



RESP

**River Restoration:
from development
to delivery**

Scientists Research Event

**Walter Bower House
Guardbridge**

11th Sept 2024





Outline

- **Purpose**
- **Background**
- **Surveys**
- **Insights**
- **Questions**

THE CARMAN
FAMILY
FOUNDATION



INSPIRING SCOTLAND

River Eden Fife

The River Eden Sustainability Partnership



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 and some brown, dried 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.

Ambition...

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

...Landscape-scale change!





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

Our Funding

- **NatureScot**
- Shared Prosperity Fund
- Sustainable Cupar Fundraising
- 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 sample carried out by Buglife
- **eDNA for upstream limit of American signal crayfish**

6 months in...



6 months in...

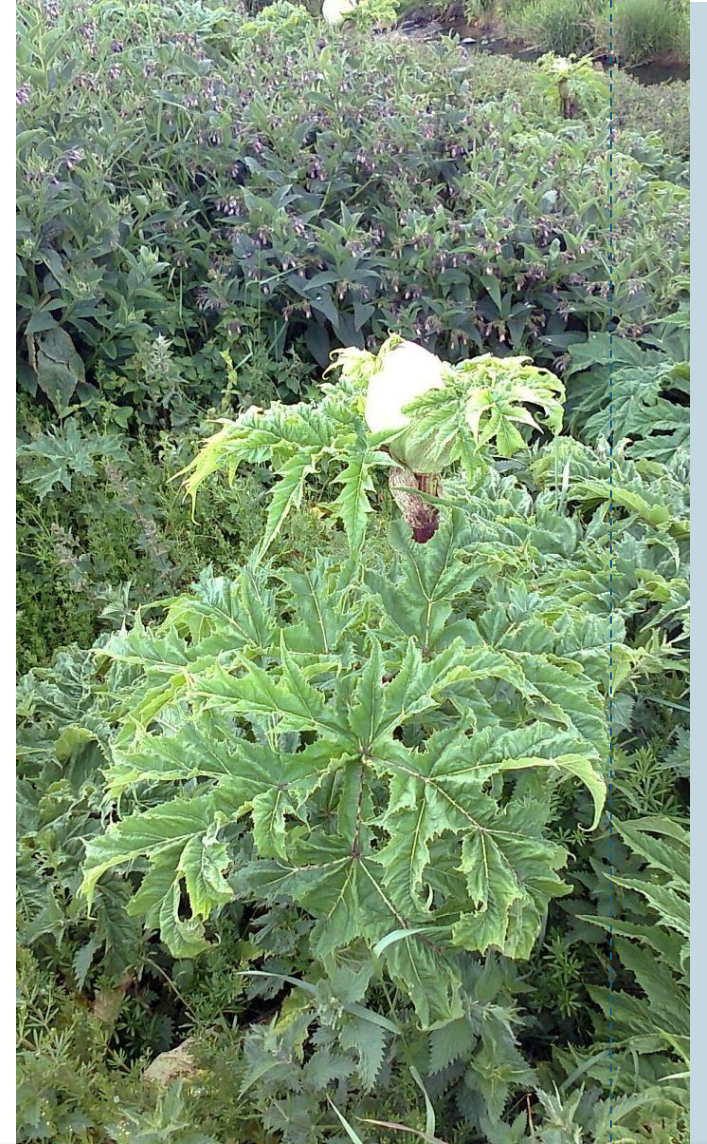
Community Engagement

- **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 Day 1 – March 2024**
 - Over 300 attendees
 - 14 participating organisations
 - Talk from Prof Chris Spray of the Tweed Forum about Eddleston Project
- **River Eden Day 2 – August 2024**
 - 200 attendees
 - 11 participating organisations
- **c1700 volunteer hours (equivalent of £20,400)**

6 months in...

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 treatment secured with landowners on Motray Water
- Agreement secured from Scottish Water to treat INNS on 6 of their assets in the Eden Catchment





6 months in...

