DOGGER BANK D WIND FARM

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 2 Appendix 13.5 Intertidal Ornithology Baseline **Characterisation Report**

Document Reference No: 2.13.5 Date: June 2025 **Revision: V1**





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Document Title:	Volume 2, Appendix 13.5 Intertidal Ornithology Baseline Characterisation Report
Document BIM No.	PC6250-RHD-XX-OF-RP-EV-0158
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Prepared For:	Dogger Bank D Wind Farm

Revision No.	Date	Status / Reason for Issue	Author	Checked By	Approved By
V1	16/04/2025	Final	LMF	RR	GA

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Glossary

Term	Definition					
Additional Mitigation	Measures identified through the EIA process that are required as further action to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects to acceptable levels (also known as secondary (foreseeable) mitigation).					
	All additional mitigation measures adopted by the Project are provided in the Commitments Register.					
Array Area	The area within which the wind turbines, inter-array cables and offshore platform(s) will be located.					
Baseline	The existing conditions as represented by the latest available survey and other data which is used as a benchmark for making comparisons to assess the impact of the Project.					
Beach	A deposit of non-cohesive sediment (e.g. sand and gravel) situated on the interface between dry land and the sea (or other large expanse of water) and actively 'worked' by present-day hydrodynamic processes (i.e. waves, tides and currents) and sometimes by winds.					
Commitment	Refers to any embedded mitigation and additional mitigation, enhancement or monitoring measures identified through the EIA process and those identified outside the EIA process such as through stakeholder engagement and design evolution.					
	All commitments adopted by the Project are provided in the Commitments Register.					
Design	All of the decisions that shape a development throughout its design and pre- construction, construction / commissioning, operation and, where relevant, decommissioning phases.					
Development Consent Order (DCO)	A consent required under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 to authorise the development of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, which is granted by the relevant Secretary of State following an application to the Planning Inspectorate.					
Effect	An effect is the consequence of an impact when considered in combination with the receptor's sensitivity / value / importance, defined in terms of significance.					
Embedded Mitigation	 Embedded mitigation includes: Measures that form an inherent part of the project design evolution such as modifications to the location or design of the development made during the pre-application phase (also known as primary (inherent) mitigation); and 					

	• Measures that will occur regardless of the EIA process as they are imposed by other existing legislative requirements or are considered as standard or best practice to manage commonly occurring environmental impacts (also known as tertiary (inexorable) mitigation).					
	All embedded mitigation measures adopted by the Project are provided in the Commitments Register.					
Enhancement	Measures committed to by the Project to create or enhance positive benefits to the environment or communities, as a result of the Project.					
	All enhancement measures adopted by the Project are provided in the Commitments Register.					
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A process by which certain planned projects must be assessed before a formal decision to proceed can be made. It involves the collection and consideration of environmental information and includes the publication of an Environmental Statement.					
Environmental Statement (ES)	A document reporting the findings of the EIA which describes the measures proposed to mitigate any likely significant effects.					
Evidence Plan Process (EPP)	A voluntary consultation process with technical stakeholders which includes a Steering Group and Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings to encourage upfront agreement on the nature, volume and range of supporting evidence required to inform the EIA and HRA process.					
Expert Topic Group (ETG)	A forum for targeted technical engagement with relevant stakeholders through the EPP.					
Impact	A change resulting from an activity associated with the Project, defined in terms of magnitude.					
Inter-Array Cables	Cables which link the wind turbines to the offshore platform(s).					
Landfall	The area on the coastline, south-east of Skipsea, at which the offshore export cables are brought ashore, connecting to the onshore export cables at the transition joint bay above Mean High Water Springs.					
Mitigation	Any action or process designed to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset potentially significant adverse effects of a development.					
	All mitigation measures adopted by the Project are provided in the Commitments Register.					
Monitoring	Measures to ensure the systematic and ongoing collection, analysis and evaluation of data related to the implementation and performance of a development. Monitoring can be undertaken to monitor conditions in the future to verify any environmental effects identified by the EIA, the effectiveness of mitigation or enhancement measures or ensure remedial action are taken should adverse effects above a set threshold occur.					
	All monitoring measures adopted by the Project are provided in the Commitments Register.					

Offshore Export Cables	Cables which bring electricity from the offshore platform(s) to the transition joint bay at landfall.
Offshore Platform(s)	Fixed structures located within the DBD Array Area that contain electrical equipment to aggregate and, where required, convert the power from the wind turbines, into a more suitable voltage for transmission through the export cables to the Onshore Converter Station. Such structures could include (but are not limited to): Offshore Converter Station(s) and an Offshore Switching Station.
Onshore Development Area	The area in which all onshore infrastructure associated with the Project will be located, including any temporary works area required during construction and permanent land required for mitigation and enhancement areas, which extends landward of Mean Low Water Springs. There is an overlap with the Offshore Development Area in the intertidal zone.
Onshore Export Cables	Cables which bring electricity from the transition joint bay at landfall to the Onshore Converter Station zone (HVDC cables) and from the Onshore Converter Station zone onwards to Birkhill Wood Substation (HVAC cables).
Scoping Opinion	A written opinion issued by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State regarding the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided in the Applicant's Environmental Statement. The Scoping Opinion for the Project was adopted by the Secretary of State on 02 August 2024.
The Applicant	SSE Renewables and Equinor acting through 'Doggerbank Offshore Wind Farm Project 4 Projco Limited'.
The Project	Dogger Bank D Offshore Wind Farm Project, also referred to as DBD in this PEIR.
Wind Turbines	Power generating devices located within the DBD Array Area that convert kinetic energy from wind into electricity.

13.5 Intertidal Ornithology Baseline Characterisation Report

13.5.1 Introduction

- This appendix to the Dogger Bank D Offshore Wind Farm (hereafter 'the Project' or 'DBD') Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) supports Volume
 1, Chapter 13 Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology. This appendix forms part of the PEIR for the offshore elements of the Project.
- 2. The purpose of this appendix is to report on the methodology and results of the intertidal ornithology baseline characterisation, for subsequent assessment as part of the development of DBD during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The elements of the Project relevant to the intertidal baseline and assessment are between the mean low water spring (MLWS) and mean high water spring (MHWS) and include offshore export cables at the landfall, and associated access and works. A full description of the Project is provided in **Volume 1, Chapter 5 Project Description**. Characterisation of the onshore environment for ornithology (landward of the MHWS) is provided in full detail in **Volume 1, Chapter 23 Onshore Ecology and Ornithology**. Characterisation of the offshore environment for ornithology (seaward of the MLWS) is provided in full detail in **Appendix 13.2 Offshore Ornithology Baseline Characterisation Report**.

13.5.2 Consultation

- Topic-specific consultation in relation to the intertidal baseline characterisation has been undertaken in line with the process set out in Volume 1, Chapter 7 Consultation. Advice from Natural England was received via the Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) on 11th August 2023 which has informed the scope of the survey and desk study data presented within this appendix (as outlined in Section 6).
- 4. Feedback received through the ongoing Evidence Plan Process (EPP) in relation to Expert Topic Group (ETG) meetings and wider technical consultation meetings with relevant stakeholders has also been considered in the preparation of this appendix. Details of technical consultation undertaken to date on intertidal baseline characterisation are provided in **Table 13.5-1**.

