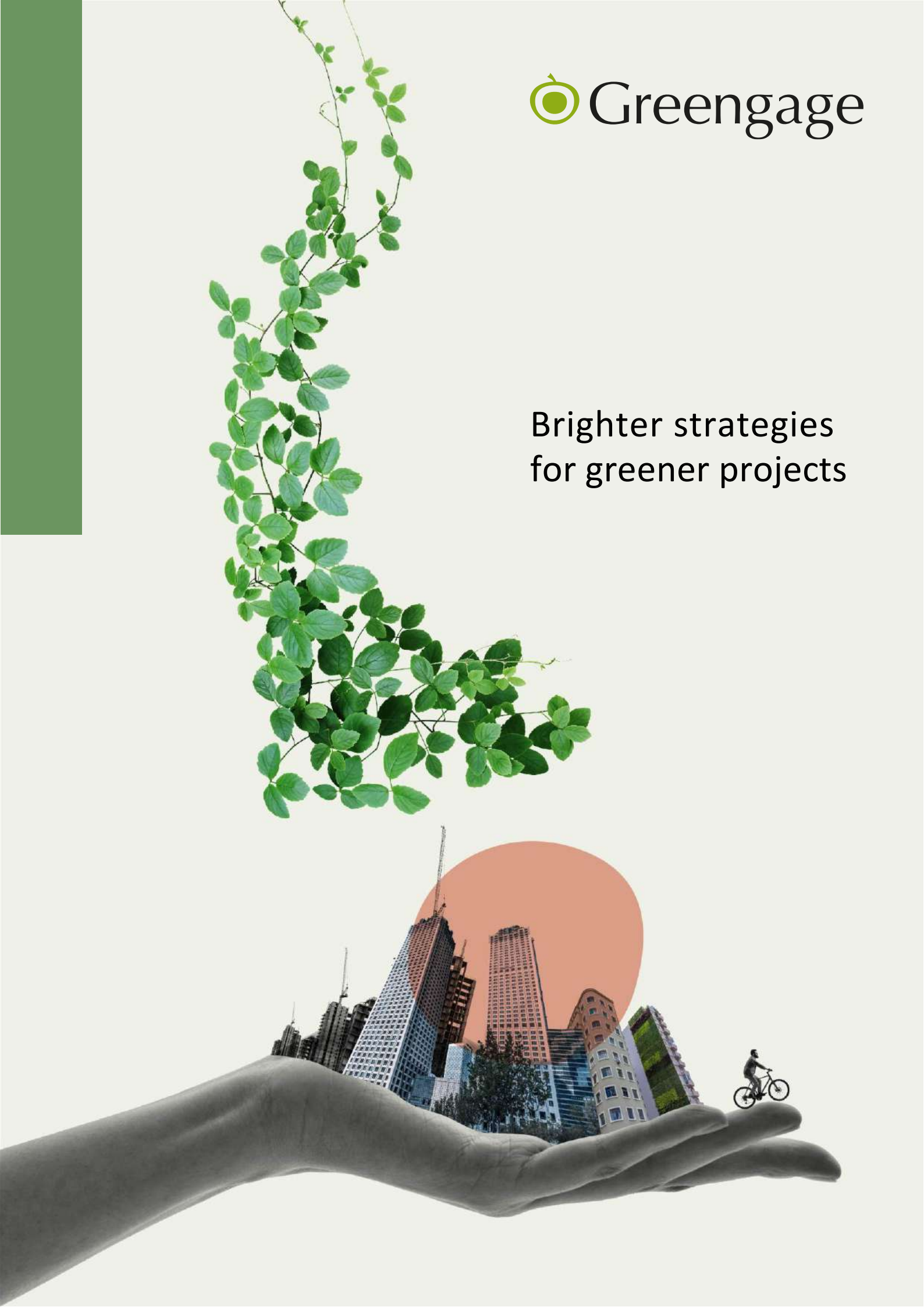




Brighter strategies
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Client: Portsmouth City Council
Project: Dunsbury Park Plot 600-601
Report: Breeding Bird Survey Report

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Issue/Revision:	Draft	Final
Date:	September 2025	April 2026
Comments:		
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File Reference:	553134oh15Jul25DV03_BBS	553134oh15Jul25FV03_BBS

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Greengage Environmental Limited (Greengage) was commissioned by Portsmouth City Council to undertake a Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) of an area of land known as Plot 600-601 of the Dunsbury Park development in Portsmouth, hereafter referred to as 'the site'.

This document is a report of a BBS undertaken by Greengage to inform a planning application for the site which seeks the construction of Plot 600 and Plot 601 of the Dunsbury Park development, which comprises two new industrial units with associated parking, service yards and landscaping, hereafter referred to as 'the development'.

The BBS comprised six site visits undertaken by Greengage between March and July 2025. The BBS aimed to establish the ecological value of the site for birds and to assess the number of likely breeding pairs present at the site, in order to inform appropriate mitigation, compensation and enhancement actions in light of proposed development works.

The site extends to approximately 3.14 hectares (ha) and comprised unmanaged field (modified grassland) with an area of bramble scrub surrounding an oak tree. The survey area extended up to 150m beyond the site boundary and encompassed areas of scrub and woodland edge within the wider Dunsbury Park estate. Where birds are recorded 'offsite' within this assessment, they were recorded within the wider survey area, and 'onsite' refers to those recorded within the red line boundary (See Appendix A).

A total of 27 bird species were recorded across the six BBS site visits, including two Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) Schedule 1 species, four Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC5) Red listed species, seven BoCC5 Amber listed species and fourteen BoCC5 Green listed species. An additional six BOCC5 Green listed species were considered incidental findings as they were recorded within the surrounding woodland and are generally characterised by the woodland habitat which is not present on site.

Of the BOCC5 listed species recorded, six are listed as Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* was the only Local Priority bird species.

Two species (Cetti's warbler *Cettia cetti* and firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*) listed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 were recorded within the survey area, but it was considered unlikely they would be nesting or foraging on site; therefore, they were recorded as incidental findings.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* and linnet *Linaria cannabina* are both considered probable breeders on site, these are the only red listed species likely to be impacted by the development. No possible breeding species were identified, herring gull *Larus argentatus* and starling *Sturnus vulgaris* were considered non-breeding.

The BoCC5 Amber list species identified to be at risk of impact from the proposed development comprise of song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, whitethroat *Curruca communis* (two confirmed breeders), dunnoek *Prunella modularis*, woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* and wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* (three possible breeders).

Habitat changes and impacts on these species as a result of the proposed development are likely to be at the site level due to the presence of similar or more suitable habitat in the wider area. Provided compensation actions are implemented, the impacts of development would be at the site level only.

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Landscape Enhancement and Management Plan (LEMP) are recommended to be produced to provide measures for appropriate mitigation, compensation and enhancement for breeding birds during the construction stage and post-development.

Outline recommendations to be included in the CEMP and LEMP include:

- CEMP:
 - Protection of retained ecological features;
 - Nesting bird checks;
 - Ground level tree assessment;
- LEMP:
 - Management of retained hedgerows and trees if possible;
 - Planting of trees, hedgerow and shrub;
 - Grassland creation; and
 - Bird boxes.

If data or assessments referred to in this BBS report are to be used for any other applications relating to the site, the assessment/recommendations should be re-evaluated by the author and a separate report produced. N.B. To inform a planning application, data collected during the latest activity season (BBS) is now typically requested by the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Greengage Environmental Limited (Greengage) was commissioned by Portsmouth City Council to conduct a Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) for an area of land known as Plot 600-601 of the Dunsbury Park development in Portsmouth, hereafter referred to as 'the site'.

This document is a report to present the results of the BBS undertaken by Greengage and to inform a planning application for the site which seeks the construction of two new industrial units with associated parking, service yards and landscaping, hereafter referred to as 'the development'.

The BBS comprised six site visits undertaken by Greengage between March and July 2025. The BBS aimed to establish the ecological value of the site for birds and to assess the number of likely breeding pairs present at the site, in order to inform appropriate mitigation, compensation and enhancement actions in light of proposed development works.

2.1 SITE CONTEXT & STATUS

The wider site extends to approximately 3.14 hectares (ha) and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR): SU701094, OS Co-ordinates 470170, 109474.

The site comprised an unmanaged field (modified grassland) with an area of bramble scrub surrounding an oak tree. The survey area includes the redline boundary (RLB) and with an extended buffer of 120m surrounding the site.

The site is located approximately 4km from the south coast at Bridge Lake, 2.5km north-west of the centre of Havant and approximately 320m east of the main carriageway of the A3(M). It is located within a field within the consented Dunsbury Park development, between the conurbations of Waterlooville and Leigh Park.

The site is situated in a mixed context, with residential developments, industrial developments and an extensive semi-natural habitat network all present in the close vicinity. The semi-natural habitat comprises woodland, scrub, grassland and parkland which are present in the immediate vicinity to the north, east and south of the site.

2.2 ECOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was undertaken in 2010/2011 which identified suitable habitats on site for breeding bird species. As a result, breeding bird surveys were conducted between March and June 2011.

A total of 39 bird species were recorded across four surveys, of these 34 were considered to be breeding on site or near to the site, redwings *Turdus iliacus* a Schedule 1 species, (Part 1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (as amended) were identified on site but were unlikely to be breeding. Additional species recorded included the following species of conservation concern or Species of Principal Importance under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006:

- Eight Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) Red listed species: skylark *Alauda arvensis*, house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, linnet *Linaria cannabina*, redwing *Turdus iliacus*, starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, swift *Apus apus* and yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*.
- Seven BoCC Amber listed species: black headed gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*, bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, dunnoek *Prunella modularis*, common whitethroat *Curruca communis*,

meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis*, song thrush *Turdus philomelos* and stock dove *Columba oenas*.

Of the species outlined above eight have been listed within the NERC Act 2006: house sparrow, linnet, starling, yellowhammer, skylark, bullfinch, dunnoek and song thrush. Seven of these species were confirmed to have bred within the survey area (bullfinch, dunnoek, house sparrow, skylark, song thrush, starling and yellowhammer). Linnets were thought to have possibly bred within or near the survey area; a single bird was observed on one occasion; however, the habitat is suitable for breeding. These findings indicate the site's value for farmland and scrub-associated bird species.

