

Isles of Scilly Seabird Conservation Strategy (2023-2028)

Endorsed by members of the Isles of Scilly AONB Partnership including Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Duchy of Cornwall Estate, Islands' Partnership, Isles of Scilly Council, Natural England, Isles of Scilly IFCA & Isles of Scilly Bird Group



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1 Introduction

The Isles of Scilly support regionally, nationally and internationally important populations of seabirds, with a diverse assemblage of just over 8,000 breeding pairs. Accordingly, the islands are designated a Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation, AONB, Ramsar Site and contain 7 Sites of Special Scientific Interest noted for their seabird features (see appendix 1). Natural England (NE), the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (IoSWT), the RSPB and the Isles of Scilly Bird Group (IOSBG) have been working collaboratively to protect seabirds in Scilly for over 25 years. The seabird population is declining and faces a number of threats, and this can only be tackled through collaboration. To support a strategic approach to seabird management the first Seabird Conservation Strategy was produced in 2005 and has been updated three times since (2005-2008, 2009-2013, 2014-2018, 2018-2023). Over the years a collaboration of a wide range of organisations and funders has contributed to delivering the strategy objectives set out and the work has benefitted from a range of experts being involved.

The islands seabirds are not only important in their own right but are important to a wide range of stakeholders environmentally, socially and economically, an instinct part of what defines the islands. It is important that this is recognised and that the investment in ensuring that they are healthy is equitable.

Throughout, the Seabird Conservation Strategy's overarching goal has remained broadly the same but is updated here:

To monitor, protect and restore our seabird populations and make seabird conservation a valued part of life on Scilly, by encouraging residents and visitors to understand, enjoy and appreciate seabird heritage, as defining part of the islands sense of place.

This fourth review and update covers the period 2023-2028 and:

- Briefly reviews the progress achieved during the period of the previous strategy 2018-2023 and current status of the seabirds.
- Sets out revised set of strategic objectives and priorities
- Sets out an updated set of key outcomes for the strategy period
- Details a 5-year work programme for 2023-2028

The conservation of seabirds on the Isles of Scilly delivers a range of national and international policies including SSSI condition; SPA; condition; RAMSAR Convention, Marine Directive Framework targets of Good Ecological condition; England Seabird Conservation and Recovery Plan (in development) and species targets; Species targets and the AONBs Colchester agreement commitments. Tables of designated sites and populations from the 2015/16 survey can be found in appendix 2.

Background information from previous strategies, whilst not included in this version for reasons of brevity and clarity, should be read in conjunction with this version.

Progress will be reviewed annually which may affect the work plan priorities.

1.1 Status of Seabird Assemblage Scilly

A key strategic goal throughout the lifetime of the strategy has been:

To restore the assemblage of seabirds breeding on and feeding around the Isles of Scilly, ensuring distribution and population of priority species are at least sustained at 2001 levels.

Although the most recent full SPA survey (2015/16) is over 6 years old and due an update, combined with the results from the ongoing interim monitoring, the picture is of a seabird assemblage in decline across the islands, with dramatic declines in some species, although there are also notable exceptions. In the 2015/16 survey a total of 8,266 territories (37.5% below SPA target of 13,239) of 13 species of seabird were recorded from 55 rocks and islands, achieving complete coverage of all islands. It will be important we review our work based upon the any future full island survey so this should be treated as a live document.

The main points of change can be summarised as follows.

- The overall number of seabirds breeding within the Isles of Scilly archipelago in 2015/16 (8266 pairs) decreased by 12% between 2001 and 2015/16 (see Figure 1). There has been a 14.3% decline in the SPA population since the SPA baseline and a 31.3% decrease in the size of the total seabird population since 1983 (the date of baseline data used for most SSSI notifications on Scilly in 1986) when 12,063 breeding pairs of seabirds were recorded.
- The diversity of the seabird assemblage is almost unchanged since 2006 with all of the 13 species of seabird regularly breeding in Scilly still present in 2015/16. However, Sandwich and roseate terns (a SSSI feature), only intermittent breeders into the 1990s, have been lost and in recent years both kittiwakes and common terns have failed to breed in some years.
- Five species of seabirds across all the islands have declined in numbers by more than 20% in just the last nine years: lesser black-backed gull (-26%), herring gull (-22%), shag (-21%), common tern (-85%) and kittiwake (-72%). In particular 2021 saw the first year in living memory with no kittiwake nesting attempts and common terns have only bred in one of the last five years (see Table 1).
- In terms of overall numbers, four of the seven SSSIs listed for bird interest have shown declines in the last 9 years; St. Helen's group (-20%), Pentle Bay & Round Is. (-15%), Samson Group (-19%) and Annet (-12%).
- In contrast, since 2006 there has been a marked increase in the numbers of both razorbill and guillemots across the islands, whilst puffins have remained relatively stable, following national trends
- Since rat removal on St Agnes and Gugh in 2013/14 the numbers of Manx shearwaters breeding there has increased more than 6-fold and storm petrels have recolonised. As regional shearwater populations have increased following removal of rats from Lundy and Welsh islands, the population in Scilly has shown similar growth trebling from 171 pairs in 2006 to 523 in 2015 (presumably from immigration, although a significant proportion are non-productive pairs due to settlement on islands with rats).

Figure 1 Species assemblage total 1969-2015/16

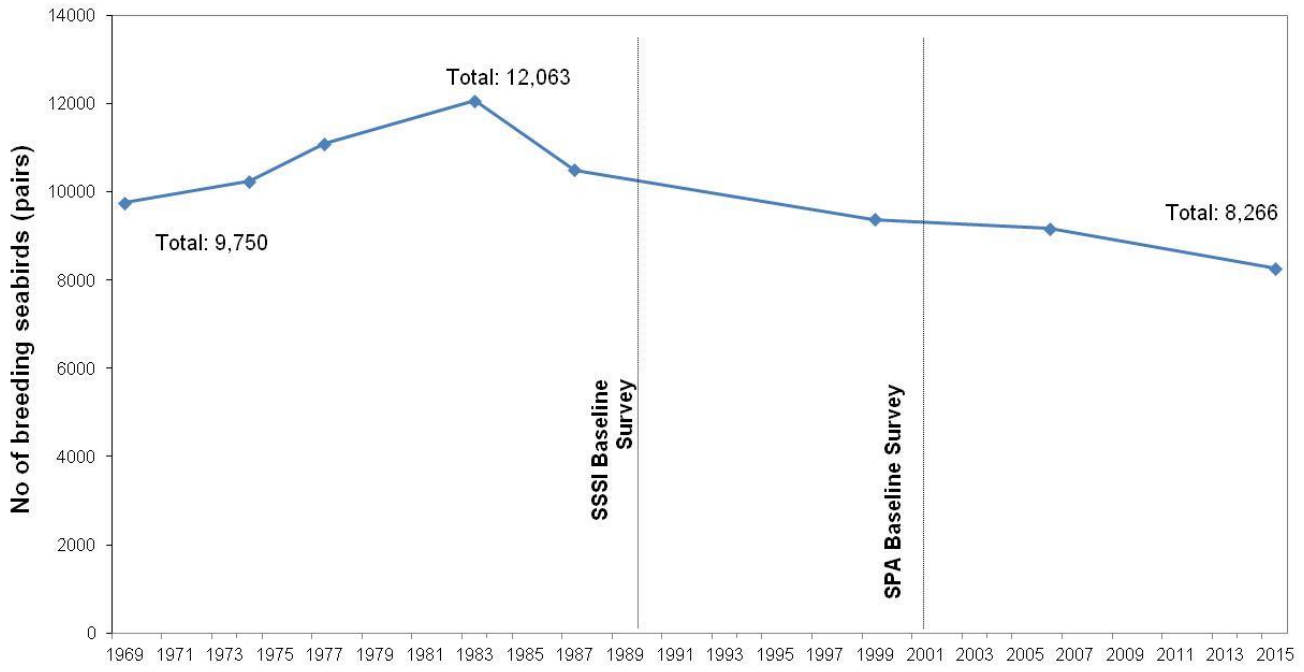


Table 1. Seabird breeding numbers, long-term trends and importance.

Species	Population ¹	Internationally important ²	Nationally important population ³	Regional importance ⁴	Long-term Trends
Fulmar	287				Large increases since first bred 1951, appears to be slowing now
Manx shearwater	523				3-fold increase in the last nine years and new colonies found
Storm petrel	1335				Declining – down 12% since 2000
Cormorant	53				Generally stable at 50-60 pairs since the 1940s
European shag	1025				General decline since peak of 1,470 pairs in 1977. One of the largest UK colonies.
Lesser black-backed gull	2485				Continued decline- down 38% on peak of 4,050 pairs in 1983
Herring Gull	556				Continued steep decline – down 75% on peak of 2,249 pairs in 1974
Great black-backed gull	984				Declined in the 1980s (still down 31% on 1983), increasing since 1999. Now the largest UK colony.
Kittiwake	11				Continued steep decline – now just 1% of peak of 861 pairs in 1983
Common tern	0				Continued steep decline and intermittent breeding since peak of 210 pairs in 1983
Roseate tern	0				Extinct. Last bred record 1994. Still almost annual visitor
Sandwich tern	0				Former sporadic breeder. Last bred 2006. Still regular visitor
Guillemot	291				Increasing – population almost trebled since 1983
Razorbill	473				Steady increase – population more than doubled since 1983
Atlantic puffin	167				Generally stable since 1999, 45% increase since 1980s

¹ Number of breeding pairs 2015/16, apart from tern and kittiwake figures which are for 2022

² Cited within SPA or representing >10% of SPA assemblage, >5% UK biogeographic population

³ >1% of UK population or UK BAP species

⁴ >40% of SW regional population

2. Review of outcomes of previous strategy 2018-23

Seabirds are affected by a range of impacts on land and at sea and these can only all be addressed across different socio-economic areas and at varying scales. Sadly, the worrying decline in seabird numbers overall (driven by gull and tern declines and detailed above) appeared to continue through the period of the strategy, highlighting the need for further conservation to support these features on the islands. Although seabirds are fairly well studied on land, less is known about how they use the sea, so it is difficult to know what to do to reverse the declines in some seabirds. Particular challenges 2018-23 included COVID, which resulted in various organisations furloughing staff and pausing work. There has also been some organisational change (IoSWT, RSPB, NE) resulting in either temporary or more permanent loss in resources. Some actions were aspirational or opportunistic and had no funding attached or involved engaging with external timetables or processes. Funding for maintenance work is challenging, particularly as the cost of work on the islands is often higher than that on the mainland and can involve costly boating access.

