



Lessons from the UK's planning to consenting journey: Perspective from RSPB



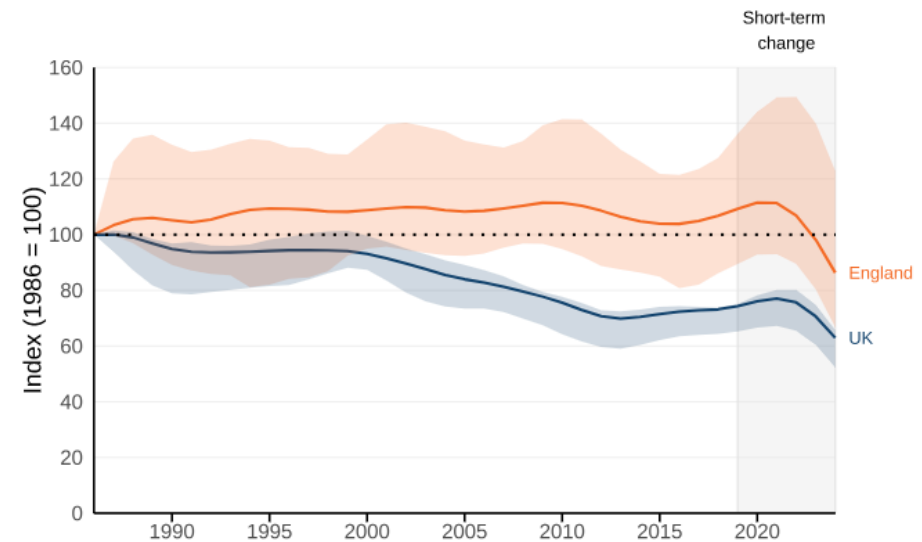
Samuel Wrobel
Senior Marine Policy Officer

Status of UK seabirds



- Failing to meet Good Environmental Status
- 62% decline across UK species
- Suffered significant impacts from HPAI
- 5 new species added to the BoCC Red list
- 37% population decline in UK seabirds since 1986
- Positive action to drive change through sandeel closure and development of four country seabird conservation strategies

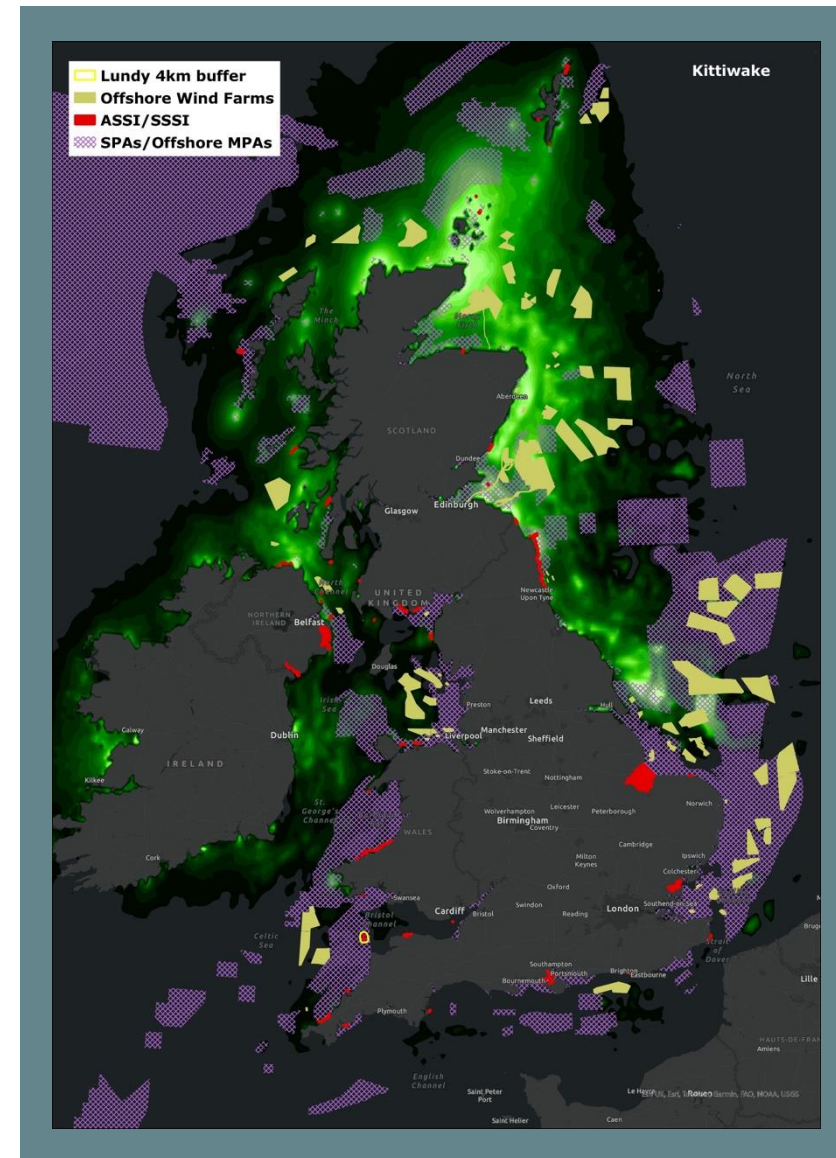
Figure 5.1: Breeding seabirds for 13 species in the UK and 11 in England, 1986 to 2024



