Powering healthy seas

Turning a vision into reality



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Northern gannet RSPB/Ben Andrew

Executive summary

Time is running out to meet the UK's 2030 climate and nature targets.

Marine ecosystems are declining, seabird populations are under severe pressure, and we are off track for achieving Good Environmental Status across the marine environment.

At the same time, offshore wind must expand rapidly to deliver energy security and net zero.

Without progress for both climate and nature, these pressures will increasingly collide, ultimately slowing deployment, increasing costs, and accelerating nature loss.

What needs to happen now?

1 **Plan wind away from sensitive areas**

Use strategic, nature-led marine spatial planning to avoid the most critical areas for seabirds.

2 **Mitigate impacts through nature positive design**

Integrate robust and effective mitigation measures into windfarm design from the outset.

3 **Deliver compensation at scale**

Unlock and implement strategic compensation at scale to address residual impacts and enable sustainable growth.

4 **Rebuild seabird resilience**

Restore declining seabird populations by improving food supply, protecting key habitats and reducing mortality at sea.

These actions are not barriers but enablers that drive faster, less risky offshore wind development. Done right, they reduce conflict, simplify consenting, and ensure that clean energy expansion supports, rather than undermines, nature recovery.

Powering healthy seas

In 2022, the RSPB published '*Powering healthy seas: accelerating nature positive offshore wind*'. It detailed our vision of how a nature-positive approach to offshore wind deployment can act as a catalyst for ecosystem recovery across the marine environment.

Since then, the offshore wind landscape has changed dramatically, while nature has continued to decline. The RSPB continues to play a leading role in enabling change to support offshore wind and seabirds needs.

But, with the clock ticking towards 2030 and the need to strengthen energy security growing, the UK must accelerate progress on its climate targets while also ensuring nature is put on a pathway to recovery.



Little tern RSPB/Ben Andrew

This report reviews the progress that the UK has made in delivering nature positive offshore wind throughout the first half of the decade, serving as a line in the sand on past shortcomings.

The RSPB believes that with the right political leadership, an energy transition that delivers for climate, nature and energy security is still possible.

The report outlines the steps that still need to be taken to collectively progress and realise our net zero and nature targets by 2030.

Securing the future relies on thriving ecosystems and lifestyles powered by sustainable energy.

Healthy seas are not a luxury; they are the foundation for climate resilience and national security.

The UK Government's own national security assessment warns that global biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse pose direct risks to national security and prosperity.

They threaten food, water, health and supply chain stability, with collapse in some critical systems possible as early as the 2030s[1].

Coastal habitats, such as saltmarshes and seagrass beds, play a vital role in storing carbon, buffering communities from flooding and protecting our shores.

Yet, these habitats have experienced severe, long-term decline, with around 44% of UK seagrass having been lost since the 1980s (and up to 95% over longer timescales) and approximately 85% of saltmarsh in England disappearing since 1860[2, 3].

As these critical coastal ecosystems shrink, we're also seeing more bird species than ever placed on the Birds of Conservation Concern Red List[4].

When these systems collapse, the consequences ripple far beyond nature, undermining our ability to effectively manage climate change and deliver clean energy at pace.

Renewables are essential to combating the climate crisis that is impacting many of our habitats and species.

To ensure that we limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, the world must achieve net zero emissions by the end of this decade.

Offshore wind and other technologies, such as onshore wind and solar, will play a key role in reaching this ambitious goal.

> *"A healthy marine environment and resilient seabird populations are good for offshore wind. Together they enable us to confidently move to a renewable energy-based system in a sustainable way, addressing the climate crisis while ensuring that marine ecosystems are protected and supported in the most effective manner for future generations."*
>
> RenewableUK[5]

However, the ambition and action of the UK and devolved governments to recover biodiversity and nature are significantly lacking.

The latest annual progress report by the Office for Environment Protection (OEP), created to provide independent oversight of the UK Government's environmental progress, found that *"Overall, collective trends point to declining marine biodiversity, continued habitat degradation and overall poor health of marine ecosystems for England[6]."*

Of the 15 indicators of ocean health outlined in the UK Marine Strategy, 13 are failing to reach Good Environmental Status (GES), including marine birds[7].

Reaching net zero and delivering nature recovery requires decisive leadership across Westminster and devolved Governments.

