

Alderney West Coast and Burhou Islands Ramsar Site Strategy

2017 - 2021

Alderney Ramsar Strategy 3 (ARS3)

Compiled by : Filip Wieckowski and Abigail Ferrar - AWT Ramsar Officer - Sept. 2016

Reviewed by : Roland Gauvain, Lindsay Pyne, Dr Mel Broadhurst and Charles Michel

Alderney Wildlife Trust
48 Victoria Street
Alderney, GY9 3TA
Channel Islands

ramsar@alderneywildlife.org
www.alderneywildlife.org

Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Strategic Aims.....	4
3. Strategic Objectives.....	4
3.1 Communication and outreach.....	4
3.1.1 Public awareness.....	4
3.1.2 Channel Islands Ramsar Group.....	5
3.2 Education and LIVE.....	5
3.2.1 Wider audience.....	5
3.2.2 St. Anne’s School.....	5
3.2.3 Channel Island Curriculum.....	5
3.2.4 Guernsey schools.....	5
3.2.5 Jersey schools.....	5
3.3 Advisory and legislative.....	6
3.3.1 Alderney Conservation Act.....	6
3.3.2 Bird Protection Law.....	6
3.3.3 Closed season signage.....	6
3.3.4 Ramsar Site Stakeholder Group.....	7
3.4 Marine.....	7
3.4.1 Annual review of baseline data.....	7
3.5 Shorebirds.....	7
3.5.1 WeBS volunteers.....	7
3.5.2 Beach signage.....	7
3.5.3 Ringed plover.....	8
3.6 Seabirds.....	8
3.6.1 Population monitoring.....	8
3.6.2 Houmet de Pies.....	8
3.6.3 Drone monitoring.....	8
3.6.4 Tern Protection Officers.....	8
3.6.5 T.A.G.....	9
3.7 Terrestrial.....	9
3.7.1 Small mammal monitoring.....	9
3.7.2 Footpath construction.....	9
3.7.3 Habitat Management.....	9
3.8 French connections.....	9
3.8.1 Groupe Ornithologique Normand.....	9
3.8.2 Chausey.....	10
3.8.3 Agence des Aires Marine Protégées.....	10
3.9 Research.....	10
3.9.1 MSc projects.....	10
3.9.2 PhD projects.....	10
4. Strategic Review and Application	10
4.1 Methodologies	11
4.2 Annual Review	11
4.3 Ramsar Steering Group	11
4.4 Resources	12
5. Appendices.....	12
5.1 Seabird works plan.....	12
5.2 Marine works plan.....	13
5.3 Methodologies.....	15
5.4 Financial.....	21
5.5 Consultation.....	23

1. Introduction

This document is the third Alderney West Coast and Burhou Islands Ramsar Site Management Strategy (ARS3). It is the third five-year strategy for the Site.

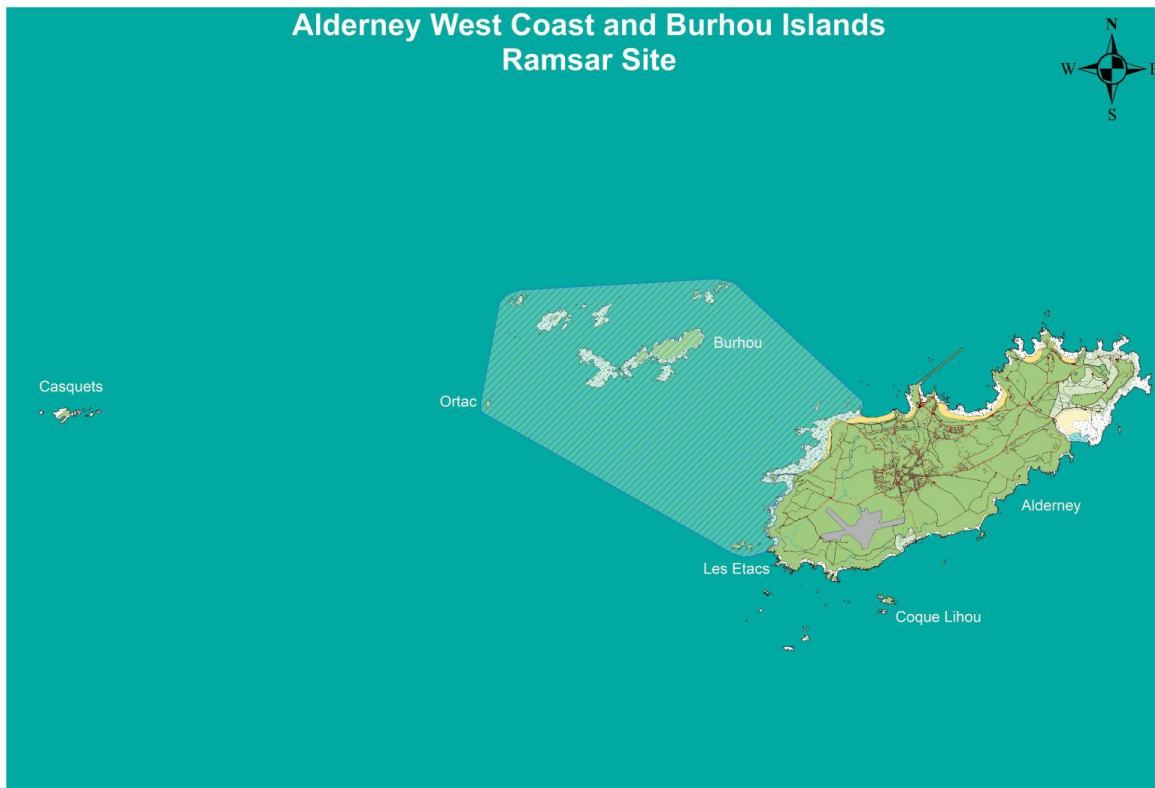


Figure 1. Shows the Ramsar Site boundary in relation to Alderney and all other surrounding islets.

