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Client: Keepmoat Homes

Project: Keresforth Road

Report: Bird Surveys

QUALITY ASSURANCE

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Greengage Environmental Limited (Greengage) was commissioned by Keepmoat Homes in January 2024 to undertake a wintering bird survey (WBS) and a breeding bird survey (BBS) for an area of land located off Keresforth Road in Dodworth, Barnsley, hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.

This document is a report of the WBS and BBS and has been produced to inform a planning application for proposed residential development at the Site.

The WBS and BBS were recommended following a rejected planning application in March 2023.

The Site extends to approximately 8.03 hectares (ha) and comprised other neutral grassland, modified grassland (both with some areas of scattered scrub), bramble scrub, lowland deciduous mixed woodland, a line of trees, a native hedgerow, a small area of developed land; sealed surface in the form of a road in the south of the Site, and a stream (other rivers and streams) which is a tributary of Dodworth Dyke. Further suitable habitat, in the form of woodland, is also frequent within the immediate area.

The WBS took place at the Site between January and February 2024 and the BBS took place at the Site between April and July 2024, in accordance with the Bird Survey Guidelines (Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group, 2023).

Overall, the WBS recorded up to 28 bird species and the BBS up to 34 bird species, either directly using the Site, using habitats adjacent the Site, or flying over the Site. Habitat types used by the birds are either to be retained or created as part of the development proposals. Therefore, the overall impact as a result of the proposed development is assessed as being of site level importance only to breeding birds.

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan (BEMP) are recommended to be created to provide measures for appropriate compensation, mitigation and enhancement for breeding birds post-development.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Greengage Environmental Limited (Greengage) was commissioned by Keepmoat Homes in January 2024 to undertake a wintering bird survey (WBS) and a breeding bird survey (BBS) for an area of land located off Keresforth Road, in Dodworth, Barnsley, hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.

This document provides a report of the WBS and BBS and has been produced to inform a planning application for proposed residential development at the Site.

The requirement for the surveys was identified following comments received from the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and a review of earlier ecological reports for the Site, specifically the following:

- Email entitled '*Planning Application 2022/0016 Biodiversity reconsultation comments*', written by Local Planning Authority (LPA) Planning Ecologist, Katie Lawrence on 20th April 2023, and forwarded from Senior Planning Officer at Barnsley Council, Elaine Ward, dated 24th April 2023;
- Quants Environmental (2021) Land off Keresforth Road, Dodworth Barnsley - Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, dated December 2021;
- Quants Environmental (2023) Land off Keresforth Road, Dodworth Barnsley - Additional Ecological Surveys, dated January 2023;
- Quants Environmental (2023) Land off Keresforth Road, Dodworth Barnsley - Ecological Impact Assessment, dated January 2023;
- Quants Environmental (2023) Land off Keresforth Road, Dodworth Barnsley - Additional Ecological Surveys, dated August 2023; and,
- Greengage (2024) Ecological Impact Assessment, dated 30th May 2024

Wintering Bird Surveys

Greengage determined that the Quants Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) (January 2023) lacked sufficient and robust detail to justify why WBS had not been recommended given the presence of several designated sites within 2 kilometres (km) of the Site, including the Dearne Valley Wetland Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) designated for its wetland and birds, located approximately 1.6km south east of the Site. Dearne Valley Wetland SSSI was also designated as a stronghold for nationally rare and declining willow tit (*Poecile montanus*). Further afield, the Dearne Valley Old Moor Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) reserve is located approximately 8.7km south east of the Site.

It was therefore recommended by Greengage that WBS be undertaken to provide a strong data set to allow assessment of impacts on wintering birds to be undertaken.

Breeding Bird Surveys

The Quants EclA (January 2023) recommended that BBS be conducted, with BBS conducted by Quants between April and June 2023¹. However, Greengage determined that the BBS completed by

Quants did not follow up to date guidelines (i.e. from Bird Survey Guidelines (2023)) and also did not undertake the survey visits at appropriate timings of starting up to half an hour before sunrise and an hour after sunset during the dusk visit. Therefore, Greengage determined a lack of confidence in the BBS completed by Quants and recommended that BBS be updated.

Greengage undertook an update EclA in May 2024², which included a site walkover to assess habitats present at the Site, and a desk-top review to collate environmental records from the local biological records centre, Barnsley Biological Records Centre (BBRC). The results from the EclA desk-top review have been used to help inform assessments as part of the WBS and BBS and a summary in relation to birds is included as part of this report for completeness.

2.2 SITE DESCRIPTION

The Site extends to approximately 8.03 hectares (ha) and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR): SE 32408 05304, OS Co-ordinates: 432408, 405304. The Site boundary has been taken as the 'Application site boundary' denoted on the supplied Keepmoat Homes 'Site Location Plan'³.

Based on data collected for the Greengage EclA (May 2024), the Site comprised other neutral grassland, modified grassland (both with some areas of scattered scrub), bramble scrub, lowland deciduous mixed woodland, a line of trees, a native hedgerow, a small area of developed land; sealed surface in the form of a road, and a stream (other rivers and streams) which is a tributary of Dodworth Dyke. A UKHab habitat map can be found in Appendix G.

The Site is situated north of Keresforth Road, and immediately to the east of the Site is the slip road to Junction 37 of the M1 motorway. A small patch of woodland is present immediately to the south east of the Site and along the western boundary. Residential housing is present to the west of the Site beyond the woodland, as well as within the wider area to the north and south. Agricultural land is present to the east of the Site, beyond the M1.

Further afield, House Carr Dike is located approximately 820 metres (m) south of the Site, South Yorkshire Forest is approximately 1.3km to the south west, Bagger Wood Dike is approximately 1.3km to the south west, National Trust Wentworth Castle is approximately 1.4km to the south west, Silkstone Golf Club is approximately 1.4km to the north west, Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI is approximately 1.8km to the south east and, Worsborough Country Park Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is approximately 1.9km to the south east of the Site. Barnsley town centre is approximately 2.3km east of the Site.

3.0 LEGISLATION AND CONSERVATION STATUS

In the United Kingdom (UK), birds are protected by various European and UK legislation. The legislation creates a hierarchy of protection status for different bird species. Conservation status also provides an outlook for targeting conservation efforts of particular bird species within the UK.

The following legislative and conservation protection for birds in the UK has been used to inform the assessment of wintering and breeding bird species using the Site.

European Legislation

Annex I of the European Union (EU) Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (also known as the Birds Directive) lists a total of 194 bird species and sub-species. Under the Birds Directive, all EU Member States must employ conservation measures on the listed species' most suitable territories in number and size by designating sites as Special Protection Areas (SPAs). This conservation aims to increase the survival of these listed species as well as all migratory bird species.

UK Legislation

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) (as amended) is the principal mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain. This legislation is the means by which the Birds Directive is implemented in Great Britain.

Under the WCA 1981 (as amended), all wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected while a nest is in use or occupied. The nesting bird season is typically considered to fall between March and August (inclusive). Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the WCA 1981 (as amended) offers greater protection against damage and disturbance whilst a nest is occupied by certain species that are listed.

Part 1 of Schedule 9 of the WCA 1981 (as amended) includes a list of animals that are non-native to the UK and which are established in the wild. Under this Part of the Schedule of the Act, it is an offence if any person releases or allows the escape into the wild of an animal which is not ordinarily resident in and is not a regular visitor to Great Britain in a wild state; or is included within the list of species within this Part.

Birds of Conservation Concern

The fifth version of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC5) was published as an update in 2021 by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), UK Government and others⁴. The BoCC5 assigned bird species to one of three conservation status lists (Red, Amber or Green) which are described as following:

- Red is the highest conservation priority, with species which are Globally Threatened, have a population or range that has recently declined rapidly, or that have declined historically and have not shown a substantial recent recovery;
- Amber is the second highest conservation priority, with species qualifying for this status which have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe, a population or range that has declined moderately in recent years, or a population that has declined historically but made a recent substantial

recovery. It also includes species for which breeding occurs on a rare basis and/or for which the UK holds international importance or localised populations; and,

- Green which indicates that the species are currently relatively unthreatened, do not fulfil any of the above criteria, and are of the least conservation concern.

These lists are based on standardised assessment criteria, describing the level of conservation threat to each species. Some species are listed as Introduced, applying to those species which are non-native in the UK and thus have no UK conservation status.

Species of Principal Importance

Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 lists certain bird species as species of principal importance for the purposes of biodiversity conservation. The Secretary of State must promote actions to further the conservation of species within this list.

Local Priority Species

Bird species which are identified as local priority species are listed within the Barnsley local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)⁵ and include the following species:

- Barn owl *Tyto alba*;
- Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*;
- Grey partridge *Perdix perdix*;
- Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*;
- Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*;
- Little ringed plover *Charadrius dubius*;
- Skylark *Alauda arvensis*;
- Tree sparrow *Passer montanus*; and,
- Twite *Linaria flavirostris*.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 DESKTOP REVIEW

Species Records

Records returned from the desk-top review from the local biological records centre, BBRC, as part of Greengage EclA (May 2024) included a total of 4,227 bird records pertaining to 129 species within 2km of the Site. The records are included in this report in section 5.0 for clarity and completeness to highlight records local to the Site for birds that may use or pass through the Site.

Designated Sites

A review of readily available ecological information and other relevant environmental databases (including Defra's Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website⁶) was undertaken for the Site and its vicinity to identify the location and citations of local statutory designated sites up to 10km from the Site due to the birds being a highly mobile species and therefore may use other areas around these statutory designated sites.

4.2 WINTERING BIRD SURVEY

The WBS took place at the Site between January and February 2024, in accordance with the Bird Survey Guidelines (Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group, 2023)⁷. The WBS aims to record the location, numbers and movements of every bird present within a defined site, with a view to recording each individual only once.

The WBS survey visits were designed, led and conducted by Chloe Peace and Joshua Broster. Four surveys are recommended however, due to the late timing of the commission, only two surveys were undertaken and this is considered a constraint to the survey (see section 4.6). Surveys were carried out in suitable weather conditions during daylight hours, starting during the hour after sunrise, when birds are typically most active, and have reached their feeding ground or are on the move. The dates and weather conditions recorded during the WBS survey visits are detailed in Table 4.1 below.

During the survey surveyors followed a transect route (displayed in Figure A.1) around the Site which was designed to incorporate all habitats and view points across the Site. The transect route survey was aided by the use of binoculars and walked at a slow pace, including stopping points where deemed appropriate, based on presence of priority habitat/features (e.g. trees/hedgerows) and/or areas of interesting bird activity. The transect route direction was alternated between survey visits and was either walked in a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction to ensure coverage of the Site at different times of the morning across the survey visits.

The standard BTO codes were used to record species and activity such as foraging, loafing or roosting. Birds in flight were also recorded as well as their direction of flight and whether they were on-Site or flying over the Site only. Where birds were present in groups, the number of birds was recorded. Where a bird species was recorded on more than one occasion, the surveyor used their professional judgement

to assess whether the birds recorded were new observations or the same individuals as previously encountered during the survey.

Observation of birds using habitats adjacent the Site were also made, to ensure that impacts to any protected or notable species using land in close proximity to the Site could also be assessed.

Figures A.1a to A.1b, showing 'priority species' recorded during the survey visits in accordance with Bird Survey Guidelines (2023), have been created for each survey visit. A list of BTO codes for those species illustrated in Figures A.1a to A.1b is provided as Figure A.1c. Breeding behaviour activity (i.e. male/female/pair of birds, alarm calling, singing etc) was also recorded using the BTO Activity Codes, with details provided within the legend of each Figure.

Table 4.1 Auxillary Data - Wintering bird survey

Survey visit	Date	Surveyor*	Timings	Sunrise	Weather conditions	Optics
1	22.01.2024	CP, JB	08:45 to 11:00	08:05	Start: 8°C, 20% cloud cover (cc), 20 miles per hour (mph) wind at west south west direction, dry. End: 8°C, 20%cc, 22mph at south west direction. Good visibility throughout.	Binoculars 10x42 Viking Badger
2	16.02.2024	CP, JB	07:30 to 10:00	07:24	Start: 11°C, 50%cc, 4mph at west north west direction, dry. End: 11°C, 90%cc, 10mph at west south west direction, dry. Good visibility throughout.	Binoculars 10x42 Viking Badger

*Surveyor initials denote as: CP - Chloe Peace, JB - Joshua Broster

A species key for all bird species encountered during the WBS and BBS is provided as Appendix D. Details for the species, peak and total numbers recorded per survey visit, and the conservation status of each species is included as Appendix E.

4.3 BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

The BBS comprised 6 survey visits which took place at the Site within the optimal survey window between April and July 2024, in accordance with the Bird Survey Guidelines (Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group, 2023)⁷.

Surveys comprised five dawn and one dusk survey. The dawn survey visits started within the half an hour either side of sunrise and were finished by mid-morning. The dusk survey visit started within the hour leading up to sunset and finished within the hour after sunset (see section 4.6). Survey visits were carried out in appropriate weather conditions in accordance with survey guidance, avoiding heavy rain, strong winds and other scenarios where visibility/detection was negatively affected. The dates and weather conditions during the BBS survey visits are detailed in Table 3.2 below. Binoculars were used as a visual aid to surveyors for each survey.

A survey transect was walked at a slow pace ensuring full coverage of the Site and including stopping points where deemed appropriate based on the presence of priority habitat/features (e.g. trees/hedgerows), and/or areas of interesting bird activity. The transect route was alternated between survey visits and was either walked in a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction to ensure coverage of the Site at different times of the morning across the survey visits.

