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Worcestershire Habitat Inventory

Phil Vincent Rose Parker



What is it?

A GIS habitat and land use database:

- Known and readily available habitat and land use data
- A full county field by field API survey (2005 photoset)
- Some limited subsequent ground-truthing

Full county coverage

What does the WHI offer?

A comprehensive source of habitat and land-use data

Analysis of habitat and land-use data

Integration with broader environmental and other sector data

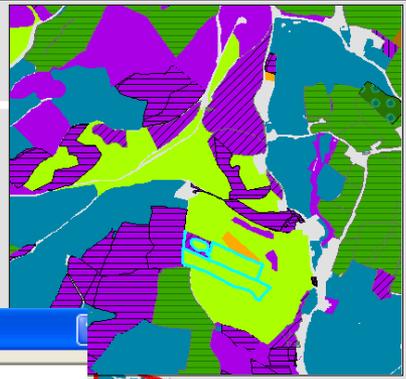
(e.g. historic environment, socio-economic, agricultural)

Tidal Thames Habitat Survey - version 1.0.4

1 survey polygon selected. Today's process:

Object ID Poly process

Area (Ha) Last modified



IHS Brief Definitions Version 1.100 - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Worcestershire County Council

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Description: This habitat type is characterised by vegetation dominated by grasses and herbs on a range of lime-deficient soils which have been derived from acidic bedrock or from superficial deposits such as sands and gravels. Such soils usually have a low base status, with a pH of less than 5.5. It also includes pioneer annual rich calcifuge communities on dry sandy soils as well as wet acidic grasslands typified by species such as *Juncus squarrosus*. (Jackson D.L., 2000).

Not included: Saltmarsh and sand-dune communities should be included under an appropriate supralittoral category. Molinia meadows and rush pastures are included under a EM4~ category. Acid grassland types and snow-bed communities which occur exclusively in the montane (Alpine) zone are included in the MH~ Montane category and acid grassland types found on shingle habitats are included in the SS~ Supralittoral sediment category. Continuous patches of non-dwarf-gorse scrub >0.25ha (including common gorse) should be included under WB2 Scrub woodland (SC). Continuous patches of bracken >0.25ha should be included under a BR~ Bracken category. Patches of dwarf-gorse scrub should be included under a HE~ Dwarf-shrub heath category.

Required multiplex codes: Include scattered trees by cross-referencing to a TS~ category; scattered scrub by cross-referencing with SC12; patches of non-dwarf-gorse scrub species with a continuous canopy up to 0.25 ha by cross-referencing with SC11; and patches of scattered bracken and continuous bracken <0.25ha by cross-referencing with a Patchy Bracken (PA1~) category.

Correlates with: NVC (U1), U2-U3, (U4), U5, (U6), SD10, SD11

GA1 Lowland dry acid grassland (PHT)

Description: Occurs on nutrient-poor, acid, generally free-draining, dry (to moist) soils with pH 4- to 5.5, overlying acid rocks or superficial deposits such as sands and gravels. Characterised by abundant or frequent *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Nardus stricta*, *Galium saxatile*, *Festuca ovina*, *Agrostis capillaris*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Carex arenaria*, and *Potentilla erecta*. Dwarf shrubs (heaths) and *Vaccinium myrtillus* occur at low abundance (<25% cover). It also includes pioneer annual rich calcifuge communities on parched/dry sandy soils. (UK Biodiversity Group, 1998a & 1999).

Not included: See GA0.

Required multiplex codes: See GA0.

Correlates with: NVC U1, (U2-U4 lowland examples) and inland SD10b and SD11b.

