

Great crested newt district level licensing



Rob Cameron
February 2017

New Licensing Policies



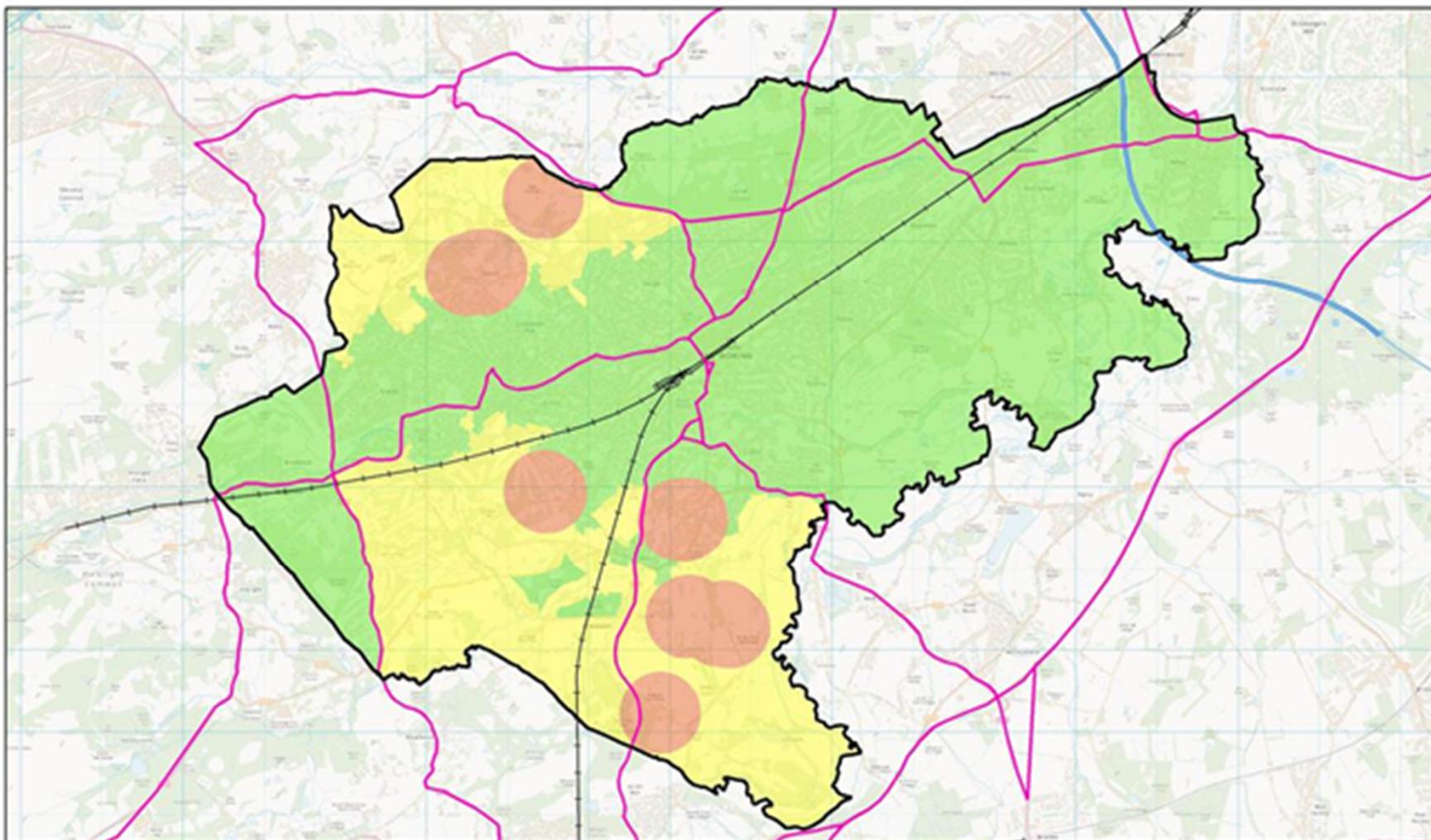
- Exclusion, trapping and translocation
- Location of habitat compensation
- Temporary habitat
- Proportionate survey/worst case scenarios



