

Expanding the New Forest Freshwater Network

Blue Horizons: a Programme of work funded through the Species Survival Fund



Gemma Stride, Freshwater Habitats Trust

Freshwater Habitats Trust: national policy work

Charter for
Small Waters

Manifesto for
Clean Water



The Freshwater Network concepts

The Freshwater Network is our approach to protecting freshwater ecosystems
Its aim is to stop and reverse the decline of freshwater biodiversity

A landscape vision for freshwaters, Tim Bernhard 2011.

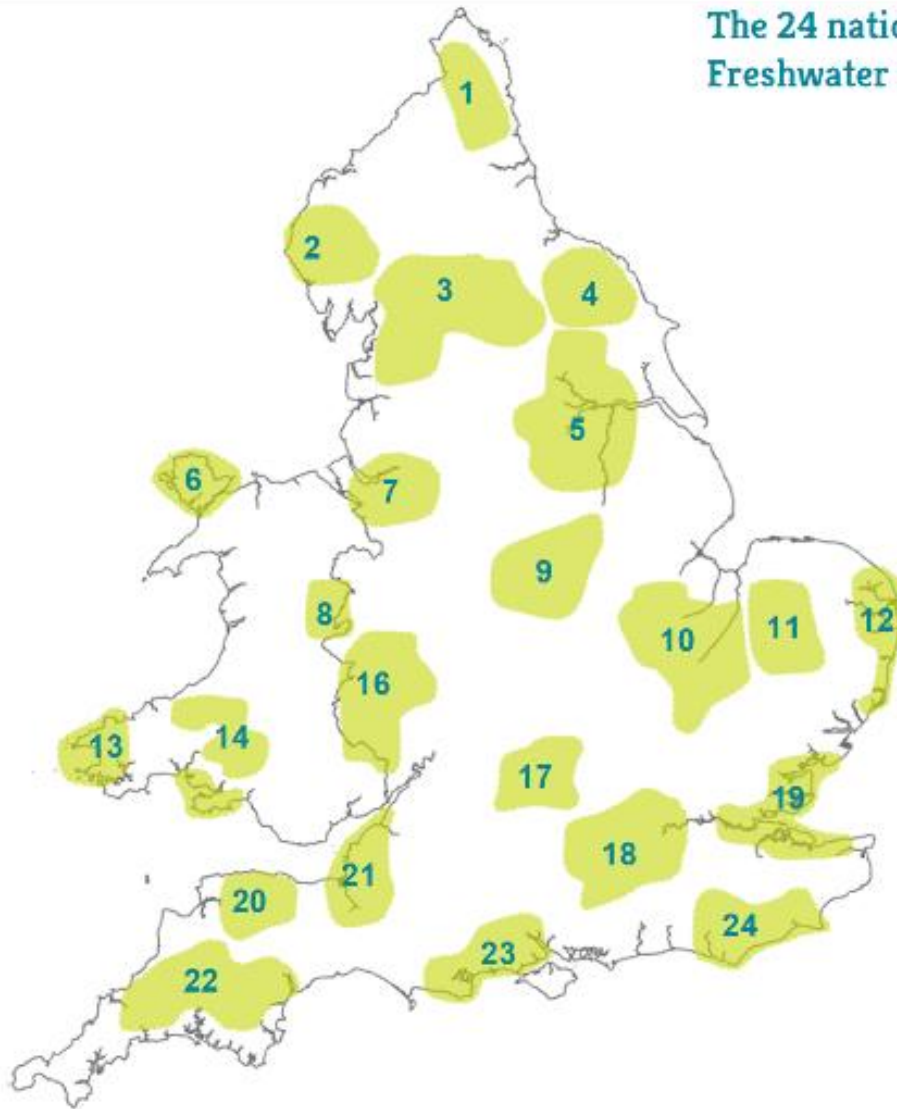


Ecological concepts:

