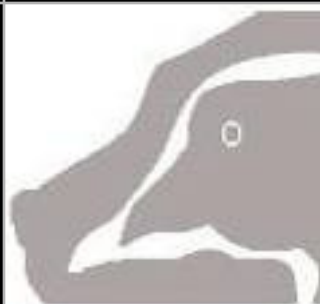




*Working to protect
and promote
sporting shooting*



since 1908



**UK Hunters delivering biodiversity targets,
increasing connectivity and therefore
providing wildlife with the flexibility it
requires to adapt to a changing climate**



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Structure

- Biodiversity and climate change commitments
- UK hunters – the resource
- Co-ordinating hunters' potential – Green Shoots
- Examples of current and future work

Biodiversity and climate change commitments

- Improving environment for society
- Increased support for hunting

Action by hunters for biodiversity / climate change

Convention on Biological Diversity
Framework Convention on Climate Change

EU Biodiversity Action Plan

Country level – delivery plans & programmes

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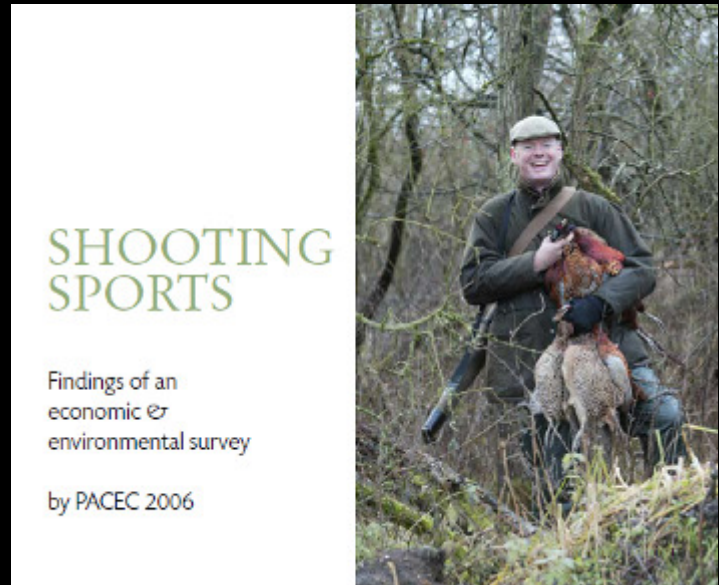
UK hunters – the resource

- Access to privately held land
 - Most of the UK is privately owned
 - Government can regulate/encourage
- Hunters manage for biodiversity conservation and input resources
 - Pay the landowner to retain habitat
 - Provide labour to manage habitat
 - Create habitat
 - Pay for conservation
- Semi-independent of policy (CAP)



UK hunters – the resource

- Shooting influences the management of over two thirds of the UK
- Spend £250m on conservation (€277 million)
- Two million hectares are actively managed for conservation by shooters
- Shooters spend 2.7 million work days on conservation - the equivalent of 12,000 full-time jobs
- In 2006 shooters planted eight million trees



<http://www.shootingfacts.co.uk/>

Co-ordinating hunters' potential – Green Shoots



- Green Shoots - BASC's Biodiversity Action Plan for the shooting community
- To recognise, build upon and co-ordinate the shooting community's considerable contribution to biodiversity conservation

