



**Barratt David Wilson**

**Land at Forty Acre Farm,  
Havant Road, Havant**

**Wintering Bird Survey Report**

**April 2018**

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## Executive Summary

| Contents                           | Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Site Location and Proposals</b> | Land at Forty Acre Farm, located to the south west of Havant in Hampshire. The central OS grid reference for Land at Westways, Havant is SU692057. The site mainly consists of large arable fields with dense scrub and planted trees field boundaries. An industrial area with building structures and hardstanding present along the southern extent of the site and improved grassland with clover leys present; c. 22.9 hectares in extent. Directly south of the site is a railway line and beyond this is the A27 and Chichester and Langstone Harbour, a designated RAMSAR Site, Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) lies 280m south. Solent Maritime (SAC) lies 180m south of the site. South west of the site lies Farlington Marshes, a designated Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Directly west of the site lies Farlington residential dwellings and East Lodge Farm, East Lodge Playing Field. To the north of the site lies the A2030 Havant Road and further north lies the residential area of Farlington along with an arable field. North east of the site is a major junction of the A3 with the A3 slip road extending south along the eastern boundary of the site. The western extent of the site has been designated as a Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), known as Forty Acre Farm B, due to the historical presence of dark-bellied brent goose ( <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> ). The proposed development is for 320 dwellings (including a 30% provision of affordable homes), 66 bed care home, provision of public open space, habitat mitigation zone, allotments, community building and associated infrastructure. |
| <b>Previous Reports / Surveys</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WYG completed an extended Phase 1 habitat survey at Westways, Havant on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016.</li> <li>Havant County Council conducted Winter Bird Surveys during 2012-2015. Results found two lapwing utilising the Forty Acre Farm site (site A). No brent geese or other SPA qualifying species were observed during these surveys.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>This Survey(s)</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WYG, 2016 Wintering Bird Survey Report, Westways, Havant.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Results</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA qualifying species brent goose (Amber listed) and curlew (Red listed) were found feeding on site.</li> <li>Seven BoCC Red listed species were recorded including starling, song thrush and skylark.</li> <li>Nine BoCC Amber listed species were recorded including oystercatcher and meadow pipit observed foraging on site</li> <li>19 BoCC Green listed species were observed within the survey area mainly attributed to the site boundaries.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Recommendations</b>             | <p><b>Mitigation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An area designated as recreational open space for visitors and residents of the development will be located at the southern extent of the site which will be enhanced for wintering birds.</li> <li>A separate brent goose mitigation area will be designated away from the development on the eastern extent of the site. This will be enhanced to mitigate for the partial loss of the SINC and loss of wintering bird foraging and roosting habitat on site.</li> </ul> <p><b>Enhancements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sympathetic, species rich planting schemes as part of the landscaping plan.</li> <li>Hedgerow on the northern boundary is planted using native species.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |



## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

WYG was commissioned by Barratt David Wilson in October 2015 to undertake wintering bird surveys at Land at Forty Acre Farm, Havant Road, Havant (hereafter referred to as the "site") due to the close proximity to Chichester and Langstone Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA), located 19m south of the site. This is a wetland of international importance, designated for supporting populations of European importance of the following species over winter; black-tailed godwit (*Limosa limosa islandica*), dark-bellied brent goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*) dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*), grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), redshank (*Tringa totanus*) and ringed plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*). The aim of the wintering bird survey is to assess the site's importance as a habitat for wintering birds, to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on important bird species; to identify potential ecological constraints to the development and inform ecological mitigation at the site. The habitats recorded included open arable fields and improved and semi-improved grassland with planted immature alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and elm (*Ulmus minor*) trees and scrub forming the boundaries. The site boundary, and proposed development boundary are shown in Appendix A, Figure 1.

The surveys have been undertaken by experienced ecologists WYG Senior Ecologist John Simper and WYG Assistant Ecologist Sarah Cruickshank. This report has been written by Sarah Cruickshank.



