



Lagan Homes

Land West of Ratby, Leicestershire

BIRD REPORT

September 2024

FPCR Environment and Design Ltd

Registered Office: Lockington Hall, Lockington, Derby DE74 2RH

Company No. 07128076. [T] 01509 672772 [E] mail@fpcr.co.uk [W] www.fpcr.co.uk

This report is the property of FPCR Environment and Design Ltd and is issued on the condition it is not reproduced, retained or disclosed to any unauthorised person, either wholly or in part without the written consent of FPCR Environment and Design Ltd.

Rev	Issue Status	Prepared / Date	Checked / Date	Approved / Date
-	Draft	ACB / OJB / 05.09.24	LTW / 06.09.24	PH / 06.09.24

CONTENTS

1.0	NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY	2
2.0	INTRODUCTION	3
3.0	LEGISLATION & GUIDANCE	4
4.0	METHODOLOGY.....	5
5.0	RESULTS & EVALUATION	8
6.0	DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS.....	18

TABLES

Table 1: Survey Dates & Conditions

Table 2: Evaluation Criteria

Table 3: Bird Species Records from Desktop Study

Table 4: Notable Breeding Bird Species and Their Recent Status in Leicestershire

Table 5: Notable Wintering Bird Species and Their Recent Status in Leicestershire

Table 6: Local Wildlife Site Assemblage Assessment

Table 7: Birds of Local Nature Conservation Importance or Higher

FIGURES

Figure 1: Breeding Bird Survey Results – Distribution of Notable Species

Figure 2: Wintering Bird Survey Results – Distribution of Notable Species

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Breeding Bird Survey Results & EOAC Criteria for Categorisation of Breeding Status

Appendix B: Wintering Bird Survey Results

1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 FPCR Environment & Design Ltd. were commissioned by Lagan Homes to undertake breeding and wintering bird surveys on land to the west of Ratby, Leicestershire. Proposals for the Site are for a large mixed-use development with a primarily residential focus and associated green infrastructure and National Forest mitigation habitats.
- 1.2 The desk study identified one statutory designated site of national significance citing important populations and/or assemblages of birds – Groby Pool and Woods SSSI. The distance and lack of direct connectivity between the Site and this SSSI is such that no adverse impacts from habitat change or increases in visitor pressure are anticipated. No other designated sites citing assemblages or specific populations of breeding birds as their reason for designation were identified. Twenty-six bird species afforded legislative protection in the UK that have been recorded within 1km of the Site.
- 1.3 A full Breeding Bird Survey was undertaken between April and June 2024 with a full Wintering Bird Survey also undertaken between November 2023 and February 2024. The Breeding Bird Survey identified 47 species of which 39 utilised the on-site habitats including 17 that are considered 'notable'. Twelve species were confirmed as breeding on site, nine were considered probable breeders, and the remaining 18 species were considered possible or non-breeders only. The Wintering Bird Survey identified 48 species of which 38 utilised the on-site habitats including 19 that are considered notable.
- 1.4 The Site does not meet any of the relevant Local Wildlife Site selection criteria and consequently does not qualify for consideration as a Local Wildlife Site based on its breeding/wintering bird populations or assemblages.
- 1.5 The breeding and wintering bird assemblages within the Site were typical of the habitats present, comprising mainly common and widespread generalist species. The assemblage associated with the temporary grass leys is of **Site** conservation importance for both breeding and wintering assemblages, that of the grazing pastures is of **Site** importance for its breeding assemblage and **Local** importance for its wintering assemblage, the hedgerows, trees and scrub are of **Local** importance for both assemblages considered, whilst that of the wetlands is of **No** and **Negligible** importance respectively.
- 1.6 Habitat loss on-site is expected to incur **Minor Adverse** impacts on farmland birds, including skylark, in the short-term until compensatory habitat can establish. Elsewhere, habitat loss is expected to have a **Minor Adverse** impact from fragmentation on species of the hedgerows, trees, and scrub most reliant on larger networks of these features to facilitate breeding.
- 1.7 Mitigation measures are recommended to minimise disturbance impacts from construction operations; any vegetation clearance will be undertaken outside the bird nesting season (March - August, inclusive). If this is not possible, an experienced ecologist should make a check of any suitable breeding habitat prior to its clearance, with suitable stand-offs (as determined by the ecologist) retained around any active nests until dependant young have fledged.
- 1.8 A range of enhancement opportunities have been suggested based on the habitats and bird species recorded to achieve biodiversity gains. These include sensitive planting schemes, retention of suitable nesting habitat, and provision of artificial nest sites.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report has been produced by FPCR Environment & Design Ltd. on behalf of Lagan Homes and provides details of wintering and breeding bird surveys undertaken between 2023 and 2024 on land to the west of Ratby, Leicestershire (central OS grid reference SK 50744 06004) referred to hereafter as 'the Site'.

Site Location & Context

2.2 The Site is approximately 33ha in area, being dominated by farmland, including arable fields and pastureland, bound and divided by hedgerows. Field compartments to the north of Burroughs Road comprised temporary grass and clover ley, with woodland and willow plantation present to the northwest. Habitats to the south of Burroughs Road were dominated by grassland, with cattle present to the south. Several mature trees were noted within hedgerows and field compartments. The surrounding landscape is dominated by woodland, arable and pastureland with the village of Ratby located to the north and east. A small stream is located between the two redline compartments, which flows under Burroughs Road and through mature woodland bordering the site to the southwest.

2.3 This document should be read in conjunction with the other ecological documents prepared for this application, along with the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) calculations.

Survey Objectives

2.4 The Breeding Bird Survey was carried out between April and June 2023 inclusive. The objectives of the survey were to:

- Identify the presence of any designated nature conservation sites that support notable breeding bird assemblages within or in the vicinity of the Site.
- Identify the presence, species, and distribution of breeding birds within the Site.
- Evaluate the conservation importance of habitats within the Site to local bird populations and identify any areas of ornithological interest.
- Make recommendations to minimise the potential impact of development and to consider opportunities for additional mitigation, compensation, and enhancement where relevant.

2.5 The Wintering Bird Survey was carried out between November 2023 and February 2024 inclusive. The objectives of the survey were to:

- Identify the presence and distribution of wintering birds;
- Evaluate the conservation importance of wintering bird populations present;
- Evaluate the importance of wintering bird populations and the anticipated residual impacts of the development, and
- To identify areas of ornithological interest and make recommendations to minimise the potential impact of the scheme.

Development Proposals

2.6 Proposals include an outline planning application (with all matters reserved apart from access) for a phased, mixed-use development comprising about 470 dwellings (Use Class C3) or, in the alternative, about 450 dwellings and care home (Use Class C2). Provision of land for community hub (Use Class F2); provision of land for 1FE primary school (Use Class F1); and associated operations and infrastructure including but not limited to site re-profiling works, sustainable urban drainage system, public open space, landscaping, habitat creation, internal roads/routes, and upgrades to the public highway.

