The Great Grid Upgrade Grimsby to Walpole

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 3 Part B Section Specific Assessments Section 2 New Grimsby West Substation to New Lincolnshire Connection Substation A Chapter 4 Ecology and Biodiversity Appendix 4A Bird Survey Data 2022-24 June 2025

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4A. Bird Survey Data 2022-24

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4A. Bird Survey Data 2022-24

4A.1 Introduction

- 4A.1.1 This appendix presents the wintering and breeding bird survey data available to inform the preliminary assessment reported in the PEI Report for Section 2 New Grimsby West Substation to New Lincolnshire Connection Substation (LCS) A (Section 2) of the Project. This survey data was collected from surveys from 2022 to 2024. Data presented shows the abundance and conservation status of species recorded for wintering birds and breeding birds.
- 4A.1.2 Further details of the survey methodologies adopted are provided in **PEI Report Volume 3 Part A Appendix 4B Environmental Impact Assessment Methodologies and Scope.**

Wintering Birds

- 4A.1.3 The abundance data presented for wintering birds are the summed count of all observations of a species across survey visits. This approach may overestimate counts of birds, however the approach does provide a proxy for relative abundance to allow an indicative and precautionary approach to assigning importance.
- 4A.1.4 For abundance, the values presented in parentheses within the following tables represent those records of birds in flight. The 'European Site Features' column identifies whether those species are a qualifying feature, or part of the waterbird assemblage, of European designated sites, noting the consideration of the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) for the relevant species.
- 4A.1.5 IRZs are a tool development by Natural England to make a rapid initial assessment of potential risks posed by development proposals. They define zones for each feature, outside of which adverse impacts are unlikely.
- 4A.1.6 Further avian work has been undertaken during Winter 2024/25 for wintering birds and the full survey results will be presented and assessed in the Environmental Statement (ES).

Breeding Birds

- 4A.1.7 It should be noted that the survey transect for breeding birds only had partial coverage of the area and thus the number of territories does not represent the total number of birds breeding or using this area in the breeding season.
- 4A.1.8 Breeding bird features of the Ouse Washes are omitted given their IRZ does not overlap with the Section 2 Survey Area.
- 4A.1.9 Further avian work will be required in 2025 for breeding birds and the full survey results will be presented and assessed in the Environmental Statement (ES).

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance (birds in flight)	Distribution	BoCC Status ¹		Section 41 ²	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Blackbird	Turdus merula	2	Within arable fields, near Fulstow.	None	No	No	No	No
Black-headed gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	273 (77)	Records are present throughout the section but concentrated within the north. Many in arable land.	Amber	No	No	No	No, however, black- headed gull is considered as a component of the waterbird assemblage for The Wash Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar.
								Outside of IRZ.
Buzzard	Buteo buteo	6 (18)	Records present throughout the section, more focussed at Great Carlton, within the south. Some seen perched on lampposts and trees.	Green	No	No	No	No

 Table 4A.1
 Winter bird species and abundance recorded from Section 2 Survey Area.

¹ Stanbury, A., Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Balmer, D., Brown, A., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D., and Win I. 2021. The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. British Birds 114: 723-747.

² Species of Principal Importance under the NERC Act 2006

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance (birds in flight)	Distribution	BoCC Status ¹		Section 41 ²	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Canada goose	Branta canadensis	19 (1)	Records present throughout the section. Seen within field boundaries and nearby to adjacent waterbodies.	n/a	No	No	No	No. Canada goose is not considered as a component of the waterbird assemblage for the SPA and Ramsar sites associated with the Humber Estuary, The Wash and Ouse Washes, given the species' introduced status.
Common gull	Larus canus	719 (452)	Records mostly concentrated north of Grainsby and in farmland to the east of Louth. Records absent within the central of this section. Many in flight and foraging.	Amber	No	No	No	No, however, common gull is considered as a component of the waterbird assemblage for The Wash SPA and Ramsar.
								Outside of IRZ.
Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	1 (6)	Two flying within the north and one perched on a tree within south.	Green	No	No	No	No, however a component of the waterbird assemblage for the Humber Estuary, The Wash and Ouse Washes SPA and Ramsar sites. Outside of IRZ.