## 1.2 Site Location

The site covers approximately 22.9 hectares, located to the south west of Havant in Hampshire, centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference SU692057. Directly south of the site is a railway line and beyond this is the A27 and Chichester and Langstone Harbour, a designated RAMSAR Site, Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). A component of the Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons Special Area of Conservation (SAC) lies 280m south of the site and the Solent Maritime SAC lies 180m south of the site. South west of the site lies Farlington Marshes, a designated Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Directly west of the site lies the residential area of Farlington along with East Lodge Farm and East Lodge Playing Field. To the north of the site lies the A2030 Havant Road beyond which lie further residential areas along with arable fields. North east of the site is a major junction of the A3 with the A3 slip road extending south along the eastern boundary of the site. The western extent of the site has been designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), known as Forty Acre Farm B, due to the historic presence of dark-bellied brent geese (*Branta bernicla bernicla*).

## 1.3 Proposed Development

The proposed development is for 320 dwellings (including a 30% provision of affordable homes), 66 bed care home, provision of public open space, habitat mitigation zone, allotments, community building and associated infrastructure.

## 1.4 Survey & Reporting Objectives

This report provides the results of the wintering bird surveys undertaken between October 2015 and March 2016.

The scope of work comprised:

- A desk study to obtain existing information on the use of the site and nearby habitats by important bird populations;
- Two surveys; one high tide and one low tide visit were completed every month from October 2015- March 2016 to assess the numbers and species making use of the site. During these surveys, data was collected on the frequency and nature of disturbance events.



- An assessment of the potential ecological constraints to and impacts from the proposed development along with recommendations for further survey(s), avoidance, mitigation and enhancement where appropriate.



## 2.0 Planning Policy & Legislation

### 2.1 Legislation

All wild birds in the UK are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which makes it an offence to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or take, damage or destroy the nest (whilst being built or in use) or its eggs. Bird species listed in Schedule 1 of the 1981 Act (as amended) receive further protection which makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb these species while building a nest or in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or to disturb dependent young of such a bird (HMSO 1981 & 2000).

In addition, Annex 1 of the EU 'Birds' Directive (1979) lists 194 species that are subject to special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction. Member States are required to designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for the Annex 1 and all migratory species. SPAs are scientifically identified areas critical to the survival of the targeted species. The SPAs form part of the Natura 2000 EU network of protected nature sites. The designation of an area as an SPA gives it a high level of protection from potentially damaging developments (European Commission (EC), 2004).

Forty-nine bird species are listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 which considers species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England in accordance with the 1992 UN Convention on Biological Diversity. These bird species are considered to be of high nature conservation concern and are listed as UK Biodiversity Priority Species, enacted through the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan, both listing nationally and locally important habitats and species of principal importance for conserving biodiversity.

A review by the Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG 2007) resulted in the addition of a further 30 bird species to UK Priority Species status.

The conservation status of all regularly occurring British birds has been analysed in co-operation with the leading governmental and non-governmental conservation organisations, including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and Birdlife International Birds of Conservation Concern 4 (Eaton *et al.*, 2015). The basis of species ongoing population trends are assigned to one of three lists of Conservation Concern. These are the specific Red, Amber and Green lists for England. Although the lists confer no legal status in themselves, they are useful in evaluating the conservation significance of bird assemblages, and for assessing the potential significance of impacts and informing appropriate levels of mitigation with respect to bird populations. Species which do not breed in the UK or do not winter in significant numbers are not



listed on any of the Red, Amber or Green Lists, neither are introduced species such as pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*).

Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) Red List criteria for breeding birds are those which have experienced a severe decline of more than 50% of population and / or range over the last 25 years, as measured by the number of 10 km squares occupied by breeding birds of the species concerned. Species listed as globally threatened by Birdlife International and those with a historical decline in the UK between 1800 and 1995 (without evidence of recovery) are also included.

BoCC Amber List criteria for breeding birds are those which have experienced a moderate decline of between 25% and 49% of population and / or range over the last 25 years. Species of European conservation concern and those with a historical decline but which are currently recovering are also included.

Species which have stable populations or which are increasing are listed on the BoCC Green List. These species are not currently considered to be threatened.



