



**FUTURES** ECOLOGY

Crest Nicholson

**Pit Lane, Wombwell**

**BREEDING BIRD SURVEY REPORT**

Report Reference Number: FE302/BBR01

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The following report has been prepared by Futures Ecology Ltd. on behalf of Crest Nicholson. It provides the results of Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) that were undertaken at Pit Lane, Wombwell, Barnsley (central grid reference: SE 38710 02811).
- 1.2 The key objectives of the breeding bird surveys undertaken to date are to determine the presence or absence of breeding bird species of conservation concern within habitats affected by the proposed scheme for the purposes of assessing ecological impacts.

## **SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT**

- 1.3 The 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'.
- 1.4 The proposed residential development parcel is separated from the additional offsetting land in the west by a footpath/track that forms part of the Green Way. The residential development is separated from the additional access arrangement land in the north by Pit Lane.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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.**

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

## **2.0 LEGISLATION, PLANNING POLICY AND CONSERVATION STATUS**

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

### **RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

2.2 Annex I of The European Commission (EC) Birds Directive<sup>1</sup> 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.

2.3 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)<sup>2</sup>. 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.

2.4 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.

2.5 Species listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006<sup>3</sup> are of principal importance for conserving biodiversity in England.

### **PLANNING POLICY**

#### **National Planning Policy**

2.6 The latest National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>4</sup> 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.

2.7 The Government Circular, Biodiversity and geological conservation: circular 06/2005<sup>5</sup>, defines statutory nature conservation sites and protected species as a material consideration in the planning process.

#### **Local Planning Policy**

2.8 Within Barnsley all planning decisions are expected to be based on the Barnsley Local Plan (adopted January 2019),<sup>6</sup> relevant adopted Supplementary Planning Documents

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (February 2025). National Planning Policy Framework. London

<sup>5</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/7692/147570.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7692/147570.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Local Plan, Adopted January 2019. Available from: <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/17249/local-plan-adopted.pdf> [Access August 2025].

(SPDs) including Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD (adopted March 2024)<sup>7</sup> and the NPPF<sup>8</sup>, with the key local policies concerned with ecology being:

- Policy BIO1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity.
- Policy GI1 Green Infrastructure.
- Policy GS1 Green Space.

## CONSERVATION STATUS AND OTHER GUIDANCE

### Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC, 2021)

2.9 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)<sup>9</sup> 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).

### Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

2.10 Local BAPs are a key element for securing the requirements of the NPPF<sup>10</sup> at a local level, consequently this assessment has taken due consideration of the priority habitats and species within the Barnsley Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BBAP)<sup>11</sup>.

2.11 There are nine species with specific action plans, being: grey partridge *Perdix perdix*, bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, little ringed plover *Charadrius dubius*,

<sup>7</sup> Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Supplementary Planning Document, Biodiversity and Geodiversity, Adopted March 2024. Available from: <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/ugcn3wiv/biodiversity-and-geodiversity-spd-2024.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (February 2025). National Planning Policy Framework. London

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (February 2025). National Planning Policy Framework. London

<sup>11</sup> Barnsley Biodiversity Trust, 2010. Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Available from: <http://www.barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk/Barnsley%20BAP%2011%20adopted%202010.pdf> [Accessed August 2025].

lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, barn owl *Tyto alba*, skylark *Alauda arvensis*, tree sparrow *Passer montanus*, and twite *Linaria flavirostris*. There is also reference to important breeding bird assemblages within specific habitat action plans, such as redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*, wood warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* and pied flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* within upland oakwood.

### 3.0 **METHODOLOGY**

#### **DESK STUDY**

- 3.1 Relevant data requested from Barnsley Biological Records Centre (BBRC) included records of birds. Details of which can be found in the Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA), Futures Ecology, May 2025, Ref: FE302/EclA01.
- 3.2 To support the field survey and compile baseline information of relevance to the site, additional ecological information was sought from third party organisations:
  - The *Birdguides*<sup>12</sup> website, for a database of species sightings reported in the UK.

#### **FIELD SURVEY**

##### **Breeding Birds**

- 3.3 To inform an evaluation of the onsite habitats for breeding bird species, survey visits were undertaken during the breeding bird season (late March to early July). The survey work followed a standard methodology based on the Bird Survey Guidelines (2022)<sup>13</sup>.
- 3.4 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. Where health and safety reasons deemed a route inaccessible, habitats were viewed from a suitable vantage point.
- 3.5 Seven surveys were undertaken, with a total of five at dawn and two at dusk. The dawn surveys commenced between 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunrise and lasted at least one hour (dependent on activity levels observed whilst on site). The dusk surveys collectively covered the period prior to sunset and extending beyond sunset at least one hour.
- 3.6 Equipment utilised included optical RSPB Harrier binoculars 10x42, an optical RSPB Harrier 80mm ED telescope, and a HIKMICRO Lynx L15 Handheld Thermal Monocular Telescope.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.birdguides.com/>

<sup>13</sup> Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group. (2022). Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts, v.1.0.0. <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org> [Date accessed 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022]

- 3.7 All surveys were carried out by suitably experienced ecologists. All surveys were undertaken when conditions were suitable (i.e., avoiding heavy rain, strong winds, and poor visibility). Full details are provided within Table 1 below.
- 3.8 T. Ord has over 3 years' experience of conducting and leading field surveys for protected species across a wide range of sites and is currently undergoing training towards achieving a Level 6 Ofsted approved certification in Field Ornithology. P. Derbyshire has over 20 years' experience in ecological consultancy, specialising in bird surveys. E. Padmore has over 5 years' experience of conducting and leading field surveys for protected species across a wide range of sites and holds a Level 6 Ofsted approved certifications in Field Ornithology. S. Simcock has over 4 years' combined experience of conducting and leading ornithological surveys in both an ecological consultancy and voluntary capacity. A. Christmas BA (Hons), PhD has 1 years' experience of conducting and leading field surveys for protected species across a wide range of sites.

