Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

Habitats Regulations Technical Appendix for the reporting period 2019-2024

Wales

Regulation 9A of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

Change in Seabird Breeding Occupancy (10 km² Resolution)

About Natural Resources Wales

Natural Resources Wales' purpose is to pursue sustainable management of natural resources. This means looking after air, land, water, wildlife, plants and soil to improve Wales' well-being, and provide a better future for everyone.

Recommended citation for the report

Natural Resources Wales & Welsh Government (2026) Habitats Regulations Technical Appendix for the reporting period 2019-2024: Wales: Regulation 9A of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended): Change in Seabird Breeding Occupancy (10 km² Resolution)

Contents

Crynodeb gweithredol

Mae'r atodiad hwn yn cyflwyno crynodeb gweledol o newidiadau o ran meddiannaeth adar môr sy'n bridio ledled y DU, gyda pherthnasedd i rywogaethau adar môr Cymru. Deilliwyd mapiau dosbarthiad ar gyfer adar môr sy'n bridio yng Nghymru o gyfrifiad Adar Môr Prydain ac Iwerddon, a gynhaliwyd rhwng 2015 a 2021 (Burnell ac eraill, 2023). Mae'r dosbarthiad wedi'i fapio ar gydraniad o 10 km² i ddangos patrymau o ran newid gofodol dros gyfnod o 20 mlynedd.

Mae pob map yn dangos dosbarthiad a newid o ran meddiannaeth ar gyfer pob un o'r 21 rhywogaeth o adar môr sy'n bridio yng Nghymru, gan gymharu dosbarthiadau bridio cyfredol â llinellau sylfaen hanesyddol. Mae'r mapiau'n defnyddio cynllun lliw cyson i nodi:

- Sgwariau coch: Ardaloedd a feddiannwyd yn flaenorol ond sydd bellach heb eu meddiannu (colled)
- Sgwariau glas golau: Ardaloedd sydd â meddiannaeth barhaus (dim newid)
- Sgwariau glas tywyll: Ardaloedd newydd eu meddiannu (ennill)

Mae'r data'n datgelu patrymau amrywiol ar draws rhywogaethau. Mae rhai, fel môr-wennol y Gogledd (*Sterna paradisaea*), wedi cynnal dosbarthiadau bridio sefydlog. Mae eraill, gan gynnwys yr wylan benddu (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*), yn dangos colledion nodedig mewn sgwariau 10 km a feddiannwyd gynt, yn enwedig yng nghynefinoedd ucheldir mewndirol Cymru. Mae gostyngiadau o'r fath yn adlewyrchu gostyngiadau mewn poblogaethau eraill mewn mannau eraill ym Mhrydain. Nid yw'r rhesymau dros y gostyngiadau o'r fath yn glir, er y gallai pwysau ysglyfaethu gan rywogaethau mamaliaid ac adar, yn ogystal â newidiadau o ran defnydd tir, effeithio ar gytrefi gwylanod penddu. Yn ogystal, mae'n bosibl bod achosion o ffliw adar pathogenig iawn ("ffliw adar") yn 2023 a 2024 wedi lleihau niferoedd poblogaethau a gwasgariadau ymhellach. Mae rhywogaethau eraill, megis gwylan Môr y Canoldir (*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*), wedi ehangu eu gwasgariad bridio a'u cytrefiadau ym Mhrydain. Yn ôl pob tebyg, mae hyn o ganlyniad, yn achos y gwylan olaf, i gynnydd yn lefel y boblogaeth, ynghyd ag ehangiad yng ngwasgariad y rhywogaeth yn y 1960au o'i phoblogaeth graidd yn y Môr Du (Burnell ac eraill, 2023).

Dros y ddau ddegawd diwethaf, mae gwalch y penwaig (*Alca torda*) a'r wylog (*Uria aalge*) wedi ehangu'r ardal lle maent yn bridio a'u niferoedd yng Nghymru. Nid yw'r rhesymau dros hyn wedi'u deall yn llawn, er y gallai fod yn gyfuniad o gyfraddau goroesi blynyddol uwch ymhlith oedolion a chyfraddau cynhyrchiant uwch, sy'n dangos bod digon o fwyd wedi bod ar gael ar gyfer y rhywogaethau hyn yng Nghymru, nad yw wedi bod yn wir mewn rhannau eraill o'r DU(Burnell ac eraill, 2023). Nid yw effeithiau llawn yr achosion o ffliw adar pathogenig iawn yn 2022 a 2023 ar boblogaethau Cymru, yn enwedig gwalch y penwaig, yn hysbys yn llawn, ond mae'n ymddangos bod y niferoedd wedi parhau i gynyddu'n gyson ac mae cynhyrchiant yn Skomer yn ymddangos yn iawn.

Mae'r tueddiadau hyn yn adlewyrchu pwysau ecolegol parhaus a newidiadau mewn amgylcheddau arfordirol a morol mewn mannau eraill yng Nghymru.

Mae'r delweddiadau hyn yn cefnogi asesiadau ehangach o statws rhywogaethau, tueddiadau dosbarthiad a defnydd cynefinoedd, a'u bwriad yw llywio'r gwaith o gynllunio ac adrodd yn maes cadwraeth o dan fframwaith y Rheoliadau Cynefinoedd. Ar ben hynny, mae'r mapiau'n darparu fformat clir a chyson ar gyfer deall newid mewn meddiannaeth adar môr yng Nghymru ac yn cyfrannu at y sylfaen dystiolaeth ar gyfer penderfyniadau polisi a rheoli yn y dyfodol, yn enwedig y camau gweithredu sy'n gysylltiedig â Strategaeth Cadwraeth Adar Môr Cymru (ar ffurf ddrafft).

Rhywogaethau a gwmpesir

Mae'r rhywogaethau adar môr canlynol wedi'u cynnwys yn yr atodiad technegol hwn:

Môr-wennol y gogledd *Sterna paradisaea*
Pâl *Fratercula arctica*
Gwylog ddu *Cepphus grylle*
Gwylan benddu *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Gwylan goesddu *Rissa tridactyla*
Gwylog *Uria aalge*
Môr-wennol gyffredin *Sterna hirundo*
Mulfran werdd *Gulosus aristotelis*
Pedryn drycin *Hydrobates pelagicus*
Gwylan gefnddu fwyaf *Larus marinus*
Mulfran *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Gwylan y penwaig *Larus argentatus* (nythu'n naturiol)
Gwylan gefnddu leiaf *Larus fuscus* (nythu'n naturiol)
Môr-wennol fach *Sternula albifrons*
Pâl Manaw *Puffinus puffinus*
Gwylan Môr y Canoldir *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*
Aderyn drycin y graig *Fulmarus glacialis*
Hugan *Morus bassanus*
Gwalch y penwaig *Alca torda*
Môr-wennol wridog *Sterna dougallii*
Môr-wennol bigddu *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Executive summary

This appendix presents a visual summary of changes in breeding seabird occupancy across the UK, with relevance to seabird species of Wales. Distribution maps for Welsh breeding seabirds were derived from the Seabirds Count census of Britain and Ireland undertaken between 2015–2021 (Burnell *et al*., 2023). Distribution is mapped at a 10 km² resolution to illustrate spatial patterns of change over a 20-year period.

Each map shows the distribution and change in occupancy for each of the 21 seabird species that breed in Wales, comparing current breeding distributions with historical baselines. The maps use a consistent colour scheme to indicate:

- Red squares: Areas previously occupied but now unoccupied (loss)
- Light blue squares: Areas with continued occupancy (no change)
- Dark blue squares: Newly occupied areas (gain)

The data reveal varied patterns across species. Some, such as Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea,* have maintained stable breeding distributions. Others, including Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, show notable losses in previously occupied 10-km squares, particularly in inland upland habitats of Wales. Such declines mirror those of other populations elsewhere in Britain. The reasons for such declines are unclear though Black-headed Gull colonies may be impacted by predation pressure by mammalian and avian species as well as changes in land use. In addition, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza ("bird flu") outbreaks in 2023 and 2024 may have further reduced both population numbers and range. Other species like Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus* have expanded their breeding range where colonisation of Britain, is probably a result of population level increase combined with range expansion in the 1960s from the species' core Black Sea population (Burnell *et al*., 2023).

Over the last two decades both Razorbill *Alca torda* and Common Guillemot *Uria aalge* have increased both breeding range and population numbers in Wales. The reasons for this are not fully understood though it may be a combination of higher annual adult survival rates and higher rates of productivity, showing that there has been sufficient food for these species in Wales, which hasn't been the case in other parts of the UK. (Burnell *et al*., 2023).The full impacts of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreaks in 2022 and 2023 on Welsh populations, particularly Common Guillemot is not fully known but numbers do seem to have carried on steadily increasing and productivity at Skomer seems to be ok.

These trends reflect ongoing ecological pressures and shifts in coastal and marine environments elsewhere in Wales.

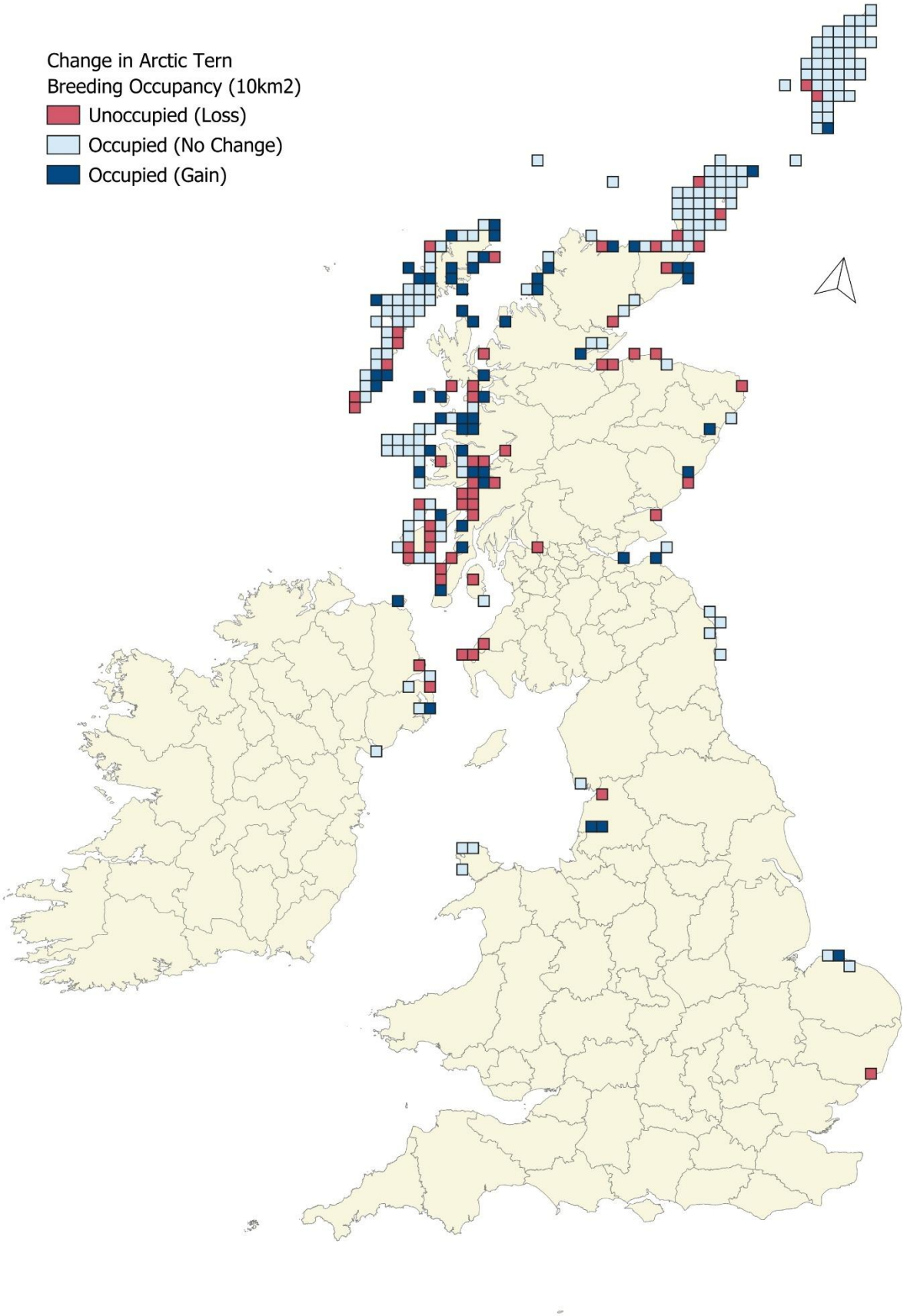
These visualisations support broader assessments of species status, distributional trends, and habitat use, and are intended to inform conservation planning and reporting under the Habitats Regulations framework. Furthermore, the maps provide a clear and consistent format for understanding seabird occupancy change in Wales and contribute to the evidence base for future policy and management decisions, particularly the actions associated with the Wales Seabird Conservation Strategy (in draft).