Observations of breeding activity such as singing, territorial behaviour, carrying food or nest material were recorded for each bird species during each survey visit.

Figures A.1a to A.1f, showing 'priority species' in accordance with Bird Survey Guidelines (2023), have been created for each survey visit. A list of BTO codes for those species illustrated in Figures A.1a to A.1f is provided as Figure A.1g. Breeding behaviour activity (i.e. male/female/pair of birds, alarm calling, singing etc) was also recorded using the BTO Activity Codes, with details provided within the legend of each Figure.

A species key for all bird species encountered during the 6 survey visits is provided as Appendix D

Details for the species, numbers recorded per survey visit, the conservation status of each species recorded and whether the species are confirmed, probable, possible or non-breeding birds within the site, based on the findings of the surveys, is included as Appendix F.

The BTO Breeding Status Codes are detailed in Appendix C.

The surveys were designed, lead and conducted by Chloe Peace.

Table 4.2 *Auxillary data - breeding bird surveys*

Survey visit	Date	Surveyor*	Timings	Sunrise/sunset	Weather conditions	Optics
1	04.03.2024	CP	07:00 to 09:30	06:46	Start: 1°C, 0%cc, 3mph at south east direction, dry. End: 4°C, 5%cc, 7mph at south east direction, dry. Good visibility throught.	Binoculars 10x42 Viking Badger
2	27.03.2024	CP	05:51 to 08:30	05:50	Start: 6°C, 100%cc, 7mph at south direction, wet ground	Binoculars 10x42

Survey visit	Date	Surveyor*	Timings	Sunrise/sunset	Weather conditions	Optics
					from previous rainfall. End: 7°C 8-%cc, 14mph at south direction, dry. Good visibility throughout.	Viking Badger
3	17.04.2024	CP	06:00 to 08:30	06:01	Start: 4°C, 0%cc, 10mph at west north west direction, dry. End: 6°C, 10%cc, 14mph at north west direction, dry. Good visibility throughout.	Binoculars 10x42 Viking Badger
4	29.05.2024	CP	04:50 to 07:30	04:41	Start: 12°C, 100%cc, 13mph at west direction, dry. End: 13°C, 70%cc, 15mph at west direction, dry. Good visibility throughout.	Binoculars 10x42 Viking Badger
5	19.06.2024	CP	19:15 to 22:15	21:38	Start: 18°C, 10%cc, 3mph south west direction, sunny, dry. End: 14°C, 5%cc, 4mph west direction, still, dry. Good visibility throughout.	Binoculars 10x42 Viking Badger
6	17.07.2024	CP	05:10 to 07:40	04:59	Start: 13°C, 0%cc, 4mph west north west direction, dry. End: 15°C, 10%cc, 5mph west north west direction, dry. Good visibility throughout.	Binoculars 10x42 Viking Badger

*Surveyor initials denote as: CP - Chloe Peace

4.4 BIRD SURVEY ASSESSMENTS

During the WBS survey visits, bird species that were observed at the Site were recorded to assess how the Site supports non-breeding priority bird species (those included in section 3.0), observed by the interaction of bird species with the Site, based on species-specific ecology and population status, such as foraging and roosting behaviour.

Bird behaviour was recorded during the BBS survey visits and each behaviour type was assigned as evidence of confirmed, probable, or non-breeding status of each species within the Site. This was categorised in accordance with the BTO Breeding Status Codes which are detailed in Appendix C.

The value of the Site and sensitivity of bird species present within the Site was determined based on the Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine guidance from the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)⁸. Individual ecological receptors (i.e. wintering/breeding birds and the habitats which support these) that could be affected by the proposed development were assigned levels of importance for nature conservation. The highest level is international, then decreasing order of importance through national, regional, county, local and site level (within the zone of influence) (as per terminology in the aforementioned CIEEM guidance).

4.5 COMPETENCIES

Chloe Peace, Consultant, has a BSc (Hons) in Zoology and is a Qualifying member of CIEEM. Chloe has two years of experience in ecological survey and assessment in consultancy. Her experience that spans the aquatic and terrestrial environments, with particular interest in Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), natural capital, habitat management and conservation, and ornithology.

Joshua Broster has been a professional ornithologist/ecologist since 2007, with over 15 years' continuous experience as a consultant ornithologist/ecologist. Josh is particularly knowledgeable with regards to birds and specialises in the co-ordination and delivery of ornithological surveys and impact assessments. He has held multiple Schedule 1 bird survey licences, including; Barn Owl issued by Natural England and Natural Resources Wales (separate licences), Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* issued by Natural England and a Schedule 1 survey licence (all species) issued by Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot). Josh is a full member of CIEEM and has experience with development-related ornithological, ecological and environmental work and is fully conversant with current wildlife legislation and best practice guidelines.

Helen Hinchliffe, Principal Consultant, has an undergraduate degree in Physical Geography (BSc Hons), is a full member of CIEEM, holds a Natural England great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* licence and has over 16 years experience as a professional ecological consultant.

Jennie Caddick, Associate, holds a BSc (Hons) in Ecology and full CIEEM membership. She has 20 years consultancy experience working for a varied client base, with a focus on complex schemes where requirement for consultation and bespoke surveying has been used and holds Natural England survey

licences for bats (Class 2), great crested newt, water vole *Arvicola amphibius* and white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*. In addition, she has also held mitigation licences for otter.

This report was written by Chloe Peace, reviewed by Helen Hinchliffe and verified by Jennie Caddick who confirms in writing that the report is in line with the following:

- Represents sound industry practice;
- Reports and recommends correctly, truthfully and objectively;
- Is appropriate given the local site conditions and scope of works proposed; and,
- Avoids invalid, biased and exaggerated statements.

4.6 CONSTRAINTS

Due to the late timing of the survey commission only two out of the recommended four WBS surveys were completed. The absence of survey data from two surveys is considered a constraint to the survey findings as some species may have been missed. However due to: the geographical location of the Site and the distance from statutory designated sites such as RAMSAR, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Reserves; the habitats present and the size of the Site; and, that the two surveys carried out followed the Bird Survey Guidelines (Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group, 2023) and were conducted within the core period for winter months, it is considered unlikely that a large number of priority species would be present at the Site and that a reduced number of survey visits is not a major constraint and the results from the WBS are considered robust enough to sufficiently analyse the wintering populations at the Site.

The dusk survey visit during the BBS (i.e. survey visit 5 on 19th June 2024) finished slightly before one hour after sunset (by 15 minutes). This is considered, by experienced ornithologists, not to present a constraint to the assessment as no dusk-related bird species were expected to be encountered during the BBS due to the habitats present and the geographical location of the Site. Dusk-related species were not expected to be encountered at this Site and were also not recorded as present at the Site during the 45 minutes after sunset, therefore the surveyors decision to finish slightly prior to one hour after sunset is not considered to present a constraint to the assessment.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 DESKTOP REVIEW

Species Records

Species returned included: barn owl, blackbird *Turdus merula*, blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*, bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, buzzard *Buteo buteo*, Canada goose *Branta canadensis*, carrion crow *Corvus corone*, chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*, chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, coal tit *Periparus ater*, collared dove *Streptopelia decaocto*, cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*, dunnock *Prunella modularis*, fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*, garden warbler *Sylvia borin*, goldcrest *Regulus regulus*, goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*, grasshopper warbler *Locustella naevia*, great spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*, great tit *Parus major*, green woodpecker *Picus viridis*, greenfinch *Chloris chloris*, grey wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*, greylag goose *Anser anser*, hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*, house martin *Delichon urbicum*, house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, jackdaw *Corvus monedula*, jay *Garrulus glandarius*, kestrel, kingfisher, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, lesser redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*, lesser spotted woodpecker *Dryobates minor*, lesser whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*, linnet *Linaria cannabina*, little owl *Athene noctua*, long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus*, magpie *Pica pica*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis*, mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*, nuthatch *Sitta europaea*, pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*, pied flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*, pied wagtail *Motacilla alba subsp. Yarrellii*, raven *Corax corax*, redpoll *Acanthis flammea*, redwing *Turdus iliacus*, robin *Erithacus rubecula*, rock dove *Columba livia*, rook *Corvus frugilegus*, siskin *Spinus spinus*, skylark, song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*, spotted flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*, starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, stock dove *Columba oenas*, swallow *Hirundo rustica*, swift *Apus apus*, tawny owl *Strix aluco*, treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*, whitethroat *Sylvia communis*, willow tit, willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*, woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*, wood pigeon *Columba palumbus* and wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*.

None of the records are associated with the Site, however the most notable records returned include WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 species barn owl, brambling, fieldfare, garganey, greylag goose, hobby, kingfisher, merlin, osprey, peregrine, red kite and redwing. Willow tit is also notable and a qualifying feature of the Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI where this species has a stronghold.

Designated Sites

Twenty statutory designated sites, comprising Sites of Specific Scientific Importance (SSSI) and Local Nature Reserves (LNR), and one non-statutory designated site were identified within 10km of the Site. Designated sites, their approximate location from the Site and details of designating features are listed in Table 5.1 below.

Table 5.1 Designated Sites within 10km of the Site

Designated site	Approximate distance and direction from the Site	Description
Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI	1.6km south east (at its closest point, it is split into multiple areas)	Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI is of special interest for the following nationally important features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breeding gadwall <i>Mareca strepera</i>, shoveler <i>Spatula clypeata</i>, garganey <i>Spatula querquedula</i>, pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>, bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>, black-headed gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> and willow tit. • Non-breeding gadwall and shoveler. • Diverse assemblages of breeding birds of Lowland damp grasslands, Lowland scrub and a mixed assemblage of Lowland open waters and their margins and Lowland fen.
Worsborough Country Park LNR	1.8km south east	The site is good for water fowl. Habitats include a reservoir, willow carr, managed grassland/meadowland, reed bed and woodland.
Dearne Valley Park LNR	3.6km north east	Acidic oak woodland with mosaic of wetland habitats.
Pye Flatts Meadows SSSI	4.7km west	These three meadows are established on loamy brown earths overlying the sandstone, coal seams and ironstone bands of the Lower Coal Measures. They contain a uniform and mature stand of neutral haymeadow grassland, the best of a number of known scattered examples in the locality.
Potter Holes Plantation LNR	5.0km south east	Semi-ancient woodland developed in and around old bell-pits, plus newer, planted woodland adjacent on a reclaimed colliery site.
Stairfoot Brickworks SSSI	5.4km south east	The site contains exposures of the Aegiranum Marine Band which marks the Duckmantian Bolsovia stage boundary of the Westphalian Series. The marine band is about 4m thick, and consists of black and blue-grey shales and mudstones which overlie a thin coal and seat earth. While the lower and upper parts of the marine band only contain fish fragments and Naiadites bivalves, the middle part of the marine band contains a fauna which includes an assemblage of ammonoids (including the index species <i>Donetoceras aegiranum</i> , as well as numerous nautiloids, pectinoid bivalves, gastropods and crinoids.

Designated site	Approximate distance and direction from the Site	Description
Notton Wood LNR	5.7km north east	Mixed woodland attracting a varied amount of wildlife. A stream and pond add diversity to the site. While a large amount of dead wood provides a home for many insects. Birds include woodpeckers and jays <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> in the wood and kingfishers and herons on the pond and stream. Butterflies include comma <i>Polygonia c-album</i> and speckled wood <i>Pararge segeria</i> . The wood is mostly pine and larch which was commercially planted with some stands of broadleaves. Part of the wood was felled in WWII by Italian prisoners of war. There are signs of a prehistoric settlement with a ditch and an inner and outer bank in the wood.
Carlton Marsh (Mapped Boundary Not Verified) LNR	6.7km north east	Wetland reserve with particular interest for bird watchers.
Bretton Country Park Local Nature Reserve (LNR)	7.2km north west	Mixture of habitats of wetland and mixed and deciduous woodland. Section of River Dearne flows through the park with kingfisher, grey wagtail. The lakes are used by overwintering wildfowl.
Elsecar Reservoir LNR	7.5km south east	Willow carr and wetland habitats.
Wharnccliffe Heath LNR	7.3km south west	The Heath includes Iron Age & Romano-British archaeology of considerable interest.
Wharnccliffe Craggs SSSI	7.5km south west	This site, situated 6 miles north west of Sheffield City Centre, lies in extensive woodlands overlooking the River Don valley. Areas of birch/oak woodland, down-slope from the cliff face and dry heathland, on flat ground at the top of the hill, occur within the site. It is the geological features displayed in the cliff face that are of special interest.
Seckar Wood LNR	8.3km north east	A beautiful old woodland once owned by a Victorian photographer. The site comprises a diverse range of habitats for its size, being a mixture of dry heath, wet heath and woodland, and rich in wildlife. The dry heath is a sea of purple heather in late summer, while unusual mosses and sedges grow in the wet heath.

