



# CDM DIFFERENTLY CASE STUDY



2025

CDM 20-20 Case Study:  
The River's Trust Movement



**The  
Rivers  
Trust**

## The River's Trust Movement

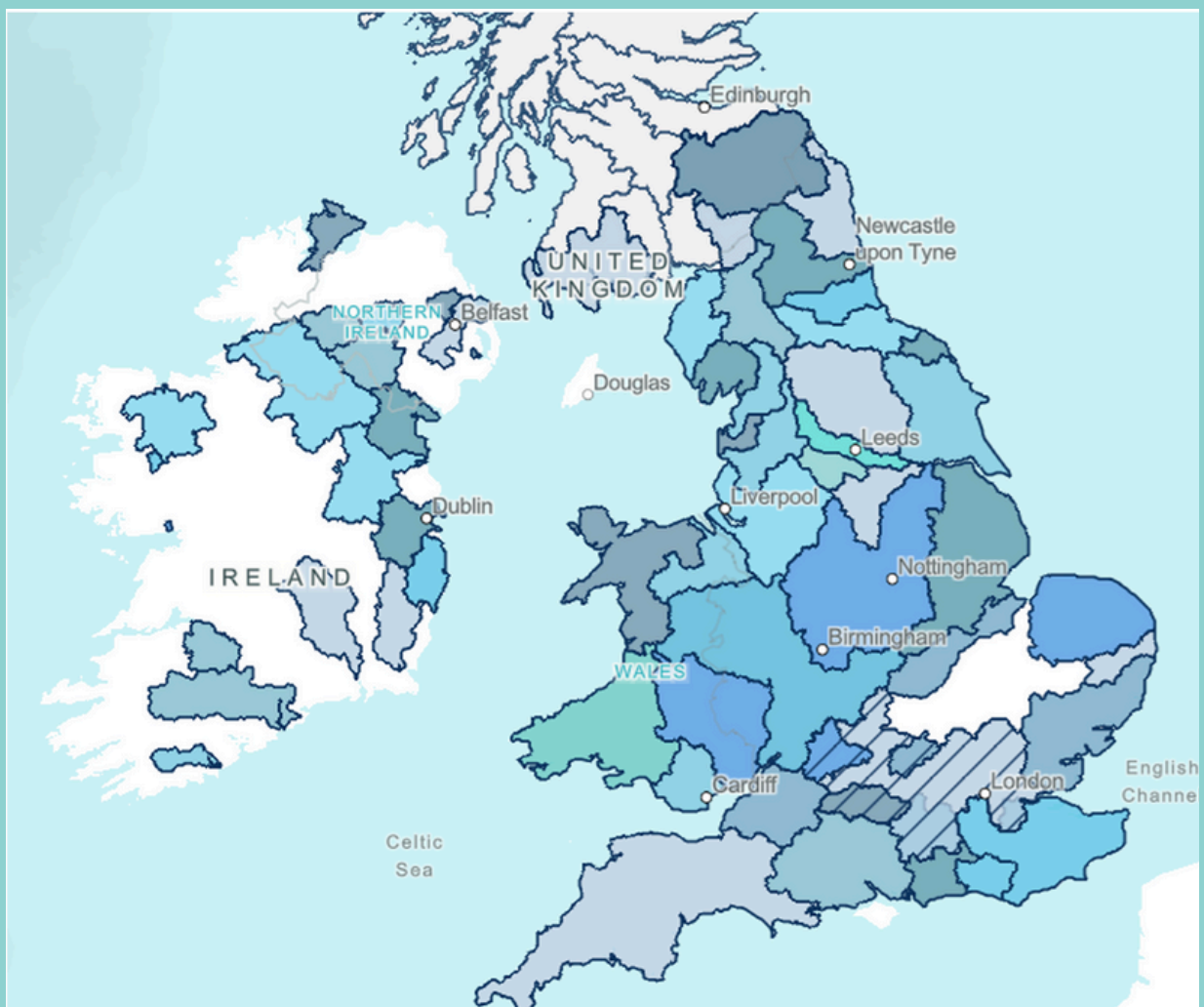
The Rivers Trust is the umbrella organisation for over 60 Rivers Trusts in the UK and Ireland.

We work with our member Trusts to make our shared vision a reality: wild, healthy, natural rivers, valued by all.

Many of our member Trusts are involved in construction activity including river restoration, weir removal and natural flood management. Dependant on the source of funding, we can work on projects as clients, designers or contractors.

In 2021 our movement delivered 108 fish passage schemes, 18 sustainable drainage schemes and 25 wetland schemes.

The size and capacity of Rivers Trusts varies significantly from the 80+ strong Westcountry Rivers Trust to those Trusts run by 1 or 2 staff.



## Working With CDM Differently

To meet a specific need amongst our members, we sourced training on the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations in 2021. When the course by our first provider was not well received by delegates, one of our member Trusts – South East Rivers Trust – recommended Tony Putzman of CDM Differently. Tony has since delivered 2 training courses to 27 delegates with more courses planned.

## CDM Training

Each CDM course has run over 2 half days with time between sessions for delegates to develop CDM Strategy Briefs for projects that they are close to. Completed Strategy Briefs are then reviewed by Tony and discussed amongst peers as part of day 2 of the course.

The course has given delegates the opportunity to discuss the requirements of the regulations and real-world applications of CDM processes. Quite rarely under CDM, delegates have been able to discuss their experiences as clients, designers and/or contractors.

Completion of the Strategy Briefs has given delegates a safe and supported opportunity to experience a tool that can become the corner stone of CDM planning and delivery. We also have a growing library of Strategy Briefs available for review by staff in the movement.

## CDM Training

The course has allowed staff from Trusts across the country to share experiences and approaches with others. This can be incredibly important for staff working in small Trusts where the opportunities for peer support can be limited or even non-existent.

Ongoing support is also being offered as part of a movement wide Community of Practice for Health, Safety and Wellbeing. The Community's on-line forum allows staff to raise questions for quick response by peers. It also gives new members of staff a place to find templates and training material.

The Community of Practice has modified the Strategy Brief template so that it is more relevant to the types of projects that Rivers Trusts deliver and highlights the common risks associated with projects delivered in and around water.

The Community of Practice plans to hold at least one dedicated session each year to discuss CDM developments and concerns.

Comments from Delegates "I found the CDM course very helpful. It was good Tony got us to think about our current projects and gave valuable pointers."