

# A1 Birtley to Coal House

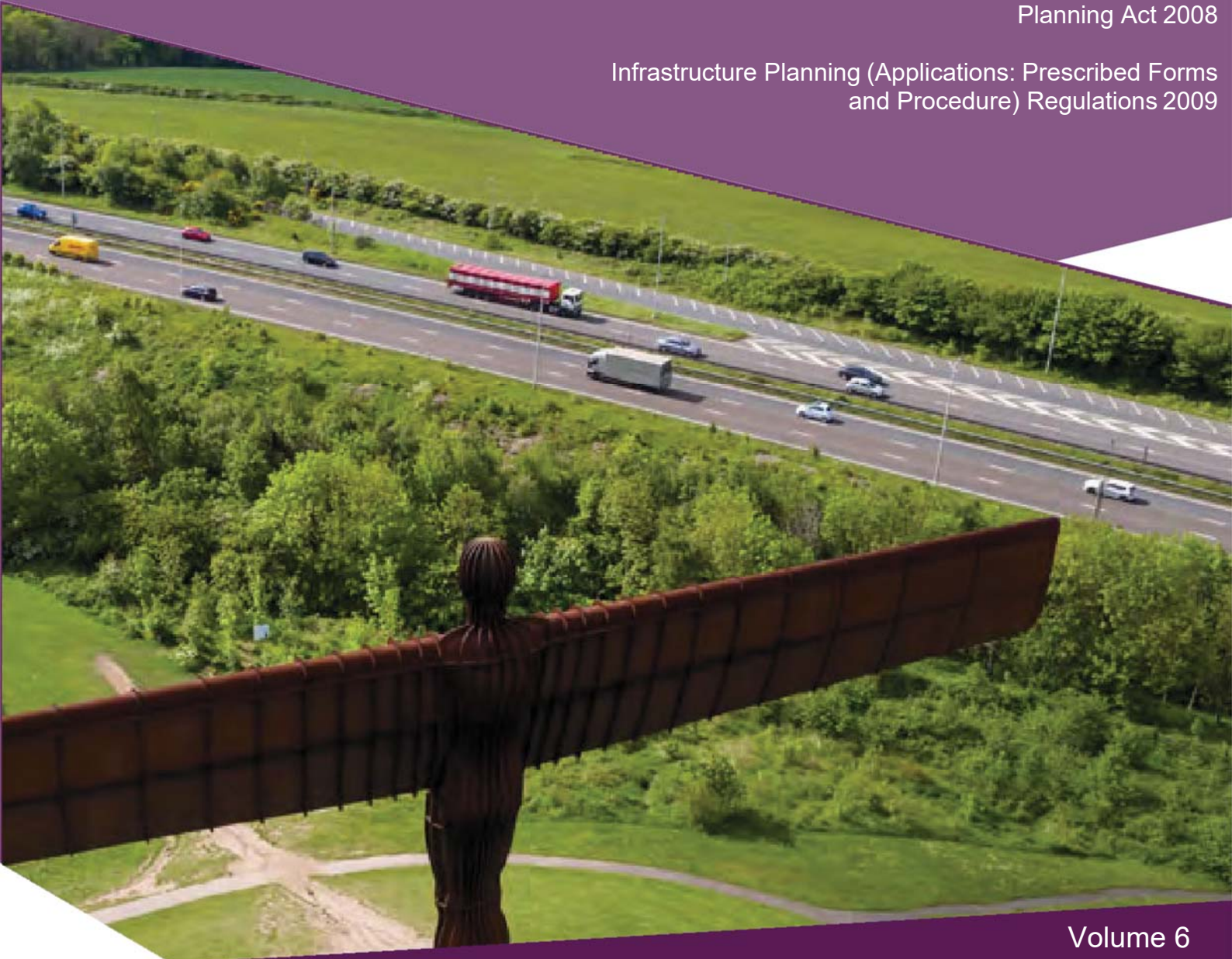
## Scheme Number: TR010031

### 6.3 Environmental Statement – Appendix 8.9 Breeding Bird Report

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

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



Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning  
(Applications: Prescribed Forms and  
Procedures) Regulations 2009**

**A1 Birtley to Coal House  
Development Consent Order 20[xx]**

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**Environmental Statement -  
Appendix**

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### APPENDIX A

#### BIRTLEY TO COAL HOUSE BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WSP UK Ltd was commissioned to complete a series of breeding bird surveys on behalf of Highways England in order to inform the construction of a temporary construction compound for the A1 Birtley to Coal House Scheme (hereafter referred to as 'the Scheme'). The Scheme is located between junction 67 (Coal House) and junction 65 (Birtley) of the A1, is approximately 6.5km in length and is shown in **Figure 1**.

