
INTERIM BREEDING BIRD SURVEY REPORT

LAND NORTH OF A47 NORMANDY WAY AND WEST OF A447 ASHBY ROAD, HINCKLEY

ON BEHALF OF

RICHBOROUGH

REFERENCE: ZEL_477

DATE: July 2023

Worcester

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The evidence gathered, and the opinions provided, have been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Code of Professional Conduct.

Where any appraisal is based upon information provided by third parties, it is assumed that this information is relevant, correct and complete; there has been no independent verification of information obtained from third parties unless otherwise stated. Where field investigations have been carried out these have been appropriate to the agreed scope of works and carried out to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Zebra Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Richborough to undertake a suite of breeding bird surveys at the land north of A47 Normandy Way and west of A447 Ashby Road, Hinckley (centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference SP 42751 95935) in order to assess the potential impacts to breeding bird populations by the proposed residential development of the site.
- It should be noted that this report serves as an interim summary of the surveys undertaken so far at the site. As such, no conclusions/recommendations for enhancements or mitigation have been included, as insufficient data has been collected at the time of reporting.
- At the time of reporting, two of six surveys have been completed, with the remaining four to be undertaken during the 2024 breeding bird survey season (March-early July). The breeding bird surveys were conducted in June and July 2023, and comprised two dawn visits, (commencing half an hour prior to sunrise) as per the latest Bird Survey Guidelines (RSK Biocensus, 2021).
- All species encountered within the site and on adjacent land (up to 100m from the site boundary) were recorded. In total, 117 registrations for 23 species of bird have been recorded during the survey visits.
- The breeding bird assemblage utilising the site was typical of the on-site habitats, mainly comprising common and widespread bird species. Thus, the site has been deemed as holding 'Local' importance only with regards to birds.
- Post-development habitat creation and enhancements would be expected to favourably contribute towards the conservation status of the notable species recorded on site, especially those species that are also identified within the Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (LLRBAP).

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Background to the Development

- 1.1 Zebra Ecology Ltd was commissioned by Richborough to undertake a suite of breeding bird surveys at the land north of A47 Normandy Way and west of A447 Ashby Road, Hinckley referred to from now on as 'the site' (centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference SP 42751 95935). The report has been produced to identify any ornithological constraints and opportunities for the site, in light of the proposed residential development.
- 1.2 The site is c.16ha in area and comprises six cattle-grazed fields surrounded by mixture of native species-rich and species-poor hedgerows. The site lies to the north of the A47, which constitutes the existing northern boundary of the urban spread of Hinckley town. A tributary of the River Tweed runs along the western boundary. Numerous well established and mature trees can be found within the site and along the site boundaries. The application site boundary is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Application Site Boundary

- 1.3 Planning consent is being sought from Hinckley and Bosworth Council for 'Outline planning application with all matters reserved except for access, for the erection of up to 415 dwellings, associated open space, drainage, landscaping and infrastructure'.

Survey Objectives

- 1.4 The primary aims of the survey included the following:
1. Identify the presence and distribution of bird species interacting with the site and highlight areas of ornithological interest within the site;

2. Evaluate the level of conservation importance of the bird species interacting with the site;
3. Evaluate the relative importance of the breeding bird populations within the site;
4. Identify any mitigation measures likely to be required, to minimise the impacts of the development proposals on local bird populations;
5. Identify opportunities to deliver ornithological enhancement at the site level.

