



Appendix L9 - Breeding Bird Survey Report

July 2022

Document Information

Document	Breeding Bird Survey Report
Project	Langstone FCERM Scheme
Department	Coastal Partners

Document History

Date	Revision	Prepared	Checked
01/07/2022	Draft	ME	ER
03/10/2023	Final	ER	HC

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1 Introduction

A series of ecology surveys were required for the Coastal Partners Langstone Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Scheme (**Figure 1.1**). This report constitutes the assessment of breeding bird interest within that suite of surveys.

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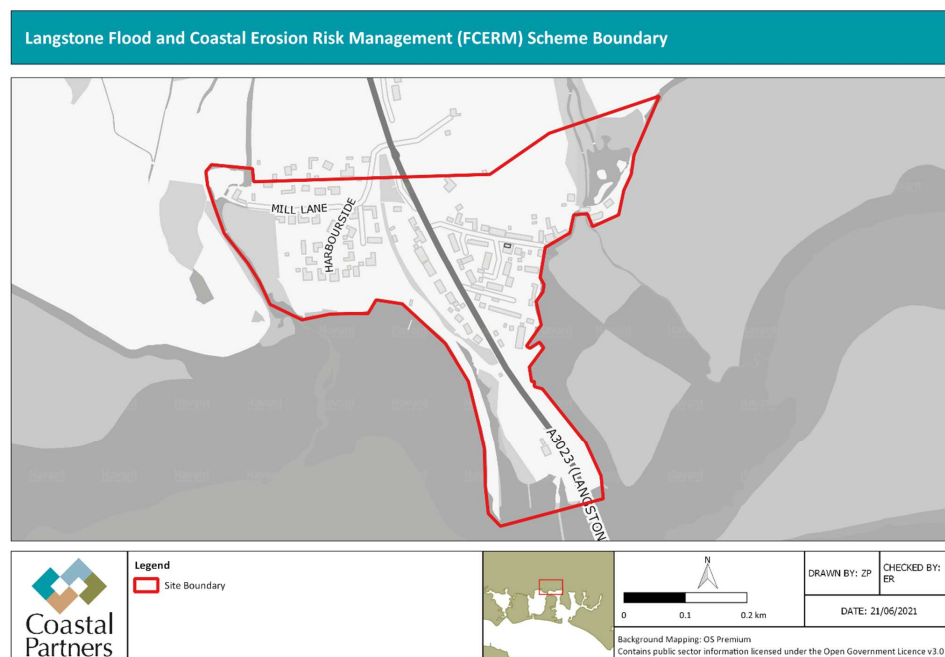


Figure 1.1: Langstone FCERM Scheme, Breeding Bird Survey Area.

All nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take, damage or destroy its nest whilst in use or being built, or take or destroy its eggs. In addition, species listed under schedule 1 of the Act are specially protected and it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb these birds and their young at, on or near an active nest.

Birds of Conservation Concern 4, commonly referred to as the UK Red List for birds, is the fourth review of the status of birds in the UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and updates 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 NGOs and assigned to Red, Amber or Green lists of conservation concern. In addition, species listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 are Species of Principal Importance and are a material consideration in planning.

2 Methodology

The survey methodology broadly followed the 'Common Bird Census' (CBC) devised by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). <https://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdtrends/2011/methods/common-bird-census>. This technique records the location and breeding evidence of individual birds present within a defined survey area and, over the three surveys, probable territories are mapped.

Three visits were undertaken during the bird breeding season (March - August inclusive), in the months of April, May and June 2021 in suitable weather conditions, commencing at dawn, when birds are most active and vocal. Experienced field ornithologist Mark Edgeller carried out the surveys. The dates and weather conditions during these surveys are detailed in **Table 3.1**. A transect route was walked throughout the survey area following public rights of way and other areas of public access (see **Figure 2.1**). Records were made recording and mapping any breeding evidence e.g. birds singing or calling, repeated territorial calls, territorial aggression, displaying, adults carrying food or nesting material, juvenile birds and family groups.

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Figure 2.1: Transect route followed for all surveys, base imagery courtesy Google maps

Standard CBC map notation and BTO two-figure species codes were used to record breeding evidence on maps, which for this survey included:

- Circle around species code - singing male
- Single underscore under species code - calling individual
- Double underscore under species code - alarm calling individual
- Text 'mat' under species code - bird seen carrying nesting material

- Text 'food' under species code - bird seen carrying food
- Text 'pr' under species code - pair seen in suitable habitat
- Text 'fam' under species code - family group including juveniles seen

The various types of breeding evidence have been categorised into three breeding statuses using the system below based upon the BTO breeding evidence system¹, which is adopted at European level by the European Ornithological Atlas Committee.

