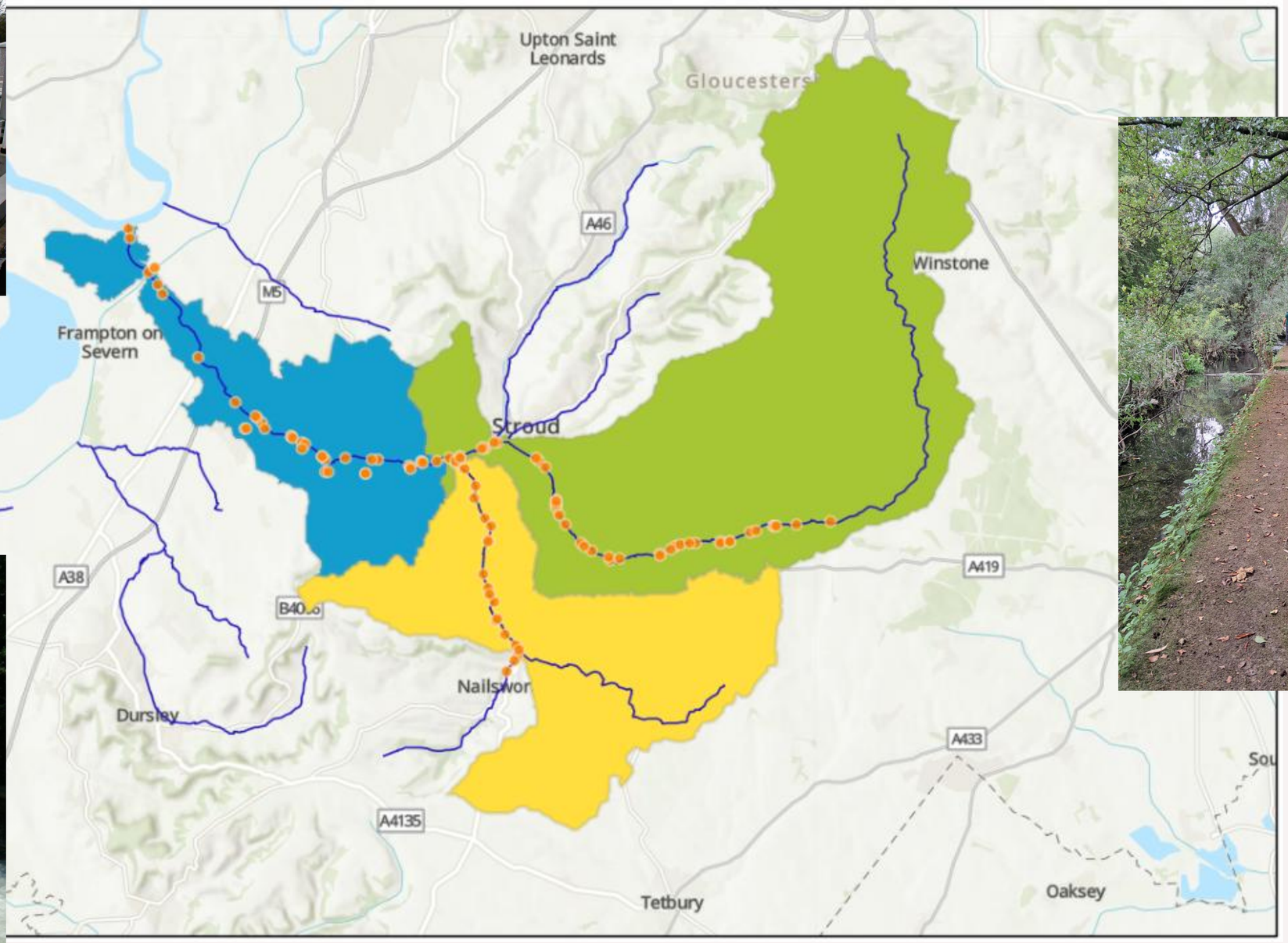
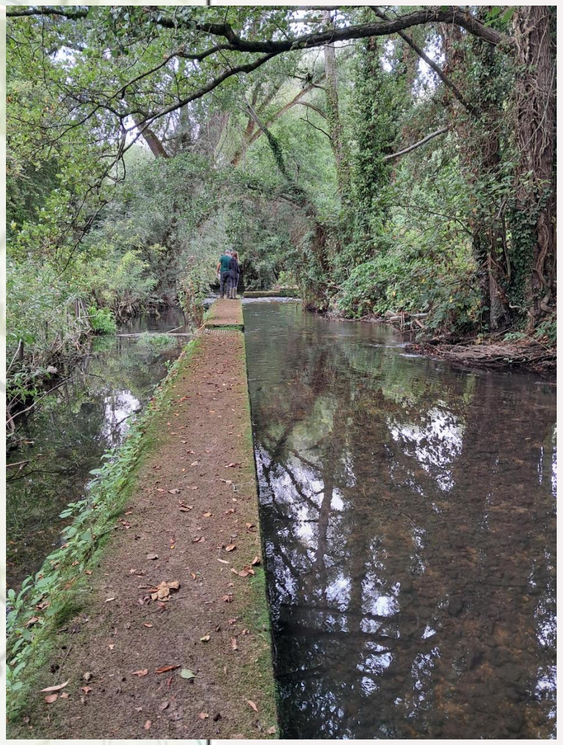
Reconnecting the Frome