Designated site	Approximate distance and direction from the Site	Description
Seckar Wood SSSI	8.3km north east	This site includes an area of heathland and woodland developed on the east facing dip-slope of the Woolley Edge escarpment which comprises sandstones of the middle coal measures. Although woodland and heath occurs widely on the coal measure of West Yorkshire this is a well developed and extensive example and provides an unusual spectrum of habitat types and botanical diversity not found elsewhere in the county at a single locality.
Chevet Branch Line LNR	8.6km north east	The northern end of the site is oak and birch woodland where butterflies can be found flying through the dappled light. To the south is species rich grassland which is awash with colour in the spring and summer. The grassland areas include significant populations of plants associated with limestone geology, particularly kidney vetch <i>Anthyllis vulneria</i> , vipers bugloss <i>Echium vulgare</i> and bladder campion <i>Silene vulgaris</i> . All of these are unusual plants in the Wakefield district. In addition Maiden pink <i>Dianthus deltoides</i> has also been recorded on the site. This is a very rare plant in the county of West Yorkshire, only being recorded at one other site previously.
Newmillerdam LNR	8.7km north east	Around the lake kingfisher, grebe and herons can be regularly spotted feeding in the shallow water. In the 3 woodlands look out for grey squirrels, rabbits and foxes. Bird life is rich with treecreepers, long tailed tits, owls and sparrowhawks. Bats are plentiful after dark. Butterflies and dragonflies can be seen along the rides and over clearings rich in orchids. The woods are mostly conifers originally planted for pit props. The conifers and rhododendrons are being replaced by deciduous trees such as ash and oak. Amphibious bistort flowers in the lake in summer.
Town End Common LNR	9.0km south west	Heath and acid grassland with scrub.
Carlton Main Brickworks SSSI	9.1km north east	This operational clay pit lies just to the south of Grimethorpe, six km east of Barnsley. The special interests are within the Coal Measures strata, exposed by the extraction of clay.
Wheata Woods LNR	9.5km south west	Romano-British Archeological remains, Ancient woodland. Wildlife includes kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> , sparrowhawk, woodcocks <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> and red deer <i>Cervus elaphus</i> .

Designated site	Approximate distance and direction from the Site	Description
Haw Park Wood LNR	9.9km north east	This site was originally part of a much larger wood. Larch and pine have largely replaced oak and birch but a small area of remaining broadleaves is thought to be ancient woodland. Animals include fox, stoats and weasels and birds include sparrowhawks.
Non-statutory		
Dearne Valley Old Moor RSPB	8.7km south east	Wander through wetland habitats at Old Moor, stopping to take in sweeping views from the hides, kingfisher-spotting opportunities and the chance to hear the elusive bittern boom. This family-friendly nature reserve is teeming with wildlife. Enjoy idyllic walks, wildlife watching, pond-dipping plus an adventure playground for kids. In spring, great crested grebes put on a show for mating season, while summer sees the meadow come alive with orchids, wildflowers and butterflies. In autumn, look out for barn owls swooping across the reedbeds and meadows. The winter months bring vast flocks of ducks and geese including wigeons <i>Mareca penelope</i> (listen out for their whistling call), and birds of prey which send them scattering into the sky.

5.2 WINTERING BIRD SURVEY

A total of 28 bird species were recorded during the WBS survey visits. Figures A.1a to A.1f (see Appendix A) illustrate the survey results relating to WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 bird species and BoCC5 Red and BoCC5 Amber listed bird species from each of the six survey visits, with a species key provided as Figure A.1g.

A list of all the bird species recorded during each of the WBS survey visits, but not necessarily illustrated on the Figures A.1a to A.1f is provided in Appendix E, which also details the conservation status of each species recorded and the total and peak counts of each species.

WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 Bird Species

One WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 bird species was recorded during the WBS, as detailed below.

Redwing

Redwing were recorded during survey visit 1 only, with three individuals recorded; two observed together on a tree within the woodland on the west of the Site and one individual observed singing at the north west corner of the Site, again associated with the western woodland.

The Site offers some suitable habitat for redwing to use when foraging, including the large amount of woodland across the Site, including; around the Site boundaries in the west and south, in the centre of the Site, in southern boundary of the Site, and to the south east of the Site (just outside the Site boundary) Scattered scrub is also present in the grassland in the far northern field of the Site, which is suitable for foraging. Although it is possible that more individuals were present during the earlier winter recording months, due to the low numbers recorded on one of the two survey visits carried out, the Site is considered to be of importance to wintering redwing at the site level only.

BoCC5 Red Listed Bird Species

Four BoCC5 Red listed species were recorded during the WBS survey visits, as detailed below.

Starling

Starling were recorded on survey visit 1 only and recorded as flying over the Site from south to north east with a total and peak count of 17 individuals. The habitats at the Site have suitability for starling to use when resting or foraging, however no individuals were recorded directly using the Site habitats. Therefore, the Site is considered to be of importance to wintering starling at the site level only.

Lapwing

Lapwing were recorded during survey visit 1 only, with a total and peak count of approximately 90 birds. These were recorded flying in a north to south east direction across the centre of the Site. Habitat on Site, notably open grassland habitats with short sward (due to horse grazing) present in the south east of the Site, has some suitability for lapwing to use when resting or foraging. However, there are more suitable habitats in the wider landscape, particularly large agricultural land to the east of the Site on the opposite side of the M1. Due to the presence of more suitable habitat in the wider area and no lapwing

being recorded directly using the Site habitats, the Site is considered to be of negligible importance to wintering lapwing.

Mistle thrush

A total and peak count of two mistle thrush were recorded during survey visit 2. The two birds were seen perched in a tree in the south west of the Site. As this species was only recorded during one of the survey visits and in low numbers, it is likely that the birds also use similar habitats in the surrounding area (such as woodland in the south east, trees and other grassland including residential gardens) when foraging, therefore this species is not considered to be dependent on the Site and the Site is considered to be of site level importance for wintering mistle thrush only.

Greenfinch

One greenfinch was recorded during survey visit 2. It was observed calling in the bramble scrub in the south west of the Site. As this species was only recorded during one survey visit and only one individual was observed, it is likely that the birds also use similar habitats in the surrounding area when foraging. Therefore, the Site is considered to be of site level importance for wintering greenfinch only.

BoCC5 Amber Listed Bird Species

Eleven BoCC5 Amber listed species were recorded during the WBS survey visits, detailed below. One of these was redwing, which is detailed above and therefore is not included again in the paragraphs below.

Dunnock

Dunnock were recorded during both survey visits, recorded along boundary habitats including woodland and scrub. A peak count of three dunnocks was recorded during survey visit 2, with the three birds observed calling in the north east corner of the Site within scattered scrub. One dunnock was also recorded in the same location in survey visit 1. Dunnock are likely to be resident within the Site and, given the low numbers recorded during the survey visits and availability of similar suitable habitat in the wider area, it is considered that the Site is of site level importance to wintering dunnock.

Bullfinch

A pair of bullfinch were observed during survey visit 1 in the woodland at the west of the Site, and three individuals observed together in survey visit 2 in the woodland at the north east of the Site (just outside the site boundary). Bullfinch are likely to be wintering residents at the Site, though given the low numbers recorded and suitability of habitat in the wider area, such as urban parks and other woodland habitat, it is considered that the Site is of site level importance to wintering bullfinch.

Song thrush

Song thrush were recorded during survey visit 2 with a total count of six and peak count of one. With the exception of one song thrush that was heard calling in the far south of the Site which could have been the same individual that was recorded singing in the south of the Site, all other individuals were considered to definitely be different birds, due to hearing multiple birds singing at the same time, or being too far from their original recorded spot. Based on this, there is a potential for five territories to

have been established at the Site, with the species preparing for breeding. Some of the individuals are likely to be resident birds and some likely to be overwintering migrant birds. Given that song thrush typically have large territories, five is a high number of territories relative to the size of the Site, song thrush and therefore the Site is considered to have local importance for wintering song thrush.

Kestrel

A total and peak count of one kestrel was recorded at the Site during both survey visits. During survey visit 1, a kestrel was observed sitting on scattered scrub in the grassland in the north of the Site and then observed flying south across the Site. During survey visit 2, a kestrel was observed perched within a mature ash *Fraxinus excelsior* along the western boundary habitat of the Site. The Site offers suitable foraging habitat for kestrel. Given the low number recorded and the presence of suitable habitat in the wider area, the Site is considered to have site level importance for wintering kestrel only.

Wood pigeon

Wood pigeon was recorded throughout both survey visits at a total and peak count of six and three, respectively, in survey visit 1, and a total and peak count of five and two, respectively, in survey visit 2. The wood pigeons were observed as either flyovers (including two in survey visit 1), or perched in trees or scrub along boundaries of the Site. Wood pigeon are able to forage in a variety of habitats when searching for food and it is considered that the Site forms a part of a wider foraging resource for wood pigeon. Therefore, the Site is considered to be of site level importance for wintering wood pigeon only.

Wren

Wren were recorded individually across the two survey visits with a total count of two and nine, respectively. All recordings of wren were observations within mostly woodland habitat, and some scrub in the south west of the Site. All recordings observed the individuals as singing. The low numbers in the survey visit 1 versus the increase in survey visit 2 was likely more birds becoming ready for breeding and thus starting to sing to attract a mate, making them easier to record when vocal. The woodland and scrub present at the Site does offer suitable foraging and shelter habitat for wren, however due to the low numbers of likely resident birds and the presence of suitable/similar habitats in the wider area, the Site is considered to be site level importance only for wintering wren.

Sparrowhawk

A total and peak count of one sparrowhawk was recorded in survey visit 1 and 2. During survey visit 1, one sparrowhawk was observed as a flyover from east to west in the north of the Site. During survey visit 2, one sparrowhawk was observed flying along the western boundary from south to north, foraging along the boundary habitats of the Site. Sparrowhawk will hunt in woodland habitats all year round and roost on tree branches during the night-time, therefore the Site offers some value to wintering sparrowhawk. Sparrowhawk is likely to be resident in the local area and use the Site habitats as part of a wider foraging area, and therefore the Site is considered to be of site level importance to wintering sparrowhawk only.

Stock dove

One stock dove was observed during survey visit 2 perched on a tree on the south western boundary habitat of the Site. The Site does have suitable foraging habitat for stock dove in the form of trees, however given the very low numbers recorded and presence of suitable habitat in the wider area, the Site is considered to be of site level importance to wintering stock dove only.

Rook

A total and peak count of 12 rooks were observed flying over the south of the Site in a north to south east direction in survey visit 2 only. The Site does have some suitable foraging habitat in the form of open grassland, however more suitable habitat in the form of agricultural land is present in the wider surrounding area. Given that rooks were only recorded as flyovers over the Site and the presence of more suitable habitat in the surrounding area, the Site is considered to have site level importance only to wintering rook.

Meadow pipit

A total count of five and peak count of three meadow pipits were recorded during survey visit 2. The Site offers suitable foraging habitat in the taller sward other neutral grassland habitats present in the north of the Site, where they were observed. However, there is also suitable habitat present in the wider area and the species was recorded at the Site in relatively low numbers. Therefore, the Site is considered to be of site level importance only to wintering meadow pipit.

BoCC5 Green Listed Bird Species

A total of 13 bird species recorded during the wintering bird surveys were BoCC5 Green listed species and all were recorded in low numbers apart from carrion crow and goldfinch, which were recorded at highest peak counts of approximately 20 and 15, respectively. The remaining species were recorded at peak counts of one to five. All BoCC5 Green listed species recorded were associated with direct use of scrub, trees and grassland habitats in the Site.

Given the widespread nature of the Green listed species encountered and the presence of alternative suitable habitat in the surrounding area for the species recorded, the Site habitats are considered to be of value at the site level for wintering BoCC5 Green listed species.

Species of Principal Importance

A total of five species recorded on Site are listed as species of principal importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. These include two bird species which are also BoCC5 Red listed species (starling and lapwing) and three bird species which are also BoCC5 Amber listed species (dunnock, bullfinch and song thrush). All five species are discussed above and are thus not repeated again here.

Local Priority Species

Only one local priority species was recorded at the Site, pertaining to kestrel. The value of the Site to wintering kestrel is detailed above.

WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 9 Bird Species

No WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 9 bird species were recorded at the Site during the WBS.

5.3 BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

A total of 33 bird species were recorded during the BBS survey visits at the Site. Figure B.1a to B.1f (see Appendix B) illustrate the survey results relating to WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 bird species and BoCC5 Red and BoCC5 Amber listed bird species from each of the six survey visits, with a species key provided as Figure B.1g.

A full list of the species recorded during each of the BBS survey visits is provided in Appendix F (including those not illustrated on Figures A.1a to A.1f), which also details the conservation status of each species recorded and the total and peak counts of each species.

Plates have been included to illustrate suitable breeding habitat where a specific habitat has been target noted (see Plate 4.1 and TN1, Figure G.1 for the indicative location).

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 Bird Species

No WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 bird species were recorded during the BBS survey visits.

BoCC5 Red Listed Bird Species

A total of three BoCC5 Red listed species were recorded during the BBS survey visits, which are detailed below.

Mistle thrush

Mistle thrush were recorded during survey visits 1 and 2, with two individuals together (therefore likely a pair) in survey visit 1 and one individual in survey visit 2. The pair was observed foraging around the short sward (horse grazed) grassland in the south of the Site in survey visit 1 and the individual recorded in survey visit 2 was observed perched in a tree along the western boundary of the Site. Although a pair was recorded together, they were not observed in suitable nesting habitat and did not display any breeding behaviour. Furthermore, they were not observed after survey visit 2 and therefore they may have left to breed in other suitable breeding habitat in the wider area and just use the Site for wintering purposes. Therefore, mistle thrush are considered to be non-breeders at the Site. The Site is considered to be of negligible importance to breeding mistle thrush.

Greenfinch

Greenfinch was recorded at the Site during four out of the six survey visits (survey visits 1, 2, 3 and 6). Either one or two individuals were recorded singing or calling and all were situated on the western side of the Site in woodland or bramble scrub. The species was considered to be a possible breeder at the Site based on the observation of breeding behaviour through a singing male, present in suitable breeding habitat. Due to the low numbers observed and presence of suitable habitat in the wider area, the Site is considered to be of site level importance for breeding greenfinch only.

