

Building networks of Aspen habitat



**Aspen woodlands**

**Aspen comes into leaf  
later than birch**



Aerial photography  
used to map Aspen  
in Strathspey



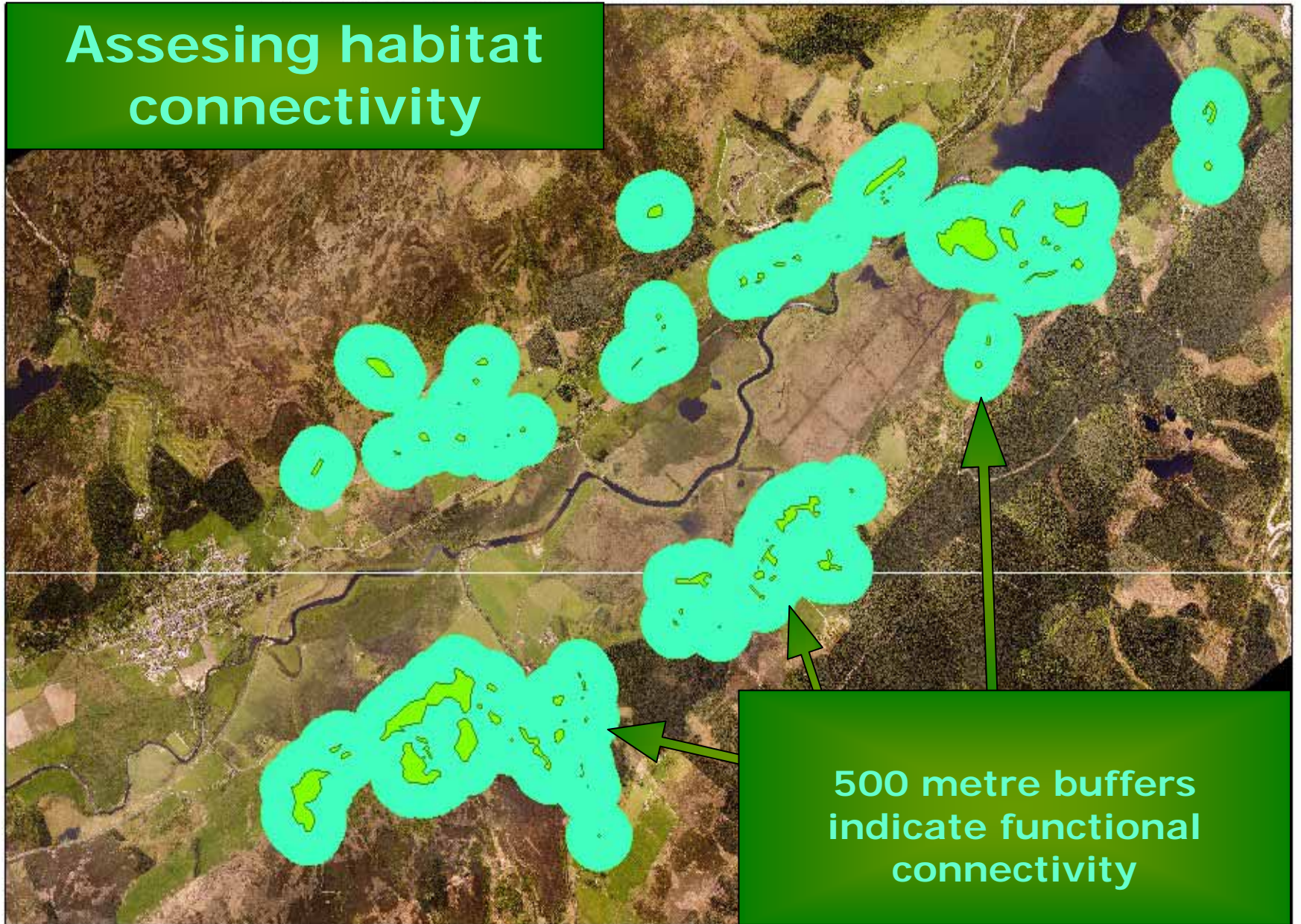
