



Priority Action 3: Biodiversity

Tanya Ferry

Environment Manager

Priority Action 3: Biodiversity

Improve biodiversity of sites recognised for their wildlife interest, and the connections between them



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 Environment
Agency



DP WORLD
London Gateway



Tideway





Improving Biodiversity by riverside tree management

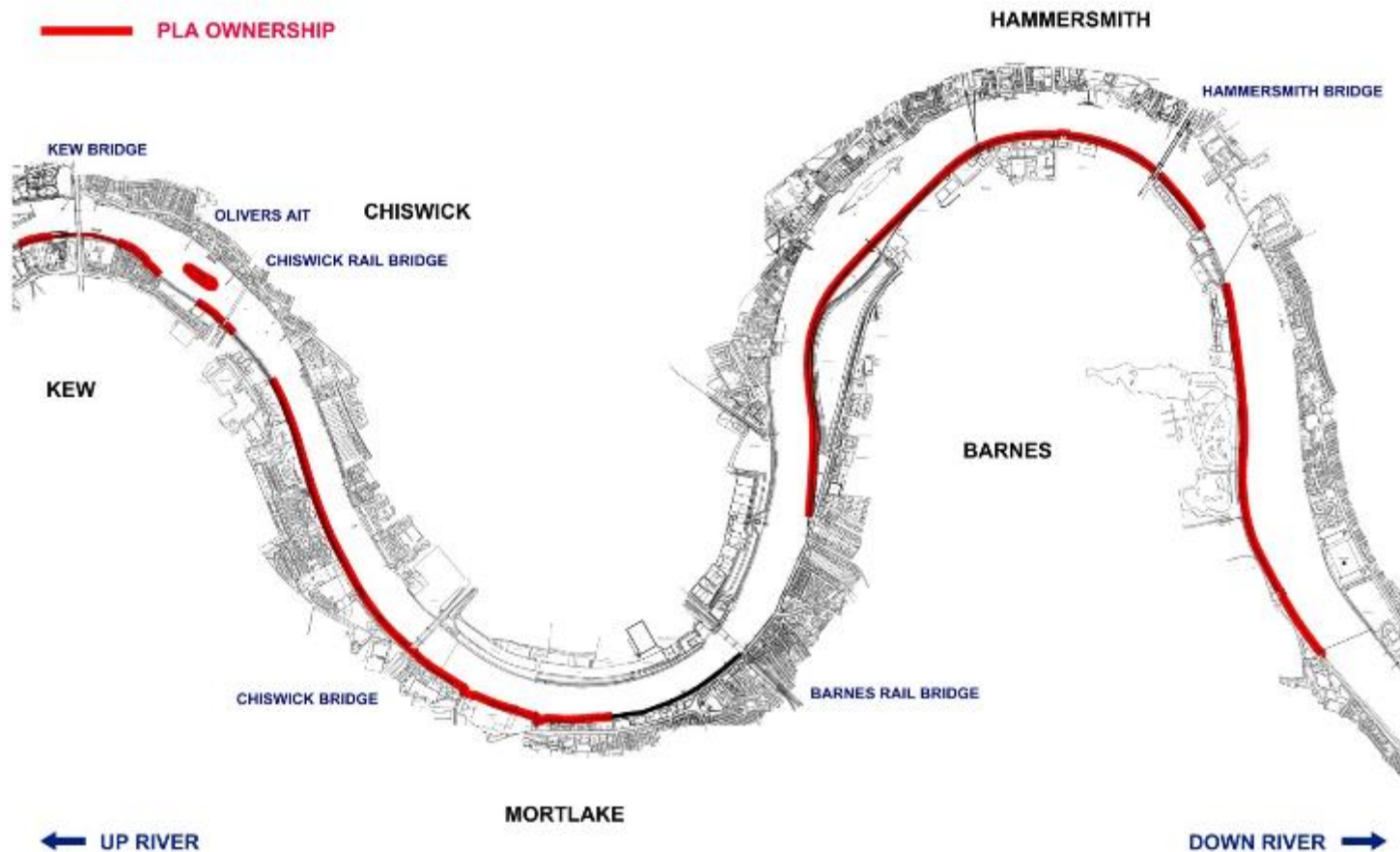
Sarah Robinson,

Assistant Civil Engineer, PLA

Improving biodiversity by riverside tree management

- Where we work
- What we do
- How we encourage threatened, protected and other native species to flourish

