



Eradicating Muskrat, Coypu and Mink from Great Britain

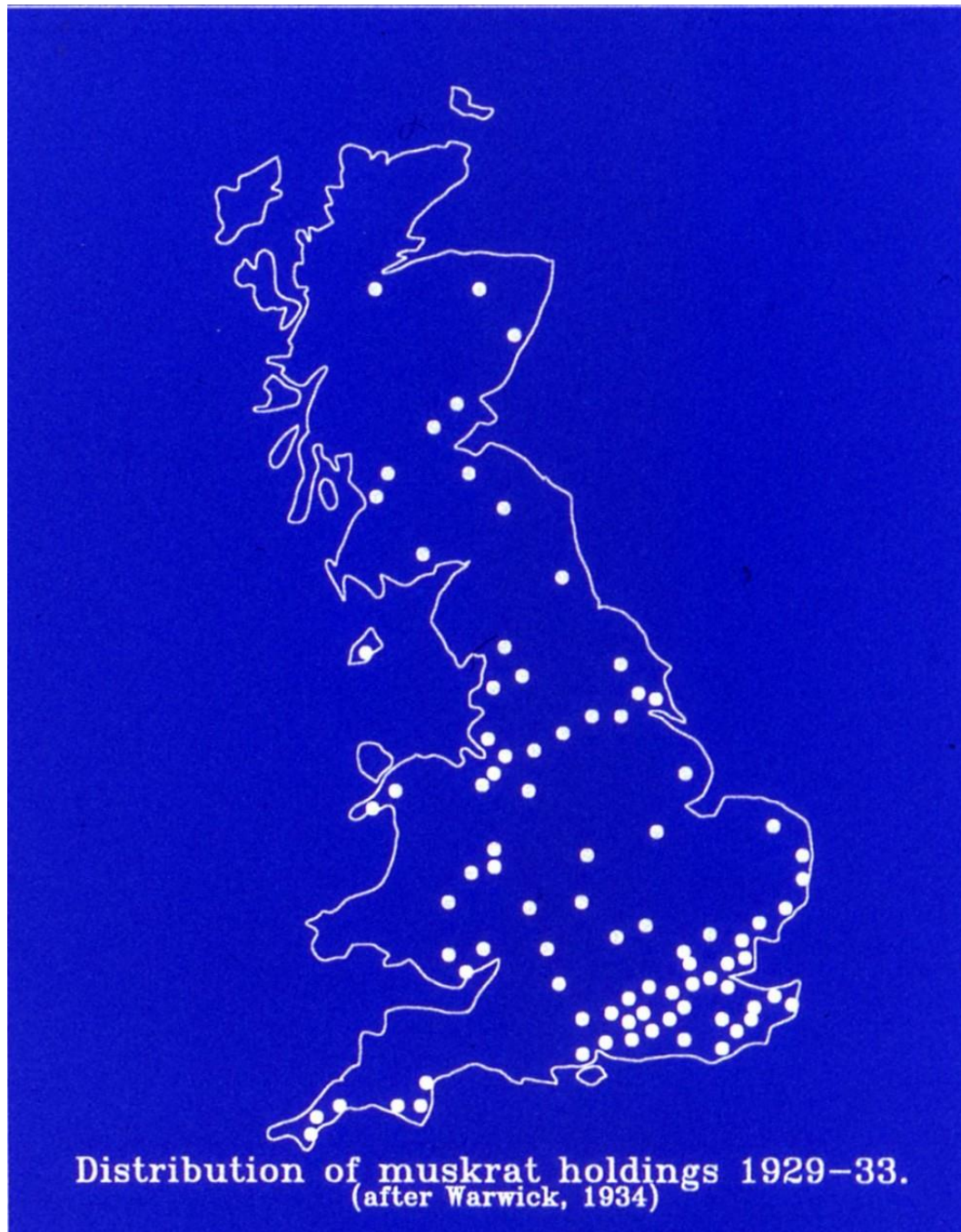
Simon Baker



Waterlife
Recovery
Trust



Muskrat
To 2kg, 2- 3
litters a year.



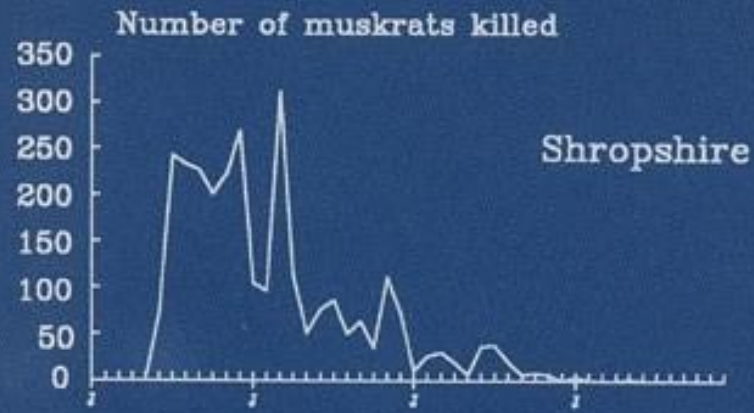
Total number killed
was over 4,388



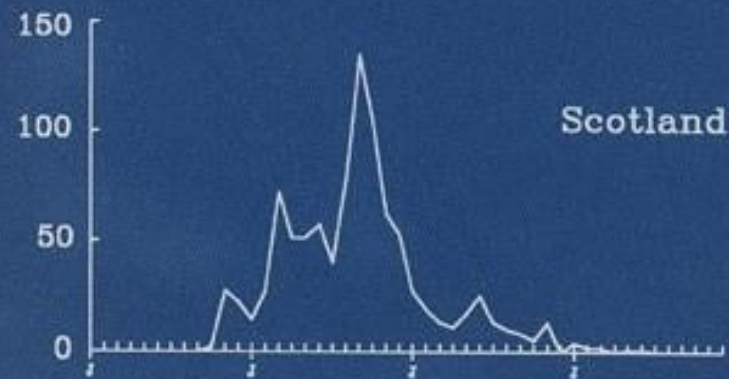
Muskrat populations in Britain: 1927-37.

Muskrats killed in Britain: 1932-35.

