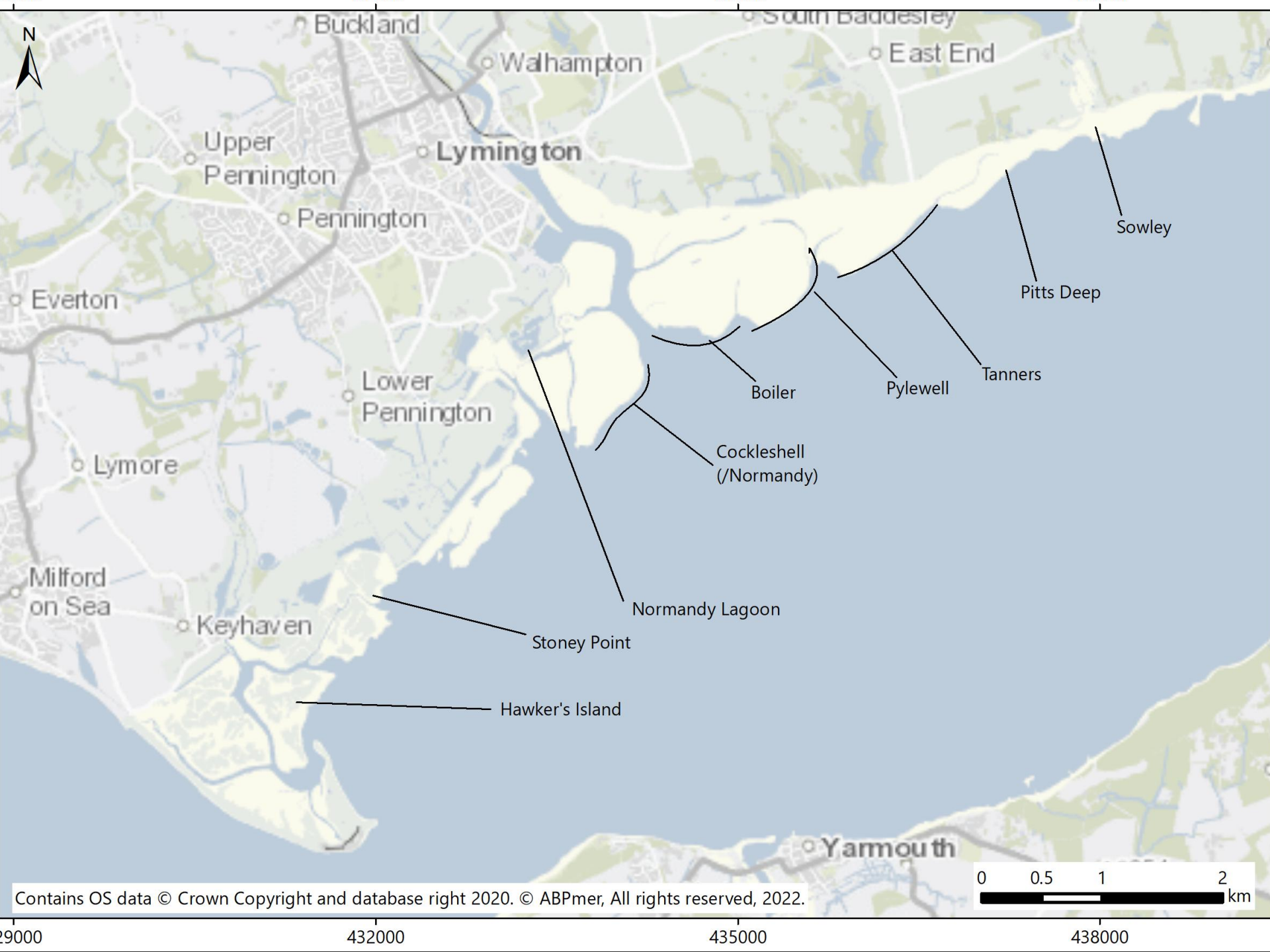
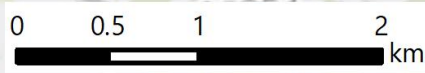