Where we manage trees on the tidal Thames



Where we manage trees on the tidal Thames



What we do to manage trees



What we do to manage trees



“LoneWolf” (Non-native) planting

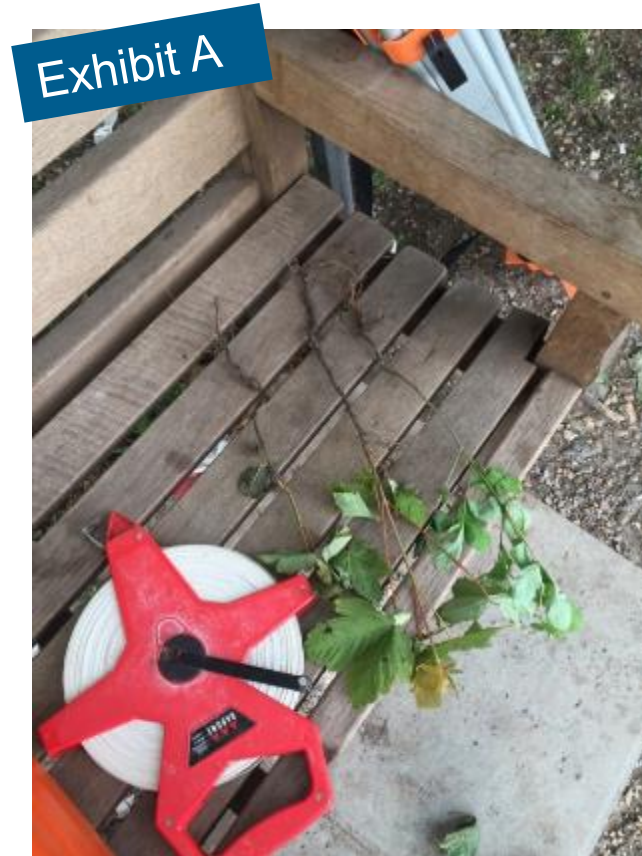


Exhibit A

Native Black Poplar



7000 in UK

400 female

40 PLA riverbank

20 female

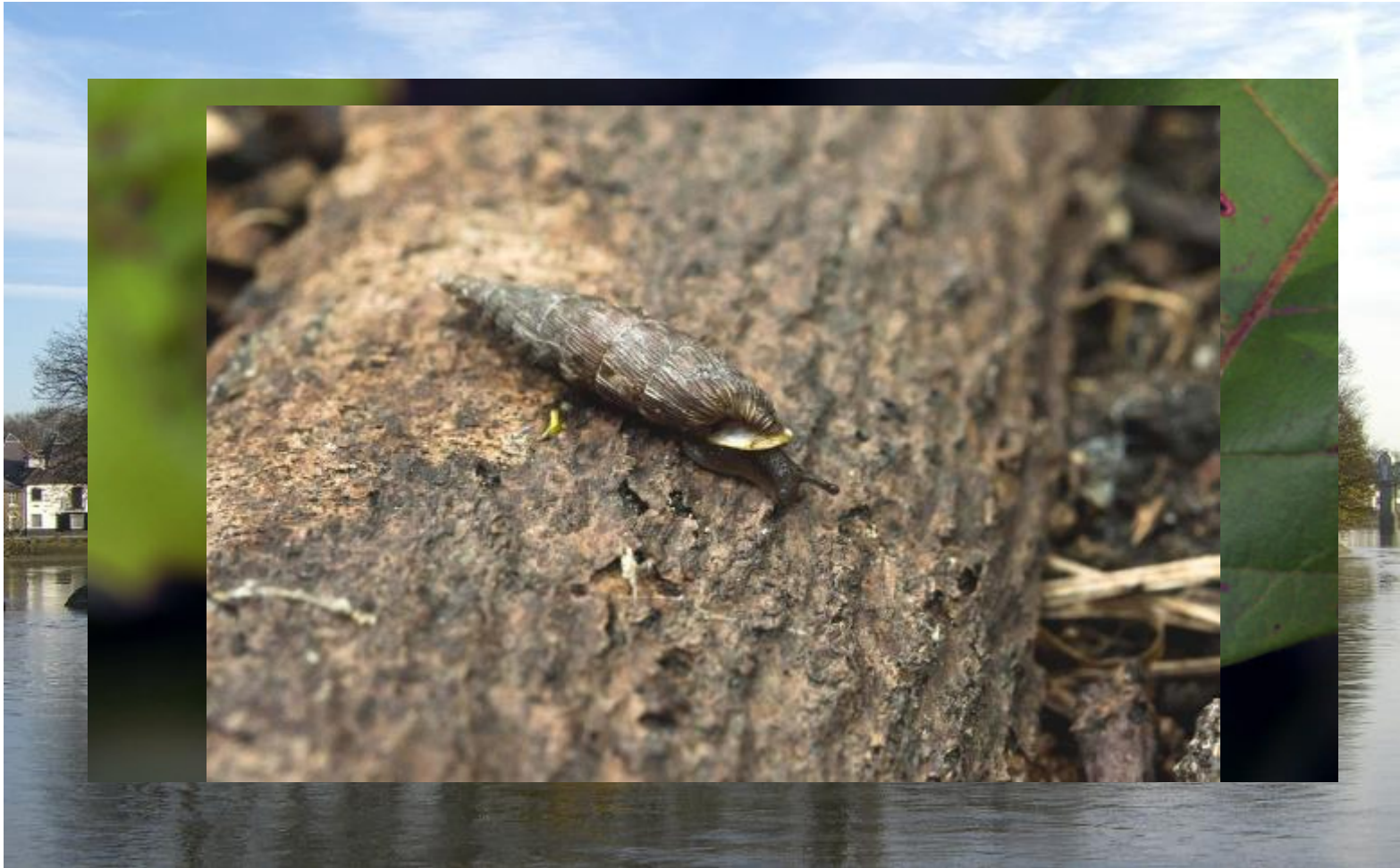
Bat and bird “superhighway”



Bat and bird “superhighway”



