

## **A1 Birtley to Coal House**

July 2020

Scheme Number: TR010031

ES Addendum: Appendix 8.9 Breeding Bird Report

Planning Act 2008

Rule8(1)(c)(i)

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure Rules) 2010



### Infrastructure Planning

### Planning Act 2008

# The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure Rules) 2010

### The A1 Birtley to Coal House

Development Consent Order 20[xx]

ES Addendum: Appendix 8.9 Breeding Bird Report

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In January 2020 Highways England submitted a proposed change to the A1 Birtley to Coal House Scheme (the "Scheme") to include an area of additional land ("additional land") for the purpose of stockpiling materials during the construction of the Scheme. This change was subsequently accepted into the Examination in May 2020.

A breeding bird survey of the additional land (refer to **Figure 1**) was completed in 2020. Three breeding bird survey visits were conducted between May and June 2020. The surveys covered all habitat types within the additional land and followed a standard method based on the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO's) Common Bird Census, as summarised by Bibby et al. (2000).

A total of 31 species were recorded on or over the additional land during the breeding bird survey. Of these, nine are considered to breed on the additional land or immediately adjacent to the additional land, with the additional land considered integral to the breeding success of those birds. Two of these species, house sparrow Passer *domesticus* and song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, are of notable conservation concern. They are listed as Species of Principal Importance (SPI) under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and are red list Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)<sup>1</sup>.

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

A full evaluation of the breeding bird assemblage and any subsequent recommendations as to how proposals should account for breeding birds in relation to relevant legislation and planning policy, as well as potential impacts to designated sites and subsequent recommendations, has been made within **paragraph 8.7.38** to **paragraph 8.7.42** and **paragraph 8.9.7**, **section d** of **Chapter 8**: **Biodiversity** of the ES [APP-029]. This breeding bird report is provided to inform the valuation of the breeding bird assemblage for the Scheme made within [APP-029], which remains proportionate and valid.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Birds of Conservation Concern 4 is the latest assessment of bird species status against a standardised criteria. Assessments are based upon the most up-to-date evidence available. Criteria include conservation status at global, and European levels and, within the UK: historical decline, trends in population and range, rarity, localised distribution and international importance.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1. In January 2020 Highways England submitted a proposed change to the A1 Birtley to Coal House Scheme (the "Scheme") to include an area of additional land ("additional land") for the purpose of stockpiling materials during the construction of the Scheme. This change was subsequently accepted into the Examination in May 2020.
- 1.1.2. A breeding bird survey was undertaken in 2020 on the additional land situated to the north-east of the village of Lamesley, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear (national grid reference NZ 25334 58123). This land is defined by the boundary shown in red on Figure 1. This report is provided in support of the study of breeding birds in paragraph 8.6.5, section f of Chapter 8: Biodiversity of the ES [APP-029] and the Environmental Statement (ES) Addendum additional land [REP4-058].
- 1.1.3. At the time that the ES Addendum: additional land [REP4-058] was submitted into the Examination certain surveys remained to be performed as part of the assessment of the environmental effects of the inclusion of additional land within the application at junction 67 (Coal House) to be used for material stockpiling. This report details the outcome of the breeding bird surveys.

### 1.2 ECOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1. A breeding bird survey was conducted on the land directly north the additional land in 2018 and was subsequently reported in **Appendix 8.9 Breeding Bird Report** of the ES [APP-131]. Following the inclusion of the additional land in the Scheme, breeding bird surveys were also carried out on the additional land.
- 1.2.2. The additional land comprises a large grassland field, bounded by post and wire livestock fencing. This divides the northern boundary of the additional land from the originally surveyed area; it also divides the western boundary from Lamesley Road directly adjacent to the additional land. Areas of broad-leaved semi-natural woodland form the eastern boundary and Smithy Lane forms the southern boundary of the additional land. A house with stables and associated grassland lies adjacent to the south-western boundary of the additional land.
- 1.2.3. To the east of the additional land lies the East Coast Main Line while further south and east lies a mosaic arable and pastoral farmland. Landscapes to the north and west of the additional land are largely urban, dominated by the town of Gateshead.

### 1.3 BRIEF AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.3.1. A breeding bird survey of the additional land was undertaken 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 additional land) and an

A1 BIRTLEY TO COAL HOUSE SCHEME Project No.: 70041947 | Our Ref No.: HE551462-WSP-EGN-ZZ-RP-LE-00035 estimate of the likely number of territories/colonies of bird species breeding on or close to the additional land.