Despite these challenges, there was some excellent progress during the lifetime of the previous strategy, with much of the work detailed below being delivered with the support of AONB funding. A full table of progress against the 78 actions is included in the Appendix and key outcomes are set out below.

- Monitoring continues to be well covered, providing one of the best datasets in England and the very important long-term dataset of seabirds in Scilly has been maintained by IoSWT
- The importance of the seas around Scilly was recognised for seabirds (citing shag & greater black backed gull) by NE through the marine extension of the SPA in November 2020.
- The number of organisations and community members involved in seabird conservation on the islands has dramatically increased and residents and visitors are more aware of the importance of Scilly for seabirds.
- The largest community-based island restoration project to date on St Agnes & Gugh continues to thrive and the islands are still rat free. RSPB/IoSWT have continued to maintain strong community support for the required biosecurity on St Agnes and Gugh through various training events and meetings. RSPB and IoSWT have been supporting the community biosecurity work on St Agnes and Gugh by maintaining the equipment and supporting responses to ROARS through staff and sabbatical visits. Biosecurity plans are being reviewed to ensure the islands has access to best practise guidance.
- Following the discovery of rats on Round Island in January 2022, a full multi-agency rat eradication was coordinated by the RSPB, training up many new local volunteers in island restoration techniques and gaining significant positive national press coverage on successful clearance.
- Access improvements by IoSWT include a network of footpaths on selected islands in the Eastern Isles, St Helen's, Tean and the eastern end of Samson designed to improve access to archaeology and avoid disturbance to nesting seabirds. Further habitat management has included tackling the spread of *Pittosporum* & *Coprosma* on Gugh and other uninhabited islands and removing woody plants around Manx shearwater burrows on Gugh.
- IoSWT have been raising awareness of disturbance through Wise training for boat operators, working with the Council's Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) to identify seabird colonies sensitive to disturbance from dogs and distributing the seabird leaflet.

- IoSWT have actively promoted seabirds through media, making strong links with plastic free Scilly, running regular events with Five Islands School and regularly engaging with visiting schools and universities, as well as visitors through Seabird Safari's with St Agnes Boating. The RSPB have engaged visitors through 'A Date with Nature' events on the Scillonian and Tresco.
- IoSWT 'Homes for Shearwaters' project working in partnership with TEVI has installed 35 artificial nesting boxes on Annet with an above ground and 4 underground infrared cameras (work is ongoing to achieve live-streaming!)

Going forward, there are many challenges and still a lot to understand about seabirds and their pressures, so identifying research needs and engaging with academic institutes will be important. We need to keep on securing community ownership for seabirds and to be ambitious, much of the work requires external funding and some pieces of work are large, but through collaboration there are a number of funding opportunities e.g., Green Recovery Fund that could help deliver many of the detailed objectives and key outcomes detailed in the following sections.

3. Conservation strategy 2023-28

3.1 Strategic Goals

The Seabird Conservation Strategy's overarching goal is to ensure that we have a healthy seabird population by managing the land and sea is well managed for the island's seabirds by monitoring, protecting and restoring our seabirds and make seabird conservation a valued part of life on Scilly, by encouraging residents and visitors to understand, enjoy and appreciate seabird heritage.

The key Strategic Objectives in achieving this in 2023-28 are:

1. Evidencing the health of the island's seabirds. - to undertake regular population and productivity monitoring of key seabird species to enable analysis of seabird population trends both locally and nationally, to inform the condition of the protected sites and their features (seabirds) over time and inform conservation action and awareness raising work.
2. Non-Native Invasive Species management to restore seabird populations – to help reverse the overall seabird decline on the islands by protecting existing rat free islands through effective biosecurity and incursion response measures, and increasing the population size, distribution and productivity of burrow nesting seabirds including Manx shearwater, storm petrel and puffin (and potentially other species) through the removal or control of the non-native brown rat from otherwise potentially suitable habitat.
3. Seabird Research - to develop and promote a seabird research programme to learn more about dependencies and identify key recovery actions. This includes a better understanding of the local ecology of the seabird population and their food prey and identifying or trialling measures to support their recovery, as well highlight their socio-economic value to the islands to help inform decision-makers. A key research project for the period of this strategy being the ringing and tracking of Manx shearwaters.
4. Visitor Management & Access - To reduce disturbance and allow recolonisation by seabirds and shorebirds by providing appropriate access and enjoyment of the countryside, whilst preserving the integrity of conservation sites and their seabird features. Producing a recreational strategy that assesses the growth activities, how they impact on wildlife and identifying practical costed management measures in accordance with the Objectives of the AONB Delivery Plan and the Destination Management Plan.
5. Engage visitors and residents - to embed the importance of seabird conservation and the various international designations on Scilly by providing a range of learning and training activities for both residents and visitors to further their understanding and appreciation of the island's seabird heritage.
6. Habitat Management – to improve existing or create new breeding habitat for seabirds to mitigate against the impacts of climate change.

3.2 Key Outcomes in the next 5 years

- The condition of the islands for seabirds will have improved, with population of seabirds starting to show positive trends and productivity rates required to achieve this, and species diversity will be maintained.
- There will be an increase in safe places for burrowing nesting seabirds to nest by maintaining the existing network of rat free islands and restoring further islands.
- Seabird colonies will be free from disturbance that threatens their conservation status, and more people will be actively involved in or supporting seabird conservation.
- We will have a better understanding of how and where the islands seabirds use the land and sea around the islands, and beyond, particularly important foraging areas and the status of their food prey.
- Manx shearwater will be recognised as a key species for conservation action on the islands
- We will have a better understanding of how climate change will impact the seabirds and develop plans to mitigate for losses.
- We will have a better understanding of the impact of bird flu and have in place plans in place how we will deal with further outbreaks

3.3 Key Outputs

- New full SPA breeding seabirds count completed (to include oystercatcher and ringed plover) to inform condition monitoring and annual population and productivity monitoring reviewed and completed, with actions identified to remedy declines
- Biosecurity monitoring (and incursion responses were necessary) carried out for St Agnes and Gugh, Annet, Western Rocks, Norrad Rocks, and Round Island.
- –Rats will be removed from St. Helens and plans for further island restoration work will be produced, where feasible.
- Important foraging areas for Manx shearwaters at sea will be mapped and other research projects e.g., on seabird diet will be completed with scientific institutes to inform further conservation action.
- A recreational strategy will have been produced that covers seabird sensitivities, recreational pressures and costed mitigation measures that can be fully integrated into completed Visitor Management Plan (including updated landing restrictions)
- Avian flu, and other environmental disaster (e.g., oil pollution) contingency planning and response in place
- Manx shearwater is one of our AONB priorities for species conservation action through the Colchester declaration

4. Detailed Objectives and Five Year Work Programme

High Priority actions are for the five year work plan.

Code	Action	Location	Who	When	Funding	Priority
1	Evidencing the health of the island's seabirds.					
1.1	SPA Survey					
1.1a	6 yearly all island all species (to include oystercatcher & ringed plover) survey	All islands	IoSWT	2023/24		High
1.1b	Fully costed proposal for staffing, boating, volunteers and timescales needed		IoSWT, RSPB	2022		High
1.2	Annual Species Monitoring					
	Annual count of all species including burrow nesters (sample)	Annet, St Agnes & Gugh	IoSWT	2023-28	Currently through AONB	High
	Annual monitoring of settlement and productivity of kittiwake and common tern across Scilly	All islands (Gugh)	IoSWT	2023-28	Currently through AONB	High
	Annual monitoring of productivity of lesser black backed gulls, further development of drone use	Gugh	IoSWT	2023-28	Currently through AONB	High
	Annual monitoring of productivity (including response calibration survey where possible) of Manx shearwater & storm petrel on	St Agnes, Gugh, St. Mary's & Bryher	IoSWT	2023-28	Currently through AONB	High
	Annual monitoring of herring gull settlement and productivity	St Marys & Samson	IoSWT	2023-28	Currently through AONB	High
	Annual monitoring of fulmar settlement and productivity	Menawethan, Daymark	IoSWT	2023-28	Currently through AONB	High
	Monitoring of storm petrel & Manx shearwater numbers	Round Island				High
	Work towards Scilly becoming part of the National Monitoring Scheme,	All islands				High

Code	Action	Location	Who	When	Funding	Priority
	all data uploaded to SMP Database					
	Deploy remote infrared cameras in any occupied shearwater nest boxes to monitor activity	Annet	IoSWT	2023-28		High
	Work to digitise count data using QGIS and scan all previous count data available	All islands	IoSWT	2023		High
	Seabird demographics programme developed for Scilly to include colour ringing focusing on key data location gaps for shag; storm petrel and large gulls	All islands				High
	Maintain 'Homes for Shearwaters' nest boxes and monitor occupancy, deploy infrared cameras	Annet	IoSWT	2023-28		High
1.3	Conservation Status					
	Promote the adoption of Manx shearwaters as one of AONB Colchester Declaration priorities for species action	All Islands	AONB		AONB	High
	Detailed Notification review and completed Favourable Condition Tables for all Scilly SSSIs	All SSSIs	NE		NE monitoring budget	High
1.3	Further Monitoring					
1.3	Monitoring of settlement of Manx shearwaters on St Helens, Tresco & St Martins					Medium
	Pursue opportunities for remote camera & new technological monitoring of breeding success					Medium
	Installation of storm petrel breeding wall to monitor occupancy and productivity (no detailed monitoring currently in England)					Low
	Monitoring of shag occupancy and productivity on Samson or Annet (national priority)					Low

