



Bechstein's Bat
Radio Tracking at
RSPB Franchise's
Lodge 2025

Funding for the Project was provided by New Forest Biodiversity
Forum, The New Forest Trust and RSPB

Photo: Jamie
Palmer

c. 400 ha of mixed woodland



Boher
Loosehanger

Wi

Henry Way

ack
RSPB licence: 100021787.
bottom

Hamptv

Lyburn Rd

Keepers
Cottage

Contains OS data © Crown Copy

▪ Photo: Jamie Palmer



Lots of Barbastelles



In 2022, we found our
first Bechstein's Bats

338 bats of 10 species

Sex	Male		Female			Male		Female				
Ace	Adult	Immature	Adult	Immature	Total 2022-24	Adult	Immature	Adult	Immature	Total 2025	Total	% of total
Bar bar	9	1	9	5	24	7	1	15	0	23	47	13.91
Ept ser	0	1	1	2	4	0	0	5	0	5	9	2.66
Myo bec	5	4	12	8	29	0	2	6	1	9	38	11.24
Myo dau	3	5	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	2.37
Myo nat	5	3	6	2	16	4	1	1	0	6	22	6.51
Myo mys	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.3
Nyc noc	3	0	9	1	13	3	0	2	1	6	19	5.62
Pip pip	5	5	10	2	22	3	1	3	0	7	29	8.58
Pip pyg	30	24	20	26	100	9	3	6	3	21	121	35.8
Ple aur	13	6	8	4	31	5	0	8	0	13	44	13.02
Total	73	49	76	50	248	31	8	46	5	90	338	100

Bechstein's Bat Habitat Requirements



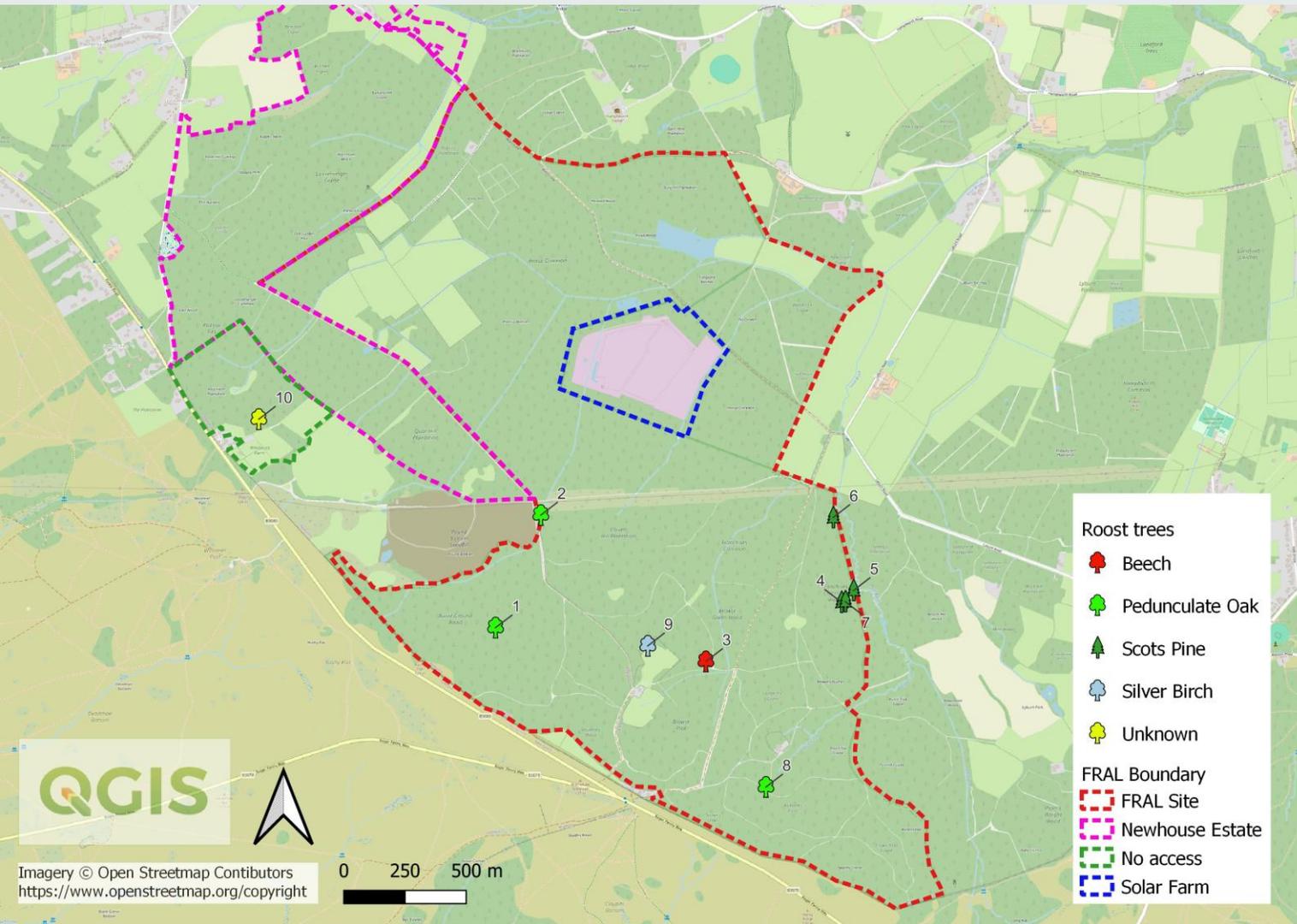
One of our rarest bats, current population estimate ca 23,000