Confirmed breeding:

- Distraction display or injury feigning
- Used nests or eggshells found (occupied or laid within period)
- Recently fledged young or downy young
- Adults entering or leaving a nest site in circumstances indicating occupancy
- Nest or adult sitting on nest. Adults carrying food for young or faecal sacs
- Nest containing eggs
- Nest with young seen or heard

Probable breeding:

- Pairs observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season
- Permanent territory presumed through registration or territorial behaviour (song etc.) on at least two different days, a week apart, at the same place
- Display and courtship
- Visiting probable nest site
- Agitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults
- Building nest or excavating nest hole

Possible breeding:

- Species observed in breeding season in possible nesting habitat
- Singing male(s) present or breeding calls heard in breeding season

Survey limitations: It is not considered any factors have had an impact on the efficacy of the survey or the results. However, birds are highly mobile. Populations fluctuate over time and ranges can expand or contract. The results of this survey are considered to be valid for between 24 to 36 months; if work is delayed a new survey should be considered.

¹ Replicated/modified from BTO Bird Atlas webpages

3 Results

The dates and weather conditions during the breeding bird surveys are detailed in **Table 3.1** **Table 3.1** below.

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Table 3.1: Dates, times and weather conditions for breeding bird surveys

Date	Time start	Time finish	Temp start	Temp end	Wind	Wind speed	Cloud cover	Notes
7/4/21	07:00	10:00	0	9	NE	2	2/8	
3/5/21	06:10	09:00	5	12	SW	1	2/8	Cold & wind incr from 08:00
1/6/21	05:55	08:40	12	15	SE	2	0/8	

In total 45 species were recorded during the three surveys. Breeding evidence was collected for 36 species including confirmed breeding for seven species, probable breeding for 19 species and possible breeding for 10 species. The species list and statuses are set out below in **Table 3.2** **Table 3.2**.

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Table 3.2: Birds recorded with breeding and conservation status.

Species	Taxon name	BTO code	April	May	June	Breeding	Status
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	PH	✓	✓		Confirmed	
Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	MN	✓			Present	
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	GA	✓			Present	BoCC Amber list
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	MA	✓	✓	✓	Probable	BoCC Amber list
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	T	✓			Present	BoCC Amber list
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	TU	✓	✓	✓	Present	
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	SD	✓	✓	✓	Probable	BoCC Amber list
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	WP	✓	✓	✓	Probable	
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	CD	✓	✓	✓	Probable	
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	WA	✓			Present	
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chlorops</i>	MH	✓	✓	✓	Probable	
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	CO	✓	✓	✓	Probable	
Cattle Egret	<i>Bulbulcus ibis</i>			✓	✓	Confirmed	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	Confirmed	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	ET	✓	✓	✓	Confirmed	
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	SH	✓		✓	Present	
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	KF	✓			Present	BoCC Amber list

Species	Taxon name	BTO code	April	May	June	Breeding	Status
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	GS	✓	✓	✓	Probable	
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	G		✓	✓	Possible	
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	K	✓		✓	Present	BoCC Amber list
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	MG	✓	✓	✓	Possible	
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	C	✓	✓	✓	Possible	
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	BT	✓	✓	✓	Probable	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	GT	✓	✓	✓	Probable	
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	SL		✓	✓	Possible	
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	CW	✓	✓	✓	Probable	W & C Act Sch 1
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	LT			✓	Possible	
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	CC	✓	✓	✓	Probable	
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	RW		✓	✓	Probable	
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	BC	✓	✓	✓	Probable	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	LW			✓	Possible	
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	WH		✓	✓	Probable	
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	GC	✓		✓	Possible	
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	WR	✓	✓	✓	Probable	
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	SG	✓	✓	✓	Possible	BoCC Red list; NERC S41
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	B	✓	✓	✓	Probable	
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	ST	✓	✓	✓	Confirmed	BoCC Red list; NERC S41
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	M			✓	Present	BoCC Red list;
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	R	✓	✓	✓	Probable	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	HS	✓	✓	✓	Confirmed	BoCC Red list; NERC S41
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	D	✓	✓	✓	Confirmed	BoCC Amber list; NERC S41
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	CH			✓	Possible	
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	GR	✓	✓		Possible	
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	GO	✓	✓	✓	Probable	
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	RB	✓	✓	✓	Probable	BoCC Amber list; NERC S41

Of the 36 species, eight are considered of conservation concern including: one Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 1, five NERC Act S41 Species of Principle Importance, three BoCC4 Red List and four BoCC4 Amber list species.