Oliver's Ait



Summary





Thank you



Monitoring to Influence Policy

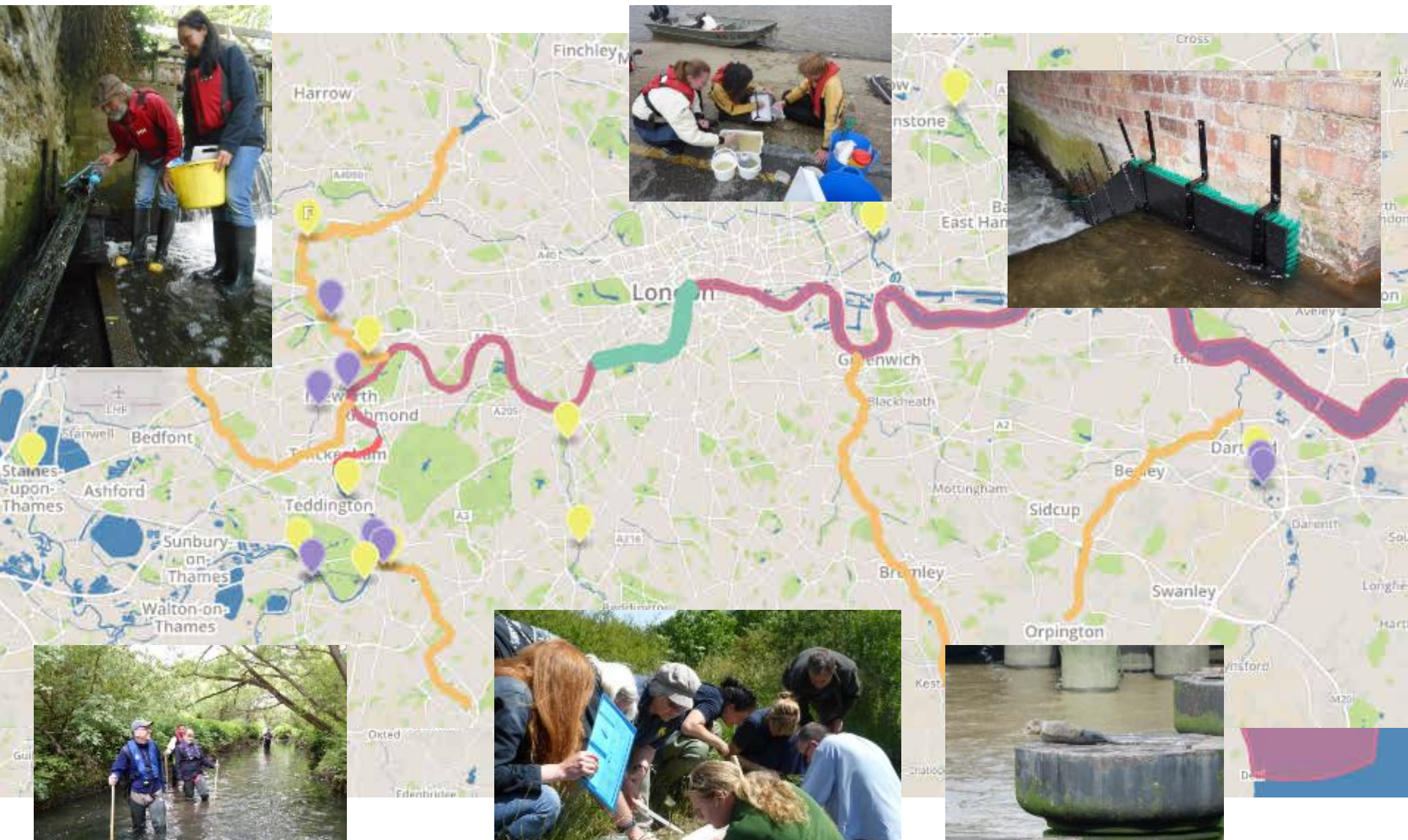
Joanna Barker (joanna.barker@zsl.org)

Zoological Society of London

ZSL Tidal Thames Conservation

- Established in 2004
 - **Focus:** clean water, abundant life & connected people
 - Species focused conservation & citizen science
-
- **Vision Goal** = Thames being “the cleanest since the Industrial Revolution, with improved habitats and awareness of heritage”

Where do we work?



Marine Mammal Conservation Project