3.0 LEGISLATION & GUIDANCE

Legislation

3.1 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA) is the principal legislation affording protection to UK wild birds. Under this legislation all birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law, and it is an offence, with certain exceptions, 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; or
- Take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

3.2 Additional protection is afforded to species listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA, whereby intentional disturbance whilst building or occupying a nest or disturbance of dependent young is also considered an offence.

3.3 Certain species have also been identified as Species of Principal Importance (SPI) under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 (NERC S.41). The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.

3.4 The site falls within the Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LLRBAP) which identifies several targets for UK priority species that occur within this area namely; barn owl *Tyto alba*, nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*, redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*, sand martin *Riparia riparia*, and a combined action for swifts *Apus apus* and hirundines (swallow *Hirundo rustica* and house martin *Delichon urbicum*) that frequent urban habitats.

Status

3.5 In addition to statutory protection, some bird species are classified according to their conservation status, such as their inclusion on the Red and Amber lists of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) in the UK:

3.6 Red list (high conservation concern) species meet at least one of the following criteria:

- They are globally threatened according to IUCN criteria.
- Their population has declined rapidly (50% or more) in recent years.
- They have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery.

3.7 Amber list (medium conservation concern) species are those that meet at least one of the following criteria:

- They have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe.
- Their population or range has declined moderately (between 25% and 49%) in recent years.
- Their population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery.
- They are rare breeders.
- They have internationally important or localised populations.

3.8 Green list (low conservation concern) species fulfil none of the above criteria.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Desk Study

4.1 To compile existing baseline ornithological information, the following statutory and non-statutory organisations were consulted for data regarding designated sites for which birds are a qualifying feature, and protected/notable bird records:

- Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC)
- Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website¹

4.2 The geographical extent of the search area for biodiversity information was related to the significance of sites and species and potential zones of influence which might arise from development within the Site, as follows:

- 5km around the Site boundary for sites of International Importance (e.g. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar sites);
- 2km around the Site boundary for statutory sites of National or Regional Importance (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)); and
- 1km around the Site for non-statutory designated sites of County Importance (e.g. Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)s)/Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs)) and protected or otherwise notable species records within the last 20 years.

Field Surveys

4.3 The results of the desk study and habitat walkovers, as detailed in separate ecological reports, identified suitable habitat for breeding and wintering birds so further detailed surveys were recommended.

4.4 The survey methodology employed was in accordance with the protocol specified in the best practice guidelines – Bird Survey Guidelines for Assessing Ecological Impacts². All birds encountered (seen or heard) were recorded on a field survey plan using standard BTO species codes and symbols for bird activities and to denote activity, sex, and age where appropriate.

¹ www.magic.gov.uk

² Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group. (2023). Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts, v.1.1.1. <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org> [Accessed: 26.06.24]

4.5 For breeding bird surveys, the breeding status was inferred for each species based on the sixteen categories implemented by the European Ornithological Atlas Committee (EOAC)³ and their corresponding definitions, in addition to four additional codes to classify non-breeding species as birds recorded away from suitable breeding habitat, summering non-breeders, passage migrants, or flyovers. Birds were considered to be holding a territory and therefore likely to be utilizing the Site for breeding activities if they were displaying breeding behaviours, such as: singing, nest building, food carrying or territorial defence. If birds did not display such behaviours, e.g. they were only recorded flying over the Site, they were considered non-breeders.

Breeding Birds

4.6 To provide a reasonable level of accuracy for determining the population status of the breeding birds on the site, four surveys were undertaken. Three were between dawn and 11.00am in April, May, and mid-June 2024 and a single dusk survey in early June 2024 undertaken an hour prior to sunset and finishing an hour after. The initial walkover identified internal habitats largely dominated by arable cropland and modified grassland lacking seasonally constrained habitat features such as temporary wetland areas and a lack of bird species linked to statutory sites that would necessitate increased survey effort. The detailed surveys undertaken span the season in which the majority of breeding activity occurs for typical species, and no species with vastly differing breeding cycles are reasonably expected to occur at this site following the consultation results and assessment of the habitats present. Survey effort was reviewed on a rolling basis and throughout returned a basic assemblage of common and widespread birds, with composition and peak counts consistent between survey occasions, such that, given the law of diminishing returns, further survey effort would be unlikely to find significant additional information to change the impact assessment with anticipated impacts expected to be relatively minor based on the widespread retention of suitable breeding habitat for the majority of species recorded.

4.7 The dusk survey was undertaken around dusk to account for temporal variations in species' detectability being timed to coincide with peak activity of likely crepuscular and/or nocturnal species and identify important roost sites should any be present.

4.8 A route was mapped out prior to the surveys being undertaken, paying particular attention to any linear features, such as hedgerows and watercourses, and other features such as ponds and scrub.

Wintering Birds

4.9 The wintering bird surveys were carried out from dawn until early afternoon with one visit per month between November 2022 and February 2023 inclusive. A route was mapped out prior to the surveys being undertaken, paying particular attention to any linear features, such as hedgerows and watercourses, and other features such as ponds and scrub.

4.10 Bird surveys were not undertaken in unfavourable conditions, such as heavy rain or persistent strong wind (conditions which can negatively affect the results). Table 1 provides details of the survey dates and weather conditions.

³ Sharrock, J.T.R (1973) Ornithological Atlases. Auspicio 5:13-15.

Table 1: Survey Dates and Conditions

Survey	Date	Cloud Cover (%)	Rain	Wind (Beaufort)	Visibility
Breeding Bird Surveys					
BBS 1	18.04.24	25	None	1 – Light Air	Very Good
BBS 2	03.05.24	100	None	0 – Calm	Good
BBS 3 - dusk	12.06.24	25	None	1 – Light Air	Very Good
BBS 4	20.06.24	80	None	0 – Calm	Excellent
Wintering Bird Surveys					
WBS 1	22.11.23	30	None	3 – Gentle Breeze	Very Good
WBS 2	18.12.23	100	Occasional Light Drizzle	2 – Light Breeze	Good
WBS 3	30.01.24	100	None	2 – Light Breeze	Very Good
WBS 4	14.02.24	100	None	2 – Light Breeze	Excellent

Species & Assemblage Assessment

4.11 The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidance on ecological impact assessment assesses nature conservation importance within a geographical context⁴. To attain each level of importance, an ornithological resource or one of the features (species population or assemblage of species) should meet the criteria set out in Table 2. In some cases, professional judgment may be required to increase or decrease the allocation of importance, based upon local knowledge.

4.12 The site has also been assessed against the selection criteria for Local Wildlife Site (LWS) for Leicestershire⁵ on a number of criteria set out for breeding birds. LWSs are recognised by central government as an important tool in promoting sustainable development and protecting biodiversity.

4.13 The recent county annual bird report, *The Leicestershire & Rutland Annual Bird Report 2020*⁶, was consulted to inform the assessment. The abundance of species referred to by these reports is classified by the following criteria:

- Very Rare – Fewer than ten records ever;
- Rare – More than ten records ever, but occurring less than annually in the county;
- Scarce – Fewer than ten individuals or breeding pairs occurring annually in the county;
- Uncommon – Between ten and 100 individuals or breeding pairs occurring annually in the county;
- Fairly Common – Between 100 and 1,000 individuals or breeding pairs occurring annually in the county;
- Common – Between 1,000 and 10,000 individuals or breeding pairs occurring annually in the county;

⁴ http://www.cieem.net/data/files/Publications/EcIA_Guidelines_Terrestrial_Freshwater_and_Coastal_Jan_2016.pdf

⁵ Leicestershire County Council (2011) Guidelines for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites (previously known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation or SINCs) in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. 4th edition.

