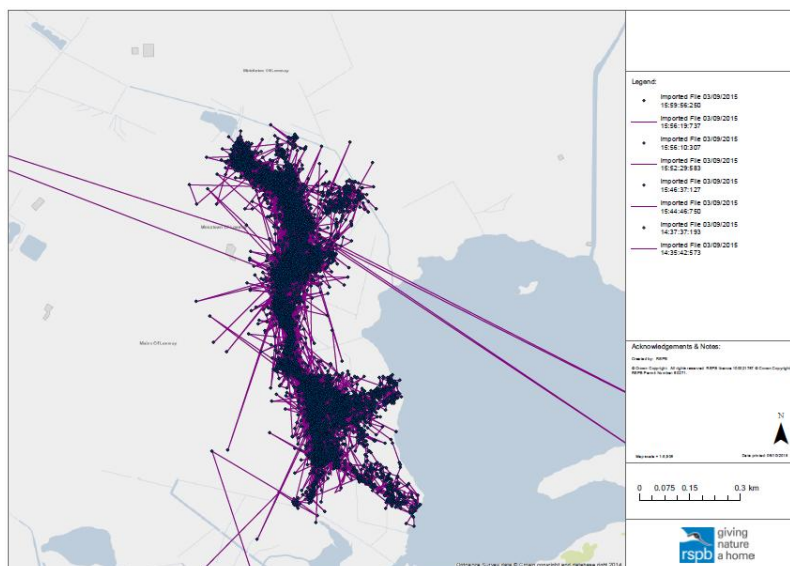


## Aberdeenshire - further details on grazing with Konik Ponies

Konik ponies were introduced to graze the area and the impacts of their grazing are being carefully monitored. The ponies themselves are thriving and our herd has expanded to 32, with more home-bred foals on the way. Data from the GPS tracking collars worn by some of the ponies is being gathered, and will need extensive analysis when it is all finally downloaded.



Map showing composite data from tracking collars downloaded in September 2015

The height and density of rushes is also being measured in quadrats spread across the project area, to compare the different management regimes. These include mown one year and grazed, mown two years and grazed, just grazed, just mown, neither mown nor grazed, including control areas.

Combining grazing with topping seems to be the most effective way to manage the rushes; the results so far are very encouraging.

Data from Sept/Oct 2015	Max height	Support
Mown 2014 and 2015 - Grazed	24.39	13.06
Mown 2014 and 2015 - Ungrazed	26.40	17.23
Mown 2015 - Grazed	31.10	10.69
Mown 2014 - Grazed	57.73	22.43
Unmown - Grazed	58.44	31.94
Mown 2014- Ungrazed	77.03	40.03
Unmown - Ungrazed	90.74	58.85

Here is the data from Nov/Dec 2014 for comparison

<b>Data from Nov 2014</b>	<b>Height</b>	<b>Support</b>
Mown Grazed	28.30	13.74
Mown Ungrazed	36.75	12.29
Unmown Grazed	56.86	25.56
Unmown Ungrazed	71.70	35.50

We're also using our quadcopter drone to monitor the changes through fixed point and transect photography; the information that we can get by this method is quite remarkable and is already being used to inform day-to-day management of the reserve.