



Outcome based policy within the Usk Catchment Partnership

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Head of Policy and Strategy

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park



TOWN PLANNER

A large, fluffy white cloud is centered in the frame, set against a solid, clear blue sky. The cloud has soft, irregular edges and a bright, slightly overexposed center. The text 'POLICY PLANNER' is superimposed on the cloud.

POLICY PLANNER



Afon Tywi / River Tywi

Afon Wysg / River Usk

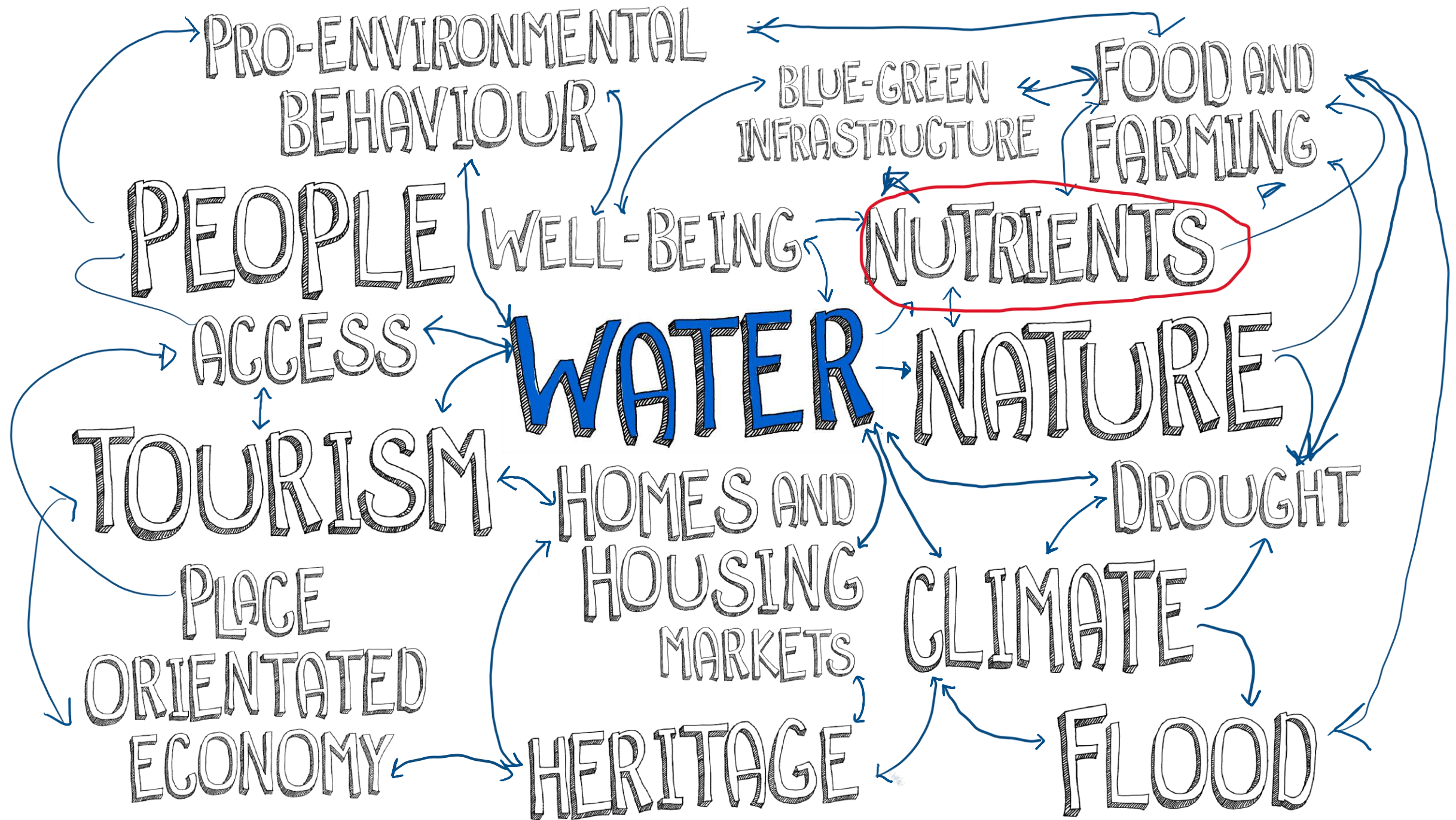




PHOSPHAGEDDON

Key Message: Phosphorus is widely agreed to be the nutrient most likely to harm freshwater systems

- Climate change is increasing these risks, because more drought and sunshine provides better growing conditions for algae.





“Environmental problems have traditionally been addressed at the level of the direct drivers of change, taking the pressures as they appear on the ground, in the ecosystem sphere. For example, solutions to diffuse water pollution from agriculture are sought at the farm scale, with different land management and improved storage of potential pollutants.

But taking action at this level cannot change the systems and the behaviours driving the pressures on the environment. The indirect drivers of pollution within the food system, such as the demand for cheap food and farm incomes squeezed by the retail sector are not addressed by action within the ecosystem sphere. The solution is to transform the food system at a high enough level to design out the pressures at source.”

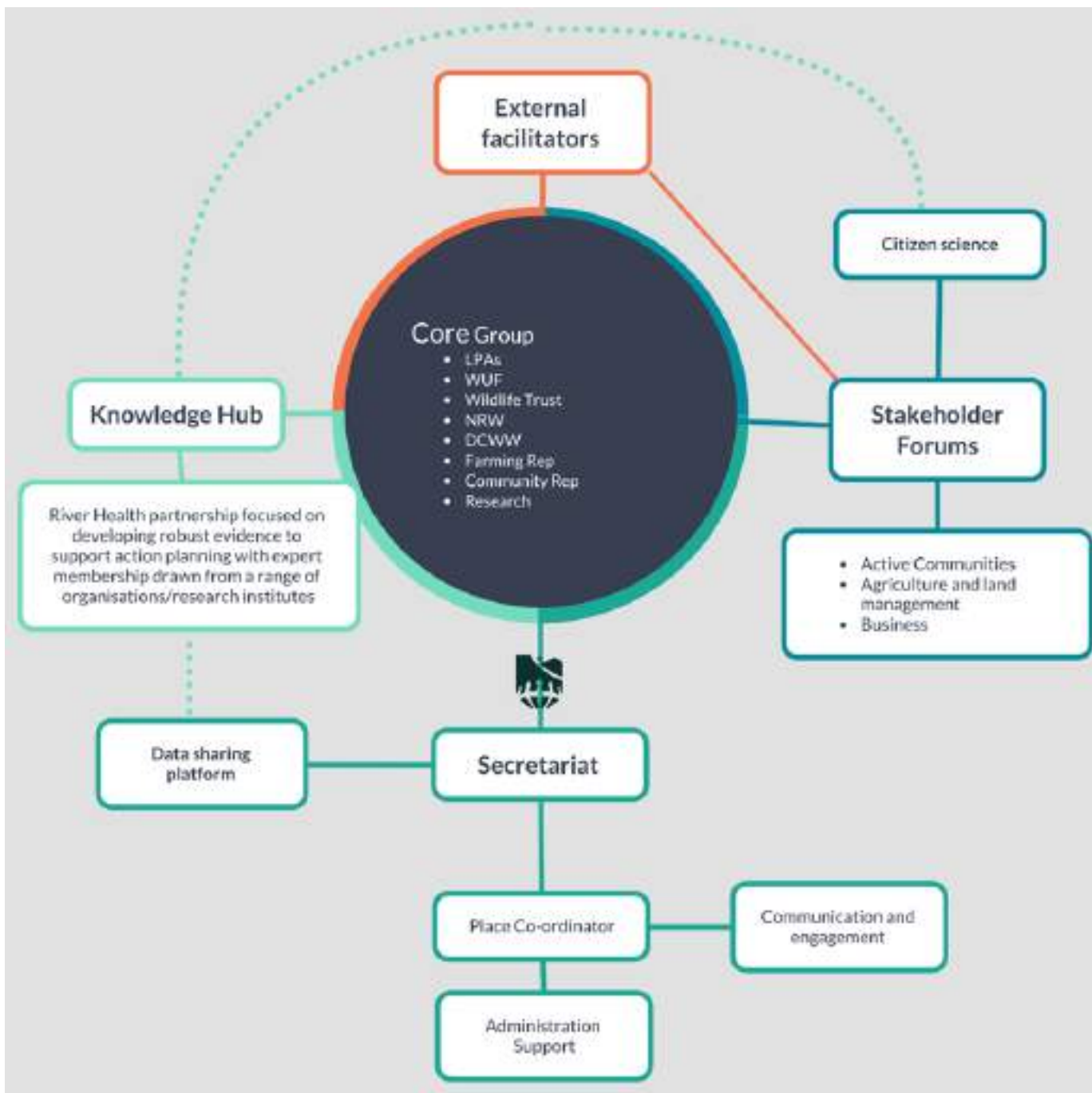
NRW State of Natural Resources Report (2020)

