

Wintering Bird Survey Report

Land South of Albrighton

June 2025

For and on behalf of
Boningale Homes Limited

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Disclaimer

This report has been prepared by Beamsley Ecology Ltd, with all reasonable skill, care and diligence within the terms of the Contract with the client, incorporation of our General Terms and Conditions of Business and taking account of the resources devoted to us by agreement with the client.

We disclaim any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the scope of the above.

This document does not constitute legal advice.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Beamsley Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Boningale Homes Limited (the 'Client') to undertake Wintering Bird Surveys relating to land south of Albrighton, Shropshire (hereafter referred to as the 'Site').
- 1.2 The Site is c.48 hectares (ha) in total area, centred on Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SJ 80814 03343, and lies to the south of the town of Albrighton.
- 1.3 The Site location is shown in Figure 1.

Proposals

- 1.4 An outline application has been submitted including access for a mixed-use development comprising up to 800 dwellings, a care home of up to 80 units, a secondary school and local centre with associated access, infrastructure, landscaping and drainage (the 'Proposals'). All matters are reserved save for access.

Aims & Objectives

- 1.5 The report aims to -
 - **Assess Wintering Bird Populations** – Identify and evaluate the presence, abundance, and distribution of wintering bird species within the survey area by conducting systematic surveys as per appropriate industry standard methodologies.
 - **Identify Key Habitats** – Map and describe the habitats within the Site that support wintering birds.
 - **Evaluate Ecological Importance** – Determine the conservation status of recorded bird species, including any legally protected or priority species.
 - **Assess Potential Development Impacts** – To evaluate how proposed development might affect wintering birds and their habitats.
 - **Inform Planning Decisions** – To provide ecological evidence that supports responsible decision-making in line with wildlife legislation and planning policies.
 - **Recommend Mitigation Strategies** – To propose measures to minimise negative impacts on wintering birds and enhance biodiversity where possible.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

Desk Study

- 2.1 The assessment uses a 2km area of search around the Site for records of protected and notable bird species and locally or nationally designated wildlife sites. A data search was undertaken through Shropshire Ecological Data Network (SEDN) and Staffordshire Ecological Record (SER).

Field Survey

- 2.2 The surveys were carried out between November 2024 and March 2025 by Alasdair Grubb BSc (Hons) ACIEEM on behalf of Beamsley Ecology Ltd, an ecologist with over 14 years' experience carrying out ornithological survey work.
- 2.3 The survey methodology involved carrying out six survey visits during winter 2024/2025 in order to gauge the use of the Site by birds during winter period. This technique records the location and movements of individual birds present within a defined survey area.
- 2.4 Prior to the surveys, a route was mapped out which attempted to incorporate the variety of habitats on Site (shown in **Figure 1**). This route was walked by the surveyor, stopping at a number of vantage points which allowed them to view large areas of the Site in a stationary manner, allowing for birds to acclimatise to the surveyor's presence. Standard BTO species codes and symbols for bird activities were recorded on a Site map to identify birds and denote activity, flight paths, number, sex, and age where appropriate and possible.
- 2.5 The majority of surveys were undertaken in the morning, close to dawn, in order to maximise recording of bird activity; one survey was undertaken at dusk in order to capture the use of the Site in this period too.
- 2.6 Bird surveys were not undertaken in disadvantageous weather conditions, such as heavy rain or strong winds, which may otherwise negatively affect the survey results. **Table 1** below provides a summary of the survey dates and weather conditions.

Table 1: Survey dates and weather conditions

Survey	Date	Start temp. (°c)	Cloud cover (%)	Rain	Wind	Visibility
1	15.11.2024	3	9/8 – fog; to 0/8	No rain	0 - Calm (0-1 mph)	Average
2	27.11.2024	5	1/8 - few clouds	No rain	0 - Calm (0-1 mph)	Very Good
3	10.12.2024	8	8/8 - overcast	No rain	2 - Light breeze (4-7 mph)	Very Good
4	11.01.2025	0	7/8 - broken clouds	No rain	0 - Calm (0-1 mph)	Average
5	08.02.2025	4	8/8 - overcast	No rain	1 - Light air (2-3 mph)	Very Good
6	10.03.2025	7	7/8 - broken clouds	No rain	1 - Light air (2-3 mph)	Very Good

3.0 LIMITATIONS & ASSUMPTIONS

- 3.1 The surveys were undertaken on appropriate dates under appropriate weather conditions. No limitations were encountered. Fog was encountered during the first survey and light mist during the fourth; these did not limit the surveyor's ability to record bird activity on the site.

4.0 RESULTS

Desk Study

Site Context

- 4.1 The Site is located immediately to the south of the town of Albrighton. It comprises predominantly arable field units, with dividing hedgerows, scattered mature trees, scattered ponds and three small areas of woodland. The Site is bisected by two minor roads, and the southern boundary is immediately adjacent to the major highway, the A41. The immediate surrounding area to the south, west and east comprises mixed use agricultural land, intersected by a network of hedgerows.
- 4.2 Further afield, habitats are similar in composition with abundant mixed-use farmland bordered by mature hedgerows and scattered small blocks of woodland.

Potential Wildlife Corridors

- 4.3 The Site is not directly linked to significant landscape scale wildlife corridors. Mature hedgerows are abundant within the local area which will provide connectivity for local wildlife.

Statutory Designations

- 4.4 A search has been made to identify any statutorily designated sites within a 5km radius. The results are shown in the table below.

