



Big Chalk

Simon Smith C.Env M.C.I.E.E.M
Nature Recovery Lead

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Why? The Logic of a Nature Recovery Presentation (First 8 slides in 1!)

Denuded wildlife

- 75% of the UK's lowland calcareous grassland lost in the last 70 years
- 68% decline in habitat specialist butterflies 1976 – 2018

And now... climate change too

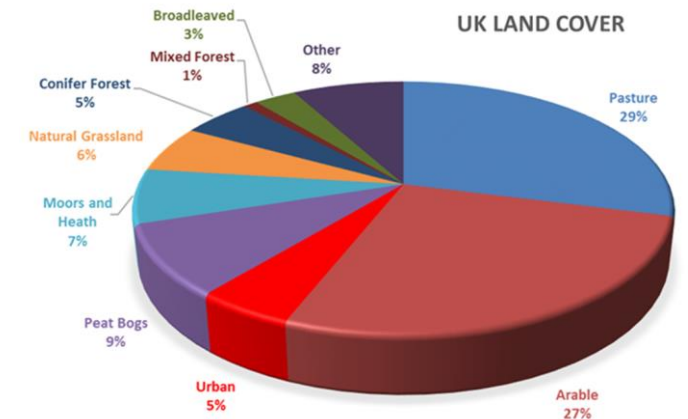
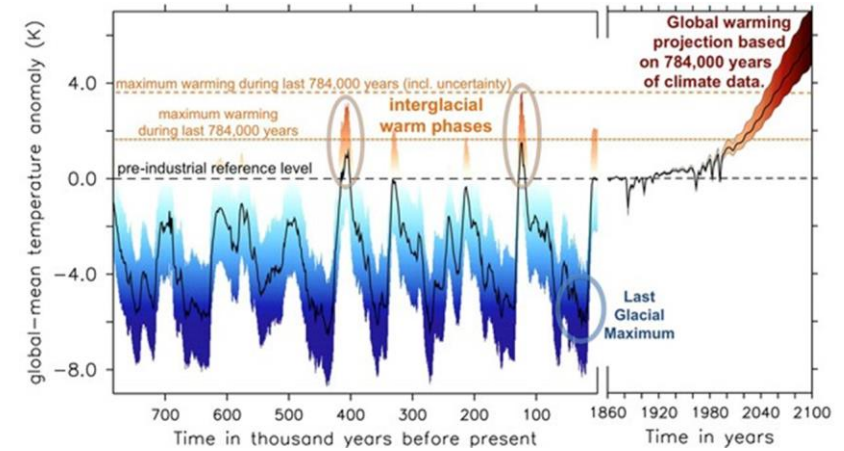
- Not new, but different: extent, and speed
- Impacts: temperature, rainfall, extremes, phenology

Adaptations to climate change – been there done that

- Changes in niche
- Move to new climate space altitude & latitude

Move through what? A hostile landscape

- 25% “Semi-natural” including 16% mostly upland so lowland even less + condition, connectedness



