



The Sizewell C Project

9.19 Bird Survey Report - Northern Park and Ride

Revision: 1.0
Applicable Regulation: Regulation 5(2)(q)
PINS Reference Number: EN010012

June 2021

Planning Act 2008
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009



CONTENTS

1	SUMMARY	1
1.1	Receptor Status 2020/2021 Summary Overview	1
2	OVERVIEW	1
2.1	The Aims of the Surveys.....	1
2.2	Wintering Bird and Waterfowl Surveys 2020/2021	1
3	METHODS.....	2
3.1	Desk Study	2
3.2	Field Surveys.....	2
3.3	Limitations	3
4	RESULTS	3
5	CONCLUSION.....	6
	REFERENCES	7

TABLES

Table 4.1: Notable species recorded at northern park & ride.....	4
Table 1: Survey details for wintering bird surveys at Northern Park & Ride (Darsham) (2020/2021)	9
Table 2: Peak counts of species of no special conservation concern recorded across the site.	10

FIGURES

Figure 1: Wintering Bird Survey Transect Route 2020/2021	
Figure 2: Schedule 1 and Species of Local & National Importance Recorded in November 2020 Surveys	
Figure 3: Schedule 1 and Species of Local & National Importance Recorded in December 2020 Surveys	
Figure 4: Schedule 1 and Species of Local & National Importance Recorded in January 2021 Surveys	
Figure 5: Schedule 1 and Species of Local & National Importance Recorded in February 2021 Surveys	

Figure 6: Schedule 1 and Species of Local & National Importance Recorded in March 2021 Surveys

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: DRAWINGS	8
APPENDIX B: SURVEY DETAILS AND WEATHER CONDITIONS.....	9
APPENDIX C: SPECIES LIST – BIRDS WITH NO SPECIAL CONSERVATION CONCERN	10

1 SUMMARY

1.1 Receptor Status 2020/2021 Summary Overview

1.1.1 This report presents the findings of the 2020/2021 wintering bird surveys undertaken at the northern park & ride at Darsham, one of the associated development sites of the proposed Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station project (hereafter referred to as 'Sizewell C Project').

1.1.2 The surveys are part of on-going ecological surveys of northern park & ride site (the 'site'), following previous surveys undertaken on the site [\[APP-363\]](#) and [APP-364](#).

1.1.3 The site is located adjacent north of the A12 and comprised areas of three arable fields bordered by hedgerows. The site incorporated two sections of the A12. The site location is presented in **Figure 1** in **Appendix A**.

1.1.4 The 2020/2021 surveys identified that habitats within the northern park & ride site supported a diverse assemblage of bird species including two Schedule 1 species, five red listed species, seven amber listed species and 25 species of no conservation concern.

1.1.5 The main habitats within the site comprise arable fields and hedgerows. The site is bordered by one area of broadleaved woodland adjacent to the west and residential gardens to the east.

2 OVERVIEW

2.1 The Aims of the Surveys

2.1.1 The aim of the updated surveys was to determine the wintering bird assemblage and to gather spatial data regarding numbers and distribution of birds within the northern park & ride area of the Sizewell C project.

2.2 Wintering Bird and Waterfowl Surveys 2020/2021

2.2.1 The surveys took place between 25th November 2020 and 17th March 2021, following a designated transect to record the wintering bird assemblage, numbers and spatial distribution. The surveys were undertaken within the northern park & ride area.

2.2.2 The 2020/2021 surveys identified that the proposed northern park & ride (Darsham) site supported no waterfowl species, however the site supported

a range of other species of conservation concern commonly associated with arable habitats.

- 2.2.3 Minsmere - Walberswick Heaths and Marshes Special area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (including Westleton Heath National Nature Reserve (NNR)) was located 3.2km east of the site. The SPA qualifies by supporting avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*), bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), little tern (*Sterna albifrons*), marsh harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) and woodlark (*Lullula arborea*) during the breeding season; and avocet, bittern and hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) over Winter. None of these species were recorded using the site during the surveys.
- 2.2.4 The site is located adjacent west of the A12 and comprised arable fields bordered by hedgerows. The site incorporates a section of the A12 and its adjoining roads. The site location is presented in **Figure 1** in **Appendix A**. The arable fields, hedgerows and adjacent woodland to the west are consistent with the surrounding landscape.
- 2.2.5 The main areas supporting passerine wintering birds were field boundary hedgerows and the area of woodland adjacent to the west of the site, however skylarks were observed foraging, using and singing (in February and March) within and above the arable fields. Wetland and waterfowl species were observed commuting above the site only.

3 METHODS

3.1 Desk Study

- 3.1.1 Desk study information is fully detailed within the **Volume 3, Chapter 7** and **Volume 7, Appendix 7A Environmental Statement (ES)** [[APP-363](#) and [APP-364](#)].

