



Case Study: Springs of Rivers Teme, Onny, Clun (TOC) Project

A project hosted by Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership
and delivered by Severn Rivers Trust (SRT)

Value: £172,985.26

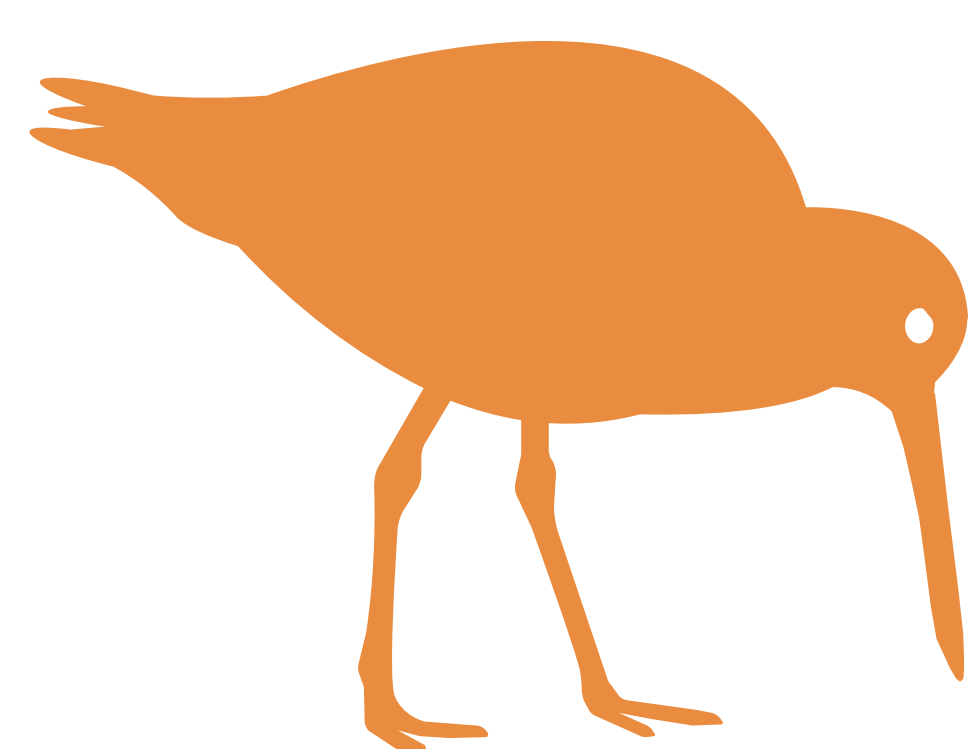


The River Teme SSSI and River Clun SAC are failing to meet favourable condition, the freshwater pearl mussel (the qualifying feature for the SAC) is considered functionally extinct and of the project areas 15 waterbodies 12 fail to achieve good WFD status. To help address the issues and to provide impartial advice, three Farm Advisors hosted by SRT worked catchment wide to engage with famers.

In confidence, each farm agreed to a Feasibility Study to consider both positive and negative impacts of land management on the water environment. Measures are proposed to address any negative impacts identified.

Environmental Outcomes

- High % of Farmers engaged in the upper Teme Catchment to raise awareness of how land management can both impact on and conserve the Water Environment
- Farm specific measures proposed to address impact of land management on the Water Environment
- Farmers better placed to take up and implement measures available in current and future land management schemes
- Better understanding of soil condition/biology and the importance of good husbandry to prevent runoff
- Soil compaction alleviated and infiltration improved
- Important step to deliver improvement in SSSI/SAC condition and to meet WFD targets



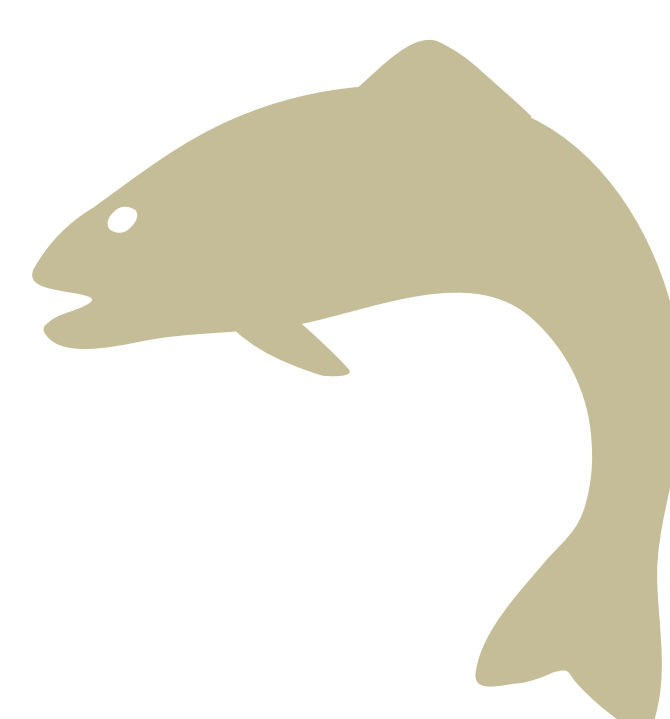
2 Designated Sites Positively Impacted

- River Teme SSSI
- River Clun SAC (unit 6 of River Teme SSSI)

