



## EIAR Addendum

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Appendix 10-A Tern and Black  
Guillemot Survey Report 2025

## Technical memorandum

Document title	Tern & Black Guillemot surveys at onshore substation site in 2025
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## Tern & Black Guillemot surveys at onshore substation site in 2025

### 1. BACKGROUND

Terns (Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* and Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*) and Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*, nest in the vicinity of the proposed onshore substation site for Codling Wind Park. Surveys have been carried out during previous years to inform the proposals. Surveys were carried out in 2025 to ascertain the up to date status for that season.

### 2. OUTLINE METHODS

Surveys were carried out in three visits across June and July. On 16<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June and 10<sup>th</sup> July. Each visit entailed 3-hour surveillance watches of all appropriate areas from *ad hoc* vantage points around the site, generally in the morning after 0900h, on each visit date with the aims of:

Count the maximum number of terns of each species visiting the CDL Dolphin and ESB dolphin and estimate the breeding stage/success and approximate no. pairs of each species present

Estimate the number of active nest sites/pair of Black Guillemot in the areas previously surveyed in 2022 and 2023 (see previous reports for section references).

Observers were Alan Lauder (visit 1) and Niall Keogh (visit 1-3). Both observers have very extensive experience of tern and other seabird surveys and have carried out several surveys at the site previously.

### 3. RESULTS

#### Tern surveys

The number of estimated Apparently Occupied Nests (AON) is derived from observation data (dread counts and nests observed) and is shown in table 1.

Table 1 Estimated no. of terns nesting at Poolbeg Dolphins sites in 2025

	CDL (AONs)	ESB (AONs)
Common	18	35
Arctic	6	0

Observations recorded in the field are provided in Appendix 1. More accurate colony and productivity estimates are not possible without direct colony visits but the observations indicate fairly consistent numbers of adult birds attending the colonies throughout and indicate a moderate to good level of breeding success with many fledged juveniles seen flying on visit 3.

### Black Guillemot surveys

Black Guillemot numbers in the area have apparently increased on previous surveys in 2022/23 but most nest site locations remain consistent. It is likely that there were likely 11 pairs in 2025 up from nine previously and with 13 nests sites over the course of all surveys (see appendix 2)

The estimated number of pairs recorded are given in Table 1 and observations recorded are provided at Appendix 2. Nest site locations are shown in appendix 2.

Table 2 Black Guillemot survey results

	1st Visit (Jun)	2nd Visit (Jun)	3rd Visit (Jul)	Max Nest Sites
Probable Nests	3	2	0	4
Confirmed Nests	7	6	7	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>

## 4. DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

The tern colonies remain active on both dolphin structures, though numbers and species proportions at each site have varied over the surveys since 2022. Large variation in tern colony occupancy is generally expected and can be due to a wide range of pressures. Potential factors influencing in colonies at Poolbeg include; predator presence, HPAI effects, meta-population changes in the wider Dublin Bay area and potentially food supply.

The Black Guillemot population around Poolbeg appears to have remained at least stable and may have increased. Monitoring in June and July is sub-optimal for measuring full population size (as it tends to miss failed breeders) but is good for confirming those birds still active in nest sites.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1

## Poolbeg tern colony observations June/July 2025

Visit 1 Survey					
<b>Date</b>	16/06/2025	<b>Wind Dir</b>	SW	<b>Visibility</b>	good
<b>Start Time</b>	09:15	<b>Wind Force</b>	3	<b>Cloud (okatas)</b>	3
<b>End Time</b>	12:15	<b>Precip</b>	none	<b>Sunrise</b>	04:56
<b>Observer</b>	NK + AL	<b>Temp (*C)</b>	18	<b>Tide</b>	low

#### CDL:

- maximum dread count of 42 birds (c.10 Arctic / c.32 Common)
- colony active with both Arctic and Common Terns seen bringing in fish to provision chicks (unseen due to perimeter boards).
- Pair of Arctic Terns with two small downy chicks outside the perimeter board, on the edge of the concrete along the east side by the hide (same location where a nest was present in 2023 also).
- Blue colour-ringed (flag) Arctic Tern 020 seen at the CDL. Caught and ringed here c.two weeks prior per Brian Burke (BWI).
- Pair of Hooded Crows with juveniles at a nest site at EcoCem to the west of the CDL (same general area as noted here in previous years e.g. 2023). Likely continued predators of the CDL site.

#### ESB:

- 30-50 Common Terns on show around the nesting platform at any given stage throughout the observation.
- Max dread count of c.50 birds.
- Some seen flying in with fish to provision chicks (unseen due to perimeter boards).

