



Golf balls, scent
lures, smart traps:
a recipe for mink
eradication in
mainland Britain

Tony Martin

Can we put a
stop to this?



John Anderson – Fife Ness





Loch Lomond

Adult female



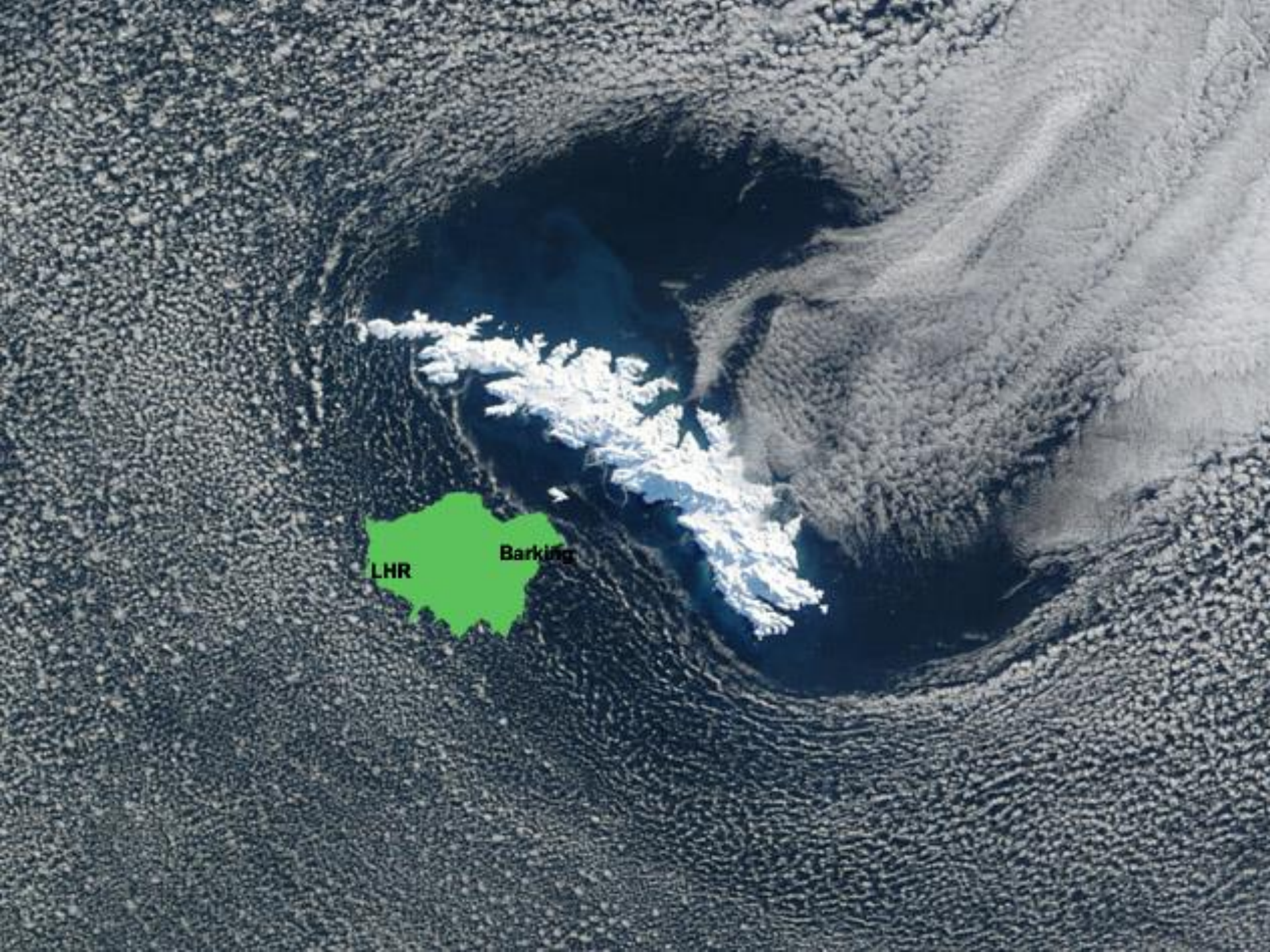
So, a good case for eradication,
but is it possible?

Criteria for eradication

1. Can every individual be put at risk?
2. Can they be killed at a rate exceeding their rate of increase?
3. Is the probability of re-establishment manageable to near zero?
4. Is the project socially acceptable?
5. Do the benefits of the project outweigh the costs?
6. Can animals be detected at low densities?

Answer is a cautious YES,
but.....

