



Arklow Bank Wind Park 2

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Volume III, Appendix 12.15: Offshore Ornithology Technical Report
- Seabird Breeding Reference Populations (RFI March 2026)



MacArthur
Green

Arklow Bank Wind Park 2

Appendix 12.15 Offshore Ornithology Technical Report

Seabird Reference Populations Used in the Assessment (RFI March 2026)

Date: 10 March 2026

Tel: 0141 342 5404

Web: www.macarthurgreen.com

Address: 93 South Woodside Road | Glasgow | G20 6NT

Document Quality Record

Version	Date	Status	Author	Reviewed by	Approved by
1.0	10/03/2026	Final External (RFI March 2026)	SLR	GoBe Consultants	Sure Partners Limited

MacArthur Green is helping to combat the climate crisis through working within a carbon negative business model. Read more at www.macarthurgreen.com.



CONTENTS

1	OFFSHORE ORNITHOLOGY TECHNICAL REPORT – SEABIRD REFERENCE POPULATIONS USED IN THE ASSESSMENT	4
---	--	---

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Kittiwake counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.	4
Table 2. Great black-backed gull counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.....	5
Table 3. Herring gull counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.	5
Table 4. Lesser black-backed gull counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.....	6
Table 5. Common tern counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.	8
Table 6. Arctic tern counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.....	8
Table 7. Guillemot counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.	8
Table 8. Razorbill counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.....	9
Table 9. Puffin counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.	10
Table 10. Manx shearwater counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.	10
Table 11. Gannet counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.....	11
Table 12. Cormorant counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.	11
Table 13. Shag counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.....	11

1 OFFSHORE ORNITHOLOGY TECHNICAL REPORT – SEABIRD REFERENCE POPULATIONS USED IN THE ASSESSMENT

1. This note provides the seabird populations (taken from the Seabird Monitoring Programme¹ and Burnell *et al.* 2023²) used to define the reference populations against which impacts have been assessed.

Table 1. Kittiwake counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.

Colony name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
Wicklow Head	2024	1702
Bray Head	2015	1746
Howth Head	2018	3546
Ireland's Eye	2015	802
Lambay Island	2015	6640
Rockabill	2021	330
Bardsey Island	2019	242
South Stack Cliffs	2021	20
Carreg Y Llam	2021	1228
Trwyn Cilan	2016	56
St Tudwal's Island East	2016	620
Maggy's Leap 1/Donnard Cove	2017	152
Maggy's Leap To Newcastle 1	2019	1160
Ynys Moelfre	2016	312
Great Saltee Island	2015	2076
Calf Of Man	2013	26
New Quay Head	2018	664
Port St Mary - Sound	2017	1106
Ramsey Island	2022	92
Great Orme	2021	1796
Little Orme	2021	648
Ardnamult	2018	52
Skomer	2022	3088
Dunmore East To Red Head	2018	802
Portally To Benlea Head	2018	200
Ramsey - Port Moorar	2017	156
Port Mona	2021	50
Helvick Head 1	2018	130
Lythe Mead To Carrick-Kee	2015	678
Mull Of Galloway	2022	188
St Margarets Island	2022	452
Big Scar	2022	104
St Bees Head	2022	1144

¹ <https://app.bto.org/seabirds/public/index.jsp>

² Burnell, D., Perkins, A.J., Newton, S.F., Bolton, M., Tierney, T.D. & Dunn, T.E., (2023). Seabirds Count: a census of breeding seabirds in Britain and Ireland (2015–2021). Lynx Nature Books, Barcelona.

Colony name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
Gobbins	2019	2290
Ram Head	2018	452
Muck Island	2019	1038
Antrim	2021	544
West Glamorgan	2018	202
Lundy	2021	568
Ailsa Craig	2021	980
Sanda Islands	2021	66
Rathlin Island	2021	27412
Old Head of Kinsale	2015	1442
North Cornwall Coast	2019	690
Total		67,692

Table 2. Great black-backed gull counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.

Colony name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
Wicklow Head	2019	2
Bray Head	2010	2
Dalkey Islands	2016	120
Ireland's Eye	2015	308
Lambay Island	2015	360
Skerries Islands	2010	190
Total		982

Table 3. Herring gull counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.

