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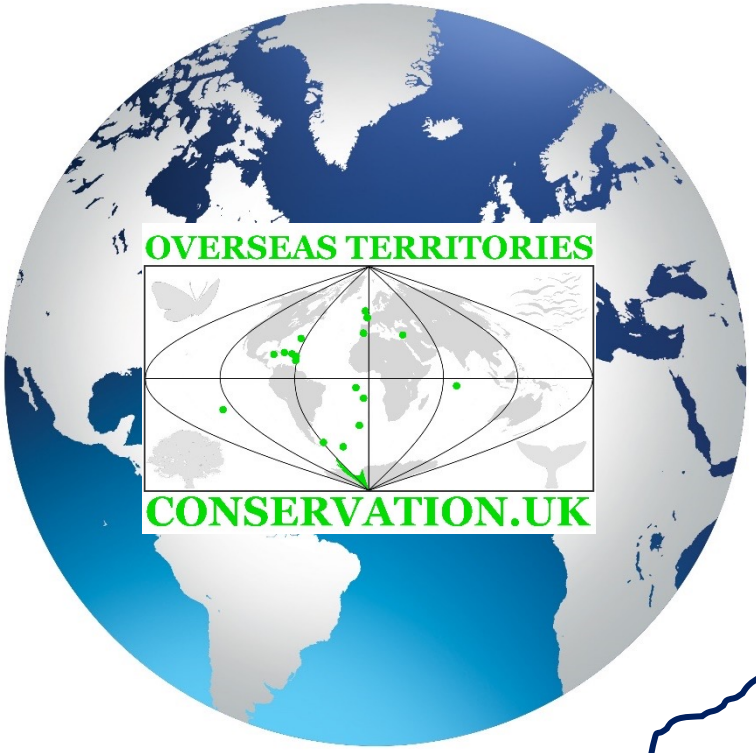
Treisht Bea-Feie Vannin

The Current Research of Manx Wildlife Trust

Leigh Morris, CEO, MWT

PROUD TO PARTNER
BIOSPHERE ISLE OF MAN



PROUD TO PARTNER
BIOSPHERE ISLE OF MAN

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The Wildlife Trusts

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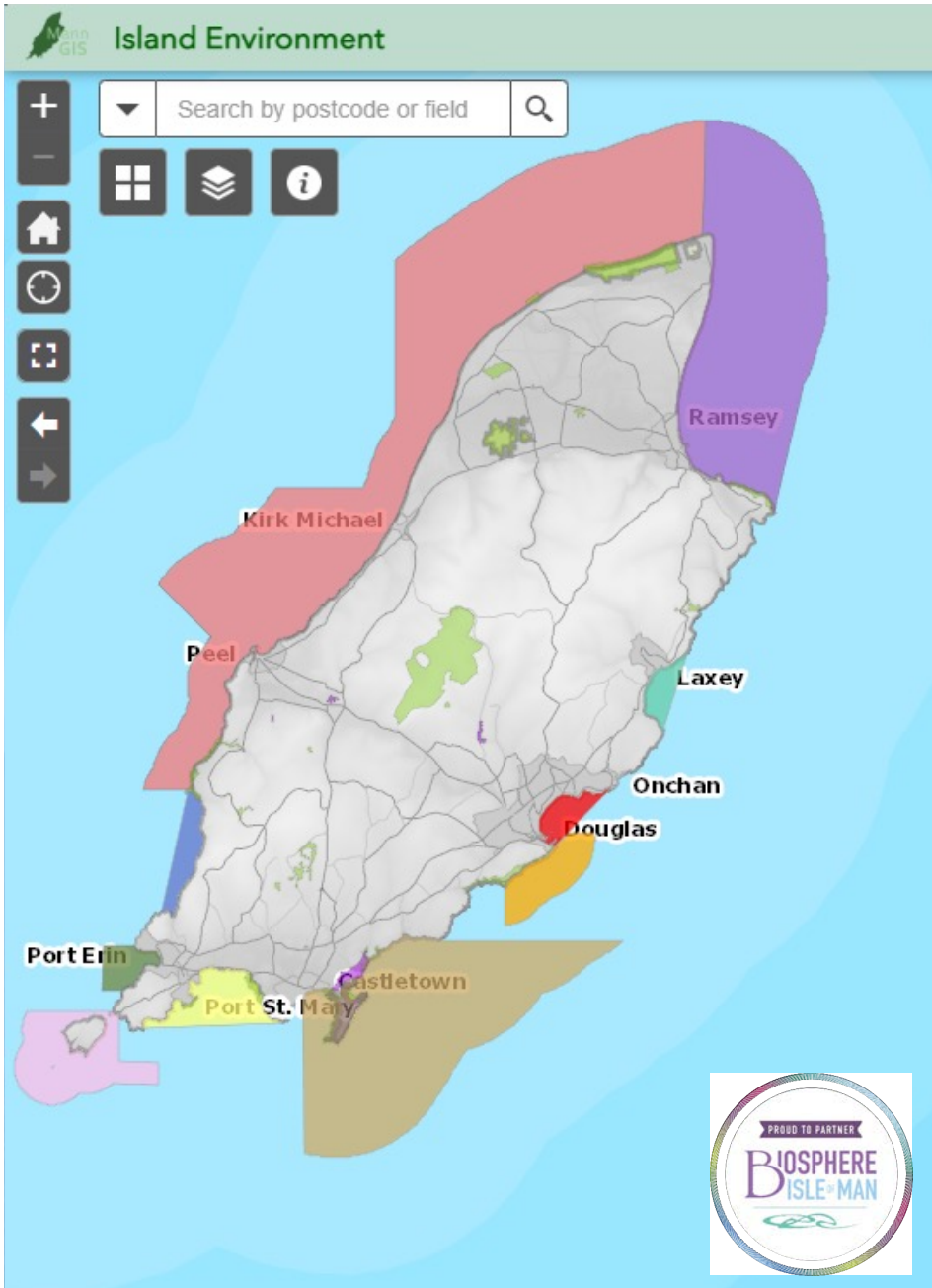
Nature Recovery Network (NRN)



