



# Alderney's West Coast and Burhou Islands

## Ramsar Site and Other Sites

### Annual Ramsar Action Plan 2020

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## Executive Summary

1. This action plan describes the work to be undertaken in 2020, within the Alderney West Coast and Burhou Island Ramsar Site and Other Sites, as required under the States of Alderney Ramsar Management Strategy 2017-21 (ARS3; SoA/AWT, 2016). In 2020, Alderney's Ramsar site enters the 14<sup>th</sup> year of operations.

This action plan incorporates work suggested under the five-year management strategy with consideration of recommendations made in the 2019 Ramsar Review (AWT, 2020) and incorporates input and review from members of the Alderney Ramsar Steering Group. Further, this plan attempts to follow the new Terms of Reference for scientific research as laid out by the CEO SoA in January 2020.

2. To achieve the strategic aims and objectives set out by the five-year strategy, a series of objectives are set out for 2020 that encompass maintaining the long-term monitoring of Alderney's sea bird populations, including the management of invasive species and some rodent control, marine surveys and various outreach events.
3. The seabird work will include a) census of breeding populations including estimates of productivity for fulmar, gannets, puffins, ringed plover and common terns; b) continuation of the T.A.G. project including the deployment of ten new geolocators and the attempted recovery of nine others deployed in 2017; c) ringing, including gannet chicks on Ortac, gull chicks on Burhou, auk and shag chicks on Coqué Lihoue and an assessment of the storm petrel population nesting on Burhou through a standardised program of mist netting; d) monthly WeBS surveys as scheduled by the BTO; e) research on the impact of plastics on gannets; f) investigation of likely causes of ringed plover nest loss.
4. The program of rat control on Houmet de Pies and the south coast islets will continue with assistance from the SoA.
5. The marine work will include a) Phase II habitat mapping and species recording of Clonque Bay; b) green ormer population assessment; c) invasive species assessments; d) baseline assessments of possible climate change indicators; e) marine mammal monitoring including grey seal surveying and photo ID cataloguing; f) review of baseline marine data.
6. Two masters students will undertake research; a) to review intertidal survey methods, and b) assess Alderney's brown crab population dynamics as part of a wider study across the Channel Islands.
7. The natural history of Alderney's Ramsar site will be shared through various outreach projects including a) educational boat trips including free trips for Year 6 students at St Anne's School; b) live streaming of seabirds on Burhou; c) public engagement events year-round including rock pooling; d) implementing a 'Puffin Friendly Zone' off Burhou; e) the T.A.G. project.
8. The AWT will continue support of the SoA and the Ramsar site, by acting as co-ordinators for works, working with a number of activity organisations.

## Contents

Executive Summary .....	0
List of Acronyms .....	2
1. Introduction .....	3
2. Background .....	3
3. Objectives .....	5
3.1 Seabirds.....	5
3.2 Terrestrial.....	6
3.3 Marine.....	6
3.4 Events.....	6
3.5 Advisory and Legislative.....	7
4. Further Details .....	7
4.1 Seabirds.....	7
4.2 Terrestrial.....	10
4.3 Marine.....	10
4.4 Events.....	11
4.5 Advisory and Legislative.....	12
5. References .....	12
6. Appendices .....	13

