

Oldtown (Swords) Winter Bird Surveys 2021

Introduction

Between November 2021 and March 2022 ten winter bird surveys were conducted at Oldtown (Phase 5 & Phase 10) in Swords, North County Dublin by Hugh Delaney, a freelance Ecologist (Birds primarily) having completed work on numerous sites with ecological consultancies over 10+ years. Hugh is local to the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown area in Dublin and is especially familiar with the bird life and its ecology in the environs going back over 30 years.

Winter Bird Survey Methodology

Winter bird surveys are conducted from soon after sunrise until late in the afternoon before sunset, the site is monitored throughout the day and all bird species utilizing the site recorded, including species flying through overhead. Checks are also made on suitable habitat nearby or adjacent the site for comparative purposes and to monitor any interchange of birds between sites. Target species (species of more special interest) utilizing the site will be mapped and estimates of the time these species frequented the site recorded.

Site Locations

Figure 1 – Area 1 around Barn adjacent Site offices (Phase 5)

Arable agricultural field adjacent the Barn, remaining area rough ground/building site.

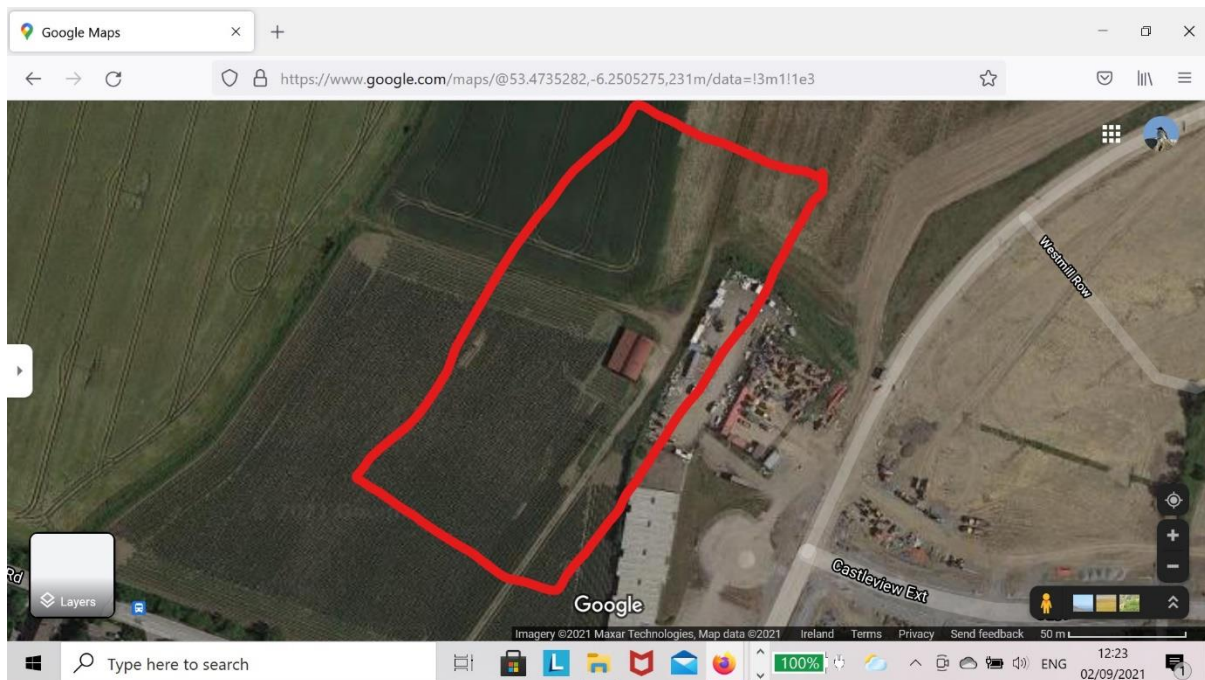
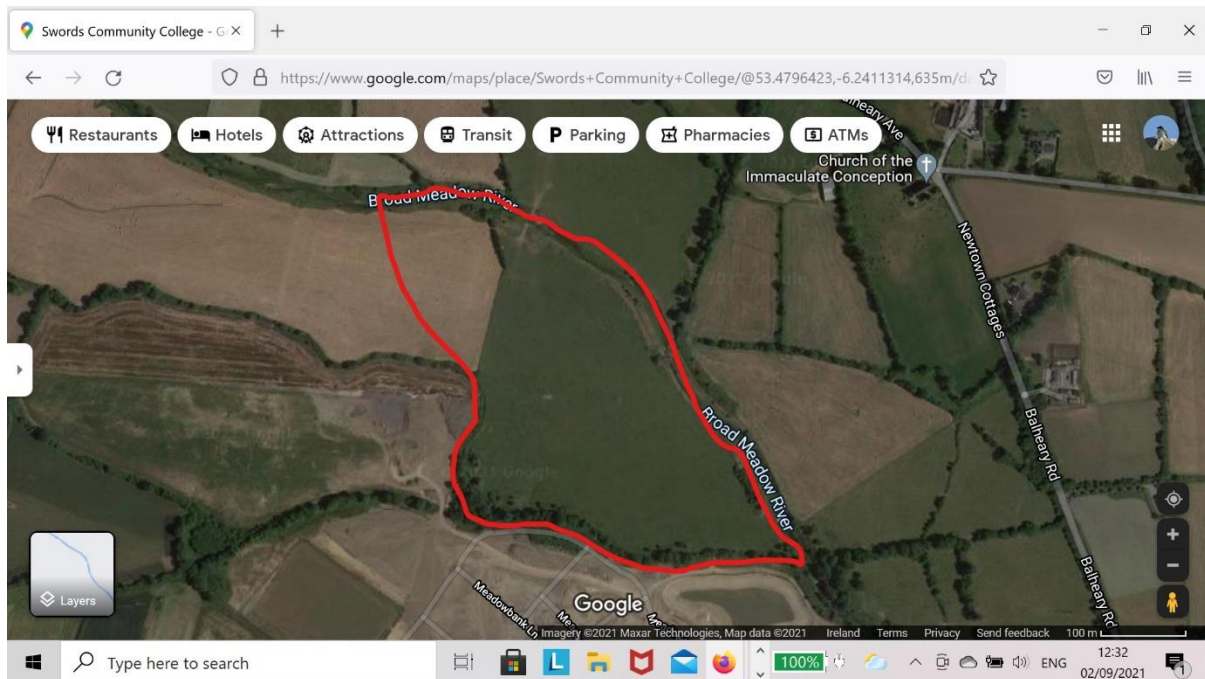


