



# Results of Breeding Bird Surveys 2025

**Barugh Green**

**Avant Homes Limited**

Prepared by:

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SLR Project No.: 410.067073.00001

1 July 2025

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## Revision Record

Revision	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Authorised By
01	1 July 2025	Charlotte Baldwin	Gary Oliver	Gary Oliver

## Basis of Report

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## 1.0 Introduction

SLR Consulting Limited (SLR) was instructed by Avant Homes Limited to undertake breeding bird surveys on an approximately 4.82 ha Site to the south of Barugh Green Road, Barugh Green, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S75 1HR (approximate central Ordnance Survey Grid Reference (OSGR): SE 31821 07826), to inform a planning application for a 155-unit residential development with associated landscaping (see Appendix A).

### 1.1 Background

The Site has previously been subject to a habitat mapping survey and desk study, the results of which were presented in an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) submitted in January 2025<sup>1</sup>. This assessment identified that, while most of the Site comprises heavily grazed pasture of limited value to ground-nesting birds, the hedgerows and field boundaries offer suitable nesting habitat for a range of common and priority bird species. A review of local biological records also highlighted the presence of several red and amber list species within 2km of the Site, including skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), linnet (*Linaria cannabina*), and yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*).

In response to subsequent comments from the Local Planning Authority (LPA), which sought a more robust assessment of the Site's use by breeding birds, particularly priority farmland species such as linnet and yellowhammer, additional breeding bird surveys were completed in June 2025 to inform the ongoing ecological appraisal.

### 1.2 Site Description

The application site (herein referred to as the 'Site') is comprised of one large field. Hedgerows are present on the western and northern boundaries and a hedgerow bisects the Site from east to west. A ditch is present on the northern boundary associated with the hedgerow.

The Site is located to the north-west of the town of Barnsley. Immediately to the north of the Site and north of Barugh Green Road is an industrial estate, while a residential development is present immediately to the east of the Site. Further arable and pastureland is present to the west and the south.

### 1.3 Scope of Study

A series of two breeding bird surveys were undertaken in June 2025, within the core breeding season of the target species, principally skylark, linnet and yellowhammer.

### 1.4 Evidence of Technical Competence and Experience

The surveys were undertaken by Project Ecologist, Ms Charlotte Baldwin and Mr Peter Wigglesworth. Charlotte and Peter are both competent ornithologists, able to identify birds by sight and song/ call.

The report was also authored by Charlotte whilst a technical review was conducted by Mr Gary Oliver MCIEEM, who is a Principal Ecologist with SLR Consulting, with over 29 years' relevant experience.

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<sup>1</sup> SLR (2025) Barugh Green: Ecological Impact Assessment, Project Number: 410.065596.00001



## 1.5 Nomenclature and Relevant Legislation and Policy

The phylogenetic order and nomenclature throughout this report follows The British List (10<sup>th</sup> Edition)<sup>2</sup>, updated by the British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) Records Committee. A full list of the species referred to in this report, including scientific names, is provided in Appendix B.

Relevant legislation is found in Appendix C.

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<sup>2</sup> British Ornithologists' Union. 2022. The British List: A Checklist of Birds of Britain (10th edition), Ibis 164: pp.860 – 910.



## 2.0 Methodology

### 2.1 Desk Study

An ecological data search was requested from Barnsley Biological Records Centre (BBRC) in September 2024, providing records of protected and otherwise notable bird species for the Site, and land within a 2km radius of its centre.

### 2.2 Field Survey

Breeding bird surveys followed the methodology described by the Bird Survey Guidelines<sup>3</sup>, which involved the surveyor walking a transect at a slow, steady pace, ensuring that all land within the Site was covered. The survey area was extended such that birds recorded within a 100m buffer of the Site boundary were also recorded.

Two survey visits were completed on the following dates:

- Visit 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 (04.32 – 05.34 hours); and
- Visit 2 – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (04.38 – 05.50 hours).

The dates, times and corresponding weather conditions for each survey are provided in Appendix D. Surveys were undertaken in suitable weather conditions, avoiding heavy rain, strong winds (Beaufort force >5) and low visibility (e.g. fog).

All surveys were conducted in the early morning within the window of half an hour before sunrise and 10-11am. The direction that the survey transect route was walked was varied between visits to ensure different parts of the survey area were accessed at different times.

