

Info sheet – “Boshhoek” study area

Coordinates: **51°08 N – 4°31 E**

Basic description: 13 small patches of managed forest with dense mature stands of oak *Quercus robur*, very similar to each other but separated by open space (grassland, fields, residential areas, roads, poplar stands without nestboxes). The exception is patch TU composed of beech, larch and some oak. Local recruitment is high, due to comparatively low dispersal and high capture rates.

Total surface 49 hectare, plot size varies from 0.25 to 11.9 ha

Total number of nestboxes = 421 (4 to 96 per plot)

Boxes at c. 1.5m height throughout the study in most plots

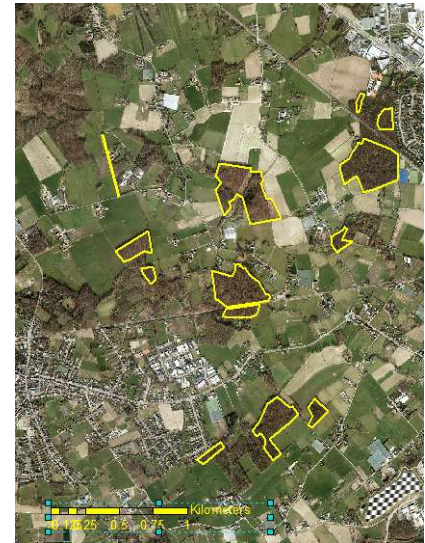
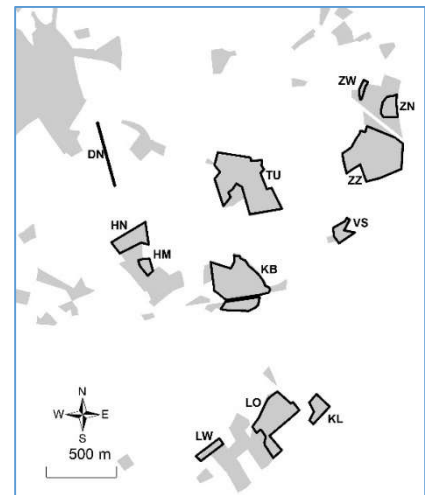
Note: monitoring of core plots was rather consistent from 1994 to 2019, with extra plots added for shorter periods. After 2019 gradually the number of plots was diminished.

Basic data collected in all years:

- First-egg date, clutch size, number of fledglings, average fledgling mass
- Identity of male and female parent; body mass, wing and tarsus length, DNA (body feathers)
- 1994-2015: roosting captures in December and February

Additional data in some years only:

- Exploration score (personality), post-fledging movements, feeder visits in winter
- Individual tarsus and body mass of fledglings
- Nest parasite contents



Basic population data for the main monitoring period (annual mean and range) (only for 12 plots shown on map above)

	Great Tit		Blue Tit	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Number of breeding pairs	167 (129-200)		114 (79-139)	
Annual survival of breeders	43 (27-56)	45 (27-54)	41 (10-57)	37 (18-46)
Recruits per breeding pair	0.50 (0.27-0.75)		0.50 (0.19-0.81)	
% immigrants (first-time breeders)	46 (29-70)	57 (40-77)	47 (29-64)	66 (29-64)
Capture rate of breeders	84 (66-96)	97 (90-99)	85 (73-96)	96 (84-100)

Notes:

- Some additional (small) patches have been monitored but not in all years; these are mostly peripheral patches and/or poplar stands
- Nestboxes are scattered in gardens in the matrix, these have only been monitored in a few years, and never completely
- Where nestboxes are present presumably nearly all great tits, and most blue tits, breed in nestboxes
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Key publications:

- van Overveld T, Adriaansen F, Matthysen E. 2015. No evidence for correlational selection on exploratory behaviour and natal dispersal in the great tit. *Evolutionary Ecology* 29: 137-156. DOI: 10.1007/s10682-014-9737-4
- Korsten P, Van Overveld T, Adriaansen F, Matthysen E. 2013. Genetic integration of dispersal and exploratory behaviour in a wild bird. *Nature Communications* DOI 10.1038/ncomms3362