In order to inform an evaluation of the on-site habitats for bird species, four breeding bird survey visits were completed between March and June 2018. The surveys followed a standard method based on the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO's) Common Bird Census (CBC), as summarised by Bibby *et al.* (2000).

A total of 14 species were recorded on or over the Site during the breeding bird surveys and of these, 11 are considered to breed on or immediately adjacent to the Site, with the Site considered integral to the breeding success of those birds. Of these species only one, dunnock *Prunella modularis*, is of notable conservation status, as it is listed as a Species of Principal Importance (SPI) under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BoCC) amber list species.

The bird community on the Site is considered of low conservation value.

All wild birds are protected from killing and injury, and their nests and eggs protected from taking, damage and destruction under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). In addition, Section 40 of the NERC Act obliges local authorities to have regard for Species of Principal Importance (SPI) in discharging their duties and national policy (National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)) also require consideration of protected species in the making of planning decisions. Consequently, to avoid an offence under applicable legislation and to minimise effects upon the breeding bird community present on the Site and encourage compliance with planning policy, it is recommended the following avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures are incorporated within the Scheme:

- Avoidance of vegetation clearance within the main bird breeding season (March to August inclusive).
  - New landscape planting associated with the Scheme should comprise native species of local origin and include berry bearing shrubs. This is in order to provide food resources for thrushes and finches, cover for species such as dunnock and compensate for the loss of woodland and scrub habitat where this is unavoidable to enable the Scheme.
  - The areas of scrubland within the Site, with species including hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, should be maintained. Management should not be intensive but should allow the scrubland areas to grow dense' in order to provide dunnock with their ideal foraging habitat.
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- Grassland areas should be included within landscaping, including within the Scheme itself, providing continued foraging provision for species such as curlew *Numenius arquata* (NERC Act Section 41 and UK BAP) which were noted to fly over the Site but not breed on it. Wherever possible new habitats should be designed as connective corridors, linking to other habitat areas, rather than in isolated parcels.
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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1. WSP UK Ltd. (WSP) was commissioned by Highways England to undertake breeding bird surveys within an area of land in Lamesley, Gateshead at grid reference NZ 25310 58316 (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'). This is in order to inform the proposals for the A1 Birtley to Coal House Scheme (hereafter referred to as 'the Scheme'). The Scheme is located between junction 67 (Coal House) and junction 65 (Birtley) of the A1, is approximately 6.5km in length and is shown in **Figure 1**.
- 1.1.2. The Scheme includes the widening and upgrading of the existing road to provide a three-lane carriageway and the replacement of Allerdene Bridge, which is located in the north-east corner of the Site. The proposed works for Allerdene Bridge will involve the replacement of this crossing point with a new section of carriageway. The Site, which is included within the baseline assessment, will be utilised as a construction compound during the A1 widening and upgrading works.

## 1.2 ECOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) undertaken by WSP in March 2018 (WSP 2018) identified that the Site comprises grazed improved grassland bordered by hedgerows to the south-west, plantation broad-leaved woodland to the east and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland to the north-west. Scattered and semi-improved scrub is located to the north of the grassland field and the A1 is located immediately north of the Site.
- 1.2.2. The PEA identified that the habitats within the Site have potential to support protected breeding bird species. As a result, further surveys were recommended to ascertain the breeding bird assemblage within the Site.

## 1.3 BRIEF AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.3.1. WSP was commissioned to complete a breeding bird survey on the Site and to provide:
- A list of bird species encountered and their breeding status (i.e. confirmed, probable or possible breeding, or not considered to be breeding on the Site) and an estimate of the likely number of territories/colonies of bird species breeding on or close to the Site.
  - An evaluation of the value of the Site for breeding birds.
  - Recommendations as to how proposals should account for breeding birds in relation to legislation, planning and biodiversity policy.
- 1.3.2. The results of the above survey are contained within this report.

