



# Wintering Bird Survey

of

**The Gables,  
Kelvedon Road,  
Tiptree, Colchester,  
Essex**

on behalf of:

**Marden Homes**

**February 2022**

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Over 30 Years of Service, Value and Innovation

34-52 Out Westgate, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3PA  
tel: **01284 335797** email: [jamesblake@jba-landmarc.com](mailto:jamesblake@jba-landmarc.com)

**Chairman:** James Blake BA (Hons) Dip LA (Hons) CMLI


**Company Secretary:** Louise Blake BSc PGCE

**Directors:** Elzbieta Zebrowska MSc Eng LArch MSc EnvSc CMLI

**Associate Directors:** Vivienne Jackson : Marie Lowe CIMA Cert BA : Paulina Blasiak MSc Eng LA CMLI  
Abby Stallwood BSc (Hons) PG Dip LM CMLI : Samantha Rigg BSc (Hons) ACIEEM

[www.jba-landmarc.com](http://www.jba-landmarc.com)

Registration no. 08169866 VAT no. 512-4127-91

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Wintering bird surveys were carried out on land at The Gables, Kelvedon Road, Tiptree, Colchester, Essex on the 9<sup>th</sup> November and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021; and 6<sup>th</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Fifty bird species were recorded either on the site or overflying. These included nine Species of Principal Importance (SPI) in England. In terms of the Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) categorisation, nine Red listed species and seventeen Amber listed species and a total of twenty-four Green listed species were also recorded using the site.

The bird species noted using the site are generally common and widespread. No significant population of interest was recorded.

Key habitat for birds on site includes the mature trees, hedgerows, hedgerow margins, scrub and buildings; however, much of these habitats will be retained at the site boundary and enhanced by the development. The wet (horse-grazed) grassland fields will be lost to the development, but recommended mitigation measures are discussed.

Any proposed open space within the development is recommended to be designed, created and managed to provide foraging and wintering habitat for birds, including meadow pipit (*Anthus pratensis*), reed bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) and snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) currently using the open grassy fields for wintering and foraging which are not able to be retained by the development.

Other enhancements include the provision of bird boxes on new buildings and retained trees. Any vegetation clearance/management should be undertaken outside the breeding bird season; nesting bird season is deemed to be March to September, weather dependant.

If recommendations outlined in this report, including precautionary measures, are followed, it is considered that impacts to wintering and foraging birds would be low.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### Background to the study

- 1.1 James Blake Associates Ltd. (JBA) was commissioned by Marden Homes to undertake wintering bird surveys of land at The Gables, Kelvedon Road, Tiptree, Colchester, Essex (Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TL 88697 17014, taken from the centre of the site).
- 1.2 Some bird species are priority species under Section 41 of The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006). All protected and priority species are material considerations for individual planning decisions under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021, which places responsibility on Local Planning Authorities (LPA) to aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity and to encourage biodiversity in and around developments. Species of Principal Importance (SPI) in England, listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act, are a material consideration for planning decisions.
- 1.3 Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) are split into three criteria;

*Red Listed species:* These are species of high national conservation concern. Species are included on this list if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Globally threatened;
- Historical population decline in UK during 1800-1995;
- Rapid (> 50%) decline in UK breeding or non-breeding population over last 25 years;
- Rapid (> 50%) contraction of UK breeding range over last 25 years.

*Amber Listed species:* These are species of medium national conservation concern. Species are included on this list if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Historical population decline during 1800-1995, but now recovering with population size having more than doubled over the last 25 years;

- Moderate (25-49%) decline in UK breeding or non-breeding population or breeding range over the last 25 years;
- Species of European Conservation Concern;
- Between only one and 300 breeding pairs, or one and 900 individuals, in the UK;
- >50% of the UK breeding or non-breeding population in ten or fewer sites;
- >20% of the European breeding population in the UK;
- >20% of the North-West European (wildfowl), East Atlantic Flyway (waders) or European (others) non-breeding populations in the UK.

*Green Listed species:* All regularly occurring native species that do not qualify under any of the red or amber criteria are green listed. The green list also includes those species listed as recovering from Historical Decline in the last review that have continued to recover and do not qualify under any of the other criteria.

