



# The Practicalities of a Reintroduction



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# Update



- Spring census of 55 individual birds, possibility of additional birds in other zones.
- No known female casualties during silage cutting this year.
- Population broadly stable within last 4 years since cessation of import. Likely slow growth in recent years.
- Mortality and productivity numbers near identical.
- Threat to Stonehenge sub-population.
- Two new fields under lease agreements for Bustard habitat.
- Proposal to rear and release to accelerate population growth.

# Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations

Version 1.0





# Summary of UK Project

Projected started in 1998

Licence issued in 2004

Birds released: Russia 2004 to 2013 - egg rescue  
Spain 2015 to 2019 – egg collection

Number of imported birds released: 298 at 3 sites

# Opposition and Support Political and Social

Government  
Agencies

NGOs

Public, civic  
and  
commercial

International

Support and opposition may come from unexpected sources



# Who Will Pay? Partners?

How much?

For how long?

What conditions?

Outputs desired? – conservation measures, reports, publications, media, financial.



# How Much?

This is an individual project calculation.

GBG now has 2.5 paid staff – the highest ever.  
Typically it has been 1 and for many years zero.

Typical total annual budget is Euro: 160,000 p.a.  
(inc. salaries, offices, IT, land rent, farm compensation, agri-environment measures and monitoring).

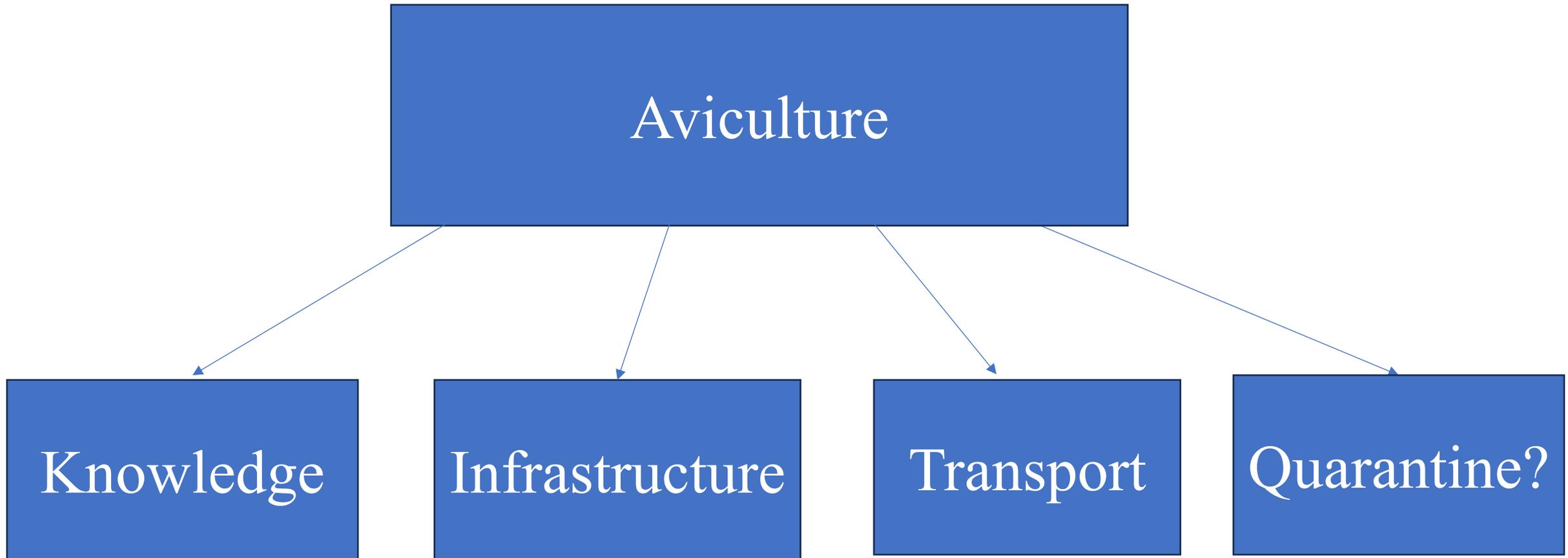
This budget is challenging!



