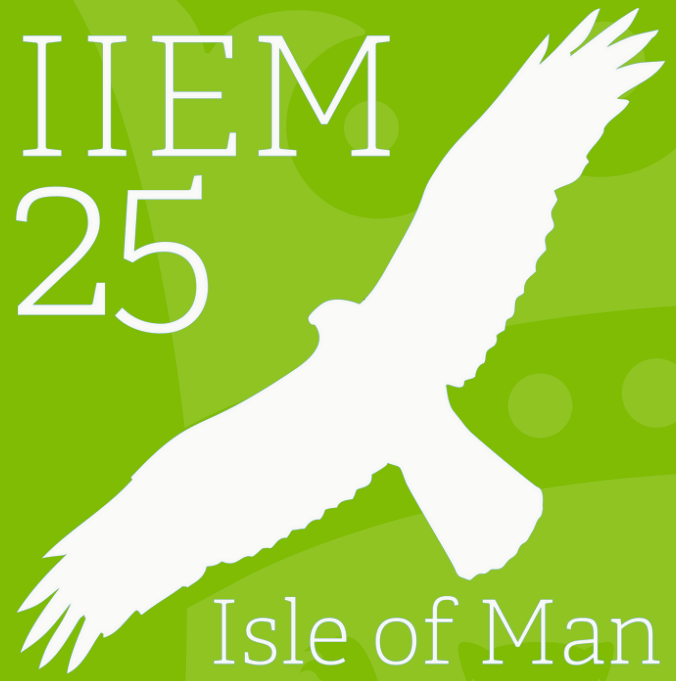
Government of JERSEY

Gouvèrnément d'Jèrri

Understanding the **State of Nature** in Jersey

collaboration for greater impact

Tim Wright, Biodiversity Manager



What we are proposing

- We are working towards publishing Jersey's first 'State of Nature' report in the next two years.

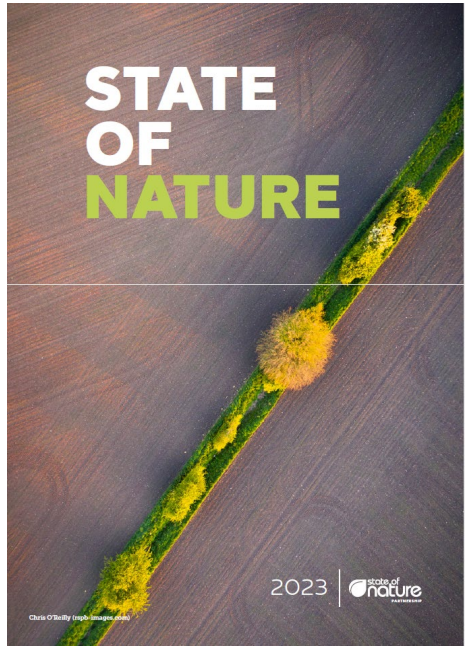
- A State of Nature report for Jersey will be a comprehensive assessment of the current state of biodiversity (species & habitats, land & marine).

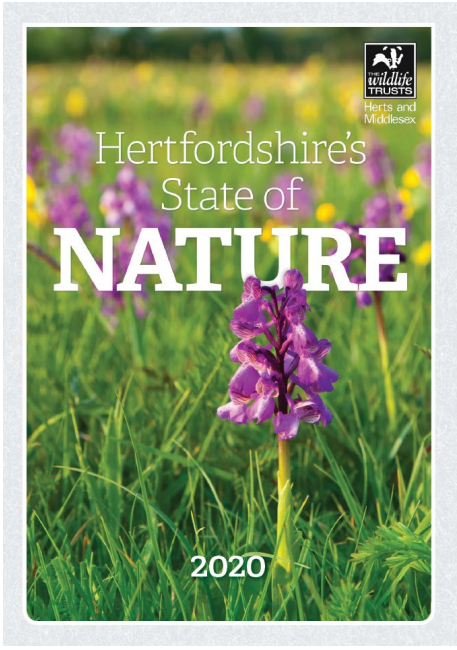
- It will collate data from biological monitoring and recording schemes to provide a benchmark for the status of wildlife and habitats, and collate information on population trends and other changes over time.

