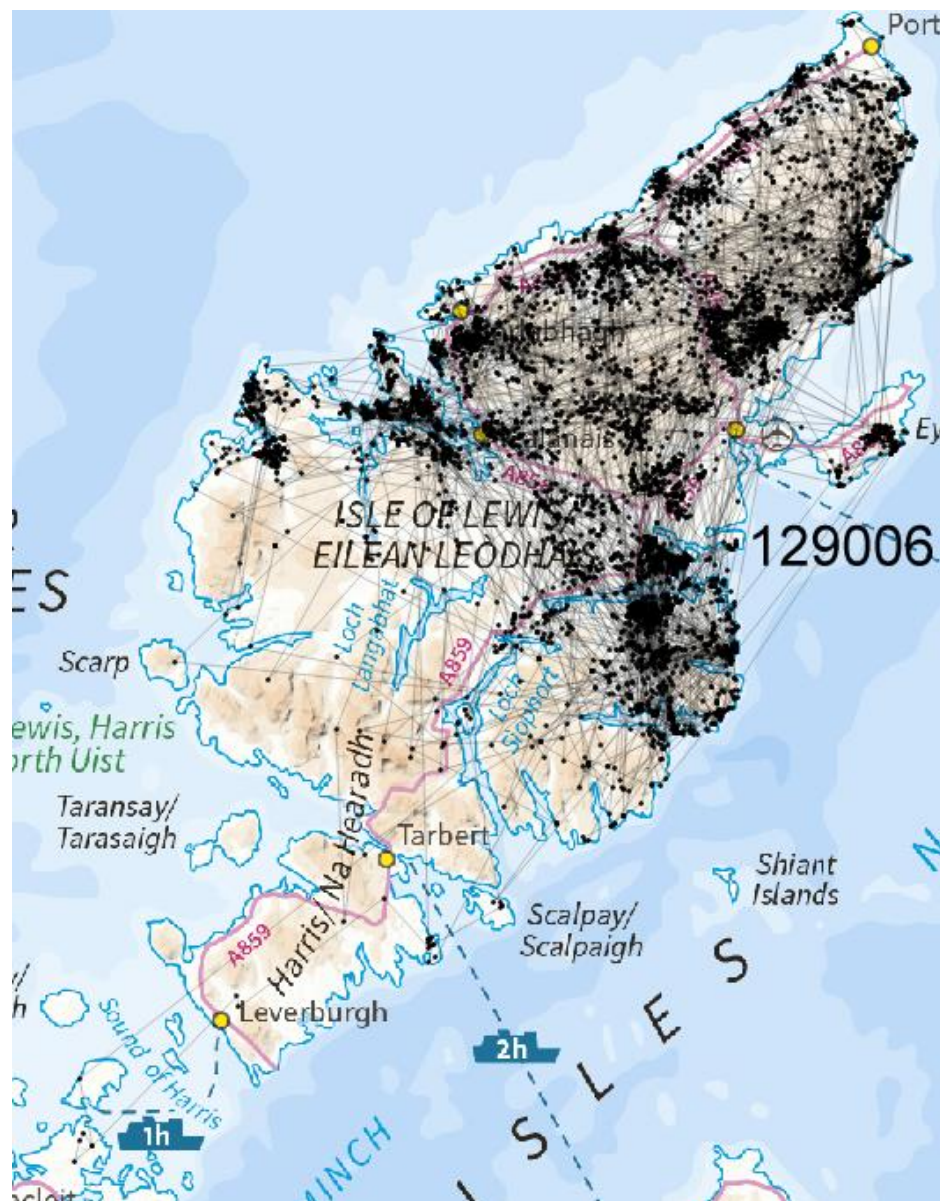


A story of isolation on the Western Isles

Interestingly, we have no examples of birds travelling from the mainland to the Western Isle or vice-versa. While it is possible some birds make the crossing it seems to be a rare event. This means that the Western Isles birds are effectively a different population to those on the mainland.

