



LIFE Project Number

LIFE11 NAT/UK/000387

FINAL Report

Covering the project activities from 01/10/2012 to 31/12/2017

Reporting Date

31/03/2018

Maintaining and enhancing the Isles of Scilly SPA through the removal of rats from two key islands

Project Data

Project location	Isles of Scilly, UK
Project start date:	01/10/2012
Project end date:	30/09/2017 Extension date: 31/12/2017
Total Project duration (in months)	63 months (including Extension of 3 months)
Total budget	€ 1,107,871
Total eligible budget	€ 1,107,871
EU contribution:	€ 553,935
(%) of total costs	50%
(%) of eligible costs	50%

Beneficiary Data

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1. LIST OF CONTENTS

1. List of contents	2
2. Executive summary	3
2.1. A summary of the main achievements	3
2.2. Problems which occurred during the project were;.....	6
3. Introduction.....	8
3.1 Overall and specific objectives.....	8
4. Administrative part.....	10
4.1. Description of the management system	10
4.2. Evaluation of the management system.....	15
5. Technical part.....	17
5.1. Technical progress per task	17
5.2. Dissemination Actions	41
5.3. Evaluation of Project Implementation	56
5.4. Analysis of long-term benefits	68
6. Financial Part.....	75
6.1. Introduction.....	75
6.2. Summary of Costs Incurred	76
6.3. Response to EC Letters.....	79
6.4. Summary of costs per action	81
7. Annexes.....	83

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1. A summary of the main achievements

Project objectives

Overall, the project was successfully executed. We delivered the main objective, which was to enable storm petrels (*Hydrobates pelagicus*) and Manx shearwaters (*Puffinus puffinus*) to use the large areas of suitable breeding habitat that exist on the islands of St Agnes and Gugh, by removing rats from both islands.

Deliverables

The key deliverables of the project were:

- Reports from pre-rat removal surveys (Action **A4**) were successfully produced to establish robust baselines for the target species and other taxa before the rat removal operation started.
- Report on rat removal operation (Action **C1**) was successfully produced
- Report on final check for rats (Action **D2**) was achieved. In January 2016 WMIL returned for a five-week 'final monitoring check' and the islands were officially declared rat-free in February 2016.
- Reports from post-removal seabird survey and the Report from post-removal surveys of other taxa (Action **D3**) were completed.
- Layman's report (Action **E3**) was successfully produced in time for the end of project conference.
- Information materials (Action **E4**) were all produced including static signs, leaflets and stickers.
- Carry out media work (Action **E6**). The 15 press releases were successful, resulting in local, regional and national coverage of the project. All the other anticipated media outputs were completed. There was more media interest than first envisaged, we featured on radio, in newspapers and on television at both national and international level. These press outputs encouraged further visitors to the islands which in turn may assist the local economy.
- Audit report (Action **F3**) was produced successfully.
- After-LIFE conservation plan – 'Maintenance Plan' (Action **F4**) was successfully signed off in May 2017

Project management

Effective project management has helped to ensure that project actions were achieved, mainly on time and that all of our obligations to the European Commission were met. A robust project management framework was established at the start of the project and was maintained throughout.

Main actions and key outputs

- Recruit Project staff (Action **A1**). Project staff were successfully recruited. The Associated Beneficiary was unable to contract the SPA survey Project Officer and three Research Assistants as planned. However, the RSPB hired them directly and this did not affect the required output. Although more staff were required than first anticipated, underspend of the Personnel budget was used, through a formal 'budget amendment' and the project outcomes were delivered to high standards due to these additional staff.
- Select Contractors (Action **A2**). Subcontractors underwent a robust tender process adhering to LIFE requirements and all contractor were selected within original time frames specified.
- Establish local community group to support project implementation and follow-up (Action **A3**). The

community group was established at the start of the project, supporting project implementation which continues to the 'legacy phase'. The support of **all** the members of the community has been essential for the success of the project, particularly as they all needed to help us to get the islands 'rat-removal ready'.

- Carry out pre-removal surveys of the target species and other key species (Action A4).
 - *Seabirds*. Dr Vickie Heaney, Seabird Ecologist contracted through IOSWT carried out the surveys of the key species (Manx shearwaters and storm petrels) as well as the whole sea birds assemblage from April – August 2013.
 - *Other key taxa (invertebrates, land birds, vegetation, shrews, rabbits)*. Contractors Spalding Associates carried out the pre-removal surveys for other taxa for one week during the months May, June, July and September 2013.
 - *Monitoring and baiting for rats of key uninhabited islands in Scilly by Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (IOSWT)*. Visits all happened in March 2014 due to incredibly poor weather over the winter. The staff member responsible for this operation left the organisation in April 2014, leaving very little data or evidence. This triggered a review of operations, and during winter 2014/15 IOSWT proposed maintaining efforts on Annet and the St Helens group of islands.
- Carry out pre-rat removal assessment and preparation (Action A5). Contractors WMIL carried out a pre-removal assessment in June 2013, actions to ensure the islands were 'rat removal ready' were set by WMIL, carried out by community and staff, and completed by WMIL and the volunteer team in October 2013 ahead of baiting in November 2013.
- Carry out rat removal and intensive monitoring for rats (Action C1). Contractors WMIL successfully carried out the winter rat-removal operation in the winter of 2013/2014. A few problems were encountered but these were overcome.
- Carry out long term monitoring for rats (Action D1). The objective of D1 was for 'effective long term monitoring' and this was successfully achieved. WMIL trained project staff and SHVs to carry out long term monitoring as per the 'Biosecurity Plan' which covers three areas: prevention: surveillance: incursion response.
 - In 2016 after the islands were deemed officially rat-free, long term monitoring moved to the next phase 'legacy building' with long term monitoring tasks moving from the project team to SHVs. In 2016/2017 the SHVs were 'Lantra' trained to handle rodenticide, enabling them to assist any future incursion response. Also, RSPB staff and volunteers were trained to assist as an incursion team. A mock incursion response in April 2017 tested protocols. Activities were delivered to disseminate information and provide training; this included 20 community talks; 30 conservation workshops; 8 themed conservation events.
 - The 'boat biosecurity' training workshops were the most important, as this is the most likely incursion pathway, and prevention is essential. In November 2017, unfortunately, a rat did arrive on St Agnes via the Lyonesse Lady freight boat, but the rat was dispatched immediately by a SHV on the quay, and biosecurity protocols were revised and improved.
 - IOSWT long term rat monitoring of the uninhabited islands found the islands to have rats in 2013, as a consequence actions were modified to focus on removing rats from priority islands (where the key seabird species breed). In 2016/17 baiting ceased (as it was proving unsuccessful, with rats returning after efforts each winter, probably in part at least due to recolonization from other nearby islands). Activity shifted to rat monitoring and behaviour research.
- Carry out final check for rats (Action D2). **This activity was carried out in 2016** by contractors WMIL, project staff and volunteers. St Agnes & Gugh was declared officially rat-free according to internationally recognised protocol on 12 February 2016.

- Carry out post-rat removal monitoring of the target species and other key taxa (Action **D3**).
 - For the key species *Manx shearwater* (surveys 2012- 2017), the breeding population on St Agnes and Gugh increased from 22 pairs in 2013 (pre-rat eradication) to 59 pairs in 2017. Chicks were recorded for the first time in living memory in 2014 straight after rat-removal, the number of chicks recorded increased each year thereafter, with 43 chicks recorded in 2017.
 - For the key species *storm petrels* (surveys 2013- 2017) the breeding population on St Agnes and Gugh increased from 0 pairs in 2013 (pre-rat eradication) to 14 pairs in 2017. They returned to breed on St Agnes and Gugh for the first time in living memory in 2015, two years after rat-removal, and chicks were also recorded in this same year. Chicks were recorded each year thereafter, with five recorded in 2017. Monitoring of petrels is difficult and further refinement of protocols is needed – however the trend of an increase is clear.
 - For wider seabird species (annual counts 2012 – 2017 and a full SPA survey 2015) Species which have increased across all islands: Manx shearwaters, guillemot, razorbill, great black-backed gull, fulmar. Species which have decreased across all islands: puffin, storm petrel, herring gull, shag, lesser black-backed gull, cormorant, kittiwake, common tern. Species no longer breeding compared to previous SPA surveys: Sandwich, Arctic and roseate terns.
 - For post removal surveys of other key taxa (invertebrates, land birds, vegetation, shrews, rabbits) 2014 and 2016. Overall the only trend which can be definitively attributed to rat-removal is the increase in Scilly shrews which were predated by rats. All other trends could not be solely attributed to rat-removal although increases in rabbits are probably mainly due to rat-removal and decreases in lawn hoppers are probably partly due to the shrew increase. Further conclusions will probably be drawn in the future as additional years of monitoring smooth out the considerable annual variations. Points of interest from the invertebrate surveys were: 33 species of spider were identified, of which one species was a first record for Gugh and five species of beetle were likely first records on St Agnes, Gugh and Bryher.
- Assess socio economic impact of the project, and contribution to ecosystem function restoration (Action **D4**). A socio-economic report was produced by the project, supplemented by a report commissioned from Exeter University (Annex 23). Alongside benefits to biodiversity, the community gained wider social and economic benefits too. The negative impacts which rats were having in people's lives ceased, enjoyment and lifestyle in the community improved. The cost of rat damage and control was reduced to zero. The community felt the impacts on the economy were already being made due to positive impacts to tourism. The community felt these benefits were set to increase in the future.

Public Awareness and Dissemination actions

- Erect notice boards (Action **E1**). The project notice boards are all in place and have had positive feedback regards explaining key project messages. In 2017 extra 'rat-free' notice boards were asked for by the community, underspend was used to design and produce them, and they are in place.
- Create and maintain project website (Action **E2**). The website was designed and hosted by DH design, updated by the Project Manager and will remain live for the next five years as part of the 'legacy phase'. The website received over 6,500 viewer sessions over the project. On Facebook, the average 'views' per post was 800 and the average 'impression' per tweet on Twitter was 500.
- Produce a Layman's report (Action **E3**). This was produced for the End of Project Conference, September 2017.
- Produce information materials (Action **E4**). These were all produced including static signs, leaflets and stickers.

- Organise awareness raising events for islanders and visitors (Action E5). These were all completed with over 14,000 people engaged through activities consisting of 398 boat trips, 470 Date with Nature walks, 40 guided walks, 5 beach cleans, 16 fetes.
- Action E6. Carry out media work (Action E6). The 15 press releases were successful, resulting in local, regional and national coverage of the project. All the other anticipated media outputs were completed. There was more media interest than first envisaged, we featured on radio, in newspapers and on television at both national and international level. These press outputs encouraged further visitors to the islands which in turn may assist the local economy.
- Hold 'End of Project Conference' (Action E7). The conference was held over two days on St Agnes and St Mary's 27–28 October 2017. Attendance and feedback showed it was successful and fulfilled its objectives.

2.2. Problems which occurred during the project were;

Incursion by a rat 10/11/2017

In 2017 unfortunately a rat did return to St Agnes via the *Lyonesse Lady* freight boat, but it was dispatched immediately by a SHV on the quay. Protocols were then revised by IOS Steamship Company. The RSPB are checking the protocols are being followed as set out in the maintenance plan and this will continue post LIFE with residents, Seabird Heritage Group, RSPB Cornwall Conservation officer, IOWST staff and RSPB incursion response team from the mainland.

Obtaining an extension-of-use permission from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to use specific rodenticides (difenacoum) and brodifacoum).

For targeting any resistant rats towards the end of the rat removal phase, a derogation for bait was required. Changes to Health and Safety Executive (HSE) legislation in 2013 meant we needed to apply for an extension of use. The process was new, was a huge piece of work and permission was only received on 3 October 2013 so was close to causing the eradication to be delayed a year. HSE are now clearer about the need to use rodenticides for eradication projects and the RSPB and partners the information that is required for the process and timescales involved.

Delay in interpretation

In 2013 the co-funder, Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), delayed interpretation activities from Spring 2013 to late August 2013 whilst key messages were finalised. The revised deadline did not affect the achievement of the project aims, as other forms of interpretation (newsletters, community updates) ensured the project was interpreted to the most important audiences at that stage. The feedback for which was positive.

Problems during rat-removal phase (Action C1)

During the winter rat-removal phase, there were a few problems encountered e.g. storm damage or interference of bait stations by cattle but most were easily dealt with by moving bait stations. In addition

- Damage to bait stations by storms or interference by cattle which was easily resolved by changing their locations,
- a total of 19 dead rats were found on the surface, which is more than other removal programmes. There was no evidence of any other animal scavenging these carcasses. There were no observations of pet cats, crows, gulls or raptors eating dead or dying rats on St Agnes and Gugh.

Surveillance response to potential rat sightings (ROAR) (Action D1)

In 2014 and 2015 the number of potential rat sightings (ROAR) called in to the IOSWT hotline was much higher than in previous rat removal projects (personal communication and reports). This resulted in the project going over budget on personnel as contracts had to be extended and a project assistant recruited to deal with the additional work load. This enabled us to test and revise the response methodology and additional training provided to volunteers.

Long term monitoring of uninhabited islands (Action D1)

The baiting and control operations were not successful at removing/suppressing rats on uninhabited islands of St Helens, Tean and Northwethel. The long term monitoring and rat-removal work on the uninhabited islands was carried out by IOSWT. In winter 2015/2016 as baiting operations were not successful, the efforts moved from baiting to monitoring rats behaviour (report in annex 13). This found that rats on the uninhabited islands were not resistant to the bait but could survive all year on natural foods and were neophobic (wary of new objects). Therefore any future eradication would need to establish bait stations onto these islands well in advance of any eradication and potentially pre-bait with non-toxic options to habituate the rats. In addition winter food sources, particularly from *Pittosporum crassifolium* and Hottentot fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*) should be reduced to remove food sources currently used to encourage them to switch to the artificial food sources. Due to the connectivity of the uninhabited islands to inhabited islands the likelihood of re-invasion was still high so the option for removal still required any removal programme on the remaining uninhabited islands in the SPA to be carried out simultaneously with the islands of Bryher, Tresco and St Martin's.

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1 Overall and specific objectives

Breeding populations of storm petrels and Manx shearwaters on Scilly are one of only two in England, the other being Lundy where rats were removed c15 years ago. The presence of brown rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) has caused the loss of adults, young and eggs of both main target species within the Isles of Scilly SPA, and is therefore affecting the population sizes and distributions of these species. The population of storm petrels on Scilly declined by 5% between 2000 and 2006 and the population of Manx shearwaters on Scilly declined by 15% between 2000 and 2006. The project had four main objectives;

1. To enable storm petrels and Manx shearwaters to use the large areas of suitable breeding habitat that exist on the islands of St Agnes and Gugh, but are currently unoccupied by these species, by removing rats from both islands.
2. To protect the uninhabited island of Annet and nearby smaller islands from invasion by rats. Annet is the single most important island for seabirds in the entire SPA, but lies close to St Agnes and is therefore highly vulnerable to incursions by rats from the latter islands. Removal of rats from St Agnes would greatly reduce the probability of rats ever reaching Annet again.
3. To improve knowledge and understanding among Scillonians and visitors, of the internationally important seabird colonies on their islands, of the threats facing these colonies, and of the methods available to address these threats. This will help to build support both for this project and for future initiatives, and to minimise any objections that might be raised due (for example) to concerns about the use of poison baits. We sought to improve public knowledge and understanding of the impact of invasive species of biodiversity on Scilly, thereby encouraging the implementation of additional rat removal projects elsewhere on Scilly, by promoting the work on St Agnes and Gugh as a model.
4. To encourage the implementation of additional rat removal projects elsewhere on Scilly, by promoting the work on St Agnes and Gugh as a model, by improving public knowledge and understanding (as described above), and by developing detailed, costed operational plans for selected additional islands.

Which sites are involved. The Isles of Scilly SPA covers 401.64ha over 14 sites of SSSIs. We proposed to remove brown rats from two of the six inhabited islands, St Agnes and Gugh, which will greatly reduce the probability that rats will recolonise the important uninhabited seabird breeding island of Annet. The removal of rats would render 43.7ha of suitable habitat available (from the 1% occupied at the beginning of the project).

Which species are targeted. The main target species for the project are storm petrel, a qualifying feature of the SPA in its own right, and Manx shearwater, a key component of the internationally important seabird assemblage which is also a qualifying feature.

Main conservation issues being targeted. There were three main conservation threats being targeted = rat predation, rat incursion from inhabited to uninhabited islands and limited understanding/awareness. The project proposed to address these threats by removing brown rats from St Agnes and Gugh thus reducing the probability that rats would re-colonise Annet, the most important island for seabirds in the entire SPA. The limited understanding threat would be addressed through a range of communication and awareness-raising actions (mainly E Actions).

Socio-economic context

St Agnes has approximately 75 residents, and Gugh has two. There are about 40 homes on the two islands, but at least 150 buildings in total (including holiday cottages, farm buildings, sheds, etc). Businesses on St Agnes include six farms, a restaurant, a pub, two cafes, a post office and a store; and

livestock that are raised there include cattle, pigs, chickens, ducks and geese. Tourism is one of the islands' main sources of income, particularly between April and October.

The project has significant socio-economic benefits, as rats have marked negative impacts on the people of St Agnes and Gugh, and Scilly more widely, as well as on biodiversity. These impacts related particularly to public health, public enjoyment, damage to property, damage to animal feed and damage to crops.

Surveys taken toward the end of the project highlighted that the removal of rats resulted in the negative impacts which rats were having in people's lives ceased, and enjoyment and lifestyle in the community improved. The community felt these benefits would continue in the future. In addition, the cost of rat damage and control was reduced to zero, and there were add-on benefits which brought extra income to the community. The community felt the impacts on the economy were already being made due to positive impacts to the tourism.

Expected longer-term results

Monitoring of the target species and wider seabirds plus long-term monitoring for rats on St Agnes, Gugh and uninhabited islands will continue to keep the islands 'rat-free' after the project by RSPB, IOSWT and the community. In addition, some of our dissemination activities will continue post-project, including being an important case study for the partners to help shape conservation policy on invasive species work on islands.

- The islands of St Agnes and Gugh, Annet and the Western Rocks continue to remain rat-free.
- 43.7 ha suitable habitat on St Agnes and Gugh, gained from rat removal, is protected.
- Any incursion response will be successful at removing rats if they get back.
- The populations of storm petrels and Manx shearwaters on St Agnes and Gugh, Annet and Western Rocks should continue to increase. (e.g. Storm petrel breeding population increased from 0 pairs in 2013 (pre-rat eradication) to 14 pairs in 2017 (post-rat eradication), and Manx shearwater increased from 22 pairs in 2013 to 74 pairs in 2016).
- Scilly shrews will continue to increase (and find a stable population level).
- Seabird Heritage Volunteers will continue to assist the project to keep the islands rat-free.
- Businesses on St Agnes and Gugh (farmers, boat operator, campsite) will indicate that the removal of rats continued to have positive impacts on their businesses.
- Experience and dissemination of information from this project is demonstrably used to inform projects elsewhere in the UK and EU (and beyond), and inspires community support elsewhere.

The project demonstrated that what can be achieved when working with the community and lessons learnt provide the evidence that it is vital to have community support to implement similar work elsewhere within the SPA where it is technically feasible.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE PART (MAX 3 PAGES)

4.1. Description of the management system

Managing the project

A project management system was put in place to help ensure the project was delivered on time and to budget, and to meet our obligations to the European Commission. The main phases of the project are summarised below with key actions in the Final Gantt chart (Annex 01).

Action	Description	Dates
A	Main Preparatory Actions	
	Recruitment of staff, selection of contractors	November 2012 – April 2013
	Carry out pre-removal surveys and assessments	April 2013 - November 2013
C	Main Conservation Actions	
	Removal of rats	November 2013 – March 2014
D	Monitoring Impact of Project	
	Post-eradication monitoring for rats	March 2013 until February 2016
	Rat free status achieved	12 February 2016
	Post removal surveys of other taxa	1 April 2014- 30 October 2014 1 April 2016 – 30 October 2016
E	Main Public awareness and Dissemination Actions	
	Production of website, noticeboards and information materials	1 April 2013 – 31 August 2013
	Awareness raising events and press releases	April 2013 – 2018
	End of Project Conference and Laymans report	September 2017
F	Main Operational Actions	
	Networking with other LIFE Projects: The Italian LIFE Project NAT IT 000416 Shaints LIFE Project Pianosa Island Italy the Resto Con Life Natura Project . Dundee Invasives Conference LIFE Dundee July 2017	August 2014 October 2015 June 2017 July 2017
	After-LIFE Plan	June 2016 – May 2017

The day-to-day management of the project was led by Project Manager Jaclyn Pearson. It was envisaged that she would work full-time during the first years key periods, and then part-time during other periods, but the decision was made that the Project Manager stayed full-time throughout the project to ensure that all outputs were achieved. The Project Manager was line-managed by the Project Supervisor, Paul St Pierre, the RSPB's existing Conservation Officer for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, spending 25% of his time on the project.

Steering Group

Originally four steering group meetings were held a year during the front-loaded work operations 2013/14, this decreased to three per year 2015 – 2017 which the NEEMO monitor agreed was appropriate. Three meetings per year worked well with a total of 17 meetings during the project. Steering Group minutes (Annex 02).

2012	1	October 2012	2015	9	March 26 th 2015
2012/2013	2	March 7 th 2013		10	September 15 th 2015
	3	June 13 th 2013		11	November 12 th 2015
	4	Sep 13 th 2013	2016	12	February 11 th 2016
	5	Dec 12 th 2013		13	April 21 st 2016
2014	6	March 18 th 2014		14	October 6 th 2016
	7	July 9 th 2014	2017	15	April 27 th 2017
	8	October 17 th 2014		16	November 9 th 2017
			2018	17	Jan 2018

Twice weekly project meetings are were held on the phone between the Project Supervisor (Penzance) and the Project Manager (Isles of Scilly). Weekly updates occur face-to-face between the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (Chief Executive, Sarah Mason) and the RSPB (Project Manager, Jaclyn Pearson) in the shared office space. Regular updates (monthly) occur took place between the Project Manager and the AONB, Natural England and Duchy of Cornwall. Regular updates (most weeks) occur took place between the Project Manager and the representative of St Agnes face-to-face and on the phone. The purpose of these meetings was to constantly review project progress.

The Steering Group was supplemented by a ‘Seabird Liaison (Technical) Group’ made up of seabird ecology experts. The group manages the output of the ‘Seabird Conservation strategy 2014-2018’ (Annex 03).

During the project there were five Seabird Liaison meetings - one meeting per year each October 2013-17 (Annex 04). The Project Manager coordinated the rest of the Project team, as shown in the organogram below.

