

SAVING

THE SUSSEX SEA TROUT

the 'Sussex Tiger'



DON'T URBANISE HAMSEY



Stewart Allum

Director of the Ouse Angling
Preservation Society







72.4 cm at capture

3rd sea winter
1st spawning mark

2nd sea winter
indefinite

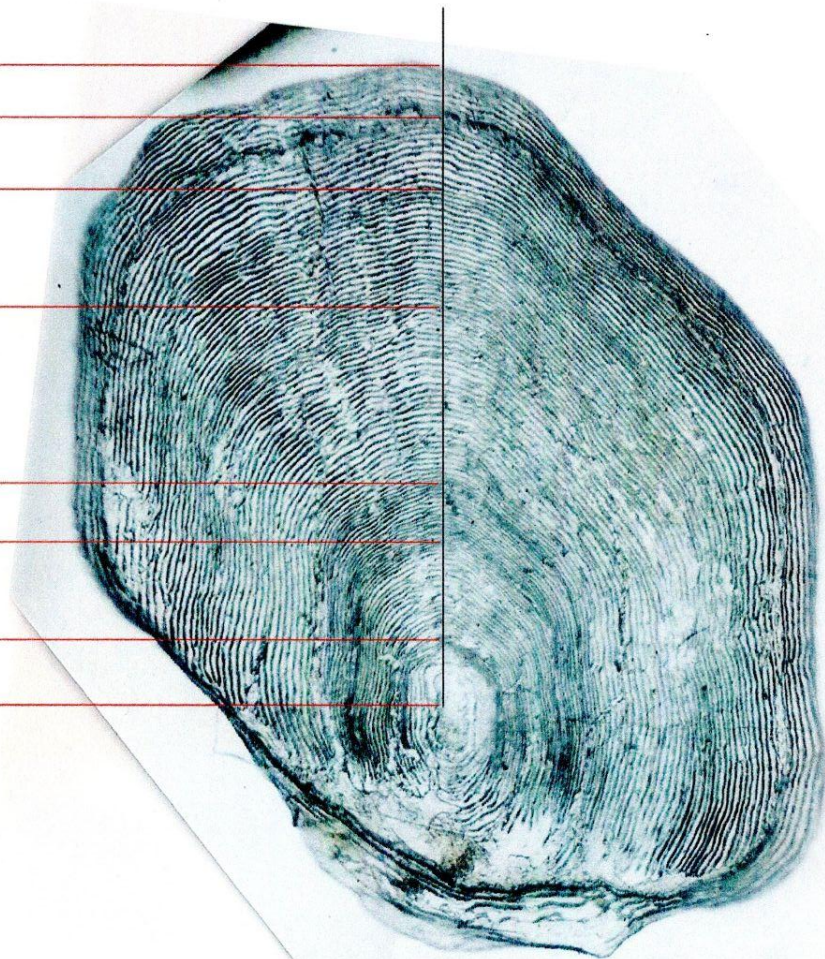
1st sea winter
indefinite

3rd spring, smolt

2nd parr winter

1st parr winter

scale focus



Very large sea trout
captured in R. Ouse (Sussex)
Data: Fish No. SO Rd 10 1
15lb 9oz, 7059.15g
28.5", 72.39 cm, cock
c/f = 1.86 (very high)
captured 13 July 2010
Barcombe Mills Pool

Reading: 2+.2+1SM+

Note: 1st and 2nd
sea winters indefinite;
spawning mark 3rd
sea winter





















Help us spot a pollution and limit its impact

If you spot:

-  wet wipes, other bathroom rubbish, grey coloured water or a bad smell from a river or stream
-  overflowing manholes or water coming up from the ground
-  dead or distressed wildlife.

If you see things in the water like: dead fish wet wipes or worse, the water is probably polluted.



Look OUT FOR
 POLLUTION!



To report a pollution please scan the code or call us on

0800 952 1001



from
Southern
Water.



Cooksbridge Wastewater Pumping Station

In an emergency, call:

0330 303 0368

///what3words: coherent.capillary.sheep

Site number: 101019

from
Southern
Water.