Big Chalk Is The Best Application of Lawton



Most species rich habitats and landscapes

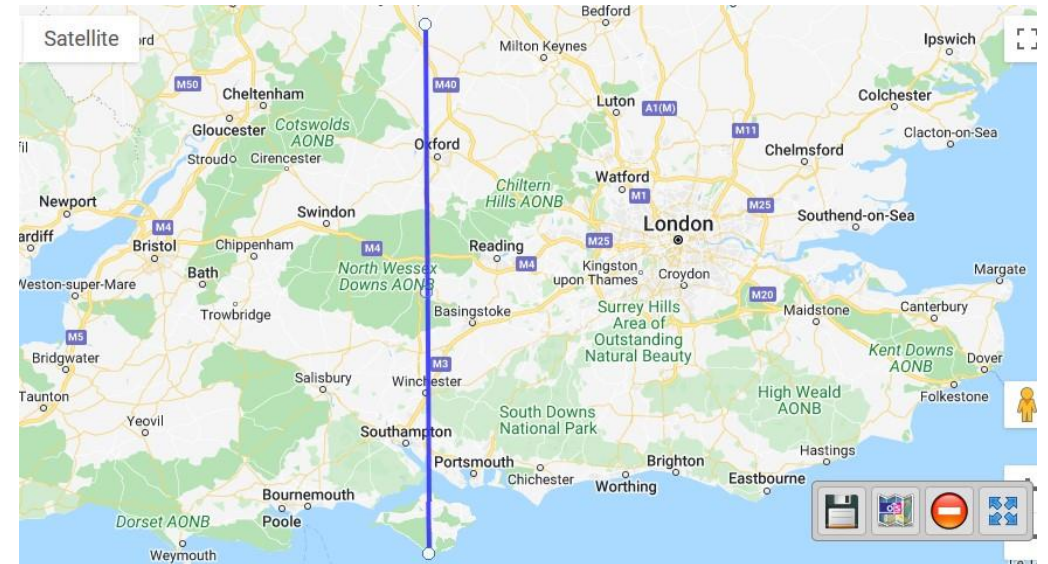


By Rachel Hudson with thanks to Back from the Brink/Butterfly Conservation

E.g. Cotswolds: Important Plant Area for ancient woodland and dry calcareous grassland flora & a farmland bird priority area.

www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

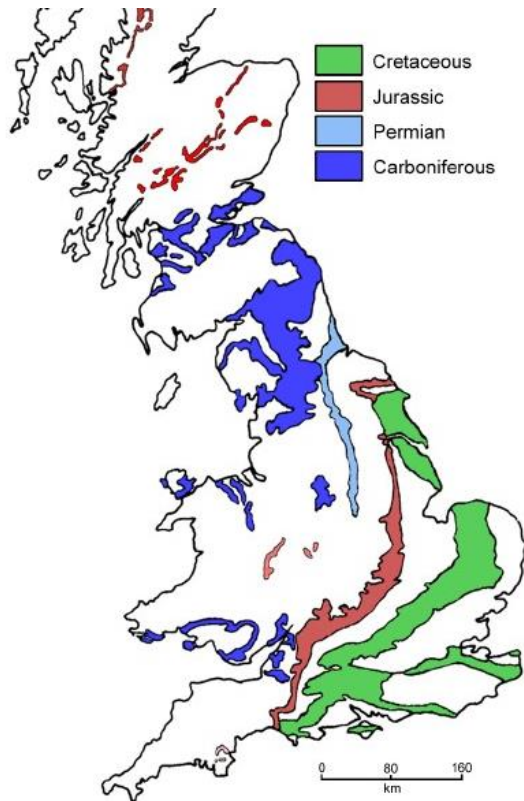
Over the best geography



North – South = 173.2km, 107.6 miles.

