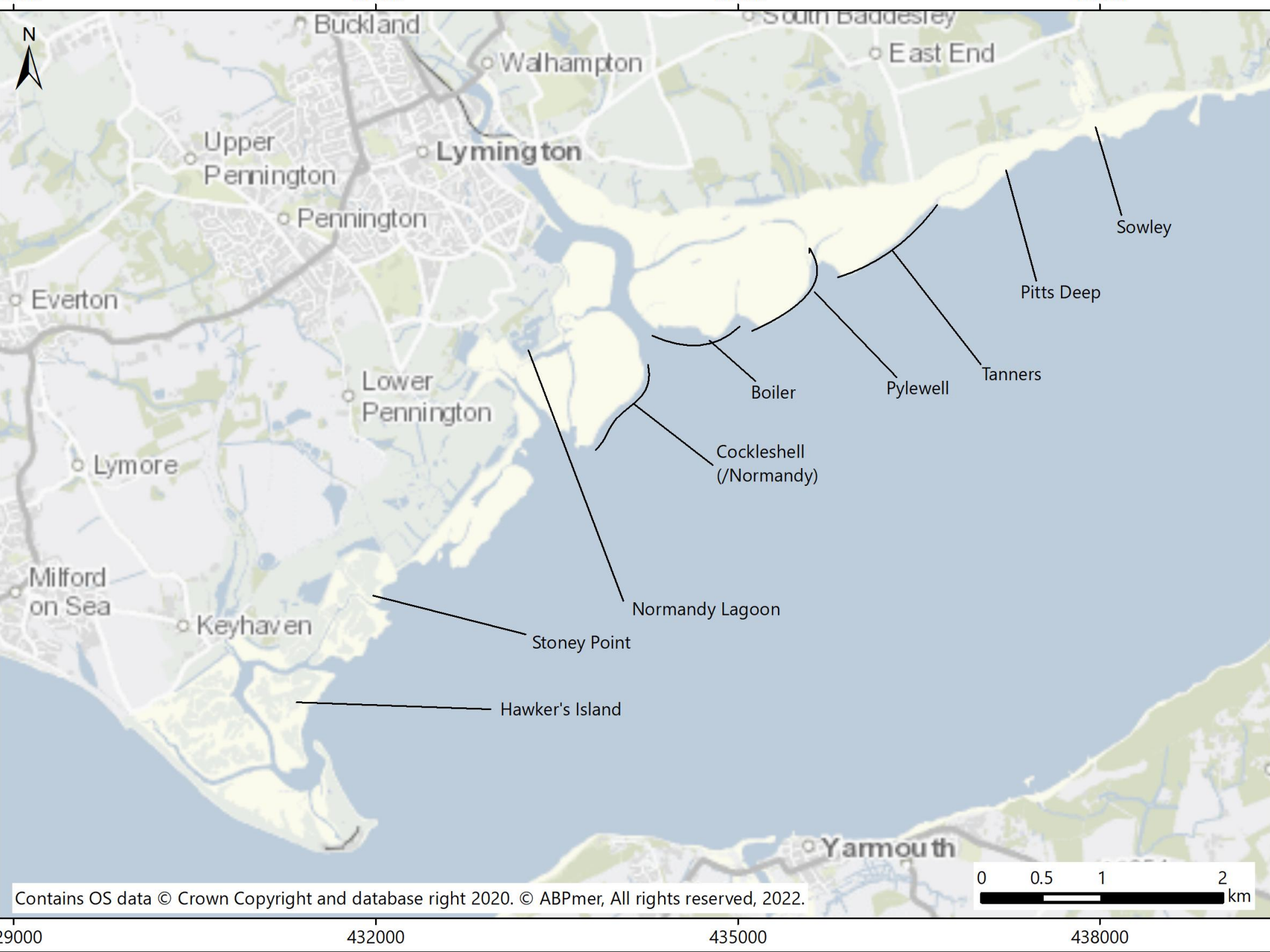


Breeding seabirds in the south-west Solent





NESTING BIRDS PLEASE DO NOT LAND

HAMPSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST
(WARDEN - TEL: LYMINGTON (01590) 674656)
LYMINGTON KEYHAVEN AND DISTRICT WILDFOWLERS ASSOCIATION

 Hampshire County Council





Black-headed Gull

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of pairs	4780	3610	4110	4825
Breeding success	Large number of well grown chicks lost to predation at Cockleshell. 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.











Mediterranean Gull

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of pairs	75	610	34	101
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.



Other gulls

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









Sandwich tern

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of pairs	315	85	230	332
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. 150+ juvs fledged with 73 being colour ringed. Subsequently observed as far away as Somalia.



Common Tern

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of pairs	90	115	161	156
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.





Roseate Tern

	2021	2022	2023	2024
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.
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.









Little Tern

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of pairs	15	10	18	18
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.







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