



# River Eden Sustainability Partnership

## Motray Water Meeting

### *Introduction*

**11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024**

**Dunbog Hall**

# ***Outline***

- **Introduction**
  - Purpose
  - Background
  - Surveys
  - Next Steps
- **Transition to Delivery (JHI)**
- **Rural Payments Update (SAC/ NFUS)**





## **Ambition...**

- **Catchment-wide INNS strategy**
- **Habitat & water quality improvement projects**
- **Citizen Science**

A photograph of a beaver swimming in a river. The beaver is in the center of the frame, with its head and shoulders above water. It has long, white whiskers and a dark nose. The water is dark green and slightly rippled. In the background, there are tall, green reeds or grasses. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting.

**We want to see...**

**...a restored river corridor, rich in biodiversity, free from invasive non-native species, resilient to climate change and connected to the community for well-being and economic benefit.**

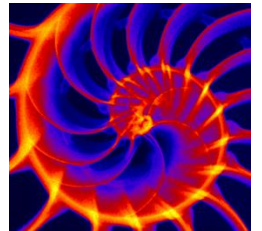


# River Eden Fife

## The River Eden Sustainability Partnership



University of  
St Andrews





# The Partners

- **Sustainable Cupar**
- **Eden Angling Association**
- **Fife Coast and Countryside Trust**
- **St Andrew's University**
- **Buglife Scotland**
- **Tay Rivers Trust**
- **D'Arcy Thompson Simulator Centre**
- **Fife Communities Climate Action Network**
- **Fife Climate Hub**
- **James Hutton Institute**

# Our Funding

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- **NatureScot**
- Shared Prosperity Fund
- Sale of Wemyss Cats & Sustainable Cupar Calendars
- Crown Estates Environment Grant
- Fife Communities Climate Action Network
- ***Neighbourhood Ecosystem Fund***



# Baseline Surveys

- Landowner survey complete
- INNS surveys complete
- Survey of habitats complete
- Survey of habitat improvement opportunities complete
- ‘Species-level’ invertebrate survey carried out by Buglife
- Tree survey complete
- Deer management statement complete
- **eDNA for upstream limit of American signal crayfish**