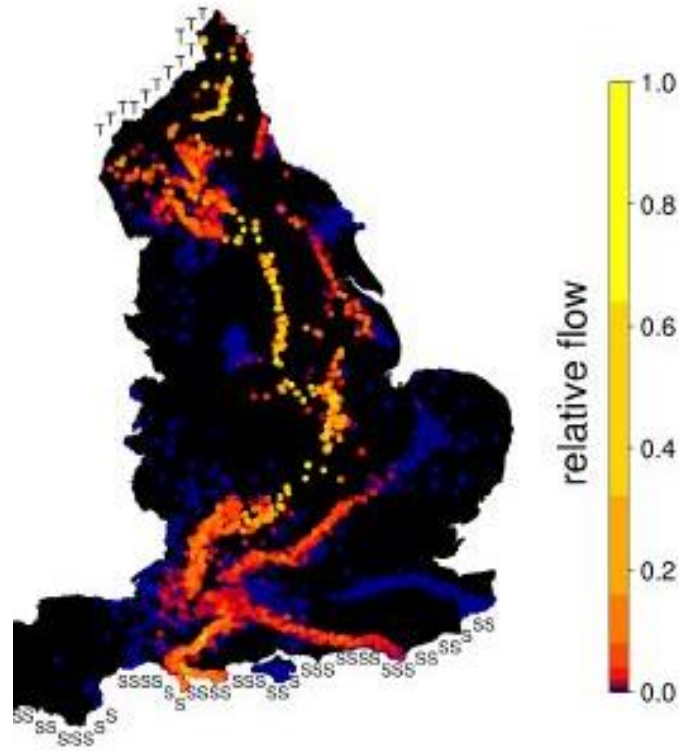
Evidence – Geology and Habitats

Chalk and limestone bedrocks from the UK Geological Map



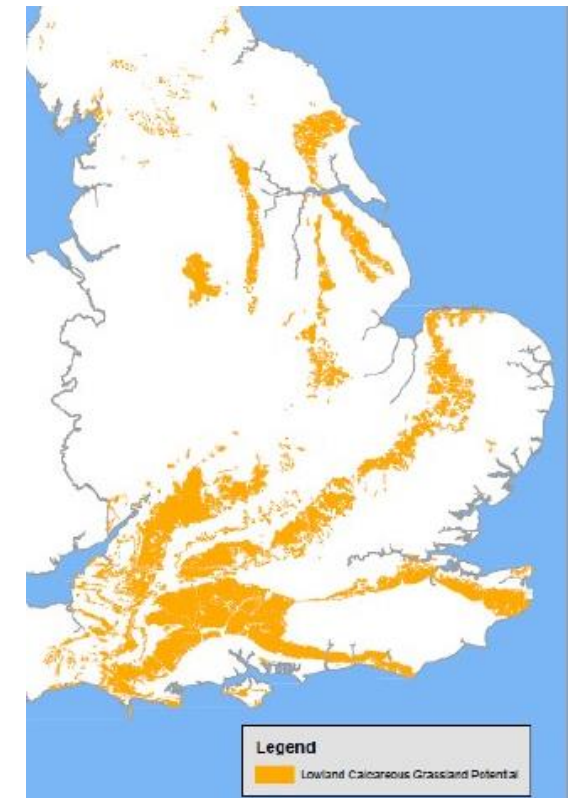
Flow output from Condatis for Lowland Chalk Grassland Habitat.

Source Nature Networks
Evidence Handbook NE.

