



EAST PARK ENERGY

East Park Energy

EN010141

**Environmental Statement
Volume 2 – Technical Appendices**

Appendix 7-2: Breeding Bird Survey Report 2025

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Appendix 7-2: Breeding Bird Survey Report 2025

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 This appendix has been prepared to accompany **ES Vol 1 Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation [EN010141/DR/6.1]** of the Environmental Statement (ES) for the East Park Energy project (the ‘Scheme’), and presents methodology and results of a suite of breeding bird surveys undertaken in 2025 in relation to the Scheme.

1.1.2 The objectives of this report are to:

- provide a summary of the baseline ornithological studies undertaken during the 2025 breeding season;
- provide baseline information on breeding ornithological features within the Site and relevant survey buffer; and,
- identify the presence of any notable breeding bird species within the Site and relevant survey buffer that may require particular consideration in any subsequent assessment.

1.1.3 Only common bird species names are referred to within the main text of this Appendix. A summary of all bird species referred to herein including scientific names and conservation status is presented in Annex 1.

1.1.4 Previous breeding bird surveys were undertaken in 2022 and 2024, which were included in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). Data collected in 2022 and 2024 is superseded by surveys in 2025; however, the full report is available in Annex 3 of this document.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1.1 Breeding bird surveys were undertaken between April 2025 and July 2025, following the guidance by the Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group (2023)¹. The survey comprised a series of six staggered survey visits.
- 2.1.2 Five survey visits were carried out from dawn or as close to, with the majority finished by 11:00hrs. One of the six visits was conducted in the evening (i.e. post sunset) to pick up species not readily recorded by conventional surveys early in the morning (e.g. crepuscular species). All surveys were carried out in conditions suitable for survey (avoiding heavy rain and strong winds). A summary of survey effort is presented in Table 2.1 and detailed survey conditions are presented in Annex 2.
- 2.1.3 The breeding bird survey area (henceforth 'BBS Area') is illustrated on **ES Vol 3 Figure 7-4 [EN010141/DR/6.3]** and comprised the Site, as well as a surrounding 100m Site buffer. Coverage of the 100m buffer was observed from within the Site boundary and only recorded the presence of species listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981² (as amended).
- 2.1.4 During the surveys, all 'Notable Species' (see below) were recorded on suitably scaled field maps using standard BTO species codes³ and behaviour notations (such as singing, carrying food, active nest). In line with the survey objectives and the scale of the assessment, a broad territory mapping approach was adopted. This approach treats each observation of a species exhibiting breeding or territorial behaviour such as singing, display, or evidence of breeding activity, as a single territory or breeding pair within the mapped area. Where multiple observations or registrations of the same species occurred in close proximity and likely referred to the same individual

¹ Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group. (2023). *Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts*, v.1.1.1. <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org> (Accessed: 8th July 2025)

² Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/1> (Accessed: 8th July 2025)

³ https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u10/downloads/taking-part/species_codes.pdf (Accessed : 8th July 2025)

(e.g. single singing male holding territory) or pair, these were classed as a single territory to avoid overestimating breeding pairs.

2.1.5 Breeding evidence was classified according to standard criteria (see Table 2.2), but territory totals represent broad estimates rather than intensive territory mapping, in line with good practice for site-wide breeding bird surveys (broadly following that of the breeding bird survey methods described in Gilbert *et al.*, 1998⁴). The estimated number of breeding territories for Notable Species is provided in Table 3.1, with such territories also mapped and presented on **ES Vol 3 Figure 7-4 [EN010141/DR/6.3]**, given these are the most relevant species to the design and assessment of development proposals.

2.1.6 'Notable Species' relevant to the Scheme that were recorded and mapped during the breeding bird surveys, comprised Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) Amber and Red List Species (Stanbury *et al.*, 2021⁵ and Stanbury *et al.* 2024⁶), birds listed under Section 41 (S41) of the 2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006⁷, and Annex 1⁸/Schedule 1 species. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Biodiversity Action Plan⁹ (LBAP) species, including Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Additional Species of Interest (CPASI), were also included as Notable

⁴ Gilbert, G., Gibbons, D.W & Evans, J. (1998) *Bird monitoring methods. A manual of techniques for key UK species.* RSPB, Sandy.

⁵ 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**, pp. 723-747. Available online at <https://britishbirds.co.uk/content/status-our-bird-populations> (Accessed: 8th July 2025)

⁶ Stanbury, A.J., Burns, F., Aebischer, N.J., Baker, H., Balmer, D.E., Brown, A., Dunn, T., Lindley, P., Murphy, M., Noble, D.G. and Owens, R. (2024). *The status of the UK's breeding seabirds: an addendum to 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*, **117**: 471-487. Available online at <https://britishbirds.co.uk/seabird-bocc5a> (Accessed: 8th July 2025)

⁷ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4958719460769792> (Accessed: 8th July 2025)

⁸ Annex 1 – species listed on Annex 1 of the EC Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament on the conservation of wild birds.

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/threatened/index_en.htm (Accessed: 8th July 2025)

⁹ <https://www.cperc.org.uk/information.php> (Accessed: 19th August 2025)

Species, however the Bedfordshire and Luton Local Biodiversity Action Plan¹⁰ was not included as it contains no listed birds species.

- 2.1.7 Following a review of the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside ('MAGIC')¹¹ website, no internationally designated statutory sites with breeding bird interests were recorded within 20km of the Site.
- 2.1.8 Presence of common and widespread species that are not classified as Notable Species (i.e. BoCC Green List Species and non-native species) and are hereafter referred to as 'Secondary Species' were also recorded for each survey visit; however, locations and activities were not mapped during the survey effort due to the spatial scale of the BBS Area and priority being given to identify Notable Species.
- 2.1.9 Observations included species potentially breeding in the wider area, even where habitats on the Site were not suitable for those particular species (e.g. foraging gulls within proximity of a known colony). Additionally, non-breeding birds visiting the Site (e.g., gulls feeding in fields) and birds flying over the Site were also recorded.
- 2.1.10 Due to the extent of the Site, the BBS Area was partitioned into 8 distinct survey areas (as covered by 'Maps 1 to 8', as shown on **ES Vol 3 Figure 7-4 [EN010141/DR/6.3]**) that were surveyed over a number of consecutive days and analysed independently.
- 2.1.11 Results for all 8 survey areas were then combined to provide a final count of Notable Species breeding within the Site (Table 3.1), as well as Schedule 1 species within the 100m Site buffer.
- 2.1.12 Breeding bird survey visits were undertaken by B. Miller (BM), D. Bryant (DB), D. Oakley-Martin (DOM), M. Ilett (MI), M. Burgess (MB), R. Bashford (RB), R.