Citizen Science: Riverfly

- 23 volunteers trained by Buglife Scotland to monitor invertebrates.
- Now monitoring 4 sites monthly (Strathmiglo, Pitlessie, Cow Bridge Cupar and Dairsie Bridge).
- 2 more sites planned

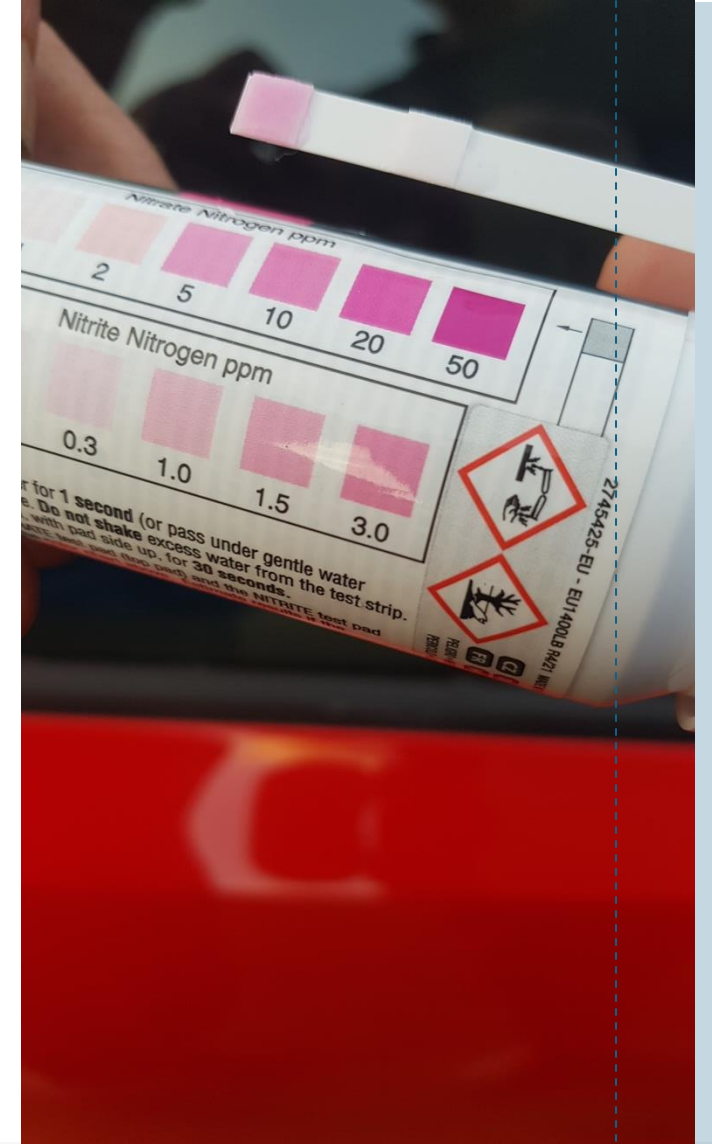


6 months in...

Citizen Science:

Water Quality Monitoring

- 6 sites monitored to create a baseline.
- Temp, pH, conductivity, phosphates, nitrates, nitrites, alkalinity
- Volunteers developing a monitoring strategy in discussion with SEPA



6 months in...