- *From: 'Bechstein's bat: A Guide for Woodland Owners' (Miller, 2013):*
- *An unevenly aged, deciduous woodland* ←
- *A high number of mature oaks*
- *Above 25 hectares in size*
- *Semi-natural or ancient woodland*
- *A high degree of canopy cover consisting of native species* ←
- *Contains a sufficient number of trees with woodpecker holes*
- *Has a dense mixed native species like holly and hazel understorey (at least 50% cover)* ←
- *Streams/ponds or ditches retaining water within the wood*
- *Within the predicted distribution range*
- *Ideally a single woodland block, but where woodlands are fragmented, they can still be suitable if they are well connected (Hill and Greenway, 2006).*

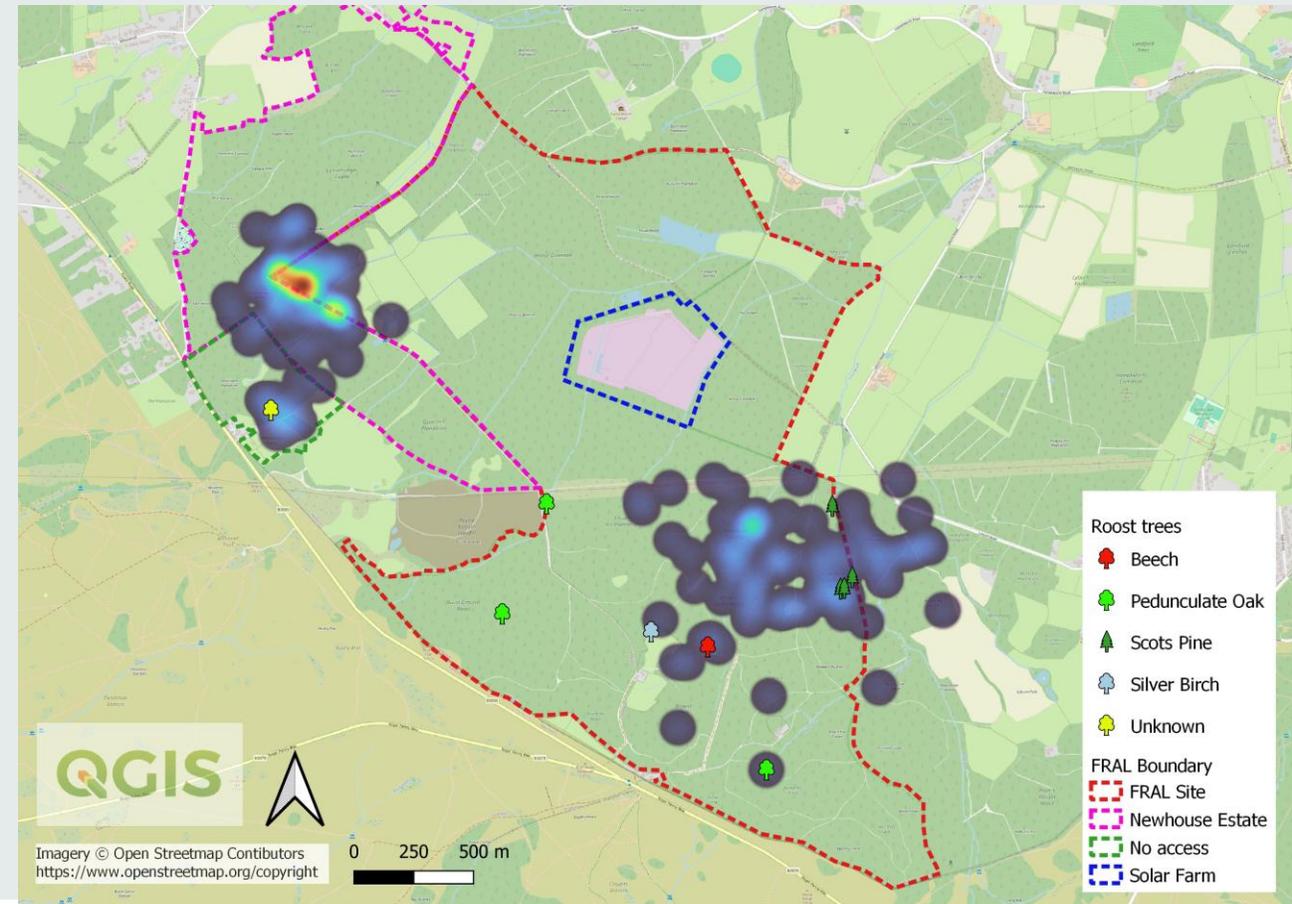
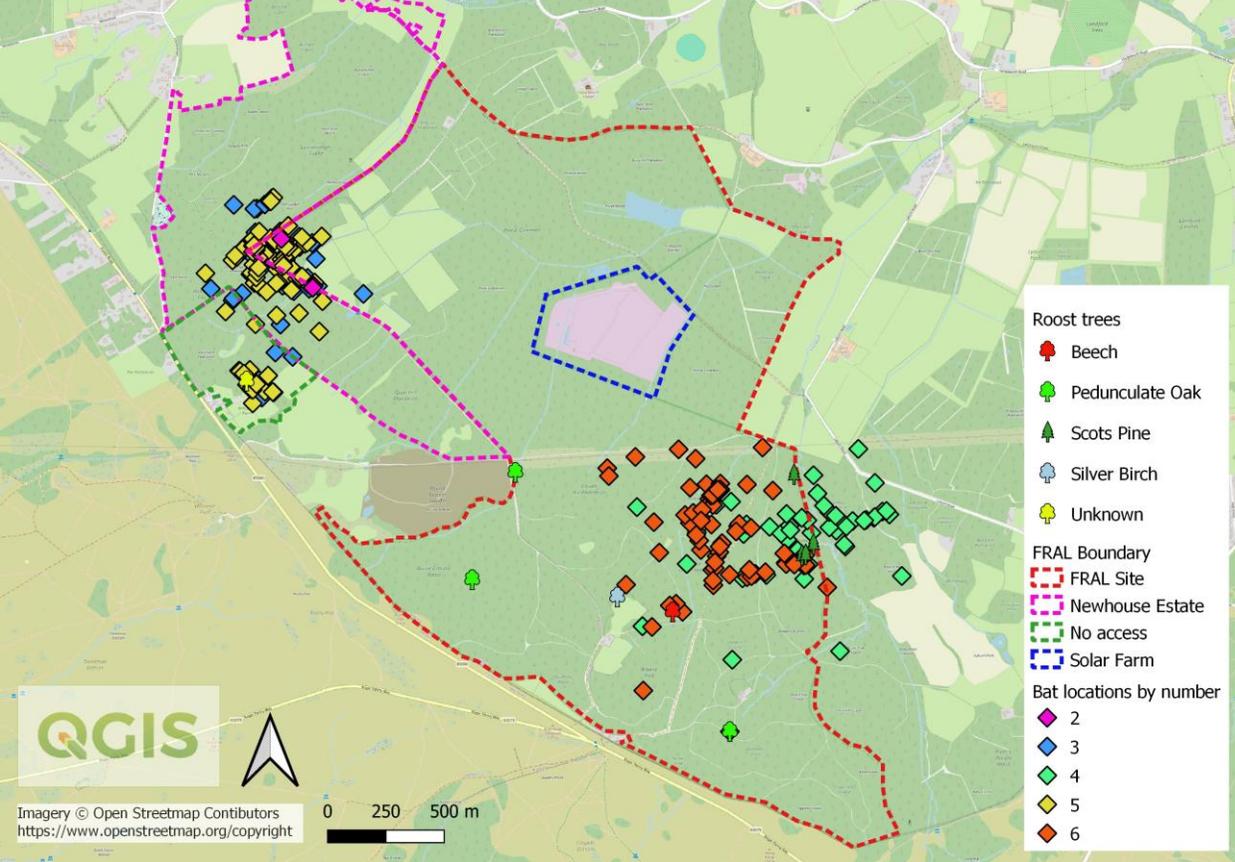