Table 13.5-1 Technical Consultation Undertaken to Date on Intertidal Ornithology Baseline Characterisation

Meeting	Stakeholder(s)	Date(s) of Meeting / Frequency	Purpose of Meeting		
ETG Meetings					
ETG6 (Onshore Ecology, Ornithology and Land Use)	66 (Onshore logy, Ornithology Land Use) Natural England, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)		Confirm agreement with approach to data gathering including intertidal ornithology surveys as part of the onshore survey programme		
ETG2 (Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology)	Natural England, RSPB	21 October 2024	Confirm agreement with approach to data gathering		

Other Technical Consultation

Natural England DAS Natural England	11 August 2023, repeated with additional details in Scoping Opinion on DBD August 2024	Confirm methodology of overwintering and passage bird surveys
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- 5. Appendix 13.1 Consultation Responses for Offshore and Intertidal Ornithology summarises how consultation responses received to date are addressed in this appendix.
- 6. Following statutory consultation on the PEIR, this appendix will be updated in full consideration of stakeholder feedback, presenting full baseline survey results and refinements to the Project's design envelope. The final results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be presented in the Environmental Statement (ES). Full details of consultation undertaken throughout the EIA process will be presented in the Consultation Report (Appendix 23.1 Consultation Responses for Onshore Ecology and Ornithology), which will be submitted with the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

13.5.3 Approach to Data Gathering

- 7. Data gathering for intertidal ornithology baseline characterisation has been prepared in accordance with the methodology and guidance set out in the following:
 - Natural England DAS letter of 11 August 2023;
 - Dogger Bank D Overwintering and Passage Bird Survey Methodology document as accepted in writing by Natural England email of 02 July 2024 to Dogger Bank D and accepted by ETG6 and ETG2 in October 2024; and
 - Natural England comments in DBD Scoping Opinion Annex C August 2024.

8. The Natural England DAS and Scoping Opinion guidance advised that an ornithology desk study should be carried out in addition to proposal-specific surveys. Desk study should comprise:

- A data search from appropriate source(s), such as the local Ecological Data Centre;
- Consultation with the Council's Ecologist;
- Consultation with local bird groups and other organisations that may hold relevant data; and
- A desk-based assessment using aerial photography, mapping, habitat maps and relevant ecological literature of the suitability for Special Protection Area (SPA) / Ramsar birds of the habitats present on the proposed site and any potentially suitable adjacent fields.
- 9. Appropriate sources for desk-based data were identified during an initial review wherein data held by biodiversity record centres and citizen science surveys and platforms, and data collected for other infrastructure project applications in the locality, were assessed to prioritise data collected since 2019 (i.e. within five years preceding the desk study), in the same locality and habitat types, via a standardised or structured method.
- 10. Consultation with the Council's Ecologist was completed as part of the ETG process (**ETG6 Onshore Ecology, Ornithology and Land Use**), and the desk study methodology was accepted in October 2024.

11. Project-specific intertidal ornithology field surveys are being carried out and are ongoing. These surveys cover the overwintering and passage period of August 2024 to mid-May 2025 inclusive, comprising one to two visits per month to capture high- and low-tide use of the survey site by birds and following the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) methodology. This survey methodology was shared with Natural England via ETG6 and agreed at the second ETG6 meeting held on 2nd October 2024 (Appendix 23.1 Consultation Responses for Onshore Ecology and Ornithology). Results from August to December 2024 are included in this report. Breeding bird surveys of the onshore Proposed Development Area will include breeding bird survey coverage of the landfall and intertidal parts of the Proposed Development Area, taking place from March to July 2025.

13.5.3.1 Intertidal Ornithology Desk Study

12. The data sources used in the **Intertidal Ornithology Baseline Characterisation** desk study are shown in **Table 13.5-2**. They provide coverage of the DBD intertidal desk study area and the wider region of interest within sufficiently recent years for data to be of relevance (previous five years).

Source	Summary	Coverage of the DBD export cable corridor (ECC) landfall and intertidal area
North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC) 2024	Local Environmental Record Centre data for the North and East Yorkshire counties, collating data from individuals, consultancies and regional or national wildlife surveys. Observations of all bird species are included in a Protected Species search return.	As part of the returned NEYEDC data package for the wider Onshore Development Area + 2km buffer, there are records from sites within the intertidal part of the Development Area.
eBird Basic Dataset (2024)	User-submitted observations of occurrence and often count data for bird species to the ornithological 'citizen science' platform eBird, administered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. (Used with required permission from eBird for commercial use).	An initial geographic search within eBird Species Maps for common waterbird species records in the area since 2019 shows regular submissions by eBird contributors from locations overlying the intertidal part of the Development Area including at least one submission in each calendar month August to May.

Table 13.5-2 Key Desk-Based Sources of Intertidal Ornithology Data for Dogger Bank D

Source	Summary	Coverage of the DBD export cable corridor (ECC) landfall and intertidal area			
Dogger Bank South (DBS) ES and baseline ornithology surveys (Peak Ecology 2023, 2024)	Bird surveys were carried out on transects overlying and adjacent to the Dogger Bank South proposed cable landfall between Ulrome and Skirlington, East Riding of Yorkshire.	The Dogger Bank South overwintering bird surveys and breeding bird survey transects as mapped in ES Appendices overlap with the intertidal part of the Proposed Development Area including landfall and proposed access routes.			
Trektellen record counts	A database of bird migration counts, with peak counts for each species taken from each year between 2020 and 2024.	Counts of birds recorded from Fraisthorpe south to Barmston which is approximately 3km north of the DBD landfall.			

- 13. The intertidal ornithology baseline characterisation desk study assessment has been prepared in accordance with the methodology and guidance set out in the following:
 - Natural England DAS guidance;
 - BTO WeBS species threshold levels for national importance (BTO 2024); and
 - BTO (Balmer *et al.* 2013) and European Ornithology Atlas Committee (EOAC 1979) combined guidance on breeding evidence.
- 14. The assessment methodology has been developed to cover the following scope:
 - For overwintering and passage birds, determine the species present during overwintering and passage months (August to mid-May inclusive) in or adjacent to the intertidal part of the Development Area, for which potential impacts from intertidal project activities is relevant to assessment.
 - Identify which months of the overwintering and passage period each species has been recorded and determine the seasonality of each species on the wider Holderness Coast for context.
 - Establish the peak count for each overwintering and passage species and assess on the basis of national population whether the species is occurring at potentially significant abundance.

- For breeding species, determine the species present during breeding months (March to August) in or adjacent to the intertidal part of the Development Area, for which potential impacts from intertidal project activities is relevant to assessment, and the breeding evidence indicating breeding status of each species in the intertidal part of the Development Area.
- 15. Data searches were completed with NEYEDC, eBird Basic Dataset (2024), and Trektellen (2024):
 - Data were obtained from NEYEDC from within the Onshore component of the Dogger Bank D Proposed Development plus a 2km buffer distance from the full available time period in May 2024, and these data were then searched for data from Ordnance Survey 1km grid squares containing the intertidal component of the Dogger Bank D Proposed Development.
 - Data were obtained from eBird Basic Dataset (2024) for all species in the East Riding of Yorkshire region for the period August 2014 to August 2024 (the latest month available for access) and these data were then searched for bird records from eBird locations (both Hotspots and Personal locations in the database) on or overlapping the coast between the north and south limits of the Dogger Bank D Proposed Development Area (approximately Ulrome to Skirlington, East Riding of Yorkshire), from August 2019 to August 2024.
 - The Trektellen database (Trektellen, 2024) provides recent data on counts of migratory birds between Fraisthorpe and Barmston, close to the landfall site for DBD. Counts reported through Trektellen distinguish between birds undertaking active migration past the count location, and birds remaining present e.g. resting in the area during counts. Peak counts 2020 to 2024 were obtained for each intertidal bird species with the composition of the peak count (passage, present) detailed for each.
- 16. The overall eBird dataset was also searched for all records within 500m of the MLWS of the wider Holderness Coast (between Wilsthorpe and Easington, East Riding of Yorkshire) from August 2019 to present, to establish the seasonality of each species on the Holderness Coast.
- 17. Bird data from within the intertidal component of the Dogger Bank D Proposed Development Area and adjacent habitats were also obtained from Dogger Bank South field survey data from 2022-2023 available in the overwintering and breeding bird reports for Dogger Bank South offshore wind farm (Peak Ecology 2023, 2024).
- 18. Baseline characterisation for overwintering and passage birds considered all bird records between August and mid-May inclusive – the overwintering and passage period as defined within Natural England DAS correspondence.

19. Baseline characterisation for breeding birds considered bird records with accompanying breeding evidence or information to determine whether breeding was Confirmed, Probable, Possible, or Non-breeding (i.e. species was observed-only such as flight-only records).