An updated 2023 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)¹ was undertaken of the site in July 2023. The site was found to comprise modified grassland (a formerly grazed pasture field) with an oak tree in the centre of the field. The site was recorded with moderate suitability for breeding birds but no further surveys regarding breeding birds were conducted.

An updated PEA² was undertaken in April 2025 by Greengage, confirmed habitats remained consistent within plot 600-601 from the previous PEA report and was therefore considered to be of moderate suitability for nesting birds and confirmed the requirement for breeding bird surveys.

3.0 LEGISLATION AND CONSERVATION STATUS

In the United Kingdom (UK), birds are protected by various European and UK legislation. The legislation creates a hierarchy of protection status for different bird species. Conservation status also provides an outlook for targeting conservation efforts of particular bird species within the UK.

The following sections detail legislation and conservation protection for birds in the UK and has been used in the assessment of the bird species identified using the site for breeding, sheltering and/or foraging purposes.

European Legislation

The UK is still enforcing law for Annex I of the European Union (EU) Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (also known as, and hereafter referred to as, the Birds Directive) lists a total of 194 bird species and sub-species. Under the Birds Directive, the UK must employ conservation measures on the listed species' most suitable territories in number and size, by designating those sites as Special Protection Areas (SPAs). This conservation aims to increase the survival of the listed species as well as all migratory bird species. Of relevance to this report, it is noted here that there were no species listed under Annex I recorded at the site.

UK Legislation

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) is the principal mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain. This legislation is the means by which the Birds Directive is implemented in Great Britain.

Under the WCA 1981 (as amended), all wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected while a nest is in use or occupied. The nesting bird season is typically recognised to fall between March and August (inclusive). Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the WCA 1981 (as amended) offers greater protection against damage and disturbance whilst a nest is occupied, for the particular species that are listed. Of relevance to this report, it is noted here that no species listed on Schedule 1 of the WCA 1981 (as amended) were recorded at the site.

Part 1 of Schedule 9 of the WCA 1981 (as amended) includes a list of animals that are non-native to the UK and which are established in the wild. Under this Schedule of the WCA 1981 (as amended), it is an offence if any person releases or allows the escape into the wild of an animal which is not ordinarily resident in, and is not a regular visitor to Great Britain, in a wild state; or is included within the list of species within this Part of Schedule 9.

Birds of Conservation Concern

The fifth version of BoCC5 was published as an update in 2021 by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), UK Government and others³. The BoCC5 assigned bird species to one of three conservation status lists; Red, Amber or Green, which are described as the following:

- Red is the highest conservation priority, with species which are globally threatened, have a population or range that has recently declined rapidly, or that have declined historically and have not shown a substantial recent recovery;
- Amber is the second highest conservation priority, with species qualifying for this status which have an unfavourable conservation status in Europe, a population or range that has declined moderately in recent years, or a population that has declined historically but made a recent

substantial recovery. It also includes species for which breeding occurs on a rare basis and/or for which the UK holds international importance or localised populations; and,

- Green which indicates that the species are currently relatively unthreatened, do not fulfil any of the above criteria, and are of the least conservation concern.

These lists are based on standardised assessment criteria, describing the level of conservation threat to each species. Some species are listed as 'Introduced', applying to species which are non-native in the UK and thus have no UK conservation status.

Species of Principal Importance

Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 lists certain bird species as Species of Principal Importance for the purposes of biodiversity conservation. The Secretary of State must promote actions to further the conservation of species within this list.

Havant Borough Priority Species⁴

- Skylark;
- dark-bellied Brent goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*;
- nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*;
- woodlark *Lullula arborea*;
- nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*;
- corn bunting *Emberiza calandra*;
- grey partridge *Perdix perdix*;
- bullfinch;
- turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur*;
- Dartford warbler *Curruca undata*;
- redshank *Tringa totanus*; and
- lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Species Records

The bird records returned from the data search with Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) as part of the 2025 PEA² in January 2025 were reviewed by Greengage and are discussed in Section 5.1

Designated Sites

Greengage undertook a review of readily available ecological information and other relevant environmental databases (including Defra's Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (Magic) website⁵) for the site to identify the location and citations of statutory designated sites. Birds are a highly mobile species and therefore may disperse across a large distance to use other areas situated around the statutory designated sites that they are primarily associated with, therefore the search area was extended to 2km radius for local level designated sites and to 10km radius for international level designated sites for the purpose of this search

4.2 BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

The Greengage 2025 BBS took place at the site between late March and mid July 2025.

Each site visit was conducted following the Bird Survey Guidelines⁶ with a total of six visits undertaken, consisting of five dawn and one dusk site visit. The dawn site visits commenced within the half an hour either side of sunrise and were concluded by early-morning. The dusk site visit commenced within the hour leading up to sunset and concluded at least an hour after sunset. All site visits were conducted in appropriate weather conditions. The timings, dates and weather conditions for each site visit are detailed in Table 4.1 below. This includes dates of site visits, start and finish times, appropriate sunrise or sunset times, temperature in °C, cloud cover following the Oktas scale (1-9), wind speed following the Beaufort scale (0-12) and any levels of precipitation.

Binoculars were used as a visual aid to the surveyor for each site visit. A thermal imaging scope was also used as a visual aid where required for identifying locations of bird activity amongst the site during the dusk site visit. A pre-determined transect route was walked at a slow pace ensuring full coverage in and around the site, bird activity was recorded within and approximately 120 around the RLB to assess all species present in and around the site. Where possible (see Section 4.5), stopping points were included based on presence of priority habitat/features (e.g. trees, hedgerows), and/or areas of interesting bird activity. The direction of travel along the transect route was alternated between site visits and was either walked in a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction to reduce time bias by ensuring coverage of the site at different times across the site visits.

Observations of breeding bird activity, such as singing, territorial behaviour, carrying food or nest material, were recorded for each bird species/individual, where encountered during each site visit. Figure C.1a-d, which show 'priority/notable species' in accordance with the Bird Survey Guidelines⁶, have been created for each site visit. A list of BTO codes for those species illustrated in Figure C.1a-d is provided as Figure C.1d. Breeding behaviour activity (i.e. male/female/pair of birds, alarm calling, singing, etc) was also recorded using the BTO Activity Codes, with details provided within the legend of each Figure.

A species key for all bird species encountered during all six site visits is provided as Appendix B.

Details for the species, numbers recorded per site visit, the conservation status of each species recorded and whether the species are confirmed, probable, possible or non-breeding birds at the site, based on the findings of the Greengage 2025 site visits, is included as Appendix C.

Table 4.1 Auxiliary Data - Breeding Bird Survey

Site visit	Date	Surveyor	Survey timings (24 hour) and weather		Sunrise/sunset (24 hour)	Optics
			Start	End		
1	29.03.2025	Izabela Kennedy	Time: 05:45 Temperature: 3°C Cloud cover: 0 (oktas scale) Wind: 2 (Beaufort scale) Precipitation: dry	Time: 08:45 Temperature: 7°C Cloud cover: 0 Wind: 2 Precipitation: dry	Sunrise: 05:44	Viking Peregrine 8x42
2	20.04.2025	Izabela Kennedy	Time: 05:50 Temperature: 7°C Cloud cover: 3 Wind: 3 Precipitation: dry	Time: 08:30 Temperature: 10°C Cloud cover: 3 Wind: 3 Precipitation: dry	Sunrise: 05:55	Viking Peregrine 8x42
3	10.05.2025	Izabela Kennedy	Time: 05:10 Temperature: 9°C Cloud cover: 0 Wind: 3 Precipitation: dry	Time: 08:30 Temperature: 14°C Cloud cover: 0 Wind: 0 Precipitation: dry	Sunrise: 05:23	Viking Peregrine 8x42
4	31.05.2025	Izabela Kennedy	Time: 19:50 Temperature: 17°C Cloud cover: 7 Wind: 3 Precipitation: dry	Time: 22:10 Temperature: 17°C Cloud cover: 7 Wind: 4 Precipitation: dry	Sunset: 21:07	Viking Peregrine 8x42, thermal imager
5	21.06.2025	Izabela Kennedy	Time: 04:38 Temperature: 18°C Cloud cover: 3 Wind: 1 Precipitation: dry	Time: 08:00 Temperature: 18°C Cloud cover: 3 Wind: 1 Precipitation: dry	Sunrise: 04:50	Viking Peregrine 8x42
6	14.07.2025	Izabela Kennedy	Time: 04:48 Temperature: 17°C Cloud cover: 4 Wind: 1 Precipitation: dry	Time: 08:00 Temperature: 18°C Cloud cover: 2 Wind: 2 Precipitation: dry	Sunrise: 05:07	Viking Peregrine 8x42

4.3 COMPETENCIES

Chloe Peace, who designed the survey, has a BSc (Hons) in Zoology and is a Qualifying member of CIEEM. Chloe has two years of experience in ecological survey and assessment in consultancy. Her experience that spans the aquatic and terrestrial environments, with particular interest in Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), natural capital, habitat management and conservation, and ornithology.

Izabela Kennedy, who undertook the bird surveys, holds a Master's degree in Wildlife Biology and Conservation, and specialise in ornithology. Over the past five years Izabela has been involved in bird monitoring, surveying, and conservation initiatives. She has completed two seasons conducting ecological surveys and assessments of protected species.

Oliver Hamilton, who wrote this report, has a degree in Zoology (BSc Hons) and 2 years' experience in ecological surveying. Oliver assists in a variety of field surveys and related reports such as preliminary Ecological Appraisals and Protected Species Reports, providing recommendations on biodiversity enhancements.

Daniel Perlaki, who reviewed this report, has an undergraduate degree in Ecology (BSc Hons), a Master's degree in Conservation Science and Policy and is a Graduate member of CIEEM. Dan has over 8 years' experience in ecology survey and consultancy.

Paul White, Associate Consultant, has a Bachelor's degree in Marine Biology (BSc Hons), a Natural England Great Crested Newt Licence and Dormouse Licence, and is an Associate member of CIEEM. Paul has over 16 years' experience in ecological surveying and has undertaken and managed numerous ecological surveys and assessments.

