

MORGAN AND MORECAMBE OFFSHORE WIND FARMS: TRANSMISSION ASSETS

Environmental Statement

Volume 3, Annex 4.2: Wintering and migratory birds technical report – Part 2 of 2



September 2024
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Prepared by:

RPS

Prepared for:

**Morgan Offshore Wind Limited,
Morecambe Offshore Windfarm Ltd**

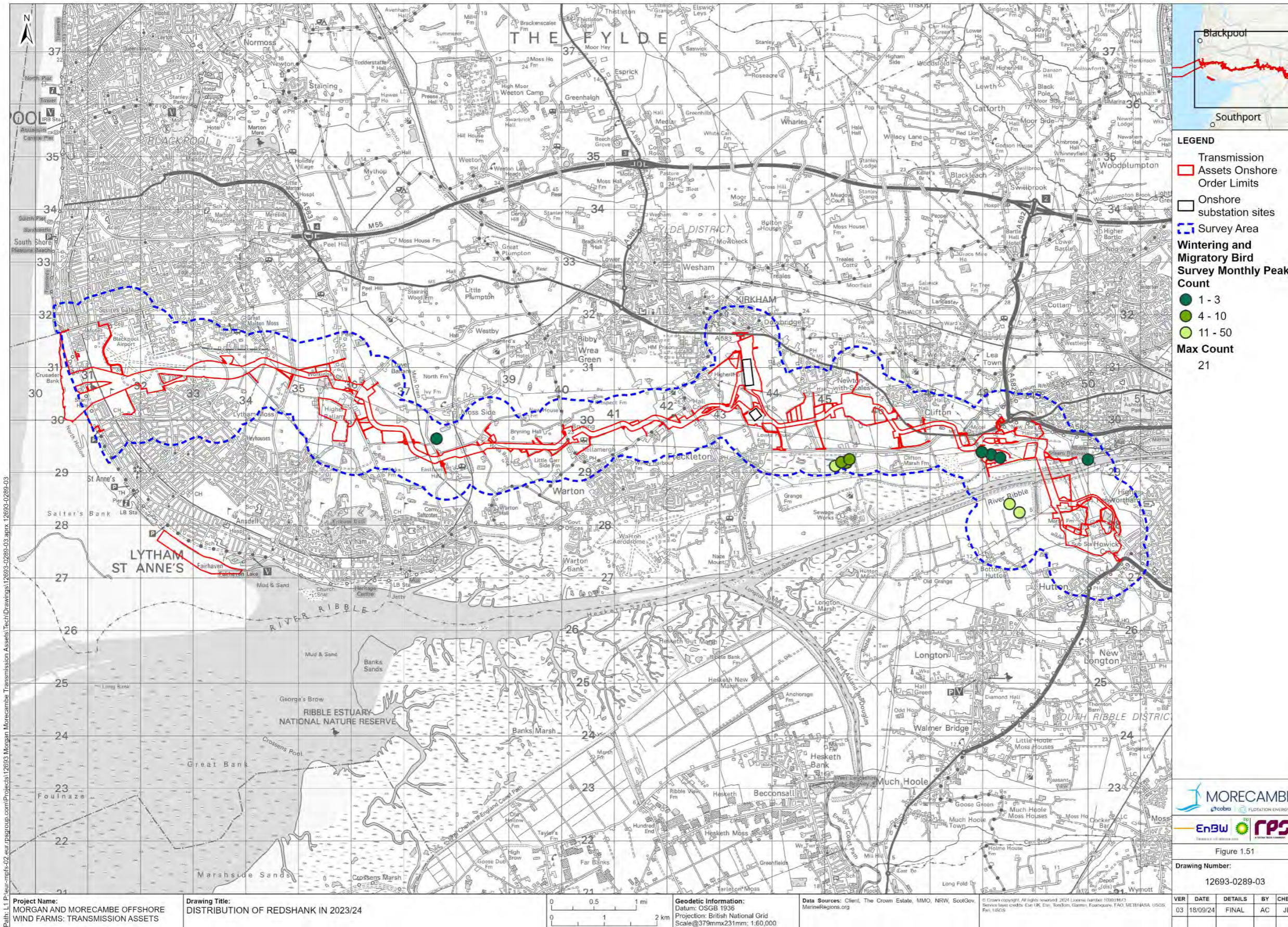


Figure 1.51: Distribution of redshank in 2023/24

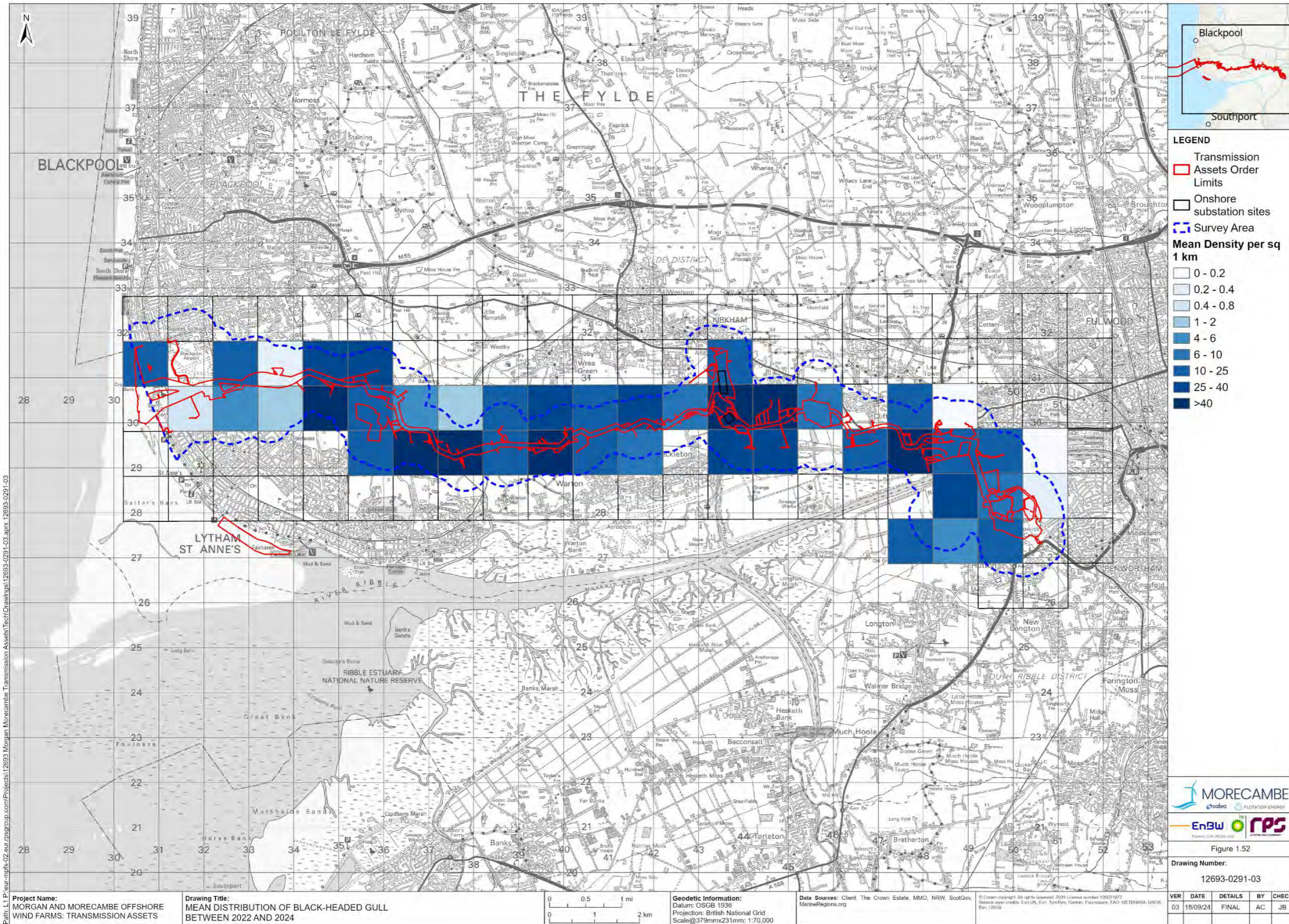


Figure 1.52: Mean distribution of black-headed gull between 2022 and 2024

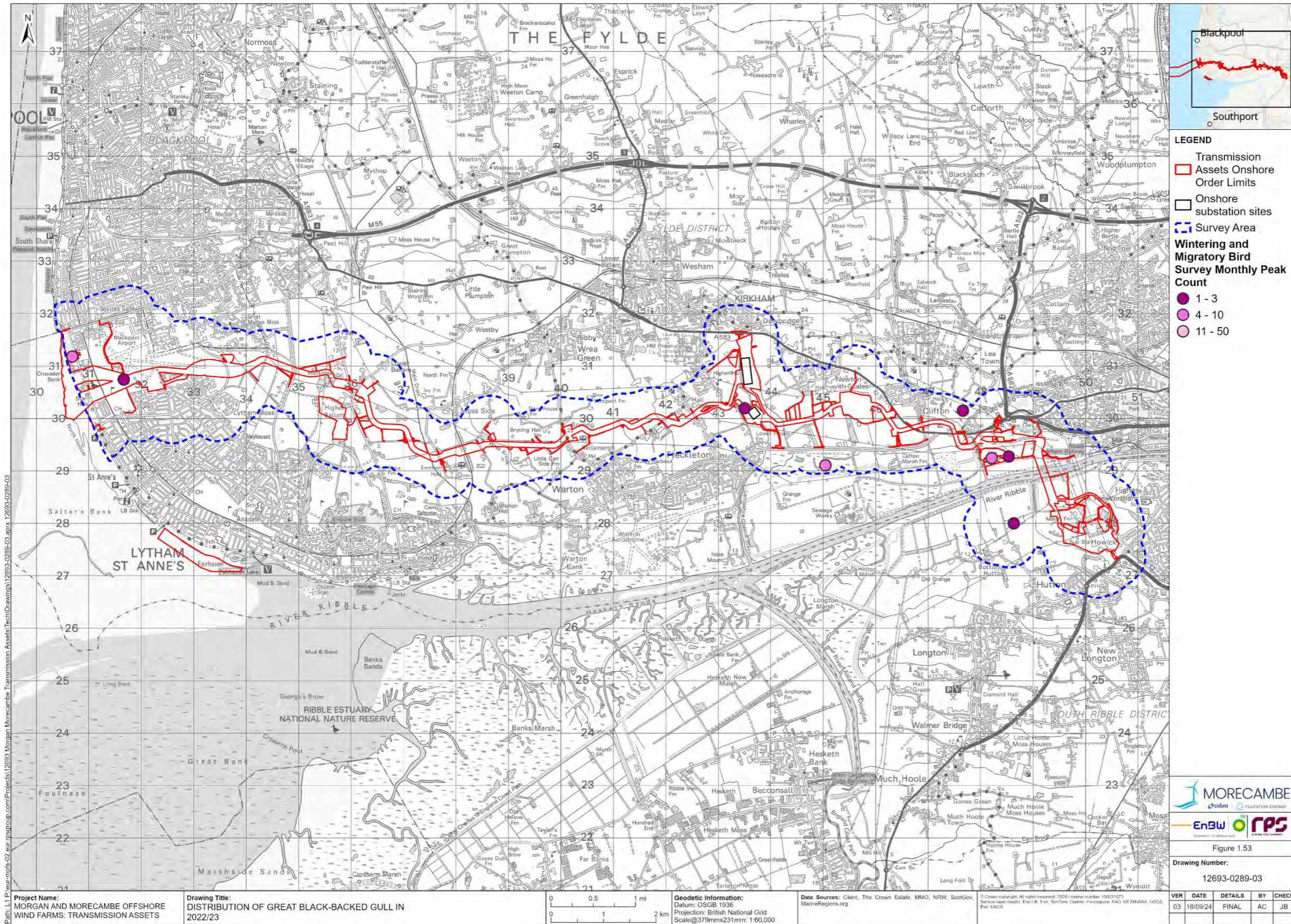


Figure 1.53: Distribution of great black-backed gull in 2022/23

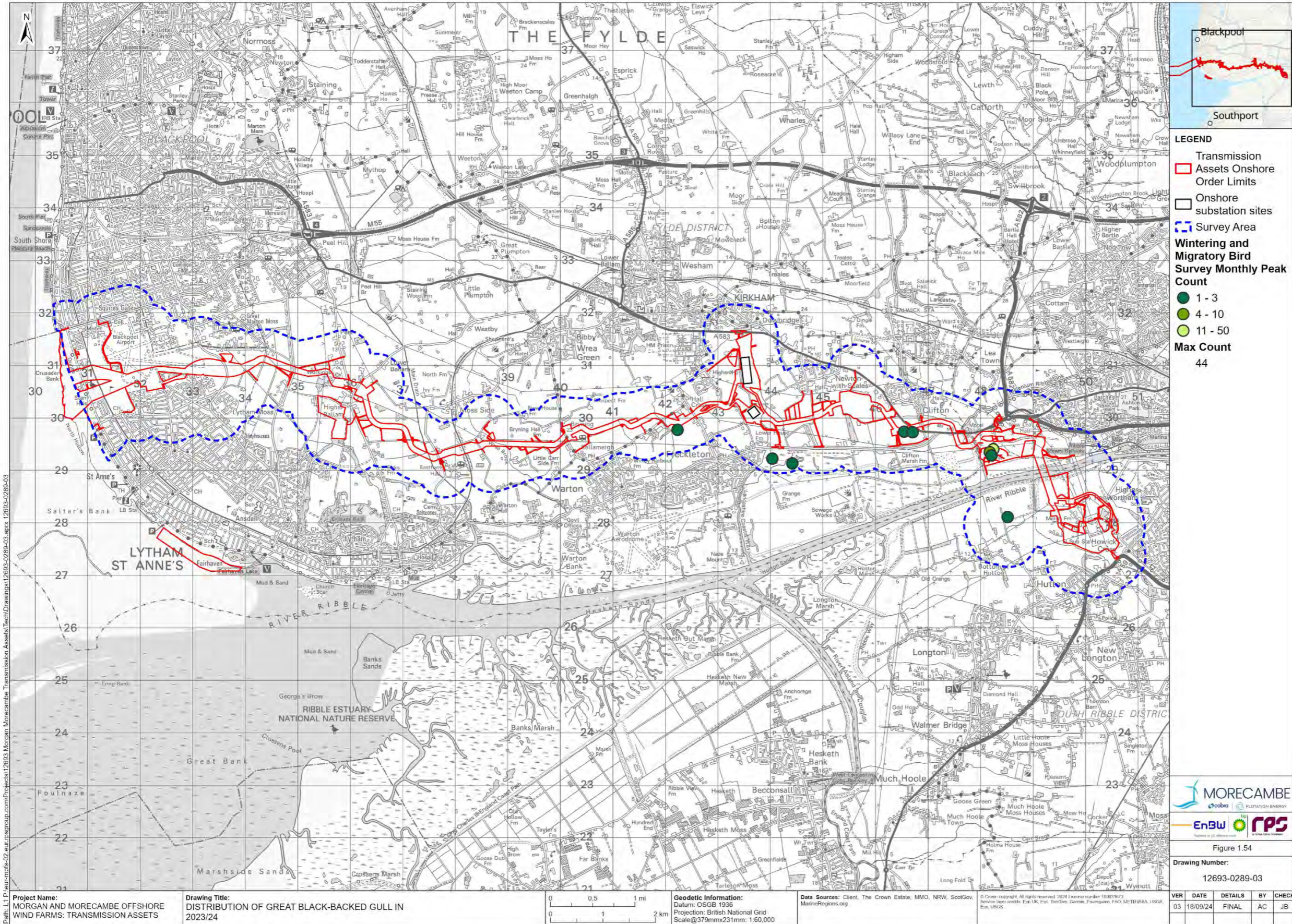


Figure 1.54: Distribution of great black-backed gull in 2023/24



Figure 1.55: Mean distribution of common gull between 2022 and 2024

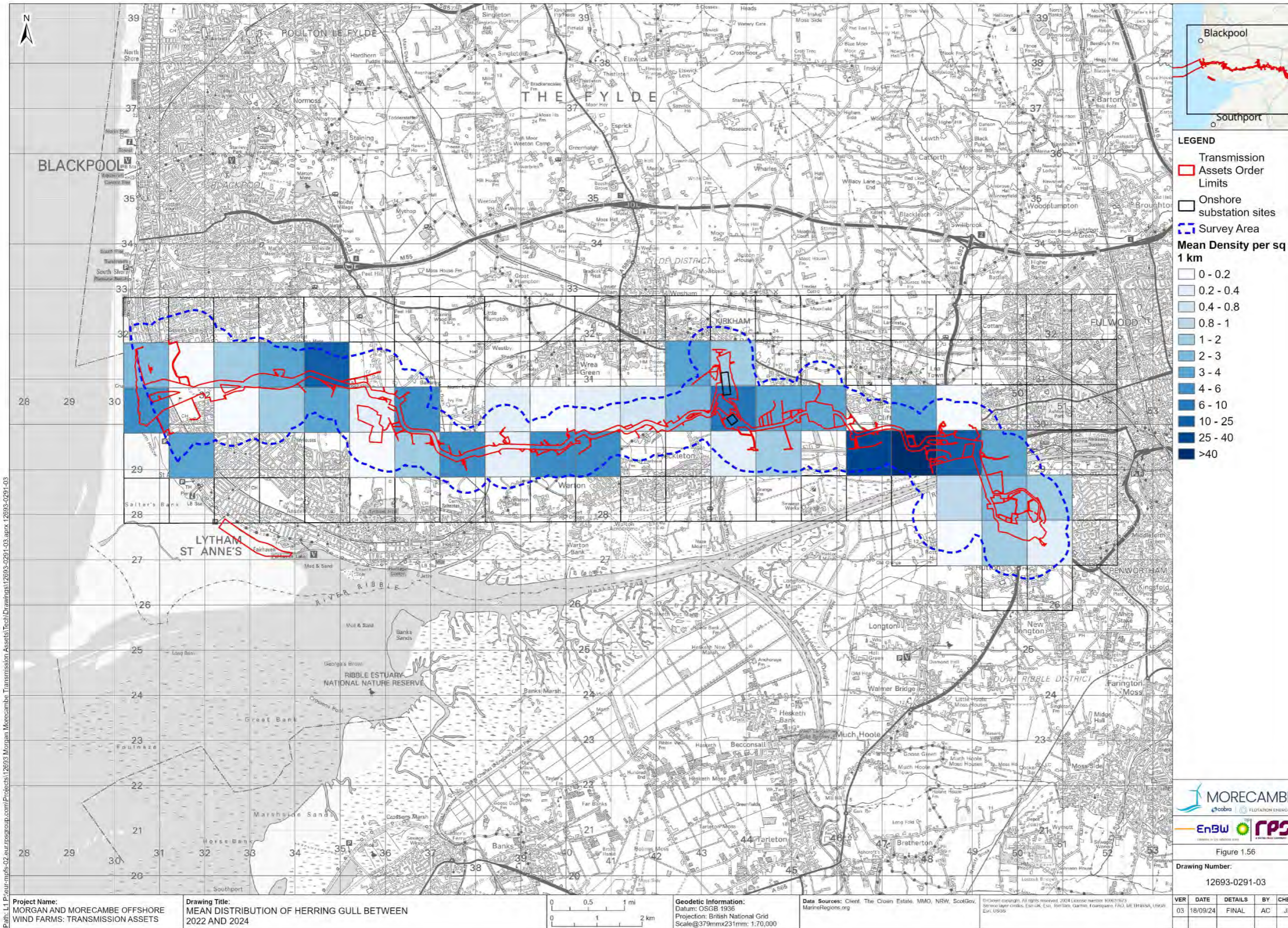


Figure 1.56: Mean distribution of herring gull between 2022 and 2024

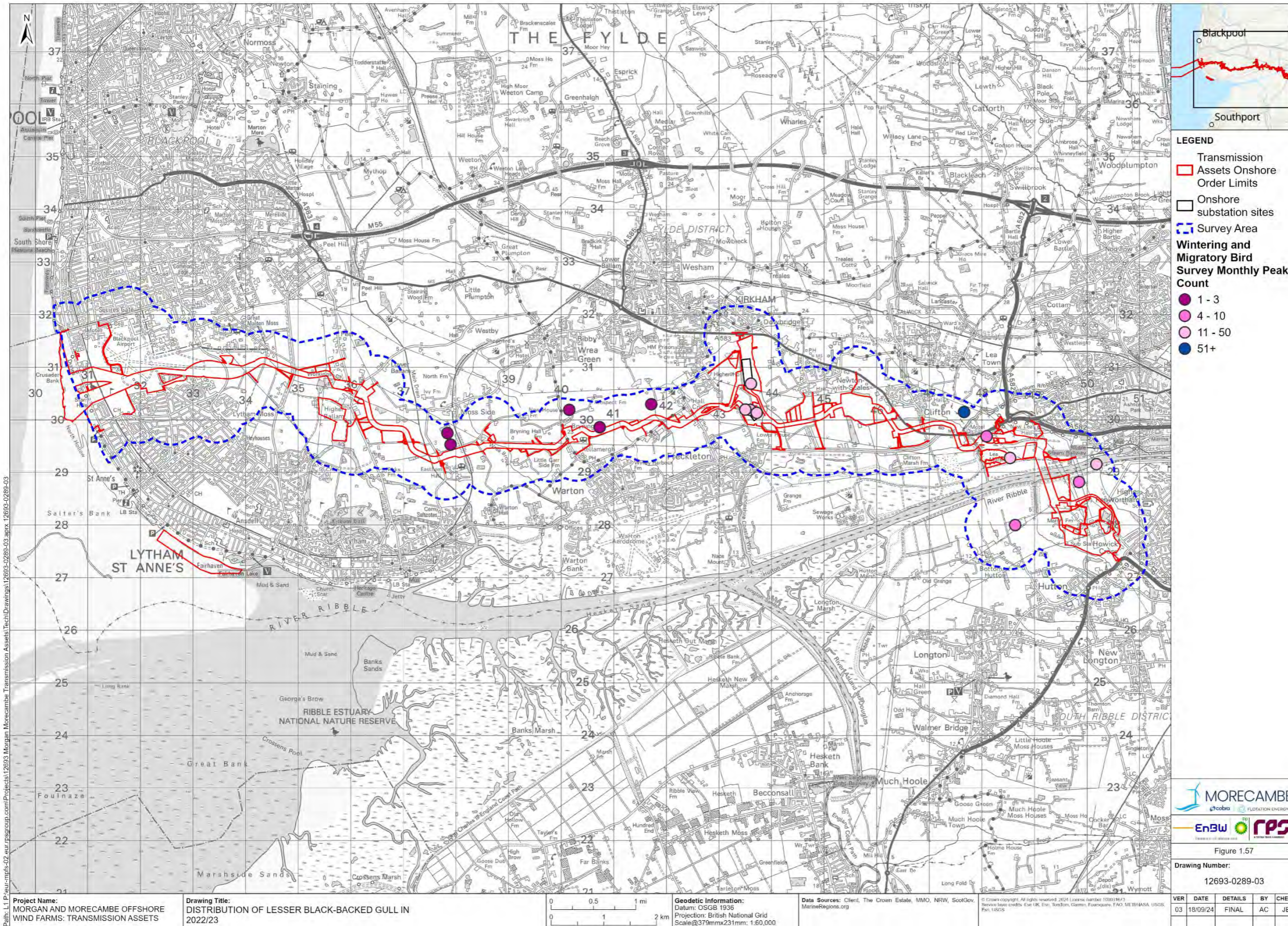


Figure 1.57: Distribution of lesser black-backed gull in 2022/23

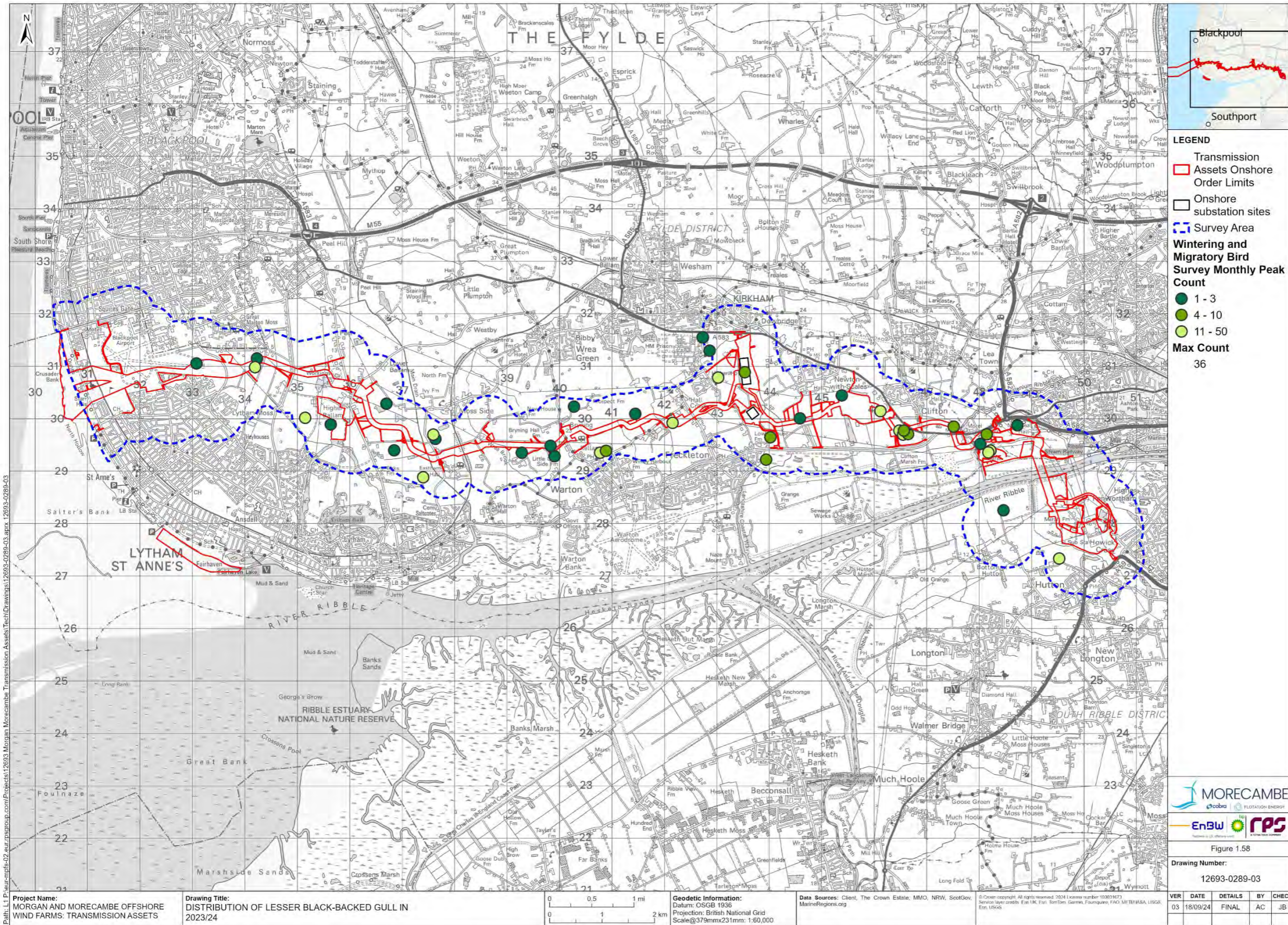