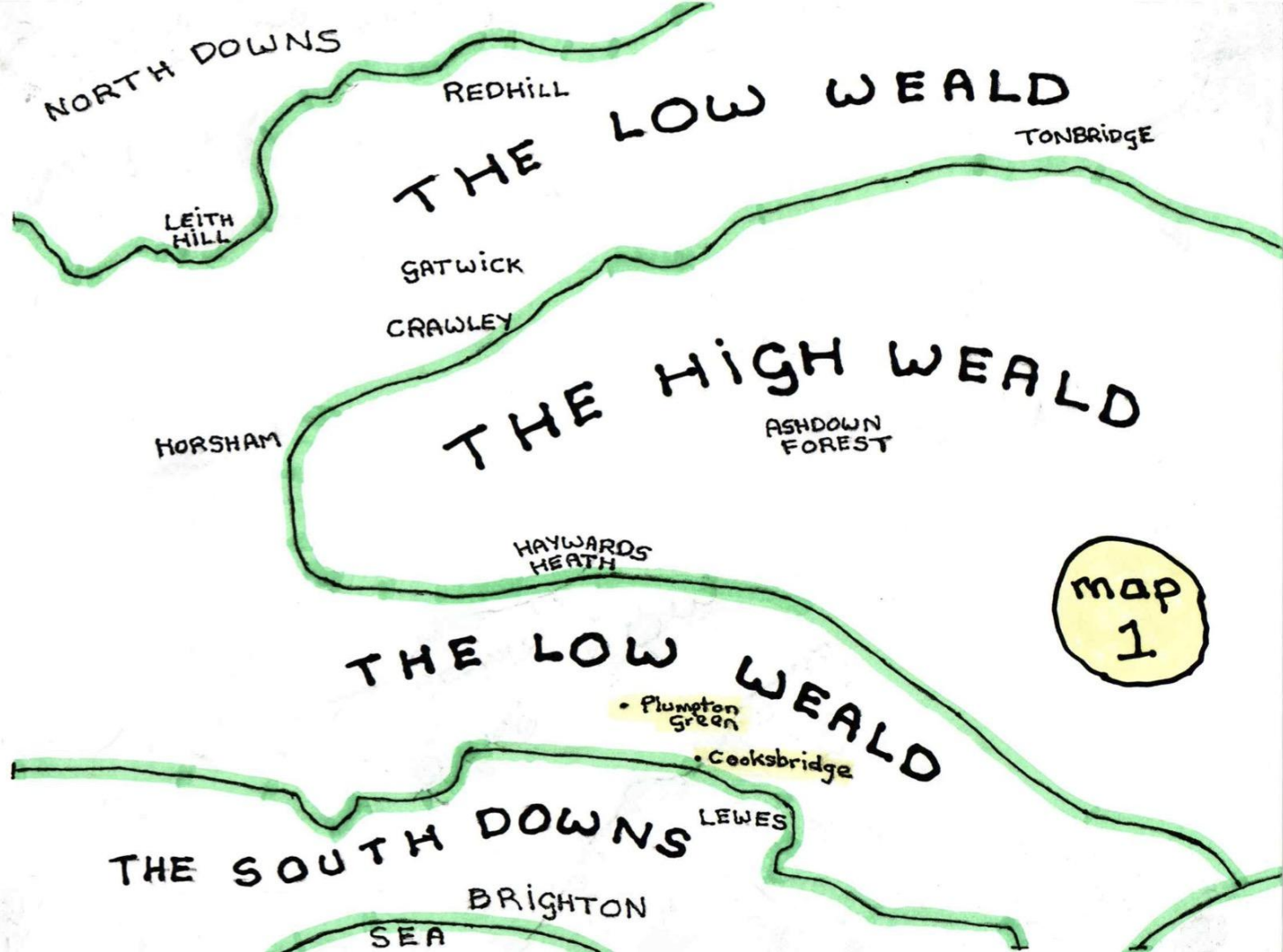




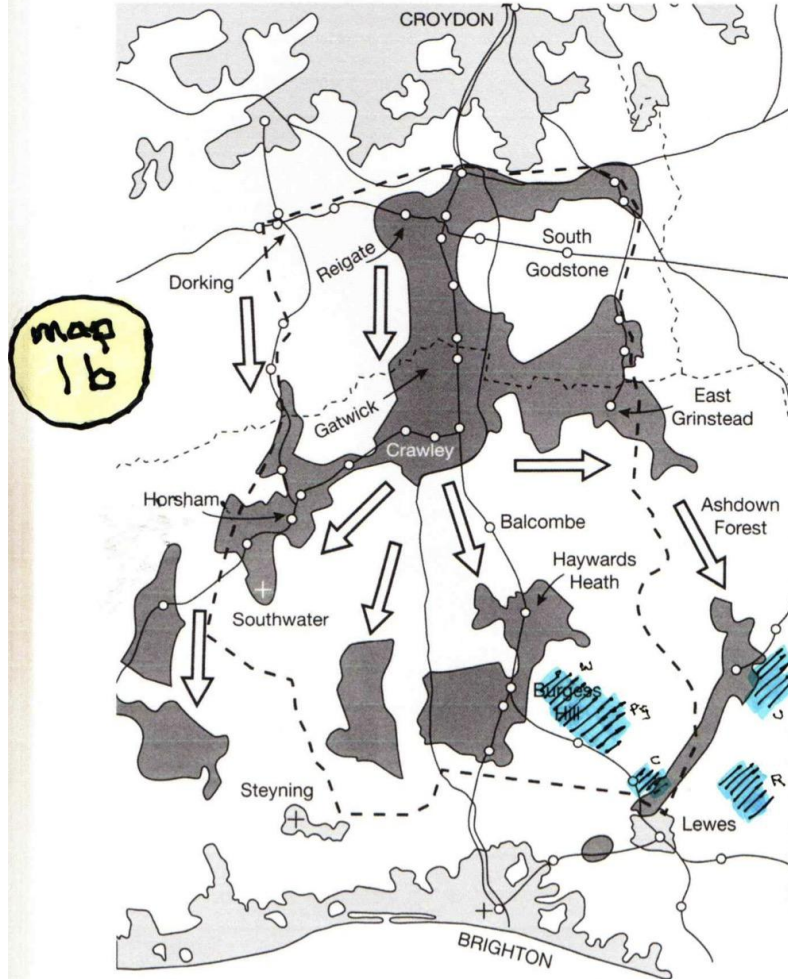