- Public sightings
- www.zsl.org/inthethames
- 1,800 marine mammal reports



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Figure 9b.
Public sightings of pinnipeds and cetaceans in the Greater Thames estuary (points scaled by number of animals per sighting).

Scale: Greater London

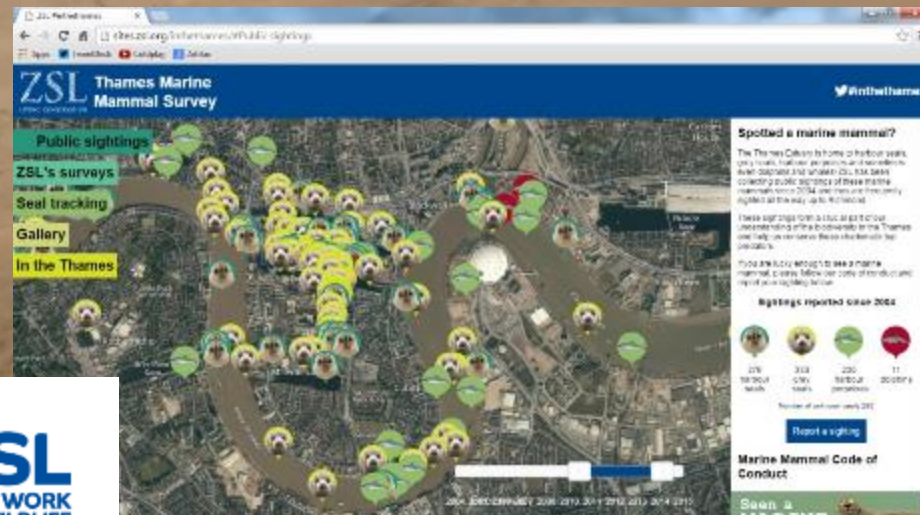


Sightings

- Pinniped
- Cetacean
- Unknown

Figure 9c.
Public sightings of pinnipeds and cetaceans in the Greater Thames estuary (points scaled by number of animals per sighting).