13.5.3.2 Intertidal Ornithology Surveys

- 20. The intertidal ornithology baseline characterisation survey data assessment has been prepared in accordance with the methodology and guidance set out in the following:
 - Natural England DAS guidance; and
 - BTO WeBS species threshold levels for national importance (BTO 2024).
- 21. The data assessment methodology has been developed to cover the following scope:
 - Determine the species present during overwintering and passage months in or adjacent to the intertidal part of the Development Area, for which potential impacts from intertidal project activities is relevant to assessment.
 - Establish the peak count for each overwintering and passage species and assess on the basis of national population whether the species is regularly occurring at potentially significant abundance.
- 22. Intertidal surveys follow BTO WeBS methodology and cover the intertidal part of the Proposed Development Area including the proposed landfall and access routes, shown in **Figure 13.5-1**. Surveys covering high and low tide are completed monthly (on combined single visits or separate visits dependent on available daylight versus tidal cycle), between August 2024 and mid-May 2025, inclusive; and ensure sufficient coverage of spring and neap tides over the overall survey programme. Data regarding timing and conditions of surveys carried out to December 2024 are presented in **Table13.5-3 Visit** Information for Dogger Bank D Intertidal Ornithology Surveys to Dec 2024.
- 23. High tide surveys aim to record waterbirds congregated at roost sites, and low tide surveys aim to assess the spatial distribution of foraging birds in the intertidal zone. Surveys comprise vantage point and walked transect effort as appropriate to ensure coverage of the full extent of the intertidal zone between the MHWS and MLWS in the Proposed Development Area.

Month and tide category	Date	Start	End	Humber Bridge H / L tide time	Humber Bridge H / L tide ht (m)	Temp (°C)	Wind (Beaufort)	Cloud cover (%)	Visibility	Precip.	Tide range
Aug high tide	13/08/2024	1038 BST	1438 BST	1238 BST	5.52	26	3, SW	50	Max	None	High
Aug low tide	15/08/2024	0700 BST	1100 BST	0905 BST	2.19	18	4, SSW	100	Max	None	Low
Sep high tide	26/09/2024	1216 BST	1550 BST	1416 BST	5.15	12	4, NNE	100	Poor to good	Heavy showers	Neap high
Sep low tide	27/09/2024	0752 BST	1125 BST	0952 BST	2.07	12	7, N	90	Good	None	Neap low
Oct low tide	07/10/2024	1150 BST	1525 BST	1613 BST	1.01	15	3, SW	70	Max	None	Receding to spring low
Oct high tide	10/10/2024	0753 BST	1130 BST	1141 BST	5.40	8	4, NNW	100	Max	Light showers	Rising to high
Nov low tide	04/11/2024	0943 GMT	1325 GMT	1428 GMT	0.93	10	2, SE	100	Max	None	Receding to spring low
Nov high tide	08/11/2024	0700 GMT	1022 GMT	1030 GMT	5.47	8	3, NE	90	Max	None	Rising to spring high
Dec low tide	04/12/2024	1015 GMT	1400 GMT	1435 GMT	1.05	6	2, SW	70-80	Good	None	Receding to low

Table 13.5-3 Visit Information for Dogger Bank D Intertidal Ornithology Surveys to Dec 2024

Month and tide category	Date	Start	End	Humber Bridge H / L tide time	Humber Bridge H / L tide ht (m)	Temp (°C)	Wind (Beaufort)	Cloud cover (%)	Visibility	Precip.	Tide range
Dec high tide	12/12/2024	1220 GMT	1600 GMT	1545 GMT	6.24	8	4	100	Poor to moderate	Light drizzle	Rising to spring high



13.5.4 Results

13.5.4.1 Intertidal Ornithology Desk Study Results

13.5.4.1.1 Overwintering and Passage Birds

24. The bird species records from the NEYEDC for sites in and adjacent to the intertidal part of the Development Area are shown in **Table 13.5-4**. Only records from the overwintering and passage period as defined by Natural England in their DAS (August to mid-May) are included.

Table 13.5-4 Summary of Bird Species Records Supplied by NEYEDC Relevant to the Intertidal Area of the Development Area During Overwintering and Passage Months (Aug to Mid-May)

Species	Total number of records	Most recent record	Record location	Grid ref	BoCC
Skylark	1	06/04/2004	Ulrome Sands (North)	TA17285792	Red

- 25. Bird records submitted to the eBird (2024) citizen science platform in overwintering and passage months from August 2019 to August 2024 comprised 464 eBird complete checklists (where all species identified during the visit were recorded) and an additional 98 incomplete or incidental checklists (which comprise partial or notable species lists) submitted from locations relevant to the intertidal desk study area, and were dated August 2020 to August 2024.
- 26. eBird data were available for each overwintering or passage month August to mid-May. Temporal eBird coverage of the intertidal desk study area for 2019 to 2024 was concentrated in August to October and March to early May inclusive, i.e. passage months, with significantly less coverage (fewer checklists submitted) from core winter months, as illustrated in **Table 13.5-5**. This is likely to partly relate to the area's status as a favourable region for targeted birding of migratory and vagrant / rare species, resulting in greater visitation and observer effort during passage months. As a result of the distribution of effort and data, eBird data are of principal use in assessing occurrence and abundance of species during passage as opposed to winter months.

Table 13.5-5 Monthly Distribution of eBird Checklists and Total Records from the Intertidal Desk Study Area During Overwintering and Passage Months

Month	Total number of eBird complete checklists	Total number of additional eBird checklists (Incomplete, Incidental)
August	129	23
September	86	19
October	70	25
November	1	0
December	0 (incomplete checklists only)	2
January	4	0
February	1	0
March	19	8
April	109	18
Early May (to 15 th inclusive)	45	3

27. Spatial distribution of eBird coverage of the intertidal desk study area for 2019 to 2024 is shown in **Table 13.5-6**. Coverage was concentrated in Ulrome (a total of 454 eBird complete checklists and 92 incomplete checklists across two 'Hotspot' locations (under which any user can register their sightings)) and one user's personal location. Fewer lists and records were submitted for Skipsea (a total of eight eBird complete checklists and five incomplete checklists across two Hotspot and two personal locations in the database).

Table 13.5-6 Distribution Between eBird Locations of eBird Checklists and Total Records from the Intertidal Desk Study Area During Overwintering and Passage Months

Location	Location type	Total number of eBird complete checklists 2019- 2024	Total number of additional eBird checklists
Ulrome	Hotspot	424	90
Ulrome Shore	Hotspot	29	2

Location	Location type	Total number of eBird complete checklists 2019- 2024	Total number of additional eBird checklists
Ulrome, England, Great Britain (GB) (53.996, - 0.209)	Personal (1 user)	1	0
Skipsea	Personal	3	0
Skipsea Beach	Hotspot	2	4
Sixth Avenue [Skipsea], England, GB (53.992, - 0.208)	Personal	2	0
Skipsea (Village)	Hotspot	1	1
Skipsea to Ulrome	Personal	1	0

28. **Table 13.5-7** shows the occurrence and peak counts of waterbirds, seabirds and selected landbirds for which potential intertidal Project effects are relevant to assessment across overwintering and passage months from eBird observer effort 2019 to 2024 (eBird Basic Dataset 2024). The table also illustrates the abundance threshold to constitute 1% of the GB population for each species, to provide context and indication of significance to impact assessment. This threshold is normally applied to five-year means of annual peak counts (for example within the BTO WeBS reports), and application to single peak counts may be relatively sensitive to presence of one or few records with high counts, but still provides useful context. The small number of records of vagrant species (extralimital rare bird occurrences) have been excluded on the basis they are rarely occurring and are not relevant to the baseline assessment.

