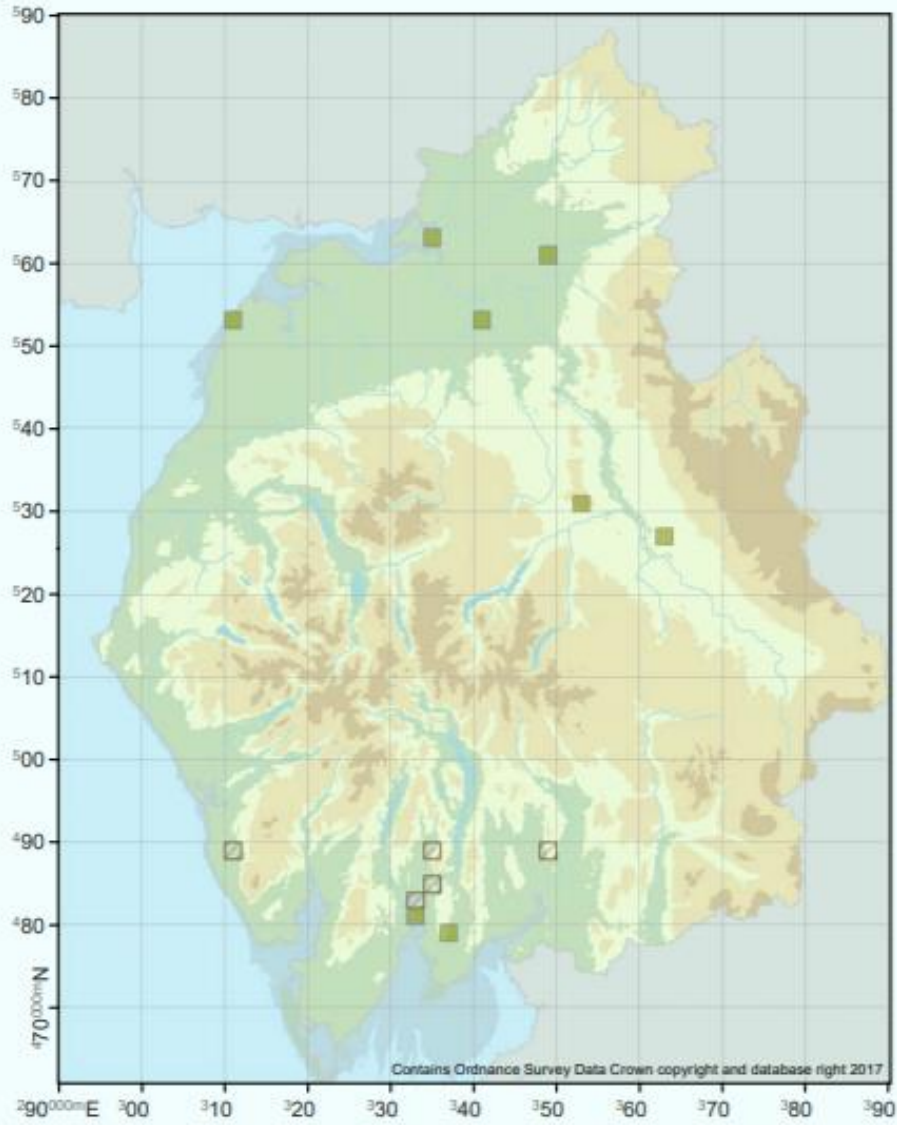




Harvest Mice in Cumbria

John Martin

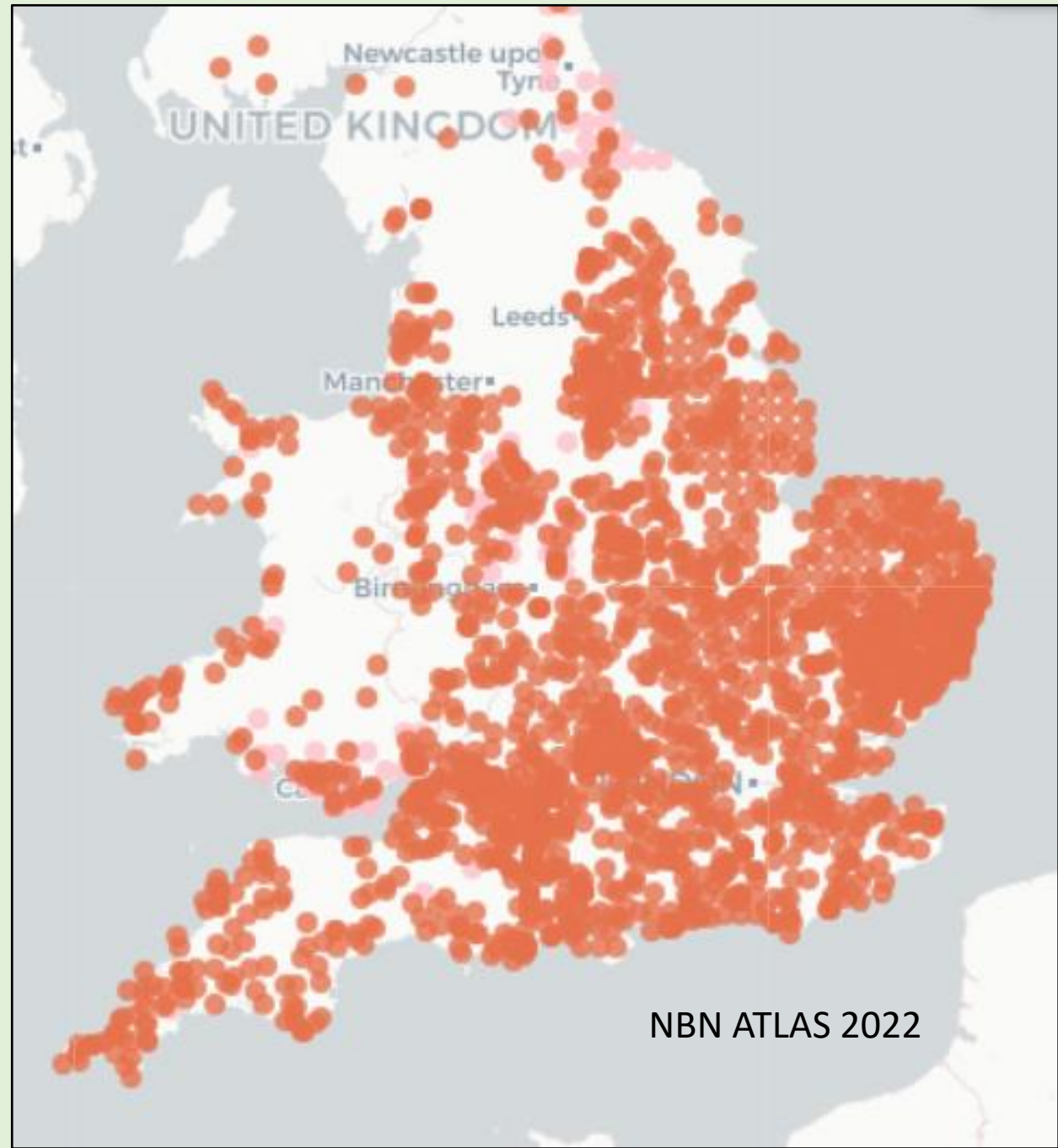
CBDC Recorders Conference
26th February 2022



Harvest Mouse

- ▨ Post 2000
- Pre 2000

2017



NBN ATLAS 2022



Mammal Society National Harvest Mouse Survey 2021-2022

- Delayed by Covid 19 in 2020
- National Trust volunteers
- Brigsteer community
- Individuals via Mammal Society

Advertised on Cumbria Mammal
Group Facebook page



Simple methodology

- Pre-selected likely or known habitat
- Searching for summer nests by hand
- GPS location recorded
- Photographs taken for verification

Field data sent to –

- Mammal Society
- National Trust
- iRecord
- CBDC via iRecord (verified)



Findings

Over four days surveying at Brigsteer volunteers found seven harvest mouse nests.

Six were in the bases of Cocksfoot grass (*Dactylis glomerata*); one old aerial nest was found at 1.7m in a blackthorn and hazel hedge.



What Now?

The private landowners continue to manage their meadows as a bee reserve and for harvest mice by limited winter grazing and providing piled blackthorn hedge trimmings for secure refuges and 'scaffolding' for nests.

The National Trust are now aware of the small population on their estate and will manage the meadows sympathetically.

**More volunteers =
more evidence =
more conservation!**