Focus on habitat

The Woking Pilot

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The Woking Pilot

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District licensing process



- **Up-front** survey and data collation, impact assessment, strategy and advice to LPA
- Baseline overview of GCN distribution and habitat at a **whole district level**
- Habitat compensation for the full impact of the development plan, **ahead of the profile of impact**
- Cost recouped from developers

Benefits of district licensing



- More influence on the planning system
- Better protection of the most important sites
- More, better, more securely protected habitat provision
- Improved knowledge of GCN status

The scale of the benefits



- **Current cost of licensing £45 million**
- **Site by site GCN licensing 2015**
 - Aquatic habitat - net gain 1.75ha, *29 ponds*
 - Terrestrial habitat – net loss 738ha
 - Monitoring - national baseline 350 ponds over 6 years, with no follow up secured
- **Alternative delivery potential**
 - Stewardship rates - *6500 ponds per annum*
 - Monitoring – baseline 9,000 ponds +follow up funding

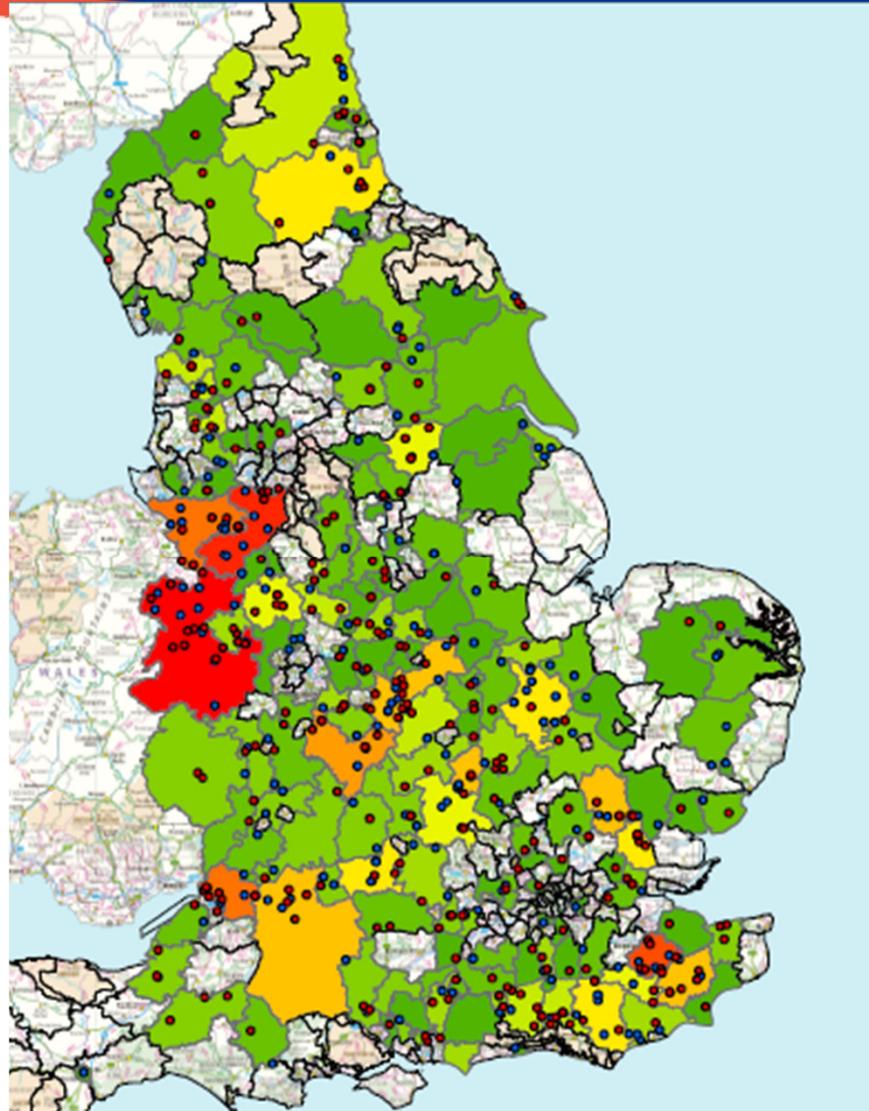
National roll out of district licensing



- 150 districts
- Over 3 years
- 77% of current licensing
- £7million Government investment in set up
- £18million business as usual over 10 years

