



# **NESBReC's use of Integrated Habitat System**

**Glenn Roberts  
NESBReC Manager**

# North East Scotland Biological Records Centre

- Established 2000
- Office in Aberdeen, part of Aberdeenshire Council
- Covers Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City, Moray, Cairngorms National Park



# Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City, Moray and Cairngorms National Park



# North East Scotland Biological Records Centre

- Focus for biodiversity information in North-East Scotland
- Collates, stores and manages biological data

# Current Financial Supporters

- Scottish Natural Heritage, Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council, RSPB, Forestry Commission Scotland, Cairngorms National Park Authority



# Records on Species

Over 1,512,000 records so far



# Integrated Habitat System

- Using IHS since 2004  
at NESBReC



# Brief history of IHS

- Developed by Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC) in late 1990s
- Developed with GIS in mind
- First used by SERC in 1999
- Used around UK since 2000
- Version 2.0 produced in 2007
- Flexible surveying methodology to suit varying projects
- Around 460 different habitat classifications possible
- <http://ihs.somerc.co.uk>

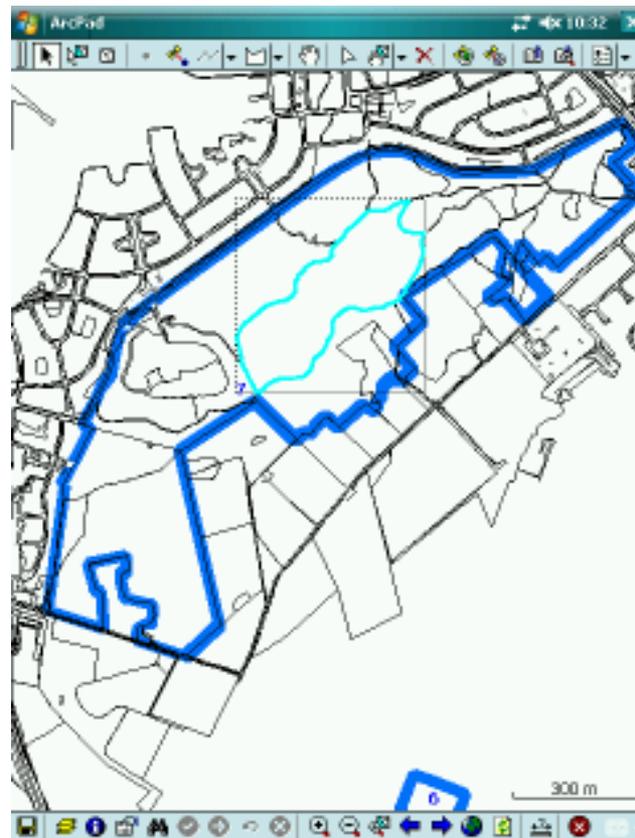
# Habitat surveying since 2004



# Integrated Habitat System

- Survey data feeds into planning system
- Compile lists of plant species
- Record faunal sightings when encountered

- Use underlying Ordnance Survey Mastermap layer to map habitats on to
- These have selectable polygons
- Can also draw polygons freehand to over-ride existing Mastermap boundaries