Table 2: *Statutorily Designated Sites within 5km*

Site Name	Designation	Distance from Site	Summary Interest
Donnington & Albrighton	Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	0.8km north	Designated for historical interest for hosting 'St Cuthbert's Well'. Features broadleaved and willow carr woodland, a small meadow, standing open water and streams. This site is not designated for its ornithological interest.

Species records

- 4.5 A search for protected or BAP species was made through both SEDN and SER. A summary of results can be found at **Appendix 3**.

Field Survey

Site assessment

- 4.6 The Site comprises of predominantly arable fields, with dividing hedgerows, scattered mature trees, scattered ponds and three small areas of woodland. The arable land may present foraging opportunities for wintering bird species, whilst the mature hedgerows may provide sheltering opportunities and connectivity across the site.
- 4.7 The Site is bisected by two minor roads, and the southern boundary is immediately adjacent to the major highway, the A41.
- 4.8 The immediate surrounding area to the south, west and east comprises mixed use agricultural land, intersected by a network of hedgerows.
- 4.9 The ponds scattered across the Site are not considered large enough to support significant populations of wintering waterfowl. A section of lower-lying arable field in the north-eastern section of the site was flooded for the majority of the winter period, which may present suitability for some species.

Wintering bird survey

- 4.10 The surveys were carried out between November 2024 and March 2025 by Alasdair Grubb.
- 4.11 The survey results are shown in **Figures 3-8**, and a complete species list is included at **Appendix 4**.
- 4.12 A total of 42 species were recorded during the field surveys, 23 of which are considered species of conservation concern.
- 4.13 All recorded species of conservation concern are discussed in the table below:

Table 3: Species of conservation concern recorded on or within the vicinity of the Site during the surveys

Species		Conservation status ¹	Peak count	Comment
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Amber	71	A peak count of 71 birds was observed during the second survey, and 26 birds were recorded on the 5 th survey. Some observations were of birds using the flooded section in the eastern section of the Site, whereas some were flyovers. It is likely that low numbers of this species use the site transiently, as part of a wider winter foraging resource in the local area. Given the relatively low number of birds using the site in a transient capacity, the likely impact on this species is assessed as negligible.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber; Sec41, UKBAP	10	This species was recorded during all but one survey. A peak of 10 birds was recorded during the 6 th survey; however, the mean count was 5. All activity was associated with the boundary hedgerows, which will mostly remain unaffected by the Proposals. It is considered highly unlikely that wintering populations of this species will be affected by the Proposals.

¹ Key provided at **Appendix 4**

Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red; Sch1.1; RBBP	43	This species was recorded during all surveys: A peak of 43 birds was recorded during the 6 th survey; the mean count was 21. The majority of activity was associated with boundary hedgerows, with some foraging behaviour observed within the arable fields on Site. The proposals may result in the loss of foraging opportunities for wintering fieldfares. The effect is likely to be negative at a 'Local' level.
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red	1	A single bird was observed during the 5 th and 6 th surveys only: at the north-western site boundary. Given the low number of birds recorded on a single occasion only, the anticipated impact on this species is negligible.
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red; Sec41, UKBAP	5	A peak count of 5 birds were observed during the 3 rd survey using the adjacent residential gardens at the northern site boundary; 3 birds were recorded during the 1 st survey, and not at all during the other surveys. It likely that a colony of house sparrows use the local area during winter, moving around for foraging resource, using hedgerows as shelter. The proposals include hedgerow and orchard planting which will provide foraging resource for this species, and the residential gardens will likely provide foraging and sheltering resource. As such, the anticipated impact on this species is negligible.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber	2	Two birds were observed during the 2 nd survey and a single bird during the 6 th . It is likely a low number of kestrels use the Site for foraging during winter as part of a wider foraging resource. Given the low number of birds recorded using the Site, the anticipated effect on this species is likely to be negligible.
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red; Sec41, sBAP	2	Two birds were observed using the Site during the first survey only. No other observations were made. Given the low number of birds recorded on a single occasion only, the anticipated effect on this species is negligible.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber	8	This species was recorded during all surveys: A peak of 8 birds was recorded during the 5 th survey; the mean count was 4. It is likely a low number of mallards use the Site for foraging during winter as part of a wider foraging resource. Given the relatively low number of birds recorded, the anticipated effect on this species is negligible.
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	NT; Amber	3	A peak count of 3 meadow pipits were observed during the 4 th survey and a single bird on the 3 rd . It is likely that a low number of birds use the Site during winter for occasional foraging, but it is not considered to be a significant resource. Given the relatively low number of birds recorded occasionally, the anticipated effect on this species is negligible.
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red	3	A peak count of 3 birds was observed during the first survey; 2 on the 2 nd and 1 on the 3 rd .

