



5686 Westfield Energy Conservation Park, Bird Impact Report



Bird Impact Report

Westfield Energy Conservation Park

Lightrock Power



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Office Locations

London

120 Moorgate,
London, EC2M 6UR
020 3011 0820

Cambridge

1A Clifton Court, Clifton Road,
Cambridge, CB1 7BN
01223 776740

Norwich

Brettingham House, 98 Pottergate,
Norwich, NR2 1EQ
01603 631319

Bath

Newark Works, 2 Foundry Way,
South Quays, Bath,
BA2 3DZ
01225 690119

Manchester

One St Peter's Square,
Manchester,
M2 3DE
01617 111740

Edinburgh

1 Lochrin Square,
92-98 Fountainbridge,
Edinburgh, EH3 9QA
01316 000319

York

Stanley Harrison House, The Chocolate Works,
Bishopthorpe Road,
York, YO23 1DE
01904 803800

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Bird Impact Report:

Westfield Energy Conservation Park

Prepared by:

Name: Isabel Soane MSc MCIEEM

Title: Bird Impact Report: Westfield Energy Conservation Park

Date: 05/08/2025

Approved by:

Signature:



Name: Hannah Broughton

Title: Director of Ecology

Date: 07/08/2025

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1 Executive summary

- 1.1.1 Lanpro Services Limited ('Lanpro') was appointed by Lightrock Power Limited ('the Applicant') to undertake breeding bird surveys in relation to a full planning application for Westfield Energy Conservation Park (25/01947/FP) which incorporates a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), co-located ground-mounted solar farm, associated infrastructure, access, biodiversity enhancements and landscaping (the 'Proposed Development') on land south of A507 at Westfield Common, Hertfordshire SG7 6RN (hereafter referred to as 'the Site').
- 1.1.2 The Site boundary is presented as the red-line boundary in Appendix 2. In addition, winter bird surveys were undertaken by Avian Ecology Ltd. between October 2024 and March 2025. Areas of arable habitat are expected to be lost as part of site works.
- 1.1.3 Due to the suitability of the Site for wintering and breeding birds, 12 surveys were undertaken from October 2024 to July 2025, following the standard methodology as set out by the Bird Survey Guidelines¹. This entailed walking transects across the Site and into adjacent fields recording any species including the behaviour and number observed. The Survey Area for winter surveys is defined as up to 600 m from a former red-line boundary (see Appendix 2, Figure 2) and for breeding bird surveys is the line of sight into adjacent fields.
- 1.1.4 Approximately 5663 records over 40 bird species were collected in the Survey Area over winter. A total of 1668 of these records were from within the Site boundary. These pertained to eight green-listed, 15 amber-listed and 12 red-listed species. Additionally, 13 of the species recorded are listed on the NERC Act (2006) and two are species on Schedule 1 of the WCA (1981) (as amended).
- 1.1.5 Approximately 1796 records were collected for 51 species at the Site across the breeding bird surveys. This included 25 green-listed species, 13 amber-listed and 12 red listed species. Additionally, ten of the species are listed on the NERC Act and three species on Schedule 1 of the WCA. A red kite nest was found in Coldash Wood.
- 1.1.6 In relation to the majority of bird species recorded on-site, the Site is considered to be of importance to wintering and breeding birds at the Site level only. During winter the Site is considered to be of local importance to skylark, starling and yellowhammer. During the breeding season the Site is considered to be of local importance to skylark, corn bunting, yellow wagtail, yellowhammer and linnet.
- 1.1.7 A neutral impact is expected on all green and amber-listed species (and most red-listed) over the breeding and wintering seasons. As breeding and wintering yellowhammer, breeding corn bunting and breeding linnet were recorded utilising habitats peripheral to the arable crop, it is anticipated that there would be a neutral impact on these bird species.

¹ <https://birdsurguylines.org/>

- 1.1.8 Due to habitat loss, in the absence of mitigation and compensation, there will be a minor negative impact on wintering starling, breeding and wintering skylark and breeding yellow wagtail at a local level.
- 1.1.9 In respect to the red kite nest and a barn owl box, avoidance measures were incorporated into the scheme design.
- 1.1.10 Mitigation for skylark and yellow wagtail includes crop not being sown for the growing season prior to construction. Any cropland and ruderal vegetation growing through within the construction areas should be kept short (to ground level) during the bird nesting season (March – August inclusive). An ecologist should be contacted if a nest is found.
- 1.1.11 A total of 29 skylark territories and two yellow wagtail territories will be compensated for through a 29ha area described in Section 5.2. The compensation area is apt for wintering skylark also, as they utilise the same habitats throughout the year.
- 1.1.12 There are large areas of scrub and woodland and a mosaic of three grasslands being created. This will increase connectivity around the Site and will benefit many species including compensating for starling.
- 1.1.13 There are no residual impacts expected on wintering and breeding birds.

2 Introduction

2.1 Appointment

2.1.1 Lanpro were appointed by Lightrock Power to conduct breeding bird surveys for the Proposed Development on land south of A507 at Westfield Common, Hertfordshire SG7 6RN, central National Grid Reference: TL 29150 30414 ('the Site'), to evaluate the Site for breeding bird species. In addition, six wintering bird surveys were undertaken by Avian Ecology Ltd. from October 2024 to March 2025. This report will discuss the results of both surveys.

2.1.2 The Site location plan is illustrated in Figure 1 (see Appendix 2).

2.2 Project Background

2.2.1 This bird impact report has been prepared to assess the potential impacts and inform a full planning application for Westfield Energy Conservation Park (25/01947/FP) which incorporates a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), co-located ground-mounted solar farm, associated infrastructure, access, biodiversity enhancements and landscaping (the 'Proposed Development') on land south of A507 at Westfield Common, Hertfordshire.

2.2.2 The Site was deemed suitable for wintering and breeding birds from satellite imagery. The initial Site visit was undertaken by Lanpro during December 2024, leading to further surveys undertaken as discussed in the accompanying Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA)² submitted with the Westfield Planning application (reference number 25/01947/FP).

2.3 Legislation and Policy Context

2.3.1 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), protects all wild birds, their nests and eggs. Under this legislation a person shall be guilty of an offence if they intentionally:

- kill, injure or take any wild bird;
- take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; and
- take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

2.3.2 There is a list of bird species with further protection from disturbance³. It is illegal for any person to intentionally or recklessly disturb any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or disturb dependent young of such a bird.

² 5686 WECP EcIA_V1-0 UNREDACTED 29

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/1>

- 2.3.3 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) (NERC Act) requires local and governmental authorities and departments to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity.

3 Methodology

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 To establish what the bird species assemblage was on Site, six winter bird surveys were undertaken between October 2024 and March 2025, and six breeding bird surveys were undertaken between March 2025 and July 2025. Winter bird surveys were undertaken over two transects per survey and breeding over three transects per survey.

3.2 Desk Study

- 3.2.1 A request for records was made from the Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre (HERC) for all protected and noteworthy species, including birds, within 5km of the Site as part of the EclA submitted with the Westfield planning application. This was undertaken in January 2025. Obtaining existing records is an important part of the evaluation process, as it provides additional background information that may not be apparent during a survey. Only records from the last 10 years were considered relevant. The results from this request are still considered to be valid at the time of writing, so no further desk study was undertaken to inform this report.

3.3 Field Surveys

- 3.3.1 Surveyors walked predetermined transect routes, designed to cover the entirety of the Site. These followed the perimeter of each field. The winter survey included a 600 m buffer where visible from the Site and the breeding survey covered adjacent fields. Species were recorded using two letter BTO codes along with behaviour and number of individuals. Species in adjacent fields and those flying over the site were also recorded. Non-native species including pheasant *Phasianus Colchicus* and red-legged partridge *Alectoris rufa* were not counted.
- 3.3.2 Field survey results and desk study data will be analysed to assess the significance of the Site and its habitat for all bird species recorded. Each species will be categorised according to the CIEEM levels of importance of ecological features as described in the Ecological Impact Assessment guidelines⁴. The levels of importance are international, national, regional, county, borough, local, and within the site boundary. The status of each species within the Birds of Conservation Concern⁵ will also be discussed. A species is considered to be an Important Ecological Feature, requiring specific mitigation and compensation, if it is assessed to be of local importance or above.

⁴ Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (September 2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland – Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine.

⁵ Stanbury, A., et al 2021. The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction

- 3.3.3 Documents used to aid in the determination of CIEEM levels of importance include the Herts Bird List by Herts Bird Club (HBC)⁶, BTO species information and the RSPB website⁷.
- 3.3.4 The number of skylark territories was calculated using the peak number observed displaying within the Site boundary over one survey (e.g throughout 1a to 1c; see Table 3.2 for survey timings). As they traverse distances during displays, it was not considered accurate to use singing positions, as with most other species. In early surveys, skylark are fighting over territories. Where aggressive behaviour was displayed amongst a group of skylarks, it was considered there was space for one territory only at this location.
- 3.3.5 Skylarks singing from the fields adjacent were still mapped, however they were assumed to be nesting in the adjacent fields. As such it was considered their territories do not need to be compensated for, however they are likely to benefit from any increased food resources on site.