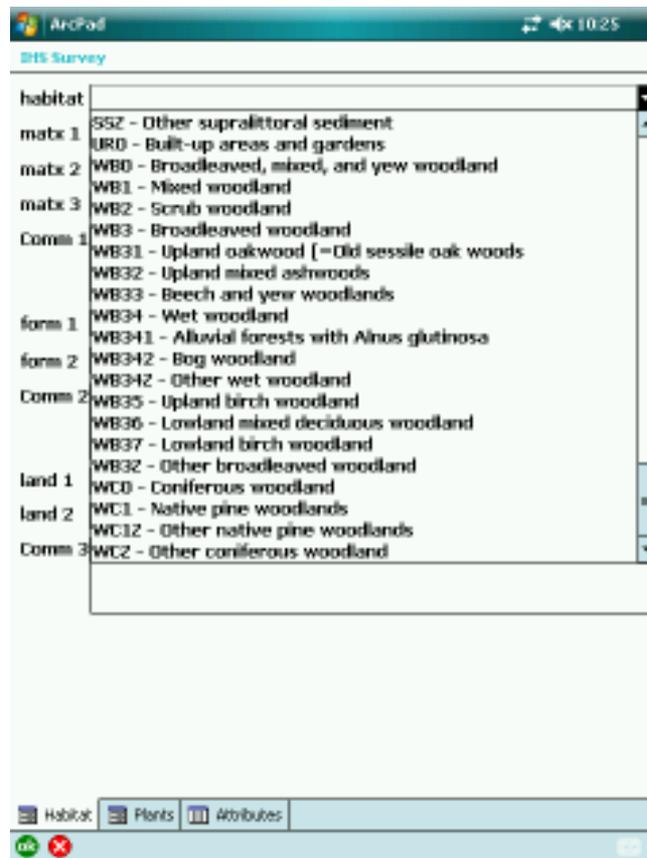
- Decide the habitat type for a particular polygon
- Assign any other matrices of vegetation
- Assign any land use
- Add any notable comments

The screenshot shows the ArcPad application interface. At the top, the status bar displays 'ArcPad' and the time '10:24'. Below this, the title 'BHS Survey' is visible. The main area contains several input fields:

- habitat**: A dropdown menu.
- matx 1**: A dropdown menu.
- matx 2**: A dropdown menu.
- matx 3**: A dropdown menu.
- Comm 1**: A large text input area.
- form 1**: A dropdown menu.
- form 2**: A dropdown menu.
- Comm 2**: A large text input area.
- land 1**: A dropdown menu.
- land 2**: A dropdown menu.
- Comm 3**: A large text input area.

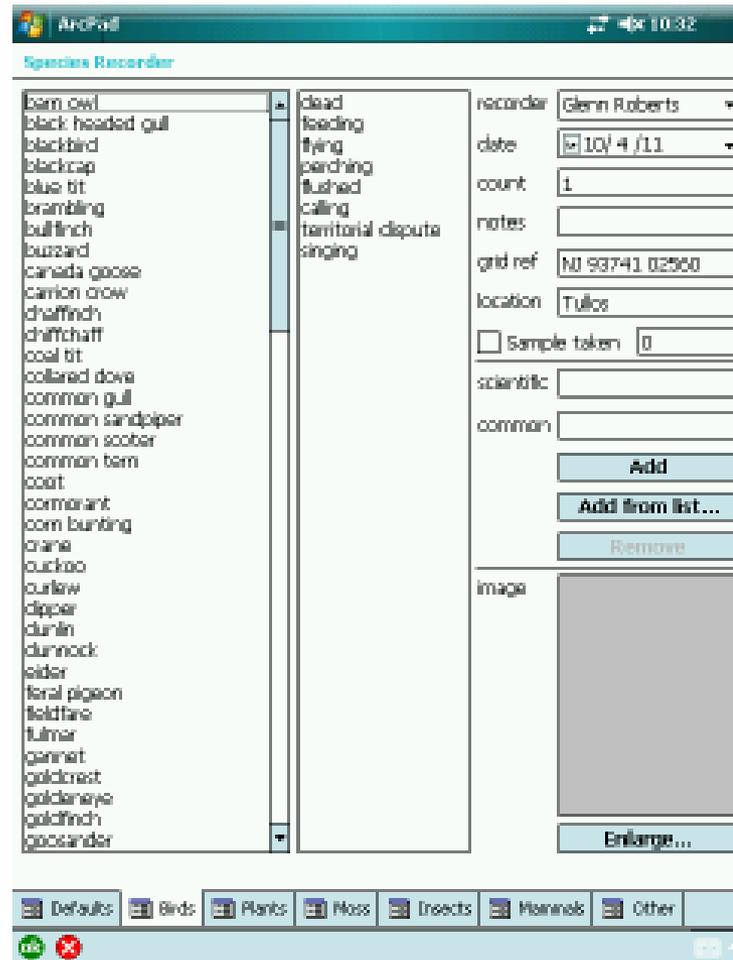
At the bottom, there is a navigation bar with three tabs: 'Habitat', 'Plants', and 'Attributes'. The 'Habitat' tab is currently selected. Below the navigation bar, there are three small icons: a green circle with a white checkmark, a red circle with a white 'X', and a grey circle with a white minus sign.

