standard citizen-science wetland monitoring method and often no follow up monitoring of whether these are actually working!
- Developed **Constructed Wetland Monitoring Method (CWMM)**
- Trialled at Headstone Manor Park, Newton Park, and Chinbrook Meadows

Wetland Monitoring: How It Works

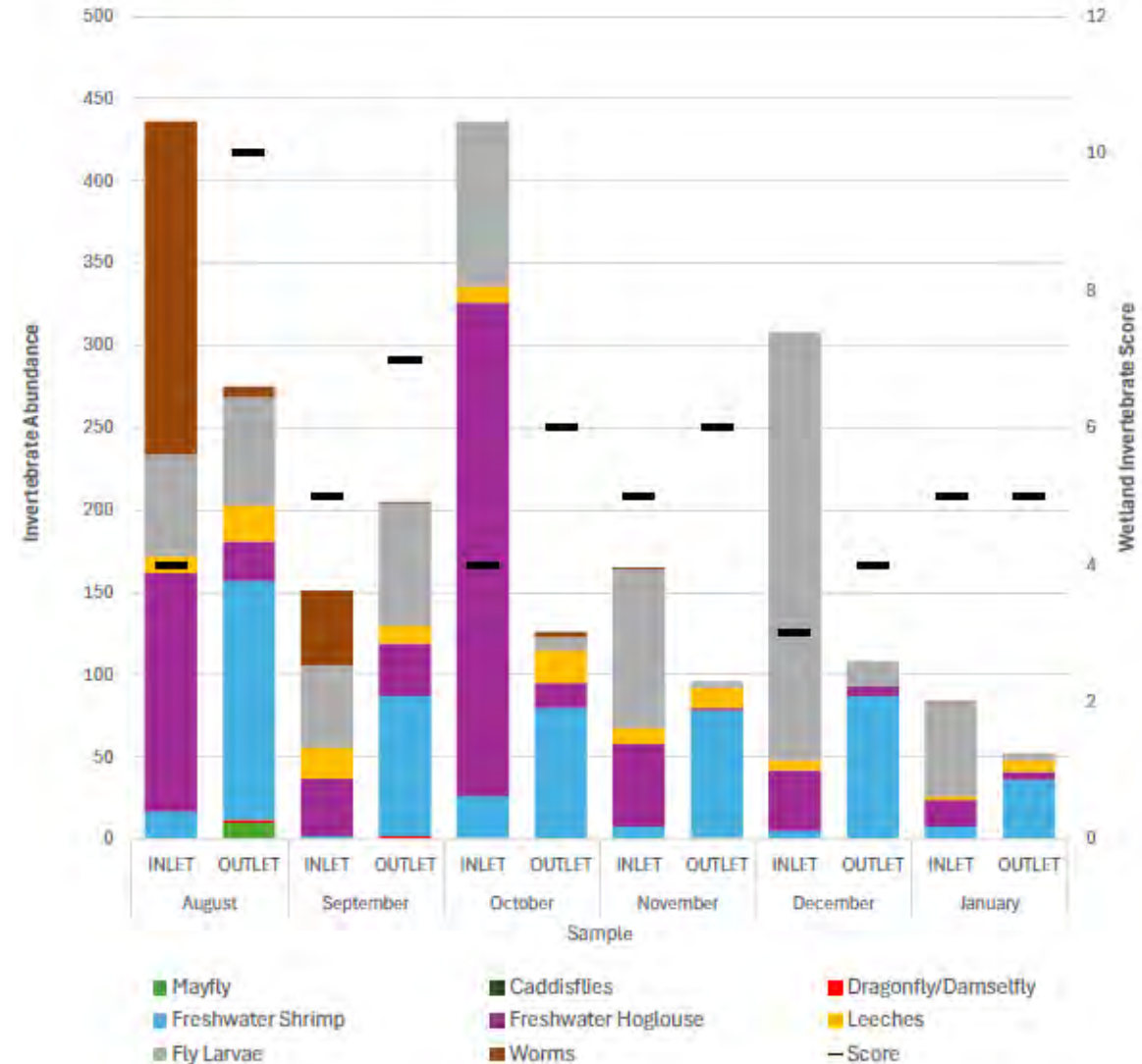
- Monthly invertebrate and water quality sampling at the 3 wetlands by trained volunteers
- Adapted RMI scoring for wetland taxa
- Ammonia and phosphate measured using Hanna Checkers
- Fixed-point photographs of the site before sampling
- Data shared via Padlet and Google Sheets