Figure 2- Area 2 adjacent Broadmeadow River (Phase 10)

Pasture field area bordering Broadmeadow River to the north.



Survey Results –

November 22nd, 2021

Area 1 (Phase 5) and Area 2 (Phase 10)

Sunrise- 08.02hrs/Sunset 16.19hrs. Weather – Wind F2 Northwest, Cloud 5/8, Dry, 3c, Excellent visibility. On-site 08.15hrs – 16.00hrs.

Area 1– Area around Barn adjacent Site offices (Phase 5)

Species recorded – Skylark, Goldfinch, Linnet, Rook, Jackdaw, Hooded Crow, Black-headed Gull, Woodpigeon, Redpoll, Meadow Pipit.

08.15hrs-09.45hrs –

Area traversed from north to south and a vantage point location taken up next to barn giving an excellent visibility over the site. Up to 4 Skylark foraging in area around barn during survey period. Also foraging in area were Goldfinch (Maximum count of 7 at 08.50hrs foraging west of barn). Up to three Woodpigeon noted foraging west of the barn at intervals. Two Redpoll flew west over site at 09.10hrs. Birds transiting over site included Black-headed Gull (Approximately <6), Jackdaw (<15), Meadow Pipit (<5) and Rook (<20).

3- Area adjacent Broadmeadow River (Phase 10)

Species recorded – Jackdaw, Pheasant, Fieldfare, Skylark, Long-tailed Tit, Great Tit, Kingfisher, Stock Dove, Blue Tit, Dunnock, Goldcrest, Wren, Chaffinch, Meadow Pipit, Woodpigeon, Magpie, Blackbird, Linnet, Yellowhammer, Redpoll, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Robin, Raven, Rook, Hooded Crow, Reed Bunting, Song Thrush, Buzzard, Mallard, Teal, Pied Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Snipe, Stonechat, Grey Heron, Mute Swan, Goldfinch.

10.00hrs – 16.00hrs – Site traversed three times during day, following hedgerow border to south and Broadmeadow River to north, and vantage points selected midway along south of site and at northernmost point of site giving excellent overview of site.