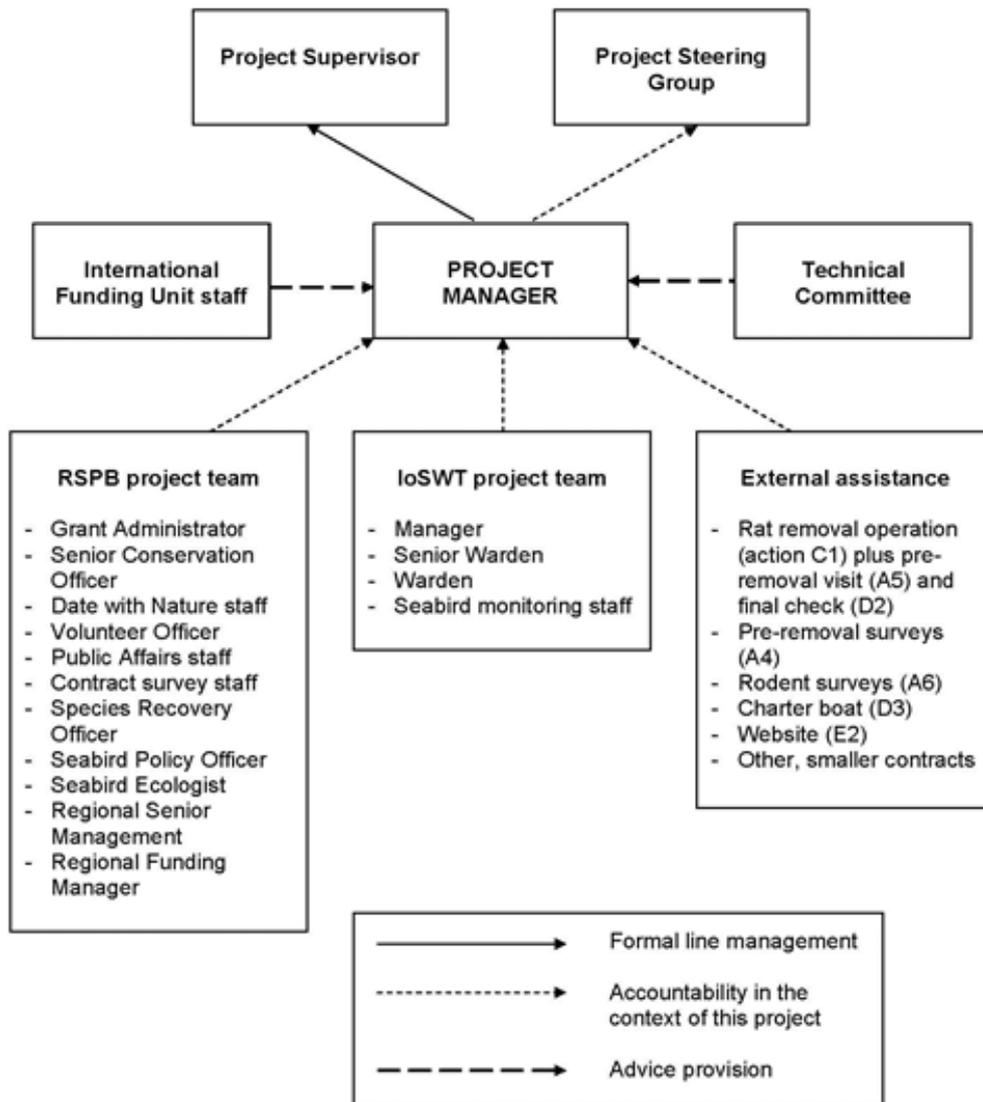


Figure 01 Project organogram of the project management structure

IOWST (Associated Beneficiary)

A partnership agreement was drawn up and signed between the RSPB (as co-ordinating beneficiary) and the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (as associated beneficiaries). The agreement was provided in Annex 01 in the Inception report. An update on 'Effective project management' was provided in the document 'IOSWT mid term report' Annex 06 of the Mid-term report. The Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust underwent a huge amount of change since April 2013. A full-time Chief Executive was brought in to ensure the organisations financial stability into the future. As a result, a full organisational review took place in March 2014, with a new team of Estate Rangers. A review of the operation to keep the uninhabited islands 'rat-free' (as part of action D1). All project reporting was collated by Sarah Mason (Chief Executive).

Comms Group

The purpose of these meetings was to constantly review media outputs, and horizon scan for media opportunities. The Comms group mainly operated via email. In 2013 there were three meetings, which became one meeting in 2014 and then became email liaison.

Changes due to amendments to the Grant Agreement

In March 2017 RSPB submitted a request for a grant agreement modification which was accepted by the EU.

The financial changes related predominantly to the Personnel and External Assistance categories. In summary, and covering budget lines where significant financial variance occurred or was expected:

Personnel

Project Manager (Jaclyn Pearson) – This post was budgeted to be full-time in Year 1 and part-time in Year 2. However, Jaclyn remained full-time throughout, although (due to personal circumstances) she worked only four days per week during the period October 2016 to March 2017. We also requested that her full-time employment costs from April 2017 to the revised end-date of the project be allowed as eligible expenditure.

Grant Administrator – There was a reduction in the hourly rate for this role and an increase in the number of days required. This role covered a number of people, both existing employees and one person specifically employed for the project (Natasha Laverick née Simmons). Natasha worked one day per week from April 2014. We asked to include her continued employment costs to the revised end-date of the project.

RSPB and IoSWT Project Officer (Lydia Titterton, was Gemma Bowcock) – Lydia's contract (based on working three days per week) was originally due to end in September 2016. This was extended and increased to four days per week between October 2016 and March 2017 to cover the reduced working hours of the Project Manager. We asked to include her continued employment costs (at three days per week from April 2017) until September 2017 as eligible spend.

Project Assistant (Holly Paget-Brown) – This role was originally costed for six months at three days per week from April 2016. Holly's employment was increased to four days per week between October 2016 and March 2017 to cover the reduced working hours of the Project Manager. We asked to include her continued employment costs (at three days a week from April 2017) until September 2017 as eligible spend.

Project Supervisor (Paul St Pierre). There was an increase in Paul's time spent on the project compared to the original budget, particularly in relation to actions F1 and E5. Due to the remote nature of the islands, RSPB systems were not always accessible there, so Paul's input was needed more than predicted. In addition, Paul led and managed the Date With Nature events so that the Project Manager could focus on other ongoing tasks.

Volunteer Officer/ SW Fundraising Manager - Project management support – This work was undertaken by the Project Manager and Grant Administrator for reasons of ease, locality and capacity.

Seabird Ecologist/IoSWT Seabird Monitoring Staff (Victoria Heaney) – The seabird monitor was contracted by IoSWT between 2012 and 2014 (as opposed to being employed) due to a long-standing professional relationship with IoSWT. Therefore, quotes/tenders were not used for her allocation to the role and these costs were incurred under External Assistance.

Dr Heaney was then employed by the RSPB as a full-time Seabird Ecologist for six months in 2015. We sought acceptance of her employment costs part-time for six months in 2016 and part-time for six months in 2017, increasing the time allocation for this element of the Personnel budget.

External assistance

IoSWT boat costs – IoSWT did not undertake any seabird monitoring due to capacity issues. Also they did not undertake much monitoring of uninhabited islands during the pre-removal stage and incurred reduced costs for this activity later in the project due to the use of their own boat. The apportioned costs of the use of their boat were claimed under Consumables. There was therefore a reduction in the related External Assistance costs.

Rat eradication costs (Wildlife Management International Limited/WMIL) – The incurred costs were lower than anticipated as there was no need for an incursion response. The rats did not return to the islands and so this budget was not utilised. While this was an ideal result in terms of the project outcome, it led to a significant underspend in this area.

Ecological monitoring costs (Spalding Associates) – Spaldings were contracted to undertake the analysis, interpretation and production of ecological monitoring reports. This work was due to be undertaken by the Project Manager but her heavy workload made this impractical.

Boat costs for tours of the islands – This was over-budgeted and people joined existing tours, reducing the costs incurred.

IoSWT Media Support – This work took less time than anticipated as the RSPB Project Manager handled most of the media work. Any work that was required of IoSWT was undertaken by Sarah Mason, the IoSWT Project Manager (whose time on the project was higher than anticipated).

Equipment for post eradication monitoring – This was over-budgeted and some equipment was bought by Spalding Associates and WMIL.

Project extension

We formally requested that the end-date of the project be extended from 30 September 2017 to 31 December 2017. There were three main reasons for this.

- The Project Manager, Jaclyn Pearson, reduced her hours to four days per week for six months for personal reasons. This caused small delays in aspects of the project that only she could deal with.
- The HLF grant that partly co-funded this project finished after the original LIFE grant end-date. Due to the significant overlap between the two projects, it made more sense for them to finish at the same time.
- The fledging period for breeding birds on the island appeared to be September to October. If the project ended in September then key productivity data would have been lost from the final report.

Dates for deliverables

Most of the changes in dates for the deliverables and milestones related to the changes listed above. However, the socio-economic questionnaire analysis (action D4) was due to be undertaken during the pre- and post-removal monitoring of seabirds and other key taxa carried out under actions A4 and D3. It therefore needed to coincide with the timetable of these actions. Reports from post-removal surveys of other taxa (action D3) were not due until near the end of the project, so the D4 deadline was moved to match this.

4.2. Evaluation of the management system

The project management process

Overall the project management process proved to be successful. The Project Manager and the Associated Beneficiary were based on the Scilly Isles, the Project Supervisor on the mainland and the Species Recovery Officer and Finance team were based in Sandy HQ. However, good communication and regular meetings meant this worked well.

The staffing levels is evaluated in section 5.3/A1. The steering group worked well throughout the project. There was minimal turnover of members and three meetings a year combined with email support worked well. Weekly meetings between the Project Manager and Project Supervisor and regular updates with all other partners worked well. The steering group was supplemented by a Seabird Liaison group which met once a year, these meetings added important value maintaining the context of this projects position within and influence on the overall seabird conservation strategy.

Problems encountered

The main issue was underestimating the resources required to manage a project of this scale on remote islands so more staff resource would be allocated to a project of this nature in the future. There were also some significant technical issues early on to setting up and accessing internal and external computer systems for project staff which in the future would be addressed earlier on in the project by ensuring a longer set up time.

Partnerships and their added value, deviations from arrangements in partnership agreements

The Associated Beneficiary (IOSWT) involvement is essential as they are based on Scilly and involved in the ongoing management. It leases 60% of Scilly's land area from the Duchy of Cornwall, including all of the uninhabited islands and most of the coastline. It therefore has responsibility for significant areas of high wildlife and historic value. It works in partnership with the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, sharing certain managerial, administrative, marketing and fundraising resources. This enables it to enhance its operation without compromising its independence or local focus.

The trust underwent substantial change since 2013, therefore they did not have capacity for some of the contracting work as originally envisaged; the seabird ecology work each year, the SPA survey staff contracts; the rat monitoring and uninhabited island baiting and monitoring work in winter 2016/17 (Actions A1 and D1). These are discussed further in section 5.1. But all these issues were overcome by working together. RSPB was able to deliver the outstanding contracts in order that the partnership could provide the best possible outcomes at the best value for money.

Communication with the Commission and Monitoring team.

We had good communication with the NEEMO monitoring team. Monitor Karen Lunan felt we kept her up to date with details on delivery, any expected changes and asked regular questions through email and phone.

After Tommy Sejersen and Laszlo Becsy visited the project to keep them informed of progress by adding them to the newsletter email distribution list.

Early Spring 2013 Donald Lunan (visited Scilly)

December 2013 Donald Lunan (visited Scilly)

July 2014 Adrian Oates and Ruth Sharman (visited Scilly)

June 2015 Karen Lunan and Tommy Sejersen and Laszlo Beczy from Commission (visited Scilly)

May 2016 Karen Lunan (visited Scilly)

April 2017 Karen Lunan (Penzance office)

November 2017 Karen Lunan (Lodge)

5. TECHNICAL PART

5.1. Technical progress per task

ACTION A1 - Recruit new project staff

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved

Project Manager Jaclyn Pearson (RSPB). At the start of the project, Jaclyn Pearson (based on the Isles of Scilly) was recruited. Partners RSPB, IOSWT, NE, AONB and the St Agnes Representative Richard McCarthy, were all part of the interview process.

Jaclyn was full-time, apart from a period October 2016 – April 2017, when she reduced to four days per week and worked remotely in Staffordshire to provide health care to family members. She remained in position until 22 November 2017, when she left the project to start a new role as Assistant Project Manager, Lord Howe Rodent Eradication Program. Jaclyn and the Project Supervisor had a meeting with NEEMO monitor 1 November 2017 to explain the early departure from the role (originally planned to December 31 2017). She continued to assist the Project voluntarily and remotely until project completion. The Project Supervisor, Project Assistant, Project Administrator and Jaclyn assisting voluntarily, provided continuity of the role for the final month of the project (ended 31 December 2017).

Project Administrator (RSPB) Sarah Goodwin replaced by Natasha Laverick. At the start of the project, Sarah Goodwin (in RSPB Penzance Office) was recruited. She left the project in February 2014 and Natasha Laverick (nee Simmons) was recruited to the position, part-time on the project from 2014 to end of the project December 2017.

Project Officer Dr Vickie Heaney. In 2013 and 2014, Vickie Heaney was employed as a contractor by IOSWT to carry out the monitoring work for the key species (her role in the previous report was entitled Seabird Ecologist).

In 2015, RSPB employed her directly as the Project Officer for both the monitoring work for the key species and the full SPA survey, she was employed full-time for 6 months (April to September). In both 2016 and 2017 she was employed part-time for 6 months (April to September) to carry out the monitoring work for key species and wider seabirds.

Research Assistants Lana Austin, Will Scott and Lydia Titterton. In 2015 they were employed full-time for 3 months (April – July) in 2015 to carry out the SPA seabird field work.

Project Officer, Gemma Bowcock left, replaced by Lydia Titterton. In 2015, Gemma Bowcock was employed as Project Officer by IOSWT part-time (2.5 days a week) from January to April 2015 to implement the biosecurity plan to keep St Agnes and Gugh rat-free. She was also employed by IOSWT to deliver a second part-time role (2.5 days a week) as AONB Officer, Gemma's role with AONB finished in May 2015. So, to continue this Project Officer role, she was then employed directly by RSPB (part-time, 2.5 days a week) May to September 2015. She left the project to go back to the mainland in July 2015. Previous Research Assistant and Project volunteer Lydia Titterton, was re-employed as the Project Officer (part-time, 3 days a week) in a fixed term contract from July 2015 until September 2016. Lydia's contract was then extended until September 2017 to continue to assist the Project Manager to deliver community biosecurity outputs and assist Project Officer Vickie Heaney with the annual seabirds surveys.

Project Assistant, Holly Paget Brown. In April 2016, Holly was employed directly by RSPB (part-time, 3 days a week) in a fixed term contract to 30 September 2016 to implement ecological monitoring for the

wider species field work and data collection for the final year. Holly's contract was extended until December 2017 to continue to assist the Project Manager to deliver outputs of the project.

All of the above recruitments have adhered to RSPB recruitment policy.

Comparison with planned output and time schedule

It was planned that the Project Manager would ideally be recruited from within the community in order to strengthen community ownership of the project and also to reflect that long term accommodation is difficult to find on Scilly. The same principle applied for other staff - all staff were living on Scilly already, apart from Research Assistant Lana Austin (who camped during the three month contract) and the Project Administrator who was based in an RSPB mainland office.

Project Manager Jaclyn Pearson (RSPB). It was planned that the role would be full-time in year one, and part-time in years two to five. The role became full-time for the full five years due in part to greater than anticipated workload and part to absorbing the community engagement work. The Project Manager starting in post was slightly later than originally anticipated, from 31/12/12 to 13/02/13. This did not impact any other actions as the Project Supervisor was in post.

Project Administrator (RSPB). It was planned that the role would be part-time 2 days a week for the duration of the project. There was one dedicated Project Administrator who worked one day a week from 2014 together with other people, this equated to two days per week. This was reduced to one day a week in 2017.

Project Officer Dr Vickie Heaney (IOSWT, then RSPB). It was planned that this role would be a contract through the IOSWT for the duration of the project. In 2013 and 2014 Vickie was employed as a contractor by IOSWT to carry out the monitoring work for the key species. In 2015, IOSWT did not have the capacity to contract the role, so RSPB employed her directly as the Project Officer for both the monitoring work for the key species and the full SPA survey. In 2016 and 2017 she continued to be directly employed by RSPB part-time (3 days a week) for 6 months (April to September 2016) to carry out the monitoring work for key species.

Research Assistants Lana Austin, Will Scott and Lydia Titterton (RSPB). It was planned that these roles would be a contract through the IOSWT (full-time for a 3 month contract, April – July, in 2015) to carry out the SPA field work, but they did not have the capacity to employ them, as above they were therefore employed directly by RSPB.

Project Officer, Gemma Bowcock left, replaced by Lydia Titterton (IOSWT, then RSPB). This position was not planned at the start of the project, but the Project Manager needed assistance with the biosecurity tasks which generated a greater workload than expected.

Project Assistant, Holly Paget Brown (RSPB). This position was not planned at the start of the project, but the Project Manager needed assistance with the final year field work and data collection for the ecological monitoring for the wider species, and general assistance towards project outputs.

Problems

Due to limited capacity, the Associated Beneficiary was unable to contract the SPA survey Project Officer and three Research Assistants as planned. As the RSPB hired them directly, this did not affect the required output, and the positions proved successful.

How actions were modified and correspondence with the Commission

More staff were required than first anticipated. Underspend of the Personnel budget was rectified used, through a formal 'budget amendment' which was submitted in March 2017 and the project outcomes were delivered to high standards due to these additional staff.

Complementary actions

There were no major 'complementary actions', as all key activities necessary for the achievement of our objectives were carried out within the framework of the LIFE project.

Perspective for continuing after the end of the project

Dr Vickie Heaney, will now be contracted by IOSWT again to continue to delivering seabird monitoring work across the islands. Her role in continuing to monitor the key species on St Agnes and Gugh as part of this IOSWT contract is included in IOSSRP maintenance plan, page 19. (Annex 05).

The responsibility to keep the islands rat-free through biosecurity, has moved from the Project staff to volunteer community members Seabird Heritage Volunteers (SHVs) and the partnership, as per the IOSSRP Maintenance Plan (Annex 05). IOSWT continue to be present on Scilly Isles and so continue with on-going management of the SPA and they and RSPB will continue to support the work as described under action F4.

ACTION A2. Select subcontractors

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved

The selection procedures were managed by the Project Supervisor and were competitive, transparent, and was carried out in accordance with both LIFE+ and RSPB procurement rules. Tender documents (Annex 9 in Financial report).

Through this tender processes the following contractors were selected;

- **Wildlife Management International Ltd (WMIL)** to carry out the main contract, the rat removal contract action D1 and the final check phase C1.
- **Spalding Associates (Environmental) Ltd** to carry out the ecological survey work, action A4 and D3.
- **DH designs** to host the project hosting website, action E2.
- **Freeline Graphics** to design and produce the interpretation material, action E4.
- **St Agnes Boating and Ravensporth Boating**, to carry out the boating contract for the SPA surveys 2015 action D3.

Comparison with planned output and time schedule

All contractor were selected within original time frames specified.

Problems

None.

How actions were modified and correspondence with the Commission

Freeline Graphics. Once selected and works began, there was a delay in the production of static signs from early 2013 to May 2013 due to the other funders HLF needing clarity on key messages. The commission understood the reasons for delay and the signs were in place by August 2013, the revised timeframe.

Complementary actions

St Agnes Boating Once selected and works began, partner John Peacock, became more aware of the work of the Project through the boating contract, so he volunteered for the project. His experience and growing knowledge of the tasks meant that he agreed to become the Seabird Heritage Volunteer Coordinator.

Perspective for continuing after the end of the project

WMIL will continue to assist the project with biosecurity and incursion advice at any time.

Spalding Associates are in discussion with IOSWT regards carrying on more ecological monitoring of wider species in future years to see if trends continue.

DH designs will continue to host the website for future years, with RSPB supporting the hosting fee annually.

ACTION A3. Establish a Community Group to support project implementation and follow-up

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved

The community group was established at the start of the project, supporting project implementation which continues to the 'legacy phase'. The support of **all** the members of the community has been essential for the success of the project so far, particularly as they all needed to help us to get the islands 'rat-removal ready'. The Project Manager created a 'Seabird Heritage Volunteer (SHV)' role description in 2013 (enrolled as RSPB volunteers) this has been modified to the final version of the role description found on page 21 in SHVs Role in Biosecurity and Incursion Response (Annex 06). The number of community members enrolled increased over the project; 2013 8 SHVs signed up as RSPB volunteers, 2014 15 SHVs signed up as RSPB volunteers, 2015 21 SHVs signed up as RSPB volunteers, 2016 28 SHVs signed up as RSPB volunteers, 2017 32 SHVs signed up as RSPB volunteers. In 2013, three SHVs attended LANTRA 'safe use of rodenticide' so they could assist WMIL with the winter baiting operation if required and then assist the RSPB staff with baiting if a rat returned afterwards

Comparison with planned output and time schedule

We expected to start recruiting into the group in January 2013, but the Project Manager was not able to begin community engagement work until March 2013, when official registering of group members began. We also expected to have eight core members – so this has been exceeded.

Problems

None.

How actions were modified and correspondence with the Commission

Minor delay in start up reported during inception report

Complementary actions

HLF funding required activities with the community which at all times were based around conservation actions to get the islands 'rat-removal' ready.

Perspective for continuing after the end of the project

This 'Seabird Heritage Volunteers' will continue to keep the islands rat-free post project as supported by RSPB/IoSWT etc.

ACTION A4. Carry out pre-removal surveys of the target species and other key taxa

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved

Pre-removal surveys of target species (seabirds). Dr Vickie Heaney, Seabird Ecologist contracted through IOSWT carried out the surveys of the key species (Manx shearwaters and storm petrels). The seabird surveys cover all areas of suitable habitat and the surveys use visual observation, tape playback to assess burrow occupancy, and the use of a 'burrowscope' to see birds. The 2013 Seabird monitoring data is found in the Mid-term report Annex 10 Seabird Monitoring Report 2013 (and CD attached). Prior to rat removal on St Agnes and Gugh combined there were; **22 apparently occupied burrows for Manx shearwaters and no apparently occupied sites for storm petrels.**

This work also carried out seabird surveys on 'other islands', selecting key species on other key islands within the SPA, for example the important seabird island of Annet. This work was not directly related to the rat removal operation on St Agnes and Gugh, but provided information about the overall status of the SPA and will also help to inform the development of plans for rat removal operations in other parts of this SPA.

Pre-removal surveys of other key taxa (invertebrates, land birds, vegetation, shrews, rabbits). Work on other taxa has taken place on St Agnes and Gugh with Bryher and St Mary's as control sites. Contractors Spalding Associates carried out the pre-removal surveys for other taxa. The survey techniques used were;

- Land bird survey using transects covering all the main habitat types on St Agnes and Gugh.
- Invertebrate surveys using pitfall trapping
- Plant surveys using a combination of fixed-point photography and detailed recording of vegetation composition, coverage and height in metre-square sample plots.
- Shrew surveys using tracking tunnels (footprints were recorded) instead of the original methodology which was envisaged using Longworth live traps. The steering group felt that this method is too invasive and as the field work will be carried out by volunteers next year, it was not appropriate under licence restrictions.
- Rabbit surveys using night-time lamping over transects.

