

Grey Phalarope

Phalaropus fulicarius

Scarce

Thirteen WeBS records of Grey Phalarope in 2010/11 represents a good annual showing. Typically all were recorded between September

and November, including duos at Chew Valley Lake and North Norfolk Coast.



Neil Calbrade

Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

International threshold: 20,000**

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 682 Sep

NI max: 16 Oct

Kittiwakes were recorded at most traditional sites during WeBS counts in 2010/11, with the exception, as in the previous year, of Loch of Strathbeg. The peak monthly total of 682 birds in September is very low compared to recent years. The largest counts received were from Arran and at sites along the Northumberland and Durham coasts.

Counts of Kittiwakes at WeBS sites are probably affected by breeding productivity on stretches of coastline nearby, as well as the weather and offshore conditions. Hence, the decline in numbers recorded through WeBS in recent years is likely to be associated with the drop in the UK's breeding population and recent poor productivity (JNCC 2011).

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
Loch of Strathbeg	3,282	785	37	0	0		821
Arran	400	1,000	800	1,500	302	Sep	800
Beadnell to Seahouses	850	(460)	200	450	322	Apr	456
Durham Coast	(363)	(71)	(225)	(379)	(268)	May	(379)
Forth Estuary	(379)	(127)	(334)	(141)	(40) ¹²	Nov	(379)
Glyne Gap	457	(233)	(78)	233	(41)	Dec	345

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	Mon	Mean
Dee Estuary (Scotland)	175	458	183	(640)	188	Sep	329
Lunan Bay	133	67	(120)	(1,000)	42	Oct	272
Howick to Beadnell	0	0	0	(1,208)	135	Mar	269
Otter Estuary to Kingsbridge Estuary		250					250
Tay Estuary	(190)	300	(17)	155	(1)	Sep	228
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2010/11 in Great Britain[†]							
Pegwell Bay	0	0	1 ¹²	18 ¹²	272 ¹²	Jan	58

Bonaparte's Gull

Chroicocephalus philadelphia

Vagrant

Native Range: N America

One was present at Exe Estuary in May and June. It represents the 11th WeBS record, and is the third to be noted in June, following birds at

the same site in 2004 and at Dee Estuary in 1994 (the first record for WeBS).

Black-headed Gull

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

International threshold: 20,000**

Great Britain threshold: 22,000

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 224,169 Jan

NI max: 9,292 Mar

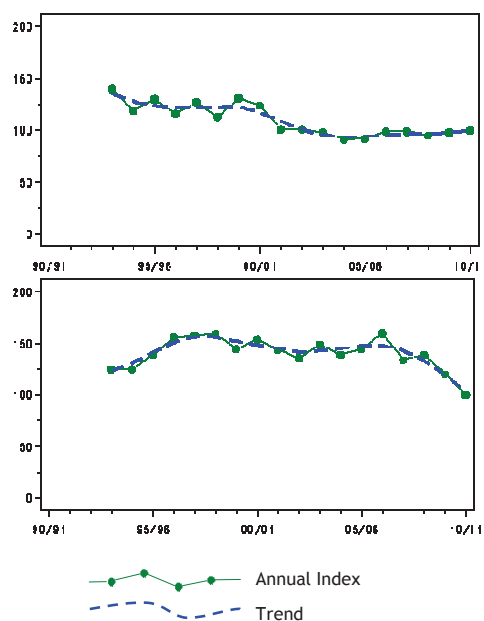


Figure 60.a, Annual indices & trend for Black-headed Gull in GB (above) & NI (below).

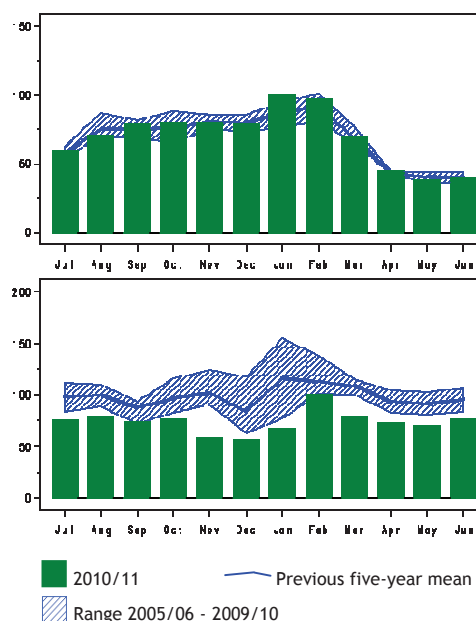


Figure 60.b, Monthly indices for Black-headed Gull in GB (above) & NI (below).

Numbers of Black-headed Gulls in Britain during 2010/11 were broadly similar to those recorded through WeBS in recent years. Inevitably, given that the species uses many non-wetland habitats and that counting gulls remains optional within WeBS, the totals reported here represent a relatively small proportion of the British population estimate of 2.2 million (Banks *et al.* 2009). The WeBS trend

suggests a shallow decline over the course of the last 15 years. In Northern Ireland, a more pronounced drop was apparent in 2010/11.

Considering the important caveats regarding coverage through WeBS, three sites continue to be listed as surpassing the threshold for international importance; Bewl Water, Eccup Reservoir and The Wash. For the seventh year in succession, the largest count submitted related

to the roost at the former site. A number of other localities of assumed importance do not feature within the tables below, owing to a lack of data submitted through WeBS since the last wintering gulls survey (WinGS, undertaken approximately on a decadal basis) in 2003/04. These include several sites formerly recognised as being used by large numbers of Black-headed Gulls, e.g. Chew Valley Lake and Humber

Estuary. Moreover, many other reservoirs and wetlands across lowland Britain attract roosting gulls in significant numbers. Increased submission of counts from such sites (as demonstrated by recent data from Nosterfield GPs and Swithland Reservoir) is especially useful at helping to provide a more representative picture of the abundance and distribution of the UK's commonest gull.