GA11 Inland dunes with open *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands (AN1)

Description: This is an extremely rare habitat in the UK that is found in one small part of the Breckland area of East Anglia. Dune grassland containing grey hair-grass *Corynephorus canesoens* occurs on the coast and very rarely inland in the UK. (Brown et al. 1997)

Not included: Coastal sand dunes with *Corynephorus canesoens*

Local intranet

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Some uses

- RSS, LDF Core Strategies and GI planning
- Development control and other land use decision-making
- BAP targeting, opportunity mapping and prioritisation
- Targeting of survey effort
- PTES Traditional Orchard Survey
- WBP Vision Mapping project
- Malvern Hills AONB BAP habitat mapping
- HCC & WCC Orchard Biodiversity Project

Analysis



 **worcestershire**
county council
County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP

0 1,050 2,100 4,200 6,300 8,400
Meters

Cropped land and potentially interesting/restorable habitat
in Wyre Forest District

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Habitat network analysis

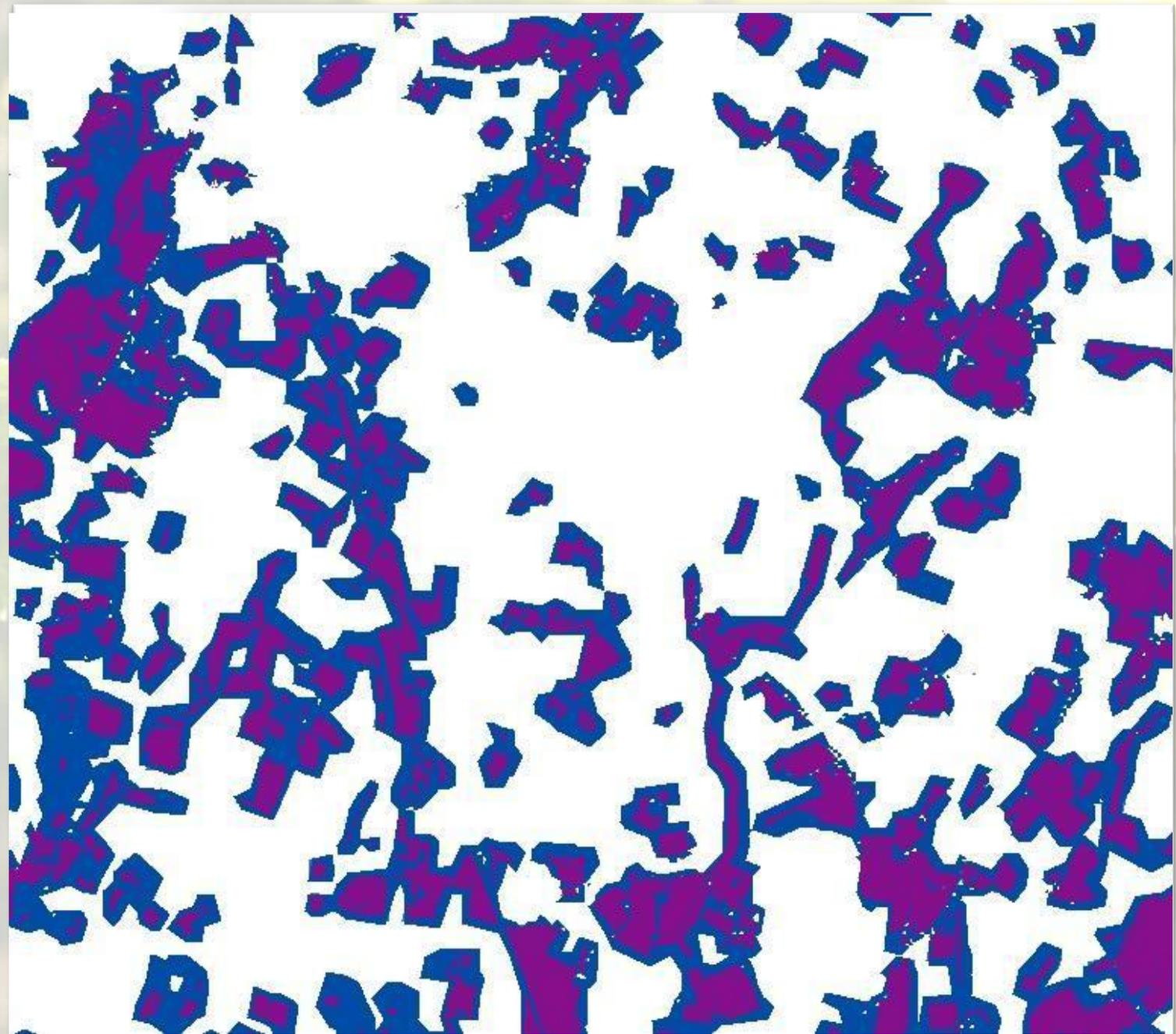
Aim - To identify habitat networks at county and local scale.

