Monitoring Kittiwake breeding behavior on the Princess Elisabeth Energy Island

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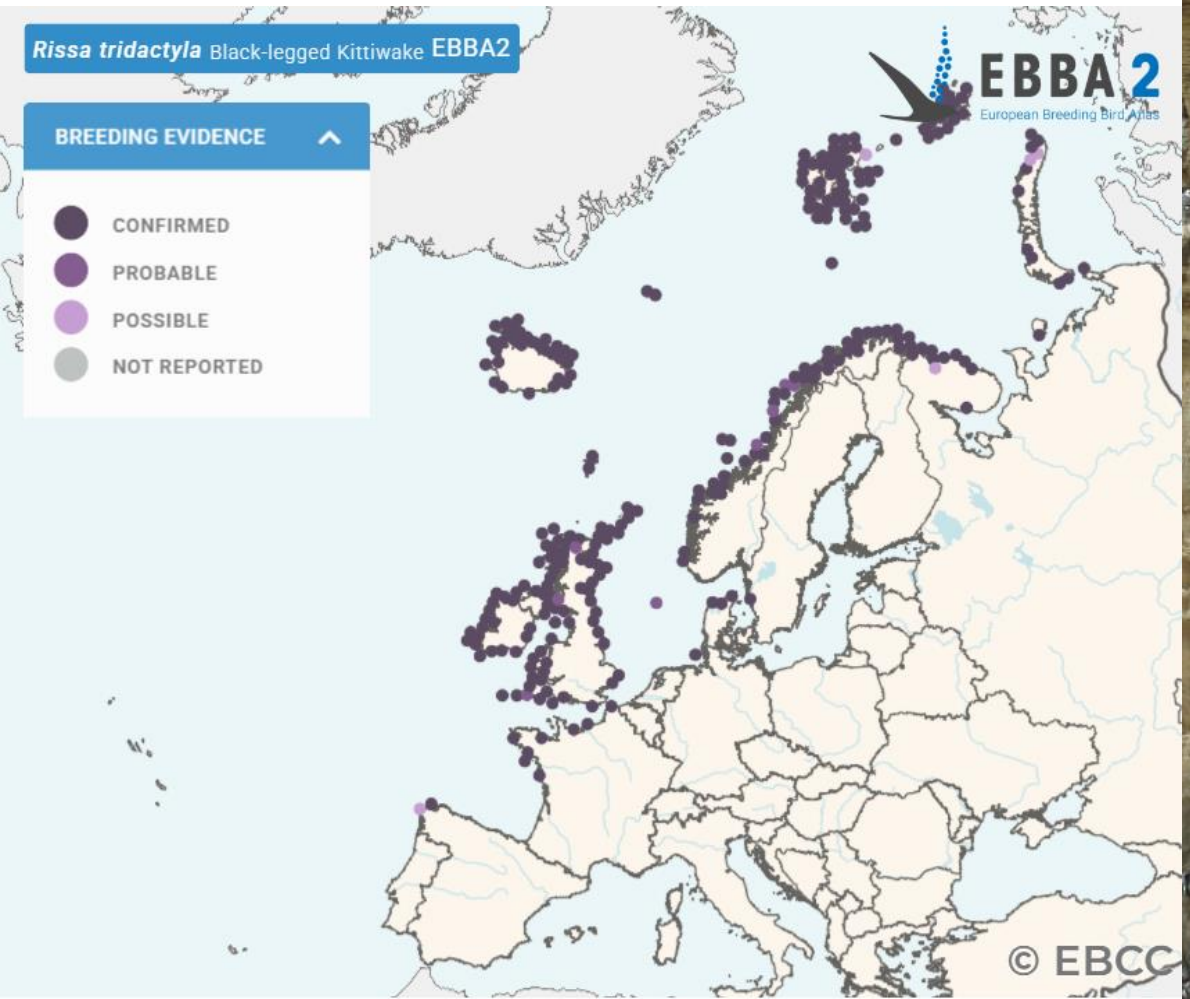
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
NATURE AND FOREST

Black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)



Black-legged kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

- Breeds on steep sea cliffs
- Nests: seaweed, vegetation, mud, excrement
- Generally lays 2 eggs mid-May
- Both parents care for chicks
- Juveniles spend 2-3 years at sea and begin breeding at 3-4 years old
- 11 to 23% of young birds return to their natal colony to breed
- High site fidelity after settling, unless breeding fails

Breeding on man-made structures

Nests can be found on rooftops, ledges and windowsills of buildings, bridges, oil and gas platforms, and even on lamppost

Often a high breeding succes, but:

- Potential conflicts with urban or industrial activities
- Can be very noisy, large amounts of droppings

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Gateshead -UK

Kiberg -Norway


Lowestoft -UK


Boulogne-sur-Mer -France

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Monitoring of the breeding behavior on the Princess Elisabeth Energy Island

Goal: to assess the impact of the NID elements on the kittiwake population

- The number of occupied nests (or number of breeding pairs)
- Breeding success (number of fledged young per nest per breeding season)

Additional knowledge gain on:

- Phenology (e.g., arrival date, egg laying date)
- Behaviour of the kittiwakes in their nest (e.g., courtship, breeding, feeding)
- Nest attendance of the adults and nesting duration of the young
- Presence of non-target species