6 roost trees
found in 2024

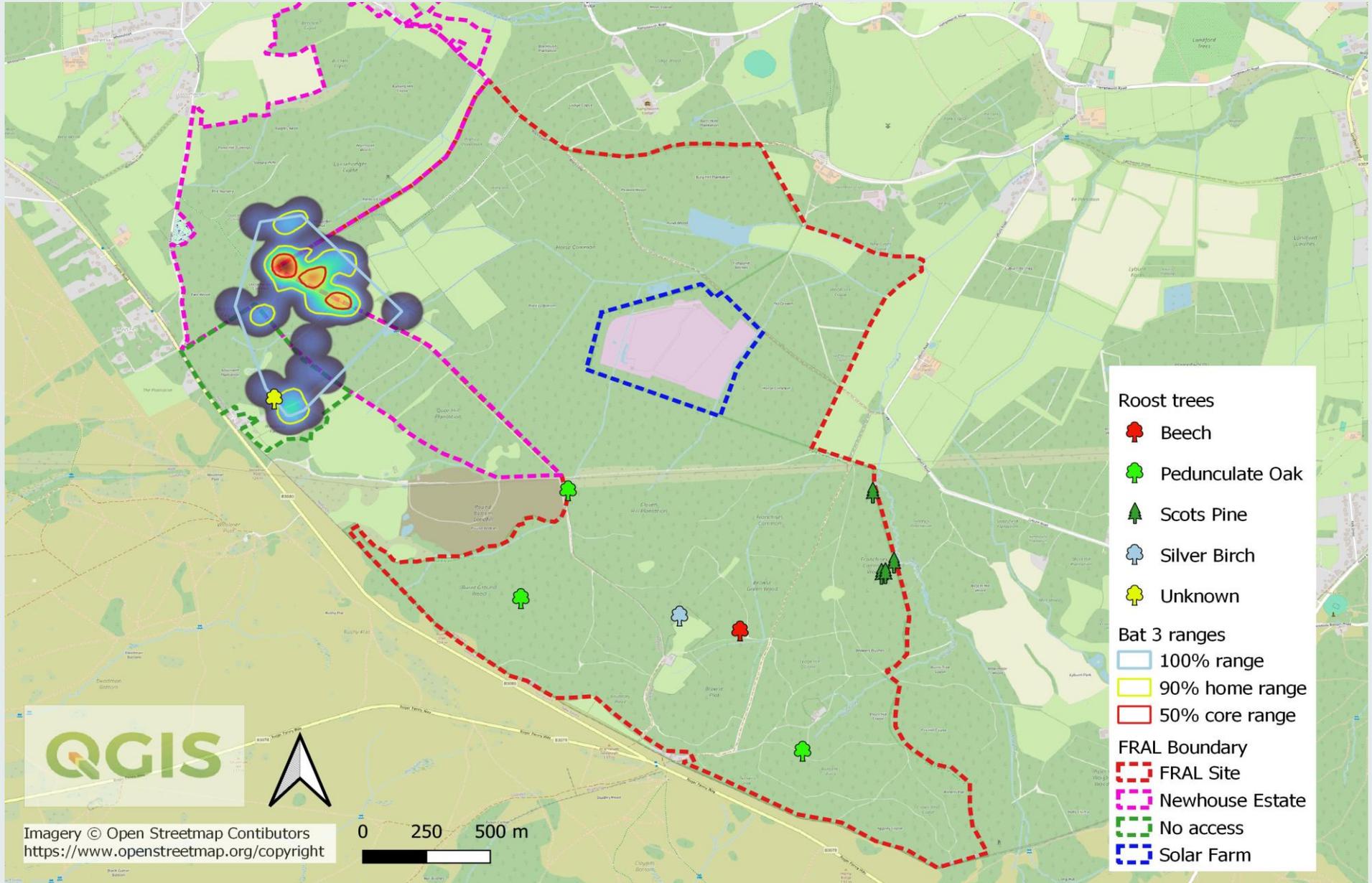
At least 4 more
in 2025



