Light Valley Solar

Environmental Statement Volume 3

Appendix 12.2: Non-Breeding Bird Survey Report Part 1 of 3

Document Reference: EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.12.02

February 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN0110012
APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Light Valley Solar

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

Light Valley Solar

DCO Submission

Appendix 12.2: Non-breeding Bird Survey Report Part 1 of 3

Regulation Reference	APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)
Planning Inspectorate Case Reference	EN0110012
Application Document Reference	EN0110012/APP/06.03.12.02
Author	Light Valley Solar Limited

Version	Date	Status of Version
1.0	February 2026	DCO Submission

Light Valley Solar

on behalf of Light Valley Solar Limited

Technical Appendix 12.2: Non-breeding Bird Survey Report

avian ecology

CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 This report presents the results of the non-breeding ornithological surveys undertaken by Avian Ecology Ltd (AEL) on behalf of Light Valley Solar Limited (the Applicant) in relation to the proposed Light Valley Solar Development ('the Proposed Development'). The Proposed Development comprises ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays, on-site energy storage, associated infrastructure, a cable route, and a grid connection.

1.1.2 The Proposed Development's boundary, herein referred to as the Order Limits, is made up of four broad areas, the Solar Development Sites (900 hectares (ha)), Cable Route Corridor (328.5 ha), Highways Improvements Areas (17.1 ha), and Solar Development Site 8 Access (24.1 ha).

1.1.3 The Cable Route Corridor is the area within which the export connection cables (hereafter referred to as the 'Grid Connection Cables') would be located to connect the Solar PV Sites to the National Grid at the existing Monk Fryston Substation (hereafter referred to as the 'Existing National Grid Monk Fryston Substation') and the area within which cables connecting the Solar Development Sites would be located (hereafter referred to as 'Interconnecting Cables') (refer to Figure 2.1: Illustrative Site Layout Plan (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.01**].

1.1.4 The Highways Improvement Areas are sections of the highway network that will contain localised improvements to allow movement of construction vehicles on narrower sections of the local highway network, such as improvements to the road edge, traffic management, and provision of temporary passing places or visibility splays. The Solar Development Site 8 Access area will provide optionality to access Solar Development Site 8 from the north. The entirety of the Order Limits is within the administrative area of North Yorkshire Council and falls within what was Selby district.

1.1.5 Note that the surveys particular focus was on the areas bullet pointed below:

1) the Solar Development Sites (long-term operational infrastructure); and

2) the Cable Route Corridor (temporary construction-phase infrastructure).

1.1.6 The main element of the Proposed Development comprises seven Solar Development Sites (Solar Development Sites 1-4 and 6-8), as presented in Figure 2.1: Illustrative Site Layout Plans (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.01]** and in the Outline Environmental Masterplan [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/02.12**], that will accommodate the Solar PV Panels. A BESS Compound will be located within Solar Development Site 2.

1.1.7 The Solar Developments and numbering used throughout the ornithology documents are listed below:

1) Solar Development Site 1;

2) Solar Development Site 2;

3) Solar Development Site 3;

4) Solar Development Site 4;

5) Solar Development Site 6/7 (Solar Development Site 6 and Solar Development Site 7 merged due to spatial overlap); and

6) Solar Development Site 8.

1.1.8 Note: For the purposes of field surveys, Solar Development Sites 6 and 7 were combined due to overlapping survey area buffers and contiguous habitats; therefore, they are treated as a single survey unit in this report i.e. Solar Development Site 6/7 and will be referred to this hereafter (See **Figure 1**).

1.1.9 The full extent of the Order Limits, including the Solar Development Sites, Cable Route Corridor and Cable Construction Compounds. A description of the Proposed Development is provided in Chapter 2: The Proposed Development (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02**].

1.1.10 For clarity, Solar Development Site numbering used within this Ornithology Appendix may differ slightly from other disciplines, but all referenced areas fall within the same overall Order Limits.

1.2 Report scope

1.2.1 The objectives of this report are to:

1) Provide baseline information on the current wintering and passage ornithological features within the Order Limits and adjacent habitats of the Solar Development Sites and the Cable Route Corridor that falls within the SSSI IRZ;

2) Identify the bird species present within the Solar Development Sites and Cable Route Corridor and adjacent habitats during the non-breeding season;

3) Assess the importance of the non-breeding bird assemblages that the Order Limits (and relevant adjacent habitats) support; and

4) Identify the presence of Priority Species (as defined in Section 2.2) within the Order Limits and surrounding area to determine whether any land affected by the Proposed Development may function as Functionally Linked Land (FLL) to nearby internationally designated sites.

1.2.2 Only common bird species names are referred to within the main text of this Appendix. A summary of all bird species recorded during the surveys or referenced within the text are presented with their scientific names and conservation status in Annex G.

1.3 Project evolution

1.3.1 At the point of publication of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) presented at Statutory Consultation between 26 June to 7 August 2025 Solar Development Site 5 was included within the PEIR ornithological assessment boundary. However, Solar Development Site 5 has since been excluded from the Order Limits and is therefore not considered further in this Appendix; subsequently no data from Solar Development 5 is presented in this document. However, for completeness the VPs and transects are shown on **Figure 3**.

1.3.2 In addition, the northern extent of Solar Development Site 1 and the southern extent of Solar Development Site 4 have been excluded from the Order Limits. Although the northern extent of Solar Development Site 1 and the southern extent of Solar Development Site 4 have been excluded from the Order Limits, the full extents of both sites have been retained within this Appendix and for the subsequent Environmental Statement (ES) assessment (see **Figure 1**). This approach ensures consistency and

completeness of the baseline data and supports a comprehensive assessment, given the close proximity of the Proposed Development to these areas and the potential pathways for effects on qualifying species associated with the Lower Derwent Valley (LDV) and Humber Estuary (HE), as referenced in Natural England's Section 42 consultation response (response reference: S42 ID 195 located in Chapter 12: Ornithology (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.12**]).

1.4 Natural England

1.4.1 Natural England, as statutory consultees, were engaged via their Discretionary Advice Service on 17 October 2024 due to the proximity of the Proposed Development, particularly due to the location of Solar Development Site 1 to the Lower Derwent Valley SPA and Ramsar Site, with consultation focusing on agreeing appropriate survey design and methodologies. Natural England's recommendations were implemented, and surveys were undertaken between September 2024 and September 2025. Following a meeting on 16 April 2025, the Applicant's consultants (AEL) proposed that one year of survey data would be sufficient for impact assessment, supported by a technical note submitted on 4 July 2025 that analysed baseline results and addressed inter-annual variability using the Lower Derwent Valley SPA WeBS dataset. Natural England provisionally agreed with this approach on 6 August 2025, subject to further clarification on matters including cropping and flood data and the buffer analysis used for bird-day calculations. These points were addressed in an Informative Advice Note submitted on 27 October 2025, and Natural England's subsequent response of 18 December 2025 informed the final assessment presented within the accompanying Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/05.11]**, with all correspondence appended for completeness (Annex B.4 of the Shadow HRA).

1.4.2 On 14th January 2025, it was confirmed that Natural England were satisfied with the one-year baseline, providing that points raised in their response received on 18th December 2025 were addressed.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1.1 This section describes the desk-based data review and field survey methods used to establish the baseline for non-breeding birds within and surrounding the Order Limits.

2.2 Desktop study

2.2.1 The following sources were reviewed in order to assess the Order Limits and the area surrounding:

- Review of Statutory and non-statutory sites within 20 km of the Proposed Development[1];
- North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYED): A review of existing casual bird records within 2 km of the Order Limits (**Annex 6**)[2];
- A review of the most recent up to date wetland bird records (all year round) from the following British Trust for Ornithology (BTO); Wetland Bird Survey ('WeBS') Lower Derwent Valley SPA and the Humber Estuary SPA;
- A review of York Ornithological Club Reports & Historical Records that are available to date (2020), where applicable; these are of casual and unsystematic records collected by bird watchers[3]; and
- The BTO Data Report[4] (**Annex 5;** further detailed below).

2.2.2 The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Data Report provides a collation and analysis of both historical (2007–2011) and contemporary (2021–2025) bird records relevant to the Site. Data are drawn from national BTO recording schemes, including the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Bird Atlas, and BirdTrack databases, covering all 1-km grid squares, tetrads, and 10-km squares that overlap the Site (a total of 33 1-km squares, 15 tetrads, and three 10-km squares). The entirety of the Order Limits (including Solar Development Sites 1–8) has been evaluated by the BTO as part of the desk study to account for the dynamic nature and mobility of bird species.

2.2.3 The dataset is used to identify all bird species recorded within these grid squares and to assess their relative status and distribution. Contextual analysis compares the occurrence and abundance and the range of species at local (vice-county and county), regional, national (country), and UK. scales. This enables the importance of species populations in the vicinity of the Site to be evaluated and helps inform the assessment of potential effects, as well as the design of habitat mitigation, enhancement, and biodiversity net gain measures.

2.2.4 The BTO definition of "notable" - A species is considered 'Notable' if its percentage range is at least twice the site's percentage size, except at the UK scale, where species are Notable if the site and vicinity cover 2% or more of their UK range.

[1] Natural England. (n.d.). MAGIC: Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside. [online] Available at: https://magic.defra.gov.uk/ [Accessed 28 Oct. 2025]

[2] North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC). (n.d.). North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre. Retrieved May 24, 2025, from https://www.neyedc.org.uk/

[3] York Ornithological Club. (n.d.). YOC Recording Area. Retrieved October, 2025, from https://yorkbirding.org.uk/sites/yoc-recording-area/

[4] BTO (2025) BTO Data Report Light Valley Solar

2.3 Non-breeding bird field survey

2.4 Survey overview

2.4.1 In the absence of specific bird surveys guidance for solar farm developments, two types of non-breeding bird surveys were carried out to determine the usage of the Order Limits and the Survey Area (detailed in below) in accordance with Natural England's 'Annex C[5]' guidelines, and which was agreed through consultation with Natural England on an email dated 15 November 2024 as part of the Discretionary Advice Service (DAS).

2.4.2 All transects, Vantage Points and survey areas are presented in **Figure 3**.

2.5 Survey area and field methodology

2.5.1 Natural England's Annex C provides guidance for developments located within or adjacent to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zones (IRZs), in this case the Lower Derwent Valley SPA and Ramsar site. The guidance is particularly relevant where there is potential for development to impact on 'Functionally Linked Land' (FLL) for European designated sites, including arable fields, grassland, and waterbodies that may support waterfowl and waders associated with nearby European sites.

2.5.2 If survey results indicate that a development could affect 1% or more of a Humber Estuary SPA and (or) the Lower Derwent Valley SPA and Ramsar site populations, Natural England typically advise that further assessment is required. However, Natural England also considers that, for declining or vulnerable species, even smaller proportions may still be considered significant and warrant mitigation (see 2.8 for further details).