Winter Surveys

- 3.3.6 Avian Ecology Ltd. undertook six winter bird surveys (2 transects per survey) across October 2024 to March 2025. The Survey Area is the dashed blue-line displayed in Appendix 2, Figure 2. This is a buffer of up to 600 m of the (former and larger) red-line boundary which reflected the land being considered for development at the time of the surveys. This was a maximum buffer where visibility allowed. The fields (on and off-Site) were numbered, and each bird record was attributed to a field. Weather conditions were considered to be suitable for the survey and were undertaken in daylight hours as displayed in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1: Winter bird survey timings and conditions

Survey no.	Timings	Weather conditions
1a	14/10/2024 07:30 – 10:45	BF3 100% cloud cover, no rain
1b	15/10/2024 7:25- 10:55	BF3 100% cloud cover, no rain
2a	20/11/2024 07:25 – 10:50	BF1 30% cloud cover, no rain
2b	21/11/2024 07:32- 10:35	BF3 100% cloud cover, no rain
3a	11/12/2024 07:50- 11:20	BF2 100% cloud cover, no rain
3b	12/12/2024 7:50 10:55	BF3 100% cloud cover, rain
4a	14/01/2025 08:03- 100:00	BF3 10% cloud cover, rain towards the end
4b	21/01/2025 07:45- 11:00	BF2 100% cloud cover, no rain

⁶ <https://www.hnhs.org/herts-bird-club/county-list>

⁷ <https://www.rspb.org.uk/>

Survey no.	Timings	Weather conditions
5a	11/02/2025 06:50	BF5 100% cloud cover, rain
5b	21/02/2025 07:20	BF2 75% cloud cover, rain
6a	02/03/2025 06:30	BF2 0% cloud cover, no rain
6b	01/03/2025 6:35	BF1 0% cloud cover, no rain

BF: Beaufort Scale

3.4 Breeding Birds

- 3.4.1 Breeding bird surveys at the Site were undertaken by Izzy Soane MSc MCIEEM, in consideration of the 'Breeding Bird Survey Methodology (Bird Survey Guidelines [April,2025])⁸.
- 3.4.2 Six breeding bird surveys were undertaken between late March and late July 2025, commencing between 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after sunrise and concluding by mid-morning. The surveys were aided by GPO Passion ED binoculars. The transect covered the Site and adjacent fields where visibility allowed.
- 3.4.3 Weather conditions were considered to be suitable for all surveys undertaken. Dates of surveys, timings and weather conditions are provided in Table 3.2 below.

Table 3.2: Breeding bird survey timings and conditions

Survey No.	Timings	Weather conditions
1a	05/03/25 6:37- 9:40	0-4c BF1 0% cloud cover, no rain
1b	06/03/25 6:40- 9:35	3-7c BF1 0% cloud cover, no rain
1c	07/03/25 6:33- 9:33	8-12c BF2 50% cloud cover, no rain
2a	01/04/25 7:00- 10:40	6c BF2/3, 75% cloud cover, no rain
2b	02/04/25 7:05-10:30	7c BF2 50% cloud cover, no rain
2c	03/04/25 7:00-10:30	7c BF2 50% cloud cover, no rain
3a	06/05/25 5:55- 9:00	7-8c BF2 100% cloud cover, no rain
3b	07/05/25 5:55 – 8:55	5c BF1 100% cloud cover, no rain
3c	08/05/25 6:00- 9:00	9-12c BF2 70% cloud cover, no rain

⁸ Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group. (2025). Bird Survey Guidelines for assessing ecological impacts, <https://birdsurguidelines.org> [Accessed: 9 June 2025]

Survey No.	Timings	Weather conditions
4a	02/06/25 5:16 - 8:00	9c BF1 10% cloud cover, no rain
4b	03/06/25 5:14- 9:00	11c BF3 60% cloud cover, no rain
4c	04/06/25 5:12 – 9:30	13c BF2 90% cloud cover, no rain
5a	02/07/25 5:10-7:25	16c BF2 100% cloud cover, no rain
5b	03/07/25 5:20 – 8:10	11c BF1 0% cloud cover, no rain
5c	04/07/25 5:20 – 8:10	16c BF1 10% cloud cover, no rain
6a	22/07/25 5:33 – 8:00	15c BF2 30% cloud cover, no rain
6b	23/07/25 8:07- 10:07	17 BF1 100% cloud cover no rain
6c	24/07/25 5:40 – 8:07	15c BF2 100% cloud cover no rain

Notes and Limitations

- 3.4.4 The data search is unlikely to capture all protected species activity occurring within the vicinity of the Site.
- 3.4.5 Overall, the survey was undertaken according to best practice guidelines and there were no significant limitations to the methods; therefore, the results can be relied on at the time of writing.
- 3.4.6 Flocking birds are counted as an estimate and as such the total number of birds is unlikely to be an exact number.
- 3.4.7 Winter survey data from Avian Ecology Ltd does not include precise mapping and records are assigned a field. As such maps were not produced for the winter data.
- 3.4.8 Behavioural comments from Avian do not always include whether the bird was utilising the arable field or periphery vegetation. As such a worst-case scenario was used to calculate birds using the arable fields.

4 Results

4.1 Desk Study

4.1.1 13,198 bird records were returned pertaining to 114 species within the 5 km search area in the last 10 years, which can be seen summarised in Table 4.1.

4.1.2 15 records were from Rydal's and Coldash Wood, which are Local Wildlife Sites and ancient woodland adjacent to the Site. These include song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, nuthatch *Sitta europaea* and red kite *Milvus milvus* which are a WCA 1981 Schedule 1 species. These three species were all observed during the breeding bird surveys, while red kite and song thrush were on-Site during winter surveys. No records were found within the Site boundary.

Table 4.1: Desk Study Biological Records for Bird Records Located within 5km of the Site.

Species	Records	Species	Records
Barn owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	73	Meadow pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	150
Barnacle goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i>	8	Mediterranean gull <i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>	3
Black redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	1	Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	25
Black headed gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	270	Mistle thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	152
Blue tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	570	Montagu's harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>	40
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	31	Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	162
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	111	Mute swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>	62
Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	487	Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	7
Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>	106	Nuthatch <i>Sitta europaea</i>	158
Caspian gull <i>Larus cachinnans</i>	10	Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	3
Coal tit <i>Periparus ater</i>	232	Pallid harrier <i>Circus macrourus</i>	6
Common gull <i>Larus canus</i>	91	Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	41
Common sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	12	Pied flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	1
Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	19	Pied wagtail <i>Motacilla alba</i>	265
Corn bunting <i>Emberiza calandra</i>	397	Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>	5
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	27	Quail <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	46
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	3	Red kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	626
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	2	Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	3
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	476	Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	196
Egyptian goose <i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	11	Reed bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	70
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	244	Ring ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	8

Species	Records	Species	Records
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	8	Ring-necked parakeet <i>Psittacula krameri</i>	17
Gadwall <i>Mareca strepera</i>	3	Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	681
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	256	Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	469
Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	1	Sand martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	12
Golden plover <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	3	Sedge warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	5
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	638	Short-eared owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	22
Grasshopper warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	6	Shoveler <i>Spatula clypeata</i>	1
Great black-backed gull <i>Larus marinus</i>	1	Siskin <i>Spinus spinus</i>	33
Great grey shrike <i>Lanius excubitor</i>	12	Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	381
Great spotted woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	345	Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	15
Great tit <i>Parus major</i>	605	Song thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	382
Green sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	8	Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	147
Green woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>	303	Spotted flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	175
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	352	Spotted redshank <i>Tringa erythropus</i>	1
Grey heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	45	Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	592
Grey partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	359	Stock dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	232
Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	47	Stonechat <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	36
Grey wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	79	Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	308
Greylag goose <i>Anser anser</i>	14	Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	278
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	43	Tawny Owl <i>Strix aluco</i>	84
Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	27	Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	4
Herring gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	57	Tree pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	69
Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	50	Tree sparrow <i>Passer montanus</i>	12
House martin <i>Delichon urbicum</i>	202	Treecreeper <i>Certhia familiaris</i>	69
House sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	366	Tufted duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	21
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	256	Turtle dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	73
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	19	Water rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	3
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	126	Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	47
Lesser black-backed gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	204	Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	24
Lesser redpoll <i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	16	White wagtail <i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	3
Lesser spotted woodpecker <i>Dryobates minor</i>	15	Whitethroat <i>Curruca communis</i>	160

Species	Records	Species	Records
Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	271	Willow tit <i>Poecile montanus</i>	8
Little egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	9	Willow warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	70
Little owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	105	Wood warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	3
Little ringed plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	1	Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	24
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	224	Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	1188
Mandarin duck <i>Aix galericulata</i>	12	Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	476
Marsh harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	16	Yellow wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	132
Marsh tit <i>Poecile palustris</i>	71	Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	419
		Yellow-legged gull <i>Larus michahellis</i>	2

4.2 Site Description

- 4.2.1 The Site is comprised of 13 fields in which the primary habitat is arable crop. The fields are surrounded by margins of other neutral grassland with an area of modified grassland. It is also adjacent to Ancient Woodland (Coldash and Rydal's Wood).

