

A47 North Tuddenham to Easton Dualling

Scheme Number: TR010038

6.3 Environmental Statement Appendices Appendix 8.10 - Wintering Bird Survey Report

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

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

March 2021



Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

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

The A47 North Tuddenham to Easton Development Consent Order 202[x]

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT APPENDICES Appendix 8.10 - Wintering Bird Survey Report

Regulation Number:	5(2)(a)
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference	TR010038
Application Document Reference	TR010038/APP/6.3
BIM Document Reference	HE551489-GTY-EBD-000-RP-LB-30017
Author:	A47 North Tuddenham to Easton Dualling Project Team, Highways England

Version	Date	Status of Version	
Rev 0	March 2021	Application Issue	



Table of contents

1.	Introduction	1
1.1.	Background	1
1.2.	Scheme description and location	1
1.3.	Aims and objectives	1
1.4.	Relevant bird legislation	2
1.5.	Conservation status and guidance	5
2.	Desk study	6
2.2.	Previous studies	6
2.3.	Designed sites	7
2.4.	Data search	8
3.	Methodology	10
3.2.	Pre-survey constraints	12
4.	Field surveys	13
4.2.	Survey data and conditions	13
4.3.	Bird survey records	13
4.4.	Disturbance events	15
4.5.	Survey constraints	16
5.	Results	17
5.1.	Wintering bird survey	17
5.2.	Incidental records	19
6.	Assessment and mitigation	20
6.1.	Bird assemblages	20
6.2.	Species value level	20
6.3.	Impact of habitat change or loss	20
6.4.	Construction impacts	26
6.5.	Operational impacts	26
6.6.	Mitigation measures	26
6.7.	Mitigation and conservation compensation	27
6.8.	Further surveys	27
7.	References	28

Appendix A: Transect route

Appendix B: Full Wintering bird data

Appendix C: Distribution map of key species

Tables

Table 2-1 All species recorded on the wintering bird survey	6
Table 2-2 : Records of bird species and their designations and conservational value	8
Table 3-1 Bird species diversity criteria: The importance of an area based on the numb	er
of bird species recorded (Fuller 1980)	10
Table 3-2 Species value, terms and criteria	11
Table 4-1: Date and weather conditions of each survey	13
Table 4-2 Total species recorded which cited on European and UK legislation and of	
conservation concern.	13



Table 4-3 Total species recorded which cited on European and UK legislation and of conservation concern.	14
Table 4-4 Total species recorded which cited on European and UK legislation and of conservation concern.	14
Table 4-5 Total species recorded which cited on European and UK legislation and of conservation concern.	14
Table 4-6 Total species recorded which cited on European and UK legislation and of conservation concern.	15
Table 4-7 Disturbance events	15
Table 5-1 Key species recorded, their designations, conservation status and total count per survey	17
Table 6-1 Habitat requirement and nature conservation value of important species cited on Birds Directive Annex I, WCA 1, NERC, LBAP, BoCC Red/Amber and IUCN	
species of wintering birds.	21



1. Introduction

1.1. Background

- 1.1.1. In 2019, wintering bird surveys on the A47 between North Tuddenham and Easton were completed. This is to inform the Environmental Statement (ES) Biodiversity Chapter at PCF Stage 3 for the A47 North Tuddenham to Easton Improvement Scheme (the Proposed Scheme).
- 1.1.2. The Proposed Scheme improvements will:
 - improve accessibility to and around the region, reducing congestion and delays to enable more reliable journey times
 - improve safety performance for all road users, contributing to a 40% reduction target in accidents across Highways England's roads over the implemented schemes' first five years in operation
 - provide alternative access to local roads
 - improve the environmental impact of traffic along the A47 route, particularly for the communities in the six Proposed Scheme areas
 - support economic growth in the Peterborough, Norwich and Great Yarmouth areas by improving overall road capacity
- 1.1.3. This baseline report provides a summary of the results of the wintering bird surveys undertaken between North Tuddenham to Easton in January, February, November and December 2019. Impacts of the Proposed Scheme and proposals for mitigation are addressed in chapter six (Assessment and mitigation) (**TR010038/APP/6.1**).

1.2. Scheme description and location

1.2.1. The North Tuddenham to Easton section of the A47 lies to the west of Norwich at national grid reference (NGR) TG 05952 13577. This 8.7km mile single carriageway section forms a part of the main strategic highway route. The proposed route is the partial duelling of the existing road with some deviations along the route.

1.3. Aims and objectives

1.3.1. The aim of the wintering bird surveys is to determine which species are using the study area during winter and to assess its importance for supporting populations of notable bird species including:



- Species protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981
- Species of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity covered under Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
- Red and amber listed birds of conservation concern (BoCC) (Eaton *et al.*, 2015)
- 1.3.2. The data gathered will assist in determining the potential significant effects on wintering birds and the potential effects on assemblages through the following impacts:

Construction:

- Habitat loss (direct impact)
- Disturbance from construction, i.e. noise and visual disturbance (indirect impacts)

Operation:

- Mortality of wintering birds e.g. traffic collisions (direct impact)
- Reduced population size & overwintering success due to traffic noise and visual disturbance (indirect impact)

1.4. Relevant bird legislation

1.4.1. This legislation is presented in summary form and is intended for general guidance only. It is recommended the original documentation is referred to for detailed and definitive information. Web addresses can be found in chapter seven (References) (**TR010038/APP/6.1**).

International Conventions

- 1.4.2. The Bonn Convention (1979) provides protection to migratory species and their habitats. There are a number of legally binding international agreements, including:
 - African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)
 - Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia
 - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)
- 1.4.3. The Bern Convention (1982) aims to ensure the protection of wild plant and animal species. The obligations of the Convention are transposed into national



law by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). At the European level, the obligations are met by means of the Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (the Birds Directive).

European legislation

1.4.4. The Birds Directive

- The European Union meets its obligations for bird species under the Bern Convention and Bonn Convention by means of Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive) on the conservation of wild birds.
- The Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds provides • for the conservation and management of all wild bird species naturally occurring in the European Union, their nests, eggs and habitats. The Birds Directive bans activities that directly threaten birds (e.g. deliberate killing and destruction of nests and young), regulates hunting of selected species, bans non-selective and large scale killing of birds, and promotes research for bird conservation and management. Article 4(4) of the Birds Directive requires that member states "should strive to avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats." The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2017 provide a fuller transposition of the Birds Directive into English law. Regulation 8 introduces a new Regulation 9A to the Habitats Regulations for duties of appropriate authorities in relation to wild bird habitat. Regulation 9A(3) addresses the transposition of Article 2 of the Birds Directive, while Regulation 9A(8), requiring competent authorities to "use all reasonable endeavours" to "avoid any pollution or deterioration of habitats of wild birds."
- 1.4.5. Annex 1 of the EC Birds Directive also lists rare and vulnerable species of wild birds that are subject to special conservation measures.

UK and English Legislation

Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)

- 1.4.6. The primary legislation relating to the protection of British birds lies within Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).
- 1.4.7. Under current legislation, it is an offence to:
 - Kill, injure or take any wild bird
 - Take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built
 - Take or destroy an egg of any wild bird



- 1.4.8. Schedule 1 of the Act lists a number of species that are protected by special penalties at all times. In addition, the Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to:
 - Intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take any wild animal listed on Schedule 5
 - Interfere with places used for shelter or protection by a wild animal
 - Intentionally disturb animals occupying such places
 - The Act also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking wild animals
- 1.4.9. In addition to statutory protection, some bird species have been identified within key documents as species of conservation concern.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP)

1.4.10. The UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework (2012) has now succeeded the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) (2007). Much of the work previously carried out by the UKBAP is now focussed at the country level. The UKBAP lists of priority species and habitats remain important and have been used to draw up the statutory lists of species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England and Scotland under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) (2007) lists 59 bird species as priority species requiring conservation action, and consequently, action plans have been developed for the conservation of these species.

Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)

1.4.11. Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership lists 16 bird species as priority species requiring conservation action. Local Biodiversity Action Plans identify habitat and species conservation priorities at a local level (typically at the County level) and are usually drawn up by a consortium of local Government organisations and conservation charities.

National Network National Policy Statement (NSP NN)

1.4.12. The NSP NN outlines government planning policies to deliver nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) and provides planning guidance for these projects and the basis for the examination by the Examination Authority and decisions by the Secretary of State. The NSP NS states that a development should avoid significant harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests, including through mitigation and consideration of reasonable



alternatives. Where significant harm cannot be avoided or mitigated, as a last resort, appropriate compensation measures should be sought.

1.5. Conservation status and guidance

Birds of Conservation Concern

- 1.5.1. The Birds of Conservation Concern 4: The Red List for Birds was published in December 2015. The document is commonly referred to as the UK Red List for birds. This is the fourth review of the status of birds in the UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and is an update of the last assessment in 2009. Using standardised criteria, 244 species with breeding, passage or wintering populations in the UK were assessed by experts from a range of bird non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and assigned to the red, amber or green lists of conservation concern.
 - Red list species are those whose breeding population or range is rapidly declining (50% or more in the last 25 years), have declined historically and not recovered, or those of global conservation concern.
 - Amber list species are those whose breeding population is in moderate decline (25 – 49% in the last 25 years), breed rarely, are of international importance, are localised species and of unfavourable conservation status in Europe.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

1.5.2. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is widely recognized as the most comprehensive, objective global approach for evaluating the conservation status of plant and animal species. The introduction in 1994 of a scientifically rigorous approach to determine risks of extinction that is applicable to all species has become a world standard.



2. Desk study

- 2.1.1. In works undertaken to date, wintering bird surveys have been completed and the findings of these reports will be summarised below.
- 2.1.2. Further to this, a data search was carried out using multi-agency geographical information for the countryside (MAGIC) maps for all statutory and non-statutory protected sites and these are summarised in section 2.3 (Designed Sites).

2.2. **Previous studies**

- 2.2.1. Previously, a wintering bird survey was undertaken by an ornithologist between January and March 2017. On each visit, the ornithologist walked a transect route around the 500m buffer survey area of the proposed new A47 road and recorded bird observations, such as birds in flight. The surveys were undertaken during suitable weather conditions and followed standard methods for bird monitoring including the use of British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) species codes and symbols for bird activity (Bibby *et al.*, 2000).
- 2.2.2. The surveys aimed to determine which species were using the study area during winter and to assess its importance for supporting populations of notable species including:
 - Species protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981, as amended
 - Species of Principal Importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity covered under Section 41 (S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
 - Red and amber listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) (Eaton *et al.*, 2015)
- 2.2.3. In total 28 species were recorded (Table 2-1). This included three species listed on the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) Schedule 1, ten species on the redlisted species of conservation concern and nine species on the amber list (TR010038/APP/6.1).

BTO Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Designation and Conservation Status
во	Barn Owl	Tyto alba	Bern, WCA 1, LBAP
BF	Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	NERC, Amber List
BH	Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	Birds Dir 2.2, Amber List
BZ	Buzzard	Buteo buteo	Bonn
СМ	Common Gull	Larus canus	Birds Dir 2.2, Amber List

Table 2-1 All species recorded on the wintering bird survey



BTO Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Designation and Conservation Status
со	Coot	Fulica atra	Bonn, Birds Dir 2.1, IUCN NT
D	Dunnock	Prunella modularis Bern, NERC, Amber List	
FF	Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	Birds Dir 2.2, WCA 1, Red List, IUCN VU
GJ	Greylag Goose	Anser anser	Bonn, Birds Dir 2.1, Amber List
HG	Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	Birds Dir 2.2, NERC, Red List, IUCN NT
HS	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	NERC, Red List
К	Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	N/A
кт	Red Kite	Milvus milvus	Bonn, Birds Dir 1, WCA 1, IUCN NT
L	Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	Birds Dir 2.2, NERC, Red List, IUCN VU
LI	Linnet	Linaria cannabina	Bern, NERC, Red List
М	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	Birds Dir 2.2, Red List
MA	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos Bonn, Birds Dir 2.1, Amber List	
MP	Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis	Amber List, IUCN NT
PG	Pink-footed Goose	Anser brachyrhynchus	Bonn, Birds Dir 2.2, Amber List
RE	Redwing	Turdus iliacus	Birds Dir 2.2, WCA 1, Red List, IUCN NT
RT	Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus	Bern, Amber List
S	Skylark	Alauda arvensis	Birds Dir 2.2, NERC, LBAP Red List
SG	Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	Birds Dir 2.2, NERC, Red List
SN	Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	Bonn, Birds Dir 2.1
ST	Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	Birds Dir 2.2, NERC, LBAP Red List
TU	Tufted Duck	Aythya fuligula	Bonn, Birds Dir 2.1
WK	Woodcock	Scolopax rusticola	Birds Dir 2.1, Red List
Y	Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	Bern, NERC, Red List

Bern – Bern Convention (1982)

Bonn – Bonn Convention (1979)

WCA1 – Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule One

Birds Dir 1, 2.1 & 2.2 – EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (791409/EEC) Annex 1, 2.1 and 2.2

NERC – National Environment of Rural Communities Act Section 41

LBAP – Local Action Plan Species

BoCC Red – Birds of Conservation Concern Red List

BoCC Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern Amber List

IUCN NT – IUCN Near Threatened Status (European Status)

IUCN VU – IUCN Vulnerable Status (European Status)

2.3. Designed sites

- 2.3.1. A MAGIC search was undertaken for all statutory and non-statutory protected sites within a 500m buffer of the main A47.
- 2.3.2. No designated sites were identified within this buffer zone. The closest designated site outside this buffer zone was Hockering Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) more than 1km north of the proposed route of the new A47 road.



- 2.3.3. There are four County Wildlife Sites (CWS) within the 500m buffer zone for the proposed route of the new A47 road:
 - Fen West of East Tuddenham Grid ref TG088122
 - Old Covert, Wood Lane Grid ref TG096128
 - Fen Plantation Grid ref TG097117
 - Land adjoining River Tudd Grid ref TG128113
- 2.3.4. These sites are offered some protection from development and are managed in Norfolk by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust in partnership with Natural England and Norfolk County Council. The local councils have produced guidance on the scope of future development on these sites to help maintain protection on these sites.