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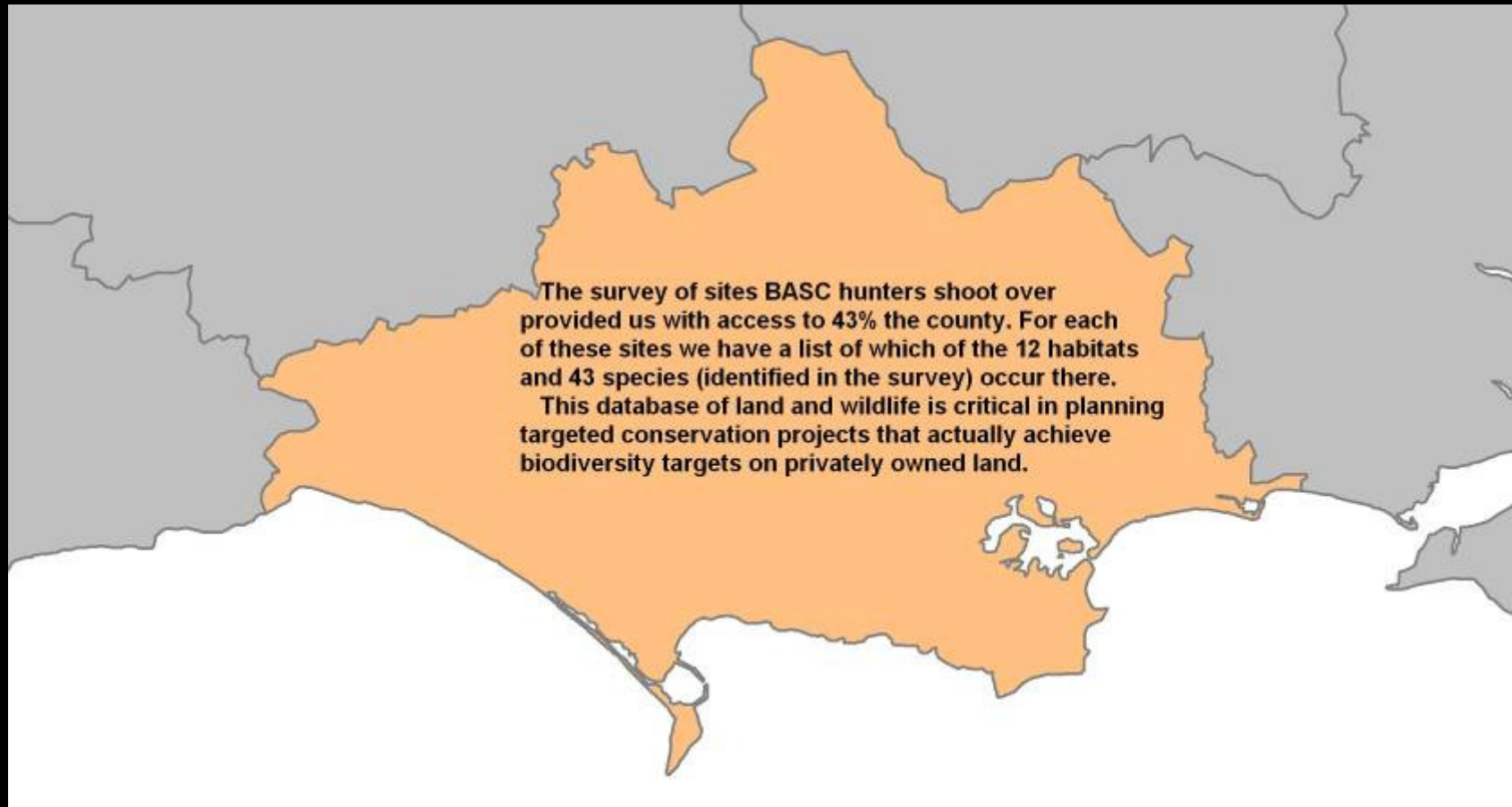


Green Shoots local/regional projects

- Survey of hunters
- Targeted conservation projects
- Achievement of biodiversity targets



Green Shoots - definite access to land



Green Shoots in Dorset

This data is generated from a survey completed by BASC members shooting in Dorset in 2006. Contact BASC for further detail.

Over 1,184 sq km of land was surveyed through the project, 1,136 sq km of which is in Dorset. This is the equivalent to 43% of Dorset.

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Wildlife data from private land



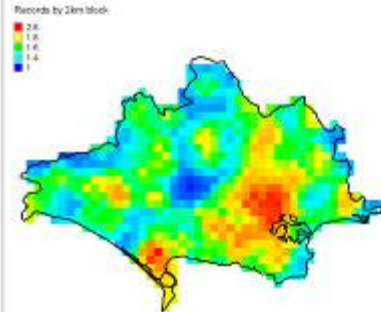
Records of bat



Map showing dot distribution of habitat



Map showing generated grid distribution



Green Shoots in Dorset

This data is generated from a survey completed by BASC members shooting in Dorset in 2005. Contact BASC for further detail.

85% of BASC members permitted us to share their data. Consequently there are 485 records of bat displayed on these maps.

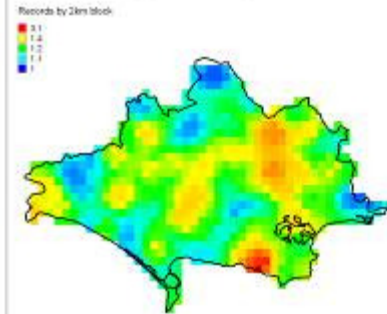
Records of dormouse



Map showing dot distribution of habitat



Map showing generated grid distribution



Green Shoots in Dorset

This data is generated from a survey completed by BASC members shooting in Dorset in 2005. Contact BASC for further detail.