The methods used aimed to measure in what way the survey area is important for avian diversity and which species may be breeding. The breeding status was determined using the BTO criteria<sup>4</sup> as detailed in Table 2-1.

**Table 2-1 BTO breeding bird status criteria**

Breeding Status	Evidence criteria
Confirmed breeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distraction display or injury feigning.</li> <li>• Used nests or eggshells found (occupied or laid within the survey period).</li> <li>• Recently fledged young or downy young.</li> <li>• Adults entering or leaving a nest site in circumstances indicating occupation.</li> <li>• Nest or an adult sitting on nest.</li> <li>• Adults carrying food for young or faecal sacs.</li> <li>• Nest containing eggs.</li> <li>• Nest with young seen or heard.</li> </ul>
Probable breeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pairs observed in suitable nesting habitat in the breeding season.</li> <li>• Permanent territory presumed through registration or territorial behaviour (song etc.) on at least two different days, a survey apart, at the same place.</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> Bird Survey and Assessment Steering Group. 2023. Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts, v.1.1.0. <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/birdatlas/methods/breeding-evidence>



Breeding Status	Evidence criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Display and courtship.</li><li>• Visiting probable nest site.</li><li>• Agitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults.</li><li>• Building nest or excavating nest hole.</li></ul>
Possible breeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Species observed in breeding season in possible nesting habitat.</li><li>• Singing male(s) present or breeding calls heard in breeding season.</li></ul>
Non-breeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flying over.</li><li>• Species observed but suspected to be still on migration.</li><li>• Species observed but suspected to be summering non-breeder.</li></ul>



## 3.0 Results

### 3.1 Desk Study

Records were returned by BBRC for 65 species of birds within 2km of the centre of the Site, although none pertained to the Site itself.

These records included:

- 18 red list species, including curlew (*Numenius arquata*), fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*), grey partridge (*Perdix perdix*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), redpoll (*Acanthis cabaret*), linnet, mistle thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*), skylark, and yellowhammer.
- 33 amber list species, including black-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*), bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), common gull (*Larus canus*), and dunnock (*Prunella modularis*).

### 3.2 Field Survey

#### 3.2.1.1 Breeding Bird Surveys

During the 2025 field surveys only seven bird species were recorded, of which three were considered to probably be breeding on Site, and four to be possibly breeding.

Table 3-1 summarises the observations for each species, their abundance, and their breeding status.

No ground-nesting species, including skylark, were recorded during either survey, and similarly no linnet or yellowhammer were recorded, despite the surveys being conducted in the peak breeding bird survey window.

**Table 3-1. Summary of species observations and breeding status 2025**

Species	Number of Birds		Breeding status within survey area
	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	
Blackbird ( <i>Turdus merula</i> )	3	2	Probable
Chiffchaff ( <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> )	1	1	Possible
Dunnock	-	2	Possible
House sparrow	2	-	Possible
Robin ( <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> )	4	1	Probable
Woodpigeon ( <i>Columba palumbus</i> )	-	3	Possible
Wren ( <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> )	3	3	Probable



## 4.0 Summary

### 4.1 Legal and Conservation Status of Species Recorded

Table 4-1 provides a summary of the species recorded during the baseline surveys, their activity within the survey area, as well as their legal and conservation status.

**Table 4-1. Summary of species recorded and their legal/conservation status**

Target species	Legal and conservation status				UK Breeding Population and UK Breeding Population Change <sup>5</sup>	Summary of observations within the survey area	Peak Count <sup>6</sup>	Breeding Status Within Survey Area
	BoCC	Annex I	Sch. 1	Sec. 41				
Blackbird	Green	-	-	-	5.1 million pairs (2016) 19% decrease (1967-2022)	Pairs were observed on both survey visits, and anxiety/ alarm calls were noted during one visit.	3	Probable
Chiffchaff	Green	-	-	-	1.8 million territories (2016) 158% increase (1967-2022)	One bird was recorded singing in the northern hedgerow on both visits.	1	Possible
Dunnock	Amber	-	-	Yes	2.5 million territories (2016) 40% decrease (1967-2022)	Birds were recorded singing from the northern and southern hedgerows on Site during one survey visit.	2	Possible

<sup>5</sup> BTO (2025) BirdFacts: profiles of birds occurring in the United Kingdom. (<https://www.bto.org/birdfacts>)

<sup>6</sup> The total number of individual birds recorded during a single survey, taken from the survey with the highest value.



