

Alderney Wildlife

A FLORAL PATTERN

A beautiful palette of flowers on Alderney during summer



OVERVIEW OF THE ASON QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

See what respondents say about the key species and habitats on Alderney that are important to them



Summer 2024 | Warmth

Protecting Alderney's wildlife
for the future.

Welcome

Summer summer!



Summer has arrived, bringing warmer temperatures. For someone like me, who has spent most of my life in tropical climates with temperatures reaching up to 35°C, the weather in Alderney can feel

a bit chilly, especially with gusts of wind hitting my face whenever I cycle. I've been teased for wearing big coats on what's considered a warm day in Alderney, but I don't mind. That's why I'm particularly happy when summer comes around.

Warmer temperatures mean more insects and summer birds are out and about. Bees buzz on flowers, butterflies flutter across the commons, and birds fly through the sky, singing loudly. Summer also means that Alderney's landscapes are dotted with beautiful flowers like Yellow-horned Poppy, Bird's-foot Trefoil, and Pyramidal Orchids. Walking in Alderney these days is truly a treat for the eyes and ears.

In this magazine issue, we'll introduce you to the vibrant floral tapestry of the island in the summer and explore the incredible adaptations some plants have developed to survive in hot conditions. We'll follow Ramsar Ecologist Niamh McDevitt on her typical day of bird surveying during Alderney's peak breeding season, from mid-spring to mid-summer.

We'll also share insights from the community through an overview of the responses to the Alderney State of Nature questionnaire that we conducted

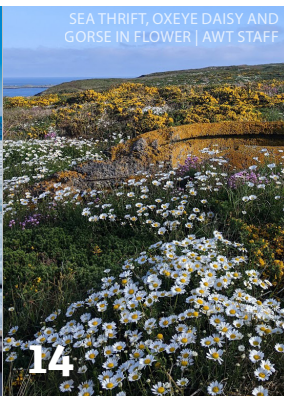


this spring. The feedback will guide our conservation efforts for key species and habitats on the island. We'll take a glimpse back in time to explore how Alderney's geology has transformed over the past 2,000 million years.

Instead of a Wildlife Watch section, we've included some quizzes on gannet chick identification and marine mysteries. I hope you enjoy these and find this magazine informative.

Thanh Doan

Outreach and Education Officer



adorned with a beautiful palette of flowers during summer.

11 Coping with heat

Plant superpowers: How some of them thrive in the heat! Read this article to find out.

12 The life of Alderney Wildlife Trust's Ramsar Ecologist

Tune in to read a delightful and humorous account from Niamh McDevitt as she shares insights into her typical workdays.

14 Overview of the Alderney State of Nature Questionnaire Responses

See what respondents to the ASoN questionnaire say about the key species and habitats on Alderney that are important to them

16 Two thousand million years on Alderney

Discover how the geology of Alderney has transformed over the past two thousand million years.

18 Legacies

Find out how you can help make a positive and long-lasting impact on Alderney.

20 Quizzes

Check if you can spot gannet chicks in a photo of Les Etacs and solve some marine mysteries!

22 Visit a UK Reserve

Reserves Officer, Poppy, tells us about her local nature reserve Titchfield Haven, a lovely place for wildlife near Southampton.

Contents

4 Manager's Report

6 Wild News

Spring and summer are busy times for AWT. Check out some highlighted events from this period.

8 Top Sightings

Check out special sightings of a moth, birds, a beetle and a gall.

10 A Floral Pattern

Take a look at how Alderney is



EDIBLE CRAB | THANH DOAN

Is it getting hot hot hot?

This issue is all about warmth and by this we mean not only the increasing temperatures our environment is exposed to from warming air and sea, but also the warmth of Alderney's Community and how it cares for its island home.

Looking around us the politics of the moment seems to increasingly focus on the 'threats' posed by the response to the 'climate crisis challenge' rather than the challenges we face because of it. Here are a few facts which make a stark backdrop to this discussion:

The mean sea temperature in the Bailiwick increased by 1.7°C over the last 25 years, which was 0.7°C more than that of the wider region.