- An evaluation of the value of the additional land for breeding birds.
- Consideration of the implications of the temporary compound on relevant legislation, planning policies and other considerations such as the conservation statuses of birds wintering within the additional land (where relevant).
- 1.3.2. The results of the above survey are contained within this report.

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### 2 METHODS

### 2.1 BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

- 2.1.1. To inform an evaluation of the on-site habitats for bird species, three breeding bird survey visits were completed between May and June 2020. The survey work followed a standard method based on the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO's) Common Bird Census, as summarised by Bibby *et al.* (2000).
- 2.1.2. All survey visits to the additional land were completed in the early morning, timed to avoid commencing at dawn when activity peaks and late morning when activity drops off. Each of the dawn survey visits were of approximately one hour in duration.
- 2.1.3. During each survey visit, the additional land was walked slowly, approaching all suitable habitat in the additional land to within 50 metres 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).

### 2.2 DATES OF SURVEY AND PERSONNEL

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- 2.2.1. The breeding bird survey visits were completed by a competent surveyor with five years' experience of ecological survey, including breeding bird surveys.
- 2.2.2. Dates of survey and weather conditions are given in **Table 2-1** below.

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Table 2-1 - Dates of survey and weather conditions

Survey Visit	Date	Temp (°C)	Cloud Cover	Wind Speed	Wind Direction	Rain	Visibility
1	15/05/2020	10	6/8	1	SE	N/A	Good
2	22/05/2020	16	4/8	3	NE	N/A	Good
3	09/06/2020	8	8/8	1	SE	N/A	Good

### 2.3 NOTES AND LIMITATIONS

- 2.3.1. Surveys were not possible in March or April 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, given the small scale of the additional land, this is not thought to pose a significant constraint to survey findings.
- 2.3.2. No further site-specific limitations were applicable to this survey. 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

- 3.1.1. A total of 31 species were recorded on or over the additional land during the breeding bird survey; of these nine are considered to be possible, probable or confirmed breeders on the additional land. A total of 13 species which are of elevated legal protection or species of conservation concern were recorded on or over the additional land, two of which, house sparrow and song thrush, are considered to breed on the additional land. This total includes where nest sites themselves are located on immediately adjacent land, but the additional land is used extensively for provisioning of those nests or for song posts; therefore, these have been included as breeding species as the additional land is integral to the breeding success of those birds.
- 3.1.2. The numbers of birds recorded within each category are listed below, it should be noted that categories are not exclusive and a species can be listed in more than one conservation category (for example listed as both a Species of Principal Importance (SPI) in accordance with the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) species and as either a red or amber list Bird of Conservation Concern (BoCC)).
  - Two species listed as SPI (also UKBAP species): song thrush and house sparrow were probable breeders on the additional land.
  - Six BoCC red list species: song thrush and house sparrow were probable breeders on the additional land. Four species: curlew *Numenius arquata*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus* and starling *Sturnus vulgaris* were not considered to breed on the additional land.
  - Seven BoCC amber list species: common gull Larus canus, house martin Delichon urbicum, kestrel Falco tinnunculus, lesser black-backed gull Larus fuscus, mallard Anas platyrhynchos, oystercatcher Haematopus ostralegus and swift Apus apus were not considered to breed on the additional land.
- 3.1.3. 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 additional land. Records from all survey visits of species which are of conservation concern are mapped on **Figure 2** to **Figure 4**.
- 3.1.4. Species recorded on or over the additional land during the breeding bird survey but were not considered to breed within the additional land are listed in **Table 3-2**. This included birds flying over, loafing or foraging on the additional land for which suitable breeding habitat is not present and bird registrations where no breeding behaviour was recorded.

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Table 3-1 - Confirmed, probable or possible breeders on additional land

Species		NERC Act 2006	ВоСС						Indicative territory numbers on or immediately adjacent to the additional land
Common name	Latin name	Section 41	Red list	Amber list	UKBAP	LBAP	Breeding Status on the additional land	Notes	
Blackbird	Turdus merula						Confirmed	Individuals recorded singing and calling throughout the additional land, with two records of male birds collecting insects for chick provisioning within and adjacent to the additional land.	1-5
Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita						Probable	Singing and calling individuals present within suitable breeding habitat.	1
House sparrow	Passer domesticus	X	X		X	X	Probable	Activity concentrated around buildings immediately adjacent to the additional land. The additional land is likely to form an important foraging resource for these birds during breeding.	1-5
Jackdaw	Corvus monedula						Probable	Activity concentrated around buildings immediately adjacent to the additional land. The additional land is likely to form an important foraging resource for these birds during breeding.	1-5
Lesser whitethroat	Sylvia curruca						Possible	A single individual recorded singing in suitable scrub habitat in the south of the additional land.	1
Robin	Erithacus rubecula						Probable	Singing and calling individuals have been recorded within hedgerows and scrub around the additional land boundaries.	1-5
Song thrush	Turdus philomelos	X	X		X	X	Possible	Singing birds were recorded within hedgerows to the south and east of the additional land.	2
Swallow	Hirundo rustica						Confirmed	A single nest was present within the stables to the west of the additional land.	1
Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes						Probable	Wrens were recorded singing from the same location of scrub to the east of the additional land during all the survey visits.	1

Table 3-2 - Non-breeding birds recorded on the additional land

Species Common name	Latin name	Section 41 NERC Act 2006	Red list OO	UKBAP	LBAP	Notes
Blue tit	Cyanistes caeruleus					Two records of individuals foraging within hedgerows.
Carrion crow	Corvus corone					Multiple records of individuals flying over the additional land or foraging within the pasture. No breeding behaviours exhibited.
Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs					A single record of an individual foraging within hedgerows.
Coal tit	Periparus ater					A single record of individuals foraging within hedgerows.
Common gull	Larus canus		X			Two records of solitary individuals flying over the additional land.
Curlew	Numenius arquata	X	X	X		A pair of curlew was flushed from the additional land on visit three. No breeding behaviour exhibited.
Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis					Records of individuals around the residential properties to the west of the additional land, likely using bird feeders.
Great tit	Parus major					A single record of an individual present in scrub adjacent to the additional land.
Greenfinch	Carduelis chloris		X			A single record of an individual present in scrub adjacent to the additional land.
Grey heron	Ardea cinerea					A single record of an individual flying adjacent to the additional land.
House martin	Delichon urbicum		X		Х	A single record of three individuals flying over the additional land.
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus		X			Two records of kestrel flying over or adjacent to the additional land during visit three.

Species Common name	Latin name	Section 41 NERC Act 2006	Red list		UKBAP	LBAP	Notes
Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	X	X		X	X	A flock of six individuals recorded foraging on the additional land during visit one.
Lesser black-backed gull	Larus fuscus		×	(			Solitary individuals recorded flying over the additional land.
Long tailed tit	Aegithalos caudatus						A single individual recorded flying over the additional land on one visit.
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos		×	(			A single individual recorded within the pasture in the additional land during visits one and two.
Mistle thrush	Turdus viscivorus		X				Two birds flying over the additional land on one occasion, one bird briefly perched on a fence post on the additional land boundary.
Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus		×	(			A single individual recorded flying over the additional land on one visit.
Pied wagtail	Motacilla alba						Single individuals noted foraging within the pasture on the additional land or flying over during all three visits.
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	Х	Х	)	X	Χ	Individuals and small flocks recorded flying over the additional land.
Swift	Apus apus		×	(		Χ	Single individuals recorded flying over the additional land.
Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus						Individuals and small flocks recorded flying over the additional land and foraging within the pasture of the additional land.

#### LEGAL AND PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT 4

#### 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.
- 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.
- No species listed on Schedule 1 were recorded on the additional land; this information has 4.1.4. been included for information only.

### NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL COMMUNITIES (NERC) ACT 2006

The NERC Act 2006 reinforces the duty upon all public authorities, including planning 4.1.5. 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 (HPIs 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 UKBAP which occur in England (however there are exceptions). Two SPI (also UKBAP species) were recorded on the additional land, these were house sparrow and song thrush.

#### 4.2 PLANNING POLICY

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### NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR NATIONAL NETWORKS

The National Policy Statement for National Networks (NN NPS) (Department for Transport 4.2.1. 2014) sets out the need for, and Government's policies to deliver, development of nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) on the national road network in England.

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- 4.2.2. Decision making for NSIPs regarding biodiversity is based upon the government's biodiversity strategy, as set out in Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (Defra 2011). Its aim is to 'halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.'
- 4.2.3. During the decision making process, steps should be taken to "ensure that appropriate weight is attached to designated sites of international, national and local importance, protected species, habitats and other species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity"

### **LOCAL PLANNING POLICY**

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

- 4.2.4. 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.
- 4.2.5. 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

A1 BIRTLEY TO COAL HOUSE SCHEME Project No.: 70041947 | Our Ref No.: HE551462-WSP-EGN-ZZ-RP-LE-00035 to, along and onto the River Tyne and tributaries, without adversely impacting on the local ecology or damaging the river banks'

### 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, 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 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.
- 4.3.2. 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. Breeding red list species on the additional land were song thrush and house sparrow, with no amber list breeding species. Non-breeding red list species were curlew, lapwing, mistle thrush and starling with non-breeding amber list species common gull, house martin, kestrel, lesser black-backed gull, mallard, oystercatcher and swift.

#### **BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLANS**

- 4.3.4. The UK 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).
- 4.3.5. Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) in the UK have no statutory status, but provide a framework for implementing conservation requirements. Furthermore, species listed as priority species in the UKBAP which are also listed as SPI are afforded a degree of protection under the NERC Act 2006, which states that local authorities have a duty to

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- conserve biodiversity (see above). Five UKBAP species were recorded on the additional land. These comprise the SPI species listed under Section 4.1.5 (NERC Act) above.
- 4.3.6. The UKBAP is supplemented by local BAPs which identify habitats and species of particular value or concern at the local level. The additional land is covered by the Newcastle and North Tyneside BAP (Newcastle City Council 2014), which covers relevant species such as song thrush, house sparrow, starling, swift and house martin and has the ongoing target to 'encourage developers to incorporate nesting features on all new development projects through the planning process'.

### 5 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

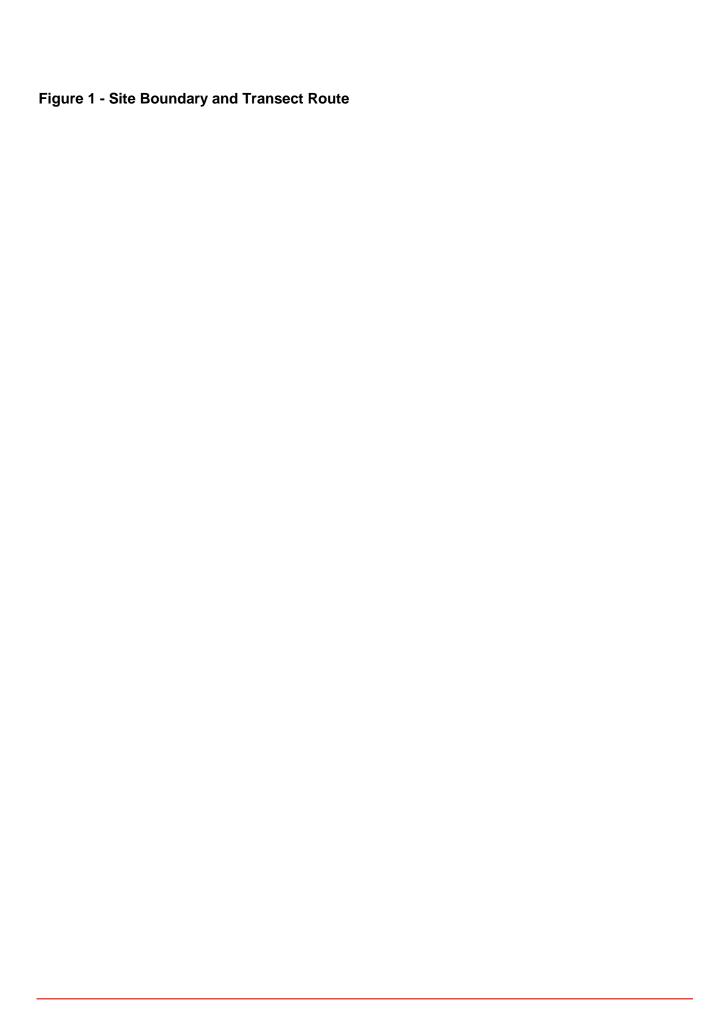
- 5.1.1. A full evaluation of the breeding bird assemblage and any subsequent recommendations as to how proposals should account for breeding birds in relation to relevant legislation and planning policy, as well as potential impacts to designated sites and subsequent best practice recommendations for the Scheme has been made within **paragraph 8.7.38** to **paragraph 8.7.42** and **paragraph 8.9.7**, **section d** of **Chapter 8: Biodiversity** of the ES [APP-029].
- 5.1.2. The bird community recorded within the 2020 additional land surveys accords with the results of the baseline surveys, where the species recorded are mainly supported by the marginal habitats located along the borders of the additional land. The species seen and heard during the surveys are common throughout the UK, with only two species highlighted for their conservation status. These are song thrush (NERC Act Section 41 and BoCC Red List) and house sparrow (NERC Act Section 41 and BoCC Red List).
- 5.1.3. Due to the relatively low number of species using the additional land to breed, most of which are common and widespread, with only two having a notable conservation status, the breeding bird community recorded within the additional land is not a constraint to the Scheme and is not considered for further assessment, as previously stated within paragraph 8.7.42 of Chapter 8: Biodiversity of the ES [APP-029], which remains valid. Therefore, no additional mitigation or compensation above the standard best practice requirements already included within paragraph 8.9.7, section d of Chapter 8: Biodiversity of the ES [APP-029] is required.

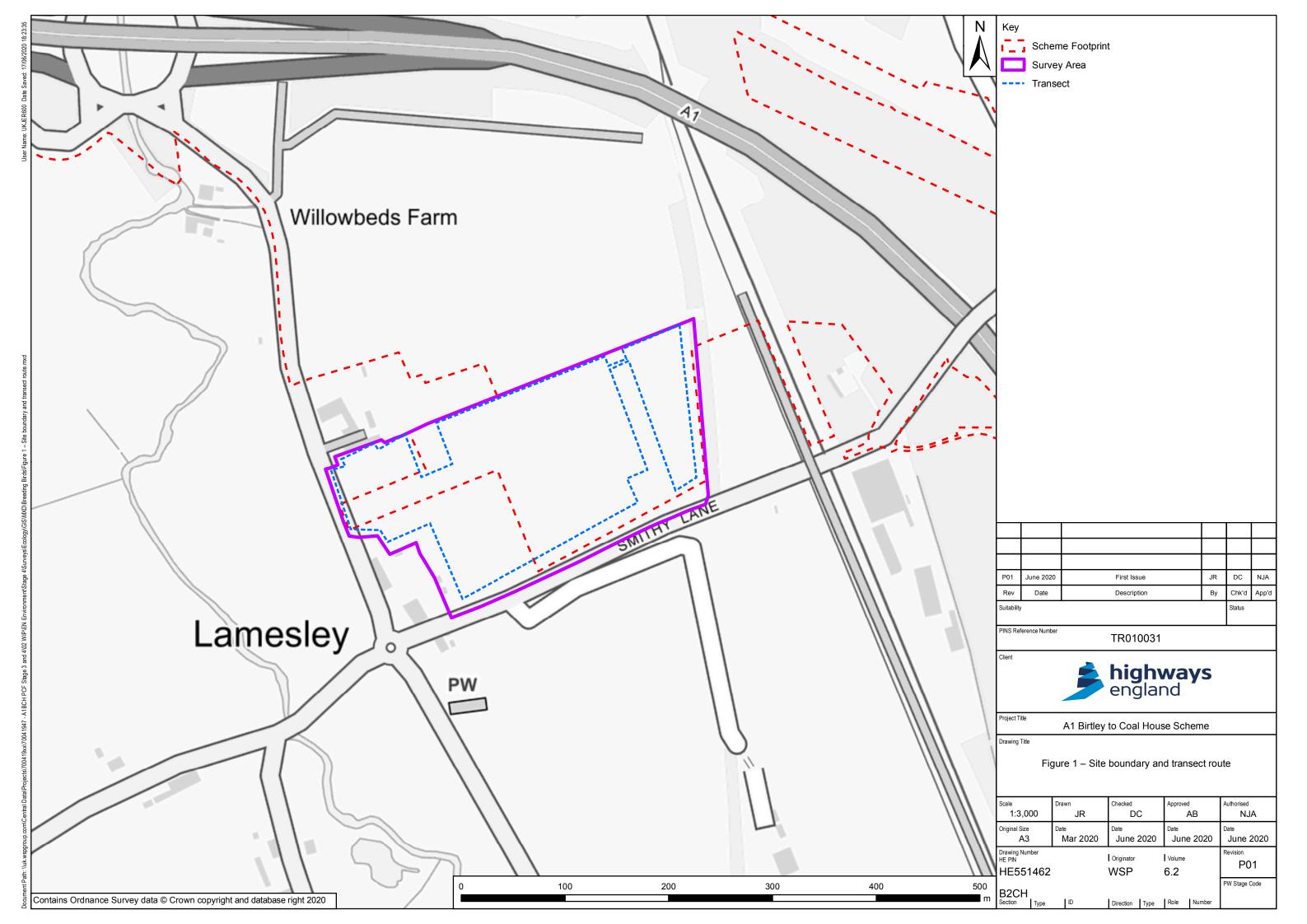
### 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1. A total of 31 species were recorded on or over the additional land during the breeding bird survey; of these nine are considered to breed on the additional land. These include 13 species which are of elevated legal protection or species of conservation concern, of which two are considered to breed on the additional land. It should be noted that 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:
  - Two species listed as SPI (also UKBAP species). Song thrush and house sparrow were probable breeders on the additional land.
  - Six BoCC red list species. Song thrush and house sparrow were probable breeders on the additional land. Four species: curlew, lapwing, mistle thrush and starling were not considered to breed on the additional land.
  - Seven BoCC amber list species. Common gull, house martin, kestrel, lesser black backed gull, mallard, oystercatcher and swift were not considered to breed on the additional land.
- 6.1.2. The breeding bird community within the additional land is considered of low conservation value due to the relatively low number of species using the additional land to breed, most of which are common and widespread, with only two having a notable conservation status.
- 6.1.3. The breeding bird community present within the additional land accords with the results of the baseline as presented with **Appendix 8.9 Breeding Bird Report** of the ES [APP-131] and is not a constraint to the Scheme. The valuation of the breeding bird assemblage presented in **paragraph 8.7.38** to **paragraph 8.7.42** of **Chapter 8: Biodiversity** of the ES [APP-029] is proportionate and remains valid for the additional land. Therefore, no additional mitigation or compensation above the standard best practice requirements already included within **paragraph 8.9.7**, **section d** of **Chapter 8: Biodiversity** of the ES [APP-029] is required.

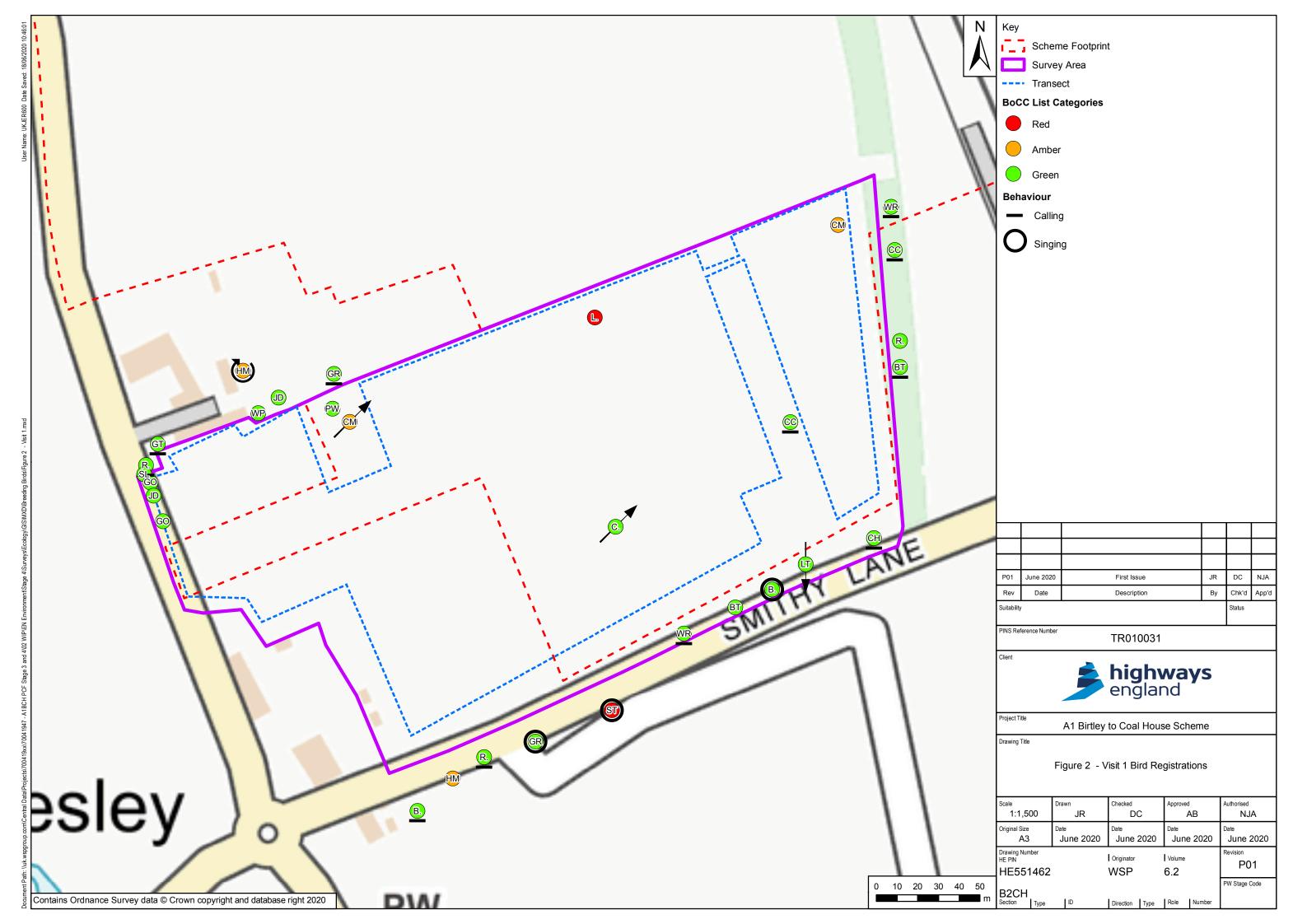
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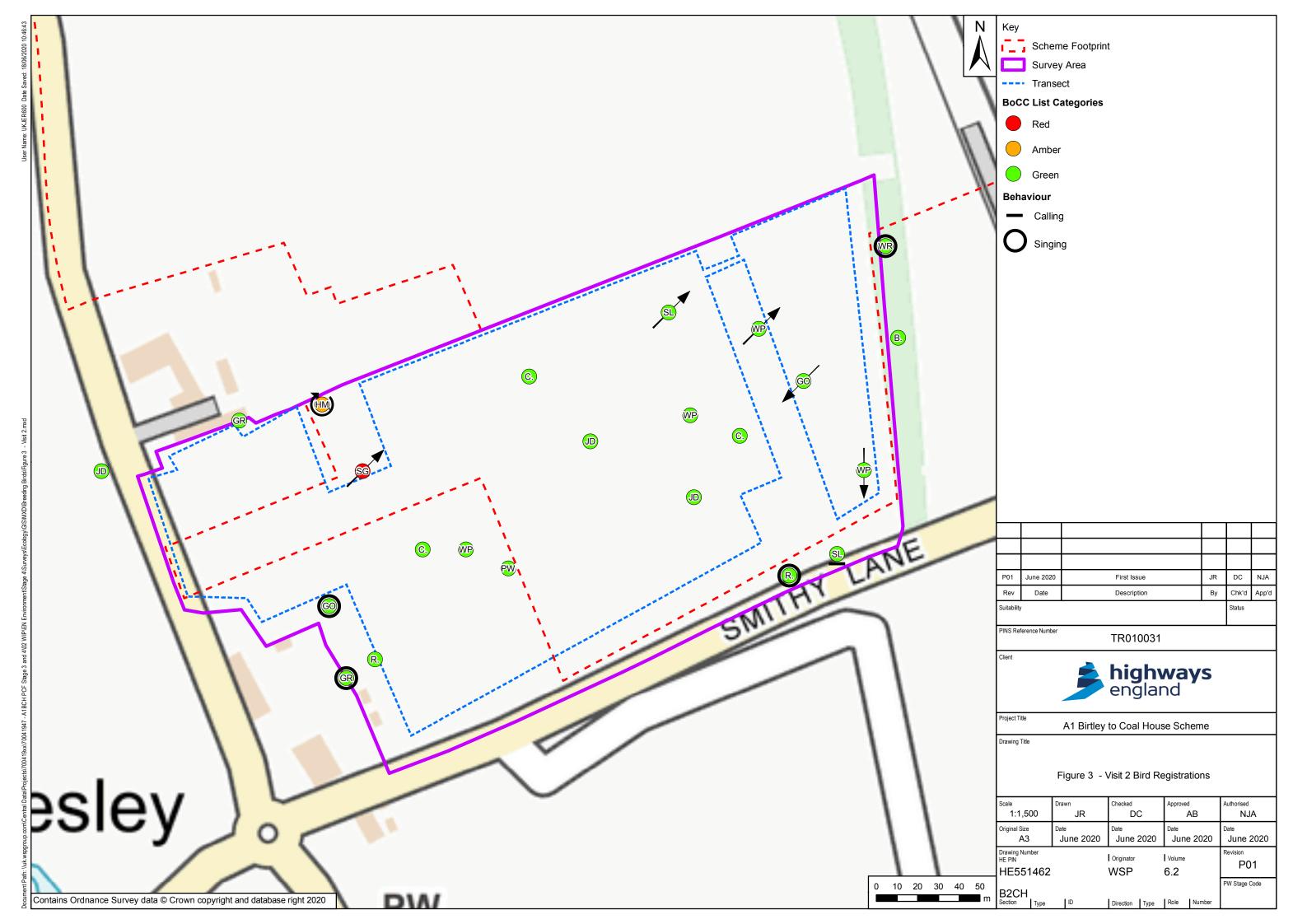




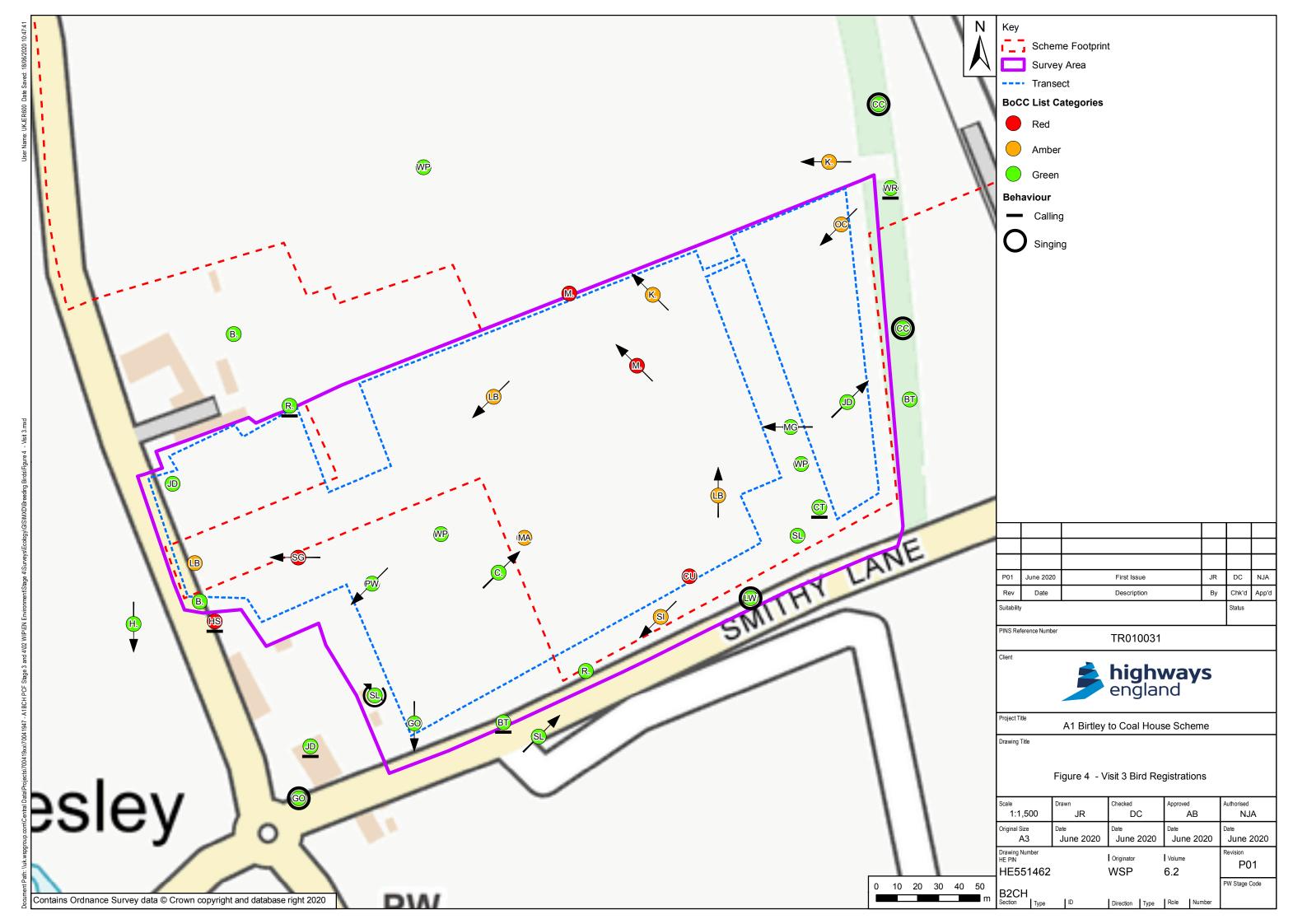












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