



Categorising Environmental Sensitivity - Needs Data

- A key component of SDM is assessing Environmental Sensitivity of proposed development site
- Broad categorisation: Low / Medium / High
- Requires overview of wider region
- Joint analysis of historical databases (if available)
- Care needed to ensure data can be combined (e.g. standardise effort)



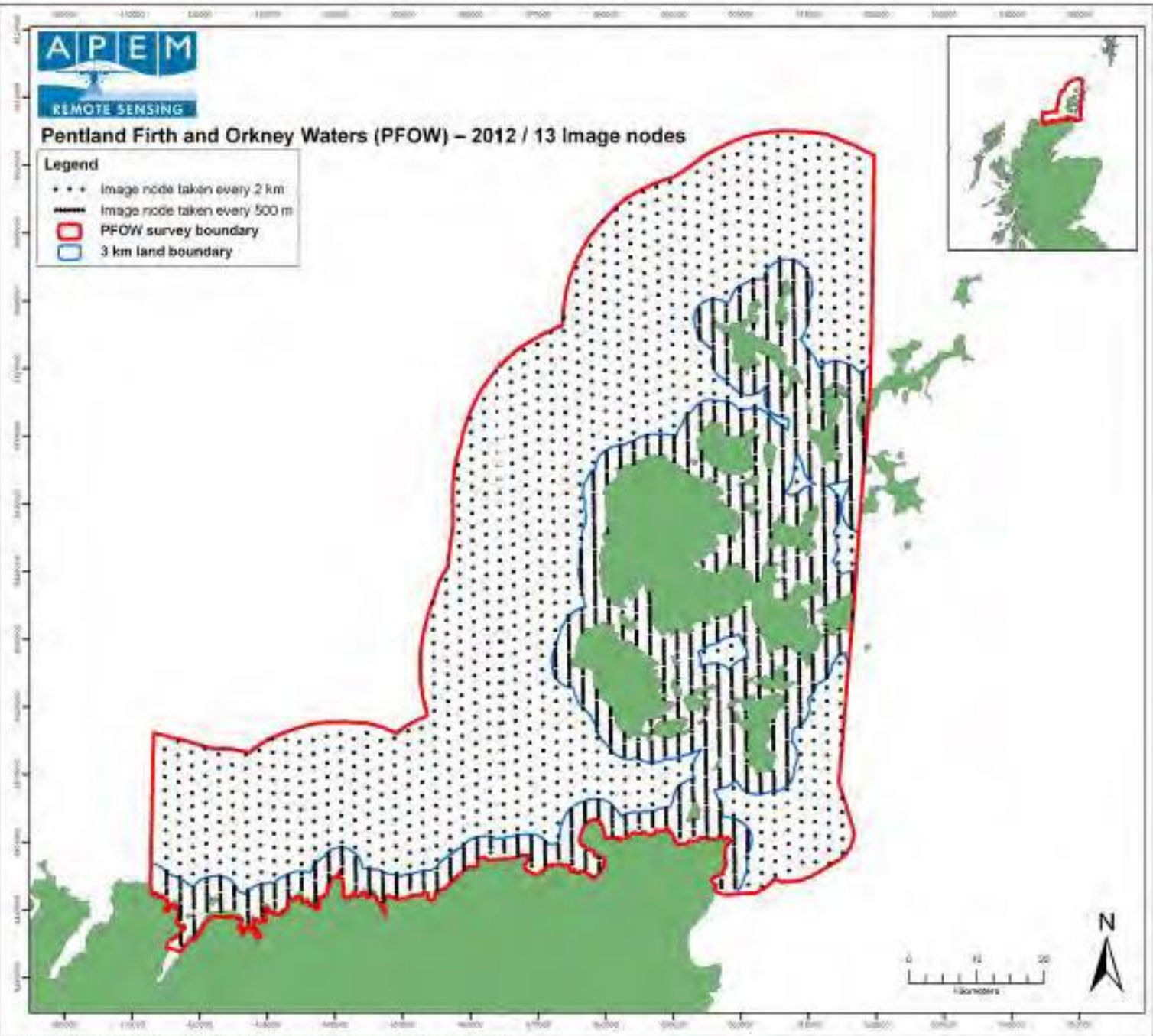
Categorising Environmental Sensitivity

- Needs Data

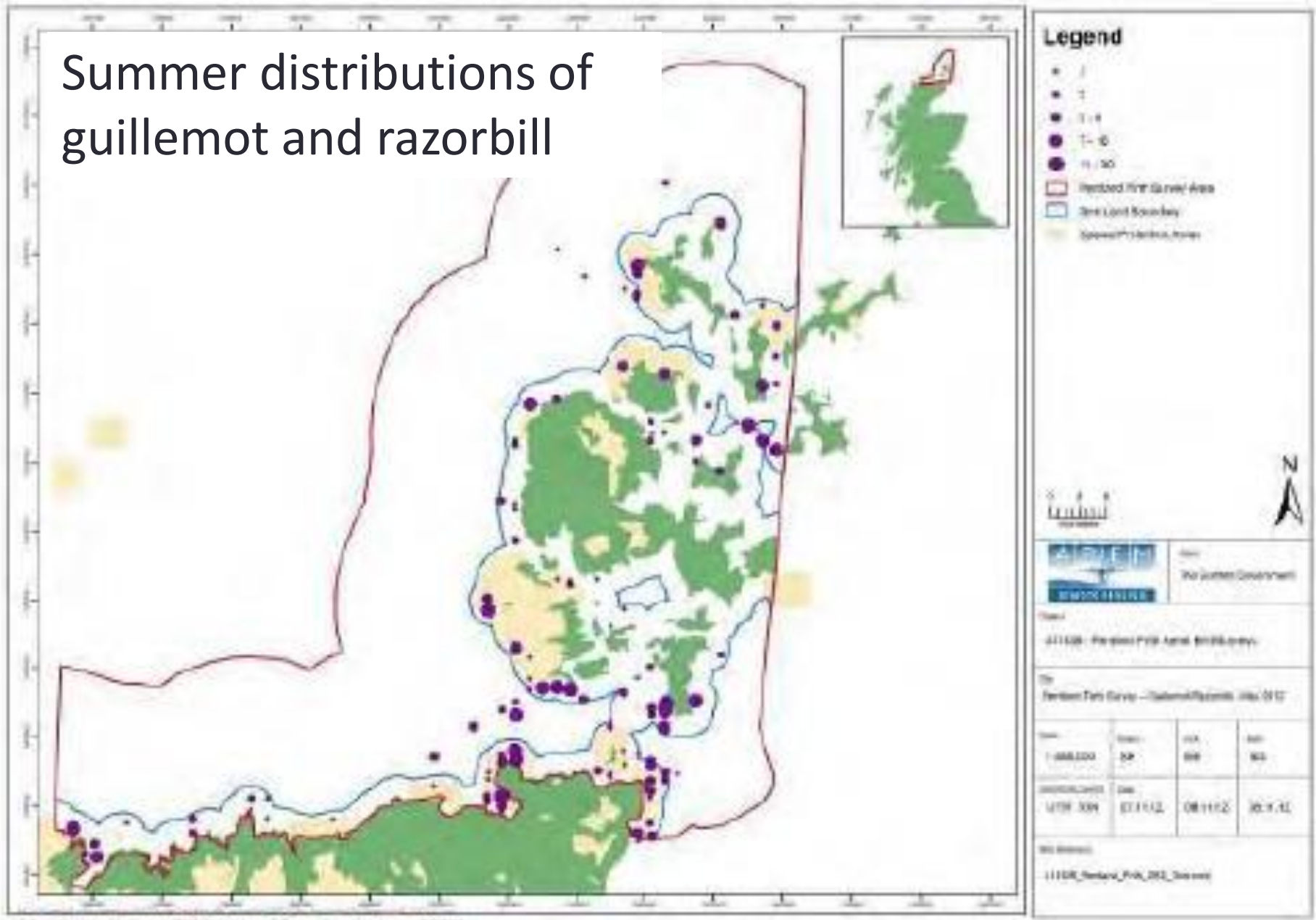
- If no pre-existing data, one option – strategic data gathering:
 - Extensive (low intensity) surveys of large areas
 - Traditionally using boats (e.g. European Seabirds at Sea, ESAS)
 - Replaced by high definition digital aerial methods (video and still)

