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APPENDIX 11-E WINTERING BIRD SURVEY
WINTER 2014-2015





Aberdeen Harbour EIA Nigg Bay Bird Survey - Winter 2014-2015



August 2015

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Aberdeen Harbour EIA

Nigg Bay Bird Survey - Winter 2014-2015

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Remit

On behalf of Aberdeen Harbour Board, Waterman Group PLC commissioned EnviroCentre Ltd to undertake a winter bird survey during the 2014-2015 winter season, for works associated with the proposed development and expansion of Aberdeen Harbour. These surveys were conducted in Nigg Bay, which is located to the south of the current harbour.

The survey aimed to identify those species roosting within the bay at the monthly high tide, concentrating largely on those species protected under European or national legislation, and assess the site as an important roosting area for protected species.

This report details the survey methods and the results of the survey documenting those species found to be present. Species of conservation interest are discussed and, where necessary, recommendations for future surveys are given.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the surveys and reporting is to determine the nature of the habitats, the presence of roosting birds, and the potential presence of protected birds within and adjacent to the site boundary.

The objectives are therefore to:

- Obtain existing species records and locate designated sites within a 10 kilometre radius of the site boundary;
- Determine the presence and abundance of roosting birds;
- Determine the potential presence and activity of protected birds; and
- Identify potential legal and policy constraints relevant to the species found which may affect the development.

1.3 Nature Conservation Legislation and Policy

European and national legislation and policy relevant to the proposed development in terms of nature conservation are listed below. Cognisance has been taken of these instruments in the preparation of this report.

- The Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna EC Directive (92/43);
- The Conservation of Wild Birds and their Habitats EC Directive (2009/147/EC);
- The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994 as amended;
- Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Amendments (Scotland) Regulations 2007;
- The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004;
- Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) 1981;
- Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011;
- National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) 14: Natural Heritage;
- Planning Advice Note (PAN) 60: Planning for Natural Heritage;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP); and
- Scottish Biodiversity List.

1.3.1 Legislation and Policy Relating to Birds

Several bird species recorded are protected under international and national legislation, and several instruments of national legislation protect all areas of nationally significant, natural heritage. The relevant legislation is described below:

The Wild Birds Directive, or European Directive 2009/147/EC¹ (the codified version of EEC Directive 79/409/EEC as amended) and the Habitats Directive (EEC Directive 92/43/EEC)², states that all wild bird populations within the UK are protected under European legislation. Through these Directives, which highlight key species within specifically detailed annexes, came the establishment of a Europe-wide network of designated conservation areas known as Natura 2000 (comprised of Special Protection Areas (SPA) from the Birds Directive and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) from the Habitats Directive).

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)³ is the primary legislation that protects wild birds within the UK. Through a series of Schedules, this Act makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy their nests or eggs. It is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb the nest building, nests that contain eggs or young, or to disturb or take the dependent young of birds on the Schedule 1 list, which are offered the highest level of protection.

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 imposes a wide-ranging duty to conserve biodiversity and protect the nation's natural heritage. Implementation is linked to a national biodiversity strategy that is endorsed by the Scottish Government. Part of this strategy is the designation of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - those areas of land and water considered to best represent the diversity of natural heritage across Scotland. It is an offence for any person to intentionally or recklessly damage the protected natural features of an SSSI.

Ramsar Sites refer to internationally important wetlands stemming from the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance which was adopted in 1971. The UK Government signed up to the Convention in 1976. The mission of the Convention is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world". All Ramsar sites in Scotland are also either SPAs or SACs, and many are also SSSIs, although the boundaries of the different designations are not always exactly the same. There is no specific legal framework that safeguards Ramsar sites, although they benefit from the measures required to protect and enhance the Natura sites and SSSIs which overlap them.

On a local level or for particular species, Scottish Planning Policy (Scottish Government 2010) states that areas should be safeguarded and the character of the habitat enhanced, species diversity, rarity and extent must be established, and the species requirements must be fully factored into the planning and design of the development.

1.4 Survey Area Description

The survey area was located within Nigg Bay. This incorporated all rocky foreshore areas, sand and sea above the mean low tide between Girdle Ness (approximately Ordnance Survey Grid Reference (OSGR) NJ 97248 05294) and Greg Ness (approximately OSGR NJ 97088 04216).

