

LymeMAP

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Funders:



European Space Agency
Agence spatiale européenne

Partners:

- Scottish Rural College (SRUC)
- NHS Highland
- Environmental Research Group Oxford (ERGO)
- AVIS-GIS



LymeMAP Project objectives:

- Using satellite/GPS technology to identify tick hot-spots
- Feasibility phase – exploring potential to disseminate information about ticks and Lyme disease using a smartphone app and risk maps
- Provide information about ticks and Lyme disease
- Element of ‘citizen science’ – users of the product will have the option to feed into population of data relative to the identification of tick hot-spots



University of the Highlands and Islands role:

- Engagement with communities with high exposure to ticks and high incidence of Lyme disease within the Highlands
- Co-design risk prevention strategies with those who are most at risk
- Raise awareness about ticks and Lyme disease by providing information for those potentially exposed to ticks and Lyme disease through professional and recreational activities



SRUC Epidemiology Research Unit role:

Working alongside ERGO and using spatial modelling to produce:

- Risk maps to illustrate where there are ticks in the Highlands
- Risk maps to illustrate where the ticks with Lyme disease are in the Highlands
- Risk maps to illustrate recorded cases of Lyme disease in the Highlands based on GP data



NHS Highland role:

- NHSH Research and Development Department will provide management support for the LymeMAP project team
- National Lyme Borreliosis Testing Laboratory will provide patient data
- Facilitate pilot study interrogating GP records to collect retrospective data on Lyme Borreliosis



AVIS-GIS role:

- Development of spatial information systems for disease management
- Conducting the economic and non-economic viability analysis
- Development of a data-driven space-time information system (Smartphone App)

Current Position:

- Feasibility phase – Will it work? Will anyone use it? Should a product be developed? Is there a need for LymeMAP?
- Two out of a series of three stakeholder workshops completed, in each of the following locations: Lochaber, Cairngorms, Balloch (Inverness) and with Forestry Commission Scotland
- Stakeholders have assisted in the identification of the need for more than just one series of risk maps – different users = different needs



Current Position:

- Stakeholders have highlighted the need for awareness raising information that is suitable for anyone spending time in the great outdoors/countryside – from tourists right through to professional land users – currently exploring means to communicate this information based on how it will be received by the user
- Stakeholders highlighted a potential lack of awareness among some members of the medical community – currently exploring how to address this efficiently and in full



Perceived Output:

- Smartphone app that will help to identify tick hot-spots
- Information and advice about ticks and Lyme disease for members of the public, healthcare professionals, tourist organisations and those working outdoors or pursuing leisure pursuits
- Option for users of the app to feed into the population of data about where ticks are in the Highlands and cases of Lyme disease
- General awareness raising of ticks and Lyme disease – with hope to reduce number of cases



Thank you

- Thank you for taking an interest in the LymeMAP project – input from the community and those exposed to ticks and Lyme disease is extremely important to us - I would like to apologise for not being able to attend the event today in person.

If you would like any further information about the LymeMAP project, or have any comments, please do get in touch:

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