Spatial Planning



- Protect Area network for seabirds (SPAs) doesn't cover important areas at sea
- Creates an ambiguous sea space picture
- For complete sea user clarity = SPA sufficiency review is needed
- Unlocking the future of offshore wind = capturing the needs of seabirds in future leasing
- Natural England's POSEIDON project will help finesse this



Strategic Compensation measures



- Collaboration on Offshore Wind Strategic Compensation (COWSC) Library of measures

Currently, there are 3 measures in the library:

- MPA designation and/or extension – for adverse effects on the seabed (benthic habitats)
- offshore artificial nesting structures – for adverse effects on kittiwakes
- predator reduction – for adverse effects on seabirds

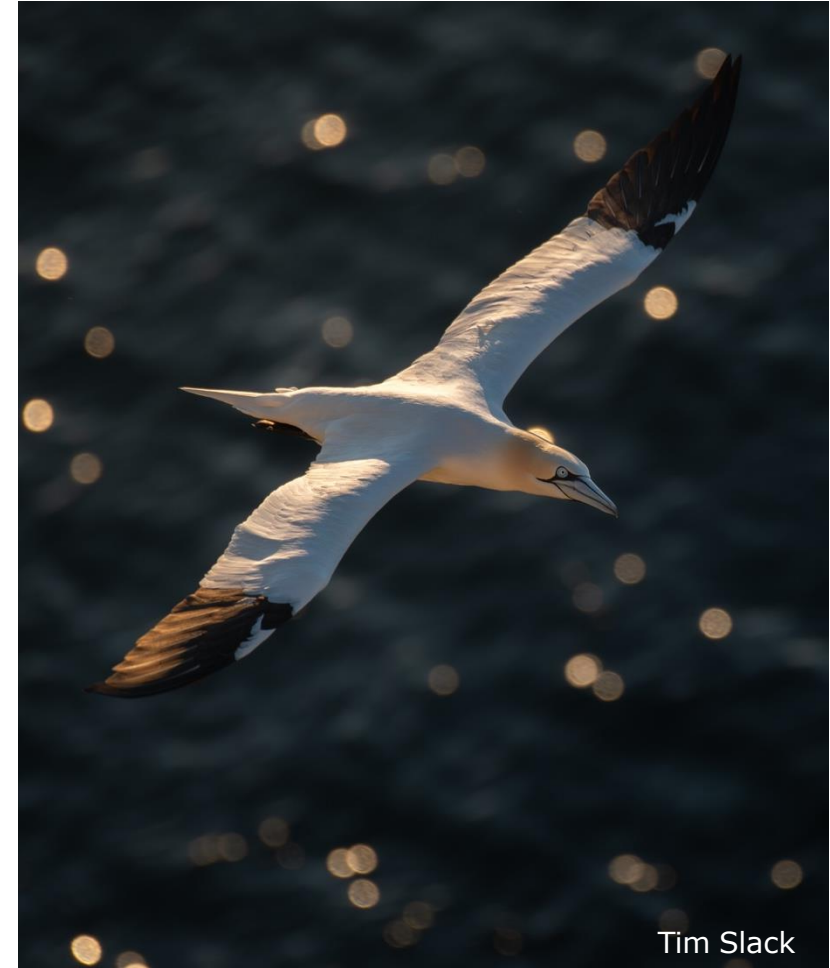
- The challenge: **How do we deliver effective measures for habitats and species, quickly, in line with demand for offshore wind deployment?**
- Combining developer ambition and innovation, alongside government level intervention to drive seabird recovery. Status quo isn't working.



2030 and beyond



- There are real challenges at play with the current pipeline that we need to unblock
- Seabird packages to go beyond individual measures for better bang for our buck
 1. ESCaRP Breeding Colony Package
 2. Bycatch Mitigation Trials
 3. Isles of Scilly Predator Reduction pilot
- Habitat Regulations Environmental Compensation reforms – opportunity and risk



Tim Slack



Thank you

Samuel Wrobel

Senior Marine Policy Officer

samuel.wrobel@rspb.org.uk

Stay connected

Keep up to date with the latest thinking, news, events, and information from the RSPB in your local community.



@RSPB



@TheRSPB



@RSPB

Head Office

RSPB The Lodge
Potton Road
Sandy
SG19 2DL

