

BREEDING BIRD SURVEY REPORT



FEBRUARY 2025

Stairfoot Quarry
Sandy Gate Lane,
Ardsley,
Barnsley,
S71 5AW

U R B A N
G R E E N



QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Project No.:	UG1773			
Project:	Stairfoot Quarry			
Location:	Sandy Gate Lane, Ardsley, Barnsley, S71 5AW			
Title:	Breeding Bird Survey Report			
Document Type:	BBSR	Issue No.:	01	
Date:	August 2023			
Authored By:	Andrew Whitfield	Signature:		Qualifications: CEcol CEnv
Reviewed By:	Barnaby Indio Gardner	Signature:		Qualifications: Assistant Ecologist, MEnv, BSc
Revision Status:				
Rev:	Date:	Issue/Purpose/Comment:	Prepared:	Checked:
02	07/02/2025	Amendment to report to reflect update to planning application boundary	Olivia Jones	Jake Healy

CONTENTS

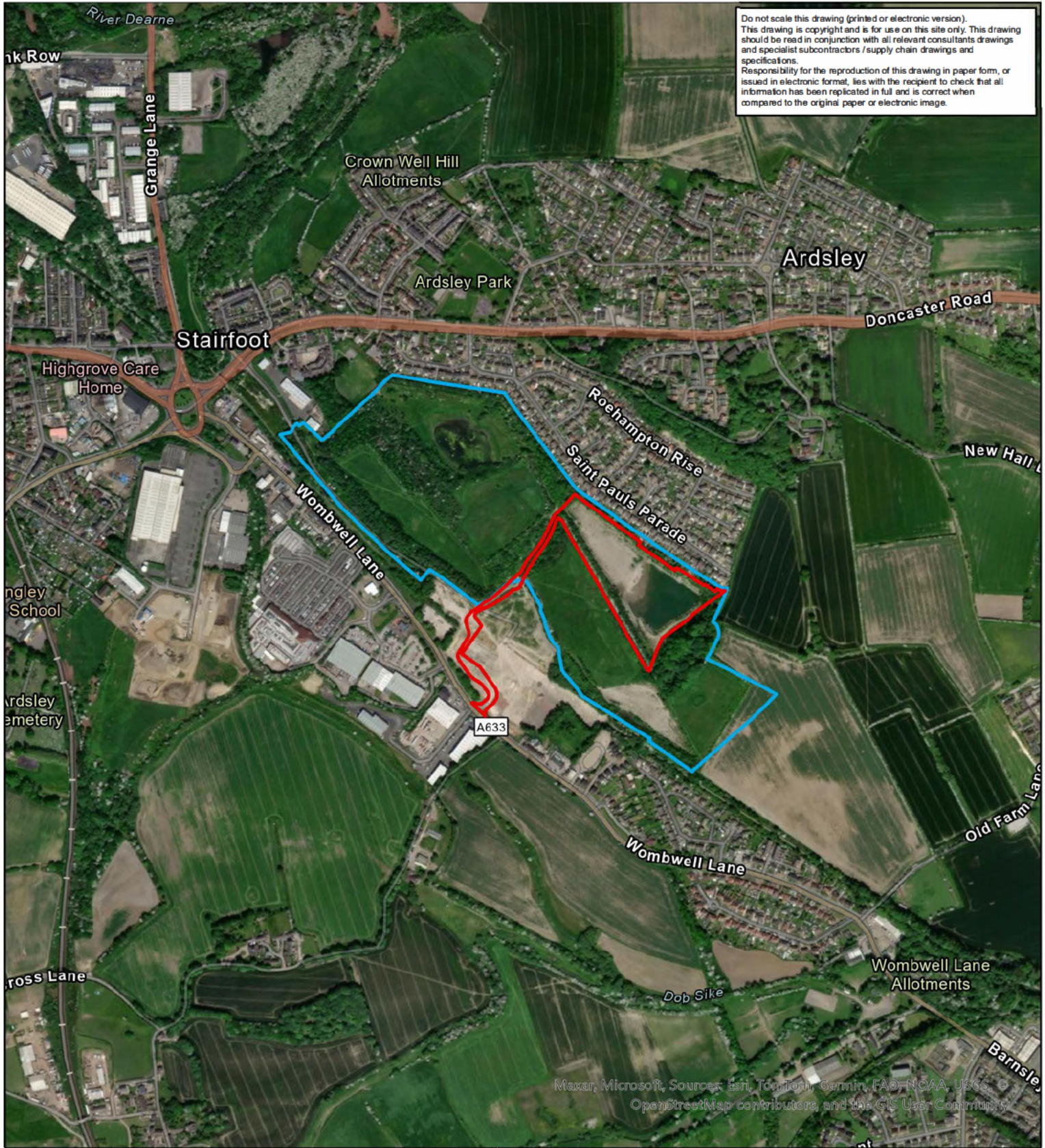
1	Executive Summary	4
2	Introduction	6
2.1	Background to the Scheme.....	6
2.2	Site Context.....	6
2.3	Purpose of this Report	6
3	Previous Surveys	8
3.1	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Urban Green, 2023)	8
4	Methods	9
4.1	Desk Study	9
4.2	Breeding Bird Surveys.....	9
4.3	Constraints to the Survey	11
5	Results	12
5.1	Desk Study	12
5.2	Breeding Bird Survey.....	12
6	Ecological Assessment and Recommendations	15
6.1	Summary	15
6.2	Impact Assessment	15
6.3	Recommendations.....	15
7	References	16