Relevant Legislation & Policy¹

- 1.5 Wild birds within the UK are primarily protected by the Wildlife & Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000). The WCA is the UK's domestic legislation which incorporates the legislation outlined in the European Community Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds, more commonly known as the 'Birds Directive' – the oldest EU legislation on the environment. The Birds Directive provides legal guidance for the management and conservation of wild birds within member states. This legislation states that all birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law, and it is illegal to (subject to exception) to recklessly or intentionally:
 - Kill, injure or take any wild bird;
 - Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while in use or being built;
 - Take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.
- 1.6 A total of 193 species of bird are identified with Annex 1 of the Birds Directive. These species are:
 - in danger of extinction;
 - vulnerable to specific changes in their habitat;
 - considered rare because of small populations or restricted local distribution;
 - requiring particular attention for reasons of the specific nature of habitat.
- 1.7 Habitats and important sites for species found on Annex 1 of the Birds Directive are safeguarded by the designation of Special Protected Area (SPA) status. SPAs are protected through the implementation of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012 (The Conservation Regulations). Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar convention) are also protected by the Conservation Regulations, which was amended in 2012 to enhance provision for the preservation, maintenance and enhancements of habitats for wild birds in the UK.
- 1.8 Species listed on the Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (as amended), are offered greater levels of protection, whereby it is an offence to intentionally disturb adult birds engaged in nest building and during nest occupation, as well as the intentional disturbance of dependent young.

¹ The legal information found within this section serves as a summary of guidance only. A full transcript of the original legal documentation should be consulted for definitive information and can be found in the References section at the end of this report.

- 1.9 A further 49 species of bird are also protected by Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC S.41). These species have been identified due to their importance to nature conservation.

Protection within the Planning System

National Planning Policy 2023

- 1.10 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2023) provides guidance for Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in creating development plans and determining applications.

- 1.11 The NPPF states:

‘When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply 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 reasons⁶³ 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.*

The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:

- potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;*
- listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and*
- sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.’*

- 1.12 Section 174(d) states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on and providing net-gains for

biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressure.

- 1.13 Section 179(b) states that in order to protect biodiversity, plans should promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.
- 1.14 Section 1 states 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 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 reasons, and a suitable compensation strategy exists.
- 1.15 The NPPF states that local plans must be prepared by LPAs with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and also that significant adverse impacts should be avoided, mitigated or compensated for.

[Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Core Strategy \(Adopted December 2009\)](#)

- 1.16 **Spatial Objective 10:** Natural Environment and Cultural Assets to deliver a linked network of green infrastructure, enhancing and protecting the borough's distinctive landscapes, woodlands, geology, archaeological heritage and biodiversity and encourage its understanding, appreciation, maintenance and development.
- 1.17 *'The borough's attractive environment is one of its key strengths in many people's minds and safeguards to protect the best of its landscapes, wildlife and heritage- whilst encouraging responsible enjoyment of it- must therefore be at the centre of spatial policies.'*

'Preserve and enhance natural habitats and biodiversity - Despite popular natural attractions such as Burbage Common, Charnwood Forest, Ashby Canal and part of the National Forest, biodiversity is not particularly high overall. In fact, the East Midlands has one of the lowest percentages of woodland cover compared to the UK as a whole. There are 7 Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the borough, of these 60% are in an unfavourable condition and are continuing to decline. There are also numerous local wildlife sites/Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. There is a strong need to provide protection and enhancement to these sites and the nature conservation sites, habitats and species listed in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). The development occurring in Hinckley & Bosworth up until 2026 is likely to increase the pressure on the borough's landscapes and green spaces as well as presenting opportunities for enhancing and extending green infrastructure assets, linking and improving biodiversity within the borough.'

Space for Wildlife - Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland (LLR) Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2016

- 1.18 Space for Wildlife is LLR association of Council's local biodiversity plan, based on the National Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP), and has three main components:

- *To promote the restoration, management and creation of BAP priority habitats*
- *To promote the creation of new wildlife habitat in the wider countryside*
- *To survey, monitor and promote favourable management of existing good sites through the Local Wildlife Sites system.*

In essence, Space for Wildlife: LLRBAP goes back to the broader intentions of the 1992 Biodiversity Convention - to halt the loss of biodiversity – by broadening the overall scope of the LLRBAP to also address wildlife conservation in the wider countryside. The intention is to promote a new, more flexible approach to nature conservation and areas managed for wildlife in Leicestershire and Rutland which is relevant and applicable to all parts of the local landscape.'