**Table 1: Breeding Bird Survey Dates and Weather Conditions**

Date	Personnel	Sunset / Sunrise	Start – End Time	Temperature (°C)	Rain (0-5)	Wind (0-5)	Cloud %
19/03/2025	T. Ord	06:07	06:03 – 07:51	-1 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	50 / 10
15/04/2025	P. Derbyshire	20:07	17:10 – 20:40	13 / 12	0 / 3	1 / 1	100 / 100
13/05/2025	E. Padmore	05:08	05:30 – 08:00	9 / 11	0 / 0	0 / 1	0 / 20
04/06/2025	S. Simcock	04:41	05:10 – 07:45	9 / 12	0 / 0	1 / 2	100 / 80
10/06/2025	A. Christmas	21:33	21:30 – 23:30	16 / 11	0 / 0	0 / 0	20 / 15
18/06/2025	S. Simcock	04:36	04:45 – 08:00	14 / 17	0 / 0	1 / 1	20 / 30
14/07/2025	S. Simcock	04:55	05:20 – 08:00	17 / 18	0 / 0	1 / 1	100 / 80

- 3.9 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 codes<sup>14</sup> and activity symbols. Where breeding activity was observed this was recorded in accordance with the following categories (based on the criteria proposed by the European Ornithological Atlas Committee<sup>15</sup>):
- Non-breeder (NB) – Bird observed flying over (in migration or a summering non-breeder) or in non-suitable breeding habitat.
  - Possible breeder (Po) – Adult species observed in suitable breeding habitat on multiple occasions, but no evidence of breeding observed.
  - Probable breeder (Pr) – A pair observed in suitable habitat; territorial behaviour observed in the same place on at least two separate occasions, or by many individuals

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u16/downloads/forms\\_instructions/bto\\_bird\\_species\\_codes.pdf](https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u16/downloads/forms_instructions/bto_bird_species_codes.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> European Ornithological Atlas Committee (1979). *Categories of Breeding Bird Evidence*. European Ornithological Atlas Committee.

simultaneously on one day; or birds observed visiting a probably nest site, showing courtship or display behaviour in suitable breeding habitat or nest building.

- Confirmed breeder (CB) – Nest containing eggs or young seen or heard; adults observed carrying faecal sac or food; adults observed feigning injury as a distraction display, entering or leaving a nest site, or anxiety calls and agitated behaviour displayed indicating an occupied nest; a used nest or eggshells or recently fledged or downy young recorded (showing evidence of dependency on adults).
- 3.10 To determine the breeding bird assemblage of the Site, confirmed and probable breeding locations were mapped, and are taken forward for further discussion regarding the potential impacts of the development.

### Survey Limitations

- 3.11 The nocturnal survey undertaken on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April ended 33 minutes after sunset – 27 minutes earlier than survey guidelines<sup>16</sup> recommends – due to sudden rain. Prior to the rain, weather conditions were suitable, and the dusk period was covered sufficiently. In order to compensate for the lack of post-sunset survey data, an additional nocturnal survey was undertaken on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June and extended beyond sunset for 2 hours.

## ASSESSMENT

### Importance

- 3.12 The evaluation of the importance of the breeding bird community has been based on Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidance<sup>17</sup>. 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.
  - **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 (North of 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

<sup>16</sup> Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group. (2022). Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts, v.1.0.0. <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org> [Date accessed March and August 2025]

<sup>17</sup> CIEEM (2019) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.1

the region. Species listed on the BoCC Red List and regularly occur in regionally important numbers.

- **County (South Yorkshire)** – Species listed as being of principal importance under the NERC Act (2006), 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. Species listed on the BoCC Red List and regularly occur in county important numbers.
- **Local (Wombwell)** – 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, 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.
- **Site** – Remaining species that are not listed on the BoCC Red and Amber Lists, species of principal importance under the NERC Act (2006), or species listed on the LBAP.

### Abundance

- 3.13 The most recent Yorkshire Bird census (The Yorkshire Bird Report 2018/2019)<sup>18</sup> was consulted to provide information as to how these species are currently represented within the county.

**Table 2: Species Distribution Status and Definition**

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

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

## 5.0 **RESULTS (BASELINE)**

### **DESK STUDY**

- 5.1 A summary of relevant information provided by third party consultees in relation to ornithological value can be found in the Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA), Futures Ecology, May 2025, Ref: FE302/EclA01.

#### **Records from *Birdguides*:**

- 5.2 A search of the online *Birdguides* database found four bird sites within 2km Site: Wombwell, c.1km east of the Site; Netherwood CP, c.1.4km northeast; Hemingfield, c.1.5km south; and Jump, c.1.6km southwest. Records for these sites were checked from the last 20 years.
- 5.3 Twenty-nine species records were returned from the Wombwell site: Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea*, bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica*, common buzzard *Buteo buteo*, common quail *Coturnix coturnix*, common redpoll *Acanthis flammea*, common scoter *Melanitta nigra*, firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*, great white egret *Ardea alba*, hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*, hobby *Falco subbuteo*, honey buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, Iceland gull *Larus glaucooides*, lesser redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*, osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, pied flycatcher, pink-footed goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, red knot *Calidris canutus*, ring ouzel *Turdus torquatus*, short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*, siskin *Spinus spinus*, spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*, spotted redshank *Tringa erythropus*, swift *Apus apus*, tree pipit *Anthus trivialis*, waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*, whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*, whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus*, and wood sandpiper *Tringa glareola*.
- 5.4 Fourteen species records were returned from the Netherwood CP site: black-bellied dipper *Cinclus cinclus cinclus*, common redpoll, common scoter, dipper *Cinclus cinclus*, goosander *Mergus merganser*, great white egret, hobby, Mediterranean gull *Larus melanocephalus*, osprey, pied flycatcher, pink-footed goose, Ross's goose *Anser rossii*, smew *Mergus albellus*, and waxwing.
- 5.5 Four species records were returned from the Hemingfield site: common crane *Grus grus*, firecrest, ring-necked parakeet *Psittacula kramera*, and waxwing.
- 5.6 No species records were returned from the Jump site.

### **FIELD SURVEYS**

#### **Breeding Birds 2025**

- 5.7 A total of 40 species were recorded within the survey area on at least one of the seven survey visits. Of these species, 26 were either noted to be breeding species or species that appear on one or more of the following:
- 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 (BBAP) Species.