Figure 1.58: Distribution of lesser black-backed gull in 2023/24

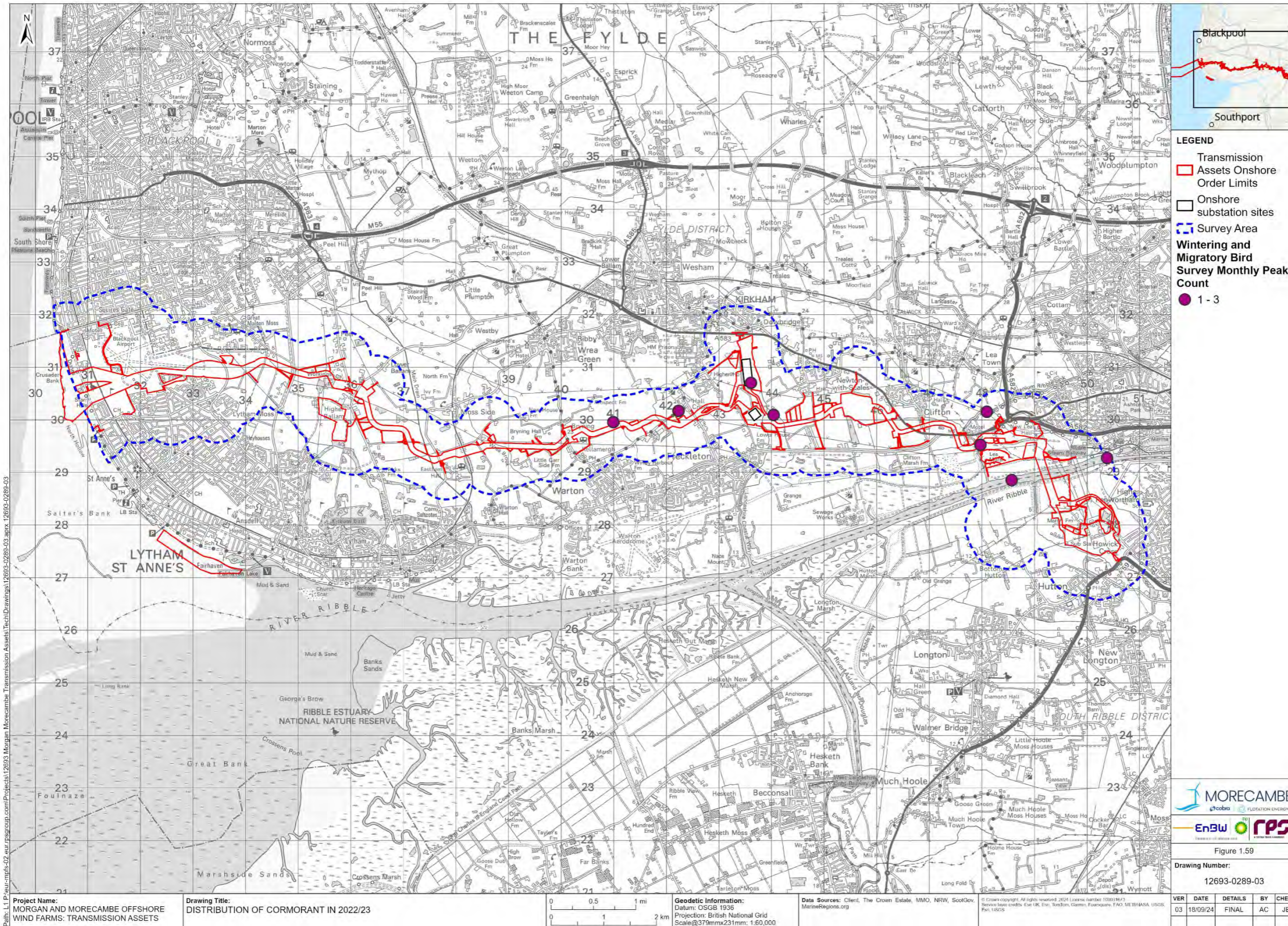


Figure 1.59: Distribution of cormorant in 2022/23

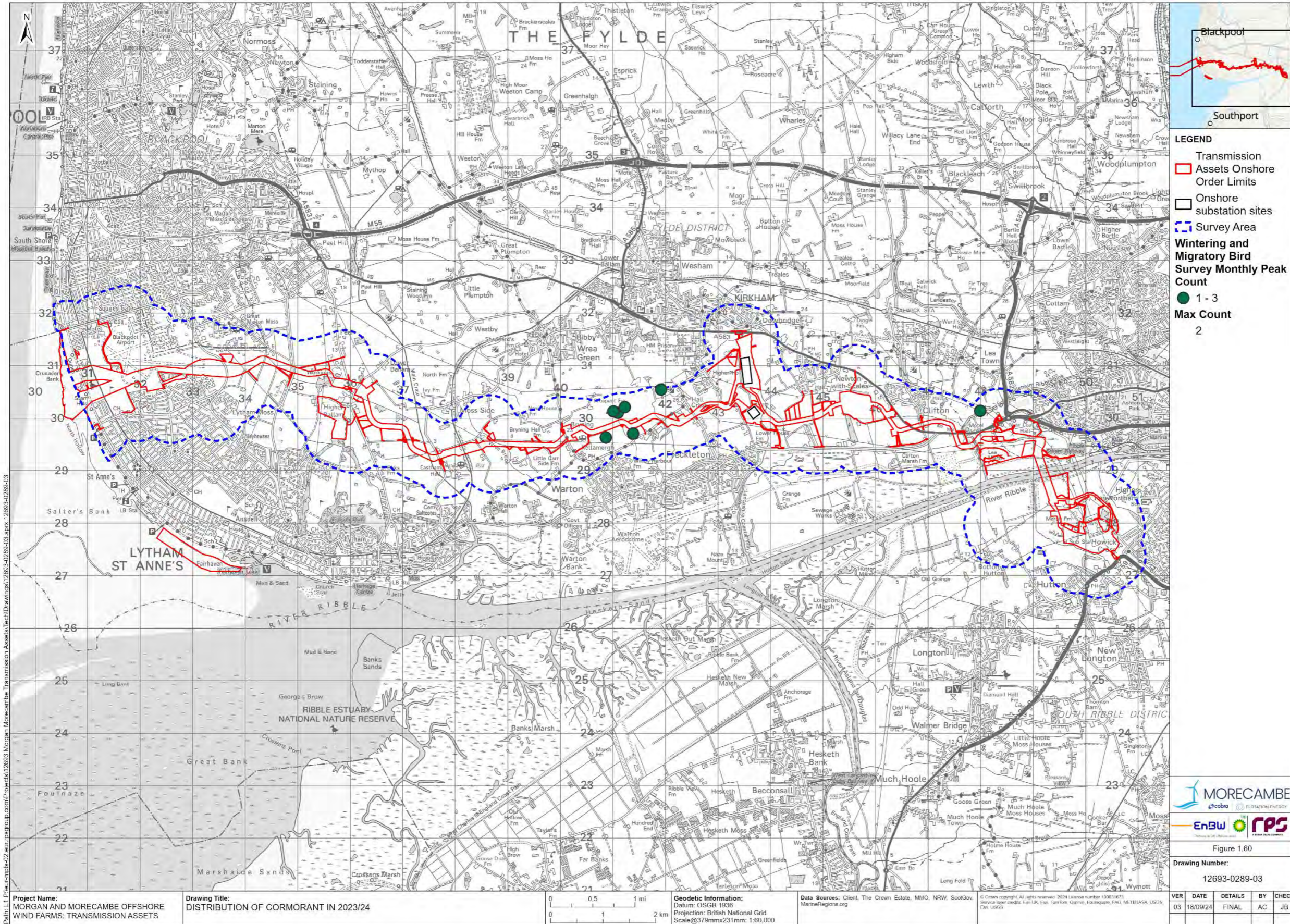


Figure 1.60: Distribution of cormorant in 2023/24

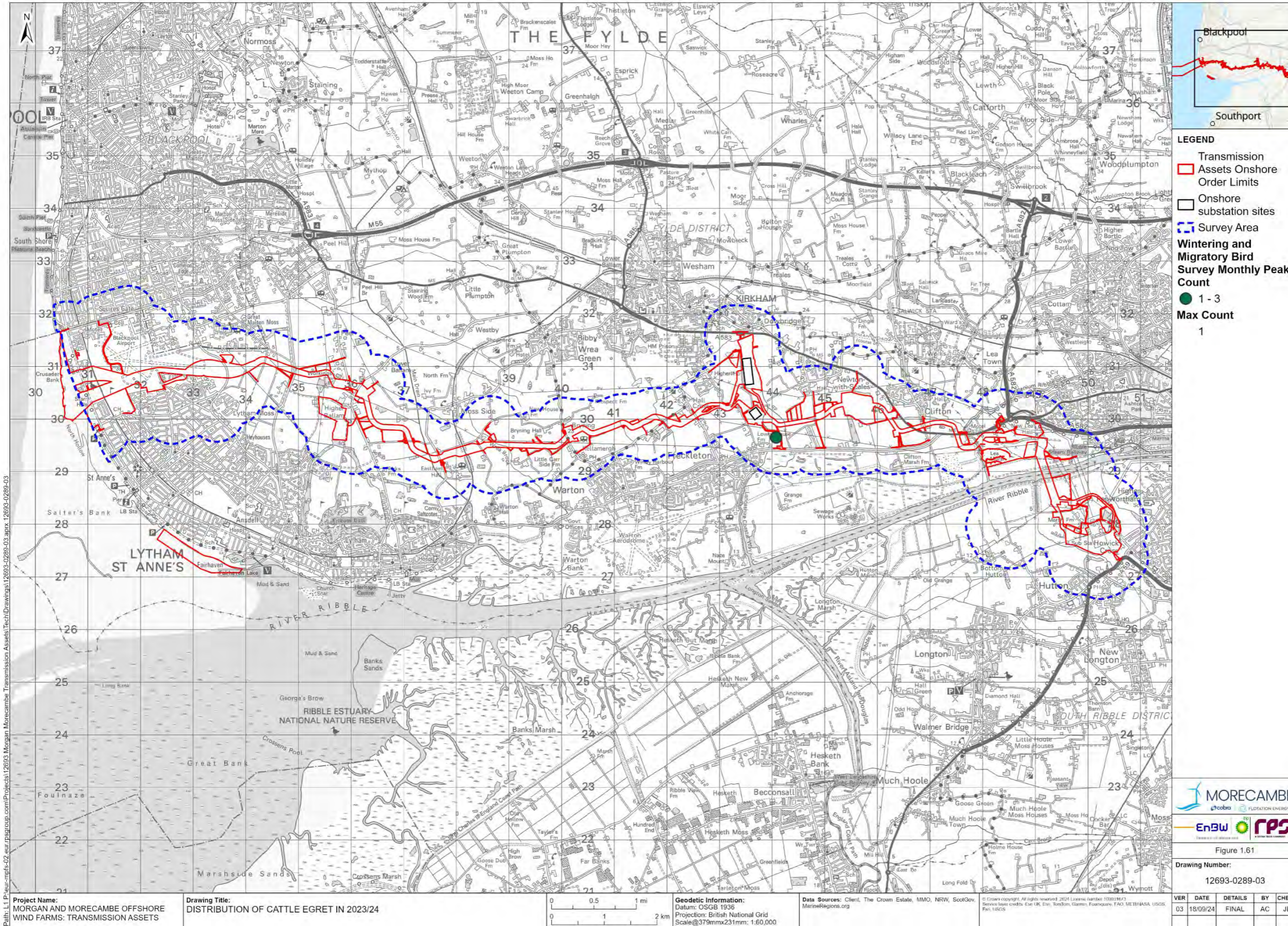


Figure 1.61: Distribution of cattle egret in 2023/24

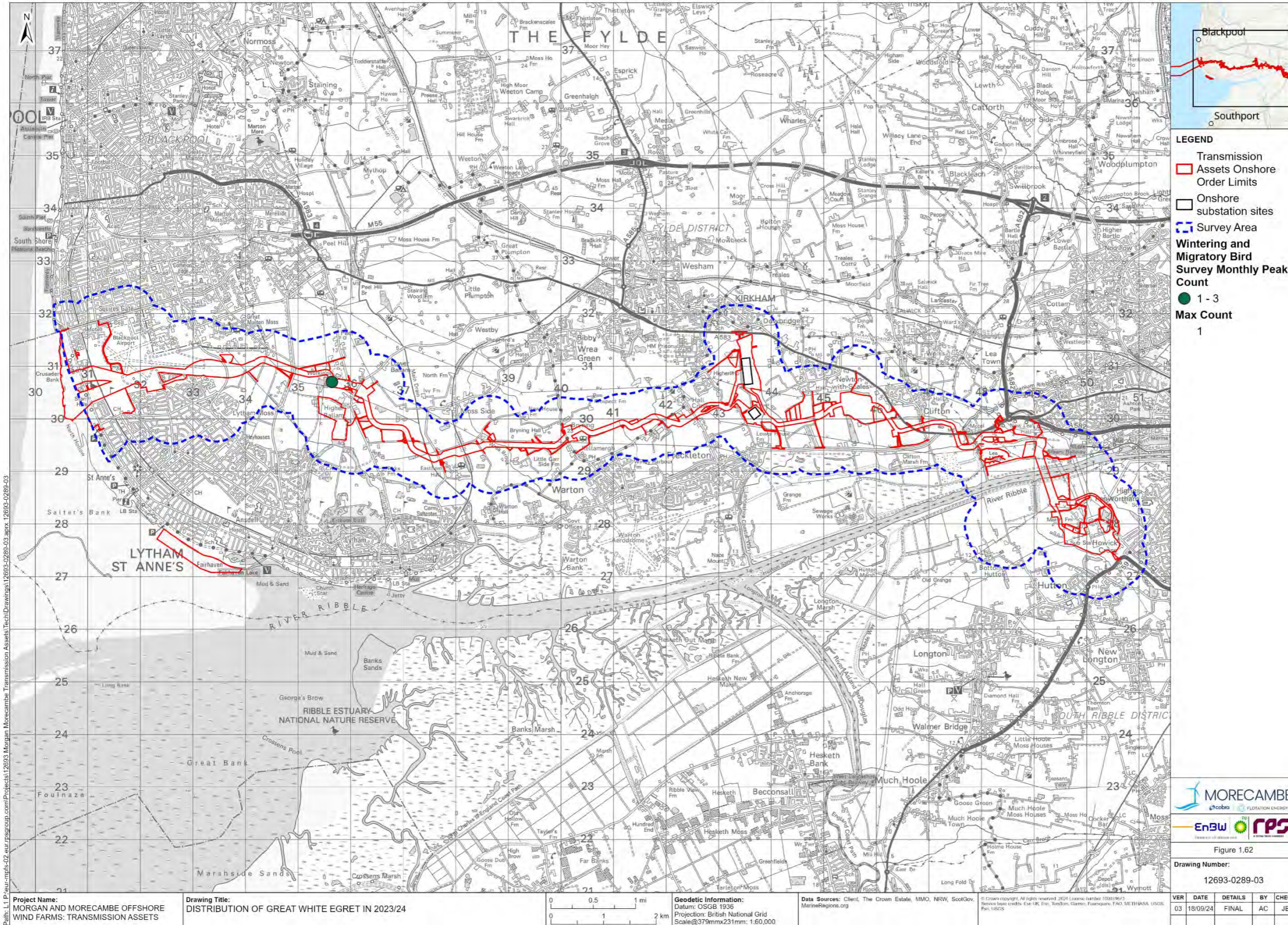


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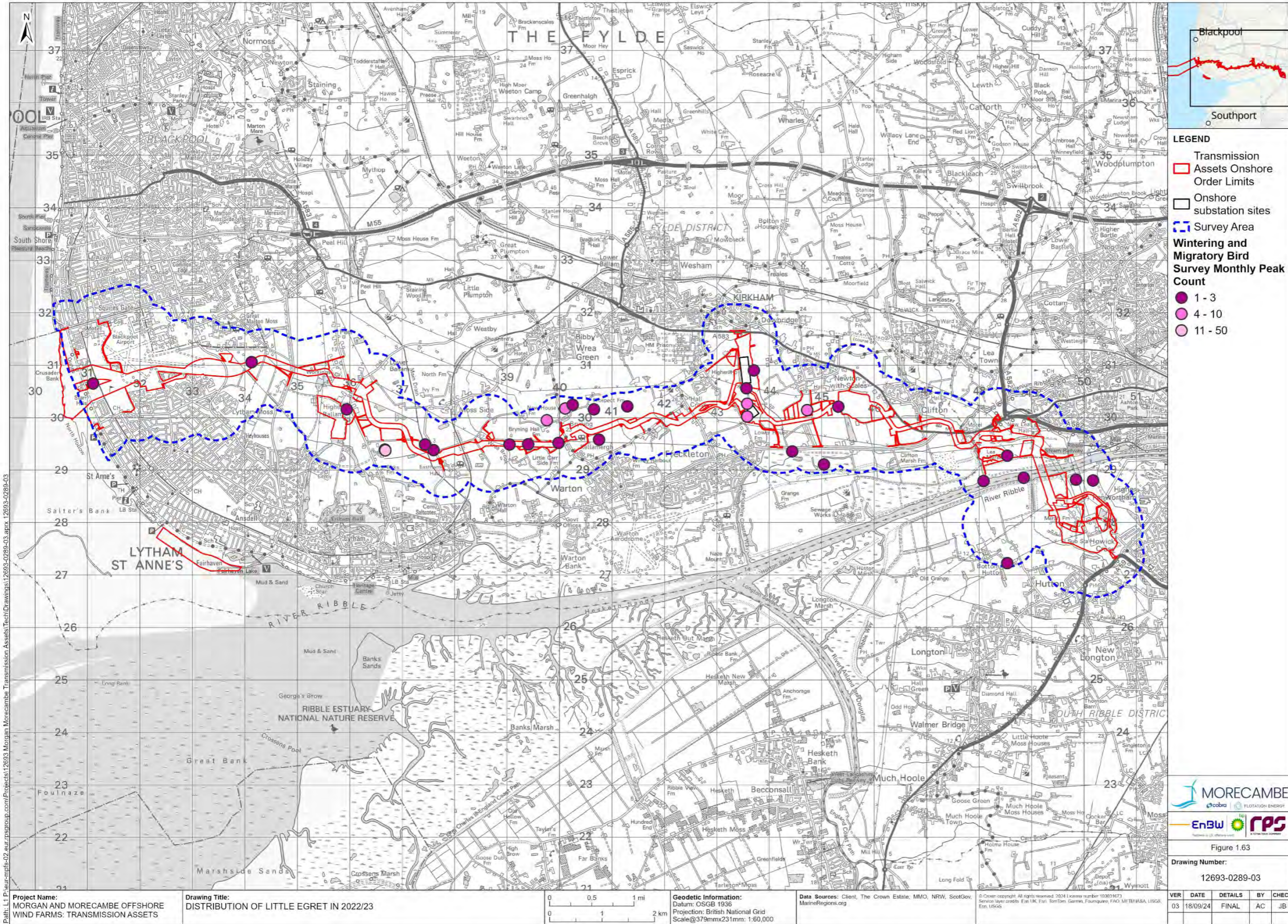


Figure 1.63: Distribution of little egret in 2022/23

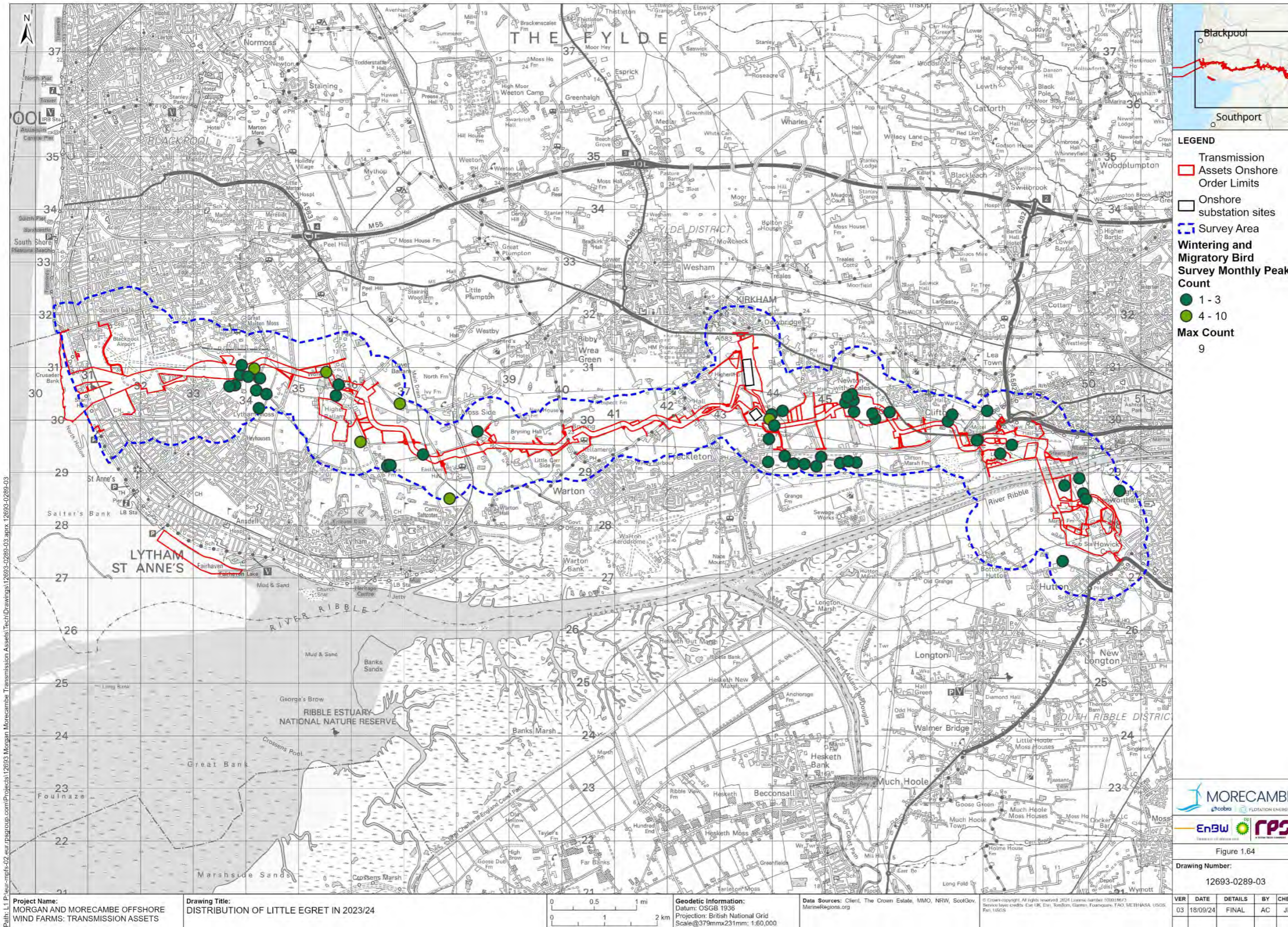


Figure 1.64: Distribution of little egret in 2023/24

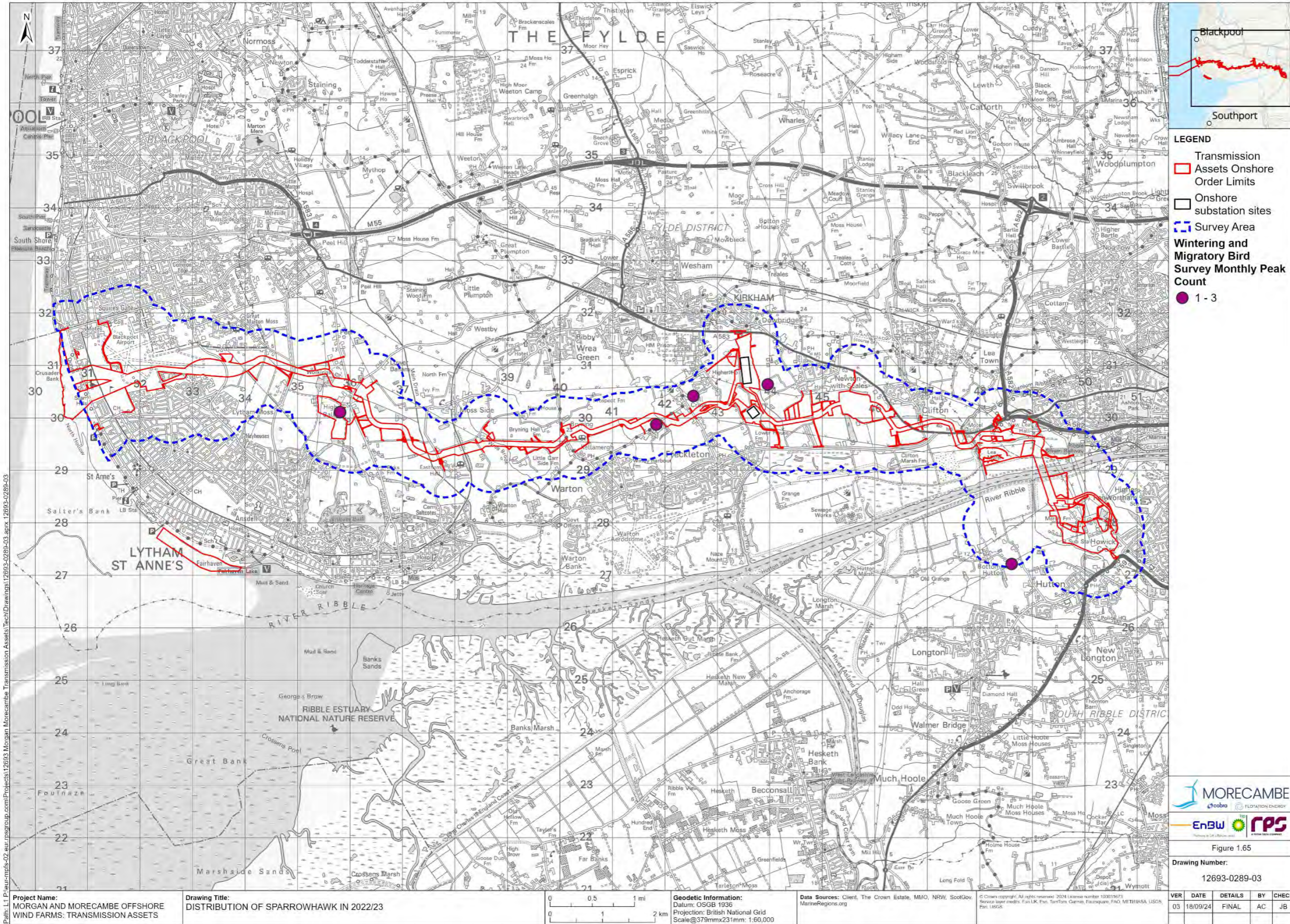


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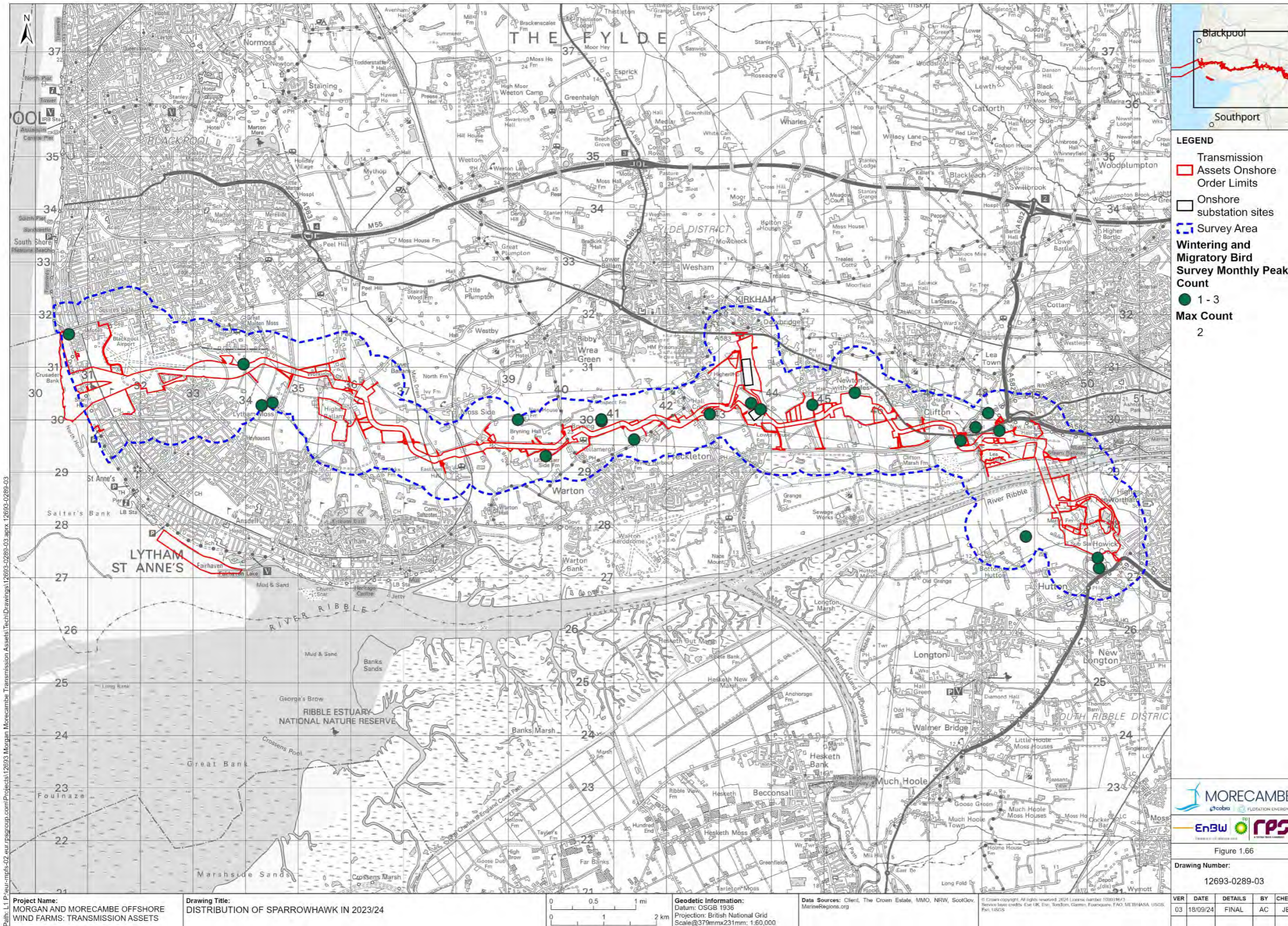


Figure 1.66: Distribution of sparrowhawk in 2023/24

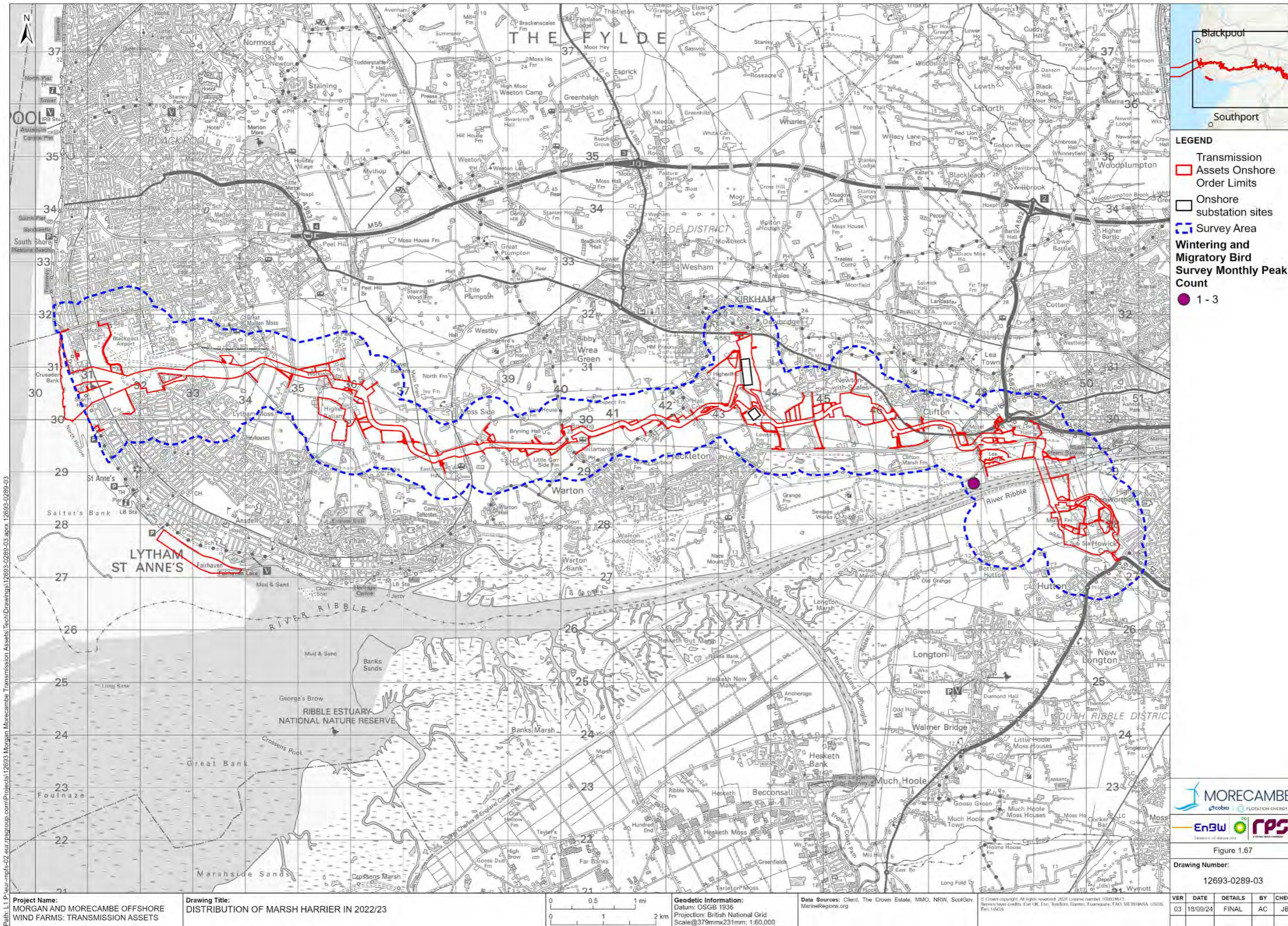


Figure 1.67: Distribution of marsh harrier in 2022/23

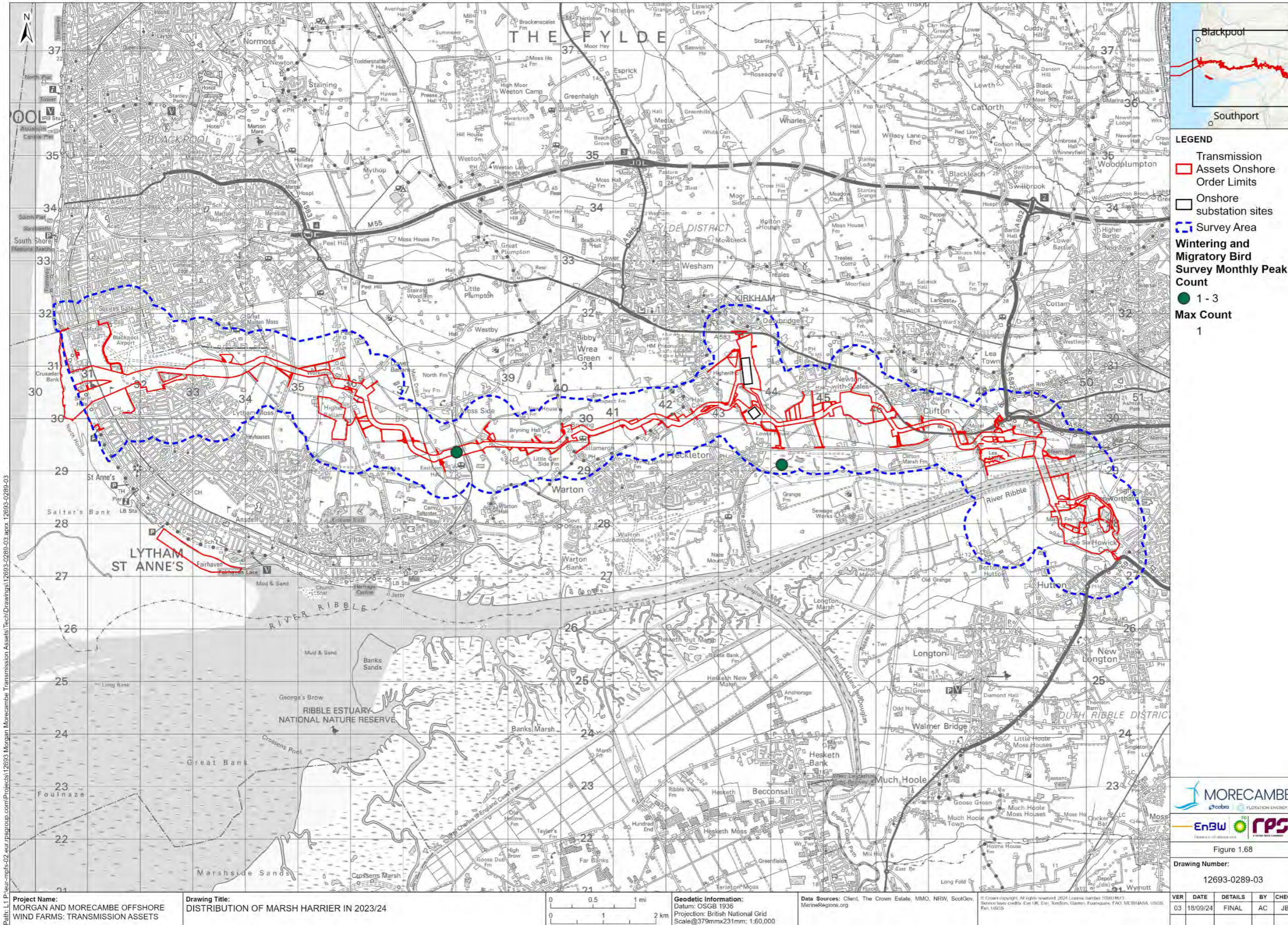


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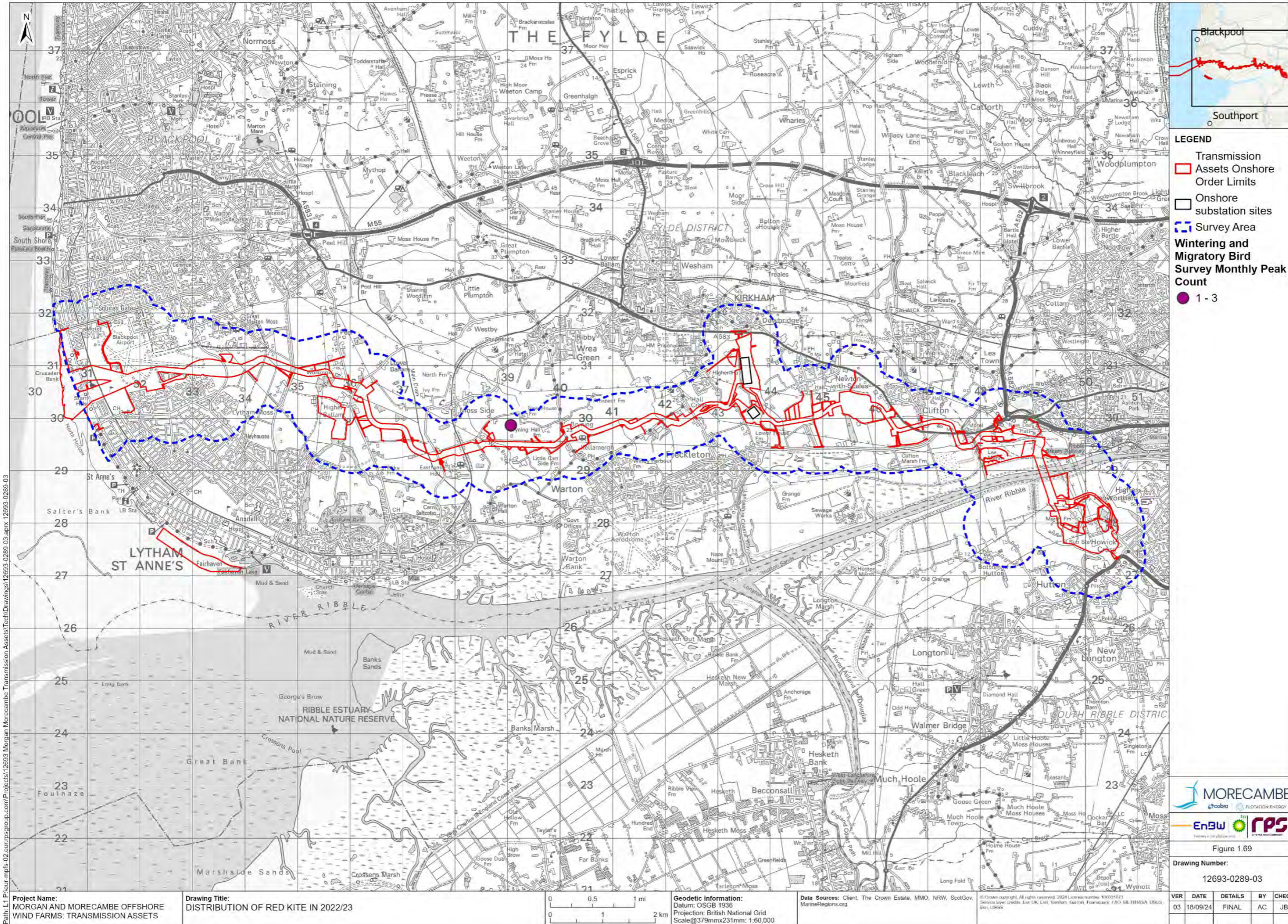