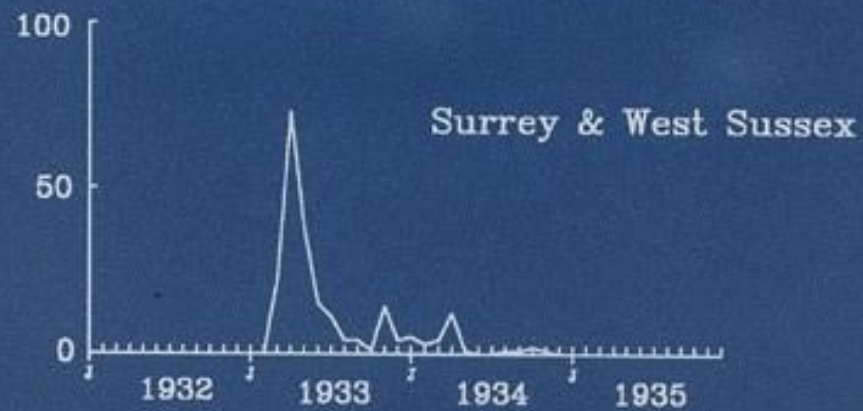
Total



2720



958



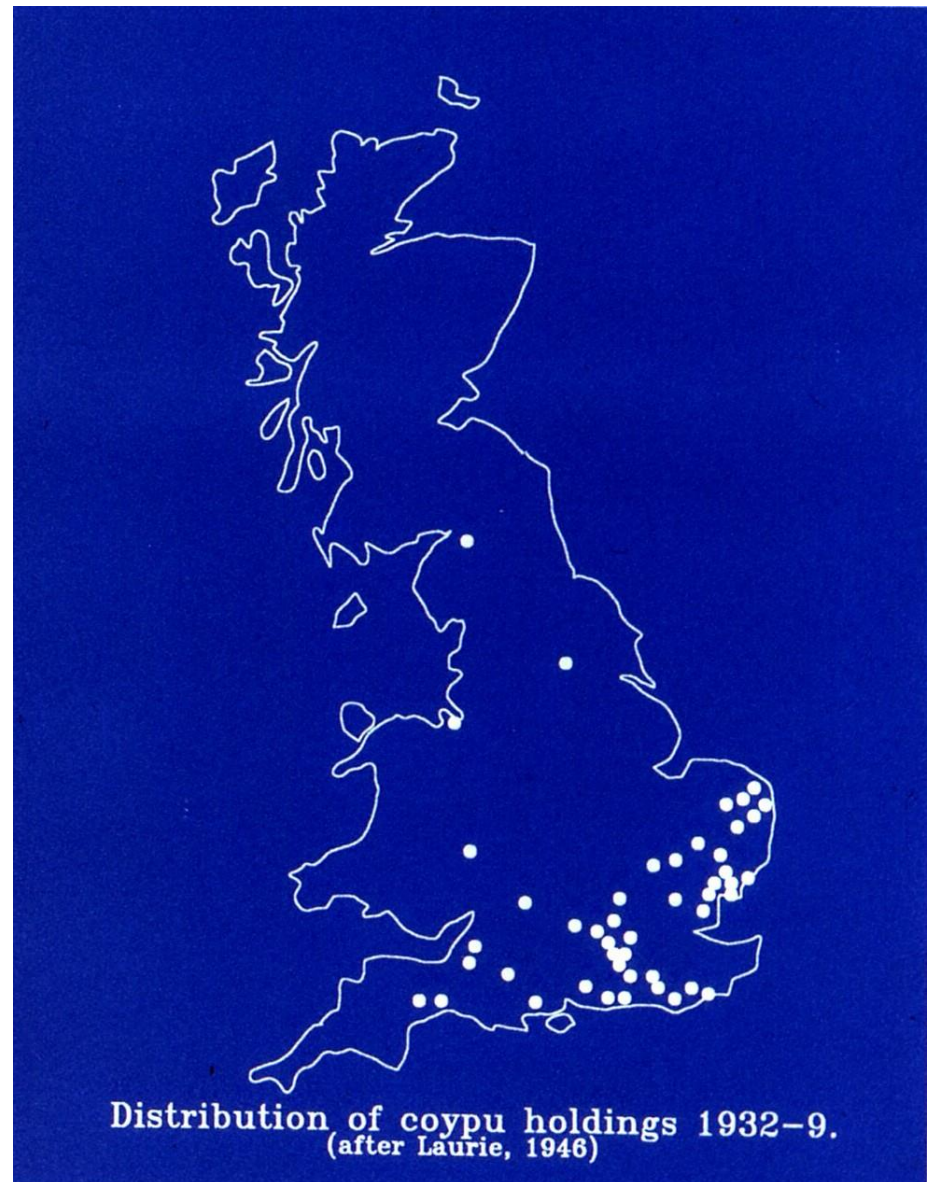
217





Coypu

To 8 kg, litter
every 4-5
months



Why Control ?



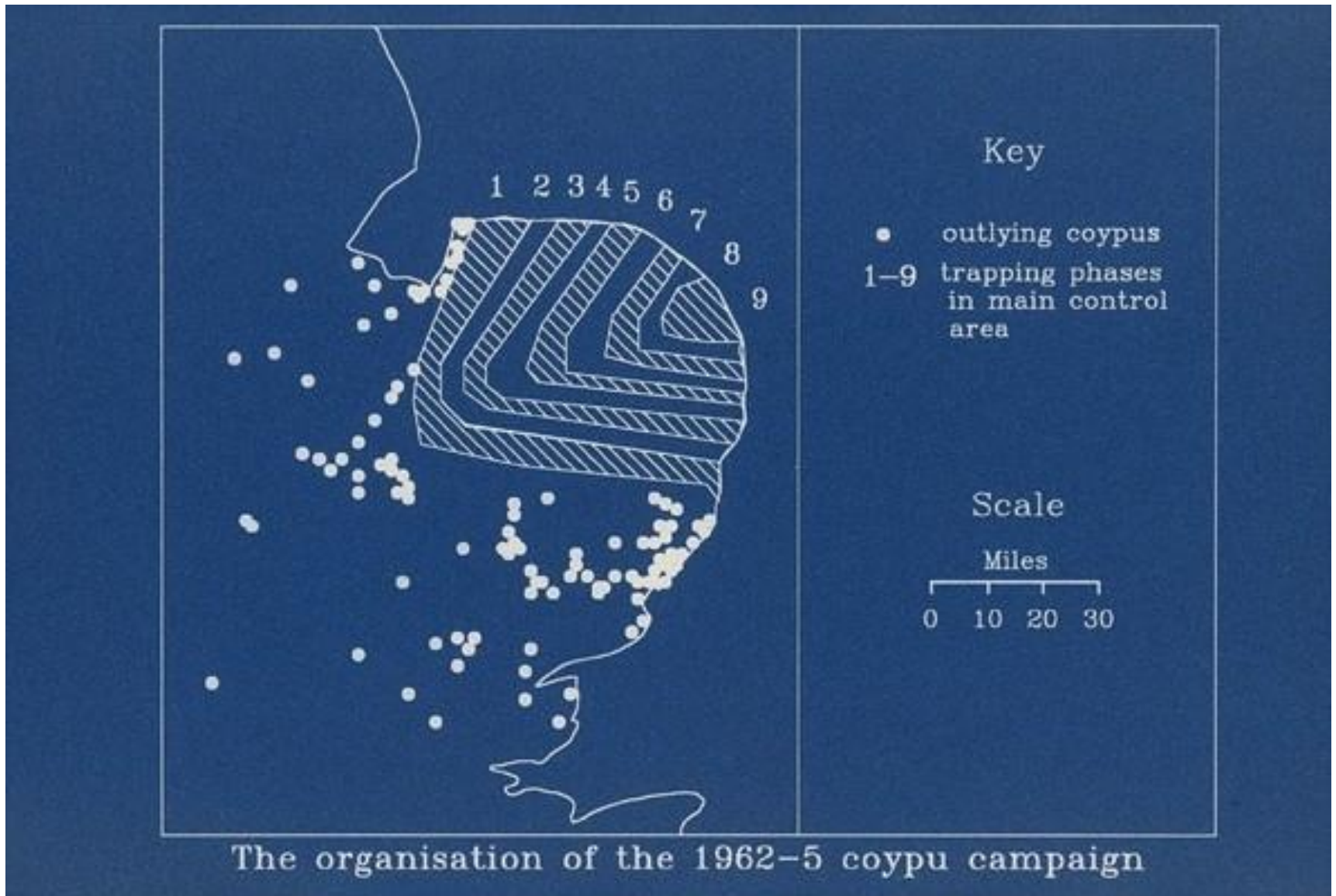
First Campaign 1962 - 1965



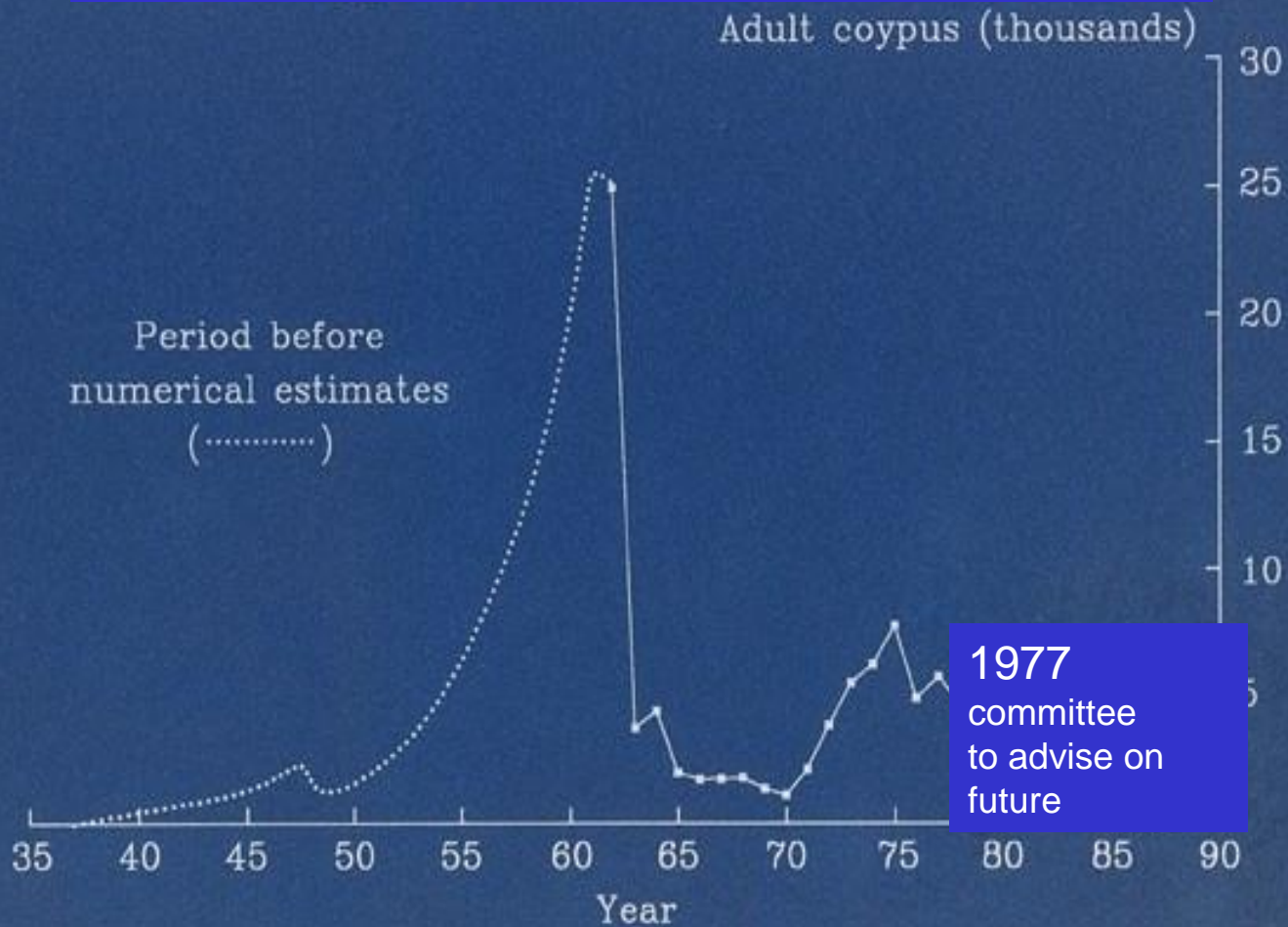
All coypus were trapped and shot with a 0.22 pistol; non-targets released.