Spalding Associates carried out the pre-removal surveys for other taxa for one week during the months May, June, July and September 2013. The 2013 baseline report is provided in Mid-term report Annex 11 Baseline Ecological survey of wider species St Agnes and Gugh May – Sep 2013. The monitoring programme was successful. It was recommended that the existing methodology was repeated, carrying out the same number of surveys at the same time to the same methodology except for birds and rabbits - bird surveys were to start earlier in the breeding season, in April, to encompass a longer survey period. It was also suggested that additional winter surveys would be useful for rabbits.

Monitoring and baiting for rats of key uninhabited islands in Scilly by Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (IOSWT). For over 15 years IOSWT had controlled rats on many of the uninhabited islands in the Isles of Scilly SPA. Like the 'other-island' seabird work mentioned above, this work provided vital information about the overall status of the SPA. IOSWT's reports for the monitoring and baiting for rats on the uninhabited islands during the winter 2013/14 is in the document Mid-term report Annex 06 'IOSWT mid-term report'. This main points are summarised below;

- **Annet:** Rat-free since 2004. Annet was seen as the highest priority, due to the large populations of storm petrel and Manx shearwater as well as puffin and shag and the close proximity of St Agnes.
- **St Helens Group:** Large increase in breeding Manx shearwater since rat control began, the breeding puffins here also make this island a priority. Tean, Norwethel, Peashopper, Crow & Foreman's Islands are therefore also of high importance as stepping stone islands to St Helens and also for their proximity to Men-a-Vaur and Round Island which support large breeding populations of auks, petrels and shearwaters.
- **Eastern Isles Group:** Menawethan, Great Innisvouls, Little Innisvouls, Ragged Island, Little Ganinick, Great Ganinick, Little Arthur, Great Arthur, Middle Arthur, Great Ganilly, Little Ganilly, Nornour, Hanjague are of moderate importance in terms of breeding seabirds likely to be effected by rat predation, due to the fact that there is no evidence of breeding from any burrow nesting birds.
- **Samson:** is of moderate importance in terms of breeding seabirds likely to be effected by rat predation.

November 2012 - March 2013. Each island was visited once during this period, when permanent bait stations were replaced if damaged and new bait put down. The staff member responsible for this operation deemed that all uninhabited islands were classed as rat-free by March 2013. **Problems encountered;** the report was incorrect, the islands were not rat-free. Poor weather and sea conditions limited number of trips available.

November 2013 – March 2014 There was significant incursion of rats on Samson, rat sign was found on St Helens, Tean, Samson and the Eastern Isles. The previous staff member responsible for 2012/13 operation had deemed that all uninhabited islands were classed as rat-free by April 2014 (see also Action D1). **Problems encountered;** visits all happened in March 2014 due to incredibly poor weather over the winter. This triggered a review of operations, for winter 2014/15. IOSWT proposed maintaining efforts on Annet and the St Helens group of islands Mid-term report Annex 12 'IOSWT Review of management of Seabird breeding colonies on uninhabited islands - Nov 2014'.

Comparison with planned output and time schedule

Pre-removal surveys of target species (seabirds). The surveys were carried out as planned.

Pre-removal surveys of other key taxa (invertebrates, land birds, vegetation, shrews, rabbits). It was originally envisaged that Spalding Associates would arrive on the islands to carry out pre-assessment surveys in April 2013, this was delayed until May 2013 due to weather and their availability. There was still enough time to accommodate four survey trips by the surveyors.

Monitoring and baiting for rats of key uninhabited islands in Scilly by Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (IOSWT) found rats to be present on a number of these islands and the baiting work was unable to remove them and maintain them as rat-free. Remedial actions included a study to see whether behavioural issues may be playing a part in this and what the best future options would be.

Problems.

Monitoring and baiting for rats of key uninhabited islands in Scilly by Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (IOSWT). As explained above, the baiting and monitoring operations were modified as islands were not rat-free. Due to the short distances between many islands, we believe that using current methods some key uninhabited islands can only be maintained as rat free in the long term if we remove rats from the main islands of Tresco, Bryher and St Martins.

Perspective for continuing after the end of the project

Seabird species

Dr Vickie Heaney, will now be contracted by IOSWT again to continue to deliver seabird monitoring work across the islands included in the IOSSRP Maintenance Plan', page 19 (Annex 05).

Wider species

Spalding Associates are in discussion with IOSWT regards carrying on more ecological monitoring of wider species in future years to see if trends continue.

Monitoring and baiting for rats of key uninhabited islands in Scilly by Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (IOSWT)

As part of the seabird strategy, the ongoing monitoring and research of rats on these islands will be reviewed (see admin section for details on the 'seabird conservation strategy'). Any findings from the research will be used in any future eradication proposals so that issues such as removal of food sources and tackling neophobia are included.

ACTION A5. Carry out pre-removal assessment and preparation

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved

WMIL, the Project Manager and other RSPB staff carried out pre-removal assessment and preparation to ensure St Agnes and Gugh were 'rat- removal ready' prior to the winter operation. Full details of the Biz Bell's pre-assessment visit is given in Mid-term report Annex 13 IOSSRP - WMIL Pre-Assessment Visit and Addendum Aug 2013. All the below actions were carried out during her visit to the islands between 10 and 26 June 2013.

- Consultation with each household to finalise baiting arrangements for each property.
- Discussion of the programme with island residents so that any additional questions or concerns could be addressed.
- Assessment of any changes in land use or the distribution of non-target species that have taken place.
- Clarified waste management arrangements at individual homes, and provided rat-proof bins etc.
- Liaised with the Council of the Isles of Scilly to ensure that the waste collection site on St Agnes was tidied and well managed.
- Vitamin K1 antidote treatment was outlined and maintenance dose options were discussed.
- Information packages were complete; importance of ceasing the use of rodenticide baits on the island was explained to the local residents (i.e. to prevent bait aversion, avoid rats becoming accustomed to bait and to prevent resistance) and at WMIL's request, all use of rodenticide ceased six months before the rat-removal project commenced in October 2013. Traps (and instruction sheet) were provided to each household to be used to target problem rats prior to the rat-removal

- phase Mid-term report Annex 14 'Crib sheet 2013 - prior to rat-removal, how to trap rats.pdf'.
- Biosecurity measures discussed with the boatmen from St Mary's and St Agnes
- There were wider community beach cleans (this is discussed under action E5).

Most of the farmers had already started to implement rat removal ready techniques including storing hay away from walls, storing silage on pallets in the middle of fields, burning debris piles, keeping stock and chicken feed in rodent-proof containers, storing crops in rodent-proof containers or on pallets away from walls and clearing access around compost heaps. All were ready and willing to implement any other requirements throughout the project.

Rats were trapped on St Agnes and Gugh in order to collect DNA samples from them. The first reason was that if rats are found on St Agnes and Gugh after the removal operation, it would be important for us to establish whether they survived the operation or have re-invaded from another island. Comparison of the DNA profiles of the rats concerned with those from the rats trapped before the operation should enable us to do this. The second reason was to send DNA samples to the University of Reading for 'resistance against bait' testing.

Instructions were provided for construction of the 1500 bait stations by RSPB staff and volunteers in Penzance in July 2013.

Comparison with planned output and time schedule

WMIL - It was originally envisaged that Biz would arrive on the islands to carry out pre-assessment surveys in May 2013, this was delayed to June 2013 due to her schedule.

Another preparatory activity was the installation of **nest boxes for storm petrels** in areas of suitable breeding habitat. Two webcams were to be set up close to the nest boxes, to gather data on the use of these boxes and obtain footage for use in dissemination activities. We reviewed the use of webcams with Alderney Wildlife Trust, Skomer Island, and internal RSPB staff, but due to technical constraints and cost we instead purchased trail cameras which have worked well to provide footage and evidence of behaviour of birds. We also used them for monitoring of rats during the removal phase and we can continue to use them for biosecurity surveillance. The installation of the storm petrel nest boxes was delayed until 2015 when there was more data about potential nesting locations as part of pan SPA survey.

Problems

The Health and Safety Executive had changed regulations of outdoor use of rodenticides, which meant they could only be used indoors, meaning these new regulations are not appropriate for island restoration projects. Fortunately the main bait, Contrac™ (active ingredient: bromadiolone) was donated by Bell Laboratories (UK) Limited, with the old COPR labelling (allowing outdoor use). This had been ordered (3 tonnes) and was shipped to St Agnes in October 2013. But we still needed to test for 'resistance against bait' from the rats on St Agnes and Gugh to see if we needed multiple bait types to ensure any problem rats could be targeted successfully. DNA samples from 26 rats were provided to the University of Reading. Resistance (L120Q mutation) was detected in one individual. The results from this testing identified the requirement for extension-of-use permission from HSE to use difenacoum and brodifacoum for targeting any resistant rats towards the end of the rat-removal phase. An extension-of-use application was prepared and submitted to HSE on 31 July 2013 and granted on 3 October 2013 as such did not impact on the start of the rat removal operation (C1).

ACTION C1. Carry out rat removal and intensive monitoring for rats

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved

Rats were removed successfully. Full details are given in the operational plan Annex 15 of Mid-term report IOSSRP WMIL Technical Report for the rat removal phase on St Agnes and Gugh (Bell et al 2014). The operation on St Agnes and Gugh was led by island restoration specialists from Wildlife Management International Ltd (WMIL) with a team of more than 30 volunteers over the six months (11 October 2013 and 11 April 2014). Bait acceptance was excellent with no evidence of bait avoidance. Rats consumed approximately 203kg of bait. It was estimated, by the amount of bait consumed by rats, that there were between 800 and 5600 rats.

The main rodenticide was ContractTM, a 28g cereal-based block, active ingredient bromadiolone at 0.005% w/w manufactured by Bell Laboratories. Roban ExcelTM, a 20g cereal-based block (active ingredient difenacoum at 0.005% w/w), was used as an alternative bait in all bait stations later in the rat-removal phase (between 13-26 January 2014) in case there were any undetected rats that were avoiding the ContractTM bait. Vertox Oktablok IITM, a 20g cereal-based block, active ingredient brodifacoum at 0.005% w/w, was also available if necessary to target any resistant rats at specific sites in and around private evidences and farm buildings where bait take levelled off between 20 November to 30 November 2013 (11 – 16 checks) before dropping to nothing by 1 December 2013 (17th check).

Possible reasons for the success of the baiting operations;

The main reason for success of the baiting operation was that there had been significant liaison with the community to remove other potential food sources, the grid density and distribution meant that all rats were targeted effectively with bait, and the bait stations were designed effectively and maintained regularly to ensure the bait and the stations were functioning properly to ensure that non-target species were not being affected.

Comparison with planned output and time schedule

The operation was delivered successfully with required outputs and to schedule. The contingency budget to cover the intensification of the poisoning programme to deal with house mice if required or a second winter of rat poisoning (if the first was unsuccessful) was not required. As, no mice were found to be present and as the first winter eradication was successful. This budget was instead used to support staff posts (Project Officer and Project Assistant) to help deliver biosecurity and other project outputs as detailed and justified in the request for an amendment to the grant agreement (March 2017).

Indicators used to test the performance

Final check two years after baiting operation confirmed the islands of St Agnes and Gugh as rat-free.

Problems

During the winter rat-removal phase, there were a few problems encountered, that we were able to overcome;

- Weather affected the project when storms removed stations, but this was limited to coastal areas.
- The interference by cattle was another factor affecting the project, but cooperation by the farmers, meant this problem was quickly dealt with.
- As expected, a large quantity of bait was affected by slugs and other insects, but this always occurs and is part of any rat removal operation. However, bait was changed often to ensure there was

always the most attractive and palatable bait available to rats.

- Shrew droppings were larger than expected and on occasion caused confusion when interpreting sign for surviving rats
- Although 19 dead rats were found on the surface, there was no evidence/observations of any other animals scavenging these carcasses (i.e. There were no observations of pet cats, crows, gulls or raptors) eating dead or dying rats on St Agnes and Gugh. This number of rats did not pose a risk to pet cats as they would have had to eat 18 dead rats (for a 2kg cat) within 7 days to obtain a lethal dose, or pet dogs as they would have had to eat 28 dead rats (for a 10kg dog) within 7 days to obtain a lethal dose.

How actions were modified and correspondence with the Commission

HSE derogation for use of bait was explained in the inception report. Re-allocation of contingency budget was also reported and explained at the joint EC visit and in the amendment.

ACTION D1. Carry out longer monitoring for rats

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved

Between April 2014 and November 2017, the Project Manager managed long term monitoring of rats. This was informed by the biosecurity plan produced by WMIL (IOSSRP WMIL Biosecurity Plan for St Agnes & Gugh (Bell et al 2014) (Mid-term report Annex 16). The long term monitoring work helped initiate the development of the after-life plan known in this project as the maintenance plan (Annex 05) and review the original biosecurity plan. develop the The key tasks were ensuring that the each of the monitoring stations on St Agnes and Gugh was checked and maintained regularly, any sign of rats reported were investigated and remedial action taken if required, and working with stakeholders to improve their biosecurity measures. To achieve this required the further development and training of island residents (Heritage Volunteers), the development of an off island response team in case an eradication was required, and the maintenance of resources (Monitoring and bait sheds and their contents) to support this work. Monthly checking of monitoring stations

Project staff recruited 32 residents on the islands as Seabird Heritage Volunteers (SNVs) to help carry out this task with two given co-ordinator roles to help support the others and help ensure the coverage was completed (annex xx for JDs). This required several workshops and face-to face support to ensure that the residents understood what was required and being confident in identifying signs of rat. A Facebook page set up to report on the checks and for SHVs to share information. The community took on this work in May 2016 and enables them to continue this work in perpetuity with support from RSPB and IOSWT as required.

Responding to reports of rats by the public

A Rat on a Rat hotline was set up as part of the project initially and heavily promoted to encourage members of the public to report any potential signs as part of the biosecurity plan. This worked very well with 28 reports between 2014-2016, which need to be investigated. The number of reports received were significantly higher than expected so to ensure that we could respond to these effectively we recruited a Project Officer in January 2015 to help with this work. We also revised the methodology used in the response in discussion with specialists (WMIL) to make the response more streamlined but still as effective. The SHVs were given training to ensure that they were clear about what the key bits of information they needed to collect if people reported anything on the islands rather than via the hotline and also what additional checks are required in response to a report of a rat so they can carry out the initial investigation required immediately themselves in the future, when project staff had finished

Incursion Response

In conjunction with RSPB south west regional staff and RSPB Lodge based technical staff a SW Rat Re-invasion Action Plan' (Annex 10) was produced to ensure that a rapid response to a rat incursion could be carried out on the islands of St Agnes and Gugh.

Project staff trained SHVs on St Agnes and Gugh to assist with the initial response if the presence of a rat was confirmed on the islands. This mainly involves the SHV in swapping the monitoring wax in their stations for rodenticide bait within 24hrs.

On the mainland project staff helped RSPB regional staff with identifying the key tasks required of the mainland response team and supported the recruitment and training of these volunteers. The following mainland incursion team member's role profiles were identified: Response Coordinator, Response Team Leader, Response Team Member and Response Administrator. Their role profiles can be found in Annex 10.

Under new Health and Safety regulations, any person handling bait needs to hold a LANTRA rodenticide certificate. For the mainland incursion response team, this was delivered to staff and volunteers recruited to assist incursion in the future, at the RSPB office in Exeter, delivered by the Project Supervisor and RSPB Island Restoration Officer Karen Varnham, February 2017. On Scilly, the Project team delivered this training in house to 13 SHVs in winter 2016/2017.

A mock incursion response was carried out in April 2017 to test the plan, which was successfully carried out and improvements made to the plan based upon the trial which included an additional role of Shed Monitor to support the SHVs when carrying out the initial response and the production of a video to familiarise mainland response teams with the islands, the location of the response kit and a reminder of the methodology required. The video can be found at <https://vimeo.com/237761176> password seabirdsRATS.

Sustain biosecurity on boats and freight. Project staff run workshops (annex xx) and worked with St Agnes Boating, the Isles of Scilly Steamship Company (IOSC), the harbourmaster on St Mary's and the St Mary's Boat Association to set up biosecurity measures to help prevent a rat reappearing on St Agnes and Gugh. The mostly likely route for re-incursion was thought to be via the *Lyonesse Lady* which moved both waste and freight around the islands. The main operators companies staff were trained and ongoing baiting operations were established at St Mary's quay initially carried out by the IOSWT and then by IOSC staff and monitoring stations placed on the *Lyonesse lady* and the St Agnes boating Boats.

In 2017 unfortunately a rat did return to St Agnes via the *Lyonesse Lady* freight boat, but it was dispatched immediately by a SHV on the quay. This occurred due to the boat bringing wood from Bryher and a skip from St Martin's on an unusual winter round-island freight trip. Protocols were then revised by IOS Steamship Company, staff will now check high risk items of wood and hay prior to bringing to St Agnes, and they will no longer bring any rubbish to St Agnes from any other off-islands.

During the Project in order for the community to assist conservation actions, including ensuring the island became and remained rat-free, and assisting to monitor impacts of the work, the following were delivered including 20 community meetings on St Agnes, and 30 conservation workshops covering general biosecurity, biosecurity on boats, rat control and inspection, installing and managing rat proof community organic waste infrastructure, and waste removal events including island makeover, wood collection and beach clean events in preparation for the rat removal phase. (See annex 43)

Comparison with planned output and time schedule

The effective long term monitoring was successfully achieved due to effective community engagement and training provided by the project to islanders, mainland volunteers and local businesses.

Problems

The number of 'ROAR's (potential rat sightings) was higher than anticipated in 2014/2015, so surveillance methodology was revised and new staff recruited to assist with delivery of biosecurity and delivering outputs as explained under A1. After the declaration of the 'rat-free' status of St Agnes and Gugh, a rat did return to St Agnes on 10/11/2017, it was dispatched immediately, and freight protocols with the IOS steamship company were revised.

Complementary actions

HLF activity plan set out community activities with direct conservation actions.

Perspective for continuing after the end of the project

In order to keep St Agnes and Gugh rat-free for many years to come, this action built a legacy from the local community, wider community on St Mary's, mainland RSPB staff and volunteers and forms part of the After-LIFE Plan (F4).

IOSWT long-term monitoring and baiting on the uninhabited islands

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved

Long-term monitoring for rats on St Agnes and Gugh is was supplemented by long-term monitoring and baiting on the uninhabited islands elsewhere in the archipelago, carried out by IOSWT. Please see IOSWT Uninhabited Islands Rat Control report 2014/15 Annex 11) and IOSWT Uninhabited Islands Rat Control report 2015/16. As described under A4, (Annex 12). The baiting and control operations were not successful at removing/suppressing rats.

Comparison with planned output and time schedule

The long term monitoring and rat-removal work on the uninhabited islands was carried out by IOSWT in 2014/15 and 2015/16 as anticipated. The results of this work though were not as expected, the IOSWT Chief Executive, inherited reports from the previous IOSWT Manager suggesting the uninhabited islands of Samson, St Helen's and Tean were rat-free prior to this project's start date (2012). In winter 2013/2014, she reported the islands were in fact *not* rat-free. The rat removal work, by IOSWT rangers in winter 2013/14 and by rangers and the Project Officer in winter 2104/15, continued to the best of their abilities within the budget allocated for the work. We anticipated that IOSWT would also carry out the long term monitoring and rat-removal work in the final winter of the project (winter 2016/17), but they felt this work should be carried out by project staff in the final year, as discussed below.

Problems

In winter 2015/2016 as baiting operations on uninhabited islands were not successful, the efforts moved from baiting to monitoring rats behaviour on these islands to understand whether the rats were 'bait shy'; 'bait resistant'; prefer other monitoring tools which will would show clearer rat-sign; are returning to these uninhabited islands from nearby inhabited islands (Tresco and St Martins); and whether they show any bait resistance. The project team received refresher training from WMIL, assisting IOSWT to set up

monitoring trials on St Helens and Tean in January/February 2016. Please see Progress report Annex 07 WMIL Tean and St Helen's trip. The team set up a selection of monitoring tools to gain an understanding of which tools showed most rat-sign.

WMIL's Biz Bell's recommended that further rat-behaviour work and bait resistance testing should be carried out in the summer of 2016. Due to access issues on the islands and the capabilities of the IOSWT these recommendations were adapted and resulted in a changed work plan with project staff rather than IOSWT staff carrying out the work who felt they did not have the necessary skill set, and for it to be delivered during the winter 2016/17. Karen Lunan, NEEMO Monitor, visited the project in May 2016, and discussed and agreed this revised work plan with IOSWT Chief Executive (Sarah Mason), Project Manager and Project Supervisor.

For results of this work refer to Monitoring for Rats on the Uninhabited Island, St Helen's (Annex 13). A summary is;

- Over six months (September 2016 to March 2017) 15 visits were made to St Helen's with 12 rats trapped in total and none were positive for the L20 resistance gene.
- Stomach content analysis and dropping analysis confirmed their main diet during this winter period was invertebrates and vegetation, particularly *pittosprum crassifolium* and Hottentot fig (*carpobrotus edulis*).
- Their preferred flavour of wax was peanut butter, their least preferred was aniseed.
- The rats are neophobic (wary of new objects) and are more likely to enter traps located within natural vegetation tunnels than within the Protecta Boxes or wooden tunnels.
- The presence of mice was confirmed via teeth marks in the monitoring wax, but none were caught

How actions were modified and correspondence with the Commission

The Commission were made aware of these changes to uninhabited winter rat removal/monitoring work. It was also highlighted to Karen Lunan during her project visit in May 2015.

Perspective for continuing after the end of the project

Recommendations for future rat removal work beyond the scope of this project were made in the final section of the report monitoring for Rats on the Uninhabited Island, St Helen's (Annex 13). Summarised as;

- Reducing the amount of alternative food plants *pittosprum crassifolium* and Hottentot fig and rat harbouring material (beach cleans) so that the rats are more likely to eat the bait.
- As the rats on St Helen's are neophobic, baiting tunnels would need to be set out in a grid (with no traps inside) on the islands a minimum of six weeks prior to a baiting operation
- The species of mice needs to be confirmed through use of longworth traps.
- Further analysis of the resistance gene needs to be carried out on the other inhabited and uninhabited islands (excluding St Mary's) to be confident.

All These recommendations were applicable to St Helen's and some such as the presence of alternative food sources and further gene resistance analysis was applicable to other uninhabited islands as well.

ACTION D2. Carry out final checks for rats

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved

The activity was carried out between 6 January to 18 February 2016 by contractors WMIL, project staff and volunteers. Monitoring during the final check consisting of flavoured wax (peanut, chocolate and aniseed), soap and tracking tunnels in a combination of closed lockable stations and points in the open over the island ($n = 448$ stations). There were 19 complete checks of the islands done over six weeks. Rats were not detected on any monitoring station or at any location on the islands and **St Agnes & Gugh was declared rat-free on 12 February 2016**. Please refer to Progress report Annex 08 IOSSRP WMIL Final Check Report 2016. Bell & Cropper. WMIL, project team, volunteers and SHVs celebrated the important milestone with a community celebration event where we could also disseminate key biosecurity messages moving forward.

Comparison with planned output and time schedule

The activity was carried out as planned.

Problems

None.

Complementary actions

The rat-free celebration as part of this action combined actions from section D1, but it was essentially an excellent milestone to keep community members on-board with building project legacy.