- 1.19 The plan considers both habitats and species of national and local importance. Bird species identified within the plan include the following:

- Barn owl *Tyto alba*
- Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*
- Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
- Sand martin *Riparia riparia*
- Common Swift *Apus apus*
- Barn swallow *Hirundo rustica*
- House martin *Delichon urbicum*

2.0 METHODOLOGY

Desk Study

- 2.1 The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Zebra Ecology, 2023) included a 2km biological records data search from Leicestershire and Rutland Environment Records Centre (LRERC) to identify any designated sites and protected / notable species (including avian species) within a 2km radius of SP 42751 95935. It should be noted that the absence of biological records for an area does not imply that taxa are not present.
- 2.2 Leicester and Rutland Ornithological Society were contacted on 7 November 2023 via email to enquire about the latest local bird report; however, no response has been received at the time of reporting.
- 2.3 The Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) online database (<http://magic.defra.gov.uk>) was used to search for European statutory designated sites such as Ramsar Sites or Special Protection Areas (SPA) within 20km of the site boundary.

Breeding Bird Survey

- 2.4 The site has been subject to two out of six scheduled survey visits. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)'s Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) methodology recommends 3 site visits, whilst the Common Bird Census (CBC) methodology recommends 10 site visits. Due to the size of the site, 6 survey visits was considered sufficient to assess the importance of the assemblages on site, and gauge areas of ornithological interest within the survey area. These surveys were undertaken between late May and early July, falling within the bounds of the accepted breeding season for the majority of bird species in the UK (March-August), with March to late July forming the optimal survey period.
- 2.5 Surveys were undertaken in favourable weather conditions for surveying birds (low winds, little to no precipitation etc to maximise the potential to detect birds on-site). As per the latest Bird Survey Guidelines (RSK Biocensus, 2021) surveys commenced 30 minutes prior to sunrise and lasted for an average of approximately 2 hours, to cover peak bird activity times. Details of each survey can be seen below in Table 1.

Table 1: survey details for breeding bird surveys at the land north of A47 Normandy Way and west of A447 Ashby Road, Hinckley

Date	Visit	Start Time	Sunrise or Sunset	End Time	Start-End Temp	Wind (BF)	Cloud Cover	Precipitation
27/06/2023	1/6	04:15	04:44	05:50	10.3-12.1	1	90%	None
03/07/2023	2/6	04:19	04:49	06:00	13.3-14.3	3-4	10%	None

- 2.6 Elements of both the BBS and CBC methodology were adopted and adapted. A line transect methodology was employed. Based on the information provided by the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Zebra Ecology Ltd, 2023), a route which encountered key features (such as hedgerows, rivers, areas of scrub) was identified prior to surveys commencing. This route enabled all areas of the site to be visually assessed within 50m. Key features in the landscape were given increased focus during the survey. A 10-minute static observation period was given to these areas along the transect route to improve the chances of identifying specialist breeders within these habitats, or species which are generally skulky or shy in nature. All birds seen/heard were recorded and mapped using the 2-letter BTO codes, including birds

on the wing passing over the site. The survey bounds extended up to c.100m beyond the site boundary, to account for species using adjacent habitats to the site. Species lists and maps, with details of behaviour and activity were used to assess the status of each species identified interacting with the site. The species lists and maps provided a general assessment of the species present, their potential for breeding on site and any on-site ornithological constraints.

- 2.7 Suitable survey attire was worn (natural coloured clothing) to avoid disturbance to potential breeders. High-power binoculars (Vortex Diamondback 12x50) were used to allow observation of potential breeders at distance.
- 2.8 Surveys were completed by personnel with experience of the likely species assemblage for this geography and habitat type. All surveys were undertaken by the same surveyor to reduce inter-survey biases, and to maintain standardisation in recording ability across the survey effort.

Assessment Criteria – Breeding Status

- 2.9 The results were analysed to assess the breeding status of the birds interacting with the site. See Table 2 below.

Table 2: Breeding status of birds interacting with the site.

Breeding Status	Definitions - Criteria for Classification
Non-breeding	Flyover or species observed within unsuitable breeding habitat
Possible Breeding	Species observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat
Probable Breeding	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season, territorial behaviour observed on at least two occasions, courtship and display observed, observed visiting probable nest site, agitated behaviour or alarm calls from adults or nest building observed
Confirmed Breeding	Used nest or eggshells, distraction display/injury feigning observed, recently fledged young, adults on nest, adult carrying faecal sac or food, nest containing eggs or nest with young seen/heard

Assessment Criteria – Conservation Importance (National Scale)

- 2.10 The level of importance for each species was evaluated based on the criteria outlined in Percival (2007) and can be seen in Table 3 below.