The strategy for the 1st campaign

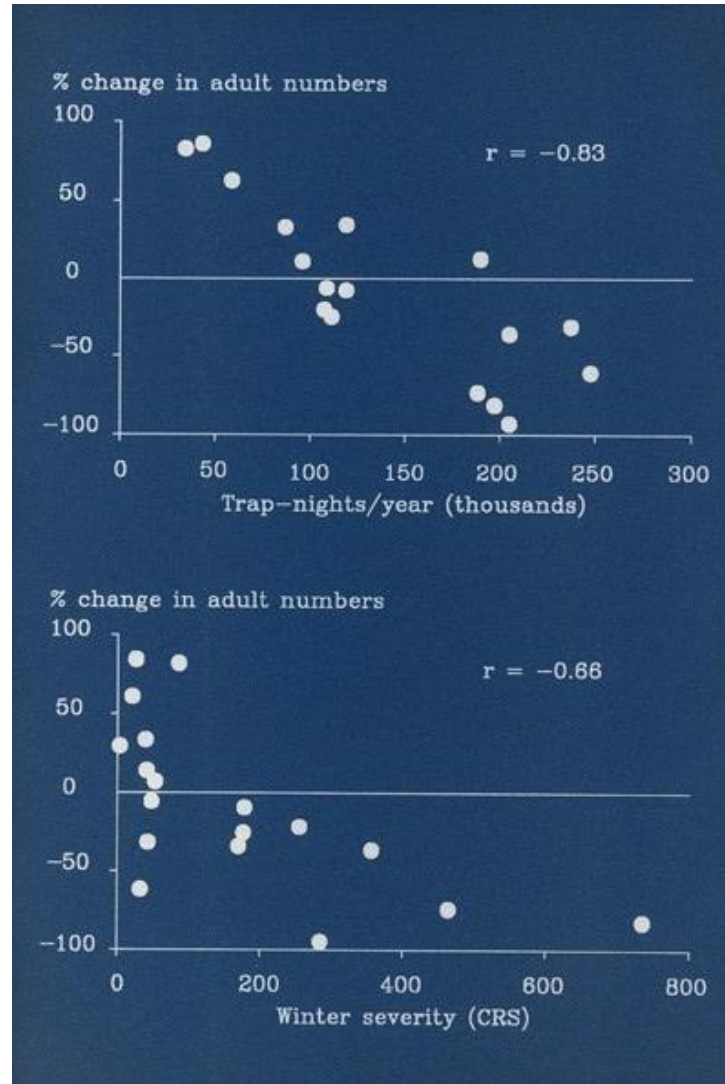


Adult coypus in Britain: 1935 - 1977

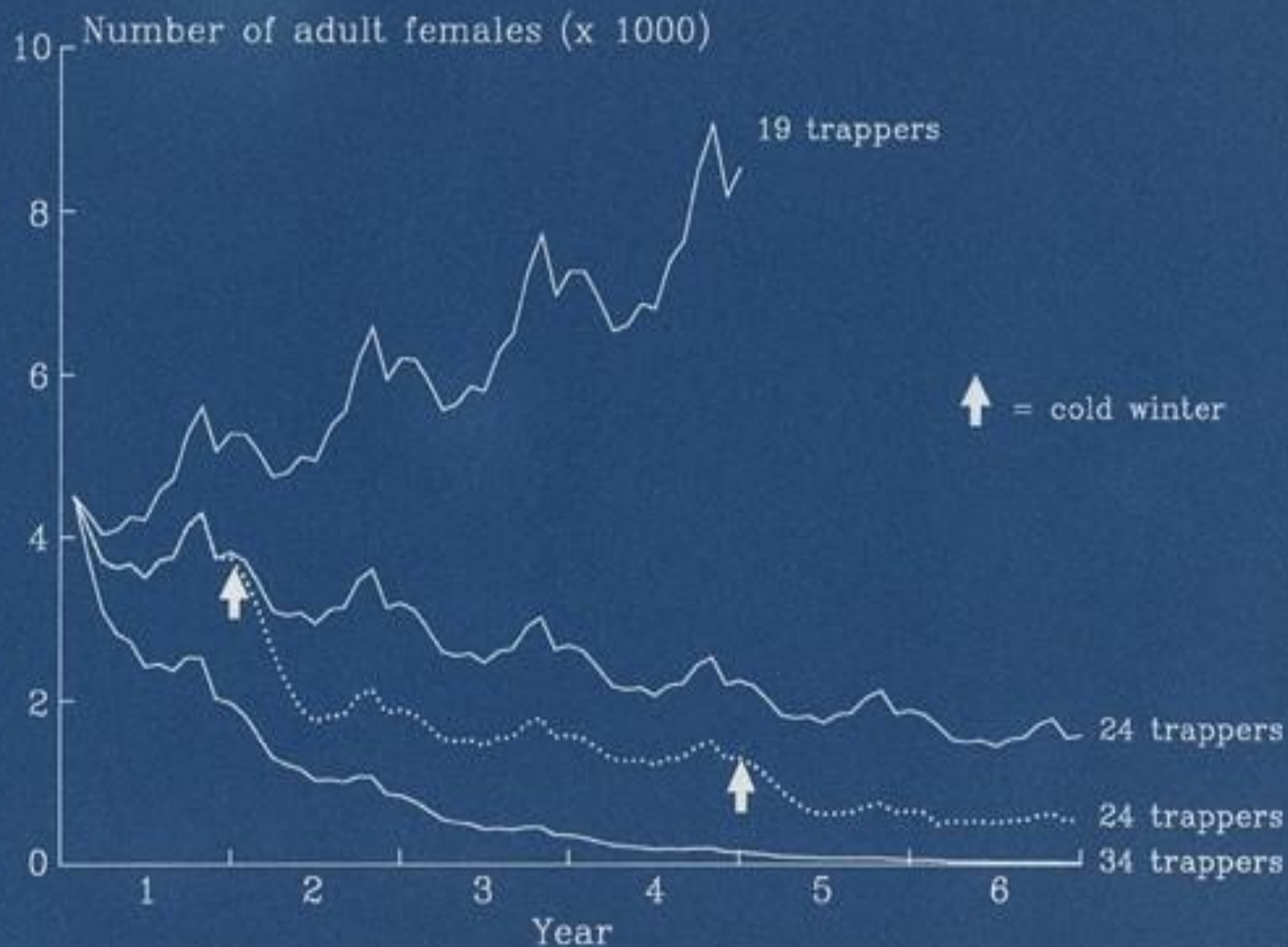


Backed by
research

Two outcomes



Simulation of the adult female coypu population.
All mild winters except where (↑) indicates a cold winter.



Second Campaign 1981 - 1989



The distribution of coypus caught between 1981 and 1989 and the regions used for deployment of trapping effort. Circles represent <0.1 , $0.1-1.0$ & $>1.0\%$ of those caught.