"...things are getting hotter, in both our politics and climate"

This may seem ideal for beach users, yet this change is having an impact on the marine ecosystem from seaweed to phytoplankton and zooplankton and everything that forages on them including fish, marine mammals and birds. These changes can be as dynamic as reduced days when ferries and aircraft (sea fog) can operate, to falling catch sizes and increases in the number of invasive species.

Over the 30-year monitoring period to 2021 the Bailiwick

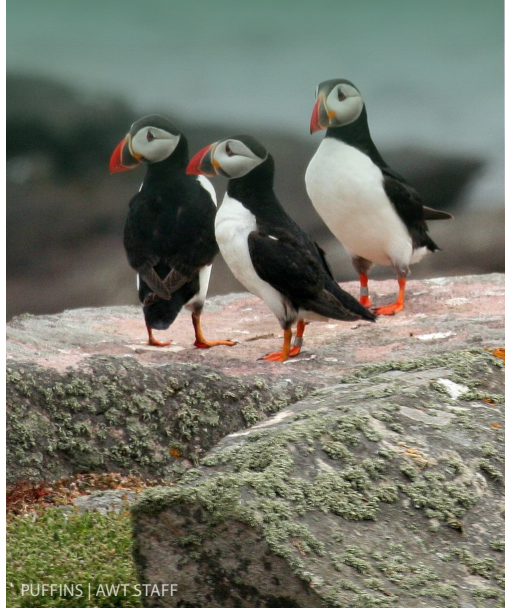
saw an increase in the annual average air temperature of around 0.5°C. In 2022 Guernsey airport recorded 5 days where temperatures exceeded 30°C, compared to only 15 times in the previous 74 years since records began (Guernsey Met), and this change in temperature is coupled by an increase in summer droughts and winter flooding events (SoG).

Our national and island politics often appears focused on issues such as housing, migration and population dynamics; however it is much less common that we discuss the direct links between our climate and these issues. So yes, things are getting hotter, in both our politics and climate. We really need to acknowledge that climate change is having a fundamental impact on our daily life right now, and that things are going to get worse. Yet we need to calm the rhetoric down and focus on how we, as an island community, face these challenges together.

By *Roland Gauvain*
CEO

Passing of Professor Charles Michel

We were truly saddened to hear of the passing of Prof. Charles Michel on the 19th July. Charles held the position of AWT Chair for 6 years, and helped guide its evolution to become an organisation founded in science and led by evidence. We wish to express our condolences to Ros and the family at this most difficult of times.



PUFFINS | AWT STAFF

WILD NEWS

All the latest news from Alderney Wildlife Trust

BioBlitz at Braye Common & Dinner with Professor Chris Baines



Over 23 explorers of all ages joined the BioBlitz at Braye Common on 7 July! Professor Chris Baines gave a brief talk on wildlife before we embarked on our exploration. In just about two hours, we discovered over 115 species of plants and animals. The wildlife was recorded and then safely released back into their habitat. Thanks to the brilliant work of the States Works Department, Braye Common is truly a haven for wildlife.



Later that evening, Professor Chris Baines gave a talk and enjoyed dinner with 14 members of the public, discussing horticulture, wild gardening, and environmental protection. It was an intimate event where everyone had the chance to connect with the expert. The profits from the meal will support the Alderney Waste to Food Composting project. Thank you to everyone for your great support!

Alderney Waste to Food Composting Project

In June, AWT's Conservation Volunteers teamed up with Alderney Roots to initiate the first phase of the Alderney Waste to Food Composting project. It aims to reduce the reliance on imported compost for Alderney Roots and lower on-island waste management costs. This initiative will employ in-vessel composting, utilising waste produce from Alderney Roots, The Georgian House and Jack's Café & Bistro. The organic waste will be mixed with wood chippings from the Alderney Community Woodland to create a soil conditioner.

Please read more about the project at www.alderneywildlife.org/current-projects/alderney-waste-to-food.