Kingfisher (<1) observed twice on-site foraging on river at northwest of site at 10.35hrs and observed again at 11.20hrs foraging on river at east side of the site. On main green area predominant species noted foraging included Meadow Pipit (Maximum of <15), Skylark (<5), Starling (<50), Pied Wagtail (<3), Reed Bunting (<2) and Woodpigeon (<25). Two Teal were present on the river at northwest corner of the site at 13.30hrs before moving west upriver. Two Mute Swan were present on the river throughout between the middle of site and the east side. Small numbers of Black-headed (<30) and Herring Gulls (<35) were noted passing over the site during the day. A pair of Buzzard were noted twice at 11.30hrs and 13.10hrs soaring over the south side of the site. Two Snipe were flushed from the center of the site at 10.45hrs. A flock of 35 Fieldfare passed west over the site at 14.40hrs and 2 Stock Dove were noted foraging in trees at the northwest of the site at 12.15hrs. In hedgerow at south side of site Goldcrest (<5), Dunnock (<10), Pheasant (<2), Goldfinch (<20) Linnet (<10) and small numbers of the Tit species and Wren were noted. Yellowhammer were recorded at the north side of the site with a maximum of 4 noted at 13.50hrs. Two Grey Wagtail were noted foraging along the river mainly on the east side of the site.

November 26th, 2021

Sunrise- 08.09hrs/Sunset 16.14hrs. Weather – Wind F4 Northwest, Cloud 4/8, Dry, 6c, Excellent visibility. On-site 08.30hrs – 16.00hrs.

Winter Bird Survey dedicated for day to Area 1 (Phase 5) and Area 2 (Phase 10)

1 – Area around Barn adjacent Site offices (Phase 5)

Species recorded – Skylark, Goldfinch, Linnet, Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull, Wren, Yellowhammer, Blackbird, Buzzard.

08.15hrs – 10.00hrs. – Two Skylark noted foraging west and north of barn at intervals. Two Yellowhammer were noted at the west side of site foraging on ground from 09.20-09.45hrs. A Blackbird, 6 Linnet, 7 Goldfinch and a Wren were noted foraging arounds the barns. A Buzzard drifted south over the site at 09.15hrs and a minimum of 8 Black-headed and 3 Herring Gull were noted passing over the site.

3- Area adjacent Broadmeadow River (Phase 10)

10.15hrs – 16.00hrs. – Site traversed three times during day, following Hedgerow border to south and Broadmeadow River to north, and vantage points selected midway along south of site and at northernmost point of site giving excellent overview of site.

Species recorded – Red Kite, Robin, Song Thrush, Woodpigeon, Starling, Chaffinch, Mallard, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Meadow Pipit, Teal, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Rook, Jackdaw, Linnet, Dunnock, Blackbird, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Redwing, Magpie, Hooded Crow, Goldcrest, Kingfisher, Skylark, Reed Bunting, Grey Heron.

A Red Kite was observed passing north over the site at 10.50hrs and two flew west over the site at 14.15hrs. On the river at north boundary of site a Kingfisher was recorded foraging at the northwest corner at 11.10hrs, also foraging on river were 3 Teal and 4 Mallard at west side at 11.30hrs and 2 Grey Wagtail and a Grey Heron on the east side. Peak counts of species foraging on the main green area were (<12) of Meadow Pipit (<120) of Starling, (<15) of Woodpigeon, (<2) of Pied Wagtail and (<5) Skylark recorded mainly in center of the site. A single Reed Bunting was present at the west side of the site at 14.30hrs. 20 Redwing were noted foraging on the west side of site from 14.10-15.00hrs. In the south hedgerow boundary Bullfinch (<4), Goldcrest (<8), Chaffinch (<5), Song Thrush (<6) and Robin (<4) were recorded.

December 16th, 2021

Sunrise- 08.35hrs/Sunset 16.06hrs. Weather – Wind F3 Northwest, Cloud 2/8, Dry, 10c, Excellent visibility. On-site 08.20hrs – 15.45hrs.

Winter Bird Survey dedicated for day to Area 1 (Phase 5) and Area 2 (Phase 10)

1 – Area around Barn adjacent Site offices (Phase 5)

Species recorded – Skylark, Goldfinch, Linnet, Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull, Wren, Meadow Pipit, Yellowhammer, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Rook, Hooded Crow, Chiffchaff, Woodpigeon, Dunnock, Red Kite, Buzzard.

08.20hrs – 10.15hrs. – Maximum of 3 Skylark foraging in field west of the barn, also foraging west and south of barn were 2 Yellowhammer, 1 Reed bunting and 4 Meadow Pipit. A Red Kite was recorded drifting north over the west side of the site at 09.30hrs. Single Buzzards were noted at 09.20hrs going south over site and 09.50hrs going west over site. Blackbird (<2), Wren (<2) and single Chiffchaff and two House Sparrow were recorded foraging in cover at fence line east of the barns. A minimum of 5 Herring Gull and 2 Black-headed Gull passed over the site with most birds going west.

3- Area adjacent Broadmeadow River (Phase 10)

10.30hrs – 15.45hrs. – Site traversed three times during day, following hedgerow border to south and Broadmeadow River to north, and vantage points selected midway along south of site and at northernmost point of site giving excellent overview of site.