Why publish a SoN report?

- Raise awareness about the diversity and importance of Nature in Jersey.
- Provide useful solid evidence to inform future government policies and priorities (such as the Island Plan, Water Strategy, Rural Support Framework, Green Infrastructure policy etc).
- To highlight the need to prioritise biodiversity in decision-making, especially by government.
- To draw attention to the broad range of dedicated organisations and individuals involved in biodiversity monitoring and research in Jersey.

Other examples of State of Nature reports





What will a Jersey SoN report look like?

Key Sections:

- Introduction (importance of Nature, international obligations, interactions with climate change etc.)
- **State of Jersey's Habitats**
- **State of Jersey's Species**
- **Threats and Pressures on Nature**
- State of Jersey's Protected Areas
- Recommendations (focussing on future monitoring priorities and filling knowledge gaps)

+ interspersed with case studies of success
- examples of species recovery, habitat protection etc.

State of Jersey's Habitats

For each key habitat type, a succinct summary of what we do and don't know about its..

- Extent – evidence of this changing over time
- Condition – is there evidence of a change in condition/health over time
- Key importance - of this habitat type, and any particular threats it faces

for example…

Coastal Heathland and Cliff Slopes

Sand Dune

Woodland

Unimproved / Semi-improved Grassland

Boundary Features / Hedgerows

Wet Meadow

Marsh and Freshwater Bodies

Saltmarsh and Vegetated Shingle

Urban

Intertidal Habitats

Shallow Sea – sandmason worms

Shallow Sea – seagrass beds

Shallow Sea – sediment

Shallow Sea – rock/kelp

Shallow Sea – maerl beds

Shallow Sea – slipper limpet beds

Deep Sea – sediment

Deep Sea – hard ground

State of Jersey's Species

For each key taxonomic group, a succinct summary of what we do and don't know about…

- the current status and any evidence of population trends
- relevant research underway, any particular threats, ecosystem roles etc.

for example…

Terrestrial plants
Lichens
Fungi
Terrestrial invertebrates
Terrestrial amphibians and reptiles
Terrestrial mammals

Freshwater invertebrates
Freshwater fish
Birds
Marine microorganisms and flora (mainly algae)
Marine fish
Marine invertebrates
Marine mammals

Threats and Pressures on Nature

A succinct evidence-based review of what we know about the threats facing Nature in Jersey.

For example…

- Land use change, habitat loss and habitat fragmentation
- Invasive species and pathogens
- Unsustainable use/harvesting of species
- Human-wildlife conflict
- Climate change
- Pollution

What it won’t contain

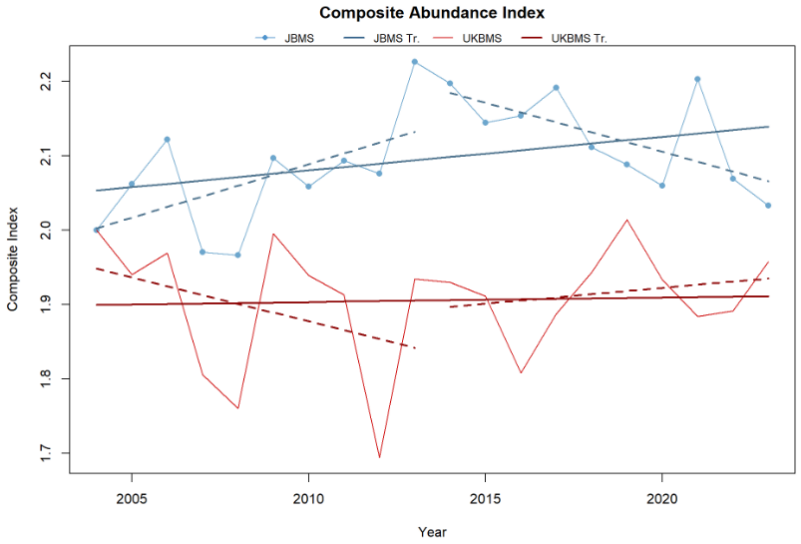
- This State of Nature report won’t be a policy or strategy document.
- It is a data-collation exercise to bring together in one place what we do (and don’t) know about the health of Nature in Jersey – and to provide evidence as to how our species and habitats are changing.
- A separate, revised Biodiversity Strategy will follow after this.