The First Seawater Survey is a Success

The first survey of Alderney's seawater was conducted at Corblets, Arch and Saye on 26 June 2024. This was the first survey of the 'Seawater Parameters Survey 2024-27 Project'. The data collected from the first survey was fairly similar to data from other Channel Islands. The only surprise was that the seawater temperature of Corblets is 17°C, higher than Alderney's summer average of 16°C.



Pink sea fan research project

In June, AWT supported researchers from the University of Exeter and Jersey Marine Conservation in collecting tissue samples from pink sea fans (*Eunicella verrucosa*) across Alderney's territorial waters. The visiting scientists scuba-dived at known pink sea fan locations, including Braye Rock, Grois Rock, and various spots along Alderney's southwest coast, such as Les Noires Putes. The samples are being analysed at the University of Exeter, with results expected in late spring 2025. The results will help scientists understand the connectivity of these soft coral populations throughout the Channel Islands and beyond.



First Wilder Beach

On 30 July, Team Wilder Community Support, Abbie, hosted the first Wilder Beach event for 14 enthusiastic 5-9 year-olds at Braye Beach. The 2.5-hour session was filled with fun and educational activities that helped children appreciate the beauty of Alderney's marine environment while boosting their skills and confidence.



Top Sightings

Black V



BLACK V MOTH | LOU COLLINGS

A Honey-buzzard was spotted at The Guns on 18/7 and at Fosse aux Chevaliers on 19/7. The Honey-buzzard is a large bird of prey, similar in appearance to a Common Buzzard. Honey-buzzards scan for bees and wasps, following individuals back to their nest where the birds use their strong, curved claws to break the nest open and eat the larvae. These birds occasionally visit Alderney in the summer. They winter in Africa.

Green Tortoise Beetle Larvae



GREEN TORTOISE BEETLE LARVAE | LOU COLLINGS

A Black V moth was recorded from the moth trap opening at Essex Farm on 27/7, the first sighting in Alderney and Guernsey. This species used to be recorded on the coast of Essex from 1947 to 1960, then disappeared. After that, a few sightings of this moth were recorded in 2006 and 2016, mostly in the Southeast of the UK.

Black V caterpillars eat birch and beech. The adult moths fly in June and July. They migrate from continental Europe.

Honey-buzzard



HONEY-BUZZARD | NIAMH MCDEVITT

This may not be a rare sighting, but it is an interesting one. A few larvae of the Green Tortoise Beetle were spotted near Le Fret Farm on 11/7. Each larva holds a 'coat' of cast skins and droppings to camouflage itself and deter predators. You may say they carry a 'fecal shield' on their back.



Robin's Pincushion



ROBIN'S PINCUSHION | TARA COX

A Ruby-tailed Wasp was spotted on a rock at Tete de Judemarre on 17/6. The Ruby-tailed Wasp is a stunning solitary insect with bright metallic blue and red colouration. The species is barely 10 mm in length and can be difficult to spot.

The Ruby-tailed Wasp is also known as 'Cuckoo Wasp' because the females lay their eggs in the nests of other solitary bees and wasps, especially Mason Bees. When the eggs hatch, they eat the larvae of the Mason Bees and develop.

A Robin's Pincushion was spotted at Corblets Quarry on 30/6, and many more were seen there at the end of July. Robin's Pincushion, also known as a Rose Bedeguar Gall, is a red, round, hairy growth found on wild roses. It is caused by chemicals secreted by the larvae of a tiny gall wasp. The adult wasp lays its eggs in rose buds or developing leaves, which then hatch into white larvae.

The affected rose buds develop into hard, woody structures with an outer covering of reddish-pink or yellowish-green moss-like leaves. Inside the gall, there are multiple chambers where the grubs develop. Despite its unusual appearance, the host rose is not adversely affected by the wasps.

Ruby-tailed Wasp



RUBY-TAILED WASP | NIAMH MCDEVITT

Kentish Plover



KENTISH PLOVER | MATT LEWIS

A Kentish Plover was spotted at Platte Saline on 10/5. Kentish Plover got its name because it used to be widespread in the English county of Kent, particularly at Dungeness, until the 1930s. On Alderney, it is a rare migrant. Aside from this sighting, there have been two other sightings since 1982: one on 30/5/2009 and the other on 6/5/2022.