⁶ The Leicestershire & Rutland Ornithological Society (2022) Leicestershire & Rutland Annual Bird Report 2020.

- Abundant – More than 10,000 individuals or breeding pairs annually in the county.

Table 2: Evaluation Criteria

Nature Conservation Value	Examples of Selection Criteria
International	A species which is part of the cited interest of an SPA and which regularly occurs in internationally or nationally important numbers. A species present in internationally important numbers (>1% of international population).
National	A species which is part of the cited interest of a SSSI and which regularly occurs in nationally or regionally important numbers. A nationally important assemblage of breeding or over-wintering species. A species present in nationally important numbers (>1% UK population). Rare breeding species (<300 breeding pairs in the UK).
Regional	Species listed as being of principal importance under NERC S.41 which are not covered above, and which regularly occurs in regionally important numbers. Species present in regionally important numbers (>1% of regional population). Sustainable populations of species that are rare or scarce within a region. Species on the BoCC Red List & which regularly occur in regionally important numbers.
County	Species listed as being of principal importance under NERC S.41 which are not covered above, and which regularly occurs in county important numbers Species present in county important numbers (>1% of county population). Sustainable populations of species that are rare or scarce within a county, or are listed as being of principal importance under S41 of the NERC Act. A site designated for its county important assemblage of birds (e.g. a SINC Site). Species on the BoCC Red List & which regularly occur in county important numbers.
Local	Other species of conservation interest (e.g. all other species on the BoCC Red and Amber List or species listed as being of principal importance under NERC S.41 which are not covered above) regularly occurring in locally sustainable populations. Sustainable populations of species which are rare or scarce within the locality.
Site	Species that are common and widespread

5.0 RESULTS & EVALUATION

Desk Study

Designated Sites

5.1 No statutory sites of international importance were identified within 5km of the Site.

5.2 One statutory site of national importance, Groby Pool and Woods SSSI, is located approximately 1.7km to the northeast and includes both the diversity of its breeding bird assemblage and populations of overwintering waterfowl in the SSSI citation. Given the distance from the Site and the absence of direct hydrological connectivity which would allow the potential for adverse effects on water quality and, by extension, the qualifying feature of the important overwintering waterfowl assemblage, no significant impacts are anticipated on the SSSI.

5.3 A total of 15 non-statutory sites were identified within 1km of the Site though none received their respective non-statutory designations on the basis of breeding or wintering bird assemblages or populations thereof.

Protected/Notable Species

5.4 The desk study returned records of 26 bird species afforded legislative protection under Schedule 1 of the WCA or Section 41 of the NERC Act, and/or included within the LLRBAP. These species are detailed in Table 3.

Table 3: Bird Species Records from Desktop Study

Name		Status		Within Site Boundary
		WCA Sch1	NERC S41	
BoCC Red List				
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		+	No (in woodland immediately adjacent to SW corner)
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	+		No
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>		+	No
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		+	No
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			No
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		+	Yes
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		+	No
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>		+	No
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		+	Yes
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		+	No
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		+	No
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		+	No
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		+	Yes
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			No
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		+	No
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		+	Yes
BoCC Amber List				
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		+	No
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		+	No
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		+	No
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	+		No
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		+	No
BoCC Green List				
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	+		No
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	+		No
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	+		Yes
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	+		No
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			No

5.5 Five species were recorded from within the Site. A number of the notable species for which records were returned are considered unlikely to breed and/or overwinter at the Site as they are of incidental vagrants e.g. red-throated diver *Gavia stellata*, or require habitats which are absent from the Site e.g. swift.

Field Survey

Breeding Bird Surveys

5.6 A total of 47 bird species were recorded across the four breeding bird survey occasions (for a complete list see Appendix A). Of these, eight species were recorded overflying the Site only and are therefore considered to be non-breeders and are not considered to be impacted by any proposed development as they do not interact with the habitats present.

5.7 Of the remaining 39 species recorded, 17 meet the criteria of at least one of the following pieces of legislation/classifications discussed above: Schedule 1 of the WCA; Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006; and BoCC Red or Amber lists. These species are referred to as 'notable' species.

5.8 Breeding evidence accumulated across all four surveys was used in the assignment of breeding status for each species in the following results.

5.9 Of the 39 species recorded as utilising the on-site habitats during the breeding bird surveys, 12 were confirmed as breeding. Five of these species; stock dove *Columba oenas*, woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*, starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, and dunnock *Prunella modularis*, are considered notable. The other seven confirmed breeding species: jay *Garrulus glandarius*, jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*, blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, great tit *Parus major*, blackbird *Turdus merula*, robin *Erithacus rubecula*, and goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*, are of low conservation concern (BoCC Green-listed).

5.10 Nine species were considered probable breeders which included four notable species: skylark *Alauda arvensis*, whitethroat *Curruca communis*, wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, and greenfinch *Chloris chloris*. The other five probable breeding species namely green woodpecker *Picus viridis*, magpie *Pica pica*, carrion crow *Corvus corone*, chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, and blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, are all BoCC Green-listed and therefore of low conservation concern.

5.11 The remaining 18 species recorded were considered possible breeders (11 species) or non-breeders (seven species) at the Site.

5.12 Table 4 provides a summary of the notable species recorded during the breeding bird surveys and their respective breeding statuses on site, whilst Figure 1 shows the approximate locations where they were recorded.

Table 4: Notable Breeding Bird Species Recorded in 2024 and Their Recent Status in Leicestershire

Species	Legal/Conservation Status	Peak Count/Number of Survey Occasions Recorded	Breeding Status	Recent Status in Leicestershire
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber List	3 / 1	Non-breeder	Fairly Common resident breeder.

Species	Legal/Conservation Status	Peak Count/Number of Survey Occasions Recorded	Breeding Status	Recent Status in Leicestershire
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber List	3 / 3	Confirmed	Fairly Common to Common resident breeder.
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber List	47 / 4	Confirmed	Abundant resident breeder.
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipite nisus</i>	Amber List	2 / 2	Non-breeder	Fairly Common resident breeder.
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber List	1 / 1	Non-breeder	Fairly Common resident breeder.
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red List NERC S.41	8 / 4	Probable	Common resident breeder.
Willow Warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Amber List	1 / 1	Possible	Common summer migrant breeder.
Whitethroat <i>Currucà communis</i>	Amber List	4 / 2	Probable	Common summer migrant breeder.
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber List	18 / 3	Probable	Abundant resident breeder.
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red List NERC S.41	17 / 3	Confirmed	Abundant resident breeder.
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	6 / 4	Possible	Common resident breeder.
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red List WCA Sch.1	1 / 1	Non-breeder	Rare oversummering non-breeder.
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red List NERC S.41	12 / 3	Confirmed	Common resident breeder.
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	15 / 4	Confirmed	Abundant resident breeder.
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red List	3 / 4	Probable	Common resident breeder.
Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red List NERC S.41	10 / 2	Possible	Common resident breeder.