A map showing the survey area can be found as Appendix A.

¹ EU Birds Directive: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/birdsdirective/index_en.htm (Accessed March 2015)

² EU Habitats Directive: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm (Accessed March 2015)

³ Schedule 1 WCA 1981 & c.: http://incc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/waca1981_schedule1.pdf (Accessed March 2015)

2 METHOD

To ascertain the ornithological baseline of the site, a desk-based study and field survey were undertaken to respectively collate existing data and to derive additional, up-to-date, site-specific data. All survey work was undertaken and verified by experienced and competent ornithologists. The survey followed standard methods endorsed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)⁴. This section provides summary details of the methods adopted.

2.1 Desk Study

Prior to the field surveys, a desk study was conducted to inform the field survey and to search for existing ecological information within a 25 kilometre radius of the site. The results are used to identify if the development could potentially impact upon any designated areas or notable or protected species that constitute features of those areas.

A further desk study was undertaken in order to analyse the field survey records in a regional and national context. The following sources were reviewed:

- SNH Sitelink website⁵ (for statutory designated bird sites);
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)⁶ and British Trust for Ornithology⁷ (BTO) websites;
- Birds Of Scotland⁸;
- North-East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NeSBREC)⁹ and
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP)¹⁰ and Scottish Biodiversity List¹¹.

2.1.1 Bird Conservation Criteria

The criteria used to define the current conservation status of UK bird populations are BAPs at national and local levels, and the Red, Amber and Green lists of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)¹².

Both the UKBAP and the network of Local BAPs were initialised in response to the 1992 Convention of Biological Diversity¹³ signed in Rio de Janeiro (also referred to as the Rio Convention). Implemented through the Biodiversity Steering Group, the BAPs identified both the habitat types and species that were of conservation concern. Plans were then drawn up to aid protection and conservation of these priority habitats and species.

The conservation status of the species recorded along the line were evaluated by their inclusion on the UKBAP and by using the RSPB / BTO Conservation Status Criteria from the lists of BoCC, which is a simple 'traffic light'

⁴ CIEEM – Guidance on Survey Methodology, Winchester (2006)

⁵ Scottish Natural Heritage SiteLink website. Available at <http://www.snh.org.uk/snhi/> (Accessed March 2015)

⁶ RSPB (2012). <http://www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdguide/name>. (Accessed March 2015)

⁷ BTO (2012). <http://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdfacts/find-a-species>. (Accessed March 2015)

⁸ Forrester, R.W., Andrews I.J., McInerney C.J., Murray R.D., McGowan R.Y., Zonfrillo B., Betts M.W., Jardine D.W. & Grundy D.S. (eds). 2012. *The Birds of Scotland. Digital Version*. The Scottish Ornithologists Club, Aberlady.

⁹ <http://www.nesbrec.org.uk/>

¹⁰ UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Available at: <http://incc.defra.gov.uk/page-5155> (Accessed March 2015)

¹¹ Scottish Biodiversity List. Available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Wildlife-Habitats/16118/Biodiversitylist/SBL> (Accessed March 2015)

¹² Eaton M.A., Brown A.F., Noble D.G., Musgrove A.J., Hearn R., Aebischer N.J., Gibbons D.W., Evans A. & Gregory R.D. 2009. Birds of Conservation Concern 3: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. *British Birds*, **102**, 296-341. Or online at http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/BoCC_tcm9-217852.pdf (Accessed March 2015)

¹³ Rio Convention: <http://www.cbd.int/> (Accessed March 2015)

method to gauge conservation importance for those species which are not afforded protection under international or national legislation. The criteria used to evaluate this conservation concern are listed below:

Red-listed criteria

- Globally threatened;
- Historical population decline in UK during 1800 – 1995;
- Rapid ($\geq 50\%$) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years; and
- Rapid ($\geq 50\%$) contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years.

Amber-listed criteria

- Moderate (25-49%) decline in UK breeding population over last 25 years;
- Moderate (25-49%) contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years;
- Moderate (25-49%) decline in UK non-breeding population over last 25 years;
- Species with unfavourable conservation status in Europe (SPEC – Species of European Conservation Concern);
- Five year mean of 1-300 breeding pairs in UK;
- $\geq 50\%$ of UK breeding population in 10 or fewer sites, but not rare breeders;
- $\geq 50\%$ of UK non-breeding population in 10 or fewer sites;
- $\geq 20\%$ of European breeding population in UK; and
- $\geq 20\%$ of NW European (wildfowl), East Atlantic Flyway (waders) or European (others) non-breeding population in UK.