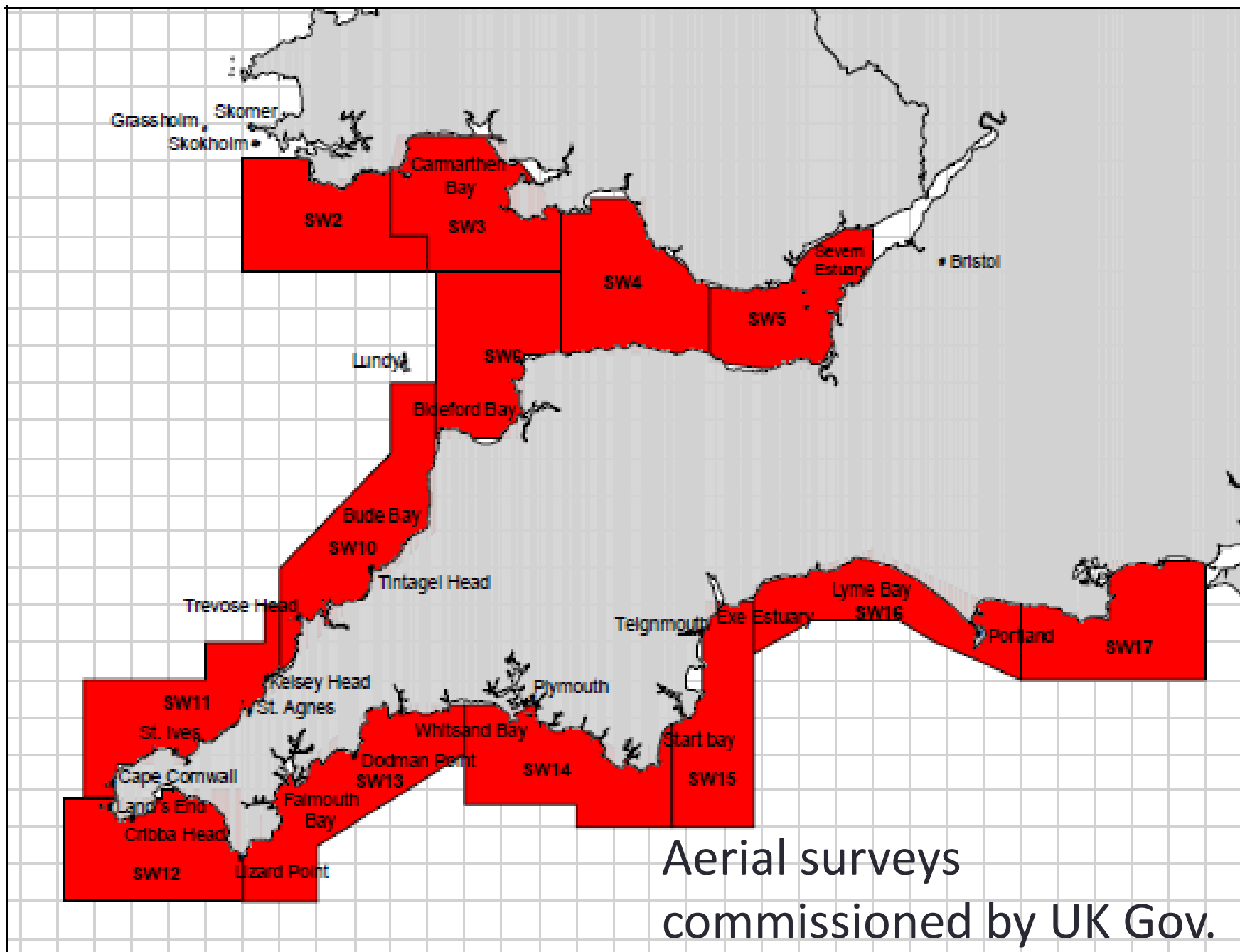
Pentland Firth and Orkney Waters (PFOW) – 2012 / 13 Image nodes