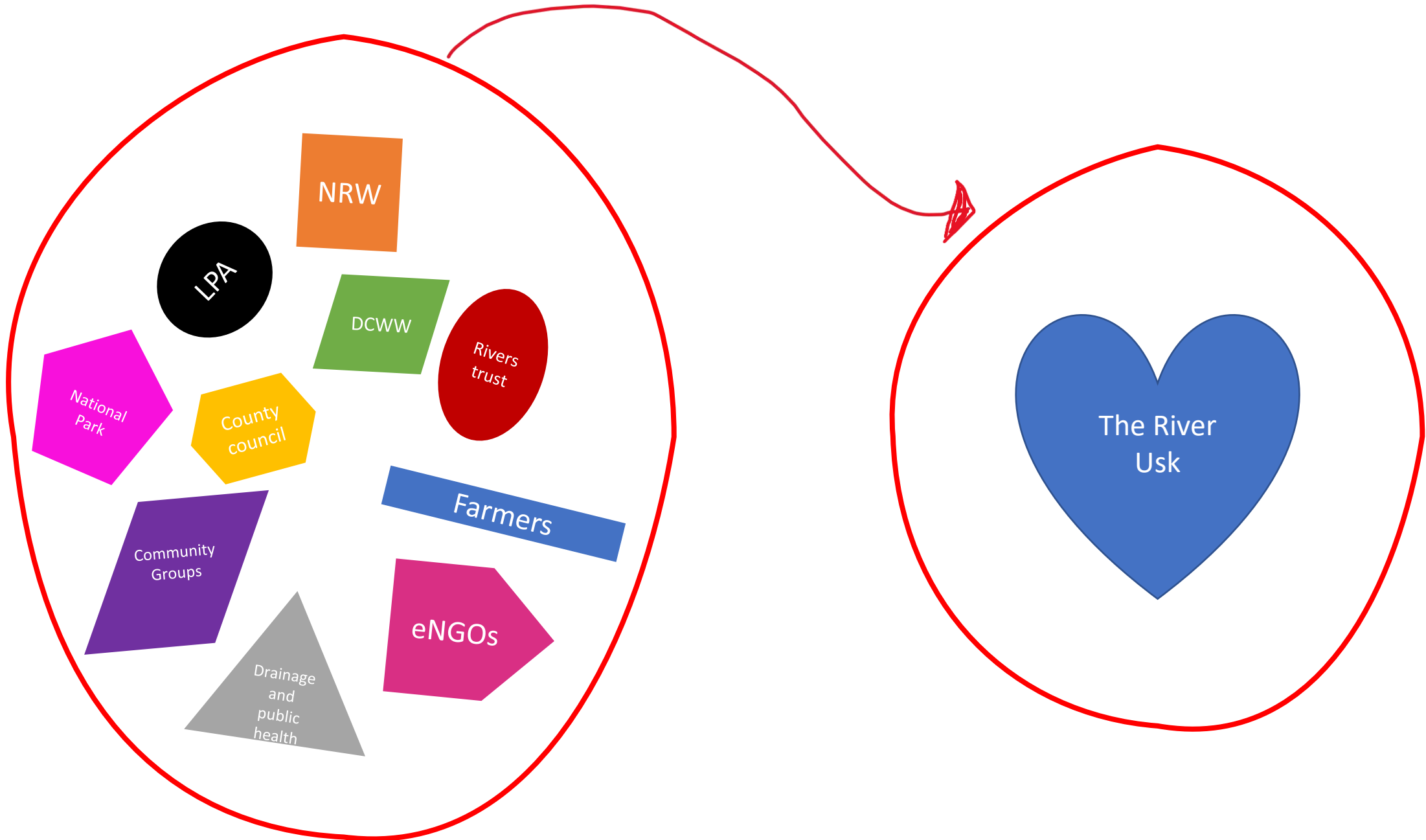
Produce [a] Nutrient Management Plan [which in implementation] will provide the mechanisms by which NMBs **progress action to improve water quality so we can restore and conserve favourable condition status on our SAC rivers, whilst allowing development to continue within these catchments without increasing phosphorus loading**...I believe these **twin aims** are important and working towards that bigger picture will open up a wider range of solutions to address the pressing need to enable the construction of more affordable housing now while, at the same time making progress on improving river health and achieving favourable conservation status. **I anticipate NMBs developing plans which identify measures which will make a difference in the short, medium and long term.** These will provide the foundation for longer-term improvements with the aim of achieving and maintaining SAC compliance but with early priority given initiatives to unlock affordable housing over the next two years.

Letter to NMB leads from Julie James MS 27th October 2023

(JJ/PO/359/2023)







A vision for the Usk Catchment



By 2043 everyone will be able to enjoy a river full of thriving wildlife, sheltered by trees, bordered by a diverse mosaic of thriving habitats where regenerative practices produce high quality foods, manage the flows of water whilst storing/managing carbon and in so doing supporting a sustainable local economy.

VISION

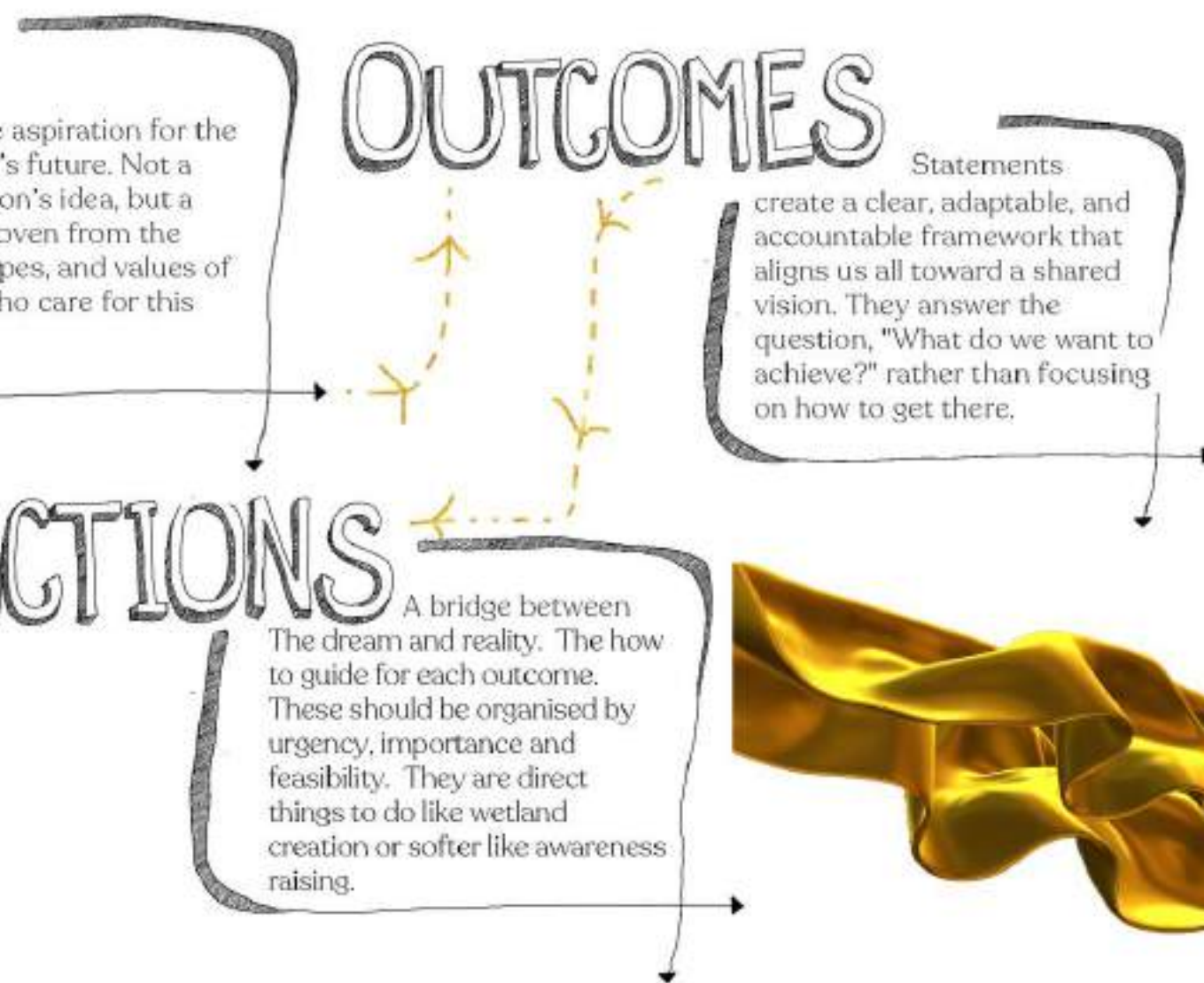
a collective aspiration for the catchment's future. Not a single person's idea, but a tapestry woven from the desires, hopes, and values of all those who care for this place.