Scale: Central London



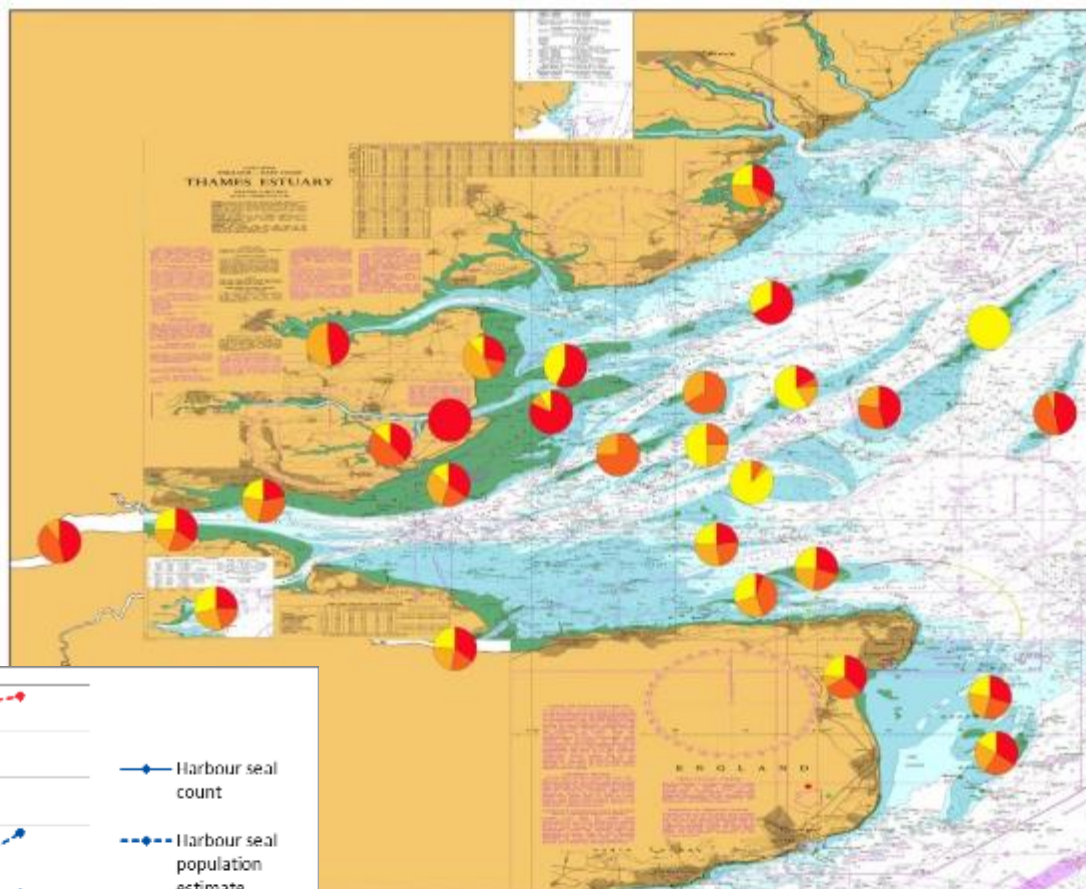
Marine Mammal Conservation

- Annual seal population counts
- Aerial, boat & land surveys
- Harbour seal moult period
- 2013 - 2016