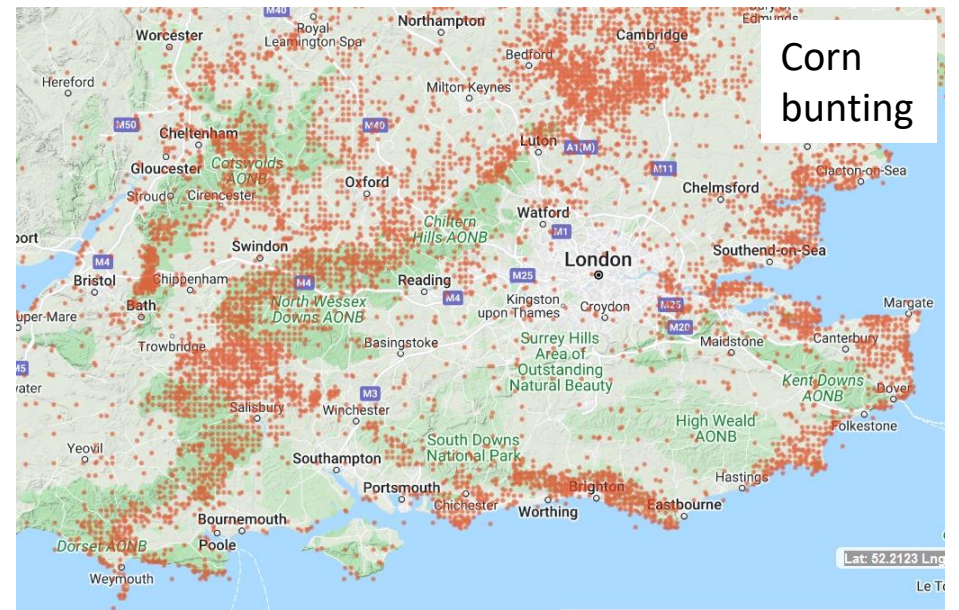
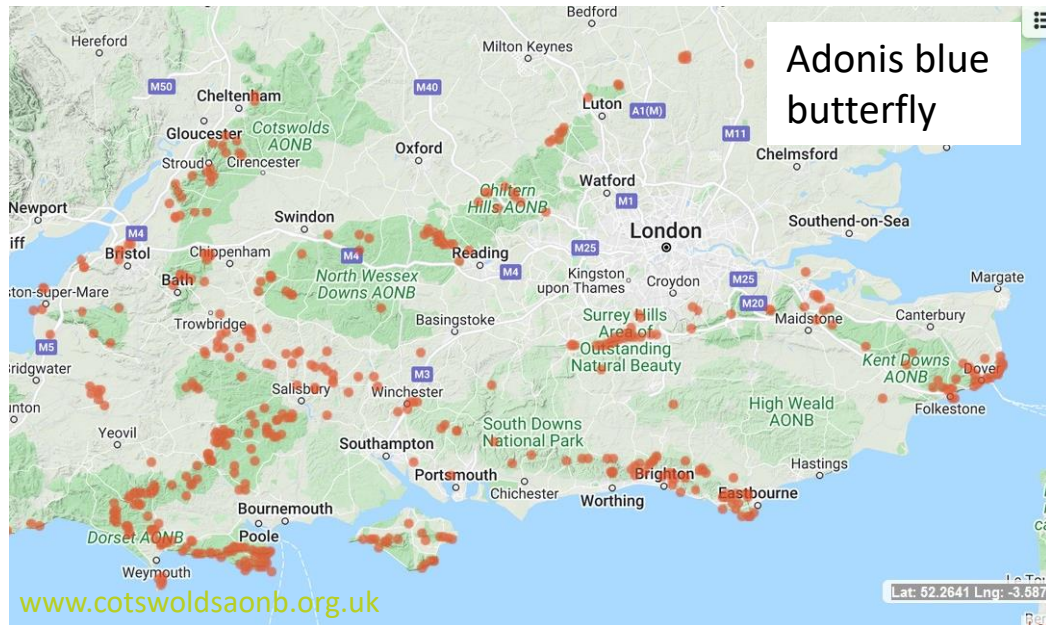
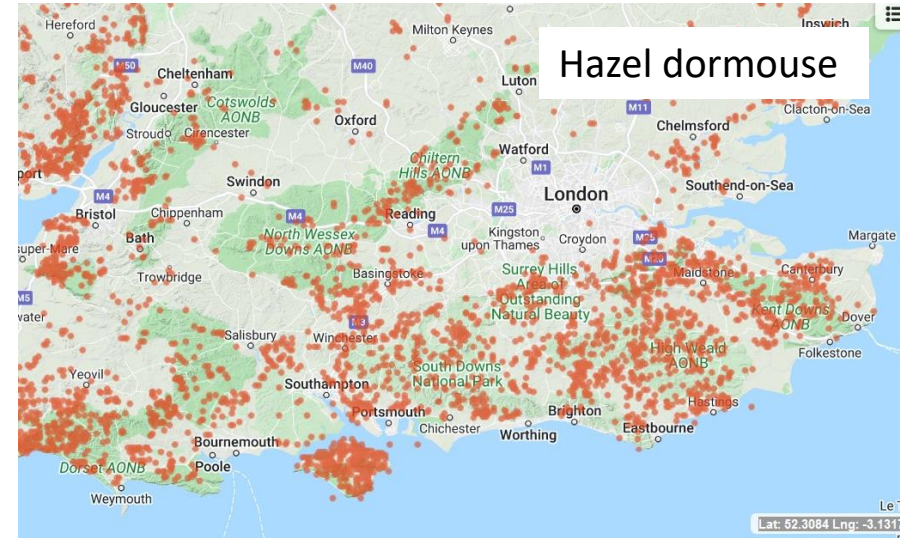
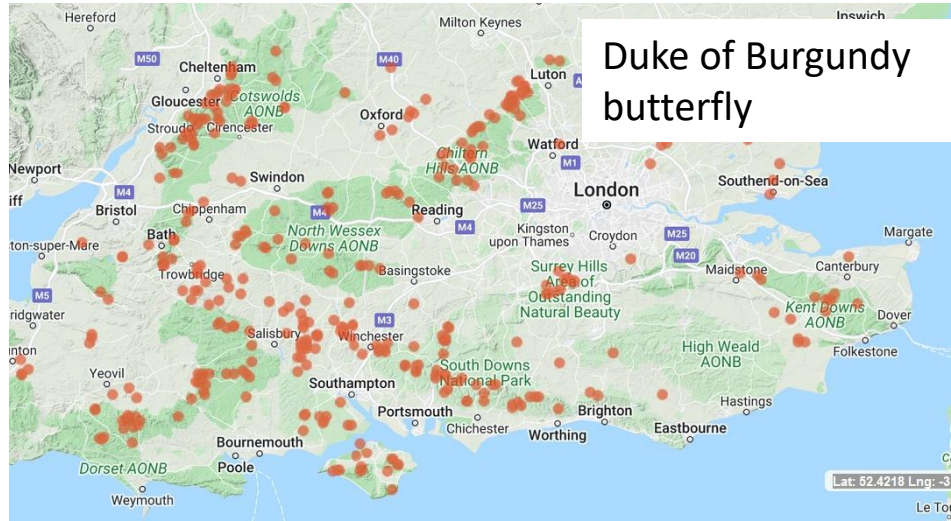