On 25th August 2005, the Alderney West Coast and Burhou Islands Ramsar Site was designated and gained global recognition as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. The Ramsar Convention requires the *'national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources'*.

In 2006 on behalf of the States of Alderney (SoA), the General Services Committee (GSC) requested the support of the Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT) in the preparation of a management strategy. This is required under the commitments of the Ramsar Convention.

The Strategic Goals of ARS1 were;

- To maintain and enhance species populations and marine habitats of the Ramsar Site.
- To achieve the sustainable use of the Ramsar Site and surrounding waters to protect the Site for current and future generations.
- To develop environmental legislation in the form of an Alderney Wildlife Act which will allow for the creation of marine and terrestrial protected areas.

The Strategic Aims of ARS2 were;

- To facilitate a greater understanding of the ecological status of the Ramsar Site by establishing an environmental baseline for both the marine and terrestrial environments within the site.
- To maintain and where appropriate enhance species populations and marine habitats of the Ramsar Site.
- Develop environmental legislation for Alderney which can be used to help ensure the sustainable use of the Ramsar Site and surrounding waters and protect the site for current and future generations.

The Ramsar Site five-year management strategy and annual action plans are prepared by the AWT on behalf of the SoA. The strategy and plans are approved by the Ramsar Steering Group (see section 4.3) before being approved by the GSC on behalf of the SoA.

In the past Alderney, has suffered a large seabird wreck and a PIB spill; these two disasters naturally necessitated a reallocation of resource. It is important to note that unforeseen events could well affect priorities and work programs are flexible to account for this.

2. Strategic Aims

- For the majority of the island population to view the Ramsar Site designation as facilitating the positive management of the islands resources.
- To work with the other Ramsar sites to develop a steering group in order to unify the Channel Islands through development of a Channel Islands Ramsar Group.
- To maintain long term datasets relating to the biodiversity of the Ramsar Site.

3. Strategic Objectives

3.1 Communications and outreach

3.1.1 Public awareness

Through a public outreach programme the Ramsar Site will be seen as the valuable resource that it is, rather than as an area managed solely for the benefit of wildlife. Strategic communications and events will spread understanding of and passion for, the natural resources of the Site.

**Considering the proposed marine management forum by Steve Fletcher liaison and integration between the two projects will ensure streamlined and focused outreach opportunities. It is likely that the AWT Ramsar communication work will be extensions to the works done by the marine management forum in 2017 with a more focused campaign in 2018.*

Measure: online and street survey aimed at residents and visitors in 2017, replicated in 2021 to gain understanding of public opinion.

3.1.2 Channel Islands Ramsar Group

All five of the inhabited Channel Islands have at least one Ramsar Site; development of a Channel Islands Ramsar Group, through each of the Islands steering groups, will help to unify the Channel Islands. Though the Ramsar Convention cannot formally recognise this due to issues of scale, there is still much to be gained in terms of sharing data and best practice as well as strengthening our geographical ties and protecting our shared species.

Measure: annual meeting and newsletter established by 2019.

3.2 Education and LIVE

3.2.1 Wider audience

Use LIVE to communicate with a wider audience, particularly other marine users; consider streaming the web-cams in the Harbour Office, Sailing Club, and Alderney Angling. Investigate options for hosting Puffin Cam on the Visit Alderney website during the peak breeding season.

Measure: to have a minimum of two screens in major public spaces, in place and streaming LIVE cameras during the season and stock footage out of season, by 2019.

3.2.2 St Anne's School

Focus work at St Anne's School with regular contact, above and beyond the core education program of LIVE. The AWT's People and Wildlife Officer will ideally make a weekly visit, with a minimum of four visits per term. The People and Wildlife Officer should lead outdoor activities and classroom sessions in the junior school.

Measure: database compiling annual school visits/activities, with a trend of growth through the first two years and maintained effort thereafter.

3.2.3 Channel Island curriculum

Phase out outreach to UK schools due to increased access to similar, free resources within their local area and a change to the Channel Islands curriculum; as we are a Channel Island it is appropriate that our education programme be tailored to Channel Island schools and we do not have the resource or the interest from the UK to warrant two separate programmes.

Measure: have the LIVE programme approved by the headmaster of St Anne's School and Guernsey Board of Education by 2018.

3.2.4 Guernsey schools

Focus LIVE efforts within the Bailiwick of Guernsey, investigate links with La Société Guernesiaise.

Measure: achieve sign-ups from 75% of Guernsey schools by 2019, with maintained contact thereafter.

3.2.5 Jersey schools

Investigate similar links with Jersey. Liaise with Jersey as there may well be similar education programmes already in place, run by the National Trust.

