

The Rivers Trust Movement – involvement of landowners, stakeholders and volunteers



Barry Bendall
Director (East & South)
The Rivers Trust

'The umbrella body of the rivers trust movement'



The Rivers Trust movement

- >52 rivers trusts in England Wales & NI
- ~170 technical professionals
- 10,000's supporters and volunteers
- £20M+ income



Frank's brief

- Why we exist?
- What we do?
- How do we operate with respect to landowners, volunteers & key stakeholders?
- How are we funded?

WHY?

Our natural ecosystems and the services they provide (Ecosystem Services) are suffering from a number of legacy impacts

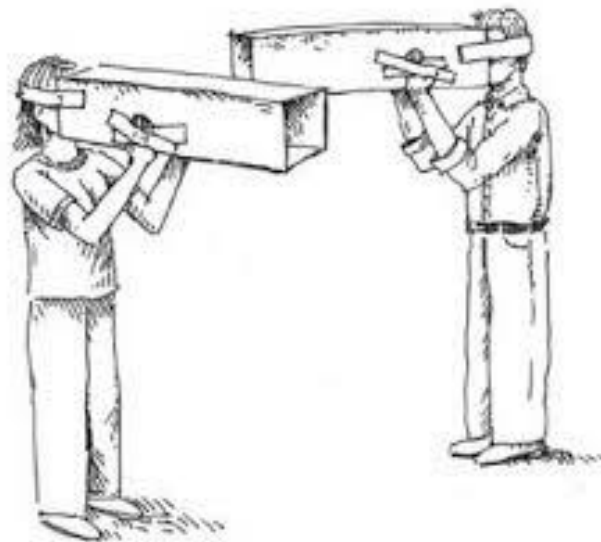
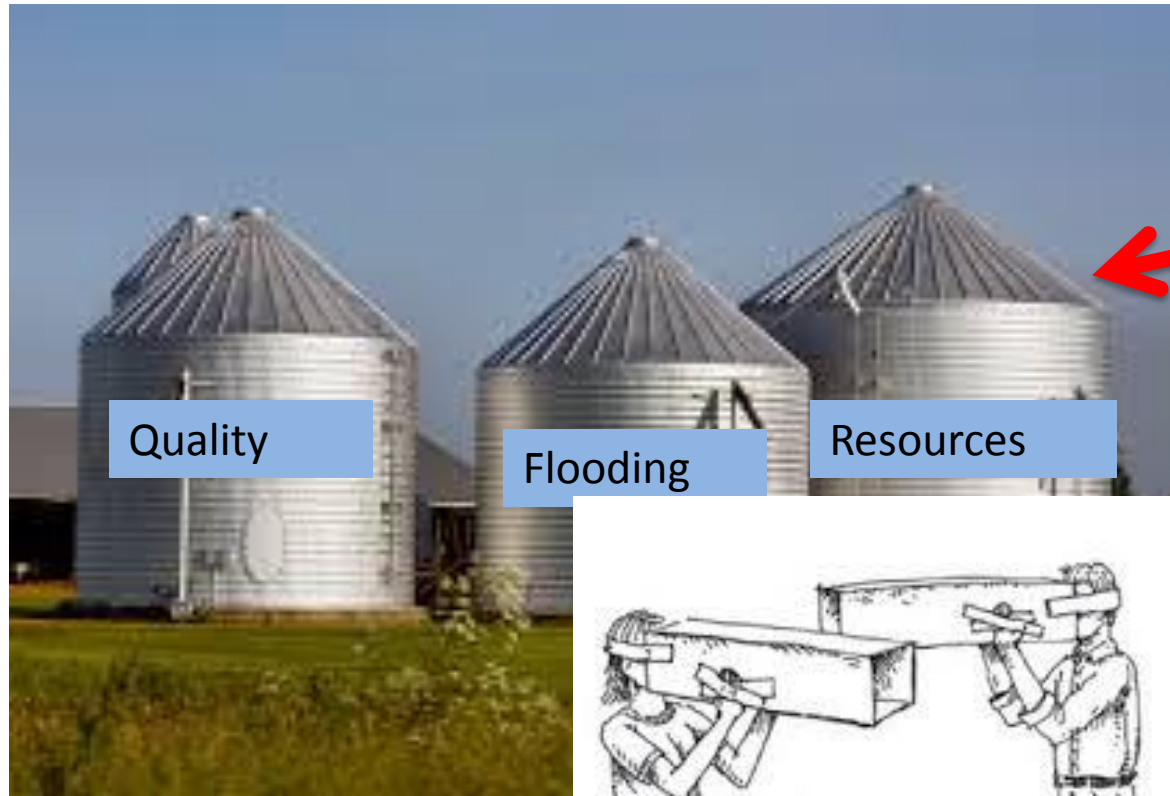


Leading to...

