

**Byers Gill Solar
EN010139**

6.4.6.2 Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.2 Wintering Bird Survey Report

Planning Act 2008

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms
and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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Ove Arup and partners Ltd

Byers Gill Solar

6.4.2 Environmental Statement

Appendix 6.2 Wintering Bird Survey Report

Project number 2483386

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. RSK Biocensus was commissioned by Arup (the client) to carry out wintering bird surveys on behalf of RWE (the Applicant). This report has been prepared to accompany Chapter 6 of the Environmental Statement (ES) (Document Reference 6.2.6).
2. This report presents the results of surveys for wintering birds undertaken in relation to Byers Gill Solar (the Proposed Development) within land in County Durham between December 2021 and March 2022 inclusive. These surveys were carried out to record the wintering bird populations within the Order Limits of the Proposed Development and adjacent land (i.e. the study area), in order to inform an assessment of the wintering bird assemblage. Ornithology survey work was carried out by Avian Ecology Ltd for inclusion within this Wintering Bird Survey Report produced by RSK Biocensus.
3. Background data obtained from Environmental Records Information Centre Northeast identified records of various specially protected and notable bird species which may use the study area in winter, including records of notable waterfowl species from within the Order Limits.
4. The four field survey visits of the study area undertaken in 2021/22 recorded a combined total of 50 species, including 39 specially protected and notable species. Based on the species recorded, the wintering bird assemblage was assessed as being of county importance. Regarding individual species, wintering populations of seven species were assessed as being of potential county importance: specifically great crested grebe, grey partridge, herring gull, linnet, pink-footed goose, stock dove and wigeon. A further three species were potentially present in numbers of district importance.
5. These wintering bird populations were using a range of habitats within and adjacent to the study area, including a mixture of field types such as pasture, winter wheat, winter stubble and oilseed rape, as well as adjoining hedgerows. Standing water adjacent to the site within Field 177 was of particular value to wintering waterbirds.
6. Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast are 5.4 km (SPA & proposed Ramsar) and 7.2 km (Ramsar) from the Proposed Development. Potential impacts have been assessed through a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening exercise. Full details of the HRA screening exercise are presented in ES Appendix 6.5 Habitats Regulations Assessment No Significant Effects Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.5).
7. Considering the suitability of the study area for wintering birds, and the populations recorded during the field surveys conducted in 2021/22, a detailed impact assessment has been undertaken in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6).

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1.1 RSK Biocensus was commissioned by Arup (the client) to carry out wintering bird surveys on behalf of RWE (the Applicant). This report has been prepared to accompany Chapter 6 of the Environmental Statement (ES) (Document Reference 6.2.6).
- 1.1.2 This report presents the results of surveys for wintering birds undertaken in relation to Byers Gill Solar (hereafter referred to as 'the Proposed Development') of land in County Durham between December 2021 and March 2022 inclusive. These surveys were carried out by Avian Ecology Ltd in order to record the wintering bird populations present within and in close proximity to the site of the Proposed Development (hereafter referred to as 'the site').
- 1.1.3 The following terminology is used throughout this report:
- the Proposed Development – outlined by the red line boundary including all infrastructure, cables and Panel Areas as shown in Figure 6.2.1.
 - study area – the land within the application boundary where field surveys were carried out as shown in Figures 6.2.2 to 6.2.6.
 - Order Limits – the land area within the application boundary outlined by the red line boundary including all infrastructure, cables and Panel Areas as shown in Figure 6.2.1.

1.2 Ecological context

- 1.2.1 The Order Limits and study area layouts are indicated in Figure 6.2.1. The study area comprises of land consisting of numerous parcels between Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees in County Durham. The study area lies within a largely arable landscape interspersed with villages (namely Bishopton, Little Stainton and Newton Ketton).
- 1.2.2 The study area predominantly comprises agricultural fields separated by hedgerows and smaller patches of broadleaved woodland. Waterbodies within the study area includes ponds and several streams.

1.3 Project background

- 1.3.1 The Proposed Development consists of a solar farm capable of generating over 50 MW Alternating Current (AC) of electricity with co-located Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), located between Darlington and Stockton-on-Tees in north-east England. The Proposed Development comprises six solar photovoltaic (PV) panel areas (Panel Areas A-F). The solar PV panels would be mounted on a metal frame in groups, fixed in position

and aligned in east-west rows with panels facing south. An on-site substation would be located within Panel Area C.

- 1.3.2 The Proposed Development includes up to 32.5 km of 33 kilovolt (kV) underground cabling between the Panel Areas and the on-site substation, as well as approximately 10 km of 132 kV underground cable to connect the Proposed Development to the grid connection at the existing Norton substation (located to the north-west of Stockton-on-Tees) with both on-road and off-road options. A range of supporting infrastructure is required for the Proposed Development, comprising BESS; transformers and inverters for managing the electricity produced; storage containers to hold this equipment; and security measures such as fencing, CCTV and lighting. The Proposed Development includes environmental mitigation and enhancement measures to avoid or reduce adverse impacts on the surrounding environment and nearby communities.
- 1.3.3 The majority of the Proposed Development's planning boundary (the 'Order Limits') is located within the administrative boundary of Darlington Borough Council, with a section of the cable route situated within the administrative boundary of Stockton-on-Tees Council. A very small section of the Order Limits is within the administrative boundary of Durham County Council.
- 1.3.4 A full description of the Proposed Development and a detailed description of the design and environmental mitigation is provided in ES Chapter 2 The Proposed Development (Document Reference 6.2.2).

1.4 Structure of this report

- 1.4.1 This report is structured as follows:
- Section 2 presents legislation and guidance relevant to wintering birds;
 - Section 3 describes the methods adopted for the collection and interpretation of wintering bird data;
 - Section 4 presents the results of the desk study and field surveys;
 - Section 5 summarises the findings of the wintering bird survey report;
 - Appendices A-D provide supplementary figures, desk study data and field survey data.

2.0 LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 Relevant legislation and guidance relating to wintering birds is summarised below. This legislation and guidance have been used to inform the evaluation of the conservation status of the species recorded during the desk study and field surveys, and when assessing the importance of the wintering bird populations present.

2.2 Legislation

European Commission Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)

2.2.1 Certain UK bird species (including some wintering species) are protected at an international level under the European Commission (EC) Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 2009 (2009/147/EC). These species are afforded enhanced legal protection and European Union member states have a responsibility to maintain populations of these species. This Directive is transposed into English law through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)¹.

2.2.2 Species listed on Annex 1 of the Directive are those for which the UK Government is required to take special conservation measures (including the designation of land as Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) to conserve populations of these species throughout their distributions. These sites form part of the Natura 2000 network of core sites that are protected for rare and threatened species.

2.2.3 Bird species listed on Annex 1 of the Directive are those which are deemed to be:

- in danger of extinction;
- vulnerable to specific changes to their habitats;
- considered rare due to their small population sizes and/or restricted local distributions; and
- in need of particular attention due to the specific nature of their habitat requirements.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

2.2.4 Wild birds are protected in the UK under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended). This protection was extended by the Countryside Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000. Under this legislation it is an offence to:

- kill, injure or take any wild bird;

¹ As such, the requirements of the EC Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) apply despite the UK no longer being a member state of the European Union.

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

2.2.5 In addition, certain species are listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA and receive special protection under Sections 1(4) and 1(5), which confer penalties where the above-mentioned offences are committed, in addition to making it an offence to:

- disturb any such bird whilst building its nest or whilst it is in or near a nest containing eggs or dependent young; and
- disturb the dependent young of such a bird.

2.2.6 As this legislation relates to offences and penalties during the breeding season only, further reference to Schedule 1 of the WCA is not made in this report.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

2.2.7 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 requires local and governmental authorities and departments to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity and a range of measures associated with public rights of way and other rural affairs.

2.2.8 Forty-nine bird species are listed as being Species of Principal Importance for conservation in England under Section 41 (S41) of the NERC Act 2006, and as such they are a material consideration during the planning process. These Species of Principal Importance are those identified as requiring action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP), which continue to be regarded as species of conservation priority under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (which succeeded the UKBAP in July 2012).

2.3 Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework

2.3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2019) sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. This includes requirements for the contribution to and enhancement of the natural environment, including habitats and biodiversity. The NPPF specifies the obligations that local authorities and the UK government have regarding statutory designated sites and protected species under UK and international legislation and how these are to be delivered in the planning system.

Birds of Conservation Concern

2.3.2 The Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) Red, Amber and Green lists categorise the UK's regularly occurring bird species according to their level of conservation concern (Stanbury *et al.*, 2021). Although these listings confer no legal protection, they are useful in guiding conservation action for individual species when birds may be affected by plans or projects.

Red list species

2.3.3 These are species of high conservation concern, including:

- species that are globally threatened according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) criteria;
- species with a historical breeding decline that have not shown a substantial recent recovery;
- species that have shown a severe breeding decline over the last 25 years or longer term;
- species that have shown a severe breeding range decline over the last 25 years or longer term; and
- species whose non-breeding populations have declined over the last 25 years or longer term.

Amber list species

2.3.4 These are species of medium conservation concern, including:

- species of European Conservation Concern;
- species whose populations have declined historically but which have made a substantial recent recovery;
- species whose breeding populations have declined moderately over the last 25 years or longer term;
- species that have shown a moderate breeding range decline over the last 25 years or longer term;
- species whose non-breeding populations have declined moderately over the last 25 years or longer term; and
- rare breeders or non-breeding rarity species with internationally important or localised populations.

Green list species

2.3.5 Green list species fulfil none of the criteria detailed above. As such, they have stable or increasing populations and are not currently of conservation concern.

2.3.6 Non-native species such as Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*) are not afforded Red, Amber or Green list status.

Durham Priority Species

2.3.7 The Durham Biodiversity Partnership sets out habitats and species of particular conservation value within the county in order to raise awareness of biodiversity issues and provide a mechanism through which conservation targets for these habitats and species can be delivered within the county.

2.3.8 Priority wintering bird species in Durham² relevant to this report include the following:

- ‘coastal birds’ including golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) and shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*);
- ‘farmland birds’ including curlew (*Numenius arquata*), grey partridge (*Perdix perdix*), kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), linnet (*Linaria cannabina*), mistle thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*), peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*), reed bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*), skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*) and yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*);
- ‘urban and garden wildlife’ including house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) and starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*);
- ‘woodland and scrub’ species including willow tit (*Poecile montanus*) and woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*); and
- barn owl (*Tyto alba*).

² Further information is available at: [Durham Priority Species \(neenp.org.uk\)](https://www.neenp.org.uk) (accessed 22/09/2022).

3.0 METHODS

3.1 Desk study

- 3.1.1 To provide supplementary data on wintering bird species known to be present in the vicinity of the site, wintering bird records from within 2 km of the study area during the last ten years were obtained from Environmental Records Information Centre Northeast. The BDS was undertaken on 17 March 2022.

3.2 Field surveys

- 3.2.1 The field surveys for wintering birds were undertaken between December 2021 and March 2022 inclusive by Avian Ecology Ltd. These surveys involved a suitably experienced ornithologist walking a pre-determined transect route throughout the study area, mapping bird species encountered (either visually or through their vocalisations) using standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) species codes and behaviour notation (Marchant, 1983). The transect route was interspersed with stops, during which the ornithologist scanned for birds using optical equipment. Birds observed within 50 m of the study area were also recorded. Special attention was given to undertaking counts of any notable assemblages of feeding and/or roosting birds.
- 3.2.2 Bird species recorded during the field surveys were those included on any of the conservation status categories described in Section 3.3.2, as well as any species which might be relevant in a local context (i.e. species which could potentially be present in significant numbers). The omission of abundant and widespread species when collecting field data is taken into consideration within the relevant evaluation sections (e.g. when assessing species diversity).
- 3.2.3 Due to the size of the study area, four transect routes were devised (T1, T2, T3 and T4), covering four geographically distinct areas of the study area. These transect routes were designed to maximise coverage of suitable habitat for wintering birds, with an emphasis on habitat assessed as being most likely to support significant wintering bird populations. Each transect route was subject to four survey visits (i.e. one per month from December to March inclusive). Transect routes are indicated in Figure 6.2.1, Appendix A.
- 3.2.4 Survey visits were undertaken in suitable weather conditions and at a range of times of day, avoiding extreme temperatures, heavy rain, snow, or fog during which bird activity may be atypical and/or surveying may be impractical. The dates, timings and weather conditions for all survey visits are indicated in Appendix B.

3.3 Interpretation of survey results

Overview

- 3.3.1 In order to assess the importance of the wintering bird populations recorded during the field surveys, interpretation of the survey results considered the following:

- the conservation statuses of the species recorded (i.e. their inclusion on any of the legislation or conservation status categories described in Section 2);
- the sizes of the populations recorded (i.e. species abundance);
- the overall diversity of the wintering bird assemblage recorded; and
- the spatial patterns of wintering bird usage within the site, including areas and habitat types of particular importance to wintering birds.

Conservation status

3.3.2 The assessment of the importance of the wintering bird populations recorded took into consideration the conservation statuses of the species recorded. Species afforded special statutory protection or included on lists of species of conservation interest were evaluated. These included:

- EC Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) Annex 1 species;
- NERC Act 2006 S41 Species of Principal Importance;
- BoCC Red and Amber list species; and
- Durham BAP Priority species.

Species abundance

3.3.3 The importance of the wintering bird populations recorded was assessed in the context of the sizes of those populations relative to international, national and regional population estimates for the species in question. National 1% population thresholds (i.e. the size at which a population is assessed as being of national importance, as it comprises over 1% of the national population for a given species) were calculated from the national population estimates detailed in *APEP 4 Population estimates of birds in Great Britain and the United Kingdom* (Woodward *et al.*, 2020). International 1% population thresholds (i.e. the size at which a population is assessed as being of international importance, as it comprises over 1% of the international population for a given species) were obtained from Wetlands International³.

3.3.4 Assessment of county, district or local importance was based on professional judgement and in reference to county population data detailed within *Birds in Durham* Editions 2016 to 2020 (Durham Bird Club, 2017-2021).

Species diversity

3.3.5 The overall diversity of the wintering bird assemblage was assessed, taking into consideration the number of species recorded. This took account of the survey methods (as described in Section 3.2.2), during which abundant and widespread species in a national and regional context were not recorded. As such, the number of species reported

³ As detailed by Wetlands International. Available at: [Waterbird Population Estimates \(wetlands.org\)](https://www.wetlands.org/) (accessed 12/08/22).

herein does not represent the total number of species present within the site and adjacent land in winter.

Site usage by wintering birds

- 3.3.6 To enable spatial analysis of wintering bird activity recorded during the surveys, such as comparison of peak counts between different areas of the study area, and identification of areas of particular importance to important populations, fields within and adjacent to the site were assigned a reference number. These field numbers are indicated in Figure 6.2.1, Appendix A and referred to when evaluating site usage by wintering birds in Section 5.5.

3.4 Limitations

- 3.4.1 A map outlining the Order Limits was provided by the RWE prior to the start of wintering bird surveys in 2021. This was used to define the extent of the study area for wintering bird surveys for the purposes of this assessment and EIA. A number of amendments were subsequently made to the Order Limits boundary and field numbers with some additional areas added and some areas no longer within the application boundary. It should be noted that the field numbers shown on figures contained within this report are from the Order Limits layout design in 2021, with field numbers altered during subsequent design updates. The Order Limits and study area are shown in Figure 6.2.1.
- 3.4.2 Field surveys for wintering birds were undertaken at the appropriate time of year to record the wintering species potentially present within the study area and took place at appropriate times of day. Survey visits were undertaken in suitable weather conditions, with occasional light rain, fog and frost encountered during the surveys considered to be insufficient to significantly affect the bird populations recorded.
- 3.4.3 Whilst desk study data are useful in providing supplementary ecological information for a site, it should be acknowledged that these data are dependent on the submission of records to the relevant organisation. As such, a lack of records for a particular species does not necessarily mean that the species is absent from the site and/or wider search area. Similarly, records of a particular species do not necessarily mean that the species is still present within the study area and/or wider search area.
- 3.4.4 It should be noted that ecological features (e.g. bird populations) are transient, and that the distributions of habitats and species may be subject to change. As such, in line with Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidance, the ecological survey data presented in this report are considered valid for at least two years (CIEEM, 2019), after which, if site conditions change markedly, it may be necessary for further field surveys to be undertaken.

3.5 Quality assurance

- 3.5.1 Avian Ecology Ltd have indicated that these surveys were undertaken by ornithologists who are experienced in conducting ornithology work in relevant habitats. These

ornithologists are CIEEM members at the appropriate level and follow their code of professional conduct when undertaking ecological work.

- 3.5.2 The assessment and review has been undertaken by RSK Biocensus ornithologists whom are CIEEM members and in the case of the technical and quality review Chartered Ecologists.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Desk study

- 4.1.1 The data search identified records of various specially protected and notable bird species from within 2 km of the study area during the last ten years, including species potentially relevant to the site in a wintering context. The results of the data search is provided in *Appendix C*.
- 4.1.2 Species recorded within 2 km of the study area during the last ten years included a diverse assemblage of wintering waterfowl such as barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*), Bewick's swan (*Cygnus columbianus*), pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), pochard (*Aythya ferina*), scaup (*Aythya marila*), Tundra bean goose (*Anser fabalis*), white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*) and whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*). During this 10-year period pink-footed goose, Tundra bean goose and white-fronted goose were recorded within the Order Limits.
- 4.1.3 The desk study also identified records of a range of declining farmland bird species including Durham BAP Priority species such as curlew, grey partridge, lapwing and tree sparrow. Other records of note included barn owl within the study area in 2012 and short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*) approximately 140 m from the study area in 2012.
- 4.1.4 The nearest European site, Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast is a special protection area (SPA), Ramsar Site, and proposed Ramsar site which are of international importance and are 5.4 km (SPA & proposed Ramsar) and 7.2 km (Ramsar) from the Order Limits. Regarding wintering birds, this site is designated for its internationally important population of knot (*Calidris canutus*), and for supporting an assemblage of over 20,000 waterbirds (JNCC, 2006; JNCC, 2008). Due to its location and the habitats present, the Order Limits of the Proposed Development is unsuitable for wintering knot which use intertidal habitat. However, the Order Limits is suitable to support wintering wildfowl such as ducks and geese, which contribute to the supporting wintering bird assemblage for which this Natura 2000 site is designated.
- 4.1.5 Four Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) were identified within 2 km of the study area, including Whitton Bridge Pasture SSSI immediately adjacent to the study area. None of these nationally designated sites are designated on account of wintering bird interest features.

4.2 Field surveys

- 4.2.1 A total of 50⁴ bird species were recorded during the field surveys of the site between December 2021 and March 2022 inclusive. The peak counts for the species recorded on

⁴ Note that this figure does not include common and widespread species such as certain BoCC Green listed species which are locally and nationally abundant and are considered highly unlikely to be present within the site in significant numbers. As such, the site will have supported a total assemblage of more than 50 species during winter 2021/22.

each transect route are summarised in Table 1 below, with descriptions provided where necessary. Full wintering bird survey data from December 2021 to March 2022 inclusive are provided in *Appendix D*.