House sparrow

One individual house sparrow was observed during survey visit 5 and was heard calling near residential housing to the north of the Site. House sparrow are considered to be non-breeders at the Site. Due to the very low number recorded and only being present adjacent the Site, the Site is considered to be of negligible importance to breeding house sparrow.

BoCC5 Amber Listed Bird Species

Eleven BoCC5 Amber listed species were recorded during the BBS survey visits, which are detailed below.

Kestrel

Kestrel, a local BAP priority species, was recorded during survey visits 2 to 5, with one individual recorded during each survey visit. Kestrel are considered to be possible breeders at the Site, as only foraging activity recorded through hovering or flying around in the northern grassland was seen, but, a suitable tree cavity was identified as present at the Site (see Plate 4.1 below and TN1, Figure G.1 for the indicative location), which could provide opportunities for nesting, despite not appearing to be in use at the time of the BBS. Kestrels have a large hunting range of up to 10km and therefore the Site may be supporting food provisions for a nesting pair(s) elsewhere. Therefore, the Site is considered to be of importance to breeding kestrel at the local level.

Plate 4.1 Tree with cavity



Dunnock

Dunnock were observed across all six survey visits. They are considered to be a probable breeder at the Site, due to the estimation of three to four territories following observation of singing males at the start

of the breeding season. Singing was also observed during the final WBS survey visit, which is relevant due to this species being early season breeders, with 8 and 9 individuals recorded in survey visits 1 and 2, respectively, and reduced down to 1 individual recorded in survey visit 6. This suggests successful mate acquisition and thus successful breeding whereby the species will then have gone quiet and been harder to observe. The presence of similar suitable habitat such as hedgerows and scrub in the wider area therefore concludes that the Site is of site level importance for breeding dunnock.

Wood pigeon

Wood pigeon are considered as probable breeders at the Site, with an estimated number of three to four territories. A large number of recordings pertained to groups or individuals flying over the Site, and some pertained to individuals, pairs or groups perched in trees in boundary habitats around the Site. Some singing was observed, one pair was seen together in survey visit 6, and the fast-flight behaviour when approached suggests breeding was occurring at the Site. The Site is considered to be of importance at the site level only for breeding wood pigeon.

Bullfinch

A pair of bullfinch was observed during survey visit 1, however were not observed again during the remaining survey visits. It is likely that, due to being recorded during the WBS survey visits, the pair of bullfinch were using the Site for wintering purposes only and moved to a different site for breeding as they were only observed at the very start of the breeding bird season. Therefore, bullfinch are considered to be non-breeders at the Site, and the Site is considered to have negligible importance for breeding bullfinch.

Wren

Wren was recorded during all six survey visits, recorded along boundary habitats including trees, scrub and woodland around the Site. Wren are considered as confirmed breeders at the Site based on the observation of a family during survey visit 4 with recently fledged young and frequent alarm calling to defend the young. Singing was also observed in large numbers across the Site during all survey visits. An estimated 8 to 10 territories were considered to be present at the Site based on the number of singing males and the fact that the species tend to have small territories and thus these singing males were likely to be different birds recorded. Due to the number of estimated wren territories identified, it is considered that the Site is of up to local level importance for breeding wren.

Sparrowhawk

One female sparrowhawk was observed perched on a tree just outside of the Site boundary, along the woodland adjacent the M1 to the south east of the Site. The Site does hold suitable breeding habitat for sparrowhawk in the form of woodland and lines of trees where they may build a nest and forage. The species is considered to be a possible breeder at the Site due to a female being recorded within the woodland in suitable nesting habitat. The Site is considered to be of site level importance to breeding sparrowhawk.

Stock dove

Stock dove are considered to be probable breeders at the Site, with an estimated one to two territories. They were observed during all survey visits, with the exception of survey visit 1. They were often observed in pairs or groups of three, however some recordings were of flyovers only. One pair was regularly observed within a tree among suitable nesting habitat in the south west of the Site, suggesting at least one territory was present. More could be present based on number of observations and presence of suitable habitat. Due to small numbers of territories overall and the presence of suitable habitat in the wider area, the Site is considered to be of site level importance to breeding stock dove.

Song thrush

Song thrush are considered to be confirmed breeders at the Site based on the recording of an adult female song thrush carrying food in the beak in the south of the Site. Furthermore, three to four territories are estimated at the Site based on the WBS survey findings (with a total of 6 individuals recorded) and regular singing males recorded in consistent locations. Singing in consistent locations across survey visits suggests territory holding by this defensive species. Multiple individual signing males were also heard synchronously in different locations suggesting multiple territories present at the Site. Furthermore, during survey visit 4, a male song thrush was recorded singing later (relative to sunrise timings and previous recordings) and in shorter spurts suggesting that the male was defending an active nest rather than portraying mate display behaviour. Due the number of estimated territories present at the Site, relative to the size of the Site, and the suitability of nesting habitat for song thrush, the Site is considered to be of local importance to breeding song thrush.

Meadow pipit

One individual meadow pipit was observed during survey visit 1 and considered to be a non-breeder at the Site. Due to also being present during the WBS, it is likely that the individual recorded was a delayed migrator from the winter visitors that were recorded and this individual likely moved on along with the remaining winter visitors not long after BBS survey visit 1. There is more suitable grassland meadow breeding habitat present in the wider area and therefore the Site is considered to be of negligible importance to breeding meadow pipit.

Whitethroat

Four recordings of singing male whitethroat were made during survey visit 5 only. Whitethroat have been assessed as possible breeders due to the recording of a singing male within the breeding season in suitable nesting habitat in the woodland and scrub habitat around the Site. It is possible that some of the recordings were of the males moving around the Site during the survey visit, with the potential of successful mate acquisition following the singing male observations in survey visit 5, resulting in being quiet and harder to detect during survey visit 6. One or two territories are estimated to be present at the Site. The Site is considered to be of site level importance for breeding whitethroat based on the low numbers of estimated territories and presence of suitable habitat in the wider area.

Black-headed gull

A total of twelve black-headed gulls were observed as flyovers over the north end of the Site in an east to west direction during survey visit 6. Due to being flyovers and lack of suitable breeding habitat present at the Site (wetland is favourable for this species, the Site is considered to be of negligible importance to breeding black-headed gull.

BoCC5 Green Listed Bird Species

Eight of the bird species recorded on Site are BoCC5 Green listed species. Of these, four species are non-breeding birds at the Site based on no breeding behaviour being observed during the survey visits. These included goldcrest, jackdaw, nuthatch and buzzard. The Site is considered to be of negligible importance to these species for breeding.

Three BoCC5 Green listed species were possible breeding birds at the Site based on the identification of singing males present within suitable habitat during the breeding bird season, including coal tit and chiffchaff. Also the non-passerine species, carrion crow, based on calling or perching above trees within suitable breeding habitat.

Eight BoCC5 Green listed species were probable breeders at the Site based on the identification of singing males within a pair, alarm calling indicating the potential presence of a nest, aggressive encounters between individuals and/or retention of territory where a singing male has been observed in a consistent location across multiple survey visits. These species included blackbird, blue tit, great tit, magpie, long-tailed tit, chaffinch, blackcap and willow warbler. Long-tailed tits were also observed calling, with group sizes reducing from survey visit 3 onwards, suggesting the sociable species was breeding with loose territories with some individuals out foraging.

Three BoCC5 Green listed species were confirmed breeders at the Site. For robin this was based on juvenile birds observed suggesting recently fledged young on the Site. A large increase in numbers of goldfinch recorded at the Site during the later survey visits likely pertained to recently fledged young. A pair of treecreeper was observed entering a suitable nest cavity as an incidental recording during a concurrent site walkover as part of the Greengage EclA, 2024 at the Site. A singing male was also observed during survey visit 1 and survey visit 6, suggesting the start of a second brood, which is typical for this species.

Species of Principal Importance

A total of three birds recorded at the Site are listed as species of principal importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. These are also BoCC5 Amber listed species (dunnock, bullfinch and song thrush). All three species are discussed above.

Local Priority Species

Only one local priority species was recorded at the Site, pertaining to kestrel. The value of the Site to breeding kestrel is detailed above.

WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 9 Bird Species

No WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 9 bird species were recorded at the Site during the WBS.

Dusk-related Bird Species

No dusk-related species were recorded at the Site during the BBS.

6.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION

6.1 PROPOSALS

The 'Masterplan' site proposals drawing produced by nineteen47⁹, has been used as the basis for information regarding the proposed post-development layout (hard and soft landscaping). The proposed development intends to deliver new residential dwellings along with associated soft landscaping, a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) with associated wetland and riparian planting at the east of the Site, modified grassland creation, urban tree planting, woodland creation, and an 'area for biodiversity' which will include grassland, trees and scrub habitat. The approximate locations of the residential dwellings are shown in the 'Masterplan' but the specific number is currently unconfirmed. The Masterplan indicates that the majority of the existing woodland around the boundaries of the Site is due to be retained.

6.2 BIRD SURVEY ASSESSMENTS

Wintering Birds

The species diversity recorded at the Site during each WBS survey visit is considered to be low, with a total count of 28 bird species recorded across both survey visits, of which 20 out of the 28 species were present in survey visit 1 and 24 out of the 28 species were present in survey visit 2. Many of the bird species recorded were associated with the boundary habitats or were recorded flying over the Site.

Based on the low species diversity and number of birds recorded at the Site and the lack of species recorded that are associated with the Statutory Designated Sites, it is not considered necessary that a further two wintering bird surveys would need to be completed to conclude a full suite of wintering bird surveys that is normally recommended as part of the Bird Survey Guidelines (2023). Sufficient data has been collated to be able to inform the impact assessment.

Birds associated with Statutory Designated Sites

No bird species as listed in the designation for the Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI, i.e. typically wintering species or species associated with waterbodies, were recorded directly using the Site during the WBS. The Site is directly surrounded by urban habitats including residential housing to the north, south and west, and the M1 to the east, reducing the suitability for large flocks of wintering birds to use the Site. The Site is also frequently used by local, resident dog walkers which is likely to deter waterbirds such as geese and wading birds from resting or foraging within the Site.

WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 Bird Species

Redwing were recorded in low numbers at the Site and were associated with woodland at the Site, particularly the extent along the western boundary of the Site. The woodland habitat around the Site boundaries is to be retained as part of the development proposals, i.e. as per the Masterplan, therefore it is considered that impacts to wintering WCA 1981 Schedule 1 bird species are of no greater than site level importance.

BoCC5 Red and Amber Listed Bird Species

The BoCC5 Red and BoCC5 Amber listed bird species recorded during the WBS were typically associated with the boundary habitats including the scrub, woodland and tree habitats. The highest numbers of BoCC5 bird species recorded were for goldfinch and carrion crow. A relatively high number of the highly territorial species, song thrush (totalling six), was also recorded, associated with the woodland and scrub habitats around the boundaries of the Site. The meadow pipit and kestrel recordings were typically associated with the taller sward grassland in the north of the Site.

The majority of the woodland at the Site is proposed to be retained as part of the development proposals. An area of SuDS with wetland and riparian planting, grassland, trees, woodland and an 'area for biodiversity' including grassland, trees and scrub, is proposed to be created at the Site. The retained habitat along with the additional created habitats will provide a range of habitats for birds to use when foraging post-development. Based on retention and creation of habitats suitable for species recorded during the WBS, it is considered that changes to habitats at the Site as a result of the proposed development are of no greater than site level importance to wintering birds.

Breeding Birds

WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 Bird Species

Based on the findings of the BBS, no WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 bird species have been identified as breeding at the Site. As such, WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 bird species are not considered to be present at the Site during the breeding season, therefore no impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed development.

BoCC5 Red and Amber Listed Bird Species

Based on the findings of the BBS, of the three BoCC5 Red listed bird species recorded, greenfinch was recorded as a possible breeding bird based on observation of breeding behaviour through a singing male present in suitable breeding habitat, with one territory estimated. As only one greenfinch territory was estimated as present at the Site and the woodland is to be retained with some scrub lost but also some created as part of the development proposals, habitat changes and impacts as a result of the proposed development are of no greater than site level importance to breeding greenfinch.

Based on the findings of the BBS, of the 11 BoCC5 Amber listed species recorded, wren and song thrush were confirmed breeders, dunnock, wood pigeon and stock dove were probable breeders and kestrel, sparrowhawk and whitethroat were possible breeders. Wren and song thrush had an estimated eight to 10 and three to four territories identified, respectively. Three to four estimated territories for dunnock and wood pigeon were identified, with up to 2 for the remaining Amber listed species. All confirmed, probable and possible breeders at the Site were mainly recorded within woodland, scrub and tree habitats at the Site. These habitat types are all proposed to be retained or created as part of the proposed development, except for the loss of some woodland in the centre and west of the Site. While the Site is considered to be of local importance for breeding wren and song thrush, impacts as a result of

the proposed development are considered to be of site level importance due to the retention or creation of suitable nesting habitat, and only limited loss of some woodland at the Site.

Furthermore, the Site is considered to have local importance for breeding kestrel as foraging/hunting ground within a probable nearby (within 10km) nesting ground. This is due to a suitable tree cavity present along the south western tree line (see TN1, Figure G.1 for an indicative location), with potential for more to be present but unidentified within the woodland, which would provide suitable nesting habitat. Most of the woodland habitat is to be retained, and any trees with cavities should also be retained (see Ground-level Tree Assessment below). It is unknown at the time of writing whether the tree with the cavity at TN1 is proposed to be removed for health and safety concerns or whether it is to be retained. Grassland habitat is to be created within the 'area for biodiversity' and around the Site, as well as some grassland habitat in the wider area. The grassland should be kept at a longer sward in areas to retain some foraging habitat for kestrel. Taking this into account for the proposed development, the impacts as a result of the proposed development are considered to be of site level importance.