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance (birds in flight)	Distribution	BoCC Status ¹		Section 41 ²	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Curlew	Numenius arquata	13 (2)	Seen foraging within fields, north and south of the section.	Red	No	Yes	No	Yes – curlew (non- breeding) are a qualifying species for The Wash SPA and Ramsar.
								Outside the IRZ.
Gadwall	Mareca strepera	5	Seen in Louth Canal and a large pond in field within the south of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	Yes - gadwall (non- breeding) are a qualifying species for The Wash SPA, Ouse Washes SPA and Ramsar and the Nene Washes SPA. Outside the IRZ.
Golden plover	Pluvialis apricaria	16 (2)	Records within proximity to each other in fields, north of Stewton, central of the section.	Green	No	No	Yes	Yes – golden plover (non- breeding) are a qualifying species for The Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar. Outside the IRZ.
Grey heron	Ardea cinerea	1	Seen loafing within pond in the north of the section.	Green	No	No	No	No, however a component of the waterbird assemblage for the Humber Estuary, The Wash and Ouse Washes SPA and Ramsar sites.

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance (birds in flight)	Distribution	BoCC Status ¹		Section 41 ²	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
								Outside of IRZ.
Grey partridge	Perdix perdix	2	Seen within fields in the north, adjacent to the pond with heron.	Red	No	Yes	No	No
Greylag goose	Anser anser	86 (9)	One record, roosting within pond north of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No, however a component of the waterbird assemblage for the Humber Estuary, The Wash and Ouse Washes SPA and Ramsar sites. Outside of IRZ.
European herring gull	Larus argentatus	20 (9)	All records concentrated within Great Carlton, south of the section. Some seen loafing in ponds.	Red	No	Yes	No	No, however component of the waterbird assemblage for The Wash SPA and Ramsar. Outside of IRZ.
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	13 (11)	Seen within the north and south of the section, many perched on trees or flying over fields.	Amber	No	No	No	No

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance (birds in flight)	Distribution	BoCC Status ¹		Section 41 ²	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	1	Seen perched in a pond in the centre of the section.	Green	No	No	Yes	No, however a component of the waterbird assemblage for the Humber Estuary, The Wash and Ouse Washes SPA and Ramsar sites. Outside of IRZ.
Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	134 (27)	The majority seen foraging in fields, distributed throughout the section.	Red	No	Yes	No	No, however a component of the waterbird assemblage for the Humber Estuary, The Wash and Ouse Washes SPA and Ramsar sites.
Little egret	Egretta garzetta	2 (2)	Seen in ponds within the north and central site.	Green	No	No	Yes	Outside of IRZ. No, however a component of the waterbird assemblage for the Humber Estuary, The Wash and Ouse Washes SPA and Ramsar sites. Outside of IRZ.

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance (birds in flight)	Distribution	BoCC Status ¹		Section 41 ²	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Little grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	1	Recorded loafing in the central of the section.	Green	No	No	No	No, however a component of the waterbird assemblage for the Humber Estuary, The Wash and Ouse Washes SPA and Ramsar sites.
								Outside of IRZ.
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	134 (27)	Recorded in or adjacent to water, distributed across the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	23	Recorded loafing in or adjacent to water. The majority of records seen in the central and south.	Amber	No	No	No	No, however a component of the waterbird assemblage for the Humber Estuary, The Wash and Ouse Washes SPA and Ramsar sites. Outside of IRZ.
Mute swan	Cygnus olor	(2)	Recorded in Louth Canal, central of the section.	Green	No	No	No	No, however a component of the waterbird assemblage for the Humber Estuary, The Wash and Ouse Washes SPA and Ramsar sites.

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance (birds in flight)	Distribution	BoCC Status ¹		Section 41 ²	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
								Outside of IRZ.
Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	4	Recorded loafing in a large pond in field, near the south of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	Yes, shelduck (non- breeding) are a qualifying species for the Humber Estuary and The Wash SPA and Ramsar sites.
								Outside the IRZ.
Shoveler	Spatula clypeata	3	Recorded loafing in Louth Canal and in a large pond in field.	Amber	No	No	No	Yes, shoveler (non- breeding) are a qualifying species for the Ouse Washes and Nene Washes SPA and Ramsar sites.
								Outside of IRZ.
Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	1	Recorded loafing near the Great Eau in the south of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No, however a component of the waterbird assemblage for the Humber Estuary, The Wash and Ouse Washes SPA and Ramsar sites.
								Outside of IRZ.
Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	(1)	Recorded flying in field, north of Stewton	Amber	No	No	No	No

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance (birds in flight)	Distribution	BoCC Status ¹		Section 41 ²	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
			within the central section.					
Teal	Anas crecca	29 (7)	Recorded in waterbodies, central to southern portion of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	Yes, teal (non-breeding) are a qualifying species for the Ouse Washes Ramsar and Nene Washes SPA. Outside of IRZ.
Tufted duck	Aythya fuligula	1	Recorded foraging in water within the centre of the section.	Green	No	No	No	No, however a component of the waterbird assemblage for the Humber Estuary, The Wash and Ouse Washes SPA and Ramsar sites.
								Outside of IRZ.