Species recorded – Robin, Song Thrush, Woodpigeon, Starling, Chaffinch, Mallard, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Meadow Pipit, Teal, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Stonechat, Grey Wagtail, Rook, Raven, Jackdaw, Linnet, Dunnock, Blackbird, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Fieldfare, Magpie, Hooded Crow, Goldcrest, Skylark, Grey Heron, Kingfisher, Mute Swan.

4 Mallard and 2 Teal were recorded foraging on river at west side of site at 10.50hrs with a Kingfisher foraging in same area recorded at 13.05hrs. A Snipe was flushed from green field at the north side at 10.50hrs. A maximum of 6 Yellowhammer were recorded at 12.00hrs with birds

perched on telegraph wires crossing center of site and landing into field to forage. With 2-3 birds nearly constantly foraging on-site during the day. A maximum count of 13 Meadow Pipit were recorded at 11.55hrs foraging mainly in the center of the site with approximately 40 Starling foraging also foraging in same area at intervals. Two Mute Swan and a Grey Heron were present the east side of the site on the river throughout. A Raven passed south over the site at 10.38hrs. Four Stock Dove and a Stonechat were recorded foraging on ground at the west side of the site at 12.48hrs. Small flocks of Fieldfare (<30 in total) and Redwing (<15) were recorded moving west over the site in the afternoon.

December 22nd, 2021

Sunrise- 08.38hrs/Sunset 16.08hrs. Weather – Wind F3 Southeast, Cloud 5/8, Dry, 7c, Excellent visibility. On-site 08.45hrs – 15.45hrs.

Winter Bird Survey dedicated for day to Area 1 (Phase 5) and Area 2 (Phase 10)

1 – Area around Barn adjacent Site offices (Phase 5)

Species recorded – Skylark, Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull, Wren, Meadow Pipit, Yellowhammer, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Rook, Jackdaw, Hooded Crow, Buzzard, Woodpigeon, Stock Dove.

08.45hrs – 10.15hrs. – Minimum of 3 Yellowhammer recorded foraging west and north of barns, also minimum of 6 Skylark in same area. Two Buzzards flew south over site at 09.35hrs. Maximum count of 16 Woodpigeon and one Stock Dove foraging in field west of Barns at 09.15hrs. Two Meadow Pipit were recorded foraging north of the Barns with several Song Thrush and Blackbird in same area. Small numbers of Herring (<15) and Black-headed Gull (<8) noted moving west and south over site.

3- Area adjacent Broadmeadow River (Phase 10)

10.30hrs – 15.45hrs. – Site traversed three times during day, following hedgerow border to south and Broadmeadow River to north, and vantage points selected midway along south of site and at northernmost point of site giving excellent overview of site.

Species recorded – Robin, Song Thrush, Woodpigeon, Starling, Chaffinch, Mallard, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Meadow Pipit, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Stonechat, Grey Wagtail, Sparrowhawk, Rook, Jackdaw, Linnet, Dunnock, Blackbird, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Bullfinch, Redpoll, Magpie, Hooded Crow, Goldcrest, Skylark, Grey Heron, Little Egret, Buzzard.

Five Mallard, a Little Egret and two Grey Wagtail were noted foraging on the river at the east side of the site at 11.05hrs. A minimum of 5 Yellowhammer, 8 Meadow Pipit and 3 Skylark were recorded foraging around center of site at 12.15hrs. Small numbers (<15) of Rook and Jackdaw (<10) also recorded in same area. A Sparrowhawk past west over the site at 12.40hrs. A foraging flock of Starling (<100) were noted at intervals foraging at the east side of the site. Along hedgerow on the southern boundary of site a minimum of Goldcrest (<5), Bullfinch (<4), Greenfinch (<1), Redpoll (<7) and Long-tailed Tit (<10) were recorded. Two Buzzard were recorded soaring over south side of site at 11.10hrs and 12.45hrs. Dunnock, Wren, Robin, Chaffinch, Song Thrush and Wren were all recorded in small numbers at hedgerow at south and west of site.

January 14th, 2022

Sunrise- 08.33hrs/Sunset 16.35hrs. Weather – Wind F1 North, Cloud 4/8, Dry, 4c, Excellent visibility.
On-site 08.30hrs – 16.00hrs.

Winter Bird Survey dedicated for day to Area 1 (Phase 5) and Area 2 (Phase 10)

1 – Area around Barn adjacent Site offices (Phase 5)

Species recorded – Skylark, Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull, Wren, Meadow Pipit, Yellowhammer, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Chaffinch, Rook, Hooded Crow, Magpie, Woodpigeon, Dunnock, Buzzard.