Green-listed criteria

No identified threat to the population's status.

In addition to the UKBAP and the BoCC criteria, and in lieu of a current Local BAP for the Aberdeen area, the Scottish Biodiversity List was also used in the evaluation process. The Scottish Biodiversity List is a list of animals, plants and habitats that Scottish Ministers consider to be of principal importance for biodiversity conservation in Scotland. It is based on the UKBAP and refers to the international importance of conserving certain species.

2.2 Winter Bird Survey

The Winter Bird Survey was based on Core Counts from the BTO Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) methodology¹⁴.

WeBS Core Counts are made using so-called 'look-see' methodology¹⁵, whereby the observer surveys the whole of a predefined area on predefined dates. For BTO surveys, the predefined dates are for the Sunday nearest the monthly High Tide. For Nigg Bay, surveys were undertaken within 48 hours of these dates.

Seven monthly surveys were conducted, from September 2014 to March 2015.

Numbers of all waterbird species, as defined by Wetlands International¹⁶, should be recorded, including divers, grebes, cormorants, herons, Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), swans, geese, ducks, rails, cranes, waders and

¹⁴ <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs/taking-part/core-counts-methods> (Accessed April 2015)

¹⁵ Bibby, C.J., Burgess, N.D., Hill, D.A. & Mustoe, S. 2000. Bird Census Techniques. Second Edition. Academic Press, London.

¹⁶ Rose, P.M. & Scott, D.A. 1997. Waterfowl Population Estimates - Second Edition. Wetlands International Publ. 44, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*). Counts of gulls and terns are optional, but provided the main focus of the surveys at Nigg Bay.

2.2.1 Survey Conditions

Surveys were undertaken on seven dates during the 2014 – 2015 winter. Local knowledge, forecast weather conditions and visibility were considered when timetabling the survey dates, and as a result, all surveys were carried out in excellent weather conditions for surveying birds. A summary of the dates, conditions and surveyors is found below in Table 1.

2.2.2 Survey Constraints

Despite suboptimal weather conditions during the March 2015 survey, counts were not considered to be affected, and no constraints have been identified.

Table 1: Survey Conditions for the Nigg Bay 2014-2015 Winter Bird Survey

DATE	SURVEY TIME	WIND DIRECTION*	WIND SPEED (/12)**	PRECIPITATION (/3)***	VISIBILITY	CLOUD COVER (/8)#	CLOUD BASE (m)##	SEA STATE###	TEMPERATURE (°C)	SURVEYOR ⁺
08/09/14	13:30	W	4	0	EXCELLENT	7	800	2	14	MC
13/10/14	16:30	ENE	3	0	EXCELLENT	5	800	2	11	MC
10/11/14	14:00	SW	1-2	0	EXCELLENT	4	>800	2	6	MAS
08/12/14	14:00	NW	3-4	0	EXCELLENT	4	>800	3	5	MAS
19/01/15	12:20	W	2	0	EXCELLENT	3	>800	1	2	MC
09/02/15	15:30	SSE	0-1	0	EXCELLENT	0	N/A	1-2	8	MAS
09/03/15	12:15	SSE	6	2	EXCELLENT	8	500	4	4	MAS

LEGEND: *Wind Direction based on a 16 point compass direction; **Wind Speed is based on the Beaufort Scale; ***Precipitation Scale is 0=none, 1=light showers, 2=persistent rain/heavy showers, 3=heavy rain; #Cloud Cover is based on oktas; ##Cloud Base is metres above sea level; ###Sea State is based on the European Seabirds at Sea (ESAS) guidance, from the 10-point World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Sea State Code whereby 0=Calm,1=Rippled,2=Smooth,3=Slight,4=Moderate,5=Rough,6=Very rough,7=High,8=Very High & 9=Phenomenal, +Surveyor MC=Mike Coleman, MAS=Mark Sullivan

3 RESULTS

3.1 Desk Study Results

The results of the desk study providing background information into nearby sites designated for their ornithological features is provided below in Table 2. In addition, records were bird sightings were received from NeSBREC. These can be found in Appendix B of this report.

