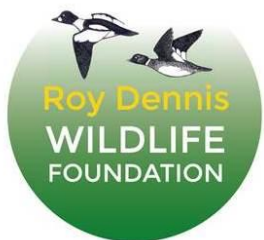




# Isle of Wight White-tailed Eagle Reintroduction Project



What is a white-tailed eagle?



# A brief history of white-tailed eagles in the British Isles.

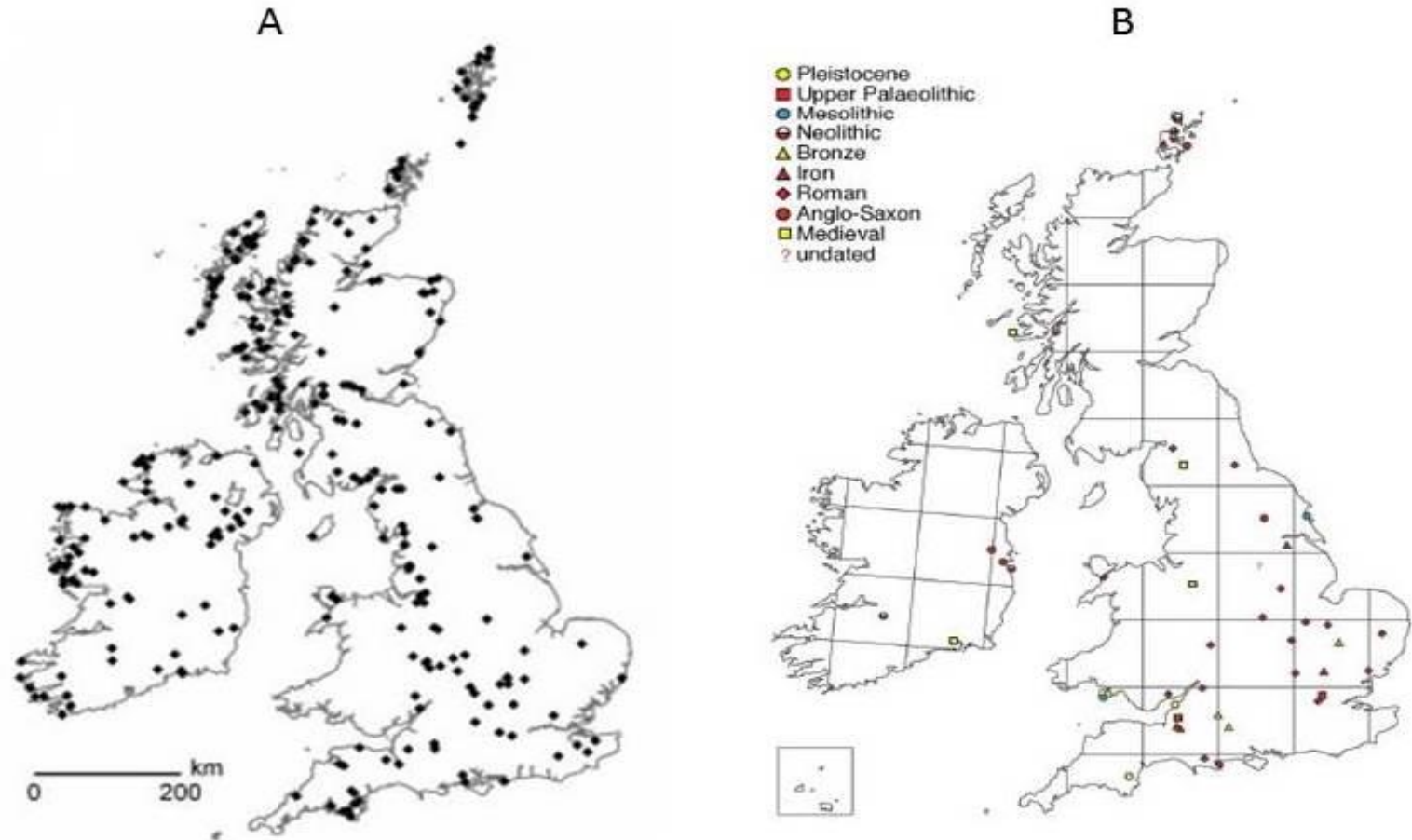


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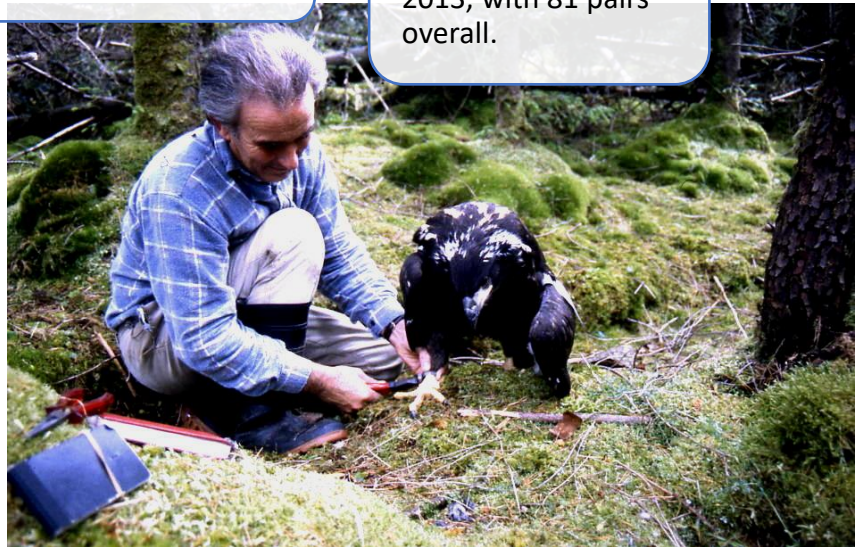
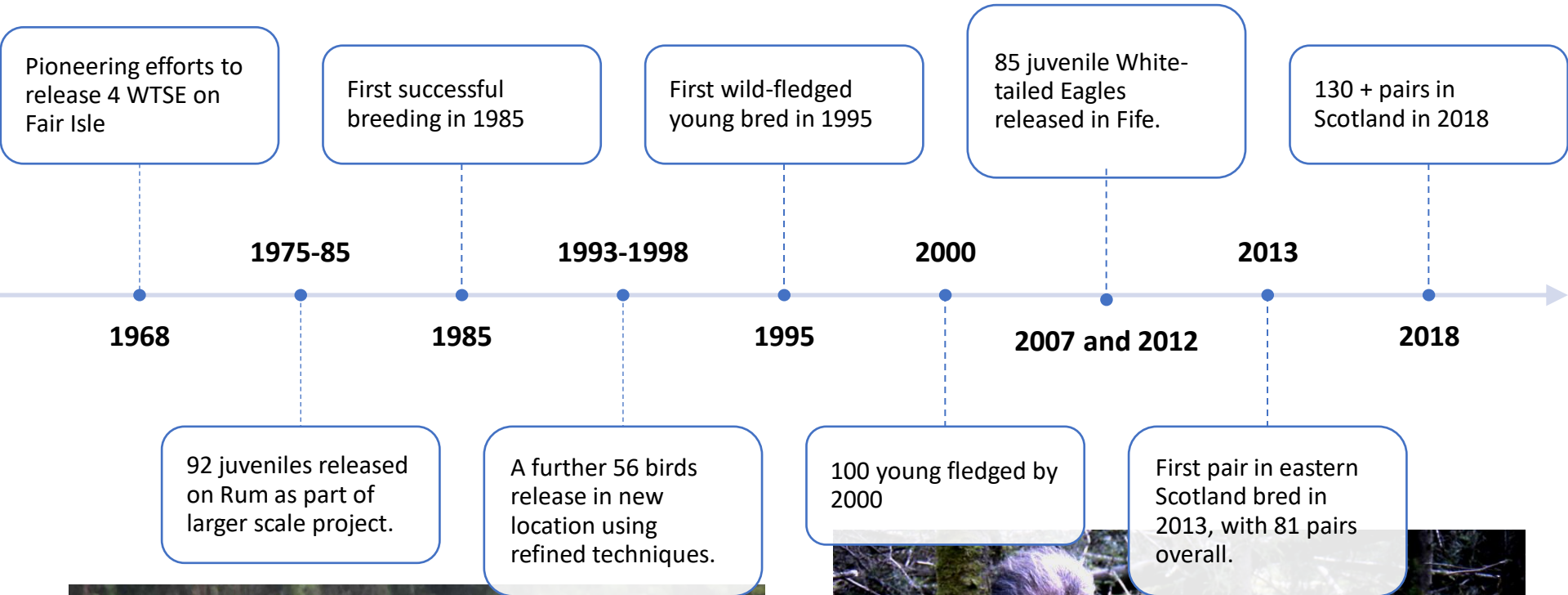