Marine Mammal Conservation

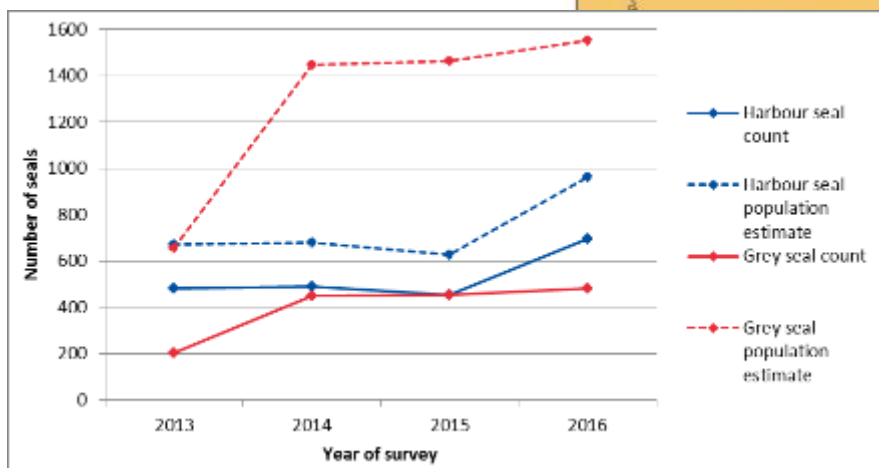
- SCOS Report
- EIA's
- MMO License Application



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Figure
Comparison of
harbour seal
count during ZSL
Harbour Seal
Population
Surveys in 2013,
2014, 2015 and
2016

Legend
2013
2014
2015
2016



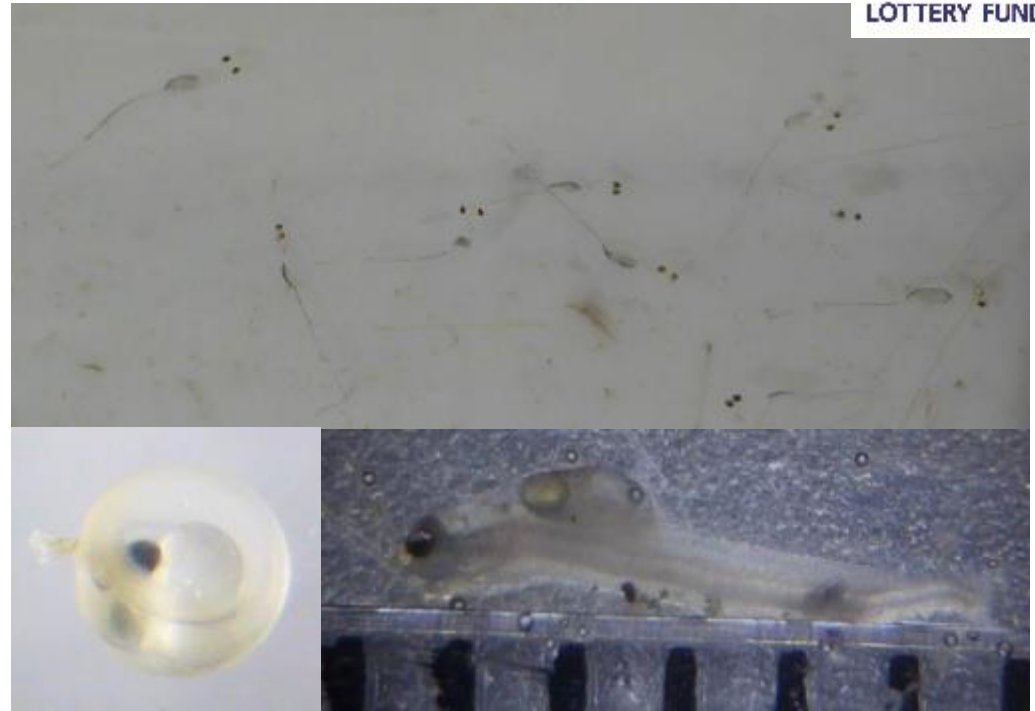
Smelt Conservation Project & Guidance

- **Goal:** Important life stages of fish species and their habitats are protected in the Tidal Thames
 - Identify smelt spawning ground
 - Understand smelt movement
 - Engage Londoners in conservation
 - Investigate historical smelt fishery
 - Provide advice for the planning process