Wintering Bird Surveys

5.13 A total of 48 species were recorded across the four wintering bird survey occasions (for a complete list see Appendix B). Of these, ten species were recorded overflying the Site only and are therefore considered to not be reliant on the Site for overwintering and thus not anticipated to be impacted by the proposed development as they do not interact with the habitats present.

5.14 Of the remaining 38 species recorded, 19 meet the criteria of at least one of the following pieces of legislation/classifications discussed above: Schedule 1 of the WCA; Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006; and BoCC Red or Amber lists. These species are referred to as 'notable' species.

5.15 Table 5 provides a summary of the notable species recorded during the wintering bird surveys, whilst Figure 2 illustrates the approximate locations where they were recorded.

Table 5: Notable Wintering Bird Species Recorded in 2023-24 and Their Recent Status in Leicestershire

Species	Legal/Conservation Status	Peak Count/Number of Survey Occasions Recorded	Recent Status in Leicestershire
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber List	2 / 1	Common resident overwinterer.
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber List	105 / 4	Abundant resident overwinterer.
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Red List NERC S.41	2 / 1	Uncommon resident and migrant overwinterer.
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber List	1 / 2	Fairly Common resident overwinterer.
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber List	100 / 4	Abundant resident overwinterer.
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red List NERC S.41	10 / 3	Common resident overwinterer.
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber List	11 / 4	Abundant resident overwinterer.
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red List NERC S.41	4 / 3	Abundant resident overwinterer.
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	4 / 3	Common resident overwinterer.
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red List	4 / 3	Common resident overwinterer.
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Amber List WCA Sch.1	7 / 4	Common migrant overwinterer.
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red List NERC S.41	30 / 3	Common resident overwinterer, recent decline.
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	11 / 4	Abundant resident overwinterer.
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Amber List	1 / 3	Uncommon resident overwinterer.
Meadow Pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber List	6 / 4	Fairly Common short-distance migrant overwinterer.
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	7 / 2	Common resident overwinterer.
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red List	16 / 4	Common resident overwinterer.
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red List NERC S.41	7 / 2	Common resident overwinterer, recent decline.
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	1 / 1	Common resident overwinterer, recent decline.

Bird Survey Results Description

Breeding Birds

5.16 The majority of species recorded are typical of the habitats present around the Site in a regional context, being heavily influenced by the transient arable land uses to the north of Burroughs Road. The temporary grass leys that constitute the majority of the northern portion of the Site supported a number of skylark territories with at least two probable breeding pairs present throughout the breeding season. These areas were of limited suitability for nesting of the other species recorded as present though were utilised as a foraging resource by small numbers of notable woodpigeon and starling in shorter swarded areas.

5.17 The extensive area of cattle-grazed pasture to the south of Burroughs Road was similarly limited in terms of the breeding bird assemblage present largely due to the frequent disturbance of the area by grazing livestock. As was the case for the temporary grass leys the breeding bird assemblage was restricted to very small numbers of skylark with a maximum of three territories all located in areas of apparently lower grazing pressure and thus longer sward. Species utilising these habitats were typically common and widespread generalists including some notable species: stock dove, woodpigeon, and starling in addition to a single fieldfare suspected of being a summering non-breeder. Other species recorded foraging in these habitats were limited to common and widespread species including pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* and corvids. Two areas inundated with temporary pools during April supported small groups of foraging mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, these areas had dried up before subsequent surveys were undertaken and no further mallards were recorded.

5.18 A manure heap in a small compartment adjacent to Burroughs Road supported a greater diversity of foraging birds, particularly insectivorous passerines, with both dunnock and house sparrow recorded in addition to common and widespread finches and pied wagtail *Motacilla alba*.

5.19 The hedgerows, standard trees, scrub around the perimeter of the Site and demarcating the arable and grassland compartments, in addition to the willow plantation in the northwestern corner of the Site, hosted several resident and migratory breeding species. These habitats supported most of the breeding bird assemblage recorded consisting of a number of common and widespread taxa including common tit, warbler, and finch species. In addition, these habitats also supported a range of notable species including stock dove, woodpigeon, willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*, whitethroat, wren, starling, song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, dunnock, greenfinch, and linnet *Linaria cannabina* which were considered between possible and confirmed breeders. Both sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* and kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* were recording hunting in association with these features and immediately adjacent marginal habitats.

5.20 No breeding birds were recorded in association with either of the two wetland habitat types present at the Site – the watercourse close to the southern boundary, or the two on-site ponds.

Wintering Birds

5.21 The temporary grass leys to the north of Burroughs Road supported a limited assemblage of commoner farmland birds though this included typically small numbers of skylark though numbers had built to ten individuals by February, in addition these areas supported small numbers of meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis* throughout the winter, a small flock of yellowhammer *Emberiza*

citrinella on the January survey, and a single reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*. Other species recorded from this habitat were limited to foraging woodpigeon, dunnock in areas where ruderal vegetation was more abundant, and a foraging kestrel utilising these areas and the adjacent fields of similar habitat to the northwest. An area of ephemeral inundation on the southern edge of the largest compartment supported a pair of mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* in February.

5.22 The extensive grazing pastures to the south of Burroughs Road supported a similar assemblage of wintering birds to the grassland leys though with a much-reduced farmland bird assemblage lacking any skylark, yellowhammer, or reed bunting. The short-swarded nature of this habitat was suitable for foraging rooks *Corvus frugilegus* in addition to woodpigeon. Wetter areas with denser, relatively ungrazed vegetation cover supported two day-roosting woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* in November though the lack of subsequent encounters suggests these may have related to transient birds en route to more suitable overwintering sites.

5.23 As during the breeding bird surveys, the manure heap in the small grazing compartment adjacent to Burroughs Road supported a range of foraging birds including the notable species dunnock and grey wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* consistently across the surveys.

5.24 The hedgerows, standard trees, scrub around the perimeter of the Site and demarcating the arable and grassland compartments, in addition to the willow plantation in the northwestern corner of the Site, hosted several resident and winter migrant species including common corvid, tit, thrush, and finch species. These habitats provided shelter and foraging opportunities for several notable species including woodpigeon, wren, starling, song thrush, mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*, redwing *Turdus iliacus*, house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, dunnock, bullfinch, greenfinch, and linnet.

5.25 The two wetland habitat types present, the watercourse that runs parallel to a short section of the southern boundary and the two on-site ponds, supported a very limited assemblage of wintering birds restricted to a single foraging little egret *Egretta garzetta* within that section of the stream in November.

Evaluation

Local Wildlife Site Assessment

5.26 The Site was assessed against published criteria for Local Wildlife Site (LWS) selection to compare against the thresholds for Leicestershire.