2.6 Solar Development Sites

2.6.1 The Solar Development Sites entailed the following surveys. All survey effort and conditions can be found in Annex 7, Annex 8 and Annex 9. It is important to note that there is overlap between passage and winter 'shoulder' months; however all months have contained a minimum of three surveys per month, which aligns with Natural England's Annex C guidance.

2.6.2 Walkover surveys broadly followed the "look-see" method[6] [7](including diurnal, dusk and nocturnal coverage); and were completed under optimal conditions.

2.6.3 Note that surveyors scanned all fields from their boundary prior to entering to ensure minimal flushing effects:

1) Passage surveys April-Mid-May and August-September, inclusive (two diurnal and one nocturnal walk over per month).

2) Wintering bird surveys, October to March, inclusive (one diurnal and one nocturnal walk over per month).

3) Vantage Point (VP) flight activity surveys (once per month).

[5] Natural England. (2024). Annex C: Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Consultation Response. Retrieved April 10, 2025, from https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN020036-000104-Natural%20England.pdf

[6] Gilbert G, Gibbons D.W. and Evans J. (1998) Bird Monitoring Methods. RSPB Sandy.

[7] Bibby, C.J., Burgess, N.D., Hill, D.A. & Mustoe, S.H. (2000)

2.6.4 Three hours were undertaken at each VP per month. Vantage Point (VP) surveys were undertaken across 19 fixed locations covering Solar Development Sites 1–4, 6/7-8, as shown in **Figure 3** note that there were 24 VPs prior to Solar Development Site 5 being excluded from the Order Limits. The methodology was based upon NatureScot (formerly SNH) guidance[8] and Natural England's Annex C recommendations.

2.6.5 Survey effort and conditions for both walkover and VP surveys are presented in Annex A. The detailed survey approach was developed and agreed with Natural England through the Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) as detailed in Section 1.4.

2.6.6 For avoidance of doubt, the Survey Area is defined as the Oder Limits of the Solar Development Sites, plus a 300 m buffer.

2.6.7 For clarity, any records of qualifying species observed immediately outside the Order Limits i.e. in land parcels adjacent to the Solar Development Site boundaries, were included within the "within Order Limits" dataset to ensure a precautionary and robust estimate of functional use of the site and the wider area.

2.7 Cable Route Corridor

2.7.1 Survey effort and conditions can be found in Annex 10 and Annex 11. Survey coverage along the Cable Route Corridor was limited to areas falling within the SSSI IRZ (see **Figure 2**), as agreed through consultation with Natural England on 1st July 2025. The following surveys were undertaken:

4) Spring passage survey (April to May, inclusive) – two walk overs per month covering diurnal and one nocturnal; and

5) Autumn passage August to October, inclusive)- two walk overs per month covering diurnal and one nocturnal.

2.7.2 All walk over surveys followed the look-see method[9] [10] and were completed during optimal conditions and started and ended at various times of the day during the diurnal surveys to capture the full potential of species utilising the landscape.

2.7.3 Note that surveyors scanned all fields from their boundary prior to entering to ensure minimal flushing effects.

2.7.4 For clarity, the Survey Area is defined as the Order Limits of the Cable Route Corridor which falls within the SSSI IRZ (**Figure 2**), plus a 300 m buffer. The Cable Route Corridor is broadly divided into eight sections within the SSSI IRZ (Cable Route Map 1-8; **Figures 13-20**) which covers south of Solar Development Site 1 to south of Thore Willoughby. See **Figure 4**, for sectioning of the Order Limits and associated map references.

2.8 Species considerations and assessment (1 %)

2.8.1 In accordance with Natural England's Annex C guidance and Natural England's response to the PEIR, the 1% population thresholds for qualifying species of the monthly Lower Derwent Valley and Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar sites were applied to all species identified as qualifying features, as well as those forming part of the wider waterbird

[8] NatureScot (2017) Recommended bird survey methods to inform impact assessment of onshore wind farms. Scottish Natural Heritage, Inverness.

[9] Gilbert G, Gibbons D.W. and Evans J. (1998) Bird Monitoring Methods. RSPB Sandy.

[10] Bibby, C.J., Burgess, N.D., Hill, D.A. & Mustoe, S.H. (2000)

assemblage (listed in Annex B and B1[11]; see **Annex 2**). These thresholds provide a benchmark for assessing whether the numbers of birds using the Survey Area are of potential significance to the designated site populations and therefore may indicate the presence of Functionally Linked Land (FLL).

2.8.2 Where species did not exceed the 1% threshold, their occurrence was assessed qualitatively based on patterns of activity, abundance, and distribution within the Survey Area to identify any areas of local importance or concentrations of activity relevant to the subsequent impact assessment (Chapter 12: Ornithology (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.12**]).

2.9 Definitions

2.9.1 'Priority Species' have been defined in accordance with Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group (2023) guidance, with the addition of qualifying species relevant statutory designated sites. Priority Species relevant to the Proposed Development and recorded during the non- breeding bird surveys comprise:

1) Qualifying species and those part of the wider waterbird assemblage of the designated sites, in this case, the Lower Derwent Valley Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar and Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar (Table 2-1)

2) Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) Amber and Red List Species (Stanbury et al.2021);

3) Section 41 (S41) species listed under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006;

4) Annex 1 / Schedule 1 species; and

5) Species listed under the Draft North Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS, 2025), which provides the most up-to-date framework for identifying locally important species.

2.9.2 This report focuses primarily on waders and wildfowl that fall within the categories outlined above, as these were scoped in during the scoping phase of the application process; however, all species recorded are acknowledged for completeness.

Table 2-1 The Lower Derwent Valley and Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar sites species overlap

Category	Number of species	Species as individually listed and part of the wider waterbird assemblage (Annex B and B1; Annex 2)
Shared between sites	12	Gadwall, golden plover, greylag goose, lapwing, mallard, pochard, ruff, shelduck, shoveler, teal, whimbrel and wigeon.
Unique to Lower Derwent Valley	5	Bewick's swan, whooper swan, pintail, water rail.

[11] Natural England (2024) Advice on Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report – Humber to Walpole National Electricity Transmission Line Project (EN020036-000104). Natural England, 2 Sept. 2024. Available at: https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN020036-000104-Natural%20England.pdf (Accessed: 18/12/2025).

Unique to Humber Estuary	24	Avocet; bar-tailed godwit; bittern; black-tailed godwit; brent goose; curlew; dunlin; goldeneye; greenshank; grey plover; hen harrier; knot; little egret; little tern; marsh harrier; oystercatcher; pink-footed goose; redshank; ringed plover; sanderling; scaup; turnstone; crane; green sandpiper.

2.10 Limitations

2.10.1 Survey coverage of the Cable Route Corridor was limited to a single walkover undertaken in April due to temporary access constraints. However, this is not considered a significant limitation, as the habitats and species recorded were comparable to those within the Solar Development Sites, which are considered representative of the habitat types present along the Cable Route Corridor and within the wider landscape.

2.10.2 VP surveys were not completed along the Cable Route Corridor due to the flat terrain of the area, scale of the Cable Route Corridor and temporary nature of the construction phase and its reversable impacts. This was considered proportionate as per Natural Englands response via a DAS correspondence received on 01 July 2025.

2.10.3 Ten of the twelve walking transects and 21 of the 24-vantage point (VP) surveys were completed in September 2024. However, the outstanding areas were covered during September 2025 to ensure a complete passage baseline within the Survey Area.

2.10.4 HIAs were not specifically targeted through the non-breeding bird surveys, as they comprise hardstanding, verges and active road infrastructure that do not provide suitable habitat for foraging or roosting non-breeding birds, nor do they contribute to functionally linked land associated with designated sites. As such, these areas are not considered relevant to the subsequent non-breeding bird assessment. However, it is important to note that the buffers attached to the methods (Section 1), some areas that contain HIAs are captured indirectly as a result of the survey design, particularly those adjacent to the Solar Development Sites and the Cable Route Corridor. HIA areas are presented in ES Figure 1.2: Elements of the Proposed Development (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.01.02**]

2.10.5 The current dataset represents a snapshot of the Order Limits and surrounding areas. Bird species are highly mobile, and their movements are based off of external factors such as disturbance, farming practices and season (but not limited to). However, based on the flood data analysis and farming practices assessment undertaken within the Shadow HRA [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/05.11],** the one-year baseline is also acknowledged by Natural England that the surveys represent a robust baseline to inform the subsequent assessments that are informed by this report.

2.10.6 It is also noted that Natural England has acknowledged that the connection works to National Grid Monk Fryston are temporary in nature. Natural England further confirmed within the DAS that only the Cable Route Corridor falling within the SSSI IRZ requires survey coverage. National Grid Monk Fryston lies well outside this area

2.10.7 Overall, the data set is considered sufficiently robust for the purposes of impact assessment (Environmental Statement **EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01**) and Shadow HRA (**EN0110012/APP/LVS/05.11**).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Desktop study results

3.1.1 On review of the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside ('MAGIC') website the Study Area is located within 20 km of the following international statutory designated sites with ornithological qualifying features:

1) Lower Derwent Valley SPA, SAC & Ramsar (2.8 km east of Solar Development Site 1); and

2) Humber Estuary SPA, SAC & Ramsar (17.5 km east of Solar Development Site 4).

3.1.2 Records of a total of 68 species were returned by North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC; **Annex 6**) within 2.0 km of the Order Limits. Of these, a total of seven species considered main components and part of the wider waterbird assemblage were returned during 2025 (the most recent year available). These include greylag goose (two records), lapwing (two records), mallard (three records), oystercatcher (one record), pink-footed goose (one record), shelduck (one record) and whooper swan (one record). All records listed here are from between 2014 to 2024.

3.1.3 A total of 84 non-breeding bird species were returned within 2 km of the Order Limits by the BTO Data Report (**Annex 5**). These species include:

3) Seven species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (little ringed plover, barn owl, marsh harrier, red kite, redwing, fieldfare, and kingfisher). Note that redwing and fieldfare are not known to breed within the region;

4) Fourteen species on the Red list according to Birds of Conservation Concern 5 (Stanbury et al. 2021)- grey partridge, lapwing, woodcock, herring gull, willow tit, skylark, house martin, starling, mistle thrush, tree sparrow, house sparrow, greenfinch, linnet, and yellowhammer;

5) Twenty-four species on the Amber list, according to Birds of Conservation Concern 5 (Stanbury et al. 2021); greylag goose, pink-footed goose, gadwall, mallard, teal, stock dove, woodpigeon, moorhen, oystercatcher, snipe, black-headed gull, common gull, great black-backed gull, lesser black-backed gull, sparrowhawk, kestrel, rook, wren, song thrush, dunnock, grey wagtail, meadow pipit, bullfinch, and reed bunting; and

6) Two species on Annex 1 of the EU Birds Directive; golden plover and little egret.

