

Volume 10: Appendices (Onshore)

**Appendix 23.7**  
**Breeding Bird Survey**  
**Results 2021, 2022 and**  
**2023**

## Appendix 23.7 Breeding Bird Survey Results

Table 1 - Species recorded within the onshore development area during the breeding bird surveys undertaken in summer 2021, 2022 and 2023

Species	BoCCI4	EU status	Landfall & Onshore substation	Blakes Cross North and South	M1 crossing	Malahide Estuary	Belcamp substation	Cable Route	Occurrence within the proposed development	Likely breeding within the proposed development?
Grey wagtail	Red Br.		-	-	-	-	-	2	Two birds recorded perched along the cable route during the breeding bird surveys.	No breeding behaviour or nests identified during the surveys. Likely breeding along fast-flowing streams in the wider area.
Meadow pipit	Red Br.		16	-	-	1	2	4	Singing males recorded throughout the majority of the proposed development – in particular at the Landfall and Onshore substation.	Yes. Ground-nesting species breeding throughout most of the proposed development within grassland and arable habitats.
Yellowhammer	Red Br.		28	20	3	-	4	20	Singing males were recorded throughout the majority of the proposed development.	Yes. Breeding yellowhammer are present throughout the majority of the proposed development, breeding within hedgerows and ditches of arable fields.
Kestrel	Red Br.		1	-	-	-	-	-	One breeding season record of a male hunting at the Landfall and Onshore substation site.	No breeding/territorial behaviour noted within the proposed development. Likely breeding in the wider area.
Swift	Red Br.		-	-	-	2	2	54	Recorded foraging/flying throughout much of the proposed development.	No nest sites identified within the proposed development. Closest reported nest sites: Balbriggan, Skerries and Malahide <sup>1</sup>
Lapwing	Red Br. & Win.		-	-	-	5	-	-	Small numbers of adult birds present at Malahide Estuary during the breeding season.	No breeding/territorial birds recorded within the proposed development. Likely breeding in open farmland in the wider area.
Oystercatcher	Red Br. & Win.	I	2	-	-	-	-	1	Small numbers of adult birds present at the Landfall and Onshore substation, and Malahide Estuary during the breeding season.	No breeding/territorial birds recorded within the proposed development. Breeding along coastline in the wider area.

<sup>1</sup> Birdwatch Ireland Online Swift Story Map: Nest Site Records (2012 -2022). Available at: <https://bwi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=81ddc38fcde40ffab699be638ee5b20>