Code	Action	Location	Who	When	Funding	Priority
	Monitoring of puffin occupancy and productivity on St Helens					Low
	Establish winter population estimate & favoured roost and feeding areas for European shag					Low
1.4	Environmental disaster planning					
1.4a	Avian Flu contingency Planning for an outbreak and spread amongst seabird populations in Scilly	All islands		2022/2023		High
1.4b	Biosecurity measures in place to limit spread between sub-colonies for all survey, monitoring and ringing work	All islands		2023-28		High
1.4c	Outbreak response work (carcass collection & disposal), Communications & Reporting	All islands				High
1.4d	key potential disasters identified for emergency planning and plans developed	All islands				Medium
2	Non-native Invasive Species Management to restore seabird populations					
2.1	Maintenance of rat-free St Agnes, Gugh, Annet & Round Island					
2.1a	Maintenance of permanent monitoring stations and rat-free status– scheduled visits	St Agnes, Gugh & Annet				High
2.1b	Maintain & promote ‘Rat on a Rat’ phone number	St Marys	IoSWT			High
2.1c	Respond to ROARs and instigate incursion response if required	St. Agnes, Gugh & Annet				High
2.1d	Maintain permanent boat stations on boats (Lyonesse Lady, Spirit of St Agnes & Enterprise) – meet annually with operators and harbour master and Scillonian company to review	St Agnes & St Marys				High

Code	Action	Location	Who	When	Funding	Priority
	biosecurity & carry out training as required					
2.1e	Annually check and maintain incursion shed & equipment (purchase any replacements needed, make wax)	St Agnes				High
2.1f	Annually review Mainland Response Plan (& volunteer involvement) and Maintenance, Biosecurity and Incursion Response Plans for St Agnes & Gugh and for Annet & Western Rocks.	Exeter & Scilly	RSPB, IoSWT, NE, Duchy, AONB			High
2.1g	Ensure sufficient people have appropriate rodenticide training for incursion response and boat stations					High
2.1h	Meet annually with St Agnes & Gugh biosecurity volunteers to provide, training, support and gain feedback	St Agnes				High
2.1i	Maintain biosecurity information & noticeboards on the islands	St Agnes & Gugh St Mary's Quay				High
2.1j	Bi-annual monitoring (Sept & Feb/Mar) to monitor presence/absence of rats on Round Island	Round Island	AONB, IoSWT			High
2.1k	Trail the use of the RSPB rat dog to assess their value	St Agnes and Gugh	RSPB/ IoSWT			Medium
2.2	Development of a 2 nd large-scale community led rat-removal project					
2.2a	Build partnership to develop an island restoration project for the remaining off islands currently with rats					High
2.2b	Clearance on St Helens as pilot and to reduce likelihood of Round Island re-incursion	St Helens				High
2.2c	Establish base-line data on rodent					High

Code	Action	Location	Who	When	Funding	Priority
	distribution					
2.2d	Develop & agree Legacy Plan to factor in legacy parameters and long-term income streams for biosecurity in perpetuity after removal from all islands from Samson to the Eastern Isles (excepting St Marys). Investigate potential in government scheme, (CS, Endangered Landscapes Programme), etc)					High
2.2e	Identify funding opportunities					High
2.2f	Complete community consultation & engagement work on inhabited off islands to determine support					High
	Deploy infra-red cameras by Manx shearwater burrows on island with rats	Bryher, Tresco, St Martin's and St Mary's	IoSWT			Medium
2.3	Cat Predation					
2.3a	Work with local community & Vet to spay and rehome feral cats	St Marys & Tresco and Bryher and St Martins, if required				High
2.3b	Raise awareness of issues of cat predation (Ring Plovers, Porth Hellick), disturbance signage	St Marys				High
2.3c	Work with community on St Agnes to deploy GPS tracking collar on domestic cats, deploy trail cams for identification, share potential options to minimise impact (e.g. defender dogs, indoor cats at night, etc) and agree with community to trial acceptable ones	St Agnes & Gugh				High
3	Seabird Research Programme					
3.1	Develop a Research Project Pipeline	All islands	All			High

Code	Action	Location	Who	When	Funding	Priority
	with priority seabird research project outlines and basic costings					
3.2	Engage with partners, academic institutions and research organisations who can advise and collaborate on research projects and promote Scilly as a location for seabird research	All islands	All			High
3.3	Ringling and tracking project for Manx shearwaters to identify distribution at sea		RSPB, NE, IoSWT			High
	Research trip to other seabird colonies in the UK to gain insights on methodology and management					Medium
4	Visitor Management & Access					
4.1	Produce a recreational strategy to identify measures to support safe nesting, loafing and roosting areas for seabirds and waterbirds	All islands	AONB			high
4.2	Path maintenance to minimise seabird settlement disturbance (2-3 cuts annually)	Eastern Isles, Samson, Tean & St Helens	IoSWT	2023-28		High
4.3	Raise awareness of responsible dog ownership and erect signs where dogs must be kept on a lead around sensitive seabird areas	Gugh, St. Helens, Samson	IoSWT			High
4.4	Review current landing restrictions – red/ amber/ green zonation - for seabird and seal disturbance mitigation (IoSWT to discuss extension of zonation with Duchy, Trinity House and Tresco Estate)	All islands	IoSWT			High
4.5	Raise awareness of responsibility of local & visiting boat owners and providers to minimise recreational disturbance – and observance of landing restrictions - through collaboration with IoSSG, MMO & IP	All islands	AONB			High

Code	Action	Location	Who	When	Funding	Priority
4.6	Provide WISE update training as and when required (establish by March 2023 if there is demand for further training 2023/24)	All islands	IoSWT	2023/4		High
4.7	Work with local Police & Cornwall Marine Coastal Codes Group to report and deal with disturbance events		ALL			High
4.8	Collaborate with travel & tourism operators on the production and distribution of responsible dog owners' information leaflet and online information		AONB			Medium
5	Engage visitors and residents to embed the importance of seabird conservation & protection					
5.1	Install and promote live streaming above ground camera (GDPR) & infrared cameras in Manx shearwater nest boxes on Annet (helps engage and create inclusive and remote access to the landscape)		IoSWT			High
5.2	New Museum & Cultural Centre – engage with Project Board and embed seabirds into interpretation & displays		IoSWT			High
5.3	Ensure all partners and public are informed of work undertaken annually towards delivery of this strategy through local newsletters, websites, etc		AONB			High
5.4	Promote seabird conservation through RSPBs 'Date with Nature' & IoSWT 'Seabird Safaris'	Tresco, Scillonian, St Agnes Boating	RSPB, IoSWT			High
5.4	Deliver campaigns through regular communication channels, advertising and bespoke events		IoSWT, AONB			High

Code	Action	Location	Who	When	Funding	Priority
5.6	Provide conservation activities for 5 islands school which promote seabird conservation		IoSWT			High
5.7	Ensure the while islands community understands the risks posed to seabirds from rat predation and the commitment required from everyone to protect the legacy of a wider island restoration project – mammalian predators included as key threat in AONB islands biosecurity campaign		IoSWT, AONB			High
5.8	Encourage community led action for seabirds through the Next-door Nature project		IoSWT			Medium
5.9	Contribute towards the development and promotion of the 'The Scilly Pledge' and green charter Destination Management Plan – embed seabird conservation message		IoSWT			Medium
5.10	Deliver a programme of green business support which promotes seabird conservation		IoSWT			Medium
5.11	Update 'Birds of Scilly' leaflet (incl. landing restrictions) and look towards developing an App or online info via QR code to replace long-term		IoSWT. RSPB			Medium
5.12	Drive action on Climate Change by highlighting the sense in which Scilly's seabirds are 'canaries in the coalmine'		ALL			Medium
5.13	Develop & Install interpretation on uninhabited islands – Samson has signage, St Helens needs replacing		IoSWT			Medium
6	Habitat Management					
6.1	Reduce/ remove winter food sources for mammalian predators –				CS/ Fiopl?	Medium

Code	Action	Location	Who	When	Funding	Priority
	pittosporum, coprosma & Hottentot fig on St Helens, Northwethel, Eastern Isles, Gugh & Bryher					
6.2	Investigate goats and no-fence seasonal grazing possibilities e.g., for St Helens				CS/ Fiapl?	Low
6.3	Improve existing or create new breeding habitat for common terns – install nest shelters, create sand/ pebble areas at known sites (e.g., Samson, Annet) or tern rafts (e.g., Great Pool Tresco				CS/ Fiapl	Low
6.4	Installation of Manx Shearwater nest boxes and storm petrel breeding walls in appropriate places to facilitate spread and increase of populations to improve resilience to climate change impacts.	Rat free Islands			Fiapl/ CS?	Medium

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Natural England SPA Supplementary Advice:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/SupAdvice.aspx?SiteCode=UK9020288&SiteName=scilly&SiteNameDisplay=Isles+of+Scilly+SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=4>

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6. Appendix -1 Detailed table of progress against 78 actions in previous 5-year strategy (2018-2023)

✓✓✓ = Excellent progress ✓✓ = Good progress ✓ = Some progress X = No progress - = Action dropped