3.1.4 There is considerable overlap between BoCC, Annex 1 and schedule one species classifications. These categories are not entirely discrete, as some species may fall under more than one designation depending on criteria such as conservation status, legal protection, or population trends.

3.1.5 According to the BTO Data Report, no non-breeding bird species within the three 10-km squares overlapping the Order Limits were considered 'notable' at the national scale when compared to the U.K. (international) geographical scale.

3.1.6 At a **National** (England) scale: winter range (nine species) whooper swan, shelduck, pintail, ruff, goshawk, marsh harrier, ring-necked parakeet, willow tit and corn bunting.

3.1.7 Winter abundance (17 species): greylag goose, mute swan, whooper swan, wigeon, goosander, grey partridge, rock dove, woodpigeon, collared dove, waxwing, willow tit, tree sparrow, brambling, bullfinch, linnet, common/lesser redpoll and yellowhammer.

3.1.8 At a **Regional** scale (Yorkshire and the Humber): winter range (twenty species)- brent goose, Bewick's swan, Egyptian goose, shelduck, gadwall, pintail, ruddy duck, grey plover, ringed plover, bar-tailed godwit, ruff, dunlin, green sandpiper, yellow-legged gull, goshawk, marsh harrier, ring-necked parakeet, Cetti's warbler, rock pipit and corn bunting.

3.1.9 Winter abundance (14 species): greylag goose, mute swan, whooper swan, wigeon, grey partridge, woodpigeon, collared dove, cormorant, waxwing, willow tit, brambling, bullfinch, linnet and yellowhammer.

3.1.10 At a **County** scale (North Yorkshire): winter range (27 species) brent goose, Bewick's swan, whooper swan, Egyptian goose, shelduck, gadwall, pintail, pochard, scaup, smew, ruddy duck, grey plover, ringed plover, bar-tailed godwit, ruff, dunlin, jack snipe, green sandpiper, glaucous gull, yellow-legged gull, goshawk, marsh harrier, ring-necked parakeet, Cetti's warbler, chiffchaff, rock pipit and corn bunting.

3.1.11 Winter abundance (22 species): greylag goose, mute swan, whooper swan, shelduck, wigeon, goosander, grey partridge, woodpigeon, collared dove, golden plover, green sandpiper, cormorant, barn owl, kingfisher, waxwing, willow tit, brambling, bullfinch, linnet, common/lesser redpoll, goldfinch and yellowhammer.

3.1.12 At a **Vice County** scale (mid-west Yorkshire): winter range (23 species)- brent goose, Bewick's swan, Egyptian goose, gadwall, pintail, smew, ruddy duck, grey plover, ringed plover, bar-tailed godwit, ruff, dunlin, green sandpiper, glaucous gull, yellow-legged gull, goshawk, marsh harrier, ring-necked parakeet, willow tit, Cetti's warbler, chiffchaff, rock pipit and corn bunting.

3.1.13 Winter abundance, (24 species): greylag goose, mute swan, whooper swan, shelduck, wigeon, grey partridge, woodpigeon, collared dove, golden plover, green sandpiper, cormorant, barn owl, kingfisher, rook, waxwing, willow tit, skylark, tree sparrow, brambling, bullfinch, linnet, common/lesser redpoll, goldfinch, yellowhammer.

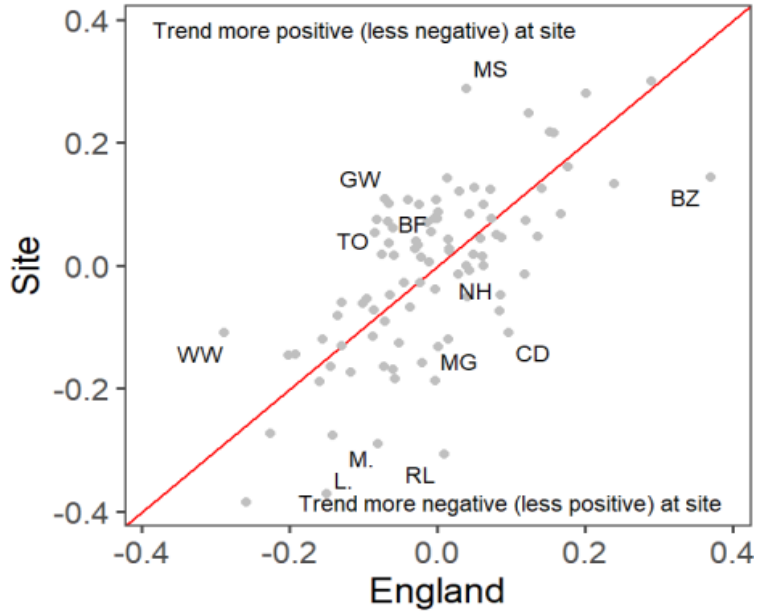
3.1.14 At a **Vice County** scale (South-east Yorkshire): winter range (11 species) Egyptian goose, pintail, ruff, green sandpiper, yellow-legged gull, goshawk, red kite, Cetti's warbler, nuthatch, common/lesser redpoll, common crossbill.

3.1.15 Winter abundance (10 species): Canada goose, green woodpecker, jay, waxwing, willow tit, goldcrest, brambling, bullfinch, linnet, common/lesser redpoll.

Stability of species at geographical scales (BTO Data Report)

3.1.16 Overall, the data returned and assessed by the BTO from the BTO Data Report show a mixed pattern of change in species relative abundance, with some species performing better locally and others declining more than in surrounding areas. wetland and woodland species such as mute swan (MS), tawny owl (TO), willow warbler (WW), and garden warbler (GW) generally fared well, suggesting favourable local habitat conditions. in contrast, farmland and aerial insectivorous bird species including lapwing (L.), sand martin, house martin, and greenfinch declined more sharply, indicating continued pressures on these groups. Overall, the site supports several species of conservation concern but reflects wider national trends of contrasting fortunes across different habitats.

Plate 3-1 Relative abundance changes for the site and its vicinity compared to the rest of England. Species[12] above the line of equality have more positive/less negative trends at/near the Order Limits compared to the England.



Source: Light Valley BTO Data Report (2025)

3.2 Field survey results – the Solar Development Sites

3.2.1 The following section presents the results of each of the Solar Development Sites 1-4, 6/7 and 8. Note that all results presented below are from all surveys, walk over, nocturnal, VP and species recorded outside of the Order Limits i.e. in adjacent fields have been included as part of the overall results. Note that this includes all species actively utilising the area (roosting and foraging).

3.2.2 All data for the Solar Development Sites can be found in **Annex 3**, where minimum, maximum and frequency counts (number of total records per month) of birds across each Solar Development Site is presented.

3.2.3 The Solar Development Sites Order Limits and peak counts between September 2024 and September 2025 are presented in Table 3-8. Species distribution and counts are presented in **Figures 5 - 12**. All species records from each visit within a month have been included in the figures for completeness. Therefore, a month presented in the figure may reflect multiple survey dates and visits.

Solar Development Site 1

3.2.4 A total of 26 species were recorded between September 2024 and September 2025, of these, nine qualifying features and species considered as part of the wider waterbird assemblage, as follows: lapwing, golden plover, teal, gadwall, greylag goose, mallard, oystercatcher and little egret.

3.2.5 Of these, lapwing and golden plover represent the key assemblage components, showing evidence of functional connectivity, with the Lower Derwent Valley SPA WeBS monthly average 1% exceeded during the core winter period (golden plover) and both passage

[12] Abbreviations: (L.) – Lapwing, (M.) – Mistle thrush, (WW)- Willow warbler, (NH)- Nuthatch, (BZ)- Buzzard, (CD)- collared dove, (RL) – Red legged partridge, (TO)- Tawny owl, (MG)- Magpie, (GW) – Garden warbler, (BF)- Bullfinch, (MS) Mute swan.

and wintering period (lapwing). Other designation species (teal, gadwall, greylag goose, mallard) occurred infrequently in small numbers, indicating only incidental or peripheral use of the Solar Development Site 1. The remaining qualifying species were not recorded, suggesting no substantive functional connection for those taxa.

3.2.6 Eighteen non-designated Priority Species were recorded within Solar Development Site 1 during surveys between September 2024 and September 2025. These include typical farmland and wet-grassland birds such as grey partridge, barn owl, snipe, and woodcock. Although not qualifying features of nearby SPAs or Ramsar sites, this assemblage demonstrates that the site provides valuable local habitat diversity, supporting resident wintering birds associated with lowland agricultural landscapes.

3.2.7 Beyond the Order Limits, small numbers of pink-footed goose (1), mallard (3) and lapwing (1-212; peak count of 212 was brought into the results in Table 3-1) were recorded. These numbers however did not exceed those recorded within Solar Development Site 1 (**Figure 5** and **Figure 6**). Species distribution across the Solar Development Site was highly variable and not predictable, with peak counts occurring in different locations between months and not being sustained across individual survey visits. Maximum peak counts appeared to represent isolated observations rather than consistent patterns of site use. Within each month, species numbers fluctuated markedly between visits and did not persist at the maximum levels reported in Table 3-1. For example, although nine lapwing records were obtained during October, the mean number of birds recorded per visit was 58 (Table 3-2), demonstrating that peak counts substantially overstate typical abundance and do not reflect regular or sustained use of Solar Development Site 1.

Table 3-1 Solar Development Site 1 waterbird species peak counts. Numbers in bold denote the Lower Derwent Valley and (or) Humber Estuary 1% threshold exceedance (*) denotes species that are unique to the Humber Estuary hereafter.

Species	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025
Gadwall	5	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Derwent Valley SPA (LDV) 5-year monthly mean 1%	No count (NC)	-	-	-	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Humber Estuary (HE) 5-year monthly mean 1%	4.5	-	-	-	3.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Plover	-	2.0	9.0	-	**112.0**	**42.0**	1.0	-	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	2.0	21.3	-	**17.6**	**40.3**	**1.1**	-	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	78.3	139.0	-	**98.6**	**132.5**	**35.0**	-	-	-	-
Greylag Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**12.0**	4.0	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**	**2.3**	NC	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	-	**-**	**-**	**-**	**4.1**	4.1	-	-
Lapwing	**106.0**	**234.0**	**126.0**	32.0	**212.0**	**128.0**	**12.0**	**6.0**	**6.0**	**-**	**-**
LDV 1%	NC	**12.2**	**44.8**	41.3	**38.4**	**74.2**	**8.5**	**2.1**	NC	**-**	**-**
HE 1%	**5.0**	**28.7**	**101.6**	128.8	**147.3**	**75.6**	**4.3**	**0.9**	**0.9**	**-**	**-**
Little Egret*	-	-	-	**1.0**	-	**1.0**	-	-	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	**0.0**	-	**0.1**	-	-	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	**0.7**	-	1.2	-	-	-	-	-
Mallard	-	**11.0**	9.0	-	6.0	6.0	**16.0**	**6.0**	**10.0**	-	-
LDV 1%	-	**2.8**	14.4	-	22.5	9.8	**8.7**	**3.8**	NC	-	-
HE 1%	-	**11.0**	11.5	-	12.7	10.5	**8.8**	**4.6**	**4.7**	-	-
Oystercatcher*	-	-	-	-	-	-	**4.0**	**2.0**	2.0	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0.3**	**0.2**	NC	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	46.9	32.2	18.3	-	-
Teal	-	-	12.0	2.0	9.0	13.0	4.0	-	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	38.6	64.6	92.4	77.1	82.3	-	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	48.9	49.1	67.9	57.5	27.0	-	-	-	-

Table 3-2 Solar Development Site 1 species min and maximum numbers, alongside range and numbers of visits which had species presence.

