

ORNITHOLOGY TECHNICAL APPENDIX

1 INTRODUCTION

This Appendix provides technical details on ornithology surveys undertaken at the Spicer Hill proposed wind farm site. A Phase 1 survey and desk study was undertaken to assess the potential for the site to hold significant bird populations and to gather existing and historical records of designated species for the site and surrounding area. The desk study also involved locating any nearby sites designated for bird populations.

During this assessment the “survey area” is the red line boundary of the proposals.

Following the Phase 1 survey and desk study the following additional surveys were undertaken:

- Breeding Bird Survey
- Winter/Passage Bird Survey
- Preliminary Vantage Point Counts for bird activity.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Consultation

A range of statutory and non-statutory organisations were contacted in order to gather available information regarding statutorily protected and other designated or notable sites, habitats and species. Data requested during the desk study was for appropriate designated sites and species from within c.3km (2 miles) of the survey area.

In addition the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website was used to search for the presence of any statutorily protected sites (SAC, SPA and SSSI) or local nature reserves within 5km of the site, designated for their ornithological interest.

2.2 Field Survey

2.2.1 *Breeding Bird Survey*

The breeding bird survey undertaken on the site involved the identification and mapping of all birds within the survey area over four visits. On each visit a different route was followed to prevent bias. Each bird and any relevant behaviour (e.g. territorial singing or display, nest sites, fledglings, carrying food etc.) were recorded using BTO standard species and activity codes. Following the final visit the data collected on the survey visits was collated to indicate the locations of occupied breeding bird territories. This methodology is based on the RSPB/BTO Breeding Bird Survey/ Common Bird Census.

The data from all four visits was then collated to produce an indicative map showing approximate locations of these territories. (see ES Volume 1, Figure 7.1a-7.1c)

All survey visits were undertaken during the first four hours of daylight, when breeding behaviour is generally at its peak. Visits were carried out in suitable weather conditions i.e. no heavy rain or high winds on: 7th, 18th and 29th May and the 9th June 2007.

2.2.2 Winter/Passage Bird Survey

The site was subject to monthly visits between September 2007 and April 2008 in order to search for any significant wintering bird populations (particularly raptors, waders or wildfowl). The survey was restricted to open field habitats within the survey area as any species likely to be impacted upon by the proposals are most likely to be restricted to these habitats e.g. golden plover, lapwing or wildfowl. Three walkover surveys were undertaken during April 2008 to specifically look for any golden plover within the site and surrounding c.2km. Two further walkover surveys for golden plover will be undertaken before mid-May.

All open field habitats within the site were surveyed on each visit using binoculars and where necessary a telescope. All birds seen during the survey were recorded along with their locations.

2.2.3 Flight Activity Survey

All flight activity surveys were undertaken from the top of Spicer Hill at SE 205 049. Whilst this location is within the site it was the best location in the area to oversee all of the potential turbine locations and the existing Royd Moor windfarm.

Following consultations with the RSPB it was known that this site and the wider area did not hold sizeable raptor populations or significant wildfowl populations and therefore the survey was designed to act as a preliminary assessment of flight activity to determine whether more extensive surveys would be necessary.

A total of 24 hours of surveys were undertaken in two-hour periods over seven days in September and October 2007. Surveys were timed so that equal amounts were undertaken in morning, evening and middle day periods to reduce bias.

Specific golden plover flight activity surveys were also undertaken during April 2008 and will continue until mid-May 2008.

Details of survey timings and weather conditions are shown below in Table 1.

Table 1 Flight Activity Survey; Visit details

Survey date	Survey time	Weather at start	Weather at end
September 17 th	06:30-08:30	Visibility: Good Rain: 0 Wind: 2SW Cloud Height: >500m	Visibility: Good Rain: 0 Wind: 1SW Cloud Height: >500m
	12:00-14:00	Visibility: Good Rain: 0 Wind: 3W Cloud Height: >500m	Visibility: Good Rain: 0 Wind: 3SW Cloud Height: >500m
September 26 th	12:15-14:15	Visibility: Good Rain: 0 Wind: 3N Cloud Height: >500m	Visibility: Good Rain: 0 Wind: 4N Cloud Height: >500m
	17:00-19:00	Visibility: Good Rain: 0 Wind: 5N Cloud Height: >500m	Visibility: Good Rain: 0 Wind: 5N Cloud Height: >500m
October 6 th	07:00-09:00	Visibility: Good	Visibility: Good

