

Prosiect Maen Hir

Solar a Storio Ynni



Preliminary Environmental Information Report Volume III

Appendix 7-4: Ornithology Report

Prosiect Maen Hir - August 2024

EN010156

lightsource bp



Environmental Impact Assessment Ornithology Interim Survey Report

August 2024

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 This Appendix summarises the ornithological data that has been used to inform the scope of the survey and includes interim results of dedicated surveys undertaken to date.
- 1.1.2 The Project will comprise the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) generating panels (the 'Solar PV Site'), a battery energy storage system (BESS), Project substation, associated interconnecting cables, site accesses and mitigation areas – collectively referred to as the 'Site'.
- 1.1.3 The Site is broadly broken down into three discrete regions: Maen Hir North, Maen Hir Central and Maen Hir South A and B. Maen Hir North includes fields 01-12, which includes the ex-Shell Site (area of brownfield land that was formerly a Shell operated fuel terminal), Maen Hir Central includes fields 13-19, Maen Hir South B includes fields 21-24 and Maen Hir South A includes 50 fields.
- 1.1.4 This baseline report details the approach and findings of the ongoing surveys for birds. Baseline data presented in this Appendix has been used to inform Chapter 07 Ecology of the PEIR. This Appendix will be updated following the results of the 2024 surveys to inform the Environmental Statement (ES).

1.2 Consultation

- 1.2.1 Following the scoping response from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in December 2023 further surveys were scheduled to ensure that additional effort had been targeted for the potential presence of chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, Greenland white fronted goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus* and barn owl *Tyto alba*.
- 1.2.2 A follow-up meeting with NRW, in June 2024 discussed the latest findings regarding the additional survey effort undertaken and confirmed methods. Additional sources of desktop data were discussed, which will be available to inform the ES.

1.3 Scope

1.3.1 The following terminology is used to describe the geographic areas in which the survey work has been conducted:

- Desk Study Area (hereafter referred to as the 'Study Area'): This area was subject to the collection of background information, such as desk study records for birds, to supplement the survey work findings. The Study Area comprises PEIR boundary plus a 2 km radius. The Desk Study data was based on the Scheme extent as off October 2023. The Scheme has hence forth evolved to include additional proposed highway upgrade corridors, however these have not been included within this reporting and will be updated for the ES.
- Ornithological Survey Area (hereafter referred to as the 'Survey Area'): This area is the focus of the ornithological survey work and is shown in **Figure 7-4-1**. The Survey Area includes land within and up to 100 m from the PEIR Boundary. Similarly, this 100 m buffer was measured from the October 2023 Scheme extent and will therefore be updated with any amendments for the ES.

1.4 Survey Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aim of this report is to determine the presence, assemblage and distribution of breeding and wintering bird species within the Survey Area.

1.4.2 The objectives, therefore, are to:

- review existing ecological data to identify any records of birds occurring within the Study Area; and,
- undertake surveys of breeding birds to confirm presence, assemblage and distribution of bird species.

1.4.3 Combined, this is being used to:

- determine the nature conservation value of the Site for birds; and,
- the potential impacts of the Scheme on birds and any required mitigation.

2 Legislation and Planning Policy

2.1 Relevant Legislation

Wildlife and Countryside Act

2.1.1 The legislative provisions for the protection of wild birds in the UK are contained primarily in Sections 1-7 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) (Ref. 7-4.1). Under the WCA, a wild bird is defined as any bird of a species that occurs in a wild state as a resident or a visitor to United Kingdom or any member State or the European territory.

2.1.2 In addition to the protection from killing or taking that all birds receive, species included on Schedule 1 of the WCA and their young must not be disturbed at the nest.

Directive of the Conservation of Wild Birds

2.1.3 Several bird species recorded within the UK (including those that are resident, overwintering and migratory) are protected under European legislation under the Directive of the Conservation of Wild Birds (EU Birds Directive) (Ref. 7-4.2), which lists 193 species, or sub-species, of birds in Annex 1 which are:

- In danger of extinction;
- Rare, or have restricted local distribution;
- Vulnerable to specific changes in their habitat; or,
- Require particular attention for reasons of the specific nature of habitat.

2.1.4 This Directive is reflected in English law by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (Ref. 7-4.3). Although the UK is no longer a member state of the European Union, the 2019 amendments to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 make it clear that provisions regarding the protection and designation of Special Protection Areas (SPA) are maintained (Ref. 7-4.4). Species listed on Annex 1 are those for which the UK Government takes special conservation measures including the designation of land as SPAs to ensure the survival and reproduction of these species throughout their distributions. These sites are automatically included within the National Site Network; a network of core breeding and resting sites that are protected for rare and threatened species.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

- 2.1.5 The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (the 'Act') replaces the duty in section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006 in relation to Wales, with a duty on public authorities to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity. Section 7 of the Act replaces the duty in section 42 of the NERC Act 2006. The Welsh Ministers publish, review and revise lists of living organisms and types of habitats in Wales, which they consider are of key significance to sustain and improve biodiversity in relation to Wales. With regards to birds specifically, 51 species are included as part of Section 7 of the Act (Ref. 7-4.5).

2.2 Planning Policy

- 2.2.1 The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) was launched in 1994 and identified UK BAP priority species of conservation concern that are the most threatened in the UK and requiring action under the UKBAP and for which action plans have been published (Ref. 7-4.6). However, the work undertaken for the UKBAP is now focussed on a country level, rather than UK level, and the UKBAP has subsequently been succeeded by the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (July 2012). However, the UK list of priority species remains an important reference source and has been used to help draw up statutory lists of priority species in Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. For the purpose of this assessment, the UK BAP is still used as one of the criteria to assist in assigning national value to any given ecological receptor.
- 2.2.2 The Anglesey Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) 2002 (updated in 2003) (Ref. 7-4.7) lists local priority habitats and species; these are still relevant and used during the present day when considering conservation on the island. Seven bird species are included as priority species, these are presented in **Table 7-4-1**, alongside details of the factors causing decline/issues.

