

Public Document Pack

**Scrutiny Inquiry Panel - Protecting,
Preserving and Promoting The River Itchen
in Southampton**

Thursday, 6th October, 2022
at 5.30 pm

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Agendas and papers are now available via the City Council's website

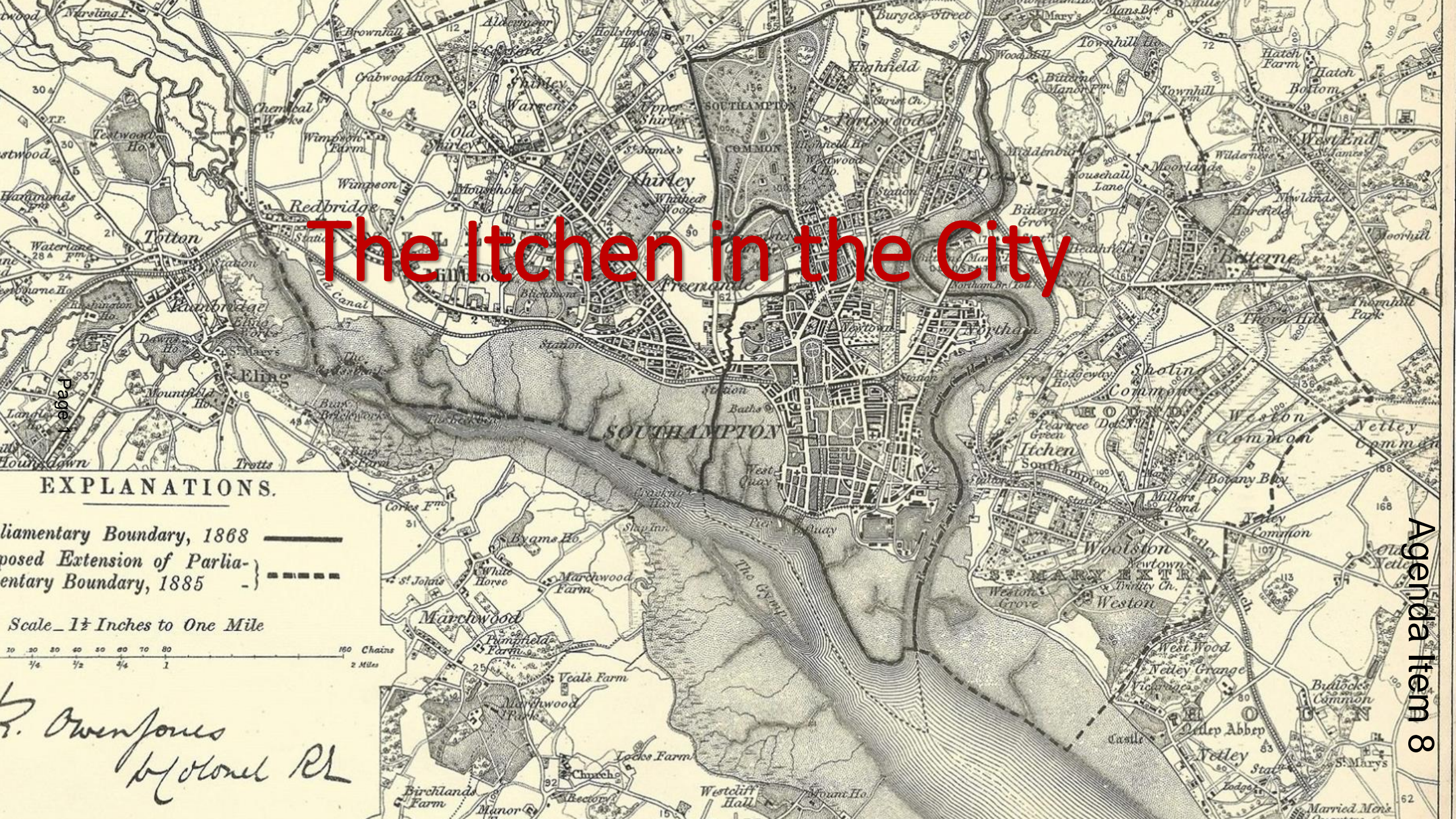
8 PROTECTING, PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THE RIVER ITCHEN IN SOUTHAMPTON - INTRODUCTION, CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND (Pages 1 - 54)

Presentations of the meeting on 6 October 2022

Wednesday, 28 September 2022

Director of Legal and Business Services

The Itchen in the City



EXPLANATIONS.

Parliamentary Boundary, 1868 ———
Proposed Extension of Parliamentary Boundary, 1885 - - - - -

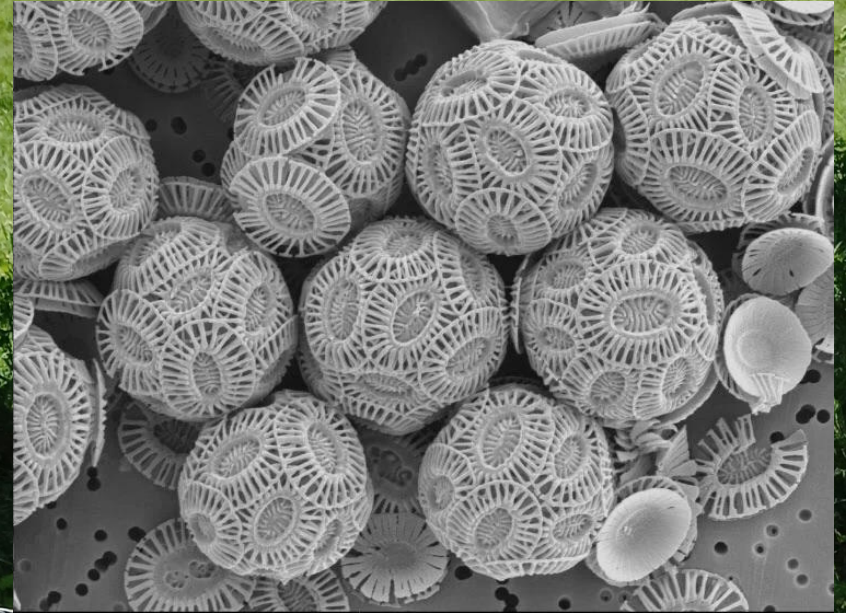
Scale - 1 1/2 Inches to One Mile
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 160 Chains
1/4 1/2 3/4 1 2 Miles

R. Owen Jones
by Colonel R.L.

Agenda Item 8



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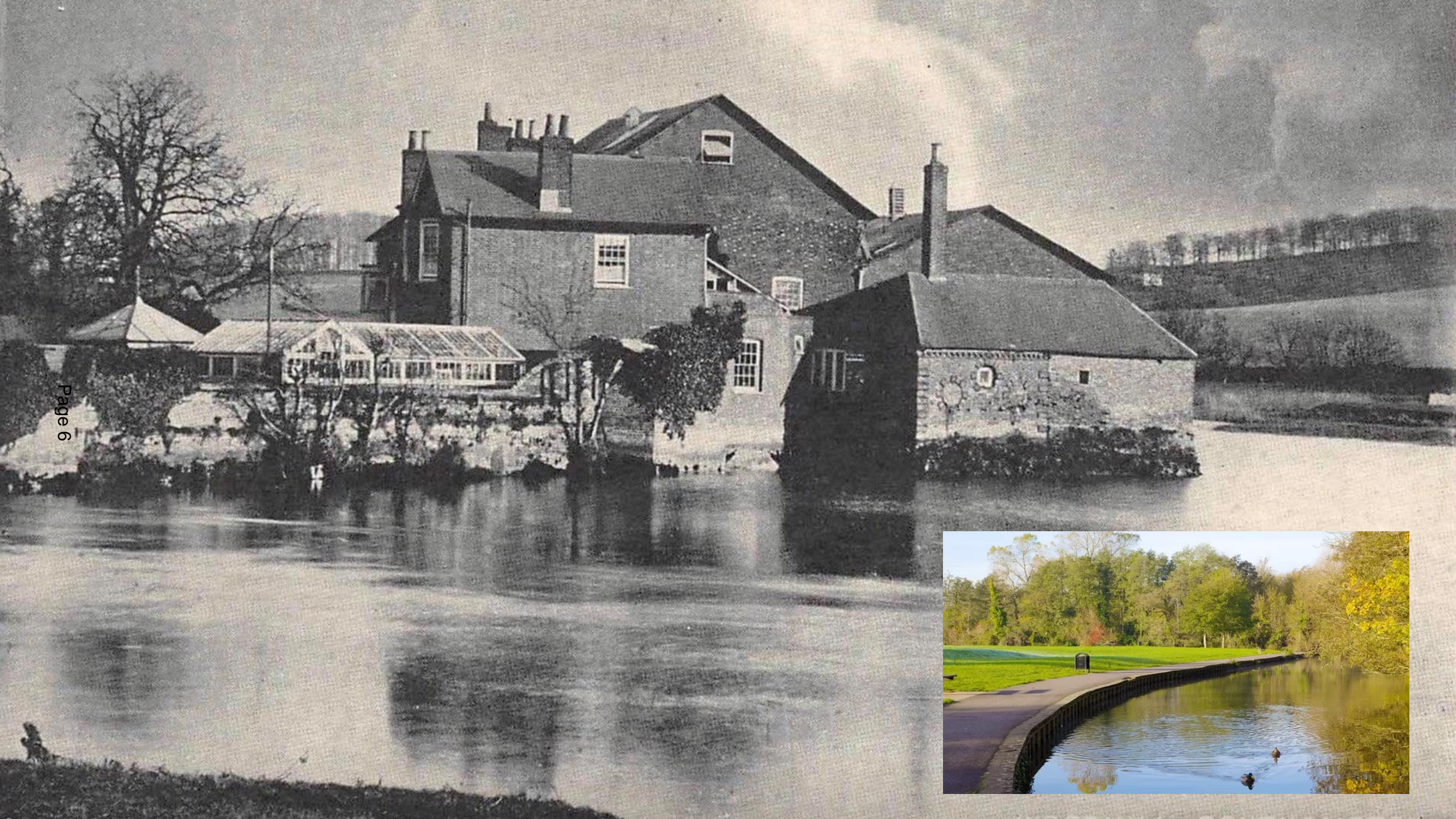