5.27 Under the above criteria any site that supports significant and established breeding and/or wintering populations of Leicestershire & Rutland Red Data Book (RDB) species can be eligible for LWS selection where:

- RDB species are defined as those that are considered Uncommon to Very Rare under the classifications set in the above section;
- Significant populations are those that support a minimum of 10% of the county breeding or wintering population of a given species; and
- A population is considered to be established once the species has been recorded in significant numbers in the equivalent of one in three years. To specifically qualify the criteria dictates three of the last 15 years though given the scope of these surveys the populations cannot be

assessed over such a period so the precautionary equivalent of one in three years is used such that any species recorded as having a significant population during the Breeding and/or Wintering Bird Surveys could be considered established.

5.28 In addition to criteria relating to individual bird species, a site may also qualify for LWS designation in the county based on its bird assemblages. A site meets the criterion for LWS selection if the sum of its individual species scores is equal to or greater than the threshold value given for the appropriate habitat. There must be evidence that a species is breeding for its score to be included in the sum.

5.29 None of the breeding bird species recorded are considered Uncommon or rarer in the county and thus the Site is not eligible for LWS designation on the basis of the populations of breeding birds present.

5.30 Of the species recorded as overwintering at the Site, only woodcock meets the criteria for consideration as a Leicestershire & Rutland RBD species being an Uncommon winter bird in the region. The presence of two individuals accounts for 2% of the usual range of occurrence for that species as derived from the county bird report status. This means that the wintering population of woodcock is insufficient to render the Site eligible for consideration for LWS designation as the threshold for significance is not met.

5.31 As discussed below, the breeding assemblage recorded features common and widespread generalists common in a variety of habitats. The species lists and their corresponding scores have been taken verbatim from the guidelines, and species recorded as possible or non-breeders are exempted from inclusion. The habitat specific assemblage assessments against the prescribed thresholds are detailed in Table 6 below:

Table 6: Local Wildlife Site Assemblage Assessment

Habitat	Leicestershire LWS Threshold	Scoring Species Recorded – Number of Points	Total
Woodland, scrub, parkland, allotments, and golf courses	40	Stock Dove – 2, Woodpigeon – 1, Green Woodpecker – 3, Jay – 2, Magpie – 2, Jackdaw – 2, Carrion Crow – 2, Blue Tit – 1, Great Tit – 1, Chiffchaff – 2, Blackcap – 2, Whitethroat – 2, Wren – 1, Starling – 1, Blackbird – 1, Robin – 1, Dunnock – 1, Greenfinch – 2, Goldfinch - 2	31

5.32 The applicable habitat-specific thresholds for an LWS-qualifying breeding assemblage are not met, therefore, the Site does not qualify for LWS designation under this criterion.

5.33 Only large open water sites are considered eligible for LWS designation in Leicestershire with regard to wintering bird assemblages and therefore the Site is ineligible for consideration under this criterion.

Breeding Assemblage

5.34 The temporary grass leys supported a limited breeding assemblage though this did include a number of declining farmland birds including skylark, though were generally suboptimal breeding

habitat for the majority of species recorded. Similar habitat exists in the wider landscape such that none of these populations are considered isolated or range-restricted in the general area nor are the populations of any of the species recorded of significant nature conservation value given their small sizes. The breeding bird assemblage associated with the temporary grass leys is therefore considered of **Site** importance.

5.35 The breeding bird assemblage associated with the cattle grazed pastures supported a very similar assemblage to that of the temporary grass leys with arguably less suitable breeding habitat for the species of higher conservation concern available due to the intensive grazing keeping sward heights low. As above, there is a relative abundance of similar habitat in the wider landscape context and none of the species that constitute this assemblage are of potential high value in this context. As such, the breeding bird assemblage associated with the grazing pastures is considered of **Site** nature conservation importance.

5.36 Hedgerows, trees, and scrub on site provided breeding and/or foraging habitat for a variety of common and widespread generalist species. The assemblage recorded is typical of such habitat in the region and whilst the assemblage did include several notable species, none are of elevated conservation priority in Leicestershire as all are deemed Fairly Common to Abundant in the county aside from fieldfare which was excluded as being a part of the breeding assemblage. There are several larger areas of similar scrub and woodland habitats in the surrounding landscape, particularly to the north and west connectivity between which maintained by the linear habitat features within the Site, means this breeding bird assemblage is considered of **Local** importance.

5.37 No breeding birds were recorded within the ponds or the off-site watercourse and thus the Site is considered of **No Importance** for the breeding bird assemblage associated with wetland habitats.

Wintering Assemblage

5.38 The temporary grass leys supported a limited wintering assemblage. Though this did include several declining farmland birds including skylark, meadow pipit, yellowhammer, and reed bunting, these were generally suboptimal breeding habitat for the majority of species recorded. Similar habitat exists in the wider landscape such that none of these populations are considered isolated or range-restricted in the general area nor are the populations of any of the species recorded of significant nature conservation value given their small sizes. The wintering bird assemblage associated with the temporary grass leys is therefore considered of **Site** importance.

5.39 The wintering bird assemblage associated with the cattle grazed pastures supported a very similar assemblage to that of the temporary grass leys though with a higher species diversity including rook and woodcock. As above, there is a relative abundance of similar habitat in the wider landscape context though the presence of wintering woodcock within these habitats is of higher value in this context and suggests the assemblage associated with these habitats is potentially more important than similar habitat locally. As such, the breeding bird assemblage associated with the grazing pastures is considered of **Local** nature conservation importance.

5.40 Hedgerows, trees, and scrub on site provided roosting and/or foraging habitat for a variety of common and widespread generalist species. The assemblage recorded is typical of such habitat in the region and whilst the assemblage did include several notable species, none are of elevated conservation priority in Leicestershire as all are deemed Fairly Common to Abundant in the county. There are several larger areas of similar scrub and woodland habitats in the surrounding

landscape, particularly to the north and west connectivity between which, maintained by the linear habitat features within the Site, means this breeding bird assemblage is considered of **Local** importance.

5.41 The wintering bird assemblage associated with the ponds and watercourse was extremely limited to just a single little egret on one survey occasion. This species is a common and widespread species across suitable habitat and thus the wintering bird assemblage associated with it is considered of **Negligible** importance.

Individual Species

5.42 Table 7 summarises the 17 species recorded within the Site that are of at least **Local** nature conservation importance.

5.43 Species of at least **Local** importance are considered so based on their BoCC listing making them species of conservation interest but that do not occur in county important numbers on the site.

5.44 Notable species recorded as migrants, summering non-breeders, or flyovers are also discounted as they were not seen to utilise any of the habitats on site and are arguably, therefore, unaffected by any changes to the land use.

5.45 The other bird species recorded utilising the habitats within the Site were either recorded in smaller numbers and/or considered common and widespread species nationally and/or locally. These species are recognised as being of only **Site** importance and not included in Table 7.

Table 7: Birds of Local Nature Conservation Importance or Higher

Name	Status		Nature Conservation Value
	WCA Sch1	NERC S41	
BoCC Red List			
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>		Local
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	+	Local
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	+	Local
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		Local
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	+	Local
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		Local
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	+	Local
BoCC Amber List			
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>		Local
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		Local
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		Local
Whitethroat	<i>Currucà communis</i>		Local
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		Local
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	+	Local
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	+	Local
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	+	Local
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		Local

Name	Status		Nature Conservation Value
	WCA Sch1	NERC S41	
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		+
			Local

6.0 DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The following section provides an assessment of the potential impacts upon notable birds breeding and/or wintering on the site likely to result from the proposed development. Where appropriate, recommendations are provided for mitigation and enhancement that take account of the likely ecological effects. Throughout the evaluation, any recommendations for mitigation have been informed by the most up-to-date indicative layout.