### **Surveyors**

- 1.4 Surveys were carried out by Christopher Bridge BSc (Hons) (Natural England Barn Owl Class Licence CL29), Bethan Feeney-Howells BSc (Hons) and Sean Minns BSc (Hons).

### **Geographical scope**

- 1.5 The site itself consists of buildings, hardstanding and horse-grazed pasture, located south of Kelvedon Road on the outskirts of the town of Tiptree, Essex. Other habitats on site include scrub, hedgerows and waterlogged horse-grazed grassland (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Site location**

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### **Aims and objectives**

1.6 The aim of the survey was to;

- determine if significant bird species and/or population sizes were using the site for wintering and foraging at the time of the survey;
- to determine the likely risk of impact on birds and local bird conservation from the proposed development; and
- to recommend precautionary measures, compensation of habitats or mitigation to prevent harm to birds, if necessary.

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

### **Methods**

- 2.1 Surveys were conducted in optimal weather conditions (dry, with little/moderate wind) and during the peak bird wintering season (November to February). The duration of each survey was approximately two and a half hours.
- 2.2 Surveys were undertaken on the 9<sup>th</sup> November and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021; 6<sup>th</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022, within three hours of dawn, when territorial behaviour is usually at its peak.
- 2.3 The survey was based on a registration mapping methodology adapted from the BTO Wintering Bird Survey: during each visit, all birds seen or heard were recorded on a plan along with any significant behaviour, particularly regarding territorial activity e.g. territorial singing and foraging.

### **Constraints**

- 2.4 There were no constraints to the survey.



### 3 RESULTS

#### Survey results

- 3.1 Fifty bird species were recorded either on or flying over the site (see Appendix A for transect maps showing bird activity).
- 3.2 The table below shows all of the species that were observed, the date(s) of observation and their conservation status.

**Table 1:** Summary of survey results

Species	BT O code	Essex BAP	Schedule 1	NERC SPI	BoCC	Survey dates & species observed			
						09.11.2021	14.12.2021	06.01.2022	07.02.2022
<b>Blackbird</b> <i>Turdus merula</i>	B.					x	x	x	x
<b>Black-headed gull</b> <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	BH				Amber	x	x	x	x
<b>Blue tit</b> <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	BT					x	x	x	x
<b>Buzzard</b> <i>Buteo buteo</i>	BZ						x		x
<b>Carrion crow</b> <i>Corvus corone</i>	C.						x	x	
<b>Chaffinch</b> <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	CH					x	x	x	x
<b>Collared dove</b> <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	CD					x	x	x	x
<b>Common gull</b> <i>Larus canus</i>	CM				Amber	x	x	x	
<b>Cormorant</b> <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	CA							x	
<b>Dunnock</b> <i>Prunella modularis</i>	D.			x	Amber	x	x		x
<b>Feral pigeon</b> <i>Columba livia domestica</i>	FP					x	x		
<b>Fieldfare</b> <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	FF		x		Red	x		x	
<b>Goldcrest</b> <i>Regulus regulus</i>	GC					x	x	x	
<b>Golden plover</b> <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	GP							x	
<b>Goldfinch</b> <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	GO					x	x	x	x
<b>Great-spotted woodpecker</b> <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	GS					x			
<b>Great tit</b>	GT					x	x	x	x

Species	BT O cod e	Essex BAP	Schedule 1	NERC SPI	BoCC	Survey dates & species observed			
						09.11.2021	14.12.2021	06.01.2022	07.02.2022
<i>Parus major</i>									
<b>Grey wagtail</b> <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	GL				Amber		x		
<b>Greenfinch</b> <i>Carduelis chloris</i>	GR				Red	x	x	x	x
<b>Green woodpecker</b> <i>Picus viridis</i>	G.					x			x
<b>Hawfinch</b> <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	HF			x	Red			x	
<b>Herring gull</b> <i>Larus argentatus</i>	HG			x	Red	x		x	x
<b>House sparrow</b> <i>Passer domesticus</i>	HS			x	Red	x		x	x
<b>Jackdaw</b> <i>Corvus monedula</i>	JD					x	x	x	
<b>Jay</b> <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	J.								x
<b>Kestrel</b> <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	K.				Amber	x	x	x	x
<b>Lesser black-backed gull</b> <i>Larus fuscus</i>	LB				Amber	x	x	x	
<b>Lesser redpoll</b> <i>Carduelis carabaret</i>	LR			x	Red	x		x	
<b>Linnet</b> <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	LI			x	Red	x	x		
<b>Long-tailed tit</b> <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	LT					x		x	x
<b>Magpie</b> <i>Pica pica</i>	MG					x	x	x	
<b>Mallard</b> <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	MA				Amber	x	x		x
<b>Meadow pipit</b> <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	MP				Amber	x			
<b>Moorhen</b> <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	MH				Amber	x	x		x
<b>Pheasant</b> <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	PH					x	x	x	x
<b>Pied wagtail</b> <i>Motacilla alba</i>	PW					x	x	x	
<b>Red-legged partridge</b> <i>Alectoris rufa</i>	RL					x			x
<b>Redwing</b> <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	RE		x		Amber	x	x	x	x
<b>Reed bunting</b> <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	RB			x	Amber	x	x	x	x
<b>Robin</b> <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	R.					x	x	x	x
<b>Rook</b> <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	RO				Amber	x	x	x	x

