

# **Steeple Renewables Project**

Appendix 7.6: Wintering bird report



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#### **Issuing office**

3 Brunel House | Hathersage Park | Station Approach | Hathersage | Derbyshire | S32 1DP T: 01433 651869 | W: www.bsg-ecology.com | E: info@bsg-ecology.com

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	Name	Position	Date
Originated	Daniel Foster	Principal Ecologist	27 August 2024
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### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report is a technical appendix to accompany the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) Chapter 7: Ecology and Biodiversity and includes the following information:
  - Methods.
  - Results including relevant Figures, and summary interpretation.
- 1.2 For ease of reference the following will be terms referred to within this report to define areas within the Site:
  - Proposed Solar Areas: areas within the Site which have been provisionally identified for locating the solar panels, battery storage and other associated infrastructure.
  - Biodiversity Mitigation Areas (Eastern and Western): areas of the Site that would not be used for development, and provisionally identified for use as biodiversity mitigation and enhancement.

The Site: collectively including the Proposed Solar Areas and Biodiversity Mitigation Areas.



### 2 Methods

#### **Desk study**

- 2.1 A data search for records of protected and notable species, including wintering birds, within 2km of the Site was requested from Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Records Centre (NBRC) and Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC) in March 2024.
- 2.2 Consideration of records up to twenty years old as of the request date (March 2024) is included within this report where relevant, as older records are less likely to be of relevance to the current baseline in the local area. Older records were reviewed as part of the desk study and are included where considered to be relevant to the Site, for example they occur on or adjacent to the Site.
- 2.3 Nottinghamshire Country Council planning application reference 1/46/06/00014 is a quarry scheme (not yet implemented) that is located adjacent the Site's northeast boundary on the farmland between the Site and the River Trent. The survey boundary for the quarry application included areas of the Site to the south of West Burton Power Station in the Proposed Solar Area. The ecology report for that application (ESL Ltd, 2010) presents the results of wintering bird surveys undertaken in 2009 / 10 which were reviewed as part of the desk study for this report.
- 2.4 Several designated sites with features of interest / qualifying features that include wintering birds are located within the search area for designated sites. This is dealt with in the baseline report for designated sites (Appendix 7.2 of the Ecology Chapter).
- 2.5 The Birds of Nottinghamshire Annual Report for 2020 (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers, 2023) was reviewed in an effort to establish the status of the bird species recorded at the Site. The Nottinghamshire Annual Report does not give population estimates for the species, but provides the following terms and definitions in relation to Nottinghamshire:
  - Very rare: 10 or fewer records ever.
  - Rare: 11 to 50 records ever.
  - Uncommon: Resident species with a very limited distribution in the county or non-resident species usually recorded in very limited numbers.
  - Fairly common: Resident or migrant species likely to be seen in modest numbers during most visits to suitable habitats.
  - Common: Resident or migrant species likely to be seen in reasonable numbers of all visits to suitable habitats.

#### Field survey

- 2.6 Surveys to characterise the wintering bird community were undertaken between October 2023 and March 2024 (inclusive) with one visit per month, and with reference to methods suggested by the Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group (2023). Owing to the size of the survey area, each survey was split over five days to permit full coverage of the Site. Appendix 7.6.1 presents the dates of wintering bird characterisation survey visits and weather conditions.
- 2.7 During each visit, the surveyor walked across the survey area scanning all habitats present (within the Site boundary and the immediate surrounding area) using binoculars as required. Frequent stops were made to listen and scan for birds. Birds observed beyond the boundary were also noted. Bird locations were mapped and behaviour recorded using standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) codes and symbols (Gilbert, G., Gibbons, D.W. & Evans, J., 1998).

#### Personnel

2.8 The wintering bird characterisation surveys were undertaken by Andrew Cockroft. Andrew is an experienced ornithological surveyor who regularly undertakes breeding and wintering bird surveys based on established methodologies as set out above.



#### **Consideration of potential limitations**

- 2.9 Full access was not possible to two areas of Site (as shown on Figure 7.6.1) and these were surveyed from Public Rights of Way (PRoWs). During the surveys, these fields and boundaries were observed where possible using binoculars from the PRoWs which is considered to have reduced the potential significance of the limitation. These areas are largely unaffected by the proposed development and are identified for biodiversity enhancements.
- 2.10 Minor modifications to the Site boundary following the completion of the wintering bird surveys has resulted in the removal of certain surveyed areas, and the inclusion of some small areas that were not surveyed; these areas account for approximately 5% of the total Site area. However, the main areas impacted by the Proposed Solar Areas have remained are largely unaffected by the boundary changes. Those areas that were not directly surveyed are adjacent to those that were surveyed and given the survey methodology of scanning beyond the survey boundary for off-site bird activity, it is considered likely that significant activity in the indirectly surveyed fields would have been observed and recorded.
- 2.11 These limitations are not considered to be significant, and the wintering bird interest of the Site has been adequately characterised, as the majority of the Site, including the areas to be impacted by the Proposed Solar Areas, were extensively surveyed. The wintering bird characterisation survey is considered to be robust and has enabled the identification of any protected or sensitive ornithological receptors.
- 2.12 Wintering bird data gathered on each monthly survey occasion were collected over several days due to the size of the Site. As such, it is possible that there was some 'double counting' of the same birds as they move within the Site between the survey dates, which would result in an apparent increase in peak counts for that monthly period. Whilst this may have an effect on the data collected, the likely outcome would be a slight inflation of the numbers of birds and an elevated evaluation of the Site's assemblage, rather than an under-representation or undervaluing of the Site's importance to wintering birds. The overall effect is not likely to be significant.



## 3 Results and summary interpretation

#### **Desk study**

#### Biological records centre data

- 3.1 NBRC provided 72 records and LERC 6,159 records of birds recorded during the wintering period (October to March inclusive). There were no wintering records from within the Site. A summary of relevant records of bird species identified for conservation action<sup>1</sup> or those which are species associated with the Humber Estuary Ramsar Site is provided below.
- There are 18 records of wintering birds adjacent to the southern boundary of the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area at Littleborough dated between 2009 and 2019. Typically, these were water or wading bird species, including such as: little egret *Egretta garzetta*, *c*ommon shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, green sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*, Bewick's swan *Cygnus columbianus*, Eurasian wigeon *Mareca penelope*, cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, mute swan *Cygnus olor*, whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus*, dunlin *Calidris alpina*, European golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. Short-eared owl *Asio flammeus* was also recorded.
- 3.3 NBRC provided records from the villages of Sturton le Steeple, Fenton and Leverton dated between 2012 and 2020 which included several wading bird species and great grey shrike *Lanius excubitor*, lesser spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*, peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus*, starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* and winchat *Saxicola rubetra*.

#### Pre-existing site survey data

3.4 Four wintering bird surveys were undertaken in support of the adjacent quarry application (one per month from November 2009 to February 2010). In total, 70 bird species were recorded within the survey area of the quarry application. This included a number of species identified for conservation action including peregrine falcon, wigeon, skylark *Alauda arvensis*, starling, fieldfare, song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*, snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, herring gull *Larus argentatus*, dunnock *Prunella modularis*, lapwing and willow tit *Poecile montanus*. It was noted in particular that flocks of wading and waterbirds were recorded in the wetland areas adjacent the River Trent including Out Ings Local Wildlife Site (LWS) which is located to the north of the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area of the Steeple Renewables Project.

#### Field survey

- During the 2023/2024 wintering bird survey, 86 species of birds were recorded at the Site. The results of the wintering bird surveys are shown in Figures 7.6.2.1 to 7.6.7.2 and further detail is provided in Appendix 7.6.1.
- 3.6 Of the overall total recorded, 46 are species that have been identified for conservation action and / or are species associated with the Humber Estuary Ramsar Site Table 1 presents a summary of these species with the peak counts recorded.

<sup>1.1</sup> ¹ Species that are on the red list of Birds of Conservation Concern (Eaton et al., 2021), Species listed on Schedule 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, and / or Species of Conservation Concern on the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).



Table 1: Summary of wintering bird species recorded within the Proposed Solar Area that are red listed, Species of Principal Importance (SPI) Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan Species of Conservation Concern, and / or are associated with the Humber Estuary Ramsar Site.

			k count by sit	,		Species status in	u / or are associated with the number Estuary Ramsar Site.
Common name	Scientific name	Proposed Solar Area	Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Conservation status*	Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers, 2023)	Summary or recorded activity at the Site
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	-	2	-	Amber listed SPI LBAP	A fairly common resident.	Recorded on 1 of 6 surveys (March 2024), and within the Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area only. Not recorded within the Proposed Solar Areas.
Blackheaded Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	188	17	130	Amber listed Amber listed LBAP A common wi visitor, passa migrant an uncommon breeding bit		Recorded on each survey occasion within the Site, typically in the open fields within the Proposed Solar Areas and on the lake (Littleborough Lagoon LWS) in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area. Flocks of birds of varying sizes were recorded within the Proposed Solar Areas on each survey occasion, with small groups of 4 – 10 birds and occasionally larger flocks of up to 150 birds; the mean total count within the Proposed Solar Areas was 108 birds.
Barn Owl	Tyto alba	3	-	2	Green listed Sch1 LBAP	An uncommon resident.	Recorded on 2 of 6 surveys (February and March 2024) with individual birds hunting along grassland field margins.
Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	-	-	4	Green listed LBAP	A common resident and winter visitor.	Recorded on 1 of 6 surveys (March 2024) at the lake (Littleborough Lagoon LWS) in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area
Coot	Fulica atra	-	-	5	Green listed LBAP	A common resident and winter visitor.	Recorded on 3 of 6 surveys associated with Littleborough Lagoon LWS in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area only. Not recorded within the Proposed Solar Areas.
Curlew	Numenius arquata	-	-	3	Red listed SPI LBAP	An uncommon passage migrant and very rare breeding bird.	Recorded on 1 of 6 (March 2024) surveys within the open fields in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area only. Not recorded within the Proposed Solar Areas.
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	9	3	2	Amber listed SPI LBAP	A common resident.	Recorded on all survey occasions associated with field boundary hedgerows and treelines.
Dunlin	Calidris alpina	1	-	2	Red listed	A fairly common passage migrant.	Recorded on 2 of 6 surveys (December 2023 and March 2024). Two birds observed within an arable field during December 2023 in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area, and one bird during March 2024 in an arable field within the Proposed Solar Areas.
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	1297	160	100	Red listed Sch1	A common winter visitor.	Recorded on all survey occasions within the Proposed Solar Areas and most occasions within the Biodiversity Mitigation Areas. Fieldfare was recorded throughout the Site, typically associated with arable fields, the field margins and hedgerows.  During January 2024 increased numbers of fieldfare were recorded with a total of 1297 birds in the Proposed Solar Areas; most flocks observed during this survey were 50-200 birds, with one flock of 320 birds.  Across all surveys, the mean total count within the Proposal Solar Areas was 387 birds.  Excluding January, the results across the Proposed Solar Areas were more consistent with typical flock sizes of 20-80 birds and a mean total of 205 from the five surveys.



