



Appendix 13.6

Breeding Bird Survey Report

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Appendix 13.6: Breeding Bird Survey Report

Client

Bloor Homes & Pigeon

Project

North Hemel Hempstead

Hertfordshire

Date

November 2025

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Rev	Issue Status	Prepared/Date	Approved/Date
-	Final	LEB / 15.09.25	OGJ / 12.10.25
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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Report Scope and Methodology
Fourteen Breeding Bird Surveys were conducted on behalf of Bloor Homes & Pigeon for land at Hemel Hempstead (Central OS grid reference: TL 08435 10789). The Site comprises large arable fields, treelines and hedgerows. Breeding bird surveys were conducted broadly following the bird survey guidelines between April – July 2023 and update surveys between April – July 2025. Surveys covered all the habitats within the Site.
Ecological Baseline
No designated sites recognised for importance to breeding birds is located within 15km of the Site. Records of three notable species were returned from within the Site boundary. A total of 37 bird species were recorded within the Site during the 2023 breeding surveys, of which 12 were considered 'notable' species. In 2025, a total of 38 bird species were recorded, of which 17 were notable. The species assemblage is typical of the habitats onsite, with generalists and farmland specialists being the main species recorded.
Assessment of Impacts
The Site proposals include the loss of cropland habitat within the Site boundary to facilitate the creation of residential units, roads and associated infrastructure, and areas of greenspace. This will reduce the suitability of the Site for the farmland bird assemblage recorded, especially skylark, which are recorded as breeding onsite during both initial and update surveys. The inclusion of extensive green infrastructure in the scheme design, in addition to the provision of gardens, will provide additional habitats for the range of common and widespread generalist and woodland edge species recorded, particularly as these habitats mature. The proposals include a residential development that will likely lead to an increase in the population of domestic cats in the locality, leading to an increased risk of cat predation. As the new habitats are >350m from proposed residences, with the inclusion of scrub, this is expected to not have a significant effect on the local bird populations.
Recommended Mitigation, Compensation and Enhancement
Species-rich grasslands proposed in the SANG will be seeded with a range of native seed-bearing species and managed year-round to provide a permanent foraging and breeding habitat for farmland birds including skylark. This new habitat, alongside mixed scrub planting, will provide additional opportunities for other bird species including yellowhammer and linnet. The planting of mixed scrub and hedgerows will include a range of thorny species to provide dense thickets to offer sheltering opportunities for birds from cat predation. SuDS features will be designed with a varied bed profile to provide suitable condition for a range of wetland plants to establish. They will also be designed to hold a degree of water throughout the winter, providing opportunities for wetland birds to colonise the Site.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The following Breeding Bird Survey Report has been prepared by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd. on behalf of Bloor Homes & Pigeon, for the Site at North Hemel Hempstead (central OS Grid Reference TL 08444 11097), hereafter referred to as the 'Site'.
- 2.2 A suite of ecological surveys has been undertaken on the Site to inform the Biodiversity Chapter of an Environmental Statement (ES) which has been prepared to support the application. This breeding bird report has been prepared to support this ES, and it should therefore be read in conjunction with the Biodiversity Chapter (*Chapter 13*).
- 2.3 When planning the survey program surveying the Site, it was split into two separate parcels, divided by Little Revel End Lane. As a result, surveys on these two areas sometimes occurred at different times and different dates. Where relevant, these two areas of land will be referred to as the "southern parcel" and "northern parcel".

Site Location & Context

- 2.4 The Site is located to the north and east of Hemel Hempstead. It comprises a series of agricultural field compartments that are generally large and open. Where they are present, field boundaries comprise hedgerows or woodland. Other habitats onsite comprise species-poor grassland in the south-east of the Site, a pond and small areas of scrub.
- 2.5 The surrounding landscape to the north, east and west is composed largely of agricultural and pastoral land with small pockets of woodland interspersed throughout. The M1 motorway lies approximately 0.5km east of the Site, with the village of Redbourn beyond. To the south and west of the Site, the landscape comprises the urban environs of Woodhall farm in the north-east of Hemel Hempstead.

Report Aims & Objectives

- 2.6 This report has been prepared to achieve the following objectives:
- Describe the survey methodologies employed to inform this assessment;
 - Identify the presence, species and distribution of breeding birds within or in the vicinity of the Site;
 - Evaluate the conservation importance of habitats within the Site to local bird populations and identify any areas of ornithological interest;
 - Identify and describe potentially significant ecological effects associated with the proposals on breeding birds; and
 - Make recommendations to minimize the potential impact of development and to consider opportunities for additional mitigation, compensation and enhancement where relevant.