## Project funding – initial and ongoing – Typical year

Memberships	15%
Self generated	30%
Donations	55%
Grants	0%

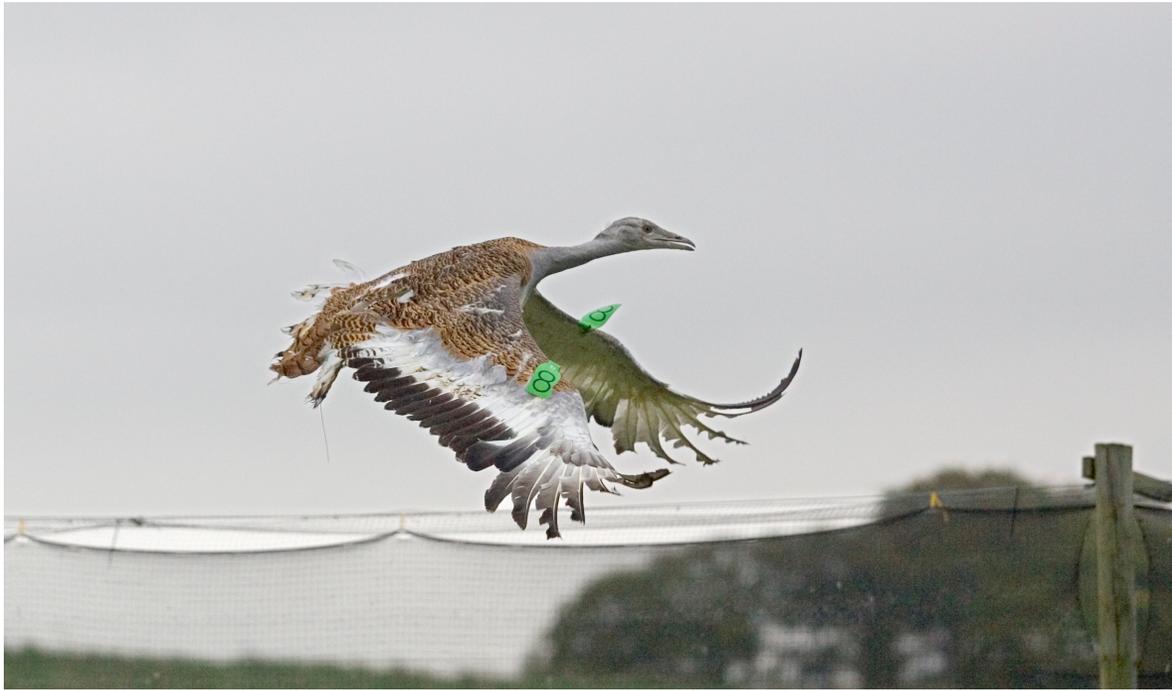
# The essential practical tools



# Transport



Move eggs not birds



Imported Bird

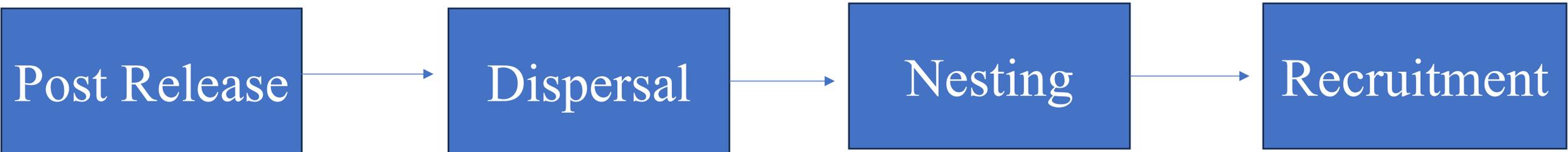


Imported Egg



Quarantine conditions compromise condition of birds

# Monitoring





# High Release Site Loyalty

Our experience is that released birds are very loyal to their release site and that their first proper flights fix the home range.