¹⁰ https://www.bedscape.org.uk/BRMC/newsite/index.php?c=bedslife_bap (Accessed: 8th July 2025)

¹¹ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/> (Accessed 8th July 2025)

Goodlad (RG), R. Hill (RH), S. Black (SB) and S. Elsom (SE); all of whom are highly experienced ornithologists.

Table 2:1: Breeding bird survey effort.

Survey Visit	Survey Area	Date	Surveyor	Start time (24hrs)	End time (24hrs)	Survey type	Sunrise / Sunset (24hrs)
1	Map 1	24/04/2025	MB	08:55	11:55	Dawn	05:44 / 20:15
	Map 2	24/04/2025	MB	05:40	08:50	Dawn	05:44 / 20:15
	Map 3	24/04/2025	SE	05:50	09:05	Dawn	05:44 / 20:15
	Map 4	24/04/2025	DS	05:35	08:41	Dawn	05:44 / 20:15
	Map 5	24/04/2025	RB	05:34	08:29	Dawn	05:44 / 20:15
	Map 6	24/04/2025	RB	08:29	11:29	Dawn	05:44 / 20:15
	Map 7	24/04/2025	MI	05:30	08:30	Dawn	05:44 / 20:15
	Map 8	24/04/2025	DS	09:07	12:14	Dawn	05:44 / 20:15
2	Map 1	29/04/2025	DS	08:58	12:29	Dawn	05:34 / 20:24
	Map 2	29/04/2025	DS	05:35	08:46	Dawn	05:34 / 20:24
	Map 3	30/04/2025	RH	05:30	08:50	Dawn	05:32 / 20:25
	Map 4	30/04/2025	DS	08:37	11:42	Dawn	05:32 / 20:25
	Map 5	30/04/2025	SB	08:20	11:20	Dawn	05:32 / 20:25
	Map 6	30/04/2025	SB	05:20	08:20	Dawn	05:32 / 20:25
	Map 7	30/04/2025	SE	05:32	08:53	Dawn	05:32 / 20:25
	Map 8	30/04/2025	DS	05:25	08:31	Dawn	05:32 / 20:25
3	Map 1	10/05/2025	RB	05:29	08:29	Dawn	05:14 / 20:42
	Map 2	11/05/2025	RB	05:27	08:44	Dawn	05:12 / 20:43
	Map 3	11/05/2025	RG	05:20	08:45	Dawn	05:12 / 20:43
	Map 4	12/05/2025	RB	05:27	08:42	Dawn	05:10 / 20:45

Survey Visit	Survey Area	Date	Surveyor	Start time (24hrs)	End time (24hrs)	Survey type	Sunrise / Sunset (24hrs)
	Map 5	10/05/2025	SB	05:06	08:10	Dawn	05:14 / 20:42
	Map 6	11/05/2025	SB	05:10	08:15	Dawn	05:12 / 20:43
	Map 7	18/05/2025	BM	05:28	08:42	Dawn	05:01 / 20:54
	Map 8	13/05/2025	RB	05:28	08:32	Dawn	05:09 / 20:47
4	Map 1	21/05/2025	RB	19:00	22:00	Dusk	04:57 / 20:59
	Map 2	22/05/2025	RB	19:00	22:00	Dusk	04:56 / 21:00
	Map 3	23/05/2025	RH	18:45	22:00	Dusk	04:55 / 21:02
	Map 4	24/05/2025	RB	18:55	21:58	Dusk	04:53 / 21:03
	Map 5	23/05/2025	SB & DOM	18:54	22:00	Dusk	04:55 / 21:02
	Map 6	24/05/2025	SB & DOM	18:45	22:03	Dusk	04:53 / 21:03
	Map 7	29/05/2025	BM	19:08	22:12	Dusk	04:48 / 21:09
	Map 8	26/05/2025	RB	19:00	22:00	Dusk	04:51 / 21:06
5	Map 1	14/06/2025	RB	04:35	07:35	Dawn	04:39 / 21:24
	Map 2	25/06/2025	SB	04:25	07:25	Dawn	04:41 / 21:27
	Map 3	17/06/2025	RH	04:45	08:10	Dawn	04:39 / 21:25
	Map 4	18/06/2025	RB	04:49	07:47	Dawn	04:39 / 21:25
	Map 5	14/06/2025	SB	04:45	07:50	Dawn	04:39 / 21:24
	Map 6	16/06/2025	SB	04:43	07:45	Dawn	04:39 / 21:25
	Map 7	19/06/2025	BM	04:57	08:07	Dawn	04:39 / 21:26
	Map 8	26/06/2025	MI	04:30	07:15	Dawn	04:41 / 21:26
6	Map 1	03/07/2025	DB	04:50	07:51	Dawn	04:45 / 21:25
	Map 2	07/07/2025	MB	04:48	09:00	Dawn	04:49 / 21:22
	Map 3	08/07/2025	RH	04:50	08:10	Dawn	04:50 / 21:22

Survey Visit	Survey Area	Date	Surveyor	Start time (24hrs)	End time (24hrs)	Survey type	Sunrise / Sunset (24hrs)
	Map 4	04/07/2025	DB	04:50	08:00	Dawn	04:46 / 21:24
	Map 5	05/07/2025	SB	04:45	07:50	Dawn	04:47 / 21:23
	Map 6	06/07/2025	SB	04:35	07:40	Dawn	04:48 / 21:23
	Map 7	09/07/2025	BM	04:57	08:25	Dawn	04:51 / 21:21
	Map 8	07/07/2025	SE	04:57	08:00	Dawn	04:49 / 21:22

Table 2:2: Criteria for Breeding Evidence (adapted from Sharrock, 1974¹²; Gillings et al., 2013¹³).