85% of BASC members permitted us to share their data. Consequently there are 150 records of dormouse displayed on these maps.



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Examples of current and future work



Use of the database of hunters and wildlife has allowed BASC to bridge the gap between biodiversity plans and the management decisions made over large areas of rural land. Above are some of the species and habitats whose public action plans have had significant targets achieved by hunters through Green Shoots

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Green Shoots on the Somerset Levels

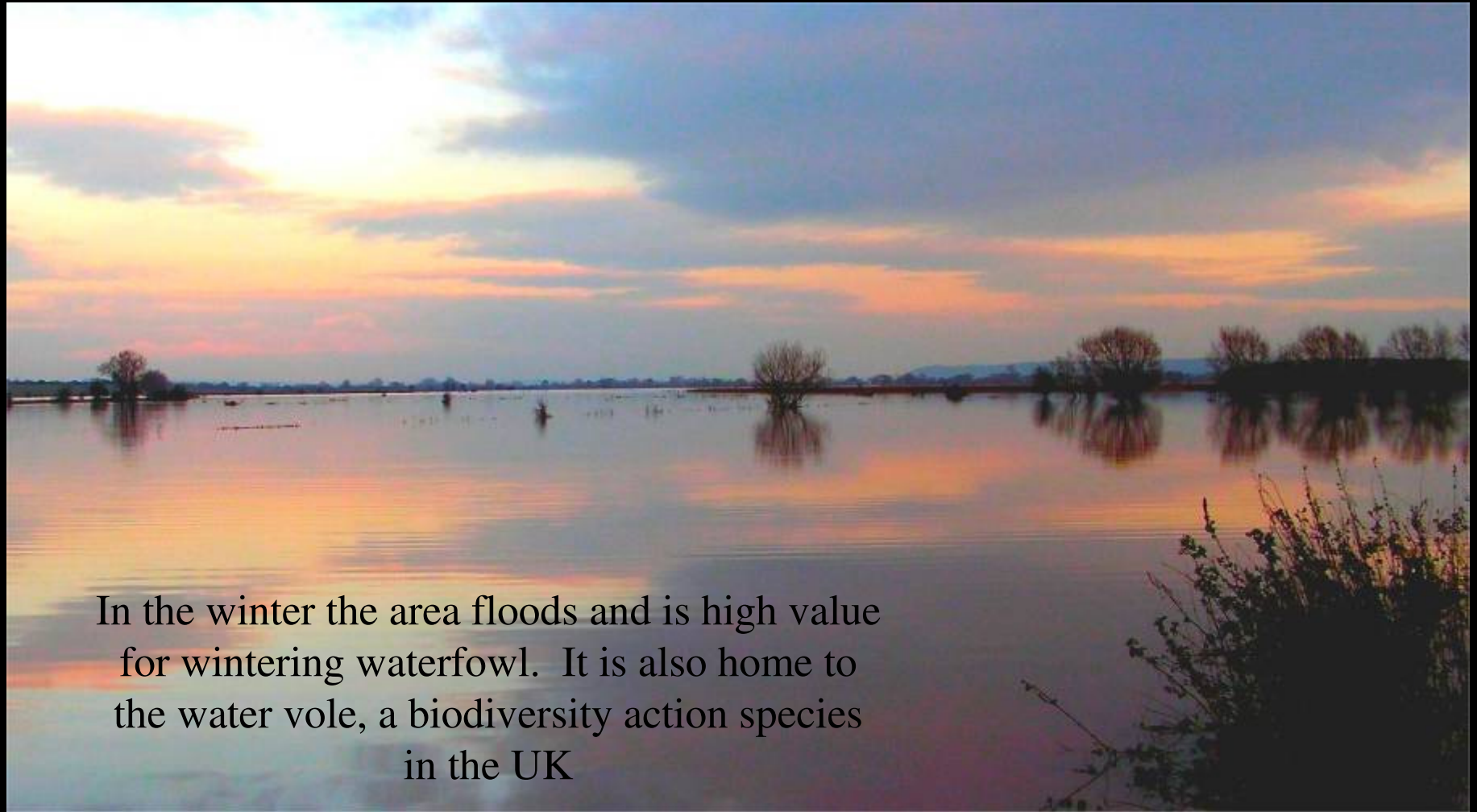


The Somerset Levels area contains Natura2000 designations. In the summer months it is of high value to breeding birds, especially waders and waterfowl

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Green Shoots on the Somerset Levels



In the winter the area floods and is high value for wintering waterfowl. It is also home to the water vole, a biodiversity action species in the UK