Species Covered

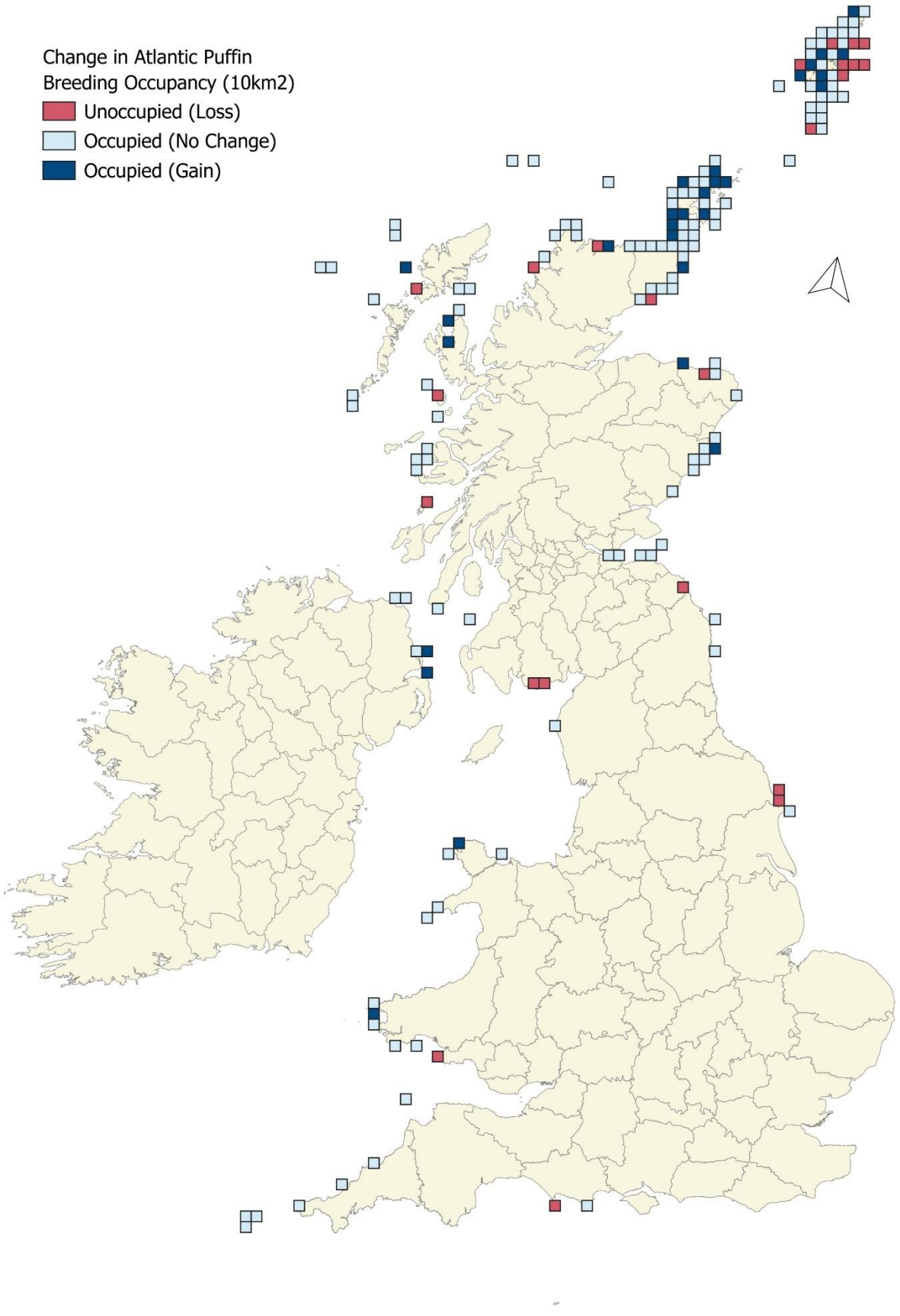
The following seabird species are included in this technical appendix:

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*
Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica*
Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*
Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*
Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
European Shag *Gulosus aristotelis*
European Storm-Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*
Greater Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*
Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (natural-nesting)
Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* (natural-nesting)
Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*
Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*
Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*
Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*
Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*
Razorbill *Alca torda*
Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*
Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

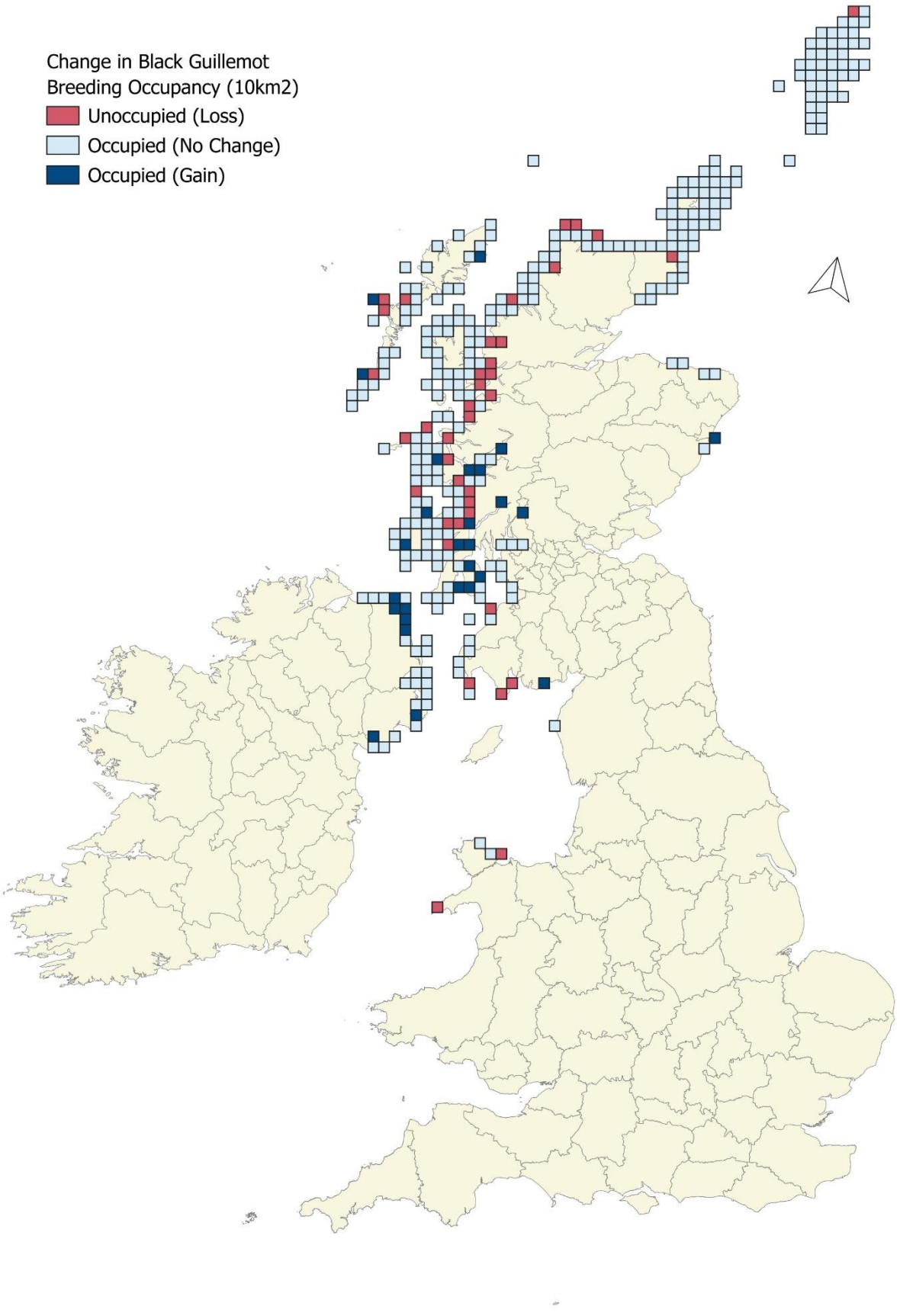
Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*