4.3 Winter Surveys

- 4.3.1 There were approximately 5663 records over 40 species collected in the Survey Area over winter. A total of 1668 of these records were from within the (current) Site boundary. These pertained to eight green-listed, 15 amber-listed and 12 red-listed species. Additionally, 13 of the species recorded are listed on the NERC Act (2006) and two are species on Schedule 1 of the WCA (1981) (as amended).
- 4.3.2 Further details of the species recorded are discussed below, with red listed and those with additional protections discussed separately.

Green-listed Species

- 4.3.3 Eight green-listed species were recorded within the Survey Area during winter. This includes goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*, carrion crow *Corvus corone*, jackdaw *Corvus monedula*, golden plover *Pluvialis squatarola* (flying over), grey heron *Ardea cinerea*, and long-tailed tit *Aegithalos Caudatus*. There were also two peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus* observed, flying across the Site which were either commuting or hunting. They were all recorded in numbers expected for arable habitats and most were observed within hedgerows and other boundary vegetation. These species are not restricted to arable habitats and as they are common species, the Site is important for these species at a site level only in winter.

Red Kite (Schedule 1)

- 4.3.4 There were 92 red kite recorded within the Survey Area over the winter, with 29 of these attributed to the Site. They are a common species and given the time of year were not nesting. The number of red kite on-Site combined with the availability of woodland was

however used to identify a higher likelihood of them nesting. This will be discussed in the Breeding Bird Section. The Site is important for these species at a site level only in winter.

Amber-listed Species

- 4.3.5 There were 15 amber listed birds recorded within the survey area. This included 55 Black headed gull (four on-Site), 56 stock dove (one on-Site), two grey wagtail (one on-Site), seven lesser black-backed gulls flying over, 22 meadow pipit (nine on-Site), 55 wren (16 on-Site), 77 rook (50 on-Site), and five kestrel (3 on-Site). There were also 64 mallard and four moorhens which were all in off-Site ponds.
- 4.3.6 There were six amber listed species also listed in the NERC S.41 list of priority species. Six bullfinch, 80 dunnock, 39 reed bunting, 3120 woodpigeon, 126 redwing and 179 song thrush were utilising the Survey Area, with much smaller numbers on-Site. Of the 3120 woodpigeon, 490 were on-Site and 200 were foraging in arable fields. Woodpigeon are a very common species and despite their amber status are described by the BTO as undergoing a long-term increase in population⁹. Of 126 redwing, 26 were seen foraging in the arable fields on-Site and of 179 song thrush, approximately 117 were on-Site. Redwing are migratory and song thrush are partially migratory, arriving in high numbers for winter and both are common birds. Most other amber listed birds on-Site were utilising hedgerow or woodland habitat. Considering the size of the Site, and because these are common species, the Site is important for these species in winter at a site level only.

Red-listed Species

Skylark (NERC)

- 4.3.7 A total of 184 skylark were recorded, with 94 on-Site. These individuals were all seen utilising the arable fields. Skylark decline is linked to breeding habitat loss¹⁰ however many were displaying breeding and engaging in territorial behaviours despite the season. In addition, there were a moderate number of individuals recorded. Thus the Site is considered to be of importance to skylark at a local level during winter.

Starling (NERC)

- 4.3.8 A total of 645 starlings were recorded in the survey area. 380 were noted foraging within the arable stubble in Field 9 (see Appendix 2, Figure 1). Starling feed on invertebrates in the soil, and the BTO describes part of their decline as being due to the loss of pastoral land and therefore foraging habitat¹¹. Although they were seen on arable land, they were still foraging. This is considered to be a significant flock size and as such the Site is important to starling at a local level during winter.

⁹ <https://www.bto.org/learn/about-birds/birdfacts/woodpigeon>

¹⁰ BTO (2025). Skylark *Alauda arvensis* [online]. Available at: <https://www.bto.org/learn/about-birds/birdfacts/skylark>

¹¹ <https://www.bto.org/understanding-birds/birdfacts/starling>

Yellowhammer (NERC)

- 4.3.9 There were 41 yellowhammer recorded on-Site, with 12 individuals recorded offsite. All birds were observed within the hedgerow vegetation around the edges of the arable fields. Yellowhammers are a resident in the UK utilising farmland and hedgerow habitats, though population fell by 55% between 1970 and 2013, likely due to fewer sources of seed food available to them on farmland¹². Due to the number of yellowhammer observed and their status the Site is considered to be of local importance to this species.

Common gull

- 4.3.10 133 common gull were recorded however only 12 were seen on-Site in fields. Others were all in the Survey Area or flying over. Considering gulls are flocking species, and the size of the Site, this is not a significant number. The number of common gull in the UK is increased by 14-fold during winter compared to summer¹³. In addition, the individuals were not foraging and therefore cannot be said to be utilising the Site for specific purposes. As such the Site is considered to be of site importance to common gull.

Fieldfare

- 4.3.11 There were 185 fieldfare recorded within the survey area, however only four of these individuals were within the Site boundary. They were not interacting with the arable fields, and recorded periphery vegetation. This is a low number for the size of the Site, as fieldfare are well-known to forage in flocks in arable fields over late winter. As such, the Site is considered to be significant at no higher than a site level for fieldfare during winter.

House Sparrow (NERC)

- 4.3.12 There were 15 house sparrows recorded, all within the north-west of the buffer towards the residential properties. Only two were calling from the hedgerow within the Site boundary. Given house sparrow are colonial this is quite a low number and as such, the Site is considered to be significant at no higher than a site level.

Linnet (NERC)

- 4.3.13 A total of 49 linnets were recorded, however only nine were on-Site. These were in vegetation towards the mid-east of the Site. Linnet is a resident bird in England, though numbers have dropped significantly over the past few decades thought to be as a result of a loss of habitat (particularly that of hedgerows and scrub) as well as feeding opportunities in the form of winter stubble¹⁴. Considering the size of Site, this number is not significant when compared to numbers in breeding surveys (73 recorded). As such the Site is considered to be significant at no higher than a site level for linnet during winter.

Mistle thrush

¹² RSPB (2017). Land Management for Wildlife – Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*). Available at: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/what-we-do/influence-government-and-business/farming/advice-for-farmershelping-bird-species/yellowhammer-advice-for-farmers>

¹³ <https://www.bto.org/learn/about-birds/birdfacts/common-gull>

¹⁴ The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) (2025). 'Linnet facts | *Linaria cannabina*'. Available at: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/linnet>

- 4.3.14 Eight mistle thrush were recorded, with three on-Site. These were primarily heard from vegetation and trees, with two seen in fields. The BTO describes their decline may be linked to reduced survival of juveniles¹⁵ and therefore not directly associated with winter. As the number of mistle thrush was not significant, the Site is considered to be significant at no higher than a site level.

Grey Partridge (NERC)

- 4.3.15 Five grey partridge were recorded, with one on-Site. The bird on-Site was flushed from Field 15, while four grey partridge were noted flying west in November. The BTO describes their decline as associated with many causes, including reduced availability of agricultural habitat and therefore insect food provisions¹⁶. As there was only one grey partridge on Site, this was not considered to be significant. As such the Site is significant at no higher than a site level to this species during winter.

Corn bunting (NERC), Greenfinch and Marsh Tit (NERC)

- 4.3.16 Two corn buntings were seen flying west during December and therefore not interacting with Site habitats.
- 4.3.17 A total of 12 greenfinch were recorded in the Survey Area, however none of these individuals were on-Site.
- 4.3.18 Four marsh tit were recorded off-Site, calling from the Ancient woodland. This habitat is adjacent to the Site and therefore not within the red line boundary.
- 4.3.19 As these species were not interacting with the Site habitats, the Site is considered to be significant to these species at a site level only during winter.
- 4.3.20 These survey details are presented within Table 3a, Appendix 3.