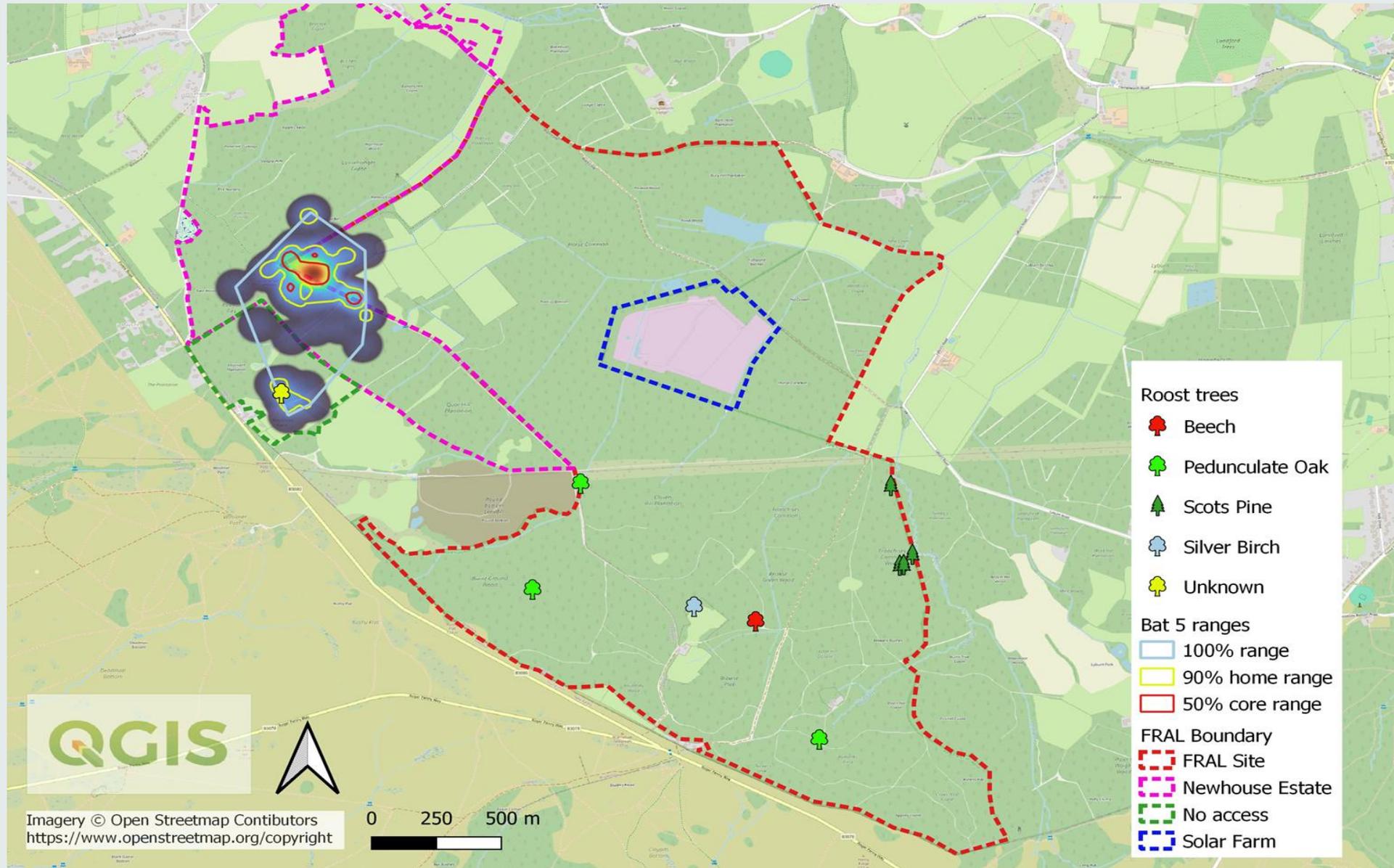
▪ Positions of bats over the next 6 nights