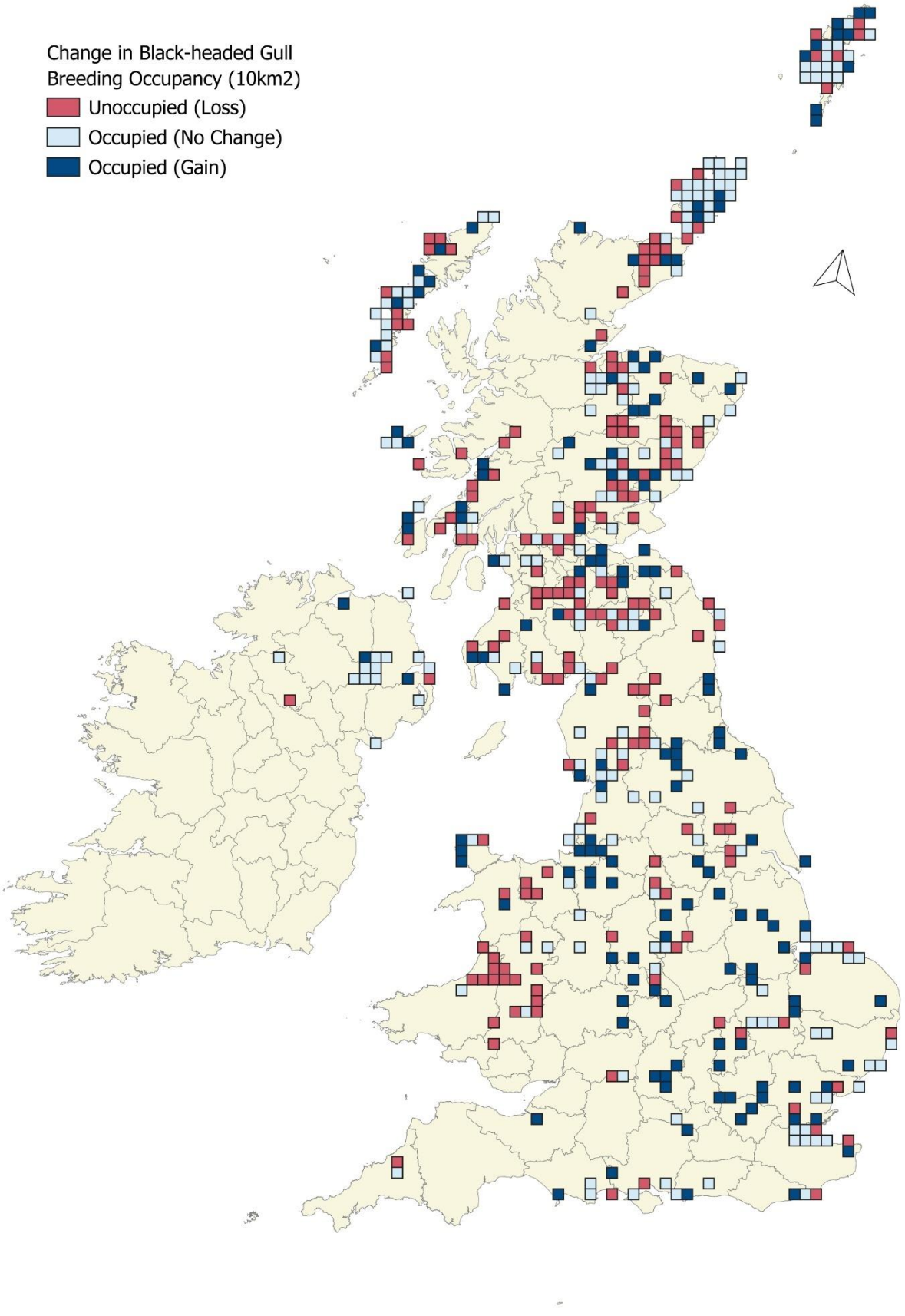
Atlantic Puffin *Fratercula arctica*



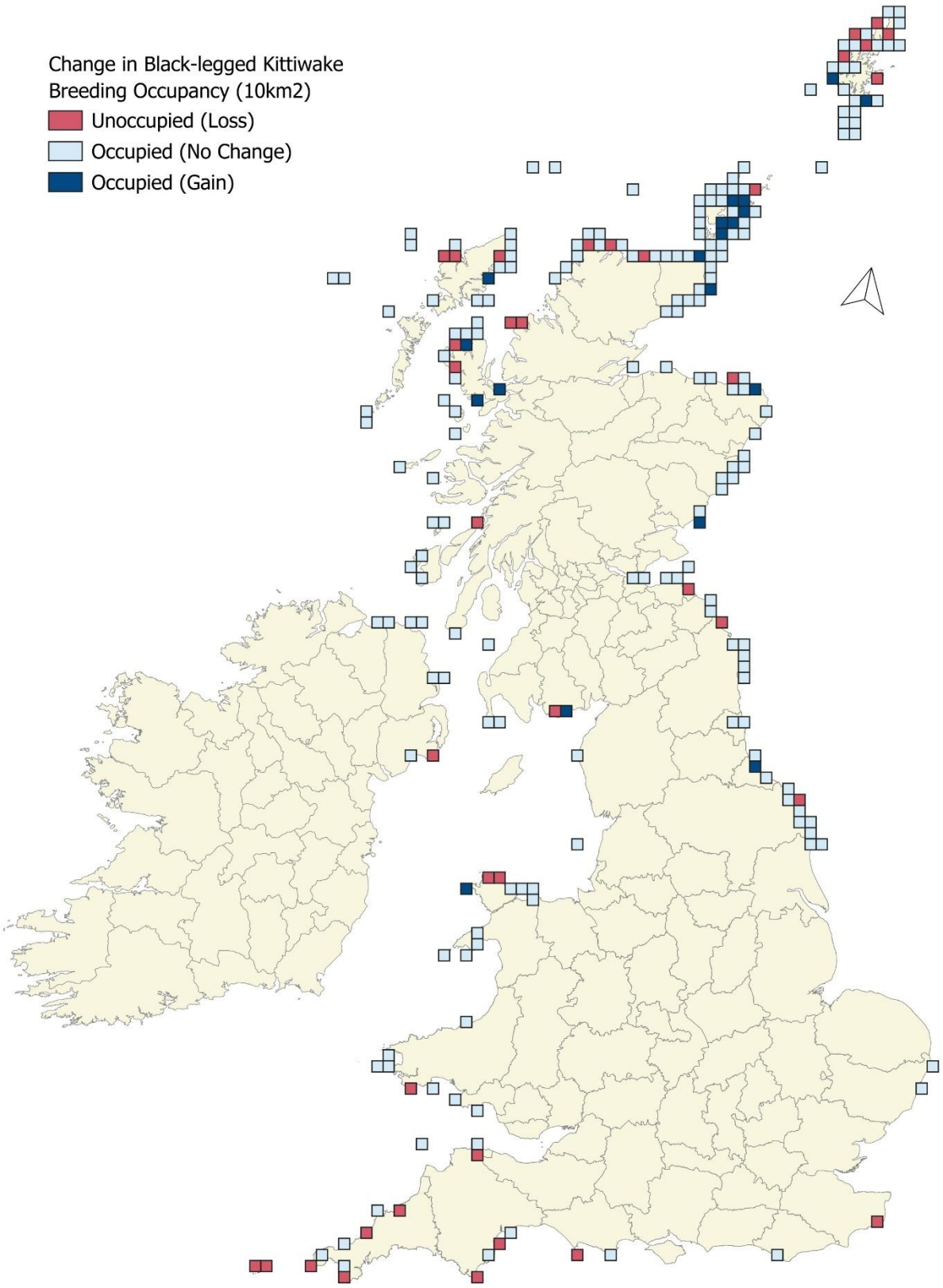
Black Guillemot *Cepphus grylle*



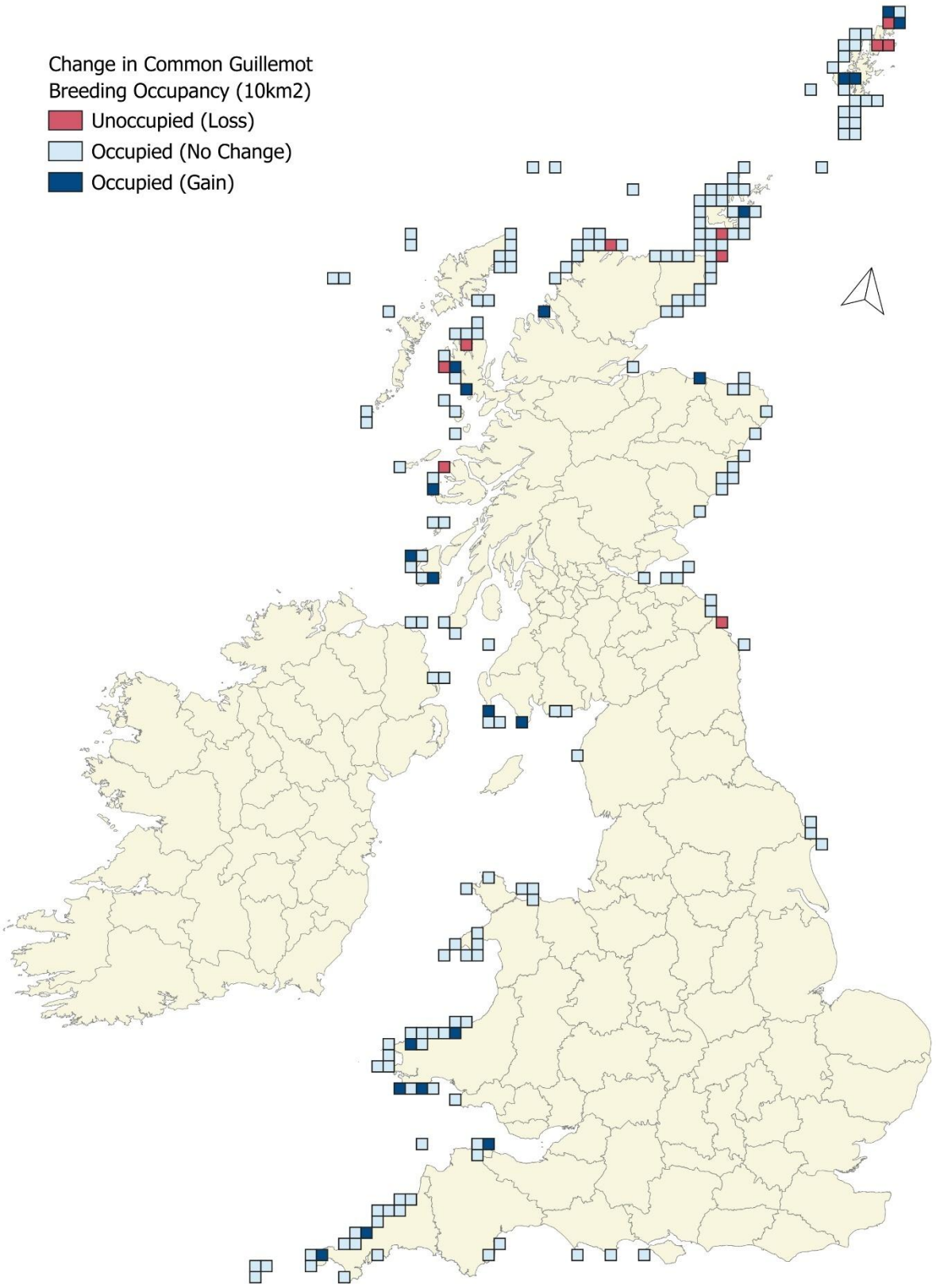
Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*