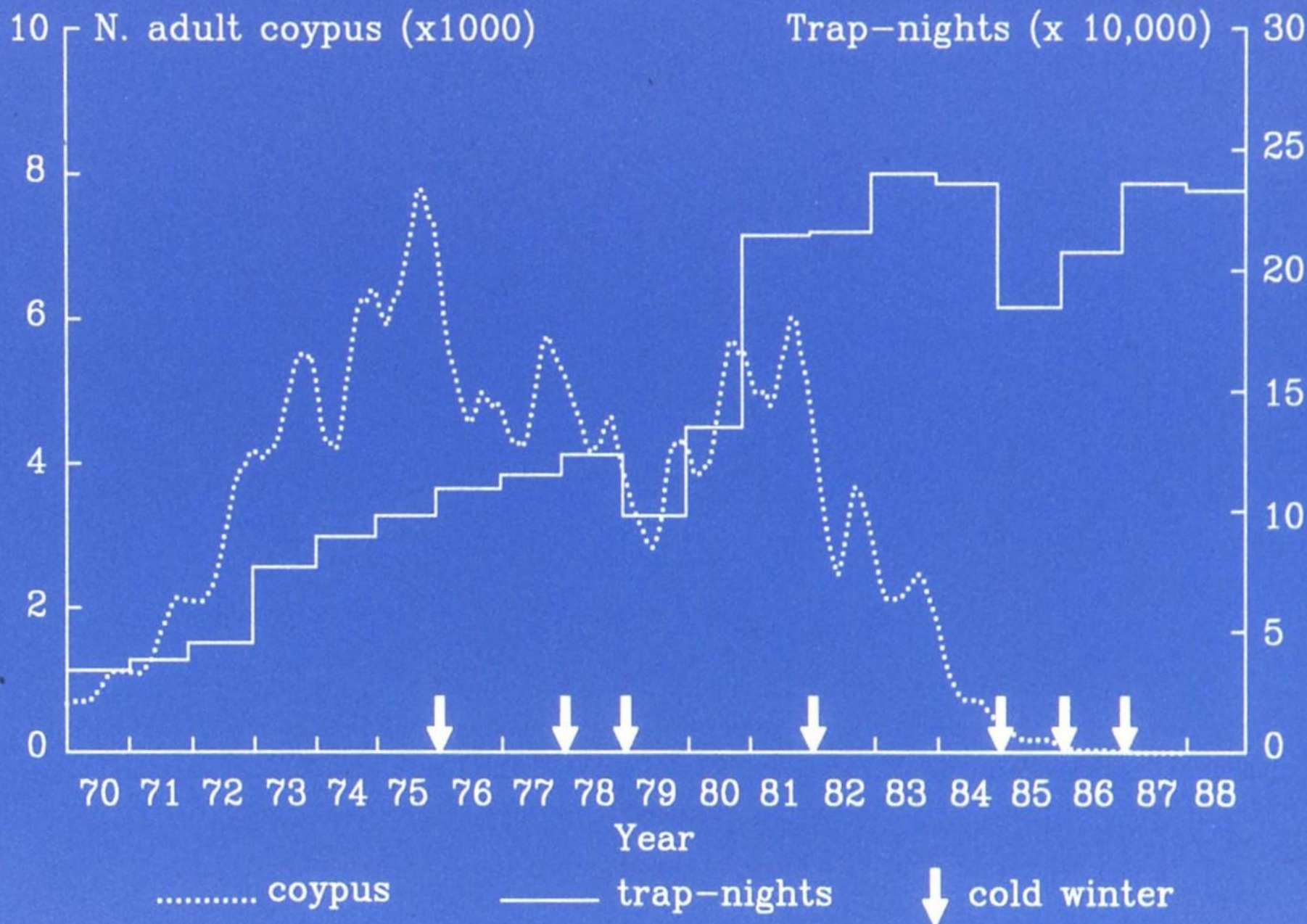
n=34,822



Trapping - rafts



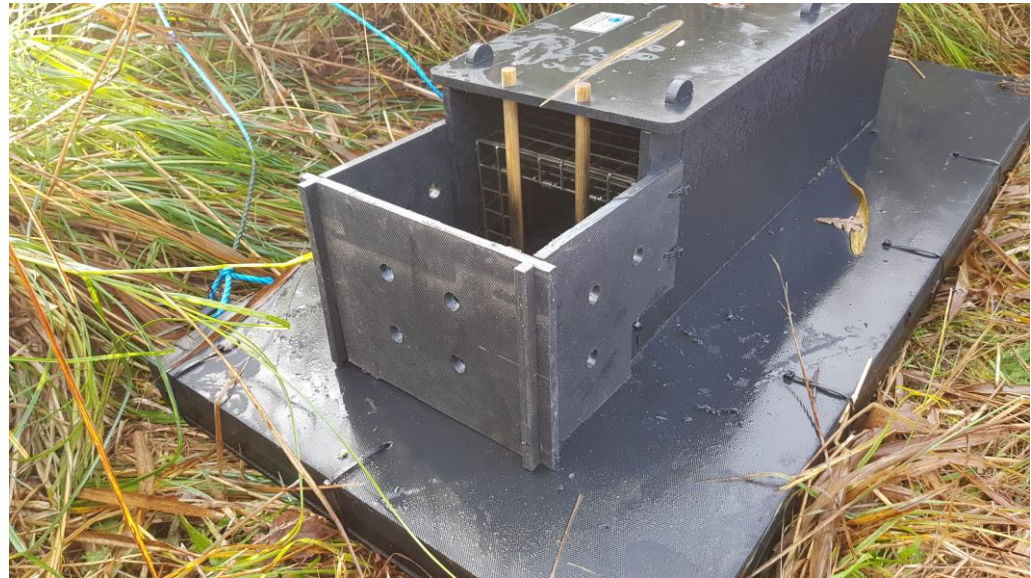
The number of coypu trappers and adult coypus: 1970–88.



