

Supplementary Information - Site Descriptions

Balbriggan

Balbriggan colony 1 consisted of a mixture of commercial and residential buildings. Most nests sites were located in close proximity to streetlights. In all the locations in Balbriggan colony 1 there were no apparent notices or signs warning the public against feeding the gulls. Dun Slaithne appeared to be a relatively quiet housing estate. There was one public bin situated in a children's playground located at the centre of a managed open green space. Several *L. argentatus* were observed perched on rooftops. Castlemill's appeared to be a popular shopping centre and contained a supermarket, a bar and several takeaway restaurants. A total of five bins were identified within the outside courtyard. There was a strong presence of *L. argentatus* on the roofs of buildings, cars and within the courtyard of Hamlet square. The three floor residential buildings partially enclosed a managed green open space. On the walking survey a cluster of adult and juvenile *L. argentatus* were observed engaging a group of young children playing in the courtyard of Hamlet square. Balbriggan colony 2 was in the commercial district and consisted of a mixture of commercial and residential buildings. This appeared to be a popular location for humans and there was a high amount of foot traffic observed throughout the walking survey. There was a strong presence of *L. argentatus* on the roofs of buildings, foraging along footpaths and on open green spaces. Most nests sites were located in close proximity to streetlights. A total of 11 public bins were identified throughout the study site. Again, there were no apparent notices or signs warning the public against feeding the gulls. The building use in Balbriggan colony 3 was primarily residential. There were no bins located at this site. Most nest sites were in close proximity to a streetlight. There were no apparent notices or signs warning the public against feeding the gulls.

Skerries

Skerries colony 1 was primarily residential with two education buildings. Two public bins were identified within this colony and most nest sites were in close proximity to a streetlight. There were no apparent notices or signs warning the public against feeding the gulls. Skerries colony 2 was located within the commercial district and consisted of a mixture of commercial and residential building types. This appeared to be a popular location for humans based on the level of foot traffic observed on the walking survey. A total of 17 bins were identified throughout the study site and number of restaurants and cafes with outdoor seating. There were no apparent notices or signs warning the public against feeding the gulls. Skerries colony 3 was primarily residential, with a small shopping centre consisting of a supermarket, a butcher and a pharmacy, outside which there were 3 public bins. There was one more bin located on the outskirts of the colony. The majority of nest sites were in close proximity to a streetlight.

Howth

The study site in Howth consisted of primarily residential buildings and a small number of commercial buildings. A total of 47 bins were identified in Howth, while the majority were located north of the residential areas and close to an open green space where a number of *L. argentatus* were observed foraging in close proximity to people, suggestive of urban habituation.