



# *Jack in the box*

*Use of existing datasets and the NBN  
Atlas in a student jack snipe project*

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# Contents

- Project overview
- Use of datasets
- Evaluation



The Jetty, Lymington-Keyhaven

# “Estimating population densities of UK wintering jack snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus* using thermal imaging”

## Aims:

- Critically appraise thermal imaging as a survey method for jack snipe
  - Develop a “Habitat Holding Index” for UK wintering jack snipe



# Project background

- Current estimate of UK wintering population is 110,000
- CSM method for jack snipe are winter transect counts in suitable habitat
- **BUT** jack snipe are:
  - Reluctant to flush
  - Soundless
  - Camouflaged
  - Nocturnal
  - Reclusive and solitary
- Can thermal imaging reduce detection issues?



# Project overview

1. Identify and arrange access to sites
2. Habitat surveys:
  - Habitat area
  - Vegetation height, distribution, and density
  - % cover of dominant plant types
  - Water depth and area
3. Jack snipe surveys:
  - Find and count jack snipe using thermal imager
4. Develop a “Habitat Holding Index”



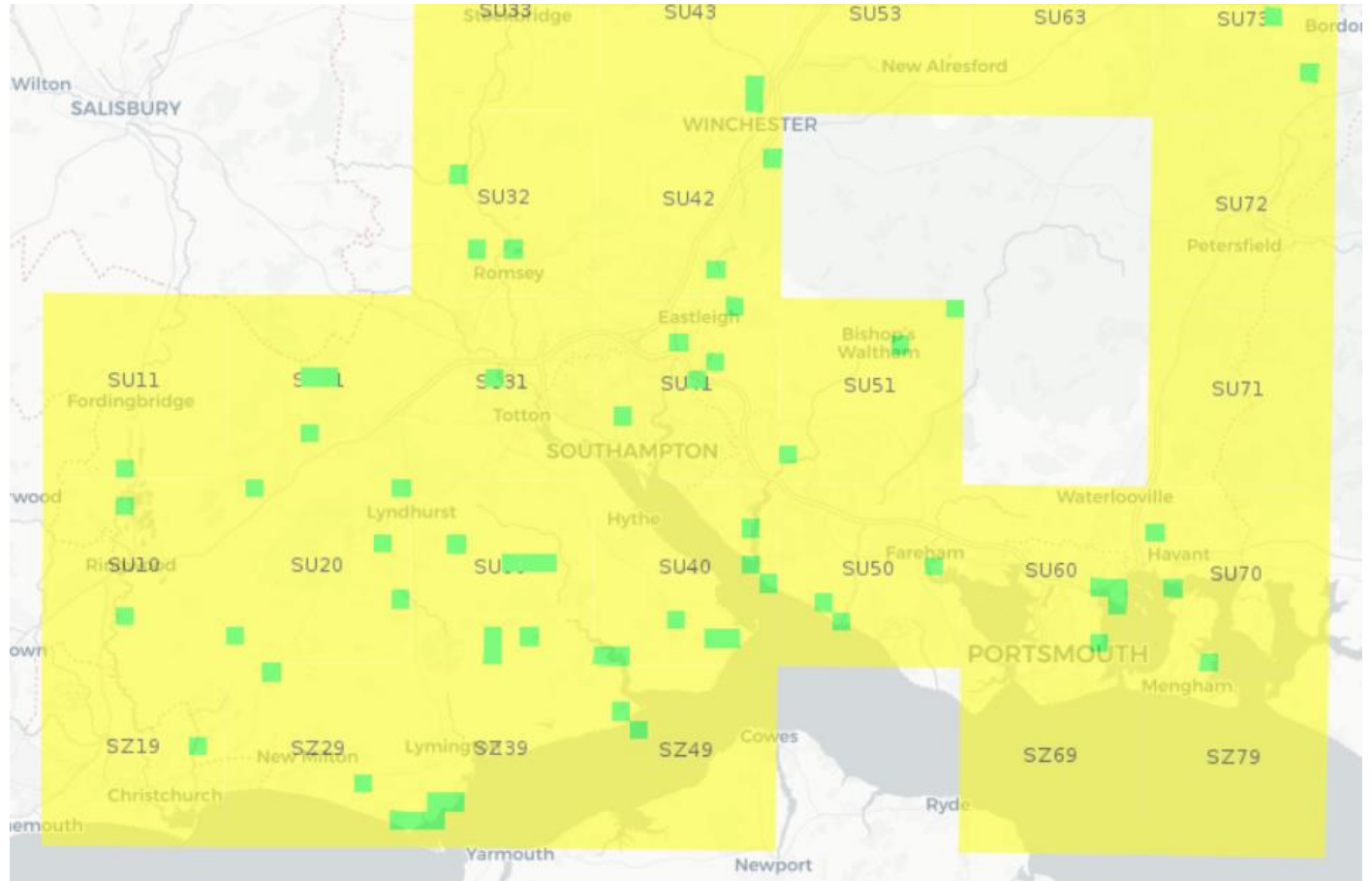
Sturt Pond, Milford-on-Sea

# First stage

1. Identify and arrange access to sites
  - Prioritise sites with:
    - Most numerous records
    - Most recent records

How?

- Existing jack snipe records
  - Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre
  - NBN Atlas



NBN Atlas search for jack snipe records in Hampshire



# Evaluation

- Pros and cons:
  - Grid references
  - Record notes and source
  - Bias
  - Recent increase in recorder effort
  - Map layers
  - Time to access



Salterns Marsh, Lymington-Keyhaven

# Conclusion

- 15 sites secured!
- Main limitation: grid references
- Main benefit: increase in observer effort!
- **Next step...**
  - Habitat and jack snipe surveys!

**Thanks for listening!**