- Legend**
- Image node taken every 2 km
 - ▨ Image node taken every 500 m
 - ▭ PFOW survey boundary
 - ▭ 3 km land boundary

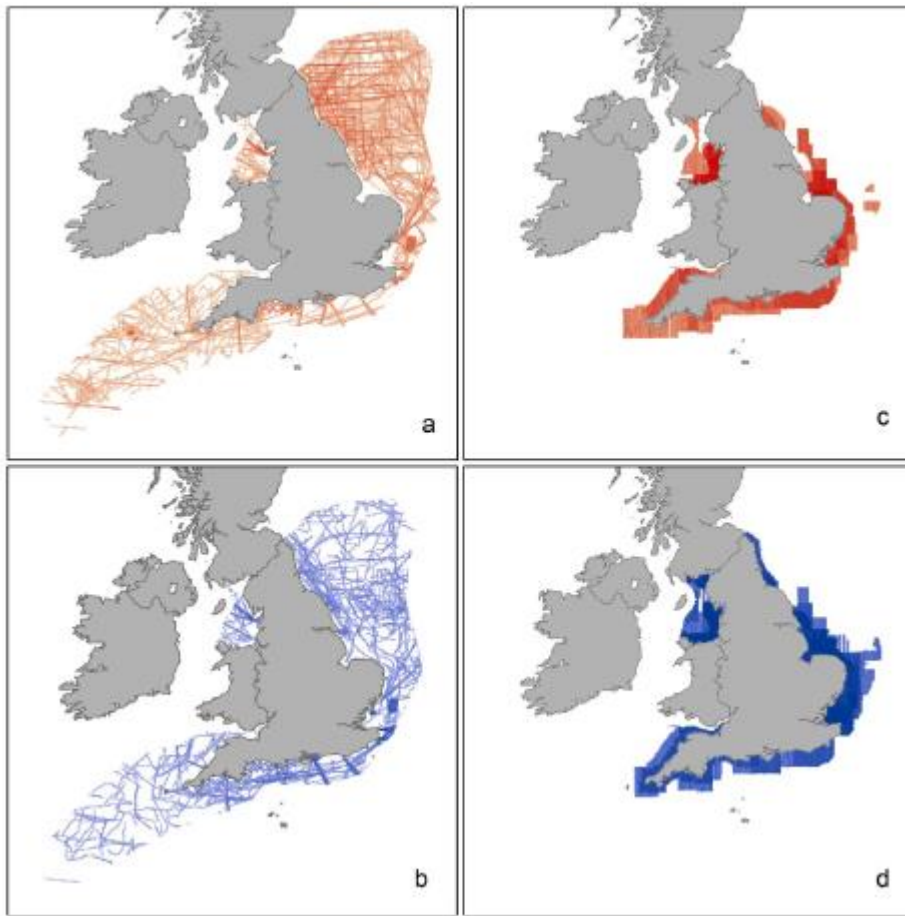


Summer distributions of guillemot and razorbill





Aerial surveys
commissioned by UK Gov.



Survey effort as area (km²) in each 3x3 km cell of the prediction grid covering the Seabird Sensitivity Mapping in English Waters study area.

Predicted densities of gannets in English waters in summer