...the west coast of Scotland keeps me
awake at night



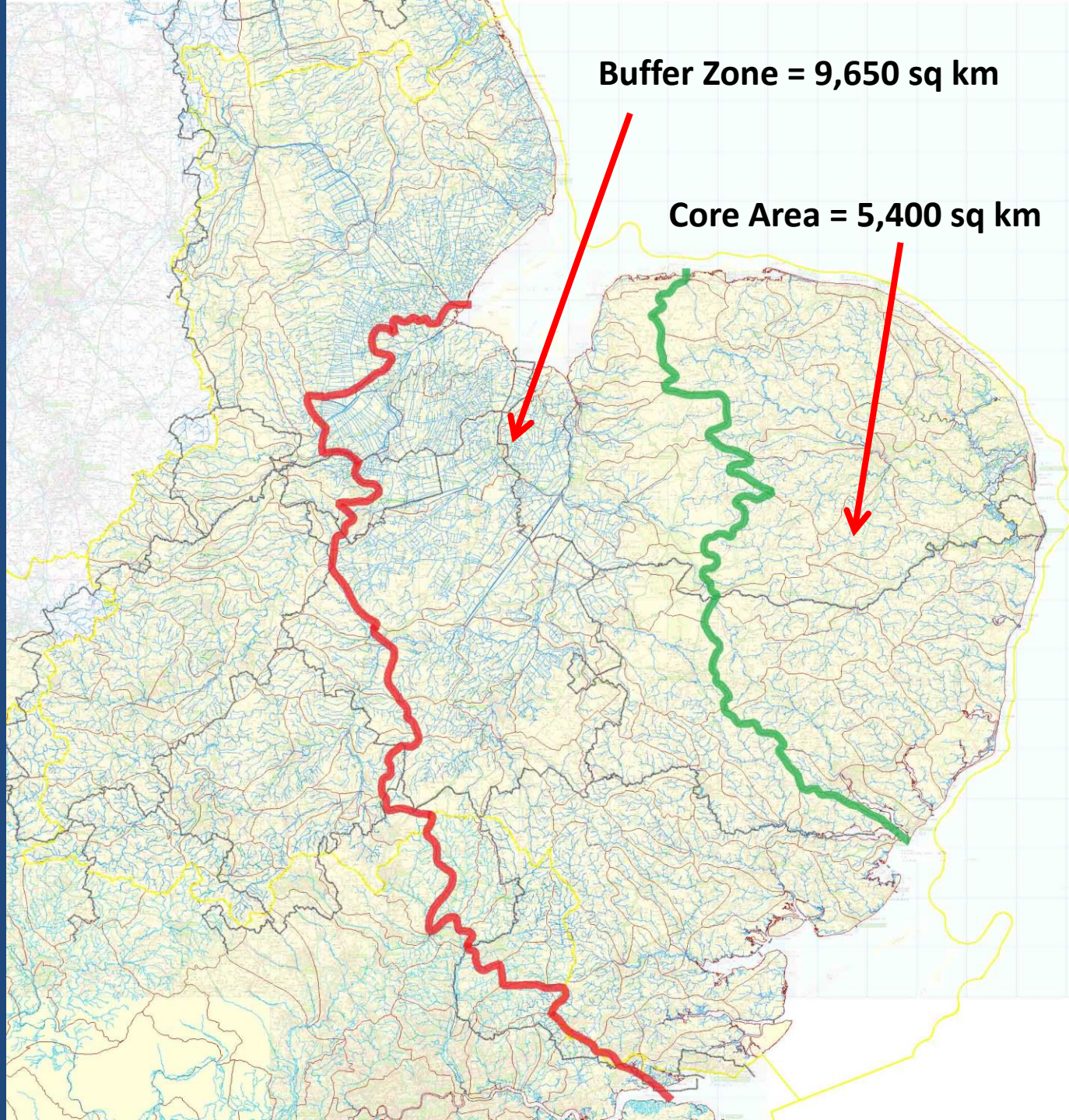
LHR

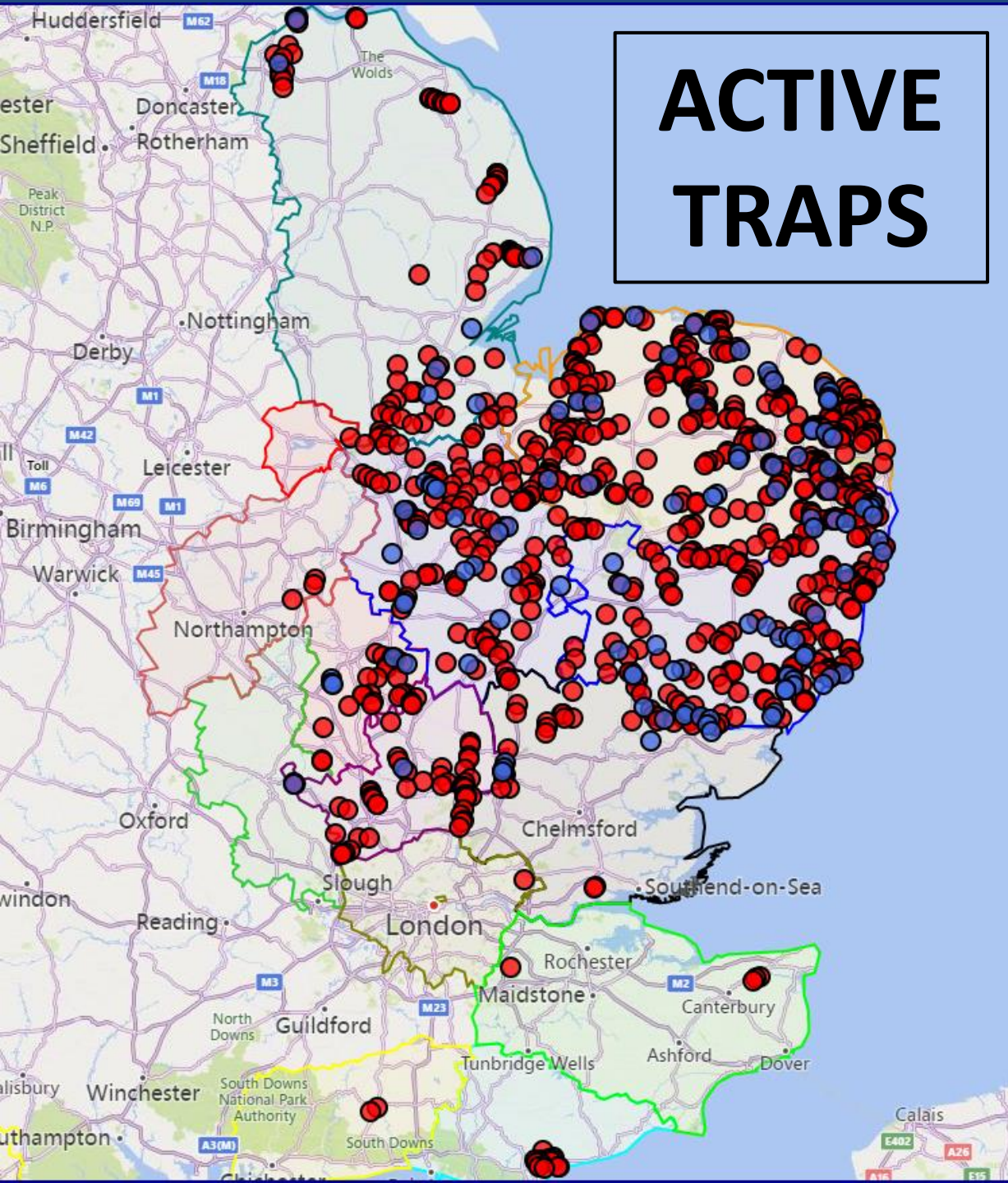
