

Supplementary Preliminary Environmental Information Report: Section 5 New Weston Marsh Substations A and B

Volume 3 Part B Section Specific Assessment

Chapter 4 Ecology and Biodiversity

Appendix 4A Bird Survey Data 2022-24

November 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 (2022/2023) and breeding bird (2024) survey data available to inform the preliminary assessment reported in the **Supplementary Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report for Section 5 New Weston Marsh Substations A and B** (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 The information in this appendix reflects that presented within the June 2025 PEI Report Volume 3 Part B Appendix 4A: Bird Survey Data (Ref 1), updated to reflect the draft Order Limits for Section 5.
- 4A.1.3 Further details of the survey methodologies adopted are provided in **Supplementary PEI Report Volume 3 Part A Appendix 4B Environmental Impact Assessment Methodologies and Scope**.

Wintering Birds

- 4A.1.4 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.1.5 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.1.6 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.1.7 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.1.8 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.1.9 Breeding bird features of the Ouse Washes are omitted given their IRZ does not overlap with the Section 5 Survey Area.
- 4A.1.10 Further avian work has been undertaken 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 within 500m of the draft Order Limits of Section 5 from 2022/2023.

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	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	12 (23)	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.
Brent goose	Branta bernicla	(1000)	Flying	Amber	No	Yes	No	No, however listed as a component of the waterbird assemblage for The Wash SPA and Ramsar. Outside of IRZ.
Buzzard	Buteo buteo	(6)	Recorded to the east of the section, within a field.	None	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	Abundance (birds in flight)	Distribution	BoCC Status ¹	Schedule 1	Section 41 ²	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	20	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>	46 (71)	Recorded in fields across the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No, common gull is listed as a component of the waterbird assemblage for The Wash SPA and Ramsar. Outside of IRZ.

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance (birds in flight)	Distribution	BoCC Status ¹	Schedule 1	Section 41 ²	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	7 (1)	Along the River Welland	Green	No	No	No	No
Golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	(177)	Recorded in fields within the centre 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.
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	(50)	Near the River Welland	Amber	No	No	No	No
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1 (1)	Along the River Welland	Green	No	No	No	No
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	(2)	Near the River Welland	Red	No	Yes	No	No, common gull is listed as a component of the waterbird assemblage for The Wash SPA and Ramsar.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1(4)	North of the section	Amber	No	No	No	No
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	(240)	Recorded in fields, within	Red	No	Yes	No	No, however listed as a

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 section.					component of the waterbird assemblage the Humber Estuary, The Wash and Ouse Washes SPA and Ramsar sites. Outside of IRZ.
Little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	1	Along the River Welland	Green	No	No	No	No
Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	1	Along the River Welland	Green	No	No	No	No
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	147 (52)	Along the River Welland	Amber	No	No	No	No
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	2	North of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	2 (6)	North and south of the section	Green	No	No	No	No
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	2	Along the River Welland	Amber	No	No	No	No
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	11 (4)	Along the River Welland	Amber	No	No	No	No
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	(2)	On the River Welland	Amber	No	No	No	No

Common name	Scientific name	Abundance (birds in flight)	Distribution	BoCC Status ¹	Schedule 1	Section 41 ²	Annex I	European Site Qualifying Feature
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	(21)	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.
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	27 (2)	Along the River Welland	Amber	No	No	No	No
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	5 (3)	Along the River Welland	Amber	No	No	No	No

Table 4A.2 Breeding season species and numbers of territories recorded from within 500m of the draft Order Limits of Section 5 from 2024.