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Distribution	BoCC5 Status		Section 41	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Barn owl	Tyto alba	2	Record in field and field boundaries within the north to central areas of the section.	Green	Yes	No	No	No
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	1	Recorded in a hedgerow in field within the centre of the section.	Amber	No	Yes	No	No
Cetti's warbler	Cettia cetti	1	Recorded within a wooded corridor, within the north of the section.	Green	Yes	No	No	No
Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	1	Recorded in field adjacent to Waithe Lane, within the north of the section.	Red	No	No	No	No
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	23	Recorded in clusters along the transects, the majority within the north and central	Amber	No	No	No	No
Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	4	Two records within a farmhouse and two	Red	No	No	No	No

Table 4A.2Breeding season species and numbers of territories recorded from the Survey Area for Section 2

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Distribution	BoCC5 Status		Section 41	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
			with fields, all within the central section.					
Grey partridge	Perdix perdix	10	Clustered within the centre and south of the section within fields and field boundaries.	Red	No	Yes	No	No
Grey wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	1	One record adjacent to the Great Eau, within the south of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Greylag goose	Anser anser	11	The majority distributed along the Great Eau, south of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No, however, greylag goose is listed as a component of the waterbird assemblage for the SPA and Ramsar sites associated with the Humber Estuary, The Wash and Ouse Washes. Outside of IRZ.
Hobby	Falco subbuteo	1	Recorded in Withern Wood in the south of the site.		Yes	No	No	No

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Distribution	BoCC5 Status		Section 41	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
House martin	Delichon urbicum	2	Two recorded within the northmost section in a building.	Red	No	Yes	No	No
House sparrow	Passer domesticus	11	Recorded in wooded areas, houses/barns and fields, predominantly in the centre of the section.	Red	No	No	No	No
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	2	Recorded within wooded corridors/ hedgerows, one in the north and one south.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	4	Mostly recorded within ponds in the north of the section, one recorded by the Great Eau in the south.	Green	Yes	No	Yes	No, however a component of the waterbird assemblage for the Humber Estuary, The Wash and SPA and Ramsar sites.
								Outside of IRZ.
Linnet	Linaria cannabina	18	Recorded in clusters along the section, mostly within the north and couple of records in south.	Red	No	Yes	No	No

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Distribution	BoCC5 Status		Section 41	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	8	Recorded in fields and adjacent to water such as the Great Eau. Observed throughout the section.	Amber	No	No	No	Yes, mallard (breeding) are a qualifying species for The Ouse Washes SPA. Outside of IRZ.
Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	7	Concentrated adjacent to the Great Eau in waterbodies, in the south of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No, however a component of the waterbird assemblage for the SPA and Ramsar sites associated with the Humber Estuary and The Wash.
								Outside of IRZ.
Raven	Corvus corax	1	Recorded in a field in the centre of the section.	None	No	No	No	No
Reed bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	23	Records clustered in fields throughout, majority within the centre and north.	Amber	No	Yes	No	No
Rook	Corvus frugilegus	20	Recorded in Withern Wood, in the south.	Amber	No	No	No	No

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Distribution	BoCC5 Status		Section 41	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Sedge warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus	5	Majority recorded in ditches/ hedgerow near North Thoresby in the north. Recorded in field, west of the Great Eau in the south.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	1	Recorded within the field in the north of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	Yes, shelduck (breeding) are a component of the assemblage of breeding wildfowl for the Ouse Washes SPA. Outside of IRZ.
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	108	Recorded in three clusters in fields throughout the section, split into the north, centre and the south.	Red	No	Yes	No	No
Song thrush	Turdus philomelos	20	Distribution concentrated within the centre of the section in field boundaries and fields.	Amber	No	Yes	No	No
Stock dove	Columba oenas	11	Recorded throughout the section in clusters,	Amber	No	No	No	No

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Distribution	BoCC5 Status		Section 41	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
			abundant near Ings Lane.					
Tawny owl	Strix aluco	2	Recorded in the north and south of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Whitethroat	Curruca communis	27	Recorded in clusters throughout the transects, the majority in the north, west of Louth Road.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Yellow wagtail	Motacilla flava	11	Recorded mostly within the north and south of the section, few records within the centre.	Red	No	Yes	No	No
Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	19	Scattered in the south, centre and north of the section.	Red	No	Yes	No	No

