

Crest Nicholson

Pit Lane, Wombwell

WINTERING BIRD SURVEY REPORT

Report Reference Number: FE302/WBR01

April 2025

Futures Ecology Ltd

Carrwood Park, Swillington Common Farm, Selby Rd, Leeds LS15 4LG

Company Number: 12125083

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

This report may not be relied upon by any other party without the express written agreement of Futures Ecology Limited. The use of this report by unauthorised third parties is at their own risk and Futures Ecology Limited accepts no duty of care to any such third party.

Futures Ecology Limited assumes no liability for any loss resulting from errors, omissions or misrepresentation made by others. Any recommendation, opinion or finding stated in this report is based on conditions as they existed at the time that Futures Ecology Limited undertook the work. Nothing in this report constitutes legal opinion.

REV	lssue Status	Author or Reviewer	Name & Qualifications	Position	Date
-	Draft 1	Author	T. Stratton BSc (Hons)	Assistant Ecologist	24/02/2025
		Reviewer	K. Haymes BSc (Hons) MCIEEM	Senior Ecologist	14/04/2025

CONTENTS

1.0	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
2.0	INTRODUCTION	1
3.0	LEGISLATION, PLANNING POLICY AND CONSERVATION STATUS	2
4.0	METHODOLOGY	4
5.0	RESULTS (BASELINE)	8
6.0	DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION	.16
7.0	CONCLUSIONS	. 18

TABLES

Table 1: Wintering Bird Survey Dates and Weather Condition
Table 2: Species County Distribution Status and Definition
Table 3: Summary Of Relevant Protected Species Records
Table 4: Wintering Bird Population 2024/25

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Full Wintering Bird Survey Results 2024/25

FIGURES

Figure 1: Wintering Bird Survey Results 2024/25

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Wintering bird surveys were undertaken in 2024/25 at land south of Pit Lane, Wombwell, Barnsley (grid reference: SE 38710 02811).
- 1.2 Following four wintering bird surveys, undertaken between November 2024 and February 2025, a total of 34 species were identified within the survey area (including the 200m buffer and species flying over Site). Of these, 16 are species of conservation concern, and 11 of which were found to utilise the onsite habitats. The wintering bird assemblage is therefore considered to be of importance at a **Local** level.
- 1.3 The loss of arable fields and scrub habitat under the footprint of the development will see some birds of conservation concern permanently displaced from the Site.
- 1.4 For species that will readily habituate to residential areas and following establishment of new habitat creation, the Site will continue to support most of existing Site's wintering bird assemblage, with the potential to attract new species.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The following report has been prepared by Futures Ecology Ltd. on behalf of Crest Nicholson. It provides the results of Wintering Bird Surveys (WBS) that were undertaken at land south of Pit Lane, Wombwell, Barnsley (grid reference: SE 38710 02811).
- 2.2 The key objectives of the wintering bird surveys undertaken to date are to determine the assemblage of wintering bird species of conservation concern within habitats affected by the proposed scheme for the purposes of assessing ecological impacts.

SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT

- 2.3 The Application Site is approximately 7.70 ha in extent and is made up of three distinct areas: the proposed residential development (c. 7.41 ha), the additional access arrangement land in a land parcel to the north (c. 0.03 ha), and the proposed SUDS pond area (c. 0.26 ha) located in a land parcel to the west. In addition, there will be an area of blueline land approximately 0.65 ha in extent used for biodiversity offsetting. This offsite land surrounds the SUDS pond in a land parcel to the west of the proposed residential development, which will be fenced off to maximise biodiversity value of habitats created. For the purposes of this report, all these areas are referred to as "Site".
- 2.4 The proposed residential development parcel is separated from the additional offsetting land in the west by a footpath that forms part of the Green Way. The residential development is separated from the additional access arrangement land in the north by Pit Lane.
- 2.5 The proposed residential development parcel comprises three parcels of largely arable land with smaller areas of bramble scrub, poor semi-improved grassland, tall ruderal vegetation, native hedgerows and a treeline also present around the field boundaries.
- 2.6 The land in the west comprises a parcel of arable land with smaller areas of semi-natural broadleaved woodland present and hedgerows around the field boundaries.

- 2.7 The additional access arrangement land comprises a hedgerow with associated grassland and adjacent poor semi-improved grassland and hardstanding associated with a storage area and carpark.
- 2.8 The northern Site boundary of the residential development is adjacent to Pit Lane, with further parcels of arable land and woodland beyond that. To the east and south lies the residential area of Wombwell, with Wombwell Football and Cricket Club adjacent to the southern boundary. Broadleaved woodland and further arable field parcels are present to the west, with a railway line running southeast/southwest.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

2.9 Proposals are for a residential development with associated drainage, landscaping and access, as per the Development Framework (Sten Architecture, March 2025, Rev A).

LEGISLATION, PLANNING POLICY AND CONSERVATION STATUS

2.10 This report details the legislative and planning policy context which are of relevance to bird assemblages and the proposed scheme.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- 2.11 Annex I of The European Commission (EC) Birds Directive¹ lists rare and vulnerable wild bird species that are subject to additional conservation measures, including those species which can identify the indication of Special Protection Areas (SPA). Such sites are protected against any activity that could impact upon the qualifying features for which they are designated.
- 2.12 All wild birds, their nests and eggs within the United Kingdom are protected by law under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) (WCA)². Under this piece of legislation, it is an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take a wild bird; intentionally take, damage, or destroy the nest of a wild bird while it is in use or being built; intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.
- 2.13 In addition to that above, species listed under Schedule 1 of the WCA have further protection always afforded to them. The additional protection extends to intentional disturbance whilst building or occupying a nest and disturbance of any young.
- 2.14 Species listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006³ are of principal importance for conserving biodiversity in England.