2.4. Data search

- 2.4.1. A data search from the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas returned 763 bird records within 1km of the proposed new A47 road. However, due to licence restrictions, not all these records are allowed to be reported for commercial purposes.
- 2.4.2. NBN Atlas record sources under the following licences:
 - Open Government Licence (OGL)
 - Creative Commons Licence with Attribution (CC-BY)
- 2.4.3. A total of 250 records were identified which could be used for commercial purposes (as above). These have been summarised in Table 2-2 (**TR010038/APP/6.1**).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Number of Records	Latest Sighting	Designation and Conservation Value
Blackbird	Turdus merula	39	2009	N/A
Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	14	2009	N/A
Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	12	2009	N/A
Coal Tit	Periparus ater	8	2009	N/A
Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	12	2009	N/A
Common Swift	Apus apus	5	2012	Bern, BoCC Amber, LBAP
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	9	2009	Bern, NERC, BoCC Amber



Common Name	Scientific Name	Number of Records	Latest Sighting	Designation and Conservation Value
Feral Pigeon	Columba livia domestica	2	2009	N/A
Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	9	2009	Bern
Great spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	1	2009	Bern
Great Tit	Parus major	14	2009	N/A
Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	8	2009	Bern
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	28	2009	NERC, BoCC Red
Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	1	2009	N/A
Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	2	2001	NERC, BoCC Red, IUCN VU
Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus	6	2009	N/A
Magpie	Pica pica	6	2009	N/A
Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	2	2009	N/A
Pied/White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	2	2009	Bern
Red-legged Partridge	Alectoris rufa	1	2009	N/A
Robin	Erithacus rubecula	14	2009	Bern
Siskin	Spinus spinus	1	2009	Bern
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	3	2009	NERC, BoCC Red, LBAP
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	2	2004	NERC, BoCC Red, LBAP
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	26	2009	NERC, BoCC Red
Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	1	2004	NERC, BoCC Red, LBAP
Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur	7	2005	Bonn, NERC, BoCC Red, LBAP, IUCN VU
Woodlark	Lullula arborea	1	2005	Birds Dir 1, WCA 1, NERC, LBAP
Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus	10	2009	N/A
Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	3	2009	Bern

Bern – Bern Convention (1982)

WCA 1 - Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule One

Birds Dir 1 – EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (791409/EEC) Annex 1

NERC - National Environment of Rural Communities Act Section 41

LBAP – Local Action Plan Species

BoCC Red - Birds of Conservation Concern Red List

BoCC Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern Amber List

IUCN VU – IUCN Vulnerable Status (European Status)



3. Methodology

- 3.1.1. The site was visited on four occasions through the wintering bird season (January, February, November and December 2019). The 'look-see' method (Gilbert et al, 1998) was used, where all birds observed using the site were counted. The survey method was broadly based on that of territory mapping (Bibby et al, 2000) as used for the BTO Common Bird Census (CBC). Standard BTO species codes and symbols for bird activity were used to identify birds and denote activity where appropriate.
- 3.1.2. On each visit, the surveyor, an experienced ornithologist, used binoculars to survey the open habitat whilst walking along a pre-determined transect route (Appendix A) at a slow pace so that all birds could be located and recorded (**TR010038/APP/6.3**).
- 3.1.3. The number of species recorded in the area is a simple measure of diversity that can help indicate the importance at each season of the year. The site's importance in value can be determined by several factors including geographical location, the diversity of habitats present and size of the habitat. Fuller (1980) detailed the diversity criteria, for bird species diversity, as shown in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1 Bird species diversity criteria: The importance of an area based on the number of bird species recorded (Fuller 1980)¹

Nat	ional Importance	Regional Importance	County Importance	Local Importance
	85+	70-84	50-69	25-49

- 3.1.4. Fuller's criteria and professional judgement have been used to assess the importance of the survey area for wintering birds. In addition to evaluating the area based on the wintering bird assemblages, consideration is given to the value of the area for the populations of individual key species that it supports. This was done by comparing the population present within the survey area with national and country wintering populations for certain species. National population estimates have been referred to as published in Musgrove et al (2013).
- 3.1.5. As Fuller's criteria was written in 1980, farmland bird species have continued to suffer a large scale decline across the UK. Due to this, consideration of counts that are within the upper limits of each criteria should be carried out using professional judgement to determine whether the count should be upgraded into the lower limits of the next highest criteria.

¹ Although these criteria are principally concerned with breeding populations, they are used here as an indication of the importance of the wintering bird population.



3.1.6. The conservation value of individual species can be measured by two separate approaches: nature conservation value and conservation status. The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidance on ecological impact assessment (CIEEM 2018), assesses nature conservation value within a geographical context. To attain each level of value, an ornithological resource or one of the features (species population or assemblage of species) should meet the criteria set out in Table 3-2. In some cases, professional judgement may be required to increase or decrease the allocation of specific value, based upon local knowledge.

Species Value	Selection Criteria	
International and European	A species which is part of the cited interest of a SPA and which regularly occurs in internationally or nationally important numbers.	
	A species which is present in internationally important numbers (>1% of the international population).	
National	A species which is part of the cited interest of an SSSI and which regularly	
	occurs in nationally or regionally important numbers.	
	A nationally important assemblage of breeding or over-wintering species.	
	A species which is present in nationally important numbers (>1% UK population).	
	Rare breeding species (<300 breeding pairs in the UK).	
Regional	Species of principal importance under Section 41 of the National Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006), which are not covered above, and which regularly occurs in regionally important numbers.	
	Species present in regionally important numbers (>1% of regional	
	population).	
	Sustainable populations of species that are rare or scarce within a region.	
	Species on the BoCC red list and which regularly occur in regionally important numbers.	
County	Species of principal importance under Section 41 of the National Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006), which are not covered above and which regularly occur in county important numbers.	
	Species present in county important numbers (>1% of county population).	
	Sustainable populations of species that are rare or scarce within a county, or listed as priority species for nature conservation under the Scottish Biodiversity List.	
	A site designated for its county important assemblage of birds (e.g. a SINC Site).	
	Species on the BoCC Red List and which regularly occur in county important numbers.	
District	Species of principal importance under Section 41 of the National Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006), which are not covered above, and are rare in the locality or in the relevant natural area profile.	
	Species present in numbers just short of county importance.	
	Sustainable populations of species that are rare or scarce within the locality.	
	A site whose designation falls just short for inclusion in its county important assemblage of birds (e.g. a SINC Site).	
	Other species on the BoCC red list and which are considered to regularly occur in district important numbers.	
Local	Other species of conservation interest (e.g. all other species on the BoCC Red and Amber List and listed as of principle importance under Section 41 of the National Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) which are not covered above, regularly occurring in locally sustainable populations.	

Table 3-2 Species value, terms and criteria



Species Value	Selection Criteria
Site	All other BoCC greenlist, common and widespread species.

3.2. **Pre-survey constraints**

- 3.2.1. The pre-designed survey transects were modified from the wintering bird survey transects undertaken in 2017 due to access restrictions and scoping out unimportant habitats.
- 3.2.2. The transects accessed private property after permission was granted and where possible, access was via public rights of way surrounding the site. The transect route chosen targeted higher value areas, rather than attempting to cover the entirety of the site. This is not considered to represent a significant limitation to the survey.
- 3.2.3. There is potential for species to be missed or go unnoticed due to the nature of wintering bird surveys and possibilities of birds not vocalising or being located in dense vegetation. There is also potential to miss nocturnal species.
- 3.2.4. The details of this report will remain valid for a period of two years from the date of the survey, after which the validity of this assessment should be reviewed to determine whether further updates are necessary. Note that the suggestions within this report should be reviewed (and reassessed if necessary) should there be any changes to the DCO boundary or development proposals which this report was based upon.
- 3.2.5. Due to timing limitations, it was not possible to conduct the wintering bird surveys during the months of November and December 2018 and therefore, these need to be undertaken in 2019 to complete the data set.



4. Field surveys

4.1.1. The field surveys was undertaken during the wintering bird season (January February, November and December 2019) inclusive. All surveys were led by a specialist ornithological ecologist and assisted by fellow members of the ecology team.