Possible	Probable	Confirmed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observed in suitable nesting habitat. Singing male in suitable breeding habitat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat. Permanent territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour (song etc.) from many individuals on one day. Courtship and display. Visiting probable nest site. Agitated behaviour or calls suggesting probable presence of nest or young nearby. Nest building or excavation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distraction display or injury feigning. Used nest or eggshells. Recently fledged young. Adults entering or leaving nest site or adults seen incubating. Adult carrying faecal sac or food for young. Nest containing eggs. Nest with young.

¹² Sharrock, J.T.R. (1974) 'Minutes of the second meeting of the European Ornithological Atlas Committee', in: Pinowski, J. and Williamson, K. (eds). *Proceedings of the Fourth Meeting of the International Bird Census Committee and the Second Meeting of the European Ornithological Atlas Committee*, *Acta Ornithologica*, 14(6), pp. 261–268.

¹³ Gillings, S., Balmer, D. E., Caffrey, B. J. and Swann, B. (2013) 'Survey methods and data sources', in: Balmer, D. E., Gillings, S., Caffrey, B. J., Swann, R. L., Downie, I. S. & Fuller, R. J. (eds), *Bird Atlas 2007–11: The Breeding and Wintering Birds of Britain and Ireland*. Thetford, UK: BTO Books. pp. 34–45

Limitations

- 2.1.13 Guidance from the Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group (2023) suggests that dawn breeding bird surveys should typically commence within 30 minutes of sunrise and end by 11:00. All visits commenced within the recommended start time, however some surveys incorporated multiple survey areas on the same day by the same surveyor. This resulted in three surveys in both Visit 1 and Visit 2 commencing after the optimal start time in subsequent survey areas. The start time for these surveyed areas is not considered to be a limitation to the assessment as the survey continued during the recommended survey time period, however, these six prolonged survey visits were concluded between 11:00 and 12:29. As a result, 5.15 hours of survey effort in total was conducted outside the optimal survey time. With approximately 85% of dawn surveys fully conducted during optimal survey times, and with the species assemblage for all areas considered to be robustly analysed using data from six visits, it is not considered that the timing of dawn visits will impact the assessment.
- 2.1.14 Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group (2023) guidance also suggests that evening surveys conclude following one hour after sunset. Although four dusk visits were concluded slightly prior to one hour after sunset (range: 2 to 6 minutes), it is deemed that that an accurate assessment of the breeding species assemblage was conducted during the survey timings of evening visits as all habitats within the Site were surveyed during the optimal survey time period.
- 2.1.15 No access was permitted to the grid connection corridor, as well as limited sections connecting various land parcels that are proposed for internal cabling and temporary access tracks (see **ES Vol 3 Figure 7-4 [EN010141/DR/6.3]**). Such works within these areas are considered temporary, small-scale and reversable in nature. However, some of these sections were surveyed from distance from within the BBS Area, and all land proposed as solar photovoltaic areas was incorporated into the survey effort. Sections lacking access were considered to comprise similar agricultural habitats to the surveyed BBS Area,

and therefore it is considered that the species assemblage likely present is comparable to that recorded. Due to the excluded fields representing a small area of the overall Site, with the likely breeding species expected to represent the same species assemblage recorded within the Site, the limited lack of access is not considered to impact the assessment.

2.1.16 In summary, no limitations to the survey dataset in informing a robust assessment of potential impacts upon breeding bird species are considered.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1.1 The breeding bird assemblage recorded within the BBS Area was considered representative of the locale and the agricultural, woodland and field boundary habitats present. A total of 56 species were recorded breeding within the BBS Area, which included 21 Notable Species within the Site as summarised in Table 3.1.

3.1.2 Breeding evidence for the 21 Notable Species¹⁴ recorded within the Site included:

- Nine Red List species (grey partridge, cuckoo, lapwing, skylark, yellow wagtail, greenfinch, linnet, corn bunting and yellowhammer);
- Eleven Amber List species (quail, stock dove, woodpigeon, moorhen, tawny owl, sedge warbler, whitethroat, wren, song thrush, dunnock and reed bunting);
- Eleven listed as rare and most threatened species under Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) and LBAP (grey partridge, cuckoo, lapwing, skylark, song thrush, dunnock, yellow wagtail, linnet, corn bunting, yellowhammer and reed bunting);
- Two species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (quail and red kite); and,
- One species listed on Annex 1 of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive) (red kite).

3.1.3 A single quail territory was recorded within an on-Site arable field which included a singing male recorded in July. A red kite territory was considered to be breeding within an on-Site woodland, however the exact location of the nest was not identified. Although the nest was not found, breeding was

¹⁴ It should be noted that not all species are classified within discreet conservation categories and that there may be some overlap.

confirmed by the observation of a juvenile red kite in July, aligning with the species' typical breeding period stages.

- 3.1.4 Two potential barn owl territories were also identified within the 100m Site buffer during the survey period, although conclusive breeding activity was not confirmed. One potential territory included an adult barn owl observed flying from an adjacent agricultural building located directly adjacent to the Site boundary. The building was considered suitable to support breeding barn owl, however a detailed internal assessment was not undertaken at the time of survey due to a lack of access. A second adult barn owl was recorded hunting in the vicinity throughout the survey period, indicating that the building likely supports at least one breeding territory, with this individual probably being part of a pair associated with the building.
- 3.1.5 The second potential territory was recorded approximately 70m from the Site boundary and c. 6.88km from the first barn owl territory. This barn owl was recorded in a suitable breeding tree crevice in April. As this tree was located within the 100m buffer and not within the Site itself, it was not accessible for close examination during the survey. It should be noted that anecdotal evidence suggests that there was a barn owl box in the area (although the location was not fully disclosed), suggesting that the potential tree crevice was instead a roosting site rather than a nesting site. Although no conclusive breeding activity was identified during the survey effort, it has been treated as a potential breeding territory on a precautionary basis due to its breeding habitat suitability.
- 3.1.6 The location of breeding Schedule 1 species territories are considered sensitive and have been excluded from **ES Vol 3 Figure 7-4 [EN010141/DR/6.3]**. Confidential breeding locations of Schedule 1 species are presented separately on the *Confidential Schedule 1 Species Survey Results* plan **ES Vol 3 Figure 7-9 [EN010141/DR/6.3]**.
- 3.1.7 The size of the surveyed Site is 731.44 ha, which with 125 estimated skylark territories, results on average to be 0.17 on-Site skylark territories per ha. Based on this calculated average territory density, it is considered that

approximately 7 additional skylark territories are likely to be present in the 41.93 ha of land excluded from the survey (see limitations; paragraph 2.1.15).