The remaining five BoCC5 Amber listed species and the BoCC5 Green listed species recorded on the Site were mainly found in the boundary habitats, scattered scrub, trees or recorded as flyovers. Therefore, the impacts to these breeding or non-breeding species as a result of the proposals are also considered to be of site level importance.

6.3 MITIGATION, COMPENSATION AND ENHANCEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Construction Environmental Management Plan

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is recommended to be produced to detail measures to be followed during the construction phase of the development to mitigate impacts to ecology during the development works. The following actions should also be outlined within a CEMP alongside other ecology impacts at the Site.

Protection of Existing and Retained Ecological Features

The more valuable habitats present at the Site for breeding birds have been identified as the woodland and trees within the boundaries of the Site, in the centre of the Site and to the south east of the Site (just outside the Site boundary), as well as, the scrub at the south west of the Site. Where these habitats are to be retained as part of the proposals, these should be protected from damage which should be detailed within the CEMP. These areas will form Biodiversity Protection Zones (BPZs) which will ensure continued presence and functionality of these habitats for birds and other species during the construction phase of the development.

The tree with a cavity identified as suitable nesting habitat for kestrel (see Plate 4.1 and TN1, Figure G.1), and any other trees with cavities if later encountered (see Ground-level Tree Assessment below), should ideally be retained where possible to prevent habitat loss for nesting kestrel. However, if retention is not possible and removal is necessary during the breeding bird season, mitigation measures apply (see Nesting Bird Checks below).

In the instance where the identified tree with cavity cannot be retained and requires removal outside of the breeding bird season, it is recommended that a kestrel box is installed on a retained tree of suitable trunk diameter in the vicinity as compensation prior to the tree's removal. This will provide an alternative roosting location for the loss of the cavity which could be in use for general shelter outside of the breeding bird season.

To ensure protection/retention of ecological features is maximised, once the specific area(s) of woodland/tree removal are identified and known, it would be beneficial for the SQE to return to the Site to undertake a targeted walkover of the specific area(s). The SQE would identify any further trees with suitable cavities for bird use that should ideally be retained and protected as part of the BPZs and relay their locations to the client/contractors. Or in instances where they cannot be retained, be able to advise if a nesting bird check applies (see Nesting Bird Checks below).

Ground-level Tree Assessment

Once the detailed tree removal proposals are available showing specific areas or trees due to be impacted/removed, these areas/tree should be subject to a detailed assessment by a SQE to assess for any cavities present and any ecological value pertaining to the cavities prior to removal i.e. a tennis-ball sized cavity hole at the top of the tree trunk for kestrel. Any other sized cavity may also be suitable for other species including smaller nesting passerine birds and bats.

Nesting Bird Checks

All species of wild bird, their nests and eggs are protected under the WCA 1981 (as amended) and it is an offence (with certain exceptions) to take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built. The WCA 1981 (as amended) species listed under Schedule 1 receive additional protection against disturbance whilst occupying a nest.

To minimise the risk of committing an offence in relation to nesting birds, vegetation clearance is recommended to be programmed to avoid the breeding bird season, i.e. clearance is to be undertaken between September and February. However, it is acknowledged that recommendations made in respect of other protected species potentially associated with the Site (e.g. amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs, see Greengage EclA, 2024²) may require works to be undertaken outside of their hibernation period and therefore may clash with the breeding bird season. As such, where vegetation clearance during the breeding bird season, i.e. during March to August inclusive, is unavoidable, nesting bird checks will be required to be undertaken by a SQE. Vegetation removal is then to have commenced within 48 hours of the nesting bird check, providing that no active bird nests are identified. Repeat visits will be required if vegetation removal is not completed within a 48 hour timeframe after authorisation to proceed has been permitted.

If the tree with the cavity suitable for nesting kestrel (such as in Plate 4.1 and TN1, Figure G.1) cannot be retained and requires removal during March to August, an SQE should be informed to undertake a NBC of the tree to assess for presence/likely-absence of any breeding birds, particularly kestrel, prior to removal works commencing. This also applies to any other trees with cavities that are unexpectedly encountered at a later date.

If an active nest is found during a nesting bird check, there will be a requirement to establish an exclusion zone around the nest (in consultation with the SQE) which should be maintained until it has been demonstrated that all fledglings have left the nest and the nest is no longer active. N.B. This may require monitoring by the SQE for periods of at least up to a month depending on the nesting stage.

Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan

A Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan (BEMP) should be produced to detail habitat creation and enhancement measures that will be beneficial for biodiversity in the long-term. Measures that would benefit birds are outlined below, but a BEMP should be created and referred to for full details of measures to be implemented.

The woodland, scrub, and trees are due to be retained where possible. The retained habitat should be protected throughout construction works in accordance with BPZs mentioned above and subsequently will be maintained during the operational phase of the proposed development at the Site. Additional new scrub planting is proposed as part of the 'area for biodiversity' with grassland, scrub and tree creation, as well as proposed created habitats such as SuDS at the east of the Site with associated wetland and riparian planting, grassland planting around the Site, urban tree planting and woodland creation.

Details are not yet provided for species mixes of the proposed habitats, however it is recommended that grassland be seeded with a suitable wildflower mix, e.g. Emorsgate EM2 Standard General Purpose Meadow Mixture, and be subject to low intensity management which will be beneficial for foraging birds. Furthermore, the pond should be planted with a suitable native riparian seed mix surrounding the habitat, also to provide suitability for foraging and nesting birds. The scrub habitat to be planted within the 'area for biodiversity' at the Site should be planted with a native scrub mix with fruiting species, suitable for foraging and nesting birds. A mix of native fruiting trees should also be planted to provide additional and varied suitable foraging habitat for birds at different times of year.

As an enhancement for nesting birds, in accordance with the Barnsley Local Plan Supplementary Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity policy¹⁰, 100% of the new residential dwellings should have integrated bird boxes built into the design and installed during the construction stage, including 50% swift boxes (which will also be used by house sparrows) and 50% swallow nest features.

It is recommended that ten external bird boxes hung on trees in the woodland would also be beneficial. The boxes should include a mix of four generalist bird boxes targeting passerine and common garden species, as well as three open-fronted boxes, two starling bird boxes and one kestrel box. The kestrel box should be situated on the edge of the woodland or along the line of trees. (This kestrel box will be the singular box on the Site if the tree with cavity is retained, or the second on the Site if a compensatory box has had to be installed due to tree removal).

Details on box type specification, locations and aspects of the bird boxes should be provided within a BEMP. Examples of nest boxes are given in Plates 5.1- 5.6 below, however Greengage does not officially endorse any products. If the suggested models cannot be sourced at the time of requirement, possible suitable alternatives should be discussed and agreed with an ecologist prior to installation.

Plate 6.1 Example integrated swift bird box (WoodStone Build-in Swift Nest Box Deep)



Plate 6.2 Example swallow nest feature (No. 10 Schwegler Swallow Nest)



Plate 6.3 Example general purpose bird box (not suitable for integration) (Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Box)



Plate 6.4 Example external open-fronted nest box (Vivara Pro Barcelona WoodStone Open Nest Box)



Plate 6.5 Example external starling nest box (Vivara Pro WoodStone Starling Nest Box)



Plate 6.6 Example kestrel nest box (RSPB Kestrel nest box)



7.0 SUMMARY

Greengage was commissioned by Keepmoat Homes in January 2024 to undertake a WBS and BBS for an area of land located off Keresforth Road (the Site).

Two WBS survey visits were conducted between January and February 2024, however based on the species diversity and number of birds recorded at the Site, it is not considered necessary that a further two wintering bird surveys would need to be completed to conclude a full suite of WBS survey visits that is normally recommended as part of the Bird Survey Guidelines. Sufficient data has been collected to assess the likely impact of the proposed development on wintering birds associated with the Site.

Six BBS survey visits were conducted between March and July 2024 following Bird Survey Guidelines.

Overall, the WBS recorded up to 28 bird species and the BBS up to 34 bird species either directly using the Site, using habitats adjacent the Site, or flying over the Site. Habitat types used by the birds are either to be retained or created as part of the development proposals. Therefore, the overall impact as a result of the proposed development are of site level importance only to breeding birds.

A CEMP and BEMP are recommended to be created to provide measures for appropriate mitigation, compensation and enhancement for breeding birds post-development, to be secured via planning condition.

APPENDIX A WINTERING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS

Figure A.1a-c Wintering bird survey results (visits 1-2) and BTO species codes for illustrated species

KERESFORTH ROAD

- Red line boundary
- Walked transect route
- XX ➔** Birds perched then flying
- Birds in song
- |** Birds calling
- ♂** Birds in pair

See Appendix D for the Key to Bird Species Recorded using BTO Species Codes

Title: Figure A.1a Winternig Bird Survey Results - Visit 1

Drawn by: CP
Date: 05/08/2024

Reviewed by: HH
Date: 05/08/2024

Project number: 552654
Sources: Ordnance Survey



KERESFORTH ROAD

- Red line boundary
- Walked transect route
- XX Birds in flight
- Definitely different birds recorded
- Birds in song
- Birds calling

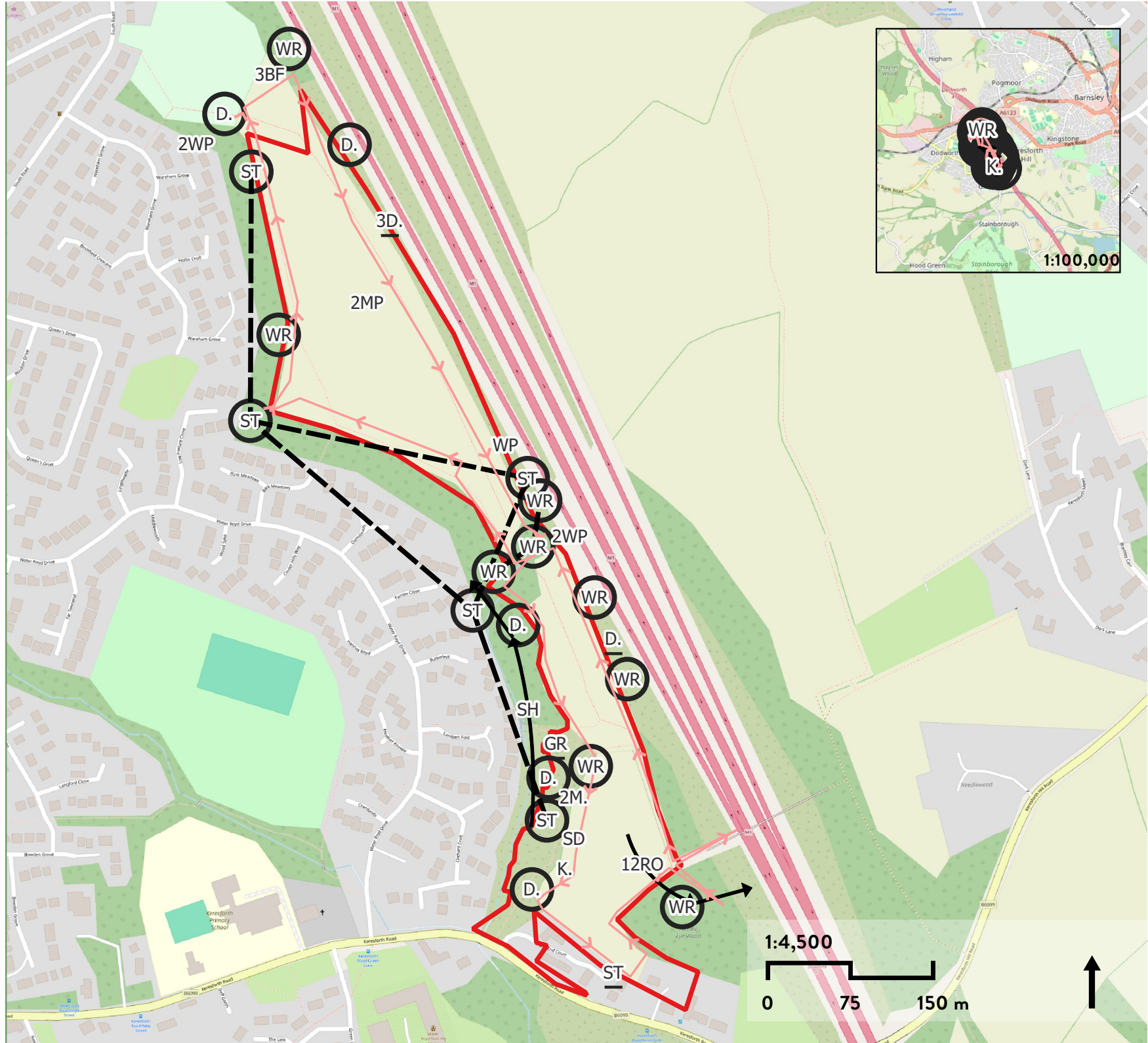
See Appendix D for the Key to Bird Species Recorded using BTO Species Codes