Tables and Figures

Table 1.	Desk study sources of information	9
Table 2.	Breeding bird survey details	10
Table 3.	Desk study results	12
Table 4.	Breeding bird survey results	12
Figure 1.	Site Context	5


1 Executive Summary

- 1.1.1.1 Green Earth Developments (Group) Ltd is proposing to develop land at Stairfoot Quarry in Ardsley, Barnsley (hereafter referred to as ‘the site’). The proposals include an ecological restoration scheme after an operation period as an inert waste landfill site.
- 1.1.1.2 Urban Green has been appointed to complete a Breeding Bird Survey and a Report of the site. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was conducted at the site on 22nd March 2023, by Ecologist Jake Healy and Assistant Ecologist Max Grindle.
- 1.1.1.3 Further surveys, in the form of breeding bird surveys and assessment of land, were carried out in March 2023. The survey and assessment were undertaken between April and June 2023 by Andrew Whitfield, a Chartered Ecologist and Chartered Environmentalist with Whitfield Ecological Services.
- 1.1.1.4 The survey and assessment were undertaken by Andrew Whitfield who has been working as an ecological consultant for over 30 years, most recently as Director of Whitfield Ecological Services.
- 1.1.1.5 The main areas of habitat of importance for breeding bird populations comprises the areas of scrub, hedgerows and mature woodland and the interfaces between the woody habitats and the areas of grassland.
- 1.1.1.6 The breeding bird survey results revealed that the site and wider Survey Area supported a typical range of species. All of the species recorded are common and very common breeding birds in the area. The habitats present on site are not considered likely to support additional species, assemblages of species or numbers of high conservation interest.
- 1.1.1.7 On the basis of one seasons breeding bird survey, the Survey Area can be considered to be of Local importance albeit it supports good numbers of species likely to be found in such semi-natural habitats.
- 1.1.1.8 The impact on breeding birds is assessed as being relatively minor, however, appropriate mitigation and compensation measures have been recommended.




Legend:	 Red Line Boundary
	 Ownership

0.85



Kilometers



Client:	Green Earth Developments (Group) Ltd	
Project:	Stairfoot Quarry	
Title:	Site Context	
Drawing Ref:	UG_1773_SITE_CONTEXT	

Issue:	01	Figure:	01
Scale @ A4	1:10,000		
Approved by:	CL	Checked by:	JH
Author:	CL	Date:	07/08/2024

**U R B A N
G R E E N**

A: Ground Floor, The Tower,
Deva City Office Park, Trinity Way,
Manchester M3 7BF

T: +44 (0) 161 312 3131
weareurbangreen.co.uk

2 Introduction

2.1 Background to the Scheme

- 2.1.1.1 Green Earth Developments (Group) Ltd is proposing to develop land at Stairfoot Quarry in Ardsley, Barnsley (hereafter referred to as ‘the site’).
- 2.1.1.2 The proposals include an ecological restoration scheme after an operation period as an inert waste landfill site. The proposals include the restoration of Yew Tree Quarry, through the infill of non-hazardous excavated soil materials. It is understood that the operation phase of the development will last for approximately 111 weeks and will require the following activities:
- Vegetation removal, including areas of woodland,
 - Breaking of ground,
 - Use of heavy machinery, including ~80 HGV tippers per day,
 - Infill of quarry, and other associated activities
- 2.1.1.3 Urban Green has been appointed to undertake breeding bird surveys following recommendations outlined within a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA), undertaken at the site by Urban Green between April and June 2023.
- 2.1.1.4 Whitfield Ecological Services were appointed on behalf of Urban Green to complete the Breeding Bird Surveys at the proposed site and author the associated technical report, which was then reviewed by Urban Green.