3.0 LEGISLATION & STATUS

Legislation

- 3.1 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA) is the principal legislation affording protection to UK wild birds. Under this legislation all birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law, and it is an offence, with certain exceptions, to recklessly or intentionally:
- Kill, injure or take any wild bird.
 - Take, damage, or destroy the nest of any wild bird while in use or being built; or
 - Take or destroy the egg of any wild bird.
- 3.2 Additional protection is afforded to species listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA, whereby intentional disturbance whilst building or occupying a nest or disturbance of dependent young is also considered an offence.
- 3.3 Certain species have also been identified as Species of Principal Importance (SPI) under Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.
- 3.4 The local biodiversity action plan for Hertfordshire includes action plans for certain species within the county. Species-specific plans for birds include tree sparrow *Passer montanus*, bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, stone-curlew *Burhinus oedipnemus* and song thrush *Turdus philomelos*.

Status

- 3.5 In addition to statutory protection, some bird species are classified according to their conservation status, such as their inclusion on the Red and Amber lists of Birds of Conservation Concern¹ (BoCC) in the UK:
- 3.6 Red list (high conservation concern) species meet at least one of the following criteria:
- They are globally threatened according to IUCN criteria;
 - Their population has declined rapidly (50% or more) in recent years;
 - They that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery; and/or
- 3.7 Amber list (medium conservation concern) species are those that meet at least one of the following criteria:
- They have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe;
 - Their population or range has declined moderately (between 25% and 49%) in recent years;
 - Their population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery;
 - They are rare breeders; and/or
 - They have internationally important or localised populations.

¹ Stanbury, A.J., Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Balmer, D., Brown, A., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D., and Win I. (2021) The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. *British Birds* 114: 747.

- 3.8 Green list (low conservation concern) species fulfil none of the above criteria.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Desktop Study

- 4.1 To compile existing baseline ornithological information, statutory and non-statutory organisations were consulted for data regarding designated sites for which birds are a designating feature and protected/notable bird records. These included HERC (Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre) and Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC - <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.html>). Full details on the methodology for the desk study are provided in the accompanying Biodiversity ES Chapter 13.

Field Survey

2023 Surveys

- 4.2 The survey methodology employed was in accordance with the protocol specified within current best practice guidelines². All birds encountered (seen or heard) were recorded on a field survey plan using standard BTO species codes and symbols for bird activities and to denote activity, sex, and age where appropriate.
- 4.3 Breeding status was inferred for each species based on the sixteen categories implemented by the European Ornithological Atlas Committee (EOAC)³ and their corresponding definitions, in addition to four additional codes to classify non-breeding species as birds recorded away from suitable breeding habitat, summering non-breeders, passage migrants, or flyovers. Birds were considered to be holding a territory and therefore likely to be utilising the Site for breeding activities if they were displaying breeding behaviours, such as singing, nest building, food carrying or territorial defence. If birds did not display such behaviours, e.g. they were only recorded flying over the Site, they were considered non-breeders. These criteria and associated definitions are outlined in Appendix A.
- 4.4 A route was mapped out prior to the surveys being undertaken, paying particular attention to any linear features, such as hedgerows and watercourses, and other features such as ponds and scrub. To provide inter-survey temporal variation between surveys to account for variation in species' detectability throughout the day, the starting location and direction of walking were stratified across the fourteen surveys.
- 4.5 A total of eight surveys were undertaken, spanning the season in which the majority of breeding activity occurs for typical species, and no species with vastly differing breeding cycles are reasonably expected to occur at the Site following the consultation results and assessment of the habitats present.
- 4.6 Bird surveys were not undertaken in unfavourable conditions, such as heavy rain or persistent strong wind (conditions which can negatively affect the results). *Table 1* provides details of the survey dates and weather conditions.
- 4.7 In 2023 the Site was considered to be two separate sites and were therefore surveyed separately on different dates. This is not believed to have impacted the results of the surveys.

² Bird Survey & Assessment Steering Group 2023. *Bird Survey Guidelines for Assessing Ecological impacts* v.1.1.1. Available at: <https://birdsurveyguidelines.org> [Accessed: 10.12.24]

³ Sharrock, J.T.R (1973) Ornithological Atlases. *Auspicius* 5:13-15.

