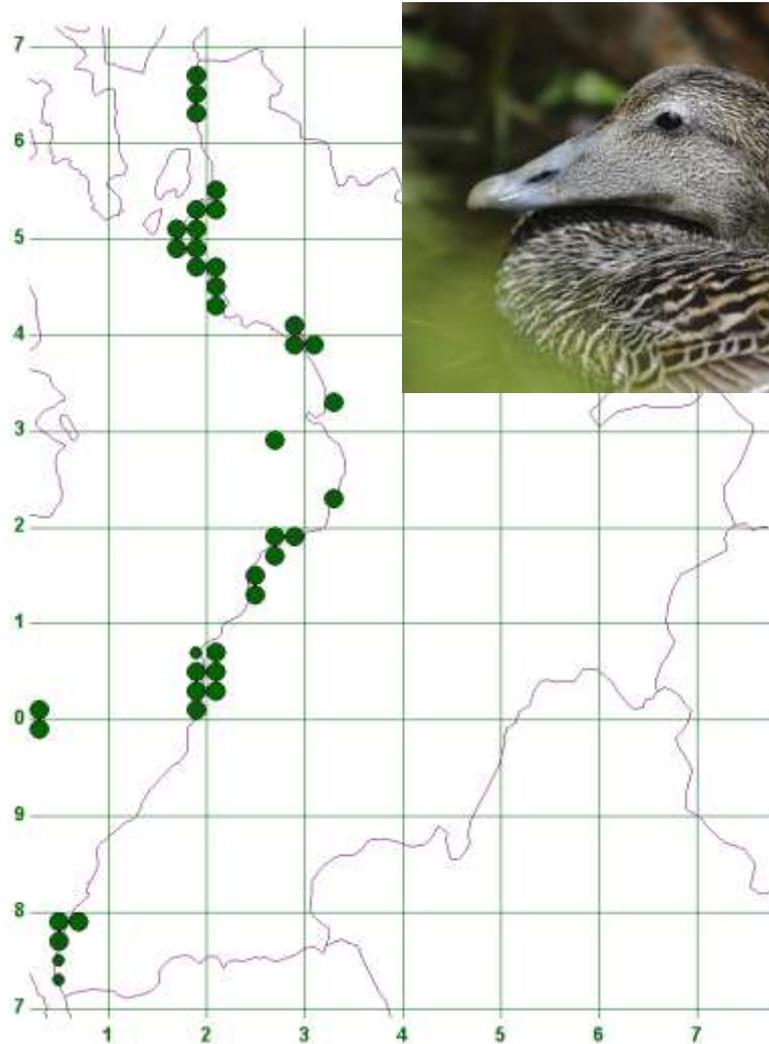


Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)



Status: Common breeder.

Current trend: The Ayrshire population of Common Eider appears to be in sharp decline, and breeding success along the Ayrshire coast has been poor in recent years. Possible causes of this decline may be linked to increased human activity on the coast, along with disturbance and predation at nest sites, and a reduction in food availability, perhaps due to a slight increase in sea temperature.

Follow up: Monitoring of the breeding population and its productivity at key sites will be important in assessing the rate of change.