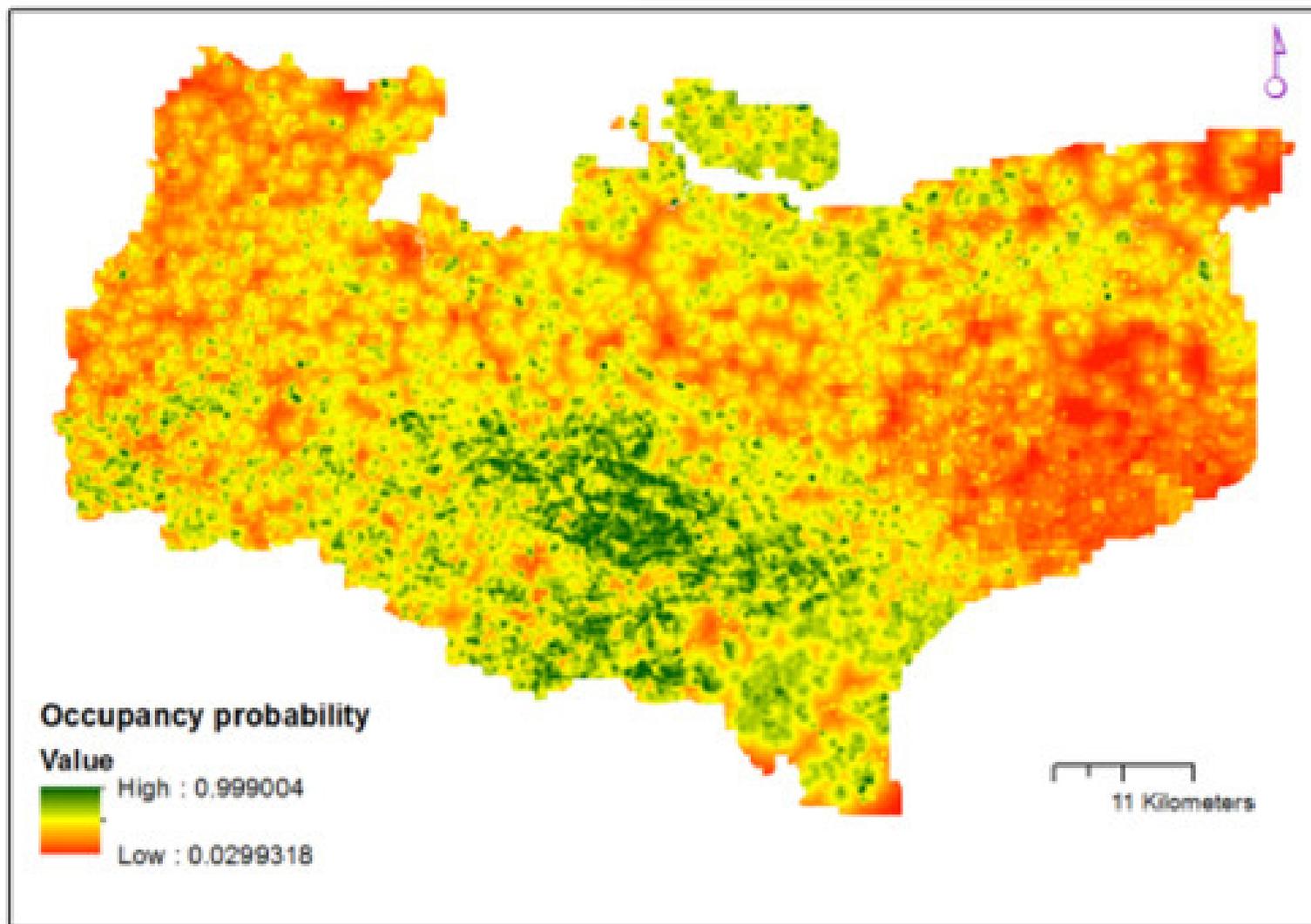
GCN new licence applications 2015 and 2016