¹ Williams G, Pullan D, Dickie I, Huggett D, Mitchell H (2005) The European Birds Directive – safeguarding special places for people and wildlife.

² https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69

³ https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/41

PLANNING POLICY

National Planning Policy

- 2.15 The latest National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁴ sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied within the planning system. It provides a framework for local councils to produce local plans and determine planning applications in order to achieve more sustainable developments. In relation to ecology and biodiversity, Chapter 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment, is of relevance to this report.
- 2.16 The Government Circular, Biodiversity and geological conservation: circular 06/2005⁵, defines statutory nature conservation sites and protected species as a material consideration in the planning process.

CONSERVATION STATUS AND OTHER GUIDANCE

Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC, 2021)

- 2.17 The RSBP along with a coalition of UK's leading bird conservation and monitoring organisations review the status of regularly occurring bird species in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. A colour coded list *Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)* (Stanbury *et al.* 2021)⁶ is compiled separating species into either green, amber, or red lists to indicate their increasing level of conservation concern.
 - **Green** Low conservation concern and fulfil none of the criteria for red and amber listed species below.
 - Amber Moderate conservation concern. These are species are those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe. Undergone a historic population decline between 1800-1995 but now recovering; a moderate decline (25-49%) in the UK breeding population in the last 25 years; a moderate decline (25-49%) in UK non-breeding population in the last 25 years; a moderate contraction (25-49%) in UK breeding range; rare breeders (fewer than 300 pairs); rare non-breeders in UK (fewer than 900 individuals); species on European Red List; and those with internationally important or localised populations.
 - Red High conservation concern. Species that are globally threatened according to the IUCN criteria; historical population decline between 1800 and 1995 and without recent recovery; a 50% or more decline in UK population; severe non-breeding population decline (over 50% over 25 years or longer); contraction of UK breeding range (50% or more); contraction of UK non-breeding range (50% or more).

⁴ Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (December 2024). National Planning Policy Framework. London

⁵ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7692/147570.pdf

⁶ Stanbury, A., Eton, M., Aebischer, N., Balmer, D., Brown, A., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D., and Win, I. (2021) The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List Assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. *British Birds* 114: 723-747.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

- 2.18 Within Barnsley all planning decisions are expected to be based on the Barnsley Local Plan (adopted January 2019)⁷, relevant adopted Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) including Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD (adopted March 2024)⁸ and the NPPF, with the key local policies concerned with ecology being:
 - Policy BIO1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity;
 - Policy GI1 Green Infrastructure; &
 - Policy GS1 Green Space.
- 2.19 There are a total of 48 local priority bird species listed within the LBAP, with some examples of relevant species for this Site and survey season being: Lapwing Vanellus vanellus, Linnet Linaria cannabina, Grey partridge Perdix perdix, Skylark Alauda arvensis, Tree sparrow Passer montanus, Yellowhammer Emberiza citrinella, House sparrow Passer domesticus, and Starling Sturnus vulgaris.

3.0 <u>METHODOLOGY</u>

DESK STUDY

- 3.1 Prior to the field survey, aerial photographs and mapping tools were reviewed using online mapping resources at a minimum scale of 1:25,000; Google Maps⁹; and the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)¹⁰ to assess the landscape context of the survey area and surrounding areas.
- 3.2 The MAGIC website¹¹ was used to obtain information about:
 - Statutory designated sites of international, national and local importance relating to designations of ornithological value only.
 - Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) for any relevant Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites.
- 3.3 To support the field survey and compile baseline information of relevance to the Site, ecological information was sought from third party organisations:
 - West Yorkshire Ecology Service (WYES).
 - The *Birdguides*¹² website, for a database of species sightings reported in the UK.
- 3.4 Relevant data requested included records of protected or notable bird species and sites designated for ornithological interest.

⁷ Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Local Plan, Adopted January 2019; <u>Barnsley's Local Plan</u>

⁸ Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Supplementary Planning Document, Biodiversity and Geodiversity, Adopted March 2024; Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD 2024

⁹ www.google.com/maps

¹⁰ www.magic.defra.gov.uk

¹¹ www.magic.defra.gov.uk

¹² https://www.birdguides.com/

- 3.5 The search area for designated sites and protected species is determined by the likely Zone of Influence¹³ and the likely significant affect. The search areas for the various levels of site designation and for protected / notable species is detailed below:
 - Sites of international statutory designation such as Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Sites are searched for within a 10km radius around the application Site.
 - Sites of national or regional importance with a statutory designation of Site of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI) or National Nature Reserve (NNR) within 2km.
 - Sites of local importance with statutory designation of Local Nature Reserve (LNR), or non-statutory designation of Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) or the equivalent Local Wildlife Site (LWS) within 1km.
 - Records of notable / protected species (i.e., including Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) species within 1km.