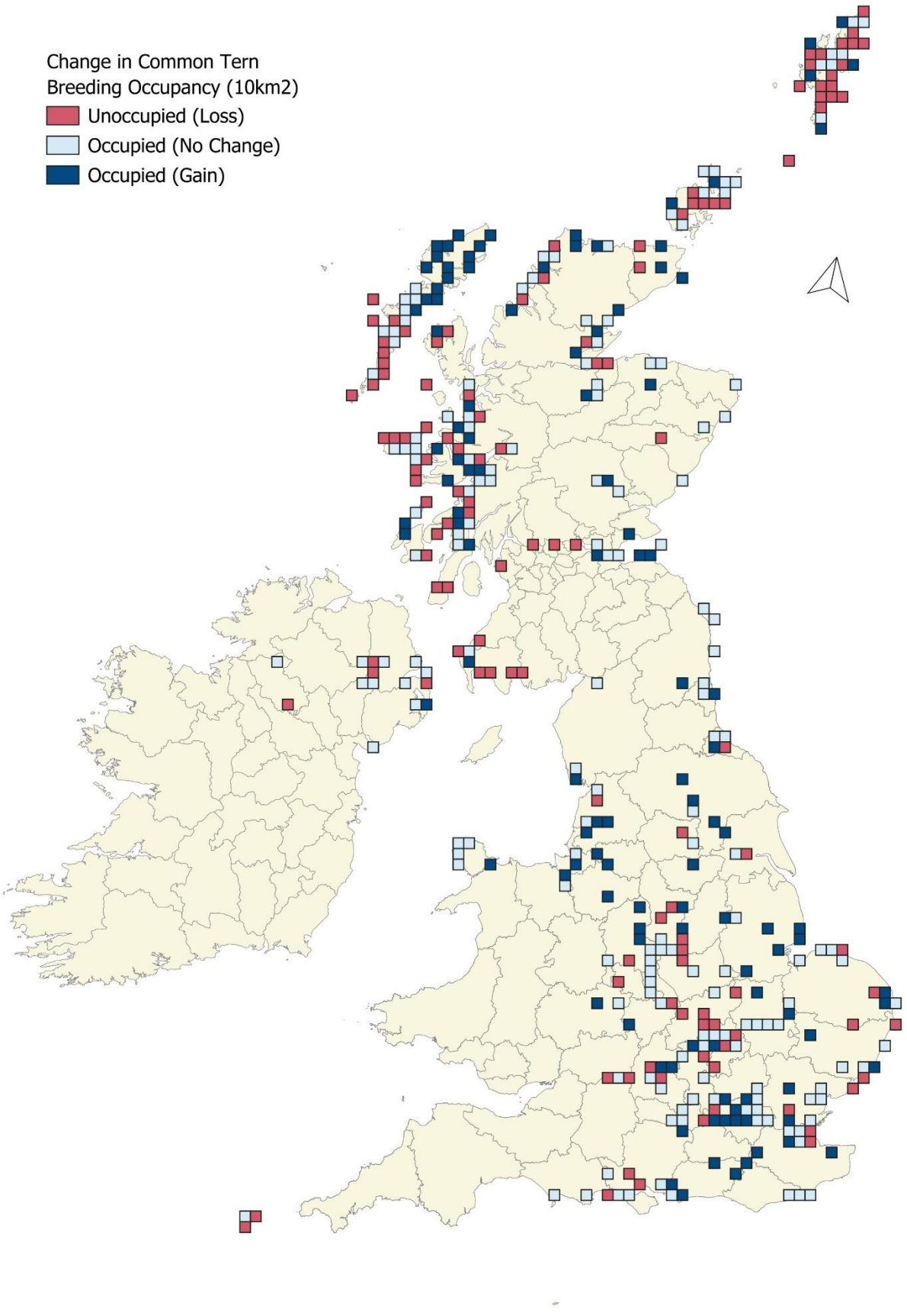
Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*



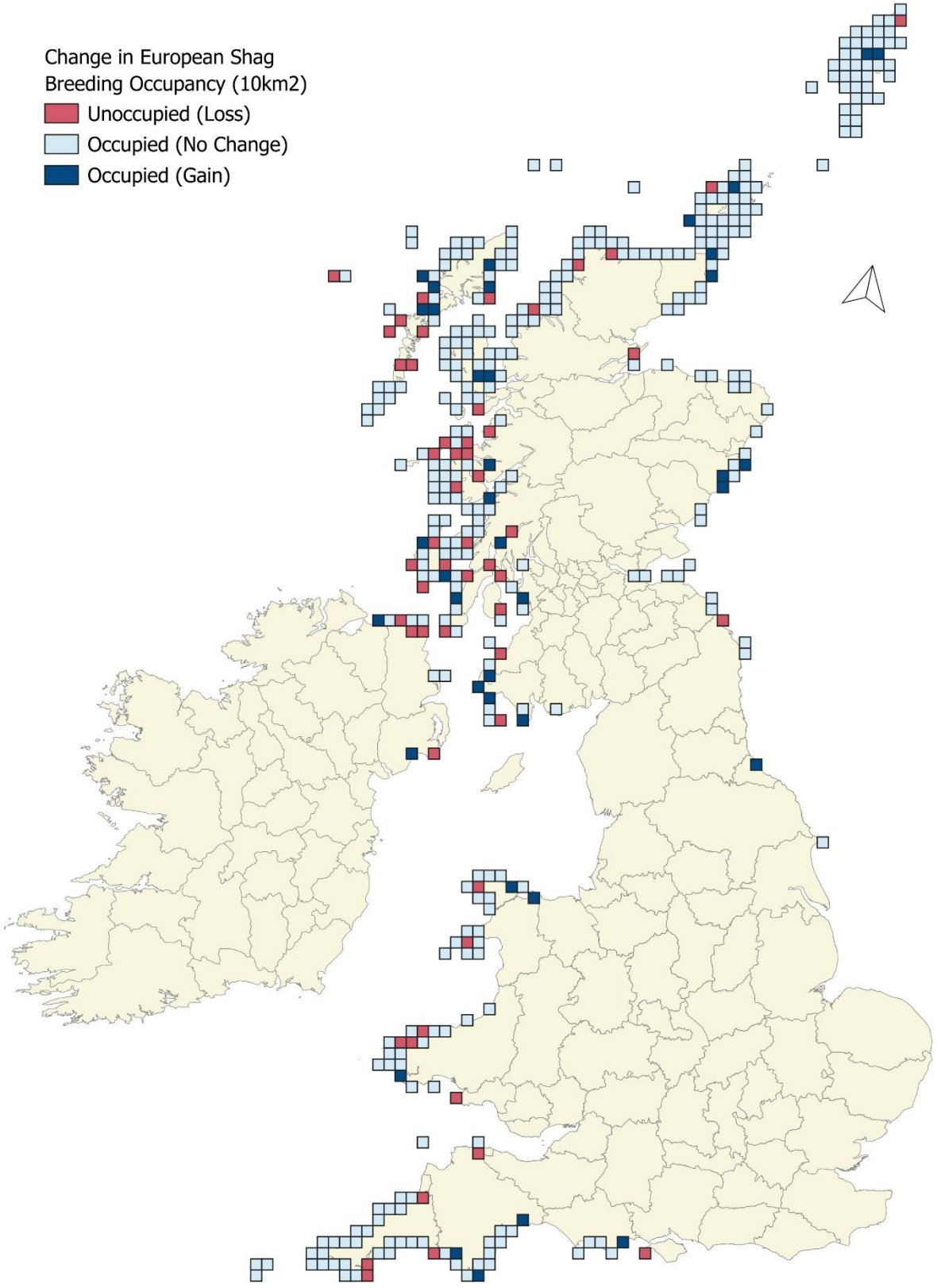
Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*



