

## Media Release from Alderney Wildlife Trust

Date: 28th August 2025

### Alderney's Seabirds Show Positive Signs in 2025 Breeding Season

---

The Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT) is pleased to share early updates from the 2025 seabird breeding season, with encouraging news for puffins, gannets, and fulmars around the island.

#### Puffins

This season has been unusual for Alderney's puffins. Ecologists observed fish returns arriving a week earlier than in 2024, suggesting that puffins began laying earlier this year. However, adults were still feeding chicks into the first week of August - slightly later than last season. While final productivity figures will not be available until early October, preliminary raft counts indicate a stable breeding population. The highest early season count reached **190 puffins**, up from **175 in 2024**, suggesting numbers remain consistent year on year.

#### Gannets

Alderney's gannets are faring well, with chicks now beginning to fledge. So far, **over 55% of pairs** have either raised a chick or already seen one fledge, a marked improvement from **47% in 2024**. Visitors may spot fledgling gannets around the Channel Islands at this time of year - the young birds are easily recognised by their striking all-black plumage. AWT is also undertaking detailed 2025 census counts of gannet colonies at Les Etacs and Ortac, using advanced 3D modelling to record occupied nests and sites.

#### Fulmars

Fulmar petrels, long-lived seabirds nesting on Alderney's cliffs, have had their best breeding success in almost a decade. This year, **17 chicks** were recorded in AWT's productivity plot, compared to **10 chicks in 2024**. Productivity has reached **52%**, the highest since 2016. After fledging, young fulmars will spend up to five years at sea before returning to colonies, though they will not breed until around nine years old.

#### Looking Ahead

Comprehensive data on Alderney's seabird populations, including gulls, guillemots, cormorants, and shags, will be published later this autumn in the annual **Ramsar Review**.

To learn more and read last year's report, visit here: <https://www.ci-ramsar.com/publications/>

Ends

## Background

---

### **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 over 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 organisations 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

---

For further information, please contact:

Paul Belben

[communications@alderneywildlife.org](mailto:communications@alderneywildlife.org)