Table 7-4-1. Anglesey LBAP Priority Species (Birds)

Common name (Scientific name)	Factors Causing Decline / Issues
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss and fragmentation of areas of reedbeds through drainage and succession • Decline in reedbed habitat condition • Water quality, fish populations
Song thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pesticide use - particularly slug/snail pellets • Cutting of hedges in autumn, removing food sources (berries, insects) • Autumn sowing • Some loss of habitat such as hedgerows • Cat predation
Chough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent and quality of foraging habitat • Unintentional human disturbance – climbing, walking and bird-watching • Egg collecting, and shooting • Natural predators such as peregrine may affect roosts and fledging success
Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change from hay making to silage has led to much earlier mowing, unfavourable for breeding/nesting • Began decline with mechanisation of cutting • Loss of arable margins • High stocking rates
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of food supply (insects) due to conversion of hay meadows to improved grass for silage • Early harvest/cut destroys nests and exposes birds to predators • Loss of arable land to intensive grazing
Grey partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change from hay making to silage. Earlier harvest dates lead to nest destruction • Grass cutting pattern can trap birds in middle of field

Common name (Scientific name)	Factors Causing Decline / Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of arable margins and decline in hedgerows as insect food sources • Shift from mixed farming to intensive sheep grazing • Use of pesticides
Barn owl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of hunting habitat e.g., arable margins • Loss of nest sites by conversion of barns and outbuildings • Secondary poisoning from rodenticides

2.2.3 In addition to Species Action Plans for the aforementioned bird species, the Anglesey LBAP lists ‘some 25 bird species which are either rare or threatened and/or characteristic to Anglesey. Many of these species should benefit through various Habitat Action Plans’; the Habitat Action Plans, and the bird species likely to benefit from them, are provided in **Table 7-4-2**.

Table 7-4-2. Habitat Action Plans likely to benefit additional bird species

Habitat Action Plan	Bird Species Likely to Benefit
Coastal Saline Lagoons	Sandwich tern <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i> Roseate tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> Arctic tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>
Lakes (provisional future Habitat Action Plan)	Common tern Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> Cetti’s warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>
Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	Arctic tern Rock pipit <i>Anthus petrosus</i> Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> Shoveler <i>Spatula clypeata</i> Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>

Habitat Action Plan	Bird Species Likely to Benefit
	Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Sea Cliffs and Rocky Shores	Razorbill <i>Alca torda</i> Puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i> Black guillemot <i>Cephus grylle</i> Rock pipit Redshank Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i> Kestrel
Lowland / Coastal Heath	Lapwing Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i> Curlew Stonechat <i>Saxicola rubicola</i> Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> Peregrine Kestrel Swallow Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i> Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Field Edges (provisional future Habitat Action Plan)	Lapwing Snipe Curlew Stonechat Tree sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i> Quail Kestrel Swallow Linnet Goldfinch
Sandy Beaches	Redshank Curlew
Ancient Hedgerows	Yellowhammer Quail

Habitat Action Plan	Bird Species Likely to Benefit
	Goldfinch
Broadleaved Woodland	Tree sparrow Kestrel Linnet Goldfinch

2.3 Birds of Conservation Concern

United Kingdom

2.3.1 The Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) is an assessment of the conservation status of all regularly occurring birds within the UK (Ref. 7-4.8). The lists (Red, Amber and Green), that indicate the level of conservation importance for each species, are derived from quantitative assessments from standardised criteria. The assessment is based on the most up-to-date evidence available, and criteria include conservation status at global and European levels and, within the UK: historical decline, trends in population and range, rarity, localised distribution and international importance. The lists are drawn together by the UK's leading bird conservation organisations, including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

2.3.2 Red list species are of the most conservation concern and are those that:

- Are globally threatened (Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable, but not Near Threatened) under International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) guidelines;
- Have shown a historical population decline between 1800 and 1995 and have not recovered;
- Have suffered a severe non-breeding population decline of more than 50%; and,
- Whose UK range in the non-breeding season has declined by more than 50% between respective breeding and non-breeding atlases.

2.3.3 Amber list species include:

- Those that are threatened in Europe (Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable, but not Near Threatened as per IUCN Red List Guidelines);
- Those that were previously red listed for historical population decline, followed by an increase of at least 100% over 25 years or the longer-term period;
- Those that have suffered a moderate non-breeding population decline of between 25% and 50%;
- Those whose UK range in the non-breeding season has declined by more than 50% between respective breeding and non-breeding atlases;
- Non-breeding rarities (UK population <900 non-breeding individuals);
- Non-breeding localisation whereby more than 50% of the UK population was found at ten or fewer sites in the non-breeding season; and,
- Non-breeding international importance whereby the UK holds at least 20% of the European population in the non-breeding (WI) season of a particular species.

2.3.4 Green list species are not of conservation concern and include all other commonly occurring birds in the UK.

2.3.5 The BoCC lists confer no legal status, however where any BoCC Red or Amber-listed species are present at a site, their conservation status should be considered when determining the likely impacts (and significance) of proposed plans and projects and in determining the level of mitigation that may be required when birds are to be affected by plans or projects.

Wales

2.3.6 Wales has its own BoCC list, which was last updated and published in December 2022; Birds of Conservation Concern Wales (BoCCW) 4 (Ref. 7-4.9). Conservation concern for BoCC and BoCCW is categorised in the same way, resulting in Red, Amber and Green Lists. Both sets of lists are applicable to the assessment and are, therefore, both referred to throughout this report.

3 Methods

3.1 Desk Study

- 3.1.1 A desk study was conducted to identify designated sites listed for their ornithological interest, as well as records of protected and notable bird species relevant to the Project within the past ten years. In particular, locations of ornithological interest or sensitivity, such as habitats regularly used by roosting and foraging birds as identified during the desk study are also included.
- 3.1.2 Internationally and nationally designated sites listed for their ornithological interest were obtained using the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (Ref. 7-4.10). A greater search area of 15 km was applied for internationally designated sites listed for their ornithological interest due to the mobile nature of birds.
- 3.1.3 Records of protected and notable bird species within a search area of approximately 2 km of the Site were obtained from Cofnod (North Wales Environmental Information Service) in October 2023 (see limitations section regarding search area discrepancies).
- 3.1.4 Only records up to 10 years old from the date of request have been included within this assessment due to the likelihood that older records are unlikely to reflect bird assemblages within the local area during more recent times.

3.2 Field Surveys

- 3.2.1 Breeding bird and wintering bird surveys were initially conducted between November 2022 and July 2023 across all fields within Maen Hir North and Central, prior to the addition of Maen Hir South to the Scheme.
- 3.2.2 For all surveys, all birds observed were recorded onto a mobile recording device pre-loaded with the Geographical Information System (GIS) platform Field Maps, which incorporated an aerial imagery background.