3.1 Territory mapping

Territory mapping was undertaken for four species of conservation concern that are present in the location: House Sparrow, Song Thrush, Starling and Cetti's Warbler. The registrations of these species across the three surveys were used to generate approximate home ranges for the breeding males or in the case of starlings and house sparrows the colony (see **Figure 3.1**).



Figure 3.1: Deduced home ranges of four species of conservation concern found at location, base imagery google maps.

The above mapping and analysis would indicate that there are approximately three Starling colonies, seven House Sparrow Colonies and four Song Thrush territories within the immediate surroundings of the proposed scheme. During the formal survey only one territory of Cetti's Warbler was identified, however, visits to the site for other surveys has indicated regular activity around the reedbeds to the north of the millpond and this has been included as an ad hoc record indicating a further territory.

3.2 Heronry

A heronry which was originally solely a Little Egret breeding colony but is also now a breeding location for Grey Heron and Cattle Egret is located in close proximity to the proposal. The approximate location of the heronry is shown in **Figure 3.2**.



Figure 3.2: Location of heronry at Langstone Mill Pond (base imagery courtesy google maps).

The number of Apparently Occupied Nests (AON) was recorded during the three surveys and is presented in **Table 3.3** below.

Table 3.3: Heronry count records at Langstone Mill Pond

Species	April	May	June
Little Egret	5 AON	26 AON	25 AON
Cattle Egret		2 AON	4 AON
Grey Heron	4 AON	5 AON	4 AON

4 Discussion

The mix and abundance of species recorded on the site are generally typical for the habitats found in the local area, and most can be considered common and widespread. The exception to this is the presence of a heronry. This is the only known breeding site for Cattle Egret in Hampshire and breeding was first confirmed here in 2019 (Milinets-Raby, 2020). This is also the main breeding site for Little Egret in the county. In 2019, 35 pairs raised a minimum of 31 young with only 14 pairs at three sites elsewhere in the county (Hampshire Ornithological Society, 2020).

It should be noted that eight of the species identified as potentially breeding are considered to be of conservation concern, principally due to significant short- and medium-term population declines.

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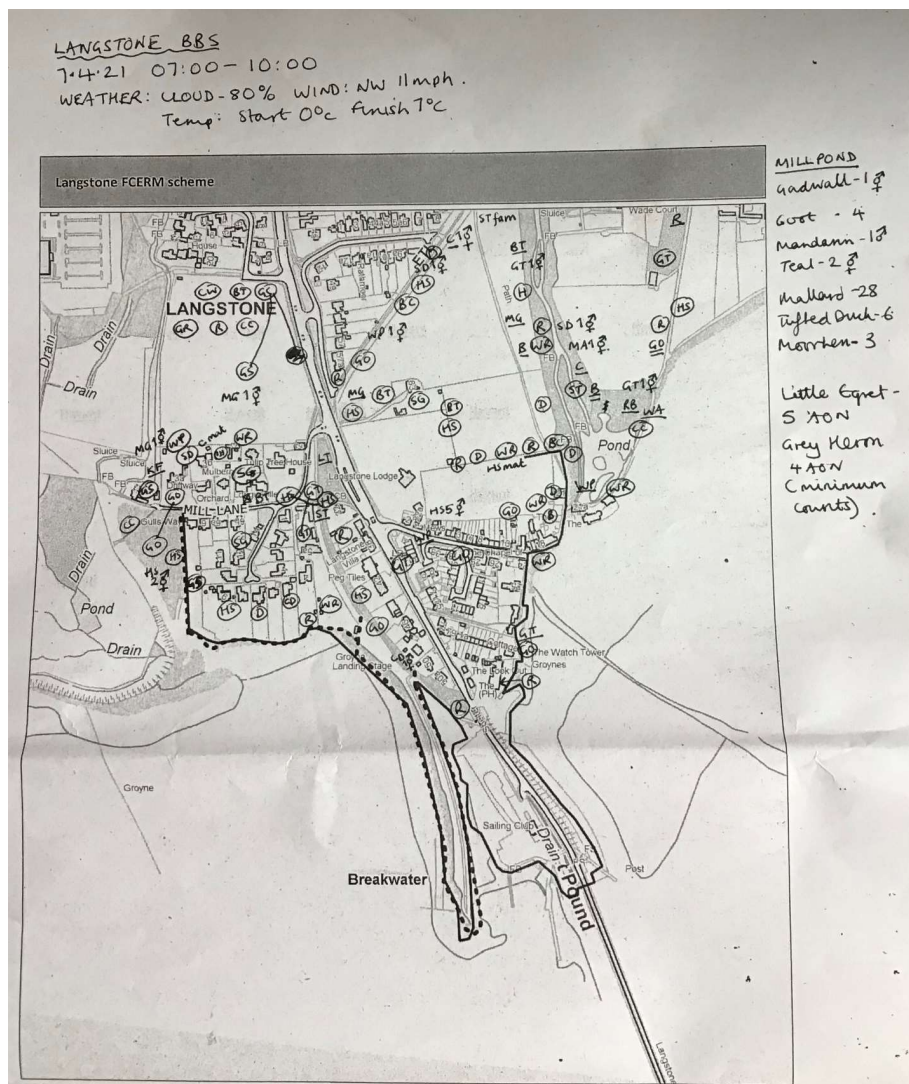
All bird species are protected during the nesting season (March - August inclusive) and appropriate mitigation measures should be adopted to avoid harm and suitable measures taken to maintain the conservation status of species of conservation concern.