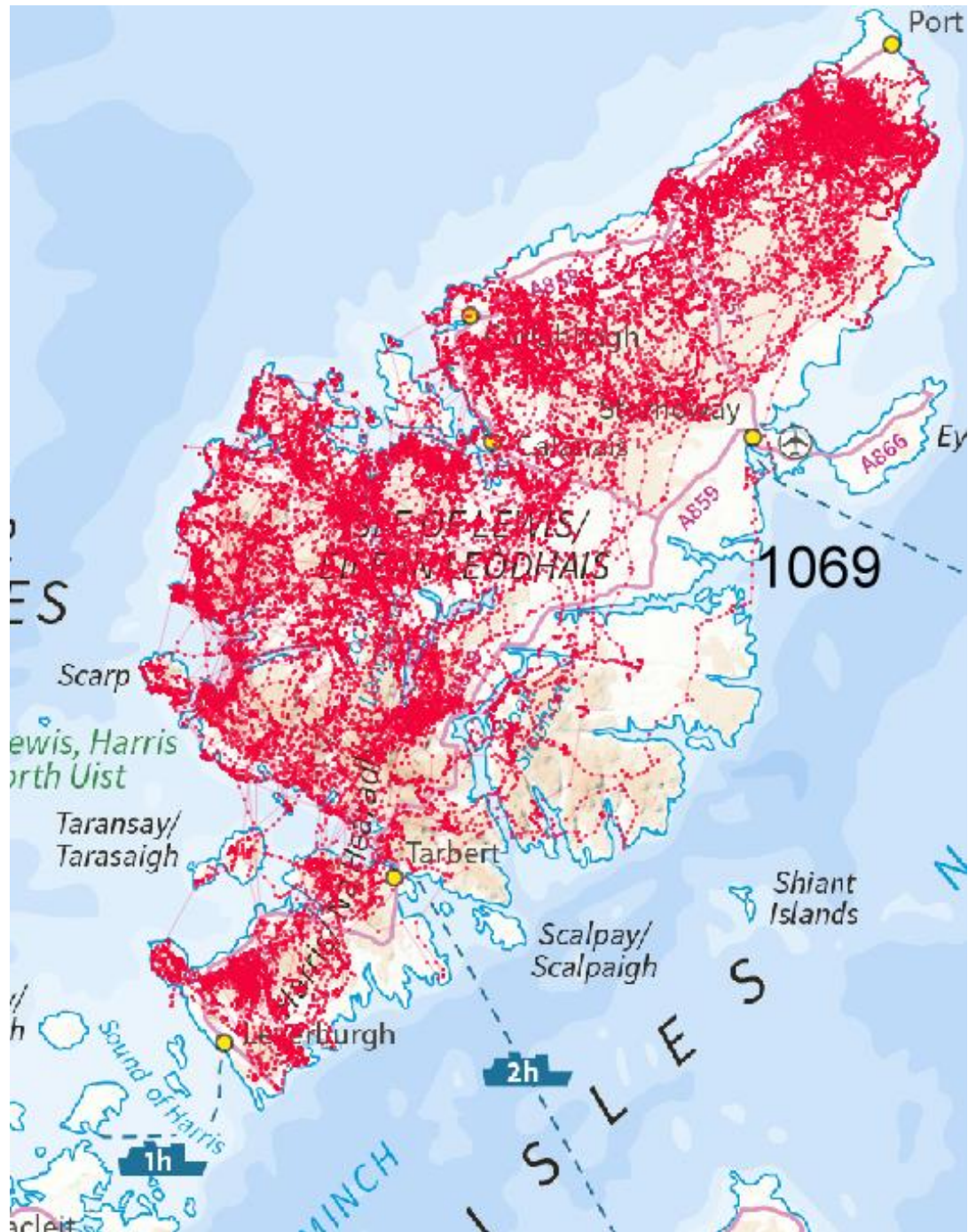
129006 on Lewis

He was tagged on Lewis in July 2013, in an east coast nest not too far from Stornoway, and he has spent almost his entire life on Lewis. He dispersed in October 2013 and settled in a range in January 2019 on the west coast of Lewis less than 30km from where he fledged. He first visited his eventual range less than two weeks after dispersing but, before settling there, he spent five years wandering the Isle of Lewis, rarely venturing into Harris. His tag was still transmitting in January 2022 so is one of the longest running records we have for the movements of an individual.