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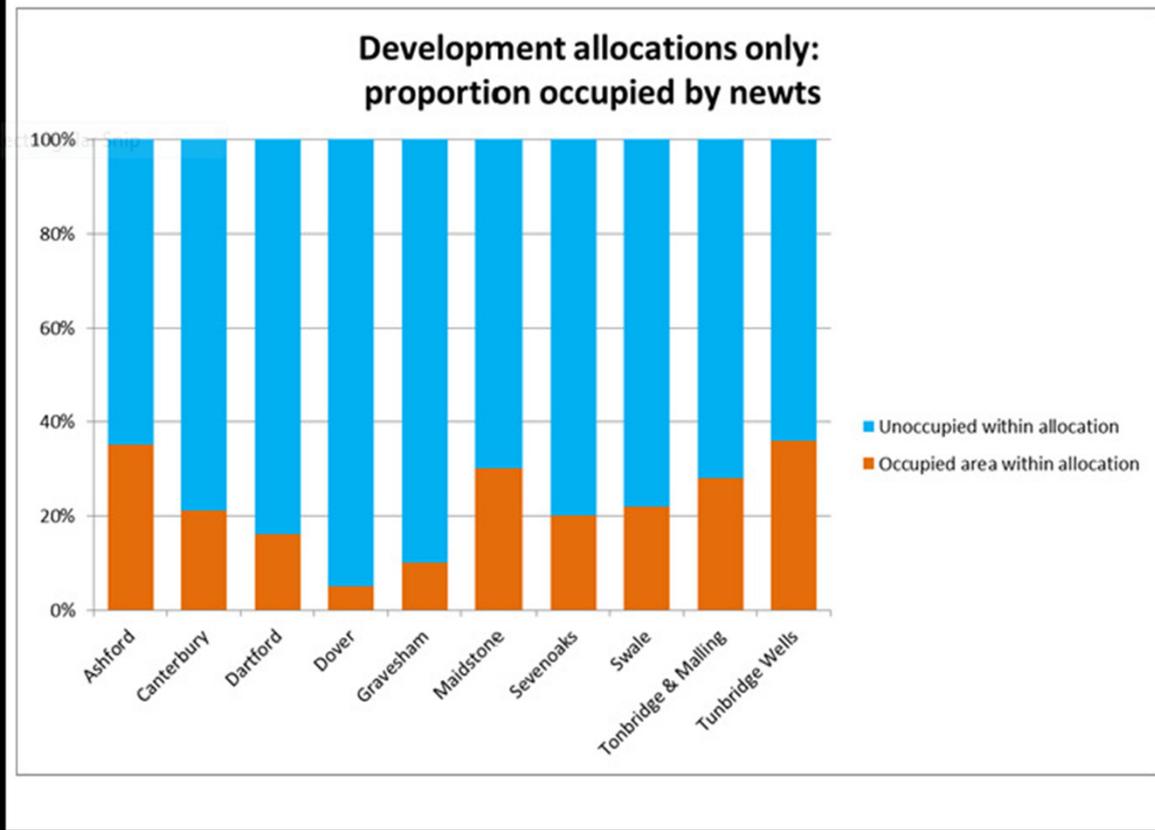
Learning still to be done – the Kent project