Title: Figure A.1b Wintering Bird Survey Results - Visit 2

Drawn by: CP
Date: 05/08/2024

Reviewed by: HH
Date: 05/08/2024

Project number: 552654
Sources: Ordnance Survey



BTO Code	Common name	Species name
SG	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
L.	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
M.	Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
GR	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
RE	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
D.	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
BF	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
ST	Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
K.	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
WP	Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
WR	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
SH	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
SD	Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>
RO	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
MP	Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
C.	Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
B.	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
R.	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
BT	Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
GT	Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>
MG	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
GO	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
CT	Coal tit	<i>Parus ater</i>
LT	Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
TC	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
GC	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
JD	Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>
NH	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>

Figure A.1c – BTO species codes for illustrated species – wintering

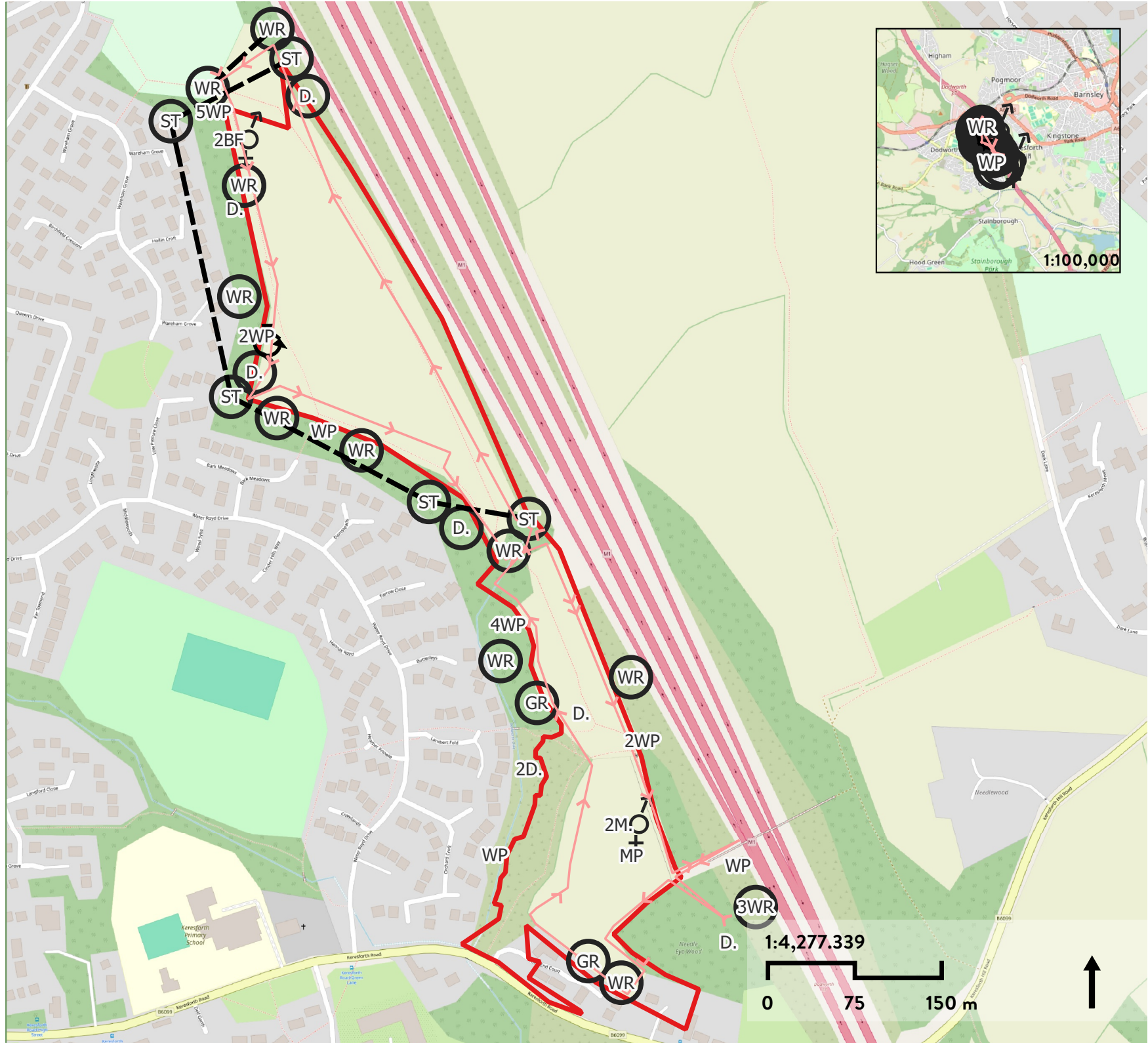
APPENDIX B BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS

Figure B.1a-g Breeding Bird Survey Results (visits 1-6) and BTO species codes for illustrated species

KERESFORTH ROAD

- Red line boundary
- Walked transect route
- ↗ Birds in flight
- Definitely different birds recorded
- WR Birds in song
- + Birds in pair

See Appendix D for the Key to Bird Species Recorded using BTO Species Codes



Title: Figure B.1a Breeding Bird Survey Results - Visit 1

Drawn by: CP
Date: 02/08/2024

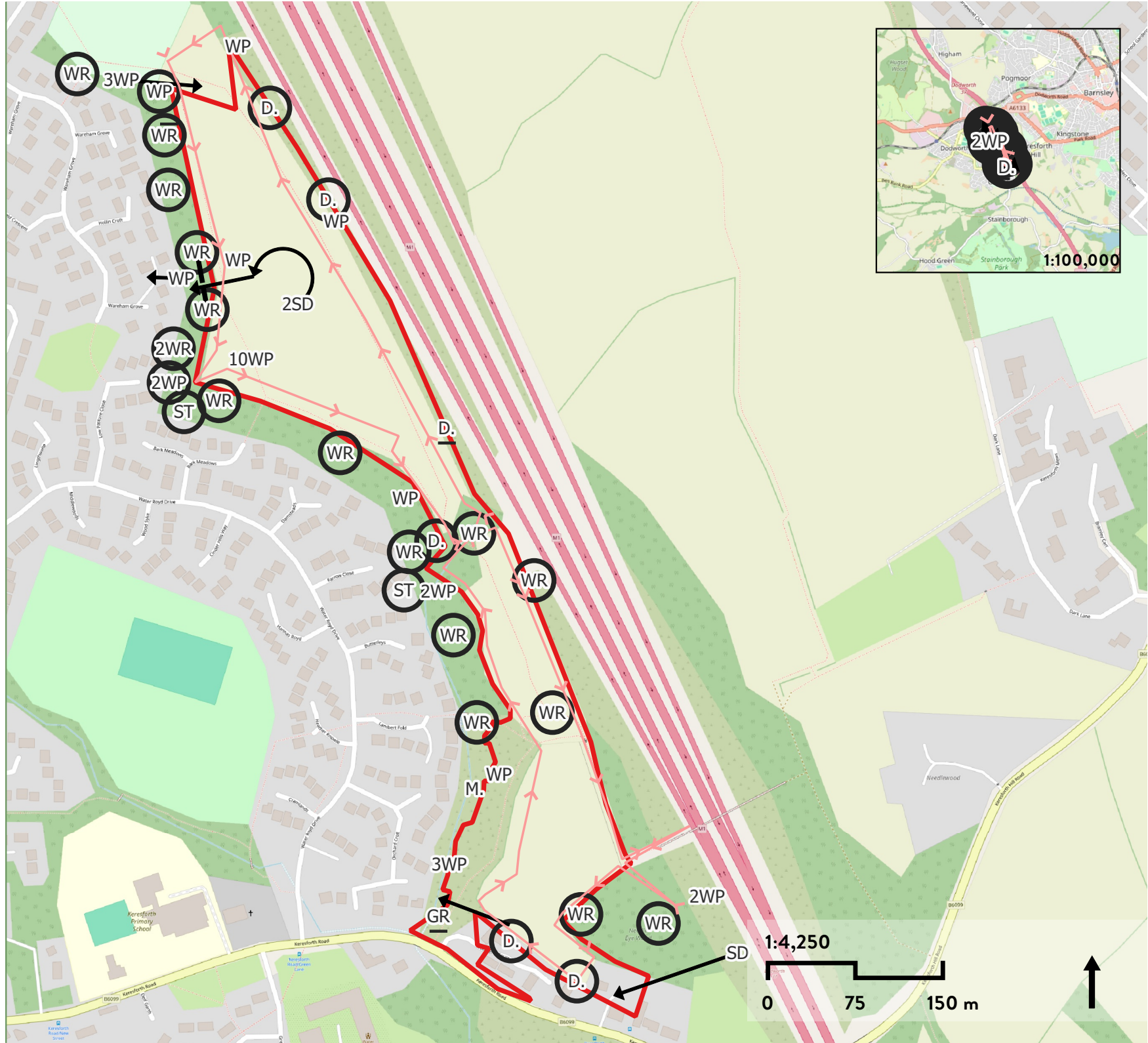
Reviewed by: HH
Date: 02/08/2024

Project number: 552654
Sources: Ordnance Survey

KERESFORTH ROAD

- Red line boundary
- > Walked transect route
- X→ Birds perched then flying
- Definitely different birds recorded
- Birds in song
- Birds calling

See Appendix D for the Key to Bird Species Recorded using BTO Species Codes



Title: Figure B.1b Breeding Bird Survey Results - Visit 2

Drawn by: CP
Date: 02/08/2024

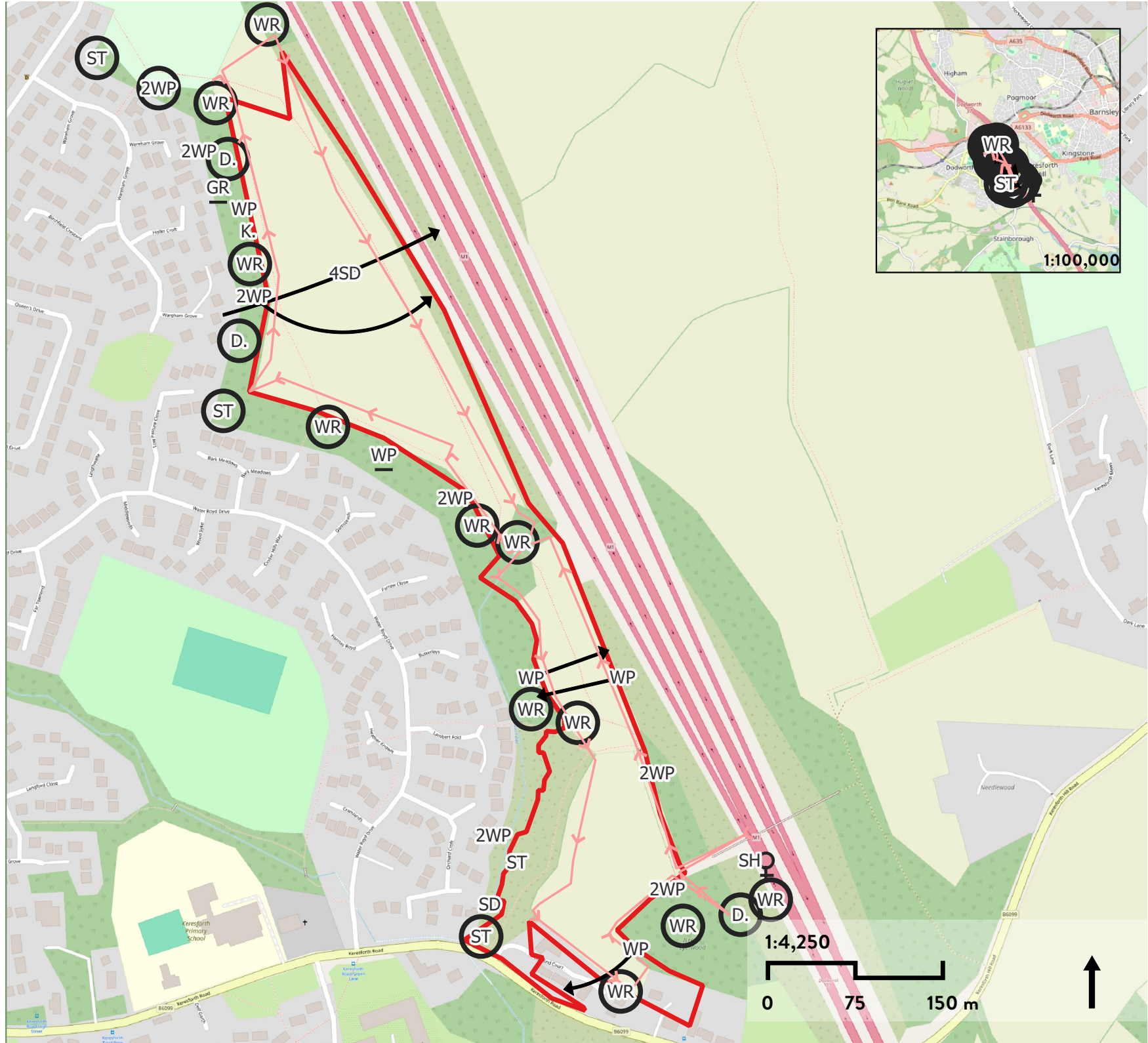
Reviewed by: HH
Date: 02/08/2024

Project number: 552654
Sources: Ordnance Survey

KERESFORTH ROAD

- Red line boundary
- > Transect BBS V3
- X → Birds perched then flying
- X → Birds in flight
- O Birds in song
- Birds in call
- ♀ Female bird

