

**WINTER
WATERFOWL SURVEY**

**LAND AT LOWER ROAD,
BEDHAMPTON,
HAVANT**

MARCH 2022

WINTER WATERFOWL SURVEY LAND AT LOWER ROAD, BEDHAMPTON

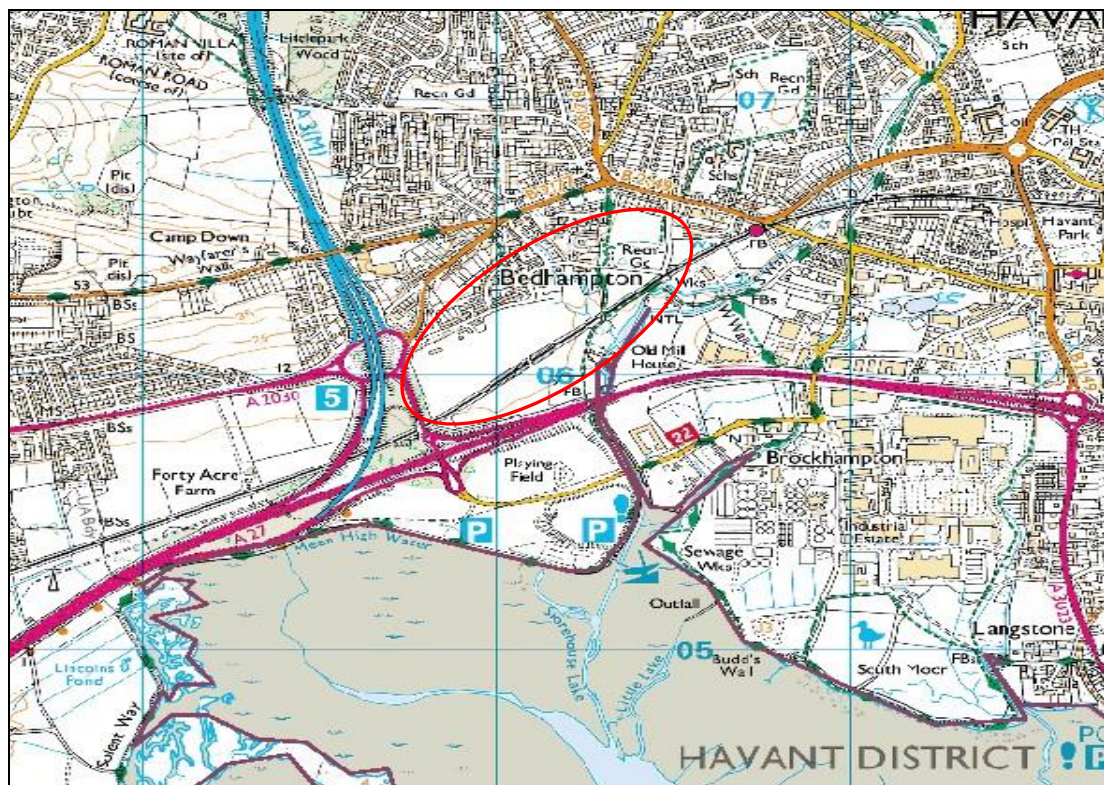
1.0 INTRODUCTION

Background

- 1.1 This report presents survey data for winter bird survey counts during the period December 2021 -March 2022 for an area of farmland at Lower Farm, Bedhampton, and adjacent areas around Bedhampton & Bidbury Mead, Havant.
- 1.2 The survey provides an update to a survey undertaken in the winter 2016/17 and 2013/14 (see Aluco Ecology 2017, 2014).

Site Location

- 1.3 The survey area consists of arable farmland, permanent pasture, amenity parkland and a small watercourse, the Hermitage Stream, at Bedhampton to the west of Havant and east of the A3(M). Its location is shown at **Figure 1** below.



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Figure 1: Location of the Main Survey Area

- 1.4 The survey area is c400m from the coastal designated sites at Langstone Harbour at its closest point. These are designated for waterfowl and coastal habitats and include within 1km: Langstone & Chichester Harbours Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site, Solent Maritime and Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Langstone Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Farlington Marshes Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Citations for these designated sites outlining the special interest features are provided at **Technical Appendix 1**.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The survey methodology has taken into account the survey methods set out in the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy (SWBGS) mitigation guidance (see SWBGS, 2018). The survey methodology included:

- Surveys undertaken by an experienced bird surveyor;
- A total of 13 surveys were undertaken between early December and late March;
- Survey was undertaken two hours either side of high tide at a range of times (dawn, midday, dusk) throughout the season;
- A total of 6 visits were either extended as nocturnal surveys (pre-dawn or post dusk) or were bespoke nocturnal surveys (x1);
- Survey involved scanning the site using binoculars/telescope to check for any feeding or roosting waders and wildfowl. Nocturnal survey work was undertaken with aid of a Pulsar thermal imaging device;
- The main survey area was then walked on foot, scanning all open areas to locate feeding birds, and look for field evidence of waterfowl use, including feathers and droppings;
- Results were recorded using the SWBGS standard recording form to capture observer name, date, time, species, count, behaviour, any disturbance;
- Observations of other species were recorded on an incidental basis;
- Public use of the count areas and any other disturbance was also noted.

- 2.2 The survey was started in early December, which means no data was collected in late autumn. This is not considered to be a significant limitation to the data given the survey covers the core winter period in detail, when a site such as this would be most likely to be used, and that it provides an update to previous survey work.

- 2.3 The survey area was divided into defined count areas. Area 2 at Lower Farm is an active development site. The boundaries of Area 1 and 2 for survey have changed from previous survey work (see Aluco Ecology, 2014, 2017). This is because Area 2a is now a development site, with site Heras fencing demarcating the boundary between Area 1 and Area 2. **Figure 2** shows the survey areas for winter waterfowl work.