- Like many birds of prey, the White-tailed Eagle suffered relentless persecution from the Middle Ages onwards
- Last known pair in southern England bred on Culver Cliff in 1780
- Pair on Isle of Man in 1815
- Became extinct in Scotland in early 1900s

# White-tailed Eagles in the UK



A) Geographical location of place names interpreted as indicating the presence of White-tailed Eagles (Evans et al. 2012); B) Map showing the archaeological records of White-tailed Eagles in the UK (Yalden 2007).



# Irish reintroduction

- 100 White-tailed Eagle chicks were translocated from Norway to Killarney National Park in south-west Ireland between 2007 and 2012 using techniques developed in Scotland.



Year	No pairs	No active nests*	Successful Pairs	No young Fledged	No fledged/ nesting pair	No fledged/ successful nest
2010	1	0	-	-	-	-
2011	4	0	-	-	-	-
2012	6	1	0	0	-	-
2013	10	3	1	2	0.66	2.0
2014	14	7	1	1	0.14	1.0
2015	13	8	4	4	0.50	1.0
2016	10	9	6	7	0.78	1.2
2017	10	9	5	7	0.78	1.4
ALL	68	37	17	21	0.57	1.2

\*Clutches laid





## From protests to partnerships: How farmers are supporting the reintroduction of the White-tailed Eagle

The arrival of the first White-tailed Eagle chicks in over 100 years into the country sparked controversy and even a protest at the airport. However, a decade since the White-tailed Eagle Reintroduction Programme began, a partnership approach with farmers has helped dispel myths, allay the fears and strengthen the success of the project



An adult White Tailed Eagle catches a fish to feed her chicks. Photo:Valerie O'Sullivan

Majella O'Sullivan  
December 9 2017 5:00 AM

They were native to the land but had become extinct here due to the efforts of their main predator - man.