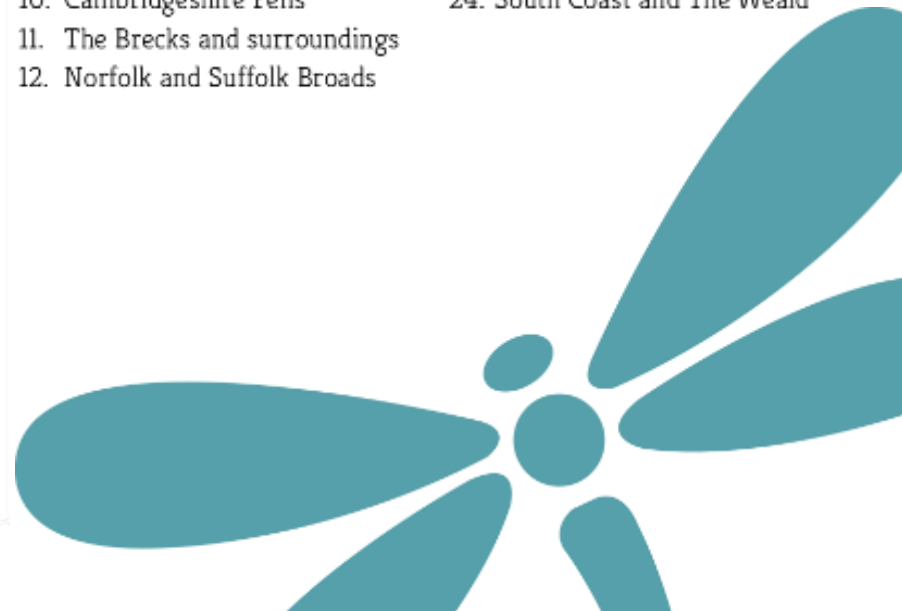
1. Protect the best
2. Freshwaters are interconnected
3. Ecological engineers
4. Bring back clean water

Important Freshwater Landscapes

The 24 nationally significant Important Freshwater Landscapes are:



- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Northumbria | 13. Pembrokeshire heaths |
| 2. North Lake District | 14. South-west Wales rivers |
| 3. Yorkshire Dales and Forest of Bowland | 15. Gower |
| 4. North York Moors and surroundings | 16. Shropshire rivers |
| 5. Yorkshire Lowlands | 17. Oxford area |
| 6. Anglesey | 18. Thames Basin |
| 7. North-west England | 19. Thames Estuary |
| 8. Montgomery Canal | 20. Exmoor area |
| 9. East Midlands | 21. Avon and Somerset Levels |
| 10. Cambridgeshire Fens | 22. Dartmoor and West Cornwall |
| 11. The Brecks and surroundings | 23. New Forest and Dorset Heaths |
| 12. Norfolk and Suffolk Broads | 24. South Coast and The Weald |



