



INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY AND GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26th February 2025

Tuesday, 18th February, 2025, 6.00 pm in Town Hall, Market Street, Tamworth

SUPPLEMENT – ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Further to the Agenda and Papers for the above meeting, previously circulated, please find attached the following further information, which was not available when the agenda was issued:

Agenda No. Item

6. **Improving Water Quality Within Tamworth Rivers** (Pages 3 - 20)
(Presentations from The Rivers Trust and Severn Trent)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. C. V.'.

Chief Executive

To Councillors: M Couchman, L Wood, C Adams, M Bailey, L Clarke, M Clarke, J Oates,
B Price and N Statham.

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A child wearing a green jacket, yellow pants, and green boots is wading through a shallow stream. A large, shaggy brown dog is also wading in the water. The background is a lush green forest with many trees and plants. A dark teal curved shape is in the top left corner.

TAMWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee
18 February 2025

Pages 3

Agenda Item 6



WONDERFUL ON TAP

OUR RIVER PLEDGES



CORE PLEDGES:

OUR RIVER PLEDGES

Improving the health of our regions' rivers is a team game. We believe that water companies need to show more leadership. We need to listen, be transparent and set out a credible way forward. And that is why we are committing to Get River Positive: our five step plan to the healthiest rivers in the UK.

Get River Positive is underpinned by five key pledges that pave the way for the restoration and revitalisation of our regions' rivers.



Ensure storm overflows and sewage treatment works do not harm rivers



Create more opportunities for everyone to enjoy our region's rivers



Support others to improve and care for rivers



Enhance our rivers and create new habitats so wildlife can thrive



Be open and transparent about our performance and our plans

www.getriverpositive.co.uk

[Get River Positive | Severn Trent Water \(stwater.co.uk\)](http://www.getriverpositive.co.uk) is our dedicated website outlining our pledges in more detail and the work we are doing. In addition, our Storm Overflow map providing close to real-time information about our storm overflows across our region is now live. This can be seen here: [Storm Overflow Map | In My Area | Severn Trent Water \(stwater.co.uk\)](#).

Since January 2022, our team of River Rangers have worked with customers, citizen scientists, community groups and environment organisations to protect and enhance our local rivers.



Get River Positive Report
April 2024



Our network:

3.1 billion
litres of wastewater treated every day and manage **>92,800km** of pipes

300 million
data points about how our storm overflows are performing in a year

100%
of our storm overflows have event duration monitors

Our progress:

£
Continuing to invest **£100m** a year on our waste network

Increasing **sewer capacity and storage** to slow the flow of storm water during wet weather

We continue to work with our **Advisory Panel** who oversee our progress against our river pledges. We expanded membership this year to **seven** experts

Our bigger efforts:

Moving **two** stretches of river towards bathing quality by **2025**

Received the highest **four-star rating** from the Environment Agency for the fourth year running in 2022 and are confident we will be awarded the highest rating for an unprecedented fifth year in 2023

Severn Trent is currently responsible for **14%** of RNAGs in our region

10 River Rangers, working in communities and with partners to improve river health

RAIN RAIN RAIN

You've seen some of the wettest months on record.

35% more rain in the region compared to 2022.

30% close to 30% of river gauge stations in our region recorded their highest ever levels in **October** during Storm Babet.

WHERE DOES THE RAIN GO?

Our sewers deal with rainfall on roads and built-up areas. But they can sometimes get too full.

During wet weather **storm overflows** act like a release valve and **protect homes from flooding**.

Heavy rain means that the majority of storm overflows spill is rain water.

We can now see **300million** data points on our monitored overflows - every single year.

WE'RE WORKING ON IT

We're improving the network. That means fewer spills from storm overflows.

£384m current programme of investment

Our aim: no storm overflow to spill more than times a year, on average.

10 in **2025-2030** to meet targets at least **five** years ahead of those set by regulators and Government.

HOW WE'LL DO IT

Here's where you'll see the difference.

- 1 Separation**
Keeping rainwater out of our sewer system.
- 2 Treatment**
Treating more sewage reduces spills.
- 3 Storage**
Additional capacity on the network storing water during heavy rainfall.