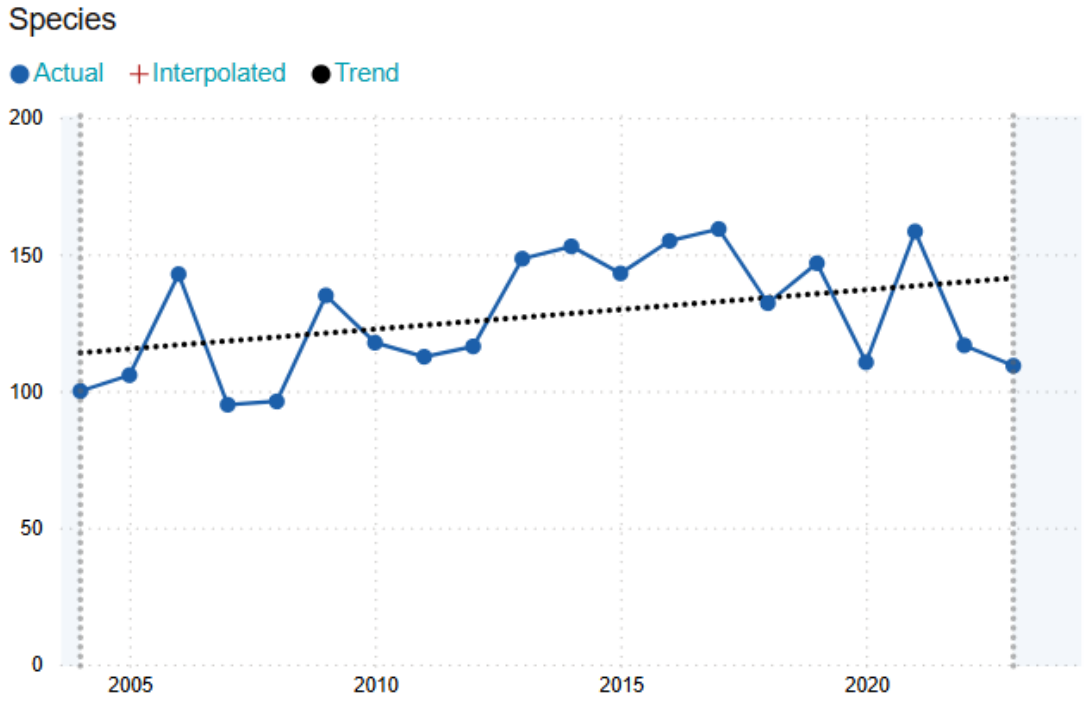
Types of data - species

- Long-term datasets collected in a consistent standardised way are particularly valuable in informing us about long-term change