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>	2	Recorded within a field boundary, south and north of the section.	Green	Yes	Yes	No	No
Corn bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	9	Scattered across the section along field boundaries.	Red	No	No	No	No
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	1	Along the River Welland	Amber	No	Yes	No	No
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	4	All outside the draft Order Limits.	Red	No	No	No	No
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2	Recorded in field, north of the section.	Red	No	No	No	No
House martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	4	West of the Section	Red	No	No	No	No
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	Centre of the Section	Amber	No	No	No	No
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	3	Recorded along field boundary, centre and west of the	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
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	3	Along the River Welland.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Marsh harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1	Centre of the Section	Amber	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	14	Scattered across the centre and south of the section.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	3	Close to the River Welland	Amber	No	No	No	No
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	2	Along the River Welland.	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>	7	Focussed along the River Welland.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Sedge warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobanus</i>	1	Near the River Welland crossing	Amber	No	No	No	No
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	21	Scattered across the section.	Red	No	No	No	No
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	1	Recorded in field, north of 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
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	1	North-east, near the River Welland	Amber	No	No	No	No
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	4	Near the River Welland, and three to the centre.	Amber	No	No	No	No
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	3	One recorded in the west, east and central location, all 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>	2	0	Very widespread breeding species	Local
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	0	12 (23)	Fairly local breeding species. Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.	Less than local
Brent goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	0	(1000)	Very common coastal winter visitor. Occasional inland.	Local
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	0	(6)	Very widespread breeding species. Passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	0	20	Very widespread breeding species. Feral species	Less than local
Corn bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	9	0	Fairly widespread breeding species. Fairly common but somewhat localised and declining resident.	Local
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	0	46 (71)	Very common passage migrant and winter species.	Local
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	0	7 (1)	Very local breeding species. Common winter visitor, mainly coastal but increasing number inland and in summer.	Local

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Abundance (birds in flight)	County Status	Importance
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	1	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	0	(177)	Very common passage migrant and winter visitor, occasional in summer.	Local
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	0	(50)	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	4	0	Very widespread breeding species. Declining resident.	Local
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	0	1 (1)	Fairly local breeding species. Partial migrant and winter visitor.	Local
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
House martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	4	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
European herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	0	(2)	Fairly local breeding species. Common passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	1 (4)	Fairly local breeding species. Passage migrant.	Local
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	0	(240)	Very widespread breeding species. Declining breeding species, and very common passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	3	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Abundance (birds in flight)	County Status	Importance
				Passage migrant and winter visitor.	
Little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	0	1	Fairly widespread breeding species. Partial migrant and winter visitor.	Less than local
Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	0	1	Fairly local breeding species.	Local
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	3	147 (52)	Very widespread breeding species. Passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Marsh harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1	0	Fairly widespread breeding species. One marsh harrier pair represents approximately 2% of the Lincolnshire population, noting that there is around 47 breeding pairs (Ref 2) Fairly common passage migrant and scarce summer visitor, increasing in winter.	County
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	14	0	Very widespread breeding species. Common / vey common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	3	2	Very widespread breeding species. Partial migrant.	Local
Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	0	2 (6)	Very widespread breeding species. Partial migrant.	Less than local

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Abundance (birds in flight)	County Status	Importance
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	2	2	Very widespread breeding species. Common / vey common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1	0	Fairly localised breeding species. Scarce but widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	7	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	0	11 (4)	Fairly localised breeding species. Common passage migrant and winter visitor and fairly common breeding species of coastal marshes. Scarce / very scarce inland.	Local
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	0	(2)	Fairly widespread breeding species. Common resident, partial migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Sedge warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobanus</i>	1	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	21	0	Very widespread breeding species. Passage migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	0	(20)	Very local breeding species.	Local

Common name	Scientific name	Numbers of territories	Abundance (birds in flight)	County Status	Importance
				Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.	
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	0	27 (2)	Very local breeding species. Common migrant and winter visitor.	Local
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	1	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	1	0	Very widespread breeding species. Common though localised resident and partial migrant.	Local
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	4	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	0	5 (3)	Irregular breeding species. Common or very common winter visitor and passage migrant.	Local
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	2	0	Very widespread breeding species.	Local

References

- Ref 1 National Grid Electricity Transmission (2025). Grimsby to Walpole Preliminary Environmental Information Report [online]. Available at: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade/grimsby-to-walpole/document-library#4257225834-3023854277> [Accessed 12 September 2025].
- Ref 2 Lincolnshire Bird Club (2022). Lincolnshire Bird Report 20222. Spring, 2024.

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