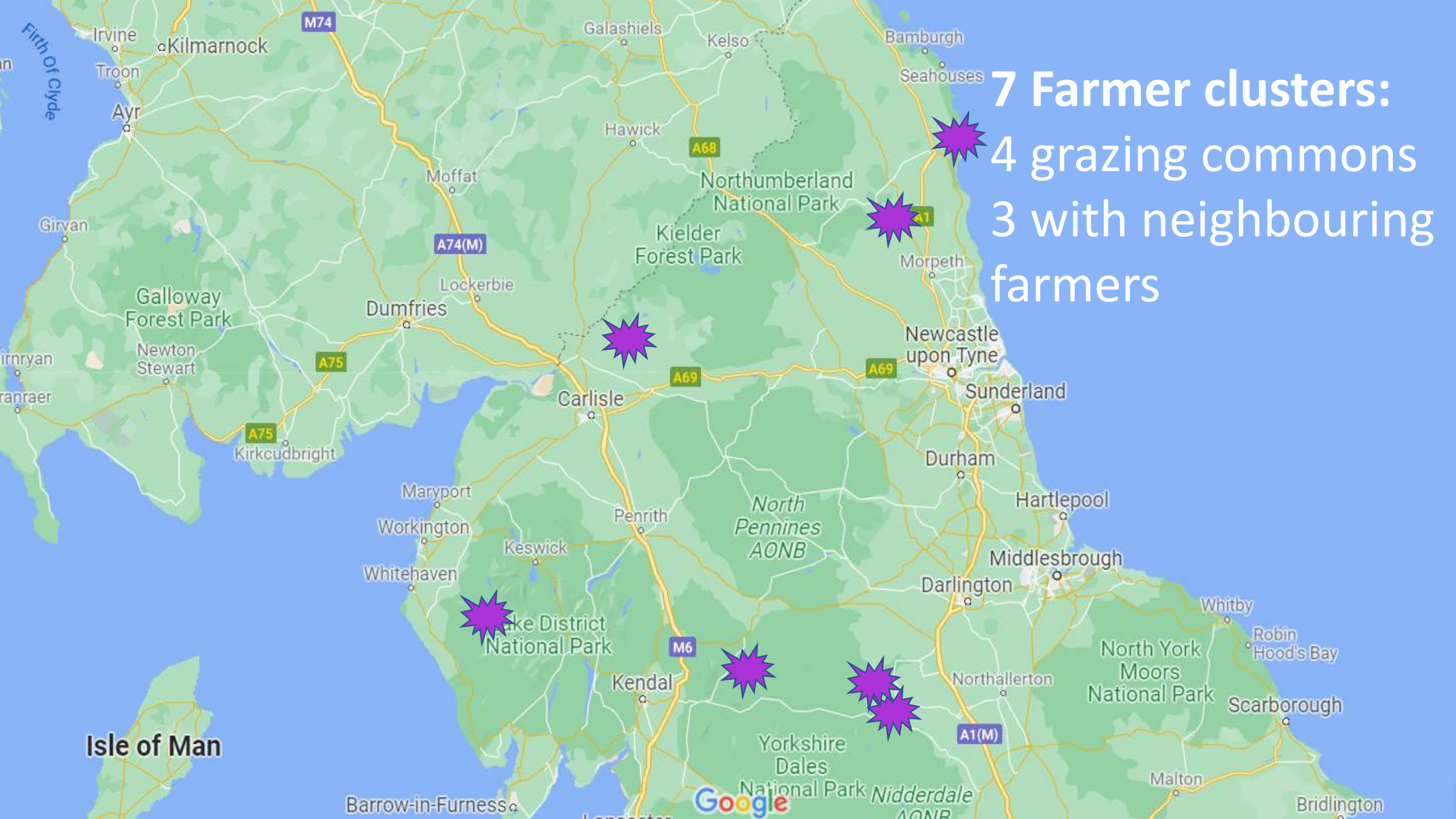


The Sheep Scab project in Northern England

Ruth Dalton

ruthd@thefarmernetwork.co.uk





7 Farmer clusters:
4 grazing commons
3 with neighbouring farmers

What we didn't see....