Our Nature Reserves

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Upland Peat Surveying

Peat Depth Category	Area (hectares)
Deep Peat >99cm	221
Peat 40-99cm	1716
Shallow Peat <40cm	2996
No Peat	22
Area surveyed since 2018	4955
Percentage of target	54%

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Isle of Man Government


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Agri-Environment Scheme

Isle of Man Government

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Isle of Man wildflower rediscovered after 142 years

2 September

The flowers were found growing in marshy grassland on a dairy farm

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Wallabies

BH Wildlife Consultancy
The modern approach

Drones

The Future for Wildlife Monitoring

Calf of Man Bird Observatory:

- Total bird species recorded since 1959 = **284** (inc. 58 species ‘new’ to IOM)
- Total species recorded breeding = **60**
- Total species ringed = **164**
- Total birds ringed (to end July 2022) = **288,000**

Manx National Heritage
Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin

BTO
British Trust for Ornithology

Manx Shearwaters


Thermal Imaging
A
2.5x
02 15

Motus
Wildlife Tracking System

Curraghs Wildlife Park

Keyboard s

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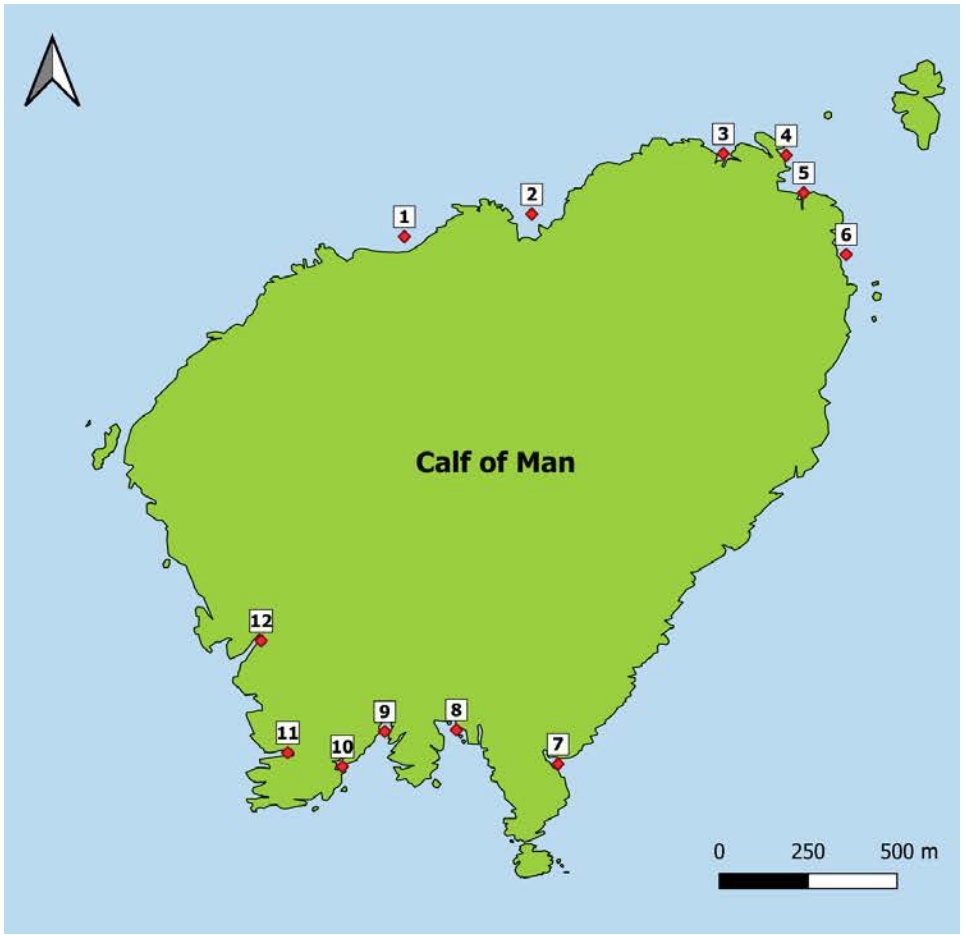
Calf of Man Annual Seal Survey