				It is likely that a low number of birds use the Site during winter for occasional foraging, but it is not considered to be a significant resource. Given the relatively low number of birds recorded occasionally, the anticipated effect on this species is negligible.
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Amber	1	A single bird was observed during the 3rd survey only. Given the low number of birds recorded on a single occasion only, the anticipated impact on this species is negligible.
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	NT; Amber	1	A single bird was observed during the 2nd survey only: foraging within a flooded field in the east of the Site. Given the low number of birds recorded on a single occasion only, the anticipated impact on this species is negligible.
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarellii</i>	Amber	5	A peak count of 5 birds was recorded during the 3rd survey but the mean count was 2. It is likely that the birds recorded use the Site in a transient capacity during winter. Given the low number of birds recorded and likely transient use of the Site, it is considered that the negative impact upon this species is negligible.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	NT; Amber; Sch1.1; RBBP	176	A peak count of 176 birds was recorded during the 2nd survey; with a mean count of 108. The majority of the activity was associated with the boundary features (foraging and night roosting), with some birds observed foraging within the fields on site. The proposals will result in the loss of foraging opportunities for wintering redwings. The effect is likely to be negative at a 'Local' level.
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red; Sec41, UKBAP	26	Skylarks were recorded using the Site for foraging during four surveys; a peak count of 26 in February and a mean count of 11. The proposals will result in the loss of foraging opportunities for wintering skylarks. The effect is likely to be negative at a 'Local' level.
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber, sBAP	1	A single bird was observed during the 1st and 4th surveys only. Given the low number of birds recorded, the anticipated impact on this species is negligible.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber; Sec41, UKBAP	1	A single bird was observed during the 1st and 6th surveys only. Given the low number of birds recorded, the anticipated impact on this species is negligible.
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber	1	A single bird was observed during the 2nd and 4th surveys only. Given the low number of birds recorded, the anticipated impact on this species is negligible.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red; Sec41, UKBAP	37	Starlings were observed foraging on arable land onsite. A peak count of 37 birds was observed during the 3rd survey; a mean count of 16 across the surveys. The proposals will result in the loss of foraging opportunities for wintering starlings. The effect is likely to be negative at a 'Site' level only.
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber	4	A peak count of 4 birds was recorded during the 6th survey, and a single bird recorded during the 5th. Given the low number of birds recorded only occasionally, the anticipated impact on this species is negligible.

Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber	133	A flock of foraging woodpigeons was recorded during every survey; mean 67, range 26-133, with the peak recorded during the 6th survey. Birds were observed foraging in the arable land and roosting in the mature trees at the site boundaries. The proposals will result in the loss of foraging opportunities for wintering woodpigeons. The effect is likely to be negative at a 'Site' level.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	10	A peak count of 10 birds was recorded during the first survey. Given the relatively low number of birds recorded and widespread, generalist nature of this species, it is considered highly unlikely that this species will be adversely affected by the development proposals.
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red; Sec41,sBAP	1	A single bird was observed during the 6th survey only. Given the low number of birds recorded, on a single occasion only, the anticipated impact on this species is negligible.

5.0 DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 A total of 42 species were recorded during the field surveys, 23 of which are considered species of conservation concern.

Likely Impacts

- 5.2 Of the 23 species of conservation concern recorded, on the basis of the current Proposals it is considered likely that there will be either no or negligible negative effect on the following species: Black-headed Gull, Dunnock, Greenfinch, House Sparrow, Kestrel, Linnet, Mallard, Meadow Pipit, Mistle Thrush, Moorhen, Oystercatcher, Pied Wagtail, Snipe, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Stock Dove, Wren and Yellowhammer. Appropriately designed landscaping will provide adequate compensation for the loss of any wintering resource for these species.
- 5.3 It is assessed likely that starlings and woodpigeons will be impacted negatively at a 'Site' level.
- 5.4 It is assessed likely that fieldfares, woodpigeons and skylarks will be negatively affected at a 'Local' level.
- 5.5 During detailed site design, consideration should be given to provision of habitat of value to the species identified on Site.
- 5.6 At the point of a detailed planning application when detailed proposals are available, the data presented herein should inform an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) to assess the likely residual impacts on wintering birds during construction and operational phases of the development.

FIGURES

Figure 1: *Site Location & Transect Route*



Key:

--- Transect route

--- Site boundary



Project

Land South of Albrighton

Figure Name

Figure 1

Version

V1

Figure 2: Statutorily designated sites within 5km

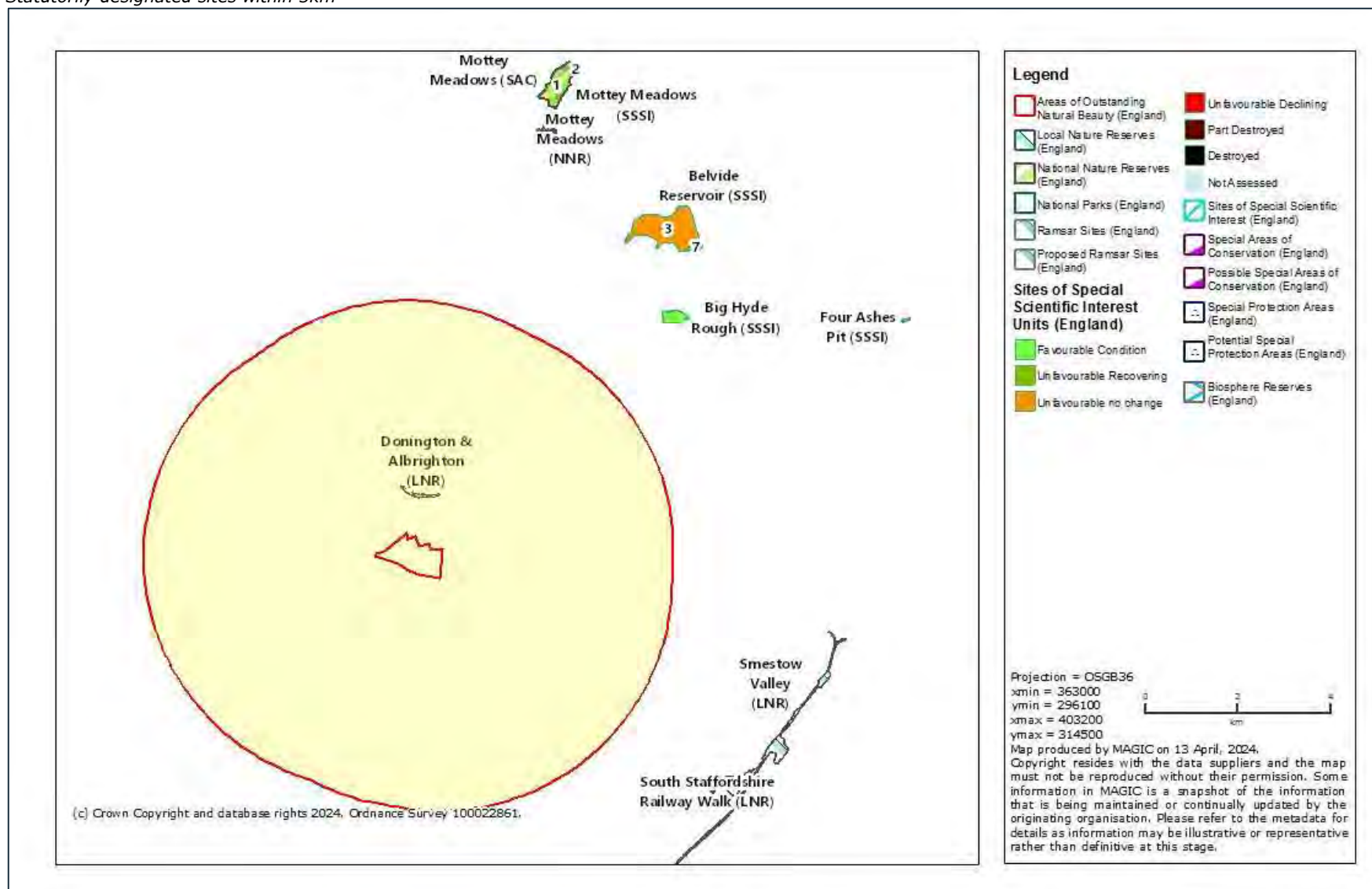


Figure 3: *Survey Results: Survey 1*

Date:	15.11.2024
Surveyor:	A. Grubb
Start:	06:25
End:	09:30
Temp (*C):	3
Cloud Cover (/8):	9 (Fog) - 0
Wind (BFS):	0
Rain (%):	0
Visibility:	Average

Notes:

Fog present at the start of the survey; cleared at sunrise.

Symbology key:

- Singing
- Calling
- Alarm calling
- Flying
- Flushed
- Circling
- Nest
- Carrying nesting material
- Carrying food
- Juvenile
- Aggressive encounter



Project	Land South of Albrighton
Figure Name	Figure 3: Survey 1
Version	V1



Figure 4: *Survey Results: Survey 2*

Notes:

- Excellent survey conditions
- Standing water in fields, especially in eastern section of site where flock of black-headed gulls were foraging.
- Good numbers of winter thrushes.

	Singing
	Calling
	Alarm calling
	Flying
	Flushed
	Circling
	Nest
	Carrying nesting material
	Carrying food
	Juvenile
	Aggressive encounter

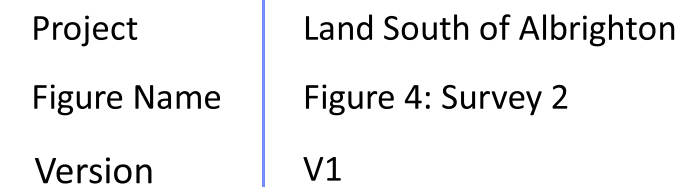


Figure 5: *Survey Results: Survey 3*

Date:	10.12.2024
Surveyor:	A. Grubb
Start:	07:10
End:	09:30
Temp (*C):	8
Cloud Cover (/8):	8
Wind (BFS):	2
Rain (%):	0
Visibility:	Very Good

Notes:

Relatively quiet survey.
Good numbers of winter thrushes again.

Symbology key:

- Singing
- Calling
- Alarm calling
- Flying
- Flushed
- Circling
- Nest
- Carrying nesting material
- Carrying food
- Juvenile
- Aggressive encounter