- 3.1.8 Breeding territories of Notable Species were typically associated with vegetation along field boundaries, which principally comprises of field-margins, hedgerows, scrub, tree-lines, ditches, watercourses, ponds and woodland habitats within or directly adjacent to the Site. These species included cuckoo, stock dove, woodpigeon, moorhen, red kite, tawny owl, sedge warbler, whitethroat, wren, song thrush, dunnock, greenfinch, linnet, yellowhammer and reed bunting.
- 3.1.9 Ground-nesting Notable Species that breed in open habitats within the Site comprised of grey partridge (6 territories), quail (1 territory), lapwing (2 territories), skylark (125 territories), yellow wagtail (14 territories) and corn bunting (11 territories).
- 3.1.10 Grey partridge and corn bunting were identified breeding principally along grassland field margins, rather than within open agricultural fields themselves. Both species were recorded throughout the Site, with grey partridge recorded in Maps 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8, and corn bunting recorded in Maps 1 to 5 and 7. Lapwing, skylark and yellow wagtail were primarily recorded on-Site in open agricultural fields. Skylark was identified throughout all 8 survey areas, with yellow wagtail also recorded throughout the Site in Maps 1 to 3, 5, 6 and 8. Lapwing was however recorded breeding only in Map 6.
- 3.1.11 All breeding Notable Species (or potential breeding Notable Species) recorded along with an estimated number of the breeding territories within the Site are detailed within Table 3.1. With the exclusion of Schedule 1 species, the indicative locations of the territories of Notable Species are provided in **ES Vol 3 Figure 7-4 [EN010141/DR/6.3]**.

Table 3 Error! No text of specified style in document.:1: **Breeding Bird Territories for Notable Species Recorded Within the Site.**

Species	Total Site Estimated Territories	Comments
Grey partridge	6	Possible breeding throughout on-Site field margins (Maps 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8).
Quail	1	Possible breeding. See ES Vol 3 Figure 7-10 [EN010141/DR/6.3] .
Cuckoo	3	Possible breeding. Recorded in field boundary habitats and woodlands (Maps 1, 4, 5 and 8). Note that this species does not 'actively nest' and instead relies on brood parasitism to reproduce.
Stock dove	10	Probable breeding. Recorded throughout on-Site field boundary habitats and woodland.
Woodpigeon	32	Confirmed breeding. Recorded throughout on-Site field boundary habitats and woodland.
Moorhen	1	Confirmed breeding. Juvenile recorded on a pond in Map 7.
Lapwing	2	Confirmed breeding pairs with chicks recorded in open arable habitats in Map 6.
Red kite	1	Confirmed breeding. See ES Vol 3 Figure 7-10 [EN010141/DR/6.3] .
Tawny owl	3	Possible breeding. Calling birds identified in woodlands during dusk visits in Map 1 and 5.
Skylark	125	Confirmed breeding with chicks identified. Recorded singing throughout on-Site open field habitats.
Sedge warbler	1	Possible breeding. Identified singing along a field boundary ditch in Map 7.
Whitethroat	62	Confirmed breeding with chicks identified. Recorded singing and calling throughout field boundary habitats.
Wren	65	Probable breeding. Recorded singing and calling throughout field boundary habitats.
Song thrush	26	Confirmed breeding with chicks identified. Recorded throughout on-Site field boundary habitats and woodland.
Dunnock	31	Confirmed breeding with chicks identified Recorded singing and calling throughout on-Site field boundary habitats.
Yellow wagtail	14	Probable breeding. Recorded singing and calling in open arable fields (Maps 1 to 3, 5, 6 and 8).
Greenfinch	6	Probable breeding with displaying recorded. Identified singing and calling in trees (Maps 1 to 5).
Linnet	44	Confirmed breeding with chicks identified. Recorded throughout on-Site field boundary habitats.

Species	Total Site Estimated Territories	Comments
Corn bunting	11	Probable breeding with adult seen visiting a potential nest. Singing behaviour recorded along field margins (Maps 1 to 5 and 7).
Yellowhammer	66	Confirmed breeding with chicks identified. Recorded singing and calling throughout field boundary habitats
Reed bunting	30	Confirmed breeding with food carrying identified. Mostly recorded singing and calling along field boundaries adjacent to ditches and watercourses.

3.1.12 Secondary Species recorded¹⁵ within the BBS Area included the following:

- Mute swan;
- Pheasant;
- Red-legged partridge;
- Feral pigeon;
- Collared dove;
- Coot;
- Little grebe;
- Grey heron;
- Buzzard;
- Great spotted woodpecker;
- Green woodpecker;
- Jay;
- Magpie;
- Jackdaw;
- Carrion crow;
- Raven;
- Coal tit;
- Blue tit;

¹⁵ It should be noted that breeding status for Secondary Species is not provided here, with presence recorded only due to survey effort focussing on Notable Species..

- Great tit;
- Sand martin;
- Swallow;
- Long-tailed tit;
- Chiffchaff;
- Reed warbler;
- Blackcap;
- Garden warbler;
- Lesser whitethroat;
- Goldcrest;
- Nuthatch;
- Treecreeper;
- Blackbird;
- Robin;
- Pied wagtail;
- Chaffinch; and,
- Goldfinch.

3.1.13 During survey visits, observations of 11 other Notable Species were also made, but for which established breeding evidence was not recorded within the Site¹⁶. This included:

- Greylag goose;
- Mallard;
- Common tern;
- Sparrowhawk;
- Kestrel;
- Rook;
- Starling;

¹⁶ This was based on a number of factors including the number and gender of birds recorded (e.g., only one record of one female during the survey period), unsuitability of habitats on-Site for breeding of some species, and movement of birds from Site to a suspected nest site off-Site. Where suitable nesting habitat does exist within the Site for certain species, this is indicated by species in italics

- Mistle thrush;
- House sparrow;
- Meadow pipit; and,
- Bullfinch.