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Bewl Water	67,840 ¹¹	48,400 ¹¹	35,340 ¹¹	36,400 ¹¹	25,350 ¹¹	Jan	42,666
The Wash	30,097	(18,679)	(20,878)	(29,615)	(15,142)	Sep	30,097
Eccup Reservoir		20,000					20,000
Sites with mean peak counts of 10,000+ birds in Great Britain[†]							
Severn Estuary	(3,589)	(4,851)	16,121 ¹⁰	(9,721)	(8,199)	Aug	16,121
Ribble Estuary	15,261	10,055	6,389	25,000 ¹⁰	(16,065)	Feb	14,554
Morecambe Bay	(15,232)	(12,153)	13,758	13,034	13,403	Sep	13,857
Nosterfield Gravel Pits	1,417	2,631	30,000 ¹¹	1,042	30,000 ¹¹	Mar	13,018
Rutland Water	12,000	10,000	5,000	30,000	5,000	Sep	12,400
Thames Estuary	10,712	(12,901)	(14,532)	(7,601)	(10,978)	Aug	12,281
Swithland Reservoir				12,000 ¹¹			12,000
Lower Derwent Ings	5,321	11,600	11,200	11,000	17,000	Mar	11,224
Winterset and Cold Hiendley Reservoirs	5,000	20,000	6,000				10,333
Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000+ birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Belfast Lough	(6,823)	4,971	2,168 ¹⁰	4,307 ¹⁰	3,253 ¹⁰	Feb	4,304
Strangford Lough	3,889 ¹⁰	4,109 ¹⁰	5,656 ¹⁰	2,826	2,634	Oct	3,823
Outer Ards Shoreline	3,800	2,893	3,614	5,628	2,739	Jan	3,735
Loughs Neagh and Beg	(3,978)	2,610	2,989	3,599	3,915	Mar	3,418
Lough Foyle	(2,091)	3,237	3,324	2,573	2,266	Sep	2,850
Larne Lough	2,245	1,989	2,453	692	1,945	Feb	1,865
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2010/11 in Great Britain[†]							
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	(7,515)	(4,705)	6,639	(8,351)	10,372	Oct	8,506

[†] as few sites exceed the British threshold and no All-Ireland threshold has been set, qualifying levels of 10,000 and 1,000, respectively, have been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Little Gull

Hydrocoloeus minutus

GB max: 88 Apr
NI max: 0

International threshold
(C, E & SW Europe, W Mediterranean): 1,100
Great Britain threshold: ?[†]
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

In 2010/11, Little Gulls were noted at 42 sites across Britain during WeBS Core counts. The totals recorded were largely unimpressive, with a maximum Core count in autumn of just 15 at the favoured site of Hornsea Mere, which remains the only site that surpasses the threshold for international importance for this species.



Howard Vaughan

Generally, the table below tends to be populated with count data for that site from supplementary sources. In spring, there was some evidence of passage coinciding with the

Core count date in April; a scattering of inland records included notable counts of 42 at Staines Reservoirs and 24 at King George VI Reservoir.

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Hornsea Mere	(16,000) ¹¹	21,500 ¹¹	134	610 ¹¹	500 ¹¹	Aug	7,749
Sites with mean peak counts of 10+ birds in Great Britain[†]							
Tay Estuary	206	(3)	(0)	(1)	(0)		206
Alt Estuary	162 ¹²	97 ¹²	75 ¹²	66	100 ¹²	Apr	100
Tophill Low Reservoirs	26 ¹¹	250 ¹¹	125 ¹²	15 ¹²	0		83
North Norfolk Coast	176	30	10	4	2	Apr	44
Staines Reservoirs	6	1	32	1	42	Apr	16
Humber Estuary	(0)	(33)	(2)	5	3	Aug	14
Morecambe Bay	14	(0)	3	23	(2)	Apr	13
Anstruther Bay	0	55	0	0	0		11
Tees Estuary	6	11	21	10	1	Aug	10
East Chevington Pools	14	7	18	9	4	Jun	10
Forth Estuary	25	9	3	(2)	1	Feb	10
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2010/11 in Great Britain[†]							
King George VI Reservoir		0	0	0	24	Apr	6

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set, a qualifying level of 10 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Franklin's Gull

Larus pipixcan

Vagrant
Native Range: N America

One at Chasewater in July represents the fourth ever WeBS record and first since 2005/06.

Mediterranean Gull

Larus melanocephalus

GB max: 1,565 Sep
NI max: 3 Feb

International threshold
(W Europe, Mediterranean, NW Africa): 770
Great Britain threshold: 18
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

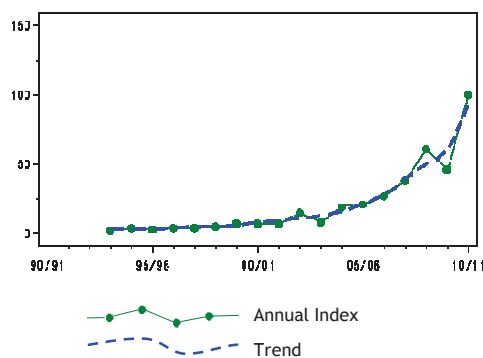


Figure 61.a, Annual indices & trend for Mediterranean Gull in GB.

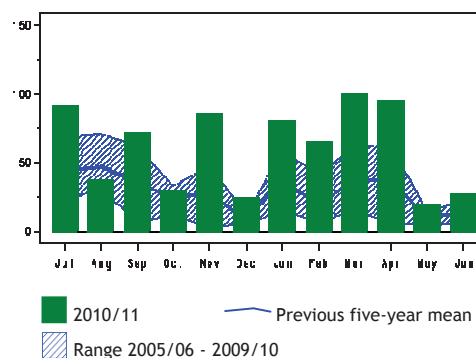


Figure 61.b, Monthly indices for Mediterranean Gull in GB.

In 2010/11, Mediterranean Gulls were recorded at a record 145 WeBS sites in Britain and three in Northern Ireland, with a peak monthly total in Britain of 1,565 in September.