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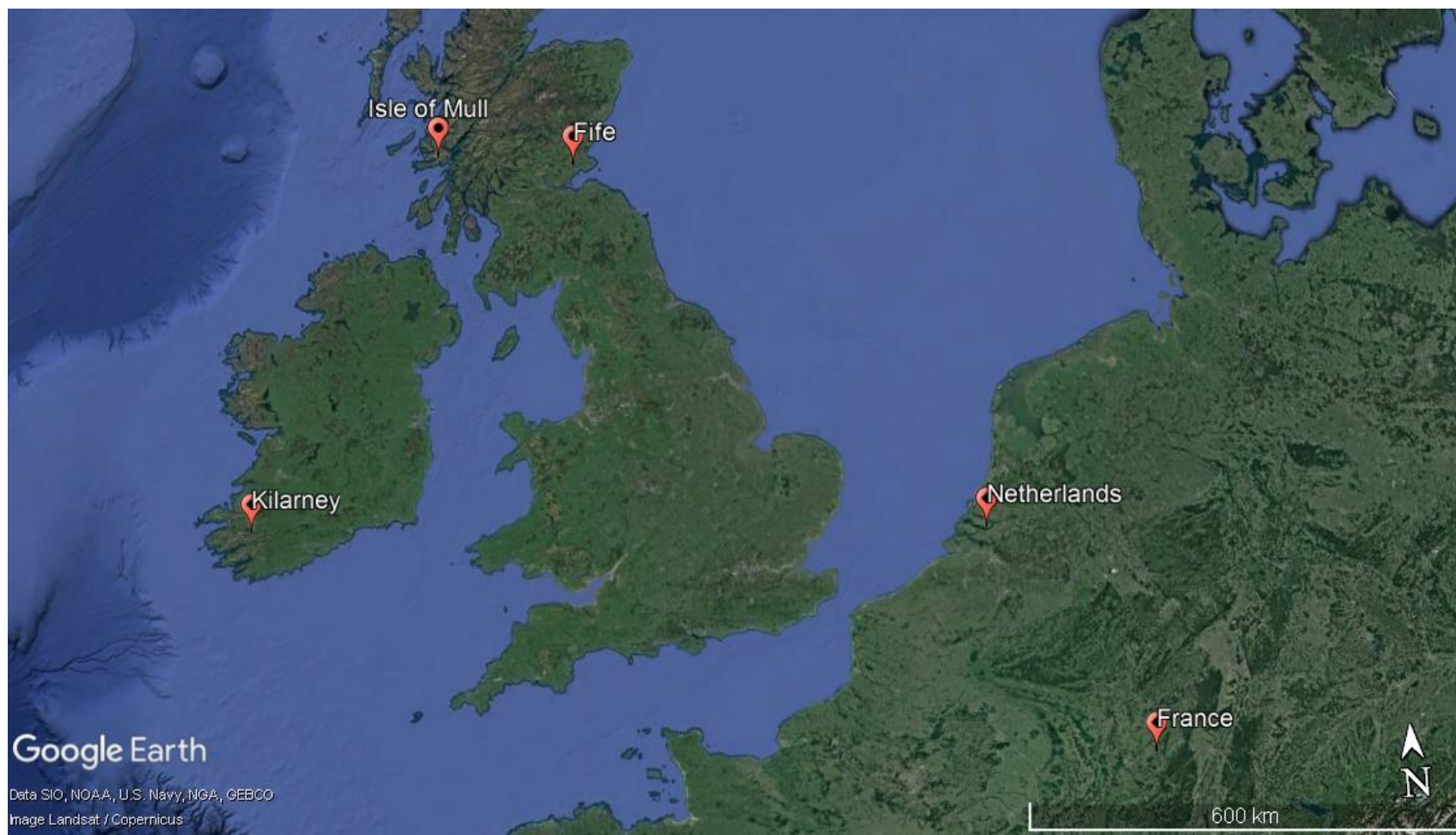
- Initial concerns expressed among the farming community
- There have been no cases of live lambs being taken.