Breeding Birds

- 3.2.3 The Survey Area included all habitats within the Site, and a buffer of approximately 50 m (where audible or visual detection of birds was possible). The walkover survey was carried out based on the territory mapping method as

detailed in Bibby *et al.* (2000) (Ref. 7-4.11) and Gilbert *et al.* (1998) (Ref. 7-4.12). This method follows the principle that many bird species hold territories during the breeding season. This is typically most pronounced in passerines, whereby territories are often announced and defended by conspicuous song, display and defensive encounters with other individuals.

3.2.4 The surveys were completed by experienced ornithologists, equipped with binoculars (and telescope where necessary, for example at Maen Hir Central fields bordering Llyn Alaw reservoir), following a transect which provided suitable visual coverage of all parts of the Survey Area, with regular stopping points to look and listen for birds. Transect routes followed hedgerows and field margins and incorporated other non-boundary habitats potentially suitable for breeding birds (such as scrub, waterbodies and woodland).

3.2.5 Due to the extent of the Site, the surveys were split over multiple days equating to five survey visits for all areas of the Site. All surveys were completed between April and July 2023 (inclusive) for Maen Hir North and Maen Hir Central , and between April and July 2024 (inclusive) for Maen Hir South A and B **Table 7-4-3** presents the dates during which the surveys were completed.

Table 7-4-3. Survey dates of breeding bird surveys conducted to date

Visit Number	Survey Dates			
	Maen Hir North*	Maen Hir Central*	Maen Hir South A*	Maen Hir South B*
1	18 – 21 April 2023	2 – 4 April 2023	17 – 19 April 2024	3 – 5 April 2024
2	25 – 27 April & 9 May 2023	18 – 20 April 2023	7 – 10 May 2024	7 – 10 May 2024
3	16 – 18 May 2023	7 -9 May 2023	20 – 24 May 2024	20 – 24 May 2024
4	13 – 15 June 2023	24 & 25 May 2023	3 – 7 June 2024	3 – 7 June 2024
5	4 – 6 July 2023	7 & 8 June 2023	17 – 19 June 2024	2 – 4 July 2024

*Maen Hir North fields 01-12 and Ex-Shell Site, Maen Hir Central fields 13-19, Maen Hir South A 50 fields, and Maen Hir South B fields 21-24.

3.2.6 The survey transects typically followed field margins and incorporated sufficient views into the field interior. Deviations, where considered appropriate, were made to incorporate habitats such as woodland, ponds and scrub which did not coincide with field boundaries.

3.2.7 During each survey visit, the transect was walked during daylight hours at a slow-to-moderate pace, with start and finish times recorded alongside other metadata, such as weather conditions; these data will be provided in the ES.

Wintering Birds

3.2.8 The Survey Area included all habitats within the Site, and a buffer of approximately 100 m (where audible or visual detection of birds was possible). The walkover survey was undertaken based on a transect methodology as detailed in Bibby *et al.* (2000) (Ref. 7-4.11) and Gilbert *et al.* (1998) (Ref. 7-4.12). This involved an experienced ornithologist, equipped with binoculars (and telescope where necessary, such as Maen Hir Central fields bordering Llyn Alaw reservoir), following a transect which provided suitable visual coverage of all parts of the Survey Area, with regular stopping points to look and listen for birds. The following species/groups recorded during the surveys comprised:

- Waders;
- Wildfowl (ducks, geese and swans);
- Grebes;
- Divers;
- Herons (including egrets);
- Kingfisher;
- Gulls;
- Annex 1 and/or Schedule 1 raptors; and,
- All Red and Amber List species not already covered by the aforementioned groups.

3.2.9 The surveys for Maen Hir North, Maen Hir Central, and Maen Hir South A and B were carried out between November 2022 and March 2023 (inclusive) and completed in October 2023. Fields 5, 11, 12, 21 and 24 were not surveyed in November 2022. However, the survey effort is considered to provide an accurate

representation of the baseline wintering bird assemblage within the Survey Area since only a single visit was missed and these fields do not Support habitats of significant value for winter bird species.

3.2.10 Further surveys were conducted between January and March 2024 for the ex-Shell Site once access to the entire field had been granted, as initial surveys had been conducted from the Public Right of Way. This suite of winter bird surveys is due to be completed in December 2024.

3.2.11 Due to the number of fields and therefore large extent of the Survey Area, the surveys lasted for several days per month, as presented in **Table 7-4-4**, and were carried out simultaneously by two ornithologists.

Table 7-4-4. Survey dates of wintering bird surveys conducted to date

Visit Number	Survey Dates					
	Maen Hir North	Ex-Shell Site		Maen Hir Central	Maen Hir South B	Maen Hir South A
1	23 – 25 November 2022	25 November 2022	11 January 2024	21 – 22 and 30 November 2022	29 – 30 November 2022	27 – 29 February 2024
2	6 – 8 December 2022	7 December 2022	6 February 2024	6 and 8 December 2022	7 – 8 December 2022	20 – 22 March 2024
3	24 – 27 January 2023	25 January 2023	7 March 2024	23 – 24 and 26 January 2023	24 – 26 January 2023	To be completed October 2024
4	20 – 24 February 2023	22 February 2023	To be completed October 2024	20 – 21 and 23 February 2023	22 – 24 February 2023	To be completed November 2024
5	28 – 30 March 2023	28 March 2023	To be completed November 2024	27 and 30 March 2023	28 – 30 March 2023	To be completed December 2024
6	2 – 5 October 2023	2 – 5 October 2023	To be completed December 2024	2 – 5 October 2023	2 – 5 October 2023	To be completed January 2025

*Northern fields 01-12, central fields 13-19, southern fields 21-24

3.2.12 The survey transects typically followed field margins and incorporated sufficient views into field interior. Deviations, where considered appropriate, were made to incorporate habitats such as woodland, ponds and scrub which did not coincide with field boundaries.

3.2.13 During each survey visit, the transect was walked during daylight hours at a slow-to-moderate pace, with start and finish times recorded alongside other metadata, such as weather conditions; these data will be provided in the ES.

3.2.14 These surveys are still ongoing and will be completed in the appropriate season.

Vantage Point Surveys

3.2.15 The survey commenced in January 2024 with a scoping visit to record potential survey locations and to trial the survey method before implementation in February 2024.

3.2.16 The Survey Area included all habitats within the Site where Greenland white fronted goose and whooper swan have been previously recorded (see PEIR Volume III Appendix 2-2: Scoping Response Matrix) and which appeared to provide the best roosting and undisturbed foraging areas. Surveys were focused on Llyn Alaw and the associated high-quality (Improved) pasture to the northeast of Llyn Alaw which provides relatively undisturbed foraging areas for this species.