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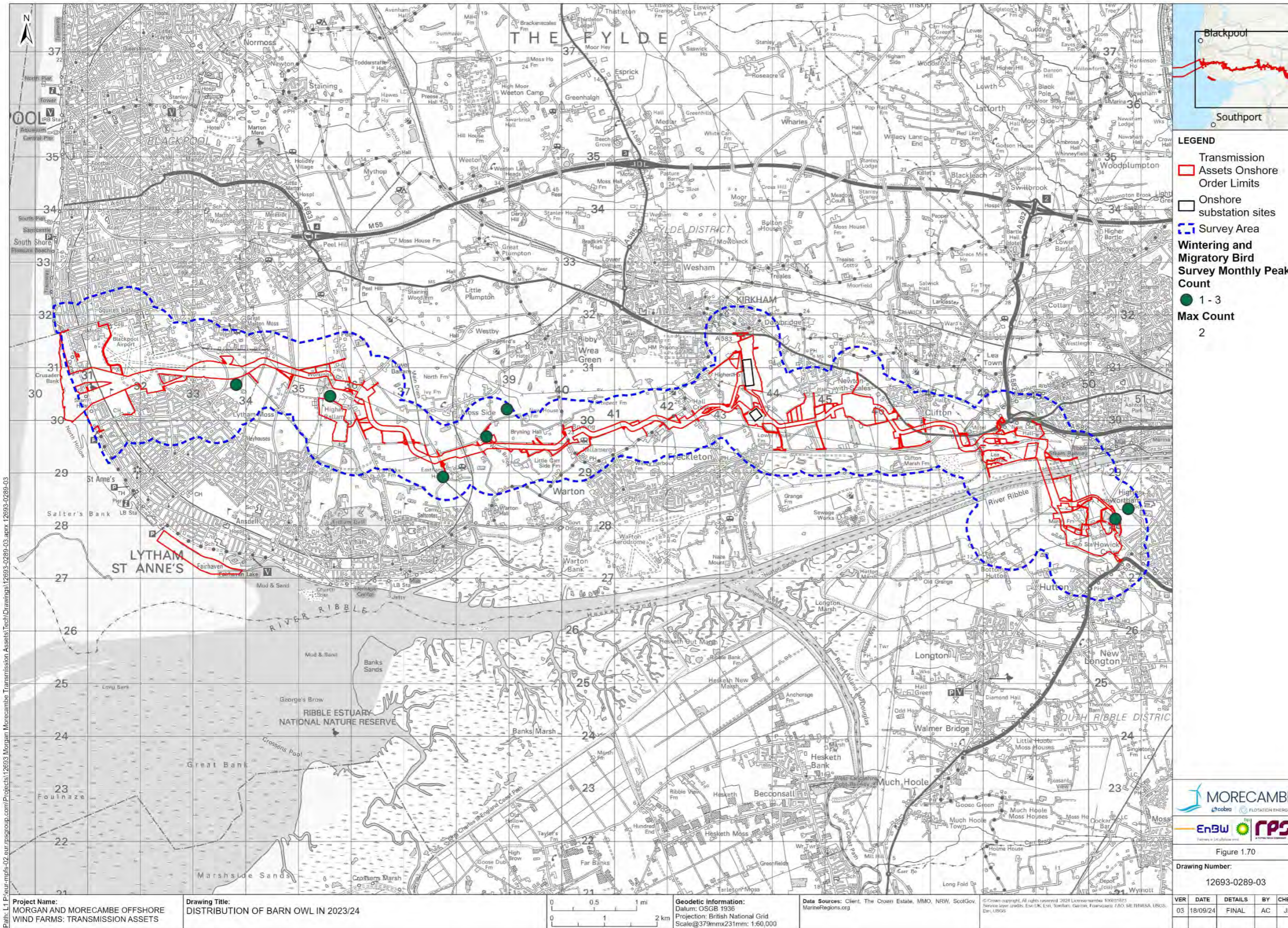


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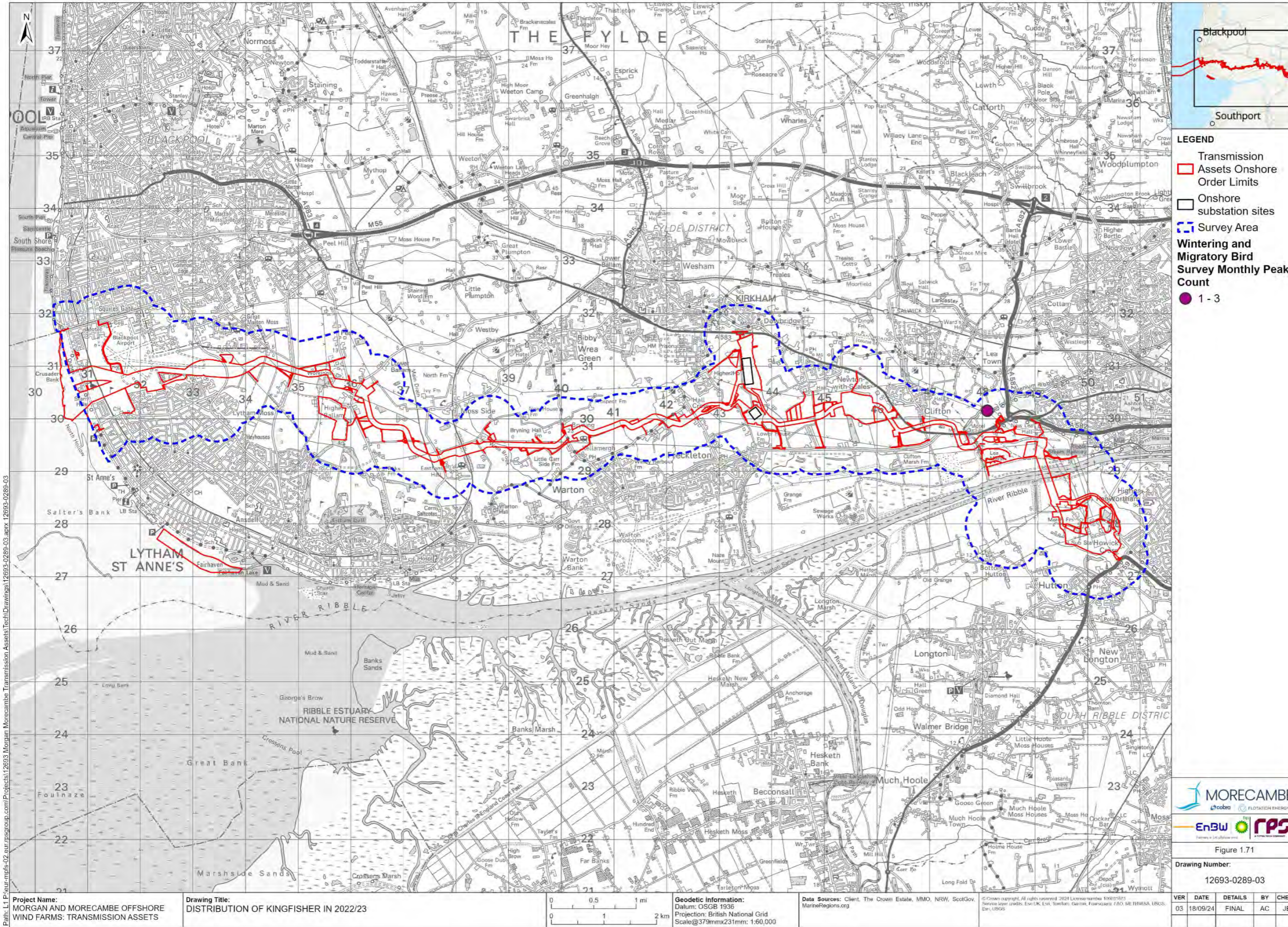
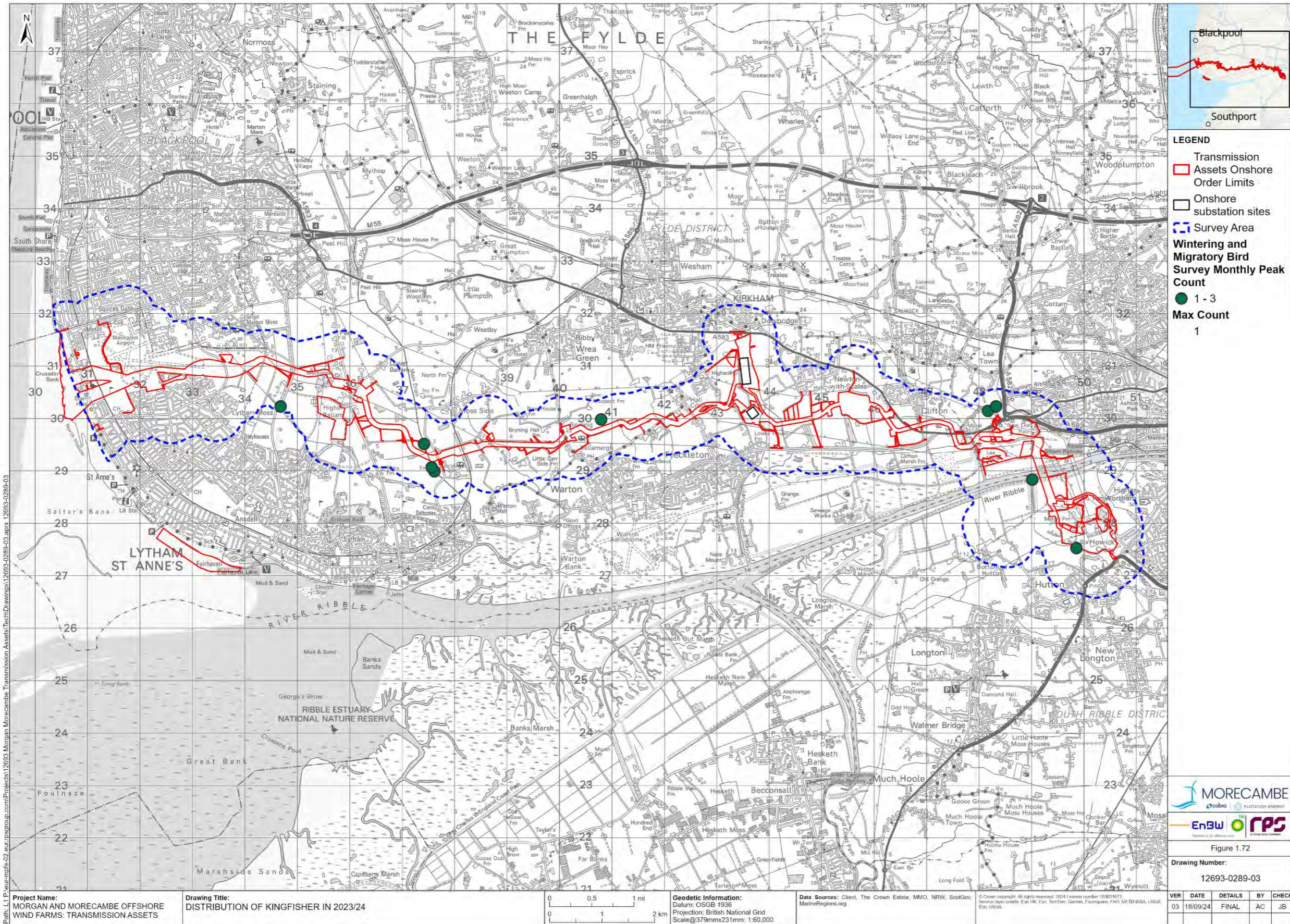


Figure 1.71: Distribution of kingfisher in 2022/23



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Project Name:
MORGAN AND MORECAMBE OFFSHORE
WIND FARMS: TRANSMISSION ASSETS

Drawing Title:
DISTRIBUTION OF KINGFISHER IN 2023/24

0 0.5 1 mi
0 1 2 km

Geodetic Information:
Datum: OSGB 1936
Projection: British National Grid
Scale@379mmx231mm: 1:60,000

Data Sources: Client, The Crown Estate, MMO, NRW, ScotGov,
MarineRegions.org

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Enr, USA&S

MORECAMBE
coba FLOTATION ENERGY

EnBW **rps**
Partners in UK offshore wind

Figure 1.72
Drawing Number:
12693-0289-03

VER	DATE	DETAILS	BY	CHECK
03	18/09/24	FINAL	AC	JB

Figure 1.72: Distribution of kingfisher in 2023/24

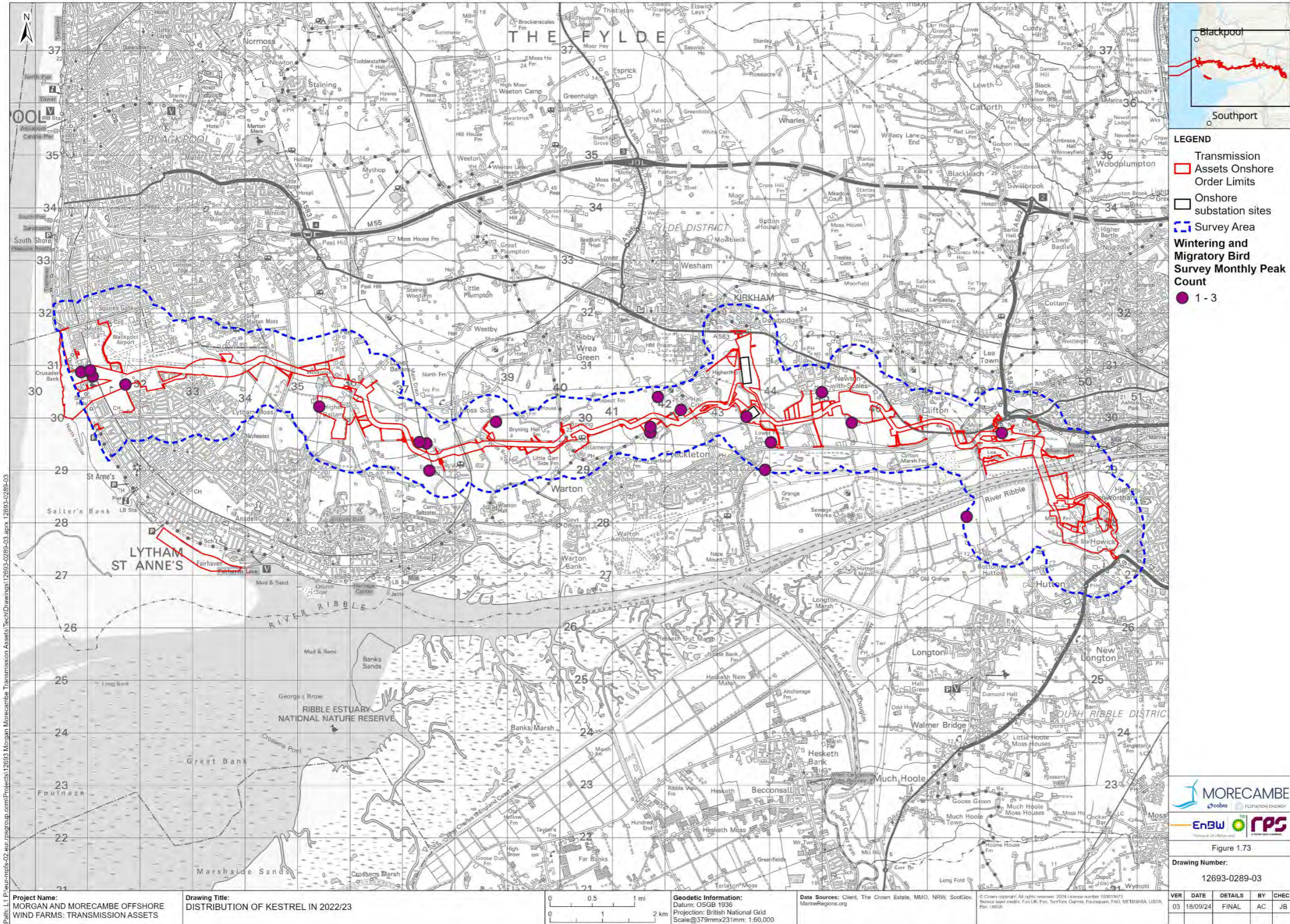


Figure 1.73: Distribution of kestrel in 2022/23

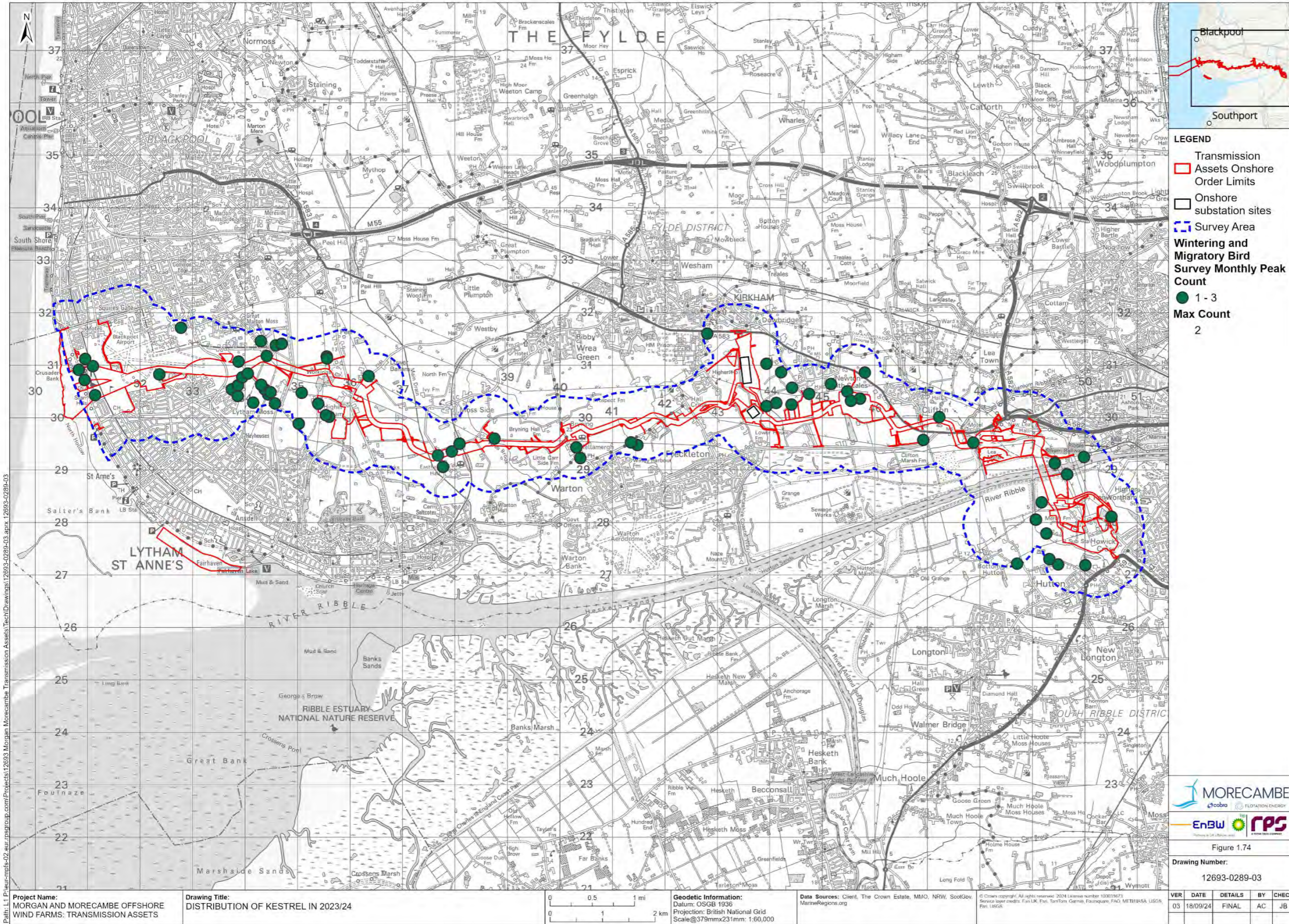


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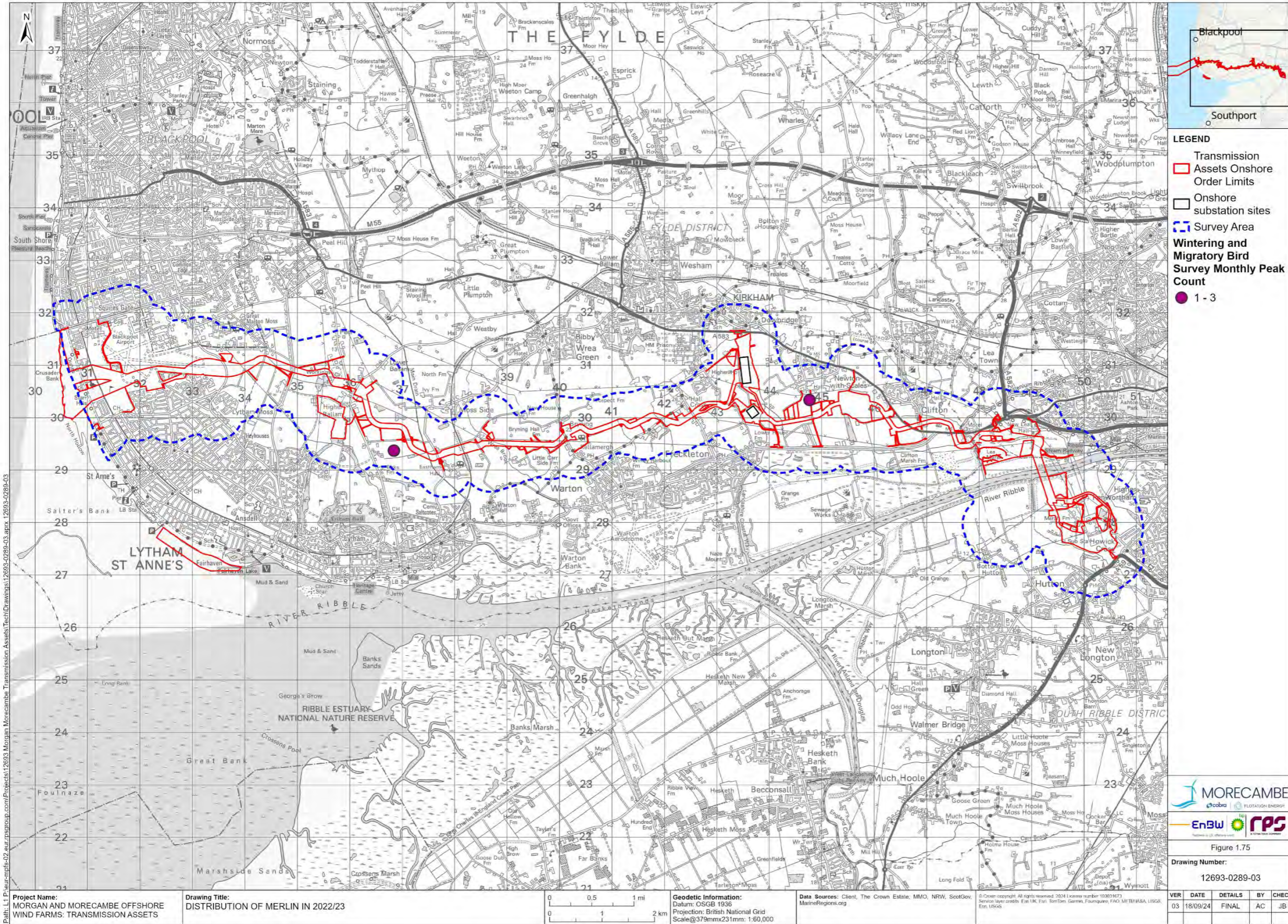


Figure 1.75: Distribution of merlin in 2022/23

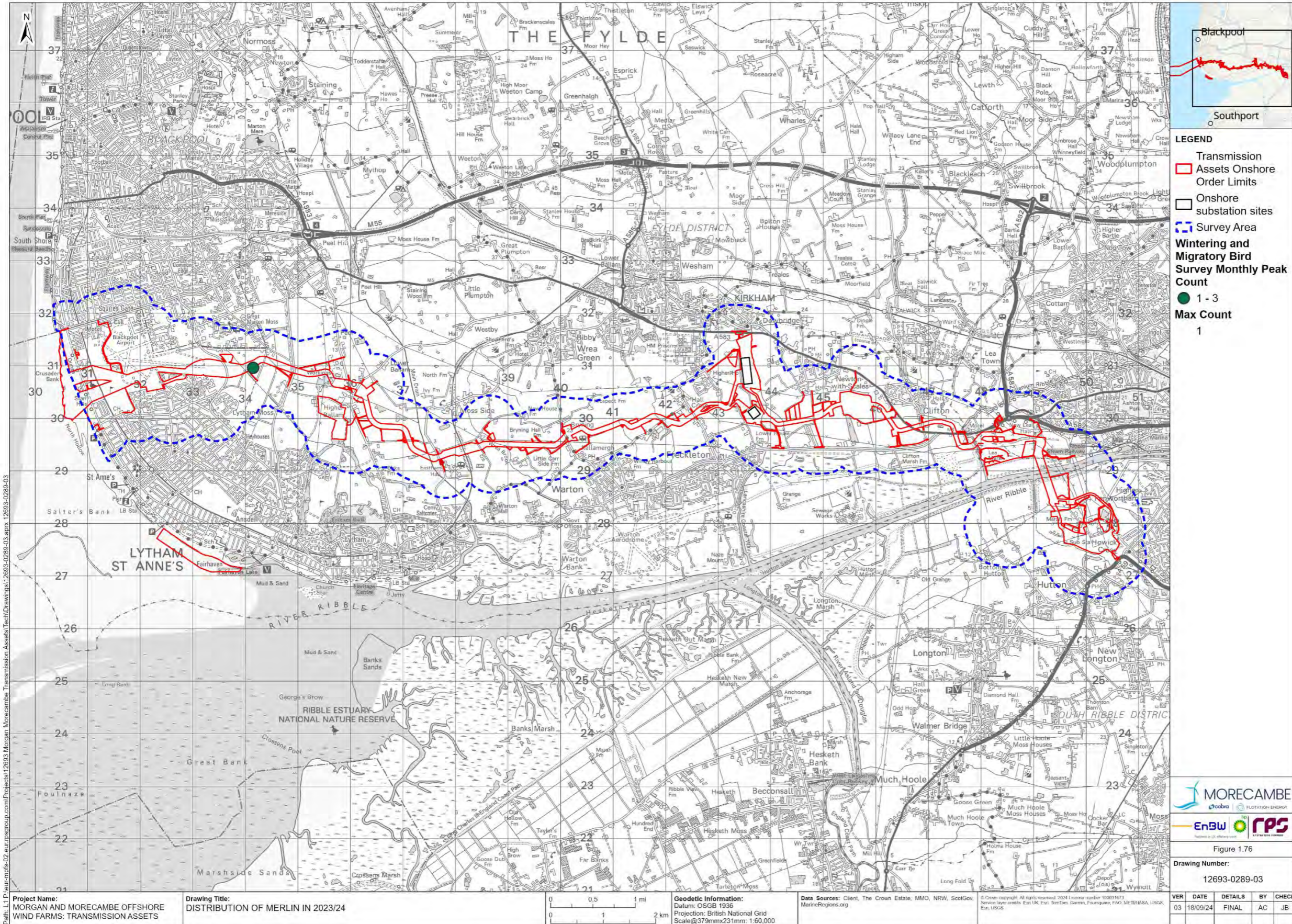


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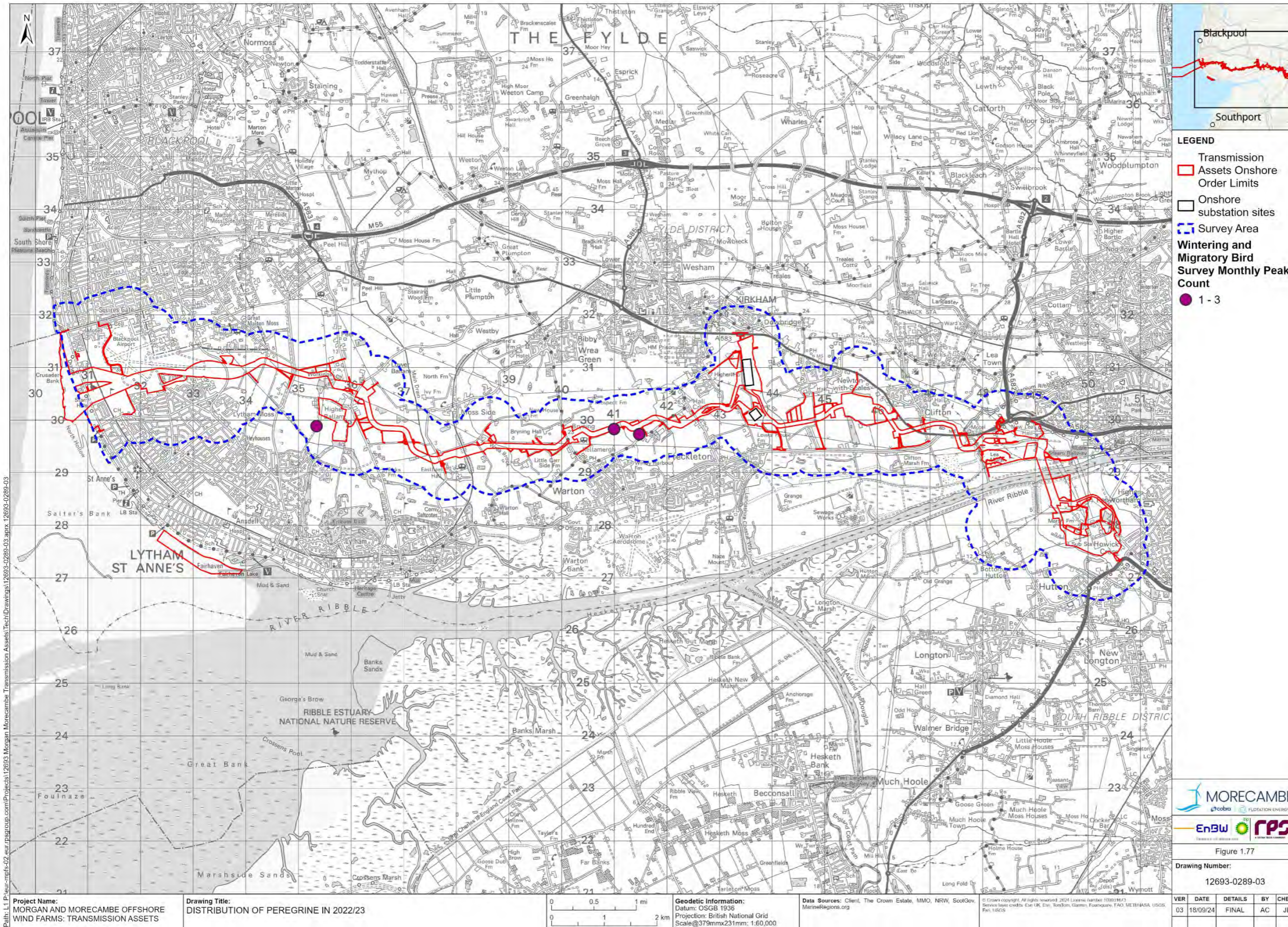


