

Can nurse plants protect *Quercus robur* saplings from large herbivore damage?

Alexandros Theodorou
Geography and Environmental Sciences
University of Southampton
a.theodorou@soton.ac.uk



Field study - Can nurse plants protect *Quercus robur* from large herbivore damage?

- **Aim**

To Identify nurse planting strategies that mitigate herbivory on planted English Oak (*Quercus robur*) saplings.

- **Objectives**

1. Compare the **level of deer herbivory** on *Q. robur* saplings planted with different nurse plant species.
2. Compare the **growth and survival** of *Q. robur* saplings planted with different nurse plant species.

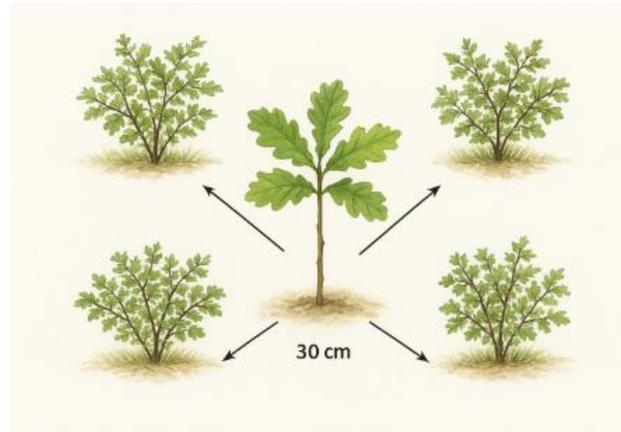
The New Forest National Park

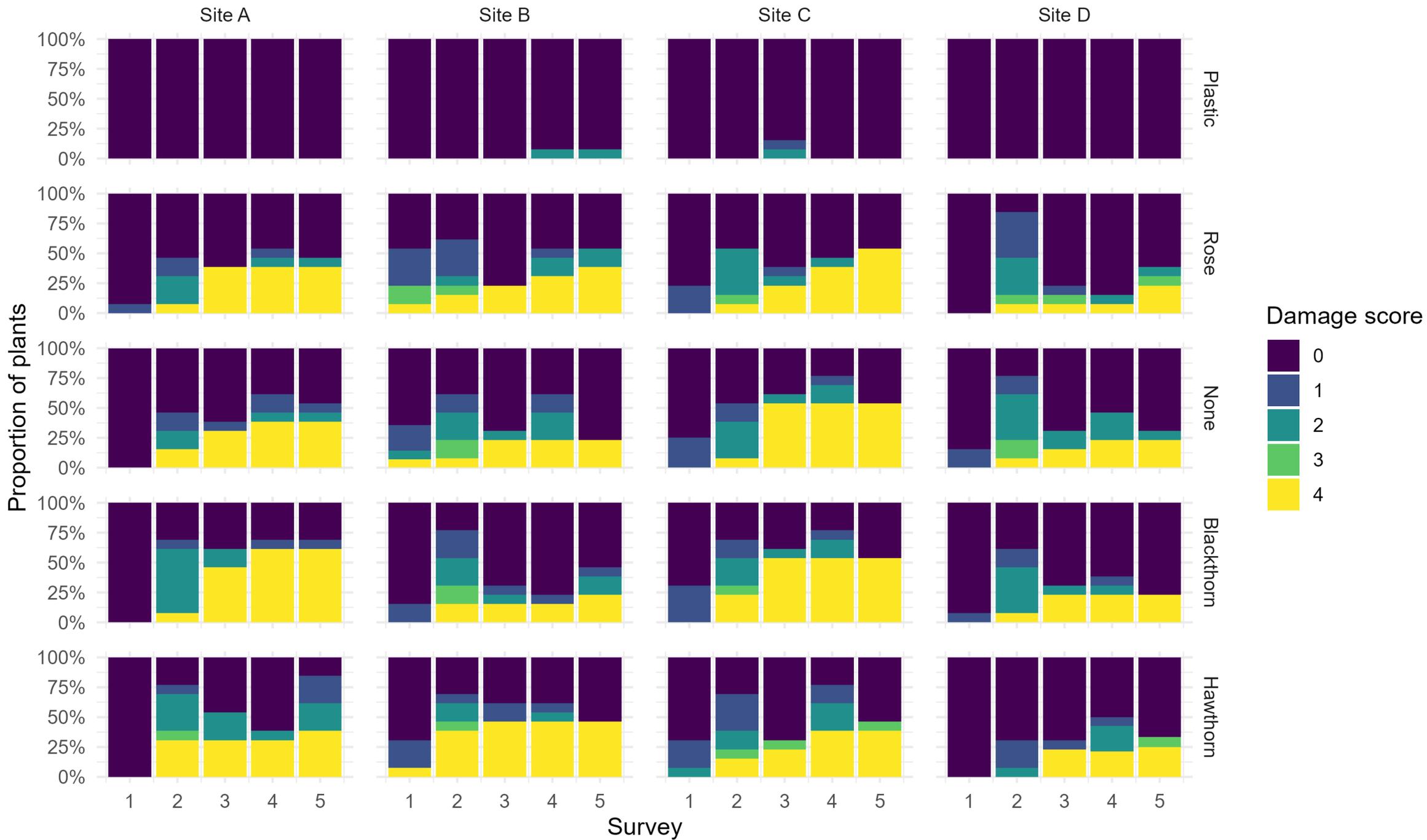