- Our *Get River Positive* and our Storm Overflow Action Plan are working to improve the health of our region's rivers. We're investing £4.4billion across our region to reduce spills and further improve river health.
- We have reduced our impact on rivers to be responsible for 14% of RNAGs in our region.

STORMING AHEAD: FAST-TRACKING OUR PLANS TO REDUCE SPILLS

- A total investment for 2024/25 of £450m aiming to reduce total storm overflow spills by 20% per year.
- We're set to hit a major milestone in the coming weeks, **installing 1,500 overflow improvements ahead of schedule!**
- This includes:
 - New **storage solutions** to capture and store more flows
 - A large-scale community trial of over 8,000 free **water butts**
 - New 'nature based' solutions including the creation of 70 new **reed beds** to treat sewage from storm overflows.
 - Enhancements to **increase the flow of sewage to treatment works**
 - **Flap valves** to prevent river ingress into the network
 - A **Zero Spills hub** dedicated to storm overflow improvements



Bassetts Pole



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Improving river water quality in Tamworth



Ruth Needham, Head of Landscape and Partnership, Trent Rivers Trust



What are the rivers in Tamworth?

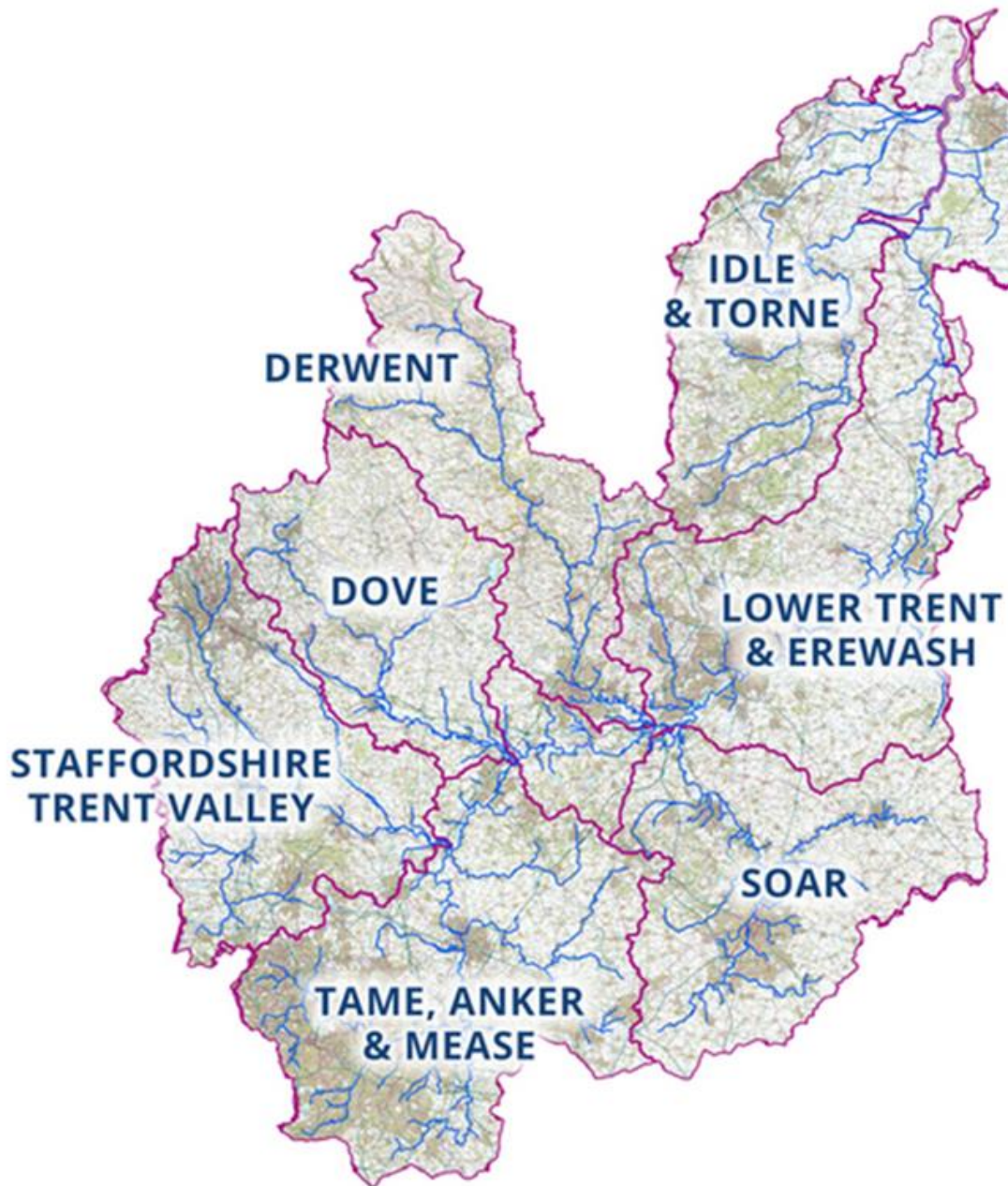
What is their water quality?