3.2.17 Two vantage point surveys were carried out 30 minutes before sunrise and continuing for at least 60 minutes after sunrise, and a further two surveys were carried out starting 60 minutes before sunset and continuing for at least 30 minutes after sunset or until it was too dark to record birds effectively. This involved an experienced ornithologist, equipped with binoculars and telescope, using three Vantage Point locations (see **Figure 7-4-2**), which allowed a view across Llyn Alaw, which is one of two potential roost sites for Greenland white fronted goose on Anglesey, to record any birds flying in or out of Llyn Alaw. **Table 7-4-5** presents the dates during which the surveys were completed.

Table 7-4-5. Survey dates of vantage point surveys conducted to date

Visit Number	Survey Dates
Initial Assessment and scoping	25 January 2024
1	5 February 2024
2	26 February 2024
3	11 March 2024
4	20 March 2024
5	3 – 5 April 2024
6	17 – 19 April 2024

3.2.18 Start and finish times were recorded alongside other metadata, such as weather conditions. This data will be provided in the ES.

3.2.19 These surveys are still ongoing and will be completed between October 2024 and January 2025 to ensure a full season of winter months has been surveyed.

Driven Transect Surveys

3.2.20 The survey commenced in January 2024 with a scoping visit to record potential survey locations and trial the transect route and potential stopping points providing visibility across the Survey Area before implementation in February 2024. The Survey Area included all habitats within the Site where Greenland white fronted goose and whooper swan have been previously recorded and which appeared to provide the best roosting and undisturbed foraging areas. Surveys were focused on the associated high-quality pasture to the northeast of Llyn Alaw which provides relatively undisturbed foraging areas for these species.

3.2.21 The driven transect surveys involved an experienced ornithologist, equipped with binoculars and telescope, following a transect (see **Figure 7-4-3** for the route taken) at a steady speed, between 20-30 mph where possible, which provided suitable visual coverage of all parts of the Survey Area, with regular stopping points to scan fields in all directions for foraging wildfowl. Where groups of wildfowl

were observed that could not be identified from a distance, these fields were targeted for further closer investigation.

Table 7-4-6. Survey dates of driven transect surveys carried out to date

Visit Number	Survey Dates
Initial Assessment	25 January 2024
1	5 February 2024
2	26 February 2024
3	11 March 2024
4	20 March 2024
5	3 – 5 April 2024
6	17 – 19 April 2024

3.2.22 During each survey visit, the transect was driven during daylight hours, with start and finish times recorded alongside other metadata, such as weather conditions; these data will be provided in the ES.

3.2.23 These surveys are still ongoing and will be completed in the appropriate season.

Chough Surveys

3.2.24 All fields within the Site were assessed for their value for foraging chough, based on the following criteria:

- Numbers and type of grazing livestock;
- Sward height across 20 representative sample locations across the field;
- Habitat classification based on the Phase 1, including management.

3.2.25 Further surveys targeting choughs were carried out only in fields identified as providing suitable foraging habitat for wintering chough, and a buffer of approximately 100 m (where audible or visual detection of birds was possible) (see **Figure 7-4-4**). These were fields 05, 07, 09, 11, 12, 21 and 23. The survey was conducted based on a transect method as detailed in Bibby *et al.* (2000) (Ref.

7-4.11) and Gilbert *et al.* (1998) (Ref. 7-4.12). This involved an experienced ornithologist, equipped with binoculars (and telescope where necessary, such as Maen Hir Central fields bordering Llyn Alaw reservoir), following a transect which provided suitable visual coverage of all parts of the Survey Area, with regular stopping points to look and listen for chough.

Table 7-4-7. Survey dates for chough surveys conducted to date

Visit Number	Survey Dates
1	5 February 2024
2	26 February 2024
3	11 March 2024
4	20 March 2024
5	3 – 5 April 2024
6	17 – 19 April 2024

3.2.26 The survey transect typically followed field margins and incorporated sufficient views into field interiors. Deviations, where considered appropriate, were made to incorporate habitats such as woodland, ponds and scrub which did not coincide with field boundaries.

3.2.27 During each survey visit, the transect was walked during daylight hours at a slow-to-moderate pace, with start and finish times recorded alongside other metadata, such as weather conditions; these data will be provided in the ES.

3.2.28 These surveys are still ongoing and will be completed with further survey planned, following the same method, between September 2024 and January 2025.

Barn Owl Surveys

3.2.29 A desk study will be undertaken where a data request will be made to the local Anglesey barn owl survey co-ordinator to seek records of barn owl within 1 km of the Site. Following this a survey of all buildings and trees within the Site and 100 m buffer (where access can be obtained) will be undertaken to determine the

presence or absence of breeding or roosting barn owl. These surveys will be completed in 2024.

3.3 Limitations and Assumptions

- 3.3.1 Species information referenced in the assessment has been collected from site surveys undertaken on land within and around the Survey Area between November 2022 to July 2024 where permission to access the land was obtained from landowners. Where any survey data are currently incomplete or limited, and further work is required to inform the assessment, this is presented within the Main Chapter, along with a summary of work that will be completed for the ES. Complete datasets will be presented within the ES.
- 3.3.2 The design of the Scheme has evolved since the EIA Scoping Request (PEIR Volume III Appendix 2-1: EIA Scoping Request) was issued in November 2023. This has included the incorporation of Maen Hir South A into the Project in 2024. Over wintering bird surveys were carried out in Main Hir South in February and March 2024. Additionally, this change was actioned after the majority of appropriate seasonal windows had closed in 2023. Further ecology surveys will be undertaken as appropriate in spring/summer/winter 2024/25.
- 3.3.3 Where surveys are not yet complete, both within the Site and the Grid Connection and including proposed Cable Route Corridor, proposed Highways Works land and proposed Construction Access routes, these will continue in 2024/25 (within appropriate seasonal windows) and will be reported within the ES that will accompany the DCO application. The results presented in this Appendix therefore may not fully reflect the likely year-round use by birds of the habitats within the Survey Area.
- 3.3.4 Species, particularly highly mobile ones such as birds, can be transient and their presence intermittent. Desk study data provides a snapshot of the presence of species rather than a comprehensive record of all the species that use the habitats within a search area. Furthermore, they are dependent on records being collected and submitted to the relevant records centre, rather than being collected systematically by means of a formal survey protocol carried out at regular

intervals. Therefore, the absence of a species record cannot be interpreted as the absence of a species within a search area. Conversely, the effects of habitat and other environmental changes (such as climate change) and other factors acting that influence the distribution and numbers of a given species over time means that the absence of a species record cannot be taken to mean that the species is entirely absent from a search area.