Barking



Buffer Zone = 9,650 sq km

Core Area = 5,400 sq km





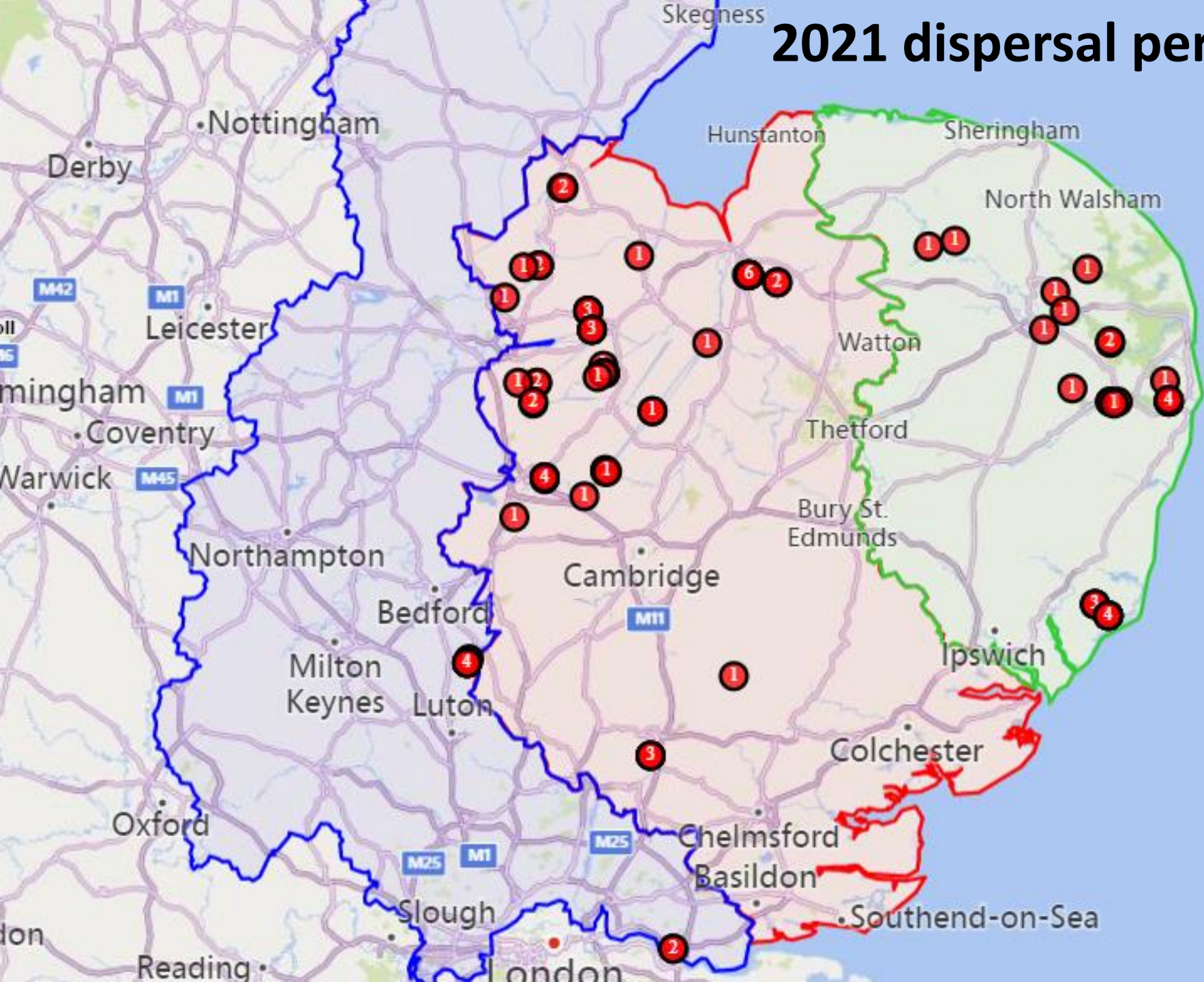