What factors influence water quality?

Ways to improve water quality...

What can Local Government and communities do to help?

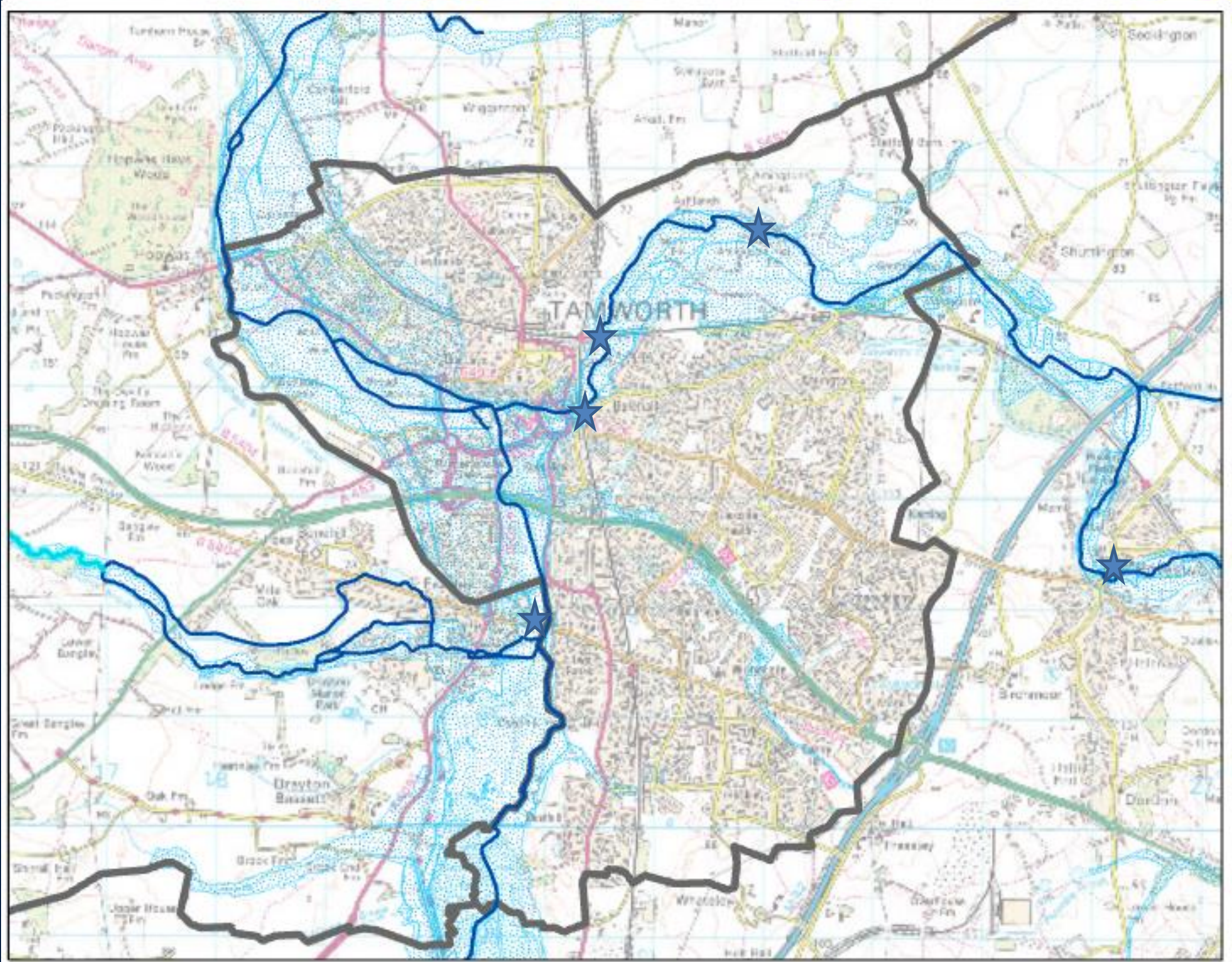
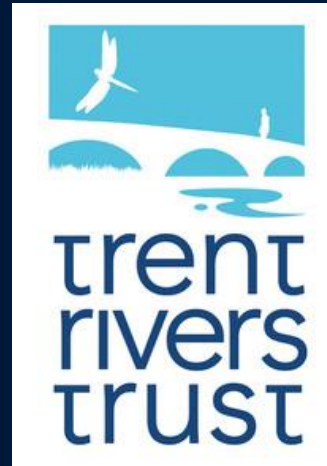
Trent Rivers Trust