Figure 1.77: Distribution of peregrine in 2022/23

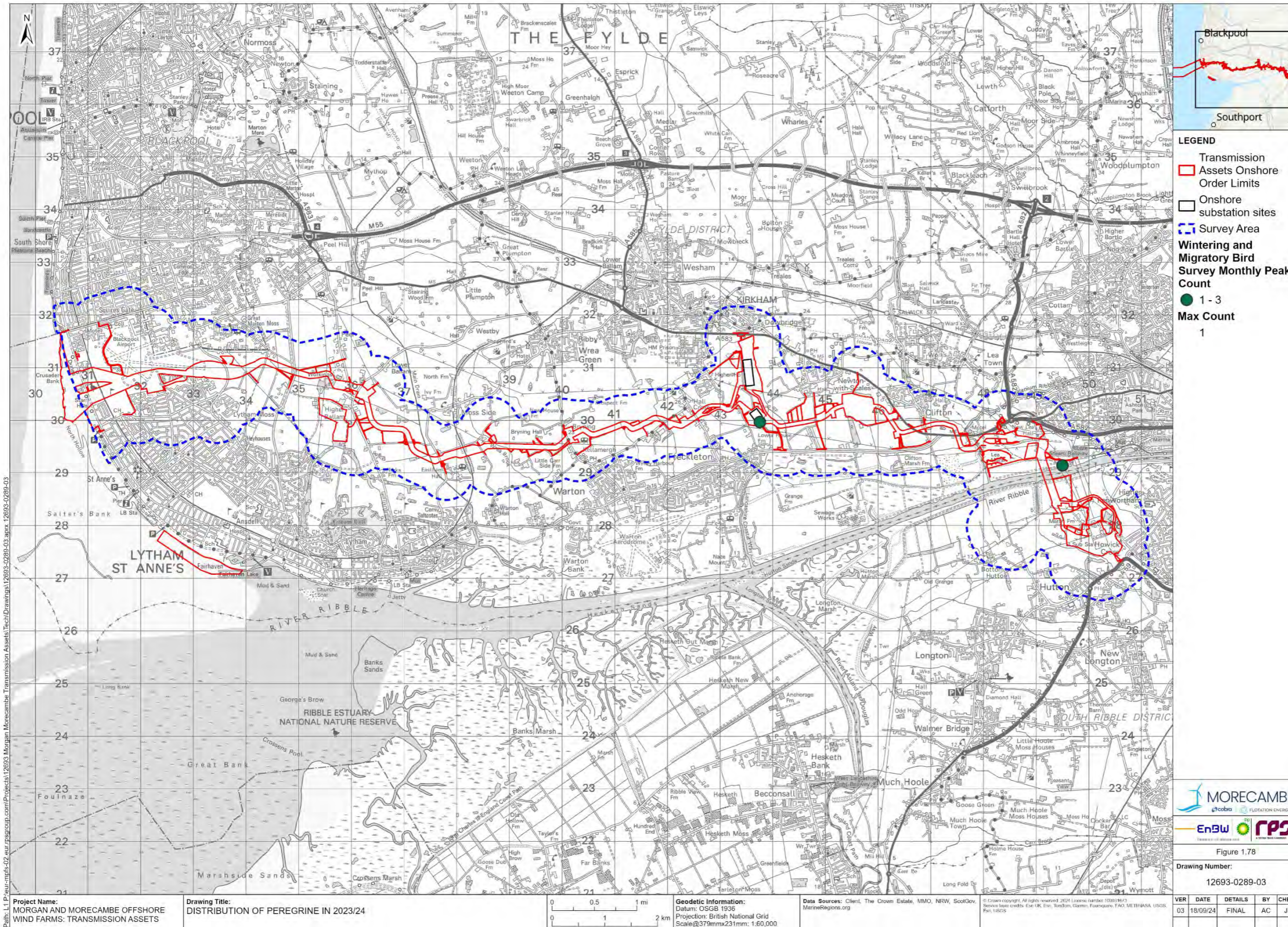


Figure 1.78: Distribution of peregrine in 2023/24

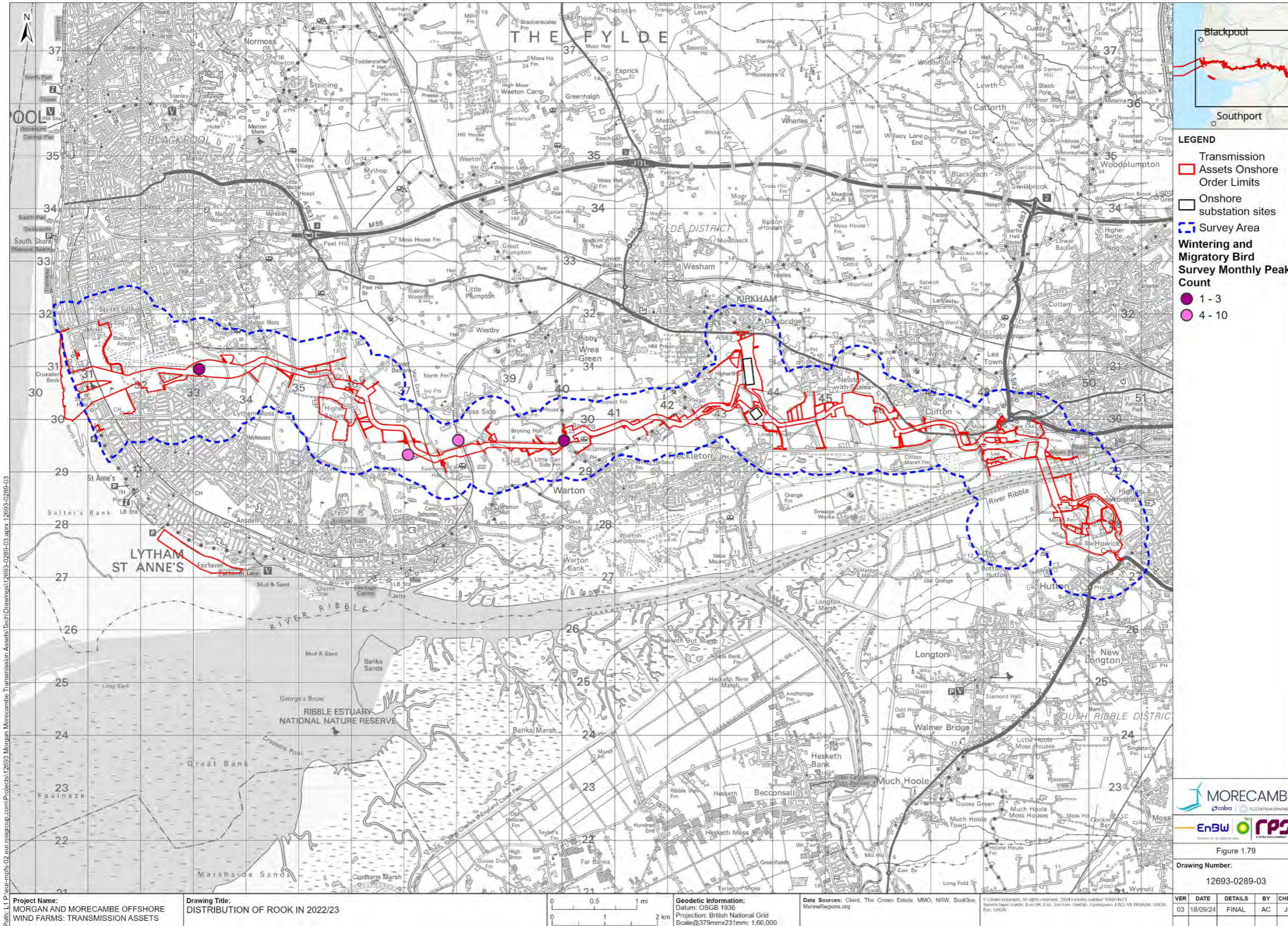


Figure 1.79: Distribution of rook in 2022/23

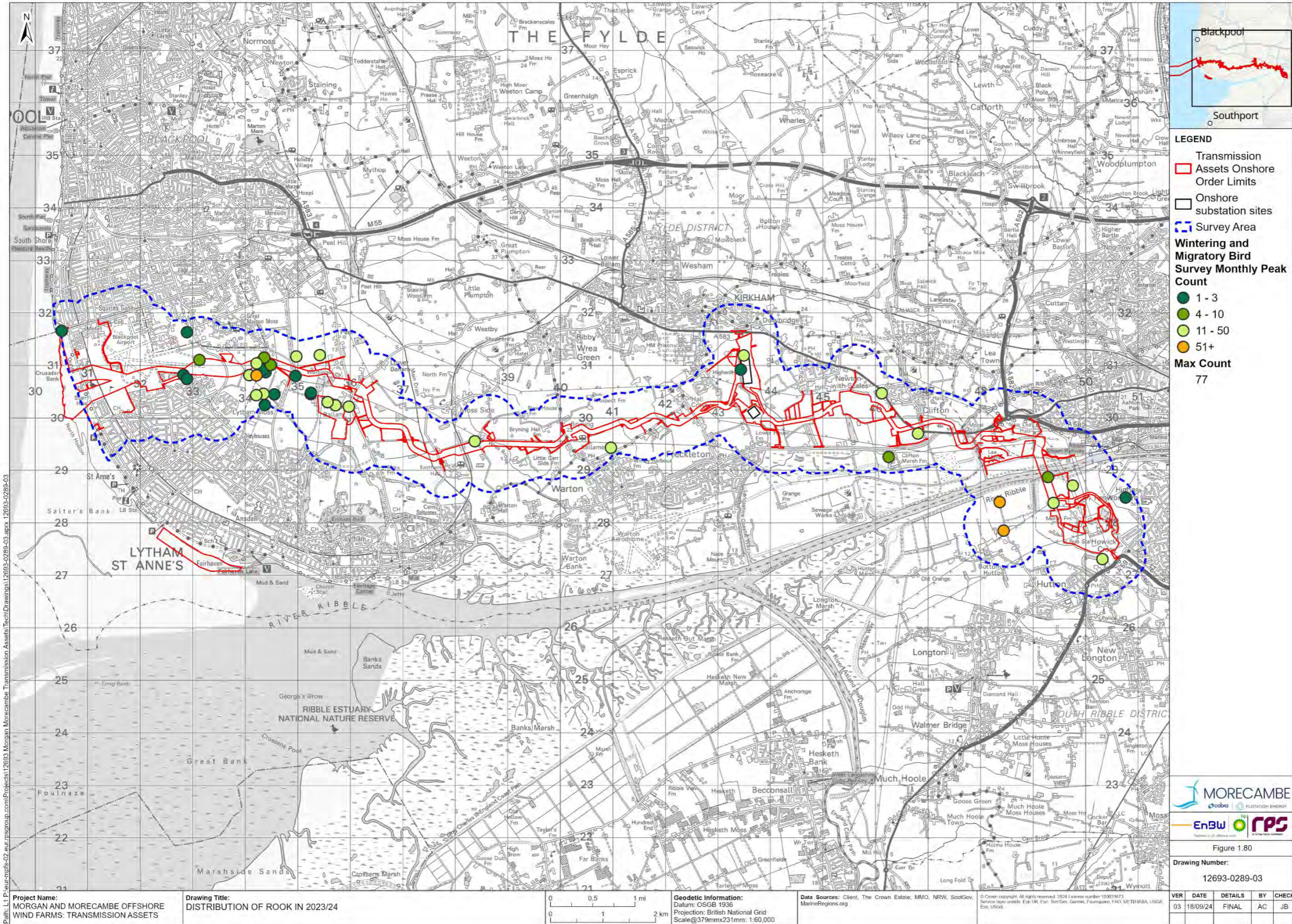


Figure 1.80: Distribution of rook in 2023/24

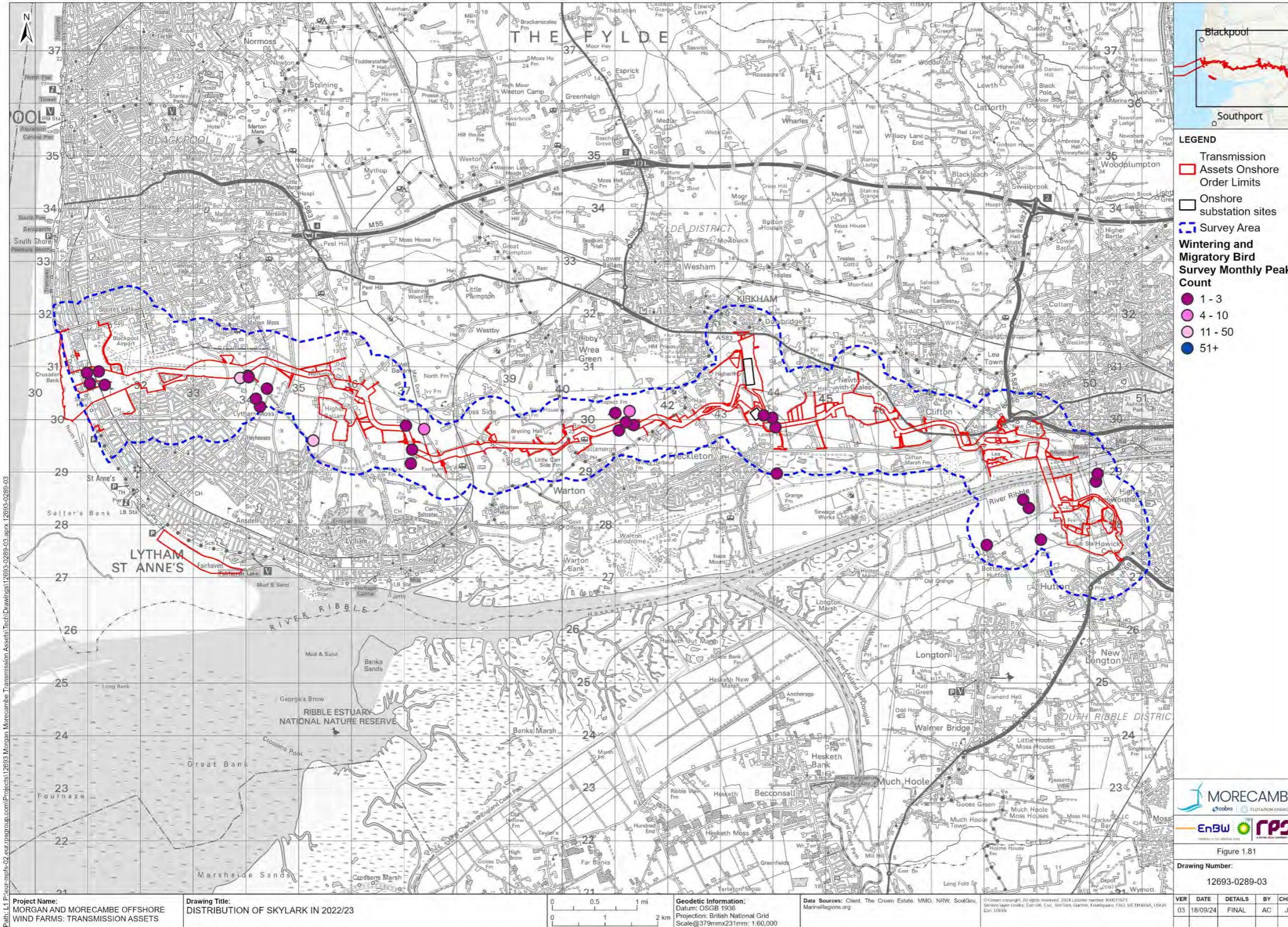


Figure 1.81: Distribution of skylark in 2022/23

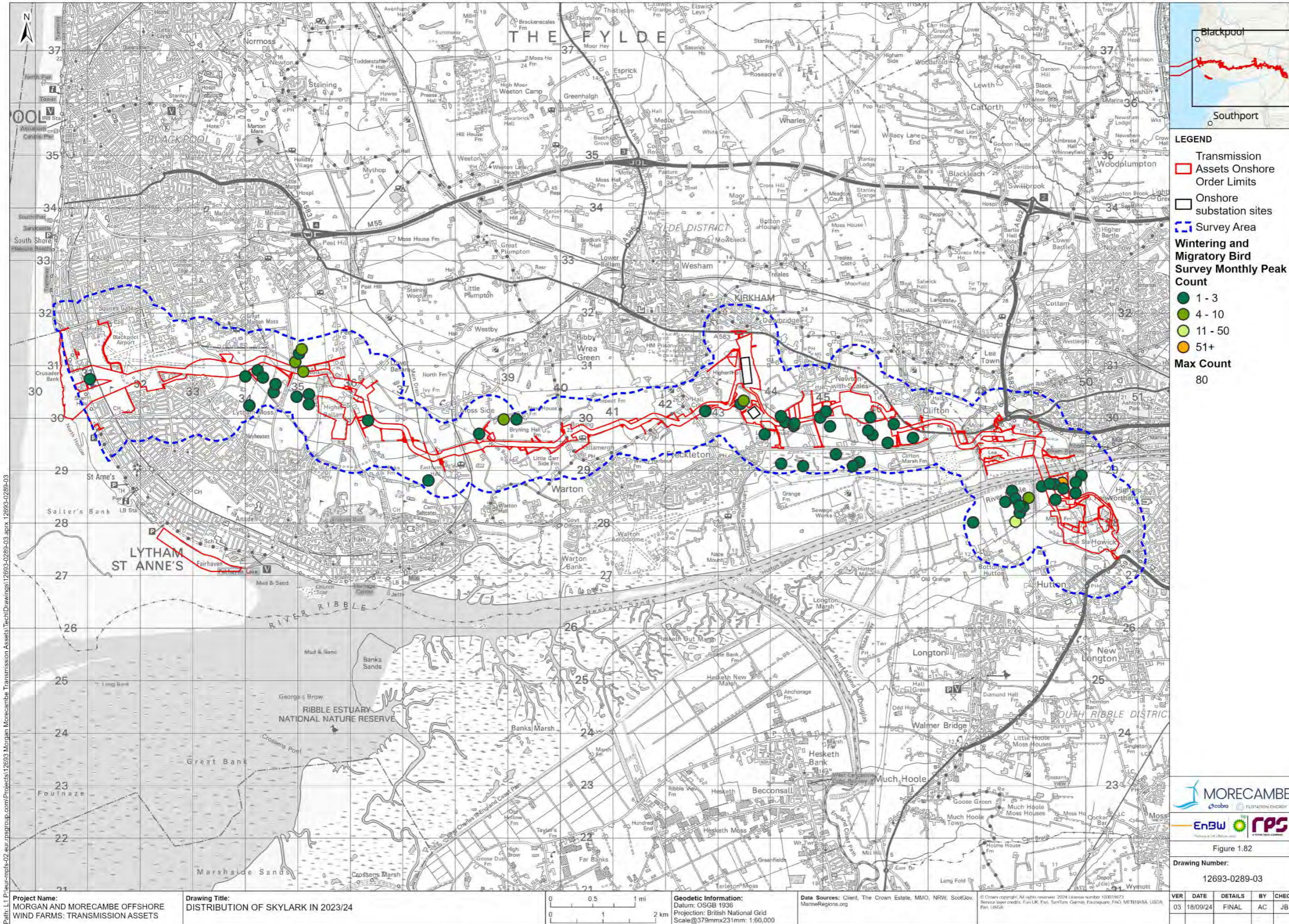


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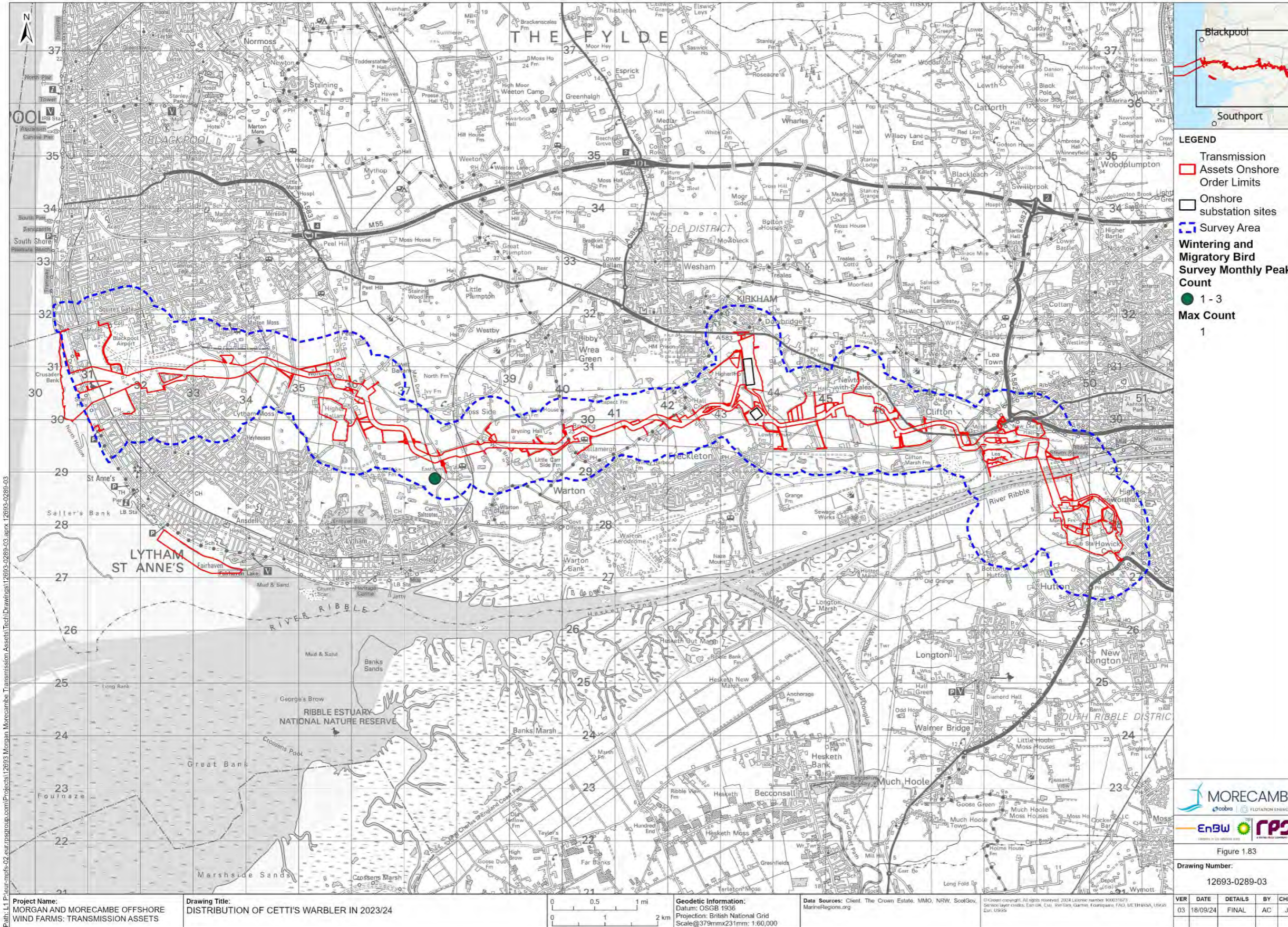