		Pea	k count by sit	e area		Species status in								
Common name	Scientific name	Proposed Solar Area	Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Conservation status*	Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers, 2023)	Summary or recorded activity at the Site							
Gadwall	Mareca strepera	-	-	12	Amber listed LBAP	A fairly common winter visitor and uncommon breeding bird.	Recorded on 4 of 6 surveys within the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area only, where all birds were recorded on Littleborough Lagoon LWS. Not recorded within the Proposed Solar Areas							
Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	17	3	-	Red listed	A common resident.	Recorded on all surveys within the Proposed Solar Areas, and once in the Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area. All birds were recorded in association with field boundary hedgerows.							
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	4	-	4	Green listed LBAP	A fairly common resident and uncommon breeding bird.	Recorded on all surveys within the Site and 5 of 6 surveys in the Proposed Solar Area Typically associated with waterbodies and also occasionally recorded within arable fields.							
Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	15	-	-	Red listed	A common winter visitor and passage migrant.	Recorded on 5 of 6 surveys within the Proposed Solar Areas, typically in small groups within arable fields.							
Hen Harrier	Circus cyaneus	1	-	1	Red listed Sch1 SPI LBAP	An uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.	An individual young female hen harrier was recorded hunting within the Site during four of six wintering bird surveys, three times within the Proposed Solar Areas and once in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area. Typically, the hen harrier was hunting along the drains within the Proposed Solar Areas or habitats near to the River Trent within the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area.							
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	4	8	-	Red listed SPI LBAP	A common resident.	Recorded on all surveys within the Site and 2 of 6 surveys within the Proposed Solar Areas (December 2023 and February 2024). Typically recorded in association with boundary hedgerows and treelines.							
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	9	3	4	Amber listed LBAP	A fairly common resident.	Recorded on all surveys across the Site with birds seen hunting along grassland field margins or flying over the Site.							
Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus		-	150	Red listed SPI LBAP	A common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.	Recorded on 5 of 6 surveys in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area only. Birds were typically recorded in the same arable fields in flocks of c. 20-55 birds, with larger flocks recorded in December 2023 (80 birds) and January 2024 (150 birds). Not recorded within the Proposed Solar Area or Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area.							
Lesser Blackbacked Gull	Larus fuscus	30	3	1	Amber listed LBAP	A common visitor and rare breeding bird.	Recorded on 5 of 6 surveys in the Proposed Solar Areas, and once within the Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area (March 2024). Not recorded within the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area.  Typically observed in small groups (<10 birds) within arable fields throughout the Proposed Solar Areas.							
Linnet	Linaria cannabina	326	-	385	Red listed SPI LBAP	A common resident and passage migrant.	Recorded on all surveys in the Proposed Solar Areas and 4 of 6 surveys in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area.  Within the Proposed Solar Areas, linnet were typically recorded within arable fields in varying flock sizes either smaller (5 – 50 birds) to larger (100 – 250 birds). The mean total count of linnet within the Proposed Solar Areas was 237 birds per survey.  During the December 2023 survey, larger numbers of linnet were recorded within the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area with 250 birds recorded in a hedgerow, and 135 birds in a nearby arable field.							

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Peak count by site area				e area		Species status in	
Common name	Scientific name	Proposed Solar Area	Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Conservation status*	Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers, 2023)	Summary or recorded activity at the Site
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	5	1	7	Green listed LBAP	A fairly common resident and rare breeding bird.	Recorded on all survey occasions within the Site, and 4 of 6 surveys (October, November 2023, January and February 2024) in the Proposed Solar Areas. Typically associated with waterbodies such as Littleborough Lagoon LWS in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area or the larger drains within the Proposed Solar Areas; also occasionally recorded within arable fields.
Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	3	1	2	Red listed A fairly common LBAP resident.		Low numbers recorded on all surveys within the Site and during 4 of 6 surveys within the Proposed Solar Areas. Birds were typically recorded in field boundary hedgerows and occasionally within grassland pasture and arable fields.
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	18	2	28	Red listed A common EBAP resident.		Recorded on all survey occasions within the Proposed Solar Areas and the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area. Recoded once in the Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area (March 2024).  Birds were typically recorded within wetland features such as Littleborough Lagoon LWS in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area and the larger drains within the Proposed Solar Areas, and was rarely recorded within arable fields.
Merlin	Falco columbarius	1	-	-	Red listed Sch1 An uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant; has bred.		A single male bird was recorded on one survey visit (October 2023), flying south through the Proposed Solar Area close to the railway line centrally in the Site.
Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis	27	9	18	Amber listed LBAP	A fairly common resident and passage migrant.	Recorded on 5 of 6 surveys within the Site, and 4 of 6 within the Proposed Solar Areas. Birds were typically recorded in small groups (2-9 birds) within arable fields and widespread throughout the Site.
Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus	-	,	2	Amber listed Sch1 LBAP	An uncommon visitor and very rare breeding bird.	A single bird was recorded in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area during 2 of 6 surveys (November 2023 and January 2024) hunting around the wetland areas, which was considered likely to be the same individual. Not recorded within the Proposed Solar Area or Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area.
Mute Swan	Cygnus olor	65	-	62	Amber listed LBAP	A fairly common resident.	Recorded on all survey occasions within the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area and on 4 of surveys within the Proposed Solar Areas.  Birds were typically recorded within wetland features Littleborough Lagoon LWS in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area and occasionally within arable fields.  Within the Proposed Solar Areas, small numbers of birds (2-10) were recorded on 3 of 6 surveys. During the February 2024 surveys, a flock of 65 birds was present within in an arable field close to the eastern boundary of the Proposed Solar Area.
Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus		-	2	Amber listed LBAP	A fairly common passage migrant and uncommon breeding bird.	Recorded on 1 of 6 surveys (March 2024), on the margins of Littleborough Lagoon LWS in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area close to the River Trent. Not recorded within the Proposed Solar Area or Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area.
Grey Partridge	Perdix perdix	8	-	2	Red listed LBAP	A fairly common resident.	Recorded on 5 of 6 surveys within the Proposed Solar Areas. Not recorded in the Western or Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area.  Birds were recorded either individually or in pairs within arable fields or the field margins throughout the Site.

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		Pea	k count by sit	e area		Species status in							
Common name	Scientific name	Proposed Solar Area	Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Conservation status*	Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers, 2023)	Summary or recorded activity at the Site						
Peregrine falcon	Falco peregrinus	2	-	-	Green listed Sch1 LBAP	An uncommon resident.	Recorded on 3 of 6 surveys (November 2023, February and March 2024) within the Proposed Solar Areas only. A pair (male and female) of birds were observed in the same arable field during the February 2024 surveys, but typically individual birds (both male and female) were observed flying over the Site during other survey occasions.						
Pochard	Aythya ferina	-	-	5	Red listed LBAP	A fairly common winter visitor and rare breeding bird.	Recorded on 3 of 6 surveys (October 2023, February and March 2024) associated with the lake or flooded grassland in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area. Single birds recorded in October and February and 5 birds during March.						
Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	92	6	6	Amber listed LBAP A fairly common resident.		Recorded on all survey occasions within the Proposed Solar Areas, and 4 of 6 surveys within the Eastern and Western Biodiversity Mitigation Areas.  Typically recorded in small groups (2-10 birds) associated with hedgerows, and widespread throughout the Site.						
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	106	37	25	Red listed SPI LBAP	A common resident.	Recorded on all survey occasions within the Proposed Solar Area and Western Biodivers Mitigation Area, and 4 of 6 surveys within the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area. Birds were typically recorded in small groups (2-10 birds) within the arable fields and we widespread throughout the Site.  Within the Proposed Solar Area the peak count of 106 was recorded during October 202 typically, the peak counts were lower and ranged from 30 – 74 birds.						
Stonechat	Saxicola rubicola	8	-	4	Green listed LBAP	An uncommon winter visitor and very rare breeding bird.	Recorded on 4 of 6 surveys within the Proposed Solar Area and once (January 2024) within the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area. Birds were recorded individually or in small groups (<4 birds) associated with hedgerows and field margins.						
Stock Dove	Columba oenas	34	11	8	Amber listed LBAP	A fairly common resident.	Recorded on 5 of 6 surveys in the Proposed Solar Areas and 3 of 6 surveys in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area and twice in the Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area.						
Short-eared Owl	Asio flammeus	2	-	2	Amber listed LBAP	An uncommon winter resident; has bred.	A pair of short-eared owl were recorded once in the Proposed Solar Area (November 2023), and once in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area (February 2024) flying over arable fields.						
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	1645	770	1000	Red listed SPI LBAP	A common resident and passage migrant.	Recorded on all survey occasions within the Proposed Solar Areas and most occasions within the Biodiversity Mitigation Areas.  Starling was recorded throughout the Site, typically associated with arable fields with typical flock sizes of 40 – 250 birds. Larger flocks were recorded within the larger arable fields centrally in the Proposed Solar Area on several survey occasions with 400 – 700 birds. The mean total count across all surveys within the Proposed Solar Area was 776 birds.  During October and November 2023, increased numbers of starling were recorded in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area with 1000 in October and 1000 in November comprising of a flock of birds associated with arable and grassland fields.						
Swift	Apus apus	2	-	-	Red listed LBAP	A common summer visitor.	Two birds were recorded on a single occasion in the Proposed Solar Area during in November 2023.						
Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	14	-	21	Amber listed LBAP	A fairly common migrant, winter visitor and very rare breeding bird.	Recorded on all survey occasions in the Proposed Solar Area and 4 of 6 surveys in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area. Birds were recorded either individually or in pairs within arable and grassland fields or the field margins throughout the Site. During December 2023, a flock of 14 birds was observed flying over the Proposed Solar Area and off-site from west to east.						

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		Pea	k count by sit	e area		Species status in							
Common name	Scientific name	Proposed Solar Area	Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Conservation status*	Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers, 2023)	Summary or recorded activity at the Site						
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	6	1	1	Amber listed SPI LBAP	A common resident.	Recorded on all survey occasions in the Proposed Solar Area and once (January 2024) in the Eastern and Western Biodiversity Mitigation Areas. Birds were recorded individually at hedgerows within the Site.						
Common shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	-	-	2	Amber listed LBAP	A fairly common passage migrant, uncommon breeding bird and winter visitor.	Recorded on 2 of 6 surveys (January and February 2024) with all birds recorded Littleborough Lagoon LWS in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area.						
Shoveler	Spatula clypeata	-	-	8	Amber listed LBAP	A fairly common winter visitor and rare breeding bird.	Recorded on 2 of 6 surveys (October and December 2023) with all birds recorded on Littleborough Lagoon LWS in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area.						
Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	4	1	2	Amber listed	A common resident	Recorded on 5 of 6 surveys in the Proposed Solar Areas and on one occasion in each of the Biodiversity Mitigation Areas. Typically individual birds hunting around arable fields, along field boundaries and watercourses.						
Teal	Anas crecca	-	-	30	Amber listed LBAP	A common winter visitor and very rare breeding bird.	Recorded during 5 of 6 survey occasions on Littleborough Lagoon LWS in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area only. Lower numbers of total birds were recorded during October (2), November (1) and December (8), with none recorded in the Site in January then 30 during February and 10 in March.						
Wigeon	Mareca penelope	-	-	300	Amber listed LBAP	A common winter resident and rare breeding bird.	Recorded during all survey occasions on Littleborough Lagoon LWS in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area only. The mean total count across all surveys is 154 birds.						
Whooper Swan	Cygnus cygnus	4	-	4	Amber listed Sch1 LBAP	An uncommon winter visitor.	Recorded once within the Proposed Solar Area (February 2024) with a group of four birds in an arable field, and once in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area (March 2024) with four birds adjacent Littleborough Lagoon LWS close to the River Trent.						
Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	86	10	21	Red listed SPI LBAP	A fairly common resident and passage migrant.	Recorded on all surveys within each area of the Site. Birds were recorded widespread through the Site, typically in hedgerows either as single birds or small groups (2-10 birds). Rarely recorded in arable fields.						

\*

Red / Amber / Green listed = Birds of Conservation Concern (Eaton et al., 2021) Red list = high nature conservation concern; Amber list species = medium conservation concern.