Visit 2 Survey					
<b>Date</b>	26/06/2025	<b>Wind Dir</b>	W	<b>Visibility</b>	good
<b>Start Time</b>	09:15	<b>Wind Force</b>	4	<b>Cloud (okatas)</b>	8
<b>End Time</b>	12:15	<b>Precip</b>	none	<b>Sunrise</b>	04:58
<b>Observer</b>	NK	<b>Temp (*C)</b>	17	<b>Tide</b>	high

#### CDL:

- maximum dread count of c.40 birds (c.5 Arctic / c.35 Common)
- colony active with both Arctic and Common Terns seen bringing in fish to provision chicks (unseen due to perimeter boards).
- Estimated that Common Terns were bringing in fish to 5-10 locations on the CDL.
- Common Tern adult colour-ringed white P28 at the CDL. Ringed as a chick in Dublin Port in 2022 per Brian Burke (BWI).
- Pair of Arctic Terns now with just one chick outside the perimeter board, on the edge of the concrete along the east side by the hide (same location where a nest was present in 2023 also).
- Perhaps less activity overall here compared to the visit on 16<sup>th</sup> June.

#### ESB:

- 50-70 Common Terns on show around the nesting platform at any given stage throughout the observation.

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- Max dread count of c.70 birds.
- Some dreads due to presence of Buzzard and Grey Heron in the area (>100m away from ESB).
- Some seen flying in with fish to provision chicks (unseen due to perimeter boards).

Visit 3 Survey					
<b>Date</b>	10/07/2025	<b>Wind Dir</b>	NW	<b>Visibility</b>	good
<b>Start Time</b>	09:15	<b>Wind Force</b>	2	<b>Cloud (okatas)</b>	2
<b>End Time</b>	12:15	<b>Precip</b>	none	<b>Sunrise</b>	05:10
<b>Observer</b>	NK	<b>Temp (*C)</b>	19	<b>Tide</b>	rising

### CDL:

- maximum dread count of 66 birds (23 Arctic / 43 Common)
- 12 adult + 11 juvenile (fledged) Arctic Terns
- 30 adult + 13 juvenile (fledged) Common Terns
- Colour-ringed birds included adult Common Tern white P7P and white 5P0, juvenile Common Tern white P97, adult Arctic Tern blue flag 022 and juvenile Arctic Terns blue flag 057, 034 and 054 + three others blue flagged but not read.
- Lots of mobbing of flyover Herring and GBBGulls by adult Arctic and Common Terns.
- Juv terns practice fishing and flying around CDL, often landing on near shoreline opposite the CDL.

### ESB:

- 50+ adult and 15+ juvenile (fledged) Common Terns on show around the nesting platform at any given stage throughout the observation.
- Max dread count of c.70 birds.
- Some dreads due to presence of Buzzard in the area (>100m away from ESB) and flyover GBBGulls.

## Appendix 2

**Poolbeg Black Guillemot observations June/July 2025**

Visit 1					
<b>Date</b>	16/06/2025	<b>Wind Dir</b>	SW	<b>Visibility</b>	good
<b>Start Time</b>	09:15	<b>Wind Force</b>	3	<b>Cloud (okatas)</b>	3
<b>End Time</b>	12:15	<b>Precip</b>	none	<b>Sunrise</b>	04:56
<b>Observer</b>	NK + AL	<b>Temp (*C)</b>	18	<b>Tide</b>	low
<b>Section</b>	<b>No. of Adults</b>	<b>Breeding Code</b>	<b>Est Nest Sites</b>	<b>Image Taken</b>	<b>Notes</b>
A	0				
B	0				
C	0				
D	0				
E	5	N	3		One confirmed and two probable sites.
F	3	N	1		One confirmed site.
G	0				
H	8	P	1		One confirmed site and one probable site.
I	7	FF	2		Two confirmed sites (including an adult with fish).
J	4	P	2		Two confirmed sites.
site total	27		10		Seven confirmed and three probable sites.
mid-river	n/c				
overall total	27		10		Seven confirmed and three probable sites.
Visit 2					
<b>Date</b>	26/06/2025	<b>Wind Dir</b>	W	<b>Visibility</b>	good
<b>Start Time</b>	09:15	<b>Wind Force</b>	4	<b>Cloud (okatas)</b>	8
<b>End Time</b>	12:15	<b>Precip</b>	none	<b>Sunrise</b>	04:58
<b>Observer</b>	NK	<b>Temp (*C)</b>	17	<b>Tide</b>	high
<b>Section</b>	<b>No. of Adults</b>	<b>Breeding Code</b>	<b>Est Nest Sites</b>	<b>Image Taken</b>	<b>Notes</b>
A	0				
B	0				
C	0				
D	0				
E	3	P	2		One confirmed and one probable site.
F	1	N	1		One confirmed site.
G	0				
H	2	P	1		One confirmed site.
I	6	P	3		Two confirmed sites (including an adult with fish) and one probable site.
J	10	FF	1		One confirmed site (adult with fish).
site total	22		8		Six confirmed and two probable sites.