- 12 pupping sites identified
- Surveyed on rotation (2 days)
- Adults & pups counted / photographed.
- Behaviour and interactions recorded, including mortality



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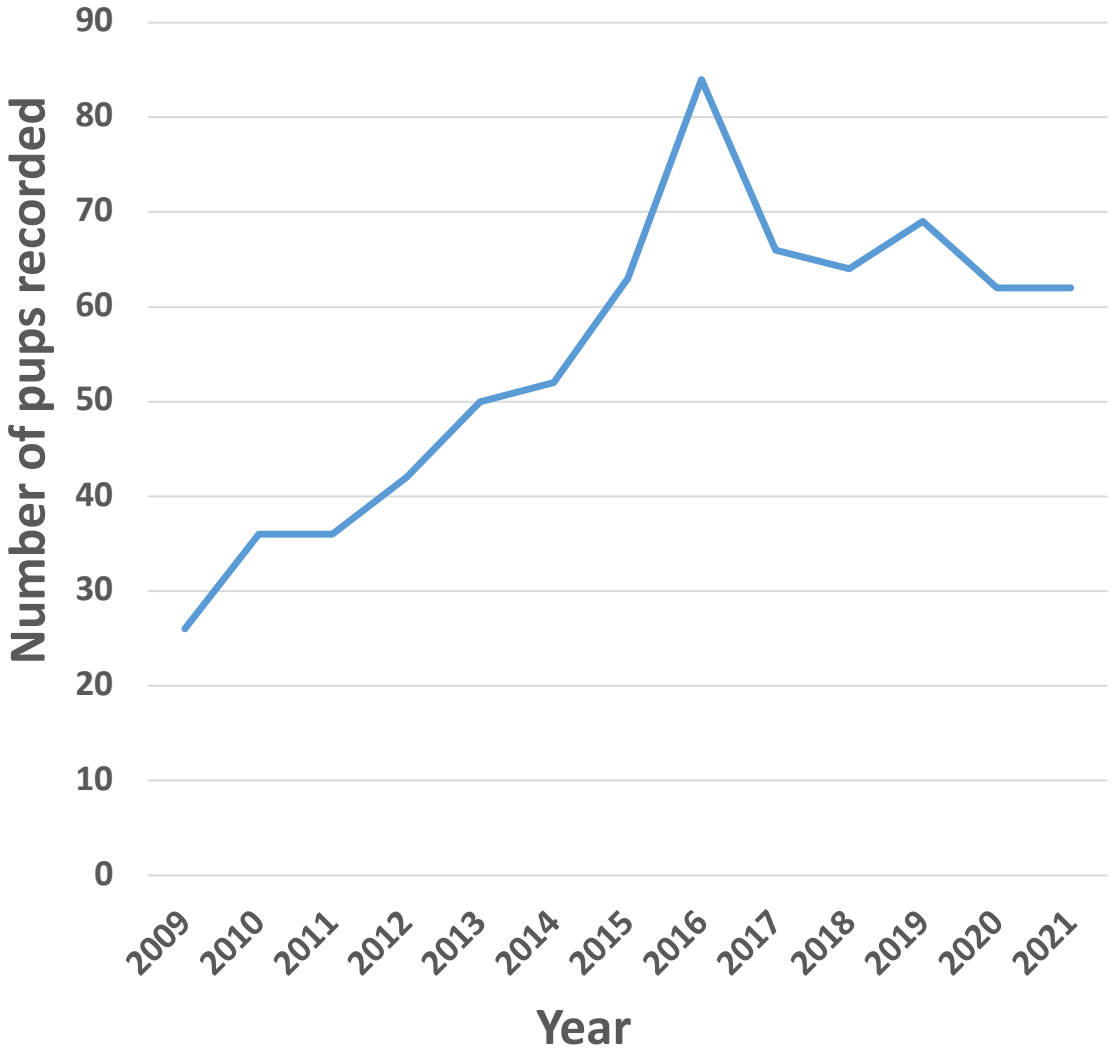
Calf of Man - Seal Pup Trends