Sch1 = Listed on Schedule 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)LBAP = Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan Species of Conservation Concern

SPI = Species of Principal under the provisions of the NERC Act 2006

**Bold** = indicated species associated with the Humber Estuary Ramsar



#### Summary interpretation of birds of conservation concern recorded

- 3.7 A total of 86 bird species were recorded at the Site during the wintering bird survey. Of this total, 46 species are of conservation concern (red / amber listed); are identified for conservation action at national level or local level (SPI or Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan species); or are listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act². Seven of these bird species are also associated with the Humber Estuary Ramsar Site Ramsar.
- 3.8 A total of 68 bird species were recorded within the Proposed Solar Areas, with 42 of the species being red/amber listed, SPI / local BAP status, S.41 status, or of Ramsar site interest.
- 3.9 The Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area had a total count of 51 species with 32 being red/amber listed, SPI / local BAP status, S.41 status, or of Ramsar site interest.
- 3.10 The Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area had a total count of 65 species with 42 being red/amber listed, SPI / local BAP status, S.41 status, or of Ramsar site interest.

#### Species typically associated with open arable and grassland habitats

- 3.11 Wintering bird activity was regularly recorded in the open arable and grassland fields, with a number of species that were regularly recorded and that are red/amber listed, have SPI / local BAP status, S.41 status, or are of Ramsar site interest. Arable fields are the dominant habitat within the Site with occasional pasture fields.
- 3.12 Starling was regularly recorded throughout the Site, typically associated with arable fields with typical flock sizes of 40 250 birds. During October and November 2023, increased numbers of starling were recorded in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area with flocks of approximately 1000 birds in October and November. Larger flocks were recorded within the larger arable fields centrally in the Proposed Solar Area on several survey occasions with 400 700 birds. The mean total count across all surveys within the Proposed Solar Area was 776 birds. The flocks were noted to be present during daylight and resting / foraging in the arable stubble fields before flying off-site to roost overnight elsewhere.
- 3.13 Fieldfare and linnet were regularly recorded within arable fields in the Proposed Solar Areas and occasionally in field margins and hedgerows. Linnet were typically recorded within arable fields in varying flock sizes, smaller (5 50 birds) to larger (100 250 birds). During January 2024 increased numbers of fieldfare were recorded with a total of 1297 birds in the arable stubble fields in the Proposed Solar Areas; most flocks observed during this survey were 50-200 birds, with one flock of 320 birds. Within the Proposed Solar Areas, the mean total count of birds per survey was 237 linnet and 320 fieldfare.
- 3.14 Flocks of skylark and woodpigeon were also regularly recorded within arable stubble fields within the Proposed Solar Areas. Flocks of gull species were typically recorded throughout the Site, including the Proposed Solar Areas, within wetter arable stubble fields where these were, or had recently been, inundated with water.
- 3.15 Lapwing were regularly recorded in the arable stubble and grassland fields in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area only, particularly where the fields had been flooded and water levels were receding. During the February 2024 surveys, a flock of 65 mute swan was present within in a flooded arable field close to the eastern boundary of the Proposed Solar Area.
- 3.16 Starling, fieldfare, linnet, black-headed gull, lesser black-backed gull, herring gull, skylark, mute swan and woodpigeon are noted to be common wintering species in Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers, 2023).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Schedule 1 species are identified for completeness, but as Schedule 1 status is only relevant during the breeding season, it is not of particular concern for most birds during the wintering months.



- 3.17 Two uncommon wintering species in Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers, 2023) were recorded. Three curlew were recorded on one survey occasion (March) within the open fields in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area only. A group of four whooper swan were recorded in an arable field once within the Proposed Solar Area (February 2024).
- 3.18 Based on a review of aerial photography (Google Earth Pro accessed August 2024) there is a large resource of open arable and grassland habitats similar to that at the Site within the local area. It is likely that the species recorded at the Site are present in the surrounding countryside and at similar densities to those found at the Site.

### Species typically associated with arable field margins and hedgerows

- 3.19 Linnet and fieldfare were recorded regularly in hedgerows and field margins, but typically in smaller numbers than some of the flocks present in the arable stubble fields. Yellowhammer and reed bunting were regularly recorded widespread throughout Site, typically in hedgerows either as single birds or small groups (2-10 birds). These species are noted to be common wintering species in Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers, 2023).
- 3.20 Stonechat was recorded on 4 of 6 surveys within the Proposed Solar Area and once (January 2024) within the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area. Birds were recorded individually or in small groups (<4 birds) associated with hedgerows and field margins. Stonechat is noted to be an uncommon wintering species in Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers, 2023).
- 3.21 Based on a review of aerial photography (Google Earth Pro accessed August 2024) there is a large resource of arable field margins and hedgerows similar to that at the Site within the local area. It is likely that the species recorded at the Site are present in the surrounding countryside and at similar densities to those found at the Site.

#### Species typically associated with wetland habitats

- 3.22 Littleborough Lagoon LWS in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area is a large waterbody adjacent to the River Trent and within the river floodplain. Over the course of the winter the grassland fields adjacent to the lagoon were regularly flooded. There is a network of drains and wet ditches throughout the Site, including in the Proposed Solar Areas. The winter of 2023 / 2024 was noted to be particularly wet, and there were arable fields within the Proposed Solar Areas and Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area that were regularly inundated with water, providing temporary wetland habitat.
- 3.23 The lagoon and adjacent flooded fields in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area supported a variety of overwintering wildfowl and waterbirds. Wigeon was recorded during all survey occasions on Littleborough Lagoon (only) with a peak count of 300 birds and a mean count of 154 birds per survey. Other water birds were recorded in lower numbers, typically comprising small flocks or individual birds at Littleborough Lagoon including mallard, little egret, oystercatcher, pochard, common shelduck and shoveler. The larger drains including Mother Drain and Catchwater Drain within the Proposed Solar Areas supported lower numbers of wintering birds, typically individual or small groups of mallard and little egret. These species are noted to be common wintering species in Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers, 2023).
- 3.24 Mute swan was recorded on all survey occasions within the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area and on four of the surveys within the Proposed Solar Areas. Birds were typically recorded within wetland features such as drains and Littleborough Lagoon. Within the Proposed Solar Areas, small numbers of birds (2-10) were recorded on several surveys. During the February 2024 surveys, a flock of 65 birds was present within in a partially flooded arable field close to the eastern boundary of the Proposed Solar Area. Lapwing were also regularly recorded in the wet or flooded arable and grassland fields in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area only. Mute swan and lapwing are noted to be common wintering species in Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers, 2023).
- 3.25 Whooper swan was recorded once within the Proposed Solar Area (February 2024) with a group of four birds in a partially flooded arable field, and once in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area



(March 2024) with four birds at Littleborough Lagoon. Whooper swan is noted to be an uncommon wintering species in Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers, 2023).

Waterbodies and wetland habitats that are likely to support wintering birds are widespread in the local area including the River Trent and lakes along the course of the river to the north and south of the Site. Out Ings which is located 600 m to the north of the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area is a wetland mosaic of standing water, wet woodland and grassland that is designated as an LWS. Out Ings was included in the survey area for the 2024 wintering bird surveys and was noted to support similar assemblage of birds to those at Littleborough Lagoon. There are extensive wetland habitats along the River Idle valley around Lound which is approximately 4 km west of the Site, including Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits Site of Special Scientific Interest which is notified on account of its 'exceptionally rich assemblage of breeding wetland birds and a nationally important population of wintering gadwall. The site supports an exceptional diversity of breeding, wintering and passage birds.'

#### Birds of prey

- 3.27 A range of bird of prey species were recorded during the wintering bird surveys, mostly within the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area and Proposed Solar Areas.
- 3.28 Small numbers of hen harrier and marsh harrier were recorded within the Site. An individual young female hen harrier was recorded hunting within the Site during four of six wintering bird surveys, three times within the Proposed Solar Areas and once in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area. Typically, the hen harrier was hunting along the drains within the Proposed Solar Areas or habitats near to the River Trent within the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area. Marsh harrier was recorded in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area hunting other birds around the wetland areas. Both species are uncommon winter visitors in Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers, 2023).
- 3.29 Individual short-eared owl and merlin were recorded hunting in the Proposed Solar Areas on one survey occasion only. Up to two peregrine falcon were recorded hunting in the Proposed Solar Areas on several occasions, and small numbers of sparrowhawk were recorded on most survey occasions throughout the Site. These species were hunting other birds typically within arable fields, along field boundaries and watercourses. Short-eared owl, merlin and peregrine falcon are uncommon resident or winter visitors and sparrowhawk is a common resident in Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers, 2023).
- 3.30 Barn owl and kestrel were regularly recorded hunting for small mammals in the grassland margins along arable fields and watercourses throughout the Site. Barn owl is an uncommon resident and kestrel is a fairly common resident in Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers, 2023).
- 3.31 Hen harrier, marsh harrier, peregrine, merlin, short-eared owl and sparrowhawk were considered likely to be exploiting the presence of flocks of overwintering birds within the Site for hunting purposes, particularly the wetland habitats in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area. It is likely that they use the habitats at the Site as part of network of similar habitats that are used by overwintering birds within the local area, particularly along the River Trent corridor where there are further waterbodies and areas that are likely flood through the winter. Barn owl and kestrel are also likely to use other grassland habitats in the local area, which are well-represented along field boundaries and watercourses.

#### **Overall summary**

- 3.32 Wintering bird activity was widespread across the Site, with main habitat types used including:
  - Open habitats, such as arable and grassland pasture fields. These habitats are widespread across the Site and locally, and were used by species such as skylark, starling, meadow pipit, woodpigeon and gull species.
  - Scrub, trees, woodland, hedgerows and associated grassland margins. These habitats are widespread across the Site and locally and are used by species such as fieldfare, redwing, linnet, barn owl and yellowhammer.



- Waterbodies, ditches, inundated arable and grassland fields. These habitats are primarily within
  the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area and supported a greater diversity of wetland birds and
  waders such as wigeon, greylag goose, lapwing, gull species, swan species and duck species,
  particularly Littleborough Lagoons LWS.
- 3.33 The Site is considered to support a typical wintering bird assemblage for the habitats present and the Site's geographic location. The areas of the Site closer to the River Trent, particularly the wetland and adjacent farmland habitats in the Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area, supported a greater species diversity and higher numbers of birds, typically waders and waterbirds but also birds of prey hunting. Most of the bird species of conservation concern recorded within the Site are common and well-represented species throughout the county. Those that are less common, such as merlin, hen harrier, marsh harrier, short-eared owl, peregrine, curlew, and whooper swan, were recorded in low numbers and / or infrequently during the surveys. Larger numbers of starling and fieldfare were recorded throughout the Site and across most surveys; it is likely that the Site provides a good foraging resource for these species locally.