Table 1 Summary of species recorded during the 2021/22 surveys

Species		Peak count				Description
Common name	Scientific name	T1	T2	T3	T4	
Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	0	0*	0	0	One pellet in Field 136
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	37	32	39	16	
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	2	6	0	1	
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	5	5	3	2	
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	0	0	140	0	Flocks foraging and loafing in Field 61 and on/around standing water in Field 177
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	25	230	9	78	Frequently recorded throughout the site, particularly towards the east of T2 (e.g. in Fields 30 and 48)
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	0	0	20	0	
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	1	1	32	3	Individuals occasionally recorded, as well as a group of 32 in Field 177
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	112	212	100	301	Frequently foraging in fields throughout the site, often with redwing
Golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	5	17	6	1	Occasionally recorded, including a group of 16 in Field 120
Great black-backed gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	18	0	1	1	
Great crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	0	0	55	0	55 recorded on the pond in Field 177
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1	0	2	0	

Species		Peak count				Description
Common name	Scientific name	T1	T2	T3	T4	
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	13	22	5	80	Frequently foraging throughout the site; generally in smaller groups, but with a group of 80 recorded in Field 80
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	0	1	0	1	
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	0	61	70	28	Flocks foraging in fields, with larger numbers using the pond and adjacent land in Field 177
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	924	42	11	29	Frequently recorded, particularly within T1 including flocks of 350 and 40 using Fields 99 and 100 respectively
Jack snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	0	1	0	0	
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	1	2	1	
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	0	14	23	24	Small flocks occasionally recorded, including Fields 54, 75, 79, 133 and 174
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	1	161	0	1	Foraging flocks of 30 to 50 in Fields 26, 29, 48 and 124
Little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	0	0	2	0	
Little owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	0	1	0	0	One roosting in hedge in Field 53
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	0	2	50	1	
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	0	3	0	0	
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	5	1	1	2	
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	0	2	2	0	
Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	0	0	2	3	

Species		Peak count				Description
Common name	Scientific name	T1	T2	T3	T4	
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	0	0	1	0	
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	0	0	1	0	
Pink-footed goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	0	1482	2352	280	Foraging flocks frequently recorded, with greatest activity throughout T3. Larger flocks in Fields 56, 58, 65, 66, 69, 77, 136, 140, 144, 174 and 197. Largest flock numbered at least 1500 birds
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	0	0	10	0	
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	156	190	22	66	Frequently foraging in fields throughout the site, often with fieldfare
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	0	2	0	0	
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	0	0	4	0	
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	0	0	0	2	
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	10	21	11	13	Singing and calling from fields throughout the site
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	1	16	0	0	Low numbers consistently recorded within T2, notably using Fields 40 and 41
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	9	4	1	4	Foraging in fields throughout the site, often with other thrush flocks
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	2	1	0	0	
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	20	1539	250	601	Flocks frequently foraging in fields, notably in Fields 30, 48, 50, 51, 79 and 197

Species		Peak count				Description
Common name	Scientific name	T1	T2	T3	T4	
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	19	251	7	2	Small foraging flocks throughout the site, and a flock of 207 in Field 29
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	0	3	66	0	Flocks feeding and loafing, notably on/around standing water in Field 177
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	5	20	0	10	Occasional individuals and small flocks, with more frequent records within T2
Tufted duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	0	0	6	0	
Tundra bean goose	<i>Anser serrirostris</i>	0	0	2	0	Two flying over Field 65 before joining foraging pink-footed geese
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	0	0	2000	0	Flocks feeding and loafing on standing water in Field 177, notably a flock of 2000 in March 2022
Willow tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	0	1	0	0	One calling from dense hedge in Field 23
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	5	3	0	4	Individuals frequently recorded, notably in Fields 10, 12 and 69
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	8	91	9	5	Small foraging flocks throughout the site, notably within T2

* One barn owl pellet was recorded on Transect 2 during survey visit 4.

4.2.2 In summary, species counts⁵ for the four transect routes were as follows:

- Transect 1 – 24 species;
- Transect 2 – 34 species (plus evidence of one additional species, barn owl);
- Transect 3 – 36 species; and
- Transect 4 – 28 species.

⁵ Note that these do not represent all species present within and adjacent to the site during winter (as per Section 3.2.2).

5.0 EVALUATION

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 The assessment of the importance of the wintering bird populations recorded within the site during the field surveys undertaken between December 2021 and March 2022 inclusive is provided below, taking into consideration:

- the conservation statuses of the species recorded (i.e. their inclusion on the legislation and guidance described in Section 2 of this report);
- the sizes of the populations of the species recorded (i.e. species abundance);
- the overall diversity of the wintering bird assemblage (i.e. species diversity); and
- the spatial patterns of wintering bird usage of the site, including any areas of particular importance to wintering bird populations.

5.2 Conservation status

5.2.1 Of the 50 species recorded during the 2021/22 field surveys for wintering birds, 39 are included on the legislation and guidance described in Section 2 of this report (as indicated in Table 2 below).

Table 2 Specially protected and notable species recorded during the 2021/22 surveys

Species	Conservation status category				
	Annex 1	S41	Red	Amber	BAP
Barn owl	-	-	-	-	✓
Black-headed gull	-	-	-	✓	-
Bullfinch	-	✓	-	✓	-
Common gull	-	-	-	✓	-
Curlew	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Fieldfare	-	-	✓	-	-
Golden plover	✓	-	-	-	✓
Great black-backed gull	-	-	-	✓	-
Grey partridge	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Grey wagtail	-	-	-	✓	✓

Species	Conservation status category				
	Annex 1	S41	Red	Amber	BAP
Greylag goose	-	-	-	✓	-
Herring gull	-	✓	✓	-	-
Kestrel	-	-	-	✓	✓
Lapwing	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Linnet	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Mallard	-	-	-	✓	-
Meadow pipit	-	-	-	✓	-
Mistle thrush	-	-	✓	-	✓
Moorhen	-	-	-	✓	-
Oystercatcher	-	-	-	✓	-
Peregrine	✓	-	-	-	✓
Pink-footed goose	-	-	-	✓	-
Pochard	-	-	✓	-	✓
Redwing	-	-	-	✓	-
Reed bunting	-	✓	-	✓	✓
Shelduck	-	-	-	✓	✓
Skylark	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Snipe	-	-	-	✓	✓
Song thrush	-	✓	-	✓	✓
Sparrowhawk	-	-	-	✓	-
Starling	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Stock dove	-	-	-	✓	-

Species	Conservation status category				
	Annex 1	S41	Red	Amber	BAP
Teal	-	-	-	✓	-
Tree sparrow	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Tundra bean goose	-	-	-	✓	-
Wigeon	-	-	-	✓	-
Willow tit	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Woodcock	-	-	✓	-	✓
Yellowhammer	-	✓	✓	-	✓
Annex 1: EC Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) Annex 1 species S41: NERC Act 2006 S41 Species of Principal Importance Red: BoCC Red list species Amber: BoCC Amber list species BAP: Durham BAP Priority species					

5.2.2 In summary, the 50 species recorded during the wintering bird surveys of the study area in 2021/22 included the following:

- two EC Birds Directive Annex 1 species;
- 13 NERC S41 Species of Principal Importance;
- 14 BoCC Red list species;
- 22 BoCC Amber list species; and
- 21 Durham BAP Priority species.

5.3 Species abundance

5.3.1 Peak counts for species recorded in numbers that were potentially of international or national importance were compared with relevant population estimates as described in Section 3.3.3.

5.3.2 Populations were assessed as being important at an international or national level if they exceeded 1% of the relevant population estimate. This evaluation is presented in Table 3 below. Species omitted from Table 3 were recorded in numbers that were far below international and national importance thresholds and therefore did not require further evaluation.

5.3.3 As the four transects were not surveyed simultaneously, and bird populations are transient, peak counts from the four transects were not summed to produce a total peak count, as this would be likely to introduce errors due to double counting. As such, the peak count recorded for a species during a single visit of one transect has been used.

Table 3 Evaluation of wintering bird population importance at international and national level

Species	Peak count	International 1% population threshold	National 1% population threshold	Peak count as % of national population estimate
Great crested grebe	55	6300	165	0.33
Grey partridge	80	-	740	0.11
Herring gull	924	9300	7300	0.13
Pink-footed goose	2352	5400	5100	0.46
Wigeon	2000	14000	4450	0.45

5.3.4 As indicated in Table 3, no species were recorded in numbers of international or national importance.

5.3.5 Considering the analysis undertaken above, and in reference to *Birds in Durham* Editions 2016 to 2020 and professional judgement, the following species are assessed as having been present in numbers of potential county and district level importance, as detailed in Table 4 below.

Table 4 Evaluation of wintering bird population importance at a county and district level

Species	Peak count	Importance level	Justification
Common gull	230	District	Abundant passage and winter visitor in Durham, with counts of 2000+ recorded at two sites in 2020, and counts of 100+ recorded at multiple sites.
Great crested grebe	55	County	Common resident and passage visitor in Durham, with a peak count at a single site of 47 recorded in 2020.
Grey partridge	80	County	Common but declining resident in Durham, recorded at 100+ sites in 2020, with a peak count at a single site of 30.

Species	Peak count	Importance level	Justification
Herring gull	924	County	Abundant passage and winter visitor in Durham, with a peak count at a single site of c.2000 recorded in 2020, and counts of 1000+ recorded at two sites.
Linnet	161	County	Very common resident and passage migrant in Durham, with a peak count at a single site of 150 recorded in 2020, and several flocks of 200+ recorded in 2019.
Pink-footed goose	2352	County	Very common passage and winter visitor in Durham, with monthly total counts for the county recorded in 2020 as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January: 1040 - February: 664 - March: 3281 - October: 7400 - November: 5658 - December: 3021
Starling	1539	District	Abundant resident and winter visitor in Durham, with a peak count at a single site of 5000+ recorded in 2020, and counts of 1000+ recorded at two other sites.
Stock dove	251	County	Very common resident in Durham, recorded at 140 sites in 2020, with a peak count at a single site of 210.
Tree sparrow	20	District	Common but sparsely distributed resident in Durham, with a peak count of c.150 recorded in 2020, and counts of 50+ recorded at several other sites.
Wigeon	2000	County	Abundant passage and winter visitor in Durham, recorded at c.60 sites in 2020, with a peak count at a single site of 4075, and counts of 500+ recorded at three other sites.

5.3.6 The remaining species are assessed as having been present in numbers of no more than local importance.

5.4 Species diversity

5.4.1 In view of the assemblage of 50 species recorded within and adjacent to the study area during the field surveys and taking into consideration the survey methods described in

Section 3.2.2, the wintering bird assemblage recorded is assessed as being of county importance.

5.5 Site usage by wintering birds

- 5.5.1 The study area (including field numbers) is indicated in Figure 6.2.1, Appendix A. It should be noted that the field numbers shown on this figure are from the Order Limits layout design in 2021 which may have been altered during subsequent design updates. The distributions of wintering bird populations of county significance recorded within the site are indicated in Figures 6.2.2-6.2.6, Appendix A.
- 5.5.2 The four areas of the study area surveyed (i.e. following Transects 1 to 4) were broadly similar in the species they supported in Winter 2021/22, with the species recorded generally comprising typical species of farmland habitat and associated standing water and hedgerows. The diversity of notable bird species was slightly higher at Transects 2 and 3 compared with Transects 1 and 4.
- 5.5.3 Regarding species recorded in numbers of county significance, great crested grebe and wigeon were using standing water within Field 177. Grey partridge activity was recorded throughout the study area, particularly in winter wheat and stubble fields towards the centre of the site (e.g. Fields 44-49 and 80). Herring gulls were recorded throughout the study area, with the largest aggregations observed towards the west of the site in winter wheat and pasture fields (e.g. Fields 99-100). Linnet and stock dove activity was concentrated in fields towards the centre of the study area (e.g. Fields 26, 29, 48, 124 and 149) comprising set-aside, stubble and winter wheat. Pink-footed goose activity was greatest in winter wheat and pasture towards the centre and south-east of the study area (e.g. Fields 58, 65, 66, 140, 174 and 197).
- 5.5.4 Regarding other wintering bird populations recorded during the field surveys, pasture and arable fields (e.g. winter wheat, winter stubble, oilseed rape) provided a range of foraging opportunities, which was reflected in the diversity of bird species recorded. Standing water and adjacent land within Field 177 was used by an array of wetland species. Whilst hedgerows separating fields were not of significant value to populations of county importance (with the possible exception of grey partridge), they were used by low numbers of a diverse range of species, including various species that have undergone significant national decline. Species recorded in hedgerows included little owl, tree sparrow, willow tit, and yellowhammer.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The field surveys undertaken in December 2021 to March 2022 inclusive to inform the Proposed Development recorded an array of wintering bird species, including 39 notable species in reference to the legislation and conservation status criteria described in Section 2. Based on the species recorded, the wintering bird assemblage is assessed as being of county importance. Regarding populations of individual species, the following species were recorded in numbers assessed as being of potential county importance:
- great crested grebe;
 - grey partridge;
 - herring gull;
 - linnet;
 - pink-footed goose;
 - stock dove; and
 - wigeon.
- 6.1.2 A further three species were potentially present in numbers of district importance. No species were present in numbers of international or national importance.
- 6.1.3 The study area contained a range of habitats of value to the wintering bird populations described; notably fields of mixed usage including pasture, winter wheat, winter stubble and oilseed rape, as well as standing water (e.g. within Field 177) and hedgerows.
- 6.1.4 Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast is a special protection area (SPA), Ramsar Site, and proposed Ramsar site which are of international importance and are 5.4 km (SPA & proposed Ramsar) and 7.2 km (Ramsar) from the Proposed Development. Potential impacts have been assessed through a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening exercise. Full details of the HRA screening exercise are presented in ES Appendix 6.5 Habitats Regulations Assessment No Significant Effects Report (Document Reference 6.4.6.5).
- 6.1.5 Considering the suitability of the study area for wintering birds, and the populations recorded during the field surveys undertaken in 2021/22, a detailed impact assessment will be undertaken in ES Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6) to determine the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on wintering birds. The impact assessment will identify the requirement for mitigation and enhancement measures.

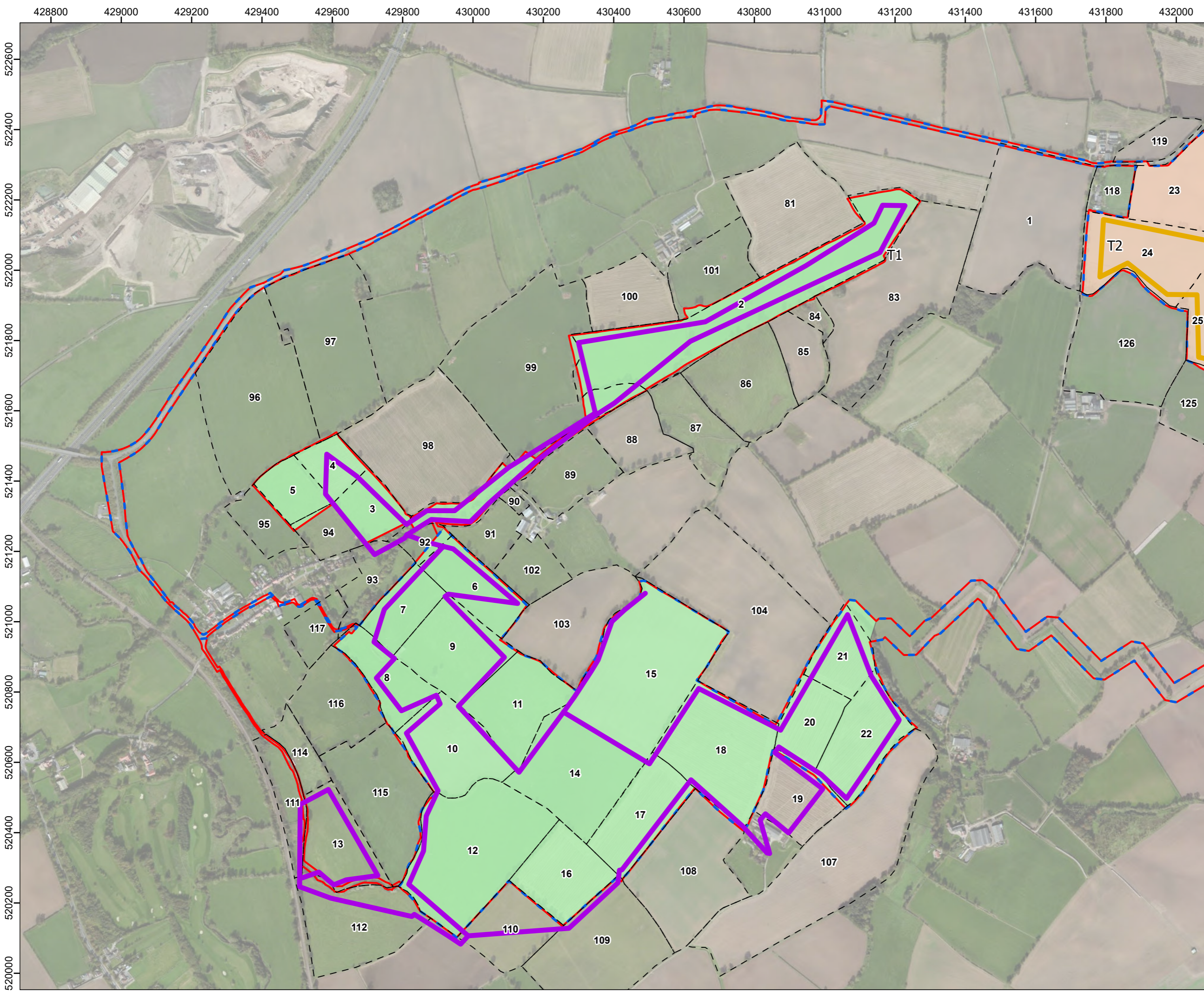
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APPENDIX A – FIGURES

Figure 6.2.1 Site layout



Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Panel Area

- Panel Area A: Brafferton
- Panel Area B: Hauxley Farm
- Panel Area C: Byers Gill Wood
- Panel Area D: Great Stainton
- Panel Area E: West of Bishopton
- Panel Area F: North of Bishopton

Transect Route

- T1
- T2
- T3
- T4



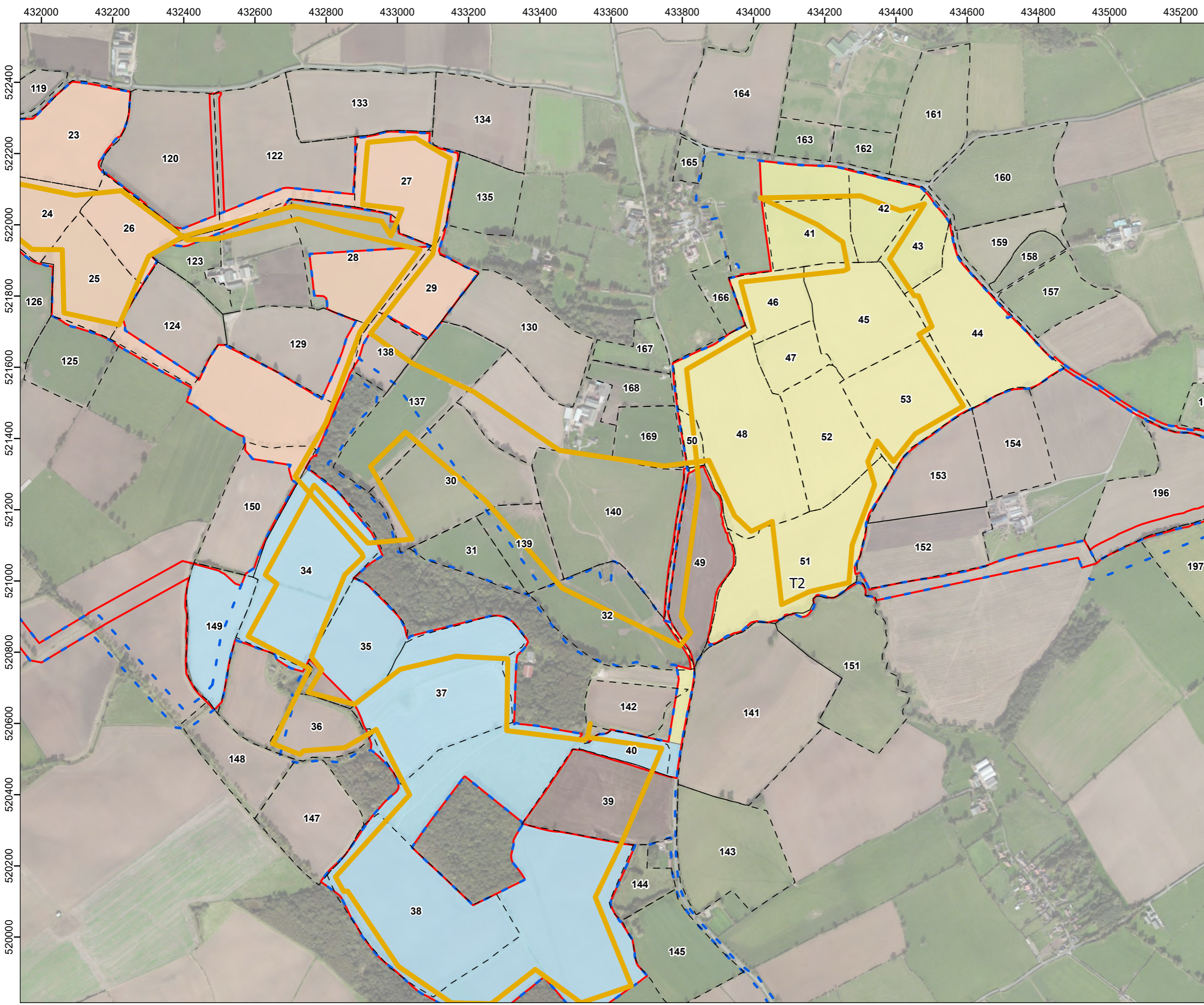
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 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Site Location Plan
 Page 1 of 5

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Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

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Transect Route

- T1
- T2
- T3
- T4



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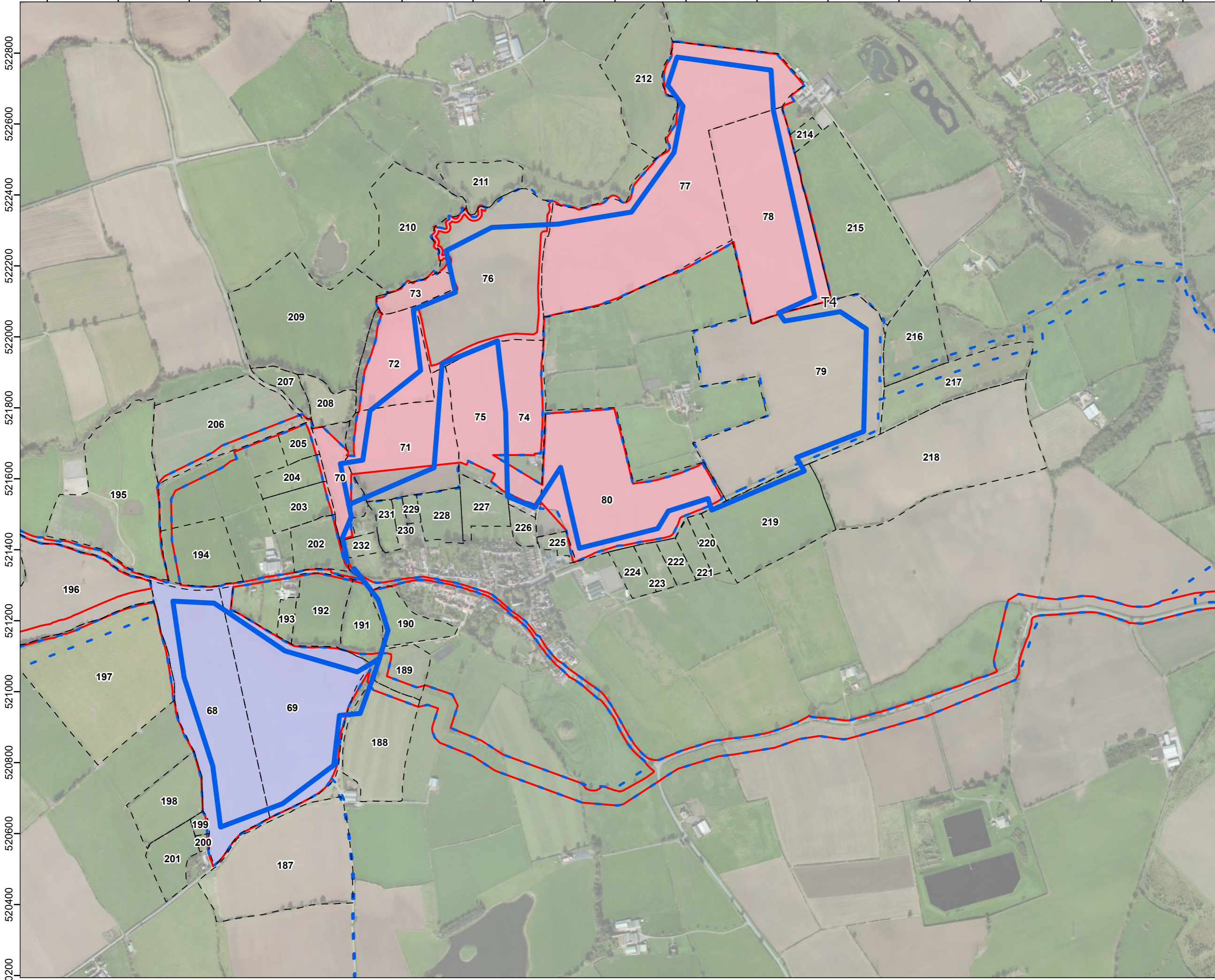


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Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Panel Area

- Panel Area A: Brafferton
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- Panel Area F: North of Bishopton

Transect Route

- T1
- T2
- T3
- T4



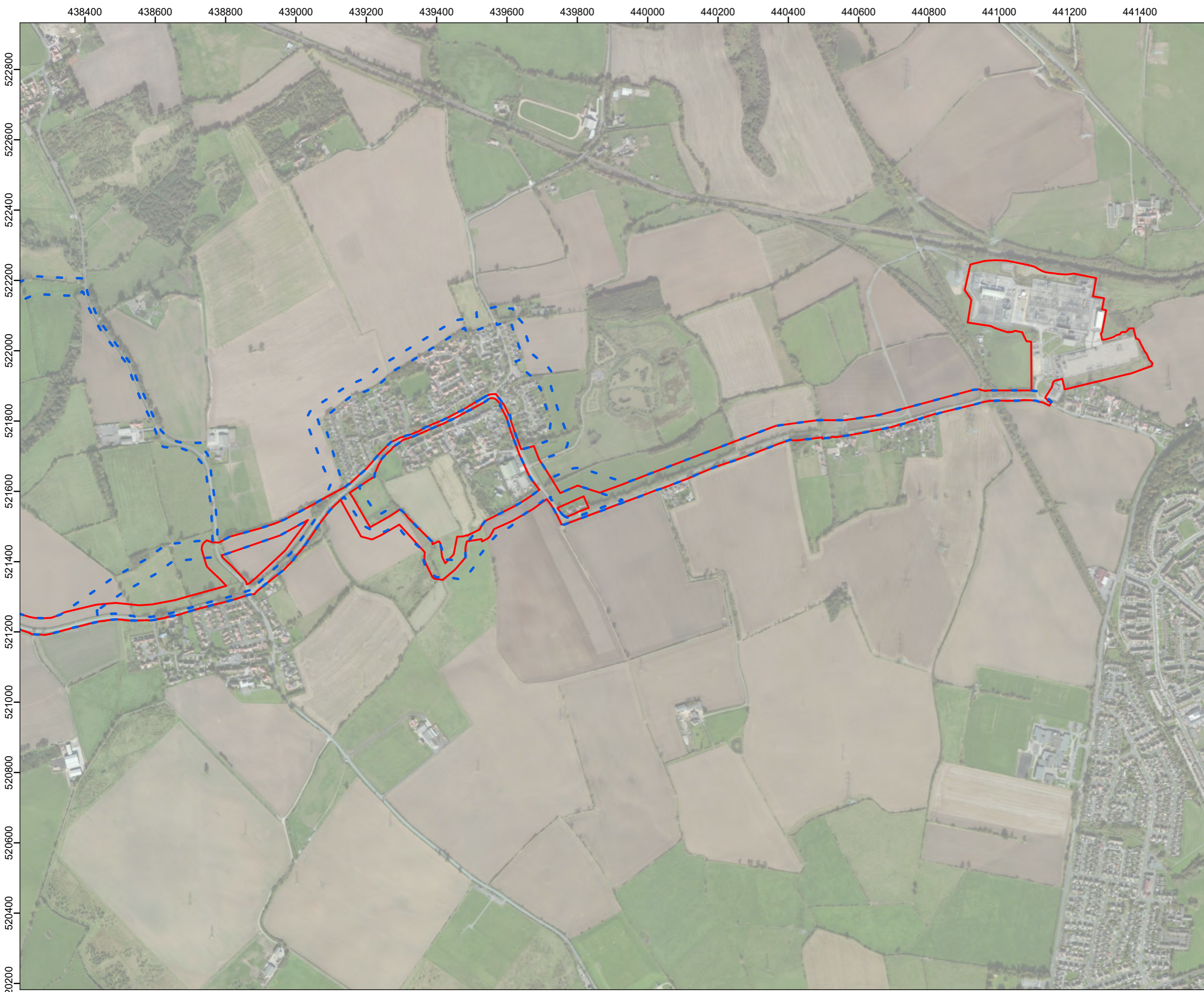
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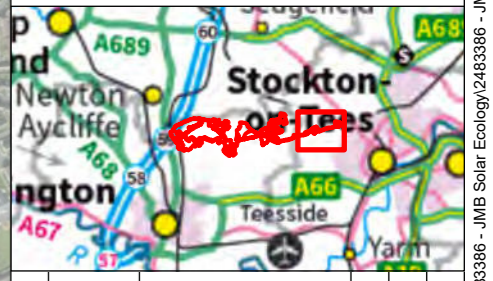
- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Panel Area

- Panel Area A: Brafferton
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- Panel Area C: Byers Gill Wood
- Panel Area D: Great Stainton
- Panel Area E: West of Bishopton
- Panel Area F: North of Bishopton


Transect Route

- T1
- T2
- T3
- T4



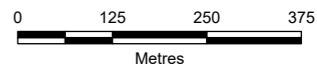
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Wintering Bird Survey Results
Site Location Plan
Page 4 of 5

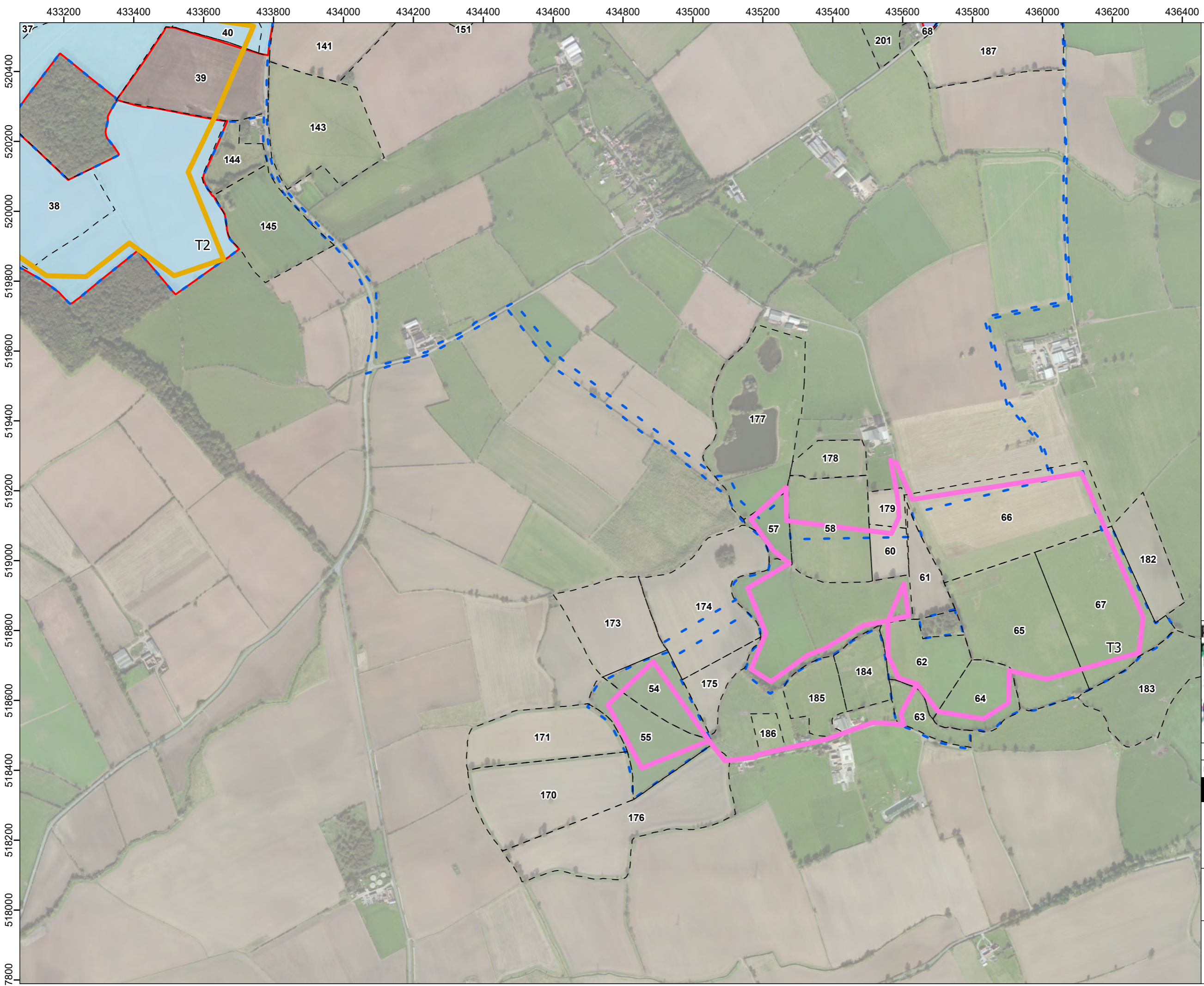


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Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Panel Area

- Panel Area A: Brafferton
- Panel Area B: Hauxley Farm
- Panel Area C: Byers Gill Wood
- Panel Area D: Great Stainton
- Panel Area E: West of Bishopton
- Panel Area F: North of Bishopton

Transect Route

- T1
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- T3
- T4



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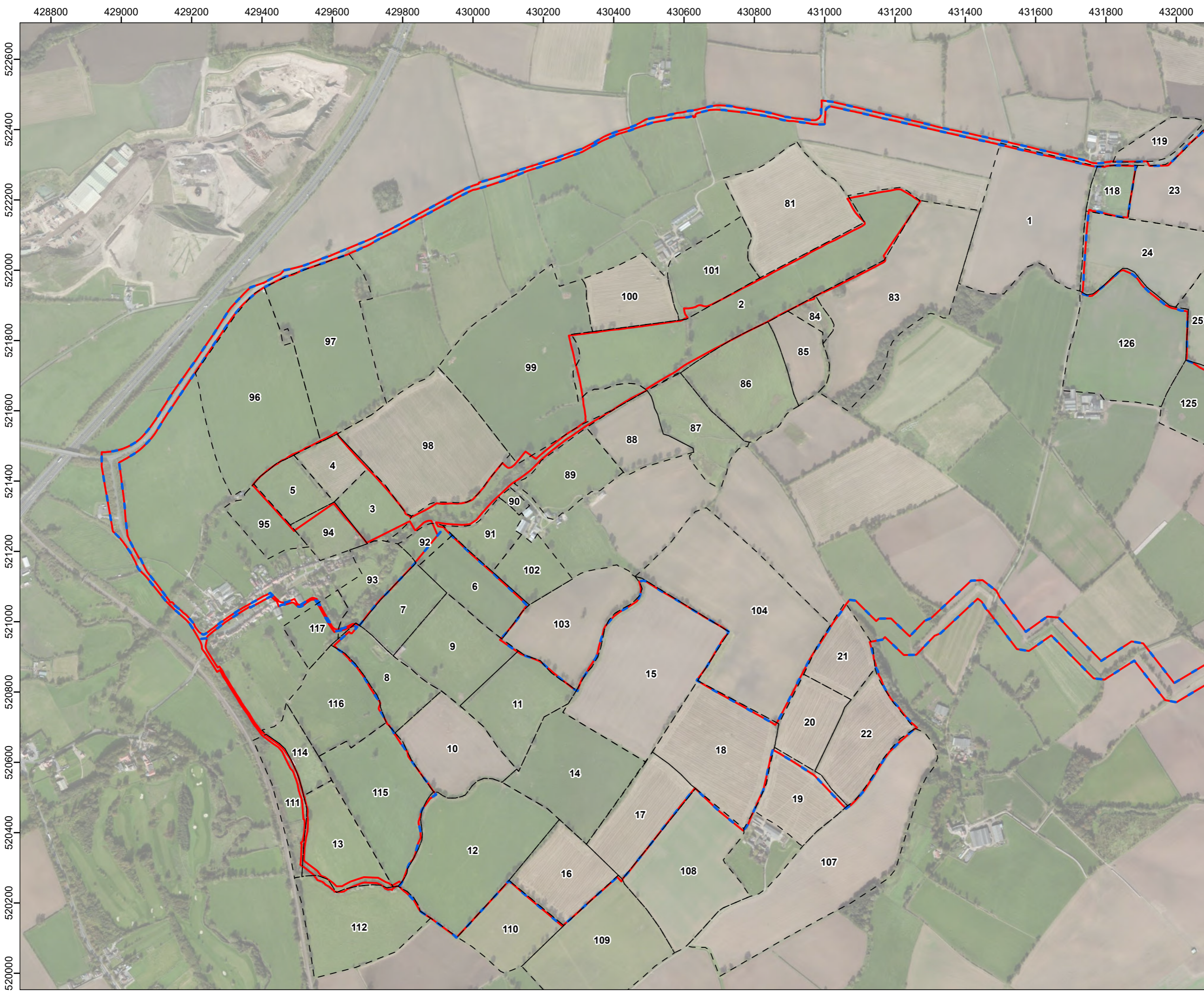


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 Site Location Plan
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Figure 6.2.2 Great crested grebe count



Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Great Crested Grebe Count

- 5 < 10
- 50 < 100



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TITLE: Figure 6.2.2:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Great Crested Grebe
 Page 1 of 5

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Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Great Crested Grebe Count

- 5 < 10
- 50 < 100



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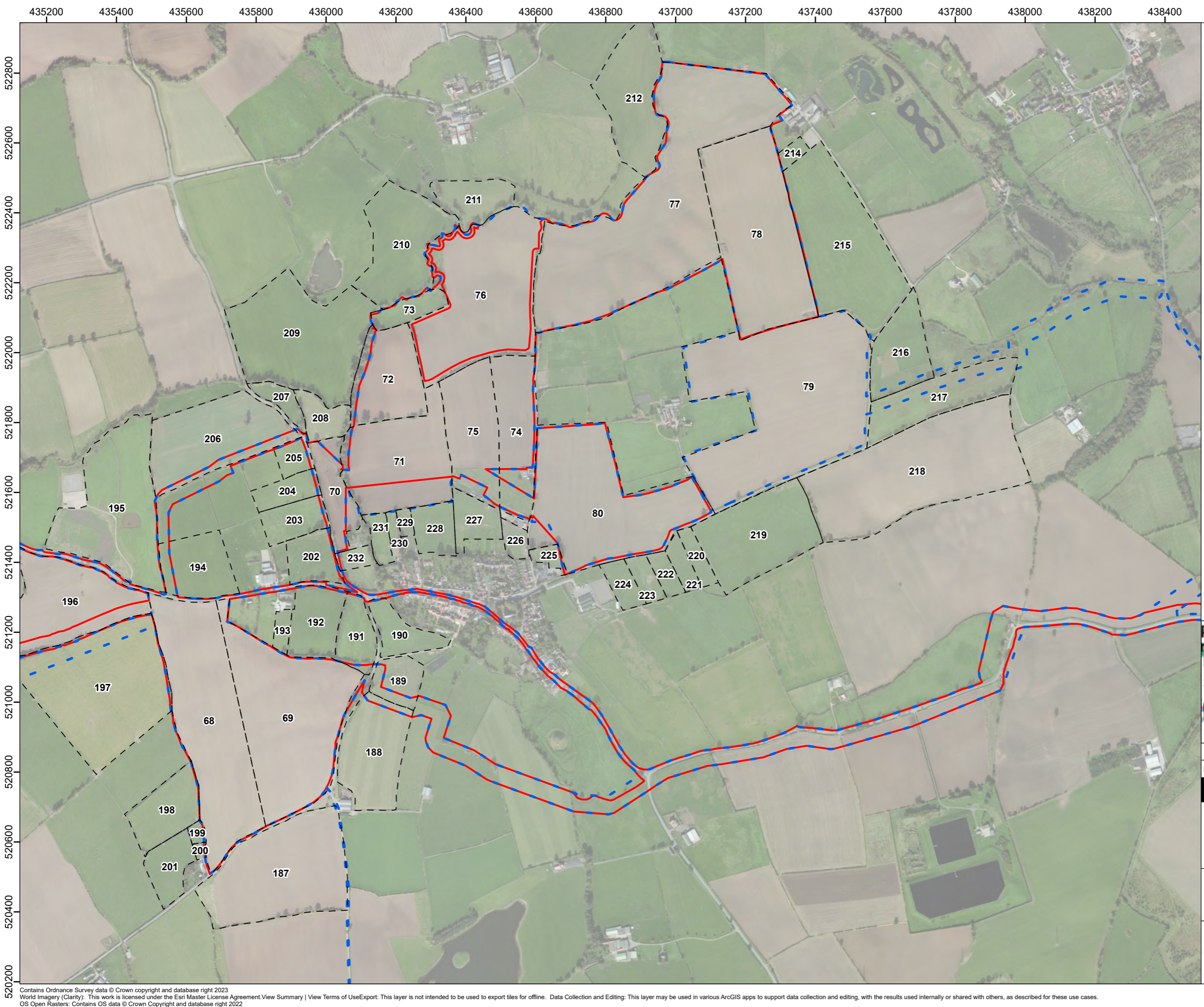
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 Great Crested Grebe
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Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Great Crested Grebe Count

- 5 < 10
- 50 < 100



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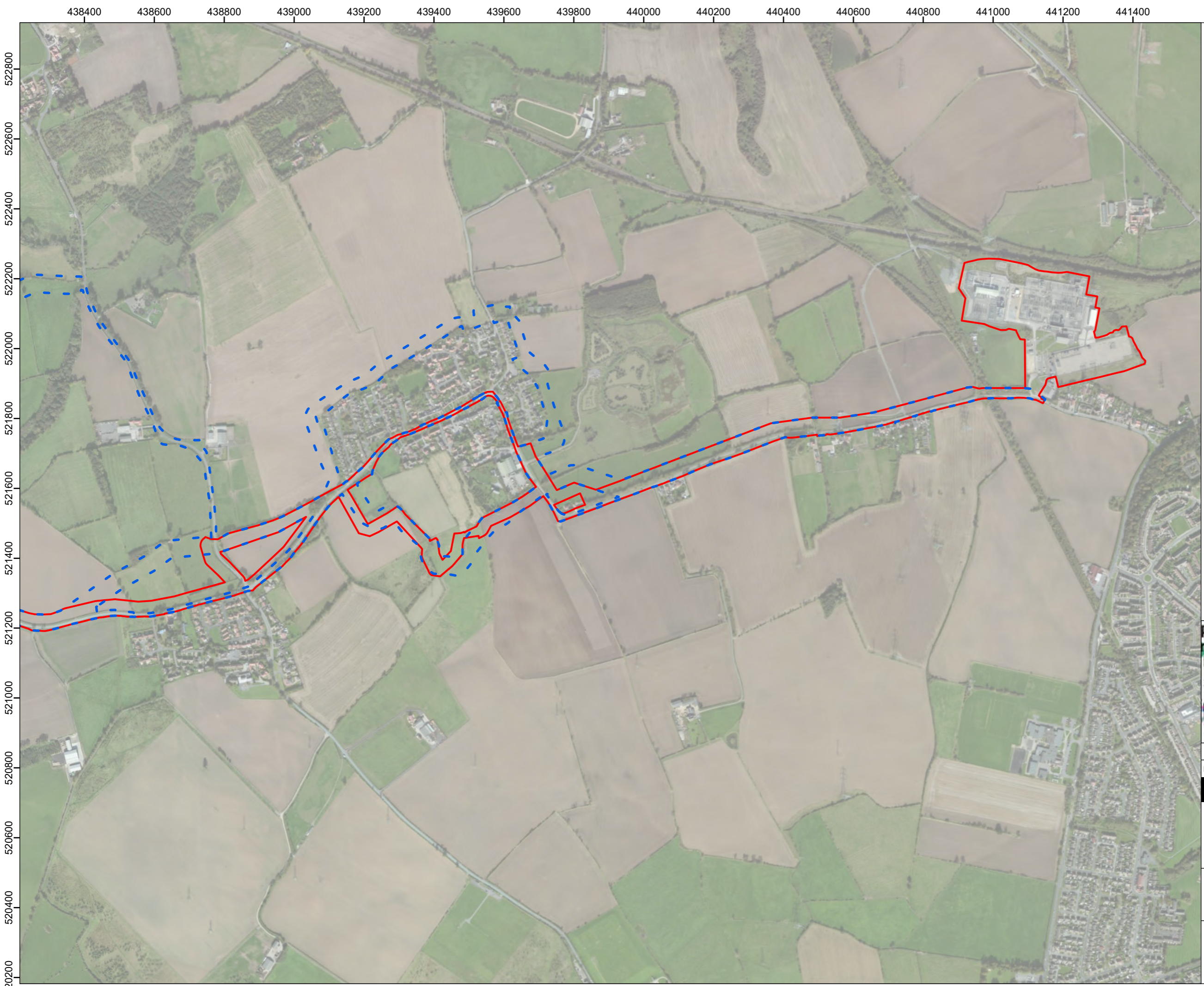
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 Great Crested Grebe
 Page 3 of 5

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Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Great Crested Grebe Count

- 5 < 10
- 50 < 100



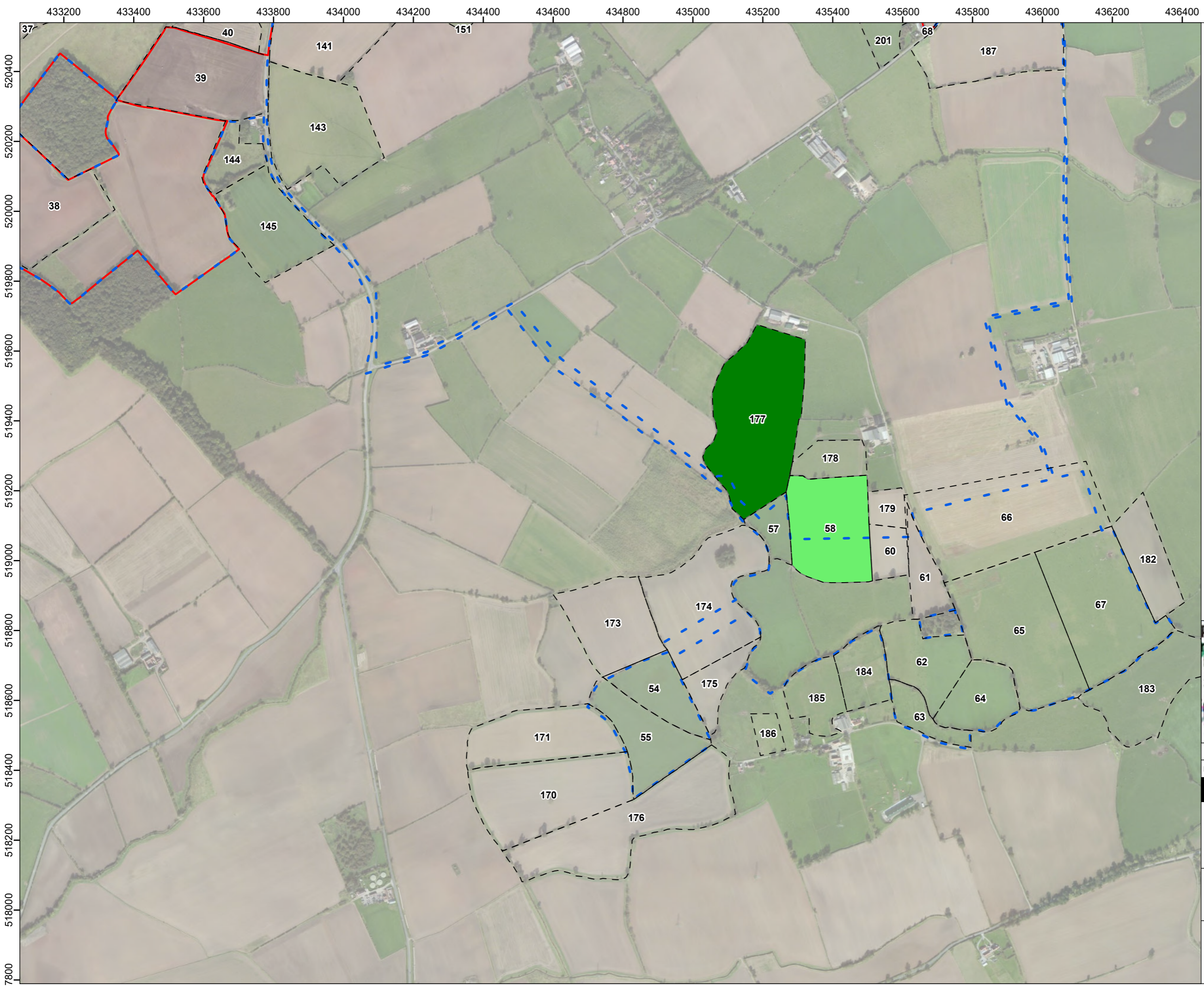
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 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Great Crested Grebe
 Page 4 of 5

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Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Great Crested Grebe Count

- 5 < 10
- 50 < 100



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 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Great Crested Grebe
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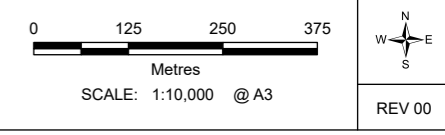
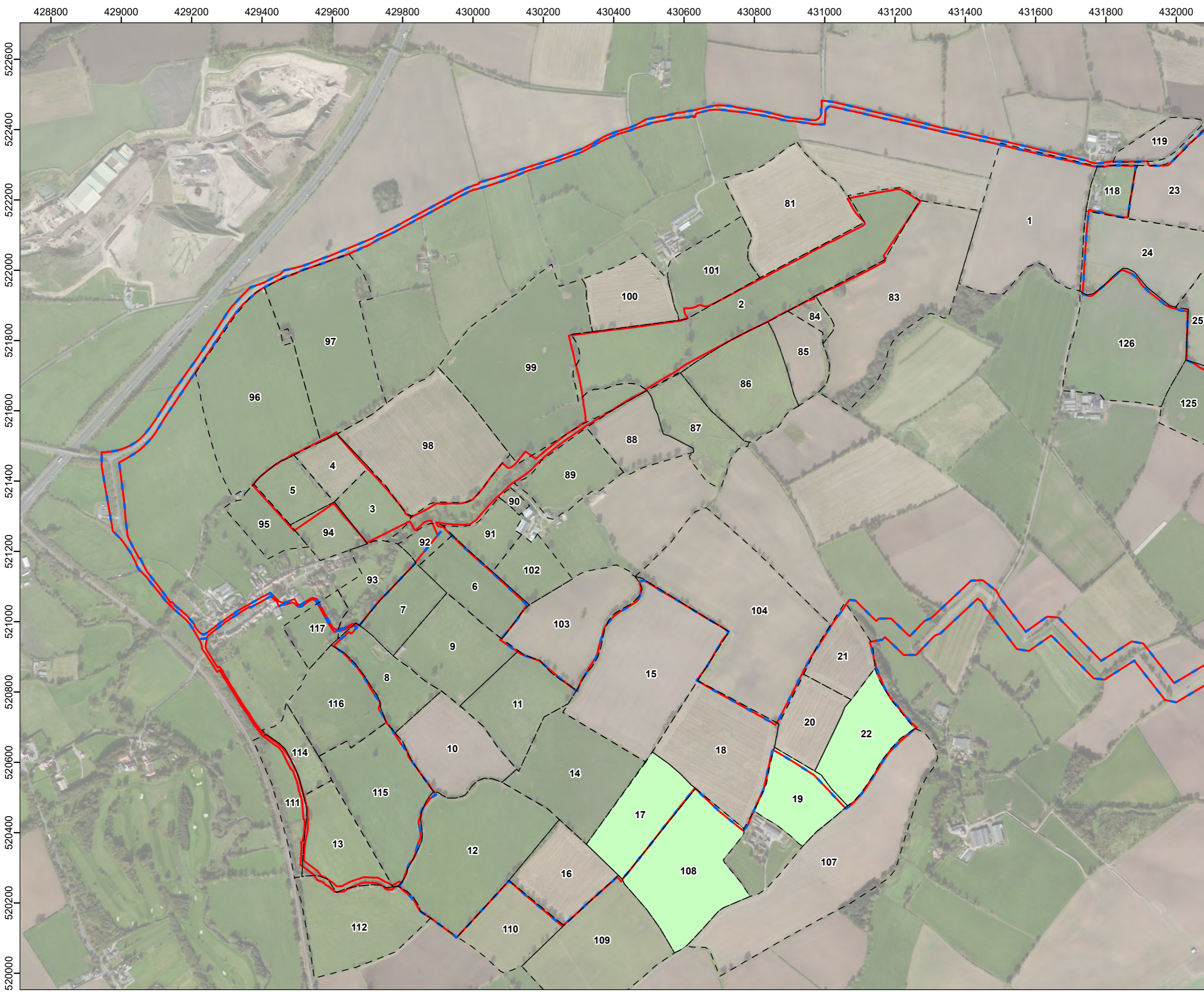


Figure 6.2.3 Grey partridge count

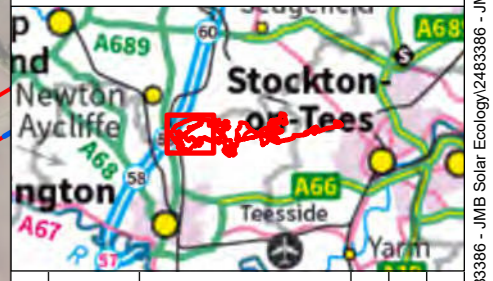


Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Grey Partridge Count

- 1 < 5
- 5 < 10
- 50 < 100



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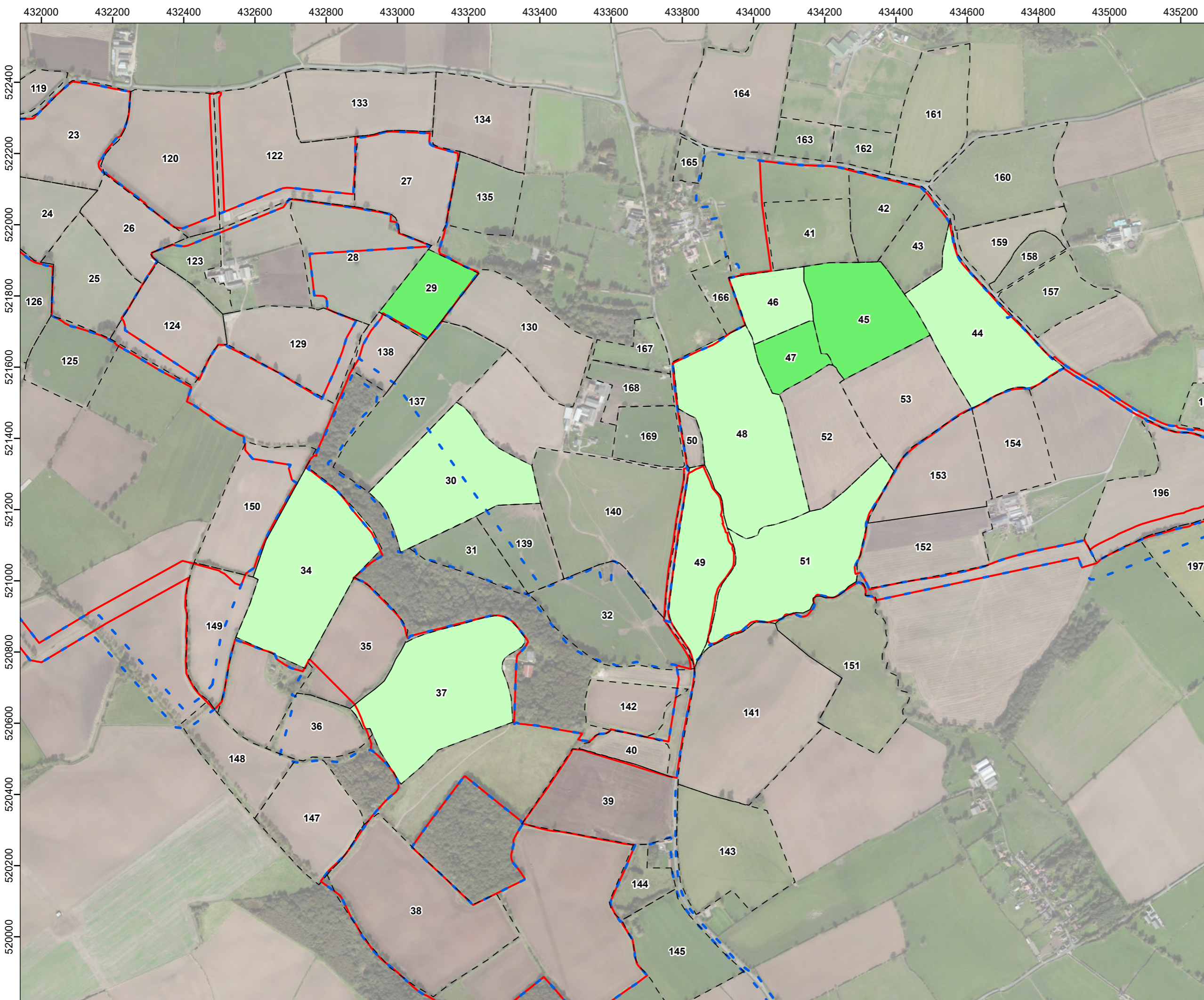
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 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Grey Partridge
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Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Grey Partridge Count

- 1 < 5
- 5 < 10
- 50 < 100

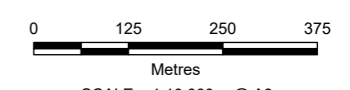


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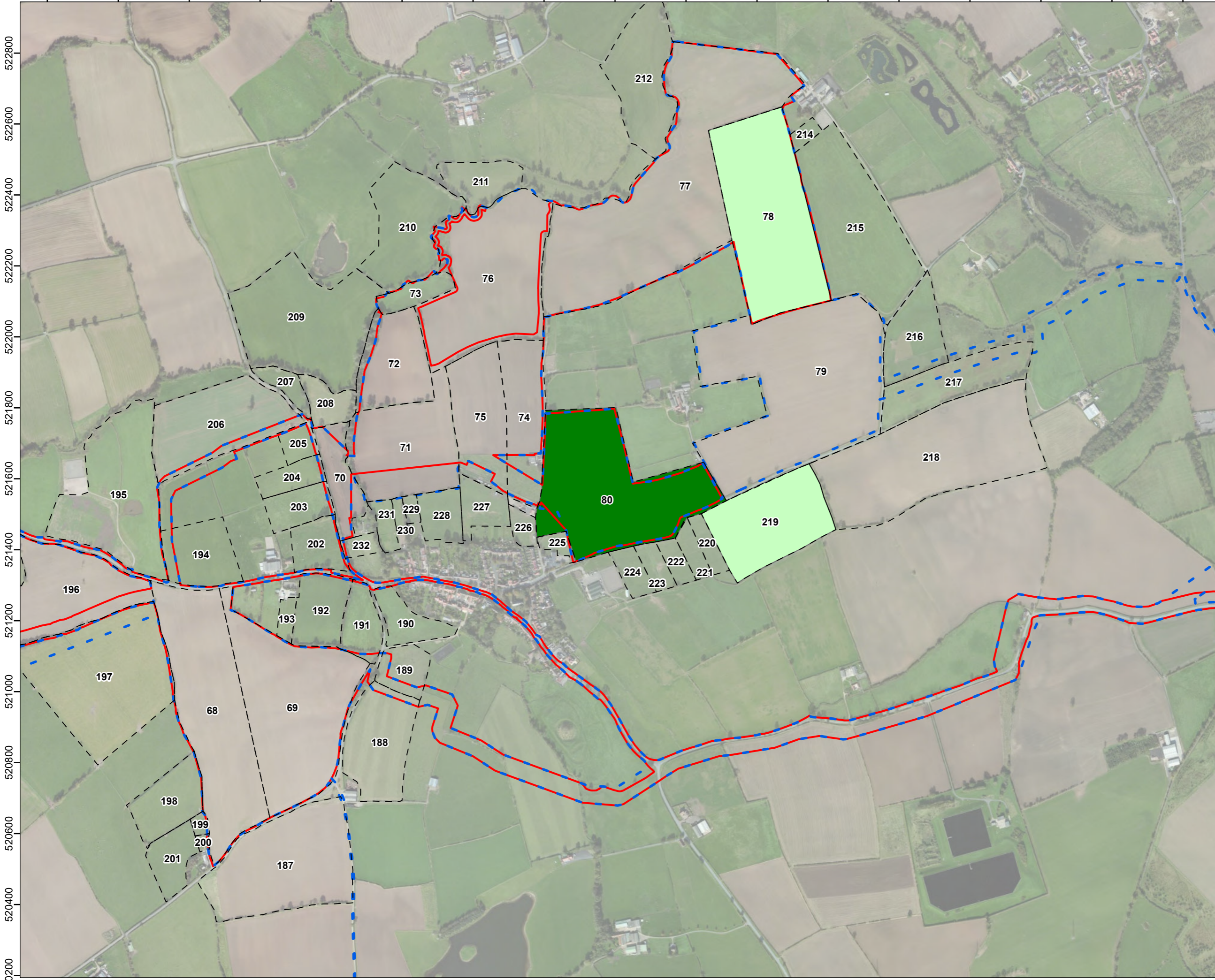
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 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Grey Partridge
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Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Grey Partridge Count

- 1 < 5
- 5 < 10
- 50 < 100



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
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TITLE: Figure 6.2.3:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Grey Partridge
 Page 3 of 5

0 125 250 375
 Metres
 SCALE: 1:10,000 @ A3

REV 00

438400 438600 438800 439000 439200 439400 439600 439800 440000 440200 440400 440600 440800 441000 441200 441400

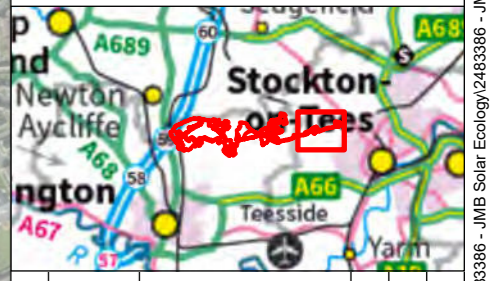


Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Grey Partridge Count

- 1 < 5
- 5 < 10
- 50 < 100



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
00	03/11/2023	2483386	RG	SP	LP

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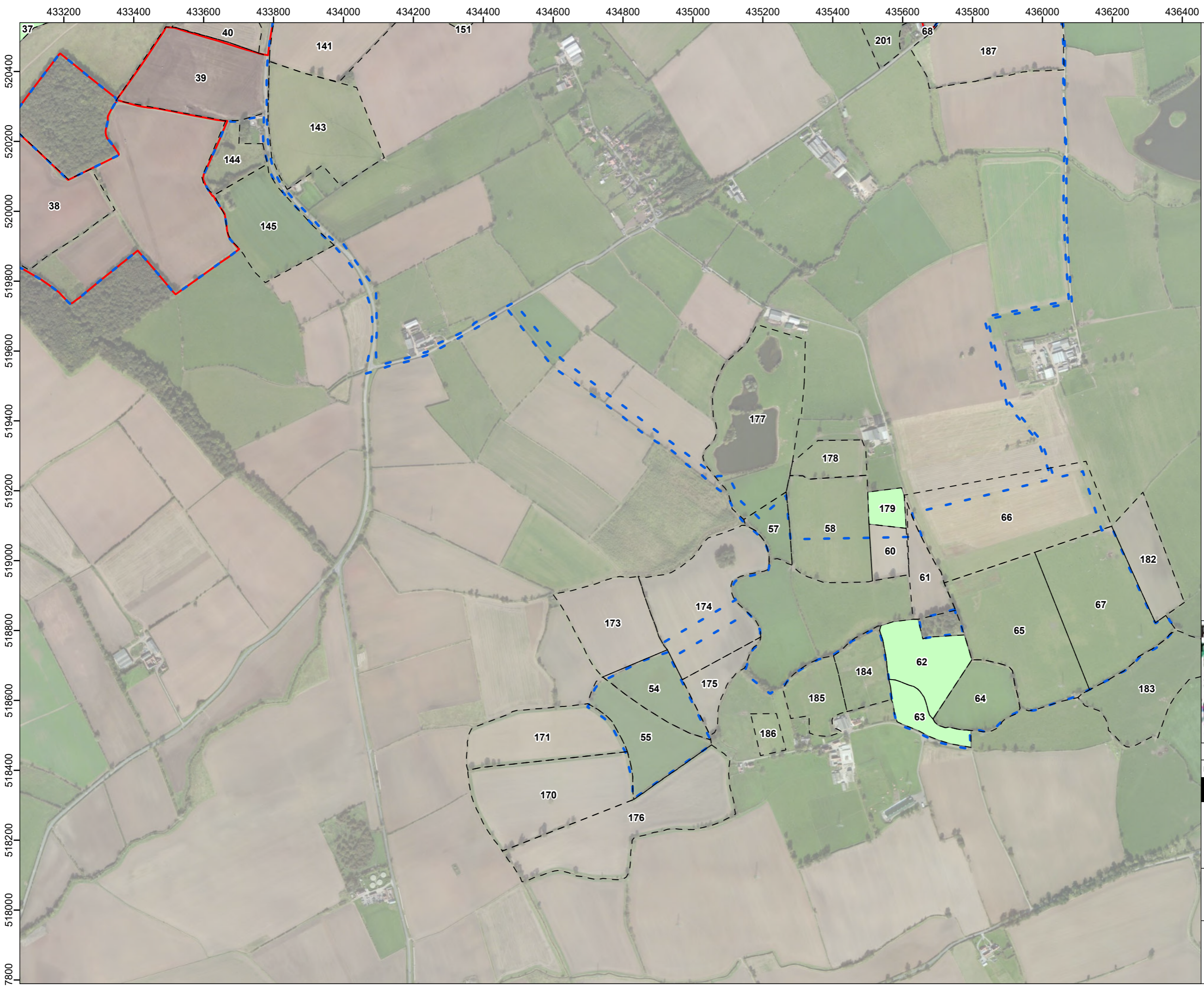


TITLE: Figure 6.2.3:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Grey Partridge
 Page 4 of 5

0 125 250 375
 Metres
 SCALE: 1:10,000 @ A3

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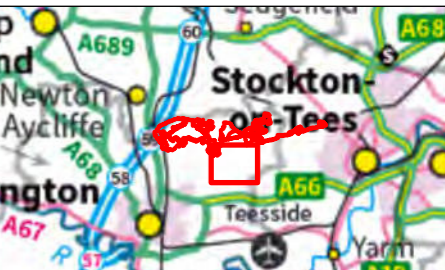


Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Grey Partridge Count

- 1 < 5
- 5 < 10
- 50 < 100



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
00	03/11/2023	2483386	RG	SP	LP

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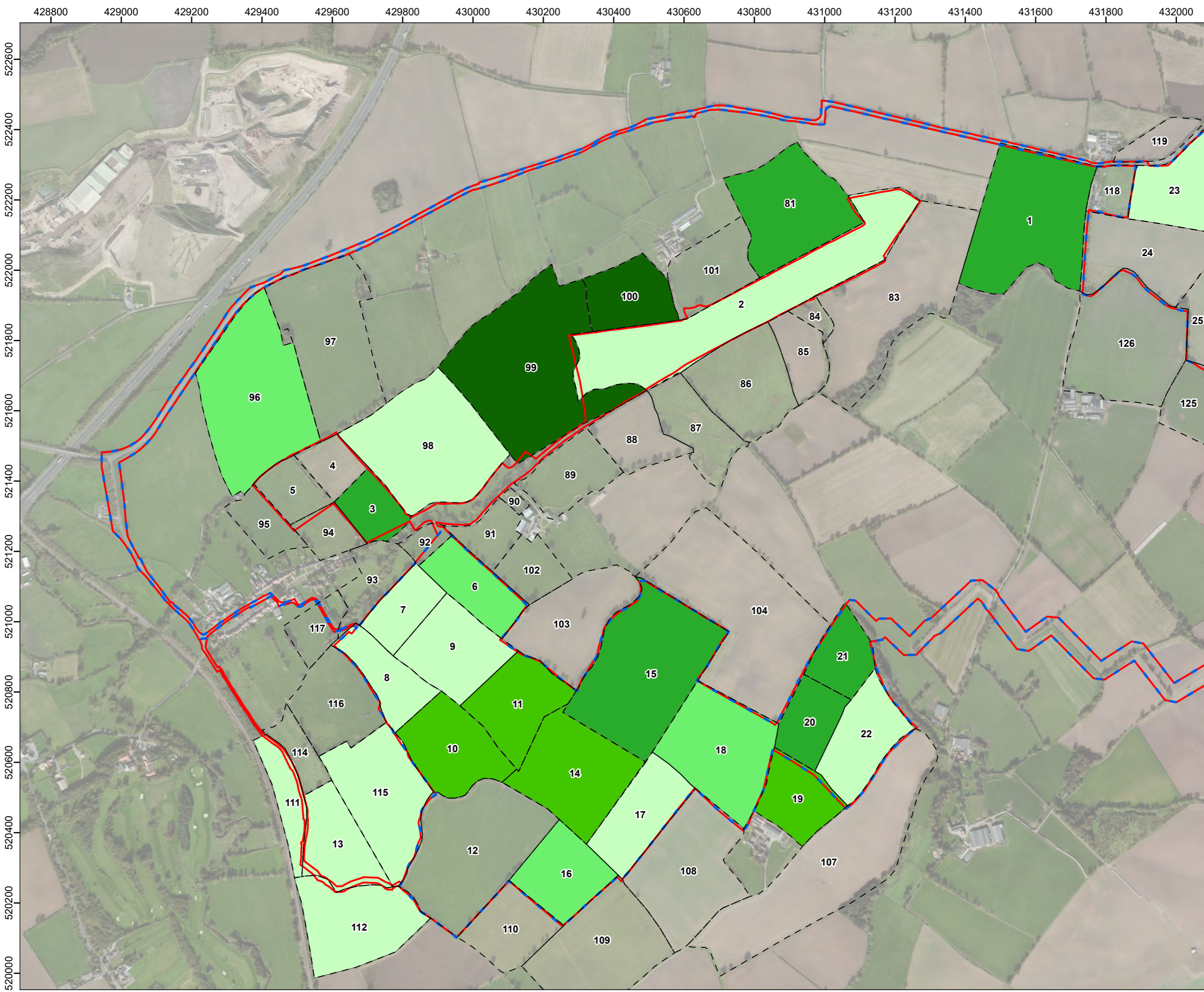


TITLE: Figure 6.2.3:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Grey Partridge
 Page 5 of 5

0 125 250 375
 Metres
 SCALE: 1:10,000 @ A3

REV 00

Figure 6.2.4 Herring gull count



Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Herring Gull Count

- 1 < 5
- 5 < 10
- 10 < 20
- 20 < 50
- 200 < 500



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
00	03/11/2023	2483386	RG	SP	LP

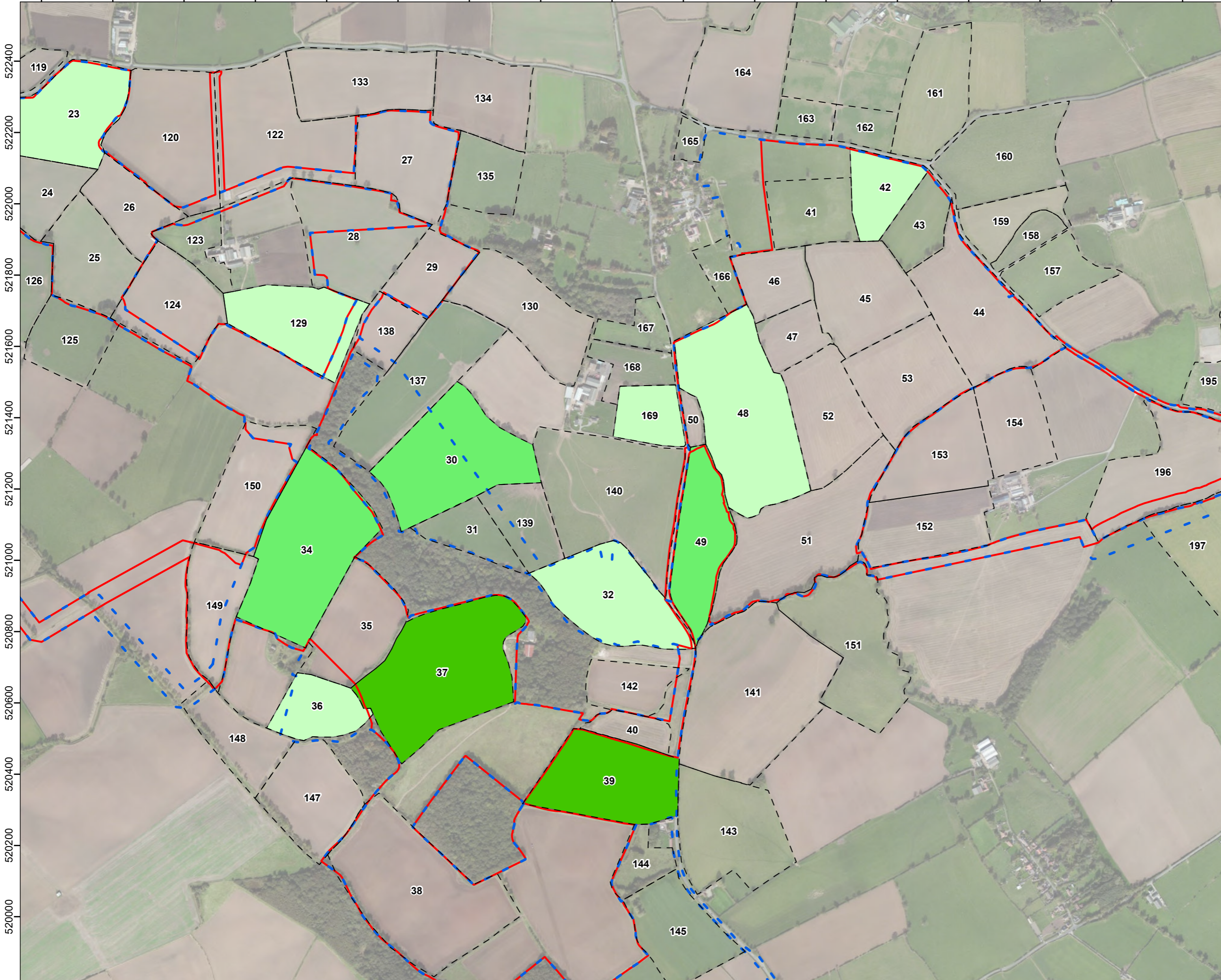
Byers Gill Solar Farm

TITLE: Figure 6.2.4:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Herring Gull
 Page 1 of 5

0 125 250 375
 Metres
 SCALE: 1:10,000 @ A3

REV 00

432000 432200 432400 432600 432800 433000 433200 433400 433600 433800 434000 434200 434400 434600 434800 435000 435200



Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Herring Gull Count

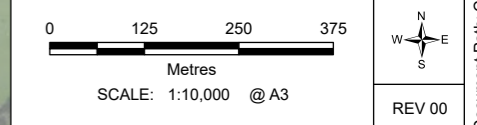
- 1 < 5
- 5 < 10
- 10 < 20
- 20 < 50
- 200 < 500



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
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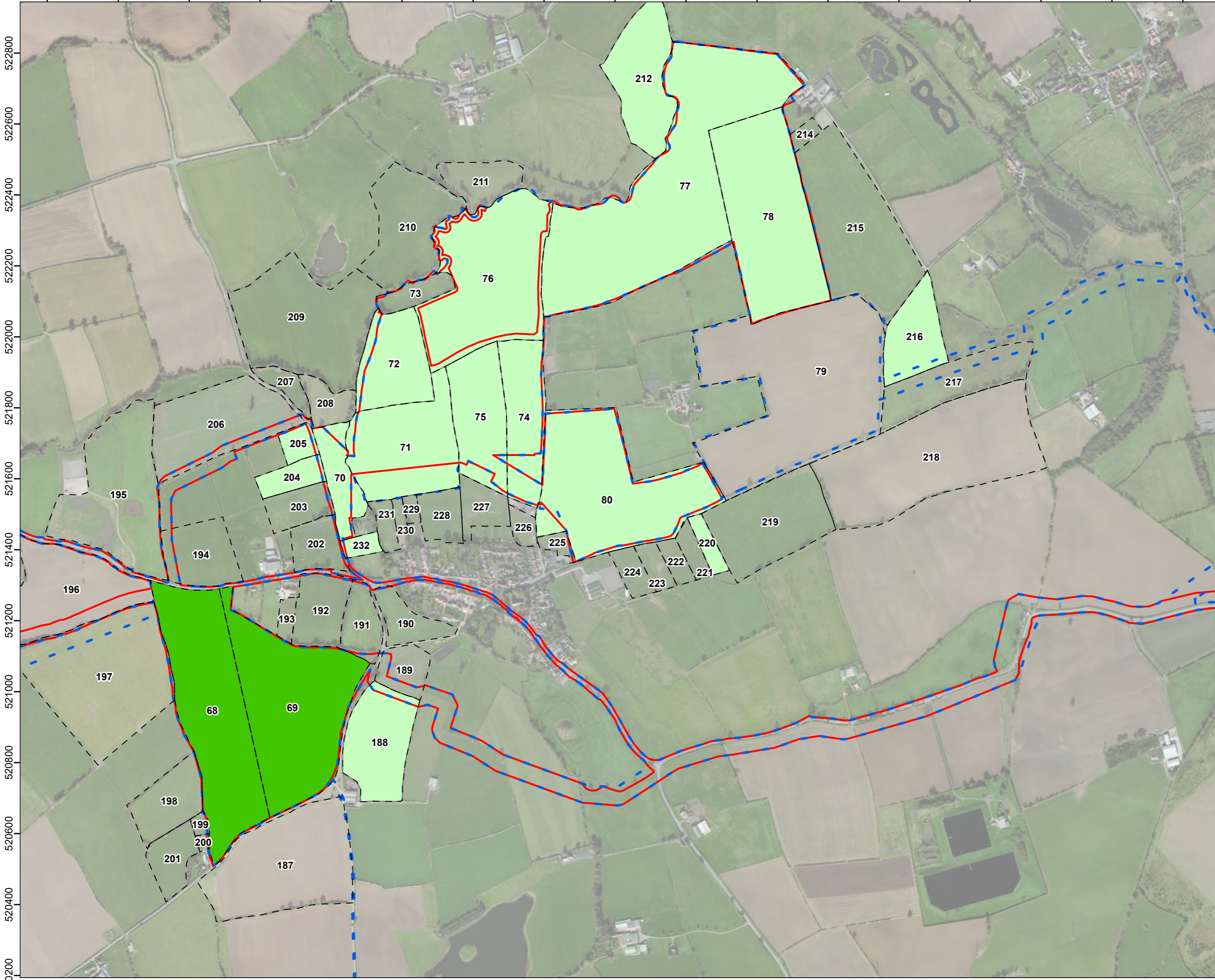
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TITLE: Figure 6.2.4:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Herring Gull
 Page 2 of 5



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 World Imagery (Clarity): This work is licensed under the Esri Master License Agreement. View Summary | View Terms of Use. Export: This layer is not intended to be used to export tiles for offline. Data Collection and Editing: This layer may be used in various ArcGIS apps to support data collection and editing, with the results used internally or shared with others, as described for these use cases.
 OS Open Rasters: Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2022

435200 435400 435600 435800 436000 436200 436400 436600 436800 437000 437200 437400 437600 437800 438000 438200 438400



Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Herring Gull Count

- 1 < 5
- 5 < 10
- 10 < 20
- 20 < 50
- 200 < 500



00	03/11/2023	2483386	RG	SP	LP
Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App

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TITLE: Figure 6.2.4:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Herring Gull
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0 125 250 375
 Metres
 SCALE: 1:10,000 @ A3

REV 00

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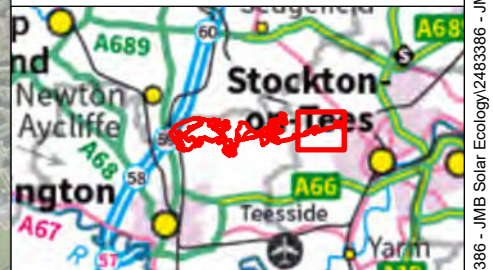


Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Herring Gull Count

- 1 < 5
- 5 < 10
- 10 < 20
- 20 < 50
- 200 < 500



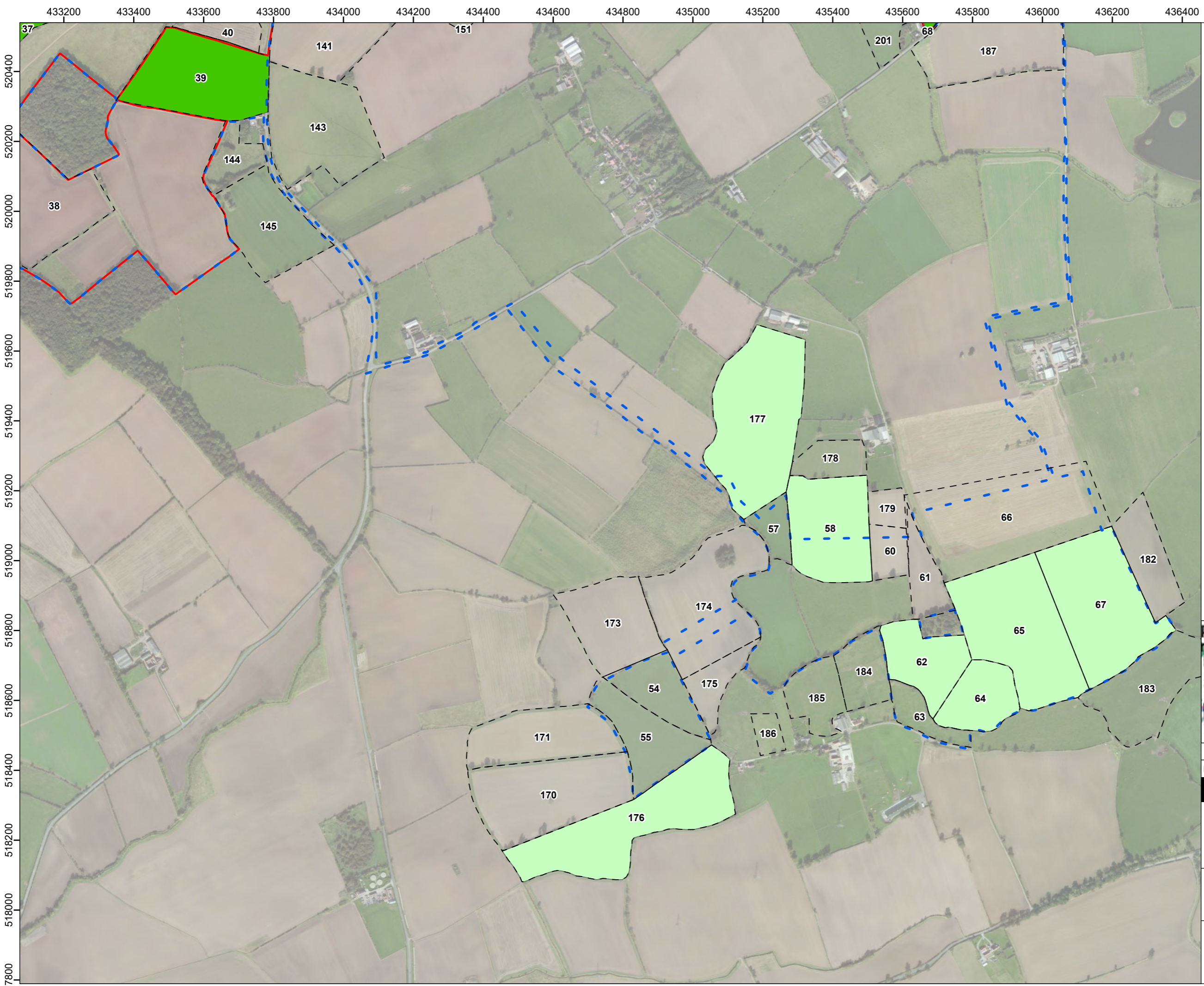
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TITLE: Figure 6.2.4:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Herring Gull
 Page 4 of 5

Metres
SCALE: 1:10,000 @ A3

REV 00



Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Herring Gull Count

- 1 < 5
- 5 < 10
- 10 < 20
- 20 < 50
- 200 < 500



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
00	03/11/2023	2483386	RG	SP	LP

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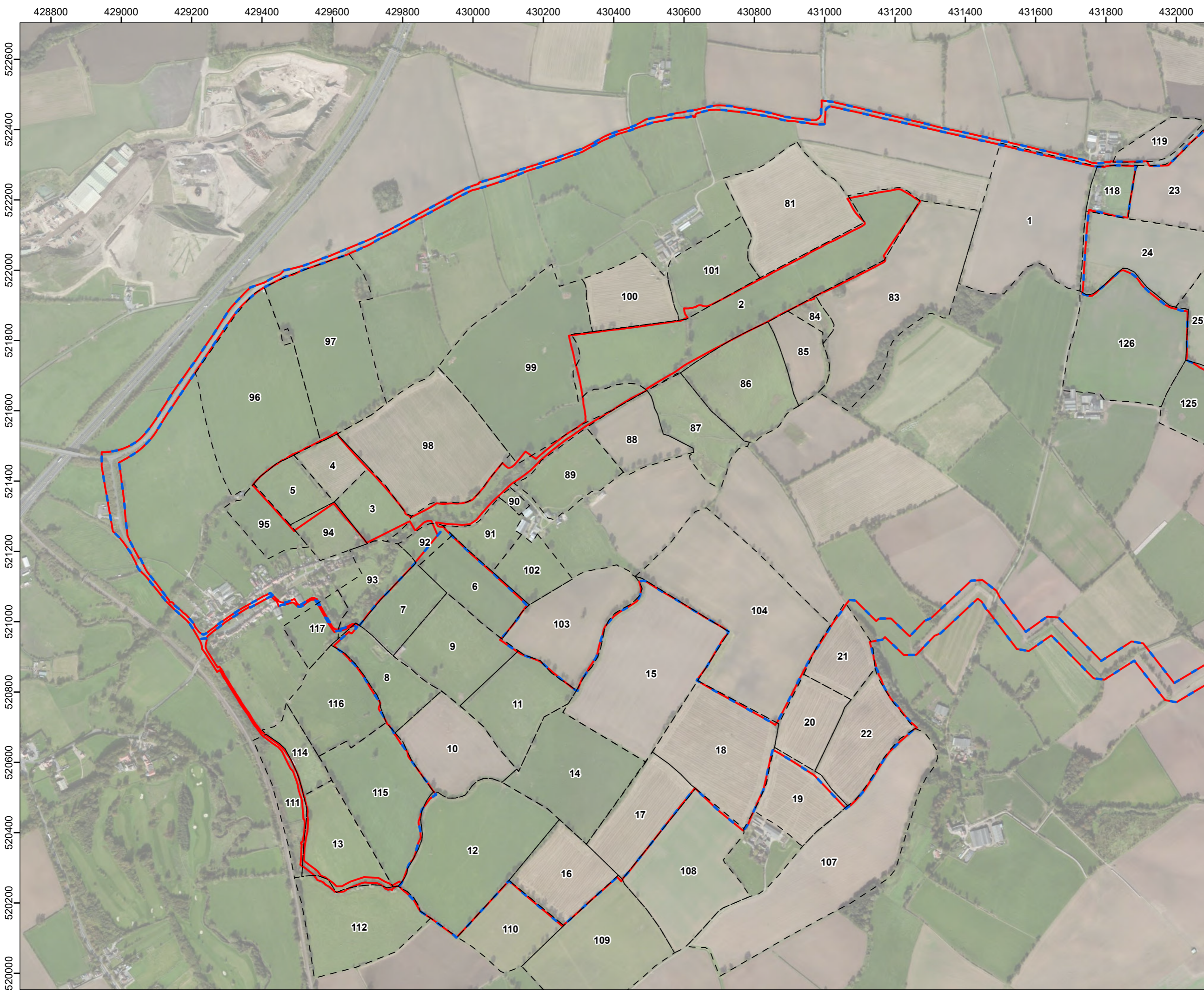


TITLE: Figure 6.2.4:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Herring Gull
 Page 5 of 5

0 125 250 375
 Metres
 SCALE: 1:10,000 @ A3

REV 00

Figure 6.2.5 Pink-footed goose count



Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Pink-footed Goose Count

- 1 < 5
- 5 < 10
- 20 < 50
- 50 < 100
- 200 < 500
- > 500



00	03/11/2023	2483386	RG	SP	LP
Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App

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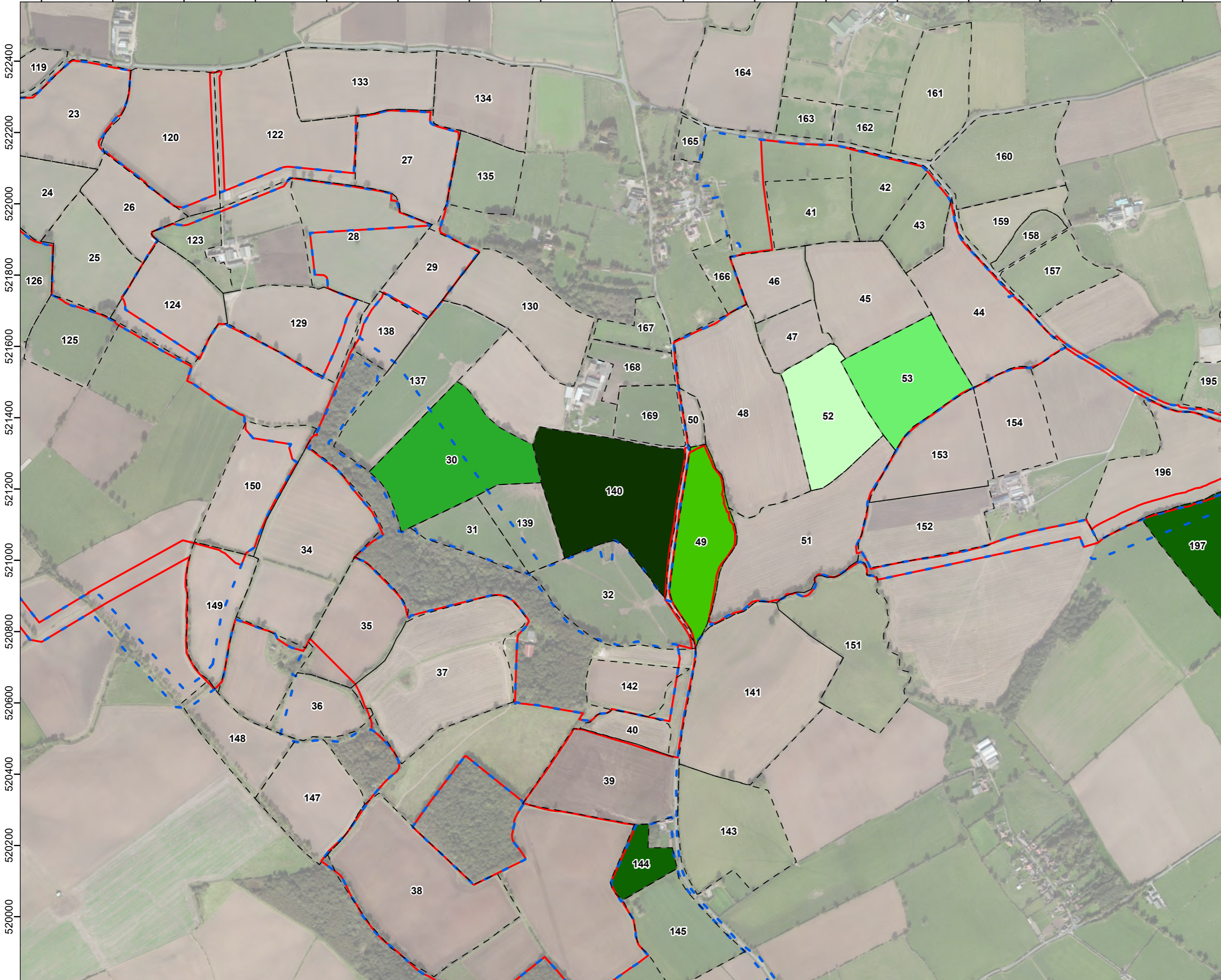


TITLE: Figure 6.2.5:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Pink Footed Goose
 Page 1 of 5

0 125 250 375
 Metres
 SCALE: 1:10,000 @ A3

REV 00

432000 432200 432400 432600 432800 433000 433200 433400 433600 433800 434000 434200 434400 434600 434800 435000 435200



Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Pink-footed Goose Count

- 1 < 5
- 5 < 10
- 20 < 50
- 50 < 100
- 200 < 500
- > 500



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
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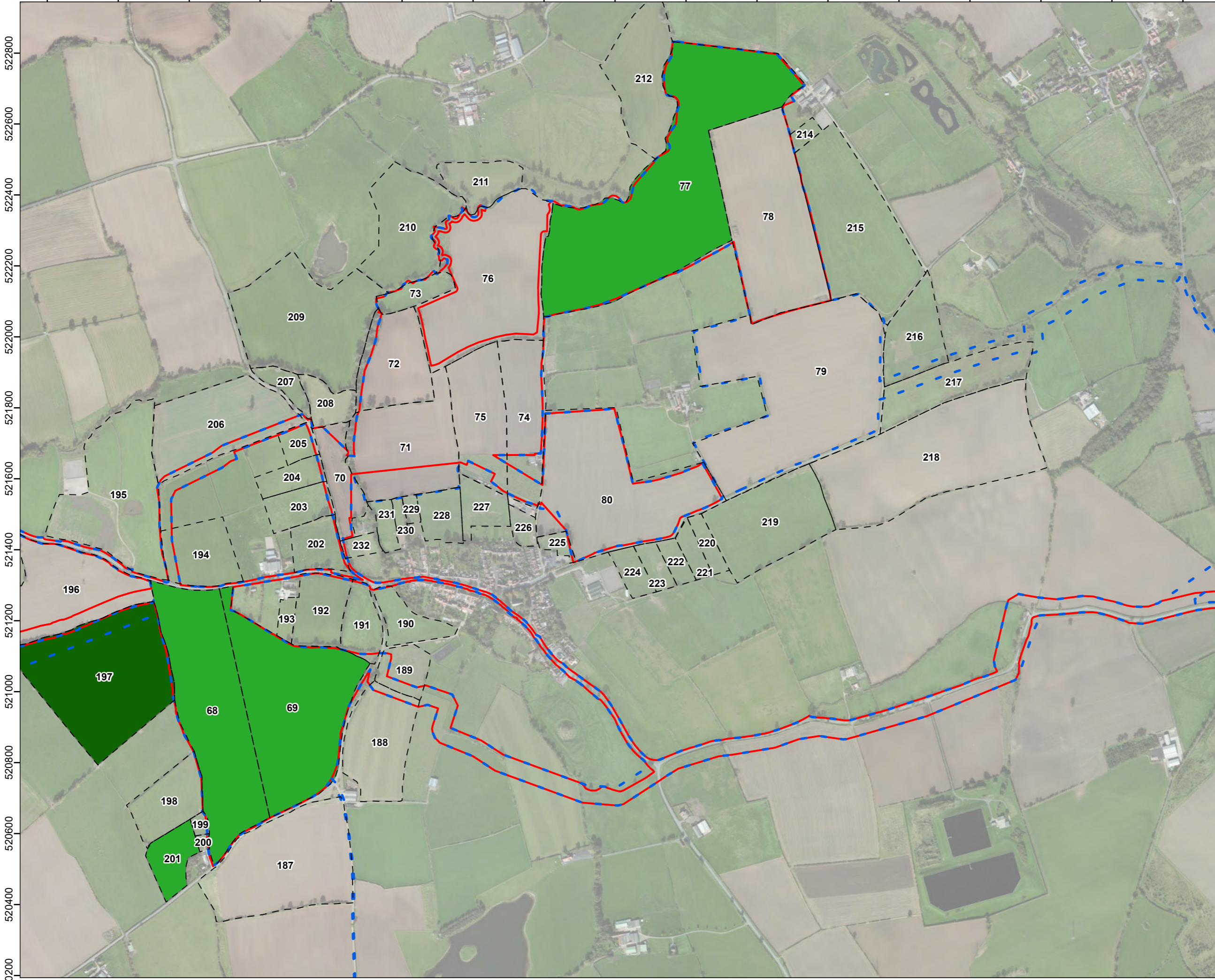
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TITLE: Figure 6.2.5:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Pink Footed Goose
 Page 2 of 5

0 125 250 375
 Metres
 SCALE: 1:10,000 @ A3

REV 00

435200 435400 435600 435800 436000 436200 436400 436600 436800 437000 437200 437400 437600 437800 438000 438200 438400



Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Pink-footed Goose Count

- 1 < 5
- 5 < 10
- 20 < 50
- 50 < 100
- 200 < 500
- > 500



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
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TITLE: Figure 6.2.5:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Pink Footed Goose
 Page 3 of 5

0 125 250 375
 Metres
 SCALE: 1:10,000 @ A3

REV 00

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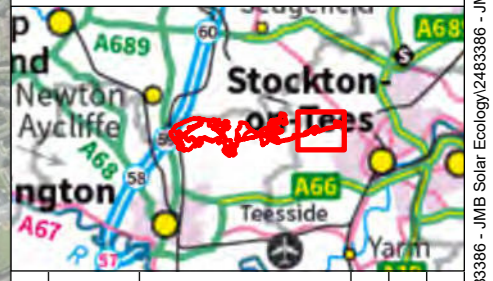


Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Pink-footed Goose Count

- 1 < 5
- 5 < 10
- 20 < 50
- 50 < 100
- 200 < 500
- > 500



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
00	03/11/2023	2483386	RG	SP	LP

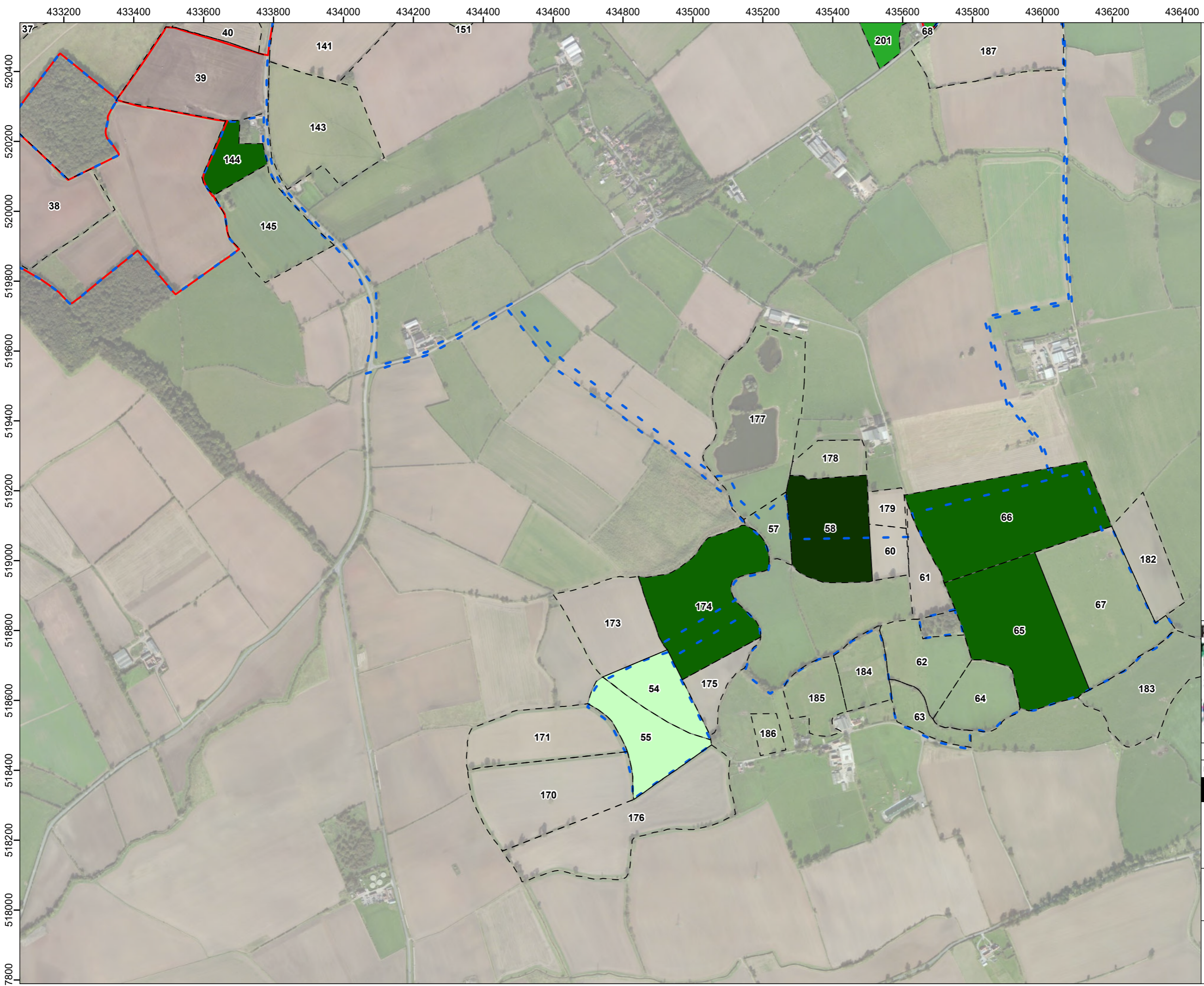
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TITLE: Figure 6.2.5:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Pink Footed Goose
 Page 4 of 5

0 125 250 375
 Metres
 SCALE: 1:10,000 @ A3

REV 00



Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels

Pink-footed Goose Count

- 1 < 5
- 5 < 10
- 20 < 50
- 50 < 100
- 200 < 500
- > 500



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
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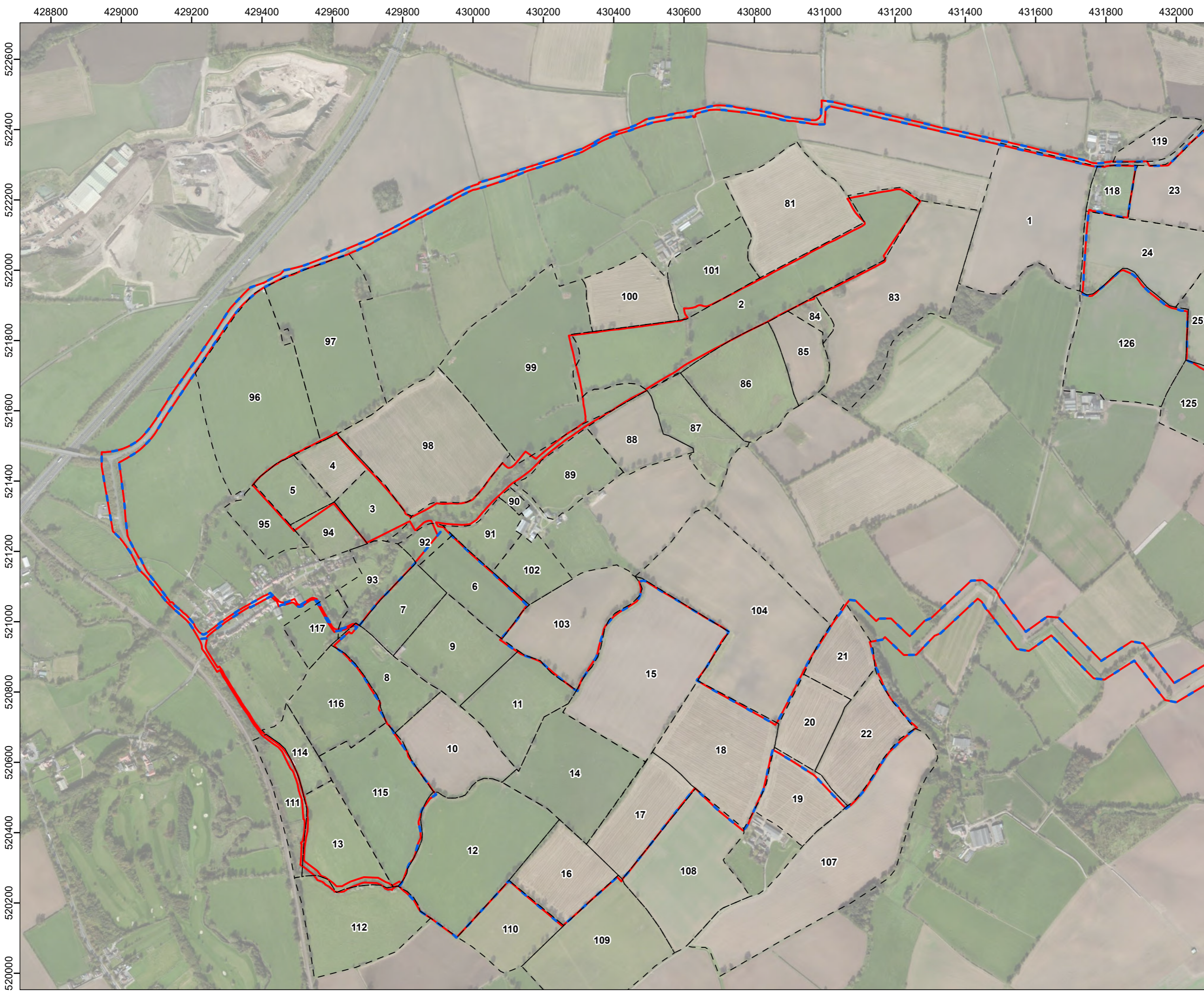
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TITLE: Figure 6.2.5:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Pink Footed Goose
 Page 5 of 5

0 125 250 375
 Metres
 SCALE: 1:10,000 @ A3

REV 00

Figure 6.2.6 Wigeon count



Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels
- Wigeon Count**
- > 100



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
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TITLE: Figure 6.2.6:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Wigeon
 Page 1 of 5

0 125 250 375
 Metres
 SCALE: 1:10,000 @ A3

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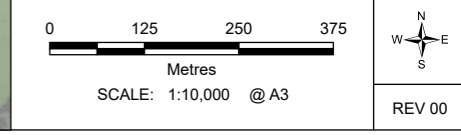
- Legend:**
- Order Limits
 - Study Area
 - Field Parcels
 - Wigeon Count
 - > 100



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
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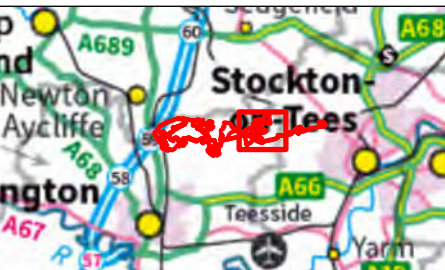
Byers Gill Solar Farm

TITLE: Figure 6.2.6:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Wigeon
 Page 2 of 5





- Legend:**
- Order Limits
 - Study Area
 - Field Parcels
 - Wigeon Count**
 - > 100



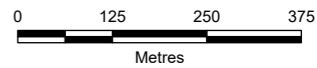
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TITLE: Figure 6.2.6:
Wintering Bird Survey Results
Wigeon
Page 3 of 5



Metres
SCALE: 1:10,000 @ A3



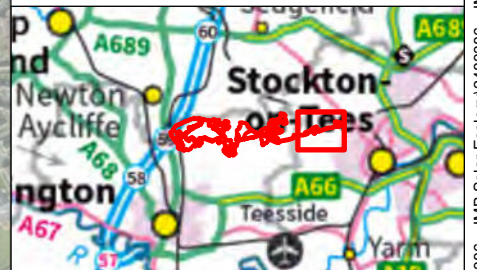
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Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels
- Wigeon Count**
- > 100



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
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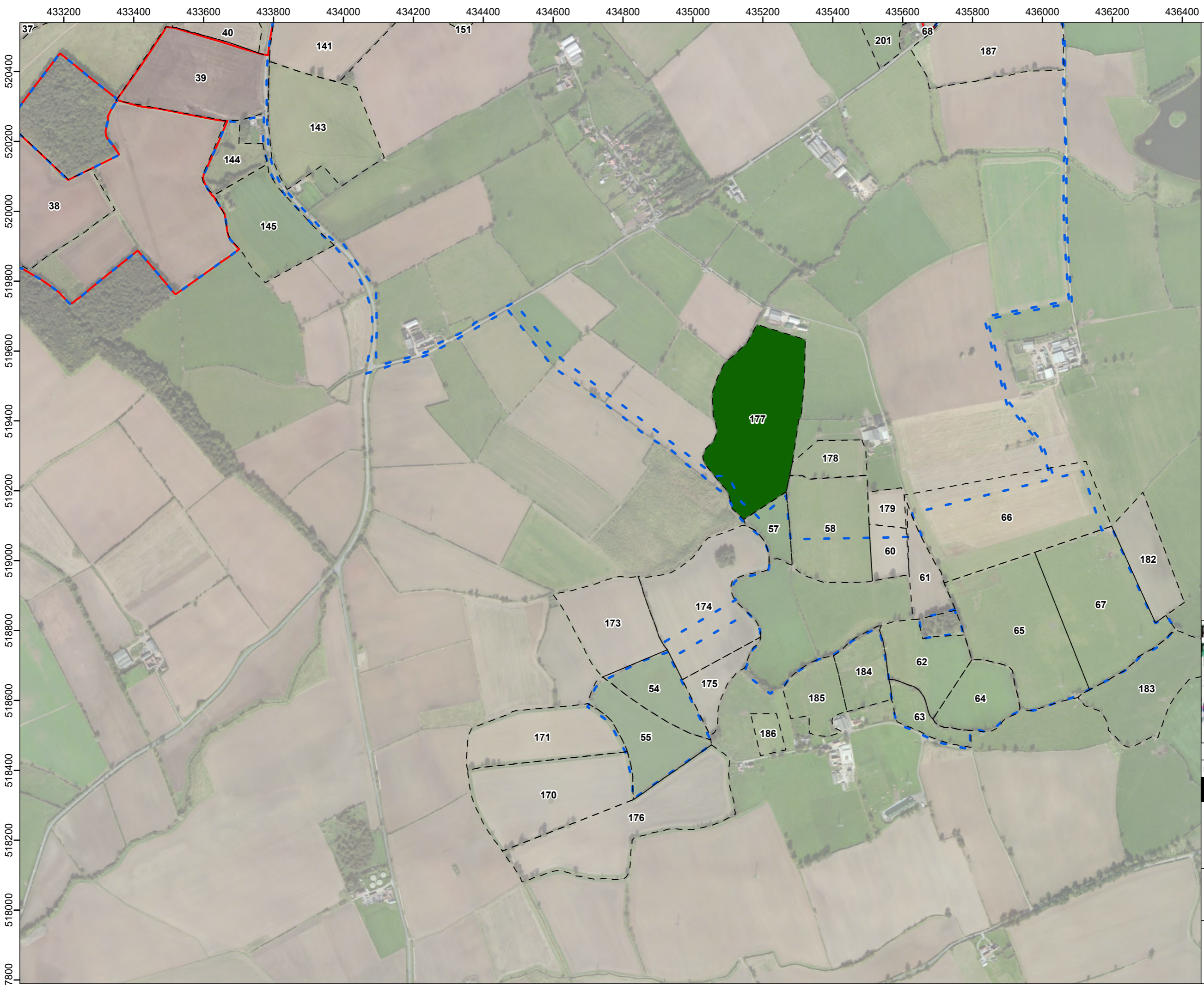
Byers Gill Solar Farm



TITLE: Figure 6.2.6:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Wigeon
 Page 4 of 5

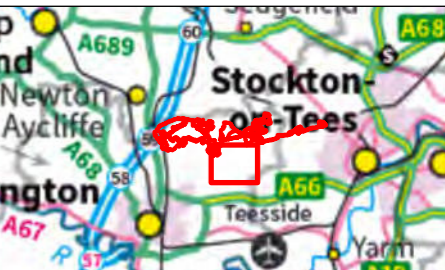
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 Metres
 SCALE: 1:10,000 @ A3

REV 00



Legend:

- Order Limits
- Study Area
- Field Parcels
- Wigeon Count**
- > 100



Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
00	03/11/2023	2483386	RG	SP	LP

Byers Gill Solar Farm



TITLE: Figure 6.2.6:
 Wintering Bird Survey Results
 Wigeon
 Page 5 of 5

0 125 250 375
 Metres
 SCALE: 1:10,000 @ A3

REV 00

APPENDIX B – SURVEY DETAILS

Survey dates and weather conditions for Transect 1

Survey visit	Date	Timing	Wind (speed in mph, direction)	Weather conditions
1	19/12/2021	08:45-14:35	1, NW	Overcast (8 oktas), moderate visibility due to fog, dry
2	08/01/2022	09:45-14:45	8-15, S/SW	Overcast (8 oktas), excellent visibility, rain from 11:00-11:20 / 12:00-12:35
3	06/02/2022	07:40-11:45	15-25, W/NW	Initially overcast before partially clearing (4-8 oktas), excellent visibility, dry
4	01/03/2022	08:40-13:10	2-3, N/E	Clear (0 oktas), excellent visibility, dry (initial light frost)

Survey dates and weather conditions for Transect 2

Survey visit	Date	Timing	Wind (speed in mph, direction)	Weather conditions
1	20/12/2021	08:45-15:00	3-4, E	Partial cloud (6 oktas), excellent visibility, dry
2	15/01/2022	08:20-14:00	3-4, E	Overcast (8 oktas), initially poor visibility before becoming good for majority of survey, dry
3	15/02/2022	09:15-14:25	12-15, W/SW	Partial cloud (4 oktas), excellent visibility, dry
4	02/03/2022	08:40-13:55	4-5, E/NE	Overcast (8 oktas), excellent visibility, occasional showers

Survey dates and weather conditions for Transect 3

Survey visit	Date	Timing	Wind (speed in mph, direction)	Weather conditions
1	23/12/2021	09:00-11:00	7, S/SW	Overcast (8 oktas), good visibility, dry
2	23/01/2022	12:50-15:20	7-10, S/SW	Partial cloud (5 oktas), excellent visibility, dry
3	19/02/2022	08:40-10:40	3-4, S/SW	Partial cloud (3 oktas), excellent visibility, dry
4	07/03/2022	10:20-12:20	2-3, S/SE	Overcast (8 oktas), excellent visibility, dry (initial light frost)

Survey dates and weather conditions for Transect 4

Survey visit	Date	Timing	Wind (speed in mph, direction)	Weather conditions
1	22/12/2021	12:05-14:35	9, S	Overcast (8 oktas), good visibility, dry
2	23/01/2022	09:30-12:15	1-2, SW	Largely overcast (7 oktas), excellent visibility, dry
3	19/02/2022	10:55-13:25	3-4, S/SW	Overcast (8 oktas), excellent visibility, rain from 12:40
4	07/03/2022	07:20-10:05	2-3, S/SW	Clear (0 oktas), excellent visibility, dry

APPENDIX C – DESK STUDY DATA

Records of specially protected and notable bird species potentially relevant to the project in a non-breeding context from within 2 km of the site, obtained from Environmental Records Information Centre Northeast, are detailed below.

Common name	Species		Most recent record (year, distance from site)	Nearest record (year, distance from site)
	Scientific name	Conservation status		
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Schedule 1, Annex 1, Amber, BAP	2012, 1.5 km	2012, 1.5 km
Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Schedule 1, Green, BAP	2012, 0 m	2012, 0 m
Barnacle goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Annex 1, Amber	2017, 60 m	2017, 60 m
Bewick's swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Schedule 1, Annex 1, S41, Red	2013, 0.9 km	2013, 0.9 km
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Amber	2012, 1.5 km	2012, 1.5 km
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Schedule 1, Green	2017, 0.2 km	2017, 0.2 km
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	S41, Amber	2013, 0.2 km	2013, 0.2 km
Corn bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	S41, Red, BAP	2012, 0.6 km	2012, 0.6 km
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	S41, Red, BAP	2013, 1.5 km	2012, 50 m
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	Amber	2020, 0.9 km	2020, 0.9 km
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	S41, Amber	2013, 1.5 km	2012, 50 m
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Schedule 1, Red	2013, 0.2 km	2013, 0.2 km
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	Amber	2012, 1.5 km	2012, 1.5 km
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Red	2012, 1.5 km	2012, 1.5 km
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red	2012, 1.5 km	2012, 1.5 km
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	S41, Red, BAP	2021, 0.7 km	2012, 0.6 km
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Amber, BAP	2020, 0.7 km	2020, 0.7 km
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Amber	2012, 1.5 km	2012, 1.5 km
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	S41, Red, BAP	2014, 0.4 km	2014, 0.4 km
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Amber, BAP	2013, 1.5 km	2012, 0.6 km

Common name	Species		Most recent record (year, distance from site)	Nearest record (year, distance from site)
	Scientific name	Conservation status		
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Schedule 1, Annex 1, Green	2017, 1.1 km	2017, 1.1 km
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	S41, Red, BAP	2013, 1.5 km	2012, 1.5 km
Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Amber	2013, 1.5 km	2012, 1.5 km
Lesser redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	Red, BAP	2013, 0.2 km	2013, 0.2 km
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	S41, Red, BAP	2020, 0.6 km	2012, 0.6 km
Little ringed plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Schedule 1, Green, BAP	2012, 1.5 km	2012, 1.5 km
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber	2013, 1.1 km	2013, 1.1 km
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Amber	2020, 0.9 km	2020, 0.9 km
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red, BAP	2012, 0.6 km	2012, 0.6 km
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Amber	2012, 1.5 km	2012, 1.5 km
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Amber	2012, 1.5 km	2012, 1.5 km
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Schedule 1, Annex 1, Green, BAP	2013, 0.3 km	2013, 0.3 km
Pink-footed goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Amber	2017, 60 m	2013, 0 m
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Red, BAP	2017, 60 m	2017, 60 m
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Amber, BAP	2012, 1.5 km	2012, 1.5 km
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Schedule 1, Amber	2013, 1.2 km	2013, 1.2 km
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	S41, Amber BAP	2021, 0.8 km	2012, 0.6 km
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Amber	2013, 1.1 km	2013, 1.1 km
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Schedule 1, Annex 1, Red	2012, 1.6 km	2012, 1.6 km
Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Schedule 1, S41, Red	2017, 0.6 km	2017, 0.6 km
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Amber, BAP	2012, 1.5 km	2012, 1.5 km
Short-eared owl	<i>Asia flammeus</i>	Annex 1, Amber	2012, 0.1 km	2012, 0.1 km
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Amber	2012, 1.5 km	2012, 1.5 km
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	S41, Red, BAP	2013, 1.1 km	2013, 1.1 km
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	S41, Amber, BAP	2013, 1.5 km	2012, 50 m
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Amber	2013, 0.6 km	2013, 0.6 km

Common name	Species		Most recent record (year, distance from site)	Nearest record (year, distance from site)
	Scientific name	Conservation status		
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	S41, Red, BAP	2013, 0.9 km	2013, 0.9 km
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Amber	2013, 0.6 km	2013, 0.6 km
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Amber	2012, 0.2 km	2012, 0.2 km
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	S41, Red, BAP	2017, 0.8 km	2013, 0.6 km
Tundra bean goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Amber	2017, 0.6 km	2013, 0 m
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Amber	2017, 0.7 km	2017, 0.7 km
White-fronted goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Annex 1, S41, Red	2017, 60 m	2012, 0 m
Whooper swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Schedule 1, Annex 1, Amber	2013, 0.9 km	2013, 0.9 km
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	Amber	2012, 1.5 km	2012, 1.5 km
Willow tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	S41, Red, BAP	2017, 0.8 km	2017, 0.8 km
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber	2013, 1.1 km	2012, 50 m
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber	2014, 0.4 km	2014, 0.4 km
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	S41, Red, BAP	2013, 1.5 km	2012, 50 m

Schedule 1: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 species

Annex 1: EC Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) Annex 1 species

S41: NERC Act 2006 S41 Species of Principal Importance

Red: BoCC Red list species

Amber: BoCC Amber list species

Green: BoCC Green list species

BAP: Durham BAP Priority species

APPENDIX D – SURVEY DATA

Transect 1

Full wintering bird survey data for the transect surveys of the site undertaken of Transect 1 between December 2021 and March 2022 inclusive are provided below.

Species		Number of individuals recorded					
Common name	Scientific name	BTO species code	Conservation status	Visit 1 (19/12/21)	Visit 2 (08/01/22)	Visit 3 (06/02/22)	Visit 4 (01/03/22)
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	BH	Amber	32	37	21	0
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	BF	S41, Amber	0	1	2	1
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	BZ	Green	0	2	3	5
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	CM	Amber	0	25	5	0
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	CU	S41, Red, BAP	0	0	0	1
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	FF	Red	56	35	60	112
Golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	GP	Annex 1, Green	5	0	0	0
Great black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	GB	Amber	0	7	18	0
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	H.	Green	0	0	0	1
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	P.	S41, Red, BAP	13	2	0	7
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	HG	S41, Red	129	924	61	46

Species				Number of individuals recorded			
Common name	Scientific name	BTO species code	Conservation status	Visit 1 (19/12/21)	Visit 2 (08/01/22)	Visit 3 (06/02/22)	Visit 4 (01/03/22)
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	K.	Amber, BAP	0	0	2	0
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	LI	S41, Red, BAP	0	0	1	0
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	M.	Red, BAP	5	1	0	0
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	RE	Amber	156	155	33	47
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	S,	S41, Red, BAP	10	0	3	4
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	SN	Amber, BAP	0	0	0	1
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	ST	S41, Amber, BAP	1	9	3	4
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	SH	Amber	0	0	2	0
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	SG	S41, Red, BAP	12	0	20	0
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	SD	Amber	0	0	1	19
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	TS	S41, Red, BAP	0	0	2	5
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	WK	Red, BAP	5	3	1	2
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Y.	S41, Red, BAP	8	1	1	0

Annex 1: EC Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) Annex 1 species

S41: NERC Act 2006 S41 Species of Principal Importance

Red: BoCC Red list species

Amber: BoCC Amber list species

Green: BoCC Green list species

BAP: Durham BAP Priority species

- None of the above conservation status categories apply

Transect 2

Full wintering bird survey data for the transect surveys of the site undertaken of Transect 2 between December 2021 and March 2022 inclusive are provided below.

Species				Number of individuals recorded			
Common name	Scientific name	BTO species code	Conservation status	Visit 1 (20/12/21)	Visit 2 (15/01/22)	Visit 3 (15/02/22)	Visit 4 (02/03/22)
Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	BO	Green, BAP	0	0	0	0*
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	BH	Amber	32	9	10	20
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	BF	S41, Amber	0	6	5	0
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	BZ	Green	5	2	3	3
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	CM	Amber	75	53	62	230
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	CU	S41, Red, BAP	1	0	0	0
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	FF	Red	193	212	41	10
Golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	GP	Annex 1, Green	0	0	0	17
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	P.	S41, Red, BAP	0	22	9	13
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	GL	Amber, BAP	1	0	0	0
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	GJ	Amber	61	0	0	0
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	HG	S41, Red	42	10	20	31
Jack snipe	<i>Lymnocryptes minimus</i>	JS	Green	1	0	0	0
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	K.	Amber, BAP	1	0	0	0

Species				Number of individuals recorded			
Common name	Scientific name	BTO species code	Conservation status	Visit 1 (20/12/21)	Visit 2 (15/01/22)	Visit 3 (15/02/22)	Visit 4 (02/03/22)
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	L.	S41, Red, BAP	0	0	0	14
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	LI	S41, Red, BAP	21	70	161	110
Little owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	LO	-	1	0	0	0
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	MA	Amber	0	0	2	0
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	MP	Amber	0	1	0	3
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	M.	Red, BAP	0	0	0	1
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	MH	Amber	0	2	0	1
Pink-footed goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	PG	Amber	1482	1	0	0
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	RE	Amber	190	57	46	40
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniculus</i>	RB	S41, Amber, BAP	2	1	0	0
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	S,	S41, Red, BAP	21	1	15	6
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	SN	Amber, BAP	3	16	11	6
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	ST	S41, Amber, BAP	0	3	4	4
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	SH	Amber	0	0	1	0
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	SG	S41, Red, BAP	500	850	1539	56
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	SD	Amber	14	22	251	32
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	T.	Amber	2	0	0	3

Species				Number of individuals recorded			
Common name	Scientific name	BTO species code	Conservation status	Visit 1 (20/12/21)	Visit 2 (15/01/22)	Visit 3 (15/02/22)	Visit 4 (02/03/22)
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	TS	S41, Red, BAP	20	10	2	0
Willow tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	WT	S41, Red, BAP	1	1	0	0
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	WK	Red, BAP	0	2	0	3
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Y.	S41, Red, BAP	91	13	77	14

* One barn owl pellet was recorded during survey visit 4.

Annex 1: EC Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) Annex 1 species

S41: NERC Act 2006 S41 Species of Principal Importance

Red: BoCC Red list species

Amber: BoCC Amber list species

Green: BoCC Green list species

BAP: Durham BAP Priority species

- None of the above conservation status categories apply

Transect 3

Full wintering bird survey data for the transect surveys of the site undertaken of Transect 3 between December 2021 and March 2022 inclusive are provided below.

Species				Number of individuals recorded			
Common name	Scientific name	BTO species code	Conservation status	Visit 1 (23/12/21)	Visit 2 (23/01/22)	Visit 3 (19/02/22)	Visit 4 (07/03/22)
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	BH	Amber	39	8	0	2
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	BZ	Green	1	1	1	3
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	CG	-	9	140	60	12
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	CM	Amber	4	9	0	0
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	CO	Green	7	20	10	5
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	CU	S41, Red, BAP	32	1	0	2
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	FF	Red	67	100	0	18
Golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	GP	Annex 1, Green	0	6	0	0
Great black-backed gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	GB	Amber	0	1	0	0
Great crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	GG	Green	55	0	0	0
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	H,	Green	2	0	0	0
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	P.	S41, Red, BAP	3	0	2	5
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	GJ	Amber	7	70	12	0
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	HG	S41, Red	2	11	6	2

Species				Number of individuals recorded			
Common name	Scientific name	BTO species code	Conservation status	Visit 1 (23/12/21)	Visit 2 (23/01/22)	Visit 3 (19/02/22)	Visit 4 (07/03/22)
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	K.	Amber, BAP	1	0	2	1
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	L.	S41, Red, BAP	0	0	11	23
Little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	LG	Green	2	0	1	1
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	MA	Amber	35	50	34	5
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	M.	Red, BAP	0	1	0	1
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	MH	Amber	2	0	0	1
Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	MS	Green	2	0	2	2
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	OC	Amber	0	0	0	1
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	PE	Annex 1, Green, BAP	0	0	0	1
Pink-footed goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	PG	Amber	2	2352	550	350
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	PO	Red, BAP	2	0	10	0
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	RE	Amber	0	22	0	15
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	SU	Amber, BAP	4	0	0	0
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	S,	S41, Red, BAP	0	0	2	11
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	ST	S41, Amber, BAP	0	1	0	0
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	SG	S41, Red, BAP	150	76	0	250

Species				Number of individuals recorded			
Common name	Scientific name	BTO species code	Conservation status	Visit 1 (23/12/21)	Visit 2 (23/01/22)	Visit 3 (19/02/22)	Visit 4 (07/03/22)
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	SD	Amber	5	4	2	7
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	T.	Amber	51	7	66	0
Tufted duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	TU	Green	6	0	0	5
Tundra bean goose	<i>Anser serrirostris</i>	XR	Amber	0	2	0	0
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	WN	Amber	10	170	100	2000
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Y.	S41, Red, BAP	9	0	1	6

Annex 1: EC Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) Annex 1 species
S41: NERC Act 2006 S41 Species of Principal Importance
Red: BoCC Red list species
Amber: BoCC Amber list species

Green: BoCC Green list species
BAP: Durham BAP Priority species
 - None of the above conservation status categories apply

Transect 4

Full wintering bird survey data for the transect surveys of the site undertaken of Transect 4 between December 2021 and March 2022 inclusive are provided below.

Species		Number of individuals recorded					
Common name	Scientific name	BTO species code	Conservation status	Visit 1 (22/12/21)	Visit 2 (23/01/22)	Visit 3 (19/02/22)	Visit 4 (07/03/22)
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	BH	Amber	16	2	3	11
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	BF	S41, Amber	0	1	0	0
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	BZ	Green	1	1	2	2
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	CM	Amber	39	6	12	78
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	CU	S41, Red, BAP	0	1	1	3
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	FF	Red	31	283	301	86
Golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	GP	Annex 1, Green	0	0	0	1
Great black-backed gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	GB	Amber	0	1	0	0
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	P.	S41, Red, BAP	80	5	4	4
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	GL	Amber, BAP	1	0	0	0
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	GJ	Amber	28	23	0	0
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	HG	S41, Red	4	29	8	4
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	K.	Amber, BAP	0	1	0	0
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	L.	S41, Red, BAP	23	0	0	24

Species				Number of individuals recorded			
Common name	Scientific name	BTO species code	Conservation status	Visit 1 (22/12/21)	Visit 2 (23/01/22)	Visit 3 (19/02/22)	Visit 4 (07/03/22)
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	LI	S41, Red, BAP	1	0	0	0
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	MA	Amber	0	0	0	1
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	M.	Red, BAP	0	1	0	2
Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	MS	Green	0	0	0	3
Pink-footed goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	PG	Amber	90	280	0	220
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	RE	Amber	20	30	66	50
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	SK	Green	0	2	0	0
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	S,	S41, Red, BAP	1	2	2	13
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	ST	S41, Amber, BAP	0	1	3	4
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	SG	S41, Red, BAP	150	16	601	63
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	SD	Amber	0	0	0	2
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	TS	S41, Red, BAP	0	0	0	10
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	WK	Red, BAP	2	4	1	1
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Y.	S41, Red, BAP	1	0	0	5

Annex 1: EC Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) Annex 1 species

S41: NERC Act 2006 S41 Species of Principal Importance

Red: BoCC Red list species

Green: BoCC Green list species

BAP: Durham BAP Priority species

Species				Number of individuals recorded			
Common name	Scientific name	BTO species code	Conservation status	Visit 1 (22/12/21)	Visit 2 (23/01/22)	Visit 3 (19/02/22)	Visit 4 (07/03/22)
Amber: BoCC Amber list species			- None of the above conservation status categories apply				