08.30hrs – 10.15hrs. – Two Skylark and one Yellowhammer were recorded foraging west of the barns at 08.45hrs. Chaffinch (<3), Dunnock (<2), Wren (<2) and Song Thrush (<1) were all recorded foraging in area immediate to the barns. Two Buzzard flew north over the site at 09.15hrs. Minimum of 16 Herring Gull and 3 Black-headed Gull past over the site with most heading south. Four Woodpigeon and 2 Dunnock were noted in the area just north of the barns.

3- Area adjacent Broadmeadow River (Phase 10)

10.30hrs – 16.00hrs. – Site traversed three times during day, following hedgerow border to south and Broadmeadow River to north, and vantage points selected midway along south of site and at northernmost point of site giving excellent overview of site.

Species recorded – Robin, Song Thrush, Woodpigeon, Starling, Chaffinch, Yellowhammer, Mallard, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Meadow Pipit, Teal, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Stonechat, Grey Wagtail, Rook, Jackdaw, Linnet, Dunnock, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Goldfinch, Magpie, Hooded Crow, Buzzard, Goldcrest, Skylark, Little Egret, Grey Heron, Kingfisher, Mute Swan.

One Kingfisher was noted foraging at the northwest corner of site on the river at 11.40hrs and 14.05hrs. Also on river midway along the site were one Mute Swan and one Grey Wagtail. Minimum of 35 Woodpigeon noted foraging on green at east side of site at 11.15hrs with smaller numbers recorded at intervals later in day in same area. Maximum count of 16 Meadow Pipit and 4 Skylark noted foraging mainly in the center of the site at 13.30hrs, also 3 Pied Wagtail and a minimum of 4 Yellowhammer in same area. 7 Mallard and 2 Teal were foraging on river at east side of site from 14.30hrs. Two Little Egret past west along the river at 15.20hrs. A single Buzzard was noted soaring over the south of site at 12.40hrs with two in same area at 14.10hrs. A minimum of 80 Starling were noted foraging mainly over the east side of the site at intervals during the afternoon. Small numbers of Blackbird, Goldcrest, Song Thrush, Dunnock, Goldfinch, the three Tit species and Wren were recorded in hedgerow bordering the south of the site.

January 26th, 2022

Sunrise- 08.19hrs/Sunset 16.56hrs. Weather – Wind F3 Southwest, Cloud 6/8, Dry, 7c, Excellent visibility. On-site 08.45hrs – 16.00hrs.

Winter Bird Survey dedicated for day to Area 1 (Phase 5) and Area 2 (Phase 10)

1 – Area around Barn adjacent Site offices (Phase 5)

Species recorded – Skylark, Herring Gull, Meadow Pipit, Yellowhammer, Reed Bunting, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Siskin, Rook, Jackdaw, Hooded Crow, Magpie, Woodpigeon, Dunnock, Red Kite.

08.45hrs – 10.45hrs. – A Red Kite flew northwest of the barns at 09.20hrs. Five Yellowhammer, two Skylark and a single Reed Bunting were noted foraging in the area north and west of the barns at intervals. Two Siskin passed south over the site at 10.10hrs. In the area immediately around the barns two Dunnock, two Mistle Thrush, one Song Thrush and three Meadow Pipit were noted foraging in the area. Minimum of 9 Herring Gull noted passing over site going south. Small numbers of four corvid species (<5 each) noted occasionally landing into the site.

3- Area adjacent Broadmeadow River (Phase 10)

11.00hrs – 16.00hrs. – Site traversed three times during day, following hedgerow border to south and Broadmeadow River to north, and vantage points selected midway along south of site and at northernmost point of site giving excellent overview of site.

Species recorded – Robin, Song Thrush, Woodpigeon, Stock Dove, Starling, Chaffinch, Yellowhammer, Redpoll, House Sparrow, Mallard, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Meadow Pipit, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Rook, Jackdaw, Linnet, Dunnock, Blackbird, Redwing, Song Thrush, Goldfinch, Magpie, Hooded Crow, Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, Goldcrest, Skylark, Snipe, Little Egret, Grey Heron, Mute Swan.