4.4 Breeding Birds

- 4.4.1 Approximately 1796 bird records were collected for 51 species at the Site across the six surveys. This included 25 green listed species, 13 amber listed species and 12 red listed species. Additionally, ten of the species recorded are listed on the NERC Act (2006) and three species on Schedule 1 of the WCA (1981) (as amended).
- 4.4.2 Of the species recorded, 16 are considered to be probable breeders. Breeding status of each species has been determined in accordance with the UK Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP) definitions (RBBP, 2020)¹⁷.
- 4.4.3 Further details of the species recorded are discussed below, with red listed species, and species with additional protections discussed separately. Numbers of species recorded for

¹⁵ <https://www.bto.org/learn/about-birds/birdfacts/mistle-thrush>

¹⁶ <https://www.bto.org/learn/about-birds/birdfacts/mistle-thrush>

¹⁷ RBBP (2020). UK Rare Breeding Birds Panel – Definitions [online]. Available at: <https://rbbp.org.uk/definitions-of-species-classifications/>

each survey can be seen in Table 3b, Appendix 3; while survey maps are present in Appendix 2.

- 4.4.4 There was a barn owl box recorded at TL 29109 30273. This had no signs of occupation; however, it is being treated as occupied on a precautionary basis. More details can be read in the associated EcIA and mitigation is described in Section 5.

Green Listed Species (BoCC5)

- 4.4.5 A total of 25 green listed species were identified during the surveys, predominantly recording within perimeter features of the Site such as boundary hedgerows and woodland. Species included collared dove *Streptopelia decaocto* jackdaw *Corvus monedula*, jay *Garrulus glandarius*, chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*, blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*, goldcrest *Regulus regulus*, robin *Erithacus rubecula*, carrion crow *Corvus corone*, magpie *Pica pica*, blackbird *Turdus merula*, chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*, goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*, buzzard *Buteo buteo*, great tit *Parus major*, blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, green woodpecker *Picus viridis*, greater spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*, garden warbler *Sylvia borin*, treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*, nuthatch *Sitta europaea*, swallow *Hirundo rustica*, pied wagtail *Motacilla alba*, long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus*.
- 4.4.6 Of these species, robin, chiffchaff, jay, chaffinch, blue tit, magpie and blackbird are considered to be probable breeders, whereby males were singing or calling in the same location across surveys and or food was seen being taken back to a probable nest site.
- 4.4.7 As these bird species are very common and occurred in expected numbers, the Site is important to these species when breeding at a Site level only.

Red Kite (Schedule 1)

- 4.4.8 A total of 36 red kite were recorded over breeding bird surveys. As detailed in the Ecological Impact Assessment, there was a red kite nest recorded in Coldash Wood during Site habitat walkovers and confirmed to be in use during a breeding bird survey in March. As such it is a probable breeder. Red kite are a common and increasing bird, so the Site is only considered to be significant at a site level, however they are considered within the mitigation section for legislative compliance.

Hobby (Schedule 1)

- 4.4.9 A single hobby *Falco subbuteo* was recorded during Survey 6, hunting skylarks in the north east of Field 4. It was observed catching a skylark and promptly flying south-south-east. Hobbies nest in mature trees, usually in old crows nests. The RBBP says “adults will take a kill in a 2km straight line back to the nest”¹⁸. It may have been bringing food back to young

¹⁸ https://www.rbbp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/sp_guidelines_hobby.pdf

or for its own consumption. Given the direction it flew and the lack of mature trees in the east or south east of the Site it is not considered to be breeding on-Site.

Amber Listed Species (BoCC5)

- 4.4.10 A total of 13 amber-listed species were recorded across the six breeding bird surveys. This included 399 woodpigeon, 85 wren, 50 whitethroat, ten stock dove, two lesser black-backed gull and one wheatear. Other species were only seen off-Site including three greylag geese flying over, a kestrel, a moorhen and 16 mallard in off-Site woodland ponds. In addition, two amber-listed species recorded were also priority under the NERC Act. This pertained to 12 dunnock and 23 song thrush (16 on-Site).
- 4.4.11 None of these species nest in arable habitats being lost to the Proposed Development. The majority of these birds were utilising peripheral hedgerow or woodland habitat. Species with probable breeding status on-Site are wren, song thrush, whitethroat and woodpigeon. This was gathered through males singing or calling from the same location, and instances of adults with food. Considering the size of the Site, and because these are common species, the Site is important for these species at a site level only during breeding season.

Redwing (Schedule 1)

- 4.4.12 A total of 45 redwing were recorded (15 on-Site). These individuals were recorded in March and very early April and as such had not migrated to their breeding grounds. This is not considered to be a significant number and the Site is significant to this species at a site level only.

Red Listed Species (BoCC5)

Skylark (NERC S41)

- 4.4.13 A total of 129 skylark were recorded over the survey period= on-Site, with 84 in adjacent fields. Skylark perform aerial territorial displays and can travel some distance from their nesting site while doing so. There were peak counts of 19, 27, 29, 26, 21 and 7 (potentially 8) skylark territories recorded in surveys 1 – 6 respectively. In some surveys, skylark were seen to be fighting over territories. For instance, in Survey 1, six skylark were seen displaying aggressive behaviour and chasing each other away, thereby implying there was space for one territory only at this position.
- 4.4.14 Skylark decline is linked to breeding habitat loss due to agricultural intensive farming¹⁹. Skylarks are therefore considered to be a probable breeder onsite, and due to their status, the Site is considered to be of importance to skylark at a local level.

¹⁹ BTO (2025). Skylark *Alauda arvensis* [online]. Available at: <https://www.bto.org/learn/about-birds/birdfacts/skylark>

Yellow wagtail (NERC)

- 4.4.15 A total of six yellow wagtail were recorded on-Site. Two of these individuals were observed carrying food and dropping into the arable crop in Field 6. As such there are two potential nests and they are considered to be probable breeders on-Site. Yellow wagtail declines have been linked to changes in agricultural practices which could be impacting breeding and foraging success²⁰.
- 4.4.16 Given they are a probable breeder and nesting in habitat would to be lost to the development, the Site is considered to be of importance to breeding yellow wagtail at a local level.

Yellowhammer (NERC)

- 4.4.17 A total of 91 yellowhammer were recorded over breeding bird surveys, with the vast majority on-Site. They were a probable breeder, with evidence including two individuals with food and two pairs, alongside a number of males singing from the same location multiple times. There were also young birds recorded which could have been raised on-Site. Yellowhammer nest at the bottom of thick hedgerows and on ditch banks, so there is much suitable habitat on-Site.
- 4.4.18 Yellowhammer declines have been linked to changes in agriculture affecting them in both winter and breeding months²¹. Given the number of probable nesting birds and them being a red-listed species, the Site is considered to be significant to at the local level.

Linnet (NERC)

- 4.4.19 Linnet *Linaria cannabina* were recorded 73 times, with 46 on-Site. They were a probable breeder, with seven pairs observed. Linnet are a semi-communal breeder, and there were multiple groups across the Site thought to indicate nesting areas. Linnet is a resident bird in England, though numbers have dropped significantly over the past few decades thought to be as a result of a loss of habitat (particularly that of hedgerows and scrub) as well as feeding opportunities in the form of winter stubble²².
- 4.4.20 Given the majority of linnet were recorded in groups and pairs indicating possible and probable breeding, and the availability of suitable habitat, the Site is considered to be of importance to breeding linnet at a local level.

Corn bunting (NERC)

- 4.4.21 A total of six corn bunting were recorded with four on-Site. Corn bunting nest in arable crop and grassland verges. Given two records of a singing male in a similar location in a

²⁰ <https://www.bto.org/learn/about-birds/birdfacts/corn-bunting>

²¹ <https://www.bto.org/learn/about-birds/birdfacts/yellowhammer>

²² The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) (2025). 'Linnet facts | *Linaria cannabina*'. Available at: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/linnet>

hedgerow in Field 9, they may have been nesting in the verge here. As such they are a probable breeder on-Site. Corn bunting declines have been linked to changes in agricultural practices which could be impacting breeding success²³.

- 4.4.22 Given they are a probable breeder and the availability of suitable habitat, the Site is considered to be of importance to breeding corn bunting at a local level.

Fieldfare (Schedule 1)

- 4.4.23 A total of 37 fieldfare were recorded in March, with 12 on-Site in a hedgerow on the southern boundary of Field 6. It was considered that these individuals had not yet migrated to their breeding grounds. This is not considered to be a significant number and the Site is significant to this species at a site level only.

House Martin, Mistle Thrush, Lapwing (NERC), Starling (NERC)

- 4.4.24 One house martin was recorded flying in June and was thought to be foraging. The Site has no suitable house martin habitat given the lack of suitable structures.
- 4.4.25 One mistle thrush was noted in July, landing on a fence line, before flying off north west. There was no nesting behaviour associated with the individual.
- 4.4.26 One lapwing was observed in Field 4 during April. It was standing in the middle of the field and could have been assessing nesting potential, though no lapwings were seen again.
- 4.4.27 A total of 31 starling were observed however only one of these was in a hedgerow on-Site. The others were recorded in Coldash Wood in March.
- 4.4.28 Given there is only one record of each of these species, the Site is only significant to them at no more than a site level.