About us
250+ projects
20 years of experience

We're a team of conservation, land and river recovery experts

We are a charity working with partners and communities to restore and protect your local rivers, for **people** and for **wildlife**



Legend

- LPA boundary
- EA main river
- Ordinary watercourse
- WFD waterbody ecological status (2022 - poor)
- EA sampling site
- Waterbody boundary
- Floodplain

Sampling by the EA
Orthophosphate, reactive as P
Alkalinity to pH 4.5 as CaCO3
Temperature of Water
Conductivity at 25 C
Ammoniacal Nitrogen as N
pH
Oxygen, Dissolved, % Saturation
Nitrogen, Total Oxidised as N
Nitrate as N
BOD : 5 Day ATU
Nitrite as N
Ammonia un-ionised as N
Oxygen, Dissolved as O2
Invertebrates
Fish
Diatoms
Macrophytes

Factors influencing water quality...

Habitat Modification



Pollution -diffuse and point source



Efficient drainage, intensive rainfall, increasing urbanisation and use of non-porous surfaces

Sectors	Agriculture and rural land management 62%	Water industry 53%	Urban and transport 26%	Weblink		
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Poor nutrient management (fertiliser) 33% 2 Poor livestock management 24% 3 Poor soil management 15% 4 Farm Infrastructure 4% 5 Land drainage 5% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 Continuous sewage discharge 35% 7 Intermittent sewage discharge 11% 8 Groundwater abstraction 6% 9 Surface water abstraction 3% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Urbanisation 11% 11 Transport drainage 5% 12 Misconnections 4% 13 Flood protection 3% 14 Contaminated land 2% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Industry discharge 4% 16 Mining 3% 17 Drought 3% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 Barriers 12% 19 Private sewage treatment 8% 20 Invasive non-native species 3% 21 Septic tanks 2% 	



Ways to improve water quality...



wetlands



rain gardens and suds (separating combined drainage)

Nature Based solutions (and engineering!)



river restoration



Swales and vegetation management

What Local Government organisations can do to help...

Planning and Policy

- Careful selection and design of development sites
- Encourage nature friendly sustainable urban drainage schemes
- Discourage paving and astro-turfing of driveways and back gardens

Working with communities

- Raise awareness off the 'love your river' resources
- Don't drop litter
- Don't pour paint, chemicals, fats or oils down sinks or drains
- Promote use of water meters and water efficiency measures
- Encouraging citizen science
- Campaign for greater investment in water quality