Action D3. Carry out post-removal monitoring of the target species and other key taxa

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved

Post-removal surveys of seabirds

Personnel - 2015 – 2017 RSPB employed Vickie Heaney as the Project Officer (seabirds), employed part-time for six months (April to September) each year. See Mid-term report Annex 10 '2014 Seabird Monitoring report', '2015 SPA Stats of Breeding Seabirds' (Annex 14), '2016 Seabird Monitoring report' (Annex 15) and '2017 Collective Seabird Monitoring report' 2013 – 2017 (Annex 16).

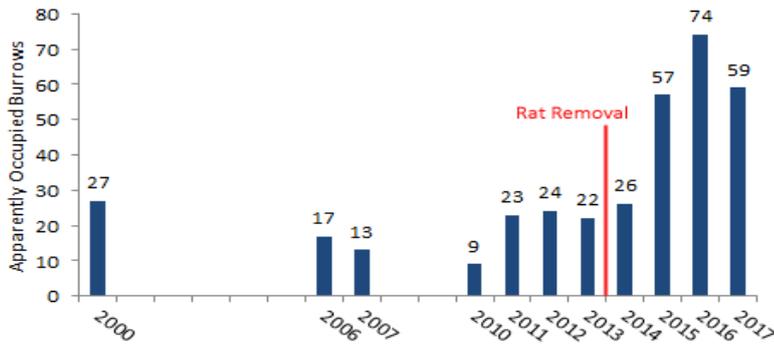
Part i Key species - Manx shearwater (annual surveys 2012 – 2017)

Breeding population increased from 22 pairs in 2013 (pre-rat eradication) to 59 pairs in 2017 (post-rat eradication). **Chicks** were recorded for the first time in living memory in 2014 straight after rat-removal, the number of chicks recorded increased each year thereafter, with 43 chicks recorded in 2017.

Table 01. No. of breeding Manx shearwaters and chicks recorded on St Agnes and Gugh.

	No. of Manx Shearwater Apparently Occupied Burrows St Agnes	No. of Manx Shearwater Apparently Occupied Burrows Gugh	No. of Manx Shearwater Apparently Occupied Burrows Combined on St Agnes and Gugh	No. chicks combined on St Agnes and Gugh
2012	8	16	24	0
2013	5	17	22	0
Rat removal				
2014	9	17	26	10
2015	12	45	57	28
2016	22	52	74	32
2017	23	36	59	43

Figure 1. Manx Shearwater numbers St Agnes & Gugh



There was sub-colony site expansion and new areas colonised Kittern Hill and Castella Down on St Agnes and Gugh.

In the wider SPA, no fledging recorded at sub-colonies with rat presence (Bryher, St. Martins, Peninnis, Tresco) and clear evidence of predation on St. Helens.

Part i Key species - Storm petrel

Breeding population increased from 0 pairs in 2013 (pre-rat eradication) to 14 pairs in 2017 (post-rat eradication). They returned to breed on St Agnes and Gugh for the first time in living memory in 2015, two years after rat-removal, and **chicks** were also recorded in this same year. Chicks were recorded each year therefore after, with five recorded in 2017.

Table 02. No. of breeding storm petrels and chicks recorded on St Agnes and Gugh.

	No. of storm petrel Apparently Sites St Agnes	No. of storm petrel Apparently Sites Gugh	No. of storm petrel Apparently Sites combined on St Agnes and Gugh	No. chicks combined on St Agnes and Gugh
2000	0	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0	0

	No. of storm petrel Apparently Sites St Agnes	No. of storm petrel Apparently Sites Gugh	No. of storm petrel Apparently Sites combined on St Agnes and Gugh	No. chicks combined on St Agnes and Gugh
2012	0	0	0	0
2013	0	0	0	0
Rat removal				
2014	0	0	0	0
2015	6	2	8	4
2016	9	4	13	6
2017	11	3	14	5

Part ii. Post-removal surveys of wider seabird species on St Agnes and Gugh (annual surveys 2012- 2017)

Progress and deliverables.

Please refer to the summary in Table 03 and 04. A full survey of all seabird species breeding on St. Agnes and Gugh has been conducted annually since 2012, and the results from this and the two previous SPA counts included in Tables 03 and 04 below to provide wider context.

St Agnes results;

Fulmars have increased

Lesser black-backed gulls, great black backed gulls have fluctuated

Herring gulls have decreased

Kittiwakes have fluctuated. They first bred on St. Agnes at the Turks Head in 2009 following the desertion of a number of sub-colonies elsewhere in the archipelago. In 2017 following two years of failure at this site they abandoned this site (see below), a small number returned to the former nesting location on Gugh.

Table 03. Breeding seabirds on St. Agnes

	Fulmar	Lesser black- backed Gull	Herring Gull	Great black- backed gull BBG	Kittiwake
2000	0	2	25	0	0
2006	0	0	15	1	0
2012	0	8	61	0	24
2013	2	8	32	0	38
2014	3	16	27	1	62
2015	4	14	11	1	75
2016	6	15	12	1	5
2017	8	1	7	0	0

Gugh results;

Fulmars and shag breeding numbers are intermittent

Lesser black-backed gulls, great black backed gulls and Herring gulls have decreased

Kittiwakes have fluctuated, with the departure and return of a colony. In 2000 there was a colony on Gugh, they left, and returned to breed at this former site in 2017. These 30 returning birds are most likely from the St Agnes colony which did not return in 2017.

Table 04. Breeding seabirds on Gugh

	Fulmar	Shag	Lesser black-backed gull	Herring gull	Great Black backed Gull	Kittiwake
2000	2	0	1123	159	3	155
2006	3	0	875	69	4	131
2012	4	2	361	53	10	0
2013	1	0	418	51	7	0
2014	5	0	411	30	5	0
2015	1	0	419	30	6	0
2016	1	0	400	36	5	0
2017	3	2	296	20	2	30

SH – shag; GBBG – great black-backed gull; LBBG – lesser black-backed gull; HG – herring gull; RAZ – razorbill; FUL – fulmar; KIT – kittiwake; COT – common tern; SP – storm petrel; MX – Manx shearwater; PUF – puffin; OYC – oystercatcher; RPL – ringed plover.

Part iii. Productivity monitoring work across the archipelago (2012 – 2017).

General decline reflects national trends.

Kittiwakes: 89% reduction in breeding pairs since 2006 and loss of six sub-colonies. **Common terns:** 65% reduction in breeding pairs since 2006. Total breeding failure seven of the last 12 years. Low productivity or failures related to food supply and tidal inundation. 2016 and 17 extremely late in settling and laying (late June/ early July). **Shags:** declining, winter storms probably the main cause. **Gulls, fulmars, storm petrels, puffins:** declining. **Manx shearwaters** increasing is the good news.

Population monitoring work on Annet (2012 – 2017). Reflects the same result as above for the rest of the archipelago, which reflects national trends. A count of the seabirds breeding on Annet has been made in most years since 2000 (see Table 05 - no counts were made in 2001 & 2005). The reduction in the number of puffins recorded breeding on Annet in 2015 compared to the last count in 2006 (down 38% from 50 to 31) is covered in the 2015/16 SPA Report and is most likely linked to the increase in the number of these birds nesting on Mincarlo (up 34% from 38 to 51) over this same time period.

Table 05. Breeding seabirds on Annet (a dash indicates that no count was made)

Year	SH	GBBG	LBBG	HG	RAZ	FUL	COT	TOTAL	SP	MX	PUF	OYC	RPL
2012	107	177	32	8	2	49	0	375	-	-	-	-	-
2013	99	208	6	4	1	36	0	354	-	-	-	5	0
2014	96	205	10	5	1	38	0	355	-	-	-	9	1
2015	85	235	1	20	5	57	2	405	778	229	31	6	0
2016	86	215	1	16	6	41	14	379	-	-	-	4	1
2017	74	222	7	12	5	41	27	388	-	-	-	7	1

SH – shag; GBBG – great black-backed gull; LBBG – lesser black-backed gull; HG – herring gull; RAZ – razorbill; FUL – fulmar; KIT – kittiwake; COT – common tern; SP – storm petrel; MX – Manx shearwater; PUF – puffin; OYC – oystercatcher; RPL – ringed plover.

Comparison with planned output

The activity was carried out as planned, the only change was Dr Vickie Heaney now being employed by RSPB.

Problems

None.

Part iv. Full Scilly Isles SPA survey for target species and wider seabird species (2015)

Progress and deliverables.

These full scale SPA surveys are due to be carried out every six years, the previous survey was in 2006. Dr Vickie Heaney, Project Officer (seabirds) led a team of three **Research Assistants - Lana Austin, Will Scott and Lydia Titterton**, who were also employed full-time for three months to undertake the field work (April – July).

Please see the results of the full **SPA survey** in 2015 SPA stats of breeding seabirds (Annex 14).

The results of the 2015 SPA survey are summarised in Table 06 below.

Table 06 A summary of the status of the seabirds breeding on Scilly (2015).

Species	Breeding pairs 2015	% Change since 2006	Long-term trends
Manx shearwater	523	+206%	3-fold increase in the last 9 years and new colonies found
Common guillemot	291	+88%	Increasing – population almost trebled since 1983
Razorbill	471	+38%	Steady increase – population more than doubled since 1983
Great black-backed gull	1023*	+14%	General decline in 1980s (still down 31% on 1983), increasing since 1999
Fulmar	286	+3%	Massive increases since first bred 1951, appears to be slowing now

Species	Breeding pairs 2015	% Change since 2006	Long-term trends
Atlantic puffin	167	-4%	Generally stable since 1999, 45% increase since 1980s
European storm petrel	1299*	-7%	Declining – down 12% since 2000
Herring gull	574	-20%	Continued steep decline – down 75% on peak of 2249 pairs in 1974
European shag	1010*	-22%	General decline since peak of 1470 pairs in 1977
Lesser black-backed gull	2531*	-24%	Continued decline- down 38% on peak of 4050 pairs in 1983
Great cormorant	30	-40%	Sharp decline since 1990s, generally stable at 50-60 pairs prior to that
Black-legged kittiwake	75	-72%	Continued steep decline – now just 9% of peak of 861 pairs in 1983
Common tern	12	-85%	Continued steep decline and intermittent breeding since peak of 210 pairs in 1983
Overall numbers – Seabird Assemblage	8292	-10%	Steady decline since peak of 12063 pairs in 1983. 31% decline since SSSI designation (1983 count); -12% since SPA designation (Seabird 2000 figures)

* Represents >10% of overall breeding assemblage

Species which have increased: Manx shearwaters: guillemot: razorbill: great black-backed gull: fulmar.

Species which have decreased: Puffin: storm petrel: herring gull: shag: Lesser black-backed gull: cormorant: kittiwake: common tern.

Species no longer breeding compared to previous SPA surveys: Sandwich, Arctic, Roseate terns.

Seventeen species of seabird have been reliably documented as breeding (including black-headed gull historically) on the Isles of Scilly. Now thirteen species regularly breed. From 1969 onwards there have been five major coordinated seabird counts on the islands. Today the overall population is fewer than 20,000 seabirds on the islands, and still declining (31% since 1983).

Further details on Manx shearwaters and storm petrels

Below is Table 07 summarising the AOB's for Manx shearwaters and AOS's for storm petrels over the last three SPA surveys. The Manx shearwaters AOB's have increased by 206% across the Scilly Isles SPA since 2006, and by 50% on St Agnes and 400% on Gugh. These increases are due to a recruitment of new birds to the islands. These new birds may possibly be from Lundy as Manx shearwaters increased by 250% as a result of the success of rat removal programme 12 years ago. The storm petrels AOS's decreased slightly across the Scilly Isles SPA since 2006. Their decline may well be due to rats on many of these islands, with storm petrels not attempting to breed if there is any evidence of rats. But as discussed above, they have increased on St Agnes and Gugh due to rat removal.

Table 07 summarising AOB's and AOS's for Manx shearwaters and storm petrels over the last three full SPA surveys respectively.

	Shearwater (AOB) full SPA	Shearwater (AOB) St Agnes	Shearwater (AOB) Gugh	Storm petrel (AOS) Scilly Isles SPA	Storm petrel (AOS) St Agnes	Storm petrel (AOS) Gugh
2000	201	5	22	1475	0	0
2006	171	8	9	1398	0	0
Rat Removal on St Agnes and Gugh						
2015	523	12	45	1299	5	12
% change since 2006	206 %	50%	400%	-7.1%	↑	↑

Comparison with planned output

Due to bad weather the boat was unable to access four islands in the (Norrad rocks and Men-a-vaur) in 2015. We were able to carry out bird based counts for some species and extrapolate for other species based upon the islands surveyed, and complete surveys on two of these islands in May- July 2016, whilst Project Officer (seabirds) was in post during completing the monitoring of key species work for 2016, assisted by Project Officer and Project Assistant. The outstanding data was added to the 2015 report to produce the final report (Annex 16).

Problems

The delayed boating access was explained to the SPA licensing authority, Natural England and they were satisfied with the delay.

Perspective for continuing after the end of the project

Dr Vickie Heaney, will now be contracted by IOSWT again to continue to deliver seabird monitoring work across the islands included in the 'IOSSRP Maintenance Plan', page 19.

Post removal (Year 2) surveys of other key taxa (invertebrates, land birds, vegetation, shrews, rabbits)

Shrews, rabbits, vegetation, land birds and invertebrates were monitored. A control site for comparison was selected on Bryher due to its similar size to St Agnes and Gugh (129ha against 149ha). If ecological trends were similar on St Agnes and Gugh, but different on Bryher, then it is possible that rat removal was the cause.

Surveys were carried out with four habitat types; European gorse scrub, coastal grassland, heathland and foreshore. The baseline surveys which were carried out in the spring/summer 2013 prior to rat removal were replicated in 2014, (rabbits and shrews in 2015) and 2016.

2014

The report is provided in 2014 First Year Post Removal Spalding Wider Ecological Surveys of other Taxa (Annex 17). In May, June, July and September 2014, the project team and volunteers carried out the surveys using the same methodologies as 2013. Extra bird surveys were completed in March and April and extra rabbit surveys were carried out throughout winter and spring 2013/14.

2016

The report is provided in 2016 Second Year Post Removal Spalding Wider Ecological Surveys of other Taxa (Annex 18). A Project Assistant was recruited (April 2016) part-time to join the Project Manager, Project Officer and volunteers to deliver and coordinate the surveys and data collection in May, June, July and September 2016, using the same methodologies as 2013 and 2014.

In both 2014 and 2016, the monitoring programmes were successful with over 40 volunteers over the two seasons assisting the survey period and categorising over 90,000 invertebrates (pitfall analysis). They sent all the data to Spalding Associates who carried out the statistical analysis and report writing (excluding the land bird data which was carried out by RSPB staff and volunteers).

Results

Due to a range of confounding factors including weather and land management the only trend that can definitively be attributed to rat-removal is the increase in Scilly shrews (lesser white-toothed shrew *Crocidura suaveolens*) which are normally predated by rats. Shrews increased by 10 fold from the baseline prior to the removal of rats in 2013 when compared to the final survey in 2016. All other trends could not be solely attributed to rat-removal although increases in rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) are probably mainly due to rat-removal and decreases in lawn hoppers are probably partly due to shrew increase. Points of interest from the invertebrate surveys were: 33 species of spider were identified, of which one species, the Red Data Book species *Clubiona genevensis*, was a first record for Gugh and first records for Scilly of *Pardosa agrestis* (a nationally scarce spider), *Argenna subnigra* and *Silometopus ambiguus*. Likely first records for beetles on St Agnes, Gugh and Bryher for five species; *Cassida nobilis*, *Nalassus laevioctostriatus*, *Otiorhynchus atroapterus*, *Phaleria cadaverina* and *Psylliodes marcida*

Problems

None.

Complementary actions

None.

Perspective for continuing after the end of the project

Spalding Associates are in discussion with IOSWT regards carrying on more ecological monitoring of wider species in future years to see if trends continue. It would be expected that other changes will be attributed to the project's legacy with a longer period of data collection and the smoothing out of annual perturbation.

ACTION D4. Assess socio-economic impact of the project and contribution of ecosystem function restoration

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved

The report is in IOSSRP Socio Economics (Annex 19). The two reports which informed this were reports Annex 18 Spalding Wider ecological surveys of other taxa and St Agnes Community Feb 2016 and 2017 Questionnaire Result (Annex 20). The questionnaire for all the residents (82) of St Agnes and Gugh was completed in January 2016 ahead of schedule. The results of this questionnaire could be compared to the results of the questionnaire in 2011 WMIL Feasibility Report of Rat Eradication over Archipelago, part 2

(Annex 21) as part of the pre project feasibility study. Comparison could then be made to understand the impact of the project on socio economics Comparison of 2010 2016 and 2017 Questionnaires on St Agnes and Gugh (Annex 22). In addition an independent evaluation was carried out by University of Exeter report (Annex 23).

Summary of results;

Alongside benefits to biodiversity, the study showed that the community gained wider social and economic benefits too:

Social – 100% of the community felt that the removal of the rats had a positive effect on their lives and a common theme was that they did not need to worry about rats anymore. The community felt these benefits would continue in the future.

Economy - The cost of rat damage and control was reduced to zero, and there were add-on benefits which brought extra income to the community. The community felt the impacts on the economy were already being made due to positive impacts to the tourism.

In the feasibility study rats were estimated at **costing an average of £432 per household** (cost from controlling rats, loss of products caused by contamination, damage or consumption). Therefore based on the 35 households it was estimated that rats were **costing St Agnes and Gugh up to £15,000 per year**.

Whereas on reflection, the community reported the cost of rats being more than originally thought, an average of **£565 per household**. Therefore based on the 35 households, it was estimated that rats may have actually been **costing St Agnes and Gugh up to £19,775 per year, so a 31% increase in costs upon reflection**.

17% of the community had developed new products. One community member explained that 'Visitors on his 'wildlife boat trips' had increased by 200%, as there has been high publicity of the project, and he and his team received interpretation training so could offer informed wildlife tours. Tourism is the largest income in Scilly and 100% of the population felt the project had a positive impact. A number of new or enhanced business initiatives such as production of apple juice also resulted from the projects activities.

Biodiversity - The survival of the Manx shearwater chicks for the first time in living memory, the return of the storm petrels nesting and the increase in the endemic Scilly shrews made the community feel proud of what their combined efforts achieved. The community felt these benefits were set to increase in the future.

Delivery - The community felt that delivery of the project had been to a high standard, the impact of no rats and increase in native wildlife improved community awareness, enjoyment, and quality of life. The project delivery also provided add-on benefits to the local economy as money was spent by the project on the islands in the winter months.

Comparison with planned output

The repeat questionnaire was completed as planned to collect the data to inform the report. The questions aimed to assess the community's feelings towards how the project went, whether they feel the project has benefited them, this qualitative data was collected.

Problems

In the application, the questionnaire aimed to collect quantitative feedback on actual and potential benefits, for example visitor numbers and average visitor spend. The Project Manager was not able to collect this data, as the community did not feel they could provide these figures. Also this data was not collected as part of a baseline, so the report would not have been robust without a comparison to record any change. Some quantitative data was provided to the Project Manager and is found in the report.

ACTION E1 – E7 are Dissemination activities which are covered in the next section

ACTION F1. Manage project efficiently and effectively.

This was discussed in Section 4.1 Description of Management System

ACTION F2. Network with other projects.

These are summarised in list of Networking Events below. We feel that that we provided a good coverage with a wide audience in the UK and particularly Italy learning about the objectives of this Natura 2000 project. The Italian LIFE Project NAT IT 000416 "Protection of main world's population of Puffinus yelkouan and eradication of invasive alien species" visited Scilly August 2014 when we were able to introduce them to the community on the islands, discuss the work we had carried out to establish our project and share those experiences with them. . . The visit to the Shaints LIFE Project in October 2015 enabled us to work alongside other RSPB staff sharing our experience of setting up the removal phase of the project, as well as discussing other elements such as the biological monitoring and ongoing biosecurity work.

The visit to the Italian Pianosa LIFE Project enabled the project manager to better understand the impact of other invasive species and the issues around community engagement arising around these and in a different island setting.

At the Dundee conference in 2017 we were asked to give an opening talk to the attendees with an overview of our methodologies so others could share and replicate. The outputs at the conference were similar to those of our own 'end of project conference' on Scilly. We were able to share lessons learnt which could be transferred elsewhere (43 countries attended, heard the talk and joined workshops whereby we disseminated further information) and the attendees were the key decision makers aiming to replicate what works well to their own projects around the world.

Networking with other LIFE Projects:	Date
The Italian LIFE Project NAT IT 000416	August 2014
Shaints LIFE Project	October 2015
Pianosa Island Italy the Resto Con Life Natura Project.	June 2017
Dundee Invasives Conference LIFE Dundee	July 2017

Perspective for continuing after the end of the project

Project Supervisor Paul St Pierre attended the Restoration of Island Eco-systems workshop being run by the Project LIFE Berlengas, at the end of January 2018, after the end of the project. The Isles of Scilly will be presented as a case study in a talk on communicating with the public and community engagement in ecological restoration.

RSPB will continue to promote the lessons learnt from this project and its legacy with other partners, projects and countries. In particular as the UK partner in BirdLife International, we will continue to work actively on island restoration projects elsewhere in the world and discuss projects with BirdLife International partners. This will bring learning from the Isles of Scilly to these other projects and from those projects back to the isles of Scilly to inform future actions on St Agnes and Gugh and across the island Archipelago. RSPB continues to be involved in island restoration projects elsewhere in the UK, for example in the Shiant Islands and on Orkney in Scotland, and on Rathlin Island in Northern Ireland. We continue to be involved in island restoration projects elsewhere in the world, in particular in the UK Overseas Territories for example in Cayman Islands and Gough Island, Tristan da Cunha. Following this project the Project Manager has been seconded to a project on Lord Howe Island, New South Wales, Australia where she is employing learning from the Isles of Scilly.

ACTION F4. After LIFE Conservation Plan

The project partners were aware of the need to produce a maintenance plan and wanted to ensure that this was initiated fairly early on in the project to ensure that important information on monitoring and biosecurity was collected during the delivery of the project to inform the maintenance plan and that elements of the plan could be tested by project staff, partners and the community to ensure that it was sound. The steering group produced draft IOSSRP Maintenance Plan in a workshop in 2014 and the final version of the maintenance plan was signed off on the 20th May 2017 by the steering group (Annex 5).

Comparison with planned output and timetable

The required plan was produced on time

Indicators used to test the performance

The ongoing actions have been agreed by the various partners and the community, and incorporated into organisational work plans.

For some of the more complex actions such as reacting to a rat incursion, mock events were carried out to determine whether the plans were sound and these found that it was feasible to respond in the required time and there was support to undertake the required work both on St Agnes and Gugh and on the mainland.

Problems

There is no UK government or EU funding to support the ongoing financing of biosecurity work, like there is for example to manage habitats such as heathlands. This creates major issues for small organisations such as the IOSWT which are heavily reliant on grant aid and therefore have little flexibility in funding this type of ongoing work. Therefore the RSPB and IOSWT discussed this with the community and it was agreed that the IOSWT through community fundraising would raise and hold the money required to support the biosecurity work on St Agnes and Gugh.

Perspectives for continuing after the end of the project

The various partners, especially the IOSWT and the community have committed to continuing to support the ongoing legacy of the project and the number of community members involved puts the delivery of the plan in a very good place.