OUTCOMES

Statements create a clear, adaptable, and accountable framework that aligns us all toward a shared vision. They answer the question, "What do we want to achieve?" rather than focusing on how to get there.

ACTIONS

A bridge between The dream and reality. The how to guide for each outcome. These should be organised by urgency, importance and feasibility. They are direct things to do like wetland creation or softer like awareness raising.



Nature Outcomes Statements:




- a. An environment where nature and people thrive together.
- b. Where environments are managed sustainably and regeneratively and the intrinsic benefit of nature is recognised by all.
- c. All actions that the partnership support being undertaken to achieve nature's recovery and a stable climate.
- d. This means a nature-based, climate aware solution first approach to action planning.

Community Outcomes Statements:



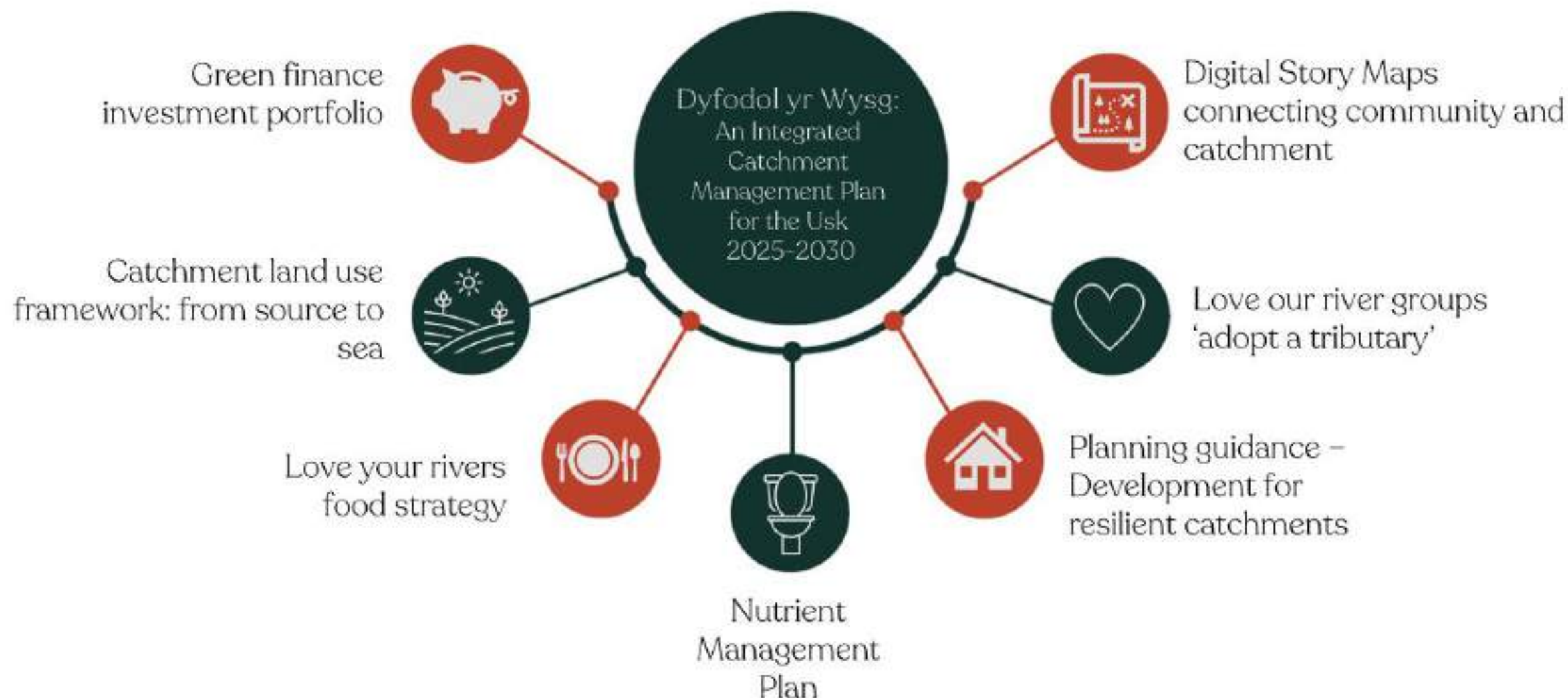
- a. A river which is accessible and enjoyable to all .
- b. A clean and nature rich river to which we feel deeply connected, and those connections are celebrated in the culture and story of our place.
- c. Where through concerted action we collectively become stewards of our river – actively managing flood and drought risks and eliminating waste and pollution in our homes, communities and businesses
- d. Where we work with service providers to ensure that the best standards are applied and we as a community, build mutual trust by taking responsibility for our part in making that happen .

Farmers and Land Managers Outcomes Statements:

- 
- a. A financially resilient network of farmers and landowners – celebrated and rewarded for their regenerative practice – with strong, viable and diverse businesses and who inspire action in others.
 - b. An evidence base that allows for external businesses and finance to support natures' recovery in a socially and environmentally just way.
 - c. A farming community of environmental stewards, who in their action generate clean plentiful water, clean air, sequester carbon and produce good quality wholesome and healthy food, at a fair price .
 - d. Where farmers are recognised and respected as custodians of the landscape and have pride in their land being in good ecological health for the benefit of future generations.