2.2 Site Context

- 2.2.1.1 The site is located at National Grid Reference SE 38138 05192 and comprises a total area of approximately 4.3ha, however the Survey Area includes all land within the client’s ownership comprising 29.1 ha (see Figure 1).
- 2.2.1.2 The site is located in the rural-urban fringe of Barnsley, approximately 3km south-east of the town centre. The site is bound by residential properties to the north, and arable land to the east, with industrial and commercial units to the south and west. Doncaster Road (A635) is present approximately 270m north of the site, with Wombwell Lane (A633) present immediately adjacent to the southwestern extent of the site. The wider landscape is dominated by urban development to the north and west while large expanses of open arable land are present to the east and south, including areas of woodland to the south. The River Dearne is located approximately 1.2km north of the site.

2.3 Purpose of this Report

- 2.3.1.1 This report has been produced to demonstrate the results of the breeding bird surveys conducted at the site between April and June 2023. The surveys were conducted to record the breeding bird assemblage within the site in order to evaluate its importance with regards the bird populations it supports. Appropriate mitigation is detailed (if required). The report has been produced in support of the proposed planning application.
- 2.3.1.2 The aim of the surveys are to determine which bird species are using the Survey Area during the survey and to assess the habitats on site to determine potential and likely species usage of the area.
- 2.3.1.3 Actual and potential species importance of notable populations were assessed against the following criteria:

- Species protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981;
 - Species of Principal Importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity covered under Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006;
 - Red and Amber listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) (Eaton et al., 2015).
 - Annex 1 of the Birds Directive 2009;
 - Bird species of conservation concern breeding in Barnsley (Barnsley Biodiversity Trust)
- 2.3.1.4 Breeding birds of local importance in Barnsley were determined in accordance with “Bird species of conservation concern breeding in Barnsley” listed on Barnsley Biodiversity Trust, Biodiversity Action Plan page (<http://barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk/birds.html>).
- 2.3.1.5 Relevant UK legislation of the protection of UK birds are detailed in Appendix 1.

3 Previous Surveys

3.1 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Urban Green, 2023)

3.1.1.1 Urban Green was commissioned by Green Earth Developments (Group) Ltd to conduct a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of their site at Stairfoot Quarry in March 2023. The survey included the entire ownership boundary, comprising approximately 29.1ha.

3.1.1.2 Results concerning notable birds within the PEA were as follows:

- The site was confirmed to provide suitable habitat for ground nesting birds, passerine birds and foraging for birds of prey.
- A total of 424 records of protected or notable birds comprising 61 species were returned within 1km of the site and are detailed in Appendix 3.
- During the field visit, the ponds were found to have been regularly utilised by waterfowl. An array of passerine bird species were seen onsite including magpie (*Pica pica*), robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), great tit (*Parus major*) and wood pigeon (*Columba palumbus*). Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) was seen foraging onsite and suitable foraging conditions for barn owl (*Tyto alba*). Barn owl was also returned in the data search within 1km of the site.

4 Methods

4.1 Desk Study

- 4.1.1.1 The objective of the desk study is to review the existing information available in the public domain concerning species and habitats. Sources used to during the desk study exercise are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. Desk study sources of information

Source	Date Consulted	Information Sought
Online aerial imagery	05/02/2025	Review of satellite imagery.
MAGIC website (www.magic.gov.uk)	05/02/2025	Review of designated sites for birds within 5km of the site. Review of suitable habitats and areas for birds on the site and adjacent.
Sheffield Biological Records centre	24/03/2023	Records of birds within 1km of the site boundary.
Barnsley Local Biodiversity Action Plan	05/02/2025	Species and habitats which are given special conservation status at the local level.

4.2 Breeding Bird Surveys

4.2.1 Common Bird Census (CBC)

- 4.2.1.1 The surveys were based on the methodology for the Common Bird Census (CBC) Survey Methodology and comprised four visits between mid-March and the end of June, with at least ten days between each visit. The CBC has been the main scheme by which populations of common breeding birds have been monitored in the UK and has proven highly valuable in revealing population fluctuations and trends among British birds.
- 4.2.1.2 During the breeding bird season (March - September), many birds, especially passerines, mark their territories by singing conspicuously, displaying or periodically disputing with rival neighbours (Bibby et al., 2000). A CBC survey involves recording all birds associated with the study area and mapping their activity using standard BTO recording codes.
- 4.2.1.3 The recorded registrations on the maps will fall more or less neatly into clusters indicating the activity of particular birds or pairs throughout the breeding season. The maps can then be analysed to determine the number of species territories present.
- 4.2.1.4 The survey follows a plotted transect circuit to limit the effects of double counting and the transect is monthly reversed to incorporate all habitats within the study area at differing times of the morning. To provide an idea of the bird species diversity in the local area and as some territories will overlap the study area boundary, all species observed within the study area, and within 50m outside the study area boundary will be recorded.