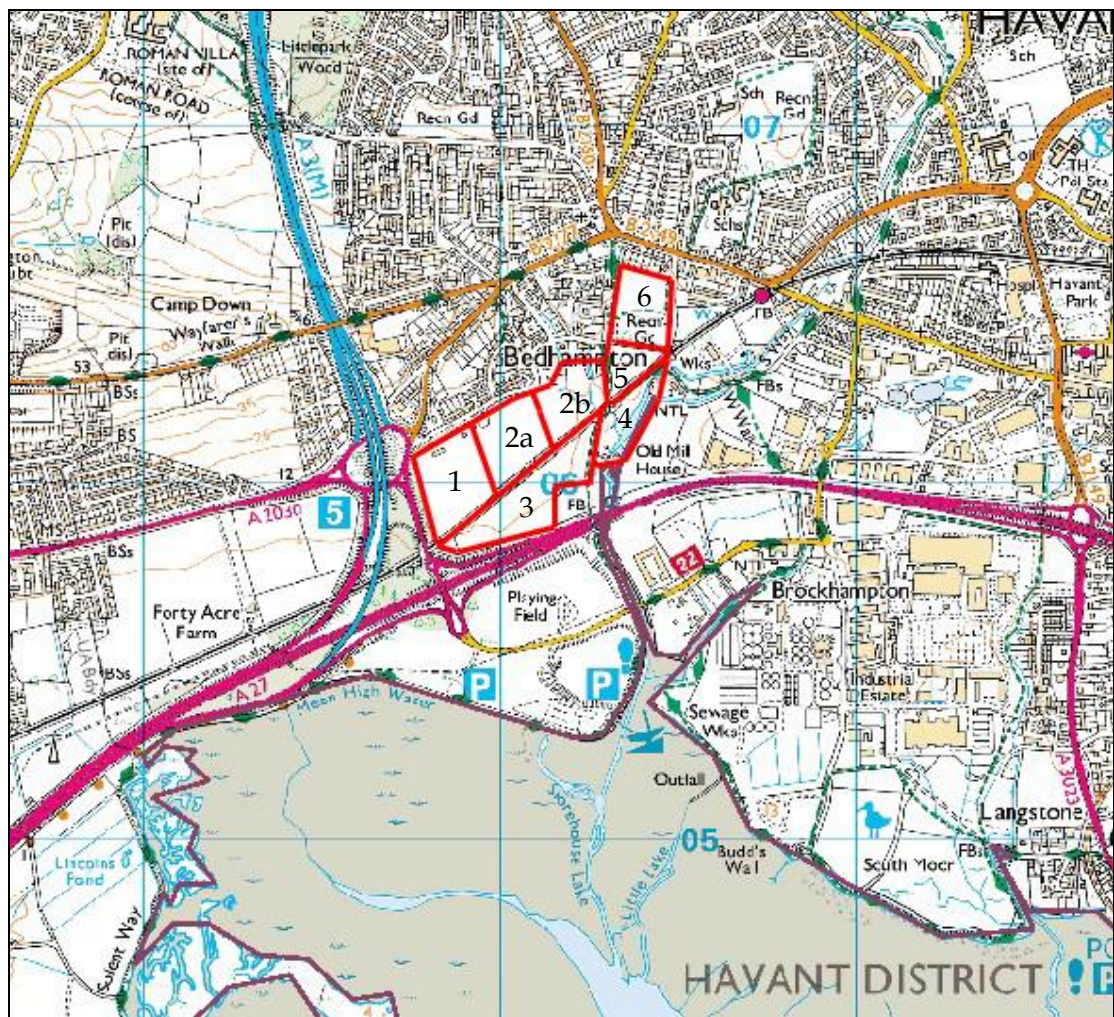


Figure 2: Count Areas for Winter Waterfowl Survey

3.0 RESULTS

Description of Count Areas

- 3.1 The count areas consist of farmland at Manor Farm (Areas 1, 2b and 3), an active development site at Lower Road (Area 2a (& 2b entrance)). The farmland is under arable production, and during the survey was winter stubble with some grassy/weedy regrowth following harvest in the late summer. The arable is surrounded by tall hedges and boundary planting. The north east part of Area 2b is woodland and scrub and unsuitable habitat for waterfowl. Area 4 is a small open field that is grazed by horses, adjacent to a public right of way and the Hermitage Stream. Area 5 consists of a small area of permanent pasture adjacent to the village of Bedhampton, with some allotments in the NW corner. Area 6 is an urban park with playing fields, open grasslands and mature parkland trees.
- 3.2 The development site at Area 2 was partially stripped in December-Feb, and sub soils held some standing water over the central area of 2a. Work during this period was mostly on the site entrance. From late February to end of survey the remainder of the site was stripped and construction work and stock piling was present over Area 2a.

Waterfowl Records - Historical

- 3.3 Areas 1, 2a and most of 2b (arable farmland) are listed as site H05A in the current SWBGS (SWBGS, 2020). It has a small number of historic records of waterfowl including 2 records from 2002 of 150 Brent Goose and one record in 2013 of 50 Lapwing. At present it is listed as a 'Candidate Site' in the SWBGS.
- 3.4 Historical survey dates from Areas 1 and 2 (site H05A) is provided in **Table 1** below. A total of 59 visits have been undertaken since 2002, although this may not include all visits to the site.

