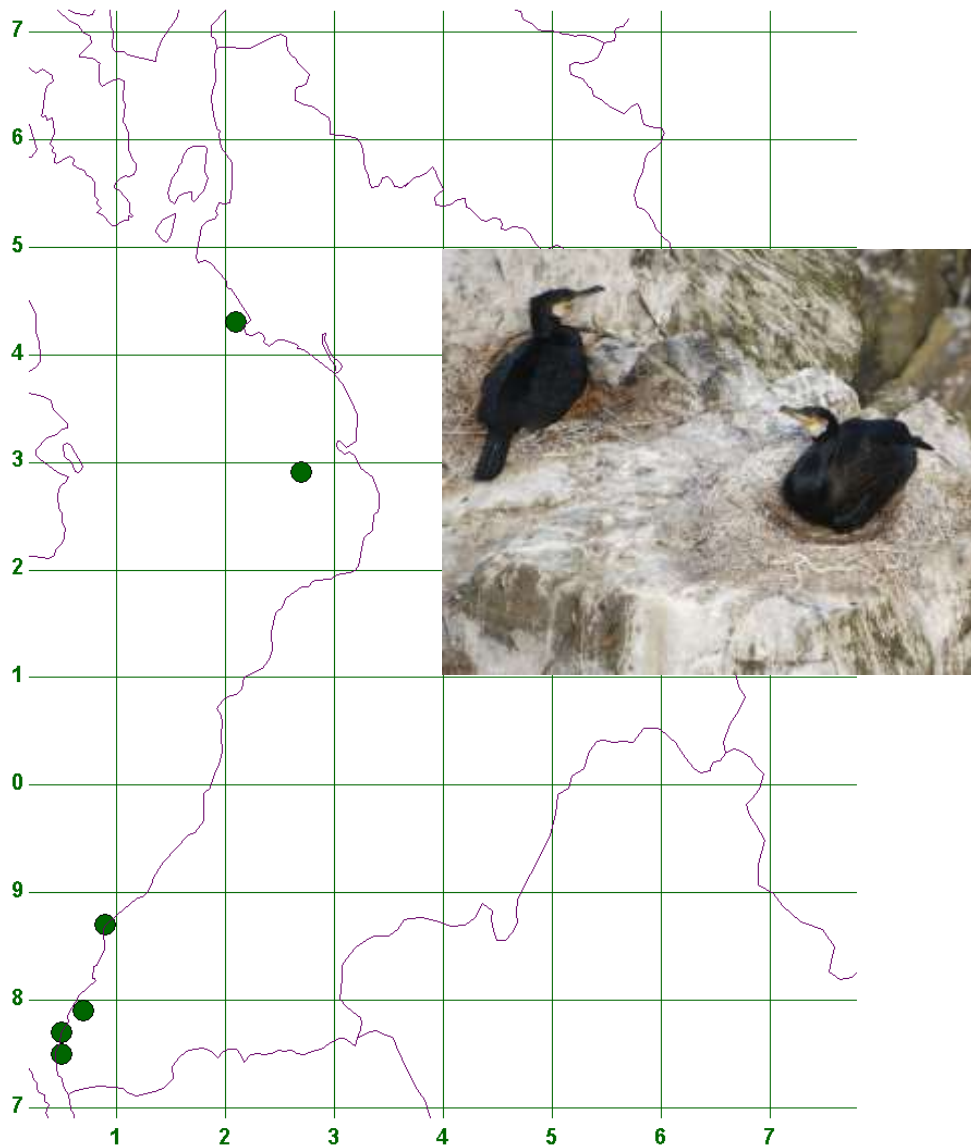


Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)



Status: Uncommon breeder.

Current trend: Cormorants have increased as a breeding species at locations such as Lady Isle and Horse Island where colonies were founded during the 1990s. However, the picture in South Ayrshire has been very different, with cliff-nesting birds at two nesting locations declining. Occasional nesting occurs at Games Loup and Ailsa Craig, while the nest site on Balkenna Isle has held between 4 and 7 nests in recent years.

Follow up: Continued counts at colonies will be important to discover possible reasons for this North-South discrepancy.