- 3.3.5 Wintering bird surveys were not undertaken for fields 5, 11, 12, 21 and 24 in November 2022 due to a surveyor health issue, and delay in procuring a replacement surveyor, resulting in an inability to complete these fields during November. However, the survey effort is considered to provide an accurate representation of the baseline wintering bird assemblage within the Survey Area since only a single visit was missed and these fields do not support habitats of significant value for winter bird species.
- 3.3.6 It has been assumed that the PV arrays will be of a maximum height of 3.5 m above ground level (AGL) at the rear, and between 0.5 to 1 m clearance at the front. This will allow the implementation of a Grazing Management Plan (as part of the oLEMP), to ensure grassland habitats can be suitably managed.
- 3.3.7 It has been assumed that habitats of a similar composition will also have a similar farmland bird assemblage, and therefore the results from habitats successfully surveyed are also representative of those where access has been refused.
- 3.3.8 The current surveys have not yet been completed and therefore may not fully reflect the likely year-round use by birds of the habitats within the Survey Area. However, a suite of ornithological surveys has been undertaken across a wide area and representing most habitat types within the Site and therefore is suitable at this stage to inform likely impacts on a broad scale.

4 Results

4.1 Desk Study

Designated Sites

4.1.1 **Table 7-4-8** summarises the designated sites (notified for ornithological features) within the Study Area and their spatial relationship to the Project. The designated sites are shown on **Figures 7-1 – 7-2**.

Table 7-4-8. Designated sites (notified for ornithological features) within the Study Area

Designated Site	Interest Feature(s) Reason(s) for Notification	Approximate Distance (km) and Direction from Closest Point of the Site
Llyn Alaw SSSI	It has considerable ornithological interest especially for overwintering wildfowl and the number of teal (<i>Ana crecca</i>), shoveler <i>Spatula clypeata</i> and whooper swans at times are around 1% of the British population. Other wildfowl species which occur, include mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> , wigeon <i>Mareca penelope</i> , goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> , pochard <i>Aythya farina</i> and tufted duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i> and more recently ruddy duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> and sometimes pink-footed geese <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i> . Common terns and black-headed gulls <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> nest on islands in the reservoir while tufted duck, great crested grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> and coot <i>Fulica atra</i> also nest. In autumn large flocks of waders, in particular curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> , lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> and golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> , visit the exposed mud areas.	Immediately adjacent to the Site
Cors Bodwrog SSSI	The breeding bird community which is of local importance includes teal, reed warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> , grasshopper warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i> and curlew.	Immediately adjacent to the Site

Coed Cae Mawr LWS	This site is valuable for bird life as woodland is scarce in this part of Anglesey.	Immediately adjacent to the Site
Llyn Llaethdy LWS	This site is attractive to birds. It is a winter-feeding area for waders and wildfowl. Birds of prey hunt over the marshy grassland.	Immediately adjacent to the Site
Mynydd Parys LWS	The site has breeding stonechat, yellowhammer, whitethroat and wheatear.	Immediately adjacent to the Site
Arfordir Porth Wen - Porth Llechog LWS	This section of coast has considerable ornithological interest with breeding oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> , fulmar <i>Fulmarus</i> sp. and herring gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> . It is also used as a feeding area by chough and raven.	1.02 north
Anglesey Terns/Morwenoliaid Ynys Môn SPA	During the breeding season the area regularly supports: Roseate tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> , 3 pairs representing 5% of the GB breeding population; Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> , 189 pairs representing 1.5% of the GB breeding population; Arctic tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> , 1,290 pairs representing 2.9% of the GB breeding population; Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicencis</i> , 460 pairs representing 3.3% of the GB breeding population.	1.04 northeast
Arfordir Trwyn y Buarth - Porth Wen LWS	The ornithological interest of this site is considerable. Choughs and ravens feed here, and fulmars breed on the cliffs. Other breeding birds include yellowhammer, stonechat, wheatear and whitethroat.	1.38 northwest
Tir Lleidiog Ty Du LWS	Birdlife associated with this site includes grasshopper warbler, sedge warbler, garden warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i> , reed bunting, whitethroat and moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> .	1.85 northwest

<p>Cors y Bol LWS</p>	<p>The site has considerable ornithological interest with populations of breeding snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>, curlew, lapwing, grasshopper warbler, sedge warbler, reed bunting, whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> and whitethroat. Barn owls <i>Tyto alba</i> use it for hunting, and it provides a wintering area for greylag <i>Anser anser</i> and Canada goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>, woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> and harriers <i>Circinae</i> spp..</p>	<p>1.99 south</p>
<p>Nant Y Pandy (The Dingle) LNR</p>	<p>The site supports many bird species including grey wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>, kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>, tawny owl <i>Strix aluco</i>, buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i> and grey heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>.</p>	<p>2.18 southeast</p>
<p>Llyn Llygeirian SSSI</p>	<p>Although this lake is not of major significance for wildfowl, it does support a number of overwintering species, notably gadwall <i>Mareca strepera</i> and whooper swans.</p>	<p>2.33 northwest</p>
<p>Llyn Llywenan SSSI</p>	<p>The lake is an example of a moderately base-rich lowland lake with a variety of overwintering wildfowl species including mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>, teal <i>Anas crecca</i>, wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>, tufted duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i> and pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>.</p>	<p>2.70 northwest</p>
<p>Llyn Traffwl SSSI</p>	<p>The lake is important for overwintering wildfowl, notably shoveler whose numbers frequently represent more than 1% of the British total. A variety of other species also occur including wigeon, mallard, gadwall, goldeneye, pochard and tufted duck.</p>	<p>3.52 west</p>
<p>Liverpool Bay/Bae Lerpwl (Wales) SPA</p>	<p>The Liverpool Bay SPA site supports non-breeding red-throated diver <i>Gavia stellata</i>, little gull <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>, and common scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i>, as well as breeding common tern</p>	<p>3.82 east</p>