Measure: develop contacts with the relevant Jersey bodies, ideally through the mechanism of the Channel Islands Ramsar Group (3.2.1), with regular annual cross island working achieved.

3.3 Advisory and legislative

3.3.1 Alderney Conservation Act (ACA)

The Alderney Conservation Law (ACL), through which the SoA will be able to enact any protections they deem necessary for the maintenance of the Island's Ramsar site, will ideally be written under ARS3. It will have an emphasis on Alderney's territorial waters and the appropriate use thereof, but will also cover the island's terrestrial habitats and offshore islets. This process will begin in 2018, *after* Steve Fletcher's Marine Management Forum is completed. Any protections deemed necessary will be followed with the advice from this group.

Measure: ACA drafted by 2020.

3.3.2 Bird Protection Law

As agreed with the GSC in 2014 the Bird Protection Law (BPL) must be reviewed to include legal implications for disturbance to breeding sites. This work will be carried out through close liaison with the Alderney Bird Observatory (ABO) and its steering group as well as the Conservation Officer.

Measure: BPL in place by 2019.

3.3.3 Closed season signage

Closed season signage, which has over time fallen out of use, is to be installed through liaison with the SoA at the main landing points on Burhou in the winter of 2016/17. The AWT will work with the States Works Department (SWD) to permanently install signs stating that no one may land on Burhou between 15th March and 31st July and that anyone landing during the open season must make themselves aware of the State Code of Conduct.

Measure: signs in place by 20th February 2017, checked annually and replaced/maintained as necessary.

3.3.4 Ramsar Site Stakeholder Group

A Ramsar Site Stakeholder Group will be formed to recognise and liaise with other Site users. This will include the Harbour Office, Alderney Shipping, fishermen, boat users and representatives from other user groups and the resident population (dog-walkers using Clonque Bay etc.) **other stakeholders may be suggested by the SoA or Alderney's Marine Management Forum*

- In 2018 there will be a public consultation inviting members of the public concerned with the Ramsar Site management to air their views relating to the Site and have their questions answered by the Ramsar Officer, the Trust Manager, the Marine Ecologist, and other relevant parties (these will ideally include representatives from the SoA, Harbour Office, Alderney Shipping, Guernsey Sea Fisheries).
- Following this consultation, the Ramsar Steering Group will highlight key stakeholders and approach them, inviting them to form the Ramsar Site Stakeholder Group, to represent other islanders in responding to changes in management strategy etc.

Measure: annual Ramsar Site Stakeholder Group meeting.

3.4 Marine

3.4.1 Annual review of baseline data

Baseline marine data should be reviewed annually to ensure work streams are relevant and up to date, in line with Alderney's Living Seas Programme.

Measure: Ramsar section to feature in Alderney Living Seas' annual action plans.

3.5 Shorebirds

3.5.1 WeBS volunteers

Establish a key group of local volunteers working through the AWT to undertake monthly Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) counts for the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), providing training where necessary. These could be the same individuals as the Tern Protection Officer(s) (see 3.6.4 below).

Measure: monthly WeBS figures submitted to the BTO and to the AWT's Ramsar databases.

3.5.2 Beach signage

Signage relating to breeding waders on Alderney's beaches will be installed each year, along with exclusion zones as and where necessary. The content of the signs will be reviewed annually and updated if appropriate. Regular radio interviews and short articles in the Journal and Alderney Press will further communicate those areas which are important for breeding waders.

Measure: signs erected each spring and \geq three radio slots and press articles published each season.

3.5.3 Ringed plover

Ringed plover is classified as vulnerable in France, and limited monitoring has been carried out on Alderney to date. Investigate working with French stakeholders for a focused monitoring effort, potentially hosting French ornithologists for the monitoring season. This will help to build connections with experts in France (see 3.8 below) while also building a better picture of our population.

Measure: review possibility of collaborative project in 2019.

3.6 Seabirds

3.6.1 Population monitoring

All Alderney's seabird populations (excepting the Atlantic puffin) shall be monitored on a five-year rotation to make best use of available resources while maintaining datasets.

Measure: AWT to review seabird data annually.

3.6.2 Houmet de Pies

Trail camera(s) to be installed *before the terns return* on Houmet de Pies to greater understand the Common tern colony. Small mammal monitoring (using Longworth traps) will be carried out to understand presence/absence. If appropriate an eradication programme should be considered through liaison with the SWD.

Measure: camera footage to be reviewed and mall mammal presence/absence to be determined in winter 2017.

3.6.3 Drone monitoring

Investigate the use of drone photography on Burhou to minimise disturbance to the seabird colonies and to combat access issues to its surrounding islets (Renonquet/Nannals/Little Burhou). This will be done in accordance with the guidelines published by Guernsey Airport and the Director of Civil Aviation (DCA).

Measure: review possibilities in spring 2017.

3.6.4 Tern Protection Officers

Recruit local volunteer Tern Protection Officer(s) to engage with the wider public on disturbance issues. These could be the same as the WeBS surveyors (see 3.5.1 above).

Measure: liaise with Tern Protection Officers as to the successes and shortcomings of their operations and review as necessary in winter 2017.