## List of Acronyms

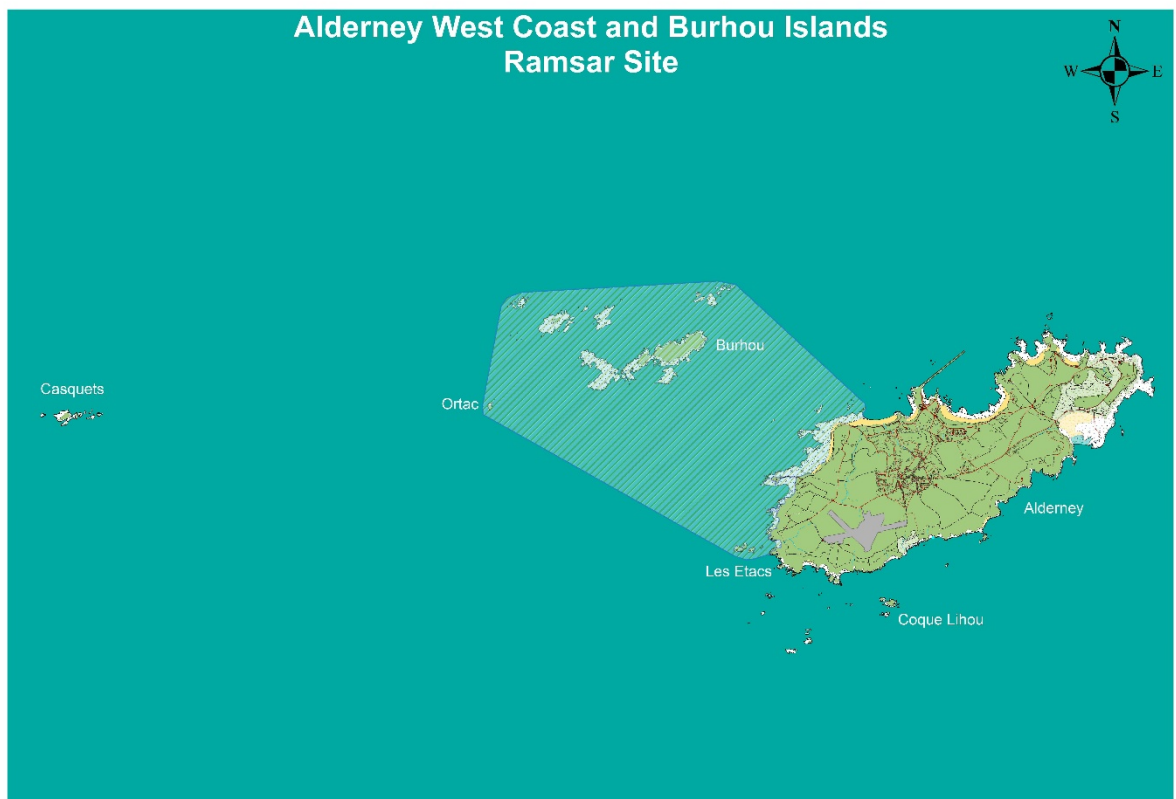
AAWS – Alderney Animal Welfare Society  
ABO – Alderney Bird Observatory Limited  
AOBs – Apparently Occupied Burrows  
ARSG – Alderney Ramsar Steering Group  
AWT – Alderney Wildlife Trust  
BMLRD – British Marine Life Rescue Divers  
BRUV – Baited Remote Underwater Video  
BTO – British Trust for Ornithology  
CEO – Chief Executive Officer  
CIBRS – Channel Islands Bird Ringing Scheme  
ES – Environmental Secretariat  
EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment  
GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation  
GSC – General Services Committee  
IIEEM – Inter-Islands Environmental Meeting  
JNCC – Joint Nature Conservation Committee  
PFZ – Puffin Friendly Zone  
PTZ – Pan-Tilt-Zoom  
RSPB – Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
SAG – Scientific Advisory Group  
SoA – States of Alderney  
T.A.G – Track A Gannet  
ToR – Terms of Reference  
TWT – The Wildlife Trusts

## 1. Introduction

In 2020, Alderney's West Coast and Burhou Islands Ramsar Site (Figure 1) enters the fourth year of the 2017-21 Management Strategy (ARS3; SoA/AWT, 2016).

This document outlines the work proposed for 2020. The work aims to fulfil the objectives set out by the five-year Management Strategy, following recommendations from the 2019 Annual Review of the Ramsar site (AWT, 2020).

## 2. Background



*Figure 1 – Alderney's West Coast and Burhou Islands Ramsar Site*

On 25<sup>th</sup> August 2005, the Alderney West Coast and Burhou Islands Ramsar Site was designated and gained global recognition as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

The site covers 1,500 hectares of land and sea and was the first site to gain Ramsar designation within the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

In 2006, on behalf of the States of Alderney (SoA), the General Services Committee (GSC) requested the support of the Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT) in the preparation of a management strategy, as required under the commitments of the Ramsar Convention, and registered the AWT as the Alderney Ramsar Secretariat with the International Ramsar Secretariat in Geneva. The Alderney Ramsar site strategy outlines the need to monitor seabird and other marine life population trends, threats to these and to continue the management of

populations where necessary. The objectives of the strategy are assessed annually through various research projects and conservation management techniques.