- Most farmers are now in favour or neutral – some help to monitor nests.
- The project has worked closely with the farming community from the outset.

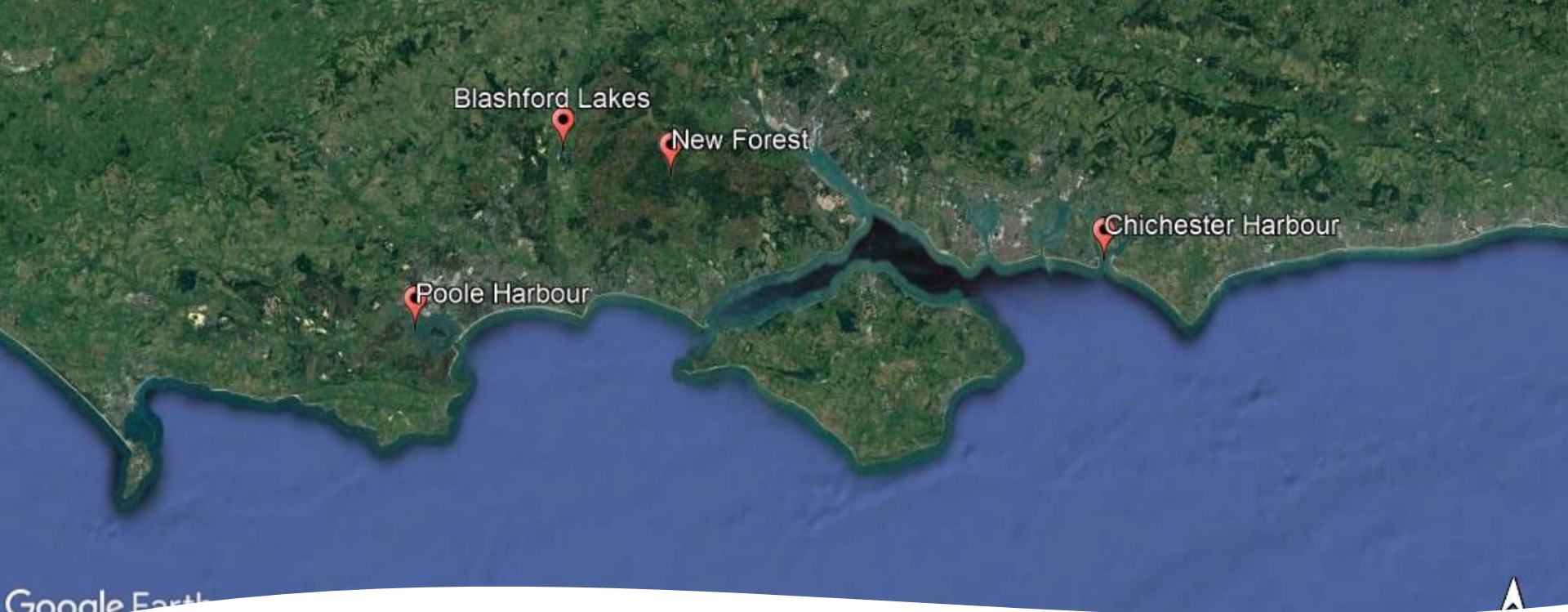
# Why reintroduce White-tailed Eagles to southern England?