Two Snipe were flushed from the center of the site at 11.35hrs. On river midway along north end of the site three Mute Swan, two Mallard and a Little Egret were noted foraging from 12.15hrs. One Grey Heron was noted on river at northwest corner at 13.10hrs. A minimum of 20 Meadow Pipit, 4 Skylark and 6 Yellowhammer were noted foraging mainly in center of the site at 14.00hrs. Four Stock Doves were recorded foraging at east side of site at 15.05hrs. A Sparrowhawk flew west through middle of the site at 13.45hrs. Minimum of 3 Grey Wagtail noted foraging on river at east side of the site. Two Buzzards were noted soaring over west side of the site at 11.20hrs and a single bird over south side of the site at 12.40hrs. Noteworthy passerines in the hedgerow along south boundary of site included Goldcrest (Minimum <5), Redpoll (<10), Long-tailed Tit (<15), Song Thrush (<5), Redwing (<14), Chaffinch (<10), Goldfinch (<20), and Robin (<5). The Thrush species and two Pied Wagtail were foraging in green area immediately adjacent the hedgerow with most birds in the southwest corner.

February 4th, 2022

Sunrise- 08.04hrs/Sunset 17.14hrs. Weather – Wind F3 West, Cloud 3/8, Dry, 7c, Excellent visibility.
On-site 08.15hrs – 16.15hrs.

Winter Bird Survey dedicated for day to Area 1 (Phase 5) and Area 2 (Phase 10)

1 – Area around Barn adjacent Site offices (Phase 5)

Species recorded – Skylark, Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Robin, Meadow Pipit, Yellowhammer, Redpoll, Rook, Jackdaw, Hooded Crow, Magpie, Woodpigeon, Dunnock.

08.15hrs – 10.00hrs. – Minimum of three Yellowhammer noted foraging in the field at the west side of the barns, also here and in area to north were a minimum of 10 Meadow Pipit and 5 Skylark. Three Redpoll passed north over the site at 09.20hrs. 10 Woodpigeon, a Robin and two Dunnock were noted foraging in area immediately adjacent the barns. 7 Herring Gull and 2 Black-headed Gull were noted passing over the site moving southwest.

3- Area adjacent Broadmeadow River (Phase 10)

10.15hrs – 16.15hrs. – Site traversed three times during day, following hedgerow border to south and Broadmeadow River to north, and vantage points selected midway along south of site and at northernmost point of site giving excellent overview of site.

Species recorded – Robin, Song Thrush, Woodpigeon, Stock Dove, Starling, Chaffinch, Yellowhammer, Bullfinch, House Sparrow, Mallard, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Meadow Pipit, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Rook, Jackdaw, Raven, Linnet, Dunnock, Blackbird, Redwing, Fieldfare, Song Thrush, Goldfinch, Magpie, Hooded Crow, Red Kite, Buzzard, Kingfisher, Goldcrest, Skylark, Grey Heron.

A minimum of 15 Meadow Pipit, 5 Skylark and 7 Yellowhammer were noted foraging in center of site from 10.40hrs. 15 Fieldfare and 6 Redwing were noted foraging in northwest corner of site at 11.15hrs. Single Kingfisher were noted foraging on river at 11.25hrs and 13.25hrs at northwest corner of the site. A Raven passed north over the site at 10.52hrs and two passed south over the site at 14.20hrs. Single Red Kite were noted passing through west side of site at 11.12hrs and moving south through the west side at 12.05hrs. A Grey Heron and two Grey Wagtail were noted foraging on river at east side of the site at 11.25hrs. Single Buzzard were recorded soaring over the south side of the site at 10.22hrs and 12.35hrs. A flock of 140 Starling were noted foraging at the east and middle part of the site from 12.45hrs at intervals during the afternoon. Passerine notables from the hedgerow at south of site were Goldcrest (<6), Song Thrush (<4), Goldfinch (<15), Bullfinch (<2), Stock Dove (<1) and House Sparrow (<8).

February 23rd, 2022

Sunrise- 07.26hrs/Sunset 17.53hrs. Weather – Wind F3 Southwest, Cloud 7/8, occasional light showers, 8c, Good visibility. On-site 08.00hrs – 16.15hrs.

Winter Bird Survey dedicated for day to Area 1 (Phase 5) and Area 2 (Phase 10)

1 – Area around Barn adjacent Site offices (Phase 5)

Species recorded – Skylark, Herring Gull, Meadow Pipit, Yellowhammer, Reed Bunting, Linnet, Goldfinch, Rook, Jackdaw, Hooded Crow, Magpie, Woodpigeon, Wren, Blackbird.

08.15hrs – 10.00hrs. – Two Yellowhammer and three Skylark noted foraging on-site north of barns. A flock of 22 Linnet and 8 Goldfinch were noted foraging in field west of the barns. Minimum of 18 Herring Gull passed west and south over the site. Wren (<2), Blackbird (<1) and Woodpigeon (<5) were noted foraging in area immediately around the barns.

3- Area adjacent Broadmeadow River (Phase 10)

10.15hrs – 16.15hrs. – Site traversed three times during day, following hedgerow border to south and Broadmeadow River to north, and vantage points selected midway along south of site and at northernmost point of site giving excellent overview of site.