Close collaboration across industries is also necessary to ensure that clean energy growth and ecological resilience go hand in hand.

The climate and nature crises are inseparable and as such, solutions should be delivered in tandem.

Seabirds and offshore wind

The UK's seabirds are facing one of the most alarming conservation crises of our time. Defra's 2025 Wild Bird Indicator shows UK seabird populations have plummeted by 37% since 1986, with a 15% decline in the past five years alone[8].

Similarly, the Seabirds Count census shows 62% of UK seabird species are in decline, rising to 70% in Scotland, our seabird stronghold[9].

This has been starkly illustrated at Bass Rock in Scotland which lost its status as the world's largest gannet colony due to the impacts of Avian flu causing populations to decline by a third[10]. Similar declines in Wales have been seen where the Grassholm gannet colony has fallen from third to sixth largest globally[10].

Finally, the Birds of Conservation Concern Seabird Assessment (BoCC5a) shows 10 of the 25 UK breeding seabirds on the Red List, a tenfold increase since 1996[4].

With increasingly busy sea space, disease and climatic events, the impacts to seabirds are growing significantly.

> *"While offshore wind infrastructure can have environmental impacts, wind developers are actively working to mitigate and minimise these effects. However, this is only possible when the marine ecosystem is resilient - a crucial factor for long-term sustainability."*
>
> WindEurope and BirdLife ECA[12]

Offshore wind development introduces an additional human pressure to the marine environment by altering marine habitats and increasing risks during construction and operation.

Seabirds are particularly vulnerable to collision with turbine blades, displacement from key foraging areas, disturbance from vessel traffic, and barrier effects that disrupt migration and feeding routes. There are also growing concerns about wider ecosystem level impacts off offshore wind which remain poorly understood. These include potential disruption to regular ocean mixing dynamics and the lower trophic processes that underpin the marine food web[11].

These impacts fall on seabird populations that are already weakened, compounding existing stressors.

As vulnerability increases, so too does the likelihood that offshore wind proposals will have significant impacts on seabirds. This increases the requirement for complex mitigation or strategic compensation measures, particularly due to cumulative impacts. These measures remain difficult to design and deliver, slowing construction and driving up costs.

In order to make space for much needed offshore wind, we need an integrated approach to pressure removal for seabirds on land and at sea. Building ecological resilience into seabird populations is one of a number of essential steps needed to ensure offshore wind can expand at pace without further seabird loss.

Impacts of offshore wind



1 Bird collision with offshore turbines

2 Displacement from preferred foraging areas

3 Barrier to important flight pathways

Habitat loss and modification of seabed through:

4a Construction of turbines

4b Laying and burying of cabling and rock armouring

4c Coastal habitat loss with construction of substation

Disturbance from:

5a Increased boat traffic/ human activity

5b Light pollution

6 Release of blue carbon stores as a result of habitat disturbance

7 Subtidal noise, during construction and piling of foundations, impacting cetaceans and fish

8 Electromagnetic fields of cables impacting sharks and rays behaviour

Progress on actions needed to achieve 2030 goals for climate and nature

= limited progress = some progress = good progress

Avoidance of development in sensitive areas for seabirds; Marine Spatial Planning

Progress to date

- Spatial planning programmes across the UK include Defra's Marine Spatial Prioritisation Programme[13], the National Energy System Operator's (NESO) Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP)[14], The Crown Estate's (TCE) Marine Delivery Routemap (MDR)[15] and Scotland's Sectoral Marine Plan for offshore wind energy (second iteration due soon)[16].
- For the first time, TCE's MDR has integrated nature into offshore wind leasing round 6 development, seeking to avoid critical areas for seabirds at sea and Marine Protected Areas.
- Following a review of marine planning approaches, the Welsh Government announced a "detailed spatial assessment of Welsh seas"[17,18].

Remaining barriers

- TCE's MDR has set an example and precedent for marine spatial planning that takes account of sensitive areas for nature at sea through effective use of the Mitigation Hierarchy. The same level of ambition for prioritising nature's recovery, in particular seabirds needs, is needed across all four countries of the UK through wider marine planning programmes.
- Current consenting of projects outside Scotland's Sectoral Marine Plan through the ScotWind leasing round demonstrates the continuing misalignment between planning and ambition.
- Governmental marine planning teams remain significantly under-resourced.