This report was written by Oliver Hamilton, reviewed by Daniel Perlaki and verified by Paul White who confirms in writing (see the QA sheet at the front of this report) that the report is in line with the following:

- Represents sound industry practice;
- Reports and recommends correctly, truthfully and objectively;
- Is appropriate given the local site conditions and scope of works proposed; and
- Avoids invalid, biased and exaggerated statements.

4.4 CONSTRAINTS

All site visits were undertaken following Bird Survey Guidelines (2025)⁶ during the optimal breeding bird survey period and in suitable weather conditions and, therefore, no constraints to the BBS results have been identified.

It is acknowledged that, due to the size of the site, the whole extents cannot be observed at any one time, therefore there is a low risk that bird observations could be overestimated due to double counting if birds move around the site during a site visit. However, this is accounted for by ornithologists by using professional judgement as to whether the same birds have been observed based on species-specific behaviour relating to movement around a site and disturbance from the surveyor. Where species were recorded in different locations but were possibly the same individual, these species have been illustrated to show the use of different habitat types at the site, and this has been discussed in the results section of the report.

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 BREEDING BIRD SURVEY

A total of 27 bird species were recorded within the redline boundary on site, an additional six BOCC5 species were classed as incidental findings, as they were found outside of the RLB and are generally associated with breeding habitats found outside the RLB. Appendix A.1a-A.1f illustrate the BBS results relating to WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 bird species, BoCC5 Red and BoCC5 Amber listed bird species recorded across the six site visits, with a species key provided in Appendix C.

A list of the species recorded during each of the site visits is provided in Appendix C, which also details the conservation status of each species recorded and whether the species are confirmed, probable, possible or non-breeding birds within the site based on the findings of the BBS.

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

Cetti's Warbler

A single Cetti's warbler *Cettia cetti* was recorded during surveys 2, 3 and 4 singing in the same area of scrubland within the survey area to the northeast of the RLB. No individuals were recorded on site and no suitable habitat is present within the RLB, therefore they are non-breeding within the redline boundary.

It is however worth noting that at least one territory located in the scrubland to the north suggesting probable breeding to the north of the RLB.

Firecrest

A single firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus* was recorded singing in the same area of scrubland to the north RLB during surveys 5 and 6. Firecrest are typically associated with areas of pine or deciduous woodland for foraging or nesting, no individuals were recorded on site therefore they are not considered to be breeding on site.

It is however worth noting that at least one territory located in the scrubland to the north of the redline boundary suggesting probable breeding to the north of the RLB.

Summary

The complete BBS concludes the following breeding status's for WCA 1981 Schedule 1 listed bird species:

- Confirmed: None;
- Probable: None;
- Possible: None; and
- Non-breeding: None.

Incidental findings:

- Cetti's warbler and firecrest.

BoCC5 Red Listed Species

Greenfinch

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* were recorded across all six surveys within the survey area. Highest counts within the survey area recorded during survey 1 and 3 which totalled 13 individuals. Individuals were recorded singing across multiple surveys in the hedgerow along the western boundary, as well as scrubland present on site and immediately east of the redline boundary. Scrubland and hedgerow is considered suitable nesting habitat for greenfinches, indicating they are holding permanent territories across the site. Based on the numbers of singing individuals recorded across all site visits, an estimated 7 territories are within the RLB or immediately adjacent, greenfinch are therefore considered probable breeders on site. Therefore, the site is of local level importance to breeding greenfinch.

Herring gull

Herring gull *Larus argentatus* been recorded flying around the site during all six surveys, highest counts were recorded during survey 3 which totalled 10 individuals across the duration of the survey. Many sightings were found outside the RLB to the southwest or northwest. As there are no buildings or raised platforms for nesting and individuals were never seen landing on site, it is likely that these individuals were foraging and not breeding on site, therefore they are not discussed further within this report.

Linnet

Linnets have been recorded during across surveys five surveys; highest counts were recorded during survey 5 which totalled five individuals. Pairs have been seen together on site, the majority of records included flocks of individuals in suitable habitat or flying over site therefore linnets are considered probable breeders, and the site is of local level importance to breeding linnets.

Starling

A single flock of starling was recorded during survey 5, including six individuals. While scrubland and trees are considered suitable nesting habitat, they did not land on site and no display of breeding behaviour was recorded; therefore, they are not considered breeding on site and are not discussed further within this report.

Summary

The complete BBS concludes the following breeding status's for BoCC5 Red listed bird species:

- Confirmed: None;
- Probable: Greenfinch and linnet;
- Possible: None; and
- Non-breeding: Herring gull and starling.

BoCC5 Amber Listed Species

Bullfinch

Bullfinch were recorded during survey 2, 3 and 6, highest count was recorded during surveys 2 and 6 identifying 2 individuals. Individuals were typically found in the eastern half of the survey area, closest to areas of woodland and scrub which is considered suitable nesting habitat for the

species. No individuals were recorded holding territories, no individuals were recorded landing within the redline boundary therefore they are not considered breeding on site and are not discussed further within this report.

Dunnock

Dunnock were recorded across all surveys, the highest count was recorded during survey 1, identifying 6 individuals. All individuals were recorded singing or calling in suitable nesting habitat, typically scrubland or hedgerow, most of the records were focused on the northern area of scrubland within the survey area, and hedgerow immediately adjacent to the western boundary. Individuals were found in similar locations across all six surveys indicating the presence of an estimated 2 potential territories within the RLB, therefore dunnock are considered probable breeders. Therefore, site is considered to be of local level importance to breeding dunnock.

Mallard

One mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* was recorded flying over site during survey one it is likely it was flying toward Havant Thicket Reservoir. No breeding behaviour or suitable habitat for nesting is observed on site; therefore, they are not considered breeding on site and are not discussed further within this report.

Song thrush

A song thrush nest was confirmed on site during survey 4 in a hedgerow with trees. Two individuals were typically recorded singing within the survey area during each survey, with the exception of survey 3 where a single individual was recorded. Individuals were found in areas of scrub or woodland to the northwest or east of the RLB which is the preferred nesting habitat for song thrush. Due to the presence of an individual carrying food, singing in suitable habitat within the survey area and the presence of a nest, the species is confirmed to be breeding on site. Therefore, site is considered to be of local level importance to breeding song thrush.

Whitethroat

Whitethroat were recorded across surveys 2 to 6 with juveniles recorded during surveys 5 and 6 confirming the breeding status of the species on site. The highest count was recorded on survey 6, consisting of 23 adults and juveniles. Males were recorded singing in similar areas within the RLB across all six surveys, based on this evidence it is estimated that 5 territories are present on site. Due to the confirmed breeding presence and density of territories, the site is considered to be of district level value to breeding whitethroat.

Woodpigeon

Woodpigeon were recorded across all surveys; the highest count was recorded on survey 3 identifying 35 individuals across the duration of the survey. Individuals were primarily recorded flying over the site; however, males have been recorded singing in similar areas of scrubland immediately south and north of the RLB, and hedgerow immediately west of the redline boundary edges across multiple surveys indicating a permanent territory. Based on this evidence it is estimated that four territories are present on site and are therefore considered probable breeders on site. Due to the density of territories on site and the presence of suitable habitat, the site is considered to be of local level value to breeding woodpigeon.

Wren

Wren were recorded across all surveys; the highest count was recorded across surveys 5 and 6 identifying 10 individuals. Individuals were recorded singing in similar areas of scrubland and hedgerow within the RLB across multiple surveys indicating a potential nesting spot or a permanent territory. Based on this evidence it is estimated that seven territories are present on site and are therefore considered probable breeders onsite. Due to the density of territories on site and the presence of suitable habitat, the site is considered to be of local level value to breeding wren.

Summary

The complete BBS concludes the following breeding status's for BoCC5 Amber listed bird species:

- Confirmed: Song thrush and whitethroat;
- Probable: Dunnock, woodpigeon and wren;
- Possible: None; and
- Non-breeding: Bullfinch and Mallard.

BoCC5 Green Listed Species

Confirmed Breeders

Three BoCC5 Green was confirmed breeding within or immediately adjacent to the redline boundary including stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*, magpie *Pica pica* and blue tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*. This was confirmed based on the presence of adult's birds observed carrying food material and juveniles found on site.

Probable breeders

Five BoCC5 Green listed species was considered probable breeders on site based on the identification of singing males in suitable nesting habitat, holding territory across multiple surveys, and pairs observed. These species included robin *Erithacus rubecula*, great tit *Parus major*, blackbird *Turdus merula*, chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* and goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*.

Possible breeders

Of the BoCC5 Green listed species only blackcaps *Sylvia atricapilla* and long tailed tits *Aegithalos caudatus* were considered possible breeders on site based on the presence of singing males in suitable habitat within the RLB.

Non-breeders

Four BoCC5 Green listed species, Collard dove *Streptopelia decaocto*, great spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* and green woodpecker *Picus viridis* were recorded within the survey area, but not within the redline boundary. This site does provide foraging habitat but very limited nesting habitat due to the presence of one tree and a small section of encroaching scrub, therefore it is unlikely they are breeding on site. Carrion crows were only recorded flying over i.e. no direct interaction with the site or were only observed interacting within the survey area and not the site itself.

Incidental findings

Woodland and scrubland can be found within the survey area but not on site. Species indicative of these habitats were recorded during the survey but not on site, therefore it is considered very unlikely they would be breeding on site. Therefore, the following species are noted as incidental findings within the survey area: raven *Corvus corax*, tree creeper *Certhia familiaris*, coal tit *Periparus ater*, jay *Garrulus glandarius*, nuthatch *Sitta europaea* and lesser whitethroat *Curruca curruca*.

Summary

The complete BBS concludes the following breeding status's for BoCC5 Green listed bird species:

- Confirmed: stonechat, magpie and blue tit;
- Probable: robin, great tit, blackbird, chiff chaff and goldfinch; and
- Possible: blackcap; and
- Non-breeding: carrion crow, collard dove, green woodpecker and great spotted woodpecker

Incidental findings

- Raven, tree creeper, coal tit, jay, nuthatch and lesser whitethroat.

The complete BBS concludes that due to BoCC5 Green listed birds being common species and the presence of suitable habitat in the wider area, with no significantly high populations of a particular species recorded during the complete BBS, the site is considered to be of site level importance only for breeding BoCC5 Green listed species.

Species of Principal Importance

Dunnock, herring gull, linnet, song thrush and starling are listed as Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006, and also BoCC5 Red and Amber listed species. These species are discussed above and are thus not repeated here.