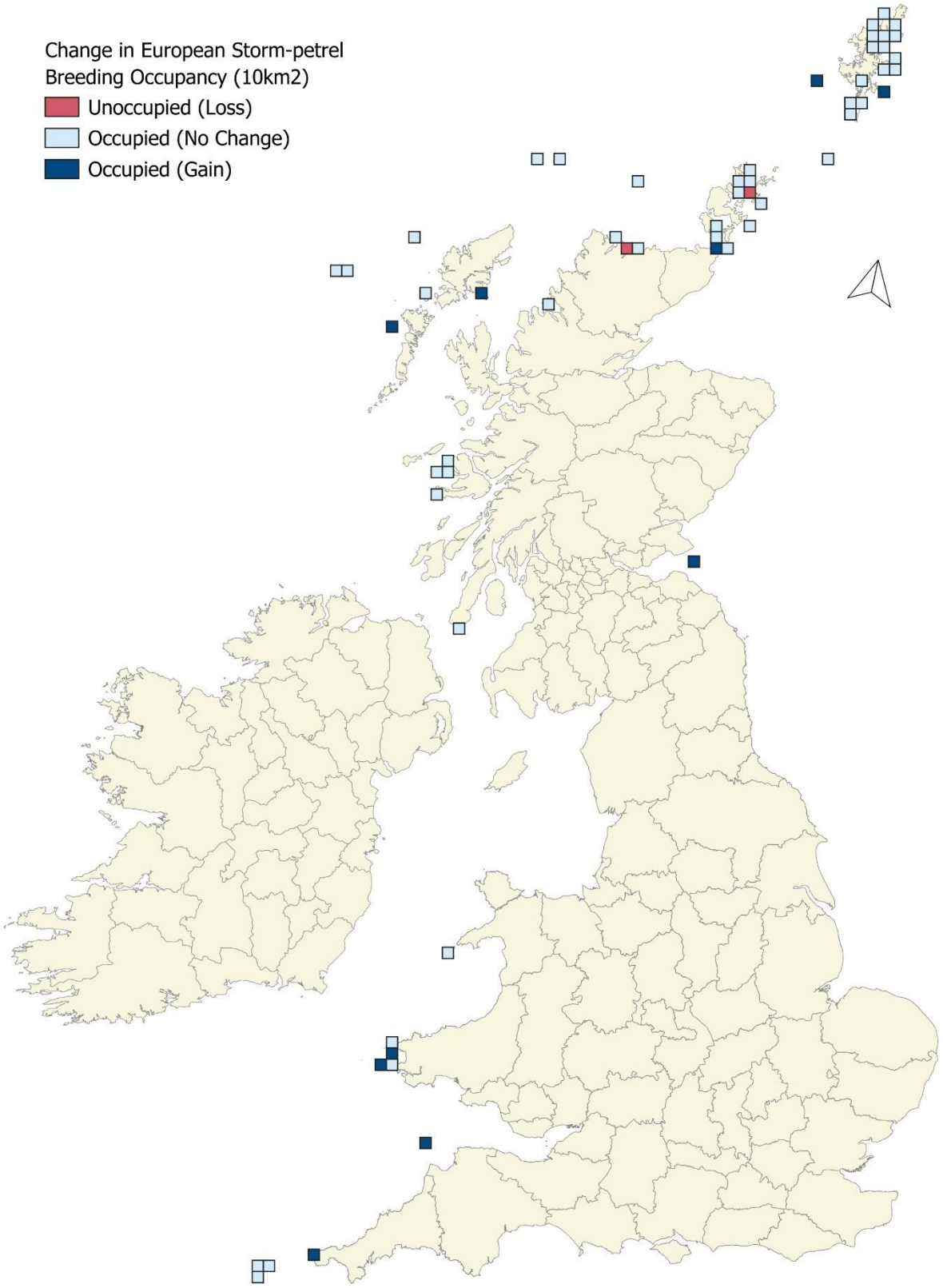
Common Tern *Sterna Hirundo*



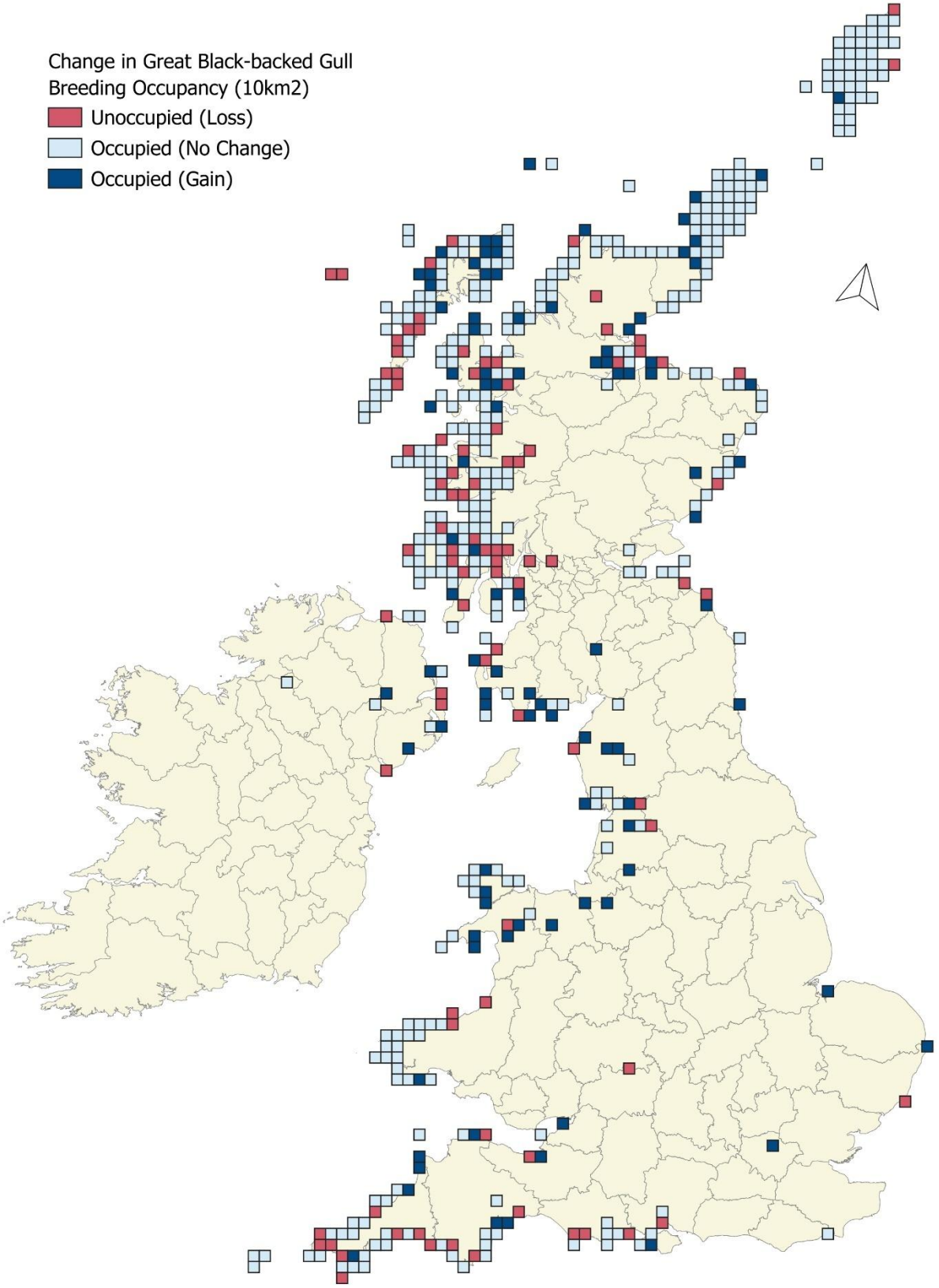
European Shag *Gulosus aristotelis*



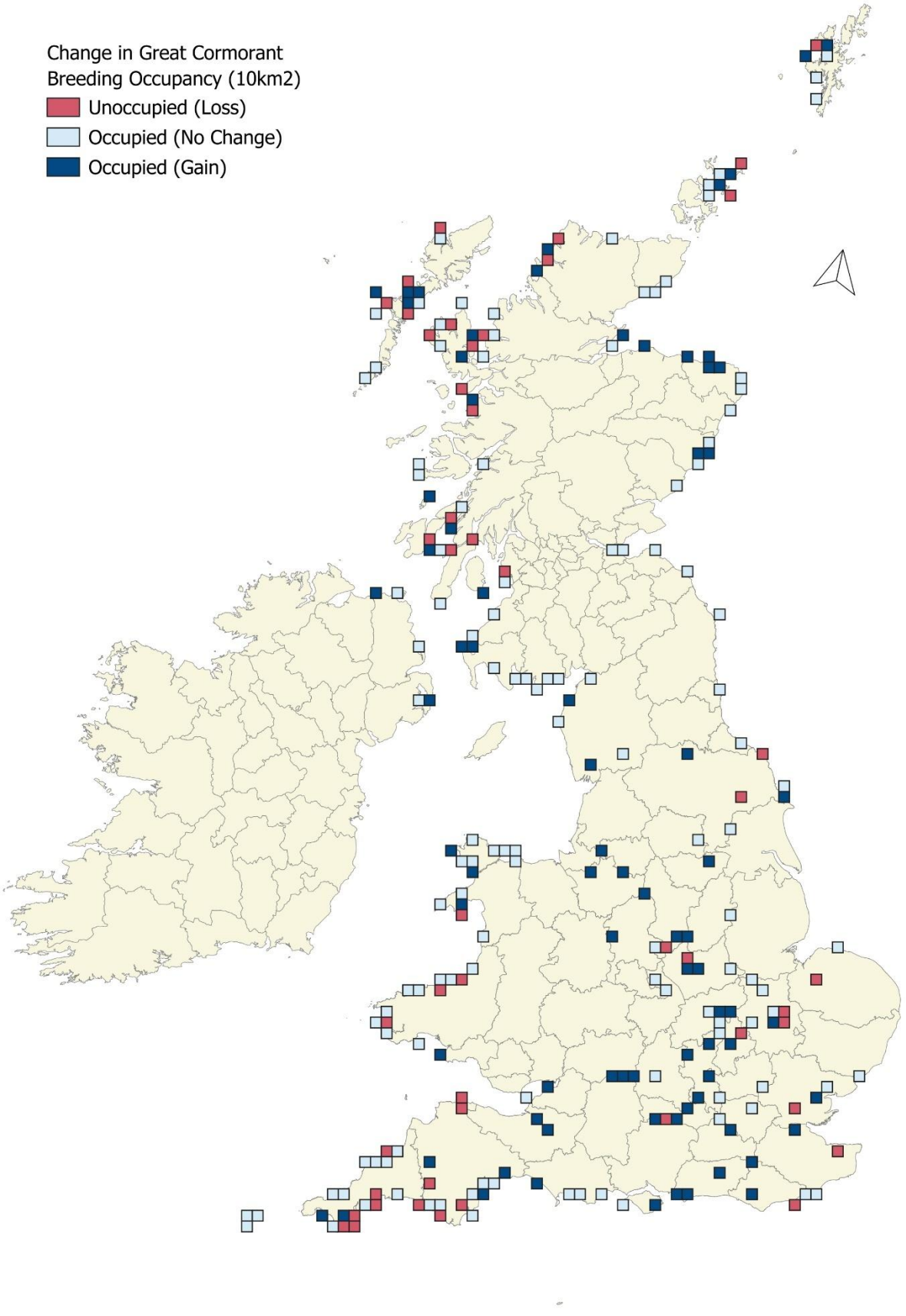
European Storm-Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*



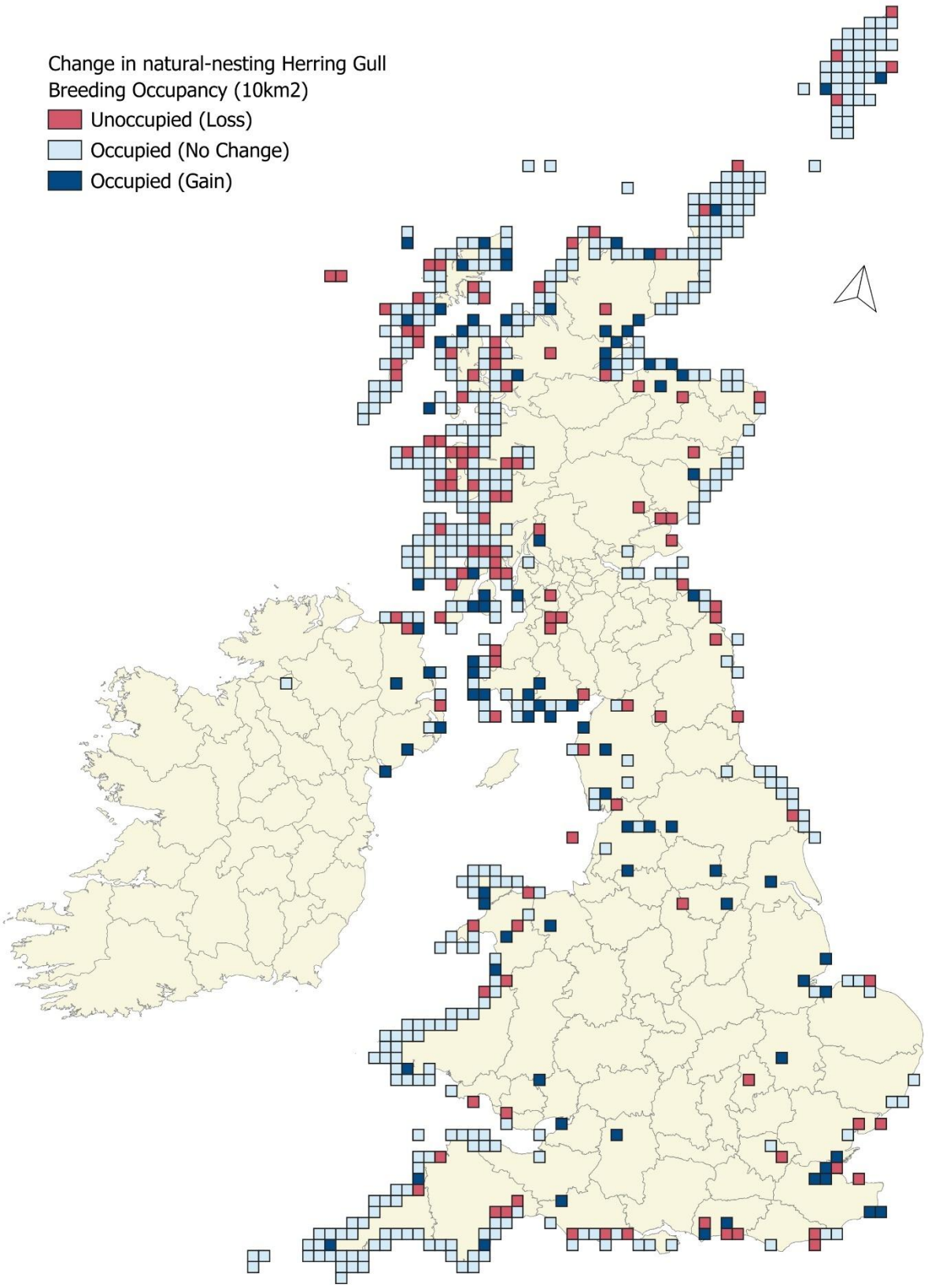
Greater Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*