5.2. Dissemination Actions

5.2.1 Objectives (State the objectives as they were at start of project)

E1. Erect notice boards

Eight notice boards describing the project will be displayed in strategic locations accessible to the public, in accordance with the requirements for all LIFE+ Nature projects. The notice boards will describe the rationale for the project and summarise its aims and methods. In addition, they will explain that the project site is part of the Natura 2000 network, and emphasise the importance of this unique, continent-wide system of key areas for biodiversity.

E2. Create and maintain project website

A dedicated, stand-alone website will be created for the project, and will go live within six months of the start date. It will provide full details of the reason for the project and its objectives and actions, and will set it in the context of the Natura 2000 network. LIFE+ support will be acknowledged, and the LIFE and Natura logos will be displayed and linked through to the relevant websites. The website will be updated regularly so that readers are kept informed of progress, results and dissemination events such as guided walks. The aim is to have an average of 500 hits per month.

E3. Produce a Layman's report

A layman's report will be produced at the end of the project, as specified in the LIFE+ guidelines. It will be written in English and produced in both paper (50 copies) and electronic formats. The report will be 5 to 10 pages long and will present the project and its objectives, actions and results in non-technical language suitable for a general audience. It will include photographs and other illustrations, together with the LIFE and Natura logos. The hard copies will be printed in full colour on good-quality paper, so that they are attractive and durable.

E4. Produce Information materials

A variety of printed information materials will be produced to support our awareness and dissemination activities. All of them will bear the LIFE and Natura logos, and all of them will be downloadable from the project website.

- a 'project leaflet' summarising the rationale for the project and its aims and actions, setting it in the context of the Natura 2000 network, and acknowledging the support of LIFE+ (A3 folded to 12-page DL, full-colour, 2,500 copies, aimed mainly at people living on Scilly)
- a 'seabird leaflet' describing the various species of seabird found on Scilly, providing basic information about their ecology, outlining the threats facing them, and summarising our efforts to tackle one of these threats through the LIFE+ project (A3 folded to 12-page DL, full-colour, 25,000 copies, aimed mainly at visitors to Scilly)
- 'rat on a rat' posters providing a 'rat hotline' phone number and email address for people to contact if they see rats or rat sign on St Agnes or Gugh after the removal operation, or on any of the uninhabited islands (A4, colour, 50 copies printed on plastic or similar for display outdoors plus a pdf so that paper copies can be run off for distribution to all of the accommodation places on the islands)
- 'rat on a rat' window stickers (300 copies)
- project letterhead (2,000 sheets, bearing the project logo which will be developed by a local designer and also displayed on all other project materials)

- a basic newsletter, summarising project progress achievements, to be distributed to the residents of St Agnes and Gugh every six months (A4, two pages, black and white, 50 copies of each)
- an annual 'Seabirds Southwest' newsletter, aimed at a much wider audience and covering not only this project but also other important seabird initiatives in SW England (A4, four pages, colour, 1,000 copies per issue for direct circulation to key contacts and distribution at nature reserves, events, etc).

E5. Organise a series of awareness events

The events will be as follows:

- boat trips from St Agnes to view the seabird colonies on Annet and other uninhabited islands, run by a local provider and intended mainly for residents of St Agnes, Gugh and the other inhabited islands (two per year in spring/summer, 60 people per trip)
- guided evening walks, aimed at both residents and visitors, to watch seabirds, learn about their lives and the problems they face, and hear about the project and its aims (three per year on St Agnes and six per year on St Mary's, all in spring/summer/autumn, average of 20 people per walk)
- a two-week-long 'Date with Nature' event at the Abbey Gardens on Tresco, during which RSPB staff and volunteers will be on hand every day to show people birds and other wildlife, talk to them about the Isles of Scilly SPA and the biodiversity it supports, and explain the reasons for our project on St Agnes and Gugh and what we hope to achieve (one event per year, usually in September, reaching approximately 800 people on each occasion).

They will be supported by the production of banners.

E6. Carry out media work

We will carry out a variety of media work during the project to ensure that messages about it are communicated to as wide an audience as possible.

The key elements of this media work will be as follows:

- the publication of one piece per year (five in total) in 'Wavelength', the magazine of the Isles of Scilly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership - aimed at islanders and local decision-makers
- the publication of one piece per year (five in total) in 'Scilly Today', the daily online newspaper for the islands - aimed at both islanders and visitors
- the publication of one piece per year (five in total) in the 'Tresco Times', a triannual colour magazine with a circulation of 40,000 and a readership of 160,000 - aimed at visitors
- the publication of six pieces per year (30 in total) in 'Scilly Now and Then', a monthly colour magazine - aimed at residents and visitors
- the broadcast of a monthly project update on Scilly Radio - aimed at residents and visitors
- the dissemination of three press releases per year (15 in total) to the local, regional and national media
- the publication of a piece in the RSPB magazine 'Birds', which has a circulation of 600,000 and a readership of 1.7 million.

E7. Hold end-of-project conference

We will hold a one-day conference at the end of the project to review its implementation and effectiveness, share lessons learned, and discuss potential future work. The estimated attendance is 60-80 people.

5.2.2 Dissemination: overview per activity

ACTION E1. Erect notice boards

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved

The notice boards describe the rationale for the project and summarise its aims and methods. In addition, they explain that the project site is part of the Natura 2000 network.

Freeline Graphics (A2) was appointed to design and produce the interpretation material through a tender process.

The eight notice boards (A2 and A3 in size) were printed in full colour, include photographs, maps and/or illustrations as well as text. They were produced in a strong, durable material to ensure that they remain in good condition throughout the project, and bear both the LIFE and the Natura logo.

The erection of notice boards outdoors is generally not permitted on the Isles of Scilly, so the project boards were placed mainly indoors in places where large numbers of people are able to see them. These places will be as follows:

- Waiting room on the quay at St Agnes Purpose: People waiting for a boat will be in the waiting room. It also has an interpretation board for what to do on your visit so people head there for information.
- Campsite on St Agnes Purpose: the largest number of visitors staying on St Agnes decide to camp.
- Outdoor notice board at the shop/post office on St Agnes Purpose: this notice board is at the hub of the community
- Meeting hall on St Agnes Purpose: this is main meeting place for community activities and talks
- St Agnes boats (Spirit and Enterprise) that travels between St Mary's and St Agnes Purpose: The community and many of the visitors use this boat on a regular basis
- IoSWT information centre on St Mary's Quay Purpose: the greatest footfall of visitors on the islands
- Bird hide at Lower Moors on St Mary's, Purpose: to target the bird watchers and other visitors who are interested in bird conservation
- Tresco Heritage Centre Purpose: RSPB people engagement work ("Date with Nature") happens on Tresco and there is a large footfall of people visiting the centre, as on the islands, it is the attraction with the most visitors each year.

Comparison with planned output and time schedule

All 8 noticeboards were erected, but production of the notice boards was delayed from Spring 2013 to until the end of August 2013 to provide more time for the work to be done on preparing the text and images and the correct messages, so they provided the best impact. The revised deadline did not affect the achievement of the aims of the project, as other forms of interpretation (newsletters, community updates) were produced to ensure the project was interpreted to the most important audiences at this stage.

How actions were modified and correspondence with the Commission

The Commission was aware of the delay and NEEMO Monitor (at the time) Donald Lunan, saw the notice boards in place when he visited the project in December 2013, and they have since been seen by monitor Karen Lunan on monitoring visits.

Complementary actions

The community asked for rat free signs to be put on Duchy of Cornwall (permissions granted) and private land (permission granted) on St Agnes and Gugh, to make visitors aware of the actions they need to take to help keep the island rat-free and limit seabird disturbance. The sign is also translated in French as yachts sail to Scilly from France each summer, mooring in the bays of St Agnes and Gugh. Underspend from other interpretation was used for these signs in place on the Quay, at the top of Gugh sandbar, at the top of the beach at Covean, at Troytown beach. Rat free sign PDF (Annex 24).

Perspective for continuing after the end of the project

The signs will stay in place for 25 years as per the maintenance plan.

ACTION E2. Create and maintain a project website.

A dedicated, stand-alone website was created for the project and is being hosted for a further five years.

DH designs was appointed and the website was live by March 3 2013 www.ios-seabirds.org.uk .

The website was being maintained throughout the project lifespan by the Project Manager, providing full details of the reason for the project and its objectives and actions, and it sets out the context of the Natura 2000 network. LIFE+ support is acknowledged, and the LIFE and Natura logos are displayed and linked through to the relevant websites.

The website was updated regularly so that readers were kept informed of progress, results and dissemination events such as guided walks. It included a latest news section allowing the Project Manager to provide immediate, first-hand accounts of project activities. This blog is supplemented by posts on social networking sites such as Twitter (@seabirdrecovery) and Facebook (Isles of Scilly Seabird Recovery Project).

As well as creating a dedicated website for the project, key information was updated s on the existing websites of the RSPB, IoSWT, and the Isles of Scilly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) partnership.

RSPB www.rspb.org.uk/whatwedo/projects/details/343296-isles-of-scilly-seabird-recovery-project

IOSWT www.ios-wildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/seabird-conservation

AONB www.ios-aonb.info/projects/isles-scilly-seabird-recovery-project

We expected that the project website would receive approximately 500 visits per month, 6000 per year, so 30,000 over 5 years. We started to use 'Google Analytics' to record this in January 2014. We used 'sessions' to record the number of hits to the website. A session is defined as a group of interactions one user takes within a given time frame. What makes session reporting better than just "visits" is that you can accurately gauge individuals truly interacting with your website. Google analytics (Annex 25);

Date	Expected no. of sessions	Actual No. of sessions
2013 – 2014 (only Nov/Dec in 2013)	6000	5,619
2015 (full year)	6000	9,082
2016 (full year)	6000	6,557
2017 (Jan – Oct when the report written)	6000	4,994
Total	30,000	26,245

Some months we fell short of the target and some months exceeded it, depending on the news and press-releases and how much social media has generated hits back to the website. But other social media has allowed us to meet or exceed the audience target for the website, as the project adapted to changes in social networking.

Facebook. We averaged 800 views per page. Notable posts on Facebook (Annex 26);

Twitter. We averaged 200 views and 500 'impressions' per tweet and after the press release and the visit. Notable posts on Twitter (Annex 26).

ACTION E3. Produce a Layman's report

This was completed for the September 2017 End of project Conference to hand out to delegates. IOSSRP Layman's report 2017 (Annex 27). It was produced in paper format (50 copies disseminated) and is held in electronic form on the website.

ACTION E4. Produce information materials

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved

A variety of printed information materials as detailed in the grant agreement have been produced to support our awareness and dissemination activities. All of them bear the LIFE and Natura logos (they were checked by the LIFE team at RSPB Lodge before print) and all of them are downloadable from the project website.

Comparison with planned output and time schedule

All materials were produced, with variation on two items. There was a slight delay on production of some items at the start of the project. All materials were used throughout the project and will be used in the 'legacy phase' after the project finishes.

Project logo. Produced for all information material. Designed by St Agnes School (Annex 28)

Project leaflet. Produced as specified. Summarises the rationale for the project and its aims and actions, setting it in the context of the Natura 2000 network, and acknowledging the support of LIFE+. A3; folded to 12 page; full-colour 2,500 copies aimed mainly at people living on Scilly (Annex 29).

Seabird leaflet. Produced as specified. Describes the various species of seabird found on Scilly, providing basic information about their ecology, outlining the threats facing them, and summarising our efforts to tackle one of these threats through the LIFE+ project. A3; folded to 12-page; full colour; 25,000 copies aimed mainly at visitors to Scilly (Annex 30).

'Rat on a rat' posters. Originally we envisaged producing a 'rat on a rat poster' but the seabird and project leaflet double up as posters on one side (please see above).

'Rat on a rat' stickers. Produced as specified. Displays hotline number and website for people to contact the project if they see rat-sign; 300 stickers (Annex 31).

Project letterhead. Produced as specified. Bearing the logo; 2000 sheets (Annex 32)

Newsletters.

Newsletter entitled 'The shearwater'

Originally the brief was A4; 50 printed copies; black and white; 2 pages long; every 6 months (10 copies in total). But as the project had so much news, they were 6-8 pages long, and in colour and, also we have emailed them out as an e-newsletter. After the third newsletter (first being in March 2013, second in October 2013, third in March 2014) the community asked for a monthly e-newsletter (and printed and laminated and stuck on the notice board) in spring/summer, dropping to once every two months in autumn/winter, we have called these 'Rat on a rat' (ROAR) newsletters. We therefore reduced the number of 'shearwater' newsletters for the 'ROAR newsletters'.

There have been 7 issues of the 'Shearwater' all found, which we printed 50 copies of and emailed to our distribution list. (Annex 33 and also in past reports).

Table 08 List of 'ROAR' newsletters

1	April 2013
2	Oct 2013
3	March 2014
4	November 2014
5	December 2015
6	December 2016
7	December 2017

'Rat on a rat newsletter'

They provided overview of the news of the project and focus on biosecurity and advice on ensuring the islands remain rat-free. There were 14 issues 2014 – 2017. We printed three copies of each for St Agnes (displayed on the notice board in the waiting room, at the pub, on the Post office community notice board) and emailed them to the community. Rat on a Rat newsletters' (Annex 34 and also in past reports). 2014 (May, June, July Aug, Sep) 2015 (Jan, April, May, June, July) 2016 (April, October) 2017 (May, Sep)

'Seabirds Southwest newsletter'. Produced as specified, annually (produced each December) for a wider audience covering other important seabird initiatives in the SW; Main audience: decision makers involved in seabird conservation issues locally and nationally. A4; four pages; colour; 1000 copies per issue. There have been 5 issues 'Seabirds Southwest' 2016 and 2017 (Annex 35 and also in past reports).

Indicators used to test the performance

Problems

The revised deadline production of the interpretation boards, project leaflet and seabird leaflet did not affect the achievement of the aims of the project, as other forms of interpretation (newsletters, community updates) were produced.

How actions were modified and correspondence with the Commission

The commission were aware of the revised deadline

Complementary actions

Newsletters produced by WMIL during rat removal and final check phase various annexes in past reports 'WMIL newsletters' newsletters'.

20 newsletters produced by RSPB SW region featured the project RSPB SW Regional roundup (Annex 36 CD only).

7 newsletter produced by IOSWT featured the project IOSWT newsletter (Annex 37 CD only).

Perspective for continuing after the end of the project

The interpretation boards will stay in place for 25 years as per the maintenance plan. The website will be hosted for a further 5 years by the RSPB. Tresco Estate will maintain the three cornered tower in the heritage room at Tresco gardens for the foreseeable future.

ACTION E5. Organise awareness-raising events

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved

A series of awareness-raising events were delivered as part of our programme of dissemination and awareness activities. We ensured that support from LIFE+ is acknowledged during the events and that the contribution of the project to the maintenance and enhancement of the Natura 2000 network was explained.

Boat trips

Comparison with planned output and time schedule

The number of boat trips exceeded the target

The number of passengers learning about seabird exceeded the target

The boat trips continued throughout the project lifespan as expected

Target per year	Target over project	Actual per year	Actual over project
2 boat trips	10 boat trips	80 boat trips	398 boat trips
60 people	300 people	1960 people	9802 people

Boat trips were aimed at both residents and visitors, to watch seabirds, learn about their life-cycles and the problems they face, and hear about the project and its aims. The boat trips achieved this aim.

Boat trips were originally envisaged from St Agnes to view the seabird colonies on Annet and other uninhabited islands, run by a local provider and intended mainly for residents of St Agnes, Gugh and the other inhabited islands (two per year in spring/summer, 60 people per trip).

The number and type of boat trips we have offered has been more variable as this is one of the most effective ways to engage people with seabirds and the key messages about the SPA and their conservation.

St Agnes Boating Seabird Safaris

In 2013 local provider, St Agnes boating, approached the project to asking for a trained interpretations on-board 'seabird safaris' every Wednesday afternoon 1-3:30pm through spring/summer for residents and visitors. We recruited RSPB volunteers in 2013, then in years 2014 – 2017 IOSWT took on these boat trips with rangers taking on the role of live interpreter. The trips started at Easter and run through to the start of September (weather depending). Feedback from these trips from the passengers and from local businessman John Peacock, St Agnes boating was excellent. These trips have reinforced the biosecurity messages of keeping the islands 'rat-free' to residents, visitors and boat operators alike. The most popular words used to describe the trips were; informative, interesting and enjoyable. **The number of visitors on the 'seabird safari' boat trips are provided below.**

Year	Target No. of boat trips per year	Target No. of boat trips per year	Target Number of passenger engaged	Actual Number of passengers engaged
2013	2 boat trips	20 boat trips	60 passengers	Approx. 300 passengers
2014	2 boat trips	18 boat trips	60 passengers	Approx. 500 passengers
2015	2 boat trips	12 boat trips	60 passengers	Approx. 600 passengers
2016	2 boat trips	20 boat trips	60 passengers	Approx. 950 passengers
2017	2 boat trips	21 boat trips	60 passengers	Approx. 1110 passengers
		TOTAL 91		TOTAL 3460 passengers

Examples of public feedback forms for these activities are provided in Annex 38.

Wildlife Guides on the Scillonian

Annually from 2013 to 2017 we have had 2 volunteer wildlife guides (10 volunteers in total) on the Friday sailings of the Scillonian III between Penzance and St Mary's to point out the seabirds to the passengers, advocate the work of the project and provide seabird leaflets before the visitors arrive on the islands. Visitors therefore gained knowledge about how they too can help seabirds on Scilly during their stay on the islands. There were over 300 boats trips with guides in total throughout the project. The trips started at Easter and run through to the start of November (sailings are weather dependent). The feedback from these trips from the passengers has been very good.

The most popular feedback from the passengers was; Good leaflets, will use them on the islands; Thanks for pointing out seabirds; Interesting to hear about the project. **The numbers of passengers engaging (reading a seabird leaflet, engaged in conversation, learnt about seabirds and the project) with guides on board 'Scillonian III Ferry Friday sailings' are provided below**

Year	Target No. of boat trips per year	Actual No. of boat trips per year	Target Number of passengers engaged	Actual Number of passengers engaged
2013	Approx. 56 (return once a week between April and Oct/Nov)	56 boat trips	1000 passengers	Approx. 1000 passengers <i>Approx. 3600 (based on average 390 per trip and engaging with 1/3rd passengers each trip.)</i>
2014	56 boat trips	58 boat trips	1000 passengers	Approx. 1000 passengers

Year	Target No. of boat trips per year	Actual No. of boat trips per year	Target Number of passengers engaged	Actual Number of passengers engaged
2015	56 boat trips	61 boat trips	1000 passengers	Approx. 1200 passengers
2016	56 boat trips	65 boat trips	1000 passengers	Approx. 1500 passengers
2017	56 boat trips	62 boat trips	1000 passengers	Approx. 1500 passengers
		TOTAL 302	5000	TOTAL 6200 passengers

Community boat trips

In 2014 we hosted a primary class and teachers from Five Islands school (St Mary's) to see the seabirds in order to engage the main school on the islands with the project so the teachers and children could cascade key messages from the project into their environmental education programme, we tied this in with an output to be filmed for television 'BBC Country file'. In 2015, we lead a St Agnes school seabird boat trip, including seeing puffins which some of the children had not seen before. This formed the basis of Press release - 6 July 2015 Children's puffin treat (Annex 22 of Progress report). In 2017 we delivered a boat trip as part of the end of project conference. **The number of passengers on community boat trips are provided below**

Year		Actual Number of passengers engaged
2014	St Mary's school	42
2015	St Agnes field trip	14
	St Mary's school	26
	Mainland school	25
2017	End of Project conference	35
	TOTAL BOAT TRIPS 5	TOTAL 142

Problems

None

Perspective for continuing after the end of the project

- a. (St Agnes Boating seabird Safaris) will continue to be operated by IOSWT post project.
- b. (Scillionian Ferry III Wildlife Guides) will continue to be operated by RSPB post project

Guided Walks

Comparison with planned output and time schedule

The number of walks exceeded the target

The number of people on walks fell slightly below the target

The walks continued throughout the project lifespan as expected

Target

Target over project	Actual over project
45 walks	45 walks
840 people	728 people

The breakdown of the walks is found in Table 08 'Tables to show no. of attendees'

Walks were aimed at both residents and visitors, to watch seabirds, learn about their life-cycles and the problems they face, and hear about the project and its aims. The walks achieved this aim.

Guide Will Wagstaff from 'Island Tours' delivered some of these walks alongside team members as he is a supporter of the project, has delivered walks for over 20 years and will continue to do so post project, therefore the project wanted to support his business and train him to continue to deliver key messages post project.

We fell short of the 840 people on walks, by 124 people, but we feel we made up for this shortfall with the boat trips, which we greatly exceeded targets. Also Feedback from the Isles of Scilly Tourist Information Centre and local Wildlife Guide Will Wagstaff, suggests 10 participants per walk on average (personal comms 2015) we exceeded this average.

Problems

None, all walks were well delivered, fewer people than expected reflects tourist information feedback trends.

Perspective for continuing after the end of the project

Guide Will Wagstaff from 'Island Tours' will continue to deliver walks and seabird/biosecurity key messages.

'Date with Nature' walks, Tresco

Comparison with planned output and time schedule

The number of people on the walks exceeded the target

Date with Nature events on Tresco continued throughout the project lifespan as expected

Target

Target over project	Actual over project
Walks to reach 4000 people	Walks reached 4241 people

The reason that the 'Date with Nature' events take place on Tresco is that this island receives large numbers of visitors every year (due to Tresco gardens), many of whom are interested in birds and other wildlife. The walks aimed to have RSPB staff and volunteers on hand every day for two weeks to show people birds and other wildlife, talk to them about the Isles of Scilly SPA and the biodiversity it supports, and explain the reasons for the project on St Agnes and Gugh. The walks achieved this aim

These events were supported by the production of banners. Originally we envisaged the production of four roller banners (all with full-colour panels 0.8 m wide by 1.2 m deep) and two rabbit-ear' banners for outdoor use (both approximately 5.8 m high in total, with colour graphic panels about 4.6 m deep). We modified this to two roller banners for outdoor use and two 'three cornered towers' for indoor use. The roller banners are used for outside events and are displayed at the outside table for the 'date with nature' walks and at any other events. One of the three cornered towers is displayed at the Tresco Heritage centre and the second is moved to various indoor locations for the duration of the project. These banners and towers have been well received by visitors helping them to understand key messages of the project.

Walks were originally envisaged over a two-week-long event at the Abbey Gardens on Tresco, each year in September, managed by the Project Supervisor leading other mainland RSPB staff and volunteers, camping on Bryher and boating to Tresco each day. The walks increased to two events per year to have an event in June to coincide with seabird breeding calendar. The walks in June were for two weeks in 2013 – 2015, but dropped to one week 2016/2017.