Redshank	Red <sup>Br. &amp; Win.</sup>	I	1	-	-	-	-	-	One bird recorded at the Landfall site in April 2022.	No recent breeding records in Dublin (Balmer et al., 2013).
Black-tailed godwit	Red <sup>Win</sup>	I	-	-	-	-	-	50	Flock recorded on Malahide Estuary mudflats in May 2022.	No, black-tailed godwit are a rare and sporadic breeder in Ireland, mainly a winter visitor. Flock recorded likely non-breeding birds.
Common tern	*Amber <sup>Br.</sup>	I	15	-	-	-	-	-	Recorded on two occasions at the Landfall and Onshore substation site during the breeding bird surveys.	No nest sites recorded within the proposed development. Closest known breeding colonies at Rockabill Island, Dublin Bay.
Common tern	*Amber <sup>Br.</sup>	I	4	-	-	-	-	-	4 birds recorded at the Landfall and Onshore substation site in April 2022.	No nest sites recorded within the proposed development. A number of breeding colonies located on the east coast.
Black-headed gull	Amber <sup>Br. &amp; Win.</sup>		-	-	-	30	-	-	Small numbers recorded on the mud flats at Malahide Estuary during the breeding season.	No, mostly breed on islands on inland lakes.
Common gull	Amber <sup>Br. &amp; Win.</sup>		10	-	-	-	-	-	One observation of a small flock at the Landfall and Onshore substation site during summer 2021.	No breeding colonies identified within the proposed development. Closest known breeding colonies at located on Lambay Island.
Herring gull	Amber <sup>Br. &amp; Win.</sup>		551	55	3	120	13	185	Recorded throughout the entirety of the proposed development with largest numbers at the Landfall and Onshore substation site.	No nest sites identified within the proposed development, though likely breeding on rooftops of buildings along the route. Largest breeding colony in Ireland is on Lambay Island.
Lesser black-backed gull	Amber <sup>Br. &amp; Win.</sup>		3	5	-	10	2	11	Recorded throughout the proposed development.	No nest sites identified within the proposed development. Known to breed along the coast and islands between Balbriggan and Dublin Bay. Small numbers breed on rooftops in towns and cities.
Kingfisher	*Amber <sup>Br.</sup>	I	-	-	-	2	-	-	Recorded on a number of occasions along a stretch of the Broadmeadow River between the M1 and R132 in both the breeding and non-breeding seasons.	Yes. Kingfishers are a largely sedentary and territorial species. The cable route therefore crosses over a kingfisher territory in this location.
Goldcrest	Amber <sup>Br.</sup>		5	23	1	-	2	12	Birds recorded singing throughout the proposed development during summer 2021 and 2022.	Yes. Breeding in treelines, hedgerows and gardens throughout the proposed development.
Greenfinch	Amber <sup>Br.</sup>		-	-	-	-	2	11	Several birds heard singing, in particular at the Landfall and Onshore substation site and Belcamp substation. A pair and a juvenile were recorded foraging at Malahide Estuary.	Yes. Breeding in treelines, hedgerows, parks and gardens along the proposed development.

House martin	Amber <sup>Br.</sup>		11	13	2	-	-	9	Recorded throughout the proposed development.	Yes. No nest sites pinned down during surveys, but likely nesting in eaves of buildings along the proposed development.
House sparrow	Amber <sup>Br.</sup>		12	18	3	-	-	56	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Nest site identified in a shed at Blake's Cross and female provisioning noted at Belcamp.
Linnet	Amber <sup>Br.</sup>		45	8	6	2	4	77	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development	Yes. Singing males, breeding pairs and nest building behaviour recorded. Likely breeding within hedgerows and scrub throughout the proposed development.
Sand martin	Amber <sup>Br.</sup>		1	-	-	1	-	3	Recorded flying over Malahide Estuary and at Landfall site.	No. Likely breeding in sandbanks in the wider area, some identified outside the study area at Loughshinny.
Skylark	Amber <sup>Br.</sup>		19	-	-	-	12	3	Recorded singing in fields throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Ground nesting species breeding within grassland habitats.
Starling	Amber <sup>Br.</sup>		215	265	-	86	70	125	Recorded frequently throughout proposed development.	Yes. Several family groups with juveniles and provisioning behaviour noted within proposed development. Nesting in holes/crevices of buildings and trees.
Swallow	Amber <sup>Br.</sup>		13	24	1	-	12	28	Recorded frequently throughout proposed development.	Yes. Recorded entering multiple sheds, stables and barns along the proposed development.
Tree sparrow	Amber <sup>Br.</sup>		8	-	-	-	-	-	Recorded on three occasions within the fields at the Landfall and Onshore substation site.	Yes. Noted to be nesting with house sparrows in house at the Landfall and Onshore substation site.
Willow warbler	Amber <sup>Br.</sup>		2	3	-	-	1	7	Recorded frequently throughout proposed development.	Yes. Breeding within treelines and hedgerows throughout proposed development.
Gannet	Amber <sup>Br.</sup>		1	-	-	-	-	-	One record of a bird flying offshore at the Landfall and Onshore substation site.	No. Breeding on offshore islands in the wider area. Closest known breeding colonies are Lambay Island and Ireland's eye.
Shag	Amber <sup>Br.</sup>		3	-	-	-	-	-	Three birds recorded perched on rocks at the Landfall and Onshore substation site.	No suitable breeding habitat within the proposed development. Closest known breeding colonies are Skerries Islands, Lambay Island, Ireland's Eye and Howth Head.
Mute swan	Amber <sup>Br. &amp; Win.</sup>		-	-	-	65	-	52	Recorded at Malahide Estuary and a small waterbody at Balrothery.	No. Breeding adjacent to the proposed development at Malahide Estuary and Wavin (Knock) Lake, Balrothery.
Cormorant	Amber <sup>Br. &amp; Win.</sup>		97	-	-	-	-	6	Recorded mainly flying over the proposed development and perched on rocks offshore.	No. Closest known colonies are located at Skerries Islands, Lambay Island, Ireland's Eye. Cormorant can breed inland in trees along rivers, however no juveniles or nesting behaviour was noted during the surveys. Unlikely to be breeding within the proposed development.
Gadwall	Amber <sup>Br. &amp; Win.</sup>		-	-	-	2	-	3	Recorded on two occasions at Malahide Estuary.	No suitable breeding habitat within the proposed development.