- Highly modified, over engineered rivers
- Communities disconnected from nature, their rivers and natural processes
- Loss of wetlands
- Loss of biodiversity
- Contaminated surface and ground waters
- Failure to meet environmental standards
- Poor resilience against extreme weather events
- Limited ability to meet growing demands for food and water
- Limited tourism and health and well being benefits...



Water management in the UK



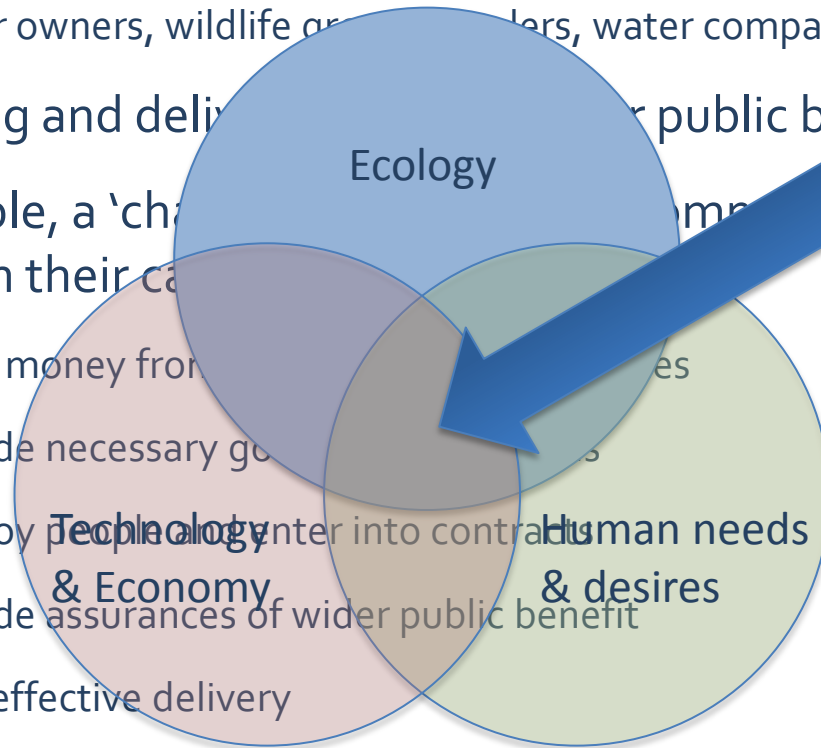


Additional Challenges for joined up delivery

- Very few high level organisations operate at a “catchment” scale
- Prescriptive “top down” legislation and approaches to management
 - lacking flexibility
 - Poorly enforced
 - Insufficient incentives for people to do more in the right places
- Not about people - few opportunities for “bottom-up” delivery

Out of frustration rivers trusts were born...

- Grassroots 'bottom-up' movement operating at the catchment scale
- Engaging and empowering communities
- Apply the ecosystem approach (fair and balanced) – public benefit
- Providing a "neutral space" for those that own and manage resources e.g. farmers, land & river owners, wildlife groups, anglers, water companies...
- Operating and delivering for public benefit
- In principle, a 'charitable' trust structure can use to deliver positive actions in their catchment
 - Raise money from...
 - Provide necessary goods...
 - Employ people who enter into contracts...
 - Provide assurances of wider public benefit
 - Cost effective delivery



Conceptual framework for the ecosystem approach

A blue oval with a slight gradient and a soft shadow, centered on a white background. Inside the oval, the word "WHAT?" is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

WHAT?







Community organisations can deliver big projects...









NORFOLK
RIVERS TRUST





Surface flow interception

Using natural features within the landscape to disrupt flow pathways, slow water down, trap sediments, encourage infiltration and increase resilience



Planted field corner

Hedgerow planting

Surface Flow Paths

Awareness of soil management

Tree Belt



We do all this without any direct Authority or
Responsibility

A blue oval with a slight gradient and a soft shadow, centered on a white background. Inside the oval, the word "HOW?" is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

HOW?

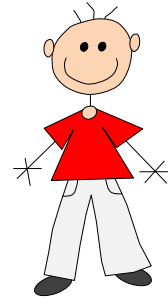
How do we motivate people to do the right things?

