

Lower River Crane Landscape Vision

Engagement Results 2018



**Crane
Valley
Partnership**



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Introduction

The Crane Valley Partnership has embarked on an ambitious project to restore / rehabilitate 3 km of the lower River Crane, between the split with the Duke of Northumberland's River (DNR) and Cole Park Island. Instead of a bare concrete channel, often hidden from view, we want to see:

- a more natural river full of plants, fish and wildlife, running through re-landscaped parks and open spaces, with improved facilities;
- an accessible riverside path all the way from Kneller Gardens to Northcote Nature Reserve; and
- more space in the river channel for water, to reduce the risk of flooding.

Initial design ideas were introduced through a Vision for the Lower River Crane Landscape, which was completed in March 2017. This document identifies potential opportunities along the 3 km stretch for an ambitious and challenging project of improvements.

The ideas presented in the Vision document seeks to identify with the potential of the river and its relationship with the natural environment and urban surroundings. It carefully considers context and then captures the imagination. It demonstrates the future for the community, where urban living and nature co-exist and flourish within a transformed and uplifting landscape and river environment. These improvements should enrich the daily lives of the people of these local boroughs and beyond.

As part of the initial public consultation for this project to gather views and comments on the Vision, feedback was sought through a questionnaire between 23 November 2017 and 8 January 2018. This feedback will help inform the feasibility stage of the project. The results of the initial consultation are presented in this document.

Further consultation will be undertaken during the feasibility and option-eering stage of the project and continue throughout the capital works.



Figure 1 - Study Reach

Questionnaire

The questionnaire was published online and leaflets with the questions were posted to all riparian owners living along the Duke of Northumberland's River and the lower River Crane. Links to the Vision document, the project page on the Crane Valley Partnership website and an interactive storymap were provided to assist respondents in their analysis of the proposed improvements.

Six questions were asked of which the first two were required and the rest were optional. These questions are presented below in Figure 1.

Two hundred and two (202) responses were received during the six week period of which the majority (198) were answered through the online questionnaire.

Please answer the following questions:

1. What is the first part of your home postcode? [required]

2. On a scale of 1 to 10, how likely are you to support the Vision proposed? [required]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Not at all

Definitely

3. Please elaborate on the reason for your answer on Q2 above? [optional]

4. Do you have any other comments about the Vision? [optional]

6. If you would like to be kept informed of progress and invited to consultation events, please give us your contact details (email). [optional]

Figure 2 - Questions

Geographic Distribution

Respondents were asked to provide the first part of their postcode (post-code district), which allowed the generalised mapping of responses without identifying individual responses.

Responses from the postcode districts adjacent to the proposed improvement reach (TW1, TW2 and TW7) were, understandably, the most numerous with 85% of all responses received from residents living closest to the proposed project area.

The furthest away that responses were received were from Kingston-upon-Thames (KT16) to the southwest and Uxbridge (UB8) to the northwest, both areas representing 0.5% of responses.

Figure 3 shows the geographic distribution of all responses according to postcode districts with colour coding representing the percentage of responses from each district; the darker the colour the higher the number of responses. The area to which the Vision related to is highlighted in orange.