Offshore turbine RSPB/Kate Nethercoat

Ambition for 2030 and beyond

- **A marine SPA sufficiency review has been completed and gaps in the network have been identified for seabirds. These areas are included in the protected areas network to ensure seabirds are sufficiently protected at sea and to support breeding and feeding needs.**
- **Critical areas for seabirds and MPAs are avoided in future offshore wind leasing rounds.**
- **Across all four UK countries, holistic marine spatial plans are in place that formally prioritise and allocate sea space among competing uses in line with government objectives.**

Expanding the evidence base

Progress to date

- There has been substantial investment in closing key evidence gaps for offshore wind, through initiatives such as Offshore Wind Evidence and Change (OWEC)[19], the Offshore Renewables Joint Industry Programme (ORJIP)[20], and others. These efforts are now meaningfully shaping planning and assessment processes for offshore wind development. Crucially, they have driven a step-change in our knowledge and understanding of seabird distribution at sea, much of it directly enabled by the offshore wind sector.
- Progress on greater strategic coordination of monitoring, data collection and knowledge exchange through establishment of a Strategic Monitoring team in Defra and the Offshore Wind Evidence and Knowledge Hub (OWEKH)[19A].

Remaining barriers

- Key knowledge gaps remain, including:
  - › effective mitigation measures for seabirds
  - › the differences of impacts between fixed and Floating Offshore Wind (FLOW)
  - › species-specific seabird impacts and subsequent mitigation and compensation options
  - › impacts of offshore wind development on ocean processes.
- Processes for how evidence is synthesised and used to inform improvements in assessments and, ultimately, regulator decisions need to be improved.
- Continue to lack regular, consistent and standardised monitoring approaches for baseline seabird surveys and seabird impacts of offshore wind development.



Gannet survey RSPB/Sam Tuley

Ambition for 2030 and beyond

- **Evidence programmes continue to drive investment into closing the gap for critical evidence needs.**
- **Clear frameworks for evidence supported by robust feedback loops are established to ensure that the best available evidence is continuously prioritised in decision making.**
- **Ongoing monitoring feeds into a shared, widely accessible evidence base, enabling adaptive management while providing clarity and certainty for sea users.**

Mitigation measures

Progress to date

- Developers continue to make improvements in design and operational approaches and there is increased focus on embedding mitigation within projects. Some projects are exploring innovative measures to reduce adult seabird mortality and disturbance, such as the use of radar and camera-based systems, to inform temporary curtailment during high risk periods, and adaptive operational management to minimise disturbance[21, 22].
- Defra is leading on Offshore Wind Environmental Standards (OWES) in England which aims to reduce the overall environmental impact of development by providing clear guidance to developers on best practices to incorporate into the design, construction, operation and decommissioning of offshore wind farms[23].

Remaining barriers

- Robust evidence base for effective mitigation remains limited.
- Measures are yet to be delivered at scale through the OWES programme.
- Continue to need greater consistency in applying the mitigation hierarchy and ensuring measures reduce impacts in practice.



Rampion Offshore Wind Farm RSPB/Katie Nethercoat

Ambition for 2030 and beyond

- **Mitigation measures are founded on a robust ecological framework that facilitates environmental safeguarding and accelerated consents, building on the growing evidence base and developer needs/constraints.**
- **Recognition of viable and proven mitigation measures, such as increased air gap to reduce collision risk, are supported and developers are given appropriate support to facilitate scalability of such measures.**

Strategic compensation

Progress to date

- Recognition across industry and governments that strategic, at scale compensation is required. The recently established Marine Recovery Funds (MRFs) for Scotland and for England and our offshore seas as part of the Offshore Wind Environmental Improvement Package (OWEIP), could support a more coordinated delivery.[24, 25, 26].
- The Collaboration on Offshore Wind Strategic Compensation programme (COWSC) and the Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council (SOWEC) are established groups aiming to facilitate collaboration across sectors to develop coordinated, strategic approaches to addressing environmental impacts of offshore wind, for the delivery of Strategic Compensation[27, 28].
- Practical progress is being made on the Isles of Scilly towards predator eradication, with quantification work completed and feasibility studies now in place to determine the scope for an England-wide habitat restoration programme benefitting breeding seabirds[29].