3.6.5 T.A.G

Continuation of T.A.G (Track a Gannet) to gain further understanding of the gannets foraging areas to be able to protect those areas from development. Investigate further fundraising and outreach opportunities in line with 3.1.1.

Measure: AWT to review T.A.G data annually.

3.7 Terrestrial

3.7.1 Small mammal monitoring

Annual small mammal monitoring is to be carried out on Burhou (and Houmet de Pies, see above) to minimise possible impacts on Alderney's seabird populations. This will be done using Longworth traps, trail cameras and chew sticks.

Measure: AWT to review small mammal presence/absence annually and review the effort after the 2019 season.

3.7.2 Footpath construction

Consider footpath construction (subject to planning permission from the GSC) on Burhou to minimise disturbance to seabird colonies, particularly European Storm-petrel which are late breeders and may very well be nesting in the shingle beaches. This should only be done through collaboration with the SWD and must be done in the winter. Investigate using a roller to flatten paths without causing further impacts.

Measure: path network to be created and subsequently maintained allowing access from landing points to hut and main fishing locations.

3.7.3 Habitat Management

Trips to Burhou for habitat management, inclusive of bracken and bramble control in areas adjacent to nesting colonies (work to be carried out before and after breeding season).

Ensuring existing pathways are maintained.

Pre and post season checks for invasive species, such as Hottentot Fig, and should invasive species be identified their subsequent control

Measure: minimum of 2 annual check visits. Where controls are deemed necessary confirmation that the measures identified in the annual action plans have been delivered.

3.8 French connections

3.8.1 Groupe Ornithologique Normand

The Ramsar Site's relationship with the Groupe Ornithologique Normand (GONm) should be formalised. The possible Ringed plover study (3.5.3) could help to orchestrate this.

Measure: AWT to review contact with GONm annually.

3.8.2 Chausey

Twin Alderney's Ramsar Site with Iles de Chausey, an internationally recognised site in Normandy.

Measure: twinning to succeed by 2020.

3.8.3 Agence des Aires Marines Protégées

Continue building relations with Agence des Aires Marines Protégées (AAMP) to further build on the relationship between France and Alderney.

Measure: AWT to review contact with AAMP annually.

3.9 Research

3.9.1 MSc projects

Ongoing MSc research projects will be conducted relating to Alderney's seabirds and marine species.

Measure: AWT to review university links and to submit project proposals every two years.

3.9.2 PhD projects

If adequate funding is secured a PhD (not an MSc) could be considered on a translocation programme for the Common tern colony. Detailed monitoring must be carried out prior to the move; a suitable new location must be found (consider Hanging Rock or an offshore islet) which is viewable for continued monitoring; the project may only go ahead if subsequent ongoing monitoring is feasible based on finances and man power.

If funding is secured a PhD (not an MSc) could be considered on an artificial burrow/nest box project for the Atlantic puffin colony. If the artificial burrows are used this would enable reliable (though biased) productivity data to be gathered for the colony. It would also open up opportunities for nest box web cams. Similar to the tern project, this must only be considered if adequate resource is secured for ongoing monitoring.

Measure: At least one PhD is to begin within ARS3.

4. Strategy use and application

This strategy covers the five-year period from 2017 to 2021 and has been prepared by the AWT on behalf of the SoA, to meet the requirements of the Ramsar Convention to which they became signatories in 2005. In undertaking the drafting and subsequent delivery of this strategy AWT is acting as an agent on behalf of the SoA, specifically its GSC.

A Public consultation will be run prior to the plan's publication and all relevant comments received from both stakeholders, and the general public, will be considered and integrated into the strategy. A clearly described comments section will be appended to the strategy so that the GSC can review the comments received from the public consultation and how they have been integrated into the final document.

After the public consultation, the SoA, through the GSC will consider the final draft of the West Coast of Alderney and Burhou Island's Ramsar Site, Management Strategy 2017-21 for approval and implementation, prior to work commencing in 2017.

4.1. Methodologies

This strategy recognises the different elements of research required by its objectives in appendix 5.1 and 5.2. Prior to commencement of any research a clearly defined methodology must have been completed and approved by the Ramsar Steering Group and appended to this strategy to prevent project drift (refer to appendix 5.3).

The aims and objectives of the strategy will be reviewed annually by the AWT staff and specific ANNUAL ACTION PLANS prepared for consideration and approval by the GSC. These action plans will describe:

- The aims and objectives to be met from those described in ARS3
- The annual programme of works
- The methodologies in use, ensuring they match those that have been appended to ARS3, and where new areas of research are to be undertaken ensure that the Ramsar Steering Group have approved methodologies
- The resources required

The annual plans will be reviewed towards the end of each year and the results of the work for that year presented to GSC in an annual review, alongside the following year's annual plan.

In the final year of the 5-year cycle the work of the previous 5 years as a whole will be reviewed and the results presented to the GSC, alongside outline proposals for the new 5 year management plan for the reserve.

4.3 Ramsar Steering Group (RSG)

The RSG was established in 2006 to support the AWT and SoA in the effort to create ARS1. This group is made up of both interested parties (staff of the AWT and ABO), and independent experts (i.e. RSPB). The RSG have been involved in developing and reviewing ARS3 as well as meeting annual to review each year's work against both the ARS and the

annual Action Plan, as well as contributing to the drafting of the subsequent years action plan. During year 1 of ARS3 the RSG will be asked to draft a terms of reference for approval by GSC which will be incorporated into all future ARS.