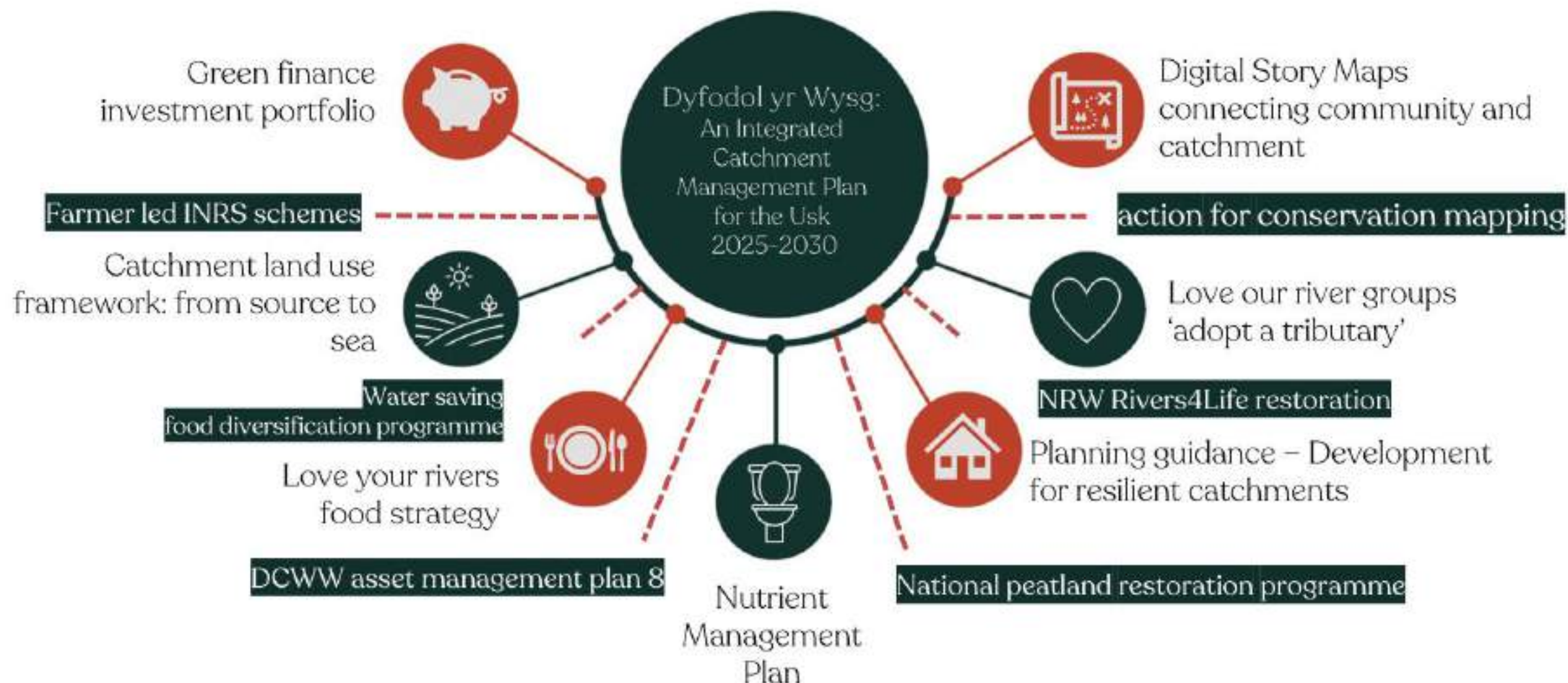
A Plan To Inspire Action

A plan for the whole of the Usk Catchment - used to define a collective vision for **all** our future action. This diagram shows how the Integrated Catchment Management Plan provides the overarching strategic context for a range of detailed plans, policies, and actions- all partners within the Usk Catchment Partnership, working within the Usk Catchment will contribute to the delivery of **Dyfodol Yr Wysg**



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The Decision Making Process

THE ADVICE PROCESS

Innovate solutions

Each sub-group will work up a series of actions to address the issues identified.

Seek advice

Each sub-group will seek the advice of the Knowledge hub and the engage wider communities to determine the feasibility and appropriateness of their proposed actions.

Finalise the actions

The sub group will seek to revise their proposals based on the advice received before providing to the Core Group for adoption .



Donella Meadows

Places to Intervene in a System
(in increasing order of effectiveness)

9. Constants, parameters, numbers (subsidies, taxes, standards)
8. Regulating negative feedback loops
7. Driving positive feedback loops
6. Material flows and nodes of material intersection
5. Information flows
4. The rules of the system (incentives, punishments, constraints)
3. The distribution of power over the rules of the system
2. The goals of the system
1. The mindset or paradigm out of which the system—its goals, power structure, rules, its culture—arises.



PROVOCATIONS





Why time poverty matters for individuals, organisations and nations

Laura M. Giurge^{1,4,5}, Ashley V. Whillans^{2,4,5} and Colin West³

Over the last two decades, global wealth has risen. Yet material affluence has not translated into time affluence. Most people report feeling persistently 'time poor'—like they have too many things to do and not enough time to do them. Time poverty is linked to lower well-being, physical health and productivity. Individuals, organisations and policymakers often overlook the pernicious effects of time poverty. Billions of dollars are spent each year to alleviate material poverty, while time poverty is often ignored or exacerbated. In this Perspective, we discuss the societal, organisational, institutional and psychological factors that explain why time poverty is often under appreciated. We argue that scientists, policymakers and organisational leaders should devote more attention and resources toward understanding and reducing time poverty to promote psychological and economic well-being.

Human beings have always faced resource constraints driven by crises such as plagues, famine and drought. Consistent with our species' struggle to obtain enough tangible assets to survive, policy decisions have primarily focused on increasing material prosperity¹. Historically, this focus has been driven by the general belief that material wealth results in greater welfare², a perspective that is exemplified by the fact that the gross domestic product has been used as the primary tool for measuring country-level welfare since its development in 1954³.

More recently, however, this narrow focus on material resources has been challenged^{4,5}. In the 1970s, the economist Richard Easterlin discovered a paradox: while economic growth in the US had steadily increased over the previous decades, citizens' happiness had remained largely unaltered⁶. Initially debated by some scholars⁷, the 'Easterlin Paradox' was confirmed in recent years and across countries^{8,9}. Following from these findings, policymakers have come to recognise that non-monetary factors, such as societal trust and optimism, are also critical in shaping citizens' well-being and societal progress^{10,11}. In this Perspective, we argue that policymakers also need to consider the role of time affluence. Although wealth has risen around the world, material prosperity has not translated into an abundance of time; on the contrary, rising wealth often exacerbates feelings of time poverty¹².

Defined as the chronic feeling of having too many things to do and not enough time to do them^{13,14}, time poverty is increasing in society. Data from the Gallup US daily poll—a nationally representative sample of US residents—shows that, in 2011, 70% of employed Americans reported that they 'never had enough time'; and in 2018, this proportion increased to 80% (ref. 15). Coinciding with these societal trends, researchers across academic fields have started to systematically study this phenomenon. In social psychology, a growing body of literature finds that people who are more time-affluent experience greater psychological well-being^{16–19}. Organisational behaviour research documents the role of workplace structures in shaping how people think about and use their time^{20,21}. Legal scholars are starting to consider the full welfare costs of the time burdens imposed by social structures (i.e., unpaid labour burdens incurred by women²²) and government processes (i.e., paperwork and administrative burdens²³). Political

theorists are urging scholars to study wasted time in political institutions, such as how wait-times at voting booths or in court influence democratic processes²⁴. Developmental economists are advocating for the systematic study of time-use and associated stressors among the working poor^{25–28}. The common thread across these diverse disciplines is that time poverty may be as important as material poverty in shaping human welfare.

Today, time poverty and 'busyness' are often seen as signals of productivity, success and high status^{29,30}. Yet, recent scientific evidence provides compelling evidence that feeling time-poor can adversely affect subjective well-being (for example, life satisfaction, positive affect), mental health, work performance, creativity and relationship quality (see Table 1 for some of the documented negative consequences of time poverty). Building on this work, the aim of the current paper is to analyse the causes of time poverty and discuss potential solutions.

First, we focus on the societal, institutional, organisational and psychological factors that contribute to time poverty at work and outside of it. In doing so, we provide an explanation for why policymakers, companies and individuals tend to overlook or exacerbate time poverty. Second, we discuss the potential role of social scientists, policymakers and organisational leaders in reversing the upward trend in time poverty worldwide.

