

Ecography

**ECOG-05127**

Threadgill, K. R. D., McClean, C. J., Hodgson, J. A., Jones, N. and Hill, J. K. 2020. Agri-environment conservation set-asides have co-benefits for connectivity. – Ecography doi: [10.1111/ecog.05127](https://doi.org/10.1111/ecog.05127)

**Supplementary material**

## 1 **Supplementary appendices**

### 2 **Appendix 1. Additional methodological details**

#### 3 **Details of construction of alternative scenario layers**

##### 4 ***No set-aside strips***

5 Raster layer at 500m resolution where the value of each cell represents the area of semi-  
6 natural grassland (SNG) (according to the 2015 Land Cover Map; Rowland et al. 2017)  
7 within that cell.

##### 8 ***AES set-aside strips***

9 Raster layer at 500m resolution where the value of each cell represents the area of SNG  
10 plus area of set-aside strip within that cell. Set-aside strip areas/locations were sourced  
11 from the Environmental Stewardship Scheme (ESS) Options (points) dataset by Natural  
12 England (accessed November 2016, [https://data.gov.uk/dataset/6c0f19e7-9a2d-4c50-  
13 b548-3b7d4b9c18bb/environmental-stewardship-scheme-options-points](https://data.gov.uk/dataset/6c0f19e7-9a2d-4c50-b548-3b7d4b9c18bb/environmental-stewardship-scheme-options-points)). Only set-aside  
14 strips in place as of July 2015 were included in analyses and this date was chosen because  
15 2015 represented the peak of ESS agreements.

##### 16 ***Randomized set-aside strips***

17 As for 'AES set-aside strips', except for the spatial location of set-aside strip patches. Set-  
18 aside strips as present in the ESS dataset were redistributed by randomly assigning set-  
19 aside strips to grid cells across England.

20 ***Aggregated set-aside strips***

21 As for 'AES set-aside strips', except that for each individual farm/holding (as identified by  
22 'AGREF' agreement codes in the ESS dataset) all set-aside strip patches were aggregated  
23 such that the total set-aside strip area on each farm was assigned to a single patch at the  
24 centroid of the farm.

25 ***Doubled set-aside strips***

26 As for 'AES set-aside strips', except the area of set-aside strip within each grid cell is  
27 doubled. Equivalent to, for example, doubling the width (or carrying capacity) of each set-  
28 aside strip.

29 **Construction of metapopulation models**

30 ***Metapopulation capacity***

31 Specifically, the metapopulation capacity is defined as the leading eigenvalue of the  
32 landscape matrix, M, consisting of elements

33 
$$m_{ij} = \begin{cases} f(d_{ij})A_i & i \neq j \\ 0 & i = j \end{cases}$$

34 where  $A_i$  is the area of patch  $i$  and  $f(d_{ij})$  is a function describing the effect of inter-patch  
35 distance ( $d_{ij}$ ) on dispersal. Dispersal is defined here as a negative exponential function,

36 
$$f(d_{ij}) = \frac{\alpha^2}{2\pi} A_i A_j \exp(-\alpha d_{ij})$$

37 where  $\alpha$  is the parameter setting the slope of the curve and therefore the dispersal ability  
38 of the species and the mean dispersal distance is  $2/\alpha$ .

### 39 ***Incidence Function Model***

40 The effect of inter-patch distance ( $d_{ij}$ ) on dispersal,  $f(d_{ij})$ , was defined by a negative  
41 exponential function as follows:

$$42 \quad f(d_{ij}) = \frac{\alpha^2}{2\pi} A_i A_j e^{-\alpha d_{ij}}$$

43 where  $A_i$  and  $A_j$  are the areas of patch  $i$  and  $j$  respectively and  $\alpha$  is the parameter setting  
44 the slope of the curve and therefore the dispersal ability of the species (the mean dispersal  
45 distance is  $2/\alpha$ ).

### 46 **Selection of species parameters**

#### 47 ***Dispersal***

48 Mean dispersal distances calculated from negative exponential dispersal kernels fitted to  
49 mark-release-recapture (MMR) data from European butterflies can be as high as 1.3 km  
50 within individual studies (less than one generation) (1). As MMR data underestimate  
51 dispersal (2, 3) and because colonization distances at the leading edge of the expanding  
52 range of UK butterflies have been shown to be as high as 12 km over  $\sim 10$  years (from  
53 1995-1999 to 2005-2009; 4), we set our 'high' mean dispersal to 2 km. We set our lower  
54 mean dispersal value at 0.5 km; this value approximately corresponds to mean dispersal  
55 values calculated for more sedentary European butterflies (1) and below this value  
56 metapopulations generally failed to expand their ranges at all in our IFM simulations.