It really is about the people!

1. **Empowerment** - *Most people will act in the public benefit when offered the necessary information, engaged and given responsibility.*
2. **Enlightened self-interest** – *A common understanding (knowledge) of the issues and local flexibility to implement the right solutions promotes greater personal responsibility.*
3. **Catchment Scale** - *Planning and action should take place at the scale that makes sense 'hydrologically' and to 'people'. For this purpose, a river catchment is the nature's natural unit of scale.*
4. **Targeted payment schemes (PES)** *based on value of service provided and based on trusted models and visualisation methods – participatory approach.*



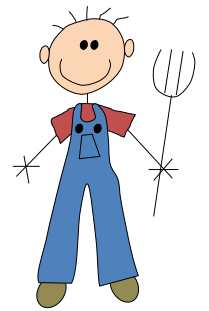
Nature Manager



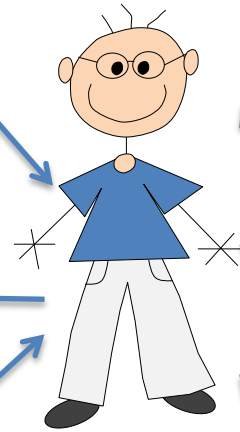
Private business



Farmers



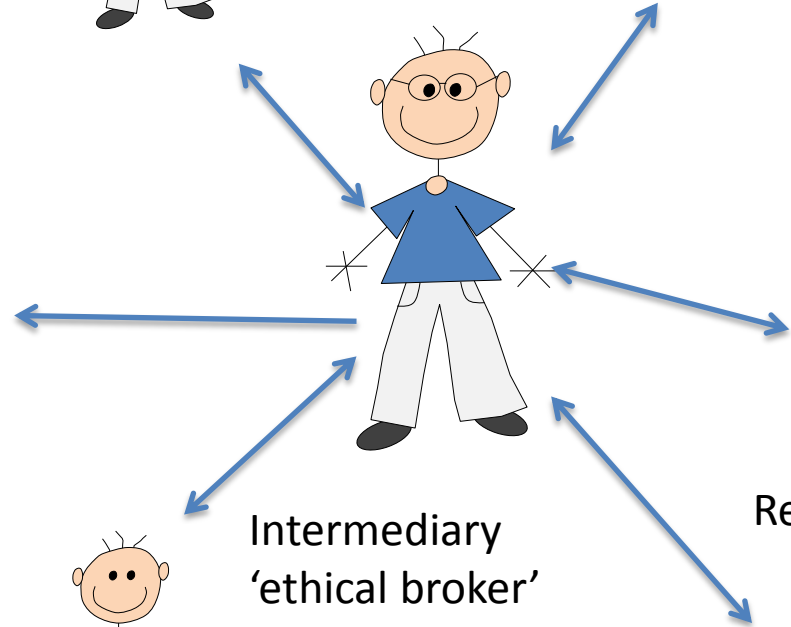
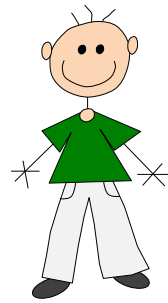
Intermediary
'ethical broker'



Recreational users



Regulator







Brokering financial transactions – reverse auction



- 140 farmers contacted
- 55 farmers attended the pie and pint events
- All farmers sent details



Registration Form

Bidding Form

CULTURAL ITEM	BIFFER	QUANTITY	QUANTITY	UNIT
...

Summary of Scheme Rules

- 52 bids (from 42 different farmers)
- Range £490 to £49,000
- £780,000 (×2.2 oversubscribed)

How are we funded?

Good question!

- Government funds (directly or via ALB's)

Defra River Improvement Fund

Largest NGO managed river improvement programme in UK

- **27 Rivers Trusts**
- **Over 200 projects**
- **£6m + co-finance**
- **£8.4m total delivery**