Species recorded – Robin, Song Thrush, Woodpigeon, Starling, Chaffinch, Yellowhammer, Bullfinch, House Sparrow, Mallard, Teal, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Meadow Pipit, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Rook, Jackdaw, Raven, Linnet, Dunnock, Blackbird, Fieldfare, Mistle Thrush, Song Thrush, Goldfinch, Magpie, Hooded Crow, Buzzard, Goldcrest, Herring Gull, Skylark, Snipe, Kingfisher, Grey Heron, Little Egret.

A single Kingfisher, two Little Egret and one Grey Heron were noted on river at east side of site at 11.00hrs, another sighting of a Kingfisher was recorded at the northwest corner of the site at 15.15hrs. Four Mallard and two Teal were noted foraging on river at the northwest corner of the site at 11.25hrs. Minimum of six Yellowhammer, 11 Meadow Pipit, 3 Skylark, 5 Fieldfare and two Pied Wagtail were recorded foraging in center and east of site from 11.30hrs and recorded at intervals for remainder of the day. Three Buzzards were noted soaring over the site at 12.55hrs and one was observed foraging on the ground at the east side of the site at 14.00hrs. Two Snipe were flushed from a damp area of the pasture in center of the site at 13.10hrs. A Raven flew south over the site at 11.30hrs and one was observed foraging on the ground at the west side of the site at 15.40hrs. The hedgerow line at south of site yielded minimum counts of Long-tailed Tit (<8), Coal Tit (<2), Great Tit (<1), Song Thrush (<6), Mistle Thrush (<2), Goldfinch (<25), Bullfinch (<4), Blackbird (<5), Wren (<6), Chaffinch (<8) Goldcrest (<4) and Dunnock (<8). A foraging flock of a minimum 50 Starling were recorded at the east side of the site at intervals during afternoon.

March 2nd, 2022

Sunrise- 07.10hrs/Sunset 18.04hrs. Weather – Wind F3 East, Cloud 8/8, occasional light showers, 7c, Good visibility. On-site 08.15hrs – 16.30hrs.

Winter Bird Survey dedicated for day to Area 1 (Phase 5) and Area 2 (Phase 10)

1 – Area around Barn adjacent Site offices (Phase 5)

Species recorded – Skylark, Herring Gull, Lesser black-backed Gull, Meadow Pipit, Yellowhammer, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Rook, Jackdaw, Hooded Crow, Magpie, Woodpigeon, Wren, Robin, Buzzard, Pheasant.

08.15hrs – 10.00hrs. – 15 Goldfinch and two Greenfinch were noted foraging west and south of the barns at 08.25hrs. Two Pheasant and two Yellowhammer were recorded foraging on-site to the west of the barns at 08.35hrs. Minimum of 7 Skylark noted west and north of the barns foraging from 08.45hrs. A Buzzard was noted foraging on ground west of the barns at 09.10hrs. Wren (<2), Robin (<1) and Meadow Pipit (<6) were noted foraging in area immediately around the barns. Minimum count of 14 Herring Gull and 1 Lesser black-backed Gull passed south over the site.

3- Area adjacent Broadmeadow River (Phase 10)

10.15hrs – 16.30hrs. – Site traversed three times during day, following hedgerow border to south and Broadmeadow River to north, and vantage points selected midway along south of site and at northernmost point of site giving excellent overview of site.

Species recorded – Robin, Song Thrush, Woodpigeon, Starling, Chaffinch, Yellowhammer, Stock Dove, House Sparrow, Mallard, Teal, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Meadow Pipit, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Rook, Jackdaw, Raven, Linnet, Redpoll, Dunnock, Blackbird, Fieldfare, Mistle thrush, Song Thrush, Goldfinch, Magpie, Hooded Crow, Buzzard, Herring Gull, Cormorant, Mute Swan, Red Kite, Goldcrest, Skylark, Grey Heron.

Seven Mallard and three Teal were recorded foraging the northwest corner of the site on the river at 10.40hrs. A Grey Heron and three Stock Dove were noted foraging adjacent the river at 10.55hrs. In center and east of the site 7 Yellowhammer, 15 Meadow Pipit, 2 Pied Wagtail and 4 Skylark were noted foraging from 11.30hrs. A Red Kite passed south over the west side of the site at 12.07hrs and two were recorded soaring over middle of site at 14.15hrs before moving north. One Buzzard was recorded perched on hedgerow at south of site at 13.20hrs and two flew north over the site at 14.27hrs. Two Mute Swan were recorded on the river at east side of the site from 11.05hrs and remained throughout. A Raven passed west over site at 11.20hrs and two passed south over site 14.55hrs. A flock of Fieldfare (<20) and two Mistle Thrush were noted foraging at west side of the site from 13.00-14.15hrs. One Cormorant flew west along river at 14.55hrs. Minimum counts of passerines along south boundary of site in tree line/hedgerow were Blackbird (<4), Chaffinch (<14), House Sparrow (<8), Goldcrest (<3), Long-tailed Tit (<5), Hooded Crow (<4), Redpoll (<2), Linnet (<16), Song Thrush (<4), Robin (<4), Goldfinch (<10) and Wren (<6).