Project	Land South of Albrighton
Figure Name	Figure 5: Survey 3
Version	V1

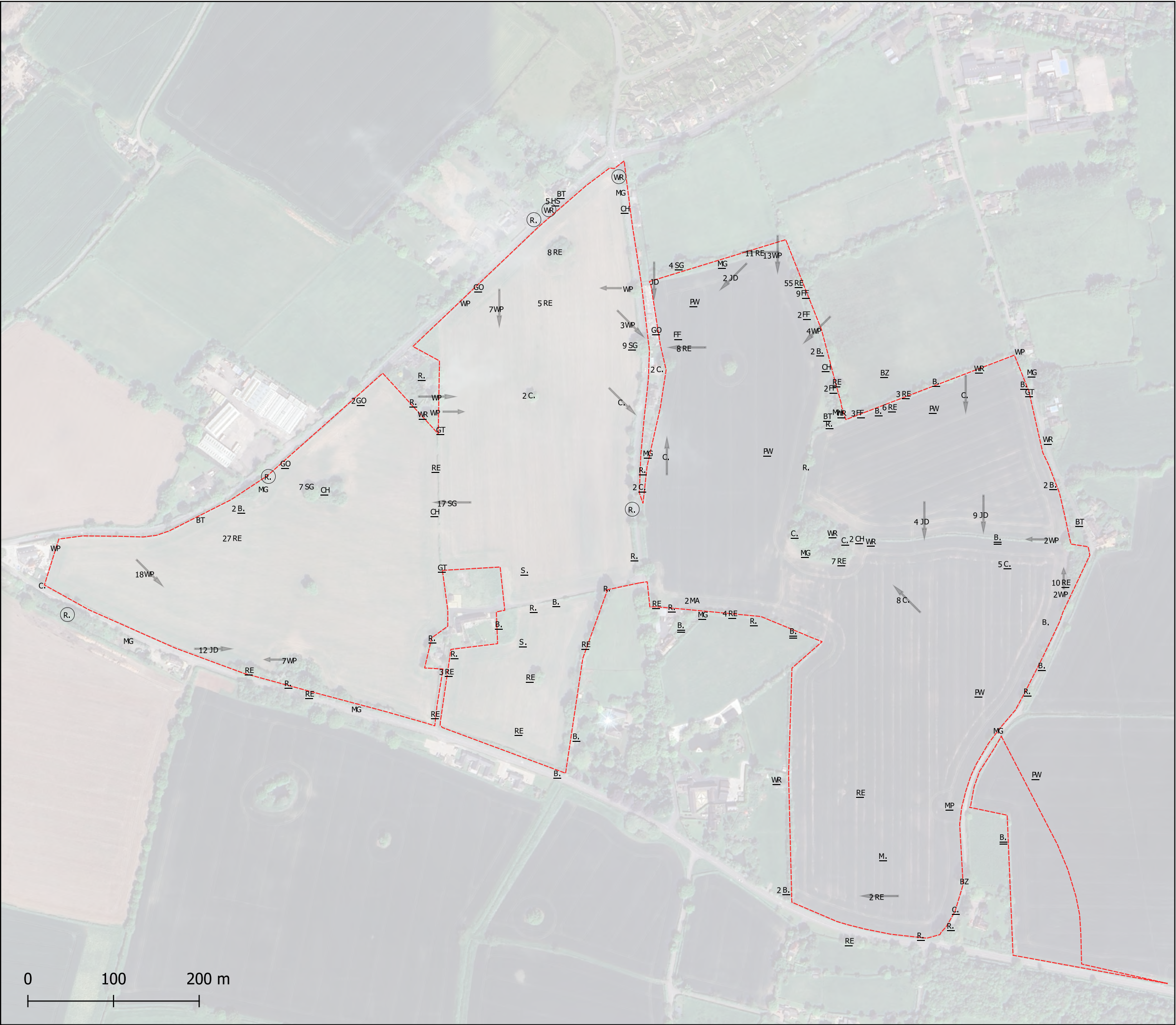


Figure 6: *Survey Results: Survey 4*

Notes:

Ground frozen, and light mist.

Relatively quiet.

Flock of skylark foraging on stubble.

	Singing
	Calling
	Alarm calling
	Flying
	Flushed
	Circling
	Nest
	Carrying nesting material
	Carrying food
	Juvenile
	Aggressive encounter

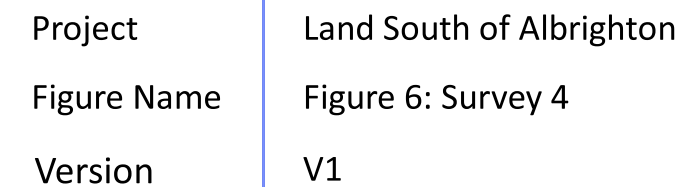


Figure 7: *Survey Results: Survey 5*

Date:	08.02.2025
Surveyor:	A. Grubb
Start:	07:30
End:	09:40
Temp (*C):	4
Cloud Cover (/8):	8
Wind (BFS):	1
Rain (%):	0
Visibility:	Very Good

Notes:
Cloudy and Cold.

Symbology key:

- Singing
- Calling
- Alarm calling
- Flying
- Flushed
- Circling
- Nest
- Carrying nesting material
- Carrying food
- Juvenile
- Aggressive encounter



Project	Land South of Albrighton
Figure Name	Figure 7: Survey 5
Version	V1



Figure 8: *Survey Results: Survey 6*

Notes:

Flocks of woodpigeon and RE/FF.

S. singing.

Single flyover of Y.

	Sing
	Calling
	Alarm calling
	Flying
	Flushed
	Circling
	Nest
mat.	Carrying nesting material
food	Carrying food
juv.	Juvenile
	Aggressive encounter