The table below lists the sites where counts surpass the 1% threshold for national importance, published by Musgrove *et al.* (2011). Still relatively few Mediterranean Gulls

tend to be seen away from the southern counties and East Anglia.

The trend for Mediterranean Gull shows the continued increase, as illustrated by a single WeBS Core count of 628 at Southampton Water in September 2010; evidence of the expanding breeding population there (Holling *et al.* 2012). Furthermore, four of the other seven sites to

hold peaks of more than 100 were either in Hampshire or the Isle of Wight, providing additional evidence of the importance of The Solent for this species. Several other south coast locations known to be favoured by this species, including Copt Point in Kent, are currently not monitored through WeBS.

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Southampton Water	(112)	(309)	(30)	(36)	628	Sep	628
Brading Harbour	91	64	461 ¹²	101	329	Oct	209
Breydon Water and Bemey Marshes		131 ¹²	118 ¹¹	189 ¹¹	309 ¹¹	Sep	187
Pagham Harbour	71	(124)	(118)	140	336	Feb	182
Fleet and Wey	39	61	140	211 ¹⁰	94	Nov	109
North West Solent	8	29	101	41	180	Mar	72
Newtown Estuary	56	19	53	111	119	Mar	72
Ryde Pier to Puckpool Point	22	45		27	181	Aug	69
Beaulieu Estuary	6	1	65	172	95	Jan	68
Tamar Complex	34	37	45	65	41	Jul	44
Thames Estuary	71	34	40	37	22	Nov	41
Thorness Bay				27	52	Mar	40
Swansea Bay	33	12	34	55	63	Aug	39
Camel Estuary	11	6	78	33	60	Aug	38
Chichester Harbour	12	(31)	28	(56)	(61)	Apr	38
Wootton Creek	102	16	6	4	4	Feb	26
Foreland	20	50		10	14	Nov	24
Minsmere	10	11	45	33	22	May	24
Medway Estuary	(18)	(13)	(14)	(12)	(23)	May	(23)
Yar Estuary	0	2	4	42	55	Mar	21 ▲
Aberarth		0	2		60 ¹²	Sep	21 ▲
North Norfolk Coast	(18)	10	(14)	(9)	27	Jul	19 ▲
Gerrans Bay	0	2	22	12	52	Feb	18 ▲
Portsmouth Harbour	11	(12)	29	(22)	10	Feb	18 ▲
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2010/11 in Great Britain							
Pegwell Bay	3	4	11	32 ¹²	26 ¹²	Aug	15
Hayle Estuary	5	4	2	5	22	Nov	8
Poole Harbour	(4)	(14)	9	(11)	(20)	Mar	14
Fal Complex	8	7	11	16	18	Mar	12

Common Gull

Larus canus

International threshold (N, W & C Europe, Mediterranean): 16,400

Great Britain threshold: 7,000[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 52,115 Dec

NI max: 2,842 Feb

January 2011 saw a large count of Common Gulls roosting at Bewl Water. The total of 76,020 is the highest ever submitted, and based on the estimate of Banks *et al.* (2009), represents over 10% of the British wintering population of the species. The magnitude of this concentration may be related to the cold weather prevalent across north-west Europe at the time. Bewl Water is the largest body of inland water in southeast England, and hence parts of the surface of the reservoir are likely to have

remained unfrozen, thereby attracting gulls from usual roosts elsewhere in the region.

The estimate of the size of the international population was recently revised downwards by 18% (Wetlands International 2012), and the associated drop in the threshold for international importance means that three of the sites in the table below now qualify whereas before they would not have done so. The trend based on WeBS data also indicates a decline in numbers in recent years, but Common Gulls at several important sites have not been counted

since the last wintering gulls survey (WinGS) in 2003/04. Submission of count data from all sites, particularly those where the species is known to

roost in significant numbers, is therefore encouraged.

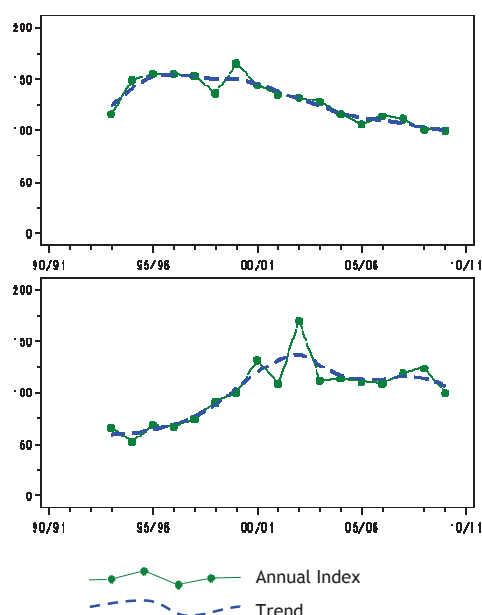


Figure 62.a, Annual indices & trend for Common Gull in GB (above) & NI (below).

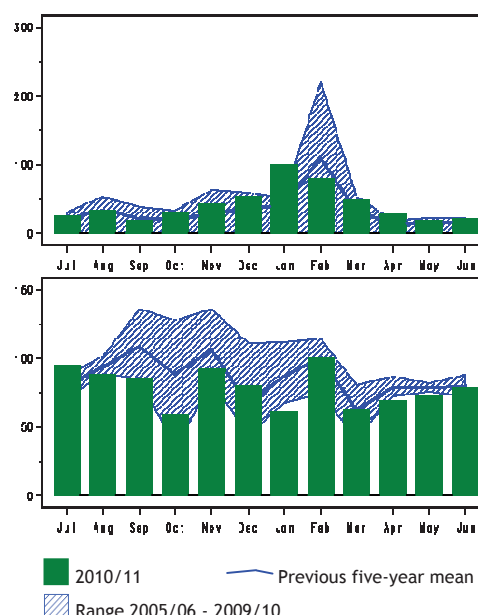


Figure 62.b, Monthly indices for Common Gull in GB (above) & NI (below).