Month	Species	Min per month	Max per month	Mean per month (total number of records)	Visits with presence (*n*= 3 / April and May *n*=4)
Oct	Lapwing	1	234	58 (9)	3 / 3
	Golden plover	0	2	0.7 (1)	1 / 3
	Greylag goose	0	0	0	0 / 3
Nov	Lapwing	1	126	33.6 (11)	3 / 3
	Golden plover	0	9	3 (4)	2 / 3
	Greylag goose	0	0	0	0 / 3
Dec	Lapwing	1	32	12 (3)	3 / 3
	Golden plover	0	0	0	0 / 3
	Greylag goose	0	0	0	0 / 3
Jan	Lapwing	3	212	62.8 (12)	3 / 3
	Golden plover	1	112	28.7 (12)	3 / 3
	Greylag goose	0	0	0	0 / 3
Feb	Lapwing	5	128	37.6 (5)	3 / 3
	Golden plover	0	42	14 (1)	1 / 3
	Greylag goose	0	0	0	0 / 3
Mar	Lapwing	2	12	4 (14)	3 / 3
	Golden plover	0	1	0.3 (1)	1 / 3
	Greylag goose	0	0	0	0 / 3
Apr	Lapwing	2	6	3 (12)	4 / 4
	Golden plover	0	0	0	0 / 4
	Greylag goose	0	12	3.6 (6)	3 / 4
May	Lapwing	1	6	1.8 (19)	4 / 4
	Golden plover	0	0	0	0 / 4
	Greylag goose	0	4	2.4 (4)	3 / 4

Solar Development Site 2

3.2.8 A total of 18 bird species were recorded during the non-breeding bird surveys.

3.2.9 Five bird species listed as qualifying features of the Humber Estuary and/or Lower Derwent Valley SPAs/Ramsars were recorded on Solar Development Site 2: lapwing, golden plover, curlew, little egret, and mallard. Numbers were low, with only golden plover showing the 1% exceedance on one occasion (January 2025) and lapwing on one occasion (March 2025, indicating only occasional use of the Solar Development Site 2.

3.2.10 The wider assemblage comprised common farmland, wet-grassland, and woodland birds such as grey partridge, snipe, and woodcock, typical of the local agricultural landscape.

Overall, Site 2 supports a moderate local avian assemblage with very low functional relevance to the nearby SPAs/Ramsars.

3.2.11 Beyond the Order Limits, one isolated flock of greylag geese were recorded (10 individuals; **Figure 7**).

Table 3-3 Solar Development Site 2 waterbird species peak counts. Numbers in bold denote the Lower Derwent Valley and (or) Humber Estuary 1% threshold exceedance

Species	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025
Curlew*	-	-	-	**2**	-	-	-	-	-		
Lower Derwent Valley SPA (LDV) 5-year monthly mean 1%	-	-	-	**0.21**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Humber Estuary (HE) 5-year monthly mean 1%	-	-	-	21.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Plover	5	-	1	-	15	-	-	**9**	-	-	-
LDV 1%	NC	-	21.3	-	17.6	-	-	**0**	-	-	-
HE 1%	42.5	-	139.0	-	98.6	-	-	**4.5**	-	-	-
Lapwing	-	-	-	2	2	18	**19**	**2**	**2**	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	41.3	38.4	74.2	**8.5**	2.1	2.1	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	128.8	147.3	75.6	**4.3**	**0.9**	**0.9**	-	-
Little Egret*	1	1	-	**1**	-	**1**	-	-	-	-	-
LDV 1%	NC	2.0	-	**0.0**	-	**0.1**	-	-	-	-	-
HE 1%	3.09	2.4	-	**0.7**	-	1.2	-	-	-	-	-
Mallard	5	-	2	3	2	-	2	2	1	-	-
LDV 1%	NC	-	14.4	13.7	22.5	-	8.7	3.8	NC	-	-
HE 1%	14.6	-	11.5	13.3	12.7	-	8.8	4.6	4.67	-	-

Solar Development Site 3

3.2.12 Three SPA/Ramsar/Annex species, teal, mallard, and little egret were recorded on Solar Development Site 3 between September 2024 and September 2025, all in very low numbers. Their presence indicates only occasional or opportunistic use of the site. The remaining species comprise a small assemblage of farmland and generalist birds such as grey partridge, woodcock, and little owl, which are of local rather than regional significance.

3.2.13 Overall, Solar Development Site 3 provides limited supporting habitat value for designated waterbird assemblages but contributes to local farmland bird diversity.

3.2.14 Beyond the Order Limits, two Schedule 1 birds were recorded- peregrine and red kite (**Figure 8**).

Table 3-4 Solar Development Site 3 waterbird species peak counts. Numbers in bold denote the Lower Derwent Valley and (or) Humber Estuary 1% threshold exceedance

Species	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025
Little Egret*	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Derwent Valley SPA (LDV) 5-year monthly mean 1%	-	-	0.0	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-
Humber Estuary (HE) 5-year monthly mean 1%	-	-	1.1	-	-	1.2	-	-	-	-	-
Mallard	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	6	5	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	-	22.5	-	-	3.8	NC	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	-	12.7	-	-	4.6	4.7	-	-
Teal	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	-	92.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	-	67.9	-	-	-	-	-	-

Solar Development Site 4

3.2.15 A total of 38 species were recorded during the non-breeding bird surveys.

3.2.16 Twelve bird species listed as qualifying features of the Humber Estuary and/or Lower Derwent Valley SPAs/Ramsar sites were recorded on Solar Development Site 4 between September 2024 and September 2025. Of these, greylag goose and lapwing occurred in numbers above the 1% threshold, indicating that Solar Development Site 4 functions as supporting (functionally linked) wintering habitat, particularly for the Humber Estuary assemblage, greylag.

3.2.17 Other qualifying species such as wigeon, shelduck, gadwall, mallard, golden plover, curlew, little egret, oystercatcher, and pink-footed goose were recorded only in small numbers with no regular occurrence, suggesting occasional or transient use.

3.2.18 Greylag goose is considered part of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA's wintering waterbird assemblage but is not an individually listed qualifying feature. The species is also a named component of the Humber Estuary SPA non-breeding assemblage. Given the Solar Development Site 4 location, the timing of records (peak in February) and the species' known movement patterns, the observed flock (227 individuals and 225 individuals recorded across two visits in February) most likely represents birds of the Icelandic/Humber population. Consequently, whilst Greylag goose may nominally fall under the Lower Derwent Valley assemblage definition, the functional ecological link for the Solar Development Site 4 population is far likely associated to both European sites due to their large foraging range (beyond 10 km)

3.2.19 Non-designated species included typical farmland and wet-grassland birds such as corn bunting, grey partridge, barn owl, and snipe. While these are not qualifying features of nearby SPAs or Ramsar sites, they contribute to a diverse local non-breeding assemblage, indicating that Solar Development Site 4 supports higher diversity value but limited regional or international importance.

3.2.20 Beyond the Order Limits (**Figure 9** and **Figure 10**), particularly along the River Aire, up to 100 wigeon, 100 teal, 400 greylag geese and 9 whooper swan were recorded. Due to the exclusion of the southern portion of Solar Development Site 4, the distance between these areas is 500 m (minimum).

Table 3-5 Solar Development Site 4 waterbird species peak counts. Numbers in bold denote the Lower Derwent Valley and (or) Humber Estuary 1% threshold exceedance

Species	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025
Curlew*	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Lower Derwent Valley SPA (LDV) 5-year monthly mean 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.8	1.3	-	-	-
Humber Estuary (HE) 5-year monthly mean 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	20.1	9.0	-	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**2**	1	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.3	NC	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.3	1.6	-	-
Golden Plover	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LDV 1%	NC	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HE 1%	45.2	78.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greylag Goose	17	-	**157**	-	**32.0**	**227.0**	2.0	**25.0**	**8.0**	4.0	-
LDV 1%	0	-	**32.4**	-	**22.7**	**8.2**	**4.8**	**2.3**	NC	NC	-
HE 1%	**16.7**	-	**16.2**	-	**11.9**	**8.1**	**5.2**	**4.1**	7.7	22.2	-
Lapwing	-	2.0	**74.0**	19.0	**50.0**	5.0	4.0	**6.0**	**9.0**	**35.0**	-
LDV 1%	-	12.2	**44.8**	41.3	**38.4**	74.2	8.5	**2.1**	NC	NC	-
HE 1%	-	28.7	101.6	128.8	147.3	75.6	4.3	**0.9**	**0.9**	**6.1**	-
Little Egret*	1	-	**1**	**2**	**1**	**1**	-	-	**1**	-	-
LDV 1%	NC	-	**0**	**0**	**0.1**	**0.1**	-	-	NC	-	-
HE 1%	3.1	-	1.1	**0.7**	**1.0**	1.2	-	-	**0.9**	-	-
Mallard	7	-	-	7	-	9	5	14	3	-	-
LDV 1%	NC	-	-	13.7	-	9.8	8.7	3.8	NC	-	-
HE 1%	14.6	-	-	13.3	-	10.5	8.8	4.6	4.7	-	-
Oystercatcher*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**4**	1	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0.2**	NC	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32.2	18.3	-	-
Pink-footed Goose*	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	17.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Species	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025
HE 1%	-	-	113.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shelduck	-	-	-	-	**2**	-	-	-	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	-	**1.1**	-	-	-	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	-	21.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teal	-	11	-	14	-	8	40	-	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	24.8	-	64.6	-	77.2	82.3	-	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	99.9	-	49.1	-	57.5	27.0	-	-	-	-
Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	-	-	91.5	-	-	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	-	-	59.6	-	-	-	-	-

Solar Development Site 6/7

3.2.21 A total of 16 bird species were recorded on Solar Development Site 6/7 during surveys between September 2024 and September 2025

3.2.22 Five species (greylag goose, lapwing, little egret, mallard and teal) correspond to qualifying features of the Humber Estuary and/or Lower Derwent Valley SPAs/Ramsars, though all were present in very small numbers, suggesting only occasional use as peripheral supporting habitat. The remaining species comprise a typical assemblage of farmland, wet-grassland, and woodland birds such as grey partridge, barn owl, snipe, and woodcock, which are of local conservation interest rather than international importance.