### 4 References

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## 5 Appendices



Appendix 7F.1: Wintering bird survey dates and weather conditions

Date	Cloud Cover (Oktas)	Precipitation	Wind (Beaufort)	Visibility
23.10.23	8	None	1	Misty morning then excellent
24.10.23	8	Showers	3	Fair
25.10.23	3	None	2	Excellent
26.10.23	3	Light drizzle	2	Fair
27.10.23	3	Showers	2	Mist early morning
20.11.23	4	None	1	Excellent
21.11.23	8	Occasional light rain	3	Excellent
22.11.23	8	None	1	Excellent
23.11.23	7	None	3	Excellent
24.11.23	5	None	2	Excellent
11.12.23	2	None	2	Excellent
12.12.23	8	None	2	Fair
13.12.23	8	Occasional heavy showers	3	Misty morning then excellent
14.12.23	4	None	2	Excellent
15.12.23	4	None	2	Excellent
08.01.24	8	None	2	Excellent
09.01.24	6	None	2	Excellent
10.01.24	7	None	2	Excellent
11.01.24	8	Light rain	2	Excellent
12.01.24	8	Light drizzle	2	Excellent
05.02.24	5	None	3	Excellent
06.02.24	8	Light rain	4	Excellent
07.02.24	2	None	2	Excellent
08.02.24	8	Snow showers	3	Poor
09.02.24	4	light rain	3	Fair
04.03.24	8	None	3	Excellent
05.03.24	7	None	2	Excellent
06.03.24	8	None	2	Excellent
07.03.24	8	None	2	Fair
08.03.24	8	None	3	Fair



Appendix 7F.2: Full results of wintering bird surveys October 2023 to March 2024

			October 2023			November 20	23		December 202	23		January 2024	ı		February 202	24				
Common name	Scientific name	Proposed Solar Area	Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Conservation status*															
Blackbird	Turdus merula	23	4	5	33	1	6	70	3	9	39	4	10	25	6	12	10	5	5	Green listed
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	Amber listed SPI LBAP
Blackheaded Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	177	-	-	75	17	-	188	-	-	154	-	-	24	-	80	31	4	130	Amber listed LBAP
Brambling	Fringilla montifringilla	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	15	-	-	6	-	-	Green listed
Barn Owl	Tyto alba	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	2	-	2	Green listed Sch1 LBAP
Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	7	1	-	-	-	-	10	4	-	9	2	4	10	2	2	3	2	5	Green listed
Buzzard	Buteo buteo	6	-	1	6	-	2	8	1	2	3	2	2	4	2	1	8	4	1	Green listed
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	-	-	-	70	-	7	81	20	-	40	6	-	24	-	-	35	16	-	Green listed
Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	Green listed LBAP
Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	10	-	-	-	Green listed
Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	Green listed
Canada Goose	Branta canadensis	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Green listed
Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	43	10	11	17	-	-	36	-	-	27	-	4	76	-	-	57	-	2	Green listed
Common Gull	Larus canus	14	-	-	9	-	-	456	-	-	87	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	-	Amber listed
Coot	Fulica atra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	Green listed LBAP
Coal Tit	Periparus ater	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Green listed
Curlew	Numenius arquata	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	Red listed SPI LBAP
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	2	2	-	3	1	2	5	-	2	5	-	2	5	-	-	9	3	2	Amber listed SPI LBAP
Dunlin	Calidris alpina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	_	-	Red listed
Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	Green listed
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	5	-	-	1	-	-		-	1	3	-	-	4	1	7	-	-	8	Green listed LBAP
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	110	160	-	310	-	100	65	-	80	1297	70	50	335	26	-	187	12	30	Red listed Sch1
Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	Green listed
Gadwall	Mareca strepera	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	9	Amber listed LBAP



			October 2023			November 20	23		December 202	23		January 2024	1	February 2024			March 2024			
Common name	Scientific name	Proposed Solar Area	Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Conservation status*															
Great Blackbacked Gull	Larus marinus	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Amber listed
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	Green listed
Greylag Goose	Anser anser	8	-	-	15	-	42	11	-	-	9	-	-	7	-	11	7	-	7	Amber listed
Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	46	-	7	39	-	3	117	7	8	38	-	6	15	-	-	80	-	-	Green listed
Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	4	-	-	1	-	-	12	-	-	17	-	-	12	3	-	8	-	-	Red listed
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	Green listed
Great Tit	Parus major	3	-	2	-	-	-	5	6	-	2	-	-	11	-	2	4	2	4	Green listed
Garden Warbler	Sylvia borin	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Green listed
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	2	-	4	4	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	2	1	-	2	Green listed LBAP
Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	15	-	-	3	-	-	14	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	Red listed
Hen Harrier	Circus cyaneus	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Red listed Sch1 SPI LBAP
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	-	8	-	-	7	-	3	8	-	-	7	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	Red listed SPI LBAP
Great White Egret	Ardea alba	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Amber listed
Jay	Garrulus glandarius	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	Green listed
Jackdaw	Coloeus monedula	-	-	-	22	-	-	76	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	-	36	-	-	Green listed
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	5	2	3	5	2	4	7	3	2	6	1	-	9	1	2	4	1	3	Amber listed LBAP
Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	-	-	80	-	-	43	-	-	-	-	-	150	-	-	-	-	-	24	Red listed SPI LBAP
Lesser Blackbacked Gull	Larus fuscus	30	-	-	23	-	-	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	Amber listed LBAP
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Green listed
Linnet	Linaria cannabina	155	-	10	37	-	-	326	-	385	332	-	-	290	-	25	283	-	-	Red listed SPI LBAP
Little Owl	Athene noctua	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	Green listed
Longtailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus	12	-	7	-	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	11	9	-	-	14	1	-	Green listed
Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	3	-	1	-	-	3	-	2	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	2	Red listed LBAP
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	5	-	7	8	-	8	3	-	5	2	-	12	2	-	28	18	2	16	Red listed LBAP
Magpie	Pica pica	2	-	2	-	-	-	14	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	8	-	-	Green listed
Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	-	-	2	6	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	Amber listed



			October 2023	i e		November 20	23		December 20	23		January 2024	ı		February 202	4	March 2024			
Common name	Scientific name	Proposed Solar Area	Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Conservation status*															
Merlin	Falco columbarius	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	Red listed Sch1
Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis	27	9	-	-	-	-	19	6	-	12	-	18	5	-	-	-	-	9	Amber listed LBAP
Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	Amber listed Sch1 LBAP
Mute Swan	Cygnus olor	2	-	9	-	-	34	2	-	13	-	-	15	65	-	62	10	-	44	Green listed LBAP
Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Amber listed LBAP
Grey Partridge	Perdix perdix	2	-	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	8	-	-	Red listed LBAP
Peregrine falcon	Falco peregrinus	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	Green listed Sch1 LBAP
Pinkfooted Goose	Anser brachyrhynchus	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Amber listed
Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	27	11	7	30	5	-	34	9	19	12	3	-	-	-	-	6	3	-	Green listed
Pochard	Aythya ferina	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	Red listed LBAP
Pied Wagtail	Motacilla alba	57	-	17	2	2	2	79	-	-	22	-	-	12	3	-	18	2	-	Green listed
Robin	Erithacus rubecula	5	-	1	23	1	2	13	-	-	4	3	-	9	-	3	12	3	2	Green listed
Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	21	2	-	11	2	-	47	3	13	35	-	6	16	-	2	92	6	3	Amber listed LBAP
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	23	-	-	62	-	-	10	-	20	57	20	7	62	11	-	77	-	-	Amber listed
Redlegged Partridge	Alectoris rufa	95	14	15	87	9	-	46	-	3	45	4	4	40	1	5	13	3	-	Green listed
Rook	Corvus frugilegus	25	-	-	28	7	4	21	15	-	28	4	-	26	13	32	80	8	-	Green listed
Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	Green listed
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	106	37	12	41	2	5	38	2	2	30	11	-	74	15	5	42	20	25	Red listed SPI LBAP
Stonechat	Saxicola rubicola	6	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	4	2	-	2	-	-	-	Green listed LBAP
Stock Dove	Columba oenas	-	-	2	15	11	6	14	_	8	31	-	5	17	-	-	34	7	-	Amber listed LBAP
Shorteared Owl	Asio flammeus	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	Amber listed LBAP
Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	2	1	-	1	-	2	_	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	4	-	-	Amber listed
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	770	770	1000	1645	48	1000	688	160	500	240	35	-	1168	-	-	145	35	43	Red listed SPI LBAP
Swift	Apus apus	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Red listed LBAP
Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	4	-	-	10	-	4	14	-	-	8	-	21	2	-	10	4	-	1	Amber listed LBAP
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	6	-	-	6	-	-	Amber listed SPI LBAP



Common name	Scientific name	October 2023			November 2023			December 2023			January 2024			February 2024			March 2024			
		Proposed Solar Area	Western Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Eastern Biodiversity Mitigation Area	Conservation status*															
Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	Amber listed LBAP
Shoveler	Spatula clypeata	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Amber listed LBAP
Teal	Anas crecca	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	10	Amber listed LBAP
Tufted Duck	Aythya fuligula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	1	1	-	-	27	-	-	53	Green listed
Wigeon	Mareca penelope	-	-	21	-	-	184	-	-	300	-	•	57	-	-	184	-	-	178	Amber listed LBAP
Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus	315	-	48	353	72	20	525	80	145	305	50	-	160	-	-	246	34	-	Amber listed
Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	5	1	-	9	1	-	3	-	-	2	1	1	8	-	2	9	1	2	Amber listed
Whooper Swan	Cygnus cygnus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	Amber listed Sch1 LBAP
Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	69	6	10	12	4	2	72	10	18	49	4	4	43	2	21	86	5	13	Red listed SPI LBAP

Red / Amber / Green listed= Birds of Conservation Concern (Eaton et al., 2021) listing assesses bird species on the basis of their population status, reflecting changes in their abundance and range. Red list species are of high nature conservation concern; Amber list species are of medium conservation concern.

Sch1 = Listed on Schedule 1 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

LBAP = Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Plan Species

SPI = Species of Principal under the provisions of the NERC Act 2006

**Bold** = indicated species associated with the Humber Estuary Ramsar Site



## 6 Figures

(overleaf)

Legend

Site boundary

Wintering bird characterisation 2023-24 survey

Areas surveyed from PRoW only

- - - Public Right of Way (PRoW)

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PROJECT TITLE

STEEPLE RENEWABLES PROJECT

DRAWING TITLE

Figure 7.6.1: Survey area of the 2023-24 wintering bird surveys

DATE: 02/08/2024

CHECKED: EM

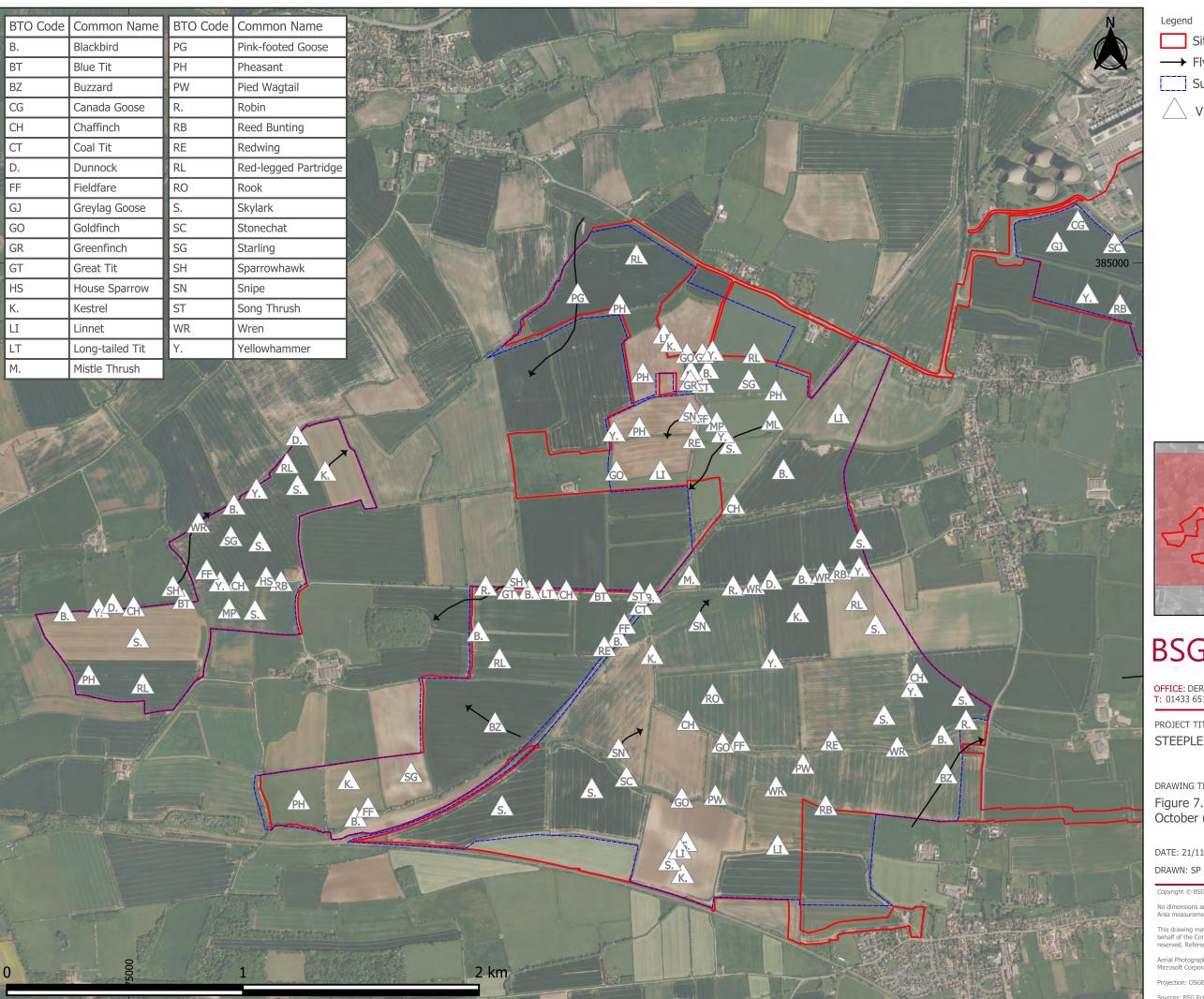
SCALE: 1:26,000

APPROVED: DF VERSION:1.3

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Projection: OSGB 1936/British National Grid - EPSG 27700