## **3.0 Methodology**

### **3.1 Desk Study**

A review of readily available ecological information and relevant environmental databases (i.e. the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside and Nature on the Map) was undertaken for the site and general environs. This provided the overall ecological context for the site and surrounding areas.

The data search covers:

- Statutory nature conservation designations, such as National Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- Non-statutory nature conservation designations, such as Wildlife Sites;
- Protected bird species; and
- Notable species, such as those listed in the national and local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP's).

#### **3.1.1 Previous Reports**

An extended Phase 1 was carried out on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 by WYG in 2016 at the site which identified habitats suitable for wintering birds.

Havant Borough Council conducted Winter Bird Surveys during 2012 to 2015 at the site. The surveys were carried out from November to March around high tide over a period of three hours. Sites were observed for between five to fifteen minutes depending on the size and potential of the site.

#### **3.1.2 Local Records Centre**

Site and species specific information has been sourced through direct consultation with Hampshire Biological Information Centre (HBIC). HBIC provided information in relation to the presence of protected species, designated sites and areas of particular regional, national or international importance. A summary is provided in Section 4.2.1.



### **3.1.3 Online Resources**

A search for statutory designations was made using the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside database (MAGIC).

## **3.2 Field Surveys**

### **3.2.1 Wintering Bird Survey Methodology**

Surveys were undertaken at the site on twelve occasions between October 2015 and March 2016. Six surveys were undertaken at high tide and six surveys at low tide. Survey methods followed those detailed in the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' (RSPB) Bird Monitoring Methods (*Gilbert et al., 1998*) for Core Count (high tide) and Low Tide Counts.

Each survey occasion took place over four hours, spanning high tide or low tide. During the four hours, counts of all species were undertaken every half hour at specific vantage points (as shown in Appendix A, Figure 4). Vantage points were selected so as to provide maximum coverage of the site. VP1 was taken from the northern boundary across so that all fields across the western extent of the site were visible. VP2 was taken from the eastern extent of the site so that all fields across the eastern extent were visible.

In order to provide an indication of the current levels of disturbance to birds at the site, data was collected during the surveys detailing the frequency of disturbance events such as pedestrians and dog walkers. Where applicable, notes were made on the effect of each disturbance event on the birds present. The results are summarised in Section 4.4.6 of this report.

### **3.2.2 Survey Limitations**

The wintering bird surveys were all conducted in suitable weather conditions and at suitable times and access was available across the entire site. As such there are considered to be no significant limitations to the survey effort.



## 4.0 Baseline Conditions

### 4.1 Designated Sites

#### 4.1.1 Statutory Sites

Chichester and Langstone Harbour, Ramsar, SPA, SSSI is located 19m south of the site. 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 supports important overwintering populations of migratory waterfowl. It also supports important colonies of breeding terns.

#### 4.1.2 Non-statutory Sites

The data received from HBIC provides details of thirty non-statutory designated sites known as Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) within 2km of the site. Refer to WYG 2016, Westways, Havant extended Phase 1 habitat survey for details of these sites.

The western extent of the site has been designated as a Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), known as Forty Acres Farm B, due to the presence of dark-bellied brent geese (*Branta bernicla bernicla*).

### 4.2 Protected and Notable Birds

#### 4.2.1 Desk Study

HBIC returned 147 records for notable bird species within 2km of the site. Many of these species are unlikely to be found on site as their associated habitats are not present. The search area includes coastal habitats and bird rich habitats found within the area included within the SPA. Species recorded within 2km of the site and likely to be on site include Schedule 1 of the WCA fieldfare and bar-tailed godwit. Red listed species including starling, skylark, house sparrow, herring gull, black-tailed godwit, curlew, whimbrel, song thrush and lapwing. Amber listed species records were returned with species listed including brent goose, dark-bellied brent goose, black headed gull, oystercatcher, lesser black-backed gull, great black-backed gull and Mediterranean gull.