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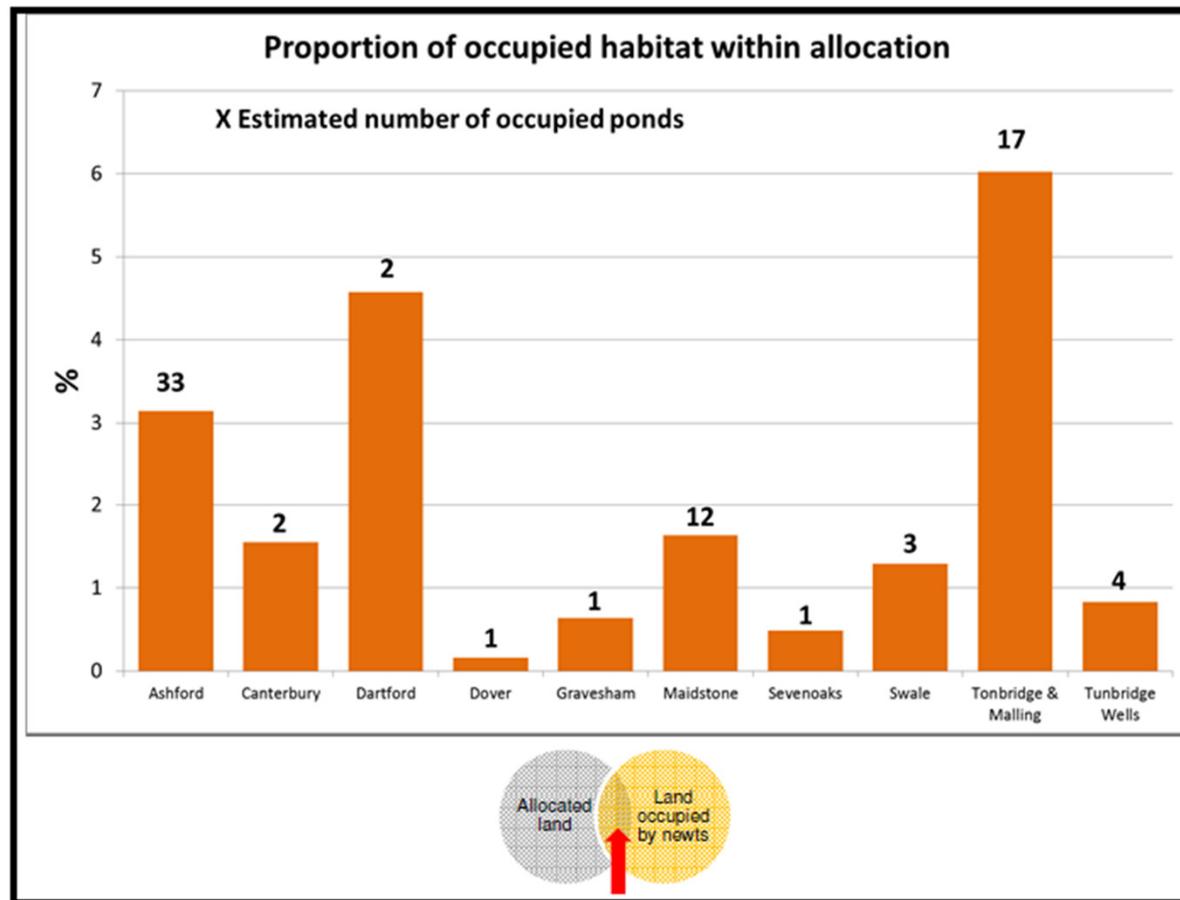