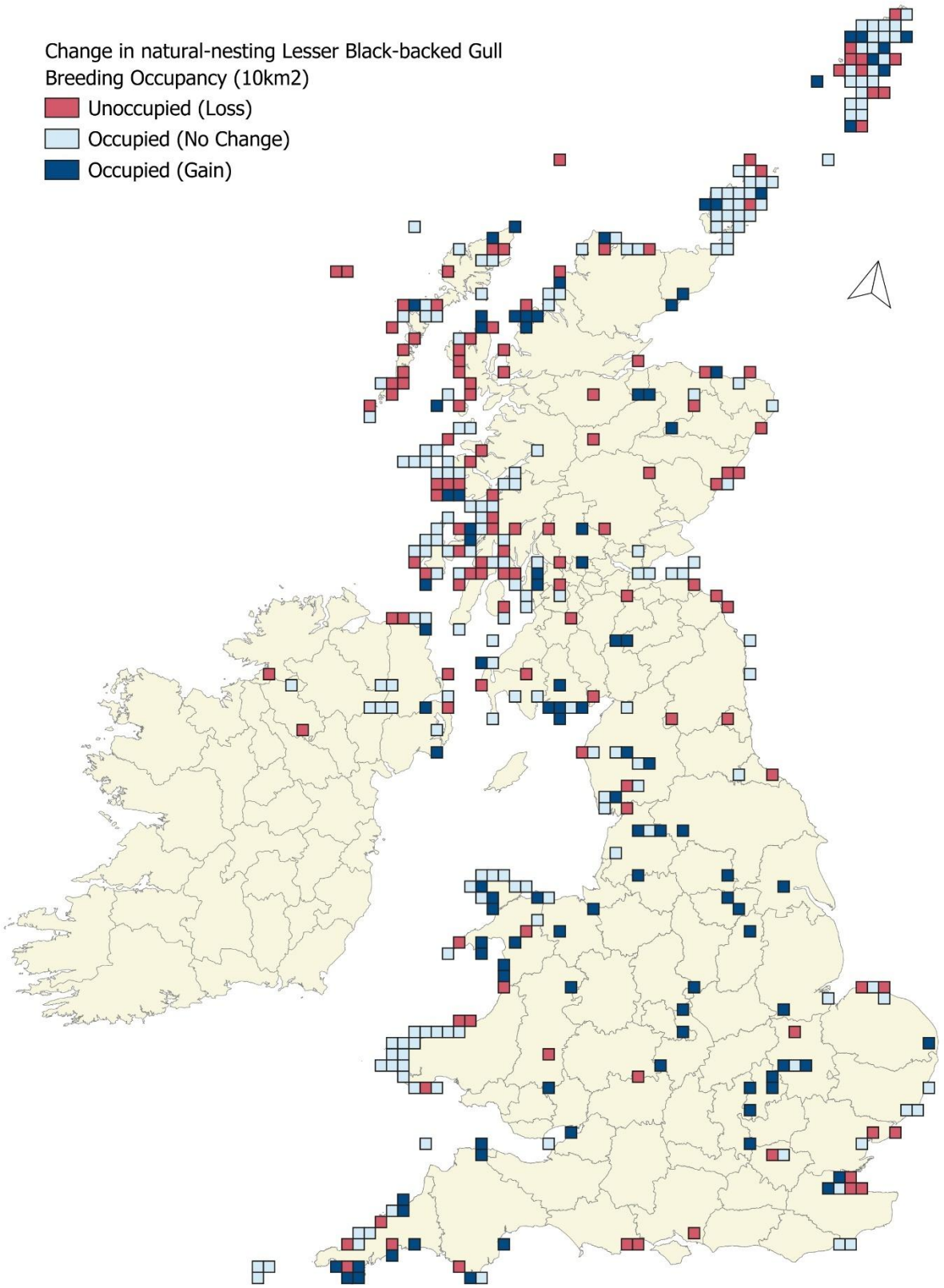
Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*



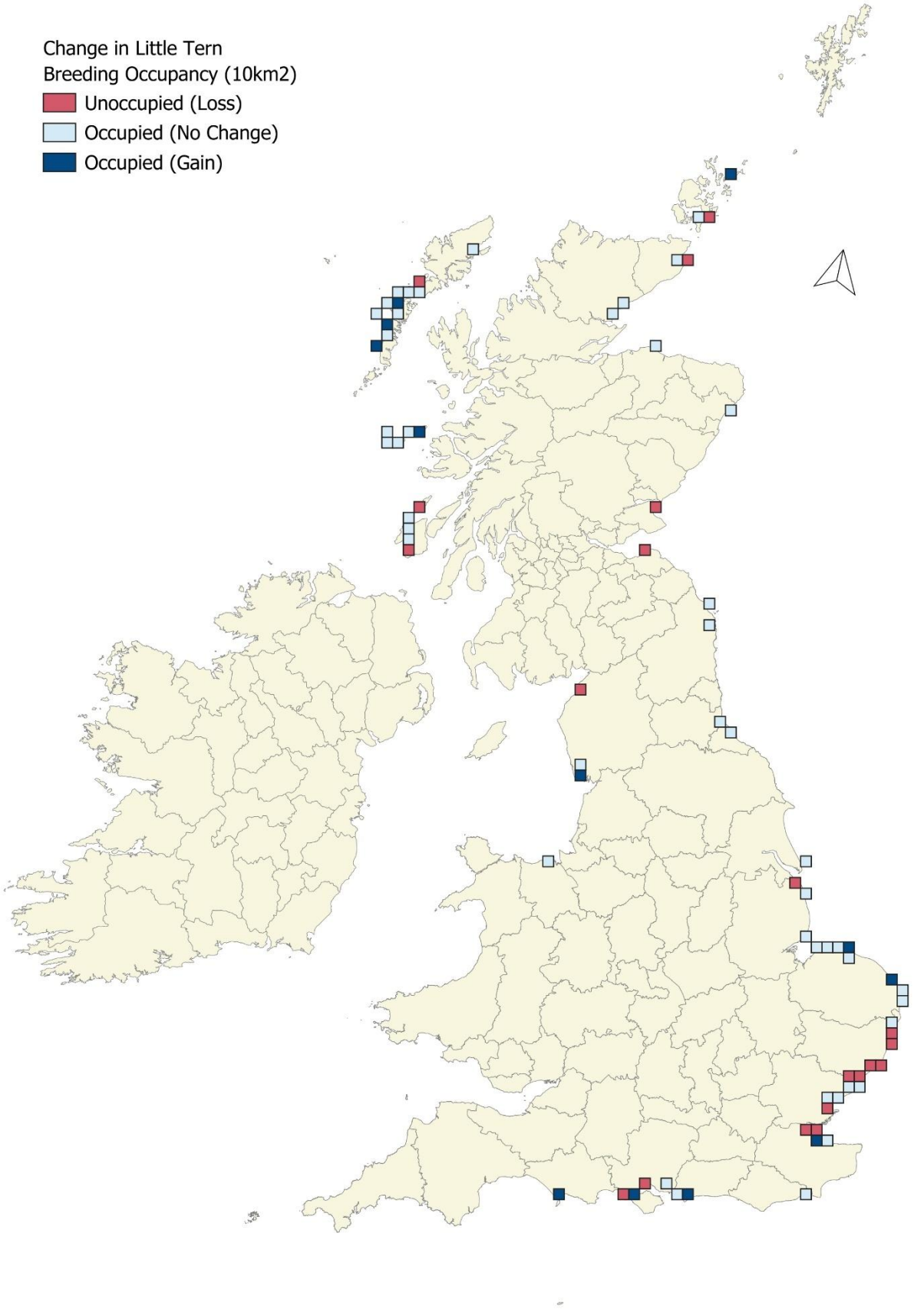
Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* (natural-nesting)



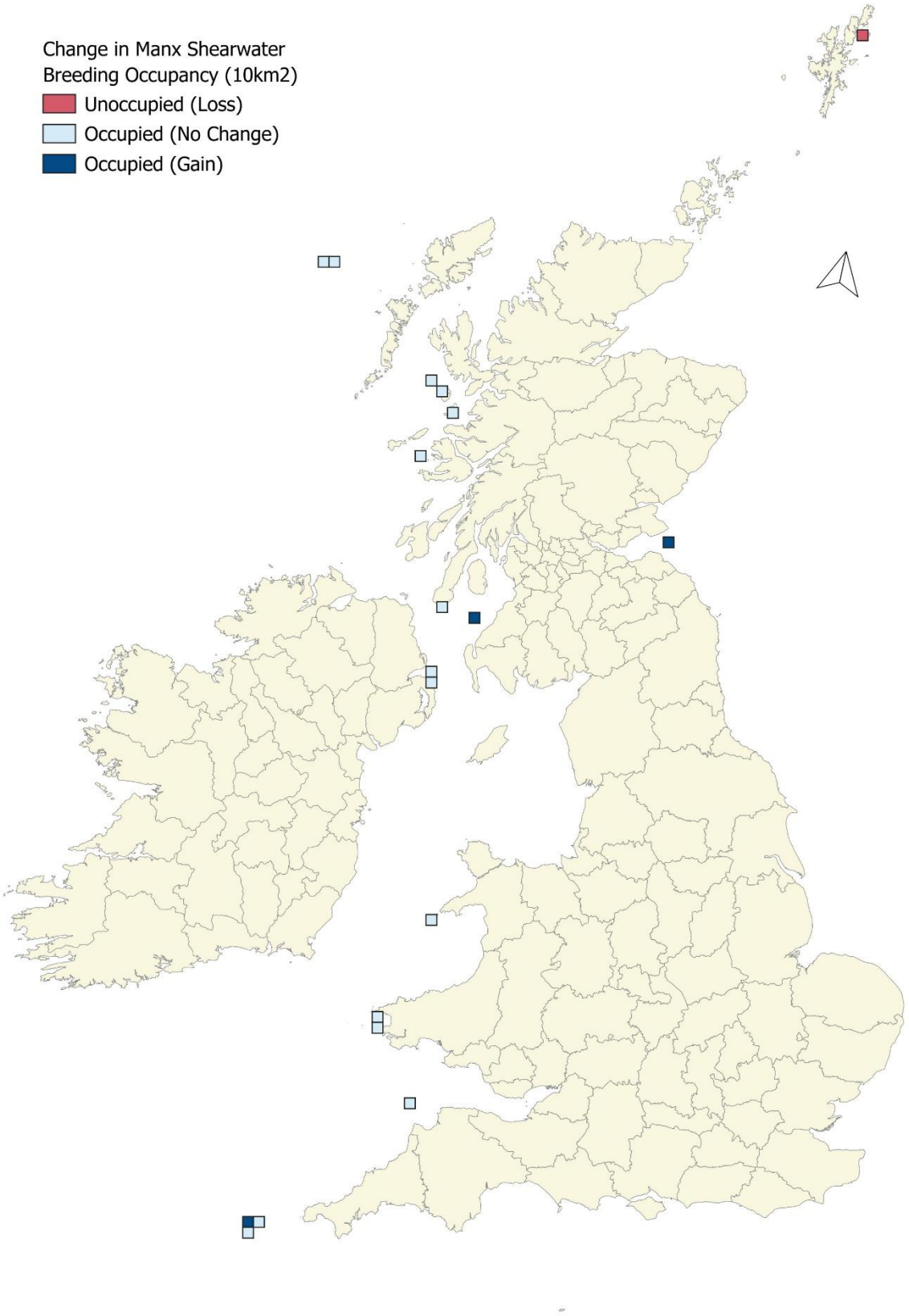
Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* (natural-nesting)