Dave Bangs

Author and Naturalist



BIG FLOWS OF DEVELOPMENT



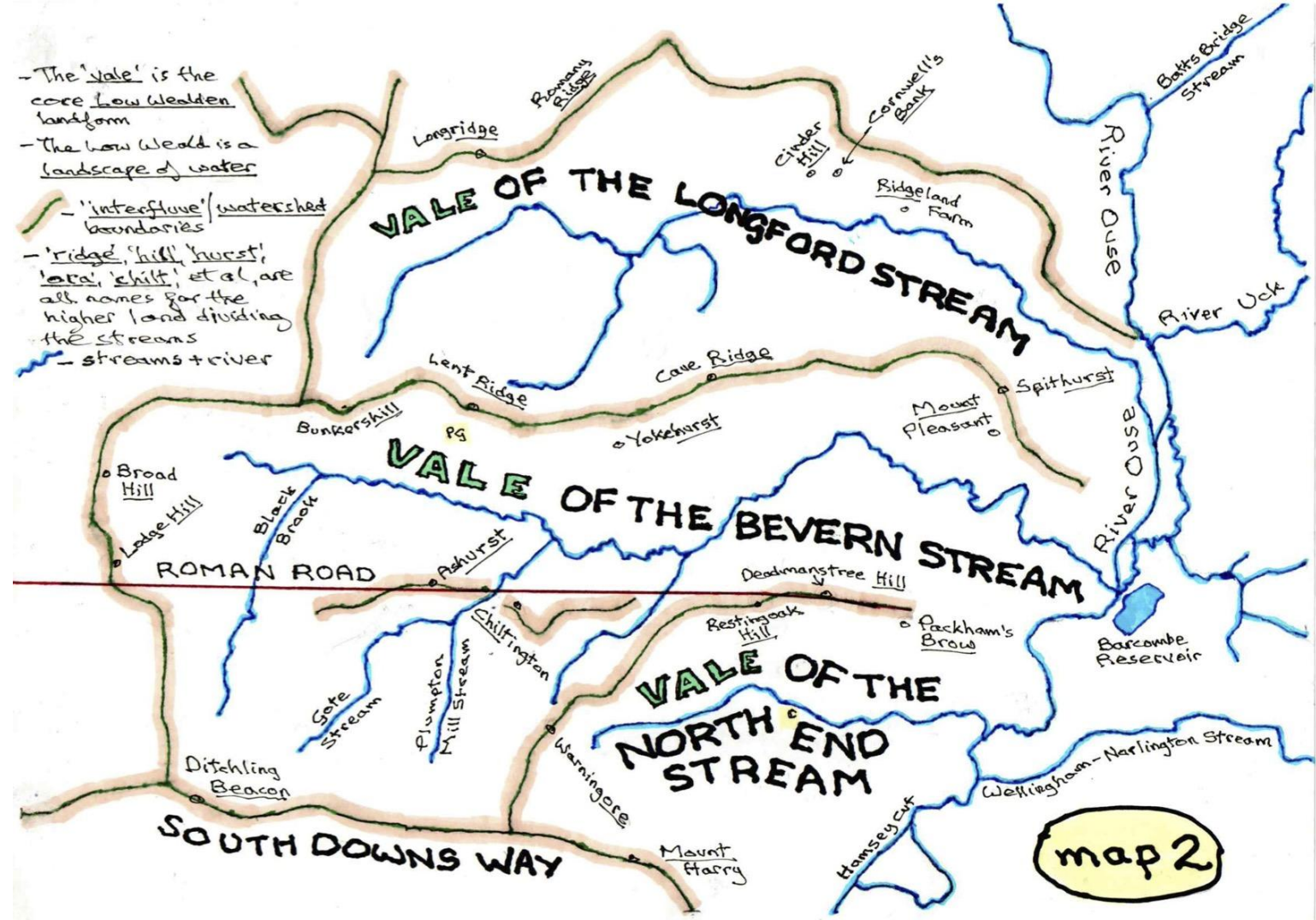
- The 'Vale' is the core Low Wealden landform