SEVERN
RIVERS TRUST

Severn Vale
Catchment
Partnership

Barriers on the Frome





River Barriers

Disrupt fish passage

Barriers physically block fish and other aquatic organisms from reaching critical breeding, feeding, and rearing areas.

Fragment habitat

By preventing movement between habitats, barriers fragment river systems, isolating populations and restricting the range of species that rely on connected river networks.

Reduce habitat diversity

Lead to the replacement of natural substrates like gravels and boulders with sand and silt, reducing the diversity of habitats available for different species. They can drown out habitat features such as fast-flowing riffles or rapids.

Alter sediment transport

Barriers trap sediment, leading to increased silt deposition and siltation upstream. The absence of sediment downstream of barriers causes increased erosion as the water carries more abrasive material.

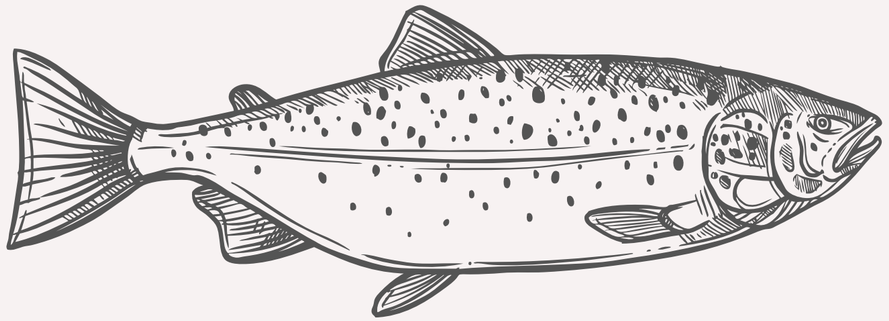
Reduce river resilience

A river system lacking ecological integrity and connectivity is less diverse and less able to find refuge or disperse during disturbances like droughts or floods.

Our Ambition

To make the river channel passable up and downstream for fish and other aquatic species, including implementing multi-species fish passes at all high priority barriers throughout the Frome catchment.

In-stream habitat restoration will complement improved connectivity, ensuring species have access to the variety of habitats necessary to complete the different stages of their life cycles.



The Effects of Drought

How Barriers Exacerbate Droughts

By reducing the natural water flow and disconnecting river habitats.

Recent Events

EA officers alerted to extremely low flows at the Beards Mill weir (Stroud Cricket Club), dropping 15cm overnight. Fish rescues across the Severn catchment.

What You Can Do

Report to the EA incident hotline as soon as you notice low flows in the river. EA staff can respond quickly and address the issue and rescue fish before it’s too late.

Progress So Far

We’re proud of the measurable difference the catchment partnership are making across the catchment.

- 1 Barrier appraisal
- 8 Feasibility assessments
- 4 Detailed designs
- 1 fish pass installed

Help Shape the Future of the Frome

Fish passage projects are a lengthy and expensive business but we are committed to seeing the Frome flow freely again.

We need businesses to sponsor a fish pass and individuals to take care of newly created fish passes to ensure they function effectively.

If you or your business can support or you are able to help us maintain these passes please get in touch:

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