Table 3: assessment criteria for conservation importance for breeding bird surveys at the site

Level of Conservation Importance	Definitions - Criteria for classification
Very High (International)	Internationally significant and viable populations of birds listed on Annex 1 of the EC Birds Directive. Regularly occurring, globally threatened species. Any regularly occurring populations of internationally important species that are rare or threatened in the UK or of uncertain conservation status. A regularly occurring significant population/number of any internationally important species.
High (National)	A regularly occurring significant population/number of any nationally important species i.e. listed on Schedule 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended). Any regularly occurring population of a nationally important species that is threatened or rare in the county or region.
Medium (Regional)	Any regularly occurring significant population of a species listed as being nationally scarce, or in the local BAP or relevant Natural Area Profile on account of its regional rarity or localisation. Significant populations of a species important at regional or county level. A viable significant population of a Species of Principal Importance (SPI) in England, Wales and Scotland.
Low (Local/District)	Species that are scarce within the locality or which appreciably enrich the local area's habitat resource. Any regularly occurring, significant population of a species that is listed in a Local RDB or BAP on account of its rarity or localisation. Any other species of conservation importance e.g. species listed in Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC5) i.e. Red List Species (Eaton et al., 2021).
Negligible (Parish/Neighbourhood)	Species populations considered to enrich the habitat resource appreciably within the context of the Parish or Neighbourhood.

Assessment Criteria – Relative Conservation Importance of the Survey Area (Local Scale)

2.11 The potential for the site to be classified as a Local Wildlife Site, based on its ornithological assemblage can be assessed using the criteria outlined in Leicestershire County Councils 'Guidelines for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites (previously known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation or SINCs) in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland' (2011). The following criteria are considered:

- Sites with significant and established populations of Leicestershire & Rutland Red Data Book (L&R RDB) bird species can be selected as LWS.
- L&R RDB birds are defined as uncommon, scarce, rare or very rare breeding or wintering species within a current LROS County list, or species listed in the latest BOCC as a 'red' or 'amber' species, or a current UKBAP or LBAP priority species.
- Bird populations can only be used to select LWS according to the criteria used for their inclusion in the current LROS County List (e.g. rare breeding birds should only be used to select breeding sites; rare winter visitors should only be used to select wintering sites).
- A significant population is defined as supporting at least 10% of the usual range of occurrence for that species within a current LROS County list (e.g. for an uncommon breeding species, a LWS would need to support 10 breeding pairs; for a scarce species, 1 breeding pair would be sufficient; for a common bird, 100 breeding pairs would be required).
- An established population is where the species has been recorded in significant number on 5 occasions within the last 15 years.

Limitations

- 2.12 The results, interpretations, and conclusions found within this report are representative of the time of surveying.
- 2.13 The methodologies used were up to date at the time of surveying and are widely accepted as the industry standard and by Natural England. Zebra Ecology Ltd cannot accept responsibility where methods used fail to account for all species on site.

3.0 RESULTS

STATUTORY / NON-STATUTORY SITES

Statutory Designated Sites

- 3.1 No SPAs or Ramsar sites were identified within 20km of the site. The nearest Ramsar site is Rutland Water approximately 46km from the site.

Third-party Data Search – Leicestershire & Rutland Environmental Records Centre

- 3.2 The 2km data search returned 139 records for 28 species of bird. Nine of these species are on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan list, whilst only two were on the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (Leicestershire & Rutland), namely swift *Apus apus* and barn owl *Tyto alba*. A further eleven species from the UK Red List for Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC⁵) were returned. The most numerous record for birds in the local area was for common swift *Apus apus*, with the nearest being located 733m south of the site.