A few examples…

- >20yrs of butterfly data (2004-



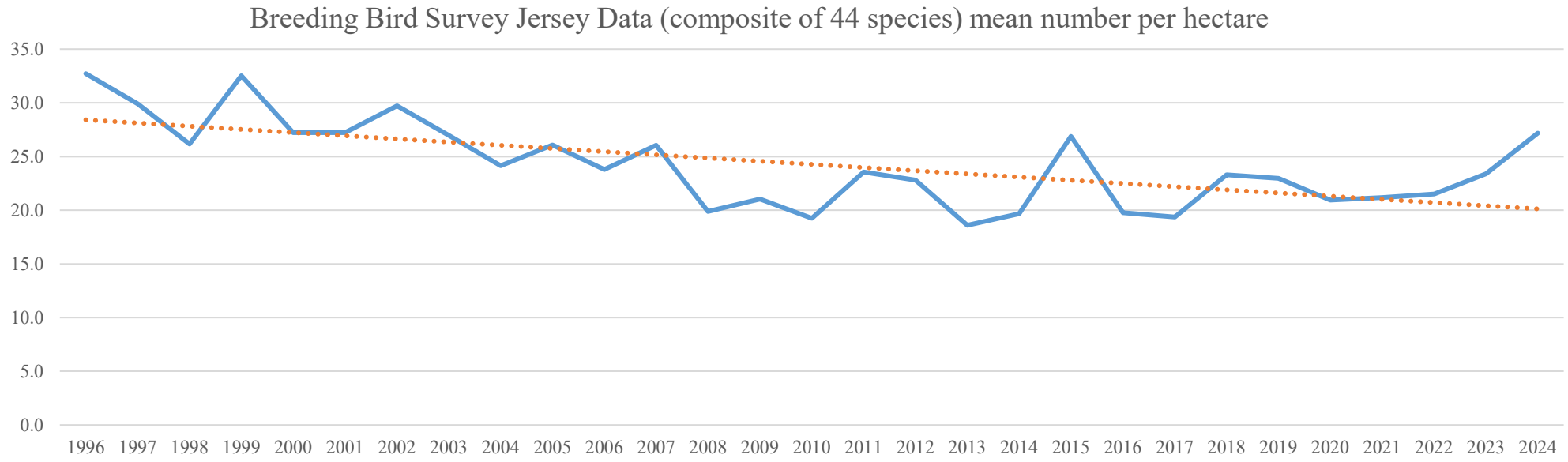


Abundance of 16 species selected as a composite indicator

Collaboration – expertise and data

- Long-term datasets collected in a consistent standardised way are particularly valuable in informing us about long-term change

- BTO's Breeding Bird Survey data (1996-)

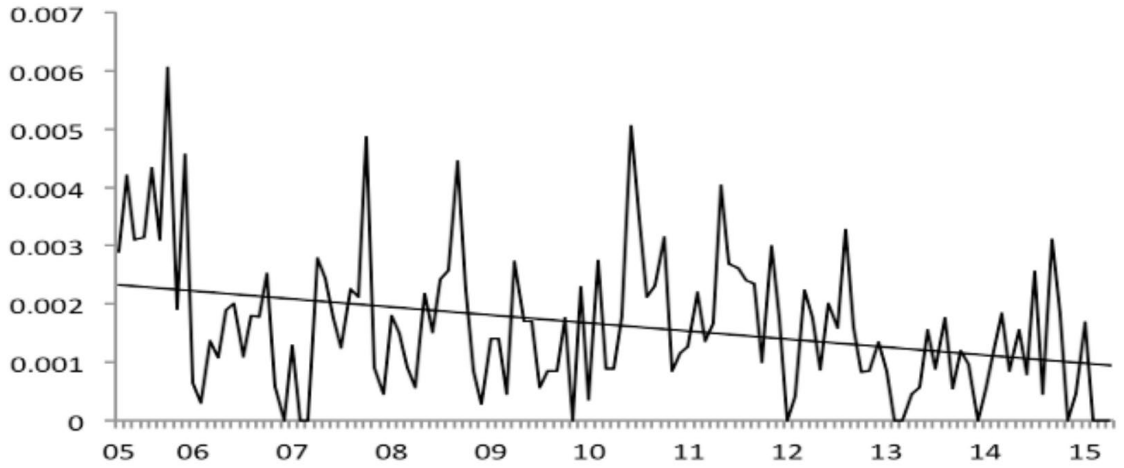


Abundance of 44 species selected as a composite indicator

Collaboration – expertise and data

- Long-term datasets collected in a consistent standardised way are particularly valuable in informing us about long-term change

- Farmland Bird Monitoring Scheme (2005-) led by Durrell on behalf on Birds on the Edge



Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*: FBS results 2005-2015

Collaboration – expertise and data

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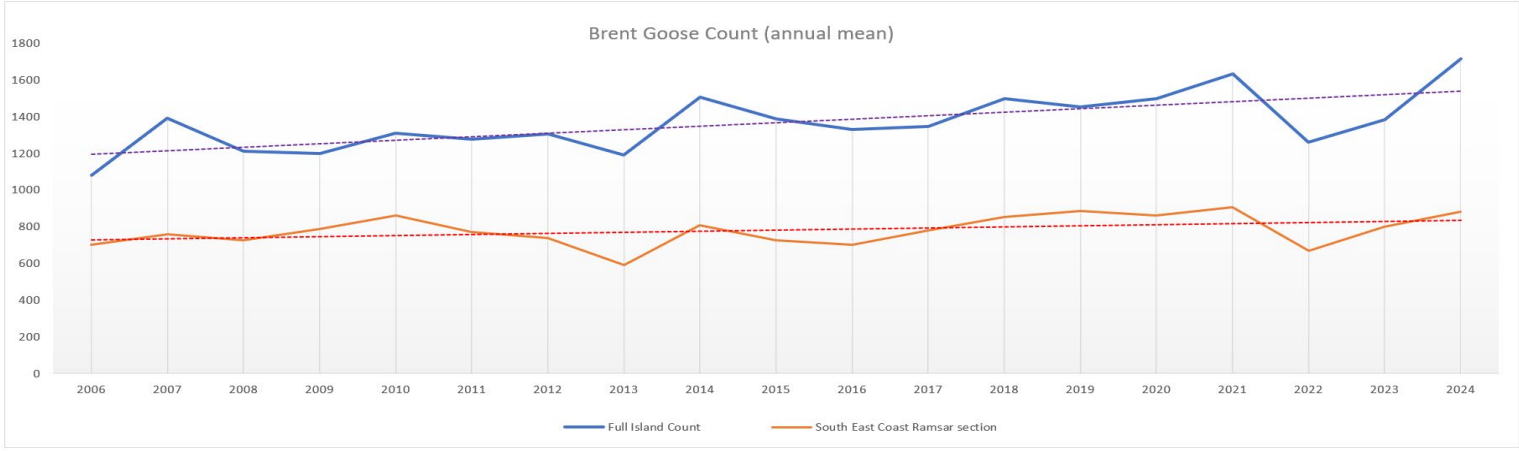
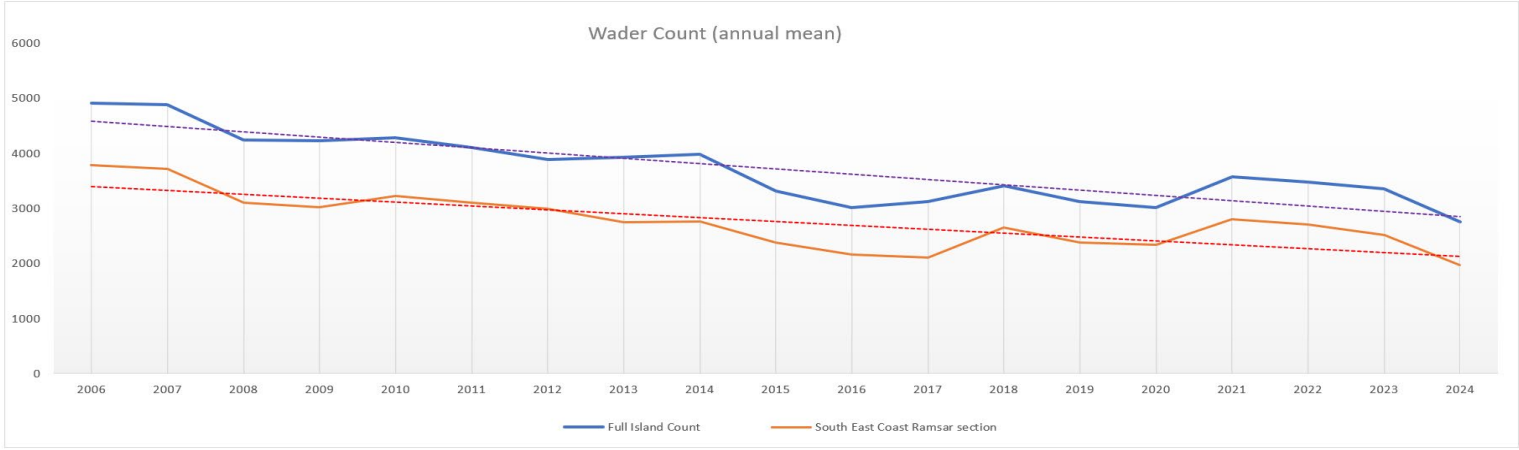
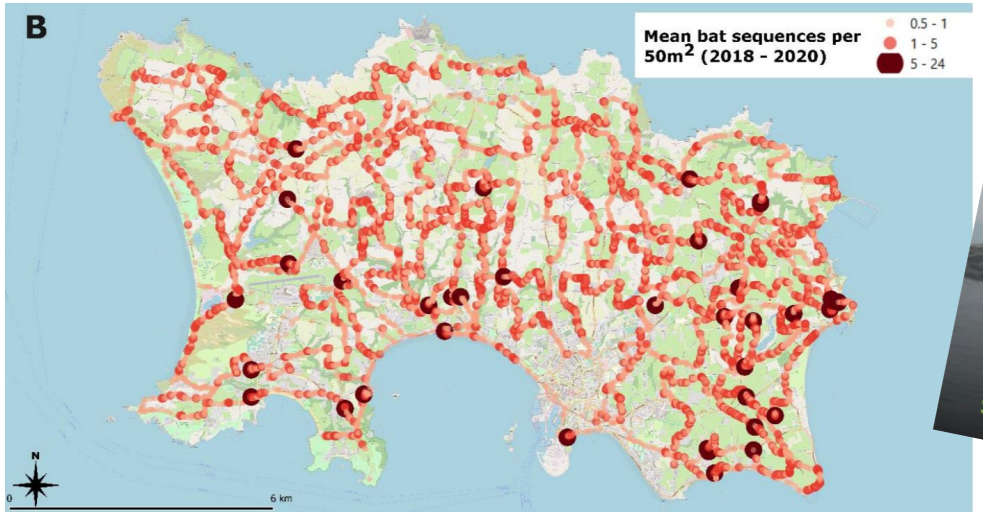
- Société's Brent Goose and Wader data (1990's-)