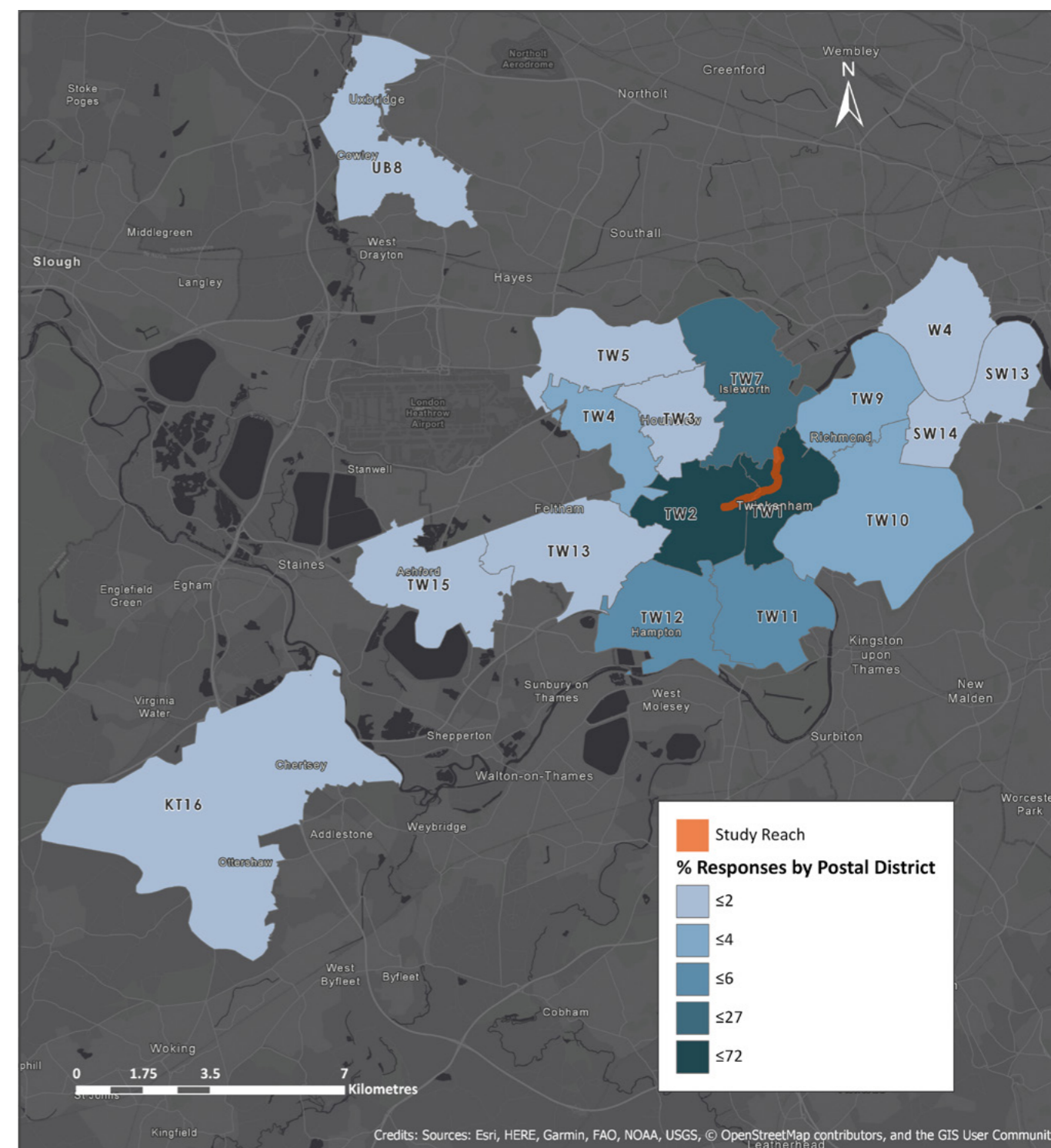


Figure 3 - Geographic distribution of responses

Level of Support

The second question gave respondents the opportunity to show their support or opposition for the Vision on a scale from 1 (opposed) to 10 (fully supportive).

The majority of respondents (72%) were fully supportive of the proposals in the Vision document, selecting 10 as their response. A further 17% selected 9 or 8 as a response. This means that 89% of respondents are at least 80% in favour of the proposals.

Of the remaining 11% of respondents, 2% selected 1 as their response and a further 2% selected 2 or 3, showing total opposition or part opposition to the proposals. A further 5% of respondents selected within the range of 7 to 4 as a response. Figure 4 shows the responses in a radial chart.