March 22nd, 2022

Sunrise- 06.22hrs/Sunset 18.41hrs. Weather – Wind F2 Southeast, Cloud 5/8, Dry, 9c, Excellent visibility. On-site 08.15hrs – 16.30hrs.

Winter Bird Survey dedicated for day to Area 1 (Phase 5) and Area 2 (Phase 10)

1 – Area around Barn adjacent Site offices (Phase 5)

Species recorded – Skylark, Herring Gull, Meadow Pipit, Yellowhammer, Mistle Thrush, Blackbird, Goldfinch, Rook, Jackdaw, Hooded Crow, Magpie, Woodpigeon, Wren, Buzzard.

08.15hrs – 10.00hrs. – Minimum of 8 Herring Gull recorded passing over the site moving west and south. Two Yellowhammer were noted foraging west of the barns at 08.40hrs. Four Meadow Pipit, one Wren and two Blackbird noted foraging in area immediately around barns at 09.00hrs. Two Mistle Thrush, six Goldfinch and 14 Woodpigeon noted foraging in area north of the barns. Small numbers of corvids, mainly Jackdaw landing into forage at intervals on-site.

3- Area adjacent Broadmeadow River (Phase 10)

10.15hrs – 16.30hrs. – Site traversed three times during day, following hedgerow border to south and Broadmeadow River to north, and vantage points selected midway along south of site and at northernmost point of site giving excellent overview of site.

Species recorded – Robin, Song Thrush, Woodpigeon, Starling, Chaffinch, Yellowhammer, House Sparrow, Mallard, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Meadow Pipit, Wren, Pied Wagtail, Rook,

Jackdaw, Raven, Linnet, Redpoll, Blackcap, Dunnock, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Goldfinch, Magpie, Hooded Crow, Buzzard, Herring Gull, Lesser black-backed Gull, Mute Swan, Kingfisher, Red Kite, Goldcrest, Skylark, Grey Heron, Little Egret.

One Kingfisher was observed foraging at east end of site at river 10.42hrs, also two Mute Swan and one Little Egret observed in same area. In middle and east of site four Yellowhammer, 10 Linnet, 6 Meadow Pipit and 5 Skylark were observed foraging from 11.25hrs. A Red Kite was observed going south over middle of the site at 12.50hrs. Single Buzzards were recorded at 12.08hrs soaring at east side of site and at 13.35hrs at south side of the site. Two Mallard and a Grey Wagtail were observed on river at northwest of site at 14.45hrs. A flock of Woodpigeon (<40) were observed foraging at east side of the site from 12.20hrs. A foraging flock of minimum 60 Starling were observed foraging in center and east of the site from 11.40hrs returned intermittently during the day. Two Grey Heron were recorded one at east end of river 12.20hrs and another roosting in hedgerow/tree line at south of site at 15.15hrs. Herring Gull (min<20) and Lesser black-backed Gull (<4) were recorded passing over the site. In hedgerow/tree line bordering south of site Song Thrush (<5), Blackbird (<8), Goldcrest (<5), Redpoll (<6), Blackcap (<1), Linnet (<18), Chaffinch (<10), House Sparrow (<12), Robin (<2), Long-tailed Tit (<9) and Blue Tit (<6) were recorded during afternoon.

Comments and observations on survey results

49 bird species were recorded in the areas covered by these 10 winter bird surveys, from these species recorded Snipe and Redwing are red listed as species of conservation concern (in wintering category) in the revised Birdwatch Ireland List of birds of conservation concern in Ireland (2020-2026). Six species recorded are amber listed as wintering species in Ireland (Herring Gull, Lesser black-backed Gull, Cormorant, Mute Swan and Teal). While the results suggest that the site is not significant ex-situ foraging or roosting site for species of qualifying interest from nearby Special protection areas (SPA's), Mute Swan, Teal and Mallard were however being recorded in small numbers. Other significant species with a declining status in Ireland recorded on the site were Kingfisher (on the Broadmeadows River), Yellowhammer, Meadow Pipit and Skylark.