645,000 trap
nights to
date

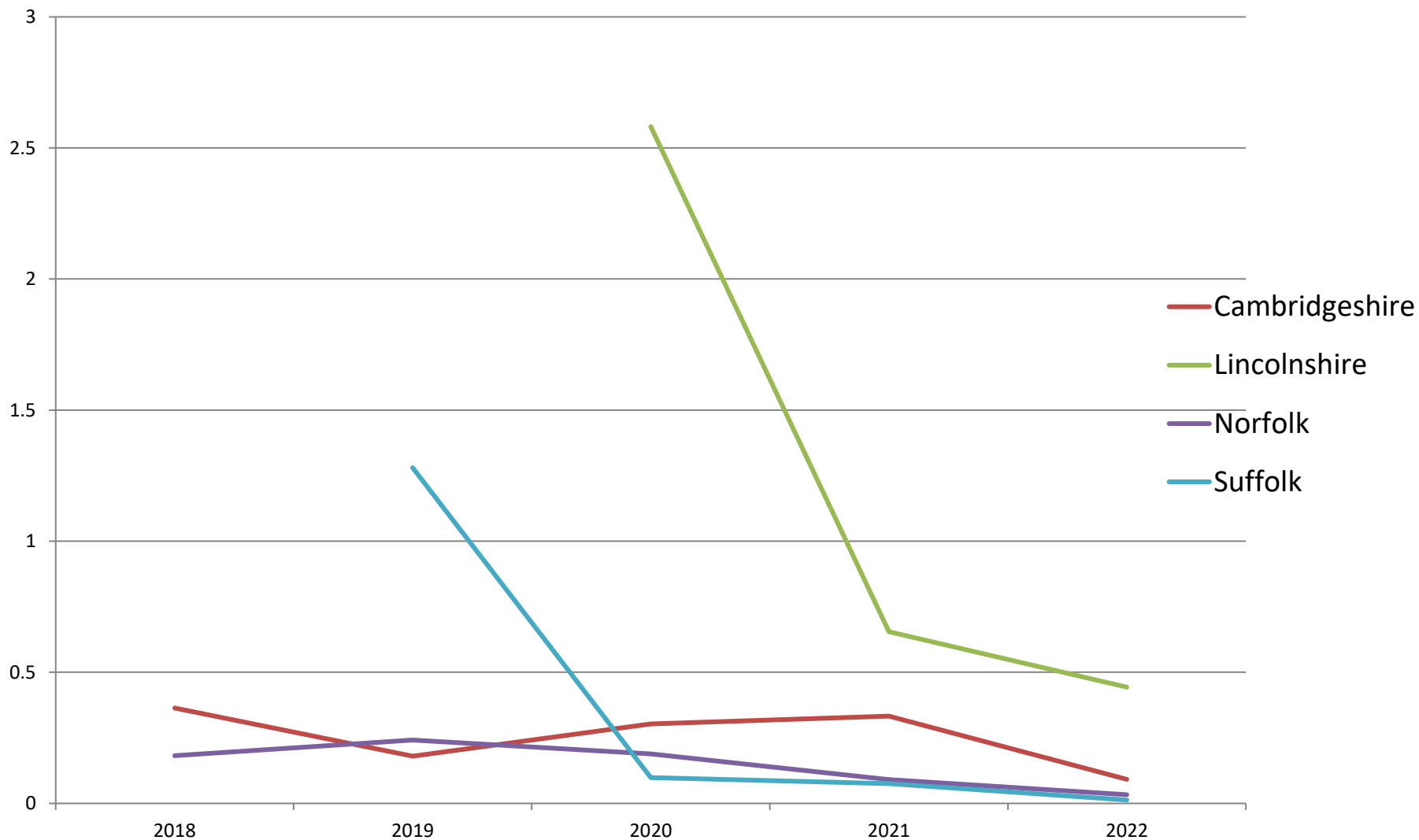
903 traps
active on
Sept 3rd

838 mink
(2021 – 23)