FIELD SURVEY(S)

On-site Habitats & Opportunities for Breeding Birds

- 3.3 At the local level, the habitat across the site represents a low level of importance for breeding opportunity for common and widespread bird species identified during the survey efforts. Mature trees with multiple nesting opportunities for hole nesting species are present across the site and within the boundary vegetation. The cattle-grazed grassland offers some reasonable foraging opportunity for insectivorous and/or omnivorous species, whilst the hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* found within the extensive hedgerow network around the site provide a good resource for frugivorous species (although over-wintering thrushes are primarily non-breeders at the time of fruiting for these plant species).
- 3.4 The hedgerows provide a significant opportunity for nesting passerines, particularly priority farmland species such as yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*, common linnet *Linaria cannabina*, greater whitethroat *Sylvia communis*, greenfinch *Chloris chloris* and Eurasian bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. The small patches of scrub/woodland associated with the site supported Eurasian blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, and other very common species such as great tit *Parus major*, blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* and magpie *Pica pica*.

Field Survey Results

- 3.5 The following results are representative of only two out of six survey visits and are subsequently subject to significant change once further survey work has been completed for breeding birds at the site.
- 3.6 A total of 117 registrations, relating to 23 species of bird were recorded throughout the survey effort. Of these 23 species identified, 19 species are thought to be possible, probable, or confirmed breeders within the survey boundary. Four species were classed as non-breeders.
- 3.7 The species registrations across the survey effort were dominated by common and widespread species associated with lowland farmland habitat in central England, aside from Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* which is predominantly restricted to riverine habitats. The most

frequently encountered species included woodpigeon *Colombia palumbus*, Eurasian wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* and blackbird *Turdus merula*.

- 3.8 Two raptor species were identified during the surveys, namely Eurasian sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* and common buzzard *Buteo buteo*.
- 3.9 Four species were classified as 'non-breeding', as their records were either 'roosting' (but not nesting) on site, 'passing over the site' or recorded on 'adjacent habitat', but never within the survey boundary/proposed development areas. These species were Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, Chiff chaff *Phylloscopus collybita* Eurasian skylark *Alauda arvensis* and Eurasian sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*.
- 3.10 Two species were recorded that are classed as 'Species of Principle Importance', were also probable/possible breeders on site. A female song thrush was seen on site within a central hedgerow (suitable breeding habitat) and male greenfinch *Chloris chloris* have been heard territorially singing during both site visits.
- 3.11 Four species found within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan were identified during the survey efforts, European starling *Sturnus vulgaris* and Eurasian skylark *Alauda arvensis*, however, registrations for both species classed them as non-breeders.
- 3.12 Only one species on the EU Birds Directive Annex 1 list was recorded: Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*. This record was for a bird that was heard and not seen as it flew south along the tributary of the River Tweed.
- 3.13 A full species list, relevant legal protection, and status (BoCC⁵, SPI, EU Birds Directive, UKBAP, Local BAP, WCA, Breeding Status and Relative Conservation Importance with registration accounts) can be seen in Table 4 below.

Table 4: species identified during the Breeding Bird Survey effort at the site

Species	BoCC5 Status	Peak Count (Total Count)	Eu Birds Directive Annex 1	UKBAP	Local BAP (LLRBAP)	WCA Schedule 1	Breeding Status	Site Conservation Importance	Additional Notes
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	6 (11)					Probable breeding	Negligible	Pair observed in in suitable habitat in breeding season.
Blue Tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	1 (1)					Confirmed breeding	Negligible	Recently fledged young observed on third survey.
Carrion crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	1 (1)					Possible breeding	Negligible	Seen passing over the site.
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Green	1 (1)					Non-breeding	Negligible	Heard singing consistently across all surveys in habitat surrounding