- The Low Weald is a landscape of water

- 'interfluve' / watershed boundaries

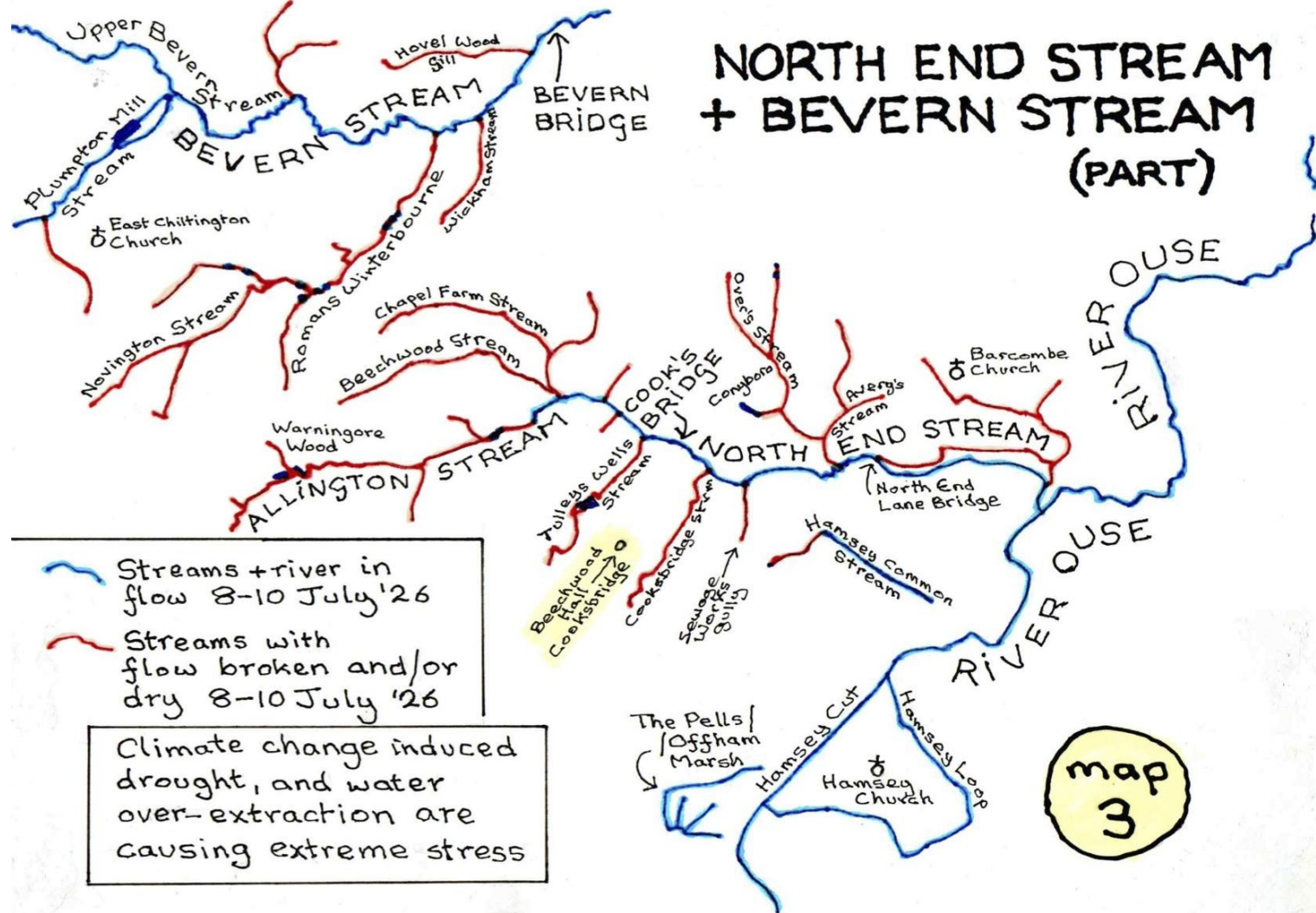
- 'ridge', 'hill', 'hurst', 'lode', 'chill', et al, are all names for the higher land dividing the streams

- streams + river



map 2

NORTH END STREAM + BEVERN STREAM (PART)