Figure 1.83: Distribution of Cetti's warbler in 2023/24

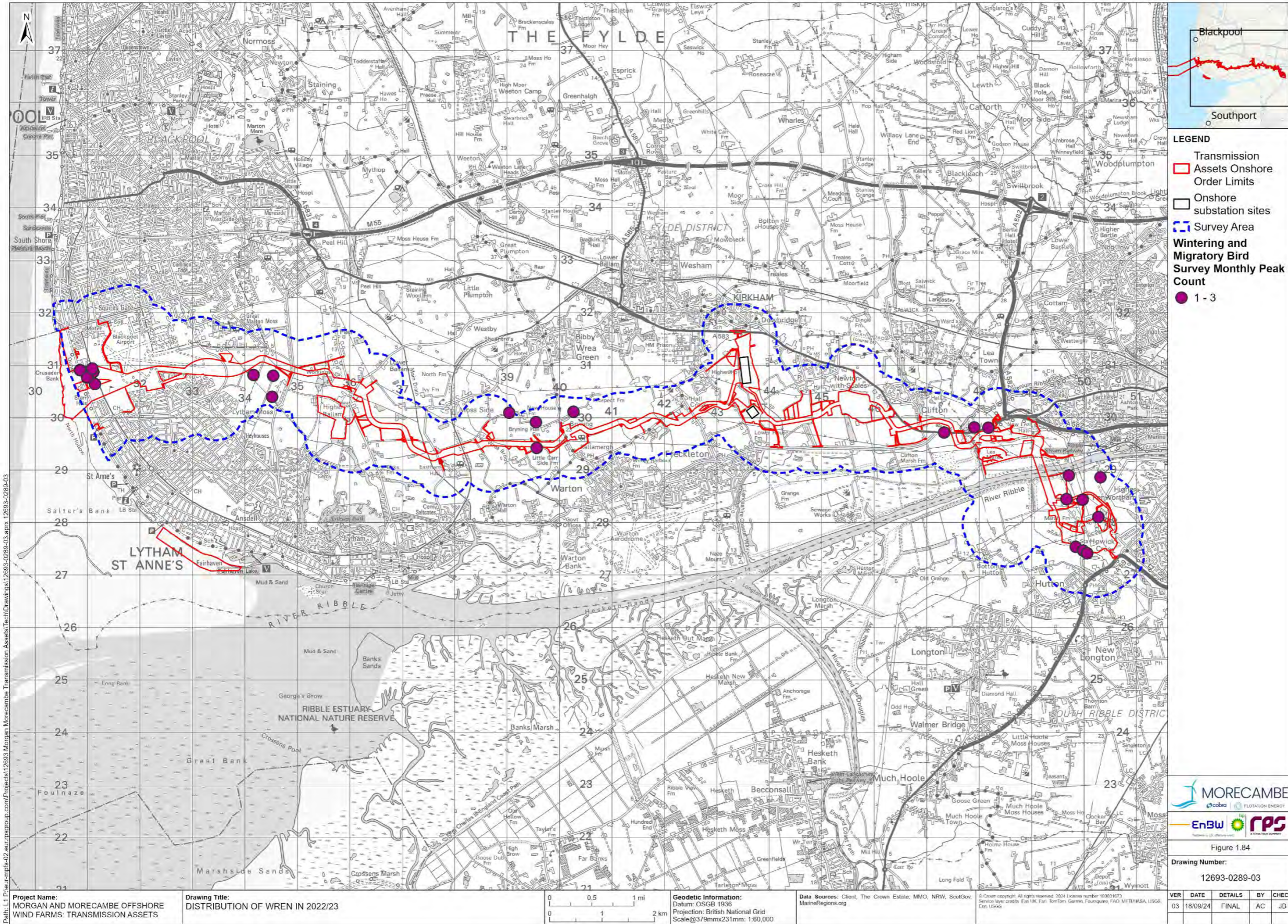


Figure 1.84: Distribution of wren in 2022/23

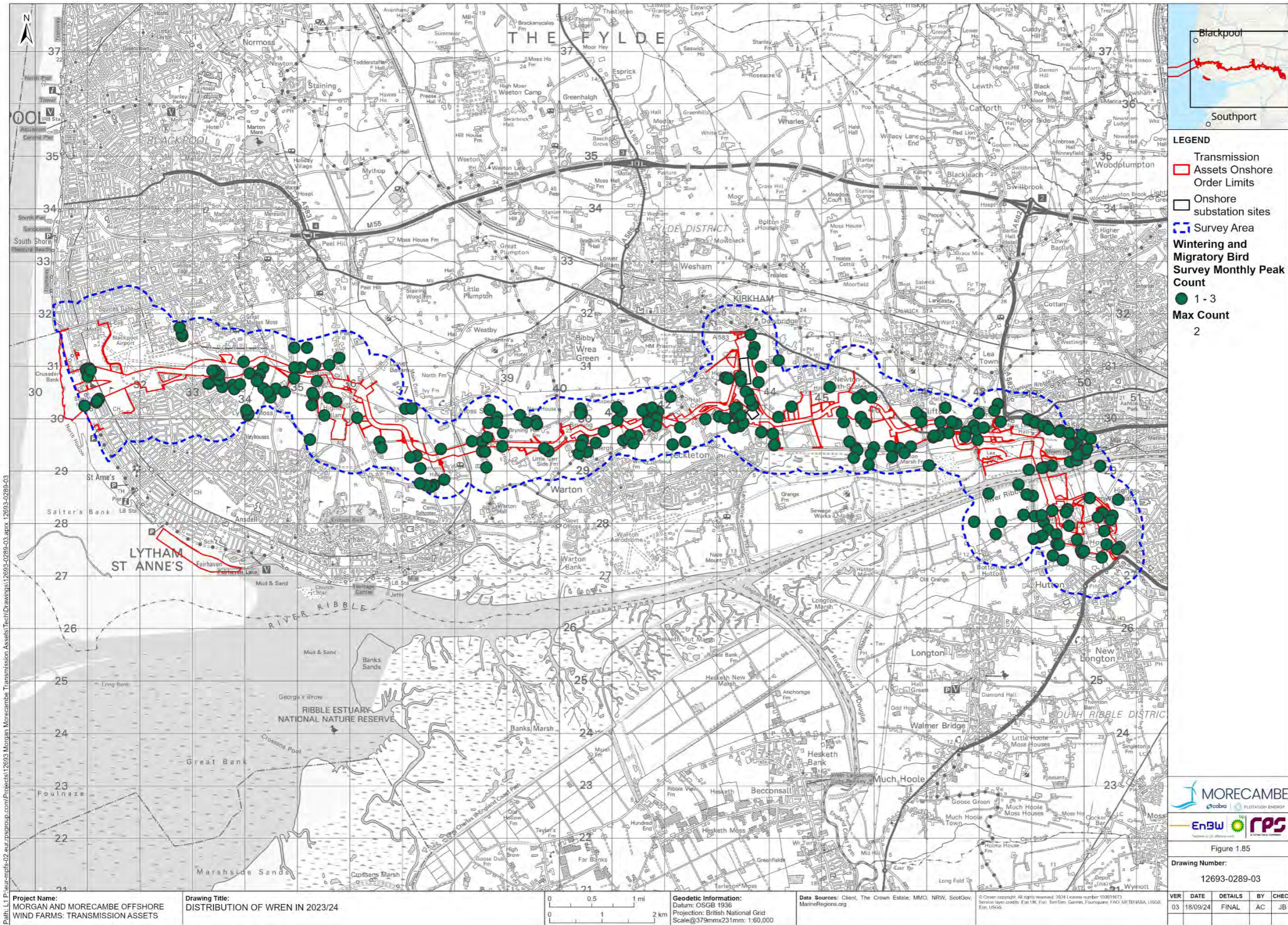


Figure 1.85: Distribution of wren in 2023/24

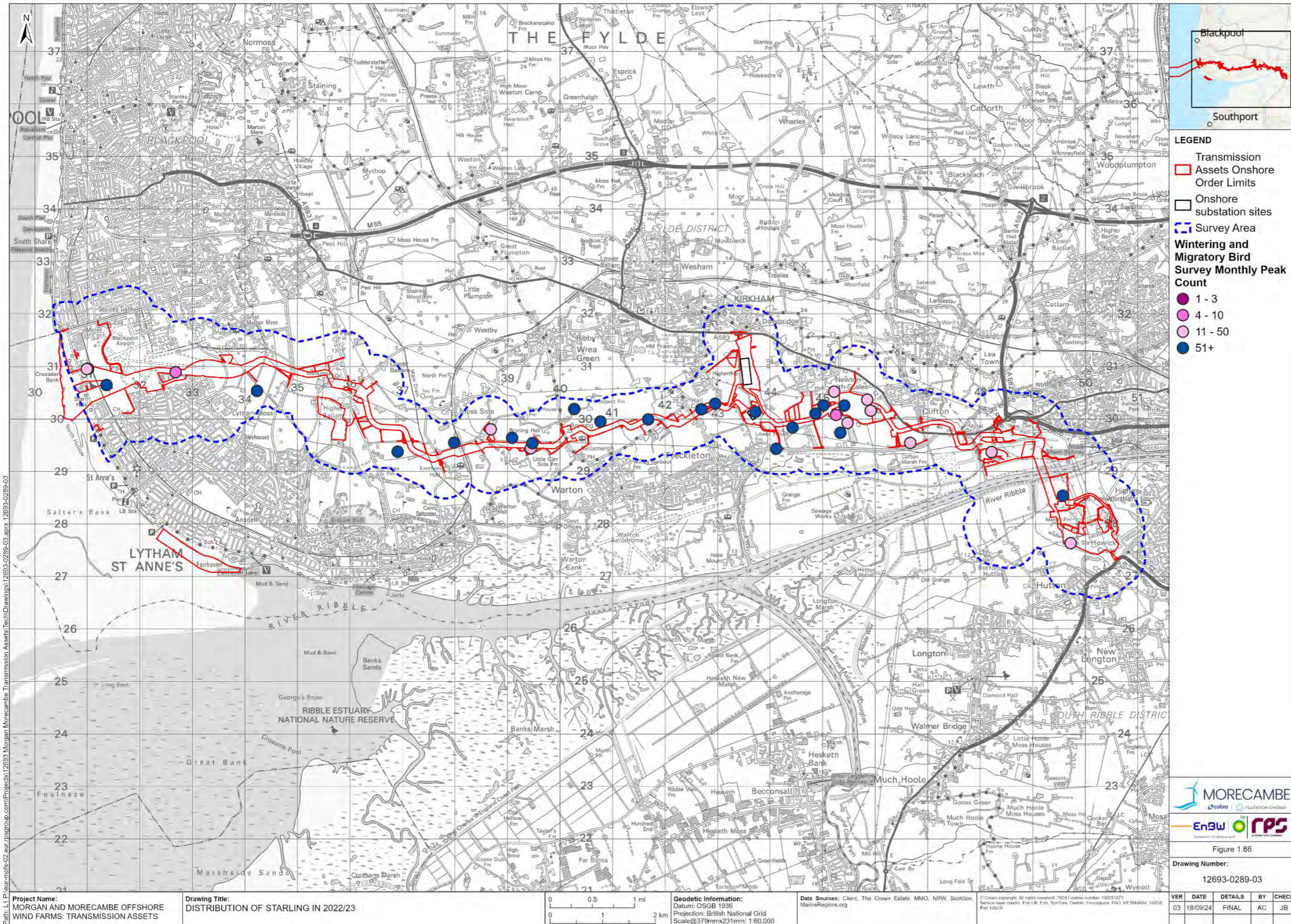


Figure 1.86: Distribution of starling in 2022/23

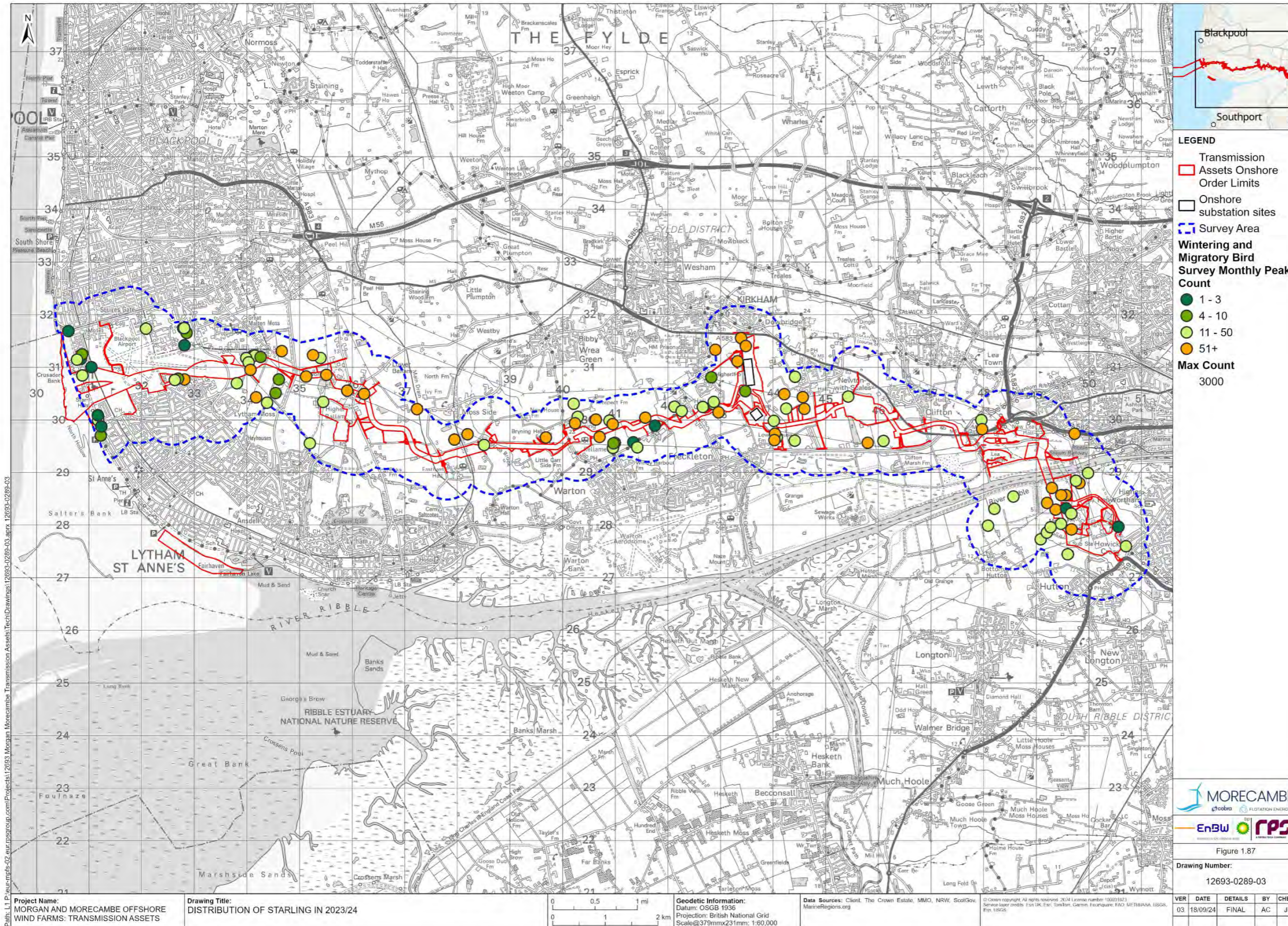


Figure 1.87: Distribution of starling in 2023/24

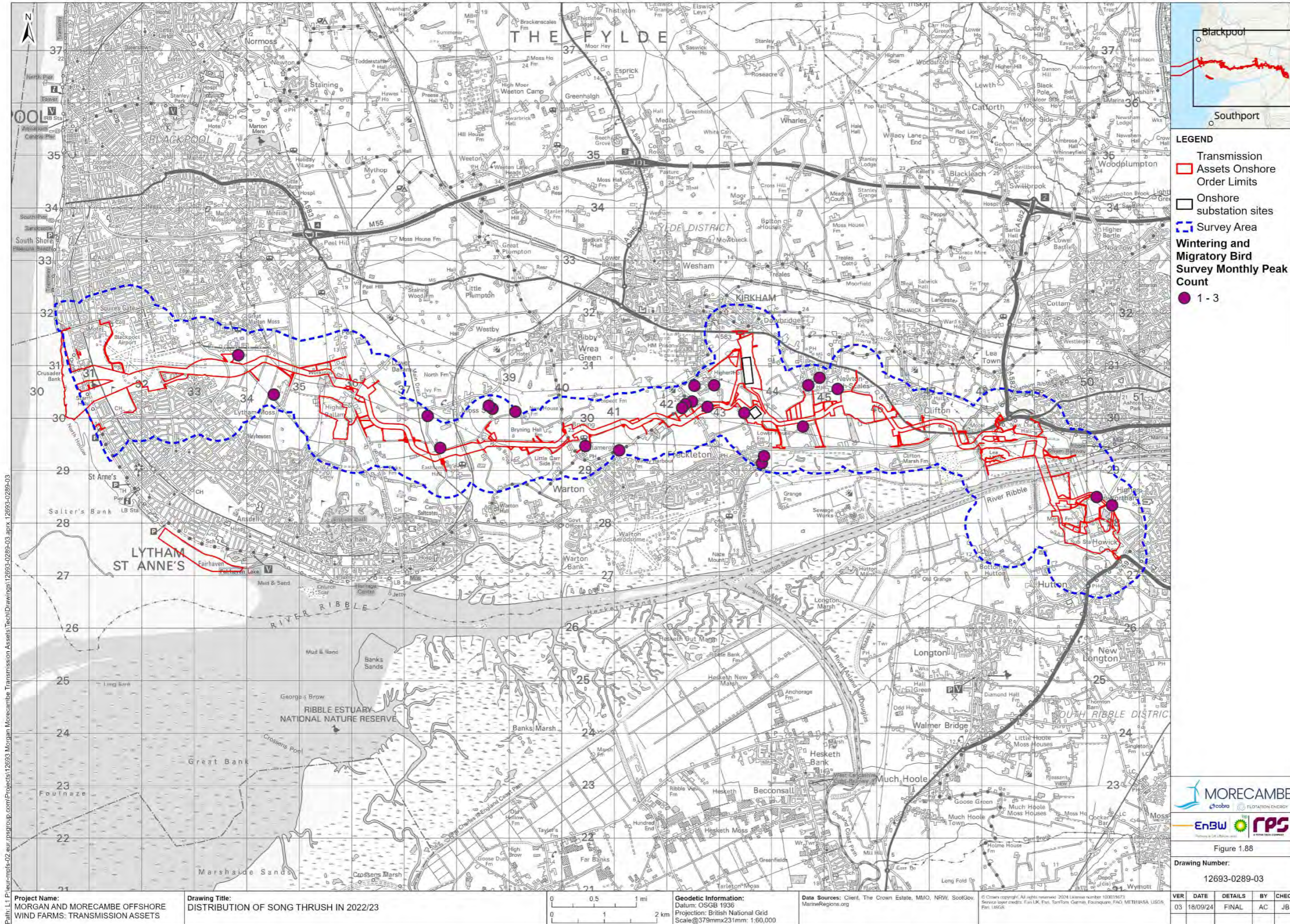


Figure 1.88: Distribution of song thrush in 2022/23

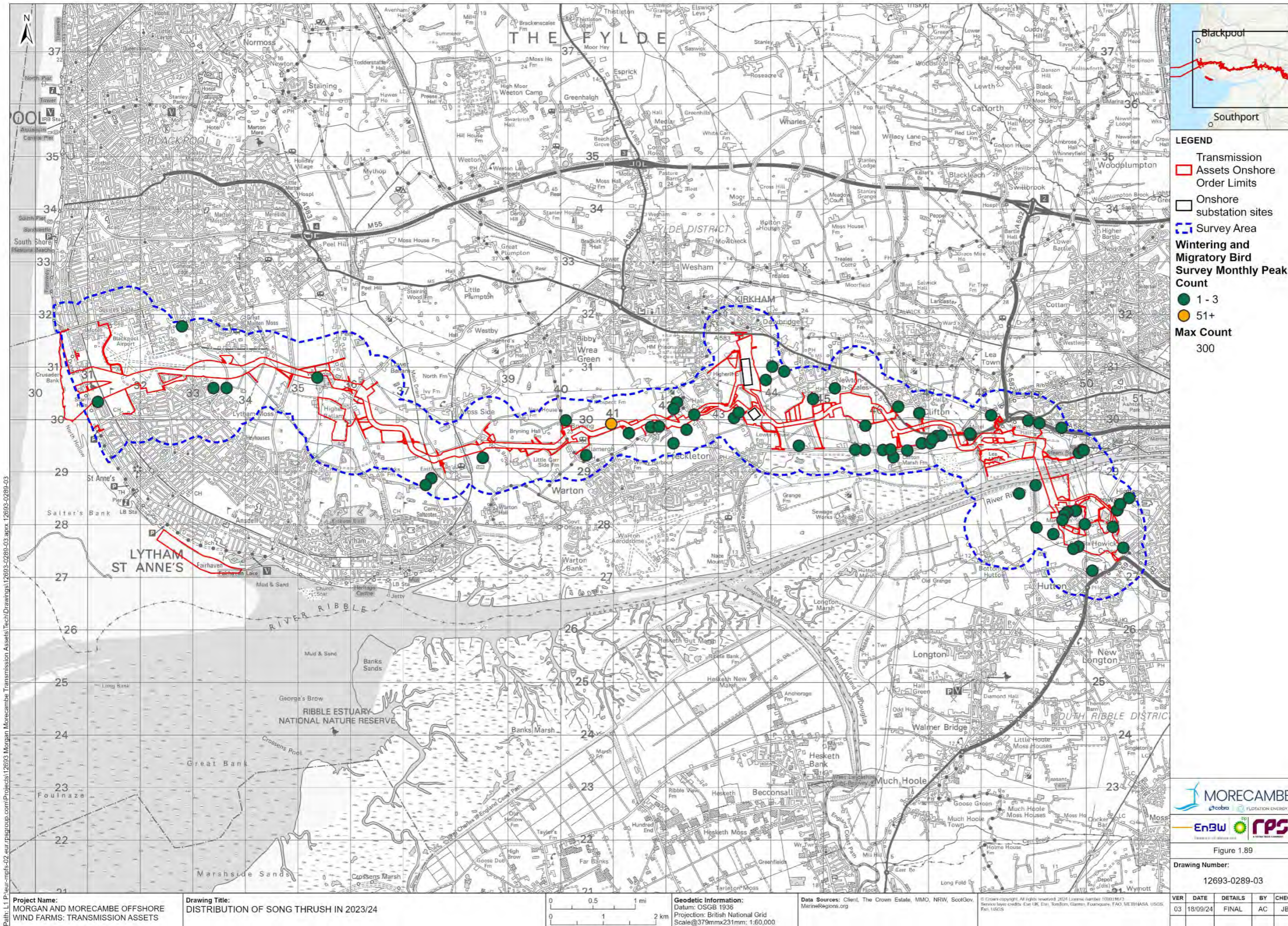


Figure 1.89: Distribution of song thrush in 2023/24

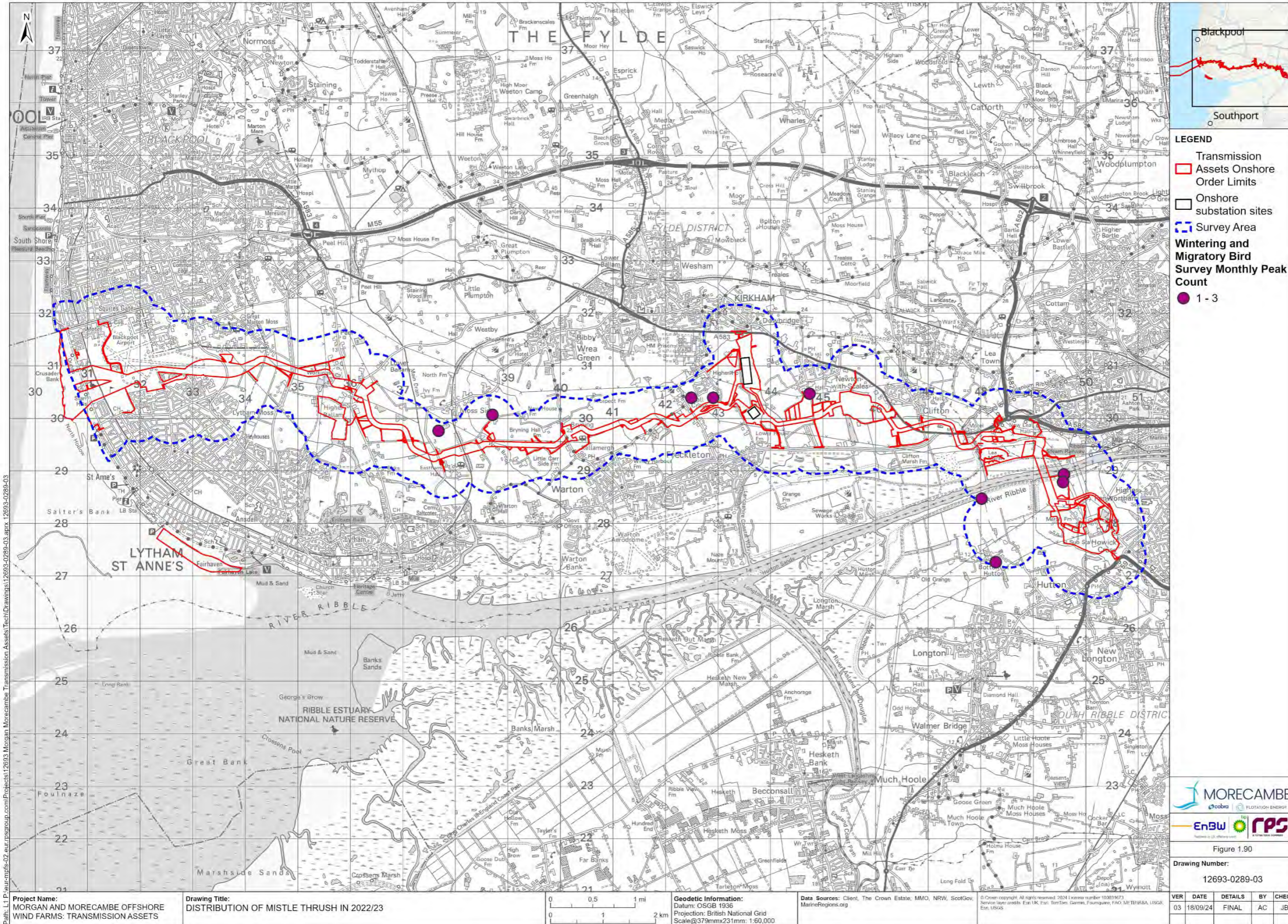


Figure 1.90: Distribution of mistle thrush in 2022/23

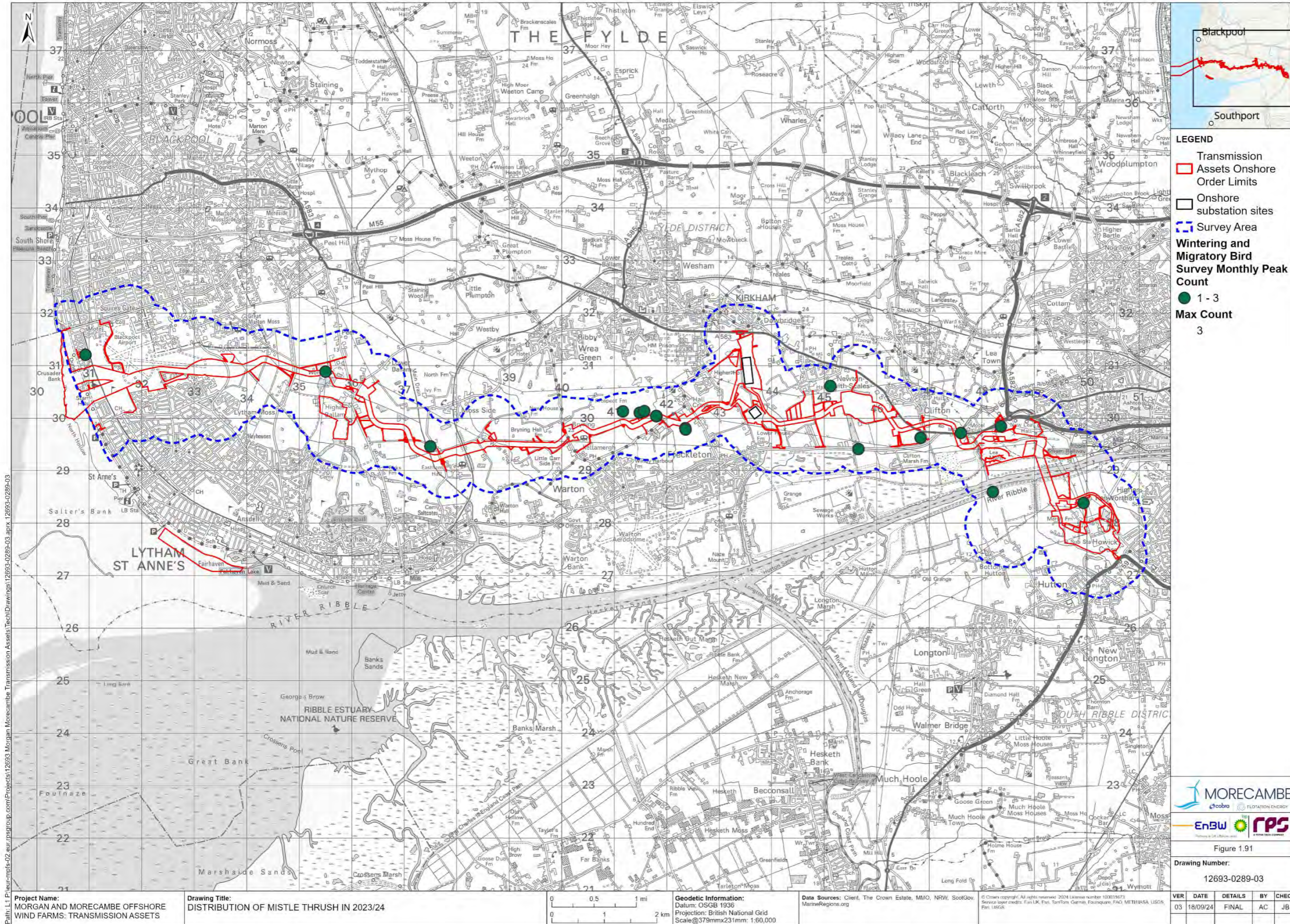


Figure 1.91: Distribution of mistle thrush in 2023/24

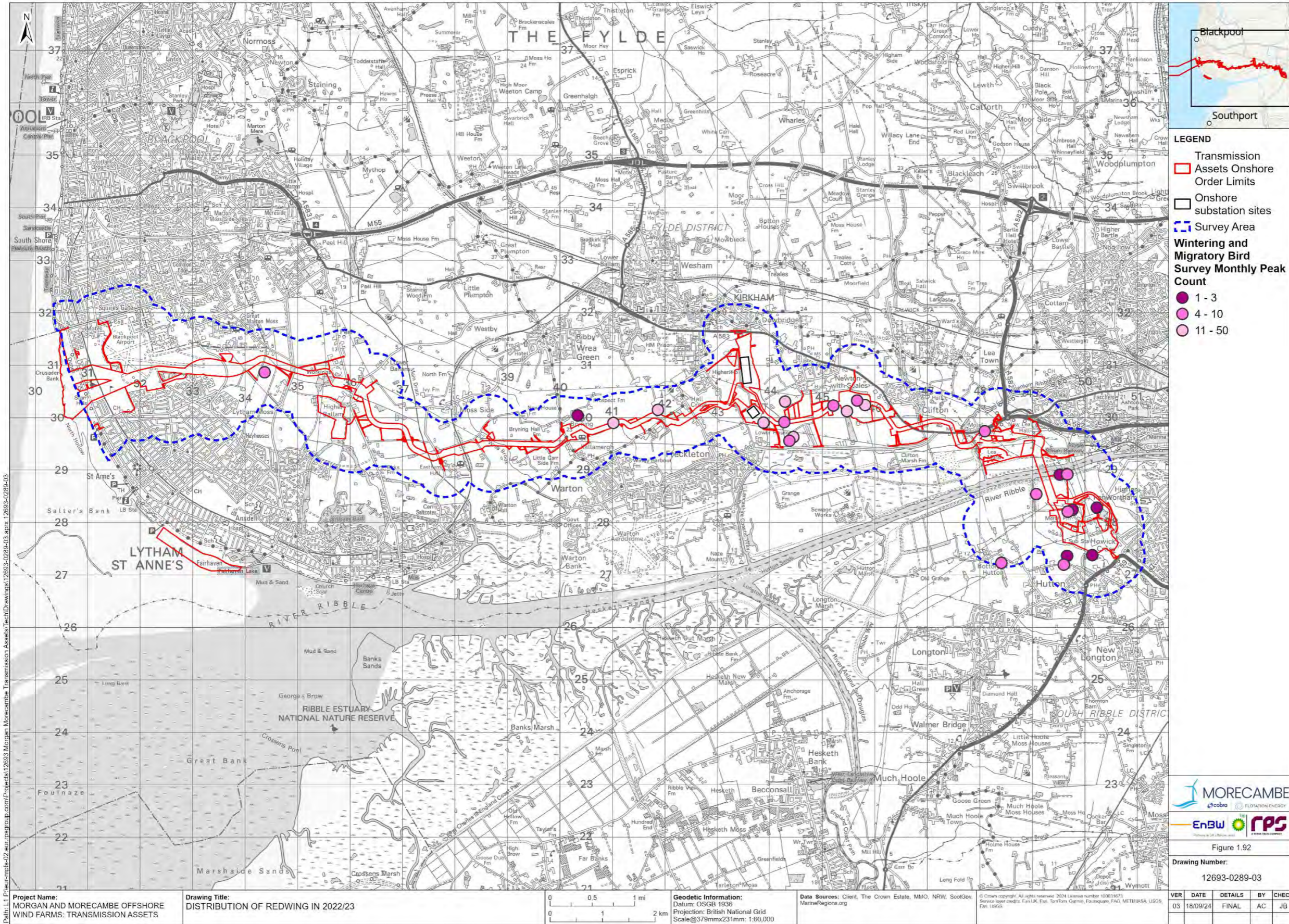


Figure 1.92: Distribution of redwing in 2022/23

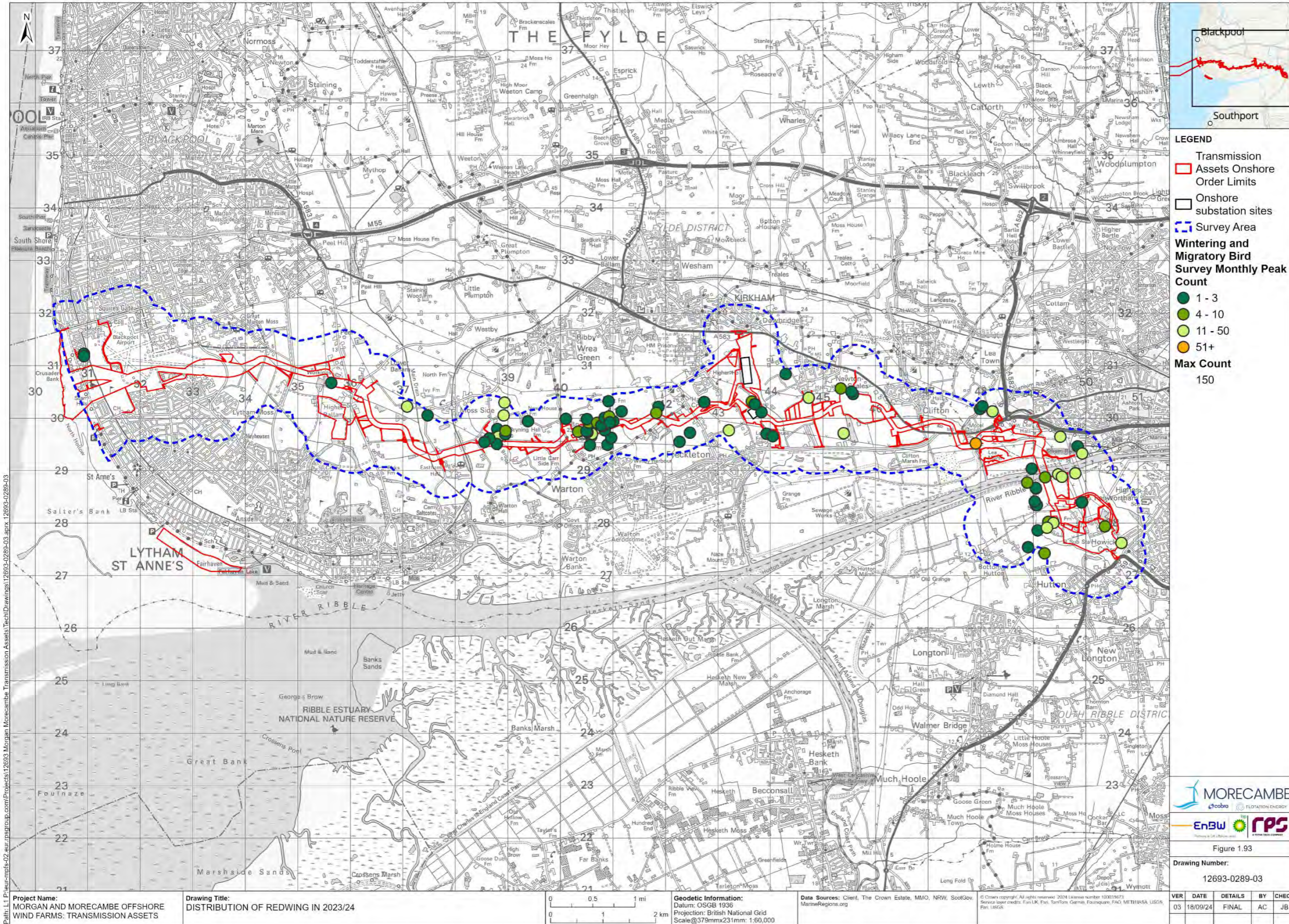


Figure 1.93: Distribution of redwing in 2023/24

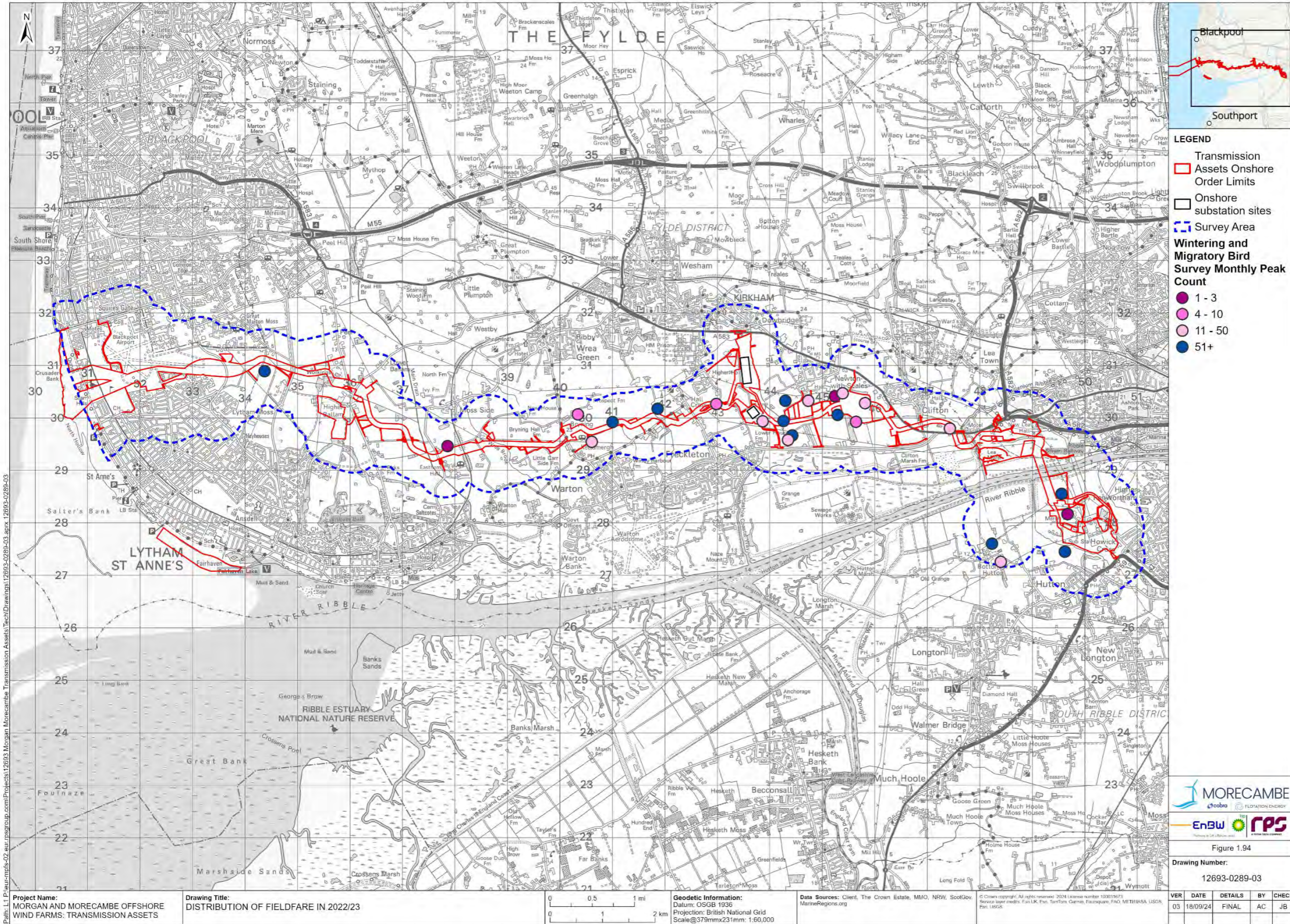


Figure 1.94: Distribution of fieldfare in 2022/23

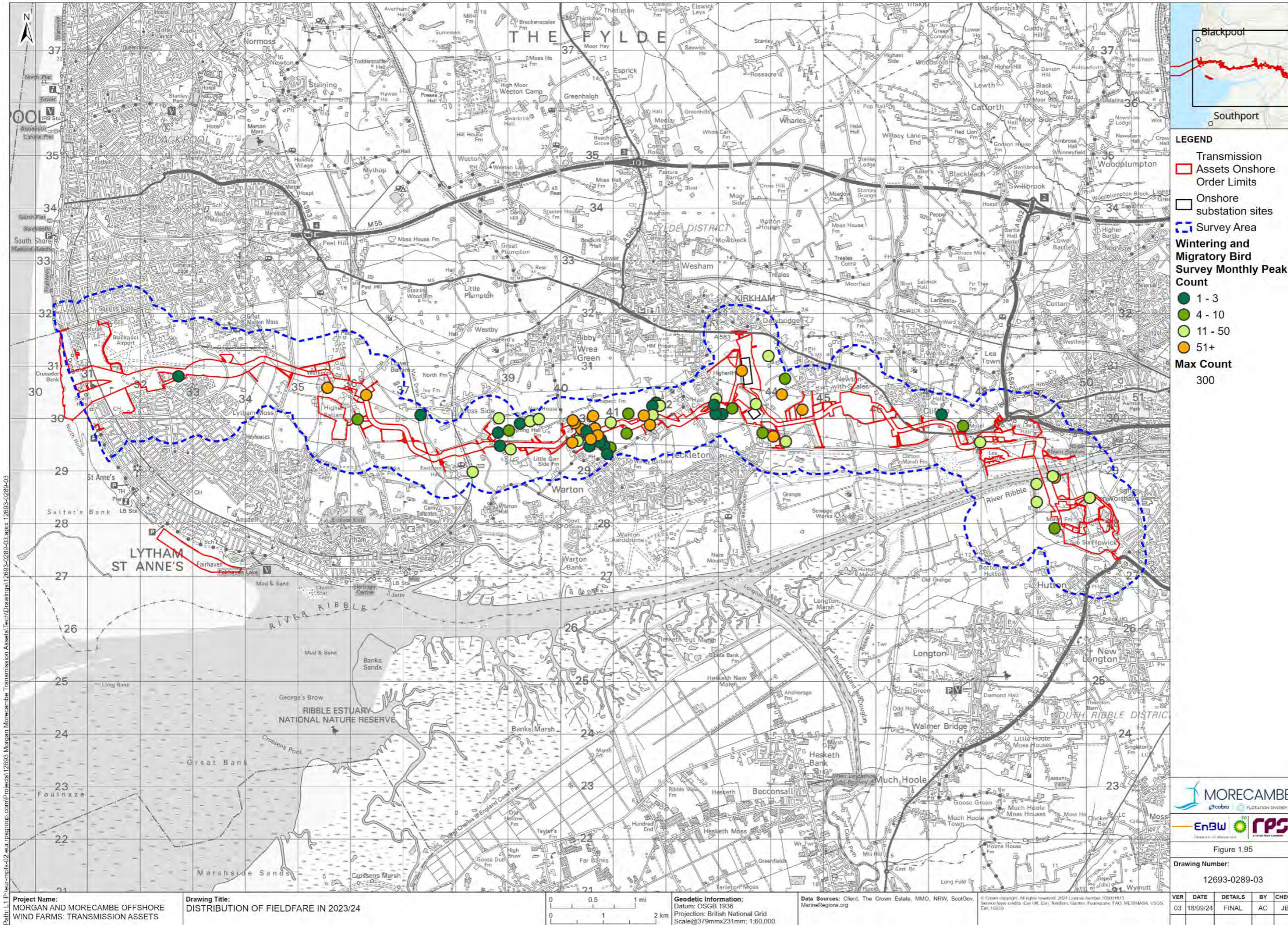


Figure 1.95: Distribution of fieldfare in 2023/24

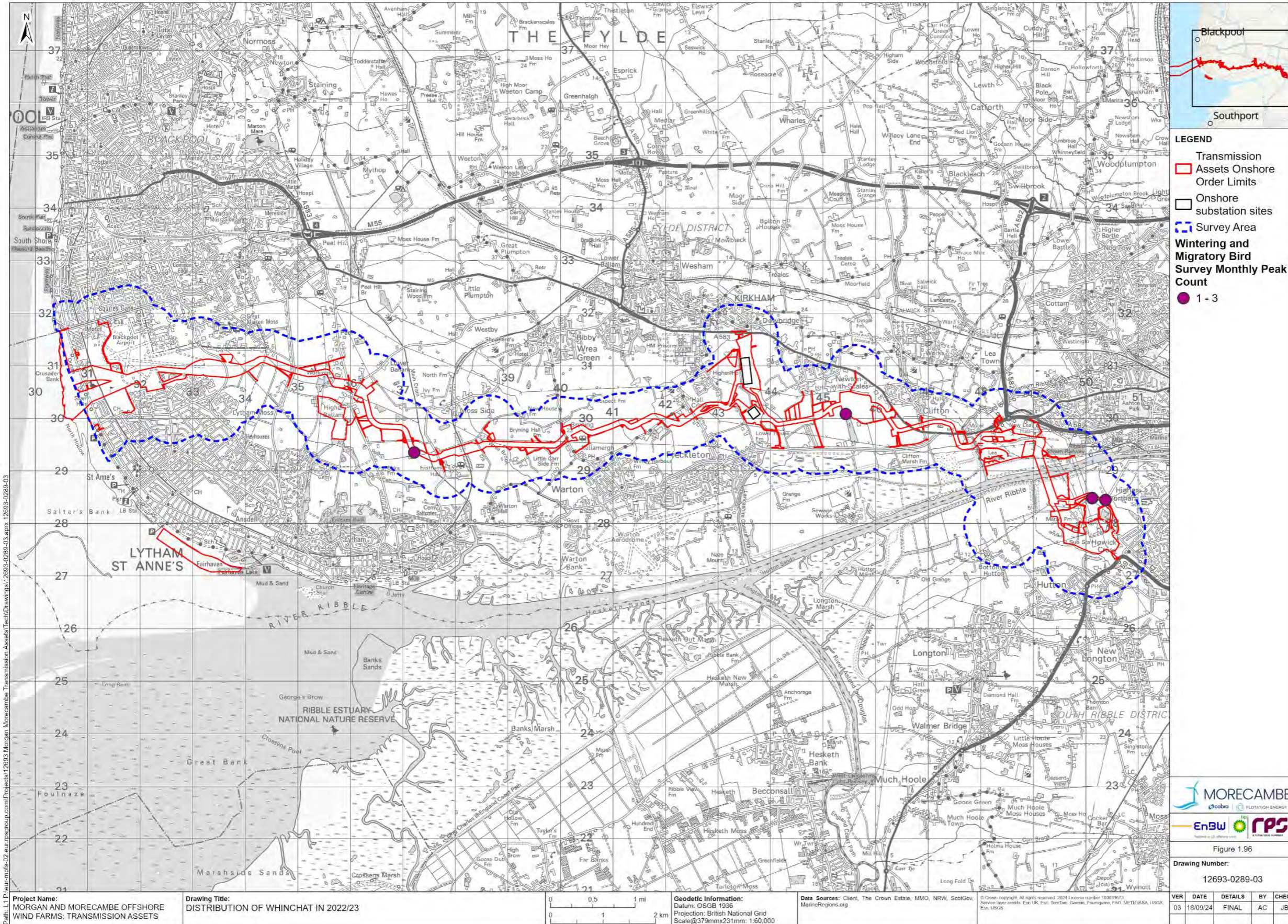


Figure 1.96: Distribution of whinchat in 2022/23

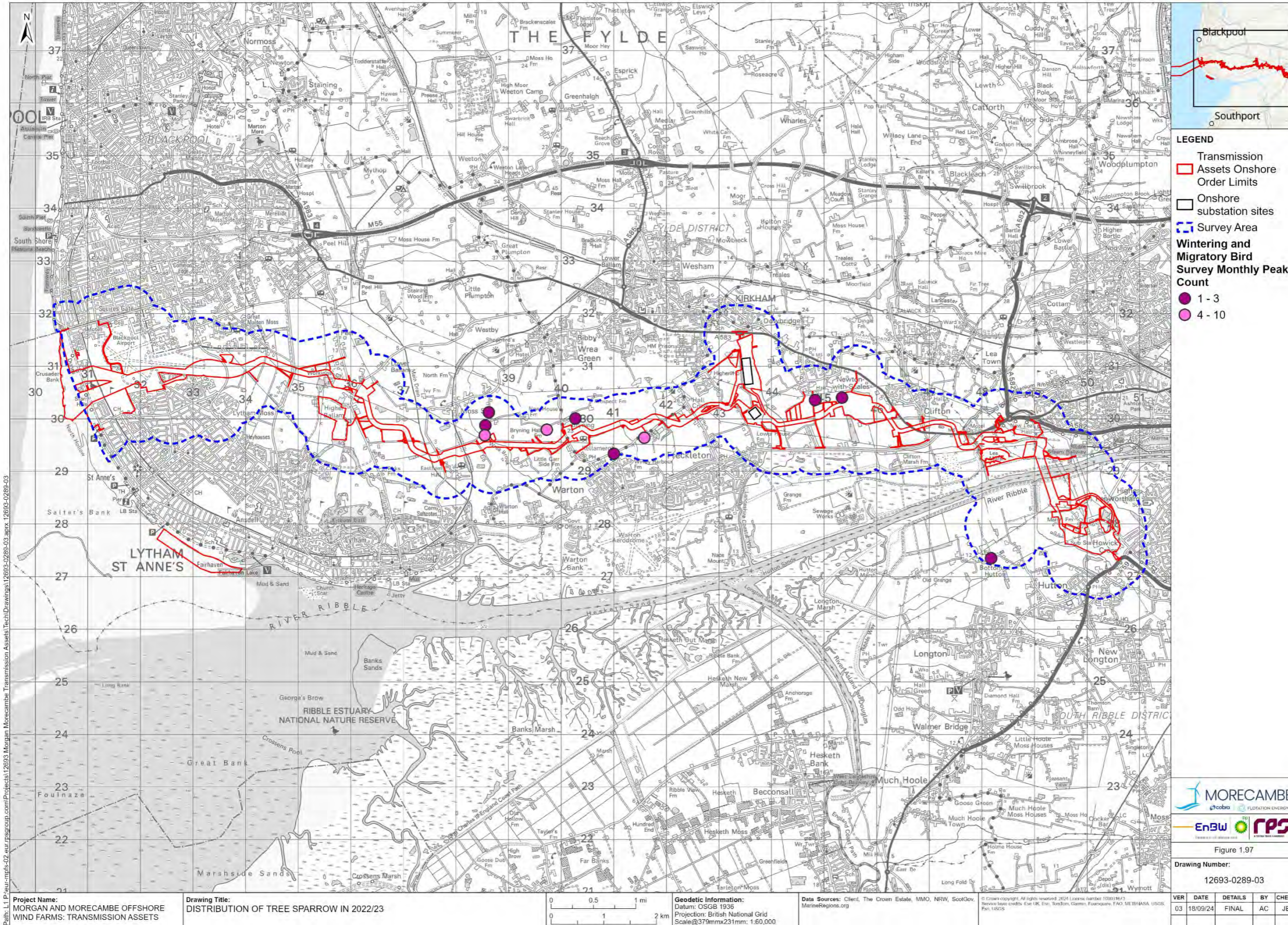


Figure 1.97: Distribution of tree sparrow in 2022/23

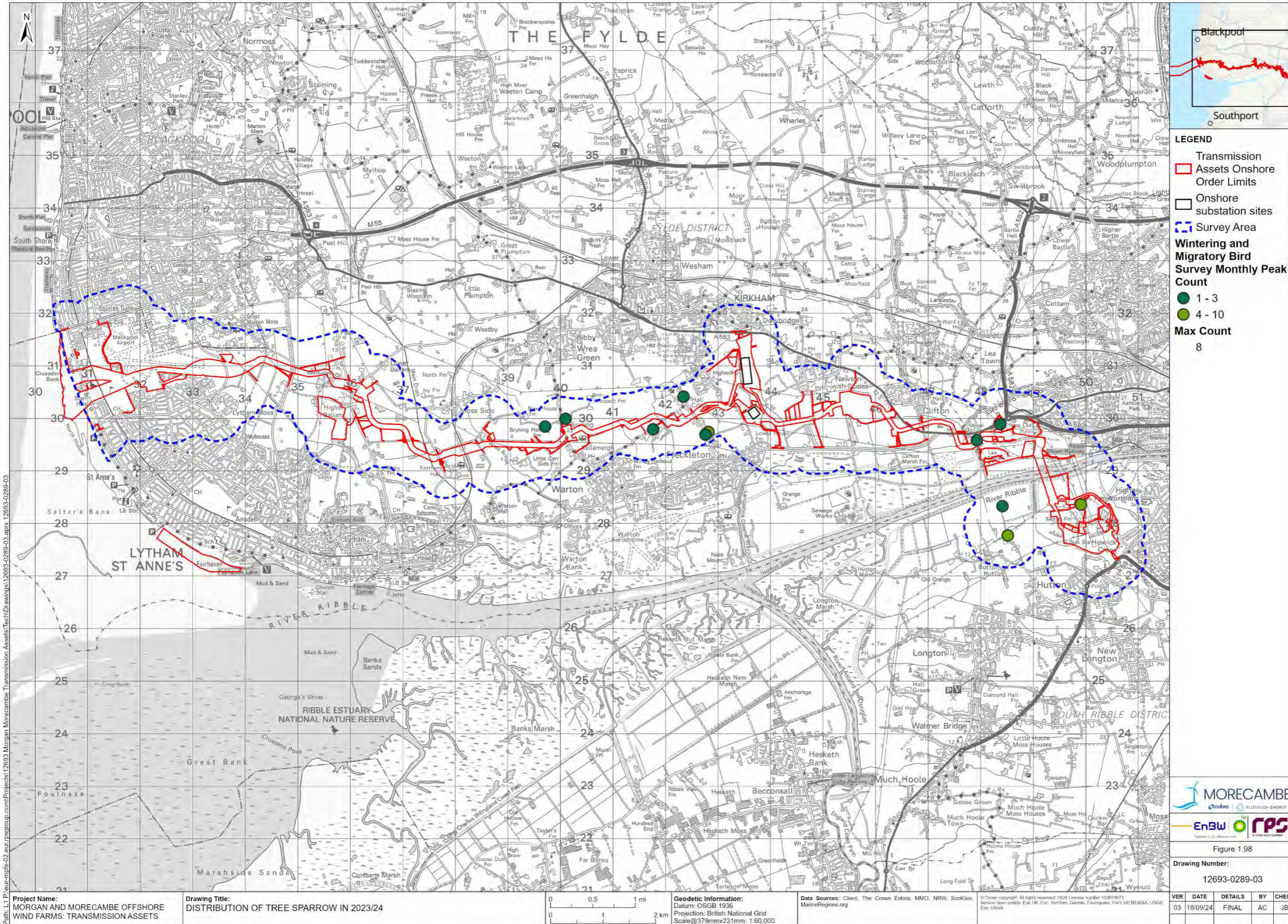


Figure 1.98: Distribution of tree sparrow in 2023/24

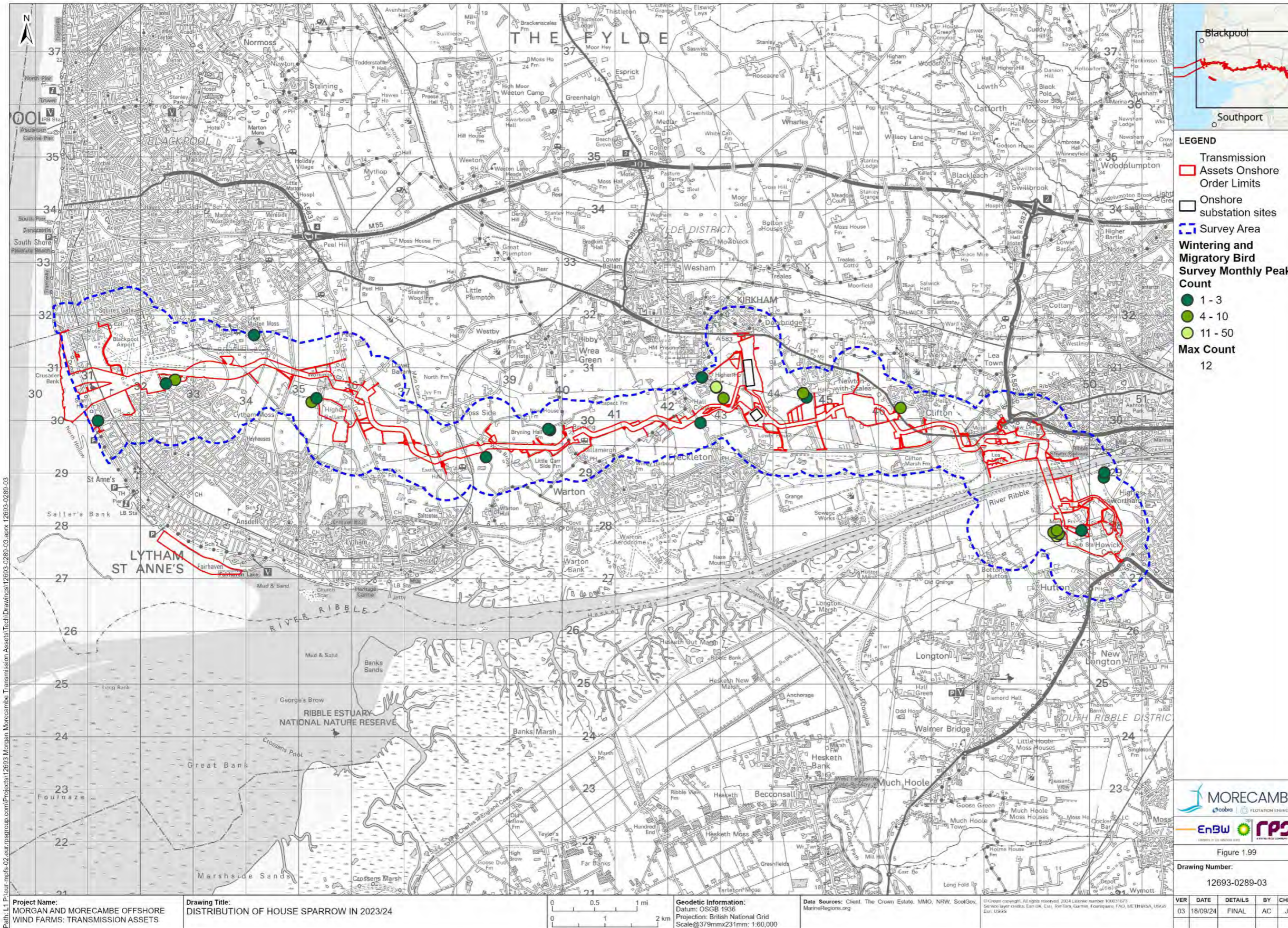


Figure 1.99: Distribution of house sparrow in 2023/24

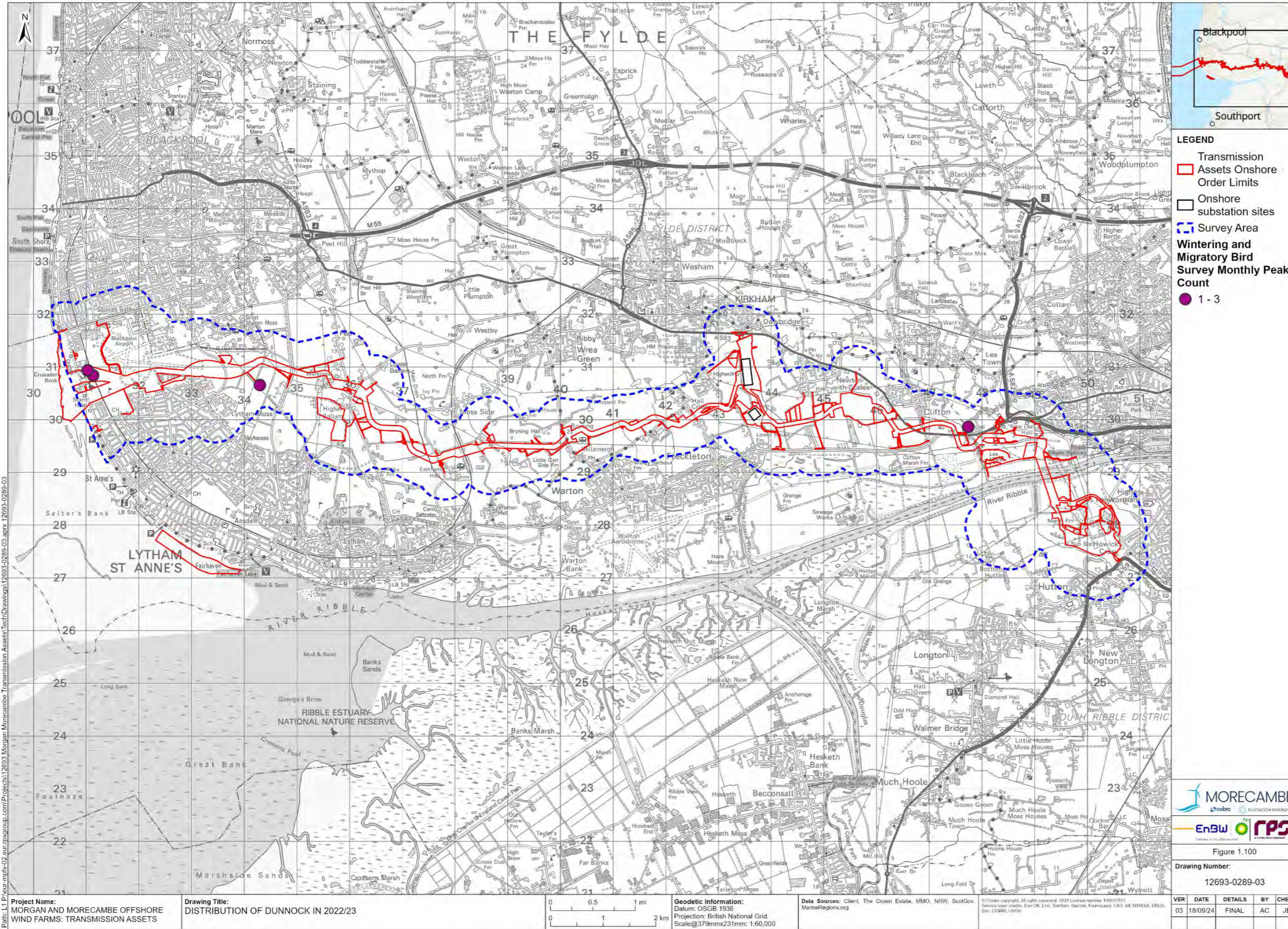


Figure 1.100: Distribution of dunnock in 2022/23

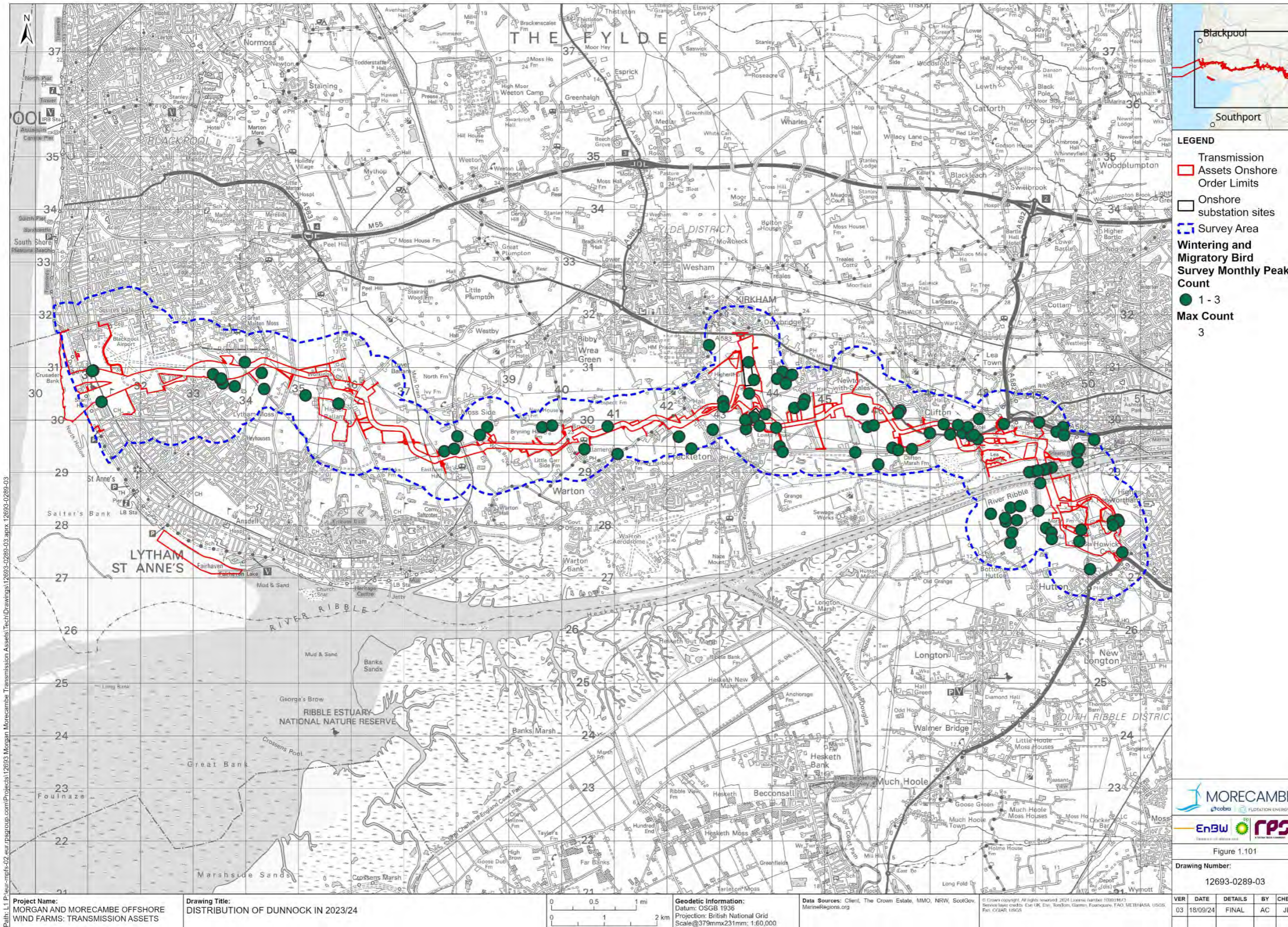


Figure 1.101: Distribution of dunnock in 2023/24

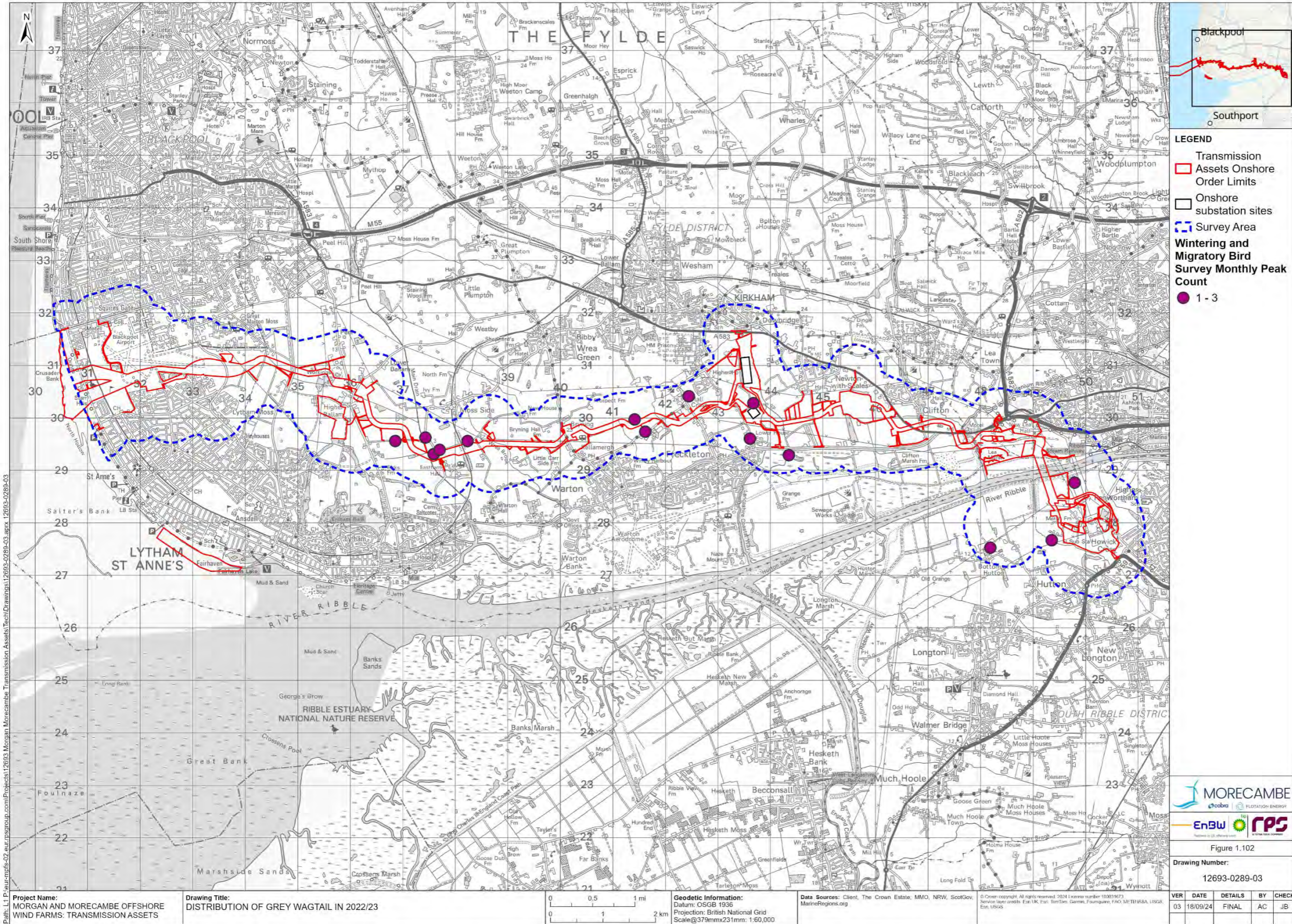


Figure 1.102: Distribution of grey wagtail in 2022/23

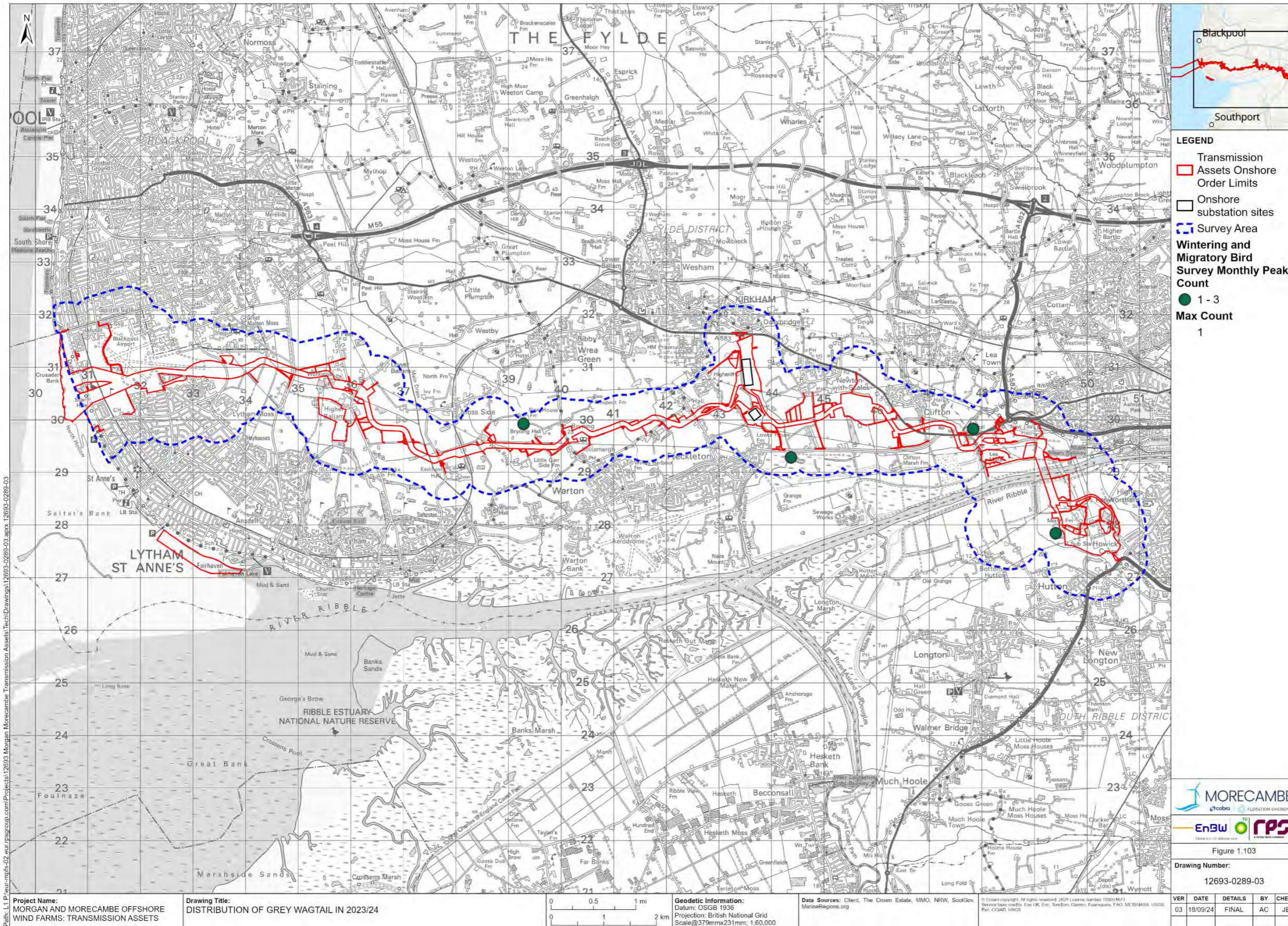


Figure 1.103: Distribution of grey wagtail in 2023/24

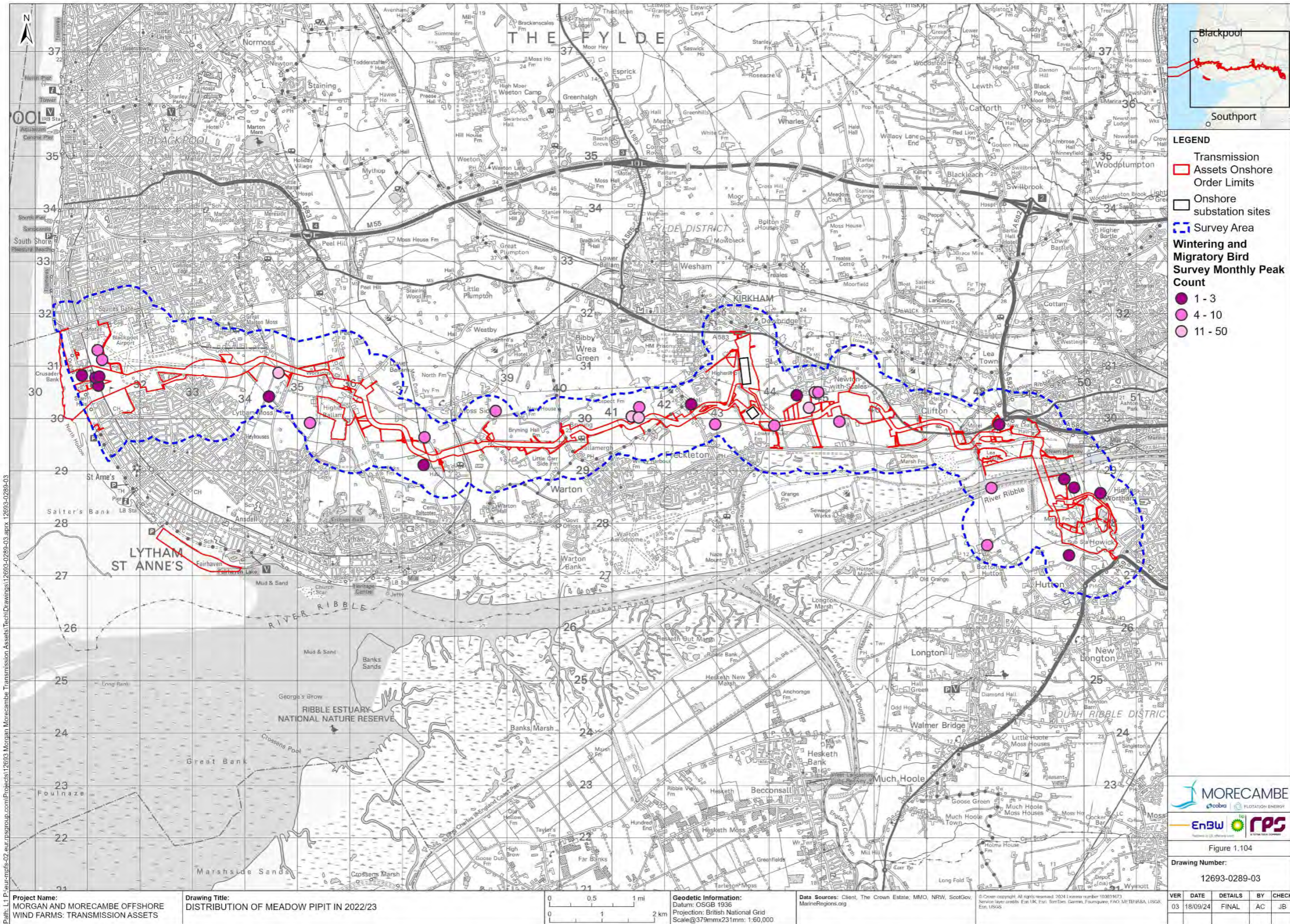


Figure 1.104: Distribution of meadow pipit in 2022/23

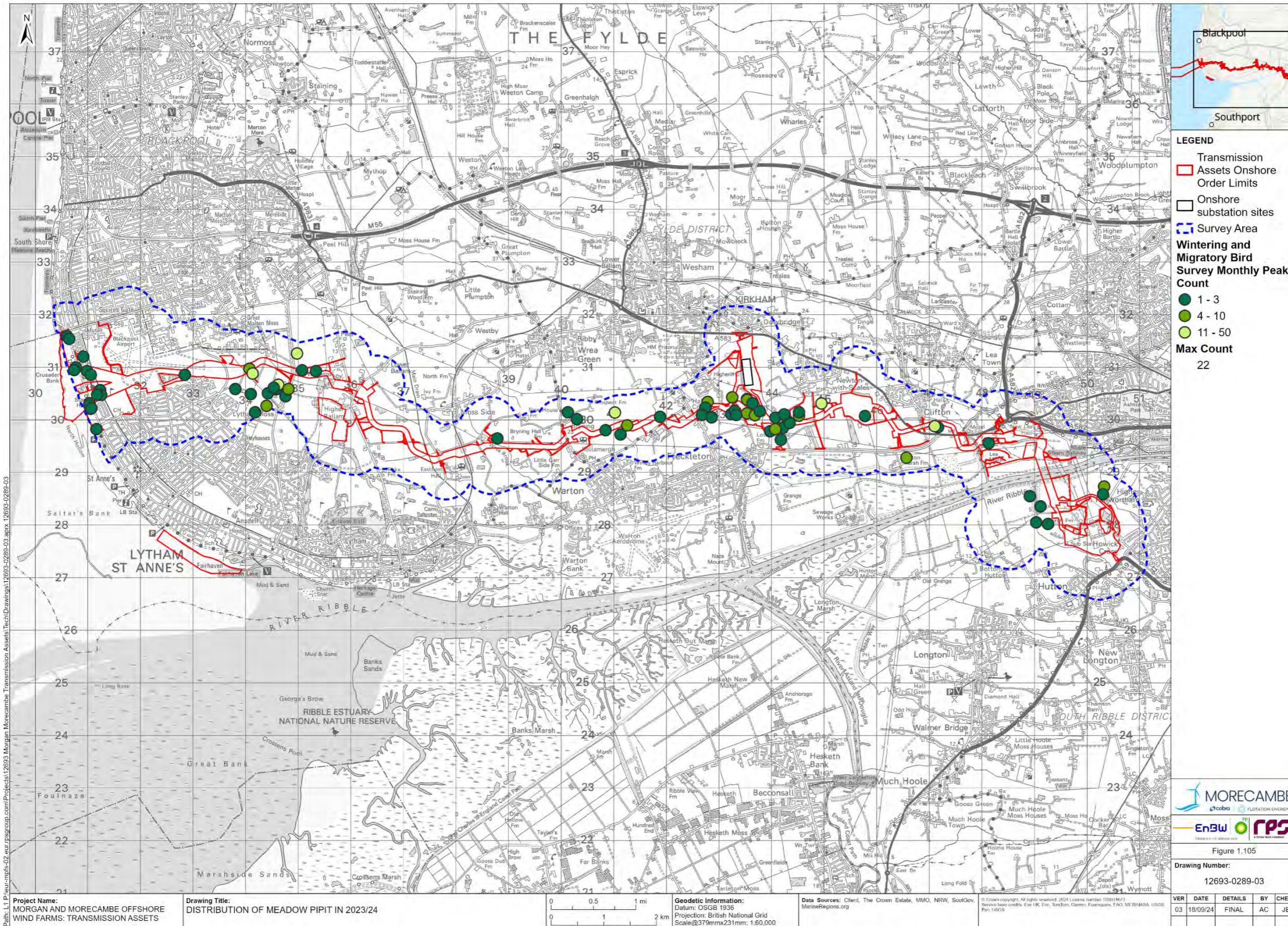


Figure 1.105: Distribution of meadow pipit in 2023/24

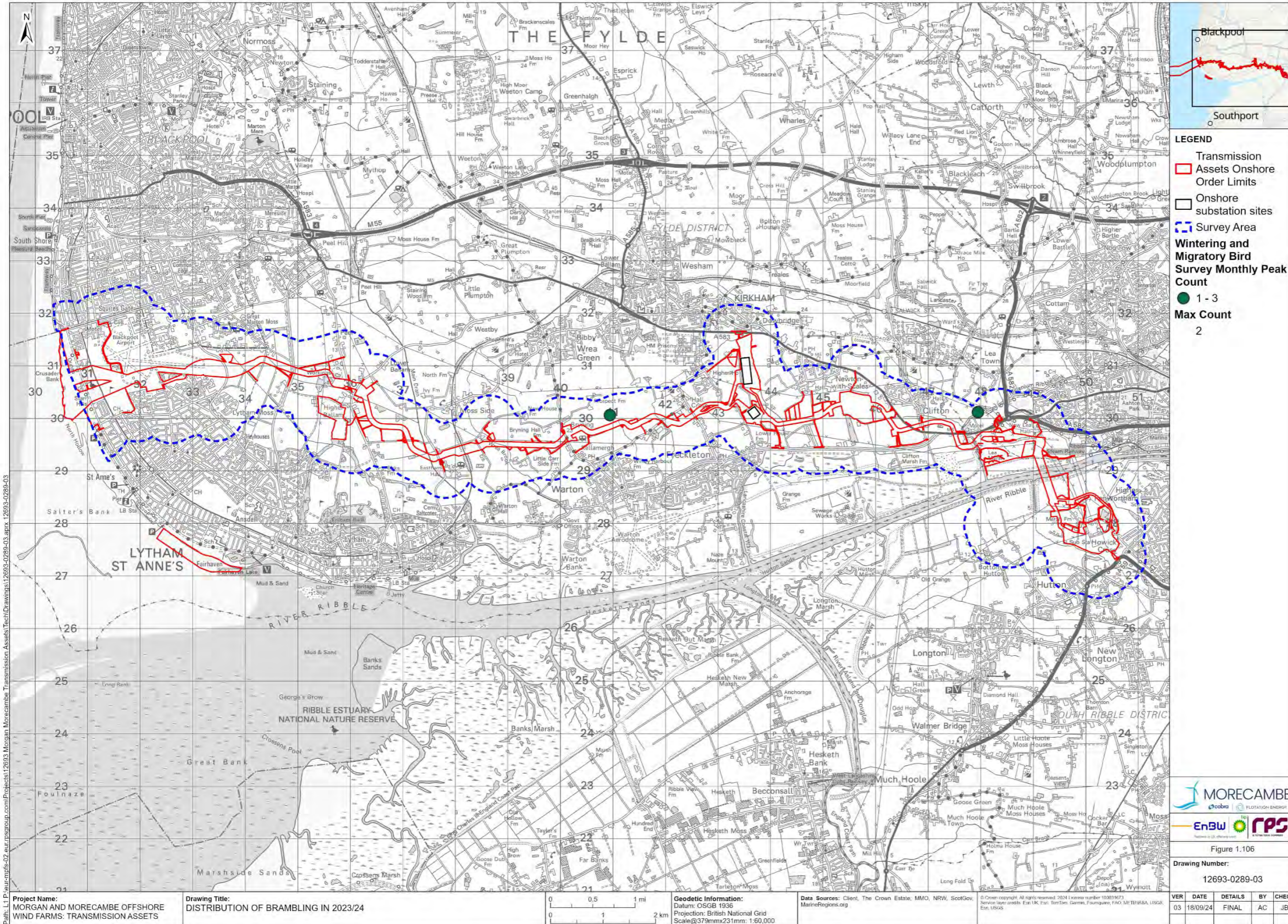


Figure 1.106: Distribution of brambling in 2023/24

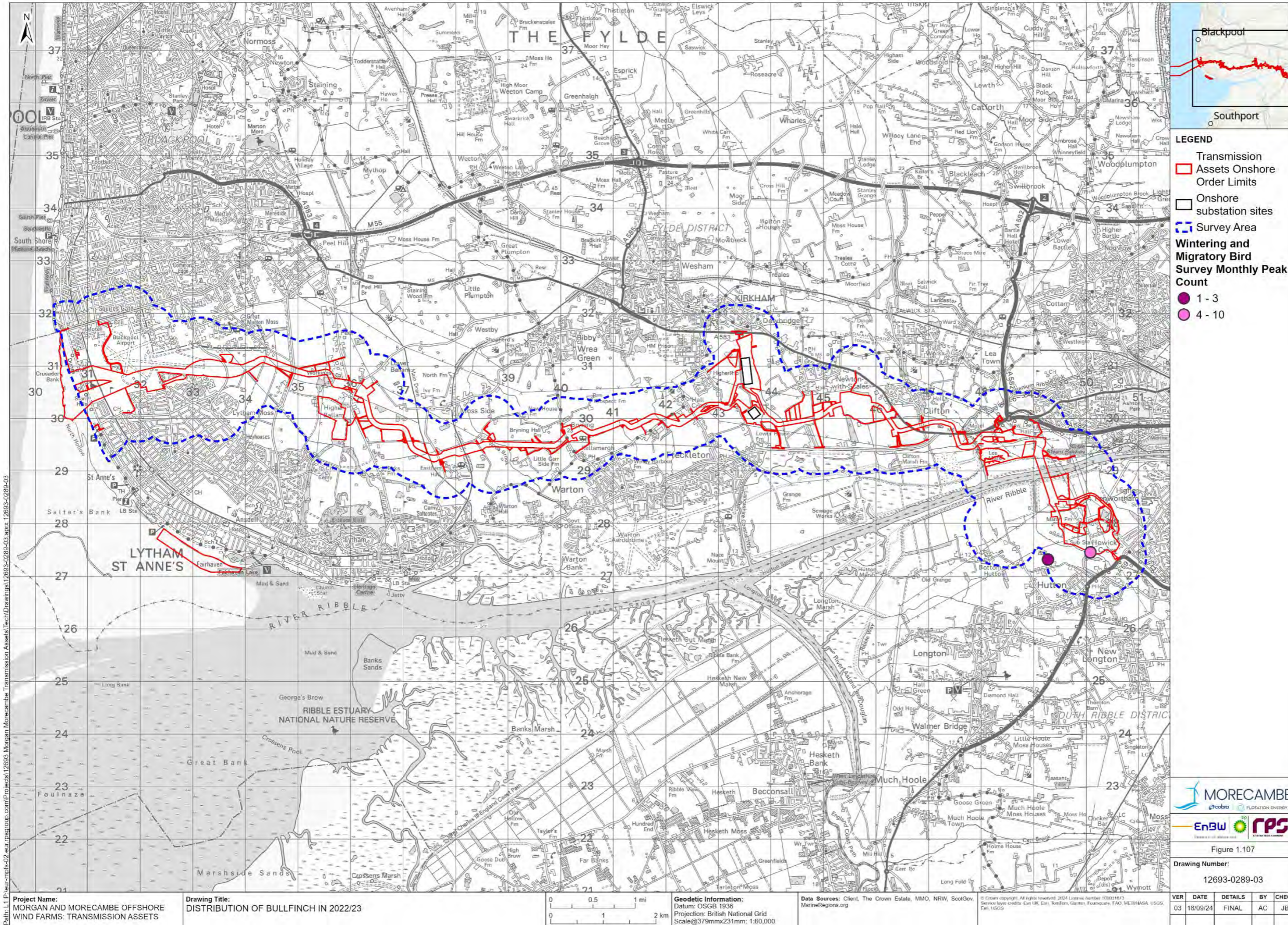


Figure 1.107: Distribution of bullfinch in 2022/23

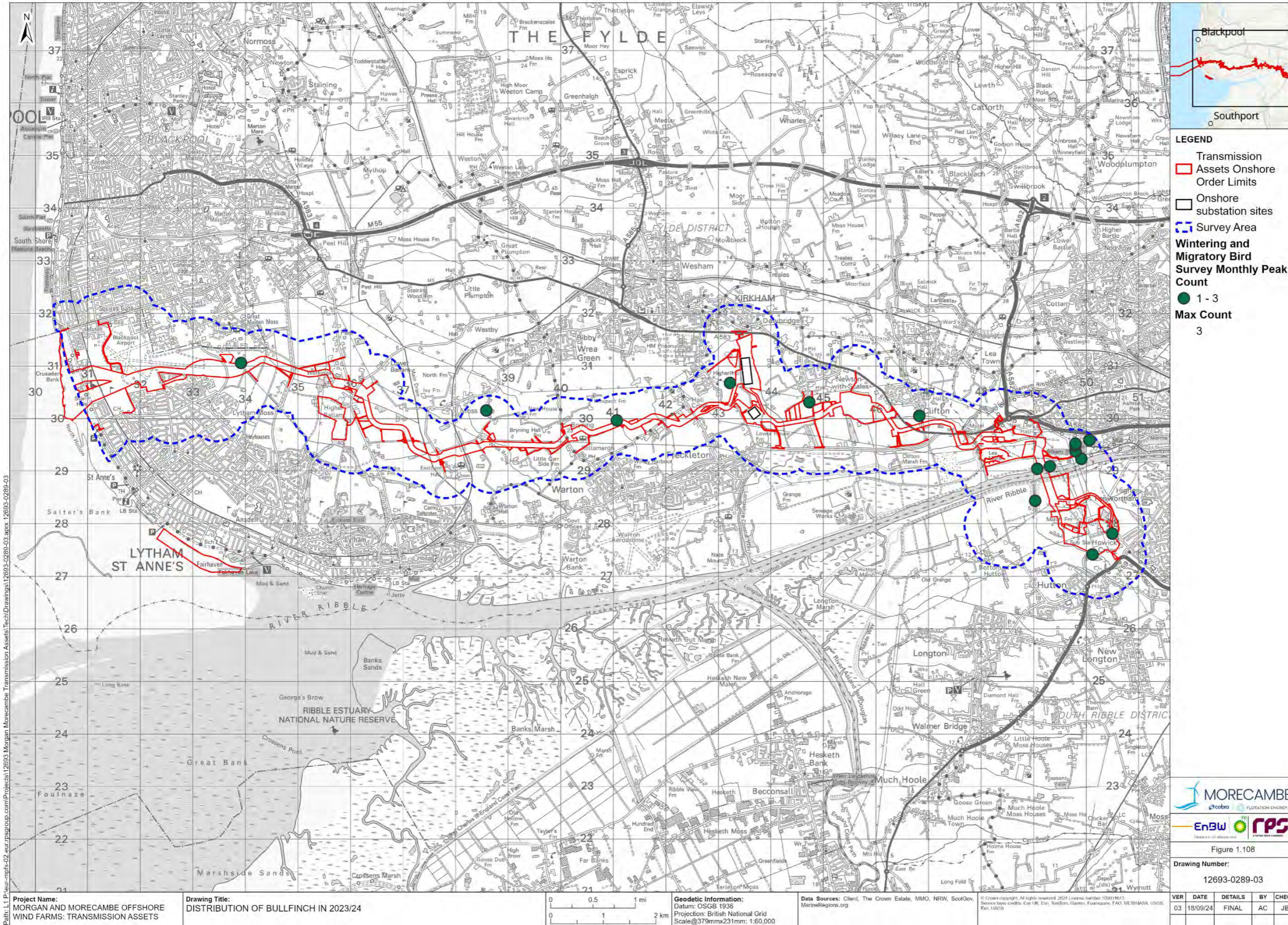


Figure 1.108: Distribution of bullfinch in 2023/24

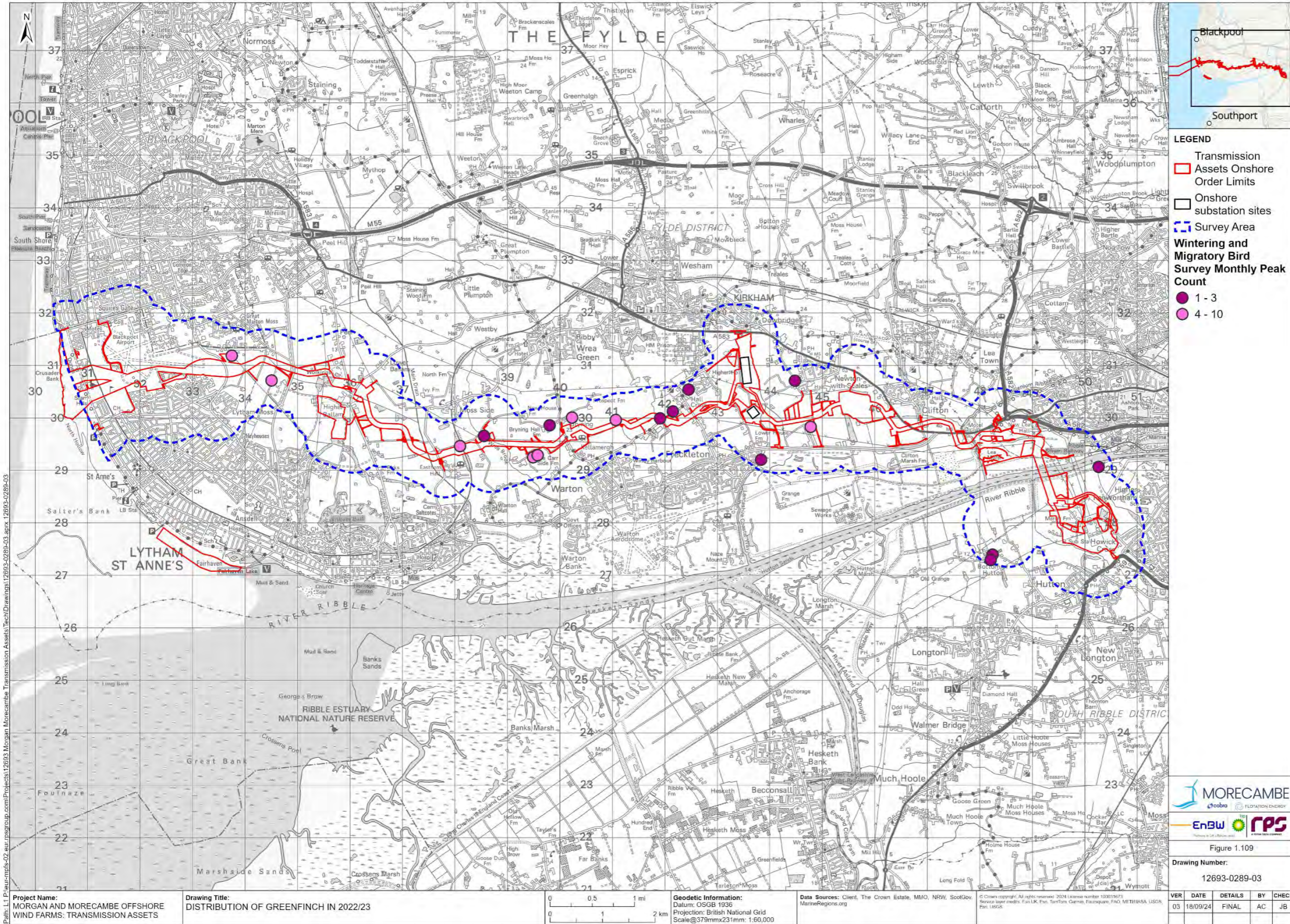


Figure 1.109: Distribution of greenfinch in 2022/23

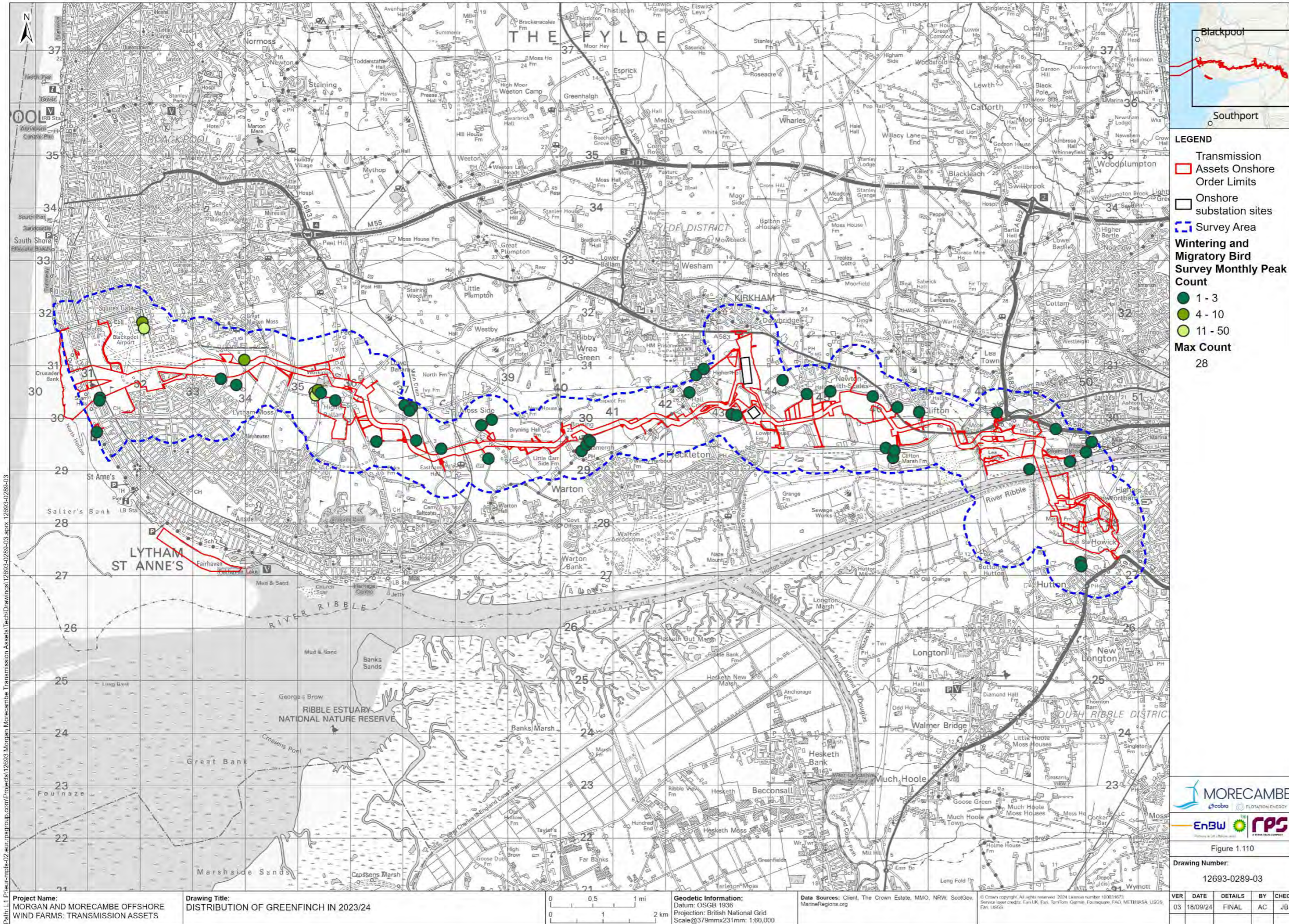


Figure 1.110: Distribution of greenfinch in 2023/24

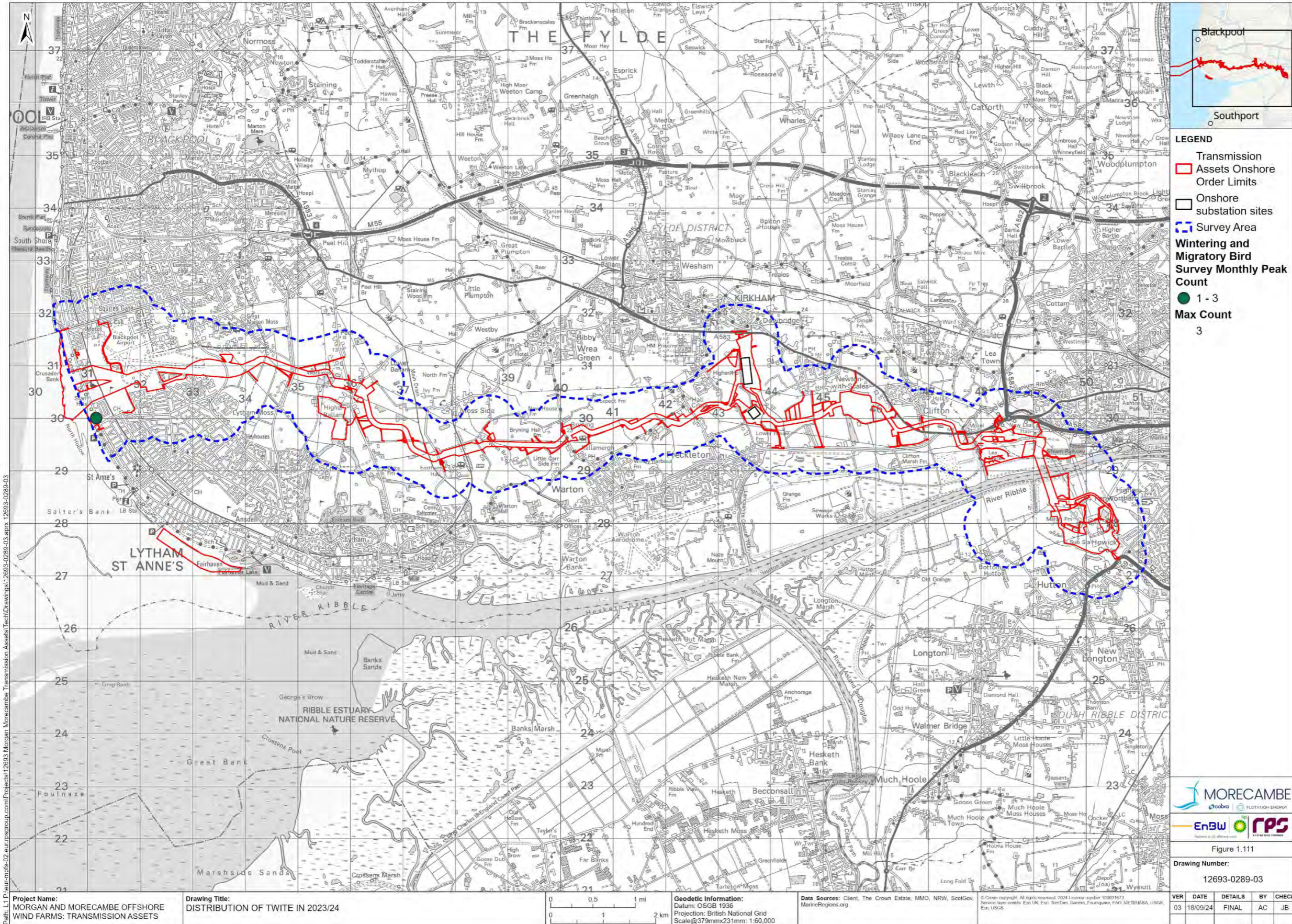


Figure 1.111: Distribution of twite in 2023/24

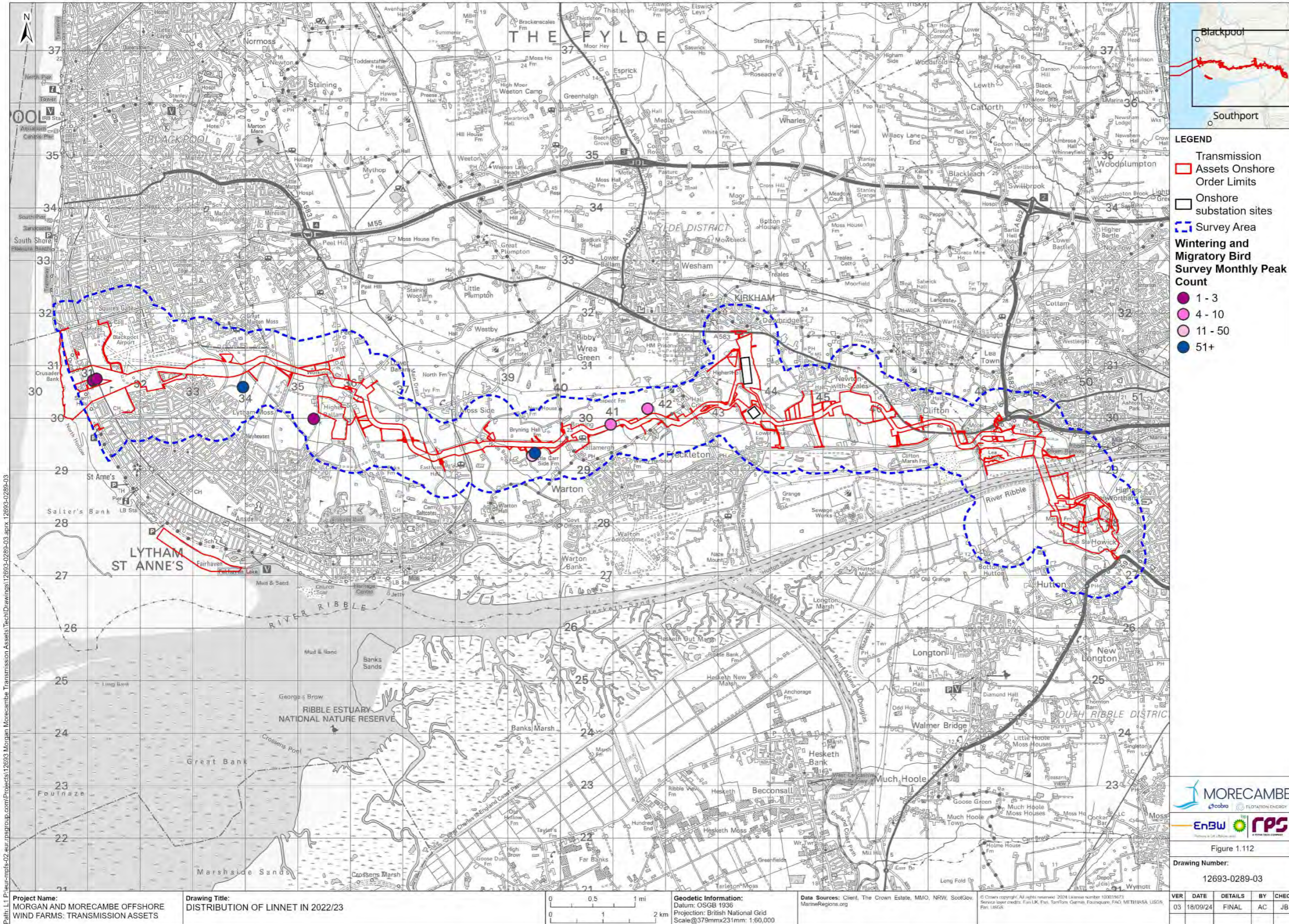


Figure 1.112: Distribution of linnet in 2022/23

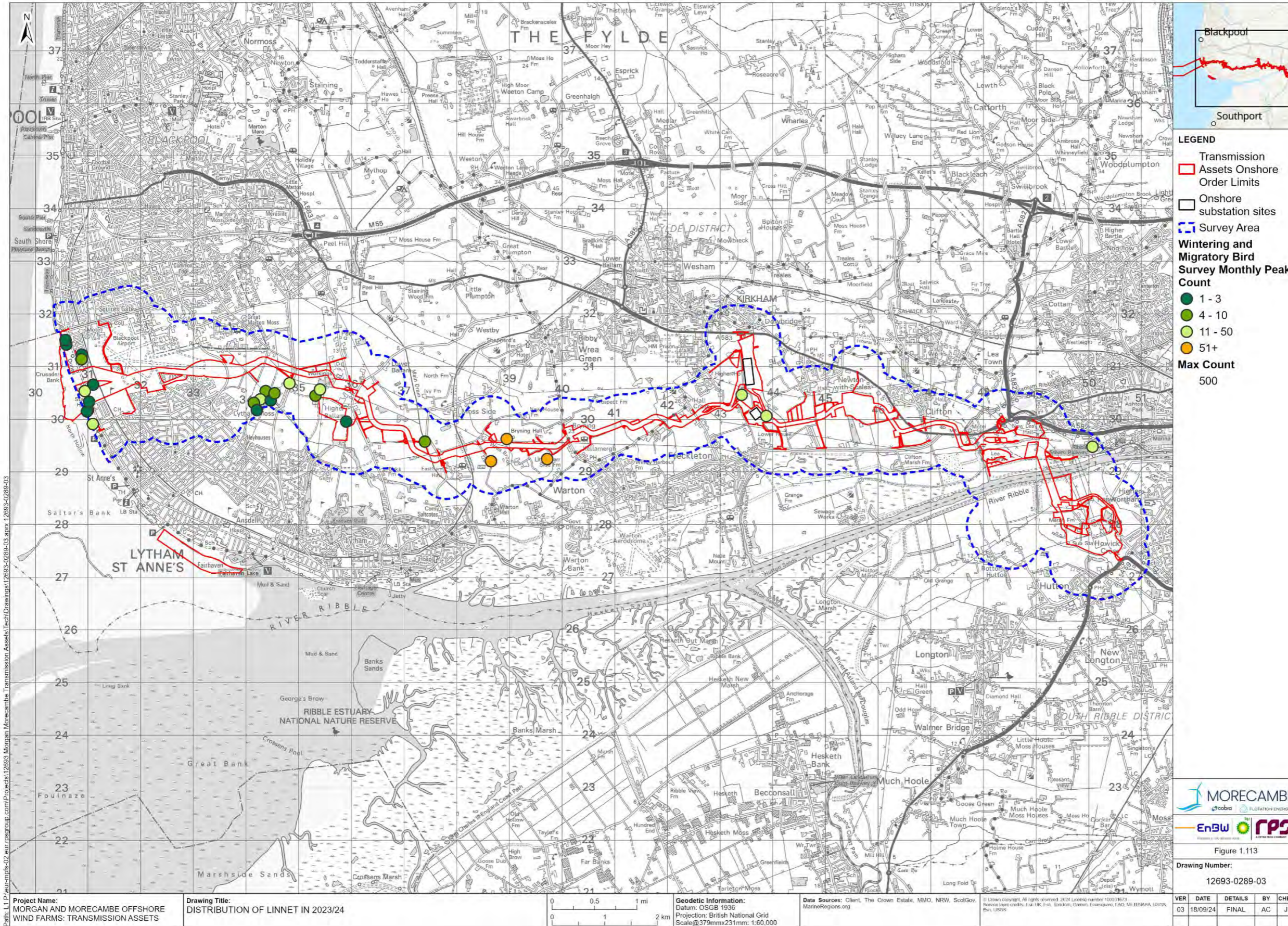


Figure 1.113: Distribution of linnet in 2023/24

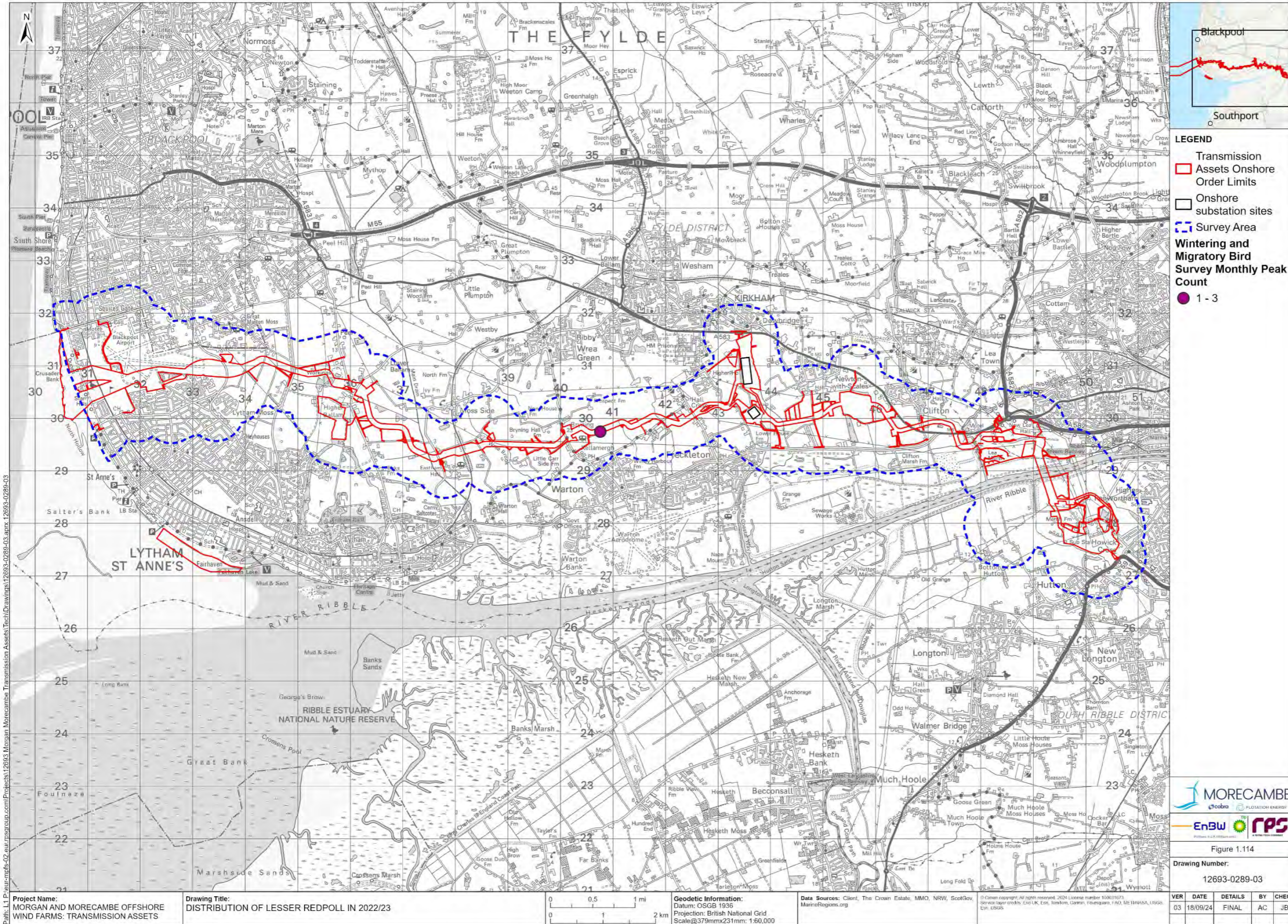


Figure 1.114: Distribution of lesser redpoll in 2022/23

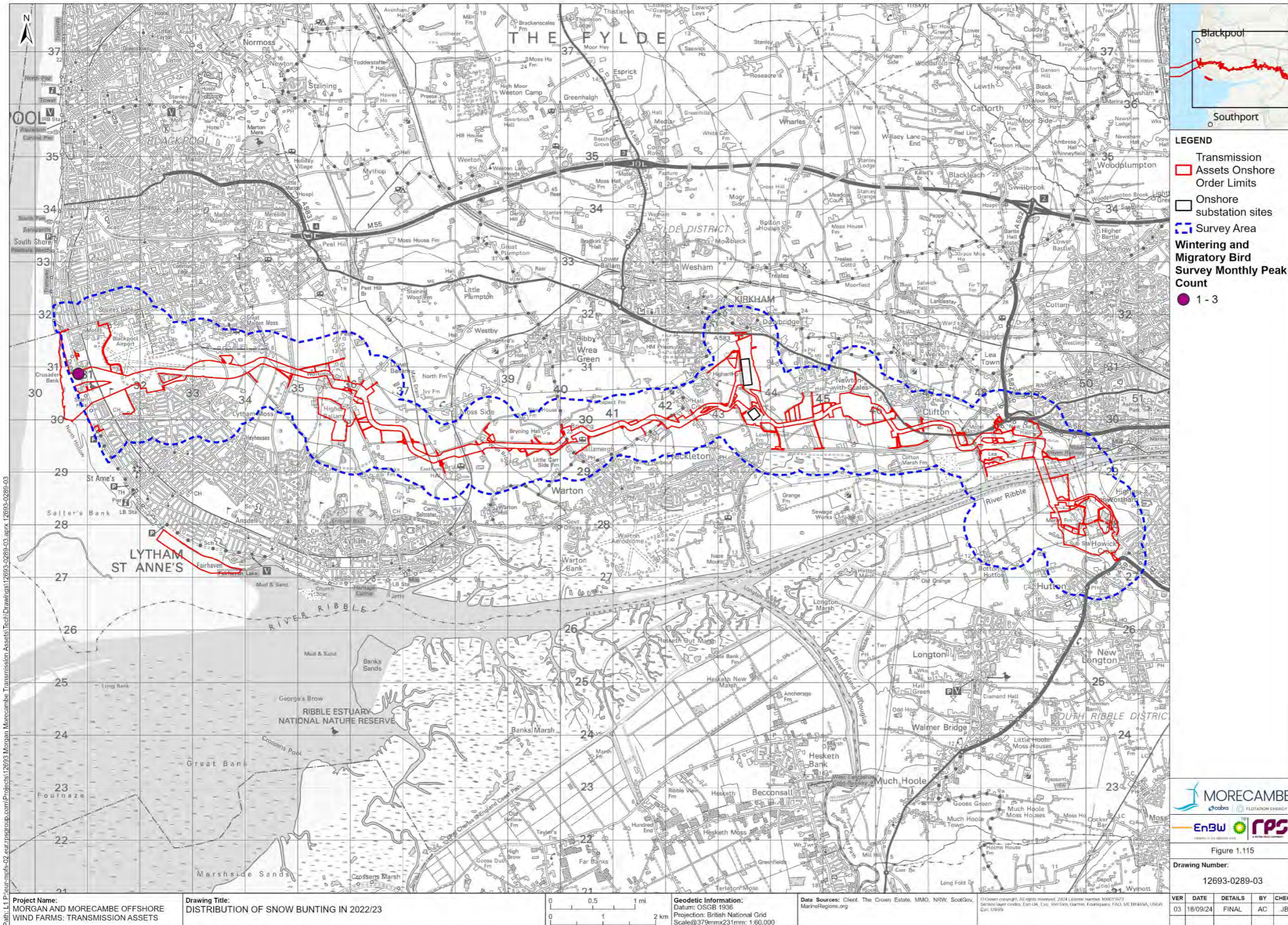


Figure 1.115: Distribution of snow bunting in 2022/23

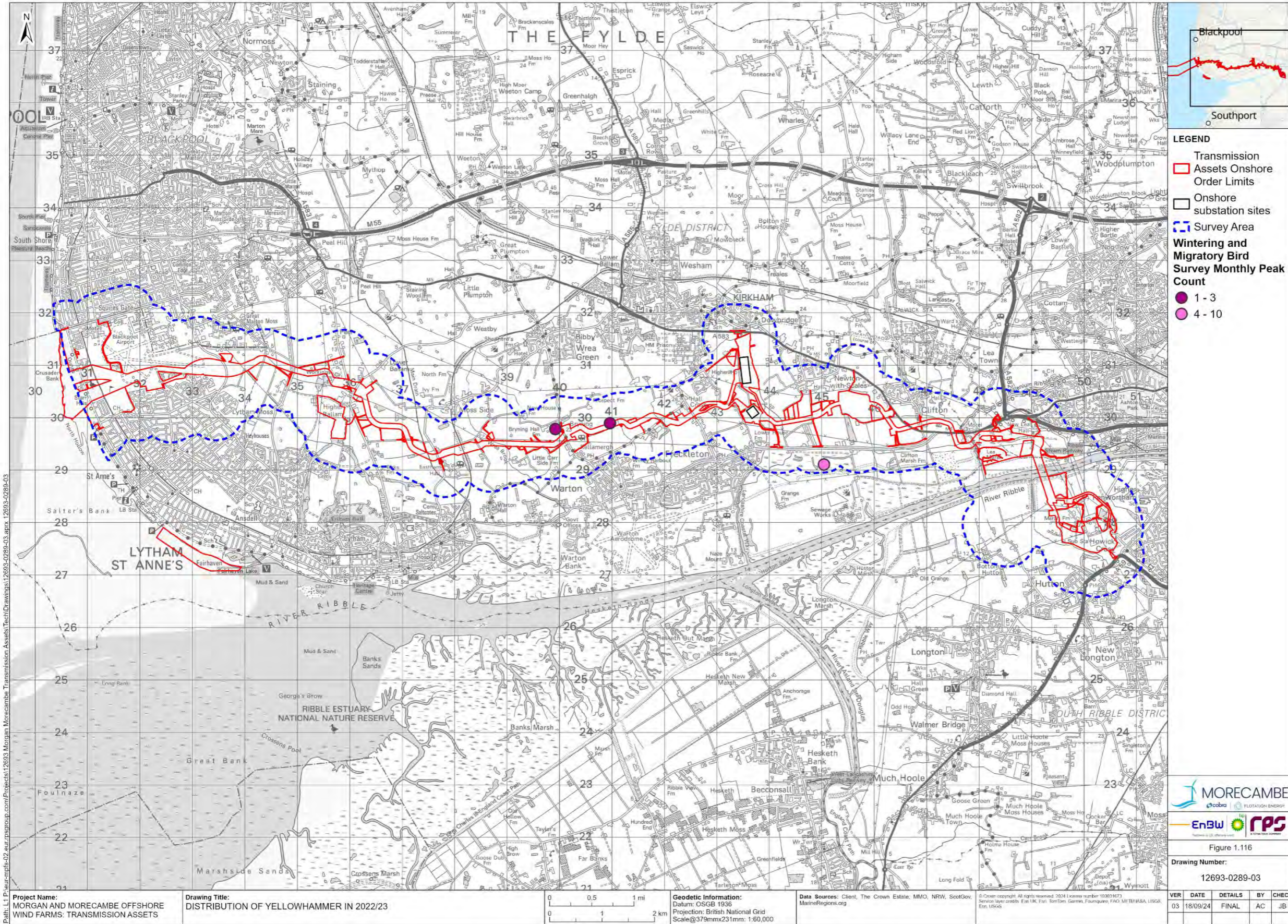
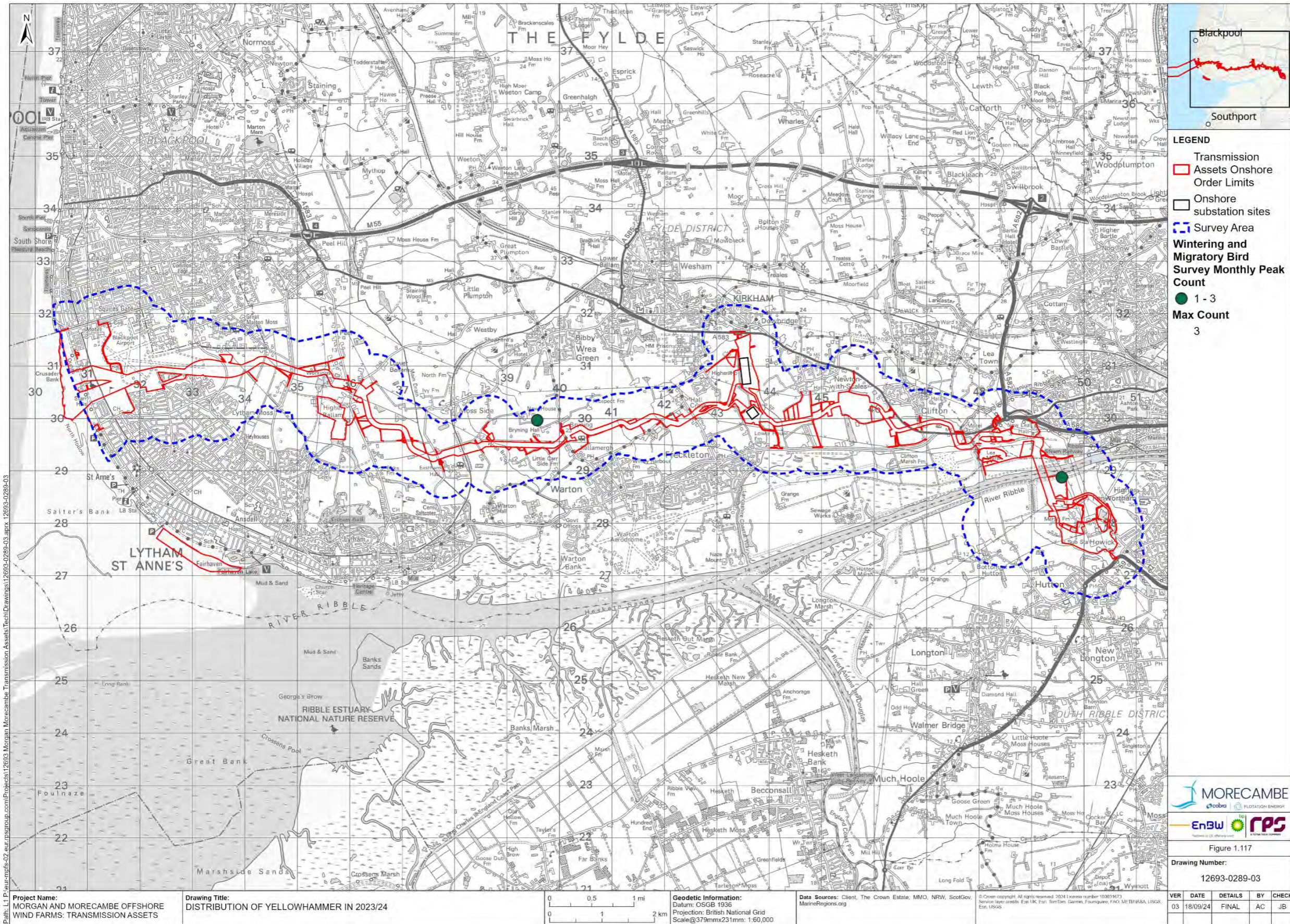


Figure 1.116: Distribution of yellowhammer in 2022/23



LEGEND

- Transmission Assets Onshore Order Limits
- Onshore substation sites
- Survey Area
- Wintering and Migratory Bird Survey Monthly Peak Count
- 1 - 3
- Max Count 3

MORECAMBE
coba FLOTATION ENERGY

EnBW **rps**

Figure 1.117

Drawing Number:
12693-0289-03

VER	DATE	DETAILS	BY	CHECK
03	18/09/24	FINAL	AC	JB

Figure 1.117: Distribution of yellowhammer in 2023/24

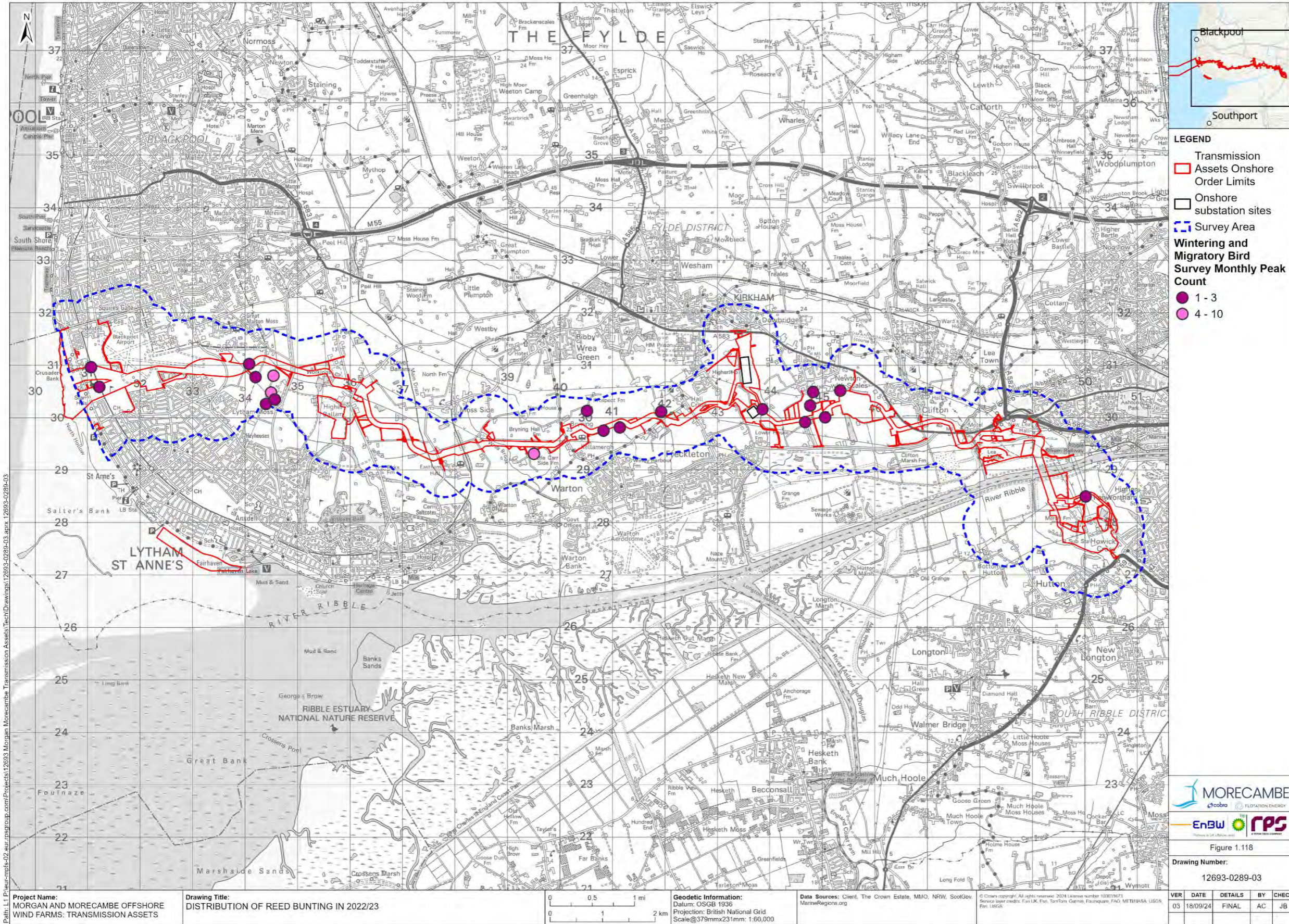


Figure 1.118: Distribution of reed bunting in 2022/23

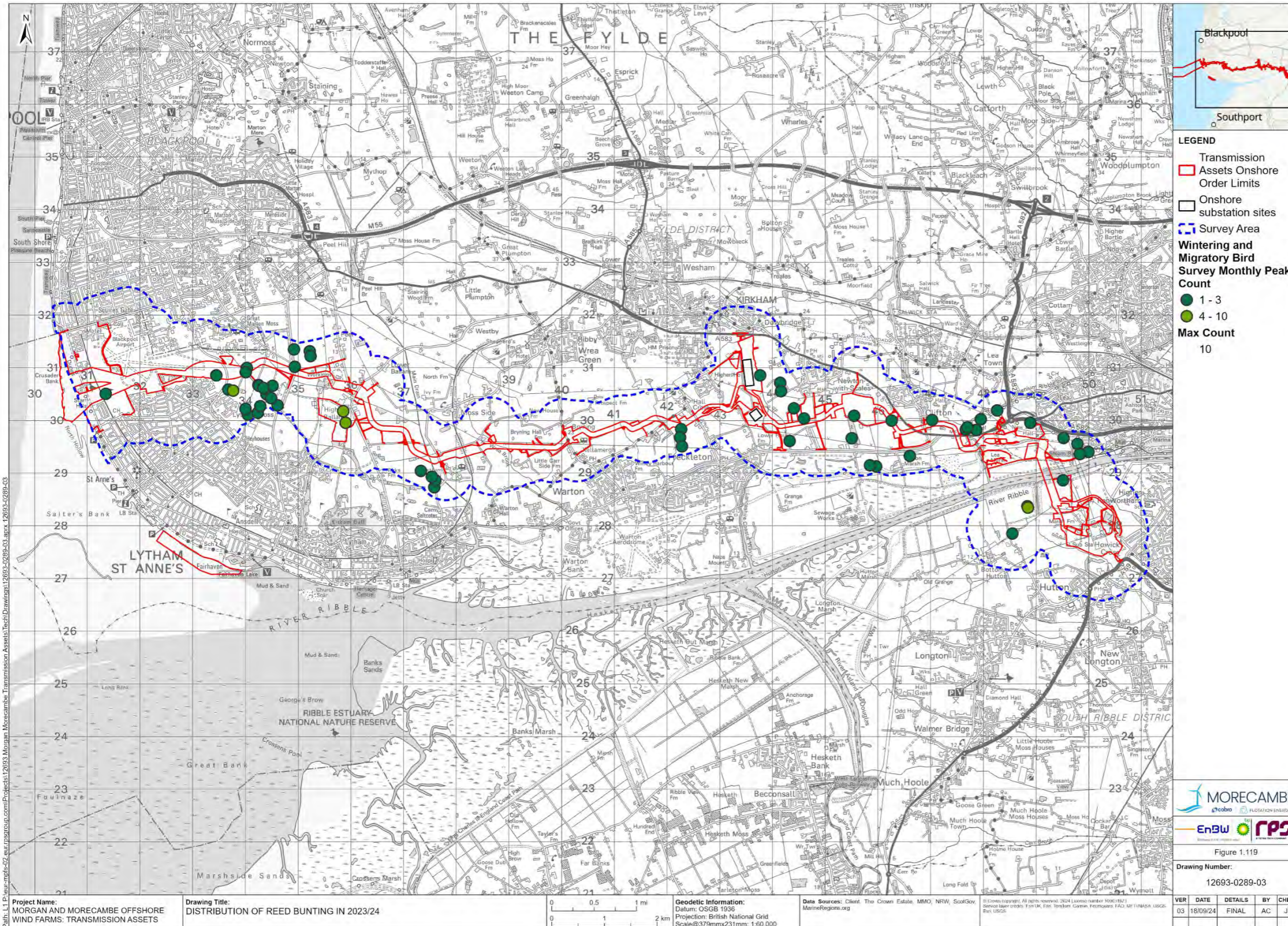


Figure 1.119: Distribution of reed bunting in 2023/24

1.4.3 Limitations

Terrestrial waterbird surveys

- 1.4.3.1 This survey only carried out once monthly survey visits. This deviates from the twice monthly guidance set out by SNH (2017), however the guidance is to assess the impact of permanent habitat loss from onshore wind farms. As the impacts from Transmission Assets upon terrestrial waders and wildfowl will only be temporary in nature, once monthly visits carried out over two winter seasons were considered adequate to establish the baseline.