Survey date	Survey time	Weather at start	Weather at end
		Rain: 0 Wind: 0 Cloud Height: 150-500m	Rain: 0 Wind: 0 Cloud Height: 150-500m
	16:40-18:40	Visibility: Good Rain: 0 Wind: 2S-E Cloud Height: >500m	Visibility: Good Rain: 0 Wind: 2S Cloud Height: >500m
October 10 th	12:10-14:10	Visibility: Moderate Rain: 0 Wind: 3NW CloudHeight: 150-500m	Visibility: Moderate Rain: Light Showers Wind: 4NW CloudHeight: 150-500m
October 11 th	16:25-18:25	Visibility: Moderate Rain: 0 Wind: 2W Cloud Height: 150-500m	Visibility: Moderate Rain: 0 Wind: 2W Cloud Height: 150-500m
October 18 th	07:15-09:15	Visibility: Good Rain: 0 Wind: 0 Cloud Height: 150-500m	Visibility: Good Rain: 0 Wind: 0 Cloud Height: >500m
	16:10-18:10	Visibility: Good Rain: 0 Wind: 3NW CloudHeight150-500m	Visibility: Good Rain: 0 Wind: 3WNW Cloud Height: 150-500m
October 25 th	07:25-09:25	Visibility: Moderate Rain: Light showers Wind: 4SE CloudHeight: 150-500m	Visibility: Good Rain: 0 Wind: 4SE CloudHeight: 150-500m
	12:10-14:10	Visibility: Moderate Rain: Light showers Wind: 3E Cloud Height: 150-500m	Visibility: Good Rain: 0 Wind: 3E Cloud Height: 150-500m
April 2 nd	12:00-14:00	Visibility: Excellent Rain: 0 Wind: 5SW Cloud height: 150-500m	Visibility: Excellent Rain: Light showers Wind: 5/6 SW Cloud height: 150-500m
	18:00-20_00	Visibility: Good Rain: 0 Wind: 5SW Cloud height: 150-500m	Visibility: Good Rain: Light showers Wind: 5SW Cloud height: 150-500m
April 15 th	06:10-08:10	Visibility: Excellent Rain: 0 Wind: 1SW Cloud height: 150-500m	Visibility: Excellent Rain: 0 Wind: 1SW Cloud height: 150-500m
	13:00-15:00	Visibility: Excellent Rain: 0 Wind: 2S Cloud height: >500m	Visibility: Excellent Rain: 0 Wind: 2SW Cloud height: >500m
April 29 th	12:00-14:00	Visibility: Excellent Rain: 0 Wind: 2E Cloud height: 150-500m	Visibility: Excellent Rain: 0 Wind: 2E Cloud height: 150-500m
	18:45-20:45	Visibility: Excellent Rain: 1 Heavy shower c.18:55-19:100 Wind: 3E Cloud height: 150-500m	Visibility: Excellent Rain: 0 Wind: 3E Cloud height: 150-500m

3 BASELINE CONDITIONS

3.1 Desk Study

A summary of the data received from the consultees is shown below in Table 2

Table 2 Consultation Responses

Consultee	Summary
RSPB	Telephone discussion regarding general bird use of area. No records held. Said that the wider area historically held passage populations of golden plover and dotterel but not in significant numbers over recent years. Suggested that some waders, especially lapwing and curlew nest in the area. Was not aware of any significant populations of vulnerable species i.e. raptors and wildfowl likely to be at risk from the proposals.
County Bird Recorder	Records of statutorily protected and designated breeding and wintering/passage birds. Species or records referring to vagrant and casual observations of species outside of the breeding period and known not to breed in the area have been omitted. Full details are appended at the end of this document.

3.1.1 Internationally Statutorily Designated Sites

The survey area does not include any part of an Internationally designated site i.e. Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA).

The nearest such site is the South Pennine Moors SAC/Peak District Moors (south Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA located c.4.2km to the south of the survey area. This site is designated under both directives and listed for the presence of significant amounts of Annex 1 habitats (EC Habitats Directive 1992) and populations of Annex 1 species (Birds Directive 1979).

SPA designation criteria:

The Peak District Moors SPA is designated due to its populations of the following species of bird:

- Golden Plover
- Dunlin
- Merlin
- Short-eared Owl
- Peregrine

None of these species were recorded during any of the breeding or wintering bird surveys within the survey area.