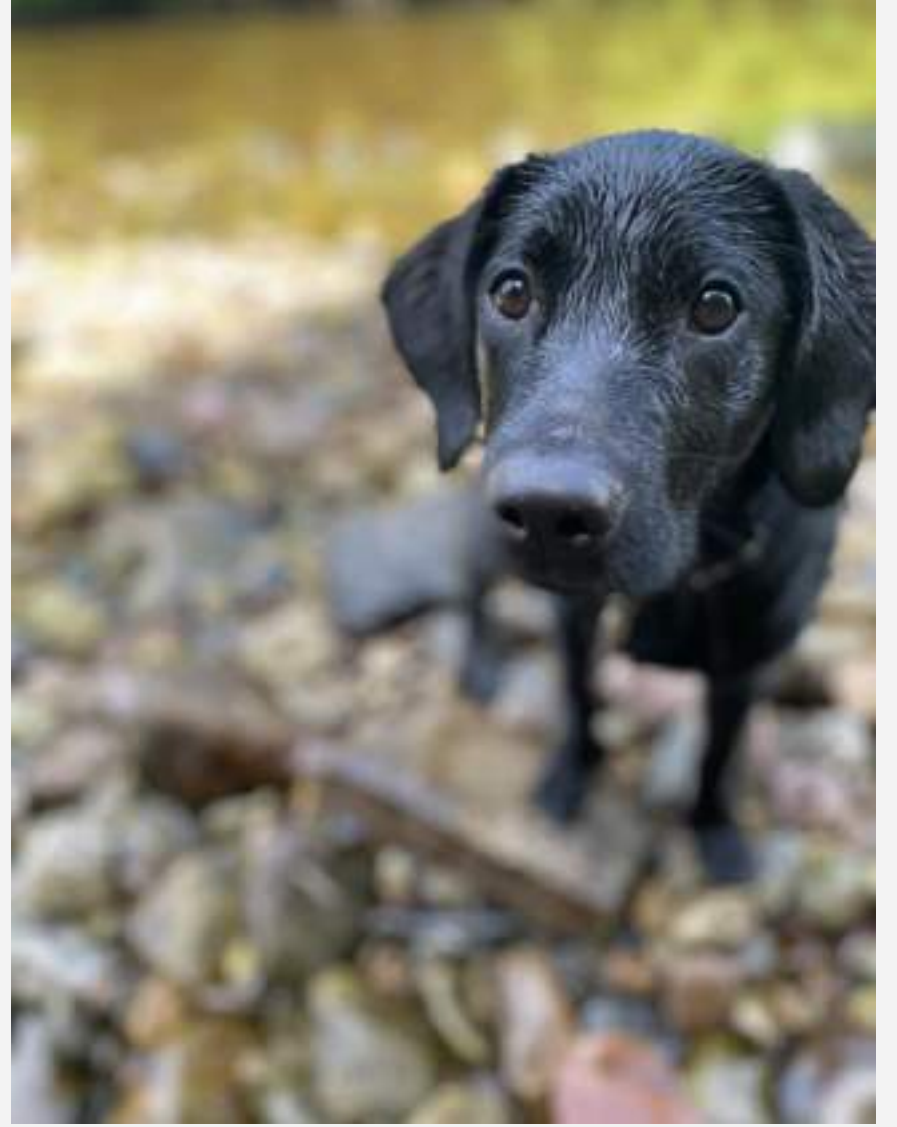
Societal drivers of time poverty

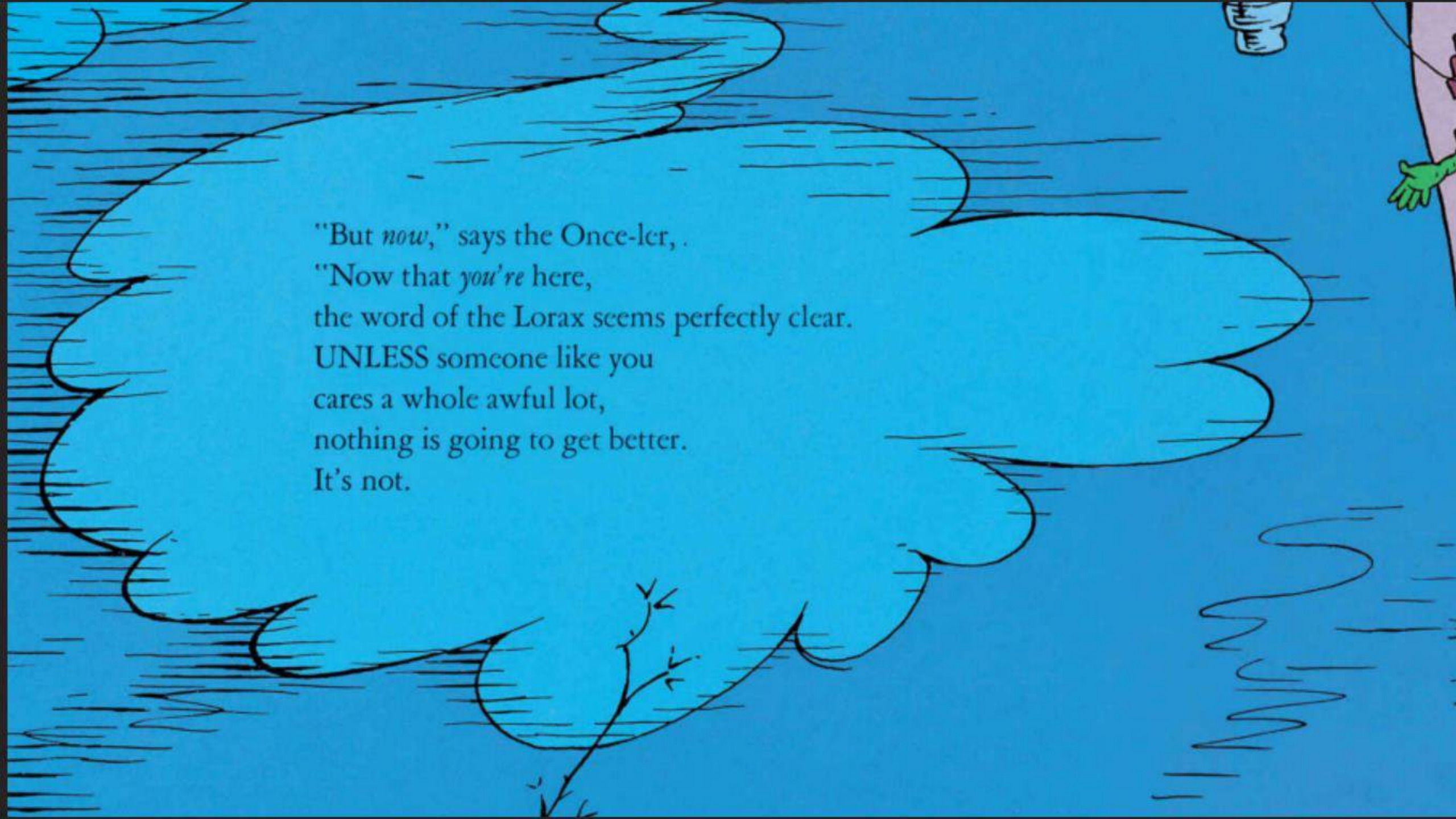
There are two important changes in society that have contributed to increased time poverty³¹. First, changes to social structures that shape time have accelerated the speed of life³². Family structures are no longer stable: they are increasingly punctuated by divorce³³. Careers are no longer passed down from generation to generation: people now change jobs an average of 11 times³⁴. Second, the Internet and mobile phones provide people with access to an infinite number of experiences and the opportunity to 'live a multiplicity of lives within a single lifetime'^{35,36}. Thus, people increasingly worry about missing out, which can increase feelings of time poverty³⁷.

Along with the acceleration of time, the shifting nature of work and its relationship with time contribute to time poverty³⁸. Marx³⁹



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"But *now*," says the Once-ler, .
"Now that *you're* here,
the word of the Lorax seems perfectly clear.
UNLESS someone like you
cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better.
It's not.