- Large range of habitat types to choose from
- All UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) habitat types
- Broad Habitat types and Priority Habitat types, e.g. WB3 Broadleaved Woodland and WB34 Wet Woodland

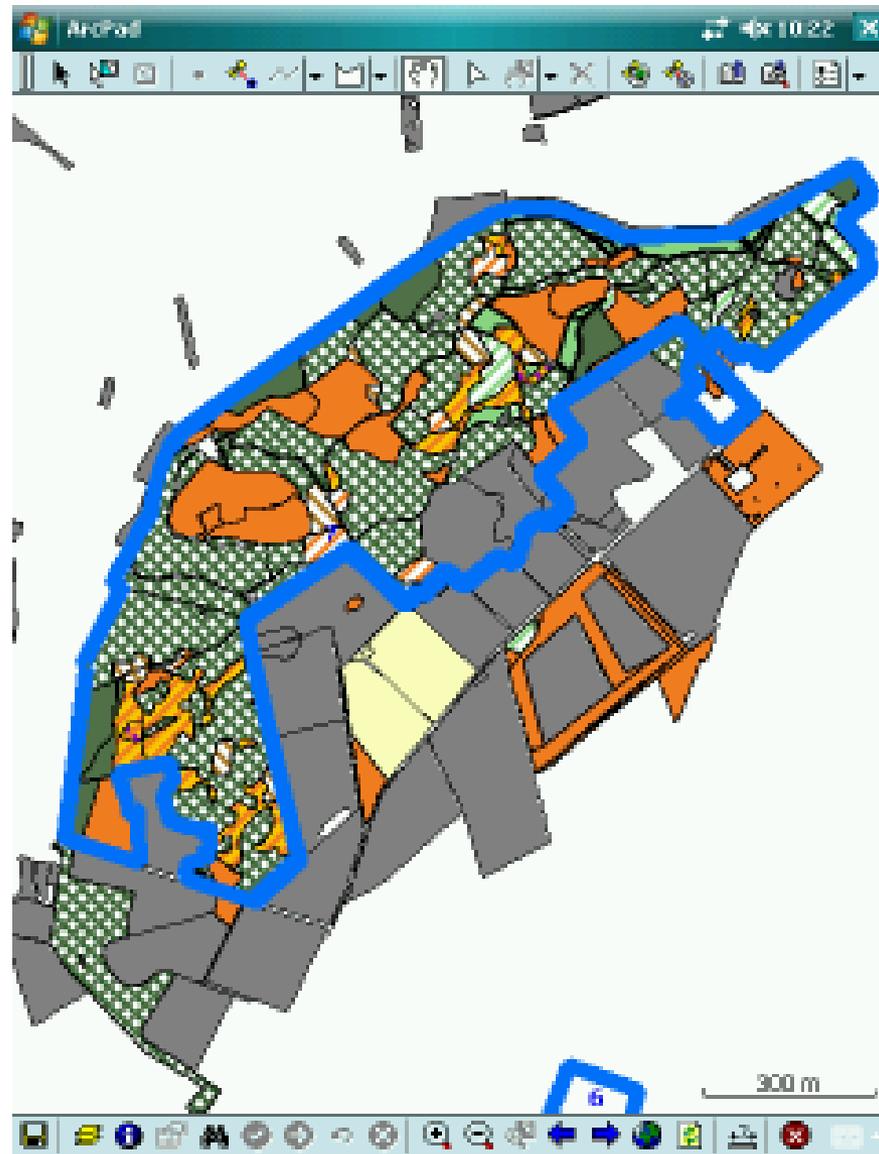




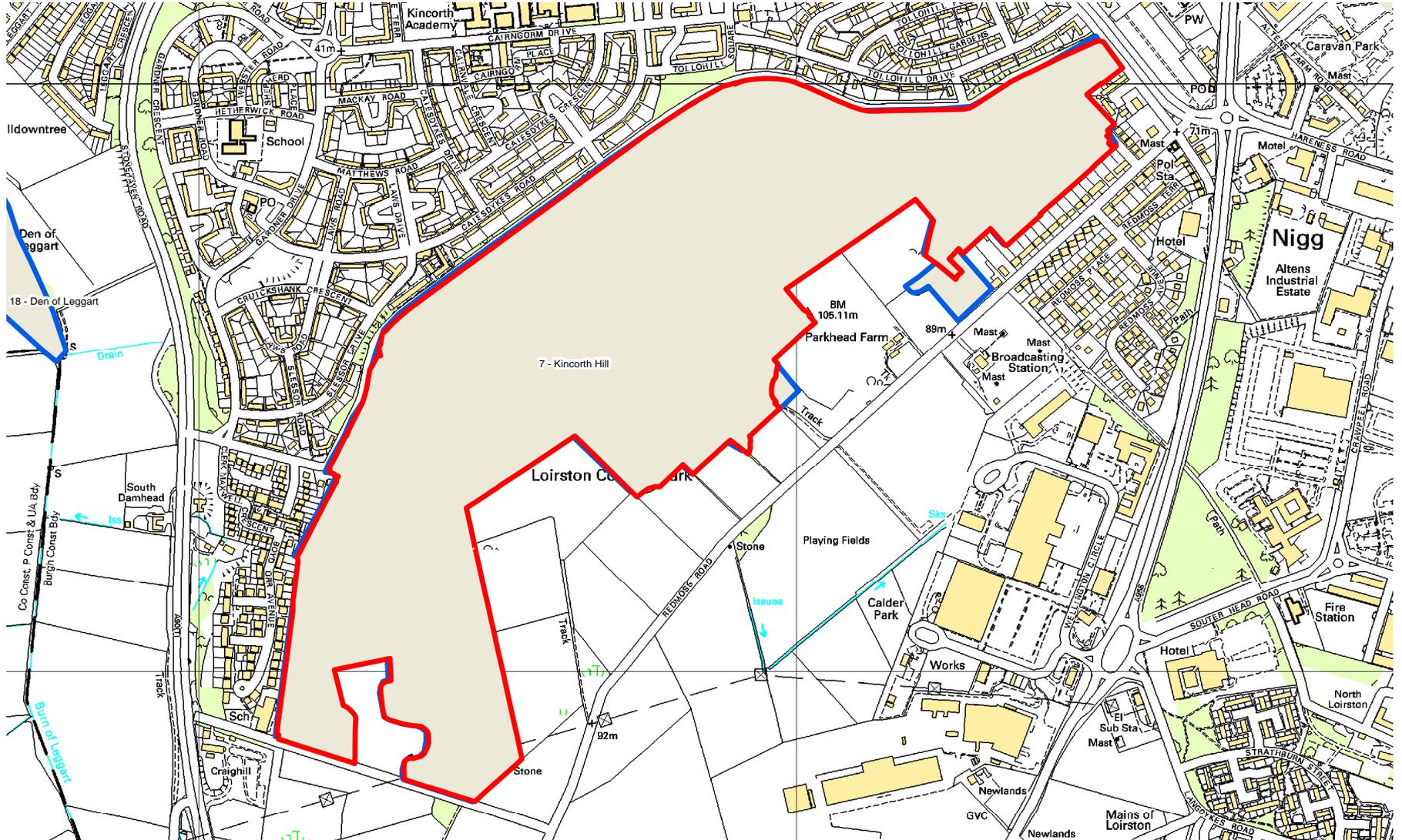
- NESBReC surveys allow input of faunal species too
- Useful by-product for a Local Records Centre
- A point on the map represents the location of a sighting