Great crested grebe	Amber <sup>Br. &amp; Win.</sup>		-	-	-	1	-	-	One bird recorded swimming at Malahide Estuary.	No suitable breeding habitat within the proposed development.
Mallard	Amber <sup>Br. &amp; Win.</sup>		4	2	-	55	-	80	Recorded mainly at Malahide Estuary and at the Landfall site, with small numbers recorded on rivers where the proposed development crosses.	Yes. Breeding adjacent to the proposed development at the Broadmeadow River west of the M1 bridge at Malahide Estuary, and at the Landfall site.
Shelduck	Amber <sup>Br. &amp; Win.</sup>		-	-	-	6	-	4	Small numbers of adults recorded at Malahide Estuary.	Breeding adjacent to the proposed development at Malahide Estuary (NPWS, 2013).
Teal	Amber <sup>Br. &amp; Win.</sup>		-	-	-	1	-	-	A single male recorded on two occasions at Malahide Estuary.	No breeding pairs observed during surveys.
Pheasant	Green		-	1	-	-	-	-	Recorded at several locations along the proposed development.	Yes. No breeding behaviour observed but has the potential to breed within agricultural habitats along the proposed development.
Great black-backed gull	Green		29	1	-	5	1	26	Recorded mainly flying over the proposed development at the Landfall and Onshore substation site and Malahide Estuary.	No. Great black-backed gull breed mainly on offshore islands. Closest known colonies are Skerries Islands, Rockabill Island, Lambay Island, Ireland's Eye and Howth Head.
Blackbird	Green		26	36	7	-	25	60	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in treelines, parks and gardens within the proposed development.
Blackcap	Green		5	29	6	-	8	17	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in treelines, parks and gardens within the proposed development.
Blue tit	Green		0	6	-	-	5	10	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in treelines, parks and gardens within the proposed development.
Bullfinch	Green		0	7	-	-	-	8	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in treelines, parks and gardens within the proposed development.
Chaffinch	Green		25	16	3	-	6	27	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in treelines, parks and gardens within the proposed development.
Chiffchaff	Green		-	-	-	-	-	9	Recorded in wooded areas along the proposed development.	Yes. Common summer visitor. Likely breeding within hedgerows, treelines, woodland and scrub.
Coal tit	Green		-	1	-	-	-	1	Heard calling on three occasions within the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding within treelines and hedgerows along the proposed development.
Dunnock	Green		14	16	-	-	5	19	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in treelines, parks and gardens within the proposed development.
Goldfinch	Green		12	10	3	2	12	21	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in treelines, parks and gardens within the proposed development.
Great tit	Green		3	5	-	-	2	14	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in treelines, parks and gardens within the proposed development.
Hooded (grey) crow	Green		-	-	-	-	-	-	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in treelines, parks and gardens within the proposed development.