Kentish Plovers favour coastal areas, especially sandy beaches. Their typical diet consists of insects, spiders, crustaceans, small molluscs, sand worms, and occasionally Eelgrass and seaweed.

A FLORAL PATTERN

Alderney is a wonderful location for botanists, as well as for those with a more general interest in flora or who wish to discover some of Alderney's specialties. But what about the visitor who has no specific knowledge of plants and is simply looking to enjoy the island's scenery in general? Well, Alderney's flora can respond to this too, providing spectacular patchworks of colour for all to admire with no need to know names or have any other specific knowledge.

In 2023 Braye Common was transformed into a sea of blue by swathes of Pale Flax. This year the dominant species have been different and have been of warmer hues: Red Campion and Foxglove have been abundant, particularly around the south cliffs and coastal paths, patches of yellow-orange Kidney Vetch and various Trefoils have been glorious and now Braye Common and other grasslands are turning purple with Common Mallow and Restharrow. The heathlands will soon be resplendent in swathes of the magenta Bell Heather, which will shortly be complemented by the paler lilac of Ling and yellow of young Gorse, producing a beautiful mosaic.

These stunning floral displays, changing with the seasons, are an important component of Alderney's wonderful landscape scenery which can be enjoyed in person, from the sea and even from the air.

By *Lindsay Pyne*

Vice-County Recorder for Alderney for the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland



FOXGLOVES AND CAMPION
| LINDSAY PYNE



KIDNEY VETCH | LINDSAY PYNE



SEA HOLLY | LINDSAY PYNE



HEATHER | LINDSAY PYNE

COPING WITH HEAT

Summer has arrived and our beautiful spring flowers have now mostly withered in the heat. So, what will come next? Seaside flora are well adapted to dry and hot conditions and there is now a new and quite different display appearing for you to enjoy - Yellow-horned Poppy with its beautiful silky yellow petals, the strange-looking blue-green Sea Spurge, pink and white candy-striped Sea Bindweed, the beautiful metallic blue Sea Holly and the very tall yellow aromatic Fennel amongst others.

Many seaside plants have long tap roots which can reach deep down to find any moisture below the surface. Some plants have developed strategies for storing water - the best known of these, of course, are cacti, but here on Alderney plants such as **Stonecrops** store water in their succulent stems and their leaves have a thick, waxy cuticle to cut down on water loss. **Spurges** store water more cunningly, retaining it as a white sap within their stems. This sap is an irritant and sometimes even poisonous, discouraging the attention of potential predators.

A number of plants which grow near the sea have adapted leaves. For example, **Fennel** has fine feathery leaves and **Thrift** has very narrow needle-shaped leaves with few stomata (pores) to reduce water loss. Interestingly, **Thrift** also creates its own mounds of compost by growing on itself year after year. **Mullein** has very furry leaves which reduce air movement and transpiration; blue-green leaves reflect heat better than plain green ones and glossy, wax-coated or wavy leaves are also beneficial as they reduce water loss and crinkles mean that part of the leaf is always in shade.

Plants sometimes alter their shape during the day to cope with heat. For example, as the sun rises and the temperature increas-

es, **Marram Grass** will gradually roll itself up to hide away most of its stomata, and some other plants will turn their leaves on edge to avoid excessive heat. Plants which can't employ such tactics might wilt, thus temporarily reducing the leaf area impacted by the sun. This may seem a rather drastic action, but plants will recover from a wilt with the help of a little water!

By *Lindsay Pyne*





The life of AWT's Ramsar E

The life of an ecologist is super exciting because no two days are ever the same. There is a mix of fieldwork and office work throughout the year, with lots of data collection, analysis and reporting! Here on Alderney, my main responsibility as Ramsar Ecologist is monitoring the gannet, puffin, guillemot, fulmar and ringed plover populations within the Ramsar site. I also help with surveys on oystercatchers, gulls, shags, cormorants and grey seals.