Table 1: Survey visits to Areas 1 & 2 (H05A)

Date	Surveyor	H05A No. of survey visits
2002	SWBGS	2 positive records on HBIC database
03/12/2006	SWBGS	1
22/02/2009	SWBGS	1
2012/13	SWBGS	7
2013/14	SWBGS	5
2013/14	Aluco Ecology	17
2016/17	Aluco Ecology	25
2020/21	Aluco Ecology	3

Waterfowl Records – 2021/22

- 3.5 The current survey comprised 13 visits carried out between December 2021 and March 2022. Details of timings are presented at **Table 2** below.
- 3.6 **Table 3** below shows details of waterfowl species recorded, with **Table 4** providing a summary the conservation status of the species recorded according to national legislation (Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)), national Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), and Birds of Conservation Concern (Stanbury *et al*, 2021). A full list of species recorded in the count areas during the survey is provided at **Technical Appendix 2**.
- 3.7 Count Area 1 and 3 recorded low use by Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* on 4 nocturnal surveys (Jan-March 2022). A maximum count of 2 individuals on Area 1 was made in February 2022. Although a wader, this species is not generally associated with the coastal European designated sites, and wintering populations in the UK are widespread in farmland habitats.
- 3.8 The main survey areas at Manor Farm (Areas 1-3) recorded no additional waterfowl use, but was used by a Gulls on some visits including Black Headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*, and Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* use. Most of this use was associated with Area 2a, where ground works and pooling of water in sub soils provided attractions to the site.
- 3.9 The survey recorded waterfowl in Area 4, along the Hermitage Stream, with the waterfowl recorded associated with this watercourse. Here small numbers of a few species of waterfowl were recorded. These included Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*, Coot *Fulica atra*, Little Grebe *Tachybatpus ruficollis*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* and Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*. Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* and Grey Wagtail were also recorded along this stretch of the watercourse.
- 3.10 Area 5 recorded 2 Mallard on one visit and 2 Moorhen on another, both in March 2022, in a wet area of the field. No waterfowl were recorded in Area 6.

Recreational use and Disturbance

- 3.11 The only count area that had regular recreational use was Area 6, a public park in Bedhampton. This had regular use of the park by walkers and dog walkers during survey visits. Area 5 is part allotments, but no use was noted during any survey visit.
- 3.12 Area 2 is an active construction site at Lower Road. Construction activity was low during the early part of the survey period and generally confined to the site entrance. Construction activity increased from late February, with up to 5/6 machines in use and 6-10 staff observed during a visit (including machine operators). This site is fenced from Area 1 with Heras fencing.

- 3.13 The construction site is subject to planning conditions determining levels of noisy and disturbing activities that can be undertaken during the winter period. Levels of noise during all surveys were not significantly higher than the background noise of the A3(m) and A27 in Area 1, and all operations noted during surveys were undertaken on the half of Area 2a furthest away from Area 1. Therefore, no potential noise disturbance from the construction on Area 1 was noted during the survey.

Non-Waterfowl Records

- 3.14 A total list of species recorded during survey work in winter 2021-22 is provided in **Technical Appendix 2. Table 4** provides a summary of species of conservation concern recorded during the survey work. The nocturnal survey work also recorded a number of mammal species, including; Fox *Vulpes vulpes* (Areas 1,2,3), Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* (Area 1), Wood Mouse *Apodemus sylvatica* (Areas 1,2,3), Field Vole *Microtus agrestis* (Areas 1 & 3) and Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus* (Area 3).

Table 2: Survey Dates 2021-2022

Date	Observer(s)	Time start	Time end	Weather	Tide state (nearest high or low tide in Langstone Harbour)	Notes
7 Dec 2021	GK	13:00	15:00	Cloud 100%, 9c, SW4-5 occ. Drizzle	High tide 12:52 - 4.11m.	
16 Dec 2021	GK	06:30	10:00	Cloud 100%, 9-11c, SW1, dry	High tide 09:11 - 3.45m.	Nocturnal survey pre-dawn then daytime survey
28 Dec 2021	GK	15:00	18:30	Cloud 100%, 7c, mist, occ. Drizzle	High tide 16:30 - 3.11m.	Survey at dusk running into a nocturnal survey
4 Jan 2022	GK	11:00	13:00	Cloud 50%, 5c, N2-3, dry	High tide 11:55 - 4.22m.	
12 Jan 2022	GK	05:00	08:00	Cloud 0%, 1.5c, S1, dry	High tide 06:40 - 3.06m.	Nocturnal survey pre-dawn then daytime survey
19 Jan 2022	GK	11:30	13:30	Cloud 85%, 7c, SW2, occ. Heavy shower	High tide 11:55 - 3.77m.	
4 Feb 2022	GK	14:15	15:45	Cloud 30%, 11c, W2-3 dry	High tide 13:43 - 4.63m.	
14 Feb 2022	GK	05:30	08:30	Cloud 10%, 5.5c, SW1 after rain	High tide 09:49 - 3.32m.	Nocturnal survey pre-dawn then daytime survey
22 Feb 2022	GK	14:30	16:00	Cloud 50%. 12c, SW2, dry	High tide 14:38 - 3.67m.	
23 Feb 2022	GK	04:30	07:30	Cloud 100%, 7c, SW2 dry	High tide 03:07 - 3.66m.	Additional Nocturnal survey
3 Mar 2022	GK	09:30	11:00	Cloud 60%, 12c, SW3, dry	High tide 11:30 - 4.15m.	
11 Mar 2022	GK	16:30	20:00	Cloud 80%, 9.5c, SW4, mostly dry	High tide 10:01 - 2.7m.	Survey at dusk running into a nocturnal survey
25 Mar 2022	GK	16:00	18:00	Cloud 20%, 13.5c, E2, dry	High tide 16:18 - 3.21m.	Survey towards dusk