Project	Land South of Albrighton
Figure Name	Figure 8: Survey 6
Version	V1

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 BTO SPECIES CODES

BTO SPECIES CODES

AC	Arctic Skua	GA	Gadwall	LE	Long-eared Owl	SM	Sand Martin
AE	Arctic Tern	GX	Gannet	LT	Long-tailed Tit	SS	Sanderling
AV	Avocet	GW	Garden Warbler	MG	Magpie	TE	Sandwich Tern
BO	Barn Owl	GY	Garganey	MA	Mallard	VI	Savi's Warbler
BY	Barnacle Goose	GC	Goldcrest	MN	Mandarin Duck	SQ	Scarlet Rosefinch
BA	Bar-tailed Godwit	EA	Golden Eagle	MX	Manx Shearwater	SP	Scaup
BR	Bearded Tit	OL	Golden Oriole	MR	Marsh Harrier	CY	Scottish Crossbill
BS	Berwick's Swan	GF	Golden Pheasant	MT	Marsh Tit	SW	Sedge Warbler
BI	Bittern	GP	Golden Plover	MW	Marsh Warbler	NS	Serin
BK	Black Grouse	GN	Goldeneye	MP	Meadow Pipit	SA	Shag
TY	Black Guillemot	GO	Goldfinch	MU	Mediterranean Gull	SU	Shelduck
BX	Black Redstart	GD	Goosander	ML	Merlin	SX	Shorelark
BJ	Black Tern	GI	Goshawk	M.	Mistle Thrush	SE	Short-eared Owl
B.	Blackbird	GH	Grasshopper Warbler	MO	Montagu's Harrier	SV	Shoveler
BC	Blackcap	GB	Great Black-backed Gull	MH	Moorhen	SK	Siskin
BH	Black-headed Gull	GG	Great Crested Grebe	MS	Mute Swan	S.	Skylark
BN	Black-necked Grebe	ND	Great Northern Diver	N.	Nightingale	SZ	Slavonian Grebe
BW	Black-tailed Godwit	NX	Great Skua	NJ	Nightjar	SN	Snipe
BV	Black-throated Diver	GS	Great Spotted Woodpecker	NH	Nuthatch	SB	Snow Bunting
BT	Blue Tit	GT	Great Tit	OP	Osprey	ST	Song Thrush
BU	Bluethroat	GE	Green Sandpiper	OC	Oystercatcher	SH	Sparrowhawk
BL	Brambling	G.	Green Woodpecker	PX	Peafowl/Peacock	AK	Spotted Crake
BG	Brent Goose	GR	Greenfinch	PE	Peregrine	SF	Spotted Flycatcher
BF	Bullfinch	GK	Greenshank	PH	Pheasant	DR	Spotted Redshank
BZ	Buzzard	H.	Grey Heron	PF	Pied Flycatcher	SG	Starling
CG	Canada Goose	P.	Grey Partridge	PW	Pied Wagtail	SD	Stock Dove
CP	Capercaillie	GV	Grey Plover	PG	Pink-footed Goose	SC	Stonechat
C.	Carrion Crow	GL	Grey Wagtail	PT	Pintail	TN	Stone-curlew
CW	Cetti's Warbler	GJ	Greylag Goose	PO	Pochard	TM	Storm Petrel
CH	Chaffinch	GU	Guillemot	PM	Ptarmigan	SL	Swallow
CC	Chiffchaff	FW	Guineafowl (Helmeted)	PU	Puffin	SI	Swift
CF	Chough	HF	Hawfinch	PS	Purple Sandpiper	TO	Tawny Owl
CL	Cirl Bunting	HH	Hen Harrier	Q.	Quail	T.	Teal
CT	Coal Tit	HG	Herring Gull	RN	Raven	TK	Temminck's Stint
CD	Collared Dove	HY	Hobby	RA	Razorbill	TP	Tree Pipit
CM	Common Gull	HZ	Honey Buzzard	RG	Red Grouse	TS	Tree Sparrow
CS	Common Sandpiper	HC	Hooded Crow	KT	Red Kite	TC	Treecreeper
CX	Common Scoter	HP	Hoopoe	ED	Red-backed Shrike	TU	Tufted Duck
CN	Common Tern	HM	House Martin	RM	Red-breasted Merganser	TT	Turnstone
CO	Coot	HS	House Sparrow	RQ	Red-crested Pochard	TD	Turtle Dove
CA	Cormorant	JD	Jackdaw	FV	Red-footed Falcon	TW	Twite
CB	Corn Bunting	J.	Jay	RL	Red-legged Partridge	WA	Water Rail
CE	Corncrake	K.	Kestrel	NK	Red-necked Phalarope	W.	Wheatear
CI	Crested Tit	KF	Kingfisher	LR	Redpoll (Lesser)	WM	Whimbrel
CR	Crossbill (Common)	KI	Kittiwake	RK	Redshank	WC	Whinchat
CK	Cuckoo	KN	Knot	RT	Redstart	WG	White-fronted Goose
CU	Curlew	LM	Lady Amherst's Pheasant	RH	Red-throated Diver	WH	Whitethroat
DW	Dartford Warbler	LA	Lapland Bunting	RE	Redwing	WS	Whooper Swan
DI	Dipper	L.	Lapwing	RB	Reed Bunting	WN	Wigeon
DO	Dotterel	TL	Leach's Petrel	RW	Reed Warbler	WT	Willow Tit
DN	Dunlin	LB	Lesser Black-backed Gull	RZ	Ring Ouzel	WW	Willow Warbler
D.	Dunnock	LS	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	RP	Ringed Plover	OD	Wood Sandpiper
EG	Egyptian Goose	LW	Lesser Whitethroat	RI	Ring-necked Parakeet	WO	Wood Warbler
E.	Eider	LI	Linnet	R.	Robin	WK	Woodcock
FP	Feral Pigeon	ET	Little Egret	DV	Rock Dove (not feral)	WL	Woodlark
ZL	Feral/hybrid goose	LG	Little Grebe	RC	Rock Pipit	WP	Woodpigeon
ZF	Feral/hybrid mallard type	LU	Little Gull	RO	Rook	WR	Wren
FF	Fieldfare	LO	Little Owl	RS	Roseate Tern	WY	Wryneck
FC	Firecrest	LP	Little Ringed Plover	RY	Ruddy Duck	YW	Yellow Wagtail
F.	Fulmar	AF	Little Tern	RU	Ruff	Y.	Yellowhammer

APPENDIX 2 PLANNING POLICY AND LEGISLATION

National Planning Policy

National Planning Policy Framework

A2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was revised on the 12th of December 2024 and sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Section 15 (outlined below) of the NPPF, 'Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment' encourages the planning system to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. This should be achieved by:

- "protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);
- recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
- maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;
- minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs
- preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
- remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate".

