

VSAS Survey Report: December 2021

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.

Due to technical issues whilst on survey, only the first leg of the crossing is shown below.

Routes

Ardrossan to Brodick, 11th December 2021

A total of 16 observations were made of 6 seabird species (and one 'species group' where identification could not be made to species level) 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
Guillemot	3	3
Razorbill	3	6
Guillemot/razorbill	5	16
Shag	1	1
Great black-backed gull	2	2
Herring gull	1	1
Kittiwake	1	1

Table 1. Numbers of observations and totals recorded per species

Distribution maps

Figures 1 to 2 show the distributions of all seabird species recorded during the survey.

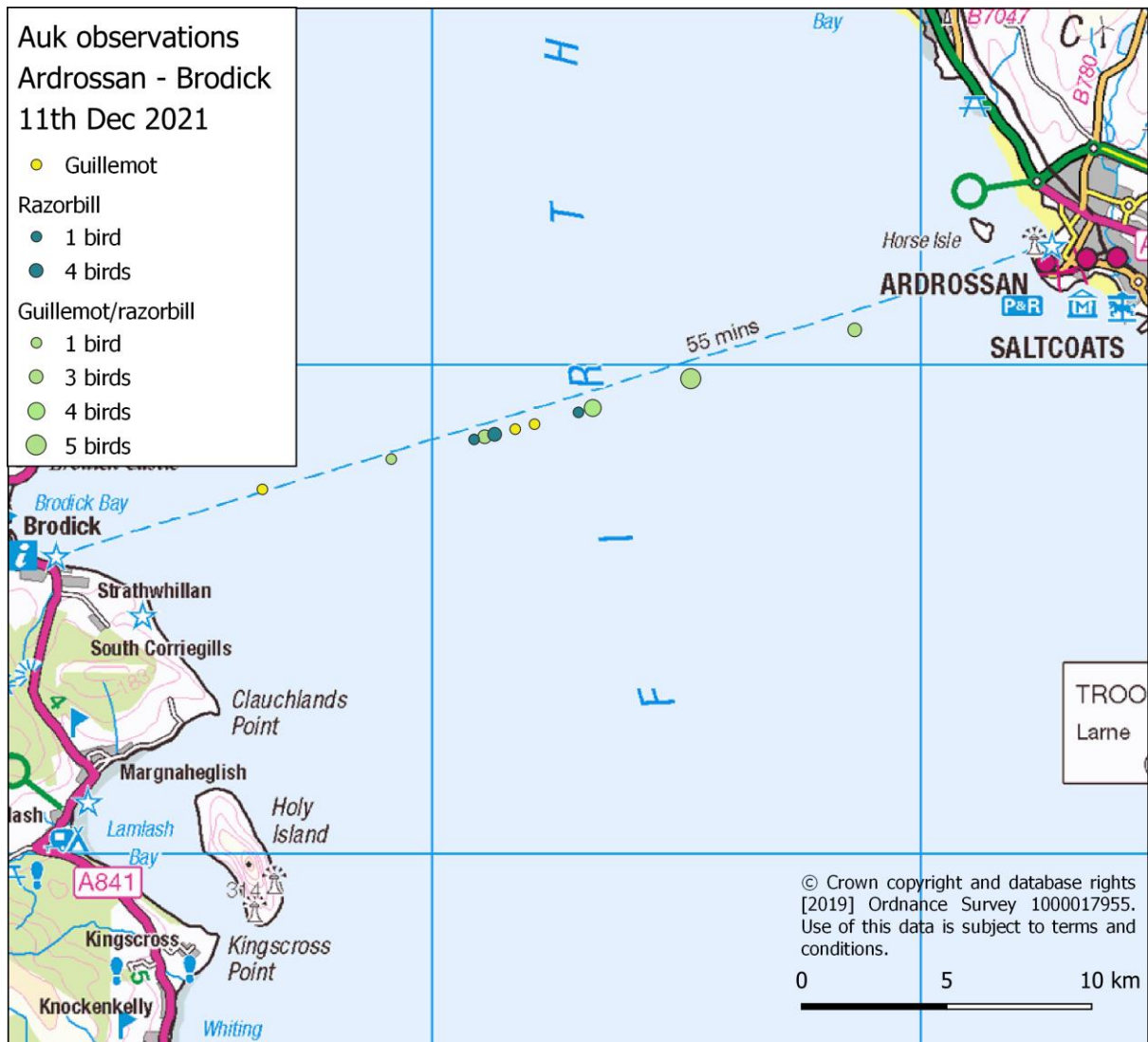


Fig 1. Auk observations recorded during the Ardrossan to Brodick survey, 11th December 2021



Fig 2. Gull & shag observations recorded during the Ardrrossan to Brodick survey, 11th December 2021

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.