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- Restoring a population of White-tailed Eagles on the South Coast of England will link the populations in Ireland and Scotland with those in Netherlands and France.
- Breeding biology of the species means it may take many decades for this to occur naturally. The work in Scotland and Ireland shows that translocation can speed up this process significantly.





## Why the Isle of Wight?

- Last known breeding site in southern England.
- Location will facilitate dispersal of White-tailed Eagles to other suitable locations east and west along the South Coast.
- Significant areas of suitable breeding and wintering habitat exist in Hampshire, Dorset and elsewhere in southern England. Dedicated conservation movement in southern England.
- Not too dissimilar to nearby Netherlands, suggesting eagles should thrive here.



## White-tailed Eagles in the Netherlands

- 11 breeding pairs in 2018, with a number of other young non-breeding pairs established on nests.
- Provides a valuable example of how the species can breed in lowland, densely populated areas.



- In Netherlands the species breeds close to human activity and settlement – such as at Krammer Volkerak south of Rotterdam
- Very similar species assemblage to the Solent - large numbers of wintering Dark-bellied Brent Geese, Teal, Black-tailed Godwit and Ringed Plover all present along with resident White-tailed Eagles. Also breeding terns and Mediterranean Gulls.



- Diet of White-tailed Eagles in the Netherlands consists predominantly of waterbirds (58%) and fish (28%) (van Rijn and Dekker 2016). Evidence that fish are preferred when available.
- Greylag Goose (38%) and Coot (34%) most frequently caught water birds. Tend to take injured or sick individuals.
- No conflict with sheep/livestock farming in Netherlands – or elsewhere in Europe.

A reintroduction in progress



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# Translocation

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- The project received licences from Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage.
- Chicks collected at roughly 10 weeks old from nests of two or more, one must be left behind.
- Reared in special pens in a confidential location before being satellite tagged and released.
- Food will be provided close to the release site during the autumn and winter before the young eagles become independent.
- Up to 12 birds will be translocated each year over a five-year period, the licence allowing the project to release up to 60 birds.





Nic Davies 2019



Credit Dave Sexton, RSPB Mull

Ian Perks



Ian Perks



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What have we discovered so far?