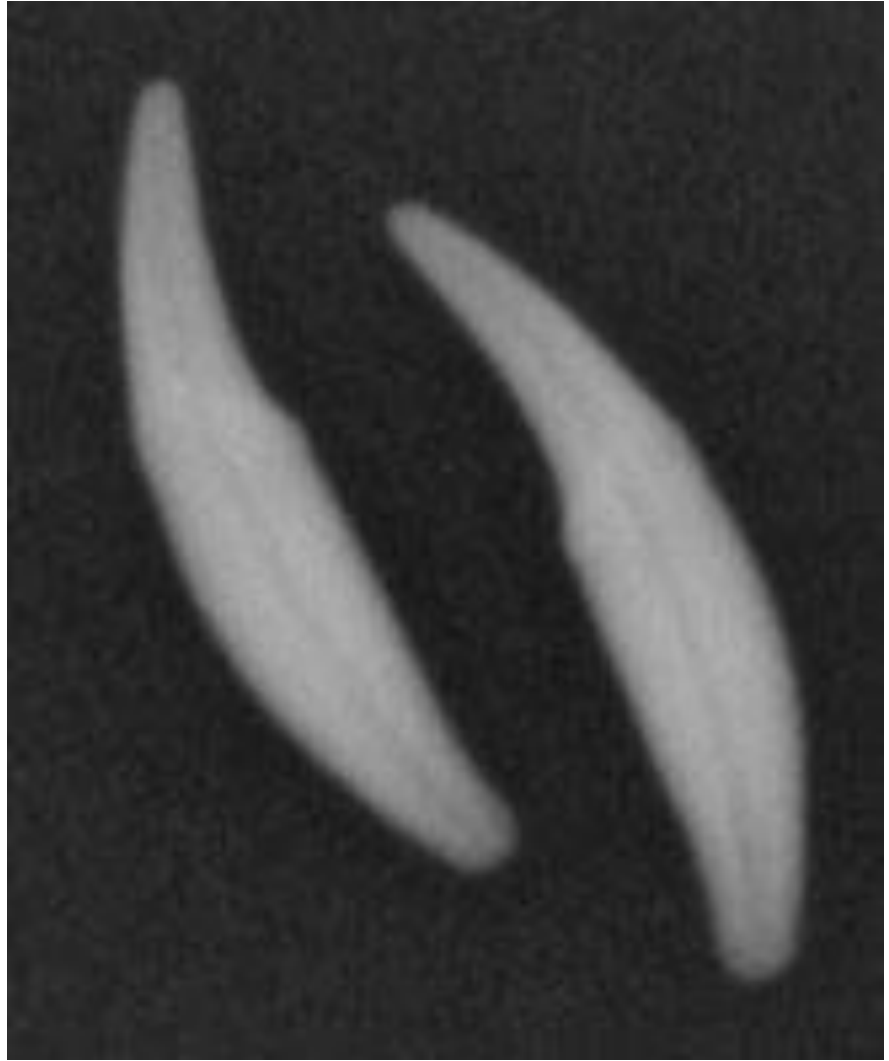
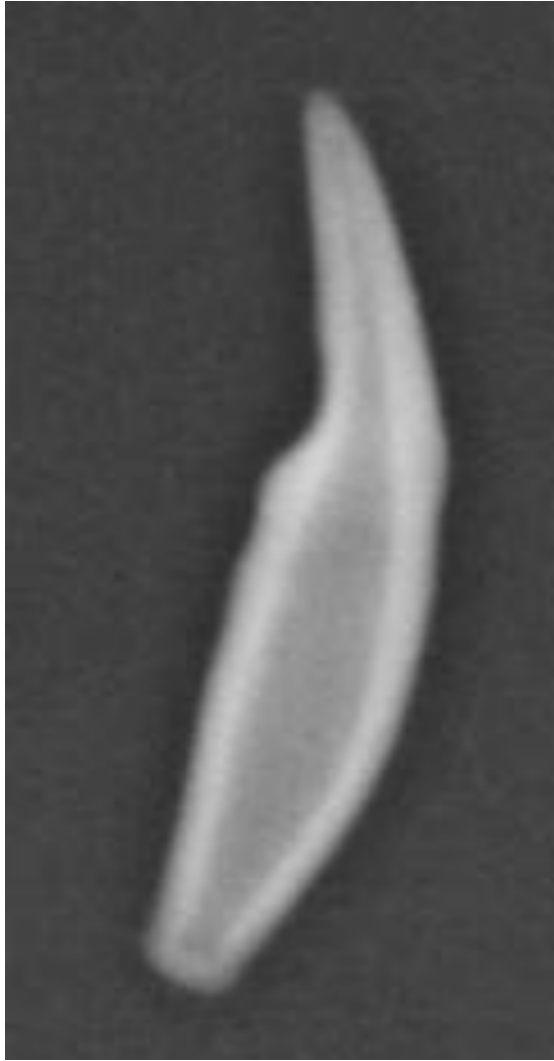