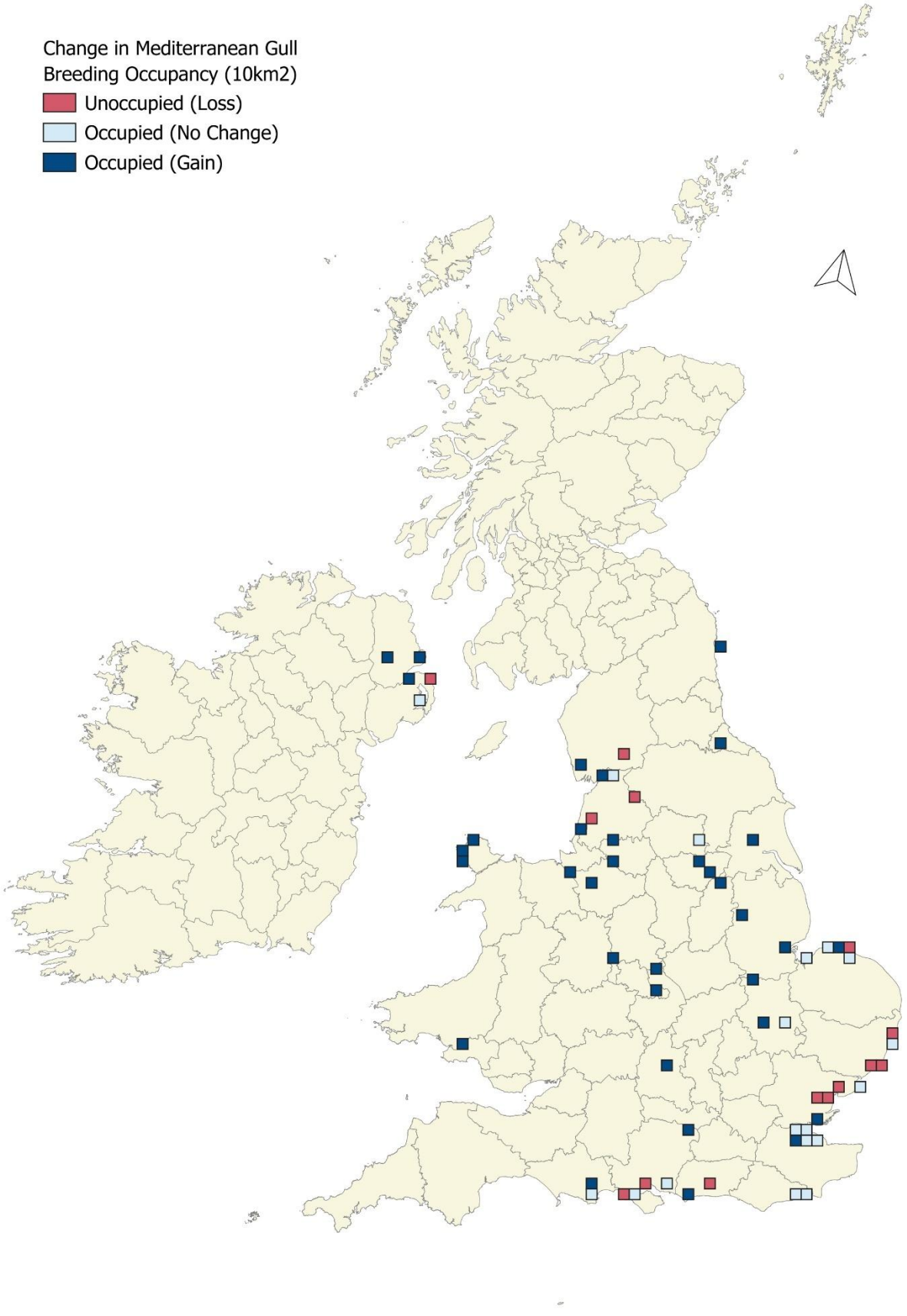
Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*



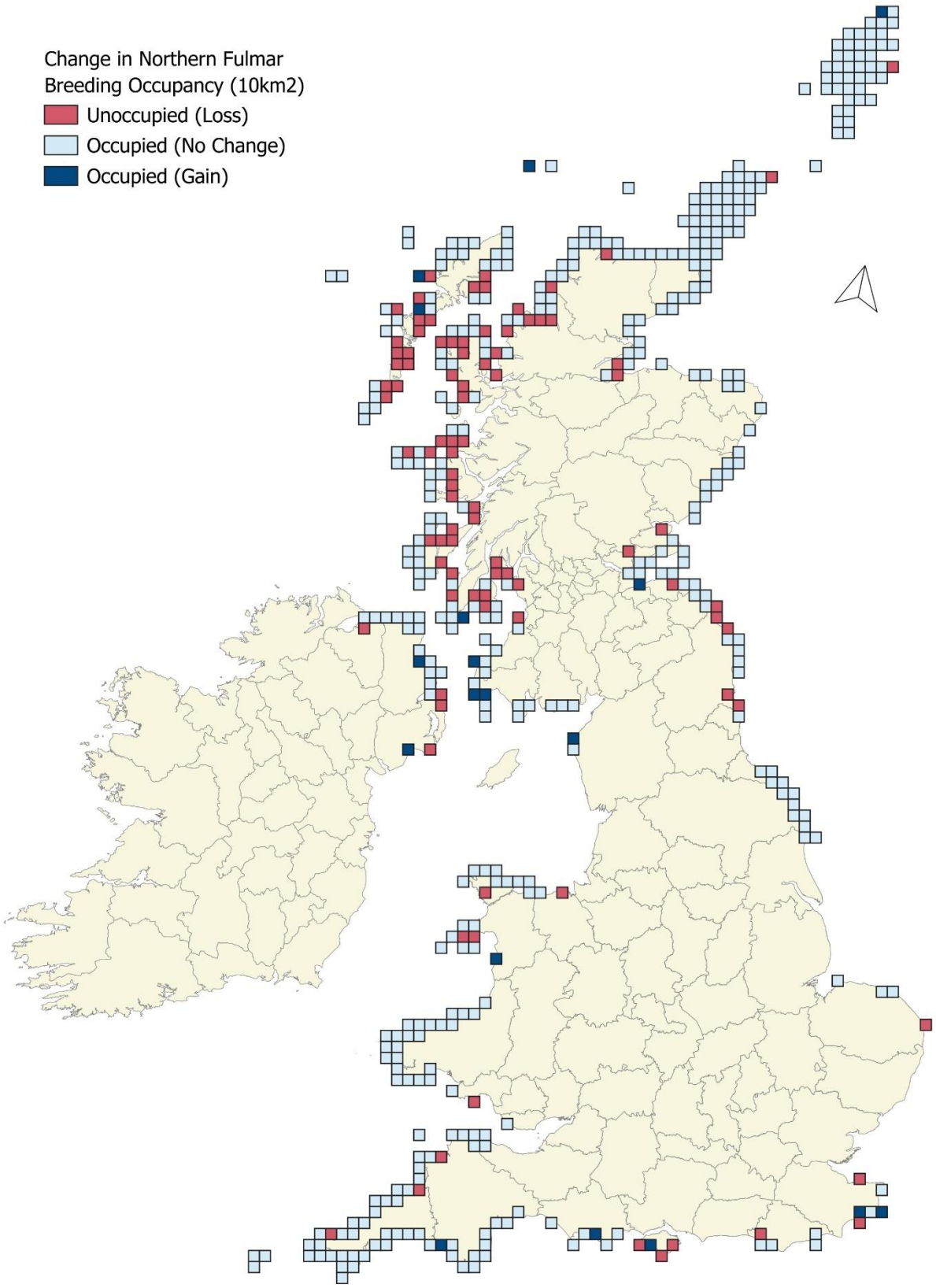
Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*



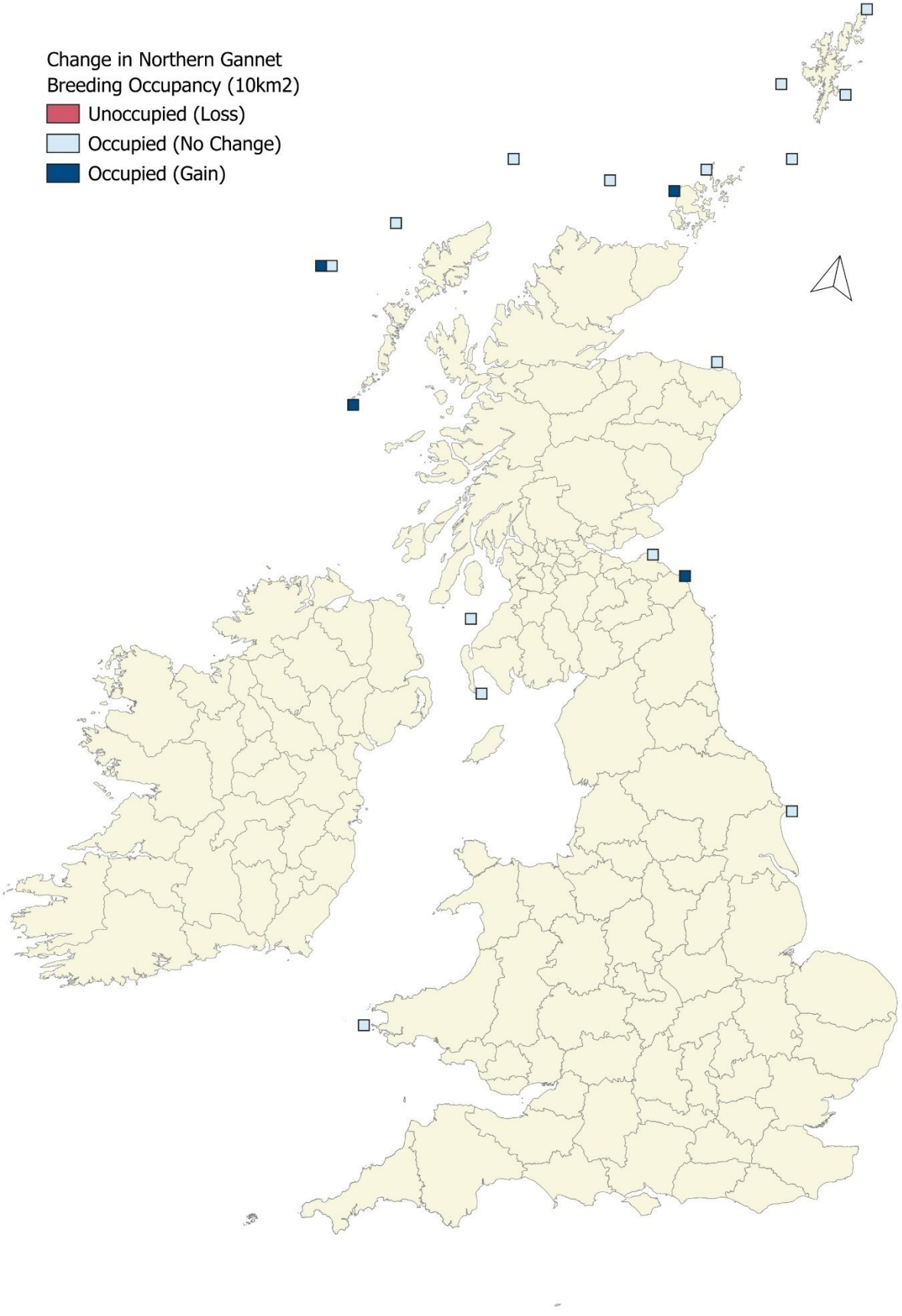
Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*