5 References:

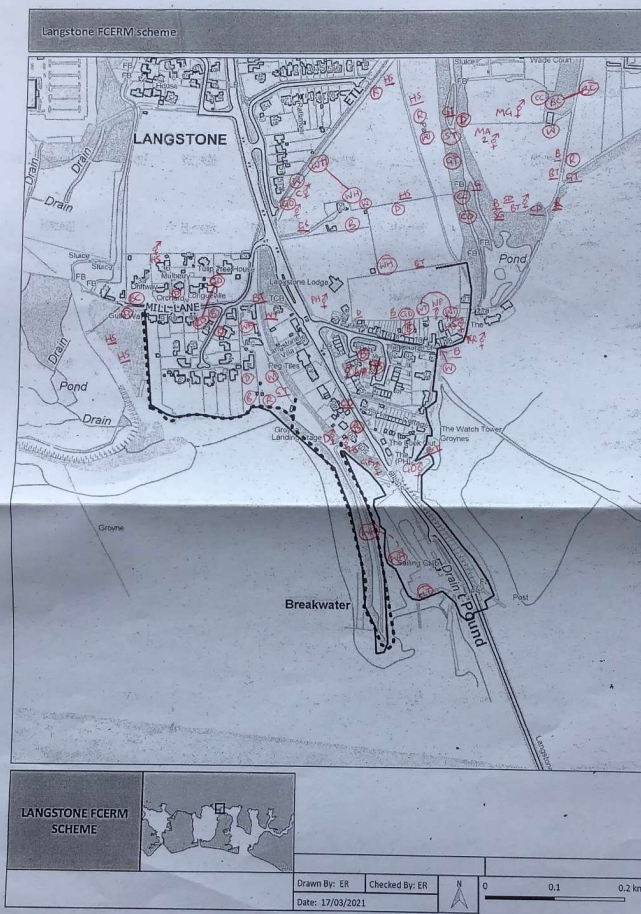
Hampshire Ornithological Society (2020) Hampshire Bird Report 2019

Milinet-Raby, P. (2020) First confirmed breeding of Cattle Egrets in Hampshire Ornithological Society. *Hampshire Bird Report 2019*.

Appendix A-field maps for breeding bird survey



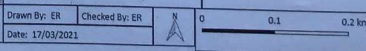
LANGSTONE BIRD SURVEY
3.5.21 06:10 → 09:00
MARK EDGELLER.



MILLPOND:
Tufted Duck - 4 p.s
Mallard - 3 p.s + 12 individuals
Coot - 3
Moorhen - 2
Reed Bunting - 10¹
Mute Swan - 1 apparently occupied nest (AON)
Grey Heron - 5 AON
Little Egret - 26 AON
Cattle Egret - 2 AON

reed warbler - 3 singing ♂♂

WIND SE 2; CLOUD 0; TEMP: START 12°C; FINISH 15°C.



Tufted Duck - 2 prs
Mallard - 5 pr
Moorhen - 2 individuals
Coot - 1 individual
Reed Warbler - 2 singing ♂♂
Reed Bunting - 1 ♂

Grey Heron - 4 apparently occupied nests
Little Egret - 25 AON
Cattle Egret - 4 AON
(minimum counts).