- Average 54.8 births per year.
- Appear to be reaching a plateau in pup production.
- Average mortality of 5.7%.
- 35.1% tracked through all stages of development.
- 300 adults present on the Calf during 2020 season.
- 47.5% of females returned for 1+ seasons (2009-20).



A Calf Research Strategy:

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British Trust for Ornithology

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seasearch
Recording Sequence
1 Depths
2 Sediment Types
3 Seabed Cover Types
4 Unusual Features
5 Human Impacts/Litter
6
Resistant
www.seasearch.org.uk
HABITAT
SEABED COVER TYPES:

Seagrass

Microgaming

sea-changers

KPMG

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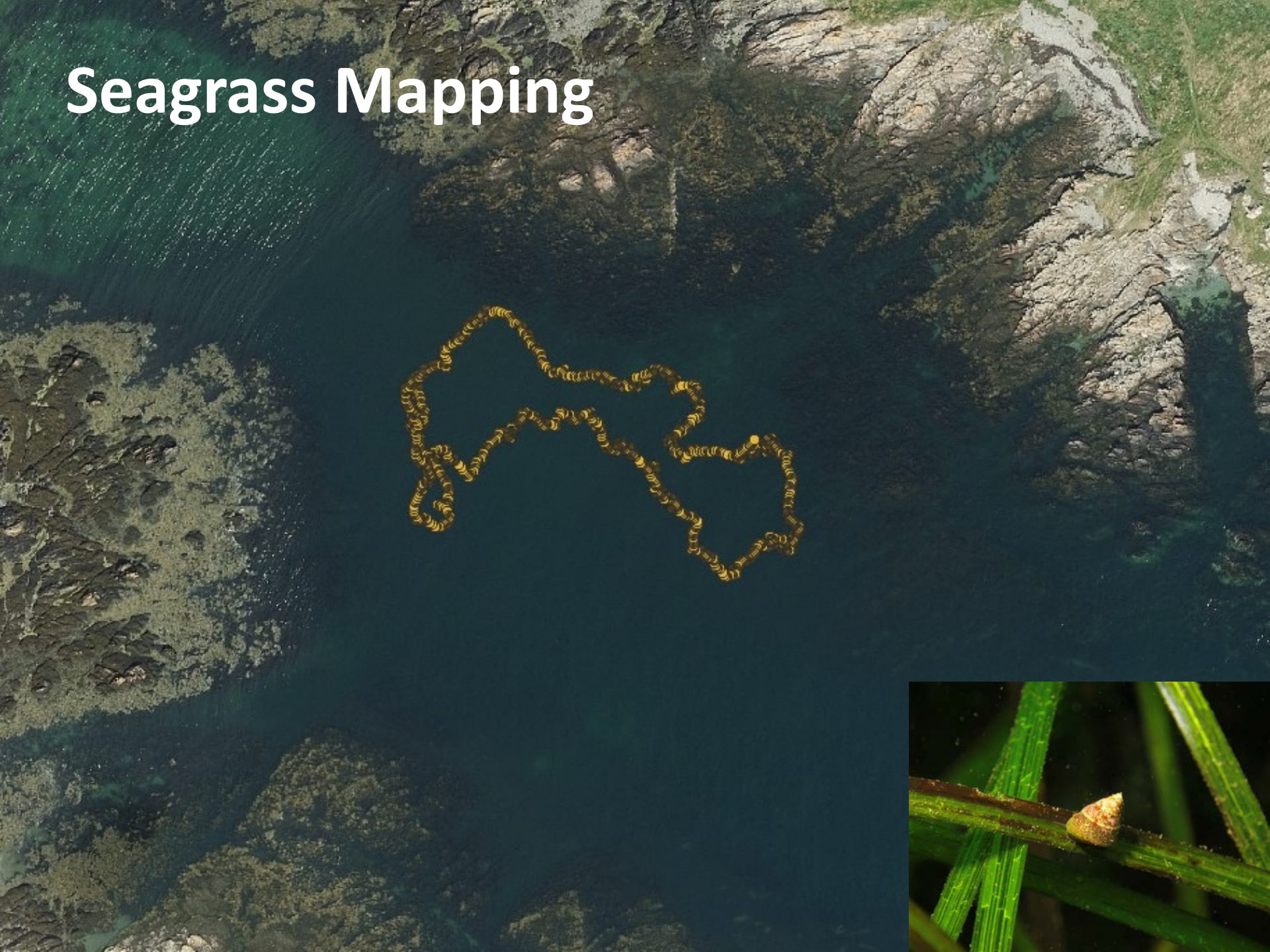
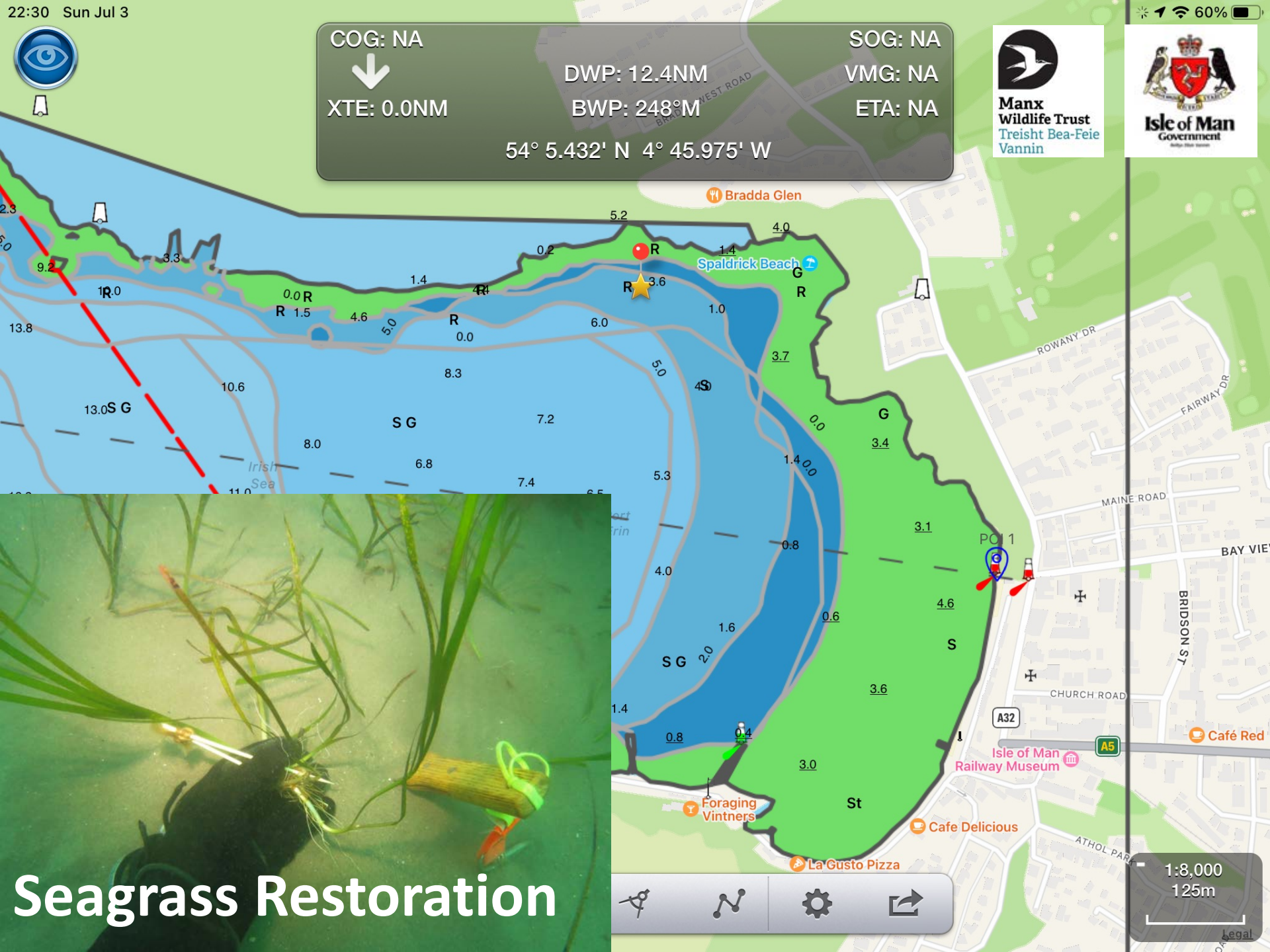
Isle of Man Government