During the busiest part of the breeding season, from the beginning of April to the end of June, I spend almost every morning out on surveys. Each species I monitor has different breeding behaviours and season lengths, so when they overlap my mornings can be quite busy! Usually, I get up at sunrise, drink some much-needed coffee,

and make my way to the cliffs to observe the birds with a telescope before the heat haze from the sun makes it too difficult. It's so peaceful being up and out on the cliffs before the rest of the island wakes up; just me, the birds and the sea.

Each seabird species has different nesting approaches and lifecycles, which means different survey methods. For all species we're interested in when they nest, how long the nest lasts, and whether the chicks successfully fledge. We also record factors like disturbance and predation events. That way we can determine how each population is doing this year compared to other years. Then we can look at what may be causing any changes in the population. This information helps us decide if any conservation action is needed to protect the future of the



MONITORING LES ETACS (L) - THE GANNETS THROUGH THE SCOPE (R) | NIAMH MCDEVITT

ologist

seabird populations on Alderney. Seabirds face numerous threats, such as overfishing, climate change and habitat disturbance, with many species in decline globally. After spending so much time with the seabirds here, it's always a huge relief watching the chicks fledge and go off to sea.



RINGED PLOVER | NIAMH MCDEVITT

Once I've finished my morning surveys, I usually head into the office to input the data. The rest of my day can be quite varied. Aside

from seabird monitoring, I am a guide on our AWT boat tours so sometimes I spend the afternoon showing visitors our puffin and gannet colonies. On other days, I could be helping team members with their surveys, analysing data and writing reports, or reviewing footage of the puffin colony on Burhou from our PuffinCam. Burhou is closed for landings during the puffin breeding season, so we can't monitor the puffins



PUFFIN SEEN ON A BOAT TRIP

in person. Instead, we have PuffinCam, a camera that records the puffin burrows on Burhou 24 hours a day, meaning we can monitor the puffin population

from the office without causing any disturbance.

After I finish up for the day, I tend to spend even more time outside exploring the island. Alderney is incredibly beautiful with so much exciting wildlife, and I don't want to miss any of it. Usually, I'm crawling into bed exhausted but happy, and I wouldn't have it any other way!

By *Niamh McDevitt*
Ramsar Ecologist



ME NEXT TO THE TELESCOPE, SURVEYING THE GANNETS



Insights from the community:

Overview of the Alderney State of Nature Questionnaire Responses

SEA THRIFT AND GORSE IN FLOWER ON THE SOUTH CLIFFS | AWT STAFF

Last spring, Roland, Lindsay, Matt, Mel, and I came together to brainstorm how the AWT can better understand the state of Alderney's wildlife and natural environment amidst threats like climate change, the spread of invasive species, and pollution. After extensive planning sessions (and many cups of coffee!), we developed a three-year project to conduct a State of Nature Assessment on Alderney.

Our vision for the Alderney State of Nature project is to gain a better understanding of how key species and habitats on Alderney and within its territorial waters have changed over time. From here we need to make this information available to anyone interested in the natural world, and to use it to inform and direct our ecological monitoring and reserves management strategies. Given the vast scope of the island's biodiversity and the challenges of assessing all of Alderney's wildlife, our first step has been to narrow down a list of key

habitats and species for the island that are of local and regional conservation concern, as well as those considered important by Alderney's community.

To gather community input, we invited Alderney's residents and visitors to share their thoughts on which of the island's plants, animals, and places were important to them. We did this through an in-person drop-in session and a questionnaire. We asked islanders and visitors which species and locations they were concerned about, particularly in terms of risk of decline, invasive species causing harm to wildlife and the impact on their livelihood and well-being.

In total, 49 individuals and organisations provided feedback, representing a wide age range (15 – 65+) and including both full- and part-time residents as well as visitors. Overall, an impressive 216 species and over 90 habitats and places were mentioned in the responses!