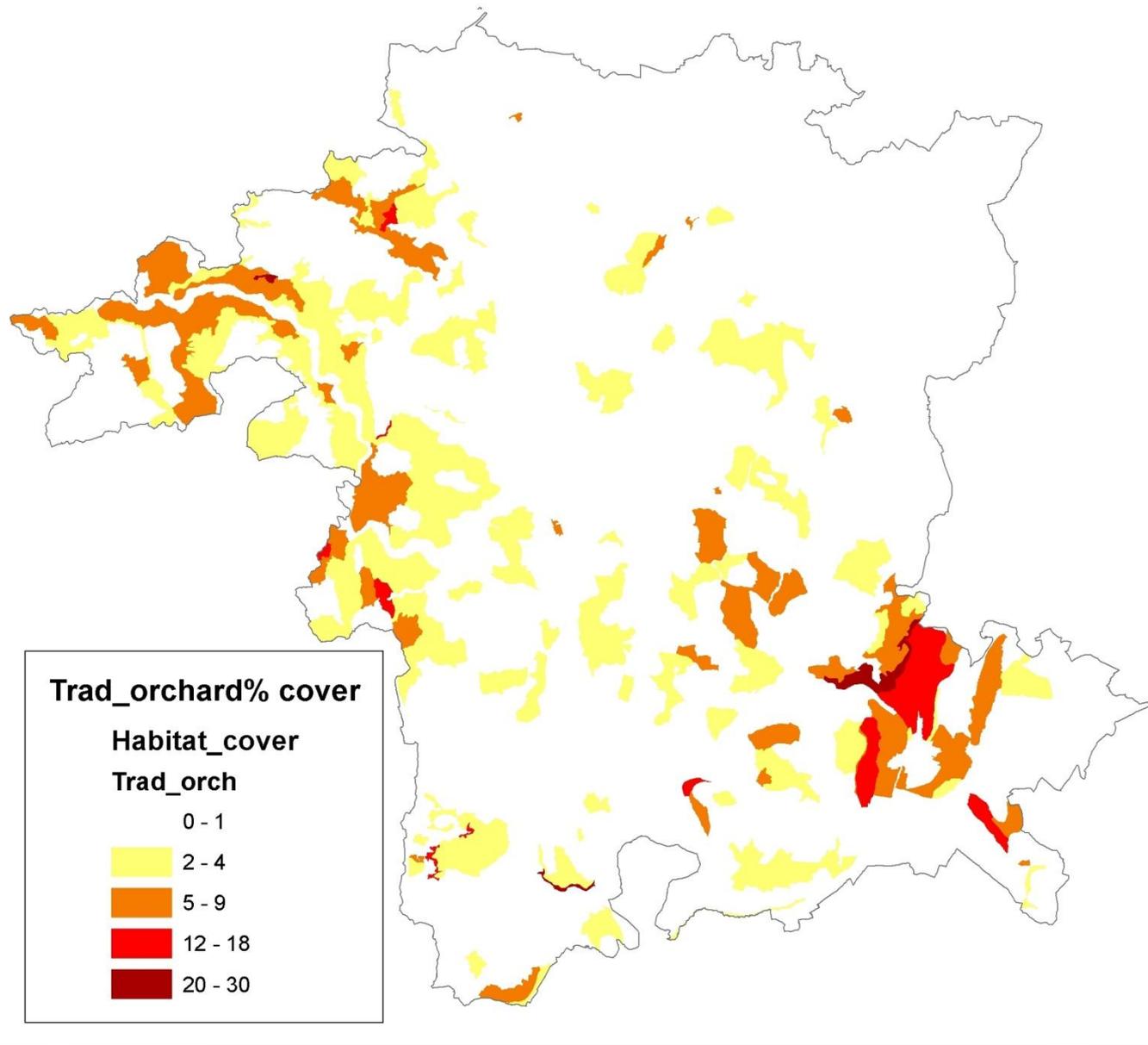
Permeability of the wider countryside to species dispersal.