Greenfinch and Marsh Tit (NERC)

- 4.4.29 One greenfinch *Chloris chloris* was recorded calling off-Site during July, and one marsh tit was observed in singing in Coldash Wood during March. No further observations were recorded over the rest of the surveys. As such, the Site is considered to be of importance to greenfinch and marsh tit at site level only.

²³ <https://www.bto.org/learn/about-birds/birdfacts/corn-bunting>

5 Assessment and Mitigation

5.1 Ecological Impact Assessment

- 5.1.1 The following assessment is undertaken in the absence of mitigation and compensation measures.
- 5.1.2 In general, breeding and wintering birds are considered to be an Important Ecological Feature of the Site. Individual species are Important Ecological Features if they are of at least local importance.
- 5.1.3 In relation to the majority of bird species recorded on-site, the Site is considered to be of importance at the Site level only.
- 5.1.4 During winter the Site is considered to be of local importance to skylark, starling and yellowhammer. During the breeding season the Site is considered to be of local importance to skylark, corn bunting, yellow wagtail, yellowhammer and linnet.
- 5.1.5 The majority of green and amber listed birds were recorded from the periphery of the Site in hedgerows, woodlands and trees. There is very little vegetation clearance associated with the development and as such negligible impact on these birds. As these are common bird species with a wide habitat niche and do not nest in arable fields, **it is anticipated that there would be a neutral impact on these breeding and wintering bird species.**
- 5.1.6 Breeding and wintering yellowhammer, breeding corn bunting and breeding linnet were recorded utilising habitats peripheral to the arable cropland. This included grass verges, hedgerows, treelines and ditch habitat on the Site. These habitats will be retained during works and as such neither nesting sites or winter habitat will be impacted. **As such, it is anticipated that there would be a neutral impact on these bird species.**
- 5.1.7 Wintering skylark and starling will lose arable habitat. As such, without mitigation and compensation, there could be a disturbance during the construction period and a reduction in available habitat during the operational phase. **As such, it is anticipated that there would be a minor negative impact on wintering starling and skylark at a local level.**
- 5.1.8 With respect to breeding yellow wagtail and skylark, there is likely to be a loss or reduction of available cropland habitat associated with nesting and/or foraging areas for 29 skylark territories and two yellow wagtail territories. There would be an additional disturbance during the construction period. **As such, it is anticipated that there would be a moderate negative impact on breeding skylark and yellow wagtail at a local level.**

5.2 Mitigation and Compensation Measures

General mitigation

- 5.2.1 Crop should not be sown for the growing season prior to construction. This is to discourage skylark and yellow wagtail from nesting and therefore their nests being put at risk.
- 5.2.2 Any cropland and ruderal vegetation growing through within the construction areas should be kept short (to ground level) during the bird nesting season to discourage skylark and yellow wagtail (March – August inclusive). This is important as fallowing fields could become a good habitat for them. More details should be outlined in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), to be secured through a suitably worded planning condition, once the construction phasing details are determined.
- 5.2.3 In addition, for any construction undertaken during March to August (inclusive) within the fields, vantage point surveys should be undertaken by an ecologist or suitably competent person. This would entail a single vantage point survey over each field, prior to the start of each construction phase. This would identify any skylark and other birds which could nest in the shorter vegetation or bare ground, including lapwing. If identified, the nest will need to be left in situ until it has reached its natural conclusion as confirmed by an ecologist.
- 5.2.4 In general, any removal of vegetation will be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season (i.e. outside of March – August inclusive). Where minor clearance works need to take place during these months then a suitably qualified ecologist will check the vegetation prior to works commencing to confirm that active nests or nest building are absent. Provided that active birds' nests are found to be absent, works can go ahead within 48 hours of the check by an ecologist.
- 5.2.5 If an active nest is found during works, then all works will cease immediately, and a suitably qualified ecologist will be contacted (if not already present). The nest will need to be left in situ until it has reached its natural conclusion as confirmed by an ecologist. The nest may need to be protected with a buffer zone which will be advised by an ecologist.

Red kite avoidance

- 5.2.6 In respect to the red kite nest, impact avoidance measures were incorporated into the scheme design. As stated in the EclA, there has been a 150 m buffer instated around the red kite nest within the submitted Westfield Environmental Masterplan²⁴. This is based on the recommended buffer by NatureScot for red kite disturbance distances²⁵. Research into red kite disturbance indicates that distances are very particular to individuals, for example, they have been recorded nesting above footpaths. The lower bracket of 150 m has been chosen, due to occasional recreational activities on the modified grassland directly adjacent to Coldash Wood, which generate higher levels of disturbance. As such the red kites utilising the Site will be accustomed to people and noise. This grassland area is within 150 m of the nest and subsequently the buffer exceeds the disturbance distance the red kites are considered to be accustomed to.

Barn owl avoidance

²⁴ Lanpro 2025 Environmental Masterplan drawing number 5686-LAN-XX-XX-DR-L-1003-P9

²⁵ <https://www.nature.scot/doc/disturbance-distances-selected-scottish-bird-species-naturescot-guidance>

- 5.2.7 A buffer was designed around the barn owl box at 50 m. This exceeds the 40 m buffer for low and medium disturbance distances as described by the barn owl survey methodology²⁶. Occasional heavy construction activity including pile driving could disturb barn owl within 150 m. As such, any pile driving within 150 m of the box will be untaken in winter (November – February) to lower the risk of disturbance of any potential nesting barn owl.

Breeding Skylark and Yellow wagtail compensation

- 5.2.8 A total of 29 skylark territories and two yellow wagtail territories will be compensated for. The compensation area and following information is also described in the EclA.
- 5.2.9 The standard advice for compensating for skylark is based on creating two plots per hectare within arable fields with cereal crop. This is based on advice for farmers through government schemes. The fields identified for skylark compensation (1, 2, 11 and 16, see Appendix 4) comprise a 29 ha area, currently primarily a grass and clover ley. Reverting these to cereal crop would be ecologically obstructive, creating a monoculture that provides no real benefit to species on-Site (other than skylark) and with a condition that cannot be assessed under the Biodiversity Net Gain Statutory Metric.
- 5.2.10 Optimal skylark nesting habitat is described by the RSPB as tussocky grassland with a mosaic of sward height. The ley on-Site (which a peak count of three pairs of skylark were nesting in), is not very diverse in structure however it is still being utilised by the skylark. In addition, some studies show skylark prefer grassland over arable habitats.²⁷ This may be due to grassland having greater food resources alongside nesting opportunity. As farming practices such as spreading pesticides will no longer take place, it is expected a greater number of invertebrate prey will become available. In addition, with a mosaic of grassland available, there will be a more diverse invertebrate assemblage encouraged across the Site. A higher prey density coupled with a cease of farming practices including harvesting, could lead to a higher number of successful broods. Consequently, the compensation area will be a tussocky neutral grassland.
- 5.2.11 The compensation area (29 ha) has been designed based on a one territory per hectare basis (assuming the same density as with cereal plots). This has been calculated using the standard 50 m buffer from the field boundaries. The fields are all adjacent providing an open view preferable to skylark. Maintenance is likely to be a light grazing regime, suitable for ground nesting birds. This low intensity regime is preferred by skylark and would allow for a more naturalised sward structure. The two yellow wagtail territories are also expected to be compensated for within the 29 ha grassland. They nest within similar grassland habitats to skylark and would benefit from the same management.

²⁶ Shawyer C (2012). Barn Owl *Tyto alba* Survey Methodology and Techniques for use in Ecological Assessment. Wildlife Conservation Partnership.

²⁷ Rahman et al (2012) Influence of habitat quality, landscape structure and food resources on breeding skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) territory distribution on restored landfill sites, *Landscape and Urban Planning*; 105: 3.

- 5.2.12 In addition, there will be strips of wildflower grassland created across the Site which will be maintained as a long sward. This could be used for nesting and or foraging opportunity for skylark and yellow wagtail.
- 5.2.13 It is recommended the Site be monitored to ensure a dynamic approach to management and the best possible outcomes. This would be designed through a monitoring and management plan.

Wintering Skylark and Starling compensation

- 5.2.14 The compensation area for breeding skylark is considered to be apt for wintering skylark also, where they utilise the same habitats throughout the year.
- 5.2.15 Starling were recorded foraging in the winter on arable land however they also forage for invertebrates in grazed pasture and in grassland. Research suggests starling often use solar farms and that those with a mosaic of habitats produce the best variety in food resources²⁸. As there will be a number of grassland habitats on Site including modified grassland, wildflower (Other neutral grassland) and tussocky grassland, this will provide starling with foraging options throughout the year including during winter. As such, food provisions on Site are expected to be the same or higher for starling post development than current habitats.