## 2 METHODS

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### 2.1 BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

- 2.1.1. In order to inform an evaluation of the importance of on-site habitats for breeding bird species, four breeding bird survey visits were completed between March and June 2018. The survey work followed a standard method based on the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO's) Common Bird Census (CBC), as summarised by Bibby *et al.* (2000).
- 2.1.2. All four survey visits of the Site were completed in the early morning, commencing at dawn. Each of the survey visits was approximately 30 minutes in duration.
- 2.1.3. During each survey visit the Site was walked slowly, approaching all suitable habitats within 50m and scanning and listening for birds. In accordance with good practice guidance (Bibby *et al.*, 2000) the start point and direction of the route walked were varied on each survey visit; this serves to minimise bias, as birds may be active at different times of day in different areas. The locations of birds seen and heard were mapped using standard BTO two letter codes and activity symbols. Where breeding activity was observed this was recorded in accordance with the following categories (based on standard BTO criteria):
- Non-breeder – Birds observed flying over, considered to still be on migration or a summering non-breeder.
  - Possible breeding – Birds observed singing or present in suitable habitat in breeding season.
  - Probable breeding – A pair observed in suitable habitat, territorial behaviour observed in the same place on at least two separate occasions, or by many individuals simultaneously on one day, or birds observed visiting a probable nest site, showing courtship or display behaviour in suitable breeding habitat or nest building.
  - Confirmed breeding – Nest containing eggs or young seen or heard, adults observed carrying faecal sac or food, feigning injury as a distraction display or entering or leaving a nest site in circumstances indicating an occupied nest, a used nest or eggshells found or recently fledged or downy young recorded (showing evidence of dependency on adults).
- 2.1.4. Field observations from all survey visits were combined to enable identification of clear clusters of records and to provide an indication of likely territory numbers.

### 2.2 DATES OF SURVEY AND PERSONNEL

- 2.2.1. The breeding bird surveys were completed by competent surveyors with experience of undertaking breeding bird surveys.
- 2.2.2. Dates of survey and weather conditions are given in **Table 2-1** below.



**Table 2-1 - Dates of survey and weather conditions**

<b>Survey Visit</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sunrise</b>	<b>Start time</b>	<b>Finish time</b>	<b>Duration (minutes)</b>	<b>Weather conditions</b>
1	27/03/18	06:51	07:17	07:45	18	Temp. 5°C throughout the survey. Overcast with light rain and wind at the start and no rain but moderate wind at the finish.
2	13/04/18	06:08	06:01	06:36	35	Temp. 6°C rising to 6.3°C. At the start of the survey, it was overcast with light rain. At the finish it was dry and overcast.
3	09/05/18	05:10	05:03	05:41	38	Temp. 5.7°C rising to 7.6°C. During the survey it was dry, cool with some mist and cloud.
4	05/06/18	04:32	04:39	05:04	23	Temp. 11°C rising to 11.6°C. Overcast, still and evidence of recent rain.

## 2.3 NOTES AND LIMITATIONS

- 2.3.1. The first survey start time was delayed by approx. 30 minutes due to the surveyors needing to be accompanied by a Sisk Group representative as the appropriate inductions were not in place. This is not thought to affect the results of the survey.
- 2.3.2. Whilst every effort has been made to detect all species present some bird species are more difficult to detect due to their shy or secretive nature and therefore may have gone undetected by this survey. As a constraint applicable to all bird surveys this is not considered to place significant constraints upon interpretation of the results for this Site.

## 3 RESULTS AND EVALUATION

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### 3.1 OVERVIEW

- 3.1.1. A total of 14 species were recorded on or over the Site during the breeding bird survey and of these 11 are considered to be possible, probable or confirmed breeders on the Site. This includes one species, dunnock *Prunella modularis*, which is legally protected or species of conservation concern. Dunnock of notable conservation status, as it is listed as a Species of Principal Importance (SPI) under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BoCC) amber list species.
- 3.1.2. Due to the relatively low number of possible, probable or confirmed breeders being located within the Site, only one of which has notable conservation status, the bird community on the Site is considered of low conservation value.

### 3.2 BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

#### RESULTS OF BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

- 3.2.1. The species listed within **Table 3-1** have been recorded as confirmed, probable or possible breeders during the breeding bird survey. In addition to the recorded breeding status and evidence for this, this table includes an indicative number of territories present on, or immediately adjacent to, the Site. Records from all survey visits of species which are of conservation concern are mapped on **Figure 2** and **Appendix A**.
- 3.2.2. Species recorded on or over the Site during the breeding bird survey but not considered to breed within the Site are listed in **Table 3-2**. This included birds flying or loafing or foraging on the Site for which suitable breeding habitat is not present within the Site or those where no behaviour suggesting breeding was recorded, and birds which were considered to be present as passage migrants.
- 3.2.3. The bird community recorded during the breeding bird season within the Site is varied and mainly supported by the marginal habitats (hedgerows, woodland and scrub) located along the borders of the Site. The species seen and heard during the surveys are common throughout the UK, with only three species highlighted for their conservation status. These are dunnock (NERC Act Section 41 and BoCC Amber List), mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (BoCC Amber List) and curlew *Numenius arquata* (NERC Act Section 41 and UK BAP). See **Section 4** for further information on these designations.

