

East Marine Ecosystems

Reporting Annual Change in the  
East Region & Building Social Capital



## **EASTME Reporting Annual Change at a Regional Scale: Building Social Capital - Relationships & Communities**

# **Marine and Coastal Birds in 2024**



# EastME Region Importance for Birds



## Breeding Seabirds

- Largest UK mainland seabird colony at Flamborough & Filey Coast SPA

## Wintering and passage Wildfowl and Wading Birds

- The two major Estuaries/intertidal areas of the Humber and Wash

## Breeding birds

- Beach Nesting Birds & coastal wetlands, including a range of restoration projects

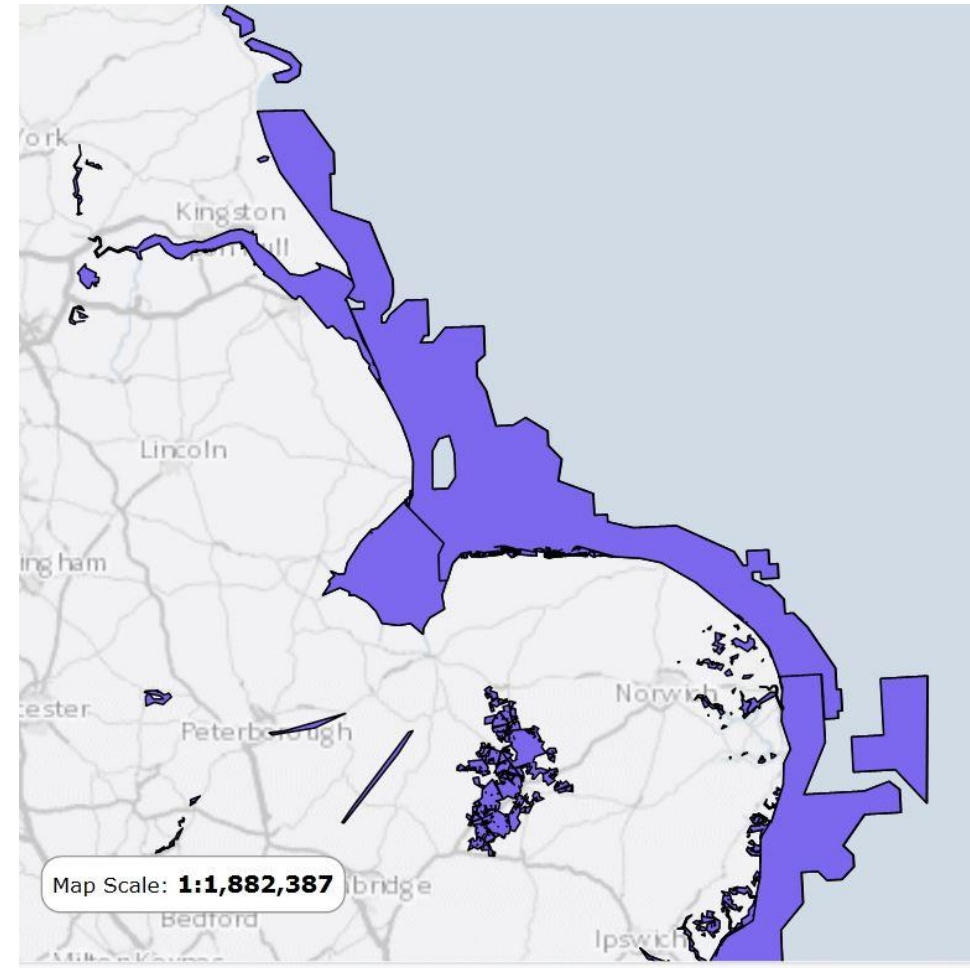
# Threats to Marine and Coastal Birds

- Climate change
- Over-fishing & By-catch
- Marine Wind Farms and Coastal Development
- Disturbance
- Pollution
- HPAI

# The SPA network in the EASTME region



- Flamborough & Filey Coast
- Outer Wash
- Humber Estuary
- The Wash
- The Outer Thames