Table 2: Desk Study Results

Source	Information Provided			
	Site Name	Designation ¹⁷	Distance and Orientation	Ornithological Features
SNH Sitelink	Loch of Skene	SPA, Ramsar	c. 17.5km WNW	Non-breeding aggregation of Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)
	Loch of Skene	SSSI	c. 17.5km WNW	Non-breeding aggregations of Pink-footed Goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>), Greylag Goose, Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) and Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)
	Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie & Meikle Loch	SPA	c.20km NNE	Breeding aggregations of Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>), Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) and Sandwich Tern (<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>). Non-breeding waterfowl assemblage and non-breeding aggregations of (Northern) Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>), Eider, Pink-footed Goose and Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>).
	Sands of Forvie & Ythan Estuary	SSSI	c. 20km NNE	Breeding bird assemblage and breeding aggregations of Eider, Common Tern, Little Tern, Sandwich Tern and Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>). Non-breeding aggregations of Pink-footed Goose and Eider.
	Fowlsheugh	SPA	c. 25km SSW	Breeding seabird assemblage and breeding aggregations of Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>), Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>), Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>), Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) and Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>).

¹⁷ Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), and Ramsar sites.

3.2 Winter Bird Survey

3.2.1 Bird Records

A total of 12 species was recorded during the surveys.

Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*) is included within both Annex 1 of the Birds Directive and within Schedule 1 Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and thus is afforded maximum protection under either European or national legislation. It also appears on the Scottish Biodiversity list and on the BoCC Amber list as it is a SPEC.

Goldeneye appears on Schedule 1 Part 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and is protected by special penalties during the close season which is 1 February to 31 August (21 February to 31 August below high water mark) but which may be killed or taken outside this period. It also appears on the BoCC Amber List as there are fewer than 300 pairs breeding within the UK.

Herring Gull is included as Priority Species on the UKBAP, and therefore also appears on the Scottish Biodiversity List. It is also on the BoCC Red List as it has suffered severe longer-term declines in its UK breeding numbers and moderate medium-term declines. In addition, it has suffered a severe medium-term decline in its UK non-breeding numbers, which amount to more than 20% of the European population.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) is included on the Scottish Biodiversity List and on the BoCC Amber List as it has suffered moderate medium-term declines in its UK non-breeding numbers, which amounts to 20% of the entire European population.

Seven further species recorded during the surveys have been placed on the Amber List of the BoCC:

Kittiwake has suffered moderate medium-term declines in its UK breeding numbers, and has 50% of its breeding population present at fewer than ten sites across the country.

Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) has suffered moderate medium and longer-term declines in its UK breeding numbers. The UK hosts 20% of the European breeding population of Shag, with 50% of this number being found at ten or fewer sites.

Eider and Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus maritima*) have both suffered moderate medium-term declines in their UK non-breeding numbers.

Razorbill and Guillemot also have 50% of their UK breeding populations at ten or fewer sites, with UK breeding numbers of Guillemot amounting to more than 20% of the total European population.

Common Gull has at least 20% of its European population overwintering in the UK. It is also a SPEC.

The remaining one species recorded during the surveys, Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), is considered to have no conservation concern and is not covered in the above legislation; therefore appears only on the Green List of BoCC.

A summary of the legal protection and conservation status of the species recorded, the dates of the species' records, and the peak counts of each of the species can be found in Table 3 below. The species are listed in order of importance based on the level of their legal protection and their UK and Scottish conservation status.

Table 3: A summary of the legal protection and conservation status of species recorded, and the months and peak counts of the species' records.

Species	Legal Protection		Conservation Status				Month and Peak Count of Each Species Recorded							
	Annex 1	Schedule 1	UKBAP	Scottish Biodiversity List	Red	Amber								Green
							Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	
Red-throated Diver	X	X		X		X				4	1		3	2
Herring Gull			X	X	X			23	2	3	8	1	4	1
Black-headed Gull				X		X		48	6	2	9	11	2	
Goldeneye		X (Part 2)				X				3				
Common Gull						X		252	1633	1350	1825	31	154	1
Great Black-backed Gull						X					2			
Eider						X		183	6	13	9	4	120	25
Guillemot						X			2				2	
Razorbill						X						1		
Shag						X			1	2	4	4	5	11
Kittiwake						X		14	79					
Cormorant							X	1	2	3	3			

3.2.2 Other Records

In addition to the bird records, both grey (Atlantic) seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) and harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) were observed in the waters within the survey area.