Habitat Potential Map for Calcareous Grassland

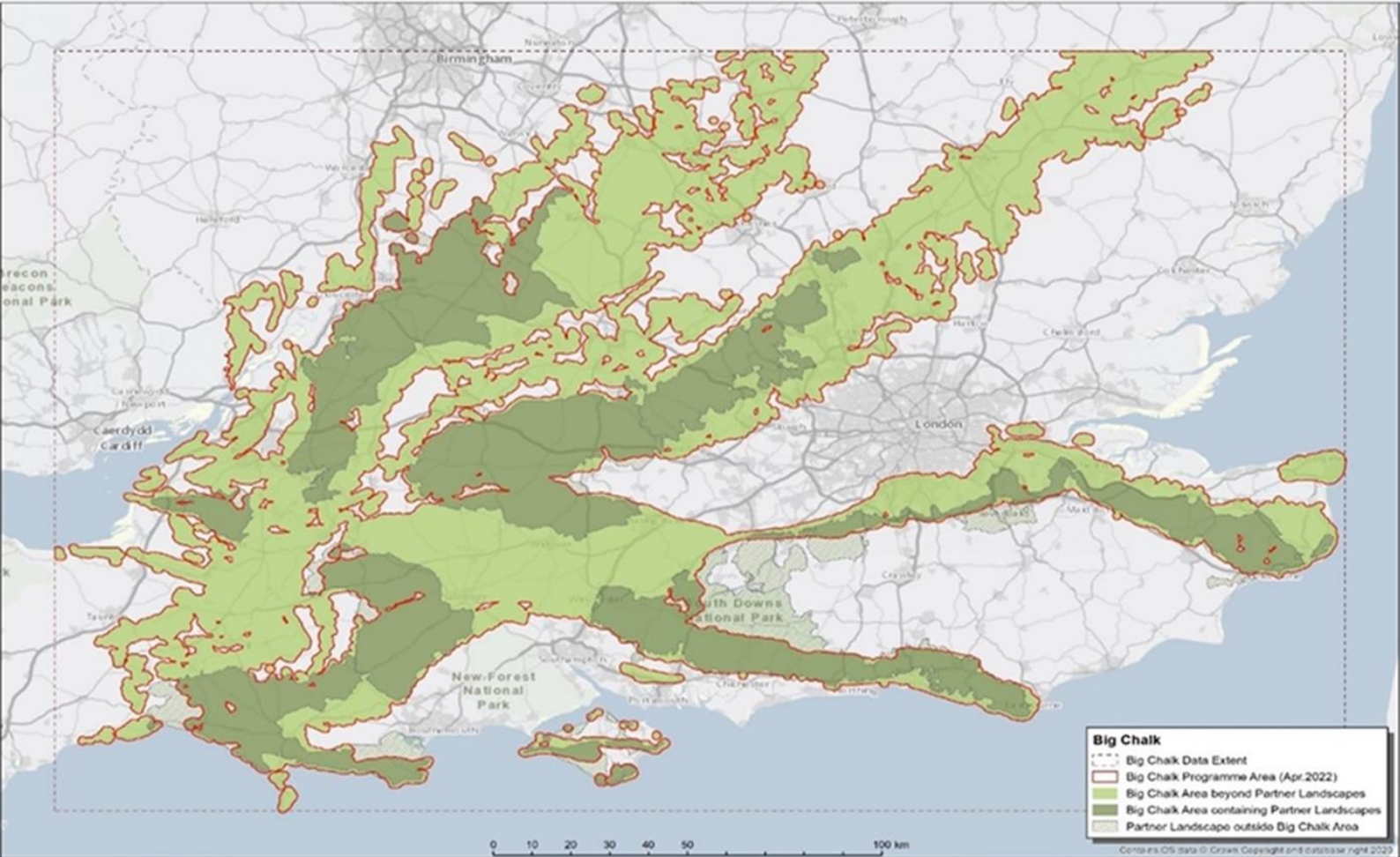
Source Nature Networks
Evidence Handbook NE.