Table 1: Surveyors and Conditions 2023

Survey	Site	Date	Cloud (%)	Rain	Wind	Temperature	Visibility
1	Northern parcel	18.04.23	90	0	2 – 3	8 °C	Very good
2	Northern parcel	04.05.23	60	0	2 – 3	9 °C	Very good
3	Northern parcel	19.05.23	100	0	0	11 °C	Very good
4	Southern parcel	24.05.23	10	0	1	7 °C	Very good
5	Northern parcel	01.06.23	100	0	2	10 °C	Very good
6	Southern parcel	06.06.23	100	0	3 – 4	11 °C	Very good
7	Southern parcel	14.06.23	0	0	0 – 1	12 °C	Very good
8	Northern parcel	05.07.23	0	0	1 – 2	11 °C	Very good

2025 Update Surveys

- 4.8 Survey methodology was identical to that employed in 2023.
- 4.9 Five daytime surveys and one dusk survey were undertaken in 2025. Survey dates and weather conditions can be found in *Table 2*.
- 4.10 The dusk survey was undertaken during failing light and continued into darkness to account for temporal variations in species' detectability being timed to coincide with peak activity of likely crepuscular and/or nocturnal species and identify important roost sites should any be present.

Table 2: Surveyors and Conditions 2025

Survey	Site	Date	Cloud (%)	Rain	Wind	Temperature	Visibility
1	All	10.04.25	100	0	2 – 3	6 °C	Very good
2	All	29.04.25	5	0	0	5 °C	Good
3	All	23.05.25	5	0	0	3 °C	Very good
4	All	11.06.25	20	0	0	12 °C	Very good
5	All	24.06.25	95	3	3	12 °C	Good
6	All	08.07.25 – Dusk	15	0	1	18 °C	Very good

5.0 RESULTS

Desk Study

Designated Sites

- 5.1 No designated sites cited for their ornithological interest were identified within the desk study. A full description of all designated sites within the search area is provided within the full Biodiversity ES Chapter report.

Protected / Notable Species

- 5.2 Five records of three notable species were returned within the Site boundary. This includes the following species; red kite, greenfinch and skylark. Skylark were recorded in flocks, singing and foraging over the open fields in 2011 and 2019, and two greenfinch individuals were recorded onsite in 2019.
- 5.3 637 records of forty-seven notable species were returned within 2km of the Site boundary. Those that are protected by Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) are detailed in Table 3 and the locations can be found on Figure 1.

Table 3: WCA1 Protected Bird Species Records within 2km of the Site Boundary

Species	Distance from Site at Closest Point	Description
Red kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	Onsite	Three records of individuals over arable land onsite and many records further afield surrounding the Site between 2011-2019.
Barn owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	10m North-East	Twenty-two records of individuals in the Redbourn area between 2011-2019 and one record of a family in 2012.
Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1560m North-East	Five records of individuals between 2011 – 2019, all in the Redbourn area over arable land.
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	760m North-east	A great number of records between 2011-2019, including many records of 100-350 individuals foraging in bushes and hedgerows on farmland. Nearest record is a flock of 200 at Flamsteadbury Farm near Redbourn in 2011.
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	1270m North-East	Many records between 2012 – 2019, nearest record in Redbourn.

Field Survey

2023

- 5.4 A total of 37 bird species were recorded within the survey area during the eight survey occasions (for complete list see Appendix A). Of these, 12 appear on one or more of the following and are hereafter referred to as 'notable species':
- Schedule 1 of WCA;
 - BoCC Red or Amber lists;
 - Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006; and/or
 - Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- 5.5 Eleven species were recorded as confirmed breeders onsite. Six species were notable, and the remainder were common and widespread.

- 5.6 The notable species recorded during 2023 surveys are summarised in *Table 4* with their respective distributions illustrated in *Figure 2*. The key for the EOAC Breeding Status can be found in Appendix A.

Table 4: Notable Breeding Species Recorded 2023

Species	Legal / Conservation Status	Peak Count / No. of Survey Visits	EOAC Breeding Status
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber List	2 / 1	Possible – H,S
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber List	64 / 8	Possible – H,S
Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	Green List WCA Sch.1	6 / 8	Confirmed – ON
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red List NERC S.41	13 + 5 families / 8	Confirmed – FF
Whitethroat <i>Curruca communis</i>	Amber List	9 / 7	Possible – H,S
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber List	12 / 8	Possible – H,S
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red List NERC S.41	23 / 3	Possible – H,S
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	6 / 7	Confirmed – FL
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red List NERC S.41	2 + 1 colony / 3	Possible – H
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	7 / 7	Confirmed – FL
Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red List NERC S.41	3 + 1 family / 5	Confirmed – FL
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red List NERC S.41	13 / 8	Confirmed – FL