4.4 Resources

The AWT is committed support the SoA in its designation and management of the Alderney West Coast and Burhou Island's Ramsar site. However, as a charity with limited income and staffed largely by volunteers, and with the SoA's Ramsar Budget being limited to costs of materials and limited services, it is important to recognise that much of the delivery of ARS3 is dependent on project-by-project fundraising, or the AWT's limited capital reserves.

Therefore, AWT and the SoA recognise that the delivery of ARS3 is subject to these constraints and that subsequently certain objectives contained with ARS3 may not be achievable. Further they recognise that the AWT has the authority to use the approved SoA resources as it feels appropriate to best meet these limitations whilst endeavouring to meet the objectives of this strategy.

5. Appendices

5.1 Seabird work plan

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Annual	Gannet productivity	Gannet productivity	Gannet productivity	Gannet productivity	Gannet productivity
Annual	Gannet ringing	Gannet ringing	Gannet ringing	Gannet ringing	Gannet ringing
Annual	Fulmar productivity	Fulmar productivity	Fulmar productivity	Fulmar productivity	Fulmar productivity
Annual	Puffin raft counts (2)	Puffin raft counts (2)	Puffin raft counts (2)	Puffin raft counts (2)	Puffin raft counts (2)
Annual	Puffin burrow check	Puffin burrow check	Puffin burrow check	Puffin burrow check	Puffin burrow check
Annual	Puffin ringing	Puffin ringing	Puffin ringing	Puffin ringing	Puffin ringing
Annual	Gull ringing	Gull ringing	Gull ringing	Gull ringing	Gull ringing
Annual	Storm-Petrel ringing	Storm-Petrel ringing	Storm-Petrel ringing	Storm-Petrel ringing	Storm-Petrel ringing
Rotational	Coque Lihou population count	South cliffs boat survey	Burhou islets boat survey	Gannet population count	Gull population count

5.2 Marine work plan

Marine feature	Description	Method	Location	Year
Intertidal	a) Intertidal desk-based review	Review all intertidal survey methods, results and activities within the Ramsar Site	Entire Ramsar Site	2017, 2019, 2021
	b) Habitat mapping	Follows JNCC Procedural Guideline 1-1 Intertidal Resource Mapping using Aerial Photographs	Clonque Bay Hannaine Bay Burhou	2017 2019 2021
	c) Phase II species monitoring	Follows JNCC Procedural Guideline 3-11 Littoral Monitoring using Fixed Quadrat Photography	Clonque Bay Hannaine Bay Burhou	2017 2018 2020
	d) Strandline survey	Assess strandline presence, size and composition (dead, live and litter content)	Clonque Bay, Hannaine Bay, Burhou	Annual
	e) Green ormer (<i>Haliotis tuberculata</i>) population assessment	Assess ormer presence, shell size and quality in April and October, in conjunction with La Societe Guernesiaise.	Clonque Bay	Annual
	f) Capturing our Coast citizen science project (this project includes general quantitative information of intertidal species and invasive species).	Follows Capturing our Coast survey methods	Clonque Bay	Annual
Benthic	a) Benthic desk-based review	Review all benthic survey methods, results and activities within the Ramsar Site	Entire Ramsar Site	2018, 2020
	b) Support Seasearch surveys	Liaise with and support regional Seasearch group to conduct scuba diving ecological surveys	Entire Ramsar Site (as recommended within the Benthic desk-based review)	2017, 2019, 2021

	c) Eelgrass (<i>Zostera marina</i>) survey	Video habitat and species presence assessment of eelgrass (using snorkel and video techniques)	Selected sites within Ramsar Site (based on substrate type)	Annual
Pelagic	a) Pelagic desk-based review	Review all pelagic survey methods, results and activities within the Ramsar Site	Entire Ramsar Site	2018, 2020
	b) Water quality sampling	Monthly sampling of key seawater parameters from March – October (parameters TBC due to funding availability)	Platte Saline, Clonque Bay, Hannaine Bay	Annual
Marine Mammals	a) Marine mammal desk-based review	Review all marine mammal survey methods, results and activities within the Ramsar Site	Entire Ramsar Site	2017, 2019, 2021
	b) Grey seal population dynamics study	Follows JNCC grey seal survey methods. To be completed during grey seal breeding season: August – October	Offshore islets of known breeding locations	Annual
	c) Effort based land/boat surveys.	Follows SWF survey methods. To be completed April – October	Entire Ramsar Site	Annual
Marine management activities	Support marine management activities i.e. government or community led marine management plans within the territorial waters of Alderney	Support the community led marine management group and management plan, where required	Entire Ramsar SiteS	Annual
Research	Support and lead marine based academic projects within the Ramsar Site	Develop MSc projects with York University. Support other interested universities, where required	Entire Ramsar Site	Annual

5.3 Methodologies

5.3.4 Seabird Monitoring

Atlantic Puffin (Fratercula artctica)

Burhou is open to visitors from 1st August through to 15th March every year (these dates may alter due to puffin's leaving later than expected). The Harbour Office instructs all visitors to the island to avoid areas marked with white painted stakes as these mark the entrances to the rabbit warren, where the puffins nest each year. If the colonies are trampled too much there is a risk that the warren will collapse.