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mid-river	n/c				
overall total	22		8		Six confirmed and two probable sites.
<b>Visit 3</b>					
<b>Date</b>	10/07/2025	<b>Wind Dir</b>	NW	<b>Visibility</b>	good
<b>Start Time</b>	09:15	<b>Wind Force</b>	2	<b>Cloud (okatas)</b>	2
<b>End Time</b>	12:15	<b>Precip</b>	none	<b>Sunrise</b>	05:10
<b>Observer</b>	NK	<b>Temp (*C)</b>	19	<b>Tide</b>	rising
<b>Section</b>	<b>No. of Adults</b>	<b>Breeding Code</b>	<b>Est Nest Sites</b>	<b>Image Taken</b>	<b>Notes</b>
A	0				
B	0				
C	0				
D	0				
E	1	N	1		One confirmed site.
F	1	N	1		One confirmed site.
G	0				
H	5	P	1		One confirmed site.
I	7	N	2		Two confirmed sites.
J	9	FF	2		Two confirmed sites (adults with fish).
site total	23		7		Seven confirmed sites.
mid-river	n/c				
overall total	23		7		Seven confirmed sites.
<b>Estimated Number of Nest Sites</b>					
<b>Section</b>	<b>1st Visit (Jun)</b>	<b>2nd Visit (Jun)</b>	<b>3rd Visit (Jul)</b>	<b>Max Nest Sites</b>	
A	0	0	0	0	
B	0	0	0	0	
C	0	0	0	0	
D	0	0	0	0	
E	3	2	1	3	
F	1	1	1	1	
G	0	0	0	0	
H	2	1	1	2	
I	2	3	2	3	
J	2	1	2	2	
Total	10	8	7	11	
Probable Nests	3	2	0	4	Two in E, one in H and one in I.
Confirmed Nests	7	6	7	7	One in E, one in F, one in H, two in I and two in J.



**Sketch map of approximate nest site locations (sites in orange are new sites)**

**Nest site history notes 2022, 2023 & 2025**

1. Probable in 2022, 2023 and 2025: Birds often seen flying up off the water and into area under the east end of jetty in 2022, 2023 and 2025. This site frequently visited by personnel for maintenance.
2. Probable in 2022 and 2023. Confirmed in 2025: Large hole/crevice at east end of Section D wall under bridge at south end of jetty. Lots of guano here. A single adult seen visiting this site and sitting at entrance to it in 2022 and 2023. A pair of adults then seen repeatedly visiting/entering the site in 2025.
3. Confirmed in 2022, 2023 and 2025: Large hole/crevice at west end of Section F wall under bridge at south end of jetty. Lots of guano here. A pair seen sitting at entrance to it and entering the hole on many occasions during 2022, 2023 and 2025. Also seen defending the site against other Black Guillemots coming close in 2023.
4. Confirmed in 2022, 2023 and 2025: A pair seen hanging around this area with pipes in the wall on many occasions in 2022, 2023 and 2025 (basically every visit). Often seen entering the pipes and territorial towards other TY nearby.
5. Confirmed in 2022, 2023 and 2025: A pair seen hanging around this area with suitable crevices in the wall on many occasions in 2022, 2023 and 2025 (basically every visit), often seen entering the

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crevice. Usually a single bird sitting on wooden structure outside the crevice and then sometimes the pair seen together. One adult seen flying in carrying a fish in 2025.

6. Confirmed in 2022, 2023 and 2025: A pair seen hanging around this area with suitable crevices in the wall on many occasions in 2022, 2023 and 2025 (basically every visit), often seen entering the crevice. Single adults seen carrying fish in here both in 2023 and 2025.

7. Confirmed in 2022, 2023 and 2025: A pair seen hanging around this area with suitable crevices in the wall on many occasions in 2022, 2023 and 2025 (basically every visit), often seen entering the crevice. Single adults seen carrying fish in here both in 2023 and 2025.

8. Probable in 2022 and 2023. Not seen in 2025: A single or pair seen hanging around pipe in wall a few times in 2022 and 2023. Pair swimming in water just below it during nest survey in June 2023. No birds seen here in 2025, however.

9. Confirmed in 2022 and 2023. Not seen in 2025: A pair seen hanging around pipe in wall several times in 2022 and 2023. Seen entering the pipes on multiple occasions during the nest survey in June 2023. No birds seen here in 2025, however.

10. New in 2025 – probable: Pair seen at the entrance to a vent/broken pipe in the side of the service building here during Visit 1 of June 2025 but not recorded on subsequent visits.

11. New in 2025 – probable: Pair seen sitting on wooden structures (and close to pipes where a resident pair is also present) during Visit 1 of June 2025 but not recorded on subsequent visits.

12. New in 2025 – probable: Pair seen sitting on wooden and concrete structures around crevice/holes on multiple visits during 2025.

13. New in 2025 – confirmed: Pair seen sitting on wooden and concrete structures around crevice/holes on multiple visits during 2025. Adult seen flying in carrying fish into crevice/hole.

### References

1. Case Study of the 2023 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak in (Sternidae) colonies on the east coast of the Republic of Ireland (Brian Burke, BirdWatch Ireland et al., 2024)