
Appendix 15.4

Protected Fauna

VOL 4 APPENDIX 15

Table 35. Protected and rare species returned from the NBDC desk study search (within 5 km of the Proposed Scheme)

| Species Name | Legislative Protection | Red List Status | Record Count | Date of Last Record | Habitat Preferences ⁺ |
|--|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|---|
| Mammals (Terrestrial) | | | | | |
| Brown long-eared bat <i>Plecotus auritus</i> | ✓ _{c,e} | | 1 | 24/05/2012 | Prefers to forage in parkland, open deciduous and coniferous woodland, orchards and gardens. They are frequently found in older buildings, in lofts, barns, stables etc. Usually, they cluster along the ridge beam or next to a chimney. The species also makes use of trees as summer roosts and colonise bat boxes readily. |
| Daubenton's Bat <i>Myotis daubentonii</i> | ✓ _{c,e} | | 56 | 26/08/2014 | Calm, slow-moving water is chosen by Daubenton's Bat as it makes it easier for it to locate insects on the surface. Sometimes forages in woodland, away from water. Habitats include but are not necessarily limited to; Semi-natural woodland, Highly modified non-native woodland, Building and artificial surfaces, Lakes and Ponds, Watercourses. |
| Eurasian badger <i>Meles meles</i> | ✓ _e | | 71 | 03/01/2018 | Varied habitats including grassland, woodland and Bog often near hedgerows or treelines and streams. |
| Eurasian red squirrel <i>Sciurus vulgaris</i> | | | 4 | 31/12/2012 | Conifer-dominated woodland with a mixture of age classes and species together with some berry-bearing shrubs to ensure a continuous food supply. |
| European otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> | ✓ _{b,e} | Near Threatened | 18 | 16/09/2018 | Lakes and ponds, watercourses, riparian woodland, estuaries, sea inlets and bays, saltmarshes, swamps. |
| Lesser noctule <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i> | ✓ _{c,e} | | 9 | 24/05/2012 | Woodland species but it is also to be found in parkland, along treelines, pasture and riparian habitats, over lakes, beaches and dunes and above streetlights in urban areas. Not as dependent on linear features like hedgerows as our other bat species. |
| Nathusius's pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i> | - | | 2 | 13/08/2012 | Very similar to the common pipistrelle; highly adaptable species foraging along linear landscape features such as hedgerows and tree lines as well as within woodland and parkland. Roosting in old and modern structures in addition to trees and bat boxes. |
| Natterer's bat <i>Myotis nattereri</i> | - | | 2 | 24/05/2012 | Found in woodlands (deciduous and coniferous), along tree lines and hedgerows, in pasture and over water including white water rapids where it hunts higher than Daubenton's bat. Hibernation in underground sites such as caves, souterrains, mines and tunnels where it crawls into cracks and crevices as well as hanging in the open. Summer roost sites are usually in very old stone-built buildings, trees or bat or bird boxes and individual animals |

VOL 4 APPENDIX 15

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| | | | | | are sometimes encountered beneath stone bridges. |
| Pine marten <i>Martes martes</i> | - | | 10 | 14/09/2017 | Habitat specialists and require forest or scrub cover to exist in a landscape. In the west of Ireland, they may have adapted to relatively open habitats due to historical clearance of woodland habitat. |
| Common pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato</i> | ✓ _{c,e} | | 8 | 24/05/2012 | Highly adaptable species foraging along linear landscape features such as hedgerows and tree lines as well as within woodland and parkland. Roosting in old and modern structures in addition to trees and bat boxes. |
| Soprano pipistrelle <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i> | ✓ _{c,e} | | 16 | 24/05/2012 | As with the Common Pipistrelle, the Soprano forages along linear landscape features such as hedgerows and tree lines as well as within woodland. Notable preference for riparian habitats and has adapted to modern dwellings. The species is loyal to its roost site and returns year after year. |
| West European hedgehog <i>Erinaceus europaeus</i> | ✓ _e | | 8 | 25/04/2018 | Irish resident in all lowland habitats where there is sufficient food to eat and ground cover for nesting, and commonest where grassland abuts mixed woodland and scrub. It appears to avoid coniferous woodland, blanket bog and other wet areas. |
| Birds | | | | | |
| Barn owl <i>Tyto alba</i> | - | Red List | 10 | 31/12/2011 | Scarce resident mainly in central and southern Ireland. Breeds in ruined buildings, such as castles and to a lesser extent in outbuildings (barns/sheds). |
| Barn swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | - | Amber List | 39 | 14/04/2013 | Summer visitor throughout Ireland. Range of habitat preferences, flocks gather at wetland sites in autumn. |
| Black-headed gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i> | - | Amber List | 17 | 31/12/2011 | Resident along all Irish coasts, wintering inland also. Breeding nests on the ground in wetland areas, i.e. bogs, marshes, manmade lakes. Widespread across agricultural fields, and urban areas. |
| Black-legged kittiwake <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> | - | Red List | 1 | 31/12/2011 | Summer visitor to steep coastal cliffs along all Irish coasts. Disperses to the open ocean in winter and less frequently seen. Breeds on steep sea cliffs where it builds a nesting platform on the most vertical and sometimes improbably steep areas. Will occasionally use man-made structures such as old buildings. |
| Common coot <i>Fulica atra</i> | ✓ _d | Amber List | 11 | 31/12/2011 | Resident at ponds and lakes throughout Ireland. Wintering in lakes, coastal estuaries and river systems. |