Grey seal is legally protected under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, and harbour porpoise is a species of both national and European conservation concern.

3.2.3 Further surveys

In addition to this work, additional ornithological surveys have been commissioned to inform the planning process, including a terrestrial breeding bird survey and a 12-month Vantage Point survey from headlands overlooking Nigg Bay and the surrounding coastline.

4 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Although eleven of the twelve recorded species are afforded extra legal protection through their inclusion within Annex 1 or Schedule 1, or are species of conservation concern through their inclusion on the UKBAP or BoCC Red or Amber lists, none of the sightings constitutes unusual or unexpected records locally, with many of the species being common and widespread overwintering birds along the Aberdeenshire coast. As a result, there is no local or regional concern over the status of their numbers within the survey area, or therefore over their conservation status.

The single species that appears on Annex 1 and Schedule 1 Part 1 was recorded on four of the surveys:

- Red-throated Diver is a common winter visitor to the east coast of Scotland, when numbers increase due to the arrival of birds from Scandinavia.

Those species considered to have the highest level of conservation concern appear as UKBAP Priority Species or on the BoCC Red List. Only one was recorded:

- Herring Gull was recorded on all surveys in low numbers, with a peak count in the initial September survey. Despite a decline in its breeding and non-breeding numbers, Herring Gull remains a common bird, with 20% of the European population occurring around the coasts of the UK, approximately 91,000 in Scotland¹⁸ including between 5,000 and 20,000 Scandinavian birds arriving¹⁹.

The ten Amber-listed species recorded produced the majority of bird observations throughout the survey period, with Common Gull and Eider the most numerous:

- Common Gull was the most abundant bird recorded, with a peak count of 1825 birds during December, 1633 in October and 1350 in November. Population estimates for winter in Scotland suggest numbers of Common Gull are approximately 79,700²⁰, although distribution and populations fluctuate between census counts, and it is likely birds' movement is dictated by weather conditions. Historical flocks in Aberdeenshire are known to have totalled 10,000 birds, and at Cromarty in 1995, a flock of 40,000 was recorded;
- Eider breed along the Aberdeenshire coast in large numbers and the largest moulting flock recorded in Aberdeenshire has been 9,000 birds²¹, so the modest totals recorded during the surveys are not unexpected. Much of the Eider activity was at the mouth of the bay and around Girdle Ness;
- Kittiwake was recorded in September and October as the birds congregated ahead of their migration away from their breeding areas, and the peak count of Black-headed Gull was also in September which is likely to be due to a post-breeding accumulation.

Nigg Bay is a natural bay offering a higher level of shelter than many other bays along the north-east coastline, and the congregations of birds through the winter are as a result of this natural refuge from any offshore storms.

In development terms, it is notable that very limited activity was recorded on the adjacent shoreline or on the rocky foreshore – with no autumn accumulations of terns and no overwintering waders recorded. All records were of birds loafing on the water or foraging at the tideline.