**Table 3-1 - Confirmed, probable or possible breeders on Site**

Species									Indicative territory numbers on or immediately adjacent to the Site	
Common name	Latin name	Schedule WCA 1981 1	Section NERC Act 2006 41	Red list BoCC	Amber list	UKBAP	Breeding Status on the Site	Notes		
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>						Probable	Maximum flock of seven, observed in visit one. A pair was observed carrying nesting material into the scrub to the north of the Site during survey visit three. Individuals were observed throughout the site during all the survey visits.	-	
Long-tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>						Possible	A single long-tailed tit was observed within the trees in the north of the Site during visit two.	1	
Red-legged partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>						Possible	A single red-legged partridge was observed foraging and walking in the grassland field in the Site during visit one.	1	
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>						Possible	A single woodpigeon was observed in the trees in the north-west of the Site during visit three.	1	
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>						Possible	A single blue tit was seen and heard calling from the trees in the north-west corner of the Site during visit two. During visit four a single blue tit was observed within the hedgerow in the south-west of the Site.	1	
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>						Possible	A single great tit was heard calling from the trees in the north-west of the Site during visit three.	1	
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>						Possible	Male and female pheasants were observed in the grassland field of the Site during all the survey visits.	1	
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>						Possible	Magpies have been observed throughout the Site during all the survey visits.	-	
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		X		X		Possible	A single dunnock was observed within the hedgerow in the south-west of the Site during visit two.	1	
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>						Possible	Several wrens were heard calling during all the survey visits. The maximum number of wrens was five, which were all heard during visit three and were located around the boundary of the Site.	5	

Species									Indicative territory numbers on or immediately adjacent to the Site
Common name	Latin name	Schedule WCA 1981 1	Section NERC Act 2006 41	Red list BoCC	Amber list	UKBAP	Breeding Status on the Site	Notes	
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>						Possible	A single blackbird was heard singing from the woodland in the east of the Site during visits two and three. Two blackbirds were heard singing during visit four, with one in the eastern boundary of the Site and the second in the hedgerow on the western boundary of the Site.	1

Table 3-2 - Non-breeding birds recorded on the Site

Species									
Common name	Latin name	Schedule WCA 1981 1	Section NERC Act 2006 41	Red list BoCC	Amber list	UKBAP		Notes	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				X			A pair of mallards were seen within the grassland field in the Site during visits one and two. This species is not thought to breed within the Site due to no waterbodies being located within the Site or surrounding areas, insufficient vegetation cover and due to disturbance from grazing horses.	
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>							A single carrion crow was observed flying over the Site during visit four.	
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		X			X		A pair of curlews were seen flying over the Site during visit one, while a single curlew was seen flying over the Site during visit three.	

## 4 LEGAL AND PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

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### 4.1 LEGISLATION

#### **CONSERVATION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES REGULATIONS 2017 (HABITAT REGULATIONS)**

- 4.1.1. The Habitat Regulations Part 1 Regulation 10 (2) & (3) state that local authorities ‘must take such steps in the exercise of their functions as they consider appropriate to contribute to...the preservation, maintenance and re-establishment of a sufficient diversity and area of habitat for wild birds in the UK including by means of the upkeep, management and creation of such habitat...’. The legislation continues to state that economic and recreation requirements must be taken into consideration in considering which measures are appropriate.

#### **WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (AS AMENDED)**

- 4.1.2. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) all wild birds are protected from killing and injury, and their nests and eggs protected from taking, damage and destruction whilst in use; therefore, recommendations to avoid contravention of this legislation are included within **Section 5**.
- 4.1.3. Additional protection is extended to species listed under Schedule 1 of the Act, meaning it is also an offence to disturb these species at or near the nest, or whilst they have dependent young.
- 4.1.4. No species listed on Schedule 1 was recorded on the Site; this information has been included for information only.

#### **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL COMMUNITIES ACT 2006**

- 4.1.5. The NERC Act 2006 reinforces the duty upon all public authorities, including planning authorities, to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity when discharging their duties. The Act refines the definition of biodiversity conservation, stating that it includes restoring or enhancing a population or habitat. Section 41 of the NERC Act requires the Secretary of State to list habitats and species of principal importance (HPs and SPIs) for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The habitats and species listed in accordance with Section 41 largely replicate those listed on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) which occur in England (however there are exceptions). One SPI (also UKBAP species) was recorded on the Site during the breeding bird surveys, namely curlew. However, this species is not considered to breed on the Site; therefore, no further recommendations are required to encourage the conservation of these species.