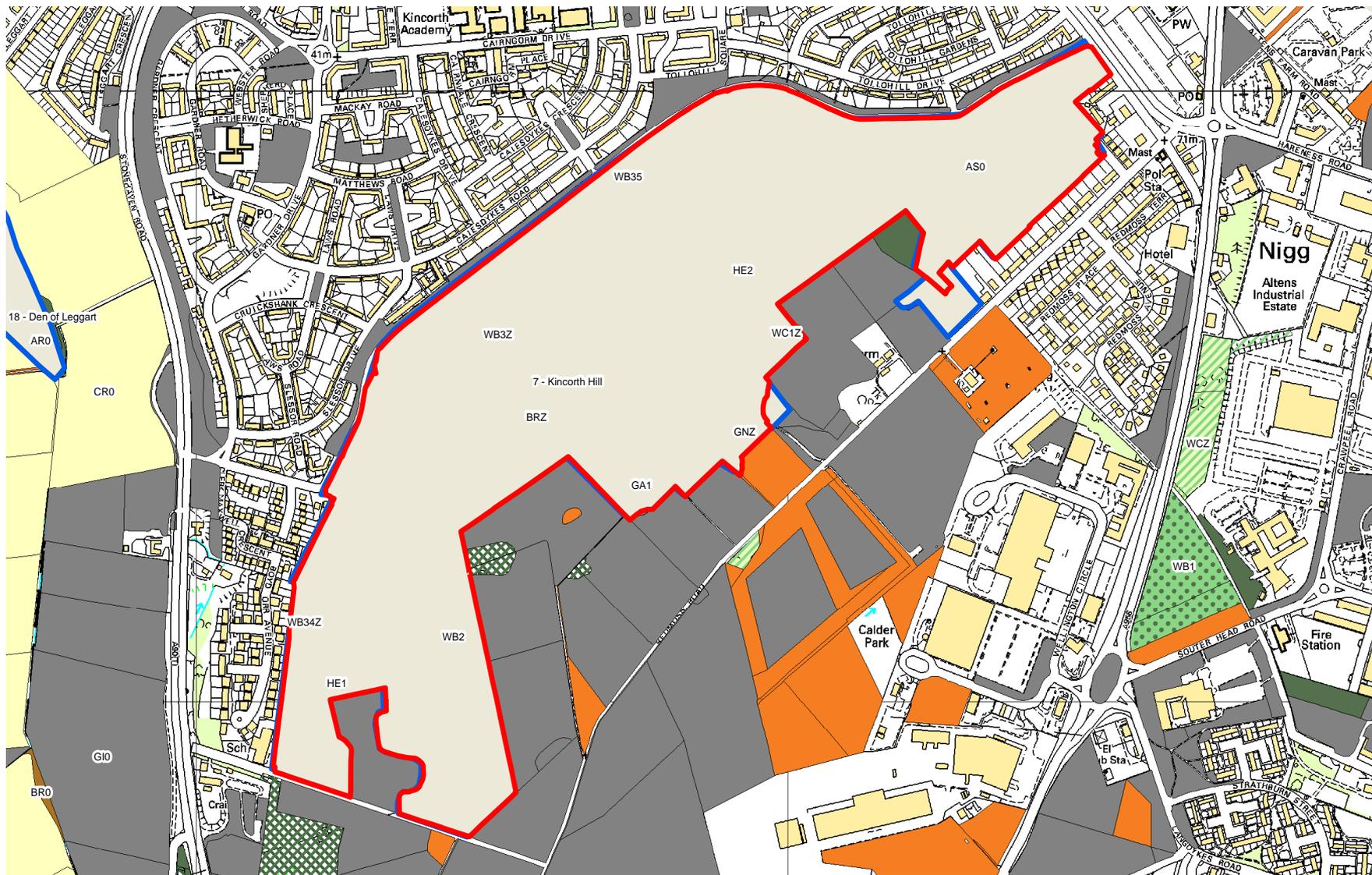
- Build up a colour-coded map profile of the habitat types