FIELD SURVEY

Wintering Birds

- 3.6 To inform an evaluation of the onsite habitats for wintering bird species, survey visits were undertaken during the wintering bird season (November 2024 to February 2025). The survey work followed a standard methodology based on the Bird Survey Guidelines (2022)¹⁴.
- 3.7 A transect route was predetermined prior to the survey in order to comprehensively cover all habitats within the Site, in particular focusing on habitats of potential value to birds, whilst also considering the route of least disturbance to potential bird species. The route was walked at a slow pace, stopping to scan priority areas where appropriate. If required, the surveyor stopped or made detours from the predetermined route to observe bird behaviours. Where health and safety reasons deemed a route inaccessible, habitats were viewed from a suitable vantage point.
- 3.8 Four surveys were undertaken in total. The survey start times were varied in order to gain an understanding of the species assemblage utilising the Site throughout different periods in the day.
- 3.9 Equipment utilised included optical RSPB Harrier binoculars 10x42, an optical RSPB Harrier 80mm ED telescope, and a HIKMICRO Falcon FQ25 Pro Handheld Thermal Monocular Telescope.
- 3.10 All surveys were carried out by an Ecologist with suitable survey experience and either holding a Level 6 Ofsted approved certification in Field Ornithology or carrying out training to do so. All surveys were undertaken when conditions were suitable (i.e.,

¹³ The Zone of Influence (ZOI) is defined by CIEEM as being the "area over which ecological features may be affected by biophysical changes as a result of a proposed project and associated activities" CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland. Terrestrial, Freshwater and Marine.

¹⁴ Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group. (2022). Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts, v.1.0.0. https://birdsurveyguidelines.org [Date accessed 1st November 2022]

avoiding heavy rain, strong winds, and poor visibility). Full details are provided within Table 1 below.

Date	Personnel	Sunset / Sunrise	Start / End Time	Tempe rature (°C)	Rain (0-5)	Wind (0-5)	Cloud (%)	Visibility
27/11/2024	T.Stratton Assistant Ecologist	07:55	07:45 – 10:45	1-4	0-0	1-2	90-75	Good throughout
04/12/2024	T. Ord Assistant Ecologist	15:48	15:48 – 17:57	6-7	0-1	2-1	100-100	Good throughout
15/01/2025	T.Stratton Assistant Ecologist	08:15	09:30 / 11:50	- 10	0-0	1 -1	40 - 20	Light, patchy mist at the start, but quickly cleared to very good.
05/02/2025	T.Stratton Assistant Ecologist	07:50	08:00 / 10:20	2 - 6	0 - 0	1 - 1	20 - 50	Clear skies with bright sun, very good visibility.

3.11 The locations and species of birds seen and heard either within the Site or within a 200m buffer of the Site were mapped using standard BTO letter codes¹⁵ and activity symbols.

Survey Limitations

3.12 There were not considered to be any significant constraints to the surveys undertaken.

ASSESSMENT

Importance

- 3.13 The evaluation of the importance of the breeding bird community has been based on Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidance¹⁶. This guidance recommends that valuation is made with reference to a geographical framework given the different communities of birds observed within the Survey Area, based on the data collected during survey. The importance of an ornithological feature is considered in the following geographical context:
 - International (European) A species which is included within the citation of a SPA and regularly occurs in either internationally or nationally important numbers. A species that is present in numbers greater than 1% of the international population.

¹⁵ https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u16/downloads/forms instructions/bto bird species codes.pdf

¹⁶ CIEEM (2019) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.1

- National (United Kingdom) A species which is included within the citation of a SSSI and regularly occurs in either nationally or regionally important numbers. A nationally important assemblage of breeding or over-wintering species. A species that is present in numbers greater than 1% of the national population. Rare breeding species (<300 pairs in the UK).
- Regional (Northern England) Species listed as being of principal importance under the NERC Act (2006), which are not included within the above and regularly occur in regionally important numbers. Species present in numbers greater than 1% of the regional population. Sustainable populations of species that are rare or scarce within the region. Species listed on the BoCC Red List and regularly occur in regionally important numbers.
- County (Yorkshire) Species listed as being of principal importance under the NERC Act (2006), or species listed on the LBAP (at a county level), which are not included within the above and regularly occur in county important numbers. Species present in numbers greater than 1% of the county population. Sustainable populations of species that are rare or scarce within the county.
- Local (Barnsley) All other species listed on the BoCC Red and Amber Lists, species of principal importance under the NERC Act (2006), or species listed on the LBAP (local level), which are not covered by the above and regularly occurring in locally sustainable populations. Sustainable populations of species which are rare or scarce within the locality.

Abundance

3.14 The most recent Yorkshire Bird census (The Yorkshire Bird Report 2018/2019)¹⁷ was consulted to provide information as to how these species are currently represented within the county.

Species Status	Definition
Vagrant	Up to 10 records in total since records began
Rare	0-10 individuals each year in the past 10 years
Scarce	11-100 individuals each year in the past 10 years
Uncommon	101-1000 individuals each year in the past 10 years
Fairly common	More than 1000 records per year
Common	More than 10000 records per year
Abundant	More than 50000 records per year

Table 2: Species County Distribution Status and Definition

¹⁷ G. Dobbs. (2022). Yorkshire Bird Report 2018/2019. Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Birds Section 2022

4.0 <u>RESULTS (BASELINE)</u>

DESK STUDY

4.1 A summary of relevant information provided by third party consultees in relation to ornithological value is provided below. The original data has not been included in this report.

Statutory Designated Sites

- 4.2 There are no statutory designated sites relating to birds within the Site boundary or within 10km of the Site.
- 4.3 Four sites of national importance with a statutory designation relating to birds were located within 2km of the Site boundary. Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI (West) located 1.9km west of the Site boundary, Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI (East) located 1.6km east of the Site boundary, Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI (North) located 0.6km north of the Site boundary and Stairfoot Brickwork SSSI located 1.9km north of the Site boundary. Further information on these SSSIs can be found in Table 3 below.