Legend Site boundary → Flying

Survey boundary

Visit 1 - non-breeding



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PROJECT TITLE

STEEPLE RENEWABLES PROJECT

DRAWING TITLE

Figure 7.6.2.1: Wintering Bird Survey Results -October (West)

DATE: 21/11/2024

CHECKED: DF

SCALE: 1:15,000

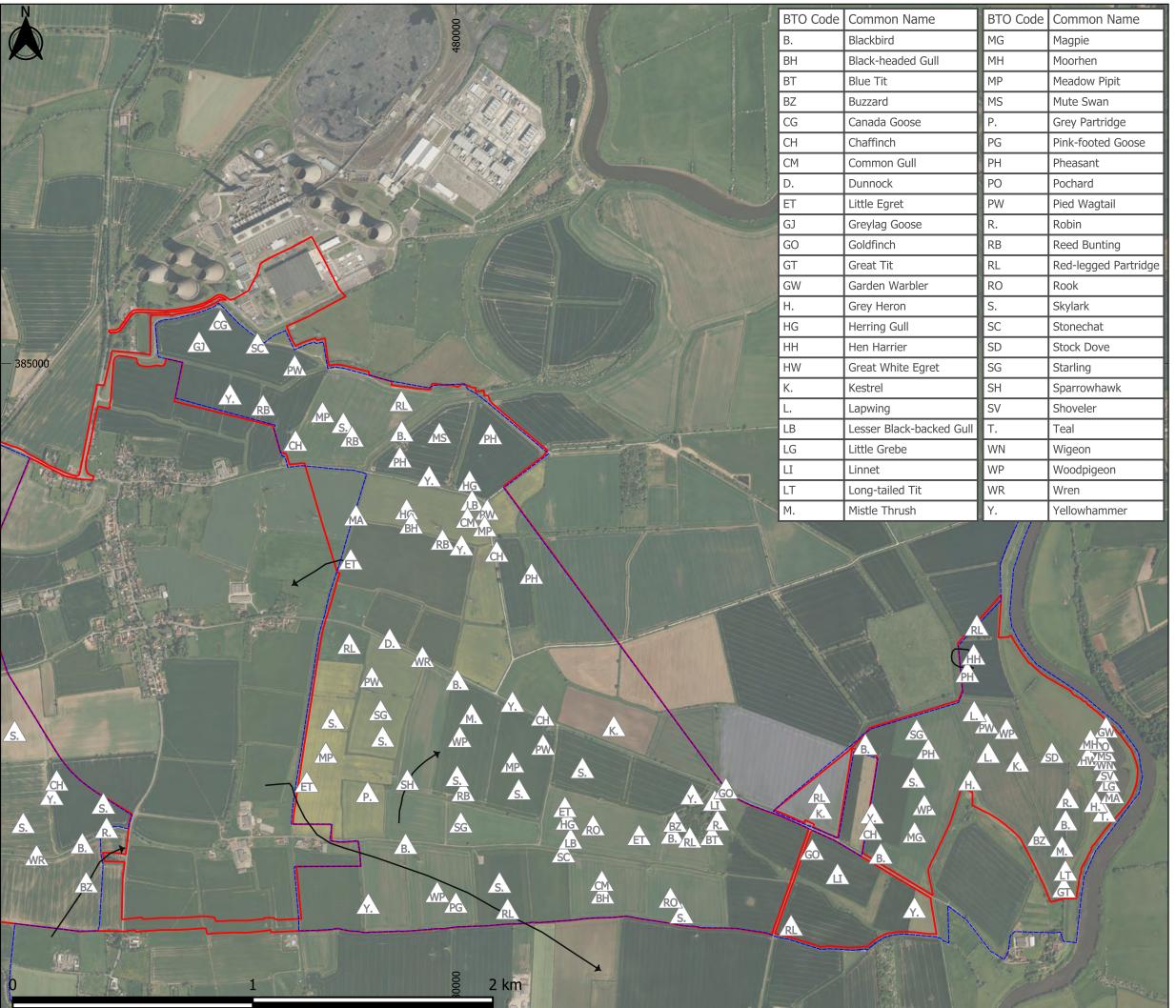
APPROVED: DF VERSION:1.3

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Legend Site boundary

→ Flying

Survey boundary

Visit 1 - non-breeding



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#### PROJECT TITLE

STEEPLE RENEWABLES PROJECT

#### DRAWING TITLE

Figure 7.6.2.2: Wintering Bird Survey Results -October (East)