Since 2007, the Ramsar site has been managed using Five-Year Management Strategies, with annual Action Plan and Review documents, prepared by the AWT on behalf of the SoA (all available online at AWT, 2020).

All Ramsar reports are developed and reviewed in consultation with the Alderney Ramsar Steering Group (ARSG). The ARSG was established in 2006 to offer technical advice to the AWT and vet proposals before their presentation to the SoA, in the effort to create robust and vetted management strategies. The group is made up of experts (including individuals who work for the RSPB, BTO and States of Jersey). The ARSG are involved in reviewing all five-year management strategies, annual action plans and --annual review reports, as well as meeting annually to discuss the work.

While the Ramsar site has a clearly defined boundary (see Figure 1), the site's five-year/annual management plans and review documents may include specific habitats and species which occur outside of this defined area. This has occurred to ensure that monitoring and conservation measures (often including projects and species which occur within the Ramsar site) are properly documented and reviewed. This ensures a wider view of species information (particularly important for those which are mobile and will travel into the Ramsar site) and conservation measures which protect species and habitats within the Ramsar site is taken. Locations are clearly detailed within the reports to ensure it is clear if a work item has occurred inside or outside of the defined Ramsar site. In April 2019, the GSC approved an updating of the current 2017-2021 Ramsar Management Strategy's title to include 'and other sites'. In 2020, the Alderney West Coast and Burhou Islands Ramsar site enters the fourth year of the 2017-2021 Management Strategy (AWT/SoA, 2016).

All activities within Alderney's Ramsar site should be fully risk assessed and covered by the activity organisation's insurance.

*N.b. In 2006, the Alderney Ramsar Steering Group (ARSG) was formed, made up from interested parties and independent experts from a number of organisations (e.g. RSPB, BTO, States of Jersey), which provide advice and guidance on all aspects of Ramsar management.*

### 3. Objectives

To meet the objectives of the 2007 – 2021 Ramsar Site Management Strategy, the following areas of work are to be completed in 2020\*.

*\*Please note that by approving this action plan, the GS Committee of the SoA is agreeing to all the proposed work therein to be undertaken by the activity organisations. Similarly, the activity organisations commit to the delivery of the work described (accepting the availability of resources and favourable weather conditions) through the directive outlined by the CEO's office. The activity organisations understand the requirement to inform the appointed SoA representative if any aspect of the work requires significant alteration from the parameters contained within the action plan, or if any new element of work not described in the Action Plan is found to be required, prior to altering the details of the Action Plan.*

#### 3.1 Seabirds

- 3.1.1 To install and maintain seabird monitoring cameras and equipment on Burhou (March – August).
- 3.1.2 To monitor the seabirds breeding on Alderney, Burhou and other islets. Including estimates of the breeding population sizes and productivity of the following species:
  - 3.1.2.1 Atlantic Puffins (April – August).
  - 3.1.2.2 Northern Gannets (February – November).
  - 3.1.2.3 Northern Fulmars (May – September).
  - 3.1.2.4 Common Terns (May – August).
  - 3.1.2.5 Ringed Plover (April – July).
- 3.1.3 To oversee the programme of seabird ringing undertaken by the ABO
  - 3.1.3.1 Cormorants – Little Burhou – (25<sup>th</sup>/ 26<sup>th</sup> April)
  - 3.1.3.2 Auks (and possibly shag chicks) – Coque Lihou (10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June)
  - 3.1.3.3 Gull chicks (Lesser Black Backed, Great Black Backed, Herring) – Burhou (8<sup>th</sup>/ 9<sup>th</sup> July)
  - 3.1.3.4 Northern Gannets – Ortac (14<sup>th</sup>/ 15<sup>th</sup> July)
  - 3.1.3.5 Storm Petrels – Burhou (17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> July)
- 3.1.4 To investigate the impact of anthropogenic materials on Northern Gannets including:
  - 3.1.4.1 Recording the incidence of entanglement and mortality.
  - 3.1.4.2 Opportunistic seabird necropsies (in collaboration with AAWS).
  - 3.1.4.3 Observations of material returned to the nest site.
- 3.1.5 To continue the 'Track A Gannet' (T.A.G.) project including:
  - 3.1.5.1 To deploy ring mounted geolocators on up to ten gannets nesting on Ortac and attempt to recover all nine geolocators that were deployed there in 2017.
  - 3.1.5.2 To present a synopsis of current TAG data (obtained from the GPS GSM tracking devices).
  - 3.1.5.3 To review any further use of GPS GSM data trackers (as part of the T.A.G project), seeking input from appropriate bodies.
- 3.1.6 To obtain counts of the seabird populations breeding on Coque Lihou and the other south coast islets.
- 3.1.7 To undertake monthly Wetland Bird Surveys (WeBS) and submit these data online via the BTO's website.