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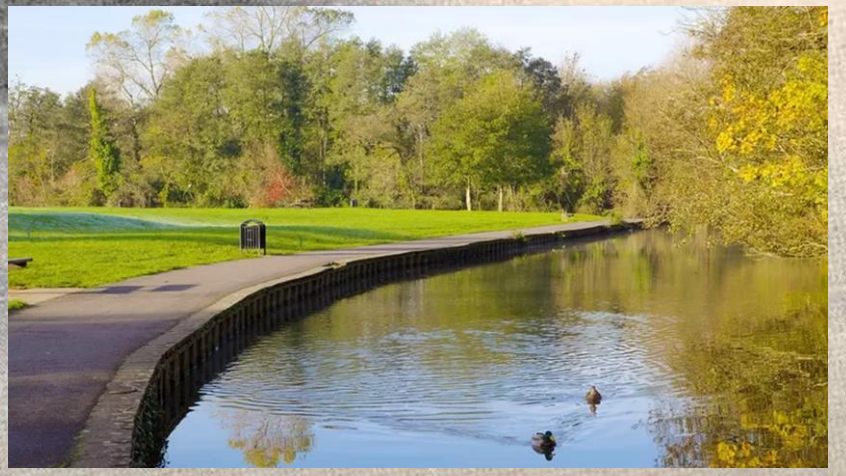


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COBDEN BRIDGE
THIS BRIDGE
WAS THROWN OPEN AND DEDICATED TO
THE FREE USE OF THE PUBLIC FOR EVER
BY
JAMES.E.THOROLD ROGERS.Esq. M.P.
CHAIRMAN OF THE
NATIONAL LIBERAL LAND COMPANY LIM^D
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE MAYOR AND
OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION
OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTHAMPTON
.ON THE 27TH DAY OF JUNE.1883.

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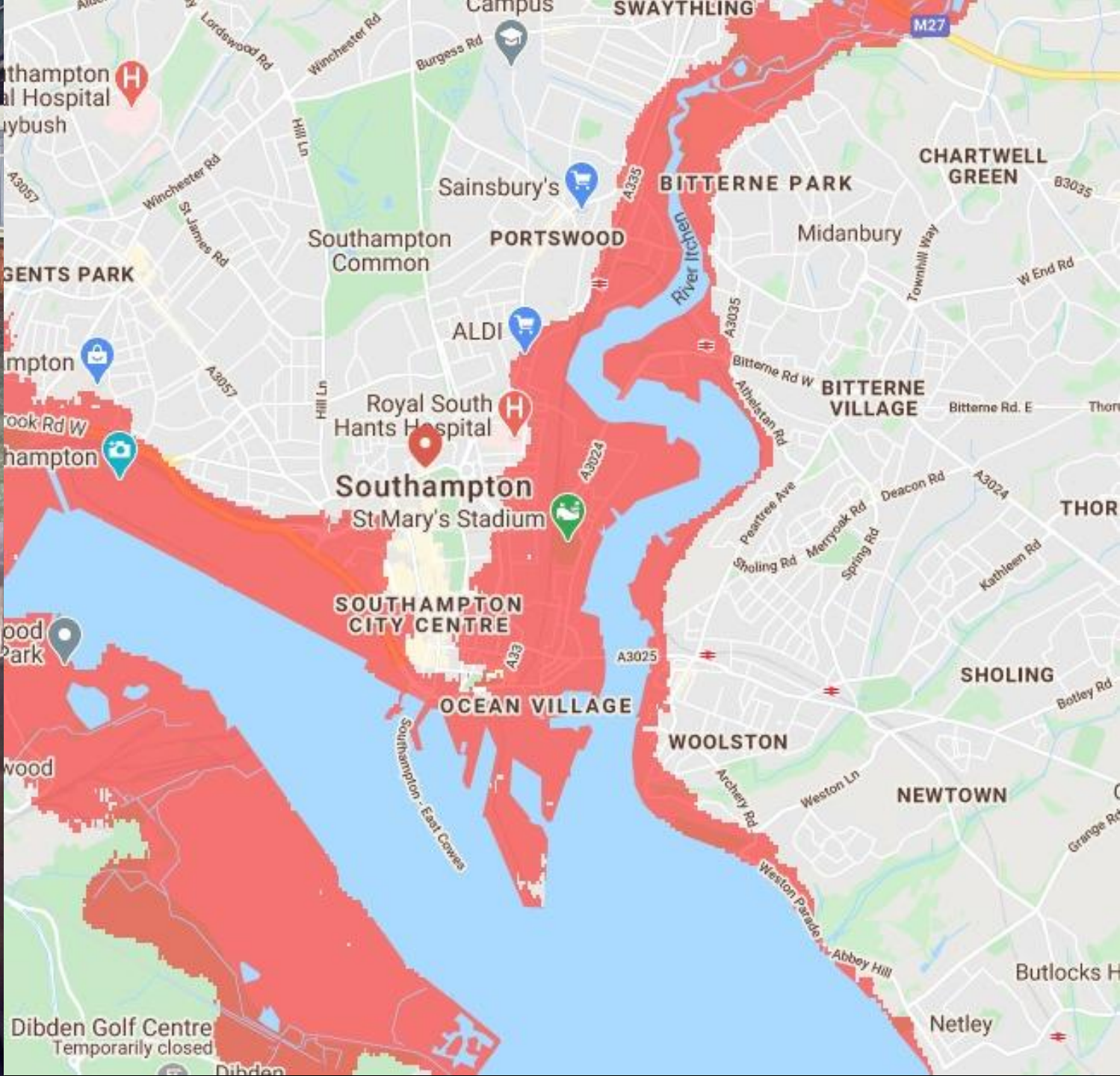


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Over to you...

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Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton Scrutiny Inquiry