Emma Montlake

Director of Love Our Ouse

Rights of Rivers –the Sussex Ouse, Northend Stream and Sea Trout



celebrate



learn

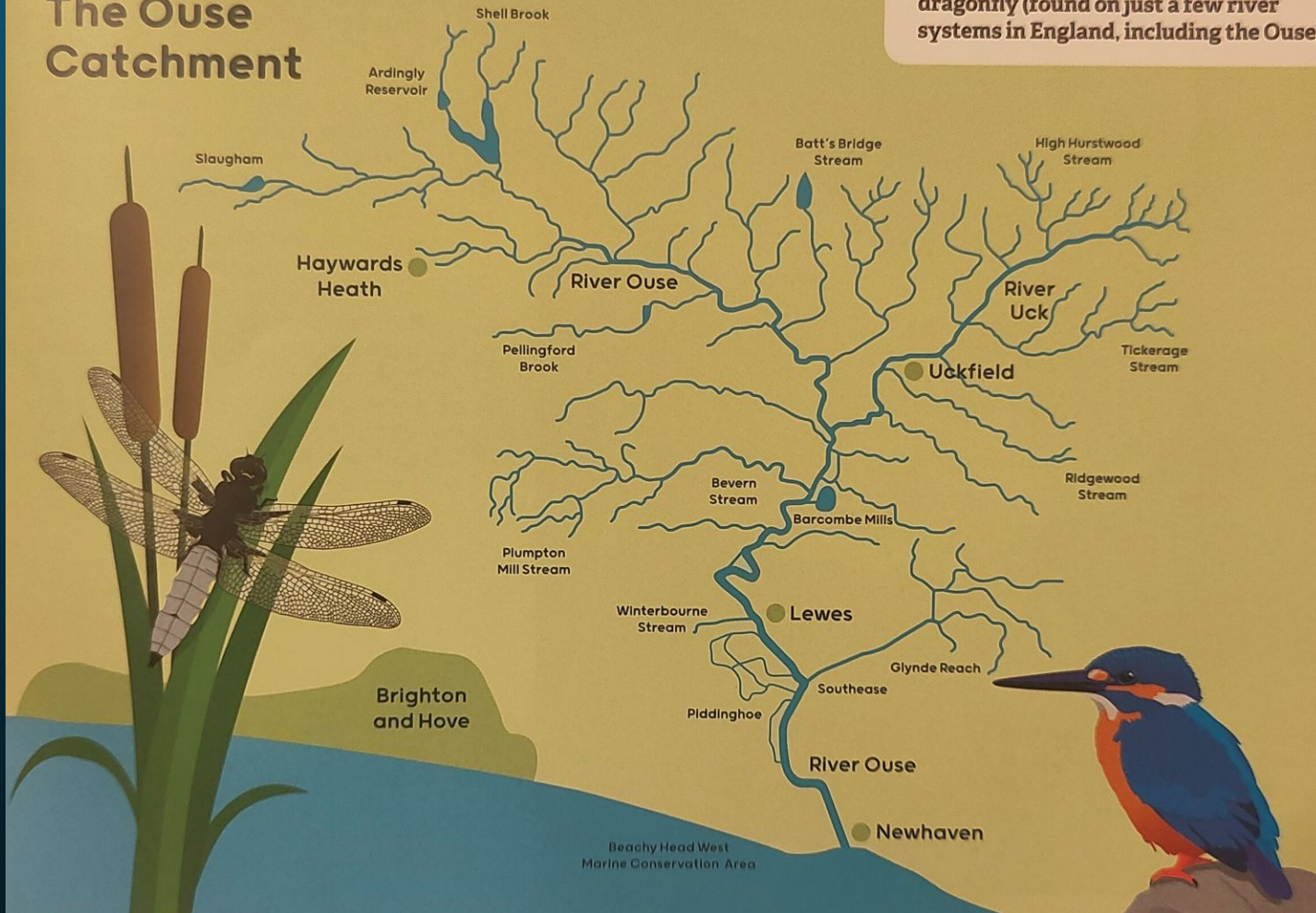


act



The Ouse Catchment

Illustration by Matt Carr.
Images: Kingfisher & Scarce Chaser dragonfly (found on just a few river systems in England, including the Ouse)



Courtesy of
SWT

Rights of Nature and Rights of Rivers

- Ecuador - Rights of Nature in Constitution 2008,
- Whanganui River - 2012
- Universal Declaration on the Rights of Rivers 2020 – is being used as a template for rights charters
- Nature - subject rather than object
- Nature moves from resource to intrinsic value
- Representation – inclusion of nature's voice in decision making, who is that
 - local community voices
- Relational aspects and interdependencies
- From a human focus to a nature focus
- Recognising the moral as well as the legal

Rights for the River Ouse

- River Festival – Community Engagement
- Disrupting the discourse
- A Positive Response
- First step on the journey
- Framing the river's health
- Paradigm Shift



Rights of Rivers in the UK



Courtesy of Neil Williams / UK
River Rights Network

TRAVEL

Europe ▾

UK ▾

Worldwide ▾

City breaks ▾

Hotels ▾

Cruise ▾

Ski ▾

Advice ▾

Travel > UK

Why England's most underrated river is about to become its cleanest

Cutting through a national park and a county town, Sussex's Ouse could soon become the country's first legally protected river



Politics & Policy HR Finance Transformation Health & Social Care

Analysis

09 March 2023

Granting rivers rights

The Ouse in Sussex is a 36-mile-long river system from Slaugham in Mid Sussex to Newhaven in Lewes District. Local communities in the Ouse Valley catchment have depended for centuries on the river for fishing,



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PODCAST THE TAKE

News | Environment

An English town's take on rights of nature

A town in England voted to recognize the rights of its river, the River Ouse.