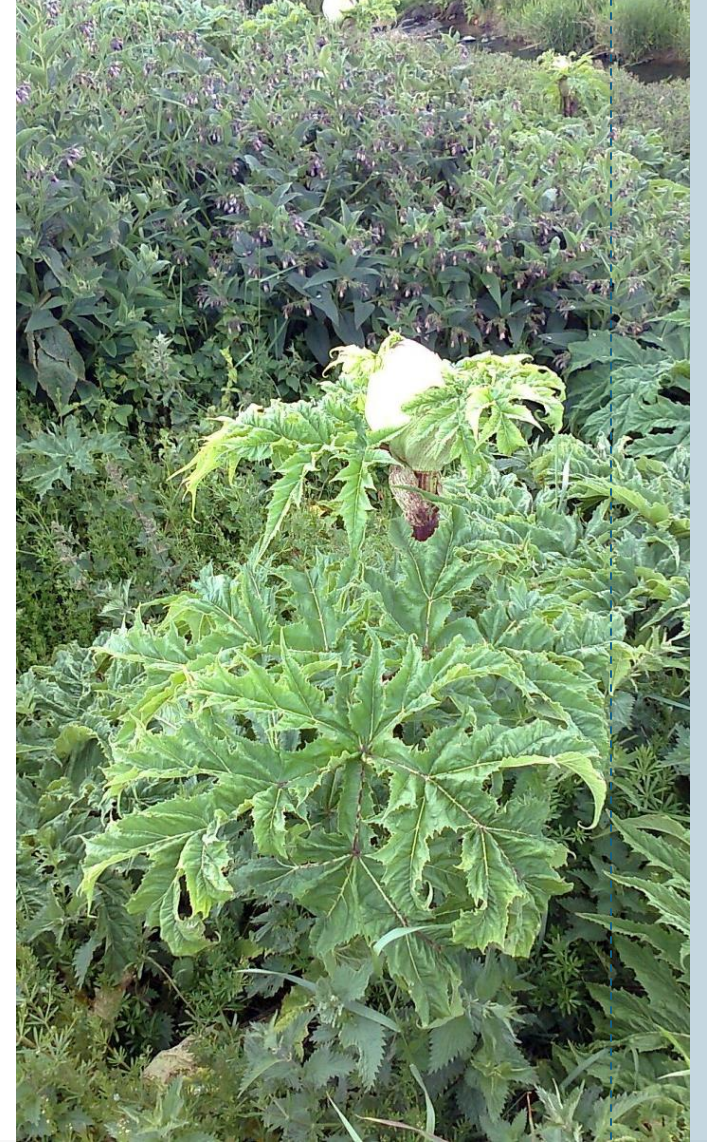


## Community Engagement

- **Landowner Meeting in Letham Village Hall – Feb 2024**
  - 120 attendees – FULL!
  - 80 local landowners
  - Fife Council, SEPA, Scottish Water, NFUS, Tay Rivers Trust, Hutton Institute, Woodland Trust & Willie Rennie MSP.
- **River Eden Days– March & August 2024**
  - Over 500 attendees
  - 14 participating organisations
  - Talk from Prof Chris Spray of the Tweed Forum about Eddleston Project
- **2000+ volunteer hours (equivalent of £24,500 at min wage)**
- **Research event 11<sup>th</sup> September**

# INNS control strategy

- Free training for volunteers in invasive plant species control.
- Essential PPE purchased to support them.
- Training offered to local landowners and farmers.
- Agreement for 'training treatment' secured with group of landowners on Motray Water
- Agreement secured from Scottish Water to treat INNS on their assets in Cupar and 5 other Eden Catchment locations.





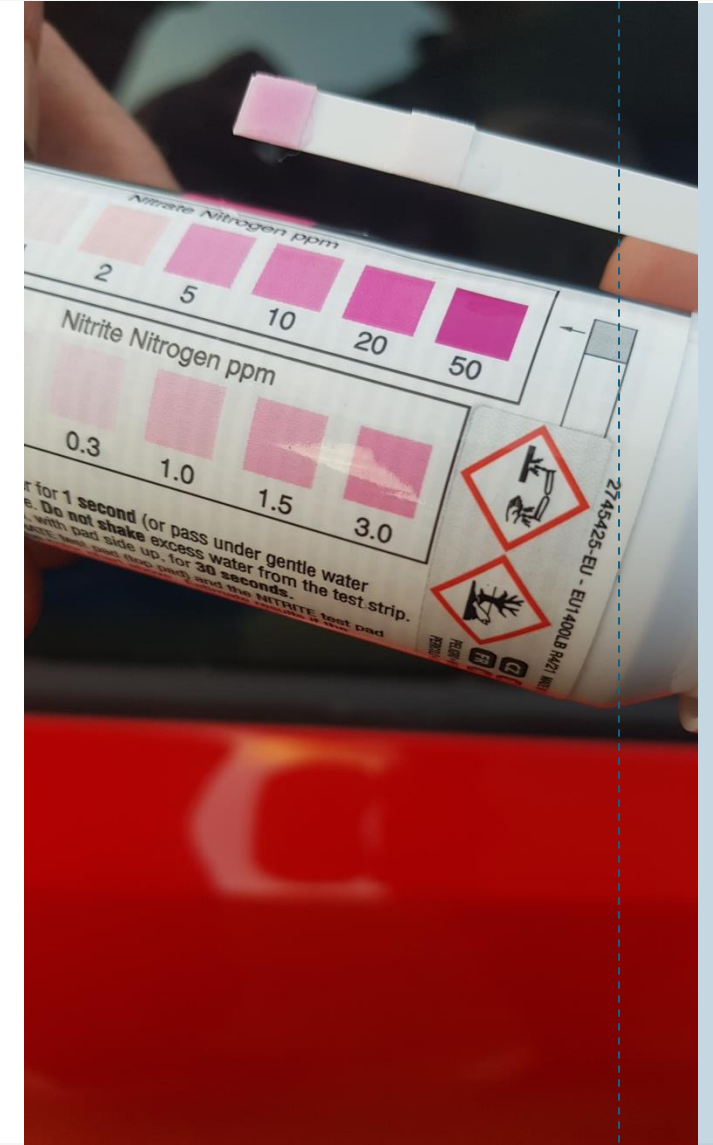
## Citizen Science: Riverfly

- 20 volunteers trained by Buglife Scotland to monitor invertebrates.
- Now monitoring 4 sites monthly (Strathmiglo, Pitlessie, Cow Bridge Cupar and Dairsie Bridge).
- Another 12 volunteers signed up for training in 2025



## Citizen Science: Water Quality Monitoring

- 6 sites monitored to create a baseline.
- Volunteers developing a monitoring strategy in discussion with SEPA
- Monitoring equipment purchased, funded by the Crown Estates Environment Grant received by Eden Angling Association
- Volunteers reporting and following up pollution incidents with SEPA



