



**Alderney**  
Wildlife Trust

## Media Release from Alderney Wildlife Trust

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### **PuffinCam is now live from Burhou for 2024**

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**PuffinCam is up and running once again! Tune in to get a glimpse into the lives of these colourful and charismatic birds on Burhou.**

Between March and July, discover the fascinating lives of Alderney's puffins through our live webcams, [Puffin Main Cam](#) and [Puffin Burrow Cam](#), streaming daily from the heart of the undisturbed colony on Burhou.

Puffin Main Cam gives an excellent overview of the main colony area, panning between burrow areas and the [Puffin Friendly Zone](#). Burrow Cam focuses on the busiest area of the colony, so you can follow individual burrows over the course of the breeding season.

In April, the puffins can be seen getting reacquainted with their partners on land. They bring back nest material, such as grass, twigs and even bluebells, to tidy their burrows in preparation for egg-laying. Puffin pairs raise a single puffling which stays hidden inside the burrow until it is ready to survive on its own. From the end of May, you may spot the puffins bringing back sandeels and other fish for their pufflings. If you're lucky, you might see a puffling leaving the burrow at night in July! Pufflings head straight out to sea and won't return to land until they are ready to breed at around five years of age.

Keep an eye out for the other wildlife on Burhou while watching the PuffinCams. Grey seals haul out and even pup on the island. Herring gulls, lesser black-backed gulls and great black-backed gulls often hang out near the burrow entrances, hoping to steal fish from returning puffins – known as kleptoparasitism. Birds such as buzzards, meadow pipits, curlews and shags can also be seen. Our cameras are infra-red so work at night, giving you the opportunity to spot Burhou's nocturnal wildlife such as storm petrels.

The [Atlantic puffin](#) is currently listed as vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with European populations in decline due to threats such as human disturbance, climate change and pollution. The AWT's PuffinCams can help with the conservation of puffins by collecting important scientific data whilst also increasing awareness and giving people the chance to learn about these wonderful birds from the comfort of their own homes – all without disturbing the colony during the breeding season.

You can find our live webcams at [Wildlife Webcams](#) on the Alderney Wildlife Trust website or streaming daily on our [AWT Staff Facebook page](#).

*Quote – Niamh McDevitt, AWT Ramsar Ecologist*

*"Our PuffinCams are such an important asset in helping us monitor and protect Burhou's puffins without disturbance and I'm very excited to see how the breeding season unfolds."*

**Ends**

## Background

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### About the Ramsar site

[The West Coast and Burhou Islands Ramsar site](#) comprises the western coast of Alderney and adjacent shallow waters and islets in the strongly tidal, high-energy system of the northern Channel Islands. It achieved the Ramsar designation in 2005 through regionally, nationally and internationally important populations of seabirds. In particular, the islets of Ortac and Les Etacs support over 1% of the world population of Northern Gannet. It also provides a habitat for a seal colony to the north of Burhou Island and some fish and shellfish species such as Lobster, Ormer, Bass and Plaice.

The site hosts about 100 species of seaweeds, which play a significant role in supporting all marine fauna and thus the large seabird population. Besides commercial and non-commercial fishing, tourism is the main activity: there is a visitor centre that provides both educational materials for children and information materials for the public.

Since designation, data has been collected on 10 seabird species for population size and productivity success rates; marine habitat mapping is carried out in new locations each year and terrestrial surveys are a large part of the monitoring work. The recording of this data is continued and expanded each year by the AWT in order to better understand the ecological processes of the Ramsar site and conserve its diversity within the convention guidelines.

Species – Click on the link to find out more about key species in Alderney's Ramsar Site:

• [Northern gannet](#) • [Puffin](#) • [Fulmar](#) • [Shag](#) • [Razorbill](#) • [Ringed plover](#) • [Oystercatcher](#) • [Guillemot](#) • [Curlew](#) • [Storm Petrel](#)

### About the Alderney Wildlife Trust

The Alderney Wildlife Trust is one of the 46 Wildlife Trusts working across the British Isles. We are the youngest of the Wildlife Trust, forming 20 years ago and since then the AWT has received incredible support from a dedicated team of wildlife enthusiasts, what we like to think of as the 'TeamWilder'. This team isn't just limited to residents and AWT members, it includes people from all walks of life who have an interest in our island's wildlife, as well as supporters and organizations from around the world. We work with the local community to engage them with their natural environment in order to protect Alderney's wildlife for the future.

[Our mission is to study, protect and champion Alderney's wildlife. We wish to see a thriving natural island where wildlife and natural habitats play a valued role in addressing our island's future and the climate and ecological emergencies that face us.](#)

***Alderney is a very special place and by helping the work of the Alderney Wildlife Trust you can make a difference. After all, if you love where you live, you'll want to look after it - Dr. George McGavin, Patron AWT***

## Notes to Media

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