Rights of nature - will a charter protect the River Ouse?

Pollution, growing water demand, climate change and lost habitats – UK rivers face growing pressures. In Sussex, councillors in Lewes have voted to

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle

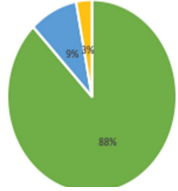


The age of extinction

River Ouse may become first in England to gain legal rights

Charter consultation & development

Should the Ouse have Rights?



A River Rights Charter for the River Ouse





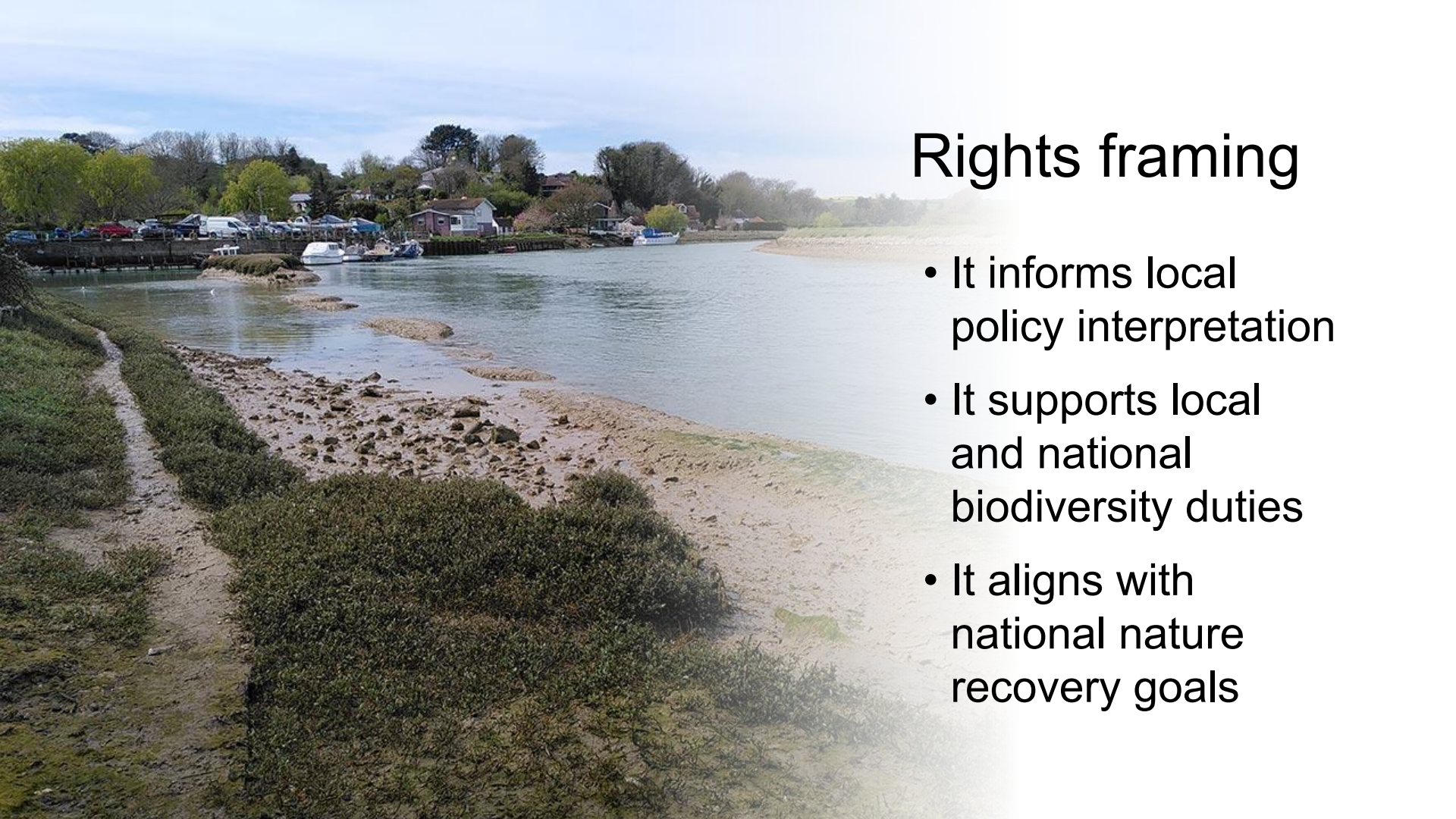
Examples of River Ouse Rights

- The right to flow: Flows must follow natural flow patterns and be sufficient in quantity to maintain the ecosystem health of the entire river system.
- The right to perform essential natural functions within the river catchment: These include maintaining horizontal and longitudinal connectivity, flooding, moving and depositing sediment, recharging groundwater, providing adequate habitat for native flora and fauna, processing nutrients; being water.
- The right to feed and be fed from sustainable aquifers: ensuring that clean, healthy aquifers provide sustainable ecosystem services in the context of how climate change is affecting these processes.
- The right to be free from pollution: taking a holistic view to include diffuse and point sources including but not limited to damaging levels of sewage discharge, industrial waste, litter, pharmaceuticals, agricultural run-off from pesticides, manure and fertilisers; and accelerated soil erosion from human activities, recognising that our changing climate can exacerbate all of these issues.
- The right to native biodiversity: recognising and responding to the severe decline in native biodiversity over the last fifty years and the threats that invasive non-native species represent for local biodiversity..
- The right to an active and influential voice: to have the interests of the River Ouse appropriately and, in so far as is possible, impartially represented and considered in the determination of matters that directly affect it. To lobby the Government to create the legal frameworks that can ensure consistent representation for all rivers.



A River Rights Charter for the River Ouse

- By way of a decision dated the 5th Feb 2025 LDC agreed:-
- *To support the principles within the Rights of Rivers Charter, co-developed with Love Our Ouse and partners*