Site Name	Designation	Proximity to Site (approximate)	Description
Dearne Valley Wetlands	SSSI	1.7km West (W) 1.6km East (E) 0.6km North (N)	The site comprises a network of 22 wetland, scrub and woodland areas that extends through the catchment of the River Dearne. Providing 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.

Table 3: Statutory Designated Sites Relating to Birds.

Protected / Notable Bird Species Records

4.4 Records of protected and notable species provided by desk study consultees are provided in Table 3 below. The species records have been filtered to comprise relevant protected and / or notable bird species within 1km of the survey area from the last 20 years.

Species	Latin	Conservation Status	Total No. of Records	Location / Minimum distance of records from Site centroid (m)	Grid ref. accuracy of nearest record
Barn owl	Tyto alba	BoCC (Green), WCA (Sch 1_part 1; Sch 9_part 1), LBAP	1	509m N	1km
Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	BoCC (Green)	20	78m W	100m
Blackbird	Turdus merula	BoCC (Green)	62	On site	100m
Black-headed gull		BoCC (Amber)	1	631m SW	100m

Table 3: Summary of Relevant Protected Species Records

Species	Latin	Conservation Status	Total No. of Records	Location / Minimum distance of records from Site centroid (m)	Grid ref. accuracy of nearest record
Coal tit	Periparus ater	BoCC (Green)	6	43m S	100m
Common bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	BoCC (Amber), NERC (SPI)	24	On site	100m
Common buzzard	Buteo buteo	BoCC (Green)			100m
Common chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	BoCC (Green)	36	On site	100m
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	BoCC (Amber), NERC (SPI), LBAP	35	On site	100m
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	BoCC (Red), WCA (Sch1_part 1)	2	606m NW	100m
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	BoCC (Green)	1	324m W	100m
Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	BoCC (Green)	46	On site	100m
Grasshopper warbler	Locustella naevia	a BoCC (Red), NERC 1 963m W		963m W	100m
Great spotted woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	BoCC (Green) 11		232m S	1km
Green woodpecker	Picus viridis	BoCC (Green) 7 232m S		1km	
Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	BoCC (Red), LBAP	33	0.4m S	10m
Grey partridge	Perdix perdix	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), LBAP	3	297m NW	100m
Grey wagtail	Motacilla cinerea	BoCC (Amber), LBAP	1	884 NW	1km
Greylag goose	Anser anser	BoCC (Amber), WCA (Sch1_part 2)	2	884m NW	1km
House martin	Delichon urbica	BoCC (Red), LBAP	3	509m NW	1km
House sparrow	Passer domesticus	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), LBAP	30	11m S	100m
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	BoCC (Amber), LBAP	8	134m W	10m
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	BoCC (Green), WCA (Sch 1_part 1) 2 841m SW		100m	
Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), LBAP	13 509m NW		1km
Lesser redpoll	Acanthis cabaret	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	2	2 497m SE	
Linnet	Linaria cannabina	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), LBAP	6	On site	100m

Species	Latin	Conservation Status	Total No. of Records	Location / Minimum distance of records from Site centroid (m)	Grid ref. accuracy of nearest record
Magpie	Pica pica	BoCC (Green)	25	199m S	100m
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	BoCC (Amber)	4	232m S	1km
Meadow pipit	Anthus pratensis	BoCC (Amber) 1 962m W		1km	
Mistle thrush	Turdus viscivorus	BoCC (Red), LBAP 17 On site		100m	
Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	BoCC (Amber)	3	699m SW	100m
Pied wagtail	Motacilla alba	BoCC (Green)	5	232m S	1km
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	BoCC (Amber), WCA (Sch 1_part 1)	4	On site	100m
Reed bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	BoCC (Amber), NERC (SPI)	6	586m NW	100m
Robin	Erithacus rubecula	BoCC (Green) 57 43m SE		100m	
Skylark	Alauda arvensis BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), LBAP		7	225m N	100m
Song thrush	Turdus philomelos	BoCC (Amber), NERC (SPI), LBAP	19	27m W	100m
Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	BoCC (Amber)	BoCC (Amber) 2 100m S		100m
Spotted flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI)	1	583m S	10m
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), LBAP	23	232m S	1km
Stock dove	Columba oenas	BoCC (Amber)	8	509m N	1km
Swallow	Hirundo rustica	BoCC (Green)	5	232m S	1km
Swift	Apus apus	BoCC (Red), LBAP	6	232m SW	1km
Tawny owl	Strix aluco	BoCC (Amber)	2	509m N	1km
Treecreeper	Certhia familiaris	BoCC (Green)	9	232m S	1km
Whitethroat	Sylvia communis	BoCC (Amber)	11	3m W	10m
Willow tit	low tit Poecile montana BoCC (Re		9	509m NW	1km
Willow warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	BoCC (Amber)	BoCC (Amber) 14 On site		100m
Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus	BoCC (Amber)	26 199m S		100m
Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	BoCC (Amber)	31	On site	100m

Species	Latin	Conservation Status	Total No. of Records	Location / Minimum distance of records from Site centroid (m)	Grid ref. accuracy of nearest record
Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	BoCC (Red), NERC (SPI), LBAP	19	On site	100m

Status Key: WCA – The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Regs - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Sch1_part1 – Schedule 1, Part 1. Sch9_part1 – Schedule 9, Part 1. NERC – England Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) Section 41. SPI – Species of Principal Importance. EC Dir. - The Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC). LBAP – Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan. BoCC – Birds of Conservation Concern.

