



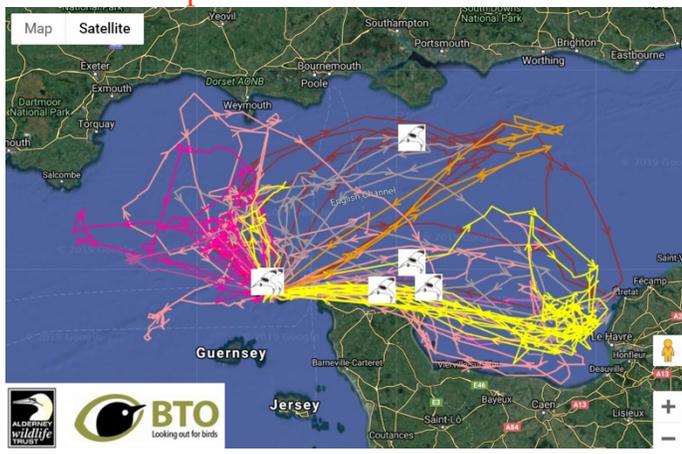
Nov 2019

Dear T.A.G. supporters,

Another summer and breeding season for the gannets has passed, and with it some exciting results for the T.A.G. project. While we were unable to deploy more geolocators we did manage to attach eight live tags to the birds. This year we were aided by Dr Jude Lane, who carries out tagging work on Bass Rock – the largest Northern Gannet colony in the world. With renewed interest in tidal developments nearby and the growing realisation that offshore wind could revolutionise clean energy, T.A.G. continues to provide important research into how future developments may affect Alderney's gannets. This year we used the T.A.G. data in a response to a proposed interconnector between the UK and France.

While on Ortac the team were also searching for birds with some of the 10 geolocators placed in 2017. They managed to retrieve one, from Soairse the gannet, and we were all very excited to find that the tiny device had worked, with the final map produced shown on the next page. We are interested in finding out the variation in winter location for the Alderney birds and in 2020 hope to retrieve a few more of the 2017 geolocators as well as deploying the remaining 10, which will be our final geocator deployment, with the 2 sets hopefully giving us enough information about overwintering locations.

2019 T.A.G. map



Unlike most birds, gannets have no brood patch (a patch without feathers that birds use to incubate their egg). Instead gannets, boobies and pelicans incubate their egg under their feet, a delicate procedure given they weigh up to 4kg!



Plastic in a nest on Ortac, Oct 2019

We came a little closer to revealing the extent of the threat posed to gannets by plastic this year. Detailed study of the Les Etacs colony revealed 26 birds were entangled there, of which 21 died (including 2 chicks) and 5 escaped alive (but whether they were still entangled and later died we cannot know). The actual number is likely to be higher as these were just the birds we could monitor from land.

With the help of the Alderney Animal Welfare Society we also managed to carry out necropsies on five gannets. None were found to have ingested plastic in their bodies but we aim to continue this study over the next few years.

Thank you for your support of the T.A.G. project – without you the project, and the accompanying scientific research would not be possible. If you have any questions or comments regarding T.A.G. or sponsoring a gannet please get in touch with Claire headofoutreach@alderneywildlife.org or 01481 822 935

To donate via PayPal go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y5rxj6p3>
Or see our sponsorship packages: <https://tinyurl.com/l5zadv4>



Geolocation map from Saoirse the gannet