Remaining barriers

- The Marine Recovery Funds have limited delivery to date for seabirds. For England, there are currently three measures on the Library of Strategic Compensation Measures, only one of which the RSPB considers viable for seabirds. In Scotland, there remains uncertainty of the deliverability of measures on the Portfolio of Compensation Measures. We are awaiting clarity on Northern Ireland's approach. There has been slow progress in designing and implementing measures at the scale needed, and there are no fully functioning national or regional compensation frameworks in place yet. There continues to be uncertainty around ecological effectiveness.
- Lack of clarity on how to establish new strategic compensation measures within the Library of Strategic Compensation Measures and Portfolio of Compensation Measures.



Guillemot RSPB/Rachel Bigsby

Ambition for 2030 and beyond

- **The Library of Strategic Compensation Measures and the Portfolio of Compensation measures are fully operational, featuring numerous evidence-based measures delivering multiple effective conservation actions for seabirds' needs, both on land and at sea.**
- **Measures which are deemed unproven and ineffective are removed, incentivising action towards comprehensive and effective measures.**

Government actions for seabird recovery

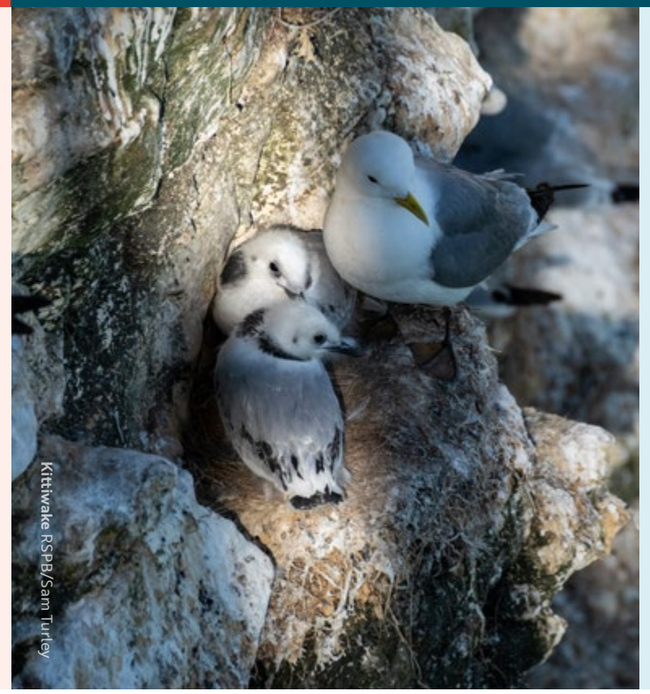
Progress to date

- Development of Seabird Recovery Pathways across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland:
  - English Seabird Conservation and Recovery Pathway (ESCaRP)[30]
  - The Welsh Seabird Conservation Strategy[31]
  - Scottish Seabird Conservation Action Plan[32]
  - Northern Ireland Seabird Conservation Strategy[33]
- There have been positive examples of voluntary environmental investment, participation in nature positive initiatives, and cross sector coalitions such as the Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund (SMEEF) and Marine Fund Cymru[34, 35]. There continues to be growing interest in supporting seabird conservation strategies.
- The closure to industrial sandeel fishing in the English North Sea and Scottish waters supports providing seabirds with a much-needed food supply[36].
- Ongoing biosecurity work has been funded in various formats across England, Scotland and Wales.

Remaining barriers

- The UK is failing to meet 13/15 indicators to achieving Good Environmental Status under the UK Marine Strategy, including seabirds[7]. It is also currently under investigation from the Office of Environmental Protection[6].
- Investment remains inconsistent and limited in scale. Clearer incentives and stronger, government-led programmes are required, as industry action alone is insufficient to deliver nature recovery.
- Significant funding and monitoring gaps persist, alongside a lack of clear prioritisation and coordination in the delivery of measures.
- Benefits from closing the sandeel fishery could take up to seven years to see and there are no plans currently in place to monitor this closure. The 2026 seabird wreck demonstrated that the majority of seabirds washing up died due to starvation and were unable to weather the relentlessness of the winter storms.[37]