Evidence Species



The best opportunity to promote nature recovery and help wildlife adapt to climate change offered by the English landscape



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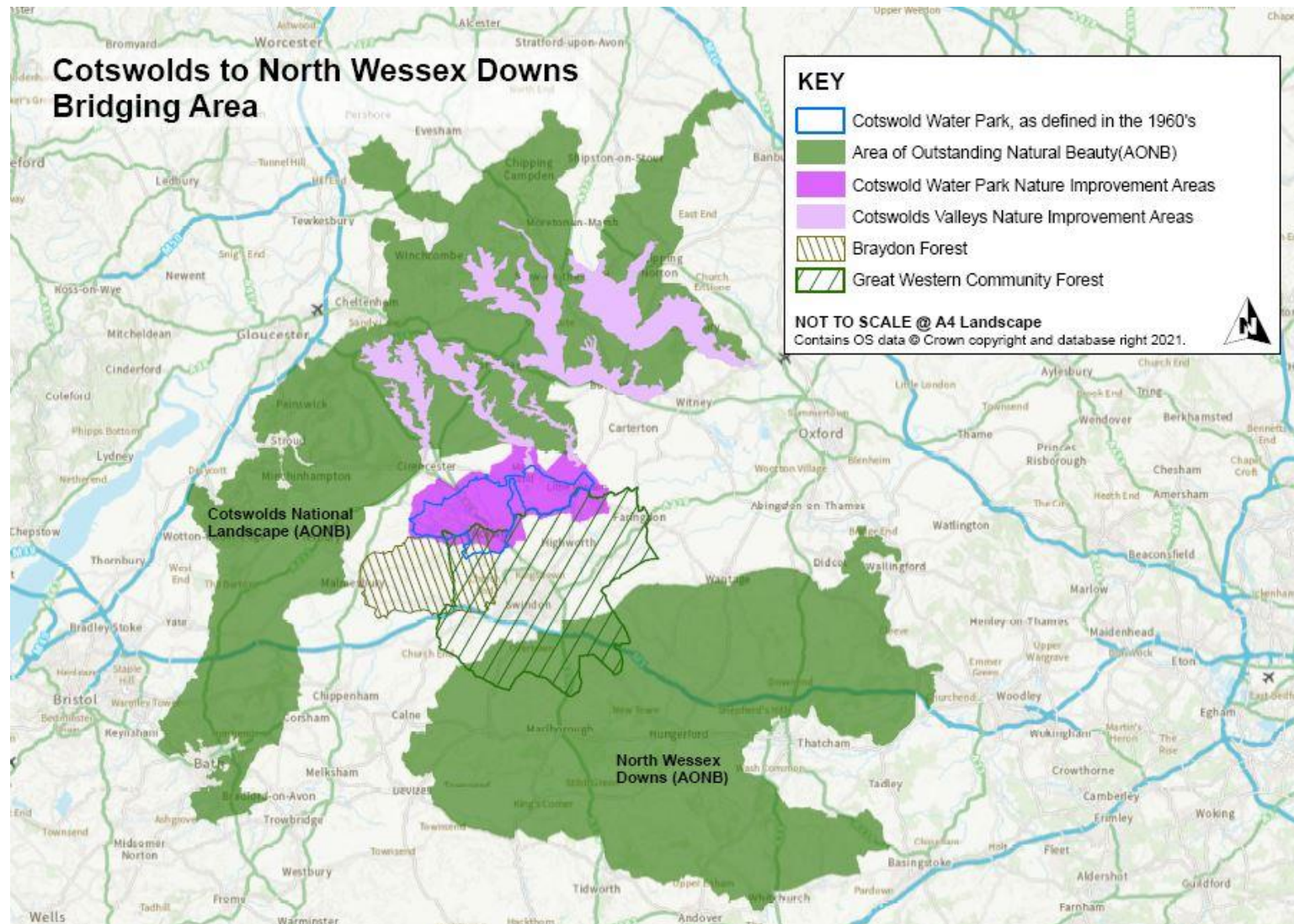
Future wildlife

Lawton – at scale across the most species rich landscapes.