ANNEX 1

Bird Species Summary

Table A1 provides a list of bird species recorded during the breeding bird surveys. Both common and species names are presented along with a summary of each species conservation status using the following abbreviations:

- Ann1 – European Birds Directive Annex I species;
- Sch1.1/1.1A/A1/1.2 – Schedule 1 part 1, 1 part 1A, A1 or 1 part 2 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
- BoCC – Birds of Conservation Concern as listed by leading bird conservation organisations in the UK, including the RSPB and BTO. Red and Amber categories are given (Stanbury *et al.*, 2021; Stanbury *et al.* 2024);
- Sec41 – species listed on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Species of principle importance for conserving biodiversity in England); and,
- LBAP - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- CPASI – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Additional Species of Interest

Table A1: Summary of bird species.

Common name	Species name	Conservation status
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Amber
Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Green
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Red; Sec41; LBAP
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	-
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	Amber; Sch1.1; RBBP
Red-legged partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	-
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Red; Sec41; LBAP

Common name	Species name	Conservation status
Feral pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Green
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Green
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Amber
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Green
Little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Green
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Red; Sec41; LBAP
Common tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Amber; Ann1
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green
Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Green; Ann1
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber
Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Green; Sch1.1 & 1A; Ann1
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Green
Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Green; Sch1.1; LBAP (CPASI)
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Amber
Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Green
Green woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Green
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Green
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	Green
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Green
Coal tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Green

Common name	Species name	Conservation status
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red; Sec41; LBAP
Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Green
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Green
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Green
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Green
Sedge warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Amber
Reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Green
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Green
Garden warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Green
Lesser whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	Green
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	Amber
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Green
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Green
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Green
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red; Sec41; LBAP
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber; Sec41; LBAP
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red; Sec41; LBAP
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber; Sec41; LBAP
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Red; Sec41; LBAP
Pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarellii</i>	Amber

Common name	Species name	Conservation status
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Green
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber; Sec41; LBAP
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red; Sec41; LBAP
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green
Corn bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Red; Sec41; LBAP
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red; Sec41; LBAP
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber; Sec41; LBAP

Annex 2

Breeding Bird Survey Effort - 2025

Table A2: Breeding Bird Survey Effort - 2025.

Visit	Date	Area	Start Time (24 hrs)	End time (24 hrs)	Sunrise / Sunset (24 hrs)	Wind Speed	Wind Direction	Rain	Cloud Cover	Temperature (°C)
1	Map 1	24/04/2025	08:55	11:55	05:44 / 20:15	3	NNE	0	8/8	9 - 12
	Map 2	24/04/2025	05:40	08:50	05:44 / 20:15	3	NNE	0	8/8	7 - 9
	Map 3	24/04/2025	05:50	09:05	05:44 / 20:15	0 - 1	NNE	0	4/8 – 8/8	7 - 14
	Map 4	24/04/2025	05:35	08:41	05:44 / 20:15	2 – 3	NNE	0	8/8	8 - 10
	Map 5	24/04/2025	05:34	08:29	05:44 / 20:15	2	NNE	0	8/8	8 - 10
	Map 6	24/04/2025	08:29	11:29	05:44 / 20:15	2 – 3	NNE – WNE	0	8/8	10 - 12
	Map 7	24/04/2025	05:30	08:30	05:44 / 20:15	2	N	0	8/8	8
	Map 8	24/04/2025	09:07	12:14	05:44 / 20:15	3	NNE	0	8/8	10 - 12
2	Map 1	29/04/2025	08:58	12:29	05:34 / 20:24	2 - 3	SE - SEE	0	0/8 – 1/8	12 - 23
	Map 2	29/04/2025	05:35	08:46	05:34 / 20:24	0 - 2	ENE	0	0/8 – 1/8	6 - 12
	Map 3	30/04/2025	05:30	08:50	05:32 / 20:25	0 - 1	NE	0	0/8 – 2/8	5 - 14
	Map 4	30/04/2025	08:37	11:42	05:32 / 20:25	1	NE – SE	0	1/8	12 - 22
	Map 5	30/04/2025	08:20	11:20	05:32 / 20:25	0	NE – E	0	2/8	14 - 21

Visit	Date	Area	Start Time (24 hrs)	End time (24 hrs)	Sunrise / Sunset (24 hrs)	Wind Speed	Wind Direction	Rain	Cloud Cover	Temperature (°C)
	Map 6	30/04/2025	05:20	08:20	05:32 / 20:25	0	NE	0	1/8 – 2/8	6 - 14
	Map 7	30/04/2025	05:32	08:53	05:32 / 20:25	0	NNE	0	1/8 - 2/8	6 - 15
	Map 8	30/04/2025	05:25	08:31	05:32 / 20:25	0 – 1	NNE	0	1/8	8 - 16
3	Map 1	10/05/2025	05:29	08:29	05:14 / 20:42	2 – 3	NNE / E	0	0/8	5 - 15
	Map 2	11/05/2025	05:27	08:44	05:12 / 20:43	2	NE	0	0/8 - 1/8	7 - 17
	Map 3	11/05/2025	05:20	08:45	05:12 / 20:43	0 - 1	SE	0	0/8	5 - 18
	Map 4	12/05/2025	05:27	08:42	05:10 / 20:45	1 – 2	NE – ENE	0	1/8 – 7/8	12 - 18
	Map 5	10/05/2025	05:06	08:10	05:14 / 20:42	4 - 5	NE	0	0/8	6 - 10
	Map 6	11/05/2025	05:10	08:15	05:12 / 20:43	0 – 2	NE	0	0/8 – 8/8	8 - 12
	Map 7	18/05/2025	05:28	08:42	05:01 / 20:54	2- 3	N	0	8/8	9 - 10
	Map 8	13/05/2025	05:28	08:32	05:09 / 20:47	2 – 3	NNE – NE	0	0/8	9 - 16
4	Map 1	21/05/2025	19:00	22:00	04:57 / 20:59	2 - 4	NE	0	0/8 – 8/8	8 - 12
	Map 2	22/05/2025	19:00	22:00	04:56 / 21:00	2	NE	0	0/8 – 2/8	8 - 12
	Map 3	23/05/2025	18:45	22:00	04:55 / 21:02	2 - 3	NE	0	1/8 – 4/8	9 - 13
	Map 4	24/05/2025	18:55	21:58	04:53 / 21:03	4	WSW - SW	0	8/8	15 - 18
	Map 5	23/05/2025	18:54	22:00	04:55 / 21:02	1 - 2	W – SW	0	4/8 – 6/8	13 - 19
	Map 6	24/05/2025	18:45	22:03	04:53 / 21:03	4 – 5	SW	0 -1	8/8	15 - 17