3.2.23 Beyond the Order limits, a maximum count of two mallard, two little egret and ten greylag geese were recorded (**Figure 11**).

Table 3-6 Solar Development Site 6/7 waterbird species peak counts. Numbers in bold denote the Lower Derwent Valley and (or) Humber Estuary 1% threshold exceedance

Species	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025
Greylag Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**10**	-	-	-
Lower Derwent Valley SPA (LDV) 5-year monthly mean 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**2.3**	-	-	-
Humber Estuary (HE) 5-year monthly mean 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**4.1**	-	-	-
Lapwing	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	**2**	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	-	38.4	-	-	2.1	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	-	147.3	-	-	**0.9**	-	-	-
Little Egret*	-	-	**1**	-	**1**	-	**1**	-	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	**0.0**	-	**0.1**	-	**0.1**	-	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	1.1	-	1.0	-	**0.8**	-	-	-	-
Mallard	-	-	-	-	4	4	2	**6**	3	-	2
LDV 1%	-	-	-	-	22.5	9.8	8.7	**3.8**	NC	-	NC
HE 1%	-	-	-	-	12.7	10.5	8.8	4.6	4.7	-	14.6
Teal	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	-	-	77.2	8.7	-	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	-	-	57.5	8.8	-	-	-	-

Solar Development Site 8

3.2.24 A total of 20 non-breeding bird species were recorded on Solar Development Site 8 between September 2024 and September 2025. Nine correspond to qualifying features of the Humber Estuary and/or Lower Derwent Valley SPAs/Ramsars (curlew, golden plover, greylag goose, lapwing, mallard, oystercatcher, redshank, teal, and wigeon).

3.2.25 All occurred in low to moderate numbers, suggesting Solar Development Site 8 provides occasional supporting habitat for wintering waterbirds associated with nearby estuarine and floodplain assemblages. The remaining species comprised a typical farmland and wet-grassland community, contributing to local biodiversity but not of regional importance, based on the abundance of species present.

3.2.26 Beyond the Order Limits, up to three lapwing and 45 golden plover were recorded (the 45 golden plover were brought into the final results and were considered within the Order Limits) and up to six greylag were recorded (**Figure 12**).

Table 3-7 Solar Development Site 8 waterbird species peak counts. Numbers in bold denote the Lower Derwent Valley and (or) Humber Estuary 1% threshold exceedance

Species	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025
Curlew*	-	-	-	-	-	**4**	1	1	-	-	-
Lower Derwent Valley SPA (LDV) 5-year monthly mean 1%	-	-	-	-	-	**0.7**	1.8	1.3	-	-	-
Humber Estuary (HE) 5-year monthly mean 1%	-	-	-	-	-	24.4	20.1	9.0	-	-	-
Golden Plover	-	-	-	30	**45**	**47**	-	-	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	42.0	**17.6**	**40.3**	-	-	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	216.2	98.6	132.5	-	-	-	-	-
Greylag Goose	-	-	-	**27**	-	**40**	**14**	**16**	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	30.3	-	**8.2**	**4.8**	**2.3**	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	**15.1**	-	**8.1**	**8.1**	**4.1**	-	-	-
Lapwing	-	-	-	-	-	-	**9**	**2**	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	**8.5**	2.1	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	**4.3**	**0.9**	-	-	-
Mallard	-	-	-	11	-	**24**	8	2	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	13.7	-	**9.8**	8.7	3.8	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	13.3	-	**10.5**	8.8	4.6	-	-	-
Oystercatcher*	-	-	-	-	-	-	**11.0**	**1.0**	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0.3**	**0.2**	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	46.9	32.2	-	-	-
Redshank*	-	-	-	-	-	-	**2**	-	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0.1**	-	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	16.9	-	-	-	-
Teal	-	-	-	4	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	64.6	-	77.2	82.3	-	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	49.1	-	57.5	27.0	-	-	-	-
Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-
LDV 1%	-	-	-	-	-	91.5	-	-	-	-	-
HE 1%	-	-	-	-	-	59.6	-	-	-	-	-

Table 3-8 Maximum peak counts across the Solar Development Sites Order Limits combined. i.e. taking the maximum peak count across the Order Limits for each month.

Species	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Aug-25	Sep-25
Lapwing	106	243	126	32	212	128	19	6	9	35	0
Greylag goose	17	0	157	27	32	227	14	25	8	4	0
Mallard	7	11	9	11	6	24	16	14	10	0	2
Gadwall	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	0
Golden plover	5	2	9	30	112	47	1	9	0	0	0
Little egret	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
Teal	0	11	12	14	9	13	40	0	0	0	0
Pink-footed Goose	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mute swan	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shelduck	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curlew	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	0
Wigeon	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0
Redshank	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Oystercatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	2	0	0

3.3 Flight activity surveys – Solar Development Sites (Figures 21-37)

Solar Development Site 1

3.3.1 Flight activity at Solar Development Site 1 was dominated by wintering waders and wildfowl, with limited flight activity recorded during the spring passage. The highest numbers occurred between October and February, when the site recorded flocks of lapwing (between 91-226; average flight time 3 minutes) and golden plover (between 79-172 birds; average flight time 3.1 minutes), together with some fly overs made by pink-footed goose (autumn passage; peak 107 with average flight time of 2 minutes), greylag goose (peak 10; average flight time 2 minutes), mallard (<8; average flight time 1.8 minutes), and one flyover of whooper swan during March (peak 38; average flight time 1 minute).

3.3.2 Occasional individuals of curlew, oystercatcher, little egret, shelduck, and green sandpiper were also recorded, alongside low numbers of schedule 1 birds including red kite (majority of flight activity recorded), barn owl, marsh harrier (one occasion), and hobby (August). Overall, the recorded flight activity indicates that the site experiences low-level winter movements by farmland and waterbird assemblage species, likely associated with foraging and local displacement within the wider landscape. Flight activity was concentrated in the winter months and involved birds moving between surrounding feeding and roosting areas.

Solar Development Site 2

3.3.3 Flight activity at Solar Development Site 2 was generally low and dominated by a small number of short-duration movements involving common farmland and wetland species. The majority of flights occurred in late autumn and winter, with limited flight activity recorded during spring. Occasional flights were recorded for lapwing (peak count 50 birds; average flight time 1.5 minutes) and golden plover (one count of 15 birds; flight time 1 minute), along with small numbers of black-headed gull, common gull, greylag goose, and herring gull. Only isolated flights of barn owl, red kite, marsh harrier, hobby, merlin, and peregrine were noted, typically single birds passing over the site.

3.3.4 Overall, the flight data indicate that the site experiences occasional winter transitory flights within the wider agricultural landscape, with very little sustained or directional movement across the Solar Development Site 2.

Solar Development Site 3

3.3.5 Flight activity at Solar Development Site 3 was very low and comprised only occasional, short-duration flights by a few widespread wetland and farmland species. records included small numbers of black-headed gull (peak count 22 birds; average flight time 1 minute), mallard (peak 4 birds; average flight time 1 minute), and little egret (up to 2 birds). in addition, cormorant, grey heron, and greylag goose were each noted once, all during brief low-level flights. sporadic observations of raptors—red kite, hobby, and peregrine—involved single birds in short over-flights lasting one to three minutes. No sustained or directional movements were recorded. No flight activity was recorded during January and February.

3.3.6 Overall, the fight activity data for Solar Development Site 3 appeared infrequent and short-range movements by common species, primarily during autumn and early spring, with no evidence of regular commuting or breeding-season flight activity across the site.

Solar Development Site 4

3.3.7 Flight activity at Solar Development Site 4 was moderate and primarily associated with autumn and early-winter movements of wildfowl and waders, with further low-level activity extending into late winter and early spring. The most frequent flights involved greylag goose (peak count 170 birds; average flight time 1.5 minutes) together with smaller numbers of lapwing (peak count 47; 1.5 minutes, mallard (peak count 33; average flight time 1.5 minutes), wigeon (peak count 40; average flight time 1 minute), and teal (peak count 10; average flight time 1 minute). Diversity of species flying over appeared higher in comparison to the other Solar Development Sites which is similar to that of the other surveys completed in this area.

3.3.8 Additional records included black-headed, common, and lesser black-backed gulls, as well as infrequent flights of cormorant, grey heron, little egret, and great white egret. Occasional over-flights of Marsh Harrier, Red Kite, Peregrine, typically single birds passing through over Solar Development Site 4. Hobby were also recorded on five occasions between May and September.

3.3.9 Overall, the data indicate that the majority of flight activity was well spread out across the year of survey, however higher counts of species were more concentrated during autumn passage and winter.

Solar Development Site 6/7

3.3.10 Flight activity at Solar Development Site 6/7 was low overall, with occasional singular slights recorded for several species. The most notable activity involved pink-footed goose (one peak count 51 birds; flight time 1 minute) recorded during spring passage. small numbers of mallard (up to 25 birds; average flight time 1 minute), greylag goose, and little egret were recorded undertaking short local movements, while grey heron and great white egret were observed singly, likely transiting between nearby feeding areas. Sporadic flights of raptors included red kite, peregrine, merlin, and a single osprey during September. All flights appeared brief and non-directional.

3.3.11 Overall, flight activity was limited to short flight durations and small numbers of species passing though, with no evidence of sustained or regular commuting routes across the site.

Solar Development Site 8

3.3.12 Flight activity at Solar Development Site 8 was low to moderate and characterised mainly by movements of waders and wildfowl typical of the wider wetland bird assemblage. The most frequent records were of curlew (two records of single birds), with occasional flights of oystercatcher (up to 2 birds; average flight time 30 seconds) and little egret (1 bird), which demonstrate how limited the flight activity is within the area.

3.3.13 Among waterfowl, greylag goose (peak 46 birds recorded twice; average flight 1.5 minutes), mallard (one peak count 39 birds), teal (one peak count of 2 birds), and whooper swan (one peak count of 100 birds) accounted for most observations, all recorded during the winter period. Small numbers of black-headed gull and Canada goose were also noted, along with isolated flights of peregrine and red kite.

3.3.14 Overall, the flight activity data indicates that Solar Development Site 8 supports intermittent winter flights between waders and wildfowl, however flights included one to two flocks of birds flying through across the year throughout the surveys. No flights were recorded during September and January.