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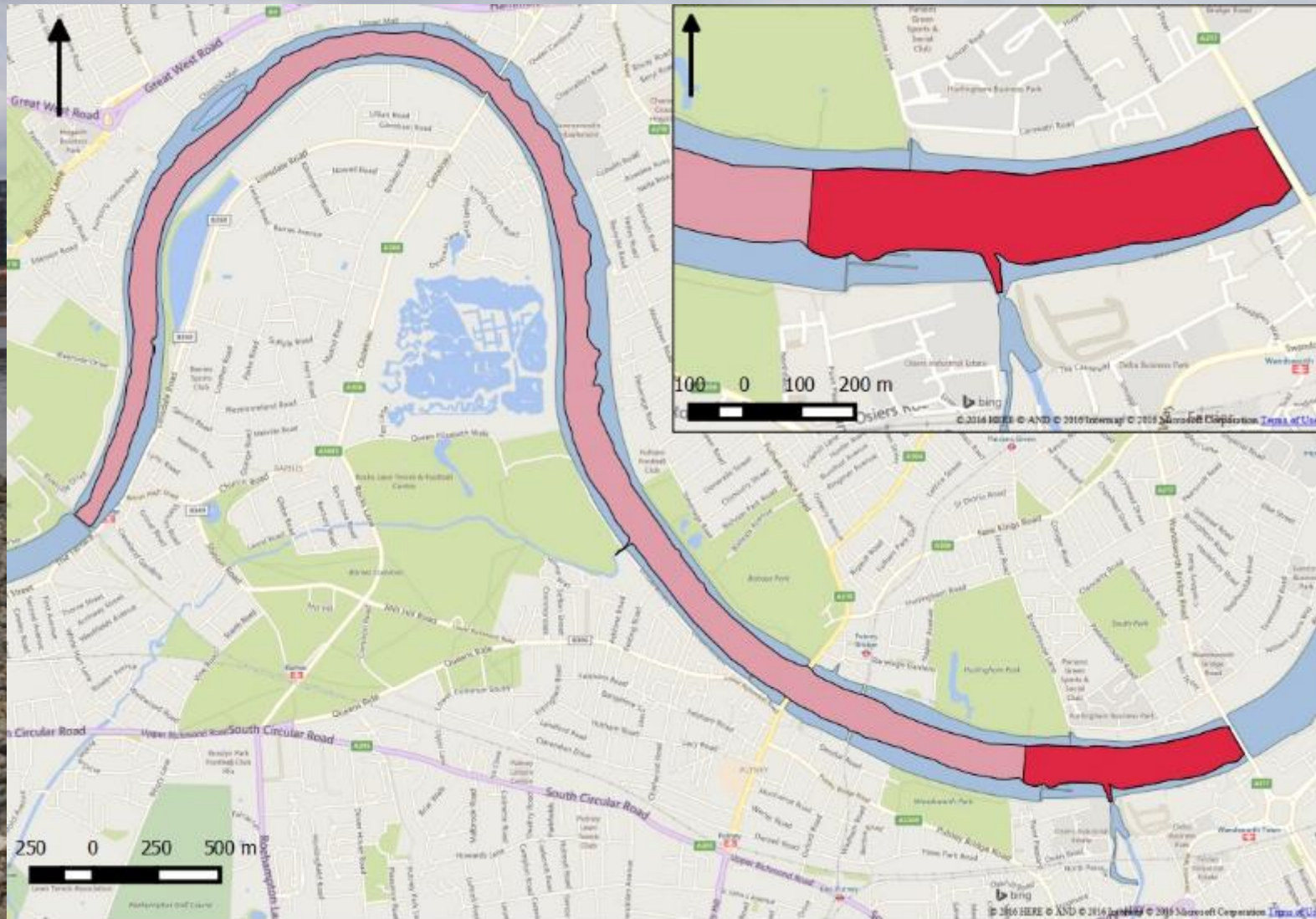
 heritage
lottery fund
LOTTERY FUNDED

Smelt Conservation Project & Guidance



- Ichthyoplankton & seine netting
- 450 smelt caught in 2015 & 2016
- 28 smelt eggs caught in 2016

Smelt Conservation Project & Guidance



Smelt Conservation Project & Guidance

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Development beside the
Tidal Thames

Development on the
Tidal Thames foreshore

Development in
the waterway

Potential Impacts

Loss of important fish habitat
Change to hydrodynamics
Increased sediment deposition or suspension
Water pollution
Change to water temperature
Impulsive sound and vibration sources
Artificial light pollution
Change to shadow structure
Entrainment or impingement of fish