- 3.1.8 To annually review contact with Groupe Ornithologique Normand (GONm).
- 3.1.9 To present the findings of the seabird monitoring program in the Ramsar annual review.

## 3.2 Terrestrial

- 3.2.1 To continue rodent control in collaboration with the SoA Public Works Department, resource dependent
  - 3.2.1.1 To maintain the bait stations located on Burhou, Rousset, La Quoiré, Twin Sisters, Hananine Bay islets, Burhou, Houmet de Pies, and the East side of Saye Bay and their adjacent shores where appropriate.
  - 3.2.1.2 To explore creating a small mammal biosecurity plan for potential future rodent control.
- 3.2.2 To monitor the extent of bracken and invasive species on Burhou with subsequent management as needed in collaboration with the SoA Public Works Department.

## 3.3 Marine

- 3.3.1 To request data from Capturing our Coast for the updating of intertidal species information for Alderney.
- 3.3.2 To complete Phase II habitat mapping and species monitoring of Clonque Bay.
- 3.3.3 To continue Green Ormer population assessment at Clonque Bay, Longis Bay and Braye Bay (April and October).
- 3.3.4 To continue invasive species assessments at Clonque and Hanaine Bay alongside Ormer population assessments (following TWT Shoresearch methods) (April and October).
- 3.3.5 To continue marine mammal surveying.
- 3.3.6 To continue BRUV surveys opportunistically (summer)
- 3.3.7 To support and lead marine based academic projects within the Ramsar site (as required).
- 3.3.8 To continue to liaise with Seasearch groups in conducting scuba diving and snorkelling marine ecological surveys in the Ramsar site.
- 3.3.9 To undertake a desk-based review of marine mammal surveys (October – December).
- 3.3.10 To support the local British Marine Life Rescue Divers group on Alderney (as required).
- 3.3.11 To support marine management activities and the community led Marine Management Forum (as required).
- 3.3.12 To liaise with the SoA to consider seawater testing.
- 3.3.13 To remain in contact with Agence de la Biodiversité (resource dependent).
- 3.3.14 To review baseline marine data to ensure work streams are relevant and up to date (winter).
- 3.3.15 To develop baseline assessments and subsequent annual monitoring of possible climate change indicators.

## 3.4 Events

- 3.4.1 To continue offering boat tours on Sula of Braye to increase public awareness of the Ramsar Site and its ecology. This contributes to the cost of boat operations for Ramsar work by the AWT (March – September).
- 3.4.2 To provide free education tours for Year 6 students at St Anne’s School. (funds obtained) (date T.B.C.)
- 3.4.3 To continue community engagement and public awareness for the Ramsar Site year-round.