4.2. Survey data and conditions

Survey Number	Date	Weather Conditions			
Survey One – January 2019	28	Bright with scattered cloud. Light rain showers. Temperature $-1 - 5^{\circ}$ C. Wind NW4			
	29	Bright with scattered cloud. Temperature 0 – 5°C. Wind S3			
	30	Bright and clear. Temperature 0 – 4°C. Wind W2			
Survey Two – February 2019	25	Bright with scattered cloud, occasional light rain showers. Temperature 2-12°C. Wind N1			
	26	Bright and clear. Temperature 1-17°C . Wind N2			
	27	Bright and clear. Temperature 1-16°C. Wind SW2			
Survey Three – November	25	Partly sunny. Temperature 8-11°C. Wind SE2			
2019	26	Partly sunny. Temperature 10-13°C. Wind S2			
	27	Partly sunny. Rain shower early AM. Temperature 10-11°C. Wind N2			
Survey Four – December	9	Scattered clouds. Temperature 6-8°C. Wind NW4			
2019	10	Overcast, drizzle showers. Temperature 3-10°C. Wind S4			
	11	Sunny. Temperature 2-7°C. Wind S2			

Table 4-1: Date and weather conditions of each survey

4.3. Bird survey records

4.3.1. In total 69 species were recorded during the wintering bird survey between January, February, November and December 2019 across the site. A breakdown of species and total individuals recorded per survey can be found in Appendix B (TR010038/APP/6.3).

Table 4-2 Total species recorded which cited on European and UK legislation and of conservation concern.

Designation	Number of Species
Wildlife and Countryside Act	6
Birds Directive	5
NERC	13
BoCC Red List	14
BoCC Amber List	14
LBAP	3



IUCN Red List

9

Survey one – January 2019

4.3.2. Table 4-3 summarises the total number of species which are cited under legislation outlined in Chapter 1 (Introduction) (**TR010038/APP/6.1**). Some species are cited on multiple legislations. A total of 60 species were observed.

Table 4-3 Total species recorded which cited on European and UK legislation and of conservation concern.

Designation	Number of Species
Wildlife and Countryside Act	4
Birds Directive	3
NERC	11
BoCC Red List	12
BoCC Amber List	12
LBAP	3
IUCN Red List	8

Survey two – February 2019

4.3.3. Table 4-4 summarises the total number of species which are cited under legislation outlined in Chapter 1 (Introduction) (TR010038/APP/6.1). Some species are cited on multiple legislations. A total of 57 species were observed.

Table 4-4 Total species recorded which cited on European and UK legislation and of conservation concern.

Designation	Number of Species
Wildlife and Countryside Act	3
Birds Directive	2
NERC	9
BoCC Red List	11
BoCC Amber List	11
LBAP	2
IUCN Red List	6

Survey three – November 2019

4.3.4. Table 4-5 summarises the total number of species which are cited under legislation outlined in Chapter 1 (Introduction) (**TR010038/APP/6.1**). Some species are cited on multiple legislation. A total of 51 species were observed.

Table 4-5 Total species recorded which cited on European and UK legislation and of conservation concern.

Designation	Number of Species
Wildlife and Countryside Act	3



Designation	Number of Species
Birds Directive	3
NERC	11
BoCC Red List	11
BoCC Amber List	8
LBAP	3
IUCN Red List	6

Survey four – December 2019

4.3.5. Table 4-6 summarises the total number of species which are cited under legislation outlined in Chapter 1 (Introduction) (**TR010038/APP/6.1**). Some species are cited on multiple legislation. A total of 51 species were observed.

Table 4-6 Total species recorded which cited on European and UK legislation and of conservation concern.

Designation	Number of Species
Wildlife and Countryside Act	5
Birds Directive	4
NERC	9
BoCC Red List	9
BoCC Amber List	12
LBAP	2
IUCN Red List	7

4.4. Disturbance events

4.4.1. Disturbance was recorded at numerous points during the bird survey. The main disturbance events include the following detailed in Table 4-7 (TR010038/APP/6.1).

Table 4-7 Disturbance events

Activity	Time	Level of Disturbance
Agricultural Operations	Occasional activities from ploughing, herbicide application, fertiliser application, reseeding, etc.	Negligible – mainly game birds moving between field boundaries.
Bird Scaring	Regular use of gas guns throughout the transect.	High – Large scale flushes of woodpigeons across the site. Passerines in cover crops also flushed.
Dog Walkers	Occasional chasing of flocks of birds, and alarm calls heard by birds on footpaths when dogs were present.	Low – alarm calls and low-level flushing from areas adjacent to footpaths.
Game Keeping	Regular shooting activities and gamekeepers driving around estates.	Moderate – flocks of woodpigeons flushed by gunshots and game birds seen to flush.



Activity	Time	Level of Disturbance
Aeroplanes and Helicopters	Low flying military planes.	Negligible – no obvious signs of disturbance, although alarm calls were not audible.
Arboriculture Operation	Occasional chainsaw operations in woodland areas.	Low – mainly a reduction in bird activity including vocalising.

4.5. Survey constraints

- 4.5.1. Access for land parcels 118 (TG120108, TG115110 and TG111111) and 131 (TG126108) had not been granted prior to the first survey undertaken in January 2019 and therefore parts of the transect route were not surveyed for wintering birds. Access was granted for the following survey in February.
- 4.5.2. In land parcel 177 (TG 12041 10556 TG 12344 10587) and 163 (TG 11441 10610) large-scale construction activities were observed and therefore, this parcel of land was scoped out from any further surveys and the nearby transect routes adjusted.



5. Results

5.1. Wintering bird survey

- 5.1.1. A total of 69 species were recorded within the DCO boundary during the surveys. Of the 69 species, 12 are red-listed, 11 are amber-listed, four are listed on WCA 1.1, four are listed on the Birds Directive and 11 are cited on the NERC Act.
- 5.1.2. Table 5-1 outlines the key species wintering on-site (cited on the Birds Directive Annex I, WCA Schedule One, the NERC Act, LBAP Birds of Conservation Concern and listed on IUCN). This information is displayed spatially in Appendix C (TR010038/APP/6.3). Full survey results are provided in Appendix B (TR010038/APP/6.3).

Table 5-1 Key species recorded, their designations, conservation status and total count per survey

Common Name	Scientific Name	Designation	Conservation Status	Total Individuals			
				Survey One	Survey Two	Survey Three	Survey Four
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	N/A	BoCC Amber	37	187	86	109
Brambling	Fringilla montifringilla	WCA1	IUCN VU	5	0	0	0
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	NERC, UKBAP	BoCC Amber	8	13	6	5
Common Gull	Larus canus	N/A	BoCC Amber	49	24	101	100
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	Bern, NERC, UKBAP	BoCC Amber	17	20	17	8
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	WCA 1	BoCC Red, IUCN VU	271	185	75	77
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	N/A	IUCN NT	9	16	38	14
Golden Plover	Pluvialis apricaria	Bonn, Birds Dir 1	N/A	50	0	0	0
Greylag Goose	Anser anser	Bonn	BoCC Amber	14	70	0	3
Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	NERC	BoCC Red, IUCN VU	6	5	457	32
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	NERC	BoCC Red	114	52	76	52
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	Bern, Birds Dir 1, WCA 1	BoCC Amber, IUCN VU	0	0	0	1
Lesser Black- backed Gull	Larus fuscus	N/A	BoCC Amber	0	3	0	3
Lesser Redpoll	Acanthis cabaret	NERC	BoCC Red	100	0	0	0
Linnet	Linaria cannabina	Bern, NERC,	BoCC Red	7	7	20	0



Common Name	Scientific Name	Designation	Conservation Status	Total Individuals			
				Survey One	Survey Two	Survey Three	Survey Four
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	Bern, Birds Dir 1	N/A	0	1	1	1
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Bonn	BoCC Amber	74	54	95	110
Marsh Tit	Poecile palustris	NERC	BoCC Red	0	0	6	3
Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis	N/A	BoCC Amber, IUCN VU	3	16	11	5
Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	N/A	BoCC Red	9	10	4	7
Mute Swan	Cygnus olor	Bonn	BoCC Amber	4	5	0	2
Red Kite	Milvus milvus	Bonn, Birds Dir 1, WCA 1	IUCN NT	4	8	23	16
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	WCA 1	BoCC Red, IUCN VU	169	158	15	9
Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	Bern, NERC, LBAP	BoCC Amber	4	0	2	1
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	NERC, LBAP	BoCC Red	39	52	104	21
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	NERC, LBAP	BoCC Red	6	12	13	0
Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	Bonn, Birds Dir 1	N/A	1	0	1	3
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	NERC	BoCC Red	55	30	78	44
Stock Dove	Columba oenas	N/A	BoCC Amber	5	26	11	91
Teal	Anas crecca	Bonn	BoCC Amber	19	7	0	0
Wigeon	Mareca penelope	Bonn	BoCC Amber, IUCN VU	1	0	0	0
Woodcock	Scolopax rusticola	N/A	BoCC Red	1	2	0	0
Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	Bern, NERC	BoCC Red	16	74	35	8

Designation

Bern – Bern Convention (1982) Bonn – Bonn Convention (1979) WCA 1 – Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Schedule One Birds Dir 1 – EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (791409/EEC) Annex I NERC – Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) LBAP – Local Biodiversity Action Plan Species

Conservation Status

BoCC Red – Birds of Conservation Concern Red List BoCC Amber - Birds of Conservation Concern Amber List IUCN VU – IUCN Vulnerable Status (EU 27 Status) IUCN NT – IUCN Near Threatened Status (EU 27 Status)



5.2. Incidental records

- 5.2.1. Owl pellets were found in two buildings around the site. The first building (O1) is located at TG 06712 13657, north-west of Hockering and the second building (O2) located at TG 11051 12078. The surveyor was also informed by a resident that five minutes before arrival at location TG 08556 12739, a barn owl was hunting along the northern boundary hedge where suitable rough grassland is present.
- 5.2.2. Building O1 held a single tawny owl pellet which was approximately one year old. A single kestrel pellet and two (c. one year old) barn owl pellets were also recorded in the accessible areas of the open-sided barn. There was a small area of the barn which was not accessible to undertake a search for pellets however, is considered to be suitable nesting habitat.
- 5.2.3. Building O2 held more than 30 barn owl pellets of which two pellets were fresh from the night before. There was a large amount of whitewashing on a wall, below a suitable nest site, and ground-up pellet remains were also present indicating the likelihood of a nest site.
- 5.2.4. A kestrel and owl nest box was observed near All Saints Church, TG 08542 11500. A single stock dove and jackdaw were present around the boxes during the survey, further inspection should be undertaken to check for winter roost potential.



6. Assessment and mitigation

6.1. Bird assemblages

- 6.1.1. The overall assemblage of bird species recorded on site was typical of the range of habitat which dominates the site including hedgerow, woodland, scrub habitat and agricultural habitat.
- 6.1.2. Fuller (1980) devised a standard where the importance of an area can be assessed by the number of bird species recorded (Table 3-1) (TR010038/APP/6.1). The species list for the whole site was 69. This places the site within the range of county importance.
- 6.1.3. As outlined in section 3.1.5 (Methodology), professional judgement has been used in this instance to upgrade the importance level to Regional due to the species composition on site (TR010038/APP/6.1). Out of the 69 species on-site in over 50% of the species which have been recorded are cited on European and UK legislation and included as species of conservation concern.

6.2. Species value level

6.2.1. On comparing the wintering bird data obtained with national and county populations outlined by Musgrove *et al.* (2013) and in the Norfolk Bird and Mammal Report 2017 (produced by Norfolk and Norwich Naturalist Society) with the guidance on ecological impact assessment (Table 3-2), most of the species recorded are resident and regular wintering species within the region (TR010038/APP/6.1). At the species value level the site is considered to be of local conservation value.

6.3. Impact of habitat change or loss

- 6.3.1. The impact on wintering bird species across the site arising from the effects of the proposed works is based upon an understanding of each species individual requirements for winter foraging and roosting.
- 6.3.2. The species recorded on site that are considered most sensitive to impacts from habitat change are species which are listed under Annex I of the Bird Directive, birds which are cited on the Birds of Conservation Concern red and amber list and those on the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. The habitat requirements, species status during the surveys nature conservation value and unmitigated impacts are summarised in Table 6-1 (**TR010038/APP/6.1**).
- 6.3.3. It is considered that impacts to other species that are wintering on the site are expected to be no greater than those listed in Table 6-1 (**TR010038/APP/6.1**).



Table 6-1 Habitat requirement and nature conservation value of important species cited on Birds Directive Annex I, WCA 1, NERC, LBAP, BoCC Red/Amber and IUCN species of wintering birds.

Species	Habitat Requirement	Survey Account	t Nature Conservation Value ²	
Black-headed Gull	Highly gregarious in winter both when feeding and roosting. Commonly feeds on worms, insects, fish and carrion both on agricultural land and wetland habitats during the winter months.	Birds were present during all surveys. Numbers increasing by 405% as agricultural activities such as ploughing and reseeding increased.	Local	Loss or arable land and wetland habitat across site will reduce foraging habitat.
Brambling	Gregarious in the winter migrating into the UK from Scandinavia to feed mainly on seed in agricultural habitats, hedgerows and woodland.	A small flock of five individuals were observed during survey, one within a flock of 20 Chaffinch feeding on wintering cover crop.	Local	Loss of hedgerow sections and scrub habitat within the site which currently offers foraging habitat.
Bullfinch	Winters mainly in broad-leaved woodland, but also common in dense hedgerow and thickets. Adult birds are herbivores although invertebrates are important for fledglings.	Birds were recorded on all four surveys	Local	Loss of hedgerow sections and scrub habitat within the site which currently offers foraging habitat.
Common Gull	Widespread across agriculture, urban parkland and wetland habitats during winter months. Main food source is invertebrates with some fish.	Birds were recorded throughout the site during all four surveys	Local	Loss or arable land and wetland habitat across site will reduce foraging habitat.
Dunnock	Commonly occupies a wide variety of scrub grown situations. Has adapted to field hedgerows, farms, railway embankments, parks, gardens and vacant urban land. Feeds mainly on insects but small seeds are an important winter food.	Birds were recorded throughout the site during all four surveys	Local	Loss of hedgerow and scrub areas within the site which currently offers foraging and roosting habitat. Loss of arable land will reduce suitable foraging habitat.
Fieldfare	Found in both arable and grassland agricultural land, hedges and trees. Can also utilise urban areas feeding on ornamental berry trees. Feeds mainly on insects, worms and berries.	Large flocks were present feeding in agricultural fields during survey one and two. Numbers decreased by 50% during surveys three and four.	Local	Loss of hedgerow and scrub areas within the site which currently offers foraging and roosting habitat. Loss of arable land will reduce suitable foraging habitat