Ambition for 2030 and beyond


Kittiwake RSPB/Sam Turley

- **All four country seabird conservation strategies/action plans are resourced and delivered at pace.**
- **Biosecurity measures are underpinned by a long-term, fully-funded, UK-wide predator eradication programme, with crucial emphasis in Scotland where the need is greatest.**
- **Seabird bycatch is addressed through implementation of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) onboard all fishing vessels, alongside development and deployment of effective bycatch mitigation measures.**
- **Habitat restoration to support breeding needs are resourced and delivered at scale across all four countries of the UK.**
- **A marine SPA sufficiency review has been completed and gaps in the network have been identified for seabirds. These areas are included in the protected areas network to ensure seabirds are sufficiently protected at sea and to support breeding and feeding needs.**
- **The ecological benefits of the sandeel closure are monitored and recognised.**

Cross-border collaboration

Progress to date

- Cross sector platforms such as the Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature (OCEaN), the Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI) and the Offshore Wind Industry Council (OWIC) are bringing together NGOs, government bodies, regulators and industry to align offshore wind deployment with marine conservation goals[38, 39, 40].

  This marks an important cultural shift towards shared problem solving and collective responsibility for delivering nature positive outcomes in UK and European waters.

Remaining barriers

- Seabirds are highly mobile species whose lifecycle requirements span wide geographic areas and national boundaries, meaning they can be affected by development across their range. Greater consideration of these ecosystem needs is required at the sea-basin scale through a more joined-up and strategic approach to marine spatial planning across borders.
- Different methods are used across borders to assess seabird impacts and cumulative effects creating inconsistency and poor comparability in data analysis.

Ambition for 2030 and beyond


Isle Of Coll RSPB/Nick Redd

- **Marine spatial planning that considers development across borders and seabird sea basin usage.**
- **Consistent assessment approaches for seabird impacts and cumulative effects across the four nations and ideally across sea basins.**
- **There is coordinated investment in seabird recovery across regional sea basins.**

CASE STUDY

Success: planning with nature at the forefront

The Crown Estate have taken a new approach to Leasing Round 6 marking a step change from previous offshore wind leasing rounds. Nature has been embedded from the outset, supported by the scenario-planning capability of the Marine Delivery Routemap and guided by their nature principles.

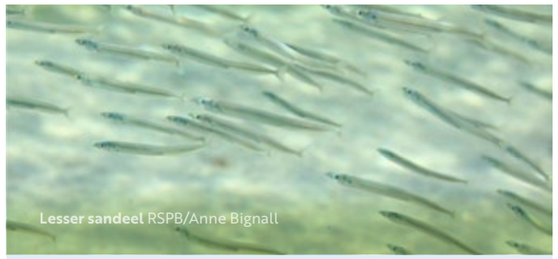
Alongside consideration of the MPA network, TCE worked with statutory nature conservation bodies and the RSPB to strengthen the evidence base and refine the areas of search.

This collaborative approach has supported the avoidance of critical areas for seabirds at sea, helping to build a more resilient marine environment.

For the first time, nature considerations have been prioritised from the start, helping ensure locations that offer the greatest potential for success both for offshore wind delivery and for nature are identified early.



Gannet RSPB/Peter Briggs



Lesser sandeel RSPB/Anne Bignall

CASE STUDY

Success: the closure of industrial sandeel fishing

Sandeels are small, energy-rich fish that underpin the North Sea food web, providing vital food for seabirds. However, decades of industrial fishing has placed immense pressure on these ecosystems, contributing to alarming seabird declines.

To support UK and Scottish government, the RSPB led a campaign which culminated in a historic decision to close industrial sandeel fishing in the English North Sea and all of Scottish waters, a clear step towards ecosystem based management in the marine environment[36]. It represented one of the most significant marine conservation wins in recent years, and a clear step towards ecosystem-based management of the marine environment. This success was driven by an unprecedented collaboration between NGOs, justified through government science and supported by offshore wind trade bodies like RenewableUK and WindEurope, recognising the offshore wind industry and justified through government science. Resilient ecosystems are essential for the long-term success of offshore wind expansion[12]. Healthy seabird populations reduce consenting risks and uncertainty, helping to create the conditions for renewable energy to be delivered responsibly and at scale, rather than in conflict with nature.