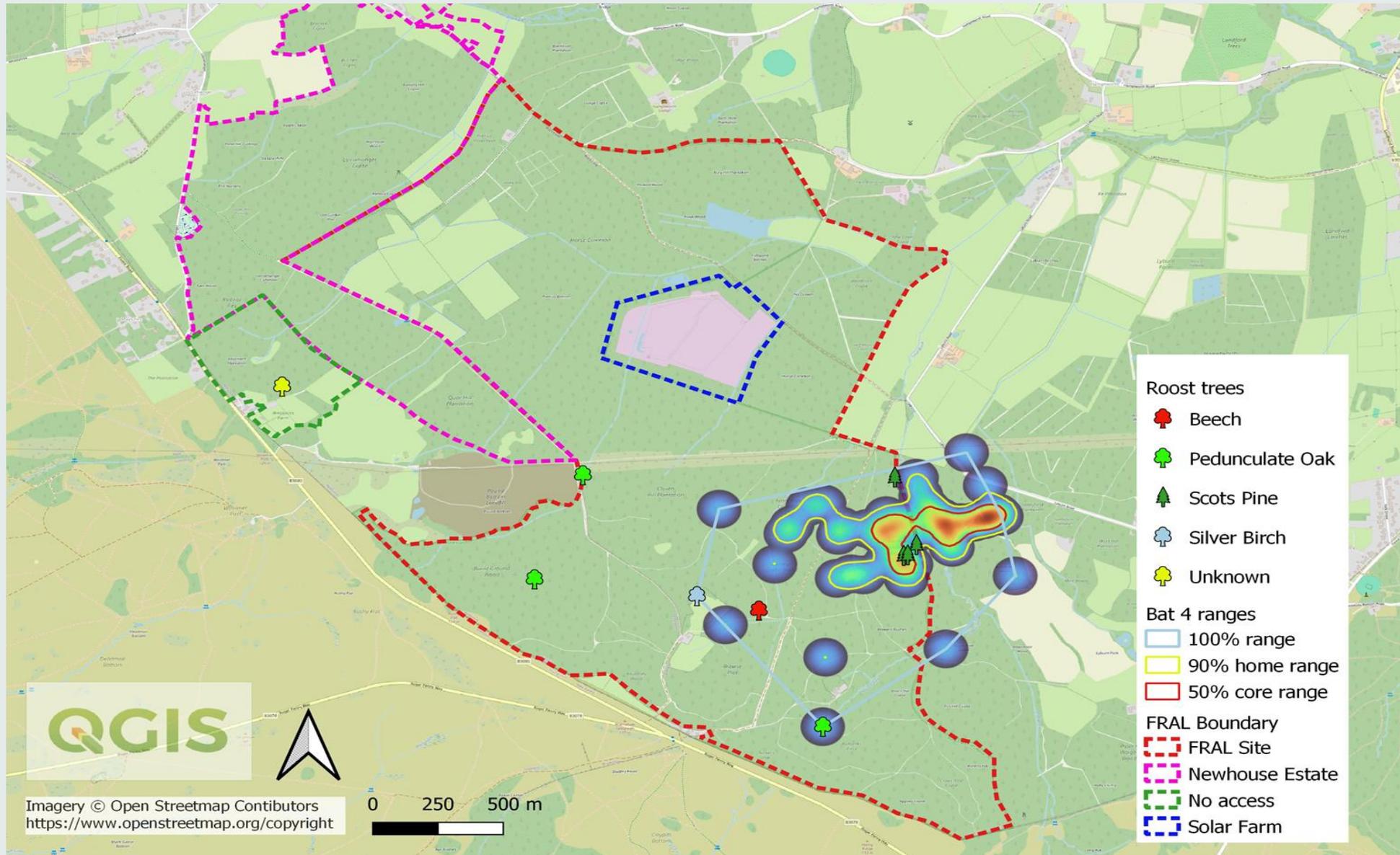
Bat 3 Home ranges



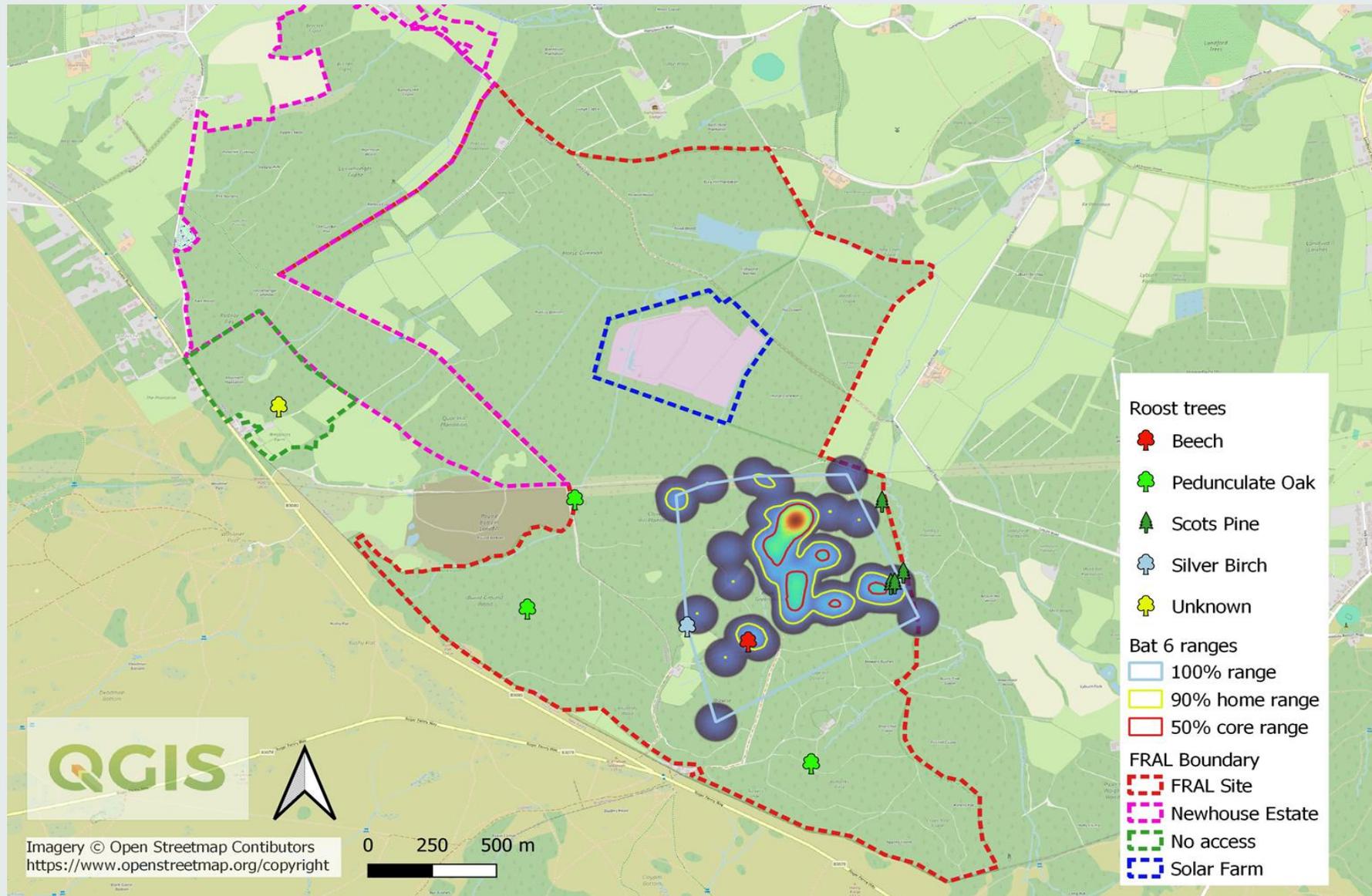
Bat 5 Home ranges



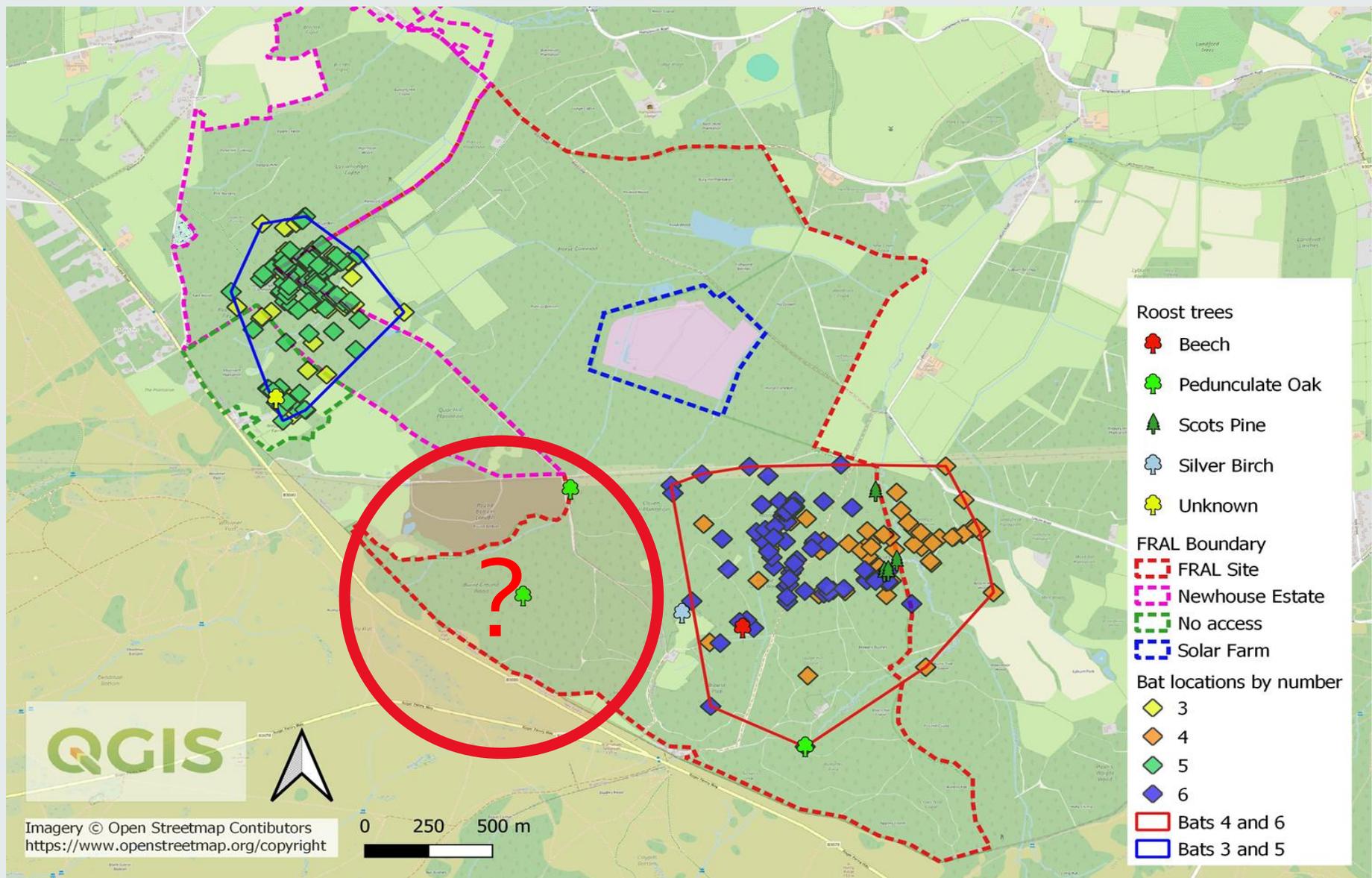
Bat 4 Home ranges



Bat 6 Home ranges



Two maternity colonies



Habitat use

In 2024, conifers were an important part of the bats' ranges.

However, % of conifers decreased in home and core ranges

Bat	Range(%)	Total area	% conifer	% broadleaved
3	100	32.64	55.29	34.31
3	90	10.16	49.19	39.3
3	50	1.94	50.36	37.47
4	100	89.93	48.49	47.21
4	90	20.61	66.75	25.11
4	50	6.52	71.24	16.35
5	100	28.03	55.12	38.39
5	90	8.05	60.56	31.74
5	50	1.71	63.75	27.65
6	100	62.16	64.49	35.07
6	90	14.38	75.59	24.39
6	50	4.15	89.01	10.99

1:25



© H A 2.5x 01:36 52

Video by
Gus Layton

Thanks for listening

Thanks to:

Funding provided by:

New Forest Biodiversity Forum Small Grants Scheme

New Forest Trust

RSPB

Volunteers:

Alex Hannam

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Anna Potter

Briza Cristina

Carol Evans

Charlie Drapala

Chloe Mockridge

Chrissy Mills

Colin Morris

Ellysia Lewin

Emily Cooke

Ewan Hitchcoe

Gus Layton

Izzy Frey

Jenny Sutch

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