Due to the distance between the survey area and the nearest internationally designated sites and the lack of shared habitats and species and low connectivity of habitats it is

considered that there would be no impact on these sites by the proposed wind farm during any of the phases of development.

3.1.2 *Nationally Statutorily Designated Sites*

There are no Sites of Special Scientific Interest designated for bird interests within 4km of the proposed development. The nearest site designated for bird populations is the South Pennine Moors SSSI which lies entirely within the boundary of the South Pennine Moors SPA, approximately 4.2km away at its nearest point.

3.1.3 *Locally Designated Sites*

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council provided details of four Natural Heritage Sites from within 2km of the survey area. Details of these sites are provided within Appendix 1 of the Ecology Technical Appendix, also within this Volume.

3.1.4 *Birds*

Records were received from SK58 Bird Group of 159 species having been recorded from within the site or the adjacent 1km. Of these, 41 species were recorded as being scarce or vagrant species. There were no records of Schedule 1 (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) species breeding within the survey area.

3.2 Field Survey

3.2.1 *Breeding Bird Survey*

A total of twenty-eight species of bird were identified during the survey with twenty-one of these considered to be breeding within the survey area. No qualifying species for the South Pennine Moors SPA/SSSI or any other Annex 1 or Schedule 1 species were identified as breeding on the site or recorded at any time during the breeding bird survey.

Of the species recorded, seven were listed as UK BAP priority species i.e. lapwing, curlew, skylark, dunnoek, linnet, starling and yellowhammer.

A further six species listed on the Amber list of species of conservation concern were recorded as breeding i.e. swallow, meadow pipit, oystercatcher, willow warbler, goldcrest and stonechat. All species recorded during the survey were considered to be generally common and widespread across the UK and typical of the habitats found within the site.

Other species recorded as breeding within the site (in low numbers) not currently designated as those species above were: chaffinch, blackbird, wren, jackdaw, robin, blue tit, whitethroat and pied wagtail.

The seven species recorded within, or flying over the survey area but not undertaking breeding behaviour were: carrion crow, rook, wood pigeon, black-headed gull, lesser black-backed gull, kestrel and heron.

3.2.1.1 *Schedule 1 Species*

No Schedule 1 species were recorded exhibiting breeding behaviour during the survey.

3.2.1.2 *UK BAP species*

Lapwing: a single territory was recorded from within the site boundary in the easternmost field of the site. Two further territories were recorded in fields between the site boundary and Ingbirchworth Reservoir c. 100-150 m from the site boundary. Up to nine birds were recorded feeding and roosting in fields immediately north of Spicer Hill during the survey. These birds were considered to be non-breeders or failed breeders and were not seen undertaking any breeding behaviour.

Curlew: A single territory was recorded in fields outside of the site boundary to the north-west. The bird was frequently heard calling and occasionally seen flying over the clay quarry area.

Skylark: Seven territories were recorded within the site boundary and adjacent fields. Most territories were located in improved grassland and arable fields within the survey area.

Dunnoek: A single territory was recorded within the site boundary.

Linnet: five territories were recorded. Three of these were outside the site boundary on Small Shaw Bank, another was located close in Ingbirchworth Nature Reserve and the final one was located within the survey area between the proposed locations of turbines 2 and 3.

Starling: three nesting pairs were suspected within buildings at Spicer House. Flocks of between ten and fifty birds were seen flying around and feeding in arable fields within the site on every visit.

Yellowhammer: A single territory was recorded on the southern site boundary, close to Small Shaw Bank.

3.2.1.3 *Red List and Local BAP Species (included within Barnsley BAP).*

No Red List species or species specifically listed on the Barnsley BAP and not already covered by the UK BAP species above, were recorded during the survey.

3.2.1.4 *Amber list species*

Swallow: Up to four pairs of swallow were recorded from buildings at Spicer House.

Meadow Pipit: Four territories were recorded from fields within or adjacent to the site boundary.

Oystercatcher: A single territorial bird was recorded from fields around the clay quarry, outside the site boundary.

Willow Warbler: A single territory was recorded from the Ingbirchworth Nature Reserve.

Goldcrest: A singing bird was recorded from the conifer plantation adjacent to Spicer House.

Stonechat: A single pair (with young on the June visit) was recorded on the eastern boundary of the site, to the north of the existing Royd Moor windfarm.