Local Priority Species

Bullfinch are included in Havant Local Biodiversity Action Plan⁴ but were considered to be non-breeders within the RLB.

Dusk Related Species

No specific dusk-related species were recorded during the Greengage 2025 BBS dusk site visit (survey 4). The complete BBS therefore concludes that the site is considered to have negligible importance to breeding dusk-related species.

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 9 Bird Species

In the Greengage 2025 BBS, there were no WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 9 bird species recorded.

The complete BBS concludes that the site has negligible importance to breeding WCA 1981 (as amended) Schedule 9 bird species.

6.0 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION

6.1 PROPOSALS

As shown in the UMC Architecture Masterplan⁷ the development proposals are part of a wider scheme to build industrial units with associated parking, service yards and landscaping which will impact predominantly grassland and urban habitats. Woodland and scrub habitat where the majority of these records were identified will not be lost as a direct result of the development.

This report is to inform a planning application for the site which seeks the construction of Plot 600 and Plot 601 which will consist of two new industrial units with associated parking, service yards and landscaping resulting in the clearance of the grassland, bramble scrub and trees on site.

6.2 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This assessment reviews anticipated direct and indirect impacts to bird species using the site as a result of the proposed development.

Breeding birds

A total of 27 species were found within the redline boundary across the complete BBS, i.e. all six site visits. The breeding status's of the bird species and level of site importance to bird species recorded at the site are summarised in Table 6.1 arranged by level of breeding status from Confirmed to Non-breeder. See Section 5.2 above for more detail.

Table 6.1 Breeding bird status and level of site importance summary

Common name	Species name	WCA, NERC (41) or BoCC conservation status	Breeding status	Level of Importance (national, regional, country, local, and site)
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Red	Probable breeding	Local level
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Red, NERC	Non-breeding	Negligible
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Red, NERC, LBAP	Probable breeding	Local level
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red, NERC	Non-breeding	Negligible
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Amber, NERC, LBAP	Non-breeding	Negligible
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Amber, NERC	Probable breeding	Local level
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Amber	Non-breeding	Negligible

Common name	Species name	WCA, NERC (41) or BoCC conservation status	Breeding status	Level of Importance (national, regional, country, local, and site)
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Amber, NERC, LBAP	Confirmed breeding	Local level
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	Amber	Probable breeding	Local level
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Amber	Probable breeding	Local level
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Amber, Annex 1	Probable breeding	Local level
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Green	Probable breeding	Local level
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Green	Possible breeding	Local level
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Green	Confirmed breeding	Local level
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Green	Non-breeding	Negligible
Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Green	Non-breeding	Negligible
Green woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Green	Non-breeding	Negligible
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Green	Probable breeding	Local level
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Green	Probable breeding	Local level
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Green	Probable breeding	Local level
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green	Confirmed breeding	Local level
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Green	Probable breeding	Local level
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	Green	Confirmed breeding	Local level
Collard dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Green	Non-breeding	Negligible
Species of note within the wider survey area				
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Green, Sch1	Possible breeder	Local level
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Green, Sch1	Probable breeding	Local level

Common name	Species name	WCA, NERC (41) or BoCC conservation status	Breeding status	Level of Importance (national, regional, country, local, and site)
Incidental findings				
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Green	Non-breeding	Negligible
Tree creeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Green	Non-breeding	Negligible
Coal tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Green	Non-breeding	Negligible
Jay	<i>Garrulus Glandarius</i>	Green	Non-breeding	Negligible
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Green	Non-breeding	Negligible
Lesser whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	Green	Non-breeding	Negligible

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 Bird Species

Cetti's warbler and firecrest were recorded outside the redline boundary but were considered probable breeders in scrubland north of site. No suitable nesting habitat for these species will be lost as a result of the development. Schedule 1 species are particularly susceptible to disturbance during nesting; therefore a nesting bird check is recommended within 20m of the northern boundary of the site.

BoCC5 Red and Amber Listed Species

The BoCC5 Red list species identified to be at risk of impacts from the proposed development are greenfinch and linnet (two probable breeders) with no possible breeding species. Amber species include song thrush (one confirmed breeder), dunnoek, wood pigeon, whitethroat, and wren (four probable breeders), and bullfinch (one possible breeder). All of these species nest in dense scrub, hedgerows or woodland.

Along the western boundary 15 species were recorded consisting of two Red and four Amber listed species. This hedgerow is set to be removed as a result of the development causing a loss of suitable breeding habitat on site.

16 species were recorded within the grassland and bramble scrub within the main body of the site, consisting of two Red listed and five Amber listed species likely foraging on site. Large areas of this grassland and all the bramble scrub will be removed to make way for the development. As a result, the development proposal will result in the loss of nesting and foraging habitat. While vegetation will be present post development in similar locations to the existing and it will potentially be more habitat structure diverse, it will comprise smaller fragmented areas.

Despite the habitat changes, the direct impacts to the above breeding bird species as a result of the proposed development are likely to be at the site level. This is due to species comprising predominantly of common bird species within urban/farmland or woodland habitat, of which there were not significant numbers contributing to large populations encountered, and to the presence of similar suitable habitat in the wider area, which can be, used as an alternative.

Indirect impacts to the breeding birds are considered to potentially include disturbance potentially resulting in mortality events (through parental abandonment of nest/egg/chicks), lighting, noise, air pollution (in the form of dust), and temporary loss of foraging opportunities (through vegetation clearance). These would be applicable during the construction or operational phases, or potentially both.

Given that wood pigeon, wren, dunnock are typically more tolerant to other potential disturbances, these indirect impacts are considered likely to be of low-level. However, whitethroats, greenfinches, linnets, bullfinches and song thrush are less tolerant to disturbance and could be susceptible to indirect disturbance.

Where avoidance is not possible, mitigation measures will be applicable to minimise indirect impacts. See Section 6.0 below

6.3 MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Construction Environmental Management Plan

A Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the development is recommended to be produced to detail measures to be followed during the construction phase to mitigate impacts to breeding birds and birds in general. The following actions should be outlined within the CEMP, as a minimum.

Protection of Existing and Retained Ecological Features

Hedgerow has been established as a valuable breeding habitat for a variety of species, a small section towards the south of the site is expected to be lost as a result of the development according to the UMC Architecture Masterplan⁷. It is recommended this habitat is retained and protected from damage where possible.

Protection measures should be detailed within the CEMP and these areas will form Biodiversity Protection Zones (BPZ's) which will ensure continued presence and functionality of these habitats for birds and other species during the construction phase of the development.

N.B. Where retention is not possible, these habitat types will be required to be created in an alternative location within the site (as agreed with an ornithologist), by creating similar habitat to the existing and be maintained in the long term as mitigation.

All woodland edge, scrub and hedgerow around the site boundary should be protected through use of appropriate fencing to establish construction exclusion zones.

Nesting Bird Checks

No ground nesting birds were identified on site, therefore vegetation clearance should focus on the trees, hedgerows, and any scrubland affected by the development. Clearance should be programmed between September and February inclusive, i.e. to avoid the breeding bird season which is typically recognised as March to August inclusive.

However, it is acknowledged that recommendations in respect to other protected species mentioned within the PEA¹ (e.g. dormouse, reptiles, bats and hedgehogs) may require works to be undertaken within the breeding bird season to reduce impacts to other species. As such, where any vegetation clearance is required to be carried out during March to August, nesting bird checks will be required to be undertaken by a Suitability Qualified Ecologist (SQE). Vegetation removal should commence within 48 hours of the nesting bird check, where the SQE confirms to proceed

(i.e. no active bird nests have been identified in the area). Special care needs to be taken to minimise the risk of committing an offence to disturb nesting schedule 1 species such as Cetti's warbler and firecrest towards the north of the site as they are particularly vulnerable to disturbance close to their nests.

The nesting bird checks may take the form of vantage point observations/physical checks and/or systematic walkover of the ground by the SQE dependent upon which habitats are to be affected by the proposed habitat removal works.

Repeat visits will be required if vegetation removal is not completed within a 48-hour timeframe after authorisation has been permitted by the SQE.

If an active nest is found during a nesting bird check, there will be a requirement to establish an exclusion zone around the nest (in consultation with the SQE) which should be maintained until it has been demonstrated that all fledglings have left the nest and the nest is no longer active. Exclusion zone(s), where established, may require monitoring by an SQE for periods of at least up to a month depending on the nesting stage.

Ground Level Tree Assessment

Should any trees be proposed for removal as part of the works, detailed tree removal drawings showing the specific trees/areas to be affected are to be made available to an SQE to enable a detailed ground level tree assessment (GLTA) at these trees/areas to be undertaken. The GLTA would assess for any cavities present and any ecological value pertaining to the cavities, prior to tree removal, e.g. a tennis-ball sized cavity hole at the top of the tree trunk would have suitability for kestrel. Any other sized cavities may also be suitable for other species including smaller nesting passerine birds (and bats). If a suitable cavity is identified, the tree should be subject to a nesting bird check by a SQE if removal works are planned to be undertaken within the breeding bird season (surveys in relation to other species/timing constraints may also be applicable).

Landscape Enhancement and Management Plan

Discussion regarding habitat enhancements on site and the wider ownership boundary are being discussed with the client which will more than compensate for habitats lost and will be included within the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan.

A Landscape Enhancement and Management Plan (LEMP) should be produced to detail habitat creation and enhancement measures that will be beneficial for biodiversity, including birds, in the long-term. Measures that would benefit birds are detailed below but the LEMP should refer to the full details of measures to be implemented.

Hedgerow and Tree Retention

The hedgerows and trees at the site should be retained where possible. Any retained habitat should be protected in accordance with British Standard (BS) 5837 (2012) – Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction throughout construction works and subsequently will be maintained during the operational phase of the proposed development at the site.

Retained features should be managed to maximise bird use for nesting and foraging resources. This includes minimal cutting/pruning of hedgerows/trees during the growing/flowering/fruiting season (spring/summer/autumn months) in order to allow optimal fruit production and optimal nesting opportunity within the canopy.