Mink

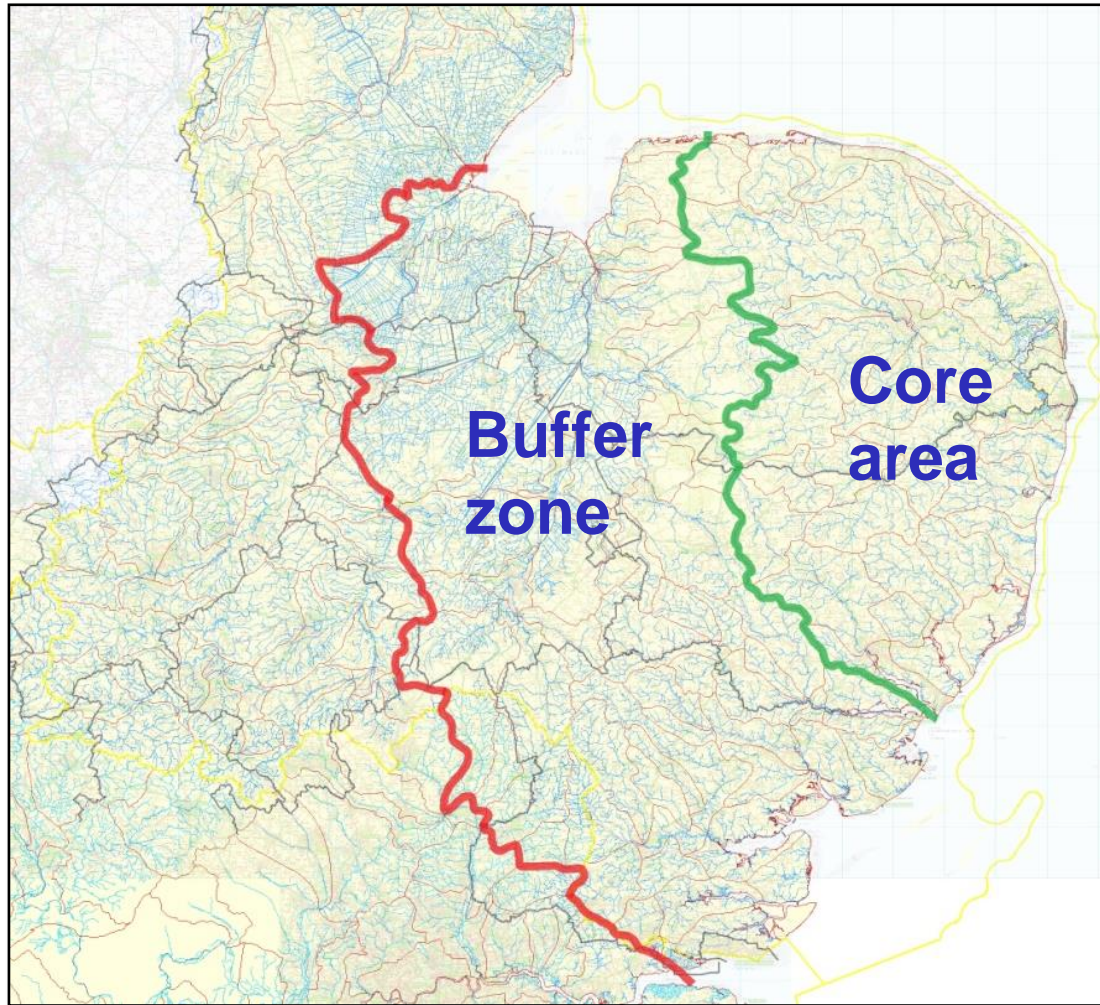


Males up to 2kg
1 litter / year

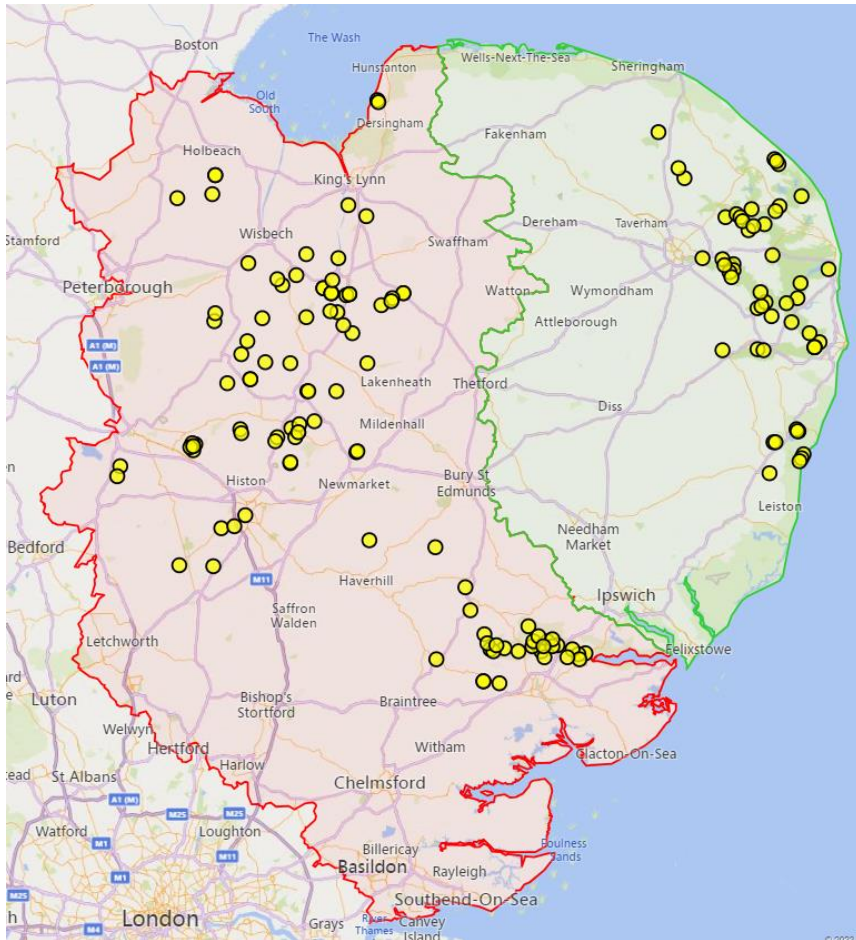




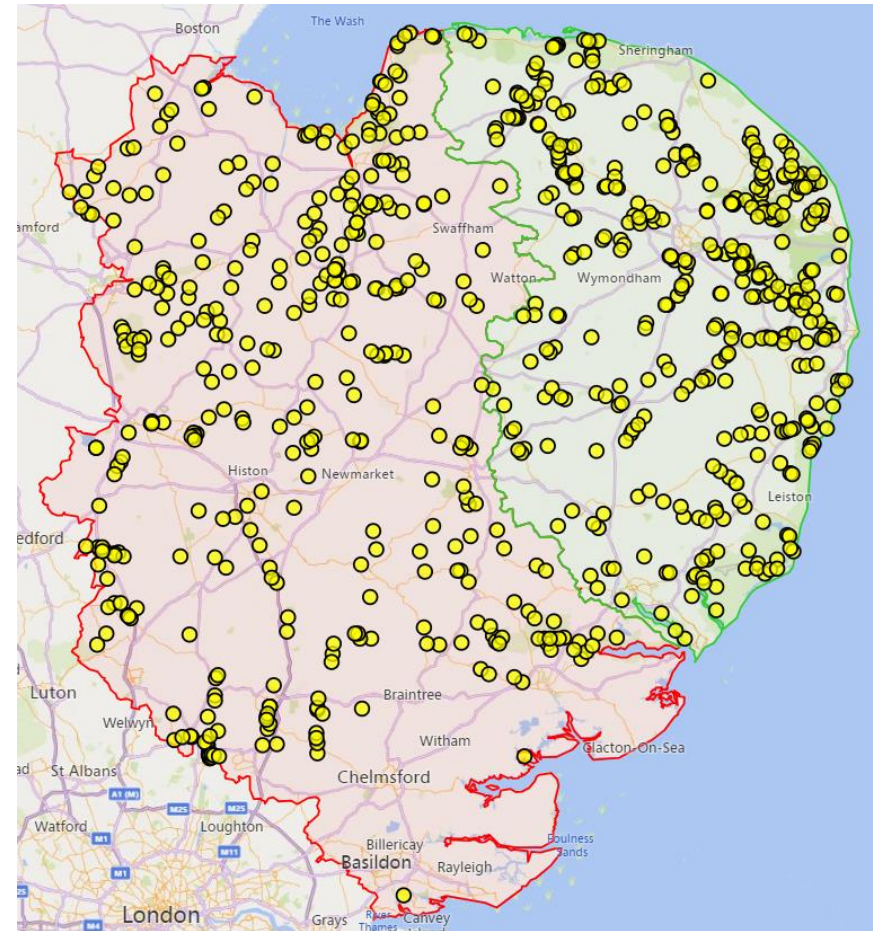
Mink Eradication Trial



Smart trapping stations in Jan 2021 and Dec 2023

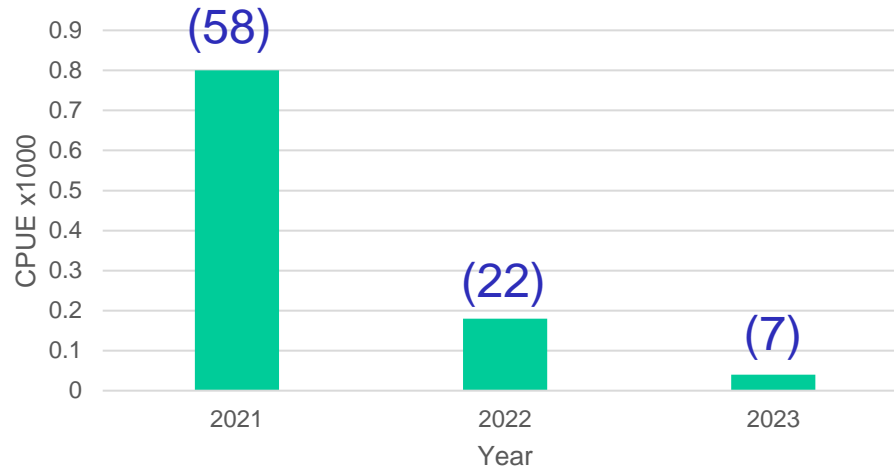


2021

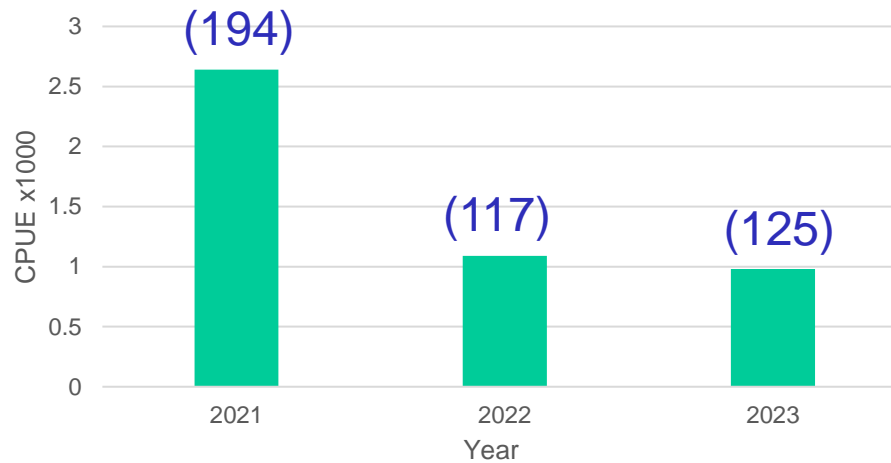


