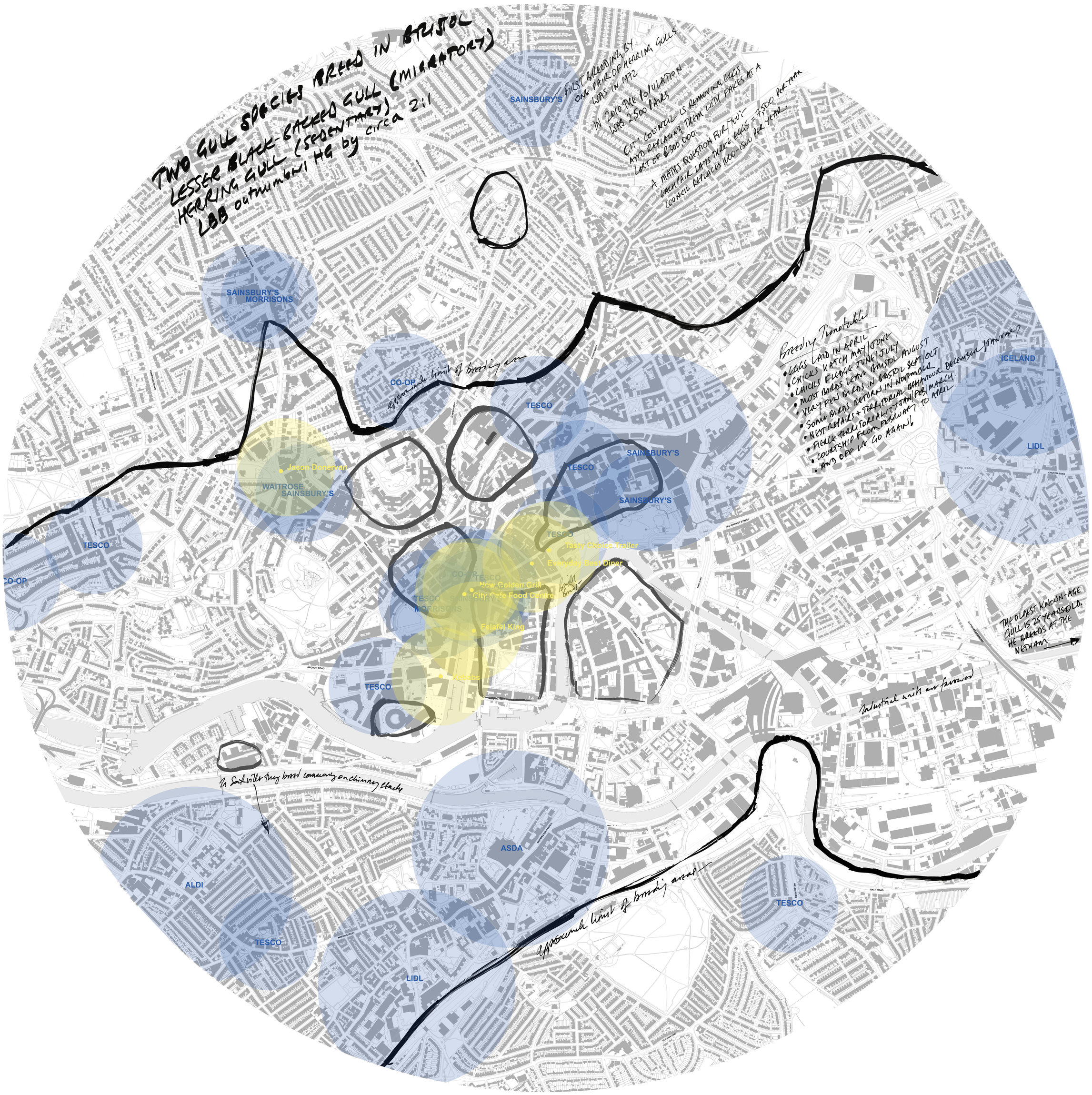

Nighttime mobile food vendors

Within the distance of 200 metres from a trailer, the zone in which the customer is drawn towards the vendor and then inhabits whilst eating the takeaway meal. The zone is populated by seagulls feeding.

MOBILE FOOD VENDORS

TESCO Leading supermarkets

Radius of a 5 minute walk to a small supermarket

Radius of a 2 minute drive to a large supermarket

SUPERMARKETS

Seagull territorial zones

The Bristol Scheme – the only research into urban gulls in UK. Nestlings are fitted with coded, plastic rings which identify them as individuals for the rest of their lives. The gull within the image (red B:Z) was ringed in Bristol on 24/6/08. It was in San Ciprián, Northern Spain on 8/12/08 and breeding in Gloucester 21/6/11. So, Bristol is exporting gulls! And not just to Gloucester. In fact, almost all urban colonies in the Severn Estuary Region support Bristol-hatched gulls. And, of course, Bristol is also importing gulls from several other colonies where I have been colour-ringing nestlings. Here's an interesting thing: Bristol Scheme data revealed that gulls hatched in town do not return to the wild to breed and, by the same token, wild-hatched gulls don't come to town to breed. We have two populations: the rural and the urban.

We know quite a lot about rural gulls, but precious little about urban gulls. And that's the point of my research. Why is it important to keep going? Well, even though they are the same species, there are many differences between the two populations, the most important of which is that those breeding in the wild are in decline, whereas those breeding in town are thriving. My research is the only way of keeping a handle on what's going on. And, there's a lot going on… Here's a very small thing: Red B:Z is too dark for a Herring Gull and not dark enough for a Lesser Black-backed Gull. It's a Hybrid – there are quite a few in town and very few in the wild.

Peter Rock, June 2014

Red B-Z Hybrid Urban Gull ringed in Bristol and photographed at 41.42N+07.26W in Northern Spain by Luis Jose Salaverri Leiras

SEAGULLS

MOBILE FOOD VENDORS | SUPERMARKETS | SEAGULLS

250 Metres

Night Time Mobile Food Vendor map layer from first hand research; Supermarkets layer from websites of the largest UK supermarkets; Seagulls map layer by Peter Rock, independent researcher on urban seagulls.