Hedgerow and Tree Planting

Tree planting

New tree planting will use native species, where possible, and trees bearing fruits and berries, such as:

- Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*;
- Silver birch *Betula pendula*;
- Edible apple *Malus domestica*;
- Field maple *Acer campestre*;
- Callery pear *Pyrus calleryana*;
- Common holly *Ilex aquifolium*;
- Guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*.
- Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*; and,
- Whitebeam *Sorbus aria*.

Shrub and hedgerow planting

Native species that can be used as shrub planting and hedgerow planting will include species from the following list (list not exhaustive):

- Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*;
- Elder *Sambucus nigra*;
- Common hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*;
- Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*;
- Hazel *Corylus avellana*;
- Broom *Cytisus scoparius*;
- Common privet *Ligustrum vulgare*;
- Bird cherry *Prunus padus*; and
- Sessile oak *Quercus petraea*;

The above soft landscaping would make a contribution to biodiversity at the site through provision of nectar and pollen resources for invertebrate prey species as well as providing nesting habitat and a food resource for birds.

Wildflower meadow

The grassland should be managed in a way that provides a varied sward height, lacks invasive and non-native species and has minimal areas of bare ground. The seed mix specified is the EM1 General Purpose Meadow Mixture⁸. This mix comprises 10 native wildflower species (10%) and five native grass species (90%).

Correct management must be undertaken to successfully maintain the meadows. Actions should also be put in place to ensure the habitat is resilient to climate change, improving the chance that the life of the meadow will be sustained for years to come.

Areas adjacent to footpaths can be managed at shorter sward heights for amenity use, while larger areas can be left longer for biodiversity. Management regimes are designed to balance ecological diversity with legibility and public access.

Bird Boxes

As an enhancement for nesting birds, nest boxes should be included within the development design. Where building construction types are suitable, integral boxes are to be installed, however where this is not possible, external boxes suitable for either building or tree mounting should be included within the development design.

These should include four general purpose bird boxes, two starling boxes, three swift boxes and five open fronted boxes (for wrens, robins, pied wagtails). The specific details of the intended box type specifications, locations and aspects of the bird boxes should be included within the LEMP. Examples of nest boxes are provided in Plate 6.1 to Plate 6.3, however Greengage does not officially endorse any products. If the suggested models cannot be sourced at the time of requirement, possible suitable alternatives should be discussed and agreed with an SQE prior to installation.

Plate 6.1 Example external general purpose bird boxes Left - Schwegler Nest Box 1B and Right - Schwegler 2H Open Fronted Bird Box.



Plate 6.2 (Left) Example external swift box (WoodStone Burgos Swift Box)



Plate 6.3 Example external starling box (Vivara Pro WoodStone Starling)



7.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Greengage was commissioned by Portsmouth City Council to undertake a breeding bird survey of Dunsbury Park Plot 600-601.

The site extends to approximately 4.56 hectares (ha) and comprised of unmanaged field (modified grassland) with an area of bramble scrub surrounding an oak tree. The survey area, however, extended beyond the site and encompassed areas of scrub and woodland edge within the wider Dunsbury Park estate.

This document is a report of a BBS undertaken by Greengage to inform a planning application for the site which seeks the construction of Plot 600 and Plot 601 of the Dunsbury Park development, which comprises two new industrial units with associated parking, service yards and landscaping, hereafter referred to as 'the development'.

A total of 27 bird species were recorded across all six BBS site visits, including four Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC5) Red listed species, seven BoCC5 Amber listed species and fourteen BoCC5 green listed species. An additional six BOCC5 Green listed species were considered incidental findings as they were recorded within the surrounding woodland and are generally characterised by the woodland habitat which is not present on site.

Of the BOCC5 listed species recorded, six are listed as Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Only bullfinch was listed as a local priority bird species.

Two species (Cetti's warbler and firecrest) listed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) Schedule 1 were recorded within the survey area, but it was considered unlikely they would be nesting or foraging on site, therefore they were recorded as incidental findings.

The BoCC5 Red list species identified to be at risk of impact from the proposed development comprise of greenfinch and linnet (two probable breeders), no possible breeders, herring gull and starling were considered non-breeding.

The BoCC5 Amber list species identified to be at risk of impact from the proposed development comprise of song thrush, whitethroat (two confirmed breeders), dunnock, woodpigeon and wren (three possible breeders).

Habitat changes and impacts as a result of the proposed development are likely to be at the site level due to the presence of similar suitable habitat in the wider area. With compensation actions, the impacts of development would be at the site level only.

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Landscape Enhancement and Management Plan (LEMP) are recommended to be produced to provide measures for appropriate mitigation, compensation and enhancement for breeding birds during construction and post-development.

Outline recommendations to be included in the CEMP and LEMP include:

- CEMP:
 - Protection of retained ecological features;
 - Nesting bird checks;
 - Ground level tree assessment;

- LEMP:
 - Hedgerow and tree retention;
 - Grassland retention/enhancement and creation; and
 - Bird boxes.

APPENDIX A SITE PLANS

DUNSBURY PARK

600-601

- Red Line Boundary
- Transect route

Observations

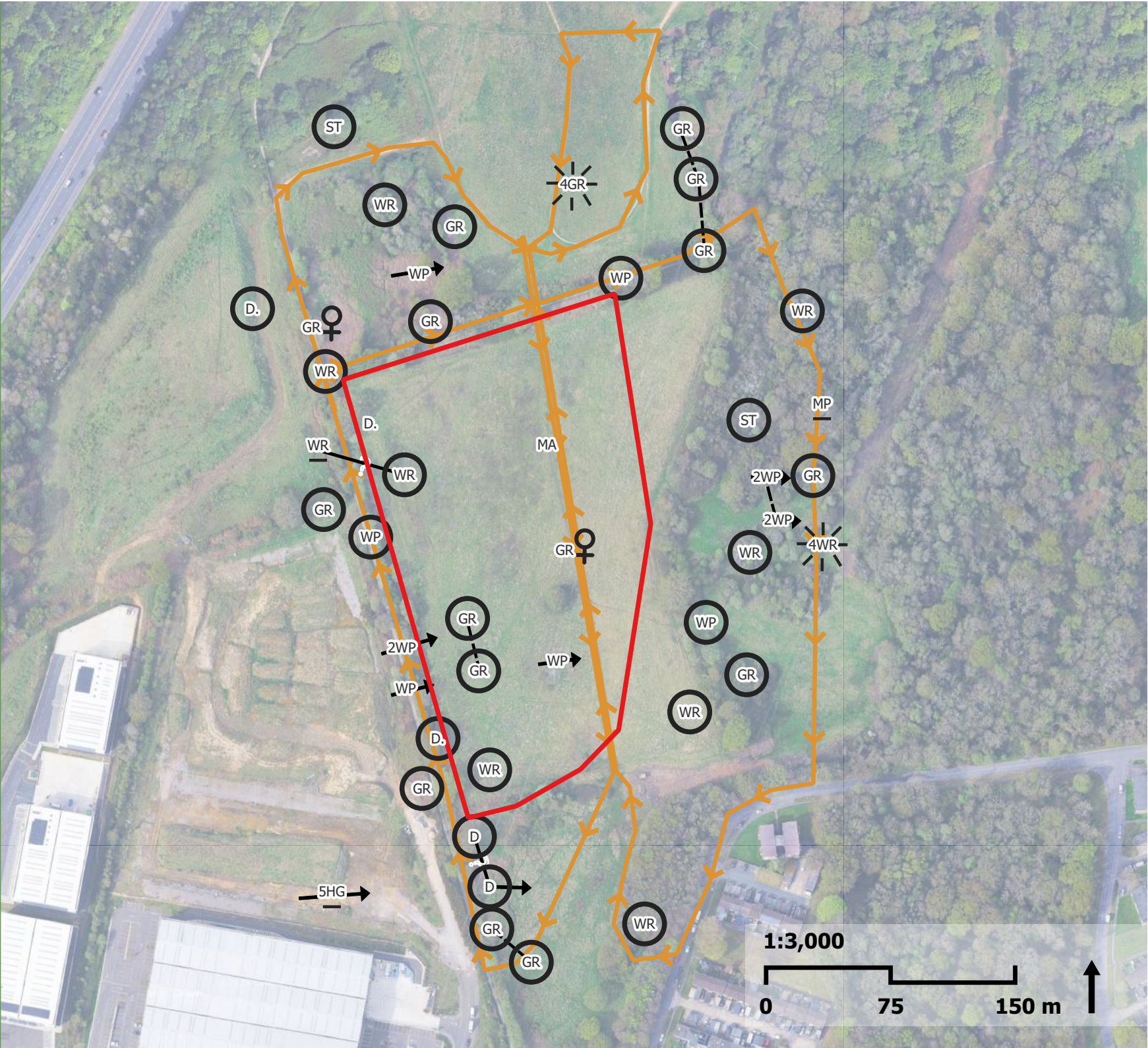
- Alarm
- Song
- Call
- Female
- Male
- Pair
- Aggressive encounter
- Flightpath
- Definitely different
- Probably the same