06 October 2022 – Meeting 1

Introduction

Sam Foulds, Southampton City Council Flood Risk Management Team Leader

Cara Brims, Southampton City Council Flood Risk Officer

Meeting 1: Introduction, context and background

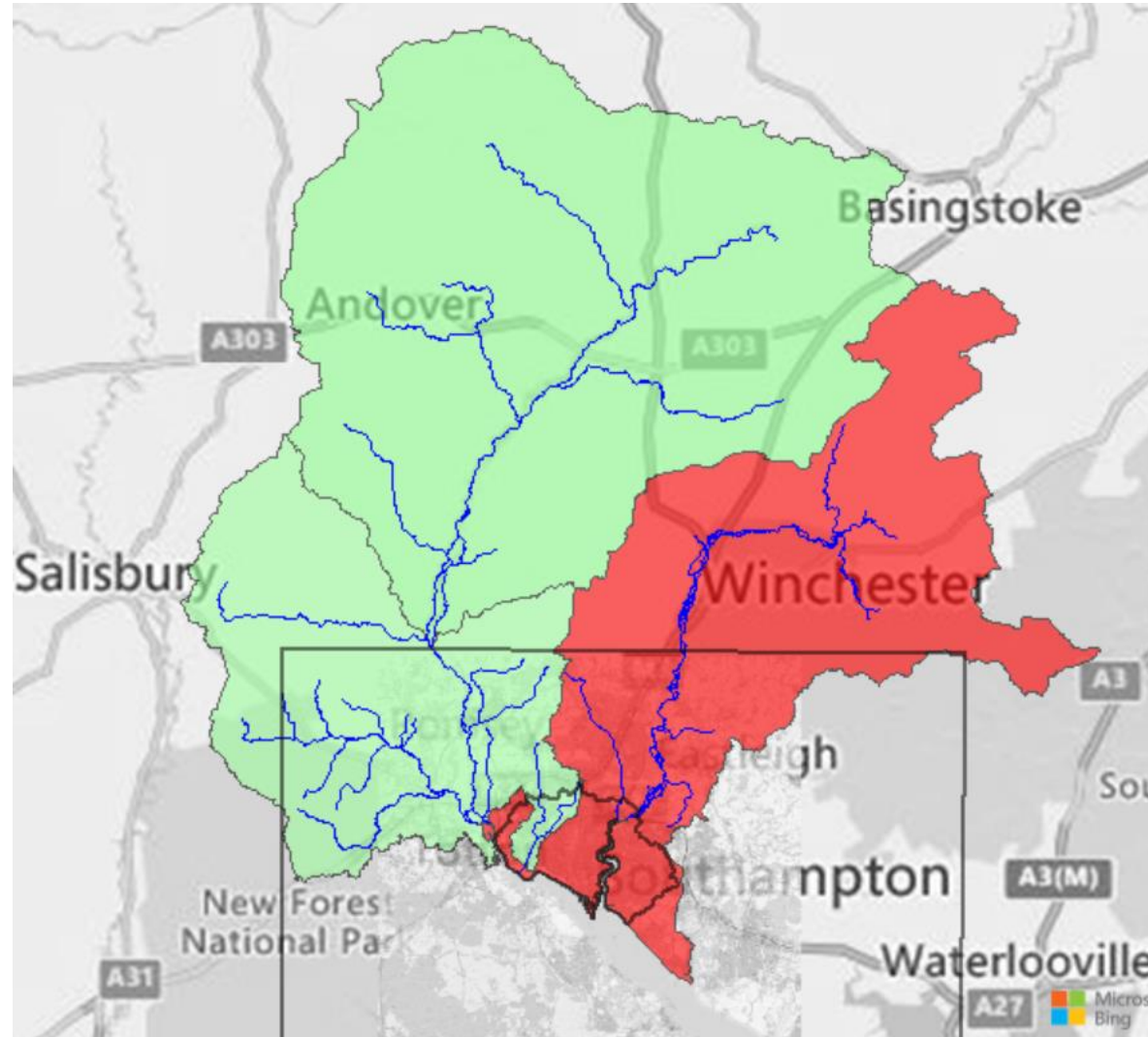
- Ownership
- Uses of the river
- Responsibilities
- Rules governing the river

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Context

Context: River Itchen Catchment

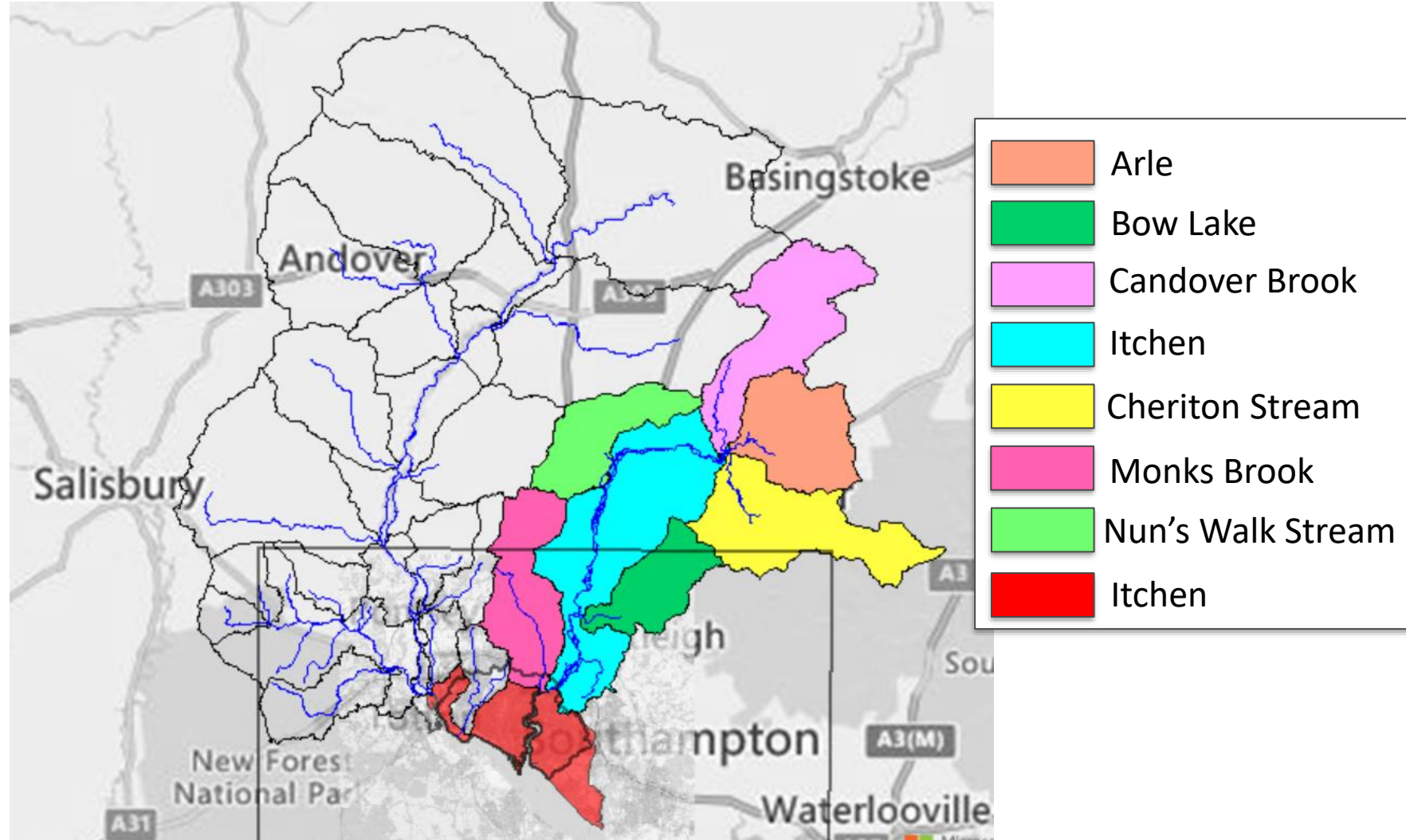
- Southampton is split between two primary river catchments: the River Test and River Itchen.
- Water is received from large areas of Hampshire.
- The rivers are tidal for much of Southampton.



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Context: River Itchen Sub-Catchments

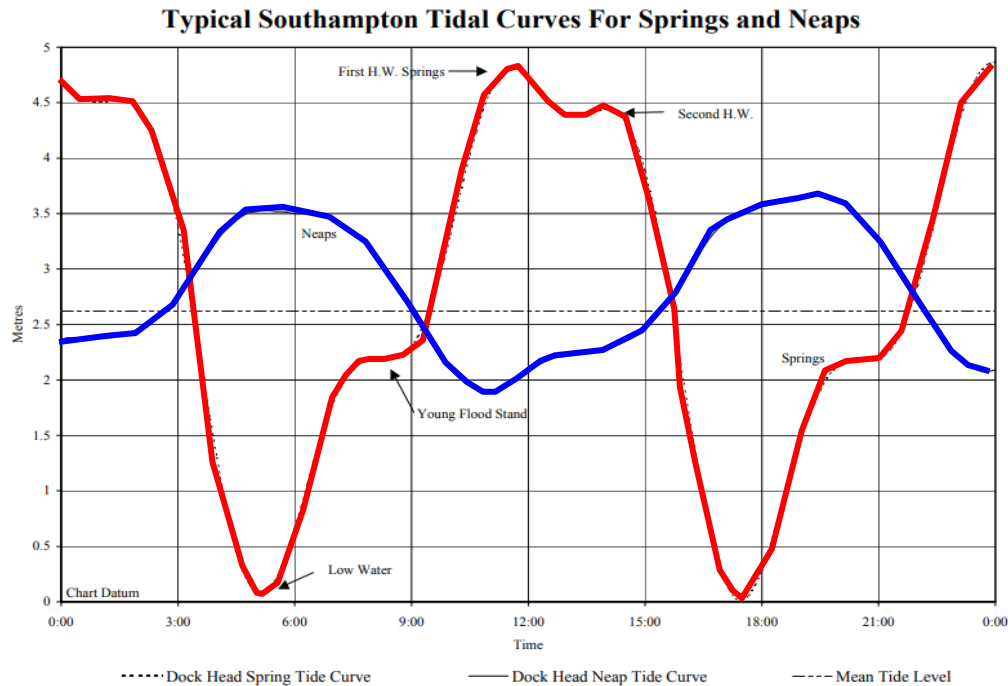
- Both the River Test and River Itchen are formed by multiple smaller river catchments.
- There are 8 tributary catchments feeding the River Itchen.
- In Southampton these are:
 - Monks Brook
 - River Itchen (upstream Woodmill)
 - Itchen Estuary (downstream Woodmill)



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Context: Fluvial and Tidal Itchen