2021 dispersal period

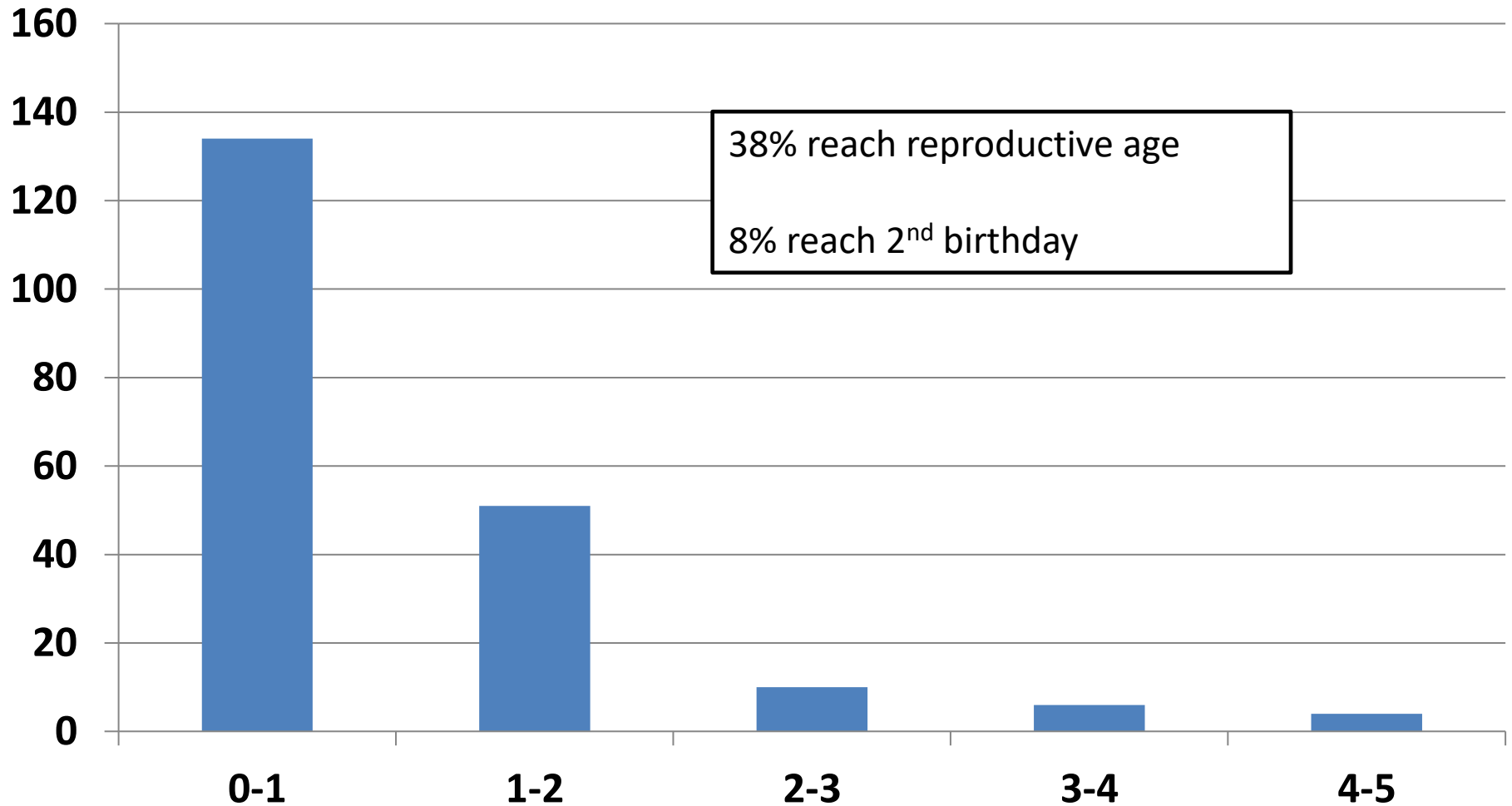




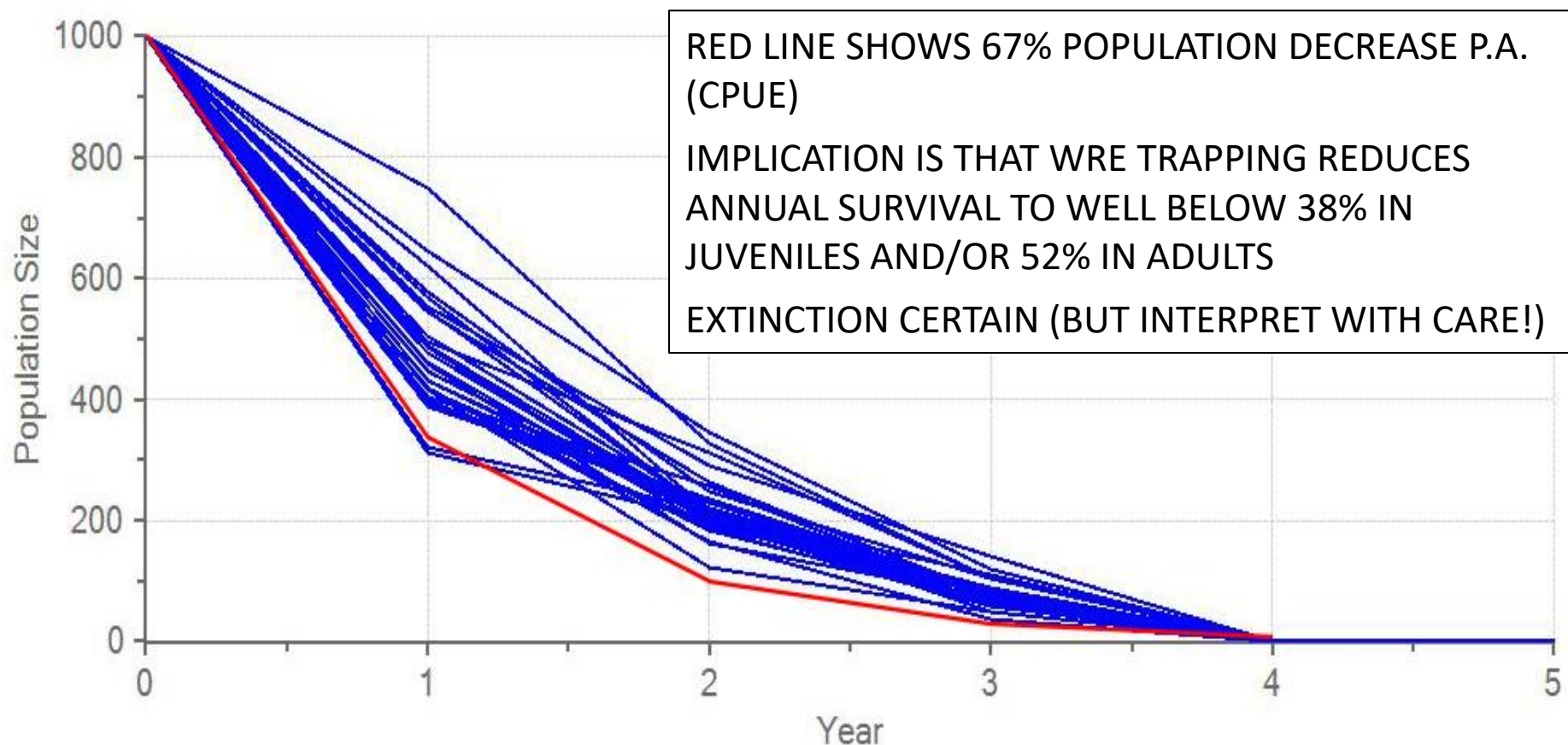
Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE)