# 2019 Release



e Earth

Copernicus

, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

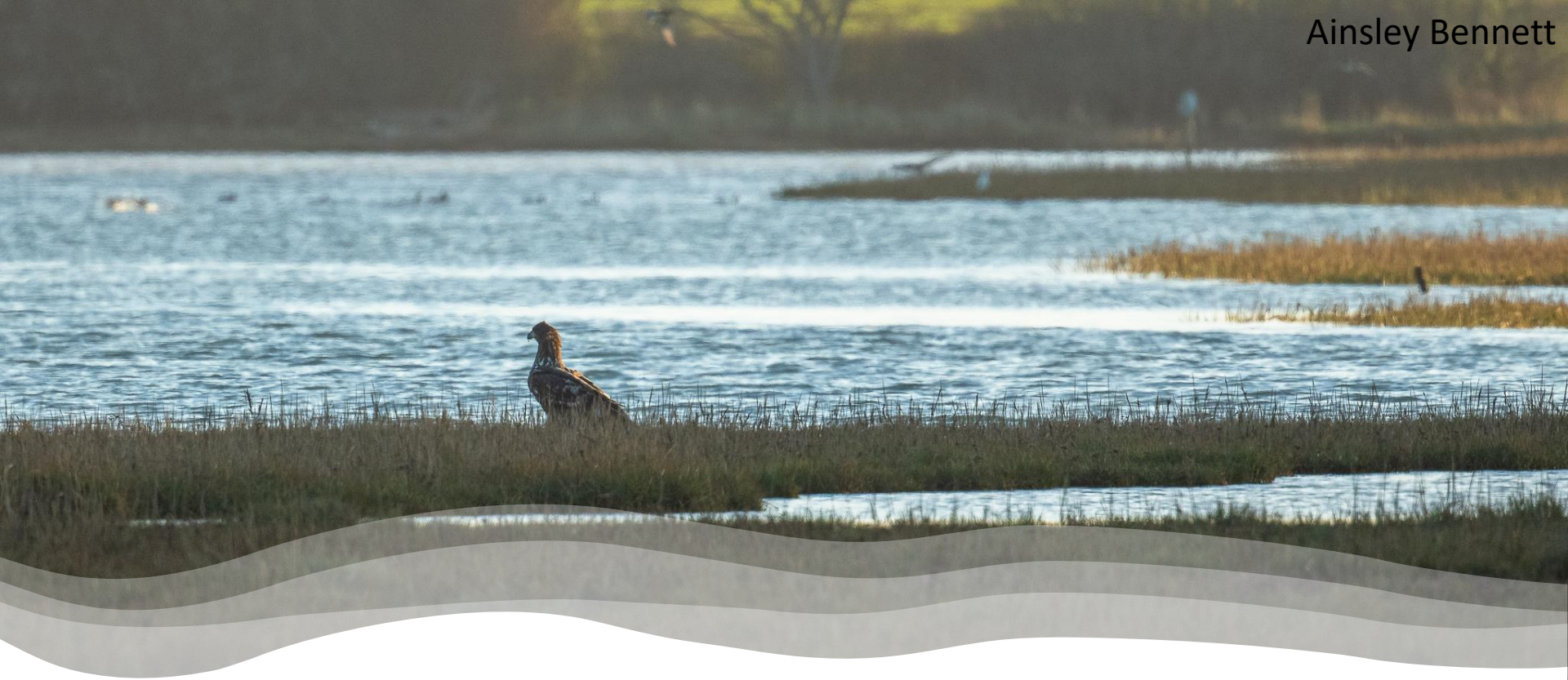
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**G274**



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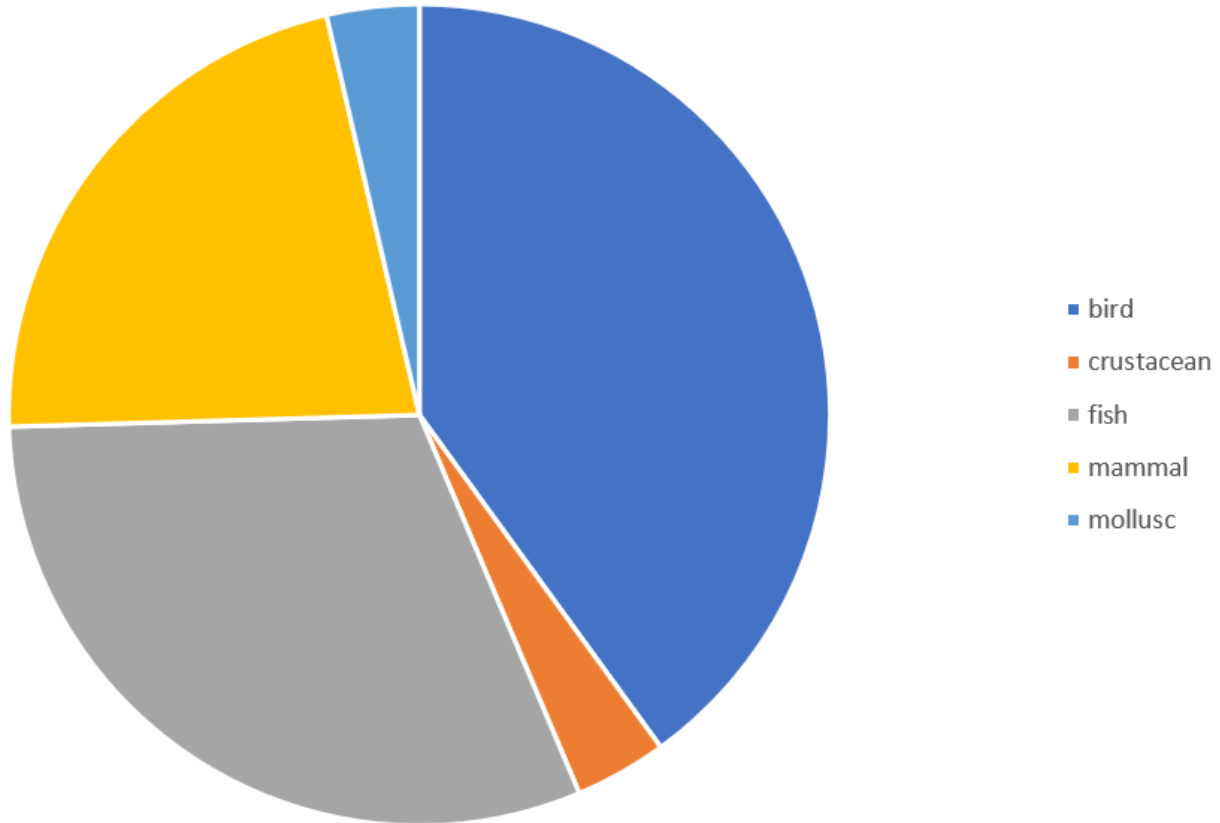