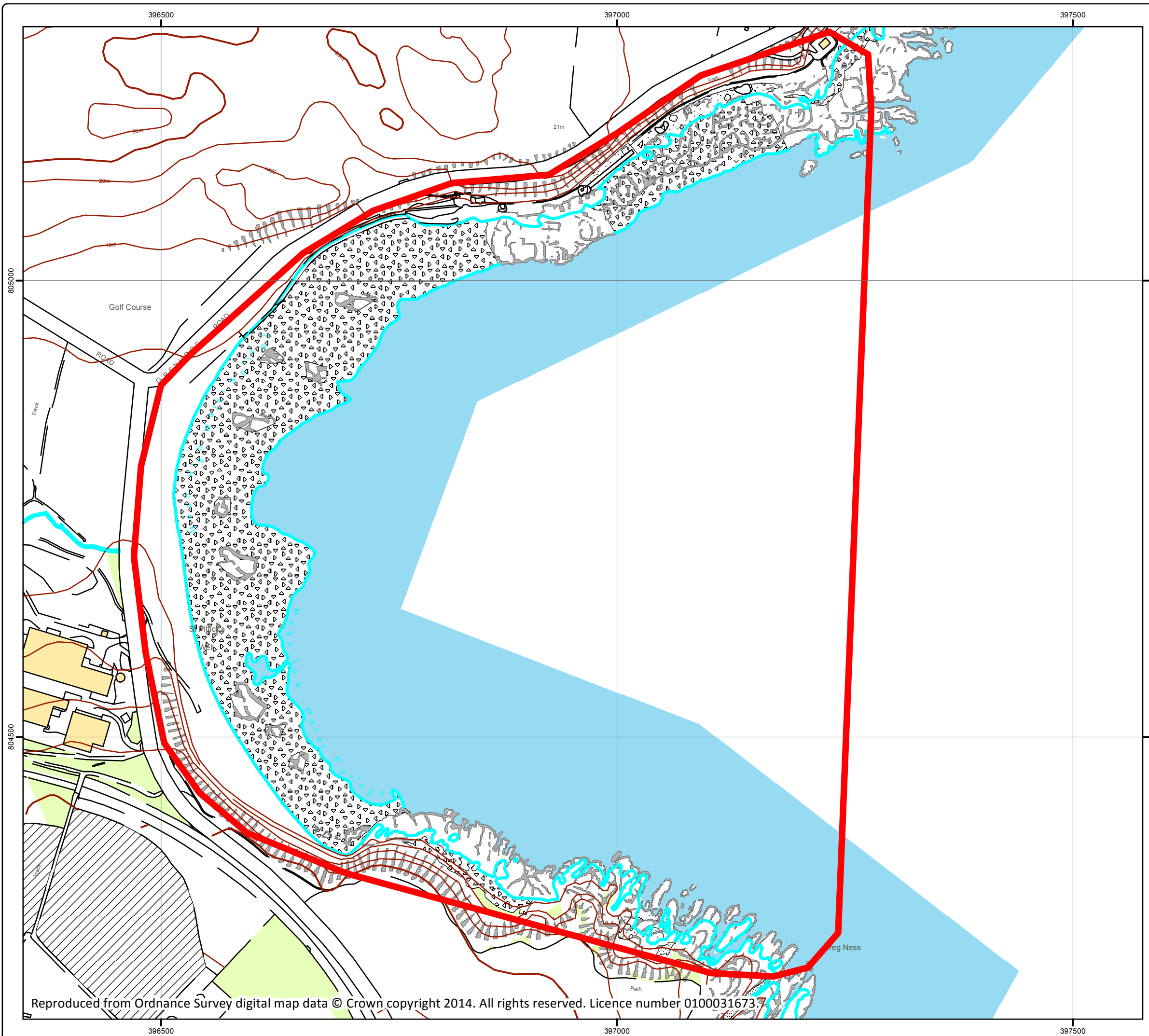
¹⁸ ¹⁸ ¹⁹ ²⁰ Forrester, R.W., Andrews I.J., McInerney C.J., Murray R.D., McGowan R.Y., Zonfrillo B., Betts M.W., Jardine D.W. & Grundy D.S. (eds). 2012. *The Birds of Scotland. Digital Version*. The Scottish Ornithologists Club, Aberlady.

Although outwith survey times, personal observations of wader activity were recorded during the survey period. Waders, including the Schedule 1 Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*), were recorded foraging on rocks beneath Girdle Ness foghorn and roosting to the north in Greyhope Bay. Although this activity was recorded outside the survey area, during severe weather or higher tides, it is likely that foraging or roosting waders would be found within the survey area on the foreshore of Nigg Bay, and cognisance of this behaviour and their presence should be noted ahead of any construction works. It should be noted that the Dee Mouth to Don Mouth stretch of coastline is listed by the BTO²² as an important site for Purple Sandpiper.


Any construction is likely to disturb the seabed and involve an increase in human and ship activity which may lead to an increase in both visual and noise disturbance to the birds, or the displacement of the birds from their preferred loafing or foraging area. However, as the majority of this bird activity is focussed on birds loafing on the water, and construction works are likely to be limited to single areas within the bay, birds should be able to move to a quieter area within the bay. Therefore, based on these winter surveys, it is considered that any development work in Nigg Bay is unlikely to affect bird activity through the winter months.