Colony name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
Wicklow Head	2024	40
Bray Head	2015	4
Howth Head Coast	2015	18
Ireland's Eye	2015	635
Dublin City South	2021	36
Howth	2021	920
Lambay Island	2015	1812
Skerries Islands	2010	20
Skerries Town	2021	498
Balbriggan Town	2021	2970
Bardsey Island	2018	834
South Stack Cliffs	2021	152
Drogheda	2021	720
Aberdaron Coast	2018	330
Total		8,989

Table 4. Lesser black-backed gull counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.

Colony Name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
Dalkey Island	2016	70
Ireland's Eye	2015	4
Lambay	2018	690
Balbriggan Town	2021	20
Bardsey Island	2019	328
South Stack Cliffs	2022	8
Drogheda	2021	48
Porth Diana	2016	12
Rhoscolyn Beacon	2016	12
Ynys Traws	2016	28
Valley Wetlands	2019	2
Bodorgan Head	2018	6
The Skerries	2022	244
St Tudwal's Island West	2016	76
St Tudwal's Island East	2016	12
Caernarfon (Urban)	2019	34
Middle Mouse	2016	6
Furness General Hospital	2019	18
Ynys Moelfre	2016	8
Craig Yr Aderyn	2018	14
Great Saltee	2018	502
Cwta Aber (Incl. Ynys Meicel & Onnen)	2018	22
Maenmelyn (Incl. Pen Brush Island)	2018	16
Cemaes Head/Poppit	2018	34
Cardigan Island	2019	646
Calf Of Man	2017	54
Pwll Deri (Incl. Ynys: Ddu, Y Dinas & Melyn)	2018	42
Bishops & Clerks Islands	2018	48
Llyn Trwsfynydd Rese	2018	158
Ceibwr2	2018	10
Ynys Barry - Trefin	2017	10
Castell Coch	2018	8
Ramsey Island (Bishop and Clerks)	2018	24
Ramsey Island RSPB	2018	200
Strangford Lough	2022	678
Carreg Yr Esgob	2018	38
Porthlysgi	2018	16
Penpleidau	2018	12
Killard Point	2022	20
Grassholm	2018	76
Goat Island	2016	1

Colony Name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
Greenscar	2018	78
Conwy	2019	2
Llandudno Town (Urban)	2019	4
Peel - Glen Mooar	2017	2
Skomer	2022	14524
Stack Rocks	2018	30
Midland Island (Middleholm)	2022	10
Skokholm	2022	1666
West Quarry	2017	6
Port Mooar - Dhoon	2017	2
Thorn Island	2017	14
Rhyl (Urban)	2019	8
Esso Jetty	2018	4
Pembroke Dock	2022	50
The Ayres Nnr, Isle Of Man (Point Of Ayre To Rue Point)	2017	2
Lighthouse Island	2019	1094
Mull Of Galloway	2015	4
Netherton Factory Roofs	2019	2
Liverpool 3 (Urban)	2019	12
St Margaret's Island	2022	94
Liverpool 1 (Urban)	2019	8
Liverpool 2 (Urban)	2019	10
Caldey Island	2022	830
Belfast City Centre	2019	442
Walney Urban Gulls	2019	22
Padian	2022	300
Phil Roe's Flat	2022	150
Tolan's Flat	2022	120
Haverigg Prison (Urban)	2019	150
South Walney	2022	1060
Park Road Ind. Est.	2019	194
Ribble Estuary	2021	8978
Hensingham	2018	46
Whitehaven Town Centre	2018	60
Rampside Gas Terminal	2022	300
Black Loch 1	2021	4
Fleetwood Town	2019	18
Askam-In-Furness (Urban)	2019	76
West Wall To W&SW Of Weston Point	2022	100
Mossbay (Urban)	2019	14
Little Ross	2018	8
Islands Of Fleet	2018	16

Colony Name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
Chapel Island	2018	44
Hodbarrow	2022	4
Total		34,817

Table 5. Common tern counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.

Colony name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
Dalkey Island	2017	30
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary	2016	988
Total		1,018

Table 6. Arctic tern counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.

Colony name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
Dalkey Island	2017	2
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary	2016	18
Ireland's Eye	2015	2
Total		22

Table 7. Guillemot counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.