Seagrass Mapping




22:30 Sun Jul 3
60%
COG: NA
SOG: NA
DWP: 12.4NM
VMG: NA
XTE: 0.0NM
BWP: 248°M
ETA: NA
54° 5.432' N 4° 45.975' W
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Isle of Man Government
Bradda Glen
Spaldrick Beach
ROWANY DR
FAIRWAY DR
MAINE ROAD
BRIDSON ST
CHURCH ROAD
A32
A5
Café Red
Isle of Man Railway Museum
Foraging Vintners
Cafe Delicious
La Gusto Pizza
1:8,000
125m
Legal
Seagrass Restoration

The IOM Shark Tagging Programme

monitoring Isle of Man's small sharks!

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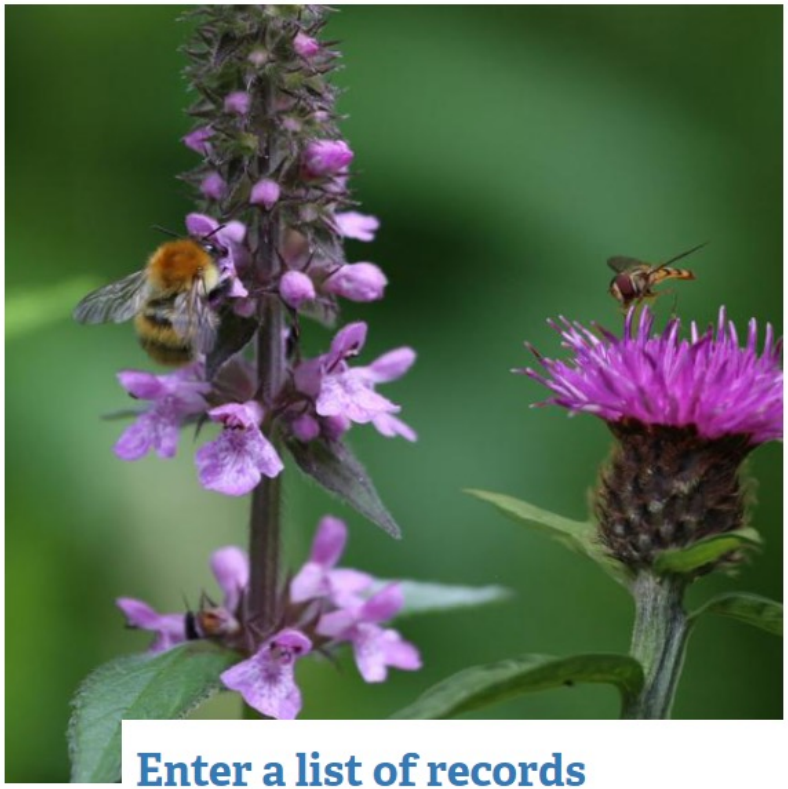
Getting others to help us – Citizen Science

Nature Counts - Manx Wildlife Trust

Enter a casual record

Click here to enter a single record of wildlife that you've seen.



Enter a list of records

If you have a list of records from the same place on the same date, you can enter them here.