See Appendix D for the Key to Bird Species Recorded using BTO Species Codes



Title: Figure B.1c Breeding Bird Survey Results - Visit 3

Drawn by: CP
Date: 02/08/2024

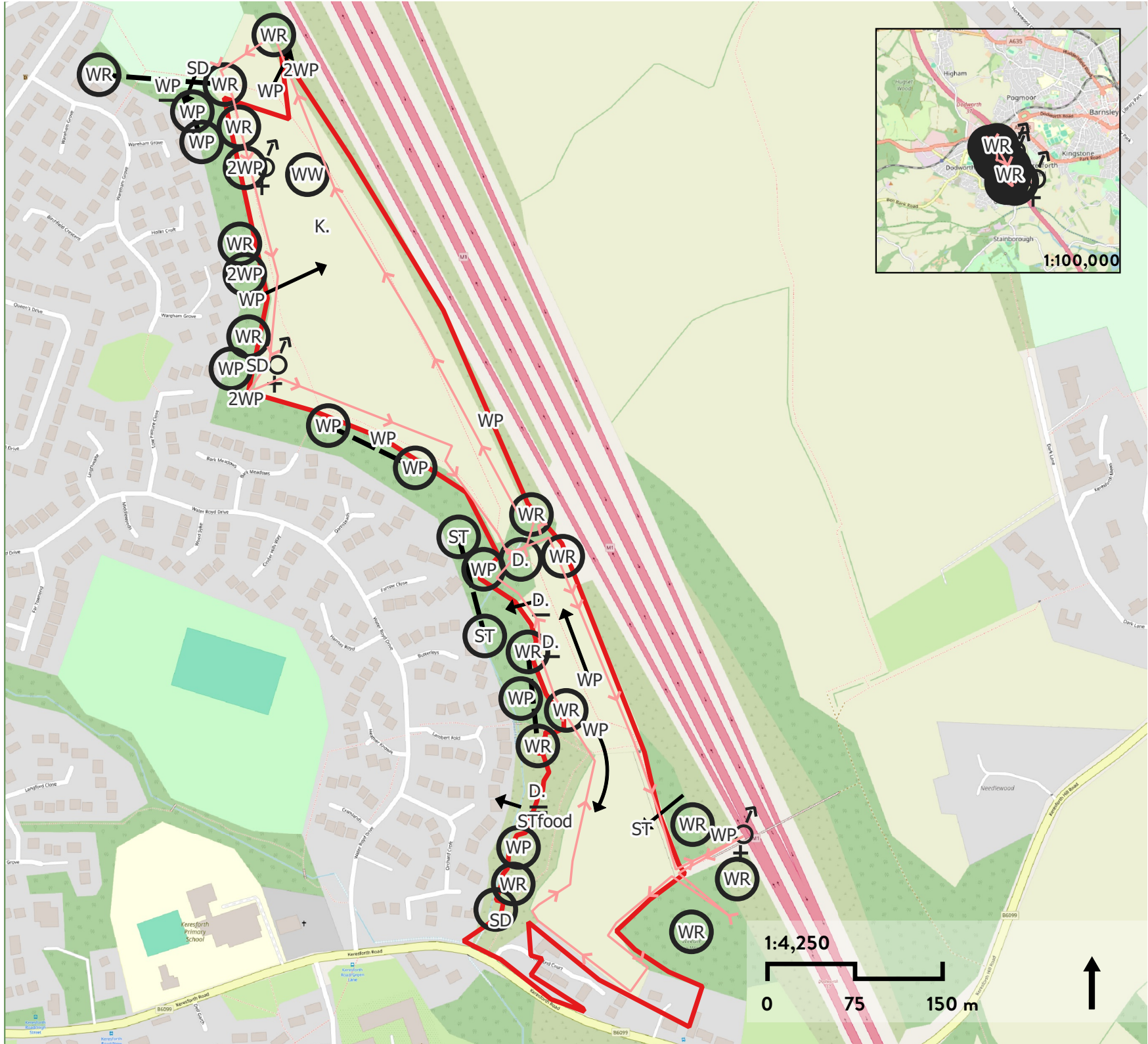
Reviewed by: HH
Date: 02/08/2024

Project number: 552654
Sources: Ordnance Survey

KERESFORTH ROAD

- Red line boundary
- > Walked transect route
- Birds alarm calling
- Birds in song
- Birds in call
- +O Birds in pair
- XX Perched then flying
- XX Flying then perched
- Definitely different birds recorded

See Appendix D for the Key to Bird Species Recorded using BTO Species Codes



Title: Figure B.1d Breeding Bird Survey Results - Visit 4

Drawn by: CP
Date: 02/08/2024

Reviewed by: HH
Date: 02/08/2024

Project number: 552654
Sources: Ordnance Survey

KERESFORTH ROAD

- Red line boundary
- > Walked transect route
- Birds alarm calling
- Birds in song
- ↑ Birds calling
- ♂ Male bird
- XX Perched then flying
- Definitely different birds recorded

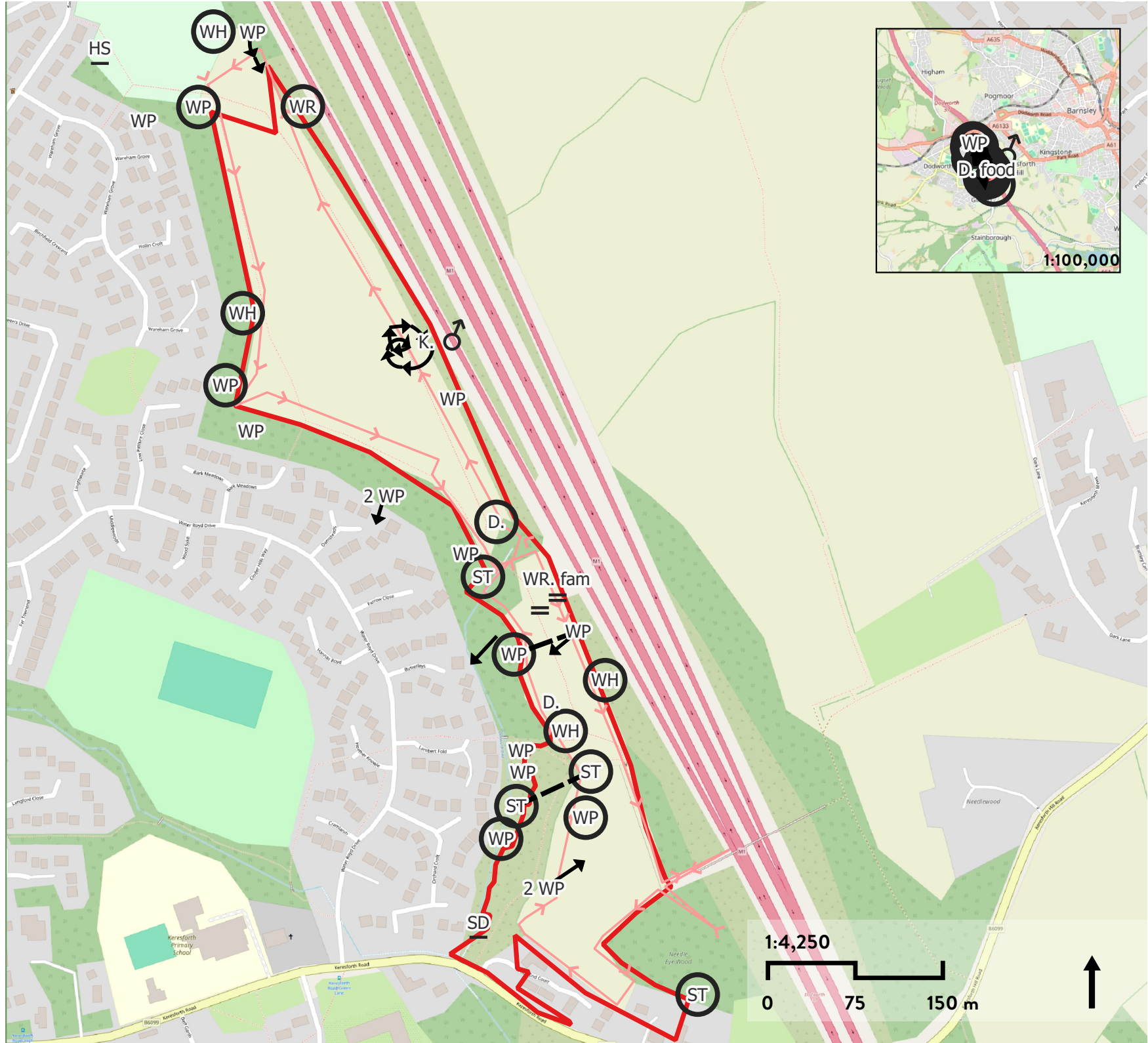
See Appendix D for the Key to Bird Species Recorded using BTO Species Codes

Title: Figure B.1e Breeding Bird Survey Results - Visit 5

Drawn by: CP
Date: 02/08/2024

Reviewed by: HH
Date: 02/08/2024

Project number: 552654
Sources: Ordnance Survey



BTO Code	Common name	Species name
B.	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
BC	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
BF	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
BH	Black headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
BT	Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
BZ	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
C.	Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
CC	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
CH	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
CT	Coal tit	<i>Parus ater</i>
D.	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
GC	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
GO	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
GR	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
GT	Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>
HS	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
JD	Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>
K.	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
LT	Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
M.	Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
MG	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
MP	Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
NH	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
PH	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
R.	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
SD	Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>
SH	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
ST	Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
TC	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
WH	Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>
WP	Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
WR	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
WW	Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>

Figure B.1g – BTO species codes for illustrated species – breeding

APPENDIX C BTO BREEDING STATUS CODES

Code	Breeding Status
Non-breeding	
F	Flying over
M	Species observed but suspected to be still on migration
U	Species observed but suspected to be summering non-breeder
Possible breeder	
H	Species observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat
S	Singing male present (or breeding calls heard) in breeding season in suitable breeding habitat
Probable breeding	
P	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season
T	Permanent territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour (song etc) on at least two different days a week or more part at the same place or many individuals on one day
D	Courtship and display (judged to be in or near potential breeding habitat; be cautious with wildfowl)
N	Visiting probable nest site
A	Agitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults, suggesting probable presence of nest or young nearby
I	Brood patch on adult examined in the hand, suggesting incubation
B	Nest building or excavating nest-hole
Confirmed breeding	
DD	Distraction-display or injury feigning
UN	Used nest or eggshells found (occupied or laid within period of survey)
FL	Recently fledged young
ON	Adults entering or leaving the nest-site in circumstances indicating occupied nest (including high nests or nest holes, the contents of which can not be seen) or adults seen incubating
FF	Adult carrying faecal sac or food for young
NE	Nest containing eggs
NY	Nest with young seen or heard

APPENDIX D KEY TO SPECIES RECORDED USING BRITISH TRUST FOR ORNITHOLOGY (BTO) CODES

BTO Code	Common name	Scientific name
B.	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
BC	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
BF	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
BH	Black headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
BT	Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
BZ	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
C.	Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
CC	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
CH	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
CT	Coal tit	<i>Parus ater</i>
D.	Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
GC	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
GO	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
GR	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
GT	Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>
HS	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
JD	Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>
K.	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
L.	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
LT	Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
M.	Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
MG	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
MP	Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
NH	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
PH	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
R.	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
RE	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
RO	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
SD	Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>
SG	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
SH	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>

BTO Code	Common name	Scientific name
ST	Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
TC	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
WH	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
WP	Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
WR	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
WW	Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>

APPENDIX E SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE WINTERING BIRD SURVEY - CONSERVATION STATUS, TOTAL AND PEAK COUNTS

Common name	Scientific name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conservation Status	No. of individuals recorded per survey			
			Survey visit 1		Survey visit 2	
			Total count	Peak count	Total count	Peak count
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red, NERC s.41	17	17	0	0
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Red, NERC s.41	90	c.90	0	0
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red	0	0	2	2
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red	0	0	1	1
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Amber, Schedule 1	3	2	0	0
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber, NERC s.41	4	1	9	3
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber, NERC s.41	2	2	3	3
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber, NERC s.41	0	0	6	1
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber	1	1	1	1
Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber	6	3	5	2
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	2	1	9	1
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber	1	1	1	1
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber	0	0	1	1
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber	0	0	12	12
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber	0	0	5	3
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	1	1	24	c.20

Common name	Scientific name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conservation Status	No. of individuals recorded per survey			
			Survey visit 1		Survey visit 2	
			Total count	Peak count	Total count	Peak count
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	8	1	10	5
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	7	2	10	1
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	14	3	5	2
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green	8	2	6	2
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green	5	2	3	1
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	33	c.15	1	1
Coal tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Green	2	1	2	1
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Green	10	4	7	3
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Green	1	1	2	1
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green	1	1	0	0
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	Green	0	0	2	2
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Green	0	0	1	1

APPENDIX F SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE BREEDING BIRD SURVEY - CONSERVATION STATUS AND BREEDING STATUS

Comm on name	Scientifi c name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conserv ation Status	No. of individuals recorded per survey (survey visit)						Breeding status on site based on survey results	Estimated no. of territories (where breeding confirmed/pro bable/possible)	Justification	BTO Breeding Status Code
			1	2	3	4	5	6				
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	8	8	9	2	5	9	Possible	2 to 4	Calling or perching observed at the Site across all survey visits. Some territories likely atop the tall trees around the boundary of the Site based on number of individuals recorded.	H
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber	0	1	1	1	1	0	Possible	1	Used Site as foraging grounds only. Suitable nesting habitat is present at the Site in the form of tree cavities.	U
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	9	8	13	16	18	6	Probable	3 to 4	Singing and calling together with 3 pairs seen together in survey visit 3.	P
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	17	21	18	14	0	7	Confirmed	4 to 5	Recently fledged juveniles observed during survey visit 5. Some alarm calling observed during final survey visit suggesting potential	FL