Our Living Levels



Our Living Levels





Ein Lefelau Gwent

Our Living Levels



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol
Cymru
Natural
Resources
Wales**





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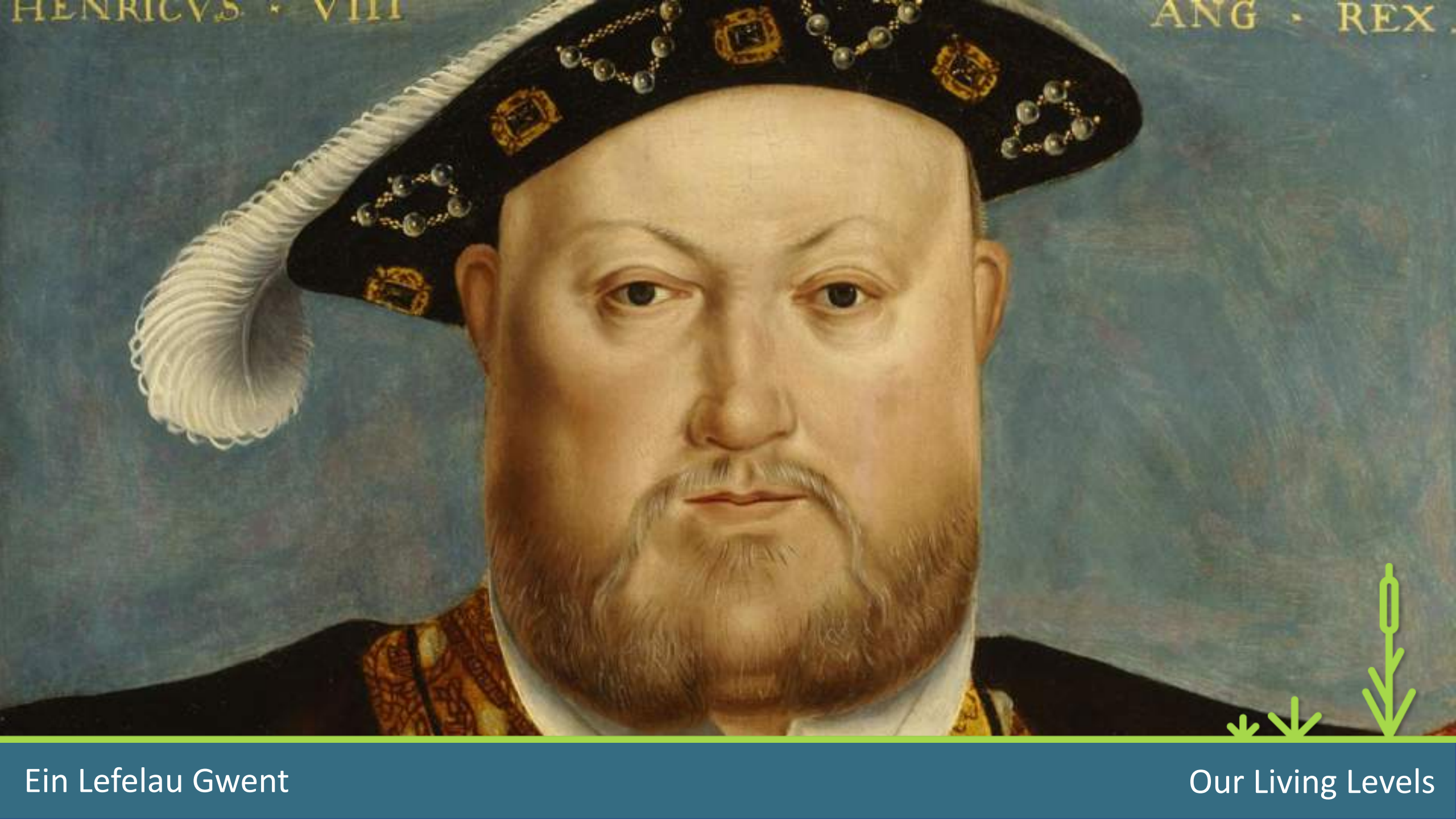
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Our Living Levels



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Our Living Levels

Our Living Levels Thank You



Linking the Levels Project



- 2 years development funding secured. £370K from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority plus 304K partners match funding
- [Funding secured to help restore nature along the Severn Estuary | Newsroom \(southglos.gov.uk\)](https://www.southglos.gov.uk/newsroom/funding-secured-to-help-restore-nature-along-the-severn-estuary)



Linking the Levels Project Partners



Linking the Levels Partners workshop, Bear Wood, Bristol Zoo Project, May 2024

Partners include:

- South Gloucestershire Council
- Bristol Avon Rivers Trust
- Bristol Zoological Society
- Avon Wildlife Trust
- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Severn Estuary Partnership, SECG, ASERA
- West of England Nature Partnership
- Wessex Water, BACP
- **and more....**

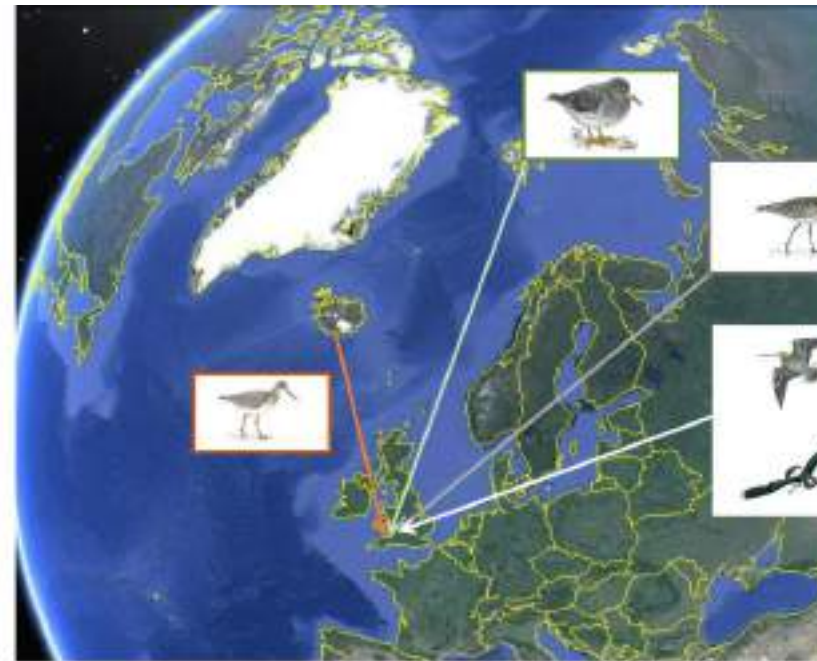
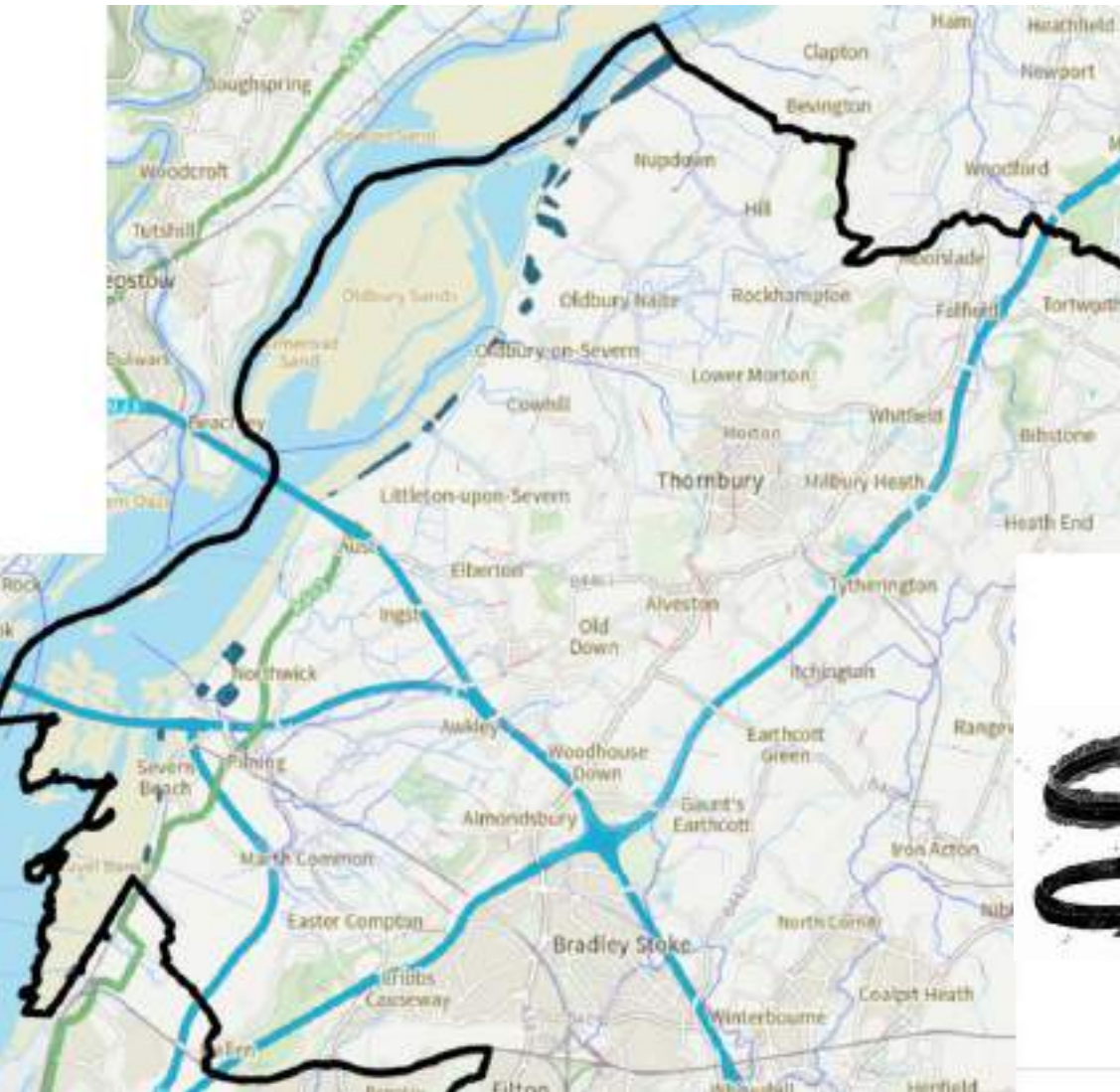
We would love to hear from you if you are interested in hearing more or getting involved