## 3.5 Advisory and Legislative

- 3.5.1 To review and update the 2017-2021 Five Year Ramsar Management Strategy (AWT, 2016).
- 3.5.2 To work with the Alderney Harbour Office and stakeholders to continue supporting the PFZ, including the publishing of a Notice to mariners detailing the zone on navigational charts.
- 3.5.3 To install signs and raise public awareness for the PTZ.
- 3.5.4 To create new signposting to alert the public to breeding waders and possible beach closures.
- 3.5.5 To review Ramsar signage, including replacement and installation of new signs around Alderney's Ramsar site.
- 3.5.6 To maintain communication links and collaborations other Channel Island Ramsar sites (with the Channel Island Ramsar committee).
- 3.5.7 To continue exploring the possibility of twinning Alderney's Ramsar site with Iles de Chausey in Normandy, France.
- 3.5.8 To continue to support the SoA in the development of appropriate legislation and policies including the development of a SoA Scientific Advisory Group, Environmental Secretariat and associated processes.

## 4. Further Details

### 4.1 Seabirds

#### 4.1.1 **To reinstall and maintain seabird monitoring cameras and equipment on Burhou (March – August) – approved by GSC February 25<sup>th</sup>.**

All equipment will be installed on Burhou, in the same way as previous years, and used to live stream video for monitoring, education and tourist applications. The installation will entail the deployment of three cameras (two bullet cameras and a pan-tilt-zoom camera) so that live footage of the nesting puffins can be observed throughout the breeding season (April – July).

The viability of adding a microphone will be explored this year as recommended by the 2019 Ramsar review (AWT, 2020). This will enhance the value of any data obtained and keep webcams up to date and competitive with similar online resources elsewhere.

To minimise disturbance, installation will be undertaken pre-season, ideally before any puffins have made landfall and started to breed. Any additional trips required for maintenance of equipment will be coordinated so that they run alongside pre planned trips and thereby minimise disturbance.

Live streaming of video will primarily be through the 'LIVE: Teaching Through Nature' website, which following recommendations has been updated for 2020 to make all three cameras more accessible. The AWT aim to have two public live streams of video both in the AWT shop and the Visit Alderney Centre, both on Victoria Street, St Anne.

The GDPR risk assessment and operating procedures from 2019 will be updated with the Alderney harbour office for 2020, prior to live streaming of the cameras.

**4.1.2 To continue monitoring of all breeding seabirds on Alderney, Burhou and other islets. Including an assessment of their numbers and productivity.**

- 4.1.2.1 **Atlantic Puffins** – raft counts before non-breeders arrive (April), and the use of remote cameras to estimate productivity (April – July).
- 4.1.2.2 **Northern Gannets** – productivity survey of Les Etacs (March – October). To explore the possibility of undertaking productivity monitoring on Ortac. Colony census of Les Etacs and Ortac (May – June).
- 4.1.2.3 **Northern Fulmars** – productivity surveys and counts of apparently occupied sites on Alderney’s cliffs (May – June).
- 4.1.2.4 **Common Terns** – estimation of colony size and productivity (July – August).
- 4.1.2.5 **Ringed Plover** – number of nesting pairs and productivity on Alderney’s beaches (April – July). Investigate likely causes of nest loss including predation, trampling and disturbance.

Monitoring will continue in accordance with the JNCC Seabird Monitoring Handbook (Walsh *et al.*, 1995), RSPB Guidelines, and the 2017-21 Ramsar Management Strategy (ARS3; AWT/SoA, 2016) with adaptations, as detailed and approved in the 2019 Ramsar Review (AWT, 2020).

**4.1.3 To oversee the program of seabird ringing.**

- 4.1.3.1 Cormorants – Little Burhou – (over one day, 25<sup>th</sup>/ 26<sup>th</sup> April).
- 4.1.3.2 Auks (and possibly shag chicks) – Coque Lihou (over one day, between 10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June).
- 4.1.3.3 Gull chicks (Lesser Black Backed, Great Black Backed, Herring) – Burhou (over one day, 8<sup>th</sup>/ 9<sup>th</sup> July)
- 4.1.3.4 Northern Gannets – Ortac (over one day, 14<sup>th</sup>/ 15<sup>th</sup> July)
- 4.1.3.5 Storm Petrels – Burhou (overnight, 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> July)

The long-term program of seabird ringing will continue in 2020, following methodologies as set out in the 2019 Ramsar Action Plan (AWT, 2019).