Various seabirds RSPB/Ben Andrew

CASE STUDY

Legacy systems blocking the way to a nature positive future: Berwick Bank

Berwick Bank, a 4.1 GW offshore wind farm consented near the Firth of Forth, illustrates the consequences of poor marine spatial planning and decision-making. The site overlaps with internationally important seabird foraging areas, including colonies at Bass Rock and the Isle of May. In its first year alone, Berwick Bank is predicted to kill over 4,000 threatened seabirds, including Guillemots, Kittiwakes, Gannets, Puffins and Razorbills, far exceeding any other UK wind farm and threatening 11 Special Protection Areas across Scotland and England[41].

Such impacts risk undermining hard-won conservation progress, including the benefits expected from the sandeel closure. Rather than building on a more resilient ecosystem, the scale of predicted mortality accelerates seabird decline and places additional strain on already vulnerable populations.

The scale of harm also means the developer must deliver unprecedented compensation, for which the RSPB does not believe can be delivered at the scale required. This is likely to exhaust all available options and limit progress for less damaging projects to progress through to consent. When projects are placed in sensitive areas, consenting becomes complex, costs rise, and confidence in sustainable deployment erodes alongside worsening nature's decline.

Marine spatial planning that avoids critical wildlife areas is essential to deliver offshore wind at pace without sacrificing biodiversity. Strategic planning reduces ecological risk, speeds up consenting, and ensures climate and nature goals advance together. Berwick Bank shows what happens when this balance is ignored and why future decisions must embed nature at the heart of the energy transition.



Atlantic puffin RSPB/Ben Andrew

Achieving a nature positive 2030 vision

"A world where seabirds are no longer threatened by human impact, and that at least 30% of UK seas are appropriately protected and managed effectively for nature with development supporting a drive towards recovery."

To thrive, seabirds need three things:

1 Safe places to breed and feed.

2 Plentiful and reliable food supplies.

3 Reduced adult mortality.

While industry has an important role to play, this must not rest on developers alone. A credible pathway to climate and nature goals requires a well-resourced, ambitious programme of government-led action, ensuring that nature recovery and offshore wind expansion advance together.

To tackle this, all four UK countries have developed Seabird Conservation Strategies, summarising the critical actions needed to drive seabird recovery[30, 31, 32, 33].

These strategies must be resourced with sustained and appropriate funding and must form the backbone of marine decision-making to protect our seabirds.

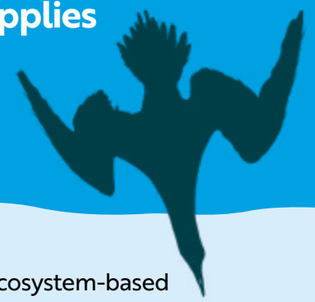
If we are to truly achieve our nature positive 2030 vision, we need to see urgent action for:

1 Safe places to breed and feed



- Undertake a rapid review of critical areas for seabirds at sea, embedding these areas into decision-making processes.
- Avoid future development in critical seabird areas and Marine Protected Areas, reducing the need for timely, complex compensation.
- Urgently undertake a marine Special Protection Area (SPA) sufficiency review to ensure a truly coherent protected area network for seabirds that effectively captures their needs, provides greater clarity for marine planning and development, and supports the accelerated deployment of offshore wind in a way that delivers for both climate and nature.
- Tackle and prevent predation on island seabird colonies across the UK by adequately funding and adopting solutions that will enable vital island eradication and ongoing biosecurity work to continue long-term.
- Address coastal habitat loss and disturbance at breeding colonies.

2 Plentiful and reliable food supplies



- Implement ecosystem-based fisheries management to provide plentiful food for seabirds.
- Effectively monitor the impact of the sandeel closures to the wider North Sea marine ecosystem.