**“The positive result
was a real surprise”**

**“I’ve not dipped for years
but we’re going to get a
contractor in this year”**

**“We’ve had more clients,
outside the cluster, using
the blood test as a result of
hearing about the project”**

**“At least now we
have a proper plan to
get on top of scab”**



FOR FLOCK'S SAKE

Let's Stop Scab Together



The project team in the Midlands

- Kate Phillips – Independent sheep consultant
- Karen Wheeler – ADAS
- Katie Evans – ADAS
- Vet Practices
 - Stapeley, Shropshire Farm, Bishops Castle, Severn Edge, Tenbury, Marches

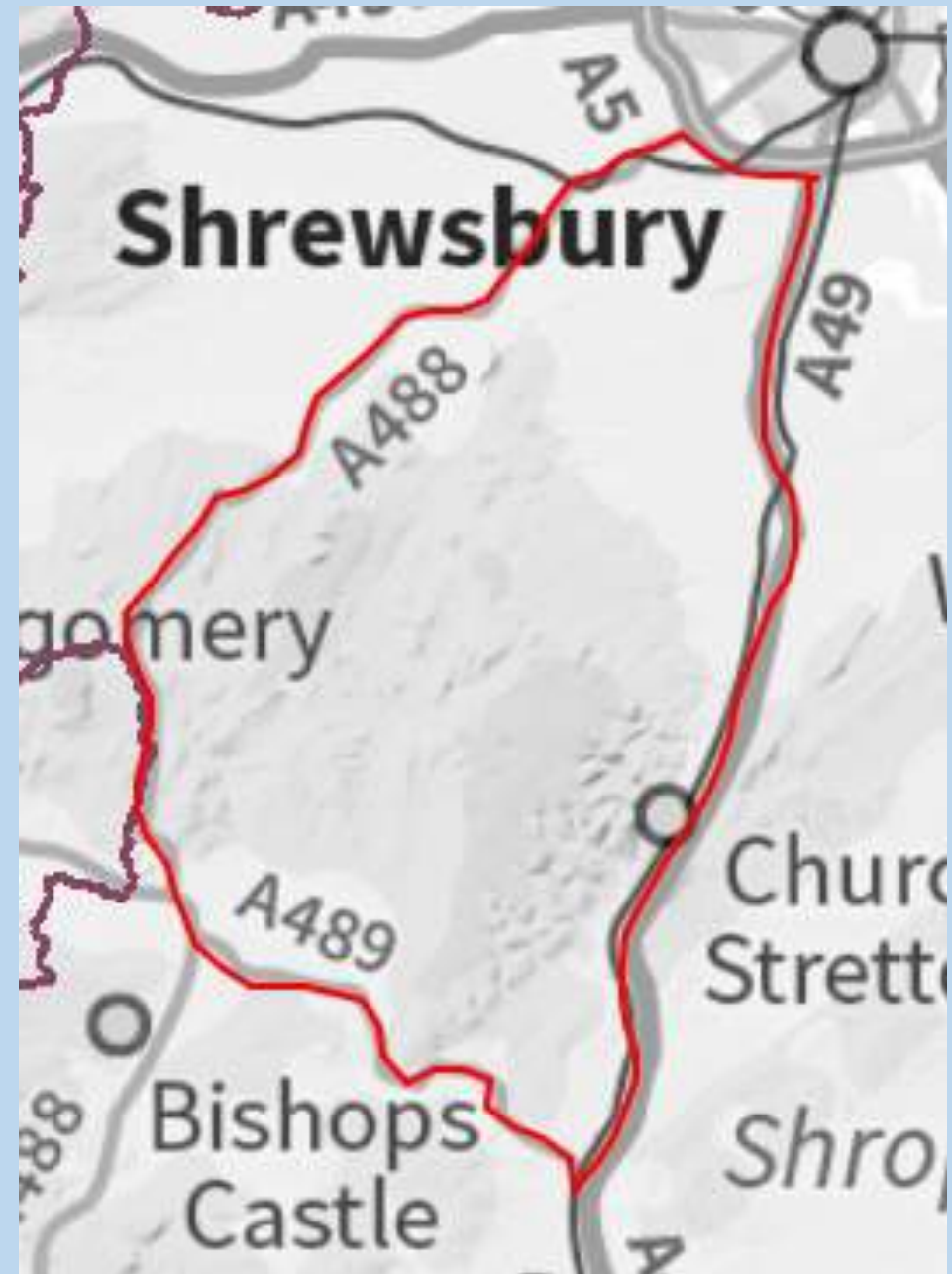
Why this area?