This may mean nesting occurs very close to the point of release.



# Post Release Behaviour

Released birds will disperse in first winter— probably in all directions.

Survivors will return during their second summer.

Single sex droves established after 10 years and sufficient numbers.

Habitat use and nesting areas largely determined by your choice of release site.

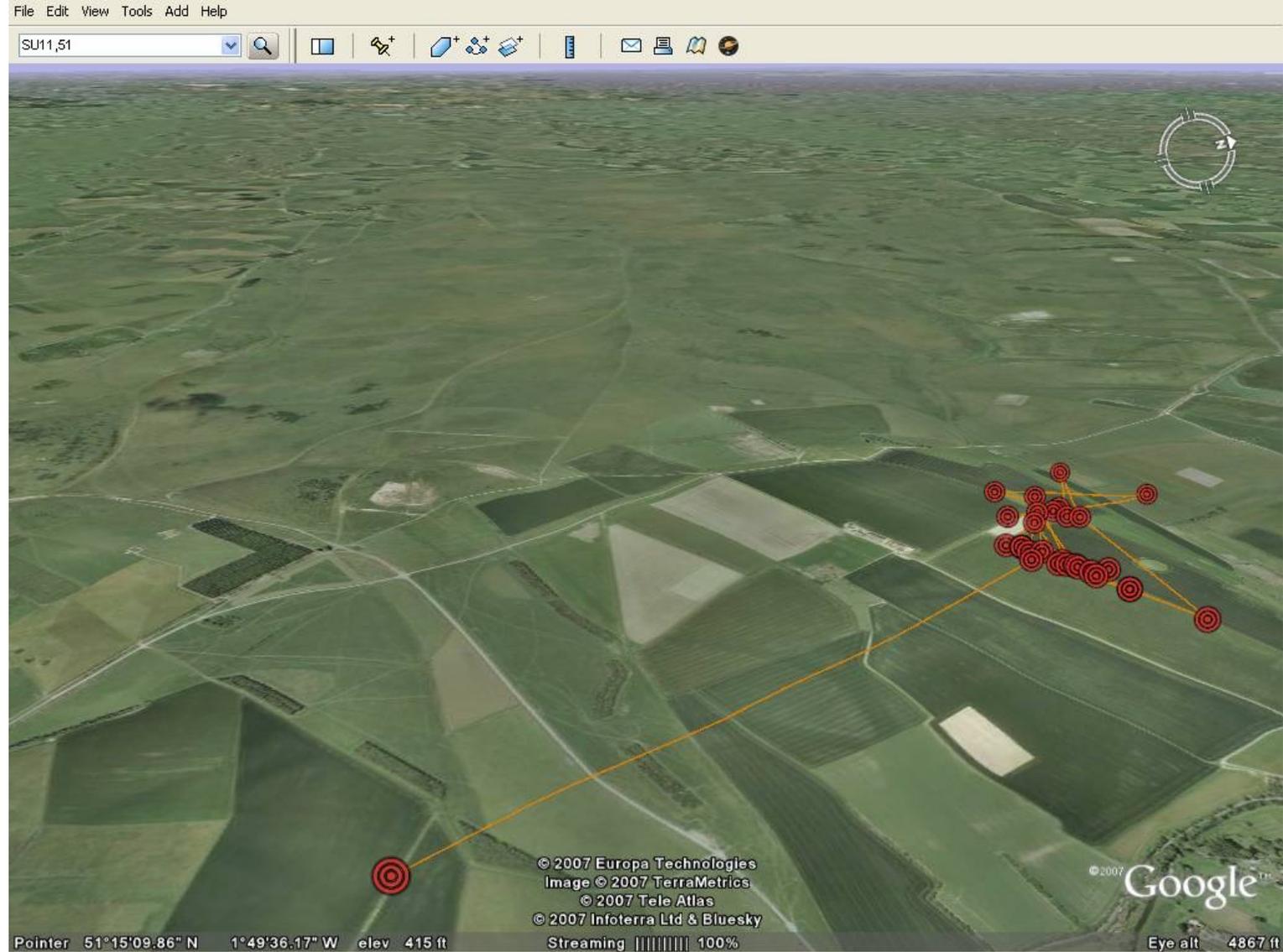
# Tracking

What is the aim?