Over the winter the puffin colonies must be prepared for the breeding season. Any rotten or fallen pegs must be removed and replaced. Some pegs will need repainting.

There are two methods to follow to gain an accurate count of the Puffin population.

1) Rafting counts

At the beginning of the season (last week of February / first week of March) an early season raft count must be done from Burhou. Record the number of birds sitting on the water in the bay between Burhou and Alderney.

Maximum number of Puffins seen rafting on the water (largely near main/hut colonies) is recorded around the middle of April.

Rafting counts are usually done throughout the season but the mid April counts are most useful as they can be compared to previous years and generally only contain breeding birds (non breeders arrive later in the season).

Towards the end of the season (first week of July) a third raft count should be done. Again, record the number of birds sitting on the water in the bay.

Rafting counts are usually done throughout the season (Mid-April to early May). Several counts need to be made, a mean value can then be compared with estimates of apparently occupied burrows (AOB).

Towards the end of the season (first week of July) a third raft count should be done. Again, record the number of birds sitting on the water in the bay.

2) Burrow counts

April/May.

Apparently occupied burrows (AOB) should be counted. Burrows observed to be in use (disturbed soil and faeces near entrance, puffin activity) should be recorded. If a stake is visible please record the number on it; also record start time, end time, your name, weather and any behaviour seen including provisioning attempts and interactions with other species.

Late July.

An end of season burrow count is also done by walking across the ground and placing a pasta shell in each burrow (prevents double counting) that appears to have been occupied by puffins, a check can be done afterwards to check that none have been missed. Counters can be used.

Northern gannet (Morus bassanus)

A population count is done every five years. This involves flying over the colony, photographing every section of the colony and counting the nests. The next population count will be in 2020.

Productivity monitoring is carried out every year. Ortac is not included in this. Monitoring will begin in May. Be sure that you have checked the AWT scope and tripod well in time for the season.

In May, when the birds have built nests and are beginning to lay, take photographs of five different sections of the colony. This should be random, or should cover differing heights etc. Number a selection of nests in each photograph. Ideally 50 nests, but the important thing is that the nests be easily identifiable. It may be that one section only has 10 or 15 which you are confident that you can distinguish for regular monitoring.

The selected nests should be checked every 7-10 days from July through to mid-September. Record chick presence on each visit. When a chick is fully feathered the nest can be considered successful. Continue watching the colony until all surviving chicks have fledged.

Number of fledged chicks divided by number of monitored nests gives a productivity value.

Lesser Black-backed (LBBG) & Herring Gull (HG) (Larus fuscus & Larus argentatus)

A population count for these two gull species is done every five years. The next count will be in 2021. This will be co-ordinated with Alderney Bird Observatory and will involve a day visit to Burhou. Once the majority of birds have laid eggs but before the eggs begin to hatch (late-May) a team of three will walk through the colony in a line, counting (with a clicker) all well-built nests. The raffle ticket methodology (or dried pasta) is used. Each nest that is counted should have a dried piece of pasta dropped beside it to prevent multiple counts of the same nest.

As both LBBGs and HGs nest in the same area, this gives the total number of nest for both species. To estimate the numbers of LBBGs and HGs nests, counts are made of the adult birds from a vantage point of the colony. The total number of nests allocated between the two species in proportion to the adult numbers. If there are N nests, L adult LBBGs and H adult Hgs the number of LBBS nests is estimated to be $[N \times L / (H+L)]$ and the number of HG nests as $[N \times H / (H+L)]$.

Northern Fulmar (Fulmarus glacialis)

Productivity monitoring is done every year for the colony at The Guns. From the broken bunker to the right of the gun mount as you look out to sea you have a good view into the colony.

As the colony is small it is theoretically possible to monitor every pair, but as with the gannets, it is more important that you can be sure that you are watching the same breeding attempt each time you visit the colony.

In late-May/early-June visit the colony and number the Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS) you intend to monitor on a photograph. Re-visit the colony five days later and then five days later again to make sure the AOS are attempting breeders, not just birds sat on the cliff.

Monitoring now stops until mid-July when the chicks hatch. Thereafter check the chicks every 7-10 days until fledged.

Number of fledged chicks divided by number of attempts monitored gives a productivity value.

Common Tern (Sterna hirundo)

The colony at Bibette Head (on Houmet des Pies) is accessible at low tide, late in the season (mid to late July) the ABO will co-ordinate a single 20 minute visit to ring any chicks present.

Camera trap(s) will be installed out each year to monitor activity on Houmet des Pies. This is not a productivity/population count but will give an idea of numbers.

Ringed Plover (Charadrius hiaticula)

Ringed Plovers nest in the vegetated shingle areas above the tideline on Platte Saline, very close to the sewage outlet. Ringed Plovers could also be nesting in Clonque and Saye. From mid-April these areas should be checked regularly to locate any nests. This is done by watching the adults. If they are sat in the vegetation, or frequently returning to the same spot they are likely breeders. These Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS) should be monitored with binoculars from well behind the concrete wall and number of eggs recorded.

Once the eggs hatch the chicks are very mobile so should be watched weekly to determine success. Number of fledged chicks divided by AOS gives a productivity value.