Impact Assessment for Birds

6.2 The potential impact of the loss or change of habitat upon breeding and/or wintering bird species arising from the effects of development is based upon an understanding of each species' ecological requirements, the type of development, number of birds recorded within the survey area, their nature conservation criteria based on legislation and current guidance, their county status according to the county bird report and professional judgement.

6.3 The following potential impacts to the recorded bird populations and assemblage may result from the proposals:

- Direct loss/change of habitat, including habitat fragmentation; and/or
- Disturbance during construction and/or operation.

Habitat Loss

6.4 The individual species recorded on site that are arguably the most vulnerable to impacts from the habitat loss or changes associated with this proposed development include the 17 species considered to be of at least **Local** importance. These are notable species that are either specially protected, appear on the BoCC Red or Amber lists and/or are listed as a NERC priority species and were recorded in at least locally important numbers.

6.5 The loss of all temporary grass ley and the majority of the grazing pastures to facilitate the development is unavoidable and will, in the short-term, lead to the total loss of skylark as a breeding species on site since this species requires extensive, relatively undisturbed open areas with long lines of sight for nesting which will not be present during the construction phase. Similarly, these losses will reduce the overwintering suitability of the Site to skylark and the other notable species recorded in this habitat particularly woodcock and meadow pipit. These short-term total losses are expected to result in **Minor Adverse** impacts at the local level given the small population sizes of both species utilising the Site. Whilst yellowhammer and reed bunting may be able to persist due to the widespread retention of existing hedgerows the available foraging resource will be much reduced and thus **Minor Adverse** impacts are anticipated for these species at the site level.

6.6 The majority of mature hedgerows, scrub and standard trees as well as the willow plantation are to be retained under the development proposals, and thus the majority of habitat for the species utilising this habitat will persist throughout the construction phase. Some of the species less tolerant

of increased anthropogenic disturbance such as the scarcer finches and buntings will be displaced from these areas which is considered a **Minor Adverse** impact at the site level.

6.7 As the ponds did not support any breeding or wintering bird species, it is considered that the proposals will have **No Effect** on the birds utilising the Site.

Habitat Mitigation

6.8 The creation of some areas of floristically diverse grassland within the green infrastructure of the proposed scheme would replace some of the foraging resource currently provided by the grass leys and grazing pastures and maintain populations of some of the notable species within the scheme such as song thrush, mistle thrush, dunnock, meadow pipit, greenfinch, and linnet. Any such areas should be situated close to areas of scrub, woodland, or hedgerows to provide suitable cover in which birds can shelter and ideally away from high traffic areas to reduce the impacts of disturbance.

6.9 More expansive areas of grassland away from residential centres and pedestrian access will, once established, allow the farmland birds displaced from the loss of the temporary grass leys and grazing pasture to return. These areas should be managed to primarily benefit skylark through the use of an appropriate seed mix to maximise seed-bearing crop and attractiveness to invertebrates and sward heights targeted to between 20-50cm throughout the March-August breeding cycle for this species to ensure this habitat is higher quality than that which it replaces and thus able to support a higher territory density to account for the smaller area.

6.10 Further to this, areas of scrub or new woodland are to be incorporated into such areas and along the existing woodland edges to create structural diversity and expand the range of niches provided such that suitable habitat would be provided for stock dove, woodpigeon, starling, whitethroat, and wren. Suitable planting species for the scrub areas include, but are not limited to, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, dog-rose *Rosa canina*, gorse *Ulex europaeus* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. Scrub should be managed in association with grassland management, to create dense areas of scrub, suitable as breeding habitat and to ensure the grassland habitat does not become inundated with scrub. To maximise the benefits, scrub should be cut on a rotational basis, to continually provide both foraging and nesting habitat.

6.11 The creation of a new waterbody will provide new habitats over and above those currently present and suitable for nesting waterfowl and emergent marginal planting including common reed *Phragmites australis* and inundation-tolerant woody species such as willows *Salix spp.* would provide nesting habitat for reed bunting.

6.12 Where 'gapping up' of retained hedgerows is proposed, consideration should be given to native species, including, but not limited to field maple *Acer campestre*, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, hazel *Corylus avellana* and honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*.

Disturbance Impacts

6.13 Construction operations have the potential to disturb birds using the development area of the site for roosting, foraging, and breeding. Operations likely to disturb breeding birds include noise and displacement during vegetation clearance, initial ground works and some construction activities. During the breeding season disturbance may lead to nest desertion or the avoidance of the area and reduce the suitability of retained nesting areas, such as the retained hedgerows or woodland

edge. Whilst there is some potential for breeding success to be reduced, this is expected to have a **Minor Adverse to Moderate Adverse** impact on the local conservation status of most of the bird species using the survey area for breeding given that there is currently a low level of access by the public that would habituate the resident birds to a certain level of disturbance.

Disturbance Mitigation

6.14 To avoid disturbance to breeding birds, ground and vegetation clearance works will be undertaken prior to the bird-breeding season (March to August, inclusive). If this is not possible, the area will be checked prior to removal of vegetation or ground works by an experienced ecologist. If active nests are found, vegetation will be left untouched and suitably buffered from works until all birds have fledged. Specific advice will be provided prior to undertaking the clearance. This would be a statutory requirement due to the protection of all nesting birds and their nests under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended). A suitably qualified ecologist would need supervise this.

Enhancements

6.15 Wildlife-friendly enhancements to improve the foraging potential of attenuation basins should include planting with native marginal vegetation, where feasible. If included this would provide further habitat for mallard and reed bunting plus other species not recorded within the Site such as moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. These recommendations would lead to a **Minor Beneficial to Moderate Beneficial** impact on several recorded species.