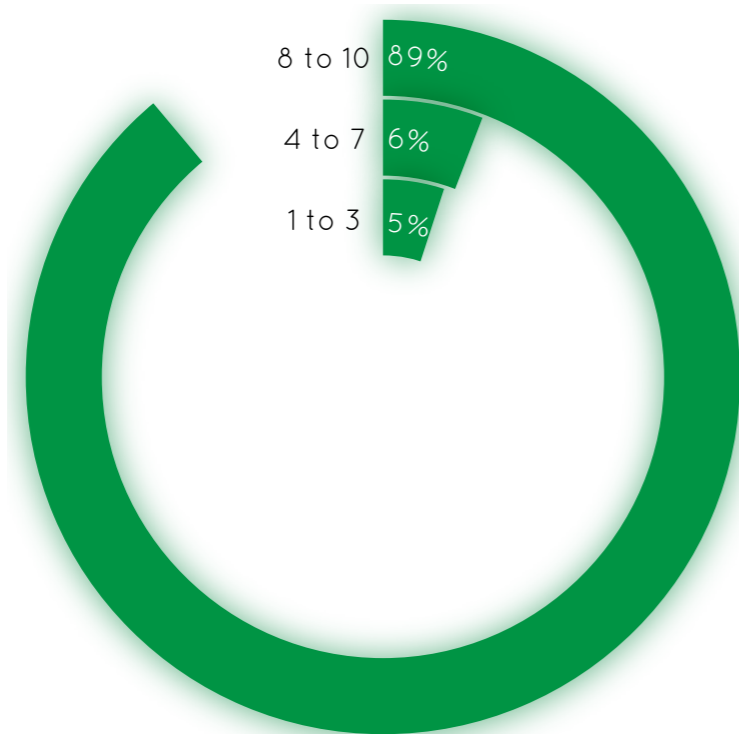


Figure 4 - Level of support for Vision

Figure 5 shows the geographic distribution of the respondents in favour and Figure 6 the distribution of those not in favour of the proposals. These maps show the raw responses without normalisation, i.e. measuring the magnitude (counts/percentage) rather than the intensity (ratios).