4.2.1.5 Approximately six survey visits are proposed to be undertaken between March and July (to adhere with the Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group. (2022). Bird Survey Guidelines. The surveys would be undertaken in the early morning, starting within half an hour of sunrise and will be completed before midday. In accordance with the new Bird Survey Guidelines one survey visit will be in the evening, extending beyond sunset by one hour.

4.2.1.6 The surveys will only be conducted under suitable weather conditions, avoiding days of heavy rain, high winds (greater than Beaufort Force 5) and poor visibility. On completion of the survey a Breeding Bird Survey report will be provided detailing the survey methods implemented, results and recommendations.

4.2.2 Breeding Bird Survey

4.2.2.1 The surveys were undertaken at one hour after sunrise on 7th April, 6th May, 4th June, and 24th June 2023 under appropriate weather conditions (Please refer to Table 2 for a full weather breakdown).

4.2.2.2 Surveys were conducted by Andrew Whitfield, Chartered Ecologist with Whitfield Ecological Services.

Table 2. Breeding bird survey details

Survey Number	Survey Date	Weather conditions
1	07/04/2023	10°C, dry with passing cloud (3/8 oktas cloud cover) and light breeze (2 beaufort scale).
2	06/05/2023	17°C, scattered clouds (4/8 oktas cloud cover) and gentle breeze (3 beaufort scale).
3	04/06/2023	13°C, Cloudy (6/8 oktas cloud cover) and gentle breeze (3 beaufort scale).
4	24/06/2023	25°C, scattered clouds (4/8 oktas cloud cover) and moderate breeze (4 beaufort scale).

4.2.2.3 All areas were approached within 50m with the boundaries walked and all birds within the fields and boundary features recorded. In all cases, all birds seen or heard were identified and recorded on a suitable scale map of the site to allow the information to be clearly recorded using standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) species and activity codes (Appendix 2).

4.2.2.4 Species were identified by sight or sound and details of behaviour and activity was recorded. A range of optical equipment including binoculars and telescope were used as required and to minimise disturbance to potentially breeding species. A species list of common passerine birds was compiled for the site; details of activity and behaviour were made. The results were analysed to assess the status of the birds on site as one of the following:

- 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 anxiety calls from adults or nest building observed; or
- 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.

4.3 Constraints to the Survey

- 4.3.1.1 There is potential for some birds to be missed or to go unnoticed due to the nature of breeding bird surveys and possibility of birds not vocalising and/or being present in dense vegetation. When combined with previous surveys and given the relatively simple nature of habitats it is considered that the current BBS provides an accurate assessment of the ornithological value of the Project Site to breeding birds.
- 4.3.1.2 The findings of this report represent the professional opinion of qualified ecologists and do not constitute professional legal advice. The client may wish to seek professional legal interpretation of the relevant wildlife legislation cited within this document.

5 Results

5.1 Desk Study

5.1.1.1 The results of the desk study completed are demonstrated in Table 3.

Table 3. Desk study results

Information Sought	Details
Designated sites	<p>No sites that form part of the National Site Network were located within 5km of the site boundary.</p> <p><u>Statutory sites within 1km</u> Two statutory sites are present within 1km of the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stairfoot Brickworks Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), located onsite. • Dearne Valley Wetlands (SSSI), located approximately 780m south of site. <p><u>Non-statutory sites within 1km</u> Two non-statutory sites are present within 1km of the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stairfoot Disused Railway Local Wildlife Site (LWS), located approximately 355m north-west. • Swaithe Flood Meadows (LWS), located approximately 420m south.

5.1.2 Bird Records

5.1.2.1 A total of 424 records of protected or notable bird, comprising 61 species, were returned within 1km site of the site and are detailed in Appendix 3. The data provided was not site specific (i.e., 1km grid square only); however, several of the species are likely to be present within the site.

5.2 Breeding Bird Survey

5.2.1.1 A breeding bird survey was conducted at the site on 7th April, 6th May, 4th June and 24th June 2023. The full results are summarised in Table 4.

