



# Lessons from the UK's planning to consenting journey: Perspective from RSPB



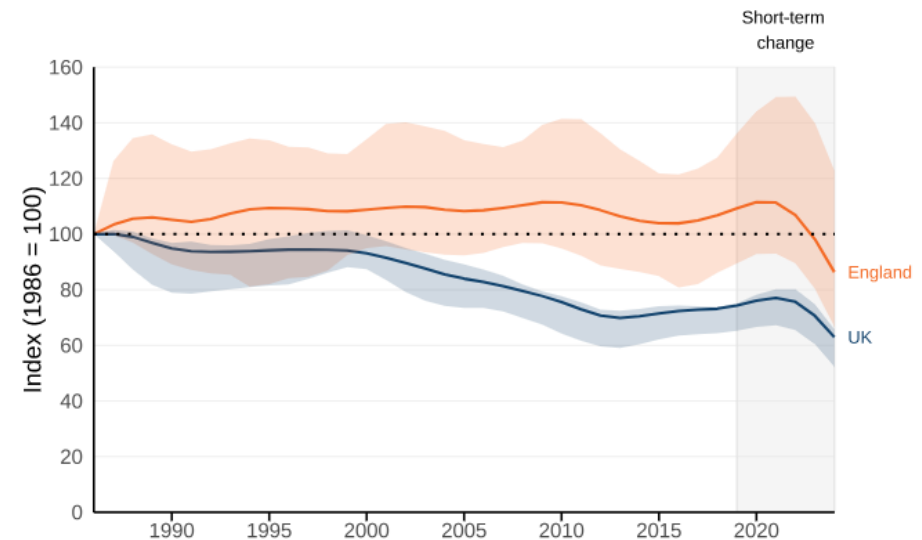
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# Status of UK seabirds



- Failing to meet Good Environmental Status
- 62% decline across UK species
- Suffered significant impacts from HPAI
- 5 new species added to the BoCC Red list
- 37% population decline in UK seabirds since 1986
- Positive action to drive change through sandeel closure and development of four country seabird conservation strategies

Figure 5.1: Breeding seabirds for 13 species in the UK and 11 in England, 1986 to 2024

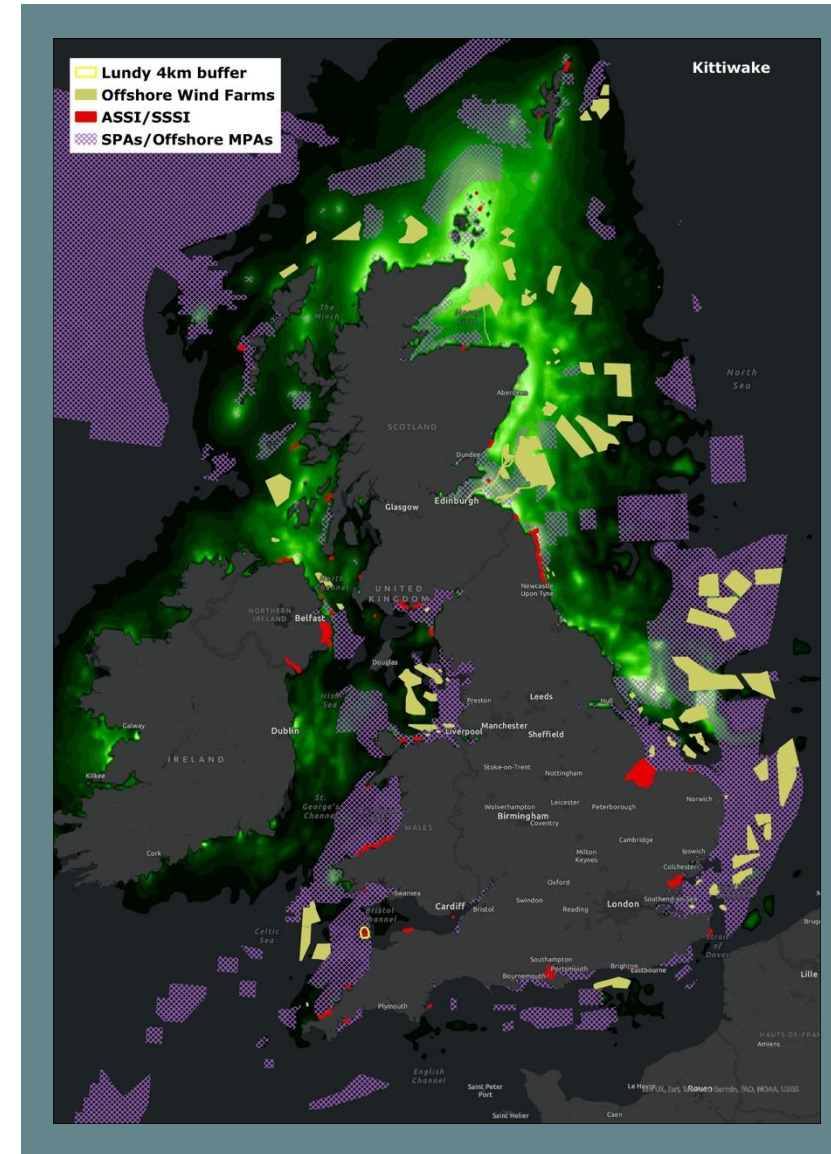




# Spatial Planning



- Protect Area network for seabirds (SPAs) doesn't cover important areas at sea
- Creates an ambiguous sea space picture
- For complete sea user clarity = SPA sufficiency review is needed
- Unlocking the future of offshore wind = capturing the needs of seabirds in future leasing
- Natural England's POSEIDON project will help finesse this



# Strategic Compensation measures



- Collaboration on Offshore Wind Strategic Compensation (COWSC) Library of measures

Currently, there are 3 measures in the library:

- MPA designation and/or extension – for adverse effects on the seabed (benthic habitats)
- offshore artificial nesting structures – for adverse effects on kittiwakes
- predator reduction – for adverse effects on seabirds

- The challenge: **How do we deliver effective measures for habitats and species, quickly, in line with demand for offshore wind deployment?**
- Combining developer ambition and innovation, alongside government level intervention to drive seabird recovery. Status quo isn't working.



# 2030 and beyond



- There are real challenges at play with the current pipeline that we need to unblock
- Seabird packages to go beyond individual measures for better bang for our buck
  1. ESCaRP Breeding Colony Package
  2. Bycatch Mitigation Trials
  3. Isles of Scilly Predator Reduction pilot
- Habitat Regulations Environmental Compensation reforms – opportunity and risk



Tim Slack



# Thank you

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