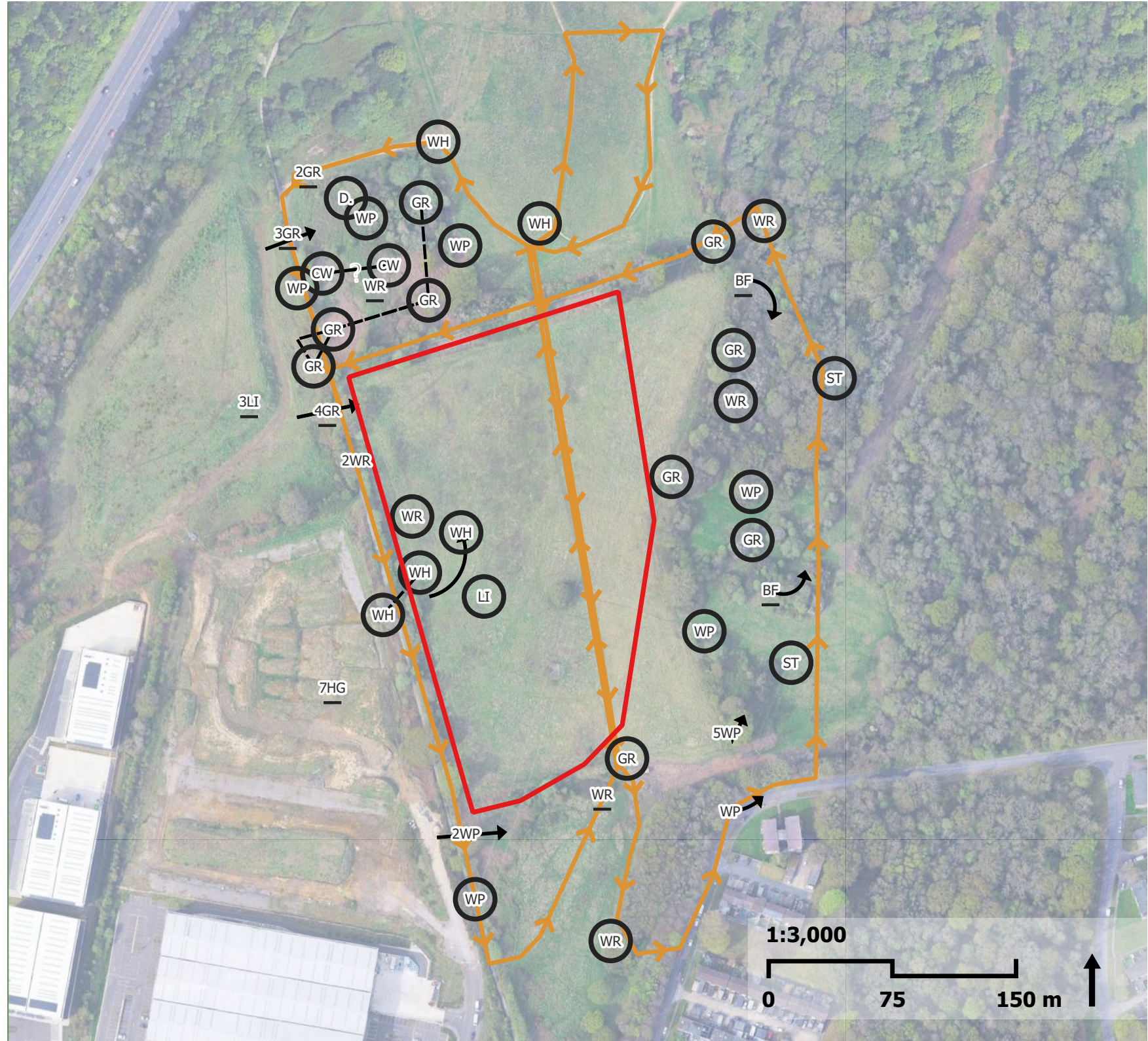
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Visit 1

Drawn by: OH
Date: 30/03/2025

Reviewed by: DP
Date: 02/04/2025

Project number: 553134
Sources: Google Earth, Natural England





DUNSBURY PARK

600-601

-  Red Line Boundary
-  Transect route

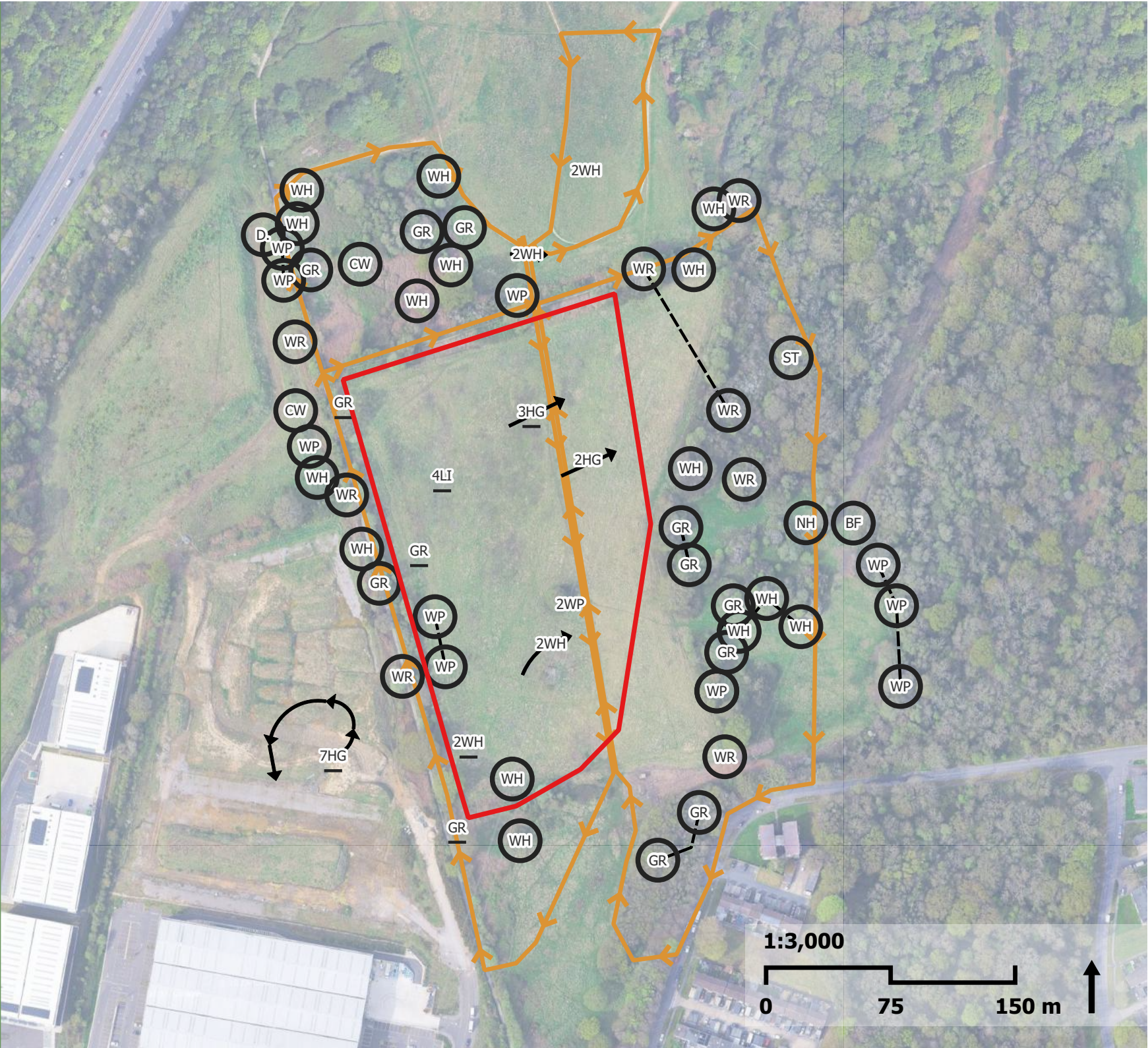
- Observations
-  Alarm
 -  Song
 -  Call
 -  Flightpath
 -  Definitely different
 -  Probably the same