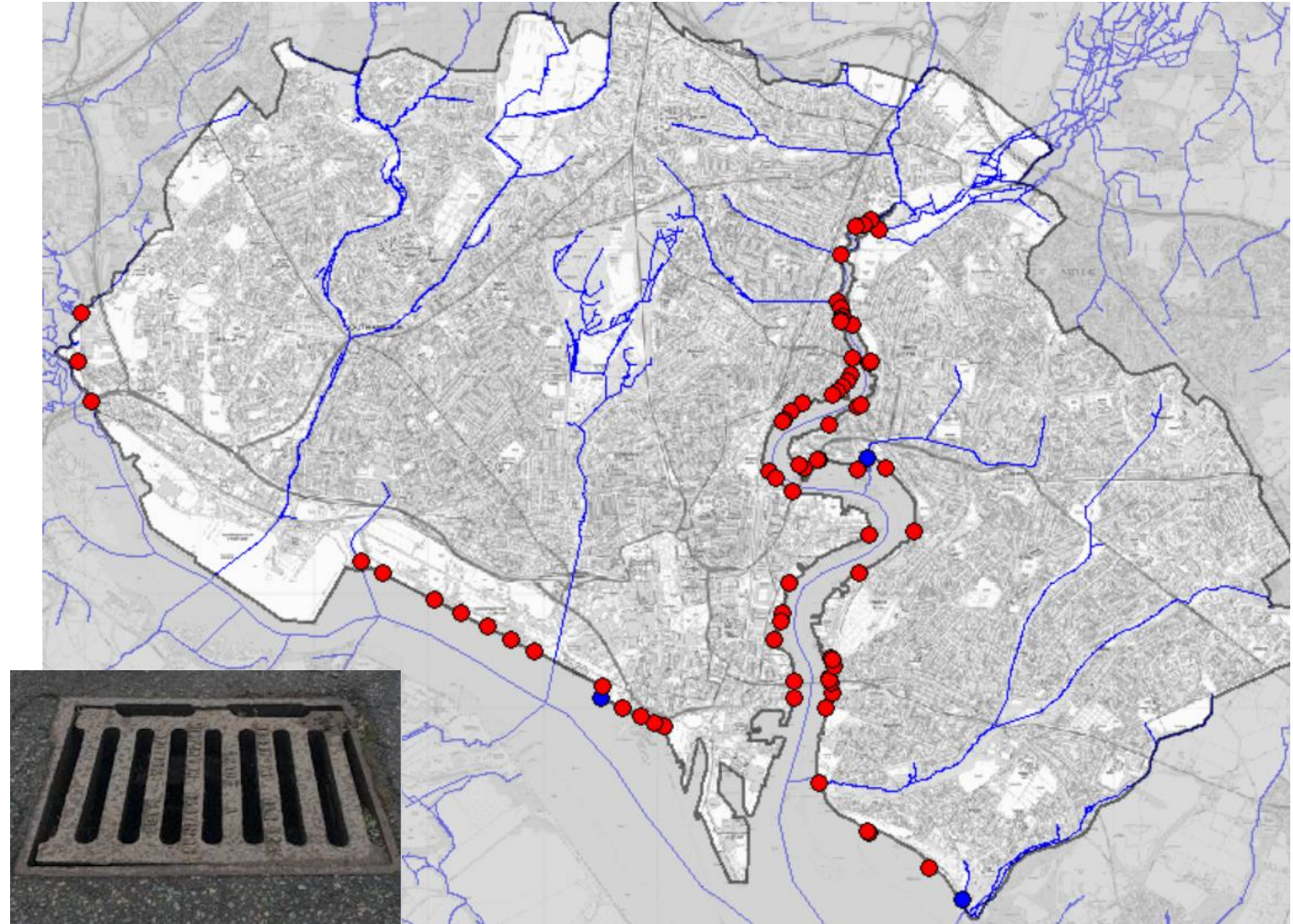
- Woodmill bridge marks switch between fluvial and tidal Itchen.
- Southampton has a unique tidal system with double high water.
- Tide pattern alternates between springs (red) and neaps (blue).



Context: Southampton's Watercourses and Drainage

- There are multiple watercourses within Southampton, including some underground.
- Land based activities can influence water quality as runoff from buildings and roads collected by surface water sewers and highway drains and directed to watercourses is typically not treated.
- 74 known surface water outfall locations into the Test and Itchen Estuary – many more private connections.
- Additional combined sewer overflows exist for emergency discharge.

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Context: Water Quality and SuDS

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) work with nature to slow the flow and recharge the ground at the point rain falls.

Can support improvements to:

- **Water quantity** – reduce water entering underground drainage.
- **Water quality** – filter out sediments, chemicals and litter before water enters a watercourse.
- **Biodiversity** – provides habitat for insects and wildlife within urban setting.
- **Amenity** – visually attractive, helping to green grey spaces.

Could help with:

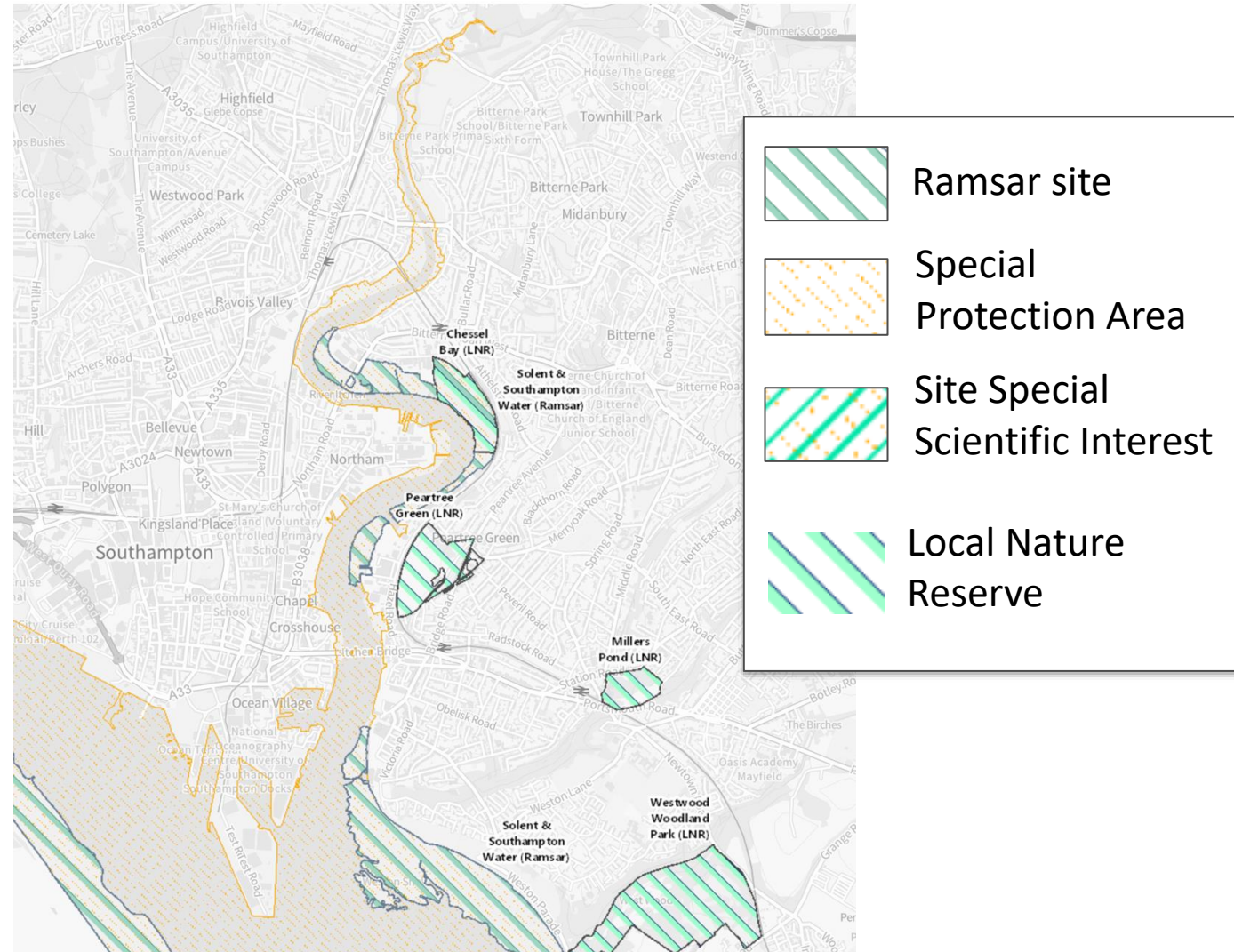
- Reducing number of combined sewer overflows
- Improving quality of highway runoff



Context: Environmental Designations

- Lee-on-the-Solent to Itchen Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - *Internationally important for over-wintering dark-bellied brent geese.*
- Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar
 - *Supports internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl, important breeding gull and tern populations, rare invertebrates and plants.*
- Solent and Southampton Water Special Areas of Protection (SPA)
 - *Regularly used by several species of gull, tern, geese, plover and godwit.*
- Chessel Bay Local Nature Reserve

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Defra Magic Map - (c) Crown Copyright and database rights 2022. Ordnance Survey 100022861.

Ownership

Ownership: The Crown Estate

- **Complex with many different land interests.**
- The Crown Estate own and manage the majority of the foreshore (area between mean high water and mean low water marks) and the bed of the estuary.
- **Key roles:**
 - Share knowledge and data.
 - Provide licences for extraction of marine sand and gravel.
 - Lease and licence tidal land and seabed for port and harbour infrastructure, moorings and marinas, cables, pipelines and outfalls.