All ringing trips will be planned to minimise disturbance and organised in collaboration with experts with input from the ARSG. Working alongside the SoA, the review of ethics and practices will continue for all handling of birds within the scope of the ‘Alderney West coast and Burhou Islands Ramsar Site and Other Sites’. Permissions will be sought before any activities are carried out, and ringing licences will be granted to each individual ringer, as required by the SoA.

**4.1.4 To investigate the impact of anthropogenic materials on Northern Gannets**

**4.1.4.1 Recording entanglement and mortality.**

Continued effort to record entanglement and mortality is recommended, contributing to continual research. An assessment of the impact anthropogenic materials has on productivity and colony health is deemed essential. Entanglement and mortality is to be recorded opportunistically during productivity surveys, during colony visits etc.

#### **4.1.4.3 Observations of material returned to the nest site.**

Recording the material brought to nesting sites should ascertain if previous results can be replicated and to identify trends as described in Ramsar Review, 2019 (AWT, 2020). Post season nest inspections will help determine the proportion of plastic per nest and the amount of new material, as well as providing further evidence of mortality.

#### **4.1.5 To continue the 'Track a Gannet' (T.A.G.) Project.**

##### **4.1.5.1 To deploy ring mounted geolocators on up to ten gannets nesting on Ortac and attempt to recover all nine geolocators that were deployed there in 2017. (July)**

The use of geolocators has greatly enhanced our knowledge of gannet movements and helped clarify as well as improve what has been learned so far from ringing alone. Nevertheless, until now, no geolocation studies have been undertaken on Alderney's gannets. Data obtained from the single geocator recovered in 2019 provided a tantalising glimpse of where our adult gannets go and how they spend their time during the non-breeding season. However, so far, we only have data from a single bird. To obtain a more representative sample and therefore a better understanding of the bird's movements, we must acquire more data. To achieve this, we will continue to try and recover more of the nine geolocators that were fitted in 2017, but also attempt to fit ten new geolocators to be recovered next year.

The geolocators are very small and lightweight. They are mounted unobtrusively on colour rings and have been widely used elsewhere to study the movements of various seabirds including species much smaller than gannets. Long term studies have shown that they have no significant effect on the bird's behaviour, breeding success and survival.

This project will seek approval through the same channels as traditional ringing (see 4.1.3) and will only use suitably experienced ringers to carry out the work. In 2019, the use of geolocators for the T.A.G. project was subject to full ethical and practice review, and was approved by the SoA, with the subsequent issuing of licences.

##### **4.1.5.3 To review the use of GPS GSM data trackers to inform future deployments, seeking input from appropriate bodies.**

GPS GSM tracking devices are designed to provide very accurate location data. These data can be very useful in deciphering the foraging behaviour of gannets including how far, how frequently and how long the birds travel, as well as where they go. The devices are small enough to be tail-mounted on gannets. However, their size is limited by the weight of the battery and to remain light enough, the lifespan of the device must be restricted to a few weeks. Nevertheless, the data that can be obtained over this period are extremely useful. For example, these devices have provided the Ramsar project with concrete evidence of where Alderney's gannet's forage at sea during the breeding season and how this differs between these colonies and the French colony on Sept Isles. Furthermore, alongside the BTO and the University of Liverpool, information from the tags has been used to investigate the impacts of various offshore windfarm developments proposed within the gannet's foraging range including the publication of several scientific papers. Data has also fed into a larger international database ([www.seabirdtracking.org](http://www.seabirdtracking.org)) where it can be used freely by

other researchers. To date T.A.G has contributed to at least two other studies that have looked at seabird foraging across much larger spatial scales including the formulation of EIA responses to offshore developments.

The 'Track a Gannet' project is coordinated through the ARSG. T.A.G is primarily funded by the AWT and is therefore dependant on funding secured via private donors and may be subject to financial limitations.

## 4.2 Terrestrial

### 4.2.1 To continue rodent control in collaboration with the SoA Public Works Department (resources dependent).

#### 4.2.1.1 To maintain the bait stations located on Burhou, Rousset, La Quoiré, Twin Sisters, Hananine Bay islets, Burhou, Houmet de Pies, and the East side of Saye Bay and their adjacent shores where appropriate.