VOL 4 APPENDIX 15

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|---|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|---|
| Common goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> | ✓ _d | Red List | 1 | 31/12/2011 | Winter visitor between November and April on coastal estuaries and inland lakes. |
| Common greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | ✓ _d | Amber List | 1 | 31/12/2011 | Winter visitor to estuaries from September to April |
| Common kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | - | Red List | 21 | 31/12/2011 | Widespread resident throughout Ireland. Nests in trees, buildings or in cracks in cliffs. Will use old crow's nests. Found in wide variety of open habitats including coasts, moor land, farmland, wetlands, roadside verges and town parks. |
| Common kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i> | ✓ _{a d} | Amber List | 32 | 21/09/2017 | Resident on Irish streams, rivers and canals. Wintering in lakes and coasts during extended poor weather. |
| Common linnet <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> | - | Amber List | 26 | 31/12/2011 | Widespread resident throughout Ireland. Breed in a variety of habitats, including rough grassland, uplands and in coastal areas with gorse. |
| Common pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i> | - | Red List | 2 | 31/12/2011 | Scarce summer visitor and widespread winter migrant between October & February to large shallow eutrophic waters i.e. well-vegetated marshes, swamps and slow flowing rivers. |
| Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> | ✓ _d | Red List | 6 | 31/12/2011 | Resident and visitor populations. A common wader of wetlands throughout the country, though mainly coastal estuaries in winter. Nests in grassy tussock, in wet, marshy areas and occasionally heather. Breeds mainly in midlands. |
| Common shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> | ✓ _d | Amber List | 2 | 31/12/2011 | Resident and winter migrant to sheltered estuaries or tidal mudflats. Breeds in open areas along seashores, larger lakes and rivers. Nest in holes in banks, trees, occasionally strawstacks or buildings. Increasing displacement to inland sites. |
| Common snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> | - | Amber List | 16 | 31/12/2011 | Summer and winter visitor to Ireland. They forage across a variety of wetland and damp habitats. Nests on the ground, usually concealed in a grassy tussock, in or near wet or boggy terrain. |
| Common starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | - | Amber List | 42 | 31/12/2011 | Widespread garden bird, Irish resident. Foraging in grassland in parks, gardens and farmland, and trees. Also found in urban environments as well as woodland and farmland. |
| Common swift <i>Apus apus</i> | - | Amber List | 19 | 31/12/2011 | Common summer visitor throughout Ireland. Nests in small recesses in buildings, both occupied and derelict. Less frequently in holes in trees or caves in uplands or coastal areas. |
| Eurasian curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> | ✓ _d | Red List | 16 | 20/12/2014 | Winter visitor to Irish wetlands. Breeding throughout Ireland in |