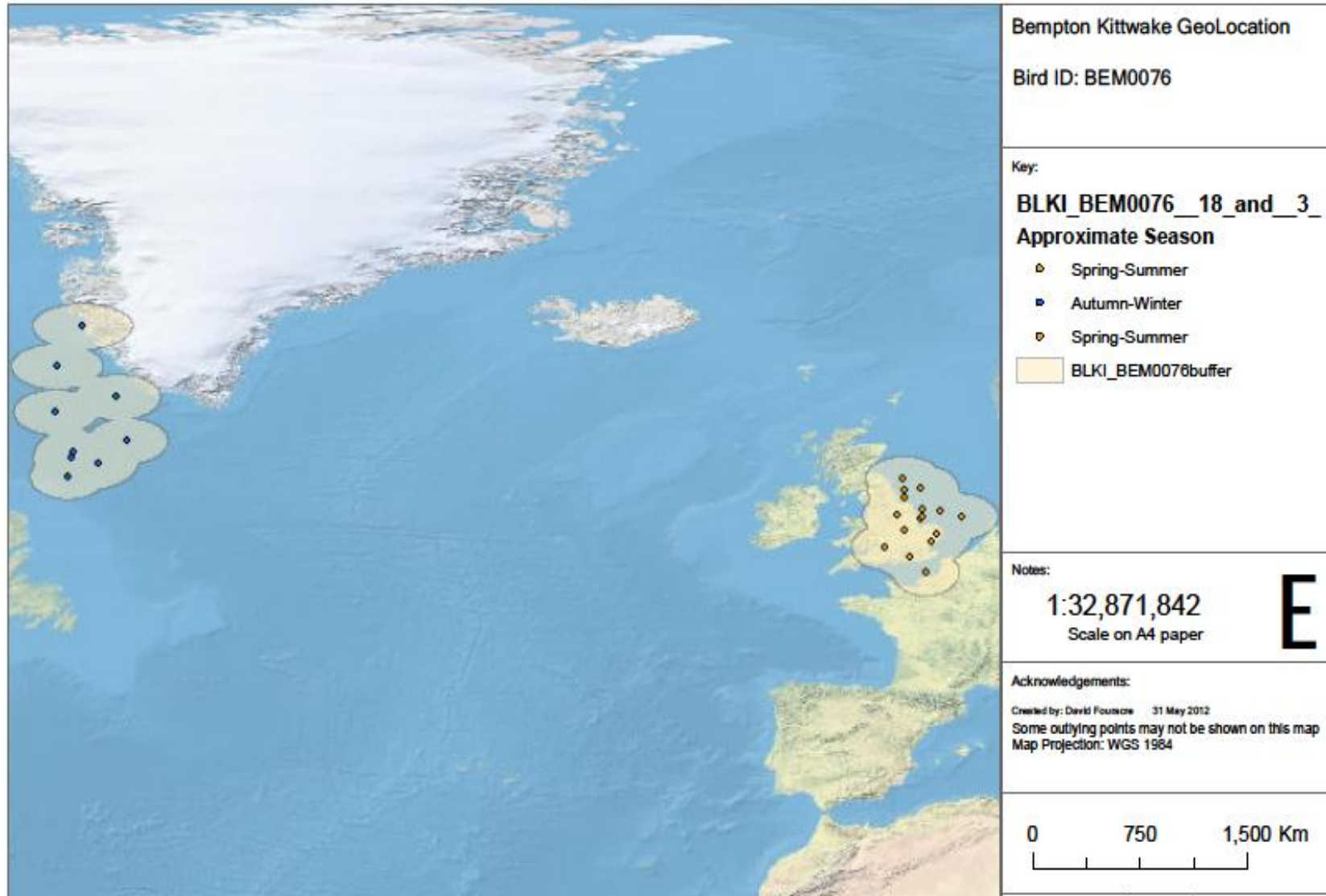




# Flamborough & Filey Coast SPA



# Global context - Kittiwakes in winter







Kittiwake  
44,574 pairs in 2022

# Seabird concerns

## Food Supply and impact of development





# Sandeel Fishery Closure in UK waters & EU Arbitration – Good News



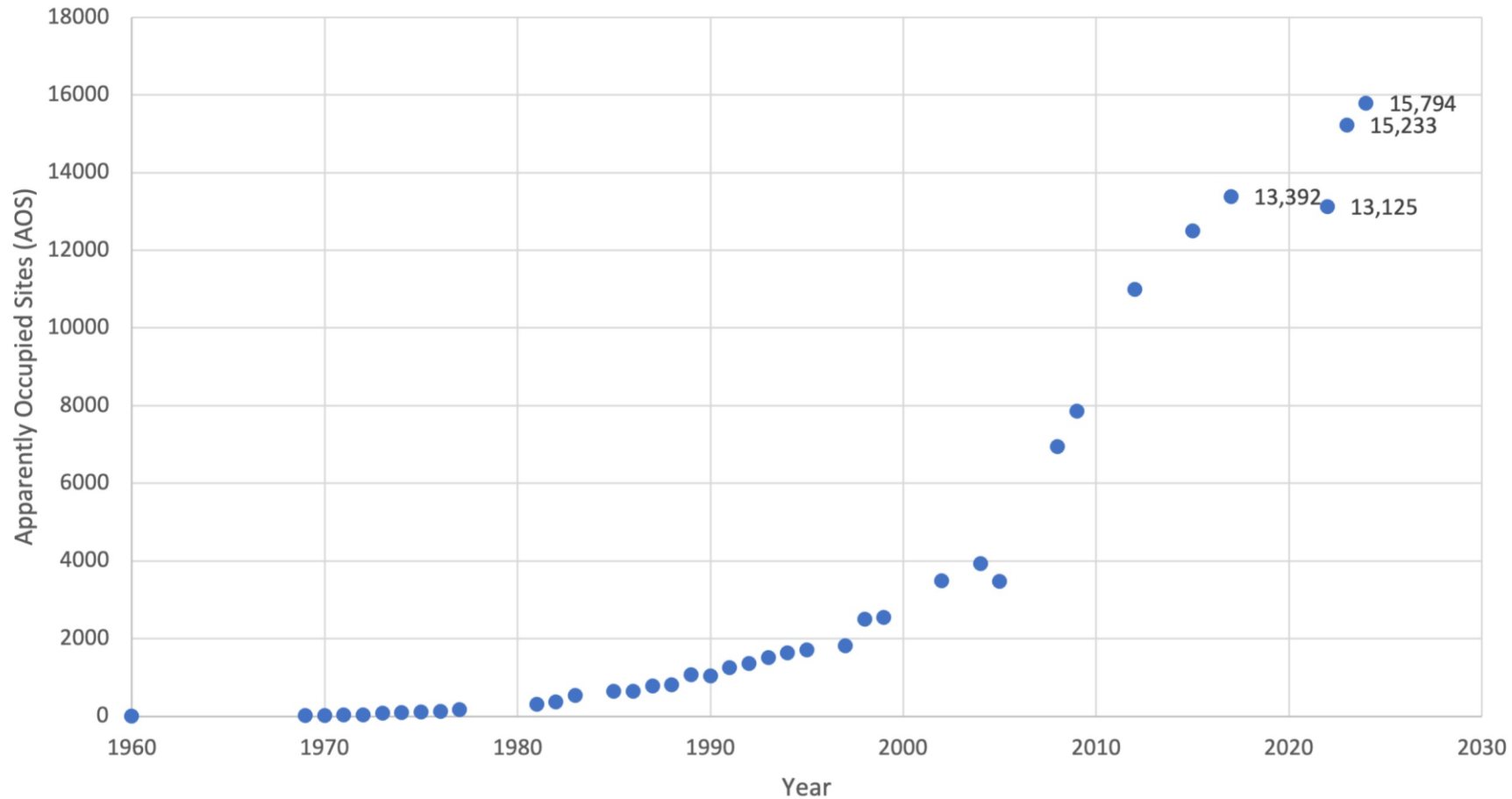


# Annual Seabird Productivity





# Gannet full colony count 2024



**15,794 AOS**

+ 1951 non-breeders



561 AOS since  
2023



+  
**21.6**  
**%**

Since 2022

# Black-eyed Gannets

## Bird-flu survivors

- In 2023 and 2024 around 20% of pairs at Staple Newk showed evidence of previous infection
- Productivity from these pairs was similar to wider productivity and the long-term average





# Urban Gulls



# Breeding Coastal Birds



# Little Tern & Beach Nesting Bird Protection





# Beach Nesting Birds in 2024



	Spurn	Gibraltar Point	Norfolk – north Suffolk (various sites)	Total prs / (fledged young)
Little Tern      prs / (fledged)	59 / (57)	14 / (23)	628 / (220)	701 / (300)
Ringed Plover      ~	30 / (26)	17 / (25)	173 / (170)	220 / (221)