3.4 Field survey results – the Cable Route Corridor

3.4.1 A total of 27 bird species were recorded across the Cable Route Corridor during both spring and autumn passage periods. Of these, nine qualifying features were either individually listed or formed part of the waterbird assemblage associated with the Lower Derwent Valley SPA and Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar sites. All data for the Cable Route Corridor can be found in Annex 4. All records are illustrated in Figure 13 and Figure 20. Note that all records recorded each month are shown across diurnal and nocturnal surveys.

3.4.2 During spring passage (April – May), 15 species were recorded, while 24 species were noted during the autumn passage (August – October, inclusive).

Spring passage results

3.4.3 Overall, activity during the spring passage period was limited, with low bird numbers recorded across most areas (Table 3-9). Data were sufficient in April to enable comparison with corresponding Lower Derwent Valley SPA WeBS monthly thresholds. Of the qualifying species, lapwing was the only species to exceed the 1 % population threshold (LDV and HE SPA). However, this exceedance is not considered ornithologically meaningful, as April represents a transitional period from the non-breeding to breeding season when bird numbers fluctuate markedly due to the natural turnover of individuals migrating through the landscape (see Annex C).

3.4.4 No other qualifying species recorded in April exceeded the LDV SPA 1 % thresholds. Greylag goose and little egret both exceeded their respective Humber Estuary SPA 5-year mean 1 % thresholds during May, with one peak counts of 19 greylag geese (Area 5) and a peak count of two little egret (Area 4).

3.4.5 During May, bird activity remained low overall. Lapwing was recorded in low average numbers (mean 3.0 individuals, range 1–20), with occasional higher peak counts that were not sustained. Greylag goose was recorded in May only, with a maximum count of 19 individuals and an average of 10, exceeding the Humber Estuary SPA 5-year mean 1% threshold. However, this was based on a single peak count and does not indicate regular or consistent use of the site. No meaningful comparisons could be made for May with Lower Derwent Valley SPA thresholds due to the absence of corresponding WeBS baseline data.

Autumn passage results

3.4.6 Following the spring period, late summer (August-October) exhibited higher levels of activity overall (Table 3-10, Table 3-11),particularly for lapwing and golden plover, which were the most numerous and widely distributed qualifying species along the route. Both species were recorded in moderate numbers (1–68 individuals) and displayed a range of foraging and roosting behaviours.

3.4.7 Peak counts for lapwing and golden plover occurred during late summer, between August and September, reaching maximum values of 60 and 68 individuals, respectively. However, these values represent isolated peak counts. This is supported by the minimum and average data, with golden plover averages of 26.0 in August, 25.6 in September and 12.1 in October (range 1–68), and lapwing averages of 10.1 in August, 4.1 in September and 1.7 in October (range 1–60). These figures indicate high variability and short-term use rather than sustained aggregation (See Annex 4c).

3.4.8 During the autumn passage period, lapwing and golden plover were recorded in low to moderate numbers and displayed a range of foraging and roosting behaviours. While numbers were higher than those recorded during spring, the predominance of low minimum counts and the presence of isolated peaks suggest that use of the land was opportunistic and temporary. Other species recorded in lower numbers included gadwall, mallard, teal, ruff, and occasional oystercatcher. Notably, gadwall exceeded the 1 % Humber Estuary SPA threshold in August (3.61) with four individuals recorded in Map 4 (Figure 16). However, this does not infer that the species depend on the land based on the very low threshold.

3.4.9 Areas of relevance were typically associated with areas that include watercourses. These included Selby Dam (field number CR479), east of Ling Wood (CR216), south of Garmin Carr Lane (CR169), north of Moor Lane (CR91, CR87 and CR85), Skipwith Holmes (CR61). All field numbers are presented in Figure 2.3: Field numbering plan (ES Volume 2) [EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03.03].

3.4.10 See Figure 4 and the corresponding Map numbers presented in Figures 13-20.

Table 3-9 Qualifying species and bird species part of the wider bird assemblage peak counts recorded within the Cable Route Corridor, during spring passage. See Figures 13-20 which references the below map numbers.

Species	April								May							
	Map Number															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greylag Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**19**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**HE 1%-7.96**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lapwing	-	**6**	-	**1**	-	**12**	-	**3**	-	**2**	-	**2**	-	**20**	-	**4**
	-	**LDV 1% - 2.08**	-	**LDV 1% - 2.08**	-	**LDV 1% - 2.08**	-	**LDV 1% - 2.08**	-	**HE 1% - 0.87**	-	**HE 1% - 0.87**	-	**HE 1% - 0.87**	-	**HE 1% - 0.87**
	-	**HE 1% - 0.94**	-	**HE 1% - 0.94**	-	**HE 1% - 0.94**	-	**HE 1% - 0.94**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little Egret*	-	-	-	**2**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**1**	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	**HE 1% - 1.2**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**HE 1% - 0.93**	-	-	-	-
Mallard	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	1	-	2
Oystercatcher	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mute swan				1									1			

Table 3-10 Qualifying species and bird species part of the wider bird assemblage peak counts recorded within the Cable Route Corridor, during Autumn passage. See Figures 13-20 which references the below map numbers.

Species	August								September							
	Map Number															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gadwall	-	-	-	**4**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	**HE 1% - 3.61**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Golden Plover	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	**68**	**59**	-	4	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**HE-45.2**	**HE-45.2**	-	-	-	-	-
Lapwing	**11**	**1**	**60**	**60**	**10**	-	3	**13**	-	-	-	**8**	**4**	**7**	-	3
	HE 1% - 6.05	**HE 1% - 6.05**	**HE 1% - 6.05**	**HE 1% 6.05**	**HE 1% - 6.05**	-	-	**HE 1% -6.05**	-	-	-	**HE 1% - 4.97**	**-**	**HE 1% -4.97**	-	-
Mallard	-	4	-	5	**21**	-	2	-	-	-	2	3	2	-	5	-
	-	-	-	-	**HE 1% - 10.85**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruff	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-

Table 3-11 Qualifying species and bird species part of the wider bird assemblage peak counts recorded within the Cable Route Corridor, during Autumn passage (October). See Figures 13-20 which references the below map numbers.

October	Map Number							
Species	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
Golden Plover	-	**6** **LDV 1% - 2.01** HE 1% - 78.3	**26** **LDV 1% - 2.01** HE- 78.3	1 LDV- 2.01 HE- 78.3	**44** **LDV 1% - 2.01** HE- 78.3	-	-	-
Green Sandpiper	-	**1** **LDV 1% - 0.03** **HE 1% -0.01**	-	**2** **LDV- 0.03** **HE 1% -0.01**	**1** **LDV 1% - 0.03** **HE 1% -0.01**	-	-	-
Lapwing	-	-	1 LDV 1%- 12.1 HE 1%-28.69	3 LDV 1%- 12.1 HE 1%-28.69	1 LDV 1%- 12.1 HE-28.69	-	-	-
Little Egret	-	-	-	**3** **HE 1% -2.4**	-	-	-	-
Mallard	-	-	-	**5** **LDV 1% - 2.8** HE1%-11	**4** **LDV 1% - 2.8** HE 1%-11	**-**	**25** **LDV 1%- 2.8** HE 1%-11	-
Mute Swan	-	-	-	1 **LDV 1%- 0.61** HE 1%- 1.7		-	-	-
Teal	-	-	-	2 LDV 1%- 24.78 HE 1%- 99.94	6 LDV 1%- 24.78 HE 1%- 99.94	-	-	-
Wigeon	-	-	-	10 LDV 1%-18.68 HE 1%-27.72	-	-	-	-

3.4.11 In summary, the spring passage was characterised by limited waterbird activity with isolated threshold exceedances by lapwing, greylag goose, and little egret. In contrast, the late summer to autumn period recorded greater overall activity, with significant but isolated peak numbers of lapwing and golden plover indicating the presence of functionally important, though spatially discrete, fields along the Cable Route Corridor, however there was no evidence of prolonged sustained use throughout the field surveys.

4 SUMMARY OF SURVEYS

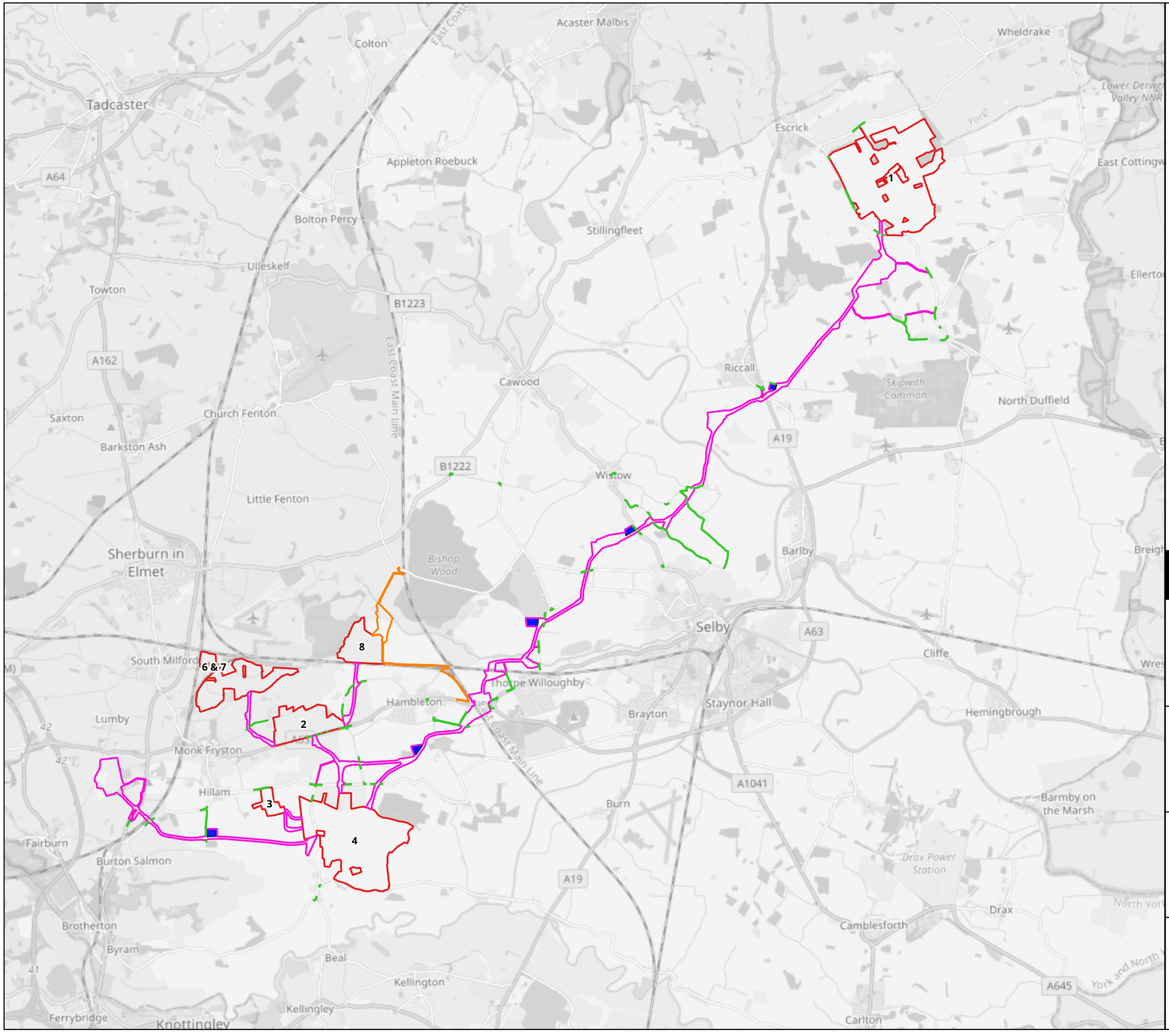
4.1.1 The baseline wintering bird survey programme (September 2024–September 2025; note the Cable Route Corridor up until October 2025), undertaken in line with methodologies agreed with Natural England through the Discretionary Advice Service (DAS), was supplemented with additional analyses requested by Natural England, including cropping composition, hydrological context and inter-annual variability using WeBS data from the Lower Derwent Valley and the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar. These submissions, together with Natural England's written advice and the Applicant's responses, are provided in the Shadow HRA **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/05.11]** .