## 4.2.2 Previous Surveys

### *Havant Borough Council*

Wintering bird surveys were undertaken at the site by Havant Borough Council between the years 2012-2015. The survey time was three hours around high tide for three days every month from November to March. 11 visits to Forty Acre Farm were carried out. No brent geese were recorded utilising the survey area during this period. Two lapwing were observed in the western extent of Forty Acre Farm. These were observed in January so does not suggest they were breeding at the time of survey.

## 4.3 Survey Dates and Weather Conditions

The dates, times and weather conditions are presented in Table 1 below.

**Table 1:** Dates and weather conditions

| Date:      | High tide/low tide | Weather conditions                                      |
|------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 26/10/15   | Low tide- 15:27    | 14 °C; wind= 4; rain= nil; cloud= 100%                  |
| 28/10/15   | High tide= 11:25   | Cloud= 50%; wind= 2; rain= nil; 17 °C.                  |
| 24/11/15   | Low tide= 15:03    | Cloud= 100%; rain= light; wind= 2; 8°C                  |
| 26/11/15   | High tide= 11:20   | 9°C; wind= 1; rain= nil; cloud= 70%                     |
| 10/12/15   | High tide= 10:44   | Cloud= 100%; 11°C; rain = intermittent light; wind= 3/4 |
| 22/12/15   | Low tide= 12:35    | Rain= nil; wind= 6; 11°C; cloud= 80%                    |
| 05/01/16   | Low tide= 13:16    | Wind= 1/2; intermittent light rain; cloud= 100%; 9°C    |
| 13/01/16   | High tide= 13:38   | Sunny conditions, wind= 2, rain= nil, 7°C, 70% cloud    |
| 04/02/16   | Low tide= 13:26    | 50% cloud; rain= nil; sunny conditions; 12°C, wind= 2   |
| 12/02/2016 | High tide= 14:07   | 2°C; rain= nil; wind= 2; some fog; cloud= 90%           |
| 09/03/2016 | High tide= 13:12   | Wind= 1; rain= nil; cloud= 0%; 9°C                      |
| 17/03/2016 | Low tide= 11:49    | Wind=3; rain= nil, sunny; 10% cloud; 10°C               |

## 4.4 Wintering Bird Data

The notable bird species recorded from the site are listed in Table 3 below (see Appendix A, Figure 1 BoCC red list species and Figure 2 for BoCC amber list species for their locations. The standard BTO codes are shown in brackets after the English name. A total of 35 species were recorded within the area surveyed during the wintering bird surveys.

Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) Red List criteria for breeding birds are those which have experienced a severe decline of more than 50% of population and / or range over the last 25 years,



as measured by the number of 10km squares occupied by breeding birds of the species concerned. Species listed as globally threatened by Birdlife International and those with a historical decline in the UK between 1800 and 1995 (without evidence of recovery) are also included.

BoCC Amber List criteria for breeding birds are those which have experienced a moderate decline of between 25% and 49% of population and / or range over the last 25 years. Species of European conservation concern and those with a historical decline but which are currently recovering are also included.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) list species for which there is an action plan which is designed to increase a populations range and / or size. Some of these have been implemented at a local level by Hampshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (HBAP).

#### 4.4.1 Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 Species

*Main site*

No Schedule 1 bird species were recorded using the survey area.

#### 4.4.2 Red listed (BoCC) species

*Main site*

Eight Red listed species were recorded on the site (see Table 2 for information on number of Red listed species found on site as well as Peak Count). Brent goose were noted feeding on the southern extent of the site west of the industrial area. Curlew were noted along the south eastern extent of the site in the clover ley field (TN3) as well as two noted west of the industrial area in the improved grassland. Skylark were noted in song flight over the arable fields east of the industrial area. House sparrow, mistle thrush, starling and song thrush were noted utilising the hedgerow boundaries. Herring gull were noted flying low over the site.

