

The Great Grid Upgrade

Grimsby to Walpole

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 3 Part B Section Specific Assessments

Section 7 New Walpole B Substation

Chapter 4 Ecology and Biodiversity

Appendix 4A Bird Survey Data 2024

June 2025



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4A. Bird Survey Data 2024

4A. Bird Survey Data 2024

4A.1 Introduction

- 4A.1.1 This appendix presents the breeding bird survey data available to inform the preliminary assessment reported in the Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report for Section 7 New Walpole B Substation (Section 7) of the Project. This survey data was collected from surveys in 2024. Data presented shows the abundance and conservation status of species recorded for breeding birds.
- 4A.1.2 No survey data were available for wintering birds in Section 7, however, further avian work was undertaken during winter 2024/25 and the full survey results will be presented and assessed within the ES
- 4A.1.3 Further details of the survey methodologies adopted are provided in **PEI Report Volume 3 Part A Appendix 4B Environmental Impact Assessment Methodologies and Scope**.

Breeding Birds

- 4A.1.4 Breeding bird survey data is presented, as collected from surveys from in 2024. Data presented show the number of territories within surveyed areas, as well as the conservation status of species recorded.
- 4A.1.5 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.1.6 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 Breeding season species and numbers of territories recorded from the Section 7 Survey Area.

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Distribution	BoCC5 Status ¹	Schedule 1	Section 41 ²	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Corn bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	3	Recorded within the centre of the section.	Red	No	Yes	No	No
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	4	Recorded within the centre and south of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	Recorded in field boundary. South of the section	Amber	No	No	No	No
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	3	Recorded in field boundaries north and east of the section.	Red	No	Yes	No	No
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	3	Recorded in field boundaries within the centre of section, within proximity of nearby waterbodies.	Amber	No	No	No	Yes, mallard (breeding) are a qualifying species for the Ouse Washes Special Protection Area (SPA). Outside of IRZ.
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	9	Records are situated within field located	Amber	No	No	No	No

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	Numbers of territories	Distribution	BoCC5 Status ¹	Schedule 1	Section 41 ²	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
			towards the centre and north of the section.					
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	6	Records are situated within field located towards the centre and north of the section.	Amber	No	Yes	No	No
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	24	Recorded within field boundary located south of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Sedge warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	2	Recorded north of the section within field boundaries.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	13	Recorded in fields throughout the section, concentrated in the centre and north.	Red	No	Yes	No	No
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	Recorded in a tree within a hedgerow located south of the section.	Amber	No	Yes	No	No
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	5	Recorded north and east of the section within field boundaries.	Red	No	Yes	No	No
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	3	Recorded within field boundaries located east of the section within close proximity of each other.	None	No	No	No	No

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Distribution	BoCC5 Status ¹	Schedule 1	Section 41 ²	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	8	Recorded within the centre and north of the section, predominately within fields adjacent to solar farms.	Red	No	Yes	No	No

Table 4A.2 Importance of species observed within the Section 7 Survey Area³.

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	County Status	Importance
Corn bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	3	Sparsely distributed breeding species. More common to west of the county.	Local
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	4	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	Widespread breeding species.	Local
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	3	Widespread breeding species.	Local
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	3	Widespread breeding species.	Local
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	9	Widespread breeding species, with some local declines.	Local
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	6	Widespread breeding species.	Local

³ Note, the Section is both in Lincolnshire and Norfolk; data are presented from Birds of Lincolnshire, with supplemental data from the British Trust for Ornithology in their Bird Atlas data for Norfolk.

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	County Status	Importance
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	24	Widespread breeding species.	Local
Sedge warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	2	Widespread breeding species.	Local
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	13	Widespread breeding species.	Local
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	Widespread breeding species.	Local
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	5	Widespread breeding species.	Local
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	3	Widespread breeding species.	Local
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	8	Widespread breeding species.	Local

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