The effect of GCN on development

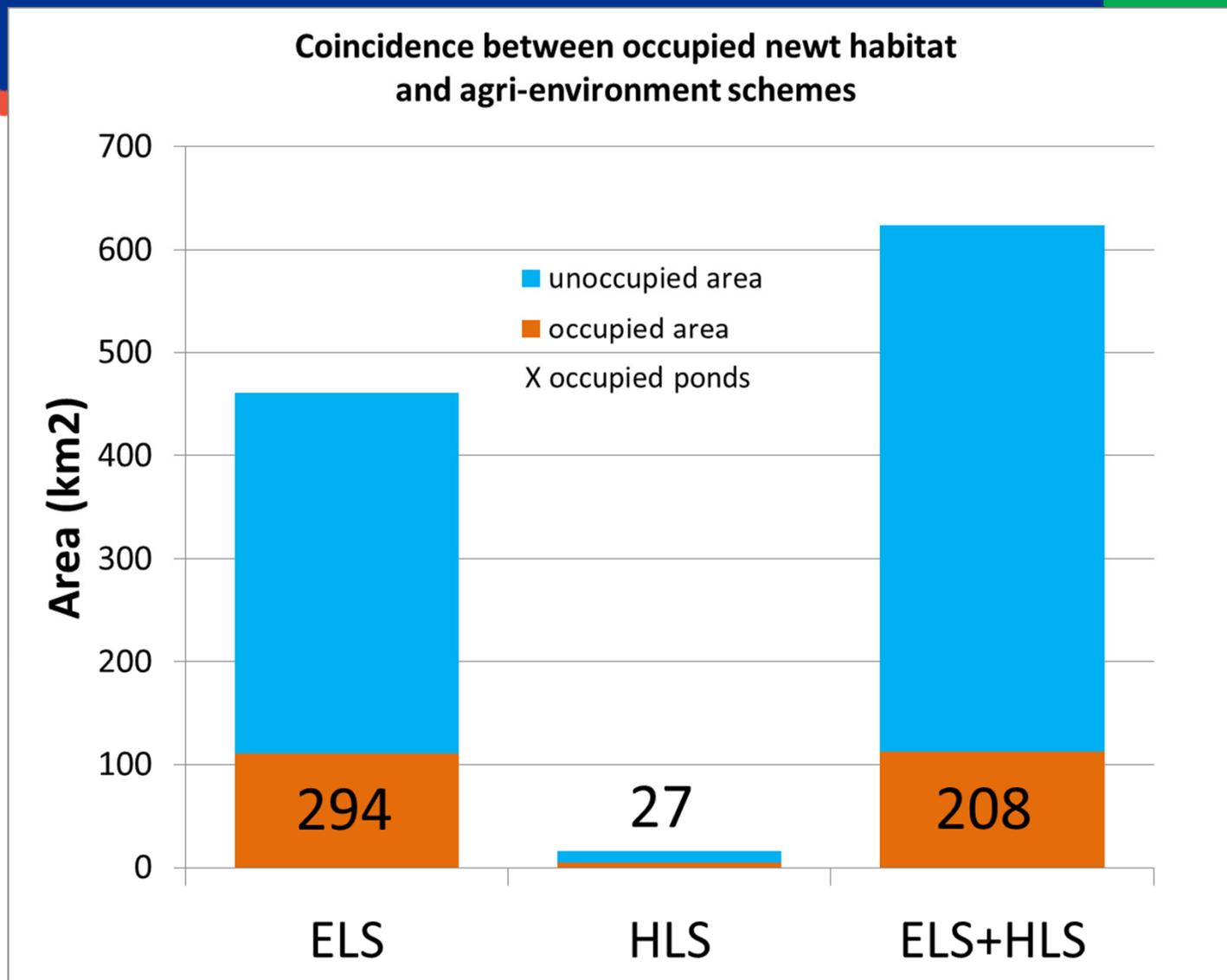
B) Distribution by development allocation