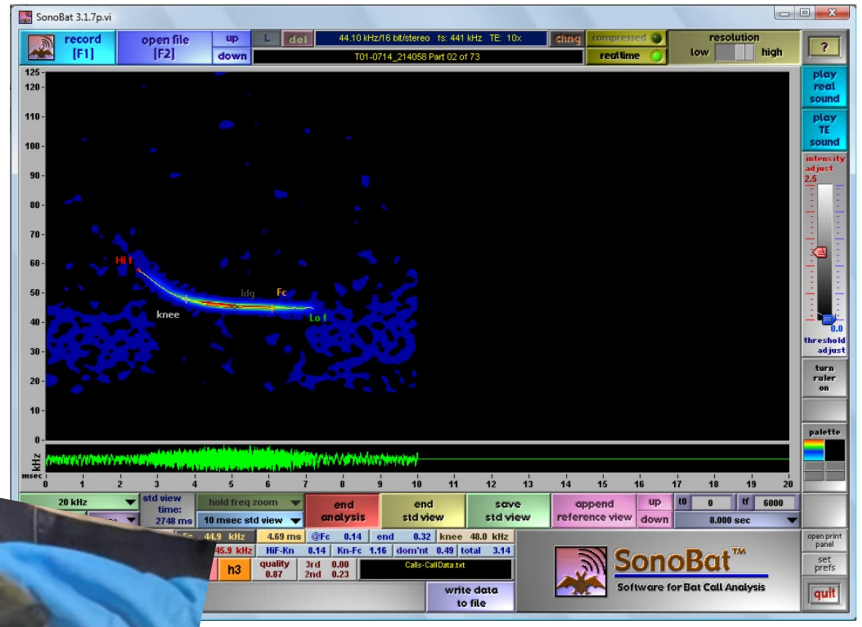




Collaboration – expertise and data

- Working with the Jersey Bat Group to analyse bat data from numerous sources, to inform long-term population change
- e.g.
  acoustic data
  trapping records and bat box monitoring data
  bat rescue care data