- Shropshire and Herefordshire have been identified as 'hot spot' areas for sheep scab
- Local farmers, SQPs, vets and mobile dippers are all in agreement
- Some common grazing – Long Mynd, Stiperstones and Clee Hills
- Opportunity to make a concerted effort to control the disease



SW Shropshire Long Mynd and Stiperstones

120 square miles – very large
area – split into smaller
clusters of farmers who
graze sheep within these
boundaries

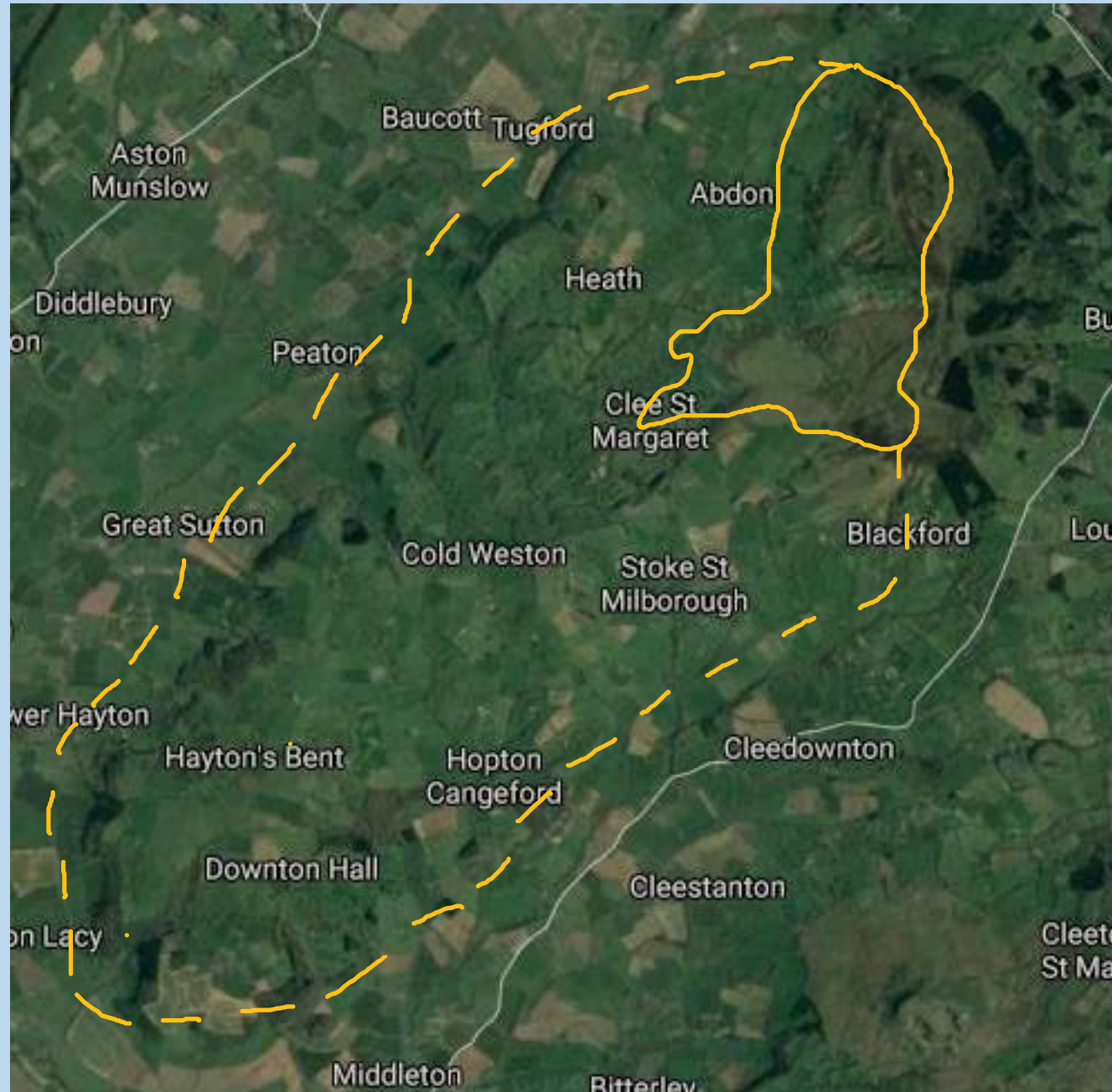


Long Mynd and Stiperstones

- 77 farmers signed up
- Testing complete on 75 farms
- Positive tests – 16 or 21% of farms
- Advisory visits ongoing and complete on over 81% of farms