## Website and Social Media

- New website created at [www.riveredenfife.org](http://www.riveredenfife.org)
- Facebook & Instagram social media channels
- Contact Form on website - many new contacts.
- [New 'report a sighting' function](#)

About Us

Projects ▾

Events

Blog

Resources

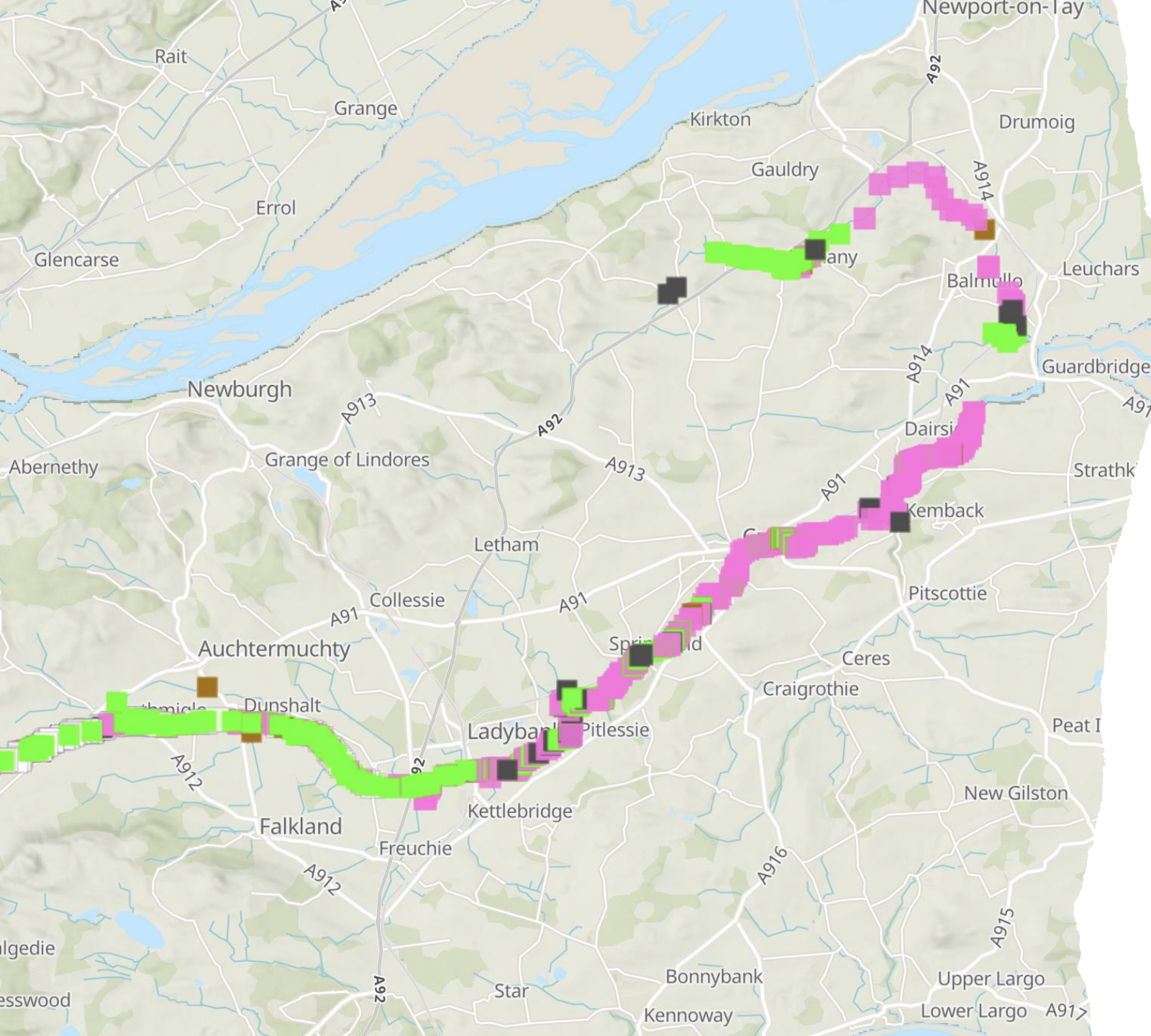
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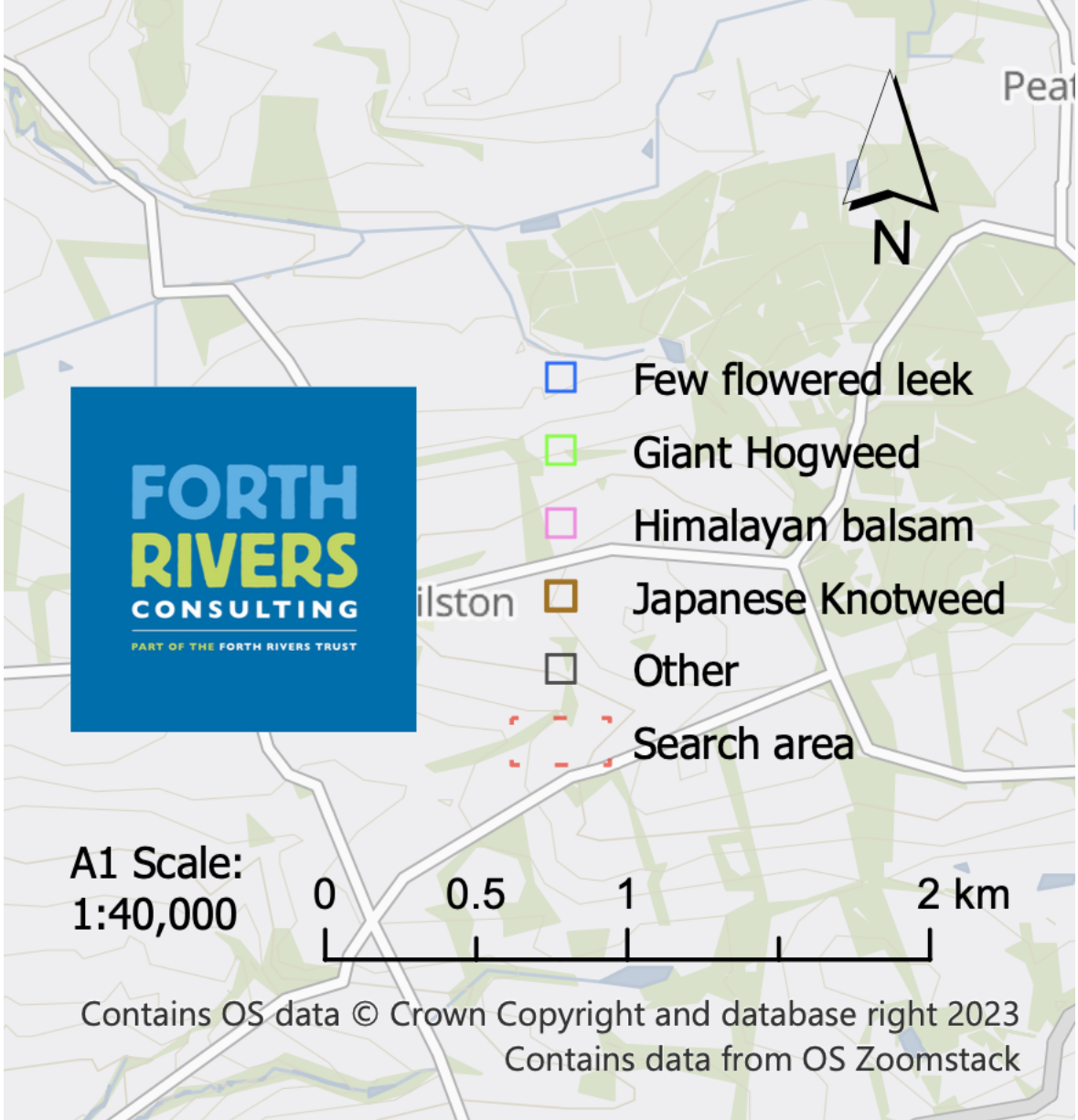
## **Governance**