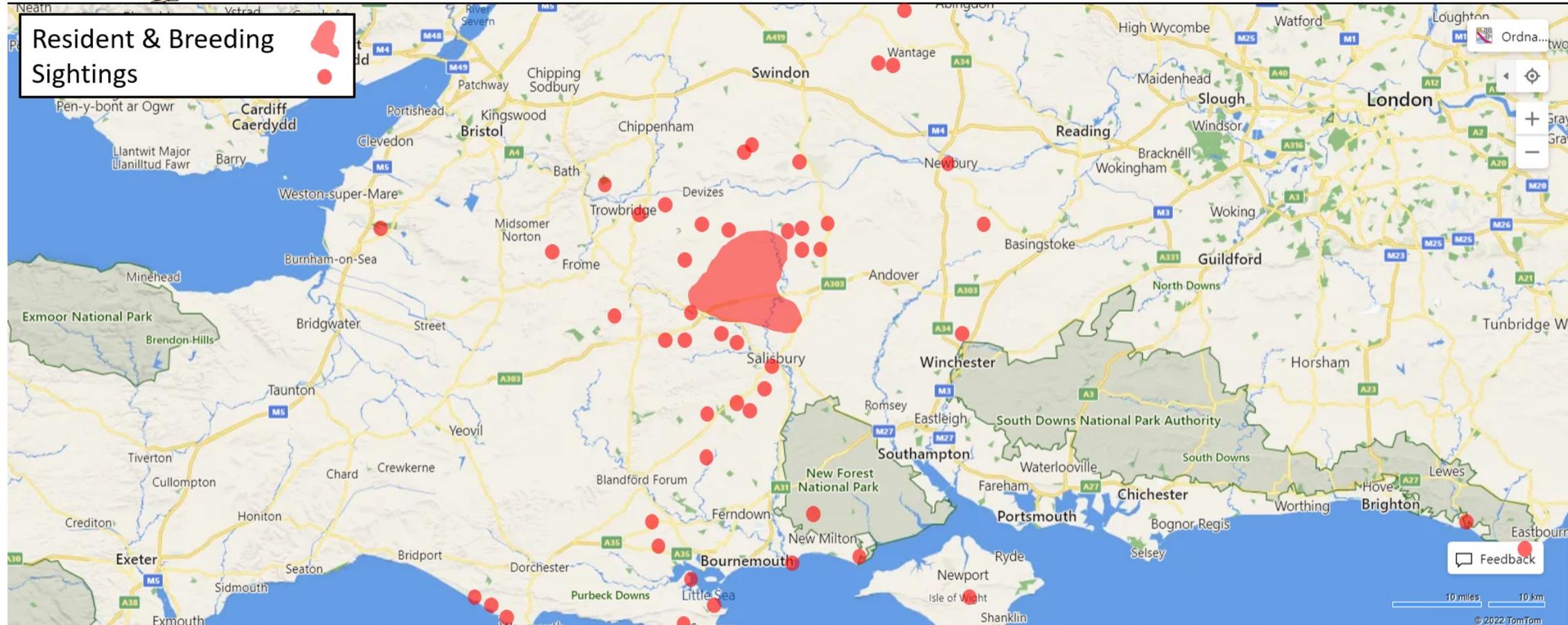
Initial years will give information about post release behaviour of hand reared birds.

Year 2+ will give information on semi natural behaviour.

Year 10+ will give information on natural behaviour



Short term habitat use is determined by the habitat at the release site.



First year dispersal is expected

# The end result?



A small population that needs protection and conservation. Where the real work starts?



[www.greatbustard.org](http://www.greatbustard.org)