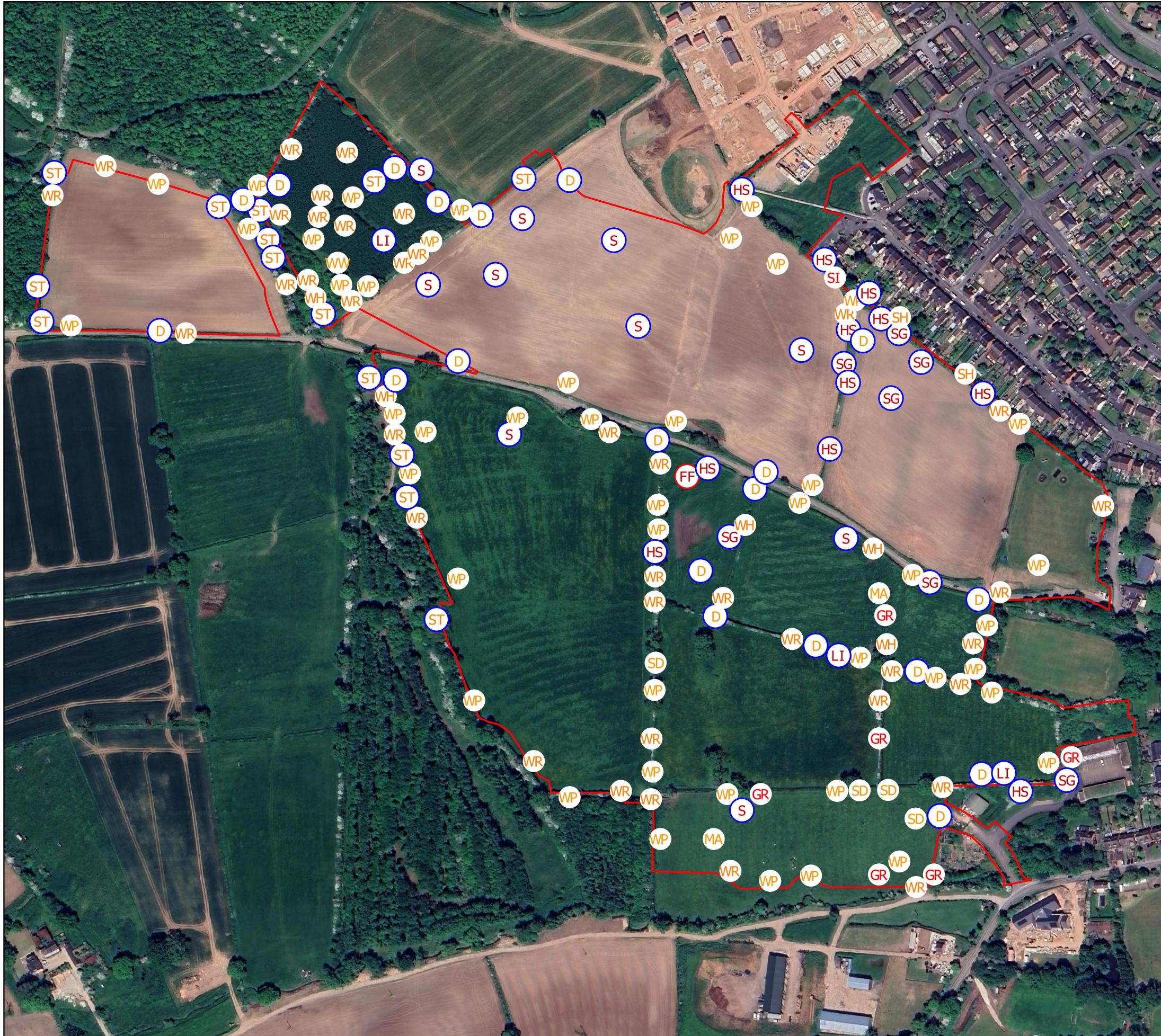
6.16 It is recommended that a series of “beetle banks” be incorporated through less disturbed and more lightly managed areas of grassland creation to benefit skylark and other granivorous passerines. Banks should consist of a free-draining raised bank between 3-5m in width and at least 40cm high. These should be sown with a mixture containing native fine grasses such as red fescue *Festuca rubra* together with tussock-forming species including tall fescue *Festuca arundinacea*, timothy *Phleum pratense*, and cock’s-foot *Dactylis glomerata* or similar. Fertilisers and pesticides are not to be used, and grass should be cut and collected several times in the first year post-creation to aid establishment and thereafter be subject to one cut per year in late summer.

6.17 In accordance with “British Standard BS42021:2021 – Integral nest boxes – Selection and installation for new developments”, specification is provided on the number and type of bird boxes that should be sought within new developments. Under BS42021:2021 all new residential developments should provide new and enhanced opportunities for nesting via the installation of integrated nest boxes with the number of boxes to be at least equal to the number of dwellings. These boxes should be installed in clusters of 3-5 on suitable aspects close to open areas with scattered trees and shrubs.

6.18 Although targeting swifts, the provision of integral nest sites in the form of hollow chambers fitted into the fabric of a building while in construction will also be used by species such as house sparrows, tits and starlings.

6.19 External nest boxes are additional enhancements to the BS42021:2021 guidance and do not contribute towards the one nest box per dwelling requirement. Such enhancements that could be integrated with the on-going management of the site include the erection of a mixture of nest box types within the retained scrub-woodland. The following provides details of suggested suitable nest box types:

- A mixture of small hole (26mm and 32mm) boxes placed along the retained woodlands to the south of the site will provide nesting opportunities for a range of tit species. These boxes generally have a high uptake rate.
- Small open fronted nest boxes again should be placed throughout the site especially on trees which support a climber such as ivy which provides a degree of concealment. These boxes typically attract robin and blackbird.
- Large nest boxes with large holes (45-50mm) placed on suitable mature trees to provide breeding sites for starling.
- Consideration should also be given to stock dove and kestrel nest boxes within the more established, retained boundary habitats. This would require large nest boxes (20 x 20 x 40cm) with large holes (15cm) and need to be placed at least 3m high on large trees on the woodland edge or in mature trees in areas of low human disturbance. Ideally several would be erected in close proximity.
- Consideration should subsequently be given to the provision of nest boxes for birds found in build environments, including house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, and house martin *Delichon urbicum*.



Key

BoCC Red List Species

- FF Fieldfare
- HS House Sparrow
- LI Linnet
- S Skylark
- SG Starling
- GR Greenfinch
- SI Swift

BoCC Amber List Species

- D Dunnock
- MA Mallard
- SD Stock Dove
- WW Willow Warbler
- WH Whitethroat
- ST Song Thrush
- SH Sparrowhawk
- WP Woodpigeon
- WR Wren

Additional Protections

- NERC Species of Principal Importance
- Schedule 1 Species
- LBAP Species (underlined)



Appendix A: Land West of Ratby, Leicestershire – 2024 Breeding Bird Survey
Results & EOAC Criteria for Categorisation of Breeding Status

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 18.04.24	Survey 2 03.05.24	Survey 3 12.06.24	Survey 4 20.06.24	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding Status
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		5			Not Listed	Non-breeder UH
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	3 + 5 flyovers				Amber List	Non-breeder UH,F
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	1	3	1		Not Listed	Possible H
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			5 flyovers		Red List	Non-breeder UH,F
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia f. domestica</i>	1 flyover				Green List	Non-breeder F
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	3 + 6 flyovers	2 + 2 flyovers		1	Amber List	Confirmed FF,ON,D,P,S,H,F
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	47 + 10 flyovers	26 + 7 flyovers	5	14 + 22 flyovers	Amber List	Confirmed ON,S,H,F
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		1 flyover		1 flyover	Red List NERC S.41	Non-breeder F
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	8 flyovers			4 flyovers	Amber List	Non-breeder F
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	2	1 flyover			Amber List	Non-breeder UH,F
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1			3	Green List	Possible H,UH
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	1 + 1 flyover			1	Green List	Possible S,UH,F
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	1				Green List	Probable N,H
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1				Amber List	Non-breeder UH
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			3	3	Green List	Confirmed FL,A,H
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	24	3 + 3 flyovers	5	11 + 2 flyovers	Green List	Probable A,H,F
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	5 + 9 flyovers	16 + 6 flyovers		13 + 3 flyovers	Green List	Confirmed FF,ON,B,UH,F
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	6 flyovers				Amber List	Non-breeder F
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	14 + 5 flyovers	3	3	9 + 1 flyover	Green List	Probable B,S,H,UH,F