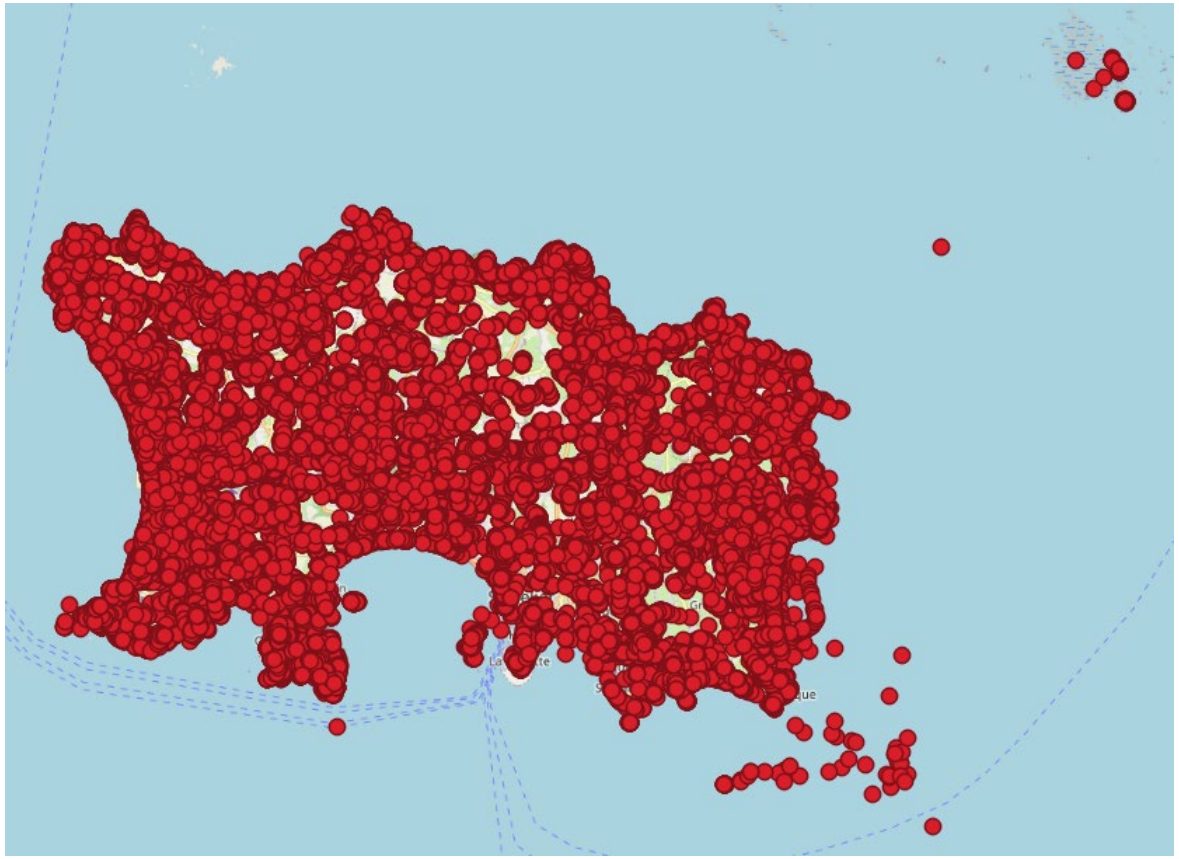
Collaboration – expertise and data

- Much of Jersey's biological data are ad-hoc records. These are useful records of species presence, but difficult to detect changing population trends from.

- We will attempt to analyse these trends where possible.