Table 13.5-7 Occurrence and Peak Counts During Overwintering and Passage Months Between Ulrome and Skirlington, 2019 to 2024, of Waterbirds and Selected Landbirds for which Effects from Intertidal Aspects of the Project are Identified as Relevant for Assessment (eBird Basic Dataset (2024), Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca New York United States of America)

Species	Pa (X)	issa)	ge /	win	ter	moi	nths	s rec	ord	ed	1% GB P population A threshold ¹ p	Project Area	Peak count location	Months recorded wider Holderness
	A	s	ο	N	D	ſ	F	м	Α	м	threshold	реак count		Coast 2019-24-
Divers and grebes														
Black-throated diver			×		×				×		6	1	Skipsea, Ulrome	Oct-Mar
Red-throated diver	×	×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×	215	85	Skipsea Beach	Jan-Dec
Great northern diver		×	×						×		44	1	Ulrome	Sep-Feb, Apr, June
Great crested grebe	×	×	×	×	×			×	×	×	165	21	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Slavonian grebe			×								9	1	Ulrome	Oct
Geese, swans and ducks														
Brent goose		×	×						×	×	1,050	32	Ulrome Shore	Jan-Dec
Barnacle goose			×							×	1,050	9	Ulrome	Oct. Dec-May
Canada goose	×		×			×			×	×	1,600	90	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Greater white-fronted goose			×								135	1	Ulrome Shore	Jan, Oct
Greylag goose			×	×		×		×	×	×	2,300	29	Ulrome Shore	Jan-Dec

Species	Pa (X)	issa)	ge /	win	ter	mo	nths	s rec	ord	ed	1% GB population	Project Area	Peak count location	Months recorded wider Holderness
	Α	s	0	N	D	J	F	м	Α	м	threshold	реак count		Coast 2019-24-
Pink-footed goose		×	×			×	×		×		5,100	2000	Ulrome	Sep-Apr
Mute swan	×							×	×		505	4	Skipsea	Jan-Dec
Whooper swan			×								160	64	Ulrome	Sep-Apr
Common scoter	×	×	×		×	×			×	×	1,350	520	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Velvet scoter			×							×	34	2	Ulrome	Jul-Jan, May
Eider			×					×	×		815	4	Ulrome	Sep-Jul
Goldeneye			×								185	2	Ulrome	Aug, Oct-Mar
Goosander			×								145	5	Ulrome	Jan-Feb, Apr-May, Sep- Nov
Red-breasted merganser		×	×								105	2	Ulrome	Jan, Mar, May, Aug-Oct
Gadwall									×	×	310	2	Ulrome Shore	Mar-Dec
Mallard	×	×	×					×	×	×	6,650	57	Ulrome Shore	Jan-Dec
Pintail		×	×								195	22	Ulrome	Aug-May
Shelduck			×					×	×	×	470	8	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Shoveler	×	×	×						×		190	19	Ulrome	Jan-Dec

Species	Pa (X)	issa)	ge /	win	ter	moi	nths	s rec	ord	ed	1% GB population	Project Area	Peak count location	Months recorded wider Holderness
	A	s	ο	N	D	J	F	м	Α	М	threshold	реак count		Coast 2019-24-
Teal	×	×	×					×	×	×	4,300	325	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Tufted duck	×	×	×						×	×	1,300	3	Ulrome	Mar-Nov
Wigeon	×	×	×					×	×		4,450	620	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Waders														
Curlew	×	×	×					×	×	×	1,200	4	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Whimbrel	×		×						×	×	6	17	Ulrome	Feb-Dec
Oystercatcher	×	×	×					×	×	×	2,850	58	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Bar-tailed godwit	×	×							×	×	505	11	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Black-tailed godwit	×	×									390	11	Ulrome	Jul-May
Redshank	×	×							×	×	945	10	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Greenshank	×								×		8	3	Ulrome	Mar-Sep, Nov-Dec
Spotted redshank		×									1	1	Ulrome	Aug-Sep
Golden plover	×	×	×			×		×	×	×	4,000	150	Ulrome Shore	Jan-Dec
Grey plover	×	×	×						×		335	7	Ulrome	Jan-Dec

Species	Pa (X)	issa)	ge /	win	iter	mo	nths	s rec	ord	ed	1% GB population	Project Area	Peak count location	Months recorded wider Holderness Coast 2019-24 ²
	A	s	ο	N	D	J	F	м	Α	м	threshold	реак count		Coast 2019-24-
Ringed plover	×	×	×			×		×	×	×	415	97	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Little ringed plover	×							×	×	×	25	2	Ulrome	Mar-May, Jul-Aug
Turnstone	×	×	×						×	×	400	26	Ulrome	Jul-May
Dunlin	×	×	×					×	×	×	3,450	79	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Knot	×	×	×						×	×	2,650	12	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Sanderling	×	×	×	×		×	×	×	×	×	200	100	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Purple sandpiper		×							×		97	3	Ulrome	Dec-Feb, Apr
Curlew sandpiper		×									n/e	2	Ulrome	Jul-Sep
Little stint										х	1	1	Ulrome	May-Aug
Lapwing			×			×		×	×	×	6,200	70	Skipsea (Village)	Jan-Dec
Ruff	×	×									9	2	Ulrome	Jan, Apr, May, Aug, Sep
Common sandpiper	×								×	×	260	2	Ulrome	Apr-Sep
Green sandpiper	×	×								×	3	2	Ulrome	May-Sep
Wood sandpiper	×									×	1	1	Ulrome	Apr, May, Aug

Species	Pa (X)	issa)	ge /	win	ter	moi	nths	s rec	ord	ed	1% GB population	Project Area	Peak count location	Months recorded wider Holderness Coast 2019-24 ²
	A	s	ο	N	D	J	F	м	Α	м	threshold	реак count		Coast 2019-24-
Snipe	×		×			×		×	×		10,000	12	Ulrome	Jul-Apr
Jack snipe			×								1,000	1	Ulrome	Mar, Oct-Nov
Woodcock			×								14,000	1	Ulrome	Oct-Apr
Seabirds														
Black-headed gull	×	×	×			×		×	×	×	22,000	2000	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Common gull	×	×	×	×		×		×	×	×	7,000	400	Skipsea	Jan-Dec
Great black-backed gull	×	×	×	×		×			×	×	760	10	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Herring gull	×	×	×	×		×		×	×	×	7,300	500	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Lesser black-backed gull	×	×	×					×	×	×	1,200	9	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Kittiwake	×	×	×						×	×	3,900	689	Ulrome Shore	Jan-Dec
Little gull	×	×	×						×	×	750	1000	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Mediterranean gull	×		×							×	40	1	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Caspian gull	×										1	1	Ulrome Shore	Mar, Jul-Sep, Dec
Arctic tern	×	×	×						×		1,050	14	Ulrome	Apr-Oct

Species	Pa (X)	issa)	ge /	win	ter	moi	nths	s rec	ord	ed	1% GB population	Project Area	Peak count location	Months recorded wider Holderness Coast 2019-24 ²
	Α	s	ο	N	D	J	F	м	Α	м	threshold	реак count		Coast 2019-24-
Common tern	×	×	×						×	×	192	376	Ulrome	May-Nov
Little tern	×									×	29	8	Ulrome	Apr-Aug
Sandwich tern	×	×	×						×	×	250	163	Ulrome	Apr-Nov
Black tern	×	×									n/e	3	Ulrome	Jul-Oct
Great skua	×	×	×								193	4	Ulrome	Jul-Nov
Arctic skua		×	×								16	4	Skipsea Beach	Apr-Oct
Pomarine skua		×									n/e	1	Ulrome	Aug-Dec
Long-tailed skua	×	×									n/e	1	Ulrome	Aug-Oct
Manx shearwater	×	×	×							×	5,900	22	Ulrome	Apr-Oct
Sooty shearwater		×									n/e	1	Ulrome	Aug-Sep, Nov
Cory's shearwater	×										n/e	1	Ulrome	Aug-Sep
Guillemot	×	×	×					×	×	×	17,700	300	Skipsea Beach	Jan-Dec
Razorbill	×	×	×		×				×	×	2,800	180	Skipsea Beach	Jan-Dec
Puffin			×						×		11,600	2	Ulrome	Apr-May, Jul-Nov