2023 Breeding Bird Assemblage Description

- 5.7 The majority of bird species recorded onsite are typical of the habitats present in a regional context, being heavily influenced by the intensive arable agricultural cultivation of the land.
- 5.8 The actively cropped arable field interiors support a limited assemblage of breeding birds, with the exception of skylark, which were recorded as breeding across this habitat onsite. Breeding behaviours including food carrying and territory defence were recorded regularly across surveys and across the Site. Small numbers of other notable species including stock dove, woodpigeon, starling and yellowhammer utilise field interiors for foraging. Red kites were also regularly recorded hunting over fields and two nests are located in trees along the East and West Southern parcel boundaries (*Figure 3*).
- 5.9 The hedgerows provided suitable breeding and foraging habitat for the range of common and widespread generalist and woodland edge species recorded including robin, blackbird, great spotted woodpecker and the range of common corvid, tit, finch and warbler species recorded. This assemblage also included a range of notable, but still common and widespread species that are typical of the habitats present, including woodpigeon, whitethroat, wren, song thrush, dunnock, linnet and yellowhammer. Linnet and whitethroat were mostly observed along hedgerows in the Northern parcel, where hedgerows were of higher quality.

- 5.10 An urban bird assemblage was also recorded across the Site, near residential and farm buildings. House sparrow and starling were observed carrying nest material and food offsite, implying that they were using the onsite habitats as breeding and foraging resources.

2025

- 5.11 A total of 38 bird species were recorded within the survey area during the eight survey occasions (for complete list see Appendix A). Of these, 17 were notable.
- 5.12 Nine species were recorded as confirmed breeders onsite, five of which were notable, and the remainder common and widespread.
- 5.13 The notable species recorded during surveys are summarised in *Table 5* with their respective distributions illustrated in *Figure 2*. The key for the EOAC Breeding Status can be found in Appendix A.

Table 5: Notable Breeding Species Recorded 2025

Species	Legal / Conservation Status	Peak Count / No. of Survey Visits	EOAC Breeding Status
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	Red List	32 / 1	Non-breeder - F
Stock Dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber List	7 / 3	Possible – H,S
Woodpigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber List	42 / 6	Possible – H,S
Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red List	4 / 1	Non-breeder - UH
Lesser Black-Backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	Amber List	2 / 1	Non-breeder - UH
Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	Green List WCA Sch.1	3 / 6	Possible – H
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber List	29 / 2	Possible – H
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red List NERC S.41	27 / 6	Confirmed - FF
Whitethroat <i>Curruca communis</i>	Amber List	9 / 4	Confirmed - FF
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber List	21 + 1 juvenile / 6	Confirmed - FL
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red List NERC S.41	1 colony / 2	Confirmed - FL
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	6 / 6	Possible – H,S
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red List NERC S.41	1 colony / 4	Possible – H
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber List NERC S.41	10 / 5	Confirmed - FL
Greenfinch <i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red List	1 / 1	Possible – H
Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red List NERC S.41	5 / 4	Possible – H,S
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red List NERC S.41	11 / 6	Probable - P

2025 Breeding Bird Assemblage Description

- 5.14 As in 2023, the majority of bird species recorded onsite are typical of the habitats present in a regional context. The actively cropped arable field interiors support a limited assemblage of

breeding birds including skylark, which were once again confirmed breeders onsite. Pairs were recorded, mostly in the Western parcels, and adults were observed carrying food and displaying territory defence. Small numbers of other notable species including stock dove, woodpigeon and rook utilise these areas for foraging. Red kites were again regularly recorded hunting over field interiors, but no breeding behaviour was recorded, and the known nests did not appear to be in use. This species is known to reuse old nests however, so they may become active again in future. Very low numbers of herring and lesser black-backed gulls were recorded foraging in field interiors on a couple of occasions.

- 5.15 The hedgerows again provided suitable breeding and foraging habitat for the range of common and widespread generalist and woodland edge species recorded. A similar range of notable, but common and widespread species typical of the habitats present were present in 2025, including woodpigeon, wren, song thrush and dunnock. Yellowhammer pairs were recorded along the central hedgerows, and linnet and whitethroat were again concentrated along the Northern parcel boundaries. No lesser spotted woodpeckers were observed in 2025.
- 5.16 An urban bird assemblage was also recorded across the Site, near residential and farm buildings. Swifts were observed foraging over the field interiors on a single occasion and are likely to be breeding on nearby buildings. House sparrow and starling were once again observed carrying nest material and food offsite.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The following section provides an assessment of the potential impacts of the proposals upon breeding bird assemblages within and in the vicinity of the Site. The evaluation has been informed by the most recent Land Use, green & Blue Infrastructure Parameter Plan.