57 ***Population density***

58 Published literature estimates population densities of European butterfly species as low as  
59 <5 individuals ha<sup>-1</sup> (5) and as high as >4,000 individuals ha<sup>-1</sup> (6); in our models we define  
60 'low' density at 10 individuals ha<sup>-1</sup> and 'high' density at 1,000 individuals ha<sup>-1</sup> to capture  
61 this variation.

62

## 63 Appendix 2. MPC code

```
64 #####function for unscaled metapopulation capacity
65 # x & y: coordinates of patches (km)
66 # area: areas of habitat patches (km2)
67 # alpha: parameter which sets slope of negative
68 #      exponential dispersal kernel
69
70 mpc<-function(x,y,area,alpha=0.2){
71
72     d<- as.matrix(dist(cbind(x,y)))
73     M<- alpha^2/2/pi*exp(-alpha*d)*outer(area^2,area, '*')
74     diag(M)<-0
75     eg<-eigen(M, symmetric=F, only.values = FALSE)
76     l_M=eg$values[1]
77     return(l_M=eg$values[1])
78 }
```

79

80 **Appendix 3. IFM code**

```
81 #####  
82 # ifm() #  
83 # #  
84 # Adapted from Hodgson et al. (2011) #  
85 # #  
86 # IFM function. Seeds occupancy in single cell at base of invasion axis, #  
87 # which it gives 100% habitat cover, and simulation continues until cell #  
88 # at opposite edge of landscape (also given 100% cover) is occupied, or #  
89 # else number of generations > 'simtime', the population goes globally #  
90 # extinct, or global occupancy >95%. #  
91 # #  
92 #####  
93 # Arguments: #  
94 # #  
95 # x - vector of x-coordinates of habitat patches (in km) #  
96 # y - vector of y-coordinates of habitat patches (in km) #  
97 # n - vector of carrying capacity of habitat patches (calculated as #  
98 # patch area * density) #  
99 # alpha - slope of negative exponential dispersal kernel #  
100 # density - population density (in individuals per km2) #  
101 # simtime - number of generations at which to cut off simulations #  
102 # rot - angle of invasion ( $\theta$  = South to North) #  
103 # cellsize - cell size of gridded data (used for creating habitat start #  
104 # and end cells), measured in km #
```

```

105 # Landscapesize - radius of Landscape in km #
106 #####
107
108
109 ifm <- function(x,y,n,alpha,density,
110               rot, simtime=200, cellsize=0.5, landscapesize=10){
111
112   x <- x-min(x)-landscapesize # make all coordinates relative, where the
113                               # centre of the Landscape is (0,0)
114   y <- y-min(y)-landscapesize
115   le <- length(x)
116   D <-(-sin(rot)*x + cos(rot)*y ) # distance along invasion axis
117                                     # (start at Low end)
118   far <- max(D)
119   W <- x*cos(rot) + y*sin(rot) # width-ways distance from centre of axis
120   dw <- data.frame(D, W)
121
122   start_edge_cand <- dw[which(dw$D == min(D)),] # cells at starting edge
123                                               # of Landscape
124
125   # Where there are multiple cells at starting edge, pick the one that is
126   # nearest the centre of axis of invasion. Where the axis goes between 2
127   # cells, pick the one adjacent & offset anti-clockwise from the axis.
128
129   if (nrow(start_edge_cand > 1)){

```



```

130 start_edge_cand$Wplus <- start_edge_cand$W - 0.1
131 start <- as.numeric(
132     rownames(start_edge_cand)[
133         which(
134             abs(
135                 start_edge_cand$Wplus) == min(
136                     abs(start_edge_cand$Wplus)))]
137 } else {
138     start <- as.numeric(rownames(start_edge_cand))
139 }
140
141 # start = cell number of starting cell (of all cells incl. zeros)
142
143 # x- and y-coordinates of starting cell
144 start_x <- x[start]
145 start_y <- y[start]
146
147 # Where there are multiple cells at ending edge, pick the one that
148 # is nearest the centre of axis of invasion. Where the axis goes
149 # between 2 cells, pick the one adjacent & offset anti-clockwise from
150 # the axis.
151
152 endedge <- D[rank(D) == max(rank( D ))]
153 end_edge_cand <- dw[which(dw$D == max(D)),]
154 if (nrow(end_edge_cand > 1)){

