

# FHT New Forest - work undertaken through the SSF

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Blue Horizons

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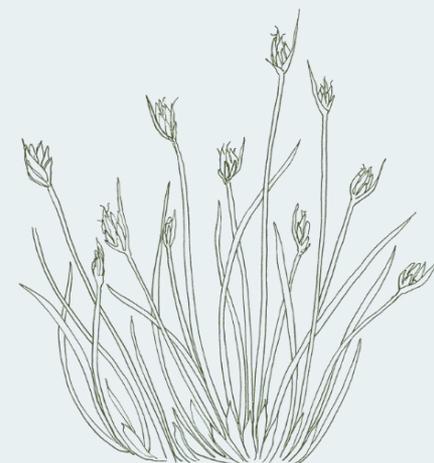


**SPECIES  
SURVIVAL  
FUND**



Funded by  
UK Government

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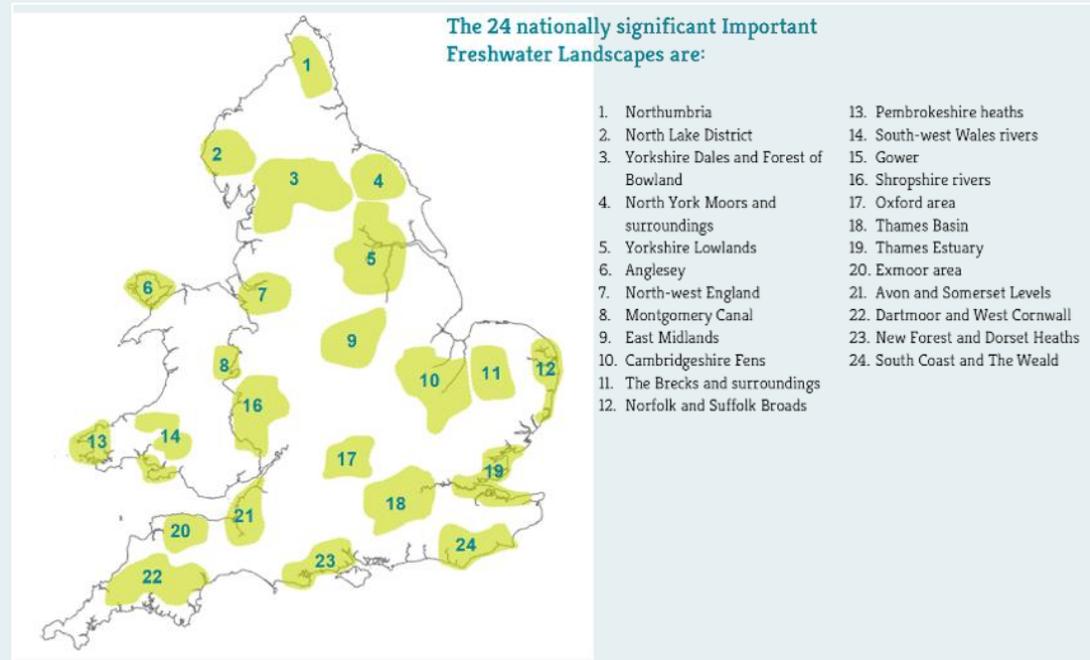


This project is funded by the Government's Species Survival Fund. The fund was developed by Defra and its Arm's-Length Bodies. It is being delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Natural England and the Environment Agency.