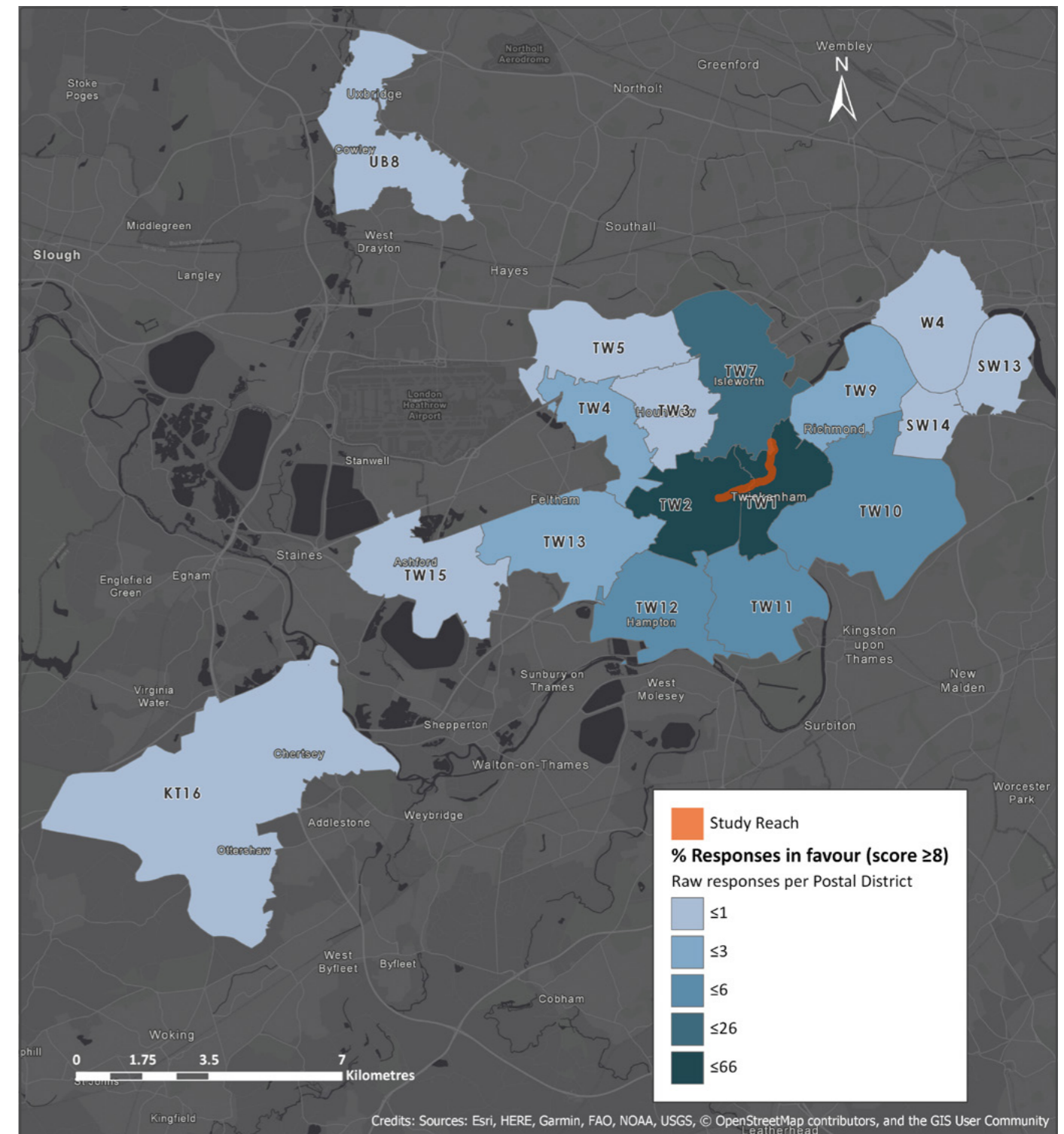


Figure 5 - Geographic distribution of responses in favour of Vision: score ≥ 8

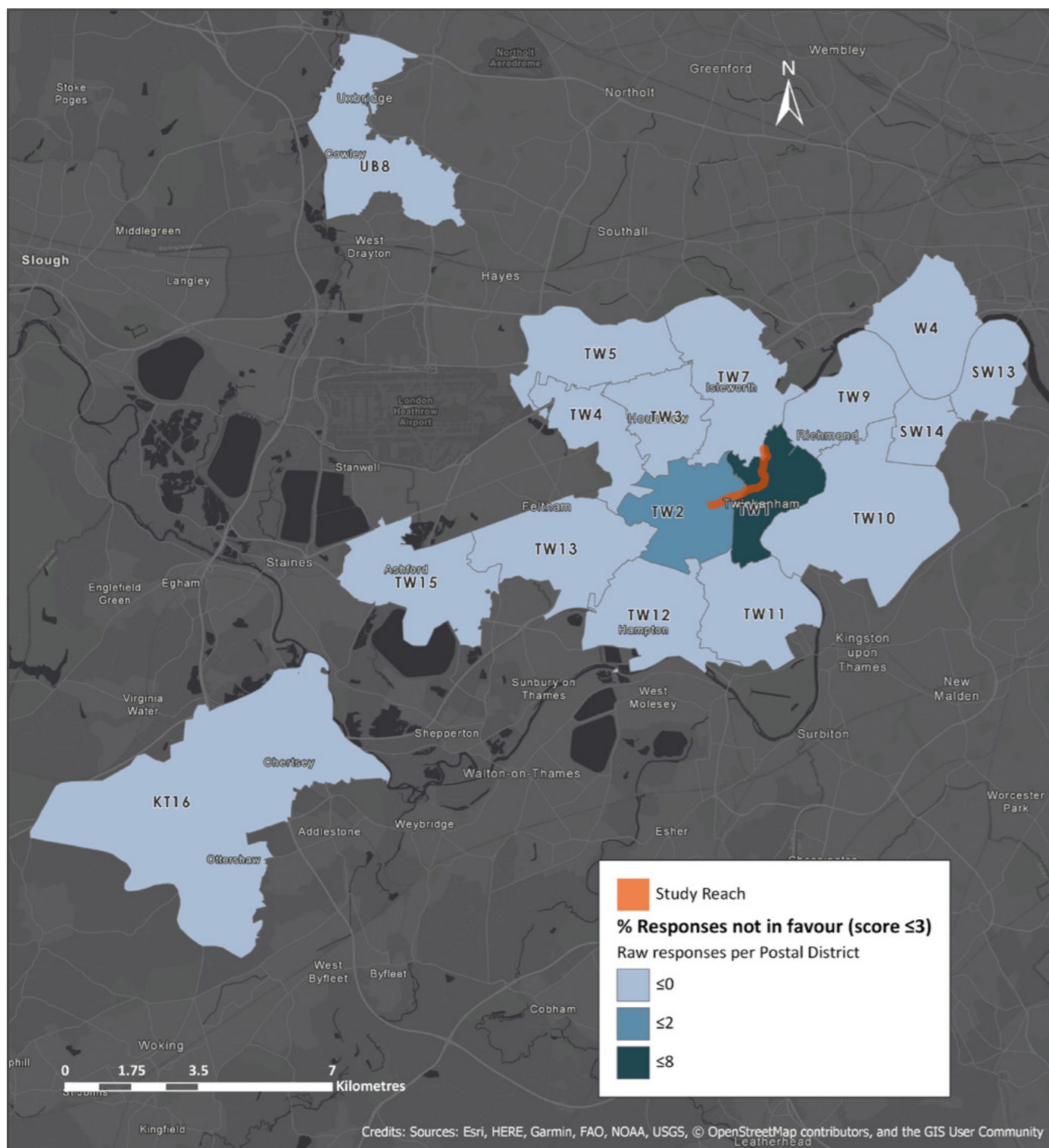


Figure 6 - Geographic distribution of responses not in favour of Vision

These maps show that the majority of respondents in favour of the Vision are from TW1 and TW2 postal districts, closest to the project area and that this support becomes less the further away from the project area the responses are. When these data are normalised using the number of responses per postal