3.2.1.5 *Winter/Passage Bird Survey*

No important wintering or passage bird populations were recorded anywhere within the survey area during the winter/passage bird survey, including the specific golden plover surveys in April 2008. Below are summaries of each month's survey visits highlighting all records of waders, wildfowl and raptors and significant movements of passerines (i.e. groups of over ten individuals).

September 18th: A flock of sixteen lapwings were present in fields north of the site boundary and a single curlew was recorded in fields south of Whitley Road. No other wildfowl or waders were recorded. Maxima of fourteen black-headed gulls, twelve common gulls and a single lesser black-backed gull were recorded flying over the site along with single figure counts of jackdaw and carrion crow. A flock of fifteen rook, eight carrion crows and twenty jackdaws was recorded feeding in fields south of Whitley Road. The only other passerines recorded in significant numbers was a flock of twenty-three starlings flying between fields along the southern boundary of the site and a group of eight house martins and twelve swallows feeding in fields around Spicer House.

October 23rd: Eleven lapwings were recorded in fields north of the site boundary. No other waders or wildfowl were recorded. A kestrel was seen hunting along the verges of Spicer House Lane, near Ingbirchworth Nature Reserve. Twelve jackdaw were present in trees around Spicer House along with ten carrion crow. Twenty starlings were feeding in arable fields along the northern boundary of the site. A total of six common gulls and four black-headed gulls were recorded flying over the site.

November 27th: No waders or wildfowl were recorded during the visit other than a single grey heron flying high (over 100m) over the site from east to west. Ten jackdaws and thirteen crows were recorded scattered through the site. A flock of twenty-four fieldfares, eight redwing and twelve blackbirds were present in the front garden of Spicer House and nearby trees. Eighteen common gulls and six black-headed gulls were feeding fields north of the site boundary and a further six common gulls were recorded flying over the site in groups of one and two. A kestrel was again hunting along Spicer House Lane.

December 16th: One flock of eleven and another of twenty-one lapwings were recorded in fields between the site boundary and Ingbirchworth Reservoir. The flocks were seen moving between fields during the survey but were not seen within the site boundary at any time. Ten jackdaws and six carrion crows were recorded at Spicer House and fourteen common gulls were recorded in the fields north of the site. Thirty-five fieldfare and twenty-one redwing were recorded around Spicer House along with ten blackbirds. A total of fifteen starlings were seen in small groups flying over the site.

January 14th: Eight lapwings were present in fields north of the site boundary. A flock of c.500 Canada geese were seen distantly toward Royd Moor Reservoir c.1.2km south-east of the site boundary. This flock was then seen flying between fields around Royd Moor reservoir and fields north of Ingbirchworth Reservoir. The flock never approached within c.1km of the site boundary. Ten jackdaws and eight carrion crow were recorded within the site boundary. No fieldfare or redwing were recorded (presumably as food around Spicer House had become exhausted). Twelve common and four black-headed gulls were recorded flying over the site and in fields north of the site boundary.

February 14th: Twenty-six lapwings were recorded in fields c.800m west of the northernmost point of the site boundary at Brown's Edge. No other waders were

recorded from the site or surrounding area. The flock of Canada geese was again seen over fields north of Ingbirchworth Reservoir but no closer to the site boundary. Sixty black-headed, twelve common and a single herring gull were recorded in arable fields in the site boundary, along with c.100 starlings.

March 5th: Two lapwings along with c.200 black-headed, thirty common, two lesser black-backed and a single herring gull, plus c.120 starlings were all present in arable fields adjacent to Spicer House Lane within the site boundary, feeding on the ploughed surface. No other notable records were made within the survey area.

April 2nd: twenty lesser black-backed, ten common and eight black-headed gulls in arable fields within site boundary. Up to twenty five carrion crow, fifteen jackdaws and fifty starlings moving around site. No golden plover recorded within the site boundary or surrounding 2km.

April 15th: a single oystercatcher and six lapwing were feeding in ploughed fields adjacent to Spicer House lane, within the site boundary. Eighteen lesser black-backed gulls, forty crows and six jackdaws in arable fields and around other fields within the site boundary. Single pied wagtail and meadow pipits in arable fields. No golden plover recorded within the site boundary or surrounding 2km.

April 29th : up to fifty lesser black backed gulls around site, c. twenty carrion crow and twenty jackdaw around site, especially on and adjacent to Spicer House. Six swallows over the site, ten goldfinches near Spicer House and a single swift also recorded. No golden plover recorded within the site boundary or surrounding 2km.