# Partnerships for managing disturbance and predation



# North Norfolk coast - remote



- 3,280 pairs of **Sandwich Terns** were recorded at Scolt Head Islands



# Breeding Redshank populations are nationally important;



- Nearly **1500 pairs** recorded across The Wash
- A survey of north Norfolk found **597 pairs**, at an average breeding density of 23.3 prs/km<sup>2</sup>
- The Humber/Tetney supported **420 pairs**





# Estuary Birds



## The Importance of the region for migratory waterbirds





# East Atlantic Flyway : England East Coast Wetlands (Humber-Thames)

- Added to the UK Govt Tentative List of Potential World Heritage Sites (April 2023)
- Qualifying under criteria x for Outstanding Universal Value
- Shortened name  
“East Coast Flyway”

# Estuary Birds in 2024



- The vital role of monitoring and monthly Wetland Bird Survey
- Undisturbed roost and feeding areas are critical
- Opportunities with realignment projects



# Some key projects

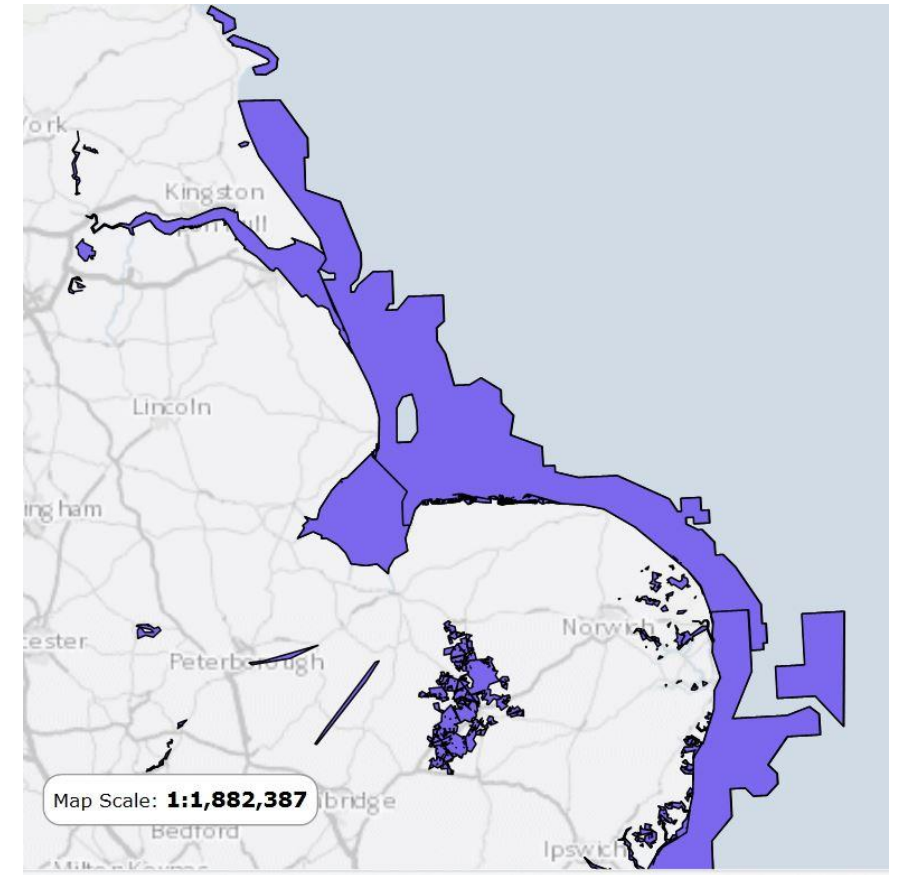


## Coastal Birds

- Lincs Coast NNR Reserves and Partnership
- Fishery Management Strategy for the Greater Wash
- NE Pilot Protected Site Strategy For Humber
- Range of beach protection schemes

## Seabirds

- England Seabird Conservation Strategy (NE led)
- POSIEDEN Project (NE & APEM) **central North Sea surveys 2022 & 2023** results via the Marine Data Exchange
- Kittiwakes and Gannets at sea



# Thanks to the contributors

- Kev Wilson - Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Coastal Officer
- Steve Young - ABPem
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- Zia Ficardis – RSPB Marine Policy
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- Phil Pearson – RSPB Norfolk & Lincs Conservation Officer