DATE: 21/11/2024

CHECKED: DF

SCALE: 1:15,000

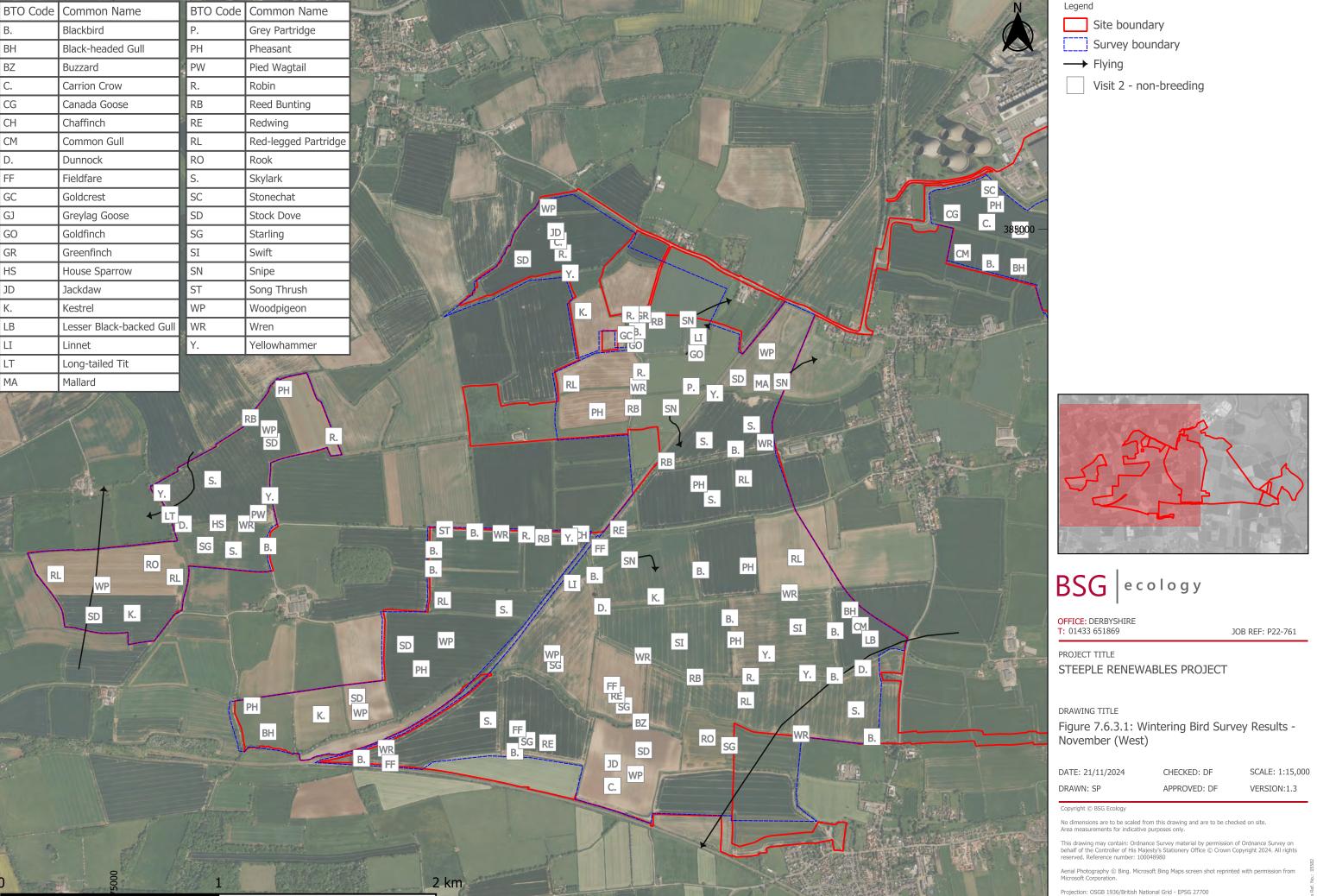
APPROVED: DF VERSION:1.3 DRAWN: SP

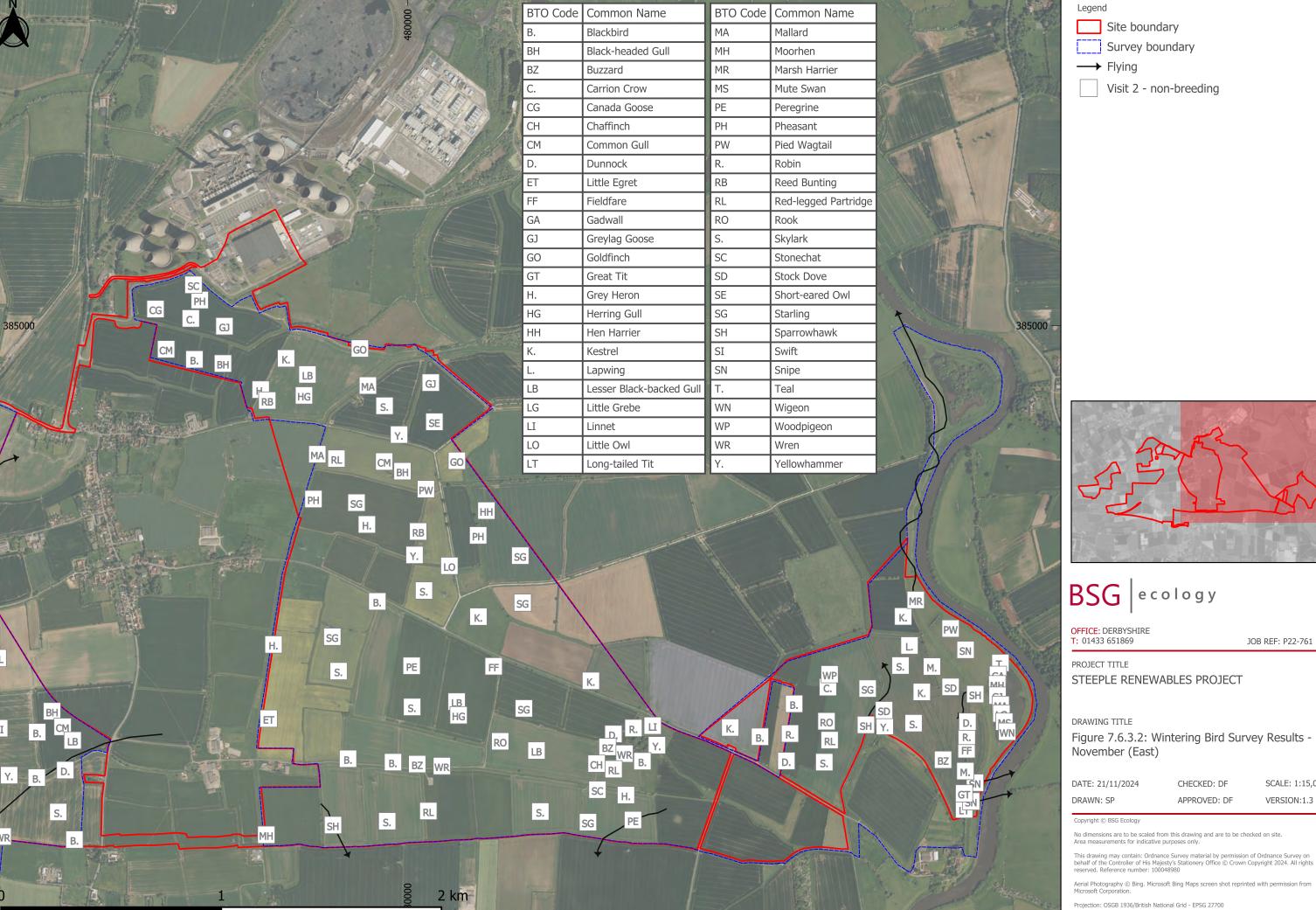
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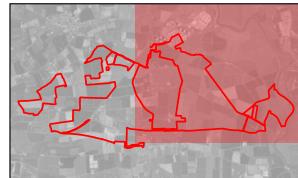
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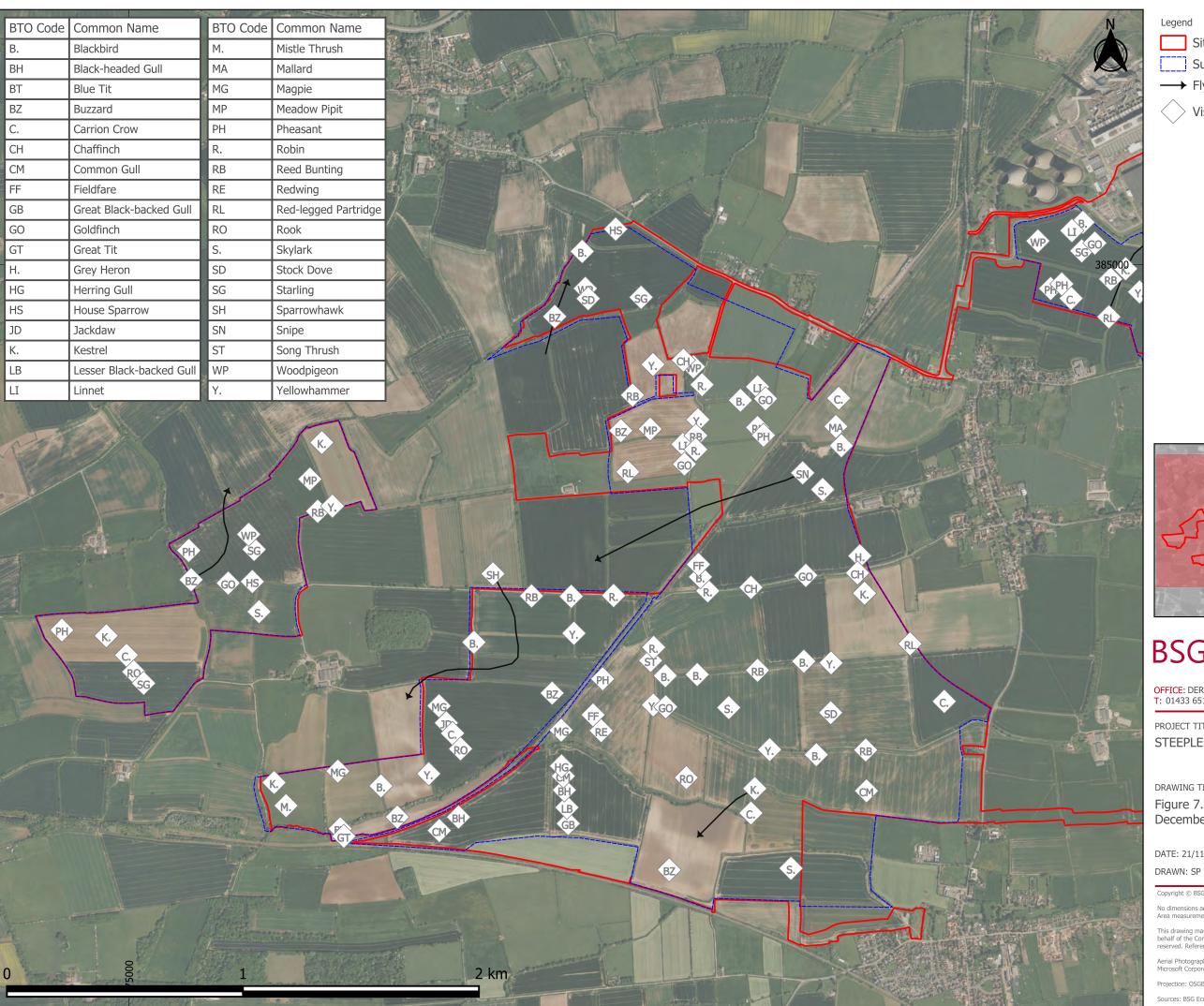


JOB REF: P22-761

Figure 7.6.3.2: Wintering Bird Survey Results -

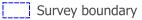
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VERSION:1.3



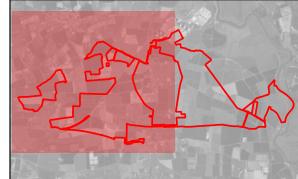
Legend

Site boundary





Visit 3 - non-breeding



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PROJECT TITLE

STEEPLE RENEWABLES PROJECT

DRAWING TITLE

Figure 7.6.4.1: Wintering Bird Survey Results -December (West)

DATE: 21/11/2024

CHECKED: DF

SCALE: 1:15,000

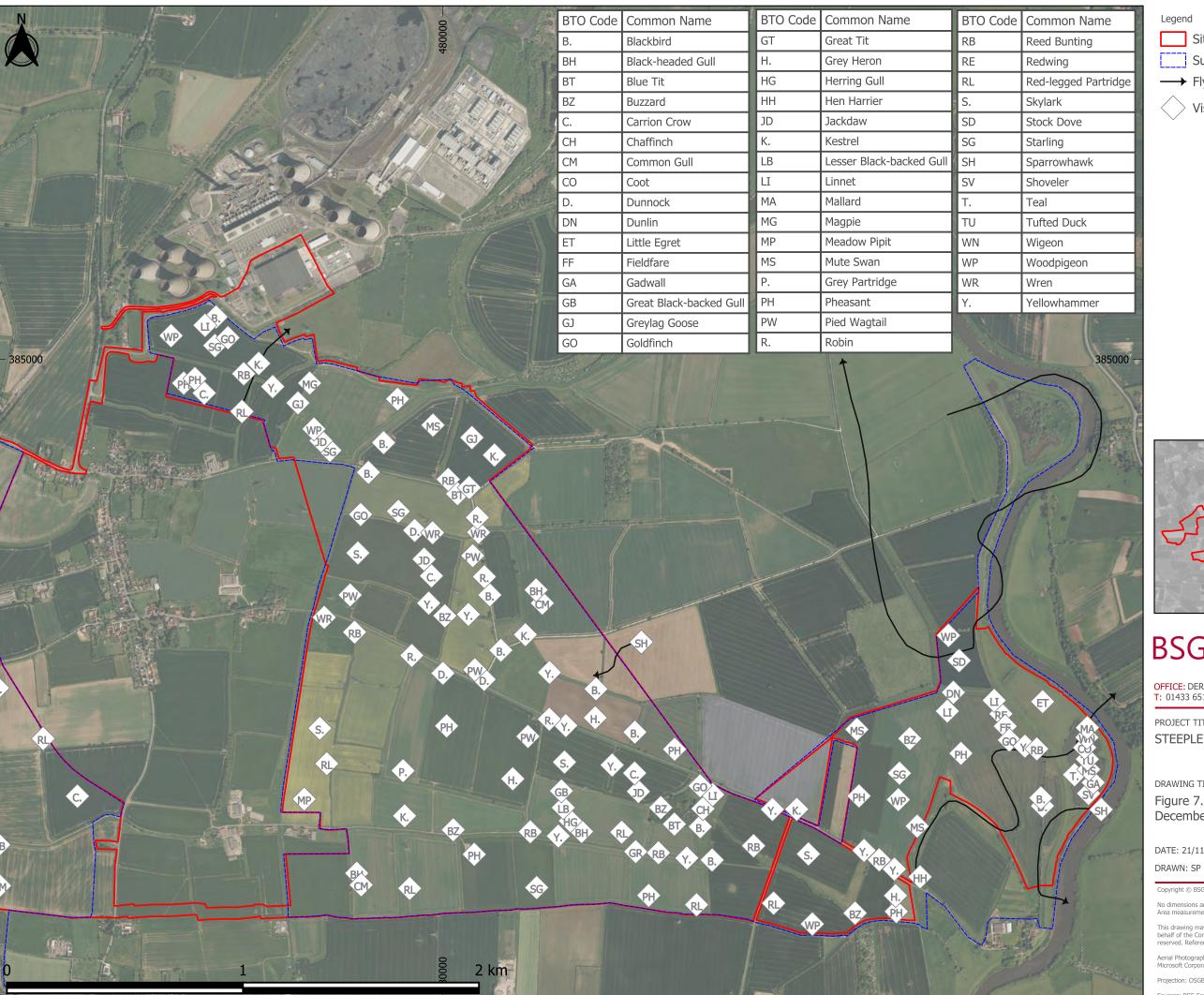
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Legend

Site boundary

Survey boundary

→ Flying

Visit 3 - non-breeding



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#### DRAWING TITLE

Figure 7.6.4.2: Wintering Bird Survey Results -December (East)