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Bewl Water	75,500 ¹¹	59,650 ¹¹	34,200 ¹¹	52,000 ¹¹	76,020 ¹¹	Jan	59,474
Ribble Estuary				32,000 ¹⁰			32,000 ▲
Haweswater Reservoir	17,185 ¹¹	17,560 ¹¹	23,565 ¹¹	19,612 ¹¹	21,320 ¹¹	Feb	19,848 ▲
Derwent Reservoir	18,500 ¹¹						18,500 ▲
Tophill Low Reservoirs	8,000 ¹¹	25,000 ¹¹	19,000 ¹¹				17,333 ▲
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2010/2011							
Hallington Reservoir	700 ¹¹						700
Sites with mean peak counts of 3,000+ birds in Great Britain[†]							
Inner Firth of Clyde	5,978	3,610 ¹⁰	1,465	9,188	1,159	Aug	4,280
Carsebreck and Rhynd Lochs	3,000 ¹¹	320 ¹²	6,700 ¹¹	3,300 ¹¹	2,900 ¹¹	Mar	3,244
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2010/11 in Great Britain[†]							
Wet Sleddale Reservoir	2,020 ¹¹	533 ¹¹	2,046 ¹¹	3,740 ¹¹	6,100 ¹¹	Sep	2,888

[†] as few sites exceed the British threshold and no All-Ireland threshold has been set, qualifying levels of 3,000 and 1,000, respectively, have been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

Vagrant

Native Range: N America

Singles were recorded at Thames Estuary (Sep-Mar), Portsmouth Harbour (Nov-Jan), Sands Lane GP (Dec-Jan), Beaulieu Estuary (Jan) and Dunstaffnage Bay (Mar).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

International threshold
(W Europe, Mediterranean, W Africa): 5,500
Great Britain threshold: 1,200
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 34,907 Jul
NI max: 1,143 Sep

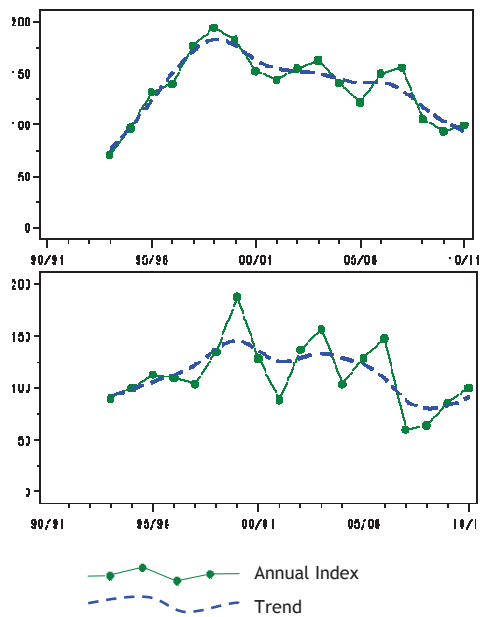


Figure 63.a, Annual indices & trend for Lesser Black-backed Gull in GB (above) & NI (below).

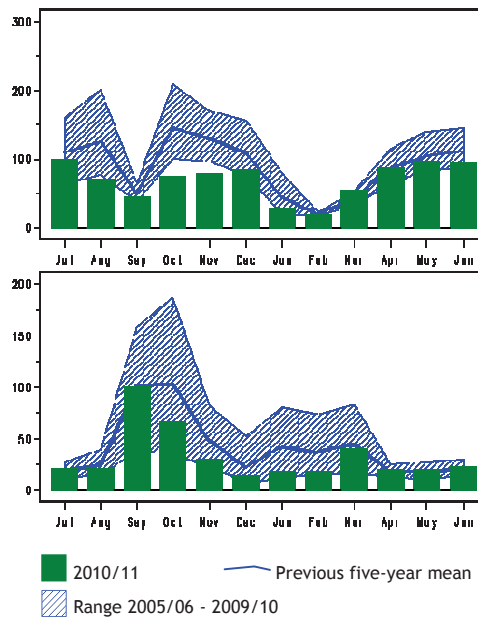


Figure 63.b, Monthly indices for Lesser Black-backed Gull in GB (above) & NI (below).

There are no data since the last wintering gulls survey (WinGS) in 2003/04 for a number of sites that are probably used by Lesser Black-backed Gulls in sufficient numbers to surpass the thresholds for international or national importance. Currently, three sites (Morecambe Bay, Cotswold Water Park (West) and Ribble Estuary) have a five-year mean beyond the threshold for international importance. At Ribble Estuary, the peak was the lowest noted for several years. The monthly maximum of Lesser Black-backed Gulls was significantly lower than recent years, but because the counting of gulls is

optional during WeBS, the summed national maxima are likely to reflect changes in effort as much as actual numbers.

As with the other gulls, an increased submission rate for this species is encouraged, in order to improve the robustness of the WeBS indices and therefore the representativeness of the associated trend. It should be noted that of the gull species for which WeBS trends have now been derived, the trend for this species is based on a relatively small sample of monitored sites owing to the species prevalence during the summer.