Action code	Action	Location	Date	Progress	Progress towards Action	By whom
5.1	Monitoring					
5.1.1.	6 yearly all island all species survey	All islands	2023	Initial planning meetings and costings drafted October 2022.	✓	NE, RSPB, IoSWT
5.1.2.	Annual count of all species including burrow nesters (sample)	Annet	2018-23	All years completed to date (not 2020 – Covid)	✓✓✓	IoSWT
5.1.3.	Annual count of AOBs Manx Shearwater and AOS Storm Petrel (sample)	St Agnes	2019-23	All years completed to date (only SP surveyed 2020)	✓✓✓	IoSWT, RSPB
5.1.4.	Annual monitoring of settlement and fledging of Black-legged Kittiwake	St Agnes	2018-23	All years completed to date (not 2020 – Covid)	✓✓✓	IoSWT
5.1.5.	Annual productivity of Lesser Black-backed gulls	Gugh and St Helens or Tean	2018-23	All years completed to date – only Gugh (not 2020 – Covid)	✓✓	IoSWT
5.1.6.	Annual monitoring of productivity of Herring Gull	Samson & Hugh Town	2018-23	All years completed to date (not 2020 – Covid)	✓✓✓	IoSWT
5.1.7.	Monitoring of settlement and productivity of Manx Shearwater and possibly Puffin	St Helens	2018-23	Manx AOBs recorded St Helens 2019 & 2022, no productivity for MX or PUF recorded – was linked to previous attempts to control rats	✓	IoSWT
5.1.8.	Monitoring of settlement and productivity of Manx Shearwater	St Mary's, Tresco & Bryher	2018-23	All years completed to date for St. Mary's, Tresco & Bryher counted 2018 & 2019	✓✓	IoSWT
5.1.9.	Annual monitoring and productivity of Common Tern	Samson, and Inter- Island waters	2018-23	All years completed to date	✓✓✓	IoSWT
5.1.10.	Establish winter population estimate of European Shag	All islands	2018-2021	Lack of resources and practical difficulties building onto NeWS. Recommend identifying as a research project	X	IoSWT, RSPB, IBG
5.1.11.	Establish European Shag favoured roost and feeding areas	Inter-island waters, rocks and ledges	2018-2021	Research project? Some aerial data collected by NE for SPA extension evidence	✓	IoSWT, ISBG

Action code	Action	Location	Date	Progress	Progress towards Action	By whom
5.1.12.	Work towards the Isles of Scilly becoming part of the national monitoring scheme	All		Currently under review – Scilly identified as priority	✓	NE, RSPB
5.2	Protected Sites					
5.2.1	Review current protections and reporting framework			SPA seaward extension for seabirds (Shag & GBBG named) finalised Nov 2020. England Seabird Conservation Strategy being drafted by NE	✓✓✓	NE
5.2.1.a	Detailed Notification Review for Isles of Scilly SSSIs	All islands				NE
5.2.1.b	Complete Favourable Condition Tables for all SSSIs	All islands				NE
5.2.1.c	Review “useability” of current Favourable Condition Tables and possibility for updating and improving reporting requirements	All islands	2018-2021			NE
5.3.1	Research					
5.3.1	Develop a priority seabird research work programme					
5.3.1.a	Draft an initial priority list of seabird research	All Islands	2018-2021	Initial list being drawn up	✓	NE, RSPB, IoSWT
5.3.1.b	Workshop (with local organisations and relevant academic institutions) to agree seabird research priorities for Scilly	All Islands	2018-2021		X	NE, RSPB, IoSWT
5.3.2.	Ensure promotion of seabird research priorities					
5.3.2.a	Continue to look for opportunities to promote Scilly as a location for seabird research	All Islands	2018-2023	Ongoing contact with Exeter Uni among others and links through student fieldtrips to Scilly	✓	NE, RSPB, IoSWT
5.3.3	Research into causes of disturbance by cruise ships					
5.3.3a	Make links with research organisations who can advise on methodology for a research brief		2020-2021		X	IoSWT, NE, RSPB

Action code	Action	Location	Date	Progress	Progress towards Action	By whom
5.4.	Visitor Management & Access					
5.4.1	Continuation of path maintenance to minimise seabird settlement disturbance					
5.4.1a	Maintain paths on selected uninhabited islands – using archaeology for focus of paths (2-3 cuts annually)	The Eastern Isles (Nornour & The Arthurs) and St Helen's	2018-2023	All years completed to date	✓✓✓	IoSWT
5.4.1b	Maintain circular path route on Tean (2-3 cuts annually)	Tean	2018-2023	All years completed to date	✓✓✓	IoSWT
5.4.1.c	Expose approximately 786m of drystone wall to create (in part) a physical boundary to seabird sensitive areas	Tean	2018-2021	No longer considered a useful boundary	X	IoSWT
5.4.1d	Maintain/enhance eastern coastal path of Samson to divert activities away from North Hill and maintain/enhance circular route around archaeology on South Hill (2-3 cuts annually)	Samson	2018-2023	All years completed to date	✓✓✓	IoSWT
5.4.2	Raise awareness & responsibility of dog owners on uninhabited islands					
5.4.2a	Erect and maintain a series of signs where dogs must be kept on leads around seabird sensitive areas	All uninhabited islands	2018-2023	All years completed to date (signs on Gugh & St. Helen's, fencing for ringed plovers on Porthellick, St. Mary's)	✓✓✓	IoSWT
5.4.2b	Create a responsible dog owners information leaflet		2018-2023	Livestock and dogs' info & General Wildlife watching leaflet produced and available online – partly stalled as Council updating PSPO	✓	IOSWT
5.4.3	Raise awareness & responsibility of local and visiting boat owners and providers					
5.4.3a	Undertake an awareness	All islands	2018-	WiSe Training delivered for	✓✓	IoSWT, IFCA

Action code	Action	Location	Date	Progress	Progress towards Action	By whom
	campaign of how to minimise recreational disturbance to our breeding seabird colonies.	and local waters	2023	boating/water sports providers in 2018 & signposted 2021		
5.4.3b	Produce educational material for distribution to local and visiting boat owners	All islands and local waters	2018-2023	Wildlife Watching leaflet produced and promoted – available online	✓✓	IoSWT
5.4.3c	Liaise with ISSG and local boat hire to assist in the delivery of educational material to visitors	All islands and local waters	2018-2023	See above	✓	IoSWT
5.4.3d	Provide WISE training to local boating companies and interested boat owners	All local waters	2018-2023	See above	✓✓✓	IoSWT
5.4.3e	Provide WISE update training as and when required	All local waters	2018-2023	WiSe accredited online training opportunities highlighted in 2021	✓✓	IoSWT
5.4.3f	Work with the local authority to incorporate WISE into local licence provision training	All local waters	2018-2023	Stalled- not considered necessary by local boat operators	X	IoSWT
5.4.3g	Engage with the MMO to assist in making boat owners aware of their responsibilities regarding disturbance	All local waters	2018-2023	All fed into consultations on unlicensed disturbance events. NE leading?	✓	NE, RSPB
5.4.3h	Develop closer ties with Cornwall Marine & Coastal Code Group		2018-2023	Contact details on IoSWT website and any reports of disturbance signposted to CMCCG.	✓✓	IoSWT
5.4.4	Engage visitors in seabird conservation and protection					
5.4.4a	Develop and install interpretation on uninhabited islands	St Helens, Tean, Gugh & Eastern Isles	2018-2023	Samson has a board; St. Helen's interpretation boards need replacing.	✓	IoSWT
5.4.4b	Aim to install 'live' cameras at selected seabird colonies to stream on the internet	Annet	2018-2023	March 2022 camera at NE Par and 4 'burrow-cams' installed. Ongoing issues with live feed.	✓✓	IoSWT & TEVI
5.4.4c	Continue to produce & distribute "Birds of Scilly" leaflet; update as necessary		2018-2023	As of October 2022, @1500 leaflets left from second order of 10,000 – needs review	✓✓✓	IoSWT
5.4.4d	Develop a "Birds of Scilly" App to replace the leaflet		2018-2023	No funding currently available	X	IoSWT
5.4.4e	Promote seabird	Tresco and	2018-	Completed all years except	✓✓✓	RSPB

Action code	Action	Location	Date	Progress	Progress towards Action	By whom
	conservation through RSPB's 'Date with Nature'	Scillonian III	2023	2020 (Covid)		
5.4.5	Embed Visitor Access and Management Outcomes into DMP					
5.4.5a	Contribute towards the development of the "Green Charter" for visitors as part of the Destination Management Plan	All islands and local waters	2018-2020	Concept of 'The Scilly Pledge' needs fleshing out for adoption	✓	IoSWT
5.4.5b	Ensure robust data is gathered on the value of seabirds to the visitor economy through the annual visitor survey; promote the findings as necessary		2018-2023	Research Project (no funding currently available)	X	IoSWT
5.5	Habitat management					
5.5.1	Reduce/Remove winter food-source(s) for mammalian predators					
5.5.1a	Remove 2.05ha. of Pittosporum & Coprosma	St Helens, Northwethel, Gugh & Bryher	2018-2023	All years completed to date on Gugh; St. Helen's, Northwethel & Bryher not completed since 2020 – was funded through HLS	✓	IoSWT
5.5.1b	Remove .03ha. of Hottentot Fig	St Helens	2018-2023	Not done on St. Helen's – was HLS funded; All years completed to date on Bryher for Dwarf pansy.	✓	IoSWT
5.5.2	Monitor/control regeneration of invasive species (winter food sources)					
5.5.2a	Monitor regeneration and/or establishment of Pittosporum/Coprosma seedlings in seabird sensitive areas. Remove as necessary	St Helens, Gugh, Bryher & Northwethel	2019-2023	No funding currently available; find lots around rocks in seabird areas (spread in poo); Increasing on Gugh (rats used to eat seedlings?)	X	IoSWT
5.5.2b	Monitor regeneration and/or new establishment of Hottentot Fig in seabird sensitive areas. Remove as necessary	Eastern Isles	2019-2023	No funding currently available	X	IoSWT
5.5.3	Creation of potential new settlement areas for Lesser Black-backed and Great Black-backed Gulls					