Table 4. Breeding bird survey results

Species (Bolded are assumed breeding)	Date of survey				Species Designation
	07/04/2023	06/05/2023	04/06/2023	24/06/2023	
Greylag Goose	*	*			BoCC Amber
Mallard		*	*		BoCC Amber
Eurasian Teal	*				BoCC Amber
Wood Pigeon	*	*	*	*	BoCC Amber
Common Coot	*	*	*	*	BoCC Green
Black-headed Gull			*	*	BoCC Amber
Great Spotted Woodpecker	*		*	*	BoCC Green
Magpie	*	*	*	*	BoCC Green

Species (Bolded are assumed breeding)	Date of survey				Species Designation
	07/04/2023	06/05/2023	04/06/2023	24/06/2023	
Jackdaw		*		*	BoCC Green
Carrion Crow		*			BoCC Green
Blue Tit	*	*	*	*	BoCC Green
Great Tit	*	*	*	*	BoCC Green
Skylark		*	*	*	BoCC Red, Barnsley Local Priority Species
Willow Warbler		*	*	*	BoCC Green
Common Chiffchaff	*	*	*	*	BoCC Green
Long-tailed tit		*	*	*	BoCC Green
Blackcap		*	*	*	BoCC Green
Lesser Whitethroat			*	*	BoCC Green
Common Whitethroat		*	*	*	BoCC Amber
Wren	*	*	*	*	BoCC Amber
Mistle Thrush			*		BoCC Red, Barnsley Local Priority Species
Song Thrush	*	*	*	*	BoCC Amber, Section 41 Species, Barnsley Local Priority Species
Blackbird	*	*	*	*	BoCC Green
Robin	*	*	*	*	BoCC Green
Dunnock	*	*	*	*	BoCC Amber, Section 41 Species, Barnsley Local Priority Species
Common Chaffinch	*	*	*	*	BoCC Green
Goldfinch	*	*	*	*	BoCC Green

- 5.2.1.2 The habitats present within the Survey Area comprise areas of open water, bare ground, semi-improved neutral grassland, hedgerows, scrub and mature woodland. See Appendix 2 for the associated figures for each survey conducted.
- 5.2.1.3 Skylark and mistle thrush are listed as BoCC Red and the rationale for the assessment is as a result of a “severe breeding population decline over longer term” albeit that the IUCN threat status is “Least Concern” for skylark and Near Threatened for mistle thrush. There was only one identified skylark territory recorded in the field at the southern extent of the Survey Area and one record of mistle thrush, recorded on one survey visit, indicating possible breeding only.
- 5.2.1.4 Greylag goose, mallard, Eurasian teal and black-headed gull are all listed as BoCC Amber with the rationale for the assessment is as a result of breeding localisation, breeding localisation and population being of international importance, population being of international

importance and a moderate non-breeding population over the last 25 years plus the population being of international importance, respectively. All of these waterbirds were recorded on, or adjacent to the northern waterbody but due to the inconsistent presence are not thought to be breeding on the site.

- 5.2.1.5 Wood Pigeon, common whitethroat, wren, song thrush and dunnock are listed as BoCC Amber. The rationale for the assessment is for Wood Pigeon as a result of an international important population, for common whitethroat, wren, song thrush and dunnock a moderate breeding population decline over the longer term, the IUCN threat status of these species is also of “Least Concern”.

6 Ecological Assessment and Recommendations

6.1 Summary

- 6.1.1.1 The breeding bird survey results revealed that the site and wider Survey Area supported a typical range of species. All of the species recorded are common and very common breeding birds in the area. The habitats present on site are not considered likely to support additional species, assemblages of species or numbers of high conservation interest.
- 6.1.1.2 None of the species recorded, or likely to utilise the Survey Area are significant in their own right, or present in significant numbers.
- 6.1.1.3 On the basis of one seasons breeding bird survey, the Survey Area can be considered to be of Local importance albeit it supports good numbers of species likely to be found in such semi-natural habitats.

6.2 Impact Assessment

- 6.2.1.1 The proposed works are to be localised within the planning application boundary and so much of the Survey Area will not be directly impacted as a result of the development.
- 6.2.1.2 Vegetation removal, within the site extent including areas of woodland and scrub, will be required as part of the proposed works resulting in the direct loss of confirmed breeding/nesting habitat, particularly the central band of woodland forming the proposed access track to Yew Tree Quarry.
- 6.2.1.3 In addition to this, increased noise levels from landfill activities will provide an indirect impact to suitable retained nesting habitat on site and within the wider Survey Area.
- 6.2.1.4 Therefore, breeding birds should be considered and appropriate mitigation/compensation measures implemented, as detailed below.

6.3 Recommendations

- 6.3.1.1 Any vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season of March to August (inclusive). If it is necessary to undertake vegetation clearance within the nesting bird season, any such works should be preceded by a nesting bird check conducted by a suitably qualified ecologist. Where active nests are encountered, the nest must be left *in-situ* and all works in the immediate area must cease until the chicks have fledged.
- 6.3.1.2 Higher quality nesting/breeding habitats such as the areas of woodland and scrub should be retained as much as practically possible. Where vegetation removal is required, compensatory planting within the wider Survey Area should be considered and should include:
- New scrub and hedgerow habitats, and the infill of current gaps in hedgerows with whips, creating green corridors. It is recommended to use native species.
 - The planting of seed and berry rich species in order to enhance the available food resource for birds.
- 6.3.1.3 Provide nesting boxes in woodland for a range of species including those listed as BoCC Red and Amber, Section 41 or Barnsley Local Priority Species.