2023

CPUE x1000 per year in the Core



CPUE x1000 per year in the Buffer



(xx)
Number
caught

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

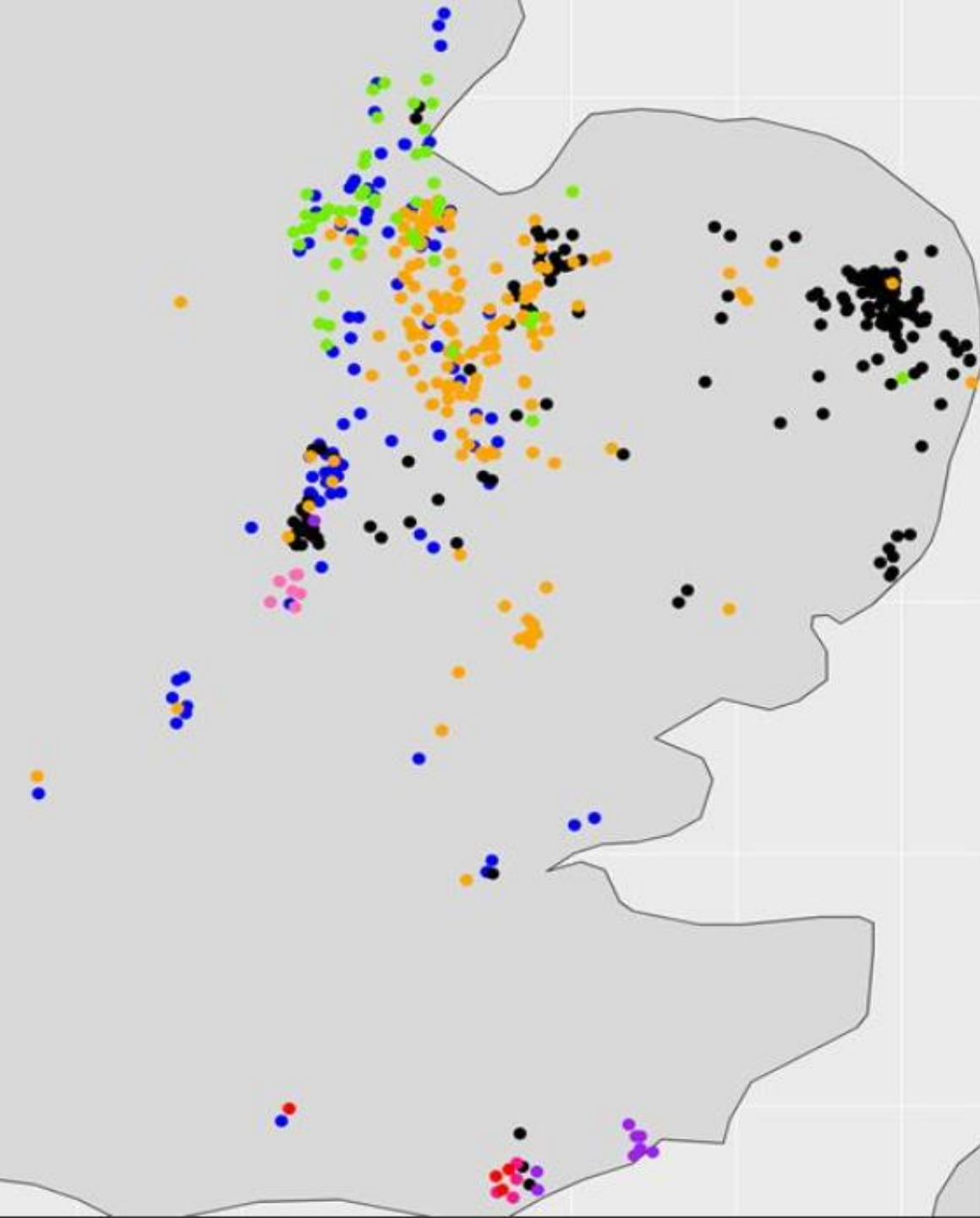


WRE0938

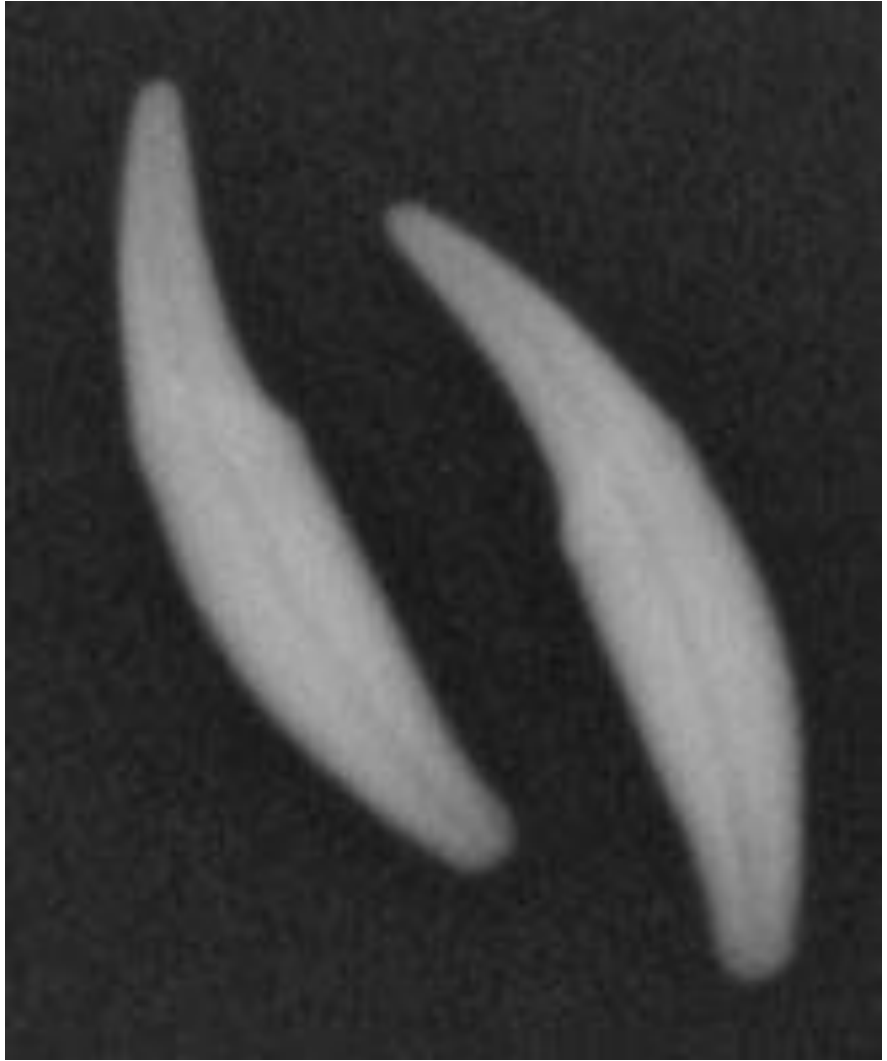
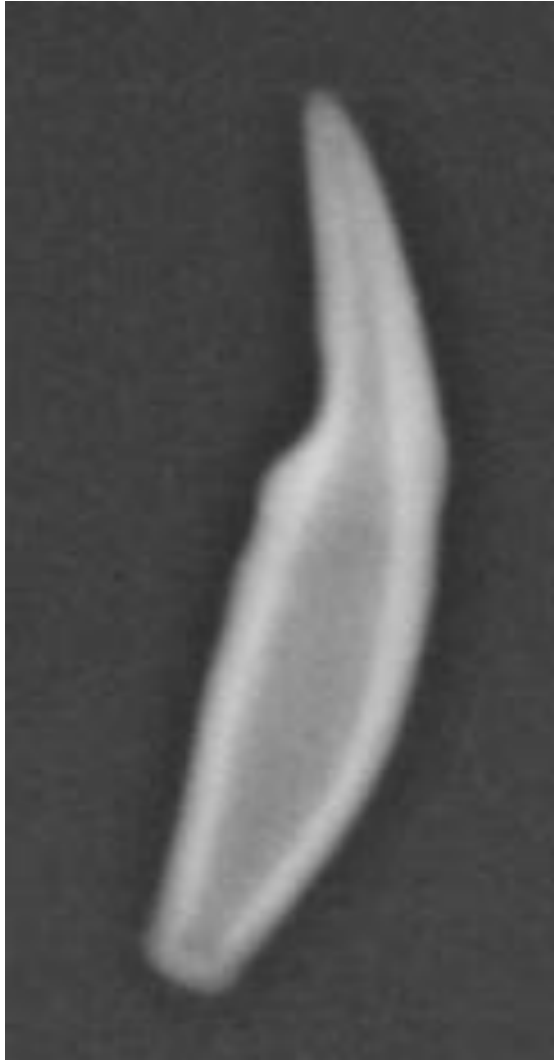
Male
Geldeston, Norfolk