What do they eat?

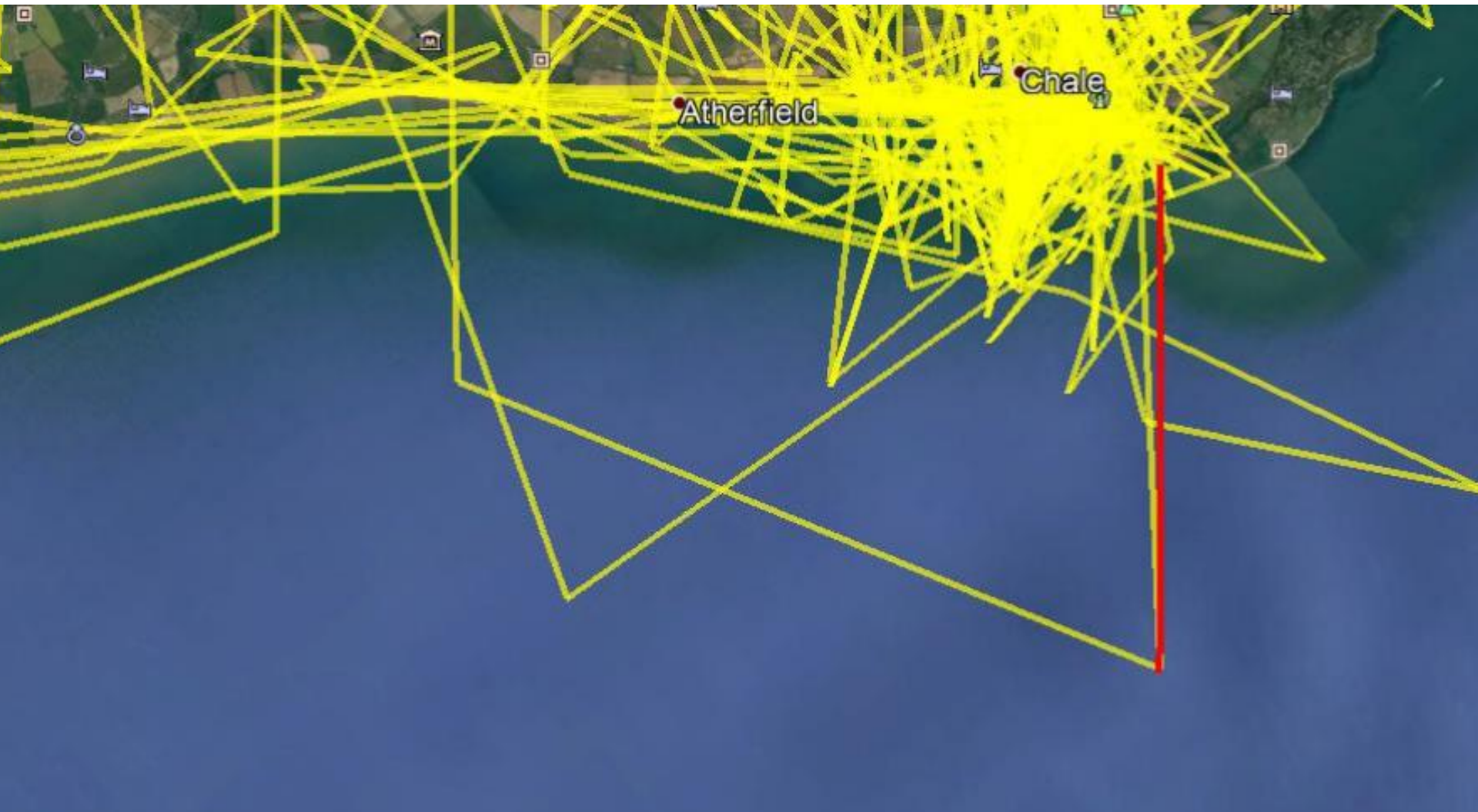


Representation of G274 Diet since release



Diet: fish

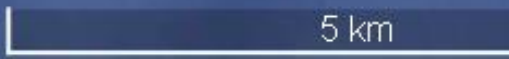


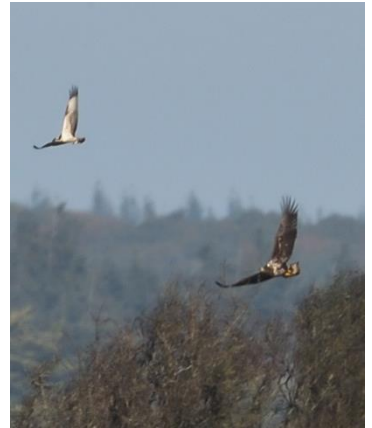
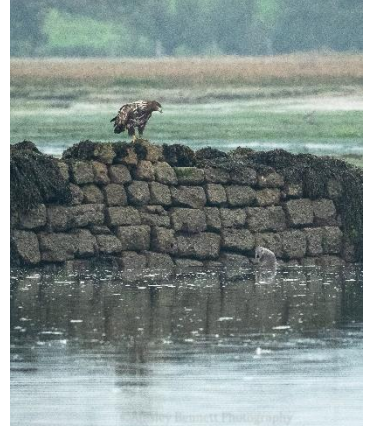


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TerraMetrics

A, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO







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# Diet: birds



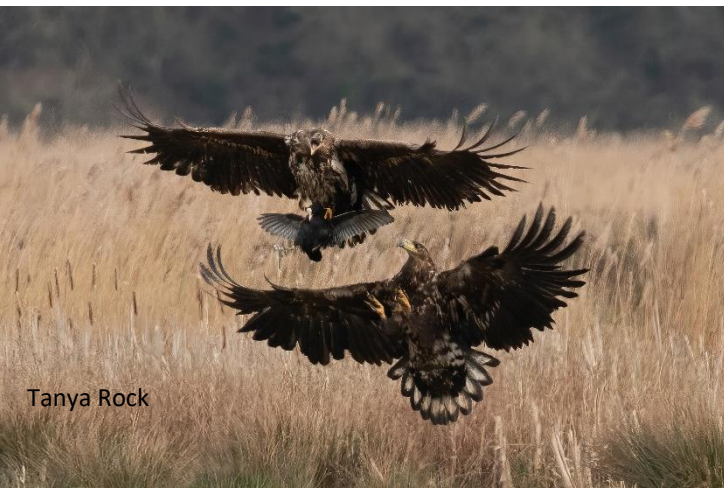
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John Carter



Tanya Rock



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Diet: mammals







# Contact & Project Management

- Steering Group made up of broad range of stakeholders – including Hants Police.
- Monitoring & Evaluation Group
- Project team can be contacted with sighting information via the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation website – photo submission form.
- General queries or concerns can be sent to [seaeagleengland@forestryengland.uk](mailto:seaeagleengland@forestryengland.uk)
- Regular updates and blog pieces on social media - @seaeagleengland @RoyDennisWF