4.1.2 The survey results demonstrate that Solar Development Sites 1, 4 and 8 supported the highest densities of qualifying SPA/Ramsar species during the non-breeding period (in line with the broad definition of FLL), whereas Sites 2, 3 and 6/7 supported lower and more diffuse usage, which were not considered to meet the broad criteria of FLL. Notwithstanding these spatial differences, qualifying species utilised land across the Order Limits for foraging, loafing and transit, and the area is therefore considered collectively to comprise FLL.

4.1.3 The Cable Route Corridor comprises temporary land take only. The Cable Route Corridor contained isolated peak counts of lapwing and golden plover, particularly during late summer when bird begin to start moving as part of autumn migration. However, the peak counts recorded across the Cable Route Corridor were considered episodic and not sustained throughout the autumn and the spring period. Higher counts were typically associated with areas that contained watercourses, particularly during late summer.

4.1.4 Construction works will not result in long-term and (or) permanent loss of functional habitat and all land will be reinstated to baseline condition. Accordingly, no habitat mitigation is required in relation to the Cable Route Corridor and impacts will be temporary and short in nature.

ANNEX 1: FIGURES



Order Limit

- Solar Development Sites
- Solar Development Site 8 Access
- Cable Route Corridor
- Highways Improvement Areas (HIA)
- Construction Compound
- 1 Solar Development Site Numbering

LIGHT VALLEY SOLAR

Figure 1 - Site Overview

Version: 01 Date: 05/02/2026

avian ecology

Avian Ecology, Suite 3c Walnut Tree Farm, Northwich Road, Lower Stretton
WA4 4PG
Tel: 0843 506 5116
www.avianecology.co.uk

0 1 2 km

Co-ordinate System : British National Grid
Projection: Traverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
Units: Metres

N

This map contains data from the following sources:

Order Limit
Solar Development Sites
Solar Development Site 8 Access
Cable Route Corridor
Highways Improvement Areas (HIA)
Construction Compound
SSSI Impact Risk Zone
Lower Derwent Valley

LIGHT VALLEY SOLAR

Figure 2 - SSSI Impact Risk Zone

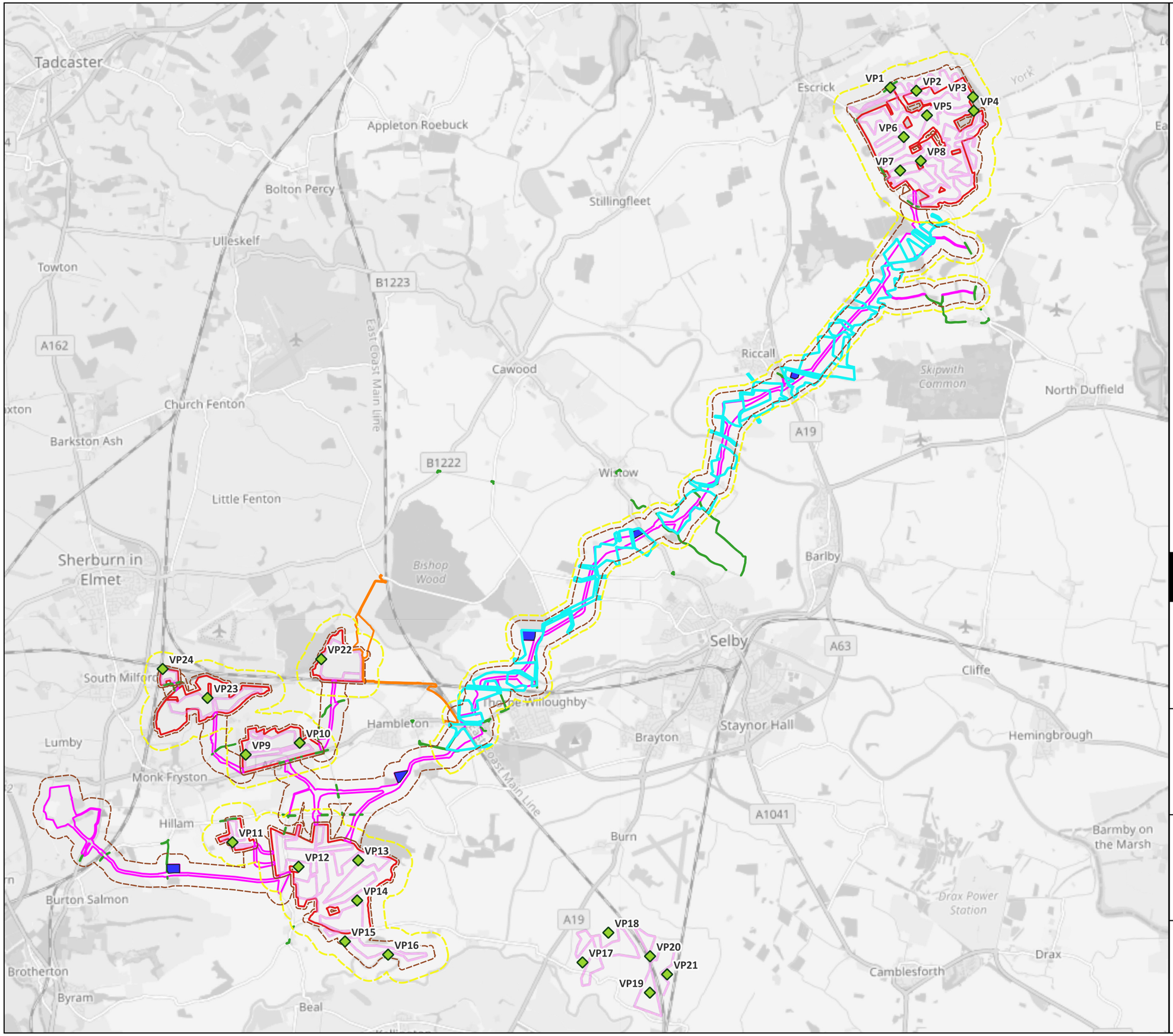
Version: 01

Date: 05/02/2026

Avian Ecology, Suite 3c Walnut Tree Farm, Northwich Road, Lower Stretton
WA4 4PG
Tel: 0843 506 5116
www.avianecology.co.uk

0 4 8 km

Co-ordinate System : British National Grid
Projection: Traverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
Units: Metres



Order Limit

- Solar Development Sites
- Solar Development Site 8 Access
- Cable Route Corridor
- Highways Improvement Areas (HIA)
- Construction Compound
- Vantage Point (VP)

Survey Areas

- Breeding Bird Survey Area (50m Solar Development Sites and 200m Cable Route Corridor Buffer)
- Non Breeding Bird Survey Area (300m Solar Development Sites and 300m Cable Route Corridor Buffer, within the SSSI Impact Risk Zone - Lower Derwent Valley)
- The Solar Development Site Transect Routes
- The Cable Route Corridor Transect Routes