Action code	Action	Location	Date	Progress	Progress towards Action	By whom
5.5.3a	Clear 3.75ha. (c85 areas – is this a typo, seems a lot?) of scrub/Bracken of varying sizes no less than 800m2	St Helens, Gugh, Annet, Samson & Eastern Isles	2018-2023	Was funded through HLS, not done since 2019. What is 'suitable condition' for seabirds?	X	IoSWT
5.5.4	Monitor effectiveness of selected seabird habitat management					
5.5.4a	Monitor habitat management on selected islands to determine benefits and review management options as required.	St Helen's, Gugh, Annet, Samson, & Eastern Isles	2019-2023	No funding currently available – Research project?	X	IoSWT
5.5.5	Maintain Manx Shearwater Burrow entrances					
5.5.5a	Clear biennially around Manx Shearwater burrows on selected islands	Gugh and St Helens	2019-2023	Funded through HLS – no longer done on St. Helen's, but Gugh completed all years to date.	✓✓	IoSWT
5.5.6	Improve existing or create new breeding habitat for Common Tern					
5.5.6a	Create sand/pebble breeding areas on selected islands	Annet	2019-2023	No funding currently available	X	IoSWT
5.5.6b	Install nest shelters and boxes to assist in increasing Tern chick survival rates (copra – warm nesting material)	Annet	2019-2023	No funding currently available	X	IoSWT
5.5.6c	Liaise with Tresco Estate to utilise Great Pool as a potential site for new Tern Rafts	Tresco	2019-2023	No funding currently available	X	IoSWT
5.6	Predator Control					
5.6.1	Maintain rat-free status through effective biosecurity and monitoring					
5.6.1a	Maintain permanent monitoring stations on Annet	Annet	2018-2023	Stalled in 2020 due to Covid, stations re-established 2022 needs funding	✓✓	IoSWT
5.6.1b	Respond to ROARs and investigate an incursion response if required on Annet	Annet	2018-2023	No funding currently available – ROAR phone number is monitored for reports	✓✓✓	IoSWT
5.6.1c	Respond to ROARs and	St Agnes and	2018-		✓✓✓	RSPB

Action code	Action	Location	Date	Progress	Progress towards Action	By whom
	investigate an incursion response if required on St Agnes and Gugh	Gugh	2023			
5.6.1d	Produce a biosecurity and incursion response plan for Annet and the Western Rocks	Annet and the Western Rocks	2018/19	Plan produced	✓✓✓	RSPB/loSWT
5.6.1e	Maintain permanent monitoring stations on St Agnes and Gugh	St Agnes and Gugh	2018-2023	Last maintenance visit summer 2022 by RSPB sabbatical volunteer. Stations regularly checked by RSPB volunteers	✓✓✓	RSPB/loSWT
5.6.1f	Maintain permanent bait stations on boats	St Agnes, Lyonesse Lady	2018-2023	Last check winter 2021/22	✓✓✓	RSPB/loSWT
5.6.1g	Annually check & maintain incursion shed & equipment, purchase any replacements	St Agnes and Gugh	2018-2023	Annual maintenance carried out by RSPB sabbatical volunteer and with some help from loSWT ranger team.	✓✓✓	RSPB/loSWT
5.6.1h	Annually review Mainland Response Plan and volunteer involvement	Exeter	2018-2023	Volunteer involvement checked annually; training provided every two years. Incursion training Dec 2022	✓✓✓	RSPB
5.6.2	Trial new methods of monitoring and rodent control					
5.6.2a	Trial different rat monitoring methods on different islands – find most reliable ways of detecting rats, to feed into the biosecurity work	Various islands	2018-2023	Various methods trialled on St Agnes and Gugh, and Annet in response to ROARS.	✓✓	RSPB/loSWT
5.6.2b	Trial rodent control options on uninhabited/ inhabited islands to determine effectiveness as eradication/ control measure and long-term biosecurity measure.	St Helen's, Tresco, Bryher or St Martin's	2018-2023	Dropped. Funding not secured for Scilly for trial of remote trapping. Feedback on trials to be obtained from elsewhere	-	RSPB/loSWT
5.6.3	Development of a 2nd large-scale community led rat-removal project					
5.6.3a	Review feasibility study for future eradications Bryher, Tresco and St Martin's, and resolve outstanding issues	Bryher, Tresco and St Martin's	2021-2023	Initial SRP reboot meeting held Oct 2022 - positive	✓✓	loSWT, RSPB, loSSC, DUCHY, TRESKO, AONB.
5.6.3b	Complete assessment on potential disturbance of	White island and Parts of	2021-2023			RSPB, NE, CSG

Action code	Action	Location	Date	Progress	Progress towards Action	By whom
	grey seal and identify suitable mitigation measures.	Eastern Isles				
5.6.3c	Develop and agree long-term plan of the legacy phase for 2nd project		2021-2023			IoSWT, RSPB, IoSSC, DUCHY, TRESKO, AONB.
5.6.3d	Seek funding for further island restoration work on Bryher, Tresco and St Martin's.	Bryher, Tresco and St Martin's	2022-2023			
5.7	Partnership development and Community Engagement					
5.7.1	Ensure continued support for seabird conservation work on St Agnes and Gugh					
5.7.1a	Annually review maintenance Plan for IOSSRP	St Mary's	2018-2023	Infrastructure checked and maintained annually and volunteer staff/ resources in place	✓✓✓	RSPB/IoSWT
5.7.1b	Maintain and promote Rat c a rat phone number	St Mary's	2018-2023	IoSWT Office number monitored and present on ROAR signage on St. Agnes	✓✓✓	IoSWT
5.7.1c	Meet annually with St Agnes and Gugh biosecurity volunteers to provide training support, and gain feedback	St Agnes	2018-2023	Annual visits made	✓✓✓	RSPB/IoSWT
5.7.1d	Ensure sufficient people have appropriate rodenticide training to cover incursion response and permanent monitoring stations on boats	St Agnes, Penzance, Exeter	2018-2023	Two training events run with further training planned Dec 2022	✓✓✓	RSPB
5.7.1e	Carry out wax making workshops	St Agnes, Penzance	2018-2023	Carried out annually by sabbatical volunteers, RSPB PZ reserves volunteers and also IoSWT rangers	✓✓✓	RSPB
5.7.1f	Meet annually with IOSSC company and St Agnes boating to review biosecurity measures on boats and carry out biosecurity training as required	St Agnes, St Mary's Penzance	2018-2023	Annual meetings and also one training session provided	✓✓✓	RSPB/ IoSWT

Action code	Action	Location	Date	Progress	Progress towards Action	By whom
5.7.1g	Assist the community in maintaining rat-free status	St Agnes & Gugh	2018-2023	Provided occasional checks and wax replacement where required through sabbatical volunteers, etc Paths maintained for volunteers to access boxes on Gugh	✓✓✓	RSPB/loSWT
5.7.1h	Maintain IOSSRP dissemination information i.e. noticeboards	St Agnes, St Marys & Tresco	2018-2023	Annually checked. Cleaned by sabbatical/volunteers	✓✓✓	RSPB
5.7.2	To embed the importance of seabird conservation and protection					
5.7.2a	Deliver campaigns through regular communication channels, advertising and bespoke events		2018-2023	Numerous events with local and visiting schools, colleges and universities. Active social media and communications strategy with wide reach.	✓✓✓	loSWT
5.7.2b	Provide conservation activities for 5 Islands School which promote seabird conservation		2018-2023	Since 2018 60 events/sessions with Five Islands Academy pre-school to year 11 some sessions concentrated solely on Seabirds, others have woven them into other topics.	✓✓✓	loSWT
5.7.2c	Deliver a programme of green business support which promotes seabird conservation		2018-2023	No funding currently available	X	loSWT
5.7.2d	Incorporate seabird conservation messages within Plastic Free Scilly campaign		2018-2023	Weekly 'Seabird Safaris' delivered with St. Agnes Boating promoting Plastic Free Scilly message as well as seabird conservation - @2500 passengers since 2018.	✓✓✓	loSWT
5.7.2e	Develop a Citizen Science project with the local community which includes seabirds		2018-2023	No funding currently available – could be an opportunity to develop in conjunction with TEVI cameras project? Or research project?	X	loSWT
5.7.2f	Include seabird conservation messages within the Scilly Open		2018-2023	Scilly Open Spaces group was originally planned to replace previous Save Our	X	loSWT

Action code	Action	Location	Date	Progress	Progress towards Action	By whom
	Spaces Group activities and other community group activities			Scilly campaign – no progress to date		
5.7.3	Increase knowledge of island community of the risks to native wildlife from non-native invasive species					
5.7.3a	Ensure the whole island community (including St Mary's) understands the risks posed to seabirds from rat predation and the commitment required from them to protect the legacy of a wider island restoration project	All islands	2018-2023	New signage at quays but broader messages would be beneficial	✓✓	RSPB/ IoSWT
5.7.3b	Complete community engagement work on inhabited off islands to determine support for future inhabited island eradications, to support funding proposal.	Tresco, Bryher, St Martin's	2018-2023	Delayed		IoSWT/ RSPB

Appendix -2 Favourable Condition tables for SSSIs on Isles of Scilly

Specific SSSI targets from FCT's (SPA Assemblage feature is a composite of all the SSSI's (and more?))