Species	Pa (X)	issa)	ge /	win	ter	moi	nths	s rec	ord	ed	1% GB population	Project Area	Peak count location	Months recorded wider Holderness Coast 2019-24 ²	
	Α	s	0	N	D	J	F	м	Α	м	threshold	реак count		Coast 2019-24-	
Cormorant	×	×	×	×	×	×		×	×	×	620	63	Ulrome	Jan-Dec	
Shag	×	×	×						×		1,100	1	Skipsea, Ulrome	Jan, Apr-Nov	
Fulmar	×	×	×						×	×	7,000	9	Ulrome	Jan-Oct, Dec	
Gannet	×	×	×						×	×	5,900	218	Ulrome	Jan-Dec	
Other waterbirds															
Grey heron	×	×	×					×	×	×	450	2	Ulrome	Jan-Dec	
Little egret	×							×		×	115	2	Ulrome	Jan-Dec	
Great white egret			×								1	2	Ulrome	Mar, May, Jul, Sep-Nov	
Spoonbill									×		1	4	Ulrome	Apr-May, Jul-Aug	
Landbirds															
Kingfisher		×							×	×	73	1	Ulrome	Mar, May, Jun, Sep.	
Barn owl								×	×	×	80	1	Ulrome	Jan-Dec	
Short-eared owl			×					×			12	1	Ulrome	Aug-June	
Hobby	×	×									41	2	Ulrome	May-Sep	

Species	Pa (X)	issa)	ge /	win	iter	mo	nths	s rec	ord	ed	1% GB population	Project Area	Peak count location	Months recorded wider Holderness Coast 2019-24 ²
	Α	s	ο	N	D	J	F	м	Α	м	threshold	реак count		Coast 2019-24-
Kestrel	×	×	×	×		×		×	×	×	300	4	Ulrome Shore	Jan-Dec
Merlin	×							×	×	×	23	1	Ulrome	Jul-Apr
Peregrine		×									17	1	Ulrome	Jan-Dec. Note eBird do not publish data for Apr to Jul (sensitive breeding sp.)
Marsh harrier									×	×	12	1	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Sparrowhawk	×	×	×			×			×	×	570	2	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Skylark	×	×	×	×		×	×	×	×	×	30,000	86	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Pied wagtail	×	×	×			×		×	×	×	9,900	28	Ulrome	Jan-Dec
Meadow pipit	×	×	×			×		×	×	×	45,000	139	Ulrome Shore	Jan-Dec
Rock pipit	×	×	×								680	11	Ulrome	Mar, Aug-Nov
Sand martin	×	×						×	×	×	1,290	60	Skipsea	Mar-Sep
Wheatear	×	×	×						×	×	3,300	5	Ulrome	Mar-Nov
Black redstart									×		4	1	Ulrome	Dec-Jan, Mar-Apr, Aug- Sep

Species Passage / winter months recorded (X)				1% GB population threshold ¹	Project Area	Peak count location	Months recorded wider Holderness							
	A	s	0	N	D	J	F	м	Α	м	threshota	count		Guast 2013-24
Grey wagtail			×						×		670	1	Ulrome	Sep-Apr, Jun-Jul
Yellow wagtail	×	×							×	×	390	14	Ulrome	Apr-Sep, Nov
Twite			×						×		156	16	Ulrome	Feb, Apr, Oct-Dec
Snow bunting								×			90	2	Ulrome	Jan-Mar, Sep, Nov

Notes 1. Source for GB populations is Woodward *et al.* (2020), except little gull for which this publication provides no estimate and the estimated passage population from Stienen *et al.* (2007) is used. 2. Based on eBird data Aug 2019-Aug 2024 for Holderness Coast (eBird locations within 500m of Mean Low Water Spring between Wilsthorpe and Easington, East Riding of Yorkshire). 'n/e' = no estimate available.

- 29. The dataset reports a total of 103 intertidal receptor species (including records of species flying over or past the site which are not delineated in the dataset), including common scoter, red-throated diver, little gull, little tern, common tern and Sandwich tern associated with the adjacent Greater Wash Special Protection Area (SPA), all of which were recorded in potentially significant numbers in context of national population as is expected within the SPA boundary. High counts of little gull include observations of a large flock alighted on the beach. Peak count of sanderling is of similar order of magnitude to the 1% of GB population threshold and the species was recorded in the majority of overwintering and passage months, and so is identified as regularly occurring in potentially significant abundance in the intertidal part of the Proposed Development Area. Whimbrel was recorded on several occasions in passage months (April, May, August and October, noting this includes records of birds flying past or over the site only, based on observer notes on some checklists) and the peak count exceeded the 1% GB population threshold (noting this is based on small breeding and wintering populations, see below). Wright et al. (2012) reports a national (spring) passage population of 3,840 individuals which is a more appropriate reference population given the species' passage status in the area, and the peak count of whimbrel from the Study Area in eBird Basic Dataset (2024) is well below 1% of this population.
- 30. The peak counts of a small number of other waterbird species – black-throated diver, ruff, greenshank, spotted redshank, green sandpiper, wood sandpiper, curlew sandpiper, little stint, great white egret and spoonbill - are also suggested to be significant in the context of national population. However, many of these species are nationally scarce and all were recorded in the desk study area on single or few occasions, including an unknown proportion of records in which birds were flying past or over the site only. Furthermore, the thresholds for 1% of national population of these species are very low, often being based on small or tiny breeding or overwintering populations while their GB passage populations are larger, supplemented by individuals from continental Europe or the wider East Atlantic flyway (Wright et al. 2012). BTO (2024) guidance also suggests caution regarding the direct use of 1% thresholds for species with small populations, as it notes that "where 1% of the national population is less than 50 birds, 50 is normally used as a minimum qualifying threshold for the designation of sites of national or international importance." In summary, these waterbird species are not considered to regularly occur in the Proposed Development Area.

- 31. The remaining waterbird and seabird species recorded in eBird survey effort of the desk study area were recorded in significantly lower numbers than the threshold for 1% of national population. Peak counts of all landbirds were also significantly lower than the threshold for 1% of national population. The only exception is that the peak count of black redstart approaches the 1% GB population threshold, although the threshold number of four individuals is low due to a small national wintering population. The use of this threshold is likely to be less appropriate for landbirds as many species remain solitary or territorial during the non-breeding season, in contrast with waterbirds which frequently form passage or winter aggregations.
- 32. The Dogger Bank South offshore wind farm has an export cable landfall on the Holderness Coast near Skipsea and within the search area for the proposed DBD offshore ECC landfall and associated access roads. To characterise the baseline overwintering and breeding bird interest of the cable landfall site, monthly surveys were conducted from December 2022 to August 2023 at the coast between Ulrome and Skirlington (Peak Ecology 2023, 2024) which closely overlaps the intertidal part of the DBD Development Area. The monthly counts and peak counts from the intertidal and adjacent fields and sea area from these surveys during overwintering and passage months are presented in **Table 13.5-8**.
- 33. The resultant coverage of the surveys focused on core winter months (December to March) and spring passage months, and therefore the data from these surveys are complementary to the passage-focused coverage resulting from eBird effort above. The surveys took place over a single overwintering period, spring passage period and autumn passage month (August), on a monthly basis, therefore the surveys could be expected to identify a smaller number of species and lower peak counts of the majority of species, compared to the five-year eBird Basic Dataset (2024) results.
- 34. The surveys recorded 33 waterbird, seabird or landbird species considered to be potential intertidal receptor species (including species or some individuals flying over or past the site which can be delineated using the published survey maps). In terms of frequency of occurrence and abundance, the species recorded in highest volume over the survey programme were herring gull, common gull, and sanderling across the full survey period, plus sand martin in passage or breeding months, and golden plover, ringed plover, red-throated diver, great black-backed gull and great crested grebe during core winter months. Peak counts of great black-backed gull and sand martin exceeded those within the eBird Basic Dataset (2024) results. This was also the case for short-eared owl with a peak of two individuals, but this observation related to two birds flying past the site which were likely to be on active migration. All species were recorded with peak counts significantly lower than the threshold for 1% of national population. No additional species to those reported within the eBird Basic Dataset (2024) results were recorded.