```

```

155 end_edge_cand$Wplus <- end_edge_cand$W + 0.1
156 end <- as.numeric(
157     rownames(
158         end_edge_cand)[
159             which(
160                 abs(
161                     end_edge_cand$Wplus) == min(
162                         abs(end_edge_cand$Wplus)))]
163 } else {
164     end <- as.numeric(rownames(end_edge_cand))
165 }
166
167 # end = cell number of ending cell (of all cells incl. zeros)
168
169 # x- and y-coordinates of ending cell
170
171 end_x <- x[end]
172 end_y <- y[end]
173
174 # Set up starting occupancy (all cells)
175 occ0 <- rep(FALSE, times=le)
176 occ0[start] <- TRUE
177
178 # Give starting and ending cells 100% habitat cover
179 n[start] <- cellsize^2 * density

```

```

180 n[end] <- cellsize^2 * density
181
182 # Get rownumbers of non-habitat containing cells
183 zeros <- which(n==0)
184
185 # Get rid of x, y, n elements with no habitat & redefine objects
186 x <- x[-zeros]
187 y <- y[-zeros]
188 n <- n[-zeros]
189 occ0 <- occ0[-zeros]
190 D <- ( -sin(rot)*x + cos(rot)*y )
191 le <- length(x)
192
193 # Dataframe of non-zero cell coordinates
194 xy <- data.frame(x,y)
195
196 # Non-zero index of ending cell
197 end_new <- which(xy$x==end_x & xy$y==end_y)
198
199
200
201 # Baseline probability of extinction
202 pex<- pmin(1,1/n)
203

```

```

204 conn<-rep(0,le)#the connectivity
205 for(j in 1:le){
206   if( occ0[j] ){
207     conn[-j] <- conn[-j]+(n[-j]/density)*alpha^2/2/pi*
208     n[j]*exp(-alpha*
209             sqrt( (x[-j] - x[j])^2 + (y[-j] - y[j])^2 )
210             )#close kernel
211   }#close if
212 }#close j loop
213
214 #####output for t=0#####
215 tis<- data.frame(t=0,no=sum(n*occ0)/sum(n),co=mean(occ0),
216                do=far-max(D[occ0])
217                )
218
219 #####here is the actual simulation#####
220 for(i in 1:simtime){
221   pcol<- 1-exp(-conn)
222   pext<- pex*(1-pcol)#extinction prob with rescue effect
223   occ1<- (occ0*(1-pext) + (!occ0)*(pcol)) > runif(1e)#the new occupancy
224   tis<- rbind(tis,c(t=i,no=sum(n*occ1)/sum(n),co=mean(occ1),
225                  do= if(mean(occ1)>0){far-max( D[occ1])}else{
226                  far-min( D )}
227                  ))#the results
228   #####test for ending#####

```

```

229   if( sum(occ1)==0 ){break}
230   if( (mean(occ1)>=0.95)){break}
231   if( occ1[end_new]==TRUE ) {break} # end id not same here - NAs removed
232   #####update connectivity#####
233   for(j in 1:le){
234     if( occ0[j] & !occ1[j]){
235       conn[-j] <- conn[-j] - (n[-j]/density)*
236         alpha^2/2/pi*n[j]*exp(-alpha*
237           sqrt( (x[-j] - x[j])^2 + (y[-j] - y[j])^2 )
238         )#close kernel
239     }#close if
240     if( !occ0[j] & occ1[j]){
241       conn[-j] <- conn[-j] + (n[-j]/density)*
242         alpha^2/2/pi*n[j]*exp(-alpha*
243           sqrt( (x[-j] - x[j])^2 + (y[-j] - y[j])^2 )
244         )#close kernel
245     }#close if
246   }#close j Loop
247   #####
248   occ0<- occ1
249 }#end time series
250 return(list(tis=tis,time=i,rot=rot))#return this
251 }#end the function

```

252

253 **Supplementary references**

254 Franzén, M. and Nilsson, S. G. 2007. What is the required minimum landscape size for  
255 dispersal studies? - *J. Anim. Ecol.* 76: 1224–1230.

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267 analysis of butterfly data. - *Ecol. Entomol.* 28: 252–256.