All figs as prs/AON/AOB

no target as specific feature - n/a

SSSI	LBBG	GBBG	Storm P	Manx sh	Shag	Common Tern	Roseate Tern	Fulmar	Guillemot	Razorbill	Puffin
Gugh	1123	3	20	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Annet	1000	147	500	50	n/a	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	60
Western Rocks	4	n/a	283	n/a	465	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Eastern Rocks	14	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Tean	24	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pentle, Merrick and Round Is	n/a	n/a	183	n/a	n/a	39	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
St. Helens	543	n/a	20	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	23	57	69	n/a

Appendix -3

Notes on individual SSSIs that support breeding seabirds

Seabirds breeding outside designations

Annet SSSI

Table 22 Numbers of breeding seabirds on Annet SSSI 1999 to 2015

Species	1999/ 2000	2006	2015	% change since 1999	% change since 2006	Trend & notes
Manx shearwater	123	89	229	+86%	+157%	Decline then increase
Lesser BBG	517	281	1	>99%	>99%	Loss of 3 sub-colonies
Storm petrel	938	788	778	-17%	-1%	Decline then stable
Herring gull	42	24	20	-52%	-17%	Continued decline
Shag	209	177	85	-59%	-52%	Large, sustained decline
Razorbill	4	4	5	+25%	+25%	Small numbers
Common tern	1	1	2	+100%	+100%	Small numbers, intermittent breeding
Puffin	47	50	31	-34%	-38%	Declining
Great BBG	137	187	235	+72%	+26%	Large increases
Fulmar	21	37	57	+171%	+54%	Increasing
Total	2039	1638	1443	-29%	-12%	Sustained decline

- Seabird notified spp: common tern, great black-backed gull, lesser black-backed gull, Manx shearwater, puffin & storm petrel
- Other SPA assemblage spp present: razorbill, fulmar, shag, herring gull & common tern
- Sustained decline – smaller gulls and shags
- Rat incursion here in 2004
- See Appendix 5 for further count details

Samson SSSI (with Green, White, Puffin & Stoney)

Table 23 Numbers of breeding seabirds at Samson SSSI 1999 to 2015/16

Species	1999/ 2000	2006	2015/16	% Change since %1999	% Change since 2006	Trend & notes
Herring gull	230	189	144	-37%	-24%	Continued decrease
Shag	43	35	49	+14%	+40%	Increasing S hill north beaches
Sandwich tern	0	1	0	Lost	Lost	Intermittent breeder - last bred Green Island 2006
Lesser BBG	1197	1223	1027	-14%	-16%	Continued decline
Kittiwake	38	47	0	Lost	Lost	Last bred N 2009 & S hill 2008
Great BBG	46	73	42	-9%	-43%	Decreasing White Island
Common tern	18	59	10	-44%	-83%	Declining - failed 2015
Fulmar	2	5	15	+650%	+200%	Increasing S hill beaches
Cormorant	1	9	38	+3700%	+322%	White Island increasing – gained from Mincarolo?
Total	1575	1641	1325	-16%	-19%	Loss of gulls and kittiwakes

- SSSI seabird notified spp: common tern
- SPA assemblage spp present: lesser black-backed gull, great black-backed gull, herring gull, shag, cormorant, fulmar
- Lost all kittiwakes and many herring gulls

Western Rocks SSSI (Melledgan, Gorregan, Great Crebawethan, Rosevear & Rosevean)

Table 24 Numbers of breeding seabirds at Western Rocks SSSI 1999 to 2015

Species	1999/ 2000	2006	2015	% Change since 1999	% Change since 2006	Trend & notes
Guillemot	39	31	101	+159%	+226%	Trebled Gorregan, new to Melledgan
Cormorant	16	13	10	-38%	-23%	Decreased Melledgan
Lesser BBG	4	1	5	+25%	+400%	Small numbers
Herring gull	2	11	5	+150%	-46%	Small numbers, decreased
Storm petrel	283	281	267	-6%	-5%	Increase Melledgan, decrease Rosevear & Rosevean
Great BBG	124	157	136	+10%	-13%	Fluctuate/ stable
Razorbill	85	107	109	+28%	+2%	Stable, less Gorregan more Melledgan
Puffin	6	31	29	+383%	-6%	Increase levelled off
Shag	331	392	350	+6%	-11%	Decrease Melledgan
Fulmar	2	6	16	+700%	+167%	New to Rosevean
Total	892	1030	1028	+15%	-1%	Increase then levelled off

- SSSI seabird notified spp: shag
- SPA assemblage spp present: lesser black-backed gull, great black-backed gull, herring gull, shag, storm petrel, cormorant, fulmar, puffin, razorbill, guillemot

St. Helen's SSSI (incl. Norwethel, Peasehopper, Crow's, Foreman's & Men-a-vaur)

Table 25 Numbers of breeding seabirds at St. Helen's SSSI 1999 to 2015/16

Species	1999/ 2000	2006	2015/16	% Change since 1999	% Change since 2006	Trend & notes
Great BBG	30	28	31	+3%	+11%	Stable
Puffin	36	19	16	-56%	-16%	Decreasing St Helens & MAV
Guillemot	117	95	110	-6%	+16%	Stable Men-a-vaur
Herring gull	82	113	58	-29%	-47%	Decreasing St Helens
Razorbill	101	90	88	-13%	-2%	Stable
LBBG	543	722	553	+2%	-23%	Decreasing St Helens
Manx shearwater	5	9	36	+620%	+300%	Increasing St Helens (rats)
Storm petrel	20	20	14	-30%	-30%	Decreased Men-a-Vaur
Common tern	1	13	0	Lost	Lost	Lost
Kittiwake	7	36	0	Lost	Lost	Last bred St Helens 2010
Shag	24	38	31	+29%	-18%	Stable
Fulmar	16	21	24	+50%	+14%	Increasing slowly
Total	982	1204	961	-2%	-20%	Decrease in gulls, loss of kittiwakes & terns

- SSSI seabird notified spp: fulmar, guillemot, razorbill
- SPA assemblage spp present: Manx shearwater, lesser black-backed gull, great black-backed gull, herring gull, shag, puffin, storm petrel

Norrard Rocks SSSI (Scilly Rock, Castle Bryher, Mincarlo, Illiswilgig, Gweal, Maiden Bower & Seal Rock)

Table 26 Numbers of breeding seabirds at Norrard Rocks SSSI 1999 to 2015/16

Species	1999/ 2000	2006	2015/16	% Change since 1999	% Change since 2006	Trend & notes
Herring gull	41	19	15	-63%	-21%	Sustained decline
Cormorant	25	18	0	Lost	Lost	Last bred Mincarlo 2013
Guillemot	40	29	80	+100%	+176%	Large increase
Lesser BBG	13	6	37	+185%	+517%	Increase Gweal
Puffin	78	74	86	+10%	+16%	Stable, increasing
Storm petrel	51	58	85	+67%	+47%	Increased Illiswilgig
Razorbill	103	129	232	+125%	+80%	Large increase Mincarlo
Great BBG	101	106	125	+24%	+18%	Increasing Gweal
Shag	273	312	188	-31%	-40%	Decreasing
Fulmar	28	37	36	+29%	-3%	Increased then levelled off
Total	753	788	884	+17%	+12%	Increase in auks

- SSSI seabird notified spp: cormorant
- SPA assemblage spp present: storm petrel, lesser black-backed gull, great black-backed gull, shag, herring gull, guillemot, razorbill, puffin & fulmar
- Cormorants lost from Mincarlo

Pentle Bay, Merrick & Round Island SSSI, Tresco

Table 27 Numbers of breeding seabirds at Pentle Bay SSSI 1999 to 2015

Species	1999/ 2000	2006	2015	% Change since 1999	% Change since 2006	Trend & notes
Manx shearwater	34	43	78	+129%	+81%	Large increases
Lesser BBG	1	1	3	+200%	+200%	Small numbers, increasing
Storm petrel	183	251	172	-6%	-32%	Declining
Herring gull	30	28	13	-57%	-54%	Declining
Shag	2	7	16	+700%	+129%	Increasing
Common tern	39	5	0	Lost	Lost	Lost from Pentle Bay
Puffin	0	0	1	New colony	New colony	New colony
Great BBG	5	9	21	+320%	+133%	Increasing
Fulmar	32	28	11	-66%	-61%	Declining
Total	326	372	315	-3%	-15%	Overall decline

- SSSI seabird notified spp: common tern, roseate tern, storm petrel
- SPA assemblage spp present: Manx shearwater, lesser black-backed gull, great black-backed gull, herring gull, shag, puffin, fulmar
- Roseate & common terns lost from Pentle Bay
- Puffin new to Round Island

Chapel Down SSSI, St. Martin's

Table 28 Numbers of breeding seabirds at Chapel Down SSSI 1999 to 2015

Species	1999/ 2000	2006	2015	% Change since 1999	% Change since 2006	Trend & notes
Manx shearwater	0	0	26	New colony	New colony	New colony
Lesser BBG	58	4	2	-97%	-50%	Large declines
Herring gull	18	12	9	-50%	-25%	Declining
Kittiwake	27	15	0	Lost	Lost	Last bred 2013
Great BBG	3	3	3	No change	No change	Stable, small numbers
Fulmar	32	46	46	+44%	No change	Increase now plateaued
Total	138	80	86	-38%	+8%	Loss of kittiwakes & gulls

- SSSI seabird notified spp: kittiwake
- SPA assemblage spp present: lesser black-backed gull, great black-backed gull, fulmar, Manx shearwater, herring gull

Eastern Isles (Menawethan, Hanjague, Great & Little Ganilly, Great & Little Arthur, Great & Little Ganinnick, Great & Little Innisvouls, Ragged, Nornour) SSSI

Table 29 Numbers of breeding seabirds at the Eastern Isles SSSI 1999 to 2015

Species	1999/ 2000	2006	2015	% Change since 1999	% Change since 2006	Trend & notes
Herring gull	49	34	73	+49%	+115%	Increasing
Lesser BBG	19	14	159	+737%	+1036%	Large Increase – Great Ganilly & Arthurs
Great BBG	286	265	310	+8%	+17%	Increasing – large colony
Cormorant	14	10	5	-64%	-50%	Declining, moved Ragged to Great Ganinnick
Shag	221	330	276	+25%	-16%	Increase then declined
Razorbill	3	12	37	+1133%	+208%	Increasing
Fulmar	43	77	63	+47%	-18%	Increasing then levelled/ decline
Manx shearwater	0	0	1	New colony	New colony	New colony
Puffin	0	0	4	New colony	New colony	New colony
Total	635	742	928	+46%	+25%	More gulls and new Puffin & Manx

- SSSI seabird notified spp: None
- SPA assemblage spp present: shag, lesser black-backed gull, great black-backed gull, herring gull, cormorant, razorbill, fulmar, Manx shearwater, puffin
- Manx shearwater & puffin re-colonised
- Large Increase of lesser black-backed gull Great Ganilly & Arthurs

Gugh SSSI (including Kittern Rock)