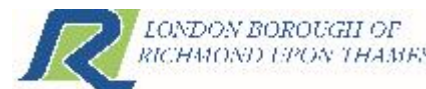
Ways to reduce impact

1. Complete a baseline fish survey at your proposed site
2. Schedule works to avoid important ecological events for fish
3. Incorporate fish-friendly structures when designing the development
4. Plan ways to reduce impact on fish during works

Guidance Document
Conservation of Tidal Thames Fish
through the Planning Process
October 2016

Zoological Society of London
Regent's Park
London, NW1 4RY

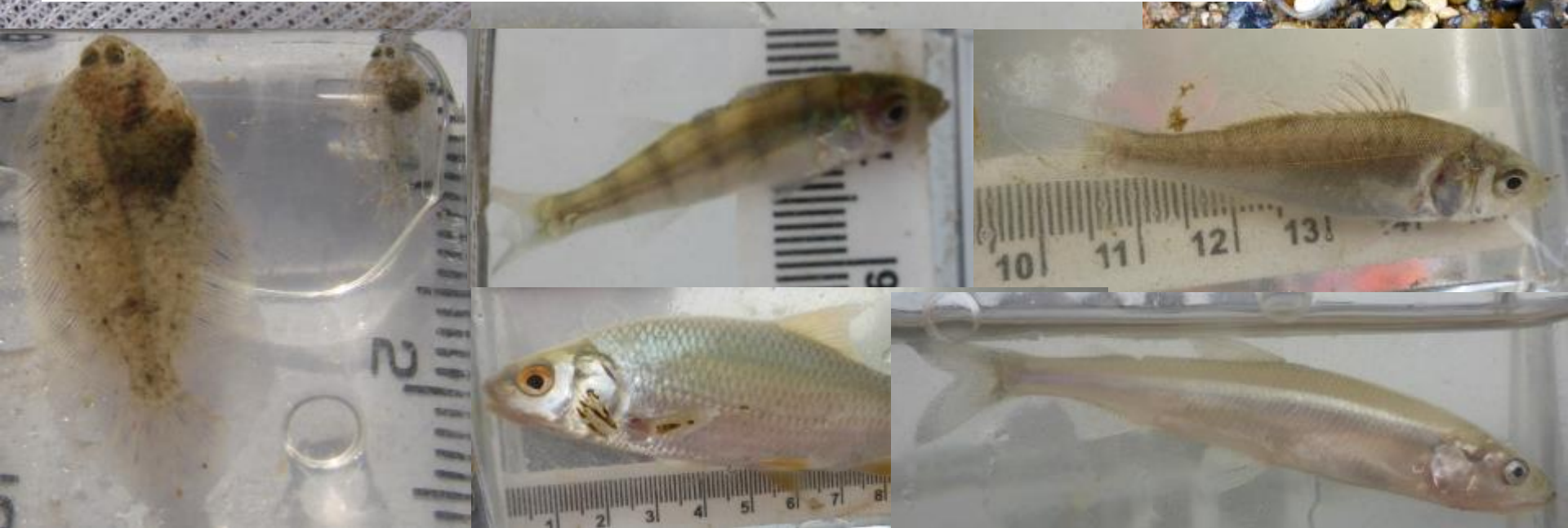
marineandfreshwater@zsl.org
zsl.org/thames





Next Steps:

- **Tideway Research Project**
- **Aim:** To characterise the spatial and temporal utilisation of the Tidal Thames by early life history stage (ELHS) fish.



London's Rivers Project



- ZSL is the London hub for the **River Monitoring Initiative (RMI)** = Crane, Hogsmill & Ravensbourne
- Provides guide to river health & detects pollution events
- Report to the Environment Agency for early response
- Success due to dedication of **citizen science volunteers**



London's Rivers Project

- 2016 expanded to monitor surface water outfalls
- Inspect, record & map dry weather condition
- Built capacity to monitor pollution sources
- Prioritise outfalls for inclusion in the 2020 **Thames Water Surface Water Outfall Programme**
- **Catchment Partnerships in London Group** position statement on misconnections

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Conclusion & Thanks

- Partnership working, citizen science & scientific surveys
- Results inform better conservation and management