A local project supporting global nature



South Gloucestershire
Council
Delivering climate action

17,230 hectares between the M5 corridor and the Severn Estuary across the Lower Severn Vale, Levels and Shore of South Glos, which includes the 7km buffer for the **Severn Estuary European Marine Site (EMS)**



Thousands of birds, wildfowl and waders migrate to the Severn estuary from Alaska, Greenland, and Russia each winter



European eel swim up to 10,000km to spawn in the Sargasso Sea and spend their adult lives in our lakes, streams and ditches, and can live for over 150 years! Other migratory fish seek refuge in coastal catchments as they migrate along the estuary

Strategic links and partnerships

South Gloucestershire

- Local Flood Risk Strategy
- Adaptation Plan (in preparation) and RAPA pilot project
- UKHSA vulnerabilities mapping
- Local Plan
- Severnside and Thornbury Master Plans
- Community Engagement Forums
- Town and Parish Council Local Climate and Nature Action Plans

West of England

- West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) Strategy and Portfolio
- Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan,
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (launch Nov 2024)
- Joint GI Strategy
- Adaptation Plan (being prepared)
- WENP Nature and Health Strategy

Bristol Avon Catchment

- Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership and Plan (BACP)
- Bristol Avon Fish Recovery Strategy

Severn Estuary

- Severn Estuary European Marine Site SCA, SPA, RAMSAR and SSSI
- Severn Estuary Strategy and Partnership (SEP)
- ASERA Management Plan for the EMS
- Severn Estuary Coastal Group – SECG - Shoreline Management Plan
- Severn Estuary Adaptation Pathway Project (SEAP)

Wider plans and partnerships

- Wessex Water Drainage & Wastewater Management Plan
- Western Gateway – strategic infrastructure projects

And more....

Vision and objectives

**Restored, connected, thriving and resilient nature across the Lower Severn
Vale, Levels and Shore of South Gloucestershire**

- Habitat creation and restoration
- Water catchment restoration and fish recovery
- High tide roosts for wildfowl and waders
- Improved biosecurity and species recovery
- Visitor Impact Assessment and Mitigation Plan
- Working with local communities
- Linking the Levels Full Delivery Programme prepared
- Nature informed decision making and sharing learning



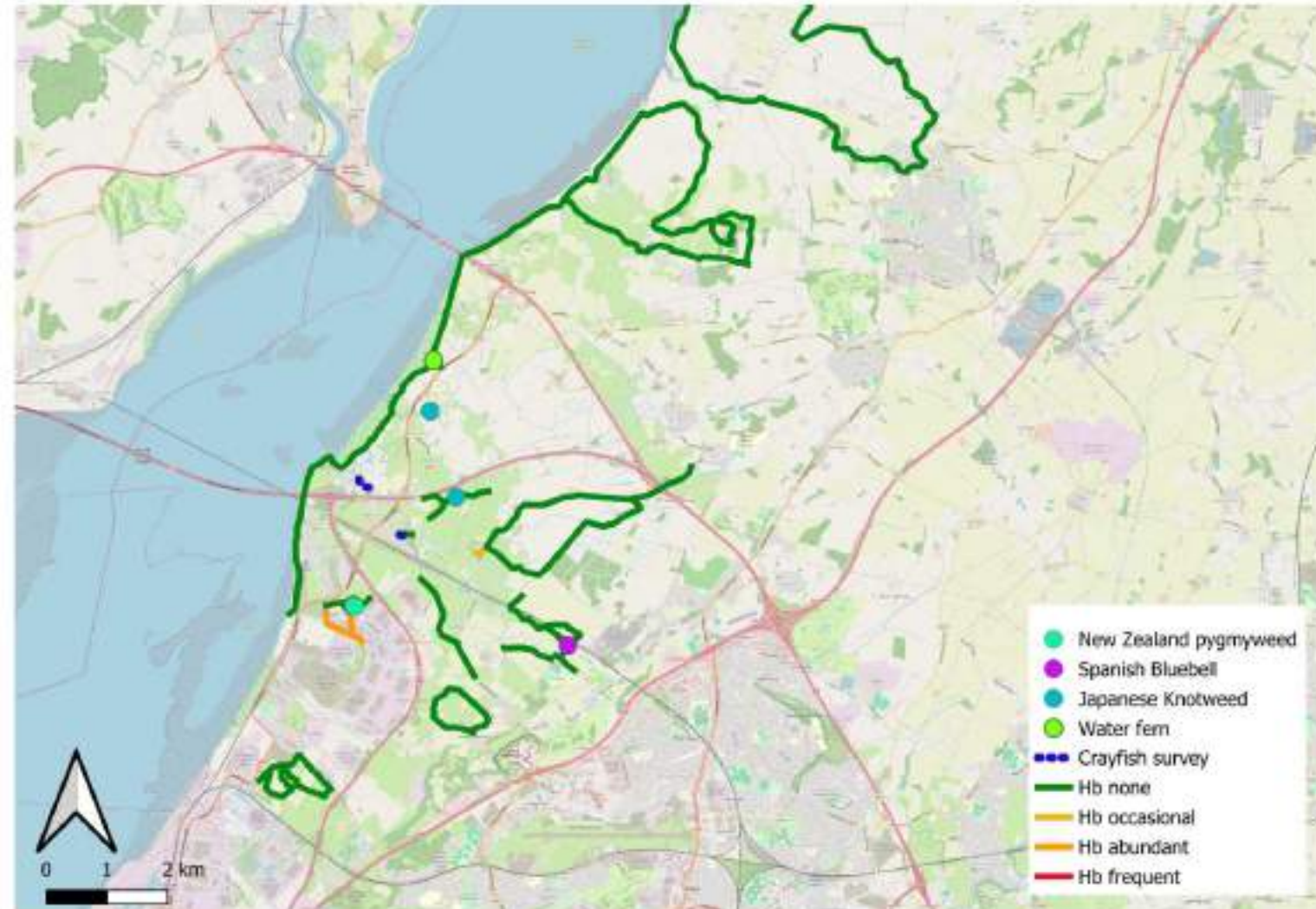
Programme development and delivery

During the 2-year GRF funded period, work **delivered** and **developed** will include:

- **Data and evidence gathering** - on site survey work – including ecological data on protected species, invasive species (INNS), fish species, fish barriers, birds, and visitor surveys. Desktop data and evidence gathering.
- **Stakeholder engagement** – including with partners, landowners, communities. We welcome your comments and suggestions.
- **Develop Action Plans** – informed by data and evidence gathering, stakeholder engagement and strategic links – including
 - **Biosecurity Action Plan** – to find, remove and stop the spread of invasive plants and animals
 - **Fish Recovery and Catchment Restoration Action Plan** – to improve the health of our water catchments
 - **Visitor Mitigation Plan** - to help reduce disturbance by human activities for wildlife
 - **High Tide Roosts Action Plans** – so that birds have more safe places to rest and feed in land when the tide is high
 - **South Gloucestershire European Marine Site (EMS) Management Plan.**
- **Deliver initial work and ‘quick wins’ on the ground** – including habitat and water catchment improvements, invasive species removal, visitor mitigation, species recovery
- **Linking the Levels Full Delivery Programme** - will be prepared, costed, and agreed which sets out an integrated programme of work and projects informed by the GRF funded data and information gathering and Action Plans prepared, ready for seeking delivery funding from a range of sources for implementation

Invasive plants

- 55 kilometres surveyed 2023 & 2024.
- **Himalayan balsam** 90% managed summer 2024 – 12 events with 40 volunteers
- **Japanese knotweed** at 2 sites and both under management.
- **Azolla (water fern)** at 2 sites and both sites under management.
- **Crassula helmsii** at one site and method statement and management plan in process of being written for spring 2025.