Wetland Monitoring: Results & Insights



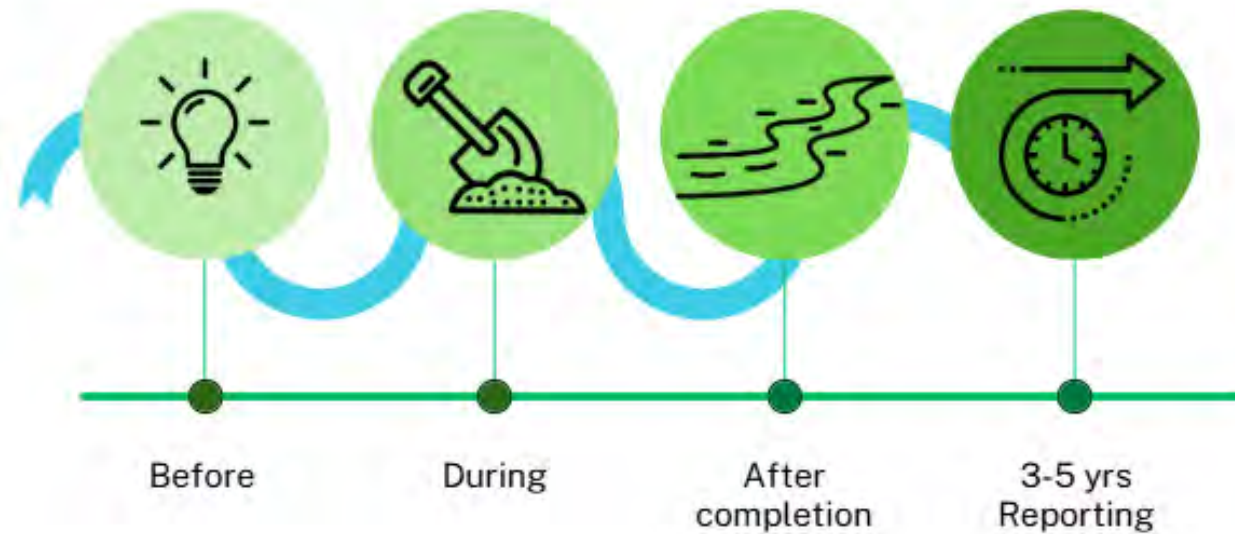
- Higher outlet scores show improved water quality @ Newton Park & Headstone
- Greater invertebrate diversity corresponded with healthier and better functioning wetland systems
- Safe, repeatable, and scalable approach and helped us gain a better understanding of these types of systems.
- Important because if not managed correctly – they can end up leading to more harm than good, becoming sources of pollution.



Why is Follow-Up Monitoring Crucial?



- Benefits evolve over years, not weeks – plants establish, sediment moves, species return, habitat changes
- Systematic, multi-parameter monitoring before, during and after restoration will build a strong evidence base and pattern of reporting to inform our work in the future, how we plan to manage them in the future, and how we fund this.