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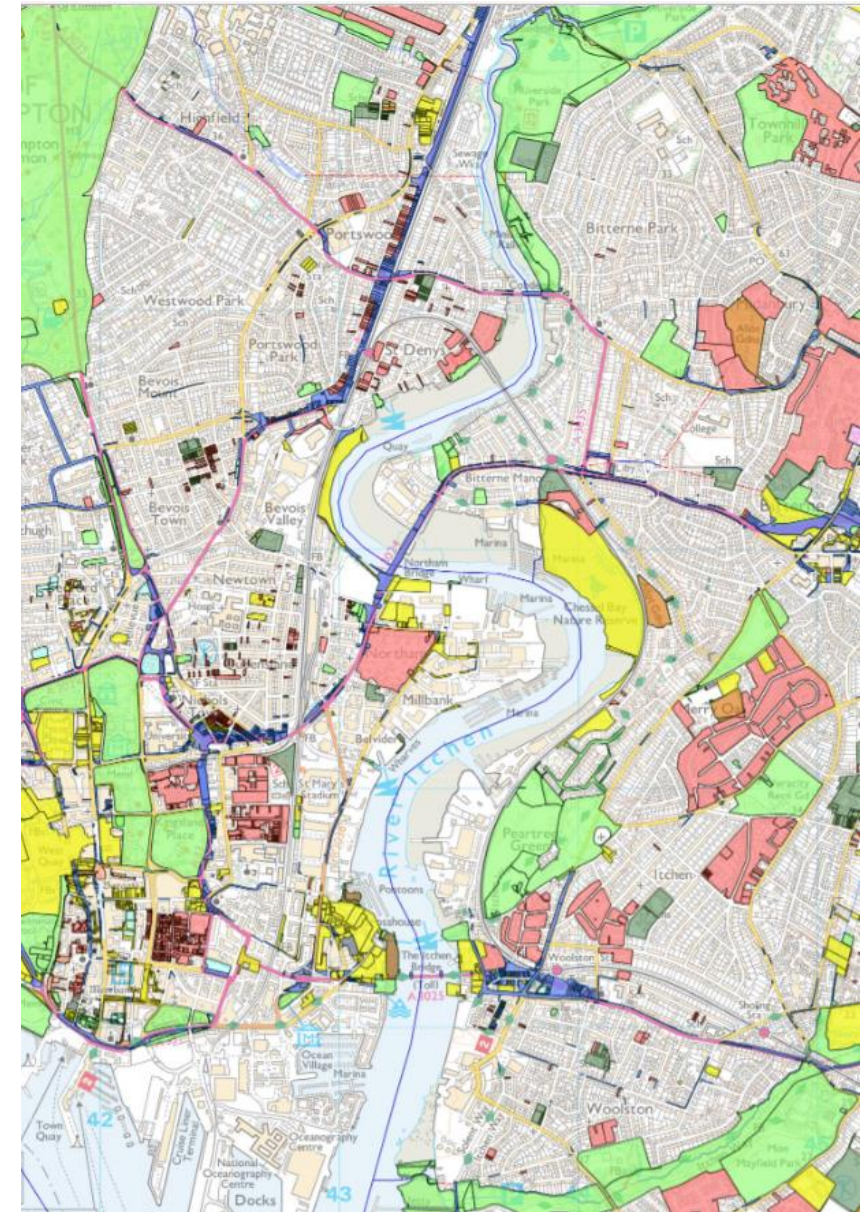


Ownership: Private

- The majority of land adjacent to the River Itchen is privately owned by multiple individual landowners.
- Key commercial and industrial areas exist in the Lower Itchen to Southampton Water:
 - Aggregate processing and supply
 - Marinas and wharves for boat building, repair and storage
 - Scrap metal processing
- Key areas of residential ownership:
 - Bitterne Park
 - St Denys
 - Meridian Gardens
 - Chapel Riverside
 - Ocean Village
 - Centenary Quay

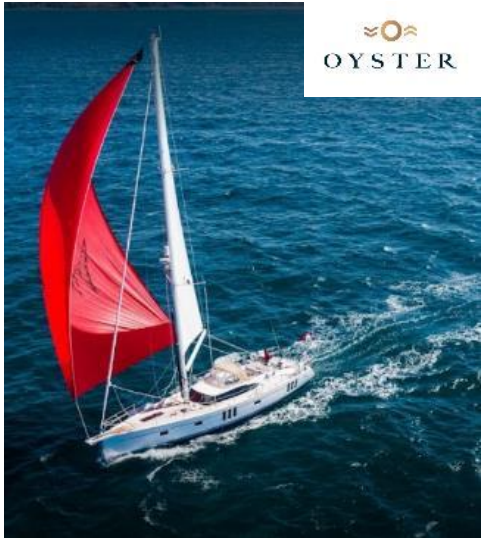
Ownership: Southampton City Council

- Southampton City Council own small areas of land along the River Itchen and small areas of mudflat.
- Ownership where there is access to the waterside includes:
 - Riverside Park
 - Janaway Gardens
 - Pettinger Gardens
 - Priory Hard (Priory Road)
 - Mudflat along Mount Pleasant Industrial Estate (including the Boardwalk from Horseshoe Bridge to Northam Bridge)
 - Mudflat at Chessel Bay Nature Reserve
 - Crosshouse car park
 - Mudflats at Weston Shore



Uses of the River

Uses of the river



Uses of the river

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ST DENYS BOAT CLUB



A city of opportunity where everyone thrives



Uses of the river



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Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and Responsibilities

- There is **no single organisation** that oversees the management of all watercourses, estuaries or bodies of water.
- Different organisations and landowners have different roles and responsibilities – e.g. water management and pollution.
- Key organisations include:
 - Southampton City Council
 - Environment Agency
 - Southern Water
 - Associated British Ports
 - Riparian Landowners
 - The Crown Estate
 - Marine Management Organisation
 - Natural England

Responsibilities: Southampton City Council

- **Planning and Local Plan:**
 - Management of (non-permissible) development (to Low Water Mark).
 - Managing the interface between marine and terrestrial.
 - Develops policy for biodiversity, flooding, sustainable drainage, water quality, water quantity, etc.
- **Lead Local Flood Authority:**
 - Consenting and enforcement powers for ordinary watercourses.
 - Management of flood risk from surface water, ordinary watercourses and groundwater.
 - Ensure sustainable drainage is included within all major development applications (benefit to water quantity, quality, biodiversity and amenity)
- **Environmental Health:**
 - Assist in regulation of pollution incidents and contamination.

Responsibilities: Southampton City Council



- **Ecology and Biodiversity:**
 - Member of Solent Marine Sites management group – for monitoring and protection of internationally designated marine sites for the habitats and species they support.
- **Parks and Open Spaces:**
 - Riparian landowner for watercourses that cross through Southampton’s parks and open spaces.
- **Emergency Planning:**
 - Manage the Coastal Pollution Plan - provides a framework for an effective response to any pollution incident in the Southampton City Council area, based on guidance from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

Responsibilities: Environment Agency



- Managing the risk of flooding risk from main rivers, reservoirs, estuaries and the sea.
- Responsible for:
 - Regulating major industry and waste
 - Including storm water overflows
 - Treatment of contaminated land
 - Water quality and resources
 - Including abstraction licences for rivers
 - Fisheries
 - Inland river, estuary and harbour navigations
 - Conservation and ecology
- Priorities to:
 - Work with others to manage the use of resources.
 - Increase resilience to the risks of flooding and coastal erosion.
 - Protect and improving water, land and biodiversity.
 - Improve the way they work as a regulator to protect people and the environment and support sustainable growth.