7 References

Biodiversity Action Plan: Available at: <http://barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk/birds.html>

Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. *British Birds*, 114, 723–747.

Gilbert G., Gibbons D.W., Evans J. (1998). *Bird Monitoring Methods*. RSPB.

Natural England (NE) (2017). Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC). Available at www.magic.gov.uk

Stanbury, A., Eaton, M. A., Aebischer, N. J., Balmer, D., Brown, A., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D., and Win, (2021). The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom

Woodward, I.D., Massimino, D., Hammond, M.J., Harris, S.J., Leech, D.I., Noble, D.G., Walker, R.H., Barimore, C., Dadam, D., Eglington, S.M., Marchant, J.H., Sullivan, M.J.P., Baillie, S.R. & Robinson, R.A. (2019) *BirdTrends 2019: trends in numbers, breeding success and survival for UK breeding birds*. BTO Research Report 722. BTO, Thetford. www.bto.org/birdtrends

Appendix 1 - Relevant Legislation and Conservation Status

There are several different acts of legislation and regulations which refer to the protection of wildlife. Legislation with particular relevance to birds is outlined below.

This is a brief summary of the legislation and is not to be regarded as a definitive legal opinion. When dealing with individual cases, the client is advised to consult the full texts of the relevant legislation and obtain further legal advice.

Statutory Legislation

Key legislation for birds in the UK includes:

- Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (the EC Birds Directive); and,
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) [WCA].

Annex 1 of the EC Birds Directive lists rare and vulnerable species of regularly occurring or migratory wild birds that are subject to special conservation measures. The Directive also provides for the designation of SPAs for the protection of these species, which form part of the Natura 2000 network of sites protected by European wildlife legislation.

Part 1 of the WCA sets out how the provisions of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the 'Bern Convention'), the EC Birds Directive and the EC Habitats Directive are implemented in Great Britain. Under Part 1, Section 1 of the WCA it is an offence to:

- Kill, injure or take any wild bird intentionally;
- Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; and,
- Take or destroy the egg(s) of any wild bird.

Schedule 1 of the WCA lists a number of species which, in addition to the provisions listed above, are protected by special penalties at all times, including against disturbance when breeding.

The WCA requires the prosecuting authority to prove that an offence was intentional, however the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 strengthens the provisions of the WCA by introducing an additional offence of “reckless” disturbance, which means that ignorance of the presence of a protected species cannot be used as a reliable defence should a breach of the WCA be committed. The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 strengthens the WCA further with respect to the protection of the nests of certain birds listed on Schedule Z1A, even when they are not in use. The NERC Act also offers additional protection to birds released into the wild as part of a repopulation programme and provides minor amendments to the WCA with respect to captive birds.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 strengthens the duty previously applied under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) placed on planning authorities to have due regard to biodiversity when making decisions. A number of species of bird are listed on the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Section 7 Priority Species. These are the species found in Wales which were identified as requiring action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and which continue to be regarded as conservation priorities under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. As such, it is targeted for measures necessary to support its conservation status in the UK.

Non Statutory Policy

The RSPB (2009) and Eaton et al. (2009) have published lists of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC). Red List species are those whose breeding population or range is rapidly declining (50% or more in the

last 25 years), recently or historically, and those of global conservation concern. Amber List species are those whose breeding population is in moderate decline (25 – 49% in the last 25 years), rare breeders, internationally important and localised species and those of unfavourable conservation status in Europe.

These lists confer no legal status; however they are useful when assessing the significance of predicted impacts and determining the level of mitigation that may be required when birds are affected by development or any other activity. Furthermore, inclusion on the Red List is a factor in determining the species which may be added to the list of species of principal importance under the Environment (Wales) Act.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is the principal mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain. All bird species are protected under elements of Section 1 of the Act and it is an offence, with certain exceptions, to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- Intentionally takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird included in Schedule ZA1 (for specific birds that reuse their nests);
- Intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built; and,
- Intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.

Further protection is given for certain species listed in Schedule 1 (Part 1) of the Act. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest; or, is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or, disturb dependent young of such a bird.

Conservation status - Birds of Conservation Concern (5)

The status of birds within the UK have been regularly monitored through a series of surveys, including the national Breeding Bird Survey, Common Bird Census, sea bird monitoring programs and wetland bird monitoring programs. The result of this review and continued monitoring is within *The Population Status of Birds in the UK, Birds of Conservation Concern 5: 2021*.