Table 3: Waterfowl Records 2021-2022

Observer	Site/Area	Date	Species	Count	Use/Disturbance/Notes/Comments
GK	4	4 Dec 2021	Moorhen	8	Majority feeding in the field
GK	4	4 Dec 2021	Coot	4	Field and on stream
GK	4	4 Dec 2021	Mute Swan	1	Stream
GK	4	4 Dec 2021	Gadwall	4	On stream or banks
GK	4	4 Dec 2021	Mallard	8	On stream or banks
GK	4	16 Dec 2021	Moorhen	5	Majority feeding in the field
GK	4	16 Dec 2021	Coot	2	Field and on stream
GK	4	16 Dec 2021	Mute Swan	1	Stream
GK	4	16 Dec 2021	Gadwall	9	On stream or banks
GK	4	16 Dec 2021	Mallard	14	On stream or banks
GK	4	16 Dec 2021	Green Sandpiper	2	Flying along watercourse (& calling)
GK	4	16 Dec 2021	Little Grebe	1	Stream
GK	4	28 Dec 2021	Moorhen	6	Majority feeding in the field
GK	4	28 Dec 2021	Coot	4	Field and on stream
GK	4	28 Dec 2021	Mute Swan	2	Stream
GK	4	28 Dec 2021	Gadwall	8	On stream or banks
GK	4	28 Dec 2021	Mallard	12	On stream or banks
GK	4	4 Jan 2022	Moorhen	7	Majority feeding in the field
GK	4	4 Jan 2022	Coot	3	Field and on stream
GK	4	4 Jan 2022	Mute Swan	2	Stream
GK	4	4 Jan 2022	Gadwall	9	On stream or banks
GK	4	4 Jan 2022	Mallard	7	On stream or banks
GK	4	4 Jan 2022	Little Grebe	1	Stream
GK	4	4 Jan 2022	Tufted Duck	1	Stream
GK	1	12 Jan 2022	Woodcock	1	Nocturnal sighting
GK	4	12 Jan 2022	Moorhen	7	Majority feeding in the field
GK	4	12 Jan 2022	Coot	4	Field and on stream

Observer	Site/Area	Date	Species	Count	Use/Disturbance/Notes/Comments
GK	4	12 Jan 2022	Mute Swan	1	Stream
GK	4	12 Jan 2022	Gadwall	12	On stream or banks
GK	4	12 Jan 2022	Mallard	4	On stream or banks
GK	4	12 Jan 2022	Little Grebe	1	Stream
GK	4	19 Jan 2022	Moorhen	9	Majority feeding in the field
GK	4	19 Jan 2022	Coot	4	Field and on stream
GK	4	19 Jan 2022	Mute Swan	2	Stream
GK	4	19 Jan 2022	Gadwall	8	On stream or banks
GK	4	19 Jan 2022	Mallard	12	On stream or banks
GK	4	19 Jan 2022	Little Grebe	1	Stream
GK	4	4 Feb 2022	Moorhen	3	Majority feeding in the field
GK	4	4 Feb 2022	Coot	2	Field and on stream
GK	4	4 Feb 2022	Mute Swan	2	Stream
GK	4	4 Feb 2022	Gadwall	8	On stream or banks
GK	4	4 Feb 2022	Mallard	9	On stream or banks
GK	4	4 Feb 2022	Little Grebe	1	Stream
GK	1	14 Feb 2022	Woodcock	1	Nocturnal sighting
GK	3	14 Feb 2022	Woodcock	1	Nocturnal sighting
GK	4	14 Feb 2022	Moorhen	8	Majority feeding in the field
GK	4	14 Feb 2022	Coot	3	Field and on stream
GK	4	14 Feb 2022	Mute Swan	2	Stream
GK	4	14 Feb 2022	Gadwall	8	On stream or banks
GK	4	14 Feb 2022	Mallard	10	On stream or banks
GK	4	14 Feb 2022	Shoveler	2	Stream
GK	4	22 Feb 2022	Moorhen	8	Majority feeding in the field
GK	4	22 Feb 2022	Coot	3	Stream
GK	4	22 Feb 2022	Mute Swan	1	Stream
GK	4	22 Feb 2022	Gadwall	6	On stream or banks

Observer	Site/Area	Date	Species	Count	Use/Disturbance/Notes/Comments
GK	4	22 Feb 2022	Mallard	11	On stream or banks
GK	4	22 Feb 2022	Little Grebe	1	Stream
GK	1	23 Feb 2022	Woodcock	2	Nocturnal sighting
GK	3	23 Feb 2022	Woodcock	1	Nocturnal sighting
GK	4	3 Mar 2022	Moorhen	14	Majority feeding in the field
GK	4	3 Mar 2022	Coot	3	Stream
GK	4	3 Mar 2022	Mute Swan	2	Stream
GK	4	3 Mar 2022	Gadwall	10	On stream or banks
GK	4	3 Mar 2022	Mallard	14	On stream or banks
GK	4	3 Mar 2022	Little Grebe	1	Stream
GK	4	3 Mar 2022	Shoveler	2	Stream
GK	1	11 Mar 2022	Woodcock	1	Nocturnal sighting
GK	4	11 Mar 2022	Moorhen	8	Majority feeding in the field
GK	4	11 Mar 2022	Coot	2	Field and on stream
GK	4	11 Mar 2022	Mute Swan	1	Stream
GK	4	11 Mar 2022	Gadwall	12	On stream or banks
GK	4	11 Mar 2022	Mallard	10	On stream or banks
GK	4	11 Mar 2022	Little Grebe	1	Stream
GK	4	11 Mar 2022	Shoveler	1	Stream
GK	4 & 3	11 Mar 2022	Little Egret	1	Overflying Area 4 & 3
GK	5	11 Mar 2022	Mallard	2	Pair loafing in wet area of field
GK	4	25 Mar 2022	Moorhen	7	On stream or banks
GK	4	25 Mar 2022	Coot	3	On stream or banks
GK	4	25 Mar 2022	Mute Swan	2	Stream
GK	4	25 Mar 2022	Gadwall	8	On stream or banks
GK	4	25 Mar 2022	Mallard	7	On stream or banks
GK	5	25 Mar 2022	Moorhen	2	In wet area of field

Table 4: Summary of Species with Conservation Designations in all Count Areas and Summary of Waterfowl Notes