Species	BoCC5 Status	Peak Count (Total Count)	Eu Birds Directive Annex 1	UKBAP	Local BAP (LLRBAP)	WCA Schedule 1	Breeding Status	Site Conservation Importance	Additional Notes
									reedbed to the west.
Coal tit <i>Periparus ater</i>	Green	1 (1)					Possible breeding		Species observed in suitable habitat during breeding season.
Collared dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Green	1 (1)					Possible breeding		Species observed in suitable habitat during breeding season.
Common buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green	2 (2)					Possible breeding	Negligible	Observed leaving roost site on one survey
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber	2 (2)					Probable breeding		Male heard singing on site
Eurasian wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Green	6 (10)					Probable breeding	Negligible	Males heard singing on site on multiple occasions
Eurasian Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Green	2 (2)					Probable breeding	Negligible	Heard singing consistently across all surveys in suitable breeding habitat
Eurasian skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red	1 (1)		Yes			Non-breeding	Low	Only heard singing off-site once. Not observed on-site.
Eurasian sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber	1 (1)					Non-breeding	Negligible	Observed once, pursuing prey.
European robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	3 (4)					Probable breeding	Negligible	Males heard singing on site on multiple occasions
European starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red	2 (2)		Yes			Non-breeding	Low	Observed flying over site

Species	BoCC5 Status	Peak Count (Total Count)	Eu Birds Directive Annex 1	UKBAP	Local BAP (LLRBAP)	WCA Schedule 1	Breeding Status	Site Conservation Importance	Additional Notes
Feral pigeon <i>Columba livia domestica</i>	Green	8 (8)					Possible breeding		Numerous individuals observed roosting on buildings on site.
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	7 (9)					Possible breeding	Negligible	Species observed in suitable habitat on multiple occasions
Great tit <i>Parus major</i>	Green	2 (3)					Possible breeding	Negligible	Species observed in suitable habitat on multiple occasions
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red	4 (5)					Possible breeding	Negligible	Males heard singing on site on multiple occasions
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Green	1 (1)	Yes			Yes	Possible breeding		Individual heard in suitable habitat
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	Green	3 (3)					Possible breeding	Negligible	Species observed in suitable habitat on multiple occasions
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber	1 (1)					Possible breeding	Negligible	Species observed in suitable breeding habitat
Song thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber	1 (1)					Probable breeding	Low	Territorial behaviour observed on at least 2 surveys
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	Green	23 (44)					Possible breeding	Negligible	By far the most populous bird on site, foraging and passing over consistently on all surveys.

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APPENDIX A

Photographs



Photograph 1: Looking east across the site on Survey 1



Photograph 2: Sunrise on Survey 2, looking east across the site.



Photograph 3: Facing west on the dusk survey (Survey 5).



Photograph 4: A pond in the centre of the site.



Photograph 5: The pond within the scrub in the centre of the site.



Photograph 6: Mixed scrub in the centre of the site.

APPENDIX B

Qualifications and Experience

Zebra Ecology Ltd is Registered Practice of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). A comprehensive range of ecological services are offered including Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA), Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA), Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA), Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) and European Protected Species (EPS) Surveys / Licensing.

The practice works closely work closely with clients to achieve their aspirations alongside securing the best outcomes for the environment. With wildlife legislation and policy as its basis; commercial awareness, pragmatism and defensible advice is combined to form Zebra Ecology's approach.

Andrew Elliott BSc (Hons) ACIEEM

Andy holds a BSc (Hons) degree in Biological Sciences (Zoology) from the University of Birmingham, and has a particular passion for ornithology, as well as social ecology. Since graduating, Andy has spent considerable time on the African continent, contributing to research projects in fields such as evolutionary sociality in birds, black rhinoceros behavioural ecology and linear infrastructure wildlife-mortality mitigation. Andy holds a Class 1 survey licence for bats and great crested newts, and has a broad range of consulting experience, working on large and small-scale projects across the UK. Andy is also an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

Emma Seaton BSc (Hons) MCIEEM

Emma holds a BSc (Hons) degree in Biology from the University of Sheffield and has since gained a postgraduate certificate in Ecological Consultancy. Her ecological experience includes Preliminary Ecological Appraisals, Ecological Impact Assessments (EclA), surveying for notable / European Protected Species, mitigation / licensing advice and providing Continued Professional Development (CPD) sessions for developers on Biodiversity Net Gain. She has held Natural England survey licences for bats (Class 2), great crested newts and white-clawed crayfish since 2015. She is also a Registered Consultant under the Bat Mitigation Class Licence (BMCL) licence and an Earned Recognition (ER) consultant under the Natural England pilot project. Emma is a Full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