Table 09 No of Date with Nature walks and participants

	No. of walks	Expected No. of people on walks	Actual no. of people we engaged with	Deviation	Expected No of feedback forms expected	Actual No. of visitors completing feedback forms	Deviation	Volunteers
Jun-13	51	400	694	294	25	64	39	2
Sep-13	52	400	253	-147	25	113	88	3
Jun-14	70	400	350	-50	25	53	28	3
Sep-14	45	400	175	-225	25	84	59	3
Jun-15	48	400	217	-183	25	123	98	2
Sep-15	43	400	164	-236	25	101	76	5
Jun-16	31	400	600	200	25	56	31	3
Sep-16	55	200	800	600	25	55	30	4
Jun-17	32	400	268	-132	25	49	24	2
Sep-17	43	400	720	320	25	53	28	3
	470	4000	4241	441	250	751	501	30

Public feedback forms for these activities are provided in Annex 39.

Problems

The 'Date with Nature' events in 2014 and 2015 had a lower rate of engagement from visitors than expected, therefore we had further discussions with Tresco Estate about how to advertise more, with another advertising board set up on Tresco quay to advertise the walks when visitors reach Tresco; Radio Scilly advertised the walks more and three new locations to display posters were found.

In March 2016, due to other ongoing activities and surveys elsewhere, we had not recruited enough RSPB staff and volunteers to deliver two weeks of walks for the June event. We made the decision in March 2016 to reduce the event to one week in June 2016 and June 2017. We explained the justification for this decision to the NEEMO monitor via email.

Perspective for continuing after the end of the project

The Date with Nature walks will continue through the RSPB after the project.

The banners will continue to be used by local talk leader, Will Wagstaff of Island Tours, once a week April – September as part of Scilly wildlife talks.

Complementary actions

To deliver key actions and ensure the legacy of the project is as strong as possible, it has been very important to engage in a range of community activities beyond those identified to ensure as much of the community as possible is not only aware of the issues, but support the needs of seabirds in their day-to-day life. Therefore we have organised other activities being mindful of the Project Manager and volunteer’s time required to do other tasks.

Plus over 300 volunteers (providing over 24,000 volunteer hours) assisted the project, many of the activities they assisted with were these awareness raising events.

Over 360 of the people who joined awareness activities were from the other ‘off-islands’ in Scilly, this is a critical audience for appreciating the impact of the project on the islands of St Agnes and Gugh, as well as for any future rat removal work on Tresco, St Martins, Bryher which is an aspiration in the future. Educational activities were part of the HLF activity plan to engage the younger generations.

Beach cleans held on St Agnes for the wider community and visitors

Purpose: To get the islands rat-free ready, invite the wider community to contribute to the project.

Participants: St Agnes and Gugh community, residents from St Marys, RNAS Culdrose, visitors

Dates: one event held each year (apart from 2 in 2014 and 0 in 2016)

Results: Over 5 public beach cleans, 72 people assisted, feedback was positive with the most popular words; worthwhile, positive, sociable.

Year	Target Number events	Actual Number events	Target Number of Attendees	Actual Number of Attendees
2013	1 events	1 events	15 people	31 people
2014	1 events	2 events	15 people	18 people
2015	1 events	1 events	15 people	19 people
2016	1 events	0	15 people	0
2017	1 events	1 events	15 people	4 people
Total	5 events	5 events	75 people	72 people

Delivering learning activities at Island fetes

Purpose: To engage with the wider community and visitors at the most popular family activity on the islands (high attendance of local people and returning holiday makers), delivering key messages via leaflets, family crafts and family games.

Participants: Residents and visitors

Dates: Three to four fetes 2013 – 2016 on St Agnes, St Martin's and Bryher in August 2013.

Results: Activities were offered at 13 fetes, engaging with 120 people.

Year	Target Number Held	Actual Number Held	Target Number of Attendees	Actual Number of Attendees
2013	4 fetes	3	30 people	30
2014	4 fetes	3	30	30
2015	4 fetes	3	30	30
2016	4 fetes	4	30	30
Total	16	13	120	120

Island school activities

Purpose: To engage with the younger generation as part of the environmental science part of their curriculum. The younger generation on the islands are ultimately the ones who will carry on the legacy of the project and therefore need to understand how to safeguard their seabirds today and in the future. The school (particularly the St Agnes Primary School base) has been an important resource for the project providing support in dissemination, pre-removal and monitoring activities. We engaged with other schools on Scilly, visiting schools, universities.

Participants: young people and education providers on Scilly and wider.

Dates: throughout the project

Results; In total over 1,600 young people engaged in 85 activities;

- 54 in-school activities in Scilly
- 21 out-of-school activities in Scilly
- 12 mainland schools joined field trips
- 8 University field trips were delivered

Year	Activity	Number of Attendees
2013	St Agnes School Bait awareness workshop for H&S prep Apple Day to remove food for rats	All 9 students and 2 teachers
	St Marys school Christmas crafts (Manx lifecycle migration)	42 students and 2 students
2014	St Mary's school Seabird field trip (learn about seabirds and the project) St Mary's Secondary school Assembly (Key messages) St Mary's GCSE seabird fieldtrip (project key messages into wider Biology curriculum)	300 students at St Marys school and 4 teachers

Year	Activity	Number of Attendees
	7. St Agnes school Apple Day 8. Shrew survey – to understand wider biodiversity impacts 9. Visiting school (St Just school) from Cornwall	All 9 students and 2 teachers All 25 students and 4 teachers
2015	10. Tresco School Coastal wildlife – to engage wider schools with key messages	All 22 students and 2 teachers
	11. St Martins school Seabird field trip – to engage wider island with key messages of the project	All 8 students and 2 teachers
	12. St Agnes school Seabird boat trip (press release) to show children the seabirds, and to see puffins (some had not seen before)	All 9 students and 2 teachers
	13. Natura 2000 Day and seabird burrow field trip –to understand how to protect the nesting sites of their birds	
14. Apple Day		
2016	15. St Agnes school, Biosecurity training - checking wax 16. rat-free song to celebrate rat-free status (sang at community event) and consolidate key messages	All 9 students and 2 teachers
	17. Exeter University field trip	15 students and 3 lecturers
2017	18. St Agnes school Biosecurity training - checking wax 19. rat-free song to celebrate rat-free status (sang at community event) and consolidate key messages	All 11 students and 2 teachers

Overall target and actual engagement totals for ‘awareness raising events’

Target over project		Actual over project
5500	Boat trips	9082
	Guided walks	782
	Date With Nature events	4241
	Beach cleans	72
	Fetes	120
	TOTAL 14,297 people engaged through activities. As many of these attendees were residents (approx. 2500 residents on Scilly), we have reduced this figure, 12,000 visitors to the islands engaged.	

ACTION E6. Carry out media work.

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved

A variety of media work ensured that messages were communicated to as wide an audience as possible.

Comparison with planned output

Table 10 – summary of comparison of expected media output compared to actual

Output	Expected target	Actual output
'Wavelength', the magazine of the Isles of Scilly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership	5 in total One piece per year	6 in total This magazine became an online e-newsletter at the start of the project.
'Scilly Today', the daily online newspaper for the islands.	5 in total One piece per year	31 articles online until website ceased (owners moved away) Annex 40 media articles
'Tresco Times', a triennial colour magazine with a circulation of 40,000 and a readership of 160,000 - aimed at visitors	One piece per year (five in total)	We did not feature in the magazine, instead we have featured on their webpage which receives 230,000 hits a year www.tresco.co.uk .
'Scilly Now and Then' local magazine	30 in total Publication of six pieces per year	30 in total Annex 40 media articles
Monthly update on Scilly Radio.	60 in total 12 a year.	60 in total We have featured each month on Radio Scilly 107.9fm. We offer activity feedback interviews we record to 'Radio Scilly', a sample are on the project website www.ios-seabirds.org.uk , head to project overview/video and audio – the right hand side of the page displays the audio section.
Press releases to the local, regional and national media.	15 in total 3 per year	15 press releases. Annex 41 press releases The 15 press releases were successful, resulting in local, regional and national coverage of the project. The final press release was in January 2018, it was released after the project delivery completion so we could provide a complete overview of the project. There were no costs attributed to the action as it was led by the Project supervisor and partners.
Publication of a piece in the RSPB magazine 'Nature's Home', which has a circulation of 600,000 and a readership of 1.7 million	1 during the project	4 pieces produced

We also featured on radio, in newspaper and magazines and on television. These encouraged further visitors to the islands assisting the local economy (based on feedback from 'Islands Partnership' a non-profit company marketing the Isles of Scilly). Highlights included BBC Countryfile (approx. 8 million viewers) and BBC Springwatch (approx. 3 million viewers). The scanned evidence of these is found in Media Articles (Annex 40).

IOSWT – media support as an associated beneficiary

All media work was undertaken by the Chief Executive. More than 6 articles for local and national press have been written by the Trust to promote the project.

ACTION E7. Hold end-of-project conference

Activities undertaken and outputs achieved

The conference was held 27-28 September 2017 to review the projects implementation and effectiveness, share lessons learned, and discuss potential future work. There was a total of 124 attendees - 30 from mainland and other UK islands: 4 from Bryher: 6 from St Martin's: 4 from Tresco: 27 from St Mary's: 52 from St Agnes: 1 from New Zealand. A more detailed list of attendees can be found in Annex 42 'End of project brochure' and 'end of project feedback report'.

Comparison with planned output and time schedule

The event was delivered over one day (two half days due to travel logistics) as planned. It was estimated that 60-80 people would attend and so this was surpassed with 124. We also estimated that the delegates would include residents of St Agnes and Gugh; members of the Joint Advisory Committee for the Isles of Scilly AONB; conservation professionals from other parts of the UK with an interest in island restoration and/or 'community-based conservation', working for both statutory and non-statutory bodies; and conservation professionals from other parts of Europe with similar interests. The attendees did include delegates from all of these categories.

Complementary actions

The Island Invasives Conference, Dundee, July 2017, was held during the final summer of the project. We were asked to give an opening talk to the attendees with an overview of our methodologies so others could share and replicate. The outputs at the conference were similar to those of our own 'end of project conference' on Scilly. We were able to share lessons learnt which could be transferred elsewhere (43 countries attended, heard the talk and joined workshops whereby we disseminated further information) and the attendees were the key decision makers aiming to replicate what works well to their own projects around the world.

5.3. Evaluation of Project Implementation

ACTION A1 - Recruit new project staff

Result compared to the objective

It was planned that the Project Manager would be recruited from within the community to strengthen community ownership of the project and reflect the fact that long term accommodation is difficult to find on Scilly. The same principle applied for other staff, all staff were living on Scilly already, apart from Research Assistant Lana Austin, and the Project Administrator who was based in an RSPB mainland office. The Project Manager was originally part-time, but was required full-time throughout the project. No Project Officers or Project Assistants were anticipated at the start of the project but were recruited due to the heavy workload of the project. A part-time Project Administrator was necessary throughout the project based in the Penzance/Exeter offices with access to RSPB network and internal systems.

Evaluation: success and failures of methodology applied.

Success: Recruitment from the island worked well, and having the Administrator based at the Exeter office on the RSPB network was crucial to assisting the Project Manager with accessing information from internal systems.

The Project Manager being full-time with part-time Project Administrator, Project Officer and Project Assistant in post ensured the success of the project as these resources were required for the volume of delivery.

RSPB employed the Project Officer (seabirds) directly from 2015 after the IOSWT did not have capacity to manage the contracts post 2014. Recruiting and managing her directly through RSPB worked well. All staff performed well and their high standard of work was recognised by all key stakeholders. Volunteers also assisted the project, and they were critical to delivery of the project.

Failure: There was a Community Engagement Officer role funded by Heritage Lottery Fund at the start of the project to deliver these HLF complementary actions. This person resigned, and we concluded that the role may not have been appropriate within the project delivery and was better combined with the Project Manager role. When the Project Officer first started in post in January 2015, she was managed by IOSWT to job share with another part-time AONB role. The job share did not appear to work effectively. She later resigned from both positions.

Cost efficiency of actions

Only one staff member was full-time, the rest were part-time – so even though we exceeded our original Personnel budget we believe that we achieved excellent value for money for the volume of output. Staff members lived on the island so there were no T&S costs of bringing them to the islands compared to the option of delivering aspects of the work through contractors.

Which results were immediately visible and which results only became apparent over time? The positive results of augmenting staff resources by having a full-time Project Manager and part-time Project Officer and Project Administrator were evident immediately and outputs were achieved on schedule to high standard.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt? Be more realistic and recruit to these staffing levels from the start (Full-time Project Manager throughout, Project Officer and Project Assistant both part-time, or one post full-time).

How has the project amendment led to the results achieved and what would have been the difference if this has not been agreed on? The contingency budget available from a second year of baiting rats or of removal of mice was used to support extra salaries. This occurred through an official budget amendment. The staff team worked very well to deliver the project, if this had not been the case we are certain that some outputs intended within the project could not have been achieved. Many activities would not have happened or been done to a lower standard with just one part-time Project Manager, and this could have potentially jeopardised the project.

ACTION A2. Select subcontractors

Result compared to the objective. The objective of selecting the contractors as achieved as planned.

Evaluation: success and failures of methodology applied.

Success: the selection tender process worked as all contractors selected were excellent.

Failure: none.

Cost efficiency of actions. The tender processes were based on weighing of costs which worked well to give excellent value for money for outputs achieved (rat free status, interpretation materials, website and ecological monitoring reports). We had some contractors who did quote a lower price but would not have had the experience or capacity to undertake the work successfully.

Which results were immediately visible and which results only became apparent over time. The results of selecting the correct contractors were apparent straight away (WMIL working well on the island during pre-assessment visit June 2013, Freeline and DH Designs producing materials and website to high standard Spring 2013 and Spalding carrying out high standard of work in May 2013).

What would we have changed – lessons learnt? Experience confirmed that selection of the right contractors with skill and experience was critical to the success of the project. It would have been better in hindsight to select the ecological contractor to carry out all the work, as recruiting volunteers to carry out some aspects of the work was difficult.

ACTION A3. Establish a Community Group to support project implementation and follow-up

Result compared to the objective. This group was vital to the success of the project to deliver essential 'rat removal ready' actions to ensure successful removal of rats and then to keep the islands rat-free. Originally this group was to be set up by the Project Manager at the very start of the project (Jan- March 2013) with the intention of maintaining a group throughout. It takes time to build this community group, win trust and ensure they are a strong team moving forward into the 'legacy phase'. The community members would not have responded well to signing a volunteer document at the start before fully understanding what the project was fully requiring from each of them. They were therefore officially registered in the group in 2015, with any new members officially registering thereafter.

Evaluation: success and failures of methodology applied.

Success: The methods by which the project team engaged with the community were excellent. They were reflected in the Dundee Conference II17 Paper - Securing the seabird heritage of the Isles of Scilly. (A copy will be sent when finalised).

Failure: none.

Cost efficiency of actions. The group now established is voluntary providing essential outputs at no salary cost.

Which results were immediately visible and which results only became apparent over time. The critical importance of this group was seen over time. The outputs which confirmed the success of this group, were; becoming officially rat free: remaining rat-free during the course of the project: results of the mock incursion: result of the rat which arrived on St Agnes 10/11/2017 being dispatched immediately and the information regards reducing the risk of this incursion pathway being passed on immediately.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt? Nothing would have been changed. Our experience confirmed the importance of this approach and we believe that the success in building the group provides a useful case study for projects elsewhere. Additionally, Having a preparatory action dedicated to setting up a community group was key to the success of the project in the monitoring phase (Action D1) and also in terms of sustainability.

ACTION A4. Carry out pre-removal surveys of the target species and other key taxa seabirds and other taxa

Result compared to the objective. All these surveys were carried out as planned, there was minor slippage with the ecological monitoring of other taxa.

Evaluation: success and failures of methodology applied.

Success: Both Dr Vickie Heaney (seabirds) and Spalding Associates (ecological monitoring of other taxa) carried out the surveys required.

Failure (or at least ‘lesson learned’): The land bird surveys as part of the ecological monitoring for wider species were not analysed by Spalding Associates as they did not have as much experience as RSPB, so the surveys were carried out, analysed and reported internally by RSPB. These surveys should have been carried out, analysed and reported by the same experienced RSPB personnel from the outset and throughout the project. This could have assisted the process of the first land bird survey 2013 starting earlier in the season.

Cost efficiency of actions. Dr Vickie Heaney was contracted through IOSWT and then employed directly by RSPB, her salary was great value for the output. Spalding Associates were scored in the tender process with a cost weighting.

Which results were immediately visible and which results only became apparent over time. Dr Vickie Heaney’s high standard of delivery was known immediately as she had been carrying out the seabird surveys on Scilly through IOSWT or RSPB since 2000.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt? RSPB ecologist/contractor for the land bird surveys and report writing involved in the project though out rather than just at the start.

Monitoring and baiting for rats of key uninhabited islands in Scilly by Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (IOSWT) 2013/2014

Result compared to the objective. The monitoring and baiting did not happen as planned.

Evaluation: success and failures of methodology applied

Success: Monitoring of the islands that were rat-free at the start of the project continues, and these islands remain rat-free.

Failure (or, again, ‘lesson learned’): Many of the islands were believed to be rat-free at the start of the project, so there were minimal resources available to monitor for rats and then bait if needed. These reports were incorrect, many of the islands did have rats, so the efforts required were beyond what was possible in 2013–15. Only a few of the islands could be baited and bad weather further reduced access and work efforts; if we had known beforehand that more islands had rats we would have allocated more resource.

Which results were immediately visible and which results only became apparent over time. A False rat-free status of many of these uninhabited islands was immediately recorded, changing the work required. This information altered the approach to try and analyse why rats were not taking bait and to help inform future baiting.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt? The project could not have made any changes as the reports were inherited as incorrect information – this was not foreseen and instead we now have a way forward to tackle rats based on the analysis undertaken. Training has been provided to inform future discussions of works.

ACTION A5. Carry out pre-removal assessment and preparation

Result compared to the objective. The assessments and preparations were carried out to high standard, there was slight slippage of when the contractors could deliver this phase, but it did not affect outputs. A derogation of bait through HSE was attained which was not anticipated at the start of the project, as use of rodenticides regulations had changed.

Evaluation: success and failures of methodology applied.

Success: The process was delivered to a very high standard. , the islands St Agnes and Gugh were indeed 'rat removal ready' at the start of baiting. WMIL (contractor) gave clear instructions in June 2013 and returning with six volunteers to complete actions (particularly the heavy duty clear out of sheds) in October prior to rat removal was vital. The Project Manager assisting the community members to undertake these activities June – October worked well and provided continuity thereafter. The process of gaining the bait derogation was successful through WMIL internal RSPB staff and Pelgar Labs.

Failure: None, but the extension-of-use permission was only granted on 3 October 2013 which was very close to the date when we would have had to decide to postpone the operation (baiting began 8 November 2013).

Cost efficiency of actions. The largest cost of ensuring the islands were 'rat removal ready' lay within waste management. The costs of bins/composters was part of WMILs contract. They received a discount on these items which would not have been available to RSPB. Much of the activity was voluntary by community members and contractors volunteers. There was an extra cost of the derogation for the bait but this was vital to ensure that the rats would be removed even if we encountered bait resistance.

Which results were immediately visible and which results only became apparent over time. The result of pre-removal preparations was immediately evident as there was no rat sign after 3.5 weeks once baiting began. This success is very much due to being 'rat removal ready' beforehand.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt? To have been able to consult with HSE for use of rodenticides on island wide restorations earlier. Another important lesson was the importance of getting the islands ready before the rat removal operation could take place – useful experience for other eradication projects.

ACTION C1. Carry out rat removal and intensive monitoring for rats

Result compared to the objective: Rats were removed successfully as per the primary objective of this project.

Evaluation: success and failures of methodology applied.

Success: The operation was well planned and delivered successfully.

Failures: There were no failures, there were a number of temporary problems which we overcame – these are listed in section 5.1

Cost efficiency of actions: The costs of these large successful operations offered good value for money – comparable to those for other eradications in the UK, bearing in mind that St Agnes and Gugh are inhabited and therefore posed additional challenges.

Which results were immediately visible and which results only became apparent over time: The successful results were clear within 3.5 weeks after which no rats were reported. The rapid outcomes of successful breeding by Manx shearwater (2014) and Storm petrel (2015) were a huge boost to the project.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt? No changes. These methodologies are advocated to be used on other community-based rat removal projects. In particular, the grid density and bait station design we used proved to be effective in eradicating rats while minimising harm to non-target species.

ACTION D1. Carry out longer monitoring for rats

On St Agnes and Gugh

Result compared to the objective: In the two years following the eradication operation no rats/evidence was found. However, one rat returned to St Agnes on St Agnes quay from the freight boat 10/11/2017, it was dispatched immediately by a SHV so an incursion response was not required.

Evaluation: success and failures of methodology applied.

Success: Long term monitoring by the project staff and community group was excellent. All the community events were directly linked to ensuring the island became rat free and remained that way, and were evaluated to high standard as detailed in section 5.1.

Failure: the return of a rat via the freight boat 10/11/2017 was due to a rare event of bringing wood from Bryher and a skip from St Martins on an unusual winter round island trip. Protocols were then revised by IOS steamship company, staff will now check high risk items of wood and hay prior to bringing to St Agnes, and they will no longer bring any rubbish to St Agnes from any other off islands.

Cost efficiency of actions The main costs involved in this action are from project staff (mainly Project Officer), community and training from contractors. Using volunteers to check baiting stations was much more cost-effective than if it had been paid staff. The islands are rat-free at the time of this report.

Which results were immediately visible and which results only became apparent over time. The risk imposed by freight deliveries was immediately evident to the project team, but only when a rat returned did some personnel from Isles of Steamship Company understand the apparent risks. These were mitigated quickly, with robust freight delivery protocol's put in place.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt? In order for Isles of Scilly Steamship Company to be fully engaged with all biosecurity protocols, it would have been beneficial for them to be a partner of the project from the offset and then they would be directly involved in decision-making.

How has the project amendment led to the results achieved and what would have been difference if this has not been agreed on. The budget amendment enabled more project staff which directly delivered this action. Without these staff much of this actions deliverables would not have been possible, particularly training the SHVs and all the talks and workshops. The rat incursion 10/11/2017 proved the SHVs are an excellent group who fully understand how to keep the islands rat-free and will work hard to do so.

IOSWT long-term monitoring and baiting on the uninhabited islands

Result compared to the objective

Long-term monitoring for rats on St Agnes and Gugh is supplemented by long-term monitoring and baiting on the uninhabited islands elsewhere in the archipelago, carried out by IOSWT.

Evaluation: success and failures of methodology applied.

Success: The islands were which rat free at the start of the project (Annet, western rocks) remained so.

Failure: On the islands which did have rats (they were reported on rat-free prior to the project, but did have rats) the baiting and control operations on the islands failed. In winter 2015/2016 as baiting operations were not successful, the efforts moved from baiting to monitoring rats behaviour on these islands to understand whether the rats were 'bait shy'; 'bait resistant'; prefer other monitoring tools which will show clearer rat-sign.

Cost efficiency of actions

More costs were required for this work, but if rats kept returning from nearby islands after baiting operations each winter the operation may have continued to be an impossibility – complete removal as part of a larger operation may be the only option.

In winter 2015/2016 the monitoring and behaviours work was carried out by RSPB Project staff as IOSWT did not have capacity. They had gained the necessary skills and reduced costs of contracting.

Which results were immediately visible and which results only became apparent over time.