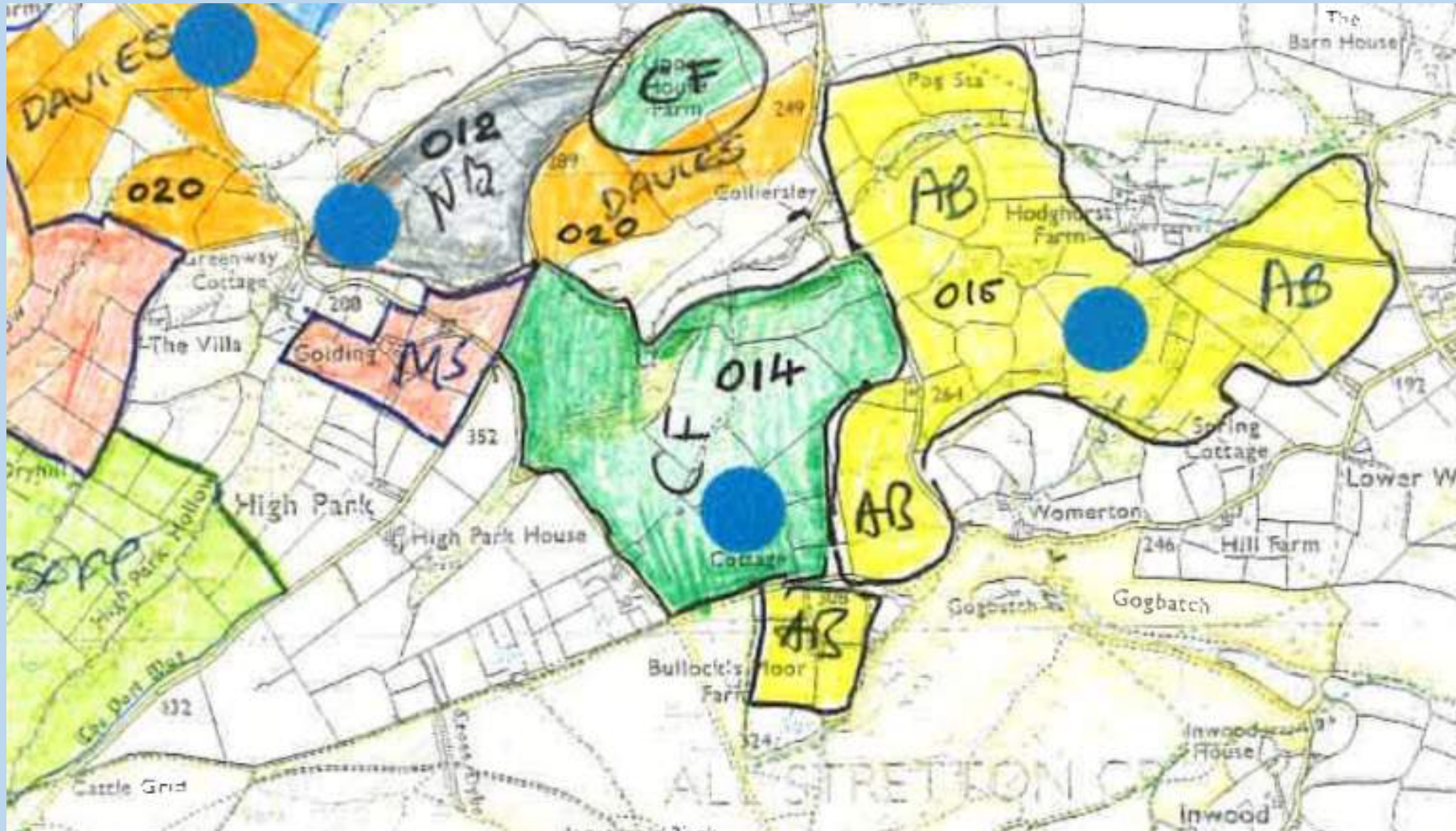
Brown Clee

(between Ludlow and Bridgnorth)