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Morecambe Bay	29,576	41,347	17,097	20,110	20,484	Jul	25,723
Cotswold Water Park (West)	6,500 ¹¹	9,500 ¹¹	4,500 ¹¹	4,630 ¹¹	4,250 ¹¹	Nov	5,876
Ribble Estuary	5,525	9,005	6,045	6,800 ¹⁰	1,171	Jan	5,709
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Solway Estuary	4,701	(202)	(384)	(219)	5,960	Jul	5,331
River Avon - Fordingbridge to Ringwood	3,160	500	1,507	9,800 ¹¹	8,665 ¹¹	Sep	4,726
River Severn & River Vymwy Confluence	(144)	(401)	4,636	(242)	(215)	Feb	4,636
Hule Moss	550	(1,750)	(450)	2,900 ¹²	6,550 ¹²	Sep	3,333
Great Pool Westwood Park	2,000	3,500	3,000	4,500	(1,500)	Jan	3,250
Llys-y-fran Reservoir	(4,000)	700	2,000	3,000	5,800	Oct	3,100
Severn Estuary	(115)	(130)	2,899 ¹⁰	(143)	(176)	Jun	2,899
Alde Complex	2,990	453	2,775	2,609	1,336	Mar	2,033
Calvert Brick Works	610	2,500	1,200	520	4,000	Dec	1,766
Alt Estuary	1,980	1,063	703	2,206	1,288	Aug	1,448

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	Mon	Mean
Roadford Reservoir	56	188	100	27	6,755 ¹¹	Nov	1,425 ▲
The Wash	1,027	1,184	(1,081)	(2,052)	1,341	Jul	1,401
Longnewton Reservoir	2,740	1,320	1,810	430	470	Sep	1,354
Carsington Water	1,450	1,200 ¹¹	500	51	3,500 ¹¹	Nov	1,340 ▲
Lower Windrush Valley Gravel Pits	2,922	(750)	852	468	687	Jan	1,232
Eversley Cross and Yateley Gravel Pits	862	693	80	3,010 ¹¹	1,453 ¹¹	Oct	1,220 ▲
Sites with mean peak counts of 500+ birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,136	387	214	1,177	1,081	Sep	799
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2010/11 in Great Britain							
Hurleston Reservoir	35	50	50	50	4,000 ¹¹	Oct	837
Doddington Pool	700	400 ¹¹	450 ⁹		2,200 ¹¹	Nov	938
Talybont Reservoir	0	0	1	4	1,670	Oct	335
Rutland Water	50	2,500	100	1,500	1,500	Sep	1,130

[†] as no All-Ireland threshold has been set, a qualifying level of 500 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

International threshold (Iceland & W Europe): 10,200

Great Britain threshold: 7,300[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 106,832 Jan

NI max: 2,378 Mar

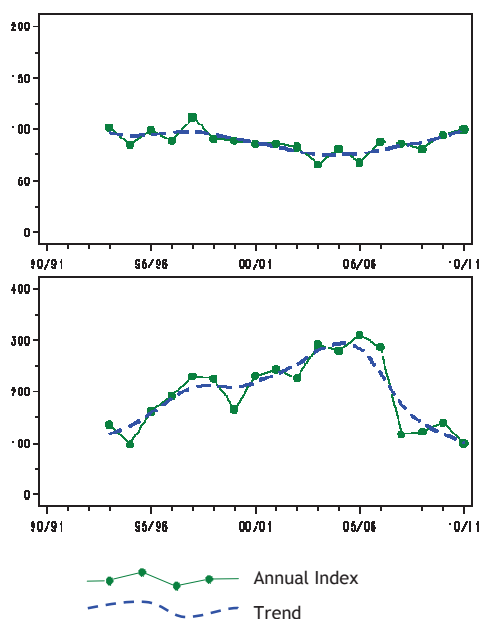


Figure 64.a, Annual indices & trend for Herring Gull in GB (above) & NI (below).

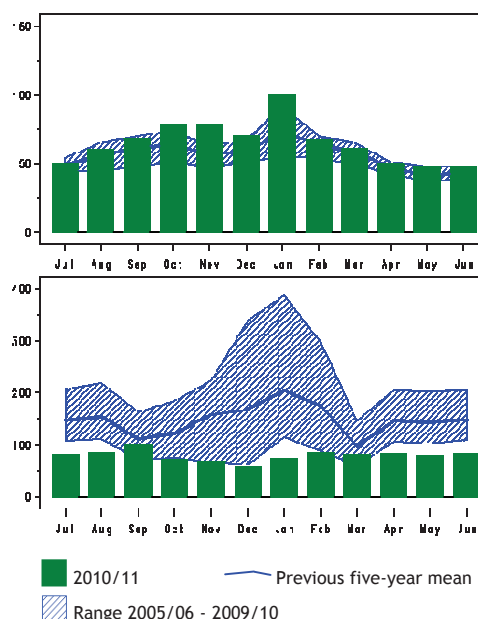


Figure 64.b, Monthly indices for Herring Gull in GB (above) & NI (below).

The counted British maximum of Herring Gull was greater than the total recorded in 2009/10. However, as counting of gulls remains optional

in WeBS, any summed national maxima may reflect changes in effort as much as numbers.



Edmund Fellowes

The national WeBS trend indicates a slight improvement over the course of the last five or

so years, in contrast to the decline in the breeding population (JNCC 2011).

In the table below, five WeBS sites continued to surpass the threshold for international importance. The count of 22,155 at Morecambe Bay in November is the highest at the site for over a decade, however peaks at most other major sites were below average.

Counting gulls at all sites, including at roost, is very much encouraged. A number of sites of known importance for this species do not feature in the tables below, having not been counted for WeBS since the last wintering gulls survey (WinGS) in 2003/04.