Target species	Legal and conservation status				UK Breeding Population and UK Breeding Population Change <sup>5</sup>	Summary of observations within the survey area	Peak Count <sup>6</sup>	Breeding Status Within Survey Area
	BoCC	Annex I	Sch. 1	Sec. 41				
House sparrow	Red	-	-	Yes	5.3 million pairs (2016) 7% decrease (1967-2022)	Birds were recorded singing from the Site's eastern hedgerow on one visit.	2	Possible
Robin	Green	-	-	-	7.4 million territories (2016) 49% increase (1967-2022)	Two pairs were observed during one visit, and one bird was observed singing just off Site on one visit.	4	Probable
Woodpigeon	Amber	-	-	-	5.2 million pairs (2016) 152% increase (1967-2022)	Three individuals were seen to be loafing/ resting to the south of Site during one visit.	3	Possible
Wren	Amber	-	-	-	1.1 million territories (2016) 107% increase (1967-2022)	Birds were recorded singing from the western hedgerow on Site during all survey visits.	3	Probable



## 5.0 Conclusion

The breeding bird assemblage recorded during the June 2025 surveys was of low diversity, with only seven species confirmed as present within the Site. The assemblage is characteristic of farmland on the urban fringe, with activity primarily concentrated around boundary hedgerows. No bird activity was recorded within the central areas of the field, which comprised heavily grazed, improved pasture with low structural diversity, which is considered of limited suitability for ground-nesting birds, and indeed no ground-nesting species were recorded during either survey visit.

Notably, linnets and yellowhammers which were specifically referenced by the local planning authority as potential species of concern, were not recorded during either survey visit.

Based on these findings, the breeding bird interest of the Site is considered to be of less than local importance.





# Appendix A Landscape Plan

## Results of Results of Breeding Bird Surveys 2025

Barugh Green

Avant Homes Limited

SLR Project No.: 410.067073.00001

1 July 2025



4582, Barugh Green, Barnsley		BNG calculation
Proposed Native Trees (POS Area)	18 nr	
Proposed Large Native Trees (POS Area)	43 nr	
Proposed Medium Native Trees	50 nr	
Proposed Small Native Trees	70 nr	
Proposed Ornamental Shrubs (Front gardens excluded)	920 m2	
Proposed Native shrub mix	948 m2	
Proposed Native Formal Hedge (Front gardens excluded)	670 lin. m.	
Proposed Native Hedgerow Mix	198 lin. m.	
Amenity Grass(POS)	2094 m2	
Amenity Grass(Front garden)	1655 m2	
Proposed Wildflower Meadow	860 m2	
Proposed Wildflower Meadow(wetland)	1525 m2	
Proposed Blubs (Native)	75 m2	
Proposed Wet-Tolerant Grassland	2237 m2	
Back Garden	9242 m2	
Existing hedges to be retained (Northern)	64 lin. m.	
Existing hedges to be retained (North-western)	37 lin. m.	
Existing hedges to be retained (Western)	137 lin. m.	