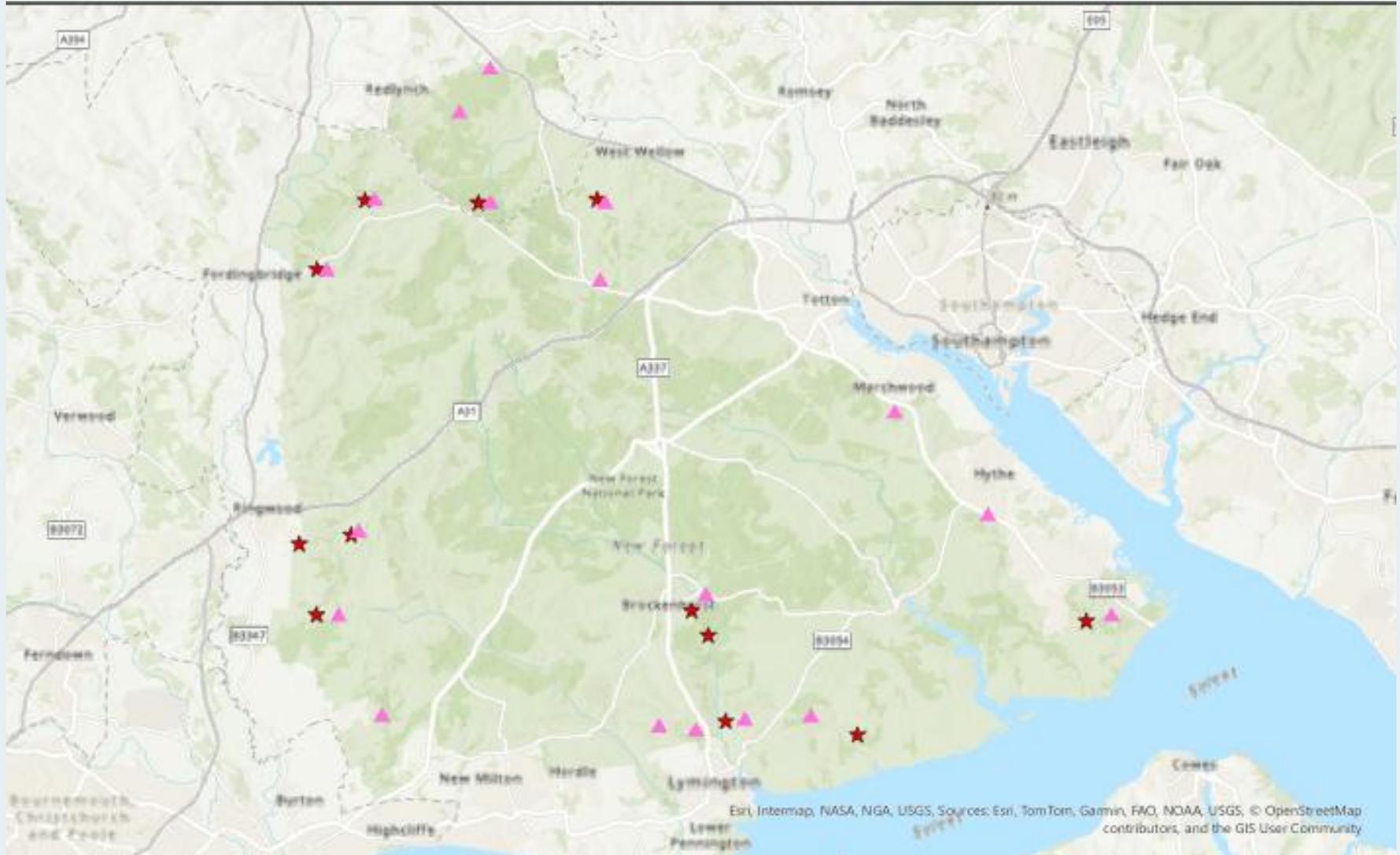
# New Forest Freshwater Network

To stop and reverse the decline of freshwater biodiversity by:

- Protecting the best
- Working on a landscape scale
- Small water bodies – packing a punch! (especially in the NF)
- Bringing back clean water



# Species Survival Fund project sites

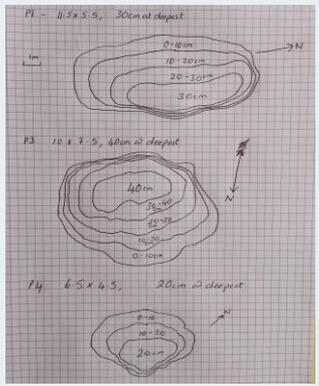


# Achievements through SSF - within a range of freshwater habitats



- Practical work across 11 sites
- Development work for modelling restoration
- Wetland habitats restored with impact over 50 ha
- 22 new clean water ponds created (across 7 complexes)
- 5 ponds restored
- FHT Specialist surveys across 16 sites
- 16 Priority ponds identified
- Worked with wider range of local contractors and landowners
- Developed closer working relationship with SSF partners

# Creating a new clean water pond complex



# Fen restoration



- Designated but unfavourable fen and mire (work with NE)
- FHT surveys
- Focus on remnant base rich fen and mire with lovely species remaining
- Cut and clear (thin) willow, birch, alder. Vegetation management
- 15 plant SoCC
- Important plant communities of tussock sedge fen and fen meadow



# Invasive species control – *Azolla filliculoides*



# Site images



# FHT SSF Surveys – some highlights

- FHT Specialist surveys on 16 sites
  - Around 120 (over ¼ UK ) botanical wetland species
  - Around 31 wetland botanical Species of Conservation Concern
  - 150 aquatic invertebrates of which 10 are SoCC
- Priority Ponds – at least 16 new ones added to our knowledge and probably more
- Data will inform future conservation efforts



# Next steps

- **SSF legacy**

- Post project monitoring
- Ongoing relationship with landowners
- Learning informs future projects

- **Blue Horizons and Catchment Partnership**

- Think Tank
- Equine
- Headstart
- WOA's
- more pond complexes and habitat restoration, rainwater harvesting...

- Any Questions?