Species	BT O code	Essex BAP	Schedule 1	NERC SPI	BoCC	Survey dates & species observed			
						09.11.2021	14.12.2021	06.01.2022	07.02.2022
<b>Siskin</b> <i>Carduelis spinus</i>	SK					x			
<b>Snipe</b> <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	SN				Amber			x	
<b>Song thrush</b> <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	ST	x		x	Amber	x	x	x	x
<b>Starling</b> <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	SG			x	Red	x		x	
<b>Stock dove</b> <i>Columba oenas</i>	SD				Amber	x	x		
<b>Water rail</b> <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	WA								x
<b>Woodpigeon</b> <i>Columba palumbus</i>	WP				Amber	x	x	x	x
<b>Wren</b> <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	WR				Amber	x	x	x	x
<b>Yellowhammer</b> <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Y.			x	Red				x

NERC SPI = Species of Principal Importance in England under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006)  
 Essex BAP = Local Biodiversity Action Plan  
 BoCC = Birds of Conservation Concern  
 Schedule 1 = protected (while breeding) under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)

### Weather conditions

3.3 The four wintering bird survey visit dates and the weather conditions that were recorded during the surveys are provided in Table 2.

**Table 2:** Summary of weather conditions

Visit	Date 2021	Weather conditions
1	9 <sup>th</sup> November	11°C, 100% cloud cover and Beaufort 0-1
2	14 <sup>th</sup> December	7°C, 70% cloud cover and Beaufort 0-1
3	6 <sup>th</sup> January	-3°C, 5% cloud cover and Beaufort 0
4	7 <sup>th</sup> February	3°C, 15% cloud cover and Beaufort 0-1

## Overview of birds observed during the surveys

### 3.4 Species of Principal Importance (SPI)

Ten Priority species were identified on or flying over the site; eight of which are confirmed to be over-wintering at the site. Species identified are as follows;

- **Dunnock** (*Prunella modularis*) were recorded during three of the four survey visits, calling and foraging within boundary trees and scrub and hedgerows throughout the site. The dunnock is an SPI and BoCC Amber listed species as UK populations declined significantly during the 1970s and 1980s although are now more stable. The species remains widespread throughout Britain including Essex.
- **Hawfinch** (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*) were recorded flying over the site on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 only and comprised of a single individual, likely a migrant looking for more suitable foraging grounds. The hawfinch is a BoCC Red listed species and an SPI in England and Essex. Hawfinch seem to have a high preference for landscapes with a high proportion of mature, broadleaved woodland and within these woodlands they prefer nest sites close to glades and tracks over densely wooded areas and a decline in this particular defined habitat is thought to be the main reason for their decline.
- **House sparrow** (*Passer domesticus*) were recorded during all three survey visits; foraging mostly in the edges of fields next to existing dwellings, predominantly in the eastern corner of the site. House sparrows are an SPI and a BoCC Red listed species due to a rapid decline in their abundance over the last 25 years. It is considered likely that this species uses the proposed development site for wintering in small numbers due to the availability of foraging habitat within peripheral hedgerows, scrub and adjacent gardens. The house sparrow remains widespread and common throughout England and locally within Essex; it was the most recorded bird during the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) 'Big Garden Birdwatch' in 2021, being recorded in 76% of participating gardens, respectively.