Visit	Date	Area	Start Time (24 hrs)	End time (24 hrs)	Sunrise / Sunset (24 hrs)	Wind Speed	Wind Direction	Rain	Cloud Cover	Temperature (°C)
	Map 7	29/05/2025	19:08	22:12	04:48 / 21:09	3 - 4	WSW – SW	0	2/8 - 5/8	15 - 20
	Map 8	26/05/2025	19:00	22:00	04:51 / 21:06	4	SW	0	8/8	12 - 13
5	Map 1	14/06/2025	04:35	07:35	04:39 / 21:24	2 – 3	S - SSW	0	1/8 – 8/8	16 - 20
	Map 2	25/06/2025	04:25	07:25	04:41 / 21:27	1	SW	0	2/8 – 5/8	15 - 18
	Map 3	17/06/2025	04:45	08:10	04:39 / 21:25	1 - 3	SW	0	3/8 – 4/8	12 - 17
	Map 4	18/06/2025	04:49	07:47	04:39 / 21:25	1 – 2	ENE – W	0	2/8 – 6/8	14 - 19
	Map 5	14/06/2025	04:45	07:50	04:39 / 21:24	0 – 3	SSE	0 - 1	3/8 – 7/8	15 - 18
	Map 6	16/06/2025	04:43	07:45	04:39 / 21:25	0 – 1	W	0	0/8 – 7/8	12 - 16
	Map 7	19/06/2025	04:57	08:07	04:39 / 21:26	1 – 2	NE	0	0/8	14 - 20
	Map 8	26/06/2025	04:30	07:15	04:41 / 21:26	3	SW	0	8/8	17
6	Map 1	03/07/2025	04:50	07:51	04:45 / 21:25	2	WNW	0	0/8	10
	Map 2	07/07/2025	04:48	09:00	04:49 / 21:22	3 - 4	N	0 - 4	2/8 – 8/8	12 - 14
	Map 3	08/07/2025	04:50	08:10	04:50 / 21:22	3 – 4	N – NW	0	0/8 – 4/8	11 - 15
	Map 4	04/07/2025	04:50	08:00	04:46 / 21:24	2	WSW	0	1/8	11
	Map 5	05/07/2025	04:45	07:50	04:47 / 21:23	5	SW	0	4/8 – 8/8	15 - 17
	Map 6	06/07/2025	04:35	07:40	04:48 / 21:23	1 – 2	SW	0	3/8 – 4/8	14 - 17
	Map 7	09/07/2025	04:57	08:25	04:51 / 21:21	2	WNW	0	2/8 – 4/8	12 - 17

Visit	Date	Area	Start Time (24 hrs)	End time (24 hrs)	Sunrise / Sunset (24 hrs)	Wind Speed	Wind Direction	Rain	Cloud Cover	Temperature (°C)
	Map 8	07/07/2025	04:57	08:00	04:49 / 21:22	1	NW	0 – 1	7/8 – 8/8	11 - 13

Wind Speed (Beaufort)				Wind Direction		Rain		Cloud Cover		
Calm	0	Strong breeze	5	Recorded using a 16 point compass (examples given)	N	None	0	Recorded in eighths	1/8	5/8
Light air	1	Mod. gale	6		NNE	Light Showers	1		2/8	6/8
Light breeze	2	Fresh gale	7		NE	Heavy Showers	2		3/8	7/8
Mod. breeze	3	Strong gale	8		ENE	Light rain	3		4/8	8/8
Fresh breeze	4	Whole gale	9		NE	Heavy rain	4			

Annex 3

Breeding Bird Survey Report (PEIR Submission)



EAST PARK ENERGY

East Park Energy

EN010141

**Preliminary Environmental Information Report
Volume 2 – Technical Appendices**

Appendix 7-2: Breeding Bird Survey Report

September 2024

Version 01

EAST PARK ENERGY

Preliminary Environmental Information Report Volume 2 – Technical Appendices

Appendix 7-2: Breeding Bird Survey Report

Version	Date	Status
01	September 2024	PEIR

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 This Technical Appendix has been prepared to accompany **PEIR Volume 1 Chapter 7: Ecology and Nature Conservation** of the East Park Energy Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and presents methodology and results of breeding bird surveys undertaken in relation to the Scheme.

1.1.2 The objectives of this report are to:

- provide baseline information on breeding ornithological features within the Site; and,
- identify the presence of notable breeding bird species within the Site.

1.1.3 Only common bird species names are referred to within the main text of this Appendix. A summary of all bird species referred to herein including scientific names and conservation status is presented in Annex 1.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1.1 Breeding bird surveys were undertaken between mid-April and Mid-June 2022, and mid-April and early June 2024 for additional parts of the Site not surveyed during the initial survey period. The surveys employed an adapted version of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Common Bird Census (CBC) technique (Gilbert et al., 1998¹). Due to the size of the Site, it was split into five survey areas (Areas 1-4 during 2022 and Area 5 and 6 during 2024), with each survey area subject to a series of four staggered survey visits, undertaken at least seven days apart.

2.1.2 All survey visits were carried out from dawn and finished by midday in conditions suitable for survey (avoiding heavy rain and strong winds). A summary of survey

¹ Gilbert, G., Gibbons, D.W & Evans, J. (1998) *Bird monitoring methods. A manual of techniques for key UK species.* RSPB, Sandy

effort is presented in Table 2.1 and detailed survey conditions are presented in Annex 2.