**Table 2:** BoCC Red listed species recorded within the survey area.

| English Name (BTO code) | Scientific Name          | Status                      | Number on site (Peak Count) |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Curlew (CU)             | <i>Numenius arquata</i>  | BoCC Red List               | 5 (2)                       |
| Skylark (S.)            | <i>Alauda arvensis</i>   | BoCC Red List and NERC s.41 | 1 (1)                       |
| House sparrow (HS)      | <i>Passer domesticus</i> | BoCC Red List and NERC s.41 | 38 (24)                     |



|                   |                            |                             |         |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Starling (SG)     | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>    | BoCC Red List and NERC s.41 | 54 (19) |
| Song thrush (ST)  | <i>Turdus philomelos</i>   | BoCC Red List and NERC s.41 | 1 (1)   |
| Herring gull (HG) | <i>Larus argentatus</i>    | BoCC Red List               | 10 (10) |
| Mistle thrush (M) | <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>   | BoCC Red List and NERC s.41 | 2 (2)   |
| Linnet (LI)       | <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> | BoCC Red List               | 2 (2)   |

#### 4.4.3 Amber listed (BoCC) species

##### Main site

Nine Amber listed species were noted utilising the site during the survey period; oystercatcher were noted on two occasions feeding along the southern boundary of the site west of the industrial area, as well as east of the industrial area in the clover ley field (TN3). In addition meadow pipit were seen feeding in the arable fields of the western extent of the site, and black headed gull noted feeding along the southern boundary west of the industrial area.

**Table 3.** BoCC Amber listed species recorded within the survey area.

| English Name (BTO code)       | Scientific Name                   | Status                    | Number (Peak Count) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Oystercatcher (OC)            | <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>      | BoCC Amber List           | 4 (2)               |
| Common gull (CM)              | <i>Larus canus</i>                | BoCC Amber List           | 4                   |
| Black-headed gull (BH)        | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> | BoCC Amber List           | 60 (40)             |
| Lesser black-backed gull (LB) | <i>Larus fuscus</i>               | BoCC Amber List           | 3 (1)               |
| Brent goose (BG)              | <i>Branta bernicla</i>            | BoCC Amber List           | 2 (2)               |
| Meadow pipit (MP)             | <i>Anthus pratensis</i>           | BoCC Amber List           | 23 (12)             |
| Dunnock (D.)                  | <i>Prunella modularis</i>         | BoCC Amber List NERC s.41 | 2 (1)               |
| Kestrel (K.)                  | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>          | BoCC Amber                | 2 (1)               |
| Stock dove (SD)               | <i>Columba oenas</i>              | BoCC Amber                | 2(2)                |

#### 4.4.4 Green Listed BoCC species

All British species not qualifying for either BoCC Red or Amber Lists are Green listed as they have populations which are either stable or increasing. The Green List also includes species listed as recovering from a historical decline which have continued to recover (by at least 20% since the 2002 review) and which do not qualify under any other criteria.



### Main site

20 common and widespread species were recorded on the site or directly adjacent land, found mainly in tree lines of the field boundaries and the scrub and tree lined site boundary habitats. Carrion crow, jackdaw, woodpigeon and magpie were seen on several occasions feeding in the arable fields of the site. Pied wagtails were noted on the buildings of the industrial area.

Table 4 below shows the Green listed species recorded on site.