²² http://issuu.com/british_trust_for_ornithology/docs/wituk-2013-14-web?e=5057827/12423698

APPENDIX A: BIRD SURVEY AREA



Legend

 Survey Area

Do not scale this map

Client
Waterman Group PLC

Project
Aberdeen Harbour EIA -
Nigg Bay Winter Bird Survey 2014/15

Title
Winter 2014-2015 Bird Survey Area

Status
Final

Drawing No. 365481-005	Revision
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Scale 1:4,000	A3	Date 10 June 2015
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Drawn KOS	Checked JS	Approved MC
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APPENDIX B: NESBREC BIRD RECORDS

Species	Location	Protection/Status
Birds		All breeding birds (with some exceptions for pest species) are protected under current UK legislation through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 (S1) Species of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) are protected at all times
Reed warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	2004 record approximately 600m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	2010 record approximately 600m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	2010 record approximately 600m from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	2011 record approximately 400m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List
Short-eared owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	2010 record approximately 500m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List
Common pochard <i>Aythya farina</i>	2010 record within same 10km ² grid reference	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List
Greater scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>	2009 record approximately 600m from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List
Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	2009 record approximately 2km from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1 LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	2009 record approximately 600m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List
Purple sandpiper <i>Calidris maritima</i>	2010 record approximately 600m from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)
Lesser redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	2005 record approximately 500m	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Red - Birds of Conservation

Species	Location	Protection/Status
	from the Site	Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Linnet <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	2010 record approximately 500m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Red - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Siskin <i>Carduelis spinus</i>	2010 record approximately 500m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List
Hooded crow <i>Corvus cornix</i>	2008 record approximately 600m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List
Corncrake <i>Crex crex</i>	2010 record approximately 500m from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Red - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)
Whooper swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	2004 record within same 10km ² grid reference	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citronella</i>	2011 record approximately 2km from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Red - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Reed bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	2010 record within same 10km ² grid reference	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	2004 record approximately 600m from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)
Peregrine falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	2010 record approximately 400m from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List

Species	Location	Protection/Status
Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	2008 record approximately 2km from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2007 record approximately 200m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	2010 record approximately 600m from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List
Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	2010 record within same 4km grid reference	Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Black-throated diver <i>Gavia arctica</i>	2010 record approximately 600m from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)
Red-throated diver <i>Gavia stellate</i>	2009 record approximately 600m from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)
White-tailed eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	2010 record within same 10km ² grid reference	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Red - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	2004 record approximately 600m from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Red - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)
Red grouse <i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	2004 record approximately 600m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List
Red-backed shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	2004 record approximately 600m from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List
Herring gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	2009 record approximately 600m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Red - Birds of Conservation

Species	Location	Protection/Status
		Concern (BoCC)
Black-headed gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i>	2009 record approximately 600m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)
Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	2004 record approximately 600m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)
Common scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i>	2010 record approximately 600m from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Red - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Spotted flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	2010 record approximately 500m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Red - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	2011 record approximately 300m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
House sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	2008 record approximately 600m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Red - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)
Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	2005 record approximately 600m from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Red - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)
Snow bunting <i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	2005 record approximately 600m from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Hedge accentor <i>Prunella modularis</i>	2008 record approximately 600m	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List

Species	Location	Protection/Status
	from the Site	
Manx shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	2004 record approximately 600m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	2012 record approximately 500m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	2010 record approximately 400m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)
Eider <i>Somateria mollissima</i>	2009 record approximately 500m from the Site	Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Arctic skua <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	2010 record approximately 600m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Red - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)
Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	2008 record approximately 600m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Arctic tern <i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	2009 record approximately 600m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Sandwich tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	2010 record approximately 600m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	2012 record approximately 100m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	2009 record approximately 500m	Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)

Species	Location	Protection/Status
	from the Site	LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	2009 record approximately 600m from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Red - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)
Song thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	2010 record approximately 600m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Red - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Ring ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	2010 record within same 10km ² grid reference	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Red - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)
Barn owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	2004 record approximately 600m from the Site	S1 – Schedule 1, SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Northern lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	2011 record approximately 300m from the Site	SBL - Scottish Biodiversity List Red - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) LBAP – North East Scotland Local Biodiversity Action Plan