**As Platte Saline is not closed to dog walkers in the summer, public awareness is very important. Radio interviews and newspaper articles communicating the importance of certain areas are vital, as are signs which should be installed at the main entrances to Platte Saline, Clonque and Saye.*

5.3.2 Seabird Ringing

Atlantic Puffins (Fratercula artctica)

The Ramsar Officer will co-ordinate with the Alderney Bird Observatory (ABO) to organise a single ringing trip (date TBC) each season to ring as many adults and pufflings as possible. As the puffins nest in a warren the nests are for the most part inaccessible so the number of pufflings ringed will be low.

Northern gannet (Morus bassanus)

This species will be ringed on Les Etacs on the last weekend of June or first weekend of July. The species on Ortac will be ringed on Ortac in mid July.

European Storm-Petrel (Hydrobates pelagicus)

In mid to late July the ABO will co-ordinate a two night visit to Burhou to ring the storm-petrels. Ideally arrival to Burhou will be late afternoon and departure will be first light to minimise time on the islet. This requires written permission from the States of Alderney (SoA) allowing a team of up to nine on Burhou during the closed season. 5 nets will be located at the west of the island and 6 nets will be located at the east. In 2017, the GPS locations of these nets will be recorded and a map will be added into the appendix. Nets located at the west of the island have had to move in recent years due to the moving location of Lesser black-backed gull nests. After 2017 a standardised data sheet will be added into the appendix to be filled out each year (date, number of nets, how long the nets were open will be some of the points added to the data sheet.

**This ringing trip is a good opportunity to check the AOB for the puffin colonies and to relocate PuffinCam to the storm-petrel wall at the edge of the main colony. It is also a good opportunity for Longworth trapping.*

Lesser Black-backed & Herring Gull (Larus fuscus & Larus argentatus)

The ABO will organise a trip to Burhou to colour ring a sample of the adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls (LBBG) using the large cage net method. This trap is left unset on Burhou all season, and is only ever readied for a capture while on Burhou. To reduce disturbance adults are removed as soon as caught. The gulls' age and sex are recorded before being ringed (colour and metal) and then released.

** There may also be an opportunity to catch and ring adults on Burhou in July when gull chick and storm petrel ringing is to take place.*

In July, one or two trips will take place to ring the LBBG chicks. Every year we make one (in a poor year) or two (in reasonable and good years) visits specifically to ring LBBG chicks. The trips are usually planned around 9th/10th and then two weeks later - to minimise the disturbance the later trips will run parallel with the Storm Petrel ringing. Exact dates need to be flexible to cope with weather, tides, boat and skipper availability etc.

Written permission from the States of Alderney (SoA) will be required for the first weekend as it is separate from the storm-petrel ringing. On each occasion a team of up to six-seven people will walk in a methodical manner through all the gull colonies. They should walk in a single line, 1 or 2 metres apart and walk the island only once. Every chick found of a minimum suitable age will be fitted with a metal and colour ring. They will be ringed in situ.

Other seabirds which are not being methodically studied at present may be ringed during the gull chick ringing, but it is not a priority and it is not pursued at all if it interferes with the gull studies

Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus)

This species will be ringed in the June visits to Burhou.

Cormorants (Phalacrocorax carbo)

This species will be ringed on Little Burhou at the end of April, exact dates will be dependent on weather and tides.

5.3.2 Small Mammal Monitoring

Chew Sticks

This methodology was used by Nicola Cox in 2014 when assessing small mammals on Burhou. 28 chewing stations will be set up forming a 15 metre grid system. Chewing stations will consist of a ½ inch wooden dowelling, cut up into equal lengths of approximately 10 inches in length. Each chew stick will be numbered and the location shall be photographed and co-ordinates of location will be noted to prevent loss. They shall be set at the start of the season and checked regularly, any chew marks should be recorded and the dowels should be replaced.

Longworth Traps

This methodology is in accordance with the National Small Mammal Monitoring Scheme (NSMMS). 40 traps will be needed. 30 traps for 4 days can be hired for £100 from the Mammal Society who are aware of the time frame for delivery). Transects laid out should be 100m apart and traps should be laid every 50 metres. There will be a night of pre-bait traps followed by two nights of trapping (i.e. set the traps Friday pm. Open Saturday am and leave open until Monday pm). This should be done at the start and end of the season.

5.3.3 Invasive Species

Bracken and Bramble Control

A full survey of Burhou should take place before the breeding seabird season and any bracken or bramble found within 50m of a puffin colony should be mapped and then cut back with lashers. During the season a continuous monitoring effort should occur. If a small amount of growth is seen within the exclusion zone, it should be hand pulled. If a significant disturbance to the breeding birds is likely to occur, the site should be photographed, mapped and dealt with accordingly at the end of the season.

Hottentot Fig

A full survey of Burhou should be carried out at the start of the breeding season and then at the end, although a constant monitoring effort should take place. Any small patches located should be pulled immediately, unless it would cause a significant disturbance to the breeding birds. If this is the case then it should be mapped and photographed, then pulled at the end of the season. If it is a large patch then it should again be mapped and photographed and dealt with accordingly at the end of the season.

5.3.4 Marine

Intertidal Habitat Survey

Methodologies from the JNCC Marine Monitoring Handbook 2001 for Intertidal resource mapping using aerial photograph will be followed.