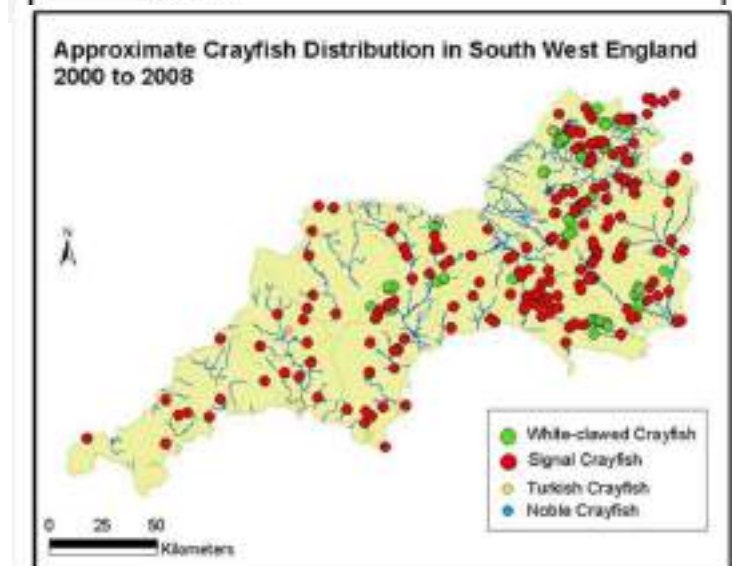
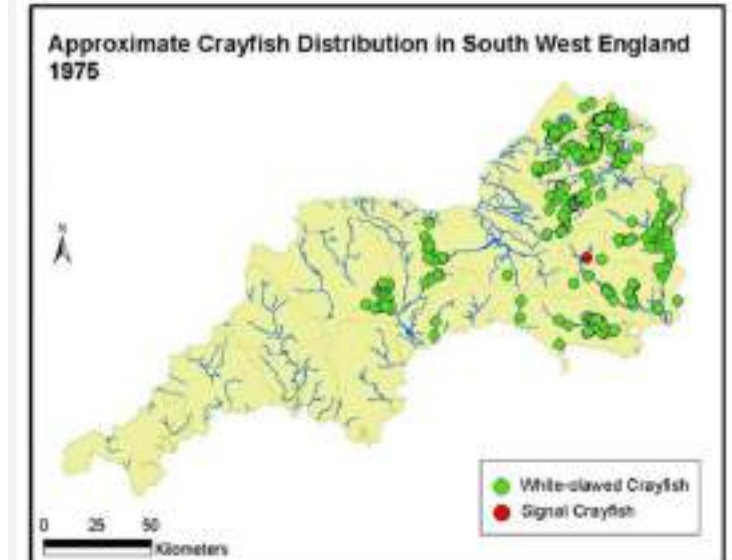


American Mink *Neovison vison*



American signal crayfish

Pacifastacus leniusculus



Water vole *Arvicola amphibius*

- Important ecosystem engineers
- 95% decline in numbers in the UK since the 1980s.
- Predominantly due to predation by mink.
- We'll be installing monitoring stations along waterways



- Citizen science surveys. <https://ptes.org/get-involved/surveys/countryside/national-water-vole-monitoring-programme/>

White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*



Glow-worm *Lampyris noctiluca*



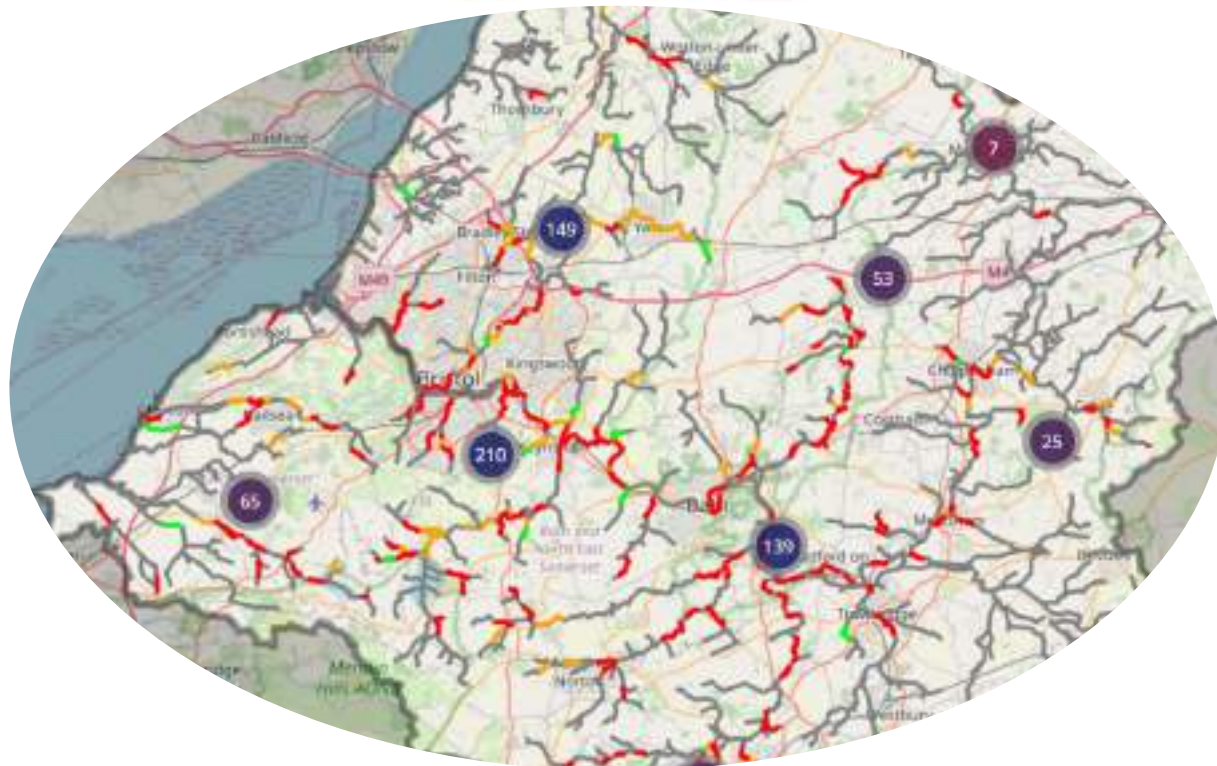
EelStream: flowing towards Eel Recovery

1. Gather existing data & evidence
2. Undertake eDNA surveys
3. Barrier assessment / SNIFFER surveys
4. Delivery of stakeholder workshops
4. Delivery of landowner advice and guidance across 20 Farms
5. The creation of a prioritised Fish Recovery & Catchment Restoration Action Plan
6. Delivery of “quick win” projects



Walk over surveys, assessments and citizen science

RiverBlitz



+

**WATER
GUARDIANS**

 **River
Detectives**


**The
Riverfly
Partnership**



Nature – Based Solutions

- Water quality
- Riverscapes diversity
- Riparian & instream habitat
- Attenuation of peak-flows



Community and landowner engagement

- Town and Parish council workshops
- Visits and advice for interested landowners – rhine systems, invasives, high tide roosts, tree planting
- Community events including Severn Fest
- Working with existing and support setting up new community groups
- Citizen science monitoring
- promoting estuary wide comms re disturbance, litter free, INNS



Any questions...?



We would love to hear from you. Please contact:

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