Age class distribution (teeth)



Predicted population trend with observed apparent survival rate and zero reproduction



**Can trapping alone bring about
mink eradication?**

**The answer in Eastern England
appears to be yes, and within 5
years.**

Plague
species!



What can explain all this?

Smart traps

Every raft in permanent trapping mode

98% reduction in trap visits





Standard WRT smart raft with water vole excluder

(all in recycled plastic with sealed edges to prevent erosion of polystyrene float)

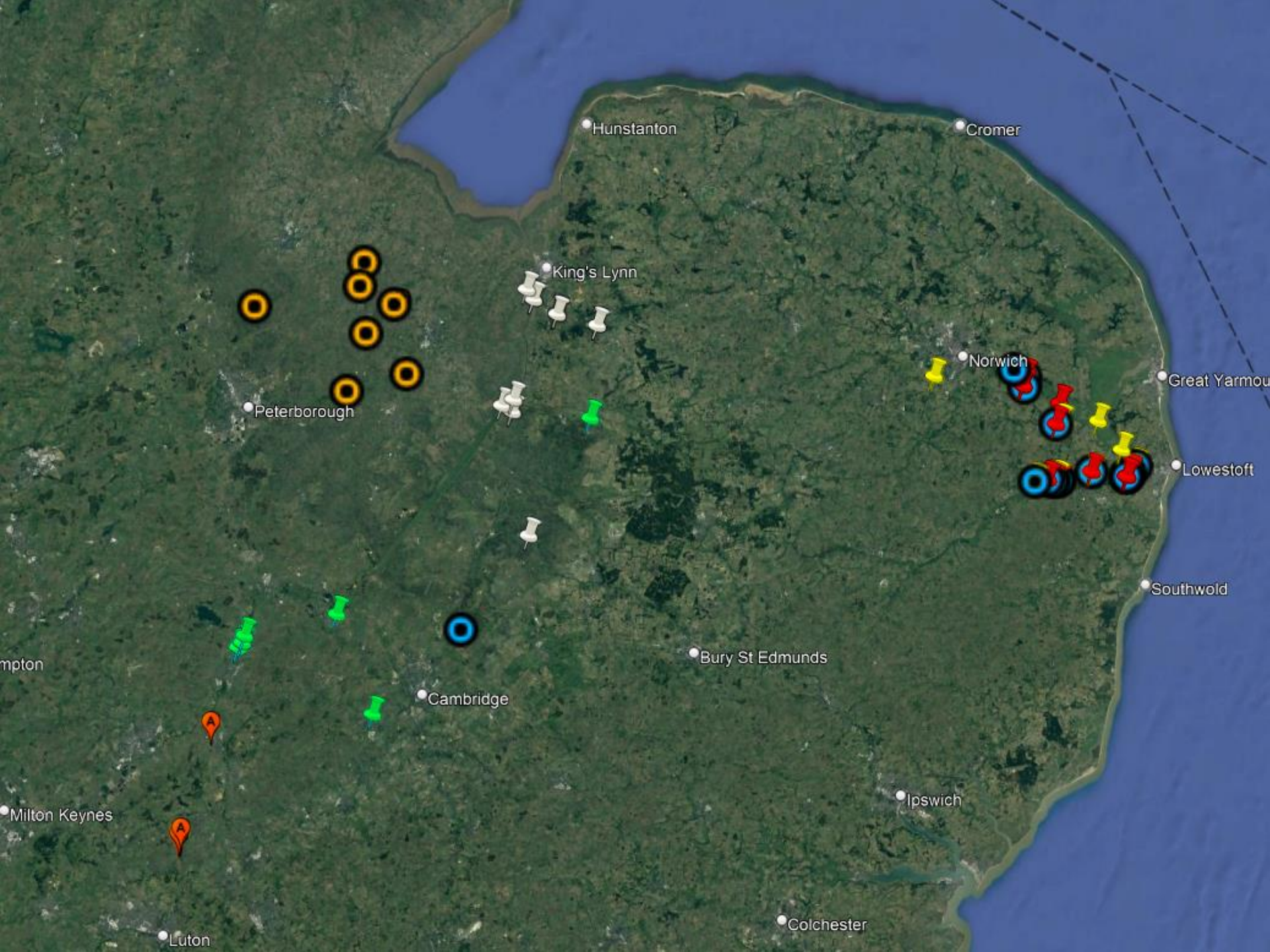
Golf balls & scent lures:

double the catch rate









WRE0380
Male 7 Aug 2020
Blunham, Beds



WRE0348

Female, Beccles
Marshes, Suffolk

12 Nov 2021



WRE0503

Male

R. Cam @
Swaffham Lode,
Cambs

25 March 2021

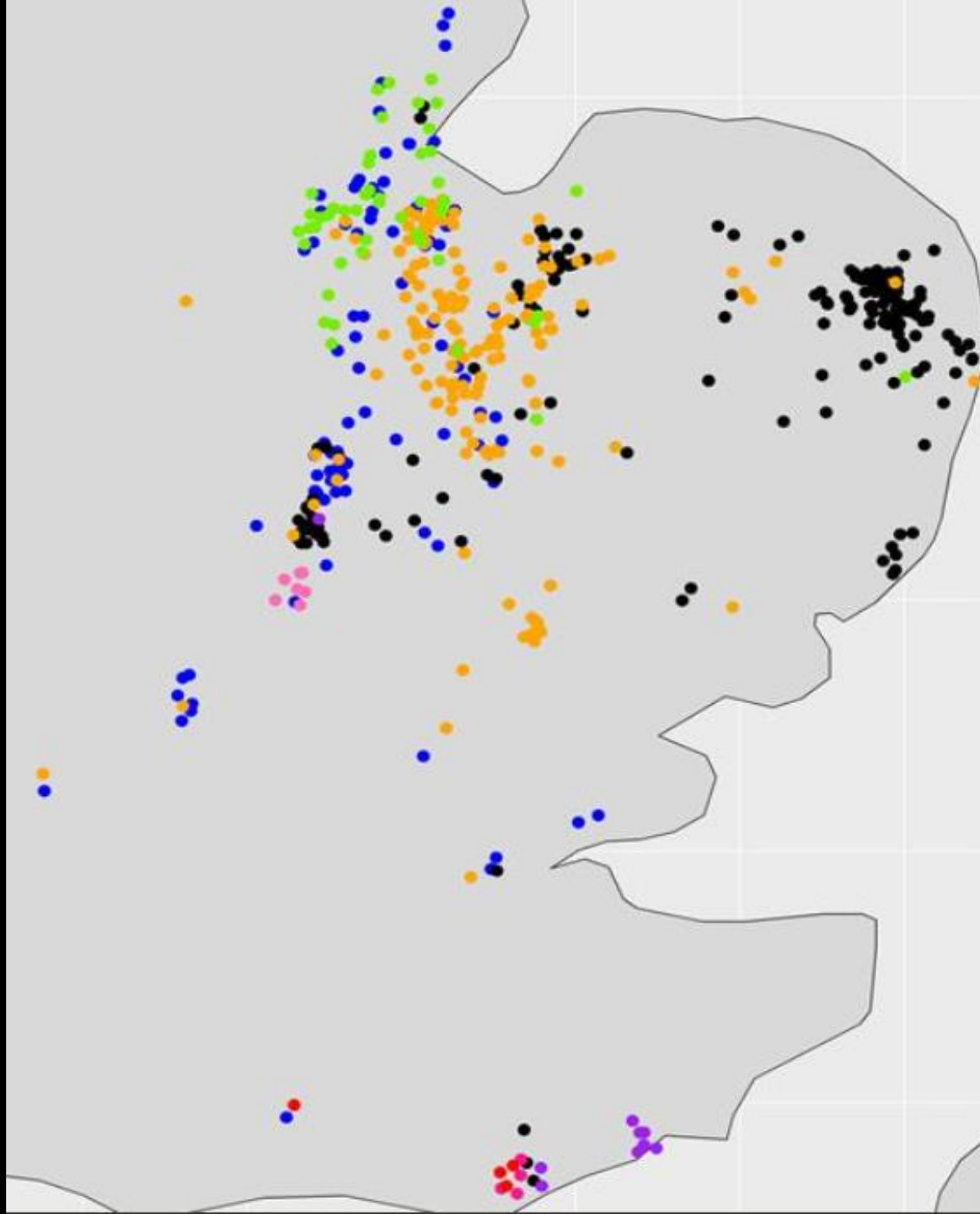


WRE0938

Male
Geldeston, Norfolk

15 March 2022







**But Scotland is not like
England, I hear you say!**



Waterlife
Recovery
Trust

New Job Vacancies

Five new job
opportunities
available now

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Helping to protect our native wildlife from the invasive non-native American Mink

Live News Buckinghamshire 6 Cambridgeshire 19 Cumbria 2 Dorset 1 East Sussex 9 Essex 14 Hertfordshire 5 Kent 14 Lincolnshire 91 Norfolk 7

Latest News WRT newsletter is available now! [Click here](#)

Have you seen or caught
an American Mink?

Please let us know

[REPORT SIGHTING](#)

[REPORT CAPTURE](#)



© Terje Kolaas



Newsletter

Keep up to date with the progress of Waterlife Recovery Trust by
subscribing to our quarterly newsletter

[SUBSCRIBE](#)