The rat status of many of these uninhabited islands deemed rat free was apparent immediately on first visits.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt?

In future a more detailed operational plan would be produced for uninhabited islands looking in more detail at any particular issues identified by the partners. This would have included a survey of the islands to determine rat free status. This would also include an appraisal of the options and costings for the ongoing maintenance to assess the viability of the work.

ACTION D2. Carry out final check for rats

Result compared to the objective: The activity was carried out as planned and combined with a celebration event after completion of successful final check.

Evaluation: success and failures of methodology applied. This was a straightforward activity with the outcome of achievement of rat free status following the two year monitoring period.

Success: The check confirmed the absence of rats and rat free status was declared on 12 February 2016.

Failure: None.

Cost efficiency of actions: This was a concise but essential action to confirm the success of the project.

Which results were immediately visible and which results only became apparent over time: The action confirmed the absence of rats and was marked by a celebration event for the community who had helped to achieve this.

ACTION D3. Carry out post-removal monitoring of the target species and other key taxa Seabirds and other taxa

Result compared to the objective: All these surveys were carried out to high standard as planned.

Evaluation: success and failures of methodology applied. Success: Both Dr Vickie Heaney (seabird surveys) and Spalding Associates (ecological monitoring of other taxa) carried out the surveys to a high standard.

Failure: None.

Cost efficiency of actions: Dr Vickie Heaney was contracted through IOSWT and then employed directly by RSPB, we consider her salary was great value for the output. Spalding Associates were scored in the tender process with a cost weighting. A Project Assistant was recruited in April 2016 to coordinate these surveys in this cost effective part-time role.

Which results were immediately visible and which results only became apparent over time.

Key Target species Manx shearwaters recorded breeding for first time in living memory was immediate in the first breeding season after rat removal. The return of Storm petrels was within in two years. The results of the wider taxa surveys show immediate changes to Scilly shrews, but other trends cannot solely be attributed to the removal of rats. Further years of monitoring are required to see any changes.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt?

Seabirds – no changes.

Other taxa –Spalding final report makes recommendations for future invertebrate's surveys which may be more tailored to a specific situation. It is suggested that future invertebrate monitoring could be centred on ant baiting, butterfly transects and key species such as Devil's Coach Horse and Lawn Hopper. This would be specific to the Scilly Isles - there is an implication that projects elsewhere would need to think carefully about the groups likely to be the most appropriate to their area and also the most realistic to allow future monitoring.

Further project staff resource required from the start to coordinate these surveys and exchange of data.

The land bird survey report makes a number of recommendations including extending the survey period to 25 years and consider focusing future eradication bird studies on specific species and their productivity, especially where there is evidence that invasive species have affected their lifecycle elsewhere.

How has the project amendment led to the results achieved and what would have been difference if this has not been agreed on?

The budget amendment enabled extra staff to be recruited, the Project Assistants role in 2016 was to carry out (with volunteers) and coordinate the other taxa survey work. The Project Assistant had volunteered with the project during the previous year so had the necessary skills and confidence to deliver this work and pass the data to the contractors. Of course the contractors could have had a larger contract to undertake more of this work, but the benefits of having a team member doing this allows continuity with other work on island, and they have their own accommodation on island which is very hard to find in Scilly in summer, so it reduced the costs considerably. Also by undertaking these surveys the staff member was able to work with the community more regards long term monitoring.

Action D4. Assess socio-economic impact of the project and contribution of ecosystem function restoration

Result compared to the objective

The socio economic impacts were assessed and a report was written by the Project Manager.

University of Exeter also carried out an independent study to compliment the work of project staff.

Evaluation: success and failures of methodology applied.

Success: The methods of collecting data through questionnaires was successful.

Failure: The interviews were delivered by WMIL and the Project Manager so could have been considered biased as the interviewee may not have wanted to offend those whose work was being evaluated.

The community were not able to provide quantitative data on visitor number and visitor spend, and this data was not collected as part of a baseline, so the report would not have been robust. Some quantitative data was provided though.

Cost efficiency of actions

This action was part of the Project Managers salary. The repeat questionnaires were carried out by the Project Manager and WMIL, so costs were covered as part of these works. University of Exeter carried out the work as part of a small contract with T&S costs, as it was partly funded through the University, hence excellent value for us.

Which results were immediately visible and which results only became apparent over time.

Many positive socio economic results were immediate (savings on rat control and damage, tourism on boat trips increasing immediately due to the project story) but many socio economic impacts may not be apparent for years to come e.g. community feedback suggested tourism may increase as rat-free status is marketed further.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt?

Have an independent socio economic study carried out by professional scientists from the offset and not by the Project Manager and contractor, who could instead focus on other delivery work.

Carry out baseline quantitative analysis of visitor number and average visitor spend as a baseline and compare to the years after rat –removal, using a staff members/contractor with these economic skills.

ACTION F1. Manage project effectively and efficiently

This was evaluated in section 4.2.

ACTION F2. Network with other projects.

Result compared to the objective

Networking with other projects occurred as expected.

Evaluation: success and failures of methodology applied.

Success: The methods of networking were successful with a good blend of visits and to and from other projects, attendance at key events and efficient dissemination of project outcomes through newsletters, website, talks and visits.

Failure: None.

Cost efficiency of actions

The networking T&S costs were considered good value with money, using RSPB protocols and seeking lowest cost at all times.

Which results were immediately visible and which results only became apparent over time.

It was apparent that this project had important information to offer other projects regards successful community based rat removal methodologies very quickly. We were asked to attend events and host personnel from the LIFE Project "Protection of main world's population of *Puffinus yelkouan* and eradication of invasive alien species" in August 2014, as well as the LIFE Shiant's Project LIFE13NAT/UK/209 led by RSPB in October 2015 and other projects and organisations with LIFE programmes.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt? Nothing. Many lessons were learned and have been and will continue to be actively disseminated.

ACTION E1. Erect notice boards.

Effectiveness: Very effective from verbal positive feedback from community, visitors and stakeholder tours. Feedback included clear and concise and placed in effective locations.

Drawbacks: None.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt? Nothing.

ACTION E2. Create and maintain project website

Effectiveness. More effective than first considered, we were able to signpost here for relevant information. Social media profiles (Facebook and Twitter) were not anticipated at the start of the project, but were asked for by the community and were widely accessed beyond the community. Uptake was impressive, and minimal effort was required by project staff to update these pages.

Drawback: None.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt? No need for the news section on the website, as it is easier to update on the social media platforms where wider audiences engage.

ACTION E3. Produce a Layman's report

Effectiveness: The report produced for the end of project conference gained positive feedback.

Drawbacks: None.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt? Nothing.

ACTION E4. Produce Information materials

Effectiveness

The seabird leaflet: feedback has been excellent, particularly at IOS Tourist Information Centre (who provide them to many visitors and to the cruise ships), and Island guided bird tours walk leader Will Wagstaff (uses them during his walks and talks), on the Scillonian III ferry.

Rat on a rat poster, these became rat on rat stickers: feedback was very positive from community and visitors, they were clear and attractive to convey key message of vigilance and call to action.

The newsletters had excellent feedback. The plan was revised and split into two types ('The Shearwater', once a year, general and wider audience, longer to convey wider summary information) and the 'ROAR newsletter' (monthly and quarterly to provide key biosecurity messages to the community) worked very well.

'Seabirds Southwest' newsletter, annual and aimed at marine conservation decision makers, covering not only this project but also other important seabird initiatives received good feedback.

Drawbacks.

'Project leaflet': many audiences now go online for information relating to FAQ's which is what the 'project leaflet' was providing at the start of the project, so it was made redundant by the website. The 'seabird leaflet' on the other hand was very popular throughout the project, due to it having maps and information on seabirds alongside key messages regards the project.

Project letterheads were all used but were not required and the designer produced an e-version of the letterhead would could be printed on plain paper.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt?

Produce social media accounts at the start to assist with conveying key messages simply to wider audiences.

Although they were all used, 'project leaflet' was not needed (just have the seabird leaflet', website and social media) and printed letterhead printed on paper was not needed.

ACTION E5. Organise a series of awareness events

Effectiveness.

Boat trips. All trips were very effective, we had more attendees than anticipated and feedback was excellent across the board.

Guided walks. There were slightly less attendees on walks than anticipated, but more on boat trips.

Date with Nature walks. The walks were added in June and then reduced from two to one week. Uptake and feedback from the walks was always very good, but a common theme of feedback was to provide longer walks than 50 minutes.

Complementary conservation themed activities were essential for the outcomes of the project (boat workshops, bin friendly workshops, Apple Day etc) and would be highly recommended to other projects

Drawbacks. None.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt?

Increase the number of boat trips and reduce the number of walks. It is important to have a range of awareness activities to target different audiences, locals, tourists, schools, birders etc. which we feel the project covered well.

Consider revising the timing of Date with Nature walks and offering longer versions of walks as per feedback.

Add the complementary conservation activities into the original LIFE plan, as essential activities.

ACTION E6. Carry out media work

Effectiveness.

All outputs were achieved; AONB newsletter; 'Scilly Today' online newspaper for the islands; six pieces per year (30 in total) in 'Scilly Now and Then', a monthly colour magazine; broadcast of a monthly project update on Scilly, three press releases per year; publication of a piece in the RSPB magazine – were all very effective outputs.

There were other complimentary media outputs including TV footage to millions of viewers. The Project Manager created a flexible working environment to schedule film-worthy activities into visits by journalists and film makers, which in turn produced high standard media articles and meant the project was quite well known to natural history media in the UK and wider.

Drawbacks

Publication of one piece per year (five in total) in the 'Tresco Times', did not happen as the editor felt it did not fit, but it was used on line to a similar audience.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt? Appearing on high profile BBC programmes (e.g.

Springwatch, Countryfile) was very effective in increasing the profile of the project to interested members of the public at a national scale. We felt that we were flexible enough to take these opportunities when they came up.

ACTION E7. Hold end-of-project conference

Effectiveness. The feedback from the conference shows it was well organised and achieved the objectives of reviewing the projects implementation and effectiveness, sharing lessons learnt which can be replicated and transferred elsewhere by other organisations and prefects.

Drawbacks. Two attendees from the RSPB and Natural England, and some local attendees away on mainland business the day before, could not attend due to inclement weather cancelling a flight from the mainland, but if the event had been hosted on the mainland, the project sites would not have been visited.

What would we have changed – lessons learnt? Contacting other LIFE projects to attend and contacting the LIFE communications in advance to ensure the event was widely publicised to the LIFE community.

5.4. Analysis of long-term benefits

5.4.1 a) Direct/Quantitative Environmental benefits

Habitat for the SPA designated species – storm petrel

The immediate result of the project was that the rat population on St Agnes and Gugh reduced to zero, ensuring that 41.3 ha of habitat on these islands is suitable for breeding storm petrels has become accessible to this species, together with the 3,610 m of stone walls in which it could also nest.

Another important outcome of the project is Annet will remain rat-free, due to the removal of the main potential source of invading rats - i.e. the population on St Agnes. As a result, we expect the numbers of storm petrels, and other seabirds on this vitally important part of the SPA to remain at least as high as they are at present - which would certainly not happen if rats did become established on Annet.

Quantitative information on the initial responses of seabirds and other species to the project is provided below, in section 5.4.2a.

5.4.1 b) Relevance for environmentally significant issues or policy areas

The main policy instrument to which the project relates is the Birds Directive, as it was designed primarily to improve the conservation status of an SPA designated under this directive. However, it also has looser links to the Habitats Directive (because Scilly is an SAC as well as an SPA, and some of the species mentioned in the SAC description are likely to be adversely affected by rats); and to the Regulation on Invasive Alien Species (because brown rats are not native to the UK and are therefore classified as IAS there.)

5.4.2 Long-term benefits and sustainability

5.4.2 a) Long term/qualitative environmental benefits

What is the outlook for the targeted species?

Key species - Storm petrel

The outlook is very positive. Due to the absence of rats, storm petrels returned to breed on St Agnes and Gugh, successfully nesting and rearing chicks within the first two years of rat removal. It is difficult to estimate precisely how the populations of storm petrels on St Agnes and Gugh will change following the provision of this additional habitat, because the numbers of these species do not depend solely on habitat area but also on finer-scale variables such as the number of potential nest holes (as well as 'macro' variables such as food availability).

We expect that the breeding success may be lower in the first years after the removal operation compared to other projects, as many of the birds that colonise St Agnes and Gugh are likely to be young and inexperienced.

This is set to increase over the years, as in the final year of the project (2017), in the breeding sample site boulder beaches and walls on St Agnes and Gugh, there were 14 breeding pairs of storm petrels and five chicks recorded.

Key species - Manx shearwater

The outlook is very positive. With no rats on St Agnes and Gugh, 43.7 ha of suitable habitat is now available to Manx shearwaters. The small breeding population (22 pairs) which had been trying to breed for some years, successfully reared chicks in the year of rat removal (2014) with 8 chicks recorded, - these were the first chicks in living memory to fledge on St Agnes and Gugh. As with storm petrels it is difficult to estimate precisely how the populations will change over the following years due to on finer-scale variables such as the number of potential nest holes, as well as 'macro' variables such as food availability. This is set to increase over the years, as nesting colonies have increased in and expanded over the project area (22 breeding pairs recorded in 2013 and 59 breeding pairs in 2017) and 8 chicks recorded in 2014 and 43 chicks recorded in 2017.

Wider species

Currently the removal of rats has had a positive impact on the abundance of Scilly shrews, they have increased particularly on Gugh due to the removal of predation by rats. We predict that although none of the other taxa have shown any statistically significant changes proven to be due to the removal of rats, these changes can be slow to record and we anticipate that the restoration of St Agnes and Gugh will have beneficial effects on a number of species in future years. Spalding Associates are in discussion with IOSWT regarding repeat surveys in years to come to monitor this change.

What are the remaining risks?

In the 'legacy phase' of the project we have categorised the threats in a 'risk register' held by the partnership IOSSRP Risk Register - "legacy phase" 2017 (Annex 05). They are summarised as;

- Rats return on a boat, seabirds are predated.
- Decline in support from the community (SHVs), biosecurity fails and rats return, seabirds are predated.

- Decline in commitment from the partner organisations in steering group, coordination and support of SHVs fails, biosecurity fails, rats return, seabirds are predated.

How do you plan to mitigate the remaining risks, continue and to develop the actions that were initiated in the LIFE project in the years that follow the end of the project and how will the longer term management of the site be assured?

In section 5.1/D1 we explained how the steering group was always aware of the need to plan ahead to the exit strategy from the delivery phase of the project - whereby long term monitoring for rats will be handed to the community whilst the partnership continues to support them, ensuring the islands remain rat-free. The steering group therefore produced a 'Maintenance Plan' (Annex 05).

Funding for 'legacy phase'

IOSSRP maintenance budget - IOSWT (associated Beneficiary) are committed to fundraising £1000 per annum which is needed to replace equipment any continue to train/support SHV's on St Agnes.

Incursion response budget – RSPB are committed to covering the cost of sending out an incursion team to deliver response (approx. £5k).

The key points for the maintenance plan (when/who/how much) are summarised in the document 'IOSSRP maintenance plan' (Annex 05).

5.4.2 b) Long-term / qualitative economic benefits (e.g. long-term cost savings and/or business opportunities with new technology etc., regional development, cost reductions or revenues in other sectors)

The following is based on the questionnaire survey conducted as part of D4 with feedback of economic benefits:

- **100%** of the population on St Sgnes and Gugh felt the project had benefited the local economy impacting market values - farming and fisheries, tourism industry, other industries.
- Furthermore **68%** of the community felt that their businesses (including farms, a restaurant, a pub, cafes, a post office and a store) had benefited from the project
- The community had a strong belief that the benefits to tourism (biggest income on the islands) had already started and has potential to increase.
- **17% of the community had developed new products**, a farmer explained that '*Apple day had been the catalyst to a new apple juice product, cider products he developed*'. In 2017 this business has expanded to local gin and now has an online store as well as 12 stockists on the mainland.
- Publicity was an added benefit to the project, which was not anticipated through the 'activity programme'. These shows (BBC Country file, German wildlife show, BBC 'One Show' and BBC 'Springwatch') were viewed by approximately **20 million viewers** in total (pers comms), one community member said '*A tourist told me they had visited due to seeing the project on BBC 'Countryfile*'. Tourism is the largest income on the island (Blue Sail 2011), and 100% of the population felt the project had a positive impact on tourism. One community member explained that '*Visitors on his 'wildlife trips' had increased by 200%, as there has been high publicity of the project combined with interpretation resources so he could offer improved tours*'
- The community was **spending no further money** on rat control, or repairing rat damage, which is an average saving per household per annum of £432. This was previously being spent on controlling rats, loss of products caused by contamination, damage or consumption per annum. A collective saving of up to £19k per years on rat control and repairing rat damage for St Agnes and Gugh collectively.

Employment

At least eight volunteers from the project have gone onto work on future island restoration projects, with others getting jobs with ecological consultants etc, as a result of the project. For example, these include Sarah Havery who now has a permanent job at RSPB and Lydia Titterton who is now working on another LIFE project (Shiants).

5.4.2 c) Long-term / qualitative social benefits (e.g. positive effects on employment, health, ethnic integration, equality and other socio-economic impact etc.)

- **100%** of the community felt the project had positively affected their day-to-day life, impacting non-market values - community awareness, enjoyment, recreation, quality of life, and aesthetics.
- A strong theme was they no longer need to worry about rats “They used to be on my mind, worrying about where they are and what they do”.
- **86%** of the community felt the removal of rats had improved health due to the reduction of diseases spread by rats.
- When asked ‘what did you like most about the project?’ the responses showed 11 themes, with social themed answers being most popular.
- When asked ‘what did you dislike most about the project?’ the answer ‘nothing’ was overwhelmingly the most popular answer, the other three themes were the increase in other nuisance species, ethical dilemma and concern about accidental pet poisoning. However, they felt each concern had been mitigated against.
- When asked if the project had any positive or negative impacts on the community, 100% answered ‘positive’. One theme that stood out was that *‘the community was united and not divided in any way, it was a community project’*
- When asked if there had been any impacts to culture and history, **50%** of the community felt there had been no impact, and **50%** felt it had been a positive impact. One person said *“It has raised cultural awareness of where birds are in our history, memory, collective consciousness and the part birds played in our community”*.

5.4.2 d) Continuation of the project actions by the beneficiary or by other stakeholders.

The Coordinated Beneficiary (IOSWT) manages land on St Agnes and Gugh, and elsewhere in the SPA, which will be enhanced by the protection of seabirds. It will continue to do so in the post-project period.

The AONB contracts delivery to IOSWT, therefore protecting the precious Area of Outstanding Beauty seabird components.

The Duchy of Cornwall leases the land to IOSWT and safeguarding of the natural flora is one of their criteria on Scilly.

The SHV group will continue the monitoring and biosecurity with support from the RSPB and IOSWT – as set out in the Maintenance Plan.

Natural England is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural. Advising on the protection of the natural environment, for which seabirds are one of this SPA’s key features. They provide funding through an EU funded Countryside Stewardship scheme (CS) to the IOSWT which may provide habitat management benefits to seabirds, and also through the Conservation enhancement scheme (CES) for management not available under CS. This is particularly focused on the uninhabited islands around gull colonies.

In summary, therefore, the points listed above show that all the partners involved in the LIFE project will continue to support the continuation of the project actions

5.4.3 Replicability, demonstration, transferability, cooperation: Potential for technical and commercial application (transferability reproducibility, economic feasibility, limiting factors) including cost-effectiveness compared to other solutions, benefits for stakeholders, drivers and obstacles for transfer, if relevant: market conditions, pressure from the public, potential degree of geographical dispersion, specific target group information, high project visibility (eye-catchers), possibility in same and other sectors on local and EU level, etc.

Other islands on Scilly

The work of the project is well known locally and we have had positive feedback from the communities across the Isles of Scilly. Feasibility assessments indicate that it is possible to replicate the work on the (inhabited) islands of Bryher, Tresco and St Martin's, and their associated uninhabited islands and there is community support on these islands to do this work. Rat removal on the main island of St Mary's would currently be impossible, because of the large number of people living there and the complex infrastructure needed to support them, (however, this does not relate directly to the status of the SPA, because none of the land on St Mary's is included within the SPA boundary). A future eradication operation would need to be the same in principle as on St Agnes and Gugh to follow best practise guidelines and legislation governing rodenticide use. The removal of rats from Bryher, Tresco and St Martin's would provide new habitat particularly for Manx shearwater, and remove the current threat of re-invasion by brown rats to a large number of uninhabited islands within the SPA, which support or could support Manx shearwater and storm petrel.

The process of community involvement would be based on that used on St Agnes and Gugh, which has proved to be very effective, ensuring that the community were involved at the various key stages in the planning and delivery of the project. A plan would need to be drawn up to provide a range of activities that allowed the community to get directly involved in conservation work and not just decision making. Key limiting factors would be the overall cost of such a project, and the perception of this in such a small community, as well as funding the ongoing maintenance costs of biosecurity across the number of islands involved, however new multi-kill traps recently licenced in England could help resolve the latter issue.

Despite these limiting factors, we are hopeful that a follow-up project to clear rats from the other 'off-islands' in Scilly will take place in the near future, and have already started discussions about this with IOSWT and other key stakeholders.

IOSWT

The IOSWT and residents of St Agnes and Gugh have gained experience from this project which they will use in the legacy phase outside of LIFE to keep the islands rat-free and safeguard their seabirds for future generations.

UK and EU level

At the UK level, the project has led to a major increase in in-country expertise in the development and implementation of island restoration projects, and demonstrated that local communities can and must be engaged in such projects - for example through the creation of community groups to take ownership of long-term biosecurity measures. At both the UK and EU levels, the project has increased understanding of how to remove invasive species from inhabited islands. Previous operations in the UK, and in much of the rest of the EU, have taken place mainly on small, uninhabited or sparsely populated islands. This

project represents a major departure and step up from this norm, as St Agnes and Gugh combined cover a relatively large area and the former is relatively densely populated.

The project is making an important contribution to a wider accumulation of knowledge and experience that is occurring right across the EU. Understanding is increasing of the severity of the threat posed by invasive species to native biodiversity, and as a result a growing number of projects are being initiated to tackle this threat. Each of these projects has its own unique features and helps to increase the collective expertise of European conservationists working in this field.

Worldwide

With over 600 islands restoration projects worldwide to date the practicalities of such operations are fairly well known. However, many countries are now looking at populated islands and considering eradications on these. The Isles of Scilly provides an important case study on how to approach community engagement to secure the levels of agreement required. There will be local cultural and economic conditions that will need to be assessed in each project and these differences may require modification of the approach, but adopting an inclusive process will be very important in achieving support. There may also be an upper limit to the populations in which face-to-face consultations can be carried out effectively. Project Manager Jaclyn Pearson, left the project a month earlier as she was asked to assist the Lord Howe Island eradication Project in Australia due to the skills she gained in managing this, the largest community based rat-removal based project in the world to date. She is keen to continue to use and build her skills in this field to benefit seabirds. Experience from this project is also being used to inform work led by the RSPB and other partners in the UK Overseas Territories where invasive species are the major threat to biodiversity.