3.2.1.6 Flight Activity Survey

The focal species for this survey were Annex 1 and Schedule 1 raptor species, ducks (excluding mallard), geese (excluding feral populations) and waders (excluding lapwing and curlew).

The only focal species recorded during the entire survey were two teal on the evening of 26th September.

The only raptor recorded during the survey was a single kestrel hunting within the site and the only additional wildfowl were two mallard seen on 26th September. Wader records were limited to a maximum of sixteen lapwing moving around fields beyond the site boundary on three visits. The vast majority of records related to carrion crows and jackdaw with frequent gulls and starlings although no notable movements were recorded. Crows were regularly seen flying just over and between the towers of the existing Royd Moor windfarm.

3.2.1.7 Survey summaries:

September 17th; No raptors, waders or wildfowl recorded. The morning included thirty carrion crow and twelve jackdaw movements throughout the site along with four black-headed and a single lesser black-backed gull. All of these records, except twenty crows (between 20 and 100m height), were recorded below 20 metres. Six swallows, two meadow pipits and twelve starlings were also recorded moving around the site at low heights. The mid-day visit totaled a further twenty-two records of carrion crow, fourteen jackdaw, four black-headed gull, c.forty-five starlings (in a single group), two meadow pipits and a pied wagtail.

September 26th; The mid-day survey produced twelve lapwing briefly seen moving between fields c.200m north of the site boundary. A single kestrel was present along Spicer House Lane and occasionally hunting just within the site boundary. Forty-one crows and eight jackdaws were recorded flying through the site (usually to or from Spicer House). One common gull flew over the site. Ten swallows and ten house martins were feeding low over fields around Spicer House and six swallows were recorded flying c. E to W along Whitley Road at c.5-10m height. The evening visit revealed twenty-six crow and eleven jackdaw movements and at dusk two mallard and two teal were recorded flying into ponds at the clay quarry from the direction of Ingbirchworth Reservoir at <50m height. Two meadow pipits and six swallows were recorded feeding and commuting within fields in the area.

October 6th; During the morning visit ten lapwing were seen flying in fields c.100m east of the site boundary. A single heron was recorded flying well over 100m over the site from east to west. Forty carrion crow and fourteen jackdaws were recorded flying around and through the site, all between 20 and 100m except when landing near Spicer House. Two common gull and two black-headed gulls were recorded. Thirty starlings were recorded in groups of less than ten moving around the site. Four goldfinches and three meadow pipits were also recorded at heights of less than 20m. The evening visits produced records of a single kestrel hunting in the easternmost fields within the site boundary and then flying between existing turbines beyond the site. Also, twenty-six carrion crows, sixteen rooks and thirty-two jackdaws over the site (all between 20 and 100m). Sixteen black-headed gulls were recorded flying over the site toward Ingbirchworth Reservoir in groups of less than five (all between 20 and 100m).

October 10th; Mid-day visit produces two lapwings flying along the site boundary north-west to south-east. Twelve carrion crow and twelve jackdaws moving around Spicer House and generally heading north-west. Two groups of four black-headed gulls and three single common gulls also pass through. Eighteen starlings in small groups throughout the two hours at heights less than 20m. Heavy evening rain postpones next count to tomorrow.

October 11th; Evening survey. Sixteen lapwings in two groups of eight recorded flying from fields north-east of the site boundary toward Royd Moor reservoir at c.30m height. Hunting kestrel recorded along Spicer House Lane and then briefly flew low to few trees east of Spicer Hill before leaving low to the south. Ten black-headed gulls, sixteen carrion crows and twenty jackdaws recorded flying around the site. One meadow pipit and two goldfinches flying around fields near vantage point.

October 18th; Morning visit. Kestrel hunting along Spicer House Lane. Eight carrion crows and twenty-four jackdaws around the site at heights between 20-100m. Four common gulls over at similar heights and twelve starlings moving between arable fields in the site. Four wood pigeons over the site from south to north. One meadow pipit in fields near vantage point. Evening visit produced one lapwing c.100m north of the site boundary and a curlew flying west from the clay quarry outside the site boundary, four carrion crows, twelve jackdaws and two wood pigeons along with a flock of twelve starlings were also recorded.