Table 30 Numbers of breeding seabirds at Gugh SSSI 1999 to 2015

Species	1999/ 2000	2006	2015	% Change since 1999	% Change since 2006	Trend & notes
Lesser BBG	1123	875	419	-63%	-52%	Large declines
Herring gull	159	69	30	-81%	-57%	Main loss from eastern beaches
Kittiwake	155	131	0	Lost	Lost	Last nested 2010
Manx shearwater	22	9	45	+105%	+400%	Increasing
Great BBG	3	4	6	+100%	+50%	Small numbers, increasing
Fulmar	2	3	1	-50%	-67%	Kittern Rock, small numbers
Storm petrel	0	0	2	New colony	New colony	New colony – confirmed chicks
Total	1464	1090	503	-66%	-54%	Declining

- SSSI seabird notified spp: None
- SPA assemblage spp present: storm petrel, lesser black-backed gull, great black-backed gull, herring gull, Manx shearwater, fulmar
- Cleared of rat's winter 2013/14
- Storm petrels recolonised and breeding successfully along with Manx shearwaters
- Loss of gulls and kittiwakes from eastern beaches

Teaen SSSI (including Pednbrose & Old Man)

Table 31 Numbers of breeding seabirds at Teaen SSSI 1999 to 2015

Species	1999/ 2000	2006	2015	% Change since 1999	% Change since 2006	Trend & notes
GBBG	16	18	28	+75%	+56%	Increasing
Herring gull	62	51	57	-8%	+12%	Stable
LBBG	24	5	136	+467%	+2620%	Large increase
Common tern	1	0	0	Lost	Lost	Lost
Total	103	74	221	+115%	+199%	Increase in gulls – from St Helen’s?

- SSSI seabird notified spp: none
- SPA assemblage spp present: lesser black-backed gull, great black-backed gull, herring gull

White Island SSSI, St. Martin’s

Table 32 Numbers of breeding seabirds at White Island SSSI 1999 to 2015

Species	1999/ 2000	2006	2015	% Change since 1999	% Change since 2006	Trend & notes
GBBG	2	6	1	-50%	-83%	Small numbers, decreased
Herring gull	34	32	15	-56%	-53%	Decreasing
LBBG	28	187	106	+279%	-43%	Decreasing
Fulmar	5	6	8	+60%	+33%	Increasing
Total	69	231	130	+88%	-44%	Loss of gulls

- SSSI seabird notified spp: none
- SPA assemblage spp present: lesser black-backed gull, great black-backed gull, herring gull, fulmar

Shipman Head & Down SSSI, Bryher (including Hangman's Island)

Table 33 Numbers of breeding seabirds at Shipman Head SSSI 1999 to 2015/16

Species	1999/ 2000	2006	2015/16	% Change since 1999	% Change since 2006	Trend & notes
Lesser BBG	50	8	13	-74%	+63%	Declining
Great BBG	13	6	3	-77%	-50%	Declining
Common tern	1	0	0	Lost	Lost	Lost
Shag	4	4	19	+375%	+375%	Increasing
Herring gull	23	15	16	-30%	+7%	Decreasing
Manx shearwater	12	13	39	+225%	+200%	Large increase 2015
Fulmar	0	13	6	New colony	-54%	1st pair recorded here in 1987
Razorbill	0	0	2	New	New	New colony
Total	103	59	98	-5%	+66%	Loss of gulls offset by increase in shearwaters and shag

- SSSI seabird notified spp: none
- SPA assemblage spp present: Manx shearwater, lesser black-backed gull, great black-backed gull, herring gull, shag, fulmar
- New site for razorbill at Shipman Head in 2016

Castle Down SSSI, Tresco (including Gimble Porth)

Table 34 Numbers of breeding seabirds at Castle Down SSSI 1999 to 2015

Species	1999/ 2000	2006	2015	% Change since 1999	% Change since 2006	Trend & notes
Manx shearwater	0	0	46	New colony	New colony	New colony
Lesser BBG	29	4	0	Lost	Lost	Lost from G. Porth
Herring gull	74	54	0	Lost	Lost	Lost from G. Porth, last nests 2013
Kittiwake	54	37	0	Lost	Lost	Lost from G. Porth, last bred 2009
Common tern	13	0	0	Lost	Lost	Lost
Total	170	95	46	-73%	-52%	Gimble Porth abandoned

- SSSI seabird notified spp: None
- SPA assemblage spp present: Manx shearwater

Wingletang Down SSSI, St. Agnes

Table 35 Numbers of breeding seabirds at Wingletang SSSI 1999 to 2015

Species	1999/ 2000	2006	2015	% Change since 1999	% Change since 2006	Trend & notes
Herring gull	0	4	1	New colony	-75%	Small numbers
Manx shearwater	5	8	10	+50%	+25%	Increasing since rat removal 2013/14
Total	5	12	11	+120%	-8%	

- SSSI seabird notified spp: none
- SPA assemblage spp present: herring gull, Manx shearwater

Rushy Bay & Heathy Hill SSSI, Bryher

Table 36 Numbers of breeding seabirds at Rushy Bay SSSI 1999 to 2015

Species	1999/ 2000	2006	2015	% Change since 1999	% Change since 2006	Trend & notes
Herring gull	0	0	8	New colony	New colony	
LBBG	0	0	1	New colony	New colony	
Common tern	1	0	0	Lost	Lost	
Total	1	0	9	+800%	n/a	

- SSSI seabird notified spp: none
- SPA assemblage spp present: lesser black-backed gull, herring gull

Peninnis Head SSSI, St. Mary's

Table 37 Numbers of breeding seabirds at Peninnis SSSI 1999 to 2015

Species	1999/ 2000	2006	2015	% Change since 1999	% Change since 2006	Trend & notes
Manx shearwater	0	0	8	New Colony	New Colony	First recorded here 2010
Total	0	0	8	New Colony	New Colony	Manx shearwaters new colony

- SSSI seabird notified spp: none
- SPA assemblage spp present: Manx shearwater

Big Pool & Browarth SSSI, St. Agnes**Table 38 Numbers of breeding seabirds at Big Pool & Browarth SSSI 1999 to 2015**

Species	1999/ 2000	2006	2015	% Change since 1999	% Change since 2006	Trend & notes
LBBG	2	0	0	Lost	Lost	Lost
Herring gull	25	9	1	-96%	-89%	Large decline
Common tern	3	0	0	Lost	Lost	Lost
Total	30	9	1	-97%	-89%	Abandoned as breeding site

- SSSI seabird notified spp: none
- SPA assemblage spp present: herring gull

Seabirds breeding outside designations

Table 39 Rocks and islands outside designation supporting breeding seabirds in 2015

ISLAND	FUL	MX	SP	SH	LB	HG	GB	KIT	SPA?	SSSI?
Plumb Is, Tresco						2			N	N
Hedge Rock						1	1		N	N
Merrick Island, Bryher Carn of Bars					1	2	1		N	N
St. Agnes, not SSSI	4	2	6		14	8	1	75	N	N
Burnt Island, St. Agnes			11			1			N	N
Tresco, Porth Mellin						1			N	N
Tresco, Appletree Point						11			N	N
Plumb Is, St. Martin's						3			N	N
Guther's Island				7	6	20	30		N	N
Pernagie Island				4			8		N	N
Bryher, not SSSI					2	27	1		N	N
Bow, St. Agnes							1		N	N
St. Mary's not SSSI		3				15			N	N
Peninnis Head SSSI		8							N	Y
Rushy Bay & Heathy Hill SSSI					1	8			N	Y
Wingletang SSSI		10				1			N	Y
Total Pairs	4	23	17	11	24	100	43	75	Total pairs: 297	

NB: Although the majority of SSSIs are included in the SPA designated area, Wingletang Down (St. Agnes),

Peninnis Head (St. Mary's) and Rushy Bay & Heathy Hill (Bryher), all of which supported seabirds in 2015, are not.

This gives a total of 297 pairs of seabirds breeding outside the SPA of which 269 pairs are outside SSSIs.

Appendix -4

Information to aid discussion on rat clearance priorities

The map below is taken from IOS Seabird Conservation Strategy 2009-2013 which grouped islands into distinct groups with eradication aims i.e. blue maintain rat free, red rats present. Since this time St. Agnes & Gugh have been cleared and there have been substantial incursions recorded in summer 2015/16 on Samson and St. Helen's. The key species affected by rat predation are Manx shearwater and storm petrel (of which Scilly supports internationally important numbers). Other birds of particular conservation concern that can be susceptible to rat predation are common terns (85% decline in last 9 years in Scilly) and puffin (regionally important numbers in Scilly and recently UK Red Listed). In addition, Scilly holds internationally important numbers of lesser black-backed gulls and although they are not known to be particularly at risk from rats, studies have shown a negative effect on productivity.

St. Helen's

St. Helen's and therefore its satellites/ steppingstones (Norwethel, Foreman's, Peashopper, Crow and probably Tean) are important despite frequent incursions, because of the large but declining lesser black-backed gull colony and burrow nesting Manx shearwaters (which have shown positive response to rat clearance in the past) and Puffins (slight decline to 11 pairs in 2015). Also St. Helen's could act as a steppingstone to high priority islands Round and Men-a-vaur.

Annet

Is obviously still a priority, but much safer now with the clearance of St. Agnes & Gugh.

Samson

Clearly this involves a lot of work and appears to suffer incursions yearly (although possibly a few rats also survive control efforts and repopulate). However, it holds a large proportion (978 of 2485prs – 39.4%) of our lesser black-backs and they are declining. It was also the main breeding site for common terns in 2014 and 2015.

Eastern Isles

Cleared in 2007 the various eastern isles have shown mixed fortunes since the last full count in 2006. Overall numbers of breeding seabirds are up by 25% and the great news is that both Manx shearwaters and puffins have been recorded breeding here for the first time since at least the 1970s. The number of shags has declined here (but also across the whole archipelago, including the rat free Norrard & Western Rocks) and the overall increases are mostly due to the settlement of new gull colonies. No rat sign was recorded during the seabird count in 2015 although not a comprehensive check. Definitely worth tackling the 'steppingstone' islands where rats from St. Martins could cross to (Little Ganilly & Nornour closest).