Bird cameras and citizen science platform

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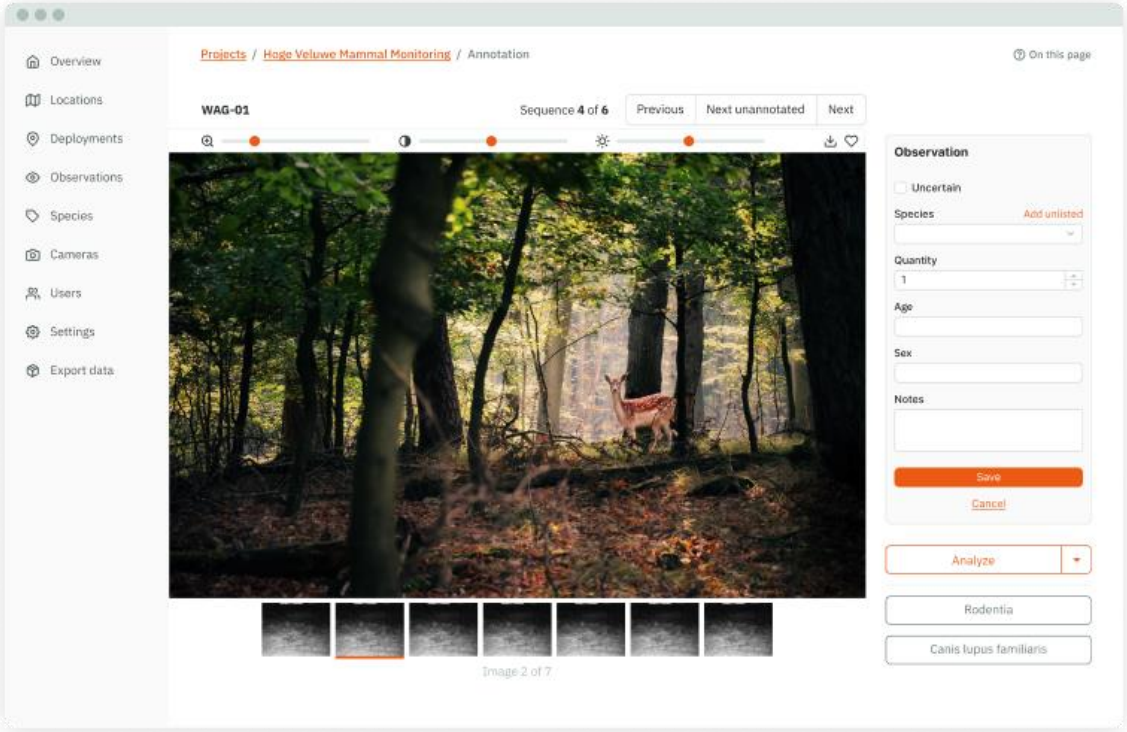
Two high-resolution PTZ cameras
- Camera 1: project partners
- Camera 2: citizen science

AGOUTI software and citizen science platform
- Allows citizens to monitor nest occupancy and nesting behaviour
- A citizen science workshop will be organized on how to use the platform

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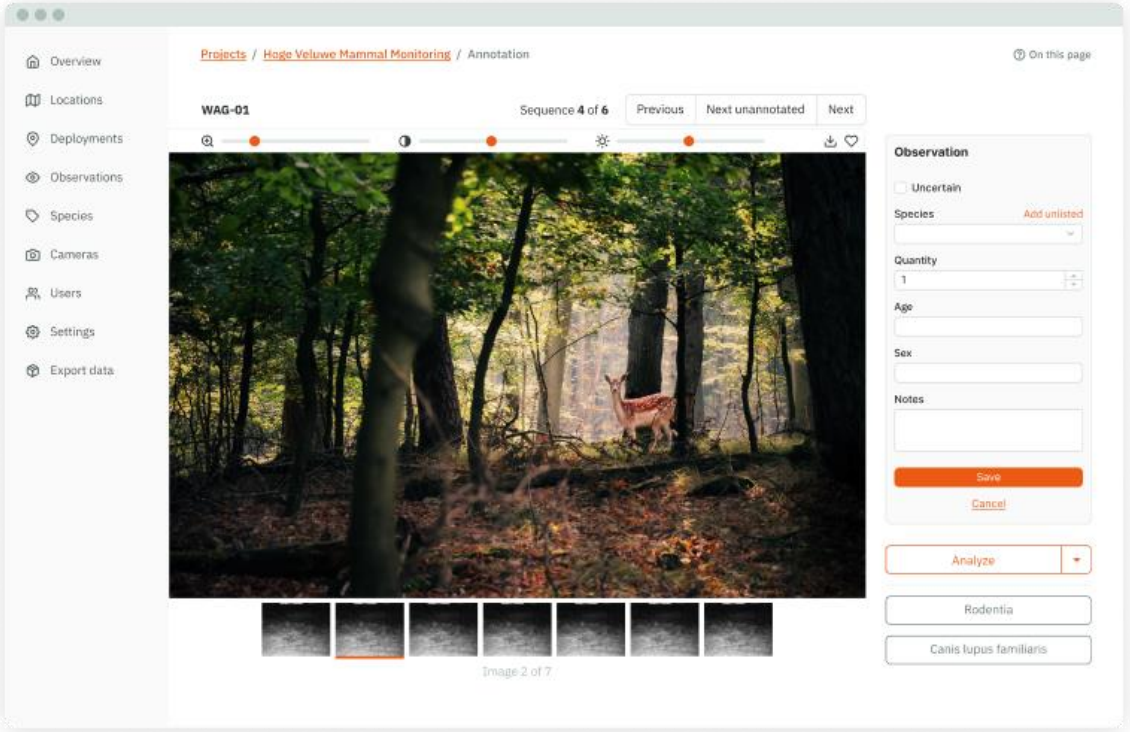

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Output: increased knowlegde on NID for birds at offshore clean energy infrastructure
- State-of-the-art and future perspectives report on NID for birds
- ‘best practices’ manual for bird monitoring in artificial offshore environments

Thank you for your attention