VOL 4 APPENDIX 15

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|--|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|---|
| | | | | | floodplains, bog lands, meadows, rough pasture and heather |
| Eurasian oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> | ✓ _d | Red List | 1 | 31/12/2011 | Resident & winter visitor to all coastal habitats, and particularly favour open sandy coasts. Nests principally on shingle beaches, dunes, salt marshes and rocky shores around the coast. |
| Eurasian teal <i>Anas crecca</i> | ✓ _d | Amber List | 8 | 31/12/2011 | Resident & winter migrant. Wetland preferences in covered freshwater lakes, pools and small upland streams away from the coast. Wintering in coastal lagoons and estuaries and inland marshes, lakes, ponds and turloughs |
| Eurasian tree sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i> | ✓ _d | Amber List | 12 | 31/12/2011 | Local resident in the east of Ireland, scarce along the south and west coasts. Largely associated with cereal production. Nests in cavity in building, especially under eaves or holes formed by missing brickwork. |
| Eurasian wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> | ✓ _d | Amber List | 3 | 31/12/2011 | Fairly widespread and common winter visitor. Can be found in flocks up to and over 1000 birds on large wetlands and waterbodies. Non-breeding in Ireland. |
| Eurasian woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> | - | Amber List | 9 | 31/12/2011 | Resident & winter visitor to Ireland. Habitat preferences include woodland and areas of dead leaves and low vegetation, scrub and some open areas (bracken and heather-covered hills). |
| European golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> | ✓ _{a,d} | Red List | 10 | 31/12/2011 | Widespread distribution during wintering in coastal and inland habitats. Summer populations restricted to uplands in NW Ireland with heather moors, blanket bogs, and acidic grasslands. |
| Great cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | ✓ _d | Amber List | 19 | 31/12/2011 | Irish resident either at sea or on inland lakes and rivers. Breeds in colonies mainly around the coast of Ireland, with some birds breeding inland. |
| Great crested grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> | ✓ _d | Amber List | 2 | 31/12/2011 | Winter distribution is widespread with greatest concentration in the north midlands and northeast and birds from the continent join the resident population. Outside the breeding season are often solitary with some birds moving to the coast through the winter. Breed on large, shallow eutrophic loughs, and along canals and slow flowing rivers – wetlands with emergent vegetation bordered by open water are generally selected. |
| Greylag goose <i>Anser anser</i> ¹ | - | Amber List | 4 | 31/12/2011 | Winter migrant between November & April wintering mostly at coastal sites near estuaries and grasslands for feeding. Feral birds are present year- |

¹ Greylag Goose is also an invasive species but for the purposes of this assessment it is only considered as a protected species

VOL 4 APPENDIX 15

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| | | | | | round. Breeds by lakes and reservoirs, with the nest site often close to water and hidden in reeds or other waterside vegetation. |
| Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> | ✓ _{a,d} | Amber List | 1 | 31/12/2011 | Winter visitor to low-lying countryside along the coast. Breeding in upland areas and bogs confined to heather moorland and young forestry plantations |
| Herring gull <i>Larus argentatus</i> | ✓ _d | Amber List | 10 | 31/12/2011 | Resident along all Irish coasts, breeding inland also. Widespread distribution |
| House martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i> | - | Amber List | 23 | 31/12/2011 | Common summer visitor throughout Ireland. Nests usually sited underneath the eaves of a house. Also nests on cliffs. |
| House sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i> | - | Amber List | 35 | 31/12/2011 | Widespread garden bird, Irish resident. Breeds throughout Ireland - mainly around farm buildings and built-up areas. Nests in cavity in building, especially under eaves or holes formed by missing brickwork. |
| Lesser black-backed gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> | ✓ _d | Amber List | 3 | 14/05/2012 | Summer populations are distributed across the Irish coastline including offshore islands, islands in inland lakes, sand dunes and coastal cliffs. Winter visitors to more inland lakes |
| Little egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | ✓ _a | | 5 | 31/12/2011 | Resident along coasts and rivers throughout Ireland. A variety of wetland habitats are used including shallow lakes, riverbanks, lagoons, coastal estuaries and rocky shoreline. |
| Little grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | ✓ _d | Amber List | 12 | 31/12/2011 | Resident on vegetated ponds and lakes throughout Ireland. Wintering habitat extends to include ephemeral wetlands and are often encountered on sheltered coasts, estuaries and coastal lakes and lagoons |
| Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | - | Amber List | 90 | 31/12/2011 | Resident across all wetland habitats in Ireland. |
| Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> | ✓ _{a,d} | Amber List | 2 | 31/12/2011 | Favours upland habitats in summer and lowland and coastal sites October-April. Nesting on the ground on moorland, mountain and blanket bog. Also nests in woodland and has taken to nesting in forestry plantations adjacent to moorland. |
| Mew gull <i>Larus canus</i> | - | Amber List | 5 | 31/12/2011 | Widespread across Irish coastland. Nests on the ground in a wide variety of situations, including, islands, cliffs and shingle banks. Breeds on the coast and inland lakes in the west of Ireland. |
| Mute swan <i>Cygnus olor</i> | - | Amber List | 40 | 31/12/2011 | Resident at wetlands throughout Ireland. |
| Northern lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> | ✓ _d | Red List | 18 | 31/12/2011 | Irish resident and summer visitor across wetlands, pasture and rough |

