

The Great Grid Upgrade

Grimsby to Walpole

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 3 Part B Section Specific Assessments

Section 5 Refined Weston Marsh Substation Siting Zone

Chapter 4 Ecology and Biodiversity

Appendix 4A Bird Survey Data 2022-24

June 2025



Contents

4A.	Bird Survey Data 2022-24	1
4A.1	Introduction	1
	Wintering Birds	1
	Breeding Birds	1

Table 4A.1	Winter bird species and abundance recorded from Section 5 Survey Area.	2
Table 4A.2	Breeding season species and numbers of territories recorded from the Survey Area for Section 5.	4
Table 4A.3	Importance of species observed within the Section 5 Survey Area.	5

Grimsby to Walpole

Document control

Document Properties	
Organisation	Arup AECOM
Approved by	National Grid
Title	Preliminary Environmental Information Report Volume 3 Part B Section Specific Assessments Section 5 Refined Weston Marsh Substation Siting Zone Chapter 4 Ecology and Biodiversity Appendix 4A Bird Survey Data 2022-24
Document Register ID	GWNC-ARUP(AEC)-ENV-REP-0002
Data Classification	Public

Version History			
Date	Version	Status	Description / Changes
June 2025	1.0	Final	First Issue

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 5 Refined Weston Marsh Refined Siting Zone (Section 5) 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 developed 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 5 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 ES.

Table 4A.1 Winter bird species and abundance recorded from Section 5 Survey Area.

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance (birds in flight)	Distribution	BoCC Status ¹	Schedule 1	Section 41 ²	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	(5)	Recorded to the east of the section, within a field.	Amber	No	No	No	No, however listed as a component of the waterbird assemblage for The Wash SPA and Ramsar. Outside of IRZ.
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	(3)	Recorded to the east of the section, within a field.	None	No	No	No	No
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	48	Recorded in fields.	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	<i>Larus canus</i>	(65)	Recorded in fields in the	Amber	No	No	No	No, common gull is listed as a component of the waterbird

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	Schedule 1	Section 41 ²	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
			south of the site.					assemblage for The Wash SPA and Ramsar. Outside of IRZ.
Golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	(2)	Recorded in field within the east of the section.	None	No	No	Yes	Yes, golden plover (non-breeding) is a qualifying species for The Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar. Outside of IRZ.
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	(80)	Recorded in field, within south of section.	Red	No	Yes	No	No, however listed as a component of the waterbird assemblage the Humber Estuary, The Wash and Ouse Washes SPA and Ramsar sites. Outside of IRZ.
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	(20)	Recorded within the centre of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No, however listed as a component of the waterbird assemblage for the Humber Estuary, The Wash and Ouse Washes SPA and Ramsar sites. Outside of IRZ.

Table 4A.2 Breeding season species and numbers of territories recorded from the Survey Area for Section 5.

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 a field boundary, south of the section.	Green	Yes	Yes	No	No
Corn bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	8	Scattered across the section along field boundaries.	Red	No	No	No	No
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	1	Recorded in field, north of the section.	Red	No	No	No	No
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2	Recorded in field, north of the section.	Red	No	No	No	No
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	1	Recorded along field boundary, centre of the section.	Red	No	No	No	No
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	4	Scattered across the centre and south of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1	Recorded in field, centre of the section.	Green	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	1	Recorded in field, centre of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	14	Scattered across the section.	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
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	1	Recorded in field, north of the section.	Red	No	No	No	No
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	2	One recorded in the north east and one in the south west of the section, both in fields.	Red	No	No	No	No

Table 4A.3 Importance of species observed within the Section 5 Survey Area.

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Abundance (birds in flight)	County Status	Importance
Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	1	0	Very widespread breeding species	Local
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	0	(5)	Fairly local breeding species. Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.	Less than local
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	0	(3)	Very widespread breeding species. Passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	0	48	Very widespread breeding species. Feral species	Less than local

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Abundance (birds in flight)	County Status	Importance
Corn bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	8	0	Fairly widespread breeding species. Fairly common but somewhat localised and declining resident.	Local
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	0	(65)	Very common passage migrant and winter species.	Local
Golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	0	(2)	Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, occasional in summer.	Local
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	1	0	Very widespread breeding species. Declining resident.	Local
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	0	(80)	Very widespread breeding species. Declining breeding species, and very common passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	1	0	Very widespread breeding species. Passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	4	0	Very widespread breeding species. Common / very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1	0	Fairly localised breeding species.	Less than local

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Abundance (birds in flight)	County Status	Importance
				Scarce but widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.	
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	1	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	14	0	Very widespread breeding species. Passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	0	(20)	Very local breeding species. Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	1	0	Very widespread breeding species. Common though localised resident and partial migrant.	Local
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	2	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152
nationalgrid.com