Puffins and gannets emerged as the

most frequently mentioned species, with over half of the respondents expressing worries about their decline or potential decline, especially in light of avian flu and the vulnerability of puffins breeding on Burhou. Alongside guillemots and razorbills, these seabirds were also highlighted for their importance to local livelihoods and people's sense of well-being. Indeed, species returning or emerging in Alderney in the spring and summer time were notably recognised as substantial contributors to well-being. Alongside our seabirds returning from their winter travels, respondents often mentioned the bloom of our coastal wildflowers including Sea Thrift, Gorse, Foxglove, Spotted Rock-rose and Heathers.



A quarter of the responses highlighted concerns about the island's beaches, including rocky shores, sea cliffs, and accompanying dunes, pointing out their vulnerability to degradation from coastal erosion, nutrient loading, and climate change. Additionally, ormer, along with more general concerns about fish, shellfish, crustaceans, and anemones, were commonly mentioned in connection with species declines.

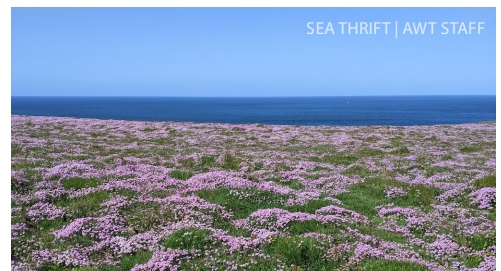
Three-quarters of individuals who provided feedback on the spread of invasive species highlighted the worrying impact of non-native Sour Fig, a mat forming species that outcompetes fragile coastal flowering plants and promotes coastal erosion, on the island's coastline. Thirty-two percent of responses also raised the alarming increase in Asian Hornets, which are known to voraciously predate native pollinator species.



WORD CLOUD (MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED WORDS) FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES | TARA COX

The local knowledge gathered through questionnaire responses will be an instrumental part of creating a key species and habitat list tailored to Alderney's unique environment. We're hard at work combining these insights with information about global and regional priorities for conservation to produce our list. The next stage of the project will involve defining what constitutes a healthy population or habitat condition for these species and habitats, assessing their current status on Alderney, and ultimately publishing this information in a freely available State of Nature report. Throughout the project, we'll also be running taster sessions for anyone interested in getting involved with biological recording. There's something for everyone, so stay tuned for updates!

By *Dr. Tara Cox*
Senior Ecologist





Two thousand million years on Alderney

RIBBON ROCK ON ALDERNEY'S SOUTHWEST COAST IS A REMNANT OF THIS COLLISION 2,200 MILLION YEARS AGO. HERE PINK INTRUSIONS OF APLITE CUT THROUGH THE ROCK, GIVING THE STACK ITS RIBBONED APPEARANCE. © NIAMH MCDEVITT

Life on our Island is shaped and guided by physical forces. Whilst the average air temperature this June¹ was 14.3°C and the sea surface temperature² was 16.6°C, Alderney's story begins at over a thousand degrees Celsius. Over 2,200 million years ago, two continental plates were driven into each other. The granodiorite on the western half of Alderney was formed during this subduction event (there are even fragments of far older rocks within the granodiorite)³. Life then was simple and in crisis. Earth was undergoing its first mass extinction, the Great Oxygenation. Oxygen was highly toxic to most early life, and this rise in oxygen resulted in an estimated loss of 80% of all life. After this extinction, aerobic life became dominant, eventually leading to the complex plants and animals we have today.

Fast forward to 600 million years ago,

and Alderney was once again at the centre of volcanic activity. Partially melted rock intruded across the middle of what would become our island as the supercontinent Gondwana crashed into another tectonic plate, leaving the diorite we have today⁴. This event also formed mountains. Rain-water which fell on these mountains flowed out across the land, and over Alderney, depositing sediments. These would eventually form the pinkish Alderney Sandstone we have today, including on the island of Burhou⁵.

As this river was flowing over Alderney, life was taking a giant leap forward in the Cambrian explosion (between 541 million and approximately 530 million years ago). In just 28 million years there was a sudden explosion in the diversity of complex life, including the divergence of almost all modern phyla.