VOL 4 APPENDIX 15

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|--|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|---|
| Northern pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> | ✓ _d | Amber List | 2 | 31/12/2011 | land adjacent to bogs. Breed on open farmland, and bare fields. Local winter visitor to wetlands throughout Ireland from October to March. In winter, they form large flocks on brackish coastal lagoons, in estuaries and on large inland lakes. |
| Northern shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> | ✓ _d | Red List | 1 | 31/12/2011 | Resident & winter migrant. Most occur between October and March. Prefer shallow eutrophic waters rich in plankton and occur on a variety of habitats while wintering in Ireland, including coastal estuaries, lagoons and inland lakes and callows. |
| Peregrine falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | ✓ _{a,d} | Annex I | 4 | 31/12/2011 | Widespread resident in Ireland favouring coastal sites and cities with high vantage points |
| Red-breasted merganser <i>Mergus serrator</i> | - | Amber List | 2 | 31/12/2011 | Resident and winter visitor to brackish and marine waters, particularly in shallow protected estuaries and bays and lagoons, and also offshore. Nest on sheltered lakes and large rivers throughout the west and north of the country, though they are largely absent from Clare and a few pairs have been recorded in Wexford. |
| Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> | ✓ _d | Amber List | 1 | 31/12/2011 | Resident & winter visitor. Peak numbers between August and early October. Winter around the entire coastline but are quite sparse along the north and southeast coasts. Mostly recorded along sandy stretches or along the upper shores of estuaries and non-estuarine coastline. |
| Sand martin <i>Riparia riparia</i> | - | Amber List | 26 | 31/12/2011 | Widespread summer visitor throughout Ireland. Breed in burrows dug into riverbanks or quarries. |
| Sky lark <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | - | Amber List | 27 | 31/12/2011 | Common resident throughout Ireland in uplands and areas of farmland, especially cereal. Breeds in a variety of habitats including cultivated areas, ungrazed grasslands and upland heaths. Winters in flocks on stubble fields, grasslands, and coastal areas. |
| Spotted flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i> | - | Amber List | 21 | 31/12/2011 | A widespread summer visitor to broadleaf woodlands, well-vegetated hedgerows, parks and gardens. |
| Stock pigeon <i>Columba oenas</i> | - | Amber List | 23 | 31/12/2011 | A widespread resident throughout Ireland favouring areas of cereal cultivation. Breeds in lowlands of eastern and southern Ireland, almost invariably near agricultural areas, especially cereal. Nests in holes in trees. |
| Tufted duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i> | - | Amber List | 3 | 31/12/2011 | Resident & winter visitor. Preference for large open lakes in lowland areas for breeding, where nests are built in waterside vegetation. Also seen on |

VOL 4 APPENDIX 15

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|--|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|--|
| | | | | | town lakes, canals and slow-moving rivers. |
| Water rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> | - | | 4 | 31/12/2011 | Resident at wetlands throughout Ireland. Widespread. |
| Whooper swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> | ✓ _{a,d} | Amber List | 11 | 27/02/2017 | Winter visitor to wetlands and nearby open farmland throughout Ireland. Breeding in open shallow water, by coastal inlets, estuaries and rivers. |
| Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i> | - | Red List | 27 | 31/12/2011 | Declining resident mainly in the east and south of Ireland. Strongly linked with the cultivation of cereals. |
| Amphibian | | | | | |
| Common frog <i>Rana temporaria</i> | ✓ _e | - | 10 | 02/05/2020 | Native to Ireland. Uses a broad habitat range including lakes and ponds, grassland and marsh, wet heath, peatlands, woodland and scrub, dune slacks, machair, and riparian habitats. |
| Invertebrate | | | | | |
| Dark green fritillary <i>Argynnis aglaja</i> | - | Vulnerable | 1 | 12/07/2014 | Specialist, now largely coastal with few inland sites, found on: unimproved dry calcareous grassland, coastal grey dunes, machair, dune-slacks and limestone pavement. |
| Large red-tailed bumble bee <i>Bombus (Melanobombus) lapidarius</i> | - | Near Threatened | 4 | 18/07/2020 | Found in a wide range of habitats, including parks and gardens. Has declined from the agricultural landscape. |
| * Legislative Protection: a = Annex I Birds Directive, b = Annex II Habitats Directive, c = Annex IV Habitats Directive, d = Special Conservation Interest bird species (within SPA), e = Wildlife Act (excluding birds); f = third schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations) 2011-2015. | | | | | |
| + Habitat preferences: Birdwatch Ireland (https://birdwatchireland.ie/irelands-birds-birdwatch-ireland , accessed March and November 2019) and NBDC (https://species.biodiversityireland.ie/ , accessed March and November 2019). | | | | | |