district, it becomes clear that those living further away are more in support of the Vision, with respondents living closer to the project area slightly less supportive. The number of respondents further away were fewer and they will also not be aware of local issues of relevance to residents living close to the project area. Note that the intensity of support overall is still high.

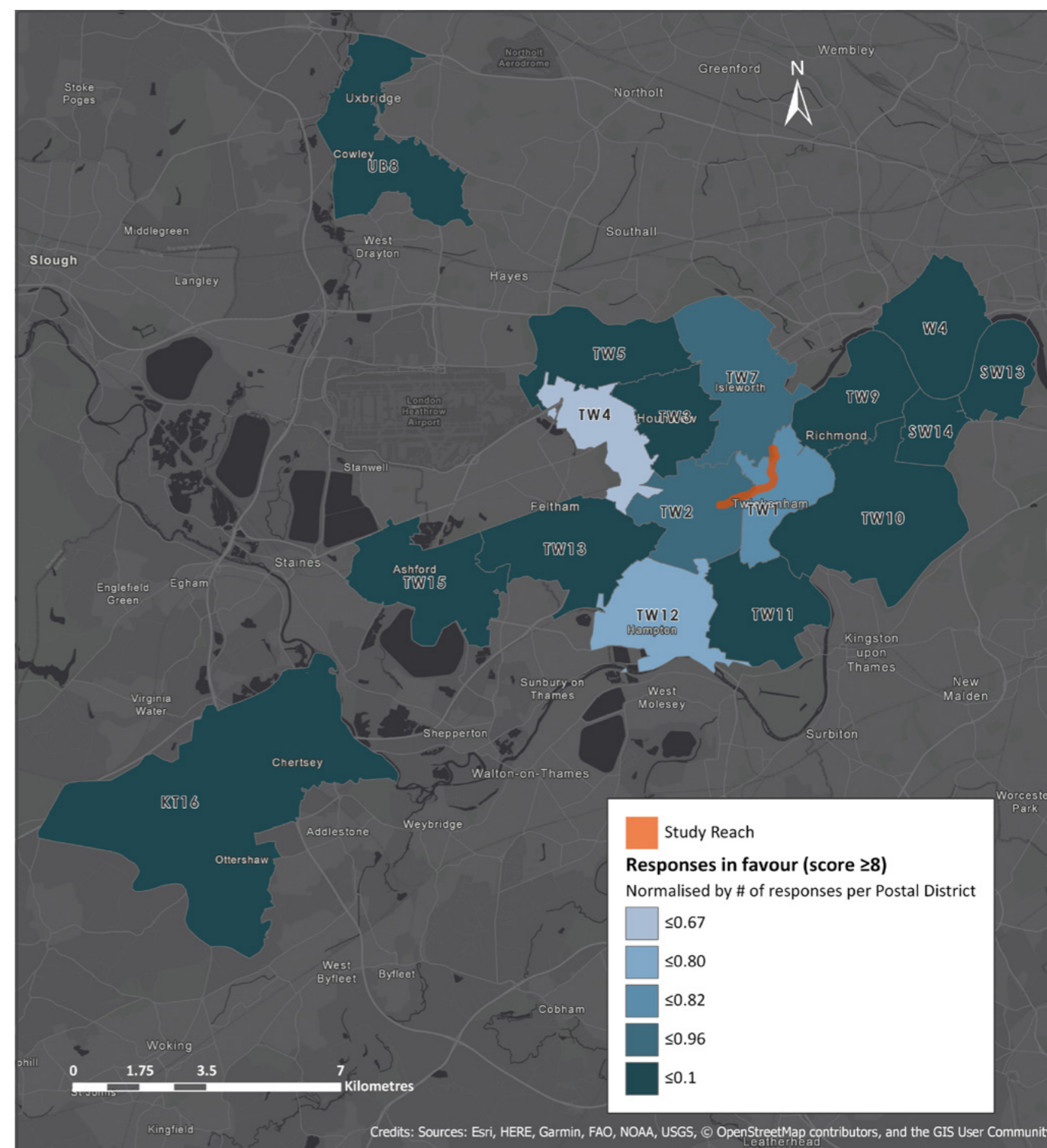


Figure 7 - Geographic distribution of responses in favour of Vision (normalised)