About Us

Projects ▾

Events

Blog

Resources

Cont

Website and Social Media

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

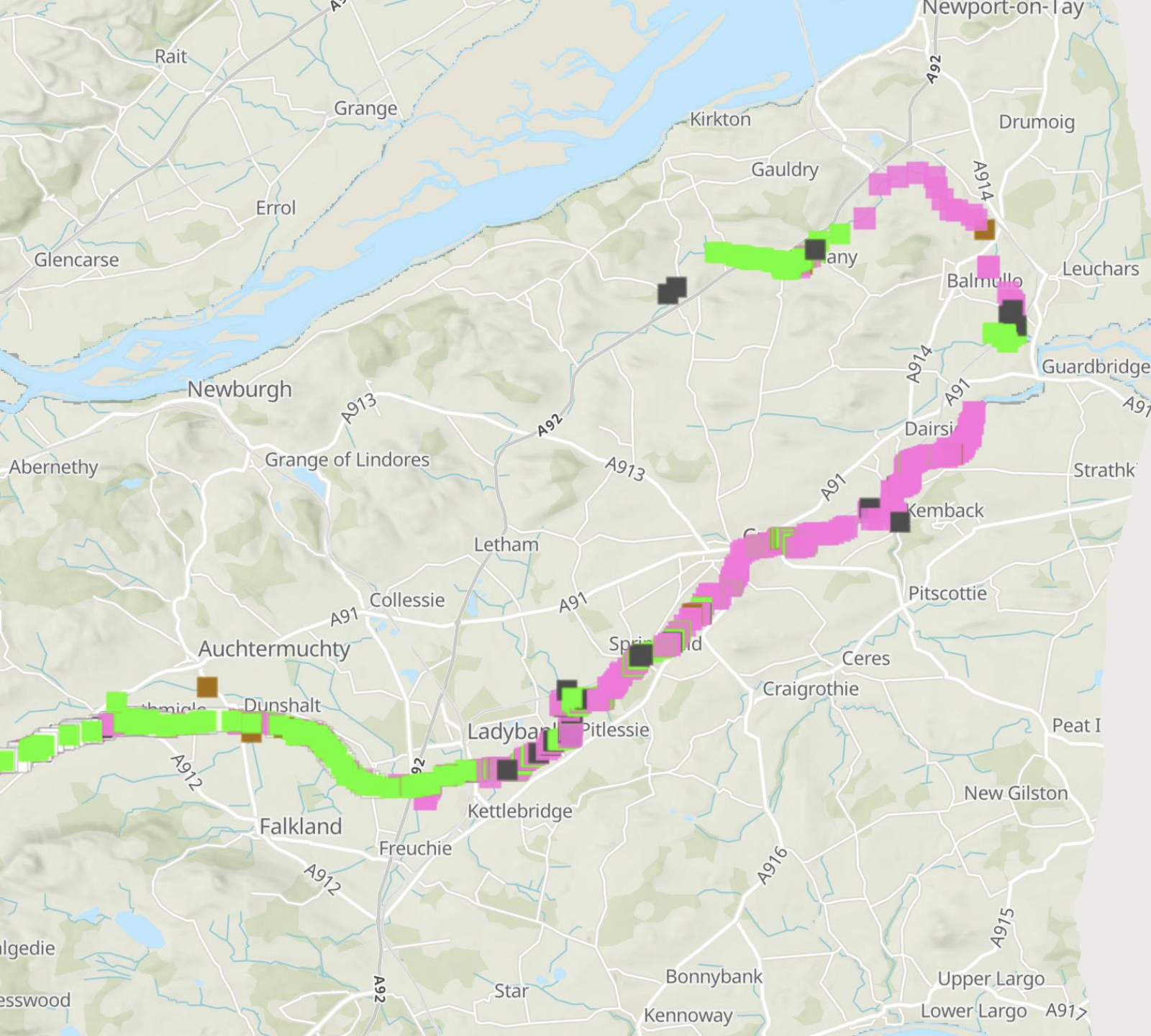




6 months in...

Governance

- Steering group established and meeting regularly
- Decision made to remain a non-constituted partnership with each of the partners engaging as and when appropriate
- 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

