

**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Grimsby to Walpole

# Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 3 Part B Section Specific Assessments

Section 3 New Lincolnshire Connection Substations A and B

Chapter 4 Ecology and Biodiversity

Appendix 4A Bird Survey Data 2022-24

June 2025



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# Grimsby to Walpole

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# 4A. Bird Survey Data 2022-24

# 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 Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report for Section 3 New Lincolnshire Connection Substation (LCS) A and B (Section 3) 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 3 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).

Table 4A.1 Winter bird species and abundance recorded from Section 3 Survey Area.

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance (birds in flight)	Distribution	BoCC Status <sup>1</sup>	Schedule 1	Section 41 <sup>2</sup>	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	(40)	Recorded flying over field within the north of the section.	Green	No	Yes	No	No, however listed as a component of the waterbird assemblage for the Humber Estuary, The Wash and Ouse Washes Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar sites. Outside the IRZ.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1 (3)	Recorded flying over fields, throughout the section.	Green	No	No	No	No
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	One perched in a tree and one flying in the north of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	(3)	Recorded in flight with the 500m boundary in the south.	Amber	No	No	No	No, however listed as a component of the waterbird assemblage for The Wash SPA and Ramsar. Outside of IRZ.

<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> Species of Principal Importance under the NERC Act 2006

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance (birds in flight)	Distribution	BoCC Status <sup>1</sup>	Schedule 1	Section 41 <sup>2</sup>	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	37 (3)	Mostly recorded foraging with fields in the north.	Amber	No	No	No	No, however listed as a component of the waterbird assemblage for The Wash SPA and Ramsar. Outside of IRZ.

Table 4A.2 Breeding season species and numbers of territories recorded from the Survey Area for Section 3

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Distribution	BoCC Status	Schedule 1	Section 41	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	1	Recorded within field boundary in the north of the section.	Green	Yes	No	No	No
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	1	Recorded in trees, adjacent to Sutton Road, south of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	2	Recorded in hedgerow/wooded field boundary adjacent to Rye Lane in the north of the section.	Red	No	No	No	No
House martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	5	Recorded near farmhouse and cropland, adjacent to	Red	No	No	No	No

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Distribution	BoCC Status	Schedule 1	Section 41	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
			Rye Lane in the north of the section.					
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	5	Recorded near farmhouse, adjacent to Rye Lane in the north of the section.	Red	No	Yes	No	No
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	2	Recorded in trees, adjacent to Rye Lane in the north of the section.	Red	No	Yes	No	No
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	1	Recorded in field, adjacent to Rye Lane in the north of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	Yes, oystercatcher (non-breeding) are a qualifying species for The Wash SPA and Ramsar. Outside the IRZ.
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	5	Recorded in fields in the north of the section.	Amber	No	Yes	No	No
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	18	Recorded in fields, scattered within the north and south of the section.	Red	No	Yes	No	No
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	5	Majority of records in trees and wooded areas in the north, one in the south.	Amber	No	Yes	No	No
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	1	Recorded in field, adjacent to Rye Lane in the north of the section.	Red	No	Yes	No	No

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Distribution	BoCC Status	Schedule 1	Section 41	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	1	Recorded in a field boundary, south of the draft Order Limits.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	1	Recorded in woodland, on the edge of the 500m buffer, north of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	8	The majority scattered along field boundaries in the north, one record in the south of the section.	None	No	No	No	No
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	3	Recorded in adjacent fields, south of the section.	Amber	No	Yes	No	No
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	2	Recorded along field boundaries to the west of Greenfield Wood.	Red	No	Yes	No	No

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

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of breeding territories	Winter abundance (birds in flight)	County Status	Importance
Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	1	0	Very widespread breeding species	Local

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of breeding territories	Winter abundance (birds in flight)	County Status	Importance
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	0	3	Fairly local breeding species. Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.	Less than local
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	0	1 (3)	Very widespread breeding species. Passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	0	37 (3)	Very common passage migrant and winter species.	Local
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	1	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	2	0	Very widespread breeding species. Declining resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
House martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	5	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	5	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	0	2	Fairly local breeding species. Passage migrant.	Local
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	0	40	Very widespread breeding species. Declining breeding species, and very common passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	2	0	Very widespread breeding species. Passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of breeding territories	Winter abundance (birds in flight)	County Status	Importance
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	1	0	Fairly widespread breeding species, however few records from inland breeding locations (although numbers increasing). Very common coastal passage migrant / winter visitor and fairly common resident.	County
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	5	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	18	0	Very widespread breeding species. Passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	5	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	1	0	Very widespread breeding species. Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	1	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	1	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	8	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	3	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	2	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local

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