Reasons

Question 3 gave respondents the opportunity to give reasons for their choice of how supportive or not they were towards the Vision. Ninety-seven percent (97%) of total respondents completed this question.

8 to 10

Examining the comments of those who gave a score of 8 to 10, the following words or phrases were used often:

- Improve / Enhance / Benefit (43%)
- Wildlife (25%)
- Natural / Naturalise / Naturalising / Naturalisation (19%)
- Neglected / Forgotten / Hidden (9%)
- Green space (7%)

All of the respondents that gave a score of 8 or more were very interested in improving both the in-stream and marginal conditions of the river, as well as the surrounding area. An interest in improving access for people (walkers and cyclists) along the river was also commented on by 39% of this group of respondents.

Important to encourage wildlife, even more so in urban areas

Improve biodiversity and the river as an asset for local residents

1 to 3

Of the 5% of respondents that did not approve of the Vision (those giving a score of 3 or less), the majority (60%) were concerned about a loss of privacy, due to the indication of public access passing close to their houses. Through the comments it is evident that the majority of the concerned respondents were living close to or adjacent to Cole Park Island. Concerns were also raised that increasing footfall along current wild sections will be detrimental to wildlife and biodiversity.

There were also concerns that naturalising the river would increase flooding (30% of those indicating 3 or less in their support), noting that the lower River Crane was canalised to reduce flooding.

I am extremely concerned that the river could flood my home or burglars could wade across and break into my house

Would not want to increase footfall through the allotments due to concerns about loss of privacy, anti-social behaviour and disturbance of existing habitats

4 to 7

Many of the 6% of respondents that gave a score of between 4 and 7 were also concerned about the potential loss of privacy along the Cole Park Island reach and the potential of the disturbance to wildlife. In general respondents were positive about the potential improvements upstream of this reach.

*Prettier than it is currently
and I like the idea of more nature*

*In principle, creating a
natural walk along the river is a
lovely idea. My reservations relate to
the section on Cole Park island curity
and privacy would be compro-
mised.*

Other Comments

Respondents were given the option to add additional comments through Question 4. Sixty percent (60%) of all respondents used the opportunity.

Respondents used the opportunity to elaborate further on the reasoning for response to Question 3. The majority of respondents (88%) added further positive remarks to their support, but it should be highlighted that 11% of people did note the potential negative impact of opening up the Cole Park Island reach to public access without improved security measures.

*Proposals such as this ben-
efit all sectors of the community and
enable better appreciation and under-
standing of natural resources*

*I applaud the idea but cannot
support any initiative which jeopard-
ises our privacy and our security*

*It will be a huge benefit to
people's lives and I really hope it
goes ahead!*

*I'd like to see more details
of how the pathway is intended
to be constructed and how gar-
dens backing onto the path-
way will be affected*

Respondents were also given the opportunity to provide their contact details (via an email address) if they want to be kept informed of the progress of the project as well as continued involvement in further, more in depth consultation.

The field was completed by 74% of the respondents. Their email addresses will be kept on a secure server and only used for correspondence related to the River Crane Restoration project.

Next Steps

Funding has been secured to undertake a Feasibility Study to assess what aspects of the Vision is feasible and appropriate to take forward.

The Feasibility Study will include an assessment of the Landscape, Ecology, Hydromorphology, Social and Economic aspects and Engineering structure along the 3 km reach, as well as upstream and downstream characteristics.

The information gathered during these assessment, as well as all the comments collected through the questionnaire will form part of the information used during thi options development process of the Feasibility study.

Further engagement will be undertaken through workshops / exhibitions to allow residents and the public to further add comments to options developed. These comments will be included before any final options are presented. Costing of options will be also be provided to assist in the further planning and fund raising for the project.



Credits

Artist images produced by Astronaut Kawada

Maps produced by Ilse Steyl (Green Corridor)