Records from Birdguides:

4.5

A search of the online *Birdguides* database found three bird sites within 2km of the Site: Wombwell (1km east), Jump (1.8km south-east), and Hemingfield (1.9km south). Records for these sites were checked from the last 20 years.

- 29 species records were returned from the Wombwell site: Hawfinch Coccothraustes coccothraustes, Honey Buzzard Pernis apivorus, Swift Apus apus, Short-eared owl Asio flammeus, Quail Coturnix coturnix, Spoonbill Platalea leucorodia, Osprey Pandion haliaetus, Spotted redshank Tringa erythropus, Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus, Icelandic gull Larus glaucoides, Whooper swan Cygnus cygnus, Bar-tailed godwit Limosa lapponica, Wood sandpiper Tringa glareola, Arctic tern Sterna paradisaea, Great egret Ardea alba, Tree pipit Anthus trivialis, Common scoter Melanitta nigra, Pink-footed goose Anser brachyrhynchus, Ring ouzel Turdus torquatus, Pied flycatcher Ficedula hypoleuca, Red knot Calidris canutus, Whinchat Saxicola rubetra, Waxwing Bombycilla garrulus, Redpoll Acanthis flammea, Osprey Pandion haliaetus, Wood sandpiper Tringa glareola, Hobby Falco subbuteo, and Buzzard Buteo buteo,
- No species record was returned from the Jump site.
- 3 species records were returned from the Hemingfield site: Firecrest, Waxwing, Common crane *Grus grus*, and Ring-necked parakeet *Psittacula krameria*.

Wintering Birds 2024/25

- 4.6 A total of 34 species were recorded within the survey area on at least one of the four survey visits. Of the 34 species, 17 notable species appear on one or more of the following, and are thus species of ecological value:
 - Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
 - Species of Principal Importance, Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006.
 - Barnsley's Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) Species.
 - BoCC Red or Amber.
- 4.7 Eleven of these species were recorded within the application Site and ten species were recorded in the offsite 200m buffer. The locations of the habitats that species were recorded in association with is presented on Figure 1.

4.8 Table 4 summarises the 17 birds of ecological value that were observed at least once during the wintering bird surveys, determined by species importance and county abundance. Appendix A describes the total species observations throughout the full survey period.

Species Utilisation of Habitats

4.9 The species of ecological value utilising habitats within the survey area for foraging and roosting were:

Arable Fields and Poor Semi-Improved Grassland

- Black-headed gull
- Common gull
- Fieldfare
- Herring gull
- Red kite

Broadleaved Trees / Scrub

- House sparrow
- Linnet
- Redwing
- Sparrowhawk
- Woodpigeon

Hedgerows

- Dunnock
- House sparrow
- Linnet

Offsite habitats within 200m

- Dunnock
- Fieldfare
- Greylag goose
- House sparrow
- Kestrel
- Mistle thrush
- Redwing

- Starling
- Tawny owl
- Woodpigeon
- Wren

Species Recorded Flying Over

• Greylag goose

Table 4: Wintering Bird Population 2024/25

Common Name	Scientific Name	Species Designations	Peak observations / Number of surveys observed on (out of a total 4)	County abundance (winter) ¹⁸ *	National population (winter) ^{19*}	Percentage of County abundance (Average^ – Peak observations)	Species Value based on utilization of survey area habitats ⁺
Black-headed gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	BoCC Amber	11/1	Abundant	2.2 million	0.052-0.022%	Local
Common gull	Larus canus	BoCC Amber	5/1	Common to Abundant	710k	0.0125-0.05%	Local
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	BoCC Amber, SPI, LBAP	6/2	Common	2.5m territories	0.026-0.06%	Local
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	BoCC Red WCA (Sch1)	18/3	Common	720k	0.18-0.075%	Local
Greylag goose	Anser anser	BoCC Amber WCA (Sch 1, part 2 during close season (Outer Hebrides, Caithness, Sutherland and Wester Ross only))	1/3	Fairly common	230k	0.075-0.3%	Local (offsite)
Herring gull	Larus argentatus	BoCC Red, SPI	6/1	Common	740k	0.0015-0.06%	Local
House sparrow	Passer domesticus	BoCC Red, SPI, LBAP	11/3	Abundant but decreasing	5.3 million pairs	0.016-0.022%	Local
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	BoCC Amber, LBAP	2/1	Fairly common	31k pairs	0.05-0.2%	Local

¹⁸ G. Dobbs. (2022). Yorkshire Bird Report 2018/2019. Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Birds Section 2022

¹⁹ BTO (2022). The British List. BTO. [Online]. Available from: https://www.bto.org/understanding-birds/british-list