## 4.2 PLANNING POLICY

### NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 4.2.1. At a national context planning policy is driven by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012). The NPPF sets out, amongst other points, how at an overview level the *'planning system should contribute to and enhance the national and local environment by:*
- *...recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services;*
  - *minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures...'*
- 4.2.2. The NPPF states that this should be achieved through local planning development frameworks and gives recommendations for criteria based policies which recognise the hierarchy of designated sites which range from internationally important habitat, to sites of importance at a local level and ensure that protection is *'commensurate with their status and gives appropriate weight to their importance and the contribution that they make to wider ecological networks.'*
- 4.2.3. A list of principles which local planning authorities should follow when determining planning applications is included in the NPPF which includes the following:
- *'if significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided...adequately mitigated, or, as last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;*
  - *...opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged;*
  - *planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland...unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss...'*
- 4.2.4. Although the NPPF revoked Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9), the ODPM circular 06/2005 originally prepared to accompany PPS9 remains current; this states that *'the presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal'* and also includes confirmation that *'potential effects of a development, on habitats or species listed as priorities in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)...are capable of being a material consideration in the...making of planning decisions.'* The circular advises that local authorities should consult Natural England before granting planning permission if the proposals could adversely affect a protected species, this definition of a protected species includes birds.

### NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR NATIONAL NETWORKS

- 4.2.5. As a road scheme, the Scheme should abide by the National Policy Statement for National Networks (DT, 2014). This states that:

- *“Applicants should include appropriate mitigation measures as an integral part of their proposed development, including identifying where and how these will be secured. In particular, the applicant should demonstrate that:*
  - *During construction, they will seek to ensure that activities will be confined to the minimum areas required for the works;*
  - *During construction and operation, best practice will be followed to ensure that risk of disturbance or damage to species or habitats is minimised (including as a consequence of transport access arrangements);*
  - *Habitats will, where practicable, be restored after construction works have finished;*
  - *Developments will be designed and landscaped to provide green corridors and minimise habitat fragmentation where reasonable; and*
  - *Opportunities will be taken to enhance existing habitats and, where practicable, to create new habitats of value within the site landscaping proposals, for example through techniques such as the 'greening' of existing network crossing points, the use of green bridges and the habitat improvement of the network verge.”*

### **4.3 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN RED AND AMBER LISTS**

- 4.3.1. The UK's leading bird conservation organisations reviewed the most up to date information on the status of birds in the UK and elsewhere in their range to produce the third review of the status of birds which occur regularly in the UK. This is presented as the Birds of Conservation Concern 4 (Eaton *et al*, 2015), comprising a 'red list' of species of high conservation concern and an 'amber' list of species of moderate conservation concern, with other species that do not qualify under red or amber list criteria on the green list. To qualify on the red list, species may be listed as globally threatened by IUCN, have suffered a historical decline without substantial recent recovery, or a decline of more than 50% in breeding or non-breeding populations, or a 50% contraction in breeding range over 25 years (or the longer term). Amber list species can be those listed as Species of European Conservation Concern, those which have suffered an historical decline but shown significant recent recovery, have shown a decline of between 25 and 50% in breeding or non-breeding populations, or a contraction in breeding range of between 25 and 50% over 25 years (or the longer term) or be rare or localised breeders in the UK, or be species for which 20% of the breeding or non-breeding population is found in the UK.
- 4.3.2. Red or amber listing does not confer additional protection under legislation or planning policy, however it provides a basis for informing evaluation of a Site and for targeting conservation effort and is a widely used resource for interpreting bird populations.
- 4.3.3. Amber list possible breeding species on the Site was dunnoek and non-breeding amber list species was mallard.
- 4.3.4. Recommendations are included as applicable within Section 5 to enable continued use of the Site by amber list species wherever possible following completion of the Scheme; with

these species also used to target recommendations for potential enhancement measures where they may be of greatest value.

### **BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLANS**

- 4.3.5. The United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP), first published in 1994 and updated in 2007, is a government initiative designed to implement the requirements of the Convention of Biological Diversity to conserve and enhance species and habitats. The UKBAP contains a list of priority habitats and species of conservation concern in the UK, and outlines biodiversity initiatives designed to enhance their conservation status. The priority species generally correlate with those listed in accordance with Section 41 of the NERC Act (with some exceptions).
- 4.3.6. BAPs in the UK have no statutory status, but provide a framework for implementing conservation requirements. Furthermore, species listed as Priority species in the UK BAP which are also listed as Species of Principal Importance (SPI) are afforded a degree of protection under the NERC Act (2006), which states that local authorities have a duty to conserve biodiversity (see above). One UKBAP species was recorded on the Site. These comprise the SPI species listed under Section 5.1.7 (NERC Act) above.
- 4.3.7. The national BAP is supplemented by local BAPs which identify habitats and species of particular value or concern at the local level. The Site is covered by the Newcastle and North Tyneside BAP (NNTBAP) (Newcastle City Council 2014).
- 4.3.8. The NNTBAP covers urban birds, including dunnock, and has the ongoing target to 'encourage developers to incorporate nesting features on all new development projects through the planning process'.



