

Puffin burrow occupancy and breeding success

Puffin burrow occupancy and breeding success at the Wick for 2016 is shown below.

Table 1 Burrow occupancy and breeding success of Atlantic Puffins at the Wick

Number of burrows	Number of occupied burrows	No. chicks based on 2+ feeds	Productivity based on 2+ feeds
	54	45	0.83

Burrow occupancy was established during several evening watches, following the same methodology as the study plot on the Neck. The first adult Puffins carrying fish to the study plot were seen on the 29th of May, one day earlier than 2015. Breeding success was based on three 24 hour feeding watches, the first timed for two weeks after the first date adults were seen bringing in fish.

For an occupied burrow to be considered successful it had to have been fed during at least two watches. This gives a success rate for the Wick of 0.83% (or 0.83 chicks fledged per burrow). A late nest, burrow 'L', was fed on two occasions during the last watch only, potentially bringing the actual productivity figure up to 0.85%

Feeding rates

Table 2 Feeding rates of Puffins at the Wick study plot, 2016.

	13/06/16	27/06/16	12/07/16
No. of burrows to which feeds were recorded	44	45	39
Total No. recorded feeds.	200	282	157
Mean No. feeds per burrow	4.5	6.3	4.0