DATE: 21/11/2024

CHECKED: DF

SCALE: 1:15,000

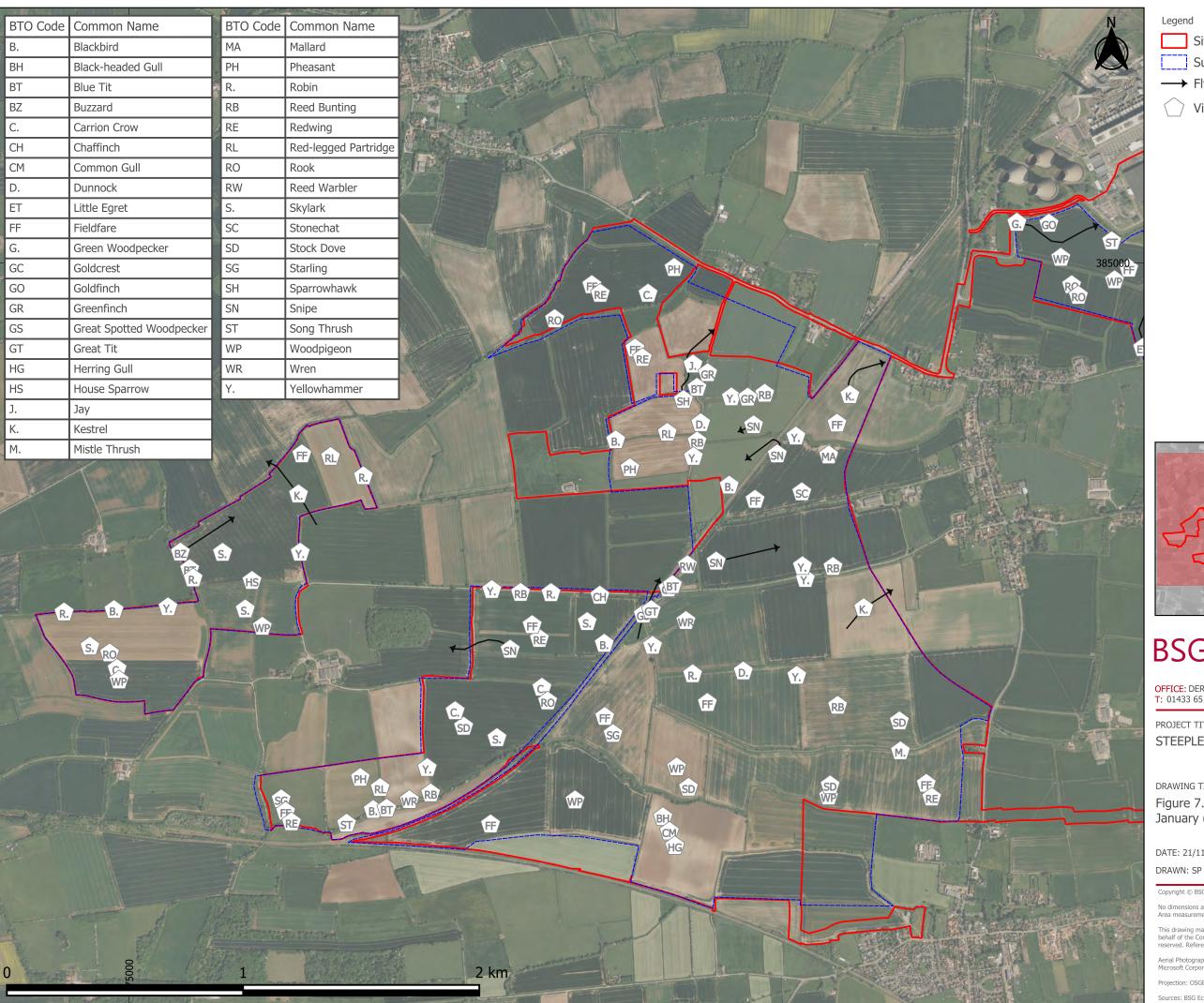
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Site boundary







Visit 4 - non-breeding



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PROJECT TITLE

STEEPLE RENEWABLES PROJECT

DRAWING TITLE

Figure 7.6.5.1: Wintering Bird Survey Results -January (West)

DATE: 21/11/2024

CHECKED: DF

SCALE: 1:15,000

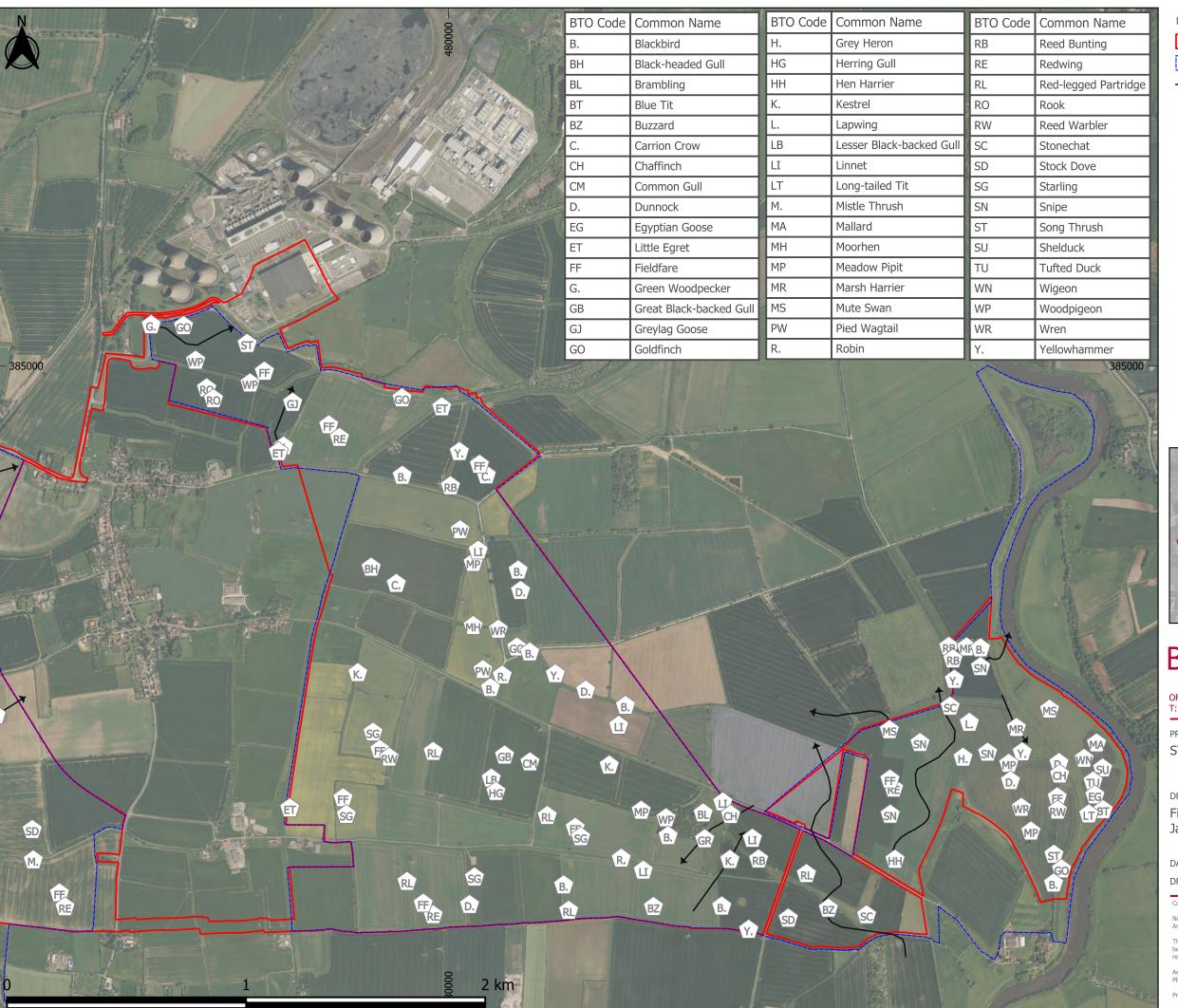
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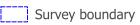
Projection: OSGB 1936/British National Grid - EPSG 27700



Legend

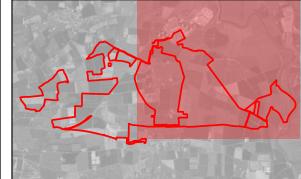
7 Sita b

Site boundary





Visit 4 - non-breeding



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Figure 7.6.5.2: Wintering Bird Survey Results - January (East)

DATE: 21/11/2024

CHECKED: DF

DF SCALE: 1:15,000

DRAWN: SP APPROVED: DF VERSION:1.3

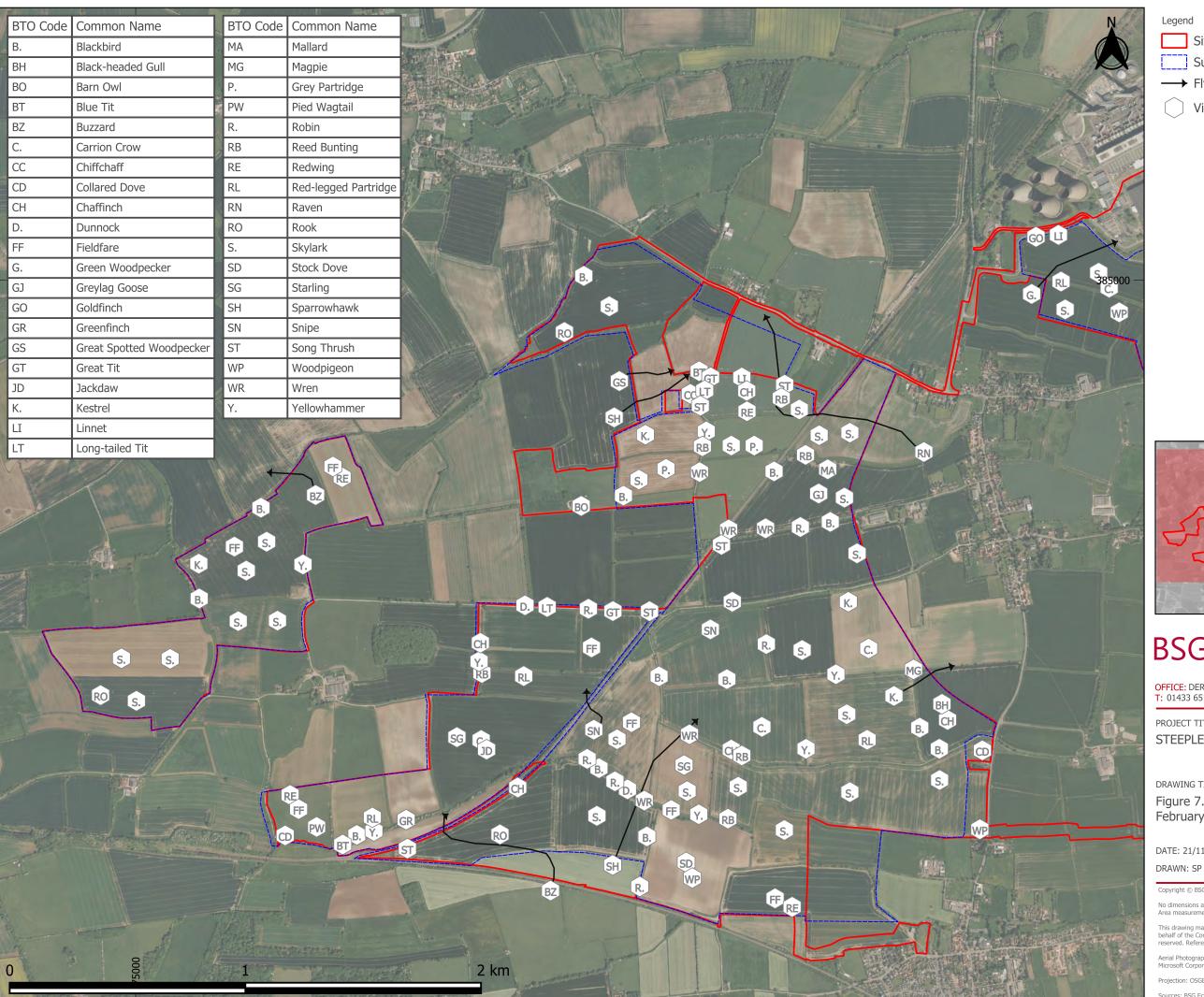
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Legend

Site boundary

Survey boundary

→ Flying

Visit 5 - non-breeding



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Figure 7.6.6.1: Wintering Bird Survey Results -February (West)