15 March 2022

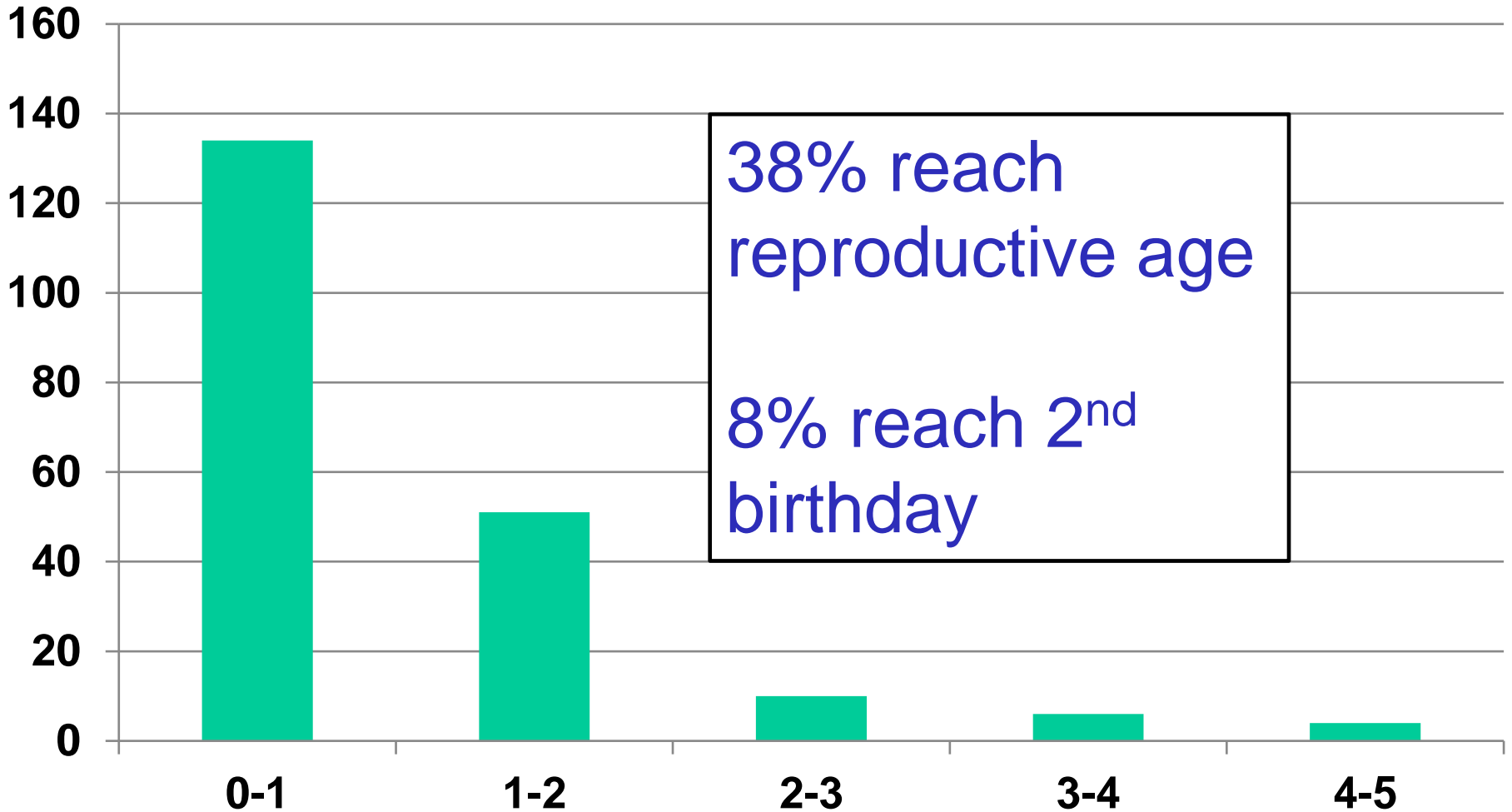




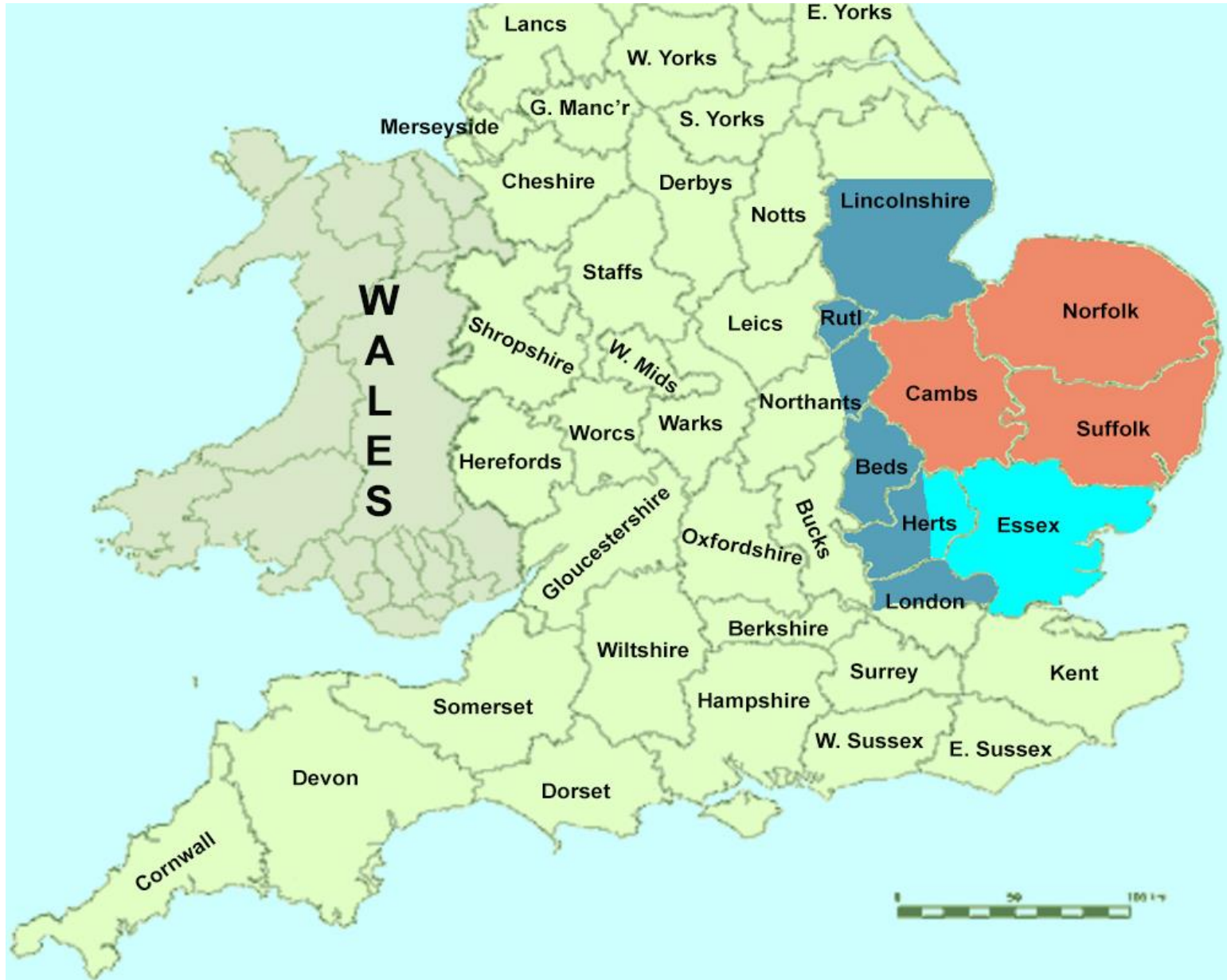
Mt DNA
haplotypes

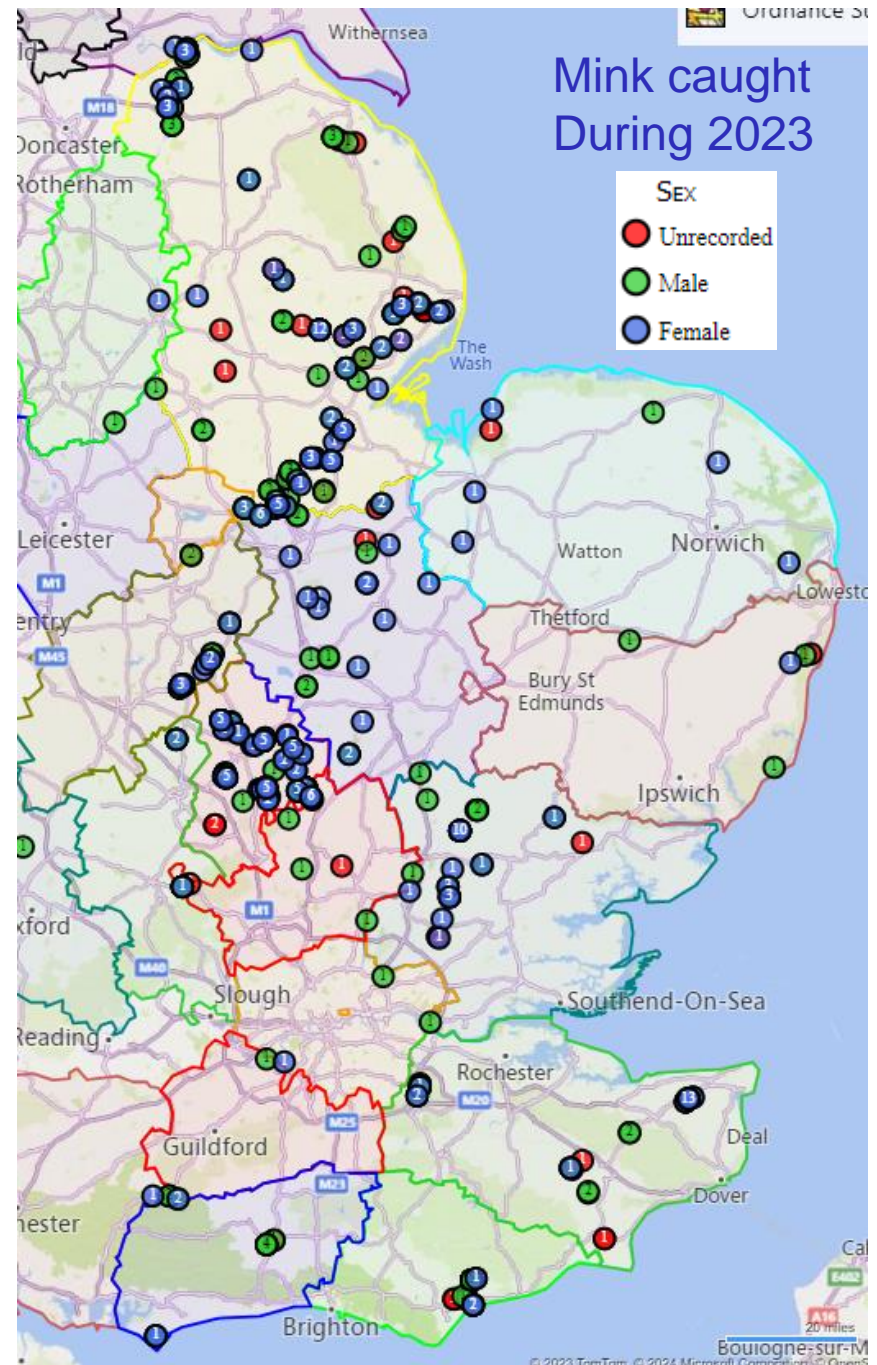