- 1.4.3.2 Every effort was made to cover the entire survey area during all surveys. However, visibility of some areas was not possible due to slope, angle, hedgerows, etc. Despite this, it is considered that the monthly survey coverage was sufficient to fully characterise the abundance and distribution of wintering and migratory waterbirds.
- 1.4.3.3 Previous outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) have tended to hit wintering waterfowl, subsiding as wintering flocks disperse. Over the winter of 2021/22 an outbreak of HPAI was confirmed in barnacle geese wintering on the Solway Firth and from late spring 2022, increasing numbers of reports of the disease were received from seabird colonies around the northern UK (Pearce-Higgins *et al.*, 2022). The extent of impact of HPAI on individual species is assessed through ongoing monitoring.
- 1.4.3.4 As the baseline was characterized during the outbreak, there is potential that the baseline is not representative of a typical year. However, it must be noted that bird populations are subject to natural fluctuations in response to a range of environmental conditions (e.g., weather) and this may cause inter-annual variations in abundance. Collecting bird data over a two-year period is considered sufficient to capture the inter-annual variation and characterise the baseline. The spatial survey coverage is also sufficient to capture spatial variation in ornithological receptors and characterise the baseline.

Supplementary walkover surveys

- 1.4.3.5 Although access to Blackpool Airport was arranged, last minute changes meant that it was not possible for surveyors to directly access the airport. Instead, the surveyors walked as much of the perimeter as possible and recorded any birds that were located.
- 1.4.3.6 Every effort was made to cover the entire survey area. However, due to different iterations of the Onshore Order Limits and the Intertidal Infrastructure Area, and difficulty gaining access to privately owned land parcels (which were granted on a visit-by-visit basis), the survey effort has varied spatially between years and between visits (**Figure 1.10**). Furthermore, some areas were not surveyed in year one as they were previously outside the refined Onshore Order Limits and the Intertidal Infrastructure Area, and vice versa.

1.5 Summary

- 1.5.1.1 The purpose of this annex is to present baseline data on wintering and migratory birds within the study and survey areas to inform the ES.
- 1.5.1.2 In order to establish a baseline of potential wintering and migratory birds within the study area a combination of desk-based study and site-specific surveys across the 2022/23 and 2023/24 wintering and migratory seasons have been undertaken.
- 1.5.1.3 The desk-based study focussed on a review of four key data sources.
- The BTO's non-breeding bird records.
 - Fylde Bird Club data records for wintering and migratory birds.
 - Morecambe Offshore Windfarm - Fylde Export Cable Route: Coastal and Estuarine Wintering Bird Survey Report – 2021/2022 from Avian Ecology Ltd.
 - The winter bird survey report 2020/2021 for the Queensway development.
- 1.5.1.4 BTO's comprehensive dataset (2007 to 2011) recorded 147 species within the 2 km tetrads which overlapped the survey area during non-breeding season. More recent data (2019 to 2023) recorded 134 species within the same 2 km tetrads.
- 1.5.1.5 Fylde Bird Club data records showed the presence of a total of 204 species recorded as present during the non-breeding season (August to February) between 2018/19 and 2022/23.
- 1.5.1.6 Morecambe Offshore Wind Farm recorded a total of 24 species between October 2021 and April 2022, consisting of seven species from the geese, duck, and swan family, ten species of wader, five species of gull and two species from the herons, storks, and ibises family.