## 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

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- 5.1.1. **Section 5.2** sets out measures which are recommended to avoid, mitigate and compensate for effects upon the breeding bird assemblage as a consequence of the Scheme. These measures aim to enable compliance with the legislation described within **Section 4** above and to encourage design and construction of the Scheme in line with planning policy and other guidance wherever possible.
- 5.1.2. Opportunities for enhancement in association with the Scheme have been identified and targeted towards species listed as of conservation concern (**Section 5.3**).

### 5.2 AVOIDANCE, MITIGATION AND COMPENSATION

#### SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN

- 5.2.1. It is recommended clearance of vegetation is avoided during the main bird nesting season (March to August inclusive) to avoid damage or destruction of nests. If partial clearance of small areas is unavoidable in this period a suitably qualified ecologist should be employed to inspect the area within 24 hours prior to clearance; should any nests be identified it will be necessary for a suitable sized buffer zone in which no works occur to be put in place around the nest until the young have fledged.

### 5.3 ENHANCEMENT

- 5.3.1. The Scheme also offers the opportunity to provide nesting provision for species which have not been recorded on the Site but for which suitable foraging habitat is currently present or is likely to become present in association with the Scheme. Therefore, it is recommended the following measures are also considered:
- New landscape planting associated with the Scheme should comprise native species of local origin and include berry bearing shrubs. This is in order to provide food resources for thrushes and finches and cover for species such as dunnock (SPI, BoCC amber list, UKBAP) and compensate for the loss of woodland and scrub habitat where this is unavoidable to enable the Scheme.
  - More specifically for dunnock, the areas of scrubland, with species including hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus*, should be maintained. Management should not be intensive but should allow the scrubland areas to grow dense in order to provide dunnock with their ideal foraging habitat.
  - In addition, grassland areas should be included within landscape planting, including within the Scheme itself, providing continued foraging provision for species such as curlew (NERC Act Section 41 and UK BAP) which were noted to fly over the Site but not breed on it. Wherever possible new habitats should be designed as connective corridors, linking to other habitat areas, rather than in isolated parcels.
  - This management would be in line with the NNTBAP which has the target to '*Retain existing scrub and hedgerow on development scheme and maximise opportunities for native planting and landscaping schemes*'.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

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- 6.1.1. A total of 14 species were recorded on or over the Site during the breeding bird surveys and of these, 11 are considered to breed on the Site. These include one species, dunnock, which is a species of conservation concern, and is considered as a possible breeder on Site. This total includes species where nest sites themselves are located on immediately adjacent land but the Site is used extensively for provisioning of those nests or for song posts; and therefore, these are included as breeding species as the Site is integral to the breeding success of those birds.
- 6.1.2. Dunnock is legally protected as it is listed as a Species of Principal Importance (SPI) under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and is a BoCC amber list species.
- 6.1.3. The bird community is considered of low conservation value.
- 6.1.4. To minimise effects upon the breeding bird community avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures have been recommended within **Section 5**. In addition, consideration has been given to opportunities to enhance the value of the Site for some bird species, particularly species of conservation concern which are currently present on or over the Site but do not breed within the Site itself.