**Table 4:** Green Listed BoCC species recorded on site.

| English Name (BTO code) | Scientific Name                | Status     | Number recorded on site (Peak Count) |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Stonechat (SC)          | <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>       | BoCC Green | 2 (2)                                |
| Long-tailed tit (LT)    | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>     | BoCC Green | 10 (4)                               |
| Buzzard (BZ)            | <i>Buteo buteo</i>             | BoCC Green | 5 (1)                                |
| Blackbird (B.)          | <i>Turdus merula</i>           | BoCC Green | 14 (2)                               |
| Robin (R.)              | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>      | BoCC Green | 15 (2)                               |
| Woodpigeon (WP)         | <i>Columba palumbus</i>        | BoCC Green | 105 (28)                             |
| Magpie (MG)             | <i>Pica pica</i>               | BoCC Green | 42 (4)                               |
| Carrion crow (C.)       | <i>Corvus corone</i>           | BoCC Green | 40 (4)                               |
| Jackdaw (JD)            | <i>Corvus monedula</i>         | BoCC Green | 4 (2)                                |
| Goldfinch (GO)          | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>     | BoCC Green | 54 (13)                              |
| Chaffinch (CH)          | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>       | BoCC Green | 14 (4)                               |
| Wren (WR)               | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | BoCC Green | 2 (1)                                |
| Great tit (GT)          | <i>Parus major</i>             | BoCC Green | 4 (1)                                |
| Blue tit (BT)           | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>     | BoCC Green | 6 (1)                                |
| Greenfinch (GR)         | <i>Carduelis chloris</i>       | BoCC Green | 3 (2)                                |
| Siskin (SK)             | <i>Carduelis spinus</i>        | BoCC Green | 1 (1)                                |
| Sparrowhawk (SH)        | <i>Accipiter nisus</i>         | BoCC Green | 1 (1)                                |
| Rook (RO)               | <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>       | BoCC Green | 2 (2)                                |
| Pied wagtail (PW)       | <i>Motacilla alba</i>          | BoCC Green | 4 (4)                                |
| Green woodpecker (G.)   | <i>Picus viridis</i>           | BoCC Green | 2 (1)                                |

### 4.4.5 Species of Principal Importance

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 lists under Section 41 the species which are considered to be of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity within England. Of the species recorded within the site, the following nine are Species of Principal Importance: dark-bellied brent goose, curlew, herring gull, dunnoek, linnet, house sparrow, skylark, song thrush and starling.



#### **4.4.6 Disturbance events**

During bird counts, records were made of the frequency of potential disturbance events to birds within the survey areas. The industrial area within Forty Acre Farm has regular commercial visitors with associated vehicles. One walker with a dog was observed on two occasions, once on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and again on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 walking the boundaries of the site.



## 5.0 Constraints & Opportunities

### 5.1 Designated Sites

Farlington Marshes (LNR) is a species rich grazing marsh of international importance for the waders and wildfowl that it supports. Chichester and Langstone Harbour (Ramsar, SPA and SSSI) lies 19m south of the site, designated for supporting populations of European importance including little tern and Sandwich tern during the breeding season and little egret on passage. In addition, the area provides a wetland of international importance supporting wintering waterfowl such as bar-tailed godwit, little egret, black tailed godwit, dark-bellied brent goose, dunlin, grey plover, redshank and ringed plover.

Any noise/visual disturbance impacts occurring on the designated sites as a result of construction or occupation are likely to be insignificant due to the presence of the A27 and the railway line. Both of these are located between the development site and the designated sites and will mask both sound and visual disturbance from the development.

The Solent Way footpath is located along the foreshore of the harbour and there are several car parks for visitors including one located 472m to the south east of the site. There is therefore potential for the statutory designated sites to be impacted as a result of increased recreational pressure in the absence of mitigation. This is likely to be in the form of increased numbers of visitors and dog walkers to the Solent Way.

This has the potential to increase disturbance events involving waders and waterfowl along the foreshore. However any direct impacts due to increased recreational pressure will be avoided by the creation of areas of open green space along the southern extent of the site. This will provide an alternative dog walking area and recreational space to the designated sites south of the site which will be more easily accessible from the proposed development.

The western extent of the site has been designated as a Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), known as Forty Acres Farm B, due to the presence of dark-bellied brent goose. The development will result in a partial loss of this SINC. However as low numbers of brent geese were recorded during the WYG wintering bird surveys, and no brent geese were noted during the Havant Borough Council surveys, it is now thought that the site no longer appears to be important as a foraging area for this species.

As compensation for this loss, a brent geese mitigation area will be created at the eastern extent of the site and screened off from the development.



In addition to direct impacts upon these sites, any in-combination effects will be mitigated as part of the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy, which states that all developments within 5.6km of the SPA will require a per dwelling financial contribution. Assuming that these measures are implemented, there are not predicted to be any adverse impacts on the internationally designated sites, or their qualifying species.

## **5.2 Protected and Notable Birds**

No WCA Schedule 1 species were recorded on site. The provision of berry producing scrub/trees and areas of open space will provide habitat for a range of other species found on site including those on the BoCC Red lists such as house sparrow, song thrush, starling and mistle thrush and Amber listed meadow pipit and dunnoek.

The site comprises stubble fields/bare plough, improved and semi improved grassland, planted alder trees and scattered ash and elm trees with continuous dense understory scrub. This includes habitats suitable for feeding and roosting birds.

The proposed masterplan shows the eastern and southern areas of the site will be retained as an area of green open space. This is where the majority of the important bird species were noted to be foraging during the winter bird surveys undertaken at the site. Brent geese, curlew, oystercatcher were all seen in the clover ley field (TN3 figure 2, WYG 2018 extended Phase 1 habitat survey).

The proposed development has an opportunity to enhance retained vegetated areas through increasing species diversity and biodiversity value. The open space area will be enhanced for birds with the creation of ponds and scrapes. Hedgerows, especially along the northern boundary, will be in-filled with native species and planting of native scattered trees, however with the aim of maintaining the open nature of the site. These enhancements will increase the suitability for wading birds such as curlew and oystercatcher found on site, nesting birds and other species such as bats and invertebrates; as well as providing an aesthetic wildlife area for residents, dog walkers and visitors to the site.

Species-rich planting is to be implemented as a part of a wider landscaping scheme in order to increase the suitable post-construction habitat for wildlife. Locally native species are preferred although, cultivars of native species and other non-native but wildlife friendly trees and shrubs provide value for wildlife without impacting on the character of the area.

In addition to the open space area, a mitigation area is proposed, designated and enhanced primarily for brent geese (likely to be used by other waders too). This will mitigate for the loss of part of the SINC at the west of the site. The brent geese mitigation area will be separated from the development



by a species rich native hedgerow screen planted directly adjacent to the edge of the development on the eastern side and this will run north to south up to the southern boundary. This area will remain open in nature and will be maintained short (approximately 5cm) for silage through two cuts per year; one silage cut in May and another cut in September. Arisings are to be collected and taken off site with the first cut and can be left on the site post second cut to retain nutrients. Prior to development, the brent geese mitigation area will be planted with a mix of perennial rye grass and clover to improve its suitability for brent geese.

The development presents opportunities to enhance the existing open space along the southern boundary of Forty Acre Farm. Existing gaps in hedgerows are to be filled and new areas of scattered trees and scrub are created with native species incorporating berry and seed producing species such as rowan, blackthorn, hawthorn, guelder rose, hazel and field maple providing additional nesting, roosting and foraging potential for birds including during the winter. Areas of scrub buffers and road verges can be enhanced through infilling and sowing appropriate wildflower mixes which will provide seeds and invertebrates as a food source for birds.



## 6.0 Conclusions

An open area proposed south of the development. This area is to be planted with a species rich grassland mixture and managed, to be cut once per year in September. In addition, waterbodies and scrapes should be designed into this open space to encourage wintering birds found on site including curlew and oystercatcher. The ponds should remain open and therefore should not be encroached by scrub or trees.

To the east of the development, an open space designated for brent geese will be implemented to make sure that sufficient feeding resources continue to be available for this species. This area will be screened off from the development by a native species planted hedgerow running from the northern to the southern boundary. The area itself will be planted with a grazing grass mixture which contains a high proportion of perennial rye grass and maintained short over the winter through two silage cuts a year; one silage cut in May and a further cut in September to enhance the area for brent geese as well as other over wintering birds.

It is recommended that replacement planting of hedgerow, infilling gaps of existing hedgerows, and provision of berry producing shrubs is encouraged throughout the site to enhance the site for wintering birds and red and amber listed nesting species found on site including song thrush, starling and dunnoek, as well as other notable species such as bats and invertebrates.



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## **FIGURES**

**Figure 1 – Site Location Plan**

**Figure 2 – Red Listed Species**

**Figure 3 – Amber Listed Species**

**Figure 4 – Vantage Points**