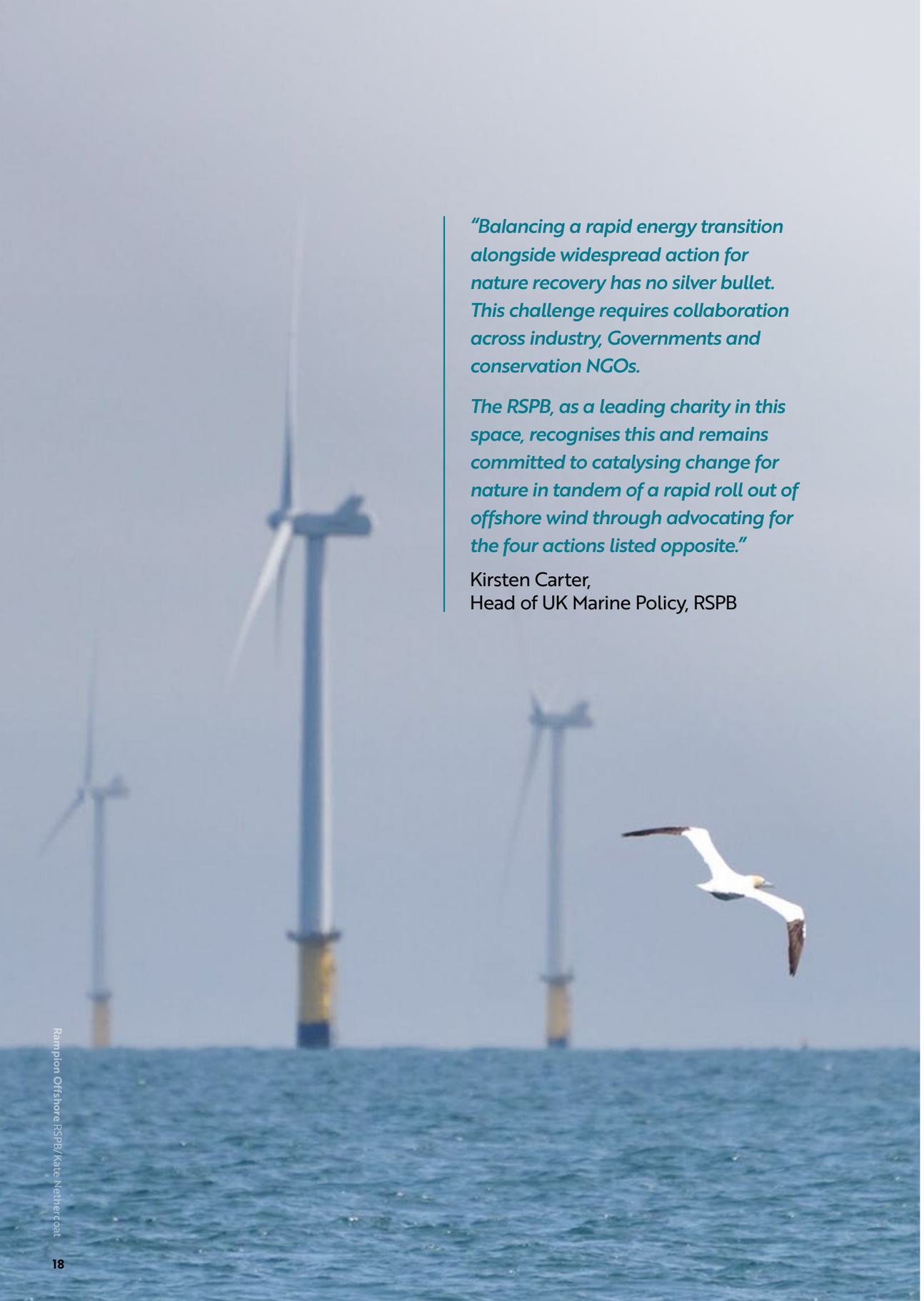


3 Reduced adult mortality



- Introduce effective measures to eliminate seabird mortality from bycatch in fishing gear and fully implement Remote Electronic Monitoring with cameras across all vessels operating in UK waters.

  Priority should be given to fisheries posing the greatest risk to sensitive species such as longline and gillnet fisheries as the first to adopt these measures.



"Balancing a rapid energy transition alongside widespread action for nature recovery has no silver bullet. This challenge requires collaboration across industry, Governments and conservation NGOs.

The RSPB, as a leading charity in this space, recognises this and remains committed to catalysing change for nature in tandem of a rapid roll out of offshore wind through advocating for the four actions listed opposite."

Kirsten Carter,
Head of UK Marine Policy, RSPB

Rampion Offshore RSPB/Katie Nethercoat

How the RSPB is striving for a nature positive future of offshore wind

1 Government action to build seabird resilience by:

a. Championing the urgent delivery and long-term funding of Seabird Conservation Strategies across the four UK countries.