October 25th; Morning survey recorded twelve lapwings in fields between the site boundary and Ingbirchworth Reservoir flying north at lower than 20m. A single curlew was seen flying north from the Clay Quarry area at c.20-100m height. Thirty carrion crow and sixteen jackdaw movements were recorded along with twenty starling and two meadow pipit. The mid-day survey produced a further thirty-eight carrion crow and eight

jackdaw movements along with twelve rooks flying south from fields west of Whitley Road at less than 20m height. Eight goldfinches and one meadow pipit were also recorded moving around the site.

April 2nd; No golden plover or other high risk species recorded during surveys.

April 15th; No golden plover or other high risk species recorded during surveys.

April 29th; No golden plover or other high risk species recorded during surveys.

The lack of focal species or other notable species (with regard to vulnerability of collision) over the proposal site and the low numbers of other common and widespread species using the area meant that no significant collision risks are anticipated based on this survey along with the results of the breeding and wintering/passage surveys.

4 REFERENCES

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

IEA. (1995). Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment. Chapman & Hall

IEEM. (2002) Guidelines for Ecological Evaluation and Assessment. IEEM

IEEM. (2006) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment. IEEM (www.ieem.co.uk).

Appendix 1

County Bird Recorder Desk Study Results: Spicer Hill Wind Farm

The following bird list is of species listed as Schedule 1, Annex 1, UK and Local BAP, Red Listed and Amber Listed that have been recorded since 2001 within a 2 mile radius of Spicer Hill, Penistone. The list is first in order of importance, and then in alphabetical order.

The status, (this information is the line directly under the species name) ie, Resident breeder/passage migrant, refers to the status in the Barnsley recording area (nb; Not within the desk study area itself).

Systematic List

Schedule 1 species present through the breeding season in the Spicer Hill area:

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) (Schedule 1, Barnsley BAP, Amber Listed)

Resident breeder

A single Barn Owl has recently been seen in the Ingbirchworth area (2007). This is the only record.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) (Schedule 1, Barnsley BAP)

Summer visitor

This species has been present on many dates throughout the summer month's at all three reservoirs: breeding was proven in 2001/2. Although present every year since then breeding was not proven for these years.

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) (Schedule 1, Red Listed)

Summer visitor

Historically they have always bred in the area; the only recent record however is from near Broadstones Res where one was heard singing on the 30th and 31st May 2006.

Schedule 1 species that do not breed in the area but are recorded as winter visitors, migrants or vagrants.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) (Schedule 1)

Winter visitor

Recorded most years at a number of locations in the area, the largest counts were 300 during January in 2003 at Ingbirchworth Reservoir, with 120 also there on the 3rd Dec 2006.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) (Schedule 1, Red Listed)

Passage visitor

A single was at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on the 7th August 2001 and one was also present in fields near Scout Dyke Res from the 26th to 28th March 2005.

Dotterel (*Charadrius morinellus*) (Schedule 1, Annex 1, Amber listed)

Infrequent passage visitor

Two birds were seen on Whitley Common on the 11th May 2001. Between 1979 and 1985 Dotterel were recorded annually on the fields in this area, and virtually annually to 1995.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) (Schedule 1, Amber Listed)

Common winter/passage visitor

Many records of this common winter/passage visitor, flocks in excess of 800 birds recorded in the area.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) (Schedule 1, Amber listed)
Common passage/winter visitor
Singles seen on many dates' at all three reservoirs during the last 5/6 years.

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) (Schedule 1)
Passage visitor
One/two at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on a number of dates in 2001, one a Broadstones Res on the 2/3rd August 2002 and singles at Scout Dyke Res on the 10th and 15th Aug 2003. In 2006 birds were seen on several dates at all three reservoirs during Sept and October.

Hobby (*Falco subbeteo*) (Schedule 1)
Uncommon passage/winter visitor
Singles at Ingbirchworth Res on the 8th of July 2001 and at Broadstones and Ingbirchworth Reservoirs on the 10th and 11th August 2003.

Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) (Schedule 1, Annex 1, Amber Listed)
Resident breeder
Seen on several dates at Ingbirchworth Res in 2001/2, but no records since.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) (Schedule 1)
Uncommon passage visitor
One at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on the 25th March 2005

Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*) (Schedule 1, Amber Listed)
Uncommon passage/winter visitor
One in fields near Royd Moor Res on the 13th January 2001 and one at Ingbirchworth Res on the 1st April 2001. In 2006 singles were at Ingbirchworth Res on the 12th August and Royd Moor Res on the 26th August.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) (Schedule 1, Annex 1, Amber Listed)
Winter/passage visitor
Breeds nearby on the moorlands and therefore seen regularly in the area during the last 5/6 years.