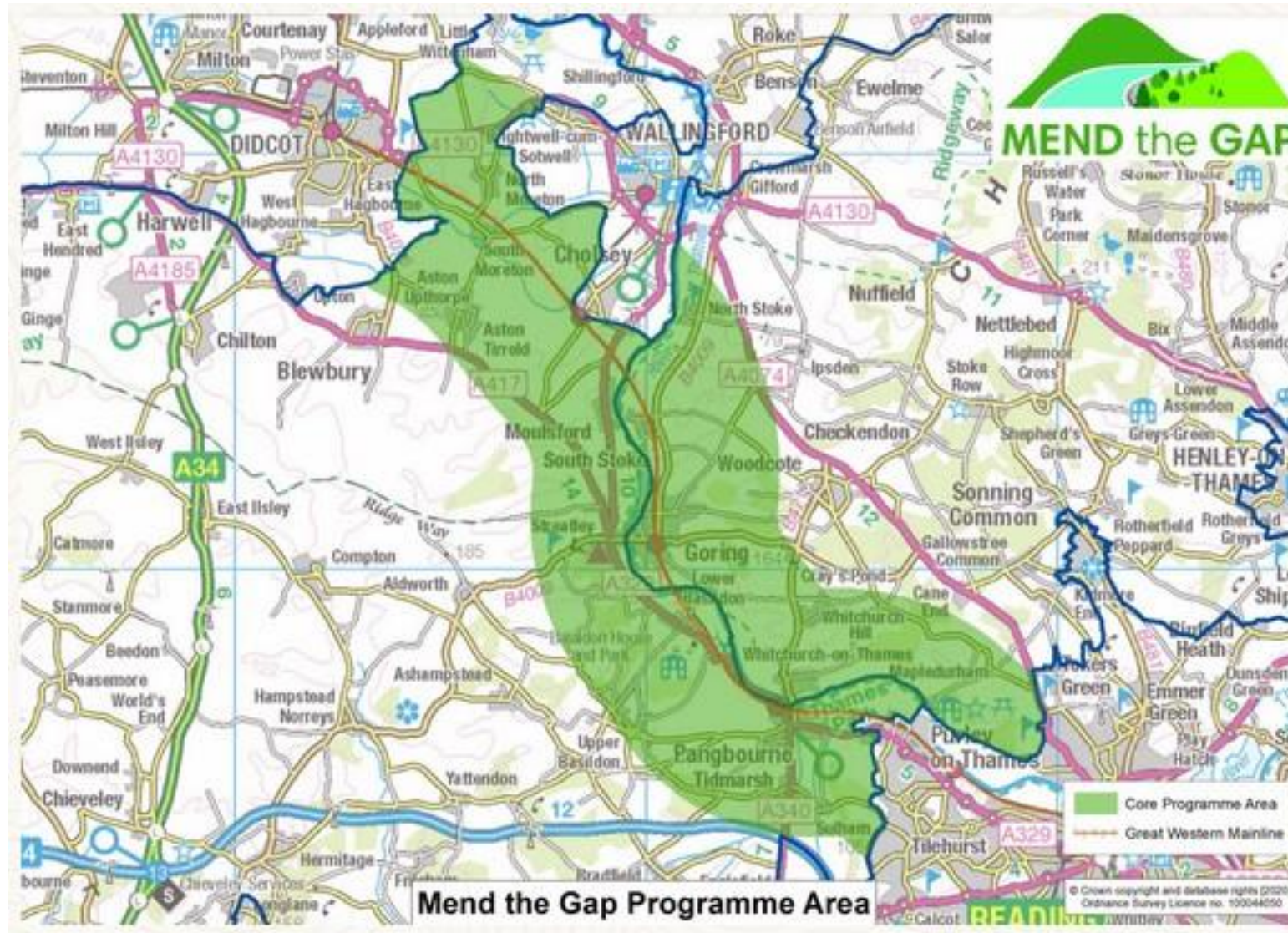
Movement to new climate space. North – South = 173.2km, 107.6 miles.

North Wessex Downs – a central role

North Wessex Downs Connections - North West



North Wessex Downs Connections - East



North Wessex Downs Connections - South West



South East?



What's in it for Us?

The Nature of Big Chalk

- Programme not a project
- Synergy not duplication
- Walk the talk – across political and institutional borders

Stronger Together (access & influence funders)

- Defra
- ELM - Landscape Recovery
- NLHF – new strategy & programme

Making more happen

- Championing existing projects & proposals
- Facilitating new partnerships & proposals

Greater Together

- Work in a field shown to be nationally important
- Network for sharing practice experience