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	Mon	Mean	
Sites of international importance in the UK								
Ribble Estuary	(25,336)	(11,086)	(19,024)	29,000 ¹⁰	(14,427)	Jan	29,000	
Morecambe Bay	8,553	(10,258)	6,820	6,594	22,155	Nov	11,031	
Sites of national importance in Great Britain								
Glyne Gap	(2,700)	6,800 ¹¹	11,500 ¹¹	14,000 ¹¹	6,500 ¹¹	Oct	9,700	▼
The Wash	(6,212)	(5,960)	(3,455)	(8,657)	(6,836)	Mar	(8,657)	▼
Severn Estuary	(279)	(437)	6,332 ¹⁰	(481)	(1,497)	Nov	6,332	▼
North Norfolk Coast	2,474	5,351	(3,113)	12,935	2,711	Mar	5,868	▼
Thames Estuary	4,456	6,655	(4,968)	(4,661)	(3,228)	Sep	5,556	
Guernsey Shore	5,704	4,432	7,586	3,896	4,890	Jun	5,302	
Lower Derwent Ings	1,600	1,500	1,050	1,140	17,340	Jan	4,526	▲
Sites with mean peak counts of 2,500+ birds in Great Britain[†]								
Alt Estuary	(1,005)	2,000	3,076	6,514	5,970	Oct	4,390	
Durham Coast	3,949	(300)	(629)	(983)	(1,323)	Dec	3,949	
Pegwell Bay	3,200	4,500	2,614 ¹⁰	1,030	4,300 ¹²	Oct	3,129	
Forth Estuary	(2,814)	(2,764)	(1,864)	(3,349)	2,840	Feb	3,095	
Burry Inlet	2,407	3,037 ¹⁰	3,648	2,869	2,989	Sep	2,990	
Dungeness and Rye Bay	1,500 ¹²	5,000 ¹²	(1,700)	1,756	2,740	Oct	2,749	
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	(2,613)	1,360	2,736 ¹⁰	(1,456)	(4,035)	Jan	2,686	
Exe Estuary	2,357 ¹¹	2,849 ¹¹	2,689 ¹¹	2,166 ¹¹	2,456 ¹¹	Jan	2,503	
Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000+ birds in Northern Ireland[†]								
Belfast Lough	6,655 ¹⁰	2,511	649	970 ¹⁰	(420)	Nov	2,696	
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,602	1,053	1,520	2,306	1,185	Jan	1,533	
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2010/11 in Great Britain[†]								
Bewl Water	130 ¹¹	1,250 ¹¹	3,209 ¹¹	2,347 ¹¹	3,590 ¹¹	Jan	2,105	
Pontsticill Reservoir (Taf Fechan)	1,109	(1,300)	1,117	2,200	3,420	Jan	1,962	
Tees Estuary	1,765	1,948	1,660	2,605	(2,813)	Jun	2,158	
Axe Estuary (Devon)	640	650	1,230	1,270	2,500	Dec	1,258	
Rutland Water	700	320	250	1,000	2,500	Dec	954	

[†] as few sites exceed the British threshold and no All-Ireland threshold has been set, qualifying levels of 2,500 and 1,000, respectively, have been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Yellow-legged Gull

Larus michahellis

International threshold: 7,000
Great Britain threshold: 11
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

Yellow-legged Gulls were recorded at 55 WeBS sites in England and two in Wales. Birds were noted in every month, with a peak of 52 in November. Currently, a lack of WeBS coverage during the first quarter of the WeBS-year at

several important localities for Yellow-legged Gulls on the south coast of England is resulting in an unrepresentative picture of true numbers. The highest WeBS count received during 2010/11 was 21 at River Avon in December.

Caspian Gull
Larus cachinnans

International threshold: 7,000
Great Britain threshold: ?

Caspian Gulls were reported from 11 WeBS sites in 2010/11. With the exception of one in August, all records fell between October and

March and included three at Minsmere (Mar) and Thames Estuary (Dec), the latter part of a total of nine recorded that month.

Iceland Gull
Larus glaucooides

International threshold: 2,000
Great Britain threshold: ?

Iceland Gulls were seen during WeBS Core counts at 17 sites in 2010/11 (ten in England, six in Scotland and one in Northern Ireland). With the exception of singles at Blyth Estuary (Aug)

and Loch Connell (Oct), all were in the typical winter period of November to March. A monthly peak of eight birds occurred in January.

Glaucous Gull
Larus hyperboreus

International threshold: 10,000
Great Britain threshold: ?

2010/11 was another poor year for Glaucous Gull, with records received from just seven WeBS sites. The majority of records spanned the

winter period, one exception being a long-stayer at Dungeness that lingered into June. A monthly peak of just five birds occurred in January.

Great Black-backed Gull
Larus marinus

International threshold (NW Atlantic): 4,200
Great Britain threshold: 760
All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 9,463 Jan
NI max: 369 Mar

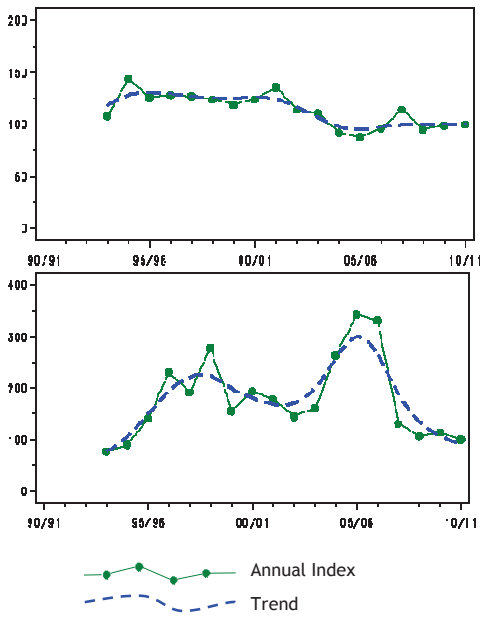


Figure 65.a, Annual indices & trend for Great Black-backed Gull in GB (above) & NI (below).

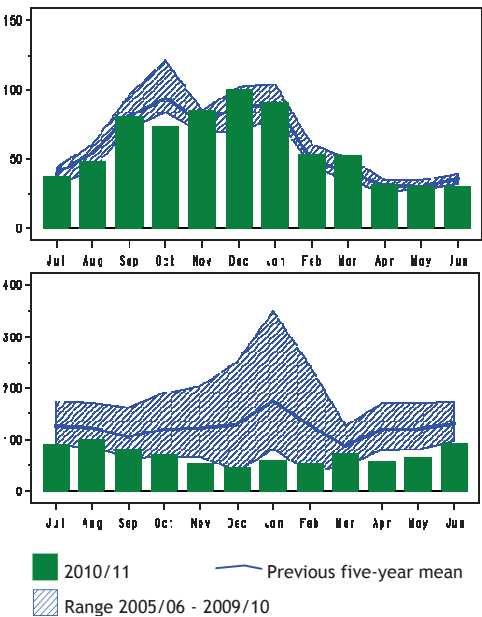


Figure 65.b, Monthly indices for Great Black-backed Gull in GB (above) & NI (below).