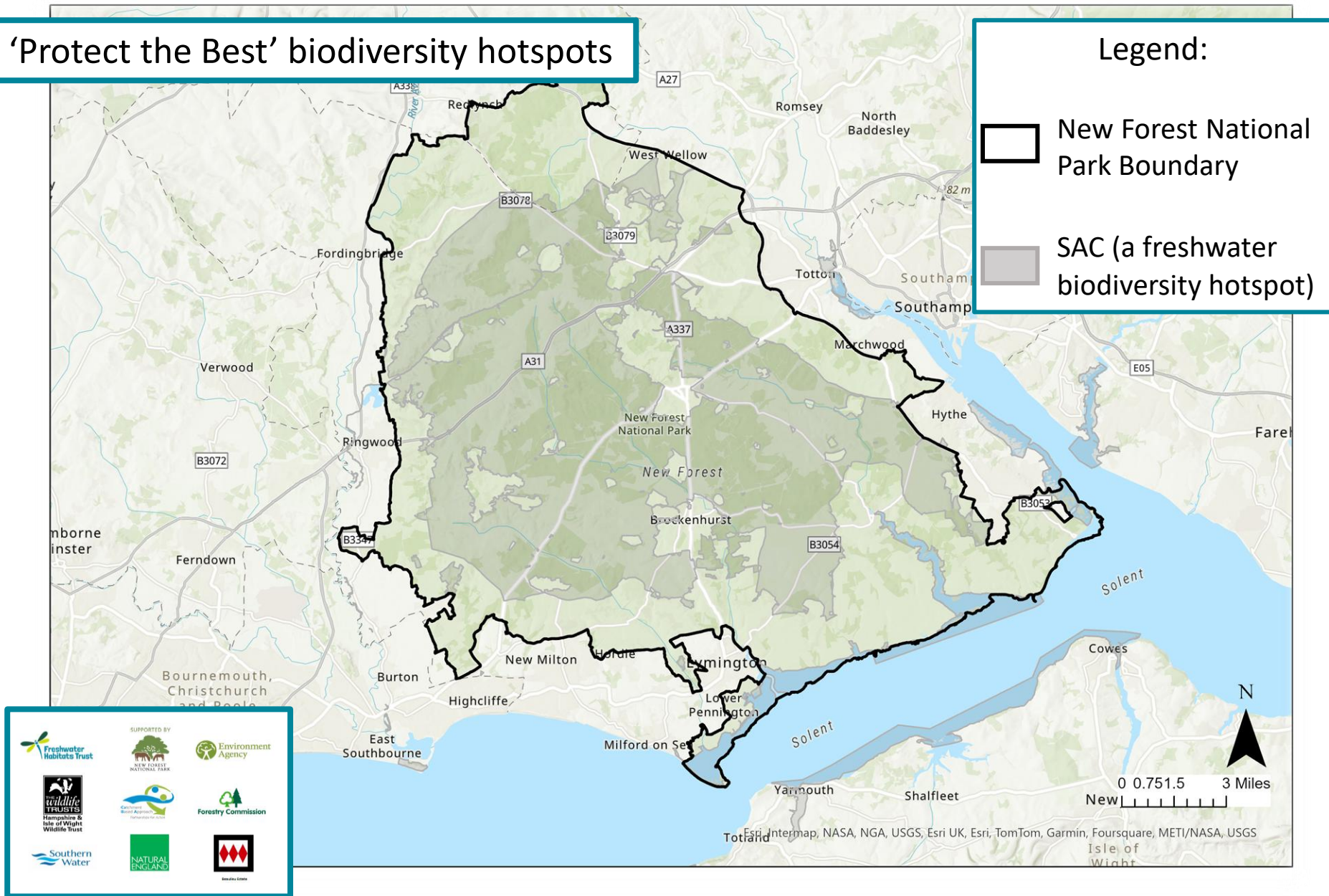
New Forest Catchment Partnership Vision:

‘Protect the Best’ biodiversity hotspots

Legend:

 New Forest National Park Boundary

 SAC (a freshwater biodiversity hotspot)