Environmental Outputs

152 Farmers
and Land
Managers
Engaged

Project worked
across 15
waterbodies



Soil condition
assessments on
143 farms

124.94 Ha of
compacted
grassland
aerated

152 Farm Water
Environment
Feasibility Studies

7 Community
Events



The European
Agricultural Fund
for Rural
Development:
Europe investing in
rural areas

*This project was funded under the Natural England Designated Sites
strand of the Water Environment Grant*
For further information on the WEG programme please contact
weg@naturalengland.org.uk

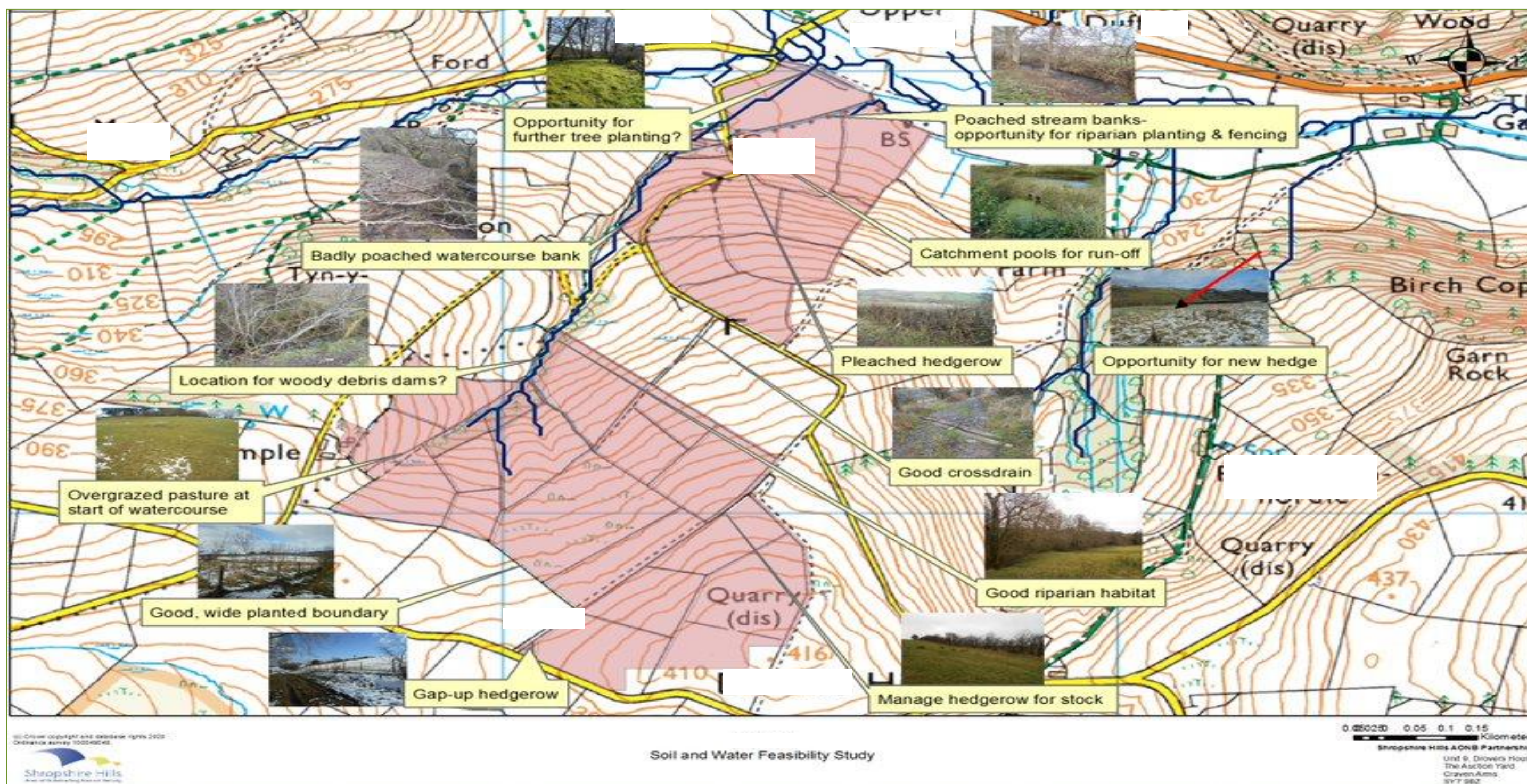


What Are We Doing?

- The project has made 152 farm advice visits to assess the impact of land management on the water environment
- Soil assessment to understand the state of soil health

"Thank you very much for all the effort that you put in drawing up the farm feasibility plan. I was very impressed that you picked up on the soil compaction on the stony field".

"Thank you for the webinar last night. We found it very interesting and thought provoking. Although we do some work with our soils it does make us realise there is more we could be doing and therefore need to prioritise."