20 farmers
involved

All areas where sheep are grazed by each farmer need to be defined



Contact numbers

- Kate Phillips - 07914 760682
- Karen Wheeler – 07768 658985

scabherefordshropshire@adas.co.uk

F**R FLOCK'S SAKE**

Let's Stop Scab Together



FOR FLOCK'S SAKE

Let's Stop Scab Together

Lot 3 – SW Region

Sean Riches, UK Policy & Technical Officer

sean@nationalsheep.org.uk



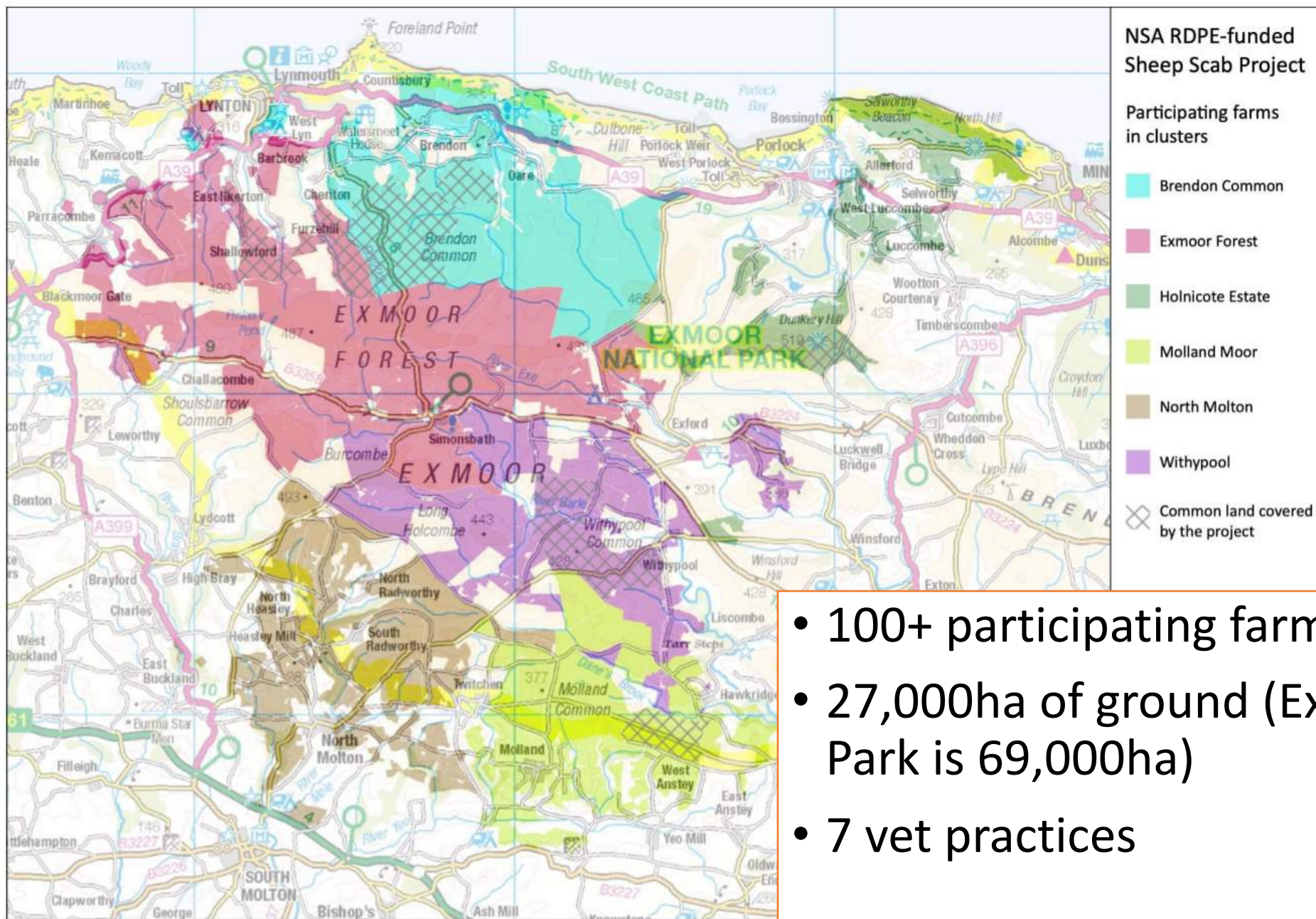


Collaboration



Organisations have strengths and pulling them together has the best possible impact for those on the ground.