Impact Assessment

- 6.2 The following potential impacts to the recorded bird populations and assemblage may result from the proposals:

- Direct loss/change of habitat, including habitat fragmentation
- Disturbance during construction and/or operation

Habitat Loss

- 6.3 The proposals will result in a loss of arable cropland across the Site. This will result in a reduction in foraging and breeding habitat for the farmland assemblage onsite, particularly skylark, which are recorded as confirmed breeders in the Site's field interiors; however, this species is not purely associated with arable as they can use a variety habitat types, but in this area, habitats are dominated by crops. Many other notable species were recorded foraging in arable field interiors, including yellowhammer, starling, stock dove and woodpigeon.
- 6.4 The majority of hedgerows and treelines onsite are to be retained, which will continue to provide foraging and breeding habitat to the generalist and woodland edge assemblages recorded. The addition of mixed scrub and native trees will increase foraging and breeding resources for notable species including whitethroat. The new residential gardens will also provide new foraging and sheltering habitat for generalists, especially as the vegetation within them matures.

Disturbance

- 6.5 Construction operations have the potential to disturb birds using the development area for breeding, roosting, and foraging. Operations likely to disturb breeding birds include noise and displacement during vegetation clearance, initial ground works and some construction activities. During the breeding season disturbance may lead to nest desertion or the avoidance of the area and reduce the suitability of retained nesting areas, such as any retained hedgerows.
- 6.6 Two red kite nests were recorded onsite in trees along hedgerows in the Southern parcel. These were active in 2023, but disused in 2025. There is a possibility that these nests become active again in future, however they are to be retained within the current proposals; one is situated within the SANG to the west which will be void of any major construction, while the second is situated within the woodland margin that runs along Holtemere End Lane, this will be buffered with Gl. Disturbance may still occur if these nests are used, in the form of additional lighting, noise and vibrations during construction.
- 6.7 The increase in domestic animals during the operational phase, particularly cat, may lead to an effect on small bird populations. Recent research is inconclusive as to the actual effect that domestic cats can have on wild populations, however ground nesting birds such as skylark may be more susceptible to predation than hedgerow or tree nesting species. As the hay meadow managed for skylark is approximately 350m from the proposed residences, with new areas of

scrub and woodland planting, the likelihood of cat predation is greatly reduced and it is therefore considered that the impact of cats will be of negligible significance.

Mitigation

Disturbance

- 6.8 To avoid disturbance to breeding birds, ground clearance works and vegetation will be undertaken prior to the bird-breeding season (March to August, inclusive). If this is not possible, the area will be checked prior to removal of vegetation or ground works by an experienced ecologist. If active nests are found, vegetation will be left untouched and suitably buffered from works until all birds have fledged. Specific advice will be provided prior to undertaking the clearance. This would be a statutory requirement due to the protection of all nesting birds and their nests under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. A suitably qualified ecologist would supervise this.
- 6.9 As red kite are a WCA schedule 1 species, a pre-commencement check will be required to determine whether the two nests onsite are active. If the nests are found to be active before works commence, a buffer of 150-300m will be implemented if works are conducted during the breeding season. If red kite continue to nest within this buffer zone while construction operations are already underway, bespoke mitigation recommendations can be provided.

Compensation

Habitat Loss

- 6.10 To compensate for the loss of arable habitat onsite, a species-rich hay meadow will be created within the SANG. This will be created and managed for breeding birds ensure a good sward height mix. It is accepted that the main function of a SANG is to provide recreational opportunities for residents, which might compromise the use by bird for breeding, however the degree of SANG and GI is over 50ha, and the design of the footpath network can ensure areas are less disturbed. The focus with regards to farmland birds, and particularly skylarks, is to create higher foraging resources to support their unique breeding potential, as they can regularly have two broods in a year and once chicks have fledged, they are independent in approximately two weeks. One constraint to this breeding success is the availability of prey items, therefore the scheme design will facilitate the availability of key prey items which are invertebrates and particularly beetles. A number of invertebrate and beetle banks will be provided around the scheme adjacent to onsite potential breeding areas but also adjacent to existing arable in the surroundings, this will therefore have a beneficial affect on site and adjacent by increase breeding opportunities.
- 6.11 Other arable and grassland species known to utilise the Site currently for foraging and breeding will also benefit from this new habitat, such as linnet and yellowhammer.
- 6.12 The addition of residential gardens will also provide new habitat for generalist and woodland edge species to colonise, particularly as these habitats mature.

Enhancements

- 6.13 Additional scrub, woodland and grassland planting will be incorporated into the Sites GI, particularly within the SANG. This will provide a mosaic of species-rich, additional foraging and breeding habitat for a range of birds, especially as the habitats mature. Priority will be given to

the provision of native, fruit bearing species of local origin to provide an optimal foraging resource for a range of bird species including the warbler, finch and thrush species recorded.