Counts of 1,000+ were received from four sites during the course of 2010/11, a typical showing. The highest of these was 1,860 at Lower Derwent Ings in January, while site maxima were distributed throughout the winter period, with a monthly maximum of 9,463 noted in Britain in November. The national trend shows evidence of a slight decline at WeBS sites

during the course of the last decade. A number of sites of known importance for this species do not feature in the tables below, having not been counted for WeBS since the last wintering gulls survey (WinGS) in 2003/04. Submission of counts of Great Black-backed Gulls from such sites, as well as from gull roosts more generally, is therefore particularly encouraged.

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
The Wash	1,186	(2,131)	(1,011)	1,726	(1,538)	Oct	1,645
Humber Estuary	(20)	(165)	(176)	(1,441)	(351)	Oct	(1,441)
Thames Estuary	1,096	(2,107)	(1,236)	(1,431)	835	Sep	1,341
Lower Derwent Ings	1,030	870	1,000	1,740	1,860	Jan	1,300
Tees Estuary	1,028	668	971	1,169	1,268	Dec	1,021
Ribble Estuary	(200)	(365)	211	1,700 ¹⁰	(223)	Jan	956
Dungeness and Rye Bay	700 ¹²	1,200 ¹²	(305)	(601)	510	Oct	803
Glyne Gap	655	(800) ¹¹	1,100 ¹¹	850 ¹¹	600 ¹¹	Nov	801 ▲
Pegwell Bay	700	850	821 ¹⁰	420 ¹²	1,100 ¹²	Oct	778
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2010/2011							
Durham Coast	(659)	(35)	(99)	(139)	(227)	Sep	(659)
Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2010/11 in Great Britain							
Rutland Water	195	380	100	300	800	Dec	355

Little Tern

Sternula albifrons

International threshold (N of Mediterranean): 190
Great Britain threshold: ?[†]
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 1,145 Jul
NI max: 0

Little Terns were recorded at 38 WeBS sites in 2010, a similar showing to the previous year. Typically, most were in England, although the species was seen at nine sites in Scotland for the second year in a row. Most were in May to September, exceptions being April records at Humber Estuary and Northwest Solent, and

October birds at Stour Estuary and Hamford Water. Maxima from the main sites were similar to those in 2009, with North Norfolk Coast and Dee Estuary consolidating recent strong showings. Following the revision by Wetlands International (2012), both sites now surpass the threshold for international importance.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
North Norfolk Coast	284	496	593	491	(502)	Jul	473 ▲
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	250	251	309	300	284	Jul	279 ▲
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain[†]							
The Wash	83	255	(80)	153	85	Jul	144
Morecambe Bay	(4)	42	156	152	137	Jul	122
Thames Estuary	154	101	57	(125)	(0)		109
Humber Estuary	59	(8)	44	(12)	(32)	Jul	52
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2010 in Great Britain[†]							
North West Solent	4	(4)	(14)	57	56	Jul	39

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set, a qualifying level of 50 has been chosen to select sites

Whiskered Tern

Chlidonias hybrida

Vagrant
Native Range: Worldwide

A juvenile was at Tees Estuary in August; the sixth WeBS record and first since May 2008.

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

International threshold (Europe, W Asia, Africa): 7,100

Great Britain threshold: ?

All-Ireland threshold: ?

In 2010, Black Terns were seen at 40 WeBS sites. Following a dismal spring featuring just a single record, autumn was somewhat more productive, with a peak of 63 logged in September. Site maxima in autumn comprised

17 at Thames Estuary and six at Swale Estuary. Inland, four were at each of Rutland Water, Bough Beech Reservoir and Grafham Water, while 11 October records included singles at Draycote Water and Somerset Levels.

White-winged Black Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

Vagrant

Native Range: S Europe

One was at Hornsea Mere in August; the 14th WeBS record.

Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

International threshold (W Europe, W Africa): 1,700

Great Britain threshold: ?[†]

All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 6,322 Jun

NI max: 78 Jul

Sandwich Terns were recorded at 137 WeBS sites in the UK during 2010. The majority of sightings were during the period spanning April to October, although a small wintering population was also recorded. During the 2010/11 winter, Portsmouth Harbour, Pegwell Bay, Guernsey Shore and Jersey Shore hosted birds in the period of December to February; several of these winter records at re-occurring sites may relate to returning adults (although

direct evidence of this through observations of colour-marked individuals is lacking).

The British monthly maximum was typical of recent years, although the top two sites in the table experienced contrasting fortunes in terms of peak counts. The maximum of 3,787 at North Norfolk Coast in July was below average, while the 1,669 at Dee Estuary in August is the most reported there since 1996.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
North Norfolk Coast	8,062	2,873	5,729	4,687	3,787	Jun	5,028
Sites with mean peak counts of 200+ birds in Great Britain[†]							
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	(530)	1,334	953	(1,235)	1,669	Aug	1,319
Forth Estuary	(1,037)	680	(448)	(312)	(783)	Sep	833
Pegwell Bay	650 ¹²	520	1,060	1,050 ¹²	658 ¹²	Aug	788
Humber Estuary	(957)	805	(383)	349	(92)	Aug	704
Duddon Estuary	843	460	886	877	405	Jun	694
The Wash	(164)	(338)	(498)	(213)	(602)	Jul	(602)
Tay Estuary	(377)	545	373	648	452	Aug	505
Tees Estuary	(490)	438	(108)	249	(191)	Aug	392
Eden Estuary	766	460	90	53	(55)	Jul	342
Solway Estuary	(339)	(162)	(227)	211	(88)	Sep	259
Morecambe Bay	190	(201)	216	280	332	Aug	255
Alt Estuary	207	348	112	293	210	Aug	234
Minsmere	50	24	104	847	16	Jun	208
Sites with mean peak counts of 200+ birds in Northern Ireland[†]							
Dundrum Inner Bay	311	233	276	179	40	Jul	208
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2010 in Great Britain[†]							
Ribble Estuary	7	256	148	(220) ¹²	351	Aug	196
Exe Estuary	155	285	165	164	200	Jul	194