e.g. plant records

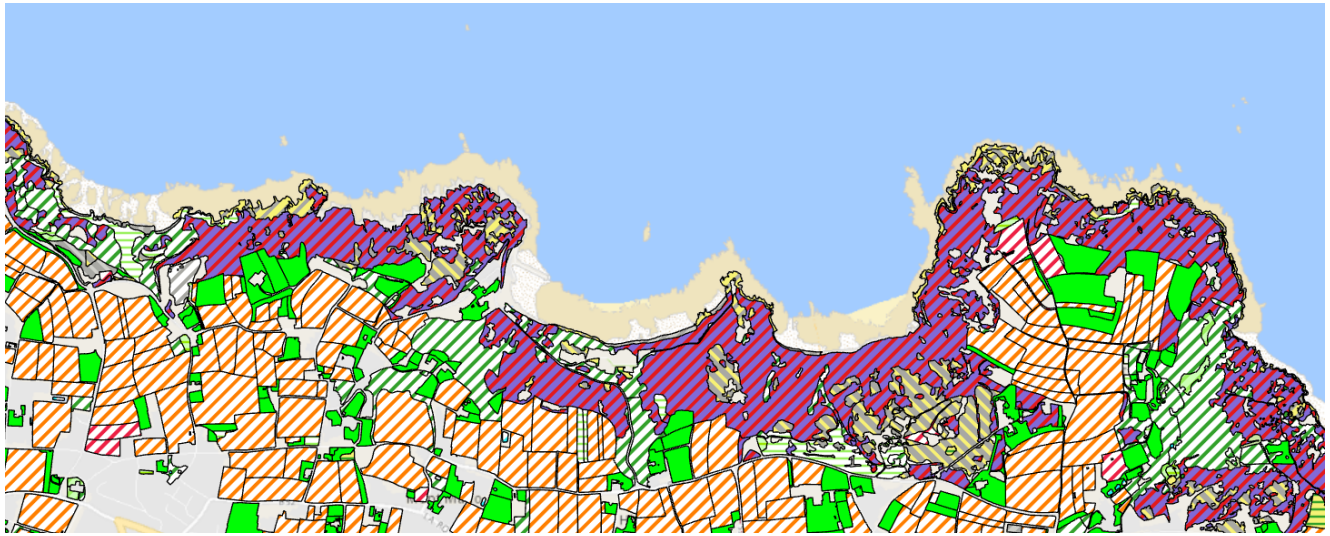
83,670 records of 1505 plant taxa to process (just from 2010 onwards)

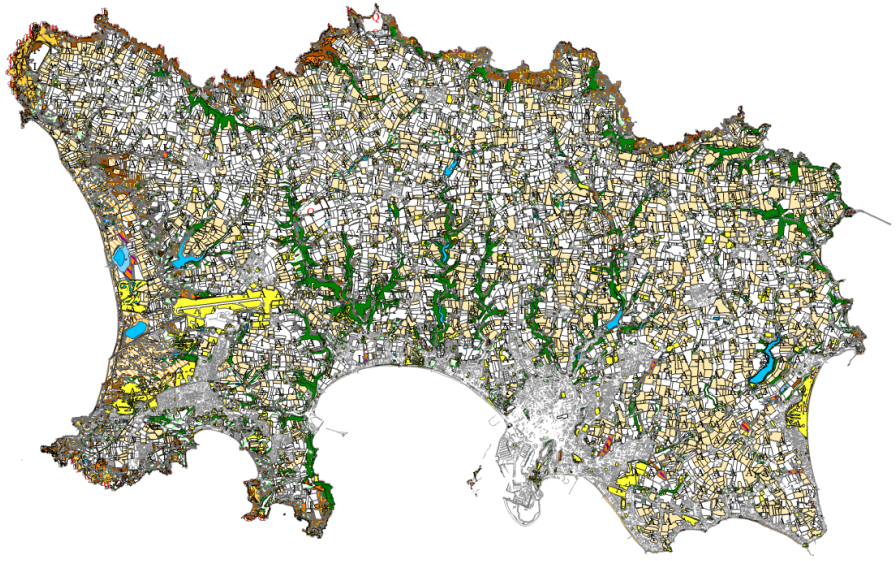


Collaboration – expertise and data

Aiming to begin a separate project to update our land habitat map, which will provide information on change in coverage.

Separate habitat condition monitoring programme for eSSIs ongoing by Govt and NTJ – collaboration over methodology and data analysis.





2011 habitat map

Summary…

- For the first time, we will have comprehensive evidence of the state of Nature in Jersey. Collaboration is key to this process.

- A major aim of the report is to highlight all the amazing expertise of and work done by volunteers and non-govt organisations - we can only solve the biodiversity crisis by working together.

Thank you

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