## REFERENCES

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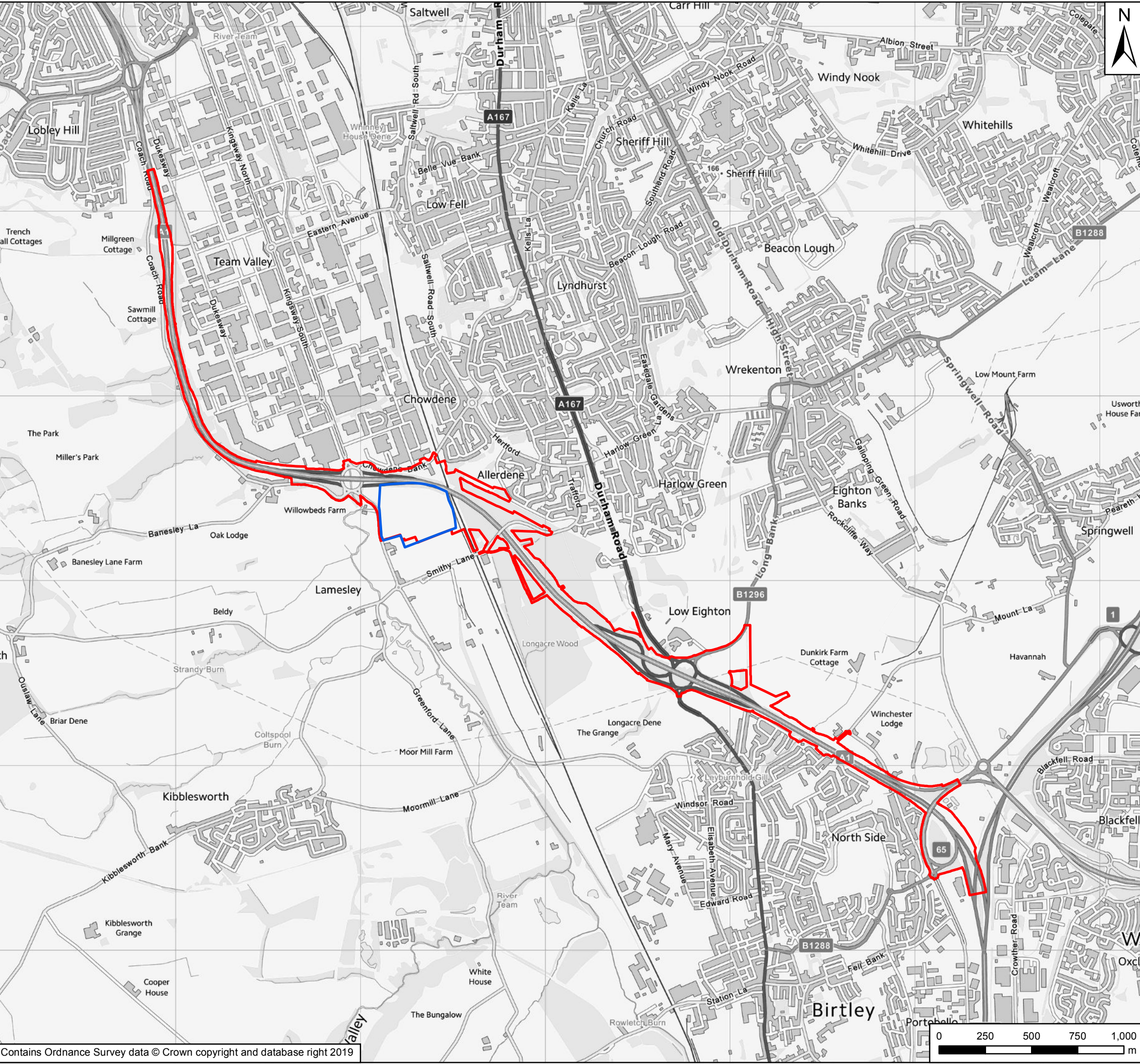
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User Name: UKGDH001 Date Saved: 16/04/2019 17:17:20  
 Document Path: \\uk.wsgroup.com\central\data\Projects\700419\A1\BCH\PCF\_Stage 3 and 4\03 Shared\EI EIA and flood risk\01 Model\GIS\MXD\Environmental Statement\Ecology Reports\Breeding Bird Report\Figure 1 - Scheme Footprint and Site Boundary.mxd



**Key**  
 Scheme Footprint  
 Site Boundary



P03	Apr 2019	Third Issue	GH	JR	KS
P02	Mar 2019	Second Issue	GH	JR	KS
P01	Dec 2018	First Issue	GH	JR	NJA
Rev	Date	Description	By	Chk'd	App'd
Suitability					Status

PINS Reference Number: **TR010031**

Client: **highways england**

Project Title: **A1 Birtley to Coal House Scheme**

Drawing Title: **Figure 1 Scheme Footprint and Site Boundary**

Scale	1:20,000	Drawn	GH	Checked	JR	Approved	KS	Authorised	NJA
Original Size	A3	Date	Dec 2018	Date	Dec 2018	Date	Dec 2018	Date	Dec 2018
Drawing Number	HE551462	HE PIN	Originator		Volume		Revision		
			WSP		6.3		P03		
PW Stage Code									



- Key**
- Site Boundary
  - Recorded singing

- Breeding Bird Survey Results**
- Survey 1
  - Survey 2
  - Survey 3
  - Survey 4
  - All Surveys

BTO Code	Name
B.	Blackbird
BT	Blue Tit
D.	Dunnock
GT	Great Tit
JD	Jackdaw
LT	Long-Tailed Tit
MG	Magpie
PH	Pheasant
RL	Red-Legged Partridge
WP	Wood Pigeon
WR	Wren

Rev	Date	Description	By	Chk'd	App'd
P03	Apr 2019	Third Issue	GH	JR	KS
P02	Mar 2019	Second Issue	GH	JR	KS
P01	Dec 2018	First Issue	GH	JR	NJA

PINS Reference Number: TR010031



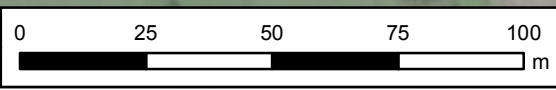
Project Title: A1 Birtley to Coal House Scheme

Drawing Title: Figure 2 Possible, Probable or Confirmed Protected and/or Notable Breeding Bird Locations

Scale	Drawn	Checked	Approved	Authorised
1:1,500	GH	JR	KS	NJA

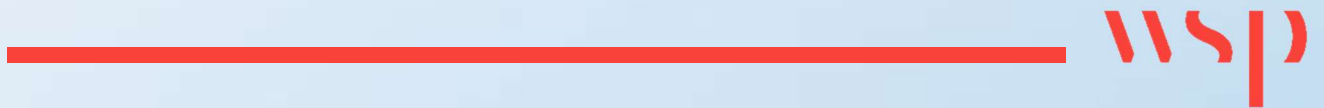
Original Size	Date	Date	Date	Date
A3	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Dec 2018

Drawing Number	Originator	Volume	Revision
HE551462	WSP	6.3	P03



# Appendix A

## **BIRTLEY TO COAL HOUSE BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS**



Appendix A: Birtley to Coal House Breeding Bird Survey Results 2018				V1 27/03/18	V2 13/04/18	V3 09/05/18	V4 05/06/18	Breeding Status	General activity description/ notable observations	
Birds Recorded	Protected Species Designations			Scientific Name						
Long-tailed tit				<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		X			Possible	An individual was observed within the trees in the north of the Site during visit two.
Red-legged partridge				<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	X			X	Possible	A single red-legged partridge was observed foraging and walking in the grassland field in the Site during visit one.
Mallard				<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	X	X			Non-breeder	A pair of mallard were seen within the grassland field in the Site during visits one and two.
Woodpigeon				<i>Columba palumbus</i>			X	X	Possible	A single woodpigeon was observed in the trees in the north-west of the Site during visit three.
Carrion crow				<i>Corvus corone</i>				X	Non-breeder	A single carrion crow was observed flying over the Site during visit four.
Jackdaw				<i>Corvus monedula</i>	X		X	X	Probable	Maximum flock of seven, observed in visit one. A pair was observed carrying nesting material into the scrub to the north of the Site during survey visit three. Individuals were observed throughout the site during all the survey visits.
Blue tit				<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		X		X	Possible	A single blue tit was seen and heard calling from the trees in the north-west corner of the Site during visit two. During visit four a single blue tit was observed within the hedgerow in the south-west of the Site.
Curlew			NERC	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	X		X		Non-breeder	A pair of curlews were seen flying over the Site during visit one, while a single curlew was seen flying over the Site during visit three.
Great tit				<i>Parus major</i>			X		Possible	A single great tit was heard calling from the trees in the north-west of the Site during visit three.
Pheasant				<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	X	X	X		Possible	Male and female pheasants were observed in the grassland field of the Site during all the survey visits.
Magpie				<i>Pica pica</i>	X	X	X	X	Possible	Magpies have been observed throughout the Site during all the survey visits.
Dunnock			NERC	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		X			Possible	A single dunnock was observed within the hedgerow in the south-west for the Site during survey visit two.
Wren				<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	X	X	X	X	Possible	Several wrens were heard calling around the Site during all visits. The maximum number of wrens was five, which were heard during visit three and were located around the boundary of the Site.

Appendix A: Birtley to Coal House Breeding Bird Survey Results 2018				V1 27/03/18	V2 13/04/18	V3 09/05/18	V4 05/06/18	Breeding Status	General activity description/ notable observations
Birds Recorded	Protected Species Designations			Scientific Name					
Blackbird				<i>Turdus merula</i>	X	X	X	Possible	A single blackbird was heard singing from the woodland in the east of the Site during visits two and three. Two blackbirds were heard singing during visit four, with one in the eastern boundary of the Site and the second in the hedgerow on the western boundary of the Site.



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