- 1.5.1.7 Wintering bird surveys were conducted by The Environment Partnership Ltd between September 2020 and April 2021 for the Queensway development. Results of the survey showed an increase in pink-footed goose and whooper swan numbers compared to the previous winters. The surveys also indicated an increase in the flock sizes of the targeted wading birds, likely due to the establishment of the Farmland Conservation Area at the site and the current land management practices.
- 1.5.1.8 A total of 36 waterbird species, 32 passerine species and seven raptor species were recorded during the 2022 to 2023 wintering and migratory bird surveys. Additionally, two dove and pigeon species, one woodpecker species, one owl species and one kingfisher species were also recorded. Four species which are features of the SPAs within the study area had monthly peak counts >0.5 % of the GB population. A total of 11 recorded species are Annex 1 listed and 15 are Section 41 listed species. A total of 17 species are on the BOCC5 UK red list and 35 and on the BOCC5 UK amber list.

- 1.5.1.9 A total of 39 waterbird species, 41 passerine species and six raptor species were recorded during the 2023 to 2024 wintering and migratory bird surveys. Additionally, four dove and pigeon species, one woodpecker species, one owl species, one pheasant and one kingfisher species were also recorded. Five species which are features of the SPAs within the study area had monthly peak counts >0.5 % of the GB population. A total of 11 recorded species are Annex 1 listed and 15 are Section 41 listed species. A total of 17 species are on the BOCC5 UK red list and 37 and on the BOCC5 UK amber list.
- 1.5.1.10 Both the desk-based study and site-specific surveys show that areas of the survey area are important nationally for pink-footed goose, whooper swan and black-tailed godwit.
- 1.5.1.11 An assessment of the potential impact of the Transmission Assets on onshore and intertidal ornithological receptors is presented in Volume 3, Chapter 4: Onshore and intertidal ornithology of the ES.

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Appendix A : Monthly count data

Table 1.12: Monthly count data for 2022 to 2023 wintering and migratory bird surveys

Taxonomic group	Species	September total	October total	November total	December total	January total	February total	March total
Geese, ducks and swans	Brent goose					12		
	Canada goose	50	32	106	420	6	134	72
	Barnacle goose	1						
	Greylag goose	12	1	5		8	6	
	Pink-footed goose	787	4,093	5	5,324	1,551	711	
	Mute swan			3		4	2	2
	Whooper swan		14	8	22	42	132	3
	Shelduck			4	4	35	75	56
	Shoveler	29		9		19	23	17
	Gadwall						1	
	Wigeon	106	107	83	1,040	534	1,647	980
	Mallard	15	88	273	66	22	251	19
	Teal	261	20	109	3	186	128	32
	Goosander					1		2
Doves and pigeons	Stock dove			6			2	
	Woodpigeon			18				
Rails, crakes and coots	Moorhen		1					
Waders	Oystercatcher						9	
	Avocet							6

Taxonomic group	Species	September total	October total	November total	December total	January total	February total	March total
	Lapwing	91	66	301	763	628	58	44
	Golden plover		19		100			41
	Grey plover				2			
	Curlew		48	112	410	39	305	49
	Black-tailed godwit	2		10	125	3	390	
	Ruff				2			
	Woodcock				1			
	Jack snipe					1		
	Snipe	4	1	6	78		7	8
	Green sandpiper				1			
	Redshank			4	2		3	7
Gulls and terns	Black-headed gull		697	1,123	307	1,042	1,085	39
	Common gull	1	161	433	27	133	461	2
	Great black-backed gull	2	6	9	4	36	8	3
	Herring gull	38	185	142	35	166	109	97
	Lesser black-backed gull			9			69	152
Cormorants and shags	Cormorant			2		2	2	
Hérons	Grey heron		16	9	17	12	28	17
	Little egret		8	38	8	15	7	2

Taxonomic group	Species	September total	October total	November total	December total	January total	February total	March total
Kingfishers	Kingfisher					1		
Raptors	Sparrowhawk		2	3				
	Marsh harrier			1				
	Red kite				1			
	Buzzard			10	3		20	1
	Kestrel			8	4		9	
	Merlin		1			1		
	Peregrine			1			2	
Owls	Little owl						1	
Woodpeckers	Great spotted woodpecker				1		2	
Passerines	Jay						3	
	Rook			19				
	Raven			4			7	
	Skylark			13	78		41	7
	Long-tailed tit			16			31	
	Chiffchaff				1		1	