DATE: 21/11/2024

CHECKED: DF

SCALE: 1:15,000

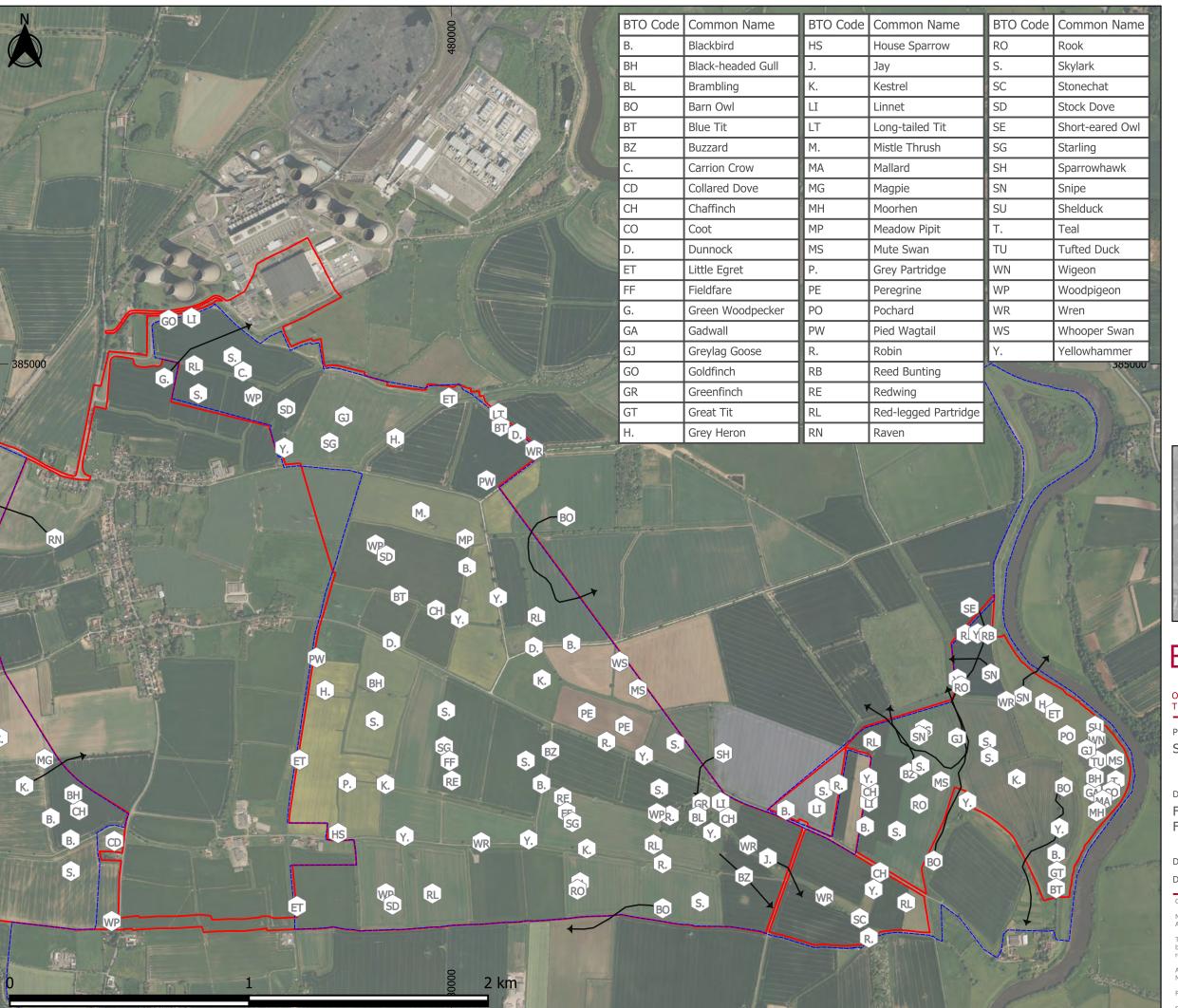
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Legend Site boundary Survey boundary → Flying

Visit 5 - non-breeding



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STEEPLE RENEWABLES PROJECT

#### DRAWING TITLE

Figure 7.6.6.2: Wintering Bird Survey Results -February (East)

DATE: 21/11/2024

CHECKED: DF

SCALE: 1:15,000

VERSION:1.3

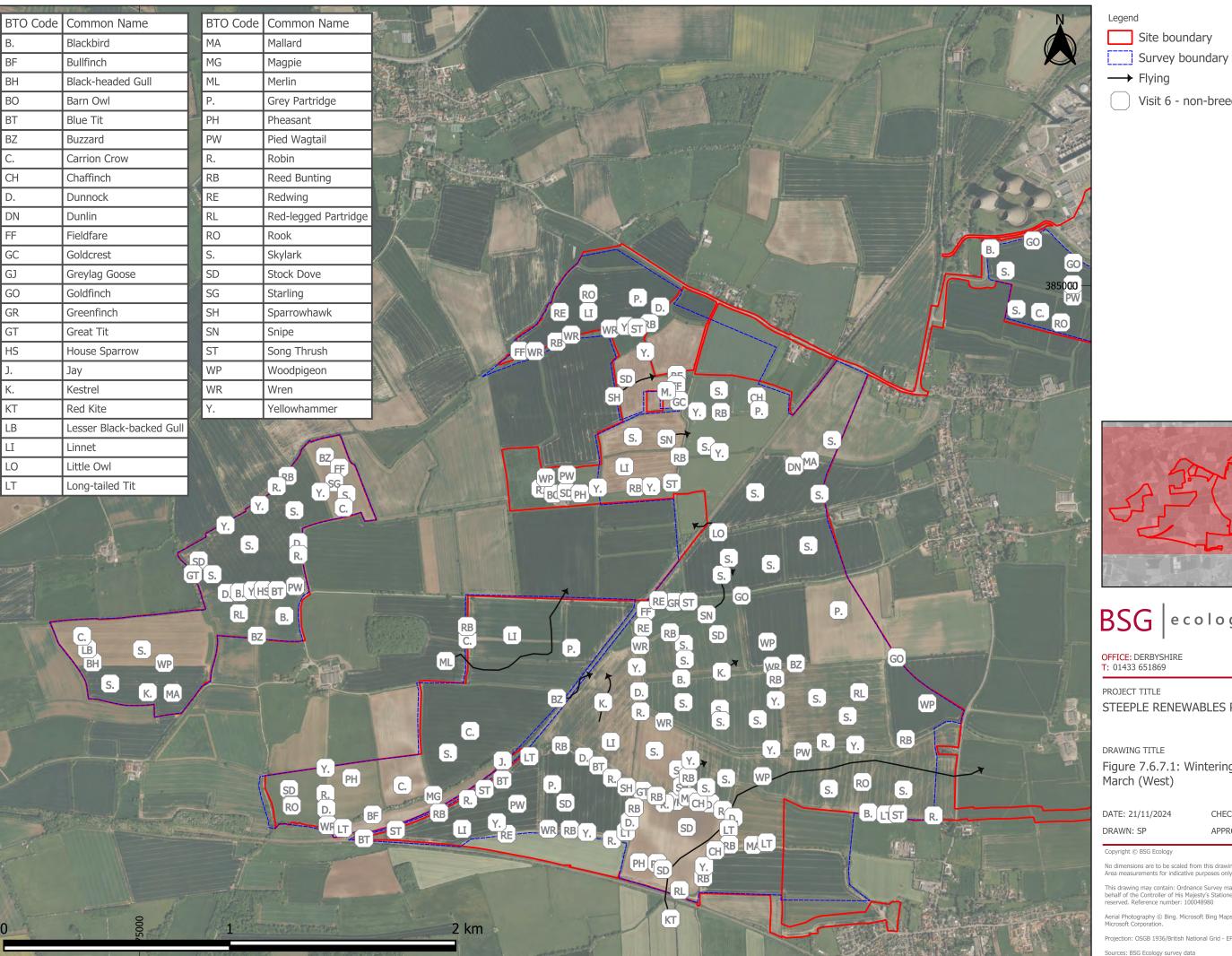
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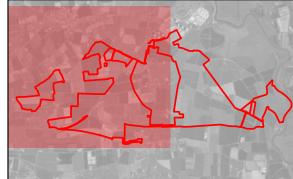
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→ Flying

Visit 6 - non-breeding



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#### PROJECT TITLE

STEEPLE RENEWABLES PROJECT

#### DRAWING TITLE

Figure 7.6.7.1: Wintering Bird Survey Results -March (West)

DATE: 21/11/2024

CHECKED: DF

SCALE: 1:15,000

VERSION:1.3

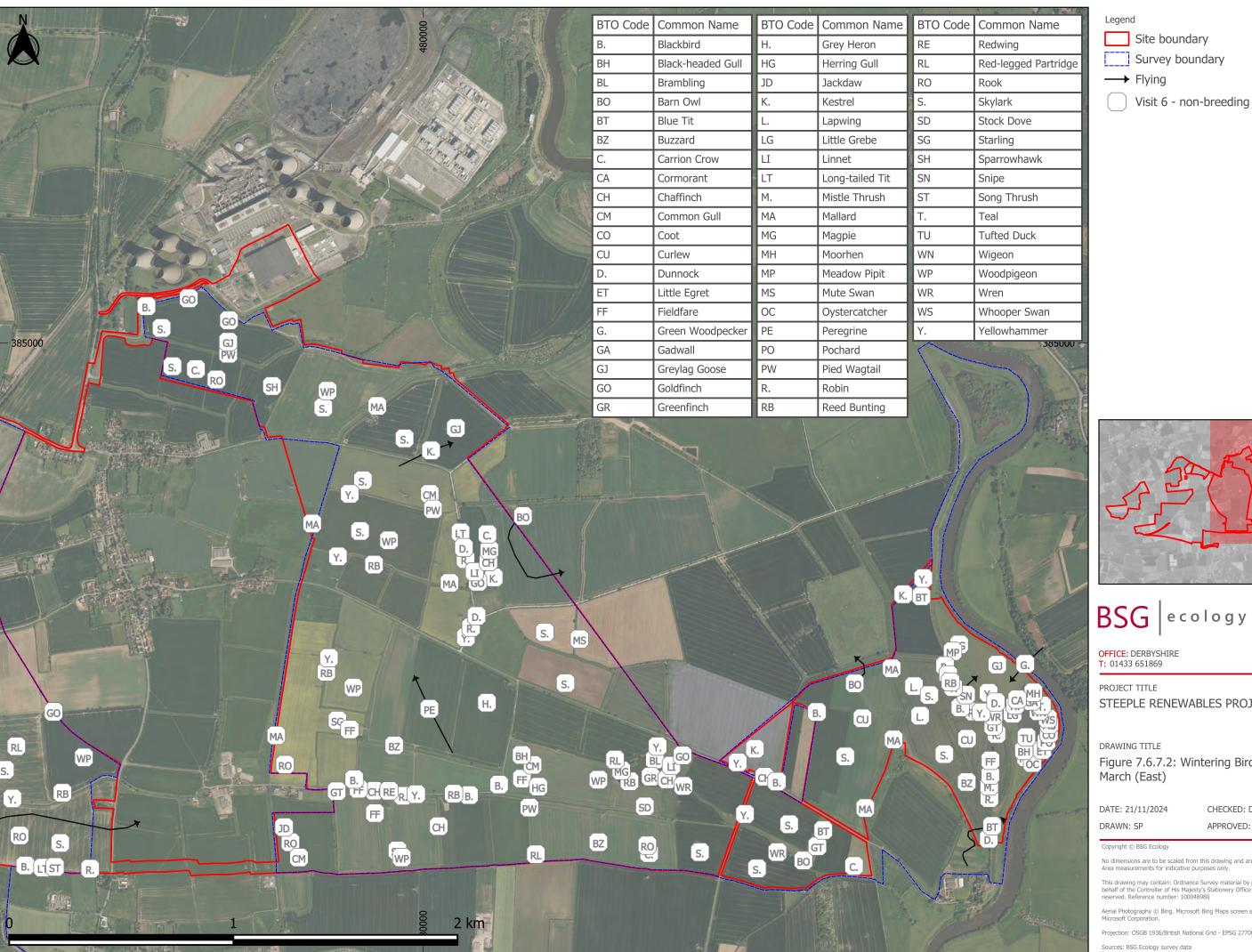
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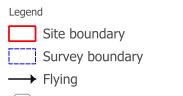
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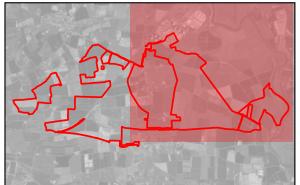
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#### DRAWING TITLE

Figure 7.6.7.2: Wintering Bird Survey Results -March (East)

DATE: 21/11/2024

CHECKED: DF

SCALE: 1:15,000

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