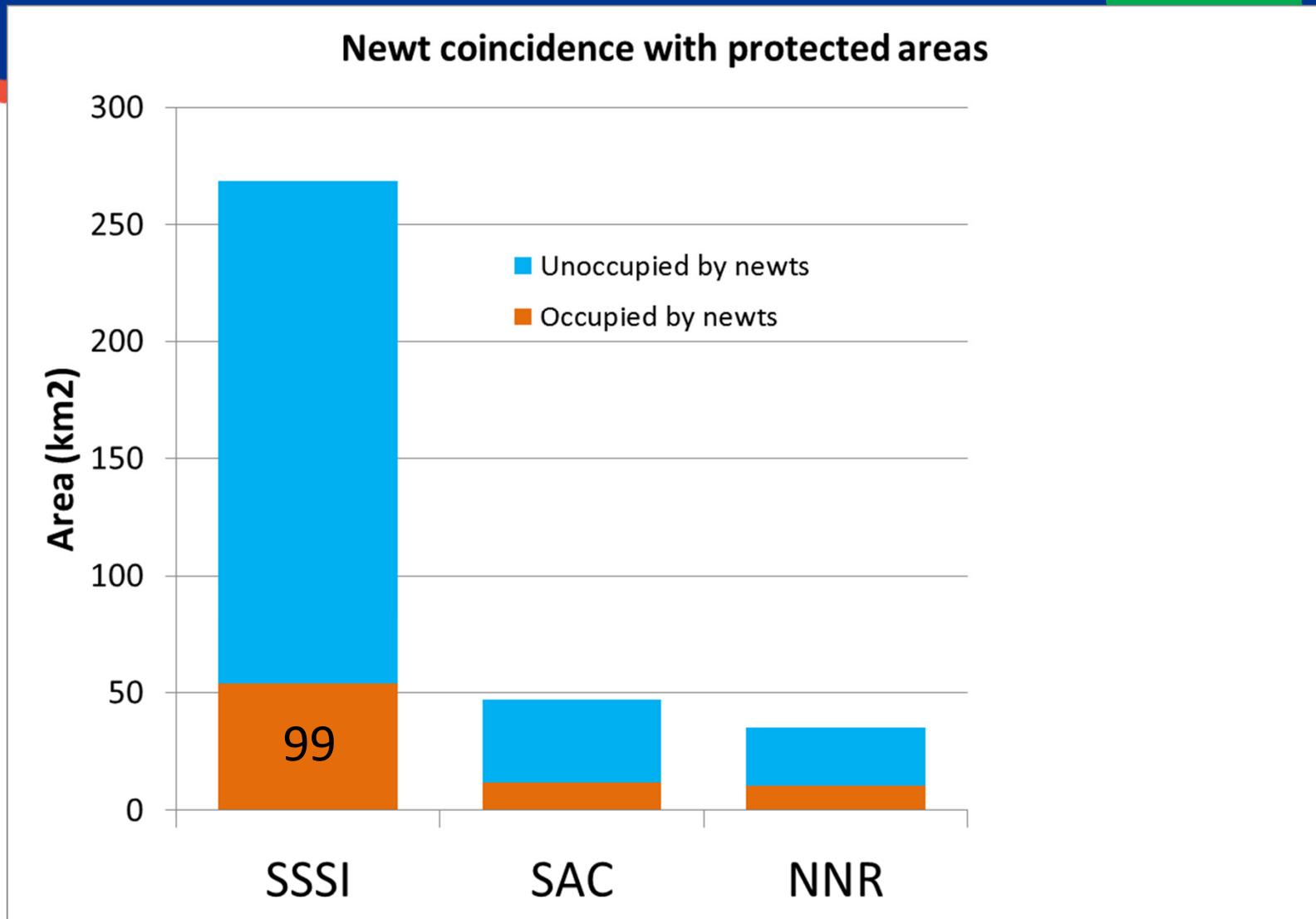
The effect of development on GCN



C) Coincidence with agri-environment schemes



D) Coincidence with protected areas and landscapes



The Kent project



- County conservation strategy
 - Agri-environment
 - SSSIs
 - Publicly owned land
 - Nature reserves
 - Forestry land
 - etc
- Definition of favourable conservation status
- 6 district strategies

Warwickshire

- The County Council is taking the lead
- Demonstration on expanding the role of councils
- Demonstrating how it can bring an income stream into local authority ecology services

Partnership



- Data to test baselines
- Scrutiny of distribution maps
- Having your say about impacts
- Identifying habitat improvement target areas and opportunities
- Monitoring