Due to the effectiveness of rat control programmes in 2019, recommendations have been made for continuation of rat monitoring and control at all sites (including Rousset) in 2020 and beyond. Monitoring should also be continued on Burhou, with immediate and appropriate action being taken should any evidence of rats be discovered. Rat control is long-term plan to improve the breeding success of Alderney's seabirds and should continue as described in the 2019 Ramsar Review (AWT, 2020).

### 4.2.2 To monitor the extent of bracken and invasives on Burhou with subsequent management as needed in collaboration with the SoA Public Works Department.

It is recommended in the 2019 Ramsar Review (AWT, 2020), that a program of bracken control is developed for Burhou to prevent bracken encroaching on Puffin burrows. It is proposed that an assessment of works needed should be made in early 2020 for subsequent bracken control alongside the SoA Public Works Department.

## 4.3 Marine

*All survey work follows methodologies as set out by the JNCC as in Davies et al., (2001), or as described in the 2019 Ramsar Review (AWT 2020).*

### 4.3.2 To complete Phase II habitat mapping and species monitoring of Clonque Bay

For Phase II habitat mapping, it is recommended that more recent aerial maps should be obtained. The dated aerial maps used did not always correspond to the topography and substrate of the study site in Clonque Bay which hindered habitat mapping (i.e. some areas had additional sedimentation, boulders and scour from recent storm events).

It is recommended that habitat mapping not completed last year should be finished, allowing the subsequent phase II work as outlined in the site's five-year strategy (ARS3; AWT/SoA, 2016). A number of habitat biotypes for phase II work will be selected and should be surveyed following JNCC methodology (Davies *et al.*, 2001), and TWT Seasearch methods. This work will provide quantitative evidence i.e. community/ species presence and abundance within each selected habitat biotype.

**4.3.4 To continue invasive species assessments at Clonque and Hanaine Bay alongside Ormer population assessments (following TWT Shoresearch methods) (April and October).**

Intertidal invasive species surveys should be undertaken in 2020, recording through The Wildlife Trust's new recording program, 'Shoresearch'. Green Ormer surveys should be completed opportunistically, tagging as part of a wider Channel Islands initiative, passing information to La Societe Jersuaise for comparative review.

**4.3.5 To continue marine mammal surveying.**

4.3.5.1 Grey seal abundance surveys (March – November) as part of Channel Island and French Coast survey efforts lead by Marie Francou.

4.3.5.2 Grey seal dynamics surveying (October – November).

4.3.5.3 Continued contribution to the photographic ID catalogue of grey seals within Alderney.

4.3.5.4 Opportunistic marine mammal sightings recording.

**4.3.7 To support and lead marine based academic projects within the Ramsar site.**

4.3.7.1 A desk-based review of intertidal survey methods (benthic and pelagic), results and activities as part of a MSc placement project with York University (July – August). See Appendix A for details.

4.3.7.2 An assessment of Alderney's brown crabs as part of an MSc project studying population dynamics across the Channel Islands. See Appendix B for details.

**4.3.12 To liaise with the SoA to consider seawater testing.**

Monthly seawater sampling within the Ramsar site should be considered in collaboration with the SoA. Sampling of bacteria determines the cleanliness and quality of water. Results could lead to Alderney achieving UK accepted designations for clean bathing beaches. Seawater testing should be encouraged on all Alderney's beaches.

**4.3.15 To develop baseline assessments and subsequent annual monitoring of possible climate change indicators.**

As part of ongoing survey efforts, the assessment of climate change indicators should be undertaken, informing future changes and trends. For example, population assessments of barnacles, distribution assessments of *Bifurcaria* spp. and *Cystoseira tamariscifolia* in rockpools and the study of infralittoral cave overhangs. The assessment of coralline crusts could further inform our knowledge of how ocean acidification affects our coastal communities. This study is non-invasive and should continue as part of an existing program of survey work.