5.4.4 Best practice lessons

- This partnership project can be seen to be leading the way for organisations working together to ensure that the common goal of increasing island biodiversity is achieved more effectively than when working alone.
- The successful removal of rats from St Agnes and Gugh was due to support of 100% of the community. It was important for everyone to understand the potential positive socio-economic impacts of the project as this was crucial in securing the community support.
- Community members joined decision making processes from the outset. These relationships then sustained trust through the 'rat-free ready' and 'rat-removal' actions.
- Excellent contractors and team members need to be enlisted to work with the community addressing all issues, being adaptive to altering practices and circumstances and accommodating community concerns where required
- Preparation is key, ensuring that the islands are 'rat-removal' ready. During this phase, conservation based activities which involved all the community ensured that trust and knowledge was built between the community, contractors and staff so they were working as one team when it came to the baiting phase.
- Using a 50m grid across the islands (instead of the recommended 100m).
- Involving the community during all phases of the project paired with the positive impacts the removal of rats continue to have on the seabirds and socio-economics turned into 'pride and ownership of their project' in the long-term phase.
- The project has benefited from a strong emphasis on good communications from the beginning with a communications plan in place and a communication team established to ensure the partnership could be proactive rather than reactive. We ensured that the key communities had a very good understanding of the project and the work needed. This has continued through the project

- For visitors, the seabird interpretation including the call to action 'Rat on a rat' stickers will help to keep the islands rat-free and protect these important seabirds into the future.
- Carrying out a mock incursion response tested protocol's ensuring all the resources and procedures required in the future are in place.
- Ensuring a partner organisation has the resources to assist an incursion response after the end of the delivery of the project and into the 'legacy phase'. This provides the community with the evidence and reassurance that they are not 'being abandoned' after the project, but supported. Therefore they are fully engaged to continue being the first line of defence regards keeping the islands rat-free. This also included ensuring that there is a fundraising strategy to replace equipment and provide training to community SHVs at the end of the project.
- Ensuring that there is a robust 'maintenance plan' in place at the end of the project required workshops from the start of the project to ensure all the partners were fully committed and understand what was required. However we also learnt through the project as resource needs changed. Practical issues and problems became better understood and the resources required became clearer.
- Generating community advocates (Seabird Heritage Volunteers) has been instrumental in implementing biosecurity checks and increasing knowledge to the wider community and visitors. Community members talking about the impact of invasive species on seabird biodiversity (and explaining how everyone needs to assist to keep the islands rat-free and why they should) is far more effective than the project staff talking about it. Ultimately the future of the seabirds lies in the hands of the residents on these seabird islands.

5.4.5 Innovation and demonstration value

The innovative elements of this project so far have been;

- To assess the socio-economic impacts of the project on the St Agnes and Gugh community and consider this in the development phase was very important in everyone understanding the various merits of the project, not something always considered in conservation projects in this way.
- To work alongside every member of the community and many other volunteers' to contribute directly to the project's conservation work.
- Working in partnership with other organisations and other advice providers to develop and evolve best practices.
- To value and put as much onus on pre-assessment methodology as the direct conservation actions, which ultimately make the delivery of the conservation actions (removal of rats) possible.

Long-term indicators of the project success

- The islands of St Agnes and Gugh, Annet and the Western Rocks continue to remain rat-free.
- Any incursion response will be successful at removing rats if they get back
- The populations of storm petrels and Manx shearwaters on St Agnes and Gugh, Annet and Western Rocks should continue to increase.
- Scilly shrews were continue to increase (and find a stable population level)
- Seabird Heritage Volunteers will continue to assist the project to keep the islands rat-free
- Businesses on St Agnes and Gugh (farmers, boat operator, campsite) will indicate that the removal of rats continued to have positive impacts on their businesses
- Experience and dissemination of information from this project is demonstrably used to inform projects elsewhere in Scilly, the rest of the UK, the rest of the EU and potentially beyond, and inspires community support elsewhere.

6. FINANCIAL PART

6.1. Introduction

The expenditure summary tables within this introductory section show the project expenditure in Euro for the whole project period. The Financial Claim Forms following this introduction give a fully itemised account of this expenditure. The submission of this Claim constitutes a request for the final EU LIFE+ Grant payment, for which the project is now eligible.

Conversion of expenditure

All project expenditure has been incurred in GBP. The expenditure itemised within this Claim has been converted to Euro in accordance with Article 29.5 of the Common Provisions as follows:

- For all expenditure paid in 2012, the rate used is 0.835 GBP/EUR.
- For all expenditure paid in 2013, the rate used is 0.814 GBP/EUR.
- For all expenditure paid in 2014, the rate used is 0.828 GBP/EUR.
- For all expenditure paid in 2015, the rate used is 0.78 GBP/EUR.
- For all expenditure paid in 2016, the rate used is 0.738 GBP/EUR.
- For all expenditure paid in 2017, the rate used is 0.851 GBP/EUR.
- For all expenditure paid in 2018, the rate used is 0.89 GBP/EUR

Allocation of project costs to expenditure categories

As far as possible, project costs have been allocated to the expenditure category that they were initially budgeted against. Any unforeseen expenditure, subsequently reported to the Commission in progress reports, has been allocated to the most suitable expenditure category.

VAT recovery

Further to the Midterm Report (MR) we have included non-recoverable VAT in our claim. The RSPB recovers around 93% of the VAT paid to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) each year. However, around 7% is non-recoverable. The actual amount of non-recoverable VAT varies from year to year, as the table below shows.

Financial Year	Recoverable VAT	Non-recoverable VAT
12/13	92.93%	7.07%
13/14	92.96%	7.04%
14/15	92.46%	7.54%
15/16	92.60%	7.40%
16/17	90.37%	9.63%
17/18	90.08%	9.92%

We are unable to provide a single bespoke letter from HMRC verifying the actual amounts of non-recoverable VAT. We thank the Commission therefore, for having previously accepted (for other LIFE+ projects), the alternative documentation to verify our reimbursable VAT position. The same paperwork is provided in Annex 1, containing confirmation of the annual VAT recovery rate by our Senior Tax Officer.

The Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (IoSWT) is not VAT registered and so is unable to recover any VAT paid to HMRC (please see the letter in Annex 2). The auditor confirmed the inability of IoSWT to reclaim VAT

and audited the amount of non-recoverable VAT claimed by the RSPB. This is reflected in the signed wording of the audit report (pages 5, 10, 11 and 14).

6.2. Summary of Costs Incurred

PROJECT COSTS INCURRED			
Cost category	Budget according to the grant agreement	Costs incurred within the project duration	%
1. Personnel	541,097	585,525	108%
2. Travel	64,757	76,890	119%
3. External assistance	379,134	391,002	103%
4. Durables: total <u>non-depreciated</u> cost			
5. Consumables	35,892	29,796	83%
6. Other costs	14,514	14,302	99%
7. Overheads	72,477	76,826	106%
TOTAL	1,107,871	1,174,340	106%

Overall we have overspent on the project. This was expected due to the additional work enabled by the co-funding from the HLF grant, particularly through the enhancement of the awareness raising element of the LIFE project. However in GBP, the project is only 2% overspent.

Personnel (108%)

The overspend in this category is predominantly due to overspend on the monitoring staff for post-rat removal monitoring (action D3). This was originally budgeted as 'contract survey staff' but in reality this work was carried out by existing RSPB staff members, often on sabbatical. As the people undertaking this work came from a range of roles within the RSPB, their salaries covered a wide range and more people were required than planned.

There were overspends in some other areas, for example, the Project Assistant, Holly Paget-Brown (see below), which led to an increase in costs against action F1 (as did the higher than expected input of Paul St Pierre). However, this is covered by underspends in other areas, for example, Jaclyn Pearson's sabbatical work as of 22nd November, meaning that a saving was made of more than a month's salary. Also the Date with Nature staff cost was less than anticipated, most likely due to the input from volunteers, and again the wide range of people/roles that helped with this aspect, making budgeting the salaries difficult.

Thank you for accepting the costs of the following as included and explained in the Progress Report (PR) and Grant Amendment (GA):

- Project Manager – Jaclyn Pearson. Reduced to 4 days a week for October 2016 to March 2017
- Project Officers – Gemma Bowcock/ Lydia Titterton. Employed under the project, increased to 4 days a week between October 2016 and March 2017 and contract extended to September 2017
- Project Assistant - Holly Paget-Brown. Employed by the project, increased to 4 days a week between October 2016 and March 2017 and then contract extended to September 2017
- Seabird Ecologist - Victoria Heaney. Single source procurement when contracted by IoSWT and then employed on short term contracts for 2015-17.

Since the PR and AG, the following additional/unexpected costs have been incurred that we now ask to be considered as eligible costs.

- Project Assistant – Holly Paget-Brown. In the grant amendment we asked for her position to be extended to September 2017. However, given the early departure of Jaclyn Pearson on secondment, her position was extended to the end of the project.

There are variations between the budgeted and actual day rates in some instances. This is due in some cases to fluctuations in exchange rates and the fact that salary increases were not included in the budget. Annex 3 includes a breakdown of those salary day rates that were +/- 20% of those budgeted, along with corresponding explanations. However, please note that the whole of the RSPB had a salary and role profile re-alignment, referred to as 'My Employment Deal', which came into effect in April 2016. All roles within the RSPB and the related salary bands were standardised and compared to other similar organisations, to provide a fair, transparent and consistent pay structure. As a result, the majority of salaries were amended. We have therefore not included the 2016 salaries in the review in Annex 3 as the new salary figures only recently became finalised and so the reason for variances would be standard and long-term. We trust this is acceptable but if you would like any more information on the salary review process please let us know.

Travel (119%)

The costs in this category for action E5 were significantly higher than anticipated. This is partly due to under-budgeting for this action and partly due to the additional awareness-raising and community engagement enabled via the HLF grant. However the End of Project conference travel and accommodation costs were higher than expected as well. This is due to more people attending than expected and the logistical difficulties of accommodating a larger number of people when limited options on-island are available.

External Assistance (103%)

We are just over budget in this category, mainly due to the need for LANTRA training (see below).

Thank you for accepting the unforeseen costs of the following as included and explained in the PR:

- First aid at work course costs for Jaclyn Pearson and Vickie Heaney
- Project Management online training course for Holly Paget-Brown, Lydia Titterton and Jo Greenman (volunteer). This was originally requested under Other Costs
- Room hire and catering costs for various meetings
- Boat delivery of bait, stationery, project equipment etc
- Recruitment of Seasonal Ranger by IoSWT.

Since the PR and AG, the following additional/unexpected costs have been incurred that we now ask to be considered as eligible costs.

- LANTRA training course. This is in addition to the course mentioned in the Midterm Report (MR). In total 19 community members went on the training course and 3 undertook the rodent control exam. This was for the final year of the project, but also for the project legacy. Going forward, if a rat gets back onto the islands, the community will respond within the first 24 hours by swapping their monitoring wax for bait. It is now a government requirement that if anyone uses bait they need a LANTRA rodenticide certificate. The law changed after the project start so this was not anticipated.

- First Aid at Work course. In addition to the course mentioned in the PR (undertaken in 2015 and mentioned above), Holly Paget-Brown and Lydia Titterton undertook the course and Jaclyn re-did the course.
- Dr Caroline Keenan, University of Exeter. Consultant to conduct semi-structured interviews with all permanent residents of St Agnes present on the island during fieldwork (action D4). This was to ascertain their views and experiences of the project without bias that could be inadvertently created by the project manager undertaking the interview.
- Production and delivery of 'welcome and rat-free' signs (8) & brochures (150). The community asked for these signs at entry points on St Agnes and Gugh. Again this helps to ensure the legacy of the project and the continued ownership by the community.
- Spalding Associates' costs for undertaking ecological monitoring reports (2016). See MR for and GA for explanation.
- Car hire costs. This is for instances where travel was anticipated via private or fleet vehicle, or public transport, but in reality car hire was deemed the best option available. Though these costs were budgeted under Travel they are claimed under External Assistance due to their nature (€252.63).

Consumables (83%)

We are underspent on this category due to an underspend on the equipment for long term monitoring of rats (in addition to that anticipated in the GA). As mentioned in the PR, WMIL provided some of their own equipment.

Thank you for accepting the unforeseen costs of the following as included and explained in the Progress Report (PR) and Grant Amendment (GA):

- Refreshments for various meetings
- Consumables for educational activities and community events
- Tents for ecological surveys/Date with Nature events
- Hats for volunteers and staff.

The following additional/unexpected costs have been incurred that we now ask to be considered as eligible costs.

- A monitor to enable Jaclyn Pearson to work at home given the hours she works (this was purchased at the start of 2016).
- As mentioned in the MR, instead of webcams, 3 trail cameras were purchased, along with 2 Go Pros and camera tripods.
- Refreshments for end of project conference. This was budgeted as catering under External Assistance only. In addition to refreshments, extension cables and a projector clicker were purchased.

Other Costs (99%)

We spent almost all the budget in this category. As mentioned in the MR, the banners were more expensive than anticipated, as were the end of project conference materials, but there were savings on the branded dissemination materials.

Thank you for accepting the unforeseen costs of the following as included and explained in the Progress Report (PR):

- Extra posters requested by the community.

The following additional/unexpected costs have been incurred that we now ask to be considered as eligible costs.

- Conference attendance fees. Whilst networking etc was anticipated, the fees associated with conferences etc was not budgeted.

Accounting system

The RSPB uses the financial software package OPENAccounts to record project expenditure and income. A similar system called SAGE is used by the IoSWT. Both the RSPB and the IoSWT use project codes to identify project expenditure on their accounting systems. The code used at the RSPB is 8SI-G-ISSR and the IoSWT use 11.

At the RSPB, these project codes are used to produce monthly accounting reports from the Finance department that are emailed to relevant project staff. These reports are used by the International Funding Unit to populate the Statement of Expenditure. RSPB timesheets are also collated centrally at the headquarters office to populate the Statement of Expenditure.

Partnership arrangements

The Partnership Agreement with The Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust (IoSWT) was submitted with the Inception Report. IoSWT have not claimed costs on the project since 2016, though they continue to have a low level of input via Steering group meetings, the end of project conference etc. At the time of the Midterm Report (MR) we anticipated IoSWT's input in the project increasing from that budgeted. However, due to staff capacity, this was not possible and so overall their input was less than originally budgeted.

Auditor's report/declaration

As detailed in the MR, the project audit was undertaken by George Hay Chartered Accountants. The auditor's report (as per the format supplied) is provided under Annex 4.

6.3. Response to EC Letters

Personnel

Please find the following in relation to the selected staff as requested in EC letter dated 27/04/2015 – Jaclyn Pearson (Annex 5), Paul St Pierre (Annex 6) and Darren Hart (Annex 7)

1. Contract
2. Salary slips
3. Salary Calculation
4. Timesheets

Please note that the childcare voucher handling fee has not been charged as per your request (letter dated 22/09/2017).

Procurement

The payment proofs requested (letter dated 27/04/15) were provided in the PR and explained in subsequent letter dated 06/03/2017. The procurement procedure followed for the selected contractors are detailed below.

Wildlife Management International Limited (WMIL) – Restricted Tender

An invite to tender document was sent directly to 14 individuals/companies following research and previous knowledge of the contractors. The contractors were given over a month to provide their tenders and four companies did:

1. Conquer Pest Control Ltd
2. University of Exeter
3. Western Maintenance (IOS) Ltd
4. Wildlife Management International Limited (WMIL)

Assessments of the tenders was then undertaken by seven individuals using a rating and comment system:

1. Richard McCarthy (Community representative/IOS Councillor)
2. Paul Buckley (RSPB employee - South West Senior Manager)
3. Paul St Pierre (RSPB employee – Project Supervisor)
4. Jaclyn Pearson (RSPB employee – Project Manager)
5. Helen Booker (RSPB employee - Senior Conservation Officer)
6. David Appleton (Natural England employee – Senior Advisor)
7. David Mawer (IoSWT employee – Senior Conservation Warden)

An evaluation matrix was then completed, weighing and ranking the scores for methodology, relevant experience and price. This matrix, signed by the project manager, showed WMIL to be the preferred contractor. The contract with WMIL is supplied in Annex 8. The auditor was provided with all of the above documentation during the audit.

Spalding Associates – Open Tender

An advert for tenders was used as shown in Annex 9. An invite to tender document was then sent to the contractors that responded. The following submitted tenders:

1. Robert John Geoffrey Dawson
2. Footprint Ecology Ltd
3. The RSPB
4. Spalding Associates
5. University of Exeter

Assessments of the tenders was then undertaken by five individuals using a rating and comment system:

1. Paul Buckley (RSPB employee - South West Senior Manager)
2. Paul St Pierre (RSPB employee – Project Supervisor)
3. Jaclyn Pearson (RSPB employee – Project Manager)
4. Andrew Skinner (RSPB employee - Reserves Ecologist)
5. David Mawer (IoSWT employee – Senior Conservation Warden)

An evaluation matrix was prepared. There was a tender selection meeting on 8th March 2013 with the above people and David Appleton. Following this meeting it was decided that the two contractors of interest (Footprint Ecology Ltd and Spalding Associates) required further information. This was sought from the two contractors and as a result, Spalding Associates was chosen.

Following selection, Spaldings were asked to include costs for control site work on Bryher and then the contract with them was signed (see Annex 9). Later a contract amendment was arranged (see Annex 9) to include more report writing. Originally the tender asked for 'a report including the two year post removal monitoring plan', but we amended this asking Spalding Associates to produce two reports post removal, so the Project Manager could focus on other reports (this was detailed in previous reports and asked to be included as an eligible cost).

Dr Victoria Heaney – Direct/Single source

As mentioned in the MR and GA, the seabird monitor was contracted by IoSWT between 2012 and 2014 (as opposed to being employed) due to a long-standing professional relationship with IoSWT. Dr Heaney was also the only person resident on the Isles of Scilly that could undertake the work (please see Annex 10 for a document confirming this on the last page). Therefore quotes/tenders were not used for her allocation to the role as she was the only available candidate. No contract was set up. Instead, Dr Heaney and the IoSWT would agree a budget on a year-by-year basis. An example of this is provided in Annex 10.

Salary rate deviations

Please see the Personnel section above and Annex 3.

VAT

Please see pages one and two above and Annexes 1 and 2.

6.4. Summary of costs per action

Please see the following table in Excel format under Annex 11.

Action no.	Short name of action	1. Personnel	2. Travel & subsistence	3. External assistance	4. Consumables	5. Other costs	TOTAL
A1	Recruit new project staff	5,108	295	-	-	-	5,403
A2	Select subcontractor	14,501	39	-	-	-	14,540
A3	Establish local community group	13,448	293	540	-	-	14,280
A4	Carry out pre-removal monitoring of target species	2,559	286	41,648	45	-	44,539
A5	Carry out pre-removal assessment & preparation	21,645	272	28,311	2,131	-	52,358
C1	Carry out rat removal & intensive monitoring for rats immediately thereafter	44,667	923	220,046	-	-	265,635
D1	Carry out longer-term monitoring for rats	57,801	8,996	10,815	9,562	-	87,174

Action no.	Short name of action	1. Personnel	2. Travel & subsistence	3. External assistance	4. Consum- ables	5. Other costs	TOTAL
D2	Carry out final check for rats	6,510	-	41,115	399	-	48,025
D3	Carry out post-removal monitoring of target species & other key taxa	107,982	16,165	27,273	10,668	16	162,104
D4	Assess socio-economic impact of project	10,758	54	2,247	20	-	13,078
E1	Erect notice boards	-	86	690	-	1,814	2,590
E2	Create and maintain project website	10,499	-	6,413	-	-	16,912
E3	Produce layman's report	6,510	24	-	7	-	6,541
E4	Produce information materials	8,559	24	3,967	5	3,763	16,319
E5	Organise awareness-raising events for islanders and visitors	63,126	20,053	1,393	1,537	5,105	91,214
E6	Carry out media work	30,392	739	32	96	-	31,260
E7	Hold end-of-project conference	11,317	6,763	2,476	436	2,535	23,528
F1	Manage project effectively and efficiently	159,372	16,419	1,227	4,890	-	181,908
F2	Network with other projects	10,770	5,459	-	-	1,068	17,297
F3	Obtain independent verification of final financial statements			2,809	-	-	2,809
F4	Produce after-LIFE conservation plan			-	-	-	-
Overheads		40,987	5,382	27,370	2,086	1,001	76,826
	TOTAL	626,512	82,272	418,372	31,881	15,303	1,174,340

The most significant percentage deviations of spend against budget per action code are for A2 and F3, with smaller deviations for A1 and E7. The deviations for A1 and A2 were mentioned in the PR as follows:

A1 Due to the recruitment of the Project Officer and Ranger, IoSWT's recruitment time has increased

A2 The personnel time required for this action was under budgeted

The project conference (E7) incurred higher travel costs than anticipated as described under the Travel heading above. Conversely, as most of the preparatory work for the audit (F3) did not take place until after the end of the project, we have reported no personnel time against this action.

7. ANNEXES

Annex 01	Final gantt chart
Annex 02	Steering Group minutes
Annex 03	Seabird Conservation Strategy 2014-2018 (printed separately)
Annex 04	Seabird Liaison Group minutes
Annex 05	IOSSRP Maintenance Plan and Risk Register (printed separately)
Annex 06	SHVs Role in Biosecurity and Incursion Response (printed separately)
Annex 07	Feasibility Study (printed separately)
Annex 08	Volunteer role descriptions
Annex 09	Response Administrator and Response Team Leader tick lists
Annex 10	SW England Rat Re-invasion Action Plan
Annex 11	IOSWT Uninhabited Islands Rat Control report 14/15
Annex 12	IOSWT Uninhabited Islands Rat Control report 15/16
Annex 13	Monitoring for rats on the Uninhabited Island, St Helen's
Annex 14	2015 SPA Stats of Breeding Seabirds (printed separately)
Annex 15	2016 Seabird Monitoring report
Annex 16	2017 Collective Seabird Monitoring report 2013-2017 (printed separately)
Annex 17	First Year Post Removal Spalding Wider Ecological 2016 (printed separately)
Annex 18	2016 wider eco surveys (printed separately)
Annex 19	IOSSRP Socio Economics report
Annex 20	St. Agnes Community February 2016 and 2017 questionnaire
Annex 21	WMIL Feasibility Report of Rat Eradication over Archipelago (part 2) (printed separately)
Annex 22	Comparison of 2010, 2016, 2017 questionnaires
Annex 23	University of Exeter report
Annex 24	Rat free sign
Annex 25	Google analytics
Annex 26	Notable posts on Facebook and Twitter
Annex 27	Layman's report (CD and separate)
Annex 28	Project logo
Annex 29	IOSSRP Project leaflet
Annex 30	IOSSRP Seabird leaflet
Annex 31	ROAR sticker
Annex 32	IOSSRP letterhead
Annex 33	Shearwater newsletters
Annex 34	ROAR newsletters
Annex 35	Seabirds Southwest newsletters
Annex 36	RSPB SW regional roundup (CD only)
Annex 37	IOSWT newsletters (CD only)
Annex 38	Boat trip public feedback forms
Annex 39	DWN public feedback forms
Annex 40	Media articles
Annex 41	Press releases
Annex 42	End of Conference brochure (CD) and feedback
Annex 43	Supplement to Action D1
Annex 44	Final table of output indicators