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Water vole conservation

Targeted conservation action



The water vole is the UK's fastest declining mammal due to habitat loss but the overriding factor is predation from the invasive non-native American Mink

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Water vole conservation

Targeted conservation action



The only solution is to adopt better habitat management and remove mink so that its predation on water voles removed or reduced to an acceptable level

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Cordon sanitaire of mink control

The Green Shoots programme has trained a network of volunteers, primarily hunters but also conservation partners, to control mink across the area shown by the red triangles. The programme also advised on habitat management. This cordon sanitaire of control was a key target for the UK water vole steering group and has been achieved for only £90,000 of public money. Water voles are now recolonising areas within the trapping zone.

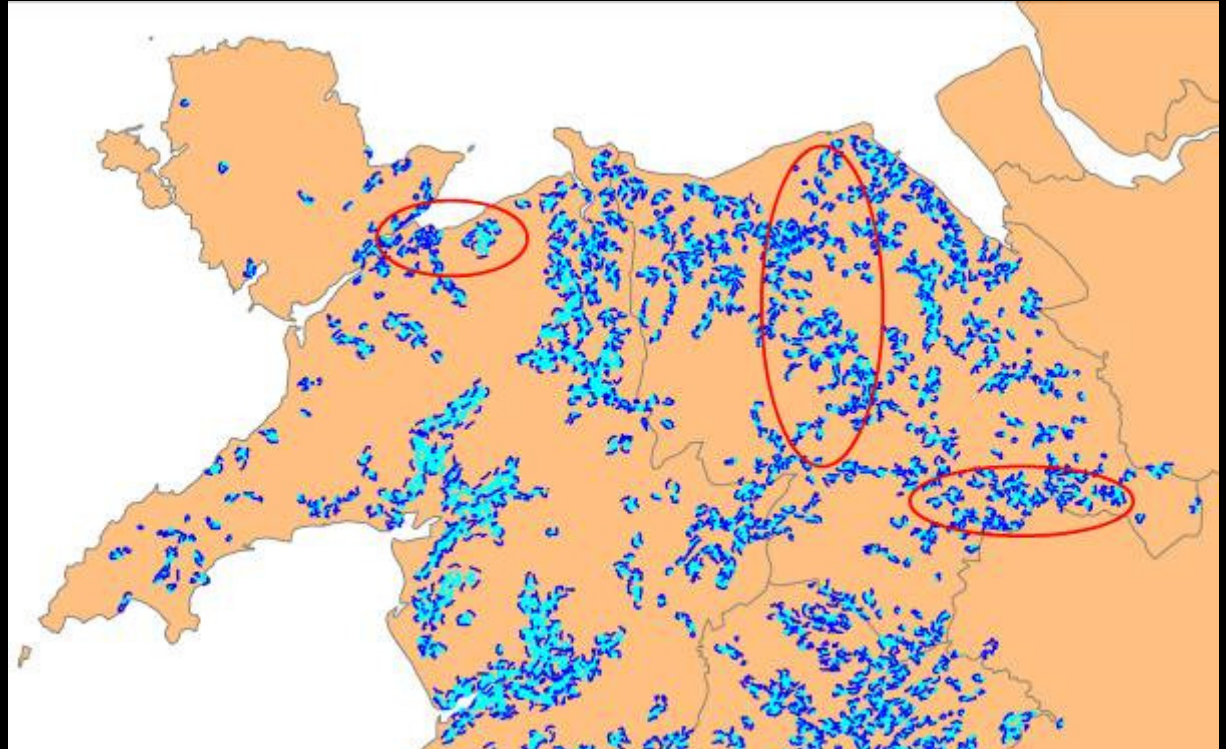


Site level habitat connectivity projects



Green Shoots has created many site level connectivity project such as this. However do these add up to effective mitigation of climate change through habitat connectivity?

Co-ordinated connectivity projects



When we compare these woodlands with the areas hunters manage it is clear that they may be able to target woodland creation to link 200 ancient woodland together, especially in the areas ringed. This co-ordinated strategy, giving rise to better targeting of effort, will achieve biodiversity targets and make a definitive contribution towards mitigating climate change

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Final messages

- Hunters achieve biodiversity targets and climate change aspirations within and between the Natura2000 network of sites
- Hunters are willing participants because they have access to land, local knowledge of biodiversity, a vested interest in good habitat and abundant wildlife
- With effective co-ordination and support they can be harnessed to bridge the gap between a countries' biodiversity and climate change plans and the management that happens on the ground