Sample page from Feasibility Study highlighting improvement opportunities



Field soil condition assessment

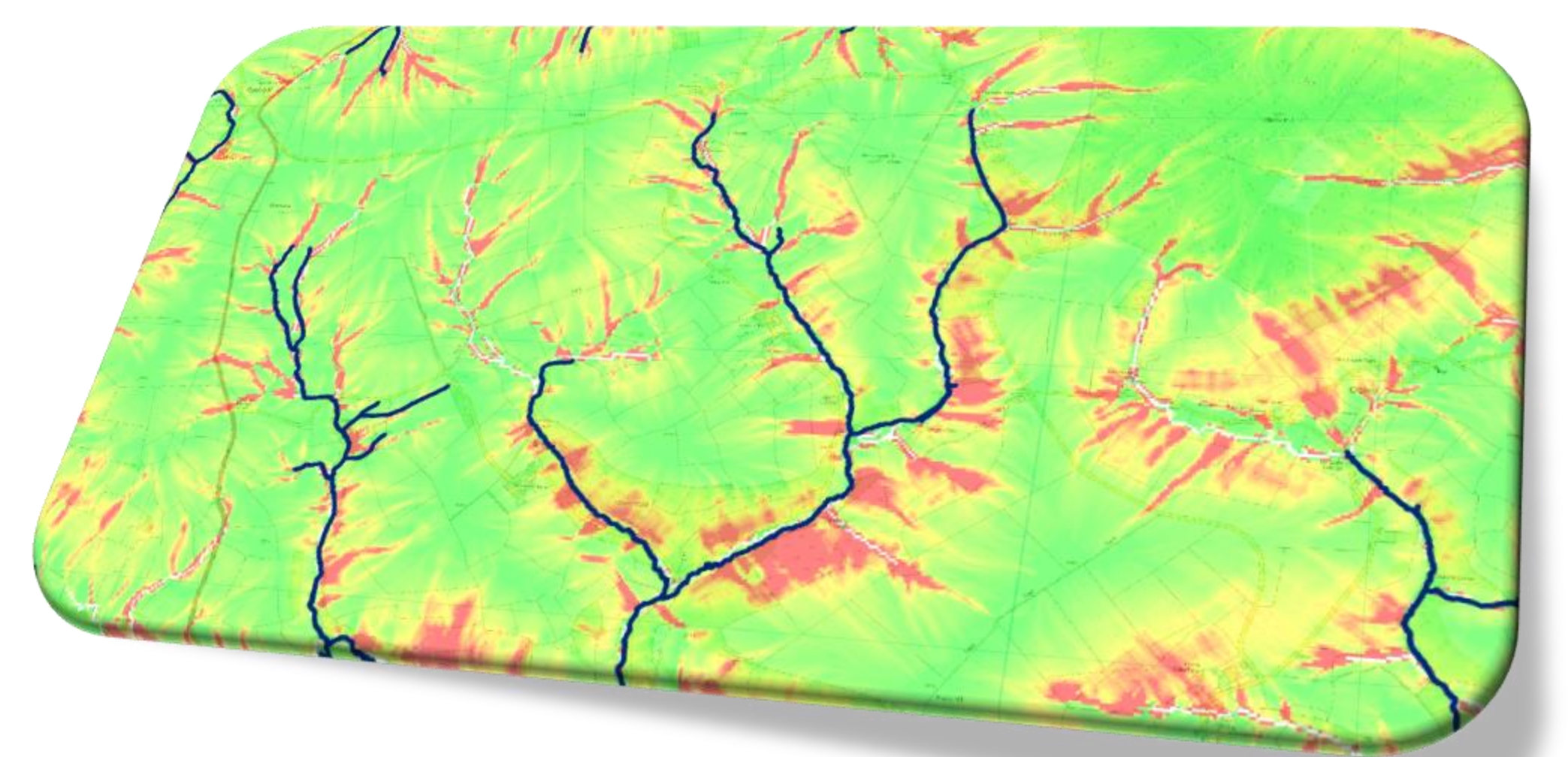
Soil reports from UKAS Accredited Lab



Farm Community Event



Grassland Aeration



Our project used SCIMAP to highlight erosion risk



Example of water environment improvement opportunities identified during farm advice visits

Long Term Benefits

Most of the farms in the project area are some distance from the Teme SSSI and the impacts of land management many km from the SSSI and on the local water environment are perhaps under appreciated - Our in-confidence approach has fostered positive relationships and delivered significant awareness raising across the catchment

Farm specific advice has delivered a framework for land managers to act upon recommendations – some issues are compliance related and it is expected that the farm would take prompt action to address any flagged

With farming in transition, awareness of natural capital is rising, our project is timely with respect to current and future funding opportunities and will be a mechanism to deliver on recommendations

Both our organisations host catchment partnerships and work in partnership with the Catchment Sensitive Farming Initiative and local landowners - Addressing the condition of the River Teme SSSI and River Clun SAC is long-term and ongoing priority for our organisations - Our project has been an an important step on the road to achieving favourable condition



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Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Rural Payments
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