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of breeding	Winter abundance	County Status	Importance	
		territories	(birds in flight)			
Barn owl	Tyto alba	2	0	Very widespread breeding species	Local	
Blackbird	Turdus merula	0	2	Very widespread breeding species	Less than local	
Black-headed gull	Chroicocephalus	0	273 (22)	Fairly local breeding species.	Less than local	
	ridibundus			Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.		
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	1	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local	
Buzzard	Buteo buteo	0	6 (18)	Very widespread breeding species.	Less than local	
				Passage migrant and winter visitor.		
Canada goose	Branta canadensis	0	19 (1)	Very widespread breeding species.	Less than local	
				Feral species.		
Cetti's warbler	Cettia cetti	1	0	Fairly local breeding species.	County	
				Scarce and increasing breeding resident and passage migrant/winter visitor.		
Common gull	Larus canus	0	719 (452)	Very common passage migrant and winter species.	Local	

Table 4A.3 Importance of species observed within the Section 2 Survey Area

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of breeding territories	Winter abundance (birds in flight)	County Status	Importance
Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	0	1 (6)	Very local breeding species. Common winter visitor, mainly coastal but increasing number inland and in summer.	Less than local
Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	1	0	Fairly widespread breeding species. Declining summer visitor.	Local
Curlew	Numenius arquata	0	13 (2)	Fairly local breeding species. Common passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	23	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Gadwall	Mareca strepera	0	5	Fairly widespread breeding species. Fairly common though localised breeding species and winter visitor.	Local
Golden plover	Pluvialis apricaria	0	16 (2)	Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, occasional in summer.	Local
Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	4	0	Very widespread breeding species. Declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Grey heron	Ardea cinerea	0	1	Fairly local breeding species.	Local

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of breeding territories	Winter abundance (birds in flight)	County Status	Importance
				Partial migrant and winter visitor.	
Grey partridge	Perdix perdix	10	2	Very widespread breeding species. Declining resident.	Local
Grey wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	1	0	Fairly local breeding species. Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Greylag goose	Anser anser	11	86 (9)	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
European herring gull	Larus argentatus	0	20 (9)	Fairly local breeding species. Common passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Hobby	Falco subbuteo	1	0	Fairly local breeding species. Passage migrant.	Local
House martin	Delichon urbicum	2	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
House sparrow	Passer domesticus	11	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	2	13 (11)	Fairly local breeding species. Passage migrant.	Local
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	4	1	Fairly local breeding species.	Local

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of breeding territories	Winter abundance (birds in flight)	County Status	Importance
				Partial migrant.	
Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	0	134 (27)	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
				Declining breeding species, and very common passage migrant and winter visitor.	
Linnet	Linaria cannabina	18	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
				Passage migrant and winter visitor.	
Little egret	Egretta garzetta	0	2 (2)	Fairly local breeding species.	Local
Little grebe	Tachybaptus	0	1	Fairly widespread breeding species.	Less than local
	ruficollis			Partial migrant and winter visitor.	
Mallard	Anas	8	134 (27)	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
	platyrhynchos			Passage migrant and winter visitor.	
Moorhen	Gallinula	7	23	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
	chloropus			Partial migrant.	
Mute swan	Cygnus olor	0	(2)	Very widespread breeding species.	Less than local
				Partial migrant.	

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of breeding territories	Winter abundance (birds in flight)	County Status	Importance
Raven	Corvus corax	1	0	Fairly local breeding species.	Local
Reed bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	23	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Rook	Corvus frugilegus	20	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
				Passage migrant and winter visitor.	
Sedge warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus	5	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	1	4	Fairly widespread breeding species.	Local
				Common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor.	
Shoveler	Spatula clypeata	0	3	Fairly local breeding species.	Local
				Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant.	
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	108	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
				Passage migrant and winter visitor.	
Snipe	Gallinago	0	1	Very local breeding species.	Local
	gallinago			Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.	

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of breeding	Winter abundance	County Status	Importance	
		territories	(birds in flight)			
Song thrush	Turdus philomelos	20	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local	
Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	0	(1)	Very widespread breeding species. Passage migrant.	Local	
Stock dove	Columba oenas	11	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local	
Tawny owl	Strix aluco	2	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local	
Teal	Anas crecca	0	29 (7)	Very local breeding species. Common migrant and winter visitor.	Local	
Tufted duck	Aythya fuligula	0	1	Very widespread breeding species. Common winter visitor.	Less than local	
Whitethroat	Curruca communis	27	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local	
Yellow wagtail	Motacilla flava	11	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local	
Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	19	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local	

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