The Story So Far



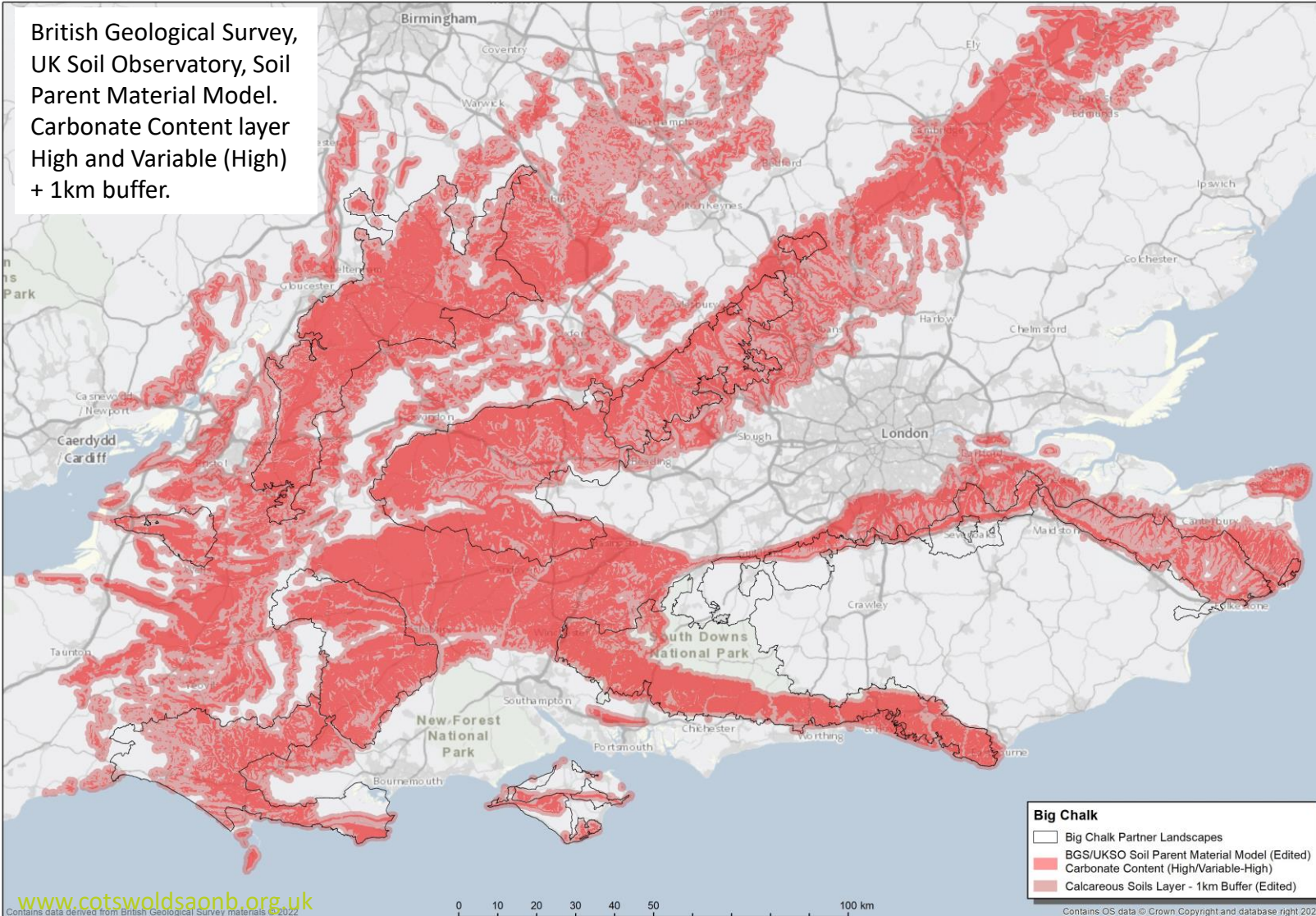
*Word-cloud from the three Big Chalk geographical outreach workshops.
March 2022*

1. All the calcareous Protected Landscapes on board at start
 - National pilot for AONBs – Colchester Declaration
 - First meeting of initial partners December 2020

2. Natural England supported development
 - Consultancy commissioned November 2021
 - Report September 2022

3. Protected Landscapes Partnership supporting next steps with Defra funding.

What's Next



Now in Place

- Big Chalk Board – governance.
- Topic Groups – technical, sharing, developing.
- Wider partnership – information.
- Project registration.

Next Steps

- Big Chalk Lead Officer
- Brand
- Communication
- Pilot development fund
- LNRS Big Chalk Champions
- Conference
- NLHF Proposal(s)



Join Us

Board

Topic Groups

- Conservation Practice & Land Management
- Working With Farmers and Landowners
- New Landscape Projects
- Evidence Data Recording & Volunteers
- Natural Capital
- Health, Wellbeing & Engagement

Wider membership list

Register Your project or project proposal

Details on the Cotswolds National Landscape website under
“Our work, Big Chalk”.

www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