- 100+ participating farms
- 27,000ha of ground (Exmoor National Park is 69,000ha)
- 7 vet practices



Communication

Countrywide Productivity Scheme Project to tackle Sheep Scab
Led by **Moredun** Research Institute (MRI)

South West region (Let 3): Adviser kick-off meeting
Tuesday 20th April @ 7 pm (to join click on the link below)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4782827813?pwd=UTZuPjFleHVsUjYwRmV3RG15OTQ0>
Meeting ID: 428 282 2823 - Passcode: 730630

19.00 – 19.10 – Welcome & Introduction (Phil Stocker NSA)
19.10 – 19.25 – Project Objective (Stewart Burgess MRI)
19.25 – 19.30 – NSA role (Sean Riches NSA)
19.30 – 19.35 – Working with Exmoor Hill Farming Group (Katherine Williams E)
19.35 – 19.40 – Project **Workplan** Outline (Sean Riches)
19.40 – 19.55 – Q & A session (All)
19.55 – 20.00 – Wrap up (Sean Riches)



Click here to find your regional contact

 Phil Stocker
NSA Chief Executive

 Dan Phipps
NSA Chairman



NSA **Moredun** **EXMOOR HILL FARMING NETWORK**

You are invited to the
RDPE funded Project Update on Sheep Scab within the
Greater Exmoor Area

Date: Thursday 10th February 2022
Time: 7pm for 7.30pm start – 9.30pm
Venue: North Molton Sports & Community Centre EX36 3HG

Free Hot meal provided

- Join the project partners
- Stewart Burgess (Moredun, Res)
 - Representation from the Nation

Hear from the project stakeholders date.

RSVP by Monday 31st January for cat requirements: Katherine Williams (EH 795808 or Ian May (NSA Regional M 07913 043234



Good uptake, engagement and plenty of enthusiasm for scab project

FOR FLOCK'S SAKE

Update

Since April 2021, project coordinators have been working hard in their areas and the three of the numbers of participating farmers for which Stewart Burgess of Moredun says: "The levels of engagement and enthusiasm are so high now farmers that can be funded under current budgets. The vets in most areas have also been keen to be involved and have been instrumental in encouraging their clients to get involved."

"By the end of October 2021, we had already processed 123 sets of blood samples, with the results reported back to vets and coordinators. Discussions on coordinated treatments are now taking place in many areas, with farmers being encouraged to plough deep where scabs have been diagnosed and where it is possible to do so."

Scab hotspot areas

The project is running in three hotspot areas in England:

- North (coordinated by Gertie Farmer Helms)
- Midlands (coordinated by ADAS)
- South West (coordinated by NSA)

In each cluster, farm vets work directly with farmer clients and regional coordinators. This currently-led approach to sheep scab control brings together people with a wide range of expertise. They're collaborating with farmers to control this disease. The project is a model that other farmers and vets can use to control sheep scab in their own areas.

Keeping everyone informed – using zoom meetings, face-to-face meetings, newsletters & the bi-monthly NSA Sheep Farmer



your business your future



Continuity

Scotland focuses on outdoor access, sheep scab and climate change

By Grace Reid, Regional Coordinator

At the end of January, myself and NSA Scottish Region Chairman Jen Craig met, virtually, with Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands Mairi Gougeon.

This was meant to be an on-farm meeting but due to covid-19, was moved online. Nevertheless, it was an opportunity to raise several concerns, including the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC), sheep scab, the labelling of OPA, future farm support, climate change, and persistent gradation.

While there are no current plans to review SOAC, Ms Gougeon was pleased to see strengthened powers surrounding livestock worrying and would like to be kept up to date on occurrences and outcomes. Jen Craig reminded all present that there are still ongoing issues related to both sheep worrying and SOAC. Much of the documentation is oriented towards those accessing the countryside and not the landowner or manager. A change in perspective is sorely needed for future publicity and education campaigns.

Support

The Cabinet Secretary also assured us she was happy to support our proposals of an independent OPA. Currently there is no specific to one breed.

across the national flock. The Moredun Research Institute has spent several years investigating the virus, which infects the lung cells resulting in OPA tumours, and advancing research on early diagnosis. NSA Scottish Region is committed to keeping in touch on the issue and help whenever possible to ensure action can be taken.

Separate to this issue, a second sheep scab working group meeting is planned for late February to further discuss the options to implement a pilot scheme in Scotland similar to those found in the other areas of the UK.