British (English) vernacular name	Scientific name	Sch1	BAP	BoCC Red	BoCC Amber	BoCC Green	Notes
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>					1	Pair regularly present in Area 4
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>				1		Three records of a pair/single bird in Area 4
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>				1		Peak count of 12 birds in Area 4, and average count of 8.5
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				1		Peak count 16 Area 4, average count 10
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>					1	One record of female, Area 4
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>				1		Regularly feeding Areas 1-3 in low numbers with Woodpigeon flocks. Peak count on 19/01/22 of 32 with single flock of 26 in Area 3.
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>				1		Regularly feeding Areas 1-3 . Peak count on 19/01/22 of 153 with single flock of 119 in Area 3.
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				1		Regularly present in Area 4, peak count 14 on 03/03/22 and average count of 7.7
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					1	Regularly present in Area 4, peak count 4 on various dates, average count of 3.1
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					1	Singles recorded regularly in Area 4
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>			1			Recorded on nocturnal surveys only in Jan-March with peak count in Area 1 of 2 on 23/02/22, average count in Area 1 = 1.2 over 6 nocturnal surveys.
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	1			1		2 birds flying together high over the stream on 16/12/21
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				1		Regularly recorded in Areas 2a, 4 and 6. Occasionally recorded in Areas 1, 3 & 5. Peak count of 344 on 22/02/22 with a flock of 341 in Area 2a where soil stripping was taking place.
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeus melanocephalus</i>	1			1		One record in Area 4 bathing in stream after foraging in horse paddocks to SE; 7 overflying Areas 1-3 on 25/03/2022
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>				1		Just one record in Area 4 overflying after feeding in fields to SE
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		1	1			Regularly recorded in Areas 2a and 4; occasionally in Areas 1, 3 & 6. Peak count 24 on the 07/12/21 with 22 in Area 2a. Peak count Area 4 of 20 on 19/01/22
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				1		One individual Area 2a on 07/12/21
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					1	One individual overflying Area 3 & 4 on 11/03/22
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	1				1	Occasionally recorded along stream, Area 4
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				1		One record Area 4 14/02/22

British (English) vernacular name	Scientific name	Sch1	BAP	BoCC Red	BoCC Amber	BoCC Green	Notes
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		1	1			Peak count 16 on 04/02/22 in Areas 1 & 2a. Average count 5.8 for Area 1. Present in Areas 1-3 farmland
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	1				1	Two wintering birds, seen in Areas 4 and adjoining edge of Area 3 on a number of occasions, potential breeding habitat present in mature gardens.
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		1		1		
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		1	1			Low numbers, with peak count 14 Area 1 & 2a on 16 Dec.
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		1		1		Low numbers wintering, but late winter territories established around all areas, with 2-3 territories around edge of Area 1
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	1			1		Small numbers overflying rather than feeding on site Areas 1-3. Peak count 3 over Area 1 on 19/01/22
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		1	1			Regular colony on Lower Road, with 20+ birds mostly using hedge on roadside of Area 2a, occasionally in stubble of 2a.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		1		1		Around boundaries of all Areas
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				1		Recorded in Area 4
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				1		Present in Areas 1-3 in low numbers. Peak count 14 on 07/12/21 with 9 on Area 1 and 2 Area 2a and 3 on Area 3. Numbers reduced later in survey, with none by March.
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			1			Small numbers around edge of site, particularly around edges of Areas 3,4&5
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>		1	1			Recorded overflying Area 3 on two dates, peak count 3 birds
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		1		1		Wintering flock around Areas 1-3 arable. Peak count 18 on 04/02/22 with 15 in Area 1 along railway edge. Average count in Area 1 = 8.9
Total =		5	9	7	19		

Key

The British List (BOU) = British Ornithologists' Union. The British List: <https://bou.org.uk/british-list/>

Sch1 WCA = Schedule 1 Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) - <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1377>

BAP = S41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species - <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5163>

BoCC (Red/Amber) = Andrew Stanbury, Mark Eaton, Nicholas Aebischer, Dawn Balmer, Andy Brown, Andy Douse, Patrick Lindley, Neil McCulloch, David Noble and Ilka Win (2021) The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. British Birds 114, December 2021 p723-747

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 A winter waterfowl survey was undertaken on farmland at Manor Farm, and adjacent open space at Lower Road, Bedhampton, Havant during the period December 2021 to March 2022. The survey recorded no use of the open fields (Areas 1-3) by waterfowl associated with the coastal designated sites, and a single wader species associated with farmland during winter periods, Woodcock, which was present in low numbers (average of 1.2birds per visit and peak of 2 birds on one survey).
- 4.2 A single count area along the Hermitage Stream (Area 4) recorded use of the watercourse by small but regular numbers of waterfowl. Area 6, a formal park with playing fields recorded regular informal recreational use during the survey work, the other areas recorded no human use, apart from Area 2, which was an active construction site during the survey period. Due to the surrounding noise from the A27 and A3(M), the planning conditions determining types of noise and activity on the development site during winter periods, and the secure and tall site fencing, the construction site showed no potential disturbance of adjacent Areas during the surveys.

5.0 REFERENCES

Aluco Ecology (2014) Winter Waterfowl Survey, Land at Lower Road, Bedhampton,

Aluco Ecology (2017) Winter Waterfowl Survey, Land at Lower Road, Bedhampton,

Andrew Stanbury, Mark Eaton, Nicholas Aebischer, Dawn Balmer, Andy Brown, Andy Douse, Patrick Lindley, Neil McCulloch, David Noble and Ilka Win (2021) The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. British Birds 114, December 2021 p723-747

SWBGS Steering Group (2010) Solent Waders & Brent Goose Strategy (2nd Edition) Hampshire Wildlife Trust

SWBGS (2018) Guidance on Mitigation and Offsetting Requirements, Final Report October 2018, Hampshire Wildlife Trust

SWBGS Steering Group (2020) Solent Waders & Brent Goose Strategy (3rd Edition). Hampshire Wildlife Trust

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Citations for Coastal Designated Sites Within 1km of the Survey Area

SPA description

(information as published 2001)

Chichester and Langstone Harbours

Country	England
Unitary Authority	City of Portsmouth, West Sussex, Hampshire
SPA status	Classified 28/10/1987
Latitude	50 48 23 N
Longitude	00 55 12 W
SPA EU code	UK9011011
Area (ha)	5810.03
Component	Chichester Harbour
SSSI/ASSIs	Langstone Harbour



Chichester and Langstone Harbours are located on the south coast of England in Hampshire and West Sussex. They are large, sheltered estuarine basins comprising extensive sand- and mud-flats exposed at low tide. The two harbours are joined by a stretch of water that separates Hayling Island from the mainland. Tidal channels drain the basin and penetrate far inland. The mud-flats are rich in invertebrates and also support extensive beds of algae, especially *Enteromorpha* species, and eelgrasses *Zostera* spp. The basin contains a wide range of coastal habitats supporting important plant and animal communities. The site is of particular significance for waterbirds, especially in migration periods and in winter. It also supports important colonies of breeding terns.

Qualifying species

For individual species accounts visit the [Species Accounts section](#)

This site qualifies under **Article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

During the breeding season;

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 100 pairs representing up to 4.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992-1996)

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 158 pairs representing up to 1.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (1998)

On passage;

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, 137 individuals representing up to 17.1% of the population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

Solent Maritime

Site details

Country	England
Unitary Authority	City of Portsmouth; City of Southampton; Hampshire; Isle of Wight; West Sussex
Centroid*	SU756003
Latitude	50 47 47 N
Longitude	00 55 40 W
SAC EU code	UK0030059
Status	Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	11325.09

* This is the approximate central point of the SAC. In the case of large, linear or composite sites, this may not represent the location where a feature occurs within the SAC.

General site character

Marine areas. Sea inlets (14%)
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (59%)
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes (23%)
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair (0.5%)
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets (3%)
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (0.5%)

[Boundary map](#) and associated biodiversity information on the NBN Gateway.

[Natura 2000 data form](#) for this site as submitted to Europe (PDF format, size 30kb).

[Interactive map](#) from MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside).



Location of Solent Maritime SAC/SCI/cSAC

Note:

When undertaking an appropriate assessment of impacts at a site, **all** features of European importance (both primary and non-primary) need to be considered.

Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site

1130 Estuaries

The Solent encompasses a major estuarine system on the south coast of England with four coastal plain **estuaries** (Yar, Medina, King's Quay Shore, Hamble) and four bar-built **estuaries** (Newtown Harbour, Beaulieu, Langstone Harbour, Chichester Harbour). The site is the only one in the series to contain more than one physiographic sub-type of estuary and is the only cluster site. The Solent and its inlets are unique in Britain and Europe for their hydrographic regime of four tides each day, and for the complexity of the marine and estuarine habitats present within the area. Sediment habitats within the estuaries include extensive estuarine flats, often with intertidal areas supporting eelgrass *Zostera* spp. and green algae, sand and shingle spits, and natural shoreline transitions. The mudflats range from low and variable salinity in the upper reaches of the estuaries to very sheltered almost fully marine muds in Chichester and Langstone Harbours. Unusual features include the presence of very rare sponges in the Yar estuary and a sandy 'reef' of the polychaete *Sabellaria spinulosa* on the steep eastern side of the entrance to Chichester Harbour.

1320 Spartina swards (*Spartinion maritimae*)

Solent Maritime is the only site for smooth cord-grass *Spartina alterniflora* in the UK and is one of only two sites where significant amounts of small cord-grass *S. maritima* are found. It is also one of the few remaining sites for Townsend's cord-grass *S. x townsendii* and holds extensive areas of common cord-grass *Spartina anglica*, all four taxa thus occurring here in close proximity. It has additional historical and scientific interest as the site where *S. alterniflora* was first recorded in the UK (1829) and where *S. x townsendii* and, later, *S. anglica* first occurred.

1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

The Solent contains the second-largest aggregation of **Atlantic salt meadows** in south and south-west England. Solent Maritime is a composite site composed of a large number of separate areas of saltmarsh. In contrast to the Severn estuary, the salt meadows at this site are notable as being representative of the ungrazed type and support a different range of communities dominated by sea-purslane *Atriplex portulacoides*, common sea-lavender *Limonium vulgare* and thrift *Armeria maritima*. As a whole the site is less truncated by man-made features than other parts of the south coast and shows rare and unusual transitions to freshwater reedswamp and alluvial woodland as well as coastal grassland. Typical **Atlantic salt meadow** is still widespread in this site, despite a long history of colonisation by cord-grass *Spartina* spp.

Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site

1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time

1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

1150 Coastal lagoons * Priority feature

1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines

1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks

1310 *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand

2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('white dunes')

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site

Not applicable.

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*

Many designated sites are on private land: the listing of a site in these pages does not imply any right of public access.

Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons

Site details

Country	England
Unitary Authority	City of Portsmouth; Hampshire; Isle of Wight
Centroid*	SZ608977
Latitude	50 46 30 N
Longitude	01 08 13 W
SAC EU code	UK0017073
Status	Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	36.24

* This is the approximate central point of the SAC. In the case of large, linear or composite sites, this may not represent the location where a feature occurs within the SAC.

General site character

Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (91.7%)
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes (8.3%)

[Boundary map](#) and associated biodiversity information on the NBN Gateway.

[Natura 2000 data form](#) for this site as submitted to Europe (PDF format, size 30kb).

[Interactive map](#) from MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside).



Location of Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC/SCI/cSAC

Note:

When undertaking an appropriate assessment of impacts at a site, all features of European importance (both primary and non-primary) need to be considered.

Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site

1150 Coastal lagoons * Priority feature

The Solent on the south coast of England encompasses a series of **Coastal lagoons**, including percolation, isolated and sluiced lagoons. The site includes a number of lagoons in the marshes in the Keyhaven – Pennington area, at Farlington Marshes in Chichester Harbour, behind the sea-wall at Bembridge Harbour and at Gilkicker, near Gosport. The lagoons show a range of salinities and substrates, ranging from soft mud to muddy sand with a high proportion of shingle, which support a diverse fauna including large populations of three notable species: the nationally rare foxtail stonewort *Lamprothamnium papulosum*, the nationally scarce lagoon sand shrimp *Gammarus insensibilis*, and the nationally scarce starlet sea anemone *Nematostella vectensis*. The lagoons in Keyhaven – Pennington Marshes are part of a network of ditches and ponds within the saltmarsh behind a sea-wall. Farlington Marshes is an isolated lagoon in marsh pasture that, although separated from the sea by a sea-wall, receives sea water during spring tides. The lagoon holds a well-developed low-medium salinity insect-dominated fauna. Gilkicker Lagoon is a sluiced lagoon with marked seasonal salinity fluctuation and supports a high species diversity. The lagoons at Bembridge Harbour have formed in a depression behind the sea-wall and sea water enters by percolation. Species diversity in these lagoons is high and the fauna includes very high densities of *N. vectensis*.

Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site

Not applicable.

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site

Not applicable.

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

Not applicable.

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File ref:

County: Hampshire

Site Name: Langstone Harbour SSSI

Local Planning Authority: Hampshire County Council, Havant Borough Council, Portsmouth City Council

National Grid Reference: SU 700030

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 197 1:25,000: SU 60, 70; SZ 69, 79

Area: 2,069.4 (ha) 5.113.4 (ac)

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): 1958 Date of Last Revision: 1979

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1985 Date of Last Revision: -

Other Information:

Farlington Marshes (118.9 ha) is a Local Nature Reserve owned by Portsmouth City Council and managed by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists' Trust under a long lease; 550 ha including a series of saltmarsh islands and extensive mud flats are owned by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Reasons for Notification:

Langstone Harbour is a tidal basin which at high water resembles an almost land-locked lake. At low water extensive mud flats are exposed, drained by three main channels which unite to make a common and narrow exit to the sea. The harbour includes one of the largest areas of mixed saltmarsh on the south coast, and extensive cord-grass *Spartina anglica* marsh in an advanced state of degeneration. The Site of Special Scientific Interest including Farlington Marshes, a peninsula of grassland and marsh on reclaimed tidal silt protected by a sea wall; and a similar but much smaller area at Southmoor in the north-east of the harbour. The harbour is of international importance as a rich intertidal system supporting high densities of intertidal invertebrates and large populations of migrant and overwintering waders and wildfowl, dependent upon them and upon the extensive beds of eelgrass *Zostera* species. The *Zostera angustifolia* and *Z. noltii* beds are among the largest in Britain. The harbour is among the twenty most important intertidal areas in Britain as a summer and autumn assembly ground for waders during the moult (when they require abundant high protein food) and as a post-moult wintering ground. Dunlin *Calidris alpina* often exceed 30,000 individuals, or 6% of the British winter population, or 3% of the European and North African wintering population. Grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola* and black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* achieve numbers which represent 1-2% of the European and North African migration flyway population; and redshank *Tringa totanus* and ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula* do so periodically. At times as many as 20% of the black-tailed godwit, 8% of the ringed plover and 8-10% of the grey plover wintering in Britain are present in the harbour. The total numbers of waders present sometimes exceeds 40,000. Langstone Harbour and the adjoining and connected Portsmouth and Chichester Harbours form a single, coherent ecosystem which is among the ten most important intertidal areas for waders in Britain. In the 1970s and 1980s Langstone Harbour alone has consistently supported in excess of 5,000 wintering dark-bellied geese *Branta bernicla*, or 5-10% of the world population depending on fluctuating population levels. It has supported up to 2.5% of the European winter population of shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* and regularly supports substantial numbers of other ducks in autumn and winter.

Farlington Marshes intrudes into the north-west sector of the harbour. Its vegetation is strongly influenced by drainage water from the chalk and by

brackish water infiltration. The marshes embrace a variety of habitats – brackish marsh, fresh marsh, a large lagoon with associated reed *Phragmites* beds, *Agrostis stolonifera* grassland and scrub. It is a vital high water wader roost for the Harbour and a major feeding ground for Brent geese after the *Zostera* beds in the Harbour have been consumed. Few comparable sites have survived agricultural improvement on the south and east coasts of England, where the habitat was formerly common: the grassland flora is especially rich for reclaimed silt, and includes over 50 species of grasses. Southmoor shares these characteristics but is much smaller.

Langstone Harbour has been the forum for important ecological research on estuarine eutrophication and the relationship with algal blanketing of the muds, changes in invertebrate communities and changes in the composition of vertebrate predator communities.

Local Nature Reserves

[◀ back](#)

Farlington Marshes

LNR Type:	Urban Fringe
County:	Hampshire
Natural England Regional Team:	South East
Year of Declaration:	1974
Declaring Authority:	Portsmouth City Council
Area (Ha):	Click here to open the site map (new window). Once displayed, click on the site to see area and other details.
Grid Reference:	SU 685 041
Location:	Eastern Road, Portsmouth. PO6 1UN
Owned by:	Portsmouth City Council
Managed by:	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
SSSI Type:	Biological
Link to site map:	Click here to open the site map from the MAGIC web site.
How to get there:	Nearest major road is A27. The western car park can be reached from the east Portsmouth A27 roundabout. The entrance is via small track between the A27 westbound exit and A2030 exit leading to Portsmouth. Train: nearest station is Hilsea – 1 mile.
Visitor facilities:	Farlington Marshes Car Park (Free) Guide Dogs permitted Tours available for groups There are benches at 300m intervals around the sea wall, and gates with RADAR locks at the entrances
What to see:	Farlington Marshes is the Trust's oldest nature reserve. It is 125 hectares (308 acres) of flower-rich grazing marsh on the northern

shore of Langstone Harbour between Portsmouth and Havant. Farlington is internationally important for the bird populations that it supports, as well as being a blaze of colour in spring and summer with many flowers and butterflies.

**Volunteer and
'Friends of'
groups:**

Volunteer through the Wildlife Trust
www.hiwwt.org.uk/pages/volunteering.html
Contact the Volunteering Manager, Gill Stanton
Tel 01489 774442
Email to volunteer@hwt.org.uk.

**Contacts for
further
information and
how to get
involved:**

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Tel 01489 774446
Email WildLine@hwt.org.uk.
or try
Portsmouth City Council
Email parks@portsmouthcc.gov.uk
Tel 023 9283 4180

**Website
address and
other links:**

www.hiwwt.org.uk/pages/farlington-marshes-r.html
alternatively try
www.hiwwt.org.uk
www.portsmouth.gov.uk
and search for Farlington Marshes Local Nature Reserve

Last updated 11/03/13

Chichester and Langstone Harbours Ramsar Site citation sheet is not reproduced, but can be accessed at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/RIS/UK11013.pdf>

Information from www.magic.gov.uk & www.jncc.defra.gov.uk

Technical Appendix 2

List of Species Recorded in Count Areas

British List Category	British (English) vernacular name	Scientific name		Sch1	BAP	BoCC Red	BoCC Amber	BoCC Green	Notes
AC2	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	1					1	Pair regularly present in Area 4
A	Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	1				1		Three records of a pair/single bird in Area 4
AC2E*	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	1				1		Peak count of 12 birds in Area 4, and average count of 8.5
AC2C4E*	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	1				1		Peak count 16 Area 4, average count 10
A	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	1					1	One record of female, Area 4
C1E*	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	1						
AC4E*	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	1					1	Single flock of 26 Area 2 16/12/21
A	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	1				1		Regularly feeding Areas 1-3 in low numbers with Woodpigeon flocks. Peak count on 19/01/22 of 32 with single flock of 26 in Area 3.
A	Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	1				1		Regularly feeding Areas 1-3. Peak count on 19/01/22 of 153 with single flock of 119 in Area 3.
A	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	1					1	
A	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1				1		Regularly present in Area 4, peak count 14 on 03/03/22 and average count of 7.7
A	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	1					1	Regularly present in Area 4, peak count 4 on various dates, average count of 3.1
A	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	1					1	Singles recorded regularly in Area 4
A	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	1			1			Recorded on nocturnal surveys only in Jan-March with peak count in Area 1 of 2 on 23/02/22, average count in Area 1 = 1.2 over 6 nocturnal surveys.
A	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	1	1			1		2 birds flying together high over the stream on 16/12/21
A	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	1				1		Regularly recorded in Areas 2a, 4 and 6. Occasionally recorded in Areas 1, 3 & 5. Peak count of 344 on 22/02/22 with a flock of 341 in Area 2a where soil stripping was taking place.
A	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>	1	1			1		One record in Area 4 bathing in stream after foraging in horse paddocks to SE; 7 overflying Areas 1-3 on 25/03/2022
A	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	1				1		Just one record in Area 4 overflying after feeding in fields to SE
A	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	1		1	1			Regularly recorded in Areas 2a and 4; occasionally in Areas 1, 3 & 6. Peak count 24 on the 07/12/21 with 22 in Area 2a. Peak count Area 4 of 20 on 19/01/22
A	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	1				1		One individual Area 2a on 07/12/21
A	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	1					1	One individual overflying Area 3 & 4 on 11/03/22

AE*	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1					1	Pair present overwinter around local area
A	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	1	1				1	Occasionally recorded along stream, Area 4
A	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	1					1	
A	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	1					1	Recorded calling around Area 5 on a couple of visits
A	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1				1		One record Area 4 14/02/22
A	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	1					1	
A	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	1					1	Peak count 18 on 04/01/22, majority in Areas 1-3
A	Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	1					1	
A	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	1					1	Areas 1-3 double number counts on a few visits
A	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>	1					1	
A	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	1					1	
A	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	1					1	
A	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	1		1	1			Peak count 16 on 04/02/22 in Areas 1 & 2a. Average count 5.8 for Area 1. Present in Areas 1-3 farmland
A	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	1					1	
A	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1					1	Recorded in Area 4 on two occasions
A	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	1	1				1	Two wintering birds, seen in Areas 4 and adjoining edge of Area 3 on a number of occasions
A	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	1					1	
A	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	1		1		1		
A	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	1		1	1			Low numbers, with peak count 14 Area 1 & 2a on 16 Dec.
A	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1		1		1		Low numbers wintering, but late winter territories established around all areas, with 2-3 territories around edge of Area 1
A	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	1	1			1		Small numbers overflying rather than feeding on site Areas 1-3. Peak count 3 over Area 1 on 19/01/22
A	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	1					1	
A	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	1					1	
A	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1		1	1			Regular colony on Lower Road, with 20+ birds mostly using hedge on roadside of Area 2a, occasionally in stubble of 2a.
A	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	1		1		1		Around boundaries of all Areas
A	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	1				1		Recorded in Area 4

A	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	1					1	Peak count Area 2a of 9 birds on 03/03/22
A	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	1				1		Present in Areas 1-3 in low numbers. Peak count 14 on 07/12/21 with 9 on Area 1 and 2 Area 2a and 3 on Area 3.
AE	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	1					1	
AE	Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	1			1			Small numbers around edge of site, particularly around edges of Areas 3,4&5
A	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>	1		1	1			Recorded overflying Area 3 on two dates, peak count 3 birds
A	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	1					1	Peak count 12 birds in Area 3 on 04/01/22
A	Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	1					1	Heard overflying Area 3 on one date
A	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	1		1		1		Wintering flock around Areas 1-3 arable. Peak count 18 on 04/02/22 with 15 in Area 1 along railway edge. Average count in Area 1 = 8.9
			55	5	9	7	19	28	

Key

The British List (BOU) = British Ornithologists' Union. The British List: <https://bou.org.uk/british-list/>

Sch1 WCA = Schedule 1 Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) - <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1377>

BAP = Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species - <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5163>

BoCC (Red/Amber) = Andrew Stanbury, Mark Eaton, Nicholas Aebischer, Dawn Balmer, Andy Brown, Andy Douse, Patrick Lindley, Neil McCulloch, David Noble and Ilka Win (2021) The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. British Birds 114, December 2021 p723-747