3.2 Field Surveys

- 3.2.1 Transect surveys for wintering wetland bird survey visits were undertaken monthly from November 2020 to March 2021 (inclusive), to record species observed or heard within the northern park & ride site and adjacent habitats. The location and transect route are detailed on **Figure 1** in **Appendix A**.
- 3.2.2 The surveys were undertaken by two teams of two surveyors, [REDACTED], all of whom are competent ornithologists.

3.2.3 The surveyors were equipped with binoculars and telescopes to aid identification. Observations were entered onto iPads, with the focus of the surveys being wintering birds. Sightings of all species of importance were recorded and mapped, using standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) species and behaviour codes. Species of importance includes:

- Species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) (Ref. 1).
- Red and Amber listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC) (Ref. 2).
- Species of Principal Importance listed under Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act, 2006 (Ref. 3).

3.2.4 Species of no conservation concern were also recorded but were not mapped.

3.2.5 See **Appendix B** for the full survey details, including surveys dates and times, surveyors and weather conditions.

3.3 Limitations

3.3.1 No limitations were encountered during the surveys. Full access across the site was permitted and all areas within the site boundary were surveyed on each survey visit.

4 RESULTS

4.1.1 During the 2020/2021 surveys, 41 bird species were recorded. Of the species recorded, two were listed as Schedule 1 (Ref. 1), five were included of the BoCC (Ref. 2) red list and seven on the amber list. Additionally, four species were listed under S41 of the NERC Act (Ref. 3) and 25 species of no conservation concern were recorded. Birds may fall into multiple categories of the above, and as such do not contribute to the total count of species recorded.

4.1.2 The results of the surveys are detailed in **Table 4.1** below, **Table 2** in **Appendix C** and in **Figure 2** to **Figure 6** in **Appendix A**.

Table 4.1: Notable species recorded at northern park & ride

Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status	Sch 1	S41 NERC	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Amber			0	0	0	0	1
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber		✓	0	1	0	0	0
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Amber			0	1	0	5	0
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber		✓	1	4	2	3	4
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red	✓		0	1	0	0	0
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Red			0	1	1	1	1
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Amber			0	0	0	2	0
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red		✓	0	2	0	0	0
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber			1	2	0	0	0
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber			0	1	0	0	0
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Red	✓		3	6	0	1	55
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red		✓	1	21	0	2	4

4.1.3 The results identified that the distribution of birds recorded was spread throughout the site, however the main areas supporting passerine wintering birds were field boundary hedgerows and the area of woodland adjacent to the west. Waterfowl species recorded were observed commuting above the site.

4.1.4 One black-headed gull was observed in March foraging within a field to the east of the site, on the opposite side of the A12 (See **Figure 6** in **Appendix A**).

4.1.5 Two herring gulls were recorded commuting above the site in December (see **Figure 3** in **Appendix A**).

- 4.1.6 Throughout the surveys, dunnocks were heard calling and observed foraging within field boundary hedgerows, residential gardens adjacent east of the site and the woodland area adjacent west of the site.
- 4.1.7 One fieldfare was recorded calling from the woodland area adjacent west of the site in December (see **Figure 3 in Appendix A**). Small flocks of redwings (containing five birds or fewer) were heard calling and observed roosting within residential gardens adjacent east of the site and the woodland area adjacent west of the site. A flock of 55 redwings was observed in March using the northern extent of the woodland adjacent west of the site (see **Figure 6 in Appendix A**).
- 4.1.8 Three grey wagtails were recorded foraging within small puddle adjacent east of the site (see **Figure 4, Figure 5 and Figure 6 in Appendix A**). One grey wagtail was observed commuting east, above the site in December (see **Figure 3 in Appendix A**).
- 4.1.9 Two greylag geese were recorded commuting north west above the site in February (see **Figure 5 in Appendix A**).
- 4.1.10 Skylarks were recorded throughout the surveys, and were primarily observed roosting and foraging in an arable field within and adjacent to the northern area of the site (see **Figure 3 in Appendix A**). In February and March, all skylarks recorded were singing above arable fields within and adjacent to the site (see **Figure 5 and Figure 6 in Appendix A**).
- 4.1.11 Throughout the surveys, song thrushes were heard calling and observed roosting and foraging within residential gardens adjacent east of the site and the woodland area adjacent west of the site.
- 4.1.12 Two stock doves were observed displaying above the central arable field in December (see **Figure 3 in Appendix A**). Stock doves were also observed roosting within field boundary hedgerows and within the central arable field (see **Figure 3, Figure 4 and Figure 5 in Appendix A**).
- 4.1.13 Five woodcocks were flushed from the woodland adjacent to the west of the site in January and March (see **Figure 4 and Figure 6 in Appendix A**).
- 4.1.14 Three yellowhammers were recorded roosting and calling in hedgerows within and adjacent to the western site boundary, along the railway sidings (see **Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 5 in Appendix A**).
- 4.1.15 Overall, two Schedule 1 species, five red listed species and seven amber listed species were identified over the course of the surveys, with 25 species of no special conservation value recorded (as presented in **Appendix C**).