Jackdaw	Green		-	3	-	-	12	-	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in old buildings and trees throughout the proposed development.
Jay	Green		-	1	-	-	-	1	Seen flying at Blake's Cross and heard calling from a small wooded area at Kinsealy.	Yes. Likely breeding within these territories.
Long-tailed tit	Green		-	5	-	-	4	2	Recorded within treelines at Belcamp, Malahide and Blake's Cross.	Yes. Common resident. Breeding within treelines, wood areas, parks and gardens within the proposed development.
Magpie	Green		-	-	-	-	2	-	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in treelines, parks and gardens within the proposed development.
Mistle thrush	Green		-	2	1	2	-	5	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in treelines, parks and gardens within the proposed development.
Pied wagtail	Green		1	2	-	-	-	8	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in urban areas, treelines, parks and gardens within the proposed development.
Raven	Green		-	-	-	1	-	-	Recorded once flying over at Malahide Estuary.	No. No breeding/territorial behaviour noted during the surveys. Likely breeding in the wider area.
Reed bunting	Green		4	2	-	-	-	1	Recorded in wetland areas throughout the proposed development – in particular within the agricultural grassland at Balbriggan Landfall.	Yes. Likely breeding in wetland areas within and adjacent to the proposed development.
Robin	Green		7	28	2	-	8	32	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in treelines, parks and gardens within the proposed development.
Rook	Green		-	3	-	-	-	-	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in treelines, parks and gardens within the proposed development.
Sedge warbler	Green		-	-	-	-	-	4	Heard singing from wetland areas at Malahide Estuary and Balrothery.	Yes. Birds only recorded within habitats adjacent to the cable route during the 2021 and 2022 surveys, but there is potential for SW to breed in areas of wet grassland within the site.
Song thrush	Green		12	29	1	-	9	47	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in understory of treelines, parks and gardens within the proposed development.
Stonechat	Green		1	-	-	4	-	-	Birds recorded at Malahide Estuary and within the proposed development at Balbriggan Landfall.	Yes. Potential to breed within scrub and gorse habitats within the proposed development.
Whitethroat	Green		3	-	-	-	1	3	Heard singing at multiple locations throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common summer visitor. Likely breeding along the cable route and within scrub, gorse and hedgerows at Balbriggan Landfall and Belcamp.
Wren	Green		27	57	3	-	17	113	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in treelines, parks and gardens within the proposed development.

Collared dove	Green		1	1	-	-	-	8	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common and widespread colonist. Likely breeding in trees within both rural and suburban habitats.
Woodpigeon	Green		-	2	-	-	2	-	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	Yes. Common resident. Likely breeding in treelines, parks and gardens within the proposed development.
Buzzard	Green		6	-	-	-	-	4	Recorded frequently throughout the proposed development.	No breeding or nesting behaviour noted within the proposed development. Likely breeding in the wider area.
Sparrowhawk	Green		-	-	-	-	1	-	Male seen being mobbed by swallows at Belcamp.	No breeding/territorial behaviour noted during surveys. Likely breeding in the wider area.
Whimbrel	Green		1	-	-	-	-	-	Recorded on one occasion at the Landfall site.	No. Whimbrel is a passage migrant in April/May in Ireland.
Grey heron	Green		5	-	-	-	-	7	Recorded at the Landfall and Onshore substation site, and Malahide Estuary.	Yes. Recorded nesting in a tree at Malahide Estuary along the cable route.
Little egret	*Green		1	-	-	2	-	10	Recorded at the Landfall and Onshore substation site, and Malahide Estuary.	Yes. Recorded nesting in a tree at Malahide Estuary along the cable route. Two juveniles observed in summer 2021.
Little grebe	Green		-	-	-	-	-	2	Recorded on two occasions at Wavin (Knock) Lake, Balrothery.	No. Likely breeding at Wavin (Knock) Lake adjacent to the proposed development.
Moorhen	Green		-	-	-	-	-	3	Recorded at Broadmeadow River and Wavin (Knock) Lake, Balrothery.	No. Likely breeding at Wavin (Knock) Lake and Broadmeadow River adjacent to the proposed development.