Birds are assessed against criteria to place each species on one of three alert lists, red, amber or green. Red list species are considered to be of high conservation concern, being either globally threatened, having historical UK population declines, having a rapid population decline or breeding range contraction of 50% or more in the last 25 years.

Amber list species are considered to be of medium conservation concern as they meet one or more of the following criteria (but none of the red list criteria): Red listed for historical decline in a previous review but with substantial recent recovery (more than doubled in the last 25 years), a UK breeding range contraction of between 25% and 49%, a reduction of breeding or non-breeding population of 25-49% in the last 25 years, a 5-year mean of 1-300 breeding pairs in the UK, an unfavourable European conservation status, at least 50% of the UK breeding population found in 10 or fewer sites, or where the breeding population in the UK represents 20% or more of the European breeding populations.

Green list species are considered to be of low conservation concern. They include all regularly occurring species that do not qualify under any of the red or amber criteria are green listed. The green list also includes those species listed as recovering from Historical Decline in the last review that have continued to recover and do not qualify under any of the other criteria.

Appendix 2 - Breeding Bird Survey Raw Data



Figure 1A- Breeding bird survey results for 07/04/2023

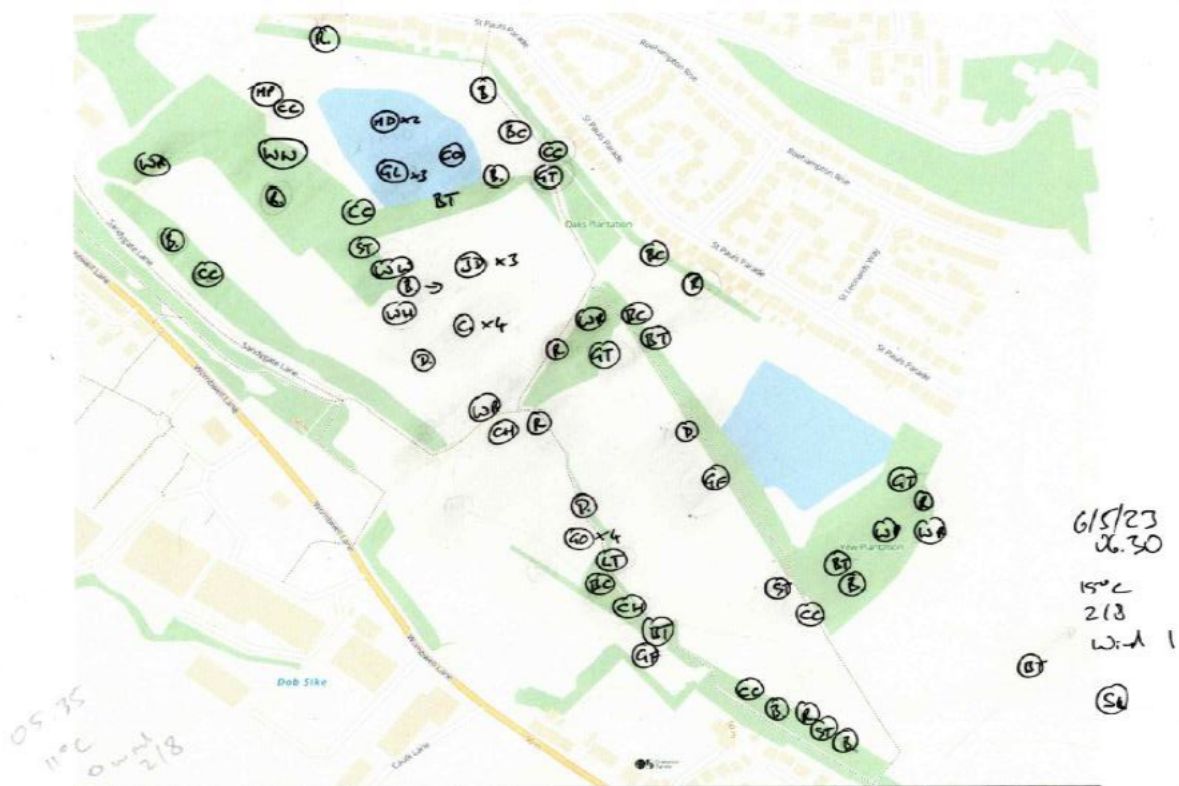


Figure 1B- Breeding bird survey results for 06/05/2023

Appendix 3- Full Bird Species Data Return

Scientific Name	Common Name	Protection	Closest Record to Site	
			Approx. Min. Distance (m)	Date
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn owl	Sch.1****	Within 1km	2018
<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Black redstart	Sch.1****, BoCC5**	Within 1km	1996
<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed gull	BoCC5**	Within 1km	2021
<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Brambling	Sch.1****	Within 1km	1991
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Bullfinch	BoCC5**, S41*****	Within 1km	2016
<i>Larus canus</i>	Common gull	BoCC5**	Within 1km	1995
<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Corn bunting	BoCC5*, S41*****	Within 1km	1994
<i>Grus grus</i>	Crane	BoCC5**	Within 1km	2001
<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Cuckoo	BoCC5*, S41*****	Within 1km	1998
<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Dunlin	BoCC5*	Within 1km	1998
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock	BoCC5**, S41*****	Within 1km	2017
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Fieldfare	Sch.1****, BoCC5*	Within 1km	2003
<i>Mareca strepera</i>	Gadwall	BoCC5**	Within 1km	2021
<i>Larus marinus</i>	Great black-backed gull	BoCC5**	Within 1km	1996
<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Green sandpiper	Sch.1****, BoCC5**	Within 1km	1999
<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Greenfinch	BoCC5*	Within 1km	2018
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Greenshank	Sch.1****, BoCC5**	Within 1km	1998
<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Grey partridge	BoCC5*, S41*****	Within 1km	2009
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring gull	BoCC5*, S41*****	Within 1km	1996
<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	House martin	BoCC5*	Within 1km	1999
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House sparrow	BoCC5*, S41*****	Within 1km	2016
<i>Larus glaucooides</i>	Iceland gull	BoCC5**	Within 1km	1996
