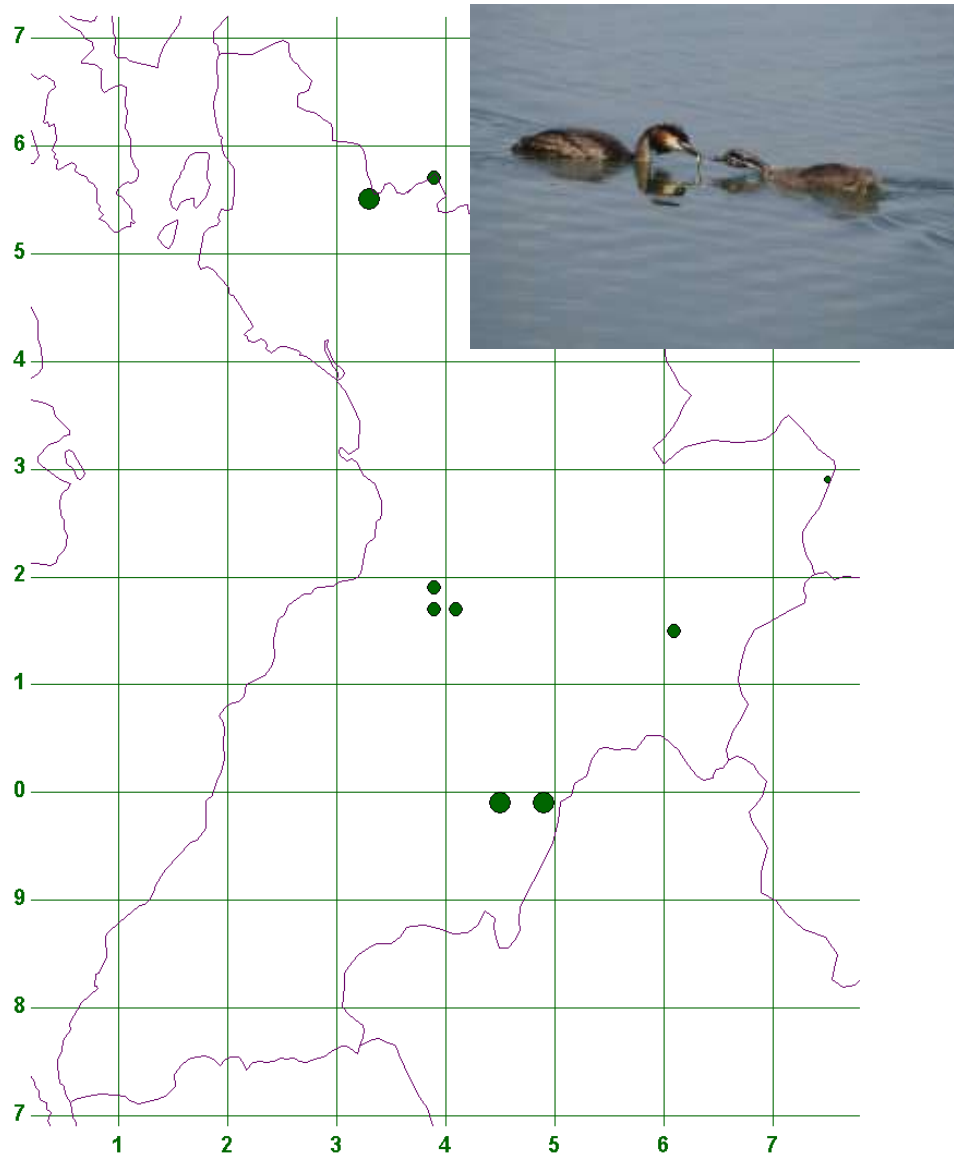


Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)



Status: Rare breeder.

Current trend: Although Great Crested Grebe is a relatively recent colonist in Ayrshire, the numbers breeding have remained stubbornly low, with regular nesting pairs present at only 5 or 6 lochs. Problems facing any further range expansion include, shortage of suitable water bodies, competition from other species and human disturbance. It seems unlikely that the species will maintain more than a small breeding presence in the county.

Follow up: It will be important to continue recording breeding success, as well as checking for “new” pairs, especially on upland sites.