- 6.14 Attenuation features and waterbodies within the SANG will be designed where possible to encourage a varied bed profile, allowing marginal vegetation to establish where this does not affect the drainage capacity of the features. A recommended species mix would include native species such as common reed *Phragmites australis* and reed mace *Typha latifolia*. This will encourage new wetland species to the Site, as well as provide additional foraging opportunities for species already present in the form of invertebrates and seeds.
- 6.15 Additional enhancements include the erection of a mixture of nest box types. The following provides details of other suitable nest box types to be erected at suitable locations:
- A mixture of small hole (26mm and 32mm) boxes placed along the retained habitat around the proposed development area will provide nesting opportunities for common tit species. These boxes generally have a high uptake rate.
 - Small open fronted nest boxes again should be placed throughout the site especially on trees which support a climber such as ivy, which provides a degree of concealment. These boxes typically attract species such as robin and blackbird.
 - Consideration should also be given to the provision of nest boxes and nest bricks for the urban assemblage recorded, including house sparrow, swallow and swift.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Surveys have demonstrated that the Site supports a range of common and widespread bird species typical of the habitats present on site, including a farmland bird assemblage with urban, generalist and woodland edge species. Six notable species were recorded as confirmed breeders on site in 2023 and five in 2025.
- 7.2 The proposals will result in the loss of arable habitats, which has the potential to negatively impact the farmland bird assemblages, however new habitats will be created that provide a variety of habitats that will incorporate the range of bird species identified. The SANG and GI will include habitats for the variety of bird species recorded; this will include increased scrub/shrub, hedgerows and woodland coverage which will increase foraging potential owing to the nut and fruit species included. The dense vegetation, once mature, will also create the ideal nesting opportunities for generalist species as well as farmland birds including linnet and yellowhammer.
- 7.3 Existing woodland will be buffered and new woodland will be created around the peripheries, this will encourage continued use by woodland species, and potentially allow for red kites to return to Site to breed.
- 7.4 The design of the SANG and GI has focused on the farmland bird assemblages and particularly skylark, where the provision of increasing foraging resources will help to increase breeding successes by ensuring individuals have the food/energy they need to breed and young to mature and then too becoming breeding individuals. Skylarks are common in the context of the UK, and although there is a focus on such species, the scheme has included a wider enhancement of the availability of foraging for a wide range of species. This also includes the provision of nesting opportunities for species that have declined due to changes in housing designs, such as house sparrows and swifts.
- 7.5 Through this combination of intrinsic mitigation, targeted mitigation, compensation and enhancement detailed within this appendix report and Biodiversity ES Chapter, has demonstrated that the proposals will lead to at most short-term negative effects on breeding birds during the arable field loss. However, a permanent long term minor beneficial effect at Site/Local level is expected for the general bird assemblages and farmland birds.

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1.0 APPENDIX A: BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS & CATEGORISATION OF BREEDING STATUS

Table 1: Surveyors and Conditions 2023

Survey	Site	Surveyor	Date	Cloud (%)	Rain	Wind	Temperature	Visibility
1	Northern parcel	OMS	18.04.23	90	0	2 – 3	8 °C	Very good
2	Northern parcel	OGJ	04.05.23	60	0	2 – 3	9 °C	Very good
3	Northern parcel	REM	19.05.23	100	0	0	11 °C	Very good
4	Southern parcel	OGJ	24.05.23	10	0	1	7 °C	Very good
5	Northern parcel	OGJ	01.06.23	100	0	2	10 °C	Very good
6	Southern parcel	REM	06.06.23	100	0	3 – 4	11 °C	Very good
7	Southern parcel	REM	14.06.23	0	0	0 – 1	12 °C	Very good
8	Northern parcel	OGJ	05.07.23	0	0	1 – 2	11 °C	Very good

Table 2: Surveyors Results 2023

Species: British Common Name	Species: Latin name	Survey 1	Survey 2	Survey 3	Survey 4	Survey 5	Survey 6	Survey 7	Survey 8	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding status ¹
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	2	2	1	1	1	1	-	1	Not Listed	Possible – H
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	3	Not Listed	Possible – H
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia f. domestica</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	Not Listed	Possible – H

¹European Ornithological Atlas Committee, 1979. *Categories of Breeding Bird Evidence*. European Ornithological Atlas Committee.