	Goldcrest						2	
	Wren			19				6
	Nuthatch						1	
	Starling			1,305	4,350		1,144	
Song thrush			3	2		19		

Taxonomic group	Species	September total	October total	November total	December total	January total	February total	March total
	Mistle thrush			2	2		4	
	Redwing			192	25		22	
	Blackbird			8				
	Fieldfare			1,170	350		347	
	Whinchat			3			2	
	Stonechat			6	2		6	
	Tree sparrow			3			20	
	Dunnock			1				3
	Grey wagtail			3	6		5	
	Pied wagtail			9	50		20	1
	Meadow pipit			54	60		61	24
	Chaffinch				26		36	
	Bullfinch			7				
	Greenfinch			10	11		34	4
	Linnet		60	2	30		304	1
	Lesser redpoll						1	
	Goldfinch			36	24		58	1
	Siskin			14				
	Snow bunting			1				
	Yellowhammer	9			2			
	Reed bunting			9	5		14	6

Table 1.13: Monthly count data for 2023 to 2024 wintering and migratory bird surveys

Taxonomic group	Species	September total	October total	November total	December total	January total	February total	March total
Geese, ducks and swans	Canada goose	15	636	13	250	27	64	81
	Barnacle goose				12			
	Greylag goose		517		16			4
	Pink-footed goose	3,384	8,319	503	3,149	2,100	4,960	59
	Mute swan				11	7	24	7
	Whooper swan				3	36	123	42
	Shelduck		12	7	23	115	374	243
	Shoveler		14		2		13	31
	Gadwall						11	5
	Wigeon		482	410	310	9	434	878
	Mallard	53	25	48	156	66	161	116
	Teal		312	105	91	271	176	237
	Goosander				4	3	2	
Pheasants	Pheasant				9	16		
Doves and pigeons	Feral pigeon				7	19		
	Stock dove				2	8	29	17
	Woodpigeon				301	529	497	687
	Collared dove					5		8
	Water rail					1	1	

Taxonomic group	Species	September total	October total	November total	December total	January total	February total	March total
Rails, crakes and coots	Moorhen		2	11	10	16	7	16
	Coot					1	6	5
Waders	Oystercatcher			6	126	3	2	66
	Avocet							17
	Lapwing	5	154	724	3	2,081	426	142
	Golden plover					381		
	Curlew	41	20	696	312	203	93	95
	Bar-tailed godwit					3	1	
	Black-tailed godwit	20	88			14		423
	Dunlin						12	21
	Woodcock				6	3	3	
	Jack snipe					2	3	
	Snipe			10	72	8	6	14
	Green sandpiper							1
Redshank					3	19	61	
Gulls and terns	Black-headed gull	1,240	1,012	981	1,927	962	1,110	535
	Common gull	14	404	361	143	241	159	76
	Great black-backed gull		44	1	2	12	8	
	Herring gull	66	1,009	17	68	117	240	219
	Lesser black-backed gull	33	47	20		5	176	90

Taxonomic group	Species	September total	October total	November total	December total	January total	February total	March total
Cormorants and shags	Cormorant				6			2
Herons	Cattle egret		1					
	Grey heron	5	5	9	16	28	14	36
	Great white egret				1			
	Little egret	14	27	8	9	13	14	15
Kingfishers	Kingfisher				2	1	4	1
Raptors	Sparrowhawk	1	1	2	8	3	2	5
	Marsh harrier		1					1
	Buzzard	7	7	12	30	22	11	27
	Kestrel	2	3	5	25	17	10	9
	Merlin	1						
	Peregrine				2			
Owls	Barn owl						9	
Woodpeckers	Great spotted woodpecker				3	2	2	2
Passerines	Jay				3	6	4	6
	Magpie				90	81	46	33
	Jackdaw				141	325	202	150
	Rook				79	130	148	255
	Carrion crow				312	278	44	12
	Raven			6	4			

Taxonomic group	Species	September total	October total	November total	December total	January total	February total	March total
	Coal tit				13			5
	Blue tit				95	110	54	20
	Great tit				27	59	27	28
	Skylark				36	29	98	25
	Cetti's warbler						1	
	Long-tailed tit				197	36	33	31
	Chiffchaff				3			1
	Goldcrest				11	1	5	9
	Wren				90	42	59	78
	Nuthatch				3	2	2	2
	Treecreeper				5	1	1	5
	Starling			910	7,579	3,963	1,053	1,554
	Song thrush			300	16	9	12	32
	Mistle thrush				22	2	4	3
	Redwing			150	196	94	47	196
	Blackbird				221	87	34	14
	Fieldfare		56	179	1,325	707	82	349
	Robin				92	130	148	255
	Stonechat				20	3	3	
	Tree sparrow				4	2	1	18
	House sparrow				35	40	30	6

Taxonomic group	Species	September total	October total	November total	December total	January total	February total	March total
	Dunnock				21	17	26	43
	Grey wagtail					1	1	2
	Pied wagtail				31	19	7	31
	Meadow pipit				147	45	32	42
	Chaffinch				82	61	20	57
	Brambling				3			
	Bullfinch				8	9	2	4
	Greenfinch				77	14	17	16
	Twite				3			
	Linnet				319	51	730	1
	Goldfinch				134	65	26	52
	Siskin					1	2	24
	Yellowhammer						3	1
	Reed bunting				19		13	56