photos  
© Caledonian Air Surveys

# Location of existing Aspen stands

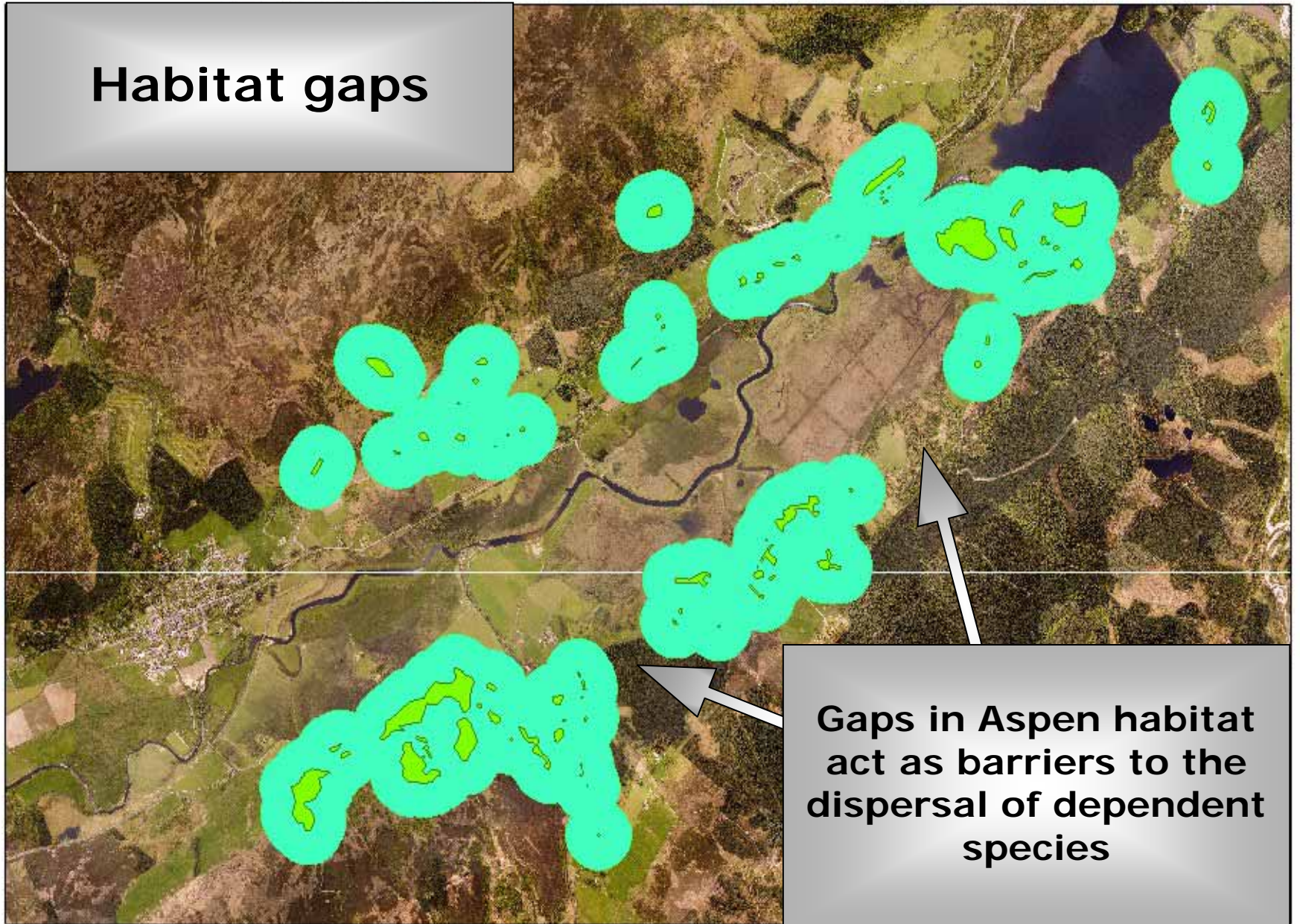


Aspen woodlands

# Assesing habitat connectivity

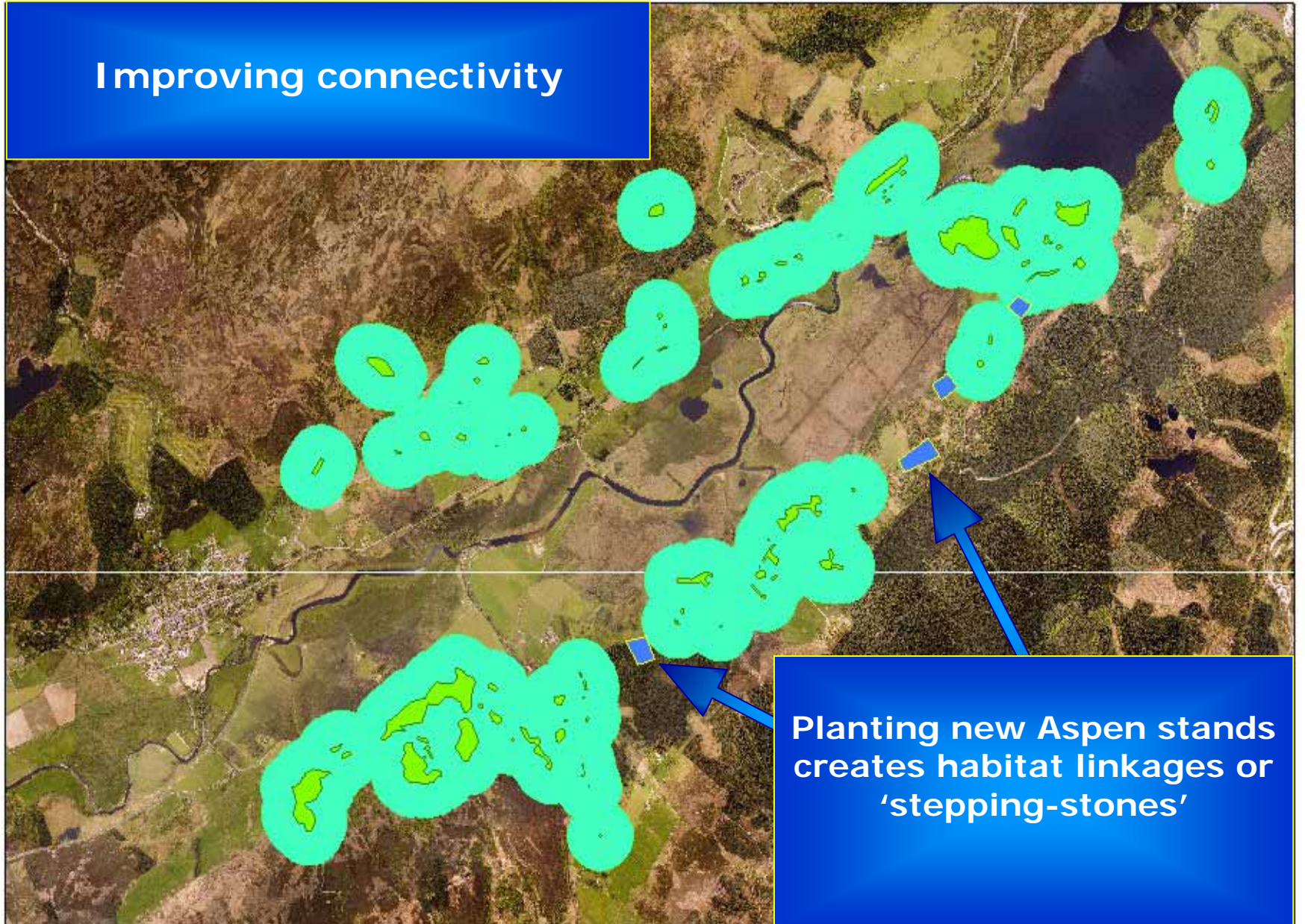


# Habitat gaps



**Gaps in Aspen habitat  
act as barriers to the  
dispersal of dependent  
species**

## Improving connectivity



Planting new Aspen stands creates habitat linkages or 'stepping-stones'

