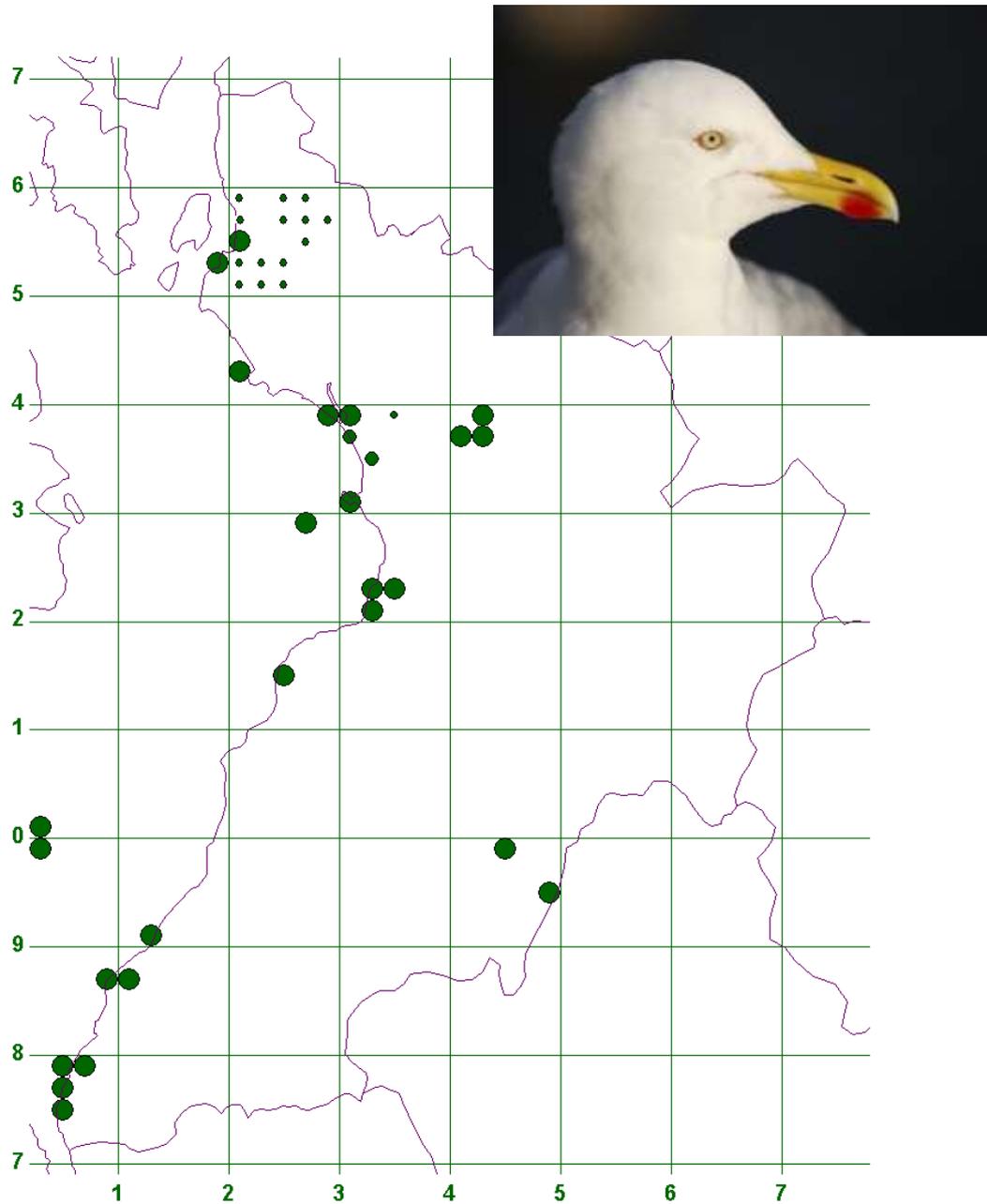


Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)



Status: Common breeder.

Current trend: Ayrshire's Herring Gull population has declined significantly during the past 20 years. Formerly a widespread breeding species in many coastal and urban locations, its decline may be partly linked to a reduction in food supply with the closer control of landfill sites. However, its close rival for urban nest sites, the Lesser Black-backed Gull, appears to have fared better in these areas. Notable population reductions have taken place along the South Ayrshire coast since the Operation Seafarer Project in 2000 when there were c 500 pairs south of Ballantrae.

Follow up: Regular counts at breeding sites are required to obtain current figures for the breeding population.