	<i>Sterna hirundo</i> and little tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> . The site also supports an internationally important waterbird assemblage.	
Trwyn yr Wylfa / Wylfa Head LNR	Although there are no specific ornithological interest features listed for the site itself, the following have been recorded passing offshore: gannets <i>Morus bassanus</i> , shearwaters <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> , terns <i>Sternidae</i> spp. and other seabirds.	4.52 northwest
Llynnau y Fali – Valley Lakes SSSI	For overwintering wildfowl, they are especially important for shoveler; other species include teal, tufted duck, pochard and goldeneye. The vegetation more over also provides breeding habitat for a variety of wetland birds.	4.78 west
Llyn Maelog SSSI	A small shallow lake and fringing reedbeds trapped behind the dunes of Tywyn Llyn common land at Rhosneigr. The lake supports good numbers of wintering coot and other wildfowl and some stay to breed in the reedbeds and islands.	4.89 southwest
Glannau Ynys Gybi/ Holy Island SAC, SPA	Two Annex 1 bird species breed along the cliffs, the chough, for which the site is also selected, and the peregrine. Other species of interest are breeding shag <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> , raven <i>Corvus corax</i> and kestrel which nest on the cliffs and populations of whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i> , wheatear <i>Oenanthe Oenanthe</i> and stonechat, which are supported by the large areas of maritime heath and scrub.	7.81 west
Traeth Lafan / Lavan Sands, Conway Bay SAC, SPA and SSSI	The area supports 1.4% of the UK population of wintering oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> , and further supports populations of curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> , redshank, red-breasted merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i> and great crested grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> .	14.83 southeast

Species

Cofnod

4.1.2 Records of 156 bird species within approximately 2 km of the Study Area, for the last 10 years, were provided by Cofnod. Annex 1 and Schedule 1 birds within the Survey Area are listed in **Table 7-4-9**. A full list of the 156 species will be provided in the ES.

Table 7-4-9. Annex 1 and Schedule 1 birds within the Survey Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	Annex 1	Schedule 1	BoCCW (Red and Amber Lists)	Section 7
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	X		Amber	X
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	X	X	Green	
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	X	X	Red	X
Purple sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>		X	Red	
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	X	X	Amber	
Cetti's warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		X	Green	
Marsh harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	X	X	Amber	
Hen harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	X	X	Red	X
Long tailed duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>		X	Red	
Whooper swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	X	X	Amber	
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	X	X	Red	
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	X	X		
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		X	Amber	
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>		X		
Black-throated diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>		X	Amber	
Great northern diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	X		Amber	
Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	X	X	Amber	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Annex 1	Schedule 1	BoCCW (Red and Amber Lists)	Section 7
Little gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	X	X	Amber	
Mediterranean gull	<i>Icthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	X	X	Amber	
Black-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		X	Amber	
Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		X		
Velvet scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>		X	Amber	
Common scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>		X	Amber	X
Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	X	X	Amber	
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		X	Amber	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	X	X	Amber	
Snow bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>		X	Amber	
Golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	X		Red	X
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		X	Amber	X
Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	X	X	Amber	X
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	X	X	Amber	
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		X	Amber	
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	X	X	Amber	
Roseate tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	X	X	Red	X
Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	X	X	Amber	
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	X		Amber	
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>		X	Amber	
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		X	Amber	
Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		X	Amber	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Annex 1	Schedule 1	BoCCW (Red and Amber Lists)	Section 7
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		X	Amber	
Short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	X		Red	
Barnacle goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	X		Amber	
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>		X	Red	
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	X		Red	
Storm petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	X		Amber	
Common tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	X		Red	
Arctic tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	X		Red	
Sandwich tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	X		Amber	

4.2 Field Surveys

4.2.1 Due to the extent of the Site, a variety of habitat types are present. However, most land within the Site comprises sheep and cattle-grazed pasture. Other habitats present within the Site include, but are not limited to hedgerows, cloddiau (a field boundary typically constructed of stone and earth, sometimes with a hedgerow on top), scrub, woodland, rocky outcrops, ponds, ditches and streams. Additionally, Llyn Alaw reservoir is situated south of Maen Hir Central, just beyond the PEIR Boundary.

Breeding Birds

4.2.2 The surveys commenced in April 2023 and were completed in July 2024. The breeding bird survey findings will be presented and assessed in the ES.

4.2.3 A summary of the breeding and conservation status of the 71 species recorded during the surveys, with the numbers of territories identified (or thought likely in the case of probable and possible records) is provided in **Table 7-4-10** and illustrated in **Figure 7-4-5** for surveys completed up to July 2023.

- 4.2.4 Survey data for Maen Hir South A and B is still being processed and so will be included in full in the ES.
- 4.2.5 For species which are widespread throughout the Survey Area (e.g. blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*), common within Anglesey and the UK and not of conservation concern (i.e. not listed on one or more of the lists of conservation concern as detailed in this report), the number of breeding territories of these species (including probable or possible) have not been calculated and these are referred to in **Table 7-4-10** as being present (P). Where non-breeding species were recorded as present, within one of the Scheme locations, these are referred to in **Table 7-4-10** using a tick (✓) to denote presence.
- 4.2.6 Breeding territory information for records of 'possible' or 'probable' breeders was also not calculated, due to the low number of registrations of birds.

Table 7-4-10. Results of breeding bird surveys conducted between April and July 2023

Species	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (where applicable)*	Breeding Status	1	2	3	5	6	7	9	11	12	Ex-Shell Site	13	14	17	18	19	Supporting Notes
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Non-native, no status	Confirmed	-	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5 – pond with island outside PEIR Boundary. 18 - likely nesting on small islets in Llyn Alaw
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Amber List	Possible	-	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	5 – pond with island outside RLB. Large 'feral' flock and birds flying over
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	Amber List	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	Recorded offshore in Llyn Alaw
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	Amber List	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	Recorded on small pool between fields 17/18
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber List	Probable	1	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	(1)	✓	✓	✓	(1)	1 – adult with juveniles Males and females recorded throughout, but no confirmed breeding
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Red List	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	Recorded offshore in Llyn Alaw
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Green List	Confirmed	-	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5 – pond with island outside RLB. Likely nesting on small islets in Llyn Alaw
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Red List, WCA	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	Recorded offshore in Llyn Alaw
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Non-native, no status	Confirmed	-	-	-	-	-	✓	1	-	1	-	✓	-	1	✓	-	-
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Green List	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	Cong – single adult on pool on visit 5. Single bird calling from pool on visit 1 only
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Green List	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	Recorded offshore in Llyn Alaw
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Green List	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	Recorded offshore in Llyn Alaw
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	A1, WCA	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	Single bird flew over on visit 1