Title: Figure B.1c - Breeding bird survey results
Visit 3

Drawn by: OH
Date: 30/03/2025

Reviewed by: DP
Date: 02/04/2025

Project number: 553134
Sources: Google Earth, Natural England



DUNSBURY PARK

600-601

 Red Line Boundary

 Transect route

Observations

 Alarm

 Song

 Call

 Flightpath

 Definitely different

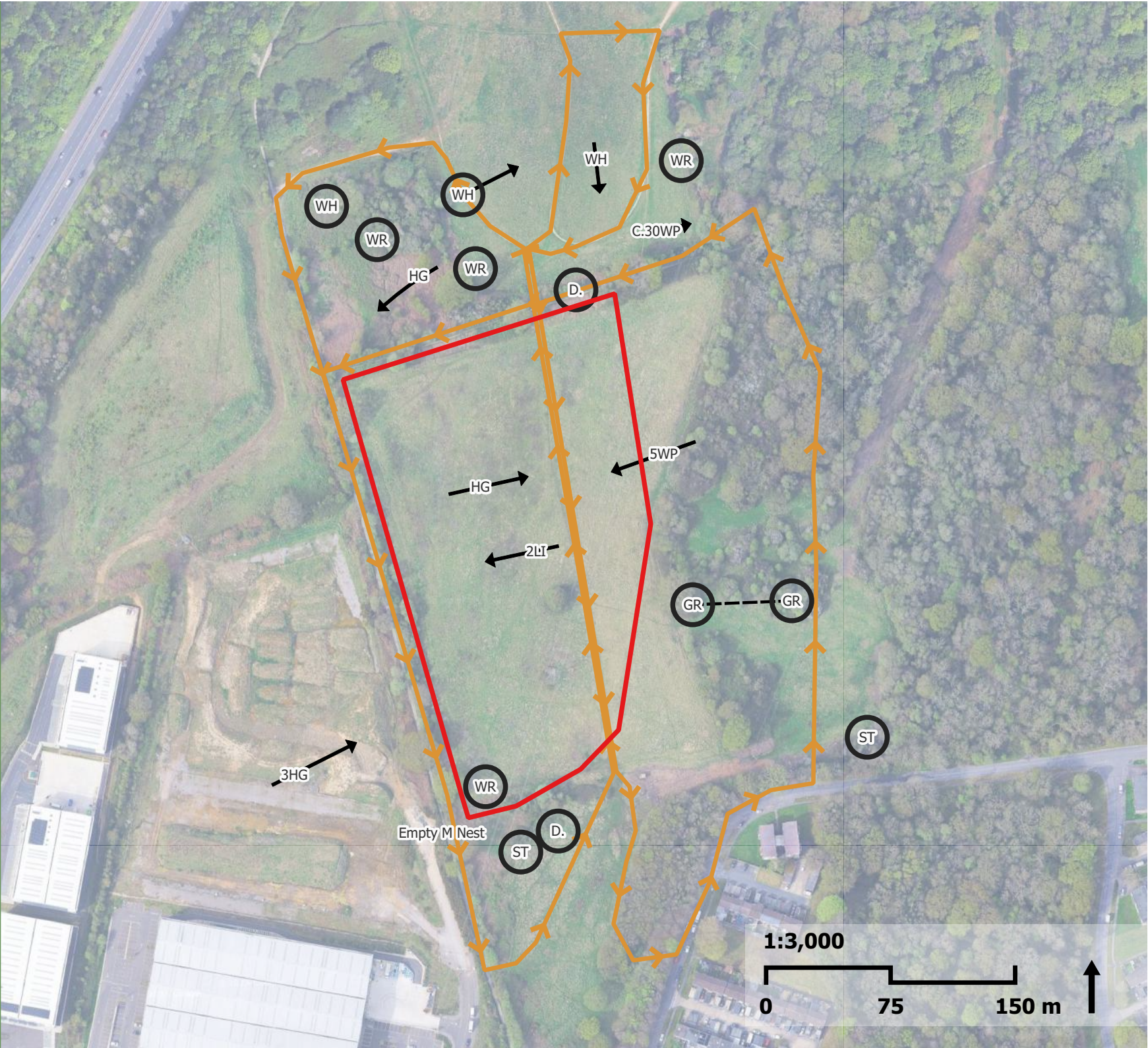
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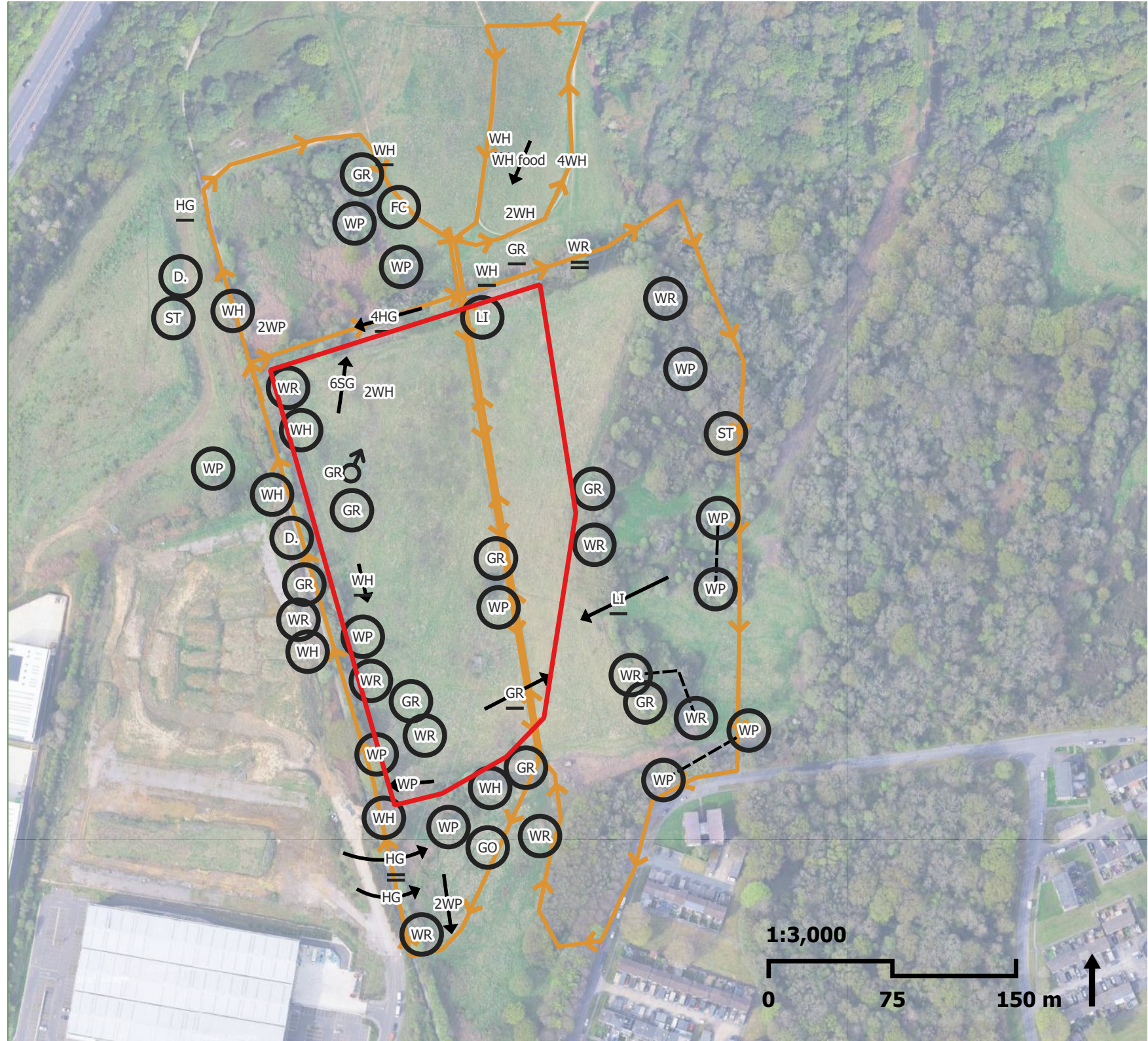
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Visit 4

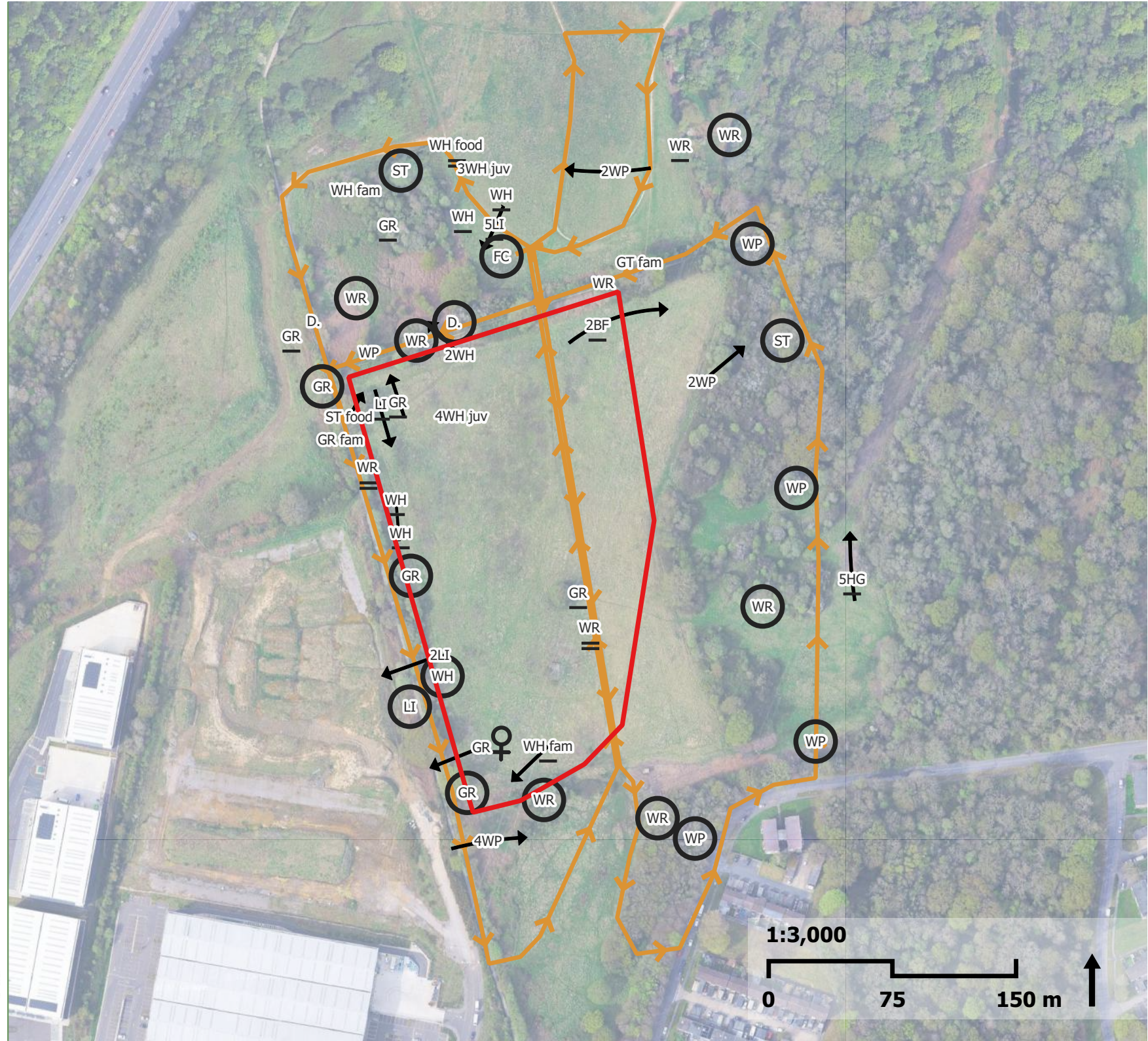
Drawn by: OH
Date: 30/03/2025

Reviewed by: DP
Date: 02/04/2025

Project number: 553134
Sources: Google Earth, Natural England







APPENDIX B BREEDING BIRD SURVEY RESULTS

Figure B.1a -1f Breeding bird survey results (site visits 1-6) and BTO species codes for illustrated species

Common name	Species name	BTO Code
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	CW
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	FC
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	GR
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	HG
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	LI
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	SG
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	BF
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	D.
Song thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	ST
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	MA
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	WP
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	WH
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	WR
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	B.
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	BC
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	BT
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	C.
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	CC
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	GO
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>	GT
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	MG
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	R.
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	SC
Long tailed tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	LT
Collard dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	CD
Green woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	G.
Great spotted woodpecker	<i>Denndrocopos major</i>	GS
Incidental findings		
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	RN
Tree creeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	TC
Coal tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	CT
Jay	<i>Gurrus Glandarus</i>	J.
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	NH
Lesser whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	LW

APPENDIX C BREEDING BIRD STATUS CODES

Table C.1 Key to BTO breeding status codes

Code	Breeding Status
Non-breeding	
F	Flying over
M	Species observed but suspected to be still on migration
U	Species observed but suspected to be summering non-breeder
Possible breeder	
H	Species observed in breeding season in suitable nesting habitat
S	Singing male present (or breeding calls heard) in breeding season in suitable breeding habitat
Probable breeding	
P	Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season
T	Permanent territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour (song etc) on at least two different days a week or more part at the same place or many individuals on one day
D	Courtship and display (judged to be in or near potential breeding habitat; be cautious with wildfowl)
N	Visiting probable nest site
A	Agitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults, suggesting probable presence of nest or young nearby
I	Brood patch on adult examined in the hand, suggesting incubation
B	Nest building or excavating nest-hole
Confirmed breeding	
DD	Distraction-display or injury feigning
UN	Used nest or eggshells found (occupied or laid within period of survey)
FL	Recently fledged young
ON	Adults entering or leaving the nest-site in circumstances indicating occupied nest (including high nests or nest holes, the contents of which can not be seen) or adults seen incubating
FF	Adult carrying faecal sac or food for young
NE	Nest containing eggs
NY	Nest with young seen or heard