Common name	Scientific name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conservation Status	No. of individuals recorded per survey (survey visit)						Breeding status on site based on survey results	Estimated no. of territories (where breeding confirmed/probable/possible)	Justification	BTO Breeding Status Code
			1	2	3	4	5	6				
											territory/nest defending or more fledged individuals.	
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	20	13	10	15	8	7	Probable	5 to 10	Alarm calls heard on multiple occasions (particularly towards the end of the season). An aggressive encounter between two individuals also observed in survey visit 6.	A
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber, NERC	8	9	3	4	4	1	Probable	3 to 4	One individual observed carrying food whilst in flight during survey visit 5. Singing and calling also observed during start of season. Reduction in numbers throughout season suggests successful mate attribution. Singing also observed in February during final wintering bird survey (dunnocks tend to be early breeders).	N

Comm on name	Scientifi c name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conserv ation Status	No. of individuals recorded per survey (survey visit)						Breeding status on site based on survey results	Estimated no. of territories (where breeding confirmed/pro bable/possible)	Justification	BTO Breeding Status Code
			1	2	3	4	5	6				
Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber	12	28	24	28	17	14	Probable	3 to 4	Some singing observed and 1 pair seen together in survey visit 6. Flight behaviour when approached suggesting on nests. Large number of flyovers recorded.	P
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green	12	5	14	12	3	11	Probable	5 to 10	Singing and calling observed, and alarm calling observed within scattered scrub in northern grassland field.	A
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green	5	13	8	5	7	3	Probable	5 to 6	In pairs or groups either foraging in northern grassland field or seen perched together or flying to tall boundary trees.	P
Goldfin ch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	7	6	0	7	14	16	Confirmed	c. 3 to 4	Always seen in groups due to being a sociable species, therefore territories difficult to estimate. However, likely that some individuals were fledged young in	FL

Comm on name	Scientifi c name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conserv ation Status	No. of individuals recorded per survey (survey visit)						Breeding status on site based on survey results	Estimated no. of territories (where breeding confirmed/pro bable/possible)	Justification	BTO Breeding Status Code
			1	2	3	4	5	6				
											final two survey visits resulting in increase in numbers.	
Coal tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Green	2	0	0	0	0	0	Possible	1	Two singing males observed during the first survey visit and then quiet, suggesting either successful mate acquisition in suitable nesting habitat or predation.	S
Bullfinc h	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber, NERC	2	0	0	0	0	0	Non-breeding	N/A	One pair observed during survey visit 1 in suitable nesting habitat however may have migrated to another site for breeding. Pair may use the Site for wintering only as was observed throughout wintering bird surveys.	M
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Green	8	6	3	3	0	0	Probable	2 to 4	Calling observed with groups getting smaller from survey visit 3 suggesting the sociable species are breeding together with some	P

Comm on name	Scientifi c name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conserv ation Status	No. of individuals recorded per survey (survey visit)						Breeding status on site based on survey results	Estimated no. of territories (where breeding confirmed/pro bable/possible)	Justification	BTO Breeding Status Code
			1	2	3	4	5	6				
											individuals out foraging. Territories will be loose for this sociable species.	
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	14	16	11	13	6	9	Confirmed	8 to 10	Singing observed throughout season suggesting male display and defending territory. Survey visit 4 observed lots of individuals within the central woodland habitat and appeared to be a family with lots of alarm calling as defense for young when approached.	FL
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Green	2	0	1	0	0	2	Confirmed	1	One pair observed breeding and entering a nest cavity as an incidental recording during a different survey. Another brood likely began during the end of the breeding bird surveys where a singing male was observed again in the final survey visit.	ON

Common name	Scientific name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conservation Status	No. of individuals recorded per survey (survey visit)						Breeding status on site based on survey results	Estimated no. of territories (where breeding confirmed/probable/possible)	Justification	BTO Breeding Status Code
			1	2	3	4	5	6				
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green	0	1	0	0	0	1	Non-breeding	N/A	Only observed on two occasions; one calling at the woodland in the centre of the Site and one seen along tree line at the south of the Site. No breeding behaviour observed.	U
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber	0	0	1	0	0	0	Possible	1	One female observed on occasion in suitable nesting habitat	H
Stockdove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber	0	6	5	4	1	5	Probable	1 to 2	Often seen in groups of two or three, suggesting pairs. Some were flyovers only. One pair regularly seen in a tree at the south west of the Site suggesting at least one territory, with more likely.	P
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	Green	0	0	0	1	0	3	Non-breeding	N/A	Only individuals observed.	U
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Green	2	0	0	0	0	0	Non-breeding	N/A	Two individuals observed calling one occasion therefore breeding behaviour not observed.	U

Comm on name	Scientifi c name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conserv ation Status	No. of individuals recorded per survey (survey visit)						Breeding status on site based on survey results	Estimated no. of territories (where breeding confirmed/pro bable/possible)	Justification	BTO Breeding Status Code
			1	2	3	4	5	6				
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber, NERC	5	2	4	5	4	4	Confirmed	3 to 4	3 or 4 individuals observed regularly throughout season in the same locations suggesting defended territories. Males also observed singing at the same time as other males. One female observed carrying food on one occasion and singing on later/shorter occasions on survey visit 4.	T, FF
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red	2	1	0	0	0	0	Non-breeding	N/A	Only observed at the start of the season so likely migrated to another site for breeding after winter visiting.	U
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber	1	0	0	0	0	0	Non-breeding	N/A	Only seen one one individual during survey visit 1, likely a winter visitor and migrated to another site for breeding.	U
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red	2	1	1	0	0	2	Possible	1	Singing and calling observed in suitable habitat.	S

Common name	Scientific name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conservation Status	No. of individuals recorded per survey (survey visit)						Breeding status on site based on survey results	Estimated no. of territories (where breeding confirmed/probable/possible)	Justification	BTO Breeding Status Code
			1	2	3	4	5	6				
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green	1	0	0	0	0	1	Non-breeding	N/A	Seen foraging in woodland. Likely returned to Site after breeding elsewhere.	U
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green	4	2	3	6	0	3	Probable	2	Singing and calling observed, as well as alarm calling in survey visit 6 suggesting potential defending of nest/young.	A
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	N/A	1	1	2	2	1	0	Possible	Not provided for safety	Calling on repeat occasions however only heard not seen on most occasions therefore could not observe whether a male was with females (polygamous species)	H
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Green	0	12	11	6	6	4	Possible	4 to 5	Lots of singing observed throughout the Site and some calling	S
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Green	0	0	1	1	1	0	Probable	1	One individual seen only and one singing male observed in the woodland at the centre of the Site holding territory	T

Comm on name	Scientifi c name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conserv ation Status	No. of individuals recorded per survey (survey visit)						Breeding status on site based on survey results	Estimated no. of territories (where breeding confirmed/pro bable/possible)	Justification	BTO Breeding Status Code
			1	2	3	4	5	6				
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscop us trochilus</i>	Green	0	0	0	1	0	2	Probable	1	One individual singing during survey visit 4 in the middle of northern grassland and then a pair seen and heard calling during survey visit 6 in woodland to west of northern grassland suggesting successful mate acquisition in held territory	P, T
Whitet hroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Amber	0	0	0	0	4	0	Possible	1 to 2	4 individuals observed singing across the Site only during survey visit 5. Potentially just two males moving around Site during survey.	S
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red	0	0	0	0	1	0	Non-breeding	N/A	Only one individual heard calling near residential housing on one occasion.	U
Black headed gull	<i>Chroicoce phalus ridibundus</i>	Amber	0	0	0	0	0	12	Non-breeding	N/A	Flyovers observed only	F

APPENDIX G UKHAB MAP

Figure G.1 UKHab Map created for Greengage EclA

KERESFORTH ROAD

- Red Line Boundary
- Target note
- Line of trees
- Native hedgerow with trees
- Other rivers and streams
- Bramble scrub
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Modified grassland
- Other neutral grassland



Title: Figure G.1 UKHab map - whole site

Drawn by: CP
Date: 20/08/2024

Reviewed by: HH
Date: 20/08/2024

Project number: 552654
Sources: Google Satellite Hybrid



APPENDIX H LEGISLATION AND PLANNING POLICY

H.1 LEGISLATION

Current key legislation relating to ecology includes The Environment Act¹¹ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)¹²; The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 ('Habitats & Species Regulations')¹³, The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act)¹⁴, and The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006¹⁵.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019

The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations replace The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)¹⁶, and transpose Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora ('EU Habitats Directive')¹⁷, and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds ('Birds Directive')¹⁸ into UK law (in conjunction with the Wildlife and Countryside Act).

Regulation 43 and 47 respectively of the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to deliberately capture, kill, disturb, or trade in the animals listed in Schedule 2 (European protected species of animals), or pick, collect, cut, uproot, destroy, or trade in the plants listed in Schedule 5 (European protected species of plant). Development that would contravene the protection afforded to European protected species requires a derogation (in the form of a licence) from the provisions of the Habitats Directive.

Regulation 63 (1) states: 'A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which —

(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects); and

(b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site;

must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives.'

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is the principal mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain. This legislation is the means by which the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats¹⁹ (the 'Bern Convention') and the Birds Directive and EU Habitats Directive are implemented in Great Britain.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

The Wildlife and Countryside Act has been updated by the CRoW Act. The CRoW Act amends the law relating to nature conservation and protection of wildlife. In relation to threatened species it strengthens the legal protection and adds the word 'reckless' to the offences of damaging, disturbing, or obstructing access to any structure or place a protected species uses for shelter or protection, and disturbing any protected species whilst it is occupying a structure or place it uses for shelter or protection.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 states that every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. Biodiversity Action Plans provide a framework for prioritising conservation actions for biodiversity.

Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of species of flora and fauna and habitats considered to be of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity. The list, a result of the most comprehensive analysis ever undertaken in the UK, currently contains 1,149 species, including for example, hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), and 65 habitats that were listed as priorities for conservation action under the now defunct UK Biodiversity Action Plan²⁰ (UK BAP). Despite the devolution of the UK BAP and succession of the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework²¹ (and Biodiversity 2020 strategy²² in England), as a response to the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD's) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020²³ and EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS)²⁴, this list (now referred to as the list of Species and Habitats of Principal Importance in England) will be used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under section 41 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.

Biodiversity Action Plans

Non-statutory Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) have been prepared on a local and regional scale throughout the UK over the past 15 years. Such plans provide a mechanism for implementing the government's broad strategy for conserving and enhancing the most endangered ('priority') habitats and species in the UK for the next 20 years. As described above the UK BAP was succeeded in England by Biodiversity 2020 although the list of priority habitats and species remains valid as the list of Species of Principal Importance for Nature Conservation.

Regional and local BAPs are still valid however and continue to be updated and produced.

Detail on the relevant BAPs for this site are provided in the main text of this report.

Legislation Relating to Nesting Birds

Nesting birds, with certain exceptions, are protected from intentional killing, destruction of nests and destruction/taking of eggs under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the CRoW Act. Any clearance of dense vegetation should therefore be undertaken outside of the nesting bird season, taken to run conservatively from March to August (inclusive), unless an ecologist confirms the absence of active nests prior to clearance.

Legislation Relating to Natura 2000 Sites and Habitats Directive Annex I/II Species

European Commission Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora ('EU Habitats Directive'), and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds ('Birds Directive') form the cornerstones of nature conservation legislation across EU member states. Priority species requiring protection across Europe are listed in the Annexes of these Directives. Regulation 63(1) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2019 and Offshore Marine Conservation Regulations, 2007 (as amended) transpose these directives into UK law and set the basis for the designations of protected sites (known as Natura 2000 sites; Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitat Directive and Special Areas of Protection under the Birds Directive) that are of importance for habitats, species or assemblages listed on the directive Annexes. In the UK Ramsar sites are also offered the same level of protection as SPAs and SACs however the qualifying species for the designation may differ; Ramsar sites being designated specifically as important wetland habitats.

Under article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, where projects stand to have likely significant effect (in accordance with the European Court of Justice ruling of C-127/02 Waddenzee cockle fishing) upon the integrity of conservation objectives (i.e. conservation status of the qualifying species or habitats) within the designated sites then the Competent Authority must undertake an Appropriate Assessment.

H.2 PLANNING POLICY

National

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2023²⁵ sets out the Government's planning policies for England, including how plans and decisions are expected to apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Chapter 15 of the NPPF focuses on conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, stating plans should 'identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity'.

It goes on to state: 'if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused'. Alongside this, it acknowledges that planning should be refused where irreplaceable habitats such as ancient woodland are lost.

Regional

The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) Plan was not available at the time of writing due to being under revision.

Local

Barnsley Local Plan²⁶

The Barnsley Local Plan sets out the key elements of the planning framework for Barnsley, and the approach to its long term physical development to achieve the Council's vision of what sort of place Barnsley wants to become.

Relevant policies to this scheme are taken from the Barnsley Local Plan Supplementary Planning Document: Biodiversity and Geodiversity, adopted in March 2024 **Error! Bookmark not defined.** and include:

Policy BIO1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Development will be expected to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological features of the borough, by following a list of measures.

Policy GI1 Green Infrastructure

The protection, maintenance, enhancement and creation of an integrated network of connected and multi-functional Green Infrastructure assets that follow a list of criteria.

Policy GS1 Green Space

The council will work with partners to improve existing green space to meet the standards in the Green Space Strategy.

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