Species	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (where applicable)*	Breeding Status	1	2	3	5	6	7	9	11	12	Ex-Shell Site	13	14	17	18	19	Supporting Notes
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green List	Confirmed	✓	-	✓	✓	(1)	2	-	-	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	-	✓	
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Amber List	Confirmed	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5 – pond with island outside RLB. Recorded on small pool between 17/18
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Amber List	Confirmed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	Likely nesting on small islets in Llyn Alaw
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	A1, S7	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	Group of seven in field on single visit only
Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	Red List, WCA, A1	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	Single bird flew high over on visit 1
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber List	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	Birds in April – likely late winter birds
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Amber List	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	Single bird flying along edge of Llyn Alaw
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Amber List	Non-breeding	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	Recorded on visit 1 only
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red List, S7	Non-breeding	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Red List ^W	Non-breeding	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber List	Confirmed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber List	Confirmed	(1)	✓	1	✓	✓	2	✓	1	1	5	1	1	1	5	✓	-
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Green List	Confirmed	-	-	-	-	-	(1)	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Amber List	Probable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	(1)	-	-	Single bird seen in suitable habitat on one visit – could breed so added as precaution
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Red List	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Green List	Confirmed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	✓	✓	-	

Species	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (where applicable)*	Breeding Status	1	2	3	5	6	7	9	11	12	Ex-Shell Site	13	14	17	18	19	Supporting Notes	
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Red List ^W , S7	Non-breeding	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	Single birds recorded only	
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Red List, A1, WCA	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	-	-	Single birds, spring migrant / late wintering bird	
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Amber List ^W	Confirmed	✓	✓	3	✓	-	(1)	✓	✓	(1)	(1)	1	(1)	(1)	(1)	-		
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	Green List	Confirmed	1	✓	1	✓	1	✓	✓	✓	(1)	✓	✓	(1)	(1)	1	-		
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Red List ^W	Confirmed	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	1	-	-	47	-	-	Ex-Shell Site– single active nest. Single rookery with 47 active nests counted	
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green List	Probable	✓	✓	✓	(1)	(1)	(1)	✓	✓	✓	(2)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	Difficult to territory map but probable breeding	
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Green List	Confirmed	(1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	-	✓	7 – fledglings in woodland nest. Single territory held throughout; trees adjacent to Llyn Alaw	
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green List	Confirmed	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	-
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green List	Confirmed	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red List, S7, LBAP	Confirmed	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	2	✓	1	-	✓	-	
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Green List	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Green List	Confirmed	✓	(1)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	1	✓	-	-	
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Red List	Confirmed	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	2	-	At least two pairs on farmhouse	
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	WCA	Confirmed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	1	Single territory held in reed area S/SW of 18/19 later moving into 18	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Green List	Possible	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber List	Confirmed	2	✓	3	1	2	1	✓	4	1	17	9	9	6	14	2	-	

Species	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (where applicable)*	Breeding Status	1	2	3	5	6	7	9	11	12	Ex-Shell Site	13	14	17	18	19	Supporting Notes
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Green List	Confirmed	-	-	7	-	✓	2	✓	3	2	22	6	3	6	6	✓	-
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Amber List	Confirmed	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	1	-	-	5	1	1	6	1	2	-
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Green List	Confirmed	P	-	P	-	P	P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Green List	Probable	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	(1)	✓	-	Single wide-ranging individual (if a territory)
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Amber List	Confirmed	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	-	18	8	5	11	4	4	-
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green List	Confirmed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	✓	(1)	1	✓	-	-
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber List	Confirmed	9	5	24	10	7	21	2	8	10	43	30	12	31	26	7	-
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green List	Confirmed	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber List, S7, LBAP	Confirmed	-	-	1	✓	-	1	-	1	✓	6	3	1	1	3	✓	-
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green List	Confirmed	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Red List	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	Single singing male on one visit only
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Green List	Confirmed	✓	-	1	1	✓	1	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	1	-	-
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Amber List	Confirmed	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red List, S7	Confirmed	1	1	5	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	4	✓	1	1	-	Associated with buildings and singing in adjacent hedgerows
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber List, S7	Confirmed	3	2	12	4	-	5	1	3	6	10	11	8	11	8	2	-
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Green List	Confirmed	P	-	P	-	P	-	-	P	P	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Red List ^W	Confirmed	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	4	Singing birds in 13, 14, 17 and 18 on single occasions only

Species	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (where applicable)*	Breeding Status	1	2	3	5	6	7	9	11	12	Ex-Shell Site	13	14	17	18	19	Supporting Notes
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Red List, S7	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	Passage bird, flying over
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Amber List ^W	Confirmed	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber List, S7	Confirmed	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	1	-	✓	-	1	-	-
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red List	Confirmed	-	-	2	-	-	-	✓	-	1	1	✓	-	-	-	-	Passage bird, flying over
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red List, S7	Confirmed	1	✓	-	✓	-	1	1	-	✓	1	1	-	1	✓	1	-
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	S7	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	Passage bird, flying over
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green List	Confirmed	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	✓	-
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Green List	Non-breeding	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	Passage bird, flying over
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber List, S7	Confirmed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-	2	-	✓	-
Total Number of Species Recorded: 71																			

(P) indicates presence of widespread species

(✓) indicates presence of non-breeding species

*Conservation Status abbreviations:

- ^{A1} indicates species is listed on Annex 1 of the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 1979 (as amended).

- ^{WCA} indicates species is listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

- ^{S7} indicates species is listed on Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

- ^{LBAP} indicates species has a Species Action Plan as part of the Anglesey Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

- ^W indicates conservation status is based on BoCCW⁹ due to higher status compared to UK BoCC.

Wintering Birds

- 4.2.7 The surveys commenced in November 2022 and are scheduled to be completed in January 2025. The wintering bird survey findings will be presented and assessed in the ES.
- 4.2.8 Survey data is still being collected and processed and so will be included in full in the ES.
- 4.2.9 A total of 58 bird species were recorded across the Survey Area during the survey period. **Table 7-4-11** presents a breakdown of the peak count (largest number of birds observed during a single visit) of each species per field and for the Survey Area as a whole for surveys completed up to March 2023. Please refer to **Figure 7-4-6** for the locations of all species recorded.

Table 7-4-11. Peak Count data and conservation status of wintering birds recorded during surveys conducted between November 2022 and March 2023

Species	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (where applicable) *	Peak Count Across All Surveys by Field																			
			01	02	03	05	06	07	09	Ex-Shell Site	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	21	22	23.26	24	Survey Area
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Non-native, no status	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	78	2	-	-	-	-	99
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Amber List	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	62	60	7	23	2	205	84	-	447
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Amber List	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Amber List, A1, WCA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	5	-	5	41	31	-	103	
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Red List ^W	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Amber List	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	Amber List	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	-	-	11	-	-	-	25
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	Amber List	-	-	1	-	-	11	-	-	-	15	-	9	11	-	-	35	-	-	-	82
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber List	4	3	3	6	-	8	4	-	6	3	3	-	36	27	2	27	9	7	17	165
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Amber List	-	-	-	11	-	4	-	-	17	24	1	-	7	18	7	47	30	9	-	175
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Red List	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	3	-	-	12	-	-	-	30
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Red List, WCA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	13	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber List	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber List	2	-	7	-	-	5	4	18	4	13	2	7	12	7	-	3	6	6	10	106
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Green List	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Amber List	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	4
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Green List	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	8	8	2	-	2	-	-	-	29
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Amber List ^W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Red List, S7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	6	-	-	8
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Red List	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	4	1	11
Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Amber List ^W	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	6

Species	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (where applicable) *	Peak Count Across All Surveys by Field																			
			01	02	03	05	06	07	09	Ex-Shell Site	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	21	22	23.26	24	Survey Area
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber List	38	6	13	15	-	17	8	5	22	4	8	1	6	14	31	53	329	2	4	576
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Amber List	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Amber List, S7	-	25	-	6	-	-	58	-	-	4	17	20	24	24	-	-	365	-	10	553
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Amber List	-	-	15	113	33	3	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	79	249
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Amber List	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	6	2	-	1	-	-	15
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red List, S7	32	33	51	15	115	43	15	-	3	25	36	28	70	70	12	244	405	19	27	1243
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Red List ^w	10	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	17
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Amber List ^w	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	2	-	9
Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Amber List, A1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber List	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	1	-	1	8
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	WCA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Amber List, A1, WCA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Red List, A1, S7, WCA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Red List ^w , S7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	6
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Red List, A1, WCA	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	5
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Amber List ^w	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	5	14
Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	Amber List ^w , A1, S7, WCA, LBAP	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Red List ^w	-	-	5	-	5	3	-	1	-	4	2	26	50	-	-	9	132	-	3	240
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red List, S7, LBAP	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	4	1	10	-	1	3	6	-	-	28

Species	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (where applicable) *	Peak Count Across All Surveys by Field																			
			01	02	03	05	06	07	09	Ex-Shell Site	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	21	22	23.26	24	Survey Area
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Red List ^W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber List	3	2	6	8	6	8	1	12	4	6	20	4	14	5	6	42	23	8	16	194
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red List, S7	500	158	104	50	82	380	100	4	45	140	205	43	176	100	100	1088	1578	186	359	5398
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber List, S7, LBAP	-	-	1	1	2	1	2	5	2	1	2	1	3	2	1	1	5	2	1	33
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red List	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	8
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Amber List, WCA	1	8	4	3	33	11	10	-	8	8	20	18	21	49	9	43	12	17	30	305
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red List, WCA	1	1	3	3	52	10	10	-	-	15	-	4	30	14	-	5	40	2	14	204
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Amber List	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red List, S7	10	1	7	-	-	-	6	-	-	10	4	-	5	-	-	11	5	8	6	73
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber List, S7	2	1	3	5	3	6	2	7	2	4	9	4	7	5	2	5	12	4	8	91
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Amber List	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	6
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Red List ^W	15	4	8	27	8	6	1	19	17	7	48	15	11	45	50	48	83	4	32	448
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	Amber List	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Amber List ^W	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	1	5	16
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber List, S7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	3	1	1	-	2	-	4	3	2	-	27
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red List	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red List, S7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber List, S7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2

*Conservation Status abbreviations:

- ^{A1} indicates species is listed on Annex 1 of the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 1979 (as amended).
- ^{WCA} indicates species is listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- ^{S7} indicates species is listed on Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- ^{LBAP} indicates species has a Species Action Plan as part of the Anglesey Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
- ^W indicates conservation status is based on BoCCW⁹ due to higher status compared to UK BoCC.

Vantage Point Surveys

- 4.2.10 The surveys commenced in January 2024 and are scheduled to be completed in January 2025. To date, Greenland white fronted goose has not been recorded during the surveys. To date, whooper swans have been recorded in fields 14 and 18 directly adjacent to Llyn Alaw, and in Maen Hir South B in fields 21, 22 and 23.26. Survey data is still being collected and processed, so the completed vantage point survey findings will be presented and assessed in the ES.

Driven Transect Surveys

- 4.2.11 The surveys commenced in January 2024 and are scheduled to be completed in January 2025. To date, Greenland white fronted goose has not been recorded during the surveys. To date, whooper swans have been recorded in fields 14 and 18 directly adjacent to Llyn Alaw, and in Maen Hir South B in fields 21, 22 and 23.26. Survey data is still being collected and processed, so the driven transect survey findings will be presented and assessed in the ES.

Chough Surveys

- 4.2.12 The surveys commenced in February 2024 and are scheduled to be completed in January 2025. To date, two choughs were observed feeding in field 11 in a single visit in February 2024. Survey data is still being collected and processed, so the chough survey findings will be presented and assessed in the ES.

Barn Owl Surveys

- 4.2.13 The surveys are yet to commence and are scheduled to be completed by August 2025. A barn owl was recorded roosting in an old barn on 3 July 2024 in field 21 although there was no evidence of breeding. The barn owl survey findings will be presented and assessed in the ES.

5 Summary

5.1.1 Breeding bird surveys have been completed for the entirety of the Survey Area. Wintering bird, vantage point, driven transect, chough and barn owl surveys are as yet outstanding.

5.1.2 The results of all surveys will be further analysed and presented in full in the ES.

5.1.3 The ES will pay particular consideration to the following:

- Foraging chough associated with the Glannau Ynys Gybi/Holy Island SPA;
- Foraging Greenland white fronted goose;
- Foraging and commuting whooper swan associated with the Llyn Alaw SSSI;
- Breeding barn owl;
- Winter bird assemblage; and,
- Breeding bird assemblage.

5.1.4 Broad mitigation at this stage is likely to include:

- Avoidance through timing of works;
- Hedgerow enhancements;
- Grassland and associated margins creation to provide foraging opportunities for Greenland white fronted goose, whooper swan and winter waders;
- Retention of rocky areas and short sward habitat nearby for foraging chough; and,
- Implementation of a management plan for all areas for chough.

6 References

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