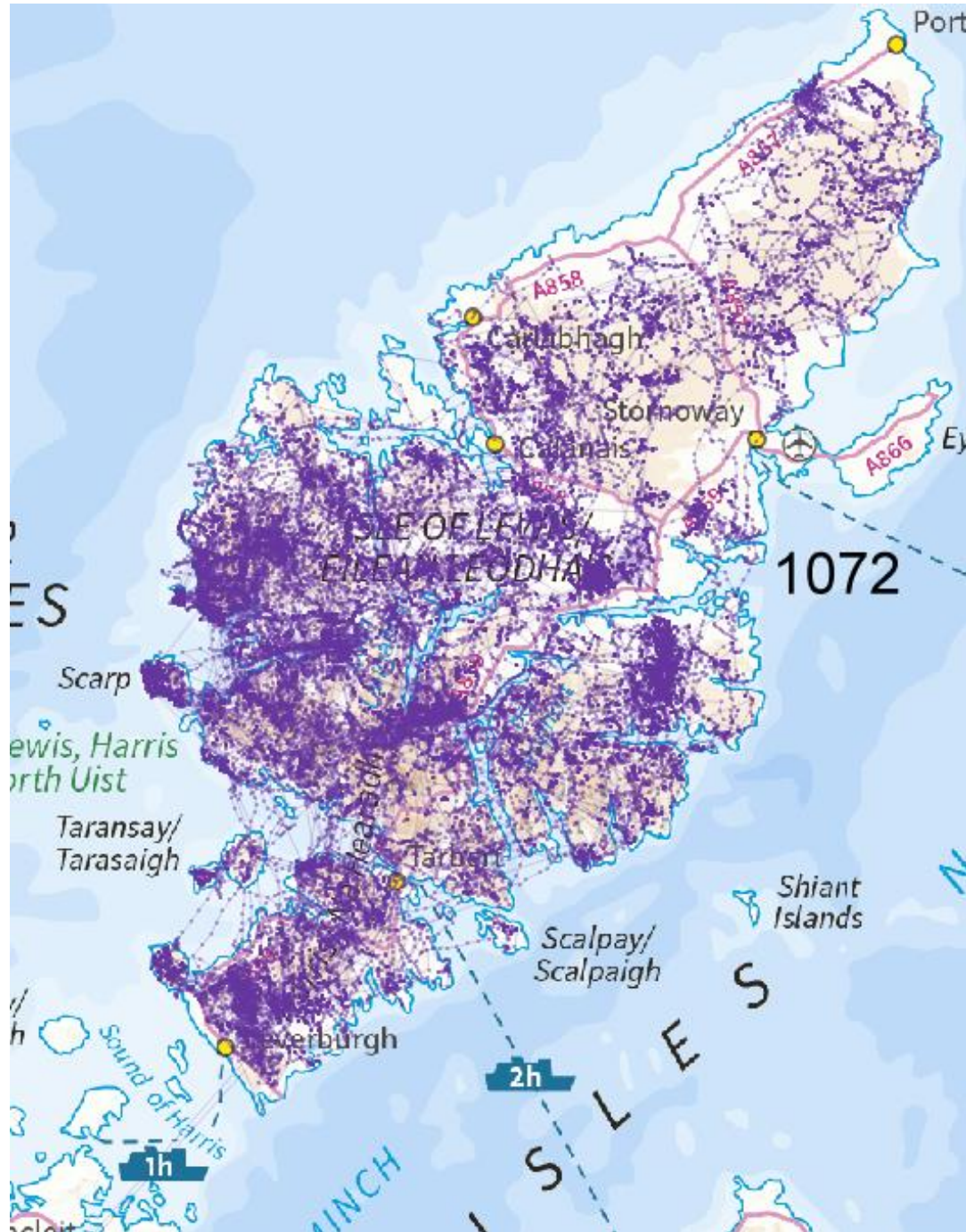
Life on the west of the WI - 1069

He was tagged, on Harris, in June 2019, and he left his natal range in November 2019 and has been wandering all over Lewis and Harris, but tending to avoid the east coast. His tag was still transmitting in January 2022 by when he had sent almost 250,000 records. Since dispersing he has travelled 14,200km on an island that is approximately 95 x 47 km.



1072 on Harris

She was also tagged in June 2019 on Harris and left her natal range in December 2019. She has been less interested in Lewis but has explored most of Harris but was only tempted to cross the Sound of Harris once. Her tag was still transmitting in January 2022 by when she had transmitted almost 200,000 location records and, since dispersing, she has travelled almost 21,000 km or almost half way around the world whilst remaining mainly on Harris.



Island exploring 1071

She was also tagged on Harris in June 2019 and left her natal range in October 2019. She has been much more adventurous than the others in her cohort but has provided fewer records (141,000). She has also shown little interest in Lewis but travelled the entire length of the Western Isles twice. The first time she left Harris was April 13th 2020 and she was on Barra on the 15th before returning to Harris by the 20th. Two weeks later she repeated the trip, leaving on May 3rd and spending five days on Barra before a night on Sandray on the 9th, turning back before visiting Mingulay. She was back on Harris on the 12th of May 2020. Her tag was still transmitting in January 2022 but she has not shown any more interest in another journey down the Western Isles. Unlike 1069, she has favoured the east of Harris and generally avoided the west of Harris. Despite providing fewer records she has travelled ~20,000 km since dispersing.