- **Lesser repoll** (*Carduelis carbaret*) were recorded during two of the four survey visits, predominantly within dense scrub and thorny hedgerows. Lesser repoll are a BoCC Red listed species and an SPI in England and Essex due to a steep decline in the mid-1970's via agricultural intensification that saw important weed seeds becoming scarcer and habitat loss is an important factor as this species prefers the seeds of trees such as birch, which flourished after the wartime fellings between 1939-45. Other tree species are now competing with birch which reduces their seed production.
- **Linnet** (*Carduelis cannabina*) were recorded during two of the four survey visits, particularly within overgrown bramble and blackthorn scrub and hedgerows; largest group totalled 3 individuals. Linnets are a BoCC Red listed species and an SPI due to steep declines between 1968 and 1991. Numbers nationally rose slightly in the ten years after 1985 and since then have seen a decline in England and Wales of approximately 30%. Linnet numbers within Essex are currently stable; however, the linnet population in East England has declined by 21% between 1994 and 2005.
- **Reed bunting** (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) were recorded on all four survey visits using habitats within the site, predominantly thick and dense patches of bramble scrub, areas of wet grassland and thorny hedgerows. Reed bunting is a BoCC Amber listed species, as well as an SPI in England, with a long term national trend of a 48% decline between 1968 and 1999. In Eastern England, however, numbers have increased by 20% between 1994 and 2005 due to the clearance of riparian and ditch side vegetation.
- **Song thrush** (*Turdus philomelos*) were recorded calling and territorial singing from perches and foraging within the site during all four survey visits. The abundance of hedgerows and scrub provided good foraging opportunities. The song thrush is an SPI in England, a BoCC Amber listed and an Essex BAP species, due to significant population declines. Between 1970 and 1995, song thrush declined by approximately 50%, particularly on farmland, where populations decreased by approximately 70%. Song thrush is widespread within the UK and Essex and is showing a general increase, although population levels remain relatively low.

- **Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were recorded during two of the four survey visits, predominantly foraging within fields and along the boundaries, as well as flying through the site to other foraging grounds. The site is of moderate value for wintering starlings. Starlings are a BoCC Red listed species, as well as an SPI in England, due to long term declines in the number of breeding pairs in Britain, reasons for which are under research. Starlings remain widespread within Britain and Essex and this species was the second most numerous bird recorded during the RSPB 'Big Garden Birdwatch' in 2021 being recorded in 42% of participating gardens, respectively.
- **Yellowhammer** (*Emberiza citrinella*) were recorded during one of the survey visits, flying through the site boundary only. Yellowhammer is a BoCC Red listed species, as well as an SPI in England, due to >50% decline nationally within the past 20 years.
- **Herring gull** (*Larus argentatus*), was recorded overflying the site on three occasions during the surveys. This BoCC Red listed species and SPI is considered unlikely to be wintering at the site due to the lack of observations of individual birds foraging on the grounds of the site, only overflying was recorded.

### 3.5 BoCC Red Listed Species

Nine Red listed species were recorded during the survey visits, seven of these are also SPI (hawfinch, herring gull, house sparrow, lesser redpoll, linnet, starling and yellowhammer) which are discussed above in Section 3.4.

Two other Red listed species (not SPI) recorded using the site are detailed below;

- **Fieldfare** (*Turdus pilaris*) were recorded in small numbers within the site on intersecting and boundary hedgerows, scrub and fruit-bearing trees. Fieldfare is confirmed to be overwintering on the site as this species was recorded during three of the four survey visits, calling and foraging.
- **Greenfinch** (*Carduelis chloris*) were recorded in small numbers within the site and predominantly on boundary trees, hedgerows and scrub. Greenfinch is

confirmed overwintering on the site as this species was recorded during all four survey visits, mainly foraging, calling and occasionally territorial singing.