These strategies provide a clear, evidence-driven roadmap for seabird recovery and must be implemented at pace and scale. This includes:

- driving investment in large-scale predator eradication programmes and robust, long-term biosecurity to protect breeding colonies
- progressing a UK SPA sufficiency review to ensure key sites are properly safeguarded
- tackling fisheries bycatch through effective mitigation and comprehensive monitoring, in particular, via the rollout of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) with cameras.

b. Advocating for ecosystem-scale measures such as the sandeel fishery closure. Supported by over 30 NGOs, industry and UK governments, this closure represents the new baseline required for ecosystem-scale action for our seas.

2 Avoidance of critical areas for seabirds in offshore development

The RSPB has been working closely with The Crown Estate, Natural England, JNCC and Natural Resources Wales across England and Wales to identify critical areas for seabirds at sea that are not yet captured in the protected area network. This work aims to ensure future leasing avoids the most sensitive areas for seabirds, such as foraging grounds, thereby reducing both impact on nature and supporting more rapid consenting.

3 Coexistence of wildlife and windfarms

Mitigation presents an opportunity for meaningful coexistence of wildlife and offshore wind where impacts cannot be fully avoided.

The RSPB and The Wildlife Trusts have developed a framework for delivering mitigation measures at scale, for application to programmes such as OWES.

This framework outlines a risk-based model, where embedded mitigation requirements are informed by risks identified at the outset of a lease, providing greater flexibility and ensuring impacts are addressed proportionately and effectively.

4 Delivery of effective strategic compensation for consents and conservation

a. The RSPB alongside, The Wildlife Trusts, National Trust, Natural England and funded by OWIC and Defra is leading a feasibility study to assess the needs of England's breeding colonies, compiling information on site-specific interventions, costs, permissions, legal viability and benefits.

The project will support effective delivery of both strategic compensation and ESCaRP (England Seabird Conservation and Recovery Pathway).

b. The RSPB is part of a pilot study for strategic compensation, led by The Wildlife Trusts, to develop predator reduction on the Isles of Scilly. Building on the success of St Agnes and Gugh, this work is delivering preparatory surveys ahead of proposed rat eradication, relieving seabird pressures on the islands and unlocking urgently needed strategic compensation options.

Conclusion

The nature and climate crises are inseparable. If we fail one, we fail both.

Offshore wind must not come at the expense of further damage to biodiversity. Irreversibly damaging marine ecosystems to build renewable energy infrastructure is not progress, it is a false solution that risks pushing species like Kittiwakes and Puffins closer to extinction.

It not only weakens the resilience of our marine environment to mitigate against climate change, but also impedes the energy transition through costly delays and challenges.

We can change this trajectory.

With coordinated action from government and industry to ensure seabirds have enough food to eat, safe places to breed, safe places to feed and a marine environment that is resilient and adaptable to change, consenting becomes more streamlined, compensation needs shrink, and offshore wind can expand with fewer barriers.

The ultimate outcome?

A UK offshore wind programme that is fast, well planned, delivers certainty and that can be proud of its contribution to catalysing nature's recovery, while delivering the clean energy the UK needs.

Atlantic puffin RSPB/Les Cater

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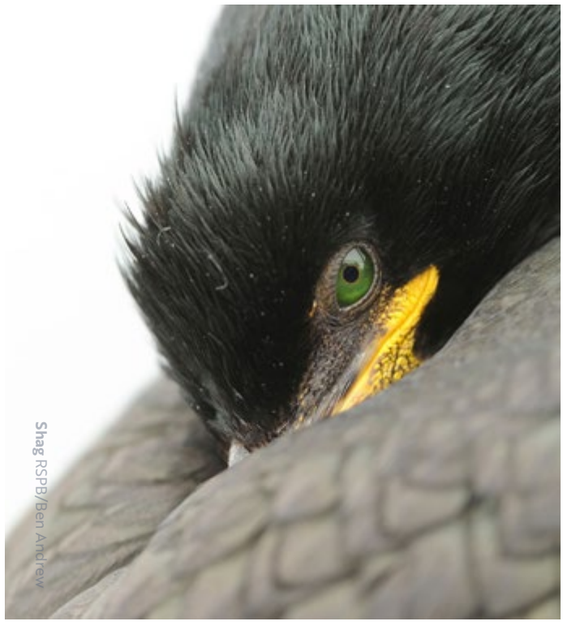
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Common guillemot RSPB/Ben Andrew



Shag RSPB/Ben Andrew

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