Earth wasn't quite done with Alderney yet – one more monumental tectonic

event was still to shape our island. During the Carboniferous (359 to 299 million years ago, when giant invertebrates and amphibians the size of saltwater crocodiles dominated on land), the two supercontinents of Laurasia and Gondwana collided and formed Pangea – with Alderney at its centre. New rock formations cut through Alderney, including dolerite and rare rocks such as lamprophyres⁵.

The final chapter in Alderney’s geological history is much more recent. In the last hundred thousand years, huge ice sheets covered much of the Northern Hemisphere (the ice ages). Alderney sat at the very edge of these sheets. It was at this time that two species of human, Homo Sapiens and Neanderthals, were striving for dominance of Europe. Wind-blown sediment and changing sea levels, as ice sheets extended and retreated, formed raised beaches some 30 metres above ground, and much of the surface of the island today is covered in this ice-age sand³. We may imagine groups of hunter-gatherers patrolling frigid tundra and shorelines, although likely hunting Woolly Rhino and Reindeer rather than the Green Ormer. During warmer interglacial periods, our ancestors would have been faced with Straight-tusked Elephants, weighing three times

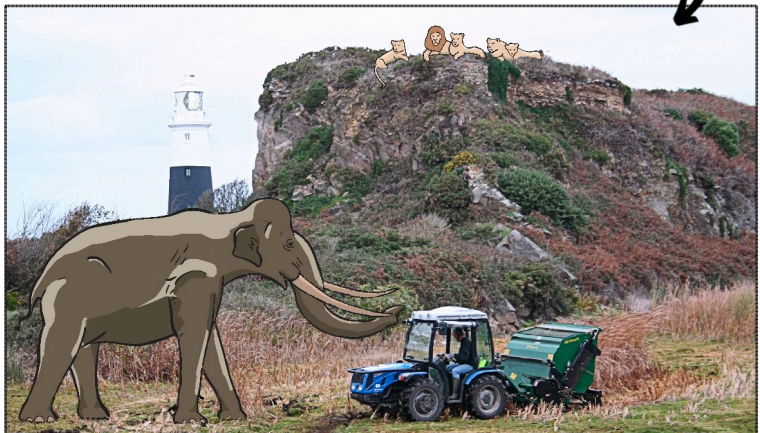
modern lions⁶.

After the last ice age, sea levels rose and eventually the softer rock around us was cut away, making Alderney an island. In the years since, humanity has had a dramatic effect on the island, but it is only a footnote in comparison to the natural forces which have shaped Alderney for over two thousand million years.

1. Alderney Electricity Limited Giffoine weather station
2. AWT Seawater Parameters Survey 27/06/2024
3. Alderney: An Introduction to the Delights of a Very Special Channel Island, chapter The Geology of Alderney, Trevor Davenport.
4. N. d'A Laffoley: Geological excursion guide 2: Alderney, Channel Islands (1985) Geology Today.
5. Tribe, I.R., D'Lemos, R.S. and Strachan, R.A. 1993. The foliated granitic rocks of western Alderney, Channel Islands: fabric origin and interpretation of 40Ar/39Ar mineral cooling ages. Proceedings of the Ussher Society, 8, 186-188.
6. D. C. Schreve (1976) Mammalian Biostratigraphy of the Later Middle Pleistocene in Britain. University College London.

By *Alex Purdie*
Marine Biologist

STRAIGHT-TUSKED ELEPHANTS AND PRIDES OF LIONS
ROAMED THE REGION 30,000 YEARS AGO
| ALEX PURDIE





LEGACIES

Alderney has uniquely diverse wildlife, from the iconic puffins and gannets to the less well-known hawk-moths or Spotted Rock Rose. Yet despite this rich resource it lacks any real wildlife protection, and perhaps more importantly it lacks access to funding for wildlife protection. Few realise that the island's nature reserves have no formal protection and are simply managed by the AWT under voluntary agreements using funds it raises. In fact, the AWT does not own any land, and all its buildings are commercially rented, often on short-term leases. As an organisation we are looking to secure the resources to better protect and manage crucial habitats and species which, without this care, may soon be lost to the island.