Colony name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
Wicklow Head	2024	931
Bray Head	2015	1413
Howth Head	2015	871
Ireland's Eye	2015	4410
Lambay	2015	59983
Bardsey Island	2019	2826
Maen Du (Aberdaron Coast Not In SPA)	2016	40
Braich Anelog (Aberdaron Coast Not In SPA)	2016	10
Lleyn Peninsula (Inc. St Tudwalls Island And Trwyn Cilan, Excluding Carreg Y Llam)	2016	3295
South Stack Cliffs	2021	7592
Ynysoedd Gwylan	2019	162
Carreg Y Llam	2021	13914
Middle Mouse	2016	5550
Great Saltee Island	2015	25851
Calf Of Man	2017	124
Bishop And Clerks Islands	2018	48
Port St Mary - Sound	2017	3961
Puffin Island	2022	4200
Ramsey Island	2021	5395
Cardigan Coast	2018	8666

Colony name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
Great Orme	2022	1029
Little Orme	2022	2322
Skomer	2022	22058
Midland Isle	2022	455
Total		175,106

Table 8. Razorbill counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.

Colony name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
Wicklow Head	2024	517
Bray Head	2010	150
Howth Head	2015	279
Ireland's Eye	2015	1600
Lambay	2015	7353
Bardsey Island	2019	3834
Maen Du	2016	65
Braich Anelog (Aberdaron Coast Not In Spa)	2016	25
Gogarth	2016	18
Lleyn Peninsula (Inc. St Tudwalls Island And Trwyn Cilan, Excluding Carreg Y Llam)	2016	292
Abraham's Bosom	2016	83
South Stack Cliffs	2021	1378
Ynsoedd Gwylan (Fawr And Bach Total)	2019	13
Carreg Y Llam	2021	438
The Skerries	2017	3
Middle Mouse	2016	455
Point Lynas	2016	9
Little Saltee	2015	850
Great Saltee Island	2015	5669
Calf Of Man	2017	108
Sound - Port Erin	2017	14
Port St Mary - Sound	2017	293
Bradda - Fleshwick	2017	27
Fleshwick - Stroin Vuigh	2017	3
Port Soderick - Port Grenaugh	2017	44
Great Orme	2022	254
Marine Drive (Isle of Man)	2017	56
Little Orme	2022	40
Ardnamult	2018	5
Total		23,875

Table 9. Puffin counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.

Colony name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
Ireland's Eye	2016	12
Lambay	2015	288
Bardsey Island	2019	282
South Stack Cliffs	2022	10
Ynysoedd Gwylan (Fawr And Bach Total)	2019	1238
The Skerries	2023	584
Saltee Islands	2016/21	1638
Ramsey Island	2021	55
Skomer	2022	36074
Midland Island	2022	262
Skokholm	2023	12192
Copeland Islands	2019	212
St Bees Head	2022	2
Gobbins	2019	54
Lundy Island	2021	1335
Total		54,238

Table 10. Manx shearwater counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.

Colony name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
Bardsey Island	2001	16183
Calf of Man	2014	848
Connemara Islands	2001	6572
Copeland Islands	2007	9700
Eigg	1999	500
Great Blasket Island	2001	7168
Great Saltee Island	2002	300
Great Skellig	2001	1476
Inishnabro	2000	11222
Inishshark	2001	102
Inishtooskert	2000	19392
Inishvickillane	2001	1286
Little Saltee	2001	200
Lundy	2017	11008
Midland Island	2018	33096
Puffin Island (Kerry)	2000	12658
Ramsey Island	2022	12450
Sanda Islands	2006	600
Scariff Island	2000	3920
Skokholm	2018	177890
Skomer	2018	699326

Colony name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
St Kilda	1999	9606
Treshnish Isles	2018	3984
Ailsa Craig SPA	2018	40
Isles Of Scilly	2015/22	1454
High Island	2015	1636
Deenish Island	2000	702
Rum	2001	240000
Total		1,283,319

Table 11. Gannet counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.

Colony name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
Ireland's Eye	2015	700
Lambay	2015	1852
Middle Mouse	2022	42
Great Saltee Island	2013/14	9444
Grassholm	2015	72022
Scar Rocks	2014	4,752
Garvan Isles	2016	60
Ailsa Craig	2014	66452
Bull Rock	2014	12776
Little Skellig	2014	70588
Berneray	2021	30
Total		238,718

Table 12. Cormorant counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.

Colony name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
Bray Head	2010	124
Total		124

Table 13. Shag counts at colonies with potential connectivity to ABWP2.

Colony name	Count date	Count (breeding individuals)
Wicklow Head	2024	104
Bray head	2015	30
Total		128