Welfare

There has been no further update on the 2021 consultation submissions on animal welfare during transit, or castration and tail docking of lambs. But Ms Gougeon was keen to remind us that no legislation would be implemented that would be detrimental to farmers and crofters, particularly in the islands, when it came to transport.



NSA POLICY



Welsh workshops and wool manifesto

By Helen Roberts, Regional Development Officer

NSA Cymru/Wales Region had a busy start to the year attending workshops. One was to discuss a new project for wool and input into a 'wool manifesto for Wales', to be published by the end of May.

Another looked at how it would be for Welsh farmers to produce more plant foods. Changing consumer diets and pressure to reduce the environmental impact of livestock production both present challenges for Welsh agriculture. But they also present opportunities. It was an unusual topic to become involved in, as it's not sheep related, but it was interesting to see how farmers could diversify and add another income stream alongside sheep. Diversification may bring communities together in some instances and help maintain Welsh agriculture and the family-run mixed farming enterprises that are often the bedrock of Welsh communities.

Disposal

After a member contacted us in autumn 2021 about issues regarding disposal of sheep dip, we have been instrumental in setting up an industry stakeholder group to discuss all issues around sheep scab control, dip disposal and regulation. We will keep you posted on the progress the group makes.

NSA Cymru/Wales Region is pleased to see sheep scab remains a priority in the Animal Health and Welfare Plan, launched in early January. This will be the final implementation plan published under the current framework, which covers 2022-2024.



Focus on sheep scab control.

NSA also reminds farmers that APHIS currently has free testing available to help detect sheep scab. Enhancing standards in a way that safeguards trade and builds a more sustainable farming sector are key to this new plan within the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework. The wider framework is a 10-year plan (2014-24) for lasting improvements for the health and welfare of kept animals, while also contributing to the protection of public health, the economy and environment.

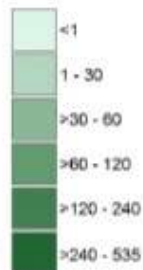
Challenges

The plan is published in the face of the combined challenges posed by covid-19, leaving the EU and the climate crisis. The ambition to maintain the highest standards in Wales is captured in the plan's headline aspiration 'One health, one welfare and biosecurity'. It embraces all aspects of animal health and welfare, as well as the complex interactions with human health and well-being, and the environment.

It also complements the five-year animal welfare plan for Wales, which was published in November 2021. The strategies and actions contained in each are integrated and interdependent, demonstrating a determination to work in a coordinated way. The proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme will also have animal health and welfare as a key component, drawing on a collective ambition to further enhance Wales' reputation as a nation that loves, cares for and respects its animals. Find the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework implementation plan at www.nationalanimalhealthandwelfareframework.org.uk/implementation-plan-2022-2024.

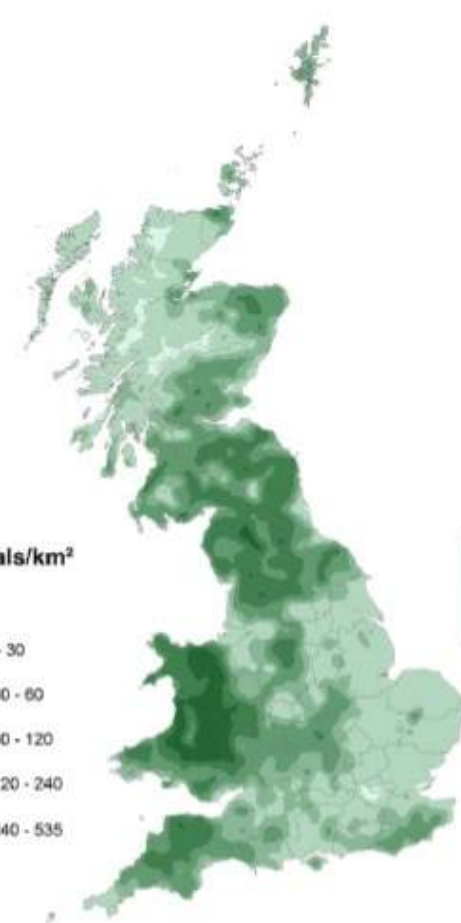


Animals/km²



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CREATOR: DMR GB
DATE: 30/01/2017

0 50 100 Kilometres
■■■■■■■■■■



- Break the cycle
- Take learnings
- Informed discussions & decisions
- National coverage