- 2.1.3 The survey area comprised the Site and also included a 100m buffer observed from the Site boundary to record the presence of species listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981² (as amended) (*PEIR Volume 3 Figure 7-4*).
- 2.1.4 Breeding bird survey visits were undertaken by Simon Nichols (SN), Rob Hill (RH), Mark Baker (MB,) and Richard Bashford (RB), all suitably competent and experienced ornithologists.
- 2.1.5 During each survey visit all bird registrations were recorded on suitably scaled field maps using standard BTO species codes and behaviour notations (such as singing, carrying food, active nest). The approximate locations of bird territories within the Site were determined using standard territory mapping techniques to identify and isolate areas within which birds consistently displayed breeding behaviours (following Gilbert et al. 1998).
- 2.1.6 Observations of non-breeding birds just visiting the Site (e.g. gulls feeding in fields) and birds flying over the Site were also made.

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.:1: Breeding bird survey effort.

Survey Number	Survey Area	Date	Surveyor	Start time (24hrs)	End time (24hrs)	Sunrise (24hrs)
2022 Surveys						
1	Area 1	19/04/2022	MB	06:00	11:30	05:55
	Area 2	20/04/2022	RH	06:00	10:05	05:53
	Area 3	19/04/2022	RH	06:00	10:45	05:55
	Area 4	18/04/2022	SN	06:00	09:35	05:57
2	Area 1	11/05/2022	MB	05:30	11:45	05:12
	Area 2	12/05/2022	RH	05:00	09:05	05:11
	Area 3	11/05/2022	RH	05:00	08:50	05:12

² Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Survey Number	Survey Area	Date	Surveyor	Start time (24hrs)	End time (24hrs)	Sunrise (24hrs)
		12/05/2022	RH	09:00	10:25	05:11
	Area 4	09/05/2022	SN	05:00	09:30	05:16
3	Area 1	26/05/2022	MB	05:15	12:00	04:51
	Area 2	26/05/2022	RH	04:55	09:45	04:51
	Area 3	25/05/2022	RH	04:55	10:00	04:53
	Area 4	23/05/2022	SN	05:05	09:40	04:53
4	Area 1	16/06/2022	MB	05:30	12:00	04:39
	Area 2	22/06/2022	RH	04:55	10:00	04:39
	Area 3	21/06/2022	RH	04:55	10:10	04:39
	Area 4	15/06/2022	SN	05:15	09:05	04:39
2024 Surveys						
1	Area 5 and 6	21/04/2024	SN	06:20	09:55	05:54
2	Area 5 and 6	07/05/2024	RB	05:30	08:45	05:19
3	Area 5 and 6	21/05/2024	RB	05:30	08:45	04:56
4	Area 5 and 6	06/06/2024	RB	05:00	08:40	04:42

Limitations

- 2.1.7 It is acknowledged that surveys of Area 5 and 6 were undertaken in a different year to Area 1-4, and therefore bird usage between years may not be directly comparable. Breeding bird activity within an area will always be subject to annual variance due to numerous natural and anthropogenic factors. Therefore, while the data collected in 2022 and 2024 is not directly comparable, surveys as a whole are considered representative of baseline breeding bird use across the Site.
- 2.1.8 No further significant limitations to the assessment were encountered during the breeding bird surveys.

3.0 RESULTS

- 3.1.1 For the purposes of this report, only the estimated number of breeding territories of Notable Species are presented in Table 3.1 and mapped on **PEIR Volume 3 Figure 7-4**, given these are the most relevant species to the design and assessment of development proposals. Notable Species relevant to the Proposed Development include Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC Amber and Red List Species (Stanbury *et al.*, 2021³), NERC Act (2006)⁴, Annex 1⁵ raptors and owls, Schedule 1 species and Cambridgeshire⁶ and Bedfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan⁷ species.
- 3.1.2 The breeding bird assemblage recorded within the Site is representative of the locale and the agricultural and field boundary habitats present. A total of 17 Notable Species were recorded breeding within the Site (Table 3.1).
- 3.1.3 Quail, a Notable Species listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 191 (as amended), was recorded within the Site during the final breeding bird survey. This comprised of up to four potential territories recorded within suitable breeding habitat in the centre of the Site. Being a late spring migrant, it is possible that the species had only recently arrived within the Site at the time of the final survey in June. As the species was only recorded on one survey it was not possible to determine the number of territories, however as a precaution, and acknowledging the species' status as a Schedule 1 species, this species as been included as containing breeding territories within the Site.
- 3.1.4 Other Notable Species recorded within the study area included eight Red List species (grey partridge, lapwing, cuckoo, skylark, linnets, yellowhammer, corn bunting and yellow wagtail) and nine Amber List species (quail, stock dove,

³ 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>.

⁴ Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006)

⁵ Annex 1 – species listed on Annex 1 of the EC Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament on the conservation of wild birds.

⁶ No Local Biodiversity Action Plan available for Cambridgeshire.

⁷ https://www.bedscape.org.uk/BRMC/newsite/index.php?c=bedslife_bap [Accessed Jan 2024].

woodpigeon, willow warbler, whitethroat, wren, dunnock, song thrush and reed bunting)

- 3.1.5 Seven Notable Species recorded within the study area are listed as rare and most threatened species under Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) (grey partridge, lapwing, cuckoo, skylark, dunnock, song thrush, linnet, reed bunting, corn bunting, yellowhammer and yellow wagtail).
- 3.1.6 No species listed under the Cambridgeshire or Bedfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAPs) were recorded within the study area.
- 3.1.7 The number of breeding territories for nine Notable Species were ≤ 5 (grey partridge, quail, lapwing, woodpigeon, stock dove, cuckoo, dunnock, willow warbler and corn bunting), two other Notable Species had breeding territories between 6-10 (song thrush and reed bunting) and six other Notable Species had breeding territories >10 (skylark, wren, whitethroat, linnet, yellowhammer and yellow wagtail).
- 3.1.8 Breeding territories of Notable Species were typically associated with vegetation along field boundaries, which principally comprises of field-margins, hedgerows, scrub, tree-lines and woodland habitats within and adjacent to the Site.
- 3.1.9 Ground-nesting Notable Species breeding within the Site comprises of grey partridge, quail, lapwing, yellowhammer, yellow wagtail and skylark. Grey partridge, yellowhammer and yellow wagtail typically nest on the ground within field margins or hedgerow bases. Lapwing, skylark and quail nest within arable and grassland fields. Skylark territories were considered to be 104 breeding pairs, predominantly within arable fields within the Site.
- 3.1.10 Notable breeding species (or potential breeding species) recorded along with an estimated number of the breeding territories within the Site are detailed within Table 3.1. The indicative locations of the territories of Notable Species are provided in ***PEIR Volume 3 Figure 7-4.***

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.:2: Breeding Bird Territories Recorded Within the Site.