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 18.04.24	Survey 2 03.05.24	Survey 3 12.06.24	Survey 4 20.06.24	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding Status
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	1 flyover				Green List	Non-breeder F
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	25	15	3	3	Green List	Confirmed ON,FL,B,A,P,H
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	13	3	10	5	Green List	Confirmed FL,A,P,S,H
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	8	7	1	5	Red List NERC S.41	Probable D,P,S,H
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	1				Green List	Non-breeder UH
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	4	2			Green List	Possible H
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	1				Amber List	Possible S,UH
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	12	9	2	5	Green List	Probable T,S,H
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	10	10	1	1	Green List	Probable A,T,P,S,H
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		2			Green List	Possible S,UH
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		1		4	Amber List	Probable A,S,H
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		1		1	Green List	Possible S,UH
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	18	16		11	Amber List	Probable A,T,S,H
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	1				Green List	Possible S,UH
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	10 + 5 flyovers	12 + 7 flyovers		17 + 24 flyovers	Red List NERC S.41	Confirmed FL,H,F
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	6	2 + 1 flyover	3	3	Amber List NERC S.41	Possible S,H
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	24 + 1 flyover	17 + 2 flyovers	5	12	Green List	Confirmed FF,FL,A,T,P,S,H,F
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>				1	Red List WCA Sch.1	Non-breeder U
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	17	14	8	4	Green List	Confirmed FF,FL,A,S,H
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	11	6		12	Red List NERC S.41	Confirmed FL,P,S,H

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 18.04.24	Survey 2 03.05.24	Survey 3 12.06.24	Survey 4 20.06.24	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding Status
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	15	2	3	4	Amber List NERC S.41	Confirmed FF,D,T,P,S,H
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	2	1 + 1 flyover			Green List	Non-breeder UH
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	2 flyovers				Amber List	Non-breeder F
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		1			Green List	Possible H
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	3	3	1	2	Red List	Probable D,T,P,S,H
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	10 + 3 flyovers	2 + 3 flyovers			Red List NERC S.41	Possible S,H,F
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	5 + 3 flyovers	5 + 2 flyovers		10	Green List	Confirmed FL,T,S,H,F
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	4 flyovers				Green List	Non-breeder F
Total No. Species	47	38	30	16	27		

Breeding Status evidence can be broken down into four sections, each with their own codes, as defined by the European Ornithological Atlas Committee:

Confirmed breeder

DD – distraction display or injury feigning
UN – used nest or eggshells found from this season
FL – recently fledged young or downy young
ON – adults entering or leaving nest-site in circumstances indicating occupied nest
FF – adult carrying faecal sac or food for young
NE – nest containing eggs
NY – nest with young seen or heard

Probable breeder - Evidence accumulated during the survey indicates that the bird species is breeding on site.

P – pair in suitable nesting habitat
T – permanent territory (defended over at least 2 survey occasions)
D – courtship and display
N – visiting probable nest site
A – agitated behaviour
I – brood patch of incubating bird (from bird in hand)
B – nest building or excavating nest-hole

Possible breeder - Evidence accumulated during the survey indicates that the bird species could be breeding on site, but the evidence is less conclusive than that obtained for probable breeders.

H – observed in suitable nesting habitat
S – singing male

Non-breeder

F – flying over
M – migrant
U – summering non-breeder
UH – observed in unsuitable nesting habitat

Appendix B: Land West of Ratby, Leicestershire – 2024 Wintering Bird Survey Results

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 22.11.23	Survey 2 18.12.23	Survey 3 30.01.24	Survey 4 14.02.24	Conservation Status & Protection
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>			2 flyovers		Not Listed
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				2	Amber List
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	1		1		Not Listed
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>			4 flyovers		Amber List
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	48 + 3 flyovers	28 + 9 flyovers	105 + 11 flyovers	70 + 28 flyovers	Amber List
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	1 + 1 flyover		1		Green List
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	21 flyovers				Red List NERC S.41
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	2				Red List
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	26 flyovers	2 flyovers	3 flyovers		Amber List
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	3 flyovers			2 flyovers	Red List NERC S.41
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1 flyover				Green List
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	1				Green List
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1 flyover		1 flyover	Amber List
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	2 + 1 flyover	3 flyovers	1 + 1 flyover	1	Green List
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	1 + 1 flyover	2 flyovers	1		Green List
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		1			Green List
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1		1 + 1 flyover		Amber List
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	5	1 flyover		1	Green List
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	19 + 2 flyovers	10	15 + 2 flyovers	18 + 2 flyovers	Green List

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 22.11.23	Survey 2 18.12.23	Survey 3 30.01.24	Survey 4 14.02.24	Conservation Status & Protection
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	12 + 32 flyovers	12 + 1 flyover	44 + 6 flyovers	83 + 7 flyovers	Green List
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	27 flyovers	64 + 80 flyovers	22	100 + 1 flyover	Amber List
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	7 + 4 flyovers	2 + 4 flyovers	8 + 2 flyovers	11	Green List
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	2 flyovers	1 flyover			Green List
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	22	9	35 + 4 flyovers	8 + 2 flyovers	Green List
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	8	10	13	9	Green List
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	1		1	10	Red List NERC S.41
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	36	2	5		Green List
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	5	3		1	Green List
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	11	2	3	6	Amber List
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	1 + 63 flyovers		42 flyovers	4 + 47 flyovers	Red List NERC S.41
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	2		4	2	Amber List NERC S.41
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	4	1		1	Red List
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	7 + 4 flyovers	6	3	5	Amber List WCA Sch.1
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	35 + 1 flyover	12	23	14	Green List
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	3 flyovers	6 flyovers			Red List WCA Sch.1
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	7	9	6	10	Green List
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	20		30	1	Red List NERC S.41
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	10	4	7	11	Amber List NERC S.41
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	1	1 flyover		1	Amber List
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	6 + 1 flyover	1 + 4 flyovers	1 + 6 flyovers	4	Amber List

Species: Common Name	Species: Scientific Name	Survey 1 22.11.23	Survey 2 18.12.23	Survey 3 30.01.24	Survey 4 14.02.24	Conservation Status & Protection
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	3 + 1 flyover		5	1	Green List
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	3	7			Amber List NERC S.41
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	3 + 2 flyovers	16	8 + 1 flyover	4	Red List
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		6 flyovers			Red List NERC S.41
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	11 + 25 flyovers	25 + 9 flyovers	31 + 21 flyovers	13 + 3 flyovers	Green List
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	13 + 7 flyovers	39 + 4 flyovers	1 flyover		Green List
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	1 flyover		7		Red List NERC S.41
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	1				Amber List NERC S.41
Total No. Species	48	43	30	31	28	