BioBlitz

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MWT Invert Group

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Some of the new IOM Species found in 2023

Parapelecopsis nemoralis

Sphaerocera curvipes

Agathomyia unicolor

Suillia pallida

Exechia bicincta

Cryptachaea blattea

MWT Wildlife Observers Certificate – *training the next generation of biological recorders*

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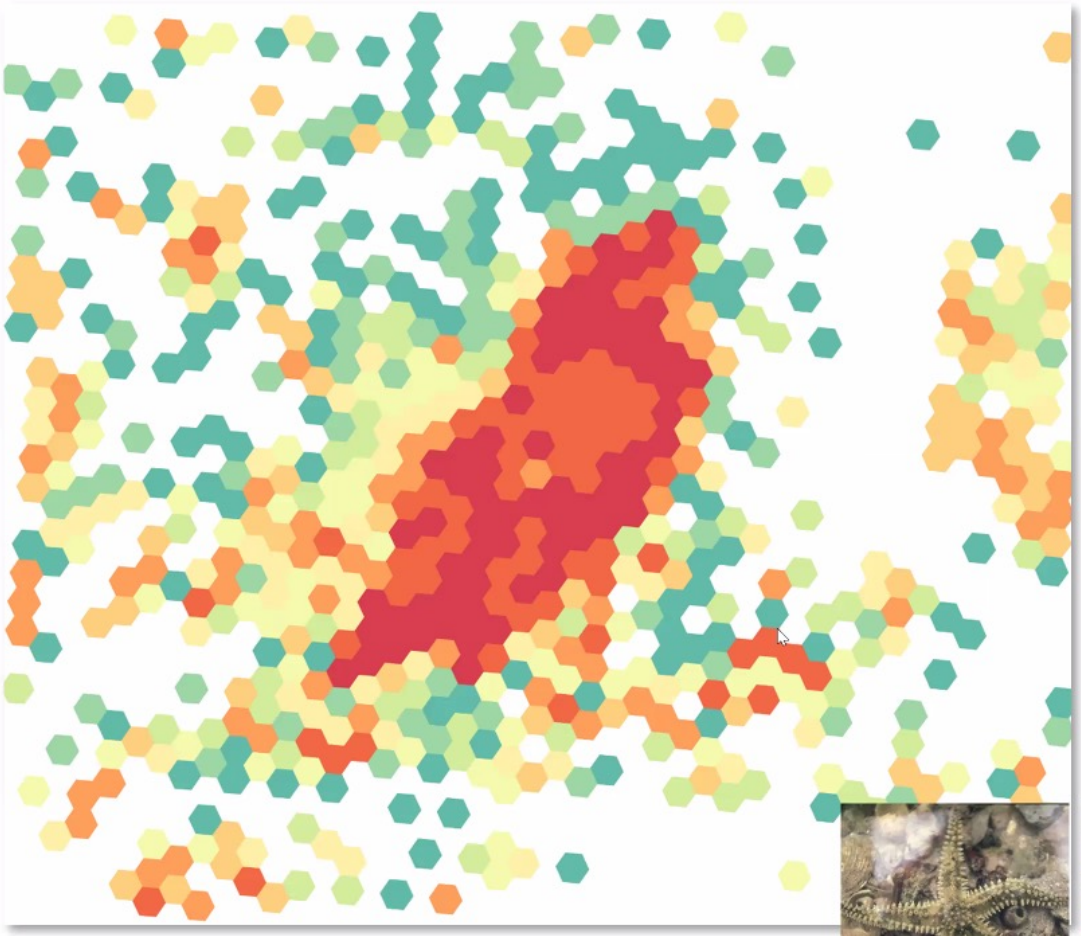
Vannin

Isle of Man



1,096,555
Occurrences

8,238
Species

144
Datasets

57
Data partners



Photos: Spiny Starfish, Small Tortoiseshell, Oystercatcher and Hairy Sheieldbug (Malcolm Storey)

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Publishing our Findings:

Annual Report 2020-2021

Welcome to our first Manx Nature Annual Report! Since being established in 1973, MWT has led the way on delivering an astounding amount of wildlife conservation in the Isle of Man. Despite all we have achieved in almost 50 years, however, the need for MWT remains as strong as ever, and our aim is that this Annual Report will enable us to better communicate the work we are doing and the positive impact we are having, both on and off Island. We need our work to be better understood by politicians, partners, funders, and all of our IOM residents and visitors, and by doing this we will hopefully inspire more people to get involved with, and/or support our work.

Although MWT is one of the smallest of The Wildlife Trusts (TWT), we are one of only three who have coverage across a whole nation (Scotland and Ulster being the others) and with our strategically important position at the centre of the British Isles and Irish Sea, we have a key role to play. As we face the challenges of climate change, and the development and industrialisation of the Irish Sea, the data we collect will be valuable to a far wider audience. We also have a great opportunity to develop whole nation approaches to (for example) climate change mitigation and Agri-environment initiatives, which could potentially become models for other small nations and islands.