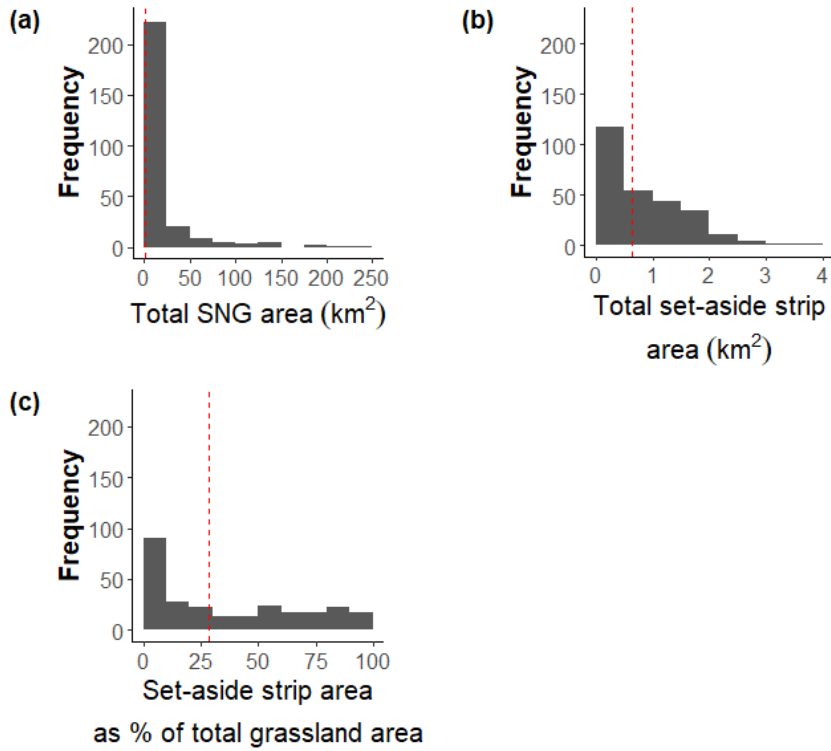
268 Stevens, V. M. et al. 2010. A meta-analysis of dispersal in butterflies. - *Biol. Rev. Camb.*  
269 *Philos. Soc.* 85: 625–642.

270

271 **Appendix 4**

272 **Supplementary Figures**

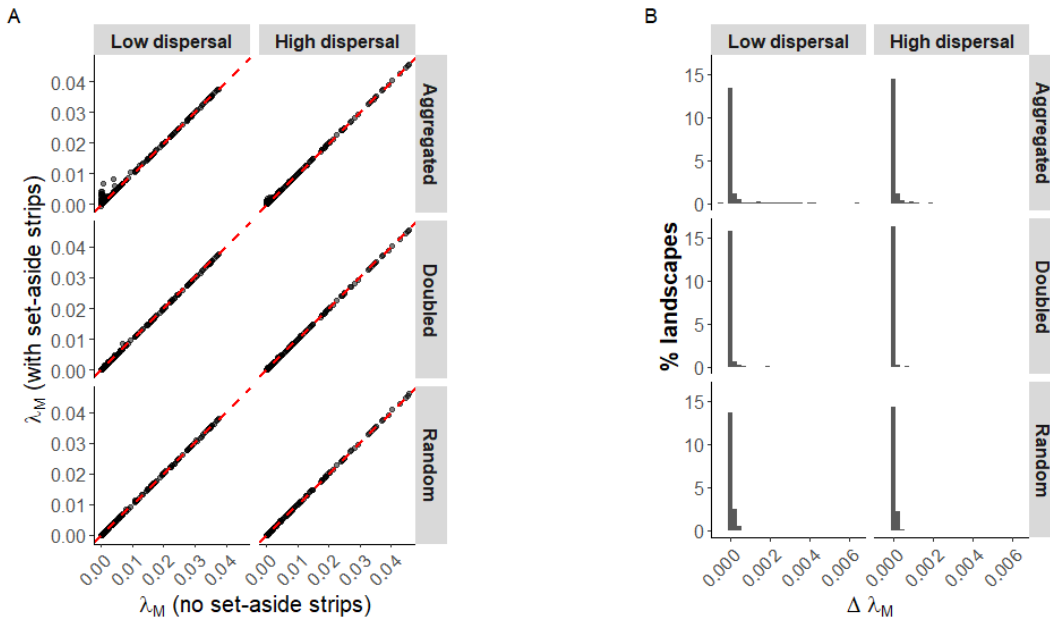
273 **Figure A1. Summary of habitat quantity and composition within landscapes**



274

275 Figure A1: The frequency of landscapes (n=267) according to (a)total quantity of semi-  
276 natural grassland (SNG), (b) set-aside strip, and (c) the % of total habitat amount made up  
277 of set-aside strips.