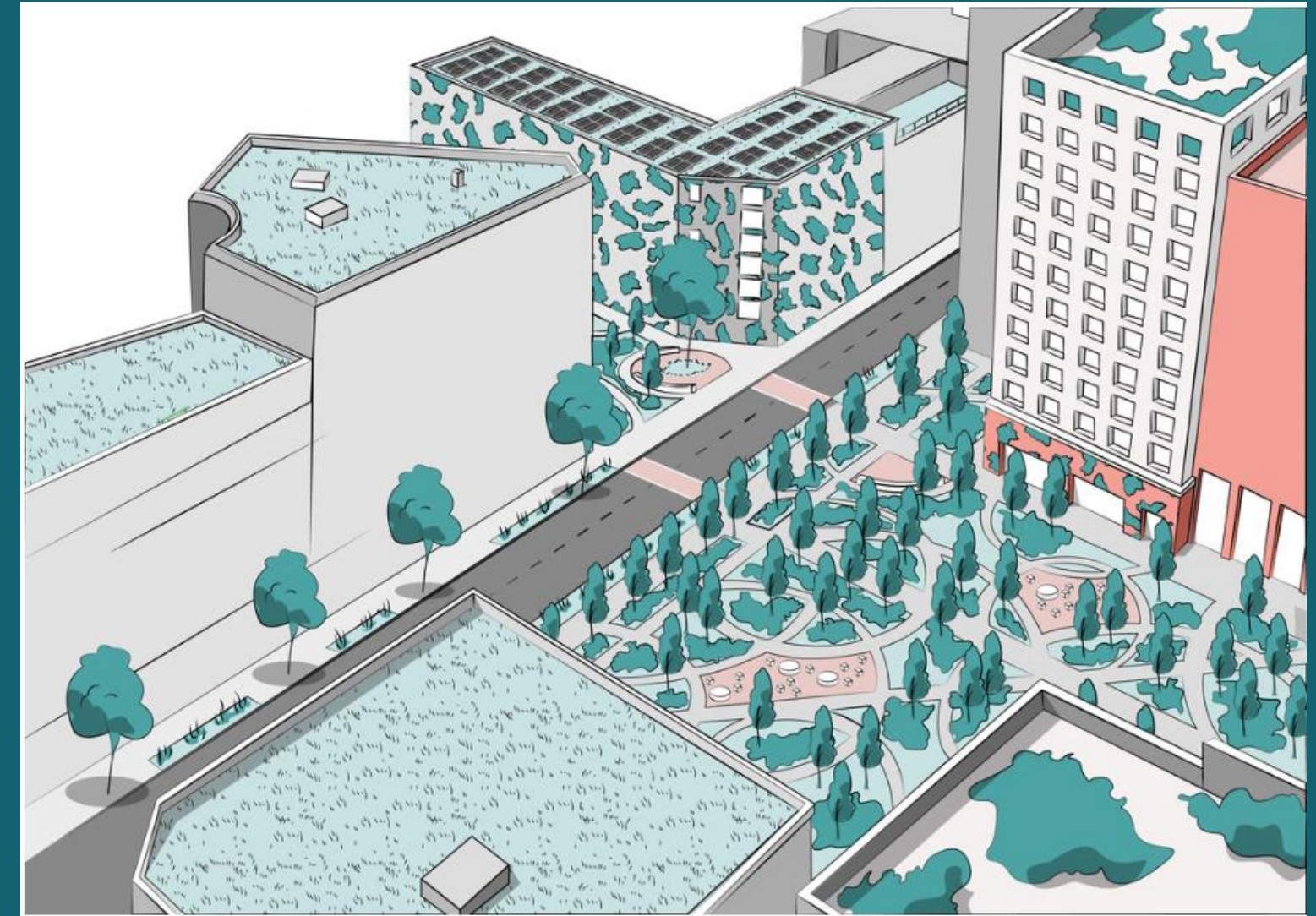
Managing land

- Buffer strips and fencing off
- Vegetation management (reduced mowing)
- Wetlands
- River restoration
- Separating combined drainage systems

Working with others

Engage and influence water companies, investors, developers, and regulators

Raise awareness of catchment partnerships





[Link](#)

	Water Quantity	Water Quality	Amenity Value	Biodiversity/BNG Potential	Climate Adaptation	Installation Cost	Maintenance Cost
Infiltration and Detention Basins							
Ponds & Wetlands							
Bioswales							
Raingardens							
Bioretention Tree Pits							
Green & Brown Roofs							
Rainwater Downpipe Planters							

Table 2 At-a-glance summary of the potential of each of the listed NbSuDS intervention types

