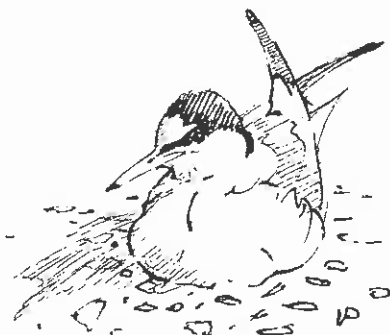


Little tern

Sterna albifrons



Status

Amber listed: SPEC 3 (D)
Schedule 1 of WCA 1981
Annex I of EC Wild Birds Directive

National monitoring

Seabird Colony Register (SCR).
Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP).
Seabird 2000 (1999–2001).

Population and distribution

Little tern colonies are scattered around the coasts of Britain and Ireland, with many concentrated around the south-east of England (88–91 *Atlas*). Colonies are susceptible to human disturbance, tidal flooding and predation, so numbers fluctuate (88–91 *Atlas*). There are estimated to be 2,400 pairs of little tern breeding in the UK (*Population Estimates*).

Ecology

Loose colonies are formed on sand or shingle beaches. These are normally single-species and consist of fewer than 100 pairs. A clutch of 2–3 eggs is laid from mid-May, and the young fledge in July (*Red Data Birds*).

Breeding season survey – population and productivity

Tern population and productivity monitoring methods (taken from the *Seabird Monitoring Handbook*) are outlined in the generic survey methods section.