Responsibilities: Southern Water



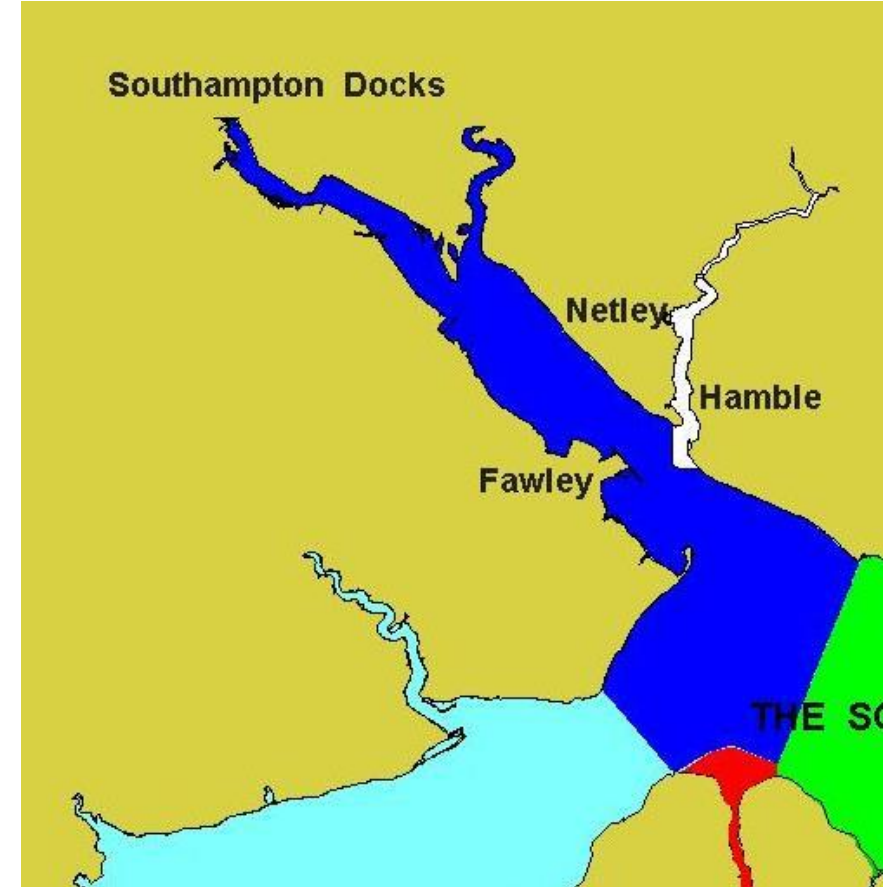
- Freshwater and waste water supplier for Southampton.
- Freshwater supply:
 - Southampton East – 52% river abstraction (Test and Itchen), 48% groundwater (chalk aquifer)
 - Southampton West – 100% river abstraction (Test and Itchen)
- Wastewater treatment centres :
 - Millbrook
 - Portswood
 - Woolston
- Responsible for managing storm overflows – discharging excess water during heavy or prolonged rainfall when the network becomes overwhelmed to prevent flooding to property. Water in storm overflows is usually very diluted due to surface water.

Responsibilities: Associated British Ports



- The Statutory and Competent Harbour Authority for Southampton.
- Manage access restrictions, speeds and general activities within the Harbour Authority area of jurisdiction.
- Key responsibilities:
 - Ensure that the waters are managed efficiently and effectively to maintain navigational safety.
 - Facilitate open use of the port and ensure no damage is caused to the marine environment through port activities.

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Responsibilities: Riparian Landowners

- Those with a watercourse running through, adjacent or under (in a culvert) their land.
- Key responsibilities:
 - Report incidents of flooding, pollution or unusual change in flow of water to the Environment Agency
 - Let water flow naturally
 - Prevent pollution – including disposal of waste water, chemicals, garden waste or anything else that could harm the watercourse.
 - Protect wildlife
- If planning works in or around a watercourse, owner must obtain a Flood Risk Activities Permit from the Environment Agency (if main river) or Ordinary Watercourse Land Drainage Consent from Lead Local Flood Authority (if ordinary watercourse) prior to starting.

Responsibilities: Marine Management Organisation



Marine
Management
Organisation

- The MMO is responsible for marine licensing in English waters.
- Many activities that take place in and around the sea require a marine licence. An MMO licence will be required for:
 - Construction
 - Dredging
 - Deposit of substance/ object
 - Removal of substance/ object
 - Incineration of substance/ object
 - Sinking of any vessel/ floating container
 - Use of explosives
- They consult:
 - **Natural England** – Responsible for designation of national and international nature conservation sites. Statutory consultee in respect of SSSI, SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites as well as protected species.
 - **Environment Agency**

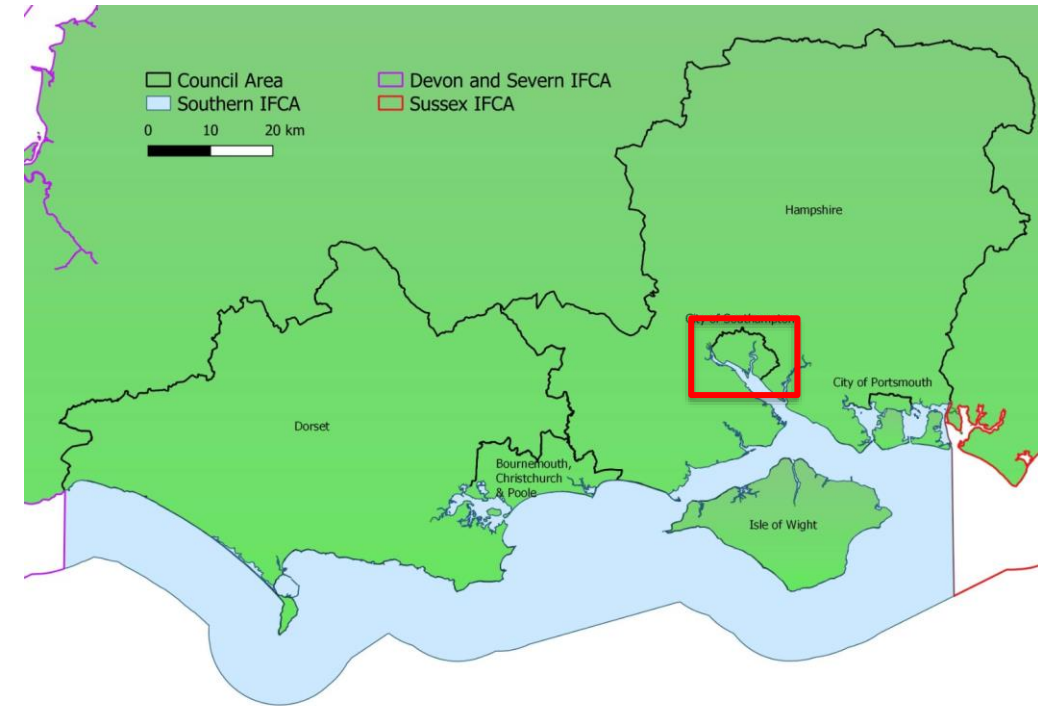
Responsibilities: Southern IFCA



- Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities will lead, champion and manage a sustainable marine environment and inshore fisheries, by successfully securing the right balance between social, environmental and economic benefits to ensure healthy seas, sustainable fisheries and a viable industry.

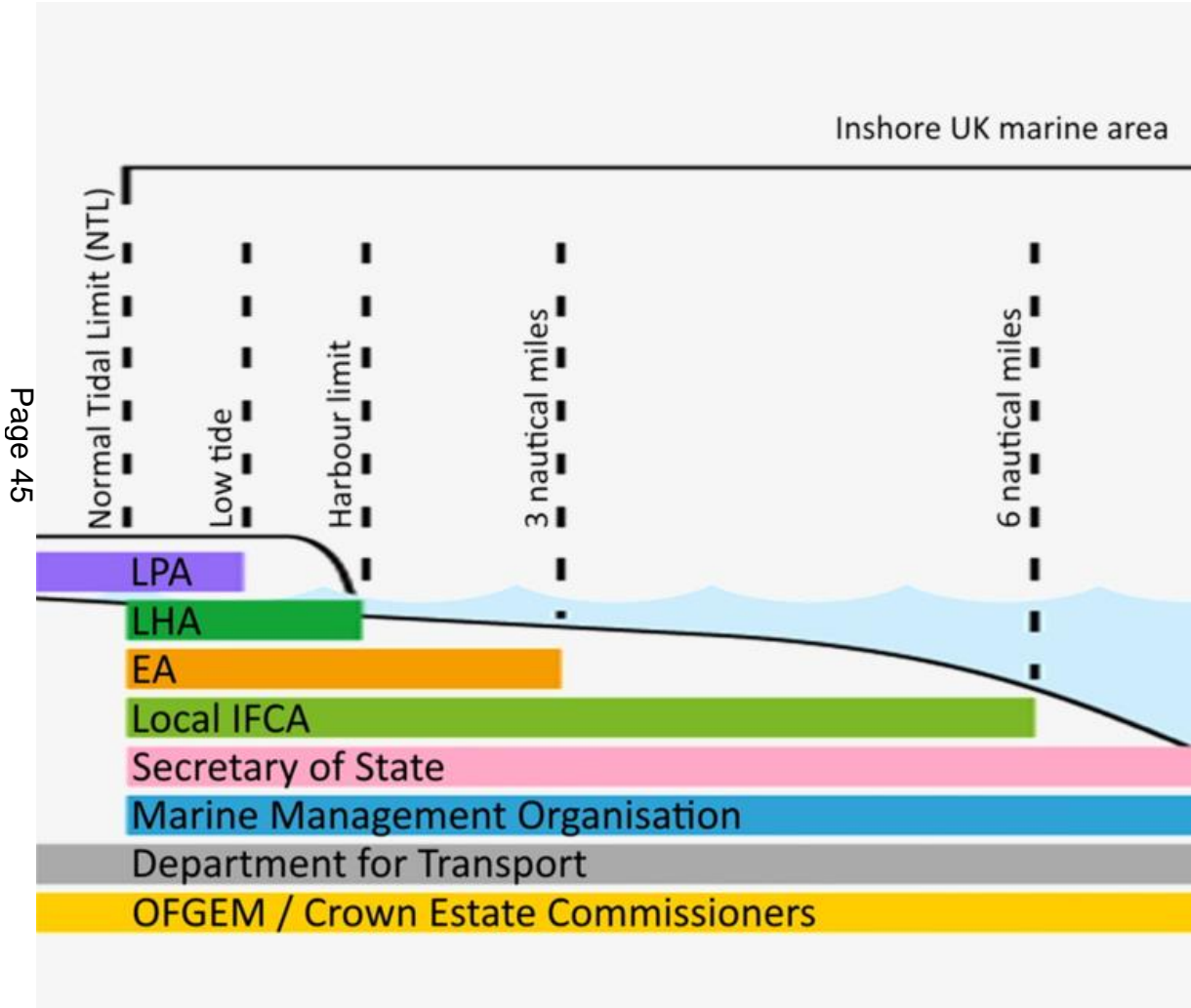
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- They:
 - Manage the exploitation of sea fisheries resources in its district.
 - Seek to ensure than the conservation of any MCZ in the district are furthered.