Norrard & Western Rocks

The thought is that these outer rocks though vital for seabirds are not capable of supporting rats through the winters, so have really only been checked sporadically. Under the new bait derogations all bait has now been removed from these islands (some may remain Gweal?) No sign was seen on Gweal in summer 2015 though it suffers frequent incursions due to its proximity to Bryher.

Round Island

There have never been rats here and it's a deep-water channel, but if rats did get across, they could survive the winters and there are lots of seabirds to eat. So it's important to keep on the radar. No rat sign was recorded on the 2 visits as part of the seabird count in June & July 2015.

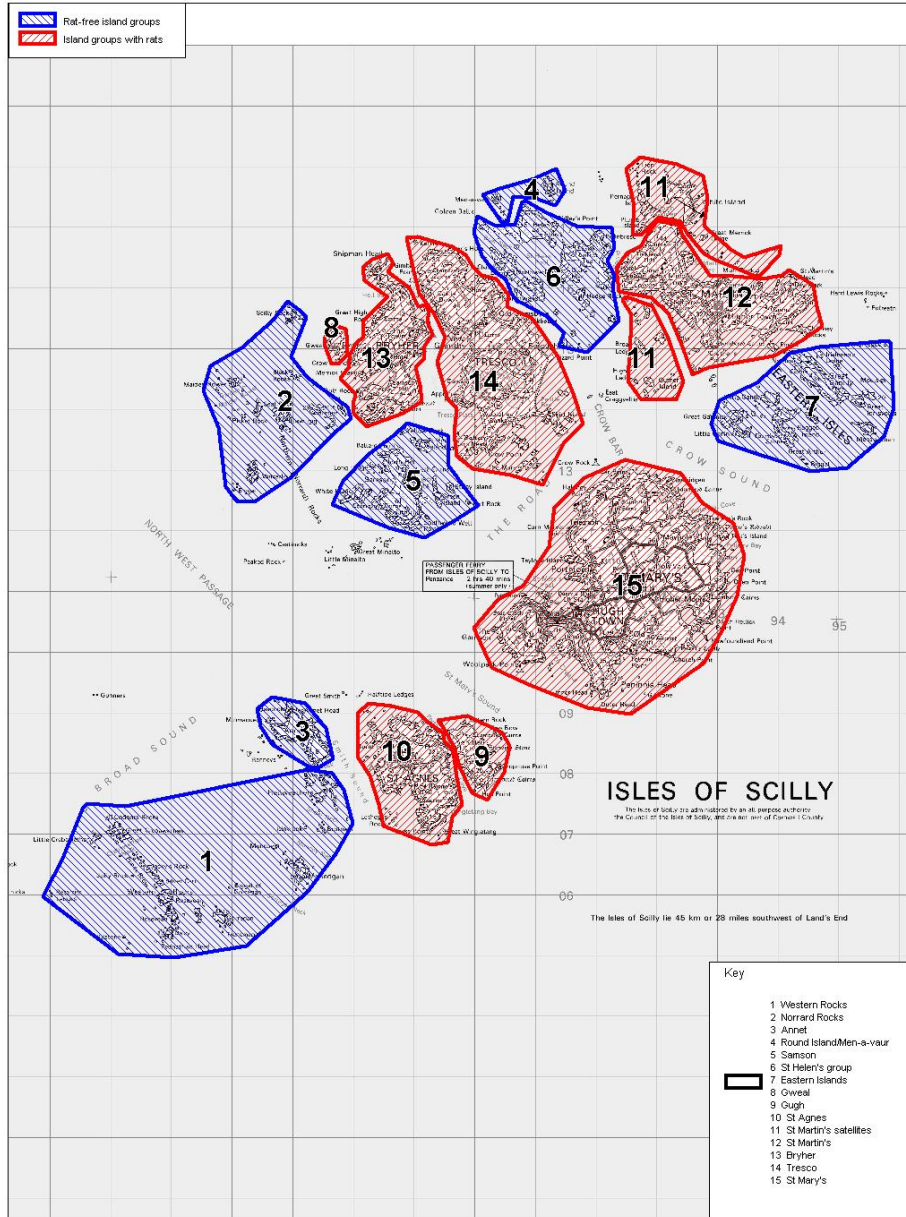
Bryher, Tresco, St. Martin's & St. Mary's

Since 2006 Manx shearwaters have been found breeding at a number of sites on the main islands of Tresco, St. Martin's and St. Mary's in addition to the known colony on Bryher. These appear to be new colonies and may be a result of recruitment of young birds from Lundy – the nearest colony to Scilly which has seen a ten-fold increase in shearwater pairs (from @300 to 3451) following rat removal there in 2002-4. These birds appear to have settled with rats present and are likely to suffer very low breeding success as a result. However, they represent over 23% of the population of shearwaters in Scilly, prompting a further look at the feasibility of clearing rats from the remaining 'off-islands' as a whole.

Map below reproduced from *Isles of Scilly Seabird Conservation Strategy 2009-2013*



Map B - Western Rocks, Norrard Rocks, Annet, Round Island/Men-a-vaur, Samson, Eastern Isles and St Helen's group as rat-free island groups



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Table 40 Rat clearance priorities by island group

ISLAND	SSSI grouping & citation	SPA Listing	Species present	2000	2006	2015 /16	Trends 2006-2015/16	History of rats	Could support?	Ease of landing	Priority?
Great/Little Arthur	Eastern Isles (not listed for seabird interest features)	Listed for birds as part of SPA seabird assemblage	5spp. 45GB HG26 LB76 SH10 FUL9	46	53	166	Up 213% (LB&HG)	Current prog, no sign since 2007	Y	Medium	
Great Ganilly			5 spp. 33SH 35GB 70LB 23HG 1MX (new) Peregrine	58	45	162	Up 260% (HG&LB)	Current prog, no sign since 2007 (has rabbits)	Y	Medium	MX
Menawethan			6spp. 43FUL 38SH 66GB 4PUF (new)	139	182	156	Down 14% (SH)	Current prog, no sign since 2007	Y	Difficult	PUF
Great Innisvouls			5spp. 60SH 45GB 13RAZ 11FUL	131	169	130	Down 23% (SH)		Y	Difficult	
Little Ganinnick			4spp. 45SH 27GB	63	58	79	Up 36% (GB)		Y	Medium	
Ragged Island			5spp 30SH 18RAZ 27GB	79	88	78	Down 11% (SH&COR lost)		Y	Difficult	
Little Innisvouls			3pp. 46SH 15GB	38	52	63	Up 21% (SH)		Y	Difficult	
Great Ganinnick			4 spp. 10SH 11GB 5COR (new)	48	49	35	Down 29% (SH&GB)		Y	Medium	
Little Ganilly			4spp. 21GB 7HG 4LB	20	27	34	Up 26% (LB&HG)	Current prog, no sign since 2007.	Y	Medium	
Nornour			2spp. 17GB	10	14	22	Up 57% (GB)	STEPPING STONES	Y	Medium	
Hanjague			2spp.	3	5	3		Unlikely	N	Difficult	

ISLAND	SSSI grouping & citation	SPA Listing	Species present	2000	2006	2015 /16	Trends 2006-2015/16	History of rats	Could support?	Ease of landing	Priority?
Annet	Annet (Listed for COT GB LB MX PF & SP)	Listed for birds as part of SPA seabird assemblage	10spp. Incl. 778SP, 229MX , 235GB 85SH 57FUL 31PUF Peregrine	2039	1638	1443	Down 12% (LB& SH) GB&MX increase	Rat free since 2004	Y	Medium	HIGH
St Helen's	St Helen's (Listed for seabird interest features FUL GUI RAZ)	Listed for birds as part of SPA seabird assemblage	7spp 36MX 448LB 30HG 11PUF 7SH 12GB	623	836	549	Down 34% (LB&HG) Lost KIT	First cleared 1994, freq incursions. Rat sign summer 2015	Y	Easy	MX PUF
Men-a-vaur			8spp. 110GUI 88RAZ 5PUF 14SP	303	264	262	No change	Not in prog but little shelter	N	Difficult	SP PUF
Tean, Old Man & Pednbrose			3spp 136LB 57HG 28GB	103	72	221	Up 207% (LB)	First cleared 2006, freq incursions STEPPING STONE	Y	Easy	
Norwethel			3spp 102LB 22HG	41	83	135	Up 63% (LB)	First cleared 1996, freq incursions STEPPING STONE	Y	Easy	
Peashopper, Foreman's & Crow's Is			3spp	14	24	15		First cleared 1996, freq incursions. Lost terns STEPPING STONE	Y	Easy	
ISLAND	SSSI grouping & citation	SPA Listing	Species present	2000	2006	2015 /16	Trends 2006-2015/16	History of rats	Could support?	Ease of landing	Priority?

Samson	Samson (Listed for seabird interest features COT)	Listed for birds as part of SPA seabird assemblage	6spp 97LB 126HG 27SH 10COT 15FUL	1309	1310	1163	Down 11% (LB&HG) Lost KIT Only Terns	First cleared 1993, annual incursions, heavy sign 2015	Y	Easy	Terns
Puffin Island			4spp 35LB 15SH 12HG 4GB	145	174	66	Down 62% (LBs)	First cleared 1994, annual incursions	Y	Medium	
White Island (Samson)			5spp 7SH 31GB 38COR	114	100	96	No change	First cleared 1995, freq. incursions	Y	Difficult	
Green Island (Samson)			0spp.	7	57	0	COT lost	Not in prog, no shelter STEPPING STONE	N	Easy	
Round Island	Pentle Bay & Round Is (Listed for seabird interest features COT SP ROS)	Listed for birds as part of SPA seabird assemblage	8spp 78MX 172SP 16SH 20GB 1PUF Peregrine?	265	342	302	Down 12% (SP&MX)	Not in prog, rat free 2013. Could support	Y	Difficult	HIGH