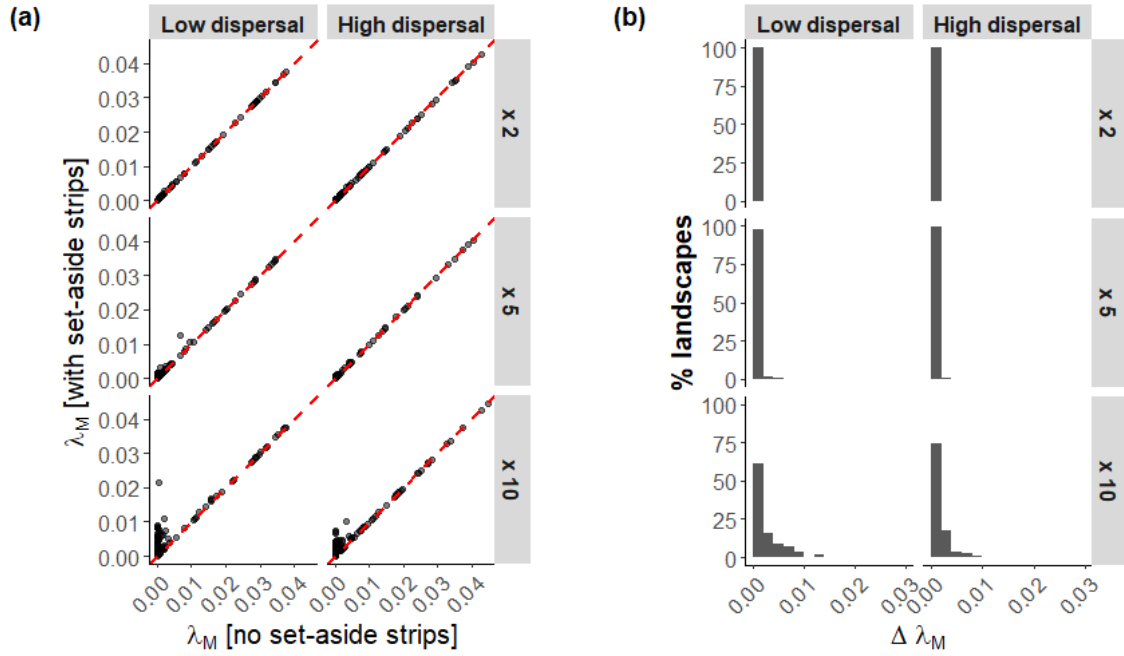
278 **Figure A2. Additional MPC scenarios**



279

280 *Figure A2: The impact of alternative set-aside strip spatial scenarios on metapopulation*  
 281 *persistence. (A) Comparison of the metapopulation capacity  $\lambda_M$  of landscapes ( $n=267$ ) under*  
 282 *scenarios in the absence and presence of set-aside strips. Red dashed line indicates 1:1 line of*  
 283 *no change in  $\lambda_M$  between scenarios. Blue dotted lines indicate hypothetical persistence*  
 284 *thresholds. (B) Distribution of the effect of set-aside strips on metapopulation capacity under*  
 285 *each scenario ( $\Delta \lambda_M = \lambda_M$  [scenario with set-aside strips present] -  $\lambda_M$  [scenario with set-*  
 286 *aside strips absent]).*





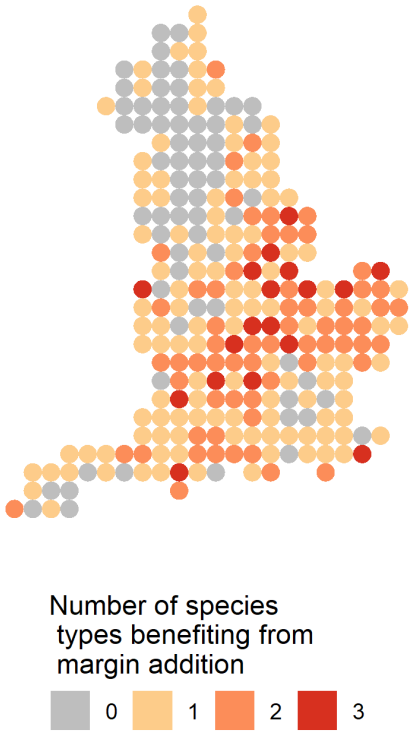
288

289 Figure A3. Meta-population capacity ( $\lambda_M$ ) values of landscapes under increasing quantities of  
 290 set-aside strips, equivalent to multiplying the areas of existing strips in their current  
 291 locations by 2, 5 and 10. (a) Meta-population capacity of landscapes with and without set-  
 292 aside strips. Red dashed line indicates 1:1. (b) The frequency distribution of  $\Delta \lambda_M$ , calculated  
 293 as the difference between  $\lambda_M$  with and without set-aside strips