Rules governing the River

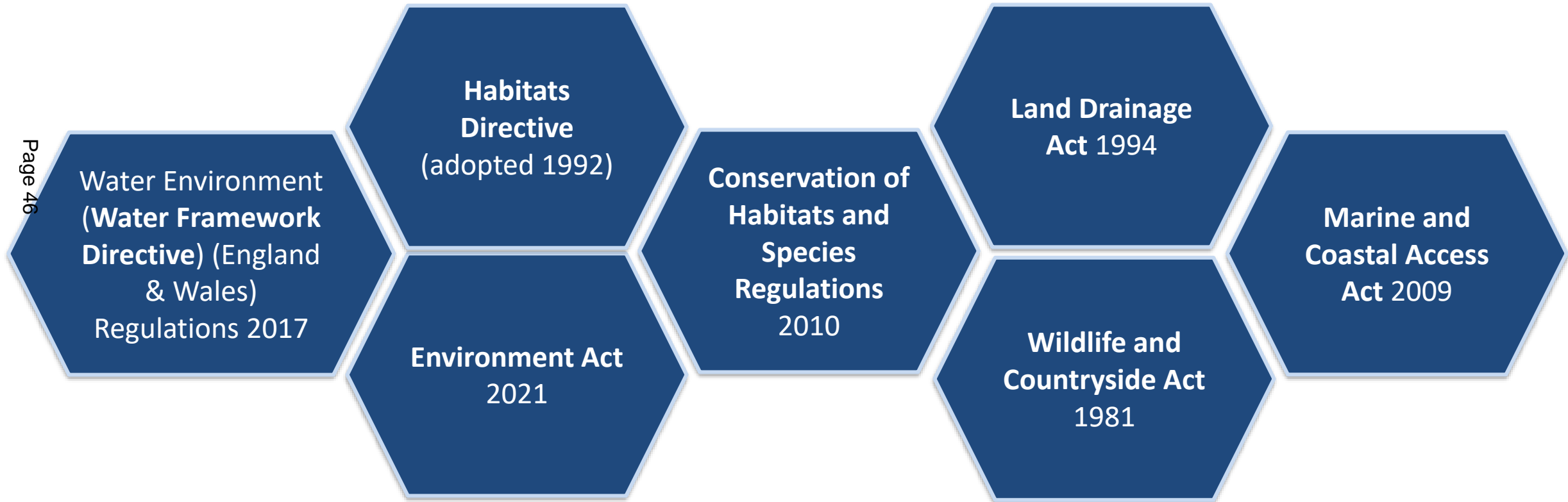
Rules governing the river



- **LPA** (Planning Permission) - jurisdiction over areas to the low water mark.
- **LHA** (Harbour Works Consent) - jurisdiction within harbour limits.
- **MMO** (consent) – jurisdiction from the mean high water spring tide.
- **EA** (Flood Risk Activities Environmental Permit) for works in or within 8m of a Main River.
- Natural England (Statutory consultee for areas of environmental importance).

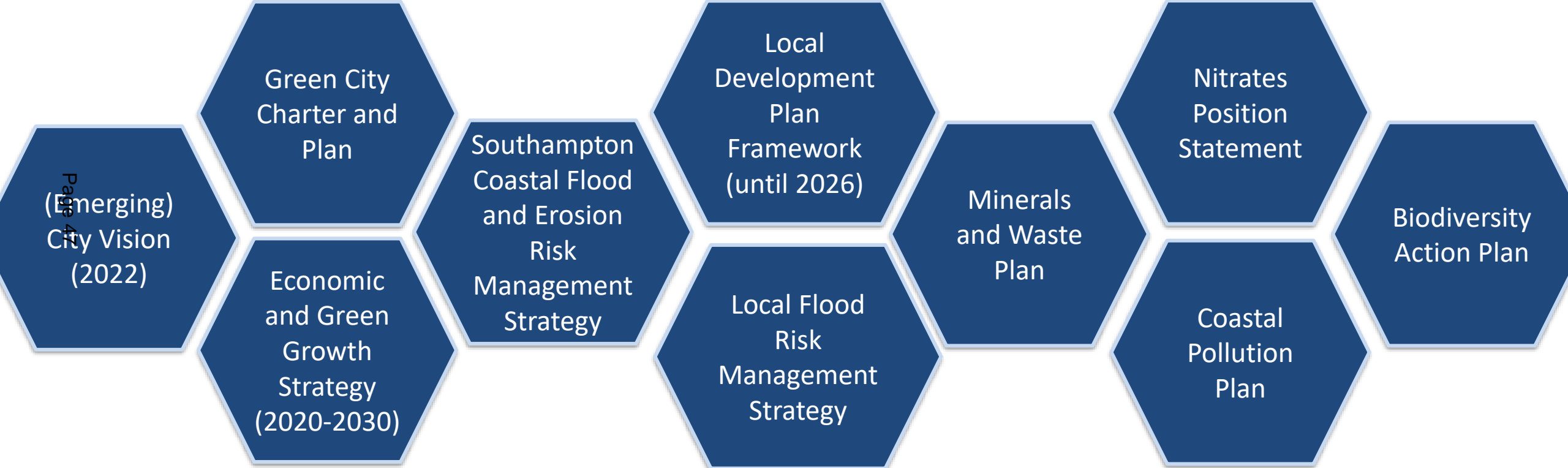
Rules governing the river

- Lots of Directives, Acts and Regulations which cover the River Itchen, covering water, the environment, biodiversity, drainage and flooding. These include but are not limited to:



Strategies, Policies and Plans: SCC

- The Council have several visions, plans, frameworks and strategies which cover different aspects of the River Itchen. These include but are not limited to:



Strategies, Policies and Plans: Wider than SCC

- **Solent European Marine Sites Management Plan** sets out schemes with the primary focus of managing operations and activities taking place within a European marine site, promoting its sustainable use.
- **North Solent Shoreline Management Plan** is a high level, non-statutory, policy document that sets out a framework for the management of over 386km of coastline and coastal defences. Applies one of four management polices to each 'Unit':
 - Hold the Line
 - Advance the Line
 - Managed Realignment
 - No active intervention
- The **Government's 25 Year Environment Plan** sets out its commitment to a comprehensive and long-term approach to protecting and enhancing nature. The wider environment ambition set out in the plan is to leave the environment in a better state than found within a generation.

Strategies, Policies and Plans: Partners

- **Environment Agency's River Basin Management Plan** – drafted in 2022 for the protection and improvement of the water environment.
- **Environment Agency's Test and Itchen Abstraction Licensing Strategy** – 2019 to manage water resources sustainably.
- **Southern Water's Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP)** (in draft for consultation 2022) - long-term investment plans for drainage and wastewater management.
- **MMO South Marine Plan** – 2016 a guide for those who use and regulate the marine area to encourage sustainable development while considering the environment, economy and society.
- **ABP Port of Southampton Master Plan** - 2009-2030 sets out what they consider needs to be done in the interests of the Port and the community it serves, including investment, jobs, environmental and economic sustainability and community.

Thank You.