Osprey (*Pandion hiaetus*) (Schedule 1, Annex 1, Amber Listed)
Scarce passage migrant
One was seen flying south over Scout Dyke Res on the 21st September 2003.

Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) (Schedule 1, Annex 1, Amber Listed)
Regular winter/passage visitor
Breeds nearby on the moorlands; seen regularly throughout the area during the last 5/6 years.

Red Throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*) (Schedule 1, Annex 1, Amber Listed)
Rare winter visitor
A juvenile was at Scout Dyke Reservoir on the 26th December 2004.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) (Schedule 1, Annex 1, Amber Listed)
Passage visitor
Two were seen leaving north at Royd Moor Res on the 3rd September 2003.

Annex 1 species (in addition to those that are also schedule 1 species)**Arctic Tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) (Annex 1, Amber Listed)

Passage migrant

Two were seen at Scout Dyke Res on the 24th June 2001.

Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) (Annex 1, Amber listed)

Scarce passage/winter visitor

Two adults were at Ingbirchworth Reservoir on the 4 and 5th January 2002.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) (Annex 1)

Passage migrant and migrant breeder

Recorded annually on passage at both Scout Dyke and Broadstones Reservoirs.

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) (Annex 1)

Passage/winter visitor and migrant breeder

The Blackstone Edge – Whitley Common area has traditionally been an important local staging area for the northern race of Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria altifrons* between late March and early May. Post breeding flocks of Golden Plover build up in the area during early autumn prior to movement to lowland and coastal wintering areas. Numbers in recent years have included up to 600 in 2003. They breed nearby on the blanket bog of the moorlands.

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus Cygnus*) (Annex 1, Amber Listed)

Passage/winter visitor

Three flew west over Ingbirchworth on the 23rd November 2001. Five were at Scout Dyke Res on the 2nd January 2002 with two there on the 27th March 2003.

UK and local BAP species (in addition to those that are also Schedule 1, Annex 1)**Common Scoter** (*Melanitta nigra*) (UK BAP, Red Listed)

Uncommon passage visitor

In 2002 seven were at Broadstones Res on the 8th July and an adult drake was at Ingbirchworth Res from the 2nd to 5th November. In 2006 a female was at Ingbirchworth Res on the 17th September and three were at Royd Moor Res on the 26th August.

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) (UK BAP, Red Listed)

Resident breeder

Breeds locally, 12 were seen at Royd Moor Res on the 17th December 2005.

Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) (UK BAP, Local BAP, Red Listed)

Resident breeder

Breeds locally, with confirmed breeding pairs at Broadstones, Ingbirchworth and Crow Edge since 2001.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) (Local BAP, Amber Listed)

Resident breeder and partial migrant

Breeds in area with at least four pairs each at Broadstones and Royd Moor.

Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*) (UK BAP, Local BAP, Red Listed)

Partial migrant breeder

Breeds in area with post breeding flocks of up to 100 birds regularly recorded. In 2006 400 were noted at Royd Moor during September.

Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) (UK BAP, Red Listed)

Resident breeder and partial migrant
Common breeding bird in the area.

Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) (UK BAP, Local BAP, Red Listed)

Partial migrant breeder
Common breeding bird in the area.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*) (UK BAP, Red Listed)

Migrant breeder
No records recently but formally bred in the area.

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) (UK BAP, Local BAP, Red Listed)

Resident breeder and winter visitor
Breeds locally in small numbers.

Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) (UK BAP, Local BAP, Red Listed)

Resident breeder
Breeding colonies exist near Scout Dyke Res and Royd Moor Res.

Twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*) (Local BAP, Red Listed)

Scarce passage/winter visitor
Only recent record in the area is of four birds at Ingbirchworth from the 10th to 19th January 2003.

Red Listed Species (in addition to those that are also Schedule 1, Annex 1, UK and local BAP)**House Sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*)

Common resident
Breeds locally.

Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustalla naevia*)

Migrant breeder
Occasionally breeds in the area.

Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquata*)

Migrant breeder
Seen occasionally in the area on passage.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Resident breeder and winter visitor
Breeds locally with significant post breeding flocks sometimes present in the area in excess of 500 birds.

Willow Tit (*Poecile montanus*)

Resident breeder
Breeds locally, three singing males were noted at Broadstones Res in 2006.

Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citronella*)

Resident breeder
Fairly common breeding bird in the area, winter flocks often in excess of 60 birds.

Amber Listed Species (in addition to those that are also Schedule 1, Annex 1, UK and Local BAP.)

Black headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)

Common winter visitor and migrant breeder
A common visitor to the area.

Common Gull (*Larus canus*)

Common passage and winter visitor
A common visitor to the area.

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax aristollis*)

Common resident and passage visitor
Regular passage visitor in the area.

Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)

Migrant breeder
Occasional visitor/breeder in the area.

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

Migrant breeder and passage visitor
A fairly common breeder in the area.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

Common passage/winter visitor and scarce migrant breeder.
A regular passage visitor to the three reservoirs in the area.

Duncock (*Prunella modularis*)

Resident breeder
Breeds in the area.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)

Resident and winter visitor
Regular visitor to the reservoirs in the area.

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*)

Resident breeder and winter visitor
Possibly breeds in the area.

Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)

Winter visitor
Regular winter visitor to the reservoirs in the area.

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*)

Resident breeder
Breeding resident with at least one pair present on the spoil heap area of the clay works at Crow Edge.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Resident breeder and passage/winter visitor
Breeds in the area, also a regular passage/winter visitor.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

Common passage/winter visitor
A common visitor to the area.

House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*)
Migrant breeder
A regular passage visitor; breeds locally.

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)
Common resident
A regular visitor to the area and breeds locally.

Lesser black backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)
Common passage and scarce winter visitor
A regular visitor to the area during times of passage.

Lesser Redpoll (*Carduelis cabaret*)
Partial migrant breeder and winter visitor
A regular passage visitor to the area.

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)
Partial migrant breeder
A common breeding bird and passage/winter visitor to the area.

Mistle Thrush (*Turdus pilaris*)
Resident breeder
A fairly common breeding bird in suitable habitat.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)
Resident breeder (lowlands)
An occasional visitor to the areas reservoirs.

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)
Passage migrant, breeds
Single pairs regularly seen in the vicinity of the three reservoirs; possibly breeds in the area.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)
Regular winter/passage visitor
A regular passage visitor in winter, skeins always flying SE or NW (the area is twix Norfolk and Martinmere).

Pintail (*Anas acuta*)
Fairly common passage/winter visitor
2/3 birds seen on many dates at all three reservoirs.

Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)
Winter/passage visitor
A regular visitor to the areas reservoirs.

Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)
Migrant breeder and passage visitor
A regular visitor to the areas reservoirs, but no evidence of breeding in the last five years.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)

Common winter/passage visitor
A regular passage/winter visitor to the area.

Ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)
Passage migrant and summer visitor
A common passage/summer visitor to the area but no evidence of breeding.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)
Passage visitor and migrant breeder
A regular passage visitor to the area.

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*)
Infrequent passage visitor
A scarce passage visitor to the area; several records in the last five years.

Scaup (*Aythya marila*)
Scarce passage visitor
In 2003 one was seen at Broadstones Res on the 18th March, and in July a juvenile was seen briefly at Carlecotes pond on the 15th. (This pond is within the clayworks boundary)

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)
Resident breeder/passage visitor
A regular passage visitor to the areas reservoirs.

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)
Resident and winter visitor
An occasional visitor to the areas reservoirs.

Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)
Common winter visitor and migrant breeder
Breeds locally, may well be the commonest breeding wader of the area.

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*)
Resident breeder
Breeds in the area, flocks of up to 120 birds seen near Ingbirchworth.

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*)
Uncommon passage/winter visitor and partial migrant breeder
Regular visitor; also breeds in the area.

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
Migrant breeder
A common passage migrant, also breeds in the area.

Teal (*Anas crecca*)
Common winter visitor and rare breeder
A regular visitor to the area, flocks of up to 74 birds recorded at Ingbirchworth Reservoir.

Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*)
Migrant breeder
Has bred in the last five years in the area; two singing males were present near the spoil heap at the clay works in 2004.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Fairly common passage visitor

A regular passage visitor to the area.

Wigeon (*Anas Penelope*)

Common winter visitor

A regular passage visitor to the area.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

Migrant breeder

A common breeding bird in the area in suitable habitat.

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

Migrant breeder

A regular passage visitor to the area.

Compiled by Peter Middleton

References

Barnsley Area Bird Reports 2001/6