# Kincorth Hill, Aberdeen



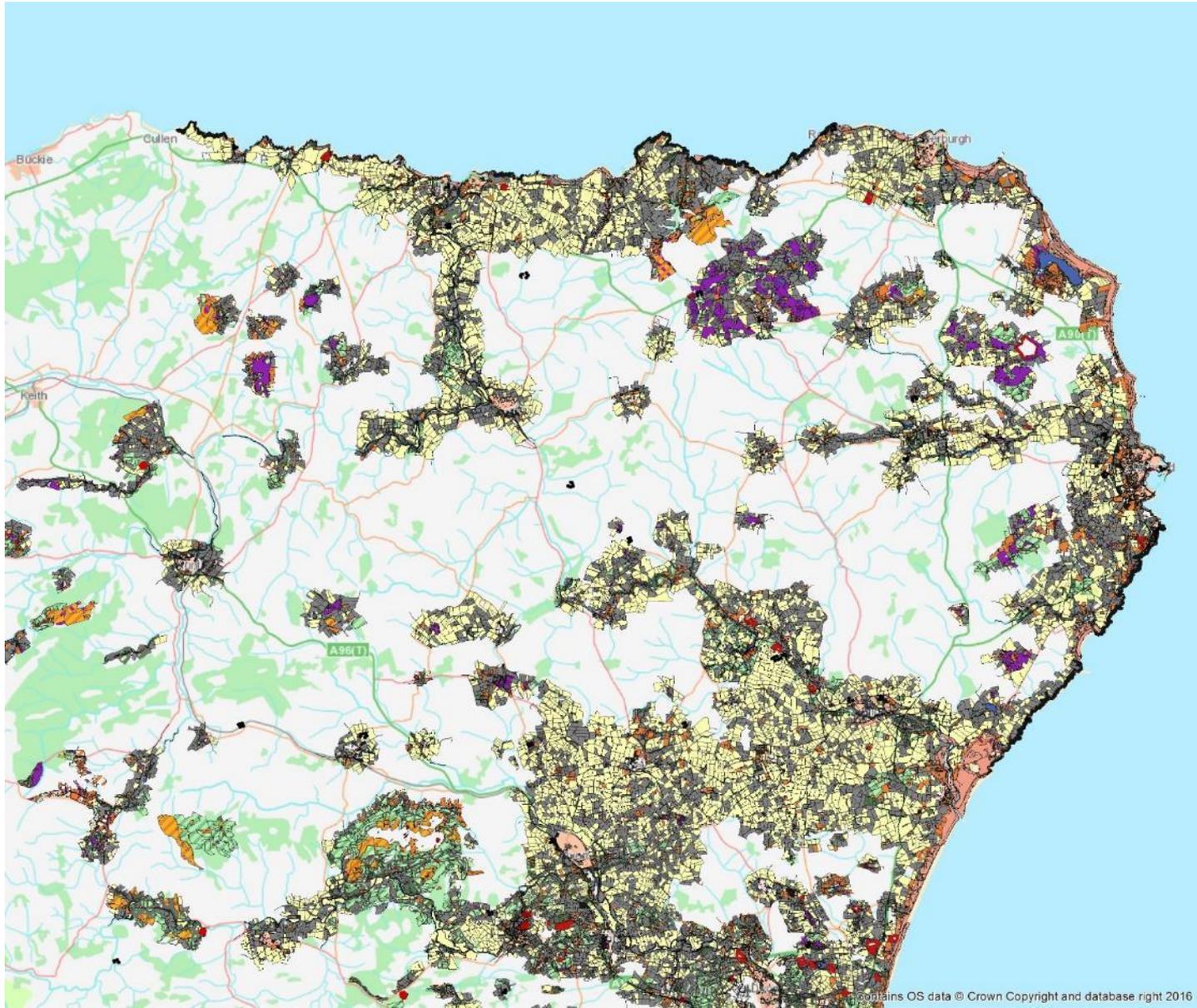
# Kincorth Hill habitat map



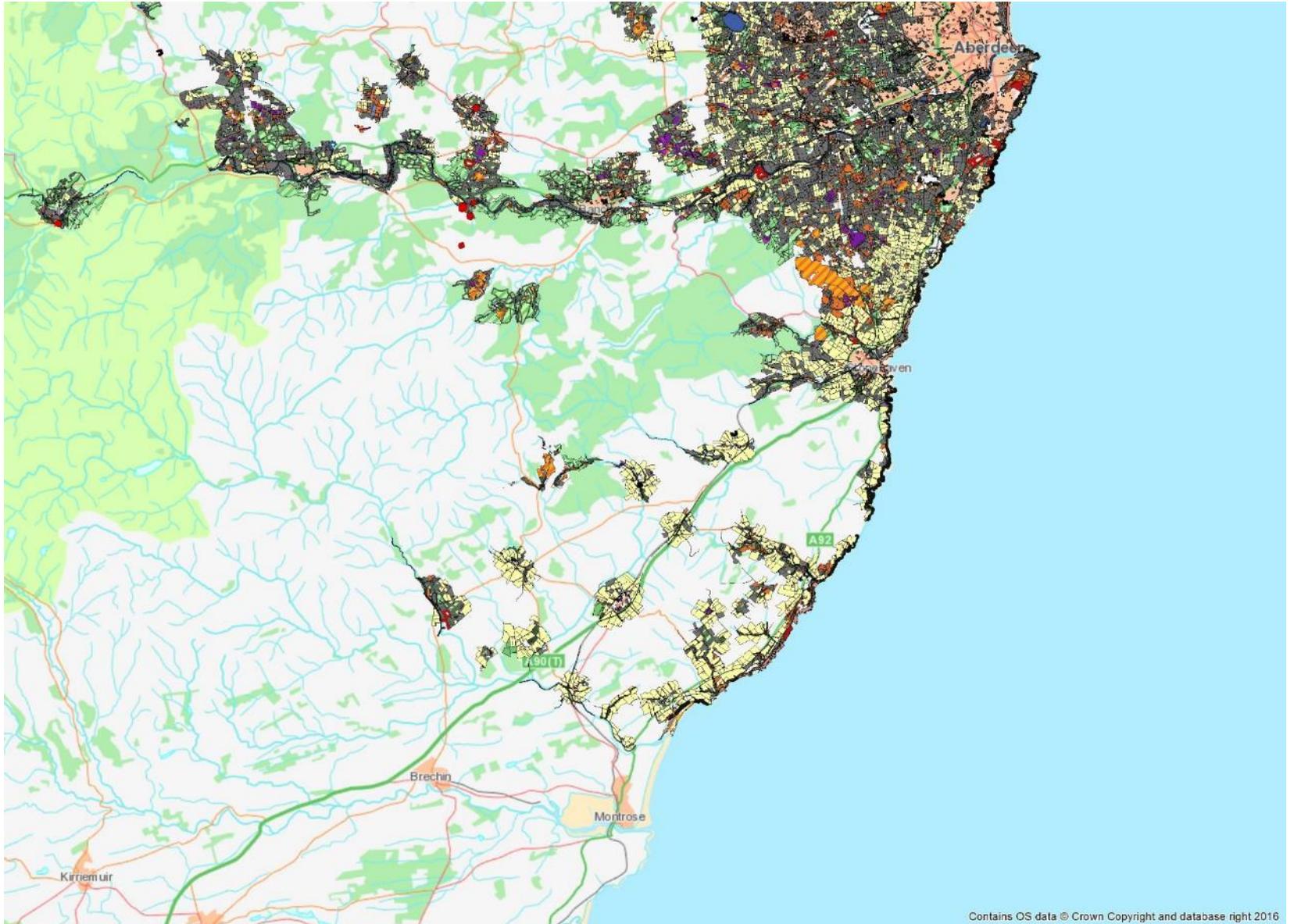
# Why use Integrated Habitat System?

- UK BAP habitat types
- Relatively fast and cost-effective way to survey large areas for habitats and plant species
- Attractive option for large scale survey projects
- Quicker than Phase 1 and National Vegetation Classification

# Survey coverage 2004-2016



# Survey coverage 2004-2016



# Plant records passed on from NESBReC to BSBI

- Over 350,000 records - from 2004-2014
- More to be passed on from 2015-2018
- More surveying taking place in 2019