- BoCC Red or Amber.
- 5.8 Of the 40 total species identified, 15 were identified as breeding or holding a territory. Eight species of which were breeding or holding a territory within the site (including boundary habitats) and thirteen species within the 200m buffer area of the site.
- 5.9 Table 4 below summarises the species that were considered to be breeding or holding territories within the survey area (the application site and 200m buffer). Appendix A describes the total species observations throughout the survey period.

Table 3: Breeding Bird Population 2025

Species	Latin	Species Designations	Breeding status	Total no. of pairs / territories observed		County Abundance (breeding, where available) <sup>19</sup> / National population <sup>20</sup>	Species Utilisation of the Survey Area	Nature Conservation Value	Impacts / Mitigation / Enhancement	Overall Impact
				Within the site	Within the buffer					
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	BoCC Amber	NB	-	-	Common breeder <sup>21</sup> / 140,000 pairs	N/A: Flyover	N/A: Flyover	No impacts anticipated.	None
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	BoCC Green	CB	2	2	Abundant <sup>22</sup> resident / 5.1 million pairs	Two territories located onsite, within boundary hedgerows H2 and H4. One additional territory located within the residential habitats to the southeast, and a nest noted as present within offsite woodland to the northwest through adult seen carrying food.	Site	Some existing species-poor hedgerows onsite will be lost, but these will be replaced with species-rich hedgerows. Species-rich hedgerows will be retained where possible.  Blackbirds will habituate to new residential areas.  The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.  Open-fronted nest boxes are recommended to be installed throughout the development, which would provide new nesting opportunities for blackbirds.	Not significant positive impact

<sup>19</sup> G. Dobbs. (2022). Yorkshire Bird Report 2018/2019. Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Birds Section 2022

<sup>20</sup> BTO (2022). The British List. BTO. [Online]. Available from: <https://www.bto.org/understanding-birds/british-list> [Accessed August 2025]

<sup>21</sup> >10,000/year

<sup>22</sup> >50,000 records/year

Species	Latin	Species Designations	Breeding status	Total no. of pairs / territories observed		County Abundance (breeding, where available) <sup>19</sup> / National population <sup>20</sup>	Species Utilisation of the Survey Area	Nature Conservation Value	Impacts / Mitigation / Enhancement	Overall Impact
				Within the site	Within the buffer					
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	BoCC Green	Pr	-	1	Common breeding summer visitor / 1.7 million territories	One territory located within offsite woodland to the west.	Site	No breeding observed onsite, and blackcap preferred nesting habitats consist of woodland and well-developed shrub, usually bramble scrub.  The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.	Not significant positive impact
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	BoCC Green	CB	2	-	Abundant resident / 3.4 million territories	One nest located within boundary woodland through adult carrying food and then fledglings observed on a later date. An additional nest located within boundary hedgerow H8 through adults and fledglings.	Site	Some existing species-poor hedgerows onsite will be lost, but these will be replaced with species-rich hedgerows. Species-rich hedgerows will be retained where possible.  Blue tits will habituate to new residential areas.  The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.  Swift bricks are recommended to be installed throughout the development, which are considered 'universal' nest boxes <sup>23</sup> and would provide new nesting opportunities for blue tit.	Not significant positive impact

<sup>23</sup> Camilla Barlow, Mike Priaux, and Swifts Local Network (SLN) Swifts & Planning Group. January 2022. Issue 03. Available from: [https://swift-conservation.org/universal\\_swift\\_nest\\_brick02.pdf](https://swift-conservation.org/universal_swift_nest_brick02.pdf) [Accessed August 2025].

Species	Latin	Species Designations	Breeding status	Total no. of pairs / territories observed		County Abundance (breeding, where available) <sup>19</sup> / National population <sup>20</sup>	Species Utilisation of the Survey Area	Nature Conservation Value	Impacts / Mitigation / Enhancement	Overall Impact
				Within the site	Within the buffer					
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	BoCC Green	Pr	1	4	Common breeding summer visitor / 1.8 million territories	One territory located within boundary tree line TL1, and four additional territories located within offsite woodland to the north and west.	Site	<p>Preferred nesting habitats consist of woodland and dense scrub, although some may be found within dense garden habitats.</p> <p>Woodland and boundary tree line will be retained within the proposals.</p> <p>The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.</p>	Not significant positive impact
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	BoCC Amber SPI	Pr	1	2	Common resident / 2.5 million territories	One territory located within onsite hedgerow H2. Two additional territories located within offsite woodland to the west.	Local	<p>Some existing species-poor hedgerows onsite will be lost, but these will be replaced with species-rich hedgerows. Species-rich hedgerows will be retained where possible.</p> <p>Dunnock will habituate to new residential areas.</p> <p>The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.</p>	Not significant positive impact

Species	Latin	Species Designations	Breeding status	Total no. of pairs / territories observed		County Abundance (breeding, where available) <sup>19</sup> / National population <sup>20</sup>	Species Utilisation of the Survey Area	Nature Conservation Value	Impacts / Mitigation / Enhancement	Overall Impact
				Within the site	Within the buffer					
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	BoCC Red Schedule 1	NB	-	-	Rare <sup>24</sup> occasional breeder but common passage migrant and winter visitor / 720,000 in winter	Observed on the first survey occasion moving north through hedgerow H4 onsite, likely in migration or due to leave. Non-breeding species.	N/A: Non-breeding species	N/A: Non-breeding species	N/A: Non-breeding species
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	BoCC Green	Pr	-	2	Common resident / 1.7 million pairs	Two territories located offsite within residential / urban areas to the east and west.	Site	No breeding observed onsite, and goldfinch will habituate to new residential areas.  The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.	Not significant positive impact

<sup>24</sup> 0 – 10 individuals in the past 10 years

Species	Latin	Species Designations	Breeding status	Total no. of pairs / territories observed		County Abundance (breeding, where available) <sup>19</sup> / National population <sup>20</sup>	Species Utilisation of the Survey Area	Nature Conservation Value	Impacts / Mitigation / Enhancement	Overall Impact
				Within the site	Within the buffer					
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	BoCC Green	CB	-	1	Abundant resident / 2.4 million territories	One nest located within offsite woodland to the west, adults seen carrying food and chicks heard, but tree could not be seen from the boundary so likely offsite.	Site	<p>Cavity nesting species not recorded breeding onsite.</p> <p>Great tits will habituate to new residential areas.</p> <p>The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.</p> <p>Swift bricks are recommended to be installed throughout the development, which are considered 'universal' nest boxes<sup>25</sup> and would provide new nesting opportunities for great tit.</p>	Not significant positive impact
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	BoCC Red	Pr	-	2	Common resident / 785k pairs	One territory located within offsite woodland to the north and an additional within an offsite residential/urban area to the west.	Local	<p>No breeding observed onsite.</p> <p>The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.</p>	Not significant positive impact
Greylag goose	<i>Anser answer</i>	BoCC Amber	NB	-	-	Fairly common <sup>26</sup> feral breeder / 47k pairs	N/A: Flyover	N/A: Flyover	<p>No impacts anticipated. The creation of a new sustainable drainage system and surrounding marshy grassland could improve the nesting and foraging opportunities for this species.</p>	Not significant positive impact

<sup>25</sup> Camilla Barlow, Mike Priaux, and Swifts Local Network (SLN) Swifts & Planning Group. January 2022. Issue 03. Available from: [https://swift-conservation.org/universal\\_swift\\_nest\\_brick02.pdf](https://swift-conservation.org/universal_swift_nest_brick02.pdf) [Accessed August 2025].

<sup>26</sup> >1000 records per year

Species	Latin	Species Designations	Breeding status	Total no. of pairs / territories observed		County Abundance (breeding, where available) <sup>19</sup> / National population <sup>20</sup>	Species Utilisation of the Survey Area	Nature Conservation Value	Impacts / Mitigation / Enhancement	Overall Impact
				Within the site	Within the buffer					
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	BoCC Red	NB	-	-	Common resident breeder / 130k pairs	N/A: Flyover	N/A: Flyover	No impacts anticipated.	None
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	BoCC Red SPI	CB	1	1	Abundant resident but decreasing / 5 million pairs	One nest located within boundary hedgerow H4 through adult's nest building. An additional territory noted within the offsite residential area to the east.	Local	<p>Some existing species-poor hedgerows onsite will be lost, but these will be replaced with species-rich hedgerows. Species-rich hedgerows will be retained where possible.</p> <p>House sparrows will habituate to new residential areas.</p> <p>The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.</p> <p>Swift bricks are recommended to be installed throughout the development, which are considered 'universal' nest boxes<sup>27</sup> and would provide new nesting opportunities for house sparrows.</p>	Not significant positive impact
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	BoCC Red SPI BBAP	Po	-	-	Uncommon <sup>28</sup> breeding resident / 98,000 pairs	A peak of 3 individuals observed within an offsite arable field to the west. No breeding behaviours, nests, or young observed. Non-breeding species.	N/A: Non-breeding species	No impacts anticipated. The creation of a new sustainable drainage system and surrounding marshy grassland could improve the nesting and foraging opportunities for this species.	Not significant positive impact

<sup>27</sup> Camilla Barlow, Mike Priaux, and Swifts Local Network (SLN) Swifts & Planning Group. January 2022. Issue 03. Available from: [https://swift-conservation.org/universal\\_swift\\_nest\\_brick02.pdf](https://swift-conservation.org/universal_swift_nest_brick02.pdf) [Accessed August 2025].

<sup>28</sup> 101 – 1000 individuals/year in the past 10 years

Species	Latin	Species Designations	Breeding status	Total no. of pairs / territories observed		County Abundance (breeding, where available) <sup>19</sup> / National population <sup>20</sup>	Species Utilisation of the Survey Area	Nature Conservation Value	Impacts / Mitigation / Enhancement	Overall Impact
				Within the site	Within the buffer					
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	BoCC Green	Pr	-	1	Common resident / 380,000 territories	One territory located within the offsite residential area to the southeast.	Site	No breeding observed onsite, and long-tailed tits will habituate to new residential areas.  The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.	Not significant positive impact
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	BoCC Amber	Po	-	-	Common resident breeder / 2.5 million pairs	One individual observed during the breeding season, and an incidental record of 10+ foraging within the field post breeding season following a crop cut. No breeding behaviours, nests, or young observed. Non-breeding species.	N/A: Non-breeding species	Although meadow pipit were not found to be breeding onsite, they were recorded foraging within the crop on one occasion. During wintering bird surveys in 2024/25 (see separate wintering bird report <sup>29</sup> ) meadow pipit were not recorded utilizing the Site, and so this species are not considered to regularly utilise the Site for foraging.  The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new foraging opportunities.	Not significant positive impact

<sup>29</sup> Futures Ecology, April 2025. Wintering Bird Survey Report. FE302/WBR01.

Species	Latin	Species Designations	Breeding status	Total no. of pairs / territories observed		County Abundance (breeding, where available) <sup>19</sup> / National population <sup>20</sup>	Species Utilisation of the Survey Area	Nature Conservation Value	Impacts / Mitigation / Enhancement	Overall Impact
				Within the site	Within the buffer					
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	BoCC Green	Pr	1	3	Common to abundant resident / 7.4 million territories	One territory located within boundary tree line TL1. Two additional territories located within offsite woodland to the north and west, and one within the offsite residential area to the southeast.	Site	Woodland and boundary tree line will be retained within the proposals.  Robins will habituate to new residential areas.  The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.  Open-fronted nest boxes are recommended to be installed throughout the development, which would provide new nesting opportunities for robins.	Not significant positive impact
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	BoCC Amber	NB	-	-	Abundant resident / 980,000 pairs	N/A: Flyover	N/A: Flyover	No impacts anticipated. Preferred nesting habitats consist of mature trees and woodland, and so the creation of new woodland habitat may provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.	Not significant positive impact

Species	Latin	Species Designations	Breeding status	Total no. of pairs / territories observed		County Abundance (breeding, where available) <sup>19</sup> / National population <sup>20</sup>	Species Utilisation of the Survey Area	Nature Conservation Value	Impacts / Mitigation / Enhancement	Overall Impact
				Within the site	Within the buffer					
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	BoCC Red SPI BBAP	Pr	-	1	Common resident / 1.6 million territories	One territory located within offsite arable field to the north. Observed twice within the onsite arable early in the season and not observed again – likely that a skylark began establishing a territory/attracting a mate within the Site early in the breeding bird season, but as the crop field grew and became increasing unsuitable for skylark nesting (>60cm height) they moved on to alternate more suitable local fields.	Local	<p>The loss of arable could reduce nesting habitat, although skylark were never seen successfully breeding onsite – onsite habitats were sub-optimal due to the length of crops being too long.</p> <p>The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new foraging opportunities, but the site will lose any nesting potential.</p>	Neutral
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	BoCC Amber SPI	Po	-	-	Common resident / 1.3 million territories	Heard singing from offsite woodland habitats and occasionally boundary habitats in all directions, but no regular territories, pairs or breeding behaviours observed. Non-breeding species.	N/A: Non-breeding species	<p>The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.</p> <p>Open-fronted nest boxes are recommended to be installed throughout the development, which would provide new nesting opportunities for song thrush.</p>	Not significant positive impact

Species	Latin	Species Designations	Breeding status	Total no. of pairs / territories observed		County Abundance (breeding, where available) <sup>19</sup> / National population <sup>20</sup>	Species Utilisation of the Survey Area	Nature Conservation Value	Impacts / Mitigation / Enhancement	Overall Impact
				Within the site	Within the buffer					
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	BoCC Red SPI	NB	-	-	Abundant but decreasing resident / 2 million pairs	N/A: Flyover	N/A: Flyover	Starlings will habituate to new residential areas. Swift bricks are recommended to be installed throughout the development, which are considered 'universal' nest boxes <sup>30</sup> and would provide new nesting opportunities for starlings.	Not significant positive impact
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	BoCC Amber	NB	-	-	Fairly common resident / 320k territories	Singing from offsite woodland habitats to the west on one survey occasion and not recorded again. Non-breeding species.	N/A: Non-breeding species	Stock doves will habituate to new residential areas. The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.	Not significant positive impact
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	BoCC Green	Po	-	-	Common breeding summer visitor / 705,000 territories	Peak of three foraging over the onsite and offsite arable. No suitable nesting locations within the Site. Non-breeding species.	N/A: Non-breeding species	The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting, meadow grassland and a sustainable drainage system will provide new foraging opportunities.  Swallow cups are recommended to be installed throughout the development, which would provide new nesting opportunities.	Not significant positive impact

<sup>30</sup> Camilla Barlow, Mike Priaulx, and Swifts Local Network (SLN) Swifts & Planning Group. January 2022. Issue 03. Available from: [https://swift-conservation.org/universal\\_swift\\_nest\\_brick02.pdf](https://swift-conservation.org/universal_swift_nest_brick02.pdf) [Accessed August 2025].

Species	Latin	Species Designations	Breeding status	Total no. of pairs / territories observed		County Abundance (breeding, where available) <sup>19</sup> / National population <sup>20</sup>	Species Utilisation of the Survey Area	Nature Conservation Value	Impacts / Mitigation / Enhancement	Overall Impact
				Within the site	Within the buffer					
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	BoCC Red	Po	-	-	Common breeding summer visitor / 59k pairs	Peak one flying over Site on two separate occasions. No suitable nesting locations within the Site. Non-breeding species.	N/A: Non-breeding species	The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting, meadow grassland and a sustainable drainage system will provide new foraging opportunities.  Swift bricks are recommended to be installed throughout the development, which are considered 'universal' nest boxes <sup>31</sup> and would provide new nesting opportunities for swifts.	Not significant positive impact
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	BoCC Amber	CB	1	-	Fairly common to common breeding summer visitor / 1.1 million territories	One nest located within a boundary hedgerow H5 through territorial behaviour followed by fledglings observed on a later survey date.	Local	Some existing species-poor hedgerows onsite will be lost, but these will be replaced with species-rich hedgerows. Species-rich hedgerows will be retained where possible.  The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.	Not significant positive impact
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	BoCC Amber	NB	-	-	Common to abundant breeding summer visitor / 2.3 million territories	Heard offsite on one occasion. Non-breeding species.	N/A: Non-breeding species	The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.	Not significant positive impact

<sup>31</sup> Camilla Barlow, Mike Priaux, and Swifts Local Network (SLN) Swifts & Planning Group. January 2022. Issue 03. Available from: [https://swift-conservation.org/universal\\_swift\\_nest\\_brick02.pdf](https://swift-conservation.org/universal_swift_nest_brick02.pdf) [Accessed August 2025].

Species	Latin	Species Designations	Breeding status	Total no. of pairs / territories observed		County Abundance (breeding, where available) <sup>19</sup> / National population <sup>20</sup>	Species Utilisation of the Survey Area	Nature Conservation Value	Impacts / Mitigation / Enhancement	Overall Impact
				Within the site	Within the buffer					
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	BoCC Amber	CB	-	3	Abundant resident / 5.2 million pairs	Two territories located within offsite woodland habitats to the north and west, and one additional territory within offsite residential area to the east.	Local	No breeding observed onsite, and woodpigeon will habituate to new residential areas.  The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.	Not significant positive impact
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	BoCC Amber	Pr	1	3	Abundant resident / 11 million territories	One territory located within boundary hedgerow H6a, and three additional territories located within offsite woodland to the west.	Local	Some existing species-poor hedgerows onsite will be lost, but these will be replaced with species-rich hedgerows. Species-rich hedgerows will be retained where possible.  The creation of new native scrub, woodland planting and meadow grassland will provide new nesting and foraging opportunities.  Open-fronted nest boxes are recommended to be installed throughout the development, which would provide new nesting opportunities for wrens.	Not significant positive impact

## 6.0 **DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION**

### **BREEDING BIRD ASSEMBLAGE VALUE**

- 6.1 The survey area supported a range of breeding birds which are typical of the size of the Site and survey area being a rural-residential fringe site. The surveys recorded a total of 40 species, with 20 notable species of nature conservation value determined by species importance and abundance. 15 species were identified as confirmed or probable breeders within the survey area.
- 6.2 Breeding activity was primarily recorded in relation to boundary hedgerows or onsite and offsite woodland (see Figure 1). No breeding activity was recorded within the onsite arable habitats.
- 6.3 A total of 8 species were considered to be breeding or holding territory within the Site (including boundary habitats), with confirmed breeders: blue tit, house sparrow, and whitethroat; and probable breeders: blackbird, chiffchaff, dunnock, robin, and wren. Four of these breeding species are considered species of conservation concern: dunnock, house sparrow, whitethroat, and wren.
- 6.4 A total of 13 species were considered to be breeding or holding territory within the Site's 200m buffer, with confirmed breeders: blackbird, great tit, and woodpigeon; and probable breeders: blackcap, chiffchaff, dunnock, goldfinch, greenfinch, house sparrow, long-tailed tit, robin, skylark, and wren. Six of these breeding species are considered species of conservation concern: dunnock, greenfinch, house sparrow, skylark, woodpigeon and wren.
- 6.5 Species that were recorded within the survey area, but not confirmed or probable breeders include: buzzard, carrion crow, chaffinch, coal tit, collared dove, fieldfare, great spotted woodpecker, jackdaw, lapwing, magpie, meadow pipit, pied wagtail, song thrush, stock dove, swallow, swift, and willow warbler.
- 6.6 Species that were recorded flying over but not directly utilising the survey area include: black-headed gull, Canada goose, cormorant, grey heron, greylag goose, herring gull, rook, and starling.
- 6.7 Given the above, the breeding bird assemblage is considered to be of importance at a **Local** level.

### **LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE ASSESSMENT**

- 6.8 The Site did not meet any of the criteria for the Barnsley Local Wildlife Site Selection<sup>32</sup>, specifically in relation to Guidelines a, b, c, and d regarding breeding bird populations.

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<sup>32</sup> Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, 2011. Barnsley Natural Heritage Sites, Species Assessment Criteria. 2481.002. [Online] Available from: <http://www.barnsleybiodiversity.org.uk/Site%20Assessment%20Criteria%20Species.pdf> [Accessed August 2025].

## POTENTIAL IMPACTS

### Habitat Loss

- 6.9 The proposals will result in the loss of all arable, tall ruderal vegetation, and some hedgerows. No breeding species were recorded within the arable or tall ruderal vegetation.
- 6.10 Blackbird, blue tit, dunnock, house sparrow, whitethroat and wren were identified as breeding species within onsite hedgerows. All of these species are reported as fairly common to abundant within Yorkshire and the majority of these species will also habituate to residential areas. Although some hedgerows will be lost to the proposals, and therefore some suitable nesting habitat will be lost, species-rich hedgerows will be retained where possible, and species-poor hedgerows will be replaced by the planting of new species-rich hedgerows. The retention of woodland, and creation of new woodland and scrub will continue to provide suitable nesting habitats for these species.
- 6.11 Habitat removal within the breeding bird season (March to September, inclusive) could result in a **breach of the WCA legislation** in relation to nesting birds.

### Construction

- 6.12 Construction operations have the potential to disturb breeding, roosting, and foraging bird species. During the 2025 breeding season, 15 species were identified as confirmed or probable breeders within the survey area. As a worst-case scenario, construction may result in the displacement of all these species outside of the Site. This could have a **temporary or permanent not significant adverse effect** at a **Local** level.
- 6.13 In addition, direct lighting of retained habitats (during construction) could lead to species avoidance of the habitats. In the absence of mitigation this could have a **temporary not significant adverse effect** at a **Local** level.
- 6.14 Damage to retained habitats via accidental direct damage, soil compaction, as well as dust and/or a pollution event could occur during the construction phase. In the absence of mitigation this could have a **temporary or permanent not significant adverse effect** at a **Local** level.

### Operational

- 6.15 The provision of new planting and habitats, such as gardens, hedgerow, and tree planting will continue to provide nesting and foraging opportunities for a range of bird species.
- 6.16 Given the residential nature of the development, it is acknowledged that there could be an impact from human disturbance and / or dog walking, as well as an increase in cat predation. This could have a **not significant adverse effect** at a **Local** level.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.17 The removal of vegetation which may support nesting birds, such as hedgerows, trees, or woodland, should take place outside of the bird nesting period (March to September, inclusive). The removal of suitable ground nesting habitat (works such as the removal of

- low/ground vegetation, soil stripping and off-track vehicle movements) should also take place outside of the bird nesting period to ensure any ground nesting species are not impacted by the construction. Should the removal be required during the bird nesting period, a nesting bird check will be carried out by an appropriately qualified ecologist.
- 6.18 Should any active nest be identified a minimum 5m buffer/exclusion zone will be applied around the nest site. Protection of ‘active’ nests is a statutory requirement under the WCA 1981 (as amended), as wild nesting birds, their nest, eggs, chicks, and fledglings are protected by law. It will be necessary to undertake further site visits to check the status of the nests. The buffer/exclusion zone will be maintained until it is confirmed that the nest is no longer active and/or any young have fledged.
- 6.19 During the construction phase, fencing and buffers will be implemented to protect retained habitats from direct damage and soil compaction. Pollution prevention measures during construction through the implementation of a Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will protect retained habitats during construction. The implementation of a sensitive lighting design in accordance with BCT Guidance<sup>33</sup>, with particular avoidance of retained habitats, will ensure that the value of these habitats to wildlife is maintained.
- 6.20 Post development the scheme will incorporate green open spaces. These open spaces will include walking routes, play spaces, and dog litter bins to encourage residents to utilise designated areas on-site, thereby minimising increased disturbance in the retained woodland habitat. A leaflet will be included in the purchase pack of new homes with advice to encourage residents to ensure that all cats wear bell-collars and to keep their cats indoors at night.
- 6.21 New landscape planting will include a range of nectar and fruit-bearing species which will help maximise the foraging suitability of the site. Efforts will also be made to ensure that new planting maintains wildlife corridors throughout the site. To reduce any post development impacts on new habitats, a sensitive lighting design is required in accordance with BCT Guidance<sup>34</sup>.
- 6.22 In accordance with the NPPF<sup>35</sup>, the Environment Act 2021<sup>36</sup>, and Policy BIO1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity of the Barnsley Local Plan (adopted January 2019<sup>37</sup>) and Barnsley Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD (adopted March 2024<sup>38</sup>) the development should incorporate features to encourage biodiversity and retain and where possible enhance existing features of nature conservation value within the Site.
- 6.23 Wherever possible, bird nest boxes will be included within the construction of new buildings within the Site. Integrated swift bricks are recommended to be installed throughout the development, which are considered ‘universal’ nest boxes<sup>39</sup> and would provide new nesting opportunities for a range of cavity nesters, including those already

<sup>33</sup> Bat Conservation Trust and the Institute of Lighting Professionals in 2023, ‘Bats and Artificial Lighting At Night

<sup>34</sup> Bat Conservation Trust and the Institute of Lighting Professionals in 2023, ‘Bats and Artificial Lighting At Night

<sup>35</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (December 2024). National Planning Policy Framework. London [Online]. Available from: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a11af7e8f5ec000f1f8c46/NPPF\\_December\\_2024.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a11af7e8f5ec000f1f8c46/NPPF_December_2024.pdf)

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted>

<sup>37</sup> Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Local Plan, Adopted January 2019; Barnsley’s Local Plan

<sup>38</sup> Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Biodiversity and Geodiversity SPD (adopted March 2024)

<sup>39</sup> Camilla Barlow, Mike Priaux, and Swifts Local Network (SLN) Swifts & Planning Group. January 2022. Issue 03. Available from: [https://swift-conservation.org/universal\\_swift\\_nest\\_brick02.pdf](https://swift-conservation.org/universal_swift_nest_brick02.pdf) [Accessed August 2025].

recorded onsite; and for species not previously recorded as nesting onsite, such as swifts, house martins, and starlings. Open-fronted nest boxes should also be provided for non-cavity nesters, such as blackbirds, robins, song thrushes, and wrens. To encourage swallows, which were not previously found to be breeding onsite, the inclusion of swallow nest cups are also recommended.

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 The site supported an assemblage of breeding birds that was typical of the size, habitats present, and regional location. The surveys conducted recorded a total of 40 bird species. There were 8 that were considered to be breeding or holding territory within the Site (including boundary habitats), with 4 of these being species of conservation concern. The site is considered to support a breeding bird assemblage of **Local** value.
- 7.2 The mitigation and enhancements proposed are designed to minimise the negative impacts of the development and to encourage birds to continue to breed, forage and roost on the Site in future. Nest boxes will be provided within the Site which will not only support the species already utilising the Site but potentially attract new species. Overall, the proposals could result in a **not significant positive effect** on the Local breeding bird assemblage.

**APPENDIX A: FULL BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS 2025**

Species	Latin	Breeding status	Peak observations across the full survey period		BoCC status	EC Directive	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / BBAP	Breeding and Territory Locations / Notes
			Within / in association with the Site	Within 200m buffer / flying over the Site					
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	NB	-	11	Amber	-	-	-	Recorded flying over on four survey occasions. Not recorded in association with the Site.
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	CB	2	2	Green	-	-	-	Recorded on every survey occasion. One confirmed nest recorded within the buffer through an adult carrying food to a nest. Three additional territories identified along the Site boundary where pairs, alarm calling, and aggressive male encounters were observed.
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Pr	1	2	Green	-	-	-	Recorded on most survey occasions, singing from various boundary or offsite habitats, but very rarely in the same locations. One territory identified just offsite.
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	CB	4+	2	Green	-	-	-	Recorded on every survey occasion. Two separate confirmed breeding family groups identified on the boundary of Site, through adults carrying food to nests and fledglings seen.

Species	Latin	Breeding status	Peak observations across the full survey period		BoCC status	EC Directive	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / BBAP	Breeding and Territory Locations / Notes
			Within / in association with the Site	Within 200m buffer / flying over the Site					
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	NB	-	1	Green	-	-	-	Circling the offsite woodland on two occasions but not seen in association with the Site.
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	NB	-	2	Introduced	-	-	-	Flew over on one survey occasion.
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus cornone</i>	Po	2	4	Green	-	-	-	Present on most survey occasions, occasionally foraging in the field. Adult seen foraging with two juveniles within the offsite arable field to the west of the railway track – likely that species bred within the woodland outside the Site buffer.
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coeloeps</i>	Po	1	1	Green	-	-	-	Male adult observed/heard on two survey occasions but no pairs or breeding behaviours observed.
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Pr	1	1	Green	-	-	-	Recorded on every survey occasion. One territory identified within the Site boundary, and an additional four within the buffer.
Coal tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Po	1	1	Green	-	-	-	Singing on three separate survey occasions but each in very different locations, no pairs or breeding behaviours observed.

Species	Latin	Breeding status	Peak observations across the full survey period		BoCC status	EC Directive	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / BBAP	Breeding and Territory Locations / Notes
			Within / in association with the Site	Within 200m buffer / flying over the Site					
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Po	-	1	Green	-	-	-	Observed / heard in residential area to the south of Site, but no pairs or breeding behaviours observed.
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	NB	-	1	Green	-	-	-	Flew over on two separate survey occasions, not in association with the Site.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Pr	3	2	Amber	-	-	SPI	Present on every survey occasion. At least three territories identified, one encompassing an onsite hedgerow and the other two within boundary / buffer habitats, through adults chasing each other and territorial singing.
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	NB	4	-	Red	-	Yes	-	Moving through hedgerow on first survey occasion, flying northwards. Likely birds on migration, not observed again.
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Pr	8	5	Green	-	-	-	Recorded on most survey occasions. Two territories within the buffer identified through repeated groups observed in these areas, including chasing behaviours.
Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Po	-	1	Green	-	-	-	Heard calling from offsite woodland on one occasion and seen flying through offsite arable field to the west on another occasion. Likely present or breeding within the woodland outside the 200m buffer.

Species	Latin	Breeding status	Peak observations across the full survey period		BoCC status	EC Directive	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / BBAP	Breeding and Territory Locations / Notes
			Within / in association with the Site	Within 200m buffer / flying over the Site					
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	CB	2+	4+	Green	-	-	-	Present on all survey occasions, mostly heard singing or calling within buffer woodland habitats. One nest confirmed within boundary woodland habitat through two adults seen carrying food and chicks heard in response, couldn't see where adults entered so likely a tree cavity on opposite unviewable aspect.
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Pr	3	3	Red	-	-	-	Present on most survey occasions. Two offsite territories identified through repeated observations of small groups and singing individuals. Very rarely on site, most often just individuals flying over calling.
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	NB	-	1	Green	-	-	-	Flew over the Site on one occasion.
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	NB	-	2	Amber	-	-	-	Flew over the Site on one occasion.
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	NB	-	1	Red	-	-	-	Flew over the Site on one occasion.
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	CB	16+	4	Red	-	-	SPI	Present on most survey occasions, usually within eastern boundary garden habitats, but also seen nest building within onsite hedgerow.
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	Po	2	2	Green	-	-	-	Seen on most survey occasions. Usually individuals flying over Site, but two foraging within the arable on one occasion.

Species	Latin	Breeding status	Peak observations across the full survey period		BoCC status	EC Directive	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / BBAP	Breeding and Territory Locations / Notes
			Within / in association with the Site	Within 200m buffer / flying over the Site					
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Po	-	3	Red	-	-	SPI BBAP	Three individuals observed within the offsite arable field to the west during a May survey occasion, but no breeding behaviours, nests, or young observed. One individual seen flying low over this field on another occasion in June but again no breeding behaviours observed. No breeding evidence on Site or within the buffer but potentially using buffer fields as an occasional foraging resource.
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Pr	2	4	Green	-	-	-	Present on three survey occasions, in the same location and not otherwise seen on or around the Site, identified as a territory just offsite.
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Po	3	6	Green	-	-	-	Present on all survey occasions, as individuals or small groups. Usually foraging within offsite fields, but once within onsite field. No evidence of breeding behaviour or nests observed.
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Po	10+	1	Amber	-	-	-	One individual heard/seen on two survey occasions in May and June, but no pairs or breeding behaviours observed. An incidental record from another species survey being undertaken in August recorded 10+ meadow pipits foraging within the arable field (which had been recently cut).

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Pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Po	-	1	Green	-	-	-	Flew over on one survey occasion, but species not observed within the Site or buffer habitats again.
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Pr	1	2	Green	-	-	-	Present on every survey, with lots of individuals recorded singing in various locations around the Site and buffer habitats. At least four separate territories identified around the Site boundaries.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	NB	-	1	Amber	-	-	-	Flew over Site on one survey occasion.
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Pr	1	2	Red	-	-	SPI BBAP	Seen or heard on five survey occasions. Singing/displaying over the offsite arable field to the north on four separate survey occasions – defined as a territory. Skylark were observed displaying over the Site arable field on one survey occasion in April, and then in May one individual was seen flying from the field into an offsite field – skylark weren't recorded on site after this. It's considered likely that a skylark began establishing a territory/attracting a mate within the Site early in the breeding bird season, but as the crop field grew and became increasing unsuitable for skylark nesting (>60cm height) they moved on to alternate more suitable local fields.

Species	Latin	Breeding status	Peak observations across the full survey period		BoCC status	EC Directive	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / BBAP	Breeding and Territory Locations / Notes
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Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Po	1	1	Amber	-	-	SPI	Song thrush were heard singing on four survey occasions, but each from different boundary / offsite habitats. No regularly territories were identified, and no pairs or breeding behaviours observed.
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	NB	-	1	Red	-	-	SPI	Flew over Site on one survey occasion. Not breeding on Site, and no evidence that they are present or breeding within the buffer habitats.
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	NB	-	1	Amber	-	-	-	Recorded on one survey occasion, and not again.
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Po	3	3	Green	-	-	-	A peak of three were observed foraging over the onsite and offsite fields on two separate survey occasions. No suitable nesting locations within the Site, but it is likely that they are breeding somewhere within the residential development to the east, although no evidence of such was identified adjacent the Site boundary along Windmill Road.

Species	Latin	Breeding status	Peak observations across the full survey period		BoCC status	EC Directive	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / BBAP	Breeding and Territory Locations / Notes
			Within / in association with the Site	Within 200m buffer / flying over the Site					
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Po	-	1	Red	-	-	-	One individual seen flying over Site on two separate occasions. No suitable nesting locations within the Site, but it is likely that they are breeding somewhere within the residential development to the east, although no evidence of such was identified adjacent the Site boundary along Windmill Road.
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	CB	2	2	Amber	-	-	-	Present on most survey occasions, with at least one regularly singing / calling in the south west corner of Site, and on the final survey an adult and fledgling were observed along here. Could have bred within the boundary hedgerow or offsite suitable habitats.
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	NB	-	1	Amber	-	-	-	Heard singing from offsite habitats on one survey occasion and not again since.
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	CB	5	3	Amber	-	-	-	Present on all survey occasions, occasionally foraging within the arable field. One nest located just adjacent the Site where a woodpigeon was repeatedly observed visiting a nest with another adult present within. Repeated singing indicated two additional territories within offsite habitats.

Species	Latin	Breeding status	Peak observations across the full survey period		BoCC status	EC Directive	Schedule 1 Species	NERC (Section 41) Species (SPI) / BBAP	Breeding and Territory Locations / Notes
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Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Pr	1	1	Amber	-	-	-	Present on all survey occasions, with lots of individuals singing throughout boundary and offsite habitats. At least four territories identified.

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



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### Key

- Red Line
- Blue Line
- 200m Buffer
- Bare ground
- Intact hedge - native species-rich
- Intact hedge - species-poor
- Defunct hedge - species-poor

### Habitats

- Hardstanding
- Cultivated/disturbed land - arable (A)
- Poor semi-improved grassland (SI)
- Other tall herb and fern - ruderal
- Scrub - dense/continuous (bramble scrub)
- Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
- Hedges: Introduced shrub
- Broadleaved trees
- Dry ditch
- Broadleaved tree
- Scrub - scattered

### BBS Results

- Blackbird
- Blackcap
- Blue tit
- Chiffchaff
- Dunnock
- Goldfinch
- Great tit
- Greenfinch
- House sparrow
- Long-tailed tit
- Robin
- Skylark
- Whitethroat
- Woodpigeon
- Wren

Client: Crest Nicholson  
 Project: Pit Lane, Wombwell  
 Title: Figure 1 - Breeding Bird Survey Results

Plan Reference: FE302\_01  
 Project Reference: FE302  
 Report Reference: FE302/BBR01

Author: EP  
 Date: 28/8/2025  
 Scale: 1:3,000



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