Common Name	Scientific Name	Species Designations	Peak observations / Number of surveys observed on (out of a total 4)	County abundance (winter) ¹⁸ *	National population (winter) ^{19*}	Percentage of County abundance (Average^ – Peak observations)	Species Value based on utilization of survey area habitats ⁺
Linnet	Linaria cannabina	BoCC Red, SPI, LBAP	8/1	Common	Common 560k territories 0		Local
Mistle thrush	Turdus viscivorus	BoCC Red, LBAP	1/3	Fairly common 165k territories		0.0075-0.01%	Local (offsite)
Red kite	Milvus milvus	BoCC Green WCA (Sch 1, part 1 and 1a)	1/1	Scarce introduced breeder	4400 pairs	2.5-10%	Local
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	BoCC Amber WCA (Sch1, part 1)	6/3	Common	690k	0.0325-0.06%	Local
Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	BoCC Amber	1/1	Fairly common	31k pairs	0.025-0.1%	Local
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	BoCC Red, SPI LBAP	8/1	Abundant but decreasing	1.8 million pairs	0.004-0.016%	Local (offsite)
Tawny owl	Strix aluco	BoCC Amber	1/1	Fairly common	50k pairs	0.025-0.1%	Local (offsite)
Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus	BoCC Amber	24 / 3	Abundant	5.2 million pairs	0.023 - 0.048	Local
Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	BoCC Amber	5/4	Abundant	11 million territories	0.0065-0.01%	Local

*Unless the species is a resident species which does not experience a change in population throughout the seasons, in which case breeding numbers are provided.

^Average of diurnal species was calculated using the diurnal surveys only, and due to only one nocturnal survey being carried out no average was calculated for the species only recorded on the nocturnal occasion.

+Species value and justification is discussed in Section 6.0 Discussion and Evaluation.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION

WINTERING BIRD ASSEMBLAGE VALUE

- 5.1 The survey area supported a range of wintering bird species typical of the size of the Site / survey area, habitats present and regional location. The surveys recorded a total of 34 species, with 17 being of ecological value determined by species importance and abundance.
- 5.2 Black-headed gull, common gull, herring gull, and red kite were found to utilise the onsite arable fields and grassland for foraging and hunting; whilst dunnock, fieldfare, house sparrow, linnet, redwing, sparrowhawk and woodpigeon were found to utilise the Site's boundary habitats.
- 5.3 Six species were only recorded within the 200m buffer: greylag goose, kestrel, mistle thrush, starling, tawny owl, and wren. For these species, the habitats within the 200m buffer and wider local area provided more suitable habitats rather than those onsite. Offsite habitats in which these species were observed within included broadleaved woodland, dense/continuous scrub, hedgerows, and pastural fields.
- 5.4 Of the total 34 species identified, all but two species were identified as abundant (>50,000 per year), common (>10,000 per year), or fairly common (>1,000) in Yorkshire²⁰: Buzzard (Scarce breeder, migrant and winter visitor) and red kite (Scarce introduced breeder and visitor from introduction schemes). Both of these species were observed foraging onsite, with peak counts of 1 being observed for both species.
- 5.5 Red kite was observed in numbers that were greater than 1% of the reported Yorkshire abundance. This is based on the lowest figure from their reported abundance (an abundance of "Scarce" which ranges between 11 to 100 records per year) and so their true abundance in Yorkshire is likely to be greater than the 11 figure used for these calculations.
- 5.6 It should be noted that this species was reintroduced to the Yorkshire region in 1999 and has seen sustained growth over the past 26 years, with their range covering wider areas of Yorkshire each year. As part of their contribution towards National Red Kite Communal Roost Site census, Yorkshire Red Kites²¹ counted 535 birds over 11 locations within the county in 2024, a figure over 5 times the maximum listed within the Yorkshire Bird Report. Given the count only included birds within communal roosts, it is also reasonable to expect that the true figure to be far than that of 535 and as such, the single red kite observed represents <1% of the county's total abundance.</p>
- 5.7 Due to the recent reintroduction of this species to the county and the fact that is it is a Schedule 1 listed species, red kite is still considered a notable species.
- 5.8 The buzzard population within Yorkshire is currently on an upward trajectory, with the Yorkshire Bird Report highlighting a count of 1081 records from 151 sites in the York area in 2019. As such, the single buzzard observed represents <1% of the county's total

²⁰ G. Dobbs. (2022). Yorkshire Bird Report 2018/2019. Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Birds Section 2022

²¹https://www.yorkshireredkites.net/?fbclid=IwY2xjawIpKaRleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHW7SW68StBYWNxAlvs_AJN8qh5kSgALoRQ3z9OwQfELIXLbk SnZPhCgk3g_aem_GAkyCQq1CtEYw4_zVkFuug

abundance and with it being a widespread, BoCC Green species it has not been considered a notable species within this report.

5.9 The Site is considered to support a wintering bird assemblage of **Local** value.

LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE ASSESSMENT

5.10 Barnsley Natural Heritage Sites, Species Assessment Criteria²² document sets out the criteria for sites' selection as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS). Section 7 states:

"Any site will be considered for selection as a Local Wildlife Site if it:

regularly supports a breeding or wintering population of any bird species that is included in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)(as amended) (any species appearing in Table 3)."

- 5.11 The onsite presence of fieldfare, redwing and red kite means the Site requires further consideration as to whether it would qualify as a LWS.
- 5.12 A single red kite was observed on just one occasion during the survey period and as such the Site is not regularly supporting a population of this species.
- 5.13 Fieldfare and redwing were observed on all three of the diurnal surveys at an average count of 10 and 4 birds being present per diurnal survey respectively. The number of both of these species present is considered low in comparison to traditional overwintering flocks and so the birds utilising the Site aren't considered to make up a significant proportion of the Barnsley population.
- 5.14 Both fieldfare and redwing were also observed utilising the arable fields neighbouring the Site and so those recorded onsite are not considered an isolated population, solely dependent on the onsite habitats.
- 5.15 As a result of the above, whilst qualifying bird species are present onsite, the abundance and distribution of these species are not suitable for the Site to be considered for selection as a LWS.