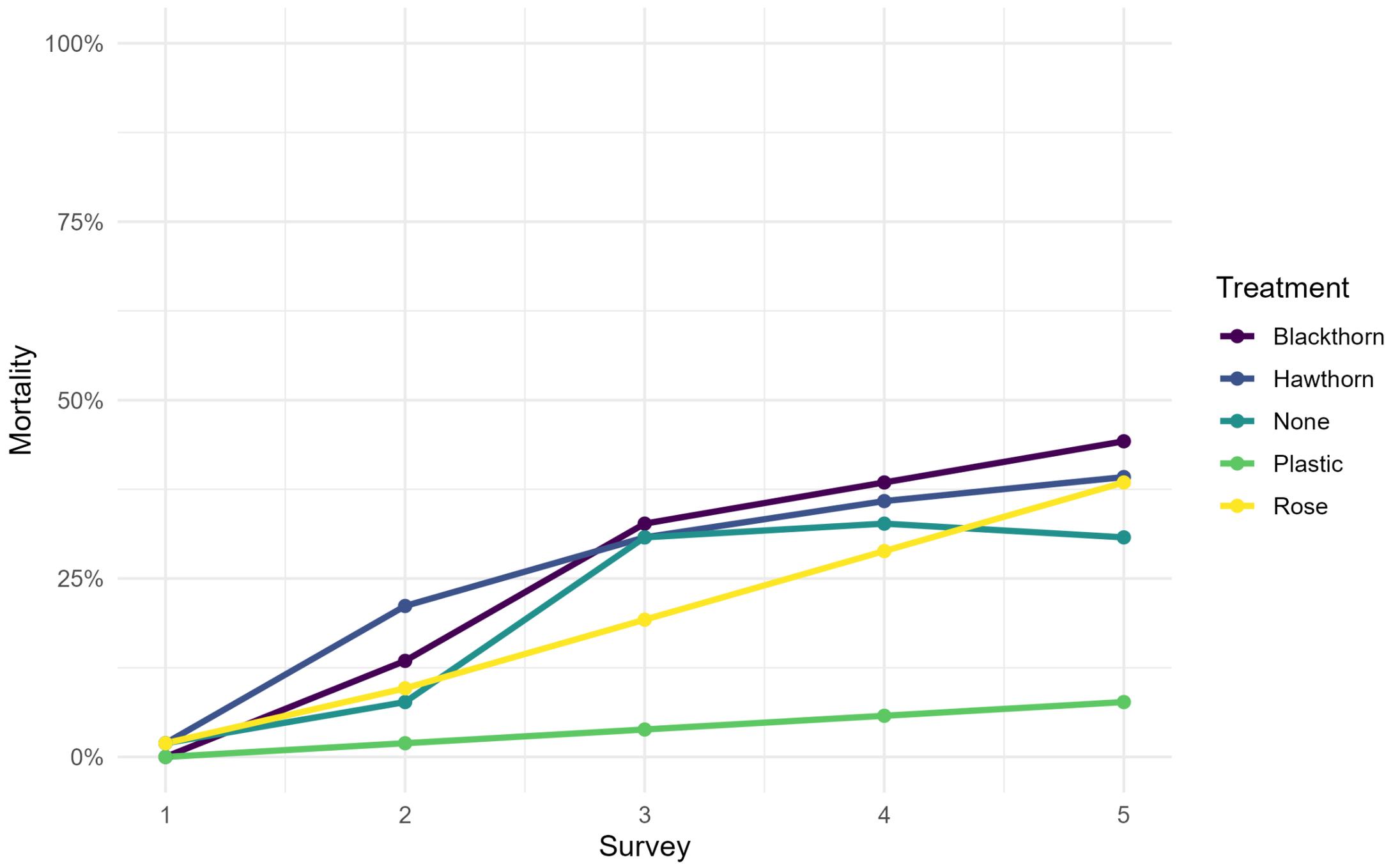
 New Forest National Park boundary

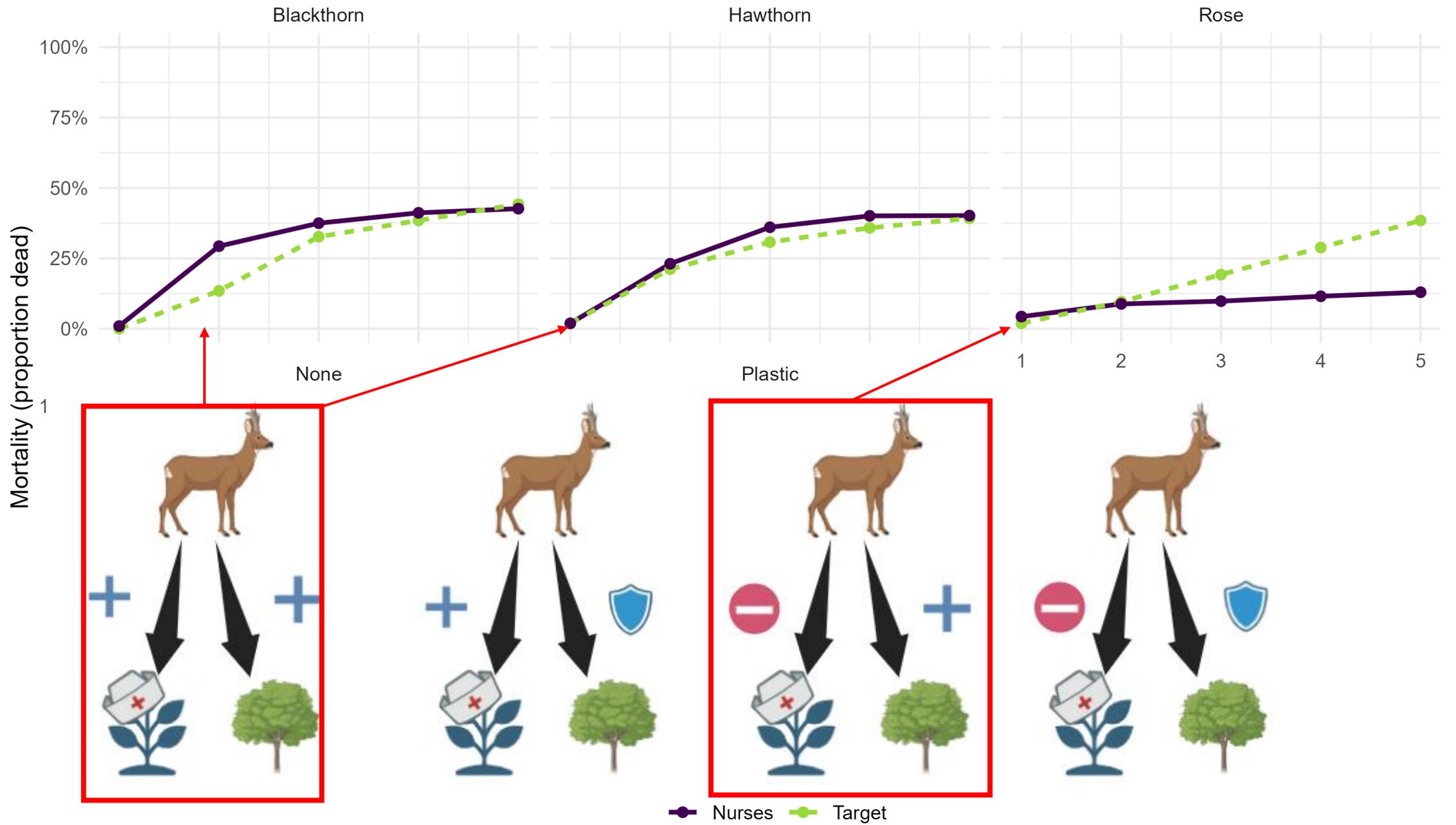
Methods summary

- Set up:
 - Four sites
 - 65 *Q. robur* saplings per site
 - *Q. robur* assigned one of five treatments
- Field surveys to assess damage
 - Repeated 5 times per year









Thank you

Alexandros Theodorou
alexandros.theodorou@soton.ac.uk