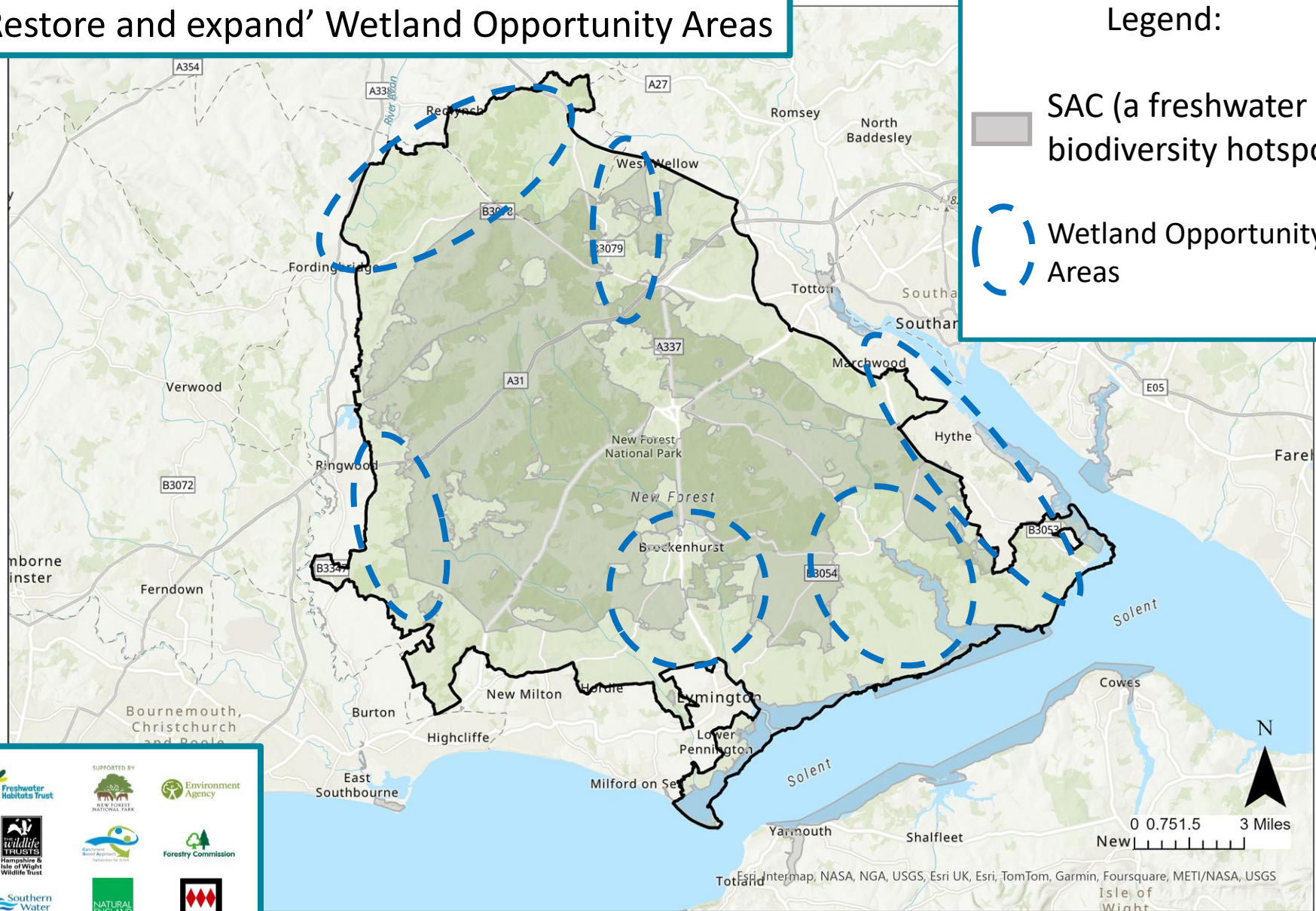


New Forest Catchment Partnership Vision:

‘Restore and expand’ Wetland Opportunity Areas

Legend:

-  SAC (a freshwater biodiversity hotspot)
-  Wetland Opportunity Areas



Blue Horizons Programme

A Programme of targeted works to protect and expand the New Forest Freshwater Network funded by the Species Survival Fund and others

1. Habitat creation and restoration
2. Nutrient management
3. Sustainable water use
4. Raising awareness
5. Connecting with nature



Funding partners:

**SPECIES
SURVIVAL
FUND**



Funded by
UK Government

Heritage
Fund



Water Environment
Improvement Fund



nationalgrid

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SUPPORTED BY

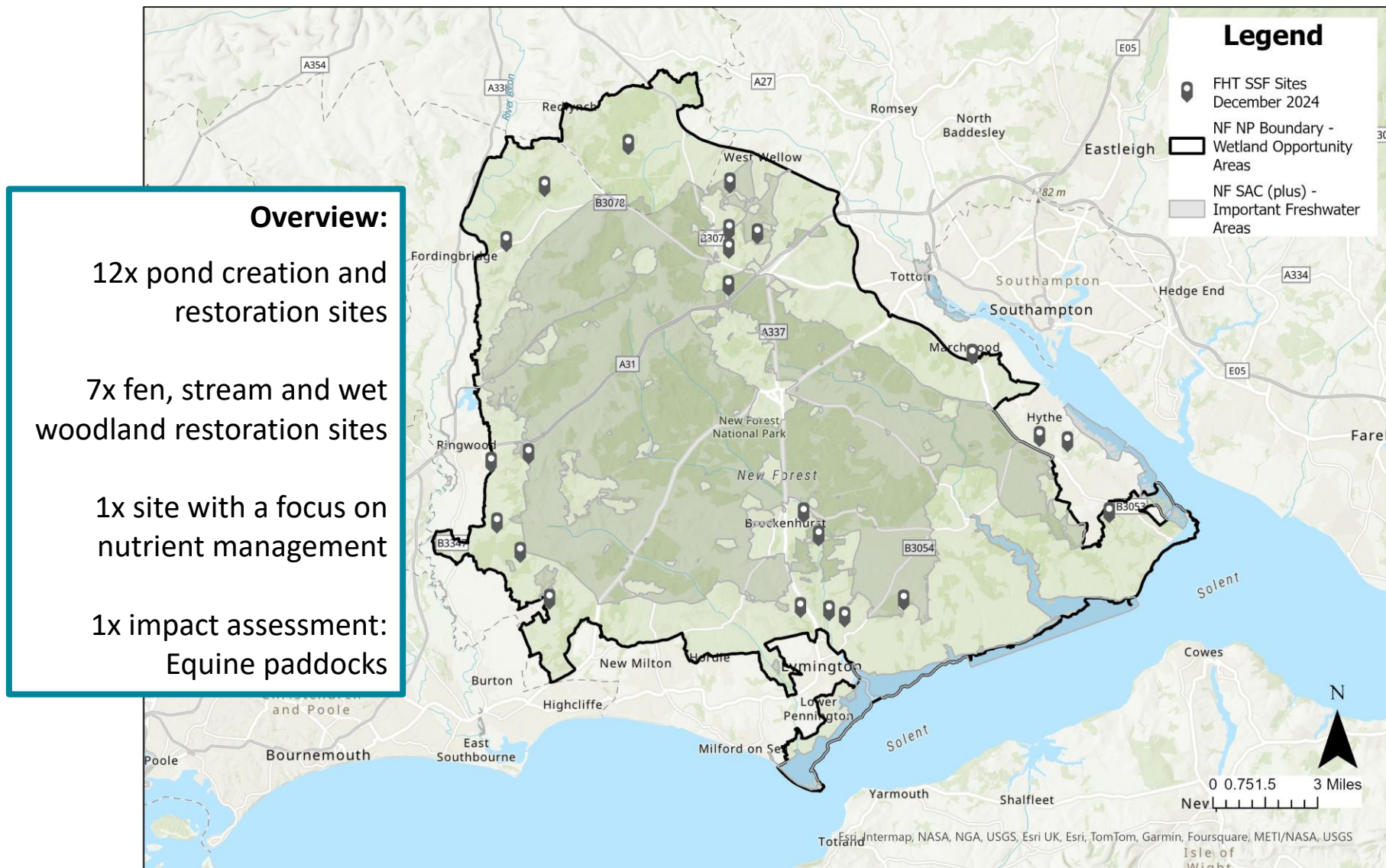


NEW FOREST
NATIONAL PARK



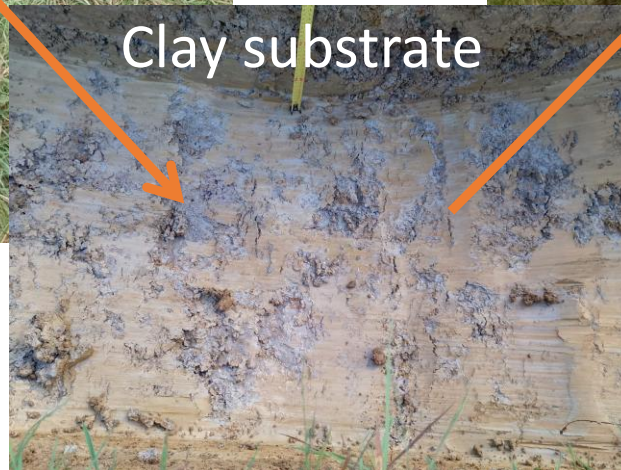
FUNDING PARTNERS: Defra (SSF), EA, NCP, National Grid (LEI), NFNPA, NHLF (CAF), Landowners

Species Survival Fund sites



Over 150ha of protection and improvement for freshwater habitats and species.

Creating high quality ponds characteristic of the Open Forest

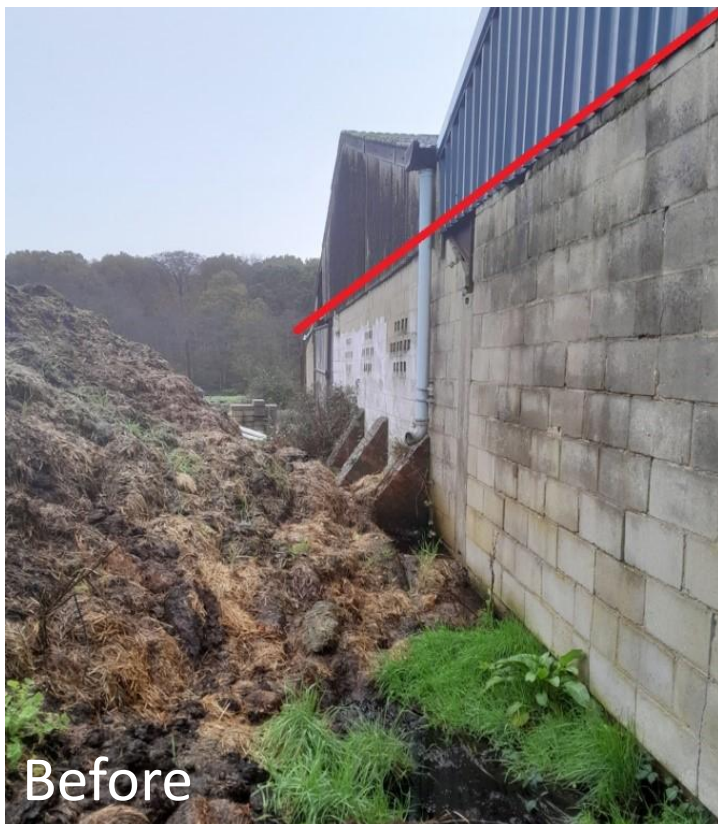




Stream restoration – cost effective solutions



Nutrient management solutions – drainage and pipework



Raising awareness through engaging activities

Over **30x events**: walks and talks, volunteering and training opportunities

1300+ total audience

100x social media posts - average audience reach of over **8,000 people**



Building capability across the National Park and beyond



Building skills, knowledge and understanding for a Future Forest

In summary and a look ahead

The New Forest is a special place, a wildlife capital for freshwater biodiversity.

The Freshwater Network strategy provides a clear vision and can be implemented in the NF.

Collaboration and funding partners have a key role in progressing nature recovery goals.

Next steps - secure funding to work towards a water resilient landscape focusing on a 'toolkit' approach:

1. Sustainable water management reducing reliance on potable supply (Hampshire is a water scarce area)
2. Implementing cost effective solutions to reduce run off from rural land management activities and recreation
3. Extending the freshwater network through habitat creation and restoration



The New Forest being a high-quality landscape at the core - is a major factor in helping any intervention maximise its potential.

Thank you