5.3 Ecological Enhancement Measures

- 5.3.1 There are large areas of scrub and woodland being created alongside the grassland habitats. This will increase connectivity around the Site and will benefit many species including those for which the Site is locally important to, yellowhammer and linnet, by providing nesting habitat and foraging opportunity.

5.4 Conclusions

- 5.4.1 As a result of the proposed mitigation and compensation, there are no residual negative effects expected on wintering and breeding birds. A positive residual effect, significant at a local level, is anticipated for linnet and yellowhammer.

28 <https://solarenergyuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Solar-Habitat-Report-2023.pdf>

Appendix 1 BTO Species Codes (taken directly from BTO.org)

AC	Arctic Skua	GA	Gadwall	LE	Long-eared Owl	SM	Sand Martin
AE	Arctic Tern	GX	Gannet	LT	Long-tailed Tit	SS	Sanderling
AV	Avocet	GW	Garden Warbler	MG	Magpie	TE	Sandwich Tern
BO	Barn Owl	GY	Garganey	MA	Mallard	VI	Savi's Warbler
BY	Barnacle Goose	GC	Goldcrest	MN	Mandarin Duck	SQ	Scarlet Rosefinch
BA	Barn-tailed Godwit	EA	Golden Eagle	MX	Manx Shearwater	SP	Scaup
BR	Bearded Tit	OL	Golden Oriole	MR	Marsh Harrier	CY	Scottish Crossbill
BS	Berwick's Swan	GF	Golden Pheasant	MT	Marsh Tit	SW	Sedge Warbler
BI	Bittern	GP	Golden Plover	MW	Marsh Warbler	NS	Serin
BK	Black Grouse	GN	Goldeneye	MP	Meadow Pipit	SA	Shag
TY	Black Guillemot	GO	Goldfinch	MU	Mediterranean Gull	SU	Shelduck
BX	Black Redstart	GD	Goosander	ML	Merlin	SX	Shorelark
BJ	Black Tern	GI	Goshawk	M.	Mistle Thrush	SE	Short-eared Owl
B.	Blackbird	GH	Grasshopper Warbler	MO	Montagu's Harrier	SV	Shoveler
BC	Blackcap	GB	Great Black-backed Gull	MH	Moorhen	SK	Siskin
BH	Black-headed Gull	GG	Great Crested Grebe	MS	Mute Swan	S.	Skylark
BN	Black-necked Grebe	ND	Great Northern Diver	N.	Nightingale	SZ	Slavonian Grebe
BW	Black-tailed Godwit	NX	Great Skua	NJ	Nightjar	SN	Snipe
BV	Black-throated Diver	GS	Great Spotted Woodpecker	NH	Nuthatch	SB	Snow Bunting
BT	Blue Tit	GT	Great Tit	OP	Osprey	ST	Song Thrush
BU	Bluethroat	GE	Green Sandpiper	OC	Oystercatcher	SH	Sparrowhawk
BL	Brambling	G.	Green Woodpecker	PX	Peafowl/Peacock	AK	Spotted Crake
BG	Brent Goose	GR	Greenfinch	PE	Peregrine	SF	Spotted Flycatcher
BF	Bullfinch	GK	Greenshank	PH	Pheasant	DR	Spotted Redshank
BZ	Buzzard	H.	Grey Heron	PF	Pied Flycatcher	SG	Starling
CG	Canada Goose	P.	Grey Partridge	PW	Pied Wagtail	SD	Stock Dove
CP	Capercaillie	GV	Grey Plover	PG	Pink-footed Goose	SC	Stonechat
C.	Carriion Crow	GL	Grey Wagtail	PT	Pintail	TN	Stone-curlew
CW	Cetti's Warbler	GJ	Greylag Goose	PO	Pochard	TM	Storm Petrel
CH	Chaffinch	GU	Guillemot	PM	Plarmigan	SL	Swallow
CC	Chiffchaff	FW	Guineafowl (Helmeted)	PU	Puffin	SI	Swift
CF	Chough	HF	Hawfinch	PS	Purple Sandpiper	TO	Tawny Owl
CL	Cirl Bunting	HH	Hen Harrier	Q.	Quail	T.	Teal
CT	Coal Tit	HG	Herring Gull	RN	Raven	TK	Temminck's Stint
CD	Collared Dove	HY	Hobby	RA	Razorbill	TP	Tree Pipit
CM	Common Gull	HZ	Honey Buzzard	RG	Red Grouse	TS	Tree Sparrow
CS	Common Sandpiper	HC	Hooded Crow	KT	Red Kite	TC	Treecreeper
CX	Common Scoter	HP	Hoopoe	ED	Red-backed Shrike	TU	Tufted Duck
CN	Common Tern	HM	House Martin	RM	Red-breasted Merganser	TT	Turnstone
CO	Coat	HS	House Sparrow	RQ	Red-crested Pochard	TD	Turtle Dove
CA	Cormorant	JD	Jackdaw	FV	Red-footed Falcon	TW	Twite
CB	Corn Bunting	J.	Jay	RL	Red-legged Partridge	WA	Water Rail
CE	Corncrake	K.	Kestrel	NK	Red-necked Phalarope	W.	Wheatear
CI	Crested Tit	KF	Kingfisher	LR	Redpoll (Lesser)	WM	Whimbrel
CR	Crossbill (Common)	KI	Kittiwake	RK	Redshank	WC	Whinchat
CK	Cuckoo	KN	Knot	RT	Redstart	WG	White-fronted Goose
CU	Curlew	LM	Lady Amherst's Pheasant	RH	Red-throated Diver	WH	Whitethroat
DW	Dartford Warbler	LA	Lapland Bunting	RE	Redwing	WS	Whooper Swan
DI	Dipper	L.	Lapwing	RB	Reed Bunting	WN	Wigeon
DO	Dotterel	TL	Leach's Petrel	RW	Reed Warbler	WT	Willow Tit
DN	Dunlin	LB	Lesser Black-backed Gull	RZ	Ring Ouzel	WW	Willow Warbler
D.	Duncock	LS	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	RP	Ringed Plover	OD	Wood Sandpiper
EG	Egyptian Goose	LW	Lesser Whitethroat	RI	Ring-necked Parakeet	WO	Wood Warbler
E.	Eider	LI	Linnet	R.	Robin	WK	Woodcock
FP	Feral Pigeon	ET	Little Egret	DV	Rock Dove (not feral)	WL	Woodlark
ZL	Feral/hybrid goose	LG	Little Grebe	RC	Rock Pipit	WP	Woodpigeon
ZF	Feral/hybrid mallard type	LU	Little Gull	RO	Rook	WR	Wren
FF	Fieldfare	LO	Little Owl	RS	Roseate Tern	WY	Wryneck
FC	Firecrest	LP	Little Ringed Plover	RY	Ruddy Duck	YW	Yellow Wagtail
F.	Fulmar	AF	Little Tern	RU	Ruff	Y.	Yellowhammer