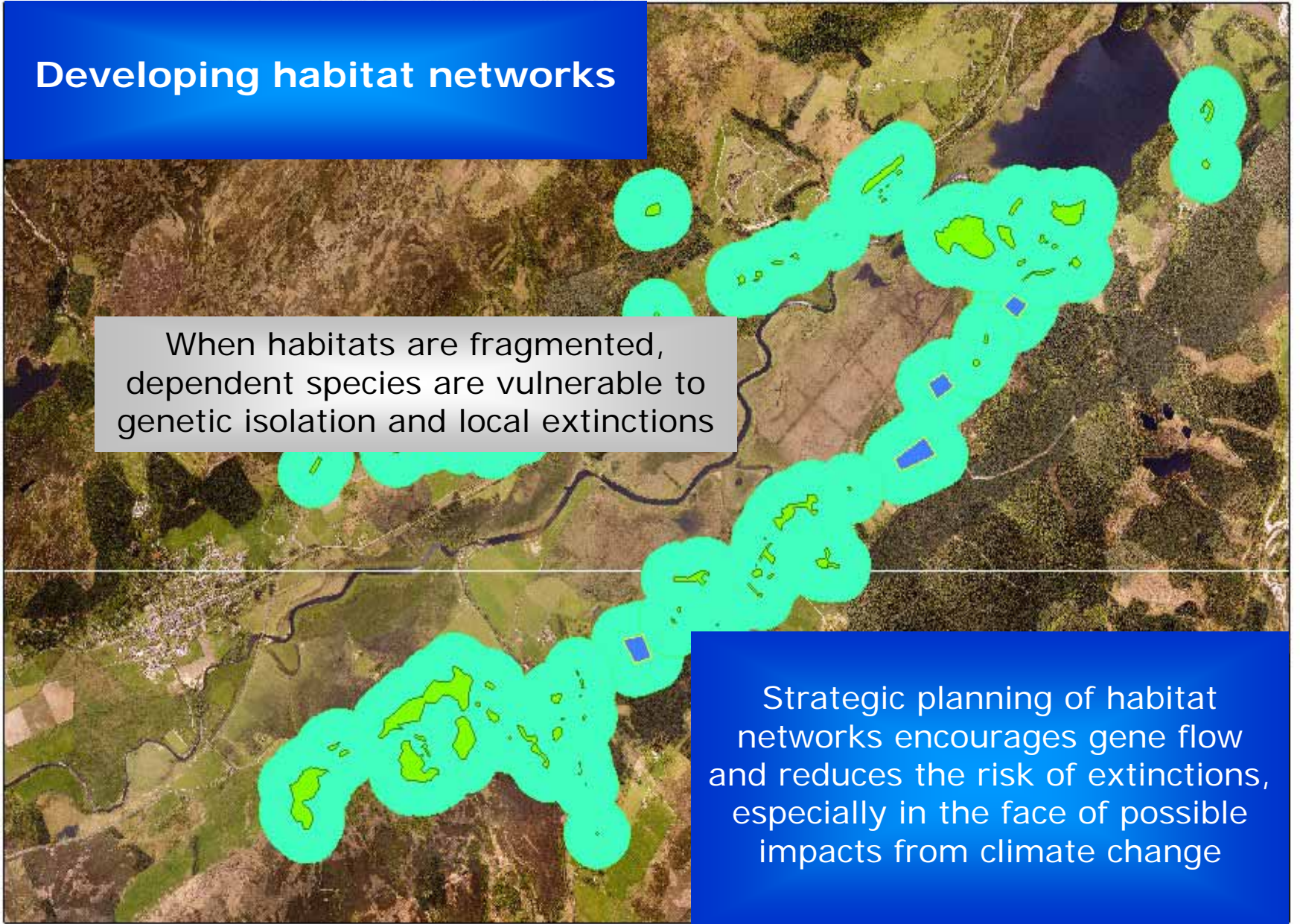


**Create stepping stones of Aspen habitat by planting**

## Developing habitat networks

When habitats are fragmented, dependent species are vulnerable to genetic isolation and local extinctions

Strategic planning of habitat networks encourages gene flow and reduces the risk of extinctions, especially in the face of possible impacts from climate change





New Aspen woodlands can be created on farmland ...



**... or as a component of existing woodlands through re-structuring and ...**



**... restocking felling coupes**