Partnerships are critical for MWT as we aim to increase our impact, and several of these are highlighted in this report. We have an excellent relationship with the IOM Government (we see ourselves as a friend and ally, but one also willing to challenge when needed), particularly with DEFA, who we work with closely on several important wildlife and wider environmental initiatives. Our alliances with Manx National Heritage, the Manx National Farmers Union and other conservation organisations are highly valued and offer excellent opportunities for greater combined impact.

This report contains articles by several of our team. Our nature reserves remain at the heart of what MWT delivers and it is fantastic to see the data for the number of hours contributed by our volunteers, the Midweek Muckers. Lara's article covers several areas of our marine (and now freshwater) work, including the data from the seal pupping annual surveys, shark tagging and our new role as the IOM Seasearch coordinators. The data from Aron for the Calf Bird Observatory, and from our partner Manx Whale and Dolphin watch, give a wider marine perspective. On the terrestrial front, Andree's report touches on several projects including the work we are doing at Ramsey Hairpin, Sarah covers our important peat restoration project, and David highlights the great opportunity we have to positively influence nature across 88% of the IOM, as delivery partner for the IOM Government's new Agri-Environment Scheme,

Communicating our work and our key messages is fundamentally important for MWT, and the pieces by Graham and Rachael summarise how we have significantly developed our engagement and outreach over the period. The paper from our (Biosphere Award winning!) Education Officer Dawn describes the size and breadth of the audience that she connects with in the IOM.

We hope you find our first annual report a useful reference document and our aim is that the report will evolve in the years ahead.

Leigh Morris, CEO

Background image: Puffin at Kione ny Halby by Keirron Tastagh

EXTINCT: THE LOSS OF THE YELLOWHAMMER *EMBERIZA CITRINELLA* IN THE ISLE OF MAN

David C. Bellamy

Photograph 1: Yellowhammer along the Thurot Cottage Road, Bride, 23 December 2010. Photograph courtesy of Pete Hadfield.

AN EPITAPH

The Yellowhammer, *Emberiza citrinella*, once one of the most common birds of Manx hedgerows, is gone. This extinction is upsetting, not just to those who remember the species' former abundance and the joy, colour and sounds that it brought to our island, but also to those, like the author, who sadly missed out on this experience. This is one of a string of losses of Manx farmland birds, made more upsetting by the fact that few have, until recently, acknowledged its loss.

The loss of the Yellowhammer shows us that there is an urgent need for more resources to be directed into nature conservation on our island. Such efforts are desperately required if we are to prevent any further species from being avoidably lost, while also delivering nature's recovery across the Isle of Man. It is unfortunate that the first well-funded and Island-wide Agri-Environment Scheme, launched in 2021, came too late to prevent this extinction.

The author asserts that the Yellowhammer is now extinct in the Isle of Man as a breeding bird and seeks to document for the historical record the decline of this once common and much-loved species. Admittedly this is a sad task, but one that is vitally important to highlight the state of Manx nature to the people and leaders of our island.

After many centuries – possibly several millennia – of gracing our island with its presence, the loss of this native Manx species and the silencing of its song draws to an end a long cultural connection with this unassuming, enigmatic character of our gorse-strewn hedges. The Yellowhammer's once ubiquitous song, *'a little bit of bread and no cheese'*, now goes unheard by today's generation of Manx children. No known recording of its song exists. Our gorse yellow hedgebanks remain as a defining feature of our landscape yet have lost their eponymous sidekick. An age-old bond has been broken.

This paper is an epitaph to the Manx Yellowhammer, our *Ushag Vuigh*. It seeks to outline and codify the evidence of this bird on Mann and chart its long decline to extinction. For want of space it does not explore in any depth the many human-induced changes to our countryside which were undoubtedly the cause of this loss. Regrettably, the probability of natural recolonisation is slim, and without addressing the causes of loss, no reintroduction would be likely to succeed.

We can and must learn from the loss of the Yellowhammer before another Manx species is lost. Thankfully, we now understand which species are at greatest risk and are gathering the knowledge and tools required for landscape-scale conservation. This requires joined-up, Island-wide and adequately resourced effort: let the loss of the Yellowhammer not be in vain, but a national catalyst for action.

Prioritising Our Future Research

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enquiries@mwt.im