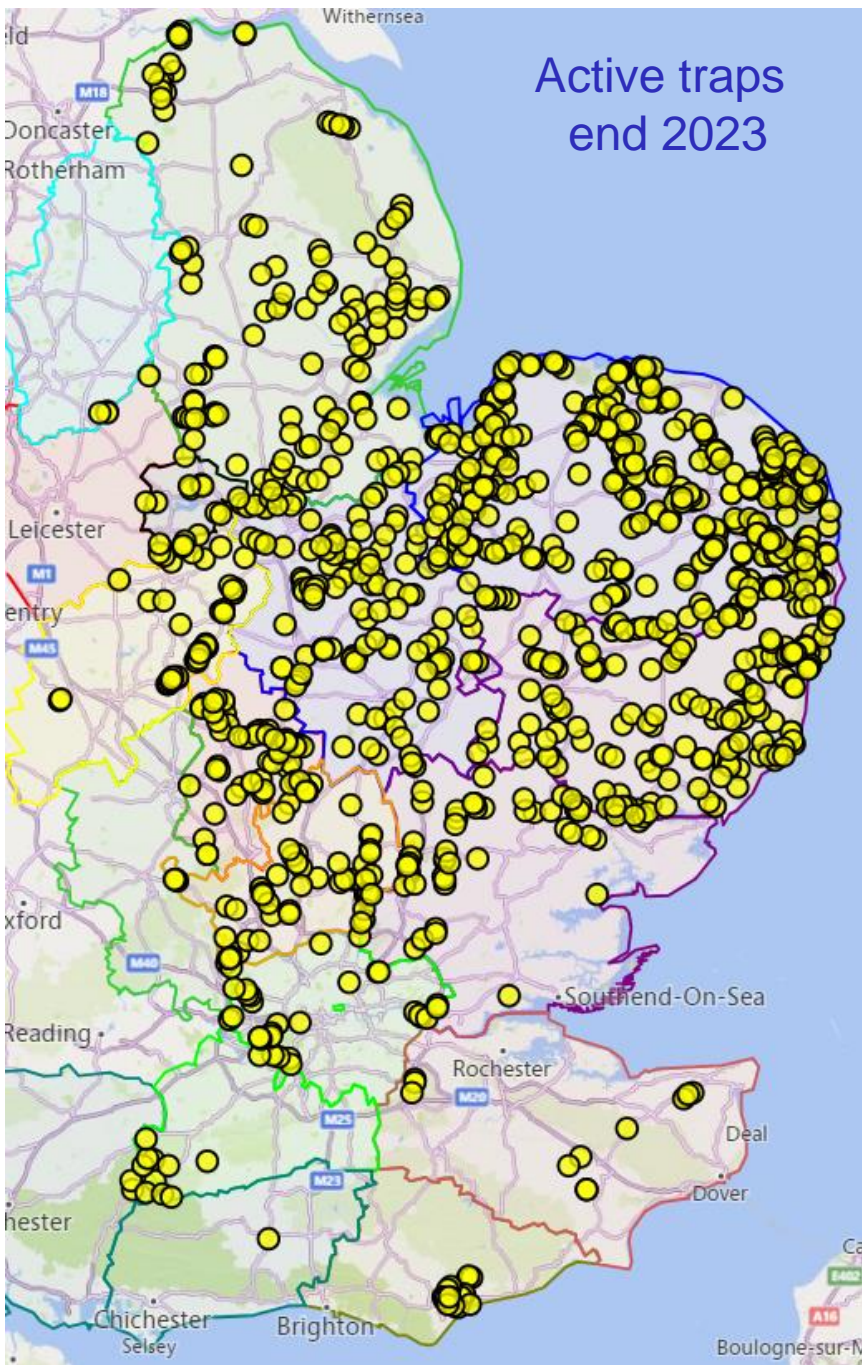


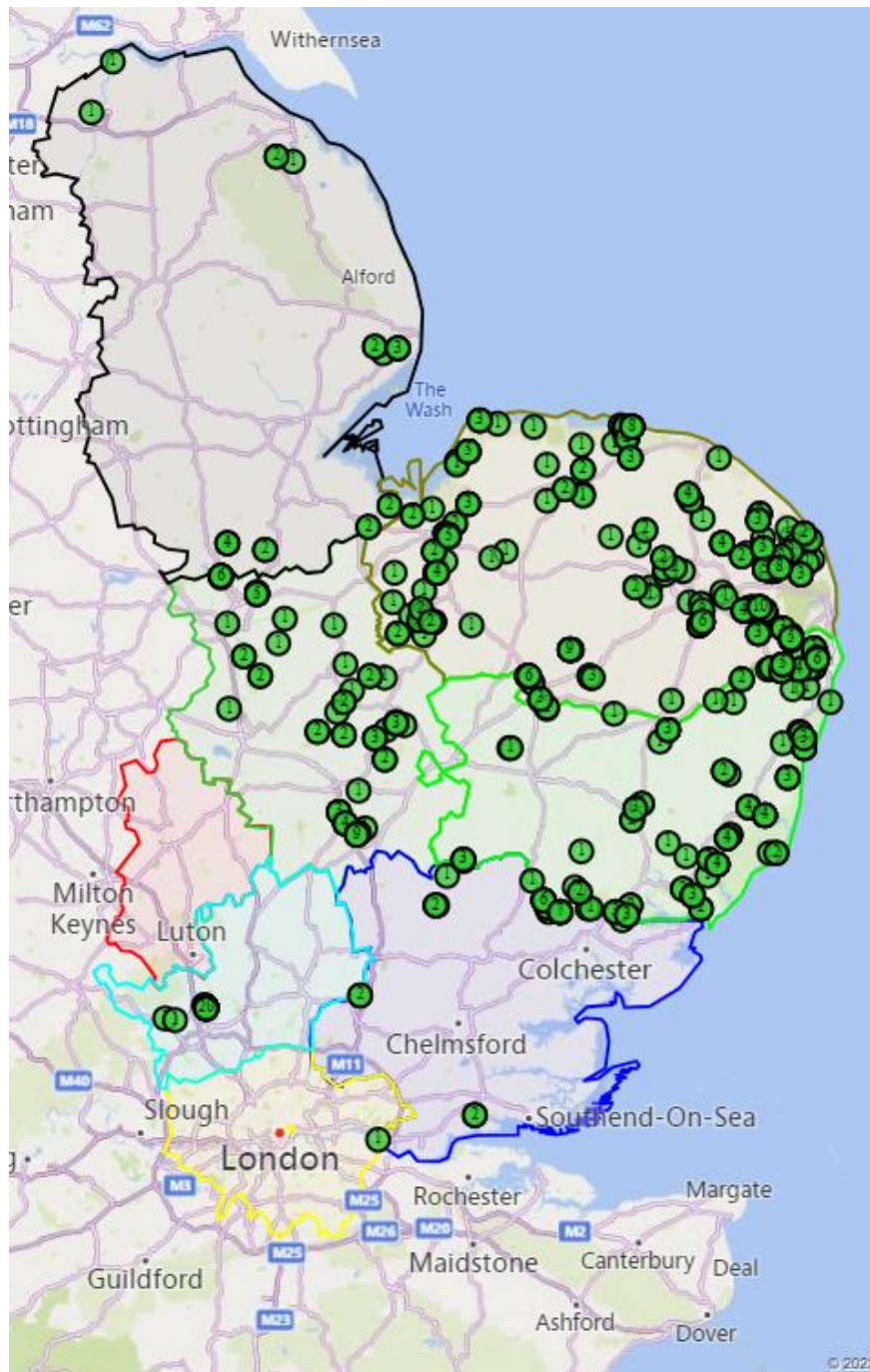
Age class distribution (teeth)



NE Funded Thames to Lincoln Project







Water vole captures 2021 to date