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set, a qualifying level of 200 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

International threshold (S & W Europe): 1,800
Great Britain threshold: ?[†]
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 5,712 Jul
NI max: 5 Aug

Common Terns were recorded at 347 WeBS sites in 2010. All sightings were between April and October, with the exception of a late individual reported from Jersey Shore in November. The highest Core count of the year was from Alt Estuary, where 1,000+ have been recorded for several consecutive years. The total

of 1,768 represents the highest Core count since 2,010 at the same site in August 2005. Maxima at the most of the important sites were typical. As in 2009, this year saw no exceptional aggregations submitted to match recent reports at Humber Estuary (in 2008) and Breydon Water & Berney Marshes (in 2007 and 2008).

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Humber Estuary	(19)	(330)	7,000 ¹²	(1,126)	(162)	Aug	7,000
Breydon Water and Berney Marshes		8,720 ¹²	2,520 ¹¹				5,620
Sites with mean peak counts of 200+ birds in Great Britain[†]							
Alt Estuary	1,503	1,074	1,655	1,513	1,768	Jul	1,503
The Wash	(1,092)	(342)	(688)	(179)	(387)	Aug	(1,092)
Tees Estuary	869	618	558	536	798	Jul	676
North Norfolk Coast	606	894	782	385	362	May	606
Thames Estuary	(206)	(198)	514	(132)	(75)	Aug	514
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	454	677	(327)	(249)	160	Jul	430
Pegwell Bay	5	173	474	440 ¹²	692 ¹²	Aug	357
Tay Estuary	(100)	600	105	410	204	Aug	330
Southampton Water	(133)	(2)	(310)	(260)	(159)	Aug	(310)
Dungeness and Rye Bay	(1)	(0)	(62)	302	(60)	Sep	302
Loch of Strathbeg	326	554	174	61	46	Jun	232

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set, a qualifying level of 200 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Roseate Tern

Sterna dougallii

Scarce

Roseate Terns were reported from ten WeBS sites during 2010, including a peak count of four at Coquet Estuary in May. Away from the typical

core range of north-east England, singles were at Glyne Gap (May), Minsmere (Jun) and notably at Tamar Complex (Aug).

Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

International threshold (W Eurasia): 20,000
Great Britain threshold: ?[†]
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 632 Jul
NI max: 2 Jul

2010 was a stark year for counts of Arctic Terns at WeBS sites, with the British monthly maximum of 632 in July being one of the lowest ever. Of course, it should be remembered that the counting of terns remains optional during WeBS counts and hence any summed national maxima may reflect changes in effort as much as actual numbers. However, it is likely that the poor showing is a reflection of pressures faced at breeding sites in the UK (JNCC 2011). In total,

birds were reported from just 67 WeBS sites, approximately 25% less than a typical showing. The majority were seen between May and September, with small numbers in both April and October (with the final sighting of the year at Dungeness). Typically, the largest counts were from sites in Scotland, but maxima at the major sites were very low, with peak counts at Forth Estuary (153, Aug) and The Houb, Whalsay (137, Jul).

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50+ birds in Great Britain[†]							
Tay Estuary	(50)	1,841	1,100	200	31	Jul	793
Loch of Strathbeg	164	1,210	883	38	3	Jul	460
Eden Estuary	209	617	25	7	(5)	Jul	215
The Houb (Whalsay)	200	275	80	150	137	Jul	168
Loch of Beith	45	250	200	100			149
Morecambe Bay	(11)	(30)	123	122	82	Jun	109
Loch a' Phuill (Tiree)	37	77	101	135	103	Jun	91
Hamna Voe and Galtagarth, Yell	50	100	150	50	45		79
Ness of Sound, Yell	90	80	100	60	40	Jun	74
Peterhead Bay and Sandford Bay			130	0	(1)	Jul	65
St Andrews Bay	110	(0)	(0)		13	Jul	62
Nor Wick and Skaw	214	23	10	16	21	Jul	57
Forth Estuary	32	28	10	(4)	153	Aug	56
Loch Inver	18	0	80	120	50	May	54
Montrose Basin	21	2	90	144	0		51
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2010 in Great Britain[†]							
Melbost Sands (Lewis)	2	2	30	(15)	69	May	26
Loch of North Haa & Loch of Beith				16	60	Jun	38

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set, a qualifying level of 50 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

International threshold: ?
Great Britain threshold: ?[†]
All-Ireland threshold: ?[†]

GB max: 444 Nov
NI max: 3 Nov

The Kingfisher is not ideally suited to being monitored by WeBS, owing to its widespread distribution and preference for habitats that are poorly covered by the survey. Having shown a decline in breeding numbers in the UK up to the mid 1980s, the species seems to have recovered since then (Baillie *et al.* 2012).

In 2010/11, the British counted maximum of 444 in November was lower than normal, with, predictably, fewer reported during the cold period in midwinter. The site peaks noted were 16 at Somerset Levels (Nov) and nine at Ditchford Gravel Pits (Oct).

	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 8+ birds in Great Britain[†]							
Somerset Levels	17	22	14	15	16	Nov	17
Ditchford Gravel Pits	12	19	17	16	9	Sep	15
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	17	14					15
North Norfolk Coast	14	20 ¹⁰	5	7	5	Nov	10
Southampton Water	(8)	(8)	(6)	(6)	(7)	Nov	(8)
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	(13)	(9)	7	6	5	Sep	8
The Wash	(0)	9	8	9	6	Oct	8

[†] as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 8 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report