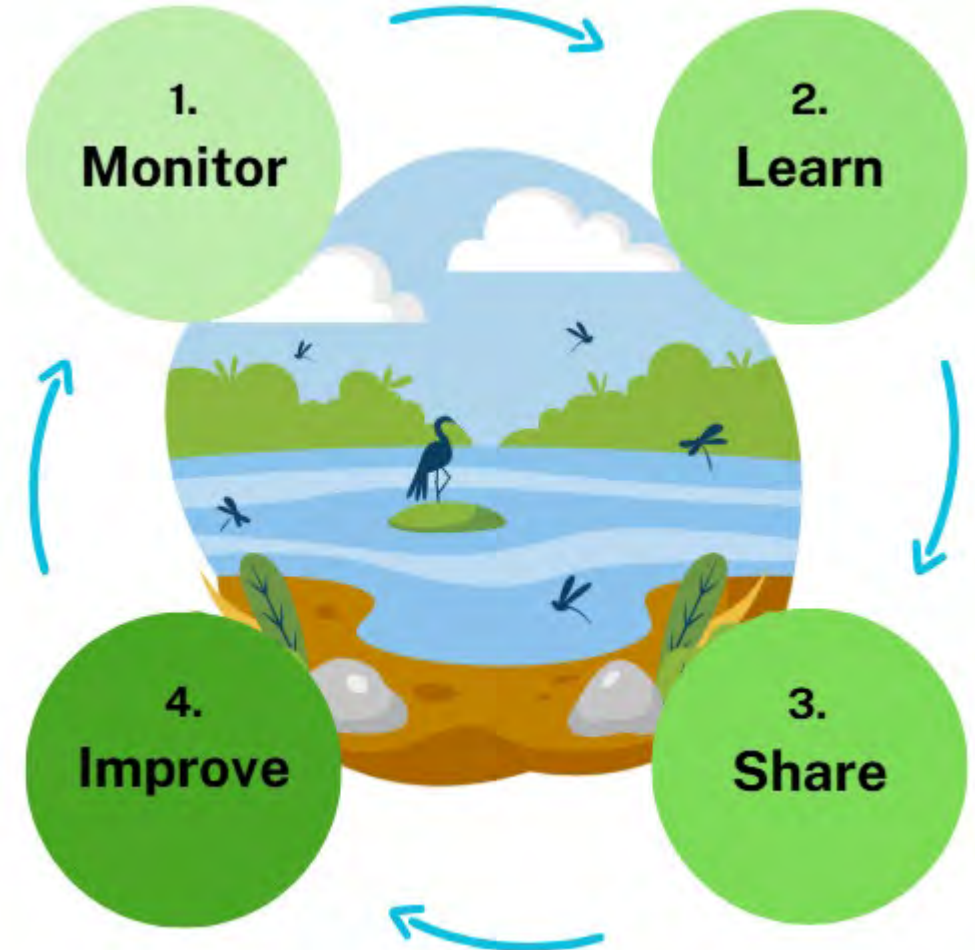


Without ongoing monitoring, we risk missing that full story — and missing opportunities to learn, maintain, and improve future projects.

The Future: Citizen Crane Restoration Monitoring Task Forces



- Create trained local task forces for multi-parameter monitoring
- Coordinate with councils & practitioners pre- and post-works
- Combine biological, physical & social monitoring methods then we can start effectively tracking restoration targets and impacts.
- Summarise results → case studies → share via RiverWiki/Forums/CVP