A2.2 The NPPF also stipulates that Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), when determining planning applications, should seek to conserve and enhance biodiversity, by applying the following principles:

- "if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused
- development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest".

- development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons⁷⁰ and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and
- development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate."

National Planning Practice Guidance, 2023

- A2.3 The Government's National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) is intended to provide guidance to local planning authorities and developers on the implementation of the planning policies set out within the NPPF. The guidance of most relevance to ecology and biodiversity is the Natural Environment Chapter, which explains key issues in implementing policy to protect biodiversity, including local requirements.

UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework

- A2.4 The Environment Departments of all four governments in the UK work together through the Four Countries Biodiversity Group. Together they have agreed, and Ministers have signed, a framework of priorities for UK-level work for the Convention on Biological Diversity. Published on 17 July 2012, the 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' covers the period from 2011 to 2020. This now supersedes the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). However, many of the tools developed under UK BAP remain of use, for example, background information about the lists of priority habitats and species. The lists of priority species and habitats agreed under UK BAP still form the basis of much biodiversity work in the countries.
- A2.5 Although the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework does not confer any statutory legal protection, in practice many of the species listed already receive statutory legal protection under UK and / or European legislation. In addition, the majority of Priority national (English) BAP habitats and species are now those listed as Habitats of Principal Importance (HoPI) and Species of Principal Importance (SoPI) in England listed under Section 41 (S41) of the NERC Act 2006. For the purpose of this report, habitats and species listed under S41 of the NERC Act are referred to as having superseded the UK BAP. All public bodies have a legal obligation or 'biodiversity duty' under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 to conserve biodiversity by having particular regard to those species and habitats listed under S41.

Guidance

Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services

- A2.6 In October 2010, over 190 countries signed an historic global agreement in Nagoya, Japan to take urgent and effective action to halt the alarming global declines in biodiversity. This agreement recognised just how important it is to look after the natural world. It established a new global vision for biodiversity, including a set of strategic goals and targets to drive action. England's response to this agreement was the publication of 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services'. The mission for this strategy is:

"to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people."

BS 42020: 2013 Biodiversity: Code of Practice for Planning and Development

- A2.7 The UK commitment to halt overall loss of biodiversity by 2020 in line with the European Biodiversity Strategy and UN Aichi targets², is passed down to local authorities to implement, mainly through planning policy. To assist organizations affected by these commitments, BSI has published BS 42020 which offers a coherent methodology for biodiversity management.
- A2.8 This British Standard sets out to assist those concerned with ecological issues as they arise through the planning process in matters relating to permitted development and activities involved in the management of land outside the scope of land use planning, which could have site-specific ecological implications.
- A2.9 The standard has been produced with input from a number of organisations including the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and the Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE) and provides:
- Guidance on how to produce clear and concise ecological information to accompany planning applications;
 - Recommendations on professional ethics, conduct, competence and judgement to give confidence that proposals for biodiversity conservation, and consequent decisions/actions taken, are sound and appropriate; and
 - direction on effective decision-making in biodiversity management a framework to demonstrate how biodiversity has been managed during the development process to minimize impact.

Legislation

- A2.10 Specific habitats and species receive legal protection in England under various pieces of legislation, including:
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017³;
 - The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended)⁴;
 - The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006⁵;

Birds

- A2.11 The level of protection afforded to birds under the law varies from species to species. A few game and pest species may lawfully be hunted and killed, usually under licence, whilst the rarest species are listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA 1981 and are protected by special penalties for offences.
- A2.12 All of the native bird species of Britain are additionally covered by the European Union (EU) Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 2009⁶ ('The Birds Directive'). The Birds Directive applies to all wild birds, their eggs, nests and habitats, and provides for the protection, management and control of all species of birds naturally occurring within each member state of the European Union. It requires the UK to take measures to ensure the preservation of sufficient diversity of habitats to maintain populations of all wild birds at ecologically and

² <https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

³ HMSO (2017) The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

⁴ HMSO (1981) 'Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)'

⁵ ODPM (2006) 'Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)'

⁶ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds

scientifically sustainable levels. The requirements of the Birds Directive are implemented in the UK primarily through the WCA 1981 (as amended) and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

- A2.13 Statutory protection is given to all nesting birds in the UK under the WCA 1981 (as amended), which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird, take, damage or destroy its nest whilst in use or being built, or take or destroy its eggs. In addition to this, for species listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA 1981 (as amended), it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb birds while they are nest building, or at or near a nest with eggs or young, or to disturb the dependent young of such a bird.
- A2.14 In addition to statutory protection, the bird species of Britain are also subject to various conservation designations intended to indicate their rarity, population status and conservation priority. These do not have statutory force but may be instrumental in determining local, regional and national planning and development policy. The main categories of designation comprise the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) 'Species Alert' lists, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) 'Birds of Conservation Concern' lists and species listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 and local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs).
- A2.15 The BTO Conservation Alert System lists of 'Birds of Conservation Concern' include a 'Red List' for birds of high conservation concern and an 'Amber List' for birds of medium conservation concern. Red List species are those that are globally threatened and Amber List species are those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria⁷. An updated list of 'Red' and 'Amber List' species was published in 2009 (Eaton et al., 2009)⁸.