Phase II Species Monitoring Surveys

Methodologies from the JNCC Marine Monitoring Handbook 2001 for Littoral monitoring using fixed quadrat photography will be followed.

Intertidal Species Surveys

Intertidal species surveys are linked with local groups (i.e. Société Guernesaise) and participation with the general public. The assessment comprises several methodologies (Broadhurst 2016):

- Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT's) strandline survey monitors the presence and composition of strandlines.
- Green ormer (*Haliotis tuberculata*) population dynamics survey (presence, abundance, shell size and quality of green ormers).
- Invasive species survey monitors the presence and distribution of non-native species (i.e. *Sargassum muticum*)
- 'Capturing Our Coasts' is a citizen science project based on the public undertaking intertidal rocky shore surveys. Training and equipment will be provided by an on-island 'Co-Coast' trainer.

*Eelgrass (*Zostera*) Survey*

Methodologies found in Annex 2 in the Oskar Commission's Eelgrass report (2009) will be followed.

Marine Mammal Surveys

Methodologies from Sea Watch Foundation for surveying marine mammals at sea and from land will be followed.

Grey Seal Population Assessment Survey

Methodologies from the JNCC Marine Monitoring Handbook 2001 for assessing grey seal population will be followed. If possible photographs of face and body should be taken for identification and will be added to Channel Island's Grey Seal identification catalogue.

5.3.4 References

Cox, N. (2014). Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) presence/absence surveys on Alderney, Channel Islands and surrounding islets: Implications for seabird conservation.

Davies, J., Baxter, J., Bradley, M., Connor, D., Khan, J., Murray, E., Sanderson, W., Turnbull, C., & Vincent, M. (2001). Marine Monitoring Handbook, 405 pp. Peterborough: Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

Tullrot, A. (2009). Background Document for *Zostera* beds, Seagrass beds. Oskar Commission

5.4 Financial

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1. Advisory and legislative					
Closed season signage (Burhou)	1000				
2. Marine					
University research	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
2.1. Benthic					
Seasearch surveys (air tanks, boat access, health/safety, publication/engagement documents, travel costs etc.)	500		500		500
Other benthic surveys (air tanks, boat access, health/safety, publication/engagement documents, travel costs etc.)	250	250	250	250	250
Snorkel surveys (survey equipment, boat access, health/safety, publication/engagement documents etc.)	250	250	250	250	250
2.2. Pelagic					
Physical parameter assessment (environmental sampling kit, 5-in-1 environment tester, salinity meter)	500	500	500	500	500
2.3. Marine mammals					
Grey seal population counts	400	400	400	400	400
Marine mammal leaflet	300				
Education and LIVE					
Cameras/streaming	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Computers/website	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500
School visits/resources	750	750	750	750	750
Shorebirds					
Hosting French ornithologists for Ringed Plover monitoring	350	350	350	350	350
Signage update for breeding beaches	100	100	100	100	100
Seabirds					
Contribution towards use of a	200	200	200	200	200

drone						
Common Terns (awareness/signage)	500	250	250	250	250	
Continuation of T.A.G	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	
University research	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	
Burhou footpath construction	500					
Terrestrial						
Longworth traps	500					
Trail camera (x2)	250					
Other						
Living expenses for Ramsar Officer and People and Wildlife Officer	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	
Total	17350	14050	14550	14050	14550	74550

5.5 Consultation

Alderney West Coast and Burhou Islands Ramsar Site Strategy 2017 – 2021 has undertaken an extensive formal consultation, as follows:

- a presentation of the Strategic aims were given to the States of Alderney General Service Committee in November 2016.
- the draft document was presented to the public and key stakeholders for a 10-week consultation during which all interested parties were encouraged to submit their comments in response to the draft plan.
- a presentation of the Strategic aims were given to members of the public and key stakeholders in December 2016.
- members of the public and key stakeholders were invited to an open afternoon for an informal chat at the end of the 10-week consultation in January 2017.

Table 1 summarises the meetings and other communication had with the public and key stakeholders and any changes that have been made to the document.

Organisation and Date	Comments Made	Outcome
Tom Bliss – Member of the public, via our Facebook page 5 th December 2016	Suggested that <i>Sargassum muticum</i> was increasing at Clonque Bay but could not see it mentioned within the report and wanted to know why.	We responded to his suggestion in written form, the <i>Sargassum muticum</i> is covered under our invasive surveys (and past MSc project) to monitor it, but not to manage it.
Alderney Angling, via email 18 th January 2017	Alderney Angling had queries on section 3.3.1 Alderney Conservation Act (ACA). They queried whether this would impact charter fishing within the Ramsar site.	Met with David McAllister (Chairman of the Marine Management Forum) on behalf of Alderney Angling and discussed that the ACA was to prevent the misuse of Alderney's waters with the advice from the Marine Management Forum, not for any charter fishing to be stopped. This was added to the section.
Jessi Jennings – Marine Biology Section La Société Guernesaise, via email	Questioned the marine works table in Appendix 5.2. It was unclear whether all bays mentioned would be	It was explained that the different bays would be surveyed in different years as we would be following the

18 th January 2017	surveyed/mapped each year.	JNCC's recommendation to undertake mapping and surveys on a bay every 5 years. The table has been amended to read to show this.
-------------------------------	----------------------------	--