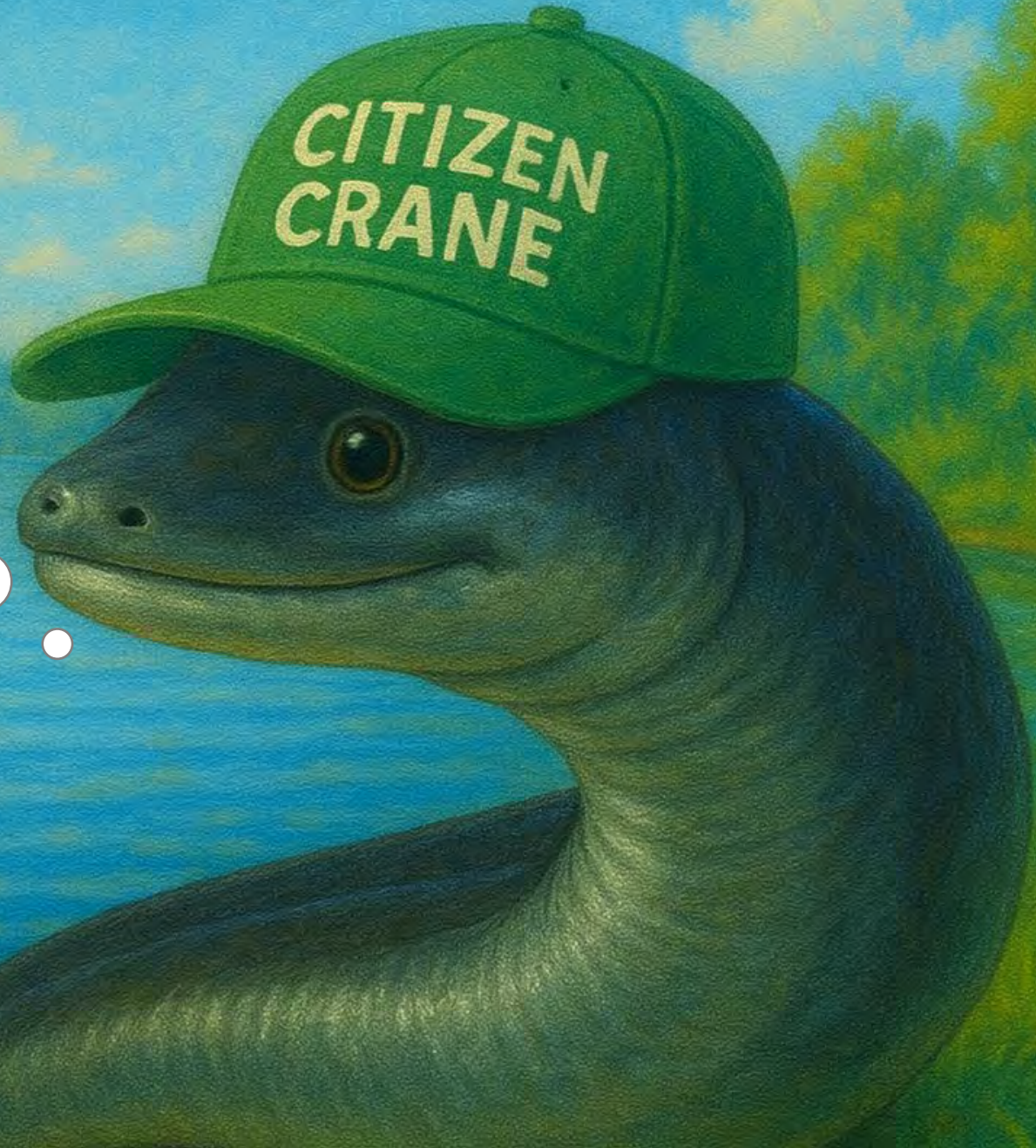




In summary

- Monitoring = **proving** what works, **improving** what doesn't, **inspiring** others to take action ... but we need your help to make it work!
- Join us in building the evidence base for freshwater restoration and make sure we are maximising the benefits to wildlife and people!
- Thank you to all the project partners and volunteers!

**Any questions for
Lucy, Sam or
Azra?**



Upcoming Events!



London Citizen Science Forum



Monday 17th November 10am – 2pm

ZSL will be hosting the Annual London Freshwater Citizen Science Forum and hope to see you all there!

MoRPh/RMI Blitz



Tuesday 4th November 10:30am - 3pm

Queen's Walk - planned river restoration site upstream of Spider Park in Hillingdon!

RMI Training in Hillingdon



**Date TBC w/c 24th November –
Location: Hillingdon**

To help recruit new/ refresh existing volunteers to help monitor the restoration site at Spider Park and Stonefield Park.