LIGHT VALLEY SOLAR

Figure 3: Ornithological Survey Areas

Version: 01

Date: 09/02/2026

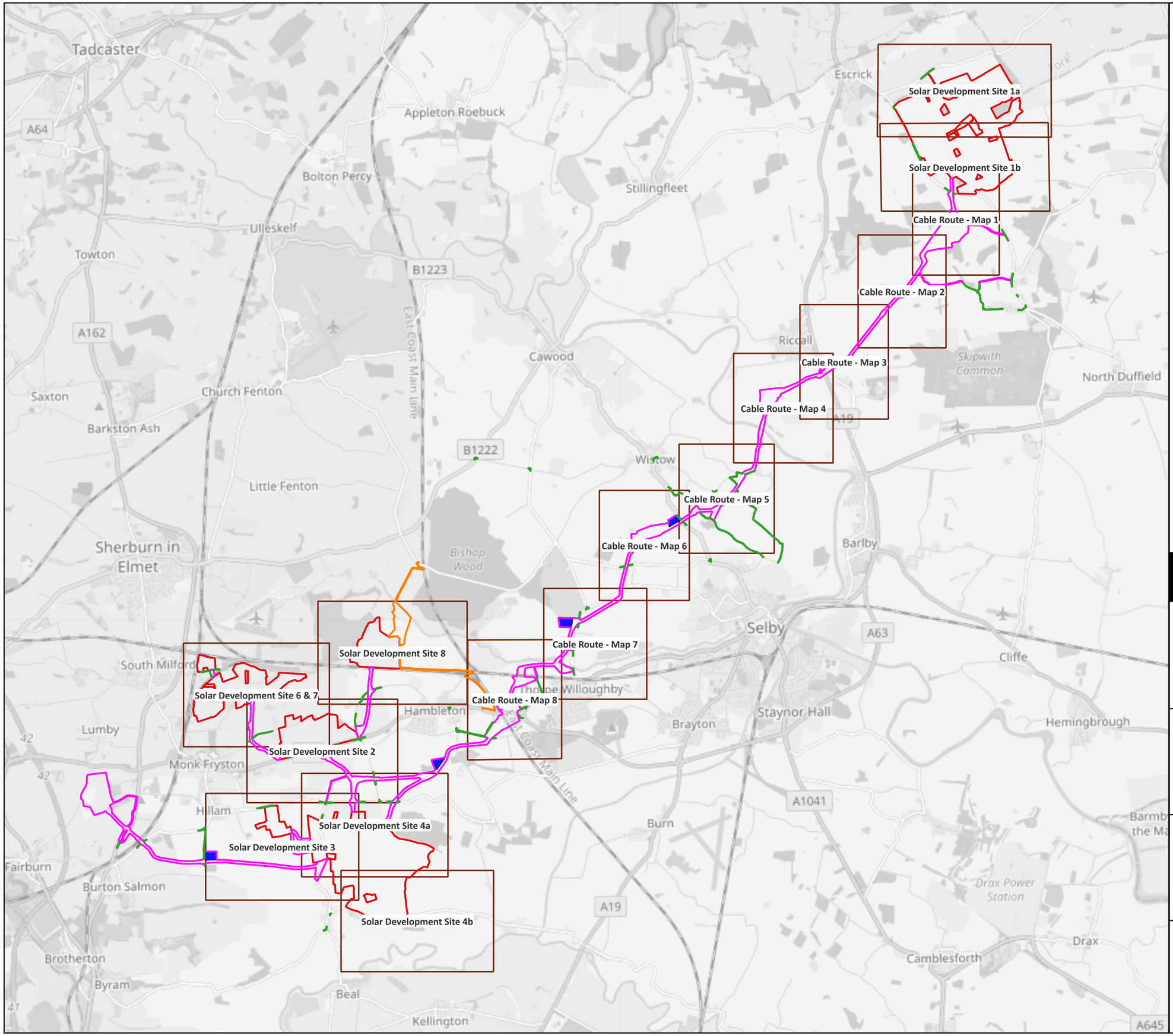
avian ecology

Avian Ecology, Suite 3c Walnut Tree Farm, Northwich Road, Lower Stretton
WA4 4PG
Tel: 0843 506 5116
www.avianecology.co.uk

0 1 2 km

Co-ordinate System : British National Grid
Projection: Traverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
Units: Metres

N



Order Limit

- Solar Development Sites
- Solar Development Site 8 Access
- Cable Route Corridor
- Highways Improvement Areas (HIA)
- Construction Compound

LIGHT VALLEY SOLAR

Figure 4: Non-Breeding Bird Results - Overview

Version: 02

Date: 05/02/2026

avian ecology

Avian Ecology, Suite 3c Walnut Tree Farm, Northwich Road, Lower Stretton
WA4 4PG
Tel: 0843 506 5116
www.avianecology.co.uk

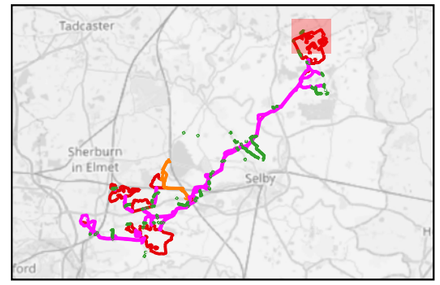
0 1 2 km

Co-ordinate System : British National Grid
Projection: Traverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
Units: Metres

Order Limit
Solar Development Sites
Solar Development Site 8 Access
Cable Route Corridor
Highways Improvement Areas (HIA)
Construction Compound

Non-Breeding Bird Results - Grounded Birds (Month of Survey)
September 204
October 2024
November 2024
December 2024
January 2025
February 2025
March 2025
April 2025
May 2025
August 2025
September 2025

All records shown are plotted on the map, using combined data from all survey visits and monthly counts.



LIGHT VALLEY SOLAR

Figure 5: Non-Breeding Bird Results - Birds on the Ground
Solar Development Site 1a

Version: 02 Date: 05/02/2026

avian ecology
Avian Ecology, Suite 3c Walnut Tree Farm, Northwich Road, Lower Stretton
WA4 4PG
Tel: 0843 506 5116
www.avianecology.co.uk

0 200 400 m

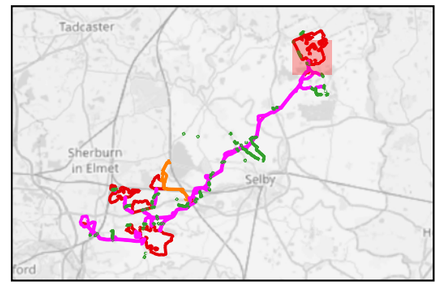
Co-ordinate System : British National Grid
Projection: Traverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
Units: Metres

Order Limit
- Solar Development Sites
- Solar Development Site 8 Access
- Cable Route Corridor
- Highways Improvement Areas (HIA)

Construction Compound

Non-Breeding Bird Results - Grounded Birds (Month of Survey)
- September 204
- October 2024
- November 2024
- December 2024
- January 2025
- February 2025
- March 2025
- April 2025
- May 2025
- August 2025
- September 2025

All records shown are plotted on the map, using combined data from all survey visits and monthly counts.



LIGHT VALLEY SOLAR

Figure 6: Non-Breeding Bird Results - Birds on the Ground
Solar Development Site 1b

Version: 02 Date: 05/02/2026

avian ecology

Avian Ecology, Suite 3c Walnut Tree Farm, Northwich Road, Lower Stretton
WA4 4PG
Tel: 0843 506 5116
www.avianecology.co.uk

0 200 400 m

Co-ordinate System : British National Grid
Projection: Traverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
Units: Metres

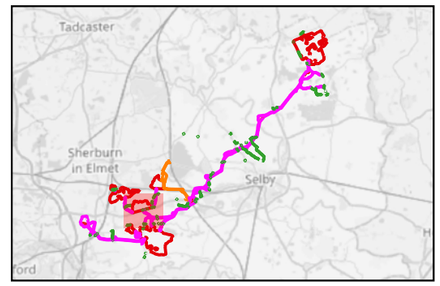
Order Limit
Solar Development Sites
Solar Development Site 8 Access
Cable Route Corridor
Highways Improvement Areas (HIA)

Construction Compound

Non-Breeding Bird Results - Grounded Birds (Month of Survey)

- September 204
- October 2024
- November 2024
- December 2024
- January 2025
- February 2025
- March 2025
- April 2025
- May 2025
- August 2025
- September 2025

All records shown are plotted on the map, using combined data from all survey visits and monthly counts.



LIGHT VALLEY SOLAR

Figure 7: Non-Breeding Bird Results - Birds on the Ground
Solar Development Site 2

Version: 02 Date: 05/02/2026

avian ecology

Avian Ecology, Suite 3c Walnut Tree Farm, Northwich Road, Lower Stretton
WA4 4PG
Tel: 0843 506 5116
www.avianecology.co.uk

0 200 400 m

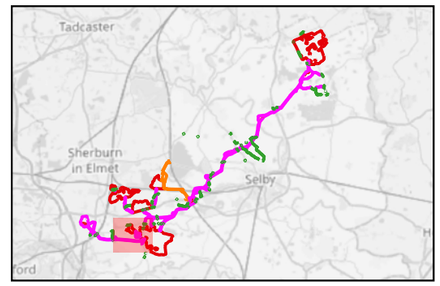
Co-ordinate System : British National Grid
Projection: Traverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
Units: Metres

Order Limit
Solar Development Sites
Solar Development Site 8 Access
Cable Route Corridor
Highways Improvement Areas (HIA)

Construction Compound

Non-Breeding Bird Results - Grounded Birds (Month of Survey)
- September 204
- October 2024
- November 2024
- December 2024
- January 2025
- February 2025
- March 2025
- April 2025
- May 2025
- August 2025
- September 2025

All records shown are plotted on the map, using combined data from all survey visits and monthly counts.



LIGHT VALLEY SOLAR

Figure 8: Non-Breeding Bird Results - Birds on the Ground
Solar Development Site 3

Version: 02 Date: 05/02/2026

avian ecology

Avian Ecology, Suite 3c Walnut Tree Farm, Northwich Road, Lower Stretton
WA4 4PG
Tel: 0843 506 5116
www.avianecology.co.uk

0 200 400 m

Co-ordinate System : British National Grid
Projection: Traverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
Units: Metres

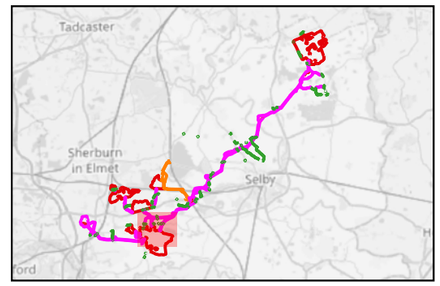
Order Limit
Solar Development Sites
Solar Development Site 8 Access
Cable Route Corridor
Highways Improvement Areas (HIA)

Construction Compound

Non-Breeding Bird Results - Grounded Birds (Month of Survey)

- September 204
- October 2024
- November 2024
- December 2024
- January 2025
- February 2025
- March 2025
- April 2025
- May 2025
- August 2025
- September 2025

All records shown are plotted on the map, using combined data from all survey visits and monthly counts.



LIGHT VALLEY SOLAR

Figure 9: Non-Breeding Bird Results - Birds on the Ground Solar Development Site 4a

Version: 02

Date: 05/02/2026

avian ecology

Avian Ecology, Suite 3c Walnut Tree Farm, Northwich Road, Lower Stretton
WA4 4PG
Tel: 0843 506 5116
www.avianecology.co.uk

0 200 400 m

Co-ordinate System : British National Grid
Projection: Traverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
Units: Metres

This map contains data from the following sources:

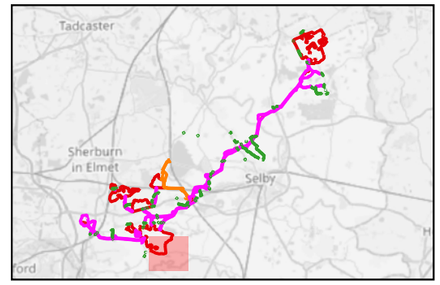
Order Limit
Solar Development Sites
Solar Development Site 8 Access
Cable Route Corridor
Highways Improvement Areas (HIA)

Construction Compound

Non-Breeding Bird Results - Grounded Birds (Month of Survey)

- September 204
- October 2024
- November 2024
- December 2024
- January 2025
- February 2025
- March 2025
- April 2025
- May 2025
- August 2025
- September 2025

All records shown are plotted on the map, using combined data from all survey visits and monthly counts.



LIGHT VALLEY SOLAR

Figure 10: Non-Breeding Bird Results - Birds on the Ground
Solar Development Site 4b

Version: 02

Date: 05/02/2026

avian ecology

Avian Ecology, Suite 3c Walnut Tree Farm, Northwich Road, Lower Stretton
WA4 4PG
Tel: 0843 506 5116
www.avianecology.co.uk

0 200 400 m

Co-ordinate System : British National Grid
Projection: Traverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936
Units: Metres

N

Light Valley
Solar

W: Lightvalleysolar.co.uk
E: info@lightvalleysolar.co.uk