⁷ IUCN (2000): 'The revised Categories and Criteria (IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria version 3.1)'.

⁸ Eaton et al (2015): 'Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man'. British Birds 108, 708–746.

APPENDIX 3 DESK STUDY: SPECIES LIST

Scientific Name	Common Name	European Protection	UK Protection	Principle Concern	Most Recent
<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Lesser Redpoll	No	No	Yes	2021
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Goshawk	No	Yes	No	2021
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Sparrowhawk	No	No	No	2021
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark	No	No	Yes	2021
<i>Anser anser</i>	Greylag Goose	No	Yes	No	2021
<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	Red-breasted Goose	Yes	No	No	2019
<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	Roller	Yes	No	No	1908
<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Cuckoo	No	No	Yes	2006
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yellowhammer	No	No	Yes	2021
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed Bunting	No	No	Yes	2021
<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Hobby	No	Yes	No	2010
<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Brambling	No	Yes	No	2021
<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Linnet	No	No	Yes	2021
<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Common Crossbill	No	No	Yes	2021
<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Spotted Flycatcher	No	No	Yes	2010
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	Yes	Yes	No	2006
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	No	No	Yes	2020
<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Wood Warbler	No	No	Yes	2006
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock	No	No	Yes	2021
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Bullfinch	No	No	Yes	2021
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling	No	No	Yes	2020
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing	No	Yes	No	2021
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	No	No	Yes	2021
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare	No	Yes	No	2021
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	No	Yes	Yes	2008
<i>Valellus vanellus</i>	Lapwing	No	No	Yes	2021

APPENDIX 4 RESULTS: SPECIES LIST

Species and Species			Conservation status	Survey						Max	Mean
				1	2	3	4	5	6		
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Blackbird	B.	Green	20	18	21	21	8	11	21	17
<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull	BH	Amber		71			26		71	49
<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Blue Tit	BT	Green	3	3	4	14	11	11	14	8
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Buzzard	BZ	Green	2	3	2	2		1	3	2
<i>Corvus corone</i>	Carrion Crow	C.	Green	13	9	26	4	6	19	26	13
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Chaffinch	CH	Green	10	1	6		9	7	10	7
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Chiffchaff	CC	Green						6	6	6
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock	D.	Amber; Sec41, UKBAP	5	1		3	5	10	10	5
<i>Columba livia</i>	Feral Pigeon	FP	Green	1						1	1
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare	FF	Red; Sch1.1; RBBP	12	12	17	32	11	43	43	21
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Goldfinch	GO	Green	3	4	5	8	13	4	13	6
<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Great Spotted Woodpecker	GS	Green						3	3	3
<i>Parus major</i>	Great Tit	GT	Green	2	1	3	5	4	10	10	4
<i>Picus viridis</i>	Green Woodpecker	G.	Green				1			1	1
<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Greenfinch	GR	Red					1	1	1	1
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	H.	Green		1					1	1
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	HS	Red; Sec41, UKBAP	3		5				5	4
<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	Jackdaw	JD	Green	11	39	28	16	32	25	39	25
<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Jay	J.	Green	2	1					2	2
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Kestrel	K.	Amber		2				1	2	2
<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Linnet	LI	Red; Sec41, sBAP	2						2	2
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	ET	Green; Ann1; RBBP		1					1	1
<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Long-tailed Tit	LT	Green	5	5				4	5	5
<i>Pica pica</i>	Magpie	MG	Green	7	26	10	11	5	17	26	13
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	MA	Amber	7	3	2	2	8	2	8	4
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow Pipit	MP	NT; Amber			1	3			3	2
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle Thrush	M.	Red	3	2	1				3	2
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Moorhen	MH	Amber			1				1	1
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Oystercatcher	OC	NT; Amber		1				1	1	1
<i>Motacilla alba yarellii</i>	Pied Wagtail	PW	Amber	2	2	5	1	2		5	2
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing	RE	NT; Amber; Sch1.1; RBBP	134	176	167	38	82	48	176	108
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Robin	R.	Green	18	2	20	19	18	27	27	17
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark	S.	Red; Sec41, UKBAP	5		2	26		9	26	11
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Snipe	SN	Amber, sBAP	1			1			1	1
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush	ST	Amber; Sec41, UKBAP	1					1	1	1
<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Sparrowhawk	SH	Amber		1		1			1	1

Species and Species			Conservation status	Survey						Max	Mean
				1	2	3	4	5	6		
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling	SG	Red; Sec41, UKBAP		7	37		15	6	37	16
<i>Columba oenas</i>	Stock Dove	SD	Amber					1	4	4	3
<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Treecreeper	TC	Green		1		1	1		1	1
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Woodpigeon	WP	Amber	26	24	62	47	107	133	133	67
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren	WR	Amber	8	3	9	3	4	10	10	6
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yellowhammer	Y.	Red; Sec41,sBAP						1	1	1

Key:

EX/CR/EN/VU/NT	Extinct, Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened on the Global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species
Red/Amber/Green (GB/UK)	Red, Amber or Green listed on the Birds of Conservation Concern 5 List
Sch1.1/1.1A/A1/1.2	Schedule 1 part 1, 1 part 1A, A1 or 1 part 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
Sec41	Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
Sch1.2	Schedule 1 part 2 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985
Ann1	Listed on Annex I of The Birds Directive
RBBP	Listed as one of the species that the UK Rare Breeding Bird Panel reports on
UKBAP	Listed as UK (2007) or Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan species

APPENDIX 5 REFERENCES

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