294

295 **Figure A4. Number of species types for which set-aside strips benefit range expansion in each**  
296 **landscape**

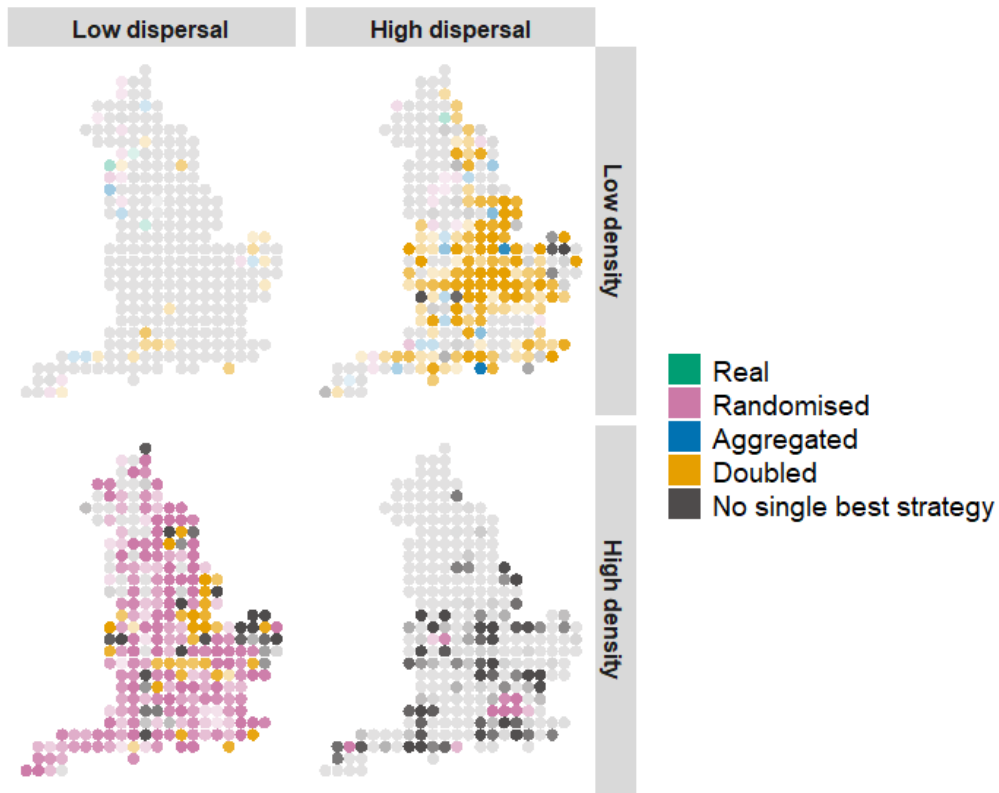
297



298

299 *Figure A4: The number of species types (out of four) benefiting in range expansion from set-*  
300 *aside strips across all landscapes (n=267). Benefit is defined as >5% improvement in*  
301 *expansion success. At least one species benefited in 74% of landscapes (198/267).*

302 **Figure A5. Maps indicating the 'best scenario' for range expansion in each landscape**