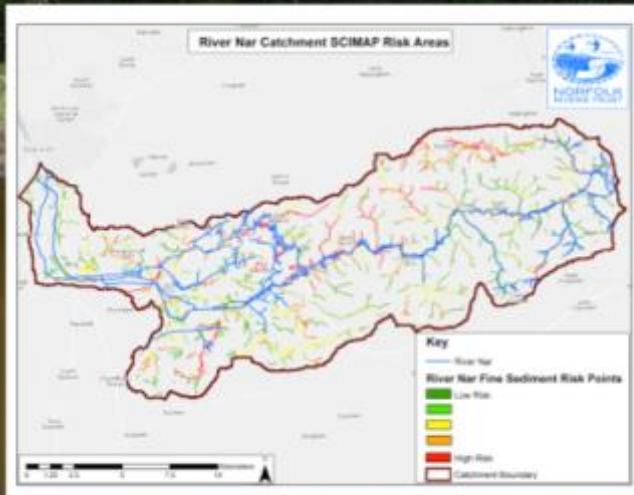
- **Contributing to WFD Good Ecological Status**
- **Eel Regulation**
- **Habitats Directive**
- **Salmon Action Plans**



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Good question!

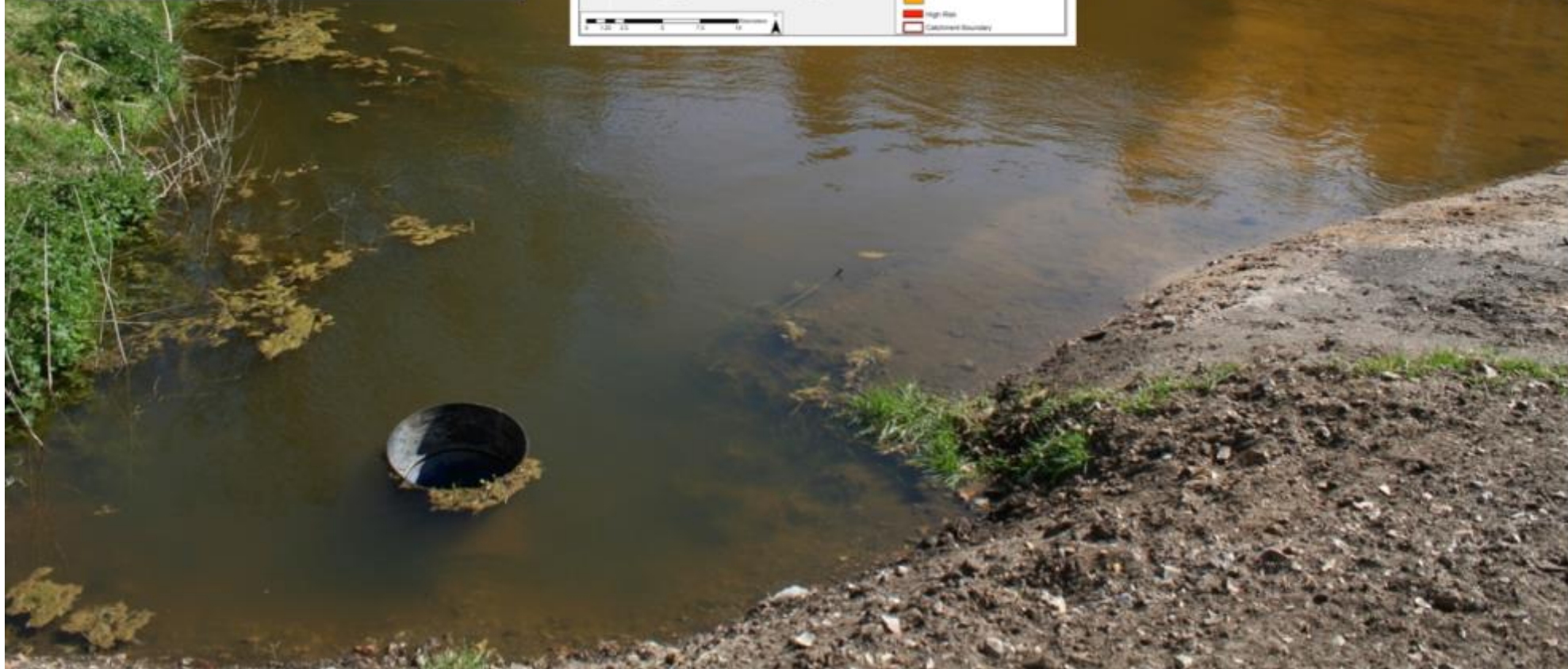
- Government funds (directly or via ALB's)
- Private sector funding



WWF
WORKING TOGETHER TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY

Coca-Cola Great Britain

Coca-Cola Enterprises



How are we funded?

Good question!

- Government funds (directly or via ALB's)
- Private sector funding
- EU funding
- Private money
 - Donated
 - Fund raising initiatives

Primarily on a project basis



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead