

A1 Birtley to Coal House

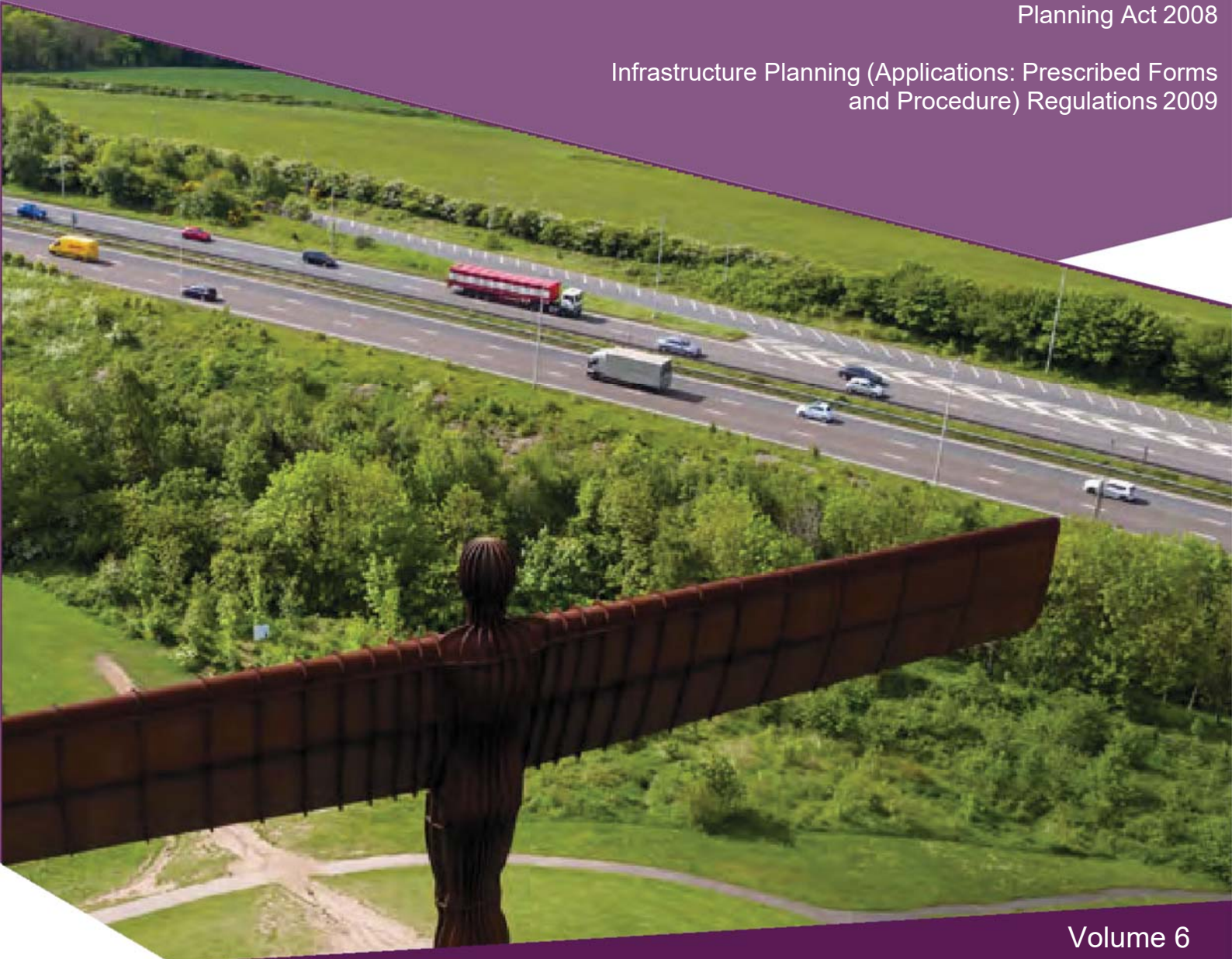
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6.3 Environmental Statement – Appendix 8.10 Wintering Bird Survey Report

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]**

**Environmental Statement -
Appendix**

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APPENDIX A

A1B2CH WINTERING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS 2017 - 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WSP UK Ltd. has undertaken a wintering bird survey on behalf of Highways England to support the construction of a temporary compound for the provision of enhancement works for the A1. The location of the proposed compound is situated to the north-east of the village of Lamesley, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear (central national grid reference NZ 253 583). This land is hereafter referred to as 'the Site' and can be viewed in **Figure 1**.

In total, four wintering bird survey visits were conducted once a month, between November 2017 and February 2018 inclusive. Surveys covered all habitats within the Site.

A total of 35 species were recorded on or over the Site during the wintering bird surveys. Of these, 17 species are species of conservation concern, which includes one species listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), seven Species of Principal Importance (SPI) under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, nine Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) red list species and eight BoCC amber list species. Eight species were also identified as species listed within the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan (DBAP).

The bird community within the Site during the winter period was varied. The majority of the assemblage was typical of a lowland farmland assemblage. Wet grassland within the Site was identified as a foraging resource for a variety of species of conservation concern including black-headed gull, curlew, grey wagtail, kestrel, lapwing, mistle thrush, starling and potentially woodcock. The high-water table within the Site provides damp soft invertebrate rich soils for the species identified above.

Boundary features (woodland, hedgerow, scrub) found on or directly adjacent to the Site were found to support species of conservation concern including bullfinch, dunnock, redwing and song thrush. These habitats act as a foraging resource for these species as well as areas of cover to rest and potentially roost.

The individual species of conservation concern recorded within Site together with the wintering bird assemblage as a whole, are considered to be of Local importance. As the construction compound is temporary and the habitats within the Site are well represented within the wider landscape, we anticipate that no potentially significant adverse effects upon the winter bird assemblage. It is recommended that the southern section of site, that will be retained following completion of the works should be remediated to wet grassland upon the completion of the upgrade works.

Five non-statutory designated sites of ornithological interest, known locally as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), were identified within 2 kilometres of the Site boundary. The Site was found to support or have the potential to support species that are designated features of LWS's. The small size of the Site and the habitats within it, however only represents a small proportional temporary loss of suitable habitat when placed in context within the amount of suitable

habitat available with the wider environment. We therefore anticipate that the construction compound will not have any potentially significant adverse effects upon the five LWS's identified within this report. As a result, the presence of the LWS's does not pose as a constraint to the construction compound.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 WSP Ltd (WSP) was commissioned by Highways England to undertake a wintering bird survey on land situated to the north-east of the village of Lamesley, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear (central national grid reference NZ 253 583). This land is defined by the Site Boundary on **Figure 1** and is hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.
- 1.1.2 Under current proposals, a temporary construction compound and associated works is to be created within the Site, this hereafter referred to as 'the temporary compound'. The temporary compound will be utilised as a base for plant storage for the A1 Birtley to Coal House Scheme which aims to increase capacity between junction 67 (Coal House) and junction 65 (Birtley). The existing road would be widened to provide a three lanes carriageway; additional lanes would be provided between junctions to help manage traffic joining and leaving the A1. This is hereafter referred to as 'the Scheme'. The A1 lies approximately 35m from the northern boundary of the Site.

1.2 ECOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1 Aerial photography (Google Maps 2018) of the Site shows that it comprises a large grassland field, bounded by post and wire livestock fencing. A farm access track divides the northern boundary of the Site from an area of dense scrub that follows the majority of the northern boundary. Broad-leaved semi-natural woodlands form the north-western and eastern boundaries of the Site. A hedgerow runs along the western boundary, adjoining the woodland within the north-western corner. Further areas of grassland lie adjacent to the southern boundary of the Site, divided by livestock fencing. A house with stables and associated grassland lies adjacent to the south-western boundary of the Site.
- 1.2.2 To the east and west of the Site lies a mosaic of landscapes dominated by arable and pastoral farmland. The landscape to the north and west of the Site is largely urban in nature, dominated by the town of Gateshead.

1.3 BRIEF AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.3.1 WSP was commissioned by Highways England to complete wintering bird surveys within the Site. The objectives of these surveys were to:
- Sample the bird activity within the Site to assess the wintering bird assemblage present.
 - Evaluate the value of the Site for wintering birds.
 - Consider the implications of the compound on relevant legislation, planning policies and other considerations such as the conservation statuses of birds wintering within the Site (where relevant).
 - Make recommendations as to how proposals should account for wintering birds in relation to legislation, planning and biodiversity policy.
- 1.3.2 The wintering bird survey is reported within this document.

2 METHODS

2.1 DESK STUDY

DESIGNATED SITES WITH BIRDS AS QUALIFYING FEATURES

- 2.1.1 An online desk study for information on European statutory sites of ornithological interest within 10 kilometres of the Site; and also information on national statutory sites of ornithological interest within 2 kilometres of the Site. All information was obtained from:
- Nature on the Map /Multi Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (<http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk>).
 - Natural England website (<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk>).
- 2.1.2 Environmental Records Information Centre – North East was consulted in March 2018 to ascertain information on non- statutory sites of ornithological interest within 1 kilometre of the Site.

PROTECTED AND/OR NOTABLE BIRD RECORDS

- 2.1.3 Environmental Records Information Centre – North East were also consulted in March 2018 to gain detailed local bird species records within 2 kilometres of the Site.

2.2 WINTERING BIRD SURVEY

- 2.2.1 Surveys were completed in accordance with methods outlined within Bibby *et al* (2000). A walked transect was completed on each survey visit, to encompass all habitats present within the Site, the direction walked was alternated between survey visits to minimise bias by ensuring different parts of the Site were assessed at different times of day in relation to dawn.
- 2.2.2 During each visit all birds encountered (i.e. heard and seen) within the Site or on adjacent land (up to approximately 50m away) were counted and identified to species level. Birds flying over the Site were also recorded. The approximate location of each bird was recorded on a map of the Site using standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) two letter species codes. Additional information on behaviour (e.g. direction of flight, calling or displaying) was also recorded using standard activity symbols (Gilbert *et al*, 1998).
- 2.2.3 Four survey visits were completed between November 2017 and February 2018 (see **Section 2.3** below).
- 2.2.4 Following completion of the survey visits, a maximum count was derived for each species. The count comprises the largest number of individual adult birds of any one species recorded using the Site during any one visit. Birds seen in flight only are not considered to be using the Site and are not included within the maximum counts.
- 2.2.5 Adverse weather conditions such as extremely heavy rain, fog or high winds which would be sufficient to reduce detectability of birds or may introduce data bias were avoided. (See **Appendix A** for weather conditions whilst undertaking surveys).

2.3 DATES OF SURVEY AND PERSONNEL

2.3.1 All surveys were conducted by competent ornithologists with experience of conducting wintering bird surveys of lowland farmland habitats, all of whom are members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Surveyors had between three and eleven years' experience of ornithological surveys.

2.3.2 Dates of survey and weather conditions are given in **Table 2-1** below:

Table 2-1 - Dates of survey and weather conditions

Survey Visit	Date	Start Time	Finish Time	Sunrise	Sunset	Weather conditions
1	26/11/17	07:50	09:10	07:53	15:48	Temp 6°C. Cloud cover 6/8. Wind 1 westerly. Visibility 2km. Clear, no rain and cold.
2	07/12/17	08:10	09:22	08:16	15:40	Temp 1°C to 2 °C. Cloud cover 2/8 to 3/8. Wind 2 south-easterly. Visibility >2km. Clear, cold, wet on ground, no rain.
3	26/01/18	08:02	10:11	08:07	16:31	Temp 2°C to 3 °C. Cloud cover 1/8 to 2/8, Wind 3 northerly. Visibility >3km. Dry, clear and cold.
4	20/02/18	07:10	09:15	07:18	17:23	Temp 5°C to 6 °C, Cloud cover 2/8 to 3/8, Wind 2 northerly, Visibility >2km. Wet on ground, clear, sunny, no rain

2.4 EVALUATION

2.4.1 The evaluation of the importance of the Site for wintering birds has been based on CIEEM guidance (CIEEM 2016). This guidance recommends that the evaluation is made with reference to a geographical frame of reference. The evaluation has been split into two sections. First, an evaluation looking at the complete wintering bird assemblage as a whole using the total species recorded within the Site/adjacent to the Site; and second, an evaluation of each species of conservation interest, using the maximum counts recorded within the Site/adjacent to the Site.

2.4.2 The evaluation criterion for each geographical frame was decided upon using the current and most up to date information available where possible. Professional judgement was also used in the process. The criteria was influenced by:

- Current legislation and policy.
- Natural England in Guidelines for Selection of Biological SSSIs (JNCC 2013).
- Population estimates of birds in Great Britain and the United Kingdom (Musgrove *et al* 2013).
- Guidelines For The Selection Of Local Wildlife Sites (Northumberland Wildlife Trust 2002)¹.
- European Birds of Conservation Concern: Populations, Trends and National Responsibilities (Staneva & Burfield 2017).
- A Method for Assessing the Ornithological Interest of Sites for Conservation (Fuller 1980).
- Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man (Eaton *et al* 2015).

2.4.3 Specific evaluation criteria and its respective reference of geographical importance are listed within **Table 2-2** below.

Table 2-2 - Approach for evaluation of the wintering bird assemblage and individual notable and/or protected species

Geographical importance	Criteria
International/European	<p>Site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Site that supports over 20,000 waterbirds in any season. <p>Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A species present occurring nationally important population (>1 of British population) of any internationally important species listed under Annex I of the Birds Directive, or migratory species listed under Annex II of the

¹ Document used as no guidelines for the selection of local wildlife sites in Gateshead is available. Northumberland Wildlife Trust (NWT) works in partnership with Gateshead Council under the north-east England Partnership therefore this document has been used.

Geographical importance	Criteria
	<p>Birds Directive connected to a SPA designated for this species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A species present occurring internationally important population (>1 of European population).
National (Great Britain)	<p>Site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A nationally important assemblage of wintering species (115+ species). <p>Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A species which is a qualifying feature of a SSSI and which occurs in nationally (>1% of British population) or regionally important numbers (>0.75% of British population). - A species present in nationally important numbers (>1 of British population). - A regionally important population (>0.75% of British population) of any nationally important species listed as a SPI under the NERC Act 2006 and species listed under Schedule 1 or of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Annex I of the Birds Directive and Red-listed BoCC.
Regional (north-east)	<p>Site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A regionally important assemblage of wintering species (115 - 85 species). <p>Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A species present in regionally important numbers (>0.75% of British population), and not listed as a SPI under the NERC Act 2006 and species listed under Schedule 1 or of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Annex I of the Birds Directive. - A county important population (>0.5% of British population) of any nationally important species listed as a SPI under the NERC Act 2006 and species listed under Schedule 1 or of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Annex I of the Birds Directive and Red-listed BoCC.
County (Tyne and Wear)	Site:

Geographical importance	Criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A county important assemblage of wintering species (84-55 species). <p>Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A species present in county important numbers (>0.5 % of British population). and not listed as a SPI under the NERC Act 2006 and species listed under Schedule 1 or of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Annex I of the Birds Directive. - A locally important population (>0.25% of British population) of any nationally important species listed as a SPI under the NERC Act 2006 and species listed under Schedule 1 or of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Annex I of the Birds Directive and Red-listed BoCC.
Local (Gateshead)	<p>Site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A locally important assemblage of wintering species (54—25 species). <p>Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A species present in locally important numbers (>0.25 % of British population). and not listed as a SPI under the NERC Act 2006 and species listed under Schedule 1 or of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Annex I of the Birds Directive. - Any number of any nationally important species listed as a SPI under the NERC Act 2006 and species listed under Schedule 1 or of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Annex I of the Birds Directive and Red-listed/Amber BoCC, which have not been listed under any of the - criteria above. - Any species identified within the citation of a Local Wildlife Site (LWS)/Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) within 2km of the Site.
Within the confines of the Site	<p>Site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An important assemblage of wintering species (<25 species), in the context of the Site. <p>Species:</p>

Geographical importance	Criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Species that are not present in locally, regionally, nationally or international important numbers. All Green-listed BoCCs.

2.4.4 To inform the assessment in this report the maximum counts of bird species identified, the abundance of the species at the county and national level, the quality of the habitat present and the geographical range of the birds concerned have been considered, based on national and regional accounts.

2.5 NOTES AND LIMITATIONS

2.5.1 The field surveys were completed in suitable weather conditions across a sufficient seasonal spread within the optimal season for wintering bird surveys (November to February). Therefore, the data gathered is considered to provide a robust assessment of the wintering bird community present within the Site.

2.5.2 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 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 the Site.

3 RESULTS

3.1 DESK STUDY

STATUTORY SITES OF ORNITHOLOGICAL INTEREST

3.1.1 The desk study identified no European or international statutory sites of ornithological interest within a 10 kilometre radius of the Site Boundary. It also did not identify any national statutory sites of ornithological interest within a 2 kilometre radius of the Site.

NON STATUTORY SITES OF ORNITHOLOGICAL INTEREST

3.1.2 The desk study identified five non statutory sites of ornithological interest within a 2 kilometre radius of the Site Boundary. Locally, these are referred to as LWS. A summary of features of ornithological interest of each LWS and the distance from the closest point of the Site boundary are listed in **Table 3-1** below for non-statutory sites. Relevant legislative and policy context is given in **Section 4** below. Full details on statutory and non-statutory designated sites are set out in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report (WSP 2018).

Table 3-1 - Non- statutory sites of ornithological interest

Site Name	Designation (s)	Distance from Site	Features of Ornithological Interest
Lamesley Meadows	Gateshead LWS	0.74km south	A site containing permanent pasture, riverbank, ponds and reedbeds. The site supports dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i> and song thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i> , but also breeding waders such as lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> , redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i> and snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> .
Hagg Wood/Gill and Mitcheson's Gill	Gateshead LWS	0.84km south	The site supports semi-natural woodland and scrub, supporting spotted flycatcher, dunnock and song thrush.
Lamesley Reedbeds	Gateshead LWS	1.27km south	The main habitat is a large reedbed, the largest <i>Phragmites</i> bed in Gateshead. Site supports song thrush, reed bunting, and kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i> .
Long Acre Dene	Gateshead LWS	1.40km south-east	An area of ancient semi-natural woodland in the valley of the River Team. The site supports spotted flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i> , dunnock and song thrush.

Site Name	Designation (s)	Distance from Site	Features of Ornithological Interest
Bowes Valley Nature Reserve	Gateshead LWS	1.49km south	The site supports song thrush, skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i> , grey partridge <i>Perdix perdix</i> and little ringed plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i> .

PROTECTED AND/OR NOTABLE SPECIES

- 3.1.3 The desk study identified several records of 41 protected and/or notable bird species within 2 kilometres of the Site boundary with potential for to occur within the Site between November and February. These are summarised in **Table 3-2** below showing the species records and their protected status.

Table 3-2 - Protected and/or notable bird species recorded within 2km of the Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	Schedule	Section 41	Red List	Amber	DBAP	Number of records within 2km of the Site	Distance from the Site
Bewick's swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>	✓	✓		✓		13	1.33km south-west
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓		198	1.19km north
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		✓		✓		12	1.33km south-west
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>				✓		38	1.33km south-west
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		✓	✓		✓	176	1.33km south-west
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				✓	✓	3	1.33km south-west
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓		✓		196	1.33km south-west
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	✓		✓			59	1.33km south-west
Greater black-backed gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>				✓		18	1.33km south-west
White-fronted goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>		✓	✓			2	1.33km south-west
Green sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	✓			✓		3	1.33km south-west
Grey partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>		✓	✓			2	1.33km south-west
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			✓			7	1.33km south-west
Greylag	<i>Anser anser</i>				✓		193	1.33km south-west

Common Name	Scientific Name	Schedule	Section 41	Red List	Amber	DBAP	Number of records within 2km of the Site	Distance from the Site
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		✓	✓			192	1.33km south-west
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓		✓	229	1.33km south-west
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				✓		178	0.67km south-east
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		✓	✓		✓	184	1.33km south-west
Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				✓		79	1.33km south-west
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓	✓		✓	36	1.33km south-west
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				✓		219	1.33km south-west
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				✓		39	1.33km south-west
Mediterranean gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	✓			✓		1	1.33km south-west
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			✓			63	1.19km north
Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				✓		56	1.33km south-west
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				✓		63	1.33km south-west
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	✓				✓	5	1.33km south-west
Pink-footed goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>				✓		22	1.33km south-west
Red kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	✓					21	1.33km south-west

Common Name	Scientific Name	Schedule	Section 41	Red List	Amber	DBAP	Number of records within 2km of the Site	Distance from the Site
Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>				✓	✓	79	1.33km south-west
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	✓		✓			70	1.33km south-west
Reed bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		✓		✓	✓	37	1.33km south-west
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				✓		87	1.33km south-west
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	✓		✓	2	1.33km south-west
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				✓	✓	65	1.33km south-west
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓		✓	40	1.33km south-west
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓		✓	222	1.33km south-west
Stock dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>				✓		63	1.33km south-west
Tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓	✓		✓	177	1.33km south-west
Whooper swan	<i>Cygnus Cygnus</i>	✓			✓		1	1.33km south-west
Willow tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>		✓	✓			42	1.33km south-west

3.2 FIELD SURVEY

- 3.2.1 A total of 35 species of bird were recorded on or over the Site. This included 17 species which are subject to specific protection beyond that extended to all birds and/or are species of conservation concern (legislative and conservation context is provided in **Section 4** below).
- 3.2.2 The 17 protected and/or notable species that were recorded on or over the Site during the wintering bird survey are listed within **Table 3-3** below; along with a description of the species' general abundance and location/s in the Site throughout the survey visits. Where species are subject to specific legal protection (beyond that extended to all wild birds under the WCA 1981 (as amended)) this information is included, along with applicable conservation listings.
- 3.2.3 Of the 17 protected and/or notable species recorded, only 13 of these species were recorded within the Site. The approximate locations of the 13 protected and/or notable species recorded within the Site are illustrated on **Figure 2**.
- 3.2.4 A full list of species recorded during the survey can be found in **Appendix A**.

Table 3-3 - Species of conservation concern or subject to additional legal protection recorded on or over the Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	Schedule 1	Section 41	Red List	Amber List	DBAP	Flying Over the Site only	Maximum Flock Count	Description of species activity, location/s within the Site
Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓			11	Recorded loafing and feeding on the grassland within the Site as well as flying over the Site in November and December.
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		✓		✓			2	Two birds identified within scrub adjacent to the northern boundary of the Site in December. Single male bird recorded calling from woodland within the north-western corner of the Site in February.
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		✓	✓		✓		22	Birds recorded foraging and loafing on grassland both on and adjacent to the Site on all survey visits. Birds not present at sunrise, and would arrive onto the Site after Sunrise, suggesting they are roosting elsewhere.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓		✓			1	Single bird recorded calling from a hedgerow eastern boundary of the Site in November and February.
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			✓		✓		2	Birds recorded foraging on grassland within the Site in December, January and February.
Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				✓		✓	9	Recorded flying over the southern boundary of the Site in November, heading west.
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		✓	✓			✓	1	Single birds recorded flying over the Site in January and February.
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				✓	✓		1	Single male recorded hunting over the Site as well perching on pylons within the Site in November.
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	8	Birds recorded foraging and loafing on grassland within the Site in December and February. Birds not present at sunrise, and would arrive onto the Site after Sunrise, suggesting they are roosting elsewhere.
Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				✓		✓	2	Two birds recorded flying over the Site in November.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				✓		✓	1	Single bird recorded flying over the Site in December.
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				✓			1	Single bird flushed from the grassland field within the Site in February, flew south.
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			✓		✓		4	Birds recorded foraging on grassland both on and adjacent to the Site in November and December.
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	✓		✓				14	Birds perched and calling from woodland within the north-western corner of the Site in December and January.
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓		✓		1	Single bird recorded calling from woodland within the north-western corner of the Site in February. Single bird also recorded flying low of the Site calling in the same month.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Schedule 1	Section 41	Red List	Amber List	DBAP	Flying Over the Site only	Maximum Flock Count	Description of species activity, location/s within the Site
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓		✓		18	Birds recorded foraging on grassland both on and adjacent to the Site in December and January. Two birds recorded flying over the Site in November.
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>			✓		✓		1	Single bird flushed from grassland within south-eastern corner of the Site, directly adjacent woodland along the eastern boundary.

3.3 EVALUATION

WINTERING BIRD ASSEMBLAGE EVALUATION

- 3.3.1 During the surveys the Site was found to support 35 species of wintering bird. This lies within the 'Local' threshold of 54 - 25 species (Fuller 1980), for this reason the wintering bird assemblage within the Site is considered to be of Local importance.

NOTABLE AND/OR PROTECTED SPECIES EVALUATION

- 3.3.2 **Table 3-4** below details the results of the evaluation for notable and/or protected species identified within the Site (see **Figure 2**).

Table 3-4 - Evaluation results of protected and/or notable species recorded within the Site

Common name	Scientific name	Schedule 1	Section 41	Red list	Amber list	DBAP	Maximum count on Site	European population estimate	European population on Site (%)	British population estimate	British population on Site (%)	Geographical importance
Black-headed gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>				✓		11	2,200,000	0.00050	1,200,000	0.00092	Local
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		✓		✓		2	9,300,000*	0.000022	380,000*	0.00052	Local
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		✓	✓			22	480,000	0.0046	150,000	0.015	Local
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓		✓		1	25,400,000*	0.0000040	5,600,000*	0.000018	Local
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			✓		✓	2	1,378,000	0.00015	70,000*	0.0029	Local
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				✓	✓	1	818,000	0.00012	90,000*	0.0011	Local
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		✓	✓			8	3,410,000	0.00023	650,000	0.0012	Local
Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				✓		1	19,340,000	0.0000052	3,800,000*	0.000026	Local
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			✓		✓	4	8,240,000*	0.000049	320,000*	0.0013	Local
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	✓		✓			14	26,400,000*	0.000053	650,000	0.0022	Local
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓		✓	1	48,800,000*	0.0000020	2,200,000*	0.000045	Local
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓		✓	18	57,600,000*	0.000031	3,600,000	0.0005	Local
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>			✓		✓	1	13,780,000	0.0000072	156,000	0.00064	Local

*Derived from breeding population estimate on the assumption of an equal sex ratio, as no wintering population estimate was available. Where applicable this has been derived from the lower population estimate.

4 LEGISLATIVE AND CONSERVATION CONTEXT

CONSERVATION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES REGULATIONS 2017

- 4.1.1 The Habitats Directive is translated into UK law through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended, known as the 'Habitat Regulations'. Under the amendments to the regulations made in August 2012, section 10 (2) & (3) states 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. No breeding activity was recorded during the wintering bird surveys therefore recommendations to avoid contravention of this legislation are not detailed within this report.
- 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 The only Schedule 1 listed species recorded within the Site was redwing, however this species does not breed in England and this additional protection is only applicable upon nesting birds.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL COMMUNITIES (NERC) 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 SPI Act requires the Secretary of State to list Habitats and Species of Principal Importance (HPIs and SPIs) for the conservation of biodiversity in England. Seven bird species listed as SPI's in accordance with Section 41 were recorded on or over the Site. Six of these species were recorded within the Site; namely bullfinch, curlew, dunnock, lapwing, song thrush and starling. Herring gull was the only SPI to be recorded flying over the Site.

4.2 PLANNING POLICY

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF) 2012

- 4.2.1 At a national context planning policy is driven by the NPPF. 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 recognising 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 outweighs 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)[Now SPI's]...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.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE – CORE STRATEGY AND URBAN CORE PLAN FOR GATESHEAD AND NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, 2010-2030

4.2.5 At a local level, planning policy comprises the Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan for Gateshead and Newcastle Upon Tyne, 2010-2030 (adopted March 2015). Local planning policy of ornithological interest centres on ‘Policy CS18 Green Infrastructure and the Natural Environment’. This document states that: *‘Policy CS18 intends to protect and enhance our Green Infrastructure Network and natural environment. This includes... the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity... Building design can also incorporate features that make an important contribution to conserving and enhancing biodiversity*

Policy CS18 states that *‘A high quality and comprehensive framework of interconnected green infrastructure that offers ease of movement and an appealing natural environment for people and wildlife will be achieved by:*

1. *Maintaining, protecting and enhancing the integrity, connectivity, multifunctionality and accessibility of the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network.*
2. *Protection, enhancement and management of green infrastructure assets which include:*
 - I. *Biodiversity and geodiversity assets, including designated sites, designated wildlife corridors and priority habitats and species,*
 - II. *Distinctive landscape character, recognising the particular importance of our rivers and topography, and*
 - III. *Trees, woodland and hedgerows.*
3. *Addressing gaps in the network and making improvements in Opportunity Areas.*
4. *Improving and extending linkages to and within the Strategic Green Infrastructure Network.*
5. *Protecting and enhancing open spaces, sport and recreational facilities in accordance with agreed standards in line with National Policy.*
6. *Improving access to, along and onto the River Tyne and tributaries, without adversely impacting on the local ecology or damaging the river banks’*

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Birds of Conservation Concern Red and Amber Lists

4.2.6 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, 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 for 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 a 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.

- 4.2.7 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.
- 4.2.8 Red list species identified within the Site were curlew; grey wagtail, lapwing, mistle thrush, redwing, song thrush; starling; and woodcock. Herring gull was the only red list species to be recorded flying over the Site.
- 4.2.9 Amber list species identified within the Site were black-headed gull, bullfinch dunnock, kestrel and meadow pipit. Amber-listed species recorded flying over the Site were greylag goose *Anser anser*, lesser black-backed gull and mallard.

Durham Biodiversity Action Plan

- 4.2.10 The Durham Biodiversity Action Plan (DBAP) (2007) was developed by Durham Biodiversity Partnership and is now under the custody of the North East England Nature Partnership. This document identifies habitats and species of particular value or concern at the local level. Bird listed a priority species within the DBAP that were recorded during the surveys were curlew, grey wagtail, kestrel, lapwing, mistle thrush, song thrush, starling and woodcock.

5 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 DISCUSSION

- 5.1.1 A full evaluation of the wintering bird assemblage and any subsequent recommendations as to how proposals should account for wintering birds in relation to relevant legislation and planning policy will be made within the Environmental Statement (ES). However, the habitats/species assemblages and recommendations detailed below should be considered during the design, construction and remediation of the construction compound to avoid and minimise adverse effects upon wintering birds. The below recommendations have regard for legislation, planning policy and conservation listing information included within **Section 4** above.

5.2 WINTERING BIRD ASSEMBLAGE

- 5.2.1 The evaluation of the wintering bird assemblage identified it to be of Local importance, as it was found to support 35 species over the wintering period. This is believed to be a fair evaluation of the Site, given its small size and that it sits within a landscape of similar habitats.
- 5.2.2 The grassland habitats within the Site were identified as a foraging resource for a variety of species of conservation concern including black-headed gull, curlew, grey wagtail, kestrel, lapwing, mistle thrush, starling and woodcock. The high water table within the Site provides damp soft invertebrate rich soils for the species identified above.
- 5.2.3 Boundary features (woodland, hedgerow, scrub) found on or directly adjacent to the Site were found to support species of conservation concern which were bullfinch, dunnock, redwing and song thrush. These habitats act as a foraging resource for these species as well as areas of cover to rest and potentially roost.
- 5.2.4 All species of conservation concern were identified as being of Local importance within the context of this survey. This is also believed to be a fair evaluation of the Site due to its small size and that the habitats present are common and widespread within the wider landscape. It is therefore anticipated that the Site is unlikely to support populations of species that are considered to be greater than Local importance.
- 5.2.5 Of the 41 notable and/or protected species identified by the desk study, 21 species were not recorded on and/or over the Site were. The fact that these species went unrecorded does not infer their absence from the Site, as it contains features with the potential to support these species over the survey period (November and February). Given the small size of the Site however we anticipate that the Site would not support significant populations of these species when placed in context with the habitat available within the wider landscape.

5.3 DESIGNATED SITES

LAMESLEY MEADOWS LWS

- 5.3.1 As stated, the Site was found to support curlew and lapwing, which are both designated features of Lamesley Meadows LWS. The construction compound will be temporary; therefore, the temporary loss of habitat only represents a small proportional loss of suitable habitat for both species when placed in context with the wider environment. We therefore anticipate that the construction compound will have potentially significant adverse effects upon the integrity of Lamesley Meadows LWS. Therefore, the presence of Lamesley Meadows LWS does not pose a constraint to the construction compound.

HAGG WOOD/GILL AND MITCHESON'S GILL LWS AND LONG ACRE DENE LWS

- 5.3.2 Hagg Wood/Gill and Mitcheson's Gill LWS and Long Acre Dene LWS are both areas of semi-natural woodland support the same designated ornithological features. Spotted flycatcher is a summer migrant to the UK, therefore is unlikely to be recorded between November and February. Both dunnock and song thrush, despite their conservation status, are generalists and are considered to be widespread in terms of their distribution. The grassland within the Site represents suitable foraging habitat for both species. The temporary loss of this habitat and its small size within the Site, when placed in context with the suitable foraging habitat available within the wider landscape, is unlikely to have potentially significant effects on either species. As no likely adverse impacts are anticipated on either species we therefore consider that the presence of Hagg Wood/Gill and Mitcheson's Gill LWS and Long Acre Dene LWS does not pose a constraint to the construction compound.

LAMESLEY REEDBEDS LWS

- 5.3.3 Lamesley Reedbeds LWS has been designated as it supports kingfisher, reed bunting and song thrush. The presence of kingfisher on the Site itself is unlikely due to the negligible potential of the habitats to support this species, therefore connectivity between the Site and the LWS is negligible for this species. The Site has the potential to support reed bunting and has been found to support song thrush as identified above. Again, the small size of suitable habitats for both species within the Site is unlikely to support significant populations, when placed in context with the amount of suitable habitat within the wider environment. As a result, it is unlikely to have potentially significant effects on either species. As no likely adverse impacts are anticipated on either species, we therefore consider that the presence of Lamesley Reedbeds LWS does not pose a constraint to the construction compound.

BOWES VALLEY NATURE RESERVE LWS

- 5.3.4 Bowes Valley Nature Reserve LWS has been designated as it supports little-ringed plover, skylark, grey partridge and song thrush. Little-ringed plover only breeds in the UK; however, its presence within the Site itself is considered unlikely due to the negligible potential of the habitats to support this species. We therefore anticipated the connectivity between the Site

and the LWS is negligible for this species. The Site has the potential to support skylark and grey partridge and has been found to support song thrush as identified. Again the small size of suitable habitats for all three species within the Site is unlikely to support significant populations, when placed in context with the amount of suitable habitat within the wider environment. As a result, it is unlikely to have potentially significant effects on either species. As no likely adverse impacts are anticipated on all three species, we therefore consider that the presence of Bowes Valley Nature Reserve LWS does not pose a constraint to the construction compound.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.4.1 The recommendations should be considered during the design, construction and remediation of the construction compound and incorporated where feasible to avoid and minimise effects on wintering birds and compensate for these where they are unavoidable. The below recommendations have regard for legislation, planning policy and conservation listing information included within **Section 4** above. This is not a comprehensive list of recommendations. Only some recommendations may be applicable and others may not be presented, depending on designs and likely effects which will be finalised and identified as part of the ES.
- Upon completion of the Scheme, the Site should be remediated and reverted back into wet grassland with ephemeral pools to avoid any permanent long-term loss of foraging habitat for species of conservation concern that have been shown to utilise it, such as lapwing and curlew.
 - Ensure that an appropriate grazing regime is implemented on the wet grassland once remediated to ensure the grassland sward is below 15cm, which is favoured by birds such as lapwing.
 - Retain other key habitat features used by wintering birds of conservation concern where possible, such as woodland, scrub and hedgerows.
 - Where the permanent loss of woodland, scrub and hedgerows is unavoidable this should be compensated for through inclusion of similar habitats consisting of native species, within the Site.
 - Any new landscape planting should incorporate fruiting species that provide winter berries for thrushes and finches, such as blackthorn and hawthorn, and local apple varieties. Management of berry bearing shrubs and fruit trees should occur in the latter part of the winter (January/February) to maximise the availability of these as a foraging resource.
 - Wherever possible new habitats should be created as connecting corridors, linking to retained habitat and other new habitats, rather than in isolated parcels.
 - General environmental protection measures should be implemented during the construction phase of the construction compound to avoid the degradation of habitats for wintering birds within close proximity to the Site. Such measures include best environmental practice guidance outlined in the Environment Agency's Pollution Prevention Advice and Guidance (Environment Agency, 2007) and those outlined by the

Construction Industry Research and Information Association guidance (CIRIA, 2015).
The following minimum standards must be adhered to prevent ecological impacts beyond the Site boundary:

- Measures must be taken to prevent dust and other emissions from construction affecting land beyond the Site.
- Noise and vibration must be controlled and kept to the minimum necessary.
- Lighting used for construction must be switched-off when not in use and positioned so as not to spill on to adjacent land or retained vegetation within the Site.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 A total of 35 species were recorded on or over the Site during the wintering bird survey. These included 17 species which are considered to be species of conservation concern, of which 13 were recorded within the Site. It should be noted categories are not exclusive and a species can be listed in more than one conservation category (for example listed as an SPI and as either a Red or Amber list BoCC). The number of birds recorded within each category is summarised below:
- Redwing, which was the only species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) to be recorded.
 - Seven species listed as SPI under the NERC Act 2006. These were bullfinch, dunnock, curlew, herring gull, lapwing, song thrush and starling.
 - Nine BoCC red listed species, namely grey wagtail, herring gull, curlew, lapwing, mistle thrush, redwing, song thrush, starling and woodcock.
 - Eight amber-listed species BoCC, namely bullfinch, dunnock, black-headed gull, greylag goose, kestrel, lesser black-backed gull, mallard and meadow pipit.
 - Eight species listed as priority species within the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan, these were curlew, grey wagtail, kestrel, lapwing, mistle thrush, song thrush, starling and woodcock.
- 6.1.2 The key habitats identified for wintering birds within and or directly adjacent to the Site were the wet grassland field covering the majority of the Site and boundary features (hedgerow, scrub and woodland), all of which were recorded to support species of conservation concern.
- 6.1.3 The evaluation considered all species of conservation concern listed above to be of Local importance. The evaluation also considers the wintering bird assemblage within the Site to be of Local importance. As the construction compound is temporary and the habitats within the Site are well represented within the wider landscape, this would lead a small minor negative effect during the construction and operation of the construction compound. The remediation of the Site to wet grassland upon the completion of the upgrade works would cause the residual overall significance of the development to the wintering bird assemblage and specific species of conservation concern to be negligible. Therefore, the species and assemblage present within the Site should not be a constraint to the construction compound.
- 6.1.4 The Site was found to support or have the potential to support species that are features of LWS's within 2 kilometres of the Site. The small size of the Site and the habitats within it, however only represents a small proportional loss of suitable habitat when placed in context within the amount of suitable habitat available with the wider environment. We therefore anticipate that the construction compound will not have any potentially significant adverse effects upon the LWS's identified within this report. As a result, the presence of The LWS's identified does not pose as a constraint to the construction compound.

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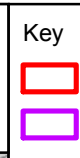
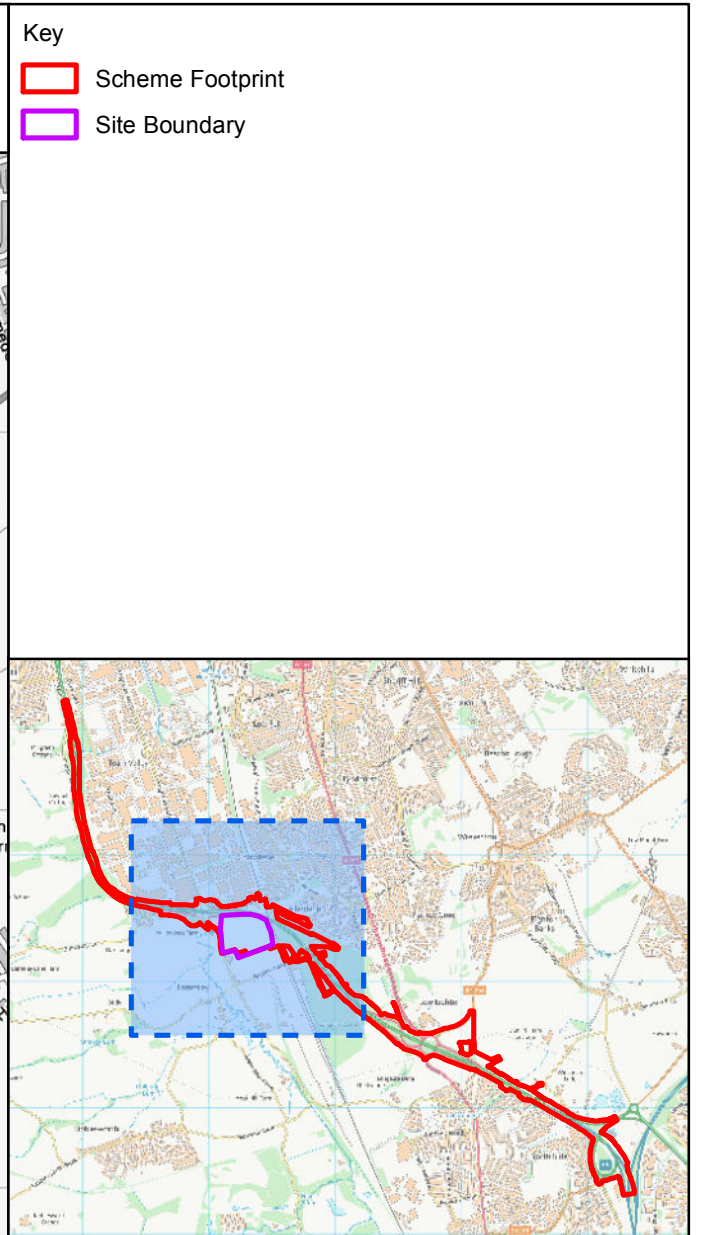
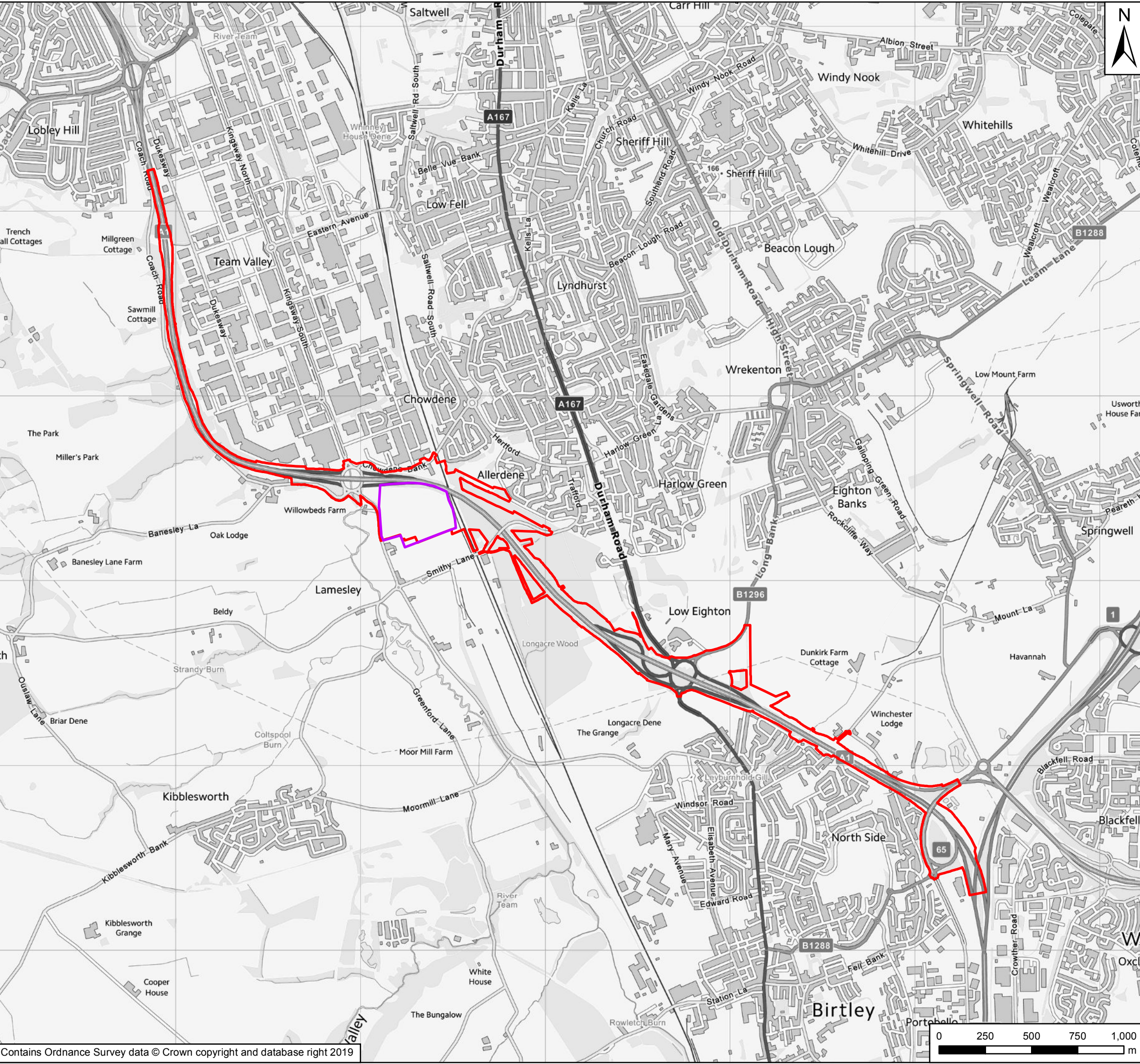
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Key
 Scheme Footprint
 Site Boundary

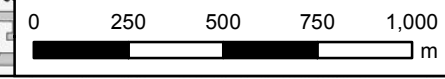
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P02	Mar 2019	Second Issue	GH	JR	KS
P01	Dec 2018	First Issue	GH	JR	NJA

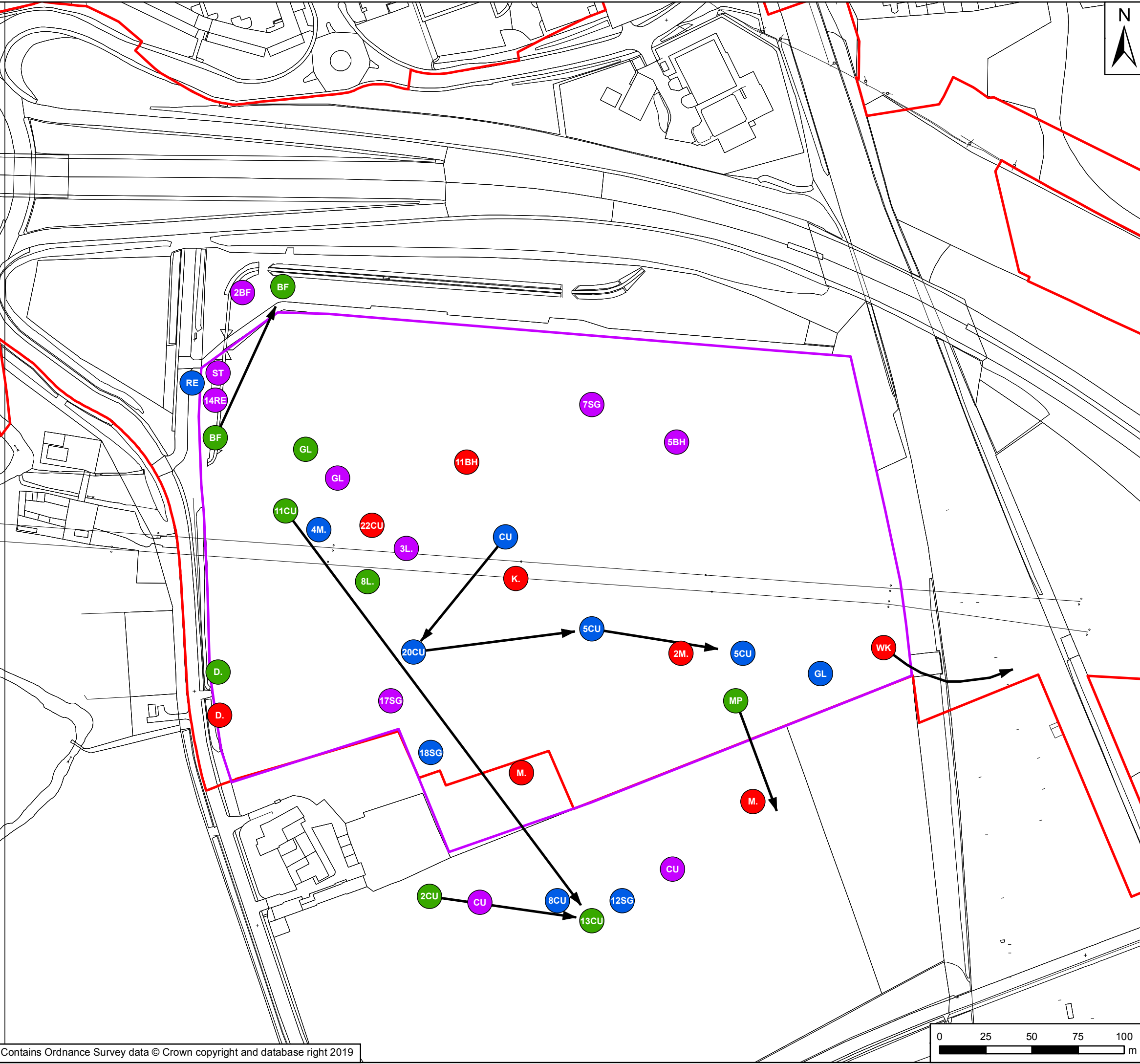
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Project Title: A1 Birtley to Coal House Scheme
 Drawing Title: Figure 1 Site Location Plan

Scale	Drawn	Checked	Approved	Authorised		
1:20,000	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			
PW Stage Code						
B2CH						
Section	Type	ID	Direction	Type	Role	Number





Key

- Scheme Footprint
- Site Boundary

Survey Number

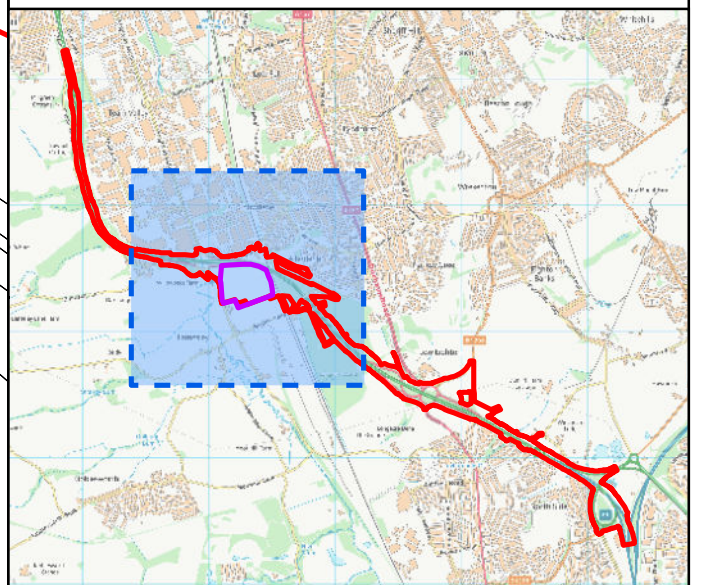
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Direction of Flight

➔

Bird Species List

- BH - Black-Headed Gull
- BF - Bullfinch
- CU - Curlew
- D. - Dunnock
- GL - Grey Wagtail
- K. - Kestrel
- L. - Lapwing
- MP - Meadow Pipit
- M. - Mistle Thrush
- RE - Redwing
- ST - Song Thrush
- SG - Starling
- WK - Woodcock



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 Location of Notable and Protected Species

Scale	Drawn	Checked	Approved	Authorised		
1:2,000	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			
PW Stage Code						
B2CH						
Section	Type	ID	Direction	Type	Role	Number



Appendix A


A1B2CH WINTERING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS 2017 - 2018



APPENDIX C: A1B2CH WINTERING BIRD SURVEY 2017 - 2018 RESULTS				Survey Visits during which species was recorded				General activity description / notable observations	
Birds Recorded	Protected Species Designations			Scientific Name	November 2017	December 2017	January 2018		Feb-18
Blackbird				<i>Turdus merula</i>	ü	ü	ü		Birds recorded on boundary features (woodland, scrub and hedgerow) bounding the Site, also recorded foraging on grassland.
Black-headed gull				<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	ü	ü	ü		Record loafing and feeding on the grassland within the Site as well as flying over the Site.
Blue Tit				<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			ü	ü	Birds recorded on boundary features (woodland, scrub and hedgerow) bounding the Site
Bullfinch		SPI		<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		ü		ü	Two birds identified within scrub adjacent to the northern boundary of the Site in December. Single male bird recorded calling from woodland within the north-western corner of the Site in February.
Carrion crow				<i>Corvus corone</i>	ü	ü	ü	ü	Birds recorded foraging and loafing on Site, as well as flying over it..
Chaffinch				<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			ü		Single bird recorded calling from hedgerow along the western boundary of the Site.
Curlew		SPI	DBAP	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	ü	ü	ü	ü	Birds recorded foraging and loafing on grassland both on and adjacent to the Site on all survey visits. Birds not present at sunrise, and would arrive onto the Site after Sunrise, suggesting they are roosting elsewhere.
Dunnock		SPI		<i>Prunella modularis</i>	ü		ü		Single bird recorded calling from a hedgerow eastern boundary of the Site in November and February.
Feral pigeon				<i>Columba livia domestica</i>			ü	ü	Birds recorded flying over the Site.
Goldfinch				<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			ü		Two birds recorded flying over the Site whilst calling.

APPENDIX C: A1B2CH WINTERING BIRD SURVEY 2017 - 2018 RESULTS				Survey Visits during which species was recorded				General activity description / notable observations	
Birds Recorded	Protected Species Designations			Scientific Name	November 2017	December 2017	January 2018		Feb-18
Great tit				<i>Parus major</i>		ü			Birds recorded on boundary features (woodland, scrub and hedgerow) bounding the Site
Grey heron				<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	ü			ü	Single birds recorded foraging within the ephemeral pools within the Site and adjacent to the southern boundary of the Site.
Grey wagtail			DBAP	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		ü	ü	ü	Birds recorded foraging on grassland within the Site
Greylag goose				<i>Anser anser</i>	ü				Recorded flying over the southern boundary of the Site, heading west.
Herring gull		SPI		<i>Larus argentatus</i>			ü	ü	Single birds recorded flying over the Site
Jackdaw				<i>Corvus monedula</i>	ü	ü	ü	ü	Birds recorded foraging and loafing on Site, as well as flying over it..
Kestrel			DBAP	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	ü				Single male recorded hunting over the Site as well perching on pylons within the Site
Lapwing		SPI	DBAP	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		ü		ü	Birds recorded foraging and loafing on grassland within the Site. Birds not present at sunrise, and would arrive onto the Site after Sunrise, suggesting they are roosting elsewhere.
Lesser black-backed gull				<i>Larus fuscus</i>	ü				Two birds recorded flying over the Site
Magpie				<i>Pica pica</i>	ü	ü	ü	ü	Birds recorded foraging and loafing on Site, as well as flying over it..
Mallard				<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		ü			Single bird recorded flying over the Site
Meadow pipit				<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				ü	Single bird flushed from the grassland field within the Site and flew south.
Mistle thrush			DBAP	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	ü	ü			Birds recorded foraging on grassland both on and adjacent to the Site.

APPENDIX C: A1B2CH WINTERING BIRD SURVEY 2017 - 2018 RESULTS				Survey Visits during which species was recorded				General activity description / notable observations	
Birds Recorded	Protected Species Designations			Scientific Name	November 2017	December 2017	January 2018		Feb-18
Moorhen				<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		ü			Single bird recorded foraging adjacent to the hedgerow along the western boundary of the Site.
Pheasant				<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	ü	ü		ü	Birds recorded on grassland within the Site.
Raven				<i>Corvus corax</i>	ü				Single bird recorded flying over the Site.
Red-legged Partridge				<i>Alectoris rufa</i>		ü		ü	Birds recorded on grassland within the Site.
Redwing	1			<i>Turdus iliacus</i>		ü	ü		Birds perched and calling from woodland within the north-western corner of the Site.
Robin				<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	ü	ü	ü	ü	Birds recorded on boundary features (woodland, scrub and hedgerow) bounding the Site
Song thrush		SPI	DBAP	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		ü			Single bird recorded calling from woodland within the north-western corner of the Site. A single bird also recorded flying low of the Site whilst calling.
Sparrowhawk				<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				ü	Single male bird recorded circling low over the Site in February, then flew west.
Starling		SPI	DBAP	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	ü	ü	ü		Birds recorded foraging on grassland both on and adjacent to the Site. Birds also recorded flying over the Site.
Woodcock			DBAP	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>				ü	Single bird flushed from grassland within south-eastern corner of the Site, directly adjacent to woodland along the eastern boundary.
Woodpigeon				<i>Columba palumbus</i>	ü	ü	ü	ü	Birds recorded on boundary features (woodland, scrub and hedgerow) bounding the Site, also recorded foraging on grassland.
Wren				<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	ü	ü	ü		Birds recorded on boundary features (woodland, scrub and hedgerow) bounding the Site

APPENDIX C: A1B2CH WINTERING BIRD SURVEY 2017 - 2018 RESULTS			Survey Visits during which species was recorded				General activity description / notable observations
Birds Recorded	Protected Species Designations	Scientific Name	November 2017	December 2017	January 2018	Feb-18	
<p>Protected Species Designations: Red Listed Bird of Conservation Concern (BoCC)¹, Amber Listed Bird of Conservation Concern (BoCC)¹, Green Listed Bird of Conservation Concern (BoCC)¹, WCA Schedule 1², Species of Principal Importance (SPI) (formerly UKBAP) species³, Herefordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (HBAP) species⁴.</p>							
<p>References: ¹ Eaton <i>et al</i> (2015) Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. British Birds 108, 708–746. ²Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Schedule 1. HMSO. ³Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, Section 41. HMSO. ⁴Durham Wildlife Partnership (2007), Durham Biodiversity Action Plan, Durham. Available at http://neenp.org.uk/natural-environment/durham-priority-species/, updated in 2016.</p>							

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