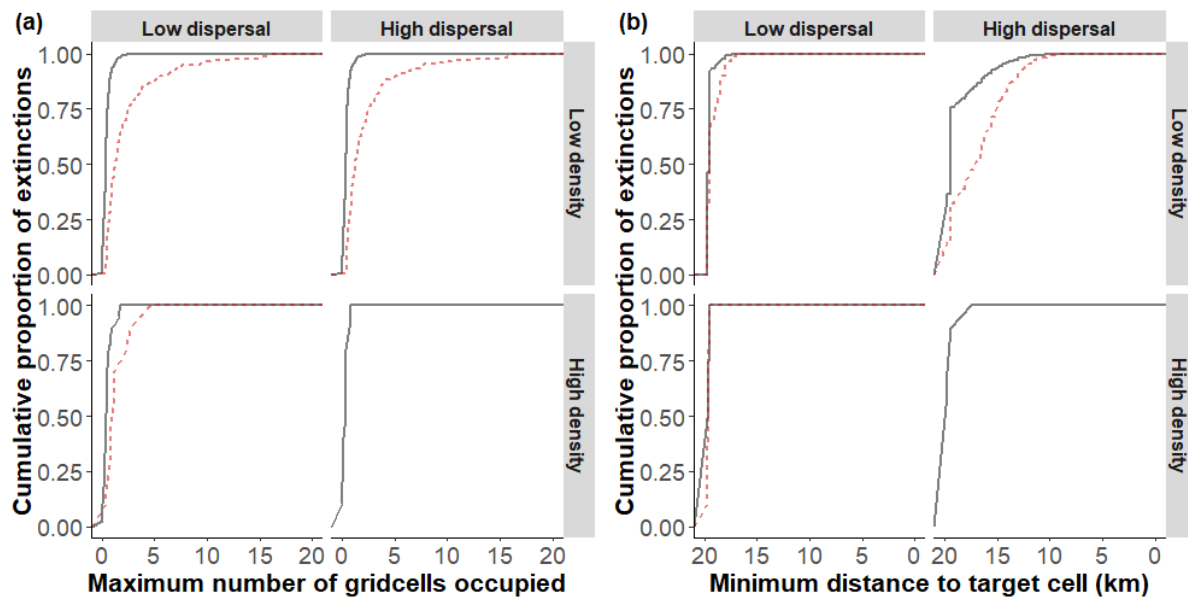


304 *Figure A5: The best scenario for facilitating range expansion for each of the species types.*

305 *Color illustrates the best scenario and transparency illustrates the magnitude of the benefit of*

306 *the best scenario when compared to the 'no margins' baseline.*

307 **Figure A6. Conditions of IFM simulations which result in extinction**



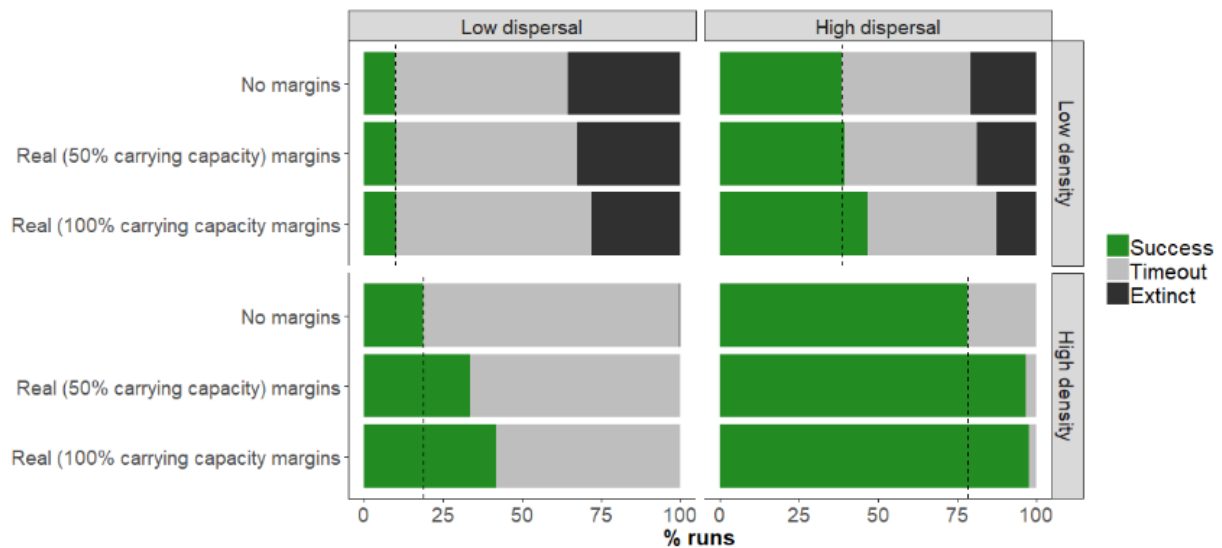
308

309 *Figure A6: Cumulative proportion of extinctions within Incidence-Function Model (IFM)*  
310 *simulations related to (a) the maximum number of gridcells (500 m) which are ever occupied*  
311 *within the simulation and (b) the minimum distance between occupied cells and the target*  
312 *cell (edge of landscape) at the timestep (generation) before extinction occurs. Solid black line*  
313 *indicates simulations under the 'no set-aside strips' scenario. Dashed red line indicates*  
314 *simulations under the 'current set-aside strips' scenario.*