APPENDIX D SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE BBS - CONSERVATION STATUS AND BREEDING STATUS

Figure D.1 Species recorded during the BBS, including total counts per site visit and conservation and breeding status

Common name	Species name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conservation Status	Wetland Species?	Local Priority Species	No. of individuals recorded per survey						Breeding status on site based on survey results	Estimated no. of territories (where breeding possible)	Justification	BTO Breeding Status Code	Reporting comments
					Survey visit 1	Survey visit 2	Survey visit 3	Survey visit 4	Survey visit 5	Survey visit 6					
Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	Green			3	4	8	1	7	5	Probable breeding	7	Permanent Territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour	T	
Blackbird	Turdus merula	Green			3	4	6	9	6	9	Confirmed breeding	5	Recently Fledged young	FL	
Blue tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	Green			12	14	13	16	24	16	Confirmed breeding	4	Recently Fledged young	FL	
Carriion crow	Corvus corone	Green			3	4	3	2	6	5	Possible breeder	1	Species observed in breeding season in suitable nesting Habitat	H	Surrounding woodland
Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	Green			10	6	12	8	12	10	Probable breeding	7	Permanent Territory presumed through registration of	T	

Common name	Species name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conservati on Status	Wetla nd Specie s?	Local Priori ty Speci es	No. of individuals recorded per survey						Breeding status on site based on survey results	Estimat ed no. of territori es (where breedin g possible)	Justificati on	BTO Breedi ng Status Code	Reporting comments
					Surv ey visit 1	Surv ey visit 2	Surv ey visit 3	Surv ey visit 4	Surv ey visit 5	Surv ey visit 6					
													territorial behaviour.		
Coal tit	Periparus ater	Green			2	1	1	0	1	0	Possible breeder	1	Singing male present in breeding season in suitable breeding habitat	S	Surrounding woodland
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	Amber, NERC			4	1	1	2	2	2	Probable breeding	2	Permanent Territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour.	T	
Great tit	Parus major	Green			10	6	10	5	10	10	Confirmed breeding	5	Recently FLedged young	FL	
Great spotted woodpecker	Denndrocopos major	Green			1	1	0	0	0	0	Possible breeder	1	Species observed in breeding season in suitable nesting Habitat	H	
Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	Red			13	11	13	2	11	12	Probable breeding	5	Permanent Territory presumed through	T	

Common name	Species name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conservati on Status	Wetla nd Specie s?	Local Priori ty Speci es	No. of individuals recorded per survey						Breeding status on site based on survey results	Estimat ed no. of territori es (where breedin g possible)	Justificati on	BTO Breedi ng Status Code	Reporting comments
					Surv ey visit 1	Surv ey visit 2	Surv ey visit 3	Surv ey visit 4	Surv ey visit 5	Surv ey visit 6					
													registration of territorial behaviour.		
Green woodpecker	Picus viridis	Green			1	2	2	0	1	2	Possible breeder	1	Species observed in breeding season in suitable nesting Habitat	H	
Herring gull	Larus argentatus	Red, NERC	Y		5	7	10	4	2	5	Non-breeding	0	Flying over	FL	
Jay	Garrulus glandarius	Green			1	0	0	0	0	0	Possible breeder	1	Species observed in breeding season in suitable nesting Habitat	H	
Long-tailed tit	Aegithalos caudatus	Green			5	3	18	7	23	16	Confirmed breeding	3	Permanent Territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour.	T	
Magpie	Pica pica	Green			2	2	5	1	10	7	Confirmed breeding	2	Evidence of dependenc y on adults, begging for food	FL	
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	Amber			1	0	0	0	0	0	Non-breeding	0	Flying over	FL	

Common name	Species name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conservati on Status	Wetla nd Specie s?	Local Priori ty Speci es	No. of individuals recorded per survey						Breeding status on site based on survey results	Estimat ed no. of territori es (where breedin g possible)	Justificati on	BTO Breedi ng Status Code	Reporting comments
					Surv ey visit 1	Surv ey visit 2	Surv ey visit 3	Surv ey visit 4	Surv ey visit 5	Surv ey visit 6					
Raven	Corvus corax	Green			1	0	0	0	0	0	Non-breeding	0	Flying over	F	
Robin	Erithacus rubecula	Green			7	4	8	4	5	16	Confirmed breeding	5	Recently FLedged young	FL	
Song thrush	Turdus philomelos	Amber, NERC			2	2	1	2	2	2	Probable breeding	2	Permanent Territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour.	T	
Stonechat	Saxicola rubicola	Green			5	5	4	0	5	5	Confirmed breeding	2	Recently FLedged young	FL	
Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus	Amber			10	11	12	35	17	12	Probable breeding	10	Permanent Territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour.	T	
Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	Amber, Annex 1			8	7	8	4	10	10	Probable breeding	5	Permanent Territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour.	T	
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Amber, NERC				2	1	0	0	2	Possible breeder	1	Species observed in breeding	H	

Common name	Species name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conservation Status	Wetland Species?	Local Priority Species	No. of individuals recorded per survey						Breeding status on site based on survey results	Estimated no. of territories (where breeding possible)	Justification	BTO Breeding Status Code	Reporting comments
					Survey visit 1	Survey visit 2	Survey visit 3	Survey visit 4	Survey visit 5	Survey visit 6					
													season in suitable nesting Habitat		
Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti	Green, Sch1				1	1	0	0	0	Possible breeder	1	Singing male present in breeding season in suitable breeding habitat	S	
Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	Green				2	1	0	5	11	Probable breeding	2	Permanent Territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour. Pairs seen together.	T	
Linnet	Linaria cannabina	Red, NERC				4	4	2	2	6	Probable breeding	1	Permanent Territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour. Pairs seen together.	T	
Whitethroat	Curruca communis	Amber				4	18	3	19	23	Confirmed breeding	5	Recently Fledged young	FL	

Common name	Species name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conservation Status	Wetland Species?	Local Priority Species	No. of individuals recorded per survey						Breeding status on site based on survey results	Estimated no. of territories (where breeding possible)	Justification	BTO Breeding Status Code	Reporting comments
					Survey visit 1	Survey visit 2	Survey visit 3	Survey visit 4	Survey visit 5	Survey visit 6					
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Green					1	0	0	0	Possible breeder	1	Species observed in breeding season in suitable nesting Habitat	H	Surrounding woodland
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	Green						1	0	0	Possible breeder	1	Singing male present in breeding season in suitable breeding habitat	S	
Mistle thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Red						0	0	0	Confirmed breeding	1	Used Nest found	UN	
Collard dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Green							6	2	Possible breeder	1	Species observed in breeding season in suitable nesting Habitat	H	
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Green, Sch1							1	1	Probable breeding	1	Singing male present in breeding season in suitable breeding habitat	S	
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Red, NERC							6	0	Non-breeding	0	Flying over	F	Breeding in neighbouring residential areas

Common name	Species name	WCA, NERC (41) & BoCC Conservati on Status	Wetla nd Specie s?	Local Priori ty Speci es	No. of individuals recorded per survey						Breeding status on site based on survey results	Estimat ed no. of territori es (where breedin g possible)	Justificati on	BTO Breedi ng Status Code	Reporting comments
					Surv ey visit 1	Surv ey visit 2	Surv ey visit 3	Surv ey visit 4	Surv ey visit 5	Surv ey visit 6					
Treecreeper	Certhia familiaris	Green								1	Probable breeding	1	Singing male present in breeding season in suitable breeding habitat	S	Surrounding woodland

APPENDIX E LEGISLATION AND PLANNING POLICY

E.1 LEGISLATION

All species of reptile native to the UK are protected to some degree under national and/or international legislation, which provides mechanisms to protect the species, their habitats and sites occupied by the species.

Sand lizards and smooth snakes are European protected species and are afforded full protection under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Regulation 43 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019⁹. However, these species are rare and highly localised. Their occurrence is not considered as relevant in this instance, as the ranges and specialist habitats of these species do not occur at this site.

The remaining widespread species of native reptiles (adder, grass snake, slow worm and viviparous lizard) are protected under part of Section 9(1) and all of Section 9(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. They are protected against intentional killing and injury and against sale, transporting for sale etc. The habitat of these species is not protected. However, in terms of development, disturbing or destroying reptile habitat during the course of development activities while reptiles are present is likely to lead to an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is therefore important to identify the presence of these species within a potential development site. If any of these species are confirmed, all reasonable measures must then be taken to ensure the species are removed to avoid the threat of injury or death associated with development activities.

E.2 PLANNING POLICY

Guidance on nature conservation within planning is issued by the Government within the National Planning Policy Framework. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2018¹⁰ sets out the Government's planning policies for England, including how plans and decisions are expected to apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

The NPPF has replaced, among other planning guidance documents, Planning Policy Statement 9: Biological and Geological Conservation¹¹. However, the accompaniment to PPS9, government circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and Their Impact within the Planning System¹², remains valid. The prevention of harm to biodiversity through prudent planning decisions is the key principle in the NPPF when considering planning and the natural environment; set out in section 15.

Within the NPPF the Government's vision for conserving and enhancing biological diversity in England within the planning system is set out. The Government's objectives for planning from an ecological perspective are, among others, to recognise the wider benefits of ecosystem services, minimise the impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, which will include the establishment of coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.

Of particular note to ecological impact assessment is paragraph 174 of the Habitats and biodiversity section which states, to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

“a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and

“b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity”.

And, when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should refuse planning permission if “significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for”.

As a result of the NPPF any species or habitats of principal importance found on the application site, in addition to statutorily protected species, are of material consideration in the planning process.

All six reptiles are now listed as priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). Action plans have been produced for all of them. All BAP species have been included in Section 41 and 42 lists produced by the Secretary of State of England and the Welsh Assembly. These are lists of species that, as specified under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, are of principal importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity. As such, all reptile species are of material consideration in the planning process due to the NPPF

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