## 4.4 Events

**4.4.1 To continue offering boat tours on Sula of Braye to increase public awareness of the Ramsar Site and its ecology. This also contributes to the cost of boat operations for Ramsar work by the AWT (March – September).**

The AWT maintains a 10 m Category 2 (MCA) coded power vessel to support seabird and marine research within the Ramsar site as well as offering tours and charters to increase public awareness of both the site and its ecology.

#### **4.4.2 To provide free education tours for Year 6 students at St Anne’s School.**

The AWT obtained funding from the Skipton Community Fund to provide these boat trips in 2019. As only one trip was needed for all year 6 students in 2019, the funds will also cover a trip in 2020.

#### **4.4.3 To continue public engagement and awareness for the Ramsar Site.**

The AWT hold at least one public engagement event in the Ramsar site for Wildlife Week and during the Wildlife Festival, drawing attention to the species and habitats found there. During the summer, the AWT also hold at least 2 rockpooling sessions at Clonque.

The AWT continue to support the T.A.G. Project by holding fundraising awareness events. The majority of funds needed for T.A.G. are raised separately by the AWT.

### **4.5 Advisory and Legislative**

#### **4.5.1 To review and update the 2017-2021 Five Year Ramsar Management Strategy (ARS3; AWT/SOA, 2016).**

To include altering the title to “Alderney West Coast and Burhou Islets Ramsar Site and Other Sites Strategy” as approved by the SoA General Services Committee in 2019, pending the development of a SoA Scientific Advisory Group. The strategy should also be updated to include current methodologies and practices. Guernsey and Jersey are now standardising their Ramsar Management strategies and the Ramsar Secretariat recommends that Alderney follows suit.

#### **4.5.2 To work with the Alderney Harbour Office and stakeholders to continue supporting the PFZ including the publishing of a notice to mariners detailing the zone on navigational charts.**

In 2019, at least 10 vessels entered Burhou’s PFZ during the Atlantic Puffin breeding season. It is recommended that raising awareness for water users should continue in 2020, including the issuing of a notice to mariners to supplement continued advertisement through press releases and the circulation of information with the help of stakeholders. Working with the Alderney Harbour Master to issue a “notice to mariners” will allow the seasonal restrictions to be available to view on all navigational charts, and further allow policing the zone through engagement with the Alderney Harbour Office.

## **5. References**

AWT., (2016), Alderney West Coast and Burhou Islands Ramsar Site Strategy, 2017-2021, Alderney Ramsar Strategy 3 (ARS3), Available at:

[http://www.alderneywildlife.org/sites/default/files/ramsar\\_management\\_strategy\\_2017-2021.pdf](http://www.alderneywildlife.org/sites/default/files/ramsar_management_strategy_2017-2021.pdf)

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Available at:

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## 6. Appendices

### **Appendix A: Survey Methods MSc**

Project Title: Evaluating research survey methods to accurately identify intertidal species presence, biodiversity and composition across Alderney.

Assessment: The Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT) currently uses a variety of field-based survey methods, to assess intertidal species' presence, biodiversity, distribution and composition on Alderney. This includes using intertidal monitoring survey techniques (such as the JNCC fixed quadrat survey method) and citizen science projects survey methods (such as Capturing our Coast and The Wildlife Trust's Shoresearch programme).

This project will entail evaluating current and potential new research survey methods, with the aim to identify which are appropriate for the AWT to adopt for assessing intertidal species presence, biodiversity and composition across Alderney. The project will incorporate both desk-based and field-based methods, through assessing previous intertidal studies and trialling the different survey methods.

### **Appendix B: Brown Crabs Population Dynamics MSc**

Project Title: Examining brown crab (*Cancer pagurus*) population dynamics across the Channel Islands.

Assessment: Since 2017, there has been growing concerns of brown crab populations across the Channel Islands, from marine scientists, NGOs and government bodies. Although this species is found offshore, the brown crab spends part of its life cycle within intertidal environments. At present, limited information exists of brown crab populations within the intertidal environment.

This project will entail examining brown crab population dynamics (i.e. abundance, density, size/sex and habitat type) within intertidal environments of Alderney and other Channel Islands including, Guernsey and Jersey. The project will incorporate both desk-based and field-based assessments. Fieldwork may include completing surveys on Alderney and Guernsey.