Species	Habitat Requirement	Survey Account	Nature Conservation Value ²	Unmitigated Impacts	
Goldcrest	Found mainly in coniferous woodlands and parks with large mature trees although they can range during the winter months when food is in short supply. Feeds mainly on small invertebrates such as spiders and moth eggs.	Birds were recorded in suitable woodland habitats throughout all four surveys.	Local	Loss of woodland habitat across the site will reduce wintering foraging and roosting habitat.	
Golden Plover	In winter months feeds in lowland fields eating worms, beetles and insects.	A flock of 50 birds was observed flying north over Poppy's Wood. Their low altitude of flight would indicate these birds were feeding in nearby open fields before taking flight.	Local	Loss or arable land and wetland habitat across site will reduce foraging habitat.	
Greylag Goose	Commonly found in lowland areas, in agricultural grass fields, wetland habitats and suburban parks and lakes. Feeds mainly on plant material, incl. roots, tubers, shoots, leaves.	Birds were recorded during both survey one two and four with birds commonly found on Easton Estate and also roosting and flying to the small reservoir located at TG 12732 12195	Local	Removal of wetland area and short grassland will reduce wintering and foraging habitat.	
Herring Gull	Commonly found across countryside and urban areas, feeding on open fields, wetlands, lakes and parkland. Varied diet of carrion, seeds, fruits, birds, small mammals, insects and fish.	Small numbers were recorded during both survey one two and four. The peak count of 457 was during survey three.	Local	Loss of arable land and wetland habitat across site will reduce foraging habitat.	
House Sparrow	Often associated with humans and will typically avoid dense vegetation. Usually, avoid arable crops and areas lacking in shrubs and trees other than during feeding.	Birds were recorded in good numbers across the site on all four surveys.	Local	Loss of scrub and hedgerow habitat across the site which currently offers roosting habitat.	
Kingfisher	Often inhabit slow-moving, shallow rivers or streams which are clean enough to support abundant small fish.	A single bird was recorded in survey four flying along the River Tud near Church Lane.	Local	Pollution of water course will result in reduction in fish.	
Lesser Black- backed Gull	Increasingly common in urban habitats and also found in open countryside feeding in fields and wetland habitats. They are omnivorous and have a varied diet.	Three birds were observed during the second and fourth survey flying over open agricultural fields.	Local	Loss of arable land and wetland habitat across site will reduce foraging habitat.	



Species	Habitat Requirement	Survey Account	Nature Conservation Value ²	Unmitigated Impacts	
Lesser Redpoll	Found in woodland areas where seeding trees are present but are also found in urban gardens and parklands. Mainly feeds on seeds of particularly birch and alder, and plants such as willowherb and sorrel.	A flock of approximately 100 birds were present on Easton Estate feeding on alder and birch trees.			
Linnet	Found in various habitats such as open countryside, heathland, rough ground, farmland hedge, saltmarshes and parks and gardens. Feeding mainly on seeds and insects.	Small numbers were recorded in the hedgerows and agricultural areas during survey one and two. The peak count of 20 was recorded during survey three.	Local	Removal of scrub & hedgerows will reduce roosting habitat across the site. The loss of arable land will reduce foraging habitat.	
Little Egret	Found more commonly in wetland habitats such as marshland, fenland, streams, and estuaries. They feed mainly on fish.	A single bird was seen during surveys two, three and four on a small stream running adjacent to the River Tudd at TG078125.	Local	Loss of wetland areas across the site will reduce foraging habitat.	
Mallard	Commonly found in suitable wetland habitats and urban areas such as parks.	Birds were recorded in all four surveys forming small flocks on ponds and occupying the River Tudd and local fishing lakes.	Local	Loss of wetland areas across the site will reduce foraging habitat.	
Marsh Tit	Found mainly in broadleaved woodland also copses, parks and gardens. Feeds mainly on insects and seeds	Birds were recorded in surveys three and four in broadleaved woodlands. Individuals were also part of larger mixes species flocks.	Local	Removal of woodland and scrub will reduce foraging habitat.	
Meadow Pipit	Feeds in open habitats, either uncultivated or low-intensity agriculture and moorland, but also occurs in low numbers in arable croplands. Feeds mostly on insects with some seeds in the winter months.	Three birds were recorded on the first survey, with numbers increasing to 16 on survey two. This could be due to birds that moved further south during the winter move back to upland areas later, feeding up in agricultural fields on route. In the autumn migration, a peak count of 11 birds were recorded during survey three which dropped to five in survey four.	Local	Removal of grassland and agricultural areas will reduce suitable roosting and foraging habitat.	
Mistle Thrush	Commonly found in woodland and woodland edge, farmland, parkland and gardens. Diet consists mainly of invertebrates, with berries in autumn and winter.	Birds were recorded in open habitat across the site during all four surveys.	Local	Loss of woodland edge and parkland will reduce roosting and foraging habitat.	



Species	Habitat Requirement	Survey Account	Nature Conservation Value ²		
Mute Swan	Can be found in a wide range of wetland habitats ranging from urban parks to rivers, lakes and reservoirs. Feeds mainly on aquatic vegetation,	Birds were recorded on the fishing lakes on site and open water on survey oney, two and four.	Local	Loss of wetland areas across the site will reduce foraging habitat.	
Red Kite	amphibians, invertebrates and molluscs. Found near woodlands and in open rural areas. Feeds mainly on carrion and worms but can take small mammals.	Large roosting flocks during survey three and four		Loss of woodland habitats will reduce roosting habitats. Loss of open agricultural habitat will reduce foraging.	
Redwing	Found in both arable and grassland agricultural land, hedges and trees. Can also utilise urban areas feeding on ornamental berry trees. Feeds mainly on insects, worms and berries.	Flocks of redwing were present during survey one Local Local dand two, often associating with flocks of fieldfare decreased by 50% during survey three and four.		Loss of hedgerow and scrub areas within the site which currently offers foraging and roosting habitat. Loss of arable land will reduce suitable foraging habitat	
Reed Bunting	Found mainly in farmland and wetland habitats including ditch edges, and crops set aside. Young are fed solely on invertebrates until they fledge. During winter birds feed mainly on seed.	Four birds were recorded in the wild bird cover crop on Easton Estate during survey one. Birds were also recorded during survey three and four.	Local	Loss of hedgerow habitat will reduce roosting habitat and the loss of arable land will remove foraging habitat.	
Skylark	Species that prefer open farmland habitats where short, sparse vegetation provides cover and foraging habitat. Feeds on plant and animal products with insects being especially important in the summer.	Birds were recorded during all four surveys feeding in the open agricultural grass fields.			
Song Thrush	Often associated with thick hedgerows, native woodland and damp ground, including grazed pasture. Main food source is worms and snails when insect larvae and berry crops are not available.	Birds were recorded across the site during both Local survey one two and three.		Loss of hedgerows across site which currently offers roosting and foraging habitat.	
Sparrowhawk	Found in woodland habitats near open fields and can also be seen in suburban areas hunting around gardens. Mainly feed on birds.	A single bird was recorded during survey one Local hunting along a hedgerow at TG069136. Individuals were also recorded during survey three and four.		Loss of woodland habitat, hedgerows and farmland will reduce the feeding availability for this species.	



Species	Habitat Requirement	Survey Account	Nature Conservation Value ²	Unmitigated Impacts	
Starling	Found in wide ranging habitats from open countryside, suburban areas such as gardens and parkland and saltmarsh. Feeds mainly on invertebrates and fruit.			Loss of foraging habitat across the site and removal of trees with suitable roosting cavities.	
Stock Dove	In winter small flocks form to feed in agricultural areas, mainly where arable stubble and cover crops remain where they feed mainly on seeds.	Birds were recorded during all four surveys with the peak count of 91 in survey four.	Loss of foraging habitat across the site.		
Teal	In winter birds congregate in low-lying wetlands habitats including ponds, marshland and saltmarsh habitats.	Birds were recorded on waterbodies within Easton Estate during survey one and two.			
Wigeon	A grazing duck specialist, favouring wetland habitats such as wet grassland, floodplain meadows, ponds and reservoirs with grassy bankings. Feeds mainly on aquatic plants, grasses and roots.	A single bird was recorded on the fishing lake at TG073117 during survey one		Loss of wetland areas across the site will reduce foraging habitat.	
Woodcock	Found mainly in deciduous and mixed woodland and young conifer plantations where it feeds and rests amongst the leaf litter or bracken. Feeds mainly on worms, beetles, spiders, caterpillars, fly larvae and small snails.	A single bird was recorded on survey one and two birds were recorded on survey two.	Local	The loss of woodland habitat will reduce suitable wintering habitat for this species.	
Yellowhammer	Traditionally based on edges of open areas or forest and scrub. Found wintering extensively across cultivated land with hedges and plantations. Feeds mainly on seeds, with an increase in invertebrates during the summer.	Birds were recorded on all four surveys.	Local	The loss of arable fields will greatly reduce the foraging opportunities. Removal of hedgerows will also reduce the roosting habitat.	



6.4. Construction impacts

- 6.4.1. Construction operations are likely to disturb bird species of nature conservation interest using the site for roosting and foraging. The construction of the new road will result in land-take, fragmentation and general habitat loss.
- 6.4.2. The loss of some habitats during the construction phase cannot be mitigated and therefore, it is highly likely that birds currently using the site will move away to find alternative suitable winter feeding grounds.
- 6.4.3. Hedgerows are also likely to be removed, increasing the fragmentation of corridors across the site. This will be unfavourable to many bird species recorded and will likely see a reduction in hedgerow species during the construction phase of the Proposed Scheme.
- 6.4.4. Visual and noise disturbance from machinery required during the construction phase will likely lead to desertion or avoidance of the area by wintering bird species.

6.5. Operational impacts

- 6.5.1. Birds are generally considered likely to be affected by an increase in traffic and can be particularly susceptible to noise from a new road.
- 6.5.2. Post-construction monitoring of the site should be undertaken to establish if there has been any increase in road casualties as a result of the proposed works. A wintering bird survey replicating this survey methodology is recommended to establish whether there has been a reduction in population size from the works. If a reduction is observed, further mitigation will be required.

6.6. Mitigation measures

- 6.6.1. The following mitigation measures are suggested.
 - Areas across the site that require vegetation clearance during the winter months should be staggered to allow the natural food resources to be consumed by the birds remaining on site.
 - To prevent disturbance to off-site habitats, areas around the DCO boundary should be buffered where possible using retained hedgerows or artificial screening to reduce visual disturbance.
 - Where fragmentation of hedgerows occurs, movable screens should be placed across the gaps created where possible to allow birds to continue using the hedgerow as a corridor without disturbance.
 - Site compounds should be screened off from the surrounding habitat to reduce visual disturbance.



• It is important that the hedgerows, scrub and standard trees are retained and managed for their value to birds and other wildlife.

6.7. Mitigation and conservation compensation

- 6.7.1. To ensure biodiversity is retained, protected and enhanced within the Proposed Scheme, resulting in a net gain for wintering birds, the following is suggested:
 - Hedgerow gaps are to be infilled with at least double hedge planting, ideally triple.
 - Ensure all trees around the site are protected and retained where possible and any trees are afforded a root protection zone.
 - Native planting should be encouraged to attract invertebrates and berry-rich species should be planted away from the new road in the hedgerow and scrub replanting plans.
 - Wetlands should be suitably replanted with reeds to help increase populations of invertebrates.
 - Areas of grassland should be allowed to be unmanaged, to enable the establishment of rough grassland habitats which will increase both invertebrate and small mammal populations.
 - Areas of set aside should be allowed along pre-designated boundary hedgerows and sown with seed rich plant species to provide suitable foraging for wintering birds to promote species moving back into the site after works have completed.

6.8. Further surveys

6.8.1. As there were records of active barn owl roosts and potential nest sites, a comprehensive barn owl survey should be undertaken to gather information on the location of wintering roosts.



7. References

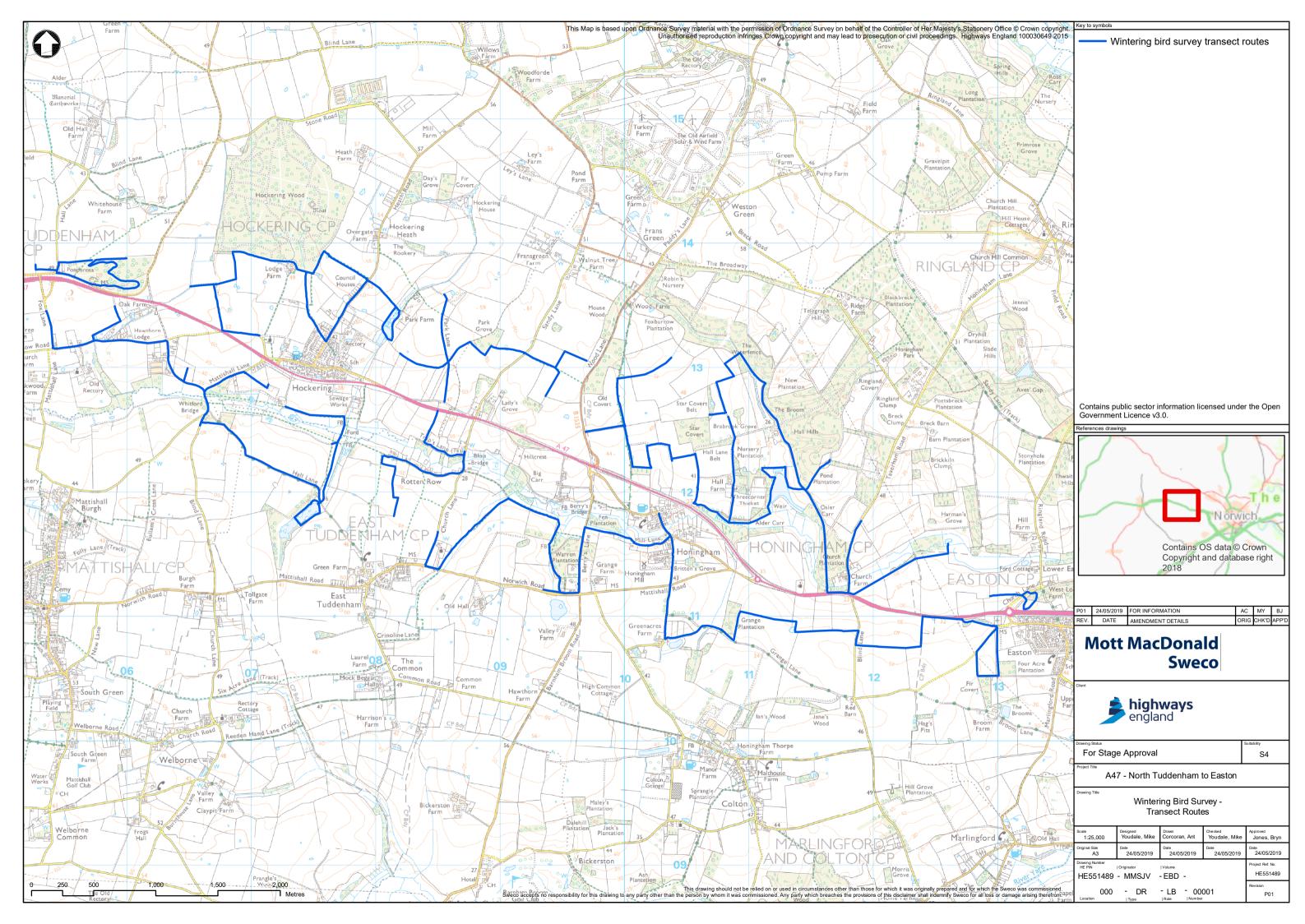
- Bern (1982) [online] <u>https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-</u> /conventions/treaty/104 [accessed March 2019]
- Bibby, C.J., N.D. Burgess & D.A. Hill (2000): Bird Census Techniques (Second Edition). London: Academic Press
- Birds Directive (2009) [online] <u>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:020:0007:0025:EN:</u> PDF [accessed March 2019]
- Bonn (1979) [online] <u>https://www.cms.int/en/page/appendix-i-ii-cms</u> [accessed March 2019]
- CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland, Chartered Institute of Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Department of the Environment (1981) Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) [online]
 www.opsi.gov.uk/RevisedStatutes/Acts/ukpga/1981/cukpga_19810069_en_1
 [Accessed March 2019]
- Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Brown, A., Hearn, R., Lock, L., Musgrove, A., Noble, D., Stroud, D. and Gregory, R. (2015) Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. British Birds 108: 708 - 746.
- Fuller, R.J. (1980) A Method for Assessing the Ornithological Importance of Sites for Nature Conservation Biological Conservation 17:229-239
- Gilbert, G., Gibbons, D.W., and Evans, J. (1998). Bird Monitoring Methods-a manual of techniques for key UK species. RSPB, Sandy.
- Highways England (2014) A47 corridor improvement programme [online] <u>http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/a47-corridor-improvement-programme/</u> [Accessed March 2019]
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (2017) The IUCN Red list of Threatened Species [online] <u>http://www.iucnredlist.org/</u> [accessed March 2019]
- Musgrove, A., Aebischer, N., Eaton, M., Hearn, S., Newson, S., Noble, D., Parsons, M., Risely, K. & Stroud, D. (2013) Population estimates of birds in Great Britain and the United Kingdom. British Birds 106:64-100.
- National Planning Policy Framework (2019) [online] <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2</u> [accessed March 2019]
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) [online] <u>https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents</u> [accessed March 2019]



- Norfolk and Norwich Naturalist Society (2017) Norfolk Bird and Mammal Report 2017, Volume 50, Part 2
- Norfolk Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2011) [online] <u>http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/actionplans/</u> [accessed April 2019]
- UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework (2012) JNCC and Defra (on behalf of the Four Countries' Biodiversity Group) UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. [online] <u>http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6189</u> [accessed March 2019]



Appendix A: Transect Route





Appendix B: Full wintering bird data

			0	Total Individuals			
Common Name	Scientific Name	Designation	Conservation Status	Survey One	Survey Two	Survey Three	Survey Four
Blackbird	Turdus merula	Birds Dir 2.2		129	102	145	101
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	Birds Dir 2.2	BoCC Amber	37	187	86	109
Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus			127	159	141	77
Brambling	Fringilla montifringilla	WCA1		5	0	0	0
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	NERC, UKBAP	BoCC Amber	8	13	6	5
Buzzard	Buteo buteo	Bonn		13	25	15	15
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	Birds Dir 2.2		26	68	167	68
Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs			65	116	269	41
Coal Tit	Periparus ater			9	9	10	1
Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	Birds Dir 2.2		14	6	21	15
Common Gull	Larus canus	Birds Dir 2.2	BoCC Amber	49	24	101	100
Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo			4	1	1	3
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	Bern, NERC, UKBAP	BoCC Amber	17	20	17	8
Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca	Bonn		2	0	0	0
Feral/hybrid goose	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	0	4	0	0
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	Birds Dir 2.2, WCA 1	BoCC Red	271	185	75	77
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus			9	16	38	14
Golden Plover	Pluvialis apricaria	Bonn, Birds Dir 1, 2.2		50	0	0	0
Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	Bern		100	127	49	12
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	Bern		5	5	4	1
Great Tit	Parus major			93	104	28	21
Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis	Bern		0	3	11	2
Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	Bern		4	14	0	0
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea			1	2	1	1
Greylag Goose	Anser anser	Bonn, Birds Dir 2.1, WCA 1.2	BoCC Amber	14	70	0	3



Common Name	Scientific Name	Designation	Conservation Status	Total Individuals			
				Survey One	Survey Two	Survey Three	Survey Four
Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	Birds Dir 2.2, NERC,	BoCC Red	6	5	457	32
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	NERC,	BoCC Red	114	52	76	52
Jackdaw	Coloeus monedula	Birds Dir 2.2		47	115	273	29
Jay	Garrulus glandarius	Birds Dir 2.2		7	20	10	4
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus			4	5	2	0
Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	Bern, Birds Dir 1, WCA 1	BoCC Amber	0	0	0	1
Lesser Black- backed Gull	Larus fuscus	Birds Dir 2.2	BoCC Amber	0	3	0	3
Lesser Redpoll	Acanthis cabaret	NERC	BoCC Red	100	0	0	0
Linnet	Linaria cannabina	Bern, NERC,	BoCC Red	7	7	20	0
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	Bern, Birds Dir 1		0	1	1	1
Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus			50	62	106	70
Magpie	Pica pica	Birds Dir 2.2		2	7	19	19
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Bonn, Birds Dir 2.1	BoCC Amber	74	54	95	110
Marsh Tit	Poecile palustris	NERC,	BoCC Red	0	0	6	3
Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis	0	BoCC Amber	3	16	11	5
Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	Birds Dir 2.2	BoCC Red	9	10	4	7
Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	Birds Dir 2.2		14	12	9	17
Mute Swan	Cygnus olor	Bonn, Birds Dir 2.2,	BoCC Amber	4	5	0	2
Nuthatch	Sitta europaea			8	1	2	0
Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	Birds Dir 2.1		30	54	154	43
Pied Wagtail	Motacilla alba	Bern		7	6	52	19
Red Kite	Milvus milvus	Bonn, Birds Dir 1, WCA 1		4	8	23	16
Red-legged Partridge	Alectoris rufa	Birds Dir 2.1		102	140	600	182
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	Birds Dir 2.2, WCA 1	BoCC Red	169	158	15	9
Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	Bern, NERC,	BoCC Amber	4	0	2	1



Common Name	Scientific Name	Designation	Conservation Status		Total Individuals			
				Survey One	Survey Two	Survey Three	Survey Four	
Robin	Erithacus rubecula	Bern		79	82	31	26	
Rock/Feral Pigeon	Columba livia	Birds Dir 2.1		0	0	10	0	
Rook	Corvus frugilegus	Birds Dir 2.2		288	252	169	41	
Siskin	Spinus spinus	Bern		11	37	0	0	
Skylark	Alauda arvensis	Birds Dir 2.2, NERC,	BoCC Red	39	52	104	21	
Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	Bonn, Birds Dir 2.1		0	1	0	0	
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	Birds Dir 2.2, NERC,	BoCC Red	6	12	13	0	
Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	Bonn, Birds Dir 1		1	0	1	3	
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	Birds Dir 2.2, NERC,	BoCC Red	55	30	78	44	
Stock Dove	Columba oenas	Birds Dir 2.2	BoCC Amber	5	26	11	91	
Teal	Anas crecca	Bonn, Birds Dir 2.1	BoCC Amber	19	7	0	0	
Treecreeper	Certhia familiaris			3	13	0	0	
Tufted Duck	Aythya fuligula	Bonn, Birds Dir 2.1		2	0	0	1	
Wigeon	Mareca penelope	Bonn, Birds Dir 2.1	BoCC Amber	1	0	0	0	
Woodcock	Scolopax rusticola	Birds Dir 2.1,	BoCC Red	1	2	0	0	
Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus	Birds Dir 2.1		405	985	1685	1144	
Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	Bern		17	43	31	19	
Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	Bern, NERC,	BoCC Red	16	74	35	8	



Appendix C: Distribution map of key species