Table 13.5-8 Overwintering and Passage Month Counts for the Coast Between Ulrome and Skirlington of Waterbirds and Selected Landbirds for which Effects from Intertidal Aspects of the Project are Identified as Relevant for Assessment; During Dogger Bank South Overwintering Bird Surveys and Breeding Bird Surveys 2022-23 (Peak Ecology, 2023 and 2024)

Species	Pas	Passage / winter month count									1% GB population threshold	Peak count
	Α	s	ο	N	D	J	F	м	Α	м		
Divers and greb	Divers and grebes											
Red-throated diver						3	27				215	27
Great crested grebe	2					14	8				165	14
Geese, swans and ducks												
Brent goose						11					1,050	11
Pink-footed goose					85						5,100	85
Mute swan	4										505	4
Goldeneye							2				185	2
Teal	41										4,300	41
Waders			_									
Golden plover					55	63	31				4,000	63
Grey plover	2				1						335	2
Lapwing							1				6,200	1
Ringed plover					27	7	1				415	27
Oystercatcher					2		15	1	14	1	2,850	15
Redshank					5	8	10				945	10
Snipe					2	6	2				10,000	6
Sanderling	1				64	10	22		13		200	64

Species	Pase	Passage / winter month count									1% GB population threshold	Peak count
	Α	s	ο	N	D	J	F	м	Α	м		
Seabirds												
Cormorant					44	4	5			2	620	44
Fulmar						1		1			7,000	1
Guillemot	8										17,700	8
Herring gull	13				30	23	17	34	26	45	7,300	45
Great black- backed gull					11	7	2				760	11
Lesser black- backed gull									1		1,200	1
Common gull	74				45	46	117	1			7,000	117
Black-headed gull	19				5		15				22,000	19
Common tern	6										192	6
Arctic tern	2										1,050	2
Sandwich tern	15										250	15
Other waterbir	ds											
Grey heron										1	450	1
Landbirds												
Short-eared owl	2					1					12	2
Sand martin	120								71	169	1,290	169
Skylark	1						4	2	4	4	30,000	4
Meadow pipit	1				4		5	3	2	7	45,000	7
Pied wagtail	1				4		1		1	1	9,900	4
Yellow wagtail	4										390	4

35. The Trektellen peak counts from 2020 to 2024 for each waterbird species that utilises the intertidal zone are provided in **Table 13.5-9**, with commentary on numbers of birds present in the area versus those on passage only. Of those species recorded in peak numbers within the Trektellen database, the peak counts of Sandwich tern, common tern and Arctic skua exceed 1% of the GB breeding populations, though approximately half of Sandwich tern and all common tern and Arctic skua counted were on active migration. The peak count for little gull of 1,204 individuals in 2023 is likely to be over 1% of the UK population, however there is currently no population estimate for the UK (Lawson et al. 2016). The count exceeds 1% of the passage population given by Stienen et al. (2007). The peak counts of common scoter were in June or July in three of the five data years – i.e. outside the typical overwintering and passage combined period of August to mid-May. Peak counts of whimbrel occurred in typical spring or autumn passage months for the species, and were well below 1% of the (spring) passage national population referred to in Wright et al. (2012).

Species	Annual Report Year	Peak count	Peak month	Comment
Wigeon	2024	46	November	31 present
	2023	314	October	107 present
	2022	56	September	Passage
	2021	10	November	Passage
	2020	200	October	Passage
Teal	2024	238	November	120 present
	2023	834	September	Passage
	2022	169	September	Passage
	2021	212	September	Passage
	2020	216	September	Passage

Table 13.5-9 Peak Counts of Waterbirds Recorded in Trektellen Database from 2020 to 2024 (Trektellen, 2024) Between Fraisthorpe and Barmston

Species	Annual Report Year	Peak count	Peak month	Comment
Tufted duck	2024	5	November	1 present
	2023	6	July	Passage
	2022	5	August	Passage
	2021	1	August	Passage
	2020	4	June	Passage
Eider	2023	4	November	Passage
	2022	12	December	Passage
	2020	18	November	Passage
Velvet scoter	2024	8	November	Passage
	2023	3	October	Passage
	2020	4	September	Passage
Common scoter	2024	309	September	67 present
	2023	538	July	509 present
	2022	204	August	Passage
	2021	139	July	Passage
	2020	952	June	8 present
Goldeneye	2024	3	November	Passage
	2023	6	November	Passage
	2021	3	November	Passage
	2020	2	November	1 present
Water rail	2020	2	November	2 present
Moorhen	2023	4	October	4 present
	2020	4	October	4 present

Species	Annual Report Year	Peak count	Peak month	Comment
Great crested grebe	2024	60	November	60 present
	2023	114	February	112 present
	2022	12	April	12 present
	2021	15	April	15 present
	2020	34	February	34 present
Oystercatcher	2024	20	October	20 present
	2023	16	April	16 present
	2022	79	August	1 present
	2021	59	August	Passage
	2020	28	August	2 present
Avocet	2020	1	August	Passage
Grey plover	2023	3	October	3 present
	2021	10	January	10 present
	2020	2	August	Passage
Golden plover	2024	146	November	Passage
	2023	75	October	Passage
	2022	456	October	Passage
	2021	127	January	127 present
	2020	65	March	65 present
Ringed plover	2024	45	April	Passage
	2023	67	November	67 present
	2022	46	November	Passage
	2021	2	October	Passage
	2020	34	February	34 present
Lapwing	2024	1	June	Passage

Species	Annual Report Year	Peak count	Peak month	Comment
	2023	6	October	Passage
	2022	201	October	Passage
	2020	8	Мау	4 present
Whimbrel	2023	4	August	Passage
	2022	1	August	Passage
	2020	6	Мау	Passage
Curlew	2024	1	April	Passage
	2023	1	April	Passage
	2022	7	November	7 present
	2021	5	September	Passage
	2020	21	July	Passage
Bar-tailed godwit	2024	2	November	Passage
	2023	4	August	Passage
	2022	1	August	1 present
	2020	2	November	Passage
Redshank	2024	1	September	Passage
	2023	17	September	Passage
	2022	3	November	Passage
	2021	1	August	Passage
	2020	28	July	Passage

Species	Annual Report Year	Peak count	Peak month	Comment
Turnstone	2024	2	September	Passage
	2023	29	July	Passage
	2022	40	November	40 present
	2021	6	August	Passage
	2020	5	Мау	Passage
Knot	2024	1	November	Passage
	2023	75	September	Passage
	2022	7	August	Passage
	2020	40	August	Passage
Sanderling	2024	60	November	60 present
	2023	96	Мау	92 present
	2022	42	November	4 present
	2021	21	April	21 present
	2020	46	October	46 present
Dunlin	2024	6	November	1 present
Purple sandpiper	2023	2	November	2 present
	2020	18	September	Passage
Black tern	2024	2	September	Passage
	2023	1	August	Passage
	2022	3	August	Passage
	2020	3	August	Passage

Species	Annual Report Year	Peak count	Peak month	Comment
Arctic tern	2024	3	July	Passage
	2023	9	July	Passage
	2022	54	September	Passage
	2021	11	August	Passage
	2020	42	August	Passage
Common tern	2024	23	September	Passage
	2023	229	August	Passage
	2022	146	August	Passage
	2021	127	August	Passage
	2020	445	August	Passage
Roseate tern	2023	3	September	Passage
	2020	2	August	Passage
Sandwich tern	2024	117	August	Passage
	2023	217	September	Passage
	2022	153	September	Passage
	2021	225	August	Passage
	2020	468	August	206 present
Little gull	2024	14	August	Passage
	2023	1,204	August	150 present
	2022	15	November	Passage
	2020	20	August	Passage

Species	Annual Report Year	Peak count	Peak month	Comment
Kittiwake	2024	29	September	Passage
	2023	511	July	Passage
	2022	2,597	September	Passage
	2021	73	August	Passage
	2020	633	August	15 present
Black-headed gull	2024	600	September	600 present
	2023	201	March	Passage
	2022	65	August	20 present
	2021	110	August	Passage
	2020	368	October	368 present
Mediterranean gull	2023	3	June	Passage
	2021	2	October	Passage
	2020	3	June	Passage
Common gull	2024	31	April	Passage
	2023	497	February	471 present
	2022	750	December	750 present
	2021	61	November	Passage
	2020	696	October	30 present
Caspian gull	2024	1	August	Passage
	2023	1	March	Passage