315

316

317 **Figure A7. Impact on range expansion of varying the carrying capacity of set-aside strip**  
 318 **habitat**



319

320 *Figure A7: Range expansion simulations assuming full and half carrying capacity in set-aside*  
 321 *strip patches for each of the four species types. The outcome of each run was classified as*  
 322 *either an extinction (the metapopulation went globally extinct), a timeout (the*  
 323 *metapopulation survived the 200 generations of the simulation but failed to colonize the*  
 324 *'target' cell) or a success (the metapopulation successfully colonized the 'target' cell). Each*  
 325 *species type was simulated 10,680 times under each scenario (267 landscapes x 8 directions x*  
 326 *5 repeats). Dashed lines indicate baseline proportion of successful simulation runs when no*  
 327 *set-aside strips are present.*

329 **Table A1. Set-aside strip option codes (Environmental Stewardship Scheme)**

Scheme	Code	Option Type	Option
ELS	EE1	Buffer strips	2m on cultivated land
ELS	EE2	Buffer strips	4m on cultivated land
ELS	EE3	Buffer strips	6m on cultivated land
ELS	EE4	Buffer strips	2m intensive grassland
ELS	EE5	Buffer strips	4m intensive grassland
ELS	EE6	Buffer strips	6m intensive grassland
ELS	EE12	Buffer strips	Supplement to add wildflowers to field corners and buffer strips on cultivated land
ELS	EF4	Arable land	Nectar flower mixture
ELS	EF11	Arable land	Uncropped cultivated set-aside strips for rare plants
ELS	EK1	Grassland outside the Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDAs)	Take field corners out of management
HLS	HE10	Arable land	Floristically enhanced grass buffer strips (non-rotational)
OELS	OE1	Buffer strips	2m on rotational land
OELS	OE2	Buffer strips	4m on rotational land
OELS	OE3	Buffer strips	6m on rotational land
OELS	OE4	Buffer strips	2m organic grassland
OELS	OE5	Buffer strips	4m organic grassland
OELS	OE6	Buffer strips	6m organic grassland
OELS	EE12	Buffer strips	Supplement to add wildflowers to field corners and buffer strips on cultivated land
OELS	OF4	Arable land	Nectar flower mixture

OELS	OF11	Arable land	Uncropped cultivated set-aside strips for rare plants
OELS	OK1	Grassland outside the Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDAs)	Take field corners out of management

---

331 **Table A2. GLMM model results**

332 *Table A2: Summary of fixed effects from generalized linear mixed effects model:*

333 *logit(success/failure) ~ log(% SNG cover + 1) \* % set-aside strip cover \* species type (p <*

334 *0.05\*, p < 0.01\*\*, p < 0.001\*\*\*).*

Fixed effect	Coefficient	SE	z value	p
log(% SNG cover + 1)	12.670	1.785	7.099	<1.26e-12***
% set-aside strip cover	10.868	3.182	3.415	0.000638***
species2	16.353	2.791	5.858	4.68e-09***
species3	13.844	2.778	4.984	6.22e-07***
species4	24.668	2.840	8.685	<2e-16***
log(% SNG cover + 1): % set-aside strip cover	-5.370	1.307	-4.109	3.97e-05***
log(% SNG cover + 1) : species2	-3.093	1.737	-1.780	0.075014
log(% SNG cover + 1) : species3	-5.713	1.717	-3.328	0.000873***
log(% SNG cover + 1) : species4	-2.916	2.022	-1.442	0.149165
% set-aside strip cover : species2	-1.405	2.935	-0.479	0.632078
% set-aside strip cover : species3	9.715	2.937	3.308	0.000939***
% set-aside strip cover : species4	45.536	6.753	6.743	1.55e-11***

335 Species1 corresponds to the low density, low dispersal species type (density = 1,000 km<sup>-2</sup>; mean dispersal = 0.5 km).

336 Species2 corresponds to the low density, high dispersal species type (density = 1,000 km<sup>-2</sup>; mean dispersal = 2 km).

337 Species3 corresponds to the high density, low dispersal species type (density = 100,000 km<sup>-2</sup>; mean dispersal = 0.5 km).

338 Species4 corresponds to the high density, high dispersal species type (density = 100,000 km<sup>-2</sup>; mean dispersal = 2 km).

339