- Governing group established and meeting regularly
- Decision made to remain a non-constituted partnership with each of the partners engaging as and when appropriate
- Final stages of developing a clear structure for partnership working.
- New organisations involved: Buglife Scotland, Tay Rivers Trust, D'Arcy Thomson Simulator Centre
- Positive contact and support from several more including SEPA, Scottish Water, James Hutton Institute, NFUS.



# INNS Survey

# The INNS surveys



A landscape photograph showing a river with eroded banks and a grassy field in the background. The river flows from the left towards the center, with visible white water rapids. The banks are composed of dark, exposed soil and some sparse vegetation. In the background, there is a large, flat, green field, possibly a pasture, with a fence line visible in the distance. The sky is overcast and grey.

# Habitat, Pressures & Opportunities

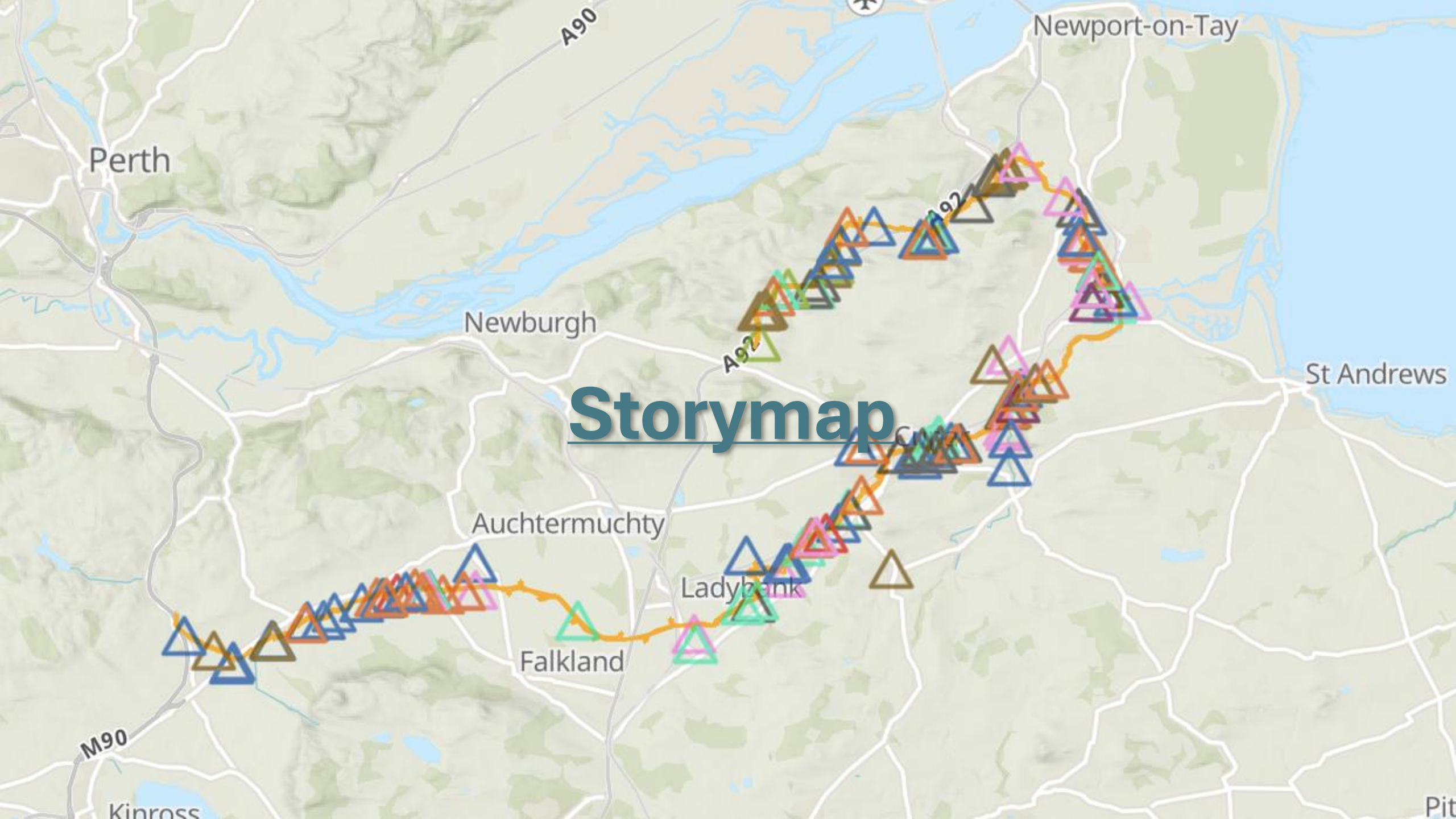
- **Pressures**

- **Human and livestock poaching**
- **Bank erosion**
- **Modification**
- **Obstacles to fish migration**
- **Minewater**
- **Outfalls**
- **Poor buffer zone**
- **Track erosion**



# Habitat, Pressures & Opportunities

- **Opportunities...**
  - **Green bank protection**
  - **Baffles**
  - **Embankment removal**
  - **Ponds**
  - **Fencing**
  - **Large woody structure addition**
  - **Leaky dams**
  - **Re-meandering**
  - **Wetland creation**
  - **Woodland creation**



Perth

Newport-on-Tay

Newburgh

St Andrews

# Storymap

Auchtermuchty

Ladybank

Falkland

M90

A90

A92

A92

Kinross

Pit

# What Next?

**Moving into the most important phase of the project...**

- **Strengthening the partnership**
- **Transition to DELIVERY**
- **Interpreting the survey results**
- **Working with landowners**
- **Finding common ground**
- **Seeking further funding**



# Contact

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