Species	Annual Report Year	Peak count	Peak month	Comment
Herring gull	2024	171	June	Passage
	2023	396	Мау	80 present
	2022	400	December	400 present
	2021	300	August	Passage
	2020	523	June	274 present
Great black-backed gull	2024	36	September	Passage
	2023	22	November	Passage
	2022	15	September	Passage
	2021	14	August	Passage
	2020	137	September	Passage
Lesser black-backed gull	2024	8	June	Passage
	2023	7	Мау	Passage
	2022	3	August	Passage
	2021	2	April	Passage
	2020	13	Мау	Passage
Long-tailed skua	2023	4	August	Passage
	2022	4	September	Passage
	2020	5	August	Passage
Arctic skua	2024	19	September	Passage
	2023	54	September	Passage
	2022	22	September	Passage
	2021	1	July	Passage
	2020	24	August	Passage

Species	Annual Report Year	Peak count	Peak month	Comment
Red-throated diver	2024	11	September	Passage
	2023	33	March	4 present
	2022	25	November	23 present
	2021	19	October	8 present
	2020	25	September	2 present
Great northern diver	2024	1	September	Passage
	2023	1	January	1 present
	2021	1	January	Passage
	2020	12	November	Passage
Cormorant	2024	130	September	Passage
	2023	192	September	Passage
	2022	113	October	1 present
	2021	247	September	1 present
	2020	317	October	68 present

13.5.4.1.2 Breeding Birds

36. The bird species records from the NEYEDC for sites in and adjacent to the intertidal part of the Development Area during breeding months (March - August) are shown in **Table 13.5-10**. Skylark is considered a potential onshore or intertidal receptor species as its nesting ecology includes nesting on cliff tops or in otherwise close proximity to the open beach. Tree sparrow is considered a potential onshore or intertidal receptor species when breeding as its nesting ecology includes nesting in vacant sand martin burrows (Czechowski, 2007) which are vulnerable to damage or destruction from vibration of substrate (Nature After Minerals 2024). While no breeding evidence was submitted within the NEYEDC observations, both species were therefore observed in suitable breeding habitat, and their resultant breeding status is Possible.

Table 13.5-10 Summary of Bird Species Records Supplied by NEYEDC Relevant to the Intertidal Area of the Development Area During Breeding Months (Mar-Aug)

Species	Total number of records	Most recent record	Record location	Grid ref (Public)	BoCC
Skylark	1	06/04/2004	Ulrome Sands (North)	TA17285792	Red
Tree sparrow	1	19/06/2003	Skipsea Cliffs	TA18355473	Red

37. The species and breeding evidence recorded in the eBird Basic Dataset (2024) from the intertidal part of the Development Area during breeding months (March - August) are shown in Table 13.5-11. Meadow pipit is considered a potential onshore or intertidal receptor species as its nesting ecology includes nesting on cliff tops or in otherwise close proximity to the open beach.

Table 13.5-11 Occurrence in the Intertidal Desk Study Area of Beach and Soft Cliff-Breeding Bird Species and Breeding Evidence / Status, 2019-2024 (eBird Basic Dataset 2024).

Species	Location	Max evidence recorded	Breeding status
Meadow pipit	Skipsea Beach	Courtship, display or copulation	Probable

38. The species and breeding evidence recorded during Dogger Bank South breeding bird surveys of the intertidal part of the Development Area are shown in Table 13.5-12. Active sand martin nesting colonies were recorded at multiple locations in the survey area and breeding was therefore confirmed. 22 active sand martin nests were also identified at the DBD landfall during baseline benthic and intertidal surveys in July 2024 (Appendix 10.2 Intertidal Ecology Survey Report). Tree sparrows with fledglings were recorded in the immediate vicinity of the cliffs and beach, therefore breeding in the general area was confirmed though it is not known whether nesting took place within vacant sand martin burrows, which would place the species as an intertidal receptor or onshore receptor of intertidal impacts as outlined above. Skylarks were recorded singing on multiple visits and involving several individuals, therefore breeding status is Probable. Oystercatcher, redshank, herring gull and tern species were assessed to have non-breeding status. Of these species, only oystercatcher, herring gull and common tern were observed on or adjacent to the intertidal part of the Proposed Development area. The remaining species were recorded in flight over or past the site only.

Table 13.5-12 Occurrence of Beach and Soft Cliff-Breeding Bird Species in Intertidal Habitat Between Ulrome and Skirlington During Dogger Bank South Breeding Bird Surveys Mar-Aug 2023 and Breeding Evidence / Status, (Peak Ecology, 2024)

Species	National status	Yorkshire abundance status	Max evidence recorded	Breeding status
Sand martin	Migrant breeder. Passage visitor	Fairly common	Occupied nest	Confirmed
Tree sparrow	Resident breeder, Passage visitor	Uncommon	Fledglings	Confirmed
Skylark	Resident breeder, passage / winter visitor	Common	Permanent territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour (song etc.) on at least two different days, a week apart, at the same place, or many individuals on one day	Probable

Species	National status	Yorkshire abundance status	Max evidence recorded	Breeding status
Oystercatcher	Migrant / resident breeder. Passage / winter visitor	Scarce	Species observed but suspected to be summering non- breeder	Non-breeding
Redshank	Migrant / resident breeder. Passage / winter visitor	Uncommon	Species observed but suspected to be still on migration	Non-breeding
Herring gull	Resident breeder. Passage winter visitor	Common	Observed in unsuitable nesting habitat / suspected to be still on migration	Non-breeding
Arctic Tern	Migrant breeder. Passage visitor	Uncommon	Flying over	Non-breeding
Common Tern	Migrant breeder. Passage visitor	Scarce	Flying over / suspected to be still on migration	Non-breeding
Sandwich Tern	Migrant breeder. Passage visitor	Fairly common	Species observed but suspected to be still on migration	Non-breeding

13.5.4.2 Intertidal Ornithology Survey Results to December 2024

39. The overwintering and passage intertidal ornithology surveys for DBD from August to December 2024 have recorded 40 species. This comprises 29 species recorded on the intertidal or immediate sea area or adjacent terrestrial habitat, and 28 species recorded flying over or past the site (of which 11 were additional species not recorded on the intertidal, sea or terrestrial habitat). Scaup was the only species seen which was not already recorded in desk-based data. The peak count of sanderling (139 individuals) approached the threshold for 1% of national (GB) population, of 200 individuals. No other species occurred in numbers approaching or exceeding 1% of their national population. Whimbrel, initially highlighted within the desk study, was recorded on one survey comprising a single bird in flight only. Little gull, little tern and common tern were not recorded.

- Among the 29 species recorded on the intertidal or sea area or adjacent 40. terrestrial habitats (Table 13.5), the most frequent and abundant were common gull, black-headed gull and herring gull. Sanderling was recorded frequently from September onwards, initially at fewer than ten individuals in September to October but counts exceeded 100 individuals in November and December low tide visits. Oystercatcher and cormorant were also frequently recorded across surveys to December 2024 but in low numbers. Ringed plover, golden plover and common scoter were all infrequently recorded but each occurred in numbers exceeding 50 individuals on one survey visit. All other species including redthroated diver were infrequent and occurred in relatively low numbers. Sandwich tern (the only tern recorded) was not recorded on the intertidal, sea area or adjacent terrestrial habitats; only flying past the site. Within each survey month August to November, the species diversity on the intertidal, sea and adjacent terrestrial habitat was between four and 12 species. In December, the low tide survey recorded 17 species, indicating the peak in diversity of species using the intertidal part of the Project Area is in the core winter months rather than during passage. November and December low tide surveys recorded peak abundance of waders. In both visits, approximately 200 individual waders were recorded of which more than 100 were sanderling and approximately 50 were ringed plover. The November low tide survey also recorded the highest diversity of waders alighted on the habitat with five species (the three additional species being oystercatcher, knot and dunlin in small numbers). Within each month August to November, high and low tide survey visits recorded similar numbers of species alighted on the habitats (with a maximum difference in total species of three between the month's high and low tide surveys). In December, the 17 species recorded in the low tide survey was more than double the eight species recorded in the high tide survey, but this was likely due to the reported difference in visibility between the survey visits (Table13.5). Total numbers of individual waterbirds alighted on the habitat often differed by one order of magnitude between high and low tide surveys per month, but there was no consistent pattern as to whether high or low tide saw the highest abundance (with total reported numbers influenced strongly by numbers of common gull in autumn months and sanderling in winter months). Numbers of waders were higher at low tide, except in September surveys when golden plover (which were using an adjacent field) were more abundant at high tide.
- 41. Of the 28 species recorded in flight (**Table 13.5**), gull species and cormorant were most frequent. Pink-footed goose was recorded on one survey (October) totalling 1,400 birds in flight. The vast majority of species were recorded in flight on one survey only, and often as single or few individuals. Excluding the outlying high count of pink-footed goose, the peak number of individuals of all species in flight was in September followed by August, and the peak number of species in flight in or through the survey area was 14 species in August, indicating the peak months for migratory passage were August and September.