Species	Estimated Territories (2022 Survey Areas)	Estimated Territories (2024 Survey Area)	Combined Estimated Territories	Comments
Grey partridge	2	2	4	Associated with arable field margins.
Quail	0-4	-	0-4	Associated within arable fields.
Lapwing	-	5	5	Within unsown fields.
Woodpigeon	3	2	5	Within trees and hedgerows along field boundaries.
Stock dove	3	1	4	Within trees and hedgerows along field boundaries.
Cuckoo	2	-	2	Within hedgerows along field boundaries.
Skylark	76	28	104	Associated within arable fields.
Dunnock	4	1	5	Within hedgerows along field boundaries.
Wren	28	5	33	Within trees and hedgerows along field boundaries.
Song thrush	6	-	6	Within trees and hedgerows along field boundaries.
Willow warbler	1	-	1	Within hedgerows along field boundaries.
Whitethroat	20	10	30	Within hedgerows along field boundaries.
Linnet	11	2	13	Within trees and hedgerows along field boundaries.
Reed bunting	5	3	8	Within hedgerows along field boundaries.
Corn bunting	3	2	5	Within trees and hedgerows along field boundaries.
Yellowhammer	29	7	36	Associated with arable field margins.
Yellow wagtail	9	9	18	Associated with arable field margins.

3.1.11 During the surveys, several additional species that were not considered as breeding were recorded within the Site, and which consisted of individual birds flying over the Site only, or those considered only visiting the Site to feed⁸. Non-breeding species recorded within the Site are summarised in Table 3.2.

⁸ This was based on a number of factors including the number and gender of birds recorded (e.g., only one record of one female during the survey period), unsuitability of habitats on-Site for breeding of some species, and movement of birds from Site to a suspected nest site off-Site.

Table 3.2: Non-breeding species Recorded within the Site

Species	Comments
Greylag goose	Foraging in fields within Site.
Mallard	Flying over Site.
Lapwing	Flying over Site.
Black-headed gull	Flying over Site.
Lesser black-backed gull	Flying over Site.
Common tern	Flying over Site.
Grey partridge	Foraging in fields within Site.
Woodpigeon	Foraging in fields and roosting in trees within Site.
Stock dove	Foraging in fields within Site.
Tawny owl	Juvenile heard calling
Buzzard	Hunting and soaring over Site. Likely nesting the wider area.
Red kite	Hunting and soaring over Site. Likely nesting the wider area.
Hobby	Flying over Site.
Kestrel	Hunting over Site. Likely nesting the wider area.
Sparrowhawk	Hunting over Site. Likely nesting the wider area.
Grey heron	Flying over Site.
Rook	Foraging in fields and roosting in trees within Site.
Starling	Foraging in fields within Site.
Swift	Foraging over Site.
House martin	Foraging over Site.
House sparrow	Foraging in field boundaries and hedgerows within Site.
Duncock	Foraging in field boundaries and hedgerows within Site.
Wheatear	Single male observed foraging within Site.
Song thrush	Foraging in field boundaries and hedgerows within Site.
Yellow wagtail	Foraging in fields within Site.
Meadow pipit	Flying over Site.
Skylark	Flying over and foraging within Site.
Bullfinch	Individuals and families flying over and foraging within Site.
Greenfinch	Foraging in field boundaries within Site.
Linnet	Flying over and foraging within Site.
Corn bunting	Foraging in field boundaries and hedgerows within Site.
Reed bunting	Foraging in field boundaries and hedgerows within Site.
Yellowhammer	Flying over and foraging within Site.

Annex 1

Bird Species Summary

Table A1 provides a list of bird species recorded during the breeding bird surveys. Both common and species names are presented along with a summary of each species conservation status using the following abbreviations:

- Annex 1 – European Birds Directive Annex I species;
- S1 – Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
- BoCC – Birds of Conservation Concern as listed by leading bird conservation organisations in the UK, including the RSPB and BTO. Red and Amber categories are given (Stanbury et al., 2021);
- NERC S41 – species listed as rare and most threatened on the NERC Act (2006); and,
- LBAP – species listed under the Bedfordshire Local Biodiversity Action.

Table A1: Summary of bird species.

Common name	Species name	Conservation status
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	BoCC – Amber
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	BoCC – Amber
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	BoCC – Red, NERC S41
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	BoCC – Amber
Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	BoCC – Amber
Common tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	BoCC – Amber
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	BoCC – Red, NERC S41
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	S1, BoCC – Amber
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	BoCC – Amber
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	BoCC – Amber
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	BoCC – Amber
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	-

Common name	Species name	Conservation status
Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Annex 1, S1
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	S1
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	BoCC – Amber
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	BoCC – Amber
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	BoCC – Red, NERC S41
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	-
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	BoCC - Amber
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	BoCC – Red, NERC S41
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	BoCC – Red
House martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	BoCC – Red
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	BoCC – Red, NERC S41
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	BoCC – Red, NERC S41
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	BoCC – Amber
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	BoCC – Amber
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	BoCC – Amber, NERC S41
Yellow wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	BoCC – Red, NERC S41
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	BoCC – Amber
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	BoCC – Red, NERC S41
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	BoCC – Amber, NERC S41
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	BoCC – Red
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	BoCC – Red
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	BoCC – Amber
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	BoCC – Amber
Corn bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	BoCC – Red, NERC S41
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	BoCC – Amber, NERC S41
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	BoCC – Red, NERC S41