IMPACTS

- 5.16 Hedgerows H2 and H3 will be lost to facilitate the development, along with the scrub forming sections of the Site's eastern boundary. Partial removal of hedgerow H1 will be required to facilitate Site access and minor gap creation may be required in hedgerow H7 to provide drainage / footpath links with the rest of the development.
- 5.17 The remaining boundary hedgerows, H4, H5 and H6 are retained within the proposals. H4 and H6 will form the boundary of private gardens and H5 will be retained and buffered within Public Open Space (POS).
- 5.18 Dunnock, house sparrow, linnet, and wren were observed utilising hedgerows H2 and H3, and the boundary scrub habitats. Their removal however is not expected to pose a significant impact to these species due to the number of hedgerows being retained. The provision of new landscape buffer planting within the scheme and the enhancement of

²² http://www.barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk/Site%20Assessment%20Criteria%20Species.pdf

the Biodiversity Net Gain land will serve to minimise impacts of these lost hedgerows and as such, these species are not expected to be displaced from Site during construction.

- 5.19 The onsite arable field parcels are set to be lost under the footprint of the development. Black-headed gull, Buzzard, Common gull, Fieldfare, Herring gull, Red Kite, and Woodpigeon were observed foraging within the arable field habitats, and so the loss of these habitats will result in the displacement of seven species from the Site. Woodpigeon will habituate to new residential areas and the creation of new gardens and greenspaces will provide continued and additional foraging and roosting opportunities for these species. As a worst-case scenario, the remaining six species will be displaced from the Site both during construction and operational phases.
- 5.20 Five of these species were also observed within the 200m buffer and so given the availability of nearby suitable habitat adjacent the Site boundary and within the wider local context, the species utilising the Site are likely to form part of an assemblage that also forage in suitable habitats within the local area.
- 5.21 A single sparrowhawk was observed utilising the Site's eastern boundary habitats. Due to the presence of smaller birds within the gardens of properties bordering the Site, it is likely that these boundaries were being used as cover whilst the sparrowhawk used these gardens as a hunting ground. The existing trees along the eastern Site boundary are to be retained and as such, the sparrowhawk's ability to forage in this area is not expected to be affected. The provision of new gardens as part of the development may well see a rise in the number of garden dwelling bird species across the Site, which has the potential to provide further hunting opportunities for sparrowhawk.
- 5.22 The provision of new landscape buffer planting, particularly in the west of the Site, will help to minimise impacts of the development on the wider landscape during the operational phase.

6.0 <u>CONCLUSIONS</u>

- 6.1 The survey area supported a range of wintering bird species typical of the size of the Site / survey area, habitats present and regional location. The surveys recorded a total of 34 bird species, with 17 being of ecological value, 11 of which were being identified as utilising onsite habitats. The Site is considered to support a wintering bird assemblage of **Local** value.
- 6.2 During the construction phase of the development, the Site's species assemblage will be displaced. However, for species that will readily habituate to residential areas and following the establishment of new habitats, the Site will continue to support most of these species, with the potential to attract new species. Due to the loss of arable field habitat, and no like-for-like habitat being provided within the development black-headed gull, buzzard, common gull, fieldfare, herring gull, and red kite in particular may be permanently displaced from the Site.

APPENDIX A: FULL WINTERING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS 2023/24

	Peak observations on each survey occasion					Designa	ations				
Common Name	Scientific Name	27/11/24	04/12/24 Nocturnal	05/01/25	05/02/25	BoCC status	EC Directi ve	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / LBAP	County abundance (winter)	Survey / observation notes
Black- headed gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	2		11		Amber	-	-	-	Abundant	Flying over and foraging within both onsite and offsite arable fields
Blackbird	Turdus merula	5	5	4	4	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Within boundary hedgerows, scrub and, offsite habitats
Blue tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	4	1	8	2	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Within boundary hedgerows, and offsite habitats
Buzzard	Buteo buteo	1				Green	-	-	-	Increasing resident breeder; scarce breeder migrant and winter visitor.	Foraging within both onsite and offsite arable fields
Carrion crow	Corvus corone	10	2	4	10	Green	-	-	-	Fairly common	Sat in trees, both onsite and offsite
Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	1		2		Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Within boundary hedgerows, scrub and offsite habitats
Coal tit	Periparus ater	2		1		Green	-	-	-	Common	Heard and seen within offsite habitats.

1	Peak observations on each survey occasion				Designa	itions					
Common Name	Scientific Name	27/11/24	04/12/24 Nocturnal	05/01/25	05/02/25	BoCC status	EC Directi ve	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / LBAP	County abundance (winter)	Survey / observation notes
Common gull	Larus canus	5	-	-	-	Red	-	-	-	Common	Foraging within onsite habitats
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	-	-	5	6	Amber	-	-	SPI / LBAP	Common	Foraging within both onsite and offsite hedges/scrub
Feral pigeon	Columba livia domesticus	-	-	6	5	Green	-	-	-	Common	Roosting offsite and frequently flying over Site
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	18	-	8	5	Red	-	Yes, Part 1	-	Common	Foraging within both onsite and offsite arable fields
Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	2	-	7	9	Green	-	-	-	Common	Heard and seen flying over onsite and offsite habitats
Great tit	Turdus pilaris	4	-	8	1	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Flying over Site and foraging in offsite habitats
Greylag goose	Anser anser	_	-	-	3	Amber	-	Yes, part 2 during close season (Outer Hebrides, Caithness, Sutherland and Wester Ross only)	-	Fairly common	Observed once foraging in offsite arable field