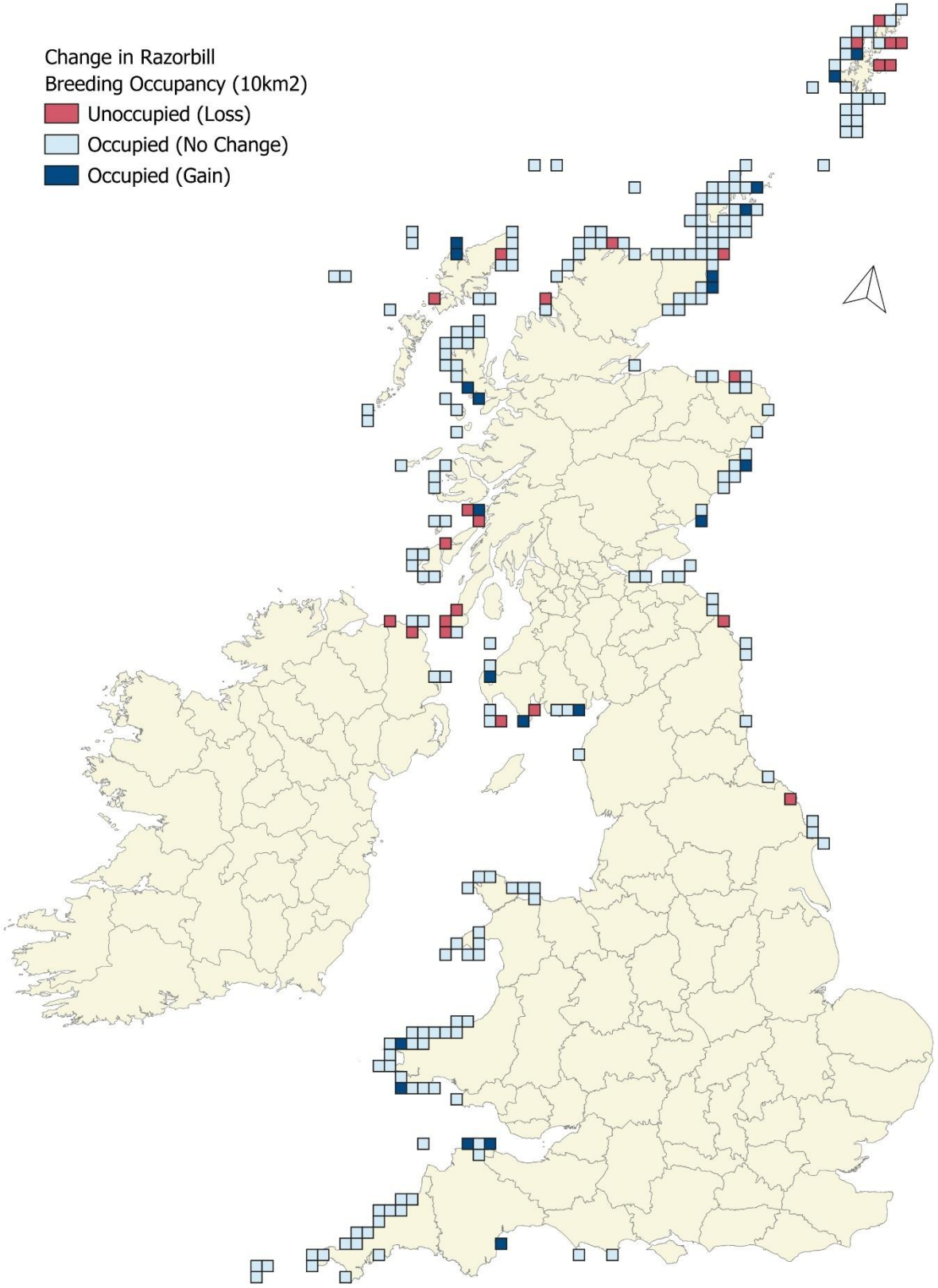
Northern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*



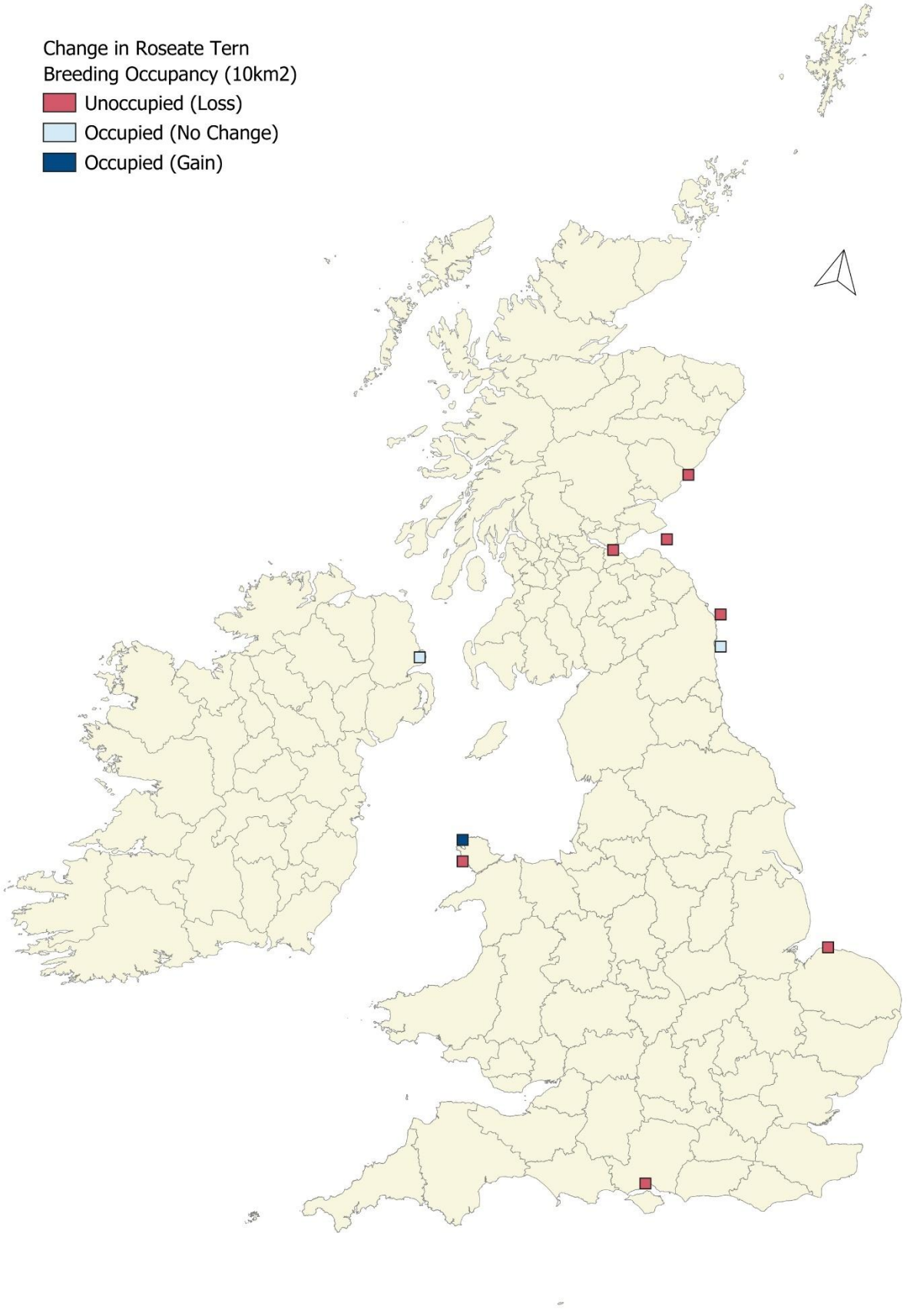
Northern Gannet *Morus bassanus*



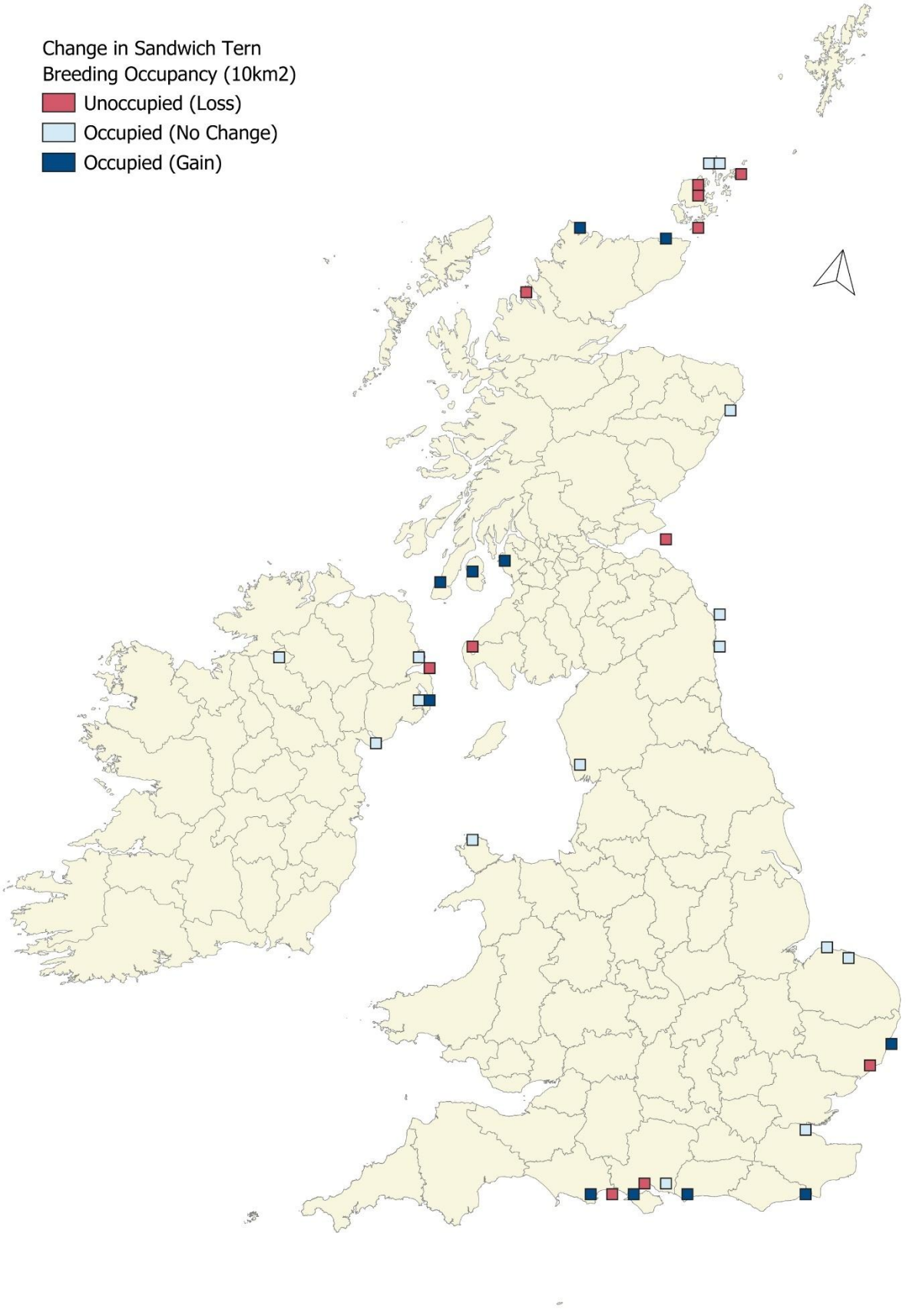
Razorbill *Alca torda*



Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*



Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*



References

Burnell, D., Perkins, A.J., Newton, S.F., Bolton, M., Tierney, T.D. and Dunn, T.E. (2023). *Seabirds Count: A census of breeding seabirds in Britain and Ireland (2015–2021).* Cerdanyola del Vallès: Lynx Nature Books.