Appendix 2 Figures

Figure 1 Red-line Boundary



Figure 2 Site Location Plan for Avian Winter Surveys

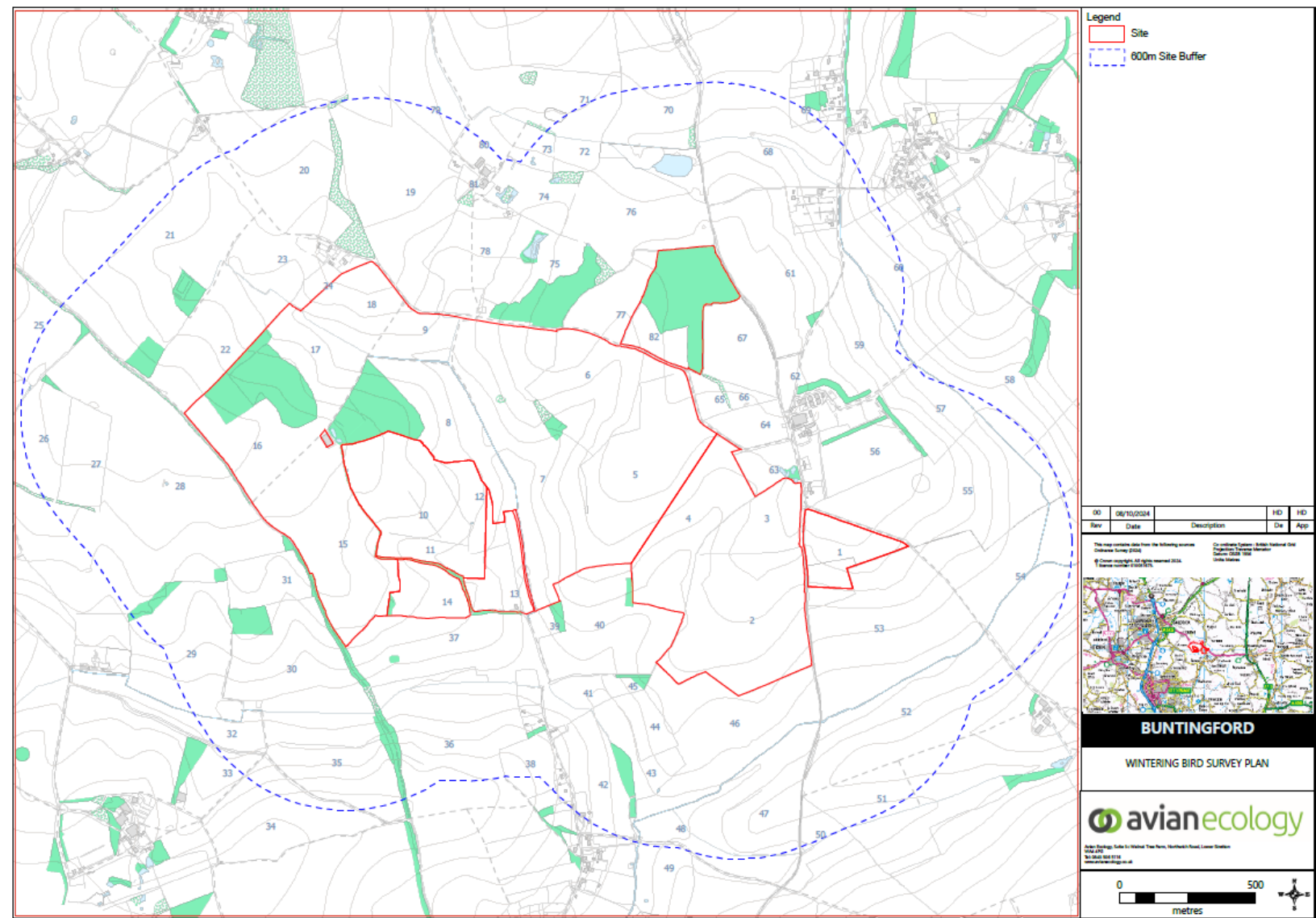


Figure 3 Breeding Bird Survey 1

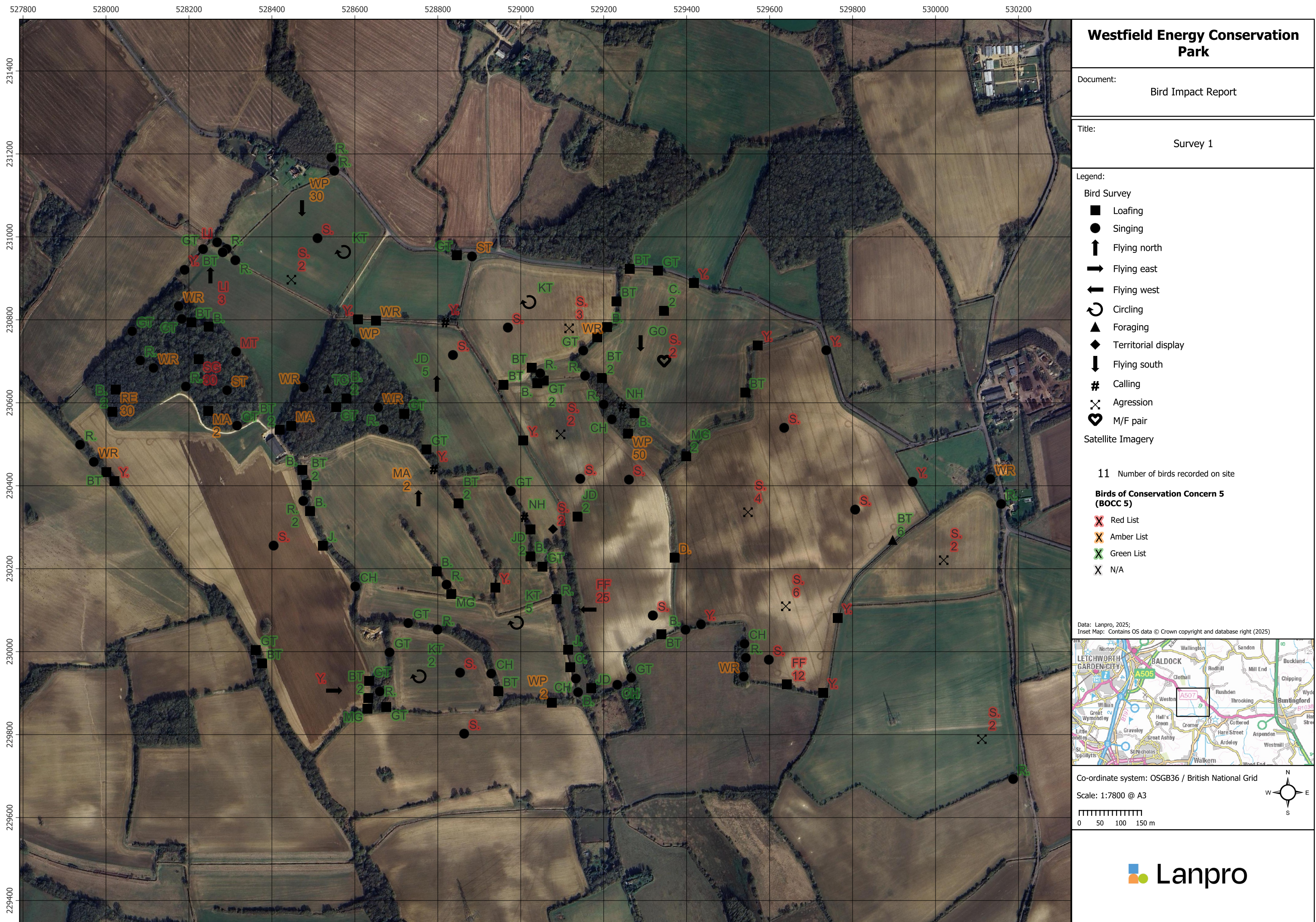


Figure 4 Breeding Bird Survey 2



Figure 5 Breeding Bird Survey 3

Figure 6 Breeding Bird Survey 4



Westfield Energy Conservation Park

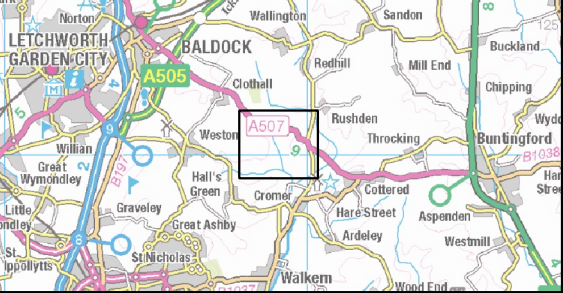
Document: Bird Impact Report

Title: Survey 4

- Legend:
- Bird Survey
- Loafing
 - Foraging
 - Singing
 - Nesting behaviours
 - Flying north
 - Flying west
 - Calling
 - Circling
 - M/F pair
- Satellite Imagery

- 11 Number of birds recorded on site
- Birds of Conservation Concern 5 (BOCC 5)
- Red List
 - Amber List
 - Green List
 - N/A

Data: Lanpro, 2025;
Inset Map: Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right (2025)