Species: British Common Name	Species: Latin name	Survey 1	Survey 2	Survey 3	Survey 4	Survey 5	Survey 6	Survey 7	Survey 8	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding status ¹
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	Amber List	Possible – H,S
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	31	9	22	2	4	23	5	64	Amber List	Possible – H,S
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	Not Listed	Possible – H
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	3	3	2	2	6	3	2	1	Green List WCA Sch.1	Confirmed – ON
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	Green List	Possible – H
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	1	2	-	-	2	-	2 + 1 juvenile	-	Green List	Confirmed – FL
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	Green List	Possible – H
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	3	1	3	5	1	6	5	3	Green List	Possible – H
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	Green List	Non-breeder - UH
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	5	2	10	1	2	3	2	4	Green List	Possible – H
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Green List	Possible – H,S
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	13	14 + 1 family	5	6 + 2 families	6	10	4 + 5 families	4 + 3 families	Green List	Confirmed – FL
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	8	1	6	3 + 1 family	1	8 + 1 family	1 + 1 family	2 + 2 families	Green List	Confirmed – FL
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	16	23	12	10	13 + 5 families	5	6	31	Red List NERC S.41	Confirmed – FF

Species: British Common Name	Species: Latin name	Survey 1	Survey 2	Survey 3	Survey 4	Survey 5	Survey 6	Survey 7	Survey 8	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding status ¹
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	Green List	Non-breeder - F
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	-	-	-	2 families	-	-	-	-	Green List	Confirmed - FL
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	Green List	Possible – H,S
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	1	1	3	5	-	3	1	4	Green List	Possible – H,S
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Green List	Possible – H,S
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	-	9	2	1	1	4	4	2	Amber List	Possible – H,S
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	Green List	Possible – H,S
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	6	11	11	6	6	11	6	12	Amber List	Possible – H,S
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Green List	Possible – H
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	-	-	23	1	6	-	-	-	Red List NERC S.41	Possible – H,S
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	1	2	-	3	6	4 + 1 juvenile	2	Amber List NERC S.41	Confirmed - FL
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	5	8	10	4	4	9 + 2 juveniles	4	6	Green List	Confirmed - FL
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	4	6	6	9	6	3	5	3	Green List	Possible – H,S
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1	2 + 1 colony	-	-	-	-	-	7	Red List NERC S.41	Possible – H

Species: British Common Name	Species: Latin name	Survey 1	Survey 2	Survey 3	Survey 4	Survey 5	Survey 6	Survey 7	Survey 8	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding status ¹
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	2	2	1	7	2	-	6 + 1 juvenile	2	Amber List NERC S.41	Confirmed - FL
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	Green List	Possible – H
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	6	3	7	7	6	6	6	3	Green List	Possible – H,S
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	5	-	3	-	1	-	7	3 + 1 family	Red List NERC S.41	Confirmed - FL
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	2	6	1	-	1	-	2	3	Green List	Possible – H,S
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	13	11	9	5	4	2	7 + 1 juvenile	2	Red List NERC S.41	Confirmed - FL
Total No. Species		22	26	23	20	23	17	21	27	Overall total: 37	

Table 3: Surveyors and Conditions 2025

Survey	Site	Surveyor	Date	Cloud (%)	Rain	Wind	Temperature	Visibility
1	All	DLS / REM	10.04.25	100	0	2 – 3	6 °C	Very good
2	All	DLS / HW	29.04.25	5	0	0	5 °C	Good
3	All	DLS / HW	23.05.25	5	0	0	3 °C	Very good
4	All	HW / OMS	11.06.25	20	0	0	12 °C	Very good
5	All	DLS / OMS	24.06.25	95	3	3	12 °C	Good
6	All	DLS / REM	08.07.25 - Dusk	15	0	1	18 °C	Very good

Table 4: Surveyors Results 2025

Species: British Common Name	Species: Latin name	Survey 1	Survey 2	Survey 3	Survey 4	Survey 5	Survey 6	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding status ²
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	4	1	-	1	-	-	Not Listed	Possible – H
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	15	7	3	3	3	-	Not Listed	Possible – H
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	-	-	-	-	32	-	Red List	Non-breeder - F
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	-	4	2	-	7	-	Amber List	Possible – H,S
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	40	28	42	20	41	38	Amber List	Possible – H,S
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	-	4	-	-	-	-	Red List	Non-breeder - UH
Lesser Black-Backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	2	-	-	-	-	-	Amber List	Non-breeder - UH
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	1	1	2	1	3	1	Green List WCA Sch.1	Possible – H
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1	-	1	1	3	2	Green List	Confirmed - ON
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	1	1	1	1	2	1	Green List	Possible – H,S
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	-	-	2	-	2	1	Green List	Possible – H

²European Ornithological Atlas Committee, 1979. *Categories of Breeding Bird Evidence*. European Ornithological Atlas Committee.

