

Allington Lane, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO30 3HQ

Breeding Bird Survey Report

November 2023

Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd
Consultant Ecologists

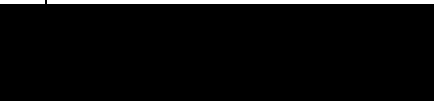
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Breeding Bird Survey Report
Allington Lane, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO30 3HQ
for
Eastleigh Borough Council

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This report represents sound industry practice; reports and recommends correctly, truthfully and objectively; is appropriate given the local site conditions, scope of works proposed and resources allocated to us by the client; and avoids invalid, biased, and exaggerated statements.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides details of breeding bird surveys carried out by Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd for Eastleigh Borough Council in connection with a proposal to build a solar farm at Allington Lane, Eastleigh, Hampshire, (approximate Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SU 48130 16795). The purpose of the surveys was to assess the species and populations of breeding bird at Allington Lane and to evaluate the conservation importance of the site. This is required to determine the likelihood of any impacts upon the breeding bird community in association with the proposed development.
2. The site consists of approximately 15.07 ha of neutral grassland, woodland and lines of trees. The site is surrounded by rural environment, some nearby residential housing, with agricultural fields separated by small chunks of woodland and hedgerows.
3. A total of five breeding bird survey visits were carried out between the 26th of April 2023 and 27th of June 2023.
4. The surveys followed standard breeding bird survey protocol detailed in the *Common Birds Census* (British Trust for Ornithology 1983). The weather was suitable for breeding bird surveys on all occasions.
5. A total of 36 bird species were recorded during the surveys within the site. Of the 36 species recorded, there were eight amber list species (bullfinch, dunnock, kestrel, sedge warbler, song thrush, stock dove, woodpigeon and wren), whilst three species (cuckoo, curlew and skylark) are red list species. Of the 36 species recorded, 18 were confirmed as breeding or possibly (or potentially) breeding on site and this included six amber list species (bullfinch, dunnock, kestrel, song thrush, woodpigeon and wren) and no red list species. Of these, only one (kestrel) was confirmed breeding.
6. Bird species found during the surveys that are of Conservation Concern are summarised below (from Table 4.2.1.2.):

Species	Breeding status	Conservation status
Bullfinch (<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>)	Probable breeding	Amber
Cuckoo (<i>Cuculus canorus</i>)	Non-breeding	Red
Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	Non-breeding	Red
Dunnock (<i>Prunella modularis</i>)	Probable breeding	Amber
Kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>)	Confirmed breeding	Amber
Sedge Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>)	Non-breeding	Amber
Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)	Non-breeding	Red
Song Thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>)	Probable breeding	Amber

7. Due to the presence of eight amber list species and three red list species occurring in locally sustainable populations, the site is classed as having local Nature Conservation Value for birds.
8. There was evidence that Barn Owls breed on site and so it is confirmed that the site forms part of a home range.
9. The existing hedgerows will have any gaps filled.
10. Any works which will require the removal of hedgerows or mature trees, or the loss of field margin habitats are considered to have the greatest potential for negative impact. To minimise negative impact, the development will retain all boundary hedgerows and there are no field margins of importance.
11. If possible, the site should also be enhanced for Barn Owls by the installation of a Barn Owl nest box. The nest box should be positioned in a large tree or pole on the boundary tree-line/hedge as far from Allington Lane as possible (to avoid risk of traffic collisions), in a suitably sheltered area of the site that has minimal disturbance. There are no main A-roads within a 1km radius and housing estates already adjacent to the busy B-roads further reduce the chance of breeding Barn Owls crossing busy roads to reach foraging areas. These measures will ensure suitable breeding and foraging habitat is available and consequently reduce any potential negative impacts to the local Barn Owl population.
12. To avoid potential negative impacts on nesting bird species, any development works involving the removal of vegetation (or structures) should be carried out outside of the bird breeding season (which is late February to August inclusive).
13. If possible, a Barn Owl box should be positioned in a large tree or pole on the boundary tree-line/hedge as far from Allington Lane as possible (to avoid risk of traffic collisions), in a suitably sheltered area of the site that has minimal disturbance. These measures will ensure suitable breeding and foraging habitat is available and consequently reduce any potential negative impacts to the local Barn Owl population.
14. The proposals should incorporate the retention of existing mature trees and hedgerows as an integral feature of the landscape structure, wherever possible. These will be enhanced and managed with breeding birds in mind. In addition, the fields of rough grassland should be retained and enhanced to continue to provide foraging habitat as well as suitable nesting habitat for ground-nesting Birds of Conservation Concern such as Skylark.
15. Any Biodiversity and Ecological Management Plan (BEMP) produced for to satisfy a future planning condition should include land management options for barn owl, skylarks and other priority species of conservation concern.

2 **INTRODUCTION**

2.1 **General**

This report provides information from breeding bird surveys carried out by Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd for Eastleigh Borough Council in connection with a proposal to build a solar farm at Allington Lane, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO30 3HQ (approximate Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SU 48130 16795).

2.2 **Site description**

The site consists of approximately 15.07 ha of neutral grassland, woodland and lines of trees. The site is surrounded by rural environment, with agricultural fields separated by small chunks of woodland and hedgerows. The site lies to the east and west of Allington Lane, with the City of Southampton 2.57 km south-west.

2.3 **Proposed activities**

The surveys were carried out in connection with a proposal to build a solar farm.

2.4 **Objectives of survey and report**

The breeding bird surveys completed by Hampshire Ecological Services Ltd were to assess the species and populations of breeding bird within the Allington Lane site and to evaluate the conservation importance of the site. This is required to assess the likelihood of any impacts upon the breeding bird community in association with the proposed development.

The surveys followed standard breeding bird survey protocol detailed in the *Common Birds Census* (British Trust for Ornithology 1983). Any deviations from the guidelines are justified in the relevant sections.

2.5 **Legal context**

2.5.1 **Breeding birds**

All species of bird are protected under *Section 1* of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended). The protection was extended by the CROW Act.

The legislation makes it an offence to 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; or
- take or destroy an egg of any wild bird.

2.5.2 *Birds of Conservation Concern*

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 Concern (BoCC) in the UK (*Eaton et al.* 2009):

Red list (high conservation concern) species are those that are globally threatened according to IUCN criteria; those whose UK breeding population has declined rapidly (50% or more) over the last 25 years; those whose UK breeding range has contracted severely (50% or more) over the last 25 years; and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery.

Amber list (medium conservation concern) species are those with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe; those whose population or range (breeding and non-breeding birds) has declined moderately (between 25% and 50%) in recent years; those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery; rare breeders and non-breeders; and those with internationally important or localised populations.

Green list (low conservation concern) species that occur regularly in the UK but fulfil none of the above criteria.

Certain species have also been identified as Priority Species (UK BAP species) as part of the UK's post-2010 Biodiversity Framework.

2.6 *Structure of this report*

This report is structured as follows:

- *Section 1* contains the executive summary;
- *Section 2* contains an introduction;
- *Section 3* describes the survey methods;
- *Section 4* describes the results;
- *Section 5* evaluates the findings;
- *Section 6* contains the figures including:
 - *Figure 1* gives aerial photographs showing the site location;
 - *Figure 2* gives an Ordnance Survey map showing the location of the site;
 - *Figure 3* gives a site plan;
 - *Figures 4-8* illustrates the bird activity recorded during the surveys;
- *Section 7* lists the references; and
- *Appendix A* gives the data from the breeding bird surveys.

METHODS**3.1 Desk study**

The *Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside* website (www.magic.gov.uk) was used to search for designated sites on or adjacent to the site including Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites. The search area was 500m for LNRs, NNRs and SSSIs and 2km for SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites, as specified in Hampshire's *Biodiversity Checklist*.

Table 4.1.1.1. Statutory designated sites; non-statutory designated sites and ancient semi-natural and ancient replanted woodlands within 10km of the site.

Level of designation	Designation	Name	Distance & direction from site
International	SPA	Solent and Southampton Water	c.5440m south-west
	Ramsar	-	-
	SAC	River Itchen	c. 860m north-west
		Solent Maritime	c. 5340m south-east
		Emer Bog	c. 9030m north-west
National	SSSI	River Itchen	c. 860m north-west
		Moorgreen Meadows	c. 1950m south
	NNR	-	-
County	LNR	-	-
Local	SINC	Hearts Copse	c. 320m east
	Ancient woodland	-	-
		-	-

3.2 Field survey**3.2.1 Date(s), times and weather**

The breeding bird surveys were carried out on five days between the 16th April 2023 and the 27th June 2023. Details of the weather, air temperature and times of the surveys are given in *Table 3.2.1.1*.

Table 3.2.1.1. Summary of dates, times and weather for the breeding bird surveys.

Visit #	Date	Start and end times	Weather
1	16/04/23	07:15 – 09:20	10 °C, 100% cloud cover, dry
2	07/05/23	06:45 – 08:50	12°C, 100% cloud cover, dry, calm
3	17/05/23	06:10 – 08:50	10°C, 0% cloud cover, dry, light north wind
4	11/06/23	05:40 – 08:20	19°C, 75% cloud cover, dry, calm

5	27/06/23	05:25 – 07:47	80% cloud cover, 15 °C, dry, calm
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3.2.2 *Personnel*

The surveys were carried out by Phil Budd BSc who has over 25 years bird survey experience and is involved with county and national bird survey initiatives.

All staff adhere to the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) *Code of Professional Conduct*.

3.2.3 *Breeding bird surveys*

The surveys followed standard breeding bird survey protocol detailed in the *Common Birds Census* (British Trust for Ornithology 1983). This method uses a territory-mapping approach to estimate the number and positions of territories for each species present on each survey during the breeding season. The surveyor recorded all bird activity encountered during the surveys. The results were documented by noting the time, species and behaviour. This included nesting, singing, calling, repeated territorial calls, territorial aggression, displaying, adults carrying food or nesting material, juvenile birds and family groups, flying and any other social interaction. Where possible, the age and sex of the bird was also recorded.

Five breeding bird surveys were carried out on the site. The surveys involved walking a pre-determined transect route (including all field boundaries), recording birds and bird activity between 5am and 9am when birds are most active. The weather was suitable for breeding bird surveys on all occasions. See *Sections 3.2.1. and 3.2.2.* for dates and personnel.

3.3 *Conservation Value Assessment*

The conservation value of bird populations at the site was measured using two separate approaches: nature conservation value and conservation status. The CIEEM guidance on ecological impact assessment assesses nature conservation value within a geographical context. To attain each level of value, an ornithological resource or one of the features (species population or assemblage of species) should meet the criteria set out in *Table 3.3.1* below. In some cases, professional judgement may be required to increase or decrease the allocation of specific value, based upon local knowledge.

Table 3.3.1. Definition of Terms Relating to Nature Conservation Value.

Nature Conservation Value	Examples of Selection Criteria
International	• A species which is part of the cited interest of a Special Protection Area (SPA) and which regularly occurs in internationally or nationally important numbers. • A species present in internationally important numbers (>1% of international population).
National	• A species which is part of the cited interest of a Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) and which regularly occurs in nationally or regionally important numbers. • A nationally important assemblage of breeding or over-wintering species. • A species present in nationally important numbers (>1% UK population). • Rare breeding species (<300 breeding pairs in the UK).
Regional	• UK BAP species which are not covered above and which regularly occurs in regionally important numbers. • Species present in regionally important numbers (>1% of regional population). • Sustainable populations of species that are rare or scarce within a region. • Species on the BoCC Red List and which regularly occurs in regionally important numbers.
County	• UK BAP species which are not covered above, and which regularly occurs in county important numbers. • Species present in county important numbers (>1% of county population). Species with sustainable populations that are rare or scarce within a county, or listed on a county BAP. • A site designated for its county important assemblage of birds (e.g. a Local Wildlife Site (LWS)). • Species on the BoCC Red List and which regularly occur in county important numbers.
District	• UK BAP species which are not covered above, and are rare in the locality or in the relevant Natural Area profile. • Species present in numbers just short of county importance. Sustainable populations of species which are rare or scarce within the locality.

	A site whose designation falls just short for inclusion for its county important assemblage of birds (<i>e.g.</i> a LWS). Other species on the BoCC Red List and which are considered to regularly occur in district important numbers.
Local	Other species of conservation interest (<i>e.g.</i> all other species on the BoCC Red and Amber List and UK BAP which are not covered above) regularly occurring in locally sustainable populations.
Site	All other BoCC Green-listed common and widespread species.

RESULTS**4.1 Desk study**

The HBIC data search returned the following notable records from Allington Lane within the last 5 years; this list is detailed below in *Table 4.1.2*. Bird species within 2km of the site were listed, however the search did not provide any specific data on breeding status. These species are predominantly Red List species of high conservation concern or Amber List species of moderate conservation concern and are all UK BAP Priority Species and Species of Principal Importance under the NERC Act 2006, with the exception of redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) and Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) (common winter visitors).

Table 4.1.2. Records of notable bird species within 2km of the Allington Lane site within the last 5 years.

Species	Conservation status
Barn Owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	Green
Cetti's Warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	Green
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Amber
Crane <i>Grus grus</i>	Amber
Crossbill <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Green
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Red
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	Red
Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>	Amber
Dartford Warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i>	Amber
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Red
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Green
Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Green
Goosander <i>Mergus merganser</i>	Green
Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Green
Grasshopper Warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	Red
Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i>	Amber
Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Green
Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Amber
Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Amber
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Green
Grey Partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i>	Red
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Amber
Hawfinch <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Red
Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red

Hobby <i>Falco Subbuteo</i>	Green
Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>	n/a
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Red
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Green
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Red
Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	Amber
Lesser Redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	Red
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker <i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	Red
Linnet <i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Green
Little Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	
Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Amber
Marsh tit <i>Poecile palustris</i>	Red
Mediterranean Gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	Green
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	Red
Mistle Thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red
Montagu's Harrier <i>Circus pygargus</i>	Red
Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Red
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> Amber,	Amber
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Amber
Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Green
Pied Flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Amber
Pochard <i>Aythya farina</i>	Red
Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	Green
Redstart <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	Amber
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Amber
Reed Bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Amber
Ring Ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	Red
Sand Martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	Green
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Amber
Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	Amber
Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>	Amber
Siskin <i>Carduelis spinus</i>	Green
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Red
Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Amber
Song Thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Red
Spotted Flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Red
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red
Tree Pipit <i>Anthus trivialis</i>	Red
Water Pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	Amber
Water Rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Green

Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Amber
Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Red
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Red
Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	Amber
Wood Warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Red
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Red
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	Green
Wryneck <i>Jynx torquilla</i>	n/a
Yellow Wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	Red
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Red

4.2 Breeding bird surveys

4.2.1 General

A full list of bird species recorded during the site surveys is given in *Table 4.2.1*. This table details which of the species recorded have been categorised as Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC) and Priority species (UK BAP species). Further details in relation to conservation status are set out in *Table 4.2.2*.

The breeding status of birds encountered within the site are classified in three categories: confirmed, probable and possible breeders and are shown in Table 2. The survey evidence required to allow the assignment of these categories is explained below:

- **Confirmed breeding:** Distraction display or injury feigning; Used nests or eggshells found (occupied or laid within the survey period); Recently fledged young or downy young; Adults entering or leaving a nest site in circumstances indicating occupied nest or an adult sitting on nest; Adults carrying food for young or faecal sacs; Nest containing eggs; Nest with young seen or heard.
- **Probable breeding:** Pairs observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season; permanent territory presumed through registration or territorial behaviour (song *etc.*) on at least two different days, a week apart, at the same place; display and courtship; visiting probable nest site; agitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults; building nest or excavating nest hole.
- **Possible breeding:** Species observed in breeding season in possible nesting habitat. Singing male(s) present or breeding calls.

A total of 36 bird species were recorded during the surveys within the site. Of these, eight species are listed on the amber list of Birds of Conservation Concern (bullfinch, dunnock, kestrel, sedge warbler, song thrush, stock dove, woodpigeon and wren), whilst three species (cuckoo, curlew and skylark) are listed on the red list. All other bird species recorded are listed as green list species.

Of the 36 species recorded, 18 were confirmed as breeding or possibly (or potentially) breeding on site and this included six amber list species (bullfinch, dunnock, kestrel, song thrush, woodpigeon and wren) and no red list species. Of these, only one (kestrel) was confirmed breeding.

Full data from all the surveys are given in *Table 4.2.1* and plans illustrating observed activity are given in *Figures 4-8* in *Section 6*.

The BoCC amber and red list species found during the surveys are highlighted in *Table 4.2.2*.

Table 4.2.1. Bird species recorded at the Allington Lane site during the breeding bird surveys detailing breeding status and conservation status.

Species	Breeding status	Conservation status
Barn Owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>)	Confirmed breeding	Green
Blackbird (<i>Turdus merula</i>)	Probable breeding	Green
Blackcap (<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>)	Non-breeding	Green
Blue Tit (<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>)	Possible breeding	Green
Bullfinch (<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>)	Possible breeding	Amber
Buzzard (<i>Buteo buteo</i>)	Non-breeding	Green
Carrion Crow (<i>Corvus corone</i>)	Non-breeding	Green
Chiffchaff (<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>)	Probable breeding	Green
Cuckoo (<i>Cuculus canorus</i>)	Non-breeding	Red
Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	Non-breeding	Red
Dunnock (<i>Prunella modularis</i>)	Probable breeding	Amber
Golden Oriole (<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>)	Possible breeding	Green
Goldfinch (<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>)	Non-breeding	Green
Greenfinch (<i>Chloris chloris</i>)	Probable breeding	Green
Great Spotted Woodpecker (<i>Dendrocopos major</i>)	Confirmed breeding	Green
Green Woodpecker (<i>Picus viridis</i>)	Non-breeding	Green
Great Tit (<i>Parus major</i>)	Probable breeding	Green
Jay (<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>)	Non-breeding	Green
Jackdaw (<i>Corvus monedula</i>)	Confirmed breeding	Green
Kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>)	Confirmed breeding	Amber
Long-tailed Tit (<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>)	Non-breeding	Green
Magpie (<i>Pica pica</i>)	Non-breeding	Green
Nuthatch (<i>Sitta europaea</i>)	Non-breeding	Green
Pheasant (<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>)	Non-breeding	Green
Pied Wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba</i>)	Non-breeding	Green
Raven (<i>Corvus corax</i>)	Non-breeding	Green
Red-legged partridge (<i>Alectoris rufa</i>)	Non-breeding	Green
Robin (<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>)	Probable breeding	Green
Sedge Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>)	Non-breeding	Amber
Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)	Non-breeding	Red
Song Thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>)	Probable breeding	Amber
Stock Dove (<i>Columba oenas</i>)	Non-breeding	Amber
Stonechat (<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>)	Non-breeding	Green

Whitethroat (<i>Sylvia communis</i>)	Probable breeding	Green
Woodpigeon (<i>Columba palumbus</i>)	Probable breeding	Amber
Wren (<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>)	Probable breeding	Amber

Table 4.2.2. Bird species found during the surveys that are of Conservation Concern.

Species	Breeding status	Conservation status
Bullfinch (<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>)	Probable breeding	Amber
Cuckoo (<i>Cuculus canorus</i>)	Non-breeding	Red
Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	Non-breeding	Red
Dunnock (<i>Prunella modularis</i>)	Probable breeding	Amber
Kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>)	Confirmed breeding	Amber
Sedge Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>)	Non-breeding	Amber
Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)	Non-breeding	Red
Song Thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>)	Probable breeding	Amber
Stock Dove (<i>Columba oenas</i>)	Non-breeding	Amber
Woodpigeon (<i>Columba palumbus</i>)	Probable breeding	Amber
Wren (<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>)	Probable breeding	Amber

4.2.2 Barn owl

No specific nocturnal surveys were completed for this site but a Barn Owl nest with two chicks was recorded during the survey on the 11th of June 2023.

5 ***INTERPRETATION AND EVALUATION***

5.1 ***Nature Conservation Value Assessment***

The value of the site to birds was relatively low with only small numbers of the more common grassland and woodland birds being recorded at the site. The majority of the species assemblage at the site is typical of grassland and woodland.

The habitat at the site was fairly uniform in value for birds with no notable difference in species composition or assemblage across the site. The species recorded on site are typical of the main habitats available on the site, which is characterised by species of grassland and woodland.

Due to the presence of eight amber list species and three red list species recorded occurring at the site in locally sustainable populations the site is classed as having ‘Local Nature Conservation Value’ for birds. However, it should be noted that no significant numbers or flocks of notable species were recorded during the surveys and all species occurring on site are either common or fairly common within Hampshire and the surrounding area.

5.2 ***Constraints on survey data***

5.2.1 *General*

No survey constraints were noted. Birds can be highly mobile and may colonise a site at any time; therefore, the survey results reported here will become less reliable as time progresses.

5.2.2 *Barn Owl*

No specific nocturnal surveys were completed but it is confirmed that Barn Owls use the site for nesting due to the sighting of a Barn Owl nest containing two chicks (location shown in *Figures 7 & 8*).

5.3 ***Further surveys***

No further surveys proposed.

5.4 ***Potential impacts of proposed development on bird populations***

Any works which will require the removal of hedgerows or mature trees, or the loss of field margin habitats are considered to have the greatest potential for negative impact. The significant loss of these habitats could potentially have a negative impact on bird species including those of conservation concern by reducing the amount of suitable breeding habitat within the site.

The proposed development may result in the loss of foraging and commuting habitat for Barn Owls.

To minimise negative impact, the development will retain all hedgerows and woodland (plus the majority of individual trees) and there are no field margins of importance.

There are no significant losses of habitats for birds as a result of the development that cannot be mitigated or compensated. However, it may be an offence under *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* to undertake work to develop the site during the bird breeding season (which is late February to August inclusive) as there is potential to damage nests and disturb breeding birds.

5.5 Survey report expiry

This survey data is valid for a maximum of 12 months. Birds frequently move around and adopt new nesting sites and therefore if more than 12 months elapses it may be advisable to conduct further survey work to ensure the data is representative of the number and species of bird using the site. This may be in the form of a pre-works check subject to planning condition.

5.6 Outline mitigation and enhancement measures

5.6.1 Mitigation

To allow the site to be cleared for development without harm to nesting birds (so as to comply with the law – the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended)), any affected vegetation with the potential to support nesting birds will be cut to near ground level (approximately 30cm) outside the bird breeding season (which is late February to August inclusive). Similarly, any structures must be demolished outside the bird breeding season. If this is not possible, and vegetation has to be removed during the nesting season, then it should be inspected (by an ecologist) for nests immediately prior to removal of the vegetation. If there are active nests then they should be retained and work must be delayed in this immediate area until the young have fledged and left the nest.

If any active nests are found during works, a 5m buffer zone should be established around them and temporarily fenced off to prevent plant or personnel disturbing the nest until the end of the breeding bird season (or until the nest is no longer in use).

5.6.2 Compensation & enhancement

The existing hedgerows will have any gaps filled.

If possible, the site should also be enhanced for Barn Owls by the installation of a Barn Owl nest box. The nest box should be positioned in a large tree or pole on the boundary tree-line/hedge as far from Allington Lane as possible (to avoid risk of traffic collisions), in a suitably sheltered area of the site that has minimal disturbance. There are no main A-roads within a 1km radius and housing estates already adjacent to the busy B-roads further reduce the chance of breeding Barn Owls crossing busy roads to reach foraging areas. These measures will ensure suitable breeding and foraging habitat is available and consequently reduce any potential negative impacts to the local Barn Owl population.

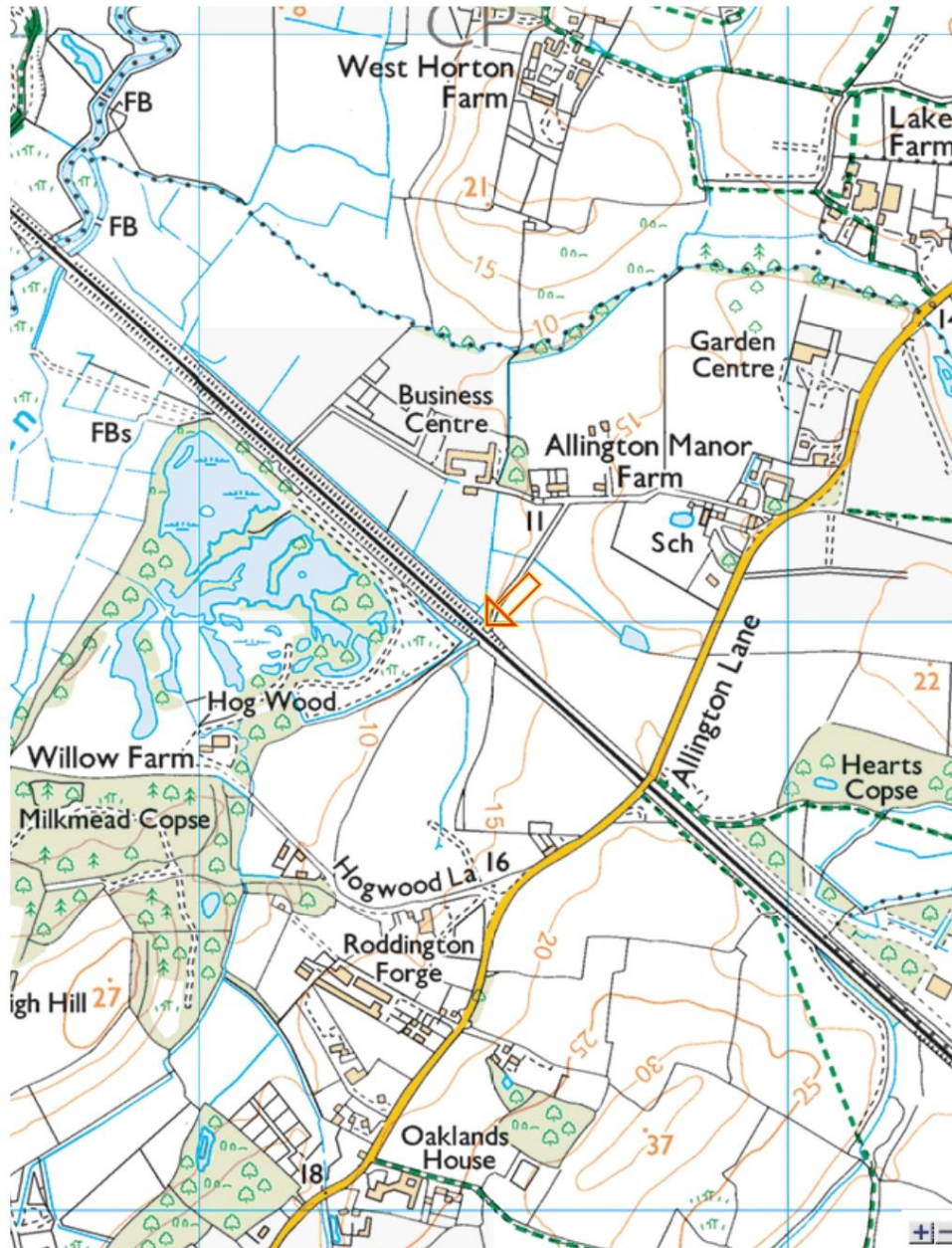
Any Biodiversity and Ecological Management Plan (BEMP) produced for to satisfy a future planning condition should include land management options for barn owl, skylarks and other priority species of conservation concern.

FIGURES

Figure 1. Aerial photographs showing the location of the site.



Figure 2. An Ordnance Survey map showing the site location, as indicated by the red arrow.



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Figure 3. Plan of the site, showing area surveyed (outlined in red).

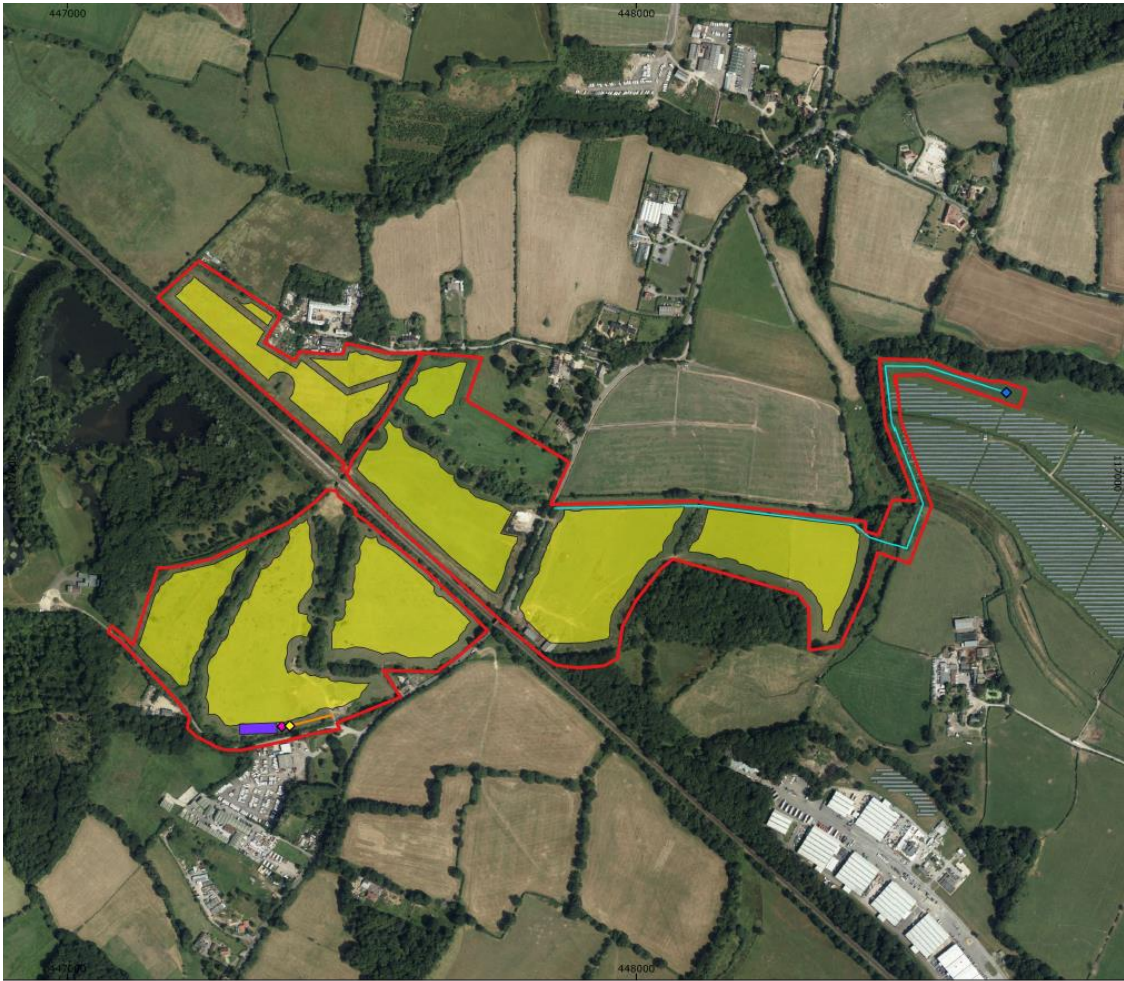


Figure 4. Plan showing the results of the breeding bird survey carried out on the 16th April 2023.

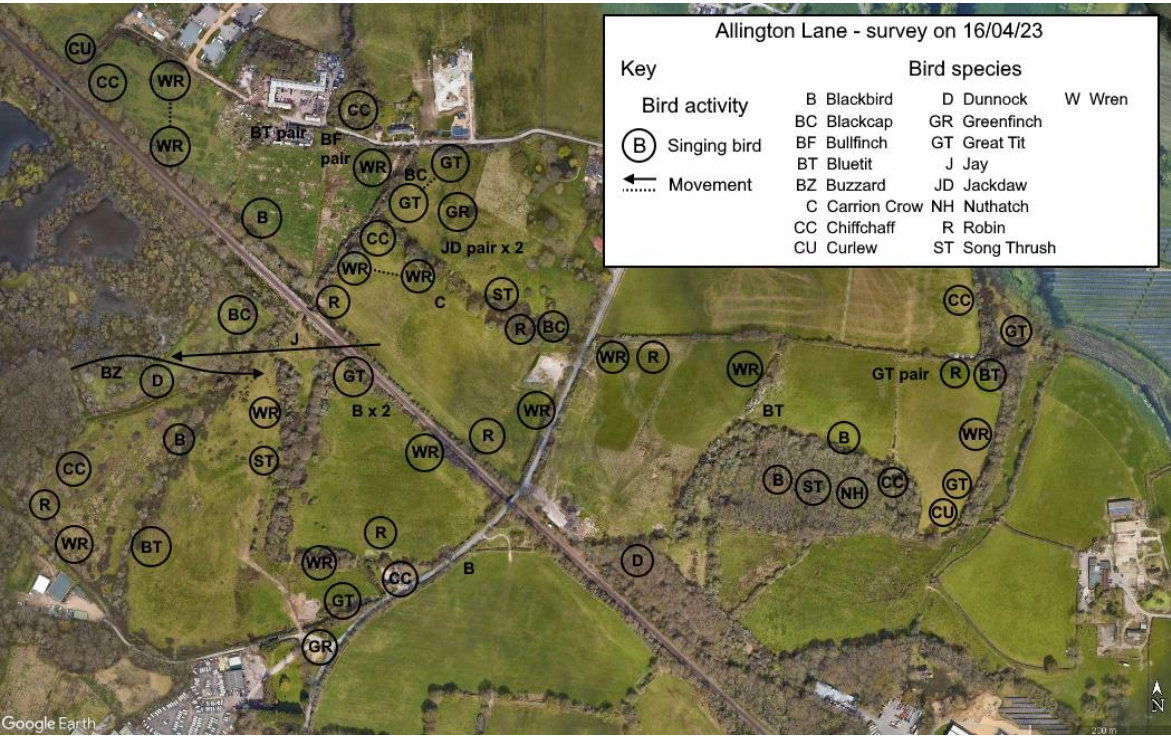
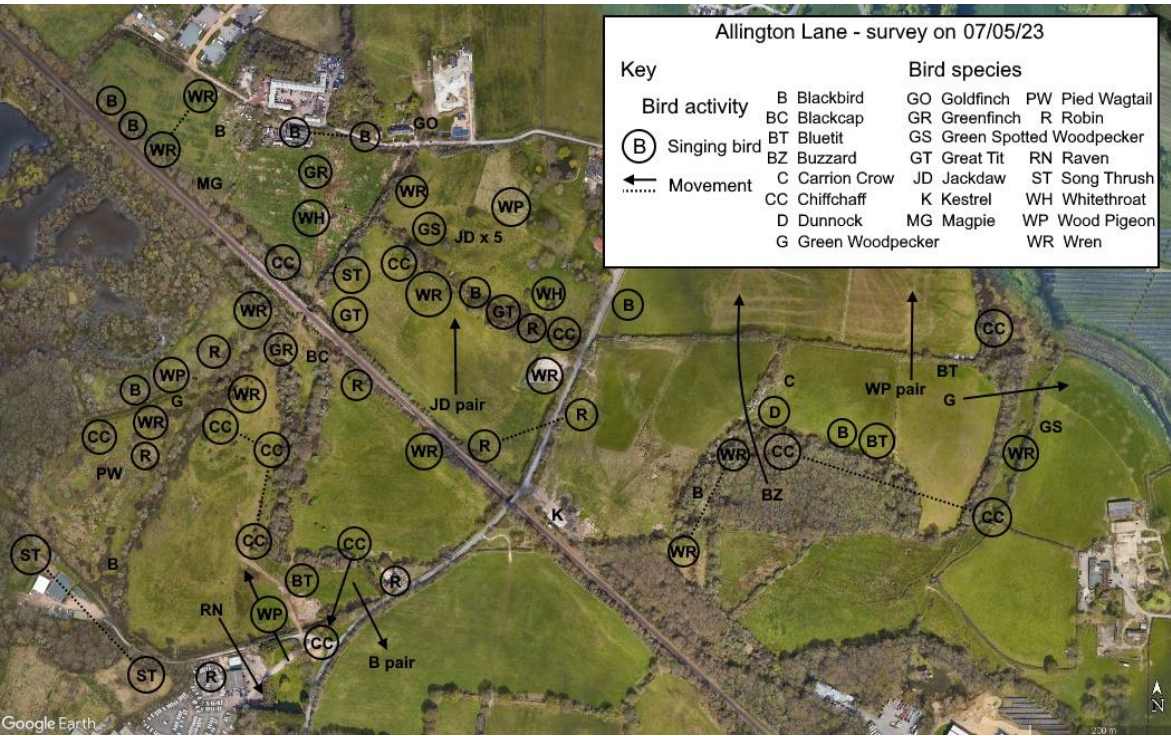


Figure 5. Plan showing the results of the breeding bird survey carried out on the 7th May 2023.



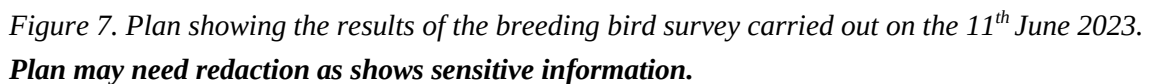
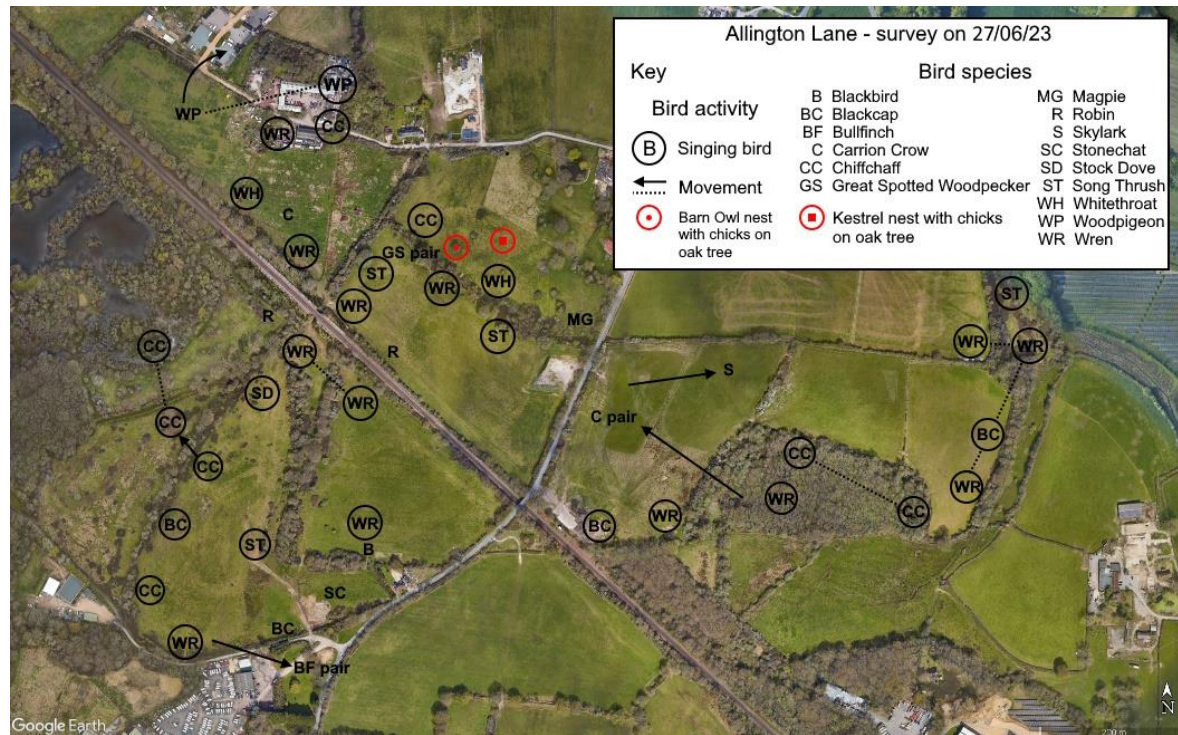


Figure 8. Plan showing the results of the breeding bird survey carried out on the 27th June 2023. Plan may need redaction as shows sensitive information.



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APPENDIX A: BREEDING BIRD SURVEY DATA**8.1 Visit 1**

Date:	16/04/2023	Time:	07:15 – 9:20
Weather	Overcast with 100% cloud cover and light air (Beaufort scale 1)		
Temp (°C)	10		
Recorder	Phil Budd		
Common name	Number and activity		
Blackbird	4 (singing), 1 (seen only)		
Blackcap	1 (singing)		
Blue Tit	1 (singing)		
Bullfinch	2 (pair, seen only)		
Buzzard	1 (seen only)		
Carrion Crow	1 (seen only)		
Chiffchaff	6 (singing)		
Curlew	2 (singing)		
Dunnock	2 (singing)		
Greenfinch	2 (singing)		
Great Tit	5 (singing) 2 (pair, seen only)		
Jay	1 (seen only)		
Jackdaw	2 (pairs seen only)		
Nuthatch	1 (seen only)		
Robin	6 (singing)		
Song Thrush	3 (singing)		
Wren	13 (singing)		

8.2

Visit 2

Common name	Number and activity
Blackbird	8 (singing), 5 (seen only, including 1 pair)
Blackcap	1 (seen only)
Blue Tit	1 (singing male), 1 (seen only)
Buzzard	1 (seen only)
Carrion Crow	1
Chiffchaff	5 (singing) 2 (moving between perches) 4 (seen only)
Dunnock	1 (singing)
Green Woodpecker	2 (seen only)
Goldfinch	1 (seen only)
Greenfinch	2 (singing males)
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1 (seen only)
Great Tit	1 (singing)
Jackdaw	7 (seen only, including 1 pair)
Kestrel	1 (seen only)
Magpie	1 (seen only)
Pied Wagtail	1 (seen only)
Raven	1 (seen only)
Robin	5 (seen only), 2 (seen moving between perches)
Song Thrush	2 (moving between perches)
Whitethroat	2 (singing)
Woodpigeon	3 (including 1 pair)
Wren	12 (singing)

8.3

Visit 3

Date:	17/05/2023	Time:	06:10 - 08:50
Weather	Clear sky, dry (Beaufort scale 1)		
Temp (°C)	10		
Recorder	Phil Budd		
Common name	Number and activity		
Blackbird	4 (seen only), 2 (singing)		
Blackcap	1 (singing)		
Blue Tit	1 (seen only)		
Buzzard	1 (seen only)		
Chiffchaff	7 (singing)		
Dunnock	3 (singing)		
Greenfinch	2 (singing)		
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1 (seen moving only)		
Great Tit	1 (singing) 2 (seen only)		
Jackdaw	7 (seen only, including a pair)		
Long-tailed Tit	1 (seen only)		
Pheasant	1 (seen only)		
Pied Wagtail	1 (seen only)		
Red-legged partridge	2 (seen moving only)		
Robin	7 (singing), 1 (seen only)		
Song Thrush	2 (singing)		
Whitethroat	4 (singing)		
Woodpigeon	2 (singing), 1 (seen only)		
Wren	12 (singing), 2 (moving between perches)		

8.4

Visit 4

Date:	11/06/2023	Time:	05:40 - 08:20
Weather	75% overcast, dry, calm (Beaufort scale 1)		
Temp (°C)	19		
Recorder	Phil Budd		
Common name	Number and activity		
Blackbird	4 (seen only)		
Barn Owl	Nest with checks seen		
Blue Tit	1 (seen only)		
Chiffchaff	8 (singing), 1 (moving between perches)		
Chaffinch	1 (singing)		
Cuckoo	1 (singing)		
Dunnock	3 (singing)		
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1 (seen only)		
Magpie	3 (seen only, including 1 pair)		
Golden Oriole	2 (calling between perches)		
Pheasant	2 (seen only)		
Robin	1 (singing), 1 (seen only)		
Stock Dove	1 (singing)		
Song Thrush	1 (singing)		
Sedge Warbler	1 (singing)		
Whitethroat	3 (singing)		
Woodpigeon	5 (singing)		
Wren	16 (singing, 4 calling between perches)		

8.5

Visit 5

Date:	27/06/2023	Time:	05:25 - 07:47
Weather	80% cloud cover, dry, calm (Beaufort scale 1)		
Temp (°C)	15		
Recorder	Phil Budd		
Common name	Number and activity		
Blackbird	1 (seen only)		
Blackcap	2 (singing)		
Bullfinch	2 (pair seen moving)		
Carrion Crow	1 (seen only)		
Chaffinch	7 (singing, 2 calling between perches)		
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2 (pair seen only)		
Magpie	1 (seen only)		

BREEDING BIRD SURVEY REPORT

Robin	2 (seen only)
Skylark	1 (seen only)
Song Thrush	4 (singing)
Stock Dove	1 (singing)
Stonechat	1 (seen only)
Whitethroat	2 (singing)
Woodpigeon	1 (singing), 1 (seen only)
Wren	13 (singing), 2 (calling between perches)