### 3.6 BoCC Amber Listed Species

Seventeen BoCC Amber listed species were recorded either using habitats within the site boundary or overflying; three of which are also SPI (dunnock, song thrush and reed bunting) which are detailed in paragraph 3.4. The remaining Amber listed species are outlined below;

- **Black-headed gull** (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) were recorded on all four survey visits flying high over the site in small numbers. This species is considered unlikely to be wintering at the site due to the lack of sightings within the horse grazed pastures where this species would tend to be foraging, however, this species is likely to use these fields occasionally.
- **Kestrel** (*Falco tinnunculus*) were recorded on all four survey visits. Sightings were of individuals flying over the site and foraging on land within the site. Observations of foraging behaviour suggested that kestrel were wintering on the site in small numbers, approximately two.
- **Common gull** (*Larus canus*) were recorded on three of the four survey visits flying high over the site. This species is considered unlikely to be wintering at the site due to the lack of sightings within the horse grazed pastures where this species would tend to be foraging, however, this species is likely to use these fields occasionally.
- **Grey wagtail** (*Motacilla cinerea*) were recorded during one of the four survey visits foraging on land within the site, primarily on the eastern boundary nearest a large flooded area. This species is likely to use the fields occasionally for foraging
- **Lesser black-backed gull** (*Larus fuscus*) were recorded on three of the four survey visits; sightings were of individuals flying high over the site. This species is considered unlikely to be wintering at the site due to the lack of suitable foraging sites and would likely use the arable fields as a flight path only.

- **Mallard** (*Anas platyrhynchos*) was recorded during three of the four survey visits foraging on the wet grazed horse paddocks, primarily on the eastern boundary. It is considered that the development would not impact the local population status of mallard.
- **Meadow pipit** (*Anthus pratensis*) is a winter/spring migrant and is resident in the UK. This species was recorded during one of the four survey visits. Sightings of meadow pipit were of birds predominantly foraging on land within the site. It is considered that the development would not impact the local population status of meadow pipit.
- **Moorhen** (*Gallinula chloropus*) were recorded during three out of the four surveys, recorded only foraging and calling on the two ponds located on the site. Moorhen are confirmed wintering on the site.
- **Rook** (*Corvus frugilegus*) were recorded on all four survey visits, foraging on land within and flying over the site. Rook were observed in good numbers are likely wintering on the site boundaries, particularly the boundary trees.
- **Snipe** (*Gallinago gallinago*) were recorded on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 which were roosting and were consequently flushed during the survey on the area of wet horse pasture fields. This sighting involved a group of three individuals, and it is considered due to the single observation that snipe were utilising the site due to adverse cold conditions that will have increased their need to find other foraging grounds.
- **Stock dove** (*Columba oenas*) were recorded during of the four surveys flying through the site. This species is considered likely to be wintering at the site in small numbers.
- **Woodpigeon** (*Columba palumbus*) were recorded during all four survey visits, foraging and calling using boundary trees, hedgerows and thick thorny fruit-bearing species. It is considered unlikely that woodpigeon will be impacted by the proposed development.
- **Wren** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) were recorded during all survey visits, calling, singing and foraging around the boundaries and intersecting scrub and



hedgerows. It is confirmed that wren are wintering at the site but is unlikely to be impacted by the proposed development.

### 3.7 Schedule 1 Species

Two Schedule 1 species were recorded using the site, fieldfare is discussed above in Section 3.5, the other species is as follows:

- **Redwing** (*Turdus iliacus*) were observed during all four survey visits; good numbers were observed foraging, calling and drinking from the wet horse grazed pastures, fruit-bearing hedgerows and thick bramble and blackthorn scrub, predominantly at the boundaries of the site. This species is considered confirmed to be wintering at the site in good numbers.

## 4 RECOMMENDED MITIGATION

- 4.1 Majority of the boundary vegetation is to be retained as part of the proposed development. Boundary vegetation will be enhanced and gapped-up with native buffer mixes and mixed native scrub; this will maintain thick and dense wintering and foraging habitats for a large variety of species recorded during the surveys, including dunnock, redwing and song thrush. Suitable site-native fruit and nut bearing species such as hazel (*Corylus avellana*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and field maple (*Acer campestre*) should be used where possible. If these measures are undertaken it is considered unlikely that the local population status of wintering dunnock, redwing, song thrush and the majority of scrub loving bird species, recorded during the surveys, would be significantly impacted by the proposals.
- 4.2 Habitat for foraging house sparrows could be provided within suitably managed vegetation within retained hedgerows and tree lines, particularly to the eastern boundary of the site. It is considered unlikely that this species would be significantly impacted over winter by the proposed development if these measures are undertaken.
- 4.3 Hedgerow retention and planting, as recommended previously for other species, would also benefit lesser redpoll, reed bunting and yellowhammer. Tussocky grassland and native meadow grassland is proposed through the centre open space area and the northern boundary of the site; this will include seed-bearing species which will be of benefit for these species. If these measures are included within the development, it is unlikely that the wintering population of these species will be impacted by the development. This will also be of benefit to meadow pipit.
- 4.4 Some areas, potentially to the south, south-west and south-east, should have a less intensive management to allow some scrub encroachment; this will provide additional wintering and foraging habitat for species such as wren and should ensure that the wintering population of this species will not be impacted by the development.

- 4.5 The proposed mixed grassland areas within the Public Open Space (POS) within landscape plans will be of benefit to wintering starlings and will therefore not significantly impact this population.
- 4.6 Planting within the development should aim to increase habitat connectivity for birds within the site and with external habitat. This could include native tree/shrub planting at the boundaries and along access roads, and grouped tree/shrub planting to provide 'islands' of habitat within the development.
- 4.7 Clear pathways could be mown and maintained in POS to reduce trampling of habitat and disturbance to birds.
- 4.8 Any scrub or tree clearance or management should be undertaken outside the nesting bird season. The nesting season is deemed to be March to September (weather dependant). Should vegetation removal be required during the nesting season, it is recommended that a nesting bird check be undertaken by an ornithologist no more than two days prior to works.
- 4.9 Any trees, hedgerows and scrub (including margins) to be retained should be suitably protected throughout the duration of the works to preserve over-wintering and foraging habitat for birds.
- 4.10 To enable the continuation of kestrel using the site, tussock grassland is proposed as part of the central green space which will provide suitable habitat for kestrel prey and should be provided in perpetuity.
- 4.11 To compensate for and enhance bird over-wintering/roosting opportunities on the site, a variety of bird boxes should be installed on new buildings within the development. It is recommended that bird boxes suitable for house sparrow (Schwegler 1SP), kestrel (Schwegler no.28), and starling (Schwegler 3SV) could also be installed on buildings.
- 4.12 Specifically designed kestrel nest boxes should be installed on suitably located retained mature trees as advised by an ecologist.
- 4.13 A variety of standard bird boxes with different sized and shaped entrance holes should be installed on suitably located retained mature trees along the boundaries to attract a greater diversity of birds to over-winter/roost. Bird box

installation should follow the advice of an ecologist/ornithologist once a final layout has been produced to ensure the most appropriate locations and fixings.

- 4.14 A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) or Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy should be produced which will detail all necessary installation and maintenance works for new nest boxes. In addition, the document should include sensitive hedge-cutting cycles to produce dense, tall hedgerows with a diversity of species and ground flora, management of hedgerow buffers, appropriate establishment techniques for the grassland and wildflower areas, sensitive grass cutting regimes (which should allow for the development of scrub in appropriate locations) and management regimes for ecologically-valuable waterbodies post development. All on-going management regimes for retained areas should also be included.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The birds identified during the surveys were predominantly common and widespread species, both at a national and local level. SPIs included dunnoek, lesser redpoll, linnet, hawfinch, herring gull, house sparrow, reed bunting, song thrush, starling and yellowhammer; all apart from hawfinch and herring gull are confirmed wintering. Fieldfare and redwing were recorded in small numbers.
- 5.2 Majority of the areas with higher quality wintering and foraging habitat (boundary vegetation, mature trees and hedgerows) will be retained as part of the proposed development and will include appropriate sensitive ecological management to maintain or enhance the biodiversity interest.
- 5.3 Open space within the development is recommended to be designed, created and managed to provide wintering and foraging habitat for birds, with a mix of grassland types.
- 5.4 It is considered that by avoidance of impact and by sensitive mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures, the value of the site for wintering birds will be maintained and enhanced by the development.



## 6 REFERENCES

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HMSO Wildlife and Countryside Act. HMSO, London (1981).

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### Web references

British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) [www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org)

Essex Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) [essexfieldclub.org.uk](http://essexfieldclub.org.uk)

Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) [essexwt.org.uk](http://essexwt.org.uk)

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)



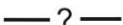




Species of Principal Importance [www.jncc.defra.gov.uk](http://www.jncc.defra.gov.uk)

## 8 APPENDIX

### Appendix A: Plans showing bird activity

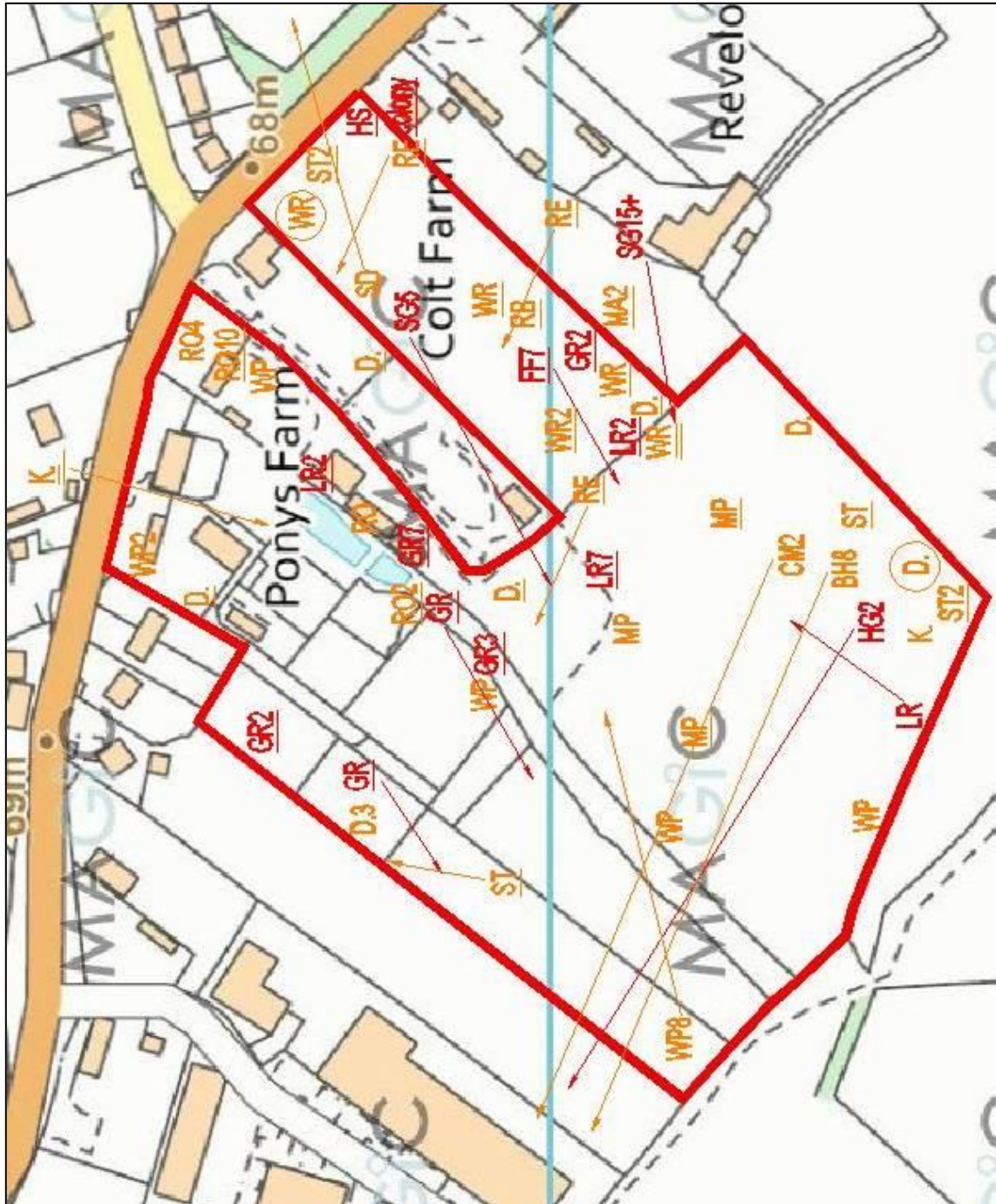
Species recorded during the four survey visits. Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC5), Red and Amber listed species are only shown in the site maps. Green listed species and all species codes can be found in Table 1, page 7.

#### Map Key

<b>C.</b>	BoCC green listed species.		Singing
<b>BH</b>	BoCC amber listed species.		Direction of flight.
<b>ST</b>	BoCC red listed species.		Probably the same bird.
<b>RL</b>	BoCC unlisted species.		NERC Section 41 Species of Principle Importance in England and/or Norfolk BAP
<b>CH</b>	Calling		Two birds in song at the same time (definitely different birds).
	Aggressive encounter between two goldfinches.		
<b>2RBmat</b>	Two reed buntings carrying nest material.	<b>S.pair</b>	A pair (1 male, 1 female) of skylarks likely to be nesting locally

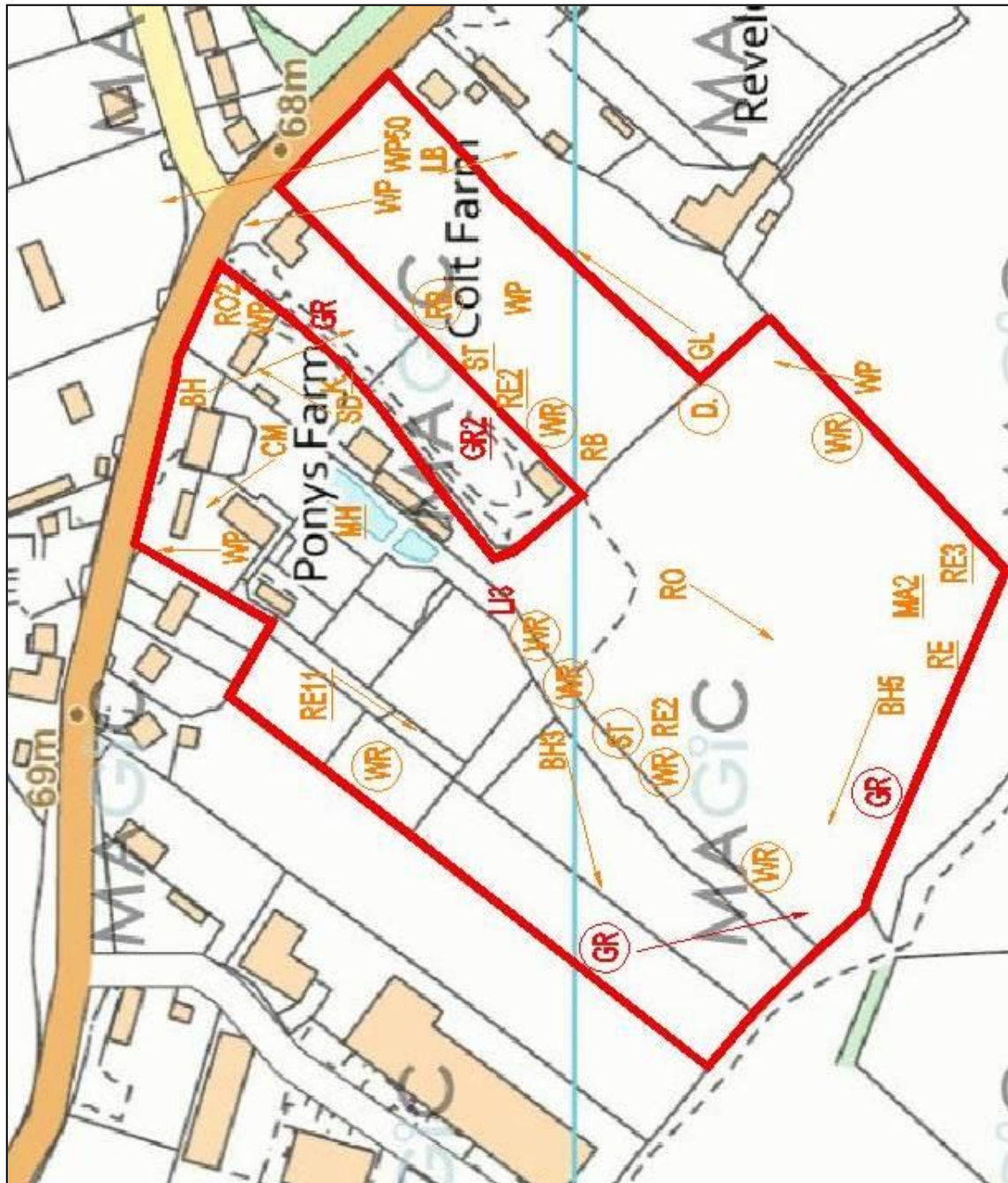


Visit 1: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021





Visit 2: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021







Visit 4: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022

