

# Ornithological Services



SOI Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the University of St Andrews and is overseen by an independent Board of Directors. SOI Ltd employs a core of key staff to provide commercial, administrative and scientific support and advice to clients and partners. SOI Ltd provides access to expertise and staff at the Scottish Oceans Institute at the University of St Andrews, including the Conservation Ecology and Sediment Ecology Research Groups and the Centre for Research into Ecological and Environmental Monitoring. These facilities have an international reputation for the work they carry out in the UK and beyond.



SOI Ltd offers a range of ornithological services. We have significant experience in designing and undertaking survey and monitoring work and data analysis to address key questions relevant to a particular site or activity. We have a sound understanding of requirements of environmental legislation, including the Birds Directive. We are able to undertake survey design, data collection and data analysis to deliver the ecological components of an EIA or Appropriate Assessment. The combination of a wealth of practical field experience, understanding of client needs, and scientific rigour available from SOI Ltd makes us a natural choice for both the

## Services include:

- **Survey design**
- **Survey & Monitoring**
- **Data Analysis**
- **Robust integration of bird and marine mammal surveys**
- **Inter-tidal habitat assessment**



SOI Ltd is able to provide sediment ecology and benthic habitat survey services, allowing detailed assessment of habitats to be undertaken. This can be fundamental in explaining bird distribution and abundance across an area, and in assessing potential development impacts.

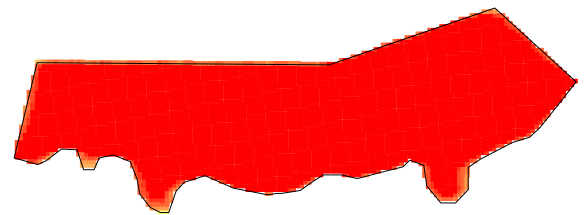
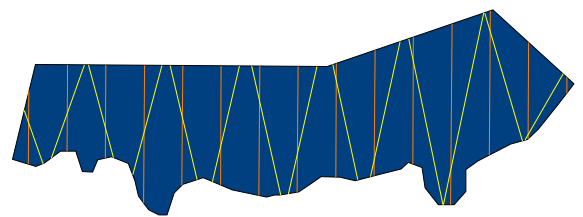
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The initial stage in any project is the identification and agreement of the key questions to be addressed, after which a range of survey options can be explored by SOI Ltd. During the survey design process, we carefully consider the resources and effort required to achieve the survey or monitoring objectives identified, mindful of the risk associated with under-survey and the unnecessary costs associated with excessive survey effort. SOI Ltd utilise a range of tools in survey design, for example in transect and point count surveys, Distance software is used to minimise off-effort time and maintain uniform coverage probability across survey strata. We also have significant experience of data management and analysis, ensuring that any conclusions reached are underpinned by sound science .

## Sectors:

- Marine Renewables
- Oil & Gas
- Planning development
- EclA & AA
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- Statutory Agencies & Regulators
- Government
- Mariculture



*Comparison of survey design options using Distance maximises survey efficiency by reducing off-effort time (upper map) whilst maintaining even (and high in this case) coverage probability across the survey strata (lower map).*



SOI Ltd has experienced surveyors and fieldworkers as well as a pool of sub-contractors whom can be utilised to gather data. Ship-based surveys using ESAS and COWRIE methodologies can be undertaken as well as a range of land-based surveys. SOI Ltd are dedicated to ensuring that data quality is of the highest standard possible and undertake regular QA of fieldwork and data during the data collection process. This ensures maximum benefit from the considerable resources required for gathering data.