Co-ordinate system: OSGB36 / British National Grid

Scale: 1:8000 @ A3

0 50 100 150 m

Figure 7 Breeding Bird Survey 5

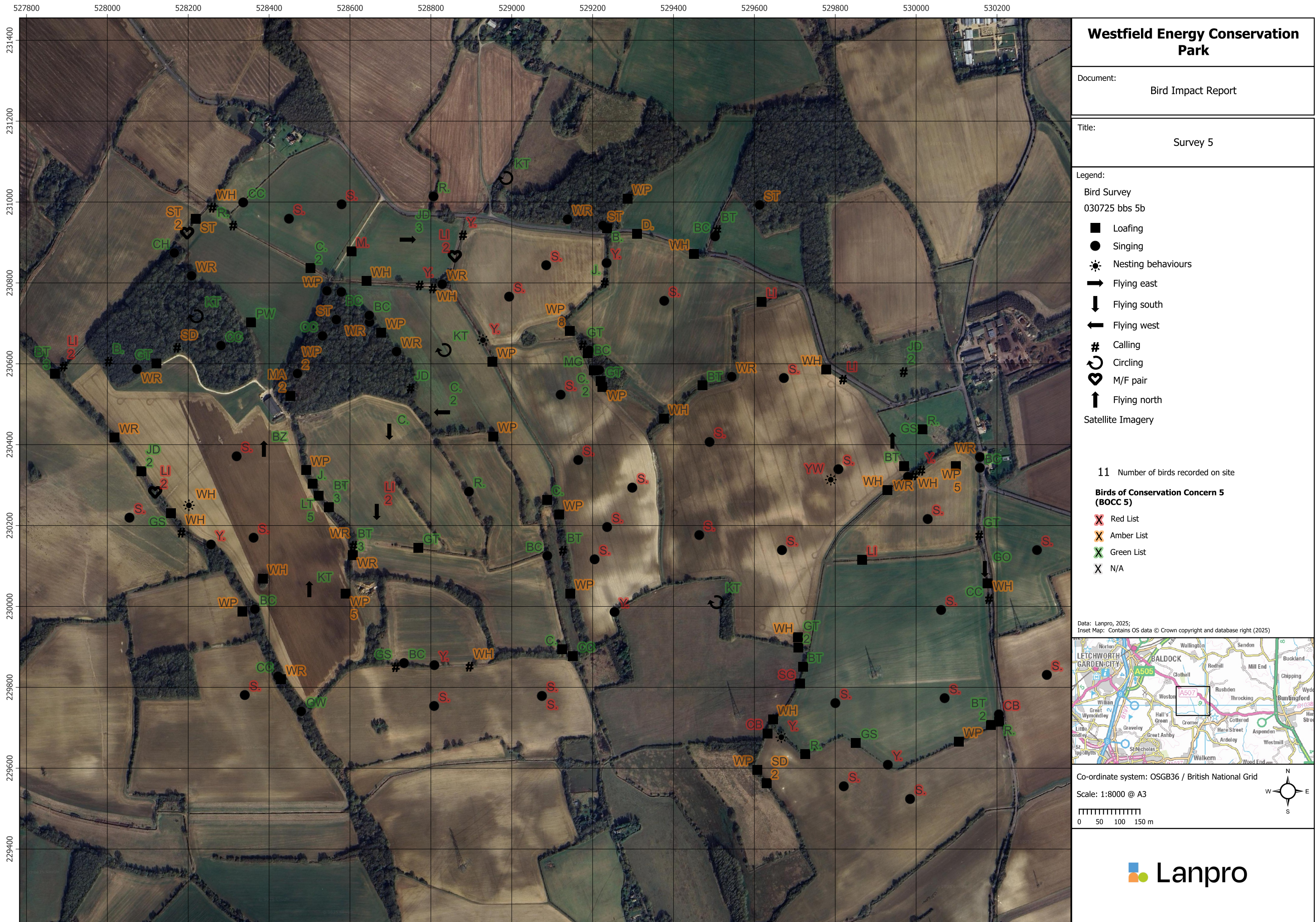


Figure 8 Breeding Bird Survey 6



Westfield Energy Conservation Park

Document: Bird Impact Report

Title: Survey 6

Legend:

Bird Survey

- Loafing
- Singing
- Hunting
- Flying east
- Calling
- Circling
- Foraging
- Flying north
- Nesting behaviours

Satellite Imagery

11 Number of birds recorded on site

Birds of Conservation Concern 5 (BOCC 5)

- Red List
- Amber List
- Green List
- N/A

Data: Lanpro, 2025;
Inset Map: Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right (2025)

Co-ordinate system: OSGB36 / British National Grid

Scale: 1:8150 @ A3

Appendix 3

Results Tables

3a: Winter Bird Surveys

	Survey Number												Number of Birds
Species	1a	1b	2a	2b	3a	3b	4a	4b	5a	5b	6a	6b	Total
Bullfinch			2		2						2		6
Black-headed gull				5	1		1				32	16	55
Carrion crow					20							6	32
Corn bunting						2							2
Common gull				1	81	6	8				1	36	133
Dunnock	4	3	7	5	8	9	3	10	6	6	7	12	80
Fieldfare			23		12	57	19	41		2		31	185
Grey wagtail					1	1		1		1			4
Goldfinch									40				40
Grey plover			4										4
Great tit	7	1	2	1			1						12
Grey heron				1									1
House sparrow				1		2		4		6		2	15
Jackdaw					30								30
Kestrel			1		1		2		1				5
Red kite	6	6	8	15	8	6	3	10	3	16	7	4	92
Lesser black-backed gull			3	4									7
Linnet	6	9	3	9	1			1		9	3	8	49
Long-tailed tit		1											1
Mistle thrush	1				1	1		1	2	1	1		8
Mallard		2			30			1	17		18		68
Moorhen			1		2						1		4
Meadow pipit	4	4	1	1	5	1	1	1	2		1	1	22
Marsh tit			2	1		1					1		5
Grey Partridge						4					1		5

Peregrine			1		1								2
Reed bunting			32	1	5							1	39
Redwing	1	26	9	4	78	7	5	9	30	83	27	20	299
Rook				1	54					2	17	3	77
Skylark	13	15	5	16		49	1	28	7	19	16	15	184
Stock dove		3			5	1		1	35	3	1	7	56
Starling		41		382	3	105		100		2	2	10	645
Song thrush	5	27	13	10	23	16	12	14	14	16	16	13	179
Woodpigeon	25	65	1250	65	150	10	630	40	211	50	329	295	3120
Wren	6	5	4	11	15	14	13	3	4	6	8	5	94
Yellowhammer	4	16	8	19	3	12	1	9		18	9	10	109
Grand Total	82	224	1379	553	540	304	700	274	372	242	500	489	5663

3b: Breeding Bird Surveys

	Survey Number																		Number of birds	Breeding
Species	1a	1b	1c	2a	2b	2c	3a	3b	3c	4a	4b	4c	5a	5b	5c	6a	6b	6c	Total	
Blackbird	4	5	5	10	4	1	6	2	1	3	3	1	1		1	4			51	Probable
Blackcap				2			7	5	8	4	4		3	3	2			1	39	Possible
Blue tit	5	13	9	15	4	5	1	2	1	14	17	7	6	4	6	3	6	7	125	Probable
Buzzard				1	1		1	1	1		1		1			2			9	N/A
Carrion crow		2	1	4	2	4		2	12		4	1	2	5	2	4	1	5	51	Possible
Chaffinch		3	3		7	1	2	2	3	3	1	2	1				1	5	34	Probable
Chiffchaff				5	4	1	5	1	2	1	4		4	1	1	4			33	Probable
Collared dove																1			1	Possible
Common whitethroat							4	3	9	2		8	4	3	8	7	1	1	50	Probable
Corn bunting									1			3			2				6	Probable
Dunnock		1		2		4						2			1	2			12	Possible
European treecreeper	1			1												1	1	1	5	Possible
Fieldfare		12	25																37	N/A
Garden warbler										1			1						2	Possible
Goldcrest																1			1	Possible
Goldfinch		1		5	11	3	10				2				1				33	Possible
Great spotted woodpecker	2			1			1	2		1			1	1	2	2		1	14	Possible
Great tit	9	5	6	8	5	5	6	4	6	4	9	13	1	2	4	5		2	94	Possible
Green woodpecker							1					1				3	1	2	8	Possible
Greenfinch																		1	1	Possible
Greylag goose					3														3	N/A
Hobby																	1		1	N/A
House martin										1									1	N/A
Jackdaw	7	1	2	17	5		5	3	14	4			2	4	2	4			70	Possible
Jay			2	2				1	1				1		1	1	1	1	11	Probable
Kestrel									1										1	Possible
Lapwing					1														1	N/A
Lesser black-backed gull				2															2	N/A

Linnet	4			7	14	2	2	4	7		4	6	4	4	3	4		8	73	Probable
Long-tailed tit					2	2	2						5					1	12	Possible
Magpie		2	2	3	1		1	4			2	2			1	1		1	20	Probable
Mallard	3		2	7			2						2						16	N/A
Marsh tit	1																		1	N/A
Mistle thrush														1					1	N/A
Moorhen							1												1	N/A
Nuthatch	1	1		1			1												4	N/A
Pied wagtail							1	1	4				1						7	N/A
Red kite	2		7	2	3	3	3	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	1			2	36	Probable
Redwing	30			15															45	N/A
Robin	7	6	7	10	3	1	6	8	2	4	2	3	1	2	3	3		1	69	Probable
Skylark	8	26	3	13	21	17	9	16	18	10	6	19	6	9	15	7	6	4	213	Probable
Song thrush	2			3			3	3	1	2		1	4		2	1		1	23	Probable
Starling	30														1				31	Possible
Stock dove								2	2	1			1		2	2			10	Possible
Swallow									1	3	7	1					1		13	N/A
Wheatear								1											1	N/A.
Woodpigeon	31	50	2	40	3	36	3	15	8	34	10	19	10	6	16	34	5	17	339	Probable
Wren	5	3	1	7	8		7	4	6	5	3	4	6	4	4	11	5	2	85	Probable
Yellow wagtail												5			1				6	Probable
Yellowhammer	5	7	3	12	6	6	6	4	8	3	1	8	1	5	4	3	1	8	91	Probable
Grand Total	157	138	80	195	108	91	96	92	123	101	81	108	71	56	86	110	31	72	1796	

Appendix 4

Post-development Habitat Map



