

VSAS Survey Report: March 2022

Summary

A single survey was carried out from the deck of the Ardrossan to Brodick crossing this month. Data were collected to European Seabirds at Sea (ESAS) standards, by trained volunteers, using the JNCC VSAS app to digitally capture data in real time.

A further survey scheduled for the 12th February was cancelled due to a storm.

Routes

Ardrossan to Brodick, 1st March 2022

A total of 10 observations were made of 4 seabird species during dedicated survey effort. No marine mammals were observed. Numbers of observations and total numbers of birds recorded are presented below (Table 1).

| Species | Number of observations | Total birds observed |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Common gull | 4 | 7 |
| Great black-backed gull | 3 | 5 |
| Herring gull | 2 | 4 |
| Kittiwake | 1 | 3 |

Table 1. Numbers of observations and totals recorded per species

Distribution maps

Figure 1 shows the distributions of all seabird species recorded during the survey.

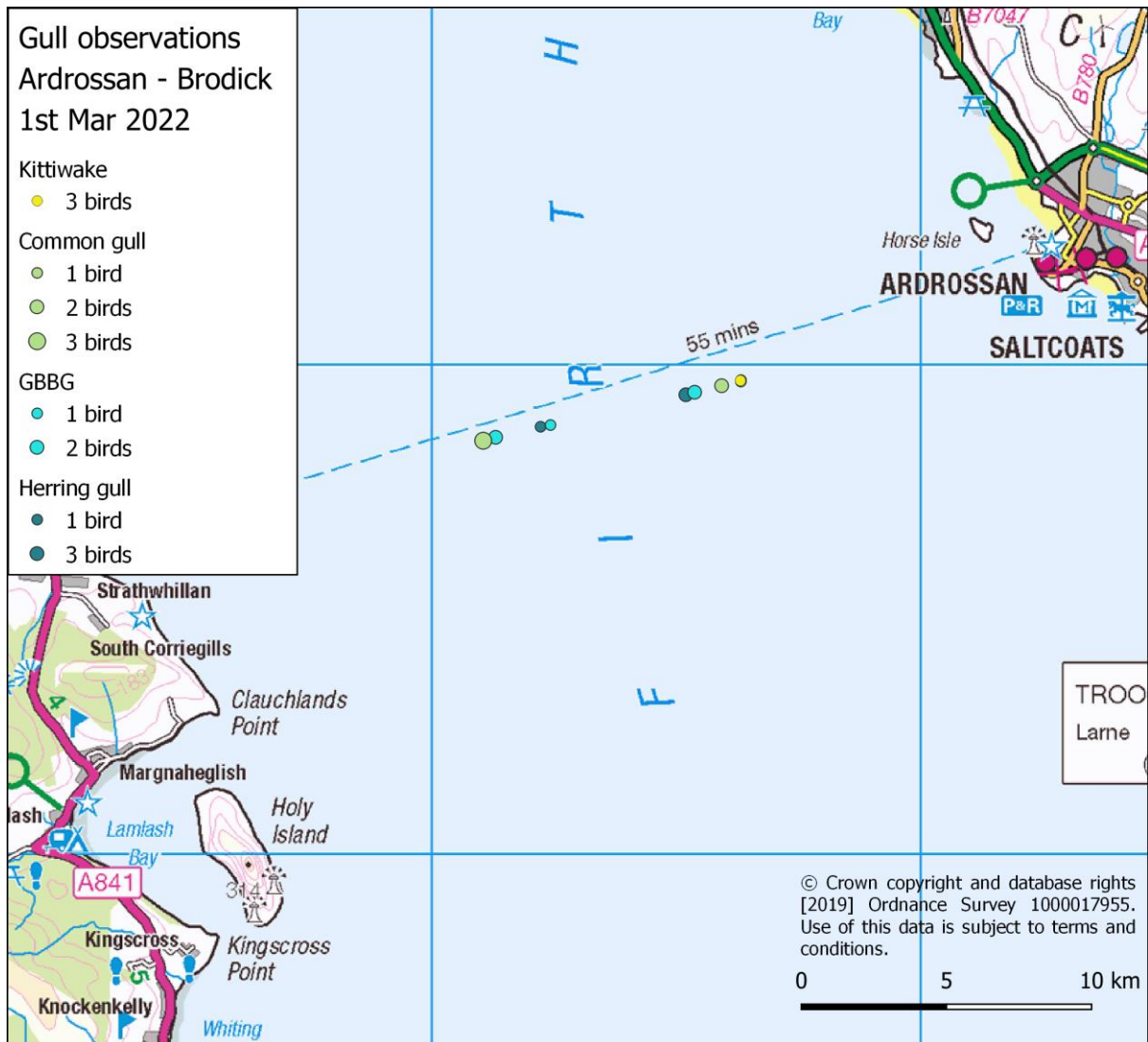


Fig 1. Gull observations recorded during the Ardrossan to Brodick survey, 1st March 2022

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the volunteers who gave up their time to take part in this month's survey – we hope this report serves as a useful reminder of your time on board! We would also like to thank the Captain and crew of the ferries for welcoming the survey teams on board, and Klare Chamberlain and Ruth Rice at CalMac who helped with access and other arrangements.