- Reason(s) for decision: *Lewes District Council has worked to protect the River Ouse, improve water quality and restore wetlands in partnership with the Sussex Wildlife Trust, Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust (OART) and others since 2017. Supporting the Rights of Rivers Charter honours the spirit of the motion of Full Council in February 2023.*
- *The next steps are to support the charter for the River Ouse to ensure due consideration is given to rights of the river where appropriate and applicable.*
- *To ensure Lewes District Council's focus on rivers and the sea as part of the blue green infrastructure is properly reflected in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy county-wide, led by ESCC, and within our new Local Plan, the Lewes District Local Plan which covers the area of the District outside the National Park, and is currently subject to consultation on draft policies*



Rights framing

- It informs local policy interpretation
- It supports local and national biodiversity duties
- It aligns with national nature recovery goals

Enhanced Bio-diversity Duty under the Environment Act 2021

- Look at each of public body functions.
- Consider what actions public body can take to conserve and enhance biodiversity in each area.
- Identify the areas where the public body can best conserve and enhance biodiversity, then then focus on these areas when agreeing policies and objectives.



East Sussex Local Nature Recovery Strategy – priority habitats and species

- Chalk Streams
- *R2. Support the recovery and resilience of our chalk streams and their unique biodiversity. Our LNRS area contains numerous chalk streams. These are globally rare and support a unique biodiversity but are increasingly vulnerable to a range of pressures. Chalk streams are identified as a specific priority within this LNRS with actions identified to help sustain their base flows in times of drought, encourage buffer habitats along their length and restore their natural function*
- Sea Trout
- *East Sussex rivers appear to support reasonable and probably unique populations. Small Wealden streams are particularly important for this species.*





Next Steps; From the theoretical to the Practical

- Ongoing engagement
- Stakeholder support and support for stakeholders
- Policy and legislative integration
- Governance and community
- Who represents the river?
- Embedding in local decision making and activities
- Identifying opportunities for the Charter.
- Supporting national initiatives
- Rights of Nature Bill
- Participatory decision making

"We are the river and the river is us."

Maori Iwi on the Whanganui River



Thank You! Email: info@loveourouse.org
www.loveourouse.org