Since its founding, the AWT has benefited from several legacies, as well as

gifts made in memory of the passing of loved ones. These gifts have made a huge difference but are far from common. When they have occurred, they have provided resources (viewing scopes, research equipment, tools), as well as helping to enable projects (research and nature reserve facilities).

Sir David Attenborough summed up what a legacy means: "anyone who cares about wildlife has a marvellous opportunity to do something quite unique, by remembering their local Wildlife Trust in their will. This generous act is one of the most important things you can do to make sure the species and habitats we love will be there for future generations to enjoy."

Looking to the future, the AWT is exploring what legacies could mean to help secure the future of key wildlife sites and species, as well as enabling educational resources and public ac-



COMMON POPPY AND WILD RADISH NEAR JIMPOT | JENNA COX



ALDERNEY SEA-LAVENDER | LINDSAY PYNE

*“anyone who **cares about wildlife** has a marvellous opportunity to do something quite unique, by remembering their local Wildlife Trust in their will.”*

cess for the island. As we look at how we can support those interested in making a legacy we make the following commitments:

- **We** recognise your loved ones come first in your Will.
- **We** will treat you fairly and we won't intrude on your privacy.
- **We** will never ask you the size or type of your legacy, because every gift makes a difference.
- **We** understand that circumstances change and there may be a time when you need to take the AWT out of your Will.
- **We** promise to use your gift wisely, in line with your wishes.

We would be delighted to discuss how any size of gift can make a positive impact on Alderney, and the AWT, and also give you a chance to see how positive an impact it might have.

By *Roland Gauvain*
CEO



GANNETS | AWT STAFF

How many gannet chicks can you spot in this photo?

Gannet chicks have fluffy white down.

A SECTION OF ONE OF OUR PRODUCTIVITY PLOTS ON
LES ETACS, ALDERNEY GANNET COLONY | TARA COX

See answer on page 23

Marine Mysteries

Who laid these eggs?



See answer on page 23

BACKGROUND: BRAYE BEACH | THANH DOAN - PHOTOS 1, 2, 3, 4, A, C | LOU COLLINGS - PHOTO B & D | AWT

Visit a UK Reserve

Titchfield Haven



THE SCRAPES | POPPY EMMENS



AVOCET | POPPY EMMENS



BLACK-HEADED GULLS | POPPY EMMENS

Before coming to Alderney, I spent a lot of my time at Titchfield Haven National Nature reserve, a 134-ha nature reserve on the south coast between Southampton and Portsmouth. Running through the site is the River Meon, which once flowed into the sea here, until the 16th century when the Earl of Southampton blocked the river and inadvertently created the wetland habitat that makes the site so important today.

It is a wonderful reserve with an abundance of wildlife all easily viewable from the trails and bird hides. Marsh Harriers can be frequently seen hunting over the reedbed after small birds and mammals, and every year hundreds of Black-headed Gulls breed on the scrapes. There are butterflies aplenty in the meadows and around the field edges, with highlights being the White-letter Hairstreak, seen around the tops of Elm trees, and the White Admiral, which can be seen flying between the Oak canopies over Walkway Pond on summer days. Water Voles



HIGHLAND COWS (LEFT) - SMALL SKIPPER (RIGHT)
| POPPY EMMENS

were also successfully re-introduced in 2013 and you may hear the small 'plop' of one making a getaway whilst walking along the boardwalk.

The site is managed by a team of rangers and volunteers who carry out a variety of tasks to maintain its biodiversity. These range from coppicing and grassland management to species monitoring and ensuring access so the public can experience nature here.

On the meadows, a group of Highland cattle graze in the summer, keeping the grassland scrub-free for birds like Snipe to overwinter in. The cattle's sturdy nature allows them to push deep into brambles, opening up areas of habitat hard to access with machinery, and creating a variation in the structure and types of vegetation.

By *Poppy Emmens*
Reserves Officer

Quiz Answer

Answer to page 20:
There are 16 gannet chicks in the photo.

Answer to page 21:
1-d, 2-c,
3-a, 4-b



Thank you

Your support is vital for protecting Alderney's wildlife!
alderneywildlife.org/support-us/donate

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