River Itchen Inquiry Survey Report

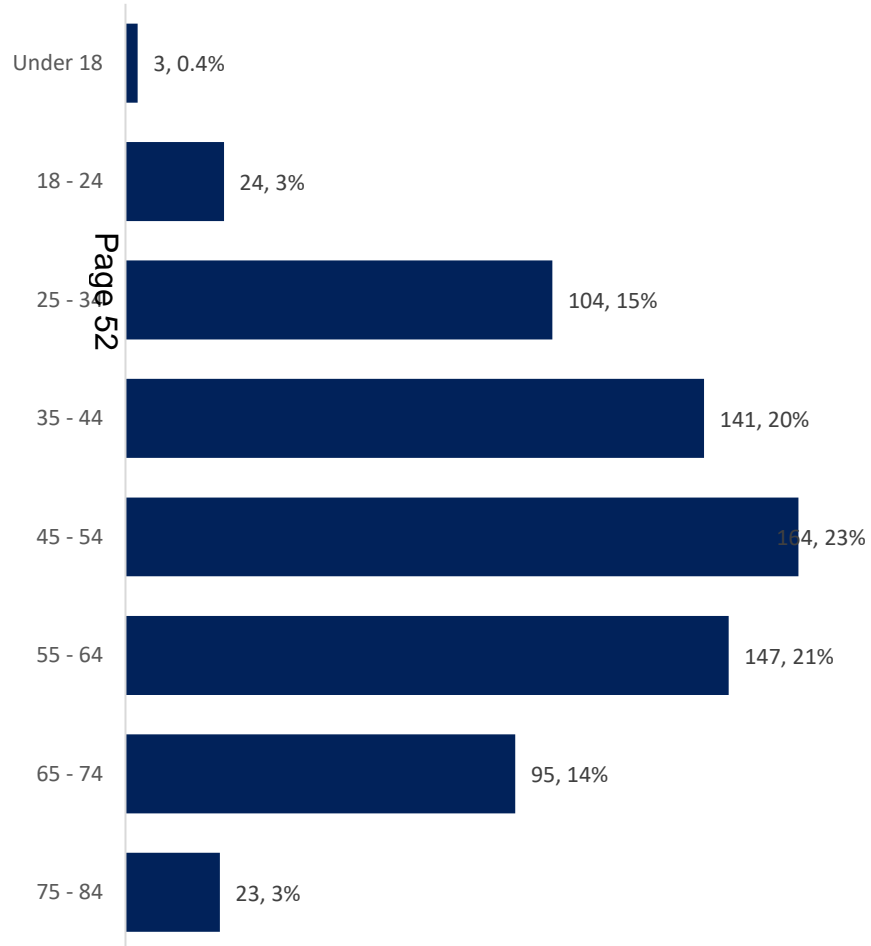
Interim quantitative results summary

Data, Intelligence & Insight Team – October 2022

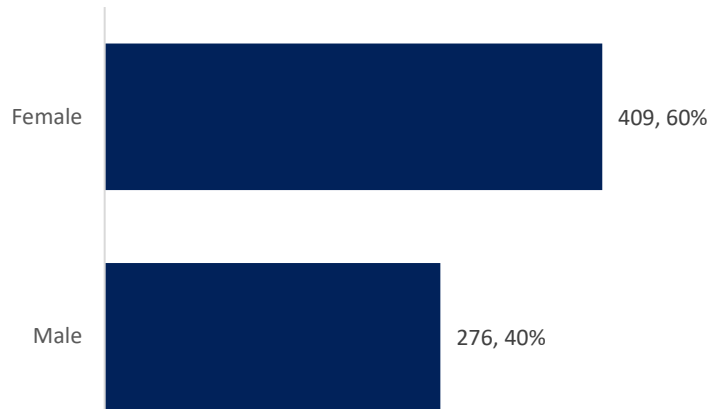
Respondents

Total respondents: **728**

Age:



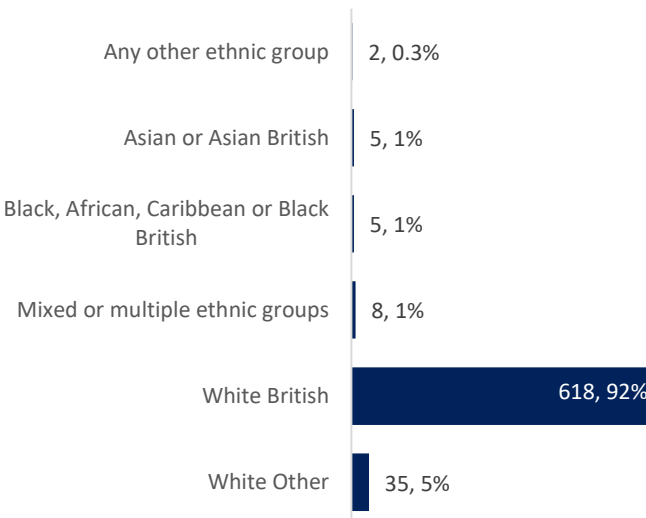
Sex:



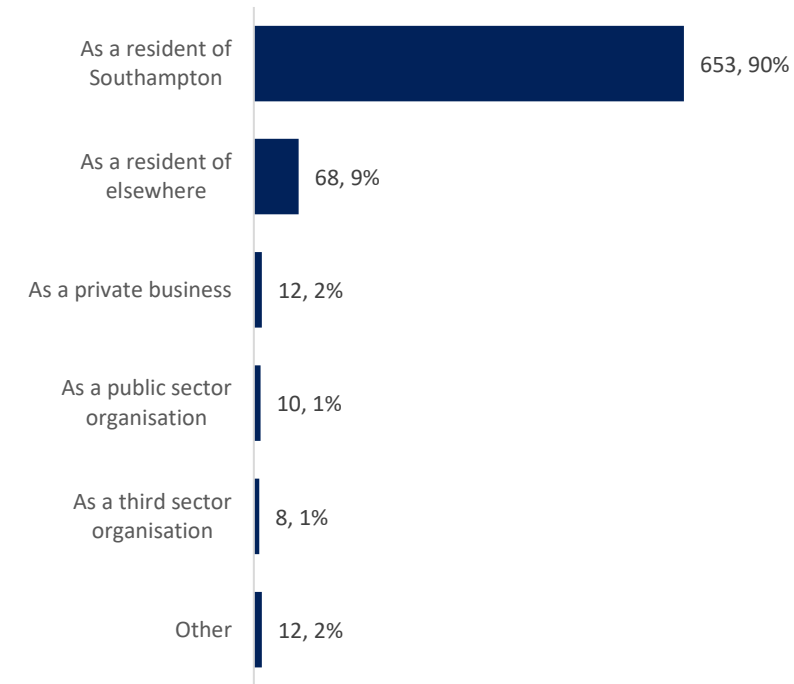
Disability:



Ethnicity:



Interest in the survey:





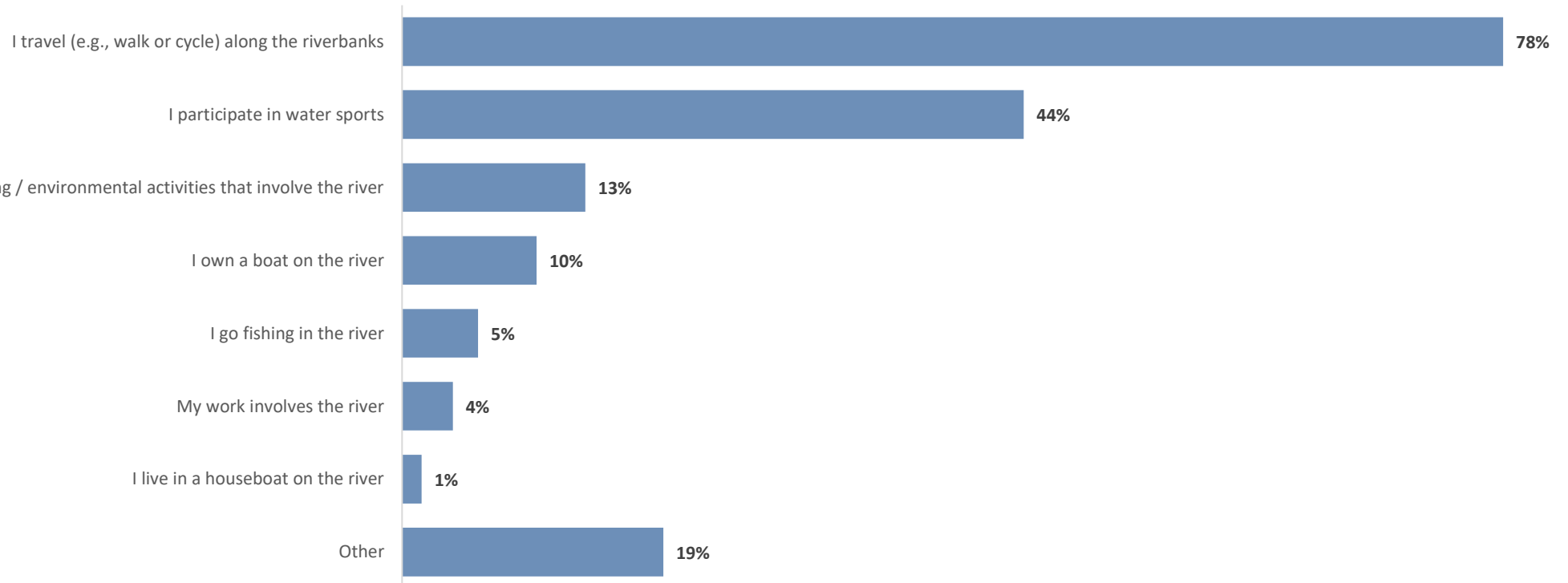
- Key findings:**
- The majority of respondents use the River Itchen to travel along the riverbanks (78%)
 - Just under half of respondents also selected that they participate in water sports on the river (44%)

The detail:

Question: How do you use the River Itchen in Southampton?

Overall:

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Key findings: • Respondents selected that their top development or improvement to the River Itchen was improvements to water quality (87%), followed by improvements to natural habitats and biodiversity (75%)

The detail:

Question: What developments or improvements would you like to happen to the River Itchen in Southampton?

Overall:

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