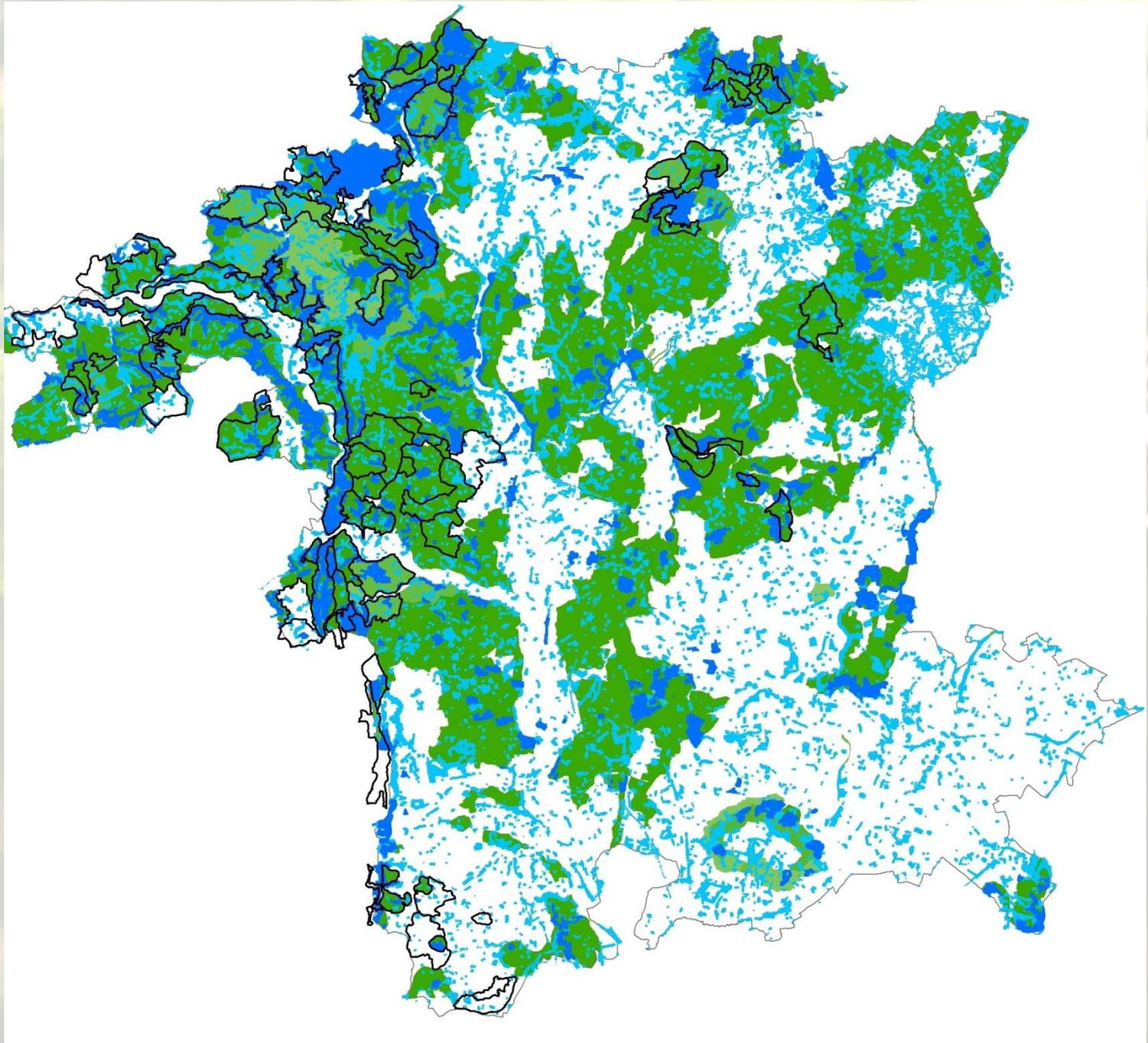
Outputs - Network maps:

Existing semi-natural habitat networks.

Where habitat restoration and creation will be of greatest benefit to these networks.







Future Development and Use

- Web and user version development
- **Roll-out to partners**
- **Ongoing data capture and management**
- Survey targeting
- Resurvey, comparison and monitoring of change

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