Species: British Common Name	Species: Latin name	Survey 1	Survey 2	Survey 3	Survey 4	Survey 5	Survey 6	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding status ²
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	9	8	5	1	4	-	Green List	Possible – H
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	16	20	-	7	-	-	Green List	Probable – B
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	29	10	-	-	-	-	Amber List	Possible – H
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	8	42	7	-	4	2	Green List	Possible – H
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	1	-	1	-	-	-	Green List	Probable – B
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	21	15	15 + 3 families	15 + 1 juvenile	30 + 1 family	2	Green List	Confirmed – FL
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	9	11	6 + 1 juvenile	1	3	-	Green List	Confirmed – FL
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	17	13	15	27	19	1	Red List NERC S.41	Confirmed – FF
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	-	-	2	-	3	-	Green List	Non-breeder – F
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	3	-	19	3	3	-	Green List	Possible – H,S
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	5	8	3	2	6	-	Green List	Possible – H,S
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	4	15	9	14	6	2	Green List	Probable – A
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	-	1	-	-	-	-	Green List	Possible – H,S
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	-	8	9	3	6	-	Amber List	Confirmed – FF

Species: British Common Name	Species: Latin name	Survey 1	Survey 2	Survey 3	Survey 4	Survey 5	Survey 6	Conservation Status & Protection	Breeding status ²
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	-	-	2	-	3	-	Green List	Possible – H,S
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	8	19	17	21 + 1 juvenile	15	2	Amber List	Confirmed - FL
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	-	28	1 colony	-	-	-	Red List NERC S.41	Confirmed - FL
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	6	1	1	1	1	2	Amber List NERC S.41	Possible – H,S
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	10	12	6	8	20 + 1 family	3 + 1 juvenile	Green List	Confirmed - FL
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	10	17	13	6	17	1	Green List	Probable - A
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	-	2	1	1	1 colony	-	Red List NERC S.41	Possible – H
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	4	10	5	6 + 2 juveniles	3	-	Amber List NERC S.41	Confirmed - FL
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	8	9	5	3	-	-	Green List	Probable - D
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	-	1	-	-	-	-	Red List	Possible - H
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	4	4	2	-	5	-	Red List NERC S.41	Possible – H,S
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	5	1	1	-	2	1	Green List	Possible – H,S
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	11	9	2	4	6	3	Red List NERC S.41	Probable - P
Total No. Species		27	30	31	23	28	15	Overall total: 38	

Breeding Status evidence can be broken down into four sections, each with their own codes, as defined by the European Ornithological Atlas Committee:

Confirmed breeder

- DD – distraction display or injury feigning
- UN – used nest or eggshells found from this season
- FL – recently fledged young or downy young
- ON – adults entering or leaving nest-site in circumstances indicating occupied nest
- FF – adult carrying faecal sac or food for young
- NE – nest containing eggs
- NY – nest with young seen or heard

Probable breeder - Evidence accumulated during the survey indicates that the bird species is breeding on site.

- P – pair in suitable nesting habitat
- T – permanent territory (defended over at least 2 survey occasions)
- D – courtship and display
- N – visiting probable nest site
- A – agitated behaviour
- I – brood patch of incubating bird (from bird in hand)
- B – nest building or excavating nest-hole

Possible breeder - Evidence accumulated during the survey indicates that the bird species could be breeding on site, but the evidence is less conclusive than that obtained for probable breeders.

- H – observed in suitable nesting habitat
- S – singing male

Non-breeder

- F – flying over
- M – migrant
- U – summering non-breeder
- UH – observed in unsuitable nesting habitat

Legend

- D Dunnock
- GR Greenfinch
- HG Herring Gull
- HS House Sparrow
- LB Lesser Black-backed Gull
- LI Linnet
- KT Red Kite
- RO Rook
- S Skylark
- ST Song Thrush
- SG Starling
- SD Stock Dove
- SI Swift
- WH Whitethroat
- WP Woodpigeon
- WR Wren
- Y Yellowhammer
- Fly over
- Redline Boundary

**North Hemel Hempstead /
Figure 1 - Distribution of
Notable and Protected
Breeding Bird Species**



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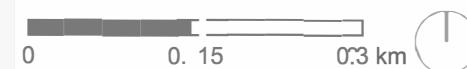
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Legend

-  Redline Boundary
-  Red Kite Nest Locations

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North Hemel Hempstead / Figure 2 - Locations of Red Kite Nests



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