42. Across survey totals of both flying and alighted birds (**Table 13.5**), the highest diversity of species recorded was in August, closely followed by December and then by November, suggesting one peak in waterbird assemblage in late summer due to passage, and a similar-sized assemblage present in core winter months following arrival of overwintering species. The survey programme concludes in May 2025. Breeding bird surveys of the Onshore Development Area including coverage of intertidal and coastal habitats are scheduled for March to July 2025.

Species	August		Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec	
	High tide	Low tide	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Red-throated diver	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	5	32
Black-throated diver	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Great crested grebe	5	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	20	5
Mute swan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnacle goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pink-footed goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common scoter	34	6	0	0	0	0	57	0	0	3
Velvet scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Eider	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Red-breasted merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mallard	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0
Teal	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Table 13.5-13 Counts of Birds on the Sea, Intertidal Zone or Adjacent Terrestrial Habitat During Baseline Surveys August to December 2024

Species	August		Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec	
	High tide	Low tide	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Shelduck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wigeon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	19
Oystercatcher	0	37	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	0
Avocet	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ringed plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0	51
Golden plover	0	0	82	38	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whimbrel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Knot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Sanderling	0	0	4	2	0	7	2	139	0	127
Dunlin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	15
Purple sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Herring gull	54	51	58	31	104	138	16	187	0	28
Great black-backed gull	1	1	0	0	4	9	3	15	1	13

Species	August		Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec	
	High tide	Low tide	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Common gull	11	0	637	8	2	481	70	169	0	45
Black-headed gull	0	53	133	4	0	22	42	37	0	0
Kittiwake	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Sandwich tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guillemot	3	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Gannet	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cormorant	3	17	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	25
Shag	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Kestrel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hobby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow wagtail	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snow bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	128	183	914	86	111	658	218	607	73	388
Total species	11	10	5	6	4	6	12	9	8	17

Species	August		Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec	
	High tide	Low tide	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Red-throated diver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Black-throated diver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great crested grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mute swan	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnacle goose	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pink-footed goose	0	0	0	0	1,400	0	0	0	0	0
Common scoter	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Velvet scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eider	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scaup	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mallard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teal	50	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0

Table 13.5-14 Counts of Birds Flying Over or Past During Baseline Surveys August to December 2024

Species	August		Sept	Sept		Oct			Dec	
	High tide	Low tide	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Shelduck	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Wigeon	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Oystercatcher	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	0
Avocet	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ringed plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Golden plover	0	0	0	255	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whimbrel	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Knot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purple sandpiper	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herring gull	26	16	13	27	18	0	44	0	33	0
Great black-backed gull	1	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0
Common gull	9	0	18	14	30	0	0	0	1	0

Species	August		Sept		Oct		Νον		Dec	
	High tide	Low tide	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Black-headed gull	2	1	11	8	19	0	0	0	1	0
Kittiwake	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sandwich tern	10	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guillemot	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Gannet	10	29	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Cormorant	12	4	0	12	1	0	3	0	11	0
Shag	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Kestrel	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hobby	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow wagtail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snow bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0
Total	157	85	46	324	1,473	0	54	26	60	0
Total species	14	9	6	6	8	0	7	3	9	0

Species	August		Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec	
	High tide	Low tide	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Red-throated diver	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	8	32
Black-throated diver	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Great crested grebe	5	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	20	5
Mute swan	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnacle goose	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pink-footed goose	0	0	0	0	1,400	0	0	0	0	0
Common scoter	65	6	0	0	0	0	57	0	0	3
Velvet scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Eider	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Red-breasted merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Scaup	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mallard	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0
Teal	64	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1

Table 13.5-15 Counts of Birds in Total During Baseline Surveys August to December 2024

Species	August		Sept	Sept		Oct		Νον		Dec	
	High tide	Low tide	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	
Shelduck	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Wigeon	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	42	19	
Oystercatcher	1	37	0	3	1	1	0	1	8	0	
Avocet	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ringed plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0	51	
Golden plover	0	0	82	293	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Whimbrel	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Knot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Sanderling	0	0	4	2	0	7	2	139	0	127	
Dunlin	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	15	
Purple sandpiper	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	
Herring gull	80	67	71	58	122	138	60	187	33	28	
Great black-backed gull	2	1	2	0	6	9	4	15	2	13	

Species	August		Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec	
	High tide	Low tide	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Common gull	20	0	655	22	32	481	70	169	1	45
Black-headed gull	2	54	144	12	19	22	42	37	1	0
Kittiwake	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Sandwich tern	10	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guillemot	3	6	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1
Gannet	11	30	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Cormorant	15	21	0	12	1	0	9	0	11	25
Shag	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Kestrel	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hobby	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yellow wagtail	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snow bunting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0
Total	<u>285</u>	<u>268</u>	<u>960</u>	<u>410</u>	<u>1,584</u>	<u>658</u>	<u>272</u>	<u>633</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>388</u>
Total species	<u>18</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>17</u>

13.5.5 Conclusion

13.5.5.1 Overwintering and Passage Birds

43. The desk-based study of overwintering and passage waterbird, seabird and landbird intertidal receptors' use of the intertidal areas of the Proposed Development Area indicates that, while a wide range of species have been recorded in the previous five years, intertidal receptor species have largely occurred in numbers which are not significant in the context of national population, noting also that some or all records for some species relate to birds flying over or past the site only. The overwintering and passage species recorded in significant numbers were qualifying feature species of the Greater Wash SPA (common scoter, little gull, red-throated diver, little tern, common tern and Sandwich tern), and sanderling. These respectively reflect the designation of the Greater Wash as a marine SPA, and the limited range of shorebird species expected to be regularly supported by the sandy beach habitat available within the Proposed Development Area. The project-specific survey data on overwintering and passage birds to December 2024 also indicates significant numbers of sanderling are present at low tide in core winter months. Across both desk-based and preliminary survey data, common tern, little tern and Sandwich tern are indicated to potentially occur in notable numbers but are overwhelmingly recorded as birds actively on passage and not using the intertidal parts of the Development Area for activities such as resting or foraging. Whimbrel is also indicated to occur chiefly as a passage migrant through the site rather than foraging or resting, and is not considered to occur in significant numbers relative to national passage population.

13.5.5.2 Breeding Birds

44. The desk-based study of breeding evidence and status of waterbird, seabird and landbird intertidal receptors in intertidal areas of the Proposed Development Area indicates that breeding birds comprise only a small number of landbird species adjacent to the intertidal area, including sand martin, potentially tree sparrow in vacant sand martin burrow nests, and probable or possible breeding by ground-nesting meadow pipit and skylark.

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Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
BST	British Summer Time
вто	British Trust for Ornithology
DAS	Discretionary Advice Service
DBD	Dogger Bank D Offshore Wind Farm
DBS	Dogger Bank South Offshore Wind Farm
DCO	Development Consent Order
ECC	Export Cable Corridor
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EOAC	European Ornithology Atlas Committee
EPP	Evidence Plan Process
ES	Environmental Statement
ETG	Expert Topic Group
GB	Great Britain
GMT	Greenwich Mean Time
MHWS	Mean High Water Spring
MLWS	Mean Low Water Spring
Ν	North
NE	North-East
NEYEDC	North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre
NNE	North-North-East

Acronym	Definition
NNW	North-North-West
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SE	South-East
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSW	South-South-West
SW	South-West
WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey