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# Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project

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Birds Survey Report

Final Issue A

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## Version History

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Date	Version	Status	Description / Changes
01/11/2022	A	FINAL	First Issue

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1.1 This report has been produced for the purpose of presenting the methods and results of the wintering bird surveys between October 2021 and March 2022 inclusive as part of the Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project (referred to as the Project).

## 1.2 The Project

- 1.2.1 The Project comprises new electricity infrastructure, such as new overhead lines, substations, cables and equipment to connect overhead lines to buried cables, known as Cable Sealing End Compounds (CSECs), as well as works to existing overhead lines and substations.
- 1.2.2 The Project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and requires consent from the Secretary of State via a Development Consent Order (DCO).
- 1.2.3 The maximum extent of development for which permission will be sought is indicated by the Order Limits, which are illustrated on **Figure 1.2, Volume 5, Document 5.4.1**.
- 1.2.4 The results of this report has been used to inform the Environmental Statement (ES) for the Project. This report forms a technical appendix to **Chapter 8 Biodiversity, Volume 5, Document 5.2.8**.

## 1.3 Background and scope

- 1.3.1 The key issues relating to birds and the construction/maintenance of overhead power lines and associated infrastructure are as follows:
- Permanent or temporary land take/land use change resulting in habitat loss or degradation and/or loss of fauna (e.g. the building of substations);
  - The effects of collision with overhead powerlines (conductors and earth wires) and/or pylons (i.e. killing or injury of birds), which is of particular relevance for sites located in areas with high raptor activity or which support large concentrations of waterfowl; and
  - Increased noise, vibration, light and movement levels resulting in disturbance and/or displacement during the construction, operation and/or decommissioning phases. Such disturbance may occur as a consequence of construction work, or due to the presence of the overhead line close to nest sites or feeding areas or on habitual flight routes.
- 1.3.2 Surveys were identified as required to provide baseline data for wintering bird species to determine any potential impacts by the Project, as advised in technical guidelines<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> NatureScot (2016). Assessment and mitigation of impacts of power lines and guyed meteorological masts on birds. NatureScot; Inverness.

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## 2. Survey Methodology

### 2.1 Wintering birds survey area

2.1.1 Based on the data presented within **Chapter 8 Biodiversity (Volume 5, Document 5.2.8)**, and taking into consideration the key components of the Project which are considered to have potential to impact on wintering birds, the wintering birds survey consisted of two areas, which are the same as used in the 2021 winter walkover surveys (February-March 2021, refer to **Appendix 8E, Volume 5, Document 5.3.8E**)<sup>2</sup>:

- Ornithological Study Area (OSA) 1 – the overhead line and associated infrastructure corridor within the North west of York Area. There is potential for arable and grassland habitat within OSA 1, including the River Ouse floodplain, to be used by foraging/resting wintering waterfowl (for example species which are features of Lower Derwent Valley Special Protection Area [SPA]/Ramsar Site); and
- OSA 2 – the Monk Fryston Area. The substation and associated infrastructure options are sited on farmland dominated by arable crops; this habitat has the potential to support an assemblage of farmland passerines and wintering waders. Due to the relative proximity of Fairburn and Newton Ings Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to this OSA (c 1.1km to the west) there is potential for this arable land to be utilised by foraging/loafing waterfowl (e.g. geese, swans, lapwing and golden plover) associated with this SSSI.

### 2.2 Survey methods

2.2.1 The wintering bird surveys for Ornithology Study Areas (OSAs) 1 (North West of York Area) and 2 (Monk Fryston Substation Area) followed the same methodology as conducted the previous winter (February-March 2021 inclusive). The method required surveyors to walk a set transect along publicly accessible routes (e.g., roads and public footpaths) in each of the two OSAs.

2.2.2 An amended version of the Winter Farmland Bird Survey<sup>3</sup> was adopted. The Winter Farmland Bird Survey was organised by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and was carried out between 1999 and 2003 to assess the use of British farmland by 30 wintering species that included waders, game birds and passerines. The methodology was adapted for the Project to reflect the type of habitats present; its aim being to determine whether any notable species regularly feed or roost within the OSAs.

2.2.3 Each survey visit allowed a snapshot record of the number and distribution of wintering birds present on the ground or perched. Transects were walked at a constant pace to avoid double counting of birds. Transects were focused on areas most likely to support wintering birds (e.g., arable fields/grazing pasture, amenity grassland, conservation

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<sup>2</sup> Refer to Table 8.5 Summary of statutory consultation responses and technical engagement in **Chapter 8: Biodiversity (Volume 5, Document 5.2.8)**, within the Environmental Statement for agreement relating to ornithology survey approach.

<sup>3</sup> Atkinson, P.W., Fuller, R., Gillings, S. and Vickery, J.A., (2006). Counting birds on farmland habitats in winter. *Bird Study*, 53, pp.303-309.

areas), with routes detailed in **Figures 8.14 and 8.15 (Volume 5, Document 5.4.8)**. Transect routes were the same as used in the previous winter for the Project.

- 2.2.4 All target species (see below) were recorded on survey maps using standard BTO notation, including number of birds, area recorded, and activity.
- 2.2.5 In addition to recording target species present on the ground within the survey areas, flights of target species were mapped, in order to identify any consistent flight paths/activity areas at an early stage. Recording of flights was restricted to birds commuting across or hunting within an OSA; with short flights of birds moving between fields to feed (namely passerine species) not recorded.
- 2.2.6 All surveys, wherever possible, avoided heavy rain and strong winds, which could minimise detection of birds. Where inclement weather conditions were encountered, such as heavy rain and strong winds during Visit 5, survey hours were exchanged between the visit days such as to avoid the worst conditions. Full weather records are detailed in **Annex 8F.2**.

## 2.3 Target species

- 2.3.1 A targeted species approach was implemented, focussing on wildfowl, waders, raptors and large aggregations of passerines of conservation concern. For all target species, location, number, and activity was recorded.
- 2.3.2 Target species were defined as:
  - species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
  - species listed on Annex 1 of the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC);
  - species listed as Species of Principal Importance in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (as amended);
  - Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)<sup>4</sup> red and amber list species (criteria relates to their wintering populations);
  - qualifying species of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA (for OSA 1) and Fairburn and Newton Ings SSSI (for OSA 2);
  - flocks of more than 20 birds of passerine and gull species; and
  - all other species of water birds not falling within the above categories.

## 2.4 Survey schedule

- 2.4.1 A total of 27.5 person days were undertaken for the OSA 1 walkover surveys, whilst six person days were carried out at OSA 2. Survey dates are outlined in **Table 2.1** below.

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<sup>4</sup> Stanbury, M., Eaton, M.A., Aebischer, N.J., Balmer, D., Brown, A.F., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D.G. and Win, I. (2021). Birds of Conservation Concern 5: the status of all regularly occurring birds in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. In: *British Birds* 114, pp 723-747.



**Table 2.1 – Survey dates**

<b>Visit Number</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>OSA 1 (days)</b>	<b>OSA 2 (days)</b>
1	11-13 October 2021	2.5	0.5
2	27-29 October 2021	2.5	0.5
3	09-11 November 2021	2.5	0.5
4	24-25 November 2021	1.5	0.5
5	06-08 December 2021	2	0.5
6	15-17 December 2021	2.5	0.5
7*	11-13 January 2022	2.5	0.5
8	25-27 January 2022	2.5	0.5
9	08-10 February 2022	2.5	0.5
10	23-25 February 2022	2.5	0.5
11	08-10 March 2022	2.5	0.5
12	22-23 March 2022	1.5	0.5
		27.5 days	6 days

\*Survey data for OSA1 Visit 7 was collected but lost due to equipment errors.

## **2.5 Data management**

2.5.1 Survey forms were recorded digitally or scanned and saved at the first opportunity after each survey visit, with all field survey results digitised using a GIS system on a continual basis throughout the survey period. This ensured that bird activity was continually monitored, and important flight paths or areas of concentrated activity were identified at an early stage.

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# 3. Survey Results

## 3.1 OSA 1

### Transect records

- 3.1.1 A total of 50 target bird species were recorded on the ground or perched within OSA 1, across the twelve survey visits. A full list of these species is detailed in **Table 3.1**, alongside their peak counts and conservation status.
- 3.1.2 One species listed as a qualifying feature of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA was recorded (golden plover). Fourteen SPI species were recorded (bullfinch, curlew, European white-fronted goose, grey partridge, house sparrow, lapwing, lesser redpoll, herring gull, skylark, starling, song thrush, tree sparrow, yellowhammer and reed bunting). Eleven BoCC red or amber listed qualifying species associated with declines in their wintering populations were recorded (BoCC red listed curlew, herring gull, lapwing and Eurasian white-fronted goose; and BoCC amber listed black-headed gull, common gull, great black-backed gull, greylag goose, mallard, oystercatcher and snipe).
- 3.1.3 The distribution of any of the above-mentioned species that were recorded on more than two visits or with a peak count of more than 20 are presented in the following figures (**Volume 5, Document 5.4.8**):
- **Figure 8.16 (greylag goose, mallard);**
  - **Figure 8.17 (golden plover, grey partridge, lapwing, snipe);**
  - **Figure 8.18 (black-headed gull, common gull, great black-backed gull, herring gull); and**
  - **Figure 8.19 (bullfinch, house sparrow, reed bunting, skylark, starling, tree sparrow, yellowhammer).**
- 3.1.4 A full list of all species recorded during surveys is presented in **Annex 8F.1**.

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**Table 3.1 - OSA 1 recorded target species and peak counts**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number of records</b>	<b>Peak count</b>	<b>Schedule 1 listed</b>	<b>Annex 1 listed</b>	<b>NERC S41 listed</b>	<b>BoCC5 status</b>
Canada goose	2	4				Green
Greylag goose	17	10				Amber
White-fronted goose (European subspecies)	1	2	Yes		Yes	Red
Mute swan	2	3				Green
Mandarin duck	1	1				Green
Mallard	31	27				Amber
Goosander	6	4				Green
Grey Partridge	13	16			Yes	Red*
Stock dove	15	100				Amber*
Woodpigeon	66	617				Amber*
Moorhen	16	2				Amber*
Coot	1	1				Green
Little grebe	1	1				Green
Oystercatcher	1	1				Amber
Lapwing	26	76			Yes	Red
Golden plover <sup>a</sup>	5	58		Yes		Green
Curlew	2	9			Yes	Red
Snipe	3	1				Amber
Black-headed gull	16	200				Amber

Species	Number of records	Peak count	Schedule 1 listed	Annex 1 listed	NERC S41 listed	BoCC5 status
Common gull	3	33				Amber
Great black-backed gull	4	25				Amber
Herring gull	17	200			Yes	Red
Lesser black-backed gull	3	30				Amber*
Cormorant	1	1				Green
Grey heron	17	2				Green
Sparrowhawk	4	1				Amber*
Red kite	2	2	Yes	Yes		Green
Kingfisher	3	1	Yes	Yes		Green
Kestrel	40	2				Amber*
Peregrine	1	1	Yes	Yes		Green
Rook	12	51				Amber**
Skylark	17	11			Yes	Red*
Long-tailed tit	2	20				Green
Starling	40	300			Yes	Red*
Fieldfare	42	124	Yes			Red*
Redwing	50	127	Yes			Amber*
Song thrush	1	2			Yes	Amber*
Mistle thrush	8	3				Red*
House sparrow	7	50			Yes	Red*
Tree sparrow	13	100			Yes	Red*

Species	Number of records	Peak count	Schedule 1 listed	Annex 1 listed	NERC S41 listed	BoCC5 status
Pied wagtail	1	24				Green
Meadow pipit	3	5				Amber*
Chaffinch	2	40				Green
Brambling	4	5	Yes			Green
Bullfinch	6	3			Yes	Amber*
Greenfinch	14	85				Red*
Linnet	12	600			Yes	Red*
Lesser redpoll	1	1			Yes	Red*
Goldfinch	8	100				Green
Yellowhammer	26	100			Yes	Red*
Reed bunting	8	6			Yes	Amber*

a Priority species in the City of York Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP); \* qualify for red or amber listing (BoCC) due to declining breeding populations only; \*\* qualify due to being a European threatened species

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## Waders

- 3.1.5 Lapwing was recorded across ten of the twelve survey visits, accounting for 70% of all wader records, and 4% of all species records. A peak flock count of 76 birds occurred during Visit 9 on 09 February 2022, in an arable field approximately 2km east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village. Distribution of lapwing was more scattered during Visit 11 (early March 2022), with eight records of the species across the survey area; occurring in groups of 27 birds or less, or single birds foraging/roosting in agricultural fields.
- 3.1.6 Golden plover was recorded on five occasions across four survey visits, accounting for 14% of all wader records. All records of golden plover are from two fields to the north of Overton village. A peak count of 58 birds was recorded during Visit 8 on 25 January 2022.
- 3.1.7 Curlew was recorded on two occasions only, accounting for 5% of all wader records. Both records occurred in March 2022, with counts of six and nine birds feeding within arable fields to the east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village.
- 3.1.8 Oystercatcher was recorded during Visit 12 only, as a single bird feeding next to the railway line to the east of Overton village.
- 3.1.9 Snipe was recorded on three occasions, accounting for 8% of all wader records. Each of these records occurred in arable fields to the east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village, consisting of single birds flushed at close proximity by the surveyor.

## Wildfowl

- 3.1.10 Canada goose was only recorded on two occasions during the survey period, during Visits 3 and 6, with a peak count of four birds on 10 November 2021.
- 3.1.11 Mallard was the most commonly recorded wildfowl species, recorded across all visits and accounting for 52% of wildfowl records and 5% of all species records. A peak count of 27 birds was recorded on 25 November 2021, on an amenity pond at the northern end of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village.
- 3.1.12 Greylag goose was recorded on eight survey visits, accounting for 27% of all wildfowl records. A peak count of ten birds flying between fields just north of the River Ouse was recorded on 25 November 2021.
- 3.1.13 Goosander was recorded across four survey visits, accounting for 10% of all wildfowl records. All goosander records occurred along the River Ouse within the survey area, with a peak count of four birds recorded during Visit 8, on 25 January 2022.
- 3.1.14 Mandarin duck was recorded on only a single occasion, with a lone male feeding on the bank of the River Ouse on 22 March 2022.
- 3.1.15 Eurasian white-fronted goose was also only recorded on a single occasion, with two birds feeding amongst a flock of greylag geese in fields to the east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village on 23 March 2022.
- 3.1.16 Mute swan was the only swan species recorded in the OSA 1 survey area. The species was recorded on two occasions along the River Ouse, with a peak count of three birds feeding at the bankside on 07 December 2021.

## Raptors

- 3.1.17 Red kite was recorded on two occasions, with a single bird feeding on 07 December 2021 and a pair recorded hunting/landing in an agricultural waste area on the southern side of the River Ouse on 09 March 2022.
- 3.1.18 Peregrine was recorded on only one occasion, with a single bird perched on tower SP007 on 17 December 2021.
- 3.1.19 Kestrel was the most commonly recorded raptor species, recorded across all survey visits and accounting for 85% of raptor records and 7% of all species records. All of these records relate to single birds, with the exception of a pair recorded on both 26 January 2022 and 22 February 2022, to the east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village.
- 3.1.20 Sparrowhawk was recorded on four occasions across four survey visits, accounting for 9% of all raptor records. All four records were of single birds, distributed across different areas of OSA1.

## Passerines

- 3.1.21 Passerine species as a group accounted for half of all target species records within OSA 1.
- 3.1.22 Fieldfare, redwing and starling were most commonly recorded, accounting for 51% of all passerine records (16%, 19% and 26% respectively) and 22% of all species records. Fieldfare and redwing were recorded across nine visits, whilst starling was recorded across ten visits, with peak counts of 124, 127 and 300 respectively. Each species was widely distributed across the OSA1 survey area.
- 3.1.23 Skylark was recorded across four survey visits, accounting for 7% of all passerine records. A peak count of eleven birds was recorded taking off from an arable field to the east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village on 28 October 2021.
- 3.1.24 Meadow pipit was recorded moving between fields on three occasions in October and November 2021, with a peak count of five birds recorded on 25 November 2021 north west of Overton village.
- 3.1.25 House sparrow and tree sparrow accounted for 8% of all passerine records (3% and 5% respectively), with both species recorded across five of the twelve survey visits. A peak count of 50 house sparrow was recorded on 25 November 2021, whilst a peak count of 100 tree sparrow was recorded on 27 October 2021.
- 3.1.26 Linnet was recorded on twelve occasions across four survey visits (6% of all passerine records) with a peak count of 600 birds feeding in an arable field on the northern bank of the River Ouse on 24 November 2021.
- 3.1.27 Thrush records accounted for just 3% of all passerine records, with only one record of song thrush (two birds recorded on 22 February 2022) and eight of mistle thrush, with a peak count of three birds feeding on 25 November 2021.
- 3.1.28 Bullfinch was recorded on five occasions across four survey visits, with all records around Shipton-by-Beningbrough village. A peak count of three birds was recorded in both December 2021 and February 2022.
- 3.1.29 Greenfinch was recorded on 14 occasions across seven survey visits, accounting for 5% of all passerine records. A peak count of 85 birds was recorded feeding on sunflower crop alongside Hurns Gutter on 25 January 2021.

- 3.1.30 Lesser redpoll was only recorded on a single occasion, with one bird heard calling approximately 1.5km east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village on 28 October 2021.
- 3.1.31 Yellowhammer was recorded across nine survey visits, accounting for 10% of all passerine records. The majority of records were of single birds (65%), with a peak count of 100 recorded approximately 1km east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village on 22 February 2022.
- 3.1.32 Reed bunting was recorded on eight occasions across three survey visits October-December 2021. The majority of records were of single birds, though peak counts of five and six were recorded alongside the River Ouse on 24 November 2021.

## **Gulls**

- 3.1.33 Gull species accounted for 4% of all records within OSA 1, with herring gull and black-headed gull most frequently recorded, accounting for 77% of all gull species (40% and 37% respectively). Both herring gull and black-headed gull were widely distributed across the survey area, with both species having peak counts of 200 birds. Herring gull was recorded across seven survey visits, whilst black-headed gull was recorded across nine visits.
- 3.1.34 Lesser black-backed gull and common gull were recorded on three occasions each, with peak counts of 30 and 33 birds respectively. Distribution of lesser black-backed gull was more scattered, whilst common gull was only recorded in fields around Shipton-by-Beningbrough village.
- 3.1.35 Great black-backed gull was recorded on four occasions from December 2021 through to March 2022 inclusive. All four records were in the same location – an agricultural waste area on fields bordering the southern bank of the River Ouse, approximately 1.75km west of Overton village. A peak count of 25 birds was recorded on 08 February 2022, with birds flying into and out of the waste area to feed.

## **3.2 Flight records**

- 3.2.1 In total, 48 flights were recorded by 16 different species within OSA 1, with three main areas of activity; around the River Ouse, north of Overton village and east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village. Details of these flights are summarised in Table 3.2.

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**Table 3.2 - OSA 1 flight records**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Visit 1 flights</b>	<b>Visit 2 flights</b>	<b>Visit 3 flights</b>	<b>Visit 4 flights</b>	<b>Visit 5 flights</b>	<b>Visit 6 flights</b>	<b>Visit 7 flights</b>	<b>Visit 8 flights</b>	<b>Visit 9 flights</b>	<b>Visit 10 flights</b>	<b>Visit 11 flights</b>	<b>Visit 12 flights</b>	<b>Peak count</b>
Canada goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	<b>2</b>
Greylag goose	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	1	<b>17</b>
Pink-footed goose*	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>85</b>
Mute swan	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
Mallard	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	<b>5</b>
Goosander	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
Oystercatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
Lapwing	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>57</b>
Curlew	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	<b>1</b>
Grey heron	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Sparrowhawk	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Red kite	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Kestrel	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Peregrine	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Skylark	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>25</b>
Linnet	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>

\*Pink-footed goose is BoCC amber listed due to declining wintering populations

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## Waders

- 3.2.2 A single oystercatcher flight on 10 March 2022 (Visit 11) was the only flight record of this species in OSA 1 during the survey period. This flight was a single bird commuting low, flying south approximately 2.5km east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village.
- 3.2.3 A single lapwing flight on 16 December 2021 was the only flight record of this species in OSA 1 during the survey period. This flight consisted of 57 birds flying high above arable fields, east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village.
- 3.2.4 A single curlew flight on 23 March 2022 was the only flight record of this species in OSA 1 during the survey period. This flight was a single bird flying above arable fields, east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village.

## Wildfowl

- 3.2.5 A single Canada goose flight on 23 March 2022 was the only flight record of this species in OSA 1 during the survey period. This flight was a pair of birds flying above arable fields, east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village.
- 3.2.6 Greylag goose was the most frequently recorded wildfowl species in flight, accounting for 46% of all wildfowl records, and 26% of all species flight records. The majority of these flights (83%) were around the River Ouse and area north of Overton village. A peak count of 29 birds was recorded flying south over the Overton Substation field on 25 January 2022, which split into two flocks of eleven and 17 birds.
- 3.2.7 Pink-footed goose was recorded on three occasions in flight, accounting for 12% of all wildfowl flight records. A peak count of a skein of 85 geese flying high over fields to the east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village was recorded on 10 November 2021.
- 3.2.8 Mute swan was recorded in flight on a single occasion within the OSA 1 survey area. A group of six birds was lost from view flying east, over 1km east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village on 12 October 2021.
- 3.2.9 Mallard was recorded in flight on five occasions across the survey period, accounting for 19% of all wildfowl records. All flights were recorded to the east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village, including the peak count of six birds recorded on 10 November 2021, with the exception of a pair of birds flying over the River Ouse on 25 January 2022.
- 3.2.10 Goosander was recorded in flight on four occasions, with a peak count of three birds on 15 December 2021. All flights were low, flying along or over the River Ouse.

## Raptors

- 3.2.11 Sparrowhawk was recorded in flight on three occasions, all being single birds recorded over two survey visits. Two flights recorded during Visit 8 were the same bird, which landed in a tree approximately 1.2km east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village on 26 January 2022. Along the River Ouse was the only other location a sparrowhawk was recorded in flight.
- 3.2.12 Red kite was recorded within the OSA 1 survey area on four occasions across Visits 5 and 6, accounting for 31% of all raptor flight records. All flights were of single birds. Only one flight record was to the east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village, with the other

three being in the vicinity of the River Ouse, including a bird actively hunting and circling in the area for over 40 minutes on 17 December 2021.

- 3.2.13 Kestrel was recorded in flight on just two occasions through the survey period, with single birds recorded during Visits 6 and 8. The flight on 15 December 2021 was on the southern side of Overton Wood, whilst the flight on 25 January 2022 passed over the Overton Substation field.
- 3.2.14 Peregrine was recorded on four occasions across three survey visits, accounting for 31% of all raptor records. All records were of single birds, with two records around the River Ouse and two near woodland, approximately 2.5km east of Shipton-by-Beningbrough village.

### Passerines

- 3.2.15 Skylark and linnet were the only passerine species to be recorded in flight, with both observed during Visit 6 only. Two flights of skylark were recorded, with a peak count of 25 birds between the River Ouse and Overton Wood on 15 December 2021. A single flight of one linnet was also recorded on 15 December 2021, flying over the River Ouse.

## 3.3 OSA 2

### Transect records

- 3.3.1 A total of 21 target bird species were recorded on the ground or perched within OSA 2, across the four survey visits. A full list of these species is detailed in **Table 3.3** alongside their peak counts and conservation statuses.
- 3.3.2 One species listed as a qualifying feature of the Fairburn and Newton Ings SSSI was recorded (mallard). Six SPI species were recorded (bullfinch, herring gull, lapwing, skylark, starling and yellowhammer). Seven BoCC red or amber listed qualifying species associated with declines in their wintering populations were recorded (BoCC red listed herring gull and lapwing; and BoCC amber listed black-headed gull, common gull, great black-backed gull, greylag goose and mallard).
- 3.3.3 The distribution of any of the above-mentioned species that were recorded on more than two visits or with a peak count of more than 20 are presented in the following figures (**Volume 5, Document 5.4.8**):
- **Figure 8.20 (mallard, black-headed gull and herring gull); and**
  - **Figure 8.21 (lapwing, skylark and starling).**



**Table 3.3 - OSA 2 recorded target species and peak counts**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number of records</b>	<b>Peak count</b>	<b>Schedule 1 listed</b>	<b>Annex 1 listed</b>	<b>NERC S41 listed</b>	<b>BoCC 5 status</b>
Greylag goose	1	16				Amber
Mallard	5	6				Amber
Woodpigeon	8	100				Amber*
Moorhen	1	2				Amber*
Lapwing	2	30			Y	Red
Black-headed gull	3	109				Amber
Common gull	1	20				Amber
Great black-backed gull	1	18				Amber
Herring gull	4	87			Y	Red
Lesser black-backed gull	3	36				Amber*
Sparrowhawk	1	1				Amber*
Peregrine	4	2	Y			Green
Skylark	11	3			Y	Red*
Starling	2	80			Y	Red*
Fieldfare	3	40	Y			Red*
Redwing	11	63	Y			Amber*
Mistle thrush	1	1				Red*
Meadow pipit	3	2				Amber*
Bullfinch	3	3			Y	Amber*
Linnet	1	8			Y	Red*

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number of records</b>	<b>Peak count</b>	<b>Schedule 1 listed</b>	<b>Annex 1 listed</b>	<b>NERC S41 listed</b>	<b>BoCC 5 status</b>
Yellowhammer	3	1			Y	Red*

## Waders

- 3.3.4 Lapwing was one of only two wader species recorded within the OSA 2 survey area, recorded on two occasions with a peak count of 30 birds in an arable field approximately 500m south of the existing Monk Fryston Substation on 25 November 2021.
- 3.3.5 Moorhen was recorded only once, with a pair of birds recorded feeding next to a pond within an arable field, approximately 650m east of the existing Monk Fryston Substation.

## Wildfowl

- 3.3.6 Mallard was recorded on five occasions in the OSA 2 survey area, accounting for 83% of wildfowl records. A peak count of six mallard was recorded on 27 January 2022, with birds flushed from a pond within an arable field to the south of the existing Monk Fryston Substation.
- 3.3.7 Greylag goose was recorded on only one occasion across the twelve survey visits, with 16 birds recorded in low flight between fields 500m west of the existing Monk Fryston Substation on 29 October 2021.

## Raptors

- 3.3.8 Sparrowhawk was recorded only once within the OSA 2 survey area, as a single bird in a short flight between fields on 21 February 2022.
- 3.3.9 Peregrine was recorded on four occasions across four survey visits, both within the substation and perched on towers within 500m. A peak count of two birds was recorded on both 13 January 2022 and 23 March 2022.

## Passerines

- 3.3.10 Skylark was recorded across five survey visits, accounting for 29% of all passerine species records. The distribution of the species was scattered, recorded in arable fields to the north, south and west of the existing Monk Fryston Substation. A peak count of three birds was recorded on 10 February 2022.
- 3.3.11 Starling was recorded only twice within the OSA 2 survey area, both times feeding in fields (although first located in short flights between two fields). These two records both occurred on 29 October 2021, with flock counts of 80 and 25 birds.
- 3.3.12 Fieldfare and redwing were the most commonly recorded passerine species, accounting for 37% of all passerine records collectively (8% and 29% respectively). Redwing was recorded on more visits (seven) than any other passerine species, with a peak count of 63 birds recorded on 11 November 2021. A peak count of 40 fieldfare was recorded on 21 February 2022.
- 3.3.13 Meadow pipit was recorded on three occasions across two survey visits, accounting for 8% of all passerine species records. All records relate to single or pairs of birds.
- 3.3.14 Bullfinch was recorded on three occasions across two survey visits, with a peak count of three birds on 06 December 2021. Bullfinch were recorded within treelines to the south and east of the existing Monk Fryston Substation.

- 3.3.15 Yellowhammer was also recorded on three occasions across two survey visits, with all records being of single birds within arable fields to the north and south of the existing Monk Fryston Substation.
- 3.3.16 Mistle thrush and linnet were the only passerine species to be recorded on single occasions. A single mistle thrush was recorded perched in a tree line approximately 200m south of the existing Monk Fryston Substation on 25 November 2021. Eight linnet were observed in a short flight between fields to feed, approximately 400m north of the existing Monk Fryston Substation on 29 October 2021.

## Gulls

- 3.3.17 Black-headed gull was recorded during two visits within OSA 2, with three records and a peak count of 109 birds on 15 December 2021.
- 3.3.18 Common gull was only recorded during Visit 6, with a single record of 20 birds feeding in a field immediately south of the existing Monk Fryston Substation on 15 December 2021.
- 3.3.19 Great black-backed gull was also only recorded on a single survey visit within OSA 2 (Visit 2), with 18 birds recorded within 500m to the west of the existing Monk Fryston Substation in an arable field on 29 October 2021.
- 3.3.20 Herring gull was the most frequently recorded gull species, accounting for 36% of all gull species records across three survey visits. A peak count of 87 birds was recorded within an arable field to the west of the existing Monk Fryston Substation on 29 October 2021.
- 3.3.21 Lesser black-backed gull was recorded on three occasions across two visits, accounting for 27% of all gull species records. A peak count of 36 birds was recorded in a mixed flock with herring gull on 11 November 2021, in an arable field to the west of the existing Monk Fryston Substation.

## 3.4 Flight records

- 3.4.1 In total, eight flights were recorded by four different species within OSA 2, with the majority (88%) of flight activity being to the west and south of the existing Monk Fryston Substation. Details of these flights are summarised in **Table 3.4**.

**Table 3.4 - OSA 2 flight records**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Visit 1 flights</b>	<b>Visit 2 flights</b>	<b>Visit 3 flights</b>	<b>Visit 4 flights</b>	<b>Visit 5 flights</b>	<b>Visit 6 flights</b>	<b>Visit 7 flights</b>	<b>Visit 8 flights</b>	<b>Visit 9 flights</b>	<b>Visit 10 flights</b>	<b>Visit 11 flights</b>	<b>Visit 12 flights</b>	<b>Peak count</b>
Teal*	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>6</b>
Red kite	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Kestrel	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Peregrine	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>

\*Teal is a BoCC amber listed species, qualifying due to wintering populations of international importance.

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## **Wildfowl**

- 3.4.2 Teal was the only wildfowl species recorded in flight within OSA 2. A group of six birds was flushed from a small pond directly south of the existing Monk Fryston Substation within a large arable field, on 06 December 2021.

## **Raptors**

- 3.4.3 Red kite was the most frequently recorded raptor species within OSA 2, accounting for 57% of all raptor species records and 50% of all species flight records. All flight records for the species were of single birds, with three flights over arable fields to the west of the existing Monk Fryston Substation, and a single flight over (the existing) substation on 27 January 2022.
- 3.4.4 Kestrel was recorded on a single occasion only within OSA 2, as a single bird approximately 600m east of the existing Monk Fryston Substation on 15 December 2021.
- 3.4.5 Peregrine was recorded on two occasions in flight, once over the substation and once hunting over fields immediately south of the existing Monk Fryston Substation. Both records occurred during Visit 1 on 13 October 2021.

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## Annex 8F.1

### Species list

Table 8F.1.1 details all bird species recorded within the OSAs. Nomenclature and taxonomic order follows the British Ornithologist Union (BOU) British List.

**Table 8F.1.1 – Species list**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>
Pink-footed goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>
European white-fronted goose	<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>
Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
Mandarin duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>
Rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>

<b>Species</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>
Lesser redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>

## Annex 8F.2

### Survey weather conditions

Table 8F.2.1 – Survey weather records

Visit Number	Date	OSA	Weather Summary
1	11/10/2021	1	Dry, Wind F1-2 NW, Cloud Cover 6-8/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 11-15c
1	12/10/2021	1	Light showers, Wind F2-3 NW, Cloud Cover 4-7/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 10-16c
1	13/10/2021	1, 2	Dry - Light rain, Wind F3 W-NW, Cloud Cover 6-8/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 11-14c
2	27/10/2021	1	Dry-Drizzle, Wind F4-5 S, Cloud Cover 5-8/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 13-16c
2	28/10/2021	1	Dry, Wind F3-5 S, Cloud Cover 5-8/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 14-17c
2	29/10/2021	2	Dry-Drizzle, Wind F3-5 S, Cloud Cover 6-8/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 15-17c
3	09/11/2021	1	Dry, Wind F2 SSW, Cloud Cover 4-8/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 12-14c
3	10/11/2021	1	Dry, Wind F1 SW, Cloud Cover 8/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 10-12c
3	11/11/2021	2	Dry, Wind F0-1 SSE, Cloud Cover 5-8/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 9-11c
4	24/11/2021	1, 2	Dry, Wind F2-3 W-SW, Cloud Cover 3-8/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 6-8c
4	25/11/2021	1	Dry, Wind F2-3 NW, Cloud Cover 0-3/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 1-6c
5	06/12/2021	2	Heavy rain, Wind F3-4 W, Cloud Cover 8/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 3-4c
5	07/12/2021	1	Dry-Heavy rain, Wind F4-9 SE, Cloud Cover 8/8, Visibility 1-3km to >3km, Temp 1-2c
5	08/12/2021	1	Dry- Heavy showers, Wind F3-6 SW, Cloud Cover 8/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 3-4c
6	15/12/2021	1, 2	Dry, Wind F2-5 SW, Cloud Cover 1-5/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 10-11c
6	16/12/2021	1	Dry, Wind F1-2 WSW, Cloud Cover 0/8, Visibility 1-3km to >3km, Temp 4-9c
7	17/12/2021	1	Dry, Wind F1 NW, Cloud Cover 1/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 0-4c

Visit Number	Date	OSA	Weather Summary
7	11/01/2022	1	*
7	12/01/2022	1	*
8	13/01/2022	2	Dry, Wind F1-2 W, Cloud Cover 2-3/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 3-7c
8	25/01/2022	1	Dry, Wind F1-2 WSW, Cloud Cover 8/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 2-5c
8	26/01/2022	1	Dry, Wind F2-3 SW, Cloud Cover 7-8/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 2-7c
9	27/01/2022	2	Dry, Wind F3-4 NW, Cloud Cover 4-5/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 6-9c
9	08/02/2022	1	Light-Moderate Rain, Wind F3 SW, Cloud Cover 8/8, Visibility 1-3km, Temp 9-11c
9	09/02/2022	1	Dry, Wind F4-5 W, Cloud Cover 3-6/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 7-9c
10	10/02/2022	2	Dry, Wind F5 NW, Cloud Cover 3/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 5-6c
10	23/02/2022	1, 2	Dry, Wind F7-8 NW, Cloud Cover 3-4/8, Visibility 1-3km to >3km, Temp 8-10c
10	24/02/2022	1	Dry-Light Showers, Wind F6-7 W, Cloud Cover 8/8, Visibility <1km, Temp 7-10c
11	25/02/2022	1	Dry, Wind F6 SW, Cloud Cover 4-6/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 9-11c
11	08/03/2022	1	Dry, Wind F4-5 S, Cloud Cover 4-6/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 8-12c
11	09/03/2022	1	Dry, Wind F3-5 SE, Cloud Cover 1-7/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 9-13c
12	10/03/2022	2	Dry, Wind F4 SE, Cloud Cover 3-4/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 8-11c
12	22/03/2022	1	Dry, Wind F1-2 NE, Cloud Cover 0-1/8, Visibility >3km, Temp 12-16c

\*Survey data from OSA 1 during Visit 7 was collected but lost due to equipment errors.

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