Habitat, Pressures & Opportunities

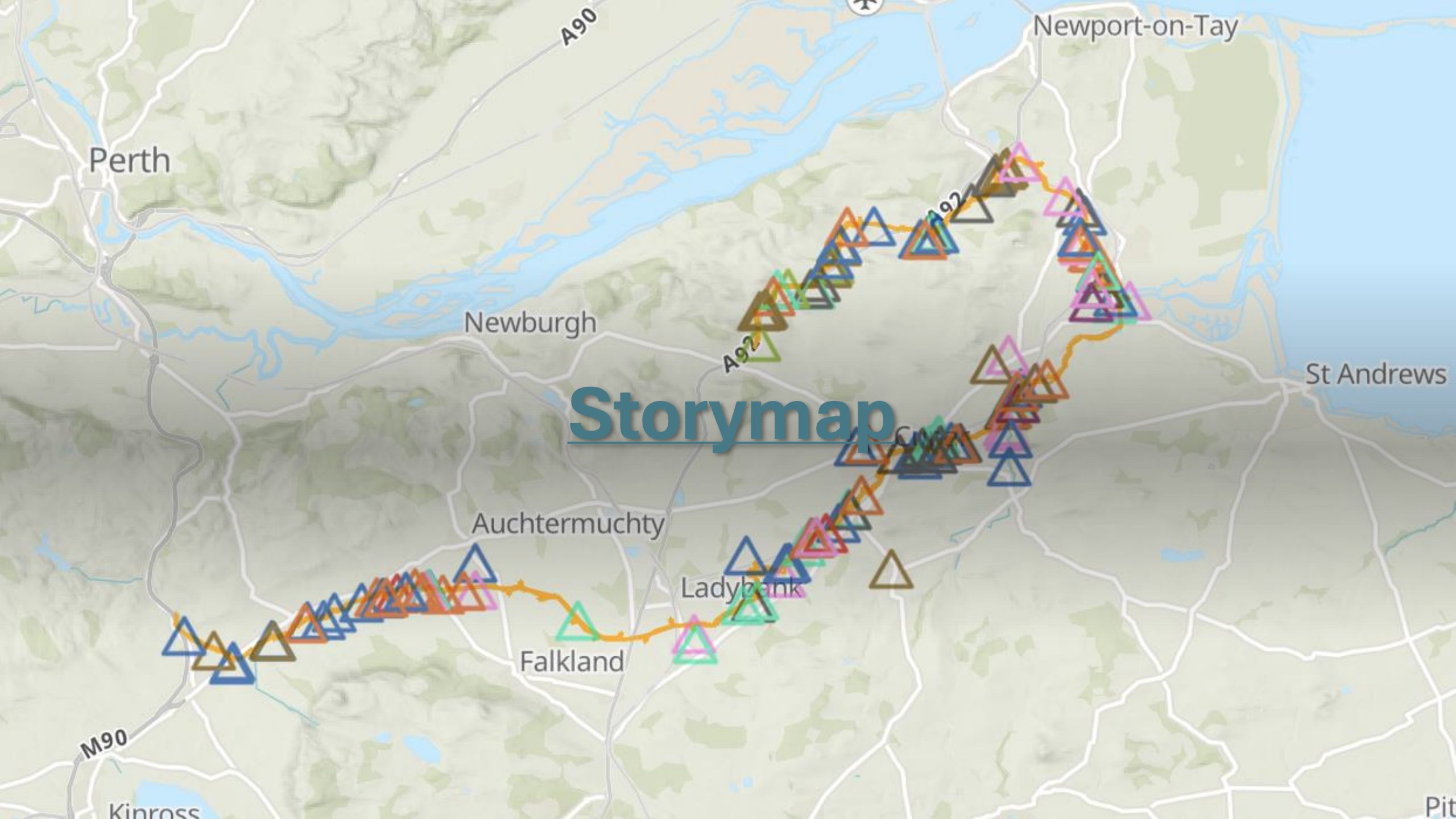
- Pressures
 - Human and livestock poaching
 - Bank erosion
 - Modification
 - Obstacles to fish migration
 - Minewater
 - Outfalls
 - Poor buffer zone
 - Track erosion



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

Kinross

Pit

What Next?

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

- Strengthening the partnership
- Transition to DELIVERY – (NEF funding)
- Interpreting the survey results
- Working with landowners
- Finding common ground
- Seeking further funding
- Monitoring, Reporting, Verifying



Contact

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