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Kestrel	BoCC5**	Within 1km	2020
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Kingfisher	Sch.1****, BoCC5**	Within 1km	1995
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Lapwing	BoCC5*, S41*****	Within 1km	2016
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Linnet	BoCC5*, S41*****	Within 1km	2021
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Little Ringed Plover	Sch.1****	Within 1km	2010

Scientific Name	Common Name	Protection	Closest Record to Site	
			Approx. Min. Distance (m)	Date
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard	BoCC5**	Within 1km	2021
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow pipit	BoCC5**	Within 1km	1998
<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Merlin	Sch.1****, BoCC5*	Within 1km	1995
<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Mistle thrush	BoCC5*	Within 1km	2009
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Moorhen	BoCC5**	Within 1km	2021
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Nightjar	BoCC5**, S41*****	Within 1km	2009
<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Pink-footed goose	BoCC5**	Within 1km	2014
<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Quail	Sch.1****, BoCC5**	Within 1km	1975
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Redshank	BoCC5**	Within 1km	2010
<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Redwing	Sch.1****, BoCC5**	Within 1km	2016
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed bunting	BoCC5**, S41*****	Within 1km	2004
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Ringed plover	BoCC5*	Within 1km	1998
<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Rook	BoCC5**	Within 1km	1998
<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Sedge warbler	BoCC5**	Within 1km	1998
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Shelduck	BoCC5**	Within 1km	1995
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark	BoCC5*, S41*****	Within 1km	2013
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Snipe	BoCC5**	Within 1km	2010
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song thrush	BoCC5**, S41*****	Within 1km	2021
<i>Accipter nisus</i>	Sparrowhawk	BoCC5**	Within 1km	2021
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Starling	BoCC5*, S41*****	Within 1km	2009
<i>Columba oenas</i>	Stock dove	BoCC5**	Within 1km	2020
<i>Apus apus</i>	Swift	BoCC5*	Within 1km	2014
<i>Strix aluco</i>	Tawny owl	BoCC5**	Within 1km	2014
<i>Anas crecca</i>	Teal	BoCC5**	Within 1km	1998
<i>Passer montanus</i>	Tree sparrow	BoCC5*, S41*****	Within 1km	1998
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Turtle dove	BoCC5*, S41*****	Within 1km	1999
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Wheatear	BoCC5**	Within 1km	1998
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Whinchat	BoCC5*	Within 1km	2004

Scientific Name	Common Name	Protection	Closest Record to Site	
			Approx. Min. Distance (m)	Date
<i>Poecile montana</i>	Willow tit	BoCC5*, S41*****	Within 1km	2021
<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Willow warbler	BoCC5**	Within 1km	2009
<i>Colomba palumbus</i>	Woodpigeon	BoCC5**	Within 1km	2017
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Wren	BoCC5**	Within 1km	2016
<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Yellow wagtail	BoCC5*, S41*****	Within 1km	1998
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yellowhammer	BoCC5*, S41*****	Within 1km	2017

* Red list of BoCC5 (2021)

** Amber list of BoCC5 (2021)

*** Black list BoCC5 (2021)

**** Section 21 of the NERC Act (2009)

***** Schedule 1 or 5 of the WCA (1981)