- LEGEND**
- SOFT LANDSCAPE**
- Trees and Hedgerows to be Retained
  - Trees and Hedgerows to be Removed
  - Proposed POS Native Tree**  
Trees to be planted as 18-20cm girth, Semi-mature, min 6m high, to be staked and secured with suitable rubber ties.
  - Proposed Large Native Tree**  
Trees to be planted as 12-14cm girth, Heavy Standard, 3-4m high, to be staked and secured with suitable rubber ties.
  - Proposed Medium Native Tree**  
Trees to be planted as 12-14cm girth, Heavy Standard, 3-4m high, to be staked and secured with suitable rubber ties.
  - Proposed Small Native Tree**  
Trees to be planted as 10-12cm girth or 50L pots, 2-3m high and secured with single stake and suitable rubber ties.
  - Proposed Native Hedge**  
80-100cm, BR stock, planted as a double staggered row at 300mm centres
  - Proposed Native Formal Hedge**  
Evergreen hedge to be planted at 60-80cm, 5L pots, at 5 per lin.m. Species: *Carpinus betulus*
  - Proposed Native Buffer Planting**  
Native shrubs to be 60-90cm height in groups of 3 or 5 protected by tubex or spiral guard. Shrubs species should include a mix of native species which provide berries, fruits and flowers to attract a range of species such as bats, birds and invertebrates.
  - Proposed Ornamental Planting**  
Mixed shrub and herbaceous planting, 3-5L pots with 10-15L specimens. Planting beds to receive 75mm depth ornamental bark mulch.
  - Proposed Wildflower Meadow**  
To be Emorsgate EM2 Standard General Purpose Meadow Mix, supplied by Emorsgate or similar approved. Including 80% or ornamental grasses and 20% of wildflowers Sowing rate 4/gm2.
  - Proposed Wet-Tolerant Grassland**  
To be Emorsgate EP1 Pond Edge Mixture, supplied by Emorsgate or similar approved. Including 20% native wild flowers and 80% slow growing grasses. Sowing rate 4/gm2.
  - Proposed Wildflower Meadow for Wetlands**  
To be Emorsgate EM8 Meadow Mixture for Wetlands, supplied by Emorsgate or similar approved. Including 80% or ornamental grasses and 20% of wildflowers Sowing rate 4/gm2.
  - Proposed Bulb Planting**
  - Proposed Maintained POS Grass**  
To be Emorsgate EL1 Flowering Lawn Mix or similar approved. Including 20% wild flowers and 80% meadow grasses. Sowing rate 4/gm2.
  - Proposed Amenity Grass**  
Front gardens to client specification.
  - Proposed Amenity Grass**  
Back gardens to client specification.
- HARD LANDSCAPE**
- Proposed Gravel
  - Proposed Footpath
- FURNITURE**
- Proposed Timber Bench
- BOUNDARY TREATMENTS**
- Proposed Knee Rail 0.45m high

**REVISION NOTES**

Rev	By	Description	Date
F	RN	Updated in line with latest Arc Layout	31.01.25
E	EO	Updated in line with comments	14.01.25
D	EO	Minor amendments	13.01.25
C	EO	Updated in line with comments	08.01.25
B	EO	Minor amendments	07.01.25
A	EO	BNG calculations updated	06.01.25

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  - The insertion of any firm or proprietary brand on this drawing is an indication of the class or quality required and does not exclude the use of alternative materials that are equal in performance, quality and appearance, provided that they have been approved in writing by the Landscape Architect.
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  - All dimensions are in millimetres unless stated otherwise, for the purposes of construction this drawing must not be scaled and only written dimensions used. Written and scaled dimensions to be checked on site, any discrepancies reported prior to work commencing. IF IN DOUBT PLEASE ASK.
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  - All Proprietary products are to be used strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and details.

Client  
**Avant Homes**

Project  
**Barugh Green, Barnsley**

Description  
**Landscape Masterplan**

Status  
**For Approval**

Scale @ A1 <b>1:500</b>	Drawn <b>EO/RN</b>	Checked <b>KP</b>	Date <b>20.12.24</b>
Job number <b>4582</b>	Drawing number <b>101</b>	Revision <b>F</b>	



# Appendix B Full Bird Species List

## Results of Results of Breeding Bird Surveys 2025

Barugh Green

Avant Homes Limited

SLR Project No.: 410.067073.00001

1 July 2025

**Table 5-1. English and Latin names of bird species mentioned in the report**

English Name	BTO Code	Latin Name
Woodpigeon	WP	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Lapwing	L.	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Curlew	CU	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Black-headed Gull	BH	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
Common Gull	CM	<i>Larus canus</i>
Skylark	S.	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Chiffchaff	CC	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Wren	WR	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Redwing	RE	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
Mistle Thrust	M.	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Blackbird	B.	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Fieldfare	FF	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
Robin	R.	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Grey partridge	P.	<i>Perdix perdix</i>
House Sparrow	HS	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Dunnock	D.	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
Bullfinch	BF	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
Linnet	LI	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>
Redpoll	RD	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>
Yellowhammer	Y.	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>





# Appendix C Relevant Legislation

## Results of Results of Breeding Bird Surveys 20255

### Barugh Green

Avant Homes Limited

SLR Project No.: 410.067073.00001

1 July 20255

## C.1 Relevant legislation and information regarding conservation status

### C.1.1 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Section 1, Part I of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) makes it an offence (with certain limited exceptions and in the absence of a licence) to **intentionally**:

- Kill, injure, or take any wild bird.
- Damage, take or destroy its nest while that nest is in use or being built.
- Take or destroy its eggs.

A person shall also be guilty of an offence if they possess or control any live or dead wild bird or any part of, or anything derived, from such a bird, or an egg of a wild bird or any part of such an egg.