l		Peak obser	vations on e	ach survey oc	casion	Designa	ations				
Common Name	Scientific Name	27/11/24	04/12/24 Nocturnal	05/01/25	05/02/25	BoCC status	EC Directi ve	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / LBAP	County abundance (winter)	Survey / observation notes
Herring gull	Larus argentatus	6	-	-	-	Red	-	-	-	Common	Foraging onsite
House sparrow	Passer domesticus	6	-	7	11	Red	-	-	LBAP	Abundant	Seen and heard in offsite residential gardens, and foraging in onsite hedgerows/scrub
Jackdaw	Coloeus monedula	9	-	1	4	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Within boundary fields, hedgerows and offsite habitats
Jay	Garrulus glandarius	2	-	2	1	Green	-	-	-	Fairly common	Heard calling and seen flying through offsite woodland
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	2		-	-	Amber	-	-	LBAP	Fairly common	Flying over Site, seen foraging within bordering pastural field
Linnet	Linaria cannabina	8	-	-	-	Red	-	-	SPI / LBAP	Common	Flew over Site to the north
Long- tailed tit	Aegithalos caudatus	6	-	5	-	Green	-	-	-	Common	Flying over Site and seen foraging within onsite and offsite scrub
Magpie	Pica pica	4	2	6	5	Green	-	-	-	Common	Within garden adjacent to the east of Site and foraging within onsite fields
Mistle thrush	Turdus viscivorus	1	-	1	1	Red	-	-	LBAP	Abundant	Calling from offsite woodland
Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	2	-	-	3	N/A	-	-	-	N/A	Seen within offsite fields
Pied wagtail	Motacilla alba	4	-	-	1	Green	-	-	-	Common	Perched within onsite scrub and flying over offsite habitats

I	Peak observations on each survey occasion					Designa	ations				
Common Name	Scientific Name	27/11/24	04/12/24 Nocturnal	05/01/25	05/02/25	BoCC status	EC Directi ve	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / LBAP	County abundance (winter)	Survey / observation notes
Red kite	Milvus milvus	1	-	-	-	Green	Yes	-	Yes, part 1 and 1a	Scarce introduced breeder and visitor from introductio n schemes.	Foraging in onsite fields
Red- legged partridge	Alectoris rufa	4	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	Common	Seen within offsite habitats
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	6	-	6	1	Amber	-	Yes, part 1	-	Common	Foraging within both onsite and offsite improved grassland fields. Group of six observed in onsite tree
Robin	Erithacus rubecula	5	6	8	4	Green	-	-	-	Abundant	Heard or seen within offsite habitats to the north and along onsite hedgerows
Sparrowh awk	Accipiter nisus	-	-	1	-	Amber	-	-	-	Fairly common	Flying between onsite trees within Site's eastern boundary
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	8	-	-	-	Red	-	-	SPI	Abundant	Observed flying over site and within residential area to the east
Tawny Owl	Strix aluco	-	1	-	-	Amber	-	-	-	Fairly common	Heard calling from woodland to the west

h		Peak observations on each survey occasion				Designa	tions				
Common Name	Scientific Name	27/11/24	04/12/24 Nocturnal	05/01/25	05/02/25	BoCC status	EC Directi ve	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / LBAP	County abundance (winter)	Survey / observation notes
Woodpig eon	Columba palumbus	24	-	7	2	Amber	-	-	-	Abundant	Foraging on and off Site
Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	4	2	5	2	Amber	-	-	-	Abundant	Within scrub and woodland to the west of the site

+ Where species were observed in flocks, or obscured by habitat but could be heard, a minimum count of the species is recorded.





Carrwood Park, Swillington Common Farm, Selby Road, Leeds, LS15 4LG Telephone: 01133 372185

Unit 9, The Tangent Business Hub, Weighbridge Road, Shirebrook, Mansfield, Derbyshire, NG20 8RX Telephone: 01623 749709

Key				
Site Bo	undary	К.)	Ke	estrel
	Red Line	< <u>.</u>	Li	nnet
	Blue Line	M .>	M	istle thrush
1	200m Buffer	×	Re	ed kite
Вн	Black-headed gull	RE	Re	edwing
S	Common gull	SH	Sp	parrowhawk
D.	Dunnock	\$ \$	St	arling
FF	Fieldfare	T ₀	Та	wny owl
GJ	Greylag goose	We	W	'oodpigeon
HG	Herring gull	WR	W	/ren
H	House sparrow			
	Hardstanding	VVV	¥	Intact hedge - native species-rich
Α	Cultivated/disturbed land - arable	_	-	Defunct hedge - species-poor
SI	Poor semi-improved grassland	++	*	Hedges: Introduced shrub
	Other tall herb and fern - ruderal	••	•	Broadleaved trees
\otimes	Scrub - dense/continuous	-	-	Dry ditch
	Broadleaved woodland	C		Broadleaved tree
•	Bare ground	×		Scrub - scattered

C:\Users\kate.haymes\OneDrive - Futures Ecology Ltd\Projects\FE302 Pit Lane, Wombwell\QGIS\1_Plans\FE302_BBS and WBS Plan.qgz Copyright © Futures Ecology No dimensions are to be scaled from this drawing. All dimensions must be checked on site. Any measurements are for indicative pusposes. This drawing may contain: © OpenStreetMap contributor or Map data © 2019 Google