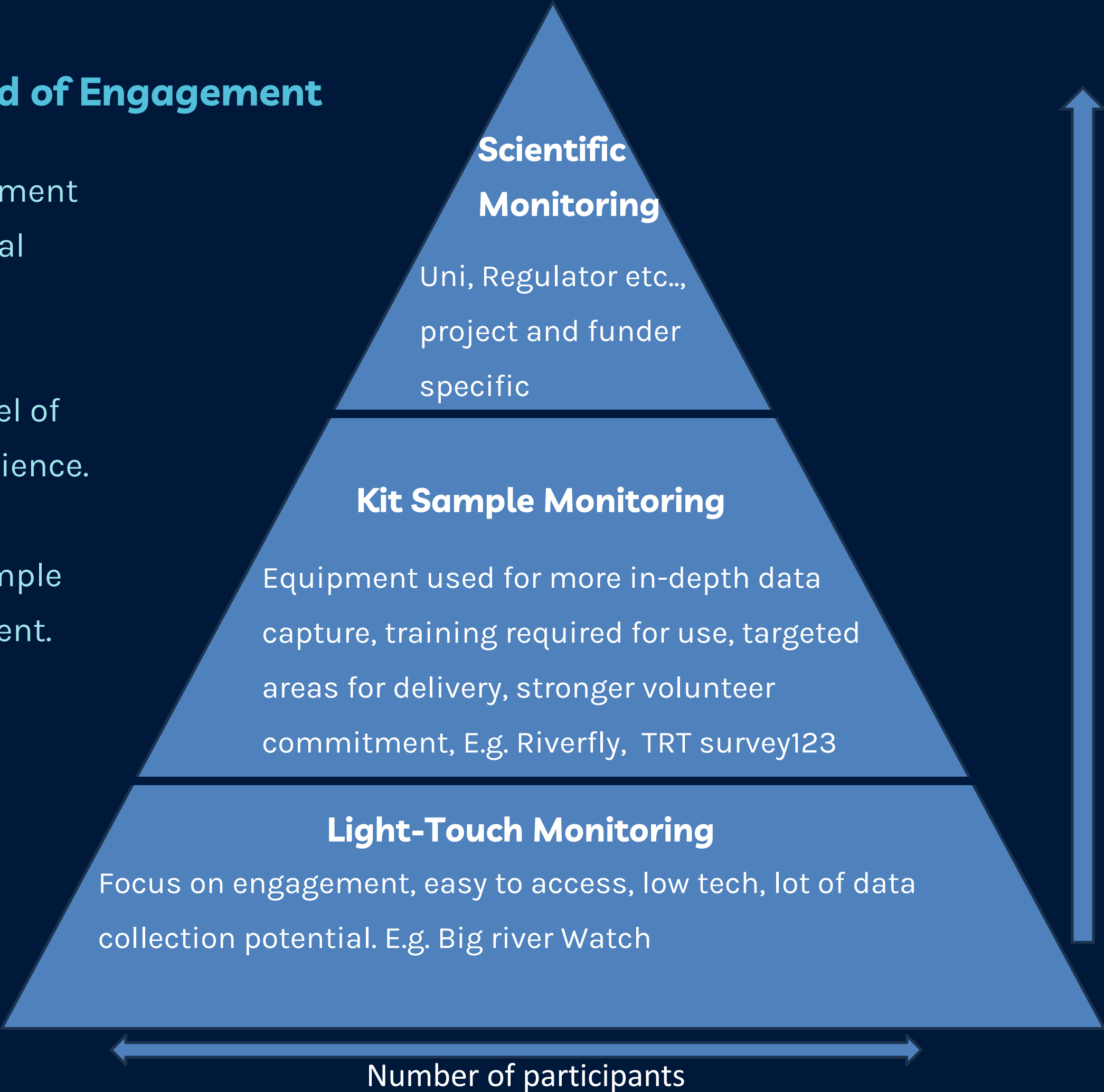
Citizen Science Pyramid of Engagement

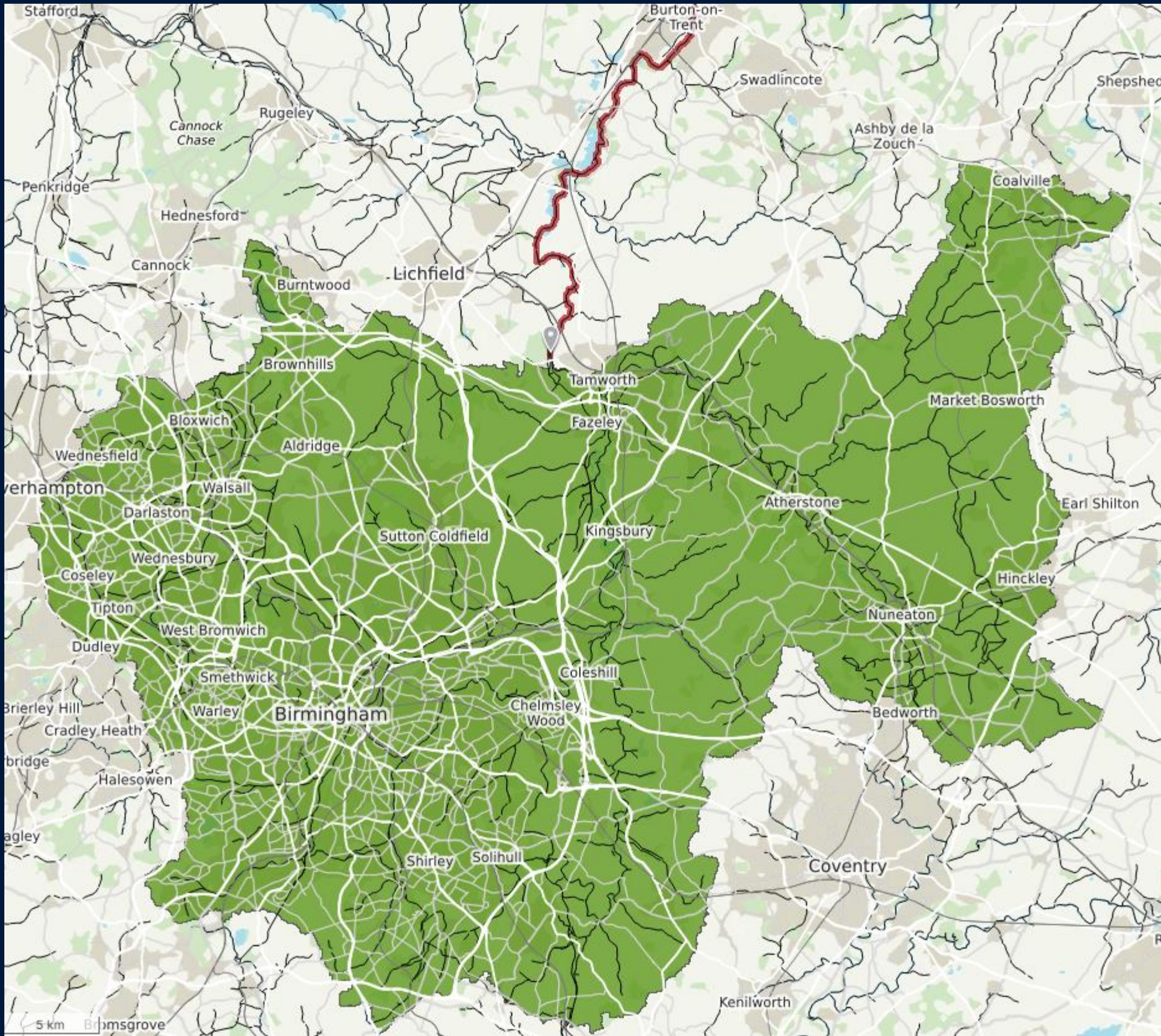
TRT developing an offer local people across the catchment an opportunity to tell us about the quality of their local waterways.

There is a spectrum of engagement outlining the level of detail we recommend when thinking about citizen science.

Our standard approach will be to develop our “Kit Sample Monitoring” opportunity for volunteers and engagement.

Being tested through a NFM project in Leicester






The Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) embeds collaborative working at a river catchment scale, delivering a range of environmental, social and economic benefits and protecting our precious water environments for the benefit of us all

Legend

Useful links

- [EA Water quality archive](#)
- [Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer -Tame, Anker, Mease](#)
- [Catchment data explorer](#) (catchment maps for all of England, with data of reasons for failure)
- [Tame, Anker Mease CABA site](#)
- [Rivers Trust Sewage map](#)
- [Severn Trent water overflow map](#)

Catchment area of the Tame, Anker upstream of Tamworth 

Upstream area	1,418.13 km ²
∨ Land cover	
> Natural	1,054.11 km ² 74%
> Artificial	341.40 km ² 24%
Water	22.62 km ² 2%

Thank you



Email

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Sign up for the Newsletter

[Trent Rivers Trust](#)