Further, the Act affords additional protection to species listed in Schedule 1 (Sch. 1) of the Act. It is an offence **intentionally or recklessly** to:

- Disturb a bird listed on Sch. 1 while it is nest building, or at a nest containing eggs or young.
- Disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

### C.1.2 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

The NERC Act came into force on 1st October 2006. Section 41 (Sec. 41) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity in England. The list has been drawn up in consultation with Natural England, as required by the Act. The Sec. 41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.

#### Species of Principal Importance

There are 943 species of principal importance included on the Sec. 41 list, including a number of bird species. These are the species found in England which were identified as requiring action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and which continue to be regarded as conservation priorities under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. In addition, hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* has also been included on the list because it was deemed that without continued conservation action it is unlikely that the hen harrier population will increase from its current very low levels in England. In accordance with Section 41(4) the Secretary of State will, in consultation with Natural England, keep this list under review and will publish a revised list if necessary.

### C.1.3 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019<sup>7</sup>, require the Secretary of State to secure compliance with the requirements of the Nature Directives<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2019/579/contents/made>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-habitats-regulations-2017/changes-to-the-habitats-regulations-2017#amending-annexes-and-schedules>



The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and the Wild Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) are known as the Nature Directives. Annex I of the Birds Directive is a list of threatened bird species for which Special Protection Areas (SPAs) must be classified.

Any new powers in the 2019 Regulations must be exercised in line with the Directives and retained EU case law up to 1 January 2021. Under the 2019 Regulations, if any technical and scientific progress is made, the appropriate authority may amend the schedules to the Regulations, and the list of those habitats and species in the annexes to the EU Directives, which apply to the UK. It is anticipated that changes will be rare but could, for example, include additions of new species in response to climate change or their successful reintroduction into Great Britain.

### C.1.4 Birds of Conservation Concern

The Birds of Conservation Concern<sup>9</sup> is a list of avian species found in the UK, Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man. The programme uses a set of standardised criteria to allocate species to either the red, amber, or green list depending on their level of conservation concern. Species in the red list are of highest conservation priority, followed by species on the amber, and then green list. The criteria for each category are detailed in **Error! Reference source not found.**

**Table 5-2: BoCC criteria**

Red criteria	Amber criteria
Species that are globally threatened according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria.	Species of European Conservation Concern.
Species with an historical decline in breeding population which have not shown a substantial recent recovery.	Species whose population has declined historically but which have made a substantial recent recovery.
Species that have shown a severe breeding decline over the last 25 years or longer term.	Species whose breeding population has declined moderately over the last 25 years or longer term.
Species that have shown a severe breeding range decline over the last 25 years or longer term.	Species that have shown a moderate breeding range decline over the last 25 years or longer term.
Species whose non-breeding population has declined over the last 25 years or longer term.	Species whose non-breeding population has declined moderately over the last 25 years or longer term.
	Rare breeders or non-breeding rarity species with internationally important or localised populations.
Green list criteria	
Species that fulfil none of the Red or Amber criteria detailed above at the publication of the most recent edition of BoCC, currently 2021.	

<sup>9</sup> Stanbury, A., Eaton, 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. Available online at <https://britishbirds.co.uk/content/status-our-bird-populations>.





# Appendix D Survey Metadata

## Results of Results of Breeding Bird Surveys 2025

Barugh Green

Avant Homes Limited

SLR Project No.: 410.067073.00001

1 July 20255

**Table 5-3. The Dates, Times, and Corresponding Weather Conditions for the Suite of 2025 Breeding Bird Surveys**

Survey Date	Surveyor <sup>10</sup>	Start Time	End Time	Sunrise	Weather Conditions (Survey Start – Survey End)				
					Temperature (°C)	Precipitation <sup>11</sup>	Wind Speed (Beaufort <sup>12</sup> )	Wind Direction	Cloud Cover (Oktas)
02/06/2025	PW	04:32	05:34	04:42	11	2	5	SW – W	8
26/06/2025	CB	04:38	05:50	04:38	15	0	3	SSW	8

<sup>10</sup> PW: Peter Wigglesworth, CB: Charlotte Baldwin

<sup>11</sup> None: 0, Drizzle: 1, Light Rain: 2, Moderate Rain: 3, Heavy Rain: 4.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/guides/coast-and-sea/beaufort-scale>