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1.1 The northern park and ride site supports a range of wintering bird species. Passerines observed on the site were most frequently recorded using and calling from within hedgerows and the woodland to the west and residential gardens adjacent east of the site, however the arable fields within the site offered a foraging resource for skylarks. Herring gulls and greylag geese were only recorded commuting above the site.
- 5.1.2 One fieldfare was recorded calling from the woodland area adjacent west of the site in December (see **Figure 3** in **Appendix A**). Small flocks of redwings (containing five birds or fewer) were heard calling and observed roosting within residential gardens adjacent east of the site and the woodland area adjacent west of the site. A flock of 55 redwings was observed in March roosting at the northern extent of the woodland adjacent west of the site (see **Figure 6** in **Appendix A**).
- 5.1.3 Five woodcocks were flushed from the woodland adjacent to the west of the site in January and March (see **Figure 4** and **Figure 6** in **Appendix A**).
- 5.1.4 One black-headed gull was observed in March foraging within a field to the east of the site, on the opposite side of the A12 (See **Figure 6** in **Appendix A**). Two herring gulls were recorded commuting above the site in December (see **Figure 3** in **Appendix A**).
- 5.1.5 Two greylag geese were recorded commuting north west above the site in February (see **Figure 5** in **Appendix A**).
- 5.1.6 No qualifying species of the Minsmere - Walberswick Heaths and Marshes SAC, SPA and SSSI were recorded during the surveys.
- 5.1.7 Overall, two Schedule 1 species, five red listed species and seven amber listed species were identified over the course of the surveys, with 25 species of no special conservation value recorded (as presented in **Appendix C**).
- 5.1.8 The results of the 2020/2021 surveys are largely consistent with those identified in the desk study [[APP-363](#) and [APP-364](#)] results and do not affect the conclusions of the Environment Statement.

REFERENCES

1. Wildlife and Countryside Act, as amended. 1981. (Online) Available from: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents> (Accessed 22 March 2021).
2. Eaton, M.A., Aebisher, N., Brown, A., Hearn, R., Lock, L., Musgrove, A., Noble, D., Stroud, D., and Gregory, R. 2015. BoCC 4: Population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. British birds 108:708-746.
3. Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act. 2006. Section 41: Species of Principal Importance in England. (Online) Available from: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/41> (Accessed 22 March 2021).

APPENDIX A: DRAWINGS

APPENDIX B: SURVEY DETAILS AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

B.1.1. Table 1 below details the survey timings and weather conditions during each survey at the Northern Park & Ride (Darsham). Temperature (T) is measured in Celsius, cloud cover (CC) is measured in Oktas and wind speed (WS) is measured using the Beaufort Scale.

B.1.2. The surveys were undertaken by lead surveyors [REDACTED].

Table 1: Survey details for wintering bird surveys at Northern Park & Ride (Darsham) (2020/2021)

Survey Details	November 2020	December 2020	January 2021	February 2021	March 2021
Date	25/11/2020	15/12/2020	20/01/2021	17/02/2021	17/03/2021
Survey timings	11:50 – 12:45	08:51 – 10:19	10:29 – 11:20	08:17 – 09:17	09:50 – 11:01
Surveyors	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Weather conditions	T: 11°C, CC: 8, WS/direction: 4 S, no rain, good visibility	T: 7°C, CC: 5, WS/direction: 0, no rain, excellent visibility	T: 9°C, CC: 8, WS/direction: 5 S, no rain, good visibility	T: 8°C, CC: 8, WS/direction: 1 SW, no rain, excellent visibility	T: 8°C, CC: 5, WS/direction: 2 W, no rain, good visibility

APPENDIX C: SPECIES LIST – BIRDS WITH NO SPECIAL CONSERVATION CONCERN

Table 2: Peak counts of species of no special conservation concern recorded across the site.

Species	Scientific Name	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	5	5	4	2	5
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	11	9	2	15	5
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	0	2	0	0	1
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	2	1	0	0	1
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	0	0	0	3	6
Coal tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	1	0	0	0	0
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	0	0	3	0	0
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	2	1	0	2	0
Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	5	0	0	7	5
Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	0	2	0	0	0
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	5	3	2	6	4
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	0	0	0	1	2
Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	3	1	2	2	0
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	18	1	0	1	0
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	0	2	0	2	0
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	0	1	0	0	0
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	0	0	0	0	3
Pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	5	1	0	0	0
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	2	5	5	4	3
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	0	2	0	2	0
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	0	1	0	0	0
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	0	0	1	0	0
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	0	1	0	1	1
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	4	9	0	182	0
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	4	3	2	3	4