# Breeding seabirds in the south-west Solent 2021-2025






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**NESTING BIRDS  
PLEASE  
DO NOT LAND**

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LYMINGTON KEYHAVEN AND DISTRICT WILDFOWLERS ASSOCIATION

 Hampshire County Council





# Black-headed Gull

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of nests	4780	3610	4110	4825	3654
Breeding success	Large number of well grown chicks lost to predation west of river. Elsewhere, high fledging success.	Large numbers of fledged juvs observed but only using east of the river.	Large numbers of fledged juvs observed. Back on both sides of the river.	Good numbers of juvs both sides of the river. No signs of bird flu this season.	The colonies were severely impacted by a storm on 27 <sup>th</sup> /28 <sup>th</sup> May. Many nests washed out.











# Mediterranean Gull

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of nests	75	610	34	101	325
Breeding success	All pre fledged juvs predated at Cockleshell but success at Pylewell.	Good breeding success with several hundred juvs observed at Pylewell. The largest number of pairs ever recorded in the western Solent	Good breeding success from a much smaller colony. Where did they go?	Bred on both sides of the river with good numbers of juvs observed in the colonies late summer.	Very large numbers of birds (1000+ pairs) early in the season. Severely impacted by storm at end of May. Still second highest ever total.

# Other gulls

- Common Gull. One pair in 2023, 2024 & 2025
- Great Black-backed Gull. Three to five pairs most years.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull. Has bred but not recently.
- Herring Gull. Bred in Normandy Lagoon in 2025 but chicks predated.













# Sandwich tern

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of nests	315	85	230	332	527
Breeding success	A very large colony established in the mouth of the Lymington River. Lost to predation with no fledged young observed	Colony declined rapidly possibly due to bird flu. Only 5-7 chicks raised. None bred on Cockleshell.	Best breeding season on record with 300+ young fledged. A sample of 33 chicks colour ringed. One since recorded in the Gambia.	Largest colony ever recorded in Western Solent at the time. Good numbers of young fledged.	In two colonies with 172 nests at Pylewell and 355 on Cockleshell. Presumably returning young from 2023. Pylewell colony washed out end of May.





# Common Tern

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of nests	90	115	161	156	224
Breeding success	50+ chicks fledged from a variety of locations.	50+ chicks fledged from a variety of locations with largest colony 40 pairs in Normandy Lagoon.	100+ chicks fledged. 19 colour ringed from colony in Normandy Lagoon.	The majority of the colony (96 pairs) moved into Normandy Lagoon. Very successful year with 150+ chicks fledged.	Largest colony again in Normandy Lagoon where 104 pairs fledged over 100 chicks. Highest number of pairs since 2009.





# Roseate Tern

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of pairs	One pair arrived late in the season	One pair attempted to breed at two locations	One pair attempted to breed at two locations. Both birds with metal rings.	One pair took up residence within the Common Tern colony in Normandy Lagoon.	A single bird arrived in the lagoon on 3 <sup>rd</sup> May. It remained in the area for a week but was not joined by a mate.
Breeding success	No evidence of egg laying	Eggs layed at first location but abandoned and none hatched	Eggs layed at two locations but apparently predated and none hatched.	Two chicks raised successfully thanks in part to efforts of staff and volunteers.	No attempt was made which was a disappointment after the previous years success.







# Little Tern

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of nests	15	10	18	18	24
Breeding success	17 chicks fledged from single colony in Normandy Lagoon.	10-12 chicks fledged from two locations offshore	25+ chicks fledged (19 colour ringed) mainly from the colony in Normandy Lagoon. The best year since 2006	Nested in four discrete colonies mainly offshore. 10+ chicks fledged two being colour ringed in Normandy Lagoon.	Attempted to nest in three locations with up to 18 pairs in Normandy Lagoon. Poor success with likely only two birds fledged.









# What does the future hold



